

# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

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A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY



Keith Soreen



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EDITOR  
Richard H. Curtis, 33°

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Alan E. Foulds

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS  
Sonja B. Faiola  
Beth E. McSweeney

MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
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SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°  
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite  
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER  
Walter E. Webber, 33°

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Mailing Address:  
PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519

Editorial Office:  
33 Marrett Road (Route 2A)  
Lexington, Massachusetts 02421  
781-862-4410  
Fax: 781-863-1833  
e-mail: dcurtis@supremecouncil.org

Internet:  
www.supremecouncil.org

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"We must be prepared to accept the challenges that await us."

— Walter E. Webber, 33°



## A New Door is Opening

Ah, but another door is closing! As we eagerly walk into 2004 with great anticipation, we close the door on 2003. The past is but the prelude to the future.

Our rich heritage, wonderful traditions, and great accomplishments have demonstrated to all the world that Freemasonry is an institution of value. Our fraternity has resonated with the society of its time, and we can be proud of the good deeds of our predecessors. But that is the past.

We are often reminded that "Time was, Time is, but no man may say that Time shall be." What that tells us is that we can only work in the present and prepare for the future. We need to take a hard look at who we are, what we are, where we are going and why.

Freemasonry needs to be as relevant in today's society as it was in yesterday's society. No one can argue that the basic tenets of Masonry — brotherly love, relief and truth — are needed more today than they were in yesterday's world.

Indeed, the headlines from the past decade of sexual escapades, corruption, materialistic excesses and corporate greed might read quite differently if the influence of Freemasonry were more prevalent.

We, my brothers, have been poor salesmen for Freemasonry and Scottish Rite Masonry. The public perception today is that we are a secret organization comprised of old men who may be interested in their communities but who are

irrelevant at best. Most people, however, do not have a negative image of Freemasonry. They simply are not aware of our system of values or our good works.

We read that the younger generation has a need to belong, a desire to understand their religious heritage, a yearning to know their God, and a return to basic moral values. Is that a song that Masons understand? Oh, yes!

The larger question is, do we have the will, the energy and the imagination to respond? Our predecessors did, and I firmly believe that you and I can make a difference and will respond.

Yesterday's good deeds served a different generation, and we can certainly be proud of the members who handed over to us such a great institution. Now it is our responsibility.

It is vitally important that as we open the door to greet today's world, we must be prepared to accept the challenges that await us. Let us make sure that our Masonic principles are reflected in the way we present ourselves.

This is an exciting time to be a Mason! The time is now, and we have a wonderful opportunity to present Freemasonry as a way to make good men better, to improve society, and to lead moral lives that make men free. We but need to do it.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Walter E. Webber". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sovereign Grand Commander



# Looking To the Stars

By RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°

## *Is there a future for Freemasonry?*

As the Spirit rover was inching along the Martian surface, someone asked me, "Do you think there will ever be a Masonic lodge on Mars?"

And I responded, "Only if there is still a Masonic lodge on the planet Earth."

I didn't mean to sound pessimistic about the fraternity, but apparently my response must have come across that way. My friend expressed concern that I was delivering a eulogy for Freemasonry.

I was really implying that if earthlings are ever to maintain life on another planet, it would be many, many decades or even centuries into the future. And who knows what will happen to Freemasonry in the meantime?

When I delivered the Blue Friars lecture in 1997, I took a futuristic glance at Freemasonry in the year 2017, the 300th anniversary of the formation of the first Grand Lodge in London. Partly with tongue in cheek, I forecast a number of ways that the fraternity might exist in a changing life style.

Projecting the future is a risky business. We can only speculate, because we have the disadvantage of looking at the future through the eyes of today. We cannot begin to imagine the changes that will take place in the next 50 years, let alone the next 13 years.

Much of our scientific progress in the past 50 years can be traced to our race into space. Advancements that were made to make space travel possible have had an effect on everything from clothing to food to home electronics.

But what about the future of Freemasonry?

The late Ralph Head, 33°, former editor of the *California Freemason*, speculated in a 1989 editorial that Freemasonry was entering a new phase, which

he called "Applied Freemasonry." He pointed out that there are five stages of life in every organism: birth, growth, use, decay and death.

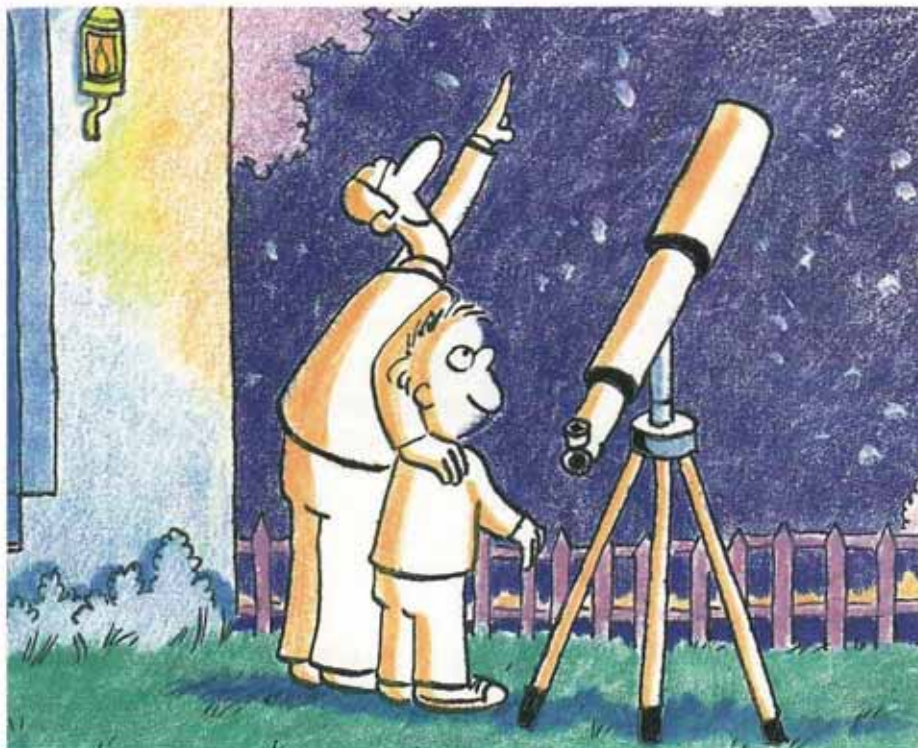
He felt that Freemasonry was at the end of its growth phase and that it must turn to a state of usefulness. "The change from Speculative to Applied Freemasonry will not harm Masonry any more than the change from Operative to Speculative," he wrote. "For Freemasonry to live on in the future, it must demonstrate its usefulness to mankind."

He makes an interesting point for Masons to ponder. Of course, there are many who will argue that Freemasonry has not changed and should never change from its original purpose. Others will contend that the fraternity has

continued on an evolutionary path for centuries.

If Freemasonry is truly an outgrowth of the medieval operative stonemasons, as many historians assume, then we must reexamine the process that allowed unskilled craftsmen to darken the halls of the master masons' domain. There is a belief that the true craftsmen were losing their clout and needed support from the more politically accepted "gentlemen."

We may never find the true story of the origin, but we do know that each of the four "lodges" that agreed to form a Grand Lodge in London in 1717 had been meeting on their own for some time. The degree ceremonies that we use today have been modified over the years. In fact, the various Grand Lodges







in this country do not use a common ritual.

So what is it that binds us together as Masons?

Although the ritualistic words may differ, the basic philosophy is the central thread. There are moral lessons within the philosophical message that are as important today as they were in the 1700s. The lessons emphasize a way of life that can provide strength to the individual Mason and support for his fellow man.

**“Projecting the future is a risky business.”**

In past generations members were expected to reach out to a Brother in need and provide aid and assistance to deceased members' widows and orphans. Eventually that arm was extended to those outside the fraternity.

Today there is a major effort by all Masonic groups to develop charitable programs that will benefit many people.

As an example, let's take a look at the Scottish Rite.

In 1934, Sovereign Grand Commander Johnson appropriated funds for research grants that might solve the mystery of schizophrenia. His predecessor, Commander Abbott, made provisions for journalism scholarships, which later expanded to other students attending college. In 1973, Commander Newbury broke ground for the National Heritage Museum, a project that would provide changing exhibits of Americana and explain the role of the fraternity in American life.

The latest charity was introduced in 1994 by Commander Ralston, who saw a pressing need to provide special tutoring for dyslexic children. This charity alone has expanded at an exceptionally fast pace.

At the same time, lodges are being urged to offer services to their local community. The types of services rendered have varied widely from lodge to lodge.

The charitable work and the community service can put Freemasonry in a favorable spotlight, but it should not be at the expense of the fraternity's major mission. We cannot afford to lose sight of the educational aspect within the fraternity to constantly remind members of the full responsibility of their obligation to look inward as well as outward.

There are encouraging signs to show that many younger members are anxious to study the historical and philosophical background of Freemasonry.

There is a growing trend among these newer Masons to form discussion groups for this purpose. If this trend continues, it would be an indication that the organization is returning to an aspect of the fraternity that has been downplayed in recent years. The renewed interest may be a result of the dissemination of information coming across the Internet and the curiosity created by it.

In his forthcoming book *American Freemasons*, Mark Tabbert, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum, discusses seven reasons why men have joined fraternal organizations. Each reason is placed in a chronological setting to show how Freemasonry has expanded over the years to satisfy the needs at the time.

**“The fraternity's destination is in our hands.”**

Brother Tabbert begins with the members' desire to use the fraternity for self-improvement and concludes with the group efforts to provide charitable outreach.

Ill. Brother Head's view of “Applied Freemasonry” would fit the scope of both ends of the spectrum. Our goal for self-improvement would indicate that we as Masons are putting the Masonic philosophy into practice by extending our charity to the community and the world around us. We cannot overlook Masonic education for the members at the expense of Masonic charity outside the lodge. Both are important for the survival of the fraternity.

If Freemasonry drifts away from its original mission, the philosophical ideas will not be lost. Someone else will create a new organization that will be patterned after a lodge that provides the educational stimulation for its members. The fraternity's destination is in our hands.





# Revisiting Lombardy Hall

By ALAN E. FOULDS

*A "first state" treasure with Masonic connections*

**M**ore than 17 years ago Ill. Harold "Jack" Littleton, 33°, wrote of "Delaware's First Treasure," when he related the story of Lombardy Hall.

Situated on the side of the Concord Pike in Talleyville, DE, it was the home of Gunning Bedford Jr., delegate to the U.S. Constitutional Convention, possibly the most ardent supporter of small state rights in the proposed new government, and the "First State's" first Grand Master.

Today the hall is in better shape than ever, serving as home to both a Masonic lodge and a Masonic museum.

As was the case in the 1980's Bro. Littleton is still very much involved in the restoration and updating of the historic site.

He says, "It continues to be a treasure itself, but now is the home to many Masonic treasures, which are viewed by both the fraternity and the public in general."

The past two decades have seen many additions to the collection housed at the site.

The house, originally called "Pisgah" (Welsh for "High on a Hill"), was built on 250 acres of land overlooking Wilmington.

The name did not stay with it long, and has been known throughout most of its existence as Lombardy Hall.

Tradition says that the perimeter of the property was ringed with Lombardy poplars.



Lombardy Hall, home to Grand Master Gunning Bedford Jr., was built in 1750, and today serves as a museum and lodge hall.

Built by a man named Robinson in 1750, his widow sold it to Gunning Bedford Jr., 35 years later. Bedford, however, did not move in until 1792.

Lombardy Hall has had many "careers." It remained a farmhouse for more than 100 years, owned by at least six families following the Bedfords, until the Lombardy Cemetery was created on the property.

