

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

February 2018
VOL. 49 No. 1

THE MAGAZINE FOR SCOTTISH RITE MASONS OF AMERICASM



*NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.*TM



THE PATH FORWARD

by Linda Patch



What's Happening

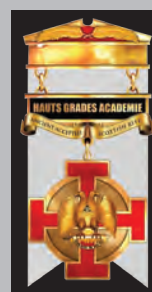
A BROTHER'S VOICE

by Brothers across
the organization



HAUTS GRADES ACADEMY

by Yasser Al-Khatib &
Mohamad Yatim



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THE NORTHERN LIGHT (ISSN 1088-4416)
is published quarterly in February, May,
August, and November by the Supreme
Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish
Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.,
as the official publication. Printed in
U.S.A. Periodicals postage paid at Boston,
MA, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
The Northern Light, PO Box 519,
Lexington, MA 02420-0519.

MAILING ADDRESS:

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David A. Glattly, 33°

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings,

Looking toward the future, I'd like to share some thoughts about where I believe the NMJ is headed.

Thanks to the comprehensive survey we undertook recently, we now have a solid strategic plan to follow. Internally, we aptly call it "The Path Forward." In the research, you told the NMJ leadership what you want to see from our organization. We are listening.

Here are some actions taken in recent months in response to what you asked us to do:

- ***Our new website.*** The newsite (which I hope you have visited) includes a number of sections suggested by the membership looking for easy access to information. Soon, an interactive section will allow you to change personal information, such as addresses, email addresses, etc.

- ***Better connection with leadership.*** I just hosted our first live webcast, and we will schedule more in the future. This interactive format allows all members to ask questions of the leadership, and make suggestions that will be heard.

- ***Better use of social media.*** The NMJ has stepped this up in recent months through Facebook, Twitter, our blog and on YouTube. We are currently building a video studio at headquarters to increase this ability and keep our connection with you timely and ongoing.

- ***Educational materials and programs.*** We are launching a new educational program called the Hautes Grades Academy in 2018. This online program will

be available to all members at no charge. Our special education committee has created a great program here.

- ***Better communication.*** The NMJ headquarters staff has increased communication to the Valleys. The Commander is working with the Deputies to provide more local communication.

The Path Forward campaign has already developed marketing materials for use by the blue lodges through their Grand Lodges. We met with all 15 Grand Masters within the NMJ and offered these marketing materials to them, and they have been well received. This campaign is ongoing and features our tag line:

NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.

We will now focus on Scottish Rite membership recruitment through our various resources of headquarters staff, Supreme Council committees, volunteers, and our consulting firm.

Much more to come.

Fraternally,

David A. Glattly, 33°, SGC

**"You told the NMJ leadership
what you want to see from our
organization. We are listening!"**

- David A. Glattly -



COLLECTANEA CLOSE-UP

From the Museum & Library

Freemasonry on the High Seas

In 1801, master mariner Samuel Derby presented a certificate from Essex Lodge in Salem, MA, to the officers of La Vertueuse Lodge in Batavia, Dutch East Indies (now Jakarta, Indonesia). This document proclaimed “To all Brethren through the world” that he had received the Master Mason degree and was due “the reward of a worthy Brother, from all the faithful, wherever dispersed.”

From 1779 to 1860 nearly half of Essex Lodge’s members were seafarers. In the late 1700s, Masons did not, as a matter of course, receive certificates, though a Masonic brother planning to travel or undertaking a move could pay a fee and receive documentation of his degree. Essex Lodge was different. With many traveling members who needed certificates, the lodge commissioned Joseph Hillier, Jr., an artist, seafarer, and son of a member, to design a certificate specifically for the lodge. He composition reflected members’ interest in the larger world; the four allegorical figures at the bottom of the certificate represent the continents of Africa, America, Asia and Europe.



Master Mason Certificate, 1796. Issued to Samuel Derby, Essex Lodge, Salem, MA. Designed by Joseph Hillier, Jr., Salem, MA. Engraved by Samuel Hill, Boston, MA. Museum Purchase.



Frontispiece, Ahiman Rezon ..., Printed by Robert Black, 1764. London, England. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library.

In addition to certificates, traveling Masons sometimes brought their Freemasonry-related belongings with them on their journeys. This small mark medal and a related apron—both eminently packable—belonged to John Light. Returns

at the United Grand Lodge of England show he joined Mariners Lodge No. 362 in Liverpool, England, in 1799. A hundred years later, Light’s Masonic artifacts found their way into the collection of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Along with Masonic objects, seafaring Masons brought ideas related to Freemasonry on their travels. Some of these ideas came in the form of books. For example, many copies of Ahiman Rezon, a book of constitutions first published in London in 1756, came to America and were eventually used by American Grand Lodges as a model for their own constitutions.



Mark Medal Made for John Light, 1800. England or the United States. Collection of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Photograph by David Bohl.

Maritime Souvenirs

Seafaring Masons were also great shoppers for souvenirs of their travels. Captain Ebenezer Hatch owned this English pitcher, part of the collection of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Decorated on one side with a transfer print of a three-masted ship and on the other side with a transfer print of Masonic symbols, this pitcher reflects to Hatch’s interests and accomplishments. Hatch, from Gorham, ME, worked as a master mariner and was raised in 1802 at Boston’s Mount Lebanon Lodge. This pitcher has been preserved in the collection of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts along with Hatch’s English Royal Arch membership certificate. Records at the United Grand



Pitcher, early 1800s. Possibly Herculaneum Pottery, Liverpool, England. Collection of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Photograph by David Bohl.

Lodge of England show that St. George's Lodge of Harmony No. 25, in Liverpool exalted Hatch in 1805.

During Hatch's time, Liverpool was a busy and important English port, second only to London as a center for ceramics manufacturers and decorators. Some Liverpool retailers stocked jugs printed with standard images so personalized orders, embellished with initials or other painted details, could be executed quickly to accommodate seafarers with limited time in port. Hatch's pitcher may have been one of these.

Some mariners brought souvenirs of stylish ceramics home from their travels as gifts for their lodges. In 1810, for example, Parker Emerson, a mariner who received his degrees at Warren Lodge in Machias, ME, gave "an elegant Masonic Pitcher" to his lodge. In 1811, the secretary of Union Lodge, in Dorchester, MA, recorded that sea captain and merchant Nehemiah Wright Skillings made a 'Handsome Present' of a pair of transfer-print pitchers for which Skillings received 'the thanks of the Lodge.' Not all gifts of imported transfer-printed wares were pitchers. A lodge historian described that in 1798, Samuel Moore presented "two large Punch Bowls of Liverpool ware, elegantly ornamented with masonic emblems" to St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter in Boston, MA.

From the 1500s on, as Europeans explored the world, consumers valued objects made from exotic materials available in faraway lands, such as coconut, seashell or unusual decorative techniques, like lacquering. James Devereux, who, like Samuel Derby, was a member of Essex Lodge, commanded the 1799 historic voyage of the Franklin of Boston from Batavia, Indonesia, to Nagasaki, Japan. The Franklin was the first American merchant ship to journey to Japan.



Box, ca. 1800. Japan.
Special Acquisitions Fund.
Photograph by John M. Miller.

In addition to cargo owned by the Dutch East India Company, Devereux carried his own goods to trade. This small box is believed to have been among the many articles Devereux acquired on that voyage along with trays, fans, mats, tables and screens. Japanese craftsmen decorated the top of this box with a design taken from a publication, *Jachin and Boaz; or An Authentic Key to the Door of Free-Masonry*. In 1797, the book's frontispiece featured an illustration of an octagon-shaped Masonic jewel bear-

ing multiple symbols decorated with a bow. That illustration likely provided the model for the central ornament on this box.

Ship builder and owner Peter Grant Bradstreet of Gardiner, ME, completed the vessel Molocka in 1857. In 1860, Robert Norton captained the Molocka on at least one



Hilary Anderson Stelling



voyage to Europe. That same year, Bradstreet joined Hermon Lodge N^o. 32 in Gardiner, ME. Bradstreet may have requested this painting of his ship be made. The work depicts the Molocka under full sail flying, along with an American flag and a red pennant bearing her name, a blue pennant carrying the Masonic symbol of a square and compasses and the letter G. Some sailing vessels of the time flew Masonic flags while they were in port. Traditionally, these banners invited Masons to come aboard to socialize or to undertake business. The Grand Lodge of Maine does not have a record that Captain Norton, Bradstreet's long-time business associate, was a Mason. It is not known if the Molocka regularly flew a Masonic pennant. However, Bradstreet may have wanted a portrait of his ship displaying a Masonic sign to commemorate his new association with Freemasonry and asked Norton or someone else on the Molocka to commission a painting from one of the many artists who specialized in ship portraits.

Sea-Born Crafts

To help pass downtime on long sea voyages, whalers and sailors crafted both fanciful and useful objects out of materials they had on hand aboard ship. Sailors and others called whale bone and teeth incised and decorated by mariners scrimshaw, and the men who practiced the pastime, scrimshanders, as early as the 1820s. This decorated tooth—thought to have come from a bull sperm whale—is an example of this maritime folk art. With his depiction of Masonic symbols, such as square and compasses, a mosaic pavement and a beehive, the seafarer who incised images on this tooth sought to celebrate Freemasonry. He also may have wished to call attention to a Masonic folk hero, John Coustos.

COLLECTANEA CLOSE-UP

From the Museum & Library

Surrounded by halo-like rays of light, the man engraved on this tooth is thought to be Coustos, in part due to a note that accompanied the tooth when it entered the museum's collection. A Swiss-born British citizen, Coustos worked in Lisbon, Portugal, as a lapidary, or gem cutter. He had been a member of lodges in both London and Paris. In 1741, Coustos formed a lodge for foreign Masons who lived in Lisbon and served as its master. Freemasonry had been banned in Portugal a few years previously. When authorities learned about Coustos' lodge, the Inquisition arrested Coustos for participation in Masonic activities. News of his arrest and the charges against him traveled as far as Boston. For over 15 months he was imprisoned and questioned under torture. The inquisitors finally sentenced Coustos to four years in a workhouse as punishment for organizing a Masonic lodge. Not long after, the British ambassador to Lisbon arranged for Coustos' release.



