



Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard



March-April 2006

ORIENT OF LOUISIANA

Volume 8 Issue 2

Scottish Rite

PERSISTENCE-PRESS ON

The Saga of William Preston

by Larry D. Wade



The son of an attorney, William Preston was born in 1742 in Scotland. He was afforded an excellent education. Early on, he enjoyed a very stable career in the employ of Thomas Ruddiman, a linguist (and for a time, William Ruddiman, a printer). In 1760, after the death of his employer, Preston moved to London, where until his own death, he was employed by William Strahan, Printer to His Majesty the King. In this station, he encountered many of the intellectual elite of English society, such as Edward Gibbon (author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*), philosopher David Hume, and others.

Preston became a Mason in 1762. In aggregate, he enjoyed a stellar career as a Freemason. He was a very serious student of the Craft. He sought out the company of those most knowledgeable among Masons on both sides of The Channel and did all that was within his power to inform himself in every aspect of Masonry, especially the Ritual.

Preston made it a point to attend various Lodges and study their diverse Rituals. As well, he had friends go on his behalf to various Lodges for the same purpose, they reporting to him on every detail of the variations on the Ritual. Once or twice a week, he assembled friends in his home. There, he delivered prepared lectures on aspects of Masonic Ritual. The purpose of the meetings was to have his friends critique his lectures and thus help him to improve them.

Finally, in the early 1770s, he offered a series of courses on the Work of all three degrees. He was invited to deliver lectures to various and sundry Masonic groups in England and on the Continent.

Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia states on page 484, "The improvements made by Preston in the ritual created renewed interest and raised the reputation of the Fraternity, so that Preston was invited to attend schools of instruction and other meetings

to lecture and talk about Masonry. Even the subscriptions to the Charity Fund became greater and the most eminent men were attracted to the Society.... Upon attending Lodge of Antiquity No. 1 on June 15, 1774, he was admitted a member and, at the same meeting or the next, elected Master, which station he held for several years...." Preston was made a member of the "Hall Committee" of the Grand Lodge and served as a very valuable assistant to the Secretary.

Few men can be said to have done as much as Preston to advance the cause of Masonry. Jealousy, alas, was inevitable.

The trouble began on St. John's The Evangelist Day, December 27, 1777. By a narrow majority vote, the members of Antiquity Lodge decided to go together across the street to St. Dunstan's Church to attend Divine Service. Some members protested. With nine other members, Preston proceeded to the church. They assumed their Masonic clothing once they were in the vestry, sat through the services, and returned to the Lodge's meeting place without removing their Masonic garb.

John Noorthbouch and John Bottomley were among the protesting members of Antiquity. Either they were troubled by the events of St. John the Baptist day or they realized that they had found a way of trimming the sails of the famous Bro. Preston, or both. At any rate, they sought a reprimand from the Grand Lodge of England against Preston and his nine accomplices. The act of wearing gloves and aprons while crossing the street to church had, it seems, violated the Grand Lodge's 1741 prohibition against public procession without authorizing dispensation. (Note that this prohibition dated from the year prior to the year of Preston's birth.)

It is believed that had Preston simply remained silent, the issue would have come to naught. However, Preston was not one to remain silent. In fact, this issue provided him with an opportunity to bring up a point that he had for some time been waiting to make.

This pertained to the standing of the four original Lodges that had formed the Grand Lodge of England. Preston, it seems, believed that those four Lodges – having existed before the Grand Lodge and having created it – were not subject to its rule, but rather superceded it in all matters. Those four, after all, were not operating under a warrant, or charter, from the Grand Lodge. Of course, Preston's position had the effect of placing those four Lodges outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, which august body proceeded to demand a retraction, forthwith. Upon Preston's refusal to be forthcoming with the demanded retraction, the Grand Lodge of England, to quote Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, "...exceeded Preston's bad judgment." Rather than simply reprimanding Preston, they expelled from the Craft this one who had done more to promote the Freemasonry than any but perhaps a very few among them.

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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

III. William J. Mollere, 33°,

Deputy in the

Orient of Louisiana

III. Charles L. McCarty, 33°

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III. Ballard Smith, 33°, PGM

Personal Representative for Valley of Shreveport

III. Richard B. Smith, 33°

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III. Robert J. Hutchinson, 33°

Personal Representative for Valley of Baton Rouge

III. Woody J. Bilyeu, 33°

Personal Representative for Valley of Monroe

M.W. Clayton J. Borne, III 32° KCCH

Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana

Reunions Renewals

Sixty members received honors last November, the Knights of St. Andrew have chapters in all five Valleys and newly elected officers have been installed. These are all positive developments, within our organization, bringing renewed enthusiasm. It is readily apparent to everyone attending their Valley's regular meetings. The Spring Reunions have all been scheduled, which will bring new members to our Rite. These new Masters of the Royal Secret will bring additional enthusiasm as they become involved in our work.

Charles Schultz had an interesting philosophy about people that make a difference in our lives and those that are merely names we remember. It starts with a short quiz, which unless you are trivia buffs, do not require answers. See how you do:

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman Trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is none of us remember all or any of the headliners of yesterday. These are no second rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Now take a second quiz.

1. List a few of the teachers who aided in your journey through school.
2. Name three friends that have helped you during difficult times.
3. Name five people that have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most rewards. They are the ones that care.

I imagine that many of you, like myself, answered the second quiz with names of members of our Fraternity. Friendships, fostered by the bonds of Freemasonry, are one of the greatest gifts we are given through the privilege of membership. It was a major reason that I joined. To be with men of high moral fiber, working for a common cause with peace and harmony, enjoying the fellowship and establishing solid friendships has been a precious gift. These gifts are available to all Masons that choose to take advantage of them.

Your Valley's reunion is another source of these inestimable gifts. Old friendships can be renewed, new friendships established and your experience and knowledge should be available to the new members. Once a year, many Lodges have a re-obligation ceremonies that are well attended. Fellowship, brotherhood and reminders of who we are and what we represent result from the re-obligation. The Scottish Rite Reunions, held twice a year, offer the same benefit. Come join us and take advantage, once again, of the gifts this Fraternity has to offer. Attend and bring these gifts to a new member. Bring one of your friends, that you gained through Masonry, with you. Bring a brother who hasn't yet experienced Scottish Rite Masonry with you. Petitions are available through your Valley's secretary. Attend and renew that which originally brought you to the fraternity.



Calendar of Events

Orient of Louisiana

Leadership Seminar Mar 17-18
Houston, Tx
Conference of the Orient
Monroe Apr 29

Reunions

Baton Rouge April 22
Lake Charles April 8-9
Monroe April 29
New Orleans May 20
Shreveport April 22-23

York Rite

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
Annual Convocation March 11-14
Shreveport
Grand Commandry April 8-10
Shreveport

The Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation

Foundation News

The D. Walter Jessen Speech and Language Disorders Center has been relocated and is now affiliated with Southern University at Hammond, Louisiana. The University has an Excellent Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and is administrated by Paula S. Currie, PhD CCC-S, Associate Professor and Department Head. The Center will continue to be administrated by the Valley of New Orleans.

The Foundation is looking forward to a long association with the University to Help Eliminate Language & Learning Problems in Children (HELP) The Foundation will also Provide two scholarships to Graduate Students who are seeking a Masters Degree in Speech Pathology, and will work with children sponsored by the Foundation.



Foundation Scholarships

The foundation is proud to announce the following Speech and Language Scholarships for the Spring Session 2006. These \$1250.00 awards are given to graduate students, working toward a Masters Degree in Speech Pathology.

