

Stebbins, Sparta; Chas. S. Robinson, Grand Rapids; Andrew T. McReynolds, Grand Rapids; Victor H. Middleton, Grand Rapids.

The association accumulated funds and purchased a farm near Reed's Lake, which constitutes the present site of the Home. A portion of the farm was soon sold so advantageously that the grounds of the Home cost the association nothing. Plans for building were proposed and work commenced. On March 21, 1889, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, at which time Grand Rapids saw the largest gathering of Masons and Masonic bodies ever seen in Michigan. Lodges and commanderies were present from all over western and southern Michigan, and leading Masons came from distant parts of Michigan and from other states. In the morning a parade of Masonic bodies took place, with H. T. Hastings as chief marshal. The line of march was from Bridge street, through Canal, Monroe, Division and Oakes streets, to the Union Depot, where four special trains were required to take members of the order to the lake. Hugh McCurdy, of Corunna, delivered the address. After the corner stone was placed contributions for the Home were called for, and amid much enthusiasm thousands of dollars were pledged by individuals and Masonic bodies in a short time.

The work of building rapidly progressed, and the next year a grand Masonic fair was held for the benefit of the Home, at which time more than \$20,000 in cash was realized and about \$5,000 worth of furniture for the Home was donated. Grand Rapids never saw a more successful fair for charitable purposes. The spirit of giving was in the air and seemed contagious. The formal opening was on Monday night, November 10, 1890, when Mayor Edwin F. Uhl delivered an address of welcome, to which response was made by John S. Cross, grand master of the Masons of Michigan. The fair was held in Hartman Hall, now the Auditorium. There were booths on every hand. The hall was adorned in the grandest style. Music, flowers and decorations abounded in wild profusion. It was made a grand society event, and visitors came in thousands from neighboring cities and towns. Afternoons and evenings the hall was thronged with crowds, gay and giving. Saturday night, at midnight, the Masonic fair came to an end. The officers of the fair were the following: Brother Heman N. Moore, director-general; Brother H. F. Hastings, first vice-