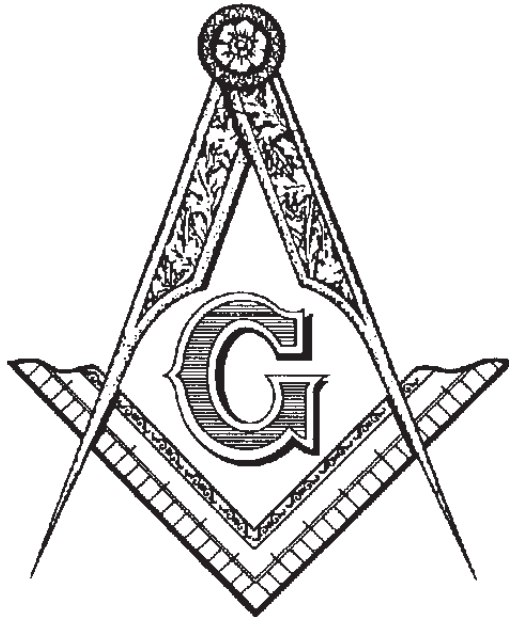


Fall 2006

Volume VIII: Issue #16

Fulton- Montgomery



Official Publication of the
Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District
Free & Accepted Masons
State of New York

The Fulton-Montgomery News

• Staff •

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• Newsletter Policy •

The Fulton-Montgomery News, published quarterly for the benefit of the Brethren of the Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District and their families, is the official publication of:

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Address all correspondence to: **F-M News**
Roger B. Steele
489 Honeywell Crs. Rd.

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• A View From The East •

*by R.: W.: Claton D. Swain
DDGM Fulton-Montgomery District*



Hello Fellow Masons and Families,

Greetings and salutations from your district team, as summer winds down and we start to plan our many activities of the upcoming lodge year we trust everyone had a great summer. RW Bob Parkinson and myself have been busy planning our strategy for the upcoming year's work. Many plans have been made with dates set for the Masonic Development Course and the Road to the East. I myself have been busy getting all the new Masters (8 new Masters this year) up to speed on what is expected of them and what they can expect of me.

Our first activity of the new Masonic year will have been the statewide Celebration of the 225th Anniversary of our New York State Grand Lodge. Chartered in 1781 our Grand Jurisdiction is one of the oldest in the United States. Every Mason of New York should be proud of all the accomplishments our Grand Lodge has made and of all the many ideas and programs it has instituted on behalf of all Masonry. Many of these programs have been copied or adopted by other Grand Jurisdictions and are still in use today. Hopefully each lodge had a great turn out at their church service and at the public breakfast where you, the lodges, presented Commemorative American Flags to all the groups or organizations each lodge decided to honor. I trust we all had a great time and displayed the best of Masonry to all in attendance.

A second part of our anniversary year is directly related to you the brothers. All Master Masons have been or will be summoned to their present lodge to rededicate themselves to the principles of Free Masonry. Each brother was asked to recite out loud in unison the three obligations we each swore to when first becoming a mason. Designed to instill a new sense of pride and responsibility to the fraternity I myself caught myself reflecting back to the days when I originally became a Mason some 37 years before. Taking my obligations and working hard to memorize the work needed to gain further light was hard at the time but now most of us (and all who have been master) should be able to do this easily. I hope you all felt the sense of renewal when you participated in this ceremony and continue to relate it to those of our brothers that were not able to

attend. Truly this fraternity is an asset to the entire world, if we believe, practice and preach its teachings.

For those of you who are not in the area I want to let you know what has happened in our district during the early summer. Our area, especially Montgomery County, experienced major rains and flooding compliments of Mother Nature. As it would happen several of our lodges did not escape catastrophic damage. Fultonville Lodge was devastated with 10 feet of water; Canajoharie (Hamilton) sustained major flood damage to the down stairs and lost it's heating system. St. Johnsville had some damage to its hot water heater but did not sustain major problems. Unfortunately the Fultonville lodge building cannot be saved and will be torn down. The men of the lodge have already started to plan on a major building project. The members have been meeting to discuss the situation and at last I heard they would rebuild. I am proud to say that every lodge in our district has come forward and offered to these 3 lodges a place to meet. This brother's is brotherhood and Masonry at it's finest. Thank you to all Masters and trustees for their support of these lodges.

