

The Northern Light

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RE-POINTING SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY



The Northern Light

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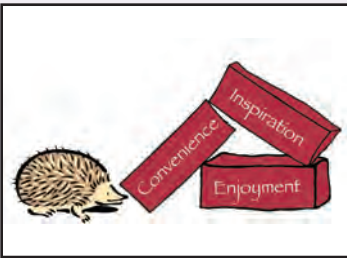


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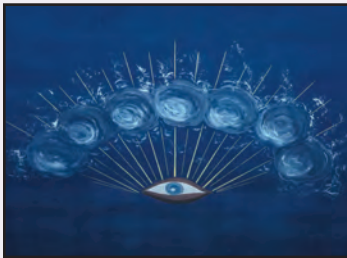
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Convenience, Inspiration and Enjoyment

“We might not have known each other”

We need to change. We are not advocating change for the sake of change, but rather, a course correction that helps us do what we have always done best.

Let me share with you a plan laid out at our recent Supreme Council session in Providence, Rhode Island. There we put forth a new mission for our Scottish Rite. The idea comes from Jim Collins' book, *Good to Great* — well worth the read. The concept includes the elements we will use to mold the Scottish Rite into an effective and contemporary fraternal organization. You will read more about this concept — called *The Hedgehog* — in Ill. Bro. Bill Anthis' article in this magazine.

We are, first and foremost, a fraternity. We join, each for our own reasons, but we all are improved by the company we keep. As Scottish Rite Masons, we are greater than the sum of our parts because of the interaction with our Brothers and the varying outlooks and backgrounds exposed to us.

Think for a minute or two about just who this fraternity has brought into your lives and how much you have benefitted from knowing and growing with them. Think also of how much you have meant to all of your friends, both Masonic and other, from the lessons learned in your time as a Scottish Rite Mason.

How many judges, attorneys, doctors, farmers, businessmen, truck drivers, members of the armed forces, educators, plumbers, electricians, blue collar and white collar workers would you

never had met had it not been for the fraternity. Through our interaction we do make each other's lives richer.

Would you or I be significantly different from what we are now without the benefit of our Scottish Rite's teachings and friendships? Would our country enjoy its very foundation and stature without the inter-workings of our Masonic fraternity?

We cannot be complacent though. Paraphrasing what they say in the financial world, “past performance is no guarantee of future success.” We may have a good organization, but we need to be great. We must continually provide a reason and the means to be a part of Scottish Rite.

We have worked for months to determine that in today's Scottish Rite it is essential for each Valley to address three major needs to help strengthen our membership and organization.

Those needs are: convenience, inspiration and enjoyment.

The winds of change are blowing and you will see many changes in the years to come. There will be much emphasis in your Valleys on increasing membership and enthusiasm by making activities convenient, inspirational and enjoyable. The courage, my Brothers, to achieve all of this does not always roar like winds of change. Sometimes it is the quiet voice at the end of the day, saying “I will try again tomorrow”.

John Wm. McNaughton
Sovereign Grand Commander

Re-pointing Scottish Rite Freemasonry

In his book, *Good to Great*, author Jim Collins tells how successful companies “got the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats — and then they figured out where to drive it.” He continues with an explanation of his “hedgehog concept” and its three circles.

First, an organization, in order to be great, must determine what it does best. To go from good to great, a company — or in our case a fraternity — must get over what he calls “the curse of competence.” Simply being good at something does not necessarily translate to being the best at it. Second, an organization must ask itself “what are we deeply passionate about?”

Finally, it must determine what drives its resource engine. It must figure out the economics of doing what needs to be done — who does the work, where the money comes from, and cultivation of emotional goodwill.

Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, has been meeting with Active Members, Active Emeriti Members, and others to determine answers to these questions and to set a direction to work toward greatness.

In the next five issues *The Northern Light* presents a series explaining the necessity for Scottish Rite Freemasonry to change its ways and the steps that will be taken to “re-point” our Masonry.

What is a HEDGEHOG CONCEPT?

By **BILL C. ANTHIS, 33°**

Being from southern Indiana, I am quite familiar with ground-hogs but not with hedgehogs. In his famous essay “The Hedgehog and the Fox,” Isaiah Berlin divided the world into hedgehogs and foxes, based upon an ancient Greek parable: The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing.

This knowledge of one big thing has enabled the hedgehog to deny the fox, who knows many things, a fine meal. Jim Collins, who wrote *Good to Great*, pointed out that “those who built the good-to-great companies were, to one degree or another, hedgehogs. They used their hedgehog nature to drive toward what we came to call a “hedgehog concept” for their companies. Those who led the comparison companies tended to be foxes, never gaining the clarifying advantage of a hedgehog concept, being instead scattered, diffused, and inconsistent.”

For several months, Active and Active Emeriti Members of the Supreme Council have been discussing the question, “What is the Hedgehog Concept for Scottish Rite?”

In his book, *Good to Great*, Jim Collins points out that hedgehogs are not stupid but their approach to survival has to do with one concept.

They can roll themselves into a ball and are protected by their spines which, while not poisonous, are very thick and sharp.

He suggests that organizations need a simple concept to make themselves great. The concept should be one that allows a corporation's leaders to see through the complexities of the corporation to a simple concept that makes the corporation effective.

He stresses the importance of seeing what is essential and ignoring the rest. Collins points out that great companies base all of their decisions upon a simple concept.

"Each Valley must emphasize convenience, inspiration, and enjoyment in all their programs and degrees."

— Sovereign Grand Commander McNaughton

He stresses the importance of being passionate about being the best company of its kind. Finally, he maintains that the leaders of a great organization need a deep and clear understanding of the hedgehog concept as it applies to their organization.

The business or fraternity cannot be like the man who jumped on his horse and rode off in all directions.


By basing all decisions on a simple hedgehog concept, a good organization will gain huge momentum toward becoming a great organization.

There are many words that are taken for granted in describing concepts that are musts for the success of any organization. For instance, it must be financially sound, well organized, have good leadership, and many other attributes that we refer to as givens.

However, to be a great organization, the company or fraternity must be the best at providing services and meeting the needs of its customers or members using approaches that are not givens.

Those who have thoughtfully considered this question have determined that the future of Scottish Rite depends upon transforming our fraternity into one that bases its decisions on convenience, inspiration, and enjoyment

Recognizing that the reader has not had the benefit of several hours of discussion on this subject, we would invite you to respond to this article with your thoughts.

If you would like to have additional background, we would suggest that you read Jim Collins' book, *Good to Great*. 



SGC McNaughton at Providence

At the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council in August, Grand Commander McNaughton addressed the assembly, explaining his vision for the fraternity, and how the "hedgehog concept" can be applied to it. Below is an extract of that speech.

In 2001, Jim Collins wrote the book, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*. Although the book was aimed at the corporate world, four years later Collins wrote an addendum geared for non-profit associations. To make the leap from good to great, he says you need to have "the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats."

Think about that in terms of our Masonic fraternity. How well is your Valley leadership positioned? Who is driving the bus in your valley? And where are you sitting? Collins feels that every bus should be guided by the "hedgehog concept." Now let me explain why he refers to the hedgehog.

No matter how complex the world, the hedgehog reduces all challenges to simple hedgehog ideas. Jim Collins says, "Hedgehogs are not stupid. Quite the contrary. They understand that the essence of profound insight is simplicity. Hedgehogs see what is essential and ignore the rest."

For the past two years, a Supreme Council subcommittee has been discussing a hedgehog concept for Scottish Rite Freemasonry within our jurisdiction. The work is ongoing, but the committee already has the conviction that Scottish Rite Freemasonry can provide the model for an effective and contemporary fraternal organization.

The committee has determined that in today's world, it is essential for the Supreme Council and for every Valley to address three major points: convenience, inspiration, and enjoyment. Does your Valley provide its members with convenience, inspiration, enjoyment? It can and it should. But to do so, the Valley leadership must have the right people on the bus and the right people in the right seats. If you are ready, come on board and find your seat.

Annual Meeting Highlights



The last time the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction met in Providence, Theodore Roosevelt was president of the nation, the inaugural World Series was a year away, and there were only 45 stars on the American flag. That changed this year as the 196th annual meeting convened in August at the Rhode Island Convention Center in that state's capital city.

In 1902 Sovereign Grand Commander Henry Lynde Palmer, 33°, presided over the meeting held at Freemason's Hall. The officers and Active Members were joined by 172 Honorary Members. In contrast, the 2008 session welcomed more than 1,700 guests.

A highlight of this year's general session was the presentation of a new DVD presentation to be directed at potential members. The video consists of seven modules intended to be watched at the prospective candidate's leisure. Many of the modules were premiered during the General Session.



New Officers

Five new officers of the Supreme Council were elected at the Annual Meeting. Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°, of New York, is the new Grand Minister of State; Ill. Donald G.

Hicks Jr., 33°, of Massachusetts, was chosen as Grand Treasurer General, and Ill. C. DeForrest Trexler, 33°, of Pennsylvania, is Grand Secretary General. Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, is now the Deputy for New York, while Ill. Eric Ginette, 33°, becomes Deputy for Vermont.



Eric Ginette, 33°
Deputy for Vermont

New Deputies



Peter J. Samiec, 33°
Deputy for New York

New Active Members



MATTHEW P. PUSKARICH, 33°
Ohio



DAVID L. SHARKIS, 33°
Connecticut



JOHN K. TAKIAN JR., 33°
Rhode Island



New Active Members

Three new Active Members were elected to the governing board of the Supreme Council.

Ill. Matthew P. Puskarich, 33°, of Cadiz, OH, is a prosecuting attorney for Harrison County, OH. He was Captain of the Guard, Master of Ceremonies, and Orator in the Valley of Steubenville, and he is Past Master of his lodge. He received the 33° in 2002.

Ill. David L. Sharkis, 33°, of Waterbury, CT, is a manager of optical programs. He held all offices at Harmony Lodge No. 42, including Worshipful Master. He is currently the Chaplain. For the Grand Lodge of Connecticut he was District Deputy Grand Master. He received the 33° in 2002.

Ill. John K. Takian Jr., 33°, of Cranston, RI, is a superintendent of properties. He was Master of his lodge in four occasions and, with the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, was Grand Sword Bearer and a member of the strategic planning committee. For Scottish Rite, he was Commander in Chief in the Valley of Providence. He received the 33° in 2005.



Retiring

Two Scottish Rite Deputies have retired. Ill. Harold Aldrich, 33°, of New York, and Ill. Frederick E. Jackson, 33°, of Vermont, will continue as Active Members of the Supreme Council. Ill. James E. Olmstead, 33°, of Ohio, requested early retirement and was granted Active Emeritus status.



Class of 2008

There were 104 candidates who received the 33° in Providence. Exemplar for the class was Fred S. Kile, 33°, of Ohio. A special session conferral of the 33° on Bro. Raymond David Jones, 32°, was held on May 9, 2008 at the Valley of Bloomsburg in Pennsylvania.



Class of 2009

There were 114 candidates elected to receive the 33° next year in Boston.



Medal of Honor

The Sovereign Grand Commander announced the selection of Ill. Gardner C. "Cy" Sconyers, 33°, to receive the Supreme Council Medal of Honor. Ill. Brother Sconyers is a member of the Valley of Providence, an Active Member of the Supreme Council and, from 2004-08, was its Grand Secretary General. He is also a Past Deputy for Rhode Island.

