

## Year Valley City 86 Past Master List and Grave Locator Last Updated: 8/17/2020

2004	Herbert John Smith
2003	Dirk W. Hughes 2002 2003
2002	Dirk W. Hughes 2002 2003
2001	James R. Laird no Photo
2000	Dana M. Perry
1999	Ronald W. Redner
1998	Sean R. Redner
1997	Frank Ted Praria
1996	Thomas G. Verheek 1987 1995 1996
1995	Thomas G. Verheek 1987 1995 1996
1994	Henry R. VanDam 1989 1994
1993	George W. Mairs
1992	Bruce E. Hayden
1991	Donald E. Pitt 1988 1991
1990	Frederick J. Alberts Locomotive Engineer
1989	Henry R. VanDam 1989 1994
1988	Donald E. Pitt 1988 1991 <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84048455/donald-e_-pitt">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84048455/donald-e_-pitt</a>
1987	Thomas G. Verheek 1987 1995 1996 <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/83683528/thomas-verheek">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/83683528/thomas-verheek</a>

### EO3 US Navy Vietnam War

1986	Robert J. Cress
1985	Bruce A. Hunter
1984	Carl J. Cress
1983	Thomas W. Cardwell 1987 Valley City Mason of the Year and District Mason of the Year for District 18
1982	Michael E. Clark 2010 Grand Rapids Lodge 34 Mason of the Year and District 30 Michigan Mason of the Year
1981	Glen W. Sironen
1980	Robert D. Squires Jr
1979	Normand E. Ferwerda <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140449468/normand-edwin-ferwerda">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140449468/normand-edwin-ferwerda</a> Was a Shipfitter Third Class in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

1978 Randall M. Harwood

1977 Paul W. Robinson

1976 Horace John Kench <https://www.arlingtonparkfuneralhome.com/obituary/horace-kench> Horace John Kench of Freesoil, Michigan, December 1, 1930 - May 29, 2020, U.S. Veteran Horace John Kench, of Freesoil, Michigan passed away Friday, May 29th, 2020. He was 89 years old. John, as he preferred, was born in Lansing, Michigan, the son of Horace and Verda (Waltersdorf) Kench. John loved fishing, hunting, bowling, golfing, watching sports and traveling. He was a man of faith and an active member of the Manistee United Methodist Church. John was also a past Master of his Masonic Lodge three times. He volunteered his time and served his community in various endeavors. He loved music and also played the tub bass. He also acted in community theater. John proudly served his country in the United States Army. John is survived by his wife Joyce; children, Michael (Jeannie), Bradley (Alice), Kristy (Michael), and seven grandchildren. He is also survived by siblings; Barb, Mike (Barb), Jim (Billee), Butch (Anne) and Phil (Sue) as well as numerous nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by his mother Verda and his father Horace Kench. A committal service for John's ashes will be held at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens (4444 West Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI, 48906) on Friday, June 26th @ 10:30 am.

1975	Francis C. Leonard
1974	Winfred W. Guilliams <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/186262899/winfred-w-guilliams">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/186262899/winfred-w-guilliams</a> DOD 1996
1973	Daniel C. Wood Jr
1972	Percy T. Walker
1971	Robert H. Mason Sr
1970	Gene S. Logan <a href="https://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/muskegon/obituary.aspx?n=gene-s-logan&amp;pid=192047057&amp;fhid=21046">https://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/muskegon/obituary.aspx?n=gene-s-logan&amp;pid=192047057&amp;fhid=21046</a> He had a great love for music and playing in bands. Gene owned and operated Logan's Speedy Print for many years.

1969 Mark A. Crane <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/139811642/mark-agustus-crane>

1968 Donald E. Martin <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82187886/donald-e-martin> Was Rank of Staff Sgt US Air Force Korea.

1967 Cecil W. Chalmers

1966 Frank C. Brown <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67454088/franklin-cecil-brown> Was a Rank of Tech 4 US Army WWII and a Barber.

