

A
CELEBRATION
OF
200 YEARS
OF MASONRY
IN
PHELPS

June 30, 2012

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Freemasonry in Phelps – Garoga-Sincerity Lodge No. 200 F. & A. M.

INTRODUCTION

In a society where moral values are severely tested, Masonry brings men together for fellowship and the promotion of integrity and good citizenship. Not a religion, Masonry does require a belief in God and urges its members to be faithful and devoted to their own religious beliefs. Not political, it encourages its members and their families to be good citizens and to choose their own best means of political expression. Not a welfare institution or benefit society, its selective charity and good works in the community are valuable. The basic belief of Masons is "The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man". As a rule, one can become a Mason by his own desire and with the assistance of a relative, friend, or acquaintance who is a Mason.

Masonry, or Freemasonry, is a fraternity with a very long tradition, the prototype of most modern fraternal societies and service organizations. The fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, largest, and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. It is a universal fraternity of friends and brothers who seek to become better men through their association with one another and their families.

EARLY MASONRY

The origins and early forms of Masonry are lost in the mists of ancient oral history and the forgotten memories of its brothers. There are many legends and theories about the beginnings of Freemasonry. The legends have proven to be such – just fascinating stories – and the many theories put forth have never been substantiated with enough facts to be accepted as truth by our learned brethren. Not until the advent of the *recorded* history of the fraternity can anything be known for certain.

Prior to the Renaissance Era, Masons existed as builders of the great cathedrals and similar structures. They met in "lodges" at or near their work sites. These were the "operative" Masons. During the time of enlightenment, men who were not stone masons began being invited to the lodges. These men, "speculative" Masons began forming the institution that evolved into the beginnings of Freemasonry as it is known today.

The form and structure of Freemasonry, as we know it today, first took shape in London, England when the first Grand Lodge of England was established by the revisionists in 1717. This Grand Lodge was formed to bring uniformity to the many Lodges already in existence in England and resulted, for the first time, in the Lodges being led, and ritual developed by Speculative Masons instead of Operative Masons. This, in turn, resulted in the growth of new Lodges and the spread of Freemasonry in Great Britain.

MASONRY IN AMERICA

As has been stated, Masonic Lodges had existed before 1717 and some of these "old" or "ancient" Masons appeared in the history of the British colonies in North America. "Old Mason" meant men who had become brothers before the formation of the Grand Lodge of England. Some of these "old" Masons immigrated to the North American colonies. John Moore came to South Carolina in 1680 and in 1703 moved to Philadelphia. In a letter written in 1715, Moore mentioned, "Spent a few evenings in festivity with my Masonic brethren". The Grand Lodge of England granted authority to Daniel Coxe to be Provincial Grand Master of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in 1730. Benjamin Franklin also wrote of Masonic activities in 1730. In 1733, Henry Price was appointed Provincial Grand Master of the Craft in New England. George Washington corresponded with Henry Price and the Grand Master of Pennsylvania during this time.

One recorded instance of Freemasonry in North America at this time was a "letter to the editor" written to the New York *Gazette* in 1737 in which the writer warned the colonists that "a Society called Freemasons" had appeared in Great Britain and had "at last extended to these parts of America." The "letter to the editor" reads as follows:

Mr. Bradford: there being a new and unusual sect of Society or Persons of late appeared in our native Country, and from thence spread into some other Kingdoms AND Common Wealths, and at last has extended to these parts of *America*, their Principle, Practices, and Designs not being known, nor by them published to the World, has been the reason that in Holland, France, Italy, and other Places they have been suppress. All other societies that have appeared in the World have published their Principles and Practices, and when they meet set open their Meeting-house doors, for all that will come in and see and hear them, but this Society called FREE MASONS meet with their Doors shut and a Guard at the outside to prevent any approach near to hear and see what they are doing. And, as they do not publish their Principles or Practices, so they oblige all their Proselytes to keep them secret, as may appear by the severe Oath they are obliged to take at their first admittance. Which Oath is as follows, viz:

"I, A.B., Hereby solemnly Vow and Swear in the Presence of Almighty God and this Right Worshipful Assembly, that I will Hail and Conceal and never Reveal the Secrets or Secrecy of Masons or Masonry, that shall be revealed unto me unless to a true and Lawful Brother, after due Examination, or in a just and Worshipful Lodge of Brothers and Fellows well met.

I further more Promise and Vow, That I will not Write them, Print them, Mark them, Carve them, or Engrave them, or cause them to be Written, Printed, Marked, Carved, or Engraved on Wood or Stone, so as the Visible Character or Impression of a Letter may appear, whereby it may be unlawfully obtained.

All this under no less Penalty than to have my Throat cut, my Tongue taken from the Roof of my Mouth, my Heart pluck'd from under my left Breast, then to be buried in the Sands of the Sea, the length of a Cable Rope from Shore where the Tide ebbs and flows twice in 24 hours, my Body to be burnt to ashes and be scatter'd upon the Face of the Earth, so that there shall be no more Remembrance of me among Masons. So help me God!"

The earliest Lodge recorded in New York State was St. Johns Lodge in New York City begun in 1757. St. Johns surrendered its warrant to the Grand Lodge of New York in 1784, taking No.1 as its Lodge number under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New York. They retain that number yet today. A Lodge was formed in 1787 in Fort William Henry and New Oswagatchie Lodge was established the same year. Other Lodges were formed in Massachusetts in 1733, Connecticut in 1750, Rhode Island in 1757, and Pennsylvania in 1758. It is no surprise, therefore, that many of the settlers in Western New York were Masons.

EARLY LOCAL MASONRY

Only two years after the settlement of Canandaigua and Ontario County began in 1789, nine Masons in Canandaigua petitioned the Grand Lodge of New York for a warrant to form a Masonic Lodge there. A charter was granted and on October 12, 1792, Ontario Lodge No.23 became a reality. Freemasonry was established in Genesee country! Other Lodges followed; Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 112 in Palmyra in 1803, Genesee Lodge No.138 in the Town of Richmond at the foot of Honeoye Lake in 1806, and Ark Lodge No.160 was granted a charter in 1807.

Two of the outstanding Masons who had an impact on Masonry in our area worthy of mention are Robert R. Livingston and DeWitt Clinton.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Robert R. Livingston was born into an influential colonial family on November 27, 1746. He graduated from Kings College (now Columbia University) in New York City. One of his classmates was John Jay who later became his law partner. He was on a committee of five that drafted the Declaration of Independence. He, while ambassador to France, and James Monroe negotiated the purchase of the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon in 1803 under the auspices of President Jefferson. Mr. Livingston was Chancellor of New York from 1777 to 1801. Chancellor Livingston administered the Presidential Oath to George Washington on a Masonic Bible borrowed for the occasion from St. Johns Lodge #1. Livingston was also one of the founders of "The Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts, and Manufactures" in New York. He also supported Robert Fulton's efforts in building the first successful steam-powered ship. Fulton named it the 'Clermont' after Livingston's estate on the Hudson River. He became the first permanent Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1783 when he was part of a peaceful transition from the Provincial Grand Lodge. The then Provincial Grand Master, the Reverend William Walter (who was a loyalist) decided to remove himself to Nova Scotia. This change of leadership took place while the Revolutionary War was still being fought and is a testimony to the Masonic philosophy of being above politics. The Honorable Robert Livingston served as Grand Master from February 4, 1784 to June 3, 1800. MW Brother Chancellor Robert R. Livingston died February 26, 1813. The Library of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York is named after him.

