



Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard



July-August 2006

ORIENT OF LOUISIANA

Volume 8 Issue 4

Scottish Rite

PERSISTENCE-PRESS ON

Enlightenment Lite

by Larry C. Wade, MD-32°

Valley of Baton Rouge



Claudius Ptolemy (85-165)

The 18th-century intellectual movement known as “The Enlightenment” is very important to Freemasonry. All Freemasons need to have a good understanding of The Enlightenment. First, it is necessary to know what the world was like before The Enlightenment.

In pre-Enlightenment Europe, “The Divine Right of Kings” was taken for granted. Granting divine rights to Kings, The Church – as God’s authority on Earth – largely exercised dominion over kings. It is not an exaggeration to say that prior to The Enlightenment, Anglicans notwithstanding, Europe was Roman Catholic. So, The Church ruled The State, and The Church and The State ruled everyone else.

The earliest universities in Europe grew out of Church schools, whose purpose had been to teach Church clerics. Most people could not read or write, because most people, it was thought, didn’t need to read or write (see text box). Church clerics, on the other hand, had to be educated, to read ancient books, copy them, and explain to kings and queens what had been written by such sages as Aristotle, Ptolemy, Boethius, Galen, and others.

During the second century a.d., the Greek astronomer **Ptolemy** published *Almagest*, a thirteen-volume report on astronomy. Ptolemy advocated Aristotle’s “Geocentric” theory, in which we on Earth were said to be at the center of the universe, with the

It is important to note that **Alfred the Great**, King of Wessex (849-899), was a most notable exception to the principle of low levels of lay literacy. King Alfred read books, some of which were about military strategy. It was his literacy, then, that enabled him, in the last quarter of the 9th century, to repel the invading Danes (who conquered all of England outside Alfred’s Wessex) and then to begin the strategic effort to drive them back to Denmark, whence they had come. Upon the death of Alfred, his noble task was taken up by his son, **Edward the Elder**.

Edward drove the Danes out of all of England south of the Humber River. Another way of saying that is that at the time of Edward’s demise, the Danes remained only in “Northumberland”, or “Northumbria”.

Edward’s son was **Athelstan**. The honor of being The First King of All England fell to Athelstan, for it was he who in 924 a.d. completed Alfred’s dream of driving the Danes out of all of England.

It was King Athelstan, of course, who in 926 convened all the builders (Masons) of England in the city of **York**, as is recorded in “The Regius Manuscript”. Some say that this was the beginning of organized Masonry in England.

The grandfather, Alfred, has the honor of being the only English King to ever be dubbed, “The Great”. Thus, “Alfred the Great”.

Moon and the planets inscribing perfectly circular orbits around us.

It is important to note that “the center of the universe” was not considered to be a privileged position. Quite the opposite, in fact — this was thought of as the place **farthest removed from God**.

Heaven was up there, in the celestial realm beyond the Moon, down here only cold and lonely Earth. Lighter, non-substantial things were considered good and in some cases (your favorite brandy, for example) were even called “spirits”, because they naturally tend to abandon their substantial form and assume a non-substantial form, ascending, as it were, toward Heaven.

Astronomy — the study of those things “up there” beyond the Moon — was considered to be worthy; geology — the study of sub-lunar reality — was not. Celestial was good; terrestrial bad. Non-corporeal (not having a body) good; corporeal (bodily) bad. Flame was regarded as virtuous, because not only does it lack substance and not only is it so light that it actually rises — it also converts that which has substance (and thus tends to fall to Earth) into that which lacks substance (and rises away from Earth). (To be burned at the stake was to have one’s corporeal substance rendered non-corporeal. Who could ask for more?)

Above all, Truth was never to be found by the direct study of Nature. Truth, it was held, resided only in the books of wise men — men like Aristotle, Ptolemy, Boethius, Galen, and Thomas

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Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard

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Allegiance

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Orient of Louisiana, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America (Mother Supreme Council of the World) whose See is at Charleston in the State of South Carolina, and House of the Temple, Washington, D.C., of which

III. Ronald A. Seale, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander
and

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Orient of Louisiana

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Personal Representative for Valley of Monroe

M.W. Clayton J. Borne, III 32° KCCH

Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana

Lost or Destroyed Patents

If your Patent was lost, damaged or destroyed during the hurricanes, please contact your Valley Secretary. The Secretaries will gladly replace your AASR documents.



More Masonic Trivia

Operative Lodge #150 in Aberdeen, Scotland is unusual in that it is only open to operative stonemasons.

Dr. Edward Jenner, in 1789 discovered the vaccination process against smallpox. He was worshipful master of Faith and Friendship Lodge #270 in Berkeley, England at the time.

In July 1863, Confederate raiders rode into Versailles, Indiana, capturing the local militia and stealing the county treasury. The next day, General John Morgan (CSA), learned that his men had also made off with the jewels of the local lodge. They were returned the following day. Morgan was from Daviess Lodge #22, Lexington, Kentucky.

Wheelock Commandery No. 5 in Texas had all 55 of its members killed serving in the Confederate Army. The Commandery ceased to exist.

Missouri's first Confederate Capitol was the Masonic Building in Neosho, Missouri. From here the legislature passed the Act of Secession.

USA General Thomas Benton, also Grand Master of Iowa, ordered federal troops to protect Albert Pike's home and prevent the library from being burned, when his troops took Little Rock, Arkansas.

July 2, 1751, Ferdinand VI of Spain issued an edict against Freemasonry. Father Jose Torrubia secured a special dispensation from the Pope, joined a lodge, secured the names of its members, and proceeded to have them arrested. Hundreds were arrested, persecuted, and imprisoned.

continued next column

When Mussolini gained control of Italy, Masonic lodges were declared illegal and the Grand Master was arrested, tried, and imprisoned, where he died.

Mussolini also ordered all Masonic references removed, including the emblems on the base of Garibaldi's monument in Rome. After the restoration of the republic, fascist emblems were removed and the Masonic emblems restored.

In Fascist Spain under Franco, it was a crime to be a freemason. Masons convicted had to serve prison terms equal in years to the number of Masonic degrees possessed. Master Mason = 3 years.

Winnedumah Lodge #287 of Bishop, California holds its meetings at 270 feet below sea level, the lowest lodge in North America.

In 1954 Martin's Station Lodge No. 188 of Virginia was opened 952 feet below the surface of Cumberland Mountain in Cudjo's Cave, which lies between Cumberland Gap, Tennessee and Middleburo, Kentucky. 345 Masons were present and a MM degree was conferred.

Chicago, Illinois has three American Legion Posts whose memberships are entirely Masonic.



Calendar of Events

Supreme Council

RiteCare Conference Oct 29-30
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Dallas

Orient

Conference of the Orient Oct 27-28
Lake Charles

Reunions

New Orleans Oct 14
Shreveport Sept 23-24
Baton Rouge Oct 7
Lake Charles Sept 16-17
Monroe Oct 21

Special Events

Patsy Cline/Jim Reeves Tribute

Shreveport Oct 5
Monroe Oct 6
New Orleans Oct 7

Branson Trip

New Orleans Nov 2-6
pick up at Baton Rouge and Monroe available

The Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation

Foundation Scholarships

The following Speech and Language scholarships have been awarded to Graduate students working toward a master's degree in Speech Pathology. The \$500 awards are for the Summer 2006 semester.

Shreveport

Emily B Rampmaier
Stacy A Wurzberger

Monroe

Christine E LaGarde
Rachel L Book



Memorials

The Foundation continues to be blessed with donations, from members and their families, honoring the memory of a departed loved one or friend.

