

TRESTLEBOARD



MacDonough, Webster, Warner, Ethan Allen

WM John Oleszkiewicz; Sec. Victor Stone



Brothers,

On Saturday, March 19, 2022, I participated in the installation of new officers for Mount Mansfield Lodge #26. During the ceremony, I couldn't help but recall the good times, frustrations and accomplishments of my tenure as Master of the Lodge for the past three years. I believe I am the only Master that has served under the Mount Mansfield name as Master for three consecutive years. The circumstances of which made my tenure different than any other Master of the lodge.

For those who may have missed some of this or have forgotten where we started, I will summarize my tenure.

The main driving force that made my time in that position different from a normal term was the COVID pandemic, which also resulted in adding a year to my tenure for continuity. Due to restrictions on gatherings and meetings in general, we had to adapt. We cancelled meals at first and met with masks. We finally met only to conduct business via Zoom. We had many good ideas for social events, which were put on hold. It is only recently, in the past few months, that we held a couple of meetings with a meal and a few advancement degrees for our new candidates. The new candidates joked that they set a Grand Lodge record for waiting the longest time between their Entered Apprentice degree and their Fellow Craft degree, having started pre-COVID.

With the support of the members of Mount Mansfield Lodge and members of the former Ethan Allen lodge, I am proud to say I am leaving the lodge in better shape than when I started in the position. Ethan Allen and Mount Mansfield merged, after months of discussion, under my leadership. We created a new set of by-laws representing our current mode of operating. Financially, we are now operating with a positive cash flow for our operating income and expenses, instead of tapping into our savings and investments to keep the base lodge running, which had been the case for many years.

We reversed the many years of only doing critical repairs, which resulted in years of deferred maintenance. I would almost say close to neglect. We changed our plumbing to connect to a new water main; we rewired and modernized the electrical system (a key safety issue given the state of the old wiring); we refurbished and painted the foyer, including new flooring; we started

the replacement of our cracked and uneven front steps and walkway (a temporary sand walkway and wooden stairs are in place before new concrete work is completed); we refreshed the basement; cleaned the attic and just now we have started painting the main lodge room; all the while still maintaining a positive growth in our investments. We have an outlook to continue that effort into the future, under the Building Committee. By the way, no former Ethan Allen investment money was touched to do these projects.

The above changes have all served to make Mount Mansfield a pleasant and safe place to meet. Active membership is still the key metric of a successful lodge. We have seen positive signs; with new members joining and degrees perfumed, although still slowed by the previous two years of COVID restrictions. We now have a revitalized membership committee. I am pleased to say we had no problem filling the 12 officer chairs for the 2022-23 installations, with many members on the sidelines willing to step in if someone had to step away. As Masonry exists in Vermont, this is a very positive indication of a strong lodge.

In a parting comment, I have worked diligently to make the Masters moment a learning experience for our Brothers, with references to the several Masonic degrees and lectures. Also, I used carefully chosen music to back that up, so as to allow Brothers to relate to the theme and take the message outside the Lodge. My feeling is that this was a success, not because it was entertaining, but afterwards lodge members were often talking about whether the music choice made sense; what the theme was; and “where did he find that piece”. In many instances there were positive comments that it was inspirational. This and the progress mentioned above made the past three years enjoyable and I wish the same to our new Master.

John Oleszkiewicz, Past Master
Mount Mansfield Lodge # 26

‘Tis the human touch in this world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine
Which means far more to the fainting heart,
Than shelter or bread or wine,
For shelter is gone when the night is gone
And bread lasts only a day.
But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice
Sings on in the soul always.



- I ordered an extension course called “How to Deal with Life’s Disappointments.” Yesterday I got the first lesson by mail. It was an empty envelope.
- Two young men were discussing marriage. One asked, “You wouldn’t marry a girl just for her money, would you?” “No,” the other man replied, “but I wouldn’t have the heart to let her die an old maid just because she had money, either.”
- I went to see the doctor about my short-term memory problems. He made me pay in advance.
- Buck-passing is not new, but they’ve never passed faster than they do now.