Scrimshaw Tooth, 1825-1850.
Special Acquisitions Fund.
Photograph by David Bohl.

Upon his return to England, Coustos wrote a sensational book about his experiences, *The Sufferings of John Coustos for Freemasonry...*, which first went on sale in 1746 and remained in print for decades. The account, which featured lurid details of Coustos' imprisonment and engravings depicting his torture, proved irresistible to readers. Coustos' work capitalized on the wide-spread anti-Catholic sentiment of the time. Although some modern scholars have questioned aspects of Coustos' description of his torture and his assessment of how much Masonic information he did or did not reveal to his interrogators, many readers admired Coustos for keeping his Masonic oath under the strain of torture. One may have been the scrimshander who crafted this tooth.

Thirty years ago, when the museum was just beginning to build its Masonic collection, staff purchased a Civil War-era powder horn decorated with the image of a masted ship and patriotic symbols on one side and a selection of Masonic emblems, including a gavel, open Bible, columns, trowel, square and compasses and an all-seeing eye on the other. It bore this evocative inscription: "H. S. P. Rollins Prisoner of War Tyler Texas Captured at Sabine Pass Sept 8th 1863." The horn came to the museum with no known history beyond what was inscribed onto the horn. Descriptions of the battle at Sabine Pass outline a conflict

where fewer than fifty Confederate soldiers captured two U.S. gunboats and several hundred soldiers and sailors—it seemed likely that the H. S. P. Rollins that signed the tooth was one of those sailors.



Powder Horn, 1863. Henry S. P. Rollins, Tyler, Texas. Special Acquisitions Fund, 77.11.2

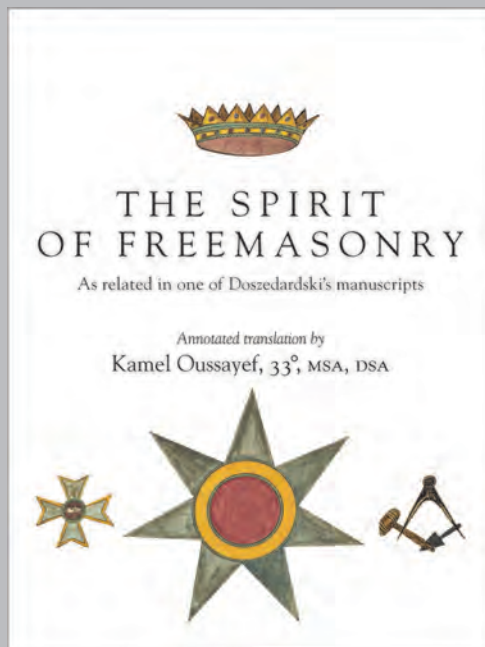
Museum and library staff identified the powder horn's maker as Henry S. P. Rollins of Exeter, NH and found that he played an important role in the battle that led to his imprisonment. During what was, in many ways, a badly managed battle on the Union side, Rollins' performance earned him special notice. In his report on the battle, Frederick Crocker, the acting volunteer lieutenant in charge of the U.S.S. Clifton, commended Master's Mate H. S. P. Rollins and a fellow shipmate "for the gallant manner in which they fought their guns and performed every duty."

In spite of his efforts, Confederate troops captured Rollins and marched him to the prison camp along with 350 other Union soldiers and sailors. One prisoner later described Camp Ford as: "... four acres-barren of timber and grass. Sand blows desperately." Returns at the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire show that in 1861, Rollins received his degrees at Star in the East Lodge of Exeter. The next year, he served as the lodge's Tyler. Rollins survived his imprisonment, only to die of stomach disease in New Hampshire a few years after the war.

These are just a few of the objects and stories of Masonic mariners represented in the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library's collection. If you have a story to add or a question, please contact Hilary Anderson Stelling, director of collections and exhibitions, at hstelling@srmml.org.

THE SPIRIT OF FREEMASONRY

The Spirit of Freemasonry, annotated and translated by Ill. Kamel Oussayef, 33°, is divided into 12 chapters which can be read in any order and deals with various Masonic subjects that might seem exotic and strange in the 21st century. It contains 225 beautifully calligraphed pages and four symbolic drawings hand painted with shimmering colors. The book casts a bright light on Masonic texts, symbols, rituals, definitions, secret alphabets, and calendars. Some of its writings are dissertations on the history or philosophy of humankind. Others are fascinating descriptions of old rituals that, by now, have been transformed to suit the contemporary mind.



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HAUTS GRADES ACADEMY

By Mohamad Yatim 32°, MSA and Yasser Al-Khatib 32°, MSA



Mohamad Yatim 32°

Education comes from within; you get it by struggle and effort and thought (Napoleon Hill). And such is born the Hauts Grades Academy (HGA), from within the ranks of the frontline Scottish Rite Mason who has for years craved knowledge; who is eager to challenge himself and dare to know his craft.

“Hauts Grades Academy” or the High Grades Academy (HGA) is a new educational initiative that Supreme Council is launching in 2018. The academy derives its name from the early days of the Scottish Rite degree system dating back to 18th century France. This educational initiative is part of “The Path Forward,” a much larger project that Supreme Council is implementing under the direction of Ill. David A. Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander.

Many of our members have been consistently asking for more education in the Scottish Rite. This demand was evident in the results of the most recent Supreme Council survey that highlighted the need for more education, more engagement, and more interaction. This extensive survey, which was conducted by Cercone Brown, a leading public relations agency in Massachusetts, revealed that 60% of Scottish Rite Masons would like to see more interactive webinars and live presentations with leadership and want online education and discussion boards. Also 40% would like the chance to interact with fellow Brothers, either in person or online, to learn more from one another and discuss degrees. One in five Scottish Rite members voiced an opinion in support of online education.

THE HGA PROGRAM:

The Hauts Grades Academy (HGA) is an educational program designed to promote the study of the degrees of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. The academy’s curriculum will consist of three levels for completion, with graduates earning the honor of becoming a Scottish Rite Hauts Grades Academic.

The mission statement of the academy echoes that of the Supreme Council NMJ: *“We will Inspire our members to immerse in a higher level of Masonic education, through a meaningful curriculum, that will be Convenient to pursue and Enjoyable to engage in.”*

The motto of the Academy is *Sapere Aude* which means dare to know, think for yourself, be wise. We believe that this motto reflects the inquisitive nature of Freemasons in ever striving to discover and contemplate with the many possible signs, symbols, and lessons embedded in our ritual.



The motto of the Academy is
Sapere Aude
which means
Dare to Know



Curriculum

Prior to joining HGA all Masons will be able to access trivia-like questions designed to provide light Masonic education. It is a warm-up exercise for each Brother prior to joining Level One, for knowledge is attained in degrees and readiness builds up with persistence. The Curriculum will be divided into three levels that can be pursued at the candidate's own pace, online or offline:



Program Administration

The Advisory Board which will administer this program will consist in its initial stages of:

Yasser Al-Khatib, 32° MSA
Valley of Philadelphia

Mohamad A. Yatim, 32° MSA
Valley of Northern New Jersey

E. Oscar Alleyne, 32°
Valley of the Hudson, New York

Conor Moran, 32°
Valley of New York City

James O. Dill, 33°
Valley of Boston

Christopher Hodapp, 33°
Valley of Indianapolis

LEVEL ONE

In Level One, the candidate will complete the study of the ritual of all 29 Scottish Rite NMJ Degrees and submit to four multiple choice quizzes divided according to the four Scottish Rite bodies. The candidate must obtain 75% on each quiz to pass to Level Two. He will receive a certificate of completion upon passing each level.

LEVEL TWO

In Level Two, the candidate will complete a total of nine essays. Each essay will be a self-reflection and a review of any of the 29 Scottish Rite degrees offered by the NMJ. These essays should be no more than two to three pages each, in which the candidate expresses what he has learned from these degrees, and/or what key takeaways made an impression on him and how. The candidate will closely work with the advisory board not only to ensure that the proper lessons are conveyed, but also to help and direct the candidate throughout the process. Upon review and approval of all nine essays, the candidate will receive a certificate denoting that he has successfully passed Level Two of the HGA. Well written, thought provoking essays, will be considered for publishing in *The Northern Light* magazine.

LEVEL THREE

In Level Three, the candidate is asked to write a professional research paper that should be no less than 2,500 words in length, double-spaced, focusing on any Scottish Rite topic of his choice. The topic must be pre-approved by the board. The topics can vary between history, ritual, and the philosophy of the Scottish Rite. Every research paper must be reviewed and approved by at least three members of the advisory board. The three advisory board members, by a majority vote, can then accept the paper and notify the member that he has successfully completed the HGA program. Furthermore, the approved research paper will be published in the academy's annual publication, which will be called *Accendo* -- Latin for kindle, ignite, or enhance. Every graduate of the HGA will receive a special certificate, a jewel that can be worn to any Scottish Rite event, and will be eligible to include the initials HGA after their names such as Joe A. Doe, 32° HGA (Hauts Grades Academic).

As more members complete the HGA program, a few will be selected to join the HGA Advisory Board. Their role will be to help improve and expand on the program into the future, using their own experience in completing the academy's curriculum.

Admission

The HGA program will be made available to all 32° degree Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, free of charge.

The HGA will provide the individual Freemason with a self-paced mentored program to enhance his knowledge of the history and the teachings of the Scottish Rite. It is also envisioned to evolve into a multi-solution portal, whereby it will afford the Brethren the opportunity for more interaction and collaboration. As time progresses, it will offer them an array of audio-visual tools that will assist our members in developing their leadership, managerial, and communication skills. The academy will strive to assist the members to learn not only the "What" but also the "How" of Freemasonry.



