

# The Northern Light

A Window for Freemasonry



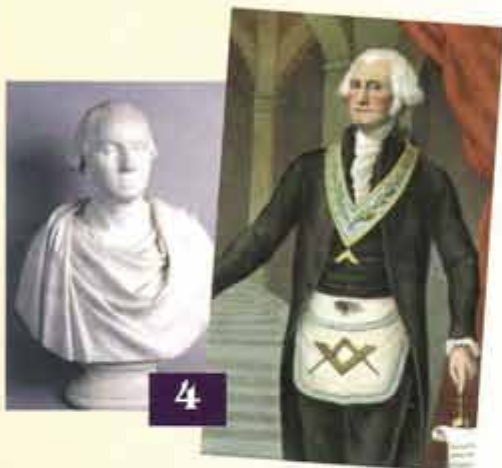
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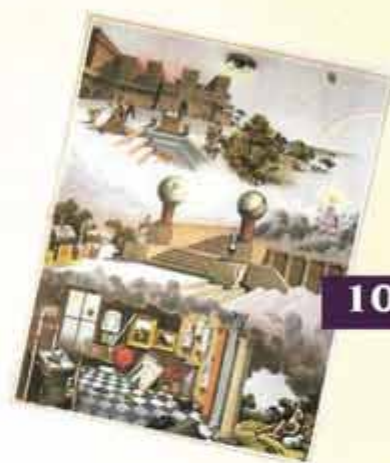
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**EDITOR**  
Richard H. Curtis, 33°

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Alan E. Foulds

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS**  
Sonja B. Faiola  
Beth E. McSweeney

**MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Stephen E. Carpenter, 33°, Chairman  
Richard J. Travis, 33°  
Donald D. Thomas, 33°  
Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°

**SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°**  
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite  
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.  
**SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER**  
Walter E. Webber, 33°

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

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

**Internet:**  
www.supremecouncil.org



“Washington’s exemplary character  
is a quality for all of us to emulate.”

— Walter E. Webber, 33°



## A Case of First and Lasting Impressions

As youngsters we were all entertained by the tale of George Washington cutting down the cherry tree and promptly confessing to his father. This image portrays the rectitude of character, which was the hallmark of his career. My generation (when we were youngsters) always looked forward to Washington’s Birthday as a guaranteed day off from school, even if it did not snow, and in New England it snowed frequently. Now we have “President’s Day,” and Brother George shares the recognition with others.

Some have said that future generations may know less about Washington as the accumulation of historical events compete for a student’s time. Such an outcome would be an unfortunate circumstance for a man who had a profound effect on the freedoms we enjoy today.

Washington was a man of character, a person who evoked respect even from those who were not fond of him. He was a man of great wealth, not only in material things but also in those qualities that others seek to emulate. He molded the position of chief executive, a position that is now looked upon as being the most prestigious in the world.

It is no accident that his picture hangs in most Masonic meeting places. Washington recognized in Masonry something that resonated within him. He was sworn into office on the Holy Bible from St. John’s Lodge No. 1 in New York City. Whether by oversight or design matters little, but he determined that a Holy Bible was essential for the ceremony.

He laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol with Masonic ceremony while clothed in Masonic regalia. He presented his very own chair from his study at Mt. Vernon to Alexandria Lodge in Virginia so that the lodge might use it as the Master’s chair. (The members later honored him by naming the lodge the Alexandria-Washington Lodge.) Washington was the charter Master of the lodge and is the only president to have served as Master of a lodge while simultaneously serving as president.

Think about what he did for us as a nation. He secured our independence with the force of arms. He

played a major role in establishing our form of government. And after years of service, he retired to become the gentleman farmer and master of Mount Vernon.

Washington’s singular talents and purposeful character did so much to win our independence from Great Britain, to establish our freedoms and to guarantee a constitutional democracy.

Our gratitude to the man who had the sense, the stature and the moral authority is limitless. He literally breathed life into the democracy that we are and have become.

As we begin to celebrate the 30 years of existence of the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts, it is appropriate that we pay homage to the “father of our country” with a museum exhibition that highlights his role as a Mason. You will find greater detail about the exhibit within the pages of this issue of *The Northern Light*.

The museum has become one of the largest and most important Masonic repositories in the world. An important statue of George Washington has come from the Valley of Columbus to the museum for the exhibition and will remain on permanent loan. We are also pleased to have provided assistance to St. John’s Lodge in New York City for the conservation of the “Washington Bible.” That item will also be a part of the exhibition. Both Alexandria-Washington Lodge and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, have loaned artifacts for the exhibit.

How appropriate that we as Scottish Rite Masons — through the National Heritage Museum — take the opportunity to demonstrate, once again, why Brother George Washington has a unique place not only in the hearts and minds of his forebears but also in the very fabric of the United States of America. His exemplary character is a quality for all of us to emulate.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Walter E. Webber".

Sovereign Grand Commander



# Founding Father Honored

By MARK A. TABBERT, 32°

*Washington artifacts on display for museum's 30th anniversary*

As part of the 30th anniversary celebration at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, an appropriate tribute to Brother George Washington has been prepared, and some unusual artifacts have been loaned for the occasion.

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 has arranged to send the Master's chair from the replica room at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The chair is believed to have been part of the original furniture from the first lodge room in 1802.

Other items include portraits, statues, letters and broadsides relating to Brother Washington.

As the most honored American, George Washington has assumed many identities in the nation's culture. Since the 1770s, Americans have revered him as an innovative farmer, a loving husband, a great military leader, and a wise politician and bestowed upon him the title of "Father of His Country."

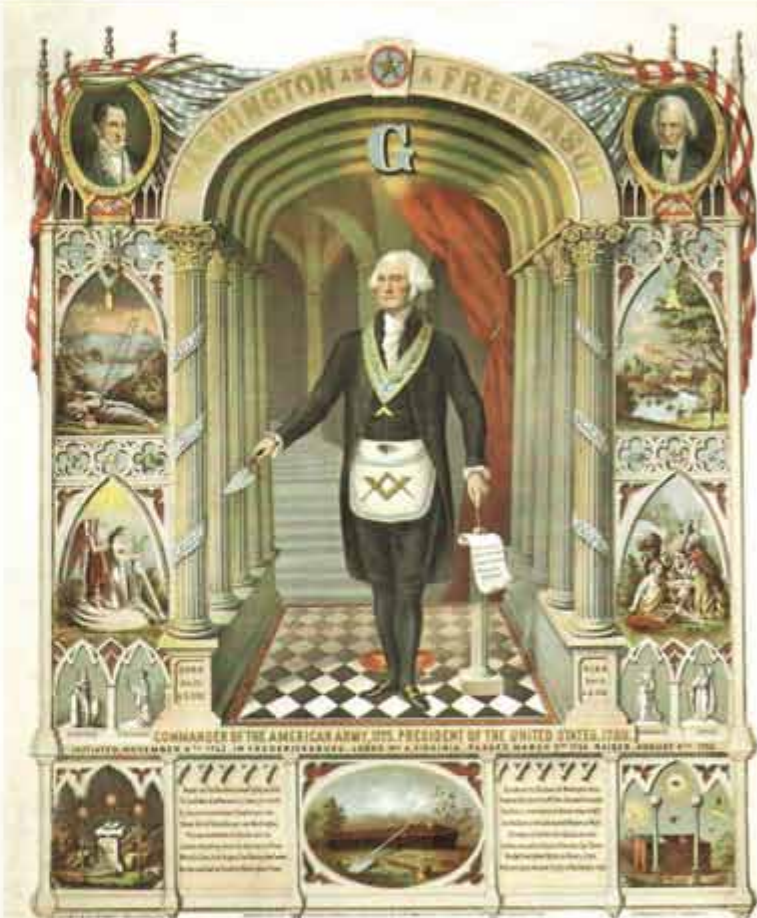
Even today, his prestige and image are used for countless political and commercial purposes. What is less known is Washington's life-long Masonic membership.

The new display at the National Heritage Museum will broaden the public understanding of Washington's Masonic life and increase Masonic pride of our distinguished brother.

Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber was the impetus for this exciting display. Soon after becoming Commander, he agreed to assist St.

Since the early 1800s many publishers have portrayed George Washington as Master of a lodge. Surrounded by the symbols of the craft, two other heroes and Masons are included: President Andrew Jackson and the Marquis de Lafayette.

*Washington as a Freemason, 1870. Published by J. H. Powers & Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. Chromolithograph on paper (78.74.18).*



John's Lodge No. 1 of New York City to restore the priceless "Washington Bible."

Washington took his oath of office on the Bible at his first inauguration in 1789. It was used by four other presidents: Harding, Eisenhower, Carter and George Bush Sr. (Of the four, only Harding was a Freemason.)

Providentially, during a visit to the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, OH,

Commander Webber was shown a bronze statue of George Washington relegated to the Valley's boardroom.

Standing over 7 feet high, it was a copy of the famous Jean Antoine Houdon statue made in 1791 (see side bar). Working with Supreme Council Active Member and Grand Master of Ohio, Jim Deyo, 33°, the Valley and the museum agreed to move the statue to Lexington for greater public appreciation.

From these two projects it was agreed to create a display of Washington Masonic artifacts.



MARK A. TABBERT, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum, is the author of *American Freemasons*, to be published in May.





This bust portrays Washington as the ancient Roman hero a farmer who was called to rule Rome during an invasion, and then willingly returned to his plow once the danger had ended.

George Washington, 1848,  
Thomas Crawford (1814-1857),  
Marble (78.75.1).

Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Manney.

Beginning in September a list of artifacts was compiled that included minute books, correspondence and objects from various Grand Lodges and Lodges.

Titled "George Washington: Freemason and Founding Father," the display will open on Feb. 18 and run through June 12.

The display will begin with various portraits of Washington. The first, painted by Rembrandt Peale, shows Washington as a general. The second, also by Peale, presents him as a citizen in civilian clothing. Complementing these is a marble bust made by Thomas Crawford showing Washington in a toga, idealizing him as the Roman hero Cincinnatus.

Masonic depictions of Washington in the display include an early lithograph of him from the 1860s, the famous Hattie Burdette print of him commissioned for the bicentennial of his birth in 1932, and a 1980s Masonic symbols and membership lithograph prominently displaying Washington as a Past Master.

Together with the Bible and the bronze statue, more than a dozen objects will be display.

The oldest artifact is a Union Lodge minute book from 1782. Connecticut soldiers formed Union Lodge during the siege of Boston in 1776.

Washington visited this lodge during the War for Independence. After the war, the lodge was reconstituted as American Union Lodge No. 1 in Marietta, Ohio, in 1791.

During the War, Freemasons Watson and Cossoul sent from France to Washington an embroidered Masonic apron.

Washington later wore this apron during the cornerstone ceremony of the U.S. Capitol in 1793. On display from the Grand Lodge of New York is Washington's thank you letter to Watson and Cossoul for the apron.

During his presidency, Washington often toured the country to escape the demands of government.

Borrowed from the Library of the Boston Athenaeum is a Masonic address from King David's Lodge No. 1 given to President Washington when he visited Providence, Rhode Island, in 1790.

Comprised mostly of Jewish Brethren, the lodge included Moses Seixas, the first Grand Master of Rhode Island, and Moses Michael Hays, the first known American Scottish Rite Freemason. Washington's thank you letter to King David's Lodge will also be on display.

Included in the display is a 1791 minute book from St. John's Lodge No. 3, of New Bern, North Carolina, detailing the hospitality of the lodge given to Washington during his tour of the Southern states.

After Washington refused a third term as president in 1796, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania sent him a letter thanking him for his service and wishing him every happiness.

On display will be Washington's reply, written in his own hand, that closes by saying: "... may all meet thereafter in that eternal temple whose builder is the Great Architect of the Universe."

**This urn created by Paul Revere, contains a lock of George Washington's hair. The urn is ceremoniously entrusted to each Grand Master of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge.**

Washington only enjoyed three years of retirement before he caught a severe cold and passed away on Dec. 14, 1799.

Martha Washington asked that Alexandria Lodge No. 22 help organize the funeral. All six pallbearers were Brother Masons and more than 70 local Masons marched in the procession to the tomb.

Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, Master of Alexandria Lodge, conducted Masonic services.

Across the nation citizens mourned the loss of Washington, and many Masonic lodges held special services and processions to eulogize their departed brother.

Documenting Freemasons' reverence for their departed brother, three important artifacts will be displayed.

From the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts collection is a copy of the Dec. 30, 1799, edition of *Dartmouth Gazette*, Hanover, New Hampshire, announcing the death of Washington.

Directly below the notice is an announcement of a planned Masonic memorial service to be held by local Franklin Lodge, No. 6.

Of greater importance is a gold urn containing a lock of Washington's hair, owned by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Soon after Washington's death, the Grand Lodge requested and received from Martha Washington a lock of his hair.

In 1809, Past Grand Master Paul Revere crafted a gold urn to safeguard it. Holding a special place of honor within the Grand Lodge, the urn is ➤





➤ ceremonially entrusted to the new Grand Master when he is installed.

Lastly, as part of the continued brotherly love and affection of the fraternity toward Washington, we will display a bronze life mask of Washington.

Lent to the museum from the Scottish Rite Valley of Milwaukee, the mask was probably cast from the Houdon statue in 1910.