Because of al the damage and devastation our Masonic Charities group was been contacted by several of our members and local officials and asked to help with flood relief. At a meeting held several weeks ago it was decided to sponsor a fund-raiser that would benefit all flood victims, not just Masons but all area people. It was also decided that it would have to be a big fund-raiser which president Jeff Lanfear quickly announced he would head this challenge. I am sure we will be hearing about the plans for this event shortly. If any brother wishes to make a contribution to flood relief for the district please contact Worshipful Brother Jeff at (518) 527-0373.

As you can see our new Masonic year is already filling up with projects and events. All Masters are encouraged to let everyone know when there will be degrees and fund-raisers that their brothers can attend. Be sure to send out your trestle board to all other masters and encourage them to attend your events as you should attend theirs when time permits. The new district directory is now available. I will send each master and secretary a copy and if anyone else would like one simply let me know. The new district tri-fold is also being distributed, be sure you get one and see when and where our District Deputy, Master and Officer and Charities meetings are. Remember to get involved, if you don't there won't be anything to get involved in someday.

Hope to see you at a meeting or two, Fraternally, Clayton "Skip" Swain DDGM

Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities

The Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities will be having several fundraisers this coming year. The first one I believe will be for the burn victim from Amsterdam who's family is trying so desperately to stay with him in Westchester Burn Hospital. We believe that we will do a dinner, district wide for this family. Please watch your newsletters and please support this worthwhile community cause.

The next fundraiser we will be doing will be for the victims of the devastation brought on by the flood in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. There are so many people hurting out there. Our great fraternity can shine as the beacon of light by doing these good deeds.

Please support the efforts of your lodges during these trying times.

We gave out 8 scholarships this year to Masonic Family relatives from around the district. Your support can help in our drives for the Scholarship Fund, the Benevolent Fund and don't forget an ad for your business for the support of this newsletter.

Also I have a plug for the Washington D.C. trip on Sept 28th, put together by R.:W.:Lee Smith.. This should be a wonderful trip, as it has been in other years. Contact Lee Smith if you can make it this year. The cost is \$350.00 per person for the bus trip and Lodging. Food is on your own.

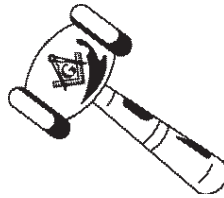
Fraternally,
Jeff Lanfear, President



• **In Memoriam** •

Bro. Alvin V. Hichens, St. Patrick's #4	<i>from his wife Edith</i>
Richard J. Sponable	<i>from his wife Shirley</i>
Bro. Harold Banta	<i>from his wife Norma</i>
Bro. Bill Tanner	<i>from Bro. Dick Gugenberger</i>
Bro. E. O. Christmas	<i>from Bro. Gary Harington</i>
Bro George Harington	<i>from Bro. Gary Harington</i>
Rev. Bro. Newton Perrins	<i>from Bro. Elsworth Simpson</i>
Bro. Ernest D. Mugglin	<i>from Bro. Elsworth Simpson</i>
Bro. Harold E. Lake	<i>from Bro. Churchill S. Lake</i>
Bro. William V. Hovey, Fultonville #531	<i>from his wife Jeannette</i>
Bro. Lawrence W. Castler	<i>from his wife Jean</i>

Remember a Brother: A \$10 contribution to the newsletter will keep their name in this column for 4 issues. Any Brother may be honored.