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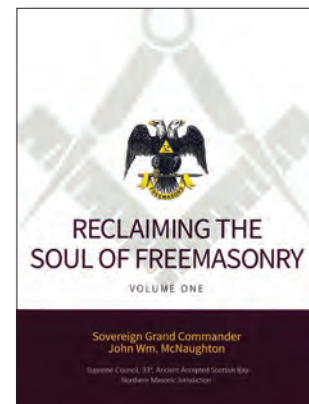
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RECLAIMING THE SOUL OF FREEMASONRY

Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry, by John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, NMJ, is a data-driven, clear, yet hopeful view of the state of Freemasonry and its future. The book presents the results of the most comprehensive study of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite conducted in more than 20 years. Commander McNaughton presents survey and research findings that quantify the problems facing the fraternity and ways to address our most serious issues.



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A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

We received wonderful news from a former family whose child came to the Children's Dyslexia Centers from 2011 to 2014. Natalie was born in Russia and came to Marietta, OH as a baby. As her parents saw her beginning to struggle with reading, they did their homework and researched possible remedial programs. She entered our program and the third grade in 2011.

From the beginning, Natalie had many creative interests that she was quite anxious to pursue but reading was certainly not one of them. She probably would also have added most school subjects to her list of things to try and avoid. As you can well imagine, if you can't read, school is difficult and when there are other things that are easy for you, you do them first.

Over three years, her parents, who had their own busy professional lives, drove her twice a week eventually covering a total 15,000 miles. During the drive after a hard day at school Natalie typically slept and then she woke up cranky.

She worked with two very patient tutors, Rachel and Karen, along with having numerous sessions with me. During these three years the other staff members also pitched in with suggestions and encouragement. We all watched with bated breath as her reading slowly improved

Jen Navicky
Director Dyslexia Center
935 Wheeling Avenue, PO Box 1825
Cambridge, OH 43725-1825

Dear Jen,
We want to thank you for helping with a major accomplishment with one of our graduates. Many questioned why we drove over 15,000 miles in a 3 year period for our daughter, Natalie to receive your special tutoring. We hoped your efforts would help our daughter become a better reader and be successful in school.

This week, Natalie was inducted into the **National Honor Society**. Before we came to your fine organization, we were hopeful for B's and C's on her grades. With your help and a lot of hard work on her part, she is now a straight A student and has accomplished a major milestone. She can now read and can keep up with the other high school students in her class. Her current resource teacher said it was the first student that she ever worked with to be admitted into National Honor Society. The school she goes to has a high level of standards where 92 is a B+ and 93 starts the A category. The entire school currently only has about 30 students who have reached that level of success.

Jen we know it was your staff's gallant efforts that made the difference. Your organization should be most proud of the fine work you achieved. Natalie's accomplishments are a fruit of your labor. Please let the staff know they can make a difference in one person's life and they have!
We cannot thank you and your staff enough, and hope other parents can be motivated by our story. Yes, success is measured one student at a time. But when it's your student, it's a sweet success.

Sincerely,

Ron
Tina
Ron Tomasch & Tina Thomas Marietta OH



We also watched her confidence and interest improve.

Her father wrote that Natalie "goes to a school that has a high level of standards where 92 is a B+ and 93 starts the A category." "Before we came to your fine organization we were hopeful for B's and C's but with your help and a lot of hard work on her part, she is now a straight A student and has accomplished a major milestone." Several weeks ago Natalie was inducted into the National Honor Society.

This is what our wonderful Scottish Rite program is all about. There are other parents who have related similar stories; maybe not as dramatic as Natalie's but all considered what Natalie's father called "a sweet success" for parents. We congratulate Natalie and her family and shower kudos on our dedicated staff members who work so hard and well with these children. It is gratifying for us all.

Jen Navicky
Director, Cambridge Dyslexia Center



Jim Tresner Retires as Journal Book Review Editor

AFTER NEARLY A QUARTER OF century of Masonic academic excellence, Dr. James Tresner recently announced his retirement as book reviewer of the *Scottish Rite Journal*, a position he has held since the late-1990s. His numerous opinions and reviews have been viewed as masterpieces by his peers. Brent Morris, current editor of the *Scottish Rite Journal*, and editor of *Heredom*, says, "I have known Jim Tresner for more than 30 years. I value his knowledge of Masonry in general and his understanding of the Scottish Rite in particular. But I most value his friendship."

Jim's very first book review appeared in the October 1996 issue of the *Journal*, accompanied with his popular scholar's pipe pose. The picture bespeaks his popular, thoughtful (sometimes provocative) and well-informed literary and Masonic analyses. He followed and filled the big shoes of editor S. Brent Morris, of whom Jim reverently says, "It was a daunting task to be asked to follow in the

footsteps of Dr. S. Brent Morris."

After being asked how many articles he has published, Jim widely smiles and wryly confesses, "It never occurred to me to keep track of the Masonic articles which appeared in *The Scottish Rite Journal*, *The Oklahoma Mason*," or other places, and so I do not know how many there are, nor how many book review columns I have written." He added,

"Too, there are many scripts for Masonic DVDs and video tapes which we've never gotten around to producing." His

long list of books include, *Albert Pike: The Man Beyond the Monument*; *Vested in Glory: the Regalia of the Scottish Rite*; *From Sacrifice to Symbol, the Story of Cornerstones*, and *Stability Rites But I Digress*, a collection of articles, most of which first appeared in the *Scottish Rite Journal* and many more. He is currently writing *Mason, Baad Mason!: A Sort of Masonic Autobiography*.

—Gregory S. Kearse, 33°,
Staff Writer/Editor



Puerto Rico's Scottish Rite Getting Back to Work

"Neither storm nor hurricane nor rain nor heat nor lack of utilities nor gloom of night stays these Masons from completing their appointed duties."

—Submitted by Edgardo Oyola-Torres, 32°



Save the Date for the 2018 RiteCare SRCLP Conference!

THE 2018 RITECARE SCOTTISH RITE CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE PROGRAM (SRCLP) Conference is a biennial event of Scottish Rite speech, language, and literacy programs. Scottish Rite leaders along with speech-language pathologists, literacy and dyslexia specialists, audiologists, graduate students, and parents gather to further the education and shared mission of SRCLP-affiliated clinics, hospitals, and university speech-language programs "to help children communicate."

The 2018 conference will be hosted by the Orient of California and will take place August 8–10, 2018 in Los Angeles, CA.

Registration and hotel reservation information will follow in early January. Please follow our social media pages, website, and the *Scottish Rite Journal* for updates.

We hope you will join us for this exciting event.



The *Northern Light* has existed for nearly a half century. Throughout its tenure as the communications method of record for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction it has seen much growth and change. Although there have been only three editors in that time the publication has had many variations in its layout and content. It has always – and always will – work to keep up with the times. This year is one of those turning points that requires a step forward. With a unique confluence of new leadership, the advent of “The Path Forward” project, and coinciding with a new designer, we have a golden opportunity to give the magazine a fresh look, both in appearance and content. In keeping with the philosophy of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction we have a renewed focus on the core of the organization – its members. In addition to the new banner across the cover, page layouts are being refreshed, and relevant columns and articles will appear over the coming months. For example, already our book reviews have undergone change. For many years the reviews were written by a single person. Today they are penned by several guest authors throughout our 15 states. Features such as “Views from the Past” will shrink, and eventually become an occasional feature, in order to make room for something new. In future issues watch for an increase in Valley news. To be called “Around the Jurisdiction,” the pages will let our Brothers know what is going on in their neighboring Valleys. These stories will not focus on hyper local events. Those more properly belong in the Valley publications and websites. This will be Valley news that has broad appeal. A new column, much in the style of our current “Brothers on the Net” will offer personal finance and investment information to our members. “A Brother’s Voice” is a new page offered to budding writers as well as to those who don’t normally write but have opinions or stories to share. Differing from our regular columns, these essays will be relatively short and do not require heavy research. These short stories do not have to be professionally written, but, working with the editor, they can be molded to fit the style of the publication. This page, in conjunction with our “Masonic Moments” feature provides the individual Scottish Rite Mason a greater sense of ownership in his fraternity.

This issue of *The Northern Light* looks different and will evolve in much the way the fraternity is changing. Through “The Path Forward” project, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction refocuses on the membership. So too is the magazine. Rest assured, though, *The Northern Light* as we know it is not going away. These changes merely represent the latest step in an ever-changing evolution dating to volume one, number one from 1970. It is still the voice of Scottish Rite Freemasonry and now more than ever, the voice of Scottish Rite Freemasons.

Hope Springs Anew. Thank you, SGC. “Meet the New Guy” Interactive Livestream Event a Huge Success



On Wednesday evening December 6, Sovereign Grand Commander David A. Glattly hosted the first of his quarterly interactive live broadcasts—a new initiative to engage with membership, break down barriers with leadership, and open communication. The event was a resounding success with more than 4,500 viewers and participants tuning in between Facebook Live and the Livestream feed itself. Grand Commander Glattly was joined on stage by Linda Patch, director of communications for the Scottish Rite, and Len Cercone, partner in CerconeBrownCompany, the marketing and research firm working with our fraternity.

Members were given an overview of *The Path Forward* and heard an articulation of future plans for member service and outreach. The creative campaign you see here was presented, and offered free of charge to all Valleys and Grand Lodges that would like to use it. In keeping with the “Meet the New Guy” theme, Grand Commander Glattly recounted his Masonic journey beginning as a “DeMolay boy from Clifton, NJ,” through his blue lodge experience, to the position he holds today. He spoke eloquently of the importance of ritual in our fraternity. Grand Commander Glattly presented a moving overview of the work of the Grand Almoner’s Fund and its impact that ranges from replacing a widow’s roof to helping recent hurricane victims from Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Comments from members in reaction to the event streamed in by the hundreds. Here is a sample.

Hope springs anew. Thank you, SGC.

– Art

What I really like is that I feel connected to Supreme Council.

– Edsel E

Grand Commander Glattly coming right out of the gate with an opportunity to see leadership, and hear that they want to listen, is great. Kudos.

– Daniel G

This has been fabulous. Great job and thank you for moving us along into this millennium. Keep it up.

– Jon D

To be honest I was very close to demitting. From what I’ve heard this month the new attitude is a welcome change and renews my interest in keeping my membership.

– Bill L.

