

The Sideliner

Master
Robert E. Emory

Wadsworth Lodge No. 417, F. & A.M.

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Under the Master's Hat

Worshipful Master

When I began my Masonic career, I never dreamed that I would be standing here today as your Master. Thank you for the confidence you've placed in me by electing me.

My main theme is "Spreading the Light." By this I mean that I would like to get our lodge out in the community. For example, volunteering, or by being present at some local events or have a historical lecture at our lodge. Start to create a presence in the community again over time will have a positive impact. I feel that it's been an area in our Fraternity that needs attention.

Another goal I have will be to help the new brothers in their Masonic journey, and ask past leaders to continue passing down the tenants of our great fraternity, friendship, morality, and brotherly love to our new brothers. Taking that hand and guiding. Taking good men and

continuing the legacy of making them better.

As we begin a new year with great expectations, we can be assured of one thing and that is "The best is yet to have happened". We all have a look ahead; visions of where we will almost and always discover something of value. It's about our great fraternity. We will certainly benefit from not doing the bare minimum, not being



average, striving to continue to build as masons, and continue to build each other, brethren thank you for all you do every day to make your community and our fraternity the best it can be.

Respectfully and fraternally,
Robert Emory

Table of Contents

Page 1
Under the Master's Hat

Page 2
Trestle Board for Communications

Page 3
Sickness and Distress & Glad Tiding ,

Page 4
District News

Page 5
Poet's Corner

Page 6
Story behind the poem

Page 7
Tales of the Ring

Page 8
Grand Organist

Page 9
Parting Shots

Wadsworth Lodge 2023 – 2024 Trestle Board

6/2/23-6/4/23

Utica lodge tour - stay over two nights at Camp Turk to volunteer and tour Old Forge town and lodge

TBA

Potential two day summer/early fall bus trip to Philadelphia Grand Lodge

9/13/2023	Business Meeting - Program TBA
* 9/27/2023	1st Degree
10/11/2023	Business meeting - Bro. Bailey Program
10/25/2023	Years of Service Night
11/08/2023	Business Meeting - Bro. McCall Program
* 11/15/23	1st Degree (the third Wednesday)
11/22/2023	Dark - Thanksgiving
12/13/2023	Business Meeting - Program TBA
12/16/23	Saturday 4pm Holiday Party - Open
12/27/2024	Dark - For Bro. Baum's Birthday
1/10/2024	Pool tournament
1/24/2024	Business meeting - TBA
2/14/2024	Valentine's Day dinner - no meeting - Open
2/28/2024	Business Meeting - Reports Night
3/13/2024	Business Meeting - Program TBA
* 3/27/2024	Possible Second Degree
* 4/10/2024	DDGM Visit
4/24/2024	Business meeting - Move up Night
* 5/8/2024	Business meeting - Election and installation of Officers
5/22/2024	TBA
6/12/2024	TBA
6/26/2024	TBA

* Tuxedos and white gloves to be worn by officers

Sickness and Distress:

Steve King lost his mother on May 7th.
Elizabeth King was 97 years old.

Glad Tidings:

The Kasunic family was increased by one with the arrival of Tavin on March 19th. He weighed in at 9 pounds and 21 inches.

John and Lynn Scott are grandparents again. Katie and Kenny had a baby girl Olivia Grace Dill. She was born on March 27th.

Nicholas Blais has a son Augustin John Blais. He arrived on April 28th and weighed 8 pounds and a half an ounce.



Tavin Kasunic

Please communicate sickness and distress and/or glad tidings. Brothers, we will never have knowledge to give support to our Brothers, their Widows or Orphans unless we communicate. Harmony is the support of all institutions, especially this of Our Great Masonic Lodge, Wadsworth #417.