DEWITT CLINTON

DeWitt Clinton was born in Little Britain, New York March 2, 1769. He graduated from Columbia University in three years in 1786. His uncle, George Clinton, hired him as his secretary in 1790, starting young Clinton on his political career. DeWitt Clinton held every major elective office in New York State. He served in the New York Legislature from 1797 to 1802, was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1802, and then resigned to become Mayor of New York City. He served as Mayor from 1803 to 1815. He ran unsuccessfully against James Monroe for the U.S. Presidency in 1812. He was elected Governor of New York in 1817 and served to 1822 and again from 1824 to 1828. He was elected because of his advocacy of the Erie Canal and saw its completion in 1825. Clinton officially opened it during the first year of his third term of office. Governor Clinton was responsible for the successful establishment of the New York Public School System. He was also one of the founders of the Agricultural Society with Robert R. Livingston. MW Brother Clinton was elected Grand Master of New York in 1806 and ably held that office until 1820. DeWitt Clinton died February 11, 1828.

Even as the two distinguished Masons listed above deserve our admiration and respect for their contributions to Masonry and society, one man and Brother commands recognition as the *cornerstone* of Masonry in our region. General Philetus Swift was personally responsible for obtaining the warrant for Mt. Moriah Lodge #112 in Palmyra in 1803 and was certainly instrumental in procuring warrants for Ark Lodge #160 in Geneva in 1807 and Sincerity Lodge # 200 in 1811.

GENERAL PHILETUS SWIFT

Philetus Swift was born June 26, 1764 in Kent County, Connecticut. He married and moved to Rutland, Vermont. His bride of only six months died there; so Philetus traveled west with the early settlers of the Phelps-Gorham Purchase lands and bought property in the Town of Phelps (then known as the Town of Sullivan). Swift was 25 years old when he arrived and in the prime of his life and, as can be seen, worked hard to make a success of his new life in the wilderness. He worked for Seth Deane, helping him construct his first mill in the village of Vienna (Phelps) and cut trees for the first settler, John Decker Robison. He was certainly acquainted with Oliver Phelps. He married Sally Dean, Seth Dean's daughter, in 1793. He built the beautiful cut stone house in 1816 that still stands on Route 96 just west of the

pre-emption line and, in 1817, with the help of his brother-in-law, built a mill near the Canandaigua Outlet northeast of his house. The mill was operated as Swift's Mill until Obed and Jesse Barlow took control in 1870 and operated it until 1918.

General Swift served the Town of Phelps, at different times, as assessor, commissioner of highways, and supervisor. He was an Ontario County Court Judge. He was elected a member of the State Assembly in 1807, 1808, and again in 1823. He was a State Senator from 1812 to 1815 and again in 1817 to 1818. He was Lieutenant Governor for a short time and served as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1821. He was interested in all branches of education and assisted in the formation of local schools and became one of the original subscribers to the endowment of Geneva, now Hobart College. He was one of the first vice-presidents of the *Ontario County Agricultural Society* formed in Canandaigua in 1819.

And still, with all his social and political endeavors, he was active in Freemasonry. He was undoubtedly a Mason before his arrival in Genesee country. He served as the first Master of Ark Lodge No. 160 in 1807 and installed the first Master and officers of Sincerity No. 200 in 1811. He was appointed Grand Visitor (later called District Deputy) to Allegheny, Livingston, and Ontario Counties. He was certainly known to the early governors of New York and other people in the higher circles of state government. He probably well acquainted with DeWitt Clinton and possibly Robert R. Livingston through their common interests in politics, education, agriculture, and Masonry. These contacts helped to expedite the development of the Craft in this area.

EARLY SINCERITY LODGE

In 1802, area Masons decided to found Mount Moriah Lodge No. 112 in Palmyra, with the permission from Grand Lodge to meet alternately between Palmyra and Phelps. The original petition was signed on December 24, 1802 by five Masons living in Palmyra and five living in Phelps Township. The Phelps men were Gain Robinson, Dr. Joel Prescott, Seth Deane (Worshipful Past Master), Philetus Swift, and William Burnett. Most officers were Palmyra men. The Lodge was recommended by Ontario Lodge No. 23 of Canandaigua, the only Lodge in the Phelps-Gorham Purchase, founded in 1792. The warrant for work was granted by Grand Lodge on June 1, 1803. Lodge meetings were held in Palmyra at the residence of Stephen Phelps and in Phelps at the residence of Stephen Holland on Old Preemption Road, north of Gifford Road, and later at the John Wolvin farm. There were about 40 meetings held before 1807.

The distance between the town meeting places (20 miles) proved to be too inconvenient, and so on March 9, 1807, a petition was made to Grand Lodge to meet only in Palmyra. The petition was endorsed by DeWitt Clinton, Grand Master, on June 2, 1807, and granted on September 8, 1807. Mount Moriah Lodge forfeited its Charter in 1835 and was succeeded by Palmyra Lodge No. 248 in 1852.

The Freemasons in Phelps wanted their own Masonic Lodge, but in 1805, Geneva wanted a Lodge. They submitted a petition with the endorsement of Ontario Lodge No. 23 in Canandaigua. For reasons unknown, the petition was denied. In 1807, Mount Moriah Lodge endorsed a second petition for Geneva. The petition was approved by the Mayor of New York City, DeWitt Clinton, as Grand Master, on September 2, 1807. This Ark Lodge No. 160 was born in 1807 in Geneva. Ark Lodge had its number changed to 33 in 1839. Philetus Swift and members from Phelps were able to accomplish this. Seven of the ten officers were from the Town of Phelps. The officers in Ark Lodge in 1807 included:

Philetus Swift – Worshipful Master – Phelps
Joel Prescott, MD – Treasurer – Oaks Corners
William Burnett – Senior Deacon – Phelps
Erastus Crary – Tiler – Phelps

Wells Whitmore – Junior Warden – Phelps
David Cook – Secretary – Oaks Corners
Luther Root – Senior Steward – Phelps

In 1810, Phelps Masons wanted their own Lodge. So, on January 8, 1811, a petition was submitted to Grand Lodge for the organization of Sincerity Lodge. Ark Lodge recommended the petition on February 6, 1811. On May 7, 1811, a dispensation was granted by Grand Master DeWitt Clinton. The first officers installed by R. W Philetus Swift were:

Wells Whitmore – Worshipful Master
William Burnett – Senior Warden
Alfred Witter – Junior Warden
Luther Root – Treasurer
John McCay – Secretary
Michael Musselman – Senior Deacon
David Saunderson – Junior Deacon
Russel Flint and Joseph Daniels – Stewards
Erastus Crary – Tiler

Swift also became a member of Sincerity Lodge at this time. Other Brothers present were Elias Cost, Rolin Dewey, John Warner, George Hickey, Isaac Deane, James Fisk, Chauncey Deane, and Nathaniel Stern.

