All roads lead to the historic Joint Session
Features

4 Annual Meeting Highlights
Joint meeting of the Northern Masonic and Southern Jurisdictions.

16 Why Two Jurisdictions?
by Richard H. Curtis, 33º
The United States is unique in having more than one Supreme Council.

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“It was truly a week that will long be remembered.”
— John Wm. McNaughton, 33°

Independent Yet United

For nearly 200 years the Scottish Rite in the United States has existed with two independent jurisdictions. Throughout the years the leader of each has respected the sovereignty of the other with only occasional differences of opinion.

And there are certainly many differences in the physical structure of the two organizations. For instance, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction meets annually, while the Southern Jurisdiction conducts its business on a biennial basis. The Northern Jurisdiction can have as many as 66 Active (voting) Members, while the Southern Jurisdiction is limited to 33 with voting privileges. Both have four divisions within the Scottish Rite, yet the breakdown of degrees differs. Officers’ titles and methods of acknowledging excellence vary. And there is not always agreement on official recognition of other Supreme Councils throughout the world.

These differences do not affect the average member. He joins in a local Valley, seldom visits other Valleys, and is not aware of the larger sphere of Scottish Rite.

Although every member of this jurisdiction receives The Northern Light from the Supreme Council and holds a membership certificate from the jurisdictional headquarters, few understand the role of the governing body. It was once said that “All politics is local.” In the same sense, the average member relates to Scottish Rite only on the local level.

But without some guidance from a central source, local Valleys can easily drift in a multitude of directions. That very problem is what brought about the first Supreme Council in 1801 — to bring “order out of chaos.”

Today there are Supreme Councils for the Scottish Rite in nearly every free country in the world. Occasionally the leaders of these Supreme Councils get together to compare notes, but no thought from one leader binds the others. There is no international headquarters.

In the United States, the two Scottish Rite jurisdictions have coexisted each with its own territory. Most members do not realize that a unique event occurred in August. For the first time since its inception, the two Jurisdictions gathered for a joint session. Coming together in Washington, DC, the Northern Jurisdiction held its annual session at the same time the Southern Jurisdiction held its biennial session. Although official business was conducted independently in executive meetings, the main events during the week showed a united effort. I was pleased to share the platform with Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, 33°, for this momentous occasion. It was truly a week that will long be remembered.

There were Grand Masters in attendance from 43 states as well as Scottish Rite leaders from 39 visiting Supreme Councils. And that has to be a record for any Scottish Rite meeting.

Certainly there have been many differences in procedures and practices between the two Jurisdictions, but one point was made perfectly clear. We are united in a single purpose — support of the principles of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Sovereign Grand Commander
History was made at the 2007 Annual Meeting. For the first time since the formation of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, nearly two centuries ago, the Northern and Southern branches of Scottish Rite Freemasonry met together.

The Southern Jurisdiction, based in Washington, DC, and covering 35 states, generally holds its Supreme Council sessions biennially with the nation’s capital serving as host city.

The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, with headquarters in Lexington, MA, meets once a year, moving from city to city throughout the 15-state region in the northeastern quarter of the country.

Plans for the historic meeting were hatched several years ago as Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale and Sovereign Grand Commander Walter E. Webber assumed office at nearly the same time and became close friends.

Both jurisdictions will resume their normal meeting patterns beginning next year.

At the meeting there was speculation as to possible future joint sessions.

Grand Commanders McNaughton and Seale, however, have expressed the belief that an event such as this was meant to be special. They both consider it a one-time event. It worked so well that there is no need to try and improve on near perfection.

Future joint ventures will be left to future leaders.

New Officers

Four new officers of the Supreme Council were elected at the Annual Meeting. Ill. Robert F. Ogg Jr., 33°, is the new Deputy for Rhode Island, while Ill. Michael A. DeWolf, 33°, of Wisconsin became Grand Keeper of the Archives; Ill. Robert E. Godbout Jr., 33°, of Massachusetts, Grand Master General of Ceremonies, and Ill. David P. Spencer, 33°, of New York, the Grand Standard Bearer.

New Active Members

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

Ill. M. Ray Bradford, 33°, of Bangor, ME, is an attorney. In Scottish Rite he is a Past Most Wise Master and a Past Commander-in-Chief. He received the 33° in 1994.

Ill. Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°, of Shippensburg, PA, was an eleven-term representative in the Pennsylvania legislature and was speaker pro tem. For Grand Lodge he is Grand Treasurer, and
he is a Past Master of his lodge. He received the 33\(^\circ\) in 2001.

Ill. David R. Bedwell, 33\(^\circ\), of Superior Township, MI, is a retired engineering technologist for Ford Motor Company. He was the Grand Master of the state of Michigan from 2002-03 and served at various levels of Freemasonry at the lodge and Grand Lodge. He received the 33\(^\circ\) in 2003.

Ill. Keith Hoskins, 33\(^\circ\), of Angola, IN, is the owner and CEO of Olympic Pools, Inc. He is a Past Thrice Potent Master and Valley Trustee at Fort Wayne. He received the 33\(^\circ\) in 1996.

Ill. William R. Powers Jr., 33\(^\circ\), of Cincinnati, OH, is the president of Cincinnati Construction Products, Inc., and has held many major offices in Freemasonry. He was Worshipful Master of Western Hills-Cheviot Lodge No. 140. He was District Deputy Grand Master in Ohio, and was Commander-in-Chief in the Valley of Cincinnati. He received the 33\(^\circ\) in 1988.

Ill. Verdon Skipper, 33\(^\circ\), an Active Member for New Jersey, requested early retirement and was granted Active Emeritus status. Bro. Skipper is a former Deputy for the state of New Jersey.

Gourgas Medal

In 1999, U.S. Senator and former astronaut John Glenn, 33\(^\circ\), was chosen to receive the Gourgas medal. He was unable to attend that year’s session. The senator was invited to this year’s Annual Meeting in Washington where he delivered an inspirational speech to the attendees of the gala banquet and officially received the medal.

Constitutional Change

Article 702 of the Supreme Council Constitutions has been amended, increasing the annual assessment to the Supreme Council over a period of years. The graduated scale calls for annual increases beginning in fiscal year 2009, with an assessment of $12, to fiscal year 2014 when it reaches $27. Each will be due to the Supreme Council the following June.

Medals of Honor

Two Medals of Honor were bestowed at the meeting. Ill. C. DeForrest Trexler, 33\(^\circ\), an Active Member for Pennsylvania, has served as chairman of the Rituals Committee. Ill. Richard H. Curtis, 33\(^\circ\), was the long-time editor of *The Northern Light*, retiring from that position in December 2006.

Ritual Changes

Changes have been authorized for seven rituals. Additional modules have been put into the 4\(^\circ\). Stylistic changes were made to the 5\(^\circ\). Minor changes were made to the 16\(^\circ\), 18\(^\circ\), and 20\(^\circ\). In the 17\(^\circ\), a ceremonial section was removed and minor changes were made to the prologue and allegory. The 22\(^\circ\) was rewritten with a 19th century setting using similar ritual.

Fraternal Relations

The Supreme Council voted to recognize the Scottish Rite Supreme Councils of Serbia and Slovenia. It also recognized El Salvador under the leadership of Pedro Leonel Moreno Monge.
Dispensations

A name change was authorized for a New York Valley. The former Valley of Westchester is now the Valley of The Hudson. Additionally, the new Valley of Lower Delaware was granted dispensation by the Sovereign Grand Commander to form last spring. The Delaware Council of Deliberation recommended that a request for approval of a one-year extension be presented at the Annual Meeting and it was granted.

Class of 2007

There were 174 candidates who received the 33rd in Washington. William J. Haas of Maine, received the 33rd in special session Dec. 11, 2006. He died in April. Craig E. Cobb of New York, who was a candidate last year but unable to attend, was present to receive the degree in Washington. The oldest candidate was 86, while the youngest was 35.

Class of 2008

There were 104 candidates elected to receive the 33rd in 2008 at Providence. Carried over to next year, because he was not able to attend the session in Washington, was Sidney W. Isenberg, Connecticut.

Emeriti Members of Honor

Sovereign Grand Commander C. Robert Townshend, 33rd, of Canada, and Sovereign Grand Commander Solomon Wallace, 33rd, of the Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall, were named Emeriti Members of Honor.

Changes at the museum

Ill. Richard V. Travis, 33rd, an Active Member for Connecticut, was appointed by the Grand Commander to review financial information for the National Heritage Museum and to help set a future direction for the institution.

2008 Meeting

The 196th Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council will take place in Providence, RI, Aug. 24-26, 2008. Valley Secretaries will receive information regarding hotel assignments, hospitality suites, and banquet menus on December 1. In January, candidates will receive information and paperwork regarding registration, fees, and hotel reservations. In April, Honorary Members will receive their invitations to attend the Annual Meeting, a program outlining the session’s agenda, tour information, and meeting and hotel registration information.

Five hotels in the downtown Providence area will be used. Registration has been transitioned to an online system and checks will no longer be accepted as payment. Effort and assistance will be given to those members unable to complete the online process.

Future Meetings

Aug. 24-26, 2008 Providence, RI
Aug. 23-25, 2009 Boston
Aug. 29-31, 2010 Philadelphia

Website Status

The Supreme Council website has a new look and a new address. As part of a periodic review the site has been given a major facelift to include dynamic graphics and new features. From the front page visitors can access information on Scottish Rite Freemasonry, its tenets, history, frequently asked questions, and easy access, via e-mail, to the officers and Valley Secretaries.

