

# **SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY IN THE VALLEY OF CAMBRIDGE**

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Most Scottish Rite Masonic centers in Ohio are located in the larger cities of the Buckeye State. Cambridge and Steubenville could be considered the exceptions. Viewed from another angle, however, the Scottish Rite presence in Cambridge is among the oldest in the entire Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. In terms of the Lodge of Perfection and Council of Princes of Jerusalem in the states of the Northwest Territory, only those in Cincinnati are older and those in Chicago are of similar vintage. To be sure, Scottish Rite membership in the nineteenth century, not only in Cambridge, but through the entire nation was small. Most of its growth and high profile among Masonic bodies came after 1900. Still Scottish Rite Masonry has a long and proud heritage which should be treasured and remembered as well as built upon in the future.

Before seriously delving into the background of the Scottish Rite in Cambridge and environs, some attention needs to be given to the development of blue lodges in the vicinity from whence the higher degrees must draw their membership. Prior to the 1857 chartering of a Scottish Rite body, lodges in the Muskingum Valley had thrived, been threatened with extinction in the Anti-Masonic period, and then experienced a revival. American Union Lodge No. 1 in Marietta and Amity Lodge No. 5 in Zanesville had been among the originals when the Grand Lodge of Ohio had been formed in 1808. Other early lodges in

the region included Belmont No 16 (in 1812) in St. Clairsville, Mt. Moriah No. 37 (in 1818) in Beverly, Lafayette No. 79 (in 1826) in Zanesville, and the short-lived Farmer's No. 20 (1813-1818) in Belpre. Meanwhile Guernsey County had been organized in 1810 with the village of Cambridge as the county seat. It was located roughly midway between the Ohio River and the larger town of Zanesville on the Muskingum River, which had briefly been the temporary state capital. Guernsey Lodge No. 66 had been chartered on January 24, 1823 but became a casualty of the Anti-Masonic fervor. In 1826, a man named William Morgan disappeared in western New York following publication of a booklet revealing Masonic secrets. An outcry against lodge members became a nationwide movement and the Order became virtually dormant in many localities. By the 1840s, a Masonic resurgence began and Cambridge Masons got a new charter as Cambridge Lodge No. 66. By this time, 1850, other lodges in locales bordering on Guernsey County could be found in such towns as Coshocton, Dresden, Malta, McConnelsville, and Woodsfield. Over the next century numerous other blue lodges would be chartered throughout the Muskingum Valley and provide a reservoir from which Scottish Rite Masonry would draw its membership.

Soon after the rebirth of Cambridge Lodge, a remarkable and perhaps unique individual came to the Guernsey County seat. Killian Henry Van Rensselaer came to

Cambridge in 1851 as a construction engineer on a nearby railroad tunnel. He was one of the members of the wealthy, influential Dutch families of colonial and early national New York, being born there on September 9, 1801 and raised a Master Mason on April 4, 1822 in Mt. Moriah Lodge in his home state. For the next fifty-nine years he became one of the most active Masons in the history of blue lodges as well as the York Rite and the Scottish Rite. The Scottish Rite had nearly become extinct during the Anti-Masonic years roughly defined as (1826-1840), but Van Rensselaer and another New Yorker, John J. J. Gourgas (1777-1865), are usually credited as being the twosome that rescued it from oblivion in the northern states as well as Van Rensselaer giving it life in the "Old Northwest."

Since there were no Scottish Rite bodies either in Ohio or other northwestern locales, Killian Van Rensselaer took it upon himself to start them. Having received the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree in New York on June 17, 1845, he had become an active member of the Supreme Council the same day. He came to Ohio as a Deputy Inspector General for Western Pennsylvania and Ohio with the authority to institute Scottish Rite bodies in the West. He instituted both a Lodge of Perfection and a Council of Princes of Jerusalem in Cincinnati (April 17, 1853), Chicago (May 14, 1857), and Pittsburgh (May 14, 1857). For a brief period there would be a Lodge and Council in Columbus, but they would soon die out, to be chartered again in 1877 and 1879. Under Van Rensselaer's leadership a few other blue lodge members in Cambridge went to work to initiate Scottish Rite work in their own much smaller home town as well. The six original members--Charles L. Madison, A. J. Hutchison, Mathew Gaston, J. H. Eaton, Edward W. Matthews, and K. H. Van Rensselaer--obtained a dispensation on January 2, 1856, and by the end of that year