The main building then became home to the caretaker, with one room used as a morgue.

In 1967 the house was purchased by the Granite Masonic Lodge. In deplorable shape after five vacant years, the Lombardy Hall Foundation was formed at that time to restore and preserve it.

Original plans called for the house to become a museum dedicated to the memory of Gunning Bedford, and construction of a new lodge hall on the property.

Financial considerations instead dictated that the 1940's-era garage be rebuilt to house lodge meetings.

The original portion, built by Robinson, was extended when Gunning Bedford added an 18 x 30 foot ballroom in 1793.

On the second floor, above the ballroom, two new bedrooms were built. The next major change came in the early 1940's when a shed was removed from the north end of the structure and a garage built on the south side, using stones from the shed.

That garage was extended by 21 feet in 1974 as it was converted to become the Masonic Hall.



ALAN E. FOULDS, is the Assistant Editor for The Northern Light.



Volunteer carpenters, plumbers, painters, and electricians from within the fraternity accomplished much of the reconstruction project.

The women of the *Crest Century Club* researched and furnished the ballroom with period pieces.

During the original renovation stage, two of the upstairs bedrooms were used as temporary refreshment areas.

Recently those functions have found a permanent home in the basement, which was excavated and finished for that purpose.

The upstairs rooms have reverted to their bedroom status and have been furnished to appear the way they would have when Bedford resided there.

One room also contains an exhibit developed in 1999 at the bicentenary of George Washington's death.

Washington and Bedford were closely connected throughout their careers. In 1775 the general appointed Bedford, Muster Master of the Continental Army. In March of 1778, while Bedford was a prisoner of war, the two corresponded. Later they both became signers of the U.S. Constitution, and upon Washington's death, Gunning Bedford delivered a funeral oration.

Considerable work on the grounds has been accomplished as well. The Timberlane Garden Club provided landscaping.

Today, with most of the renovations complete, Lombardy Hall serves the fraternity and the public in the ways envisioned by those who initiated and

oversaw the restoration more than 30 years ago.

Granite Lodge, since merging and becoming Granite-Corinthian Lodge, still meets there. The main portion of the house is today a showcase of Masonic history, dedicated to its most famous resident.

A library contains more than 1,000 Masonic books, rituals, and periodicals, many from the extensive collection of the late Ill. Charles E. Green, 33°, noted Delaware historian.

An additional 1,350 items are displayed as space and security allow. All items were donated, arriving at the hall from a variety of sources.

Bro. Littleton reports that the current display is titled "Twenty Treasures."

Included in that collection is a Masonic Mizrah.

The piece is a 130-year old engraving, measuring three feet by four feet depicting 100 Old Testament scenes and two Masonic illustrations.

Biblical verses in both English and Hebrew in a variety of print types and sizes adorn the border.

Less than ten of these objects are known to exist.

Also included are a Masonic altar from Hiram Lodge No. 6, that met at Buck Tavern when Gunning Bedford Jr. was Grand Master, and nearly 100 Masonic aprons, including one that measures 17 x 19 inches, a Royal Arch apron from 1839, a triangular Scottish Rite apron from the turn of the last century, and several from foreign jurisdictions.

The gavel collection includes items



A punched back chair is one of the many Masonic treasures found at Lombardy Hall.

from as small as a couple of inches in length, to one weighing several pounds.

One gavel in the collection was carried by a soldier throughout the Civil War.

Also on display are Jewels representing every type of Masonic body.

The Hall has one of the 1,500 Dudley watches made in the early 1900s by the Dudley Watch Company of Lancaster, PA. They are valued today at between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Furniture was donated from several lodges throughout the state. St. John's Lodge No. 2 in New Castle, DE, for example, gave a "punched back" chair and bench with square and compasses.

Among the rare books in the collection is a Dutch volume, from 1643.

A treasured altar bible from DuPont Lodge No. 29 is currently on loan to the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, for a Masonic exhibition.

Paper artifacts include a rare and unusual Masonic insurance policy, complete with square and compasses.

The hall is open by appointment, and also hosts many school and community groups on tour.

The annual showcase event comes in early December when Lombardy Hall throws its doors open to the public for a two-day holiday open house.

The event appropriately coincides with Delaware Day, marking the ➤

## Lombardy and the Grand Masters

During its long history Lombardy Hall has continually attracted Grand Masters. Its most famous resident, Gunning Bedford Jr., was the state's first, but three others also have strong ties with the building. Ill. Elmer W. Randall, 33°, served as Grand Master from 1967-68. Next is Ill. Harold T. J. Littleton, 33°, who served from 1982-83. The third is Ill. Wayne D. Mower, 33°, who currently heads up the state organization. Each member of the trio has been a member of the lodge situated at the hall, and each is an active member of the Lombardy Hall Foundation.



► anniversary of the state's first-in-the-nation ratification of the U.S. Constitution, an occasion so heavily influenced by Gunning Bedford Jr.

Visitors are met by guides in colonial garb and are treated to decorations in a new theme each year.

The Lombardy Hall Association hopes to expand upon the collection, adding such items as hats and fezzes, medallions, scarves, and watch fobs from Masonic as well as non-Masonic fraternal organizations.

In June 2006 the Grand Lodge of Delaware will celebrate its 200th anniversary, and the landmark is figured to be a centerpiece of that observance.

Jack Littleton, who has been linked with the building since it re-joined the Masonic world in the 1960's, sees a bright future for Lombardy Hall.

He says, "As the home of Delaware's first Grand Master, it will continue to be a treasure and will expand its collection of Masonic treasures."



A room at Lombardy Hall, decorated for the annual holiday open house in December.

## Gunning Bedford Jr.

Born the fifth of seven children, Gunning Bedford quickly rose through the ranks in both government and Masonry. He played a major role in the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and served as Delaware's first Grand Master.

Following his graduation from the College of New Jersey (Today Princeton), Bedford was elected to the Delaware legislature. By 1784 he was appointed attorney general, where he served for more than five years. He began calling himself Gunning Bedford Jr. to differentiate himself from his well-known cousin and governor of the same name. In fact, Gunning Bedford was a popular moniker in his family. In all, there were ten contemporaries, including three first cousins, two second cousins, a third cousin, his father, grandfather, and son.

As one of the more vocal members of the Constitu-



tional Convention of 1787, Gunning Bedford Jr. is said to have helped shape the structure of the U.S. Congress. He was an ardent advocate of small-state rights, warning the convention that Delaware and other states of similar size might have to look to foreign alliances if they were not given fair representation in the new government.

To help alleviate a showdown he was appointed as a member of the committee that would draft the "Great Compromise," calling for a house of representatives based on population, and an equal branch called the senate, where every state, regardless of size has the same number of delegates.

When the Constitution was approved by the convention it was sent to the various states, which, in their own ratifying conventions, debated its merits. Bedford attended the Delaware convention, where his oratory on behalf of the document helped sway the opinion of the body. On December 7, 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify it.

After serving as an elector for the Federalist Party, Bedford was appointed by President Washington as the first federal judge for the Delaware district. He remained in that position until his death on March 30, 1812. Today he is buried at the Masonic Home in Christiana, DE.



# Fraternal Links

*There's nothing Odd about these Fellows*

**W**hat was the largest fraternal organization during the Golden Age of Fraternalism?

One may be surprised to know that between 1870 and 1910, it was not Freemasonry that held the title but, rather, the Odd Fellows.

In 1890 Freemasonry had 609,000 brothers, while the Odd Fellows boasted more than 672,000.

It may also be a surprise to discover that the Scottish Rite's National Heritage Museum at Lexington, MA, owns probably the largest public collection of Odd Fellows artifacts and materials in the country — some 700 items.

Many men have joined both Freemasonry and the Odd Fellows; so, too, has the museum collected both Masonic and other American fraternal history.

Indeed, the relationship between Freemasonry and Odd Fellowship was quite similar and often truly fraternal.

As with Freemasonry, the order of Odd Fellows has a British origin.

The organization began in England in the late 1700s as a "friendly society" for working-class men and artisans.

Meeting in taverns to socialize, members also pooled their resources to help each other in times of need and for burial fees.

That such a varied assortment of men would organize for benevolent purposes was considered "odd" for the times, and from that perhaps their name originated.



MARK A. TABBERT, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum, is a member of the Valley of Boston.

Grand United Order of Odd Fellows  
Lithograph,  
ca. 1900.

The Odd Fellows use many symbols also employed by Freemasons, including the All-Seeing Eye, the Beehive and the clasped hands at bottom.



GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODD-FELLOWS CHART.

That they practiced such broad charity may have also caused these fellows to be considered "odd."

Whatever the origin of the name, the first lodges proudly adopted the title, and members have continued to care for each other for over two centuries.

Like Freemasonry, there were individual Odd Fellows in the United States prior to the formation of the first lodge in 1819.

The revered founder and first "Grand

Sire" of the American Odd Fellows is Thomas Wildey (1782-1861).

A coach spring maker, he became an Odd Fellow in London before immigrating to America in 1817.

He organized the first lodge in Baltimore and received a charter from the English Grand Lodge to spread the fraternity in the United States.

Blessed by boundless energy and a dedication to help those in distress, he started 155 lodges in 14 states, which, in turn, initiated over 11,000 brothers.

So successful was American Odd Fellowship that it came in conflict with the Odd Fellows "world headquarters," ➤





The First Odd Fellows Home was built in Meadville, PA, in 1872.  
The home, dedicated in 1926, was built at a cost of more than \$200,000 and accommodated 150 children.

► or the Grand Lodge of England, ending in a schism.

After the separation in 1843, the American branch changed its name to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and within ten years, the number of lodges leaped to 2,941 in 33 states, with a total of 193,000 brothers.

Similar to Prince Hall Freemasonry, African-Americans created their own Odd Fellows lodges.

In 1842 the English Odd Fellows Grand Lodge issued a warrant to a black sailor named Peter Ogden from New York City.

Unlike Wildey, however, Ogden never separated his lodges from England, and to this day, they remain part of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.

When Ogden died in 1852, there were 32 lodges. By 1863 there were 50, and by 1900, the number of lodges had grown to 2,253 with 70,000 members.

The GUOOF continues today, based in England, and the American branch is headquartered in Philadelphia.

Although heavily influenced by Freemasonry's rituals, symbols, and tenets, a large measure of the Odd Fellows' success came from its dedication to serve its members.

Its three secret ritual initiations taught the "three links" of fraternity as "Friendship, Love, and Truth" and commanded its brothers to "Visit the Sick, Relieve the Distressed, Bury the Dead, Care for the Widow, and Educate the Orphan."

In the 40 years between the founding of Wildey's first American lodge and his death in 1861, Odd Fellows paid out nearly \$9 million in relief.

After the Civil War, state Grand Lodges began building homes for widows and orphans.

The first opened in Meadville, PA, in 1872, and by 1927 there were 62 such homes in the United States.

Between 1830 and 1926 the Odd Fellows fraternity paid out over \$200 million in relief.

In other ways, the Odd Fellows made innovations ahead of Freemasonry.

Before the formation of the Order of the Eastern Star for female relatives of Masons, the Odd Fellows had started the first women's auxiliary.

The Daughters of Rebekah was begun by future Vice President of the United States (and Freemason) Schuyler Colfax in 1851.

The Rebekahs have one initiation degree centered on the wife of Hebrew patriarch Isaac.

Within 50 years of its founding, the organization had over 340,000 daughters, and its membership peaked in 1925 at just over one million.

In 1932 the Rebekahs formed a girls' youth group, called Theta Rho.