Monroe

Christine Elizabeth Lagarde
Rachel Lanae Book
Monique Danyelle Sterling

Shreveport

Stacy Allison Wurzberger
Emily Barrington Rampmaier

Lake Charles

Amy Ballard

In addition to the Speech and Language Scholarships, the Foundation awarded two D.Walter Jessen Civil Engineering Scholarships for the Spring Session of 2006. These \$2,000.00 Awards were given to students attending Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana and will graduated in May 2006 with a degree in Civil Engineering.

Quincy Adams
Lance G. Tyson

Annual Meeting

The Foundation's Annual Meeting was held on February 12th in Alexandria. The following members were elected and or appointed to serve the Foundation for the fiscal year 2006-2007.

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

D. Walter Jessen Engineering Scholarship Committee

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

Wills and Legacies

C. Lenton Sartain	Baton Rouge
Chairman Emeritus	
James H. Morgan III	Baton Rouge
William H. Brown, PGM	Baton Rouge
Jay B. McCallum	Monroe
Steven R. Plotkin	New Orleans
Chairman	

Investment Committee

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

Ex-Officio Foundation Officers

William J. Mollere
Chairman of the Board and President of the Corporation

Harry E. Moseley
Board Member

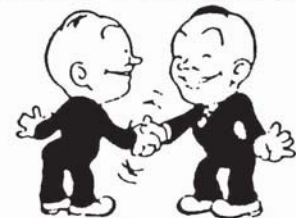
William H. Brown, PGM
Board Member

Dr. I. C. Turnley, PGM
Board Member

Charles K. Watts
Board Member

Neil R. Crane, PGM
Board Member

Someone is waiting for you



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

Fish or Cut Bait

A dinner consisting of fried catfish ranks closely to my all time favorites of fried chicken or a tender ribeye. The path to the table is the same for all of the dishes, beginning with something is going to experience a major change. Something is headed for processing. Fortunately for me, I have never had to catch my own fish or pluck a chicken in order to enjoy a plate of either. I never developed the patience to spend hours fishing. I am probably jaded from watching fishing shows where Bill Dance would toss a line, reel in a nice bass, check the bait and cast again with the same result. Frankly, I would rather cut bait than fish. I enjoy the water and boating. Owned a boat, but that is an entirely different story. Wringing, plucking and gutting chicken...well that goes without saying. Thank goodness for Bo Pilgrim.

I read the January-February Scottish Rite Journal, which by the way, was an excellent issue. Bro. Brent Morris, 33° GC and his staff deserve a round of applause. In that issue the Strategic Planning Committee of the Supreme Council announced a Planning Process that will be introduced during the Regional Leadership Conference in Houston beginning March 17th. I encourage you to read the article, whether you are an attendee or not, as we as Scottish Rite Masons will *all* be involved in implementing the plan to some degree.

The Plan will define our strengths and will use that as foundation in which to build. However, something has to change in how we view ourselves, how we are perceived by others, how we conduct business, how we meet the needs of members and how we fulfill the promise of more Masonic light to new or prospective members. We have been veiled in allegory far too long. Allegory: *a form of extended metaphor, in which objects, persons and actions in a narrative are equated with the meanings that lie outside the narrative itself. The underlying meaning has moral, social, religious or political significance and characters are often personifications of abstract ideas as charity, greed or envy. Thus allegory is a story with two meanings, a literal meaning and a symbolic meaning.* Even the explanation of an allegory is veiled. If asked, I simply explain allegory as a story to teach a lesson or moral in life much like the parables found in the Great Light. But then I am simple minded. Perhaps it is veiled because very few members could explain the meanings themselves or listening to the explanations would cause the inquisitor to fall into a coma. Reminds me of growing mushrooms. Regardless, the method of education needs to change or expanded beyond current teachings.

Ill. Albert Pike is regarded as the embodiment of Scottish Rite Masonry. I do not want to be accused of blasphemy, but Pike also regarded himself very highly. Scottish Rite Masonry should be reserved to the literati or educated class according to Bro Pike. The higher degrees were for intellectuals who form an artistic, social or political vanguard or elite. And to think all that I did to join was fill out a petition. If Pike's elitist ideas were in affect, certainly I would have been excluded from the craft. I

know quite a few of my brothers that would be joining me outside looking in. Thankfully, the criteria for membership changed.

I read with great interest that the Strategic Plan calls for a media relations strategy. I continually see the great public service announcements by the Shrine for their hospitals, while wondering why the Scottish Rite doesn't have the same promotion in place. Shreveport, being home of the 1st Shrine Hospital, has billboards all over the city promoting this wonderful facility with website addresses and phone numbers on how to donate or gather more information. I also have read where they have received major donations from the local business community and the private sector. Sadly, the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation returns to a narrow scope of donors repeatedly when soliciting funds. Those donors are our members and they have given generously time and time again. But there is a wealth of generosity we have yet to reach. The Planning Committee recognizes the need to build a positive public image of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite. This is a much needed new focus and welcomed change.

One area that needs to be included in the plan is a strong presence on the internet. If there was ever a vehicle to educate the public about Freemasonry and Scottish Rite Masonry, it is the internet. The internet is a primary source for information, pro and con, on any topic. If there was ever any means to have members embrace the universality of our fraternity, the internet is the answer. There are three basic functions of a website. However, communication, support and research/education are only the initial considerations.

Seventy-five percent of all US households are connected to the internet. Public libraries, schools and public institutions all have access. The internet has replaced telephone books, huge printed catalogs and research volumes as the primary source for reference materials. Understand too that a prospective candidate for the fraternity has already referenced Freemasonry and Scottish Rite Masonry on the internet. Using a search engine, such as Google, what a man reads during his research will aid in forming his opinion of the craft. The websites need to be factual, provide an abundance of information, thought provoking and have something that brings the visitor back time and again.

Many brethren have yet to embrace the age of computer. There are some that are still using Remington typewriters and carbon paper. There are probably some lodge secretaries typing minutes and monthly reports on the old IBM Selectric. Worked for their predecessor, works for them. No need to change now, we have been doing this since time immemorial and it still is good enough. No longer is the past method of measuring, promoting or operating our Craft good enough. We should ask for better, demand better and *work* for improvements that adds value to the fraternity. Pike's aristocratic group would study, talk, publish and project. Masonry is action. Working IN the fraternity FOR the fraternity. Like the two vul-

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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

Spring Reunion
May 20- One Day

Calendar of Events-2006

- Wednesday, March 1st**
All Bodies to Open
Red Bean & Rice Cookoff
- Wednesday, April 5th**
Service of Remembrance
Maundy Thursday Services
- Wednesday, May 3rd**
All Bodies to Open
Cajun Meal-Bayou Fellowship Lodge
- Spring Reunion** May 20
Wednesday, June 7th
All Bodies Open-Pot Luck Supper
- 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
- Wednesday, November 1st**
New Guest Chef
- Wednesday, December 6th**
Annual Christmas Music Program
- Knights of St. Andrew**
Meeting the 3rd Monday of each Month

2006 Officers

Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection:

Venerable Master: Paul O. Langenbeck, 33°
Senior Warden: Henry F. Thibodaux, 32° 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. Gloriosio, 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

Valley News

On January 4th the Valley of New Orleans met for its annual election of officers after enjoying a meal. The brethren elected Bro. Paul O. Langenbeck, 33° to lead the Valley as Venerable Master for 2006. Ill. Bro. Lloyd A. Hebert administered the oaths of office for our new Venerable Master and all other officers. All officers promised to serve our Valley with honor and distinction. The outgoing Venerable Master, Clayton J. Borne, III, KCCH addressed the Valley and delivered a well-received speech thanking the Valley for allowing him to serve in 2005.

