

## BIG QUESTION:

### What kind of groups helped orphans during the time?

**WE command you to visit the sick, relieve the distressed,  
bury the dead and educate the orphan.**

#### Odd Fellows

Mr. Thomas Wildey was an “Odd Fellow”. This did not mean he was an “*odd fellow*”. He was not strange or weird, but he was still an “Odd Fellow”.

This name belonged to a group of men and women who wanted to improve the *character of man*.

The group was formed in England. Think what London was like when Charles Dickens wrote **Oliver Twist** or **The Christmas Carol**.

Life was tough, often lawless and desperate.

There was poverty and sickness, orphaned children and widowed mothers were part of everyday life.

People could not afford the things they needed to live.

Ordinary people found it necessary to donate money to help. They would work together to find homes for children and unfortunate



families.

Such a friendly society orphan came to be known as "Odd Fellows". Labor class and the wealthy worked together. It was "*an odd bunch of fellows*".

Mr. Thomas Wildey was very friendly and a likable guy. He was an "Odd Fellow" who believed in Friendship, Love and Truth being administered to all people. This emblem of the three overlapping rings represents the Odd Fellows. The F for Friendship, L for Love, and T for Truth are inside the rings.

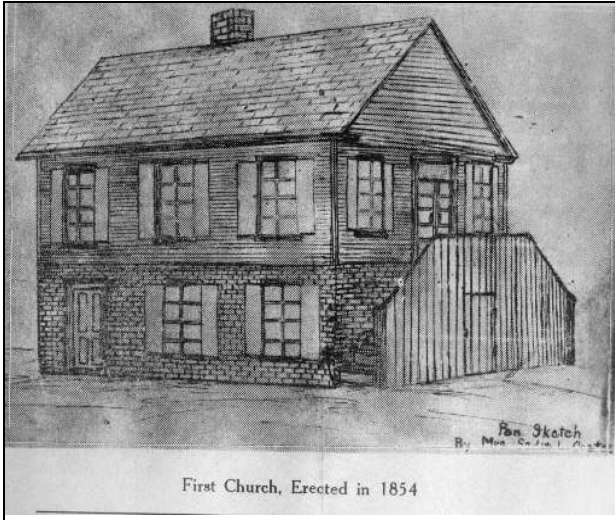


**You know, I bet we all would like to meet such an "odd fellow" in our lives.**



**Look for the friendly face around you. Look for the "helpers".**





First Church, Erected in 1854

**SUPPER**  
AND  
**FAIR!**

There will be a  
**Supper & Fair,**  
HELD  
**IN EDWARD'S BUILDING,**  
Corner of Third and Piasa Streets, on  
**Wednesday & Thursday Evng's.**  
For the benefit of the  
**UNION, COLORED, BAPTIST CHURCH.**  
The public are respectfully invited to attend.  
**Admittance 25 cts. - Supper 25 cts.**  
DECEMBER, 31, 1855.

Advertisement for Fundraiser to Support Union Baptist Church, 1855  
Union Baptist Church, located in Alton, IL, began in the 1830s (Source: Missouri History Museum)

**A SUPPER**  
WILL BE GIVEN ON  
**Thursday and Friday Evening**  
**July 12th & 13th, 1855,**  
**AT THE CORNER OF PIASA AND THIRD STREETS,**  
**OVER ROBINSON'S SALOON,**  
For the liquidating the debt on the **COLORED BAPTIST CHURCH.**  
**Addresses will be delivered in the course of the Evening.**  
Admission the first night, 50 cents. The second night, 25 cents.  
To commence at early candle lighting.  
ALTON COURIER STEAM PRESS PRINT.

Look for the friendly face around you. Look for the “helpers”.