Purportedly made from fragments of Revolutionary War cannons, it was donated to the Valley by Paul H. Gunderesen, 32°, in 1982, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Washington's birth.

The museum is proud to present such an important collection of Washington artifacts.

Through the leadership and brotherly love of our great fraternity, the museum's visitors can continually appreciate the virtues of our greatest President and Mason.

"Port hole" portrait, so named for the painted stonework oval surrounding the image, shows Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Armed Forces.

George Washington,  
ca. 1847

Rembrandt Peale  
(1778-1860).

Oil on canvas (75.6).

Gift of

John Bartholomew Webster.



## George Washington Statue, 1910

On Loan from the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, Ohio

In 1784 the commonwealth of Virginia authorized the commissioning of a statue of George Washington. Thomas Jefferson, then in Paris, secured the famous artist Jean Antoine Houdon to make the sculpture. Leaving other projects behind, Houdon traveled to America accompanied by Benjamin Franklin. Houdon stayed at Mount Vernon between October 2-17, 1785, taking measurement of Washington and making plaster casts of Washington's face and limbs.

Returning to France, Houdon completed the work in 1791. When Lafayette saw the statue for the first time he exclaimed: "That is the man himself. I can almost realize he is going to move." The statue remained in the Virginia State House until 1796.

In 1910 the General Assembly of Virginia authorized the Gorham Company of Providence, Rhode Island, to make bronze replicas. This statue is one of the first seven made in 1910 and was originally placed in Columbus, Ohio.

The statue combines the many elements of Washington's life, holding the cane of a gentleman, wearing a soldier's uniform, with the farmers plow behind him and his arm resting on the ancient Roman "fasces" or bundle of 13 sticks, signifying authority and unity of the 13 original states.

In cooperation with the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus and the Supreme Council, the statue was transported to Massachusetts in December. It is currently undergoing professional conservation by Clifford Craine of Daedalus Inc., in Massachusetts, before its unveiling in the museum. The statue will remain on permanent loan at the Lexington museum.





# Ready, Set, Retire

By LAWRENCE D. INGLIS, 33°

## *The four stages of retirement*

Since retirement, the common question I hear everywhere I go is, "Hi, Judge, how do you like retirement?" The question is almost always asked with a voice that indicates the questioner doesn't really believe anyone could possibly be happy not working at an accepted occupation. Can someone really enjoy retirement? Haven't you lost your worth in life? Who wants a retired guy around?

You can almost read their minds as they contemplate their own future. I have begun to realize that most of them are thinking to themselves, "How would I like retirement? Won't I be bored to tears? My spouse doesn't want me around the house; what will I do? Will anyone care? What will I be worth as a person?"

Have you asked yourself any of those questions? There are good answers, but it helps if you prepare. There are several steps you can take to ease the transfer from the demands of employment to what can be the joys of retirement.

To retire is to conclude one's working or professional career. That sounds pretty good to most young people. But, as they draw nearer to the day, many otherwise positive men have second thoughts and dream up unique reasons not to retire. What causes the dream of youth for lots of free time to become a foreboding and mysterious future?

How many men eligible for retirement hesitate? Are you one of them? What reward do you expect to receive for spending more years at work and



forfeiting precious time with your family and friends doing the things that you have always wanted to do?

### *The Present and Looking Ahead*

I presented a program on retirement to the Judges of the State of Illinois at their annual training seminar. In preparing, I discovered there were four distinct stages. The first starts about three years before retirement. As you trained for a working career, you can prepare for retirement.

I surveyed many of my retired friends and colleagues. They uniformly had one recommendation. Make a list of the things that you want to do when you retire, then do them now. Because when

you retire you won't have time. The men I know are all busy and enjoying retirement. Don't worry; there is plenty to do.

What would you like to do? Is your life all tied up in your work? If you do not have any nonprofessional or nonwork-related activities, open up your life and let some light shine in.

As a Mason and member of the Scottish Rite, you already have a head start on most men. Don't overlook the retirement opportunities open to you as a Mason. There is a vast fraternal and charitable world waiting for you to make room in your life. Before you start, there are several important considerations.

Retirement for most of us is a joint venture. It affects your spouse. Talk to your spouse. This is truly a time for meaningful discussion of what you both want. What does she want? I ➤



LAWRENCE D. INGLIS, 33°, is Grand Lieutenant Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.



► am sure she doesn't want to be your servant or have you take over her life. Spend some quality time discussing and planning what you both want out of life. The time spent will reap a rich harvest during retirement.

The number of things you can do is limited only by your imagination. There are activities for everyone. My wife and I enjoy handgun shooting. Shooting is not physically demanding and is an exciting hobby. Travel as a couple or in groups. Investigate Elderhostel. I could fill this magazine with options and activities available to you.

I know men and couples who have taken college courses, gone whale watching, visited museums and taught reading in our learning centers. Do you have a talent or special skill? Whom can you help?

One of my judicial friends is petrified by the thought of retirement. His fear translates to his wife, who doesn't want a full-time dependent. He asked me where to start. Knowing him as a man of faith, I told him to go to his priest and offer to help. I told him the priest might be in shock when you ask, but the church or synagogue always has a need for talented people. A day spent painting the church hall followed by a pizza party with all the workers can be fun and rewarding.

This article is aimed at the social aspects of retirement, but I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to update your wills and related financial affairs. If you are fortunate enough to be able to share with those less fortunate in life, don't forget the 32<sup>nd</sup> Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., as a possible beneficiary. If you would like information on the centers or any of the numerous Scottish Rite Charities call or have your attorney call the office at 1-781-465-3326 or 1-800-814-1432 ext. 3326.

Getting your financial house in order with appropriate estate planning should not be delayed. Make sure your spouse has a clear understanding of family finances and requirements that may some day fall upon her. She should be an integral part of all plans, both social and economic. The more comfortable she is, the more comfortable retirement will be for both of you.

### ***The Last 60 Days Before Retirement***

This second stage is very important. Don't assume anyone is going to take

care of things for you. Double check all the requirements of your employment. Some retirement funds require an application before a pension begins. Check your health insurance. Check all beneficiary forms for insurance and pension payments. If you are about to start Social Security, be sure to make proper application.

The most important thing I did at this stage is something I highly recommend to you. Sit your spouse down and explain that your life is about to be very different and tell her you want this to be a new time for her to enjoy as well. Ask her what you can do to make her life different and easier. I wanted my wife to have an easier life as well. When we were finished talking, she knew I really wanted her life to be better and different.

**“The number of things you can do is limited only by your imagination. There are activities for everybody.”**

You have probably heard the expression “married for life, but not for lunch.” One of my dear friends and special brothers from New Jersey told me he goes out to lunch with the boys every day. He makes sure his wife has some space.

I make many of my own lunches. My wife is happy about that, but she wondered about my judgment when I brought a couple of cans of Spam home with other items I had purchased for lunches.

I also make an effort to take her out to eat much more than we did when I worked. Retirement doesn't mean you

suddenly become worthless and helpless. Be prepared to take care of yourself and your spouse, if necessary. A careful check of criminal case law reveals that a wife never murdered her husband when he was helping with the dishes.

### ***The First 60 Days of Retirement***

This third stage is the most critical period. There are new rules for your new life. You must move out of the past, into the present. It is important that you adopt a good viewpoint. Get up, clean up, and face the day. Some men fall into a pit of self-pity and let themselves go. They feel there is no need to clean up and get the motor running. Your personal appearance and thrust at the beginning of retirement and each day thereafter is important.

You can be relaxed and busy without pressure. This is the time to start doing all the little things you have neglected. It is also an excellent time to look for excuses to get out of the house and give your spouse some room to adjust to having you around so much more.

One judge I know says, “I have nothing to do this coming week,” and bemoans his life. All the others say, “I can do whatever I want and can't wait to get started.” You determine your attitude.

For the first 60 days, look forward to the day and crank up the attitude and body. Sure you're older and the body has its problems, but you have overcome a lot to get this far. With all the good times available to you, it is no time to quit.

You will need some activity to get your mind on the present and off the past. There are several immediate tasks that can get you started. I list a few that worked for other retirees.

1. It is time to release all the clutter in your life. Go through every piece of paper and the records that you have accumulated. Get rid of everything you don't absolutely need.

2. Clean up and rearrange your work bench.

3. Take a good look at your wardrobe and give the Salvation Army or some charity all the things that you have accumulated and have not used or no longer need.

4. I reorganized my den and purchased a new computer and a new printer/copier/fax machine. Learning how they operate will keep you occupied.

5. Be sure you have e-mail. You can no longer put it off. The older you get, the



more you will enjoy communicating with friends and family by e-mail. Stay young by keeping in touch with the young. Grandchildren know how to contact you by e-mail, so now is the time to get started.

6. Visit the Scottish Rite. If you don't want to go alone, call one of your brothers and invite him to go with you. I frequently carpool to the Rite. It makes the trip more fun. You are the only one who can sentence you to be lonely and sit at home.

7. Visit Blue Lodge. Okay, you promised to keep the secrets and so you forgot them. Don't worry. Go to the Master. Tell him you recently retired and would like a refresher so you can visit lodges and attend from time to time. He will be pleased to see you.

8. Go to the local library and get a card if you don't have one. With inter-library transfer, they can get anything you want. I have been reading and, in some cases, rereading the classics. What interests you? Check all the free videos and DVDs. Right now I have two books started, a video half-finished and this article all cooking.

The list can go on, but the first 60 days are critical to your enjoyment of retirement. Adopt a few of these suggestions and make some of your own. I guarantee before 60 days are up, you will wonder how you had time to work.

I know that I haven't reached some of you yet. You want to be convinced and shown that you can be happy in retirement. If you want that light to really shine on your retirement, you should decide where you will look and it doesn't start by looking in the mirror at yourself. Shine that light of your life on someone else. That's right. Stop thinking of yourself and think of someone else.

This is your life and you want it to be good, but so do all your friends and Masonic brothers. Life isn't always about big things.

The things you do for others may seem small to you, but they can be big to others. Now you have time for doing some good things for someone else. Adopt some friends in a nursing home. Do it now. Don't wait. Someone needs you.

For several years, I have had a Brother I visited regularly. The years

**“The things you do for others may seem small to you, but they can be big to others.”**

have taken several Brothers I visited. If you visit a Brother, you will know that your life still has meaning. Drop in and visit once a week or as often as you can.

Can you imagine how meaningful all retirees could make their lives if they remembered just one other person who couldn't get out? Through a simple visit you can bring the sunshine of life into their lives. Depending on your own health, you may have to hobble in and hobble out, but someone needs you. Don't let him down.

Don't wait for someone to keep you busy or enrich your life. Take charge. You can make a difference. Rabbis, priests, and ministers are not the only ones charged to visit the restricted. There are so many programs where you can help when you are willing to put yourself second and someone else first.

For 15 years my father-in-law visited at the local veteran's hospital. He was a part of the Masonic Service Association's hospital-visitation program. He wrote letters for patients, played cards with them, and served the patients in many ways.

It enriched his life and gave him and the many other Masonic visitors in that program a purpose to live.

The sunshine he spread came back to him and brightened his life. He lived to be 92, with the last 15 years helping those who served our country. There is a place for you. The rewards are not monetary, but they enrich the soul.

### **Retirement**

The fourth and longest stage is your retirement. You thought about it; you planned for it. You have made an effort to adjust. Now you can appreciate life

and the opportunities you have to do what you want.

If you have a life partner like I do, you have someone to share the days and years ahead. If you are flying solo now or the winds of time leave you alone, as a Scottish Rite Mason you will never be alone. No one wants you to be alone. You are our Brother and we want to share with you.

Let the Brothers in your local lodge know you want to be involved. That doesn't mean you have to remember or memorize a lot of things. The officers love sideliners. They work hard to prepare their parts and would enjoy having you present. A Scottish Rite reunion is not a reunion without you. Dig out your passport or ask for a new one. View each of the degrees and fill up your passport.

We hope you can drive for many years, but if the day comes when you cannot, call and ask for a ride. The more you make yourself known now the more you will be remembered when that sunshine turns to the rain that falls in all our lives. There are many activities other than degrees. Read the notices and participate.

If you travel south in the winter, participate in the Masonic activities. If you don't know how to visit a lodge, ask an active Brother to bring you up-to-date. It is easy to visit a Blue Lodge and even easier to visit the Scottish Rite. All you need to visit a Scottish Rite Valley is your dues card.

Enjoy each day. Retirement is wonderful. Sorry, I have to end now and get going. There are so many things to do. Best wishes to you, my Brother, in the wonderful adventure of life called retirement.





# The Degree Journey

By WAYNE T. ADAMS, 33°

## *Three characteristics of the Masonic rite of passage*

The term "rite of passage" is commonly used to describe a significant milestone following which we see the world very differently.

The first time a boy goes hunting with his father, the first time he drives the family car alone, the first sexual encounter, the first day of military service, a wedding, the birth of a child. These are all events we can describe in detail many years later. They are milestones, and in subtle ways they change the way we look at the world.

The term "rite of passage" is also used to describe a second, more profound experience following which we see ourselves very differently. It is an experience which causes us to stand outside ourselves and reflect on where we are, what we are doing, what we want to be, where we want to go in life and, very important, by whom we want to be accepted.

