

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

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A WINDOW FOR FREEMASONRY



NY Masons Fund
CAMP TURK

Breaking the Silence



Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand
Commander

"We must
carry the
banner of
Freemasonry
high for the
world to see."

There was a time not too many decades ago when our Masonic fraternity was well known throughout the country. Nearly everyone seemed to know what Freemasonry stood for. Being a Mason was known as a sign of respect.

Throughout the last three or four decades, however, the familiarity with the fraternity seemed to fade. It coincided with a decline in membership and a disregard for traditional values.

My position as Sovereign Grand Commander requires extensive traveling throughout the jurisdiction. While in flight from one city to another, I often converse with the person sitting next to me only to find that in too many instances the person knows nothing about Freemasonry. Occasionally some would respond that their father or grandfather was a Mason, yet they had not been told anything about it.

What a shame. We were so proud of our membership in a fraternity that espouses good deeds, but we forgot to share it with our family and neighbors. We are like the old story of the proverbial frogs. The frog that was put into a pot of boiling water jumped out right away, but the frog that was put in tepid water didn't realize his future demise when the water was slowly brought to a boil.

In this issue of *The Northern Light* is an amazing story about the Masons in Ohio who recognized the temperature of the water and decided to do something about it. They let people know that the fraternity is alive and well in the state and didn't hesitate to spread the word. The net result was an overwhelming reaction to their efforts as nearly 8,000 men became Master Masons in a day filled with excitement and professionalism.

Even veteran Masons who were skeptical about the one-day class found them-

selves caught up in a new spirit of enthusiasm. During the course of that day I was able to witness this spectacular display of fraternalism by visiting both Cincinnati and Columbus. Anyone who had lost pride in Freemasonry could only be proud on that day.

Other Grand Lodges sent representatives to witness the day's events, fully realizing that it took months of careful planning to lead up to a successful culmination. Perhaps the enthusiasm will carry over to other states.

I was pleased that our Scottish Rite Valleys in Ohio were able to be of major assistance to the Grand Lodge by providing facilities as well as personnel.

Another example of letting the light out from under the bushel basket can be seen at our National Heritage Museum. Brother Mark Tabbert, 32°, has spent nearly two years preparing a new exhibit that opens the door of Freemasonry for all to see. In the space of one museum gallery, visitors can get a much better understanding about the history and philosophy of Freemasonry. The serious student will learn a great deal more about the fraternity by taking the time to study the various elements of the exhibit. Even the casual observer will walk away with a certain amount of knowledge.

This is an exciting time to be a Mason. Indeed it is an exciting time to be a 32° Mason. I sense a renewed interest in our fraternity as we move away from complacency toward a spirit of enthusiastic pride. We now know that we must carry the banner of Freemasonry high so that the world can see who we are and what we stand for. In turn, we will gain that sign of respect.

Sovereign Grand Commander



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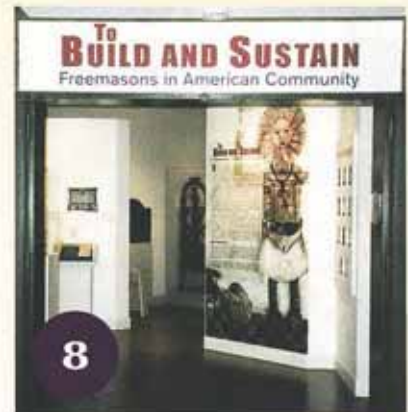
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SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
Robert O. Ralston, 33°

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Summer Fun at Camp Turk

New York Masons provide camp experience for children

The crack of a bat, the sound of water sloshing against young squinty-faced bodies, the high-pitched chatter of children playing, the gong of the dinner bell, Taps.

It's summer camp.

Most of us who attended summer camp as children have fond memories of the adventure: new friends made, new skills learned, horizons broadened.

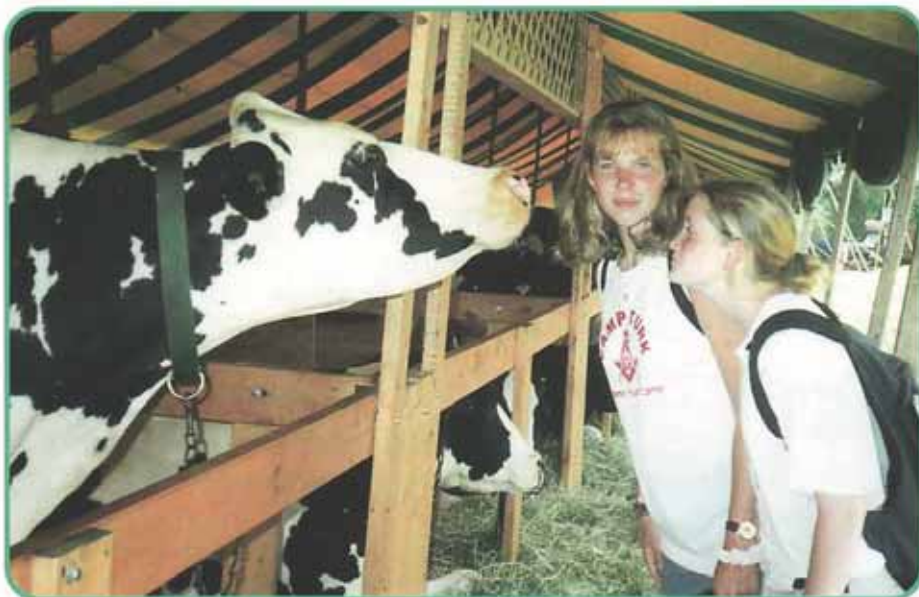
The Freemasons in the Grand Lodge of New York believe everyone should have that experience, regardless of economic status. For more than 40 years the lodge has supported Camp Turk, a Masonic Home youth camp for just that purpose.

A board of Camp Turk Trustees own and maintain the property, and the Masonic Home complex in Utica provides logistical support for the camp.

According to camp administrative assistant Mollie Denslow, the Trustees "are very helpful" when it comes to supporting the camp.

Many New York lodges sponsor a camper or contribute to a sponsorship fund for needy children. The camp recently received a \$28,000 ski boat, kayaks, and \$10,000 worth of computers from New York Masons. The operating budget is derived from donations as well.

"We operate on a lot of donations," Denslow said. "Masons donate to sponsor needy kids, and a lot of lodges sponsor children to come. They are a very generous group of people."



Camp Turk campers from one of the all-girl sessions come face-to-face with cows.

Denslow said some parents pay the \$650 cost for a three-week session, but more commonly, lodges sponsor campers.

Situated on more than 1,600 private acres at the foot of the Adirondack Park Preserve, the camp, surrounded by woodlands, is located about 30 miles outside of Utica in Woodgate, NY.

The camp borders 50-acre Round Lake where campers can swim, fish, wind surf, kayak, canoe and sail. There are more than 32 supervised activities offered at the camp, including tennis, softball, baseball, archery, volleyball, badminton, basketball, rugby, field hockey, soccer, lacrosse, arts and crafts, computer instruction, hiking, theater arts, band, chorus, movies, talent shows and more. The camp, open

to all children between the ages of 10 and 16 as long as they are sponsored by a Mason, can hold 200 campers per session and offers two three-week sessions, one for boys and one for girls.

With private and exclusive access to the pristine lake, there is a strong emphasis on water sports, as well as field activities and typical camping experiences.

The activities are presented with a focus on good sportsmanship, quality instruction, fun and safety. The team sports feature instruction by experienced coaches and the proper level of competition allows every camper to feel comfortable joining in, and promotes teamwork and spirit. The camp's goal is that every camper walks off the field or court with more friends and a higher self-esteem.

A typical day at camp starts at 7:30 a.m. with wake-up, a flag ceremony at 8:15 and breakfast at 8:30. Campers then return to their cottages to clean



ROBIN ROBINSON, Assistant to the Editor, is a former community newspaper editor and reporter with a master's degree in publishing and writing.

Grand Master's Family Day

Every year, the Committee on Camp Turk and the Grand Master hosts Grand Master's Day/Family Day at Camp Turk. This is an excellent opportunity to visit the camp and observe activities, tour the facility (perhaps bring a child who will be able to attend camp in the future), participate in a softball game, enjoy a boat ride and a barbecue.

This year's Grand Master's Family Day will take place Saturday, Aug. 10, 10 am - 5 pm, during the girls' camping session.

Contact Mollie Denslow
Telephone: (315) 942-6716
E-mail: CampTurk@aol.com

up and the first activity of the day begins at 9:45. Several activities are scheduled throughout the day, with a general swim period in the afternoon. Campers prepare for dinner at 5 p.m., have one more field activity after dinner and are back in their cottages at 9:30 p.m.

The Camp Turk program is designed to foster independence and give campers a chance to see what they can do on their own. Since the sessions are only three weeks long, visiting by family members is not encouraged.

According to Camp Chairman Ronald J. Steiner, 32°, each year for the past number of seasons the camp has been filled to capacity with happy, healthy campers and staff.

"Camp Turk stands as a shining jewel in the Masonic firmament of the Grand Lodge of New York," he said.

The ratio of repeat campers and staff is indicative of a successful camping program.

"Every year we get letters from campers and parents on how kids benefited from the camp," said Denslow. "We have lots of repeat kids, in fact, more than half of our enrollment is repeat campers."

The staff at Camp Turk consists of about 60 adults ages 19 and up with a minimum of one year of college. They come from all around the country, as well as from other countries, and are selected based on background, experience, training, and interest in children. There is one adult counselor or staff member for every four campers. The counselors complete a one-week train-

ing session in their activity area, as well as in counseling. All staff is certified in First Aid and CPR.

Named Camp Turk in honor of Past Grand Master Nathan Turk, the camp was originally created for children with Masonic ties in 1961. It was Turk who expanded the camping program in 1976 to accept children and grandchildren of Masons, plus members of DeMolay, Rainbow, Triangle and Constellation of Junior Stars. The program now accepts non-Masonic-affiliated children as long as they are sponsored by a lodge or individual Mason.

While the majority of children are from New York and have some connection to Masonry, there are several campers registered from Germany and Belgium, as well as Arizona, Florida, and North Carolina.

Camp Turk was once a dairy and potato farm and most of the land surrounding the property was devoted to agricultural farming or used as a source of lumber.

The first 472 acres of what was to become the Masonic Home Youth Camp was purchased by the Trustees of the Masonic Home and Asylum Fund (as the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home were then called) in 1923.

From 1924 through the 1930s the Trustees gradually acquired the additional property that makes up the 1,600 acres of woodlands, Round Lake and nearby Mud Pond.

In the 1930s-40s, the Masonic Home in Utica cared for nearly 300 boys and

girls, many of whom were orphans. The children spent their summers at the Masonic Home Youth Camp along with a number of the Home's senior guests. Most of the early camp buildings still in use today were built by boys then in residence at the Masonic Home.

The stone facade on frame structures is typical of Adirondack "camp" construction but the Masonic symbols cut into the stones are unique and remain clearly visible today.

As years passed, there were fewer children residing at the Masonic Home and the summer camp population declined until only a few adult Home residents visited the facility.

The Grand Lodge Youth Committee, organized in 1958, approached the Trustees with the idea of operating, on an experimental basis, a two-week summer camp for boys at Round Lake. In 1961, the program was instituted with 20 boys from 20 Masonic Districts participating in the program. From 1961 until 1975, the Masonic summer camp program was limited to boys and grew to 75 youngsters attending each two-week session with three camping sessions each summer.

By 1990, however, it was recognized that the facilities at Round Lake were still under-utilized and the camp itself needed renovation. Two successive Grand Masters, Richard P. Thomas and Roswell T. Swits, instituted necessary changes and the existing Camp Turk was born.

Ending a day lakeside, girls from Camp Turk roast marshmallows and enjoy fellowship.



Ohio's One-Day Class

Special event generates enthusiastic response

Although controversy continues over the various methods of conferring degrees, the recent success of the Grand Lodge of Ohio has provided convincing evidence for examining new approaches.

Using a carefully prepared plan of action, Ohio Masons witnessed nearly 8,000 men become Master Masons during a one-day class on April 27.

"The numbers far exceeded our expectations," said Ill. Jim S. Deyo, 33°, an Active Member of the Supreme Council.

Ill. Brother Deyo is Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. When the delegates at the Grand Lodge session in October gave approval for the one-day class, Grand Master Thomas E. Reynolds assigned Brother Deyo the task of laying the groundwork for the special class.

