

WOOSTER LODGE #10

1781-1981



8th MASONIC DISTRICT

The history of Wooster Lodge #10 is a long one, spanning now these 200 years. Wooster Lodge has weathered many storms, endured many trials and tribulations, many joys and triumphs. Let us now briefly turn back time and relive, or at least re-examine the long history of Wooster Lodge #10.

"Tradition informs us that a Masonic lodge existed in New London County many years previous to the Revolutionary War, working sometimes at New London and sometimes at Colchester, but we find no recorded proof of the existence of such a lodge except the following in the history of St. John's Grand Lodge at Boston under the date of January 12, 1753, 'the petition of several brethren residing at New London in the colony of Connecticut for dispensation to erect a lodge there was granted.'"¹ It is the opinion of the author of this section that the Grand Lodge historian, one Brother Storer, may have erred in the account of 1753, in that he may have confused the establishment of a lodge and a commandry.

As is obvious by the fact that this is being written for Wooster Lodge's Bicentennial celebration, an application for a Masonic lodge in Colchester was made in 1781. This request was made by "Bros. Asa Bigelow, Eliphalet Bulkley, Henry Champion, John Watrous and others for a charter to erect a lodge in Colchester".² The aforementioned Brothers were named in the Lodge's first charter, which was dated January 23, 1781. The following people were the first men to become members of Wooster Lodge:

Henry Champion of Colchester
Hezekiah Holdridge of Hebron
Andrew Fitch of Lebanon
Reuben Pride of Norwich
William Higgins of Lyme
William Little of Lebanon
Noah Coleman of Lebanon
John R. Watrous of Colchester

Daniel Whitney of Colchester
Asa Worthington of Montville
Jabez Clark of Lebanon
John Tiffany of Salem
Elijah Bingham of Lyme

Every one of the above charter members of Wooster #10 were made Masons in, or had been affiliated with, the famous American Union Lodge, which followed the Connecticut Line Regiments from Roxbury to the Hudson, to winter quarters at Redding through much of New York and New Jersey. After the Revolution, the American Union Lodge went with Wayne's army to Ohio, where it now exists as Marietta # 1.³

For historical purposes, let us examine briefly the Masonic careers of the charter members of Wooster.

"Henry Champion was made a Mason in American Union Lodge on February 17, 1779 at Redding; was elected secretary March 25, 1779; treasurer June 24, 1779 and Junior Deacon the following December. Besides being our first Master, he was Grand Treasurer from 1790 to 1822, one of the incorporators of the Grand Lodge and also held responsible positions in the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandry."

"Hezekiah Holdridge was made on June 24, 1779. He was a high ranking militia officer but not active in Masonry."

"Andrew Fitch was made an EA at some New Haven Lodge according to the statement at the time he was given the other degrees on May 7, 1779 at Newburgh, N.Y. where the army was then."

"Reuben Pride was initiated at Redding Camp May 28, 1779."

"William Higgins was made April 15, 1779."

"William Little was a signer of the by-laws of American Union Lodge. He is said to have been Col. Huntington's Steward and arranged a big dinner for the lodge at Redding March 10, 1779. The next year he was elected Junior Warden."

"Noah Coleman was a frequent VISITOR (sic) at American Union Lodge and was elected a member January 21, 1780 and Junior Deacon the same year. He followed Arnold through the woods of Maine to Quebec in 1776 and may have got his masonry in the army there. He was a PastMaster of Wooster in 1789-90."

"Dr. John Richard Watrous, the 'biggest' Mason our little lodge ever could claim as a member was initiated February 24, 1779, elected secretary the same year and Senior Deacon the next year. He was Master of Wooster Lodge in 1802-3-4-5-6-8 and prominent in the Grand Lodge progressing from Junion Grand Warden in 1806 to Deputy Grand Master in 1814 when he was obliged to retire. In chapter, commandery and Grand Chapter he was equally prominent..."As a physician, property holder etc. we find his name frequently on town records etc. right up until his death in 1842 when he was 88 and had outlived three wives."

"Daniel Whitney was tyler of American Union Lodge March 25, 1779 and seems to have had a continual hold on the job, which in those days meant a little spending money as profits on 'refreshments' which the tyler served."

