

ST. MARK'S-VESTAL LODGE NO. 435

On February 4, 2011, W/ Scott Kinne, the Master of St. Mark's-Philetus Lodge No.1001 received a letter from RW Emmerich J. Bares,Jr. Master of Vestal-Otseningo Lodge No.435,requesting that discussions commence concerning the possibility of lodge consolidation. Committees from both lodges were formed to discuss the consolidation. With that, the earnest process of unification began.

The name of the new Lodge was discussed in length and it was agreed upon to be called St. Mark's-Vestal No.435. The by-laws were formulated. The subject of consolidation was proposed to both Lodges at a Summomed meeting, as were the By-laws. Both Lodges voted unanimously for the consolidation.The necessary papers and forms were then filed with Grand Lodge for their approval, Accordingly, on October 7, 2011 Grand Lodge granted the New Lodge its Charter and St. Mark's-Vestal Lodge No 435 was officially christened.

This undertaking was made possible by the diligent work and understanding of the committees from both Lodges to achieve the necessary fundamentals for the Consolidation. The committees appointed were:

St.Mark's-Philetus Lodge No.1001

W.. Scott Kinne Master	scott@rtctranscription.com
R..W.. Thomas M. McMullin	tmmcmullin@yahoo.com
Bro. David Warne, Senior Warden	david_warne@mi.com
RW ..Charles Mackey Trustee	mackeycj@stny.rr.com
W. . Martin K Rorapaugh, Past Master	mrorapaugh@stny.rr.com

Vestal-Otseningo Lodge No.435

RW Emmerich J. Bares,,Jr, Master	bbares@stny.rr.com
W.. Richard Friend, Organist	rfriend@stny.rr.com
W.. Lawrence N. Curtiss, Treasurer	nancypipher@gamil.com
W.. Richard J. Ohmer, Secretary	gdohmer@stny.rr.com
Bro. Robert Schoonmaker, Jr.Warden	rschoonmaker@chowc.org
W.. Gordon F. Gardner, Sr. Warden	buck hunter@aol.com
W.. Melvin R. Junker, Trustee	m@stny.rr.com

The formation of the new Lodge having been completed in a timely fashion, by-laws approved by Grand Lodge, the formal installation of officers was held at a Public Meeting on November 3, 2011. The Officers of the new St. Mark's-Vestal No. 435 were installed by R.. W.. Charles J. Mackey, Installing Master, R..W.. Edward R. Wells, Installing Marshal and R..W.. Thomas A. Barbour, Installing Chaplain and are as

follows

Master	W. . Scott Kinne
Senior Warden	W. . Robert Schoonmaker
Junior Warden	Bro. David Warne
Secretary	R. . W. . Thomas "Tim" McMullin
Treasurer	W. . Lawrence N. Curtiss
Chaplain	Bro. Adam M. Demetros
Senior Deacon	Bro. Jeffrey Rinker
Junior Deacon	Bro. Troy Kelley
Sr. Master Cer.	Bro. Joseph Main
Jr. Master Cer	Bro. Timothy Olivieri
Marshal	W. . Melvin J. Junker
Steward	R. W Charles J. Mackey
Steward	R. . W Edward R. Wells
Tiler	W. . G. Bernard Freer
Trustee, One Year	R. . W. . Emmerich J. Bares, Jr.
Trustee, Two Years	R. . W. . Charles J. Mackey
Trustee, Three Years	W. . Richard Friend

The Master addressed the Senior Warden and directed him to pay the Craft their wages. This was done and each brother present received two wooden coins to commemorate the consolidation of the two Lodges.

Worshipful Kinne then addressed the assemblage. After briefly reviewing the path of the two Lodges becoming one, he began by raising his arms in the air and loudly saying, (HELP !). He went on to give an inspiring speech, basing his remarks on the letters of the word " H-E-L-P ", emphasizing 'H,' History and Honoring the Past, 'E,' Experience, Education, Energy and Exploration, 'L,' Labor, Leadership- (lead yourself and then others by your example), and finally, 'P' Planning and Proficiency. The Master painted the picture of a future, bright with opportunity, proving that the power of one devoted. Progressive and Inventive Lodge is by far stronger than two travelling on a parallel track. His speech received a well-deserved standing ovation

The Master read the nomination for the Temple Association and the following were elected. W Lawrence Curtiss, Bro. Adam Demetros. W Robert Schoonmaker, W Gordon Gardner, W Richard Ohmer, Bro. Joseph Main, W Thomas Barbour. W David Hantsch and Bro. Kristan McMahan. After the election RW Perry Baumlin was appointed as Counselor Emeritus to the Trustees of the Temple Board.