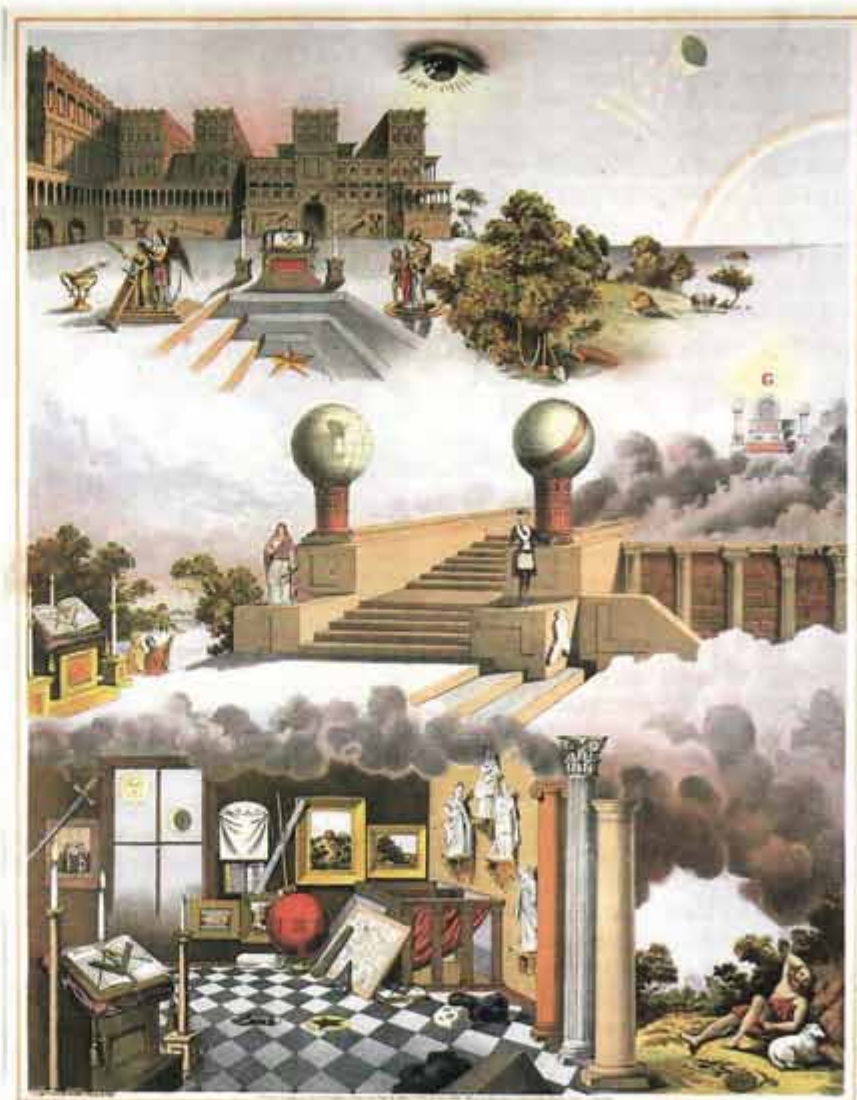
The three degrees of Craft Masonry are intended and designed to provide a man with such an experience and to give him insight into his own life.

In the first or Entered Apprentice degree, he sees a young man learning the tenets of his profession (brotherly love, relief and truth), guided in the theological virtues (faith, hope and charity) and instructed in the cardinal virtues (temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice). This is the ideal instruction of a youth. Each of us would want a son to learn those things well as a young man.

In the second or Fellowcraft degree,



WAYNE T. ADAMS, 33°, is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.



Masonic symbols from the three degrees appear in the 1866 lithograph by J.H. Bufford & Sons, Boston. From the National Heritage Museum collection, a gift of John H. VanGorden (86.52b).

we see a man in the working years of his life receiving further instruction to develop his abilities and hone his skills to the end that he may be a better provider

for his family and a more productive member of society. That is the ideal, and that is exactly what each one of us hopes to do.

In the third or Master Mason degree, we learn through the example of Hiram that at the end of our days when all else



is gone, the only thing that will matter to us is that we have been faithful to our obligations. That is the ideal. It is what each one of us hopes for. It is the consolation we want to find at the end of a well-spent life.

The rite of passage from degree to degree which gives us insight into our own life and values and which gives us the ideal toward which we should travel has three important characteristics:

- It is individual with respect to the decision to undertake and continue on the journey.
- It is experiential with respect to the nature and prominent features of the journey.
- It is spiritual with respect to the habits of life it suggests to us.

Those qualities account for the strong emotional hold Masonry has had on the imaginations of men for over 250 years. Let us look at each of those qualities.

### *An Individual Decision*

Almost every man I know wants to be his own man with his own identity and his own values and believes that he must arrive at those values in his own individual way. This idea is familiar to Masons.

At the outset, Masonry demands that every man's relationship with God be respected. Further, we believe we all come to Masonry as equals, on the level, just as we come into this world without moral blemish or defect, as square, level and plumb as a perfect ashlar.

But this is a rough and tumble world. We take some hard knocks and acquire some rough edges. We pick up habits and patterns of thought that do not reflect our better nature. We Masons refer to those habits and patterns of thought as "the vices and superfluities of life."

At some point along the way most men see the need to make an adjustment, to get themselves squared away. This is an individual decision. It has to be made of a man's own free will and accord. In fact, during our degrees a candidate is asked repeatedly if his progress in Masonry is of his own free will and accord.

We, who are Masons, come to understand we are voluntarily trying to regain that which is lost and that every step along the way has to be of our own free will and accord.

Indeed, the whole purpose of Masonry is to help us get back from the condition of the rough ashlar to the

condition of the perfect ashlar.

The distance between the two in most Lodges is only about six feet, but the distance is not measured in feet. It is measured in acquired wisdom, a wisdom that has to be arrived at freely and individually.

In each of our three degrees five separate things are going on simultaneously: A candidate is being obligated. A story is being told. Symbols are being taught. An allegory is being developed, and a philosophy of life is being subtly suggested. One might ask, "Why go through all of this? There must be a simpler way. Why not just have someone get up and explain it like it is?" The answer is simple.

Educators are just now discovering what Masons have long known: We all learn in different ways and at different speeds. When in the course of our degree journey we present these five strands in the form of prose, poetry, prayer, monologue, dialogue, symbol and movement, the candidate has the opportunity to observe the interaction among those strands and absorb the principles they suggest in his own individual way and as seems most meaningful to him individually.

Masonry honors and respects a man who is his own man, a man who maintains his own individuality and who nourishes and guards his own values in his own way.

### *A Personal Experience*

Almost every man I know believes his personal values are and must be the product of his own experience. As we look back, we realize it is from our life experiences that we learn the most.

**The three degrees of Craft  
Masonry are designed to  
provide a man with insight  
into his own life.**

Many young people today have taken an interest in eastern religions and with the cultures of primitive peoples as they search for experiences which will contribute wisdom and meaning to their own lives. Surprisingly, this opens up another opportunity for Masonry because our degree journey contains experiences that are, as we know, a source of great wisdom. Each of our degrees has a pattern, a progression and a purpose. Taken together, they have an overall pattern, progression and purpose.

Our Masonic communications, or meetings, are quite different from the everyday things people normally experience. Each of our degrees has a different purpose, but they follow a similar pattern.

First, we very consciously close out the noise and haste of the outside world. We settle down. We do this slowly by following a 6 to 8 minute opening ceremony with which we are familiar. When we complete that ceremony, we are focused. We are centered.

Next, we encounter a story. It is really two stories or legends. The first is the story of the stonemason on his life journey which each candidate, which each Mason symbolically takes. The second story or legend is of the building of King Solomon's Temple. Those two legends come together in the Third Degree.

As we proceed further we begin using a new language, the language of symbols. Many lodges have framed charts hanging on the wall. An experienced Mason does not just see and recognize those symbols. He can actually read them and in reading them he understands the story and lessons of the degree they illustrate. ➤



► Beyond the legend and symbols, we discover that there is another story, a second story, a story within a story. We begin to understand that our legends themselves are allegories and have double meanings.

From that discovery, we can go further and begin to discern the outline of a Masonic philosophy, a philosophy characterized by toleration, respect, self-discipline, help and trust. Most of us, when we get to that point discover that this philosophy fits our needs and the components of our life so perfectly that we feel we must have had it once and lost it. We feel it is what we have been seeking — not to find as much as to recover.

Finally, having achieved this point, we slowly retreat. In fact our closing charge tells us, "We are about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue." We retreat back through our closing ceremony and formally close our lodge.

After the lodge is closed, we repair to the kitchen or dining room. We joke and laugh and chat about the cares and expectations of daily life. We have returned to the world of the present. But for a few moments, we have journeyed together to a place very close to the center of whom we are, individually, of whom we want to be and of what we want to become.

The Masonic degree journey is experiential. Anyone can read almost all of the degree work, patching together the exposés and plain English texts from other jurisdictions. There is very little a non-Mason cannot know or find out, but that knowledge alone will not make him a Mason. What makes him a Mason is the experiential quality of the degree journey.

### *A Spiritual Discipline*

Almost every person I know, church-going or not, believes he or she has a higher spiritual side that is just as valid as anyone else's. Spirituality involves nurturing the very best that is within us, better enabling us to live out our professed beliefs. This nurturing is best accomplished by consciously following a personal discipline. Such disciplines in different forms are associated with many belief systems.

I recently read a short book, *Zen for Christians*. It referred to "the Eightfold Path to Liberation from Suffering," what we might call ways to deal with

the challenges of this world. The eight paths or disciplines were divided into three groups: three, three, and two. I read them carefully and was astonished to find that the three groups corresponded precisely to the themes of our three degrees, themes more universal than we suspect.

Masonry offers two kinds of discipline. There is the organizational discipline as reflected in the three obligations. Those obligations define a Mason's responsibilities to Brother Masons and to the fraternity as a whole. The fraternity has administrative procedures to deal with the failure to comply with those obligations.

Masonry also offers a spiritual discipline consisting of voluntary and personal duties enforceable only by our own consciences. Remembering to invoke the blessing of Deity before any great and important undertaking is a spiritual discipline.

Consciously trying in our daily lives to follow the tenets of our profession (brotherly love, relief and truth), to be mindful of the theological virtues (faith, hope and charity), to practice the four cardinal virtues (temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice) is a spiritual discipline.

Working daily to develop the habit of subduing the passions, acting upon the square, keeping a tongue of good report, maintaining secrecy and promoting charity is a spiritual discipline.

Taking time from busy lives to view with reverence and admiration the glorious work of the creation and to be inspired with the most exalted ideas of the perfection of our Divine Creator is a spiritual discipline.

Very consciously going out of our way to serve a worthy Brother, remembering him in our devotions to Deity, keeping his secrets as our own, stretching forth a helping hand, protecting his

**The degree journey is individual in that each man must embark on it of his own free will and accord.**

character, guarding his good name and giving him timely notice is also a spiritual discipline.

Finally, living a life faithful to all our obligations to God, our neighbors and ourselves, the great lesson of the sublime degree, Masonry's crowning spiritual discipline.

These are the disciplines of a Mason. These are the things we are taught we must do to become living stones for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. The discipline of consciously remembering these duties as a daily habit and trying to act on each one of them does not, of course, make one a better person. It does, however, put a person in a frame of mind where it is possible for him to become a better person.

Masonry holds that these disciplines are best taught, exemplified and reinforced in the company of and with the support of men on a similar journey, committed to a similar effort in their own lives.

The Masonic rite of passage, the degree journey is individual in that each man must embark on it of his own free will and accord. It is experiential in that we believe it is learned by degrees. It is spiritual in that it holds out to every man the possibility of strengthening his own character.

The first purpose of every lodge is to provide a man with that rite of passage and to help him on his journey to the end that he may become a better man.

Then, when he has arrived at the ability to see the ideal that the journey presents to him and has made a commitment to live consistent with that ideal, to stand and walk and think and talk as a just and upright Mason, he is accepted into a brotherhood as an equal, a fellow traveler on a journey from darkness to light. In that moment of acceptance, the mystic tie is extended and renewed. ☸



# Museum to Publish New Masonic Book

One of the highlights of the 30th anniversary of the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA, will be the publication of a new book on Freemasonry. *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities* is scheduled for release in May.

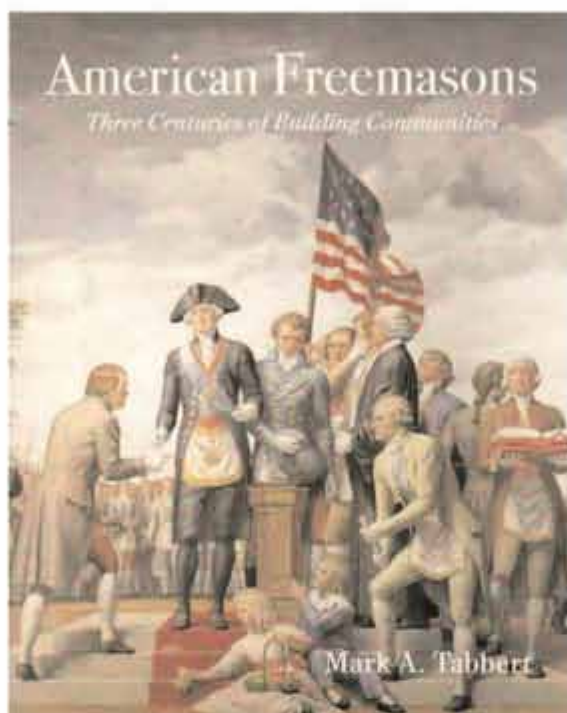
Written by Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the museum, the book explores the role played by Freemasons in the development of the country and examines seven reasons why men have joined the fraternity over the years. Each reason is placed in chronological sequence.