A special “Members Center” offers Scottish Rite Masons information important to their roles in the fraternity. Coming soon will be back issues of The...
Northern Light for downloading, providing an archive of the Jurisdiction’s magazine. An “Events” section will soon list the goings-on within the 15-state area.

Although the original URL, SupremeCouncil.org” will still access the site, a more appropriate title, “ScottishRiteOnline.org,” is being marketed.

The new site is still in its infancy, but new features will be appearing in the near future.

Web Awards.

For the third year Valley and Council of Deliberation websites were reviewed and winners were selected.

Selections were made using four criteria: content, appearance, timeliness, and ease of use.

Receiving top recognition were the Valleys of Chicago and Indianapolis.

The Valleys of Bloomington, Cincinnati, Rochester, Syracuse and Youngstown were recognized as websites deserving honorable mention.

Astronaut and Senator John H. Glenn

On February 20, 1962, the nation held its breath as John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. Following very quickly behind the sub-orbital flights made by Alan Shepard and Virgil “Gus” Grissom, Glenn’s flight aboard Friendship-7 helped the country regain its footing in the space race after the successful orbits made by Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union.

John Glenn was chosen as one of the original seven Mercury Project astronauts.

Upon his return to Earth he received a ticker-tape parade reminiscent of that given to Charles Lindbergh.

After retiring from the space program, Glenn made a brief foray into Ohio politics and then turned to the private sector, first as vice president, then as president of Royal Crown Cola.

In 1974 he returned to the political arena, defeating former Cleveland mayor Ralph J. Perk in a race for U.S. Senate from Ohio.

Considered on several occasions as a potential running mate, he ran in the Democratic primaries as a presidential candidate in 1984.

On February 20, 1997 — exactly 35 years after his three orbits around the globe — Glenn announced that he would not run for reelection. Instead he rejoined the space program. On Oct. 29, 1998, riding aboard the space shuttle Discovery, he became the oldest person to fly in outer space.

Ill. John H. Glenn, 33°, joined Scottish Rite Freemasonry in April 1997. He received the 33° in 1998 and is a member of the Valley of Cincinnati.
The 2007 Brother Franklin awards for outstanding Valley publications have been announced. The awards are presented annually to Valleys with outstanding publications. They are awarded on the basis of Valley membership. The entries were divided into five categories based on size of membership. Honored with “best publication” in each category were:

**Category I** (Valleys with less than 800 members)

**Best Publication**
Valley of Utica, NY
William R. Williams, 32°, editor

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Corning, NY
John W. Orr, 33°, editor
Valley of Traverse City, MI
James C. Larson, 32°, editor

**Category II** (Valleys with 800 – 1,500 members)

**Best Publication**
Valley of Bridgeport, CT
Leo H. Lohrman, 33°, editor

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Buffalo, NY
Phillip G. Beith, 32°, editor
Valley of Moline, IL
Jay M. Hawkinson, 33°, editor

**Category III** (Valleys with 1,500 – 2,500 members)

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

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Grand Rapids, MI
Richard A. Burrows, 32°, editor
Valley of Philadelphia, PA
Steven A. Morrison, 33°, editor

**Category IV** (Valleys with 2,500 – 5,000 members)

**Best Publication**
Valley of Chicago, IL
Edward J. Witas, 32°, editor
Valley of Cleveland, OH
David B. Mackey, 32°, editor

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Detroit, MI
David R. Bedwell Sr., 33°
Valley of Reading, PA
Jon J. DeHart, 32°, editor

**Category V** (Valleys with more than 5,000 members)

**Best Publication**
Valley of Indianapolis, IN
Jerry B. Collins, 33°, editor

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

**Category 1 (Over 5,000)**

**Winner**
Valley of Columbus

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Cincinnati
Valley of Indianapolis

**Category 2 (2,500 to 5,000)**

**Winner**
Valley of Newcastle

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Danville
Valley of Detroit
Valley of Reading
Valley of Toledo
Valley of Williamsport

**Category 3 (1,000 to 2,500)**

**Winner**
Valley of Akron

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Buffalo
Valley of Hartford
Valley of Madison
Valley of Moline
Valley of Northern New Jersey

**Category 4 (Under 1,000)**

**Winner**
Valley of Burlington

**Honorable Mention**
Valley of Lowell
Valley of Utica
The 2007 blue envelope appeal has concluded and four Valleys have received awards. The Valleys of Boston, Indianapolis, Middletown, NY, and Nashua each will receive $1,000 awards as a result of the Sovereign Grand Commander’s challenge during this year’s appeal.

The blue envelope appeal is the oldest and most enduring charitable event in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Since 1934 the appeal has raised millions of dollars to support the charities of the Scottish Rite.

This appeal raised $638,669. More than 23,567 Brothers participated.

To recognize conspicuous participation, Sovereign Grand Commander McNaughton established four awards for performance. They were:

- Largest performance over goal — $7,824, Boston.
- Largest percentage over goal — 199 percent, Nashua, NH.
- Most new donors — 180, Indianapolis.
- Highest percentage of new donors — 4.4 percent, Middletown, NY.

“I am very pleased to reward these Valleys for their commitment to the charities for this fraternity”, said McNaughton. “Charity is among those virtues we most cherish as 32° Masons. It is alive and well throughout our jurisdiction.”

The award may be used for any purpose the Valley chooses.

About a Trailer….

On July 8th, my wife, baby and I were returning to Massachusetts from a Bar Harbor, ME, wedding (on 7/7/07, considered a lucky day). Now the coast of Maine in July is particularly beautiful — so dramatic and wild — but the roadside vista that surprised us as we left the coast on Route 3 was the best of all.

What made me stop the car? A 53-foot rolling billboard for our Bangor Learning Center. Thanks to Brother Barry Pottle, President and CEO of Pottle’s Transportation in Hermon, ME, the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children is known to every traveler from Belfast to Augusta.

— Steve Pekock, 32°

Blue Envelope Winners

Visitations — 2008

Autumn soon gives way to winter and many of our members’ thoughts turn decidedly southward. Sovereign Grand Commander McNaughton, and other leaders of the Supreme Council and its staff will make their annual visits across Florida and Arizona in March and April. If you are traveling to the Sunshine or Grand Canyon States and wish to attend, please call the Scottish Rite charities office at 800-814-1432 x3326 to get registration information.

This year’s events are planned for:

- Monday, March 3: Sarasota, FL
- Wednesday, March 5: Naples, FL
- Monday, March 10: Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL
- Tuesday, March 11: Lake Worth, FL
- Sunday, April 20: Scottsdale, AZ
- Monday, April 21: Tucson, AZ

Please share fellowship among brethren from throughout our Jurisdiction.
Are you an avid photographer at family gatherings or lodge events?

Perhaps you have an album of old family photos that you like to peruse now and then. Do you enjoy sharing your old photos with your children and grandchildren, telling stories from years past? If so, you are not alone.

The National Heritage Museum collection, located at Supreme Council headquarters in Lexington, MA, includes over 1,500 photographs from the 1840s to the present, featuring people, places, and events, many of them Masonic in nature.

These images, particularly those from the 1800s, help teach us about what Freemasons wore and how they wore it; the changing technology of the photographic process, and early photographers and their subjects.

The idea of capturing one’s likeness is thousands of years old, stretching from naïve cave drawings to elegant painted portraits.

American portrait photography of the 1800s follows the tradition of portrait paintings, often showing people holding an object or wearing a symbol that was important to them.

The museum collection includes many 1800s photographs showing men wearing Masonic regalia, like the unidentified subject of a circa 1850 daguerreotype who wears the jewel of a Senior Warden. Although we do not know this man’s name or where he lived, we do know that he was a Freemason and served as Senior Warden. We can also interpret from this photograph that this man valued his Masonic membership.

Part of the appeal of photography for mid-1800s Americans was its newness and its realism. The sitters could see themselves, and their friends and family, as they really were, not through the painter’s brush or artist’s pencil.

Frenchman Louis Daguerre is credited with inventing a process to chemically record images in 1839. This product was named for its inventor and the daguerreotype was born.

By 1855, the commonwealth of Massachusetts reported that 403,626 daguerreotypes had been taken within its borders over the preceding twelve months and that 134 daguerreotypists were working in Massachusetts at the time. These figures, for just one state alone, convey the immense interest that greeted Daguerre’s invention.

The process of having one’s photograph taken was slightly different in the 1800s.

Today, almost everyone has a personal camera that can take a good photo in a fraction of a second, to say nothing of our autofocus capabilities, or the va-
riety of lenses and other specialized tools available.

In the mid-1800s, exposure times for daguerreotypes lasted about twenty to forty seconds. To make a good photograph, the subject would need to remain completely immobile for that length of time.

Otherwise, as can sometimes be seen in antique photographs, elements of the image would be blurred. On first thought, twenty to forty seconds may seem like a short time. But, try sitting absolutely still for those seconds while you time yourself — it is longer than you think.

Still, compared to the lengthy process and cost necessary for a painted portrait, sitting still for half a minute or so was a small price to pay for most American consumers.

Early photographs such as daguerreotypes help demonstrate that Freemasonry was not a secret, closed-off group.

Some of the daguerreotypes in the museum’s collection show a Mason with his wife. One of these examples is probably from Maine and shows a man wearing a Masonic collar and apron. One of his hands rests on the back of a chair where a woman is seated. The inclusion of his wife in the picture shows that the relatives of Masons were familiar with some of the symbols and values of the fraternity.

This image offers an additional perk for the historian — the details of their clothing can be studied, which, in turn, can be used to help date the photograph and to learn more about the subjects, such as their economic standing; fashions of the period, and popular furnishings of the time.