Around the District:

Tentative District Deputy Grand Master Visit Schedule			
September 26,2023	Victor Lodge #680	January 23, 2024	Evening Star Lodge #75
October 5, 2023	Berne Lodge #684	February 5, 2024	Mt Zion Lodge #311
October 16, 2023	Mount Vernon Lodge #3	February 22, 2024	Van Rensselaer Lodge #87
October 24, 2023	Beukendaal #915	March 5, 2024	Noah Lodge #754
November 14, 2023	Ancient Temple #14	March 7, 2024	Apollo-King Solomon's Lodge #13
November 27,2023	Masters Lodge #5	March 21, 2024	Guttenberg Lodge #737
January 2, 2024	Bethlehem Lodge #85	April 10, 2024	Wadsworth Lodge #417
January 11, 2024	St. George's Lodge #6	April 24, 2024	Schenectady Lodge #1174

This year the annual work weekend at Camp Turk will be on June 2nd through 4th. There will be a group from the District going up to help make the camp ready for the Summer. In addition they will be going to Old Forge to see the sites.

The cars will be leaving Friday afternoon. There will be a stop in Utica to tour the local lodge. Hopefully they will see W.: Vic Stewart.

District Web Page is [Old 17th.org](http://Old17th.org)

Brunswick Road, Troy.

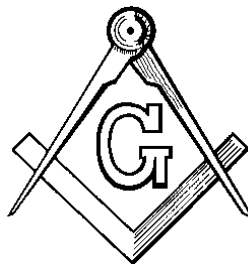
DD Visits

3rd. & 5th Sunday of Month 7:30-11am
Pancake Breakfast, Victor Lodge, 1535 Route 67, Schaghticoke

Ongoing Programs

Every Tuesday 9-12 Coffee and Fellowship, Evening Star, 260 Old Loudon Road, Latham

Every Tuesday 9-12 Coffee Fellowship, Troy Masonic Community Center, 30



Poet's Corner:

Since Memorial Day is coming and we will be visiting the cemetery I chose this piece for this edition. It is a poem written by R.:W.: William Ogren in June 1997 when he was Master of the Lodge. It was on the occasion of dedicating the Wadsworth gravestone. This article and the following is a reprint from the April 2011 Sideline

The Cemetery

The columns by it's entrance are now somewhat askew
they lean in different angles by the driveway passing through.
So many people passed this way, their final trip on earth
now they all are equal, no matter what their worth.

Monuments to many souls spread out across the land
some are small and humble, some are tall and grand.
The weather beaten spires that tip in different ways
are symbols of the earthly wealth of long forgotten days.

No one walking through these stones from many years ago
would even have a knowledge of the people down below.
Monuments that years ago were statements to their wealth
now stand as a reminder that money can't buy health.

The rich man has his monument, the poor man has his stone
but time will pass them by one day and each will be alone.
No matter how expensive, the stone above the ground
all are buried six feet deep where nothing makes a sound.

The final day of reckoning will come to us one day
this we must remember as we go along our way.
No matter what our income no matter what our worth
we all will then be equal as we lie beneath the earth.

We are gathered here today to dedicate this stone
to Ebenezer Wadsworth or Brother as he's known.
From now into eternity through summer heat and snow
the world will know our founder lies buried down below.

His name is chiseled in the stone as well as in our hearts
remembered by a grateful lodge for giving us a start.
His legacy is in our trust we carry on his name
he belongs now to the ages this man of lasting fame.



Story Behind the Poem

The remains of our founder Ebenezer Wadsworth are buried in Green Hill Cemetery in Amsterdam, New York. For many years W. Harold Morrow made an annual pilgrimage to the grave. He trimmed the grass and left flowers at the grave.

