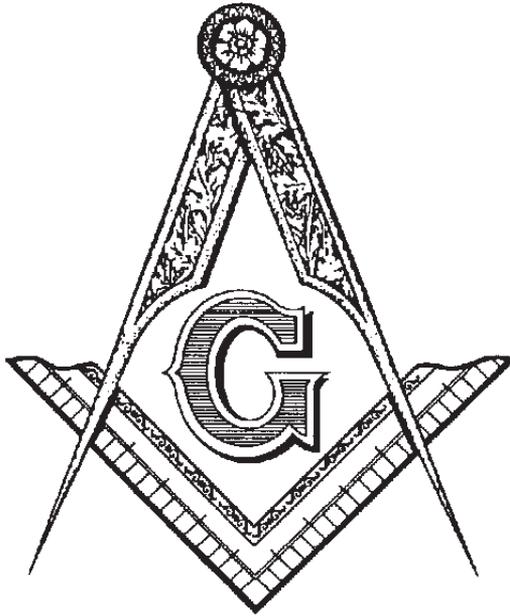


Spring 2006

Volume VIII: Issue #14

Fulton- Montgomery



**Official Publication of the
Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District
Free & Accepted Masons
State of New York**

The Fulton-Montgomery News

• Staff •

Editor: *Roger B. Steele*
Assistant Editor: *Robert Smith*
District Reporter: *Your Name Here*
Distribution *Keith Vietch & Dave Saltsman*

• Newsletter Policy •

The Fulton-Montgomery News, published quarterly for the benefit of the Brethren of the Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District and their families, is the official publication of:

Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District

Free & Accepted Masons

489 Honeywell Corners Road
Broadalbin, NY 12025

The Staff welcomes all letters and submissions, reserving the right to edit for space and clarity. Material may be provided in any format including on diskette in text format or uploaded to “*rbsteele@nycap.rr.com*”. Contact the District Reporter or Editor for assistance.

The publication will go to the printer on **1 December, 1 March, 1 June & 1 September** with submission dates one week prior.

Any of the contents of this newsletter may be copied, quoted or reprinted with the permission of the Editor.

Checks payable to Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District

Address all correspondence to: **F-M News**
Roger B. Steele
489 Honeywell Crs. Rd.

Contents

| | |
|---|-------|
| • A View From The East • | 3 |
| • In Memoriam • | 6 |
| • Lodge News • | 8 |
| • Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities • | 20 |
| • From Your Staff Officer • | 21 |
| • From the Editor’s Desk • | 22-23 |

• A View From The East •

by R.:W.: Claton D. Swain
DDGM Fulton-Montgomery District



Greetings My Brothers,

Time grows short for my term as your District Deputy. I imagine for some brothers that is a great thing to hear for I have learned you can't please everyone. For myself and my ideas it seems like the time has flown by. When I applied for, was considered and appointed I had dreams of uniting the district and bringing all lodges together to assist and support each other. I believe that throughout my two-year term I have worked to accomplish that dream for the most part.

I realized early on that persistence and hard work do pay off. I believe that by instilling an idea and cultivating it to maturity it will grow and becomes reality. Our first big project as a district was the organization of the M&O meetings. Our current attendance at these meetings has tripled since I was attending them as an officer. Each lodge has been represented and had a voice in the workings of the district. This, my brothers is a major step in becoming a functional district that can do just about anything it sets its mind to. Through the assistance of R.:W.: Keith Veitch, our AGL, we have instituted a third degree drama team that can assist each lodge in its third degree requirement this year. This idea was brought up many times for several years but it has become a reality now.

I was pleased to be able to assist in getting the Fulton Montgomery Charities Organization back up and running. On that note I need to thank R.:W.: Bob Lindholm, R.:W.: Lee Smith and W.: Jeff Lanfear for all their diligence and hard work. Today the charities group boasts a balanced budget with money in the bank to support many of our district projects. We have organized the scholarship give away and proudly gave 5 scholarships this past year to graduating seniors of our brothers in our district. The district Golf Tournament Committee, under W.: Jeff Lanfear's direction, held it's first tourney for the benefit of the Masonic Charities this past year. Very successful it will be back again this year to better our scholarship fund.

