



THE VALLEY VOICE
VALLEY OF MONTPELIER AASR
TRESTLEBOARD APRIL /MAY

THRICE POTENT MASTER, GAMALIEL WASHBURN LODGE OF PERFECTION

Greetings brothers,

As I write this, spring and all its glory still awaits us. This winter may have been challenging, but in spite of the inclement weather, the Valley of Montpelier has been able to present all the scheduled degrees, along with a showing of the DVD version of the 4th degree. We were able to travel (carpool) down to the Valley of Rutland and combine our presentation of the 17th degree, with Rutland's presentation of the 18th, Knight of the Rose Croix, on March 12th. We opened the meeting with 3 Valleys well represented and an abundance of candidates, some from as far away as Connecticut. An excellent day was had by all.

The Valley of Montpelier, will present the 5th degree at the Masonic center in Barre Vermont, (Granite Lodge) on Thursday June 9th 2011 at 7:30pm, preceded by supper at 6:30pm. I will be calling and sending out scripts and parts for this degree soon.

The Admin council continues to meet, once a month, at the center in Barre. We have a few openings on this board for the coming year, and if anyone is interested or would like more information, please contact me at 1-802-635-2150 home or 1-802-635-7327 cell. My email is engel@mt-mansfield.com.

I would like to thank our Communications Director, Bill Shwab for his fine service to the Valley. Bill will be stepping down, and Jeff Hann will be taking over. I would also like to thank our Treasurer, Roland Tousignant for his excellent work with our finances. Roland will also be stepping down.

Don't forget the VERMONT CONSISTORY REUNION AT THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CENTER Saturday April 30th. Our VALLEY OF MONTPELIER STATED & ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD MAY 21st, at the Barre Masonic Center. Breakfast will be at 8:00am Meeting at 9:00am. Please plan to attend. Happy Spring!

Respectfully,

Steve Engel

SOVEREIGN PRINCE, MOUNT CALVARY COUNCIL

My Brothers,

I would like to say a few words of thanks, to all those that helped me with the Princes of Jerusalem 16th degree. It went very well and all those that attended had only good things to say. Once again Rick Rayfield showed us how really talented he is in both acting and directing. We are so lucky to have him as our Brother in our Valley. There are many more Brothers that I need to thank, Steve Engel, who helped me bring this degree all together, by making phone calls helping me get the cast together and taking the part of Araspes himself and knocking it out of the park, Don Brown who took the part of Darius, King of Persia. Thanks.

I would also like thank to all of you, who helped me to load and unload my trailer with the props that we used in Rutland for the 17th and 18th degrees. A good time was had by all that attended and those who took part in the degree work.

Barry Duquette

MOST WISE MASTER, CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX

My Brothers,

This article was put together by our active [Don Duquette], I thought you might be interested in our Chapters name sake, Frank J. Martin of Barre (Washington County, Vermont), was born 22 October 1858 in Washington (Orange County), Vermont, Son of Kimball P. and Delana (Wiley) Martin. The Martin family came to Vermont from Connecticut. Frank Martins progenitors were early settlers of Williamstown Vermont, and their decedents form no inconsiderable share of the population of that town. The early life of Frank J. Martin was on the farm, and more than ordinary tasks devolved upon him in consequence of sickness and early death of his father. In spite of increased duties he managed to secure such a share of knowledge as was afforded by the schools Of Barre and Williamstown, and some attendance at Barre Academy.

For four years after he had entered active life he divided his attention between employment as a clerk in the winter and labor on the farm in the summer. In 1880 he acquired sufficient funds to take a four years' course of study at Worcester Academy, in Massachusetts. This he accomplished in three years, and graduated in June of 1883. He then taught school in Connecticut and Williamstown Vermont, and after employment as a clerk in the Office of Frank Plumley, of Northfield, Vermont, remaining there until 1888, when he went to Montpelier, and while Deputy clerk of Washington County Court Studied law with M.E. Smilie, until April 1890, when he entered the office of H.A. Huse, of Montpelier, and was admitted to the bar at the general term in 1890.

In December of 1890, with F.P. Carlton, Frank J. Martin began legal practice at Barre in the firm of Martin & Carlton, which continued until 1892. In 1892 he and L.P. Slack formed the firm of Martin & Slack. Republican; one of the town Grand Jurors; one of the listors of Barre; in 1890 and 1892 was second assistant state librarian.