The Supreme Council Communications Department is planning to announce a schedule of livestream broadcasts on a variety of topics. In addition to the quarterly “Ask the Commander” event, webcasts with Scottish Rite committee chairs are being organized. Thematic events such as “Exploring the Degrees,” and the “Living Masonic Values” are also being considered. If you would like to suggest a webcast idea, feel free to email pathforward@srmnj.org.

If you missed the livestream, you can type this link into your browser to see a recording.

<https://livestream.com/accounts/18281764/ScottishRiteNMJ>



The Path Forward

What's Happening

Whatever life
throws at
you, you have
millions of
brothers to help
you catch it.



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™



The Path Forward

**We're much more
about lending a
helping hand than
a secret handshake.**




In 2016–2017, the Scottish Rite, NMJ undertook one of the most thorough and comprehensive, data-driven examinations of the state of Freemasonry in more than 20 years. The goal of the study was to create a fact-based, sustainable strategic plan to move the Scottish Rite forward. Here we share the creative work that was born, not from opinion or anecdote, but from the analysis of what you told us. In fact, the results were so powerful that the scope of work grew to become a resounding statement about the craft of Freemasonry overall.

**We do everything we can
to be present. And still
be part of history.**



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.

The Creative Campaign




It takes a big man to believe in something bigger than himself.



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.

The concepts you will see are more than just appealing images and headlines. What we heard from Masons and non-Masons alike was the strong resonance of Freemasonry's core values. The desire for Brotherhood and personal growth came through loud and clear. The paradox is that cold numbers and data analysis led us to a place of deep fraternal feeling and meaning.

The creative concepts reflect our timeless values in modern and engaging ways. The campaign's appeal demonstrates that Freemasonry's message is enduring, and it connects with men in society at large. It also reignites a sense of pride in those of us who have served the craft, often for many decades. We have chosen the path of a values-led life, and it is an ideal that should be celebrated.



Blood is thicker than water. But nothing's thicker than brotherhood.



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.

How Will the Campaign Be Used?

Being a Mason doesn't make you better than everyone else. It just makes you a better you.



We will use the concepts to promote the Scottish Rite and Freemasonry in print and on digital platforms. As importantly, all materials are being shared free of charge with Grand Lodges across the United States for their promotional use—and they are responding. Grand Lodges are offering billboard placements, as well as exposure in their magazines. Many will use the material in their recruiting and on their websites. International inquiries for the campaign are also being received.

There is a deep need in our society for what Freemasonry brings into the life of a man who chooses to kneel at the altar. The research clearly showed that men today are, in fact, drawn to our ideals. The Path Forward is taking that message public. We must proclaim who we are to the world, tell our story authentically, and believe that as we move forward, a rebirth of Freemasonry is entirely possible.



Telemarketers: a pox on thee.

If nothing else, there is one thing I know for certain: readers of this column hate, despise, detest and otherwise deplore marketing calls. And they believe there must be a special place in hell for the creator of the robocall.

What can you do about those calls?

Since going without a phone probably is not a viable option (though it may be tempting), let's begin with the first line of defense.

Don't answer a call unless you know the identity of the caller. Let the call go to voice mail. If it is important, the caller will leave a message. This does work. I know because this is the way I deal with the problem.

When you get a call from an unknown number, consider using your phone's option that allows you to block that number. For example, let's say you live in Indianapolis and receive a call from New Orleans. However, you don't know anyone in the Big Easy. Unless the caller leaves a voice message to which you want to respond, block the number. It does work. Sometimes.

So your phone starts to ring, but then you notice the caller ID shows the call is coming from your area code and prefix. You figure it must be someone you know, so you answer. Great balls of fire! It's a robocall!

Increasingly, robocalls as well as live telemarketers use caller ID spoofing that causes your phone's caller ID to show a fake number. Blocking that number does no good.

This may come as a surprise: spoofing is legal. Besides, spoofing does have numerous legitimate uses. For instance, a battered women's shelter may use it to protect women from their abusers.

Another line of defense is the National Do Not Call Registry. Both land line and cell phone numbers may be registered. The process is simple. Just go to: www.donotcall.gov and follow the instructions. After 31 days, return to the site to verify your number was successfully registered.

If you previously registered one or more phone numbers, you may want to visit www.donotcall.gov to verify the numbers are still registered. If you prefer, you also may verify by calling **888-382-1222**.

If for any reason your number was previously disconnected and then reconnected, you may need to re-register. The same is true if you changed calling plans, switched cell phone carriers or changed the billing name on the account.

Keep in mind that charities, survey takers, and political organizations may call those on the Do Not Call Registry. In addition, businesses from whom you have made a purchase or to whom you have made a payment in the last 18 months may call you.

Also, some robocalls (prerecorded messages) that are purely informational are permitted. You may receive calls about a flight cancellation or an appointment reminder. A business making a robocall isn't allowed to promote the sale of any product or service. Prerecorded messages from a business that is contacting you to collect a debt

also are permitted, but messages offering to sell you services to reduce your debt are barred.

Political calls and calls from some health care providers are allowed, such as a robocall from a pharmacy regarding a prescription refill reminder. Robocalls messages from banks, telephone carriers and charities also are exempt from these rules if the banks, carriers or charities make the calls themselves.

You are encouraged to file a complaint when you receive any type of illegal telemarketing call. You may do this at www.donotcall.gov or by calling **888-382-1222**.

If you happen to answer an unwanted call, just hang up. Don't press a button to be taken off the call list and don't talk to a live person. Doing either of these will most likely backfire, resulting in more calls.

And take care before giving a business your phone number. It is a pain, but you need to read their privacy policy to see if you would be giving them permission to call you. Worse, you may discover that you might be giving the business permission to share your number with other businesses, allowing those businesses to call you. If that's the case, the **Do Not Call** registration does not apply.

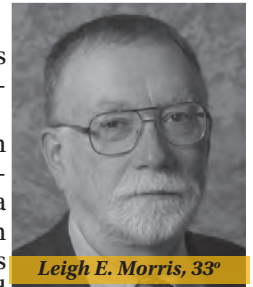
You'll need to take the same precautions before entering sweepstakes, other contests, or even accepting free product offers. My advice is not to enter contests or accept free product offers.

There are a number of apps available for smartphones. Many of these apps are free of charge. Though I have not used any of these apps, the feedback I have received regarding effectiveness has been mixed. If you have an interest in these apps, I recommend you visit cita.org to review the laundry list of apps for both android and iOS as well as Windows and BlackBerry.

Passwords: As I expected, I received several comments regarding my previous column on passwords. They felt I should have made it clearer that the new National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidelines are being hotly debated. Yes, they are. Of course, every password guideline has been hotly debated. It is up to you to decide whether you want to embrace the new NIST guidelines (four words in random order) or stick with the alpha/numeric/symbol advice. If you do use the four words in random order approach, make certain you can have a long password. If the website limits passwords to relative short lengths, then alpha/numeric/symbol is likely your better choice. No matter what you decide, make certain you do not use the same password (or variations) for different sites. Never use birthdates and names of children and pets.

Questions and comments?

Send them to me at cpstlrr@gmail.com and I will reply promptly.



Leigh E. Morris, 33^o

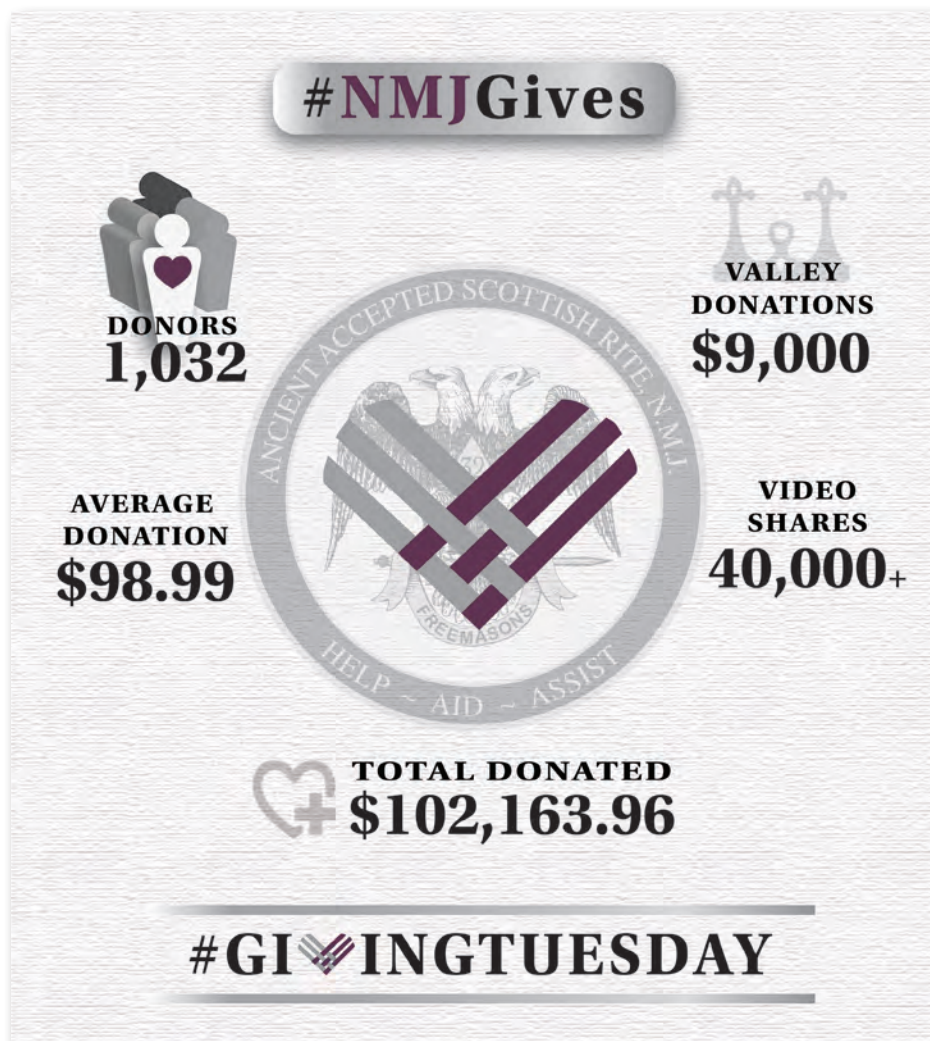
#GivingTuesday, a tremendous success!