Daughters of Rebekah Altar, ca. 1910. The dove represents peace. The Moon and seven stars represent the order of nature. The light from the heavenly bodies shines into the darkness and gives hope.



— David Bohl photo



Thomas Wildey (1782- 1861), established the first Odd Fellows lodge in the United States in 1819, and served as the first Grand Sire of the Grand Lodge from 1825-33.



Similar to the Masonic Royal Arch degrees of the York Rite, the Odd Fellows established "higher" degrees in what is known as the Encampment.

The Patriarchal, Golden Rule, and Royal Purple degrees originated in England and were first performed in the United States in the 1820s.

Like the Royal Arch, the Encampment has its own state and national hierarchy but ultimately remains subordinate to state and national Grand Lodges.

Building upon the success of the Encampment in the 1870s and 80's and mirroring the actions of Freemasonry, the Odd Fellows established an order similar to the Masonic Knights Templar.

The Patriarch Militant officially became part of the Order in 1886.

Like the Commanderies of the Templars, the Patriarch Militants met in Cantons.

Within three years of its organization,

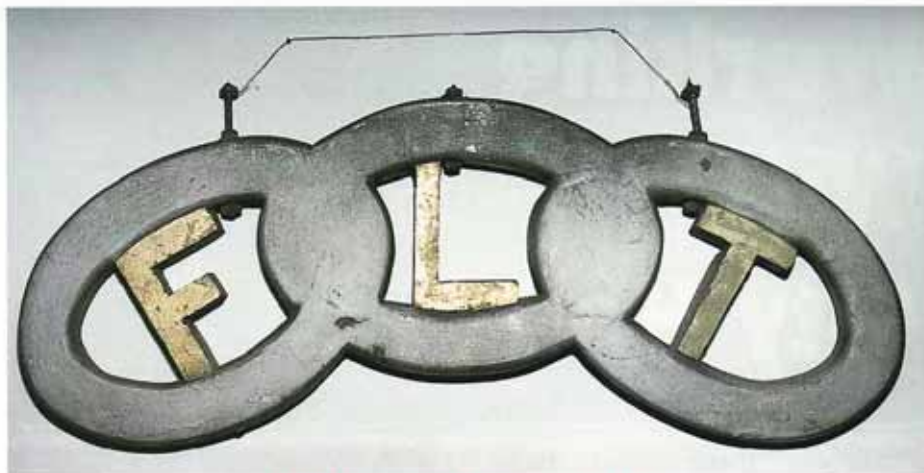
### For Further Research ...

More information can be found concerning the Odd Fellows through a variety of sources. Several books are available that outline the history of the organization, and cover the IOOF today. Among them are *The History and Manual of Odd Fellowship*, by Theodore A. Ross, published in 1900 by M.W. Hazen Co., *Fraternal Organizations*, written by Alvin J. Schmidt and published by Greenwood Press, in 1966, and *From Boom to Bust in the Twentieth Century: Freemasonry and American Fraternities*, by S. Brent Morris and printed by the Iowa Lodge of Research in 1993.

Background on the fraternity's charitable homes is available in the *Album of Odd Fellow Homes*, Ida F. Wolfe, editor, published by the Joseph M. Wolfe Co. in 1927.

The official website of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the United States is: [www.ioof.org](http://www.ioof.org).

The Grand Lodge of Michigan has an official website at [www.ioofmichigan.org](http://www.ioofmichigan.org), and an on-line museum can be found at [www.phoenixmasonry.org](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org).



Odd Fellow's Lodge Sign, ca. 1890.  
"F L T" stand for "Friendship, Love and Truth" the three links of fraternity.

the Encampment had over 12,073 members in 356 cantons.

The Militants' mottos are "Justitia Universalis" (Universal Justice) and "Pax aut Bellum" (Peace or War), and its insignia is the crossed crook and sword with crown.

Several factors led to the Militants' success — a love of marching and military music after the Civil War, a fear of labor unrest and riots after 1877, and a huge war surplus of uniforms and swords.

The Odd Fellows even created their own version of the Shriners in the early 1900s.

Several different groups were attempted — the Order of Muscovites, Prophets of Baghdad, and the Knights of Oriental Splendor.

The successor to these organizations is the Ancient Mystic Order of Samaritans (AMOS). Members wear red fezzes with the motto "We Never Sleep."

The Odd Fellows membership peaked in 1920 at 1.7 million brothers.

While still strong during the Roaring '20's, the fraternity was nearly bankrupted by the Great Depression.

The stock market crash caused families to drop their membership; lodges failed to meet their mortgages, and donations for the support of charitable homes dried up.

The advent of social security, welfare, private health insurance and other forms of relief made much of the Odd Fellows' charity work obsolete.

The popularity of radio, movies, TV, and other forms of leisure added to the erosion of membership in the Odd Fellows and many other fraternal orders.

By 1960, the number of Odd Fellows

stood at half its peak of 40 years earlier.

Today, though, there are still many active Odd Fellows lodges across the country, concentrated mostly in small towns and rural communities, and as they were at their inception, they remain firmly linked by "Friendship, Love, and Truth."

Photograph of an unidentified Odd Fellow Patriarch Militant from Belfast, ME, ca. 1895. The photo was a gift to the National Heritage Museum, from Jacques Noel Jacobsen Jr.





# Working With City Hall

By ALAN E. FOULDS

*Learning Centers in partnership with the community*

She said, "It just meshed." Those were the enthusiastic words of Martha Pierce, education advisor to the mayor.

She was speaking of the brand new partnership between the city of Boston and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc..

Over the past decade 46 centers throughout the jurisdiction have opened their doors to children with dyslexia, and are mostly located in Masonic buildings.

A new direction is being undertaken this year to greatly expand the services offered.

In a unique arrangement, the Scottish Rite Masons have joined with the city to create a pilot program in which costs of establishing a learning center are covered, in part, by leveraging existing school resources.

As with other centers, the Supreme Council will pay the salaries and expenses of the director, an administrative assistant, and tutors, and also supply necessary teaching materials.

The city provides the classroom space and access to a pool of potential tutors. The pilot program, which will run for two years, had its roots more than a year ago in a meeting with Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

The learning center office proposed the use of inner-city property in order to bring the program to a wider population. The mayor suggested using a school.

Under the coordination of Pierce, the Charles Sumner School in the Roslindale section of the city was chosen.

It fit all the requirements necessary for success. The school currently has an afternoon program, so no additional personnel were necessary to keep the doors open during the hours when the learning center would be in operation.



Bulletin board at the learning center highlights the work of the students attending the pilot program at the Charles Sumner School, Roslindale, MA.

It is an institution that is an integral part of the surrounding solid neighborhood, and therefore, represents a good cross-section of the population.

With that diversity, the Sumner School also has a "significant population of students who could use the services," says Pierce.

Making the site an easy choice is Principal Lourdes Santiago, who fully backs the program. She now serves on the board of governors of the learning center.

All seven tutors are currently teachers at that location, making their own classrooms natural places for them to work from.

The learning center operates at the school three afternoons a week.

Roughly half the students attend on Monday and Thursday, while the others are on a Wednesday-Thursday schedule.

In addition to the center director and administrative assistant, seven tu-

tors are each responsible for two students.

They meet with each student one-on-one for two hour-long sessions a week.

The program runs concurrent with the school year, plus an additional six weeks during the summer.

Children remain in the program for two school years (28 weeks per year) plus the summer session in between.

The course plans call for use of the Orton-Gillingham approach to overcome the learning disabilities associated with dyslexia.

Tutor Robb Carroll says that after only two months he "can see progress in the students already."

Diana Breed, the pilot center's director, concurred and has high hopes for the program. She said the unsolicited feedback from parents has been tremendous. "Already they see their children reading at home."

This is her first learning center, but





Learning Center Staff (L-R): Darlene White-Dottin, Alicia Fuentes, Robb Carroll, Lourdes Vasquez (Administrative Assistant), Anna Brown, Jen Martin, Lourdes Santiago (School Principal), Julie Haggerty, and Diana Breed (Center Director). Missing from photo, Fran Campbell.

## ORTON GILLINGHAM APPROACH

The teaching method used at the Sumner School, and all 32° Masonic Learning Centers is named for two pioneers in the field of dyslexia research. First is Dr. Samuel Torrey Orton (1879-1948), a professor of neuropsychiatry and neuropathology at the Neurological Institute of Columbia University. His interest in the subject began in 1917 after reading a manuscript on congenital word blindness by James Hinshelwood.

The work focused on reading problems of intelligent children who could not associate certain letter sounds with corresponding letter symbols. Also noted in the manuscript was a marked difference between listening comprehension and reading comprehension.

Second is Anna Gillingham (1878-1963) a language disabilities teacher and psychologist. Together in 1925 they developed procedures and written material still used today for early identification and remediation of dyslexic children.

Their methods aim at the ability to manipulate speech sounds through teaching exercises, correlating the sounds with the symbols, and the teaching of spelling and general grammatical rules in a repetitive and cumulative way.

Although teaching is highly individualized and tailored to meet the specific needs of each student, the

method stresses the use of common elements:

**Multisensory.** Auditory and visual elements are used, and both reading and spelling are learned simultaneously.

**Structured, Sequential, and Cumulative.** Elements of the language are introduced systematically. Students begin by reading and writing sounds in isolation. The sounds are then blended into syllables and words. Language elements, such as consonants and vowels, are then introduced. Once learned, more complex elements are taught. A word is learned using the individual sounds of its letters or letter combinations, rather than by memorizing the entire word and knowing it on sight. Throughout the process, material covered earlier is constantly being reinforced. Next, vocabulary, sentence structure, composition and comprehension are introduced in a similar structured, sequential, and cumulative manner.

**Cognitive.** High-level language history is taught, together with generalizations and rules.

**Flexible.** The tutor must discern the learning personality of the student in order for the steps and the degree of repetition to be tailored to the individual.

the former tennis pro comes well prepared. With a master's degree in counseling and Orton-Gillingham training at prestigious Massachusetts General Hospital, she has a daytime tutoring business, as well.

She also commented on the dedication of the tutors. Without a break from their day jobs in the same building they roll right into learning center mode.

"It takes a real commitment," she said. She has already been approached by some who want to sign up for the summer session.

Bro. Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°, executive director of the learning center program, hopes to gather empirical data through the duration of the pilot in order to better assess how future partnerships should be established.

He made it clear, however, that he will not wait the full two years to establish similar programs in other parts of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction if Valleys are ready to proceed.

Together with city officials, the learning centers headquarters is seeking funding from both public and private sources to expand the program into more public schools.

In Boston, Martha Pierce said the city is ecstatic with the progress of the center, stating that all feedback has been positive.

Asked whether new centers might be placed at other schools in Boston if funding becomes available, she answered, obviously pleased, "Absolutely!"







## 32° MASONIC LEARNING CENTERS FOR CHILDREN, INC.

### Nashua: Bridges to the Community

The learning center at Nashua, NH, has taken to the streets to build its reputation with the community. Main Street, that is.

The city of Nashua has revitalized its core in recent years through a program called "The Great American Downtown."

Two events showcase the progress made, and the 32° Masonic Learning Center has taken part in both.

The first, new this year, took place on October 30 and was dubbed "Halloween Treats along City Streets."

Local businesses opened their doors to all shapes and sizes of ghosts, goblins, and the like, doling out candy and hosting events.

The learning center joined in by giving books to all the trick-or-treaters,

tying together the festive atmosphere of the evening, with the center's main cause.

In all, more than 1,500 books were handed out.

The second event was held just a month later.

Each Thanksgiving weekend, Nashua hosts its Holiday Stroll, attracting thousands to storefronts and function halls to see and hear musical programs, plays, and other performances, and to join fellow citizens in a candlelight stroll through the center of town.