1965 George L. Chalmers [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/159879931/george-l\\_-chalmers](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/159879931/george-l_-chalmers)

1964 Paul E. Myers

1963 Richard Meretsk

1962 Warren Arthur Hunter <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/176053127/warren-arthur-hunter>

1961 Frank P. Ryan <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146513365/frank-ryan> "Colonel" on his gravel but not known what branch of service or conflict he may have served in.

1960 George Isenhoff <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96702401/george-e-isenhoff>

1959 Elgin R. Smith [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/206656339/elgin-r\\_-smith](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/206656339/elgin-r_-smith)

1958 Raymond J. Leffingwell [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/113475221/raymond-j\\_-leffingwell](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/113475221/raymond-j_-leffingwell) He held the rank of PFC Army in WWI.

1957 Charles W. Brooke Sr <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144008670/charles-walter-brooke> He was an Oil Company Manager.

1956 William E. Bundy <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/190135137/william-e-bundy>

1955 Richard L. Rawlings <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/189906941/richard-rawlings>

1954 Morris Daine Oberg <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/190295593/morris-daine-oberg>

1953 Robert M. Reed <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/190335086/robert-m-reed>

1952 Dan H. Benner [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141738033/daniel-h\\_-benner](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141738033/daniel-h_-benner)

1951 Lyle D. Ames <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140514378/lyle-d-ames> He was a Tool & Die Maker.

1950 Raleigh C. Griffith <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133187047/raleigh-griffith>

1949 Charles W. Sergeant Sr. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167865994/charles-w-sergeant> and his DOD is on 27 Oct 1964

1948 Leon A. Harper <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119216495/leon-harper> DOD 22 Jan 1955

1947 Arthur Earl Keech

1946 Arthur J. Clement <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133122063/arthur-james-clement> Manufacturer

1945 John VanderMolen <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82332409/john-vandermolen> DOD 5 Aug 1963

1944 Herman Beute <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/97281008/herman-beute>

1943 Francis G. Fry <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/169536903/francis-glover-fry> Private Army WWI.

1942 Andrew S. Cozzens <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98240357/andrew-sinclair-cozzens> Electrician

1941 Edward Stokkers <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133521671/edward-stokkers> DOD 16 Oct 1959

1940 William Albert Chute <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/64859875/william-albert-chute> Designer. WWI enlisted in 1914 in Canadian 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Was one of the very few survivors of Co. A, and Prisoner of War. Received several English war medals.

1939 Walter C. Griffith Jr [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133187286/walter-c\\_-griffith](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133187286/walter-c_-griffith) and his DOD was on 28 Nov 1971

1938 Raymond A. Cranston

1937 Raymond A. Cranston No Photo

1936 Gerritt Hoogenslag

1935 Gerritt Hoogenslag <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146942298/garritt-hoogenslag> and his DOD was on 21 Dec 1945

1934 John Vanderstel Jr 1927 1934

1933 Louis C. Elkins No Photo <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/204248633/louis-c-elkins> DOD 1963

1932 William Van Sluyter

1931 Juell J. Hewitt <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114881836/juell-john-hewitt> DOD 30 Jan 1987 and was a WWI Veteran

1930 Paul O. Strawhecker PGM 1946 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86286654/paul-oliver-strawhecker>  
DOD 13 Mar 1970 Paul Oliver Strawhecker was born in Monroe County, Michigan on August 24, 1897. From early childhood, he was cared for and educated by his foster parents, Charles H. and Nellie B. Strawhecker of Grand Rapids. Following the completion of his elementary and high school education in the City of Grand Rapids, he entered the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, where he took up the study of law. His studies were interrupted by World War I. He enlisted in the Army on May 16, 1917. He served with distinction in the ranks and was commissioned, in France, a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery. He fought with the 76th Field Artillery, Third Division (Regular), and served with his regiment in the Army of Occupation in Germany. Upon discharge from the Army, he returned to the Law School of the University of Michigan and graduated in June 1922, with the Degree of Bachelor of Laws. Afterward, he became one of the leading attorneys in Grand Rapids. While serving as Deputy Grand Master of Masons, he again answered the call of his Country and was, in January 1943, ordered into active duty as a First Lieutenant of the Coast Artillery. He commanded a battery of 90 MM guns in Portland Harbor, Maine, and accomplished pioneer work in the field with the M 9 Gun Director, developed by Bell Labs. When the war reached the offensive stage, he was transferred to the Escort Officers Detachment, A.G.F. Replacement Depot No. 1, at Fort Meade, Maryland. In this capacity, and commanding ground replacement troops to their overseas destination, he made ten trips across the Atlantic to the European Theatre and two across the Pacific, returning to Fort Meade by air each time.