Bro. Tabbert says the book does not make predictions for the future of Freemasonry. "It simply relates the past to the present and shows how Freemasonry's tenets — first established in the 1700s — continue to adorn both the lodge and America today," he said. "It shows the relationship between the privacy of a Masonic lodge and the public environment of the American community."

The extravagantly illustrated volume offers an overview of Freemasonry's origins in 17th-century Scotland and England before exploring its evolving role in American history, from the Revolution through the labor and civil rights movements and into the 21st century.

The 280-page book, containing more than 200 color illustrations, is published by the National Heritage Museum in conjunction with New York University Press. Most of the items illustrated in the book are part of the extensive collection at the museum.

*American Freemasons* is based on a museum exhibition, "To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community," which opened in Lex-



ington in 2002. Bro. Tabbert was assigned the task of curating that exhibit. After the opening, he was encouraged to publish a companion catalogue.

"As Mark began to work on the project, he decided that the book would expand upon the limited space within a gallery and serve as a lasting repository of documented research that supports the reasons why millions of men have been attracted to the Masonic fraternity for more than three centuries," said Museum Director John H. Ott, 32°. "The wealth of information in our VanGorden-Williams Library and the ever-expanding items in our fraternal collections have been valuable assets in Mark's research."

Although the book will not be available until May, preorders are being accepted through the Heritage Shop at the National Heritage Museum and the Supreme Council website ([www.supremecouncil.org](http://www.supremecouncil.org)). The cost of the book will be \$29.95 plus shipping and handling.

## REVIEWER'S COMMENTS

*"Masonry has been an integral part of this country's history. Yet until now, no single book has traced the progress of the fraternity from the early 18th century to the early 21st. This beautifully illustrated book is the best introduction to the Masonic past now available for brothers and for curious outsiders."*

— Steven C. Bullock, author of *Revolutionary Brotherhood*

*"From colonial times to the present, Masons have always been central to community life in America. Mark Tabbert tells their story in a fresh and arresting way, explaining Masonic ideals and practices and situating Masons among a variety of fraternal groups and voluntary associations. This informative and visually delightful book introduces us to a vital aspect of our nation's civic history."*

— Theda Skocpol, Harvard University

*"One of the most frequently asked questions of MSA is, 'Where can I find a factual, accurate history of Freemasonry?' Now we have a good answer — American Freemasons. Fraternity is important in the growth of a nation and this book tells the amazing story played by the Freemasons of this country. A must read!"*

— Richard E. Fletcher, 33°, Executive Secretary, Masonic Service Association

*"Tabbert contextualizes Freemasonry within the broad sweep of American history and breaks new ground in analyzing the trends of the most recent decades. With illustrations drawn from the rich collections of the National Heritage Museum, this volume is visually appealing as well as intellectually rewarding."*

— William D. Moore, University of North Carolina at Wilmington



# 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.

## Peer Review Committee Provides Positive Feedback

Rather than resting on its laurels, the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., marked its tenth anniversary by commissioning a peer review committee.

Consisting of leaders in the field of dyslexia, the committee conducted a study to examine what works today and what changes might be made. In the words of Executive Director Joseph J. Berlandi, 32°, "We want to make what we are doing even better."

In January the committee made its findings public in a forum conducted at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA.

The purpose of the forum was not simply to announce the committee results, but also to allow discussion of the study and the services provided, in an effort to validate and to improve the learning centers program.

The committee, active for one year, includes four highly respected professionals independent of the learning center operations.

Dr. Maryanne Wolf is director of the Center for Reading and Language Research at Tufts University and a professor of child development.

Her many honors include the Distinguished Professor of the Year award from the Massachusetts Psychological Association and author of an upcoming book, *How the Brain Learned to Read*, published by Harper-Collins.

Dr. Beth O'Brien, a research coordinator, is also associated with Tufts University.



Dr. Gordon Sherman, of the Newgrange School and Educational Outreach Center explains data trends discovered during the peer review committee's analysis.

Dr. Gordon Sherman is the executive director of the Newgrange School Educational Outreach Center.

As an expert in the field of brain research, he is the author of more than 80 scientific articles and books.

Dr. Jeffrey Gilger is a professor and associate dean of research and faculty development in the College of Education at Purdue University. He also serves on the International Dyslexia Association board of directors.

After an introduction by Dr. David Winters, 32°, executive director of clinical affairs for the learning centers, Dr. Gilger presented an analysis of the data.

Drs. O'Brien and Sherman followed with results and trends shown by the tests, and Dr. Wolf transitioned the discussion to the next steps.

The peer review committee will soon submit a formal written report,

which will be used to design the second phase of the review, slated to begin later this year.

The goal is to finish the committee work in 2006. Following the formal presentations, the floor was opened for comments and discussion.

Included in the audience were notables in the field, such as Dr. Albert Galaburda, chief of the division of behavioral neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Nancy Hennessy, president of IDA, and Dr. Judith Birsh, editor of *Multi-Sensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills*.

Also participating in the discussion were Dr. Frank Wood, of Wake Forest; Dr. Louisa Moats, author and noted researcher;

Dr. Marilyn Jager Adams, author, and Dr. Pamela Hook of the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

The coming together of so many notables in the field of dyslexia research was impressive, and it emphasized the importance of the Scottish Rite program.

Bro. Berlandi said, "The dynamics of the day were palpable. You could feel the energy among the researchers and clinical people."

The report was very positive, and offered constructive comments for the future.

High praise was given for the learning centers program, while the review committee made it clear that this was not just a rubber stamp.

Bro. Winters commented that this type of review "is close to unheard of." The committee was given raw





Dr. Louisa Moats, of Sopris West Educational Services, participates in the post-presentation discussion.

data with no background or guidelines, and asked to produce an opinion on the works of the program.

The idea was to make their conclusions as candid as possible.

The creation of the committee and the charge given to them "was taking a chance," said Winters, but a necessary step in continual improvement, and demonstrates the seriousness of the Scottish Rite Masons in offering this service at its highest caliber.

Phase I included data from 400 students of the learning centers, representing all parts of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Phase II will contain data on nearly 3,500 children.

Later in the week, following the forum, the initial findings of the review committee were presented to the Deputies, who were at Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington, attending their semi-annual meeting.

## Money Received for School Partnership

Late this past fall it was announced by Brother and congressman, Robert Simmons, of Stonington, CT, that the federal departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education have approved a \$100,000 grant. The money is to be used to fund a new learning center at Groton, CT.

The application for the initial grant, to be distributed in fiscal year 2005, was submitted in partnership with the Groton public school system.

According to the plan, the program at Groton will have trained teachers for the site and tutor 20 to 30 children within the first two years.

It is the intention of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., with the help of Congressman Simmons, to apply for the grant each year, in order to continue and expand the Public School Initiative Program at Groton. The program is slated to begin in September.

## 52 Current Learning Centers

Allentown, PA  
Altoona, PA  
Bangor, ME  
Bay City, MI  
Bloomsburg, PA  
Greater Boston, MA (Newtonville)  
Burlington, NJ  
Burlington, VT  
Cambridge, OH  
Canton, OH  
Central New York (Oriskany)  
Chicago, IL  
Cincinnati, OH  
Cleveland, OH  
Columbus, OH  
Dayton, OH  
Detroit, MI

Erie, PA  
Evansville, IN  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Freeport, IL  
Harrisburg, PA  
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ  
Indianapolis, IN  
Lancaster, PA  
Lexington, MA  
Greater Lowell, MA  
Madison, WI  
Milwaukee, WI  
Nashua, NH  
Newark, NJ  
New Castle, PA  
Northfield, NJ  
Norwood, OH  
Pittsburgh, PA

Portland, ME  
Providence, RI  
Reading, PA  
Rochester, NY  
Scotch Pines, NJ  
Scranton, PA  
Seacoast NH (Rochester)  
South Bend, IN  
Southern Illinois (Belleville)  
Steubenville, OH  
Tenafly, NJ  
Toledo, OH  
Waterbury, CT  
West Michigan (Grand Rapids)  
Wilmington, DE  
Worcester, MA  
Youngstown, OH



# World's Oldest Mason

By ALAN E. FOULDS

*Fred Hale's life spanned 114 years*

The year was 1890. The first Army-Navy football game was played at West Point, and Sitting Bull was killed just before the massacre at Wounded Knee, SD. Peanut butter was first marketed, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, by Oscar Wilde was published, and Nettie Hale was giving birth to her son, Fred.

Just short of 114 years later Fred Hale died, but not before becoming the oldest Mason, and, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the world's oldest man.

His career, which spanned close to a half-century, was spent with the U.S. Post Office, where he served as a railway mail clerk. Working chiefly on the Boston and Maine railroad, he spent much of that time between Portland and Boston. He retired 50 years ago.

One of his great passions in life was beekeeping, starting at the age of 17 and continuing until he was 107. He had, at times, as many as 10 hives. He often gave lectures on the subject and was featured in an article in *Beeline Magazine*.

Another passion was Masonry. He joined the Franklin Lodge of New Sharon, ME, and was also a regular attendee at Hiram Lodge in Portland. Fred Hale Jr., his son and a Scottish Rite Mason, said that his father "didn't miss many meetings."

When asked the question every centenarian is posed, "To what do you attribute your long life?" he had several responses.



Fred Hale, left, and Fred Hale Jr. enjoyed a day at the ballpark.

Every day he took a spoonful of honey and bee pollen. According to his son, when he started the practice, his arthritis disappeared. Fred Jr. follows the regimen today.

In addition to the bee pollen, he kept a regular schedule and seldom varied from it. Each day he walked a mile, tended to his garden, and when in season, he canned fruits and vegetables. He also made his own applesauce.

With plenty of practice through the many years, Fred was always ready with an answer for reporters.

One young columnist asked him, "When you do finally pass on, what will you say to your Maker?" Without missing a beat, he said his question would be, "What took you so long?"

He maintained an easy temperament and an independent spirit throughout his long life. He remained in his own house until he was 107 and kept and used his driver's license until 108 — another record, according to the folks at Guinness. Even at that age he occasionally got frustrated with slow drivers.

At 103, while shoveling snow from his roof, a TV crew spotted him and he made the evening news that night.

When he was 109, he moved from Maine to a town just outside Syracuse, NY, to be near his son.

Despite his routine, he also possessed an adventuresome spirit. At 95, he flew to Japan to visit his grandson, who was serving in the Navy. On his way back he stopped at Hawaii.

There he donned a set of tropical shorts and tried his hand at boogie



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



## Fred and the Boston Red Sox

Fred Hale became somewhat of a celebrity in late 2004, during the last month of his life. His baseball team, the Boston Red Sox, staged a dramatic come-from-behind rush to win the American League pennant, and then go on to win the club's first World Series since 1918.

Bro. Hale was seen in an Associated Press photo, published across the country, watching the games on television while sporting a cap with the distinctive red "B" over the visor. It was noted in the caption that although few people today can remember 86 years ago when the Sox last were victorious, Fred was 27 years old, at the time.

Indeed, Fred Hale was not only around to see their last victory, but all six Red Sox World Series wins came within his lifetime.

When the team took the first-ever series, playing the

Pittsburgh Pirates in 1903, Fred was nearly in his teens. In fact, when the club formed, Fred Hale was already ten years old. They went on to win again in 1912, 1915, 1916, 1918, and, of course, 2004.

Although he listened to, or watched many games a year, his following of the sport actually came from his family.

His wife, Flora, and later his daughter Carolyn were avid fans. He took his son Fred Jr. to Fenway for the first time in the 1930s.

Unlike many watching the games this past fall, though, Fred was quite relaxed. He told the *Syracuse Post Standard*, "If it happens, it'll be good, but I'm not going to worry about it."

Needless to say, though, he, along with all Red Sox fans, enjoyed watching the current crew do what so many great teams of the past had failed to accomplish.

boarding. Another grandson, Fred III, told the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, "He didn't make it far, but he was keen for new things."

Fred was also an avid baseball fan, following his beloved Red Sox for much of his life. He is one of the very few fans that were alive for all six of his team's championship victories. He

was eleven in 1903 when Boston took the first World Series versus the Pittsburgh Pirates, and was 27 when they beat the Cubs in 1918.

Together with all Sox fans, he then suffered through an 86-year championship drought, which ended in 2004. Just two weeks before his death he got to watch the club as it made a stun-

ning comeback to win the American League pennant, and then go on to sweep the Series in four games.

Ironically, as he watched the breaking of the so-called "Curse of the Bambino" — the supposed hex on the Boston Red Sox since 1918 — he was four years older than Babe Ruth himself would have been at that time.

Hale was married in 1910 to Flora Mooers, who died in 1979. They had five children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and eleven great-great-grandchildren.

Fred Hale's life stretched to cover a great portion of both national and global history, which saw so many advances in civilization, events, discoveries, and disasters.

He was born when Benjamin Harrison was in the White House and there were only 43 stars on the flag. World events, such as the Spanish American War, the assassination of President McKinley, and the Great Depression had not happened. Inventions such as radio, television, and computers were well into the future.

