The minutes from March 17, 1903, mentioned the payment of the Kinmundy light bill for $4.37 and the property taxes at $32.40. The light bill implies the lodge had electric light. The minutes of April 7, 1903, was entered into the record book. As of April 7th, 1903 Kinmundy Lodge had regularly opened 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, and closed 3rd, 2nd, and 1st, in form.

Kinmundy Lodge burned on December 2, 1903. After the April 7th entry, the next entry of the lodge minutes is dated December 22, 1903:

This being a special meeting called, and under a special dispensation from the Grand Master on account of our regular place of meeting being destroyed by fire. The dispensation was then read, and the regular business of the lodge was taken up. The minutes of last meeting being omitted on account of being destroyed by fire.

Communications read and filed.

This being election night, the ballot was then spread and results as follows: William Lowe, WM; Adam Allen, SW; William Gray, JW; Andrew Young, Treas; Roy Fenster, Sec. The Worshipful Master elect then appointed: Daniel Doolen, SD; Hugo Miller, JD; Samuel Bundy, SS; Luther Davis, JS; John Wilson, Tyler; John Ballance, Chap.

Installation then being in order they were then duly installed by Past Master A.M. Allen.

Moved and seconded that when Lodge adjourned it would adjourn to meet first Tuesday night in January 04; motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the WM and Sec make application for new charter.

There being nothing further, the lodge closed in the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st degrees of Masonry in form.

On January 5th, 1904 it was moved and seconded that the Secretary notify each member of Kinmundy Lodge #398 of a Special Meeting on January 19th, 1904 to discuss building arrangements; motion carried. It was further moved and seconded that the Secretary invites Farina Lodge to attend the special meeting just mentioned. The lodge then closed on the 3rd and 2nd degrees of Masonry and then called the craft from labor to refreshment and then closed.

On January 19th the lodge was called from refreshment to labor and then opened on the 2nd and 3rd degrees of Masonry, in form. The officers present were William Lowe, WM; Adam Allen, SW; William Gray, JW; Andrew Young, Treas; Roy Fenster, Sec; Dan Doolen, SD; “D” (John) Miller, JD; John Wilson; Tyler. The members present were William Neil, Henry Jackson, Lee Nichols, Calendar Rohrbough, Jeff Rogers, Charles Doolen, James Lasater, Luther Davis, Moses Wainscott, David Whistnant, Joe Arnold, John Ballance, and Charles Neil. Visiting brothers were Absalom “Abbie” Switzer, John Lackey, Allie Percels, and William Kohn.

It was moved by William Neil, and seconded by D Miller that Kinmundy Lodge #398 A.F. & A. M. proceed to build; motion carried. It was moved by Calendar Rohrbough, and seconded by Andrew Young that a building committee be appointed and let the contract to erect a lodge building not to exceed $2500.00; motion carried. Hugo Miller, John Wilson, and Henry Jackson as committee members.

In the records dated February 26th it was recorded in the minutes that Kinmundy Lodge received an insurance settlement from C. State Illinois for $1091.20 and another insurance company for $1138.50, for a total of $2229.70. Also, $141.32 was received for the sale of land by William Gray. This provided a total of $2371.02 to the Kinmundy Lodge bank account.

It is likely that the February 26th date was in error and was actually Tuesday, February 9th. The next minutes’ entry was for February 10th as a special communication of which only the officers William Lowe, WM; Calendar Rohrbough, SW; William Gray, JW; Luther Davis, Treas; Roy Fenster, Sec; Charles Batelle Rohrbough, SD; Samuel Bundy, JD; and John Wilson, Tyler. On February 10th it was moved by John Wilson, and seconded by Samuel Bundy that the building committee be instructed to dispose of the 5.25 foot piece of ground now owned by Masons to William Gray and Calendar Rohrbough. Calendar Rohrbough owned 21 inches of the front fifteen lineal feet, William Gray the north 21 inches, and the Masons the middle 21 inches, and the remaining 63 lineal feet to William Gray at the rate two dollars per lineal foot.