He Took his Blue Lodge Degrees at Granite Lodge No.38

We had a wonderful degree in Rutland, again I would like to thank all in the cast and those that came over to support our Valley.
Hope to see you all at our Consistory Reunion.

Lee Martenson

FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 2011 Scottish Rite Reunion. Your Drama Directors and casts have been working hard to make this a successful event, and we hope you will avail yourselves of the opportunity for more Masonic Light, and fraternal friendship.

At 10:00 a.m. we will exemplify the 21st Degree, which has not been done in Vermont for some time (don't forget your passports) as well as the 31st & 32nd Degrees, which will be after lunch. We have a number of young and eager candidates. Let's give them a hearty welcome.

There will be something for our ladies to do in the afternoon. Nadine has tried to come up with something fairly simple and inexpensive, and I think she, with assistance from Barb Campbell, has a fun time planned for our ladies. I urge you to have them read the message contained in this notice, and encourage them to come. Of course, shopping nearby at Maple Tree Place and "Box Store City" is always available.

This year I thought we might try something different for dinner. We will dine at the Best Western Conference Center on Williston Rd. There will be a wine and beer bar available, and dinner will be a buffet with teriyaki beef kebobs, baked scrod, baked potatoes, etc. We hope you will come and join us.

The Officers and Executive Board of the Valley of Burlington is striving to make our Valley better, more active, more responsive to the needs of our members and prospective members, by initiating membership, retention, social, and educational programs. Remember that Freemasonry is the greatest fraternity in the world, and the Scottish Rite is at the pinnacle, and we want to keep it there!

On another note, as this is a "Scottish" Rite reunion, and many of you know that my preferred "dress up" attire is a kilt, I invite any and all who are so inclined to join me in being "properly dressed" on April 30th.

We look forward to greeting you, breaking bread and sharing some fraternal time.

Fraternally,

Palmer E. Martin, 33°

ACTIVE FOR STATE OF VERMONT

It has been a very good New Year and early spring for Scottish Rite in Vermont. We have been witnessing strong work in the Valleys with inspirational degrees which have charged up our candidates. This has been a lot of hard work by our members and is earning dividends in enthusiastic new members. The degree work has been passionate and these new members are paying attention and asking questions. There has been a strong effort to put the information about the degrees in their hands. I have been noticing that the social aspect of the Stated meetings have been enjoyable with new members often the last to leave. With the success of degrees nights comes confidence of the officers of the Valleys.

I attended the Chapter Degrees in Rutland and witnessed members of three Valleys doing work together. This was attended by members from Connecticut as the 17th degree is not performed with regularity there. I would encourage all the Valleys to do visitations and ask hosting Valley's degree directors if they need extras to do walk on parts. Scottish Rite in Vermont is a fraternity with four moving parts we must support the whole fraternally to grow it.

The officers of the four valleys met for the COD winter workshop in February. I believe this is the best working meeting of the year. This is a meeting where peers work on issues and new members get a glimpse into the business end of our fraternity. My mentors attended along with brothers that I am mentoring.

Membership is always on the front burner of these meetings but not only bringing in new members but what are we doing for our present members? About 10% of our members attend our stated meetings but 90% still want to retain membership. How can we serve them? Scottish rite has made such a profound impression on them and most will remain members for life. These are the kind of issues we work on at COD workshops; bigger picture things that don't get attention in valley board meetings.

See you at Consistory day.

Donald Duquette

DRAMA DIRECTOR

We had one of the best-ever degree days on March 13. Brothers from Brattleboro, Rutland and Montpelier put on the 17th and 18th degree for 14 candidates, and some out-of-state guests.

Preparations: Montpelier rehearsed the 17th degree in Barre on Sunday March 7, but without the benefit of the temple set. The rehearsal was well-attended, and we worked out a number of staging details that transferred nicely to the Rutland lodge room.

Barry Duquette, with Lee Martenson and Bob Herdling- and perhaps other brothers who should be named- loaded the set and costumes into Barry's trailer on Friday March 12. The Valley of Rutland had rehearsed the 18th degree with Eric Ginette as Most Wise Master on Friday March 5th and with me as Master of Ceremonies on March 12th. Two rehearsals were wise as the Rutland brothers were all new to their roles. Eric did a great job getting them organized at the first rehearsal. The obvious missing brother was Wyn Pike, who I believe backed out of his usual role due to overwhelming personal and other Masonic commitments. The degree was rehearsed with an expectation of four, maybe six candidates.