His life spanned a period starting 13 years before the Wright Brothers flight at Kitty Hawk, and ending 32 years after the last Apollo moon landing.

Possibly, the most telling comment about his longevity was made almost by mistake. When a friend of his was asked to comment on Fred's life, he said, "I'm probably not the one to answer. It's been years since I've seen him. I think it was at his 100th birthday party."



## 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.

(CENTURIES) + (PERIOD) - (CURSE)  
+ (TEACHING) - (GREEN) +  
(RUINED) - (INCITE) + (EFFECTS) -  
(CHAFED) - (PINES)

=

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



# NOTES FROM THE **SCOTTISH RITE**<sup>®</sup> JOURNAL OF FREEMASONRY ♦ SOUTHERN JURISDICTION ♦ USA

## **Southern Jurisdiction Supreme Council Honored for Childhood Language Program**

During its annual meeting on Nov. 19, 2004, in Philadelphia, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) presented its Distinguished Service Award for 2004 to the Supreme Council, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, in recognition of the fraternity's RiteCare<sup>®</sup> Childhood Language Program.

The award, designed to recognize significant contributions to the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology, is given annually to individuals or organizations for major contributions to ASHA in consumer advocacy, legislative or other governmental affairs activity, public awareness, research, or service to the association.

On behalf of Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, 33°, and the Supreme Council, Ill. William G. Sizemore, 33°, Grand Executive Director of the Supreme Council, accepted the award (photo right) and expressed the gratitude of all the Southern Jurisdiction's Scottish Rite Masons for this significant recognition by America's leading speech-language-hearing association. It was noted that the clinics, centers and programs supported by the Scottish Rite Masons have grown from one clinic in Denver, Colorado, in 1953 to 169 across the United States today. Recent statistics indicate that annually 61,077 children are evaluated and/or treated through the fraternal order's RiteCare<sup>®</sup> Childhood



Photo: Elizabeth A. Williams, The Scottish Rite Journal

Language Program. The Scottish Rite is determined to continue and expand this philanthropy as a service to America's children and the nation.

## **SGC Webber, Hosts SR Research Society Board**

Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber, 33°, and his wife, Leslie, hosted members of the Scottish Rite Research Society (SRRS) Board of Directors in their home on the campus of the NMJ's Lexington, MA, headquarters on Oct. 9. The board members were in Lexington at the



invitation of Webber to hold their 2004 annual meeting. Cooking and serving the delicious dinner themselves, the Webbers were the most gracious of hosts, and Ill. William B. Brunk, SRRS president, expressed the deepest appreciation of all the board members. As a token of his regard and that of the Research Society, Ill. Bro. Brunk sent a complete 10-volume set of *Heredom*, the annual transactions of the Research Society, to Ill. Bro. Webber, who is a life member of the Society, for his home library.

Pictured left during an informal fellowship hour following the dinner are: (seated) Ill. Bros. Webber, Brunk, Robert G. Davis, (standing) Richard H. Curtis, editor, *The Northern Light*; John W. Boettjer, managing editor, *The Scottish Rite Journal*; Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections, National Heritage Museum in Lexington; Martin P. Starr, SRRS secretary; Sean D. Graystone; and Pierre G. "Pete" Normand Jr.

## **Future Center/Clinic Site in Fairbanks, Alaska**

The Scottish Rite Masons of Fairbanks, Alaska, recently erected a sign on the future site of the new Fairbanks Masonic Center and RiteCare<sup>®</sup> Childhood Language and Speech Clinic. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2005.





When the Internet made its first appearance, I embraced it with the same caution a man should take when confronting a porcupine, skunk or anyone seeking elective office.

Perhaps I was not sufficiently cautious.

Of course, I remind myself the Internet is merely a tool. As such, it is neither good nor bad. However, its very nature seems to have brought out the worst in a goodly number of fellow humans.

I remember when English teachers, Internet promoters and assorted other great thinkers hailed the Internet as a vehicle that would encourage reading and writing. I suppose they were right. One does need to be at least minimally literate to use the Net. Judging by an increasing number of e-mail messages that have come to my attention, "minimal" seems to be the operative word when it comes to constructing anything that even vaguely resembles a sentence. Consider the following e-mail message sent by one college graduate to another college graduate:

"ar yu goin tgu this afternons meting i dont thnk it is comand perfurmance but con ie says it wulbd be a good idca if weall went! let me kno whut u wil doook seya"

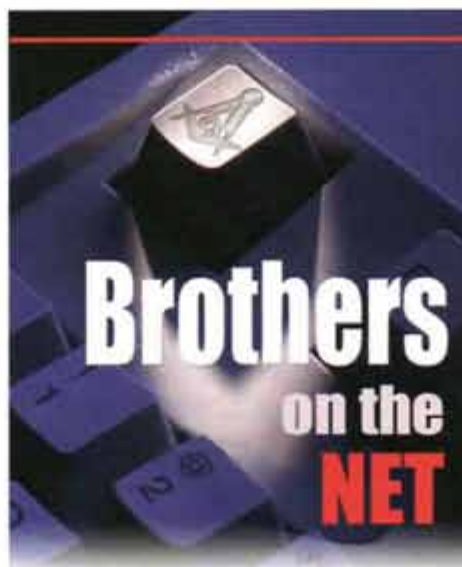
If nothing else, this message underscores my long-standing contention that far too many parents are being shortchanged by the colleges their offspring attend. It also is an example of what far too often passes for communication via the Net. Sure, this example is somewhat extreme, but it does illustrate the apparent contempt so many Net users have for the basic rules of "barely acceptable English grammar."

At the risk of sounding like some wild-eyed radical, I want to recruit you to join my crusade to bring a modicum of language civility to the Net. Look, I'm not nearly as fussy as my high school English teacher (we gave her the nickname "English Czarina"), but I do think we all can live with a few simple rules.

**1. Use complete sentences.** You know, toss in a subject, a verb and those sorts of things. If you are in an upbeat mood, feel free to mix in an adjective. Use superlatives at your own peril.



**Leigh E. Morris, 33°**, is a communication consultant. He was active in the Valley of Milwaukee before relocating to Illinois.



## Mind Your Online Manners

**2. Capitalize as necessary.** Proper nouns, proper names, popular names, derivatives and the first word of a sentence all merit the capitalization.

**3. Punctuate as appropriate.** Punctuation is especially important when it comes to bringing a sentence to an end. In most cases, a neat period or an elegant question mark will do the trick.

**4. Avoid spelling errors.** Resist (I know it is hard) the temptation to rely on the spell checker. Instead, make use of a decent dictionary.

**5. Be crystal clear.** Remember the recipient of your message cannot hear the tone of your voice or read your body language. Avoid leaving your message open to misinterpretation.

**6. Read and reread your message.** Careful attention to your message will go a long way to avoiding mistakes.

**7. Never – and I do mean “never” – send an e-mail you would not want to be shared with the world.** Many an e-mailer has been embarrassed when his or her message was forwarded.

**8. Avoid using your employer’s e-mail system for personal messages.** Often, employers prohibit the personal use of company e-mail. In any event, employers have every right to snoop.

**9. Don’t be a fearmonger by forwarding alarmist e-mail.** While much of it is silly, many of these e-mail messages scare the unwary and do real harm to individuals, businesses and other organizations. If you are tempted to send something on, first check it out at Urban Legends Reference Pages ([www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)) or a similar site.

**10. Avoid sending unsolicited e-mails with large attachments.** All of those forwarded messages that strike you as being humorous or interesting may be seen as bothersome junk by others. Ask before you start forwarding attachments.

**11. Install and update antivirus software.** Not only do you not want a virus, you don’t want to pass viruses on to others. Yes, this advice applies to both Windows and Mac users.

**12. Spend \$5.95 for a copy of *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White.** Not only is it useful, but it is enjoyable. That’s nothing short of remarkable.

Please send your comments, suggestions and thoughts to me at [<studebaker55@casscomm.com>](mailto:studebaker55@casscomm.com)



## CHARITIES

### The Personal Touch: Valley of Columbus Finds Secret to Successful Fundraising

In this issue, the Scottish Rite Charities spotlight falls upon the Columbus, OH, Learning Center and the recent grant-seeking success of its board of governors. The world of grant proposals, a necessary strategy to support all learning centers' continuing growth, is becoming more and more familiar to volunteers like Dick Luckay, 33°, chairman of the Columbus board.

Recently, Luckay handled a substantial grant request to the Columbus Foundation with outstanding success. "We started the paperwork in plenty of time," he said. "We adapted the application form that they require and submitted it last fall.

"We then invited Lisa Courtice, the foundation's vice president for community research and grants management, to visit the learning center," said Luckay. That visit was carefully planned in advance. "It was a combined operation. We made sure that anybody who had something to do with the learning center would be present. We also made sure to screen our locally produced video about the Columbus center for her benefit."

The day Lisa arrived, she spoke with two parents, one of the children, one of the tutors, the center's clinical and administrative directors, Jean Colner and Judy Cokounougher, and Luckay representing the Valley of Columbus volunteers. "By the time Ms. Courtice left," said Luckay, "she was impressed."

The board had requested \$30,000 to support free tuition for eight children for one year. "The Foundation was able to award us \$27,000," said Luckay. "I don't have the slightest doubt that thoughtful, sustained, personal contact makes all the difference when you're approaching a grantmaker."

The board also has a grant application pending right now with United Way of Central Ohio. After a board member mentioned United Way as a possibility, Luckay requested foundation research assistance from Supreme Council headquarters in order to learn more about his prospect. The development staff provided Columbus with the information needed to customize a grant request.

Once again, personal contact was the key. "I had a number of phone conversations with United Way in



**Steve Pekock, 32°,**  
Director of Development

terms of contact and follow-up," says Luckay. "We did everything in person."

A grant proposal is developed in stages, and United Way staff helped with the process. "Because our first draft needed reworking, I got to meet the program officer and invited her to come to the learning center," Luckay said. As a result, Luckay foresees a positive outcome. "It's going to be pretty significant," he remarked.

### Join Commander Webber in Arizona or Florida

Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber will be traveling to Florida and Arizona between February and April to visit members who are living or visiting in those states.

The Florida trip has become a tradition. This year will mark the first such trip to Arizona. His schedule includes visits and luncheons at the following locations:

Feb. 28 - Winter Park, FL	March 3 - Lake Worth, FL
March 1 - Sarasota, FL	April 3 - Scottsdale, AZ
March 2 - Naples, FL	

Please call **Anouska Ferragamo** at Scottish Rite Charities for more information. Her telephone number is **800-814-1432, ext. 3326**.

### Cornerstone Society Grows

The Cornerstone Society was established last year to recognize those who have made provisions in their wills to support the charities of the Scottish Rite. Bequests have been the cornerstone of our substantial charitable work. Over the past year, more than 100 members have joined the society by simply letting us know that they have included the fraternity in their estate plans. (Members receive a special memento and will be listed in an upcoming publication.)

What about you? If you've made provisions to support Scottish Rite, we can add you to our Society. If you're interested but haven't done so, we can provide you information on how to support all our charities through bequests. Call me at **800-814-1432, ext. 3340**, and I will work with you.

### A New Addition

On Jan. 3, **Randall Conrad** joined the Scottish Rite Charities staff as associate director. Randall has a long history of work with museums and charities around the country. Over the past year he has provided grant-writing services that have helped a number of learning centers (including Columbus, OH). He is a welcome addition to our team.





# The Stamp Act



**Haym Salomon** was a merchant and banker known as the "Financier of the Revolution" for his contributions to the bankrupt Continental Army and to the emerging new nation. Born in Lissa, Poland, about 1740, he came to America in 1772, where he founded a mercantile and brokerage business in New York City. He was imprisoned by the British in 1776 and 1778 in New York as a spy. The second time he was condemned to death but escaped to the American lines.

He opened a brokerage business in Philadelphia and accumulated a fortune, which enabled him to support the war effort and the new nation. He negotiated all the war subsidies obtained from France and Holland and acted as paymaster general of the French forces in America. He died in 1785.

Bro. Salomon was proposed to be a Freemason in Lodge No. 2, Philadelphia, on June 21, 1784. He received the first two degrees on June 23 and was raised on Aug. 9, 1785. He was honored by the U.S. on one of the "Contributors to the Cause" stamps in 1975.



On Aug. 20, 2004, **Brazil** issued four different stamps dedicated to Freemasonry, a very strong organization in that country. The design concepts were suggested by Dr. Renato Mauro Schramm, 33°, president of the Masonic Stamp Club of Brazil. The final artist was Joao Guilherme. The first stamp focuses on the pillars of wisdom, strength and beauty. The second represents the apprentice, polishing the rough stone (ashlar). The third shows Jacob's Ladder and the fourth the square, level and plumb.



**Cecil John Rhodes**, born July 5, 1853, in Hartfordshire, England, left grammar school at the age of 16 to go to Natal in South Africa for his health. He became interested in diamond mining and began by working a claim which proved so productive that he amassed a fortune. He returned to England in his



twenties to continue his education. After earning his BA degree at Oxford University, he returned to South Africa to become an important figure in the British South Africa Co. When gold was discovered in 1886, he bought land and founded the Amalgamated Gold Fields of South Africa. He served in the Cape Colony Parliament and was prime minister from 1890-96. Northern and Southern Rhodesia were named for him. When he died in 1902, he left 6 million pounds to public service and 10 million dollars to establish and maintain the Rhodes Scholarship Fund.