On February 1st, the Valley met and shared a festive Valentine Day meal in honor of our Scottish Rite Ladies. The Ladies received due thanks for supporting their husbands and the Scottish Rite and received thank you gifts in the spirit of the holiday. The Lodge of Perfection opened and closed in regular form. Thereafter, the brethren and guests were invited to witness our Valley's KCCH Investiture Team confer the Knight Commander Court of Honor upon another worthy brother, Brother Tarro J. Pitre, Jr. His wife, Robelyn, proudly placed the red cap upon her husband's head.

Thereafter, Bro. Pitre gave a moving and heartfelt oration thanking everyone who participated in the event.

Upcoming Events

Our stated March meeting is sure to create some excitement. Ill. Bro. Lloyd A. Hebert challenges all cooks in our Valley to participate in a Red Beans & Rice Cook-off. Several brothers have already accepted the challenge and will do their best show the Valley who makes the best Red Beans & Rice in the City of New Orleans (some brothers have already prepared a victory speech in anticipation!). Ill. Bro. Lloyd will award a prize to the winner. If you would like to participate in the cook-off or if you would simply like to sample the various Red Beans & Rice dishes that will make up the field of contestants, please contact Ill. Bro. Lloyd if you would like more information.

Please make plans to attend our stated meeting in May. The good Cajuns from Bayou Fellowship Lodge will prepare a Cajun meal for the New Orleans Valley. If the meal is anything like it was last year, then you had better arrive early before their gourmet meal runs out. Last year's menu included delicious seafood fritters.

Knightsly News

The Knights of St. Andrew for the New Orleans Valley coroneted the following brothers as new Knights of St. Andrew in service of the Scottish Rite: Clayton Wolfe, Don Siegel, Tony Radosti, Joseph Galland, Rob Barrios, Joe Loyocano. Congratulations to the newest members! Keep an eye out for Knights of St. Andrew fund-raisers. The Knights are 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.

continued on page 11

In Memoriam

- Shem A. Gordon, 32°
- Kyle P. Kohmann, 32°
- Russell B. Peterson, 32°
- Claude L. Shook, 32°

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

Spring Reunion

April 22-23

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Dinner with Ladies: 6:00 PM
 Open Meeting & Program 6:30 PM
 135th Infantry-Dessert Freedom

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

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

Service of Remembrance

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

Spring Reunion April 22-23

Knights of St. Andrew

Meeting the first Tuesday of each month.



Past Deaux

There are over 100 members that are in arrears on their dues. I have asked that our Blue Lodge representatives for the Shreveport Valley to assist in contacting our brethren. Your dues support your local Valley as well as the Rite Care Program funded by the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation.

*John L. Atkinson, 33°
 General Secretary*

New Year Begins

If the attendance in January was any indication, members must have made a New Year's resolution to attend their Scottish Rite meetings. There were 70 enjoying our dinner hour, along with a few wives. In the effort to provide continuing education and Scottish Rite history, the regular meeting began with Gary Gribble-33° giving an explanation of the 4th Degree. Ballard L. Smith, PGM-33° Personal Representative and John L. Atkinson-33° presented Patents, lapel pins and commemorative coins to the new KCCH and IGH honor members. Once again, Blue Archer-33° was able to present an Endowed Membership certificate and lapel pin. Bro John Wayne Walker-32° KCCH is our newest member to invest in our future.

We weren't able to duplicate attendance in February. Since our Grand Lodge session was open on our regular meeting night, we were dark in February. However, our March and April meetings are both open to wives, friends and family. The March meeting will feature Captain Michael Hicks of the 135th Armory. Captain Hicks will discuss deployment of La. Nat'l Guard in Iraq and the progresses there. He will answer questions and provide the inside news that isn't covered in our press.

In March we will have the Service of Remembrance also known as Maundy Thursday. Bring your family and friends to help celebrate the extinguishing and relighting the lights as well as remembering those Brethren who have passed to that house eternal in the Heavens. The Dinner Hour will truly be a feast prepared by Lisa Hollier.

Finally, don't forget about your Spring Reunion. The date is April 22-23 and will include the Knights of St. Andrew's assistance and service. The KStA Chapter, although still in its infancy, is already proving itself as a terrific asset to your Valley. Our three Blue Lodge districts have experienced growth with new members joining them in 2005. Introduce Scottish Rite Masonry to them and be sure to have a petition available. There is more to gain in Masonic knowledge at the Valley of Shreveport.

Best Deal in Town

Brethren, I have found a really good deal and I would like to let you in on it. This deal lets you come into some very beautiful surroundings. This deal will let you enjoy a beautiful time of fun and fellowship with like minded brethren. This deal will let you enjoy a delicious meal for a mere five bucks. This deal will let you enjoy a program that is both informative and entertaining. This deal will take up only 3 hours of your time, once a month.

Now you ask me where do I find this great deal? How do I take advantage of this wonderful opportunity? Simply come to the corner of Cotton and Common Streets in Shreveport on the second Tuesday of the month and enjoy a meeting of your Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley. All this and a lot more is here waiting for you. But only *your* attendance can redeem this deal. Come, participate and enjoy!

*Roy E. May, 33°
 Venerable Master*

KStA Activities

The Shreveport Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew has been very active since being chartered in September 2005. Working diligently to create and complete Consitution and By-Laws, establish and approve a budget and ordering uniform regalia have kept the members duly at labor.

After participating in the 2005 Honors day, including bag pipe reception and escorting visitors and family, we look forward with great anticipation to our first reunion in April.

*John Ayer,
 Knight Commander-KStA
 continued on page 10*

IN MEMORIAM

Morris Albert Bidwell, 32°
 Cold Hill, Oregon

Paul Aubrey Daniel, 32°
 Atlanta, Texas

Ronald Charles Rak, 32°
 Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Harold Eugene Tomlin, 32°
 Spring Valley, Ohio

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

Spring Reunion
April 8-9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-2006