At the regular meeting of February 16th it was moved by Calendar Rohrbough and seconded by Bro. Wainscott that the building committee be instructed to dispose of the 5.25 feet piece of ground owned by the lodge. This question was referred to the building committee with power to act.

March 15th, 1904 the lodge was opened in the usual 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degrees, in form, for business. It was moved and seconded that the building committee be instructed to report in writing the transfer of real estate to William Gray; motion carried. Throughout the year the lodge always opened 1st, 2nd, 3rd and closed 3rd, 2nd, 1st while occasionally laying over on the first degree for refreshment.

April 5th, 1904 it was moved and seconded that the WM and Sec be empowered in the construction of the new lodge to draw orders as the work progressed; motion carried. The building committee had reported that they had let the contract to W? McClellan for erection of building, exclusive of the stairs and hallway for $2225.00. The report was approved.

The meetings continued twice a month through the Spring with the advancement of several candidates for the degrees of Freemasonry.

June 7th, 1904 it was moved by Calendar Rohrbough and seconded by Dan Doolen that the Master and Wardens be empowered to borrow ten to twelve hundred dollars at a rate of interest not exceeding 6% to finish the hall; motion carried. On motion, the Master and Wardens were instructed to have the property insured for $2000. A bill for the Sullens brothers for refreshment and cigars for $5.75 was read. It was moved by Bro. Rohrbough that the bill be paid with the exception of the cigars. Bro. Allen then moved as a substitute that the bill be paid in full; motion carried.

June 21st, 1904 WM William Lowe reported that the property was insured for $2000.00, and that the lodge had borrowed $1200.00 at 6% from National Bank.

July 5th, 1904 there was a communication from Altamont Lodge extending an invitation to Kinmundy Lodge to assist at laying of the cornerstone for the new school building; read and filed.

July 19th, 1904 on motion, the Master and Wardens were instructed to furnish the new lodge.

August 16th, 1904 on motion WM Lowe appointed William Neil, Samuel Bundy, and Hugo Miller as a committee for arrangement of a banquet, and for warming the new lodge.

September 20th, 1904 a bill from William Neil for the lodge furniture at $242.49 was read and ordered paid. It was moved by Bro. Rohrbough, seconded by Bro. Bundy that a note of thanks be tendered to Bro. Winter of Watson for his gift to the lodge (a bolt of table linen);the motion carried unanimous.

A special meeting of September 23rd, 1904 was attended by thirty four officers, members, and brethren from several other area lodges. As was the norm for this year, a degree was performed (3rd Degree for John Leonard Ballance). It would appear this was the night of the banquet, and for “warming the new lodge,” as it was called.

December 20th, 1904 The building committee submitted a final report of the actual cost of the new lodge, and on motion of Bro. Rohrbough and seconded by Bro. Bundy, the report was read and a vote of thanks extended by the lodge to the brothers for their efficient work and management. Also that the committee be discharged; motion carried.

Kinmundy Lodge had burned in December 1903, yet the brethren worked efficiently and completely recovered from their loss in ten months. During those ten months it was necessary to clean up the mess from the burned building, haul in new materials during the days of horse-drawn transportation, and work without the power tools we enjoy today. The building was itself constructed and fully furnished in about five months, along with the other buildings destroyed by the Madison Street fire. It must have been a heartwarming sight for the townspeople, who were devastated by the fire before Christmas in 1903, to see their beloved city brought back to life in just a few months.

At nearly every regular meeting throughout 1904, there were Masonic degrees being performed, and degrees were also performed during several special meetings held for this purpose. For the lodge to continue developing its membership in the midst of difficult times shows how much Freemasonry meant to the brethren.

We tend to think of life in the early 1900s as being primitive and toilsome, and yet the record of our forefathers' accomplishments appears to eclipse the efficiency and productivity we experience today.