Our district Child ID team, under the leadership of R W David Saltsman, has done very well. We have participated in the Fonda Fair for the last several years with the most recent year being the best yet. We have been recognized by the State Chairman of Child

ID for our initiatives and foresight to reach out to the community. A remarkable 942 video and Id's were done last year in five days. We have begun the process to take this program to the local ARC facilities. It will be a first of it's kind in the state and they have asked us to present the program to the state when we have it finished and running. We also assisted in getting a neighboring district started in the Child ID by traveling to the Balloon festival held in Glens Falls. Since our involvement they have been doing many schools and public activities as we do. They also have bought their own equipment. Of course I would be amiss if I didn't mention our very successful Justin Dager dinner that assisted this family with the purchase of a handicap van. Even the Grand Master got involved by sending a donation from the Brotherhood Fund.

Many of us traveled to other districts where we learned how the DD's and dignitaries are received in their lodges. We presented a Traveling District Gavel to promote the communication between districts. (Of course I am prejudice but we do seem to do the best DD visitations of all). We have had many so-journers visit our district. Two of the regulars are Don and Ralph Phieffer from Latham, thank you to them for their continued support and thank you to all the others.

It has been my pleasure and honor to present on behalf of the Grand Master several 50 and 60-year certificates of membership to our brothers and brothers from other jurisdictions. I have had the pleasure of presenting several Grand Representative and DSA Aprons to deserving brothers. Our district also had a new Grand Chaplain for our district appointed.

Over the past year the district was blessed with the arrival, from the State of Alaska, of Past Grand Master M.:W.:Don Chaffin. Don has joined St. Johnsville Lodge and has been a major inspiration to us all. By bringing us new and interesting ideas from the GL of Alaska he has shown that all Masons walk, and act alike. Through his speeches we have learned about many interesting ritual parts and plays held in the open air of Alaska. Don has established a web site for our district and helped get our newsletter on line. I had the extreme pleasure in January of visiting the Grand Lodge of Alaska's Grand Convention (along with M.:W.:Don) as the official representative of the Grand Master and the brothers of the State of New York. What an honor to represent you the brothers and speak at their convention about the workings of New York Masons. Seems we all put our pants and aprons on the same way. Thanks for all your help Don.

The most important part of my job during the past two years was visiting you the brothers who have wined and dined me. It is a pleasure to be received in such a grand manner and to receive Grand

Honors from you, my brothers. I salute you all in return with Grand Honors and thank you for all your courtesies. Your new officers will soon be elected and installed. I wish each of them a fun filled year with lots of hard work but with many fun filled memories in the end. To all the masters of the lodges and all the chairmen of the several committees of my term who helped make this two years a fun time and accomplished so much I say thank you for a job well done.

As we prepare for Grand Lodge, the election of a new Grand Master, and the installation of new district officers let us all remember the work we have done under Grand Master Trosin. Let us not forget the Land, Sea and Air Lodge that was established and chartered under his authority. The brothers overseas were proud to display their charter and initiate several brothers into the Masonic Fraternity. They were also able to raise several Fellowcraft who are serving our country. Under GM Trosin we saw the new Masonic Care Facility open the doors on the state of the art nursing facility, break ground for a new Wiley hall and help in the relief of the Katrina victims.

I believe we have had a fun filled two years of Masonry. I have made so many new friends, gotten reacquainted with old friends and learned that Masonry is an important part of my life and my family's lives. I again thank you all for a wonderful two years. I now move onto a new job as the State Chairman of the Fellowship Committee. I wish Warren "Buddy" Vaughn and Robert "Parky" Parkinson the best of luck in the coming two years. To my partner Lee Smith, thank you for all the companionship and fun we have had, a better partner I couldn't have asked for. To Lee's wife Marlene and my wife Barbara I say thank you both for all the support, I love you both.