boasted a membership of only ten. Both the Lodge and Council received their charters on May 14, 1857, as did the Scottish Rite bodies in Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Portland, Maine. At that time Cincinnati was the only place in the Buckeye State authorized to confer all thirty-two degrees. Cleveland and Columbus did not have consistories until 1890 and 1900, respectively. Brother Van Rensselaer's many Scottish Rite activities did not slow down his work in other Masonic bodies as he served as Master of Cambridge Lodge twice in that period and High Priest of Cambridge Chapter of Royal Arch Masons three times during the sixteen years that he resided in Guernsey County. However, the AASR remained his prime interest, serving as Thrice Potent Master of Cambridge Lodge of Perfection from 1856 through 1867, and as Sovereign Prince in the Council from 1856 through 1860, and again from 1863 through 1867. He played a part in founding Scottish Rite bodies in Detroit and Cleveland among other locales, and served as Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander for the entire Northern Masonic Jurisdiction from May 23, 1862 until May 17, 1867.

After Van Rensselaer's job on railroad construction ended in 1856, he opened a book store in Cambridge which became something of a gathering place for local Masons. With advancing age, in 1867, he moved to the small community of California, Ohio (near Cincinnati), where he served as Postmaster until his death on January 29, 1881. He continued to attend meetings of the Supreme Council through September 1880, but failed rapidly in the next few weeks and as reported by Supreme Council member, Enoch Terry Carson, became "an almost helpless invalid . . . serenely waiting for the inevitable."

Despite all of the labors of Van Rensselaer and Gourgas, as well as that of Albert Pike in the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction, the Scottish Rite remained a

relatively small and exclusive group. By 1863, the total in the NMJ numbered only somewhat more than 4,000. Growth continued slowly but steadily in the next four decades. One sign of growth was the chartering of a Chapter of Rose Croix in Cambridge on September 23, 1880. The eleven charter members included Killian Van Rensselaer, his son Edward, Hutchison, Madison, and such younger members as W. A. Campbell, John Meyer, William Scott, A. C. Cochran, and Asher Williams.

In the years following the departure of Killian H. Van Rensselaer from Cambridge, Edward William Matthews seems to have provided the principal leadership, he being the only other recipient of the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree, in 1886, during the first half century of the AASR in the town. Matthews, a native of the Island of Guernsey, came to America as an infant about 1833 with his widowed mother. He learned the shoemaking trade as a child. He went to California in 1850 and accumulated some money. Returning to Cambridge, Matthews bought an interest in a drug store and ran the town's post office while Buchanan was President. Later he studied law and went into practice with Mathew Gaston, another early day member of the Cambridge Masonic bodies, who was already an established attorney. Appointed a judge by Governor George Hoadley (a 33<sup>o</sup> Mason from Cincinnati), he failed to be elected to a full term as a Democrat in a Republican district, but it gave him a title. Later he became president of the Central National Bank, having long been a member of their board of directors.

Others who presided over bodies in these early years included William S. Campbell, long-time attorney Matthew Gaston, A. H. Hutchison (who owned the building containing the meeting rooms), John Kirkpatrick, John Meyer, M. R. Patterson, John S. Prouse, William M. Scott, and

William T. Ramsey. The latter was a long established and respected Cambridge physician who not only presided over all the York Rite bodies in Cambridge at one time or another, but also served as Most Wise Master of Rose Croix for some twenty years.. Still membership remained small, in large part because degrees were conferred upon candidates much the same way as in blue lodges. In 1891, the earliest year in which *Proceedings* reported regularly on membership figures, the numbers for Lodge, Council and Chapter were 47, 38, and 35, respectively. By 1900, these numbers had increased to 63, 56, and 53, respectively.

The number of 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Masons in Ohio that year totaled 3,532; with 2,131 in the Valley of Cincinnati; 1192 in Cleveland; and 259 in the newly chartered Scioto Consistory in Columbus. The entire NMJ counted 26,858. In spite of the late Albert Pike's leadership in the SMJ, their numbers in 1899 totaled only 6,250. No state in their jurisdiction had as many as one thousand members, with Kansas leading the way at 953. The following year the South and West jumped dramatically to 10,560. By contrast, membership in York Rite chapters and commanderies tended to be much larger.

Those states included in the AASR: SMJ counted 72,639 Royal Arch Masons and 37,860 Knight Templars. The implications for rapid Scottish Rite growth had already been made through the increasing practice of conferring degrees upon large classes of candidates. This innovation had originated in Cincinnati, spread to Chicago at the time of the 1893 World's Fair, and thence to such southern places as Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. Instead of the early practice of taking in candidates one or two at a time as in other Masonic bodies, Scottish Rite degrees increasingly became elaborate stage productions with degree recipients serving as an audience. The time of major Scottish Rite growth and prosperity still lay just beyond

the horizon.