"Asa Worthington was made August 26, 1779. He was our representative at the organization of the Grand Lodge; our master in 1783-5-6-7 and later High Sheriff of New London County."

"Jabez Clark while state commissary was made at Redding March 25, 1779."

"John Tiffany we cannot be sure of, but he was a visitor at American Union Lodge one evening when the name of WASHINGTON (sic) heads the list. His Revolutionary record was unusual."

"Elijah Bingham (has) no record previous to his election as master of Wooster in 1784. He was a delegate to the organization of the Grand Lodge in 1783."⁴

As we can see, the founders of Wooster Lodge were not only active in Masonry, but in the community and nation as well. All had distinguished service for their country during the Revolutionary War. From this service, it is logical that the founders of this lodge chose to take the name of an honored patriot, martyr and Mason. This man was none other than General David Wooster.

David Wooster was the first master of the first lodge in the state, Hiran #1 in New Haven. He was also Major General of one of the divisions of troops from the state. While defending Danbury, which was under seige by Tryon's raiders in 1777, Wooster fell, mortally wounded.

Wooster Lodge was instituted on June 6, 1781 at five o'clock in the morning by R.W. James Church, Esq., master of St. John's Lodge #4 of Hartford, being especially deputed by M.W. Brother Joseph Webb, Esq., Grand Master of Ancient Masonry for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Brother Webb, clothed in his apron and jewel, assumed the chair and installed the following officers:

MASTER	Henry Champion
Senior Warden	William Little
Junior Warden	Noah Coleman
Secretary	Asa Worthington
Treasurer	Hezekiah Holdridge

The installation took place at John Tainters tavern on the northeast corner of Lebanon Avenue and Broadway in Colchester. One year later, in 1782, the lodge began meeting at various private residences and taverns until the end of records in 1829. Until the 1790's, Colchester was the home of the only Masonic lodge east of the Connecticut River. As a result, the towns that members and candidates hailed from were many and varried. Some of these towns were Woodstock, Tolland, Norwich, Windham, Coventry, East Windsor and Lyme. This shows that Masonry was something very important in the early times of our country. For these men to travel such distances over what were very primitive roads and paths demonstrates not only a strong will and enjoyment of Masonry, but also a strong physical nature as well.

Some of these early members, however, must have at some point of time decided that the long trek to Colchester was more than they cared for, and hence, they banded together to form lodges closer to their homes. As a result, Wooster can claim a long list of daughter and grand-daughter lodges. The documented off-shoots of Wooster are as follows:

Moriah Lodge # 15 at Canterbury, now of Brooklyn
St. James Lodge # 23 at Preston, now of Norwich
Uriel Lodge # 24 at Tolland, now of Merrow

Columbia Lodge # 25 at Rocky Hill, now of South
Glastonbury
Columbia Lodge #26 at East Haddam
Mourning Star Lodge # 27 at East Windsor now of
Warehouse Point
Union Lodge # 31 of New London
Somerset Lodge # 34 of Norwich
Eastern Star Lodge #44 at Lebanon, now of Willimantic
Pythagoras Lodge # 45 of Lyme
Putnam Lodge # 46 at Pomfret, now of Woodstock
Warren Lodge # 50 of Andover, now extinct
Warren Lodge # 51 at Chatham now of Portland
Wolcott Lodge # 60 of Stafford
Salem Lodge # 71 now extinct

When the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was formed in 1789, Wooster received a new charter, the original being from the Massachusetts Grand Lodge. The exact date of this exchange is unknown, due to the loss of the original Connecticut charter.

"For fifty years Wooster Lodge carried on with the usual ups and downs, many stories of interest being narrated in the Pendleton history. (Brother Pendleton was a prominent member of Wooster Lodge for many years. Ed. Note.) Lodge finances seem always to have been a source of worry, as many fees and the quarterly dues were often paid in notes, not always taken up in full. The convivial element is conspicuous as evidenced by the variety and cost of the food and drink which the stewards served. Even the work was done in a spirited manner, it seems."

"St. John's Day observances in the early days were notable events. Music was always provided, once by the Bolton Band, and again by the lady singers from Hebron... The ceremonies invariably concluded with a flow of wit to conclude the exercises"⁵ not to mention the flow of food and drink, which may have aided the "flow of wit"!