GivingTuesday is the only global day of giving fueled by the power of Social Media and membership collaboration. You have heard of Black Friday? How about Cyber Monday? Giving Tuesday is more than about buying gifts, it's about making a difference.

On November 28, 2017, your Scottish Rite, NMJ "NMJGives" set a goal to spread awareness of our four charities: the Grand Almoner's Fund, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, and the Leon M. Abbott Scholarship fund. On the 32's starting at 8:32 a.m. EST we put out promotional spots and support videos from our staunchest supporters. These videos can be found on our Facebook page and our Youtube channel. By spreading awareness, it was our hope that members around the globe would go to DonateRite.org or go on Facebook.com and make a tax-deductible gift to support the work of their favorite Scottish Rite Charity.

Scottish Rite Members, Masons, and friends of Scottish Rite Charities turned out digitally, in full force. We had 1,032 individuals raise \$102,163.96 on **#GivingTuesday**. You may have heard that that every dollar matters, as Vice President of Charities Michael C. Russell puts it "Heck, every penny makes a difference. This **#NMJGives** shows that we had an average donation of \$98.99. I strongly believe that simply by showing the good works of our charities, folks were willing to donate to our remarkable causes."

Bro. Russell went on to state: *I want to thank each and every supporter of our charities. Whether it was giving of their time or talent, donating their treasure, or simply hitting share on one of the Facebook videos, the support you give to Scottish Rite Charities was seen around the world and will be seen in people's lives, forever."*



Charities brief description:

The Grand Almoner's Fund supports and assists Masons and their families in times of dire strife. Every penny of every dollar donated to the Grand Almoner's Fund goes directly to our mission and the ultimate objective of the Grand Almoner's fund to move financial assistance from your house, to a house in need.

The Children's Dyslexia Centers currently assists youth in learning to read and how to cope with a disorder that obstructs life's most simple tasks. With more than 40 dyslexia centers in 13 states, the Children's Dyslexia Centers tackle the challenge of dyslexia head-on, both by providing free tutoring for children with dyslexia and by training a growing team of highly skilled and dedicated tutors.

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library tells the story of Freemasonry and fraternalism in the context of American history. Unique in the world, the museum aims to be the "historical society" of American Freemasonry by collecting, preserving, interpreting and celebrating the history of fraternalism.



FEATURED SPEAKERS ON THE LIVESTREAM

#GIVINGTUESDAY ARE FAMILIAR FACES IN THE JURISDICTION.

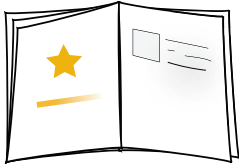


@scottishritenmj



<https://youtu.be/34fclPkxfvs>





Renaissance Man & Mason by Piers A. Vaughan

John A. Amarillos, review

This is a very unique collection of short essays which covers a very wide variety of Masonic topics, most esoteric in nature, but also spanning Capitular Masonry, Kabbalah, Rosicrucianism, the discipline of Alchemy, matters of comparative Freemasonry and other matters too numerous to mention in this brief review. What makes this book unique is that the reader is exposed to a wide variety of topics which span the gamut of various Masonic bodies, and allied traditions and involvements, and is not purely oriented toward one tradition or body of interest. In many ways this sampler of topics will leave the reader with an awareness of the many and diverse areas of involvement that altogether comprise Freemasonry, and which he might find compatible with his particular desire for more light.

The author has a very diverse background, having been a member of numerous Masonic orders in different European countries, as well as elevated degrees and titles both in Scottish Rite and in the Royal Arch. He brings to this work an encyclopedic, but very accessibly written collection of essays which are chock full of rarely encountered details and explanations and can serve as a good sourcebook for further explorations by the reader. He includes a survey of esoteric societies, which includes brush stroke treatments on various esoteric modalities such as scrying, pathworking, and astral travel. He delves in to the Pythagorean Tetractys at some length, and goes on to include essays covering the gamut of issues from the Archangel Raphael and the Tree of Life, Freemasonry and its involvement in the Maritime world, and the Lodge Egregoire.

The book also covers some practical regimens which might be of interest to Brothers who are seeking modes to self improvement, in addition to searching for more light. There is an essay covering meditative practices, a review of spiritual healing, as well as alchemy and the Philosopher's Stone.

In terms of historical analysis, there are a number of essays covering the comparative differences between Freemasonry in the UK and New York, an analysis of early ritual in the Holy Royal Arch and an explanation of the Most Excellent Master Degree, and an informative piece on the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross.

Once you have completed this very interesting tour of diverse topics that the author has assembled here, I believe that his conclusion is that Freemasonry is a mystery school which will become clear. The process of initiation can be approached from many different directions, however the resulting benefit to the Brother who delves into any of these allied Freemasonic paths will be similar. To the Brother who has been pondering wading into such explorations, this exposure to the various traditions and bodies that comprise the institution, will perhaps spur him to active exploration in any one of the directions which are given exposure here. The path to more Light is indeed a multifaceted journey with many different byways which travel in all directions.



Kindle &
Paperback
amazon.com

L'Enfant and the Freemasons by Guillermo De Los Reyes

John A. Amarillos, review

Brother Pierre Charles L'Enfant was a French-born American architect and civil engineer best known for designing the layout of the streets of Washington, DC – the L'Enfant Plan. This book is his story, presented in exquisite detail, well illustrated and very thorough in its documentation, replete with a bibliography, and a usable index. L'Enfant was a member of Holland Lodge In New York City and received his Fellowcraft degree there on June 5, 1789.

The book was originally entitled *The Life of Pierre Charles L'Enfant*, was written by H. Paul Caemmer and was prepared for publication in 1950 – in memory of the establishment of the seat of government in Washington DC some 150 years prior to that year.

The reissuance of the book with an illuminating foreword by the editor serves to link L'Enfant to the fraternity and serves to cease the many decades of speculation and doubt about his Masonic credentials.

L'Enfant was indeed a uniquely amazing personage whose frenetically active lifetime includes a vast list of accomplishments and involvements in our nation's architectural and nascent urban history. He was perhaps one of those rare souls who toiled ceaselessly to create architectural marvels which would elevate the emotions of those who beheld them. Although born in France, he came to America and was commissioned in the Continental Army and rendered great service. After the War of Independence, he became a distinguished architect and engineer, having contributed to the design of St. Paul's Chapel in New York City, amongst many other well known structures in the New York City area, currently gone or still existing, which are enumerated in detail in the book. In New York he remodeled the old City Hall on Wall Street before it was converted to the Federal Hall, where George Washington was made the first president of the United States.

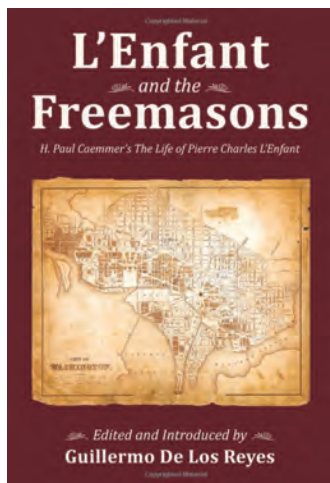
He is also credited with designing the Great Seal of the United States, and although Alexander Hamilton requested of him in 1791, to design the first series of deci-

mal coins for the United States, he was unable to fulfill that request, because he had already committed to create the layout of Washington DC.

It is this work – the so called L'Enfant Plan, the design and layout of Washington – that was to become the grandest and most significant of his life's work. The book follows the history of the development of this plan in exquisite detail, with correspondence and relevant drawings, between all those who were involved reproduced therein.

This book is an outstanding resource for anyone interested in the architectural history of the United States. It is a history book which documents the cooperative efforts of many of our esteemed founding fathers – and early Brothers – who established the infrastructure of the infant nation's capitol and the architecture that dotted its cities. It lacks the excitement – and speculation – of David Ovason's works, however it will impart upon the reader the nuts and bolts of what actually happened.

L'Enfant's works were great and wide, and I've only brushed alongside a minute amount of the material covered by this 480-page book. It is an excellent, well documented resource which belongs in every American History and Architectural History library.



Kindle &
Paperback
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The Way of the Craftsmen: A Search for the Spiritual Essence of Craft Freemasonry by W. Kirk MacNulty

Deluxe Edition

Published by: Plumbstone

Caleb William Haines 32°, review

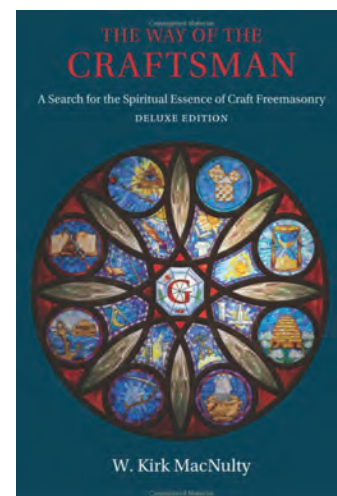
MacNulty's *The Way of the Craftsmen Deluxe Edition* is a must read for all aspirant, apprentice, fellow craft, recently raised, and seasoned Master Masons. I also would like to thank the Past Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Syracuse, NY, Illustrious Rick Powell 33°, for the recommendation. This adept

and unique 223-page, six-chapter work is a deep analysis of the craft degrees complete with 13 color illustrations of tracing boards and diagrams that expounds upon the parallel of spiritual, psychological, and symbolic work undertaken by initiates of Freemasonry.

Shaw Eyer's foreword prefaces this work perfectly by elaborating on the deeply hermeneutic, semiotic, and Kabbalistic aspect of Masonic initiation; he references the recently completed English translation of the Zohar Pritzker Edition by Daniel Matt and Stanford University Press. Furthermore, after Eyer's introduction MacNulty seamlessly interprets the craft degrees with a remarkably sagacious analysis through each of the craft degrees. My favorite aspects of the work reside in MacNulty's practical approach, pre-Masonic renaissance history, emphasis on the responsibility of Brethren as a collective and as individuals, explanation of favorable and traditional prerequisites to petitioning, and reflection upon mortality. Indeed, Scottish Rite Masons who may have wanted more in mentorship and education from their blue lodge experience have a new mother lode to reference and it will make good reading before the exciting study course is released by the Hauts Grade Academy of the NMJ in the spring of 2018. By the time you are reading this the HGA may have already started.