Changes in the Masonic picture in Cambridge over the past half century were reflected in the growth of their meeting places. The reconstituted Cambridge Lodge No. 66 had met in a rented room on the second floor in what was known as the J. C. Hunter building (still standing at 927 Wheeling Avenue). Cambridge Chapter R. A. M. and the Lodge of Perfection and Council of Princes of Jerusalem had all been formed in this locale. Agitation among the citizenry of Cambridge began to clamor for a town hall in 1856, and a plan was soon conceived to build a combination town hall and Masonic Temple. Brother Killian Van Rensselaer cheerfully developed such an edifice. After construction had started, plans were changed by adding three feet to the structure's width and five feet to the height. This created problems, and as an early historian wrote, "as a consequence, almost from the day it was occupied they had trouble with the floors." The Masonic bodies occupied the third floor and when controversy developed concerning a new roof, "the question arose as to whether the roof belonged to the building or just the top floor." At any rate, this building was soon declared only fit for razing despite the fact that it was only twenty-five years old. The *Jeffersonian* declared on April 28, 1881 "Every week brings a new argument for abolishing that ancient sarchofagus [sic] 'Town Hall.' Dampness and mold are creeping up the slimy walls, rents and apertures in the particians [sic] are becoming wider slowly and surely, some day the west end will bulge out, disclosing the tomb in all its ghastliness and horrible deformity." In addition controversy arose over the question as to the legality of a private group meeting in a public building.

Soon after, the existing Masonic bodies moved into the third floor of what was known as the Hutchison Building owned by

member, A. J. Hutchison. This structure--in the 600 block of Wheeling Street--housed all of the Cambridge Masonic bodies for a quarter century including the newly chartered Cambridge Commandery No. 47 of Knights Templar in 1888 and Guernsey Council No. 74 of Royal and Select Masters in 1891. But with the growth in Masonic membership another new temple became desirable. John Meyer, who had served as Thrice Potent Master of the Lodge of Perfection from 1876 through 1882, had willed his entire estate to Cambridge Lodge and the money was used to help buy a corner lot at 730 Wheeling Street. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1905, and the building dedicated eight months later on March 8, 1906.



Masonic Lodge 1906-1947

By 1910, Cambridge Lodge No. 66 claimed 308 members, Cambridge Chapter R.A.M. had 178, Cambridge Council R. & S.M. boasted 115, and Cambridge Commandery which had some members from Caldwell Chapter in Noble County had 180. The local Knights Templar also attracted members from the Chapter and

Council at Barnesville in Belmont County.

The Temple at 730 Wheeling Street housed all of the Cambridge Masonic bodies--including a second blue lodge, Guernsey No. 632 from 1913. The Scottish Rite Valley of Cambridge moved into its own quarters in 1947. The blue lodge (the two merging in 2002) and York Rite are still housed at the older temple and the Scottish Rite often has luncheons and receptions there.

Meanwhile the Cambridge Scottish Rite bodies began to experience major growth. In 1913, the lodge, council and chapter saw their membership roles top the century mark for the first time with numbers of 122, 107 and 101. Steady increases characterized this pattern for the next three decades. By 1920, the totals reached 363, 326, and 320. Other AASR groups in the state showed similar growth. The five consistories in Ohio now claimed 22,773 members. Scioto in Columbus--where most Cambridge brethren obtained their 32° --led the way with 5,694; Lake Erie (Cleveland) followed with 5,052. Cincinnati, the long time leader dropped to third place with 4,909. Dayton and Toledo trailed with 3,851 and 3,267 respectively. The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons had more than 60,000 members and there were 26, 820 Knight Templars. However, the Scottish Rite was catching up and would surpass it within another decade.

Within two more years, the figures at the AASR in Cambridge claimed more than 500 in each and by 1931 peaked at 941, 892, and 893. Then the Great Depression began to take a toll on membership in all Masonic bodies, state and nation wide as well as locally. By 1940, the numbers for the Scottish Rite bodies bottomed out at 711, 660 and 663. New leadership emerged in the twentieth century including Frank Schick (1917), Maurice Potter (1923), Fred Raymond (1931), Willard Hood (1934), James Peters, D. L. Rankin, and Frank

Watson. The first four of the individuals ultimately received the 33°, while Potter also went on to serve many years as Valley Treasurer, retiring only in 1950.

