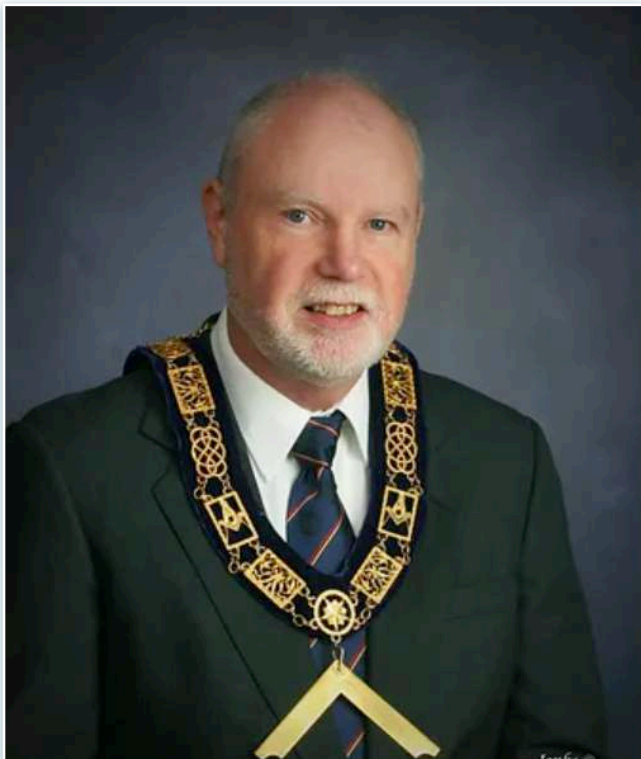


THE GREEN MOUNTAIN FREEMASON

Published at intervals by the
GRAND LODGE OF VERMONT

The Most Ancient and Honorable Society of
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS of the State of Vermont



BRO.: PAUL C. MOSHER
M.: W.: GRAND MASTER

FROM THE EAST OF GRAND LODGE

Season's Greetings, Brothers,

I chose the trowel when I designed my Grand Master's pins because it's the tool that unites us. I want to share an experience I had this past summer with all of you, I think it really illustrates how united we, as Freemasons everywhere, can be.

In 2018 my home lodge, Crescent #66 in Lyndon, decided we had to sell our building. We were moving in with Passumpsic Lodge in St. Johnsbury, sharing their lodge room but still meeting separately, and we wondered what would we do with Crescent's lodge furnishings. One of our brothers suggested that we seek out a lodge in the southeast which might need furnishings after suffering damage from recent severe hurricanes. In November of that year I attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and spoke with Grand Masters from several southeastern states about donating our furnishings.

A few months later the Grand Master of North Carolina put me in touch with Brother Johnny Surles from Zion Lodge in Trenton, North Carolina. Zion Lodge had suffered severe damage from Hurricane Florence, to include the loss of almost all of their lodge furnishings, and were in the process of rebuilding. Brother Johnny and I exchanged emails over the winter and made the arrangements to get our lodge furnishings down south when they completed their rebuilding project.

Brother Johnny notified us in September of 2019 that their building was nearing completion, they arranged for a moving company to pick up our furnishings and deliver them in NC. I met the movers at Crescent Lodge, they packed our altar, officers chairs, columns, desks and almost everything else and headed south. Later that fall I received pictures showing our altar and chairs in Zion Lodge's beautiful new lodge room.

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Fast forward to spring of 2023. I had plans to attend the Shrine International Imperial Session that summer in Charlotte, NC and checked with Johnny to see if they were meeting while I was down south. Much to my delight they had a scheduled meeting on the day the Imperial Session closed and I was invited to attend. I drove to Charlotte and then across the state to Trenton, the members of Zion arranged a hotel room for me and Brother Johnny picked me up, toured me around and took me to the lodge in time to enjoy a delicious shrimp jambalaya dinner.

It was an almost other-worldly experience to see the altar, chairs and other furnishings I was so familiar with in their new setting. I held it together until I signed the guest register, it was on a lectern which once sat in our anteroom, the "Crescent Lodge #66 Lyndonville, VT" brass plate was still attached!