Similar attempts for a one-day class had been proposed in the past but never received sufficient support from the delegates at previous Grand Lodge meetings. Realizing that there were some skeptical voices when final approval was given, the committee took special care to see that certain steps were followed. All candidates were required to petition a lodge and all were to be thoroughly investigated and balloted on in the normal manner.

The degrees were to be presented in their entirety and in an impressive manner. A mentor would be assigned to each candidate to assist during the degrees.

Each candidate was presented with a Bible, an apron and a small set of square and compasses to assume the obligation with the assistance of the mentor. The candidates also participated by giving and receiving the various signs and grips.

One of the first concerns of the committee was to select a location for the

Ohio One-Day Class*

Valley Location	Blue Lodge Candidates	Scottish Rite Candidates
Akron	266	154
Cambridge	749	317
Canton	409	265
Cincinnati	1,108	1,092
Cleveland	507	326
Columbus	1,683	913
Dayton	1,274	964
Steubenville	347	227
Toledo	921	463
Youngstown	470	235
Totals	7,734	4,956

*Unofficial results

event. A central point for such a large state did not seem practical. So Brother Deyo discussed an idea with Scottish Rite Deputy James E. Olmstead, 33°, who is also a Past Grand Master in Ohio.

Why not have the ten Scottish Rite Valleys in the state host the event? In most instances the Scottish Rite buildings have the largest facilities. It was also agreed that the Valleys have had experience in handling large classes at reunions.

The Valleys agreed not only to offer the free use of their buildings but also to provide the manpower for such administrative services as registration, site and meal preparation, and notification of candidates. Scottish Rite would pay for the cost of lunches for the candidates, and the Grand Lodge would provide free meals to the mentors, ritualists and visitors.

In turn, the Grand Master permitted the Scottish Rite to conduct a Valley reunion at each site immediately following the Master Mason degree. The Sovereign Grand Commander gave permission for the new Masons to become Scottish Rite members by viewing only the 32° that day.

The Grand Master's original goal was 2,000 new Master Masons. Ill. Brother Deyo considered the possibility of reaching 5,000. But never did he anticipate the end result would begin to approach 8,000.

Because each blue lodge is responsible for filing the official forms with their annual returns, the exact total will not be known until the reports are received on July 31, the end of the fiscal year.

During the weeks leading up to the event, the leadership at some locations were concerned that the numbers would exceed their space limitations. The Cincinnati Scottish Rite Cathedral, for instance, will seat 830. So a decision was made in early April to move the festivities to the First Star Center, a new enclosed arena with a seating capacity of 15,000. Half of the arena was cordoned off.

Toledo and Dayton could not find a larger site, so a second location was provided in each city. Cambridge, with no other choice, had to limit the access for visitors.

Realizing that there were many Ohio Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who had never completed the work, a special effort was made to review old records and offer these Masons an opportunity to become Master Masons. It was felt that many had not completed the work because of the required memorization. That provision had been waived for all candidates in the one-day class.

Initial reports indicate that 24 percent of the class were candidates who had



The Columbus location was moved to the 2,875-seat Palace Theater, which was filled to capacity.

started their degree work but never finished.

According to Ohio Grand Secretary George O. Braatz, 33°, approximately 100 candidates were from out of state. These were relatives of Ohio Masons who wanted to join the home lodge of their family members. His office requested more than 130 waivers of jurisdiction from other Grand Lodges. Most Grand Lodges cooperated, but five states refused the requests, and about 30 potential candidates were not permitted to participate. "Unfortunately, most of these men will never be Masons, especially now," said Ill. Brother Braatz.

A number of Grand Lodges sent representatives to Ohio to observe the ceremonies. Some are expecting to take advantage of the lessons learned from Ohio. Illinois has scheduled a one-day class for Aug. 10. Massachusetts has arranged for a special day in November 2003.

The Ohio day began with registration at 6:30 a.m. One Valley decided to open registration at 5:30 a.m., but volunteers were surprised to find candidates standing in line as early as 4:30 a.m. One of the major hurdles of the day was to get all candidates registered in time for the opening of the First Degree at 8:30. The Fellowcraft Degree was scheduled for 10:30, and after a break for lunch the Master Mason Degree was

conferred at 1 p.m. Scottish Rite work began at 4 p.m.

To overcome some barriers, the Grand Master issued several edicts:

1. He allowed lodges to take action on petitions at "special" meetings.

2. He allowed men to be in the class if they were to be 19 years of age on or before April 27, 2002. Ohio rules indicate that a man must be 19 before he can petition a lodge.

3. He eliminated the residency requirement of having to be an Ohio resident for one year. This permitted the requests for jurisdictional waivers.

4. He permitted related Masonic organizations to seek petitions from those who would be in the one-day class but were not yet Master Masons. Ohio rules forbid any solicitation of membership by related Masonic organizations until an individual completes his Master Mason examination.

One of the prime factors in the key to success in Ohio was getting the word out. In addition to direct mailings to current members of Ohio lodges, a series of news releases were sent to newspapers across the state and advertisements appeared on the screens in movie theaters in Ohio emphasizing the phrase, "Practicing the principles that make our country great." In each instance, people were directed to the Grand Lodge Web site.

The final list of candidates included

elected officials, business executives, clergymen, and a wide range of ages from 19-99. Among the class was a great nephew of President Warren G. Harding, who was also an Ohio Mason.


Ill. Brother Braatz called the program a "grass roots" revival. "Like a snowball coming down a mountain, it grew, expanded, and developed into a huge, almost unstoppable, force," he said.

He also pointed out that the excitement drew additional candidates who wanted to join in the traditional manner.

Of the 570 lodges in Ohio, about 550 participated with at least one candidate. Some of the larger lodges added 50-80 new members at one time. One small lodge grew by about 50 percent on that one day.

"The enthusiasm permeating the entire Grand Lodge is astounding," said the Grand Master. The general feeling at all locations was that the event had sparked new life into Freemasonry in Ohio.

Now that the new members have been initiated, where do they go from here?

The lodges have been encouraged to schedule special programs locally to provide the new members with additional information. According to Ill. Brother Deyo, retention will be a major focus as we develop substantial educational programs. 

Name That Exhibit

Creating an appropriate exhibition title is no easy task

Of all the work and planning that goes into creating a museum exhibit, one might assume that titling the finished product is the effortless part. However, summing up a complex exhibition that explains Freemasonry, and its place within the 275 years of American history, might seem easy — but in eight words or less?

It took two years and dozens of rewrites to determine the name that would succinctly and clearly describe the meaning behind the new Masonic exhibit, "To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community."

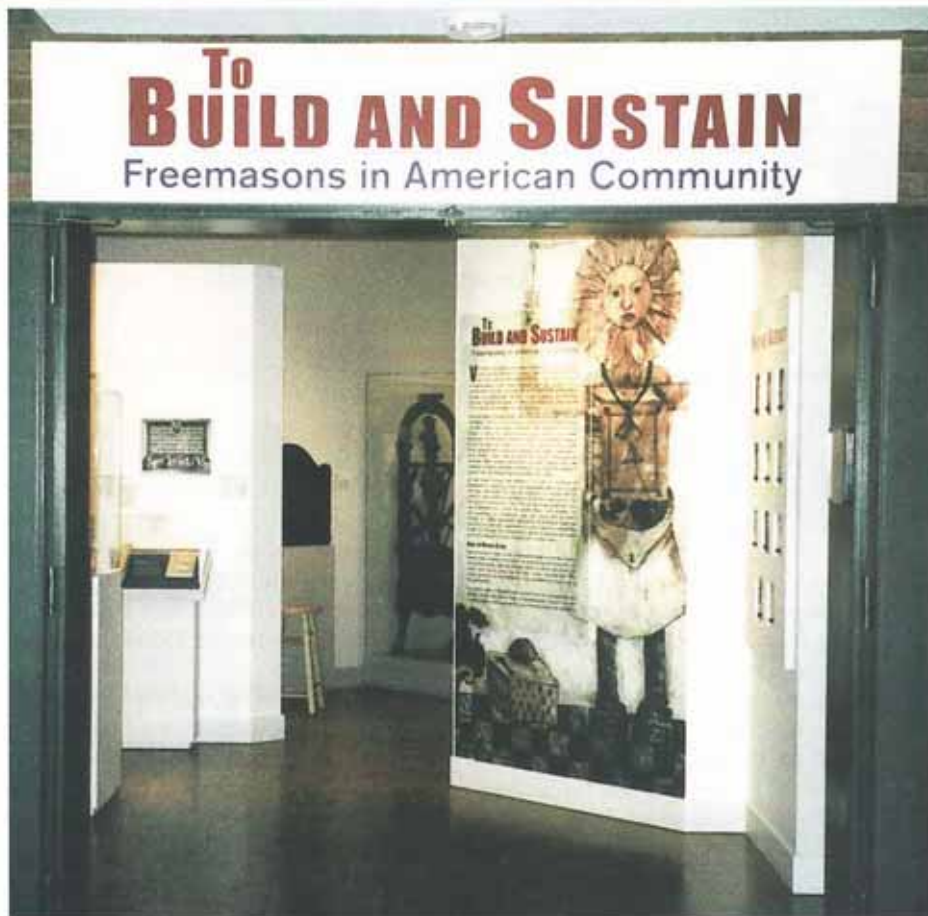
The exhibition opened at the National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA, in May.

Carefully chosen, each word singularly and collectively brings to life the many concepts woven into the exhibit.

The title's first half, "To Build and Sustain," indicates the explanation of what Freemasonry is. Building is what operative stonemasons do, but it is also what speculative Masons do. While stonemasons construct buildings in a community, Freemasons build better men in a fraternity.

"To Build" represents Freemasonry's mission of continually improving upon the self, with the intent of becoming a better man who can better serve his family and community.

Advancing through degrees and offices has a long-term cumulative effect, as opposed to other clubs whose members participate in activities that are independent of each other.



Freemasons focus on long-range charitable projects and goals, while a book or hiking club focuses on single event affiliations with no summational conclusion.

In addition, Freemasons do more than just build, they build to last. The profound endurance of Freemasonry proves the organization's staying power. They sustain.

Unlike other craftsmen — such as weavers, cobblers or even carpenters — the churches and castles built by our

operative brethren are still being used hundreds of years after their completion. Freemasonry as a fraternity has also endured through wars and revolutions, good times and bad.

As stonemasons do not quit work once the building is functioning, Freemasons forever maintain their fraternity through continual application of time, money, work, and other forms of charity. Our ancient organization will continue to build upon and beautify its edifice for many generations to come.

"To Build and Sustain" conveys the idea that Freemasonry lays a solid foundation, erects a strong building upon it, then perpetually adorns the edifice.



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

'To Build and Sustain' conveys the idea that Freemasonry lays a solid foundation, erects a strong building upon it, and perpetually adorns the edifice

For the exhibition's purpose it refers to America and its communities, but within the craft, it also refers to the individual Freemason's life, the fraternity of a local lodge and worldwide Freemasonry.

The phrase also relates to the timelessness of the craft's rituals and symbolism and specifically to the three principle supports of a lodge: wisdom, strength and beauty.

"Build and sustain" is a paraphrase or adaptation of "wisdom to contrive, strength to support and beauty to adorn" and one of the suggested titles for the exhibit was: "Building with Wisdom Strength and Beauty: Freemasons in American Community."

Lastly, "Build and Sustain" supports the exhibition's mission to explain what Freemasonry is by presenting its rituals, symbols, and lectures.

In the exhibit's introductory section, visitors learn that the craft receives its pillar of wisdom (symbolized by the Ionic capital) to contrive fraternity from Judeo-Christian religion.

It receives the pillar of strength of organizational support and international fraternity from the stonemasons (symbolized by the Doric capital).

Freemasonry learned to adorn its lodge rooms with beautiful architecture and its rituals with appealing language (symbolized by the Corinthian capital) from Enlightenment philosophers.

The three elements combined to help create Freemasonry. In association with these three pillars and communities, Freemasonry also received three tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.

We learn of brotherly love or the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. We are all one family from all religions.

The notion of relief or mutual benefit is the basis from which we form our friendship and establish our connections, and we received that principle from stonemasons.

From the early scientists like Benjamin Franklin and Elias Ashmole, we learned that to be good and true is a method of regulating our conduct.