Daguerreotypes were unique images exposed on glass with copper or lightly silver-plated copper backings and were the most common type of image captured between 1839 and the early 1850s. The wet-plate or collodion process, which was invented in 1851, allowed the photographer to make copies of the image.

By the 1860s, tintypes were the preferred material for photographers, given their lightweight, sturdy nature. Around that time, carte-de-visites were invented, allowing the photographer to print an image on paper (and also allowing him to print his advertisement on the back).

One of the keys to the popularity of these photographs was their compact size. While many portraits from the 1700s and 1800s were painted to be framed and hung on the wall, a daguerreotype or carte-de-visite could be carried in a purse or a pocket. It could also be displayed in the home for visitors to see.

Some of these images have been termed “conversational” and many scholars believe that they fulfilled a social need in the 19th century. They could serve as a reminder of a particular person or event, and, they provided a means of entertainment, offering a conversation starter for the subject to share with friends and family.

Mid-1800s photographs did not exemplify technical advances in their images alone. The cases housing the photos also employed new techniques and materials.

The brown hinged cases used to protect glass daguerreotypes (and later metal tintypes) were first made from pressed paper and molded with designs to imitate leather.

By the 1850s, thermoplastic cases, often known as “Union” cases, were frequently used. Some were decorated with Masonic symbols. One of the cases in the museum collection has an archway around an all-seeing eye with square and compasses enclosing the letter “G.”

Just as the photos themselves could be used by their subjects to indicate a Masonic association, so could a case like this. The existence of Masonic cases also implies that there was an active market for them.

As the interest in photography took off in the 1840s, many people opened their own studios since little instruction and just a modest investment were needed.

However, many of these entrepreneurs were not serious and went out of business as quickly as they opened.

While eastern United States cities...
such as Boston, New York and Philadelphia, were centers of the daguerreotype industry, photography spread quickly west. It was not long before almost every town had its own photography studio.

A carte-de-visite photograph in the National Heritage Museum collection that dates to the 1870s or 1880s was made by a photographer named Fowler in Indianapolis, IN, as revealed by the label printed on the back. The photo shows a bust-length portrait of a man with a long beard. Although he does not wear any Masonic regalia in the photo, the subject has signed the back, “Fraternally yours, C.E. Wright, M.D., K.T., 32°.”

This signature offers yet another interpretation to the use and value of photographs. They could function as calling cards or business cards. By the late 1800s, the price for a photograph decreased and the technology allowed for multiple copies of a single exposure to be made cheaply and easily.

Carte-de-visite images allowed other types of advertising or publicizing beyond simply the photographer’s business.

A particularly interesting example in the museum’s collection shows a portrait of an elderly man wearing a Masonic collar. Along the bottom of the image is publication information providing the year of the image, 1872, along with the name of its publishers, Carson & Barnard. The back of the image explains that the photograph depicts “An Aged Masonic Veteran” named David Stiles. The information printed on the back offers that Stiles was born in Woodbury, Connecticut on May 21, 1766. He was a member of Hennepin Lodge No. 4 and St. John’s Chapter No. 9, R.A.M., both in Minneapolis, MN, when the photo was published.

The photo explains that Stiles “has been a Master Mason for nearly seventy-five years, and is now in his 107th year! He stands and sits erect, and retains his faculties in good shape! His memory is particularly fresh and vivid, and he very distinctly remembers the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He has voted twice for Washington for President.”

The publishers of the carte-de-visite explain on the back that they have “inaugurated a plan for procuring a small competency for this dear old veteran of a former century.”

Their plan was to use the profits from the sale of the photo to create a fund for their “aged brother’s benefit.” Prices for the photo were 25 cents and 50 cents, suggesting that it was available in two sizes.

The publishers, Carson & Barnard, were Masonic publishers in Minneapolis.

The example of the portrait of David Stiles shows how valuable historic photographs can be for the study of Freemasonry, as well as for personal and American history.

**“REMEMBER ME” EXHIBITION**

Highlights from the National Heritage Museum

In 1972 Grand Commander George A. Newbury, the motivating force behind the National Heritage Museum’s founding, created the institution “...to tell a thrilling story — the story of America.”

Since then, the museum has been collecting objects, documents, and books associated with American and Masonic history with Newbury’s goal in mind.

A name in the historical record, such as a census or directory listing, gives us clues about the people who have come before us. An object marked with a name claiming authorship or ownership provides a different kind of information. That name proclaims, “I made this” or “I valued this highly.” Many signed and marked objects will be featured in a new exhibition, “Remember Me: Highlights from the National Heritage Museum,” on view at the museum from December through Sept. 1, 2008. They give us a chance to think about what made people tick, what they were proud of or how they saw themselves in the world.

Every object in the museum and library collections evokes the past; people who are gone and events we can only imagine. “Remember Me” explores some of the stories. Several Masonic photographic portraits will be included in the exhibition.
Another photograph from the museum’s collection presents an equally intriguing story.

This carte-de-visite shows a man seated and looking at the camera. He has a mustache and wears a dark coat and vest with a white shirt. Above his head is a ghost-like figure of a woman.

Called “spirit photography,” more unscrupulous photographers claimed that they had captured the likenesses of deceased loved ones.

W.H. Mumler of Boston, who took this photograph, produced this type of image for eight years, claiming all the while to be uniting the dead with the living.

However, other photographers did all they could to debunk Mumler’s claims, even publishing descriptions of techniques that could be used to produce these pictures, which used additional living people as part of the process and not visitors from the spirit world.

Honest photographers sometimes used the “ghost” techniques for sentimental or humorous reasons, not claiming that they were in contact with the spirit world.

A handwritten note on the back of this photograph provides helpful information about the identity of the sitter, and also tells us that the subject was hoodwinked by his photographer. “Portrait of Theo. Ross 33º Taken by a Spiritualistic Photographer + he made Ross believe that was his wife’s spirit standing behind him.”

While we may find it hard to believe that Ross could have possibly believed such a story, it helps to understand that the photo was taken at a time when Spiritualism was sweeping the nation.

Spiritualism was a religious movement aimed at proving the immortality of the soul by establishing communication with the spirits of the dead.

Historians have suggested that Spiritualism’s popularity was a response to the widespread economic, social and cultural changes taking place in America in the mid-1800s.

Theodore Ross was born in Duchess County, NY, on Nov. 23, 1827, and moved to Cleveland, OH, at a young age.

He was made a Mason in Cleveland’s Iris Lodge No. 229 and also received York Rite degrees, as well as Scottish Rite degrees.

He was created an Honorary Inspector General of the 33º of the Supreme Council on May 23, 1862.

An account published by the Supreme Council reads, “Bro. Ross was an ardent active Mason, and during his residence at Cleveland he was one of the principal promoters and workers in the Scottish Rite, contributing not a little to that permanent success the Rite has achieved in that city.”

At some point, Ross moved to New York City, where he passed away on May 30, 1875. But, his photograph remains, allowing us not only to connect his appearance with his life story, but also highlighting a fascinating part of the story of photography in America.

The National Heritage Museum and Van-Gorden Williams Library have impressive collections of photographs, highlighting Masonic and fraternal people, places and events.

We do continue to add to this collection, but are selective, accepting gifts of photographs that fill gaps in our collection, or that have well-documented histories.

If you have a well-documented Masonic or fraternal photograph taken prior to 1930 that you would like to consider donating to the museum’s collection, please contact Aimee Newell, curator of collections at 781-457-4144 or e-mail: anewell@monh.org.
Judith Burns D’Andrea, author and publisher of the Burns Books series donated over 1,900 of the first edition of her books to the learning center program.

As a regular attendee of the IDA conferences for many years, she has been impressed with the center directors and tutors from the program that she has met.

She said that she is impressed with the work and results that she has witnessed.

The retail value of this donation is nearly $18,000.

Supplies of the books have been shipped to each of the centers in the network, with anywhere from one to seven copies of each title donated, to be added to the center’s library.

The books are of the “choose your own ending” variety, and are designed, through the use of carefully controlled vocabulary, large print, and large spaces between sentences, to overcome anxiety in the reader.

BurnsBooks Publishers is located in Danbury, CT.

PASSING GRADES

Three years ago the learning center program received initial accreditation from the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC).

In 2004 it was agreed that a follow-up examination would be scheduled three years later.

In June, a representative from IMSLEC was on site at the headquarters in Lexington, MA, and conducted the planned “re-affirmation of accreditation.”

The process, which was concluded successfully, included the monitoring of a training lecture; meeting with program officials; interviewing tutors and tutor trainees, and reviewing records and files.

The next site visit will take place in five years.

Welcome, Bill Ziemer

Starting just after Labor Day, Bro. William G. Ziemer, 32°, joined the staff of the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc., as the director of operations.

Bro. Ziemer comes to the program from an educational background in central Maine. After nine years as an elementary school teacher he spent the next quarter century in administration as a principal and superintendent of schools.

When assuming the lead role with the learning centers Bill Ziemer outlined his first steps.
Often we remember fondly the learning center with such warm and grateful thoughts. You all were, and are, the best.

We will never forget what the center did for building our first son’s confidence and upping his skills in reading.

Our son is a former student for whom the program indeed performed miracles. He was a boy who struggled to read anything and through the center’s teachings, raised his reading level from below his grade level to almost three grades above it.

He became a child who loved to read and as a young teenager, still loves to read.

We were so blessed to have had your guidance and the additional marvelous good fortune to have had Cathie Arnold as his teacher for the years that he was at the center.