While a student at Oxford, Bro. Rhodes was made a Freemason in 1877 in Apollo University Lodge No. 357.

He was also a charter member of Bulawayo Lodge No. 2566 in Bulawayo, Rhodesia.



**James Benson Irwin** was born in 1930 in Pittsburgh but later adopted Colorado Springs as his home. He received his BS degree from the Naval Academy and then graduated from the Air Force Experimental Test Pilot School. As a pilot instructor he experienced a disastrous training flight accident with many injuries being sustained. Within 14 months he was flying again and, after graduating from

the elite Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School, joined the astronaut corps in 1960. During the Apollo 15 mission, he and David R. Scott explored the moon from July 31 to Aug. 2, 1971, in the lunar rover.



Bro. Irwin was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Sept. 8, 1975, in Tejon Lodge No. 104, Colorado Springs. He is pictured on a stamp released by Ras Al Khaima to commemorate his lunar adventures.



**Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles**, administrator, ethnologist, naturalist and writer, was the son of a sea captain in the West Indies trade. A statue of him was unveiled June 27, 1887, in Singapore, and that coun-



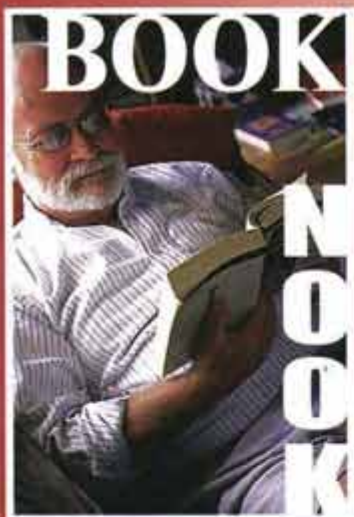
try pictured the statue on a stamp in 1955. He was initiated in the Lodge Vertutis

et Artis Aminci, established on the Pondo-Gedeh coffee estate near Buitenzorg. He was passed in this lodge but was raised on July 5, 1813, in the Lodge of Friendship at Surabaja, Java. He received the 18° in La Vertueuse Rose Croix Chapter, in Batavia.



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





Reviewed by Thomas W. Jackson, 33°

## Preachers, Patriots & Plain Folks, Boston's Burying Ground Guide to King's Chapel, Granary and Central Cemeteries

by Charles Chauncey Wells and Suzanne Austin Wells,  
Published by Chauncey Park Press, 735 N. Grove Avenue,  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302. \$22.95.

As one might expect, the early burying grounds in the city of Boston contain the remains of many of the early patriots of the United States. As one might also expect, many of these early patriots were Freemasons.

The Masonic interest in this text is that it relates, along with several other organizations, the location of the remains of Freemasons.

The three cemeteries covered in this book are among the oldest to be found in North America. In the February 1999 issue of *The Northern Light*, I reviewed *Boston's Copp's Hill Burying Ground Guide*, authored by Charles Chauncey Wells. He co-authors this book with his wife.

According to the authors, there are five years invested in research in preparation for this text. Included are complete alphabetical listings of all known burials, together with dates of death and location within the cemeteries.

It also contains a packet affixed to the rear cover containing a map of the three burying grounds with a plot layout and identification of the graves of some of the more notable personages buried there.



The book, however, contains much more than the simple location and identification of burial plots. It includes many photographs of the headstones and the unique epitaphs engraved thereon, and also includes brief biographies of the notable individuals buried in the cemeteries, including their Masonic history, if any.

There are explanations as to the significance of the various motifs and symbols found upon the tombstones, their evolution over time, and why they were used. The book specifies locations of the various groups within the cemeteries such as the Catholics, Quakers, Anglicans and African-Americans.

It presents an historical perspective of the men buried in these places and of their wives. It also discusses their significance in early America. Brief biographical sketches of the ladies buried there who gained prominence in their own right are included as well.

I found the book to be interesting reading and informative. Anyone with an interest in early burial grounds or early American history will probably enjoy reading it.

## Templars in America, From the Crusades to the New World

by Tim Wallace Murphy and Marilyn Hopkins.  
Published by Weiser Books, 368 Congress Street,  
Boston, MA 02210. \$17.95.

There has been a marked increase of interest in the Knights Templar in recent years as indicated by the number of new books written on the subject. When I saw the title of this text, I assumed that it would be a rehash of what has been recently written, and to an extent it is.

It does, however, present a new concept regarding the creation of the Masonic fraternity, or at least one that I have not seen well defined before.

I found the title of this text misleading, however, for the discussion of Templars in America is not the significant subject of this book. Very little of the book's content deals with the Knights Templar, and even less so concerning their presence as a body in America.

This does not mean that I found the contents of the book uninteresting. Even though much of their proposal offered nothing new to the academic world, it did present a fairly detailed discussion concerning pre-Columbian visits to America.

I developed the impression that the authors wrote with a chip on their shoulders regarding the failure of the academic world to accept what they are convinced is fact: Columbus was a relatively latecomer in the exploration of the Western Hemisphere.

It is the authors' proposition that representatives of two "leading European Templar families," the St. Clairs of Scotland and the Zenos of Venice, set sail in 1396 on their first voyage to visit America. It is also their proposition that both the St. Clairs and the Zenos are of the Rex Deus bloodline, supposedly descended from the 24 high priests of the Temple of Jerusalem of the time of Jesus, and



through them, from the ancient initiates of Egypt.

According to the authors, the Rex Deus families used the Knights Templar as a means to transmit their beliefs. With the suppression of this order it became necessary to choose a new pathway. Freemasonry becomes a vital player in this narrative when it was decided that those comprising Rex Deus would convey their principles through those outside of their own hereditary families, with the intent of creating a more heavenly-like existence on earth. Freemasonry becomes that pathway.

Henry St. Clair was chosen Fisher King of Rex Deus, and thus the true heir to the throne of Jerusalem. He was also the appointed grand master of the craftsmasons. With the assistance of the "hidden members" of the Templar order, he founded an organization from selected candidates of the operative craft guilds to which they could convey enlightened ideals utilizing various branches of knowledge. Here, then, began Freemasonry.

According to the authors,

it was through preservation of Templar traditions that operative masonry was transformed into speculative Freemasonry. The creation of the Scottish Rite and the Royal Arch provided the medium that was used to transmit the sacred and secret knowledge to those chosen as capable of receiving it. Thus, "Freemasonry always had at its heart the long-term aim of spreading Rex Deus teachings and transformative influence far beyond the narrow confines of the Rex Deus families."

The voyages to America of Henry St. Clair were "part of Rex Deus strategy to found a commonwealth based on tolerance, far from the oppressive hand of Holy Mother the Church." Through the Masonic fraternity, Rex Deus teachings then exerted influence upon the creation of the American constitution.

A considerable number of pages are devoted to the debate on the builder of the Newport Tower in Rhode Island. The controversy concerning its age and origin is deemed to make, "the odium theologium of the doctrinal disputes of the early Christian Church seem like squabbles in a kindergarten." (Pretty dramatic claim.) There's also considerable discussion regarding Rosslyn Chapel that you should find interesting.

The last chapter, "A Modern Voyage of Discovery," appears to be an irrelevant addendum to the book and stylistically almost appears to be by different authorship. It relates a modern-day sailing, retracing the original route of Henry St. Clair as proposed by the authors, and discusses their close association to the Sinclair family.

I only wish that I could find the origin of Freemasonry to be as dramatic and as significant as the authors propose. Although I am inclined to agree with much of their proposition as it relates to pre-Columbian exploration in the New World, as a reader I find their dogmatic declarations irritating. This seems to be a modus operandi of many modern

historical writers, at least as it relates to this subject. I found the book to be interesting reading, and whether or not the proposals of the authors are accepted, you might also.

## Academy of Masonic Knowledge

Few Masonic leaders in North America today would deny that one of the greatest inadequacies of our style of Freemasonry in modern times is the failure to educate our membership, not only in the significance of our craft to the evolution of civil society, but also in its history, the purpose of its ritualism, and its potential to be an ongoing influence for what is just and right in the world.

The result of this lack of knowledge is producing a lodge leadership devoid of understanding in just how great we were and just how great we can be. This is a failure not found in Freemasonry in the rest of the world to any major extent.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in the year 2000, at the direction of the then Right Worshipful Grand Master, Robert L. Duge Jr., created the Academy of Masonic Knowledge to help counter that deficiency in our practice.

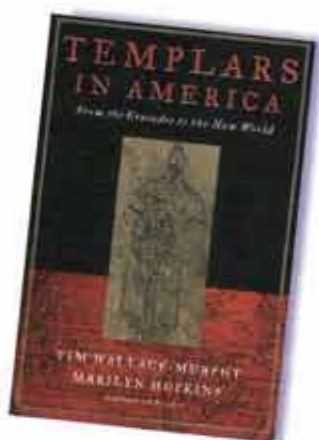
The purpose of the academy was to provide an environment wherein an opportunity would exist for those members who wished to learn and to broaden their knowledge of Freemasonry, its origins, history, and ritualistic work. It also, however, was to passively stimulate and impart leadership skills in those who were active as well as those who had yet to lead. The ultimate goal was to have these brothers return to their lodges and spread this knowledge and love of learning to others.

A major stimulating factor was through required reading, which is almost a lost art in today's technological world. After five years, it is still too early to determine the ultimate success of this program but if we can judge it on the degree of interest that it has generated, not only in Pennsylvania but also in many other jurisdictions in the world, it is well on its way.

What might be most impressive is not only the interest that it has generated in the minds of those participating but also in the great quality and skills of some of our members whose quiescence over many years has been the result of simply never being challenged to participate or being given the opportunity to do so.

My brothers, we have within our craft outstanding minds and great potential. It might pay us great dividends to try to use what we have in house before we lose it.

— T.W.J.



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



# Health Wise

ideas  
for  
health  
and  
fitness



## Praise for Oatmeal

A new study shows that antioxidants in oatmeal help keep plaque from forming in arteries. The Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center of Aging at Tufts University made the discovery.

Soluble fiber in oats helps lower bad cholesterol, reduces heart disease risk, and helps to control blood sugar.

## Get a New Bottle

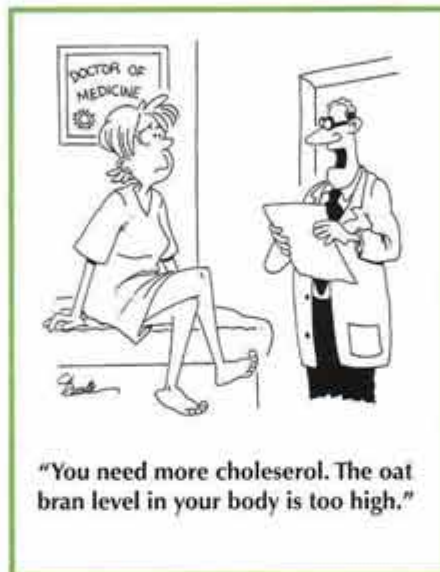
When you refill an empty plastic water or juice bottle, you could be serving up some dangerous bacteria for yourself. It's easy for bottles to become contaminated. Since most bottles never fully dry out, every time you refill the bottle you contaminate the new water inside.

A study by Case Western Reserve University also shows that the more often you refill a plastic bottle, the more likely it is that toxic chemicals from within the plastic will leach out into the water.

## Preserving Memory

Though the role of vitamins in preserving memory is unclear, researchers know that vitamins B-12, folate, and B-6, are crucial for normal brain function.

A recent report in *Neuropsychology* shows that healthy people with a genetic predisposition to Alzheimer's disease do better on memory tests if they have adequate levels of vitamin B-12 than if they have low levels. The finding suggests that nutritional and genetic factors interact in cognitive function.



## Boosting Immunity

You know that exercise strengthens your heart, tones your muscles, and helps you maintain an ideal weight, among its other benefits.

New research at Acadia University in Nova Scotia shows that people who lift weights for 30 minutes three times a week have significantly stronger immune systems than a group that didn't lift weights.

## Brush Right, Guard Your Teeth

Dentists say people are brushing too hard. Using the wrong technique or a stiff toothbrush can cause gum recession leading to periodontal disease.

The American Dental Association recommends a soft or extra-soft toothbrush. Even the softest one, however, causes damage when people brush too aggressively or too long.

## Coated Aspirin Less Effective

Many people take a daily aspirin to reduce their risk for heart disease, but some aren't getting the benefit. It could be because they are taking coated aspirin, which is absorbed at a lower rate, says Dublin's Royal College of Surgeons.

## Nuts, Fiber, and Cholesterol

Researchers at the University of Toronto find that a fiber-rich vegetarian diet lowers cholesterol almost as much as taking a statin. This diet consists of foods that lower cholesterol such as oats, barley, soy protein, and almonds. Add a type of margarine that has cholesterol-lowering compounds.

In their study, the cholesterol-lowering drug lovastatin reduced cholesterol by 31 percent. The diet reduced cholesterol by 29 percent.

## Fighting Exhaustion

If you often feel fatigued, it could be time to head for the treadmill. Researchers at the University of Oslo in Norway asked some 6,000 women about their exercise habits and how often they felt tired.