The Master then appointed the following committees:

Brotherhood Fund	Bros. David Warne and Alan Disbro
Assistant Secretaries	RW's Barbour, Mackey and W Richard Ohmer
Surviving Spouses	W/ Garry Flagg and RW Edward R. Wells, DDGM
Histories	Bro. Troy Kelley and W Richard Ohmer

Community Outreach
Investment Advisory Com.
Webmasters

Bro. Jeffrey Rinker and Bro. Adam Demetros
W's William Hush and Melvin Junker
Bro. Timothy Olivieri and W Robert Schoonmaker

It is interesting to note that at the first meeting of the Lodge, November 17, 2011 five Brothers, Brian Curtis, William Fenwick, Mark Loughran of Binghamton Lodge No.177 and Bro. Matthew Olsen, were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Since the consolidation has occurred we have raised 5 and initiated 4 new brothers. This consolidation, by bringing younger men into our Lodge, we have gained in improving our Ritual, in administering our Degrees and having nearly every new brother taking an active part in our Degrees. The strong leadership and development of this new lodge is due primarily through the Labors of W/ Scott Kinne, Master of the Lodge, by working with the members and fellow officers was the key for success.

At this meeting there was a request from Oxford Lodge looking for a Three, Five and Seven Step Carpet. This request was referred to the Trustees of the Lodge to ascertain whether or not we would be able to give them our extra carpet. The trustees examined the two carpets that we had and determined that we could help Oxford Lodge in this matter. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Lodge donate a carpet to Oxford.

Brother John Darrow, a member of Johnson City Unity Lodge No.970 approached the Worshipful Master concerning the possibility of making a donation to a fund in aiding Brain Injured Patients from the Compassionate Care of Central New York. He was wondering if the lodge would be able to donate \$10 for each of the 12 Tickets for this program. After a brief discussion a motion was made by W Robert Schoonmaker that we contribute \$120 for the program, it was seconded by W Melvin Junker. It was passed unanimously.

At our next meeting the Petitions of Mr. Thomas Palazzo and Mr. Brian Warne were read.

Mr. Palazzo's petition was referred to the Interviewing Committee appointed by the Master. Mr Warne's petition was read, the committee reported favorably, dismissed with thanks and Mr. Warne was elected to become a member by initiation.

Brother John Darrow of Johnson City Unity Lodge No.970 delivered Thank You Notes from the patients at the Traumatic Brain Injury, Compassionate Care Center of which we donated assistance. He also presented us pictures which are on display in the Lobby.

The growth of members was overshadowed by the passing of some of our departed Brothers:

Worshipful Clifford Athorn	Aug.	11, 2011
Bro. Leonard “ Flowers the Clown” Burkle	Aug.	4, 2011
RW Frank M. Chupp	June	2, 2011
Bro. Thomas McMullin	Aug.	6, 2011
Worshipful Donald Tiffany	Feb.	21.2011
Bro. Burton Zurner	Mar.	14, 2011

A Moment of Silent Prayer was observed.

The Lodge began 2012 with the First Degree being conferred upon Mr. Brian Warne and Mr. Thomas Palazzo.

This will be the First time that a Degree was conferred with only the members of the Lodge in their respective Stations and Places as well as Conductors and presentations of all the second section of the Degree.

The Cast:

Bro. David Warne	Master
W/ Robert Schoonmaker	Senior Warden
W/ Scott Kinne	Junior Warden
R/W/ Thomas M. McMullin	Secretary
W/ Richard Friend	Organist
Bro. Adam Demetros	Chaplain
Bro. Jeffrey Rinker	Senior Deacon
Bro. Troy Kelley	Junior Deacon
Bro. Joseph Main	Senior Master of Ceremonies
Bro. Timothy Oliveri	Junior Master of Ceremonies
Bro. Kristan McMahan	Steward
W/ Garry Flagg	Steward
W/ Edward B. Wells	Marshal
W/G. Bernard Freer	Tiler
Conductor for Candidate 1	R/W/ Thomas Barbour
Conductor for Candidate 2	W/Lawrence Curtiss
Working Tools	Bro. Derek Green
Great Light	W/ Scott Kinne
Apron	R/W/ Edward R. Wells
Demand	Bro. William Fenwick
Bible Presentation	R/W/ Thomas M. McMullin
Q’s and A’s	R/W/Charles Mackey& Br. Kris. McMahan
Why’sand Wherefore’s	Br. Joseph Main and VW Br. David Main
Historical Lecture	VW David Main
Charge	W/ William Hush