Some biographical data on Schick and Potter seems in order given their service and status. Frank Schick Jr., was the son of a German immigrant and stonemason who had come to Cambridge as a foreman on the same tunnel project that brought Killian Van Rensselaer to the region. The father remained and practiced his trade as an operative Mason and joined the local blue lodge and Scottish Rite. Frank Junior was born in 1861 and followed his father's occupation until he and a brother John entered the steam laundry business in 1893. Covering both ends of the political spectrum Frank was a Democrat and an active Mason while John was a Republican and an active member of the local Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Frank served as Worshipful Master of Cambridge Lodge No. 66 in 1902, followed by eighteen years as Thrice Potent Master of the Lodge of Perfection during which time its membership increased from 63 to 363. Schick followed Van Rensselaer and Matthews to being of a recipient of the 33° in 1917.

Maurice R. Potter received the 33<sup>rd</sup> in 1923. A native of West Springfield, Pennsylvania, his initial blue lodge and York Rite memberships had been in Meadville, but he came to Cambridge in 1898 and affiliated with the bodies in Cambridge in 1903. He took the Scottish Rite degrees in 1904 and 1907. Potter and his brother operated a department store for some years and then went into the hardware business until retiring in 1946. He served as Sovereign Prince of Cambridge Council from shortly after he joined until 1920 and as Valley Treasurer from 1933 until 1950. He also held office in Scioto Consistory from 1939 until he died in 1953 and was President of the Cambridge Masonic Temple Association for a decade.

The Cambridge Scottish Rite bodies held their own through the World War II years and by 1945 had barely surpassed their Great Depression levels. But the growth of the next fifteen years reached new heights and ultimately resulted in the chartering of Guernsey Consistory in 1955. The generation that survived the War and would later be labeled by many historians as the “Greatest Generation” via recovering from the depression and bringing home victory over Nazism and Japanese militarism also joined Masonic blue lodges and Scottish Rite valleys in record numbers. In fact, the dwindling numbers of this age group has brought on a crisis facing not only Masons, but other voluntary organizations.

By 1946, membership in the Cambridge Scottish Rite bodies had exceeded 1000 and by 1950 the numbers reached 1500, a gain of more than 100 per year. In 1947, the Scottish Rite moved into their own new headquarters, the former Colonial Theater in the 600 block on Wheeling Avenue.



Colonial Theater 1947-1968

Keep in mind that it had taken more than fifty years for the Lodge of Perfection and the Council of Princes of Jerusalem to reach 100. Small wonder that pressure began

to build for a consistory in Cambridge. After all, they could be found in smaller places. For instance, the Valley of Coudersport in Northern Pennsylvania had thrived since 1900 with a population one-third that of Cambridge. After obtaining a dispensation in 1954 to form a consistory, the Valley of Cambridge conferred the degree of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret on 202 candidates and had eight affiliations that first year. The charter was granted on September 28, 1955 and presented in an impressive ceremony on February 16, 1956. The ceremony was conducted by Ill. Bro. Dillon Crist who was the Deputy for Ohio at that time. He was aided by such Masonic dignitaries ranging from John W. Barkley to Roscoe Walcott. Ill. Bro. Willard J. Hood who had presided over the Lodge of Perfection from 1926 to 1933 and the Chapter of Rose Croix from 1933 to 1936 had the honor of serving as the first Commander-in-Chief of Guernsey Consistory. He was succeeded by Clarence E. O’Neal of Zanesville, another former Most Wise Master of Cambridge Chapter of Rose Croix. Once the consistory charter became a reality, Guernsey Consistory had 217 initiates and 579 affiliations bringing their membership to 998 by the time of the 1956 annual return to the Supreme Council. The next year there were 1,390 members of Guernsey Consistory while the lower Scottish Rite bodies all had an excess of 2,400. Despite the large number of affiliations, many Lodge, Council, and Chapter Masons still kept their Consistory memberships elsewhere. It would take another quarter century for the numbers to somewhat “even out.”

Ill. Bro. Willard J. Hood, who had a degree in mechanical engineering but a longer record in finance and government work, served as the first Commander-in-Chief of Guernsey Consistory. He had a long history of Scottish Rite activity dating back to 1919. As his official obituary read, “he

was instrumental in the formation of Guernsey Consistory” and died at eighty-eight on December 21, 1970. Clarence O’Neal (1888-1960), the second Commander-in-Chief, had also presided over all the York Rite bodies in Zanesville and had been Prior of Ohio Priory No. 18, KYCH and Grand Master of the Grand Council, R & SM in 1931. He was also a leader in several other appendant Masonic organizations. In his working life he had spent thirty-six years as an officer of the Robinson-Ransbottom Pottery Company in Roseville.