Earlier in the year, on June 10, the Sovereign Grand Commander presented the Medal of Honor to Ill. Robert N. Osborne, 33°, Active Member for the state of Michigan. Bro. Osborne passed away on June 14.



Kern Award

The winner of this year's Kern award is the Valley of Norwood. Accepting the plaque on behalf of the Valley was Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°, Deputy for New York.

The award is presented each year to the Valley that attains the highest percentage of participation of members contributing to the blue envelope appeal. It is named in honor of the late Dr. Richard A. Kern, 33°, former Scottish Rite Deputy for Pennsylvania.



Golden Eagle Awards

Two Valleys received special awards for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the learning centers. The Valley of Cincinnati received the Golden Double Eagle Award for the full endowment of the center in that city. The Valley of Chicago received the Double Eagle Award for raising funds for the Chicago learning center.



Ritual Changes

Changes were authorized for three rituals. Numerous and significant changes were made to the 23°. The ceremonial section was eliminated. The prologue and epilogue were re-written to include quotations from President and Ill. Harry S. Truman, 33°. The fictional narrator has been changed from a member of the Valley, to a character in the story. The name was also changed.

Modest changes were made to the 31°, modernizing words, and the 32° received stylistic changes.



2008 Meeting

The 197th Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council will take place in Boston, MA, Aug. 23-25, 2009. Valley Secretaries will receive information regarding hotel assignments, hospitality suites, and banquet menus on December 1. In January, candidates will receive information and paperwork regarding registration, fees, and hotel reservations. In April, Honorary Members will receive their invitations to attend the Annual Meeting, a program outlining the session's agenda, tour information, and meeting and hotel registration information.

Medal of Honor Recipients



Gardner C. "Cy" Sconyers Jr., 33°



Robert N. Osborne, 33°

One hotel in the downtown Boston area will be used. Registration has been transitioned to an on-line system and checks will no longer be accepted as payment. Effort and assistance will be given to those members unable to complete the online process.



Constitutional Changes

Section 1 of article 134 was amended to add the chairman of the Investment Committee to the Administrative Council as a voting member. Changes were made in both articles 136 and 347, renaming the 23° from "Chief of the Tabernacle" to "Knight of Valor." Article 702 was re-written to clarify the Supreme Council assessment.




Future Meetings

Aug. 23-25, 2009	Boston
Aug. 29-31, 2010	Philadelphia
Aug. 28-30, 2011	Chicago
Aug. 26-28, 2012	Cleveland



New Valley Charter

The Valley of Lower Delaware received its charter on August 25 at the Annual Meeting. The Valley is chartered for a Lodge of Perfection. 

Scottish Rite for the 21st CENTURY

The Supreme Council has produced a new tool in its quest to attract new members. An eight-module, menu-driven DVD recording titled “Scottish Rite for the 21st Century” was distributed to all one hundred Valleys of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in late September.

“It is not a standard program to be viewed all at once. The eight modules stand alone and can be watched one after the other or independently” says Ill. Richard H. Curtis, 33°, director of the project. He continues, “There are three target audiences: First is the newly-raised Master Mason; Second is the Scottish Rite membership; Finally, it is aimed at the non-Mason.” It is designed not just for Masons, however. It was made in such a way to promote family viewing.

Jonathan Barkan, of Communications for Learning and producer of the DVD, says that he has already seen Scottish Rite members energized. “It gives them something to focus on when explaining the reasons to join the fraternity.”

It made its debut at the annual meeting in Providence in August. Although this presentation of 32° Freemasonry is 32 minutes long, Barkan insists that it is just a serendipitous coincidence.

When asked how the program is to be distributed, Barkan answers, “Any way we can.” He said that methods will differ by state. “We may be working with the Grand Lodges. Word of mouth can be effective.

We also developed a new website called JoinScottishRite.org, where the Sovereign Grand Commander invites participation, a portion of the DVD can be viewed, questions are answered, and contact information is available.” He says that in the future, sites such as YouTube might be employed to spread the word.

A wide variety of spokespersons appear. Seen on camera are a blue lodge member and his wife, a Masonic historian, a specialist from the learning

center program, and even a young woman who was enrolled in the learning center many years ago. Using footage of her as a young girl, and following her to Chicago where she is currently a college student, the viewer can trace a success story of one of our major charities.

Bro. Curtis points out that an exhaustive interview process was conducted to make sure the participants covered a wide geographic area, as well as touched upon many interests, ages, and occupations.

The idea for the DVD germinated with the question, “How do you state the case for the Scottish Rite in the 21st century?” It is not the charities, although the membership has always been very generous in support of many charitable programs. It is not the history, despite the rich legacy it enjoys.

The DVD suggests a range of qualities that has always attracted men to the organization. The reasons may be as different as the membership is diverse. For instance, one vignette depicts the head of the UN World Food Program. He was horrified that so many infants die each year due to malnutrition. The values he learned with the fraternity drove him to do something about it. In another case, a blues musician raised a million dollars for a food pantry because of his belief system.

Barkan makes the point that the release of “Scottish Rite for the 21st Century” displays the sincerity of the organization in embracing new ideas. He said “The world is not the same place as it was at the end of the Second World War. There are different motivations today, and with Scottish Rite changing with those times, it is as relevant as ever.”

To obtain a copy, contact your Valley Secretary or visit JoinScottishRite.org

fashionable inspiration

The Poor Mural and Masonic Wall Decorations

By AIMEE E. NEWELL

In July, the National Heritage Museum proudly dedicated the historic mural by Jonathan D. Poor (1807-45), which has held a place of honor in the Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives since 2002, to the memory of Illustrious Walter E. Webber, 33°.

Bro. Webber was Sovereign Grand Commander and president of the Scottish Rite Museum and Library, Inc., 2003-06.

Its acquisition was made possible by generous contributions from Judy and John William McNaughton, 33°; Dorothy A. and Albert H. Richardson; Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA; trustees of the Supreme Council Benevolent Fund; The Webber Memorial Fund, and Scottish Rite Masons in the 15 states of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

A plaque recognizes these generous donors. The mural's story began almost 200 years ago in Maine when it was freshly painted to provide tasteful decoration for a New England family.

Murals such as this were popular in the eastern United States in private homes and public buildings — sometimes with Masonic symbols included.

Mural Decoration in America

Painted decoration was the earliest form of English interior wall adornment and made its way in the 1600s, with the colonists, to what would become the United States.

At the time, it was a cheap substitute for fine wooden paneling or woven wall hangings. The fashion for

Harbor and Landscape Mural, Jonathan D. Poor (1807-1845), 1830, Maine, collection of the National Heritage Museum.



Detail of artist's signature.



Photo:
David Bohl.



Dedication of the Mural at the Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives, National Heritage Museum, July 18, 2008.

painted walls took firm hold after the Revolutionary War as an alternative to wallpaper.

Itinerant artist and prolific mural painter Rufus Porter (1792-1884) pointed out the drawback to wallpaper, explaining that it was “apt to get torn off, and often affords behind it a resting place for various kinds of insects.” In addition, paint could be applied to walls almost as soon as they were built, while the application of wallpaper required that six months to a year pass first, or it would peel off.

During the early 1800s, in urban areas, elegant homeowners used high-style French wallpapers with elaborate landscape scenes, but these were too expensive for most rural homeowners. A painted mural, like the one by Poor, provided the same kind of design at much less expense.

The Jonathan D. Poor Mural

The museum’s mural was originally part of the home that Silas Burbank had built in Mount Vernon, ME, in 1820. Ten years later, Poor painted the house’s dining room and a small study for about \$20 total (roughly equal to \$380 today).

Executed in what is known as a lime wash fresco technique — painting on a moist plaster surface with colors ground up in a limewater mixture — the mural is painted on a plaster wall made of lime, sand and horsehair.

The National Heritage Museum’s mural is signed by its artist which is unusual, as most similar murals are unsigned. The mural on view in the Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is only one section from the original room’s four painted walls.

This particular section features the artist’s signature in the center of the bottom half, “J.D. Poor

1830.” Jonathan D. Poor was born in 1807 in Baldwin, ME, (now known as Sebago), the son of Jonathan Poor (1771-1864) and Ruth Porter (1780-1846).

Ruth Porter’s brother was the well-known itinerant painter and inventor, Rufus Porter, who trained young Jonathan to paint. Uncle and nephew also seem to have worked together on a number of murals in New England (mostly in Maine and New Hampshire).

Rufus Porter worked as an itinerant artist between 1815 and 1840, first painting portraits, and later, murals, throughout the northeastern United States, and at least as far south as Virginia.

In 1825, Porter published an art instruction manual, *Curious Arts*, which included a section on “Landscape Painting on Walls of Rooms.” A creative thinker, Porter developed a number of inventive time- and labor-saving methods to create his wall murals.

His biographer, Jean Lipman, explains that he was the first to popularize the use of a cork stopper to produce foliage, instead of a brush. He also used stencils for his landscape paintings, not a method used by others.

Porter’s three most common scenes were harbor views, mountain climbing or hunting scenes, and farm-village scenes. Characteristics of his paintings included billowing round clouds, clear reflections of objects in water, sharp shading of darkened sides of houses and trees, and occasional exotic details, like tropical trees and vines.

These last elements might have been inspired by a trip to Hawaii in 1818 and 1819. Nephew Jonathan Poor incorporated some of these features into his own work — the sailboat steered by a man in a top hat was also one of Porter’s personal signatures, according to Lipman, and is a charming part of the museum’s mural.

Poor began traveling with his uncle in 1823, at the age of 16. In addition to the mural now owned by the National Heritage Museum, Poor’s signature appears on a painted fireboard in the collection of the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, VT; a wall mural in a house in Groton, MA; and more than 30 wall murals in homes in a dozen Maine towns.

Poor died at the relatively young age of 38, so his industry in painting all of these works between the ages of 16 and 38 is admirable, particularly since there are undoubtedly other paintings in his hand in houses that have since burnt down or been destroyed. Additionally, there are probably paintings

that are not signed and have not been properly attributed.

By the mid-1840s, Rufus Porter gave up the life of an itinerant artist and moved to New York to focus on journalism and on several inventions.

While Porter's plans for an automobile, elevated train and passenger plane mark him as a man ahead of his time, none were taken seriously during his life.

However, he also founded *Scientific American* in 1845, a journal that brought attention to his ideas and continues today to explore "the Future of Science & Technology."

At some point, probably in the later 1800s, Poor's murals at the Burbank house were covered with wallpaper. In 1967, a new set of homeowners noticed the murals — this time, under a piece of partially-peeled wallpaper.

In 1983, planned home renovations threatened the survival of the murals, but conservator Christiana Cunningham-Adams was able to remove them for preservation.

First, the remaining fragments of wallpaper were steamed off. Next, the face of the mural was covered with layers of paper, cheesecloth, burlap, resin and plywood to protect its surface. Finally, a chain-saw was used to cut out the wall for transport.

Once Cunningham-Adams brought the mural back to her studio, she started to work on preserving it. Her goal was to protect the way it looked when it was removed, not to restore it to its original condition.

She filled in losses by matching the new paint to the faded colors of the mural. Glue was applied to prevent peeling and to help hold the paint to the surface of the wall in order to prevent future deterioration.

The National Heritage Museum has a climate-control system in place that will also help protect the mural now that it has a permanent home in Lexington.

Masonic Murals

While the Poor mural depicts a rural landscape, others include Masonic symbols. Often, these have been found in buildings with a history as Masonic meeting places, like taverns and large private homes.