Brother Carl Ellerkamp was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft on Thursday February 10th. After impressing the assembled Brothers with his mastery of the Entered Apprentice Lecture he was prepared by the Stewards for the second degree. W. Brother Mike Kiessling, who served as Master for the degree, and his degree team did a fine job presenting the ritual and instructing Bro. Carl in the lessons of the degree.

Left to Right: Row 1: Mike Kiessling, Carl Ellerkamp, Row 2: Rob Connelly, Guy Hauck, Rob Grandchamp, Jeff Bartley, Vince Comegno, Row 3: Dan O'Neil, Petr Opstrup, Jeff Clark, John Parenteau, John Oleszkiewicz

George Washington's Rule of Civility #2: When in company, put not your hands to any part of the body not usually discovered

Learning and Understanding

We retain: 20% of what we see and hear, 40% of what we discuss with others, 80% of what we experience, and 90% of what we attempt to teach others. We retain 50% in the present, 25% in two days, and 10% after 7 days

Brother Jeff Bartley, Sr. Deacon of our Lodge, and his wife Ashley are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Reagan Rose Bartley. She was born three weeks early on January 19, 2022 at 8:01 AM. She was 7 lbs 2 oz and 19.5". January 19th is an important day in Ashley's family. It's her father and his twin brother's birthday; who tragically was killed in a car accident by a drunk driver. Her father often says "I have a reason to celebrate my birthday again." When he learned we were expecting, he was insistent she



would in fact be born on his birthday. We laughed at the notion considering it was three weeks before her due date. Grandpa knows best! We don't have a great story with the first name, Reagan. It was a name we both liked and researching it meant "Little Ruler," we felt it was fitting as she is now the ruler of our household! The name Rose is Ashley's grandmother's name and Rosemary is my grandmother's name. Paying tribute to our family in the names of our children was important to us. George, Jeff's son, is named after my Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Another fun fact, Reagan's due date (Feb. 7th) was George's original due date.

Congratulations Jeff and Ashley!



The following is a review of Anderson's Constitutions of 1738by Victor Stone, PGM

The New Book of Constitutions of the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons containing their History, Charges, Regulations & Collected and Digested by order of the Grand Lodge from their old Records, faithful Traditions and Lodge-Books, For the Use of the Lodges by James Anderson.

This work is a much-expanded version of the original Constitutions published in 1723. All sections of the original document were revised to varying degrees particularly the section on Masonic history. It is easily twice as big as the 1723 edition. This version of the Constitutions introduced the terms "antient and honourable" for the first time and captured the history of the Grand Lodge of England from its inauguration in 1717 to 1738. Like the 1723 version this document has four significant parts; a rendition of the history of Masonry since the beginning of human times, the ancient charges, the general regulations for the governance of the Craft, and a selection of songs that retrace Masonic history. As well, there are appended lists of lodges, documentation of deputations (granting of charters) and a defense of Masonry essay.

The first section of the original Constitutions that recounted the history of Freemasonry from the time of Adam until the time of the Grand Master the Duke of Wharton in 1723 was written in essay form. It was a relatively modest, high level sketch of a purported history of the Craft. The 1738 version; however, expanded the historical narrative into three distinct parts each with seven chapters. Part I spans the period from Creation (Old Testament view) to the time of the "revival of old Architecture" in Italy (roughly 1585). Part II addresses Masonry in Britain from the time of Julius Caesar (circa 51BC) until the union of the crowns in 1603. Part III documents the history of Masonry in Britain from the union of the crowns to about 1738. While the first two parts or sections of this history are interesting for their symbolic value the third section has real objective worth. It provides vital information of the events of the Grand Lodge of England from the first Grand Master, Antony Sayer, in 1717 through the other twenty Grand Masters that followed him ending with Grand Master Henry Bridges the Marquis of Caermarthen in 1738.