A Second Degree was conferred on February 2, 2012 upon Bro. Palazzo and Warne with a full participation. The Third Degree was conferred on March15 upon Bro. Palazzo and

Bro. Warne also with a full participation with Brothers of this Lodge. There were 23 Visitors at Lodge this evening. It shows the fine Ritual work that the Lodge has been conferring.

The trustees of the Lodge reported that Eastern Light Lodge No.125 at Greene .NY has inquired as to whether or not we had an extra Catching Canvas since we have consolidated. The Trustees reported that we had an extra one and that we could donate it with Lodge approval. A motion made, seconded and passed that the extra Canvas be donated. The Canvas was hand delivered to Eastern Light.

The Investigating Committee on the petition of Mr. Brian Presto reported favorably. The First Degree will be conferred the first meeting in May.

Mrs. Angelina Schoonmaker, wife of W Schoonmaker, will be undergoing Kidney surgery soon and she faces 6 to 8 weeks recovery period.

A report was presented concerning the Mason Knight Dinner: There were 86 for Dinner 14 Knights, 5 Grand Lodge Officers and 67 Masons. A great time was had by all. The speaker of the evening was RW James Sullivan, Deputy Grand Master of the State of New York.

The following activities were announced:

Mason of the Year Dinner will be held on April 7, 2012 Cost \$18.00
It was announced that W Robert Schoonmaker will be our Mason of the Year.
Awards and Special Ladies Night is Thursday, April 19, 2012
Child ID Program will be held at the Marathon Maplefest on March 24 and 25.

Eastern Light Masonic Lodge will celebrate their 200th Year Anniversary on July 20, 2012. Grand Master will be present.

Dinner will be at Silo Restaurant Cost of Dinner \$27.00 per person. Cash bar at 6.p.m Dinner at 7pm. There will be a Rededication Ceremony at the Lodge building at 4pm on Friday.

The month of May continued with the Lodge conferring a First degree upon Mr. Philip Daniel Fata, Mr. Brian J. McMahan, Mr.Jonathon David Hartman and Mr. Brian Joseph Presto. The degree was conferred with the brothers of this Lodge.

Mrs. Schoonmaker had kidney surgery and is now recovering at home.

The following brothers were recommended for the following officers by the Noninating Committee:

Master W Robert Schoonmaker

Sr. Warden	Bro, David Warne
Jr. Warden	Bro. Jeffrey Rinker
Secretary	RW Thomas M. McMullin
Treasurer	Bro. William Fenwick
Trustee	W Scott Kinne

It was announced that June 7th will be an Open Installation of Officers.

Installing Officers: RW Thomas M. McMullin	Installing Officer
W Scott Kinne	Installing Marshal
RW Charles J. Mackey	Installing Chaplain

The Installation was done well and the officers were placed in their Proper Stations and Places.

RW Emmerich Bares, Jr. complimented W Scott Kinne for the excellent job he has done to make the consolidation successful

The Lodge closed for the Summer Recess.

The Lodge opened on September 6th with the newly elected Officers in their proper Stations and Places with activities continuing as in the preceding years with the Petitions of Membership of Mr. Jonathon Pannzarella and Mr. Thomas Vlachos were read. Since these candidate live in Pennsylvania we must wait for the approval of both Grand Lodges in order for them to become members.

Also read was the Petition of Mr. Gerrard Owens Angione and Mr. Joseph Thomas Dougherty, III.

The Master assigned an Investigating Committee for the Petitioners.

At this time the Lodge was closed on the Third Degree and Opened on the First to allow an Entered Apprentice of this Lodge to enter. Bro. Philip Fata was welcomed by the Master and viewed the workings of the Lodge.

Our Brother W G. Bernard Freer is recuperating from major surgery of Colon resection. He is in Rehab at Susquehanna Nursing Home. When he is released and strong enough to Travel, he is in hope of moving to Kentucky to be with family.

All of the Charters of the Lodge are now in Frames thanks to the Master.