When they followed up 15 months later, they found that study subjects who had exercised at least 20 minutes once a week were, on average, 30 percent less likely to feel fatigued.

A little exercise goes a long way toward building strength and beating exhaustion.



## Introducing the Web Store

Brothers visiting the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's website ([www.supremecouncil.org](http://www.supremecouncil.org)) during the last few months have probably noticed a new addition. The "Scottish Rite Web Store" is now up and running.

While it may be hard to find plane tickets or great deals on frozen foods there, it is easy to find a wide array of accessories for Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies.

An early version of the web store made its debut in the late fall and will undergo continual improvement as it is fashioned to provide easy online shopping.

A new item that you will find on your next visit to the store is *American*

*Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities*. The new book is written by Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, curator of Masonic and fraternal collections at the National Heritage Museum.

The book will appear in book stores in May, but you can pre-order your copy, and maybe one for your home lodge, by visiting the web store. Proceeds from the sale of this book support the programs of the National Heritage Museum.

The web store was created to give our members access to high-quality items with the Scottish Rite logo embroidered or emblazoned on them.

A benefit of using the web store is that the profits from the sale of these items go to the benevolent fund to fur-

ther support the Scottish Rite Charities.

"We'll be spending the next couple of months reviewing the operation of the store and updating the look and feel to make sure that we're serving the members and the charities with the best site possible," said David Olmstead, 32°, public relations and marketing manager for Supreme Council. "Our goal is to offer a wide array of products that can be used for volunteer recognition in the Valleys and for members to purchase and use with pride, knowing that they are promoting their fraternity on a daily basis."

Finding the online store is easy and quick. Simply go to

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

click on the store's button on the lower left corner of the front page and you are there.

If you have suggestions for the web store you can e-mail them to: [dolmstead@supremecouncil.org](mailto:dolmstead@supremecouncil.org).

## Your \$8.6 Million Christmas Gift

It might seem hard to believe, but it's true — your MBNA Scottish Rite credit card purchases, along with those of your fellow brethren, have generated millions of dollars for your charities since the program's inception in 1994.

While it was decided to change our affinity card program bank association at the end of 2004, that doesn't detract from the fact that the tank of gas, the dinner at the club, and those Christmas presents have all added up to a considerable amount financial support for your Masonic Charities.

"We are very excited about this new opportunity to expand this incredibly successful program and provide rewards back to our membership," said Commander Webber.

The new and improved credit card program with our new bank associate, U.S. Bank, will now also feature a Visa® Rewards Card, which will provide members with unique opportunities to earn points toward merchandise or an additional donation to the Scottish Rite Charities.



U.S. Bancorp is the 10th largest financial services holding company in the world, the 7th largest financial services holding company in the U.S., and is listed in the New York Stock Exchange as USB.

The start-up of this program includes an advance on future royalties of the program from U.S. Bank to your Scottish Rite Charities. After each member signs up, receives approval, and activates his new U.S. Bank/Scottish Rite credit card, U.S. Bank will give Scottish Rite Charities an instant cash payment.

Additionally, every time you use your new U.S. Bank Scottish Rite credit card, U.S. Bank will donate a percentage of what you spend to the Scottish Rite Charities.

If you have a Scottish Rite MBNA credit card, U.S. Bank has made it very easy for you to become a part of this spectacular new program by providing no interest on purchases and balance transfers along with no balance transfer fees for six months.

You'll receive all these benefits, plus enjoy no annual fee. What reasons could you have to not open an account today?

If you currently have an MBNA credit card, please note that effective January 1, 2005, your Scottish Rite Charities no longer receive any royalty payments from your purchases.

To continue your on-going support of the Scottish Rite, switch to the new U.S. Bank Visa Card today!

Watch for more exciting details arriving soon at:

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

The creditor and issuer of the Scottish Rite Visa Rewards Card is U.S. Bank National Association ND.

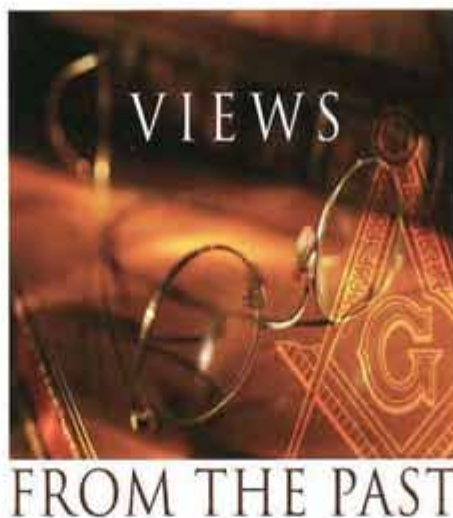


## The Future of Masonry

What is to be the future of Freemasonry? With increasing frequency this question is being asked in Masonic gatherings.

Save in a few instances the spirit in which it is asked is not radical, much less revolutionary. Nevertheless, it is earnest, insistent, and profoundly significant.

It does not mean that men are losing or have lost faith in Masonry, but that they are beginning to realize its latent power and its hitherto unguessed possibilities as an instrument for social service and the betterment of humanity.



There are those who regret the spirit of restlessness which more and more prevails in the Fraternity in respect to its future. Surely that is shortsightedness.

What we should rather deplore is an attitude of settled self-satisfaction and smug complacency with things as they are.

Everything advances, improves, broadens, and Masonry must keep step with the march of mankind, or step aside.

An institution that does not, will not, or cannot adapt itself to the conditions and demands of the new and changed time in which we live, is doomed.

Today thousands of men, especially young men, are asking of Masonry the very same question which was asked of them when they knocked at the door: Whence came you and what came you here to do?

They are not irreverent. They are not radical iconoclasts. But they know that the demand of this age is for efficiency, and they are eager to have a part in making Masonry effective in the fulfillment of the great purpose for which it exists.

Between those who will let nothing alone and those who will allow nothing to be improved, there is a middle path of cautious progress and development.

John Bright held it to be the study of a wise statesman to "make the past glide easily and safely into the future, without loss"; with which agrees the wisdom of Burke that the useful man is he who has "the disposition to conserve and the ability to improve."

For, if we do not conserve what we have we cannot improve it, or apply it. Nor can we really conserve it without constantly improving and applying it.

But we must have not only the wish but also the knowledge and ability to improve, else we shall lose what we have in blunderingly trying to get what we want.

Therefore, if our young men are to serve Masonry and make it effective for its high end, they must be taught what Masonry is, whence it came, what it brought to us from the past, and what it is trying to do in this tangled and turbulent world.

So, and only so, can they wisely conserve its holy and historic tradition and apply its spirit and teachings to the problems of the present.

— Joseph Fort Newton, *The Builder*, May 1915, Anamosa, IA

## QUALITY MEMBERSHIP

The pillars of King Solomon's Temple are an important part of our ritual and to Masons and non-Masons alike, a visible symbol of Freemasonry.

They also suggest a crucial criterion by which to assess the quality of our Masonic membership. For members are of two types — the pillars and the caterpillars. The pillars are visible, stable and dependable; the caterpillars are hardly seen, and simply crawl in every now and then.

True, even the caterpillars have their value as statistics. But the only way for Masonry to be an effective movement is to have pillar members.

Declining members have motivated many of us to adopt the personal goal of "Make a member." It is an essential

goal if our craft is to be, as our mission statement puts it so impressively, "an organization of excellence for all worthy men."

But there is a second goal that applies to the members we already have: the goal of "Make a member a better member."

To make Masonic membership work, we have to work harder at it. In a word, it means making the conscious decision to be pillars, and allowing the craft to know we are there and can be counted upon.

— Raymond Apple, *The New South Wales Freemason*, October 1993



# Living the Tenets of Our Profession

Are we true to our profession as Masons? In answering this question I am sorry to admit that we are far from it.

How often it happens that petty jealousies and bitter heart-burnings arise among Masons, and that brothers, feeling thus, vent their spleen without regard to the welfare of the

order or the lodge, which they thus disgrace by producing discord and confusion in the lodge. One or the other — and often both — may and often do lapse into a state of profound indifference towards the whole order, and perhaps withdraw from it entirely, thereby becoming mere drones in the Masonic hive and therefore useless members of the society and totally unworthy of our protections as Masons.

Such feelings are wrong and unbecoming a Mason, and they are directly at variance with the principles we all profess.

Therefore, in withdrawing from the lodge when they can no longer live in peace and harmony with the officers and members thereof, such members, perhaps, manifest a greater degree of propriety in so doing than the lodge did discretion in first admitting them members of the institution.

For, since a body of worthy men mingling together in perfect peace and harmony, week after week and month after month, for the accomplishment of certain laudable ends, can but result in engendering a spirit of brotherly love and friendship.

This we are taught is a cement that unites men into one common bond or society of friends and brothers among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention or rather emulation of who best can work and best agree. It is, therefore, our bounden duty as Masons never to deviate from the minutest principle thereof — ever bearing in remembrance the tenets of our profession, which teach brotherly love, relief, and truth, and those truly Masonic virtues which admonish us to observe silence and circumspection.

If brethren were actuated, as they should be, by such a spirit, then peace, prosperity and happiness would await them in the future, and we might in truth and soberness say with propriety, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

— A.J. Sawyer, M.D.,  
The Michigan Freemason, 1870

## This Is Our Age

Whatever words may be used by the historian to describe this period of history, to the Mason it must be accepted as "Our Age."

With all of the perplexities and problems, with all the turmoil and sordid conditions, it is the time we live in.

Our age is a responsibility that we dare not evade. We can fold our arms in despair, remain aloof from all that we do not like about today's picture, or we can resolve to apply our best thinking to the situation and discharge our obligations as Masons have done in centuries past.

We must never let conditions obscure the truth, that the same strength of character, the same determination which contributed to the solutions of vexing problems of other periods in history, must be used today with no thought of finding an easy out.

This is not the time for slogans, for the use of ridicule, or for tirades against fate.

It is a time for Masons to do what they are trained and equipped to do — to think, to act and to pray.

It is a time for Masons to separate fact from falsehood; truth from propaganda, and to work overtime for all that will result in an America made strong by the spiritual and moral resources of the individual.

— Dewey H. Wollstein,  
California Freemason,  
April-June, 1971

## Quick Quotes

Never confuse movement with action.  
— Ernest Hemingway

A great marriage is not when the perfect couple comes together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy differences.

— Dave Meurer

Careers, like rockets, don't always take off on schedule. The key is to keep working the engines.

— Gary Sinese

Everyone is wise when the mischief is done.

— Spanish proverb

A gossip is one who talks to you about others. A bore is one who talks to you about himself. A brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself.

— Lisa Kirk

Temptations, unlike opportunities, will always give you a second chance.

— O. A. Battista

You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

— Mark Twain

An ego trip is something that never gets you anywhere.

— Suzan L. Wiener

Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

— Albert Einstein

People judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold, but so has a hard-boiled egg.

— Anon.

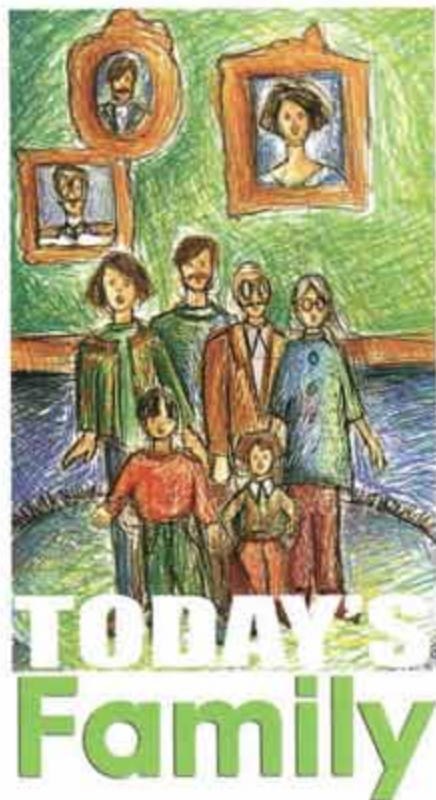
Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.

— John Lennon

The first step to getting things you want out of life is to decide what you want.

— Ben Stein





## Writing Your Family History

With available software and the Internet, it is easier than ever to dig up your roots for a family history. Use of websites and e-mail can speed up the process. For a printed history, familytreemaker.com is good, according to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The software available from genealogy.com also offers many varieties of family trees. Advice from experts includes:

- Set aside plenty of time. You'll spend several hours doing it.
- Find stories, not just facts. Check with every relative you know to find what they have to share.
- Don't be too precise. Names of people and cities change, or may be spelled somewhat differently.
- Know the history of the area where ancestors came from. A city may be in a different country from when they lived there.
- Start now. Think of what a treasure it would be if your great-great-grandfather had written about his life, family, and grandparents. That type of gift is what you can give to your own great-great-grandchildren or nieces or nephews.

## Keyless Locks

Here's one way to reduce the wad of keys in your pocket. Install a keyless entry system at your place.

They are convenient for front door, back door, and garage door. The keypad by the door is also a plus for parents whose kids forget, or lose their keys.

The systems are actually more secure than a standard deadbolt says James Duley in his column, "Sensible Home." When you press the LOCK button, the deadbolt always fully extends. If a thief destroys the keypad, the deadbolt remains in place.