In Memory of Elizabeth "Diddy" Franklin

Beryl and Nancy Franklin

In Memory of Ethel L. "Tommie" Blair

Beryl and Nancy Franklin

In Memory of E. A. Porter

Beryl and Nancy Franklin



2006-2007 Foundation Elected Members

James H. Morgan	Baton Rouge
C. Lenton Sartain	Baton Rouge
Harry C. Northrop III	Lake Charles
J.F. "Jeff" Webb	Lake Charles
Woody D. Bilyeu	Monroe
Robert C. Joyner	Monroe
Charles L. McCarty	New Orleans
Lloyd A. Hebert	New Orleans
Gary L. Gribble	Shreveport
Robert L Laborde	Shreveport

Appointed Members

Lloyd G. Pence	Baton Rouge
Richard B. Smith	Lake Charles
Jay W. Owensby	New Orleans
John L. Atkinson	Shreveport

Speech and Hearing Scholarship Committee

B. J. Guillot	Baton Rouge
Richard B. Smith	Lake Charles
Harry E. Moseley	Monroe
C. E. "Neil" Gorman	New Orleans
John L. Atkinson	Shreveport

Chairman

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Richard B. Smith	Lake Charles
Chairman	
James E. Grady	Baton Rouge
Neil R. Crane, PGM	Lake Charles
C. E. "Neil" Gorman	New Orleans
E. Louis McGee	Shreveport

Nominating Committee

Lloyd G. Pence	Baton Rouge
I. C. Turnley, PGM	Monroe

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Jay B. McCallum	Monroe
Steven R. Plotkin	New Orleans
Chairman	

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Ian E. James	Baton Rouge
John L. Bilisoly	Baton Rouge
Richard B. Smith	Lake Charles
Chairman	
J. E. "Jeff" Webb	Lake Charles
Charles L. McCarty	New Orleans
Charles H. Penn III, PGM	Monroe
Woody D. Bilyeu	Monroe
Ballard L. Smith, PGM	Shreveport
H. Edward Durham	Shreveport

Foundation Officers

John L. Atkinson	President
James H. Morgan, III	Vice President
Ballard L Smith PGM	Vice President
Lloyd G. Pence	Secretary
E. Louis McGee	Treasurer

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William J. Mollere
Chairman of the Board and President of the Corporation
Board Members
Harry E. Moseley
William H. Brown, PGM
Dr. I. C. Turnley, PGM
Charles K. Watts
Neil R. Crane, PGM



Thank You

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

I would like to thank you so much for the opportunity to work with you for the past two semesters. It has been such a joy working together with the Scottish Rite to help the children we have been seeing. I appreciate all the support that Mr. Stelly and the others have offered to me, especially this semester. I have truly enjoyed working with all of you with the Scottish Rite.

I am also writing in order to officially relinquish my scholarship for the upcoming semester. I know that Mrs. Holly Damico will work diligently to find another student who will be able to work with you next year to provide services for the children.

Again, I would like to thank you for the opportunities you have afforded me.

Sincerely,

Amy N. Ballard

Amy N. Ballard



*Ricks Martin Bowles, 32° KCCH
Valley of Baton Rouge*

Reflections On The Degree ELU OF THE NINE The Ninth Degree

Freemasonry has long proclaimed itself to be the “Noble Science.” In his Foreword to the 1980 reprint of Walter Wilmschurst’s, *The Meaning Of Masonry*, Allan Boudreau, Ph.D., the Curator and Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, stated that, “Freemasonry is based on the three great principles: brotherly love, relief, and truth. Over the years, brotherly love and relief have been so stressed that the Craft is in serious danger of becoming a social and charitable organization. Truth, the most difficult principle to recognize and thus the most difficult to achieve, has long been neglected.”

The philosophical teachings of the Degree entitled Elu Of The Nine refer to education and ignorance, freedom, the law of cause and effect applied to evil, and Gnosticism or knowledge. These are worthy topics for study for the Scottish Rite which we often proclaim to be, “The College of Freemasonry.” Or, in our more recent delusions, “The University of Freemasonry.” That’s Freemasonry... the “Noble Science”.

This 9th Degree should teach us to pursue learning and begin to vanquish ignorance in ourselves and in our brothers. One of the first things that a candidate who has been raised in the York Rite tradition, as most of us have been, should notice in this degree is that there is something familiar happening. I noticed this and was a little surprised that there were Craftsmen still pursuing three ruffians. But, I had been told that all I had to do to be a Thirty-second Degree Mason was to pay my fees, sit still, and listen for four days. Therefore, by the second day, I had completely forgotten what had gone on in the 9th and 10th Degrees. I remained contentedly ignorant for the next fourteen years!

What is wrong with that? There are many Masons, because of family conflicts, business demands, whatever reason, who never pursue the studies that are available beyond the three degrees of Blue Lodge Freemasonry and the treasure trove of the twenty-nine

Scottish Rite degrees, and they are deemed “Good Masons” by many of their Brothers as, I have been told, was I.

A science, noble or otherwise, must be studied and applied to have value. Without study and application, science is simply another empty and useless theory. Therefore my fourteen-year neglect made my Freemasonry pretty much empty and useless. Worse than that, my neglect deprived who knows how many young Freemasons of the benefit of my sharing what I might have learned during that time.

In other words, through my failure to do as I had promised, to “Improve myself in Masonry,” I had failed in my obligation to myself, my God, You my Brothers, and to those young candidates and Masons who needed my “mouth to ear” teaching, counsel, and inspiration to study and apply the “Noble Science” themselves. I owe an apology to every one of those young Masons for I let them down.

Now, having wallowed in my own guilt, and having involved my reader in it, I have to say that my failures probably have not affected Freemasonry that much... if at all. Except that my actions, or lack of same, have occurred, and continue to occur, throughout our Craft at the personal, Lodge, Grand Lodge, and Concordant Body level across North America.

Brothers, we make lofty claims and high promises to our prospective candidates to enhance their study and application of the “Noble Science” pre and post Blue Lodge Initiation, Passing, and Raising. Then we do nothing past the learning of Blue Lodge Catechism. Some Lodges require precious little of that.

We are losing membership every year at an alarming rate. Not only are we losing the respect of our communities, most of the folks in our communities don’t even know who we are, and most of those who do had to learn it from a movie. A movie! We try to make it easier to become a Mason with one-day classes and, shall I say, “less demanding ritual” and we promote and promise. And still we lose.

When are we going to learn that the answer is not to “dumb it down” and make it easier? The answer is to demand more of ourselves and our candidates. We must banish contented ignorance from our presence and from our order. Then, and only then, can we truly proclaim ourselves to be the “Noble Science.”