The event, in its tenth year drew about 12,000 revelers on a cold and windy evening.

Once again the learning center was there to make contact with the public.

This time, in addition to books, coupons redeemable at local bookstores were supplied.

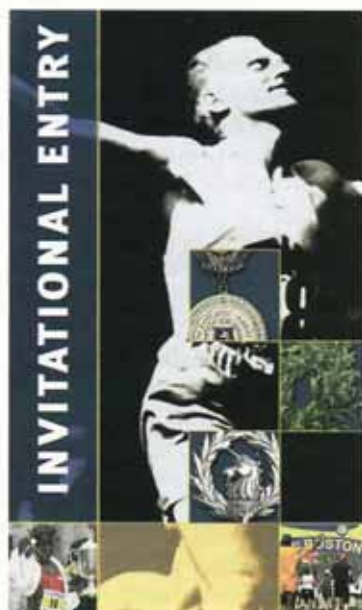
Center director Aileen Cormier said that their involvement in city functions has helped establish a relationship with the community and has built a foundation for future events.

She said they have received "lots of positive and appreciative feedback."

Helping to bring attention to the learning center and to raise money at the same time, many of the spouses of fraternity members knitted scarves, mittens, and blankets, and made Christmas decorations.

They have been selling their wares at city events throughout the year. Proceeds from the sales netted the center more than \$1,500.

### Taking Strides against Dyslexia



For the second year the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., will be represented in the prestigious Boston Marathon, the oldest annual marathon in the world. Following last year's format, the learning centers were given ten slots to fill. Each runner has pledged to raise at least \$5,000. Of the ten, three are returning from last year. Additionally, Donald L. Smith, 33°, has qualified to run and will be supporting the learning centers as well.

Name	Center	BAA Number
<i>New This Year</i>		
Donald L. Smith, 33°	Waterbury, CT	TBD
B. John Bialecki	Wilmington, DE	0200
Joseph Hess	Lancaster, PA	0201
James A. Warren, 32°	Toledo, OH	0202
Robert Illig	Cleveland, OH	0203
David B. Urban	Waterbury, CT	0166
Richard Kolodin	Reading, PA	0208
Randy Bachman	Cincinnati, OH	0207
<i>Returning from Last Year</i>		
Thomas McClintock	Newtonville, MA	0204
Kurt Walborn	Ft. Wayne, IN, <i>Center Director</i>	0205
Paul Kappel	Pittsburgh, PA	0206





## New Exhibit at Washington Memorial

A refurbished exhibition has opened at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA. The major renovation honoring Brother Washington was funded by the Northern Masonic and Southern Jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite.

In 1964 the two jurisdictions supported the formation and development of a gallery of Washington artifacts on the fourth floor of the memorial. The two jurisdictions have once again joined forces to provide a new look. The project has been in the works for several years, and representatives from both jurisdictions have been involved in the planning stages. The architect for the project was Chris White Design, Inc., of Crownsville, MD.

The new exhibit provides visitors with an overview of the many aspects of Washington's life. The displays in the alcoves around the room reflect how America's foremost Freemason grew from a Virginia boy into a victorious general, the first U.S. President, and an American icon.

An introductory audiotope introduces the exhibition and explains the arrangement of the displays. Visitors can listen to the introduction by using the individual ear phones, or a tour guide can amplify the sound throughout the room.

The mezzanine contains images of George Washington, the Freemason and a collection of pictures and objects that adorned Mount Vernon. There is also an explanation of the relationship between Freemasonry and architecture as well as a story about the creation of the memorial.

A rededication ceremony has been scheduled for mid-February during the course of the Grand Masters Conference in Washington, DC. The two Sovereign Grand Commanders will participate in the ceremony. Also scheduled at that time is a rededication of a renovated Shrine room.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association was formed in 1910. Its main goal was to establish a suitable structure to house



The fourth floor of the George Washington Memorial has been redesigned with financial assistance from the two Scottish Rite jurisdictions. The photo above is a view of the East end of the floor. The photo to the left is a view looking to the West.

the Washington artifacts that were in the possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.

Ground was broken in 1922, the cornerstone was laid in 1923, and nearly a decade later the building was dedicated. Financial support has come from the Grand Lodges, appendant bodies, and individuals.

Within the memorial are several lodge rooms, one of which is a replica of the room used by Alexandria Lodge on the second floor of City Hall in

1802. The lodge, which was later re-named Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 in honor of the first President, moved to the memorial in 1944. Brother Washington was charter Master of the lodge in 1788.

The unique "slanting" elevators ascend at a 7 1/2 degree angle as the tower gradually grows narrower. Surrounding the top floor is an observation deck with spectacular views of Old Town Alexandria and Washington, DC.



# Some People Are Just Lucky

*Every Mason has the capacity to  
view Freemasonry differently*

*Reprinted with permission from the  
Wisconsin Masonic Journal, December,  
2003.*

So many of my friends tell me that I am a lucky person. I guess that is true, in particular, because I love outdoor sports and my home is at the base of one of the most outstanding ski hills in Wisconsin.

In fact, there are few states in our area that can boast of better ski areas.

Of course, any time I get a chance, I head to the slopes and enjoy the freedom and thrill of swooshing down the most challenging "runs" on the mountain.

At times, I let my thoughts expand into daydreams as I hurtle down the slopes. In my mind, I can hear the crowd cheering me on as I sharply turn at fantastic speed, through an imaginary slalom course.

I envision myself as a swift ski-racing expert and thrill to the singularly unique sound of snow scrunching under my skis.

In my mind, I could hear the crowd at an Olympic event, cheering me on to faster and faster turns.

I felt like a teenager and selected the steepest part of the hill to challenge my skills.

I held a vision of myself hurtling down the hill; tall and graceful with cat-like reflexes. The ski world must have been in awe at my skill and daring.

## *Sudden Return to Reality*

The dream scene ended abruptly. Age, questionable technique on an icy patch, and the fact that my daydream scene took too much of my attention away from what I should have been doing, caused me to fall.

Well, not actually fall — it was more like a snowy explosion combined with my thrashing arms and legs as I careened down the hill.

There is no graceful way to fall on a ski hill, especially when the skier is going too fast.

I hit the first bump, tumbled, flipped and sprawled, like a wounded snow beast, gliding on my back.

I looked like a large turtle out of water. My arms and legs were flailing in pathetic little circles.

Snow filled my goggles, surged down my neck and filled my mouth. I tried to inhale, but snow was even packed in my nose.

When I came to a stop, the area around me looked like a yard sale. Ski poles, gloves, my hat, and both skis

were scattered haphazardly over yards of snow.

Yes, I did truly hear the crowd. Some were laughing at my predicament and others were more seriously expressing concern about my health. One little boy, hardly older than twelve, gracefully skied to my side. He shouted, "Hey mister, the bunny hill is over there."

As I tried to get a breath, I realized that the final flop of my fall had knocked the wind out of me.

Then, almost in a comic sense, a single snowflake drifted from the sky and landed on my cold nose.

A strange thought rambled through my head. That little snowflake was unique.

I was amazed to recall that each and every snowflake is actually different in structure from any other ones ever formed.

What a marvel of nature. Then my thoughts tied that image of individuality to Masonry.

## *Each Mason's Experience Unique*

Like snowflakes, every man who takes the steps to become a Master



MICHAEL A. DeWOLF, 32°, is the Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin.



**“Great winter storms have the power of combined snowflakes.”**

Mason experiences the exacting ritual of Masonic degrees.

There is no compromise, and at any given location, in any lodge in Wisconsin, the same dedication to perfection in presentation is made as lodge officers and members seriously perform the several aspects of our long-established Masonic lessons.

Yet, there, lying on the snow, I realized that there was something I never thought of in the past.

Like individual snowflakes, each being uniquely different from all others, each man who opens his mind to Masonic lessons sees something different; not because the ritual varies and not because the location may be in a large city or a small community.

The difference is in the fact that each person sees and feels different things in his own mind.

Interpretation and personal impact, based on past learning, life-long experiences and the unique personality of each individual allows Masonry to be assimilated in the mind of each person differently.

A lot of things made sense at that point. I understood more clearly that Masonry means different things to each Mason.

How one displays, understands, and draws on the lessons of our Masonic fraternity differ just like the difference between the snowflakes that were falling around me.

I realized why it is sometimes hard for Masons to put their own Masonic beliefs into words.

No simple sentence or paragraphs can ever be the sole representation of what Masonry means to each and every Mason. Then, a second realization caught my attention.

### *Power of Combined Efforts*

Like individual snowflakes, each individual Mason has a small impact on

those who come in contact with him.

Nothing is ever accomplished by a single snowflake and, likewise, not much can be accomplished by one Mason working independently.

Great snowfields, glaciers, avalanches and great winter storms have something in common — they all represent the power of combined snowflakes.

I was able to draw a great Masonic lesson at that point. I was able to more fully understand that every man who is a Mason has the capacity to view Masonry slightly differently.

Each Mason is a unique individual who brings special insights and view-

points to bear on decisions he makes, in particular, when important pathways are selected based on Masonic principles.

Finally, Masons, when joined together in brotherhood and purpose, can accomplish great things.

I was never more pleased about skiing than at that moment.

I learned a lot in those few seconds that combined a spectacular fall with a single snowflake that landed on the tip of my nose.

My deep thoughts were quickly disrupted.

The dozen people who rushed to my aid as I remained motionless and sprawled on the small pile of snow I pushed ahead of me while sliding backwards down the hill, broke my concentration.

Several shouted, “Are you able to move?” Others asked if I needed help.

With some chagrin, I wobbled to my feet and collected all of my ski equipment. As the small crowd watched me glide away, with a bit more caution on my part, I overheard one young man say, “Some people are just lucky.”

I smiled back to him and said, “You will never know how true that is.”

## MASONIC WORD MATH

*How to solve:* 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.

(TODAY) + (EVERY) – (READY)  
+ (HEARING) – (TENOR) +  
(INTERESTED) – (GIRTH) – (YEAST)  
+ (HIBERNATES) – (ANNE) –  
(STRIDE)  
=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 9.  
Answer from previous issue: SOVEREIGN





## New Scottish Rite Cathedral in Central New Jersey

**T**imes are changing in New Jersey. The Valley of Trenton has moved its operations to impressive new quarters in Bordentown, and soon hopes to be known officially as the Valley of Central Jersey.

The new site, home to the Mercer Lodge of Perfection, Mercer Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Trenton Chapter of Rose Croix, and Trenton Consistory, was dedicated in grand style, complete with visiting dignitaries, music, and the issuance of special postal covers.

Located for many years on North Clinton Avenue in Trenton, original plans called for a move to Hopewell

Township, where a 74-acre parcel was purchased.

The old site was short on amenities, and included only nine parking spaces. The Shriners lot across the street was pressed into service each time a meeting or other event was scheduled.

When the Shriners moved away, to a new building of their own, the time came to follow through on the plan. A building committee was appointed and swung into action. The Hopewell site was deemed unsuitable for a new hall, so the land was sold and a new direction was taken.

An ambitious schedule took only five months to complete, and by Nov.

8, 2003, the new Valley building was opened on Dunn's Mill Road in Bordentown. A full day of activities marked the occasion.

In the morning, while degrees were conferred during the reunion, members' wives took a bus trip to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

The dedication, conducted by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, took place in the afternoon.

