

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; their membership was often 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.

Knights of Pythias: a fraternal organization and secret society founded in Washington, D.C., in 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.