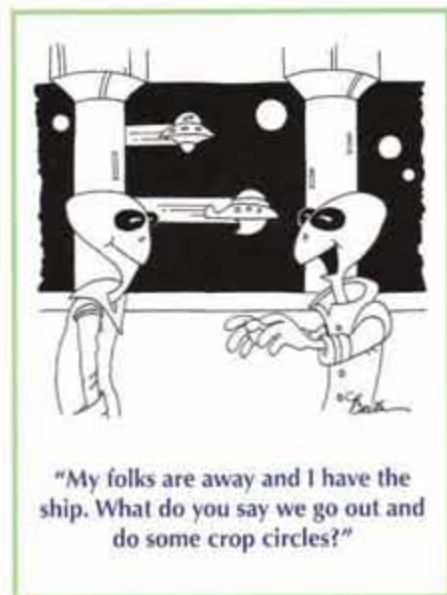
## Kid's Asthma

Don't tear out the carpeting, buy a humidifier, or get rid of the dog. First, get an allergy test to discover what actually triggers your child's asthma.

A new study by the University of Michigan shows that only half of all drastic steps parents take are effective. In the case of a humidifier, buying one could actually make things worse if the child has an allergy for mold.

Doctors at the Atlanta Allergy and Asthma Clinics say skin testing is needed to determine the allergens. If the child isn't allergic to dust mites, for example, throwing out the carpet won't do any good.

Buying an electronic air purifier to suck up dust and dander can be a waste of money if the child is allergic to plant pollen and mold, say the doctors.



## Sports for Kids with Glasses

These are the numbers, according to the Vision Service Plan:

- 25 percent of children who participate in team sports wear glasses or contact lenses.
- 54 percent of children say they enjoyed sports more after they began to wear corrective lenses.
- 90 percent of parents with children with corrective lenses think that their child's performance improved after getting glasses or contact lenses.

## Don't Forget Your Change

Last year, passengers left a total of \$303,970 in loose change at airport metal detectors. The U.S. Treasury gets the money.

Los Angeles International Airport, the nation's fourth-busiest, raked in the most \$16,857, says the Transportation Security Administration.

Next time you forget your change, just consider it a donation to the national debt, say the editors of *Business Week*.

## On-the-Job Injuries

Whether it's a part-time or full-time job, teenagers are twice as likely as adults to get hurt on the job. A working teen can be eager but is inexperienced in the areas of work, life, and safety. Each year, more than 70,000 working teenagers are seen in emergency rooms because of injuries, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety. The cause is unclear. It could be a combination of immaturity, lack of training, or a sense of invincibility.

Parents should impress upon teens that there are dangers in every kind of work, so being careful is important.

## Low on Vitamin C?

According to the *American Journal of Public Health*, nearly 20 percent of men don't get enough vitamin C.

It's an important nutrient found in oranges, berries, bell peppers, broccoli, and leafy green vegetables.



# More than Just Books . . .

Van Gorden-Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum

## Extensive Serials Collection at VGW Library

Much of the story of Freemasonry can be gleaned from Masonic serials. They tell an ongoing story weekly, monthly, quarterly, or perhaps annually. And each periodical has its own style and personality.

By definition, serials are publications issued on a regular and continuing basis. Through them, a reader can enjoy tracing the threads of an idea or the evolution of an organization.

The Van Gorden-Williams Library at the National Heritage Museum preserves and provides access to serials from the 18th century to the present. This broad and varied collection contains items of historical importance.

More than 1,600 titles are represented in the library's serials collection. Most of these are Masonic. Some are beautifully illustrated, some contain thought-provoking ideas, some expand knowledge of Masonry, some feature words of wisdom, and some entertain with cartoons. Many contain social news of local figures, projects and events.

There are scholarly publications such as *Heredom*, *Ars Quatuor Coronati*, and works issued by several Masonic research societies. Regularly issued volumes such as the proceedings of various bodies are also part of the collection and serve as invaluable reference tools.

The 19th century represents a golden era in Masonic publishing. *The American Freemason*, the *Voice of Masonry and Family Magazine*, and the *Freemason's Magazine* are enhanced by the charm of attractive bindings, lush paper quality, elaborate typefaces, and an earnest formality that inspires respect.

Much of the modern magazine-formatted material is regional. Many titles have been published for decades. From the NMJ Supreme Council comes *The Northern Light* and from the Southern Jurisdiction, the *Scottish Rite Journal*, and its predecessor, *The*

*New Age*.

From the Valleys come numerous Scottish Rite newsletters.

Each month more than 200 serials issues of various types are received in the library. Included are publications that support the mission of the museum and library.

Increasingly, bulletins and newsletters arrive in a variety of formats.



Some are printed professionally. Many are the product of desktop publishing. Several organizations offer issues electronically on a website or by e-mail subscription, thereby saving the cost of mailing.

The serials collection also contains general periodicals that shed light on American life and thought on topics as diverse as politics, commerce, and architecture. Anti-Masonic literature is included in the well-rounded collection. Fraternal publications are also included in the library's holdings from organizations such as the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Freemasonry, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Shriners. In the collection are special interest publications such as the *Philatelic Freemason* and *Your Hospital Visitor*.

At the Van Gorden-Williams Library our collection is meant to en-

sure a permanent record. The concentration is on American Freemasonry but also includes publications from around the world. We have decades of issues of the *Cabletaw* from the Philippines and *Eleusis* from Germany. Australia, New Zealand, France, Israel, Brazil, and Great Britain are well represented on the shelves of the library's serials stacks.

Two prominent Masons — Ill. Bros. John H. Van Gorden, 33°, and Louis L. Williams, 33° — played a vital role

in the growth of the library. Both were Active Members of the Supreme Council and former members of the museum library board. The library was named in their honor.

Van Gorden wrote several books, including *Biblical Characters in Freemasonry*, *Ancient and Early Medieval Characters in Freemasonry*, *Medieval Historical Characters in Freemasonry*, and *Modern Historical Characters in Freemasonry*, which are available in the library.

Ill. Bro. Williams brought his expertise on the subject of rare Masonic publications to the project, thus assuring that the Library would have an appropriate research collection of the highest order.

Whether for research, for enlightenment or casual enjoyment, Masonic publications fill a variety of needs for their reader.

Our online library catalog at [vgw.library.net](http://vgw.library.net) can be used to determine what serials are available.

The items in the collection do not circulate, but the library staff is happy to assist researchers in locating the information they seek.

Assistance is provided in person, by telephone (781-457-4109), mail (Van Gorden-Williams Library, 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02420-5703) or e-mail ([library@monh.org](mailto:library@monh.org)). Photocopy and fax service is provided when appropriate. The Library is open Mon - Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





## The Book Shelf

Over the years, many members have written books on non-Masonic topics. We occasionally provide listings and summaries of these books that might be of interest to our readers.

*The Book of Mysteries of the Heavens and the Earth*, edited by E. A. Wallace Budge. Distributed by Red Wheel Weiser and Conari Press, 368 Congress St., Boston, MA 02110. \$18.95.

E. A. Wallace Budge translated this book from its original Ethiopian for the first time in 1935. According to legend it was revealed in the 15th century by the archangel Gabriel. It purports to lay out angelic hierarchy, provide an interpretation of St. John's revelation, and discusses the godhead, the trinity, and the birth of Enoch. Reprinted in 2004, the new edition includes a forward by R. A. Gilbert, explaining the evolution of Christianity and religious literature in Ethiopia.

*Presidential Passages*, by Rev. Kenneth V. Kettlewell, 33°. Published by Fairway Press, PO Box 4503 Lima, OH 45802-4503.

Stories of the many Bibles used during presidential inaugurations are traced and researched, from the beginnings of our nation, until today. Each chapter focuses on a particular presi-

dent, describing how the Bibles were used and how they were chosen for that historical role. In many cases they have been family heirlooms. Others were gifts to the president for that particular purpose and some were borrowed for the occasion. In a few cases the Bible was opened to a specific passage, while in others it remained closed.

Chapters cover the inauguration Bibles from George Washington to George W. Bush.

*Count Michael Maier: Life and Writings*, by J. B. Craven. Distributed by Red Wheel Weiser and Conari Press, 368 Congress St., Boston, MA 02110. \$16.95.

This book provides an introduction to the works of Count Michael Maier, one of the giants of the Alchemical Renaissance of the early 17th century. The author, Rev. J. B. Craven, has used his access to the writings of Maier to trace his career as a physician, his associations with Dr. Robert Fludd, Sir William Paddy, and Sir Thomas Smith, as well as his pursuit of alchemy as a science and as a metaphor for spiritual attainment.

The book was originally published in 1914. This 2003 edition contains a new forward by R. A. Gilbert, which details the life and writings of J. B. Craven.

## On the Lighter Side

- Why do "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- Always remember that you are unique, just like everyone else.
- If you buy a TV set, how come you only get one?
- Sometimes I wake up grumpy. Other times I let him sleep.
- Why do tugboats push their barges?
- The more I meet people, the more I like my dog.
- Gravity gets me down.
- How come Phonics isn't spelled the way it sounds?
- Despite the cost of living, it remains popular.
- If everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- How come people sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" when they are already there?
- Why do "wise men" and "wise guy" mean different things?
- You can't have everything. Where would you put it?
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

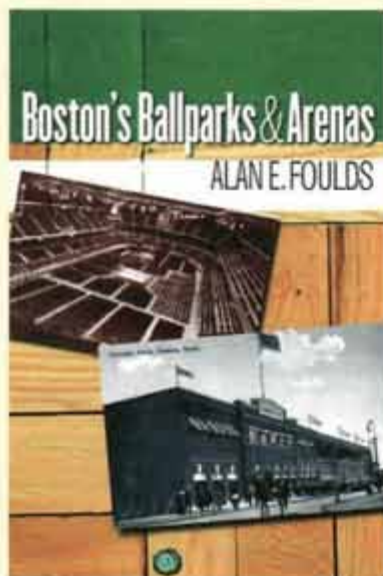
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By WALLY MILLER





# Footnotes\*



\* **Published.** University Press of New England has just published a new book written by Alan E. Foulds, assistant editor of *The Northern Light*. The project has been in the works for several years prior to his arrival at the Supreme Council.

*Boston's Ballparks & Arenas* provides a history of sports in Boston told through its parks and arenas. We are pleased to see Alan's extensive research on the subject come to fruition. The book combines his interests in both history and sports.

He highlights "nine wonders of the Boston sports world" but also includes many sites that have long since been forgotten.

For further information about the book, visit the publishers' website at: [www.upne.com](http://www.upne.com).

\* **Masonic music.** There have been many Masonic composers over the years, and Nigel Potts has combined their talents with his expertise at the organ to produce an impressive CD of Masonic organ music, "So Mote It Be!" The selections were transcribed from the Scottish Rite Cathedral within the Detroit Masonic Temple. Nigel is a professional organist living in Bay

Shore, NY. The recording was released by JAV Recordings of Brooklyn.

W. Jean Randall, 32°, organist for the Valley of Detroit, was instrumental in making the arrangements. A copy of the CD can be obtained for \$18 (including s&h) from the Valley of Detroit, 500 Temple Ave., Detroit, MI 48201. Proceeds benefit the Detroit learning center.

## \* **Honoring SR leaders.**

DeMolay International has announced a spring membership program that encourages DeMolay chapters to honor the Scottish Rite. All new initiates into DeMolay chapters will be included in a "Scottish Rite Membership Class" honoring Sovereign Grand Commanders Walter E. Webber and Ronald A. Seale. Dates of the classes are from Jan. 15 to June 1. All sponsors of candidates will receive a "thank you" letter from the Commanders.

## \* **Abbott Scholarships.**

The Supreme Council Benevolence and Development Committee has made several changes to the Abbott Scholarship program. The monetary awards will now be made payable to the individual recipient instead of the college or university. This will allow the student to use the award to purchase books.

A minimum grant of \$1,000 has been established for each academic year.

The application form has been revised and is available on the Supreme Council website. Applicants can now download the form and complete it on their computer. Valleys are encouraged to download the form and have copies available for those students requesting it.

Eligibility has been extended to include graduates from our learning centers.

\* **DC exhibit.** The Octagon, the museum of the American Architectural Foundation, is organizing an original exhibition focusing specifically on the significant contributions of Freemasons to the design and architecture of Washington, DC. The museum is preparing the exhibit in collaboration with the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and artist Peter Waddell.

Featuring 20 original paintings by Waddell, complemented by original Masonic artifacts, the exhibition will tell the story of the city's design from a new perspective and shed light on the Masonic connections of many historic buildings in the nation's capital. The intention of the exhibition is to demystify the role that Freemasons have played in the nation's architectural history and to provide a different viewpoint of various historic events.

Waddell, well known for his work as a history painter, has created several series of paintings that have served as the foundation for popular exhibitions at the Octagon. He has worked closely with a group of Masons to identify topics for the paintings.

The exhibition will open on May 18 and remain on view through Dec. 31. Educational programming is planned to accompany the exhibition, including walking tours of area lodges and Masonic buildings, musical performances, lectures and workshops. The Octagon is located at 1799 New York Ave. NW, a few blocks from the White House.



RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33°  
Editor



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



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New book available in May. For details see page 13.

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Cap (Stone, one size fits all)	\$19.95			
Coverlet	\$54.95			
Silver Money Clip	\$8.95			
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Silver Money Clip	\$8.95			
Cap (Black)	\$19.95			
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