A third depression-era leader of the Cambridge Scottish Rite bodies, W. Kelly Carnal (1873-1957), had served as Thrice Potent Master from 1933 through 1939 and received the 33<sup>rd</sup> in 1942. He took significant parts in several degrees while working as a bookkeeper and retailer. However, Carnal suffered a stroke in 1943, a situation which curtailed his physical activities “but” according to Willard Hood, “by indomitable courage and perseverance and sheer will-power, he restored himself to motion, and for thirteen years he brought hope and encouragement to other disabled persons and added to the love and admiration of his fellow citizens as he slowly walked the streets of his city.” Sadly, his contribution to Guernsey Consistory could be little more than charter membership and the inspiration he provided to his brothers.

Blue Lodge membership in Ohio peaked in 1960 at just over 282,000 and began to decline slowly thereafter. In the short run, this did not have much impact on the Scottish Rite where numbers continued to increase as more blue lodge members continued to seek additional Masonic light in the higher degrees, even as the base continued to erode if ever so slightly. The Valley of Cambridge showed steady if unspectacular growth until 1968 at which time the Lodge of Perfection peaked at 3,124. Guernsey Consistory continued to register

slight gains in spite of a disastrous fire in August 1968 which destroyed their headquarters, doing an estimated \$844,000 in damages. However, they soon recovered and found a new home three blocks to the east in what had been the State Theater, soon renamed the Scottish Rite Auditorium with offices in the adjacent building at 935 Wheeling Avenue.



State Theatre 1970 - Present

Post-World War II Masons exhibited increasing tendencies to honor their own in a variety of ways. The widespread growth in membership probably accounted for much of the initial spurt in this direction even though the practice continued and perhaps even proliferated after membership went into decline. Whatever, one of these trends was manifested in an increasing number of recipients of the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. Prior to 1945, only seven Cambridge Scottish Rite Masons—other than Van Renssalaer—received the honor. Beginning in September 1945, recipients became increasingly regular with Cambridge sometimes having as many as three in a single year.

Another honor came with the annual bestowing of the Meritorious Service Award. Beginning in 1951, Chester A. Snyder became the first from Cambridge to receive it. Since that time the list has grown to more than fifty recipients. Thirteen of these later

became 33° Masons as well. The Meritorious Service Award is usually presented at the spring meeting of the Ohio Council of Deliberation, an assembly of all the Scottish Rite Valleys in the Buckeye State.

By the 1960s new leadership emerged in the Valley of Cambridge as was the situation in all Masonic organizations. Some of these had originally taken their consistory work in Scioto and been among the early members of Guernsey. Among them were Charles W. Stewart (1888-1966), an active farmer, engineer, and farm implement dealer, who served as presiding officer of the local York Rite bodies, received the 33° in 1949, and served as Commander in Chief of Guernsey Consistory in 1957. Martin G. Wesley (1894-1979), a long-time Cambridge postal worker, served as Master of Cambridge Lodge No. 66, High Priest of Cambridge Chapter, a District Deputy Grand High Priest, and for a decade as Sovereign Prince of Cambridge Council. He became a 33<sup>rd</sup> in 1949 and capped off his Masonic achievements as Commander in Chief of Guernsey Consistory from 1959 to 1962. Arthur T. Hopwood (1897-1977), a physician and mental health professional as Superintendent of the Cambridge State Hospital from 1946 until 1968, received the 33° in 1952, but professional duties occupied much of his time. He still managed to serve as Worshipful Master of Guernsey Lodge No. 632 in 1959, earn the KYCH, and spend two years as Commander-in-Chief of Guernsey Consistory.

Blue Lodge membership in the nation peaked in 1959 at roughly 4,103,000 and then began to decline slightly, to 270,000 in Ohio by 1967, but the AASR continued to increase in numbers. The Buckeye State with nine consistories (ten after 1962) counted 83,589 recipients of the 32°, with 1,803 of them in the Valley of Cambridge. The lower Scottish Rite bodies all numbered an excess of 2,600 members as several hundred of their

older brothers still retained their affiliation with Scioto Consistory. In fact, membership in Guernsey Consistory did not peak until 1993 when it reached 4,082. Numbers in the other Ohio consistories had begun to decline several years earlier. One of the remarkable achievements of the Valley of Cambridge has been that it has sustained its membership in an area that has been lacking in truly major urban centers. For instance in 1980, the largest cities in what would normally be considered “Cambridge territory” were Zanesville with 28,655 residents, followed by Marietta with 16,467 and Cambridge with 13,573. Considered from another angle, the aggregate population of the five primary counties (Muskingum, Washington, Guernsey, Morgan, and Noble) in their area was just over 215,000; although partial or concurrent jurisdiction with adjacent counties would possibly add an additional 100,000 to the population pool. By contrast, Stark County containing the Valley of Canton had 378,000 without even considering other nearby counties. On the positive side for Cambridge, rural counties have usually experienced relatively less decline in Masonic membership in recent decades than large urban centers.