Wednesday, March 15th

Ronnie Breaux on football equipment

Spring Reunion April 8-9

Wednesday, April 19th

Richard Fox on Accident reconstruction

Wednesday, May 17th

Lacon Lagros-Private Investigations

Wednesday, June 21st

Cajun Music Program

Wednesday, July 19th

Louis Ackal-Story Telling

Wednesday, August 16th

Open Meeting with Program

Wednesday, September 20th

Past Venerable Masters Night

Wednesday, October 18th

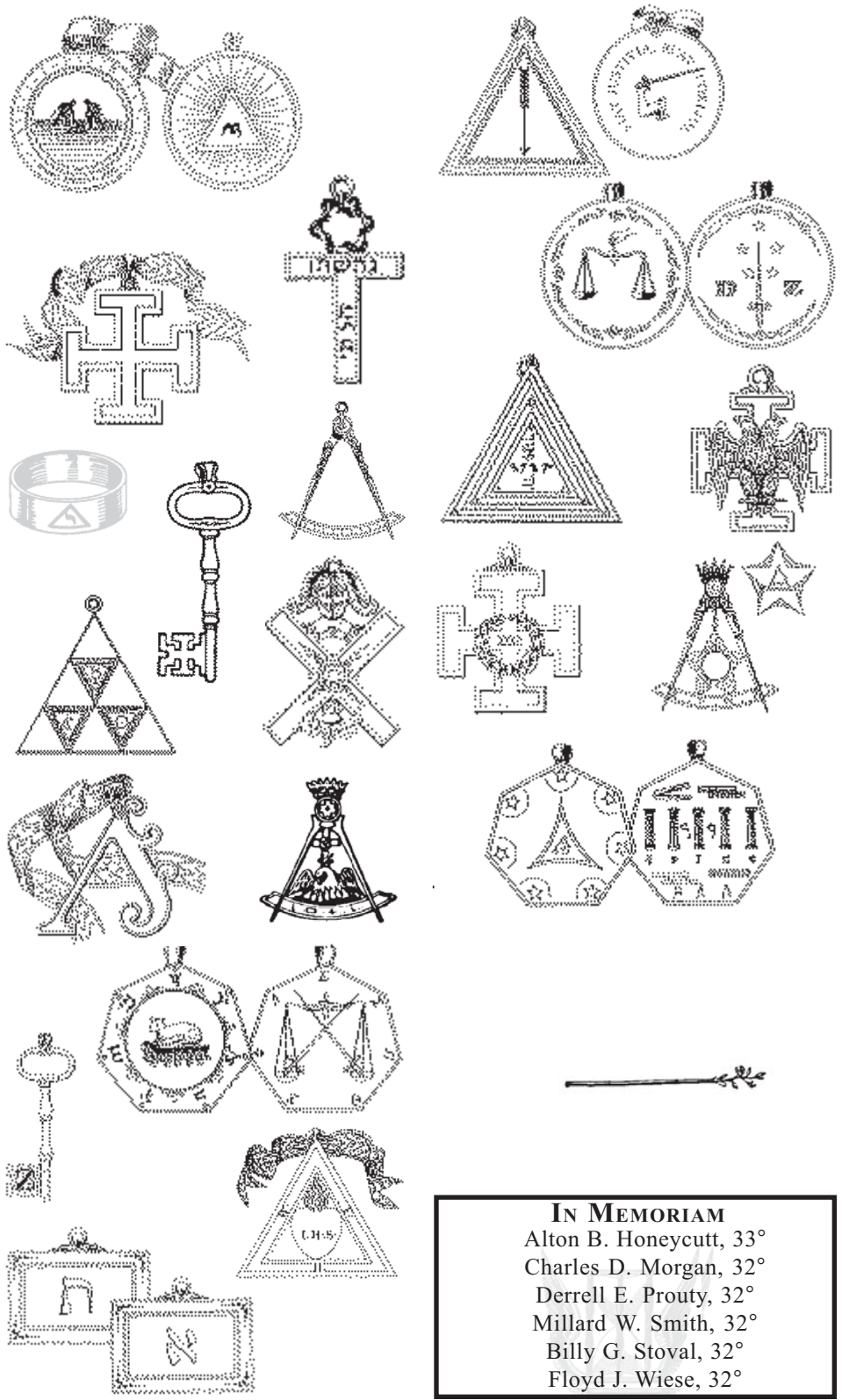
Open Meeting with Program

Wednesday, November 15th

Eastern Star and Birthdays

Wednesday, December 20th

Christmas Program



IN MEMORIAM
 Alton B. Honeycutt, 33°
 Charles D. Morgan, 32°
 Derrell E. Prouty, 32°
 Millard W. Smith, 32°
 Billy G. Stoval, 32°
 Floyd J. Wiese, 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

Spring Reunion
April 22-One Day

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday March 13, 2006

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

Maunday Thursday/Service of Remembrance

Monday April 10, 2006

Dinner with the Ladies 6:30 PM
 Meeting 7:30 PM
East Baton Rouge Police Chief

Saturday April 22 Spring Reunion

Monday May 8, 2006

Dinner with the Ladies 6:30 PM
 Meeting 7:30 PM
Honor 50 Year Members-M: W: Borne, GM Advisory Committee meets at 6:00 P.M. on the Monday before the regular meeting.

Knights of St. Andrew

Meets the 4th Monday of every month.
 Refreshment: 6:30 PM
 Meeting 7:00 PM

Leadership Conference



Valley Representatives attending the Leadership Conference in Shreveport L:R Bill Womack, Jim Wingate, Bobby Knight, Jim Grady, Jim Galloway, Lloyd Pence and Bob Hutchinson

E-Mail Correspondence

The Valley has compiled, through various sources, a list of those members who are known to have an email address. If you have changed your internet service provider (ISP) or wish to be added to the data base, please send a note to Bro Joe Richard at jgr@cox.net. The list will be used to send notices to the members of upcoming Valley meetings, guest speakers and special events. Once you have received such an email, you will be able to select individuals' email to add to your personal address book.



Knights News

We have finalized the "Constitution and Code Manual" for the Knights of St. Andrews and received approval from Grand Commander, Bro. Ronnie Seale, to allow it to be the official Ritual Book for our Chapter. It includes History, Dress Codes, Chapter Settings, Squiring and Knighting Ceremonies, Meeting Rituals, Constitution and By-Laws. Already the Knights of St. Andrews Priory of Shreveport is using the Manual and we hope to have the entire State of Louisiana involved in using a consistent program for their Priory and Chapter. Membership is increasing and we encourage all members of the Scottish Rite to come out and participate in our meetings and get-togethers. You don't have to join to be involved in the fun.

*Sir Keith Duncan
 Knight Commander*



Personal Representative Message

It is with great pride that I serve the Baton Rouge Valley as Personal Representative. Although I feel there are many members in our valley who are much more qualified and prepared to handle this task than I, it has been assigned to me and I will try to live up to the high standards set by previous Personal Rep-

resentatives.

As with most individuals in a new position, the juices are flowing and I am anxious to do everything. But you all know this is impossible, that one man can't do it all nor is one man expected to do it all, we are a team, a fraternity, an organization of Brothers and our failure or success will be dependent on the whole rather than a part. Because we are a team, a fraternal group of brothers, bound by binding obligations, I am asking you to join us in making whatever changes necessary to invigorate our valley.

We will be soliciting members to take advantage of our endowed membership program, which will help give our valley financial security long after we depart this earth. Along with the endowed membership program we are going to also offer a memorial endowment in which through your gift, you can recognize someone who played an instrumental part in your Masonic life.

This is not a new subject as all of us are aware that we are loosing members each year because of non-payment of dues. It is unfortunate that many of these members can't afford the dues and drop out. To keep from loosing these members we are starting a "big brother" program in which members who are financially able, can pay the dues of members less fortunate. Masons are proud men, and although they are charitable to others, are hesitant to accept charity for themselves. The "big brother" fund will pay these men's dues.

We will also be asking members to serve a Scottish Rite Ambassadors in their Blue Lodge. This is not a new program and has been used in the past and we want to get it started again. Call the office and tell them you will be the ambassador for your lodge.

Our state has been ravaged this past year
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In Memoriam

William Jesse Brown III, 32°
 Isaac Stanley Smith, 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

Spring Reunion
April 29-One Day

- 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- Thursday, March 2nd**
 Dinner with Ladies 6:00 PM
 Meeting & Program 7:00 PM
- Saturday, March 3rd Horse Show**
- Thursday, April 6th**
 Meeting & Program 7:00 PM
- Thursday April 13th**
Maundy Thursday Services
- Spring Reunion** **April 29**
Thursday, May 4th
 Dinner with Ladies 6:00 PM
 Meeting & Program 7:00 PM

This is what the Jan/February issue should have featured. I apologize once again Bro Beryl. Steve

Spring Reunion

The Monroe Bodies will hold their Annual Spring Reunion in April this year. It will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006. It is not too late to be working on your Blue Lodge Brethren and urging them to become Masters of the Royal Secret! If you don't have a black Scottish Rite cap, you can earn one by getting petitions for this reunion. You may also want to set aside the date, Saturday, April 29, 2006 and plan to attend. This is also Brotherly support of those who have responded to your request and signed a petition.



What The Masons Do

What the Masons Do is the title of the poem that appeared in The Kentucky Masonic Journal in 1907 – 08. My Mother, Annis Franklin was born in 1899 and while she was in the “grade school” (1st through 8th grade), she memorized a lot of recitations which she would give at PTA or teachers meetings as examples of elocution training. She lived to be 4 days short of her 96th birthday and was able to give those recitations up until about 4-5 months before she died. Since her father was a Mason, she memorized the one in his Kentucky Masonic Journal about the Masons and I thought the Brethren might enjoy it.