In conclusion, this once out of print work is now back for the benefit of all Brethren and is invaluable. As a caveat I would recommend some prior reading of Jungian and Freudian psychology and a basic definition of Kabbalah. Although I did not have an original copy to compare it to, I imagine that the original edition of this work was equally well done, and I thank and commend Brother MacNulty for his hard work and as a fan.

Plumbstone website:
www.plumbstone.com



Paperback
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

DOES KNOWING HEART DISEASE RISK CHANGE BAD HABITS?

A vacationer hearing about rain in the forecast might alter her plans. A traveler hearing about a plane crash might even take the bus. But will a person who hears he is at risk for heart disease change his lifestyle? Surprisingly, no.

A 2016 report in the *British Medical Journal* analyzed 18 studies and found that even when people were shown genetic tests indicating increased risk factors for heart disease, they weren't likely to change their diet, exercise more, or quit smoking. This finding flies in the face of simple logic saying that a person would want to act in a way that keeps him or her alive longer.

Genetic testing, according to The National Institute of Health, has become much more popular and affordable lately with companies such as 23andMe and Sure Genomics offering personal testing for anywhere from \$100 to \$2,000. These tests can uncover inherited disorders and genetic risk factors that would leave a person predisposed to developing a heart problem. Researchers speculated that testing might lead to informed patients taking prevention into their own hands, but it seems this theory was not correct. On one hopeful note, knowing their genetic predisposition to disease didn't inspire healthy behavior, but it also didn't inspire new risky behaviors either. Testing didn't make people more or less depressed or anxious.

Experts at the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force concluded that knowledge of risk factors coupled with behavioral counseling seems to help people take action. A program that has multiple sessions with patients over several months can help with setting goals to lose the weight and get healthy.

GLUTEN-FREE LIFESTYLE MAY NOT BOOST HEART HEALTH

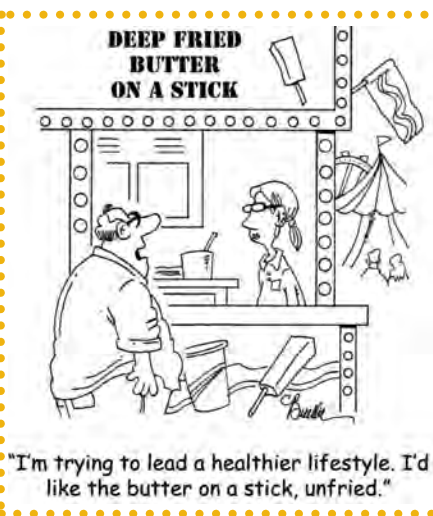
If you don't have celiac disease, your heart won't get a boost from going gluten free, according to a new study. The gluten-free lifestyle is crucial for people with celiac disease. For them eating wheat, barley, and rye triggers the body to attack the small intestine, causing inflammation and leading to malnutrition and gastrointestinal distress. The inflammation then increases heart disease risk. Eliminating gluten stops the attack on the small intestine and reduces inflammation. What the May study in *The BMJ* asked is whether or not people without celiac disease would benefit from going gluten free. The Harvard research team did not find much of a difference in risk

of heart attacks between people who ate the most gluten and those who ate the least. On the other hand, people who avoided nutritional whole grains had an increased risk of heart disease.

The lesson: If you don't have celiac disease, don't cut whole grains out of your diet, and don't worry about going gluten free, according to the *Harvard Health Letter*.

YOGA OR THERAPY MAY HELP BACK PAIN

If you suffer from chronic low back pain, you might be desperate for some sort of solution to the debilitating condition. Chronic low back pain is a widespread problem. According to WebMD, Americans spend over \$50 billion each year on back pain. About 80 percent of the population will experience a back problem at some time in their lives. There has been a lot of publicity touting the benefits of yoga and physical therapy for back pain



relief, especially as doctors move away from painkillers as a solution. But a recent study suggests aching consumers shouldn't expect complete relief. The study results showed that both yoga and physical therapy help some people some of the time, but they don't work for everyone, and the pain relief was not perfect. According to the June 2017 study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 320 patients with persistent back pain were assigned either yoga, physical therapy, or educational instruction on managing back pain. After 12 weeks, about 48 percent of the yoga group had a 'clinically meaningful' improvement in their pain. The same was true for 37 percent of physical therapy patients. The study's authors said the difference between the yoga and physical therapy results were not statistically significant, and both therapies ap-

peared to make some difference during a year's time. In an editorial accompanying the study, one of the authors, Dr. Stefan Kertesz of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, cautioned on overselling yoga as a solution. "The reality is yoga was not a panacea for most of these patients." If you want to try yoga for your back, be sure you take a beginner's class with gentle poses aided with chairs.

PREVENTABLE RISK TO BABIES

According to a survey by Pfizer and *Parents Magazine*, nearly one in four parents have never heard of invasive pneumococcal disease. Invasive PD is an infection caused by the *streptococcus pneumoniae* bacterium, also known as pneumococcus. Infection can result in pneumonia, infection of the blood, middle-ear infection (otitis media), or bacterial meningitis. The World Health Organization (WHO) says that pneumococcal disease is the world's number one vaccine-preventable cause of death among infants and children younger than five years of age.

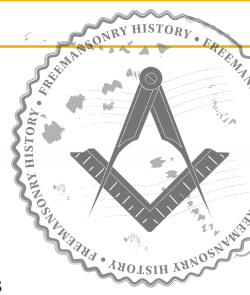
EXERCISING SAFELY DURING PREGNANCY

Expectant mothers shouldn't try to go for new exercise records, but maintaining fitness in pregnancy is important. According to the Mayo Clinic, exercise during pregnancy is often very beneficial for both the mother and child as long as there are no medical issues such as preeclampsia, anemia, vaginal bleeding or problems with the cervix or placenta. The American Pregnancy Association says any exercise done routinely before pregnancy should be okay as long as it avoids rough physical contact or situations in which the mother is likely to fall. Active mothers should try to maintain their level of fitness, adding calories to accommodate expected weight gain while maintaining muscle tone. Exercise can help get the body ready for labor. Increases in energy and mood help with the day-to-day ability to keep up regular routines and aid in reductions in back pain, constipation, swelling, and bloating. Low-impact activities such as walking and swimming are best. Swimming is regarded as an extremely safe exercise that allows the body to produce excellent blood flow and muscle tone without adding stress to joints. Substitute a walk outside for a treadmill, since treadmill falls are common. Use a stationary bike instead of outdoor cycling. Light yoga is typically safe for pregnancy.

EARL CHRISTMAS GRAFTON PAGE



Dr. Earl Page was included in a set of stamps released by the Australian Post on March 26, 1975 noting Prime Ministers. Bro. Page received his degrees in Leopold Lodge No. 87, New South Wales Constitution in December 1917, January 1918, and February 1918. He was born August 8, 1880 in Grafton, N.S.W. and attended the University of Sydney on a scholarship, graduating at the top of his year in 1901. He worked at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and joined a private practice in Grafton in 1903, practicing in Grafton and Sydney. During World War I he served with the Army Medical Corps in Egypt and France. Following the 1922 elections, he served the next six years as deputy and treasurer under S. M. Bruce and then as the minister for commerce under the new P.M. until 1939, when he served as Prime Minister for three weeks. He later served as Minister for Health from 1949 to his retirement in January 1956. He remained a private member of parliament until the 1961 elections when he lost his seat. He died on December 20, 1961.



Robert A. Domingue

ANDRE HONNORAT

Andre Honnorat was initiated on December 13, 1900 in the Lodge "Les Trois Amis" in Paris under the Grande Orient de France and is honored on a stamp issued by France on November 19, 1960. He was initiated on December 13, 1900 in the Lodge "Les Trois Amis" in Paris under the Grande Orient de France. Born on October 10, 1868 in Paris, France he became a philanthropist, served as a deputy and a senator, and was a very strong advocate of public education. After the First World War he, as minister of public education, imagined founding a housing complex for students to create an international community that would favor exchanges. His aim was to turn France into an intellectual and cosmopolitan center by improving housing possibilities for foreign students. He brought people on board with his project and provided 10 million gold francs to buy the land and erect the first residence. This residence hall was built in 1925 and housed the first 350 students. He died on July 24, 1950 in Paris.



WILLIAM SURREY HART



William S. Hart is pictured on a stamp issued by the United States on April 17, 2010. He has been declared to have been a Mason in a 1973 Royal Arch Mason magazine, but the details have not yet surfaced. Born in Newburg, NY on December 6, 1864, he worked as a cowboy but did not begin his acting career until 1888. The following year he worked on a film in New York and spent several years with a travelling company. He toured and travelled extensively while trying to make a name for himself as an actor, and for a time he directed shows at the Asheville Opera House in North Carolina. He had some success as a Shakespearian actor on Broadway and appeared in the original 1899 production of Ben Hur. In 1914 he persuaded a friend to let him star in a western movie. Its success led to many others for Triangle and Paramount studios. He became the first western superstar, but by the early 1920s his brand of movies fell out of fashion and the public became attracted by a new kind of movie cowboy, epitomized by Tom Mix. He produced Tumbleweeds in 1925 with his own money and had it released independently. He then retired to his ranch home in Newhall, California where he died on June 23, 1946.