In the earlier years nearly all of the 33° Masons had come from Guernsey County with a few from Zanesville. Improved transportation facilities through better highways led to increased participation and recognition from more distant areas within the jurisdiction. For instance, Billy A. Calendine (1920-2003) hailed from the Village of Stockport on the Muskingum River in Morgan County. A World War II veteran, he typified the returning soldiers who flocked into Masonry after returning from the War. He joined Webb Lodge No. 252 in his home locale, served as Master in 1952 and again in 2002. A career employee of the Post Office Department he held positions ranging from that of mail clerk to



regional director, but most notably in the area as Post Master of McConnellsville. In his Masonic life, he served as a District Deputy Grand Master of the district that included Athens, Morgan and Washington counties in the late fifties, received the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree in 1963, served as Most Wise Master of Rose Croix in 1969 and 1970, Valley Secretary for a decade after his 1976 retirement from federal service, three additional years as Treasurer, a year as Eminent Commander of Marietta Commandery, and as Commander-in-Chief of Guernsey Consistory in 1994 and 1995. A resident of Zanesville in his last years, Calendine exemplified Tom Brokaw's description of returning World War II veterans as one of "the Greatest Generation."

Calendine was not wholly unique. Others include Edward Merry (1921-2002), a lifelong resident of Zanesville who served Lafayette Lodge as Master in 1946 and presided over all the York Rite bodies in Zanesville, as well as three years in Cambridge as Sovereign Prince (1965-1968). Active in other Masonic groups as well, Merry also received the 33<sup>rd</sup> in 1963. Another veteran, attorney and Guernsey County Common Pleas Judge Delbert Tedrick (1913-1977) presided over the Lodge of Perfection from 1971 through 1973. Local businessman Ellis McCracken (1918-2003), a Pacific Theater Navy veteran, was most active in a variety of civic work, but was master of his blue lodge and the local Kambri Shrine Club. He became a 33<sup>rd</sup> in 1992.

Army Air Force veteran, oil company owner and Cambridge native, William Hartley joined the AASR bodies in his home town and Columbus in 1950. Subsequently devoting over a half century of active service to the local Valley, he spent three years as Thrice Potent Master of the Lodge of Perfection (1962-1965), two as Commander-in-Chief, and seven as first Deputy Representative to the Supreme Council (1994-2001). A 33<sup>rd</sup> since 1964, in 2006

Hartley ranked second only to past Grand Master Robert Hinshaw in terms of seniority among recipients of that honor.

Two other Masonic veterans carved out successful political careers. The best known, Robert Thompson Secrest (1904-1994), born near Senecaville in Noble County and a longtime member of Point Pleasant Lodge No. 360, taught school until elected to the Ohio legislature in 1930. A Democrat in the Republican-leaning Muskingum Valley he proved to be a popular vote-getter. After a single term in the Ohio House, he won election to Congress in 1932 and served for nearly a decade resigning in August 1942 to enter the U. S. Navy, emerging in February 1946 with the rank of Commander. Returning to Congress after 1948, he served nearly three more terms until accepting an appointment to the Federal Trade Commission. In 1962, Secrest won the first of two more terms, but was ultimately defeated in 1966 when his under-populated district was abolished and he had to run in largely unfamiliar territory. Undaunted, the aging and increasingly conservative Democrat went on to serve two terms in the Ohio Senate. Although his work schedule kept him from holding lodge offices, he was a popular speaker on the Masonic dinner circuit and received the 33<sup>o</sup> in 1977.

Republican John Earl Henderson (1917-1994) had a less dynamic political career, serving two terms in the Ohio House and three in the U. S. Congress (1955-1961). Moving with his family to Cambridge at the age of three, Henderson completed law school just in time to enter the army where he rose to the rank of Captain. He retired undefeated from legislative office, subsequently practicing law and serving as a Guernsey County judge. This enabled him to be active in the Scottish Rite bodies being Thrice Potent Master three times from 1965 through 1967 and Commander-in-Chief in 1980 and 1981. A 1966 recipient of the 33<sup>rd</sup>,

Henderson closed his service to the Valley after a single year as Treasurer in 1990.