*Said Ma to Pa, Now tell me John
 The things the Masons do.
 I have no curiosity,
 But tell me Husband, true.*

*Said Pa to Ma, if you wil swear,
 You'll never blow on me
 Their darkest secrets, I'll uncore
 And pour them out to thee.*

*Ma crossed her heart and body,
 And nodded of her head.
 Pa twisted off a chew
 And this is what he said.*

*We take a feller to the graveyard,
 where ghosts and witches are,
 and tell him to mend his ways
 'Case he will soon lay thar.*

*And when his knees began to shake,
 And every screech owl hoots,
 He swears his wife shall have her way,
 If he does wear the boots.*

*He swears he'll never take a 'nip',
 And never cuss an oath,
 He'll take his wife to meetin',
 And sing loud enough for both.*

*He'll chop the wood and milk the cow,
 Look pleasant every day,
 Be handy-man about the house,
 And do as wife will say.*

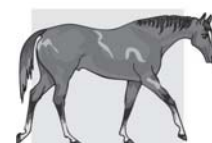
*Said Ma to Pa, I'll tell you John,
 There's nothing better, higher,
 But John, they'll either kick you out,
 Or else you're a Liar.*

I have a tape of a little over an hour of her recitations that I recorded when she was 78 years old and played part of them as a program for the Monroe Bodies after she had passed away.

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



Annual Horse Show



Brethren, the Monroe Bodies have sponsored a Horse Show for a number of years now and we are preparing to do it again! Why should Scottish Rite Masons be interested in sponsoring a horse show? Since there is a lot of work involved in this type of event, why should we get involved? Well, it is like this; the members sell ads in the Program, sell Programs at the show itself, sell tickets, take up tickets, get stalls ready (putting in wood shavings), help riders and mounts enter the arena, and just about anything else that needs doing. Why? Because the Louisiana Walking/Racking Horse Association shares the profits garnered at their Louisiana Jubilee Charity Horse Show with us. We at Scottish Rite donate our share to The Louisiana Scottish Rite Rite-Care Speech and Hearing Centers in Monroe, Shreveport, Baton Rouge and, New Orleans. These are prime examples of “Louisiana Scottish Rite Masons helping children communicate”. Over the years, with matching funds from the Supreme Council, the Monroe Bodies have been able to contribute over \$30,000.00 to the Foundation in support of the Speech and Language Centers in Louisiana. That is good enough reason for all of the work that goes into the horse show, that

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IN MEMORIAM

William Jefferson Hargrove, 32°
 Arnold Roy Kilpatrick, 32°
 Walter Henry Springfield, 32°

Shreveport Valley News
continued from page 6



New 33° receiving their Patents



KCCH members receive their Patents



John W Walker, 32°-KCCH & "Blue" Archer, 33°



Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

Teddy Roosevelt

Baton Rouge Valley News-Personal Rep.
continued from page 8

by devastating storms, which has spread the geographic bounds of our valleys. The distance has not changed, but the traffic is horrendous. Members from Houma, who normally drive for an hour and a half to get to a meeting, are now driving two and a half to three hours; members in Hammond who had a 45-minute drive, are now taking an hour and a half; members in St Francisville, who could make it in an hour, now take two hours. In order to assist these members, we are going to go to them and hold meetings in their areas and we are also going to set up Scottish Rite Clubs in these areas.

We will be visiting Blue Lodges to make Scottish Rite presentations and are asking members to join this team. We are all Blue Lodge Masons and we are also going to try to schedule joint meetings with the Shrine, Grotto, and Eastern Star. We hope to give you the dates of these meeting by the next Trestleboard. Now is the time to come together rather than separate; united we can stand and divided we will fall.

Brother Joe Richard has been working on accumulating a Scottish Rite E-Mail list and was kind enough to give me a copy. Initially, I had 135 members on my list and sent these members a test note to see how many would respond. I received notes back from 17 members, including our Grand Commander and I was very pleased with the response since this was 12.5% of those who got the message. If we could get 10% of our members to attend meetings, we would have over 100 at every meeting. Other than at a Grand Lodge session, have you seen 100 masons at a meeting lately? Lets accept a challenge, how about 10% of our members at our regular meetings.

Brethren, I am the eternal optimist and believe we can put a spark in the valley, but I am also a realist and know that we are not going to achieve the numbers we once had. If we can keep the members we have and offer them enough to make them want to come to our meetings, will be a start. No one succeeds at everything they try, but there is no reason not to keep trying. The programs we are offering won't start overnight and will take all our effort. If you think it is worth it, give us a call or come to a meeting. We need your help.

*Ill. Robert J. Hutchinson, 33°
Personal Representative*

Baton Rouge Valley News
continued:



Dean Alban 33° Director of Membership-Supreme Council and Jim Grady 32° KCCH & Venerable Master during the Leadership Conference in Shreveport

Venerable Master's Message

Brethren, your elected Officers returned from the Deputy 2006 Louisiana Scottish Rite Leadership Certification Conference, more qualified to solve a good number of problems that may come our way.

Now if that didn't get your attention, have you ever thought how nice it would be if there was a place where a Brother could go and fellowship one with another, other than on a Lodge night? There can be, but it will be up to you. Our Annex Building is vacant all day just waiting for brethren to occupy. In order to accomplish this we need Scottish Rite Masons willing to commit their time on a regular basis. This could be a Valley project, open to any Mason in the area. Fellowship, coffee, coach a candidate, watch TV, play cards or do what Masons do best, enjoy each other's company. This is thinking outside the box. Let me know your thoughts.

Our February meeting featured Dr. Ivor van Heerden, associate professor, civil and environmental engineering of LSU Baton Rouge. He is also the deputy director of the LSU Hurricane Center where he also serves as director of the Center for the study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes. Currently, he is the lead investigator on the research team studying New Orleans. Everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed his talk.

Check the Calendar of Events as our programs in March and April include Service of Remembrance, East Baton Rouge Parish Police Chief and our Spring Reunion. In May we will honor our 50 Year Members with M: W: Chip Borne, GM in attendance.

*James E. Grady, Jr. -32° KCCH
Venerable Master*

New Orleans Valley
continued from page 5:

Reunion Update

The Fall Reunion is planned for May 20th. This had been previously announced for May 27, 2006, but the May 27th date conflicted with the Memorial Day Weekend. Please mark you calendars accordingly. We look forward to welcoming those who have petitioned the Scottish Rite into our fraternal fold, and we continue to welcome more petitioners each day. The next Scottish Rite reunion will certainly be special in the aftermath of the storm and the class size is growing.



Perpetual/Endowed Members

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 Lloyd Hebert, 33° for more information and details. This would make a great gift for a Scottish Rite Brother.



From Your Correspondent

I recently attended our Orient's Scottish Rite Leadership Conference in Shreveport, Louisiana. It was a pleasure meeting other Scottish Rite brethren from our other Valleys and exchanging ideas. I also enjoyed hearing leadership ideas from our visiting Scottish Rite brethren who attended the conference from other Orients and from the Northern Jurisdiction.

*Fiat Lux,
Marc Conrad, 32°-KSA.*



New Orleans Valley 2006 Officers

continued next column

New Orleans Valley continued:

From the Secretary

Many of the Brothers of the New Orleans Valley are displaced. If you are in need of any assistance, please let us know. Also, if you have a change of address and/or living outside of the New Orleans area, we would like to know your new address so that we can arrange with the Supreme Council for the forwarding of you magazine. As members of the Greatest Fraternity in the world, it is obligation to assist when and wherever we can.

To those who feel like they want to go to a Scottish Rite meeting, but are reluctant, for whatever reason, lost dues card or don't know someone to call, please contact me and I'll make the arrangements. We want to be of service to our Brothers wherever they are dispersed. Please, contact me.