Lodge was closed on the First Degree and opened on the Third in preparation for closing. The second meeting in September 2012 began another round of Initiations, Passing and Raising of Candidates. This meeting was the conferral of the Second Degree upon Bro. Lucien Boyce, Binghamton 177, Bro. Philip Fata, Bro. Brian McMahan and Bro. Jonathon Hartman of our Lodge. The degree was well done.

As indicated in previous history W Garry Flagg has made a fine recovery from foot surgery. W G. Bernard Freer is recuperating from major surgery of Colon resection. W Freer and his wife, Beverly, left today, September 20th to live with his wife's son in Lexington, Ky.

RW David Glassman was in attendance this evening. He was escorted to the East and accord Grand Honors. He indicated that the "Road to the East" course will be held on 10/27, 11/1 from 9to1 He also announced that Grand Master will visit Round Hill Lodge No.533 on 10/22/2012. There will be a dinner at 6:00pm. The Grand Master will recognize W Bro. Maurice Schweitzer's 73 Years as a Mason. He also called attention to the District Newsletter.

On October 4, 2012 Mr. Hans Van Houston was elected to become a member through initiation. After being accepted the Master closed lodge on the Third Degree and opened on the First Degree for work and instruction. Mr. Gerrard Angione, Mr Joseph Dougherty and Mr. Hans Van Houton received the Degree in due and ancient form.

The Master closed the lodge on the first Degree and Labor resumed on the Third. The announcement of the Grand Lecturer's Convention will be held at our Temple. Informal Session @11 AM, Lunch at 12N, and the formal session a1:00PM. The Worshipful Master has framed our current Charter and 4 Past Charters.

The month of November began with the Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master, RW Robert Rogers and the Grand Lodge Staff Officer, RW David Glassman. RW Rogers and Glassman have done an excellent job in their assignments. RW Robert's wife is very ill with cancer. Our prayers are with them. RW Glassman discussed the courses that he is offering the District and encourages the Brothers to avail themselves of the courses.

The second meeting of November continued with the conferral of the Fellowcraft Degree upon Bro. Gerrard Angione and Bro. Joseph Dougherty III, and Bro. Anthony Vallecco 177.

It was announced the our Brother William Hartman III, father of W William Hartman IV is in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's and a Brain Hemorrhage.

The petition for Affiliation of W. Marty DeVault was read and referred to the following committee Bro. David Warne, Bro. Jeffrey Rinker and Bro. Kris McMahan.

Bro. McMahan outlined this year's Toys for Tots Campaign.

As the end of 2012 was upon us the activities of the Lodge remained in full force with the election of W Marty DeVault to become a member and the conferral of the Third degree upon two Brothers: Bro. Gerrard Angione and Bro. Lucien Boyce (177)

The care and improvements of the Lodge Building and the Lodge itself was in capable

hands. The Building in the Hands of the Temple Corporation that worked diligently to clean the building: ie Mopped and Painted the basement floor, Shampooed the Lodge rooms rug and improved the functioning of the Boiler and Cooking Stove and has new eaves troughs installed on the building.

The Lodge Trustees Washed and Ironed the candidates Suits, washed and ironed the visitor's aprons. And purchased a garment holder for our Candidate uniforms, dispatched one large overstuffed chair to W. Richard Friend home and found a home for two older organs that were in need of repair. The preparation Room is neat and clean. As mentioned before the Trustees approved of donating the Three, Five and Seven Step Canvas to Oxford Lodge No.175 and the Third Degree Canvas to Eastern Light Lodge No.126. The Lodge Trustees have taken a complete inventory of the Lodge's material and is in the hands of the Secretary.

St. Mark's-Vestal Lodge has continued several of the programs from our previous histories.

- Support the Vestal Little League Team
- Support Girls Soccer
- Contribute to the Rotary funds
- Participate in the Child ID Program
- Living Spouse Dinner and Awards Night.
- Strong Participation in The Mason-Knight Yearly Dinner and Camaraderie. This program has run continuously for 45 Years. Each Lodge , on alternate years., holds the meeting.
- Steak Dinner at the last meeting in June
- Master's Picnic in July or August

Mason of the Year Festivities

We have added to our programming by contributing to Willow Point Nursing Home, contributed to the Compassionate Care Center by working with Bro. John Darrow, of Johnson City Unity Lodge No.970.

The Lodge Trustees have encased several Past Grand officer's Apron, Several DSA Aprons and Past Masters Aprons from all Lodges that compose of the St. Mark's-Vestal Membership .that St. Mark's – Vestal Lodge has lost Brother's through death, moving out of the area due to Job relocation, attending college, through Dimits and unfortunately Expulsions from the Lodge and Masonry.