"Following the disappearance of William Morgan and the subsequent anti-Masonic excitement, the lodge fell into a decline and appears to have ceased work in 1831 according to the minutes. A few meetings were held during the 1830's and the lodge occasionally was represented in Grand Lodge, but in 1841 it was found necessary to revoke the charter."

"In 1850 eight of the old members petitioned for restoration of the charter."⁶ The original could not be found, so it was necessary for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to issue Wooster Lodge a new charter. This is dated May 16, 1851, and is the one under which Wooster Lodge now works.

After receiving a new charter, the Colchester masons set out to find an adequate place to hold their meetings. During the laps in time, a chapter of the Odd Fellows had formed in Colchester, and had furnished their own hall. Wooster Lodge entered an agreement with them to jointly share the hall. Within the course of a few years, the Odd Fellows folded, and Wooster purchased the hall and it's furnishings. Wooster Lodge changed it's meeting room a few times after this, until they were meeting at Peddinghaus' hall, which was on the second floor of a frame building at the end of Merchants Row, near the library.

At this time, Brother Joshua B. Wheeler saw the need for a larger hall and meeting place. Sometime during the anti-Masonic period, he had erected a business block at the south end of the park on Norwich Avenue. He gave the third floor to the lodge in 1872. In 1910, Mrs. Emeline T. Wheeler Ransom, a daughter of Brother Wheeler, presented the lodge with a 99 year lease of the rooms, free of expense. It was then decided to name the building "Wheeler's Masonic Hall", in memorial to the builder of the building.

As the Town of Colchester prospered, due primarily to the fact that the local Hayward Rubber Works mill was located there, so did Wooster Lodge prosper. When the mill was sold to the U.S. Rubber Co., and subsequently closed, the town went into a decline. Wooster Lodge felt the effects of this decline, and the

membership totaled less than 100 until 1905 when Lewis W. Phelps was raised, bringing the membership to a total figure of 100. From this, Wooster again began to have an up-swing, and the membership rose steadily.

We move ahead in time to the year 1925, the Lodge minutes as taken by W.B. William T. Curry, Secretary.

"The elected Lodge Officers were: Wor. Master J.M. Riley, S.W. C.F. Bailey, J.W. Donald Fraser, Sec'y Wm. T. Curry, Treas. C.E. Pendleton."

"On Dec. 18, 1925 a regular meeting called for 7:30 was not opened until 10:30 p.m. explained by the following: The reason that the Lodge opened three hours later than time called:- It was no fault of the Officers or Craft for they were there on time. The secretary had his desk prepared for the business and consideration of the Lodge, ready for the W.M. to open the Lodge. The Officers were donning their aprons and emblems and the Craft were readying themselves for the opening ritual when Bro. Gurdon Chappel of Liberty Hill, Lebanon rushed into the room, exclaiming, 'Brothers the building next door is afire!'"

"The adjacent structure was a frame building used for a shirt factory, and stood only ten feet from Wheeler's Masonic Hall."

"Smoke began to enter & fill the Lodge room very quickly, in the mean time. Our W.M. Bro. J.M. Riley had called up Central to ring the fire alarm which not only brought out at once the fire department but quite a number of Brother Masons to see if they could help carry out the belongings of Wooster Lodge and of the Order of Eastern Star. Well did the Firemen work, but not better or quicker than the Craft, carrying the large chairs and pillars down the narrow stairs and then down the iron fire escape. The smoke coming in a thick cloud, from the burning building a few feet away, being so dense that Brothers who had got half way up the fire escape had to return for a breathing spell. Bro. Gibbs of St. James Lodge and a few Brothers of other Lodges, who are presently living in Colchester worked shoulder to shoulder with the Wooster Brothers."

