



# The Rite Light



VALLEY OF ALBANY

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XXII

Autumn 2001

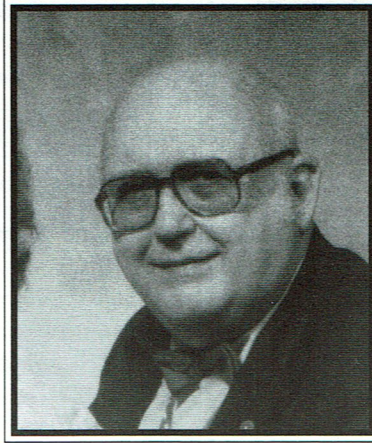
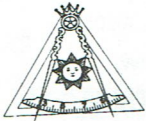
No. 1

2001 2002  
PRESIDING OFFICERS



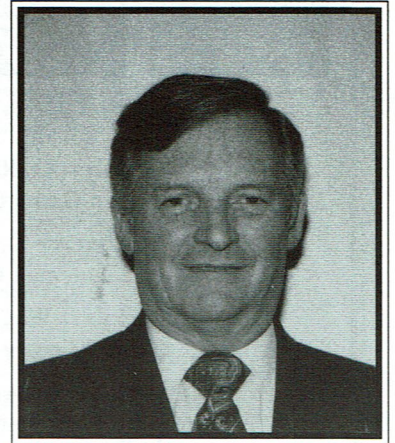
**Kurt W. Mason, 32°**

Thrice Potent Master  
Lodge of Perfection



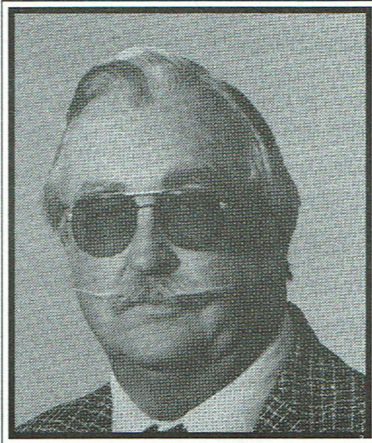
**Alexander R. Grone, 32° MSA**

Commander-in-Chief  
Consistory



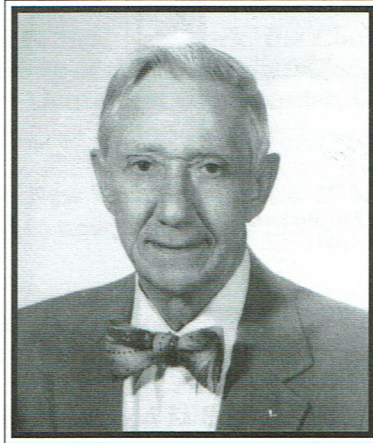
**William J. Okesson, 32° MSA**

Sovereign Prince  
Council of Princes of Jerusalem



**Robert E. Murphy, 32° MSA**

Most Wise Master  
Chapter of Rose Croix



**George J. Deveneau, 32° MSA**

Treasurer  
Valley of Albany



**III. Richard G. Barrell, 33°**

Secretary  
Valley of Albany

**GET THOSE PETITIONS IN  
TODAY  
FALL REUNION  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2001**



### Allegiance

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



III. Robert O. Ralston, 33°  
Sovereign Grand  
Commander



III. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°  
Deputy for the  
State of New York



III. Richard H. Welkley, 33°  
Active for Area 4

III. Robert O. Ralston, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander

III. Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°  
Grand Lieutenant Commander

III. Robert W. Clarke, 33°  
Grand Minister of State

III. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°  
Deputy for New York State

#### ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

III. Richard H. Welkley, 33°

III. Douglas K. Wilson, 33°

III. Gary A. Henningsen, 33°

III. Frederick D. Greene, 33°

#### ACTIVE EMERITI MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

III. John H. VanGorden, 33°

III. Ralph M. Tompkins, 33°

III. James F. Niehoff, 33°

III. Carlton A. Winchester, 33°  
Past Deputy for New York

III. Bruce Widger, 33°  
Past Deputy for New York

The RITE LIGHT is published quarterly by Scottish Rite Bodies,  
Valley of Albany, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207-1904.  
Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970;



### ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Submitted by Bro. Jay Austin,  
Deputy Master, Lodge of Perfection.*

It is one of Masonry's great contributions to the civilized world that, among the thousands who range under its banners, there are brethren from many religions, not just those of the Jewish and Christian faiths. Masonry is universal, and, in Masonry, whatever our religion, and whatever our standing in the outside world, we are all equal. As the Scots say: "The rank is but the guinea stamp; the man himself the gold." Of this great truth, one which struck me most forcibly is the following poem by Bro. Rudyard Kipling about his own Mother Lodge:

THERE was Rundle, Station Master,  
An' Beazeley of the Rail,  
An' Ackman, Commissariat,  
An' Donkin o' the Jail;  
An' Blake, Conductor - Sergeant,  
Our Master twice was 'e,  
With 'im that kept the Europe-shop,  
Old Framjee Eduljee.

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,  
An' Saul the Aden Jew,  
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman,  
Of the Survey Office too;  
There was Babu Chuckerbutty,  
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,  
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,  
The Roman Catholick!  
Full oft on Guv'ment service  
This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,  
An' bore fraternal greetin's  
To the Lodges east an' west,  
Accordin' as commanded.

From Kohat to Singapore,  
But I wish that I might see them,  
In my Mother-Lodge once more!

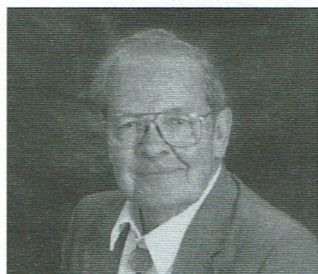
Outside - "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"

Inside - "Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm,

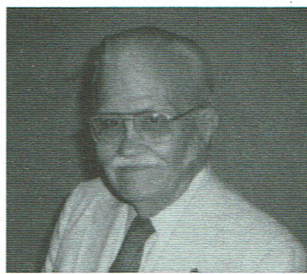
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,  
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother Lodge out there!



## Dedicated Service Awards



**Robert Glover Alcorn, 32\***



**Leslie William Kerr, 32\***



**Thomas William Snow, 32\***

The Rite Lite is pleased to announce that Brothers Robert G Alcorn, 32\*; Leslie W Kerr, 32\* and Thomas W Snow, 32\*, were recently awarded the "blue cap" for their years of dedicated service to the Valley of Albany Scottish Rite. May their devotion and loyalty to the betterment of Scottish Rite Freemasonry continue for many years to come.

Brother Alcorn received his Scottish Rite Degrees on April 16, 1994 in the Valley of Albany, and served as the Sovereign Prince of the Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem in the year 1998/99. He is a member of Van Rensselaer Lodge No 87, East Greenbush, and resides in Troy, New York.

Brother Kerr was initiated into Albany Scottish Rite on October 29, 1983, and served as Thrice Potent Master of the Ineffable & Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection in the year 1989/90. He belongs to the Ancient-Temple Lodge No 14, Albany, and resides in Albany.

Brother Snow became a Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Albany on April 15, 1989, and has served as Tiler/Sentinel in all four Bodies, and Masonic Hall Representative since 1999. He is a member of Masters Lodge No 5 in Albany, and resides in Rensselaer NY.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### WE'RE GETTING A NEW RED HAT!

At its 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convocation in Utica, New York, the Council of Deliberation announced the awarding of the Meritorious Service Award to the Valley of Albany's 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander, Gerald Frederick Irwin, 32°.

Brother Irwin was born in Albany, New York on May 12, 1954, educated in the local schools, and is now married to his wife, Patricia. They have one daughter, Kelly.

Employed by General Electric Company since 1979, Gerry specializes in software packages and products on large scale mainframe systems.

He began his Masonic career by being raised in Social Friendship Lodge, No. 741, New Baltimore, New York in 1976, serving as its Master in 1980. He also affiliated with Onesquethau Lodge No. 1096, Delmar and Berne Lodge No. 684, Berne, and served as their Master respectively in 1982 and 1999-2000. He is also a member of Schenectady Lodge No. 1174, Schenectady.

Brother Irwin received his Scottish Rite degrees on October 29, 1983, and has served as Most Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, 1987/1988. He is now 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander of the Albany Sovereign Consistory.

