

**Mt. Moriah #28**  
**Updated History**  
**1853 to 2004**

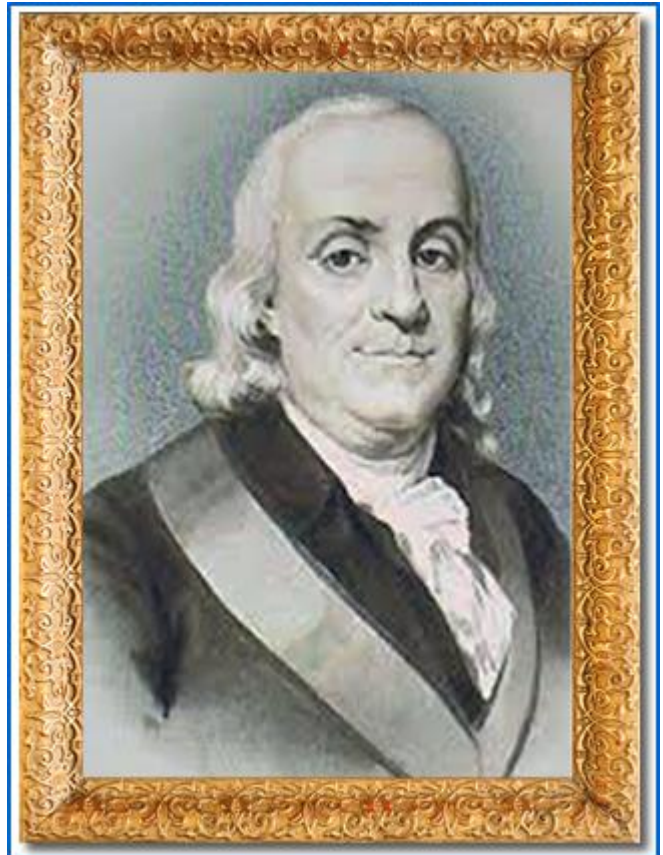
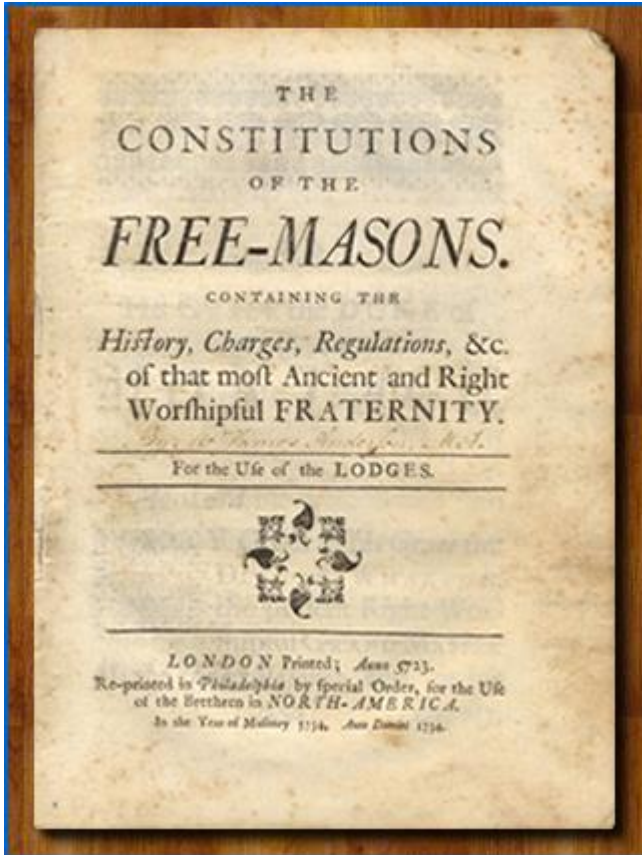


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# The History of Mount Moriah Lodge

## Introduction

I thought it fitting as we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Lodge, to reflect upon the past, with an updated version of our history (originally published in 2004). Being one of the oldest Lodges in New Jersey, Mount Moriah #28 has a long and distinguished history. I am humbly following in the footsteps of the Most Worshipful Lewis M. Parker, perhaps our most illustrious member, who in 1979 undertook the task of writing a history of our Lodge



**Above is an image of the first Masonic book printed in America. The book is called The Constitutions of the Free Masons and was printed in June 1734 by Benjamin Franklin.**

**Franklin's Constitutions was printed when Franklin was only 28 years old, almost exactly at the time that Franklin became Grand Master of Pennsylvania.**

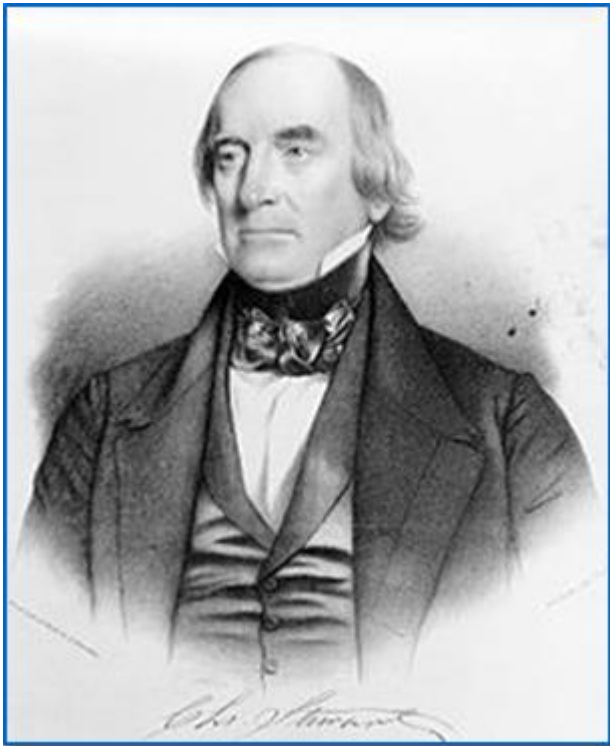
The opening of our history is taken from Most Worshipful Brother Parker's work (in blue ink below).



## **"In the Beginning..."**

The first permanent settler on the American continent known to have been a Mason was John Skene, a member of the Lodge at Aberdeen in Scotland, who emigrated to America in 1682 and settled on lands only a few miles distant from our Masonic Home in Burlington. An unknown number of Masons from the Old World followed Skene to these shores. Daniel Coxe, the first Provincial Grand Master in America, resided in Burlington for a number of years and is buried in Old Saint Mary's Church there. Slowly, a few Lodges were formed in the colony and State of New Jersey and in 1786, the Grand Lodge of New Jersey came into being.

Doubtless, there were members of the fraternity living in Bordentown during many of its early years, but it is not until 1843 that there is any record of an attempt to form a local Lodge. In July of that year, a consultation took place between the following Brethren who were the only Master Masons known to be residing in the neighborhood at that time, namely William McKnight, Rev. J.W. Lathrop, Captain Edward R. McCall, Robert C. Buzby, Commodore Charles Stewart and Isaac Field, Sr.



**Commodore Charles Stewart**



**Captain Edward R. McCall Coin**

Owing to the death of Brother Lathrop and a loss of interest of several of the above-mentioned Brethren, the subject was dropped and not revived until April 1853 when seven Brethren, namely, Robert C. Buzby, James W. Allen, William Porter, William Nutt, John Holland, Robert Fenton and John O'Conner met at the home of Brother James W. Allen at 104 Prince Street to discuss the matter.

