

The Rite Light

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.
VALLEY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK

Vol. 8

May 1987

No. 5

BICENTENNIAL U.S. CONSTITUTION 1787 - 1987



Gunning Bedford, Jr.
DELAWARE



John Blair
VIRGINIA



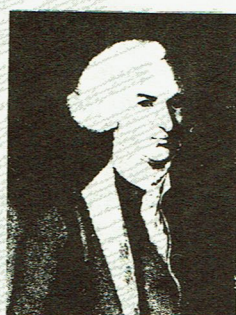
David Brearley
NEW JERSEY



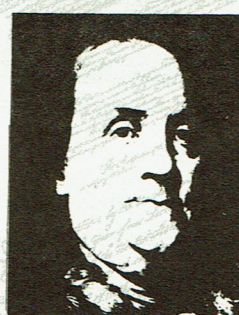
Daniel Carroll
MARYLAND



Jonathan Dayton
NEW JERSEY



John Dickinson
DELAWARE



Benjamin Franklin
PENNSYLVANIA



Nicholas Gilman
NEW HAMPSHIRE



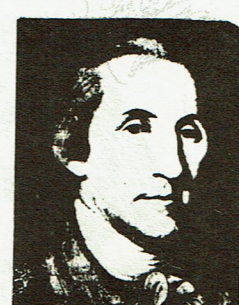
Rufus King
MASSACHUSETTS



James McHenry
MARYLAND



William Paterson
NEW JERSEY



George Washington

Allegiance

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York, acknowledge and yield Allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33° Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose Officers are:

III.:Francis G. Paul, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

III.:Robert F. Case, 33°
Deputy for New York

III.:Franklin G. Hinckley, 33°
Grand Treasurer General

III.:Lynn J. Sanderson, 33°
Grand Secretary General

III.:W. Ralph Ward, Jr., 33°
Grand Prior

Active Members for New York:

III.:Robert F. Case, 33°

III.:James F. Neihoff, 33°

III.:Bruce Widger, 33°

III.:Harold F. Dates, 33°

III.:Carlton A. Winchester, 33°

Emeritus Members:

III.:Raymond C. Ellis, 33°

III.:John H. Van Gorden, 33°

III.:Ralph M. Tompkins, 33°

III.:Alfred M. Kramer, 33°

III.:John G. Fleck, 33°

The RITE LIGHT is published bimonthly except in July and August by Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Albany, 67 Maiden Lane, Albany, NY 12207. Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684; Philip D. LeFevre, 32°, MSA, Associate Editor.

We Aim To Please, But!

With this issue the Rite Light has been published for eight consecutive years and from most reports it has been very well received. Putting out a publication such as this involves a lot of work but it has been a labor of love for the editors who enjoy the work as a contribution to Scottish Rite life.

There have been complaints, however, that the Rite Light does not include enough material concerning events and news items within the areas north and south of Albany. It is the sincere desire of the editors to adequately serve those parts of the Valley of Albany to the south and also the Valley of Troy including Plattsburgh. The editors have often found it necessary to make nuisances of themselves digging for the material that is printed. We have frequently asked Brothers to the south and north to realize that this is their publication, too, and to feed us material they would like to see in print.

Now let's face it! We are not mind readers or clairvoyants. We are not privy to what's going on in all locations. Someone has to make it their business to keep us informed on a regular basis and no one has done this in the past in spite of the fact that we have requested such cooperation a number of times. We aim to please, but unless such cooperation is forthcoming we can't give you the full coverage you would like and which you deserve. Sorry to have to say these things, Brothers, but that's the way it is. The Rite Light can expand its coverage if, and only if, you help us.