They used the jpg files from the old Montpelier lantern slides with a projector and laptop. The words, the pictures of Jesus etc. The only hitch was that Rick Boise found that the projector stand on the wall of the Rutland lodge room was way too far from the screen on the opposite wall. I mention this as we consider the purchase of a projector. Modern projectors, with modern lenses, are designed to be used closer to a screen than older slide projectors. In Rutland, where the screen was in place, and the candidates' chairs figured, the solution was to put the projector on a pedestal close to the middle of the floor. It was only slightly awkward, as we placed the orator's lectern next to it. I had scanned the Montpelier lantern slides, and got a clearer image from the back side of some of them, due to cracks and repairs. Brother Yowe noticed that the Last Supper image was reversed left to right, due to this, and we will fix this for the future. I have supplied a number of cleaner images of the Sermon on the Mount, the Last Supper, and the Crucifixion for possible use, and these might be previewed and considered in the future. In particular, I have supplied an image with INRI clearly visible, and I would like to find one with the full underlying Latin phrase, to better fit the degree script.

17th degree: Barry and crew used two of our Persian pillars, and our Roman temple top, to create Herod's temple in the Rutland lodge room. Bob's Herdling's plaster eagle was hung, and then beautifully smashed on our linoleum temple floor. It looked great before we started- set the scene, and worked during the drama. Because I was backstage for most of the degree, I can only say it sounded like an excellent presentation. What wrinkles and dead spots we hit were nicely covered and smoothed over in Masonic fashion. Bravo.

I took the liberty of adjusting the script so that the Chancellor kills Antipater right in front of the temple and wipes off his bloody knife while glaring at the crowd. He even added a line to the effect that Caesar's orders will be obeyed. This left Antipater's body in plain view while the script discusses the desecration of the Temple. It added some violent drama to cap the vandalism of the eagle, and it laid a clear motive for the concern about the desecration. The feedback I heard was positive.

What made the degree work best, with a row of 14 candidates watching, was the great effort of the three groups to act as small gangs, adding comments and jibes to make it more realistic. All the actors did a great job in this regard. It lends a real sense of drama and esprit de corps, even though we are not professionals and precisely rehearsed. The thankful candidates seemed genuinely wide-eyes as we headed for lunch.

18th degree: I should mention that Eric Ginette gave a great explanation to the meeting concerning the interplay of the 17th and 18th degrees. The 17th is so raucous and violent, and the 18th so quiet and ceremonial, I often wondered why they are paired as the Chapter of Rose Croix. Eric did great justice to this issue. The 18th degree was presented with great expression and solemnity. The lodge room was full but not packed, with brothers as well as an air of Scottish Rite. The Rutland brothers new to their roles did a fine job. Eric was outstanding as Most Wise Master. There were too many candidates to bring them all to the altar, but Eric tapped each of them on the shoulders with his sword, while reciting the knighting speech at just the right speed to cover all the candidates.

I am writing this two weeks after the degrees, and no doubt missed some highlights and issues. Certainly a lot of brothers in the cast and behind the scenes chipped in and made this a truly remarkable day. It's all details, details, details, that add up to a richly embroidered experience for ourselves and our candidates. Three Valleys, plus guests, two excellent degrees, and lots of fraternal fellowship before, between, and after. Well done brothers all!

Other drama notes: I had a call from the Valley of Burlington, new member of the Board there Chris Allen needed the correct apron for their 18th degree, and he needed it right away to prepare information for the candidates. Again, details, details, details, added up. Bob Herdling grabbed the request and found and ferried the apron to Williston in some time warp as he was leaving town. He also managed to determine that Burlington needed to borrow our sash and key collar, and got that to them as well. MWM Steve Engel approved the loan. Earlier this year I provided Burlington with wig and make-up for Moses. I mention these events to thank Bob for his extra effort, and to remind ourselves that while we sometimes have some rivalry between Valleys, it is in our tradition cooperation that we reap benefits.

As we look to scheduling future degrees, I would mention that I will again be out of town the first Saturday in June. Twice we have rescheduled a 4th degree on that day back to the Thursday evening so that I could play Guide.

The Consistory Reunion this year is the LAST Saturday in April- moved to avoid Easter- under the direction of Commander in Chief Palmer Martin. The usual 32/21 degrees will be presented after lunch. In the morning we will present the 21st degree which is a medieval trial that involves some magic tricks as a way of indicating Divine approval of evidence. Should be interesting.

