



AASR Valley of Danville

Reunion

July 16 & 17, 2021

Masonic Temple, Danville, IL

Most Worshipful Grand Master Stephen F. Oakley Class

Friday, July 16, 2021		Saturday, July 17, 2021	
3:30 p.m.	Candidate Registration	7:30 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts / Class Photos
4:45 p.m.	Declaration of Principles	9:00 a.m.	16th Degree
5:00 p.m.	4th Degree	9:45 a.m.	Class Elections
5:30 p.m.	14th Degree	10:45 a.m.	18th Degree
6:30 p.m.	Grand Master Banquet	Noon	Lunch / Reception
Summer Sounds will be happening in Downtown Danville for entertainment for the evening		1:30 p.m.	All Valley Photo at Temple Plaza
		2:30 p.m.	32nd Degree

Candidate Fees are \$200.00 plus \$90.00 dues current until August 1, 2022. \$100 must be paid when the 4th Degree is taken. Payment plans are available.



Most Worshipful Grand Master
Stephen F. Oakley, 33°

Grand Master's Dinner will be Pork Chops or Grilled Chicken and sides. Cost will be \$15.00 per person and guests are welcome. Please make your reservations by July 1, 2021.

Valley of Danville,
109 W. North Street, Danville, IL 61832
217-446-7620

Website: aasrdanville.org Email: execsec@aasrdanville.org

VALLEY OF DANVILLE PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

You do not want to miss this photograph! We will be having an "All Valley of Danville" photograph on Saturday July 17th, the second day of the reunion, after lunch.

It will be in front of The Temple arch you see to the right. This was the original location and birth place of AASR in Danville in 1904 where 75 area Masons petitioned the Supreme Council for a Lodge of Perfection. It is located two blocks east from our current Temple.

AASR Valley of Danville
109 W. North Street
Danville, IL 61832
217-446-7620
aasrdanville.org

WELCOME BACK!

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YOU CAN EARN A BLACK CAP!

Have you heard about our black cap program? All 32nd Degree Masons can wear a black cap and we have a way for you to earn one for free.

You need 32 points to qualify. The fastest way to get started is to Top Line a candidate (Worth 16 points!)

Other opportunities for points involve working Stage Crew, Degree Work, helping with sound and lighting at Reunion, assisting Green Coats (Greeters Program), helping with registration or makeup at reunions, or simply by attending Valley events. Look for ways to help in other articles in our newsletter.

Pick up a form in the office or call 217-446-7620 to get one mailed to you.

VALLEY OF DANVILLE 2021 POLO



Order your polo today for \$50.00 or \$55.00 with your name on it. These are a green dry-wick shirt. Available emblems are 32°, 33° or MSA. Call the Valley office at 217-446-7620 or send an email to office@aasrdanville.org

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success. ~ Henry Ford

Interactive Member Center

Supreme Council has an updated interactive Member Center for you!

Go to Scottishritenmj.org, and click Member's Center. From there, you can:

- See and update your contact info
- View and update your passport
- See your years of service
- Order a Legacy Jewel
- Send a brother a card
- See how many people you have top-lined
- Shop for your favorite Masonic Apparel
- Register for virtual degrees put on by Supreme Council
- View Degree Dates
- Pay and view your dues
- Make a donation

HELP NEEDED!



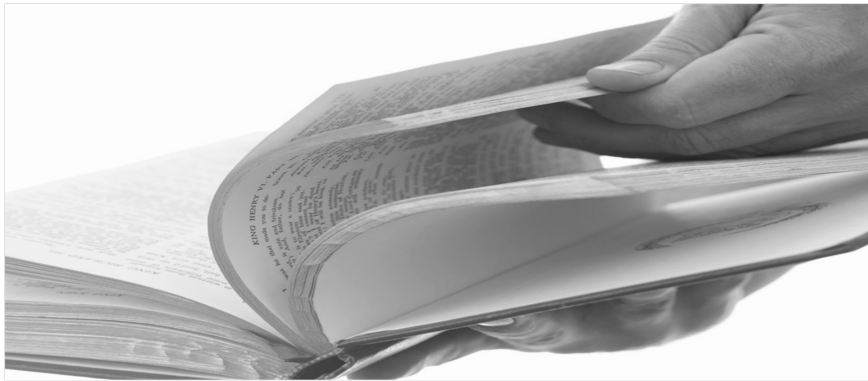
The Valley of Danville is known for its hospitality, welcoming members and guests alike. Part of this charm is our green and red coat committee members.