Gerry is very active in all of the York Rite bodies.

The Rite Lite congratulates this well deserving Brother and wishes him well.



**GERALD F. IRWIN, 32°**



## Comments From Your Commander-In-Chief

Sublime Princes:

It is with a deep sense of pride that I accept your vote of confidence to serve as your Commander-In-Chief for the ensuing year.

My Brothers, with the disappearance of the Shrine requirement for either the Scottish or York Rite status to enter Shrinedom, we stand on a wonderful, positive doorstep of opportunity to both educate ourselves, and any new brethren, as to the positive, fundamental nature of the Scottish Rite per se.

For over a century, we have complacently relaxed and allowed the A.A.O.N.M.S. to recruit for us. We enjoyed the very positive result of many new brothers, but the negative result of never properly instructing or motivating the newcomers about the essential nature of Scottish Rite Masonry at the bedrock level.

Join with us at our regular meetings as we read through, critique, and hear lectures about our ritual. The entire thrust of our efforts in 2001-2002 shall be in the area of basic historical, philosophical, and cultural aspects of our degree work. It is our hope that everyone will be better educated about the fundamental underpinnings of the Scottish Rite.

Beginning with our November 29, 2001 Stated Rendezvous, you will witness the 21st (Noachite) Degree, with a lecture from me on degree roots in 18th century France and Germany.

We'll see the 30th (Knight of Kadosh) Degree on January 17, 2002, and learn the importance of this degree, particularly in the Southern Jurisdiction.

Then on March 21st, 2002, the 31st (Grand Inspector Inquisitor) Degree will be presented, with a commentary on morality and as it bears on relationships with fellow Masons.

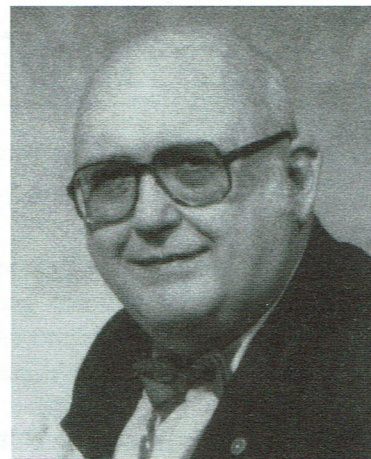
At our May 23rd Rendezvous, a dinner will precede the meeting, which will be a recap of our ritualistic progress. More on this later.

May all of us have a wonderful year.

Your attendance at these events is appreciated.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Alexander R Grone, 32\* MSA



Alexander R Grone, 32\* MSA  
Commander-In-Chief



*"Build Bridges, Not Walls."*



## The Most Wise Master Speaks

To All Perfect Knights:

As we begin a new Scottish Rite year, we must give special attention to our conduct.

Our meetings should be made more interesting in an effort to attract and hold members interest.

We face a more difficult time for attracting new members because of the landmark decision enacted at last year's Shriners Imperial session eliminating the 124 year old prerequisite requiring a candidate to join either the York or Scottish Rite before prior to being accepted into the Shrine. There are those who say that now we will only appeal to our Blue Lodge Brothers who are really interested in the Scottish Rite, its drama, ritual, and valuable lessons derived, as opposed to those who merely used it as a stepping stone. Whether or not this is true, and I hope it is, we must seek out brothers from other concordant bodies to join us.

To accomplish this, we should strive to create more interest in our organization. We may not like to admit that competition from the "one eyed monster" is a real problem, but it is. We must establish a setting where we have interesting programs to generate our members interest, so that they will attend meetings.

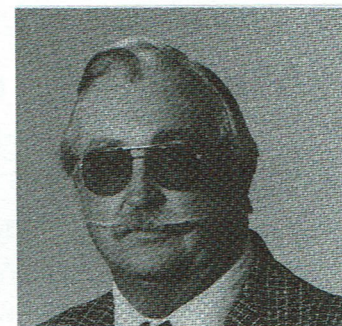
Also, refreshments seem to have become a thing of the past. This will be reinstated at Rose Croix functions.

As we were admonished by Illustrious Harold Aldrich, 33\* Active, Deputy for the State of New York, at the Council of Deliberation in Utica, New York on July 14, 2001, we all need to work harder for the Scottish Rite in our Valleys. Won't you join us in this effort?