We still remember Mrs. Arnold’s dedication to Jefferson and her other students. Three days after she had had a baby, she showed up (through a snow storm) to give reading lessons to her students at the center.

She did so much toward unlocking the key to reading for our son that we can never begin to repay her or thank her enough.

When Bob Jacobs, Jefferson’s grandfather and a Mason, first mentioned the availability of this program to us, we were at our wit’s end with Jefferson.

With poor reading abilities, he had had to repeat second grade. We started off in your Miami University alliance summer program and came aboard with the regular program in the fall. The support and progress were indeed amazing.

We can not forget the camaraderie of some of those wonderful parents who also shared successes with their own children.

What good supportive words and what enjoyment we adults often shared in that small lounge area waiting for our children to emerge confidently from the classrooms.

Later Jefferson was also so very proud to speak on the microphone with Mr. Bill Hillis at the beginning of a Red’s baseball game. I still remember Jefferson’s heartfelt words,

“Thank you learning center for helping me to read and write.”

He felt honored to ride in an antique car around the field and later to sit in Mr. Lindner’s [team owner, Ill. Carl Lindner, 33°] box at the stadium to watch the game. It was an awesome day that our family will always remember and cherish.

Today all of these experiences came back to us as we sat in a parent meeting at Milford High School. Jefferson is now 16 and is finishing his sophomore year at Milford High School and we were reviewing goals and setting his schedule for next year.

We were given the news from a counselor that Jefferson had passed all five of his OGT’s in the first go-round. We were all thrilled.

He not only passed them, but also he received accelerated standings in reading, writing and math. He received advanced standings on the science and social studies tests.

It was wonderful news. As my husband and I sat at lunch together later, we both said, “This would never have happened without you good people at the learning center.”

So much of those state tests depend on reading as a major deciding factor that without your earlier props and supports for our son Jefferson, he never would have passed them.

So once again, we remember and applaud the life-enhancing and life-changing work that you and all the fine teachers at the center build daily for other children just like our son.

So often teachers never know how much their teaching has mattered in the life of a student. Please know and pass on to others that what they do does matter. Jefferson is a living example of your teaching accomplishments.

Ted and I believe that the foundations for Jefferson’s success were built very solidly by you fine people. You have our eternal gratitude for making such a difference in Jefferson Shaw’s life.

Roseanna and Ted Shaw
If Scottish Rite in most countries is governed by a single Supreme Council, many have wondered how and why the United States has two.

Consider the state of the Masonic fraternity in America during the 1700s. Blue lodges were sprouting up as new Grand Lodges were being formed. Communication was extremely slow but Masonic activity was flourishing.

Meanwhile in France, there were Masons developing “higher” degrees, which have been referred to as Ecossais (Scottish) degrees.

Stephen Morin was a Past Master of a French lodge and was actively involved with the so-called Ecossais degrees.

It was his mission to carry these degrees to the Western Hemisphere. He sailed for the West Indies in 1761, carrying with him a patent that empowered him to establish the “higher” degrees in other parts of the world. Although the original patent has been lost, copies still exist.

Morin deputized Henry Andrew Francken, who had been living in Jamaica. Carrying his warrant with him, Francken traveled to the American colonies in 1767 and conferred the degrees of the Rite of Perfection in Albany, NY.

At the Van Gordon-Williams library in Lexington, MA, there is a book with Francken’s handwriting outlining 25 degrees. How it spread to 33 degrees is still an unanswered question. Today’s Scottish Rite degrees have no resemblance to the early Ecossais degrees other than having some similar themes.

As the number of Masons receiving these degrees spread throughout the colonies, there were those who were concerned about the lack of control and the way in which they were being “sold.” Several members, gathering in Charleston, SC, in 1801, established a Supreme Council to provide some direction for future growth of what became known as the Scottish Rite.

Col. John Mitchell, who assumed the position of Grand Commander, adopted the motto, “Ordo ab Chao” (Order out of Chaos). Another founding member of the newly formed Supreme Council was Dr. Frederick Dalcho, who later became the second Grand Commander at the time of Mitchell’s death in 1816.

The group that organized the Supreme Council in Charleston considered its authority ruled Scottish Rite throughout the world.

Mitchell, however, heard that there were several Masons in New York City who were claiming authority to establish new Scottish Rite bodies.

In 1813, Mitchell sent Emanuel De la Motta, Grand Treasurer General of the Charleston Supreme Council, to New York City to investigate the situation.

De la Motta found bitter rivalries between a group headed by Antoine Bideaud and a group organized by Joseph Cerneau.

Another group led by Abraham Jacobs also existed in New York. The results of his findings were reported to Mitchell, and De la Motta was told to use his own judgement.

Bideaud and Jacobs cooperated with De la Motta in attempting to justify their existence. Cerneau refused. After careful examination, De la Motta came to the conclusion that the Bideaud group was the only one that came close to claiming recognition.

RICHARD H. CURTIS, 33º, is the retired editor of The Northern Light and a recent recipient of the Medal of Honor.
With authorization from Charleston, De la Motta proclaimed the Bideaud group as a recognized Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States. Daniel Tompkins was named Sovereign Grand Commander and John James Joseph Gourgas was Grand Secretary General.

“At it was not until 1827 that the two Supreme Councils decided to establish territorial limits.”

At the time, Tompkins was governor of New York and later became vice president of the United States. Although the official date of birth is considered Aug. 5, 1813, the group had been operating under the Bideaud warrant since 1806.

It is also interesting to note that while Tompkins was a member of the Bideaud group, DeWitt Clinton was a member of the irregular Cerneau group. Clinton became governor of New York in 1817.

It was not until 1827 that the two Supreme Councils decided to establish territorial limits.

The Charleston Supreme Council proposed that the Northern Jurisdiction consist of “the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and perhaps Delaware.”

The Northern Supreme Council agreed to the proposal and requested that Delaware be included.

Although the state of Wisconsin was not listed, it was part of the Michigan Territory at the time of the agreement and is under the Northern Jurisdiction.

With the westward expansion during the 1800s, the remaining states became part of the Southern Jurisdiction.

That is why states in the northwest section of the country are included in the Southern Jurisdiction.
RiteCare of Washington’s Spokane Center kicked off an exciting pilot fundraiser in May 2007, to coincide with the American Speech and Hearing Association’s Better Speech and Hearing Month. The program was called “Your $Change$ … to Change the Life of a Child.”

The fundraising concept — collecting change — was not new. However, we hit upon a unique Scottish Rite approach. We used Mason jars, of course. A label was added, proudly displaying the RiteCare logo and announcing our primary mission — to provide speech therapy services free of charge to children. We adorned the jar with pictures of two delightful children, Maggie and Evan, from our clinic. Board Members, staff, parents, and volunteers then found personal homes for the jars — local businesses willing to host a RiteCare Mason jar throughout the month of May.

At the end of the month, Your $Change$ … to Change the Life of a Child was a very worthwhile experience for Spokane RiteCare. Happily, all goals were achieved. We raised awareness within our community, we created new connections with local businesses, and we generated new funds in a simple way to support our work with the kids. Our analysis easily demonstrated which sites were best-suited for future fundraising of this type and—to our surprise—many of our new business contacts requested that the jars remain with them for a longer period of time. This is a success worth sharing.

Maggie holding a Mason — jar.

Abraham Lincoln Collection, Bibliography, and Display

The United States Congress created the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in 2000 to inform the public about the effect Abraham Lincoln had on the development of our nation and to find the best possible way to honor his accomplishments. The Library of the Supreme Council has been endorsed to participate in the official bicentennial commemoration of Abraham Lincoln’s birth which launches in February 2008 and closes in February 2010.

The Library recently published a bibliography of Louis D. Carman’s 969-volume Lincolnia collection, which has been moved to the main reading room of the library for easy access to patrons during this celebration. The bibliography, Our Very Illustrious Brother, Abraham Lincoln, is now available at our online store at www.scottishrite.org for $65.

Along with the Carman Collection of Lincolnia, a special exhibit of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia is on display. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction’s National Heritage Museum has loaned us two artifacts for the exhibit: a bust of Abraham Lincoln and a commemorative medal, circa 1865. These and other items can be seen during the Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration.

Giveline Offers New Way to Support House of the Temple

Brethren who do their shopping online can now use Giveline, a web-based shopping mall that contributes a percentage of each sale to charitable efforts. The House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc. is listed and can receive contributions through Giveline. The foundation supports the maintenance and preservation of the House of the Temple, the national headquarters of the Southern Jurisdiction. It also supports the creation and maintenance of the exhibits and artifacts in the museum and library.

Giveline sells a wide range of high-demand products including books, music CDs, DVDs, electronics, housewares, and specialty gift items. Giveline operates with an “open book” philosophy. Throughout the checkout process the exact portion of your transaction — to the penny — that will be paid directly to the Scottish Rite is displayed. The link for the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation is http://www.giveline.com/default.asp?v=V089994448.
Oh, how we love Pierre Charles L’Enfant’s magnificent federal city. There was just no way Norma and I could pass up the opportunity to see it again by attending this year’s Supreme Council annual session in Washington, DC.

As it turned out, it was not L’Enfant’s city that made the impression. Yes, Washington was as magnificent as ever, but what left the greatest impression on me was our fraternity. I left Washington with a renewed sense of optimism for the future of Freemasonry and a renewed sense of commitment to it.

Perhaps you think of Supreme Council sessions in terms of arcane ceremonies, gala dinners and lots of socializing. In reality, it is a massive recommitment to Freemasonry, most especially Symbolic Freemasonry.