Traveling Gavel 2006

_____ Thus far, as of September, the total points for the year received for each lodge attending District Deputy and M&O meetings are as follows;

St Patrick's #4	56 points
Hamilton #79	29 points
Amsterdam #84	16 points
Fish House #298	24 points
Fort Plain #433	32 points
Fultonville #531	46points
Kennyetto #599	38 points
St Johnsville #611	0 points

Respectively Submitted,
R.:W.:David Saltsman,

Masonic News Network – June 2006

R.:W.: James Rose

Masonic Home Admission Counselor

Wiley Hall Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Saturday, June 24th, the Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for Wiley Hall took place on the campus of the Masonic Care Community. All brethren and their families and friends joined R.:W.: Edward G. Gilbert, Deputy Grand Master, M.:W.: Neal I. Bidnick, Grand Master, Richard Thomas, President of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home and William J. Luley, Executive Director of the Masonic Care Community, in cutting the ribbon to this magnificent facility. Following the ceremony tours of the building took place. Visitors were very impressed with the new Wiley Hall. Residents were scheduled to be moved into their new home later this summer.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

St. John's Day at the Masonic Care Community in Utica last June started with the "**Wreath Laying Ceremony**" in honor of past and present veterans. The ceremony took place in front of the statue of the World War I soldier – located in front of the Soldiers and Sailors building.

The ceremony was presided over by David P. Crawford, Chairman of the Masonic Military Outreach & Veterans Services Committee of the Grand Lodge. The ceremony began with the posting of the colors by the Honor Guard, consisting of members of the Masonic War Veterans. They lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. A prayer was lead by Paul Gleason, Grand Chaplin. Following the prayer, Angie Caiola, Director of Community Relations, sang the Star Spangled Banner. Remarks by the Grand Master, Neal I. Bidnick, Richard Thomas, President of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall & Home, and Deputy Grand Master Edward G. Gilbert took place. Following the remarks everyone bowed their heads as Ray Alvarez, a member of the Masonic War Veterans, played taps. Concluding the ceremony everyone joined Angie Caiola in singing God Bless America.



• Lodge News •

By W.: William R. Dorn, Master

1st & 3rd Thursdays

St. Patrick's Lodge # 4 F & A M

As we begin the Fall schedule of Communications and events, W.:M.: William J. Dorn, invites all of the members to participate. Great times and special occasions will begin this September.

Sept. 10: Grand Lodge 225th Anniversary kicks off with a breakfast at the Lodge and a Church Service at St. Johns, in Johnstown.

Sept. 21: Member "Rededication" special program at our Stated Communication.

Oct. 5: Stated Communication: St. Patrick's Lodge # 4 will be electing a new trustee to replace a vacancy created by the resignation of Warren V. Vaughn.

Oct. 19: Stated Communication: St. Patrick's Lodge # 4 will be conferring the 1st Degree on a class of (up to 5) candidates. If you would like to help, it would be appreciated.

Nov. 2 and 16, as well as Dec. 7: Stated Communications.

W.: M.: Wm. J. Dorn will be presenting 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, and a 65 year membership pin / certificate to several Brothers at a meeting this Fall. Date to be announced in our Lodge newsletter.

W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn,
Lodge – District Newsletter, Chrm.



Hamilton #79

By W.: Jeremy "Jay" Krajewski, Master

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

(518) 922-7668

wmchr1@aol.com

Brothers,

It is my duty as master of Hamilton Lodge to let all brothers know that the lodge sustained no damages due to the flooding that occurred on June 28, 2006. Unfortunately, the Community Youth Center Incorporated had severe damages. The flooding destroyed the lower levels of the building, the bowling alley in the cellar and the basketball court in the lower level. There was also damage done to the entrance and all surrounding rooms. The building has power, water and heating problems due to this. This does not affect our lodge, aside from the heat.

The Community Youth Center is in dire need of support. If any brother knows of a way to help this wonderful center feel free to contact myself at (518)922-7668 or Vicki at the Youth Center at (518)673-5117.