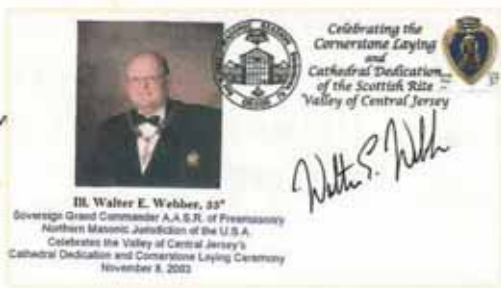
The ceremony featured a musical combo. Among the dignitaries were Grand Master Robert L. Miller and his staff, Grand Commander Walter Webber, 33°, Ill. Gardner C. Sconyers, 33°, Deputy for Rhode Island, all Active Members from New Jersey, and Mayor George Chidley of Bordentown Township.

To help mark the occasion, and raise money for Masonic charities, Bro. M. Richard Mekenian produced a set of Masonic postal covers for sale.

All dated November 8, and post-marked "Masonic Station" the envelopes feature various aspects of the day.

Highlights of the evening program were a banquet and 15-piece orchestra.

Valley Secretary, Peter Lanka, 32°, says, "The new building is owned free and clear," as land purchase and construction costs were raised through the sale of the Hopewell land and the former Valley building in Trenton.



Samples of some of the commemorative first-day covers produced for the event by Bro. M. Richard Mekenian.





By Leigh E. Morris, 33°

## Spammers Beware, or Maybe Not

By the time you read this, President Bush likely will have signed a federal anti-spam bill that won final congressional approval in December.

The measure encourages the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to create a no-spam list of e-mail addresses. The bill prohibits spammers from disguising their identity by using false return addresses or misleading subject lines. It also bars spammers from gathering addresses off Web sites. It requires spammers to include a feature on their e-mail that would allow recipients to indicate they do not want further e-mails.

However, the bill does not come close to outlawing all unsolicited e-mail. Spammers may send mail to anyone with an e-mail address so long as they identify themselves and honor consumer requests to be left alone. That's a loophole big enough for a freight train to run through. The bill prohibits consumer lawsuits, but would allow Internet service providers (ISPs) to sue for damages. That's nice.

As you have probably surmised, the measure is controversial. Some groups have expressed outrage over the fact that the measure would prohibit any state from enforcing more stringent anti-spam laws. Others insist the FTC should be mandated to establish a no-spam list, while the most ardent anti-spammers believe spam mailers should not be able to send e-mail to anyone without first securing their permission. In any event, the new law appears to be little more than a bandage.

So, where does this leave us?

Well, the law adopted by Congress is certain to please almost no one. Oh, I suppose it might be strengthened by requiring the FTC to create a national no-spam list. Sounds good, but it is doubtful that it would ever be all that effective.

Let's look at the reality of the Net. Many Internet users change e-mail addresses more frequently than they do their underwear. This is compounded by the fact that countless Internet users have multiple e-mail addresses — and those secondary e-mail addresses are being changed all the time. Considering all this, how could anyone — let alone the government, state or federal — hope to keep a reasonably accurate no-spam list.

Then there is the problem of enforcement. Remember, the Net is international in nature. Many spammers are located beyond our borders. The new federal law likely will cause even more to move abroad. How can the U.S. be expected to enforce its anti-spam laws on foreign soil? International treaty, you say. Or maybe we turn it over to the United Nations. Yeah, right. I'd like to have something done during my lifetime.

Good news! There is an effective way to deal with this and it is available today. And it may be as close as your own ISP.

A growing number of ISPs and dedicated Internet systems are using services such as those offered by Postini to screen e-mail for spam and viruses. Here's how it works — e-mails suspected as being spam or containing viruses are quarantined for a period of two to three weeks. Users can view the quarantined e-mail before deciding whether to download it into their mailboxes or send it off into the ether-net. If they take no action, the quarantined e-mail will vanish at the end of the quarantine period. Furthermore, Postini and others offer a service that allows Internet users to inspect e-mail in their mailbox before downloading it to their computer.

Both are easy and quick to use. Any ISP can provide it to its customers. My own experience with these filters is very positive. At the present time, these filters offer the best defense against spam. If your ISP does not now offer a filter, ask them to do so.

You also may want to consider getting a second e-mail address for your public correspondence. These are available from Yahoo, Netscape and many others.

If you do receive spam, forward it to <uce@ftc.gov>, where the FTC is developing a database to be used against the most obnoxious spammers.

Have a very Happy New Year.

Questions or comments? Send me an e-mail at  
[studebaker55@casscomm.com](mailto:studebaker55@casscomm.com)





## Placing Your "Trust" in Good Works

### *The Anniversaries of our Charities*

One cannot help but be impressed when considering the generosity of Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies. The benevolences of our fraternity are extraordinary.

The year 2004 marks the 70th anniversary of our first support of schizophrenia research. From a \$15,000 grant in 1934, the program has since provided millions of dollars in grants to programs throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction unlocking this serious form of mental illness.

Following in our tradition of helping others, the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, our newest and, in many ways, our most exciting charitable endeavor is also celebrating a birthday. Ten years ago in Newtonville, MA, the first learning center was dedicated. Over these ten years the program has grown phenomenally. Now learning centers are helping children overcome dyslexia in 47 locations across our 15-state jurisdiction. Two learning centers have opened in Canada with our help.

This success is possible only through the support of our members and their ladies. Your donations give so much to the visitors to the National Heritage Museum, and our Abbott Scholarship recipients.

But your "trust" in the good works of Scottish Rite Charities can also mean income to you. How? Through the establishment of a charitable trust with Scottish Rite Charities, a way to give that works for you.

### *Providing for the Future*

Ill. Forrest McKerley, 33°, of the Valley of Concord, NH, is committed to the 32° Masonic Learning Centers. "I was on the Exploratory Committee for the Nashua (NH) Learning Center," Forrest explains. "Over time I became a board member of the Nashua center and chairman of it. I've been so impressed with how the children adapt to this program and how enthusiastic they are about it. When they graduate I love to see how proud they are and how proud their parents and grandparents are."

Forrest knew that the only way to see this tremendous program grow was to help endow the current learning center. However, he wanted to be sure that he had income for his assets. To satisfy both his needs, Forrest established a charitable trust through Scottish Rite Charities.

Because Scottish Rite Charities is a tax-exempt charity we can offer our members charitable annuity trusts and unitrusts that can provide life income while ultimately benefiting any of the charities of our benevolent foundation.

There is a tax deduction for establishing a trust and a portion of the income is also tax exempt. It is a great way to increase income from low dividend investments.

*But back to Forrest...*

Most important to Forrest was that his trust would benefit the work of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children in New Hampshire. We committed his wishes to trust documents, thus assuring his wishes would be honored. Forrest chose an annuity trust, providing guaranteed income for life. (For more information about types of trusts, call me at 800-814-1432 ext. 3326 or check our planned gift website, found through [www.supremecouncil.org](http://www.supremecouncil.org).)

At his age we could offer Forrest a 7.2% annual income; far better than other alternatives. Because the trust was being established as Forrest is healthy, this fund will not be able to be touched by the government to pay for long-term care if Forrest ever requires it.

All this made Forrest's decision quite simple. He established a \$1 million trust, which will ultimately help endow the Nashua Learning Center. He also encouraged me to tell this story to you. "I think trusts are a great opportunity for our members. Not only is it painless because the income is often better than what you might be making now, but it also helps our charities."

"What ultimately caused me to do this was a brother in my lodge who I know has humble means. I learned he made a \$10,000 gift to the lodge through a planned gift. I was impressed and realized I could do something similar."

Are you interested in learning more? The chart below shows examples of the returns you may receive by establishing a gift trust through Scottish Rite Charities.

### *Examples of Maximum Rates for Charitable Gift Annuities*

INDIVIDUAL		COUPLE		
Age	Rate	Younger Spouse	Older Spouse	Rate
50	5.3%	45	50	4.5%
55	5.5%	50	55	4.7%
60	5.7%	60	65	5.5%
65	6.0%	65	70	5.7%
70	6.5%	70	75	6.1%
75	7.1%	75	80	6.6%
80	8.0%	80	85	7.3%
85	9.5%	85	90	8.4%
90+	11.3%	90	95+	10.1%



# The Stamp Act

## A Philatelic Review



By Robert A. Domingue



In recognition of 275 years of **Masonry in France** the French Post Office issued on June 28, 2003, a stamp featuring the Square and Compasses open on the Fellowcraft Degree. The French Post Office website states "Having gone through the jolts of history, today's Freemasonry continues to draw its legitimacy and its regularity from simple parameters such as ancient history, representativeness, and the acceptance of members by traditional methods which have been tried and tested. There are currently a dozen obediences; some are for men only, others are mixed, and one is for women only." (Thanks to W. Francis Dumaourier, 32°, Valley of New York City)

★ ★ ★

**Johann Reinhold Forster** and **Johann Georg Forster**, noted German naturalists who were father and son, were honored on Falkland Island stamps issued in November 1985. Johann Reinhold, the father, was born in Dirschau, Germany, in 1729.

He served as a clergyman in Germany but later moved to England as a naturalist. He took part in James Cook's second world tour from 1772-74 as did his son.

He could speak in 17 languages, and Frederick the Great appointed him professor in the natural science in Halle in 1780. He died in that city in 1798.

He was a member of the Lodge "Zu den drei Degen"

in Halle and served as Master in 1781.

Johann Georg was born in Nassenhuben, Germany, in 1754, where his father was clergyman. After touring with James Cook, he became a professor in natural history in 1784 in Wilna and then Gottingen.



The Elector of Mainz appointed him to be librarian and professor in 1788. He occupied the post until 1792 when the French came to Mainz. He joined in French Revolution activities, was banished from Germany, and died in Paris in 1794.

He was initiated in 1776 in the famous Lodge "Les Neuf Soeurs" in Paris. He was also a member of the Lodge "Zum gekronten owen" in Kassel in 1778 and the Lodge "Zur wahren Eintracht" in Vienna.

★ ★ ★

**Paul Weitz** was the pilot of Skylab I which was pictured on a US stamp issued in May 1974. Bro. Weitz is a member of Laurence Lodge No. 708, Erie, PA, receiving his degrees in 1953, 1954 and 1955.

He was one of the 19 astronauts selected by NASA in April 1966. Born in Erie, PA, in 1932, Paul Weitz graduated from Penn State University with a BS in aeronautical



engineering and received his MS from the US Naval Postgraduate School. He served as a tactics instructor at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, FL, and as project officer for several air-to-ground delivery tactics at China Lake, CA. He also served as the officer in charge at the Naval Air Station, Whidbey, WA.

★ ★ ★

Born in St. Petersburg in 1745, **Mikhail Ilarionovich Kutuzov**, Prince of Smolensk, entered the Russian army at the age of 16 and by 1784 had become a major general.

In 1793 he was ambassador to Constantinople and held other diplomatic posts until his services were required in the Russian war against Napoleon. He headed 50,000 men into Germany and achieved his greatest glory in the Battle of Austerlitz.



Napoleon had invaded Russia with an army of 500,000 and captured Moscow. Before retreating, Kutuzov burned the city, making it impossible for the French to winter there. He pursued the French in their retreat and most of them perished from cold and starvation in the Battles of Malo, Juroslavatz, Krasnik and Smolensk.

He died of a malignant fever in April 1813 while pursuing the French in Prussian Silesia.

Kutuzov was a leading Freemason of his era. He became a member of the Lodge "Zu den drei Schlüsseln" in 1779, and of the Lodges "Trois Drapeaux" in Moscow and "Sphinx" in St. Petersburg.

He is pictured on a Russian stamp issued in 1995 for the 250th anniversary of his birth.

★ ★ ★



**Warren G. Harding** was born east of Corsica, which is now Blooming Grove, in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1865. He joined the newspaper trade and published the *Marion Star* beginning in 1884.