We lost one Past Grand Master by Expulsion for Masonry.

A new program for the Community is Acacia Day. This day was designed to work to improve the area which is predominately Masonic Brothers Burial Site. A Statue of George Washington is in center of the plot of Land. The Area was weeded and

landscaped by members of our Lodge. The area was run down and little attention paid to it. This work was achieved at the Vestal Hills Cemetery. It must be noted that the Cemetery aided us in this project.

During the summer months refurbishing of the Temple continues. This summer the two large bathrooms in the basement will be cleaned, repaired and painted.

In the History of St. Mark's-Vestal No.435 it must be noted that a number of Brothers from the previous four Lodges also became members. The members that are being brought forward into this history are: Living Past Masters, Grand Lodge Appointees, Assistant Grand Lecturers, Grand Representatives, Dedicated Service Recipients and Grand Lodge Officers.

The four Lodges are: St. Mark's Lodge No.1001, Philetus Lodge No..1023, Otseningo Lodge No/ 435 and Vestal Lodge No/1144.

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|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| W/Thomas A. Barbour 1983 (1001) | W/ Emmerich J. Bares, Jr. 2004,10 (435,1144) |
| W/Perry M. Baumlin 1974 (1144) | W/ G. Paul Cohen 1968 (1023) |
| W/G. Bernard Freer 1992-94,2003 (1001) | W/ W. Garry Flagg 2008,10 (1001) |
| W/ Gordon Gardner 2008.09 (435) | W/ Alan Grass 1970 (1023) |
| W/Ronald Greenblott 1976 (1023) | W/ David L. Hantsch 1987 (1001) |
| W/ William R. Hartman 1994-7 (1001) | W/ Carl H. Johnson 1996 (1001) |
| W/ Melvin J. Junker 2010 (VO 435) | W/ Scott G. Kinne 2011 (1001) |
| W/ Thomas M. McMullin 200-02 (1001) | W/ Charles J. Mackey 1970 (1970) |
| W/ Kenneth I. Nixon 1982-84 (o435) | W/ Martin K. Rorapaugh 2001 (1001) |
| W/ Wayne A. Rozen 1972 (1023) | W/ Robert Schoonmaker 2011 (VO 435) |
| W/ Shelton Smith `1974 (1023) | W/ John O. Sternberg 1971 (1023) |
| W/ Donald m. Sukloff 1967 (1023) | W/ Richard Weiss 1973 (1023) |
| W/ Edward R. Wells 1997-99 (1144) | W/ Arthur S. Zoref 1988-89 (1001) |

GRAND LODGE

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| R/W/ Thomas M. McMullin | Elected Junior Grand Warden 2008-10 |
| R/W/ Thomas M. McMullin | Elected Senior Grand Warden 2010-12 |

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| R/W Kenneth L. Nixon | 1985-1986 |
| R/W/ Edward R. Wells | 2010-2012 |

GRAND LODGE STAFF OFFICERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| R/W/ Thomas A. Barbour | Grand Sword Bearer 2006-2008 |
| R/W/ Emmerich J. Bares, Jr. | Grand Director of Ceremonies 1981-1982 |
| R/W/ Charles J. Mackey | Grand Sword Bearer 1998-2000 |

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

R/W/ Perry M. Baumlin 1997 Cartagena, Columbia
R.W. Thomas M. McMullin 2007 North Dakota

DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

W/ Perry M. Baumlin	Vestal Lodge 1144	1991
W/ G. Bernard Freer	St. Mark's-Philetus 1001	1003
W/ Richard Friend	Vestal-Otseningo 1144	2001
W/ William R. Hartman	St. Mark's-Philetus 1001	2006
W/ Thomas M. McMullin	St. Mark's-Philetus 1001	2004
W/ Richard Ohmer	Vestal-Otseningo 1144	2003
Bro. Ralph F. Williams	St. Mark's-Philetus 1001	2000

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

V/W / David R. Main 2010-2011
V/W/ Edward R. Wells 1977-00, 2003-04, 2012-13

WENDALL WALKER AWARD

V/W/ Edward R. Wells Presented by Grand Master Earle Hino 1997
R/W/ Charles J. Mackey Presented by Grand Master Neal Bidnick 2008