1929 Harold R. Whalley <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/130993628/harold-ryde-whalley> and his DOD was on 11 May 1968

1928 Ellsworth Woolpert No photo <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21058472/ellsworth-woolpert> his reported DOD 1979

1927 John VanderStel Jr 1927 1934

1926 Lester E. Buss

1925 Charles H. Lillie <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/120123759/charles-herbert-lillie> DOD 5 Dec 1949

1924 Harry W. Bergstrom <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75466136/harry-william-bergstrom> Born 9/17/1873 Stora Tuna, SWEDEN, was a Toolmaker and his DOD 24 Nov 1944

1923 David R. Eason <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103691092/david-r-eason> DOD 18 Feb 1937

1922 Isaac M. Mote <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/80442265/isaac-m-mote> DOD 14 May 1943

1921 Fred C. Toot <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/147137079/fred-crittenden-toot> DOD 14 Aug 1971

1920 William J. Gillett <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/186209174/william-j-gillett> DOD 23 Oct 1949

1919 Charles V. Hilding <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/100122236/charles-victor-hilding> his DOD was on 30 Jan 1957 Funeral services for Charles V. Hilding, Grand Rapids attorney who died Sunday after a long illness, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Masonic Temple. Entombment will be in Graceland Mausoleum, where committal services will be under the auspices of the Valley City Lodge, F&AM. Pallbearers will be Merle C Baker, Edward H Benson, Murray B DeGroot, Robert S Tubbs, Nathan C Snyder and Paul O Strawhecker. The body will be in the Eggebeen Funeral Home until 10am Tuesday.

Mr. Hilding, who was 79, lived at 2709 Leonard NW. Born in Smoland, Sweden, he came to the United States with his parents in 1889. The family settled in South Bend. After graduating from Notre Dame University Law School in 1901, Mr. Hilding came to Grand Rapids in 1902. He was the Senior member of the law firm Hilding, Baker and DeGroot; a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan and American Bar Association, and was a former National Guard commissioned officer. Mr. Hilding was a life member of the former Highland Hills Country Club, a charter member of Cascade Hills Country Club and was a golf and bowling enthusiast earlier in his life. He was a charter member of Peninsular Club.

Long active in the Masonic order, Mr. Hilding was a life member of Valley City Lodge, F&AM, of which he was a Past Master and Treasurer some 18 years; Royal Arch Masons; Grand Rapids of Royal and Select Masters; DeMolai Commandery, Knights Templar, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, 33rd Degree and Paladin Temple Shrine. He was a member of the Royal Order of Jesters and Red Cross of Constantine. He was a former President of the Past Masters Association and a former Secretary of the Masonic Temple Association and was also a member of the Elks Lodge. Born 6 Nov 1877 Dannas, Värnamo kommun, Sweden.

1918 Harry O. Biggam <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/163263024/harry-owen-biggam> DOD 8 Oct 1946

1917 J. Boyd Choppel he was a Dentist

1916 Frank P. Rothenberger <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8117942/franklin-p-rothenberger> might be his grave site?

1915 William E. Miller <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114853880/william-edward-miller> and his DOD 13 Dec 1949

1914 William E. Rice <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125941935/william-eber-rice> Was a Printer, Spanish War Veteran and DOD 26 Aug 1930

1913 Albert A. Leonard <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11636984/albert-a-leonard> DOD 1914

1912 Roy H. Randall <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106441455/roy-hezekiah-randall> DOD 5 Jan 1940, Salesman

1911 Charles E. Converse [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23856969/charles-e\\_-converse](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23856969/charles-e_-converse)

1910 Josiah W. Brown [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142892493/josiah-w\\_-brown](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142892493/josiah-w_-brown) Was a Manager and his DOD 4 Apr 1936