The principle purpose of the history appears to be an attempt to link Freemasonry with nearly every important biblical or historical character or event from Adam to the Marquis of Caermarthen. The narrative invokes biblical personages (Adam, Adam's sons, Noah, Moses, Solomon, and many others) and their purported interest in or patronage of architecture, geometry, the liberal arts and sciences, and Masonry. The author next investigates the events and people of the Middle East and their connection to the Craft (tower of Babel, ancient Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon, Cyrus and Zerubbabel, etc.). After that, Greek and Roman players are introduced (Pythagoras, Ptolemy Philadelphus, Vitruvius, Augustus Caesar et al) and a case made for the presence of Lodges among the Roman garrisons in the far flung Roman empire of the day.

The next stage of the historical narrative shifts to Europe and the British Isles. Masonry is supposedly traced through the Angles, Saxons, Picts and Scots. It is associated with Charles Martel of France, the Norman invasion, and then through the reigns of a sequence of monarchs through to 1723 (Edward III, Edward IV, Athelstan, Prince Edward, Henry VI, James VI of Scotland, Charles I, James II, William, George, and many others too numerous to mention). Finally, the history is brought to a close, as mentioned above, with data from the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of England from 1717 to 1738 and the Grand Masters that presided over them.

The next section of the Constitutions presents The Old Charges of the Free and Accepted Masons. In this edition, there are seven rather than six charges. The first six are generally the same as those presented in the first printing; albeit with significant editing and revision. The new or seventh charge concerns law-suits.

The first charge addresses issues concerning God and Religion (obey the moral law, leave particular religious opinions to yourself, be good men and true). Charge number two speaks to concerns about Civil Magistrates supreme and subordinate (be peaceable, avoid plots and conspiracies, don't be rebellious). The third charge is about Lodges (a place of assembly and work, admitted members must be good and true, freeborn, and of a mature and discreet age, and so forth). Charge four addresses Master, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices (real worth and merit, circumspection in taking on apprentices, Wardens must have attained Fellow Craft status, a Master must have been a Warden, and the Grand Master can choose his own deputy). Charge number five covers the management of the Craft in working while charge six tackles the topic of behavior (in the lodge, among strangers, at home, towards strange Brothers and so forth). The seventh charge addresses the proper behavior of Brother Masons when they are aggrieved, believe they have been injured by one another and wish to seek some form of remedy either in Lodge or in Law.

This section ends with the familiar invocation "Amen, so mote it be." However, the instructions for constituting a new lodge have been added to this section. In the 1723 edition this information was contained in the section on General Regulations.

The next major section of the Constitutions lays out the General Regulations. As in the prior section, there are significant edits and revisions to the original thirty-nine regulations and the addition of a fortieth. These regulations cover a wide range of topics and issues including but not limited to powers of the Grand Master and his deputy, lodge by-laws and administration,

process and methods for admitting new members, duty to contribute to the relief of indigents, admonishing bad behavior, consistency of usages across the fraternity, protocol for conducting Grand Lodge, authorization and planning and conduct of feasts, elections, and a variety of other details for the conduct and maintenance of order in both regular and Grand Lodge communications. The fortieth regulation provides ten explicit rules pertaining to decency of assemblies and communications.

The final section of the New Constitutions contains a variety of information. First, there is a report of the Constitution Committee of November 21, 1724 recommending the collection of funds and establishment of rules and practices for the relief of distressed Brethren. Second, follows a list of Lodges in and about London and Westminster. This log shows 106 Lodges as compared to the twenty identified in the 1723 document. Third, there is a section on Deputations or the process for granting new charters both in the British Isles and beyond the great sea. Of note are charters granted to New Jersey, Georgia, New England, South Carolina, and New York in America. Fourth, an Approbation stating that this edition of the Constitutions is the “only book of constitutions, for the use of the Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons as of January 25, 1737.”

This version of Anderson’s Constitutions expands upon the original four songs of the first edition (Master, Wardens, Fellow Craft, and Enter’d Prentices Songs). The additional songs are for Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Sword Bearers. Again, these songs were likely composed and presented as aids to learning and recollecting the information presented in the Constitutions.