Perhaps one of the best-known in New England is the Salem Towne House, now at Old Sturbridge Village. On the second floor, a large room origi-



— Cedars of Lebanon,
Salem Towne House,
ca. 1796,
Old Sturbridge Village.

nally intended as a ballroom still retains murals of the "cedars of Lebanon." And, on the ceiling, a recreated all-seeing eye symbol stares down.

This design is based on a description of a hall that was prepared for the use of King Solomon's Lodge in Woodbury, CT. That lodge met in the space from 1797 to 1824, a time when wall painting was widely popular.

The Salem Towne House was originally built in Charlton, MA, in 1796. In March of the same year, a group of men from Charlton, led by Ebenezer Phillips, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for a charter to start a Masonic lodge in town, to be named Fayette Lodge.

The petition was granted and the lodge was chartered. When Fayette Lodge met during its early years (at least until 1800), the meetings were often held at the home of Salem Towne Sr., Fayette Lodge's Senior Steward.

Rufus Porter himself included Masonic symbols in at least one wall mural.

Around 1824, Porter and an assistant, probably Moses Eaton Jr., painted the walls of the Joshua Eaton House in Bradford, NH.

The house was used as a Masonic meeting place

for several years after 1818 and a square and compasses symbol is incorporated on one wall — above the mantel — between the branches of a tree.

The Amos Bristol Tavern in Treadwell, NY, also boasts Masonic wall decoration from the early 1800s. Like the Towne House in Charlton, Treadwell's Masons met in the tavern's ballroom.

In her recent book, *American Wall Stenciling*, Ann Eckert Brown describes a roundel on the ceiling of the room, which has a square and compasses symbol at its center. Brown notes that Aurora Lodge No. 227 met in this space from 1813-34 and suggests that the Masonic symbol was added during this time, rather than at an earlier time when the rest of the wall stenciling was done.

While the Eaton House, the Towne House and the Bristol Tavern have more subtle Masonic decoration on their walls, the Elisha Gilbert House in New Lebanon, NY, is elaborately decorated with numerous colorful Masonic symbols.

The house was built in 1794 by Elisha Gilbert, who planned for his third floor to be devoted to meetings of Unity Lodge, one of the earliest lodges in the state.

Chartered in September 1788, the lodge met at Gilbert's house from 1795 to 1850. In return, according to tradition, the lodge agreed to pay him \$800.

Nina Fletcher Little, who described the decoration in her book, *American Decorative Wall Painting*

1700-1850, believed that the painting was done in the early 1800s.

The room's walls are painted blue with designs in buff and brown that include King Solomon's Temple, a beehive, draped curtains, a column with globe on top, the ark, tablets, and an archway over the checkered pavement.

Changing Tastes

During the mid- and late 1800s, tastes changed. Wallpaper became cheaper to produce and, thus, cheaper to purchase. It also became easier to apply, compared to earlier papers that needed plaster walls to dry for six to 12 months before being covered.

With previous barriers of price and time removed, wallpaper became both fashionable and popular. Americans of the Victorian era had a wide variety of wallpapers to choose from at many price levels.

Among these choices were wallpapers that included Masonic symbolism just like the wall paintings described above.

One of these papers from the early 1800s, was probably manufactured in Boston and was found in St. Paul's Lodge of Groton, MA.

It shows an archway atop two columns. Drapery is swagged below the arch above a central square and compasses symbol.

The symbol is flanked by two men wearing Masonic aprons. The light blue ground with pink, blue, white and black printing is similar to the palette seen in many of the painted murals and stenciled borders.

Also, like the painted walls, the paper could be used in lodges or in private homes to remind men of their Masonic lessons.

This particular paper was reproduced in the 1970s by Waterhouse Wallhangings of Boston. The original 1800s sample is now in the collection of Historic New England.

Today, we value these historic wall coverings, whether painted, pasted or stenciled, for what they can teach us about the past. But, they also offer inspiration for modern decoration.

If you have a sample of historic wallpaper, or other objects, that you would like to donate to the National Heritage Museum collection, please contact **Aimee Newell, Senior Curator of Collections** at anewell@monh.org or **781-457-4144**.

INL



— all-seeing eye,
Salem Towne House,
Old Sturbridge Village.

32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

A Proud Parents Writes

Thank you for making the Masonic Learning Center available for many children like my daughter. She has attended the center for two years and the results are nothing short of remarkable. Even though I am trained in a dyslexic discipline, I was not able to move my daughter, Olya, forward academically. The trained, patient, and wonderful teachers at your learning center provided critical learning skills. Her reading ability was poor; her comprehension almost non-existent, and her ability to decipher written words were an insurmountable challenge. She was two years behind in school

At the risk of sounding like a proud parent — which I am. I must tell you my daughter made the honor roll all year this year. Her new-found confidence lead the teachers at her school to name her student of the week, choir honor student and she passed both ISTEP tests for 6th grade. Olya broke the school record in cross country and one-mile in track.

Although the center does not make my daughter fast, it did build her confidence, and with Kurt (the center director) being a runner, it made new records fun to share. There is no stopping her. We never imagined that she would get through high school but she has a new goal to go to college.

Kurt Walborn and his staff have unfailingly guided Olya to excellence. If you think the little group occupying one of your corner spaces at the Masonic center is a sleepy little dyslexic area you are mistaken. Not every parent will write to you but know that lives are changing every week because of Kurt's vision and your support. I can only offer my deepest thanks for giving my daughter dreams to accomplish whatever she wants with her life. Please let your committee know their efforts have life-long rewards.

Most sincerely and gratefully, Sue Simon, proud mom of one very cool kid.

SHOP FOR GIFTS, *Help a Learning Center*

When buying for children on your holiday shopping list this year, you can also help support a learning center that will give children the gift of learning for years to come. To raise funds to support the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children, Inc., located in State College, PA, the Valley of Williamsport has partnered with GrowingTreeToys.com on a donation program. GrowingTreeToys.com will provide ten percent of sales to the fundraising efforts for the new learning center which will give children with dyslexia the gift of becoming proficient readers.

GrowingTreeToys.com offers over 3,000 quality children's toys, great gifting services and will ship your order to any location in the United States. Growing Tree Toys is owned by Ill. Larry R. Emigh, 33°, his wife Katherine, son Jon and daughter-in-law Kim.

In order to participate, simply go to www.growingtreetoys.com/scottishrite and click the "Start Shopping for Scottish Rite" button. You only have to click this button once on your first visit to the website. Once you have clicked the "Start Shopping for Scottish Rite" button, ten percent of any purchase you make between now and December 15, 2008 will be donated to the 32° Masonic Learning Center in State College, PA.

If you have any questions regarding the donation program or placing an order, please email info@growingtreetoys.com or call the toll-free number 800-372-9982. The website fundraising program expires December 15, 2008.

In Memoriam

Ill. Ira B. Coldren Jr., 33°

Ill. Ira B. Coldren Jr., 33°, Active Emeritus Member for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, died on Monday, August 25.

Bro. Coldren, the son of Ira and Eleanor (Clark) Coldren, was educated in the Uniontown, PA, public schools. Following his graduation from Uniontown High School, he was accepted into Penn State University, where he attended for a year when he received an appointment from the secretary of war to enter the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1942. There, he was trained as a pilot.

Also, as a part of his military training, he attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School from 1949-52, earning a Doctor of Laws degree. In 1956 he left the Army to join his father's law firm, although he remained in the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1968.

He was a member of the Third Presbyterian Church of Uniontown where he was a trustee and elder.

Bro. Coldren was very active in civic affairs and professional associations. In 1959 he was a national director of the Pennsylvania Jaycees, president of the Greater Uniontown United Fund in 1962, as well as president of the

Uniontown Rotary, Uniontown Country Club, Fayette County Development Council, and member of the Uniontown Bicentennial Commission.

In 1982 he was elected president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and, in 1990, was named Uniontown Area Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year."

He had a long and dedicated career in Freemasonry. He was raised a Master Mason in Fayette Lodge No. 228 in Uniontown in 1950, becoming its Worshipful Master 14 years later. He remained a trustee for more than a quarter of a century.

Bro. Coldren completed the degrees of the Scottish Rite in 1957, becoming Thrice Potent Master of the Uniontown Lodge of Perfection in 1969.

At Cleveland, in 1980, he was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and was elected an Active Member of the Supreme Council in 1991. He assumed Active Emeritus status in 1999.

He is survived by his wife Frances, three daughters, a son, a step-daughter, eleven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and four nieces.

In Memoriam

Ill. John L. McCain, 33°

Ill. John L. McCain, 33°, Active Emeritus Member for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, died on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 in Pittsburgh.

Bro. McCain was the son of Harry B. and Elizabeth E. (Coleman) McCain. He was educated in the Dormont Public School system and attended Penn State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering in 1937. From graduation until 1941 he worked as an industrial engineer for U.S. Steel Iron Works. During World War II he was a member of the United States Army, with the chemical warfare service, earning the rank of major. Following the war, in 1946, he joined Hachmeister Inc., where he became vice president in 1950.

On June 28, 1941 he was united in marriage with Genevieve B. Hachmeister. They had a son, John Jr., who survives with two grandsons and four great-grandchildren.

He was a member of Southminster Presbyterian Church where he was a deacon and president of the couples class.

He performed many civic duties including president of the McKees Rocks Rotary Club; member of the Chartiers Country Club; the Pittsburgh Athletic Association; Academy of Science and Arts Council of Pittsburgh; Seaview

Country Club; Ligonier Country Club; Lehigh Valley Club, and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Ill. Bro. McCain was also vice president of the board of directors of the Ohio Valley General Hospital, and was on the board of the West End Federal Savings and Loan Association.

John McCain was raised a Master Mason in Milnor Lodge No. 287 in Pittsburgh on January 25, 1949 and was its Worshipful Master in 1959. He has also been a trustee for the lodge, Masonic culture chairman, and district chairman.

For the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania he was very active, holding many offices. In December 1975 he became Grand Master.

He completed the degrees of the Scottish Rite on April 25, 1949 and became Sovereign Prince of Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem in 1965.

On Sept. 30, 1970 at Milwaukee, WI Bro. John L. McCain was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and was elected an Active Member of the Supreme Council on September 27, 1973 at Detroit. He was elected Deputy for Pennsylvania in 1988. He assumed Active Emeritus status on Sept. 25, 1991.

You can get anything you want . . .

By ALAN E. FOULDS, 32°



Holiday traditions come in all shapes and sizes. Take, for instance, the connection between Thanksgiving and the satirical folk song, “Alice’s Restaurant,” by Arlo Guthrie. Each year, as people all across the nation prepare their turkeys, cranberry sauce, gravy and Indian pudding, or maybe they head off to a high school football rivalry, that venerable folk song from the 1960’s is likely to come on the radio. When you hear it, you may wonder how a Woodstock-era ballad has any connection with the pilgrims, the Mayflower, or turkey.

For the uninitiated, the song — actually, an 18-minute, 20-second narrative with music — is a fanciful tale, mixing a little fact and a lot of exaggeration. It tells of a true incident that took place in Great Barrington, MA, on Thanksgiving Day 1965.

Folksinger Arlo Guthrie, 18 years old at the time and son of the legendary Woody Guthrie, was visiting his friends, Alice and Ray Brock. Alice owned a small restaurant in nearby Stockbridge, officially called the Back Room Rest, but more commonly known by her first name. The couple lived about six miles away in the deconsecrated Trinity Church. Several of the Brocks’ acquaintances were there for the holiday.