Do you want to be a part of this tradition of greeting members? If so, the green coat will look good on you.

The red coat provides dinning room hospitality during lunches and dinners.

Let us know if you're interested. Call the office at 217-446-7620 with your jacket size so we can have it ready for you come reunion!

For helping with greeting members and dining room hospitality, you get 2 points per day toward your black cap.



YEAR IN REVIEW ~ BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF, SEAN P. MCBRIDE, 33°

To say this past year has been a challenge is an understatement. Our reunion with the Sovereign Grand had to be canceled. Even though we have three floors, the health department imposed a limit of 50 people in the building. We looked at having satellite coverage at two other locations so we could have the reunion, but safety measures won out. We look forward to hosting the Sovereign Grand Commander in the Spring of 2022.

We regrouped and went forward, doubling down on the Brother-to-Brother program. We called, texted, and emailed our membership over the months. Many of our older members enjoyed the calls, talking about their memories of Masonry and the Valley of Danville. We even got a few members assistance through IMOS - good old fashion Masonry at its best.

This downtime in meetings also let us finish several remodeling plans. The dining room remodel was finished. An all-new ladies' restroom was put in on the 2nd floor. Being handicap accessible brings us up to the local code. The biggest thing we did was putting air conditioning on the 3rd floor. For years we worked around the summer heat for events. We will be having our reunion this summer in July!! These remodeling projects help us market the building to the public for events. Our next phase is the installation of a fire suppression system.

We developed a Fraternal Outreach Program that we are finally ready to begin implementing, along with the Supreme Council Valley of Excellence program.

Before Supreme Council held Thursday Night at the Rite, the Valley held DVD nights in the building. Afterward, we discussed the video we had just enjoyed. We promoted the Thursday Night at the Rite to our membership, just another way to have fellowship while everything was shut down. With Zoom meetings, we could meet, act and continue some normalcy during the pandemic.

In August of 2020, we held a Degree Day in Danville with DVDs and a live performance of the 28th Degree. In September, we held our annual 32 Club Dinner. In September we also made plans for our Fall Reunion but had to cancel.

In February of 2021, we finally could host more events, following Covid protocols. We had DVD Degree opportunities on the second Saturday of the month from February through June 2021.

Despite our challenges, we are seeing positive results, people getting excited about Masonry again, and stronger bonds in Fraternal Brotherhood. We have a planning session later this month and can't wait to see what the future has in store.

Thank you Mitch!



As some of our members may or may not know, our long-time lighting director Mitch Duszynski, MSA will be moving to Florida.

While we wish him well and encouragement on his new journey, we are also saddened to lose him as part of our regular stage crew. His expertise was instrumental in making our degrees special, he knew just what lighting to use where and offered suggestions where possible. He has assured us that he will maintain his membership and has stated that he will try to be at as many reunions as possible to help out.

Those of us that got to interact with Mitch at every reunion got to see how friendly he is to everyone he comes in contact with. He never met a stranger, and he is this way outside of the reunions as well.

Mitch first began his Masonic journey at Urbana Lodge #157 in January of 1992, he then joined the Valley of Danville in the Fall of 1995. He was awarded Master of the year in 1997. According to our records he became part of the sound/sighting crew in 2000. He received his MSA in 2007.

He is planning to be at our reunion in July, so if you see him, please him wish him well. If you would like to help with lighting during degrees, please let us know!

MEMORIAL ROLL

The following is a list of our Brethren who have passed on to the House not made with human hands, reported November 1 to June 1, 2021.