A second meeting was held at the hotel of Edward Bartlett, on the corner of Main and Crosswicks Streets, at which all seven Brethren were present, plus Captain Charles Hinkle.

At this meeting, it was determined to apply to the Grand Master for a dispensation to open and hold a Lodge in Bordentown and it was further resolved that the following Brethren should be the officers named in the application:

Robert C. Buzby, Worshipful Master  
James W. Allen, Senior Warden  
William Porter, Junior Warden

Our founding Brethren lost no time in pursuing their goal. The minutes of Trenton Lodge No 5 for May 3, 1853 records the following: "Whereas, a number of Brethren of the fraternity of the Borough of Bordentown, Burlington County, being desirous of organizing a Masonic Lodge in said Borough and inasmuch as the regulations of Grand Lodge require that the Petition should be recommended by the nearest Lodge, Therefore, Resolved that this Lodge do recommend the Petition to the Grand Master and hope their prayer may be granted."

Thus Mount Moriah Lodge came into existence thru the sponsorship of Trenton Lodge No. 5.

Pursuant to notice given by the Grand Master, a number of Brethren assembled in Bordentown on July 8, 1853 for the purpose of organizing the new Lodge.

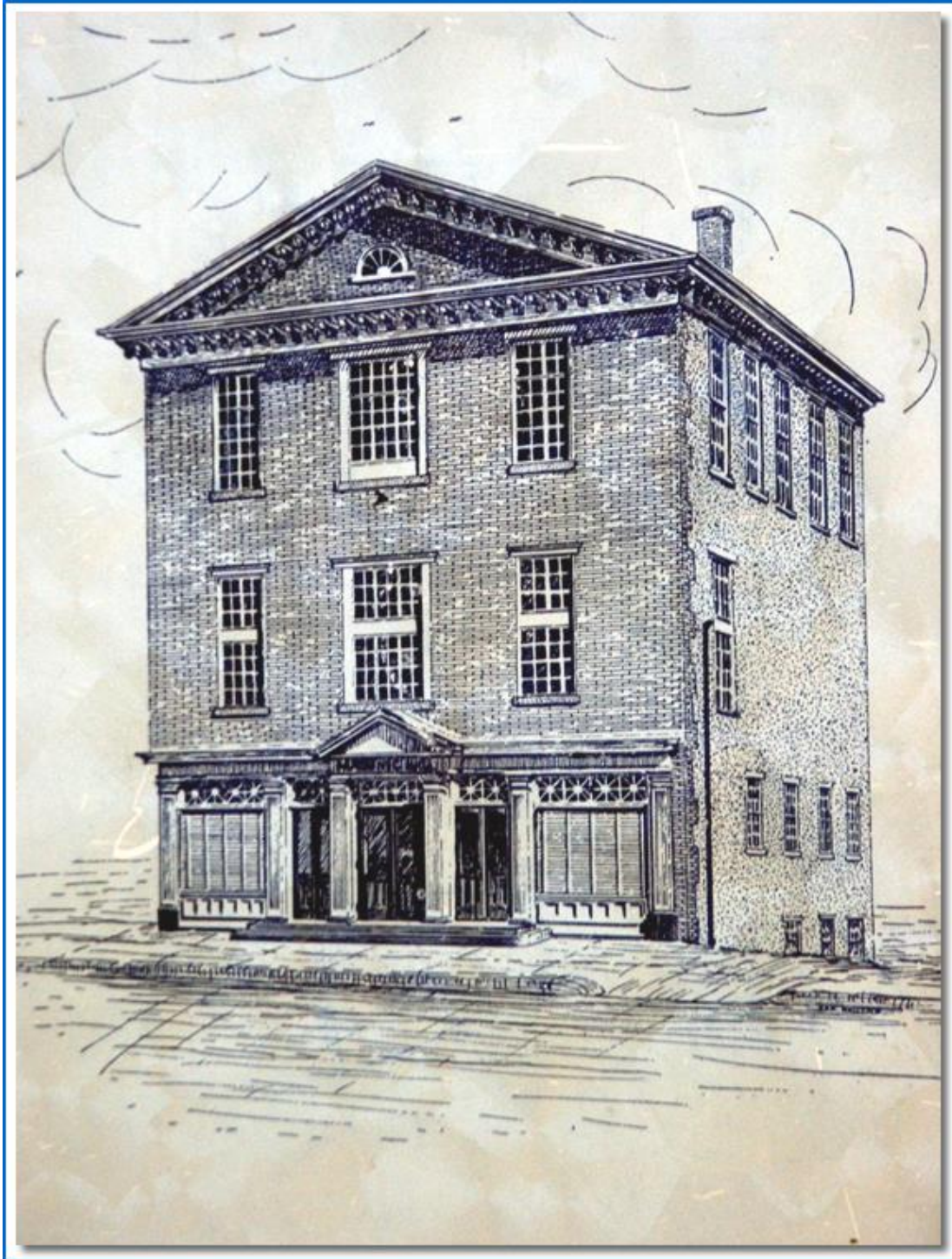
A special Grand Lodge was assembled, and Grand Master Edward Stewart, Deputy Grand Master; Samuel Reed as well as the other members of the Grand Lodge were present. Representatives were sent from the following Lodges: Trenton No. 5, Mount Holly No. 14, Camden Lodge No. 15, Amwell Lodge No. 12 in Lambertville. Pennsylvania also was represented in the presence of members from: Bristol Lodge No. 25, Doylestown Lodge No.245, Lafayette Lodge No. 71 in Philadelphia, and Montgomery Lodge No. 19 from Philadelphia.

The Throne of Grace was addressed by Past Master L. H. Scott, and a special Grand Lodge opened. A dispensation was read authorizing and empowering the Brothers therein named to confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, and work after Ancient York Masons. It is interesting to note that Mount Moriah began it's days working in the York Rite ritual. Today, we and the Grand Lodge of New Jersey follow the Scottish Rite.

After the special Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, Mount Moriah Lodge No. 28 was duly opened for the first time by its' newly appointed Worshipful Master, Robert C. Buzby. Worshipful Brother Buzby would become the first member of Mount Moriah to serve in Grand Lodge. He was Junior Grand Warden in 1859, Senior Grand Warden in 1860 and Deputy Grand Master from 1862 through 1865. RW Brother Buzby died on Novemebr 3, 1867. The veneration by which Brother Buzby was held by his Brethren can be inferred by this remark made in the records, "We have been accustomed to regard him as one of the Land-marks of Masonry."