Valley of New Orleans News

The Oldest Scottish Rite Valley in the World - Chartered April 7, 1811
 Albert Pike was Grand Commander of Grand Consistory of Louisiana
 From April 1857-January 1859
 Meets on the first Wednesday of every month



New Orleans Scottish Rite Temple

619-621 Carondelet Street
 New Orleans, LA 70130-3503
 Secretary: Lloyd A. Hebert, 33°
 Tel: 504-522-3789 Fax: 504-527-5892
 Email: nosrt@bellsouth.net
 WebSite: www.nolascottishrite.com

**Fall Reunion
 October 14**

Calendar of Events-2006

- Wednesday, July 5th**
Annual 4th of July Music & Hots Dogs
- Wednesday, August 2nd**
Guest Chef
- Wednesday, September 6th**
Feast of Tishri - Reobligation Night
- Wednesday, October 4th**
Guest Cajun Chef
- Fall Reunion October 14th**
- Wednesday, November 1st**
New Guest Chef
- Branson Trip November 2-6**
- Wednesday, December 6th**
Annual Christmas Music Program
- Knights of St. Andrew**
Meeting the 3rd Monday of each Month



Valley News

On May 3, 2006, the Valley of New Orleans welcomed the Brothers of Bayou Fellowship Lodge who prepared a gourmet seafood dinner for all Scottish Rite brethren. The meal included special seafood fritters that only real Cajuns know how to prepare. The seafood was devoured with great zeal and little was left. Our Venerable Master and the other brethren thanked the Brothers of Bayou Fellowship Lodge for the excellent meal and their dedication to the Scottish Rite. Thereafter, all bodies opened, and, Bro. Marc H. Conrad, 32°, KSA presented a lecture on "Pythagoras and the Scottish Rite Degrees."

On Saturday, May 20, 2006, the New Orleans Valley celebrated its annual Spring Reunion. After breakfast, the petitioning brothers were welcomed by Ill. Bro. Bill Mollere, 33° who congratulated all of the brothers for choosing the Scottish Rite. The beautiful esoteric work, moral lessons, and philosophical truths displayed by each degree conferred upon our newest brothers inspired all who were in attendance. The Valley wants to congratulate our newest Scottish Rite Brethren. The Valley also wants to thank all of those brothers who labored tirelessly on behalf of the Reunion (you know who you are). It was a great success!

On June 7, 2006, the Valley of New Orleans dined upon a "Pot-Luck" supper prepared by the generous donations of the brethren attending. Each brother (or his wife) presented their best dishes for the feast. It was too difficult to choose the best dish! Thank you to all who participated. After the meal, the Valley opened all bodies and comments were given for the good-of-the-order.



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren, I would like to let every brother know about a Masonic club that brings me great joy every third Friday of

the month. I am a member and officer in the "Greater New Orleans HighTwelve Club." We meet as a group at Andrea's Restaurant in Metairie and other locations once every month to enjoy a fine gourmet meal and listen to a guest speaker. Guest speakers are usually prominent community leaders, captains of industry, judges, lawyers, or anyone else who has a positive message. This year we heard lectures from the Insurance Commissioner of Louisiana, a Louisiana Fifth Circuit Appellate Judge, and other great speakers. To find out how to attend, please give me a call. Wives, friends, and guests are always invited to attend.

*Fraternally
 Lloyd A. Hebert, 33° Secretary*



Knightsly News

The Knights of St. Andrew have obtained an embroidered logo for use on polo shirts and will be developing a patch for use on our berets. Plans are underway to purchase our plaque that will list Past-Venerable Masters of the Order and Honorary Knights Chevalier. The Knights are still raising money for their 29th degree regalia and the Valley. Any contributions would be most appreciated. If you have any kilts or other Scottish Highlander regalia that you would like to donate, the Knights would be glad to receive it. The Knights are also look-

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In Memoriam

- John Eric Bethancourt
- Asa Paul DuBois
- Stanley Phelps Koltun
- Daniel John Perrin
- August Frederick Rabeneck
- Zach Thomas Stanborough
- Joseph Albert Torlage
- Johnny George Wernersson

Valley of Shreveport News

Chartered October 26, 1913

Meets on the second Tuesday of every month



Shreveport Scottish Rite Temple

725 Cotton Street

Shreveport, LA 71101-9713

Secretary: John L. Atkinson, 33°

Tel: 318-221-9713 Fax: 318-226-0843

Email: sratkinson@bellsouth.net

Web: www.shreveportscottishrite.com

Fall Reunion - September 22 & 23
Give a Living Legacy! Donate to
the Shreveport Scottish Rite
Foundation

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, July 11th

Dinner with Ladies: 6:00 PM
 Open Meeting & Program 6:30 PM

Tuesday, August 8th

Dinner with Ladies: 6:00 PM
 Regular Meeting 6:30 PM

Note: Advisory Conference meets at 5:00 P.M. before each meeting.

Knights of St. Andrew

Meeting the first Tuesday of each month.



**Speech and Language Center
 Featured**

With record attendance in May for an open meeting, our Shreveport Scottish Rite Speech and Language Center held center stage for the evening's program. Ninety three (93) members, wives, visitors and guests gathered for another excellent dinner experience provided by Lisa Hollier and her kitchen staff.

continued next column

The program continued in the theater with the Sandra Hays, PhD and Coordinator for the Center explaining the goals and objectives of our Rite Care program. Sandra walked the audience through the initial application and selection, evaluation and testing, recommendations for treatment and therapy curriculum our graduate students provide. Many of those in attendance were hearing this information for the first time. Sandra explained that the Center has impacted the community in many areas. The children and families receiving the benefits are only one aspect and usually the only one that comes to mind. However, she told of the benefits to our graduate students both financially and the clinical experience through our Scholarship Program. Our philanthropy is very much appreciated and well known in the health science field.

Dr. Hays summoned one of our star pupils and turned the microphone and evening over to him. Three year old Harold performed his repertoire of songs and nursery rhymes to the delight of everyone. If you weren't able to attend, you should know that your membership as a Scottish Rite Mason and financial support to the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation is a precious gift that shined brightly that evening. Thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason!

*John L. Atkinson, 33°
 General Secretary*



Coordinator Sandra Hays and Master Harold

Knighly News

The Shreveport Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew had an awesome participation with the Spring Reunion. We Tiled the Valley, manned the registration desk & sold merchandise all weekend long. We greeted and assisted brethren at the door and stairs. We worked with the new candidates throughout the entire weekend, gave tours, and introductions to all present. We even snuck in to participate in as many degrees as possible. Many compliments were handed out on our appearance and participation. The Kilts and Tartans were everywhere during the Reunion.

Our Chapter is growing. We expect to conduct our first Squirring ceremonies in July 2006. Also, we are looking into having a Chapter gathering of all Chapters in Louisiana at the next Annual Grand Lodge Conference. Hopefully we can make this happen. It would be nice to see representatives from all Chapters within the state (Regaled) to share ideas and take pictures. At our last Chapter Meeting, we had the pleasure of visiting the filming across the street and being introduced to Kevin Costner. It was a treat for us.

Any 32nd Degree "Black Hat" Mason of the Shreveport Valley interested in the Knights of St. Andrew can contact John Ayer, Knight Commander at (318) 773-5209.

*Faithful in Service
 John Ayer
 Knight Commander*



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IN MEMORIAM

- Albert Doran Aberson, 32° KCCH
 Winston-Salem, NC
- Charles Cleborn Betterton, 32°
 Shreveport
- Carl Everett Chellette, 32°
 Shreveport
- Ingram Russell Rowzee, 32°
 Leesville

Valley of Lake Charles News

Chartered October 16, 1923

Meets on the third Wednesday of every month



Lake Charles Masonic Temple
 717 Hodges Street
 Lake Charles, LA 70601
 Secretary: Charles G. Callahan, 33°
 Tel: 337-436-1676 Fax: 337-436-1673
 Email: lscotti@structurex.net

**2006 Membership Dues are payable
 and past due on January 1st 2006**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-2006

Wednesday, July 19th

Louis Ackal-Story Telling

Wednesday, August 16th

Open Meeting with Program

Fall Reunion, September 16-17

Wednesday, September 20th

Past Venerable Masters Night

Wednesday, October 18th

Open Meeting with Program

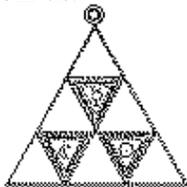
Wednesday, November 15th

Eastern Star and Birthdays

Wednesday, December 20th

Christmas Program

Note: The last Friday of every month, through October, is Back Door Lunch. Bros Allen Fruge, Ray Moses and Jerry Manuel prepare a delicious meal so come and join us.



Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.

Aristotle

2006 Officers

Lodge of Perfection:

Venerable Master: Herrin J. Ducote, 33°
Senior Warden: Harold Young
Junior Warden: Jimmy Leger

Chapter Rose Croix:

Wise Master: R. D. Verret
Senior Warden: Daryl Johnson
Junior Warden: Ken Michel

Council of Kadosh:

Commander: Bill Bailey
1st Lt. Commander: Allen Fruge
2nd Lt. Commander: Archie Hickman

Consistory:

Master of Kadosh: Al Blanchi
Prior: John Butterick
Preceptor: Cliff Heath

Treasurer to All Bodies:

Clarence Callahan

16th meeting. They have always been excellent hosts so join us for the trip.

The Family Day for the Lake Charles Valley will be Saturday, October 28th at Habbi Temple beginning at 10 am. The Orient's bi-annual Leadership Conference is scheduled the same day. Ill William J Mollere-33° Deputy in Louisiana and all of the Personal Representatives will be in attendance.

We have received ninety (90) candidates for the American Patriotism Award and submissions continue to come in daily.

Thank you for supporting the Lake Charles Valley.

Fraternally,
 Herrin J. Ducote, 33°
 Venerable Master



Venerable Master's Message

Our Spring Reunion was a great success, although we discovered additional Hurricane damage that had destroyed our stage backdrops. The damage did not hamper the spirits of our members and necessity was definitely the mother of invention!

I want to welcome and introduce our newest members. Melvin E Addison III, Joseph N Barron, Donald J Billings, Clairiste H Byles Jr, John B Cole, James H Dickerson, Joseph P Doucet Jr, Thomas D Ducote, David A Gibson, Vernon Goings Jr, Brian B Johnston, John E Jones, Michael L Laurence, John D McGraw and Brian K Myers are our newest Masters of the Royal Secret. Brethren, introduce yourself to these new Thirty Second Degree Masons and make them feel welcome.

We will move our Charter to Harmony Lodge #410 in Eunice for our August

Demolay Honors

During our Stated meeting in February, Bro Warren Cox 32° received the Demolay Honorary Legion of Honor award. Ill. John Belanger 33° conferred this honor in a most impressive manner. Congratulations Bro Cox on this high honor and thank you for the many years of service to Demolay and Masonry.



L:R John Belanger 33°, Warren Cox 32° and Richard B Smith 33° & Personal Representative
 continued on page 10

IN MEMORIAM

- Charles C Heath Sr., 32°
- Donald L Hebert, 32°
- Algia J Johnson, 32°
- Jesse M Knowles, 33°
- Earl H McClendon, 32°
- Earl C O'Quinn, 32°
- Frederick C Rau, 32° KCCH
- Vernon L Robinson, 32°

Valley of Baton Rouge News

Chartered October 20, 1955

Meets on the second Monday of every month



Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Temple
 14598 Florida Boulevard
 Baton Rouge, LA 70819
 Secretary: Lloyd G. Pence, 33°
 Tel: 225-275-0668 Fax: 225-273-0750
 Email: BRSR@bellsouth.net

Fall Reunion - October 7th

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday July 10th

Dinner with the Ladies 6:30 PM
 Regular Stated Meeting 7:30 PM
 Masonic Education

Monday August 14th

Dinner with the Ladies 6:30 PM
 Meeting 7:30 PM
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Manheim
Knights of St. Andrew
 Meets the 4th Monday of every month.
 Refreshment: 6:30 PM
 Meeting 7:00 PM



Embree K Easterly, Seth E Keener, Jr., M: W: Clayton J BorneIII-GM, Wiley S Noble and Amos P Smith at the meeting honoring our 50 Year Members

Venerable Master's Message

The Baton Rouge Valley had a very successful reunion and we welcome each New Master of the Royal Secret and encourage one and all to attend our monthly meetings held on the second Monday of each Month at 7:30 PM.

In May we honored our new Fifty-Year Members and as an extra treat our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of LA Clayton J. Borne, III GM was our Guest Speaker.

It was a real pleasure meeting my Brothers who have been around for so long, long before I even thought of becoming a member of the Craft. Try and reach out and ask the Office for the names and numbers of Brothers that may need a ride to a meeting or to the grocery, etc. please.

In July we will have Masonic Education so all those Brothers that feel we don't teach enough come on out and see what you think. I bet you learn something.

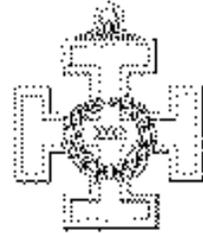
In August our guest speaker will be a renowned forensic anthropologist. Dr. Mary Manheim is on the faculty of LSU in Baton Rouge.

In closing we have a very ambitious reunion scheduled for October 7th. We are all very excited about it and hope you will want to find out more about it and ask how you can help out. We can never have too much help when it comes to a Reunion.

*James E Grady, 32° KCCH
 Venerable Master*



*Front Row L:R William L Brumfield, Henry T Wilson, Donald R Smith and Turhan Ak
 Second Row: Charles D Smith, Louis P Bartus, Shawn C Crump, Joe A Bardwell and Erol Kozdereli
 Back Row: Erroll Villnerve and Terry W Wilson*



Personal Representative Message

When you receive this Trestleboard, we will have six months left in the year 2006. Although the first six months in the Baton Rouge Valley have been eventful and encouraging, the coming six months will be even more exciting. On October 7th we will hold the 100th reunion of the Baton Rouge Valley and a great reunion is planned. The goals of 100 new members at the 100th reunion and bringing back members from each of the first 100 reunions are both attainable, but we will need everyone's help. At our spring reunion in April, members were setting on the sidelines watching the degrees as 12 new Masters of the Royal Secret received their degrees. It was a joy to see members standing around talking in the lobby and annex. This is part of our reunion experience and we need to embrace it.

In September we will have a presentation of the Declaration of Independence, but not in costumes. We want the membership to see our first presentation before we go to the schools, churches and other organizations to present this program. Our Masonic ancestors were key participants in the formation of this great country and we need to pay homage to them and this great document.

continued on page 10

In Memoriam

- Ford Leon Baker, Jr. 32°
- Hollis Raymond Foster, 32°
- Frank Alton McGraw, 32°
- James David Melton, 32°
- Dewey Van O'Mire, 32°
- James Arlin Tippit, 32°

Valley of Monroe News

Chartered November 13, 1971

Meets on the first Thursday of every month



Monroe Scottish Rite Temple
 205 University Avenue
 Monroe, LA 71203-3701
 Secretary: Robert Joyner, 33°
 Tel: 318-343-6388 Fax: 318-343-5492
 Email: msrb33@bellsouth.net

Fall Reunion October 21st

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 6th	
Dinner with Ladies	6:00 PM
Meeting & Program	7:00 PM
Thursday, August 3rd	
Dinner with the Ladies	6:00 PM
Meeting & Program	7:00 PM
Thursday, September 7th	
Dinner with Ladies	6:00 PM
Meeting & Program	7:00 PM



The true lover of knowledge naturally strives for truth, and is not content with common opinion, but soars with undimmed and unwearied passion till he grasps the essential nature of things.
 Plato

Living Will

My better half and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

So, she got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all my beer.