However, it takes more than an established organization to build and sus-

tain. The members of the organization must actively do the work.

Therefore, it is "Freemasons in American Community" who build and sustain, or more specifically, men who join the fraternity of Freemasons. It is this second part of the title that reveals the unmistakable purpose of the exhibit.

First, we choose the word Freemasons over Freemasonry because men make the fraternity; the fraternity does not make the men. The individual Freemason, as a member of the fraternity, makes the difference.

We wanted to be sure that visitors understand that Freemasonry does not consist solely of buildings, rituals, symbols or other material objects, but of its members.

The exhibit illustrates the story of men who attend Masonic lodge meetings once or twice a month, but spend the rest of their time with their family, in professional roles of their trade or career, as members of their faith or other identities.

Freemasonry is a voluntary association just like other clubs and organizations — Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Elks or League of Women Voters.

An organization can have millions of dollars, beautiful rituals and symbols and deep and good spiritual and moral principles, but without members, it is not a fraternity, and it builds or achieves nothing.

It might have been better to use the phrase: Men who are members of the Masonic fraternity. However, that would put us beyond our eight-word limit.

Next is the word "in," referring to being surrounded by, or a part of, and not separate. Originally the title included "and," which speaks of separateness, but "Freemasons in American Community" shows that the fraternity and its members are not separate, hidden or secretive.

Freemasons, along with their lodge building and temples, have always been very visible in towns and cities. Freemasons also participate in their communities in many ways, not just while they are servicing their community as Masons, but when they are members of

other volunteer associations, such as the Rotary, the Elks or coaching little league, or donating blood.

The varied display of postcards of Masonic temples from all over the country and large group shots of Freemasons participating at banquets, parades or community service projects reinforces this point.

The words "American Community" were chosen to place the exhibit in our country and stay in line with the mission of the National Heritage Museum.


Freemasonry exists in more than 100 countries and takes on different forms and different purposes according to the culture in which it grows. American Freemasons are very different from Brazilian or French or Indian or Norwegian Freemasons.

American Freemasons, like most Americans, are more active socially, more diverse in class, race and religion, and particularly more charitable than other forms of worldwide Freemasonry.

Lastly, the word "Community" encompasses a great diversity of definition. From the community within a Masonic lodge, to the community of the 50 states of America, across all time spans and human characteristics, there is a community whenever two or three Masons gather.

"Community" is synonymous with "fraternity," and "brotherhood." Comparable to the union of states to create our nation, a community of local lodges creates a Grand Lodge; "E Pluribus Unum" — "out of many one."

To make this point we purposely tried to acquire and borrow Masonic artifacts from many Grand Lodges across the country. Over 35 states are represented in the exhibition with Masonic objects spanning nearly 300 years from 1735 to 2002.

Thousands of hours of thought and deliberation comprise any museum exhibit, and "To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community" was no exception. Plans were strategic and thorough, including the creation of the eight-word title. The end result is a comprehensive exhibition of the history and nature of the fraternity, right down to the last word in the title. 

New Exhibit Sheds Light on Freemasonry



Visitors to the new Masonic exhibition at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington have been impressed with the depth of information about Freemasonry displayed within a small area.

Masons have left with a sense of pride and in many instances with a better understanding of the history and intricacies of the fraternity.

Non-Masons have expressed surprise at the openness of a subject that is too often considered "secret" and "mysterious."

Entering the gallery, one is confronted with faces of familiar personalities who have been associated with the fraternity. The first section is a brief orientation on the origin of Freemasonry, its introduction into the colonies from England, and the early years in the United States through 1845.

This includes an explanation of the Morgan incident that led to the anti-Masonic period in the country.

One of the hands-on displays in the opening section demonstrates the importance of the square. The visitor can test a set of blocks to check angles. The plumb and level are also there, along with explanations of the symbolic significance.

Another hands-on display is available on a computer screen. A virtual lodge room has been created so that the viewer can point to various parts

of the room to find the various officers' stations and the duties and symbolism of each position.

Another computer screen in the closing section allows visitors to view Web sites of other civic and fraternal organizations and get answers to frequently asked questions about Freemasonry.

The main portion of the exhibition is laid out as a typical American community. A series of building facades are used to represent seven reasons why people join fraternal organiza-

tions. A library, for instance, represents self improvement and demonstrates how Freemasonry encourages the preservation and pursuit of knowledge.

A Masonic Temple represents the ritualistic aspect. A music hall associates with the social encounters. Within each of the seven "buildings" are photographs, illustrations, and objects to explain the association with the Masonic fraternity.

The final section emphasizes Freemasonry today as Masons work to uphold the tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth for the betterment of their communities.

The subject matter for the exhibition was created by Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the museum. Brother Tabbert is quick to point out, however, that the exhibition came to fruition through the efforts of many staff members. The net result is an impressive display that was long overdue. The exhibition is expected to remain for at least four years.

A museum catalogue is expected to be published during the coming year to accompany the exhibition. It will also contain many items and information that were eliminated from the eventual display for lack of space.



Treating Dyslexia

Learning Centers find success with Orton-Gillingham method

Dyslexia left untreated can have a negative impact on the lives of approximately 2 million children across our nation. The devastating consequences affect individuals, families, and society.

Effects on Untreated Dyslexics

Dyslexic children are average to above average in intelligence, but they learn differently from their peers. This difference sets them apart from their classmates and often leads to social rejection and feelings of humiliation. Reading aloud or being called on to answer questions based on reading assignments is a nightmare for them because their struggle to do so is often met with derision from classmates.

These children often suffer permanent damage to self-esteem and enter into adulthood with potentials never to be realized. Their ability to succeed in the work force is hampered by their inability to read. Their relationships with their own children exclude bedtime stories and help with homework. They live with the fear of exposure and consequent rejection. This is a hard price to pay for a problem that should have been addressed during childhood.

Effects on Families

The families of dyslexics are negatively affected as well. The base of all parental instincts is to protect and nurture their offspring, guiding them steadily into adulthood. When there



32nd Masonic Learning Centers for Children provide one-on-one tutoring.

are academic problems, parents feel ill equipped to work with the dyslexic family member and so they look to the professionals for help.

Yet, when dyslexics continue to falter, despite the help given by the education system, parents feel impotent and hopeless. Siblings in the family may even begin to resent the dyslexic family member for receiving so much of the parents' attention. In fact, no family member escapes the frustration of the impact of dyslexia on one of its members.

Effects on Society

This domino effect eventually reaches society, and it suffers the backlash of the emotional, social and psychological suffering that these children have endured for years. Although there are

no recorded statistics on dyslexics in the juvenile justice system, we do know that dyslexia comprises about 80 percent of the population of children with learning disabilities. One only needs to extrapolate from the following data gathered on the learning disabled to see how untreated dyslexia contributes to societal problems.

It has been noted that 35 percent of children diagnosed with learning disabilities drop out of high school. This should come as no surprise, given the many years of negative experiences associated with school.

An alarming example of their frustration and low self-esteem is made evident through problems with the law. Thirty-one percent of those with learning disabilities are arrested within three to five years of leaving high school.

Equally shocking is the fact that 60 percent of substance abusers have learning disabilities. People turn to drugs and alcohol for various reasons ➤



CAROLYN E. GRAMLING, M.S.Ed., is a reading specialist and professor of reading at Suffolk Community College, Selden, N.Y.

➤ that are not always understood or revealed. Yet, there is no denying the correlation between substance abuse and the learning disabled. These users have had a documented life of emotional and social upheaval through the painful years of schooling. Their sense of self-respect has been dashed since first grade, when the cognitive task of reading loomed like a monster in a bad dream.

From downside to upside

Despite this grim picture of the downside of dyslexia, the negative consequences of this disorder are not inevitable. Given the proper tools, the majority of dyslexics can learn to read up to the level of their intellectual ability. They can learn to spell adequately, if not always consistently, and to write at least legibly.

Many of these children not only have high intelligence, but due to their larger than normal right hemisphere of the brain, they have important gifts in other areas from which they and society can benefit.

The public schools and dyslexia

So how can we make this happen? Why aren't these children receiving the proper tools to help them? Why are their educational needs not being met? Although some people are inclined to blame the public schools, this is not a fair assessment.

First and foremost, the public schools have an enormous responsibility to educate all children. Some 85-90 percent of school children are mainstream, that is, they do not have a documented learning disability. These students must learn the required content in order to graduate from high school, and the schools across the country do a fine job in making this happen.

Administrators and teachers also do a wonderful job educating children with documented learning disabilities. There are many excellent educational programs designed to help children with general reading disabilities that are used in public schools.

But teaching the dyslexic is different. It is a neurologically based disorder that varies in its complexity of aberrations from one student to the next. These children need a program that actually retrains the brain's neurological connections. Considering the fact that there are about 200 billion neurons in the brain, 30 billion of which are located in

the cerebral cortex where most of learning takes place, one can imagine the potential for variance in neural networks from one individual case of dyslexia to another. Thus, each child must be taught on an individual basis.

Orton-Gillingham works!

The prototype of teaching methods for dyslexia is the Orton-Gillingham approach; its methodologies are research based. Three people were instrumental in designing and implementing the Orton-Gillingham approach.

Samuel T. Orton, M.D., began his research of dyslexia in the 1920's after having earned a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and a master's degree at Harvard. As both a neurologist and a psychiatrist, Orton taught at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, worked in pathology, and directed research at the New York Neurological Institute. He served as President of both the American Psychiatric Association and the American Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease.

Given the proper tools, the majority of dyslexics can learn to read up to the level of their intellectual ability.

It was in New York that Dr. Orton met Anna Gillingham, a teacher, psychologist and reading expert. Gillingham earned two bachelor's degrees from Swarthmore College and Radcliffe and a master's degree from Columbia.

Together, Orton and Gillingham introduced the idea of using psychological testing and multisensory pedagogical approaches to identify, diagnose, and remediate children with language problems. Dr. Orton's prescriptive philosophy was to reduce the language to its elements, that is, the 44 sounds and the 26 letters with which they can be written. Furthermore, a pedagogical approach of introducing these language elements needed to include the coordination of all senses (multisensory).


It was Gillingham, with the help of her colleague, Bessie Stillman, who gave practical implementation to the ideas that Orton formulated. The Gillingham-Stillman Manual, published in 1935, is still used today by teachers around the world.

Like an old war horse, the Orton-Gillingham method is faithful to the task. Thanks to the foresight and wisdom of Ill. J. Philip Berquist, 33°, the tutors in the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., use this dependable method to help children learn to read.

The approach, which requires a one-on-one setting, is an expensive undertaking. What school system can afford to hire teachers to work with 15 percent of its enrollment on an individual basis? The approach must be multisensory, a method of teaching which employs auditory, visual, and kinesthetic/tactile techniques and which requires the added expense of special materials.

One of the basic tenets of the Orton-Gillingham approach is that no student can go to another level until the previous level is mastered. This could require hours of review and reinforcement, which would take time away from meeting the state-mandated curriculum requirements. It is unrealistic to think that public schools can provide all the services needed to help the dyslexic child succeed.

Finally, use of the Orton-Gillingham approach with dyslexic children requires the expertise of highly trained teachers. It is a comprehensive pedagogy specific to the area of phonemic awareness and word identification skills. Although there are several teaching methods that reflect this multisensory structured language philosophy, the Orton-Gillingham method is most effective for dyslexics. It, along with other similarly designed programs, is also too great a burden for most school budgets to handle.

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., is a laudable undertaking. Many parents of dyslexic children simply cannot afford the hours of one-on-one tutoring using the proven Orton-Gillingham approach, and dyslexics, left unattended, fall by society's wayside. Just as the world-renowned Shriners Hospitals give orthopedic and burn patients a second chance at life, the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., are doing the same for young children who struggle with dyslexia. 



Worcester Center Holds Dedication

Scottish Rite Masons in central Massachusetts wanted to see a 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children in the greater Worcester area.

Unfortunately there were no funds allotted for another center in the state. After two years of planning and preparation, the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts stepped forward to fund the annual operating budget for the new Massachusetts center.

In October, the center opened with two tutors and four children. Less than four months later, the center had grown to include eight tutors and 16 children.

When the fall 2002 session begins, four tutor trainees will join the staff and up to 25 children will be enrolled. This near capacity enrollment exceeds forecasted projections by nearly a year.