I look forward to working with you in the ensuing year, and am honored that you have seen fit to elect me to serve as your Most Wise Master.

Fraternally,

Bob Murphy



Robert E. Murphy, 32\* MSA  
Most Wise Master




---

### ***Do Masons Practice Discrimination?***

The following is from "The Bulletin" issued by Arizona Masonry, and is a talk by Dean Tulston, who was the Grand Master at the time.

"Some months ago I was interviewed by a local Radio station and was asked questions concerning the Masonic Fraternity. At one point, the question was asked 'Do Masons practice discrimination in their membership policies?'

I replied as follows: "We certainly do. Since our membership is limited to Men, I guess it could be said that we discriminate against Women. In most States, a petitioner must be 21 years of age, so it could be said that we discriminate against teenagers; we demand a belief in a Supreme Being so we surely discriminate against the Atheist; we demand that a man be of good character and reputation, and we carefully investigate each applicant to be sure he meets those standards, so we do discriminate against the criminal, the immoral man, the bum. I am glad to be a part of this type of discrimination. But we have no law or regulation that permits us to discriminate against any man because of religion or creed, race or color, so long as he meets the high standards we demand"

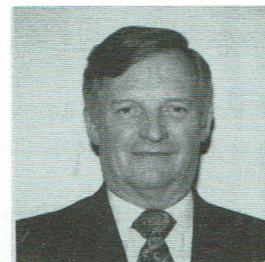
---



## Message From The Sovereign Prince

Greetings Valorous Princes:

I am again honored to be able to serve you as your Sovereign Prince. During the year 2001/2002 I will try my best to make the meetings interesting and informative. We are going to increase our Scottish Rite knowledge by having exemplifications of degrees that we rarely (if ever) see in the Valley of Albany at Reunions.



William J Okesson Jr, 32\* MSA  
Sovereign Prince

Last year we did the 8th Degree "Intendant of the Building", from which we learned 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.

We had a lot of fun doing this degree, followed by a question and answer period.

On September 13 we will have a read through of the 5th Degree "Perfect Master", which is an Old Testament lesson that teaches us impure thoughts and selfish, unworthy ambitions are corruptive and destructive, and that a man who forgets his duty to family, country, and God will be morally and spiritually destroyed.

The following newly installed Officers of the Council deserve your support and confidence:

Sovereign Prince	William F Okesson Jr	Trustee	Lester W Kerr
High Priest	Raymond H Gaul	Orator	Robert H Fickies
Senior Warden	Howard J Schoonmaker II	Master of Cer	Russell J LaGrange Jr
Junior Warden	Peter J Gregory	Master of Entr	Roland C Abare

October 25th will usher in another performance by John Anson (NYS Museum) who you will recall presented a slide presentation of the construction of a bateau (a small boat widely used on the New York waterways before the Erie Canal). This time he will present a program on flintlocks, which I'm sure you will find interesting.

Please remember the Fall Reunion coming up October 20, 2001. Ask your Blue Lodge Brother to become a Scottish Rite Mason and be enriched with still further light. Our Degree casts always welcome a full audience.

I hope each of you had a healthy and enjoyable summer, and are now ready to resume your labors in the quarries of Freemasonry.

Fraternally,

Bill

*"Some People Dream Of Great  
Accomplishments, While Others Stay  
Awake And Do Them."*

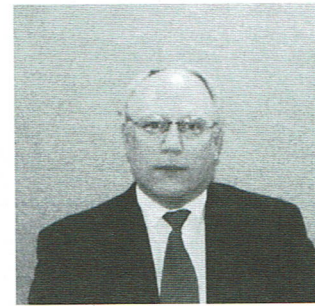




## A Word From Our Thrice Potent Master

Respectable Brethren:

I would like to express my deep gratitude for the privilege of being your Thrice Potent Master of the Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection for the ensuing year.



**Kurt W Mason, 32\***  
**Thrice Potent Master**

Certainly, one person alone cannot be responsible for the success of his term of office. Therefore, I am looking to my Line Officers for their continued support, which they have generously given in the past.