THE EDITORS

Support the 'Blue Envelope' Appeal

SUPREME COUNCIL CHARITIES



IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY

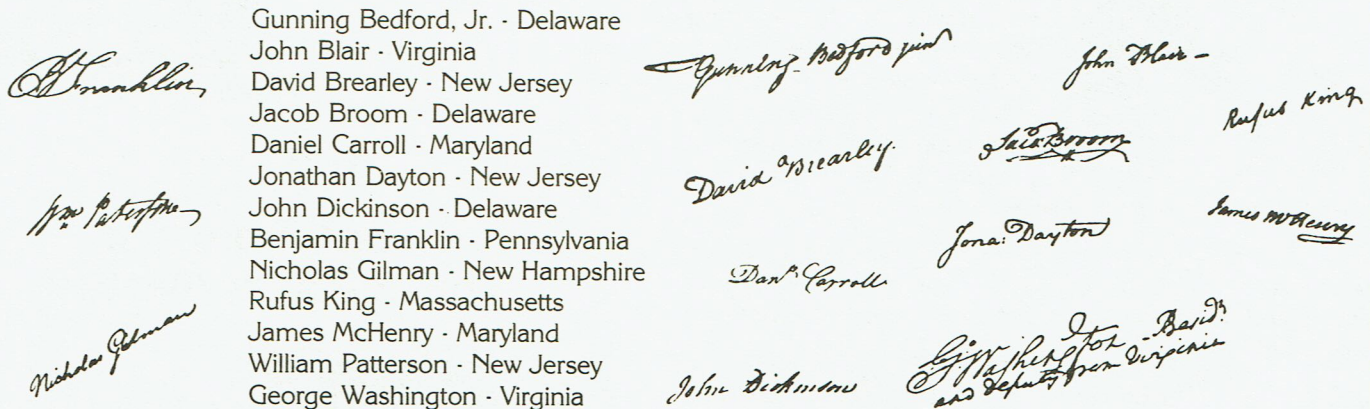
ATTENTION

You know where you are.
You know where we are.
We know where we are.
But we don't always know
where you are . . .
Please keep us posted on your
current address!

ABOUT THE COVER

"The Signers of the Constitution of the United States"

Of the thirty-nine patriots who signed the Constitution, thirteen (twelve of whom are pictured on the front cover; no likeness of Jacob Broom is available) were definitely known to be Freemasons:



Seven of the remaining signers: William Blount - North Carolina; William Few - Georgia; William Samuel Johnson - Connecticut; John Langdon - New Hampshire; Robert Morris - Pennsylvania; George Read - Delaware; and Roger Sherman - Connecticut allegedly belonged to the Craft. However, their membership in the Fraternity is based on tradition or undocumented information, and therefore is not conclusively proved.

As for the remaining individuals - including Alexander Hamilton, William Livingston, James Madison, John Rutledge and James Wilson - no evidence of Masonic membership or activity had yet been found.

There were actually more than thirty-nine delegates to the Constitutional Convention which met on May 14, 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and continued on eighty-seven days from May 25 to September 17, 1787.

Some delegates died during the several sessions, others resigned, and others were not re-elected. Fifty-five delegates had attended, but only forty-one stayed until the end and three of these refused to sign the document. Accordingly, the document, with thirty-eight deputies signing and one signature added later, was submitted to the Congress for consideration.

It took from September 20, 1787 until April 6, 1789 for the Constitution to be ratified and the first President and Vice President elected.

George Washington's inauguration in New York City on April 30, 1789, followed in due course, and the Government of the United States under the Constitution began actual operation.

Richard G. Barrell
Secretary

(Grateful acknowledgement to The Masonic Service Association)

Commander-in-Chief's Message



Sublime Princes,
As my term as Commander-in-Chief draws to a close, I would like to make a few comments about what has taken place this year in our valleys. The State of the Rite meeting was held in Schenectady, at the Holiday Inn, on January 24. This meeting was hosted by the Sigma Bodies. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with the Commanders-in-Chief and First Lieutenant Commanders re-

presenting their valleys state-wide.

This was an informative gathering that centered on membership retention, long range planning, selection of Officers and the various ways that the Valleys of the State are dealing with them.

Roswell T. Swits, Deputy Grand Master of the State of New York, was our guest. Ill.:Brother Swits, 33°, emphasized the importance of having inspired, dedicated men, to lead the way in our symbolic Lodges and in the Scottish Rite.

The Valleys of Albany and Troy held a Worker's Party on March 13 at the German-American Club. Those attending enjoyed a delicious Roast Beef dinner plus some good fellowship. Ill.:Clayton E. Simons, 33°, was chairman. He always does a good job!

The Patent Presentation took place on March 26 at the Albany Masonic Temple. The dinner prior to the meeting was prepared by Ill.:Richard G. Barrell, 33°, and his committee.

Ill.:Robert F. Case, 33°, Active, Deputy for New York State, was our guest speaker and his informative address was enthusiastic and well received. Under the chairmanship of Ill.:Albert W. Mills, 33°, an inspiring program was presented. My thanks to those who participated and especially Ill.:Brother Mills.

I have had the opportunity and pleasure of attending some of the District Deputy Visitations of Sovereign Prince George J. Deveneau; Sovereign Prince Lewis O. Slocum and Sovereign Prince Leslie C. Duff. These men are sincere Masons and a credit to Scottish Rite.

Prior to the publication of this message, The Feast of the Paschal Lamb Ceremonies of the Valleys of Albany and Troy will have been held. I hope that many of you were able to witness these impressive observances.

Our Spring Reunion of April 25 will have taken place also.