The Grand Master of North Carolina, Brother Kevan Frazier, also attended the meeting, he and I had the rare opportunity to sit in the East with the Worshipful Master. The brothers of Zion Lodge presented me with a plaque for Crescent Lodge and a gavel for me to use during my term as Grand Master. The welcome and hospitality I experienced were truly memorable, the moment I walked into the lodge I felt like I belonged and it wasn't just because of the furniture. We really are one big, united group of friends and brothers.

I distributed my pins at Zion Lodge that evening, when I attended the Grand Lodge of NC Annual Communication I saw many of those pins scattered throughout the room. Brothers from all over North Carolina saw my Vermont name badge and asked me if I was from the lodge which sent the furniture to Zion. I'm hoping to get some of the brothers from Zion Lodge to come north for a visit, most told me they wouldn't come in the winter!

There are a few side notes to this story I want to share. Crescent Lodge didn't sell our building until the fall of 2020, for the year after we sent our furniture south we met on folding chairs with an old piano bench for an altar. It was an interesting experience and a good reminder that the room doesn't make the lodge, the brothers do.

Along with the furnishings we sent a Vermont flag which came with a Grand Army of the Republic flag stand. When I attended the meeting at Zion I was informed that the Yankee flag stand was staying in the cellar.

Zion Lodge has another unique connection with a New England Lodge. During the Civil War Union soldiers looted the lodge and made off with the officers jewels. A Union officer, a Mason from Connecticut, saw the jewels and took custody of them. After the war he traveled to North Carolina and returned the jewels, members of the Connecticut lodge traveled to North Carolina recently and reenacted the returning of the jewels.

On a more personal note, Brother Johnny Surles and I had communicated back and forth for years, when I arrived we got to talking and discovered we were both retired state troopers. It really is a small world.

Through this small act which benefited both lodges, brothers from North Carolina and Vermont have established a lasting bond. It's an experience I will treasure forever.

My brothers, it was great to see so many of you at district meetings this fall and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Bro.: Paul Mosher

MWGM, Grand Lodge of VT

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

In an effort to advance communication between the Grand Lodge Office and Brethren of Vermont, I will be giving hints and suggestions to help make your life a little less stressful.

You all no doubt have heard that the Grand Lodge will be moving to a Calendar Fiscal Year on January 1, 2024. In conjunction with the change there will be a new annual budget to be passed sometime mid to late December 2023.

You will need to make sure your officer list in GrandView is up to date. That is the vehicle through which the Grand Lodge verifies eligibility for lodges to vote. Remember you have 4 votes. The Master, Wardens and Secretary. The first three can use proxies if needed. There is no proxy for Secretary.

For the top three officers there is a start and finish date which should be filled out. Remember, Worshipful Masters can only serve two years. If a third is required, you need to request a dispensation from the Grand Master. **DO NOT** use a finish date for the secretary as that will end your administrative status with GrandView. Leave it blank.

Hope you all are enjoying your membership. Remember, help and assistance from the Grand Secretary is phone call, text, or email away. We are here to help.

Bro.: Earl J. Washburn

Grand Secretary



Above: Brothers of Rural Lodge in Rochester and St Paul's Lodge in Brandon are all smiles after working the Third Degree together on one Brother from each Lodge on December 3rd in Brandon. Do you want your Brother Vermont Freemasons to see what your Lodge has been up to? Email photos to Seth Hopkins at oskarhop@me.com.

From the W.: Grand Lecturer, Bro.: James P. W. Goss

The 2023 District Meeting season was truly memorable. Our District Deputies rose to the challenges set down for them at the Grand Lodge session and put on a cycle of meetings that were truly entertaining, interesting and definitely different. The overwhelming opinion of those in attendance was that there was not a “dud” among them and hopefully there is now strong incentive for the brethren to come back next year and bring a few of their masonic friends with them.

Some of the highlights are worth revisiting:

District 5/7: The District Meeting season started off with a bang with a joint meeting between the two Districts at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in Essex Junction. The brethren were educated with a recreation of Ben Franklin’s 18th century lodge room and some masonic “mystery dinner theatre.” Kudos to R.W. Bro Mike Kiessling for an outstanding job and helping the Craft as a whole out while District 7 was without a District Deputy. Also, a big welcome to RW Bro. Harry Richard for subsequently jumping in as DDGM for District 7 till a permanent replacement is appointed.