On December 11, 1811, Sincerity Lodge was constituted and the first regular officers were installed on December 27, 1811. The installation was held at the Ark Lodge rooms in Geneva. The first regular officers were:

William Burnett – Worshipful Master	Michael Musselman – Senior Warden
Luther Root – Junior Warden	Nathaniel Wilson – Treasurer
Elias Cost – Secretary	David Saunderson – Senior Deacon
Theodore Bannister – Junior Deacon	John Warner – Steward
John Hawks – Steward	Stephen Dunwell – Tiler

It is not known for certain where the first meetings were held in Phelps as the minutes only record the place as “the lodge room.” But, as the treasurer’s report shows, Luther Root was paid regularly by the Lodge, so it can be reasonably assumed that the meetings were held in Root’s Tavern in the village of Vienna. In 1818, they had a membership of 50 Masons. In 1820, Sincerity Lodge negotiated with the Trustees of East Vienna School District about building an addition to the schoolhouse on Church Street. The trustees approved the proposal and the addition, probably the second floor, was constructed. This building was later to be known as St. Francis Catholic Church Rectory. The building committee was also authorized by a vote of the Lodge to purchase furniture for the lodge rooms. The Lodge met in this addition until its charter was surrendered. The Lodge assembled regularly “on the Tuesday immediately preceding each and every full moon.”

The Festival of St. John the Evangelist was celebrated on every December 27th and that of St. John the Baptist on the 24th of June. A procession was formed and was led by a band to an open grove where the festivities were held publicly. A Marshal, frequently General Swift, led the parade and speeches were given. Area lodges jointly held these festivals and bands seemed to be a necessary part of the ceremony. At the festival of St. John the Evangelist on December 27, 1815 the band of the 71st New York Infantry Regiment was engaged to play in Manchester.

MEMBERS OF SINCERITY LODGE FROM 1811 TO 1823

Elihu Amsden	Daniel Hall	Abraham Simmonds
Theodore Bannister	Joseph Hall	Noney Simmons
Reuben Bardwell	John H. Hawks	Oliver B. Smith
James P. Bartle	George M. Hickey	Thomas Smith
Samuel W. Brace	Benjamin F. Hickcox	John Smock
Heil Brockway	Nathaniel Hinyon	Isaac Spoor
Bildad Brooks	Leman Hotchkiss	Nathan Stearns
Nathaniel Brooks	Moses Hubbard	William Stiles
John Brown	Elias Hughs	Philetus Swift
Russel Brown	William Hughs	C. Underhill
James Burnett	Elias Hull, Jr.	Levi Van Auken
William Burnett	Lewis Johnson	Simeon Van Auken
Elizur Butler	Benjamin H. Kipp	Frederick Vandemark
Jonathan S. Butler	John S. McCay	A. Van Dusen
John Carothers	Daniel McNeil, Jr.	Abraham Vosburgh
Jacob Cooper	David McNeil	Chester Waite
Elias Cost	James Milford	John Warner
Erastus Crary	Joseph Miller	Lewis Warner
Joseph Daniels	Timothy Moores	Leonard B. Webster
Chauncey Deane	Michael Musselman	Elias Wells
Isaac Deane	William D. Norton	Gardiner Wells
S.R. Demming	Levi Ostrander	Justin Wells
Rowland Dewey	Theodore Partridge	James B. West
William Dickinson	George J. Payne	Peter Westfall
James Dunham	David W. Perine	Simeon Westfall
Stephen Dunwell, Jr.	Roswell Perry	Benjamin Wheat, Jr.
Linus Ely	Harvey A. Phinney	Joseph Wheat
Simms Ely	Ambrose Porter	Elmer Wheaton
Joseph Farwell	Jenks Pullen	John F. Whiting
James Fisk	Ebenezer D. Redfield	Moses B. Whitmore
Jacob Flint	Gabriel Rodgers	Wells Whitmore
Roselle Flint	Francis Root	Jonas Whitney
Jonathan Follet	Luther Root	H.D. Williams
Elias W. Frisbie	Samuel Rosetter	Jared Wilson
John Gates	James Russel	Nathaniel Wilson
Archibald Gould	David Sanderson	Joshua W. Wing
Noah Gould	Henry Seymour	Alfred Witter
William C. Green	Daniel Shattock	Josiah Wright

There are 114 names listed above. There were 50 Brothers listed in Sincerity Lodge in 1818.

THE MORGAN AFFAIR

"My God, I knew that my political adversaries thought me to be a scoundrel, but never till now supposed that my friends did." - THURLOW WEED 1839

The events and circumstances surrounding the affairs and activities of William Morgan and his eventual disappearance have become part of American history. To this day, many of the details are hazy and distorted and many versions of the story have been told. Even Morgan himself is an elusive figure. He has been described as a ne'er-do-well, a vagabond, a poor husband, etc. etc.etc. The few facts that are known are these. William Morgan came to Batavia in 1826 and, somewhere during this time, contracted with David Miller, a printer, to print an expose' of Masonry. Through a series of events, differing with each telling, Morgan did wind up in the Canandaigua jail and was abducted from there by several ill-

advised Masons and taken to the Canadian border. There are several versions of what happened to him after the abduction depending which party is telling the story. One version says that he was given \$500 and sent across the border and told never to return. Another tells that he was thrown into the Niagara River and drowned and his body never found. The whole episode was only a thread in the web of history, but circumstances of the times made it into a major affair.

Loton Lawson, Nicholas G. Cheseboro (Master of Ontario Lodge No. 23), Colonel Edward Sawyer, and John Sheldon were accused of abducting Morgan from the jail and spiriting him to Canada. Lawson was the only one charged with the crime and he was never brought to trial. Public pressure forced the resignation of the Ontario County Sheriff. Even Governor DeWitt Clinton tried to ease the furor of the populace by promising a full investigation. However, other factors overcame any efforts to minimize the incident.