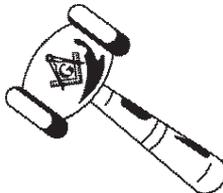
Fraternally, Clayton "Skip" Swain DDGM



• In Memoriam •

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Bro. Alvin V. Hichens, St. Patrick's #4 | <i>from his wife Edith</i> |
| Richard J. Sponable | <i>from his wife Shirley</i> |
| Bro. Harold Banta | <i>from his wife Norma</i> |
| Bro. Harold J. Harington, Fish House #298 | <i>from his wife Dotty</i> |
| Bro. Dr. Robert Kemp | <i>from Bro. Dick Gugenberger</i> |
| Bro. Bill Tanner | <i>from Bro. Dick Gugenberger</i> |
| Bro. E. O. Christmas | <i>from Bro. Gary Harington</i> |
| Bro George Harington | <i>from Bro. Gary Harington</i> |
| Rev. Bro. Newton Perrins | <i>from Bro. Elsworth Simpson</i> |
| Bro. Ernest D. Mugglin | <i>from Bro. Elsworth Simpson</i> |
| Bro. Harold E. Lake | <i>from Bro. Churchill S. Lake</i> |
| Bro. William V. Hovey, Fultonville #531 | <i>from his wife Jeannette</i> |
| Bro. Lawrence W. Castler | <i>from his wife Jean</i> |

Remember a Brother: A \$10 contribution to the newsletter will keep their name in this column for 4 issues. Any Brother may be honored.



Traveling Gavel 2005-6

_____ Thus far, as of February 13th, the total points for the year received for each lodge attending District Deputy and M&O meetings are as follows;

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| St Patrick's #4 | 506 points |
| Hamilton #79 | 274 points |
| Amsterdam #84 | 451 points |
| Fish House #298 | 269 points |
| Fort Plain #433 | 414 points |
| Fultonville #531 | 414 points |
| Kennyetto #599 | 450 points |
| St Johnsville #611 | 293 points |

Respectively Submitted,
R.: W.: David Saltsman,

Fonda Fair Child ID

The Fonda Fair will run from the end of August into the beginning of September. Now is the time to step up and volunteer to participate with your lodge. We will again be doing videos, ID cards and balloons that will require many hands to keep the program going. Last year we did in excess of 900 ID's. This year we expect to do at least that many and possibly a lot more if the weather is with us. Again we will be in the Scott Hall Building. The hours will be from 11AM to 10PM each day. (Remember - the building does not open until 11AM and closes at 10PM sharp)

The schedule is as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Tuesday, August 29 th , 2006 | Fish House #298 |
| Wednesday, August 30 th , 2006 | Hamilton #79 & St Johnsville #611 |
| Thursday, August 31 st , 2006 | St Patrick's #4 |
| Friday, September 1 st , 2006 | Amsterdam #84 |
| Saturday, September 2 nd , 2006 | Fultonville #531 |
| Sunday, September 3 rd , 2006 | Fort Plain #433 |
| Monday, September 4 th , 2006 | Kennyetto #599 |

Your master of your lodges will appreciate all the help he can get. Be sure to contact him with your name and number of the times you will be available. All members, wives, adult children and friends are invited to help.

For any questions or problems contact chairman
R.:W.:David Saltsman at 843-3445

Fraternally, R.:W.:David Saltsman, Chairman

Thank You from R.:W.:David

To the brothers of Fort Plain, Hamilton and all those who help. I wish to thank you for all your efforts through the years of helping me label and getting the newsletter to all our brothers. If it wasn't for your help and your dedication my job would be a lot more difficult. Each newsletter consists of roughly 1400 pieces that are sorted and labeled. Through you help we have developed a system where we all can work together and share fellowship while processing the job at hand.