*From: Keystone Comments
 Keystone High Twelve Club #376*

The Spring Reunion

The Monroe Bodies held their Spring Reunion on April 29, 2006. As this was a one day Reunion, the following degrees were presented to a class of nine (9) Candidates: 4th, 5th, 6th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 30th, 31st, and 32nd for a total of ten (10) degrees instead of just the five obligatory degrees. The new Masters of the Royal Secret are: Chance B. Brasiel; William N. Foust, Sr.; Thomas L. Green; Wilford C. Hatten, Sr.; David E. McGee; Bruce D. Osbon; Darren S. Peterson; Matthew S. Walton; and Delbert T. Wilbanks. Welcome to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry my Brethren. We trust that you will in your search for more Light in Masonry, get actively involved in the Scottish Rite by taking part in the degrees as a member of the Cast or assisting as a member of the Stage Crew, or, if you have other talents, we can always use additional help in various facets of the Rite. Again we welcome you and would like to reiterate the old adage "you get out of Masonry, what you put into it." At the May 4, 2006 meeting of the Monroe Bodies, Ill: Sirs Woody Bilyeu and Clifford Whitehead presented black caps to those of the April Class who were in attendance. They were: Chance Brandon Brasiel, Darron Sean Peterson, Wilford Courtney Hatten and Matthew Sidney Walton.



L:R Clifford D Whitehead-33°, Wilford Courtney Hatten Jr.-32°, Chance Brandon Brasiel-32°, Matthew Sidney Walton-32°, Darron Sean Peterson-32° and Woody D. Bilyeu-33° Personal Representative



July 4th Independence Day

Have you ever stopped, really stopped, to consider the significance and the true meaning of this important day that we celebrate each year? This day is so much more than an excuse to shoot fireworks, get a day off from work and have a big meal or cook out on the grill. We have all appreciated the advantages of celebrating the 4th of July but perhaps we have been so carried away with the Festivities that we neglected to stop and reflect on what it all implies.

As Scottish Rite Masons we have taken degrees that taught Patriotism along with tolerance, brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. At this time of year when the Fourth of July rolls around, let us all remember the sacrifices that our Founding Fathers made when they signed their names on a piece of paper that would rock the throne of England as well as arouse a deep feeling of pride from other countries who realized that this new Republic was being established in the name of Freedom, Liberty, Fraternity (Brotherhood) and, Equality. When our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, they were risking everything they had been striving for: Life, Liberty and, the Pursuit of Happiness, yet they were willing to do this because they believed in the principles that this fledgling Country was attempting to establish. Think about this and be extremely thankful for all of our Blessings. You might also give a little prayer of thanks to those who made the Supreme Sacrifice and those that were fortunate enough to return from their active defense of our Freedoms.



continued on page 10

IN MEMORIAM
 Ted Woodrow Jones, 32°
 Oran C Lewis, 32°
 Errett A Porter Jr., 32°

Shreveport Valley News
continued from page 6:

Monroe Valley News continued:

Spring Reunion

Please welcome our newest members and Knights of the Royal Secret that participated in the Spring reunion. Congratulations to Larry Carl Blair Sr., Johnny Clark Byrd, Milton Perry Cameron III, Jason McLaughlin, Stephen Mead and Joseph Eugene Moore.



Fall Reunion

On October 21st, 2006, the Monroe Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite will hold its Seventy-fifth Reunion! Just think, this is our Platinum Reunion! The Bodies have been conducting these sessions since December 6, 1970. An additional bit of history of the Monroe Valley is to be found elsewhere in this report of the Monroe Valley. Now is the time to start inviting your Blue Lodge brethren to join us is their search for more Masonic Light. Discuss the procedure (no goat riding) as well as the meetings on the first Thursday of each Month where their wives or girlfriends (but not both) may join them for a meal and enjoy an interesting program together. Start now and see how many petitions you can secure before October 21st! It may, if you get enough petitions, allow for a remission of dues. Just think! There are very few of us that get to celebrate a 75th Anniversary of anything (other than our birthday) so, lets make it a big class to help us celebrate this important milestone. Visit your Blue Lodge and talk up Scottish Rite! Your enthusiasm about the Rite is contagious and when a Brother sees how much you care about and, appreciate the Light received in the advanced degrees, he will want to become as enlightened as you. Tell him about it! Encourage the new Masters of the Royal Secret to get involved in the activities of the Temple...there are lots of places where his talents would be helpful and contribute to a more active Scottish Rite. In this edition of the Trestleboard, you will find an envelope with which to return your donation. This donation will go to the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation and allow you to be an active supporter of the five "Rite Care" Centers in Louisiana. Let us all fit the Category of "Louisiana Scottish Rite Masons Helping Children Communicate".

Fraternally,
Beryl C. Franklin, Ph.D., 33°



Baton Rouge Valley News-Personal Rep Message
continued from page 8:

I have recently had the experience of calling members who have been delinquent in paying their dues. It is truly sad to hear many of these members say that we are not giving them anything to want to come to the meetings and be a member of this great fraternity. It is sad that we have failed these members and we need your help to try to bring them back. Make suggestions to your valley officers and press them to make your Scottish Rite experience an enjoyable and learning one. It is easy to remain silent and then complain, but it takes courage to speak out and institute change. It is also unfortunate, but some members advise they can't pay their dues because they are financially unable. We are obligated to help these members. We can't let them go and therefore we have started our Big Brother Program to aid them. This fund will pay members dues that are in need. If you can help, do so, and I'm sure you will be blessed. Each of you remembers the "Demand Lecture" in the Entered Apprentice Degree when you had nothing and a brother came to your relief and the "Charity Lecture" in the Master Mason Degree when you were told that whatever good you do in life is but duty done.

I thank each of you for all you do and may God bless you.

Fraternally,
Robert J. Hutchinson., 33°



Lake Charles Valley News
continued from page 7:

Featured Speakers Continued

Our May speaker was Richard Fox, 32° and Venerable Master of our Knights of St. Andrew Chapter. His professional training and business involves traffic accident reconstruction. He was formerly with the Louisiana State Police and now is in business for himself. Richard has computer programs and other tools available that help determine speed and other factors based on tire marks and distances before and after an impact.

Fraternally,
John C. Butterick., 32°



Richard Fox 32° KStA

JROTC Awards

The Shreveport Scottish Rite Bodies furnished the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry JROTC Medals to twenty-six US Army and USAF JROTC Units and three ROTC Medals to the USAF ROTC Units. To be eligible for these awards the cadets must:

1. Contributed the most among cadets on campus to encourage and demonstrate Americanism, by deeds or conduct, during participation extra curricular activities or community projects.
2. Have demonstrated academic excellence, being in the top of his or her class.
3. Have demonstrated a potential for outstanding leadership by exhibiting qualities of dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship and patriotism.
4. Not previously received this Award.

The purpose of the award is to recognize an outstanding Junior or Senior Cadet in JROTC or ROTC in the second of a three year program or third year of a four year program. Ill. Larry B Ledbetter Sr.-33° serves as Chairman of this program.

Americanism and Patriotism Awards

The four Bodies of the Valley of Shreveport presented 118 framed Americanism and Patriotism Certificates, with medallions in our area high schools. The parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine and Webster were represented. Ill. Clyde Strout-32° KCCH proudly serves as Chairman for this program.



New Orleans Valley News

Knights of St. Andrew continued:

ing for a National Flag of Scotland to add to their display.