After what Guthrie described in his ballad as a “Thanksgiving dinner that couldn’t be beat,” he and a friend decided to help out by cleaning up the mess that had been made. He filled his VW microbus with trash and headed off for the town dump. Being a holiday, the dump was closed, so they found, as he sings, “another pile of garbage by the side of the road.”

He figured “one big pile of garbage was better than two little ones,” so they emptied out the van. They went back to

the church “and had another Thanksgiving dinner that couldn’t be beat.” Later in the day, however, police officer, William Obanhein of Stockbridge came to the church and arrested them. Two days later, the boys pleaded guilty to littering, were fined \$50 each, and ordered to clean up the trash.

Normally, that would have been the end of the story. From there, though, the events of that day grew to epic proportions. According to the song the boys were locked in a cell and had their belts taken away “to prevent hangings.” The arresting officer built an airtight case against them, with all sorts of evidence, “being the biggest crime of the last 50 years.” Officer “Obie,” as they called him, came to the trial prepared.

He brought “Twenty-seven 8-by-10 color glossy pictures with circles and arrows on the back of each one explaining what each one was, to be used as evidence against them.” He even included aerial photography of the scene of the crime. The police officer was disappointed, however, when the judge arrived in the courtroom with his seeing-eye dog, and he realized the photographs would be useless.

The punch line of the story comes as Guthrie, according to “Alice’s Restaurant” is later rejected for military duty when drafted because of his criminal conviction.

The song, officially known as “Alice’s Restaurant Masacre,” was recorded in 1967 and became an instant hit. Two years later, a movie was made from the song. Directed by Arthur Penn, it featured many of the participants of the actual events. Guthrie played himself, while the role of Alice was taken on by actress, Pat Quinn. The real Alice Brock, however, makes a cameo appearance as a minor character.

Most interesting, perhaps, is the portrayal of Officer Obie. William Obanhein plays himself. In real life he was a well-respected police officer who gained a small piece of fame earlier in his life as a model for many of Norman Rockwell’s caricatures of small-town life. Probably the most recognizable piece is called “The Runaway” in which a small boy — complete with a stick and bandana wrapped around his worldly belongings — sits next to a police officer in a small diner.

When asked by *Newsweek* magazine why he agreed to be in the movie he said that making himself look like a

fool was preferable to having someone else doing it.” Actually, Guthrie and Obanhein became friends in the years subsequent to the incident.

The real story then skips ahead to 1991. An older, and presumably wiser, Arlo Guthrie established the Guthrie Foundation, and the church where Alice and Ray once lived, was purchased as its home. The Guthrie Center, named for Arlo’s parents, is, according to its website, “an interfaith church — a place to bring together individuals for spiritual service, as well as for cultural and educational exchange.”

Officials at the center say, “Keeping with the philosophy of Woody and Marjorie Guthrie, for whom these organizations are named, the Guthrie Center & Foundation provide a place where we work with the issues of our times — injecting ourselves into the bloodstream of humanity’s best efforts toward a better world.”

It is also a spiritual home for the Huntington’s Disease Advocacy Center, an organization dedicated to eradicating the disease that took the life of Woody Guthrie. Every Thanksgiving the Guthrie Center hosts the “Walk-a-thon to Cure Huntington’s Disease,” which touches on all the locations of the song, such as the church, the place where the trash was dumped, the former site of Alice’s Restaurant, and even the Stockbridge police station. After the walk, a “Thanksgiving dinner that couldn’t be beat” takes



Preparations are made for a folk concert at the Guthrie Center.

over the building and spills out into an adjoining tent. George Laye, the center director says, “we invite those that are down on their luck and need a Thanksgiving dinner.”

The events that happened — or might have happened — on that Thanksgiving so long ago live on today in a little spiritual center tucked into the Berkshires and on the radio at least once a year.

This Thanksgiving, as you rush around setting the table before all those relatives arrive, scan down the dial. You might just hear how you can “walk right in; it’s around the back — just a half a mile from the railroad track. You can get anything you want at Alice’s Restaurant.” TNE

Support a Child at a Learning Center Near You

The Children’s Learning Centers is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

It costs \$5,000 to tutor one child for one year. Typically, children require an average of two years of tutoring. Your tax-exempt contribution can be designated to support a specific children’s learning center or a learning center where the need is greatest.

For information about making a donation, please call the development office at 800-814-1432 ext. 3326.

Or send a check directly, payable to:

32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

33 Marrett Road

Lexington, MA 02421



Start with the first word. Add to it the letters of the second word. Then add or subtract the letters of the following words. Total the remaining letters and unscramble them to find a word associated with Masonry.

MASONIC WORD MATH

(TRACTOR) + (INTENSE) – (STRAIN) +
(TROOPS) – (COST) + (INCORPORATE) –
(ERROR) – (TOP) + (TRAINING) –
(ENGINE) + (ISSUE) – (SEAT) – (COURT)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 10
Answer from previous issue: FREEMASON

NOTES FROM THE **SCOTTISH RITE** JOURNAL

OF FREEMASONRY ✧ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ✧ USA

Recognizing Old Glory and Those Who Have Sacrificed for Freedom

The White House Commission on Remembrance sponsors the National Time of Remembrance, a gathering on the Washington Monument grounds of over 3,000

family members who have lost a loved one in service to our country.

Because not all eligible families can travel to Washington, D.C., on the date of the ceremony, the Supreme Council, S.J. and the Tampa Scottish Rite joined forces with the White House Commission and US Special Operations Command to include Gold Medal of Remembrance presentations to four families at the annual Valley of Tampa Flag Day celebration. Brigadier General Steven A. Hummer, USMC, Chief of Staff for the United States Special Operations Command, presented medals to the following children of the fallen:

- Bryan Christian Luckey Jr., son of SGT. Bryan Christian Luckey, USA

- Keira Jackson, daughter of CW2 Kyle E. Jackson, USA

- Jocelyn and Isabelle Rogers, daughters of SPC, Nicholas K. Rogers, USA

- Amber Vance, daughter of SSG Arden Vance Jr. USA

The Tampa Valley has begun planning for Flag Day 2009 to be held, June 8, 2009, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Tampa. It is their deepest hope there will never be a need to give out another National Gold Medal of Remembrance. But, if necessary, the Scottish Rite stands ready to assist in honoring these deserving families.



Photo: Ill. Vernon T. Clark, Jr., 33°, Valley of Tampa, Florida

Southern Jurisdiction Library Acquires Templar Transcripts

The Library of the Supreme Council, S.J., has received facsimile manuscripts relating to the trials of the medieval Knights Templar. In October 2007, the 700th anniversary of the arrest of the Templars, the Vatican Secret Archive announced that it would publish a limited run of 800 copies of the previously unavailable source material on the Templar trials, referred to by the Latin title, *Processus Contra Templarios*. The Supreme Council's acquisition is through a generous gift by Ill. Hoyt O. Samples, 33°, and his wife Mitzi, of Tennessee.

The most interesting document in the collection is the Chinon Parchment, as it contains Pope Clement V's absolution of the Templars from charges of heresy. The surviving acts of the pontifical inquiry, kept at the Vat-

ican Secret Archive, show to what extent the pope himself aimed to save and preserve the existence of the Templar Order, assigning it a new role upon restoration of its habits and rules.



Photo: Elizabeth A. W. McCarthy, The S. R. Journal

It is time to rummage through the mail sack and share some of the more interesting questions that have made it past my spam filter.

Q How can you make certain the information you get in emails and on websites is accurate?

A. Years ago, people said, “If it’s in the newspaper, it must be true.” That was replaced with, “If it’s on the network news, it must be true.” Today it is, “It was on the Internet. It must be true.”

Unfortunately, far too many people – including many who should know better – are sometimes duped by what they read in emails or find on websites.

Consider this: an old article about United Airlines’ 2002 bankruptcy filing suddenly resurfaced just a few weeks ago on the website of a respected newspaper. That report touched off rumors that United had again filed for bankruptcy. Though completely untrue, the rumor panicked some investors, sending United’s stock into a major tailspin.

On a sillier note, one of my favorites is an email that warns recipients they have just a few more days to register their cell phone number or else it will be given to telemarketers. Though completely untrue, this email warning has been around for years and continues to worry many recipients.

From seemingly sincere email warnings to information contained in Wikipedia entries, Internet users must remain vigilant and skeptical.

My best advice on obtaining information is to look to the websites of trusted sources (though, as the United bankruptcy story proves, this approach is not always foolproof). When appropriate, get independent verification of information from two to three trusted sources.

As for those email rumors, urban legends and the like, I often check them out on Snopes (www.snopes.com) or run a Google search to see what that turns up.

Q How safe is online purchasing?

A. Generally speaking, I believe it is as safe as ordering by phone and even making in-person credit card purchases. However, I do acknowledge that not everyone shares this view. I do have a few rules:

- Only make purchases from trusted sites that use encryption technology to ensure the secure transmission of any personal information. You can determine when you’re sending data securely by looking at the Web address (URL) in your browser window because “http” will change to

“https” when you are sending data protected by encryption. The “s” in “https” stands for “secure.”

- Read the company’s security policy, which you’ll find on their website.
- Never, never, never use a debit card to make an online purchase. (Personally, I don’t like debit cards, but that’s another story.)

- Always print out and save a copy of your order.

- Carefully review credit card statements for discrepancies or entries for purchases you did not make.

- You may want to consider using one credit card exclusively for online purchases.

Q Is phishing still a serious problem? I haven’t seen much about it in recent months.

A. Are fish still swimming in the sea? According to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (www.antiphishing.org), “The number and sophistication of phishing scams sent out to consumers is continuing to increase dramatically. While online banking and e-commerce is very safe, as a general rule you should be careful about giving out your personal financial information over the Internet.”

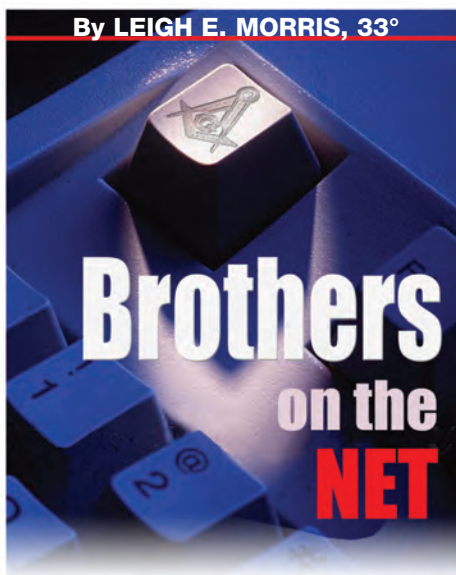
I strongly urge you to visit APWG’s website to review their sound anti-phishing advice. In addition, I like Internet Explorer version 7 Web browser because of its effective anti-phishing toolbar. You also can download a free anti-phishing toolbar from EarthLink or McAfee. And yes, Mac users need anti-phishing protection.

One more piece of advice. Run, don’t walk, from any email that wants you to update a password or other personal information. Report any suspected phishing attempt to APWG (reportphishing@antiphishing.org).

Q My granddaughter is in fourth grade, and I am thinking about buying her a computer. Is this a good idea?

A. I believe children should have computers by the time they are in third or fourth grade. However, parents must be willing to provide appropriate supervision and establish suitable ground rules. I would suggest you visit the GetNet-Wise (kids.getnetwise.org) and NetSmartz (www.netsmartz.org) websites for additional information. Remember, a computer must never become a substitute for parental involvement in the lives of their children.