In May, the center held a dedication ceremony to celebrate its rapid success. Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, 33°, presided at the dedication, assisted by Ill. Robert W. Clarke, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts, and Ill. C. William Lakso, 33°, and Ill. Ralph I. Sewall, 33°, Active Members.

Center Director Sally LaPlant spoke on the growth and success of the cen-

ter. The assistant superintendents of the Worcester Public and Worcester Parochial School systems welcomed the center to the educational community of Worcester with brief speeches.

Most Rev. Daniel P. Reilly, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Worcester and member of the Board of Governors for the learning center, gave the invocation. He said he felt "ten-feet tall to be associated with the fine people that brought this great endeavor to reality."

He added, "Masons are great at finding people that need help and doing it quietly and very, very efficiently."

Chicago Center Head Named Director of Clinical Affairs

The Supreme Council has announced the appointment of Dr. David C. Winters as Director of Clinical Affairs for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. David has spent the last three years as the director of the Chicago Learning Center.

His background in education, dyslexia, and learning center administration, combined with his 22 years in private practice, gives him a solid foundation to serve the centers.

Winters succeeds Ill. Richard W. Van Doren, 33°, who retired in June. Dr. Van Doren was the first fulltime clinical director for the centers.

Winters has considerable experience in diagnosing learning disabilities, including dyslexia. He has worked with a clinical psychologist from 1979 to the present, serving as director of The Learning Place in Chicago.

Winters instructed at numerous academic and educational organizations, including Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, Educational Resources Institute of Dulles, VA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Adult Learning Resource Center, IL, and Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, MN.



David C. Winters, Ph.D.

Winters became interested in the field of learning disabilities when he taught 8th-grade English at a private school, and discovered that one of his students who displayed behavior issues could not read.

"That experience started me down the path to discover a way to help children with dyslexia," Winters said.

Shortly after, Winters pursued a master's degree in learning disabili-

ties at Rockford College, Rockford, IL. He continued his education to complete his doctorate at Northwestern University in the field of communication sciences and disorders.

Over his many years in the field, Winters has seen how Orton-Gillingham tutoring can help, but that it is costly for most families to provide for their children.

"As a member (and branch president) of the International Dyslexia Association, I have had a lot of training in Orton-Gillingham, and one of the things I saw very early on is that it is just plain expensive for families," he said. "I always thought that we needed to help families whether they could afford it or not. That's the beauty of this whole program. I am so excited that we offer the tutoring — and the tutor training — free."

Winters said he is also very excited about the research potential of the program. As data is collected from all centers, 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., has the ability to collect large samples for studies with consistency throughout the program.

Continued on page 14

Sponsor a Child Program Reaches \$500,000!

Sponsor A Child, the innovative program introduced last September, has received more than \$500,000 from 100 sponsors during its initial year, according to 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., Executive Director Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°.

"We are delighted with the outstanding response to our appeal as the contributions will help meet some of our annual operating expenses," he said.

The Sponsor a Child program began as a pilot program with the seven learning centers in the New England region. The program, designed to link donors with the children they sponsor, seeks financial support from local businesses, foundations, civic organizations, individuals and Masonic bodies. The response was so successful that it quickly was made available to all learning centers.

As of March 31, the program had received more than \$290,000 in sponsorships. In just four short months

since March, that amount has almost doubled to \$500,000.

"These generous and much welcomed commitments will allow us to continue our growth," Berlandi said. "We are greatly appreciative of the support for this program as it demonstrates the importance of community-wide participation in our efforts to assist children with dyslexia."

The growth of the program and the positive impact it has on the children and their families is remarkable.

As more children receive tutoring and more tutors are trained, the positive impact we have on our communities increases. The

goal is to find a sponsor for every child enrolled in the 39 learning centers throughout the 15-state jurisdiction.

"We are off to a terrific start and with the continued support within and without our fraternity, we will be able to match additional sponsors to every child in our program," he said.



Continued from page 13

"When I think of the impact this program can have on children, families, educators and on the entire field of dyslexia, it's phenomenal," he said.

Winters has set a few goals for himself as clinical director. He hopes to visit each center in the coming year and get to know the staff at each. He plans to maintain the integrity of the program and provide direction for clinical aspects, such as curriculum, tutoring, students served and data collected.

"I want to make sure we fulfill our mission statement to our highest ability," he said.

Winters said helping people learn to read is tremendously rewarding and the far-reaching impact of being a clinical director will be more so.

"I get great satisfaction in knowing we influence the lives of children, families and communities," he said. "I love working with people one-on-one, but this position will allow me to have more influence and multiply the good."

Winters and his wife, Kathryn, an information technology director, will relocate from Chicago to the Boston area at the end of the summer.

DYSLEXIC ARTIST OFFERS HOPE

Aubré Duncan grew up as a dyslexic in a time when not many understood the affliction, and even fewer knew how to treat it.

Students with what was then called "congenital word-blindness" had to find their own way to make it through school. There were no specialized tutoring programs for dyslexics, only classes for "slow learners and disruptive children."

Aubré had a slight edge because her mother was a child psychologist and was supportive.

She discovered that Aubré could learn with the appropriate home teaching system, so she researched the field and developed her own teaching technique to assist her daughter in learning to read. With her mother's hope, Aubré was able to advance through school.

The struggle to overcome dyslexia was constant and to escape the frustration Aubré would draw.

"In grammar school, I was often drawing and sketching when I should have been paying attention," the Delaware artist said. "Drawing was an escape, a way to express myself without frustration."

Aubré studied art in high school and after graduation attended the California College of Art and Crafts. It was there that she was surprised to learn that having dyslexia had its benefits.

As an artist, she naturally sees objects differently than most people. Her paintings were always different from other students, as was her award-winning tapestry.

"It was then that I realized that my way of thinking was different. I had a unique way of looking at things, a mode of seeing that was pure and simple. I had the unusual ability to focus on the subject, filter out irrelevant clutter and paint in rich vibrant colors," she said.

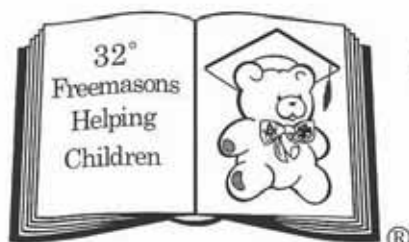
After college graduation, Aubré taught art for 12 years, then turned toward her own endeavors full time in 1993.

To help raise funds for the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., Aubré has made available her 26 paintings of "Fun-Phabets," created to assist in the learning process. The paintings, one for each letter of the alphabet, depict simple and unique scenes associated with each letter.

"These pieces were created with an eye to the unusual for the gifted dyslexic by a fortunate dyslexic artist," she said.

As a dyslexic, Aubré has a deep and abiding interest in assisting the young in overcoming dyslexia.

"I do not want a dyslexic child to be subjected to the cruelties and frustrations I experienced," she said. "It is a privilege to present my (paintings) to the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc."



Give the Gift of Literacy

Help Conquer Dyslexia, One Child at a time

To honor your donation to the 32° Masonic

Learning Center for Children you will receive an inspiring work of art. Make a \$60 donation* and receive one of these colorful "Fun-Phabets" created by Aubré Duncan. Get several to spell your favorite child's name. Better yet, get the whole alphabet!** "Fun-phabets" make splendid gifts, that teach while they decorate.

Give consideration to the following:

- ♦ Your donation helps a child overcome dyslexia
- ♦ One in five children are dyslexic and need help
- ♦ Early remediation works wonders, and the earlier the better
- ♦ Our Orton-Gillingham teaching system results in literate, creative, productive citizens
- ♦ For a young dyslexic to read is a triumph
- ♦ In our tradition, there is no charge to the parent
- ♦ * 50% of the proceeds benefit the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

"Fun-phabets"



I'm creative,
I'm an artist,
I'm dyslexic.
Aubré



Aubré is a respected art teacher and successful artist. In the 1960's, with her mother's help, she overcame dyslexia before it had a name. Few were so fortunate. Most challenged youngsters slipped through the cracks. Today there is no excuse. We have the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children and Aubré is helping with her "Fun-phabet" series.

Size: 9"x 9"x 3/4" stretched art canvas with a rainbow edge, ready to hang.

"Fun-phabets" are Qorographs, new state of the art reproductions created using DuPont Technology.

They won't fade from light exposure, are waterproof, and can be cleaned with soap and water.

Fun-phabets, Qorograph, DuPont, are trademarks used with permission from their respective owners © 2002 Qoro inc.

** A gift of \$1,450 gets the complete 26 "Fun-phabet" series, the ideal gift for a center, classroom or reception area.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Letters selected: _____

**Entire Alphabet only \$1,450\$ _____

Number of "Funphabets" _____ X \$60 = \$ _____

Add \$6 for shipping and handling\$ _____

Total\$ _____

Address: _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Method of Payment: Check or money order payable to 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

Mail to: 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., P.O. Box 10944, Wilmington DE 19850-0944

Credit Card: call 1-877-470-4278 Please have your credit card ready (Master Card, Visa, Discover)

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery

Memorial Caretaker

Maintenance service to be offered to Scottish Rite families

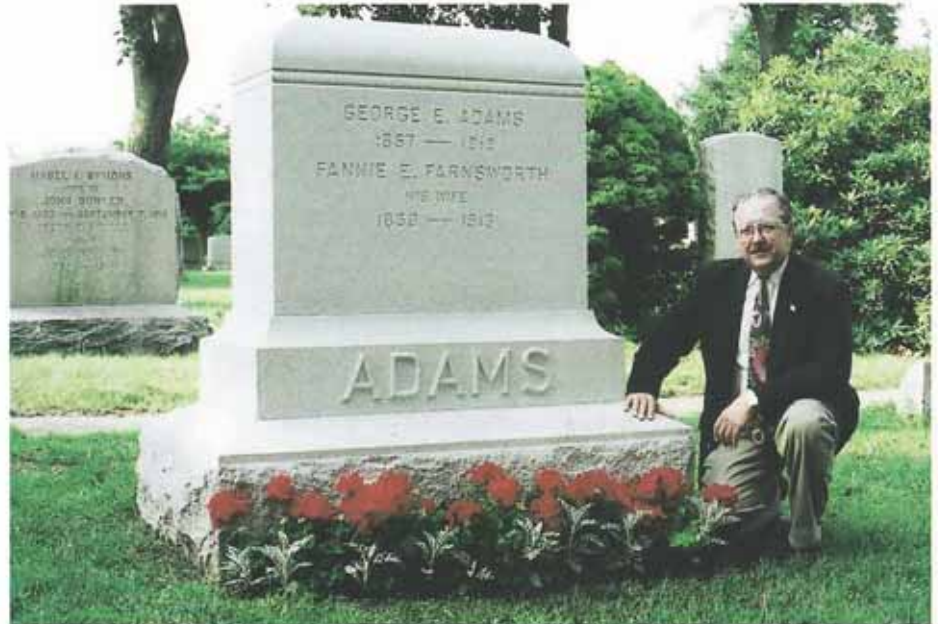
When Philip G. Haddad Jr., 32°, was a boy, he would accompany his father to the cemetery every Sunday and wait while his father paid his respects to his deceased parents.

"Someday, you will appreciate how important it is to honor the dead," his father said to him then.

At 11, he probably did not give that idea much thought, but later in life Haddad took that concept and turned it into an innovative and successful business. The former funeral director is president and CEO of Westland Services Corporation of Westborough, MA. The company provides grave site maintenance for a period of 25 years or longer anywhere in the country at a one-time cost.

Following in his father's ideological footsteps, Haddad believes, "A life worth living is a life worth remembering." It is his personal and professional motto. He has also passed the concept on to his two children, Stephanie, 25, and David, 23, who work with him at Westland. A member of Athelstan Lodge, Brother Haddad lives with his wife Carolyn in Worcester.

Many people are concerned about who would care for their grave site



Philip G. Haddad Jr., 32°, president and CEO of Westland Services Corp., kneels near one of his firm's accounts at Hope Cemetery in Worcester, MA.

He founded the business in 1987 in Westborough, and since, it has expanded into 21 states and 80 metro cities. Haddad predicts that the company will be nationwide in two years, with almost 400 offices.

According to Haddad, Westland has been the catalyst in the creation of the "remembrance industry," not to be confused with the "death care industry," which refers to funeral-related services.

"The passing of a loved one is not an end, but a beginning," he said. "We must find an appropriate way in which to properly and respectfully remember our loved ones."

