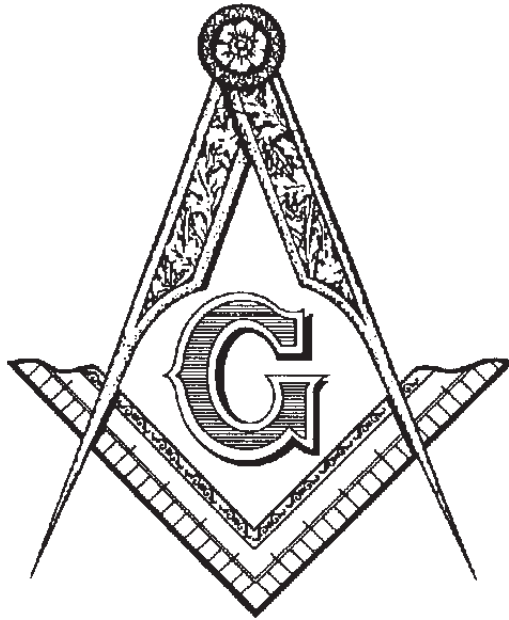


Winter 2006

Volume VIII: Issue #17

Fulton- Montgomery



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

The Fulton-Montgomery News

• Staff •

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• Newsletter Policy •

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• A View From The East •

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



Brothers and Families,

Where has the year 2006 gone? Seems like only yesterday we were bringing in the New Year with celebrating and family togetherness, now we will be bringing in another New Year within a few weeks.

Our Masonic year is off and running as I alluded to in the last newsletter. Although some of the lodges are still in disrepair the district is carrying on as usual. There have been many first degrees along with the 225th Anniversary Celebration and the In-Lodge Rededication Program suggested by Grand Lodge. Many commemorative flags have been handed out to honored people and groups who, after receiving them, have been very appreciative. I personally presented many of these for the lodges at special ceremonies and for this privilege I say thank you to those lodges.

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Neal Bidnick, has been very busy conducting “Meet the GM Meetings” around the state. We hope to have one locally for all to attend and hear his plans for the future. Also the Deputy Grand Master is holding “Meet the DDGM nights” which we hope to have in our area. Our own R.:W.: Robert “Bob” Parkinson, District Staff Officer, has been busy planning the Masonic Development Course and the Road to the East course he will be teaching this Masonic year. Each brother is encouraged to attend the MDC to learn everything about Masonry you don’t normally learn in lodge. This course will also instruct you in the proper ways of etiquette and the responsibilities of each office and officer in the lodge. Someday you too may be interested in becoming a Master of your lodge; you will be required to know many items and to have taken this course. The RTTE is also required in our district for anyone wishing to become a Master.

Our Past Grand Lodge Officers had a meeting this past month to discuss the requirements of being a Grand Lodge officer in this district. I believe there will be another meeting this summer where these rules will be explained in detail and then distributed to the individual lodges. It is important we establish requirements of our own to go along with the Grand Lodge requirements. At this time the Grand Lodge requires any brother wishing to be considered for District Deputy or District

Staff Officer to have been a Past Master taken the IDC, MDC and RTTE courses as of this past March. Each Grand Master will have his own requirements he will inject but these are the basics for now.

At each District Deputy Meeting I have asked the Master to supply a short history of their individual lodge. It can be done by the Master or by one of the brothers of the lodge. It should contain a running history of the building, the Masonic beginnings and the officers of the lodge. In particular the names and dates of the District Officers produced by the lodge. I believe we should know more about our district and it's make up if we are to move forward. History is an important part of each brother's life and it is the same for the lodge. How many brothers remember the number designated to Gloversville lodge? How about the numbers and names of the two lodges who made up Amsterdam lodge?

How about the names and numbers of the lodges which Fish House was created from? This is all interesting history which can be used to interest new candidates; many of the younger men of today are into history.

In closing let me remind all brothers that we need to work together to get ahead. If your lodge is doing a degree and cannot fill ALL the chairs then ask for help. The degrees are to impress upon the newly made Mason what Masonry is and how it works. What does it say to them if we cannot even fill the chairs during a degree? Team work is the key! Call VW John Morris, the AGL or myself with a list of who or what you need, we will get the there.