The Lodge records and other valuable items from the safe and ante room were rushed by auto to the W.M.'s home for safety, while the Lodge furniture was carried to a safe distance from the fire. Everything was taken to a place of safety except the piano and the carpet. "The brothers watched the good work of the firemen till they had the fire under control and then once more the Brothers gathered and carried back the Lodge belongings. The Brothers were indeed tired but smiling and happy, asking that the Lodge might be opened to get through its labors, they might enjoy the warm coffee that Bro. Gurgenvin had ready and the good things to eat that the chairman of the entertainment committee and the Brothers had brought. Soon the Brothers were satisfied and the room was full of mirth and song till well into the morning. The Brother Masons provided themselves good workmen and good eaters as your Sec'y will vouch for. (Very little was scratched or broken".)

Wm. Thos. Curry, Sec'y

From the Minutes of Jan. 1st, 1926 we discover that...

On Dec. 20, 1925 a Past Master, "Wor. Bro. Roger F. Porter died suddenly at the Waterbury Hospital after an illness of typhoid fever of some four weeks standing." W. Bro. Porter was raised June 2nd 1905. He presided as W.M. in 1911 and remained an active member until his death. "His interest in Wooster Lodge was manifested by his regularity in attendance and taking an active part on the degree team."

We also learn that on Feb. 20th, 1925, exactly ten months before his death he had the great pleasure of presiding in the East at which time he raised his twin sons, Herbert W. and Roger W. Porter to the sublime degree as Master Mason, which was an extraordinary event in the history of Wooster Lodge.

Fifty-five years ago the elected officers for the year 1926 were W.M.Bro.Clarkson F.Bailey;S.W.Bro.Donald Fraser;J.W.Bro. Calvin H.McCall;Treas.Wor.Bro.Cyrus E.Pendleton and Sec'y Wor.Bro. William T.Curry.

A study of the minutes indicate that at this period some thought was being directed toward the eventual need of a new Masonic building. On April 2nd, 1926 a motion was offered: "that the trustees proceed with a five year campaign to raise money for a new Masonic building but that the Lodge be not thereby bound to any definite building program." This matter was tabled.

Oct. 15, 1926 minutes stated that the Lodge accept the Indenture made between Wooster Lodge #10 and the Town School Committee to lease the second floor room which is directly below the 3rd floor rooms known as Wheelers Masonic Hall.

The Annual Report for 1926 indicates that donations to a Building Fund had been received and a special accounting showed an accumulation of \$114.56.

The elected officers for 1927 were; W.M. Bro. Donald Fraser; S.W. Bro. Calvin McCall; J.W. Bro. George Boson, Treas. Wor. Bro. Cyrus Pendleton and Sec'y Wor. Bro. William T. Curry.

March 4, 1927 The Secretary's minutes show that Bro. Geo. H. Hoxie of Eastern Star Lodge #44 offered to donate a cuspidor to the Lodge. After much discussion it voted to accept such a gift providing that it be referred to as the "Hoxie Cuspidor" and not a spittoon.

Officers elected and installed in Jan. 1928 were; W.M. Bro. Calvin H. McCall; S.W. Bro. George Boson; J.W. Bro. Dr. Albert Schuyler; Treas. Wor. Bro. C.E. Pendleton and Sec'y Wor. Bro. Wm. T. Curry.

The minutes of various meetings in 1928 indicate that the Grange Property might be available and the Lodge spent several meetings discussing the pros and cons of purchasing this property. It was during these years that the St. Johns Day banquet was served at the Grange Hall and usually prepared by the Sisters of Wooster Chapter O.E.S. The traditional march around the green to Divine Services at the Congregational Church predated the banquet. The banquets often included singing by a male quartet joined by some of the young ladies of the Eastern Star. Bro. E.H. McCall, jr. the J.D. recited "The Mother Lodge" and a poem "Jennie" by Kipling receiving great applause. Bro. Wm. Gerhardt and his fiddle seemed as one as they

poured forth their sweet music." An orchestra furnished music during the banquet and also for dancing later in the evening. Wor. Bro. Bailey, ever willing was called up to prompt for the young dancers.

From the minutes of Dec. 21, 1928, we found the W.M.C.H. McCall was late to the meeting. After his arrival, "the Lodge extended (to him) congratulations, he (sic) being blessed and made Happy at this Christmas tide by the gift of a Daughter. The Brothers called for a speech and the W.M. who has never failed them rose to his feet, and addressing the S.W. Boson reminding him of his duty to assist the W.M. now called upon him to exercise that duty, and his flare in replying to W. Bro. Curry who had extended to him the Lodge congratulations at the birth of a daughter. The S.W. Bro. Boson, rose to the occasion and after a few remarks stated that he not having any experience as a married man, thought it - that the W.M. reply in person.

