

# Was Your Ancestor a Member of a Lodge, Club, or Secret Society?

**Why is this important?** - 20% of men in 1900 belonged to a lodge or club and their membership was usually cited in Obituaries

## Lodges, Clubs, and Societies

**B'nai B'rith:** a Jewish service organization.

**Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks:** A fraternal order focused on charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity with an emphasis on patriotism and belief in God.

**Colonial Dames of America:** an American organization composed of women who are descended from an ancestor who lived in British America from 1607–1775.

**Daughters of Norway:** A sisterhood aimed at preserving Nordic heritage.

**Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR):** a lineage-based membership service organization for women who are directly descended from a person involved in the United States' efforts towards independence.

**Fraternal Order of Eagles:** "People Helping People" in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality. Local units are called "Aeries."

**Freemasons:** The Masonic Fraternity claims to be the oldest Fraternity in the world and seeks men (Masons) wishing to become better men through service and self-improvement.

**Grange:** A community-based, fraternal organization with an interest in representing rural residents and the agriculture community.

**Independent Order of Odd Fellows** To improve and elevate the character of mankind by promoting the principles of friendship, love, truth, faith, hope, charity, and universal justice.

**International Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo, Incorporated** is a fraternal and service organization whose members are involved in the forests products industry.

**Job's Daughters International:** a Masonic affiliated youth organization for girls and young women aged 10 to 20.

**Kiwanis:** an international service club founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan.

**Knight of Pythias:** a fraternal organization and secret society founded in Washington, D.C., on 19 February 1864

**Knights of Columbus:** A Catholic fraternal benefit society.

**Lions Club:** an international non-political service organization established originally in 1917 in Chicago, Illinois.

**Loyal Order of Moose:** a fraternal and service organization founded in 1888 and headquartered in Mooseheart, Illinois.

**Optimist International:** an international service club organization with almost 3,000 clubs and over 80,000 members in more than 20 countries. The international headquarters is located in St. Louis, Missouri

**Order of the Eastern Star:** The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated women and men who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good.

**Rebekaahs:** This is the female organization of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

**Rotary International:** an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.

**Shriners:** Fraternity based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

**Sons of Italy:** A fraternal group focused on preserving Italian heritage.

**Sons of Norway:** A fraternal group focused on preserving Norwegian heritage. Founded in 1895.

**Soroptimist International (SI):** a worldwide volunteer service organization for women who work for peace, and in particular to improve the lives of women and girls.

**The American Legion:** commonly known as the **Legion**, is a nonprofit organization of U.S. war veterans.

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