JOB WELL DONE, THANK YOU...

Sincerely, David

• Lodge News •

St. Patrick's #4

By W.: William R. Dorn, Master

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Greetings, a new year has begun and St. Patrick's Lodge is very active. We invite all Our members to come join with us in Lodge activities and events, as well as on the District level. St. Pat's is pulling all the stops out to "keep" the Traveling Gavel, this year (and who knows, maybe longer ???), with your help we can. Nearly ALL of the line OFFICERS are attending the, District Masters and Officers monthly meetings as well as the DDGM visitations. St. Pat's sends *get well* wishes to Brothers Durant Friday, Lemuel F. Bradley, Bob Barr; if you know of a Brother in sickness or distress, please notify the Lodge or an Officer and we will see that card(s) are sent and personal contacts made, where possible.

Speaking of "notifying the Lodge", in addition to Officers individual phone numbers, which are sent with the Lodge's newsletter, Please note that the LODGE now has its phone equipped with VOICE MAIL. You may leave a message on the LODGE phone number- 518 - 762 - 7015; the officers check this REGULARLY and someone will get back to you quickly.

St. Pat's is working in several areas to improve its operations, including fundraising. The Lodge is expensive to maintain, as we all know. As an extension of the District Fundraiser - a FISH FRY, on February 24th. St. Pat's is planning a MONTHLY FISH FRY on a Friday night in March 31, April (most likely the last Fri. of the month) and May (and may continue in the Fall). Please watch for and support this endeavor, it will help us raise funds to maintain our Lodge property.

St. Pat's is also promoting the "use" of the Lodge for parties, weddings, meetings, etc. to raise funds. YOU can help by recommending the Lodge when you hear of someone looking for a place to hold their event; simply have them call the Lodge and leave a message, our Booking Manager, Sf. D. Bradley Yeardon will get back to them promptly. You will be helping to support your Lodge.

St. Pat's will hold its DDGM Visitation March 16, 2006; Social Hour 5:30, Dinner (Corned Beef and Cabbage), at 6:30 and Lodge reconvenes at 7:30 P M. Make your reservations soon, this is going to be BIG.

One correction from the last newsletter, R.: W.: Warren (Buddy), Vaughn is the Chief Cook for our DDGM Visitation dinnern. The change has been made and not corrected before the last newsletter was submitted. Buddy has a great meal planned for us.

Speaking of Buddy; YES the "R.: W.: Warren (Buddy) Vaughn" in the previous paragraph is correct. "Buddy" has been named by Grand Lodge as the District Deputy Grand Master for Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District, for the next 2 years. *Congratulations to OUR District*

Deputy. Plan now to attend and support him at the DDGM visitations; this is a great honor for Buddy and St. Patrick's Lodge.

Also appointed is R.: W.: Robert (Bob), Parkinson of Ft. Plain Lodge #433 as Grand Staff Officer for our District. Our Congratulations go to Bob, as well.

St. Pat's will confir the 3rd Degree on April 6th at our Stated Communication; the new District Drama Team will assist. Come out for a great time.

Many GOOD things are happening at St. Patrick's Lodge; we hope you will come out and participate with us. Don't forget to check our website out at www.newyorkmasons.org and click on District lodges, then click on

St. Pats. #4. Our thanks to M.: W.: Don Chafin for his assistance, in creating the District website.

W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn, Jr.



Hamilton #79

By W.: Carlton Scutt, Master

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

It is with sorrow that we announce that Brother Avery Van Slyke passed away on October 1st. Brother Van Slyke served as organist of Hamilton Lodge for over 35 years. Not only did each candidate of the Hamilton Lodge have his degrees enrich with the music provided by Brother Van Slyke but also many candidates in Fort Plain Lodge and other Lodges. Brother Van Slyke will now enter that celestial Lodge above and join those Brothers who have preceded him.