As always, please send you questions and comments to me [<studebaker55@casscomm.com>](mailto:studebaker55@casscomm.com) or, if you prefer, you can send a letter to me at PO Box 42, Virginia, IL 62691.



**I saw it on the Internet
so it must be true
and other myths**

Annuities for an Unsettling Time

I had planned to write about an entirely unrelated theme this issue, but I changed my topic mid-article. The recent news was far too startling to ignore.

As I write this, we have all just been witness to a week of financial news unparalleled in my lifetime. Lehman Brothers has just gone bankrupt. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have become government wards. AIG is about to become government property also. Merrill Lynch is now a property of Bank of America.

The stock market is a roller coaster. Even the safety of money markets is in doubt.

Where can you turn to provide safe, reliable income from your hard-earned assets?

Your Scottish Rite has an answer — Charitable Gift Annuities. Charitable Gift Annuities are guaranteed by the financial strength of the Benevolent Foundation of the Scottish Rite. By law, they must have a substantial cash reserve protecting them which the foundation has. They are safe, can provide substantial returns today or in the future, and provide both charitable deductions and tax-free income.

For example: a 78-year-old member can receive an annuity that will pay him 7.6 percent income for the rest of his life. He will receive credit for a donation worth 45 percent of his annuity. And, for the next decade, 69 percent of his income will be tax-free, increasing the effective yield to an impressive 9.64 percent for someone in the 28 percent tax bracket. And the program helps our charities.

Rates are dependent on several factors. Your return may be different from this example, but you owe it to yourself to find out, don't you? Call Maryanne at 800-814-1432 x 3326. We can tell you how a Charitable Gift Annuity can help you.

Maybe now is the time to consider an annuity. As a service to our members during this time of extreme market instability, we have lowered the minimum annuity investment to \$5,000 through January 2009.

There is no better time to look to your Scottish Rite for stable returns during this time of instability.

The Builders Council, which honors the commitments of \$10,000 or more to the Charities of the Scottish Rite, increased by 43 new members during the fiscal year ending July 31. This was our largest one year increase in membership. Total membership now exceeds 400.

Builders Council Members

January – July 2008

J. Michael Aaron	Pittsburgh Commandery
Anonymous, Dayton, OH	No. 1, Knights Templar
Robert D. & Peggy Berteau	Ronald and Karen Plesh
Tom Chalfant	Daniel C. Pratt
Donald James and	Nat V. Pulizzi
Dona J. Childs	Richard & Bette Rodibaugh
Charles E. Cranmer Jr.	Ronald L. Runion
Donald F. Dunkle	Don & Ginny Sauer
Anna D. Frink	Eric R. Schau
Theresa E. Hansen	Robert D. Stands
Jeff & Lauren Heiger	James D. Swan Jr.
John S. Jones	Gregory Triko
Dennis L. Lawson	Richard & Genevieve Trout
Lodge 45, Pittsburgh, PA	Valley of New Castle
Arthur Moore Jr.	Washington Lodge No.59,
James C. Owen	Philadelphia, PA
	Jeffrey & Sharon Wonderling

Meet Sovereign Grand Commander McNaughton

As has been the custom, our Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, will visit Florida in March.

Luncheon events are scheduled in the following cities:

March 2 – Sarasota

March 4 – Naples

March 6 – St. Lucie West

Call 800-814-1432 x3326 if you would like more information.



The Stamp Act

By ROBERT A. DOMINGUE

Belgian postal authorities issued a souvenir sheet containing one stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Masonic lodges “La Constance” and “Les Eleves de Themis,” on May 19, 2008. It depicts the interior of a Masonic lodge room. The documentation provided for the release of this issue states that Freemasonry “finds its origin in the United Kingdom in late 17th, early 18th century and spread itself afterwards over the entire world. From the 18th century on, Freemasonry was also present in Belgium. Only few of the earliest lodges survived the troubles at the end of the 18th century. For this reason the oldest of the lodges that still exist have generally been founded in the French period and now celebrate their 200th anniversary, such as La Constance in Leuven, and Les Eleves de Themis in Antwerp.”



Roy Claxton Acuff was born Sept. 15, 1903, in Maynardsville, TN, and moved to Knoxville when he was 16.

He played baseball well enough to be invited to sign a contract with the New York Yankees. Instead, he opted to fiddle and sing gospel music and joining the “Doc” Hauer medicine show, he learned how to entertain an audience.

He formed a band, played on radio in 1934, made recordings and launched himself on his trip to become “The King of Country Music.” In 1938 he was invited to appear on the Grand Ole Opry and was an immediate hit. He also had a brief political career unsuccessfully running for governor in 1948.

He appeared in eight movies, recorded 316 songs and was the first living performer inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He died on Nov. 23, 1992.

Bro. Acuff was initiated Oct. 11, 1943, passed on Jan. 10, 1944, and



raised on Feb. 21, 1944, in East Nashville Lodge No. 560, Nashville, TN. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in 1944 in the Nashville Consistory and joined the shrine at Nashville in 1944. He became a member of the Edward G. Corbitt Chapter No. 147, Nashville Council No. 1, and Nashville Commandery No. 1 — all in 1955 and all of Nashville, TN.



Masonic Fancy Cancels.

Since there were no canceling machines available in the post offices of the 19th century, postmasters were called upon to devise their own method of cancellation to preclude reuse of the stamps. One popular method was to carve designs, letters or numbers out of cork, wood or hard rubber.



This hand stamp was then used until it wore out or was replaced with a new design. Those devices which had designs cut into the material resulted in “negative” or “Intaglio” cancels. Many postmasters were Freemasons and turned to the symbols of the craft for their designs — the square & compasses, trowel, square, fez, tubalcaine and open Bible have been found. Considerable research has been performed to tie the cancels to the town of use — covers, such as that

shown (Chicopee, MA) make that job easier — but there are still many yet to be identified.

The U.S. Post Office outlawed the practice of hand cancels after 1900 but some postmasters revived the practice in the late 1920s/early 1930s; a directive in 1934 was successful in eliminating the practice.



Keith (1890-1955) and **Ross** (1892-1922) **Macpherson** were fraternal and blood brothers who made the first flight from England to Australia leaving on Nov. 12, 1919, and arriving about a month later on Dec. 10, being knighted immediately upon landing.

During WWI, Keith flew with the RAF while Ross started with the Australian Light Horse unit until he learned to fly in Egypt in 1916 after which he joined the Australian Flying Corps.

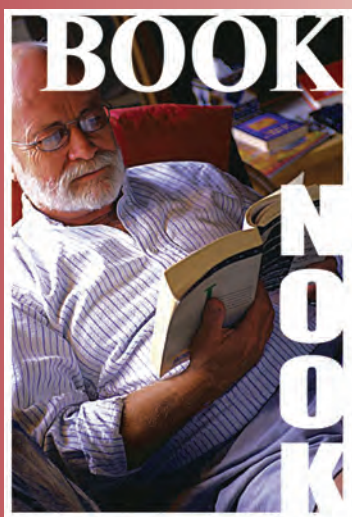
He made the first flight from Cairo to Calcutta. In 1922 they made preparations for a pioneer round-the-world flight but on April

13, that year Ross and Sgt. Bennett (also a Mason) were killed while testing the plane.

Both Keith and Ross were members of Motherland Lodge No.

3861, having been raised just 40 hours before the tragic accident on April 13. They are pictured on a stamp issued by Australia on July 10, 1922.





Reviewed by Thomas W. Jackson, 33°

Isaac Newton's Freemasonry: The Alchemy of Science and Mysticism

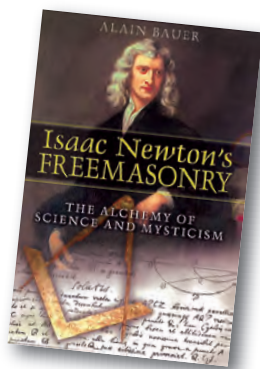
by Alain Bauer. Published in 2007 by Inter Traditions,
One Park St., Rochester, VT 05767.

Alain Bauer is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France. He is generally viewed as an intellectual Freemason in spite of the Grand Orient being regarded as an irregular form of Freemasonry for a couple of hundred years as a result of removing landmarks from their requirements for membership.

This in no way detracts from the respect given to the leadership. The forward is written by Michel Barat, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France, also regarded as an irregular Grand Lodge.

Bauer reviews basic concepts of the old charges and manuscripts challenging some of the meaning and interpretations along with some of the implications as they relate to present-day Freemasonry along with the true meaning of the translations. He discusses some of the more fanciful theories and illogical propositions regarding the origins of Freemasonry. He also seriously challenges the theory that Freemasonry is simply a result of the operative stonemasons accepting those into membership who were not.

To his credit, however, he concludes, "We find nothing that indicates to us that we have reason to believe in our hy-



pothesis. But at least it is proposed to the reader as a tool of his own conviction. Secularism has never been an excuse for ignorance. The research continues." He adds, "History is made from small events and great accomplishments. That of Freemasonry remains to be constructed, clarified, and interpreted." He is like a breath of fresh air when compared with some of the dogmatic conclusions being reached by many of today's authors.

Bauer also concludes that the "history of Masonry has been more invented than researched, more manipulated than revealed." It is his proposal that Freemasonry has an indelible relationship with the Royal Society through which Isaac Newton becomes a significant player in the early development and evolution of the craft. He traces the establishment of the Royal Society back to the members of the Invisible College, many of whom were, or were to become, Freemasons. He points out that the Royal Society acquired rules that belonged to Freemasonry and that in 1723 out of the "200 members of the Royal Society, about a fifth were Freemasons. He provides a chart listing the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of London and the Royal Society.

He examines the participation of many of the early significant contributors to this development and evolution including Moray, ("the first Freemason"), Ashmole, Desaguliers, Anderson and others but his concentration is on the contributions made by Isaac Newton whose quest for knowledge led to the intellectual foundation of Freemasonry and its playing a major role in the establishment of and participation in the Enlightenment.

It is Bauer's observation that had not Newton lived, "the development of the sciences would surely have been delayed" and that "the time had come for Freemasonry to emerge: the incestuous child of research, theology, and freedom." In this context Freemasonry's origin being directly from the early stonemasons is simply a myth. It was a result of the development of intellectualism and freedom from religious constraints placed upon free thought that led to the development of institutions promoting the same, such as Freemasonry.

The book also contains several appendices that are of value to researchers such as a "Summary of the History of Freemasonry" (The Mythological-Romantic Version and The Scientific Version), and the "Grand Masters of England, of the Grand Lodge of York, of the Ancients, and of Scotland." He also provides appendices showing a timeline of events leading up to the development of the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of France.

I found the book to be stimulating reading, offering a plausible alternative to the more widely accepted theories of our origin. I have, for years, had some trouble believing that our beginnings could be from simple stone masons. I think you will find it interesting reading. Even if you encounter difficulty in accepting what he has written, it will, at least make you think more about it.

The Secrets of the Freemasons

by Pat Morgan. Published in 2006 by Gramercy Books, an imprint of Random House Value Publishing, New York.

There was no biographical information concerning the author of this book so I do not know if he is a member of the craft or not. Indeed, from the first name I cannot be totally sure that he is male. I am assuming from the pro-Masonic attitude of the author that he is either a member or has high regard for Freemasonry.