Have a great and happy, safe Holiday season brothers,

Fraternally

R.: W.: Clayton "Skip" Swain, DDGM



• Lodge News •

St. Patrick's Lodge # 4

By W.: William J. Dorn, Master

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Phone # (518) 762-7015

St. Patrick's Lodge has elected W.: Bruce B. Whitcavitch, Sr. as Junior Warden to fill a vacancy.

The Lodge members also elected R.: W.: Robert L. Shell as 2 year Trustee to fill a vacancy.

On October 19, St. Patrick's Lodge welcomed 6 new Entered Apprentices: Sean J. Brownell, Armand Gilyani, Francesco Malagisi, Jr., A. Wayne Parillo, William A. Obenhoff and Wayne T. Smith. Another candidate will receive the 1st Degree in the Spring.

December 7 will be St. Patrick's Lodge Annual Meeting.

December 23 Stated Communication will be our Holiday Party; please let an officer know if you plan to attend. It will be a covered dish supper and you know WHO will "drop" in.

The Master is planning a "PIN PRESENTATION" dinner and program for members of the Lodge, in early Spring – watch your newsletter for date. A special program will be held.

St. Pat's will confer the Second Degree on February 15th, 2007.

Happy Thanksgiving from St. Patrick's Lodge # 4 F & A M.

W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn,
Lodge – District Newsletter, Chrm.



Hamilton #79

By W.: Jeremy "Jay" Krajewski, Master

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

(518) 922-7668

wmchr1@aol.com

My brothers,

On October 25, 2006, Hamilton Lodge welcomed R.: W.: Clayton Swann, District Deputy Grand Master, on the occasion of his Official Visit and to present the message of the Grand Master. With the use of portable space heaters, our visitors and members enjoyed a ham dinner and the evening events. We used this event and the dinner to raise money for the Community Youth Center (our landlord) to help in the extensive work they need to do to fix the building damage caused

by the flood. From member contributions, the dinner and donations that evening, we raised \$500.00! Thank you to all that contributed.

We now have heat! The new furnace (that replaces the new one that was installed last Fall and lost in the flood) was finished and put into operation in November. We have all been able to take our portable heaters home. Both Hamilton Lodge and Fultonville Lodge look forward to comfortable meetings this Winter. The next priorities for the Youth Center are to install new electric system in the basement and put in a new gym floor.

Fraternally Yours,
W. Jay Krajewski



Amsterdam #84

By W. Thomas D. Krutz, Master

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Phone # (518) 842-7137



Fish House #298

By W. Robert Stankes

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Fish House Lodge #298, since reconvening in September, welcomes new Brothers Daniel Grace and Ronald Reu. Dan and Ron have received the Degree of Entered Apprentice and the Degree of Fellowcraft. They are currently preparing for the Degree of Master Mason which will be conferred on Wednesday, January 17, 2007. All brothers are encouraged to attend this degree and welcome the new brothers as they progress through Masonry.

The holiday season is upon us and the brothers of Fish House Lodge prepared and delivered nine Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need of our assistance. Special thanks to Brother Norman Richardson who organizes this charitable activity. Brother James Lowerre is busy making plans for the Lodge's annual Christmas Party, scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2006 at the Lodge. Plans are being made for the Lodge's Annual Super Bowl Sunday Dinner to be held on February 4, 2007.

The Lodge's District Deputy Visitation is scheduled for Wednesday,

December 6, 2006, with a social hour and dinner to be held at the lodge before the meeting. The final meeting for 2006 will be the Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2006. There will be a social hour and dinner before the annual meeting.

Upcoming meeting activities for 2007 include a Fervency and Zeal Lecture, Knights Templar Sword Presentation, and a Family and Widows Night.

On behalf of Fish House Lodge #298, I would like to wish all brothers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Fraternally Yours,
W.: Robert J. Stankes



Fort Plain #433

By R.: W.: David Montanye, Master
2nd & 4th Tuesdays



Fultonville #531

By W.: Michael Krajewski, Master
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Phone (518) 922-8712

Dear Brothers:

As most of you already know, Fultonville Lodge #531 is now residing at the Canajoharie Temple (Much thanks to Hamilton Lodge). Our stated communication is on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Everything is working out fine (we now even have heat!!!).