As has been noted above, most of the early New York State Governors also served as Grand Masters. This tie, while beneficial to New York State Masonry also served, inadvertently, to almost destroy it. The political climate in New York at that time was such that DeWitt Clinton and his political party were popular because of the economic boom due to the construction of the Erie Canal and Clinton's promotion of public education. Because of Clinton's well known ties to the Fraternity, the "minor" episode with Morgan in a small upstate town and its connection with Masonry was used to try to beat the Clintonians at the polls:

Thurlow Weed was the editor of *The Rochester Telegraph* newspaper and a powerful and efficient political boss of the National Republican Party in New York State. Weed saw this local incident as an effective tool to attack Governor Clinton and the Democratic Party then in power and possibly win, for his party, the next gubernatorial election. He used his editorial powers to inflame the public with anti-Masonic rhetoric and, with articles written by other influential people, keep the affair alive to discredit Clinton and his party. During the next year, his efforts were so successful that it became a national vendetta and the first national third party, the Anti-Masonic Party, was formed. Weed enlisted the aid of many prominent people in his cause, John Q. Adams, the former President of the United States, William H. Seward, then a State Senator, Millard Fillmore, a future President and prominent state politician and eventually Thaddeus Stevens, a U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania wrote anti-Masonic opinions. The public's distaste for Masonry went nationwide.

The Anti-Masonic Party held its first national convention in 1831 and nominated William Wirt to run for the Presidency. He won the State of Vermont in the 1832 national election. The main purpose of the 1831 convention was to unseat President Andrew Jackson who was running for his second term. President Jackson was also a Past Grand Master of Tennessee. The re-election of Jackson broke the effectiveness of the anti-Masonic movement and the Anti-Masonic Party held its last convention in 1836 to try to defeat Martin VanBuren, the Democratic presidential candidate. VanBuren, also a Brother, was elected in spite of their efforts and put an end of to Weed's persecution of the Masons.

However, much damage had already been done to the Fraternity and it would be almost 20 years before Masonry began to recover. Nationally the anti-Masonic feelings died quickly, but in this area where the whole problem started it took longer to subside. All but two of the lodges in Ontario County survived. Two venerable lodges established with do much pride and hope more than 20 years before surrendered their charters to the Grand Lodge in 1835. Both Ontario Lodge No. 23 and Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 126 no longer existed. Sincerity Lodge No. 200 surrendered its charter June 5, 1835. It must be noted that Ark Lodge No. 33 held on through all the years of persecution and through the Masonic fortitude of the "indomitable seven" meeting secretly all those years. Ark Lodge had its original No. 160 changed to 33 in 1839.

Frederick Follett, a member of Batavia Lodge at the time of Morgan's abduction, wrote a letter in 1873, forty-seven years after the incident, about the turmoil resulting from the public outrage. A portion of the letter read:

"It swept over the western portion of the state, in relation to the political standing of the parties, with the devastating power of a tornado. It interfered somewhat, and in some instances wholly broke up the social relations of life. Churches became more or less involved in the controversy, and so bitter and inveterate was the feeling engendered, that Masons were excluded from a participation in the Holy Communion; their names were thrown out of the jury box; and at the social gatherings of the neighborhood, resolutions were, in many instances, passed forbidding their daughters keeping company with a Mason. The old party landmarks thus swept away or swallowed up in this new element of discord and strife, it resolved itself into the fact that no member of the Masonic order was allowed to fill even the position of pound master."

The original intent of the anti-Masonic campaign to discredit the Masonic leaders of the Democratic Party to win election for the National Republican candidates was almost a complete failure but the damage done to the Masonic Fraternity, particularly in New York, was devastating. In 1826, there were 480 Lodges with over 20,000 members. By 1835, the number had been reduced to only 49 Lodges in all of New York State! It was not until 1860 that the membership exceeded the 1826 figures, reaching over 30,000 but with only 432 Lodges.

A quotation from the formation of the new Palmyra Lodge in 1852:

"Thus was the fire upon her altar extinguished and the great lights in Free Masonry obscured by ignorance and fanaticism. The great moral lessons inculcated by Masonry were held in abeyance and the tools and implements of the craft buried in the rubbish of superstition. After the great wave of Anti-Masonry had rolled by and spent its force and the murky atmosphere left in its wake had begun to clear, the lights of Free Masonry illumined the dark places and caused the hearts of the craftsmen to expand under its genial rays, and on the 8th day of May, 1852, the brethren procured a Charter for Palmyra Lodge No. 248. These brethren were stalwart in Masonry and zealous in promoting its principles and they at once set about repairing the waste places and erecting the altars that had been torn down and the great light in Masonry once more found its resting place from which to shed its effulgent rays."

SINCERITY LODGE – SECOND CHARTER

Sincerity Lodge was known to have had meetings until at least 1831, but not for another 22 years after its charter was surrendered June 5, 1835 did this Lodge begin anew. All records of the lodge after 1822 are not available. It is believed that persons broke into the lodge room in the early 1830's and stole all the records. During the Anti-Masonic upheaval and beyond, our local brethren must have assembled though covertly, and kept the Masonic ideals and ritual alive. Secret meetings were held on the second floor of the Benjamin Wheat home on Wheat Road near Orleans between 1826 and 1831. This lodge room was kept as unchanged as possible in 1957 by Paris Trail, the owner at that time. Meetings were also held in the Cobb/Hicks home on Route 96 east of the village of Phelps.

Over 20 years had passed before Phelps Masons felt comfortable in publicly establishing another Lodge. At different times during 1857, several Phelps Master Masons met to draft a petition to form a new Lodge under the name of the original one, Sincerity. It was also requested that William M. Crosby, principal of the school, be the first Master and Calvin H. Carpenter the first Senior Warden, and Thaddeus A. Lawrence the first Junior Warden. The petition was signed by the following Master Masons: William M. Crosby, Calvin H. Carpenter, Thaddeus A. Lawrence, Jerome B. Jackson, David B. Sweet, Justus H. Dawley, Joseph June, Charles Scott, and Benjamin F. Salisbury. Both Canandaigua and Newark Lodges recommended the petition. It was presented to the Grand Master, MW John L. Lewis, Jr., in Penn Yan who granted a dispensation.

On the evening of March 16, 1858 the dispensation was read by Worshipful Master Crosby to the designated Senior and Junior Wardens and Brothers Sweet, Jackson, and Dawley meeting in the Odd Fellows hall on the northeast corner of Main and Exchange Streets in the village of Phelps. The other offices were filled as follows: D.B. Sweet, Treasurer; J.H. Dawley, Secretary; J.D. Jackson, Senior Deacon; B.F. Salisbury, Junior Deacon; and J. June, Tiler. The only tie to the "Old Lodge" was Brother Frederick Vandermark, who joined the original lodge in 1814 and signed the by-laws in November, 1858 at the age of 74. Brother Vandermark was made a member by affiliation. His fee was applied to his dues. On January 22, 1862 the Lodge met to bury Brother Vandermark, age 76. He had been a Mason for 49 years and was the last member of the original Sincerity Lodge.