First of all we will be having our Masters and Officers and Masonic Charities meetings on Monday, October 23, 2006. Masonic Charities will meet at 6:30 and Masters and Officers will meet at 7:30.

Second, we are going to have our District Deputy Visitation at our lodge on Wednesday, October 25, 2006. We will be having a dinner with limited seating capacity as we will be dining in our upper level. We will accommodate all who come. Please let us know how many brothers to expect from each lodge. The hours for the night will be at the usual 5:30 social hour, 6:30 dinner, and 7:30 meeting.

This Masonic year we will also be celebrating our 200th anniversary. We are still waiting for news from Grand Lodge on the date for the occasion. As soon as we are notified we will send out invitations to all. For now that is all and keep in mind the help that the Youth Center will need.

Fraternally,
W.:Jeremy "Jay" Krajewski



Amsterdam #84

By W.: Thomas D. Krutz, Master
1st & 3rd Mondays



Fish House #298

By W.: Robert Stankes



Continued on page 16

Fort Plain #433

By R.: W.: David Montanye, Master

We will be having our District Deputy visitation on September 26, social hour 6-7, buffet 7-7:30.

R.: W.: Clayton Swain will be our District Deputy again along with R.: W.: Robert Parkinson as our new Staff Officer. I would like to thank R.: W.: Keith Veitch, R.: W.: Robert Parkinson, Bro. Zach Miller and Bro. Chris Hanley for helping to move all the furniture from Fulton Lodge to Fort Plain. Fultonville Lodge was condemned due to the flood.

We will be putting on a second and third degree sometime in October. We will need any available help.

St. Johnsville, Fort Plain and Hamilton will be celebrating the 225th anniversary at the St. Johnsville Lodge. We will have a service and breakfast around 8 a.m. Flags will be distributed during the breakfast hour. We hope to have a good turnout.

R.: W.: Dave Montanye, Master



Fultonville #531

By W.: Michael Krajewski, Master

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

(518)922-8712

Dear Brothers:

What can I say???? WHAT A SUMMER!!!!!!

As we start our Masonic year at Fultonville Lodge, there is not a usable Lodge building in Fultonville to use. On June 28th the Lodge was flooded. The damage is really beyond repair. Needless to say many of our lodge members, and members of other Lodges, have been very busy over the summer, cleaning and as of the beginning of August moving. On behalf of Fultonville Lodge, I would like to thank everyone who participated.

Right now we have a lot of planning to do, (which the Officers of the Lodge have been doing all summer). One of the plans is trying to raise funds so we can rebuild. Hopefully in a relatively short time, we can see this accomplished.

Any Brothers who can donate their advice or anything else on this matter, would be greatly appreciated.

At the time of this letter, we still do not have any definite plans

on our meeting place for our Masonic year. As soon as we have a new meeting place, everyone will be notified.

We would like to thank all the Lodges in our District that offered their Lodges for our use.

The date and place of our Masonic Charities, Master and Officers meeting will be on April 23rd, 2007 at St. Patricks Lodge #4 In Johnstown starting at 6pm.

Our District Deputies visitation will be on Wednesday, February 7th, 2007 at St. Patricks Lodge #4 Johnstown. We will have our usual Roast Beef Dinner. Starting time - Social 5:30 , Dinner 6:30 - Meeting 7:30.

Fraternally
W. : Mike Krajewski - Master



Kennyetto Lodge No. 599

W. : Robert Jackson

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

To all brothers near and far,

As of this news letter summer is about over, I hope all members had a great summer. I am ready to get going on me year a Master of the lodge for the upcoming year. We now forward look to fall and another year of activities at the lodge.

We must regress and reminisce on the passing of Brother Louis L Huffmire, Lou will be missed at the lodge for his participation in both the Freemasonry and Eastern Star functions here at Kennyetto .

Labor Day and the Fonda Fair Child ID is over by now and we had a wonderful turnout to help. A thank you to all Brothers and there wife's and friends.