Freemasonry doesn’t begin in Lexington, MA, or Washington, DC. It begins in lodges in places such as Virginia, IL; Westerville, OH; Milwaukee, WI, and Hershey, PA.

No one understands this better than those who attended the Supreme Council session, especially the 174 men of our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who this year received the 33°. Of this honor, Sovereign Grand Commander John McNaughton said, “Please do not accept your new role as an accomplishment but as a commitment for continued service to our fraternity.”

As always, please send you questions and comments to studebaker55@casscomm.com.
I don't often review movies (and I am not going to start now), but over the past few months I've noticed trailers of, and DVD ads for, a recent blockbuster whose theme strikes close to home. “300” is the story of ancient commitment and courage, an adaptation of a graphic novel (popular with adolescents today) about the Battle of Thermopylae.

For those who remember their Greek history, Thermopylae was the place where King Leonidas, leader of fifteen score Spartans determined to best the Persian legions of Xerxes in order to “keep Sparta free.” It is a mountain pass, a perfect location for a relatively small force to perform beyond their abilities. Leonidas and the forces of Sparta, after inflicting extraordinary casualties upon the Persians, eventually were overwhelmed. But their willingness to sacrifice for what they cared about turned the tide to ultimate victory.

So, why the history lesson? The battle occurred in 480 B.C. and these guys weren’t even Masons.

I offer this story to honor a milestone passed during this year’s Annual Meeting. Every year we honor the generosity of those who have sacrificed personally to become members of our Builders Council. Most of these men and women have donated or committed $10,000 or more to assure that our learning centers remain “forever free” to the families whose children need help overcoming dyslexia.

During the event this year, I was pleased to welcome Ill. Maurice (Benny) Heater, 33°, and his lady Carol (Valley of Allentown, PA) as the newest members of the Builders Council. Benny told me over several years he had considered joining the Builders Council — no one is a bigger booster of the learning centers — but hadn’t quite done it. “Finally,” he said, “I figured I had enough spare change ‘under the mattress’ to make a pledge.”

Thus the Heaters became the 300th name on the Builders Council roster. And this is what causes me to consider a mountain pass in Greece. It reminds me how much impact the committed actions of a few can have. How it can help so many.

Steve Pekock, 32°
Director of Development

When will you consider making a sacrifice to keep our road to overcoming dyslexia free? There are many ways to do so – by bequest, donation or annuity. Join our stand. Call me at 800-814-1432 x3340 and we’ll talk about how.

Builders Council Members
August 2006 – July 2007

R. Perrin Baker
John and Claire Bertucci
Mike Brannon
Maynard Clark
Duckworth Family
Joseph W. and Marian B. Fennick
Lloyd C. Freedman
G. Gilbert Steffe Council of Princes of Jerusalem
Judd F. Garrison
Maurice and Carol Heater
William E. and Julie M. Johnson
Hiram’s Riders of Valley of Pittsburgh
Infinity Lodge No. 546
Charlotte Jackson
William E. and Julie M. Johnson
Frank R. and Betty Jane Koller
James M. Koscinski
Kenneth L. Larser
Charles R. and Frances Lefever
Robert D. Lindner
Jack Maloney
Eric M. and Nancy S. Marshall
John L. McCain
Joseph T. Mezzina
William F. Milam
Jack and Carol Miller
Russell W. Nadeau
Jack and Joy Nicklas
Mr. and Mrs. Roger G. Nitzsche
Byron D. Olson
Robert H. and Lynda Parker
W. Bruce and Besty A. Renner
Rodney L. and Norma St. Clair
Richard R. and Nancy Salsbury
Dale E. and Beverly Seiders
Pat Shaw
David J. Smith Sr.
Samuel W. Spanos
Virginia R. Stadtlar
David S. and Elizabeth Stewart
Mark A. and Rita Weir
David B. and Edith Weisman
David and Kathryn Winters
Edward W. Zeh
Jose Julian Marti apparently entered Masonry in Madrid, Spain in the 1871 to 1878 timeframe while in exile. His birthday is commemorated every year by Cuban Masonry and in the pre-Castro days, there were major celebrations. A statue was erected to his memory in Central Park in the center of Havana. In 1950, the Masons of Cuba organized a parade of 6,000 in tribute to him as a Mason and national hero. He has been pictured on many Cuban stamps — both before and during the Castro regime — and several other Latin American countries.

Born in 1853 in Havana, he was a lawyer by profession and served as consul in New York for Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. He became interested in Cuban independence early in life and was deported by Spanish authorities. He settled in New York and worked to arouse interest in the cause of Cuban freedom. He returned to Cuba when the revolution broke out in 1895. His small force was ambushed by a Spanish force and the entire contingent perished on May 19, 1895.

Manuel Hidalgo, a Catholic priest who led the first revolt against the Spaniards in Mexico and started the Mexican Revolution that resulted in their freedom five years later, was initiated into Masonry by a secret lodge formed by Spanish officers. They had been initiated by French officers of Napoleon’s invading Army; most of them were Scottish Rite Masons. Hidalgo was initiated in 1806 in Arquitectura Moral Lodge of Mexico City. The meetings of this lodge were held in a private home called “Calle de las Ralas No. 4.”

Miguel Gregorio Antonio Ignacio Hidalgo y Costilla was born to a creole family in May 1753. He was trained to be a priest and developed an early sympathy for the unskilled Indian workers. He became conversant in several indigenous languages and eventually turned his thoughts toward rebellion against the colonial power. In an attempt to improve the condition of the natives, he proclaimed a revolt on Sept. 16, 1810, against the Spanish government. He seized Guanajuato and Guadalajara and was joined by Alende and Aldama. With an army of 80,000 he succeeded in the first battle at Mexico City. He was betrayed to the Spaniards and was executed at Chihuahua on July 30, 1811.

Born in Illinois on March 5, 1836, Charles Goodnight became the model of the legendary Texas cattlemen. His family went to Texas and settled near Cameron when he was nine years old. In 1857 he purchased 430 longhorns and drove the herd up the Brazos to Palo Pinto County where he started his Black Springs Ranch. In 1860 he accompanied the Texas Rangers in their campaign against the Nocona Comanche on the Pease River. During the Civil War he was assigned duty as a scout and guide with the frontier regiment fighting the plains tribes in northwest Texas. After the war he developed one of the nation’s finest herds of Herefords with over 100,000 head on over a million acres. He died on Dec. 12, 1929.


The bicentennial of Bro. Giuseppe Garibaldi’s birth was celebrated in many nations on July 4, 2007. This valiant Italian patriot was profiled in “The Stamp Act” appearing in the February 1995 issue of The Northern Light. The postal authorities of Italy, Brazil and Uruguay chose to issue a stamp or a pair of stamps in honor of this celebration. Within the U.S, Bro. Ted Jacobsen, an avid Masonic Philatelist and AFL/CIO executive, created a personal stamp for the occasion. This “Zazzle” stamp has played a prominent role in the various ceremonies associated with Garibaldi’s birth anniversary that were staged around the country. It is also the first US stamp which displays the Masonic Square and Compasses in conjunction with a Masonic person or function.

Robert A. Domingue is secretary for St. Matthew’s Lodge, Andover, MA, and editor of The Philatelic Freemason.
My Brothers, I had the opportunity in July to attend the International Conference on the History of Freemasonry held in Edinburgh, Scotland and organized by my good friend and curator of the Scottish Masonic Museum and Library at Freemasons Hall in Edinburgh, Robert L. D. Cooper.

Brother Cooper is world renowned as an authority on Freemasonry but he is also acknowledged as one of the greatest authorities on Rosslyn Chapel. I had never been to Rosslyn so I stayed in Scotland a couple of extra days for the opportunity to have Bro. Bob give me a personal tour of the chapel. As he began the tour, I told him that I was now ready to have all my romantic hopes and dreams concerning Rosslyn’s Masonic connection shattered.

I was joking, of course, but in addition to Bob being perhaps the best authority on the chapel, he is probably also the greatest cynic. Even though I am quite liberal in my acceptance of the rights of authors to propose their theories as they please, I also tend toward skepticism on many of them.

Bob gave me a great tour and it was well worth my remaining in Scotland to go with him. If you want to have a well-guided tour by a renowned scholar on the subject, you could find no one better than Bob but I caution you, if you have any idealistic dreams of the significance of Rosslyn Chapel to Freemasonry and wish to retain them, find another guide. But if your intent is to learn, you might as well learn from the best.

I’ve chosen to review two of Bro. Cooper’s books for this issue of The Northern Light; one of them titled, The Rosslyn Hoax and the second, Cracking the Freemasons Code, that also touches on Rosslyn.

Bro. Cooper indicates that the “main purpose of this book is to discuss the question; has Modern Freemasonry any connection with the Medieval Order of the Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel and the St. Clair family?” It is also his objective “to bring some clarity to an often confused and contradictory debate on the subject.” As a Scotsman he also wishes “to provide more information regarding the history of Scottish Freemasonry”.

He says he takes an “academic approach” to Freemasonry as contrasted with an “alternative (mythological) approach” and there can be little debate that his approach is other than academic.

If your approach to Freemasonry is practical and academic you will appreciate the extensive analysis and conclusions found in this book. If, however, you are bent toward a romantic application of Freemasonry, prepare for disillusionment.

Cooper has gone through an extensive analysis of the supposed origins of Freemasonry and development through the 19th century examining many of what he refers to as myths and then proceeds to debunk them by presenting evidence of their lack of feasibility.

He discusses the St. Clair family with their relation-ship to Rosslyn Chapel and significance to Freemasonry, again providing an academic analysis of why many theories simply cannot be true.