Now, on the serious side. I would again like to thank all of the Brothers, and DeMolay who helped Fultonville Lodge in our time of need. With a lot of work and the steadfast dedication of the Brothers, in the near future we will once again reside in Fultonville.

We are having our Pancake / French toast breakfasts every third Saturday of the month, 8am – 11am. This is held at the Fultonville Reformed Church dining hall on the corners of 30A and 5s. Please help support us.

Our District Deputy Visitation will be on Wednesday February 7, 2007, at the Canajoharie Temple. Times will be 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30pm.

Any Brother who needs transportation, please contact myself, or any other Officer. We will be more than happy to assist you.

Fraternally
W.∴ Mike Krajewski - Master



Kennyetto Lodge No. 599

W.∴ Robert Jackson

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Phone (518) 883-8448

To our brothers and families near and far.

A funny thing happened on my way to the meeting last month. I realized the year is almost over. Wow it sure doesn't take long does it. We are working very hard on the upkeep of our beautiful lodge and trying our best to keep the wolf from the door. Here is what we have done and what we are going to do in the upcoming months.

We have had a Spaghetti Dinner in November that was a moderate success.

On the 1st of December we are decorating the lodge for Christmas and making room for Santa Clause again this year. This will be our second year in celebration with the village.

On the 6th of December we will be traveling to Fish House Lodge for our monthly District Deputy visit.

On the 8th of December is our monthly Pancake Partners breakfast.

On the 11th of December we will welcome Santa after the parade in beautiful downtown Broadalbin.

On December 13th we will be having the degree of Entered Apprentice for 4 worthy gentlemen.

In the New Year we will be having the second degree.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Safe and Happy holiday season.

Fraternally
,W.∴ Robert Jackson Master

A short p/s from our Secretary W.∴ John P. Sira:

My brothers,

Please check in your wallets and see if you have your latest dues card, and please don't forget that a new year is upon us.

Thank you,

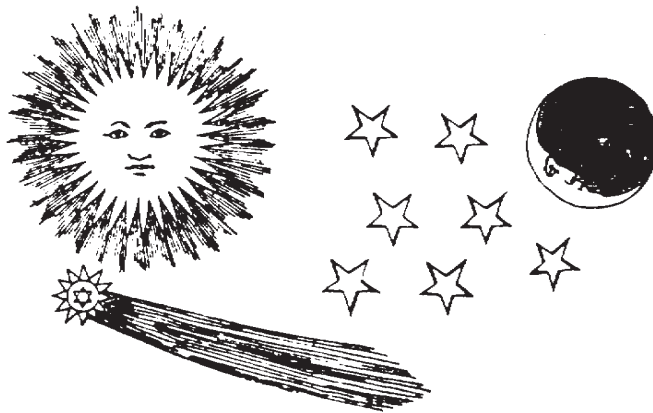
John



St. Johnsville #611
By W. : David Mosher Master
1st & 3rd Thursdays

An Interesting note from St. Johnsville Lodge #611. At our District Deputy Grant Masters Visitation held on Nov. 16th, 2006, District Deputy "Skip" Swain had directed me to give, or assign someone to give a 20 minute program on the history of our lodge to the brethren present. Brother David Saltsman offered to take on this task. After a fine chicken and biscuit dinner we return to the lodge room for our evening program. About 10 minutes before Brother Saltsman was to present the history lesson, an alarm came to the outer door declaring that heavy rains had begun to close some of the roads leading out of St. Johnsville and for anyone traveling those roads should consider leaving. Well needless to say in about 2 minutes over half of the brethren had vacated the lodge room. As stated by the District Deputy, it was the first time that he had seen anything like that happen. However, for those who chose to stay were treated to a very *interesting* and enjoyable lesson on the history of St. Johnville Lodge #611.