CRAWFORD WILLIAMSON LONG

Crawford W. Long was honored on the 2-cent value of the U.S. Famous Scientist series of April 8, 1940. He became a member of Vernon Lodge No. 22 in Athens, GA in 1854. He was suspended in 1871, and reinstated in 1872. He took a demit on March 8, 1878 only three months before his death. Born November 1, 1815, in Danielsville, GA, he was educated at the University of Pennsylvania. Following his graduation from the medical school there in 1839, he began his pioneer investigation of the surgical use of ether as an anesthetic. On March 30, 1842, while removing a tumor from a patient's neck, he performed what he claimed to be the first operation using ether as an anesthetic. Although he successfully performed eight more such operations during the next four years, he failed to announce his results until 1849. Three years previously, however, a Massachusetts dentist had made the first public demonstration of the anesthetic properties of ether and claimed priority of discovery over Long and others in the field. The Emory-University-operated Crawford W. Long Hospital in Atlanta, GA was named in his honor in 1931, and retained that name for 78 years. He died June 16, 1878 in Athens, GA.



A BROTHER'S VOICE

By Brothers across the organization

It is common knowledge that the ancient wages of a Fellowcraft Mason consisted of corn, wine, and oil. Many, however, object to this assertion. How can corn be associated with these ancient wages when—clearly—corn was first discovered in the New World? Corn was first brought back to Europe by Christopher Columbus in the late 1400's. Since our ritual predates the age of exploration, must not any reference to corn be some sort of mistake?

The word “corn” is actually Old English, and refers to any type of granular matter. Oats, wheat, barley, rye, even spices, could all be referred to as corn. When used in its verb form “to corn” means to turn a substance into a grain, for example, “to corn gunpowder.” Our ritual therefore, is not actually referring to kernels of corn, but to some type of Old World grain.



It has become a widespread practice among most Masonic jurisdictions to incorporate the use of corn, wine, and oil in the dedication ceremonies of lodges and other public buildings. The most famous of these ceremonies took place Sept. 18, 1793 in Washington, DC, when President George Washington, dressed in full Masonic regalia, laid the cornerstone of our nation's Capitol building. However, the combination of these three symbolic offerings can be traced back even further.

The principal grains of the Old Testament were barley and wheat. The Bible contains hundreds of references to corn, wine, and oil as separate entities, and over a dozen times the three are grouped together within the same passage. They were seen as blessings from God, used as currency, and used as sacrificial offerings.

By the Victorian Era, from which much of the language of our ritual is derived, the word “corn” was often substituted for the word “salt.” The verb “to corn” meant “to salt” or “to preserve.” Corned beef, for example, contains no actual kernels of corn, but contains a very high amount of salt. In fact, if we examine the wording of our ritual, the word “salt” could be easily substituted for the word “corn.” “The corn of sustenance” simply becomes, “the salt of sustenance.” Our bodies need salt in order to survive and the meaning still holds true.



Salt was quite valuable in the ancient world. It was the primary method of preserving food, mainly meat and fish, and also served as a good antiseptic, hence the expression, “rubbing salt into the wound.”

One of the busiest ancient Roman trade routes was the famous Via Salaria, a road connecting the capital city to the eastern coast of what is now modern day Italy. Along this route salt merchants drove their oxcarts filled with cargo while Roman soldiers marched alongside protecting their wares. The Roman army quickly adopted the practice of paying these soldiers partly with salt, or with money to buy salt. The Latin word for salt is “sal,” and the modern word “salary” derives from the Latin “salarium” or “salt money.” This is proba-



bly where we get the expression “he’s not worth his salt.” However, the earliest reference to this phrase in printed form does not appear until 1805 when Philip Beaver printed his book *The African Memoranda*. On the other hand, the expression “not worth his salt,” could also have been associated with the ancient Greek practice of trading salt for slaves.

The word “sal,” also appears in the English word “salad.” Ancient Romans adopted the practice of salting their salads in order to balance out the natural bitterness of the greens. Other references to salt used as money can be found in Marco Polo’s writings. While travel-

ing in China in the late 13th century he noted that images of the Grand Khan were pressed onto tiny salt cakes and used as coins. Salt was so rare in the African Empire of Mali (1235-1600 A.D) that it was quite literally worth its weight in gold. Ounces of salt were traded for ounces of gold, and to this day the salt trade is still practiced in modern-day Mali. There is concrete historical evidence that salt was used by various ancient peoples as a form of currency. Furthermore, our ritual clearly states that a Fellowcraft Mason’s wages consisted of “corn, wine, and oil.” Wages” is the key word. Assuming that the “corn” of our ritual was “salt,” the assumption that a Fellowcraft Mason was paid in salt would be both grammatically and historically correct. In all probability however, the before



mentioned “corn” was probably some sort of cereal grain such as barley or wheat. It is interesting to consider though, that salt might have been part of a Fellowcraft’s wages, and even if this were not the case, it certainly adds seasoning to our Masonic understanding.

The Latin word for salt is “sal,” and the modern word “salary” derives from the Latin “salarium” or “salt money.”

Matthew A. Leilich
Distinguished Lecturer and Past Master of Gothic-Fraternal Lodge No. 270,
Hamilton Square, NJ.



MARCHING BANDS TREAT FANS TO PAGEANTRY

One reward for college football fans who loyally attend games: The marching band. Although they are a treat for the eyes and ears, band performances are usually covered up by television commercials. So, to view the spectacle, you have to be at the field. And what a spectacle it is. Bands wow the fans with precision marching, blending music with moves, high stepping, gliding, or dancing to magically end up in patterns and words. Most bands have some military influence in either uniform or march. This is partly because making 200 or more people end up in the right place takes military precision. And, it's partly because of band origins. Most authorities say bands started in ancient times as loosely organized troupes of players, and they evolved to give direction to soldiers on the field. After their use in battle became less important, bands served as symbols of power and pageantry.

Nearly every band today has signature moves, combining sentiment, dazzle, and fun. For sentiment, try the University of West Virginia's Mountaineer band's presentation of Simple Gifts. On the dazzle side, the University of Wisconsin satisfies with its 5th Quarter performance. For fun, the University of Texas Longhorn band performs marching magic then sits in the stands and smacks cowbells to distract the opposing team. Joining a marching band is a commitment of talent and time. After a tryout that tests music and physical skills, members must practice ten to 20 hours a week.

STAINED COFFEE MUGS

If your ceramic mugs have stubborn tea and coffee stains, try a baking soda paste. Mix a little water into several teaspoons of baking soda; just enough to make the mixture pasty. Now rub the paste over the offending coffee stains with a soft cloth or sponge. Clean off with a wet sponge and dry.

The mixture also has other uses: Scuff marks on the floor, chrome on golf clubs or stainless steel in the kitchen, according to [hunker.com](#).

ALTERNATIVE TO GRANITE

Soapstone countertops combine beauty with utility. If a stone material can be called flexible, then soapstone is that material. Soapstone, actually a mineral known as steatite, is a somewhat rare stone that is made up of talc, a soft mineral, and magnesium among others. Time, heat, and pressure forge the minerals together into a veined, relatively soft stone that compares favorably to marble or granite for countertops, floors

and sinks. In fact, soapstone has much to recommend it for countertops. First, it is always unique. Every slab of soapstone is different. Your slab won't be like that owned by anyone else. Second, it is versatile. Unlike zinc, for example, it is heat resistant. Unlike granite, marble and limestone, it is non-porous and does not have to be sealed to prevent staining. This non-porous quality also means it doesn't harbor bacteria and is easy to clean. Acids from lemons or tomato juice won't affect it and neither will alkalin found in some household cleaners. Third, it is easy to maintain. Owners will want to wipe a thin layer of mineral oil over the surface at regular intervals, according to [vermontsoapstone.com](#).

It is a soft stone, however, and will scratch or chip over time. The good news is that it is easy to repair. Light scratches can be smoothed with simple oiling. Deeper scratches can be sanded. And a chip can be easily repaired using a two-step



glue. Soapstone is affordable but not cheap. It costs between \$70 to \$120 per square foot, according to [hunker.com](#). That is less than marble but comparable to high-end granite. Many other uses for soapstone reflect its ability to retain heat. Historically, it was used as a fireplace material, since once heated it slowly radiates the heat long after the fire has died. That is why it has been used as a boot dryer and bedwarmer.

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE CASHLESS ECONOMY

The cashless society reigns, and it is getting more powerful every year. One area of life that usually does involve cash are allowances paid to children every week. But even they need to learn that cash comes in many forms. As they become adults, today's kids will manage virtual money more than coin and paper, according to [walnutrow.com](#). It's a

good thing to teach children how money moves from place to place and what forms it takes. If you give your kids an allowance in cash, it's worth taking a trip to an ATM and explaining how an amount from your paycheck goes into a checking account. From the ATM, you access the money and turn some of it into paper. When you write a check, explain that you are giving your bank a notice to transfer money from your account to another account. Even young children need to know that a stack of checks is not necessarily money. Explain to kids that the paycheck is really a transfer of dollars from the employer's account to your account. One note: If you give your teenagers some sort of debit or credit card instead of cash, set up balance notifications and spending notifications so you can monitor their use of digital money.

WHO DOES THE CLEANING, AGAIN?

Merry Maids regularly does surveys of families on the topic of cleaning, but there seems to be a dispute between mothers and fathers as to who actually does the scrubbing. In May 2017, moms were interviewed for Mothers' Day and 85 percent said they clean the house. On the other hand, 34 percent of moms said hiring someone to help clean was a necessity. But by June 2017, another Merry Maids survey found that nearly half of dads said they clean the house. Maybe moms are hiring the dads?

KID-FRIENDLY PODCASTS

Podcasts have exploded on the Internet to become one of the fastest-growing ways to consume content (and make content) quickly. Anyone with passion and a little technical know-how can get a show off the ground provided that there is an interested audience. This ease of entry ensures that there is a broad range of topics covered to suit all tastes and interests; and that includes the interests of kids. Children are typically drawn to the games on smartphones and tablets, but kid-friendly podcasts can be a great way to help them learn in a way that interests them. [Lifehacker.com](#) breaks these podcasts down into three categories: parents listening alone, parents listening with kids, and kids listening on their own. Podcasts that fall into the second group are probably the most intriguing because they are designed to get parents and kids talking about topics together and asking questions. A great place to start is with "Stuff You Should Know" and "Stuff You Missed in History Class" which are both from the popular site "How Stuff Works." These podcasts are a great way to be a highly engaged parent helping to develop curious minds.