Personalized care at the grave site provides that remembrance. However, for a variety of reasons, family members are often unable to attend to the grave sites.

Haddad said he started seeing the trend developing in the late 1960s. As

a courtesy, Haddad, then a funeral director, volunteered to care for grave sites for his clients. Soon he was responsible for more than 20 sites. He reasoned that if this was such a major concern for his clients, it must bother many.

"Fifteen years ago, no one thought of preplanning a funeral, and now it is a multibillion-dollar business," he said. "Grave site care will follow."

Market research over a 10-year period showed that many people were indeed troubled over who would care for their grave site. In fact, it was number three on a list of five worries, according to Haddad.

First on the list of concerns was health and financial stability; people want to be prepared for their retirement. The second matter concerned issues surrounding their death; where, when, how? Third was the worry of who would care for the grave. Fourth

concerned making peace with the creator and fifth was apprehension regarding materialistic affairs; will travel, owning a boat, a retirement home, be possible?

compels those left behind to visit the grave more often.

"We have discovered that people go to the grave site twice as often when they don't have the responsibility of

mail to westlandswb@rcn.com or phone 800-622-0772.

Haddad learned firsthand how important respectful remembrance is when his father died in 1965.

"I was 19 when my father died suddenly at age 51," he said. "It was only then that I truly realized how important respectful remembrance was for me — to live on and make him proud — as he said to me each day as he left for work."

From 1981 through 1993, Haddad was part owner of Caswell-King Funeral Homes in Worcester and Holden, MA. Since 1994, he has been part owner of Nordgren, Memorial Chapel in Worcester. In the early 1980s, he co-developed the "Orthodox Section" of Hope Cemetery in Worcester, for the Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Central Massachusetts.

Carrying on the family tradition, Haddad visits his parents' graves often to pay his respects.

He said he likes to go around dusk, and sometimes he sits and contemplates life and even asks his parents for advice.

"I don't get answers, of course, but the vibrations are good," he said. 🌿

"A life worth living is a life worth remembering"®

Haddad's firm, the nation's only provider of personalized long-term beautification and maintenance services, uniquely addresses the need for graveside care. Maintenance involves cleaning the monument, planting flowers, caring for, cutting and removing them in the fall. Westland also installs a winter basket or wreath at Thanksgiving, and sends photos to the family twice a year.

The service, called Peace of Mind Program®, includes four customizable maintenance and beautification plans. All service plans carry a prorated performance guarantee in writing. The proceeds are held in a custodial account at a trust department of a major financial institution to assure that funds are available throughout the term of each service plan. The one-time cost depends on the degree of care, with the minimum plan starting at \$3,900 (for 25 years), or about \$160 a year. Extensive plans can cost from \$6,700 to \$13,900 for the 25-year period and some clients have dedicated as much as \$75,000 for the upkeep of family mausoleums, Haddad said. The cost is driven by the frequency of maintenance visits. Site visits can occur seasonally, monthly, biweekly, weekly, or even daily.

Some families opt for entering an "Irrevocable Burial Maintenance" contract for providing long-term care and maintenance of the client's burial plot. The funds used qualify as a spend down for those carrying out Medicaid planning.

Payment for Westland's Irrevocable Burial Maintenance contract constitutes a transfer for full and adequate consideration. Therefore, it is not counted as an asset available for nursing home payments (even if made within the "look-back" period).

Over the years, Haddad has found that having the grave site care actually

the maintenance and care," he said. The alleviation of guilt probably makes the cemetery a more comfortable place to visit.

Encouraged by Sovereign Grand Commander Robert O. Ralston, who supports the innovative service, Haddad will offer The Peace of Mind program to Masons throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Information will be sent to members within the next year.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact Westland Services Corp., at the Web site at www.westlandswb.com or e-

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.

(TROUBLESOME) + (TITLE) -

(BROOM) + (WANDER) - (LEAST) +

(BRAIN) - (WANE) + (ASSUME) -

(NUMBER) - (SEED)

=

Clue for this puzzle appears on page 10.

Answer from previous issue: **STRENGTH**

Painting Comes Alive

Brethren recognize characters in new Pennsylvania mural



Brethren looked twice — probably more — to believe what they were seeing when a 30-by-8-foot oil painting was unveiled during the spring reunion in the Valley of Reading, PA.

King Solomon looks like somebody they know. So does Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff. The workmen on the Temple all look familiar.

That's with good reason, because all of the historic characters depicted in the masterpiece can be recognized behind their make-up as brethren in the Valley who volunteered to pose for the artist.

The painting on canvas framed with gold-leaf trim was contributed by Robert A. Swoyer, 32°, and now hangs on the expansive inside brick wall of the lobby of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Because of its size and panoramic composition, the artwork gives the impression of a mural rather than a framed painting.

Artist Wayne Fettro was commissioned to paint the mural for the Valley of Reading.

"Brothers Building God's Temple" was painted by Wayne Fettro, an artist from Elizabethtown, PA. The setting for the painting was inspired by a photographic reproduction of a Masonic mural, "King Solomon's Temple," by Bernard Thomas that hangs in the office of the Valley of Reading.

Brother Swoyer said, "It was a fun day in February when nine of us picked out costumes in the Valley's wardrobe closets, and three brethren from the make-up crew put pancake, beards and wigs on us, and we posed for the artist. He used 22 rolls of film to capture us in the settings that he needed."

Artist Fettro says that he "likes to think big." He is known for his murals that are dressing up buildings — from barns to churches — throughout southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

Recently, he painted a mural in Reading that featured characters nearly 30 feet tall to portray the 250-year story of



the region's founding and history, starting with Thomas Penn and the Leni-Lenape Indians. He has painted a three-story montage depicting life on the campus of Elizabethtown College in his hometown. His largest mural is a 180-foot mural for Trinity United Methodist Church in York, PA.

Brother Swoyer, who was the consulting engineer throughout the several phases of the decade-long construction of the Scottish Rite Cathedral that began in the late 1980s, said that he believed from the beginning, "some day, some special art should be on that wall." With forethought, he had track lighting installed in the ceiling when the lobby wing was built.

Last year, he offered to contribute artwork and served with LeRoy Bechtel, 32°, production manager emeritus, and Lois R. Ensslen, the Valley's office manager, as a committee to find an artist and decide on the subject.



ILL. BLAINE F. FABIAN, 33°, a member of the Valley of Reading, is editor of *The Pennsylvania Freemason* for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.



Valley volunteers dressed in period costume and posed for the artist. Below, Valley make-up director Charles L. Minnich, 32°, prepares Ill. Irving D. Herring, 33°, for the role of Hiram, King of Tyre.

The artist was recommended by Forrest Batz, 32°, a member of the Valley who now resides in the Independent Living Community at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. Brother Batz met Fettro in church and became a friend.

The brethren who were models for the painting were Ill. Gerald R. Baum, 33°; Bro. Bechtel; Ill. Irvin D. Herring, 33°; Ill. Richard E. Hummel, 33°; Robert W. McClatchie, Jr., 32°; Bro. Swoyer; John C. Tecklenburg, 32°, and Raymond Thompson, Jr., 32°. The make-up men were Charles L. Minnich, 32°; Uwe N. Petersen, 32°, and Raymond G. Martin, 32°.



Admiring the painting (below) are Ill. Richard E. Hummel, 33°, who portrayed King Solomon; Robert A. Swoyer, 32°, who donated the painting and portrayed a workman, and Ill. Russell W. Baker, 33°, Commander-in-Chief of Reading Consistory.



The Builders Column



If We Had Only Known

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., recently received a generous bequest from the estate of a brother we had never thanked. Of course, we appreciated the gift immensely. It revealed a gracious and generous person. And the gift will certainly help us accomplish our mission.

But we feel somewhat cheated because we never had the opportunity to express to him our gratitude for such kindness. We were unable to let him know how much his gift would mean. If we had only known, we could have said, "Thank you."

And so we encourage our brothers and friends to let us know when they include The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., or any of the other Scottish Rite Masonic Charities in their estate plans. Not only can we express our appreciation, but we can make sure they are kept up to date with all the developments occurring at the Learning Centers and other charities.

The Scottish Rite Builders Council was established to recognize those who include any or all of our charities in their estate plans. Members receive special pins and other tokens of their generosity and will receive invitations to attend special functions from time to time.

Have you named the Scottish Rite Charities in your estate plans? If so, please use the form below to let us know. If not, will you let us send you a free but valuable brochure on estate planning? It would be worth reading whether or not you choose to make a future gift to your fraternal charities.

- ☐ Please send me the free brochure on estate planning.
- ☐ I have already remembered the Supreme Council Scottish Rite Masonic Charities in my estate planning.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Mail this form to: Development Office, Supreme Council, P.O. Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420.



Is Online Banking for You?



By Leigh E. Morris, 33°

An estimated 25 percent of all American households have switched to electronic banking and indications are this number is growing rapidly.

Perhaps the greatest appeal in online banking is the elimination of most – though not all – paper. Bills can be paid online. Consumers can view current account status at any time of the day or night. However, before you make the switch, you should consider a number of issues.

What does online banking cost? Some banks advertise “free” bill paying services, but require minimum monthly balances. A number of banks assess a monthly service fee, but some of those do not require a minimum balance or assess a fee for paying bills. Still others do not require minimum balances or charge a monthly fee, but do charge for bill payments. As you can see, there is no free lunch. Determining which bank offers the best value for your situation will require some research on your part.

How do I make a deposit? If you bank online with a traditional bank, you will be able to make deposits at any of their locations or, if you prefer, by mail. Also, banks allow customers to make deposits through ATMs, though a fee may apply to each transaction – and fees may vary depending on the ATM that is used. Then there is the so-called virtual bank, a financial institution that exists only online. The two nationwide virtual banks are Etrade and NetBank. NetBank accepts deposits by mail and ATMs while Etrade only accepts deposits via the mail (though this may have changed by the time this column is published).

How do I get cash? The online customer of a traditional financial institution still will be able to go to one of the bank’s locations to cash a check or make a withdrawal. With traditional banks, you will have the option of using an ATM, though this will be the only way to get quick cash from a virtual bank.

What about privacy? This is proving to be the biggest barrier to online banking, the issue that spooks the greatest number of people. There are two key issues, the sharing of your personal information and cyber-theft.

Regarding personal information, banks are prohibited by law from selling personal information. Nonetheless, they may share that information with

affiliated companies and marketing partners. All banks are required to provide privacy statements and give customers a way to prevent the bank from sharing information in certain instances. Unfortunately, bank privacy statements usually are not available online, but can be obtained by making a phone call or making a written request. We have viewed a number of these privacy statements, all of which we found difficult to decipher.

Cyber-theft is a rare (at least at this time) but worrisome problem. In theory, one hacker could obtain account numbers and other basic information of countless bank customers and then quickly drain their accounts. Worse, such thieves could obtain Social Security numbers, birth dates and other vital information from online bank accounts, allowing them to steal identities. As we noted in our last column, identity theft can cause myriad problems. To minimize the risk of identity theft, make certain you have installed and activated firewall software on your computer. This is critical if you use a DSL or cable-modem connection. And if a thief does steal money from your account, the bank will replace it.

Should you switch to online banking? In large part, the answer depends on your personal habits and preferences as well as your comfort level with the impersonal nature of the Internet. Furthermore, not all financial institutions allow Internet banking, meaning that if you want the service you may need to leave your present bank.

If you write 25 or fewer checks each month, want to eliminate paper, are willing to do a little homework and find the convenience of online banking appealing, then you should at least explore the possibility of Internet banking.

On the other hand, if you are happy with your present bank and like to write checks rather than use cash or a credit card, then you should avoid online banking for the present time.

Be sure to send your complete name and address, Valley and e-mail to me for our Masonic E-Mail Directory. Also, send along any and all interesting Masonic Web sites. And don’t forget to include your questions, comments and other thoughts.

**Questions or comments? Send me an e-mail at
studebaker@motion.net**

The Stamp Act

A Philatelic Review



By Robert A. Domingue

Henry Knox is pictured on a Guinea-Bissau stamp issued on May 5, 1976, to commemorate the United States Bicentennial. Before the American Revolution, there were few trained artillery men among the Colonials. With the onset of the war, it became obvious that the Continental Army needed an artillerist's skill.



Boston bookseller Henry Knox fulfilled that need. He had gained his knowledge by studying volumes on artillery usage while tending his bookstore.