It is a very small and easily readable book (can be read in a few hours) that contains information regarding the craft that would be interesting to the non-Freemason but also contains information that would be of interest to members. It includes chapters on famous Freemasons; those who some thought were Freemasons; those who were Freemasons but created a bad image of themselves, and those who were definitely not members of the craft. The book contains a brief history of Freemasonry, some of the “tall tales” regarding it, the present day Masonic media and a projection into our future. It also contains many black and white photos and illustrations.

It is certainly not a literary masterpiece and there were observations made that could be debated. For example, he implies that the Internet brought a renaissance to Freemasonry and that our numbers are being slowly and steadily restored. In addition, there are some errors made that I would not have expected if he is a member or student of the craft. The Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of France is referred to as Worshipful Master instead of Most Worshipful Grand Master, and he states that Benjamin Franklin rose to the rank of Deputy Grand Master of Pennsylvania when, indeed, he served at two different times as Grand Master. I would also point out that in deference to his observation that signs are just as variable in lodges throughout the world that the one constancy that I have observed in my travels is in the signs.

I do have one serious concern if the author is a Freemason. In advising a man interested in Freemasonry he states that, “As we have seen, Freemasonry is not a secret society, but it is a society with secrets, and they are meant to be kept.” Further on he states, “The secrets are mostly to do with the modes of recognition the passwords, signs and grips.” Yet, in a previous chapter the signs grips and words are stated or diagrammatically shown.

There is nothing in this book that has not been written many times in the past and, in reading it, one must be aware that not all of what is said is applicable to every jurisdiction. It is, however, definitely a pro-Masonic book.



reviewer's clarification

My Brothers, in the August issue of *The Northern Light*, I reviewed a book titled, *The Knights Templar of the Middle East — The Hidden Mystery of the Islamic Origins of Freemasonry*. In that review, I observed that the author, Prince Michael, amongst other titles was a senior legal descendent of the Stewart kings of Great Britain and head of Scotland's legitimate Royal House of Stewart, and president of the European Council of Princes. This information I took from the cover of the publication.

Shortly after this issue was released, I received a communication from my good friend John Mauk Hilliard pointing out that “Prince Michael of Albany” is regarded by a legion of critics as being a fraud. He suggested that I look at the entries in Wikipedia under “Prince Michael of Albany” or “Michael LaFosse,” his real name.

I did so and was astounded at the number of entries branding his claims and his work as fraudulent. LaFosse, who was born in Belgium and became a naturalized British citizen in the 1990s, claims to be a direct descendent of Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) and the legitimate Jacobite claimant to the throne of the former kingdom of Scotland. His claims of being a descendent have been denied by authorities and criticized by historians as complete fabrication.

As far back as 1980, investigation showed that the birth certificate presented by LaFosse was a forgery, that other documentation presented by the claimant was also fabricated. In addition, his claim to be “President of the European Council of Princes” following Archduke Otto of Austria's tenure has been rebuked by Otto who says “that he had never been president of any such body, nor a member of any such body, and that, in fact he never heard of it.”

LaFosse has now had his British citizenship and passport revoked and was probably going to be expelled from the UK. He is also under investigation for fraudulent statements and possible improper charitable solicitations.

My one defense is that for 30 years, he was able to deceive many who thought they knew him very well and even today has his staunch supporters. In 2001 he was presented with the Volunteer Service Medal by the United Nations. In 2005 he was made a Knight Grand Cross of the “order of St. George” and his first book *The Forgotten Monarchy of Scotland* was a top-ten bestseller.

In my review I stated that it was a scholarly work in which the required research must have taken years to compile. I now conclude that it took years to fraudulently construct. I also observed that it may be fiction or partly fiction and even though I enjoyed reading it I must now assume that even his theories were probably plagiarized from different sources. I concluded that the book stimulated one to think and, for that reason, I recommended it for reading. I now retract that recommendation. Everyone has the right to write but not to deceive. It would be inappropriate to support a man of his revealed character.

Health Wise

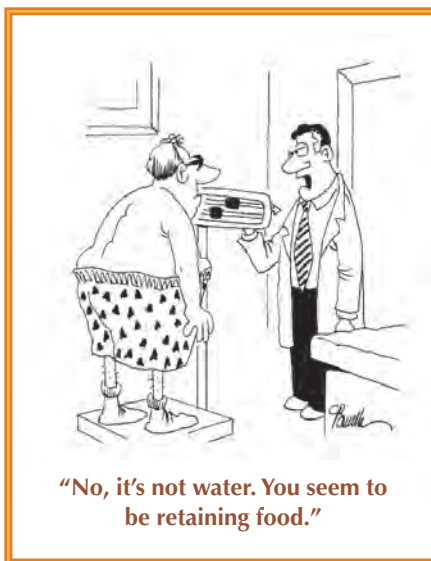
ideas
for
health
and
fitness



Big risk in reducing insulin

A study by the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston showed that 30 percent of women with Type 1 diabetes were restricting the amount of insulin they took at least some of the time. Their goal was to prevent weight gain.

The team followed women in the study for eleven years and noted any deaths or complications from the disease. They found that those who reported cutting back on insulin had a three-fold higher risk of dying early in life, on average at age 45. Complications included foot problems and kidney disease.



"No, it's not water. You seem to be retaining food."

Physical activity reduces cancer risk

For men: Studies at UCLA and elsewhere show that physically active men have a lower risk of prostate cancer. Physical activity on a job that included walking and light labor was best.

For women: Those who are physically active over their lifetimes are at lower breast cancer risk. Researchers found that in women who were the most active, cancer risk decreased by 26 percent compared to those who were the least active.

New tests for sleep apnea

Rather than spend a night in a sleep lab, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends home apnea testing for patients age 18 to 65. Testing devices are small. They measure air flow, respiratory effort and blood oxygen levels.

Iced tea with lemon, please

Next time you order iced tea and the waitress asks, "With lemon?" do yourself a favor and say yes. If you make iced tea at home, a slice of orange will do almost the same good as the lemon with a slice of lime coming third.

Researchers at Purdue University say adding the citrus slice helps you absorb far more of the antioxidants in tea, whether it's green tea or black.

New lupus genes identified

International researchers have identified six new genes that may increase a person's risk of developing lupus. The discovery could mean better diagnosis and treatment in the future.

All genes encode or produce proteins, and these genetic factors can

predict patterns that occur in lupus, an autoimmune disease.

Study leaders at New York's Hospital for Special Surgery say the international studies confirm what investigators have been finding over the past decades. The six proteins described in the study function in cells of the immune system.

Eye health and AMD

Almost everyone has seen grids published in magazines. They look like the outline of a checkerboard. If you first close one eye, then the other to look at it, you might have discovered that with one or both eyes, the lines were a little wavy in the center of the grid.

The bad news is that you may have a very early case of macular degeneration or AMD. The good news is that eye-health supplements could make those lines look straight again.

Doctors at Tufts University say a combination of vitamins C and E, zinc, copper, lutein, zeaxanthin and astaxanthin increase central-retinal function in patients with early AMD. Most of these are included in a multivitamin. The last three are not.

Testosterone helps prevent osteoporosis in men

Men with very low testosterone levels are at an increased risk for thinning bones. They may be able to improve their bone density with testosterone replacement.

Testosterone appears to be an important factor in the development and maintenance of bone strength in men, say researchers at the Mayo Clinic.

Franklin Awards for Valley Publications

The 2008 Brother Franklin awards for outstanding Valley publications have been announced. The awards are presented annually to Valleys with outstanding publications. They are awarded on the basis of Valley membership. The entries were divided into five categories based on size of membership. Honored with "best publication" in each category were:

Category I

(Valleys with less than 800 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Utica, NY
William R. Williams Sr., 32°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Concord, NH
Roger A. Becker, 32°, editor
Valley of Syracuse, NY
George W. Black, 32°, editor

Category II

(Valleys with 800 – 1,500 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Bridgeport, CT
Leo H. Lohman, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Eau Claire, WI
Paul J. Lenz, 32°, editor
Valley of Erie, PA
Eric M. Marshall, 33°, editor
Valley of Schenectady, NY
Tar Riedinger, 32°, editor

Category III

(Valleys with 1,500 – 2,500 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Freeport, IL
John A. Reining, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Grand Rapids, MI
Richard A. Burrows, 32°, editor

Category III Honorable Mention

(continued)

Valley of Milwaukee, WI
Gary R. Beier, 33°, editor
Valley of Northern New Jersey
Jay M. Hochberg, 32°, editor
Valley of Youngstown, OH
H. Douglas Wilcox, 33°, editor

Category IV

(Valleys with 2,500 – 5,000 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Chicago, IL
Edward J. Witas III, 32°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Allentown, PA
Larry G. Newhard, 33°, editor
Valley of Cleveland, OH
David B. Mackey, 32°, editor
Valley of Reading, PA
Jon J. DeHart, 33°, editor

Category V

(Valleys with more than 5,000 members)

Best Publication

Valley of Pittsburgh, PA
D. William Roberts, 33°, editor

Honorable Mention

Valley of Columbus, OH
Steven L. Smiseck, 32°, editor
Valley of Indianapolis, IN
Jerry B. Collins, 33°, editor



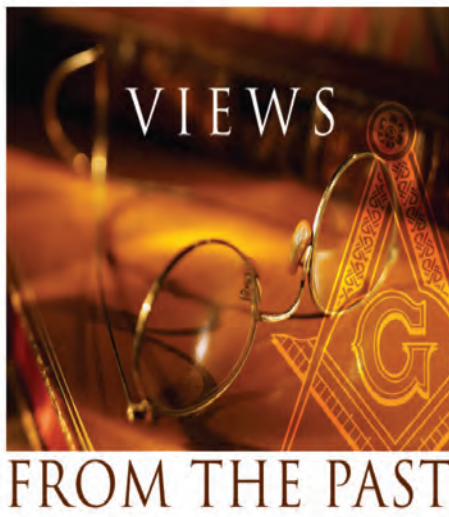
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The Masonic Apron

Horace Greeley used to say that he would not give a cent for a man who could not spell a word in more than one way — it showed a lack of versatility and inventive genius.

Much the same may be said of Masonic symbolism, which is as flexible as it is suggestive, and may be interpreted in many ways, by each initiate or student according to his light.

“Each sees what he carries in his

heart,” as we read in the Prologue of Faust.

The Builder

A Journal For The Masonic Student



vigorous body. It's no crime to dissolve a lodge.

It happens in Europe all the time. Nor is it the end of the world for either when two lodges merge.

It's all part of the process of 'adapt or perish' and it's been going on for a long, long time.

Arnold Toynbee revolutionized the study of history when he simplified its entire course to one of challenge and response.

Masonry has responded to its challenges through the centuries. There is no reason to believe that we are not doing this now, nor that we will not continue to do so in the future.”

— Thomas J. Freeman,
The Empire State Mason,
February 1980

All of which is brought to mind by a passage in the valuable book, *True Principles of Masonry*, in which the author tells us, out of a rich and thoughtful mind, what the apron means to him.

It symbolizes that plan for the redemptive making of personality, which Masonry has sought to promulgate from the remotest ages.

— Joseph Fort Newton,
The Builder, January 1917

What Makes You A Mason?



An obligation no more makes a man a Mason than does subscribing to the creed of a particular church make one a true follower of the doctrines inculcated by that church.

One may attend church every day and be conversant with every ceremony, and be no Christian, or attend the temple and repeat every prayer, and be no Jew.