The Annual Meetings of the Lodge, Council, Chapter and Consistory will be held consecutively on May 9 followed by the Public Installation of Officers. A dinner will precede the meeting. Ill.:Clayton E. Simons, 33°, is chairman.

Representing the Consistory at many fraternal affairs has been a privilege and I wish to thank the Officers and Brothers for their assistance and support. My special thanks to those Brothers who chaired Committees, gave me counsel, and made my term that much easier.

I must mention Ill.:Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Secretary for the Valley of Albany, who has advised me in so many instances. My sincere thanks Rich. I wish our next Commander-in-Chief the very best for his term of office. I know that he will have continued support and cooperation from all. He will certainly have mine.

William S. Assini, 33°
Commander-in-Chief (86/87)
Albany Sovereign Consistory



A Word From The Thrice Potent Master



Looking back is not always the best thing to do, but as one approaches the end of "his year", there is little else to do. I really feel that a lot of good things happened this past year. For me it has been a fun year! There are many people to whom I owe a lot of thanks. I don't dare name them because with a

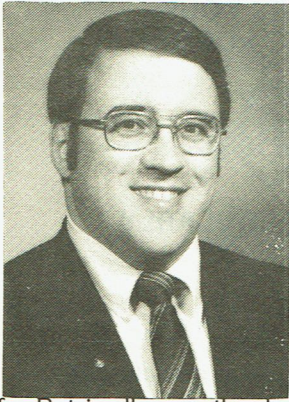
mind like mine I sure would forget someone. I would like to thank all of the people who came out to our meetings. I would also like to thank the Lodge of Perfection for electing me Thrice Potent Master and putting up with me for a whole year.

It is a truth that as one year ends, a new one begins with all of its hopes and promises. It is my hope that next year will be better than this year. That can only happen with your support. Remember it is your Rite!

Each year is but one part of the existence of the Lodge of Perfection. I leave with some things done and some undone. (Fred - I'm working on the answer to your letter.) Some things will be done next year, others are best left undone. At any rate, time passes and it is now next year.

See you in Lodge!
Richard C. Mills, 32°
Thrice Potent Master (86/87)
Ineffable & Sublime
Grand Lodge of Perfection

The Sovereign Prince Speaks



I feel that we've had a good year and I am thankful for the opportunity to have served as Sovereign Prince. Our meetings were interesting...often filled with animated discussion about many topics not usually addressed in Lodge. These various discussions were often as provocative as interesting or informative. They were sometimes as controversial as

safe. But, in all cases, they helped those in attendance develop a deeper insight into the Craft.

Throughout the year I've advanced the premise that our future lies firmly entrenched in the practices of our past. In studying our history and contemplating that philosophy, one can either foresee the possibility of a resurgence of the Craft and its continuation as an organization that produces a viable benefit to society, or one can see us as an old, antiquated fraternity whose membership is declining and whose members have long lost the true purpose of its existence.

Our ancient, operative brethren founded an informal organization of small, instructional lodges where the secrets of stone building were communicated mouth to ear for both the perpetuation of the Craft and the improvement of its students. Through the ages the Craft lost most of its operative importance. But, men of wisdom and foresight preserved its basic tenets in a new system of formal symbolic lodges whose purpose was still to perpetuate itself and to teach new, worthy members. Membership grew, often in staggering proportions.

Contemporary Masonry, as it applies to us, is effected by these large numbers of modern members. It has created a massive infrastructure of buildings and organizations with monuments to men rather than to ideals. A large number of members are required to maintain this infrastructure so therefore the sheer number of new members are often more important to us than the quality thereof. To get these new members we often encourage application by minimizing the strictness of the Craft in diluting its historic requirements. The result of these actions is apparent. The new members then likewise minimize the Craft and the importance of personal involvement. If you don't think that is true just look at the sidelines in your Lodge. How many new members do you have? Of the new members, how many are regular attendees?

For our successful future we need an "Attitude Adjustment" to change our perspective. A hard look at the methods of our ancient brethren still appears to be the way to a successful future. Stricter membership criteria, more precise application of the tenets of our organization, and a deeper belief in ourselves will create a zealous core of successful Freemasons who will be the inspiration for a new generation.

Jack F. Finnegan
Sovereign Prince (86/87)
Grand Council of
Princes of Jerusalem

Super Job

**HAVE YOU
BEEN
TO LODGE LATELY?**

From The Most Wise Master . . .



There are no words that I can express here, that I haven't already expressed to all of my Officers and Brothers, who supported me with their presence at all my programs this past year. It makes a guy feel good to know that what he is doing is interesting enough to attract your attendance at those programs.