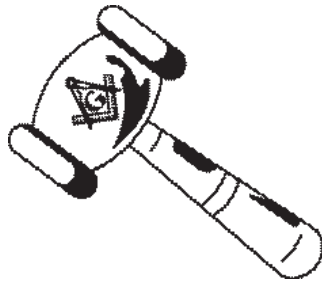
Fraternally,
W. : David A. Mosher



• In Memoriam •

W. Bro. Durant M. Friday St. Patrick's #4	<i>from his wife Margaret</i>
Harold Wilber Banta	<i>from Unknown in Maine</i>
Bro. Harold Banta	<i>from his wife Norma</i>
Bro. Alvin V. Hichens, St. Patrick's #4	<i>from his wife Edith</i>
Richard J. Sponable	<i>from his wife Shirley</i>
Bro. William V. Hovey, Fultonville #531	<i>from his wife Jeannette</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 2006

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

St Patrick's #4	124 points
Hamilton #79	67 points
Amsterdam #84	63 points
Fish House #298	58 points
Fort Plain #433	68 points
Fultonville #531	106points
Kennyetto #599	90 points
St Johnsville #611	37 points

Respectively Submitted,
R. W. David Saltsman,



ompliments of:

Dr. William S. Muehleck
Mrs. Norma Banta

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



History of St. Johnsville lodge # 611

ST. JOHNSVILL LODGE 611 the first master was W.: CHARLES BUCKINGHAM in April 1866 he was master for thirteen consecutive years.

In the year of 1866 St Johnsville wrote a letter of dispensation to the Grand lodge of NEW YORK to form a new lodge. Dispensation for a new lodge was granted by Most Worshipful Grand Master ROBERT D HOLMES. The brethren met as a lodge and held their first meeting under the dispensation in a room of a building standing at that time on the site of the VAN DEUSEN BLOCK (now the St. Johnsville Hardware) on the north side of west main street. A Masonic communication on said 17th day of July 1866 a warrant or charter was granted by the Grand Lodge to St Johnsville lodge 611 in the 19th Masonic District That building burned down in the year of 1870

At a regular communication held October 15th 1914 a committee was appointed composed of four brothers to secure plans and place four a suitable temple on the site of the home bequeathed to the lodge by the late Mr. and Mrs. ADAM VEDDER CARL HAUG architect of Little Falls N.Y.

Submitted the plans which were accepted

Maquaes Chapter O.E.S Assemble on the northeast corner of the property and after a pray was offered and two charter member of the lodge proceeded to break ground.

In July 20th 1915 the laying of the cornerstone performed by GRAND MASTER M.: W.: GEORGE FRIEFELD and the Grand lodge office. Upon the death of M.: W.: GEORGE FIERFELD past Grand Master in 1931 his widow returned to St. Johnsville lodge the trowel he had used on July 20 1915 in laying the cornerstone of the temple.

The temple was dedicated in 1916 as a part of the 50th anniversary program was attended by 320 brothers.

Then in Oct 7 1916 the first meeting in the lodge room took place.

Only two years later in 1918 the influenza epidemic during the temple were placed at public disposal for use as a hospital.

The grand master JOHN W. VROOMAN of Herkimer was guest and speaker here the following year. His interest in St. Johnsville lodge was again demonstrated in 1926 when he came hear to present the charge warrant

Jewel to R.: W.: Philip C. Furbeck a newly appointed from St. Johnsville lodge to serve as District Deputy of the FULTON & HERKIMER & MONTGOMERY District.

In the year of 1946 dues were increased to \$15.00 per year
In the year of 1953&1954 R.: W.: Lloyd McDuffee was appointed district Deputy of the Fulton & Herkimer & Montgomery District.
Then in 1953 the stag was replaced in the auditorium and a kitchen was put in.
In 1957 the village of St Johnsville celebrated its centennial the lodge received the grand prize for its float.
In 1962 that summer the lodge completely remodeled the bowling alleys to automatic pinsetters, and then in 1989 my dad received a plaque as the oldest bowler at the age of 82 at the 40th Masonic tournament at Niagara Falls N.Y.
Then in my second year as master a photo of stain glass window was taken.....
This is just some of the history.
R.: W.: David Lee Saltsman

Youth Committee

By: W.: Michael Krajewski

Dear Brothers,

The Schedule for DeMolay and Triangle is as follows:

St. Andrews Chapter – DeMolay
First and Third Thursdays – 7pm. – Amsterdam Temple

Onistagrawa Triangle #215
Second and Fourth Thursdays – 7:30pm. – Amsterdam Temple

These are two fine groups of young men and women, of whom we should support. These are called “Masonic Youth Groups”. Yes, we as Masons sponsor them, but we should do more than that. We as Masons should also show our support for them. Yes there is that cable tow--but that cable tow is able to stretch at times.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR YOUTH IS OUR FUTURE! AND AS MASONS, WE CAN BE THERE TO HELP MOLD BOTH!