He became Washington's Chief of Artillery for the duration of the war. Born July 25, 1750, in Boston he succeeded George Washington as "General of the Army" and served as Secretary of War from 1785-91.

He moved to Maine in 1795 and died in Thomaston on Oct. 25, 1806.

The history of Bro. Knox's Masonic membership is vague. He is thought to have been a member of St. John's Regimental Lodge at Morristown, NJ. According to records, he visited Williamsburg Lodge No. 6, Williamsburg, VA; St. John's Lodge, Boston; Amity Lodge No. 6, Camden, ME, and Orient No. 15, Thomaston, ME. It is recorded in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, 1780, that Henry Knox represented Massachusetts at

the Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Major General Henry Knox Lodge of Boston was named in his honor.

★ ★ ★



Canada Post issued a stamp on Sept. 19, 2001, to honor the Shriners. Issued in panes of 12 stamps, the First Day city was Ottawa, Ontario.

In 1872, a group of 13 men belonging to the Masonic Order founded the Shrine of North America. Established to provide fun and fellowship for its members, the organization now spans the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Republic of Panama.

★ ★ ★

Paul Pastur is shown on a semipostal stamp issued by Belgium in November 1970. Born in 1868 in Marcinelle near Charleroi in the important but poor mine-and-manufacturing district of Rainault, in Belgium, he received a university education and studied law.



He became noted as a politician and for his great interest in the conditions for the working class. The crown of his life's work was the foundation of the technical high school at Charleroi that bears his name. He died in 1938.

Bro. Pastur was a member of the Lodge "La Charite" at Charleroi, being initiated in 1892 and raised in 1899. He received the Mark Master degree in a Chapter of the same name in 1902 and the Select Master degree in 1912.

★ ★ ★

John Goffage is pictured on one of a set of stamps Australia issued to pay tribute to the entertainment industry in 1989. Goffage, born in 171909 and better known as Chips Rafferty, was a sheepshearer, big game hunter and gold digger until he got a job as an actor in 1939. He became quite popular through his roles as a heroic soldier in movies of 1940 and 1944. He died in 1974.

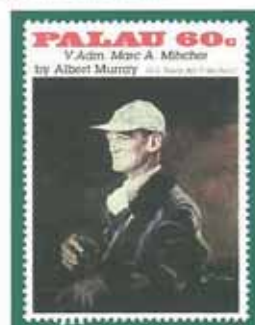


Bro. Goffage received his degrees in 1958 in Literature Lodge No. 500 on the register of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

★ ★ ★

Marc A. Mitscher is pictured on this stamp issued by Palau in October 1995 for the 50th anniversary of World War II.

Bro. Mitscher, pioneer of naval aviation, was born in Hillsboro, WI, in 1887. He graduated from Annapolis in the Class of '10 and learned to fly in 1915 aboard the "North Carolina."



He was the first pilot on the Navy transatlantic flight in 1919. After several tours of duty, he assumed command of the "Hornet" in 1941, serving at Midway, the ship from which planes under Gen. Doolittle took off to bomb Tokyo. In 1945, he served as Chief of Naval Operations for the Air Command and by 1946, he was Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic fleet. He died Feb. 3, 1947.

Bro. Mitscher was a member of Biscayne Bay Lodge No. 124, Miami, FL, being raised in January 1919. He received the 32° AASR (SJ) at Miami on Feb. 14, 1919. At the Supreme Council session in 1945 the Admiral was elected a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. Gens. Doolittle, MacArthur and Arnold and Lt. Cmdr. Stassen had been given similar honors.

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



By THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33°

Bloodline of the Holy Grail, by Laurence Gardner. Published in 1997 by Barnes & Noble Books Inc. \$29.95.

There is much writing and speculation about what is, and where is, the Holy Grail. I suspect that most of us have learned that the Grail was a vessel (cup) used either during the Last Supper or to receive the blood of Jesus Christ, but there have been many other objects and interpretations concerning the Holy Grail.

As Laurence Gardner points out in his book *Bloodline of the Holy Grail*, "The Grail has been symbolized as many things: a plate or dish, a chalice, a stone, an aura, a jewel, and a vine . . . In name, it has been the Graal, the Saint Graal, the Seynt Grayle, the Sangreal, the Sankgreal, the Sank Ryal, and the Holy Grail."

To him, the Grail is the Davidic bloodline, continuing through the life of Jesus Christ and extant to the present time.

This proposition, of course, is unacceptable to all but a handful of religious Christian leaders. I would not attempt to endorse or deny its validity. The author qualifies his work thusly, "This will not be a rewriting of history, but a reshaping of familiar accounts — bringing history back to its original base, rather than perpetuating the myths of strategic restyling by those with otherwise vested interests." *Bloodline of the Holy Grail* is therefore his revelation of a segment of history as he purports it to be.

In the forward, Prince Michael of Albany, Head of the Royal House of Stewart, states, "Rare is the historian acquainted with such compelling facts as are gathered in this work."

I make no attempt to go into the complexities of either the book's content or its differences with the teaching of organized Christian religion.

Suffice it to say that it traces the bloodline of Jesus Christ through the surviving Stewarts by tracing genealogical charts of the Bishops of Rome, through the Royal bloodlines of Europe, and from Adam and Eve to the present time.

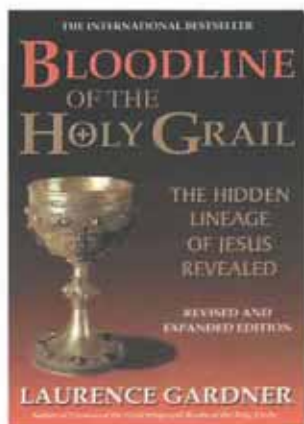
The criteria I use for recommending a book are based on its ability to stimulate thought while revealing some degree of academia. This book causes one to analyze his

commitment to a methodology of worship of The Supreme Being, but not to challenge those beliefs so much as to rethink them.

Although Freemasonry plays no major role in the contents of the book and is referenced only in a peripheral sense, what is mentioned contributed to a fuller understanding of some of the Masonic references and Masonic terminology. I also learned more of the significance of the ritual of the Holy Royal Arch Chapter, as well as Masonic terms that have become part of our everyday language.

I purposely have kept this review vague because I do not wish to bias the reader. I felt personally that it contributed to more logical understanding of all that I have read on the subject, whether I accepted it or not. The author tied together some of what I've learned in the past which lacked continuity.

It is a thought-provoking book, and I recommend it not as an authoritative reference, but as interesting and stimulating reading.



The Labyrinth of the Grail, by William F. Mann. Published in 1999 by Laughing Owl Publishing Inc., 12610 Hwy 90 West, Grand Bay, AL 36541. \$24.95.

On page 249 of this 254-page book is a statement that fairly well defines much of the contents. I quote the author, "Anybody can see meaning where none exists."

This may not be a fair evaluation, but I found myself becoming irritated at the extent by which reality was pushed toward what one wanted to see or understand, rather than what was probably there.

For those of you who have followed my reviews, you are aware that I am fairly liberal in granting an author considerable freedom in developing theories as they may relate to the craft and its historical perspective, even though some may be far-fetched and I may not accept them. This book, however, is littered with so many suppositions in reaching conclusions, that it even pushed me beyond my normal liberality.

Permit me to cite examples. The author indicates that Pohl "states that Sinclair and his men sailed away on the tides after fulfilling their quest. However, according to Pohl, the prevailing winds blew them off course to the site of Westford where one of Sir Henry's knights died, possibly as the result of a snake bite." A few lines later he states, "It also appears beyond coincidence that both Prince Henry and Jason (referring to Jason and the Argonauts) would lose one of their trusted crew to a snake bite." Another example: in referencing Poussin's painting, "The Shepherds of Arcadia," Mann sees a play on

words directing the viewer to the dress of a female figure (shepherdess) by changing shepherdess to "see her dress."

From the title you can probably recognize that this is another book attempting to connect Freemasonry to the Knights Templar and the Grail legend. Much of it is a reiteration of past thought and theory with a somewhat different perspective. It is another text dealing with the Davidic bloodline of Jesus, as a living vessel (Grail) that survived beyond accepted church doctrine. It devolves on a possibility of Henry Sinclair leading the surviving Knights Templar, as guardians of the Holy Bloodline to North America, specifically Oak Island, Nova Scotia, and how they hid the holy treasure "through a series of ingenious geometric surveys and esoteric keys." As you may note, you have probably read this hypothesis before.

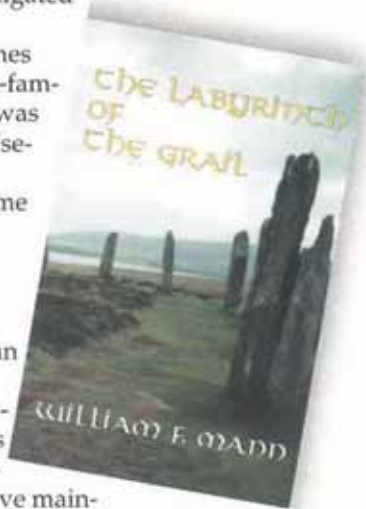
After finishing this review I was able to verify that the author is a Freemason, having belonged to a lodge in Canada for about seven years. His academic credentials are sound, holding degrees in forestry and landscape architecture. "He's been involved in some of the largest urban design projects in Canada and abroad."

This expertise gives him some credibility in developing the theories promulgated in this book.

In addition, "He comes from a strong Masonic-family connection. And it was through a mysterious 'secret' ring of his great-uncle, who was Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar of Canada, that his personal quest began."

Freemasonry plays an important role in the development of the hypotheses in the text. As the author states, "Unknowingly, Masons have maintained a secrecy that was initiated by the medieval Knights Templar to hide a treasure. A treasure that could, in all possibilities, shake the established church to its very foundations." Also, that the Templar settlement in Nova Scotia "can be rediscovered through the proper application of the two main principles of Masonry — sacred geometry and moral allegory." He also states that it "appears logical that the symbols and rituals applied by Sinclair and his knights across the landscapes of Nova Scotia may well relate to the three basic degrees of Freemasonry."

He reopens the old theory that it was Bacon, not Shakespeare, who wrote the great works, and adds, "that the original manuscripts lay in a vault beneath Oak Island deposited there by the earliest privateers — many of whom were Masons, and that Bacon might have felt that his original works deserved to be stored in the New



Temple of Solomon until such time that the world was prepared to recognize them as classic literature."

The author concludes part way through the book that, "By now, the connection between the modern-day Freemasons and the medieval Knights Templar and their ancient beliefs cannot be argued."

I'm not sure how I feel with this theory, but I do know that if I do accept it, it will not be based upon these multiples of suppositions.

I feel, probably due to my scientific training, that theories, although simply that, should have a greater foundation of fact than I found here. You might, however, find it interesting reading.



In Memory of Brother Stewart M. L. Pollard

On May 4, 2002, my predecessor as the author of *Book Nook* took his final journey home. We who were privileged to know him will mourn his passing, but will also celebrate his living. The contributions which he made to this craft will live on in the lives he touched with his wisdom, his humor, and his commitment.

Brother "Stew" was a man who took his dedication to the craft seriously, but never himself. I learned much from him and laughed much with him. His approach to life might well be reflected in one of his books, *Tied to Masonic Apron Strings*.

And yet his serious side could be noted by his 28 years that he served with distinction in the military service of the U.S. Army. Upon retirement, he served five years as National Secretary of the National Sojourners and 12 years with the Masonic Service Association, 10 as Executive Secretary.

He came from a Masonic background and belonged to, among others, Ralph J. Pollard Lodge No. 217 in Maine, a lodge named for his father. He told me how his father would have to be carried into the lodge room on a stretcher to attend meetings in his later years. Stew carried on the legacy. He served in Grand positions in several Grand Lodges and was honored by many.

When I accepted this position I stated, "I do not expect to replace Brother Stew with his multi-faceted abilities nor to fill his shoes; I will simply offer my evaluations and 'clump' around in his big shoes as best I can." Well, I continue to "clump," but I do so in the shadow of a Mason who led the way.

For those of us who knew this humble giant of a Mason, we were privileged. For those who did not, the loss was surely yours.

THOMAS W. JACKSON, 33rd, 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

Bee-cautious: Avoid the sting

For everyone: 1. Skip bright-colored clothes and perfumes so bees don't think you're a flower. 2. Avoid loose clothes that can trap an insect. 3. Wear closed shoes. Don't go barefoot. 4. Move away quietly and slowly if you encounter a bee.