Districts 6/9: The trend of strong meetings continued with RW Bros. Brent Adams and Dana Peterson in Morrisville. Aside from excellent ritual and floorwork, Bro. Dana expounded on the weighty subject of suicide prevention and what we can all do to help out. Again, a great job by both of you.

District 1: RW Bro. Dana Scofield turned out his District for a strong meeting in Woodstock. The meeting was highlighted by an exceptional exemplification of the Middle Chamber Lecture by Bro. Jim Dolan, as well as a timely presentation by W. Bro. Andrew Hammer of Washington D.C. on the future of our Craft in the post-Pandemic world. Excellent job, Bro. Dana.

District 10/12: After our sojourn in Woodstock, the District Meeting Road show moved on to the ends of the earth (at least from my perspective) with a fabulous joint District Meeting at Benton Lodge in Guildhall. Aside from a delicious and very filling meal, the setting could not have been more beautiful or appropriate and we were treated to an excellent exemplification and exposition of the Entered Apprentice Degree by Bro. Jim McWain, MW Past Grand Master of the State of Connecticut. Congratulations to both RW Bros. Sean Selby and Dennis Bacon for making the meeting well worth the trip.

District 11: Well, the fall cold bug caught up with me for this meeting and I stayed home to keep from getting anyone else sick. However, the reviews of Bro. Robb Fox’s meeting were stellar with an excellent Fellow Craft exemplification and a truly unusual educational segment. My sincere apologies to my lodgemates from District 11 for having to miss this meeting, especially because I know Bro. Robb truly sweated bullets over it.

District 3: It was then on to Brandon and RW Bro. George Supernault’s District Meeting featuring a superb meal and excellent expositions and exemplifications of the Fellow Craft Degree in a packed lodge room. It was also a pleasure to see some of the District 3 masonic luminaries honored in so splendid a fashion. Great job, Bro. George.

District 2: From Brandon, it was on to Manchester and RW Bro. Chris Murphy’s District Meeting. This Meeting featured details and “surprises” almost too numerous to mention, including a specially written

Agape at dinner and a multi-part exposition on the 47th Problem of Euclid during the meeting itself. Hats off to Bro. Chris for the truly extra effort he put into his meeting and turning out his lodges in such strong numbers.

District 4: We finished the District Meeting cycle in Rutland in the same lodge room where our MW Grand Master was raised for RW Bro. Chris McPhee's meeting. This meeting boasted very strong attendance from the District lodges as well as another outstanding exemplification of the Middle Chamber by Bro. Mike Roberts. Also, if you could walk after the meal, you were doing well as it was fabulous.

Overall, these meetings demonstrated that our prospects going forward are excellent as long as we stay the course and build on the momentum our Deputies have started. A big round of applause for all of them.

My major message for our lodges at these meetings was to start paying attention to our ritual again. The ritual is the glue that connects us all together and the less precise and correct it is, the weaker we become. I have thus thrown out a challenge to all the lodges in the state to devote their educational segments at their meetings to ritual proficiency between now and the Grand Lodge session. I stand ready to assist any District Deputy and any lodge needing help on this. The goal by the Grand Lodge session is that every lodge should be able to properly open, close and receive their District Deputy without an open book or a cheat sheet. Brethren, it is just not that hard. Put in the time necessary to meet and exceed this challenge.

The Deputies will be starting to plan on how to "top" this year's District Meeting performance at their winter meeting on Saturday, January 20th at White River Lodge in Bethel from 9:30AM to noon. All Masons are welcome to attend.

Bro.: James P. W. Goss

Grand Lecturer

MWPGM Bro.: Jim Stevens has established a dedicated email address for lodge, award, degree and similar photos.

Bro.: Jim will be posting photos sent to that web address on the Grand Lodge website. The address is:
grandlodgetv@gmail.com .

2023 - The Progressive Grand Line - 2024

MWGM Bro.: Paul C Mosher

RWDGM Bro.: William "Sandy" Karstens IV

RWGSW: Bro.: Kirk C. White

RWGJW: Bro.: Brian A. Locke

WGLect: Bro.: James P. W. Goss

Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Vermont

(To Adopt a Budget to Accommodate a Change to Calendar Year Budgeting voted by the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, June 2023)

Brethren,

Below please find the information needed to attend the upcoming budget vote.