As Wooster #10 moved from 1928 to 1929, we notice that the new officers were regularly installed, with W.M. Bro. George Boson in the East. However, there were a few unpleasentries that needed to be over come. It was recorded that on Feb. 1, 1929, "Bro. Fr. Schayler the S.W. only stayed a short time and did not take his station (Lodge was very cold)." The following month, March 15, 1929, Wor. Bro. Elmer Foote was Secretary pro-tem, as "the roads from Lebanon being unpassable, the Sec'y was not present with the records, and being no business Lodge closed in due form and Harmony". W. Bro. Elmer Foote Sec'y P.T.

In the meeting of May 17, 1929, "...some talk was given about the Congregational Church selling the church chapel." A committee was appointed to look into this matter and report back at a later date.

June 7, 1929's meeting brought the sad news that Bro. Edwin P. Hanks had died. To quote the minutes, "Bro Edwin P. Hanks our oldest Brother who has been a member of Wooster Lodge for 71 years, he was born Nov. 2nd, 1837. Joined Wooster Lodge in 1858 and died May 30th, 1929 in Jersey City, N.J." The funeral service was preformed by Burgon Lodge #47 of Jersey City, N.J. with Wooster represented by

3 brothers. These same minutes show that "the committee looking into the matter of purchasing the Congregational Church chappel recommended to let the matter drop and not purchase it "thus, Wooster was again looking for a larger meeting place.

A notable past Master of Wooster Lodge was one Cyrus E. Pendletown. Wor.Bro. Pendleton was master first ine 1919, and again in 1921."Under Cy Pendleton as Master, the annual dinner and occasional festivals gave way to a revival of the old fashioned Saint Johns Day observances in the traditional pattern of 1781, for which Wooster Lodge is noted all over Eastern Connecticut." Brother Pendleton as also one of the planners and active participants in the 150th anniversary of Wooster Lodge in 1931.

"The history of Freemasonry in Colchester would not be complete without mention of the associated bodies. A lodge of Mark Masters was oveded by past masters of Wooster Lodge as early as 1783, and in 1795 Vanden Proeck Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was chartered, John W.Watrous was Grand High Priest of Connecticut from 1808 untill 1816. Washington Commandery #1 Knights Templar now of Hartford originated in Colchester in 1796, meeting alternately in New London untill about 1830 when it lapsed. Eliphalet Bulkeley was apparently the moving spirit in formation of both chapter and commandery. Watrous was the first Grand Commander of Connecticut in 1827. A council of Royal and Select Masters was organized at Colchester by Jeremy Cross in 1818 under the name of Watrous Council but it existed for less than a decade."⁷
"The O.E.S. degree was exemplified in Colchester in 1868 but the (only chapter to have officially existed), Wooster Star Chapter #94 dates from 1921." Unfortunately, this chapter is now extinct, having closed in 1965.

The most recent appendent body to be affiliated with Wooster Lodge is Henry Champion Chapter, Order of DeMolay. This youth group for young men between the ages of 13 to 21 was instituted on

Nov. 4, 1972. From it's institution, the chapter has grown steadily. Assisted and advised by members of Wooster Lodge, plus other interested Masons, Henry Champion Chapter has become a source of pride for Wooster Lodge. It has also become a source of new members, having raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason no less than six former DeMolays, all of whom have been active leaders in DeMolay, and are taking active interest in Wooster Lodge.

And so, time again continues on. The world has seen many changes in the past 200 years. Masonry in general and Wooster Lodge # 10 in particular have seen many changes. We have moved from the famous Sheeler's Masonic Hall to our present home in the building formerly known as the Colchester Theater. Things are more modern, but we can still follow the patterns of our early brethren, such as fellowship with other lodges, charity and relief, and do our part to uphold the principals of Masonry. May it and Wooster Lodge endure for at least another 200 years. So mote it be.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1) "How Masonry Was Brought Into Colchester" R.W. James R. Case, General Speech
- 2) Ibid
- 3) Ibid
- 4) Ibid
- 5) "History of Famous Wooster Lodge Given", Colchester Citizen, James R. Case. June 1, 1956 pg. 4
- 6) Ibid
- 7) Ibid, pg. 3

All other quotations are from the minutes of Wooster Lodge #10, and are taken from the Secretary's hand, as presented.