Robert E Ballard
Ivan Monroe Beeman
William R Black
Ronald R Boswell, MSA
Oscar L Boyd
D Michael Brandenburg, 33°
Ronald A Brown
Daniel P Brown
Michael Lee Brunson
Robert L Cain
Mikel J Cannon
John D Conley
Clair M Correll
Claude C Crane
James L Cunningham
Charles W Delbridge

Larry L Drake
Kenneth G Easton, 33°
Lewis G Fincham
Thomas R Foreman
Jackie D Freeman
Earl D Grubb
Seigel Howard Hall, MSA
Darrell L Harlow
John G Hempfling
Larry L Hildebrand
Kim E Hopkins
John W Kirby
Glen H Lafenhagen
Charles Latham
Jack Weldon Littrell Sr.
Earl E. Lomax, MSA

Ronald E McClellan
Edward L Miller
Walter E Mills
Alva H Montgomery Jr., 33°
John W Moore
Michael C Nichols
Donald W Niewold
George E Nussell Jr.
Jack R Osborn
Roy A Patten
Larry L Pfeiffer
David H Radcliffe
Lloyd R Riddle
Harry J Shaw
Merrell G Shipman
Harold L Sholders

Jack L Simpson
Ernest W Smith
Bobby C Spidel
Donald C Starks
Julian B Stipp
David Alan Swickard
Glenn R Turner
Daniel C Wayne
John D Wilkinson II
Donald C Wolfe
Arthur V Woolley
Paul M Wright
Dale G Zellers

Thus ends the record of a Just and Upright Mason. Well done thou good and faithful servant.



Ronald R. Boswell, MSA



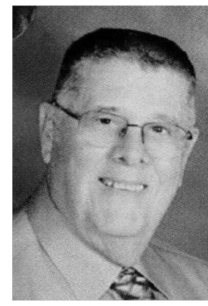
D. Michael Brandenburg, 33°



Kenneth G. Easton, 33°



Seigel H. Hall, MSA



Earl E. Lomax, MSA



Alva H. Montgomery, Jr., 33°

32 CLUB

Are you a member of the 32 Club? The 32 Club is a program by members, for members, for our future. A member pledges \$.32 a day (\$9.73 a month, \$116.80 a year) to help towards the upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Each member of the 32 Club that has paid his yearly pledge will be invited to the Annual Steak Dinner. Pay your yearly membership or sign up for monthly payments by September 1, 2021. The Steak dinner date will be September 8, 2021 before the board meeting.



Installation of Officers 2021

LADIES REUNION ACTIVITIES



Ladies—Join us on July 16 and 17, 2021 for Summer Sounds and Downtown Danville Fun!

On Friday, July 16, we will meet at the Masonic Temple at 5:30 p.m. to relax with Ladies “Wine –Down” and then meet the guys for the Grand Master’s Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be pork chops or grilled chicken and sides. Cost is \$15.00 per person and reservations are needed. Before and after dinner, Summer Sounds will be happening just a block away. Summer Sounds includes live music and vendors.

On Saturday, July 17, we will meet at the Masonic Temple at 8:45 a.m. We will go to Café 13 for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and enjoy the Farmer’s Market, Summer Sounds, vendors and the many downtown specialty shops. Lunch and the Valley of Danville reception will be at noon at the Masonic Temple.

We look forward to meeting with you—old friends and new! Call the Valley Office at 217-446-7620 for RSVP’s or any questions you may have.

As always, candidate wives are guests of the Valley. All others are dutch treat.

Valley of Danville Masonic Temple—109 W. North Street, Danville, IL 61832

STAGE CREW HELP NEEDED

We need help with our degree productions. Stage crew, lighting and sound crew members are so important! These “behind the scenes workers” are rarely seen or heard, but provide the “MAGIC” of lighting, sound, makeup, costuming, properties and more that make it possible for the actors to be effective.

If you can help with any of these things, please contact the Valley Office at 217-446-7620 or contact Degree Production Chairman, Richard R. Gray.

Working Stage Crew, working Lighting or Sound gets you 2 points per degree toward your Black Cap.

Permanent members of the Stage Crew will receive an official polo.



LEARNING CENTER NEWS

The Children’s Dyslexia Center of East Central Illinois is eager to resume in-person tutoring, graduation and fund-raising events. We’re looking forward to bringing tutoring and tutor training back to the Center this summer.

We serve students residing within the Valley of Danville. During the last few years, we’ve had students from Hoopston, Bismarck, Danville, Paris, Catlin, Marshall, Champaign, Gifford, St. Joe, Home and Tolono. We’ve even had a few students from both Fowler and Covington, Indiana.

We’re currently taking applications for tutor training. Director Julie Boersma and Tutor and Supervisor Christy Hott are working toward advanced certifications in order to teach advanced levels of tutor training. They are also developing an Informational Campaign to present to schools within in the Valley of Danville.