Wednesday Sept 6th will be meet the candidate/bring a friend night at the lodge starting at 6:30 till? Dress informal.

Dates for future degrees will be announced in our Trestle Board.

Wed September 27th will be Flag Dedication for 225 years of Free Masonry in New York State .Flags (American) will be presented to various orignations in Broadalbin and surrounding area. This will be a Formal night for Officers) Please attend 6:30 starting time.

A small reminder that we have a Pancake Partners Breakfast the second Saturday of every month. If you can't help please come and support your lodge.

We will continue to have a fundraising dinner once a month in the

upcoming year, to continue with our onward stride to reach our 5 year goal in beatifying and for the heating system of our lodge.
As soon as I get a template for the Trestle Board I will be sending one to each member with an email address. There will also be a copy of the Trestle Board at the lodge that you will be able to pick up on your visit. In closing Remember being a member is more than just paying dues .See you at Lodge

Fraternally,
W.: Robert Jackson Master



St. Johnsville #611
By R.: W.: Jacque Mosher Sr., Master
1st & 3rd Thursdays



ompliments of:

Brother Royal P. Taylor Amsterdam # 84

Mrs. Norma Banta

Help the Newsletter! A personal contribution of \$10 or more will help

From the Editor's Desk

Roger B. Steele

This piece has been asked for on several occasions and I am happy to be able to bring it to you again now.

EVERY BROTHER HIS OWN TILER
by: Unknown

All Masons know the importance of the Tiler, and the scope of his duties. But the Tiler is only one brother - secrecy is a Masonic duty for all. Throughout the three degrees, and in the ceremonies of opening and closing a lodge, are references to the importance of preserving inviolate the secrets of the Order, preventing the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, guarding against the disclosure of the esoteric work to those whom it is not proper to be made known. In the Ritual explanation of the third cardinal virtue, Prudence, we are told (see most monitors) "This virtue should be the peculiar characteristic of every Mason, not only for the government of his conduct while in the Lodge, but also when abroad in the world. It should be particularly attended to, in all strange and mixed companies, never to let fall the least sign, token, or word whereby the secrets of Freemasonry might be unlawfully obtained. The charge to the entered Apprentice admonishes him, among other things; "Neither are you to suffer your zeal for the Institution to lead you into an argument with those who, through ignorance, may ridicule it." The FellowCraft is exhorted to preserve steadily "in the practice of every commendable virtue." In the Third Degree the newly Raised

Master Mason learns that "The Book of Constitutions, guarded by the Tiler's Sword, reminds us that we should be ever watchful and guarded in our words and actions, particularly before the enemies of Masonry, ever bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection." Not only the "work," both printed and exoteric, and secret and esoteric, exhorts us to "silence and circumspection;" the inner meaning of the symbolism of the Tiler and his Sword teaches plainly that each of us should be a Masonic Tiler. In other words, the duties of the Tiler are not confined to that officer; every Mason should be, in effect, a Tiler. He is a good Mason as his words and actions are duly "Tiled," and a detriment, if not a positive injury, to the Craft as he is

careless of or indifferent to these duties. In the ancient operative days the secrets of a Master Mason were valuable in coin of the realm. The Mason who knew the Master's Word could travel in foreign countries and receive Master's Wages. Many who could not, or would not, conform to the requirements tried to ascertain the Master's Word and some of a Master's skill in a clandestine manner. The "eavesdropper" - literally, one who attempts to listen under the eaves, and so receives upon him the droppings from the roof - was altogether without the pale; he was only a common thief, who tried to learn by stealth what he could not learn by work. The cowan was a more or less ignorant Mason; one who laid stones together without mortar, or piled rough stones from the field into a wall, without working upon them to make them square and true. He was a "Mason without a word" with no reputation; the apprentice who tried to masquerade as a master. The operative Masons guarded their assemblies against intrusion of both the non-Mason thief, and the half-instructed craftsman, who, like the Fellowcrafts of old, desired to obtain the secret word of a Master Mason by force, rather than by labor. While nothing very positive is known either as to the date when the guardian of the door first went on duty, or why he was called a Tiler, or Tyler, it is believed that the office is very ancient, and that, inasmuch as the man who put on the roof, or tiles, (tiler) completed the building and made those within secure from intrusion,