This past year was a great one for me, not only in new friends, but also the great fellowship that always occurs at these functions.

Being Master of a Blue Lodge caused some restrictions on more programs, however, all of the above activities did me a lot of good. It is nice to know in your senior years you can still hack it.

I want to take this time to congratulate the new Officers in all the different Bodies, and offer my assistance at any time if they so desire and I can do so.

I would also like to congratulate the Staff Officers, George Deveneau and Bill Leadbitter, for the great job they did in the Blue Lodge Visitations. I enjoyed all of them also.

Keep your eyes to the Rite Light! I may, if allowed, put in a few more columns of interest as time rolls on.

Fraternally,
Harold J. Clark, 32°
Most Wise Master (86/87)
Albany Sovereign Chapter
of Rose Croix

Announcing...

**SUPPORT YOUR
SYMBOLIC LODGE!**



ATTEND REGULARLY

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following new initiates into the Valleys of Albany and Troy received their Scottish Rite Degrees on Saturday, May 9, 1987, in the Albany Masonic Temple.

ALL BODIES - VALLEY OF ALBANY

NAME	LODGE	SPONSOR
John Michael Adsmond	Poughkeepsie No. 266	Lawrence Perretta
Renard Matthew Alotta	Mount Vernon No. 3	D. Jos. Bradley, Jr.
William Thomas Bielski	Harlem Valley No. 827	Frederick L. Stutz
Donald Hazard Blake	Mount Vernon No. 3	D. Jos. Bradley, Jr.
Wesley A. Buley	Rondout No. 343	George Clark St.
Keith Harry Carlson	Adonai No. 718	Martin Geier
James Maclin Fuller	Wadsworth No. 417	James L. Fuller
Benjamin T. Garry	Evening Star No. 75	Benjamin J. Coughlin
David B. Harris	Sunnyside No. 731	Donald B. Harris
Ronald C. Harris, Jr.	Rhinebeck No. 432	James P. Palumbo
Ronald John Herron	Ark No. 48	Clifford L. Gross, Jr.
Robert Brewster Hitchcock, Jr.	Wappingers No. 671	Harold R. Isbell
Luis Alberto Juncosa	Poughkeepsie No. 266	Lawrence Perretta
Stewart Ralph Kidder	Guttenberg No. 737	John F. Finnegan
Lawrence John Kwant	Poughkeepsie No. 266	Lawrence Perretta
William Brooks Leadbitter	Sunnyside No. 731	Richard G. Barrell
William Charles Marx	Adonai No. 718	Kenneth W. Dubois
William Stewart Middleton	Green-Sch/Union No. 87	Richard G. Barrell
Robin Moore	Shekomeko No. 458	Henry Kadong
Ronald Harold Noll	Wadsworth No. 417	Richard G. Barrell
Harold William Rugar, Jr.	Hendr'k Hudson No. 875	Donald W. Hanlon
Hilary Frank Schultz	Kingston No. 10	Sidney E. Friar
Phil Sloan	Washington No. 85	Glen P. Cook
Stuart Calvin Smedes	Rondout No. 343	Jack H. Schoonmaker
Robert Mitchell Thompson	Passaic, N.J. No. 67	Sidney E. Friar

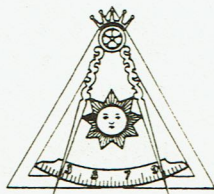
VALLEY OF ALBANY & TROY CONSISTORY

NAME	LODGE	SPONSOR
Philip Brian Bigelow	Adirondack No. 602	Samuel E. Melton
Robert Charles Clark	Corinth No. 987	Lewis O. Slocum
Jimmey Bradsher Harrelson	Hattiesburg, Ma. No. 397	Lewis O. Slocum
Breck Allen Isch	Glens Falls No. 121	Allan M. Bryant
Philip Howard Mero	Sisco No. 259	Byron J. Howe
William George Richards	St. John's No. 22	Clarence J. Richards
Delbert Warren Robison	Montgomery No. 504	Lewis O. Slocum
John Edward Simpson	Morning Star No. 142	Richard E. Abbey
Laurence Sinisi	White Face No. 789	Carl G. Hathaway

OFFICERS FOR 1987 - 1988

All officers are 32° Masons unless otherwise noted. If there is a M.S.A. after the name, it indicates that they hold the Meritorius Service Award, and they wear Red hats. Members of the Supreme Council are Honorary 33° Masons, addressed as "Illustrious", and they wear White hats.