He entered politics in 1900, being elected to the Ohio State Senate. He advanced to Lt. Gov and then US Senator from 1915-20. He was elected the 28th president of the US in 1921 but only served until Aug. 2, 1923, when he suffered a heart attack in San Francisco.

Bro. Harding was initiated in Marion Lodge No. 70, Marion, OH, in 1901. It was 20 years before he received the other two degrees, being passed on Aug. 13, 1920 and raised Aug. 20, 1920.

He received all the York Rite and Scottish Rite degrees in 1921. He is honored on this Dominica stamp.

**ROBERT A. DOMINGUE** is secretary for St. Matthew's Lodge, Andover, MA, and editor of *The Philatelic Freemason*.





By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

For this issue I have deviated from my general practice of reviewing non-fiction in "Book Nook." Breaking another tradition, I am reviewing two books by the same author. Neither deals extensively with Freemasonry, but it is referenced in both.

I am reviewing Dan Brown's two latest best selling novels, *Angels & Demons* and *The Da Vinci Code* for several reasons. Where Freemasonry is mentioned, it tends to show its enduring significance in the real world. The author is not a member of the craft but he evidently felt that its influence and renown were great enough to warrant its involvement in the intrigue of both novels.

Also, they are two of the most fascinating books that I have read in a long time. I suggested to my wife, who never reads my books, that she might enjoy these, so she started with *Angels & Demons*. When I phoned her during a trip I was on, she told me she was never going to read my recommended books again. Upon asking why, she responded that she lost two days because she could not lay the book down. I, too, found the book to be that stimulating. *The Da Vinci Code*, was just as intriguing.

If I can encourage anyone to read for the sheer pleasure of it, these are two great books with which to start. That just might be the beginning of an enduring quest for knowledge.



*Angels & Demons*, by Dan Brown. Published in 2000 by Atria Books, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY. \$17.95.

*Angels and Demons*, is a novel filled with intrigue, based upon a plot wherein a long-thought extinct organization, the Illuminati, resurfaces with the goal of taking revenge upon the Catholic Church for its persecution and repression of thought in the 16th century.

The author has woven known facts throughout a thrilling novel that keeps the reader enthralled throughout the text. In his preface notes, he points out that all references to works of art, tombs, tunnels, and architecture in Rome are entirely factual. He provides diagrammatic sketches of the layout of modern Rome, as well as Vatican City, providing the reader with the opportunity to visualize the action as it is taking place.

The Illuminati was indeed an organization that did exist and was composed of some of the great intellectual minds of the 16th century. It was the time of the birth of modern science, and many of the members of this shadowy organization were the great enlightened thinkers in

this new field, including astronomers, mathematicians and physicists. It also included some of the great artists and philosophers living at that time.

It was the period in history when the hierarchy of the Catholic Church dominated the minds of its members. The Illuminati, as free thinkers, rebelled against this domination, and they and the church became bitter enemies.

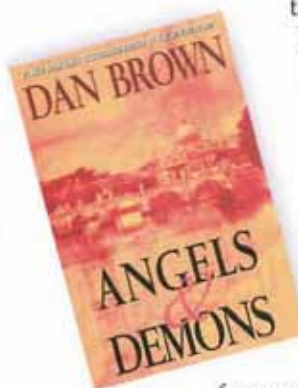
They felt that religion had no monopoly on the right of man to think and to search for truth.

Brown has used this knowledge to structure a foundation upon which to develop this fascinating novel.

Extensive research was required to secure the factual information necessary to add a degree of credibility to the text, so that it might not come off as a simple fairy tale. The author evidently had much cooperation

from numerous organizations and academia, including CERN as well as the Vatican.

Without going further into the plot, I would recommend it to anyone interested in a great reading experience.



*The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown. Published in 2003 by Doubleday, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY. \$24.95.

All of the adjectives that I used to describe the engrossing qualities of *Angels & Demons* could well be applied to *The Da Vinci Code*. The author has again taken known facts with historical significance to lay a foundation upon which to build a fascinating novel. Along with *Angels & Demons*, it has propelled Brown to prominence as an author, placing him on the bestseller list.

As was *Angels & Demons*, this book is based upon the existence of an obscure organization; this one known as the Priory of Sion. The Priory of Sion actually existed and indeed probably still exists. It was or is a secret society founded in 1099, and was composed of some of the great intellectual minds of that time.

Also, like his previous book, *The Da Vinci Code* required extensive research, and "all artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals referred to are accurate." Brown uses this knowledge to weave a beguiling story of a search for the long lost, ambiguous, but historically significant Holy Grail and its secret location.

Grail legends and stories have been around for many



years, and result from attempts to define, locate and qualify what it is and why it is. This book is simply a novel, which reaches unexpected and startling conclusions about the Holy Grail.

It is a mesmerizing story that has received high praise from the critics. There will be few who read it expressing regret for doing so.



*Masonic Symbols and Signposts*, by Leon Zeldis. Published in 2003 by Anchor Communications, 5266 Mary Ball Rd., Lancaster, VA 22503. \$19.95

Leon Zeldis is a well-known Masonic scholar, author, and lecturer, having published over 150 articles and several books on the history and symbolism of the craft. He has also published collections of short stories and poems. Zeldis served as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of Israel in 1996.

The title of this book implies that it is a text on symbolism, and most of it is. Indeed, the discussion that Zeldis presents relative to Masonic symbolism is well worth the effort to read. However, he includes a number of chapters with little relevance to the subject of Masonic symbols, but are nonetheless interesting and informative. These may be his "signposts," and he does attempt to relate Freemasonry to them.

In this age when many of our leaders are placing less significance on the value of our ritual and symbols, it would be well to note his observation: "When Freemasonry itself is considered as a philosophical institution that is an association of free men and lovers of knowledge, then, and only then, can we begin to appreciate the value of ritual and symbol in our work." Let us hope there is a way to infuse this realization into those leaders of our craft who feel that rituals have little relevance in our modern-day world.

The first half of this book is devoted to the subject of Masonic symbolism, including the Hiram Legend, and the symbolism of stone and color, among others, many frequently overlooked by the average North American Mason. A chapter is also dedicated to the subject of Solstices and Freemasonry, significant to our craft in many countries though generally ignored in North America.

The chapter, "An Esoteric View of the Rose-Croix Degree," presents a view of the 18th degree of the Scottish Rite from not only a non-Christian viewpoint but also from the viewpoint of a philosophical scholar. This is a good analytical view carrying significance valuable to those who fail to comprehend the esoteric meanings of this degree. I would suggest its reading by all who question its inclusion in Scottish Rite ritual.

Included is a chapter on the Dead Sea Scrolls, from which I gleaned interesting information that I had not

heretofore known. This information includes the structure of the Essenian organization and Qumran. A chapter on King Solomon's Quarries is also included, and should be of interest to all Freemasons.

The text reflects many of the author's viewpoints and opinions as he readily admits. Although some readers may disagree with them he carries the creditability of a scholar who has extensively studied much of the material. It is a book worth reading.



*A Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge*, Wallace McLeod, Editor, S. Brent Morris, Associate Editor. Published in 2003 by the Masonic Book Club. Limited number of hardcover copies available through Robin Carr, Box 1563 Bloomington, IL 61702. Softbound will be released through Anchor Communications in Feb. 2004.

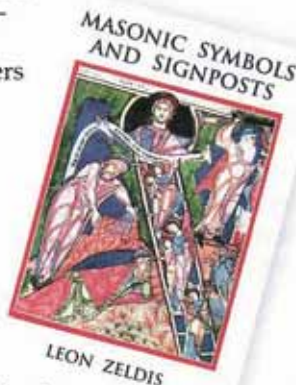
*A Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge* is a compilation of 46 papers presented to the Society of Blue Friars since 1956, when papers began to be required. The Society of Blue Friars is a highly select group of Masonic authors and editors. It was created in 1932 for the purpose of giving recognition to Masonic writers. Since that time 93 of the most significant Masonic authors in the world have been admitted to membership. One new writer

may be invited to membership each year, or more than one when vacancies from death or resignation cause the total membership to drop below 20. At present there are 22 members on the roles.

The brother who has been accepted for membership is expected to present a paper on an appropriate Masonic subject at the annual meeting. Each has the option to speak on the subject of his choice; hence a diverse array of subjects on Freemasonry or Freemasons is covered.

When reviewing the list of brothers who have been members, one must feel awed by the total Masonic knowledge they represent. Most would be included in any "Who's Who" of Freemasonry. Anyone who ever made an attempt to understand our craft cannot fail to recognize names of men who have stood out not only in their writing about Freemasonry but also in their leadership in the fraternity.

This book presents the thoughts of some of the best Masonic thinkers over the last 100 years. It is well worth the time to read them.



**THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°**, was formerly Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He is Executive Secretary for the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges and the book reviewer for *The Northern Light*.





# HealthWise

## Ideas for Health and Fitness

### Tea Combats Virus

Immunologists at Harvard University say that black tea drinkers appear better able to fight off viral diseases such as cold and flu. In their study, people who drank five cups of black tea a day for two weeks pumped up their immune system T-cells. These T-cells then cooked up more interferon.

The Harvard doctors emphasize that tea will not make you immune to illness, but you could get fewer sicknesses, and those you get will probably be milder. They feel that interferon might lessen the impact of viruses.



### Perceived Hunger

Nutritionists use a Rating of Perceived Hunger (RPH) scale that helps people gauge their hunger. Starting at zero for "famished" and running to ten, "stuffed," they recommend that you eat at three and stop at six, leaving you satisfied, but not stuffed.

If you wait to eat until you are running on empty you tend to eat too much, too fast. Eating until you reach ten blows your diet.

### Another Reason to Get Moving

Exercise may reduce blood levels of C-reactive Protein (CRP), an important marker for inflammation that has been associated with heart disease.

Studies by the American College of Cardiology show that CRP levels are lowest in adults who exercise four or more times a week and highest in those who don't exercise at all, regardless of smoking or heart disease history.

### Antibiotic Use

According to "Get Smart," the educational program of the Center for Disease Control, antibiotics are effective only for bacterial infections such as pneumonia, sinus infections, and strep throat. They should not be used for bronchitis, colds, flu, or other sore throats.

### Most Restful Sleep

If you're so pressed for time that you can only afford to sleep for four hours, go to bed after midnight. Studies at Stanford University suggest that early-morning sleep is more restful, and people fall asleep more easily.

The early morning trick could see you through one hectic time, but can't replace a full night's sleep. Ongoing sleep deprivation is dangerous.



### Calculate Your Body-Mass Index

To determine your Body-Mass Index (BMI) divide your weight in pounds by the square of your height in inches. Multiply the result by 705.

*Example:* For a person who is five feet, nine inches (69 inches) and weighs 165 pounds:

$165 \text{ divided by } 69 \times 69 (4761) = .03465$   
 $.03465 \times 705 = 24.4 \text{ (BMI)}$

A normal index is generally considered to lie between 18.5 and 24.9

### Lead Linked to Thinning Bones

Low levels of lead stored in the bones from previous exposure can be a factor in Osteoporosis, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Other studies link lead exposure to high blood pressure, which may occur decades after lead exposure, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

### Get Healthy, Go Nuts!

If you want to prevent diabetes and keep your heart healthy, try nuts. Studies by the University of Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital show that some nuts have a large potential for cholesterol reduction. The researchers compared the effect of a rich diet in fiber, soy products, and almonds with Mecavor, the statin drug.

The diet reduced bad cholesterol by 28.6 percent, compared with 30.0 percent with the statin. Included in the diet were oat bran cereal, soymilk, strawberries, oat bread, fruit, almonds, tofu, barley, and vegetables.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has ruled that packages of walnuts, almonds, peanuts, pistachios, pecans, and hazelnuts may state on their labels that "scientific evidence suggests but does not prove that eating 1.5 ounces a day may reduce the risk of heart disease if part of a healthy diet."