I have asked Gary Bombard to bring this report along to the Adm Council meeting today, as I am out skiing in Colorado with extended family. But I am sending it out so that brothers can correct or amend it in advance.

Best,

Rick

EDUCATION/HISTORY

26 LEAD SOLDIERS

“GIVE ME 26 LEAD SOLDIERS AND I WILL CONQUER THE WORLD”. You may have heard this expression, which has been attributed to our own brother Benjamin Franklin, who would know a lot about “LEAD SOLDIERS” as he was a master printer by trade. I have also read that it was Karl Marx who made the statement, obviously intending to promote his Marxist values to the world. The power of the printed word does not go unnoticed by Freemasons. All of our associated bodies, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shiners and the Eastern Star would not exist without these 26 lead soldiers. The 26 soldiers refer to the 26 letters of the English Alphabet. The lead refers to the mostly lead, tin and antimony which made up single pieces of type used from Guttenberg’s day up until recently. The soldiers refer to the tireless work they do. These were laboriously hand set, letter by letter, to print everything from Bibles to single dots on pieces of paper to keep track of inventories, debt, etc. The typefaces themselves were truly works of art and much thought went into whether or not reading them in long paragraphs or books would cause disinterest or fatigue of the reader. A lot of our present day typefaces, such as the typeface used to write this Times New Roman is a direct descendant of the old Roman typeface.

As Freemasons, whatever bodies we belong to, the printed word is essential to our communication, learning, recording and awards. In this day and age, if you were to ask a young person “what is letterpress” they most likely would not know, as their world and the world around them and us is computer generated. We can see by the unrest and overthrow of governments lately that computers were major players in communications with other rebels to coordinate protests and promulgate information. During WW2, the underground used clandestine print shops to hand set type to print flyers which were essential to getting the word out of what was going on. These folks were in great risk of their lives if the print shop was found. Today, anonymous rebel bloggers get the word out to millions around the world without ever being caught. As Scottish Rite Freemasons, we learn our ritual degrees mostly from written scripts, printed from a computer disc, copied onto a pc, taken to a place where hundreds of pages can be copied by one person, collated and stapled in minutes for next to nothing, considering hand set type would have taken days or weeks to get the job done and at a greater expense.

There has been so much written about these 26 lead soldiers that, like Freemasonry, we could never cover a fraction of it in one article. To see more on the subject, Google letterpress, handset type, typefaces, or 26 LEAD SOLDIERS.

Thanks, Steve Engel

ADMIN COUNCIL

On March 27th 2011, a vote was taken for changing the name of the Valley from:

VALLEY OF MONTPELIER to VALLEY OF CENTRAL VERMONT

This will be presented to the Vermont Council of Deliberation on July 9th for approval

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30: VT Consistory Reunion at Green Mt. Center 12 noon lunch Consistory opens at 1:30PM

May 21: Valley Stated & Annual Meeting Saturday 9AM Breakfast at 8AM

June 5: Rehearsal 5th Degree Sunday at 4PM

A reminder, starting **June 9th**, our monthly meetings will change to **Thursday nights**, 4th & 5th Degrees

July 22: A Steak & Cigar night; Social Hour: 5-6:30PM BYOB: 6:30 Dinner

For more information contact: Lee Martenson 802-479-0334 or Don Duquette 802-244-5905



IN MEMORIAN

Bill Myers James Kelley

FROM THE SECRETARY

Brothers’

I have been trying to update my files and the MDS files for the Valley. I have found out that a lot of phone numbers are no longer up to date and some e-mail addresses are missing. Please take the time and send to me your updated information. Trestleboards are being sent out by e-mail saving the valley money used on postage. We would like to send all Trestleboards out by e-mail if we can. Any updated information or corrections for upcoming events will get to you a lot faster if we have your e-mail address. If for any reason I have to contact you, I’m lost without the correct phone number. Again, please send me your updated information. You can call me at 802-598-3251 or send an e-mail to mikhael.yowe@gmail.com. You can also contact the Thrice Potent Master at 802-635-2150 or engle@mt-mansfield.com. The information you send is vital in keeping our records up to date. If I can be any assistance to you, do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I will be happy to help you out any way I can. I am here for you.

Fraternally, Mikhael Yowe