Fraternally
W.: Michael Krajewski

Masonic News Network – June 2006

R.:W.: James Rose

Masonic Home Admission Counselor

Since 1960, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) has recognized the importance to encourage talented young men and women to pursue a career in science or medicine. This year Seth Anderson (Syracuse University), Jonathon Bates (Nazareth College), Monica Crary (Ursinus College), Amit Desai (Hamilton College), Ashwini Nayak (McGill University), Arpan Patel (Boston University), Grace Reid (Rochester Institute of Technology), Danielle (Clarkson University) and Ankeet Shah (Tufts University) will join a distinguished group of over 400 students who have participated in the MMRL Summer Fellowship Program.

The 10 week program permits students direct involvement in research projects under staff guidance in the fields of experimental cardiology, molecular biology and molecular genetics. During their tenure, students gain an appreciation for how scientific problems pertaining to medical disease are approached and examined, and experience the day to day running of a cutting-edge research facility. After completing the program, they will gain knowledge and practical experience in physiological, biochemical, molecular and pharmacological methodologies and be better prepared to make important career decisions.

The summer session closed with a scientific symposium presented by the students on Thursday, August 10 followed by an awards luncheon honoring the Summer Fellows and local sponsors at the Laboratory. Funding for this year's program has been provided by The Max, DeTraglia, Max and Sullivan Donor Advised Fund of The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc., Northeast Affiliate of the American Heart Association, Dr. Atul Butala, Dr. Ashok and Shilpa Patel, Utica Lodge 47, F. & A.M. and Bredablick Lodge 880, F. & A.M. Contact: Ronald P. Kamp

Director of Development
and Communications
kamp@mmrl.edu
735-2217, ext. 127

• More Light •

12th Chapter of Ecclesiastes Of the two favorite interpretations of Biblical commentators one makes this dramatic passage a description of old age and senile decay; the other, a reference to the seldom experienced and much feared thunderstorm in Palestine.

Verses 1,2: The darkening light and luminaries refers to coming blindness or extreme near-sightedness, and the clouds which return after the rain to a continuation of poor sight after much weeping.

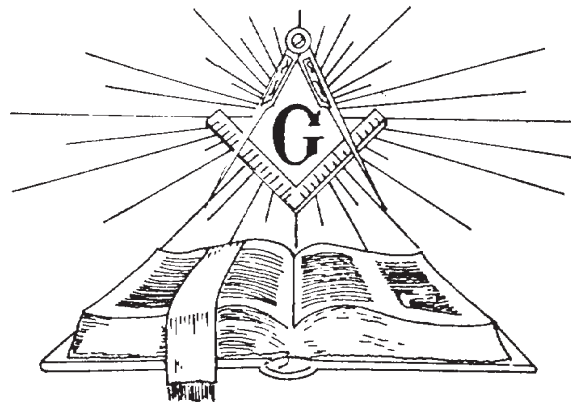
Verse 3: The keepers of the house are the hands which tremble with palsy in old age. The strong men are the legs which become bowed with the years. The grinders which cease when they are few are the teeth, and those that look out of the windows are, poetically, the eyes.

Verse 4: The doors are the ears which grow deaf in age and can no longer hear the sound of grinding or grain in the little stone mills which the women use. To rise up at the voice of a bird may signify either the light sleep of age easily interrupted by any slight sound, or the nervousness which is so extreme in some old men that they start at any little noise. The daughters of music are the vocal cords which loose their timbre in age; hence, the cracked voice of senility.

Verse 5: The old man fears any height, knowing his brittle bones will stand no fall. He is timid as he has no strength with which to defend himself. The almond tree blossoms white, like an old man's hair. Any little weight, even a grasshopper, is to much a burden for extreme age to carry. The old have no desires. The long home is the grave, in anticipation of which the mourners go about the streets.