As you should expect, a large portion of the book relates to Rosslyn Chapel including an extensive description of its structure and ornamentation. Many of its symbolic carvings that are implied to be referencing Freemasonry or Templarism are shown to be mythical dreams or perhaps outright attempts at deception. Cooper’s analysis shows that the interpretations of the carvings that some are willing to accept today, were in actuality applied in more recent years.

He points out that the reason that Freemasons no longer understand their own symbolism is that as an institution we no longer investigate, probe or research this “most important aspect.”

Many pages are also devoted to discussion and interpretation of the significance of the Kirkwall Scroll. Through his academic approach, he reaches conclu-
sions as to its origin and significance to Freemasonry. His concluding chapter is a thought-provoking and stimulating prod to the conscience of Freemasonry and shows how a perversion of a myth regardless of any altruistic purpose may result in negative impact.

The book contains eleven appendices in support of the author’s analysis. In addition, there are a number of both black and white and color prints and photographs relative to its contents.

I am a staunch supporter of his academic approach but tend more to leave at least a crack through which some speculation may pass. For example, in addition to his criticism of the alternative approach accepting that the absence of evidence implies that something did take place, I also accept that the absence of evidence does not necessarily imply that it did not take place.

The Rosslyn Hoax? is a book that I would recommend to any Freemason especially to those who may be inclined to accept some of the absurd speculations and theories being written today by authors jumping on the cash bandwagon of a renewed interest in Freemasonry and Templarism.

Cracking the Freemasons Code — The Truth About Solomon’s Key and the Brotherhood


The author told me that he was somewhat embarrassed by the reference to him as “World Authority on Freemasonry” on the front cover. The publisher included it when he had objected to an even more flattering title that was originally proposed. I am amazed at how much dominance a publishing company exerts on writers to stimulate sales. Nonetheless, Robert L. D. Cooper probably fits this category as well as any other writer and far better than most who claim it.

Cracking the Freemasons Code is a book that I would recommend reading by anyone wishing to have an absolutely unvarnished view of the craft written by a renowned Freemason. Cooper is probably as skeptical as anyone I know concerning unproven theories as they relate to Freemasonry and this book is quite candid in presenting many diverse theories, then dissecting them to show their lack of logic.

He states in the introduction that “the purpose of this book is to give some insight into the world of Freemasonry primarily from a personal point of view but with a strong emphasis on its history.” He therefore clarifies early on, and it becomes evident in his writing, that it is his point of view and he also strongly reflects his Scottish heritage. Cooper unabashedly emphasizes the great influence that Scottish Freemasons had on the development of North America and world Freemasonry.

Multiple theories of the origins of the craft are presented along with his objections to the majority of them. He also effectively presents how the infusion of Renaissance thinking such as Hermeticism and the art of memory became part of the structure of Freemasonry. He discusses the evolution of Freemasonry from operative to speculative, including his supposition as to how the secret rituals might have come into being.

The early rituals, constitutions and orations, along with the development of the degree system, are also discussed.

In addition, the author also presents a chapter on the Order of the Free Gardeners and its development from an operative to a speculative craft. This extinct organization is one I had never heard of but according to the author it was contemporary with Freemasonry and incorporated much of the same terminology and symbalistic concept as our craft. I find it interesting and perhaps prophetic that of its three basic functions; esoteric, benevolent and operative that the esoteric suffered the most, preceding its decline and demise. According to the author The Free Gardeners offered esoteric knowledge on a par with Freemasonry and when “the need to join a lodge prior to becoming a member of the friendly society was removed, especially after the institution of the welfare state, lodge membership declined dramatically”. They died as an institution in 1953. (Is there a lesson to be learned?)

I am not sure that I fully understand the title Crack-
ing the Freemasons Code. It is somewhat misleading for anyone thinking that he will now know it all. The conclusion is somewhat ambiguous but I suspect it is as Bob intended. I also must question him some time about his statement that the “patron saint of Freemasonry in Scotland is St. John the Evangelist whereas virtually everywhere else in the world it is St. John the Baptist.” I have been in Grand Lodges that referred to both in their ritual, “in the name of the Holy Saints John.”

I always breathe a sigh of relief when I am able to give a good review of a book when the author is a friend. So with a big sigh I tell you this book is well worth having and reading.

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.
Plantar fasciitis: causes and cures

A number of things can cause a searing pain when you step on your heel. Doctors first rule out a pinched nerve in your back, ankle, or foot, a stress fracture, or inflammatory arthritis.

In most cases, the pain is caused by inflammation of the fibrous tissue that runs along the bottom of the foot, the plantar fascia. Excessive weight can cause it. Other factors include:

• Shoes with soles that are thin, lack shock absorption, have poor arch support, or have two-inch or higher heels. Switching from regularly wearing high heels to flatter shoes increases strain on tissues around the heel.

• Overloading your feet. Regularly standing in one spot for long periods increases risk, as does lifting heavy objects. Making a sudden change in the amount of weight-bearing activities you do, such as walking more on vacation, increases risk, according to researchers at the Mayo Clinic.

• An abnormal walking pattern that interferes with distribution of weight stresses the plantar fascia, as does having flat feet or high arches.

What to do for plantar fascitis:
In addition to losing excess weight, do some stretches to reduce pain. Stretch several times a day by standing away from a wall and leaning toward it.

Soaking only your heel in cold water may help. Or apply a cloth-covered ice or gel pack for 15 minutes, especially after an activity.

Wear low- to medium-heeled shoes with good support and shock absorption. Avoid going barefoot.

It could take weeks or months for the small tears in the fascia to heal. Nonprescription pain relievers can help.

Cynicism = heart risk

Cynics are distrustful people who generally believe the worst about others. But cynicism is a learned attitude and changing one’s outlook can do much to improve life and health.

Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor show that a cynical outlook increases the risk of heart disease. And cynical people are more likely to have diabetes, obesity, and to smoke. The link between these conditions and cynicism will be studied further.

Sleep improves memory, learning

While your conscious mind is off duty as you sleep, your brain cells are on a path of their own.

Researchers at Harvard Medical School say that during sleep, brain activity processes information learned during the day. Brain cells replay the memory during deep sleep, and that replay makes memory stronger.

Sleep researchers say most Americans don’t get the recommended minimum of seven hours of sleep a night. They could be setting themselves up for attention lapses and poorer recall of facts from the previous day.

Men deny they’re overweight

They may say they’re just big-boned, chunky, or very muscular, and that’s why they weigh so much. But a study by Indiana University School of Medicine shows that about half of white males and Hispanic males and 60 percent of black men thought they were in good shape when they were significantly overweight. Two-thirds of all 5,000 men studied were overweight, but only half admitted it.

Women in the study were more likely to think they’re fat when they are not.

Treated clothes offer more sun protection

Paying extra for clothes that have high UPF (ultraviolet protection factor) ratings could be worthwhile, especially if you have light skin, an outdoor job, heightened skin sensitivity, or previous skin cancer.

Fabric scientists at the University of Arizona-Tucson say that such ratings should be considered reliable. The ratings are comparable to the SPF (sun protection factor) you see on sunscreens. If you are covered by a fabric with a UPF factor of 30, it will take 30 times longer to get a sunburn than if you were not covered.

Some clothes without treatment are protective. Denim jeans have a natural UPF factor of 1,700. (Light cotton T-shirts have only five to nine UPF, less when wet.)
Turkey Day Rivalries

Every household has its unique Thanksgiving traditions. Pageants, homecoming events and — of course — food dominate. Another aspect of the holiday is football.

Where and when did our national obsession with Thanksgiving Day football originate? The answer is not so easy and the story is replete with “firsts” of several stripes. Some long-standing traditional match-ups date back well more than a century. Football has been associated with Thanksgiving nearly as long as there has been an official holiday. In fact, there is evidence that even the pilgrims might have engaged in a form of the sport.

The story appears to begin simultaneously at the collegiate and high school level in the 1870s. As the game was evolving, so were traditions. In 1876 Yale beat Princeton two goals to none on Thanksgiving morning. The Wellesley-Dartmouth match-up has existed for over a century. Two Connecticut schools, Norwich Free Academy and New London High School have played most years since 1875, beginning their streak a year before the Princeton-Yale game. The Wellesley Raiders and the Needham Rockets in Massachusetts have squared off since 1882 and the schools claim it to be the oldest public high school rivalry.

Boston Latin and Boston English high schools call their game the oldest “continuous” match-up, playing every Thanksgiving since 1887.

Presidential history plays a role in the tradition. Andrew Jackson was born in the Waxhaw area, near the North and South Carolina border. Although there are strong arguments for each, no one is sure in which state he was born. For years high schools on either side of the boundary would play their annual “Jackson Game” on the holiday. The winner “earned the official birthplace” for the year.

The National Football League has scheduled games on Thanksgiving since its inception in 1920. The first edition matched two Ohio clubs as the Akron Pros bested the Canton Bulldogs 7-0. Since 1934, the Detroit Lions have been associated with the day. In 1960 the new American Football League put the holiday in its schedule for all teams. Since 1966, the Dallas Cowboys have continued the custom.

But what about the pilgrims?

