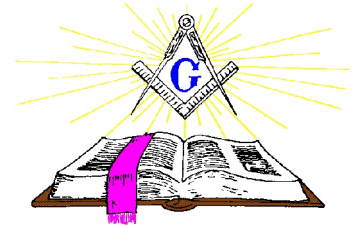




THE EDWARD J WILDBLOOD JR VERMONT LODGE OF RESEARCH #110

February 2009



www.vermontlodgeofresearch.com

NEXT :

**April 7th (Tuesday)
Annual Meeting
Rutland Masonic Temple
7PM opening
6PM supper**

Although this is our annual meeting, we keep the business to a minimum leaving room for what is, after all, our main business: Freemasonry! So I plan to have several papers presented at this meeting as usual. If you have something "in the works" or a great idea just ready to be born, then grab the trusty keyboard and send it off to me. Our presentations have been very excellent, and knowing the quality of our members I expect there are many more fascinating presentations in our future. If it interests you, it will interest us, and we would love to hear from you.

There is little on the docket besides voting on the slate of officers. Our nominating committee, chaired by our illustrious brother Jack Campbell (jackpgm@comcast.net) has been hard at work creating the best line of officers possible to ensure the future success of our lodge. If you have a recommendation or wish to volunteer, please let Jack know.

This will be my final meeting as W. Master of this Lodge. I have been proud to serve as your Master, and have done my best to promote our Lodge and make it prosper. But of course any individual

brother is just filling a spot for a short while, and his effect on the course of events must of necessity be very minor. I have enjoyed the work, and hope that you have a chance to enjoy at least some of our meetings. I will be spending my remaining term getting the papers entrusted to me ready to publish as our Proceedings. These will be in Compact Disk form for the first time, so if, like me, you fancy the plain old page over the glowing screen, just select the articles you like and go to "print." It's the only cost effective way in today's world. I still feel we should just put them up in a "member's only" area of our web site so they would be instantly available there, but so far I have been over ruled. Some paper copies will be needed, but just how many and how to do this has not yet been decided. So, if you have presented a paper in the last few years and have not sent a copy to myself, do so now or it will likely not be in the LOR's Proceedings for 2009!

A WONDERFUL WINTER'S FEAST

Another St. John's has come and gone. On the evening of December 27th sixteen of your Brothers assembled at the South Station restaurant in Rutland for the Lodge's third celebration of one of our patron saints, St. John the Evangelist. Our table was graced with the presence of brother Cal Keyler, our Most W. Grand Master, and brother Tom Johnston, our RWDGM. Once again we were seating in the private "library room" at a long continuous table. This time we were a little more familiar with the toasting format of a festive board, and a number of great toasts were given throughout the evening. As

before, the meal was excellent. Our brother Steven Cosgrove delivered the second half of his paper on the St. Johns to everyone's enjoyment. Steve gave us all a lot to think about.

I can only say that if you were not present, you missed a really good time. I realize that the festive board as a lodge event is foreign to Vermont, being an import from Europe and also a token of the Masonry of an earlier day. But if I have one criticism of Masonry in Vermont it is that we lack the social comradery that used to be so much a part of our fraternity. I can think of nothing so likely to restore the "cement of the Lodge" as lodge festive boards where fellowship, food, drink and Masonry are all so smoothly combined. I hope that our lodge will continue the St. John's tradition in the coming year, and I hope YOU will attend. See you there!



PRINT MONEY!

Brothers, remember that under our new rules the submission and acceptance by the Lodge of only two papers entitles you to free dues for the year, and also free admission to our Festive Boards, etc. Such a deal. The papers do not need to be long or involved, just a few of your thoughts on any subject which interests you.

If we are to keep our Research Lodge vital, we must attract men who want to communicate with each other about Masonry and other interesting subjects. We also have a golden opportunity to experiment with the Lodge

meeting format and serve as a model for what a Masonic meeting can be. Unburdened by degree work or a building to maintain, we can explore Vermont Masonic buildings, have fun together as brothers, and in the process expand our Masonic horizons. But brothers, it is up to YOU: no one else is going to do it.

You joined because you saw in Masonry something of interest, something worth your while. It is still there. Let's share that insight and enthusiasm with each other, and with a new generation of Brothers.

WINTER MEETING IN ST. JAY

I looked forward to our meeting hosted by Passumpsic #27 in Saint Johnsbury, and I was not disappointed. Eating out at a diner around the corner from the lodge building worked out very well and was fun. At the dropping of the gavel I saw 22 Masons gracing the sidelines of this historic old lodge room. The many physical improvements were a joy to behold, especially for us who remembered how badly they were needed. Our group included a newly passed fellowcraft, so we opened on five for his benefit.

I think the presentations given were perhaps the best I have ever seen collected in one meeting. Steven Engel told of his discovery of the lodge room of Oriental #88 in a small upper room of the church in Montgomery. Long abandoned and extinct, this tiny lodge room created by veterans of the Civil War had collected dust and been forgotten until repairs to the church had brought it to light again. Steve showed us the columns of Jachin and Boaz from this lodge, quaintly turned and small enough for him to bring with him. His history and biographies of its members gave a great glimpse of early Vermont Masonic life.

This theme was continued by brother John Tester's presentation of early documents from Independence #10 in Orwell. He told how as a new secretary of the lodge he had explored the recesses of the ancient lodge desk and found packets of

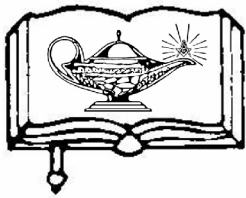
documents in manila envelopes. It took him three months of daily labor to open, unfold, decipher and archive these in acid free plastic envelopes. When he was done, he had over 800 documents going as far back as 1803 covering all aspects of the life of this historic Lodge. We set up a large dining table in the lodge room, and the documents he brought covered it. I granted liberty of the lodge so we all could examine these relics of our Masonic past. Truly fascinating!

Joe Netzel gave us our final talk, entitled "In whom do you put your trust?" This was a philosophical examination of the Masonic landmark of "Belief in a Supreme Being" and its relationship to those first kneeling at the altar of Freemasonry. Beautifully written and most thought provoking, Joe's presentation was followed by one of the best break out discussions I have heard in lodge in quite some time. I was once again struck with the quality of the members assembled, and feel lucky to have a small place amid such brothers. I want to thank the presenters and those who attended for the beauty and joy of another great meeting of the Vermont Lodge of Research.

OFFICERS 08-09

- W. MASTER.....ERIC GINETTE
- S. WARDEN.....JOHANN NORTZ
- J. WARDEN.....WINFRED PIKE
- TREASURER.....WARREN WILLIAMS
- SEC'RY.....RICHARD HILDEBRAND
- S. DEACON.....STANLEY SCHUMACHER
- J. DEACON.....MASON PRATT
- S. STEWARD.....GEORGE STONE
- J. STEWARD.....STEVE COSGROVE
- CHAPLIN.....EVERED HINKLEY

Thank you: Eric Ginette



Please note that my email address has been changed recently to aieon@fairpoint.net or to deputyvt@gmail.com