For a reaction: Most people get an itchy red welt when stung. If you get hives, go to an emergency room. Adults and kids who develop hives, tightness in the throat and chest, difficulty breathing, or loss of consciousness may be in danger of fatal anaphylactic shock, say immunologists at the University of Texas, Houston Medical School.

ClinicalTrials.gov

A Web site provided by the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and other health agencies has a searchable database covering 5,800 clinical-research studies at 63,000 locations in the U.S. Included are every conceivable disease and condition.

Visitors to www.ClinicalTrials.gov can determine whether they or their loved ones are eligible to participate.

The Last Supper

Cardiology researchers discovered that the risk of heart attack jumped tenfold during the first hour following a heavy meal. Heart attack risk was four times higher than normal in the second hour after a large meal, according to a report given at the American Heart Association conference.

Doctors say the hazardous period could be caused by a spike in blood pressure, insulin, or both after a big meal. They suggest pushing yourself away from the table before you have to loosen your belt.

Glucophage will go generic

The top-selling diabetes medication, Glucophage (metformin), will soon be available as a generic product that is likely to cost 80 percent less than the current brand name.

It lowers blood sugar by limiting the amount of glucose the liver produces. A recent FDA decision makes it possible for companies other than Bristol-Myers to manufacture the drug.

Cold packs aid cardiac victims

Doctors at the University of Pittsburgh say using ice packs or cold air to chill bodies of cardiac-arrest victims greatly improves their chance of surviving without brain damage.

When the heart stops because of heart attack, drowning, or drug overdose, lowering the body temperature to about 92 degrees Fahrenheit can stop brain-damaging chemical reactions. The doctors suggest that ambulances carry ice packs and place them on the body immediately.



Got GERD?

If you get heartburn often, you could have gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), a condition in which the acid contents of the stomach move back into the esophagus.

Studies at the University of Miami School of Medicine show that the risk of esophageal cancer is more than seven times higher among people who regularly suffer acid reflux. Esophageal cancer is often fatal.

Over-the-counter antacids help neutralize the acid in the stomach and work for occasional heartburn. But if you have symptoms one or more times a week, you should see a physician.

For information, call the GERD Hotline at (888) 964-2001, or visit www.aboutgerd.org to learn more.

Shadow rule for sun exposure

When your shadow is shorter than your height, the intensity of the sun is at its greatest. You should stay in the shade or make sure your skin is covered by clothes or sunscreen. The sun is usually strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., but this varies according to time of year and latitude. It's best to avoid long sun exposure during these peak hours even if you wear sunscreen.

Food remedy: Asparagus

According to *The Doctor's Book of Food Remedies* (Rodale), asparagus was popular with royal households of France in the 17th century. The French royals enjoyed its flavor, but they also considered it to be a powerful aphrodisiac.

While the aphrodisiac powers of asparagus have never been documented, authorities today do know that its rich stores of folate may help prevent birth defects of the brain and spinal cord.

Women of childbearing age should consume 400 mg of folate per day. (Five asparagus spears contain 110 mg.)



Executive Search for Director of Development

The Supreme Council is seeking an experienced fund-raising professional to serve as the Director of Development at the headquarters in Lexington, MA.

The Director of Development will implement a comprehensive development program designed to address the specific needs of the Supreme Council and its Charities.

Reporting directly to the Sovereign Grand Commander and working closely with the Endowment Campaign Steering Committee and volunteers, the Director's duties will

include the annual appeal program and gift planning as well as the planning and implementation of a major endowment campaign. Based on established goals, the Director will formulate a plan of action that specifically moves the development program toward securing significant gift income.

To apply, candidates must have at least 10 years of professional fund-raising experience and be particularly adept in successfully planning and implementing major capital campaigns.

Qualified candidates should e-mail or mail a resume and letter of interest to Steven Ast of Ast Partners Ltd., Executive Recruiters for Philanthropy, the recruiting firm retained to fill this key position at the Supreme Council.

Steven Ast can be reached by e-mail at sast@astpartners.com or c/o Ast Partners, Ltd., One Atlantic St., Stamford, CT 06901. Phone 203-975-7188, fax 203-975-7353.

A copy of the resume should also be sent to the Sovereign Grand Commander, PO Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420.

In Memoriam ***Ill. John Hanford Van Gorden, 33°***

Ill. John Hanford Van Gorden, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member for the Supreme Council, died on April 7, 2002, in New York.

Born at Meshoppen, PA, on May 25, 1899, he attended public schools and graduated from Meshoppen High School. He attended Bliss Electrical School in Washington, D.C., and the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

On Feb. 14, 1922, he married Emma Agnes Paterson, who predeceased him on April 9, 1998, following 76 years of marriage. They had a son, John H. Van Gorden Jr., who predeceased them.

They were members of Sara Jane Johnson Methodist Church in Johnson City, where he served actively in various positions, including chairman of the board of trustees. He was also a strong supporter of the United Methodist Home for the Aging.

After a 42-year career with International Business Machines Corporation, he retired in 1959. During his service with IBM, he held many executive positions, including the corporation's national service manager for more than 20 years and coordinator of logistics and support for the Military Products Division.

In his retirement, he continued to serve as a director of numerous companies, including Industrial Business Associates, Mutual Electronics of Johnson City and Mutual Designers of Owego, New York.

As an early supporter of Sovereign Grand Commander George A. Newbury's dream to build a museum and library, he served on the original committee and was chairman for the two years leading up to the establishment of a separate corporation. As a member of the board for the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, Inc., he continued to maintain a strong interest in the growth of the project and became a major benefactor. Working with Ill. Louis L. Williams, 33°, he was influential in obtaining several important Masonic collections for the library. The

Museum of Our National Heritage named the Van Gorden-Williams Library in their honor soon after the opening of the facility.

He was raised a Master Mason in Binghamton Lodge No. 177, Binghamton, NY, on May 9, 1923. He was also a member of the York Rite bodies in Binghamton.

Brother Van Gorden completed the Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Binghamton on April 28, 1950, and served as Thrice Potent Master of Otseningo Lodge of Perfection in 1956-57.

He received the 33° in 1957 and was crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council in 1960. He became an Active Emeritus Member in 1974.

Ill. Brother Van Gorden was the author of numerous books, including *The Susquehanna Flows On*, *Country Tradition*, *Biblical Characters in Freemasonry*, *Modern Historical Characters in Freemasonry*, *Ancient and Early Medieval Characters in Freemasonry*, *Medieval Characters in Freemasonry*, *America at the Crossroads* and *Footsteps in Kindness*. His Masonic reference books have been a major contribution to ritualists and researchers.

Seeing the need to chronicle the extensive philanthropic work of Freemasonry, Brother Van Gorden began the research that was completed by Ill. Stewart M.L. Pollard, 33°, and published by the Supreme Council in 1987 as *Masonic Charities*.

This work has since been updated and expanded under a new title, *Masonic Philanthropies*, published jointly by the Supreme Councils for the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions in 1991 and 1997.

Ill. Brother Van Gorden was awarded the prestigious John James Joseph Gourgas Medal from the Supreme Council in 1982.

His long life extended through three centuries. It began in the 19th and ended in the 21st. He would have celebrated his 103rd birthday on May 25, 2002.

VIEWS FROM THE PAST

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

Past presents future foundation

In every business, there are definite "rests," as they are called, when balances are struck, profits and losses of the past are evaluated, and thereby the foundations laid for planning the future.

There are those who think of the past as something gone, never to return. On the contrary, however, the past is constantly with us.

Each one of you is the individual you are because of the life which you have led, the contacts you have had, and the failures or successes attendant thereon. Each one of you has had more successes than failures or you would not be here. Just as our bodies which we are using today have been

mysteriously built and developed in the past so that they now are living the past itself, so our fraternity should now take a inventory, assemble the experience of days long gone, value our successes and our failures, and determine how we may strive to make this world a better home for all mankind.

The field of Freemasonry is the world. It deals with the contacts of human beings here on earth and the establishment of a code of morals stemming from our fundamental concept of the worship of a single God.

— 1951 Allocution of Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin Maynard Johnson

The Selling of Freemasonry

Can Freemasonry be sold? We think not, or at least, that it ought not to be.

Rather should it be bought? If a policy of high-pressure salesmanship, ballyhoo, or other iniquitous method is indulged in, certain undesirable features already existing which are inimical to its interests will be encouraged and the general level of its usefulness lowered.

Too often, the desire to enter Freemasonry is prompted by a motive to obtain some selfish end. The true seriousness of its purposes are not always completely grasped, and a man who might otherwise become a "good" Mason finds, when he is unable to secure material benefits from his affiliation with the craft, scant interest in its doings.

Urging the purging of all members,

"who by their conduct have shown themselves unworthy" would leave the fraternity sadly shrunken in size. The craft suffers to a degree from inattention or rather from an indigestion due to large accretions of inassimilable substances.

Joseph Morcombe, Masonic writer and critic, said men are not to be saved by the recital of creeds, and we agree with him.

Yet, without recital of creeds, Freemasonry would be a hollow thing indeed.

Freemasonry, properly lived, will not need to be sold; worthy men will always be found gladly willing to buy it and proud to count themselves one of goodly company.

— Alfred Hampden Moorhouse, editor, *New England Masonic Craftsman*, June 1934

The Wayfaring Man

I have been asked several times by newly made Masons, "Who is the Wayfaring Man (in the Third Degree)?" The common answer is that he is the one who identifies and helps catch the three Ruffians. While this is true, it is much too simplistic, and fails to illustrate an important Masonic lesson.

The candidate, who having had some Masonic teachings has just started along the path, is the Wayfaring Man. His better nature, his soul, has given him some idea of why he is not a better man, why he has not lived up to his capabilities and most importantly, how he is able to determine the guilty party, which, in his life at least, are his passions — the Ruffians. He is able to make the identification, he has seen them!

So from this, we can see that no matter how far removed from the "path" a man is; no matter that he is at the beginning of the path; no matter that he has not so far in life allowed the soul to do its work; he has a small voice within him, a spark of the creator remains, enough to identify the problem, enough to set his feet upon the path, enough to subdue his passions and start him upon his search for Wisdom. That is what the Wayfaring Man points out.

Pretty important guy, that Wayfarer!

— Harold J. Spelman, *Scottish Rite News*, Valley of Chicago, August 1999



Lessons to be Learned

We all know that change is a part of life. Modern technology is enabling us to live better and longer. In many ways, life is easier than it was decades ago.

Yet, we should be cautious. We now realize that our educational system is turning out young people who lack many of the basic skills. It may be helpful to have a well-rounded personality, but what have we given our youth if they lack the skills to earn a living?

In the same way, something disastrous has happened to the word "freedom." Our Founding Fathers were firm believers in the notion that freedom involved taking full responsibility for one's actions. It meant a man was responsible for his destiny.

Today freedom has come to mean the right to do as one pleases — virtual irresponsibility.

We hardly ever hear the term "morality" discussed other than in derisive terms. We are told that "any-

thing goes." That is precisely the problem. We hear much about an increase in stress and anxiety. It is interesting that these problems have arisen at a time when our ethical and moral standards have undergone severe change.

The purpose of traditional morality was not to put us in a straitjacket, but to help us know who we are, where we are going, and how to get there. Without such direction, there is little reason to wonder why so many people are under severe stress today.

The purpose of Freemasonry is to help us all maintain a much-needed balance in life. Sometimes we are accused of being a little "out-of-date." There's nothing wrong with that if our goal is to make certain that too much progress does not upset the important balance of life.

—Sovereign Grand Commander
Stanley J. Maxwell,
The Northern Light, June 1984

You can't go it alone

It is easy to get down on the human race. Goodness knows, there are some rotten people in the world and it is tempting to turn sour on humanity. Misanthropy, however, is contrary to Scripture and therefore Masonry.

Society is a whole mass of reciprocal relations. The teacher is taught by the student, the minister is pastored by the people, the actor is stimulated by the audience. Masons are encouraged by brother Masons.

So, if we want to be really alive, and our craft to be a positive force in the community, we must accept the truth of entering into some sort of commerce with others.

We dare not shut ourselves up in a selfish, proud, isolationary and pusillanimous posture; we must attain a spirit of engagement, openness, friendliness, receptiveness and generosity.