The number of the Lodge as stated in the warrant issued June 19, 1858 was 443. The original number, 200, was reassigned officially on June 14, 1859. The Lodge met the first year, 1858, at the Odd Fellows Hall and, in 1859, returned to the "Old Masonic Hall" on the second floor of the East Vienna Schoolhouse. In August of the same year, the building committee met with L.B. Hotchkiss to procure another lodge room – possibly because of the increase in membership. In December of 1859, they offered \$600 for the purchase of the original schoolhouse from William Crosby, but nothing materialized. In July of 1860, the committee again met with L.B. Hotchkiss and rented the Odd Fellows Hall for an annual fee of \$40.

On September 2, 1862 charges were brought against a brother for drunkenness; in October specific charges were read in open Lodge, and on December 11th after testimony of witnesses about several episodes of public drunkenness, he was expelled from the Lodge.

In June of 1865, a committee was formed to study the cost of a new Lodge room.

On February 5, 1867 an application was received from several Clifton Springs brothers to form a new lodge. A special meeting was called three days later to discuss the possibility, but nothing was done at this time. On February 19th, a motion was made that the brother from Clifton Springs be allowed to "exemplify their work" at the next meeting. No more record is made of the incident.

During the meeting of January 7, 1868, the committee investigating the purchase of the present Lodge room requested more time. The request was granted.

In 1869, the Lodge contracted with the builder of the Gibson Block which had suffered fire damage to the second floor and roof, then under construction, to construct for them the third floor as a lodge room. The cost of the construction was set at \$2,600. The Gibson estate required \$1,000 by August 1869, so ten members gave \$100 each with lesser amounts contributed from other brethren. A balance of \$900 was left which was paid off in the next few years. The lodge furniture, which is still in use, was also purchased at that time for \$500. Meetings were held in the anteroom of the new lodge until the lodge room proper was completed. Dedication of the new lodge rooms was held on St. John's Day, December 27, 1860, strangely enough, at the Methodist Church (which use to stand west of Vienna Gardens). A large social function was held a few days later at the lodge rooms. Sincerity Lodge met there for 108 years, from 1870 to 1978.

The first Brothers raised in the new Lodge were Dwight W. Severance and George Musselman. Brother Severance was listed as still being an active member at the time of the centennial celebration of the first charter in 1911. The only charter member of the new Lodge, still living in 1911, was Brother Edward Jones, age 77.

An unusual procedure occurred on July 15, 1879 when the secretary's desk was draped in honor of the death of Brother E.S. Corbin, Lodge secretary, until a successor could be named. School taxes for 1881 were \$1.38! In 1883, the taxes jumped to \$2.36.

On June 1888, Brother William A. Judd was raised. The trustees were instructed to buy a #5 Victor safe in February 1890 and, in March, it was received. Cost - \$45.00 plus \$5.13 for freight and labor.

It was discussed at the December 3rd meeting in 1895 to light the Lodge room by electricity. On December 17th, the committee on electric lights reported that the necessary fixtures could be installed for less than \$125.00. The trustees were authorized to have them installed. At the same meeting, the Worshipful Master presented to the Lodge, on behalf of Brother William Edmonston, a stone taken from

the cap of the door of the cell in the Canandaigua jail once occupied by William Morgan. A vote of thanks was tendered to Brother Edmonston.

Light fixtures were installed in March 1896, but were not satisfactory so replacements were put in the following month. The quarterly bill for electric light services from J.Q. Howe & Sons was \$6.00. A second communication was called on April 22, 1898.

The Lodge assembled at the Lodge room and then walked to the railroad station on Pleasant Street to receive the remains of Brother Harvey Rice and then accompanied them to the cemetery where Brother Rice was buried with "Masonic honors." The same procedure was followed on June 11th when Brother William Westfall's body arrived from Waterloo.

WB William A. Judd was Master of Sincerity Lodge in 1897-98.

During the four-year period from 1894 to 1898, there were 19 applicants rejected by the Lodge. One of these was rejected twice and would be rejected again 17 years later! Two of this same group would be accepted and raised to Master Masons.

Annual dues in 1859 were \$2.00. They were raised to \$2.50 in 1874 and lowered to \$2.00 in 1901.

The Lodge was closed on September 17, 1901 out of respect for the death of President William McKinley. On October 1, 1901 the Lodge received a letter from Grand Lodge asking that the altar be draped for 30 days in memory of President McKinley. On the 29th of October of 1901, the Lodge presented RW William A. Judd his Grand Sword Bearers apron.

A communication received by the Lodge on May 6, 1902 from several brethren living in Clifton Springs asking consent to present to the MW Grand Master a petition for a dispensation to form a new lodge at Clifton Springs was read and by order of Worshipful Master Seymour Fridley was laid over to the next communication for action. On May 20th, the petition was again read. The Master called for a vote. A ballot was taken and resulted in a vote of 48 ayes and 80 nays and the petition was declared refused.

On June 3rd, R.L. Leland resigned his office as trustee and on June 17th demits to Newark Lodge No. 83 were granted to Z.H. Haney, T.W. Barker, Frank VanDyne, Harry J. VanDyne, L.P. Cooley, William Church, R.L. Leland, William L. Case, J.J. Johnson, H.J. Bostwick, M.A. Hosford, William A. Judd, F.D. VanDyne; also to L.H. Leland, who had been raised just 21 days before. During this meeting, on a motion of a Brother, it was ordered that a place be designated in Clifton Springs to which all Masonic notices can be sent for the information of the Clifton Brethren. Several more demits were granted to Newark Lodge No. 83 during the next three years.

Annual dues for 1906 were set at \$2.38. At the May 1st meeting of that year, the Lodge received a letter from the District Deputy Grand Master and a telegram from the Grand Master requesting aid for distressed brethren in San Francisco suffering from the earthquake.

On February 2, 1909 the Independent Telephone Company installed a telephone in the Lodge anteroom. During the regular communication of the Lodge on April 6, 1909 a communication from "a body of Master Masons in good standing residing in or near the Village of Clifton Springs" was read petitioning that consent be given that a charter might be granted to establish a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the Village of Clifton Springs. It was ordered that the petition be voted upon at the second regular communication in May. The Worshipful Master ordered that summonses be sent out to that effect. There is no record of this vote in May, but history shows that the petition was not granted.

A water meter was installed in 1910.

Sincerity Lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary of the 1811 charter on September 27, 1911. WB George W. Salisbury was Master of the Lodge at that time. A booklet was put together listing the Past Masters and a roster of the members together with a history of the Lodge written by Brothers H.C. Kirk, E.S. Warner, and E.F. Bussey.

In 1978, Sincerity Lodge bought the property at 67 Ontario Street to build a new lodge building. In June, 1978, the foundation was poured. The marble cornerstone was placed at that time. The building was erected mostly by lodge members. Some of the members who donated their time and expertise were Elwood Mowers, Ramon Howard, William Sheppard, Douglas Gover, Leonard Hackney, Glen Webster, Gerald Weyneth, Chris Howard, Ron VanCamp, and several others. J. Walter Caves supplied materials for a reasonable cost. Lloyd Akin provided excavating equipment. Brother Howard designed the building and was the "Hiram Abif" of the project. The building was finished and dedicated in 1979, with the first meeting held there January 16, 1979.