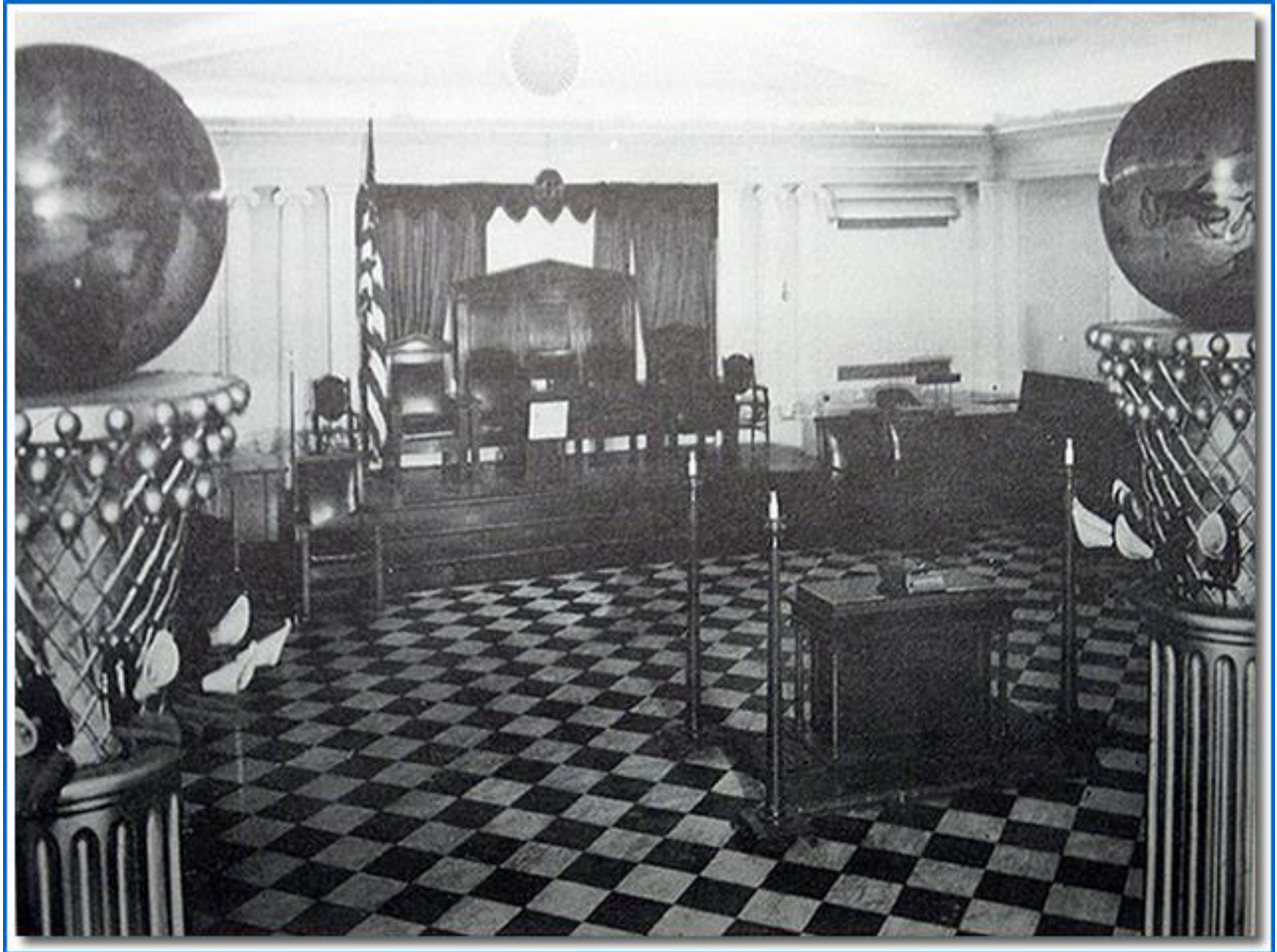
Right Worshipful Brother Buzby would be the first of 29 Brothers from our Lodge to serve as New Jersey Grand Lodge officers. Five would become Grand Master. These are the most Grand Masters elected from any Lodge in the state.



**Unretouched early architectural sketch of the Lodge building.**

## Lodge Buildings

Over the years, the Lodge has met in several different buildings. The Brethren initially reached an agreement with the Directors to rent a room at Borough Hall for \$62.50, the room to be subdivided and gas piping installed. By 1859 meetings were being held in a building owned by the Sons of Temperance located on Prince Street, which unfortunately is no longer in existence. The Brethren tried to purchase the building but "The Committee appointed at a special meeting to purchase the Sons of Temperance Hall reported that they bid until the price went beyond the limit allowed by the Lodge, they therefore did not purchase."



**The Lodge Room circa 1930.**

A short time later the Lodge relocated to a new building in town, owned by the Bordentown Hall Association. Over the years the Lodge continued to purchase shares in the Hall Association. In 1888, the Trustees bought 120 shares at a price of \$8.50 a share. In 1894 the Trustees were authorized to renew the lease of the Lodge room for 10 years at \$75.00 per year. As all renters have experienced, the members had some problems with other tenants. A special communication was sent to the Hall Association concerning the "noise below" emanating from a dancing school that obviously interrupted some communications. The members made improvements to their home, fixing up the entranceway, building a fire

escape, constructing an anteroom closet, as well as instructing the Tyler to purchase 20 spittoons for the Lodge room for the convenience of the Brethren.

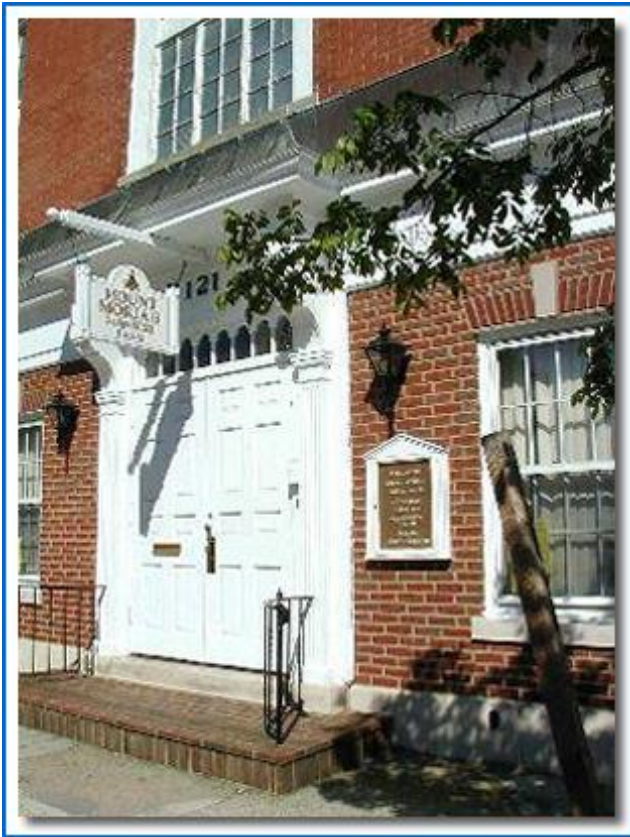
In the early 1920's, members of the Lodge decided to purchase the building, and by 1923 the Lodge had purchased all of the stock in the Bordentown Hall association and became owners of the building that we now call home. At one time, meetings were held in rooms occupying what is now the third floor. For a time the ground floor was the site of the Post Office. This was later altered with a vaulted ceiling to become a movie theater. A dry goods store also occupied the basement of the building for some time. Renovations placed the present Lodge room on the second floor after the movie theater closed.

It's also interesting to note that during the late 1800's and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Royal Arch Chapter and Commandery used the Bordentown Hall building as a meeting place by renting the adjacent room on the third floor.



**The Lodge Room circa 1950.**





In 1984, a local Historic Preservation ordinance designated the Lodge as an historic building, ensuring that the facade remains unchanged.