1909 Rolland J. Cleland <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/137604970/rolland-james-cleland> Attorney

1908 Charles W. Dake <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/210187951/charles-william-dake> Foreman

1907 Richard J. Brummeler [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117967763/richard-j\\_-brummeler](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117967763/richard-j_-brummeler) he was a Merchant and DOD 15 Sep 1950

1906 Joseph E. Hyde [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119524807/joseph-e\\_-hyde](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119524807/joseph-e_-hyde) DOD 19 Oct 1926 County Probation Officer

1905 Arthur E. Stuck <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/163951576/arthur-stuck> 21 May 1945

1904 Charles A. Greenman [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98772822/charles-a\\_-greenman](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98772822/charles-a_-greenman) DOD 1907 Owned the G.R.W.C. Co. (Grand Rapids Wood Carving Co.) in 1902 and incorporated a furniture manufacturing business under his name in 1905. Well respected by his peers in journals.

1903 Charles A. Greenman 1903 1904

1902 Denison W. Gallup <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/36198312/denison-w-gallup> DOD 23 Feb 1953

1901 Charles H. Strawhecker <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167370109/charles-strawhecker> and his DOD 23 Oct 1934

1900 Leonard A. Caro <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162577973/leo-caro>

1899 Leonard A. Caro 1899 1900

1898 John Rowson PGM 1905 1892 to 1895 1898

1897 Lorenzo D. Mosher

1896 Lorenzo D. Mosher 1896 1897 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25719384/lorenzo-d-mosher> and his DOD 1902

1895 John Rowson PGM 1905

1894 John Rowson PGM 1905

1893 John Rowson PGM 1905

1892 John Rowson PGM 1905 1892 to 1895 1898 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86122899/john-rowson> John Rowson was born in Port Hope, Ontario, on May 24, 1855. He was married in 1877 and came to Grand Rapids in 1880. He engaged for many years in the business of Contractor and Builder with his brother, James Rowson, and later followed the business of an Insurance Adjuster. He was also prominent in the civic life of the city, being a member of the Board of Education for many years and twice its President. He also served as a member of the Board of Public Works and the Board of Assessors. In the Grand Lodge F. & A. M., of the State of Michigan he was elected Grand Marshal in 1899 and was regularly promoted each year and became Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1905. He was also the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada near the Grand Lodge of Michigan.

1891 Edward A. Vatter [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129859876/edward-a\\_-vatter](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129859876/edward-a_-vatter) DOD 21 Mar 1937 Born in Austria 12/11/1848