Our Lodge building is under going changes. The owner, The Community Youth Center, put in a new furnace this Fall. With donations from the community they have now replacing all the windows in the building. Hamilton Lodge and Hiram Union Chapter each donated money for one of the large upstairs windows. For information, the old windows in the front were metal framed and each one weighted over 200 pounds(after the two man installation crew took the first one out as a whole unit— after that they decided to take the rest out in pieces!) With the new furnace and new windows it's a much warmer. We also thank the members of Hiram Union Chapter for cleaning up the mess that was left behind by the window installation crew.

R.: W.: Robert Lindholm

Continued on page 16

Amsterdam #84
By W.: Jeff Lanfear, Master
1st & 3rd Mondays

I would like to thank everyone who assisted in the 3rd degree we did on the 13th of December. I couldn't have done it without your help. It did show me one thing, and that is, that we need a degree team from the district.

I for one am going to join it and assist in putting it together. Let's face it, our lodges and their members are not getting any younger unless we put the younger members in.

I want to see this great fraternity get even better. How are we going to do that? I'll tell you. Good people are out there that need to get better. That's our job.

Don't you all know one person who you could see in this fraternity? Here's a challenge for every one of us, (See it, Build it). The help is there for your lodge from all the others.

Don't be worried that you might not have enough people to put on a degree. I was, but you know what happened, it was all for naught. We got thru it and you can too. When we get the new members in the lodges, then we'll have the members to continue on, our great fraternity.

Find your replacement. People still do need this. Remember this one thing, Masonry makes a good person better.

MAKE SOMEONE BETTER.

W.: Jeffrey Lanfear Master



Fish House #298
By W.: James Lowerre

Fish House Lodge #298 we've had a very busy year at Fish House Lodge. Our bring a friend night was a huge success with two candidates for the first degree. Our grand lecturer convention had eighty six brothers for dinner, as usual Fred out did himself with the loin of pork he prepared. Fish House Lodge received the Potts Award that night. This year we gave out twelve Thanksgiving baskets(each had enough food for a month), to needy families in our area. In December we had a Christmas Party for all our members and families. The children loved the free pizza and hot dogs. Over thirty five attended. The highlight of the evening was a visit from Santa, with presents for the children and grab bags for the adults. Right before the holidays we helped two distressed

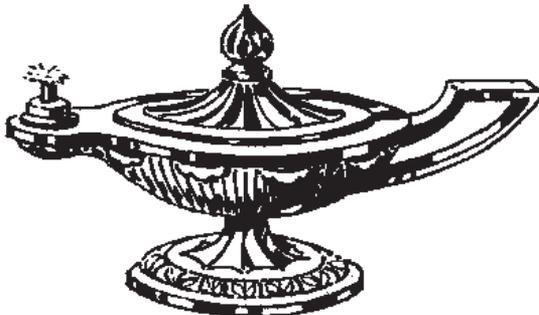
families with economic assistance. In January we had our adult Super Bowl Party and steak dinner, with twenty two in attendance. The bring a dessert or appetizer idea gave a great variety to choose from. In February we all enjoyed a hockey game at the Glens Falls Civic Center. I would like to thank Sacandaga Chapter for inviting Fish House Members, wives, friends and children. On March 1st, we will be having our third degree (I'm as ready as I'm ever going to be, I've been studying since the summer). On March 15th, Fish House will be having a presentation by the St. George's #37, Knight's Templar Drill Team. Anyone interested is more than welcome to attend. On April 5th, we will be having the DD visit with a spaghetti dinner. An in house award ceremony for members and wives will be held on April 19th with a dinner. May 3rd is the election of officers and May 17th is the installations of officers. We have a tentative date for the lodge Bar BQ on June 7th. We also continued having Thursday morning breakfasts throughout the year. These were for members and friends to share fellowship. It is done at cost and has brought older members back to lodge meetings and introduced perspective candidates to the members of the lodge. I want to thank everyone for giving me their support in making this year such a successful and active year with great participation from the membership. I welcome the new incoming master Bob Stankes and his line of officers. I wish them a very successful year and will assist them in anyway I can.