The vote is taking place on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 7:00 PM, by Zoom.

Thank you.

ZOOM

Topic: Grand Lodge of Vermont Budget Vote

Time: Dec 12, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85116030476?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85116030476?pwd=pPBwGtb7xGR0TgVejc8VQUuJdJF9dl.1)

[pwd=pPBwGtb7xGR0TgVejc8VQUuJdJF9dl.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85116030476?pwd=pPBwGtb7xGR0TgVejc8VQUuJdJF9dl.1)

Meeting ID: 851 1603 0476

Passcode: 639381

One tap mobile

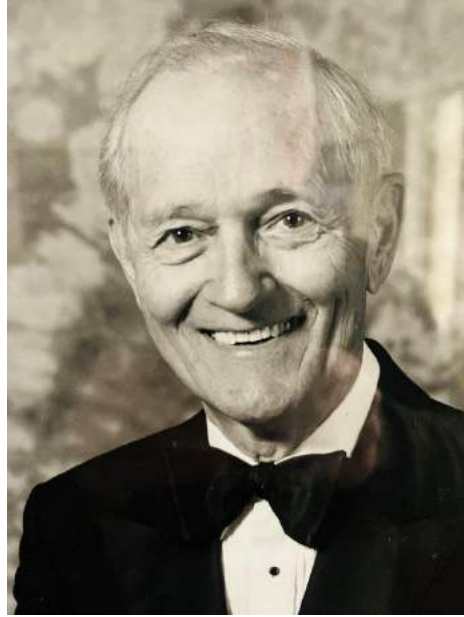
+16465588656,,85116030476#,,,,*639381# US (New York)

+16469313860,,85116030476#,,,,*639381# US

Dial by your location

• +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US



Theodore G. Corsones

1929 – 2023

MW Grand Master of Vermont

2001 – 2002

Brother Theodore G. Corsones was born on May 25, 1929 in Rutland, Vermont, son of Gus and Pota Corsones. He is a lifelong Vermonter and has a residence in Mendon, Vermont.

He was married to the former Theane Christie of Minneapolis, Minnesota. They were the parents of three children, Cortland, Christopher, and Gregory, and five grandchildren.

Ted was a member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Rutland.

He attended public schools in Rutland, Vermont and received his post-secondary education at Dartmouth College, Ohio State University School of Law, and Boston University School of Law. Ted was the recipient of a Bachelor of Arts degree and Juris Doctor degree. He was a senior member of the law firm of Corsones & Corsones in Rutland, Vermont.

He has been admitted to practice law in the states of Vermont, Massachusetts, California, North Dakota, District of Columbia, and in the federal district Court in New York, United States Tax Court, United States Court of International Trade, United States Claims Court, United States Court of Military Appeals, as well as the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and United States Supreme Court.

He served as Deputy State's Attorney and was elected to two terms as State's Attorney of Rutland County and thereafter, served as a municipal (district) judge. He was Town Moderator for the Town of Mendon for 25 years and a past chairman of the Republican State Committee.

He was a Past President of the Rutland County Bar Association, and a member of the Vermont Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, and American Trial Advocates.

He was an avid pilot and holds an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate for multiengine and single engine sea and land, as well as a commercial certificate for gliders and hot air balloons. He was also a certified airplane and instrument flight instructor for multiengine and single engine airplanes and gliders. He held memberships in Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Mooney Aircraft Pilots Association and was a Past President of Mooney Aircraft Pilots Association Safety Foundation, Inc. and served on its board of directors and as a flight instruction.

He served for many years as General Counsel of Shriners Hospitals For Children and the Shriners of North America.

Bro. Ted was a Past Master of Rutland Masonic Lodge No. 79 and member of Vermont Lodge of Research, Legion of Honor for Vermont DeMolay, perpetual member of Green Mountain Chapter 527 of the National Sojourners, Davenport Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Masons, Davenport Council No. 12, Royal and Select Masters, Killington Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar, Scottish Rite Bodies in the

Valley of Rutland, Consistory Scottish Rite Bodies in the Valley of Burlington, Past Potentate of Cairo Shriners of Rutland, Past President of Rutland Chapter of Cabiri, Past Director of Royal Order of Jesters Court No. 105, Past Exalted Ruler of Rutland Lodge of Elks No. 345, and was a member of American Legion Post 31 and Gilman Chapter No. 88 of the Order of Eastern Star.