## **Giving and the Lodge**

Throughout our history, the members of Mount Moriah have always been generous in donating to charitable causes. For example, the Lodge donated funds to Bordentown native Clara Barton, in order to aid her charitable work, and the creation of her organization that became the Red Cross.

Over the years, the costs of medical care and other assistance for our needy Brothers have been borne by the Lodge. In one instance, the members paid \$300.00 for the cost of an eye operation for a poor member of the Lodge.

Relief was sent to the victims of the Johnstown flood, the Great Chicago Fire, Hurricane victims of Galveston Texas, Hurricane Hugo and other natural disasters. To this day, Mount Moriah has sent funds to aid the victims of natural disasters around the world and has contributed thousands of dollars to the Masonic Services Association (MSA). Mount Moriah has had a close relationship with the MSA through our late Brother Thomas R. Dougherty who served for many years as National Director of the MSA Veterans Hospital visitation program.

The Lodge has always found ways to serve the community. When the local high school was damaged by fire in 1942, the Lodge donated the use of the lower floor of the Lodge building for use as the temporary school. During World War II the large ground floor room of the Lodge was used as a Canteen for the local teen-agers.



Another time, a brother of the Lodge whose home was destroyed by fire, also lived in the Lodge while we raised funds to build him a new home. In 1997, when fire destroyed five row homes in Florence, leaving the families destitute, the Lodge worked with the Masonic Charity Foundation to contribute \$2,500.00 to help get them reestablished. Every year the Lodge has collected money and food to donate to the food pantry operated by the churches in Bordentown.



**The Brothers of Mt. Moriah Lodge have a number of Sundays every year where they contribute their time to perform a "Wheel Chair Push" at the Masonic Home.**

The Masonic Blood Bank has also been an important part of Mt. Moriah history. Brother Ray Jones has spearheaded the Lodge blood drives for more than 20 years. Many Lodge members have donated enough blood to earn "gallon" pins. In 1989, Brother Ray Bell was awarded a 10-gallon pin recognizing his priceless contributions. In 1987 Brother Jones reported that the Lodge members had donated 155 pints! Without Ray Jones' efforts, our blood drives may not have been so successful. Ray's contribution to the craft was recognized and he was presented with the Grand Lodge Special Apron Award.

The Lodge has for decades helped our youth by sponsoring a team in the local youth basketball league. For over 20 years, we have sponsored a young man to attend Boys State, a character-building program run by the American Legion.

### **Traditions in Mount Moriah**

Freemasonry is filled with ritual and custom. Every Lodge has adopted their own unique customs, and Mount Moriah is no exception. Over the 150 years of our existence, we have developed our own unique practices. Having been the home of two past grand ritual instructors, Mount Moriah has always prided itself on its ritual work. Not only because the Past Masters and members expect it of the new officers, but also because we have a great legacy of Brothers Richard Woodward and Lewis Parker to live up to.

As in all Lodges, the ritual work of the officers becomes progressively more demanding as you reach the East. However, at Mount Moriah, the officers are responsible for doing all of the ritual work and lectures. For the Master Mason degree, the Worshipful master must perform all of the masters' ritual work for both sections, as well as give the lecture and the reception address.

Another tradition in Mount Moriah since 1890 is that no Brother has served as Worshipful Master more than one time. This unbroken line of succession remains unchanged as evidenced by the wall of photos of our Past Masters in the Tyler's room.

Mount Moriah feels that it is an important Masonic duty to honor individually every Brother who has died during the year. Before performing every funeral service, the Lodge is opened expressly for that purpose.

While it is important to pay tribute to our departed Brothers, we also recognize the great responsibility we place on the shoulders of our Worshipful Masters. As a tribute to them and to recognize the honor bestowed upon them at their installation, Mount Moriah always installs the new officers first, and Worshipful Master last so that the rest of the meeting is truly his.

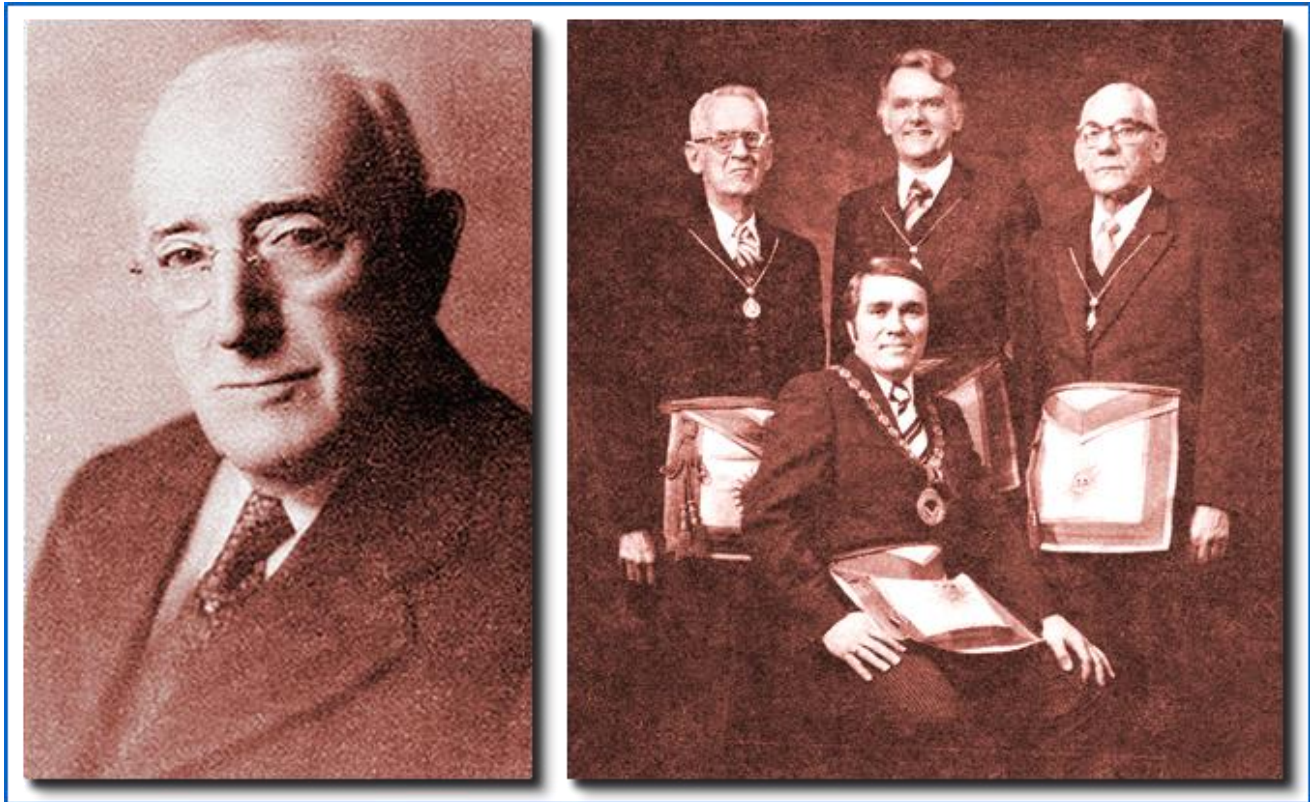
The wearing of tuxedos began in 1931. And the tradition of wearing white jacket tuxedos during May, June and September, began during the 1960's. Mt. Moriah is the only Lodge in the 19<sup>th</sup> district to still wear white jackets

One of our most popular traditions was initiated by Most Worshipful Brother Edgar Pepler. While serving as Grand Master, Ed attended Table Lodges in Vermont and New Hampshire. He enjoyed it so much, that in 1982, he encouraged the Lodge to adopt this annual tradition with a new ritual using a combination of Table Lodges of New Jersey, Vermont and New Hampshire. It has been so popular that many other Lodges in NJ are now using this ritual.