Notable Upcoming Events

Our stated July 5, 2006 meeting is always well attended because of the traditional concert. Please come express your patriotism in this Post-4th-of-July celebration—it will include many of your favorite patriotic and military music selections renewing your zeal for our great Country and those freemasons who sacrificed to preserve the liberties that we now enjoy. Hot Dogs and Apple Pie will be served prior to the concert. Perhaps, someone will bring ice cream (hint, hint)?

On August 2, 2006, the Valley will open all regular bodies and a guest chef will provide the meal. This meeting would be an excellent time to share your summer vacation stories with your brethren. A guest speaker may also present a special lecture on a timely esoteric topic important to all freemasons.

The Valley will shortly announce its major fundraising event for 2006. Discussions and plans are underway to hold an October 2006 musical concert in our historical auditorium. Your correspondent looks forward to providing you with more information when it becomes available. Rumors suggest that the night's entertainment will include famous entertainers from Branson, Missouri.



From Your Correspondent

I was honored to have participated in the 7th & 14th Degrees for our annual Spring Reunion. This was one of the most impressive reunions that I have attended. I look forward to meeting our newest brethren in the Valley. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the Scottish Rite or if you would like to see something published in the Trestleboard for the Valley of New Orleans.

Fiat Lux,

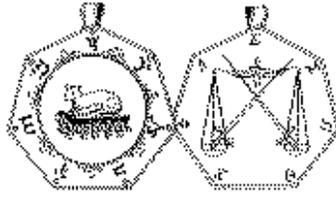
Marc H. Conrad, 32°, KSA.



continued next column

New Orleans Valley News

Knights of St. Andrew continued:



2006 Officers

Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection:

Venerable Master: Paul O. Langenbeck, 33°

Senior Warden: Henry F. Thibodaux, Jr., KCCH

Junior Warden: Ion Lazar, 32°, KSA

Pelican Chapter Rose Croix:

Wise Master: William C. Gray, 33°

Senior Warden: Clayton A. Wolfe, 32°, KSA

Junior Warden: Edward J. Branley, 32°, KSA

Eagle Council of Kadosh:

Commander: Frank DuTreil, 33°

1st Lt. Commander: Warren A. Hintz, Jr., KCCH

2nd Lt. Commander: Daryl G. Glorioso, 32°, KSA

New Orleans Consistory:

Master of Kadosh: Jay W. Owensby, KCCH, KSA

Prior: Marc H. Conrad, 32°, KSA

Preceptor: Guy T. Wilson, 32°, KSA

Treasurer to All Bodies:

John Z. Zollinger, III, 33°

Knights of St. Andrew:

Venerable Master: Ion Lazar, 32°, KSA

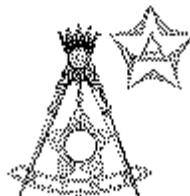
Senior Warden: Marc H. Conrad, 32°, KSA

Junior Warden: Guy T. Wilson, 32°, KSA



Perpetual Membership

The time is right now, why wait?! Our Valley offers a great way to support the mission and legacy of the Scottish Rite while at the same time providing a benefit to its members. Any brother with a current dues card may obtain a perpetual membership in our Valley. The cost is one lump sum of \$1,250.00. However, those desiring perpetual membership may also choose to participate in a payment plan while continuing to pay their dues. Please see Ill. Bro. Lloyd Hebert, 33° for more information and details. This would make a great gift for a Scottish Rite Brother.



CENTER NEWS

Shreveport Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

The Shreveport Scottish Rite Children's Speech and Hearing Clinic will resume for the 2006 Summer Semester on Wednesday, May 24th. Our two student-clinicians, Emily Rampmaier and Stacy Wurzbarger, will return, providing our clients with their caring and thorough therapy, under the guidance of Dr. Sandra P. Hayes. Since our inception in 1988, we have provided quality services to almost 900 clients.

Drop by on Mondays or Wednesdays, between 1:30 PM and 4:00 PM, and observe how you are truly improving the quality of life for these children.

*Thomas F Murphy, 33°
Center Administrator*

Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

The Baton Rouge Learning Center has recently finished the 2006 Spring Semester. We had 15 energetic children and two very motivated and intelligent graduate students from LSU, Ms. Elizabeth Trand and Ms. Sharon Breard.

Members of our Ladies Auxiliary made Easter Bunnies from towels and plastic eggs for the children as well as Dr. Mendoza and our clinicians. The bunnies were a hit with everyone.

We are now making plans and getting the Center ready for our Summer semester. There are 15 children currently enrolled. New applications will be evaluated and possibly held over for the Fall 2006 session.

*Joe Stroud, 33°
Center Administrator*



Dr. Mendoza receives her Easter bunny made by Mrs. Anna Vera Black. Anna Vera is a member of our Ladies Auxiliary and loves to make things for the Learning Center. She is a dedicated volunteer each semester.

Enlightenment Lite

continued from page 1:

Aquinas. The only accepted source of Truth was “**Received Authority**” — the Church and The State. After all, they owned the books.

Study of ideas was regarded as good; study of nature, bad. Rational debates about angels, about the pecking order in heaven, etc., were commonplace and were regarded as erudite. There was little interest in ministering to the mundane needs of common people for food, shelter, and – God forbid – comfort.

Aristotle’s writings on logic came to be known as “**The Organon**”. From the earliest times, the system of education common to all universities was referred to as “**Aristotelian Scholasticism**”, and the teaching of any body of knowledge other than “The Organon” was prohibited.

With Gutenberg’s 1450 invention of the printing press, the stage was set for books to be made available to a broader reading public, so that the luxury of literacy could spread to laymen. (But for Gutenberg, we’d be saying, “So few books; so much time.”)

In 1517, Martin Luther openly challenged the corruption of the Church, as manifested especially in its selling of “indulgences”. This challenge unleashed a firestorm and led to The Reformation. In France, alone, religious wars went on for more than 30 years. In The Netherlands, by comparison, under the guidance of Erasmus, the evolution of religious thought took a peaceful course.

Next time, the seeds of change.

The structural outline of this series of ten brief articles has imitated that of Prof. Alan Charles Kors, in his lecture series published by “The Teaching Company”, but much has been drawn, too, from the other “References” listed below.

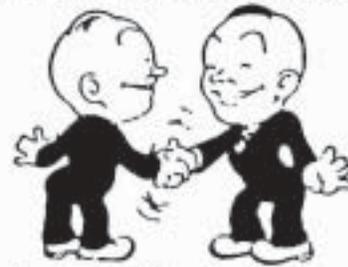
References for the Series of Ten Articles

1. Kors, Alan Charles, Ph.D. “The Birth of the Modern Mind: An Intellectual History of the 17th and 18th Century.” DVD digital recordings of 24 lectures of one-half hour each. The Teaching Company. 1998.
2. “The Software Toolworks Multimedia Encyclopedia.” Grolier, Inc. Ver. 1.5. 1992.
3. Machiavelli, Niccolo. The Discourses. Penguin Classics. New York, NY. 1983.
4. Till, Nicholas. Mozart and the Enlightenment. W. W. Norton & Co. New York. 1992.
5. Jacob, Margaret. Living the Enlightenment: Freemasonry and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Europe. Oxford University Press. New York. 1991.

Dr. Wade is a Past Master of St. James Lodge #47 in Baton Rouge, member of the Baton Rouge Valley and a regular contributor to the Trestleboard.



Someone is waiting for you



to invite him to become
a Scottish Rite Mason . . .
Don't disappoint him.