I hope that this year's programs will be of interest to our Brothers, and that many of you will find time to join our sideliners at our Stated Communications.

We will begin our schedule on October 11, 2001 with a reading of a degree that many of us have not seen in the past. This format for presenting a degree has proven to be very successful because of the unknown and curiosity aroused.

On November 8, Dr Ward Stone, New York State pathologist, will deliver an important message about the West Nile virus. You've heard a lot about this through the media. Now, is an opportunity to listen first hand as to how it has impacted the lives of many.

Brother Joseph Stracuzzi, 32\*, and Past Master of Noah Lodge No 754, Altamont, will be our guest speaker on February 28, 2002. His topic - the Civil War - will be of great interest to us.

Trust services and its importance to us all, will be presented by Marc Prian, a Trust Officer for Trusco Bank, on April 11, 2002.

We'll recap our activities during the year on May 23, 2002. Be with us then for an exchange of spirited commentaries.

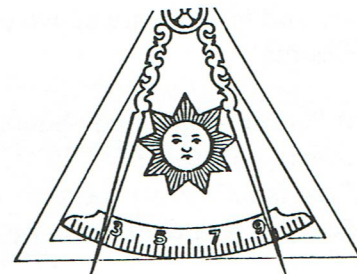
I would like to ask if you could please mark your calendars for October 20, 2001. This is the date of our Fall Reunion. Now is the time to challenge our Blue Lodge and Shrine Brothers to petition the Scottish Rite and witness the beautiful degrees presented.

Remember, summer is coming to an end and shortly all Lodges will be in full swing again. Please keep Thursday nights open for all related Bodies of the Scottish Rite. Our meetings are not always scheduled on your Lodge night.

Faternally,

Kurt W Mason, 32\*  
Thrice Potent Master

*"It is Amazing What You Can  
Accomplish If You Do Not Care  
Who Gets The Credit."*





**Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., U.S.A.**

**VALLEY OF ALBANY**

Richard G. Barrell, Secretary  
67 Corning Place  
Albany, New York 12207-1999

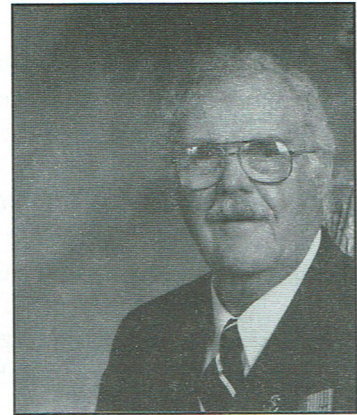
Non-Profit Org.  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Latham, N.Y.  
Permit No. 22

---

## **Howard B Clarkson, 32\* MSA To Be Feted**

Brother Howard B Clarkson received the prestigious Meritorious Service Award at the 132nd Annual Convocation of the Council of Deliberation held at the Masonic Home Campus in Utica, New York.

Howard was born on November 15, 1924, in Sharon CT, and graduated from Pawling High School, Troy, and from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a Civil Engineer, in 1951.



He is married to the former Janet Day since 1947. They have one daughter, Barbara, and two grandchildren.

Brother Clarkson was employed by the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, and in 1961 he was appointed Deputy Director of the Office of Transportation in NY State, and later served as Director of the Highway, Aviation, and Ports Division of the NY State Department of Transportation.

Howard served in the US Navy during World War II, including participation in the D-Day landings in Normandy, June 6, 1944.

Brother Clarkson was raised a Master Mason in Phoenix Lodge No 58, Lansingburg NY on April 20, 1956, initiated into the Valleys of Albany and Troy Scottish Rite in 1993, serving as Most Wise Master of the Troy Delta Chapter of Rose Croix. He is also a member of the Oriental Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.

He and his wife are active communicants of the Center Brunswick United Methodist Church.

A Testimonial Dinner honoring this well deserving Scottish Rite Mason will be held Friday evening, October 19, 2001, at the Sunset Banquet House, 873 5th Ave, Lansingburgh NY. Cost is \$22.50 per person. Cash bar at 6 PM; dinner at 7 PM. Meal choice - Chicken, Beef, or Scrod. Telephone Alan Valente at 518-875-1732 for Reservations.

The Rite Light joins in wishing Brother Howard Clarkson its most sincere congratulations.