The 8th Masonic District consist of eleven lodges,all of which are in New London County.The only lodge,in the county that is not in the district is Pythagoras Lodge #45 of Old Lyme. The oldest of all the lodges in the district is Wooster #10 of Colchester.

The lodges of the district are listed below.

Wooster Lodge #10	Colchester	1781	W.M.Bro.Stanley J.Wood
St.James #23	Norwich	1873	W.M.Bro.Leslie Greiner
Union #31	New London	1795	W.M.Bro.Peter W.McCormack
Somerset #34	Norwich	1795	W.M.Bro.Charles Duke
Asylum #57	Stonington	1819	W.M.Bro.Edward McPherson
Charity & Relief #72	Mystic	1892	W.M.Bro.Russell L.Benjamin
Mount Vernon #75	Versailles	1871	W.M.Bro.Richard Pendergast
Pawcatuck #90	Pawcatuck	1863	W.M.Bro.Brian W.Hall
Brainard #102	New London	1867	W.M.Bro.Ralph Loomis
Oxoboxo #116	Montville	1875	W.M.Bro.Earl W.Candfield
Bayview #120	Niantic	1879	W.M.Bro. E.Travis Thompson

There are three living Past Grand Masters that came from the district and the honor of the office was bestowed upon Charles J. Ramage,William W.Wyman and William F.Saars. Christopher T.Wyld in 1981 is the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LODGES

Union #31 was chartered on May 20,1795. Elijah Bingham (a charter member of Wooster) was instrumental in obtaining a charter from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. Azor Carew,Elias Perkins,Ezra Dodge and others residents of the New London area,and raised in Wooster applied for a lodge at New London and thus applied for their own charter.Among the daughters of Union are Brainard,Bayview and Oxoboxo.

Charity & Relief #72 began as two seperate lodges.Charity lodge was chartered on August 25,1825,and Relief Lodge was chartered on May 16,1870. The two lodges united on February 2,1892.Charity

Lodge #68 began meeting in Ledyard and later moved to Mystic. This is the only lodge in the district which was formerly two lodges.

Oxoboxo #116 was chartered on May 21, 1875. Twenty one brothers from Union and Somerset Lodge asked the Grand Lodge to grant a charter. Oxoboxo which can be spelled either backwards or forwards and still spell the same word is a derivative of the former Indian name of a brook in Montville, M.W. Charles J. Ramage, a Past Grand Master (1947) was raised in Oxoboxo. Oxoboxo also boasts that a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia was raised there, M.W. Harris Bullock.

Somerset #34 is one of the older lodges in the district. Masonry began in Norwich in the 1760's. There was a lodge in Norwich at that time but because of lack of interest it disbanded in the late 1770s. The former brothers of that lodge known as Columbia Lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge for a charter.

St. James #23 was chartered on September 11, 1873, but the first officers were installed on June 18, 1793. Just four years after the formation of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. The anti-masonic crusade of the mid 1800s was felt by St. James and in 1872 the Master Masons involved in the old lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge for a charter. Consider Sterry, raised in Wooster became the first Senior Warden of St. James #23.

Mt. Vernon #75 was chartered on March 7, 1871. Frederick W. Fanning and others from Somerset Lodge #34 meet under dispensation to convene a new lodge as revived. The petitions for three candidates were received. Mt. Vernon Lodge celebrated its centennial in 1971. John R. Watrous, a brother of Wooster and a Past Deputy Grand Master had close ties with Mt. Vernon Lodge.

Bayview #120 was chartered on February 11, 1879 and is the newest lodge in the district. In Niantic, there was a need for a lodge as many brothers attended lodge in New London. Overlooking the beautiful bay of Long Island Sound, the lodge became known as Bayview. A new lodge hall, recently built, is a fine example of the excellent degree work and warmth of the lodge.