THE ENVELOPE

I just finished writing a check to the Louisiana Department of Revenue for my 2005 Stelly contribution. Maybe the teachers will finally get the raise they have been promised by every gubernatorial (“He’s a goober” must have been coined with this word) candidate since Huey. I’m clueless as to why I mention this other than currently there is surplus revenue without thought of reducing the burden on businesses, saving or Heaven forbid, cutting taxes. Okay, no political discussions allowed.

This issue includes the annual Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation contribution envelope, aka THE Envelope Issue. Although I *want* you to use the envelope and make a donation to the Foundation, the *need* for the contribution is far greater. There is also a need communicate, to those outside our fraternity, the precious jewel we have with the Rite Care program. The Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation and donations are tax deductible. These donations have a positive impact on the development of children and their families. These benefits will continue for the balance of their lives.

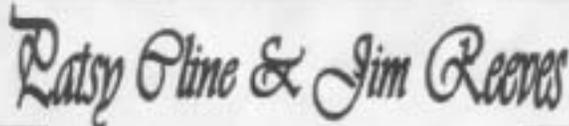
Therapy is, of course, provided free of costs to the family. The children are patients/clients of graduate students working toward their master’s degree in speech pathology. These students are supervised by a professional from the local university. These students and professors work closely with our Administrators. The graduate students are also recipients of the Foundation scholarships. An evaluation is given to each child prior to enrollment to determine if our therapy program can provide benefit to the child. Children between the ages of eighteen months and ten years old are considered with a goal of two years to complete the program. That should give you enough introductory information to explain our charity to friends and coworkers. The Valley Secretaries have ample reserve should you need to replenish your supply.

Thank you for your continued financial support of our fraternity and thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason.

The Ed



Branson Review To Visit Louisiana



Patsy Cline & Jim Reeves




Tribute

Jim Reeves & Patsy Cline's music has been enjoyed by millions of people over the last four decades and their music is even more popular today.

The Jim Reeves & Patsy Cline Tribute Show is performed by two of Branson's most popular performers.....Denny Yeary & Shelia Renee,
"The Sweethearts of Branson".

Denny is a 18 year Branson veteran who has performed on 12 major theater shows , and currently Stars, along with his beautiful wife, in **The Yearrys Music Show**, nominated **"Branson's Show of the Year"**. Even after entertaining in Branson on their wonderful Variety Show, these two talented entertainers still find time to come to your area and portray two of Country's Greatest Legends.

This 2 hour Show will feature **Shelia Renee** singing as **Patsy Cline** on all her biggest hits from "I Fall To Pieces", "Crazy", "Walking after Midnight" and many more...plus, **Denny** as **Jim Reeves** on classics like "Welcome To My World", "Am I'm Losing You" & "He'll Have To Go".

Enjoy a trip down memory lane with Jim Reeves and Patsy Cline (I mean, Denny Yeary & Shelia Renee). They will make you feel like you stepped back in time and know **Jim and Patsy** personally.




Denny & Shelia Renee

In October three of the Valleys will host A Night at Branson, featuring Denny Yeary and Shelia Renee. The scheduled performances are October 5th in Shreveport, October 6th in Monroe and October 7th in New Orleans. There will be two performances each evening, beginning at 4pm and then again at 7pm. Tickets will be \$25.00 per person with proceeds going to the respective Valleys. Additional information and ticket purchases are available from the Secretaries. Please support this local fund-raising opportunity and spread the word to anyone that would appreciate an evening musical tribute to Patsy Cline and Jim Reeves. Seating is limited and both performances are expected to sell out early.

THE LAST WORD



Ill. William J. Mollere, 33°
Deputy in Louisiana

WHY DO THEY QUIT?

The other day, I received a letter in the mail from my home Valley. It was an envelope that had several pages enclosed – actually, more than several pages. There was a cover letter from the Assistant Secretary asking for assistance in locating, calling, notifying the list of good Masons listed who had failed to pay their Scottish Rite Dues for the previous year – they were suspended Scottish Rite Masons. Looking over the list depressed me because many of the names brought faces to my mind, memories of each man, remembrances of good times shared in and around Masonry – some even outside of Masonry through personal and social contacts. The list was too long – too many names – too many memories. Why had each good Mason on the list failed to renew his membership in Scottish Rite? What had Scottish Rite done to make him no longer want to belong to Scottish Rite? It took a good part of my day to finally calm down and think about the pages that I had held in my hand.

Obligations. That is what we each took upon ourselves when we joined Freemasonry – we took Obligations – or in the case of Scottish Rite, many Obligations. All intent on making us better men - as the Eighteenth Degree states: not to be better than our fellow man, but to be better than ourselves. Did the Obligation to support and uphold the Scottish Rite not get mentioned when these names on the pages joined? Did the Degree Master skip that part? Did the idea that no man should go back on his word, once given, get left out? That hand on the Bible, that sacred oath? If you belong to something and you no longer want to belong, you should depart on the best of terms – that old saying about being able to recross that bridge that you didn't want to burn. Did the concept of Demit never get mentioned? Pay up to the present and request a Demit – then you leave in good standing, and you leave a good path to return if you ever want to. That is the proper way to depart. But the list that was mailed to me was a list of men who just quit paying their Dues – no reason, no excuse – they just stopped supporting that Obligation to uphold and support.

There are many reasons why a man stops paying his Dues – some die. We hope and ask for two week's notice, but that is not always possible, and few comply. Our often repeated mistake within Freemasonry is that we never check on that dead member until his Dues notice comes back via return mail with his Widow's hand written notice that he died eight months ago – or longer! We

continued next column

never checked on him; we forgot him until Dues time – and boy, did we want to hear from him then - “How are you doing? Pay your Dues!” It more than often upsets the Widow. Some just lose interest and don't want to come to a boring old business meeting. They could have stayed home with their family and watched something entertaining or educational on television – and the next time they did stay home. The next Dues notice gets disregarded. Some say that no one talked to them at their last attended meeting either – it was a bunch of guys who knew each other and stood around in their own little groups and no one came over and said a word. They left with hurt feelings and stopped paying their Dues. I personally know of two good men, a man and his son-in-law, who quit because the Tyler gave them grief at the Register Table because one had forgotten his Dues Card! Ah, Brotherhood! Some good Masons joined Scottish Rite years ago so that they could become Shriners – you had to go through the prerequisite organizations to become a Shriner – remember? That was not a problem – they joined for a reason. Several years ago when that requirement was abandoned, some good Shrine Scottish Rite / York Rite Masons decided that they would just quit the “in between group” and keep up their Lodge and Shrine Dues – just quit – no need to belong to Scottish Rite anymore. Some did quit for that reason. The majority requested a demit. Some good Masons have a limited income level and cannot afford to pay Dues to many of the organizations that they originally joined, and Scottish Rite becomes a victim and loses a member in that situation. Most are too proud to say - “I can no longer afford to belong to Scottish Rite”. So they quit. They forget that Freemasonry extends the hand of assistance to all Brothers, in all cases, when it is known that assistance is needed – no questions asked, no excuses needed. Some Scottish Rite Valleys have a quiet, unassuming and unannounced little group of good men who pay for many Brothers who cannot pay their own Dues – never asked, never known, always happily done. Some good Masons join thinking that they are finally going to learn “the” secret – after all, being a Thirty-Second Degree Masons makes one a Master of the Royal Secret. Of course, the secret is, there is no real secret. Equilibrium – balance in one's life – and the lessons of the previous twenty-eight Degrees founded on the Principles of the first three Craft Degrees – that is the secret – and applying all of those lessons and principles in one's life. So, some go away disenchanted because they didn't get the secret – they received it, but they didn't get it, they missed it – a waste of their time. So they quit. Some good Masons join who should never have joined – it wasn't for them – they made a mistake joining. It is that plain – we let them in because we wanted numbers – we didn't look beyond the numbers at the real man – we made a mistake too. Those men get in, they find out it was a mistake and they quit. They don't ask for a demit – they just quit. In calling and talking to some of the good Masons on those pages on that list, most have said “I just don't want to belong anymore.” “Why?” I asked, and they had no real answer – it was no longer for them – not important to them. When I asked if they would become current in their Dues and request a Demit, many refused. “Why?” I asked, and they felt that a Demit was no longer worth anything to them. “What can we do to get you to come back?” The overall response was, “I just don't want to belong anymore.” It was that simple.

