

Valley Voice July issue 2007

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## THE ROAD BEHIND US

Most of the time I'm looking ahead, but it's interesting to look behind sometimes and ask how did we get here? The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite came early to the Northland, to Albany N.Y. in 1767 where the Dutchman Henry Andrew Francken opened Ineffable Lodge of Perfection. However, it was to be another Century before our Rite was established here in Vermont.

On January 7, 1868 nine brethren from Burlington journeyed to Boston and received all of the grades, from the Fourth to the Thirty-second. Returning to Vermont, they petitioned the Supreme Council for a Charter, and on February 4, 1871 Haswell Lodge of Perfection was erected in Burlington, the first Scottish Rite Body in our State.

This Lodge did not thrive at once. However, they did initiate brother George O. Tyler, the man who was to be called the "Father of the Rite" here in Vermont. Within a year of his becoming Thrice Potent Master, 60 new Masons had joined Haswell. Under Bro. George's sure hand, the Supreme Council was petitioned for dispensation to form the other two Bodies. And so it was that on July 10, 1873, these Bodies were formed. The officers were installed by a new, and the first, Deputy for Vermont: Illustrious Brother Phineas D. Ballou. It was Brother Ballou who formed the idea and organized that fateful trip to Boston of the nine first Vermonters of our Rite. He remained Deputy until he journeyed "out west" to Nebraska in 1873. It was only natural that his position was filled by the crowning of Bro. Tyler (what a great Masonic name!) as a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason and Deputy for Vermont. The first act of the new Deputy was to constitute Joseph W. Roby Council and Delta Chapter of Rose Croix, himself serving as the first Most Wise Master of Delta Chapter. Two years later, on January 8, 1875, he constituted our own Vermont Consistory and was the first Commander in Chief of that Body.

While these initial Bodies were being erected, lively interest in the Rite was stirring throughout our State. Thus it was that the second Lodge was created on March 10, 1874, the Windsor Lodge of Perfection. A third was added later that year, when the Gamaliel Washburn Lodge of Montpelier was begun on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On January 11, 1875 Illustrious Brother Tyler issued the following famous summons:  
"In accordance with Article 36 of the Constitution (1873) of the Supreme Council referring to "District Meetings" I hereby summon you to attend a "Council of Deliberation" to be held at the Asylum of Burlington Commandery #2 K.T. on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the Shebat, A.M. 5635, corresponding to Tuesday, January 26, 1875, at ten o'clock AM to take into consideration all such matters as pertain to the welfare of the Rite in this jurisdiction."

Thus it was that our beloved Rite took seed and grew upon our native soil. May we continue to honor these great men who brought to light our Rite and labored long that we might enjoy the fruits of their industry.

Eric Ginette, 33°