Sincerely, W.∴ James Lowerre



Fort Plain #433

By W.∴ Robert Parkinson, Master



Fultonville #531

By W.:. Hunter Cole-Hatcher, Master
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Dear Brothers:

On February 15th. we passed E. A. Robert Belanger to the Degree of Fellowcraft. We would like to thank Hamilton and Fort Plain Lodges for their participation. We would also like to thank the Brothers of other lodges that showed their support.

On February 17th we had our annual Brooks barbecue. We thank all the Brothers who attended. It was a great success.

On February 24th our Lodge assisted Amsterdam Lodge with the District fish fry.

We are having a 3rd Degree for Robert Belanger on March 25th. The degree is to start at 10:30 am. and will break for lunch at noon. The Drama will commence after lunch. All those who would like to attend are very welcome to do so. We would appreciate your support.

On Friday, April 7th we are having a Pancake Supper from the hours of 4pm. to 7pm. We hope all the District will show their support and have a good meal.

Fraternally Yours

Michael Krajewski

Senior Warden



Kennyetto Lodge No. 599

W.:. Roger B. Steele, Master
2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Well my brothers, another year has come and gone. It has been a very productive year and a year we can be proud of. Our 5 year program for the new heating system is going smooth as it can with the setbacks that we have endured. Our windows have been installed, and the condensate pump is in place ready to go. I would like to thank all of the brothers that took time away for there other functions to help in this endeavor.

Our membership has been extremely active ensuring that funds are available for the day to day operation of the Lodge by continuing with our monthly Pancake Partner's Breakfast and our other frequent fundraisers. It is nice to see our brothers in attendance and supporting us at every function.

We have had two very successful awards nights and are planning to do more non-meeting get-togethers in the future. We have raised about 18 new Master Masons in the passed three years and at the end of this year we will have three more. Our Lodge is growing and we hope that we can grow with it. Coming soon, by the end of this Masonic year we will have our own website on the Fulton Montgomery site so that brothers with computers can see what we have accomplished. It will be a place where we can post the latest news and pictures for your enjoyment. All you need to do is go to www.newyorkmasons.org.

I would like to thank everyone for making my time as Master of Kennyetto Lodge, an enjoyable one. I welcome the new incoming master Bob Jackson and all of his officers. I know they will have a very successful year and will continue to work for the betterment of the Lodge.

Fraternally,

W. : Roger B. Steele Master



St. Johnsville #611

By R. : W. : Jacque Mosher Sr., Master

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Mainly through the efforts and generosity of Brother Clarence Walrath and his wife Helen, the recreation room at the temple in St. Johnsville was refurbished with new carpeting, wallpaper and paint. Several others, also, contributed to the project.

Upon completion, the room was named the Lloyd McDuffee Room in memory of a fellow bother who passed away recently at the age of ninety-five. Lloyd had been a past master of St. Johnsville Lodge #611 and past D.G.M. of the Herkimer, Fulton-Montgomery District. He was also exemplary in his performance of the many degrees in which he participated.

Bro. William Finch



Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities

Benefit Golf Tournament

Fund Raiser

June 16th 2006

Fox Run Golf Club

Tee Time 12:00 Noon

Shotgun Start

4 Person Scramble

Cost per Player \$65.00

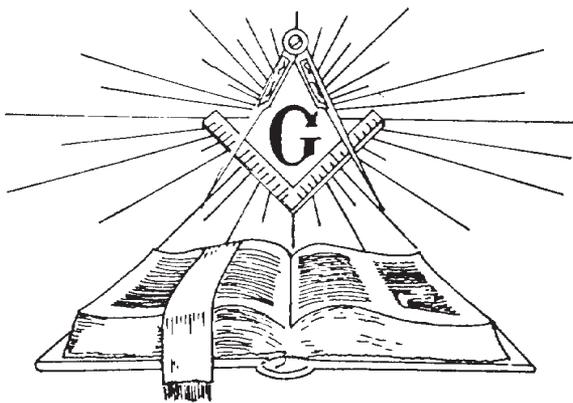


ompliments of:

Brother Royal P. Taylor Amsterdam # 84

Mrs. Norma Banta

Help the Newsletter! A personal contribution of \$10 or more will help



From Your Staff Officer

By R.:W.: Leon C. Smith

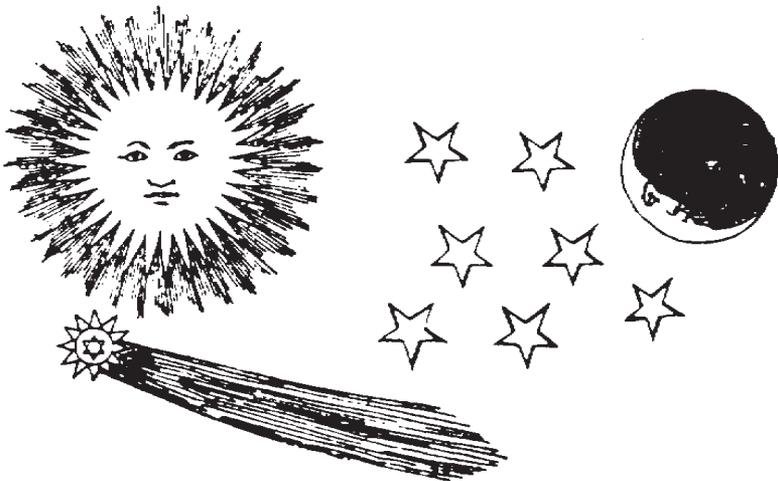
Grand Steward/ Staff Officer, Fulton-Montgomery District

I want to congratulate all of the Lodges for a successful year of Masonry. Every Lodge that put on a third degree, fulfilling the requirements of Grand Lodge is to be congratulated. Every degree is an educational event for those Brothers who participate or observe. It's a way to renew your obligation, and a reminder of that which sets Masonry apart from all other organizations.

A Masonic Development Course was completed in February and the Road to the East course is will start on Saturday, April 1st. There are also 3 members from our district who have recently completed the Individual Masonic Development Course. This qualifies them to become Grand Lodge Officers.

As the Masonic year nears it's end, I want to take this opportunity to say that it's been an honor and a pleasure to have served these two years as your staff officer in partnership with R.:W.: Clayton (Skip) Swain, District Deputy Grand Master and congratulate him for a job well done in his very busy two years. We both thank the Lodges for their hospitality and Masonic fellowship.

R.:W.: Leon "Lee" Smith



From the Editor's Desk

Roger B. Steele

My brothers. Every year on Veterans Day, a group of masons join together in celebration of this event. I would like to share with you the program that is held.

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an Unknown Soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11th, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I, November 11, 1918 at 11 a.m., (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day".

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday- 12 years later by similar Congressional action" If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all Wars," November 11th might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke *out* in Europe. 16 1/2 million Americans took part. 407,000 of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle. Realizing that veterans of WW II and Korea equally preserved peace, Congress was requested to make this day an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day.

At this time I would ask all of the veterans with us today to please rise. Sir Knights in line please step forward. Ladies and gentlemen, let us recognize these distinguished Americans. They are true heroes not only in name, but also in deed.

Some of our veterans are easy to recognize. They wear uniforms, medals, and ribbons. Most veterans, however, live among us quietly and anonymously. They are America's own sons and daughters.