Ineffable & Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection, 1767, 4° thru 14°



Thrice Potent Master	James L. Fuller
Deputy Master	Richard A. Fuller
Senior Warden	Kurt W. Mason
Junior Warden	Leslie W. Kerr
Trustee	Ill.: Jack B. Spear, 33°
Orator	Peter W. Pafunda
Master of Ceremonies	Robert E. Murphy
Captain of the Guard	James M. Fuller

Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem, 1767, 15°, 16°



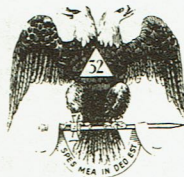
Sovereign Prince	Douglas C. Hays
High Priest	Louis J. Clark
Senior Warden	Fred C. Fredrickson
Junior Warden	Bruce Pavloff
Trustee	Philip D. LeFevre, M.S.A.
Orator	George E. Thomas
Master of Ceremonies	R. Arthur Brown IV
Master of Entrances	Donald W. Hanlon

Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix, 1824, 17°, 18°



Most Wise Master	Gerald F. Irwin
Senior Warden	Steven G. Dallis
Junior Warden	Edward T. Rose
Trustee	Ill.: Jacob H. Herzog, 33°
Orator	Howard P. Niles
Master of Ceremonies	Donald R. Morrell, Jr.
Captain of the Guard	Ronald H. Noll

Albany Sovereign Consistory, 1824, 19° thru 32°



Commander-in-Chief	Ill.: Albert W. Mills, 33°
1st Lieutenant Commander	Ill.: Clayton E. Simons, 33°
2nd Lieutenant Commander	Alan C. Lewis
Trustee	Roger A. Reynolds, M.S.A.
Trustee Emeritus	Ill.: Lester W. Herzog, 33°
Orator	William V. Iacocca, M.S.A.
Chancellor	Russell J. LaGrange, Jr., M.S.A.
Master of Ceremonies	Robert F. Parslow
Engineer & Seneschal	Richard F. Cesare
Standard Bearer	Lewis O. Slocum
Guard	Alexander R. Grone

OFFICERS OF ALL BODIES

Treasurer	George J. Devenau
Secretary	Ill.: Richard G. Barrell, 33°
Secretary Emeritus	William C. Gooding, M.S.A.
Hospitaler	Alfred Krueger
Tiler/Sentinel	Atlee P. Warner
Custodian	Robert J. Clark
Class Marshal	Frederick A. Werking, M.S.A.
Assistant Class Marshals	Louis J. Lantz, M.S.A.
	J. Wilson Miller, M.S.A.

Masonic Secrets

There are certain Masonic secrets that cannot be kept! An act of kindness, a deed of love, thoughtful consideration of others - sharing the sorrow of a friend, or those contributions to society that make our world a better place in which to live. By such things as these a Mason tells what Masonry is!!

Suspension in Blue Lodge

If a member loses his membership in his Blue Lodge for any cause, he automatically loses his membership in the Scottish Rite Bodies.

A Special Message

We would like to express our appreciation to the vast majority of our members for their usual prompt payment of dues. They are the supporters of our financial obligations. However, we would like to urge those who have neglected this responsibility to bring themselves up to date with a current card. If there are circumstances making this difficult we would like to know. Maybe we can work things out. Please let us hear from you.

Did You Know

... that each time you pay your Scottish Rite dues, you support the programs sponsored by the Supreme Council in the field of Education in Support of Public Schools, Love of Country, Americanism and our Heritage of Freedom?

Strike A Match

Your 'Blue Envelope' gift to Supreme Council Charities may double!

Many companies are now "matching" employee contributions to charities. Check with your employer. You may be able to "strike a match" for the Scottish Rite Supreme Council Charities.

- Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage
- Scottish Rite Schizophrenia Research Program
- Scottish Rite Abbott Scholarships in Journalism and International Relations



"If the Shoe Fits ..."

The following article was passed along to us by the Valley of El Paso, Texas. We think perhaps there is a lesson here for all Masons.

It seems as though, in one of our Grand Jurisdictions, the Grand Master heard of a Lodge that had not met for the requisite number of times during a period as provided by Masonic law. He investigated and found that for all practical purposes the Lodge was defunct. In order to dramatize the event, he called for a funeral to be held for the Lodge with a special invitation to all members of the Lodge to attend.

On the appointed date and time, the Grand Lodge Officers appeared and

carried a casket into the Lodge Room led by the Grand Master. The room was packed with members. The Grand Master opened the Lodge with the casket next to the altar. He announced the purpose of the meeting "to perform the Masonic burial service for the Lodge." He performed the burial service and last rites with the necessary modifications. He then ordered the deacons to open the casket and said, "Brethren, I want all of you to see the reason that this Lodge died. In single file, please pass by the casket and look in." The brethren slowly passed by the casket, and as each brother looked in, he saw his own image clearly defined in the mirror on the floor of the casket ...