Brainard #102 was chartered on June 11,1867 in New London. Brothers petitioned Union Lodge,also of New London for another lodge in the city. Brainard,along with Union lodge,supported the petition of Bayview lodge just twelve years later. Both Brainard and Union have there own meeting places,not far from each other in tiny New London but the bond of masonic fraternity keeps the closely knit.

Pawcatuck #90 was chartered on May 13,1863 in Pawcatuck,just west of the Rhode Island border at Westerly. One year after brothers presented a petition to Charity Lodge of Mystic for the formation of a lodge at Pawcatuck,we find that Charity moved their lodge to the west side of the Mystic River otherwise known as the Groton side.

Asylum #57 was chartered on May 19,1819 and was formed by petition from brothers to Union Lodge. Asylum lodge,housed in the town of Stonington,is not far from the ties of Pawcatuck,but both enjoy the fraternal bond of masonry the unites all the lodges of the district and all of the lodges of the state.

Amound the living District Deputies from the 8th district include our present representatives R.W.Kenneth Ayers and R.W. Gentry J.Cooke,deputies of 8A and 8B respectfully.

Other past district deputies include: Robert K.Links,George E.Ryalls,Richard A.Hodgson,Edward L.Frasier,J.Clifford VanDyke, Harrison C.Fisher,John G.McKechnie,John M.Lathrop,Charles Robinson, Leon Shedroff, Sherman E.Eaton,Robert E.Cushman,Harold Clark, Stanley E.Peterson,Roy L.Cole,Lawrence G.Drescher,A.Frisbee Mitchell, Willis J.Snow,EdwardJ.Gray and Robert S.Palmer.

The district honors this year Wooster Lodge #10 who celebrates its 200th birthday in 1981. It being the only lodge in Eastern Connecticut attracted brothers from all over the county.

LIST OF ALL MASTERS OF WOOSTER LODGE #10 A.F.& A.M.

name	master	living
Champion, Henry	1781	
Champion, Henry	1782	
Bingham, Elijah	1783	
Worthington, Asa	1784	
Worthington, Asa	1785	
Worthington, Asa	1786	
Worthington, Asa	1787	
Champion, Henry	1788	
Coleman, Noah	1789	
Coleman, Noah	1790	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1791	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1792	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1793	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1794	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1795	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1796	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1797	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1798	
Buckeley, Eliphalet	1799	
Worthington, Daniel	1800	
Worthington, Daniel	1801	
Watrous, John R.	1802	
Watrous, John R.	1803	
Watrous, John R.	1804	
Watrous, John R.	1805	
Watrous, John R.	1806	
Deming, David	1807	
Watrous, John R.	1808	
Kellogg, Daniel	1809	
Bigelow, Guy	1810	
Bigelow, Guy	1811	
Bigelow, Guy	1812	
Bigelow, Guy	1813	
Bigelow, Guy	1814	
Deming, David	1815	
Bigelow, Guy	1816	
Bigelow, Guy	1817	
Bigelow, Guy	1818	
Bigelow, Guy	1819	
Scoville, Amherst D.	1820	
Way, George	1821	
Way, George	1822	
Scoville, Amherst D.	1823	
Scoville, Amherst D.	1824	
Fox, Samuel H.	1825	
Fox, Samuel H.	1826	
Packwood, Joseph D.	1827	
Hutchins, Marvin W.	1828	
Margan, Avery	1829	
Taintor, Newhall	1837	

