

John R. Thompson:

John R. Thompson spent his boyhood and early manhood on New England farms. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted in the Union Army. Soon after, he was made a lieutenant of a company and subsequently was promoted from time to time, eventually attaining the rank of colonel. He fought in the battle of Gettysburg.

Following the war, he worked in the US Treasury Department where he met Oliver H. Kelley and the other Founders. It is believed that he was the first one of the eventual Founders with whom Kelley talked concerning his envisioned fraternity.

He was an enthusiastic ritualist and a brilliant writer, and his knowledge of the Masonic ritual helped him, along with fellow Founder, Francis McDowell, in developing the Sixth & Seventh Degrees of our Order. He is also credited with enhancing the language of the lower degrees.

He served as the first National Grange Lecturer, the second National Grange Treasurer, and the second High Priest of the Assembly of Demeter