Other members of the Scottish Rite in Cambridge earned distinction via the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Robert L. Hinshaw (b. 1923) managed to render notable service to both. A native of Akron, Bro. Hinshaw had been Chair of the Physics Department at Muskingum College before joining McGraw Edison Company at Zanesville. He became a Mason in 1949 at Concord Lodge No. 688, a member of the York and Scottish Rite bodies in Cambridge (and also of Scioto Consistory). His three years as Most Wise Master of Rose Croix in 1957-1959, helped propel him to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree in 1961. Having already served as a District Deputy Grand Master, Hinshaw started through the Grand Lodge line in 1961, and in October 1968 began his year as Grand Master. After completing his term, he spent 1972 and 1973 as Commander-in-Chief of Guernsey Consistory. Still later, Hinshaw, served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge for many years, and ultimately retired to Brevard, North Carolina.

Zanesville native, Charles B. Moody (1916-1986) had been both a lawyer and banker in his place of birth, a York Rite member and Most Wise Master of Rose Croix in 1967 and 1968. Coroneted with the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree in 1968, he became an active member of the Supreme Council from 1973. That same year Moody became Grand Treasurer, moved through the "Grand Line," and was installed as Grand Master in 1981. He returned to his post as Grand Treasurer the following year and retained that post until his death. Monroe County native, electrician-minister Richard M. Wilson joined Sunsby Lodge in Beallsville in 1956, belonged to the Chapter and Council in Barnesville, Commandery in Cambridge, and the Valley of Cambridge AASR. Most of his Masonic activity took place in blue lodge circles where he was a District Deputy for three

years and then a Grand Lodge officer beginning in 1978, and progressed up to Grand Master, being installed in 1984.

Unlike the earlier decades, presiding officers in the Valley of Cambridge increasingly served shorter terms, two and three years becoming most common from the mid-sixties. The Secretary and Treasurer, as in other Masonic groups, have exhibited considerable continuity. Willard V. Patton spent three years as Most Wise Master of Rose Croix (1951-1953) before holding down the Treasurer's job from 1954 for the next thirty-five years. More recently Milton O. Law has held that post from 1994 through 2007. The more challenging Secretary position has generally not seen the longevity exhibited by Bro. Patton, but in addition to the aforementioned Calendine, H. Herman Spring (1943-1954), John Peters (1954-1963), and recent retiree E. Glenn Arnold (1996-2006) have each been in the role for at least a decade. Arthur C. Morris served for fifteen (1964-1978) and David Jacobs for five (1991-1995). Tom Fisher took over the job late in 2006.

Another group of the more distinguished members of the Valley of Cambridge achieved distinction through their service to grand bodies in the York Rite. However, some of these also held notable offices in the local Valley as well. The first of these was the aforementioned Clarence E. O'Neal of Zanesville. With one exception, like O'Neal all resided in the more outlying regions of Cambridge's territory. The first and perhaps most prominent of these was Oliver H. Ormiston (1908-1998), a banker in the small community of Bartlett in Washington County. Ormiston served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in 1958-1959 just prior to being coroneted in 1959. He later spent many years as Grand Treasurer of that body (1961-1967, 1987-1995) and another twenty years as Grand Secretary (1967-1987). A

Knight of the York Cross of Honor, he also served two years as a District Deputy Grand Master in the counties of Athens, Morgan and Washington. He also spent thirty-three years as a trustee of the Ohio Masonic Home and was Worthy Patron of his Eastern Star Chapter eleven times. Having achieved about every possible Masonic honor, Ormiston served two years as Commander-in-Chief of Guernsey Consistory (1967-1969).

Other Washington County residents also held high York Rite offices. A mechanical engineer by occupation, Wilbert "Bud" Lallathin (1917-2001) had been master of Masterton Lodge No. 429 in Monroe County in 1948 before settling in Marietta where he presided over each of the York Rite bodies and in 1984 became Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council, R. & S. M. as well as a recipient of the 33rd. With the completion of Interstate 77 linking Cambridge and Marietta and travel time between the two cities reduced, Lallathin served as Sovereign Prince of Cambridge Council. Chemist Earl C. Gifford (1929-2005) served as Grand High Priest in 1981 and also as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for some fifteen years (1987-2001). In Cambridge (33° in 1981), he presided over both Rose Croix and Guernsey Consistory. Richard G. Dennis (1921-2001) was Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar from 1991 to 1992 and was coroneted a 33° in 1993.