# Bangor Blaze Destroys Masonic Temple

— Photo by Richard Bowden



Masonic building encrusted in ice the morning after the fire.

A devastating fire at the Bangor, ME, Masonic Hall took with it not only 135 years of history but also the meeting place for Rising Virtue Lodge, St. Andrew's Lodge, the Scottish Rite Valley of Bangor, the DeMolay, the Tuscan Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the York Rite, a 32° Masonic Learning Center for Dyslexia, and several businesses.

The five-story structure at 116 Main Street caught fire during the early evening of January 15, and continued to blaze for two days. The fire was fierce enough to warrant the closing of Main Street for the entire period.

A variety of public agencies assisted, including Bangor Public Works, the police department, Bangor Water District, and Bangor Hydro. The Air National Guard supplied lighting. When the fire was quelled, the remnants of the building were knocked down for safety reasons.

The various Masonic organizations turned to lodges in the vicinity for temporary quarters. M.W. Grand Master, Ill. Charles E. Ridlon, 33°, reports that the two organizations, DeMolay and O.E.S. are meeting in Hampden and Orrington, and the York Rite has temporarily moved to

Old Town. The learning center has had an offer of space, in order for it to complete the current semester. The law firm of Rudman and Winchell has donated temporary space in their building on Harlow St. Ill. Royce Wheeler, 33°, an official with the center, commented that the hardest part of starting over is the re-creation of

paperwork lost in the blaze. The Active Emeritus Member also commented that it is too early to know where or when, but he is confident that there will be a new Masonic home in Bangor.

There is some hope for the recovery of artifacts. The fire department reported finding packages of photographs in the rubble, virtually untouched. A ceremonial sword was also among the surviving memorabilia. The chief said it was "not a hot burning fire," increasing the chances of salvage.

Bangor Police Sergeant James Owens felt that with the right equipment, former occupants of the building might be able to salvage material from the wreckage.

The building was valued at \$800,000. When asked if this represented one of the largest fires in city history, Deputy Chief Richard Cheverie answered, "without a doubt."

A plea for contributions has been announced. Those wishing to help can send a donation to:

Grand Lodge of Maine  
Bangor Masonic Temple Fund  
Harold McKenney, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 15058  
Portland, ME 04112-5058



All that remained after the remnants were knocked down for safety reasons.

— Photo by A. James Roth



# VIEWS FROM THE PAST

*Quotations selected  
from the past  
may not necessarily  
represent  
today's viewpoint*

## Masons and the Heavens

We have just celebrated the centenary of the first powered flight. Since that cold, windy day at Kitty Hawk 100 years ago, humankind has flown across the oceans, orbited the earth, set foot on the moon, and reached to the very edges of our solar system. We now look back at how we looked to the future during pivotal moments in our reach for the stars.

## Freemasonry and the Space Age

*Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. of Montclair Lodge No. 144 in New Jersey, together with Neil Armstrong were the first two men to set foot on the moon. The feat was accomplished on July 20, 1969.*

Freemasonry is a learned fraternity, having as one of its curricular topics the study and understanding of the mysteries. What man has not looked up into the heavens and wondered? This is one of the greatest of all mysteries. The universe is a profound enigma and we are only an infinitesimal part of it.

Space has intrigued and challenged man from time immemorial. As an earthbound creature, he observed the flight of birds and enviously aspired to their facility of movement. As a speculative and inquisitive entity, he gazed at the vastness of the heavens and was appalled by the infinity of celestial bodies, their orderly groupings, and their systematic movements.

The Fellowcraft is reminded we have the five physical senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. These are our means of apprehending all the reality which surrounds us. The world which we thereby perceive constitutes what we identify as physical matter. Discerning man has long questioned whether this is the only reality in the vast universe.

It would not appear unreasonable, or even unlikely, that there may be

other states or forms of reality as real or possibly even more real than this physical reality with which we make contact through our senses. It would seem extremely probable that there may be life on other planets; life just as real as ours and yet fundamentally different from ours. For us to take this miniscule spatial speck we call life and say that it is the total of life to be found in the universe is to make an injudiciously bold declaration which is also undoubtedly a foolish one.

On Dec. 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, NC, Orville Wright piloted the first flight of a heavier-than-air machine.

Today, many authorities are of the opinion the Air Age has been made obsolete by the Space Age. Obviously we are moving at a tremendous rate of change in the scientific and engineering worlds. We may well take to heart the words:

"I've ridden the wind, I've ridden the sea,  
I've ridden the moon and the stars.  
I've set my feet in the stirrup seat  
Of a comet coursing Mars.  
And everywhere, through earth and air,  
My thought speeds lightning shod.  
It comes to a place where, checking pace,  
It cries: Beyond lies God."

— Mervin B. Hogan, 33°  
*The Royal Arch Mason, Spring 1969*

## A Hundred Years From Now

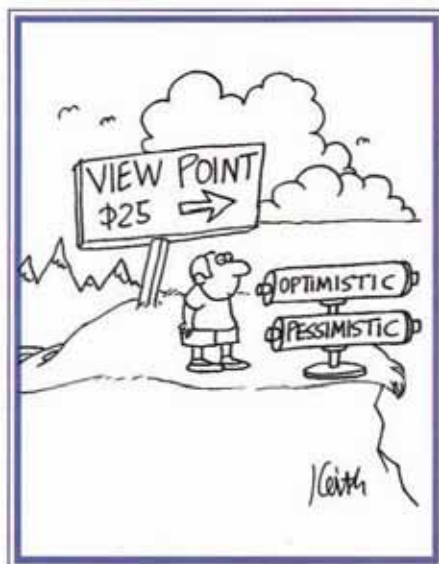
*This poem was published in January 1904, a month after the Wright Brothers made their historic flight.*

The surging sea of human life  
Forever onward rolls,  
And bears to the eternal shore  
Its daily freight of souls;  
Though bravely sails our bark  
today,  
Pale death sits at the prow,  
And few shall know we ever  
lived  
A hundred years from now.

Why should we try so earnestly,  
In life's short, narrow span,  
On golden stairs to climb so high  
Above our brother man?  
Why blindly at an earthly shrine  
In slavish homage bow?  
Our gold will rust, ourselves be  
dust,  
A hundred years from now.

Earth's empires rise and fall, Oh  
Time!  
Like breakers on thy shore!  
They rush upon thy rocks of  
doom,  
Go down and are no more;  
The starry wilderness of worlds  
That gem night's radiant brow  
Will light the skies for other eyes  
A hundred years from now.

— Square & Compass,  
Denver, CO, Jan. 1904





# Freemasonry in a Space Age

On October 4, 1957, *Sputnik I*, the first artificial satellite was launched, opening the Space Age.

When *Sputnik I* made its dramatic appearance, the *News-Letter* planned to capitalize on the emotions of the moment. An editorial — "In Spite of *Sputnik*" — approved by the Sovereign Grand Commander — was laid aside to make room for his generous comments on the retirement of the Grand Prior. Imagine our surprise when, a week or two later, the *New York Herald Tribune* carried an editorial with the same title! It was a comfort to realize that a trained editorial writer in New York and an amateur in Boston shared the same conviction: In spite of *Sputnik*, life goes on! Our editorial was promptly consigned to the wastebasket but the *Sputnik* incident has now evolved into a worldwide concern with the myriad problems of the Space Age.

One who knows nothing of astrophysics is grateful for the significant results of the current emphasis upon outer space. It has introduced us to a large group of scholars who are masters in this field. They are emerging as pioneers in dramatic new aspects of national defense and in rather terrifying weapons of aggressive war. It is a new world which now confronts us — a challenging world in which nations must deal with space ships, space

platforms and, perhaps, with military bases on the moon!

A solemn note of warning has been sounded by Dean Roy Pearson of Andover Newton Theological School in West Newton, MA. "It is good that we increase our proficiency in science," he says, "but only if we do not diminish our capacity in those areas for which science was designed to be not master but servant. We shall find the profit small when we have sold our souls to buy a *Sputnik*."

One wishes that Dean Pearson's illuminating article in *The Christian Century* (Jan. 1, 1958) could be read by every Freemason. "Our salvation," he concludes, "lies neither in the destruction of the Russians nor in the achievement of a military stalemate. It lies in our own commitment to a noble heritage which is as blithely neglected as it is desperately needed."

One who is confused by voices on television, radio and by news columnists with such themes as intercontinental ballistic missiles, rockets and space conquests, which only a few scientists understand, may find peace of mind not only in the church but also in a tiled room from which the noisy world is shut out, a room with an altar in the center and, on the altar, an open Bible. There he feels the nearness and power of the Eternal. That is not an escape psychosis. It is a moral and spiritual conquest. It is the conviction that there is a calmness of spirit which is undisturbed by explosions on a dozen proving grounds.

Do not misunderstand. We must have the proving grounds and be militarily strong. But one may be content to leave the bewildering complexities of the Space Age to the specialists and to trust the experts with the task of assuring us military protection and a wise distribution of Space Age equipment among friendly nations.

There remains the problem of building a national life that is worth protecting. That is the function of the church and the school, but it is also a challenging opportunity for Freemasonry — a worldwide brotherhood, universal in its fellowship, generous in its manifold charities and loyal to the ethical and spiritual precepts which make any nation strong.

— McIllyar H. Lichliter, 33°, *Supreme Council Newsletter*, March 1958

## Quick Quotes

Man's maturity: to have regained the seriousness that he had as a child at play.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

There is only one thing people like that is good for them; a good night's sleep.

— Edgar Watson Howe

The ego is the ugly little troll that lives underneath the bridge between your mind and your heart.

— Dennis Miller

Again and again, the impossible problem is solved when we see that the problem is only a tough decision waiting to be made.

— Dr. Robert Schuller

From the rocking horse to the rocking chair, friendship keeps teaching us about being human.

— Letty Cottin Pogrebin

It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that things are difficult.

— Seneca

If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them, and half as much money.

— Abigail Van Buren

Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are.

— Bernice Johnson Reagon

Don't mistake pleasures for happiness. They are a different breed of dog.

— Josh Billings

The test of enjoyment is the remembrance which it leaves behind.

— Logan Pearsall Smith

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which everyone has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which everyone has some.

— Charles Dickens

### Col. Lindbergh

Charles Lindbergh completed the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic in May 1927. He received his degrees a year earlier in St. Louis.

Did he fly alone  
Mid storm  
With dangers fraught?  
No! Love's arm  
And this sustaining thought,  
Were with him all the way —  
To Le Bourget:

"Tho I fly with Wings of the Morning,  
To the uttermost parts of the sea,  
There will Thy Presence be guarding,  
Thy Right Hand upholding me."

— Thomas Willing Hicks, 32°, *New Age Magazine*, SJ, July 1927



## ■ Fat Cats

One in four pets in the U.S. and other developed nations are obese, says a new report by the National Council of the National Academies. It concludes that cats and dogs eat too much and don't get enough exercise.

Pudgy pets have a greater risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other illnesses.

The answer comes in cutting calories, avoiding snacks and table scraps, and allowing more time outside.



At an ideal weight, a cat is well-proportioned, has a moderate waistline, and has thin fat over its abdomen.

A dog is too fat if you can't feel its ribs, has fat on its back and tail, and it shows no waist when viewed from above.

## ■ Protect Your Roof

To preserve your roof and lengthen its life:

Don't plant trees too close to the house. Cut the branches of mature trees that touch the roof, or hang over it.