Rural Conversations of the Merry Midshipman

It is no surprise that here at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library we have a large and interesting collection of rituals. These include Masonic ritual cipher books that have deliberately misleading title pages, such as *Magicians' Magic Movements and Ceremonies and Hindoo Theology for the Use of Missionaries* (see the May 2012 issue of *The Northern Light* for more on this title). These books are part of a subset of Masonic ritual books, mostly written in cipher and often containing an intentionally misleading title page. They are often bound with a flap that closes over the opening and snaps shut, much like a diary. The use of cipher, the false title page, and the clasp binding all serve one purpose: to insure that, should the book fall into hands of a non-member, that person would not be able to make heads nor tails of the contents.

You may be familiar with perhaps the two best known examples of these cipher books: *Ecce Orienti: An Epitome of the History of the Ancient Essenes, Their Rites and Ceremonies* and *King Solomon and His Followers: A Valuable Aid to the Memory, Strictly in Accordance with the Latest Authors*. Both are Masonic ciphers for the symbolic degrees.

The title page seen here is yet another example in this rather whimsical tradition of creating false title pages. It is, compared to the others mentioned above, decidedly more absurd:

Rural Conversations of the Merry Midshipman, Pompous Manes, Monkish Epicurean Mantchoo, and Rollicking Ambling Moufflon.

What in the world...? you might be thinking. This title, of course, reveals little about the book's contents. The true title of the book is:

Ritual Ceremonies of the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

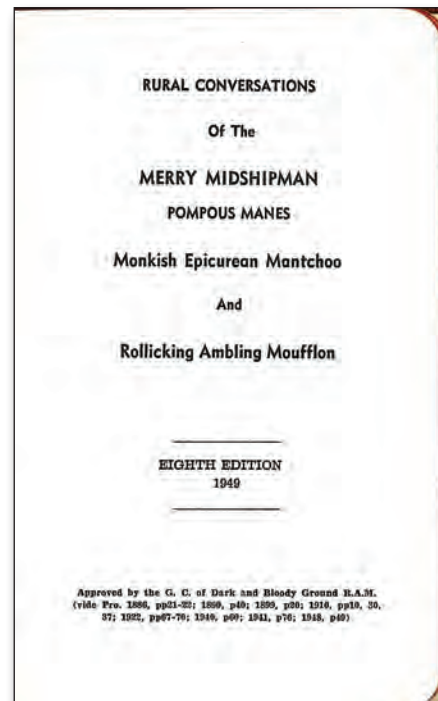
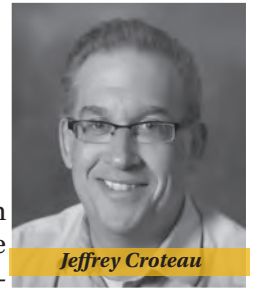
As you can see, the misleading title uses the first letter of every word in the real title, but substitutes them with other words to create a series of outlandish phrases.

So what is this book? It is a cipher ritual for the Royal Arch degrees for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The 1949 edition pictured here contains a helpful page that precedes the title page, which states that it was "Printed and Published by Order of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons." The book is a mix of plain English and cipher and would have been used by members of local Royal Arch Chapters in Kentucky for memorizing the four degrees con-

ferred in a Royal Arch Chapter.

Although the edition shown here was published in 1949, the first edition of *Rural Conversations* was published by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky in 1887. The organization's Annual Proceedings of that year devotes many pages to it.

This article appeared in a slightly different form on the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library's blog. Find more at <http://nationalheritagemuseum.typepad.com>. The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is located in Lexington, Massachusetts, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library and is open to the public 10-4, Wednesday-Saturday. Have questions? Drop us a line at library@srmmml.org or give us a call at 781-457-4109.



Title page of *Rural Conversations of the Merry Midshipman, Pompous Manes, Monkish Epicurean Mantchoo, and Rollicking Ambling Moufflon*. 8th ed. (Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons, 1949). Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library Collection.

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

Words of Thanks from your Brothers in the South

During the storm ravaged past few months you, as members of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, have reached out with helping hands to our Brothers affected by late fall's battery of hurricanes in Houston, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Here are just a few responses from those who were aided by your generosity:

"It was a surprise when Bro. George Lillard called me about your offer to help after Harvey. We have never met, but this aid is proof of our fraternity lessons we are taught. Brotherhood forever."

Delaney Wayne Howard

"To say that I was overwhelmed and touched by your expression of concern and the gift cards would be an understatement. I cannot begin to express my appreciation for this kind display of charity and Brotherly love. It has been my good fortune to make friends with a number of the Brethren of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction over the years, and this was a great reminder of those friendships."

Kenneth B. Fisher, 33°

"I want to thank you for your generous assistance to our Valley in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. It has enabled us to offer desperately needed aid to our Brethren who are still coping with rebuilding their lives after the disastrous flooding in Houston and the surrounding area."

*Michael D. Felt, 32°
Almoner, Valley of Houston*

QUOTABLES

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

-John Quincy Adams

Happiness is not a goal; it is a by-product.

-Eleanor Roosevelt

The way to get started is to stop talking and start doing.

-Walt Disney

I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.

-Gilbert K. Chesterton

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.

-Marcus Tullius Cicero

Doubts and fears are the heaviest burdens.

-James Lendall Basford

He who fears to suffer, suffers from fear.

-French Proverb

Each day comes bearing its own gifts. Untie the ribbons.

-W.J. Cameron

The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.

-Tom Bodett

Pick out associates whose behavior is better than yours, and you will drift in that direction.

-Warren Buffett

You never lose a dream; it just incubates as a hobby.

-Larry Page

MASONIC MOMENTS

This fall my wife and I had the opportunity to spend a week on Grand Cayman Island, a territorial property of Great Britain. Although we had visited the island twice before briefly on cruises, this time we were able to explore a bit with friends. This led me to a very interesting old cemetery in George Town, on the island, named Dixie Cemetery. The home-crafted headstone caught my eye immediately. This in turn prompted me to search out a possible Masonic building which I located several miles away, also pictured, along with the marble plaque beside the front door. Unfortunately the building was locked, but I did leave a calling card at the front door. No matter where you go, the influence of our grand fraternity is visible.

*David H. Eddy, 33°, Battle Creek, MI
Valley of Grand Rapids. MI*



Fixing Bro. George Washington

In the last issue (TNL November 2017) in an article by Ymelda Rivera Laxton, titled "The Many Faces of George Washington," we apparently mixed up one of the faces. In the lower right hand corner of page 11, is a painting of our first president. The caption read "Apotheosis of Washington" The correct caption should have read:



"His Excellency George Washington Lieut. Genl. Of the Armies of the United States of America, ca 1798. F. Bartoli; John Galland, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gift of Dr. William L. and Mary B. Guyton Collection."

Two More Medals Awarded

In the November issue we pictured the four men who received the Sovereign Grand Commander's Medal of Honor at the Annual Meeting in Rochester. Also mentioned in the article about the meeting were two additional recipients who were so honored earlier in the year. Their photos appear below.



Ill. Keith Hoskins, 33°



Ill. Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

When Changing Addresses

If you have moved and *The Northern Light* (and other Scottish Rite material) is still going to your old address, you can fix that problem quite easily. Just contact your local Valley Secretary. If you don't know who that is or how to reach him, visit ScottishRiteNMJ.org, go to "Member Center," then click on "Valleys." The secretary will be glad to help you get your information updated.

Pay Your Dues Online

Paying your dues has never been easier. Just have your Scottish Rite member number handy, together with your address associated with your membership, and visit our ScottishRiteNMJ.org. Follow the simple instructions and you will be all paid up in no time.

A Brother's Voice

A major impetus for The Path Forward project is for the fraternity to focus more on its members. *The Northern Light* is a part of that movement. For instance, this issue looks different than previous editions, and in the coming months there will be further changes to keep up with, and to get ahead of the times. In addition to its fresh look, we introduce new columns focusing on what the membership is thinking. You'll notice one new feature which de-

buts with this issue. It is called "A Brother's Voice," and it is just that. It is a way for the average Scottish Rite Mason to have a voice in the magazine. Our first entry, by **Bro. Matthew A. Leilich**, explores the origins of corn, wine, and oil. The submissions to this page need not be as long or as deeply researched as many of our feature articles. They only need to come from the heart. You can tell a story, describe a project on your Valley or lodge, or maybe expound on your philosophy. The story in this issue happens to be well thought out and well written, but even if you do not consider yourself a writer the editor urges you to submit something that you feel is important to say to your Brothers. This new feature is experimental for now and may take on different shapes as it matures, but here is your chance to be in on the ground floor, to be published, and to connect with your fraternity in the only communication vehicle that is distributed to the entire membership all at the same time. To submit a story and be considered for publication in a future issue, use an MS Word document of 500-1,500 words and send to afoulds@srnmj.org.

Including images is recommended. Please send them in the largest format possible.

Scottish Rite App Available

The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has an official App. Through the App, Masons are able to receive push notifications from the Supreme Council and from the Councils of Deliberation. Other features include the ability to offer feedback and email: read about member services; request to join the Scottish Rite; send a card to a Brother in need; learn about degrees and keep up with degree schedules; contact your Valley, and obtain driving directions.

To download the free app; for Apple go to the App Store; for Android, visit Google Play, and for Amazon, head to Amazon's app store. Search for Scottish Rite and download NMJ SCOTTISH RITE.



ALAN FOULDS

EDITOR

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In the next few weeks you will receive a postcard similar to the one in the image. This is not a scam or a ploy. This is a way for us to gather contact information for our members so that we can better communicate with them. Your information has not been sold or compromised. We have contracted with Publishing Concepts (PCI), to help connect and engage our members and gather better contact information and more effectively communicate. Many Masonic and fraternal organizations have gone through this process. We are proud to have joined forces with PCI to update many of our records.

Scottish Rite, NMJ encourages you to participate, update your information, and maybe even purchase a directory. A portion of every directory will benefit the Scottish Rite Benevolent Foundation. If you have any questions, contact Supreme Council and we can help you along the way.

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