It is just possible that Thanksgiving football tradition is much older than most think. William Wood, a Cape Cod settler writing in the New England Prospect, dated 1634, has another story. He tells of a game played by the Native Americans on Cape Cod as well as the beach at Lynn, MA, and other settlements, often against the European settlers. They were played after harvest feasts, attended by both pilgrims and natives. The sport was called “Pasuckquakkowog.” Roughly translated, it means “meet to play football,” and resembles soccer. A post was planted on each end of the beach, approximately two miles apart. “Spoils” including animal pelts, food, and other valuables were hung from it. A ball, made of wrapped leather straps or wood, was propelled by using anything but arms and hands. Each team numbered anywhere from 30 to more than 100 and the object was to be the first to get the ball past the opponent’s goal post. Winners would take home the prizes hung from the post. Wood said he enjoyed viewing “their swift footmanship, their curious tossing of this ball, their flouncing into the water, and their lubberlike wrestling.” He says, “Wives and daughters would sing and dance on the sidelines and young boys would bang on sticks.”

Roger Williams, of the Rhode Island colony was not happy. He would not attend the games there so that he “might not countenance and partake of their folly.”

The connection between Thanksgiving and football appears solid. They have been linked since before anyone today was born. Despite the warnings of Roger Williams, — and the New York Herald more than two centuries later — it seems as though we will be passing the cranberry sauce while they pass the football for quite a while.
Grumblers can hardly, of right, be designated by the adjective Masonic, for the chronic grumblers are guilty of decidedly un-Masonic conduct. It will not be denied, however, that there is a considerable class included in the ranks of the fraternity, who in common speech may be spoken of as “Masonic Grumblers.” They are faultfinders in and out of season. They have the gift of caustic speech, and use it unsparingly. Domestic life is embittered by the habit of scolding, which some member of the household has acquired, and which is indulged in on the slightest provocation. There are homes over which a shadow almost constantly rests because members of the family circle are constantly accusing each other of faults and short-comings—criticizing each other for defects of one sort and another in character and conduct. We do not need to say how dreary and sad a home may become, when these grumblers at the conditions which prevail, the food, the surroundings, the allotments of work, etc., get in almost continuously their small shot of sarcasm, innuendo and complaint, while they scold about each other—the absent, if not those present—and so augment the general discomfort. How sharp the contrast between the homes thus affected and other households where love rules and courtesy is the general manifestation. The chronic grumbler and the severe critic find no place at the table or fireside of such an abode. The members are all generous, forbearing and kindly in thought, purpose and word, one to another, and the atmosphere is always bright and cheerful. Blessed is such a home—blessed are they who contribute by their amiability, their patience, and their good sense, to establish it in the right conditions. Oliver Wendell Holmes says: “Many years ago, in walking among the graves at Mt. Auburn, I came upon a plain, upright white marble slab, which bore an epitaph of only four words, but to my mind they meant more than any of the laborious inscriptions on the surround-

— Walter H. Schroeder, 32°, The Freemason, Portland, OR, June 1963

— Henry D. Moore, 32°, Masonic Review, March 1889
Charity of the Heart

As each new year approaches, reflecting upon his past, man is inspired to reach for higher goals in the years to come. Resolutions easily made, are more difficult to execute. That which is planned with utmost resolve and intention to perform, often is forgotten amid the multitude of cares and sorrows encountered in the performance of our daily duties in the world.

Essential to the daily duties of every Mason is his indispensable duty of remembering the poor, and, to them, a share of our wealth should be given. But, there are those who may be rich in worldly goods, yet poor in spirit, who do not need help from our pockets, but help from our hearts. And, to them we must share a part of our time rather than a part of our wealth.

Masons are so engaged in the affairs of their business, the care of their families, as well as civic and other activities that consume so much of their time; often they find little time left to fulfill their Masonic obligations and assist distressed Brethren who may need a moment of their time.

There is no better time for each of us to reexamine our conscience and honestly appraise our conduct in the past as when we are considering our resolutions for the coming year. Let us place two resolutions in the highest priority for us to carry out:
1. Living up to our obligations
2. Giving of our time to others.

For Masons, there can be no greater commitment for the year to come than to fulfill our obligations to the craft, and give of ourselves to our needy Brethren for it is charity of the heart, not charity of the pocket, that preserves among us the full and complete harmony of brotherly love.

— Raymond E. Wilmarth, 32°, The Cabletow, Jan. 1979

The Dreamer

Dreamers are the architects of greatness. Their vision lies within their souls. They never see them mirages of fact, but peer beyond the veils and mists of doubt and pierce the walls of unborn time.

Makers of empire, they have fought for bigger things than crowns, and higher seats than thrones. Grief only streaks their hairs with silver, but has never grayed their hopes.

They are the Argonauts, the seekers of the priceless fleece – the truth.

Through all the ages they have heard the voice of destiny call to them from the unknown vast. They dare uncharted seas, for they are the makers of the charts. With only cloth of courage at their mast and with no compass save their dreams, they sail away undaunted for the far, blind shores.

Their tunnels plow the river bed and chain island to the mother land. A God-hewn voice that swells from a disc of blue and wells out through a throat of brass, caught sweet and whole, to last beyond the maker of the song, because a dreamer dreamt.

What would you have of fancy or of fact if hands were all with which men had to build?

Your homes are set upon the land a dreamer found. The picture on its walls are visions from a dreamer’s soul.

They are the chosen few — the blazers of the way — they never wear doubt’s bandage on their eyes — who starve and chill and hurt, but hold to courage and to hope, because they know that there is always proof of truth for them to try — that only cowardice and lack of faith can keep the seeker from his chosen goal; but if his heart be strong and if he dream enough and dream it hard enough, he can attain, no matter when men failed before.

Walls crumble and empires fall. The tidal wave sweeps from the sea and tears a fortress from its rocks. The rotting nations drop from off their thrones. Grief only streaks their crowns, and higher seats than thrones. Grief only streaks their crowns, and higher seats than thrones.

I studied the lives of great men and women and I found that those who got to the top were those who did the jobs they had in hand with everything they had of energy and enthusiasm and hard work.

I hated every minute of training, but I said, “Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.”

I've missed over 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost over 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to make the game-winning shot, and missed. I’ve failed over and over again. That’s why I succeed.

A hunch is creativity trying to tell you something.

The measure of life is not its duration but its donation.

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know when it will be too late.

I couldn’t wait for success, so I went ahead without it.

I’m so engaged in the affairs of their business, the care of their families, as well as civic and other activities that consume so much of their time; often they find little time left to fulfill their Masonic obligations and assist distressed Brethren who may need a moment of their time.

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— Raymond E. Wilmarth, 32°, The Cabletow, Jan. 1979

Quick Quotes

There is no such thing as an unimportant day
— Alexander Woolcott

I’ve missed over 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost over 300 games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to make the game-winning shot, and missed. I’ve failed over and over again. That’s why I succeed.
— Michael Jordan

A hunch is creativity trying to tell you something.
— Frank Capra

The measure of life is not its duration but its donation.
— Corrie Ten Booms

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know when it will be too late.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

I couldn’t wait for success, so I went ahead without it.
— Jonathan Winters

I studied the lives of great men and women and I found that those who got to the top were those who did the jobs they had in hand with everything they had of energy and enthusiasm and hard work.
— Harry S. Truman

If I had thought about it, I wouldn’t have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can’t do this.
— Spencer Silver, inventor of Post-it Notes

I hated every minute of training, but I said, “Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.”
— Muhammad Ali

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost. Put foundations under them.
— Henry David Thoreau

The best way to knock a chip off someone’s shoulder is to pat him on the back.
— Unknown
Common light bulb could be phased out

Manufacturers are creating an energy standard that, if accepted by Congress, would mean common household lightbulbs would be phased out in 10 years.

The standard they settle on will be included into an energy bill. The legislation calls for efficiency standards for appliances and motor vehicles, and the use of more alternative fuels.

The three largest light-bulb manufacturers, Philips, General Electric, and Osram Sylvania, have more efficient lighting products in development. GE says it will be introducing an incandescent bulb that will be comparably efficient to compact fluorescent lights.

Manufacturers are also developing light-emitting diodes that are currently too expensive for the consumer market, but will fall in price over time.

Baggo is still fun in fall

Some call it a game, some call it a sport. In some parts of the country it is called “Corn Hole.” By any name, it has become a craze at tailgate parties, bars, and church outings in the Midwest.

Players toss a one-pound bag filled with corn into a round hole cut into a slanted board about 30 feet away. Two-on-two teams score three points when the bag goes into the hole. A bag that just stays on the board gets 1 point unless an opposing player knocks it off.

Evaluating wet-dry vacs

Vacuum strength is rated in two ways: Airflow and water lift. Airflow is measured as CFM (cubic feet per minute). Water lift refers to the machine’s suction capacity as determined by a manometer, which calculates both pressure and suction strength. Strong airflow allows the vacuum to pull dirt from many inches away. High water lift enables it to grab particles and pieces out of cracks.

Experts from This Old House Journal recommend vacuums with an airflow CFM rating over 112 and a water lift of at least 80. A vacuum cleaner with wheels is easier to move around.

If you want your machine to double as a basement sump pump in spring, you need something with a large capacity. A five-gallon tank fills up in seconds.

Family night at the mall

When groups of rowdy teens invade a shopping mall, one manager says walkways get clogged, older customers are jostled, and strollers get overturned amid the horseplay.

Minnesota’s Mall of America was the first to institute policies stating the hours and days when teens must be accompanied by a parent. Some 46 other enclosed malls have adopted similar parental-escort policies and many more are considering them.

Most limit teenagers’ access on Friday and Saturday evenings. Some stores call them family nights.

At Genesse Valley Center in Flint, MI, there has been double-digit sales growth since the 5 p.m. curfew began.

“No, he can’t walk yet, but he has been preapproved for a credit card.”
What is in the old wooden box?

