

The I.O.O.F. in Kinmundy, Illinois

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F) is a fraternal organization that promotes charitable works and social interaction among its members. The command of IOOF is to "visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan." The Rosedale Lodge #354 of Kinmundy, Illinois, of the I.O.O.F. was established on September 11, 1869, just a few years after the end of the American Civil War. At that time, Kinmundy was a small farming community in southern Illinois, and the I.O.O.F. provided an important social outlet for its members.

Harvey Gray, one of the First National Bank owners, was a member of Rosedale Lodge #354 and Kinmundy Lodge #398.

Over the years, the Kinmundy I.O.O.F chapter has been involved in many charitable activities, including supporting local schools, providing aid to the poor and needy, and sponsoring community events. The chapter has also played an essential role in the history of Kinmundy itself. In the early 20th century, the I.O.O.F. constructed a three-story building on Main Street that housed their lodge hall on the top floor and commercial spaces and an Opera House on the lower levels. The building became a centerpiece of the town and was used for many events and meetings over the years until the fire in December 1903. This fire also claimed Kinmundy Masonic Lodge #398.

During the World War, the Kinmundy I.O.O.F. chapter actively supported the war effort, sent care packages to soldiers, and raised funds for war-related causes. After the war, the chapter continued to be an essential part of the community, sponsoring events such as parades, dances, and picnics until it closed on April 9, 1938.

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