Way, George	1851
Hall, Pomeroy	1852
Packwood, Joseph D.	1853
Pierce, Alfred B.	1854
Burr, Henry W.	1855
Burr, Henry W.	1856
Dickinson, Lemuel L.	1857
Dickinson, Lemuel L.	1858
Burr, Henry W.	1859
Keeney, Albert	1860
Fitch, Andrew G.	1861
Fitch, Andrew G.	1862
Dickinson, Lemuel L.	1863
Dickinson, Lemuel L.	1864
Dickinson, Lemuel L.	1865
Dickinson, Lemuel L.	1866
Hayward, William H.	1867
Robinson, Myron W.	1868
Robinson, Myron W.	1869
Robinson, Myron W.	1870
Dutton, James R.	1871
Standish, George G.	1872
Hayward, William H.	1873
Hayward, William H.	1874
Hayward, William H.	1875
Hayward, William H.	1876
Hayward, William H.	1877
Strong, Charles W.	1878
Buell, Harley P.	1879
Buell, Harley P.	1880
Buell, Harley P.	1881
Coleman, Josiah A.	1882
Coleman, Josiah A.	1883
Buell, Harley P.	1884
Robinson, Myron W.	1885
Strong, Phineas R.	1886
Strong, Phineas R.	1887
Strong, Phineas R.	1888
Strong, Phineas R.	1889
Abel, Frederick C.	1890
Abel, Frederick C.	1891
Taintor, Addison C.	1892
Vaughn, James A.	1893
Smith, Ozias B.	1894
Gardner, Joseph A.	1895
Carrington, Rexford A.	1896
Carrington, Rexford A.	1897
Dawley, Charles H.	1898
Dawley, Charles H.	1899
Phillips, Fred I.	1900

Dawley, Charles H.	1901	
Buell, Harley P.	1902	
Kramer, Charles A.	1903	
Willard, Samuel P.	1904	
Willard, Samuel P.	1905	
Williams, Charles T.	1906	
Spafard, Henry A.	1907	
Stebbins, Arthur L.	1908	
Gandy, Raymond R.	1909	
Phelps, Lewis W.	1910	
Porter, Roger E.	1911	
Carrier, Edger A.	1912	
Moore, Royal A.	1913	
Smith, Edward A.	1914	
Jones, Edward Wright	1915	
Miller, Clayton G.	1916	
Curry, William Thomas	1917	
Young, John A.	1918	
Pendleton, Cyrus E.	1919	
Rathbun, Frederick A.	1920	
Pendleton, Cyrus E.	1921	
Foote, Elmer H.	1922	**
Norton, Edward H.	1923	
Kramer, Charles F.	1924	**
Riley, John M.	1925	
Bailey, Clarkson F.	1926	
Fraser, Donald, A.L.	1927	
McCall, Calvin Hale	1928	
Boson, George B.	1929	
Schuyler, Robert L.	1930	
Gerhardt, William B.	1931	
McCall, Edward H. Jr.	1932	
Cornwell, Merritt J.	1933	
Clark, Harold	1934	**
Greene, Robert E.	1935	
Sweet, Charles Herbert	1936	**
Gilman, George	1937	
Standish, Clark W.	1938	
Madley, Harold	1939	
Speerli, Fred A.	1940	**
Wheeler, Earl R.	1941	
Smith, Raymond E.	1942	
Heterington, Martin	1943	**
Heterington, Martin	1944	**
Phelps, Lewis W.	1945	
Brush, George K. Jr.	1946	**
Beeman, Rufus	1947	
Beeman, Robert D.	1948	
Weiner, Walter	1949	**
Johnston, Robert G.	1950	**

Phelps, John Fitzgerald	1951	**
Warner, Norton Perry	1952	**
Lathrop, Theron V.	1953	
Clauson, Francis	1954	**
Clark, Herbert F.	1955	**
Phelps, Charles W.	1956	**
Snell, Harold E.	1957	**
Coolidge, Albert A.	1958	**
Damarjian, Aram	1959	**
Shedroff, Leon	1960	**
Whitcomb, Lewis Edward	1961	**
Wentworth, Robert H.	1962	**
Houghton, Carl J.	1963	**
Reichard, Frederick William Jr.	1964	**
Randall, Paul H.	1965	**
Cuthbertson, Philip	1966	**
Green, Francis Duncan Jr.	1967	**
Rich, Frank Eli	1968	**
Miller, Walter G.	1969	
Kozak, Frank	1970	**
Bishel, Arthur H. II	1971	**
Mitchell, Frederic F.	1972	**
Warner, Charles	1973	**
Weiner, Richard	1974	**
Lockhart, Donald E.	1975	**
Miraldies, Archie	1976	**
Links, Robert Karl	1977	**
Griffin, William	1978	**
Littlefield, Theodore Emery	1979	**
Bromley, Clarence Wilfred Jr.	1980	**
Wood, Stanley J.	1981	**