Thank You!

Many thanks to all the Brothers who took part in the playlet "Let There Be Light", at the Patent Presentation on March 26, 1987.

The Cast in order of their appearance:

1. Louis Lantz
2. Philip D. LeFevre
3. Richard C. Mills
4. Richard Cesare
5. Leslie Kerr
6. Bruce Pavloff
7. Fred Werking
8. Russell LaGrange Jr.
9. Warren Moessner
10. R. Arthur Brown IV

In addition to those on stage there were many others: the Custodian, Robert Clark who did the stage setting and lighting; the make-up man, Harry Deihl from Stormville; the Costume Custodian Alfred Krueger; the Organist, Glen Cook; and all those who helped us at the rehearsal on March 5th.

Thank you everyone. It is fun when we all work together.

Albert W. Mills
First Lieutenant
Commander-86/87

Fishing Trip Off and Running!

By the time you read this, 18 salts of the sea will have ventured 80 miles off the coast of Newfoundland for some prize catches.

Well ... you're sure to hear about the ones that got away. But, from all past reports, some pretty good size fish will end up in someone's freezer.

Sorry we had to turn so many of you away. There will be more trips coming up! So, watch the announcements and get your reservations in early.

Jim Fuller

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION, U.S.A.
VALLEY OF ALBANY, N.Y.
MASONIC TEMPLE, 67 MAIDEN LANE, ALBANY, N.Y. 12207

PETITION FOR { DEGREES AFFILIATION (Cross Out One)

To the Officers and Members of

INEFFABLE AND SUBLIME GRAND LODGE OF PERFECTION 14°
GRAND COUNCIL PRINCES OF JERUSALEM 16°
ALBANY SOVEREIGN CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX 18°
ALBANY SOVEREIGN CONSISTORY S. P. R. S. 32°

I, the undersigned hereof, humbly show that I am desirous of being admitted as a member of your honorable body, and request that I may be received among you, and I will ever pray for the prosperity and glory of the Fraternity and the welfare of the Brethren.

In making this application, I promise on my word of honor that, should I be elected and become a member of your honorable body, I will bear true faith, allegiance and fealty to the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-third and last Degree, of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, under whose authority the said Body is now holden, and will support and abide by its Constitutions, Orders and Decrees; that I will hold allegiance and be loyal to the said Supreme Council as the Supreme Power of the said Rite within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States; that I will hold as illegal and spurious every other Body of whatever degree claiming to be of the said Rite, that may be established within its Jurisdiction, that is not holden mediately or immediately under its authority and will hold communication whatever in Scottish Rite Freemasonry with any member of the same, nor allow him to visit any body of the said Rite of which I may be a member; and should I violate any part of this promise I consent to be expelled from Scottish Rite Freemasonry and to forfeit all my rights therein, and in any Body of the Rite, and be denounced to every body thereof in the world as a traitor and forsworn.

Name in Full (Print) _____
(First Name) (Middle Name) (Last Name)

Date of Birth _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Place of Birth _____
(Town) (State or County)

Residence _____
(Street and Number) (City) (Zip Code)

Have resided in above place since _____

Have resided in New York State since _____

Occupation _____

Business Address (or Employer) _____

Your Mailing Address _____
(Street Number) (City) (Zone No.)

Telephone No. _____

Were you ever a member of the Order of DeMolay? _____

I have _____ before petitioned for the degrees of the Rite; and was _____

I am a member of _____ Lodge, No. _____ Located at _____

I am a member of _____ Lodge of Perfection _____ Council, P. of J.

_____ Chapter of Rose Croix _____ Consistory; located at _____

Date _____ Candidate's Signature _____

Recommended By _____ Signature _____
(Please Print)

	Lodge	Council	Chapter	Consistory	Total
Initiation	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$135.00
Dues	\$ 6.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 19.00
Assessment	\$ 2.00				\$ 2.00

Congratulations!



Ronald H. Noll, 32°

Our newly appointed Captain of the Guard of the Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix, Ronald H. Noll, 32°, was pleasantly surprised - as we were - last month, when he was informed by The International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, that he had been designated as a recipient of the Legion of Honor, the highest degree and honor that may be conferred upon a Senior DeMolay by the International Supreme Council. It denotes outstanding leadership in some field of endeavor, or for success in fraternal life, including adult service to DeMolay.

Brother Noll's achievement in attaining this high honor presented by the Supreme Council for outstanding DeMolay service gives him additional responsibility with its appropriate recognition.