MASTERS OF ST. MARK'S-VESTAL LODGE NO.435

W/ Scott G. Kinne	2011	W/ Robert J. Schoonmaker	2012
W/ David A. Warne	2013	W/ Scott Kinne	2014
W/ Troy L. Kelley	2015	W/ Marty DeVault	2016
W/ Derek C. Green	2017		

GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS

GRAND REPRESENTATIVE

R/W/ Edward R. Wells 2011 Senagal, Africa

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

V/W/ Scott G. Kinne 2012

DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

W. W. Garry Flagg 2013

MASON OF THE YEAR

2012	W./ Robert J. Schoonmaker	2013	R/W/ Timothy M. McMullin
2014	Bro. Jeffrey T. Rinker	2015	Bro. Troy L. Kelley
2016	Bro. Timothy F. Hill	2017	Bro. Devon Morrison

On June 26, 2013 St. Marks'-Vestal No. 435 held a Public Installation of Officers, with RW Charles Mackey leading as the Installing Officer, RW Edward R. Wells the Installing Chaplain and RW Thomas McMullin the Installing Marshal. The elected and appointed officers were installed in due form with W David Warne as Master for the ensuing year.

After the installation the Master gave an inspirational speech thanking the outgoing line of Officers and encouraging the newly installed Officers to continue with the high level of proficiency and quality work the lodge is known for.

At the next Regular Communication, the petitions of Nathan Stevens and James Coon were read and an Investigating Committee was assigned. The Vestal Temple Corp. decided to undertake a renovation of the two bathrooms in the downstairs of the Lodge and the Lodge voted to donate \$10,000.00 toward this project to ensure its timely completion. Also, after discussion, the Lodge voted to disconnect the land line telephone as it is rarely used. This will bring the Lodge an annual savings of \$440.00. Prior to closing the Lodge voted to donate \$100.00 to the fund for the local youth football organization to purchase new helmets. This continues the Lodge's commitment to the community and youth. Following the meeting, all retired to the basement for our annual Steak Roast.

The Lodge reopened in September 2013 where two petitions for Devon Morrison and Kirk Adams were presented and read. Investigating Committees were assigned. A report from the previous committee reported favorably on Nathan Stevens and Kirk Coon. A ballot was taken and found to be clear.

On October 3, 2013, the Investigating Committee reported favorably on Devon Morrison and Kirk Adams. Ballot was taken and found clear. The Master asked if any candidates were in waiting and for what degree. Timothy Hill, Nathan Stevens, James Coon, Devon Morrison and Kirk Adams were in waiting for the First Degree. The Master conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on the five candidates.

October 17th was the official visit of RW Robert Rogers. DDGM and RW David Glassman, Grand Steward. The DDGM audited the books of the lodge and were found in order. RW Rogers presented the message from the Grand Master.

RW Thomas McMullin was presented a certificate from Grand Lodge, signed by the Grand Master, naming RW McMullin as an Emeritus member of the Masonic Model Student Assistance program for his dedicated service to the program as Chairman.

Following the presentation, there were found four candidates for the Fellowcraft Degree; Timothy Hill, Nathan Stevens, James Coon and Devon Morrison. The Master conferred the Second Degree on the four brothers.

Bro. Troy Kelley, who has written papers and presented in lodge before, wrote” The Unselfish Freeman” and presented it to the lodge. This was well-received by the brethren as it touched upon the principle tenets of our craft. As the calendar year came to a close, the lodge conferred the Master Mason Degree on three brothers, Timothy Hill, James Coon and Nathan Stevens. The lodge continues to grow and another petition was presented and read, for Mr. Derek Bryant.

2014 saw the lodge start the year right where it ended in 2013: the favorable reporting of a candidate and the conferral of the Entered Apprentice Degree for Mr. Derek Bryant. As we moved into February, a night of Presidential presentations was made. Six Brothers each selected a President, who was also a Mason, and presented a report; George Washington, James Garfield, Teddy Roosevelt, Warren Harding, Harry Truman and Gerald Ford.

The lodge continued a long standing tradition and voted to continue sponsorship of a Little League team, the 56th year in a row.

A Master Mason Degree was conferred on Bros. Devon Morrison of St Mark’s Vestal Lodge and Troy Lupo-Mack of Windsor Lodge. It was well-attended with 33 Brothers in attendance from 7 Lodges.