One more tradition involves the lapel pins worn by the Worshipful Master and Wardens at the installation ceremony. These were donated by the Most Worshipful Horace Carl. Every year, these pins are passed onto the newest officers sitting in one of the chairs, as a part of the installation ceremony.

## **The Men of Mount Moriah**

Every Masonic Lodge has dedicated Masons, and Mt. Moriah is no exception. In reviewing our history, time and again the same names appear. Not because they were better men than their compatriot Brothers, but through their efforts they exemplified Masonry by contributing so much to the fraternity and the world. Our Lodge has been blessed with many, many good men. For without their dedication and contributions, Mt. Moriah would not have flourished. Unfortunately, space does not permit me to list all of them here. With my humble apologies to those I may have missed; I would like to highlight some of our noted Brethren.



**Past Grand Masters of Mount Moriah From left to right: Richard C. Woodward, Lewis M. Parker, Thomas R. Dougherty, Horace D. Carl, Edgar N. Pepler.**

Mount Moriah Lodge has been fortunate to be the home of five past Grand Masters of New Jersey:

Richard C. Woodward, **Grand Master 1912**, Grand Instructor 1922-1951

Lewis M. Parker, **Grand Master 1951**, Grand Instructor 1952-1971

Horace D. Carl, Grand Marshal 1951, **Grand Master 1963**, Deputy Scottish Rite of NJ

Thomas R. Dougherty, Grand Marshal 1963, **Grand Master 1971**

Edgar N. Pepler, Grand Marshal 1971, **Grand Master 1979**

We have also had many other Grand Lodge officers of note.

The Right Worshipful Clifford J. Whitley was Grand Marshall in 1937. Cliff was the man who started the tradition of introducing all past Grand Lodge officers, along with the present officers at official functions of the Grand Master.

The Right Worshipful Lawrence B. Koch was Junior Grand Deacon 1957, and Secretary to the Grand Master 1991. Larry also worked for the Masonic Charity Foundation in many different capacities. And he has most notably worked as Secretary of the Board for over 40 years. Larry is our oldest living Past Master and served as Master of the Lodge in 1954, our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.



**From left to right: Past Grand Master Edgar N. Pepler, Past Grand Chaplain Carl H. Doan and Past Grand Master Thomas R. Dougherty.**

Right Worshipful Robert A. Brick, Grand Chaplain in 1990. Bob served as Secretary of the Lodge from 1973 to 1991, (an amazing 17 years).

Right Worshipful Verdon Skipper was our fourth Grand Pursuivant (an officer of arms), longtime Trustee, and Deputy for the Scottish Rite of NJ, Father of the Pig-nik, and annual Christmas visit to our friends at the Masonic home.

Right Worshipful Dick Trout carries on the "family tradition" in the Lodge. He has served on the Finance committee for over 30 years; taking on the position from his father who also was a long-time member of the committee. As a long time Trustee, he continued to show his dedication to the Lodge.

Right Worshipful Joseph Varga, was Junior Grand Deacon in 1979, and has served for many years as the Lodge Treasurer.



**Right Worshipful Joseph Varga (PJGD) at the 155<sup>th</sup> Installation of his son, Worshipful Brother Joseph Varga.**

Worshipful Brother Harry Fauver has literally served the Lodge. Harry was for many years, the chief cook, of the many dinners served at the Lodge. Harry would enlist the services of the ladies of the local Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S.) chapter to help cook and serve many, many meals. The bill of fair was most often roast beef, green beans, mashed potatoes and rolls.

Brothers Charles Mackinnon and John Bloom served the Lodge as Tyler. Mackinnon held the office for 14 years. John Bloom took over in 1987 and is still serving in that capacity.

Brother Ray Jones in addition to his long-standing work for our Blood Drive, has served the Lodge as our Marshall for over 20 years. Ray has also been a long time Lodge Trustee and recipient of the Special Service Apron (Distinguished Brother).

Brother Holmes L. Hay, a true craftsman, has handcrafted the gavels used by our Masters for over 10 years. As a long time, Lodge Trustee, he also gives back to the fraternity through his volunteer work, giving more than 3000 hours of his time to the Masonic Home.

### **Important Moments in Lodge History (as seen in Lodge minutes)**

**1859** One of the first instances of examining candidates to determine their proficiency is recorded. This was probably a result of the adoption of the Uniform Ritual in 1858.

**1879** The Tyler was appointed as a committee of one to procure a dozen spittoons for the Lodge room. The Secretary reported for the year, "Owing to the continued depressed state of the times but little works has been done during the past year. In fact, less work has been done than in any one year since the organization of the Lodge."

**1865** Brother Thomas Dunn was elected and installed as Worshipful Master at the annual communication. However, he never served in that capacity because it was discovered that he had never served as a Warden, which violates the 7<sup>th</sup> Landmark. The Grand Master declared the election void and the Lodge elected Brother Israel Frazer who had served as Senior Warden the two preceding years. Later that year a communication to confer the Entered Apprentice degree was cancelled due to the extreme heat and the excessive noise from the dancing school in the room below.

**1869** Funeral expenses of \$44.11 for a departed Brother were ordered paid, together with a \$12.00 fee for a carriage hire.

**1899** The Lodge voted to subscribe for Telephone service. The phone was to be placed at the head of the stairs.

**1902** Worshipful Brother Lewis Parker, Past Master of Trenton Lodge #5, was a guest lecturer at Mt. Moriah. Twenty-five years and 4 days later, his grandson of the same name, would be raised in Mt. Moriah.





**The Bordentown Station in 1912.**

**1914** The Grand Lodge instructs all Lodges to "Clothe the Officers with metal collars within 3 years. Same could be procured through the Grand Secretary's Office at a cost of \$79.50". We bought our first Officers jewels in 1854 at a cost of \$30.00.