*Fraternally
Lloyd A. Hebert, 33° Secretary*

CENTER NEWS

Baton Rouge Childhood Learning Center

The Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center started the Spring Semester in late January. We have fifteen very eager and enthusiastic pre-schoolers. Our Center is very proud to have Sharon Beard and Elizabeth Tran working with us this semester.

2006 Board of Directors and Officers elected to serve are as follows:

- President C. Lenton Sartain*
- Vice President Robert J. Hutchinson*
- Secretary Lloyd G. Pence*
- Treasurer Joe Stroud*

- Board of Directors:*
- William H. Brown, PGM*
 - John Juneau*
 - Beverly J. Guillot*
 - James Premeaux*
 - Kenneth R. Barber*
 - Ray Mosher*
 - Joseph G. Richard, Jr.*
 - David M. Wallace*

with

- William J. Mollere Ex-Officio/Deputy*
- Dr. Alisa Mendoza, PhD Director*
- Joe Stroud Administrator*



*Center News
Baton Rouge continued:*



Elizabeth Tran and Joshua. Elizabeth graduated Cum Laude from LSU and is now working toward her Masters



Sharon and Stephen. Sharon graduated from LSU with a Degree in Quantitative Analysis and worked for Shell Oil in Houston. Desiring a career change she is working toward her Masters in Communication Disorders

Shreveport Childhood Learning Center

Stacy Wurzburger and Emily Rampmaier join us this semester as post graduate students pursuing Masters Degrees in Communication Disorders. Stacy is a member of Trinity Baptist Church, active with the Career/College group. Emily teaches Sunday School at Holy Trinity Luthern Church. If she has spare time she enjoys being with her husband and two boys.

*Thomas F. Murphy, 33°
Center Administrator*



Emily Rampmaier



Stacy Wurzburger

The Saga of William Preston
continued from page 1:

The matter seemed to be headed for a peaceful resolution when, after only a short while, Preston did, in fact, issue a retraction. He was promptly reinstated.

Alas, however, it was not to be, for meanwhile back at Antiquity, the majority voted to expel the true troublemakers, Noorthbouck and Bottomley, whereupon the Grand Lodge took umbrage, fingered Preston as the fomentor of discord, and again condemned him to that fate which has been described as “Masonic Death”.

This time, he remained in expulsion for ten years – from 1779 to 1789. In that interval, he was not entirely inactive. The majority from Antiquity withdrew from the Grand Lodge of England rather than comply with the demand of that body that they reinstate Noorthbouck and Bottomley. With Preston, they formed “The Grand Lodge of England South of the River Trent”. This body enjoyed less than stellar success. The Grand Lodge of England South of the River Trent had only two constituent Lodges, neither of which thrived. The competition between the Grand Lodge of England and the Antient Grand Lodge of England left, it would seem, little room for a third Grand Lodge.

Despite his trials and tribulations, Preston contributed more than any other individual to the development of the degree rituals as we now know them. His work was adapted by Thomas Smith-Webb for use in the United States.

Delmar D. Darrah’s History and Evolution of Freemasonry states on page 215:

Two men were more largely responsible for the evolution of the ritual of Freemasonry than any others. These were William Preston of England and Thomas Smith Webb of America. To these Craftsmen Masonry is deeply indebted for much of the ritual of the present time. It is true that there have been others who have contributed to its development but for the most part their contributions have consisted merely of extensions or amplifications of Preston and Webb who laid the foundations and made possible whatever element of success, or power of charm is to be found in the work of the present day.

On page 219, Darrah says of Preston, “It is to him that Masonry owes the extended system of catechisms now so much in vogue. It is true that Preston did not originate this particular method of imparting Masonic instruction, both Anderson and Desaguliers having used it.”

In fact, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Desaguliers first structured Masonic ritual into the question and answer format of “catechism”. It was Martin Clair, an early Deputy Grand Master, who subsequently introduced the reference to the five human senses — a direct Masonic link to The Enlightenment. Thomas Dunkerly then wrote the improved ritual that was the standard for English Masonry until Rev. William Hutchinson, in 1763, made further modifications, to include reference to the three great pillars of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty and reference, too, to the four cardinal virtues. Subsequently, Preston and later Webb added their improvements.

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Coil makes the point that Preston did not add new material to the Masonic ritual. Instead, he brought together many Masons — including representatives of the Grand Lodge of England — to review the existing content of Masonic ritual. They obtained their material from within the existing Lodges. They refined and restructured existing ritual.

Mackey’s History of Freemasonry states in a footnote on page 939 that Preston is, “Best known for his ‘Illustrations of Masonry’ published in 1772, and which is the foundation of every Monitor now in use (my emphasis).” Coil states, “The ritual generally in use in the United States is the closest approach to the original Prestonian ritual now in use.”

Preston’s success in mastering Masonic ritual was not matched by any such success as a Masonic historian. Coil states, “As an historian, Preston was no improvement over Dr. Anderson. His work was quite imaginary and irresponsible.” Mackey’s History of Freemasonry states on page 134, “It may be said of Preston that he improved upon Anderson in his method of treating the early progress of Freemasonry. However, his story has so many claims not yet proved to be facts, that his theory must, like that of Anderson, be still considered as founded on legends rather than on accredited history.”

At his death, Preston left 500-pound endowments to each of two charity funds of the Grand Lodge of England. In addition, he left a 300-pound endowment to the Grand Lodge, to underwrite, “...some well-informed Mason to deliver annually a Lecture on the First, Second, or Third Degree of the Order of Masonry according to the system practised in the Lodge of Antiquity.” At first, the practice was for one member to simply recite once a year each of the very long lectures that Preston had written — one for each of the three degrees. For years at a time, there have been no “Prestonian Lectures”. The tradition of “Prestonian Lectures” series survives today in a modified format and is the only series of lectures given with the authority of the Grand Lodge of England.

In his paper, “Preston’s Lectures”, published by the The Philalethes Society in June of 1983, George H. T French states, “Preston conceived that the purpose of Freemasonry was to instruct, and to spread knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences. Knowledge was not only power - said he - but the ameliorating influence which would aid in the Masonic objective of controlling the passions.”

William Preston ascended to the Celestial Lodge on April 1, 1818. His earthly remains lie interred at the courtyard of St. Paul’s Cathedral, which Darrah refers to as, “The Last Edifice To Be Erected By The Old Operative Guilds.” (p. 87)

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



Fish or Cut Bait

continued from page 4:

tures sitting in a tree, to heck with patience waiting for something to die, lets kill something!

By the third degree it should be clear that some action should take place in our professional and private lives, to redeem the promise of taking a good man and making him better. The changes are sometime slow and dilberate others may happen immediately. Regardless, the transformation doesn't end when you are raised, nor issued your Patent as a Master of the Royal Secret. Masonry is a process, not a program. A program has a beginning and end. A process is never ending and neither is the journey in Masonry. The process must embrace change, a disturbing thought for some.

My Lodge embraced the change in how a new brother is considered proficient in the esoteric work, in order to have him advance to the next degree. The ability to recite the esoteric work of the three degrees only reveals that the individual has the capacity for recall and memory. Whether that ability makes him more a Mason is a subjective supposition. We gained several new members in rapid fashion and were able to put these men to work in our Lodge. A majority of these new brethren attended esoteric classes in the district and have subsequently recited their work in open lodge. Many are currently holding appointed offices. They are very active in the appendant bodies and are a great asset to Freemasonry. The 'fast track' program benefited them and the Fraternity. Conversely, we have members that advanced in this manner that have not returned to Lodge, however they have maintained their membership. What their original reason was for joining remains a question that only they can answer. This position is not unique to these new members as the Fraternity has always experienced this situation. Many members joined to become active in York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine. Unfortunately, some join to only be card carrying and have the privilege of saying they are Masons although they have not expended any effort to enjoy those privileges.