Yet, which one of the previously mentioned categories would

continued page 15

The Final Word

Why Do They Quit continued:

each of those good Masons on my list really fall into? All were still physically alive; did we fail to interest the good Mason with true Brotherhood, and with interesting and educational programs; did we upset him at the Tyler's desk; or did we act unfriendly and unBrotherly during the meeting or during refreshment or meal periods; did he only join to become a Shriner; is the man no longer financially able to support the Rite by paying Dues; did we fail to properly educate the Brother with the true meaning of Fraternity and Brotherhood as he made his Journey into Scottish Rite; or was he just not the right man to belong after all? Have we been his friend and his Brother during any of the time that he did pay his Dues? One of the oldest Mason whom I know, not necessarily in years or attitude, but in years as a Mason, once told me that men join Masonry to be with their friends. They are not interested in degrees, memory work or charities when they join – they want the fellowship with their friends. He further said that once they belong, it was our job to educate the member to the finer points of Masonry. It became clearer to me as I talked with some of these good Masons on those pages, that the men they joined with were no longer alive, involved or active. The reason they originally joined – friendship – no longer existed, and we had failed to educate them to the finer points of our Gentle Craft – we were after numbers when they joined, and they were a number! So now we lose them – they quit.

It is well documented that Freemasonry in the United States was an unparalleled success story following World War II in the area of membership growth – Our Greatest Generation – many of the men returning from the war joined Freemasonry, and for various reasons. Many joined to be with their buddies; some joined because their family had always joined; some joined to be a part of something special; some joined because they were told that only the finest and best belonged and they wanted to be a part of that. Whatever the real reason, the numbers swelled and membership peaked by the mid-1950's. All of those members; all of those numbers. Conferring Degrees and memory work recitation – that was what a meeting consisted of at the Lodge level – no education on those finer points – just run them through and get them to that Third Degree. Then, of course, there was that further Masonic work – Scottish Rite – become a 32° Mason – WOW! Run them through, get the members, get in those numbers. Don't worry about the fees and Dues level – there were so many; future money was never going to be a problem. Then the 1960's and 1970's and Viet Nam and the generation that was not necessarily our greatest. A full generation lost, and not just to Masonry, but to anything that seemed organized and traditional. Masonry did not respond well and sat on those old numbers. Why educate and teach those finer points? Why show the next generation what friendship and Brotherhood and Fraternity were really all about? So Masonry started dropping in numbers and started having good Masons question why they had originally joined. Many quit.

So I looked over the pages on that list and wondered where we had failed all of these good Masons? When I read that Freemasonry in other parts of the world is growing and flourishing, and that joining fees in US dollars are anywhere between \$1,000 and \$2,500 and there are waiting lists, and Dues are anywhere between \$250 and \$500 per year, I wonder where we failed all of

continued next column

these good Masons who want to quit? Those other places in the world have been educating members on the finer points, and those members are living the lessons and principles, and other good men see that and ask to belong. It is not a quick and easy Journey either – it takes several years sometimes just to become a Master Mason. There is a very dedicated Scottish Rite Mason in one of our Valleys who is originally from Paris. His father has long been a very active Mason and is proudly a 14° Scottish Rite Mason in Paris. This Louisiana Mason told me that he could never go back to Paris and tell his father that he had attained the 32° in several days! Unheard of in other parts of the world.

As Our Greatest Generation slowly leaves us, do we need to step back and evaluate who we want to be, and where we are going to be in 5, 10, 20 or even 50 years? Do we need to reevaluate of Degree system and structure? Do we need to reevaluate our fees and Dues structure? Have we made it too easy to enter and even easier to depart – just quit? Can we teach the meaning of Obligation? We know that we will be a smaller organization, but will we be a greater organization? Will good men want to enter and learn the Royal Secret? Will each want to learn the finer points of fellowship, Brotherhood and Fraternity? Will we be able to teach and mentor these good Masons through our “University of Freemasonry” - our beloved Scottish Rite? Will men sacrifice to continue being a member? When prorated, our monthly Dues are less than a meal and drink at a fast food restaurant, and many men say that they cannot afford to belong – how will we handle the future finances of our Rite? When our joining fee is less than an average suit of clothes, and men say that they cannot afford to join – will we step back and accept those excuses and even lower that fee or hold “blue-light specials”?

These are not easy questions to ask and are even harder to answer. But as thinking and educated members, good Masons, Dues paying Scottish Rite Masons, we must stop and reflect and ask and attempt to answer. If you know of a good Mason who has decided to quit Scottish Rite – ask him why. Ask him why he joined in the first place. Ask him what would bring him back. Ask him that old question that I have posed before – when did his Journey become a Destination? Don't fail to be challenged or ask why a good Mason would quit. Please understand that Scottish Rite Masonry teaches a way of living and giving and expanding and exploring. It is a wonderful Journey that requires work and sacrifice and wanting to be better than ourselves. I was once told by a good Mason, “if every member of this organization showed up at the meeting, the room couldn't hold them”. My response was – “what a wonderful problem that would be”! Not every member will show up at the same time, but every member needs to remain involved, interested, educated and as active as possible. Don't ever be a name on the list of non-paying Members; please don't quit without a reason that goes beyond financial hardship, hurt feelings, lost friendships, and non-involvement. All of those reasons can be overcome – we need you to question, ask and help supply answers – we need you to be involved in Scottish Rite. To each of you who are involved – thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason

Bill Mollere, Deputy



Did You Know?

“Books”:

All books published by the Supreme Council except the Rituals, Secret Works, and Rubrics may be sold by the Grand Executive Director to proper persons. No books shall be sold except for cash. Each Sovereign Grand Inspector General is entitled to have as his own property one copy of each work published by the Supreme Council, other than the Rituals, Secret Works, and Rubrics.



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Lake Charles Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center

University of Louisiana-Lafayette
 Lake Charles Masonic Temple
 717 Hodges Street
 Lake Charles, LA 70601
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And there was...

Joseph A. Gilmore (1811-1867), former governor of N.H. was made a Mason at sight on April 28, 1863. He received Scottish Rite degrees and was awarded 33rd degree on May 7, 1863 - only 9 days later.

This was before tape recorders, digital camcorders, personal cameras, surveillance equipment and 13 years before Bell invented the telephone. I wonder what Gilmore had and could prove on the brethren!



It is just that we should be grateful, not only to those with whose views we may agree, but also to those who have expressed more superficial views; for these also contributed something, by developing before us the power of thought.

What the statesman is most anxious to produce is a certain moral character in his fellow citizens, namely a disposition to virtue and the performance of virtuous actions.

Aristotle



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