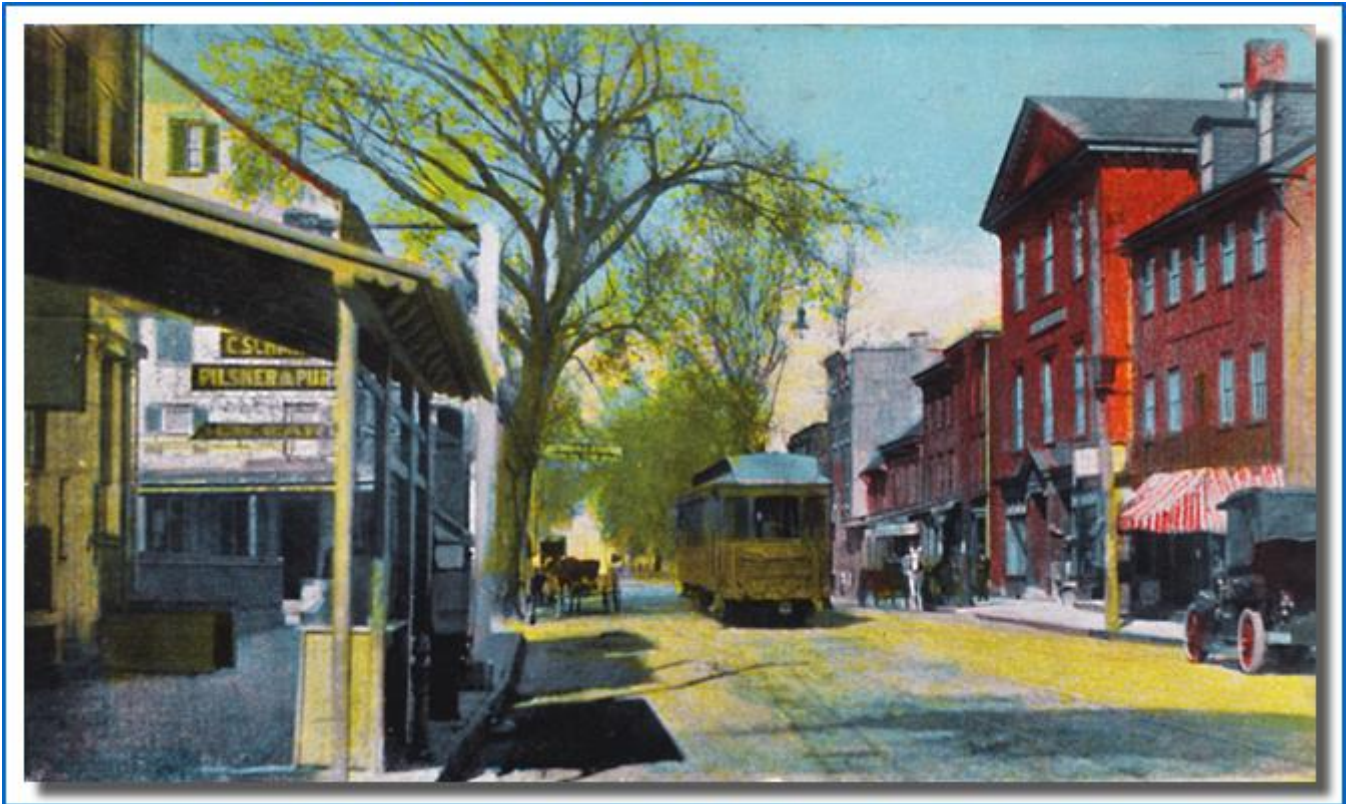
**1917** The Lodge voted to remit dues for any brother serving in the Armed Forces for the duration of the war. The Lodge purchased a U.S. Flag and a Service Flag, and also bought \$3,000.00 in Liberty Bonds.

**1918** The Grand Master stated that owing to war conditions resulting in a shortage of help and food, no more dinners would be furnished to visiting delegations to the Masonic Home.

**1921** The Treasurer's books show frequent payments for cigars, it being the custom to pass them out to members and visitors after closing the Lodge. A local laundryman, Mark Chin Foo, was elected to membership. The Lodge also buys a used addressograph machine from Grand Lodge for \$20.00, which we continued to use until 1990.

**1931** Wearing of tuxedos by officers begins

**1934** Worshipful Brother Carl Claudy addressed the members of the Lodge on the topic of "The Unknown Mason"



**Vintage postcard (tall red Lodge building prominent on right side).**

**1936** The Finance Committee reported that income was insufficient to meet current expenses, building maintenance and interest on notes. They urged every effort be made to collect delinquent dues and retrench on expenses - possibly refinancing debt on a 4% basis instead of 5%.

**1943 - 1945** Permission was requested from the Grand Master to close the Lodge during February and March due to the shortage of fuel. Because of this, the Lodge remained open July and August. Dues for members in the armed services were remitted for the duration of the war. The first-floor meeting room was used by the town for a Teen Age Canteen. Dues were raised to \$16.00.

**1954** Right Worshipful Lawrence Koch was elected Master of the Lodge, during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. A snowstorm left 10 inches of snow on the day of the anniversary communication.

**1965** Lodge membership reaches its peak at 524 members. There was a reception for Right Worshipful Tom Dougherty Deputy District Grand Master.

**1966** The Grand Lodge adopts the Master Mason degree exam. The Lodge bowling team members are recognized.





**1964 - On the Boardwalk to attend a Grand Lodge Meeting in Atlantic City, NJ. From left: Joe Varga - Sr. Warden, Charlie Parker - Worshipful Master, and Ed Pepler - Jr. Warden.**

**1967** The minutes record a complaint "of a man using the lavatory for washing and sleeping on the sofa in the first floor lounge on Eastern Star meeting nights". (Maybe their meetings were just going on too long.)

**1971** The Most Worshipful Thomas R. Dougherty is elected Grand Master. On Past Masters night, the Lodge was visited by Most Worshipful Ben Graybill, Past Grand Master of Kansas and Most Worshipful Brother Peck (Past Grand Master of Japan) who spoke on "100 years of Masonry in Japan," and then presented the Lodge with a book from Moriah Yama Lodge in Japan - Yama means mountain in Japanese.

**1972** Right Worshipful John R. Dougherty retires as Secretary of the Lodge after serving 21 years.

**1975** The Worshipful Master (Harry Fauver), wore a tri-corner hat during his year in the East (in addition to his trademark red socks).

**1976** In honor of the Bicentennial, Worshipful Brother Larry Plummer and the Lodge officers wore colonial costumes at their installation - and - throughout their term of office.

**1978** Dues were raised to \$19.00. This is the first increase in over 30 years. Most Worshipful Brother Parker installs officers for 30<sup>th</sup> time.

**1979** Most Worshipful Edgar N. Pepler was elected Grand Master. This was also the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for Mt. Moriah. October 24<sup>th</sup> is designated as Past Masters Night. We are fortunate to have four Past Grand Masters from our Lodge (Horace Carl, Lewis Parker, Tom Dougherty, and Ed Pepler) join our Past Masters in a Master Mason degree ceremony and raise three Brothers. One of those three, Brother James Gamel, would later become Master of the Lodge.

**1980** Most Worshipful Lewis Parker finishes his history of Mt. Moriah. The Lodge holds the first "Gold Collar Night" in its' history. Grand Master Ed Pepler arrives late from his attending of the Grand Lodge in Mississippi, and causes great confusion among the workmen in the East, resulting in much passing of the gavel between the Worshipful Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and Most Worshipful Brother Ed. There is a reception for Right Worshipful Dick Trout and Right Worshipful Joe Varga. During the ceremony, Right Worshipful Harold Elliot refers to Mt. Moriah as the "Holy See" of New Jersey Masonry. At years end, four Past Grand Masters serve on the "installing team".

**1981** Dues are raised from \$19.00 to \$24.00. Volunteer service at the Masonic Home is initiated. Mt. Moriah participates with Wheelchair Escort volunteers, which continues today. Brothers at Mt. Moriah contribute over 1,000 hours of volunteer service. Brothers Earl Slaper, Holmes Hay and others are noted for their unselfish volunteerism. In October, there is a reception to honor Most Worshipful Lewis Parker, on his 50 years as Past Master. Brother Larry Koch serves on the committee. Later that year, the Lodge holds a testimonial dinner to honor Larry.