This program's shortcoming is the lack of investment by the new member. Working with a coach, committing time and effort and having a knowledgable source of Masonic information available fosters a personal relationship with a Mason and the Fraternity. Without this investment and commitment there is nothing to viewed as gain or as having benefit through membership. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. The member knows little or nothing of our history, goals, impact, purpose and brotherhood. This is not a reflection on the newly raised brother but rather a failure by the lodge to fulfill the promise of providing Masonic knowledge. These brethren were in a way, short changed.

The same is true for the new Masters of the Royal Secret after attending as a candidate during our reunions. We bombard the candidates with audio-visual information through the dramas of the Degrees. They are handed a copy of *A Bridge to Light* and told they are now Scot-

continued next column

tish Rite Masons. Probably bewildered, they don't know enough to ask "Just what does that entail?". Some Valleys may provide a copy of Pike's *Morals and Dogmas* and suggest the brother read it thoroughly, as if there would be a pop-quiz coming. Now that is a terrifying thought. Then again, I am simple minded. I only had to use the dictionary and thesaurus four times on the preface to Bro de Hoyos new book *Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*. I can't wait to get to the Table of Contents. The Strategic Planning Committee has addressed this promise of providing additional Masonic knowledge through a training and education program. We as Masons have a desire to improve in many ways and this program will aid in achieving this goal. We all begin this journey as abecedarians.

From the brief outline of the Strategic Planning Process it is evident change will be a critical element. Change is not easily embraced by many of our members since their comfort level is likely to be disturbed. There will be some that are resistant and steadfast to hold onto the status quo. They will want to hold on to their World Book Encyclopedias, file folders stuffed full of printed documents and drying out typewriter ribbons. For them there is no sense of urgency, no need to release the white knuckle grasp and no reasonable reason to change. They have worked hard, taken responsibility and earned honors. However, their numbers and mindset are in the minority and with our current membership and leadership at the Valley, Orient and Supreme levels the Strategic Plan will be welcomed and implemented.

It is time for everyone to become active again. Not the "Are we going to fish or cut bait" action. Rather a Lead or Follow attitude. For this old dog the decision is clear. I'm going to get out of the way, sit on the porch and finally get the opportunity to watch the big dogs run. To paraphrase George Courtauld "*Fishing is about as thrilling as waiting on a bus, with the similar tantalization that something, sometime, somehow will turn up*". I'd rather just eat them.

The Ed



I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.

Thomas Jefferson



Life belongs to the living, and and he who lives must be prepared for changes.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Valley of Monroe - Horseshow
continued from page 9

that will be presented at the Ike Hamilton Expo Center in West Monroe on March 3rd and 4th, 2006 beginning at 6:00 P.M.

New 2006 Officers

In the material submitted for the previous Trestleboard, that was not printed, was an article concerning the Christmas Party and the installation of the officers of the various Bodies of the Monroe Valley.

The Christmas Party turned out to be a festive occasion, as usual, and then, those attending went into the Lodge room and the installation was conducted, with the Ladies included, as to allow them to demonstrate their vicarious pride in their spouses. The Installing Officer was none other than our Personal Representative of the Deputy in Louisiana, Illustrious Woody D. Bilyeu, 33° who was assisted by Illustrious Roy McDuffie, 33°, PGM. The officers installed were: Illustrious Alton C. Reeves, 33°, Venerable Master; Illustrious Clifford D. Whitehead, 33°, Senior Warden; Challie B. Griggs, 32° KCCH, as Junior Warden of the Lodge of Perfection; Willie D. Lofton, 32° KCCH as Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix; C. Edwin Collins, 32° KCCH, Commander of Kadosh of the Council of Kadosh; Richard D. Mahoney, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh of the Consistory. Let us all get behind these newly elected officers and give them our whole-hearted support and assistance if requested.

Master Mason Night in Monroe

It has been an important as well as a gala event for a number of years now at the Monroe Bodies to host the Master Mason of the Year recognition night. The Monroe Bodies select an outstanding Mason from the 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 7th Masonic District who has exemplified Masonry and its principles in every way and is recognized as a good Man and Mason. This year, the celebration of naming the Master Mason of the year was held on February 25, 2006. The recipient of this prestigious designation for 2006 was Brother Leroy G. Stenzel, Jr., 32° KCCH of the 3rd Masonic District.

The Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, Most Worshipful Clayton J. "Chip" Borne with other members of the Grand Family in attendance, presented the plaque to Brother Stenzel in a most dignified and

continued next column

Valley of Monroe News-continued:

appropriate manner. As usual, there was an excellent turnout and everyone enjoyed a delicious sit-down dinner prepared by the Culinary artists of the Kitchen Crew.

Maundy Thursday Service

Since Easter Sunday this year is on April 16th, 2006, our special Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday April 13th. The Maundy Thursday Service includes the Ceremony of Extinguishing the Lights as well as the Relighting of the Lights. The Paschal Feast is symbolized after the ceremony of Extinguishing the Lights. Scottish Rite Masons are obligated to attend and are urged to invite their families and friends. These ceremonies encourage the members to reaffirm their faith in the universal fraternity of mankind with one another. No ritual is more beautiful and inspiring or any Masonic Ceremony more soul-searching than our Maundy Thursday Service.

Maundy Thursday is also a memorial service dedicated to members who have entered the Celestial Lodge above during the past year. The beautiful messages included in the Ceremonies draw one closer to the beloved, departed Brethren who are dwelling with the Great Architect of the Universe in the house, not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

Bring some Blue Lodge Brethren who might be candidates at the April Reunion on the 25th!!

More Reunion

Brethren of the Monroe Scottish Rite Bodies will have a one-day Reunion on April 29, 2006. This later date, than in previous years, will serve two important functions. First, this later date will allow the Cast members to polish their speaking parts even though they do an outstanding job. In some instances you would think they are hired professional actors, not just everyday Masons who believe in what they are trying to do...bring more light to our Blue Lodge Brethren. Secondly, this date will extend the time that the Brethren can utilize to get more of their friends in the Craft to sign a petition for the Scottish Rite. The securing of petitions also has a two-pronged result: the more petitions, the more of the Blue Lodge Brethren who haven't advanced beyond the Master Masons Degree in their search for Light will receive deeper insights into what

continued next column

Valley of Monroe News continued:

Masonry is all about and secondly, this will allow some of our Scottish Rite Brethren to get a Black Cap or even help defray their dues. So, my Brethren lets get as many petitions as we possibly can so that we will fulfill the role of bringing more Brethren to be Masters of the Royal Secret as well as replacing those lost Brethren who now sit in that Celestial Lodge above. Even if you don't have the petition of a Blue Lodge Brother to bring to the reunion, come visit and you may get to see the revised degrees exemplified as well as enjoy the Fellowship with your Brethren.

Now for an excellent reason to secure as many petitions as you can! This reunion will be named the Dr. T. Scott Strickland Class. As a memorial to our long time Personal Representative we hope to have one of our largest classes in recent years! "Doc" Strickland was a good Mason and very strong supporter of Scottish Rite. I remember, on one occasion, he said that if we referred to the Light received in the Blue Lodge degrees as a college, then the Scottish Rite could be classed as a University since the Light and explanations of the principles of Freemasonry illustrated in the Scottish Rite could be compared to graduate degrees. Let us all endeavor to get a large class to commemorate our deceased Brother, PGM and Personal Representative.

Tid-Bits

Anger in only one letter short of danger.

Great minds discuss ideas;

Average minds discuss events;

Small minds discuss people.

Five year old little Johnny was lost so he went up to a policeman and said, "I've lost my Dad". The policeman said, "what's he like"? Johnny replied, "Beer and Women". Never be afraid to try something new.

Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

I've learned....That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your face.