so the officer who guarded the door against the intrusion was called, by analogy, a Tiler. In modern days the Tiler of a lodge uses his sword only as a symbol of authority. While all faith and trust in his zeal is entertained by the Master and the Brethren, it is usual to make sure by a ceremony familiar to all Masons that no profane, cowan, or eavesdropper, Apprentice, or Fellowcraft has entered the lodge room of Master Masons prior to opening. So ancient is the office, and so important the functions, that Mackey says that the Eleventh of his Twenty-Five Landmarks is "The Necessity that every lodge when congregated shall be duly tiled." But of what avail is it to tile a lodge meeting, if individual brethren do not "bear in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection;" if we fail to heed the charge and do suffer our zeal to lead us into argument with the profane, regarding Masonic matters? Unless all of us understand and abide by the need for us to tile our own words and actions, our portals might as well be in charge of a door keeper who would admit on

the production of a printed ticket! In the profane world (the word is used in its ancient sense of meaning “without the doors of the Temple”) considerable curiosity exists regarding the Masonic Fraternity. The inescapable newspaper reporter, with his accounts of Masonic meetings, does not lessen it. Public appearances of Masons naturally arouse curiosity; spectators are interested when the Grand Lodge, in silk hats and frock coats, embroidered Aprons and with solemn and ancient ceremony, lays the cornerstone of a church, or when a private lodge, attired in white Aprons and Gloves, conducts an impressive funeral, with customs quite different from those of the usual religious service. Masonry has given to the language certain phrases used by the entire English speaking world. The “Third Degree” of the police is a perversion of a Masonic matter; so is the “goat” of the familiar joke. “He’s on the level” - “He’s on the square” are commonplaces. Naturally the public begins to ask questions. What is Masonry? Who may be Masons? Why can’t women be Masons? What do Masons do? Why do you wear those funny little aprons? The Mason who is his own Tiler is “ever watchful and guarded” in what he answers. To satisfy a legitimate curiosity about Freemasonry there is much information which a brother may conscientiously give. A sincere desire to learn something of the Fraternity, on the part of a man who is considering making an application, is an evidence of thoughtfulness. He is entitled to a serious and thoughtful answer to all proper questions. Much information regarding Masonry is printed; its history, its government, its extent, its public appearances - such matters are no more “secret” than a Masonic Temple is secret. Few Masons, not even the careless and indifferent, will disclose the esoteric work of the degrees; the modes of recognition, the words or our methods of teaching. It is not the disclosure of these that we who would tile our hearts and lips must fear. But in between lies a vast body of knowledge and information which are borderland to both the exoteric and esoteric. Here the indifferent, the careless, the uninstructed and the ignorant can - and sometimes do - work an injury to the Fraternity.