1890 Edwin L. Bowering PGM 1895

1889 Edwin L. Bowering PGM 1895 1889 1890 Furniture Clerk

1888 James Rowson

1887 James Rowson <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/130374388/james-rowson> DOD 1934

1886 James Rowson 1886 1887 1888  
1885 George W. LaBour  
1884 George W. LaBour  
1883 George W. LaBour  
1882 George W. LaBour  
1881 George W. LaBour  
1880 George W. LaBour  
1879 George W. LaBour  
1878 George W. LaBour <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11636774/george-washington-labour> DOD 1894  
1877 George W. LaBour 1877 to 1885  
1876 William P. Innes PGM 1892  
1875 William P. Innes PGM 1892 1875 1876 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10395849/william-power-innes> Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was appointed Colonel in command of the 1st Michigan Volunteer Engineers and Mechanics regiment. His unit participated in the battle of Logan's Cross Roads, Kentucky, on December 19, 1861 and in the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, in April 1862, corduroying roads and constructing bridges on Bear Creek and Lick Creek. During the summer of 1862, his regiment rebuilt the Confederate Memphis and Charleston, the Tennessee-Alabama, the Nashville and Chattanooga, and the Louisville and Nashville railroads. In 1863, the same engineers were in the Tullahoma Campaign, battles at Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Tennessee Rivers and in the campaign to take Missionary Ridge. In addition to engineer duty, the regiment guarded the Union Army camp after the battles, collected and buried the dead of both sides and moved the wounded to battlefield hospitals. He was brevetted Brigadier General, US Volunteers on March 13, 1865 for "gallant and meritorious services during the war". Civil Engineer- Overseeing railroad building, had finished overseeing the Detroit to Grand Haven line, surveying the Grand Rapids to Mackinaw City line. In Summer of 1861 President Abraham Lincoln gave him special permission to Innes to raise the 1st Michigan Engineers, giving him sole authority to choose officers and distribution of the 10 companies and an artillery battery where he saw fit. His company built a bridge over Elk River in Tenn. a 460 length and 50 feet high, using only timber from surrounding forest, and completed it in 8 hours.  
<https://ss.sites.mtu.edu/mhugl/2015/10/11/colonel-william-p-innes/>  
<http://micivilwar.com/misc-item/innes-william-p-december-9-1861/>  
1874 James N. Davis  
1873 James N. Davis <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101603191/james-nelson-davis>  
1872 James N. Davis 1872 to 1874  
1871 William K. Wheeler  
1870 William K. Wheeler  
1869 Joel C. Parker No record in Masonic data base <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59261429/joel-c-parker> ??  
1868 William K. Wheeler  
1867 William K. Wheeler  
1866 William K. Wheeler  
1865 William K. Wheeler  
1864 William K. Wheeler  
1863 William K. Wheeler  
1862 William K. Wheeler 1862 to 1868 1870 1871 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86758339/william-k-wheeler> DOD 25 Jul 1906 Founding Worshipful Master of Doric Lodge #342, Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan. Previously Master of Grand River 34 and Valley City 86. Was a carpenter by trade.  
1861 Edward D. Benedict  
1860 Edward D. Benedict 1860 1861 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/97160204/e-d-benedict> DOD 1892  
1859 James W. Sligh <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33227763/james-wilson-sligh> James Sligh served as Captain of Company F, 1st Michigan Engineers & Mechanics during the Civil War. He died of wounds received



when the train he was on was derailed by Confederate forces. He was the only officer in the regiment killed during the war.

1858 David S. Leavitt

1857 David S. Leavitt

1856 David S. Leavitt 1856 1857 1858 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/92760307/david-sheldon-leavitt>

DOD 19 Mar 1887 David's family: parents, David & Phebe (Mallett) Leavitt, younger siblings, and grandparents, Josiah Gold & Sarah (Sherwood) Leavitt, left Fairfield Co., CT and settled in Danube Co., Herkimer Co., New York by 1825. The Leavitt family owned & resided in the former home of Rev. War Gen. Nicholas Herkimer from 1825 to 1834. After his grandfather, father, and a younger brother died there David, his 5 younger siblings, and widowed mother left Herkimer Co. in 1834 in a party of pioneer settlers for Kent Co., Michigan. They traveled by barge on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, by ship on Lake Erie to Detroit, and by wagon for 180 miles across the state to Kent Co. where David purchased land in Sec 4, Paris Twp.

On May 24th, 1841 David married in Ionia Co., Michigan Martha Ann Tirrell, d/o John B. & Polly (Ingalls) Tirrell of Sebawa Twp., Ionia Co., MI. The Tirrell, Ingalls, & Brown families had removed to Ionia Co. in 1838 from Bristol, Grafton Co., New Hampshire.

By 1850 David had moved his wife & young family a short distance north to the City of Grand Rapids where he became a successful business man & merchant, civic leader, and member of the Masonic Lodge. David & Martha had 8 children, 5 surviving into adulthood.

\*Frances Isabelle Leavitt (1842-1922) m. Levi Shultus

\*Sylvia Elmira Leavitt (1844-1910) m. Lyman Hizer

\*Sheldon Leavitt (1848-1933) m. Marcella E. Smith

\*Martha Leavitt (1850-1914) m. Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall

\*Frederick Elmer Leavitt (1861-1944) m. Lydia Eva Avery

Before 1870 David & Martha divorced and David moved back to Connecticut and married Elizabeth (Clark)

Dayton and fathered another son, David Sherwood Leavitt (1870-1951) who became a cigar manufacturer (Long Hill brand) in Trumbull and was in fact the last cigar manufacturer there.