He was elected for coronation as a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33rd degree mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite.

He served on the Jurisprudence Committee for the Grand Lodge of Vermont from 1985 to 1998 and Chairman for 8 years.

Bro, Ted was awarded the John Barney Medal of Honor for rendering exceptional and outstanding service to Freemasonry of Vermont.

He was appointed Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Vermont by MW Roderick J. Maclay in June of 1993 and progressed through the grand line. On June 13, 2001 the delegates to the 207th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Vermont elected him the 79th Grand Master.

Lodge Operative No. 150

Director of Ceremonies' Baton

As a fitting tribute and immortal memory of the Masonic concord between Lodge Operative No 150, in the Province of Aberdeen City and of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and Lodge Granite No. 35, Barre, of the Grand Lodge of Vermont; in October 2011 "The Magnificent Seven", as they were soon to be called, made an historic journey to America, to rekindle and cement those Operative and Masonic bonds, shared by our brethren of the late 19th early 20th Century, when they plied the "American Trade" back and forth with the seasons, across the Atlantic. Sharing their knowledge and expertise with the good people of Vermont, aiding and assisting in the founding of some one hundred quarries in the Barre area, which became a magnet for granite workers and artisans from all over the world. The last remaining commercial enterprise from that rich Masonic history is the Rock of Ages Quarry, in Graniteville, Barre, Vermont. For those who have gazed into its vast and hollow bowl, it stands as a truly magnificent monument to the labours and tenacity of the visionaries who founded the granite industry in Vermont and those who still quarry there today.

With a keepsake of that visit, a tubular core of fine Barre Granite, Bro. Danny Skinner PM, a retired Joiner to trade, was inspired to fashion a commemorative Master of Ceremonies' Baton, which is here described and illustrated, so its form and their significances are recorded and remembered for posterity. The manner of its creation was thus:

The baton takes the form of a long turned oak spindle, terminated at both ends with the head of a thistle, signifying Scotland, first and last.

From the top end, the four faces represent the Four Corners of the Globe, where Brethren of the Lodge have found brotherhood, friendship and relief, labour, refreshment, and great harmony.

Adorning these faces are the following emblems: The Coat of Arms of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, The Seal of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, the obverse of a token bearing the Coat of Arms of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeen City, the Civic Coat of Arms of Aberdeen City, the obverse of a Mark Token of Lodge Operative No. 150 and a White Apron Lapel Pin; the distinctive badge and emblem of Lodge Operative No. 150.

The upper ring around the shaft represents the Mark Degree, underpinning the good work and square work, above.

The length of the main shaft is two hundred and thirty four millimetres, one millimetre for each year to date, since the Lodge was first instituted in 1781. The centre of the shaft is 150 millimetres, the Lodge's number on the Role of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The three rings around the lower end of the shaft represent the Three Degrees in Freemasonry, The Entered Apprentice, The Fellow Craft and that of Master Mason.

The Granite Ring, from the Rock of Ages Quarry, is a cylindrical core of fine Barre Granite, which has been further adorned in gold relief, with the Lodge name on the obverse and the Square and Compasses on the reverse surfaces.

The seven lower rings, in the form of an inverted beehive, represent the seven Brothers who went to visit Lodge Granite No. 35, in Barre, Vermont in October 2011. Where a Third Degree was well received.

The seven or more who made it perfect were:

A. Angus, P. Flockhart, A. Geddes, G. Gray, H. McLean, W. Nicholl and D. Skinner.

The Mark of the artificer is etched on the base of the thistle head.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



The baton takes the form of a long turned oak spindle, terminated at both ends with the head of a thistle, signifying Scotland, first and last.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



The Granite Ring, from the Rock of Ages Quarry, with the Lodge name on the obverse.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



The Granite Ring, from the Rock of Ages Quarry, with the Square and Compasses on the reverse.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



The Seal of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



The obverse of a Mark Token of Lodge Operative No. 150 and a White Apron Lapel Pin;
the distinctive badge and emblem of Lodge Operative No. 150.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



Uppermost: the Civic Coat of Arms of Aberdeen City.

