

Collection #
SC 2395

FREEMASONS. GRAND LODGE OF INDIANA DOCUMENT, 1826

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

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COLLECTION: 1 item

COLLECTION
DATES: 1826

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Masonic Order had its American origins in Boston in the early eighteenth century. Many of the country's early leaders were Masons, including Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. The Order was organized in Indiana at Madison in 1818. From then until 1826 Grand Lodges met at Jeffersonville, Corydon, Salem, and Madison. Grand Masters for those years included John Tipton and Jonathan Jennings.

The Order used in its documents a slight variation of Archbishop James Ussher's calendar which dated from the Biblical creation of the world in 4004 BC. The Masons used a simplified version, adding 4000 to the Anno Domini year.

James F. D. Lanier, later noted as a banker and railroad financier, moved with his family to Madison in 1817. In 1826 he was twenty-six years old.

Sources: William Wesley Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana* (1883), pp. 489-512
Dictionary of American History, article on Masonry

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a document dated 18 November 5826 (1826), addressed to the Grand Lodge in Montpelier, Vermont, and announcing the election of officers for the ensuing year. The document is signed by J. F. D. Lanier, Grand Secretary, and contains the signatures of the officers: Isaac Howk (a founder of Indiana Historical Society), Elihu Stout, [?] Barker, and John Jacobs.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Document, 1826

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 1