Walter J. "Joe" Howdyshell (1926-2002), a practicing lawyer in New Lexington became Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masons (formerly Royal and Select Masters) in 2000. A KYCH, he served several years as Secretary of the York Rite bodies in New Lexington. In the AASR, he spent 1993-1995 as Most Wise Master of Rose Croix and was coroneted at Boston in 1996. In addition to his Masonic and legal profession activities, Howdyshell had the

distinction of being one of the last persons to play intercollegiate football at Rio Grande College before the struggling school dropped the sport.

Other presiding officers of Grand York Rite bodies included Alan D. Hart of Newcomerstown who became Grand High Priest in 2001. A retired draftsman and member of the "Millennium Class" coroneted at Pittsburgh in 2000, Hart served the York Rite organizations in Coshocton and later as Thrice Potent Master of the Cambridge Lodge of Perfection. In 2006, he became Prior of Ohio Priory No. 18, KYCH. Hometown resident Richard Dale Long (33° in 1986) was installed as Grand Commander in 1994 having already presided over Cambridge Chapter of Rose Croix (1983-1985) and later to become Commander in Chief of Guernsey Consistory (1996-1998). Seven years later hardware retailer Richard Weaver (b. 1933) of Baltimore sat in the Grand Commander's chair. A KYCH, Weaver labored in the founding of Ohio Valley York Rite Sovereign College No. 196 and Lafayette Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, prior to receiving the 33rd in 2003. One of Weaver's colleagues in the organization of the aforementioned York Rite College, Roger C. Gaul (b. 1941) who hailed from the minuscule community of Sumner (near Chester) in Meigs County, headed the Grand Council of R. & S. M. in 2004. A KYCH characterized by a congenial sense of humor, Gaul often described himself as the "mayor, chief of police and town drunk of Sumner". He got his honors at the Supreme Council at Grand Rapids in August 2005.

By the mid-1990s, the membership declines that had been felt for some years in other Masonic groups became noticeable in the Cambridge Scottish Rite bodies as well. Peaking at 4,082 in 1993, Guernsey Consistory had dropped to 3,746 in 1999 and to 3,442 in 2001. Then in the spring of 2002 came the first of the Grand Lodge of Ohio's

one-day classes whereby an excess of 8,000 persons received the blue lodge degrees in a single day without the normal requirement of memorized oral examinations. These ceremonies were conducted in the Scottish Rite centers with a special conferring of the 32° Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret upon those who had so petitioned. This brought a large spring class and a net membership gain to 3,660 in the 2002 report. However, it was followed by the continuing trend toward decline as some of the new candidates opted not to continue membership in the second year. Another one day class in 2005 did not yield sufficient numbers to show a net gain for the year and the numbers for the year had dropped to roughly what they had been in 1978, a phenomenon that has hit many states and AASR valleys much harder than Ohio. By November of 2006, membership in Guernsey Consistory dropped to just under 3,000. Other places took harder hits. In 2005, for example, the Valley of New York City which once boasted a membership in excess of 10,000, reported a membership of 779.

However, as Cambridge Scottish Rite Masons entered their Sesquicentennial year, some reason for optimism could be observed. The Spring Reunion in April 13-14, 2007 saw 105 blue lodge members receive the 14° and 104 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. A special bargain in fee rates coupled with extra urging from Ill. Bro. Randy Williams no doubt helped in recruiting a class that ranked among the larger in recent years. A visit from the recently elected Sovereign Grand Commander John William McNaughton, 33° and Neil M. Smalley, 33°, Deputy for Ohio provided additional weekend highlights.

Of course, there is much more to the Valley of Cambridge than those who have held leadership positions within the four component bodies, received the 33<sup>rd</sup>, Meritorious Service Awardees, Grand

Masters, presiding officers within the York Rite and/or the many Masonic appendant orders. Many have contented themselves with taking major and minor roles in the various degrees conferred at the twice a year reunions, participated on committees, played in the golf tournaments, assisted with makeup and wardrobes, been first and second line signers on petitions, and worked with the Scottish Rite Clubs in the outlying counties. Some who have enlisted under the “double-headed eagle” may never have attended another reunion, but participate in their local blue lodge, shrine club, or other Masonic groups. Some others may be inactive in all, but are nonetheless proud to be members. Whatever their station in the Valley or in their usual vocations, all have contributed to the proud history of Scottish Rite Masons and Masonry in the Valley of Cambridge.

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Acknowledgements: Thanks to Bro. Glenn Arnold, 33°, Bro. Thomas Fisher, Bro. William Hartley, 33°, and Diane Reeves of the Athens County Historical Society and Museum, the latter who supplied her internet genealogical skills in locating information concerning some of the above individuals.