Julie and Christy are available to present the program at

your Lodge meetings and Community groups throughout the Valley. Please contact us at 217-446-9377 or send an email to jboersma@cdcinc.org to arrange a presentation.

The Children’s Dyslexia Center of East Central Illinois has depended on your monetary support since we opened. We are grateful for the donations we received during the pandemic and are hopeful you will continue donating to our Center. You can help us with the rummage sale at the Masonic Temple, which is scheduled for September 18th by donating items, helping us set up or helping the day of the sale. Another way to support the center is to attend one of two nights of comedy presented by Randy Riggle on Friday, October 22 and Saturday, October 23, also at the Masonic Temple. The annual Chicken and Noodle Dinner and a raffle drawing returns on Monday, April 25th. Volunteers are always welcome to help us prepare the food and work in the dining room.

Commander's Cup and Lodge Awards

The Scottish Rite Mason who tip-line signs the most petitions for a reunion will receive a jacket and have his name engraved on the large plate at the base of the trophy on permanent display in the second floor lobby of the Masonic Temple. The winner's name and number of petitions each Fall and Spring will appear on the plate. All petitioners must be initiated to qualify. In case of a tie, both names will be listed. You must sign a minimum of four petitions per reunion.

Each reunion the Lodge who has the most candidates from their Lodge join the Scottish Rite as a new member will get a certificate from the Valley of Danville.

The Lodge that has the most candidates in a year from their Lodge will get \$250.00 from the Valley of Danville to do with as they please!



Some of our members helping with a lodge dedication in Urbana.

DEGREE TEAM



The Valley's Ancient Craft Degree Team conferred the Third Degree on Brother Reed Sperry at Collison Lodge No. 714 on June 5, 2021.

SUGAR CREEK SUMMER MINI DRIVE

Watseka Lodge #446 invites all brothers to bring their antique tractors to the "Sugar Creel Summer Mini Drive" on August 14th. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with tractors departing at 10:00 a.m. The drive starts and finishes at the Lodge Hall (2125 East 1730 North Rd., Watseka, IL 60970. Lunch will be served when the tractors return, around Noon.

The drive and lunch are a free will donation. All proceeds go to the Watseka Masonic Youth Fund which allows our lodge provide safety and educational programs, scholarships and leadership development

programs to the youth in our community.

The Valley of Danville will be helping with this event. Please call the Valley Office at 217-446-7620 if you would like to volunteer and a volunteer coordinator will get in touch prior to the event.

If you know someone with an antique tractor, we would love their contact information as well.

To RSVP for attendance to the event, call Christopher Both at 815-471-4411 or email: watsekamasons@gmail.com.

The Valley of Danville is going to put a refreshed emphasis on Lodges in our area this year. How can we help you? Would you like us to come to your Lodge to present a Valley program? Are you having an event that you would like us to help you with? Are you enjoying receiving Valley news each month through your Lodge? Let us know! We want to hear from you!

Charleston's Best Friend: A Freemason Provides an Intimate Look into the Development of the American Railway System

By John Coelho, Archivist, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library's collection of correspondence from Moses Holbrook (1783-1844) to John James Joseph Gourgas (1777-1865) provides researchers with a wealth of insight into early nineteenth-century American Freemasonry, as well as an intimate look at daily life in Charleston, South Carolina, as seen through Holbrook's eyes. During the 1820s and 1830s, Holbrook, the Southern Jurisdiction's fourth Sovereign Grand Commander, corresponded with the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's John James Joseph Gourgas. Gourgas served as the NMJ's Grand Secretary General from its founding in 1813 until 1832, and then as Sovereign Grand Commander from 1832 until 1851. Holbrook served as Sovereign Grand Commander of the SJ's Supreme Council from 1826 until 1844. Holbrook's letters touch upon a variety of subjects, from outbreaks of yellow fever to the political victory of Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) in the presidential election of 1828. A passage from Holbrook's January 1, 1831, letter to Gourgas regarding *Charleston's Best Friend*, the first American-built passenger steam locomotive, stands out for its contribution to our understanding of transportation history. Holbrook writes:

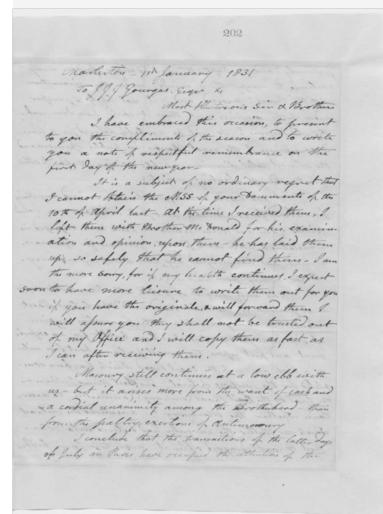
The only subject of public attention that occupies us at present is the Rail Road and "Charleston's Best Friend" (the name given to a little locomotive engine of six horse power that has been built for an experiment and put upon the small portion – about five miles or a little over – of the Rail Road which has been completed for the purpose of trial.) The "Best Friend" when on the trial by the Rail Road Company's Committee to ascertain whether the machinery - &c - answered the contract which Mr. Miller the inventor had entered into. The "Best Friend" dragged after it near ten tons besides itself and the wood and water necessary – at the rate of about 15 miles an hour with perfect ease and safety. Several pleasure cars are now attached to it and it runs at stated periods of the day to carry passengers only – and Bachelors, Maids, Matrons & Madams all are anxious to make trial of a ride at the speed of about 20 miles an hour. I tried it the other day and went the five miles and back again in thirty minutes and this time included the turning about taking in water &c.

I remain respectfully your friend and well wisher, M. Holbrook

Built at the West Point Foundry in New York in 1830, *Charleston's Best Friend* was hailed by the *Charleston Courier* as an experience that "annihilate[ed] time and space," a technological achievement that demonstrated the potential of steam-powered rail travel. Until this time, travel had been limited by road conditions, the weather, and river navigability. After the short, but great, success of *Charleston's Best Friend*, which was destroyed by operator error six months after its maiden voyage, six new locomotives were constructed for the Southern Railway System, including the *Phoenix*, made from the remains of *Charleston's Best Friend*. Its short life had completely revolutionized America's transportation system as towns across the country shifted their sights from building canals to building railroads.

As for Holbrook, according to William L. Fox, author of *Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle*, he longed to leave Charleston and relinquish his responsibilities as Sovereign Grand Commander, after being ravaged by several illnesses and worn thin by the incessant battles with Anti-masonry and the "lukewarmness" of those within the fraternity. When the United States Government offered Florida settlers 160 acres of free land on the condition that they defend it against the Seminoles, Holbrook applied for and received a plot of land under the auspices of the Armed Occupation Act on April 16, 1843. He settled in St. Lucie, Florida. Remembered as a recluse by the settlers, Holbrook lived in his one room, palm-thatched cabin stuffed with hundreds of books brought from Charleston, and served as the settlement's only doctor. His "many misfortunes over the years" had robbed him of his "once brilliant intellect," remarked fellow settler William Henry Peck (1830-1892) in one of his articles for the *Florida Star* regarding the St. Lucie settlement. Holbrook's only solace was his books and a flute "on which he became a virtuoso."

On September 11, 1844, Moses Holbrook died and was buried near his cabin on the bluff overlooking the Indian River. He was 61 years old.



The Scottish Rite Museum is located at 33 Marrett Rd., Lexington, MA 02421. Visit their website at: www.srmml.org



Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Valley of Danville
PO Box 693
Danville, IL 61834

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aasrdanville.org

Office Corner



**Valley of Danville
Reunion Ad Sponsor**

Do you have a business you would like
to advertise in our Reunion Book?

This is your chance!

Business Card	\$25.00
1/2 Page (5 1/2 x 4 1/4)	\$50.00
Full Page (8 1/2 x 5 1/2)	\$100.00
2 Page Spread (8 1/2 x 11)	\$200.00

Mail your ad or business card and
check to the Valley of Danville
office at 109 W. North, Danville, IL
61832. All ads **must** be received 3
weeks before Reunion.

Business Name: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

All ads will be
included on
our placemat
for FREE!

Do we have your update contact information?
If you have moved, got a new phone number
or have a new email address, update your info
with us! Did you transfer your Lodge member-
ship? Update that with us too! Give us a call at
217-446-7620 or go to:
scottishritenmj.org/member-center to update
and view your own information.

**FUN FACT: All Scottish Rite members
will be receiving a new permanent dues
card when dues go out in August!**