Finally, the document ends with a lengthy, multi-chaptered Defense of Masonry, published in 1730 by Dr. Anderson. Ostensibly, this was occasioned by a pamphlet circulating at the time called *Masonry Dissected*. This was followed by Brother Euclid’s letter to the author addressing against unjust cavils.

Several observations about the Fraternity, its symbols and rituals come to mind when reading this important Masonic document. First, it is remarkable that this document and the one preceding it in some manner still influence Masonic practice nearly three hundred years after they was published. Second, it is interesting that not much detail was included about the seven liberal arts and sciences; especially since many of the old manuscripts (Regius poem, Cooke Manuscript, Boyden Manuscript for example) enumerated and explained them. Obviously, Geometry is an exception. Third, it is easy to spot material from both versions of the Constitutions that made its way into the ritual of the Fraternity. An obvious example is from the third charge regarding requirements for membership (e.g. freeborn, and of a mature and discreet age) and enumeration of those not permitted to join (women, no immoral or scandalous men, etc.). Fourth, material from the general regulations still influences the conduct and comportment of Brothers when assembled for communications. Fifth, it is interesting that this 1738 version is so much more expanded than the 1723 version. Perhaps success brings length and detail. In general, though, it is informative and enlightening to see how material from ancient manuscripts made its way into this work and how this work has informed our current documents and practices. This second Constitution leaves one with an even better understanding of our current ritual and monitorial content and the history of the fraternity from 1717 to 1738.

Masonic Search For The Lost Word

In an old Gaelic poem called, "The Poem of Trathel," there is a scene which pictures a mother playing a harp while her children gather around, entranced as they listen to the sweet strains which issue from the harp at her touch on the trembling strings. She stops. The music ceases, and she lays down the harp.

The children pick it up and finger the strings in an attempt to reproduce the music which had come from the harp at the touch of their mother's fingers. In vain. A confusion of harsh discordant sounds come forth but not the sweet music they longed to hear as a result of their own efforts. In bitter disappointment they cry out, "Oh Mother, why doesn't it answer us too? Show us the strings where the music is."

She replies, "My children, it is a secret I cannot tell you, nor can it be told except in the presence of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Wisdom to discern the True, Strength to resist Error, and Appreciation of Spiritual Beauty, qualities which you must acquire for yourselves.

"The music is in the strings, but the power to draw it out is not mine to give you. I can help, but you must see and find it for yourselves. If you truly wish to acquire this power, you can do so, but think not the task is easy. It will come when you have earned it, but only after long and patient search."

So it is with us. Our unaccustomed fingers wander among the wires of the harp of life. We seek the string where dwells the harmony of the soul. We seek the lost song, the lost chord, the lost word.

Yet after all it is not really lost. The sweet harmony is in the strings all the time. We must learn, by study and practice, the art of drawing it out. In like manner, the Word we call lost is near at hand, even in our own hearts. It is we ourselves who lack the power to recognize it. The harmony of the soul is in the harp of life, it is not lost, and we can acquire the power to draw it forth if we only patiently seek and work for it.

This search for the harmony unheard by mortal ears, the harmony discerned only by the spiritual ear of the soul attuned to the divine strings of the heavenly harp, is the great purpose of Masonry. We call it the search for the Lost Word.

(Written by Charles Clyde Hunt, a noted Masonic author.)

Officer Installation



On Saturday March 19th the officers that will serve Mt. Mansfield Lodge for 2022-2023 were installed in their stations and places. Bro. Devin Grandchamp, W. Master of Patriot Lodge #33 in Hinesburg served as the installing Master with Right Worshipful Past Grand Senior Deacon, Bro. Vince Comegno performing the duties of installing Marshal. The installed officers for

the ensuing year are: W. M. Rob Grandchamp, S.W. Dan O'Neil, J.W. Rob Connelly, Treasurer, John Oleszkiewicz, Secretary Victor Stone, S.D. Jeff Bartley, S.S. Jeff Clark, Marshal Vince Comegno, Chaplain Wes Little, Tyler Dick Somerset. The J.D. and J.S. have yet to be installed.