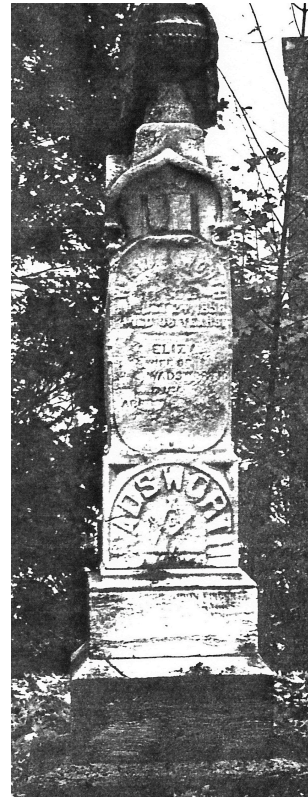
On his visit in 1995 he arrived to find that the gravestone had been vandalized and broken into four pieces one of which was missing. In the summer 1997 Brother Morrow led Ken and Don Moore and Bill Ogren to to the grave to inspect the damage. The situation was brought before the Trustees and it was decided to repair or replace the monument.

Bill Ogren contacted John Viscosie at Cherry Valley Monument company, which is the firm that does most of the work at cemetery. He informed the group that the monument was too badly worn and damaged to repair. R. W.'s Barrel, Noll, the Master R. W. Alan Tamaroff and W. Bill Ogren drove to Cherry Valley and selected a new stone which was about three feet high and four feet wide. It cost only \$500 to have it engraved, installed and the old monument taken away.

The members of Wadsworth family have all died off and we felt it was something the lodge should do out of respect for our founder. It would not be right to have him lay in an unmarked grave. If it were not for the diligence of Brother Morrow, none of us would have known what happened or where our founder was buried.

One of Bill's first acts as Master was to organize a dedication service for the new monument. He was told that he was crazy no one will come. There was a ten car caravan that went to Amsterdam with thirty-five brothers and wives to dedicate the new stone. The chaplain for the day was R. W. Walter Collins and music was supplied by W. Wyman Soule playing "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.

To quote Bill "This is the kind of thing that makes one proud to be a Mason and a brother of Wadsworth Lodge."



Tales of the Ring

Friend to Friend

Some historians say this encounter never happened, but it is a good story. This is a departure from our usual stories but is in the same vein. It concerns not so much recognizing the ring as the grand hailing sign of distress. The incident described happened during Pickett's charge at the battle of Gettysburg.

Pickett's Charge was an assault upon the Union Army center on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. The charge, the high tide of the Confederate States of America, was repulsed. Confederate general Armistead, under George Pickett's command, personally led his men up the hill to the Union position. Armistead was shot twice. Severely wounded, and fearing that his personal effects would be stolen by Union soldiers, he "gave a Masonic sign asking for assistance". Union Captain Bingham, an aide to Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, a personal friend of Armistead, then came to his aid as he lay wounded: Armistead, Bingham,

and Hancock were all Freemasons. After ensuring Armistead that his possessions would be sent to his family, particularly his pocket watch, Bingham took Armistead to a field hospital, where Armistead died two days later on the George Spangler farm.

The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial is a monument located in the annex of the Gettysburg National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Built by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it commemorates Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead entrusting Union Captain Henry H. Bingham with his personal effects, most notably a pocket watch, on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, during Pickett's Charge.

The monument's sculptor was Ron Tunison of Cairo, New York, who was himself a Freemason. The sculpture is made of polychrome bronze.

The statue was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on August 21, 1993.



Grand Organist

Our own Rev. Dr. Charles Semowich has been made a Grand Organist. On April 26th, we gathered to fete Charlie and give him his Apron and Jewel. As fitting for a meeting for a Grand Organist we were entertained by Charles, as well as Gerry Irwin who played “Finlandia” by Sibelius and Mick DellaValle playing “Freebird” by Lynyrd Skynyrd.

The jewel was presented by R.: W.: Ed Kosinski. It is a lyre, kind of a harp, surrounded by the usual Wreath. The apron was presented and fitted by R.: W.: Terry Quintin and the warrant was read by W.: Andy Groff.

R.: W.: Steve King had remarks including many memories. R.: W.: Terry Quintin and W.: Justine Greenwood had remarks. As is the practice the guest of honor has the closing remarks. Charlie takes the floor with a stack of



Andy reading the Warrant



Terry adjusting the Apron



Steve giving his remarks



Charlie presenting his closing remarks and his friends and supporters on the left of the picture.