**1982** The first Table Lodge is held for Mt. Moriah at the suggestion of the Most Worshipful Ed Pepler. This begins a tradition that continues to this day. In addition, the Lodge establishes a General Savings Fund to defray the cost of capital expenses.

**1983** Worshipful Brother John Baxter is appointed Grand Pursuivant (Junior Officer of Arms). The Lodge Craftsman's Club sponsors a trip to the Playboy Club in Atlantic City. There is a profit of \$209.00. An emergent communication is held to dedicate a memorial tablet on the grave of Most Worshipful Richard C. Woodward. Grand Master Edward Woods presides over the ceremony in Bordentown. The Richard C. Woodward Lodge Room is dedicated at Grand Lodge.

**1984** Life membership in the Lodge is established, and the fee is set at \$400.00. Bordentown City enacts a Historic Preservation Ordinance, designating Mt. Moriah as an historic building. A dinner is held to honor Right Worshipful Brother Clifford Whiteley. Worshipful Brother Lewis Parker states that, "Cliff is a part of all I have met in my life." Cliff recounts that he has known 80 Past Masters, 5 Past Grand Masters (from the Lodge), and that he knew Brother Carl Claudy.



**Table set for the AASR Valley of Central Jersey - ready to Host a Table Lodge.**

**1985** As Worshipful Master, Michael Grenz renews the tradition of wearing white jackets during May, June and September meetings. The Bordentown "Street Fair" is initiated and the Lodge is opened to the public with Brothers on hand to answer questions. The Craftsman's Club sells hot dogs at the street fair several years later, and this effort continues today. The Most Worshipful Horace Carl dies. Mt. Moriah officers perform the funeral service with Grand Lodge officers in attendance. There is a ceremony to dedicate the grave marker for Most Worshipful Horace Carl which is held in Allentown, NJ.

**1986** Efforts begin to establish a museum in our Lodge to honor Brother Horace Carl. Most Worshipful Lewis M. Parker dies. The funeral service is held at Mt. Moriah with the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers in attendance. The Lewis M. Parker Scholarship is established by Worshipful Brother Michael Grenz. This will be used to select a deserving High School Senior who plans to attend Burlington County Community College. (Lewis Parker was instrumental in founding the college.) The Lewis M. Parker lounge is dedicated at Mt. Moriah. Brother Charles Mackinnon dies. He served the Lodge as its Tyler for 14 years. Brother John Bloom becomes Tyler and serves for many years (also). The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Lodge Pig-nick is held at Worshipful Brother Verdon Skipper's, beginning a tradition that continues (until his death in 2014).

**1987** There is an official reception for Right Worshipful Clifford Whitley, as 50 years Past Grand Marshal, and for Right Worshipful Robert Brick, Grand Chaplain. Cliff started the tradition of announcing all past and present Grand Lodge officers at meetings, where the Grand Master is present. Brother Art Crispin presents the Lodge with gavels for the Senior and Junior Wardens. He made the gavels from 100 year old mahogany lumber. Worshipful Master Skipper begins the tradition of Masonic Home fishing trips. Brother Ray Jones reports the blood drive collects 155 pints for the year, the Lodge is presented a plaque from the Grand Lodge for our efforts.

**1988** Right Worshipful Joe Varga, Lodge Secretary, infamous for dozing during meetings, is ceremoniously presented with an alarm clock and bottle of "no-doze" pills. Worshipful Brother Harry Fauver is honored for all his years of work for the Lodge.

**1989** Discussion is made on using slides during the lectures. It is decided to reinstate the practice. Worshipful Master William H. Piggott suffers a heart attack but recovers to resume his duties in the Fall. Brother MacDermid presents, in memory of his father, a Knights Templar sword to be used by the Tyler.

**1990** Deputy Grand Master Leopold Otway visits the Lodge to announce that Right Worshipful Larry Koch would serve as his secretary. Worshipful Brother Skipper reports that renovations to the Lodge kitchen are complete, with thanks to the Order of the Eastern Star for their contribution. Brother Larry Lewis and other Brethren are recognized for their hard work. Under the leadership of Brother Tom Petito, Brethren of the Lodge make regular trips to the Menlo Park Veterans Home for volunteer service.

**1991** Most Worshipful Edgar Pepler celebrates 25 years as Past Master of the Lodge. At his first meeting his bother Richard Pepler received the EA degree. MW Tom Dougherty who was DDGM during Ed's year in the East, made some kind remarks about Ed finishing in saying that Ed was the second best Grand Master NJ ever had. An Official Visit of Most Worshipful Leopold Otway was held at Riverside Lodge as a reception to Worshipful Brother Harold Eastlake, and three Brothers from Mt. Moriah; Right Worshipful Michael Grenz, Right Worshipful Lawrence B. Koch and Right Worshipful William A. Carter. Brother Holmes Hay presents the Lodge with a wooden candle holder, to be used for our memorial services. Brother Hay crafted this from his own design. It holds 12 candles and has a small temple with square and compasses.

**1992** During the year, trips were made to Garibaldi Lodge in New York City to view their unique degree work, and to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Washington DC. Mt. Moriah jackets are sold to raise funds for the Lodge. Dues were increased from \$34.00 to \$42.00. A lithograph of George Washington is presented to the Lodge in Memory of Right Worshipful Brother Robert Brick, by Right Worshipful Grenz, Koch and Carter. It was accepted by Bob's son, Brother Phillip and now hangs in the South East corner by the secretary's desk, where Bob spent many years. The Lodge joins the 20<sup>th</sup> century by buying its first computer. The Addressograph machine, used by the Lodge for 70 years, is retired.

**1994** We sadly note the passing of Right Worshipful William A. Carter, Past Grand Chaplain. He was an important part of the Lodge known for his MSA charitable campaign of collecting pennies for the needy. He admonished the brothers to go home "centsless". Brother Robert Oberhalser, 75 years a Mason, dies at 102 years of age. The Masonic Home awards a certificate of appreciation for our contributions and volunteer work. The play, "December's Rose" is performed by Scottish Rite members. Members of the Lodge travel to Mariners Lodge #150, so Brother Entered Apprentice Jonathon Goldberg can receive his Fellow Craft degree from his friend, Worshipful Master Michael Ramirez, who was raised in Mt. Moriah.

**"A Most Exceptional Officer Group"**



**1995 Installation from left to right, bottom row: WB Randy Kneidt, WB James Anderson, RWB Gerry Spence, WM William F. Walling, RWB Carl Doan, Allen L. Glenn, and WB Charles Anderson. Middle row: WB Dick Treadway, WB Tom Petito, DB Horace Franz, WB Dean Allen, DB Ray Jones, Don Jones and John Bloom. Top row: RWB Dick Trout, MWB Edgar Pepler, WB Larry Plummer, RWB Mike Grenz, RWB Larry Koch and WB William E. Walling (Installation Officer and father of the WM). Many of those depicted received their honorific subsequent to this photo in December of 1994. Including the Worshipful Master, RWB William F. Walling.**

**1995** The Most Worshipful Edgar Pepler is elected president of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. In February, the regular communication is moved downstairs to Parker Lounge due to the Lodge room temperature being at 51°.

**1996** Changes in the By-Laws are made which increase the initiation fee by \$25.00, and clarifying the Trustees responsibility for Lodge property. Problems with the boilers continue, resulting in costly repairs, as the Trustees look into the problem. Five Brothers are suspended for non payment of dues. Most Worshipful Tom Dougherty is recognized for his 25 years as Past Master.