Bumper Stickers

I took an IQ test-the results were negative
Few women admit their age-fewer men act theirs

Be nice to your kids-They're going to select your Nursing Home.

Keystone Kaments (Keystone High Twelve) Wichita,

Kansas

Fraternally,

Beryl C. Franklin, Ph.D., 33°

THE LAST WORD



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

“But other than that, Mrs. Lincoln, how was the Play?” This is one of my favorite lines to use when attending a gathering that has lost the focus of the gathering - it moved off into an area that forgot its original discussion topic or its reason for gathering. We have all attended meetings that started off with a main topic and somehow lost focus and became a committee meeting on some minor issue, or worse yet, completely lost the originally topic. How many meetings have you attended hoping to enjoy a “Masonic” meeting and it became an argument over raising the Dues or repairing of the building?

Focus is important today. All of us have just so much time to devote to an area, and then we must move on to another area. If you attend a meeting one month and it is uninteresting or boring, and if the chairman doesn't keep the meeting on track, you probably have second thoughts about attending the next meeting. So it is with many of our Masonic meetings. We sometimes lose Focus on the reason for gathering. Many times, we also lose Focus on our future.

In Scottish Rite, we like to say that we are the University of Freemasonry. The university that I attended had leaders (professors) who knew their topic, came to class prepared, and challenged me to think and to question and to learn. When you attend your Valley meetings, you should always leave knowing more than when you arrived – and also have a good feeling about having attended. There should be a pleasant, clean, safe and comfortable meeting place for you to attend; a warm reception as you enter; an eager group of Brothers who talk to you and include you in their conversation; a regular meeting that starts on time and follows a structured agenda which includes information relevant to all who attend; a section on Masonic knowledge or information; and the meeting should end on time. There should be a social period where refreshments can be enjoyed prior to and after the regular meeting – whether it is a meal or light refreshments – there should be some time that allows the Brethren to “gather around the coffee pot”. These are basic to a well run and enjoyable meeting.

In each of our Valleys, we have a mechanism called the “Advisory Conference”, our version of a Board of Directors, that should meet monthly and discuss the details and have the committees report detailed information, and determine what recommendations should be brought before the general membership in a regular meeting. But never should the regular meeting become a place where detailed information or committees consume valuable time with information where the membership cannot or does not appreciate their efforts or involvement. Summary reports should be made in the regular meeting. Of course, there should be time allotted for discussion, but not devolve into another meeting of the committee. Reasons to gather should be Fellowship, sharing important information and learning something that we didn't know when we entered. Focus in a meeting is important to have members want to return to the next meeting.

Another loss of Focus is our focus on our future. Our future is totally dependent on Mother Lodge. If we fail to support our home lodge, then Scottish Rite will not only lose its focus, but will eventually fail to exist.

We must never forget the cornerstone for all of Freemasonry – it is in our Lodge. If we attend and support our Lodge, if we live and act as Masons each day, if we practice what we learned in our Degrees – Masonry will prosper and grow, and Scottish Rite will prosper and grow. It is that basic. Our real Focus should be on what our Lodges are doing – and the same recipe mentioned above is vital for Lodges – arriving regularly at a pleasant, clean, safe and comfortable meeting place, a warm reception when you enter, an eager group of Brothers who talk to you and include you in their conversation, a meeting that starts on time, etc. It is the same routine for success. The idea is to get Brothers to be involved in Masonry – practice it, live it, spread it to others. Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm and success breeds success – others who are not Masons will want the enthusiasm and success that they observe in us – and we will grow. When we finally sit down and look at who we are, we must take inventory and recognize that some Lodges need to change – either to move or improve their meeting places, improve their leadership and run efficiently, and not gather in little cliques and exclude others. It is so important that we know and like each other and truly become Brothers. The old adage is so true – to be a Brother you must first be a Friend; and to be a Friend, you have to know and care about the man. If we Focus on Brotherhood, we will succeed. If we Focus on Masonic teachings and lessons, we will succeed. When we Focus on our future in Mother Lodge, Scottish Rite will grow and succeed. Let us all Focus.

Thank you for continuing to be an active and focused Scottish Rite Mason.

Bill Mollere

A Word Of Thanks

Brethren, the last two months have included our annual Certification Conference hosted this year by the Valley of Shreveport, and our annual Honors Luncheon at Grand Lodge and the annual meeting of our Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation also held at Grand Lodge. All of these events were well attended and were successful activities. Thanks to all who participated and who helped make them successful. A personal word of thanks to Bro. John Atkinson, who wears two hats. John coordinated the Certification Conference in Shreveport at the end of January in his capacity as the General Secretary of the Valley of Shreveport. Then he ran a well organized meeting of the Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation at Grand Lodge in his capacity as the President of the Foundation.

Our Certification Conference had forty Brothers attend who are the elected heads of each Valley. Leading discussions were Boyd Patterson, a Past Grand Master of Texas; Greg Klemm, the Executive Secretary of the Valley of Chicago; and our own Ballard Smith, Woody Bilyeu, Steve Pence, Bob Hutchinson, Lloyd Pence, John Atkinson and some who were behind the scenes. Many thanks to all of these Brothers who attended and those who lead discussions. It took commitment, giving up a beautiful weekend and some personal expense to further their involvement in Scottish Rite.

Our Honors Luncheon is always a fine time to be together, and many thanks to Bro. Joe Baker, PGM, who coordinated our Luncheon, and who arranged for our meeting place for the Foundation. To all of the newly elected Officers of our Foundation – congratulations, and keep us on track and let us continue doing the good work at our Childhood Learning Centers and in granting scholarships to worthy college students.

By the time you receive this publication, plans will be finalized for our Valley leaders to attend the biennial National Leadership Conference, this year held in Houston. The Conference is open to all, and the main topic is Strategic Planning, an important plan for our future. If you are interested in attending, please contact your Valley's General Secretary for registration and hotel information.

Your Leadership Team will gather at the first part of May for our semi-annual Conference of the Orient, this time in Monroe. Wish us all well as we attempt to make important decisions that affect the well-being of all of our members.

My thanks again to all of you who participate in Scottish Rite Masonry.

Bill Mollere, Deputy



Did You Know?

In 1872 the commissioner of Patents held that the Masonic emblem could not be used in a trademark or trade name for commercial purposes.

In Hammer v. State, 173 Indiana, 199 (1909), the Supreme Court ruled that it was a criminal offense to wear the emblem of any society or organization of which one is not a member. The court based its decision on the fact that the membership in such societies is the result of fitness and selection and that the wearing of such emblems by non-members is a deceit and false pretense.



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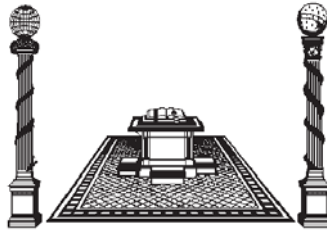
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725 Cotton Street
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And there was...Lite

A young Entered Apprentice was being tested on his proficiency. After going over the signs and passwords, he looked at his tester and asked, "I noticed several of the older members sticking their fingers in their ears and whistling. What does that sign mean?"

"That's not a sign," his tester said, "Those are Past Masters adjusting their hearing aids."



Issue Issues

The January/February issue, which was a photo spread of the new KCCH-IGH members, didn't do justice to the members. Most of the pictures were washed out. No, they didn't run low on ink. It had to do with Windows OS to Mac OS formatting and that they don't play well together. This issue has been resolved. The Members of Monroe are owed an apology, as the articles were submitted in a timely manner, but did not make it into the publication. Totally my responsibility. On a final note, our cut off date will be moved back so that our members will receive their copies prior to the first of the month. However, New Orleans and Baton Rouge mail services remain poor.

**Louisiana Scottish Rite Foundation
Louisiana Scottish Rite Trestleboard**

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