Similarly, a man may be present whenever his lodge convenes, know the work perfectly and be only a lodge Mason. Like some frequenters of churches and temples, whose religion never strays beyond the confines

of the religious edifice, his Masonry may be and is confined to lip service and ritual work.

Such men are never Masons, and no amount of obligations can make them Masons.

Men whose hearts do not realize, and whose minds cannot comprehend the real usefulness of Masonry; men who cannot apply the teachings of the craft to their lives and to practice of their daily existence, and feel their Masonry within the precincts of the lodge, add nothing to the cause that Masonry represents.

— Jacob Nieto,
Crescent's Thursday,
March 25, 1920

MASONRY'S *teachings* CAUSE POOR ATTENDANCE

"There are just too many other things going on these days, and that's why lodge attendance is small."

How many times have we heard that kind of statement when lodge officers complain about poor attendance?

Yet, if we remember the admonitions of Masonic ritual we realize that Masonry urges all its members to become good citizens, to be active in civic work and in improving the community in which the Mason lives.

He must also be a good father and spend whatever time is necessary with his children to see that they become good citizens.

He is also to be a good member of his church and support it with his personal efforts and funds.

He is to take an active interest in the education of all children and should be a worker in all organizations for the improvement of schools and institutions of learning.

He should be interested in the physical development of children through proper sports and other activities.

In addition to all this, he must be a good worker and not neglect his job, his business or his profession, and he must support his family.

So, those "too many other things," are the direct result of putting the teachings of Masonry into actual practice.

Should anyone complain that a Mason is trying his best to follow the admonitions he has received, over and over, in the ritual of the degrees he has taken?

It is impossible for anyone to be active in all these things and still be effective, so he must limit his efforts to doing those things which he can do best.

Is he a good ritualist? Perhaps not, so he works in other ways to "add to the common stock of knowledge" and to put into everyday practice the admonitions of Masonry.

Certainly, Masonry is not a religion,

but it teaches practical, every day application of the most profound religious principles.

It is not a political party, but it admonishes every member to be active in support of those fundamental facts of government and politics which have made this nation great.

It is not an educational institution, but it promotes education at every level of society. It is not a civic club, but it teaches every member to be active in promoting the welfare of his community.

It is not a welfare agency, but it emphasizes the duty of every person to assist the needy, the helpless, the widow and the orphan, wherever they may be.

It is not a law enforcement agency, but it demands obedience by its members to all laws, and it insists upon the protection of women and requires that its members maintain good moral character.

In short, it teaches all the finest principles of good citizenship and expects its members to live according to those rules.

Some are merchants, some are physicians, others are lawyers, workers and men of all vocations.

This is because different men have varied abilities and capabilities, being outstanding in one particular field of endeavor, but having little liking for others.

Should we then require everyone to be poured into the same mold whereby they become good ritualists or workers in lodges?

Let's be glad that our work in the lodge has brought about such fine results and taught so many men to become active in their communities. Let's stop complaining and start talking about the marvelous results of Masonry's work over the years.

— Bliss Kelly, *Oklahoma Mason*,
(Reprinted in *The California Mason*,
Spring 1968)

QUOTABLES

If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you. Not much.

— Jim Rohn

To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.

— Henn Bergson

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

— Mother Teresa

The important thing is not being afraid to take a chance. Remember, the greatest failure is to not try. Once you find something you love to do, be the best at doing it.

— Debbi Fields

A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down.

— Arnold Glasow

Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards, they simply unveil them to the eyes. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow strong or we grow weak, and at last some crisis shows us what we have become.

— Brooke Foss Wescott

The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The will must be stronger than the skill.

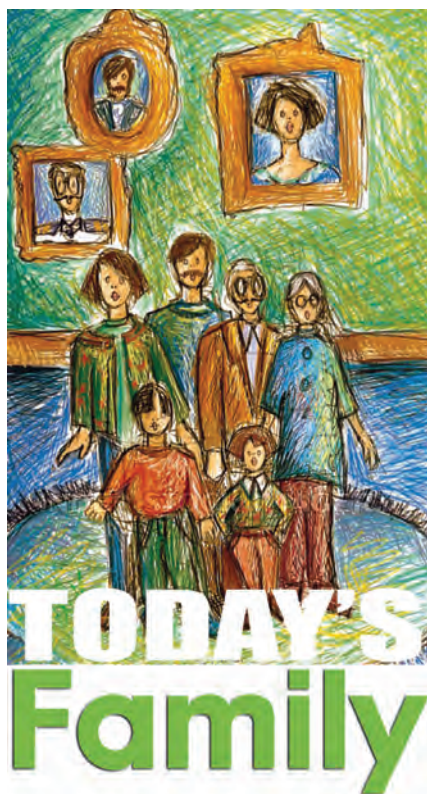
— Muhammad Ali

One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.

— Andre Gide

You are the only problem you will ever have. And you are the only solution.

— Bob Proctor



Save sprinkler water

Want to save 480 to 600 gallons of water in the next hour? Turn off your hose or yard sprinkler.

For responsible lawn watering, *Good Housekeeping* recommends using a water timer on outdoor spigots.

Digital timers for \$35 and up can be programmed to start and stop on schedule. The newest water saving devices include the Meior AquaSentry with AquaTimer. It checks soil moisture before turning off the water.

Search online for 'water timers' or 'hose timers.' Basic styles cost about \$15 and turn off the water after a set time.

Small, bright-colored produce is a good choice

It appears that each fruit and vegetable is destined to have just a certain amount of nutrients. When they get bigger, they are less nutritious ounce for ounce, than the same type of carrot or apple in a smaller size. That's particularly true when it comes to antioxidants, according to a University of Texas researcher who also says smaller, brightly-colored fruits and vegetables are your best choice.

Older children encourage siblings to buckle up

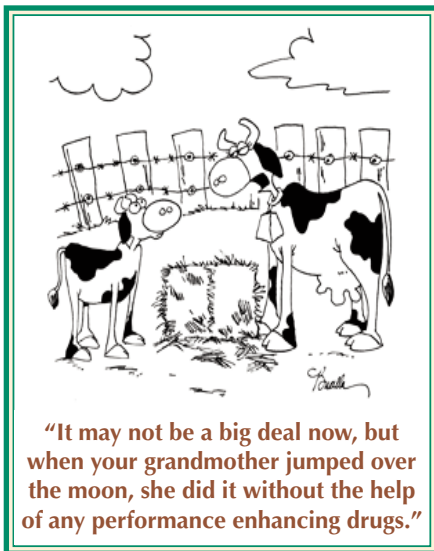
While children are safest when riding with an adult, a new study by State Farm Insurance and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia shows that their risk of being injured when a teenager is driving is reduced by 40 percent when the driver is an older brother or sister.

Kids are more likely to buckle up when an older sibling is driving, say study authors. But it can't hurt to remind the driver to have little passengers fasten their seat belts.

Fight bacteria in the kitchen

New and old advice from the University of California, Davis:

- Don't rinse chicken in the kitchen sink, recommends the USDA. A chicken may have salmonella or other harmful bacteria on it. The bacteria could remain in the sink or splash onto other food or the counter and utensils.
- Use a paper towel to wipe up food and juice spills, then throw the paper towel away. This avoids contact with a bacteria-infected sponge or dishcloth. The bacteria will feed on the food or drink, making the sponge dangerous.
- Cold water is OK for washing hands. There is no evidence that hot water works better.
- Microwave your kitchen sponge for one minute on high to sterilize it.



Texting on the go can be hazardous

Multitaskers are trying to manipulate the little keyboards of their mobile phones or personal assistants while walking the hallways and streets.

They are running into walls and doorways and falling down the stairs. Outdoors, the latest public nuisance has them bumping into lampposts, parked cars and garbage cans.

Sometimes they are responsible for traffic accidents as they text themselves into the streets. But most of the time, the victims are the texters themselves.

Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital's emergency room sees a lot of injured texters. It's located downtown near the big stores on Michigan Avenue. And it's close to the busy lakefront path where walkers and joggers share a lane with bikers.

The ER treats fallen texters almost every day. Texters are more prone to facial injuries because they hold their devices close to their faces. When they fall, their hands are less likely to protect them. They end up on the ground with cut and scraped chins, noses and foreheads, along with broken glasses. What's more, they often take innocent people down with them.

At an online forum called crackberry.com, Blackberry users share tips on how to navigate busy streets while texting.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the advice includes this: "U gotta walk with ur chin @about a 45 degree angle, then u won't bump into nothing," says JBEL. "Trust me it works."

Wouldn't it be better to follow the advice given to motorists? If you must text, pull to the side of the road in order to avoid an accident.

Safer to use AC on the road

People are using all kinds of tactics to save gas. Turning off the air conditioner increases mileage by only one percent per gallon, according to Consumer Reports. If you drive with a window open, you'll burn more gas than you save.

At edwards.com they recommend using the AC on the highway. Keeping cool makes you a safer driver, they say.

More than Just Books...

Van Gorden-Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum

By KATHY BELL

Rare Books from the collection of Benjamin DeForest Curtiss

Benjamin DeForest Curtiss (1851-1920), was born and bred in Watertown, CT. He moved to New York where he prospered in manufacturing and finance. It is said that he lived simply but spent generously on his real passion: rare books. In his will, he left his fine collection of Americana to the Watertown Library Association. He feared that in a larger library his collection might be buried and forgotten.

While not exactly buried, in the early years the 1,200 books, newspapers, autographed letters and artifacts that made up the donation, had little space or publicity in the small library. Some materials were sent to the Connecticut State Library for storage and cataloging, but most remained in Watertown. In 1937, the library contacted Yale Librarian, R. Malcolm Sills, to review the Curtiss books. In the foreword to the catalog Sills produced, he declared, "It falls to the lot of few small libraries to acquire a gift of books as fine as the collection of Mr. Benjamin DeForest Curtiss."

In 1958, Watertown opened a new library building and the Curtiss Collection was placed in a small room on the lower level. Under the care of the Curtiss Collection Committee, the books were occasionally used by scholars and students. The local history and genealogical titles received the greatest use. In a 1976 town history, entitled *Watertown Then and Now*, it was noted that in an attempt to make the collection more accessible, the rare books would be "cataloged as a Bicentennial project."

Instead, within a year, the Curtiss Collection was packed up and shipped to an auction house in New York. What happened? Apparently, there were financial, space and preservation concerns. Early in 1977, the library association hired a consultant for advise on the collection. He recommended the majority of titles be sold at auction. On June 22, 1977, the Watertown Library Association voted 191 to 14 in favor of the sale. Articles in the local newspaper described the collection as little used and inadequately housed. Letters to the editor during that time reveal that many in the town, along with the Curtiss Collection Committee, were appalled by the decision. Several decried

the conclusions of the consultant. One resident refused to set foot in the library again, and another stated that without the Curtiss Collection, Watertown would be "just another Connecticut mill town."

The outrage wasn't enough to prevent about 40 people from assembling at Swann Galleries in New York for the sale. Dr. Clement Silvestro, the first director of the National Heritage Museum was in attendance and, recalling it over three decades later, was just glad the museum had been able to get the books it did.

Of the 545 items up for auction, the Van Gorden-Williams Library successfully bid on 51 books, a windfall for our young library. It was an opportunity to acquire valuable Americana titles of a quality and quantity rarely available. And Dr. Silvestro chose well. Not surprisingly, he snapped up all four works by and about Freemason General Lafayette.

The library obtained a first edition of *Boston Slave Riot*, and *Trial of Anthony Burns* and other important Revolutionary War titles.