New Brothers



The third degree at Van Rensselaer #86



From l-r Brenden O'Keefe, W.: Robert Emory and Jamie Sottile

New Brothers Cont'd

James F. Sottile (Jamie)

James comes to us from Kingston. His best friend is Kyle McIntosh, who is a Brother at Kinston #10. When Kyle became an EA it piqued Jamie's interest in Masonry. However, since he works in Albany it was not practical to join Kinston Lodge. So he began looking at lodges in our District, starting with VR#86. He reached out to us and the rest is history.

He is a lawyer, as well as, working at the NYS Senate. There he is a Media Production Specialist. This means he works at recording all of the sessions, but more importantly reducing complex legal issues down to short videos that the public can understand.

He has his own law firm, specializing in Real Estate, Business and Contract Law and Estate Planning.

His Bachelor of Arts is from Quinnipiac University and Doctor of Law from Western New England University School of Law.

He is on the Board of Trustees of the Nassau Park Lake Improvement association.

He is a member of the Albany Ski Club and is aspiring to be an Adk 46er.

Brenden A. O'Keefe

Brenden is a third generation Mason. His grandfather William T. O'Keefe was raised on November 14, 1961 and his father Brian P. O'Keefe was raised April 28, 1990. Both were raised in Wadsworth Lodge.

He comes from an Army family. His father is a Lt. Col. in the Army reserves. His mother recently retired from her last posting as Command Chief Warrant Officer of the NY Army National Guard. He is a corporal in the NY National Guard 173rd Cyber Protection Team.

He is a musician, he composes, plays guitar and drums.

He works from home.

Your Officers for 2023-2024

W.:	Robert Emory	Master	Bro.	Emmanuel Jorge-Garcia	S.M.C.
Bro.	Cullen Kasunic	Sr. Warden	Bro.	James F. Sottile	J.M.C.
Bro.	Kenneth Brown	Jr. Warden	Bro.	Timothy Martin	Steward
Bro.	James Risley III	Treasurer	Bro.	Brenden O'Keefe	Steward
W.:	Paul F. Bailey	Secretary	W.:	Bruce J. Susser	Marshal
Bro.	Michael Campbell	Sr. Deacon	R.: W.:	Charles Semowich	Organist
Bro.	Donovan White	Jr. Deacon	Bro.	Phillip Hasin	Tyler
W.:	James J. Van de Wal	Chaplain			

These are the officers for this year. Please note that every Station and Place is filled, from Master to Steward. Providing that their cable tows are long

enough, we have a very solid line that should serve us well in the years to come.

Parting Shots:

Brothers with Birthdays from April to June			
Culver F. Hayes Jr.	May 16, 1931	Steven M. Conant	June 24, 1958
James L. Fuller	June 21, 1931	Murray J. Mitkoff	April 16, 1961
Charles W. Haner	August 13, 1936	Christopher C. Leo Sr.	May 18, 1963
Kurt Rosenfeldt	June 11, 1943	Jonathan A. DePaula	April 19, 1977
Mark H. Baumbach	June 23, 1943	Daniel N. Chedid	May 16, 1979
William S. Fancher Jr.	June 5, 1947	Andrew T. Groff	May 27, 1979
John G. Milsop	April 21, 1948	Donovan R. White	April 14, 1980
Bruce N. Hazard	June 3, 1949	Curtis J. Kammerer	June 23, 1980
Alan Lasker	June 27, 1949	Robert T. Hedgpath	May 12, 1983
Michael R. Gammans	April 28, 1951	James A. Risley III	May 3, 1986
Jean R. Karm	June 10, 1958	Michael T. Campbell Jr.	May 28, 1990

If your birthday does not appear in the list we apologize, but it is because we do not have the information in our records. Please contact Paul with your birth date.