The upper floor contains the lodge room, an anteroom, a preparation room, and storage space. The lower floor has rest rooms, a storage room, a large dining room with a pool table, and more storage at the south-west end. The main dining room has folding tables and chairs and a complete kitchen at the east end of the building, with exits at both ends of the lower floor. A covered pavilion was built south of the parking area in the rear of the building. A storage area has been constructed across the south end of the pavilion.

EARLY GAROGA LODGE NO. 300 HISTORY

Garoga Lodge No. 300 was organized in the tiny hamlet of Garoga in the Town of Ephrata in Fulton County, New York. It was granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of New York on January 8, 1853. The first set of by-laws were adopted on Wednesday, March 2, 1853 and signed by 17 members by the end of that year. The first signers were as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Robert Wever | 7. William Spencer | 13. James Brookins |
| 2. Alteron Odell | 8. S. Melvin Wever | 14. George Keith |
| 3. Ezra B. Gilbert | 9. Alexander Fraser | 15. Daniel M. Durfee |
| 4. Chauncey Hutchinson | 10. Richard Fancher | 16. Samuel Brookins |
| 5. Zalman Gilbert | 11. Horace Sweet | 17. Thomas Bradley |
| 6. Joseph L. Wever | 12. Burr Gilbert | |

The Lodge moved its location to Rockford on May 20, 1857 and a new revised set of by-laws was written on April 19, 1859. The first 17 signatures, in order, were the same brothers who signed the original 1853 by-laws. Growth was slow and the Lodge was again moved, this time to the hamlet of Ephrata, in hopes of stimulating interest and attracting more members. The Grand Lodge dispensation to move to Ephrata was granted on January 10, 1906. Lodge meetings were still sporadic and poorly attended. The Grand Lodge gave special dispensations several times for belated election of officers months after the prescribed time. Dues were raised from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per year starting in 1907.

John O. Saltsman offers an interesting example of Garoga's problems. Saltsman was elected to become a member by initiation on March 21, 1906. Eight months later, as nothing had been done about giving Saltsman his degrees, it was decided that he should be balloted on *again* and, not surprisingly, was re-elected to become a member. He received his first degree on February 20, 1907 and was raised on April 3 that year, along with Brother Harry Lake, Adam Suits, and Ira Whitlock. On January 15, 1908 J.O. Saltsman was elected Junior Warden – less than a year after becoming a Mason! More on Brother Saltsman later.

Finally, after many years of frustration trying to make the Lodge viable and active, the DDGM, RW George W. Norris, during his official visit to Garoga No. 300 on February 2, 1910, was told to inform the Grand Master that “the brethren of Garoga Lodge No. 300 was desirous (sic) of either moving to some other locality or surrendering their charter.”

The following meeting on February 16, 1910 the motion was made and carried “that the old officers be re-elected.” The officers were installed that night.

During the 58 years of Garoga Lodge in Ephrata Township, Fulton County, 211 members had been raised or affiliated, 35 during the 4 years at Garoga, 172 during the 49 years at Rockwood, and only 4 during the final 5 years at Ephrata. How many were lost due to death, demit, or being dropped from the rolls is not known. The known Masters of Garoga Lodge No. 300 in Fulton County:

1870 – T.H. Wakeman	1872 – James C. Snell	1891 – Thomas Bradley
1905 – Charles E. Stahl	1906-07 – William C. Beebe	1908-10 – Edgar Shibley

FROM EPHRATA TO CLIFTON SPRINGS

(“...For want of good material for membership, dwindled by death and removal...surrendered their charter, jewels, and furniture to another part of the state at Clifton Springs”, James C. Snell letter, 1929)

As stated previously, the brothers from Clifton Springs had petitioned Sincerity Lodge No. 200 several times over the years to assist them in establishing a new Lodge in their village and were rebuffed each time. The attempt in 1902 resulted in the demits of 14 members to Newark Lodge No. 83. William A. Judd and R.L. Leland seemed to be the prime movers of the Clifton Springs members to establish a new Lodge. Judd and Leland were business partners in Clifton Springs, manufacturing tin ware, and eventually specializing in tire pumps, selling them directly to auto manufacturers. The company was incorporated in 1902 as the Judd & Leland Manufacturing Company and it was successful until 1931

when it became bankrupt like so many other companies during the Great Depression.

William Judd was Master of Sincerity Lodge in 1897 and was Grand Sword Bearer in 1901-02. Probably through his contacts in Grand Lodge, he was made aware of the condition and request of Garoga Lodge in 1910. There is no record of any correspondence between Judd and either Grand Lodge or Garoga Lodge pertaining to his plans. However, on October 18, 1911 William Judd, Rod Leland, and six other brothers petitioned Garoga Lodge No. 300 for membership. The petitions were referred to a committee of two for "investigation" after a fee of \$3.00 each was received from the eight petitioners.

The following meeting on November 1, 1911 was historic. WM – Lester Gilman, SW – J.O. Saltsman, JW – Adam Suits, and Sec – J.O. Saltsman, all pro-tem officers led it! (Brother Saltsman appears to have acted as both Senior Warden *and* Secretary) The eight petitioners, W.A. Judd, H.A. VanDyne, L.H. Leland, E.H. Harvey, H.J. Bostwick, E.W. Smith, R.L. Leland, and A.C. Rhodes were accepted as members of Garoga Lodge No. 300. Immediately following the ballot, a resolution was offered by, who else, Brother John Saltsman, seconded by Brother Adam Suits, and unanimously adopted.

"Resolved that the charter of Garoga Lodge No. 300, now located at Ephrata, Fulton County, New York be transferred to Clifton Springs, Ontario County, New York, where a more productive field will be afforded."

All the business of this meeting was conducted under the direction of the DDGM of the 19th District, RW Alvin C. Bullock.

GAROGA LODGE NO. 300 – CLIFTON SPRINGS

Notices had been sent to all the surrounding Lodges in the Ontario-Seneca-Yates District about the upcoming new Lodge in the District and its meeting on November 15, 1911. The pro-tem officers of the first meeting of Garoga Lodge in Clifton Springs were:

Master – W.A. Judd	Sr. Warden – Albert Bosshart, Jr.	Jr. Warden – Albert G. O'Dell
Sec. – H. VanDyne	Sr. Deacon – George E. Barry	Jr. Deacon – Z.H. Harvey
	Tiler – James Wilson	

The minutes of the last meeting were read for information! Due to the publicity, four men petitioned for membership, thirty-three members of Sincerity Lodge No. 200 and nineteen members of other Lodges petitioned for membership by affiliation at the November 15th meeting. Also the initiation fee was raised from \$15.00 to \$25.00 and the meeting time was changed from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm from October 1st – May 1st and 8:00 pm for the rest of the year. At the December 20th meeting it was proposed, "That the following brothers of this Lodge, before its removal to Clifton Springs, to be granted Life Membership:

Ira S. Whitlock	J.O. Saltsman	Adam Suits	Clarence A. Smith	W.W. Wood
Dennis Wood	Albert Shull	S.A. Smith	Edgar Shibley	Joseph Nellis
A.A. McCoy	Nellis Gelman	Lester Getman	Ernest Durey	

Proposal laid over until the next meeting.