Ronald H. Noll was born on January 17, 1934 in Albany, New York. He graduated from Albany High School in 1953 and later attended the College of Saint Rose and the Adirondack Community College. After serving with the United States Army, he was honorably discharged in 1956.

Brother Noll has been employed with the Norstar Bancorp (formerly State Bank of Albany) since 1960. He is presently Vice President and Manager of the Norstar Corporate Headquarters, located in the old (but beautifully refurbished) Union Railroad Station on Broadway, Albany.

Ron was raised in Wadsworth Lodge No. 417, F. & A. M. on February 27, 1957. He served as its Master in 1973 and has been Treasurer of Wadsworth Lodge since 1974.

Soon after Brother Noll was initiated into the William D. Goewey Chapter, Order of DeMolay, Brother Noll advanced through the chairs and became Master Councillor in 1951.

Brother Noll was President of the Glens Falls Kiwanis Club in 1985 and received the distinctive Distinguished President's Award for his exceptional performance during his tenure of office.

Ron has also served as a member of the Glens Falls Salvation Army Board of Directors, the Adirondack Chapter of the American Red Cross and in 1980, Chairman of the American Heart Association Fund - Warren and Washington Counties.

Brother Noll is married to the former Beverly Baxter. They have two children - David, who is a senior at Norwich Military Academy and Joanne who attends Shaker High School.

The Rite Light extends its most profound felicitations to Brother Noll for this noteworthy milestone in his Masonic career and wish him great success in the many years ahead. We are proud to have you a member of the Valley of Albany!

LESSONS OF THE SCOTTISH RITE DEGREES

The following in synopsis form is the official guide to the lessons taught to us in each of the Degrees of the Scottish Rite, known as the College of Masonry. It is your Editors hope that the readers of our newsletter will save, live by and distribute to brothers copies of the lessons described in this issue of our newsletter.

LODGE OF PERFECTION

4° *Secret Master*. The Fourth Degree emphasizes duty, fidelity, integrity, and the necessity for secrecy in all confidential relationships.

5° *Perfect Master*. This degree teaches that trust-worthiness is more precious than life and is the foundation of Masonic honor. Also, we must pay due respect to the memory of a deceased worthy Brother.

6° *Intimate Secretary*. This degree teaches that devotion to one's friends and zealously in performing one's duties are rewarding virtues.

7° *Provost and Judge*. This degree teaches us to judge righteously, without respect to person, and that one law and one custom shall apply to all. Let justice be impartial, tempered with deserved mercy.

8° *Intendant of the Building*. This degree teaches that each new honor is meant to be a step toward perfection in the moral code; each a development of a particular duty; and that benevolence and charity are necessary virtues of leadership.

9° *Master Elect of Nine*. The lessons taught in this degree are that we should be careful not to be too zealous in executing justice, even in a good cause, and that we should avoid injuring or harming any person by hasty or irresponsible action.

10° *Master Elect of Fifteen*. The teachings of this degree are that ambition and jealousy can tempt men to evil deeds, that righteousness will eventually triumph over evil, and that evil doers will be punished.

11° *Sublime Master Elected*. This degree dwells on good citizenship. Evil doings should be punished. Honesty and respect for others should be rewarded. Be earnest, honest and sincere.

12° *Grand Master Architect*. This degree teaches that the Mason, as he learns to use the tools and instruments of his trade and skill, also learns to contemplate the many aspects of life and deal with them as a child of God, steadily advancing to those heights of experience which we call perfection.

13° *Master of the Ninth Arch*. This degree teaches that difficulties and dangers, however great, should not deter the true and faithful brother from progressing onward to perfection. It teaches the great truth that the finest things in life come only as the result of constant and often painful effort.

14° *Grand Elect Mason*. In the Scottish Rite, this degree is the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry. As the crowning degree of the Lodge of Perfection, its essence is the holiness of God and reverence for His Holy Name. God will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

COUNCIL OF PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

15° *Knight of the East or Sword*. This degree teaches the important lessons of loyalty to conviction and devotion to right.

16° *Prince of Jerusalem*. This degree teaches loyalty to truth and fidelity to duty.

CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

17° *Knight of the East and West*. The lessons of this degree are that loyalty to God is man's primary allegiance, and the temporal governments not founded upon God and His righteousness will inevitably fall.

18° *Knight of the Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.* The lessons taught in this degree are that man must have a new Temple in his heart where God is worshipped in spirit and in truth and that he must have a new law of love which all men everywhere may understand and practice. This degree affirms the broad principles of universality and tolerance.

CONSISTORY

19° *Grand Pontiff*. This degree proclaims the spiritual unity of all who believe in God and cherish the hope of immortality, no matter what religious leader they follow or what creed they profess. It is concerned primarily with the perennial conflict between light and darkness, good and evil, God and Satan.