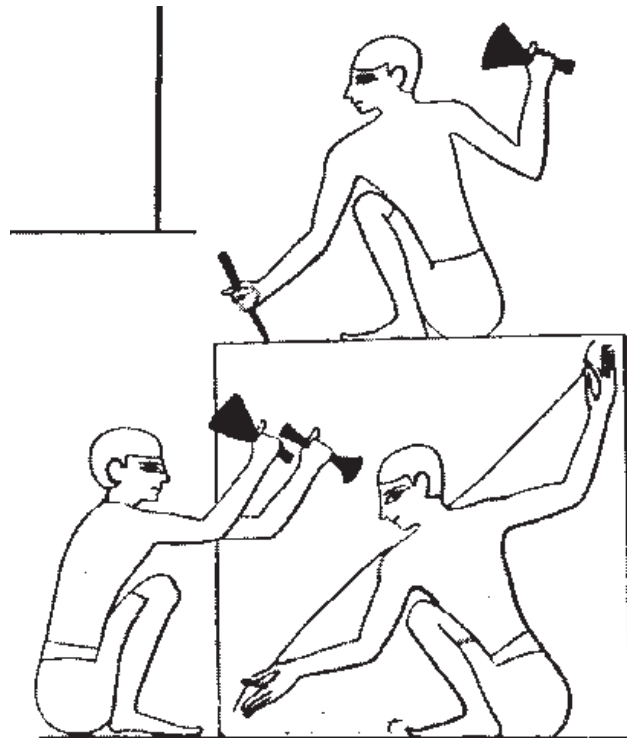
A Mason comes home from lodge and remarks to his wife - “Joe Smith has applied to the lodge. I’m glad old Joe is coming in!” Friend wife thinks nothing of it. Apparently it is a harmless statement. “But suppose Joe Smith is blackballed!” “By the way,” remarks Mrs. Mason, after a few months. “Why don’t you call for Joe Smith when you go to lodge tonight?” What is the

Mason going to say? What can he say? And so Mrs. Mason learns - and with the utmost innocence may tell - that Joe Smith applied for the degrees Freemasonry and was rejected. If Joe Smith wants to make the matter public, that's his business. But as a man may be rejected for the degrees for many reasons; and, while the public thinks only that the rejection means unfitness it's unfair for the lodge, or for any individual member of the lodge, to make the matter known. This is offered merely as one small instance of the harm that may be done by a Mason who is not his own Tiler. A thousand others will occur to the thoughtful. Particularly should we Tile our lips in communities so small that a lodge meeting assumes almost the

importance of a Public Event. As a general rule, we are well advised if we do not talk of anything which occurs in a lodge - even such matters as are harmless - with those who are not of the Fraternity, since such conversations give rise to questions, and questions lead to answers. Freemasonry works her gentle miracles in men's hearts in a way which no profane can understand. Her reputation among the general public is that of silence, secrecy, good works, unselfish doing of good, failure to advertise and to seek publicity. These facts in the jewel of her reputation are the working tools of the Craft among the profane. Every inadvertence which breaks down any one of them, injures the Fraternity in the public eye and thus her ability to do good. Every airing of scandals, every dragging of lodge politics hateful words! - into community talk, every disclosure of charity, even when dictated by pride, is, in the long run, injurious to the Fraternity. Many good men and true seek to "improve" Masonry. Modern conditions do demand ideas; our brethren of two hundred years ago, for instance, never had of a Masonic Home. Many "improvements" are wholly exoteric, and necessary. Others, so-called, attempt to change the "Ancient Usages and Customs," destroy some of the Landmarks and nullify some of the Old Charges. The Freemason who is his own Tiler will set his face steadfastly against all such efforts. As one bad egg will spoil an omelet, so the unfit candidate, admitted, does more harm to the lodge, and thus to the Fraternity, than ten good men and true can do good. The well Tiled Mason will be very careful in the petitions he brings into the lodge. It is not enough to say "Oh, Jim's a good fellow." Jim must be more than a "good fellow" to be a real Mason. It is for us to see that we Tile the petitions we sign with truly Masonic "circumspection." Finally - and perhaps most

important of all personal duties we perform as Tiler - let us see to it that we do not ourselves bring anything into the lodge but brotherly love. Let us be "ever watchful and guarded" that, in the language of the Old Charges, we bring "no private piques or quarrels" within the tiled door. Not only with our

lips but truly, let us meet on the level and part upon the square. Let us each so act in the lodge, as a brother, and out in the world, as a member of the Ancient Craft, that our brethren within, and our friends at large without, can be proud of what Masonry means. For only by so tiling ourselves can we insure that, that with which we are so solemnly charged as Entered Apprentices will endure; "that the honor, glory and reputation of the Institution may be firmly established and maintained; and, the world at large convinced of its good effects."



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Than Just Paying Dues!**



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