Lowermost: The obverse of a token bearing the Coat of Arms of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeen City.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



The Coat of Arms of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Lodge Operative No. 150
Director of Ceremonies' Baton



The Mark of the artificer, Bro. D. Skinner P.M. is etched on the base of the thistle head.

Lodge Operative No. 150 Director of Ceremonies' Baton

With the warmest of thanks to the following:

W. Crawford P.M. (150) – For supplying the oak for the baton.

B Mackland – For the granite engraving.

Don Murray P.M. (35)– Of Rock of Ages Quarry, Barre, Vermont, for allowing us to gather small pieces of granite from the workshop floor (Typical Aberdonians, some of us filled our pockets) and more sincerely, Don, as Danny would not have had the inspiration to make this baton to commemorate our visit to Barre.

The late A. Smith PM (150) & Past Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeen City, as it was with his sash cramp that was selected from Danny's tool rack to hold the two halves of the baton together, while it cured.

Paul Fraser P.M & RWM. (150) for coming up with the idea of visiting although he was not able to join us on the trip of a lifetime.

The good brethren of Barre Vermont and their good ladies, who made us most welcome on a very special week that we will always remember with great fondness.

And finally, the good ladies of "The Magnificent Seven", who were kind enough to allow us to travel, without them. We all owe them a great deal of thanks for their continued support of our Masonic careers.

oOo

There now follows a brief history of Lodge Operative No. 150 which I hope will be of interest to all those who come to view this tribute to our beloved brethren of Vermont.

My apologies for the print quality, but it was typed a long time ago before we all had PCs.

GLAD TO MEET, SAD TO PART, GLAD TO MEET AGAIN.

LODGE OPERATIVE No.150

Constituted on the 7th May 1781 this Lodge has the distinction of being a truly Operative Lodge, admitting only craft masons to its ranks. this requirement existed continuously till 1963, when the Lodge was opened to speculative masons, due to the decline of the Granite Industry in the city.

The origins of the Lodge however go back further in time than the date of its Charter, its history stems from the old guilds of the Fifteenth Century, with the passing of time, more and more speculative masons entered the Lodge. Matters came to a head between the two factions when the speculatives used the funds of the Lodge to build the New Inn at the Castlegate, to the detriment of the orphans and widows of members, thus the Operative masons broke away to be re-constituted as Lodge Operative 150, whilst the speculatives remained to be the Lodge of Aberdeen No. 1 TER.

The earliest recorded minute of the Lodge is of the year 1813, the meeting place was in Mutton Brae, no longer in existence, this ran from the front of the Triple Kirks to the Denburn, further meeting places were in Queen Street and Exchange Street.

The apron worn by the members of this Lodge is of pure white kidskin, symbolic of the fact that this is an Operative Lodge. An extract from a minute of the year 1882 when the Right Worshipful Master gave an account of his visit to the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh states " We are equally as well up in the working here, as they are there, he also told us that a good many of the Brethren there were a little surprised at seeing the plain white apron worn by the Lodge, they don't seem to understand that we have more reason to be proud of our clean white aprons than if they were covered with the most costly gold lace ever manufactured".

Aberdeen as we know it today owes much to the Operative Masons, when you consider the many classical granite buildings and statues which are to be seen, showing the masons' craft. The Marischal College and the Town House being two fine examples, indeed the symbol of the Operative Lodge is to be seen on the tower of the Town House immediately above the clock in the form of three interlaced compasses.

The migration of many of the craftsmen can be traced through the minute books of the Lodge, many went to America to the granite working area of Barre Vermont, many fine buildings in America were dressed and built by Aberdeen masons, and one of the finest examples is the State Capital Building in Austin Texas.

During the 1920's, members of the Lodge also travelled to Australia, where they executed the dressing and building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Through the years the Lodge has been supported in good times and trying times by dedicated Brethren, who took great pride in being Operative Masons, this tradition still exists to-day, and shall continue so long as the symbols of their craft and skill exist in Aberdeen, and the city still takes pride in the name,

THE GRANITE CITY