Verse 6: The silver cord is the spinal cord, the golden bowl is the brain, the pitcher broken at the fountain a failing heart, and the wheel broken at the cistern the kidneys, bladder and prostate gland, all of which give trouble to old men. Whether or not the writer possessed a sufficient knowledge of anatomy to symbolize parts of the body as the silver cord, the golden bowl, the pitcher, the wheel broken at the cistern is so problematical that much skepticism of this interpretation has been expressed. The storm

interpretation is not open to this objection and certainly is far more in keeping with the magnificent poetry of the words. Think of a windy day, with clouds and rain; towards evening it begins to clear, but the heavens turn black again as the clouds return after the rain. This was a signal for caution if not for terror in Palestine. Men and women and children feared the thunderstorm, probably because it came so seldom. Doors were shut in the streets. The strong guards who stood before the houses of the wealthy were afraid, and trembled, for they might not leave their places. The little mills with which the women ground grain at eventide ceased; few would remain at their tasks in the face of the storm. Women in upper rooms drew back into the dark. Those outdoors became nervous; no one sang; the black thunderheads flourished their white tops like the almond tree; everyone feared the lightning and the thunder on high; even a little weight which kept a man from running to shelter was a burden. Here the admonition is to remember the Creator before the terror of death, which is worse than the terror of the storm. The rich man with his golden water bowl hung from a silver chain must fear it. The poor man with his earthen pitcher who must send his women to the well for water was in terror. Even the man strong and rough as the crude wooden wheel which drew the skin bucket to the top of the well shook with fear. Death is the same for all, and it is feared alike by all.



The all-seeing eye

The eye of providence, as the all Seeing Eye is often termed, is a symbol showing an eye surrounded by rays of light, or glory as it's called... Usually enclosed by a triangle. It is commonly interpreted as representing the eye of god or in Masonic terms, the Supreme being who is keeping a watch over mankind. Its origin can be traced back to ancient Egyptian mythology and the Horus, for the Egyptians this was a symbol of power and protection. The eye of Horus known as the *indjat* or *wedjet* by the ancient Egyptians was a symbol of the Falcon-headed god Horus or Re the Sun God. It was said to have healing and protective powers. In fact there were 2 eyes, the right being associated with the sun and the left eye with the moon. The 2 eyes together representing a balance between reason and intuition, light and dark, and life and death. In Freemasonry the all-seeing eye serves as a reminder to masons that the Great Architect of the universe always observes their deeds. In Masonic literature the first historical reference to the all seeing-eye appears to have been in Thomas Smith Webb's "The Freemason's Monitor" published in 1797. In this title Smith wrote "although our thoughts, words and actions may be hidden from the eyes of man, yet the seeing-eye, whom the sun, moon and stars obey and under whose watchful care even the comets perform their stupendous revolutions pervades the inner most recesses of the human heart and will reward us according to our merits." Webb's book appeared well over a decade after the eye of providence was adopted as part of the symbolism on the reverse side of the great seal of the United States. On the seal, it is surrounded by the words *annuity coep-tis*, which roughly translates from Latin as "it is favorable to our undertakings." The eye positioned above an unfinished pyramid whose 13 steps represent the 13 original 13 states. Taken together they imply the meaning of the eye or god favors American Prosperity. Given the active and constant anti-Masonic propaganda it seems unlikely that freemasonry and anything to do with the great seal's origins. None of the designers were freemasons, although it is not known if the designers had knowledge of its Masonic use and drew from that knowledge. However the all-seeing eye ap-

pears in many other places including as stated ancient Egypt and many Christian works of art. It appears that the misinterpretation of the great seal as a Masonic symbol started in 1884, when Elliot Charles Norton a Harvard professor, wrote the reverse of the seal “can hardly look other wise then as a dull emblem of the Masonic fraternity.” It appears that from that comment an elaborate Masonic conspiracy grew. Still today the all-seeing eye should always serve as a reminder to all, that the actions and words of every day life and being observed...and no good deed will go unrewarded and no bad deed will go unpunished...

Fraternally.

JJ



Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from the staff of the
Fulton-Montgomery Newsletter

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Being a Member is More
Than Just Paying Dues!**



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