By January 1912, Garoga Lodge No. 300 had acquired 53 new members! The officers elected for the new year were:

Master – William A. Judd
Sr. Warden – George E. Barry
Jr. Warden – Dr. J.A. Sanders
Treas. – L.M. Bement

Secretary – H.J. VanDyne
Trustee, 3 yrs – A.C. Rhodes
Trustee, 2 yrs – D.M. Warner
Trustee, 1 yr. – R.L. Leland

Garoga Lodge No. 300 had new life and vitality.

GAROGA-SINCERITY LODGE NO. 200 IS BORN

In December 1998, Garoga Lodge No. 300 contacted Sincerity Lodge No. 200 about the feasibility of consolidation. Each Lodge was represented by five of its members on a joint study committee. Following guidelines set up by Grand Lodge, resolutions were passed by both Lodges to approve the consolidation. New By-Laws were developed and approval of the consolidation was given by Grand Lodge on November 2, 1999.

On November 16, 1999, the R^W Donald A. Dill, District Deputy Grand Master of the Ontario-Seneca-Yates District installed the following officers: RW Robert Bird, Worshipful Master, Bro David Smith, Senior Warden, VW Lowell Falkey, Junior Warden, RW Arthur Day, Treasurer, WB Clayton Ruggles, Secretary, RW Ramon Howard, Chaplain, Bro John Walti, Senior Deacon, Bro William Sergeant, Junior Warden, WB David Roll, Senior Master of Ceremony, Bro F. Lee Walters, Junior Master of Ceremony; WB Donald Tiffany, Marshal, Bro Paul Scherbyn and Bro Stephen Phillips, Stewards, WB Ernest Day, Tiler, WB L. Robert Lash, Organist, Trustees for 1 year, Bro F. Lee Walters and WB Walter Cummings, Trustees for 2 years, WB Paul McIntyre and WB Ranse Brooks, and Trustees for 3 years, WB John Carney and WB William Peterson.

The historical information for this booklet was provided through histories written by John Parmelee and Donald Tiffany.

Bibliography:

The Three Patriarchs – Ark Lodge # 33, 1918

Ark Lodge # 33 – 175 Anniversary, 1807 – 1982

Sincerity Lodge # 200 – Centennial Celebration, 9/27/1911

Phelps Masonic History, by L.M. Croll, 1963

Freemasonry, by Grand Master, New York, NY

Masters of Sincerity Lodge No. 200

1811-1910

1811	Wells Whitmore	1879-83	Dr. Fred D. Vanderhoof –
1812	Wells Whitmore		DDGM (1883-85)
1813-18	Michael Musselman	1884	John Wolvin
1819-20	Thomas Smith – first attorney in Phelps	1885-86	Dr. Fred D. Vanderhoof
1821-22	James P. Barth – first Master of Newark # 83	1887-93	Russell B. Cobb – AGL 1893-94
		1884	John Wolvin
1823-25	Michael Musselman	1885-86	Dr. Fred D. Vanderhoof
1829	Jacob Cooper	1887-93	Russell B. Cobb – AGL 1893-94
1830-35	No record	1894-96	William L. Crothers
1858-59	William M. Crosby	1897-98	William L. Judd – GSB 1901-02
1859-62	Dr. C.H. Carpenter	1899-1901	Charles H. Burt – DDGM (1899-00)
1863	Phillip S. Rogers	1902-03	Seymour Fridley
1864-66	Ezra J. Peck	1904	Russell B. Cobb
1867-70	Phillip S. Rogers	1905-06	U. Grant Burnett
1871-76	Dr. Fred D. Vanderhoof	1907-08	Albert Bosshart, Jr.
1877-78	Phillip S. Rogers	1909-10	Elmer G. Miller

Masters of Sincerity Lodge No. 200**1911 – 1940**

1911-12	George W. Salisbury – DDGM 1919-20
1913	Earle S. Warner
1914	Leonard S. Partridge
1915	Maurice E. Warner – AGL 1920-21
1916	Leon W. VanDeusen
1917	Reed B. Curry
1918	Maurice E. Warner
1919	U. Grant Burnett
1920	U. Grant Burnett
1921	Fred C. Vanderhoof
1922	Fred C. Vanderhoof
1923	Stuart S. Caves
1924	Charles E. Eacker
1925	Alonzo S. Rathbun – GDC 1936-37
1926	Orin K. Happel
1927	John A. Page
1928	H.S.G. Loveless
1929	John W. Backus
1930	Hugh E. Hammond
1931	James H. Weston
1932	Fred N. Mecker
1933	Clifford Jones
1934	Leslie A. Champion
1935	J. Walter Caves
1936	Leonard C. Avery
1937	Leon A. Westfall
1938	Robert C. Burnett
1939	John H. Hildreth
1940	James F. Cudebac

Masters of Garoga Lodge No. 300**1911 – 1939**

1911	William A. Judd
1912	William A. Judd – DDGM 1915-17
1913	George E. Barry
1914	Joseph A. Sanders
1915	Lee H. Leland
1916	Robert B. Peck
1917	Willis H. Holbrook
1918	William A. Robinson
1919	Frank M. Corwin
1920	William H. Bostwick
1921	William C. Montford
1922	Clarence E. Brown
1923	Roy A. Farnsworth
1924	Albert G. Odell – GSB 1924-25 DDGM 1932-34
1925	Dwight B. Williams
1926	Albert R. Wilson
1927	Robert W. Gorden
1928	Hugh G. Hawkes
1929	F. Allen Degraw
1930	Howard H. Potter
1931	Arthur E. Taylor
1932	Ollie J. Devall – DDGM 1937-38
1933	William S. Young
1934	Howard C. Clement
1935	Tracy R. Edmonds
1936	Floyd H. Dean
1937	Judson A. Jones
1938	John J. Hixson
1939	Nathaniel B. Dunning