On Veterans Day, we honor all people who served in our Armed Forces. They stand proudly in the timeline of history. They all are heroes and they continue in this line of selfless service. Some bear visible signs of their bravery and service — a missing limb, a jagged scar. Others carry inner signs — a piece of shrapnel. Still others carry psychological scars that sometimes never, ever heal. Perhaps these are part of a veteran's character, a soul forged and shaped by battle.

Today, we offer special recognition to veterans who faced the horrors of war, and especially those who gave up their lives in service to our nation. They and their families deserve our highest praise and eternal gratitude. We remember and salute all fallen heroes today and thank their families for their ultimate sacrifice. To our war veterans we reserve the highest respect and acknowledgment.

But a "veteran" is not only someone, who fought in a war; let us not forget to honor the many other veterans who served during peacetime and those who deployed during operations other than war.

Therefore, on Veterans Day, we recognize and honor the fullest possible definition of the term 'veteran' as "any person who has served in the Armed Forces. Army, Navy, Marine,

Airforce, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine; past and present; at home and abroad; in peacetime and in war; on active duty, in the Reserve, and in the National Guard.” We honor them today, and I trust we will always honor them. However Americans unfamiliar with the proud history of their veterans often have little or no familiarity with their contributions.

Consequently, it is time for those of us who do understand their importance, who do know what it means to serve, who do know the quality and character of our veterans firsthand—to help re-connect them to the American people. It is important to make all Americans aware of their contributions and importance.

All of our military commit to putting their lives on the line. They train and maintain a constant state of readiness so that whenever our nation need them, they are ready to serve and, if necessary, to fight and die for their country.

What is it that inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country? What is it that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever they are called upon to do so? The answer is the value and love they place on their country above all else.

Today, this value is the cornerstone and the standard against which courage is measured. This is the same value that shaped our Army at Valley Forge, in the streets of Mogadishu, on San Juan Hill, in the Ardennes forest, in the jungles of Vietnam, or liberating the concentration camps. Under the sea in the North Atlantic, in Mobile Bay, on the Great Lakes, at the Battle of Midway, over the Chosin Reservoir, in the sky of Kuwait over the English Channel, and in the Armories in many large and small towns throughout America. On land, in the air, on and under the seas, they are ever ready, ever vigilant.

This value is the American soldiers’ credential, just as our soldiers are America’s credentials, both at home and around the globe.

So when you leave here today, go out and spread the word. Help reconnect the American people with their veterans, with their legacy, with America’s proud history, that history and their veterans are one and inseparable.

Our veterans deserve our esteem equally during their lifetime and when they are called from us. On July 9, 1999, Saratoga National Cemetery was dedicated as the 116th national cemetery within the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration. The 373-acre cemetery will serve over 225,000 veterans and their families in upstate New York and western New England. It will provide an area of sincere solemnity and tranquility for them.

We owe ALL American Veterans a profound debt of gratitude. The freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today were bought and paid for with their devotion to duty and their sacrifices. To all of our veterans we say, “Your contributions and acts of selfless service and courage make a profound difference in our world. We praise you; we honor you and we thank you.”

For more information call or write W.: Hunter Cole-Hatcher
St. George’s Commadery #37



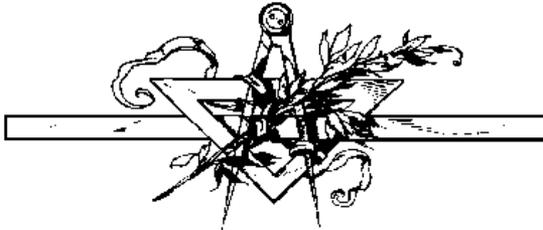
Support Your Brotherhood Fund

Postmaster!! Time Valued Material Inside

FULTON-MONTGOMERY MASONIC DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER
489 Honeywell Crs. Rd.
Broadalbin, NY 12025

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
MAYFIELD, NY 12117

Remember, Being a Member is More Than Just Paying Dues!



Visit us at www.newyorkmasons.org