George Brimmer, Ellsworth, ME

Extracted from *History of Lygonia Lodge*

George Brimmer, Esq.

Third master of the Lygonia Lodge, was a native of Scotland; born in Trazerboro [sic], (Fraserburgh) Aberdeen Shire, on the 22nd day of August, Anno Domini, 1760. At the age of 18, he accompanied his Uncle Alexander Brimmer to the West Indies, where he tarried about two years, and then came to Philadelphia, and after remaining there six months he came to Boston and hired out as a laborer; one year after that, he returned to the West Indies and thence to his native home in Scotland. After remaining in Scotland a few months and his roving propensities returning, he embarked for Halifax, Nova Scotia, and proceeded to Boston, where he engaged as a Clerk in a Mercantile House; after about two years his employer died, and he was again adrift; he then went to Brookline and remained there three years and took himself a wife; he then returned to Boston and opened a grocery store on his own account; after being in his new business a few months, he by some means became acquainted with Leonard Jarvis, Esq., the proprietor of the Wild Lands in this vicinity, and engaged with him as an Agent. He then closed his business in Boston, and came to Ellsworth, Me., in the year 1794, and began a new life at the age of 34 years; he located on the west bank of Union River, four miles above the present village, where he cleared and made a valuable Farm, and after a time erected good buildings; the whole region around him was a wilderness. I have heard him say that there was [sic] only twenty families in Ellsworth when he came, and only two families further up the River, or between him and the North Pole.

In the Autumn of 1821, Bro. Brimmer at his own expense, built a bridge over the River near his house, and in the Spring of 1822 the town laid out a public road to his bridge, and from his bridge to Reed’s Brook and beyond. Up to this time (28 years) the river was his only highway. So Bro. Brimmer, after sojourning 34 years and dwelling in the wilderness 28 years, found himself, at the age of 62 years, possessed of a good farm and a public highway leading to it, across it, and a few miles beyond, and this blessing he lived long to enjoy.

He raised up a large family of children, - ten or more; three only survived him. He left many grand-children and great-grand-children, and died on the 22nd day of April, 1855, at the advanced age of 94 years, 8 months. Bro. Brimmer was raised to the degree of Master Mason, June 4, 1822; he was the first master Mason raised in the Lygonia Lodge; he was at that time about 62 years of age, and upwards of 21 years the senior of any member of the Lodge at the time, yet he survived them all, every one. The Alpha and Omega. Bro. Brimmer was Master of the Lodge from January to September, 1825, and notwithstanding the distance he had to travel, and poor Roads, no member was more constant in their attendance at Lodge meetings. He was one of the Selectmen and the Assessor of Taxes for the town for many years. He was extremely fond of society; he was generous, cheerful, social and jovial; no man enjoyed his life and its blessings more than Bro. Brimmer, until late in life, when overtaken by the infirmities of age; he was a kind husband, and indulgent father, and a good neighbor; he was strictly moral, honest and just; he had many friends and no enemies; he joined no church, yet he was a constant attendant of public worship, and one of the principal supporters of the Baptist Society. Very few, if any, have left a longer or a better record than Bro. Brimmer. His body was deposited in his grave at the Congregational Cemetery, on the 25th day of April, 1855, by the brethren of Lygonia Lodge, with Masonic honors. A large number of Masons were present on the occasion, who, by their ages, were fair representatives of his children, grand-children, and great-grand-children.

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