This is the philosophy of fellowship. We cannot be a devotee of a faith on our own and certainly not a Mason by ourselves. We need others as they need us.

There is a stirring account of the im-

prisonment of Bishop Hanns Lilje back in 1944. It was a Saturday afternoon in August, and he was putting the finishing touch to the sermon he was to preach in St. John's Church, Berlin, the next day.

The doorbell rang violently. He went to the door and there stood two men from the Gestapo. They arrested him and a few hours later he found himself in a cell.

He tells how it took all the courage and resolution he had not to lose self control when the door shut behind him. He flung himself upon his knees and upon the mercy of God.

His faith was soon multiplied by hearing someone whistle the melody of an old hymn. He sprang to his window and whistled back, "O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise." So it went on, each answering the other with whistled hymns, a congregation of two; no, of two multiplied by One other.

We won't go it alone in our Church or in Masonry, will we?

—Rev. He Ctercteko,
The NSW Freemason, April 1996

Quick Quotes

Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up.

—Robert Frost

Satisfaction lies in the effort not the attainment. Full effort is full victory.

—Mahatma Gandhi

We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action.

—Frank Tibolt

It is not length of life, but depth of life.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

You cannot be really first-rate at your work if your work is all you are.

—Anna Quindlen

The man who follows the crowd will usually get no further than the crowd. One who walks alone is likely to find himself in places no one has ever been.

—Alan Ashley-Pitt

I love to be alone. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.

—Thoreau

It's not what they take away from you that counts. It's what you do with what you have left.

—Hubert Humphrey

Every time you are tempted to react in the same old way, ask if you want to be a prisoner of the past or a pioneer of the future.

—Deepak Chopra

If we could sell our experiences for what they cost us, we'd all be millionaires.

—Abigail Van Buren

The scars you acquire while exercising courage will never make you feel inferior.

—D. A. Battista

Computer vision syndrome

One in four keyboarding kids gets blurry vision and dry eyes from staring at computer screens for hours at a time, according to a study by the University of California, Berkeley. The condition can lead to nearsightedness. They recommend that kids keep screens slightly lower than eye level, sit at least 18 inches away from the screen, and get glasses designed to reduce computer eye strain if necessary.

If you find your child plays computer games for an hour or two, encourage him to play outdoors so he can get some exercise and avoid eye strain.



Bequeath more than money

Legal wills are usually cold documents that do little to comfort loved ones left behind.

If you want to do more, consider preparing an ethical will.

Today, there's heightened interest in leaving heirs a testament of values and beliefs.

Barry Baines, medical director of a hospice in Minneapolis and author of *Ethical Will: Putting Your Values on Paper* (Perseus Publishing) says topics often expressed include values and beliefs, lessons learned, love for survivors, and forgiveness.

The ethical will is a way to leave something behind that lasts longer than any money you leave.

Focus on friendship

Many couples think they would be happier if they could just solve their problems. But Susan Page says it's better to focus on your friendship and enjoying each other. Then problems will diminish.

Page, author of *If We're So in Love, Why Aren't We Happy?* (Harmony Books), says in a more spiritual partnership you will always focus first on creating a harmonious atmosphere and a spirit of goodwill.



AT&T warns of '809' phone call fraud

Never respond to an e-mail, telephone, or computer message asking you to return a call to a telephone number with the 809 area code.

According to AT&T, Verizon, and the National Fraud Information Center, criminals use scare tactics or prize announcements to get people to call an 809 number. The 809 area code is in the Bahamas.

It is not covered by U.S. regulations that require you to be notified of charges and rates involved when you call a "pay per call" number.

For more information on fraud, visit www.att.com/fraud/home.html.

Social Security trust improves

A recent report by Social Security trustees shows that, despite the recession, trust fund growth will keep Social Security solvent until 2041, three years longer than projected a year ago.



"Yes, you can watch the cookies bake and no, a screensaver does not kick in after awhile."

TV sets can fall on kids

The average U.S. household has 2.5 television sets. Many are not positioned solidly on a TV stand.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission says 7,000 children are treated each year after a TV falls.

Put the TV on a sturdy stand. Don't put the TV on a bookshelf, stereo speaker, or dresser.

Never put things on top of the TV that kids may try to pull down.

Write for health

Researchers at North Carolina State University say writing improves your health, memory, and your outlook on life.

Writing about difficult experiences can make it easier to access memories.



The doctors found that those who wrote about major events had bigger gains in their working memories than those who wrote about trivial events.

Psychologists at the University of Texas, Austin, studied people who wrote about an assigned topic for 15 minutes on four consecutive days. Later that year, those who wrote about emotional topics had far fewer doctors' visits. Those with asthma or arthritis had fewer symptoms if they kept a journal.

Why they go back

A survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute shows that many retirees go back to work. Here's why:

Almost 75 percent want to "stay involved," followed by 30 percent who worked for "extras."

Others worked to keep health benefits, try a new career, or make more money.

Get cheap trees

Send \$10 for a membership in the National Arbor Day Foundation (100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410), and you will receive 10 flowering trees: two dogwoods, two crabapples, two pears, two hawthorns, and two American redbuds, or other trees selected for your area.

INTERNATIONAL DEMOLAY CONGRESS



Delegates to the 35th International DeMolay Congress met in Houston in June to discuss plans for the Order of DeMolay. Christopher Elko of New Jersey was elected to succeed Jason Polonsky of Massachusetts as International Master Councillor. At the same time, the International DeMolay Supreme Council met to elect Franklin J. Kell Jr., 32°, of Tulsa, OK, as Grand Master. He succeeds Ill. Gregory L. Klemm, 33°, of Elgin, IL. Ill. Brother Klemm is also the Secretary for the Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago.

The Scottish Rite Supreme Council for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has been a major financial supporter of the DeMolay Congress since its inception in 1967. Sovereign Grand Commander George A. Newbury, 33°, was an influential promoter of the idea of establishing a program in which two delegates from each state meet for the good of the Order.

The youth organization was founded by Frank S. Land in 1919. Since that time, more than one million young men have participated in DeMolay chapter activities.

Our Readers Respond

The Muse of Mozart

The article on Mozart's music ("Mozart's Masonic Music," May 02) was certainly welcome. One can only assume that many of today's Masons have never heard of him, let alone "The Magic Flute."

As a collector of records of music by Masons, I found much food for thought in the article. Though I have Paul Netti's book *Mozart and Masonry*, it had not occurred to me the significance of the key of E flat. Perhaps he just liked the key as Beethoven liked C minor.

The reference to Gluck as a fellow Mason caught my attention. Netti does not list him. The only other reference I found was on the cover of a record of Masonic Music by Giroust, Beethoven, Himmel, Taskin and Mozart. The record is MHS 4030 released in 1979. Can anyone verify Gluck's membership?

I have Peter Maag's recording of the Masonic Funeral Music. According to the notes, K. 477 is in the key of C minor. Maag is a member of the Mozart Lodge in Vienna as well as a 33° in Switzerland. He made a dozen Mozart recordings.

If we accept Gluck, what of Beethoven? The experts seem to have

mixed opinions. Perhaps in Bonn; but not in Vienna. I would consider Beethoven socially challenged! I consider his membership unlikely unless evidence is found.

Norman G. Lincoln, 32°
Eaton, OH

Fan of the Flute

I am writing as president of the Theosophical Society in Red Bank, NJ, and as director of "Mystery, Mozart, Magic," an adaptation of "The Magic Flute" from a theosophical perspective.

This project comes to us as the inspiration of Fritz Stallmach, a German-born Canadian resident and devotee of "The Magic Flute."

We have given four presentations to our various lodges in the tri-state area and are preparing to make the opera into a musical for Broadway.

There will be a rather liberal adaptation of the tale for modern audiences. To remain are the deeper spiritual, symbolic aspects so dear to Masons and theosophists. We hope to universalize the message, as many people are in need of the deeper meaning.

Regina St. Clare
Fritz Stallmach
Eatontown, NJ

We welcome letters from our readers in response to articles appearing in *The Northern Light* and will reprint them as space permits. Letters must be signed, should be brief, and are subject to editing.

On the Lighter Side

Reasons for playing golf

1. Beats mowing the lawn.
2. Having a ball is par for the course.
3. You can play without risk of scandal (usually).
4. Always a doctor nearby.
5. The worse your game, the better the exercise.
6. Carrying clubs is socially acceptable.
7. It's "holistic" stress reduction.
8. More fun than doing business at the office.
9. Putting is such sweet sorrow.
10. Great excuse to take a walk.
11. Rather sink a bird than hook a fish.
12. Old golfers never die. They just putter out.
13. There's no par at the 19th hole.
14. It's educational. You learn the meanings of such words as slice, shank, divot, bogey, mulligan, hacker, worm burner, and duffer.

HIRAM™

By WALLY MILLER



Footnotes*



* **Support for Learning Centers.** The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children continue to receive considerable financial support not only from individual Scottish Rite members and Valleys but also from Masonic-related organizations.

The latest support comes from the Order of the Eastern Star in Ohio. In 2001, Carol Jones, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, adopted the Learning Centers as a special project for the year and appointed a special committee to oversee the fundraising.

Funds were generated in many ways. Several thousand dollars were realized through the sale of Learning Center merchandise, such as teddy bears, ties, scarves, and tote bags. Other funds were raised through district dinners, craft sales, homemade candy sales, sunshine collections, chapter donations and individual contributions from Eastern Star members. The net result produced a donation in excess of \$37,000.

The project captured the hearts of the Eastern Star members and brought awareness to countless individuals who were not familiar with the new Masonic philanthropy.

Carolyn McCahan, the 2002 Worthy Grand Matron, has continued the project for the current Eastern Star year.

In the photo above, Ill. Jim S. Deyo, 33°, an Active Member of the

Supreme Council, presents a recognition plaque to Carol Jones and her Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Terry A. Fusner, 32°.

* **New home for Trenton.**

The Scottish Rite Valley of Trenton held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new building in Bordentown, NJ. Participating in the ceremony were Supreme Council Active Members, Grand Lodge officers, Valley officers, and the mayor of Bordentown Township. The former building was sold in February 2000, and the Scottish Rite office was moved into temporary quarters. The new building is due to be ready by February 2003. In the meantime, Valley reunions have been held jointly with Southern New Jersey.

* **From one lodge.** Many recently raised members of Watson-town (PA) Lodge No. 401 continued their search for knowledge by becoming members of the Scottish Rite Valley of Williamsport this spring. Among the class honoring Pennsylvania Deputy C. DeForrest Trexler were 22 members of the lodge. James C. Young, 32°, signed 13 of the petitions. Brother Young, a Past Sovereign Prince of the Council of Princes of Jerusalem, is now at work recruiting more members for the Valley's next class.

* **Family ties.** The 100th reunion for the Valley of Altoona, PA, had special significance for the Speece family. Brother Ryan H. Speece, 32°, became the newest member of the family to join the Valley. He was greeted by his father, Ill. Jack H. Speece, 33°, and his grandfather, Ill. Howard H. Speece, 33°. Both have served the Valley as Commander-in-Chief.

* **Plus one.** In the last issue we mentioned that Pennsylvania was the most recent Grand Lodge in the United States to accept petitions under the age of 21. No sooner had the magazine come off the press when Ill. Donald D. Thomas, 33°, a Supreme Council Active Member from Delaware, pointed out to us that the Grand Lodge of Delaware had adopted legislation in March to lower the age in that state to 18. He was pleased to note that the first 18-year-old had already been initiated into Franklin Lodge No. 12, Georgetown, DE.

* **Family Life winners.** Results have been announced for the winners of the 2001 Family Life awards. Each Valley is asked to submit detailed reports outlining the events associated with Family Life programs during the year. The reports are then reviewed and the Valleys with the best programs are recognized. Based on size of membership the best overall programs were awarded to the Valleys in Reading, PA; Peoria, IL; Quincy, IL, and Augusta, ME. Receiving honorable mention were 16 other Valleys.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°
Editor



Further light

Light. The light of the sun drives away the night. The light of truth and knowledge drives away ignorance, prejudice, tyranny, and hate. Truly, this is the light of hope for the human race.

There are men of all races and walks of life who have joined together in the search for further light. There are men who are dedicated to spreading the light of knowledge, tolerance, liberty and brotherly love.

Who are these men? They are 32° Freemasons.



32° Freemasonry – Making a Real Difference!