20° *Master and Vitam*. This degree is a drama of the American spirit confronting the challenge of disloyalty and treason. Masonic principles and leadership are subjected to a crucial test. The degree demonstrates the Masonic condemnation of all who conspire against the security of the nation and the happiness of our people.

21° *Patriarch Noachite*. This degree teaches that Freemasonry is not a shield for evil doing and that justice is one of the chief supports of our fraternity.

22° *Prince of Libanus*. In this degree, the dignity of labor is demonstrated. It is no curse, but a privilege, for man to be allowed to earn his sustenance by work. Idleness, not labor, is disgraceful.

23° *Chief of the Tabernacle*. This degree teaches that impure thoughts and selfish, unworthy ambitions are corrupting and destructive, and that a man who forgets his duty to family, country, and God will be morally and spiritually destroyed.

24° *Prince of the Tabernacle*. This degree teaches that a mutual belief in one true, living God should bind men together in the service of humanity and in a worldwide brotherhood.

25° *Knight of the Brazen Serpent*. This degree teaches that there are desert

stretches in every individual life in the history of every nation, with a resultant breakdown of discipline and loss of faith. This degree is a clarion call to faith—in ourselves, in each other, and in God.

26° *Prince of Mercy*. This degree teaches the quality of mercy; that it is a spirit of compassion and a tenderness of heart which dispose us to overlook injuries and to treat an offender better than he deserves.

27° *Commander of the Temple*. This degree teaches that Scottish Rite Freemasonry believes in the concept of a free church in a free state, each supreme in its own sphere, neither seeking to dominate the other, but cooperating for the common good.

28° *Knight of the Sun*. This degree using the symbolism of the tools and implements of architecture teaches that by building high moral character among its adherents, Freemasonry may advance man's determined quest for the achievement of unity and good will throughout the world.

29° *Knight of St. Andrew*. This degree emphasizes the Masonic teachings of equality and toleration. We are reminded that no one man, no one Church, no one religion, has a monopoly of truth; that while we must be true and faithful to our own convictions, we must respect the opinions of others.

30° *Grand Elect Knight Kadosh*. This degree sets forth the tests and ceremonies that symbolize the experiences we must undergo in the building of excellence in character.

31° *Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander*. This degree teaches that we should give every man the benefit of innocence and purity of intentions. He who would judge others must first judge himself.

32° *Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret*. This degree describes the victory of the spiritual over the human in man and the conquest of appetites and passions by moral sense and reason. The exemplar represents every Freemason eager to serve humanity but caught between self-interest and the call of duty. Duty often requires sacrifice, sometimes the supreme sacrifice.

THIRTY-THIRD DEGREE

The 33° is conferred upon those members of the 32° who have been outstanding in their contributions to Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite, or who have shown in their communities the leadership which marks them as men who exemplify in their daily lives the true meaning of the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. It cannot be sought by application, but must be such a man as described above who has been selected by the Deputy of his state.

When Is A Man A Mason?

When he can look out over the river, the hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage - which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, and to love his fellow-man.

When he knows how to sympathize with men, even in their sins - knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds - and still believes in them when they do not believe in themselves.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he feels a social iniquity as a personal sin, and a human calamity as a private bereavement - sharing the guilt and sorrows of his fellows.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and to see majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow-mortal and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope, how to meet defeat and not be defeated.

When he has learned how to give himself, to forgive others, and to live with thanksgiving.

When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow-man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song - glad to live, but not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.

From "The Builders"

By Joseph Fort Newton

A Mason's Prayer

Teach me that 60 minutes make an hour, 16 ounces one pound, and 100 cents make one dollar. Help me so to live that I can lie down at night with a clear conscience, without a gun under my pillow and unhaunted by the faces of those to whom I have brought pain. Grant that I may earn my meal ticket on the square, and that in earning it I may do unto others as I would have them do unto me.

Deafen me to the jingle of tainted money and to the rustle of unholy skirts. Blind me to the faults of the other fellow, but reveal to me my own. Keep me young enough to laugh with little children and sympathetic enough to be considerate of old age. And when comes the day of darkened shades, and the smell of flowers, the tread of soft footsteps and the crunching of wheels in the park, make the ceremony short and the epitaph simple . . . "HERE LIES A MASON."

The Rite Light printed by:

Fuller's Printing Corp.
1615 Central Avenue
Albany, New York 12205
(518) 869-9036

ALBANY SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

Maiden Lane & Lodge Street
Albany, New York 12207

POSTMASTER:

If undeliverable, do not return.

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Latham, New York

Permit No. 22