Moss growing on a roof traps moisture and rots the shingles. Remove it with a solution of equal parts chlorine bleach and water. Don't do it yourself unless you are sure you'll be safe climbing up on the roof.

Check the roof after a storm to be sure that shingles were not blown off. Have missing shingles replaced.

Keep the gutters clean. Depending on how often they get clogged with leaves and seeds from trees, clean them twice a year or more.

## ■ Turn Off the Volume

Parenting advisor John Rosemond of *The Charlotte Observer* begs parents not to let kids play hand-held electronic games without a mute feature. He spent hours on a plane listening to beep-beep-scratch-beep.

If your teenager listens to music on a personal music player, be sure the volume is such that other people don't have to listen as well.



## ■ Encourage Children to be Leaders

To raise leaders of the future, start discussing current events and politics with children at an early age. Encourage them to be active and take leadership roles in clubs, organizations, and social service groups.

According to the American Counseling Association in Alexandria, VA, children need a grasp of the "pathways and probabilities" for the steps needed to reach leadership goals. They should understand the odds and have a back-up plan in case they fail.

## ■ On the Road in the Kid Taxi

Today's parents are spending more time shuttling their kids to activities than their parents did. According to the Surface Transportation Policy Project of Washington, DC, it is as much as 20 percent more. The percentage holds true for mothers, whether em-



ployed or not. It is not just mothers, however. Federal data show that all American drivers average eleven percent more time behind the wheel than drivers did in 1995.

## ■ Kids Might Have Been Right

If you have been telling your children that they can't leave the table until their plates are empty, stop saying that. According to the American Dietetic Association, small children have a natural instinct, telling them when they have eaten enough.

If they are rewarded for eating everything on their plates, by age five, they will have lost the ability to listen to their bodily cues to eat the right amount.

Nutritionists at Penn State University recommend "kiddie portions," equaling roughly one tablespoon of food for each year of their age, up to six. Don't overload their plates. Let them ask for seconds, if necessary.



## ■ Toddlers & Computers

Disagreement abounds concerning the trend toward exposing three and four-year olds to computers. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry says computers should not be used as babysitters. They say that parents should focus on stimulating children in traditional ways, such as reading, sports, and play.

The educational company Knowledge Adventure disagrees, feeling that preliteracy is the time for computers. Its products are aimed at children as young as three.

One thing both camps agree on, however, is that whatever age your child is exposed to a computer, make sure you are sitting right there.

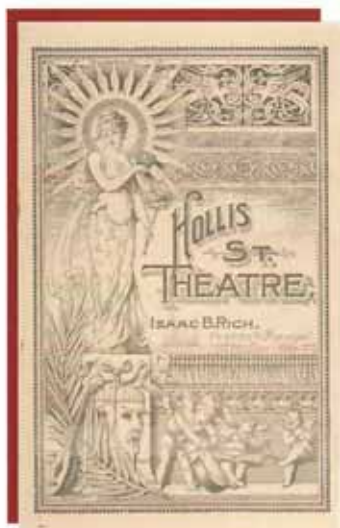




# More than Just Books . . .

Van Gorden-Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum

## Ephemera from Early Boston Theaters On View



Since its founding in 1975, the Van Gorden-Williams Library has continued to grow in many directions.

First and foremost, it is a research facility, specializing in Freemasonry and American history.

Indeed, the library now holds one of the most comprehensive collections on American Masonry.

Comprising nearly 60,000 books and 360 serial titles in all, it also collects material on other fraternal organizations whose development paralleled or was influenced by Masonry.

In addition, there are extensive holdings in American history, ephemera, and the decorative arts.

One such collection of Americana is currently on display at the library in Lexington, MA.

Presented through June 20, 2004, is an exhibit titled, "A Glimpse of Boston Theater, 1850-1903."

This display includes 15 playbills and programs, together with related images, from a vibrant era of Boston theater history.

These playbills, originally posted to advertise particular performances,

feature well-known actors from the day, including Joseph Jefferson, William J. Florence, Joseph Proctor, Helena Modjeska, and Edwin and Junius Brutus Booth, Jr. (brothers of Abraham Lincoln's infamous assassin, John Wilkes Booth).



Florence, a comic actor who also performed Shakespeare with Edwin Booth, was known more commonly as "Billy."

In 1870 he was one of the 13 founders of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Edwin Booth and Joseph Jefferson were also Masons.

The printed programs feature illustrations of grand theaters, such as the Globe, the Hollis, the National, and the Howard Athenaeum.

Objects of particular interest are a handwritten letter from Junius Brutus Booth, Jr., and a portrait by Eastman

Johnson of Edwin Booth's first wife, Mary Devlin.

Nineteenth-century Boston boasted over 20 theatres.

The images and records of the buildings and performances offer an intriguing glimpse of theater in Boston and America some 150 years ago.

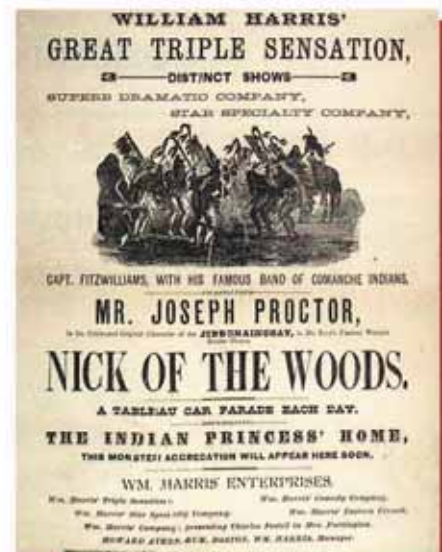
Co-curators, Archivist Catherine Swanson and Public Services Librarian Helaine Davis, said that the exhibition helps to showcase examples of the breadth of materials found in the library and archives.

According to Swanson, the archives contain four different Boston theater-related collections with more than 300 individual items.

The Van Gorden-Williams library is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm. Other hours may be arranged by appointment.

The catalog may be searched online at [vgw.library.net](http://vgw.library.net) or through the National Heritage Museum website ([www.monh.org](http://www.monh.org)).

The library also contains the Supreme Council archives.





## New Website is Launched

After several months in the planning our Supreme Council has launched its new web page at [www.supremecouncil.org](http://www.supremecouncil.org). Visitors will find the appearance much more vibrant and will easily be able to obtain necessary information.

Included at the site are current news and events, an updated list of degree dates in the Valleys, history of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and Scottish Rite in general, frequently asked questions, contacts, and important information on our several charities.

Another way to reach the site is through [www.scottishriteamerica.org](http://www.scottishriteamerica.org). Links from that page bring the visitor to either the Northern or Southern Jurisdiction.

During the coming weeks the page will evolve, as we fine tune it to meet the needs of our membership.

**Keep an Eye on Our New Site at:**

**[www.supremecouncil.org](http://www.supremecouncil.org)**

**or**

**[www.scottishriteamerica.org](http://www.scottishriteamerica.org)**

## On the Lighter Side

*The following are reported to be actual newspaper headlines:*

- Include your children in baking cookies.
- British left waffles on Falkland Islands.
- Teacher strikes idle kids.
- Plane too close to ground, crash probe told.
- Miners refuse to work after death.
- Stolen painting found by tree.
- Red tape holds up new bridge.
- Study of obesity looks for larger test group.
- Kids make nutritious snacks.
- High school dropouts cut in half.
- Hospital sued by seven foot doctors.
- Juvenile court to try shooting defendant.
- Squad helps dog bite victim.
- Two ships collide; one died.

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By **WALLY MILLER**





# Footnotes\*

\* **Visiting SGC.** Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°, the new Sovereign Grand Commander for the Southern Jurisdiction, toured the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's Lexington (MA) headquarters in early January. During his two-day visit he had an opportunity to tour the National Heritage Museum, review the learning centers program, and sit down with the various departments to get a better understanding of his sister jurisdiction to the north.

The two Commanders looked at ways in which both jurisdictions could work in harmony. A number of areas are being considered. There have been occasional joint projects in the past. The most recent has been the effort to renovate the Scottish Rite floor at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

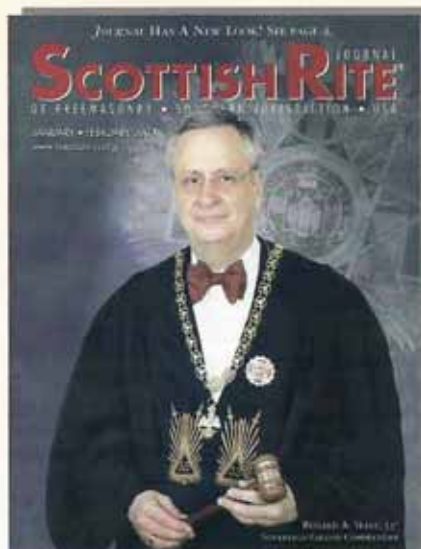
Ill. Brother Seale, an attorney from Baton Rouge, was active in many branches of Freemasonry before assuming his new position in October.

Grand Commander Webber plans to visit the Southern Jurisdiction headquarters in Washington, DC, to get a review of the operations in the south. Both Commanders have expressed a desire to work together for the good of the Rite and the Masonic fraternity.

\* **Publishing the Journal.** The Southern Jurisdiction's monthly publication, *Scottish Rite Journal*, underwent a transformation recently. Originally called *The New Age* until 1990, the magazine adopted a digest size in 1965.

The new format takes on a new look with a page size similar to *The Northern Light*. The other major change is the frequency. Six issues per year will replace the previous twelve issues.

The managing editor, Ill. John W. Boettjer, 33°, has been at the helm since 1989. He and his staff deserve praise for the way they have han-



dled the transition. The new format, introduced with the January-February issue, has received kudos from many sources, and we want to add our own congratulations.

For information about subscribing to the *Journal*, contact the Supreme Council SJ, 1733 16th St., Washington, DC 20009. The subscription rate is \$4 per year or \$9 for three years.

\* **Sharing a page.** One of the suggestions that came out of the meeting of the two Commanders was the need to know what is happening in each other's jurisdiction. Beginning with the May issue of *The Northern Light*, we will include a page of news notes from the Southern Jurisdiction on a quarterly basis.

As an exchange, the *Scottish Rite Journal* will carry a page of notes about the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The first quarterly report will appear in the March-April issue.

\* **On track.** Members of the Model Railroad Club in the Valley of Reading, PA, have installed a train in the pediatric unit of the Reading Hospital. The roadbed for the train is suspended from the ceiling in the children's playroom.

Members of the railroad club have agreed to maintain the track and will alternate the diesel engines from time to time. The operation of the train is controlled by a timer so that the system can be shut down when no one is in the room.

The hospital is across the street from the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The nursing staff has indicated that the train is a great attraction to children at the hospital.

The idea for the club originated in 1996 when Ill. Lynn G. Brandt, 33°, a train enthusiast, was Commander-in-Chief of the Consistory. During the holiday season, members of the club set up a village with multiple trains at the cathedral as part of the Valley's Family Life program.

\* **Back copies.** We continue to get requests for back copies of the magazine. A limited number of back issues for most editions are still available at a cost of \$2 per issue or \$1.50 per issue when ordering three or more issues.

If you wish to order back issues in five-year increments, they are available for \$12 per bundle. These bundles can only be ordered for the periods 1975-79, 1980-84, 1985-89, 1990-94, and 1995-99.

Indexes are prepared every five years. Copies of the indexes will be provided on request at no charge.

Also available are open-ended slip cases that will conveniently hold back issues for a five-year period. The cost is \$6 per case.

Any of these items can be ordered through *The Northern Light*, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°  
Editor



The Northern Light  
P.O. Box 519  
Lexington, MA 02420



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