**1997** Worshipful Brother Doan introduces the practice of having a prayer for the sick and absent at every meeting.

A new Lodge floor is installed. It is a design of mosaic pavement as before.

The Lodge and the Masonic Charity Foundation donate \$2,500 to victims of a multi house fire in Florence.

"Jubalum's Jeopardy" game is introduced at annual joint communication with Mercer #50 Lodge, Worshipful Brother Doan created the Masonic quiz based on the TV game show.

A New Sign and Information Board are installed at the entrance to the Lodge. Lodge road signs are purchased.

A Tall Cedar of Lebanon is planted at the new Grand Lodge Office in the name of Mt. Moriah. Brothers from Christiana Lodge in DE perform their show, "Old Glory," where the history of the U.S. flag is told as almost 100 members and their families attend.

Energy saving measures introduced to help lower costs. Worshipful Master Doan gives a Mt. Moriah pin to all his officers and Past Masters.

**1998** Brother "George Washington," visits and gives a talk on his life and the battle of Trenton. Efforts to raise funds for a chair lift are not encouraging.

There is an official reception for Right Worshipful Verdon Skipper, Grand Pursivant (Junior Officer of Arms), Right Worshipful Gerry Spence District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Michael Grenz Grand Marshal, and Right Worshipful Albert Jungblut Grand Chaplain. The ceremony is held at the Bordentown Elks club. A few initiates opt to take the Grand Lodge One Day class to become Master Masons.

**1999** Worshipful Brother Dempsky gives his Mt. Moriah pin to the officers. The fund drive to raise \$1000.00 for the George Washington Commemorative Anniversary is successful (reaching \$1100.00).

The Masonic Home honors seven Brothers of Mt. Moriah for performing over 11,000 hours of volunteer service. The following have given over 1,000 hours: RWB Bill Walling (1000), WB

Holmes Hay (2000), Brother Fred McGowan (2000), Brother Bill Sullivan, Jr. (2500) and Brother Fred VanSant (3000).



**The Lodge Room in 2004 (much as it appears today).**

**2000** The Lodge opens the year on a sad note with the passing of JD Walter Nicol. Trips to Trenton Thunder baseball game and a Delaware Lodge "road kill" dinner are well attended. Worshipful Brother Niedt has a Masonic coin struck to commemorate his year. As a tribute to our country, and the people who have served in the armed forces, Brothers Anderson, Niedt and Doan wore Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War I uniforms at a Lodge picnic. A successful "family & friends" dinner dance is held at the Fort Dix Armory. Worshipful Brother Treadway delivers the Canadian Charge to (impressed) newly raised Brothers and "sideliners".

**2001** The fall Master Mason degree has a father (Worshipful Brother George Michael), raise his son David. In addition, a grandfather (Brother Ray Jones), raise his grandson Patrick. All this occurs in the same evening.

**2002** A motion is made to purchase a new computer for the Lodge with a price not to exceed \$1,200.00. Brother Labaw reminded the Lodge, that trestle Boards would be made available by e-mail. The Lewis Parker Scholarship is changed so that it may now award

scholarships to two students (if desired). The Lodge purchases a chair for the new home of the Scottish Rite Valley of Central Jersey.

**2003** A Joint Official Visit and Closed Reception for Right Worshipful Charles E. Gamel (Mount Moriah #28) Grand Chaplain, and Right Worshipful David A. Dorworth (Covenant Lodge #161) Junior Grand Deacon, was held at Covenant Lodge, Palmyra.

The Lodge holds a "Masonic Youth Night" with representatives of the Rainbow Girls and DeMolay in attendance, to give presentations on their orders.

Worshipful Master LaBaw ends each meeting by presenting the "Master Lesson." These are words of encouragement and reflection regarding our Masonic ideals.

The Grand Potentate of the Shrine presents a program on the history of the Shrine.

Work is initiated to plan Mt. Moriahs' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and to honor Right Worshipful Larry Kochs' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Past Master.

The annual 5 to 45 year Token Pin night is open to Brothers families. This is so that wives and children can see where their husband and father have spent so much time. Grand Master Robert L. Miller is our guest. Worshipful Master LaBaw closes the Lodge in symbolic form.

A White Apron degree team conducts the first half of the EA degree.

By direction of the Grand Master, the Lodge sets into motion a process to select a local "Teacher of the Year".



**Worshipful Master Robbert J. Pigott at his Installation in 2013 (left) and his father, Worshipful Brother William D. Pigott (right).**





**2004** Worshipful Brother William D. Pigott has a Mount Moriah 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary pin created.

Worshipful Brother Trout, chairman of Finance committee, recommends that the By-Laws committee investigate raising the dues to help cover increasing costs.

At the Annual joint communication with Mercer Lodge #50, the program is "Jubalum's Jeopardy." This engaging game now has been computerized by Worshipful Brother Doan.

### **How Times Change**

Traditions come and go as people change. One can see in reading of The Minutes of the Lodge how just as lifestyles have changed, so too have the interests and activities of the Lodge. It would seem that the Lodge meetings of the 1800's and early 1900's were like a men's club. During the 1980's, the Lodge included women in the social events. Ladies nights, and dinner dances, were routinely held. The "Singing Craftsmen" entertained the Lodge and were a social outlet unto them-selves. Frequently, Lodge meetings meant that a good meal was to be had that night.

I also have a feeling that because most of the members lived in Bordentown or nearby, they were more active in the Lodge community, and they were a presence in the town. Now the

membership hails from points more distant. With the pressures of two income families and parents overburdened with children's schedules, there just doesn't seem to be as much time for those regular events of the past. We do have our baseball and hockey outings in Trenton, and our Christmas visit to the Masonic Home (to bring gifts to our friends). And there is always the pig-nik and selling hot dogs at the street fair. But the one thing that will always remain for all of us is "the Lodge".

So old traditions fade away, but the good traditions, like the Table Lodge remain. Why? Perhaps because they still fulfill our need for friendship and fraternity.

The more things change the more they stay the same. The same warnings made by the Lodge Finance Committee, concerning the perilous state of income vs. payments made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were repeated during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. And no doubt will continue to be heard in this new millennium. The answer to raising more cash was most often, raise the dues.

While it may be difficult today to find men willing to make the commitment to fill the officers' chairs, because everyone is so busy, the same problem faced the Lodge many, many times in the past. Yet someone was always there to step in and keep the line of succession unbroken since 1890. Like all Lodges, we have had great Masters, and some that were average. We have existed through good times and bad, war and peace, the great depression and a growing sense from many in today's society that organizations such as ours are anachronisms.

Still there is something about our fraternity, perhaps it is our history and our beliefs that attracts those few good men. When you read the history of a Lodge, you begin to realize that a Lodge is much more than the brethren, it is a living spirit within all of us and that is what carries it forward through time.

The Most Worshipful Lewis Parker, in his (previous) version of our history, paraphrased Tennyson's lines about the Brook...

**"For men may come and men may go. But the Lodge goes on forever."**

**Respectfully submitted, Right Worshipful Brother & Historian:**

*Carl H. Doan*





This is a colorized version of the Lodge and surrounding buildings taken from a vintage postcard.