Masters of Sincerity Lodge No. 200**1941 – 1969**

1941	Theodore E. Davey
1942	J. Carleton DeVall
1943	Richard L. Rathbun
1944	J. Louis Fitzgerald
1945	Merton W. Tiffany
1946	Merton W. Tiffany
1947	John M. Parmelee
1948	Herbert V. Parmelee
1949	Roy E. Cheney
1950	Asa F. Avery
1951	Arlon B. Wilber
1952	Robert L. Glass
1953	John W. Carney – AGL 1955-56
1954	George Weidenheimer
1955	Ernest J. Darrow
1956	Earl F. Dewey
1957	Henry J. Smith
1958	Gerald M. Weyneth
1959	George H. Landstrom
1960	E. Platt Soper – DDGM 1962-63
1961	Lewis R. Margeson
1962	Frank S. Dows
1963	Ralph B. Hart
1964	Donald W. Tiffany
1965	Frederick L. Wheeler
1966	James W. Liberator
1967	Paul W. Adams
1968	Floyd A. Clark
1969	Raymond A. Gordner

Masters of Garoga Lodge No. 300**1940 – 1969**

1940	Elmer B. Brown
1941	Clair S. Johnson
1942	Loren C. Robyn
1943	George E. Roper
1944	Carl H. Clement
1945	Paul V. Bullock
1946	Arthur I. Codington
1947	John E. Loveless – DDGM 1959-60
1948	Edward B. Clark
1949	Ira C. Crawford
1950	Lyle M. Oswalt
1951	Elman R. Cowell
1952	Hugh F. Hawkes
1953	John F. Rodney, Sr.
1954	John F. Rodney, Jr.
1955	Walter W. Royston
1956	William R. Merscher
1957	Elwyn C. Griffin
1958	Alfred E. Mathias
1959	Frederick L. Gifford
1960	Basil L. Gillam
1961	Duane Benedict
1962	John E. Leighton
1963	John H. Kennedy
1964	LeRoy E. Tropp, Jr.
1965	Robert O. Lannon
1966	Robert E. Kloepfel
1967	John F. Rodney, Jr.
1968	James H. Piper
1969	James B. Newman

Masters of Sincerity Lodge No. 200**1970 – 1999**

1970 - 71	Douglas Gover
1972	Elwood Mowers
1973	Eugene Fletcher
1974	Lloyd J. Akin
1975	Ronald W. VanCamp
1976	Lewis W. Williams
1977	John C. Carney
1978	Larry D. Gelder
1979	Charles E. Overpeck
1980	Ramon Howard –AGL 1981-82 DDGM 1985-86
1981	Kenneth C. Overslaugh, Jr.
1982	Roger H. Cheney
1983	Bobby L. Dorgan
1984	Chris Howard
1985	Garry Clock
1986	Gary J. Yancey
1987	Leonard P. Hackney – Grand Chaplain 1965 Emeritus 1978
1988	Daniel Guth
1989	Douglas A. Gover
1990	Ramon Howard
1991	L. Robert Lash
1992	L. Robert Lash
1993	Ramon Howard – January-June
1993-94	Lowell Falkey
1994-95	David R. Roll
1995-96, 97-98	Paul McIntyre
1996-97, 98-99	Clayton Ruggles – DDGM 2000-04
AGL 2007-10	Junior Grand Deacon 2010-12
Senior Grand Deacon	2012-14

Masters of Garoga Lodge No. 300**1970 – 1999**

1970	Arthur D. Pappert
1971	Walter J. Cummings, Sr.
1972	Robert T. Roby - DDGM 1975-76
1973	David G. Retchless
1974	Robert G. Bird – DDGM 1980-81
1975	Arch Walborn
1976	James R. Gostley
1977	Ranse E. Brooks
1978	C. Herbert Allen
1979	Howard A. Lester
1980	Jack Resnik
1981	Samuel H. Holdsforth
1982	Julius A. Peterson
1983	Arthur P. Day – GDC 1994-96
1984	Arthur P. Day
1985	Gary L. Curtiss
1986	Joseph H. Kahn
1987	Daniel M. White
1988	Ernest H. Day
1989	Ernest H. Day
1990	Gary L. Curtiss
1991	Ernest L. Bishop
1992	Frederick I. Parker
1993 (GMO)	William R. Peterson
1993-94	William R. Peterson
1994-95	Frank E. Lower
1995-96	Ernest H. Day
1996-97	Ernest H. Day
1997-98	Frank E. Lower
1998-99	William R. Peterson

Garoga-Sincerity Lodge No. 200 Masters

1999-2000	Robert G. Bird	2006-07	Ronald B. Galens –DDGM 2009-10
2000-01	David Smith	2007-08	Ronald B. Galens-Gr. Tiler 2012-14
2001-02	David Smith	2008-09	John Walti
2002-03	John Walti – AGL 2004-07	2009-10	Stephen Durso, Sr. – AGL 2011-
2003-04	John Walti	2010-11	Stephen Durso, Sr.
2004-05	William Sergeant	2011-12	Kenneth Gibbs
2005-06	William Sergeant	2012-13	William Hargrove

Lodge Membership 2012

Paul Adams	Dale F. Gelder
Perry Adams	Larry D. Gelder
Ralph Adams	Kenneth Gibbs
James Allen	Frederick Gifford
William Amber	Jesse Gillespie
Charles Anderson	William Goodman
Bruce Andrews	James Gostley
Daniel Biery	Everett Grimsley
Nathaniel Biery	Shawn Grube
Charles Bird	Nelson Gulvin
Ernest Bishop	Daniel Guth
Harold Bloser	William Hargrove
Joshua Boor	Robert Hines
John Bowles	Chris Howard
Jed Brandow	Ramon Howard
Ranse Brooks	Thomas Hudson
David Bruzee	Richard Kauder
Carl Carlson	Michael Klimeczko
Garry Clock	Robert Kloepfel
John Davis	William Lally
Ernest Day	L. Robert Lash
Nicholas Day	Milton Lum
Bernard Dell	Scott MacDonell
Bobby Dorgan	Terrence Mays
George W. Durkee	Paul McIntyre
Stephen T. Durso, Jr.	Edward Minns
Stephen T. Durso, Sr.	Douglas Nicot
Roy J. Farnsworth	Thomas Pardington
Jay A. Ford	Douglas Parmele
Donald S. Fridley	Michael Patrick
James W. Frind	Robert Patrick
Douglas J. Galens	Kenneth Pedersen
Ronald Galens	William Peterson
	Jerome Phillips

(H) - Honorary

Stephen Phillips
Timothy Piper
John Record
David Retchless
Charles Romeiser
Donald Romeiser
John Roush
Vincent Rozella III
Clayton Ruggles
Todd Ruggles
Donald Sabin
Norman Schaefer
Elliott Schocken
John Sherman
David Smith
William Smith
Lynn Spence
Robert Spink
MW James Sullivan (H)
William Tatro IV
Robert Taylor III
Donald Tiffany
Scott Upchurch
Ronald VanCamp
F. Lee Walters
John Walti
Barney Wandell
Glen Webster
Benjamin Wheat
Frederick Wheeler
Gregory White
MW Bruce Widger (H)
David Williams
Gary Yancey