Hugh A. Cole, 33º, Valley of Chicago, was bequeathed an intriguing wooden box with his family papers inside. He donated the collection to the archives at the National Heritage Museum in the spring of 2007 and the papers have been fully cataloged by the archivist. These papers document life as the Cole family moved westward from New England starting in the late 18th century.

The papers were passed down through the Cole family before coming to the museum. Initially kept by a Cole relative in New England, they were sent westward to Eseck Cole (1780-1839) in Richfield, NY, then handed to Glen Cole (1872-1953) of Oriskany, NY. Glen, an uncle to Hugh A. Cole, in turn handed the family papers down to Hugh A. Cole, the youngest male of his generation.

Why did the Coles leave New England?

Sisson Cole (1746-1845) migrated from Rhode Island to Otsego County, NY, in the late 18th century probably looking for farmland. This is documented in letters written to Sisson and his wife Elizabeth in Richfield, at that time. Through receipts on the mortgage interest of his property, dated 1810-13, one can tell that the Cole family actually owned land. They did not lease it as was typical for farmers in New York. They brought their New England culture with them, which included buying land “outright.”

Sisson’s son, Eseck Cole (1780-1839), added a parcel to the family property in Richfield in 1832. This is confirmed by the “quit deed” to the property bought from the Pray family. Eseck paid $300 for the parcel of about 20 acres.

Later, Eseck’s son, Eseck (1817-1915) bought out his siblings and continued farming the same property.

What was life like in early 19th century in New York?

The Coles were farmers; growing corn and wheat and raising cattle and sheep. Sisson used the corn and wheat to barter with tradesmen and carpenters for work on their home. They had a brick house with a shingled roof. In their spare time, the Coles spun yarn and made cheese and wine. Goods they did not have in their home they purchased, such as rum, muslin, sugar, coffee, spectacles, tea, and butter. It was the women’s role to care for the sick, and to sew, while the men took care of the farm and the finances.

The family set up private schools for the children. With several other families in Richfield, NY, they hired a school master in 1798. This is documented in a promissory note to the school to pay the school master. Sisson Cole is listed as a subscriber and indicated that three of his children would be enrolled.

Were the Coles Freemasons?

Eseck Cole (1780-1839) was a Freemason in New York in 1835, as is discovered in a letter from his daughter Lovina to her sister Lucinda. Lovina writes, “father must say nothing about Masonry — he is a Mason — meets with them now.” Eseck was a Freemason but had to keep this membership secret. Because of the 1826 disappearance of William Morgan from jail in Canandaigua, NY, Freemasonry was very quiet at this time. There was much anti-Masonic activity throughout the area.

Why did Cole relatives and friends move further west?

The Cole family and friends moved for larger parcels of farmland. In an 1835 letter, Lovina Cole writes to sister Lucinda, “Mr. Houghton has sold his farm — is going to Ohio — they are very anxious that I should go with them . . ..” Later, Lovina and her husband Otis move to Ohio and write letters to the Coles in Richfield, NY, telling of living in the “west” and wishing that some of their friends and family would visit them in Ohio.

Ohio was part of the Northwest Territory established in 1787. Ohio did not become a state in the Union until 1803. Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana, the mid-west, was considered the western frontier in the early 19th century, and an area where many New Englanders chose to settle.
Everywhere a Sign

With reference to the piece on tavern signs, (By the Way, Aug. 2007) there was a tavern with a name and sign, “Sign of the Freemason,” along the famous Philadelphia to Lancaster (PA) Turnpike built in 1791-93. The sign and tavern no longer exist, unfortunately. Lancaster, PA, also had among its many taverns the “Sign of the Grapes,” which was a center of “whiggery” and where the town’s leaders who favored independence had their headquarters.

This sign, a cluster of grapes, still exists and is owned by the Heritage Center of Lancaster.

John W. W. Loose, 33°, lodge historian Lancaster, PA

Left In

Today I received my August copy of *The Northern Light* and turned to the table of contents. I saw something new and immediately turned to page eight.

I had memories of the photo showing a hand-shake and the question “remember when a man’s word was his bond?” Well, now my question is — was the current picture supposed to be a left-handed shake?

Joe Diamond, 32°
St. Marys, OH

Not as Scottish as we Thought

I have just finished reading the August issue of *The Northern Light* from cover to cover. As always, I found the articles interesting and enlightening.

However, on page 27, in “Quick Quotes,” I spotted something that has aroused my curiosity. A quote there is attributed to one Arnold Glasgow. I’m wondering if that gentleman might, indeed, be Arnold Glasow, a man who lived in Freeport, IL, 50 some odd years ago and was well known locally for generating these quotes, or quips, if you will. While I was only acquainted with him, the younger of his two daughters was a classmate of mine at Freeport High School.

Adrian P. Andree, 32°
Hamilton, Ohio

Editor’s note: The reader is correct. For more on Arnold Glasow, see “Etcetera, etcetera, etc.” on page 31.

Web Wag:

Famous People: Next Job Interviews

- Julius Caesar: My last job involved a lot of politics and back stabbing. I’d like to get away from all that.
- Jesse James: I can list among my skills: leadership, travel planning, logistical organization, an understanding of firearms, and knowledge of security measures at banks.
- Marie Antoinette: My management style has been criticized, but I like to think of myself as a people person.
- Joseph Guillotine: I can give your company a head start on the competition.
- Hamlet: My previous position was eliminated in a hostile takeover.
- Lucretia Borgia: After I took over the department, our competition just dropped out of sight one by one.
- Pandora: I like discovering new things.
- Genghis Khan: I’m good at downsizing. On my last job, I downsized my staff, my organization, and the populations of several countries.
- MacBeth: Would I go after my boss’s job? Do I look like the kind of guy who would knock off his boss for a promotion?
- Lady Godiva: What do you mean this isn’t business casual?
et cetera, et cetera, etc.

masonicmoments

Anyone who has ever picked up a camera, aimed it, and snapped a picture has probably had at least a passing thought to seeing the result published in a magazine. If that describes you, here is your big chance. In this issue The Northern Light unveils a new feature, called “masonicmoments.” We want you to examine your daily routines to see how Freemasonry affects you, and then to record those moments. Your photo may capture an event run by your lodge or Valley. It might showcase the CHIP program or the Children’s Learning Centers. Maybe there is something unique going on with your Masonic meeting place. When traveling you might come across an appropriate image. Put your imaginations to work.

To take part in masonicmoments look around and find something that you and the fraternity will find interesting. The subject matter must have relevance in some way to Freemasonry. Include an explanation of the photo and tell us a little about yourself.

On page 30 you will find two examples, submitted by members of The Northern Light staff. These should help point you — and your camera — in the right direction.

Your photos, which will not be returned, may be mailed to The Northern Light, P.O. Box 519, Lexington, MA 02420-0519 or e-mailed to editor@supremecouncil.org. When creating digital photos, make sure your camera is set for high resolution pictures. We will print one to two of the best photos we receive each issue.

Pennsylvania Plates

Bill McCarrier, Deputy for Pennsylvania tells us that Scottish Rite Masons in his state are making license plates. Well, actually, the state prison will produce them but unique plates are now available that highlight our fraternity and its goals.

Bob Stanley, a member of the Valley of Pittsburgh, has designed many license plates for various organizations including the Shrine. He approached Bro. McCarrier with an idea for a Scottish Rite plate. Bill agreed and they began the process.

The design, featuring the Scottish Rite learning centers, was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for approval. From there, many of the commonwealth’s agencies, including the state prison, where the plates will be manufactured, needed to sign off on the project.

“After 18 months,” says McCarrier, “final approval was granted and production began.”

Residents of Pennsylvania interested in obtaining a plate should contact a Valley Secretary. The initial cost is $32, a part of which is allocated to the children’s learning center program.

Hurricane Relief

Richard Fletcher, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association reports that the Grand Lodge of Washington is asking for assistance to help them recover from a devastating storm that occurred there in December. Hurricane force winds battered the coast and more than eleven inches of rain fell in a short time.

To help, send donations to the MSA Disaster Relief Fund at 8120 Fenton St., Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD, 20910.

Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus

Throughout 2007 many members of the Scottish Rite came to know Lee Sherman Dreyfus. The former Wisconsin governor, who passed away in January, was seen by countless Scottish Rite Masons on a DVD presentation distributed by the Supreme Council. Copies of an address called “Freemasonry and the Fabric of America” were given out at the August Annual Meeting and thousands have been distributed since that time. In 17 minutes he highlights the craft and how it has been woven into the fabric of American history.

Bro. Dreyfus, a Mason for more than half a century, built careers in both academia and politics. In his home state he became a larger-than-life figure. He is most commonly depicted wearing a bright red vest. As a member of the faculty at the University of Wisconsin a student recognized him because of the vest he often wore and Dreyfus decided that it was a good way for people to remember him. Then and there it became his trademark. He would eventually own more than 20 of his wardrobe “signatures.” After his teaching days he became chancellor of the university’s Stevens Point campus. He resigned that position in 1979 to run for governor. His successful bid was punctuated by his use of an old school bus. In it he criss-crossed the state on what he called his “Red Vest Whistle Stop Campaign.” His one term as the state’s chief executive was focused on fiscal conservatism, social progress, and openness. He concentrated on tax cuts and reduced spending. He also signed the nation’s first statewide gay rights bill and he broke down walls — literally — as he removed the barrier between his office and his waiting room so everyone could see and hear all discussions.

Norm Christensen, Grand Minister of State and Deputy for Wisconsin said at his funeral, “His tireless work for the welfare of education, the importance of community and his numerous gifts to the community will not be forgotten.”
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