A Master's Moment on Light

By John Oleszkiewicz, WPM

Almost all of my Masters' Minutes have focused on the teachings or lessons to be learned from the Masonic ritual, lectures and degrees and how we may apply them to our lives on our Masonic journey, towards becoming a better man.

Today I will be covering a more generic or symbolic concept.

Every Mason that joins a lodge expresses the desire for one thing from Masonry...Light

When a Mason joins a lodge he is asked what he most desires....The answer is LIGHT.

In the first degree, the Worshipful Master quotes the Bible as he says to the candidate, "In the Beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void. And darkness was upon the face of the deep."

He then points to the Bible, square and compass and says, "There is light"

Imagine how terrifying it would be if one were in total darkness and had to "follow the light" to a new beginning, not knowing what to expect?

Luckily for most of us, since our main premise that we join Masonry as a "good man seeking to be better"; we do not come from total darkness.

The Bible is one source of light, but God has given us light in many forms. He gave us good friends, like our brothers here today. He gave us family. He gave us people to love and who will love us in return.

In Masonry we all find a way to embrace the light. For some, even find joy.

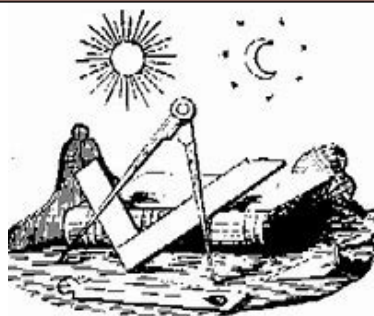
A joy we have not known before.

In another Biblical quote, a Mason may say, "I was lost and now I am found"

With a guiding light, we will find that however-troubling life gets, we can never be truly lost.

In closing my wish is that all of our members have received more light in Masonry and with that light they are now "better men".

Masonic Leadership is the art of changing a Lodge from what it is ---to what it should be.



Passing the Gavel

After serving the Lodge for the past three years as W. Master, Bro. John Oleszkiewicz has passed the gavel to W. Bro. Rob Grandchamp. We all thank John for his dedication to the Lodge and look forward to the leadership of our new Master.



Bro. Robert Grandchamp is a native of Warwick, RI. He graduated from Rhode Island College in 2008 with a BA in History and Anthropology and in 2010 with a Master's degree in 19th century American History.

Robert is a former National Park Ranger and moved to Vermont in 2011 to work for US Citizenship and Immigration Service where he currently works as a Senior Officer.

He began his Masonic journey in 2012, joining Ethan Allen Lodge #72, rising through the ranks to serve as Master in 2019-2020; he was the last Master of the Lodge.

Robert is proud to serve as the current Master of Mt Mansfield #26.

He is married to his wife Elizabeth, a special education teacher at Richmond Elementary and is the proud Dad to Addison, Mackenzie, and Sawyer.

Lodge Renovation Continues



Peter Opstrup, Shirley Opstrup, and Rob Connelly cleaning up the Lodge windows in preparation for Lodge room painting. Starting Monday March 28th the painters will move in to give the room a fresh coat of blue and white paint. It was quite remarkable how bright the Lodge room was once the curtains and blinds had been removed.



William F. Kinney
3/15/1929 – 1231/2021
71 years a Mason

Harry R. Thurgate, Jr.
7/17/1939 – 1/14/2022
60 years a Mason

Barney B. "Dave" Kelley
4/14/1933 – 3/11/2022
66 years a Mason



We humbly bow to the will of Devine Providence. While ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of our distinguished Brothers. May they be in perfect peace and felicity. May the Ashlar of their lives be found perfect and fit for the Temple. The men of Mt. Mansfield lodge #26 mourn the passing of their friends."

Mt. Mansfield Lodge #26, F&AM

P. O. Box 142

Jericho, VT 05465