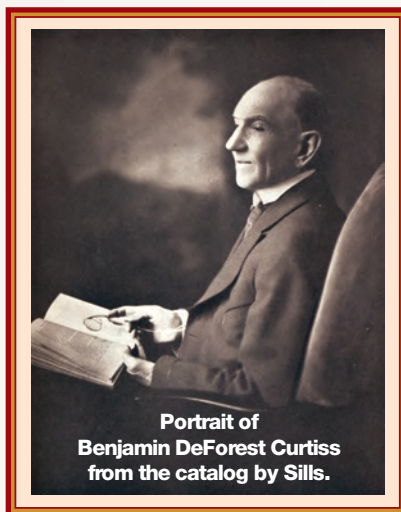
Among the great strengths of the Curtiss Collection were books on Indians and the American West, including works by Thomas Anburey, Thomas Ashe and Samuel G. Drake.

For a full list of the titles from the Curtiss Collection now in our library, go to our online catalog (vgwcatalog.nationalheritagemuseum.org). We also have written about several of the books on our blog site.

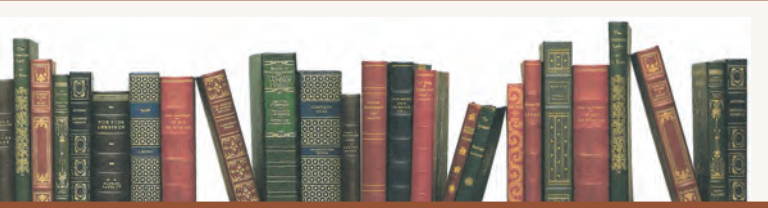
Search for the posts under 'Rare Books.' (nationalheritagemuseum.typepad.com/library_and_archives).

Several months ago Jeffrey Grenier at the Watertown Historical Society said he was "delighted to learn so many of the books were in our library and accessible, well preserved, and even that some have been displayed in exhibits." It appears we may be doing just what the philanthropist had in mind.

The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is open to the public Monday-Saturday, 10-5. Reference assistance is provided in person, by phone, or by email. You may contact us at 781-457-4109 or library@nationalheritagemuseum.org.



Portrait of
Benjamin DeForest Curtiss
from the catalog by Sills.



The Book Shelf

The reviewer for the "Book Nook" column receives requests from members who have written books on non-Masonic subjects. Limited space has prevented him from including thorough reviews of these books in his column. To accommodate the requests, however, we provide an occasional listing of these non-Masonic books as a service to the authors.

Crusading Realism, by Lamont Collucci, 32°. Published by University Press of America, 4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200, Latham, MD 20706.

Professor Collucci's book about national security focuses on the core values of the American Revolution and Masonic philosophy.

A Bowie Primer, by F. R. Winchell, 32°. Published by Knife World Publications, PO Box 3395, Knoxville, TN 37927.

Divided into three sections — Era, Man, Knife — the volume sifts through fact and folklore of James Bowie.

History Museum Outreach Officer's Primer, by Harold Gray. Published by Elderberry Press, 1393 Old Homestead Dr., second floor, Oakland, OR 97462-9506.

Fast Food for the Soul, by Donald Charles Lacy, 32°. Published by Providence House Publishers, Franklin, TN.

Bite-sized servings of hope and inspiration.

The Double Bowline Knot, by James Duffield Collins, 33°. Published by Dorrance Publishing Company, 701 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3906.

The author progresses from a technical description of human anatomical parts and systems to the non-physical nature of man as indicated by the anatomic structure of the body.

Patriotic Sacrifices of Valor Remembered, by E. Hamilton Brooks, 32°. Published by Tate Publishing & Enterprises.

The author describes how America became a world power.

Grandma Survived the Titanic, by Joseph L. Thomas, 32°. Published by AuthorHouse, 1663 Liberty Dr., Suite 200, Bloomington, IN 47403.

A story of the author's grandmother and her ordeal aboard the ill-fated ocean liner.

Many Faces of Old Glory, by Vane Scott, 32°, Published by Witness Productions, Box 34, Church St., Marshall, IN 47859.

The book traces the origins of the American flag.

The Amazing Mr. Mohs, by Bruce Mohs, 32°, Published by Mohs Seaplane Corporation, 3184 Co. Hwy. J, Verana, WI 50593.

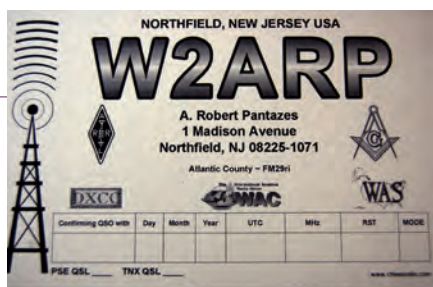
The author's autobiography in the automotive industry.

When Country Was Gold in the Delaware Valley, by William J. Pietrowski, 32°, (under the name Bill Melody) Published by Bill Melody, PO Box 307, Bristol, PA 19007.

A nostalgic look at the early days of country music in the Delaware Valley.

masonicmoments

Please submit your own Masonic photos to *The Northern Light*. We are accepting submissions of all things Masonic to share with our readers. Send your photo to editor@supremecouncil.org, or mail your submission to: *The Northern Light*, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519. Include your name, address and Masonic affiliation.



Photos will not be returned.

Bro. A. Robert Pantazes is an amateur (ham) radio operator, with call letters, W2ARP. Ham operators exchange contact confirmations called QSL cards. His show that he is a Mason. Pantazes has contacted Brothers from ten states and four countries. He participates in "on the air nets" (meetings) that help spread the news and work that Masons do. He belongs to a group of amateur operators from Ohio called Hiram's Hams.

While traveling on his red Honda along the Alaska Highway, Bro. Don P. Raybourn passed through Dawson Creek, Yukon Territory and stopped at a restaurant. He wonders if anyone can guess his position in his home lodge.



et cetera, et cetera, etc.

Masonic Postal Chess Club

We received word from Bro. Dennis Plymette, of Mechanicsburg, PA, telling us about the Masonic Postal Chess Club. Since 1975, Master Masons have joined the postal chess club and play by mail — and now email — with Masons in all 50 states. He says membership includes both beginners and experienced players. While many members engage in one game at a time, some play several games simultaneously.

All club officers are volunteers and yearly dues are \$20. If you would like to join, or merely to get more information, contact Bro. Plymette at 304 Longmeadow St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or email him at mpccsec@live.com.

Aimee Newell Goes to Holland

Aimee Newell, senior curator of collections at the National Heritage Museum, located at Supreme Council headquarters, will be heading to the Netherlands over the Thanksgiving weekend. Newell, who readers of *The Northern Light* recognize through her historical columns in each issue, responded to a request for papers from Leiden University.

The subject is "Expression of Freemasonry: In ritual, oratory, poetry, music, literature, art, and architecture." The conference, at which she will be presenting her paper, is organized by the chair for the Study of Freemasonry as an Intellectual Current and a Socio-cultural Phenomenon at the University. Speakers will be scholars and students from several academic disciplines.

The conference has the support of several Masonic bodies, including the Order of Freemasons under the Grand East of The Netherlands, The Cultural Masonic Centre 'Prince Frederick'

(CMC), and the Foundation for the Advancement of Academic Research into the History of Freemasonry in The Netherlands.

The subject of her paper is "King Solomon's Temple Samplers: An Expression of Shared Ideals."

The list of speakers is quite impressive and come from many parts of the world. Represented are universities in Texas, Rome, Amsterdam, Belfast, Sheffield, and London, as well as Masonic research centers in London, Belgium, The Hague, and New York.

Ms. Newell also plans a trip to the Dutch Grand Lodge Library and hopes to take in some art-historical and Masonic sightseeing in Amsterdam.

By George

In "Book Nook" (*The Northern Light*, May 2008), the review of the book, *Builders of Empire — Freemasonry and British Imperialism*, a reference to King George VI was made. The dates of his reign were listed as 1865-1936.

Bro. Gerald Stepner pointed out to us that this should probably have read King George V. A quick check with *Encyclopedia Britannica* (and Wikipedia) confirmed that it was, in fact, George V who reigned during that time.

George VI became King in late 1936 after a very brief reign by his older brother, Edward VIII. Good catch, Gerald.

Ritual History

The last time the "Study on Rituals" was published was 32 years ago. In an effort to bring the publication up to date, the Ritualistic

Matters Committee was asked to assume the responsibility of preparing a new edition.

According to its preface, the book "traces the obscure and complex origins and development of the 29 Scottish Rite degree rituals."

Since its publication in 1976 every ritual has been revised at least once. The new volume will be completed within the next few months.

Masonic Moments

Reaction to our new photographic feature has been great. We have received numerous submissions from all over the jurisdiction, country, and world and the images have included everything from plaques to private businesses to the sides of airplanes.

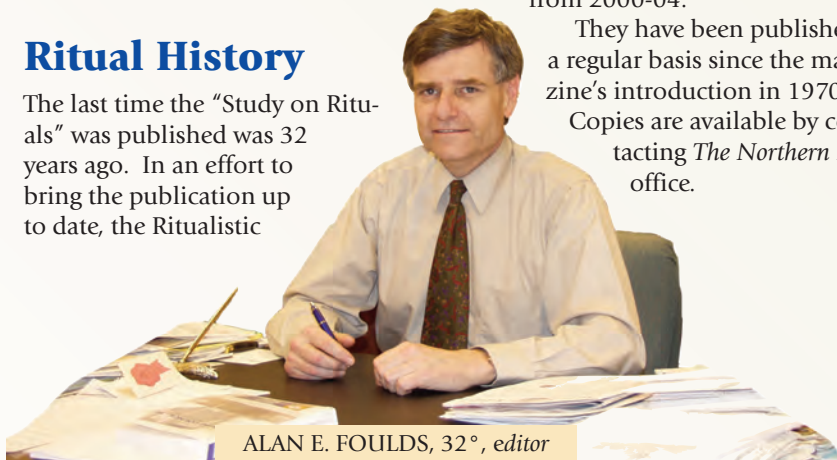
The purpose is to show how Freemasonry touches on all aspects of daily life and our readers have done an excellent job in conveying that message. We may not be able to use all of the pictures, but we want you to keep them coming. Who knows? You might become a published photographer.

The Northern Light Index

Indexes are available for issues of *The Northern Light* in five-year groupings, with the most recent edition running from 2000-04.

They have been published on a regular basis since the magazine's introduction in 1970.

Copies are available by contacting *The Northern Light* office.



ALAN E. FOULDS, 32°, editor

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at the
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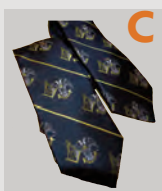
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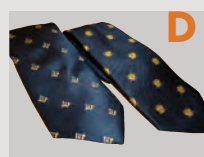
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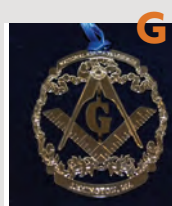
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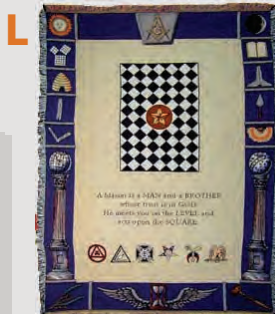
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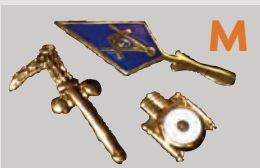
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