Springtime brings the season for recognition and awards. The lodge was pleased to announce their Mason of the Year, a brother who’s distinguished himself as a dedicated member of the lodge and who’s given his time liberally, Bro. Jeffrey Rinker. In April, the lodge held its annual Awards and Legacy ladies Night. It’s a tradition to present certificates to those celebrating anniversaries for every 5 years of service through 60 or more. Also, the highlight is recognition of our Legacy Ladies, those whose husbands have left us for the Grand Lodge above.

We were not without losing some Brothers who passed away during the year: Bros. William Hartman III., W Bud Skinner, W Donald Hickock and W Harold Billings.

As we closed out the year, another petition was read for Christopher Baker. The nominating committee presented their recommendations for the elected officers for the ensuing year. The committee proposed Bro. Jeffrey Rinker for Master in 2015

The year began on a sort of down note. Brother Jeffrey Rinker who was our Senior Warden last year and was nominated and elected to become our Master was unexpectedly asked by his employer to transfer to Iowa within a week or so before Installation of Officers. After successfully laboring through the entire line and preparing to fill the Master’s Chair The move would take place before Installation, so a dispensation was

granted by Grand Lodge for a special election for the position of Master. During this time another key member of the lodge, Bro. Kris McMahon, was transferred to Saratoga, New York by the same employer.

Facing this dilemma VW Scott Kinne was asked to fill the chair for the year. He agreed and The Grand Lodge granted permission for his election to Master. This move kept our line intact. The year also a new Secretary elected-- W David Warne.

The lodge saw continued steady growth in new members during the year. The lodge conferred the three degrees twice raising two Brothers to Master Mason; Bro. Christopher Baker and Bro. Douglas Taber. At the end of the Masonic year, the Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred for a third time for Bro. Derek Bryant, Bro. Joshua Gardner and Bro. Mike Pinco. This set the stage for growth in 2015-16. The lodge also elected for the affiliation of Bro. Paul Mennhennett, formally from Hancock Lodge. Finally, to recognition of the priceless support from RW Robert Rogers, the lodge voted to make him an Honorary Member.

Unfortunately though, six Brothers laid down their working tools this year. These five long time members: Bro. Maurice Ardell, Bro. Sterling Pierson, W G. Bernard Freer, W John Sternberg and RW Thomas A. Barbour. The sixth, Bro. Edward B. Wells was only 49 at the time of his death. He was the son of RW Edward R. Wells, past DDGM of the Broome-Chenango District.

For the first time as the consolidated St. mark's-Vestal Lodge, the lodge earned the Potts Award at the Grand Lecturer's Convention held in October for having all the elected and appointed officers present.

Due to the calendar and the days of Christmas and New Years fell on, the lodge would miss two consecutive meetings. To fill-in for the extended "time off", the lodge hosted a Holiday Brunch on Saturday, January 3, 2015. A late morning feast was prepared and Brothers, families and kids enjoyed the chance for fellowship during the Holidays.

One of the primary tenets of the craft, if not the most important is charity. The lodge lived up to this throughout the year, supporting many groups locally and beyond. Donations and sponsorships were made to Willow Point Nursing Home, Girl Scouts, Rochester School for the Deaf, Vestal Little league, Order of DeMolay, Masonic Care Community and the jewel of Masons in New York State, Camp Turk.

The year came to a close with the ever popular Annual Steak Roast. Bro. Troy L. Kelley was elected and Installed as Master for the ensuing 2015-2016 year.

The Masonic year began with W/ Troy L. Kelley as our elected and installed Master. The trestleboard he has laid out continued with some of our traditional events such as the Holiday Brunch, Awards and Legacy Ladies and the Annual Steak Roast, conferral of degrees and educational programs.

At our first meeting, it was announced that our Secretary, W/ David Warne has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. As of this meeting, he was undergoing an aggressive chemo-therapy regime. RW Tim McMullin and W/ Rob Schoonmaker filled in as Assistant Secretary throughout the year.

The lodge's web site had not been actively updated over the past couple of years. Bro. Tim Hill has agreed to take over responsibility. Within a few months, it was back up and is evolving and an important means of communication for the Lodge.

Our members were noted for traveling to other lodges in the district this year. Many visited lodges and assisted in degree work. For the second year in a row, the lodge earned the Potts Award for having all elected and appointed officers attending the Grand Lecturer's Convention. In the Fall the lodge traveled to Windsor Lodge and captured the Traveling Gavel.

We were pleased to raise three new Master Masons this year: Bro. Derek Bryant, Bro. Joshua Gardner and Ryan Rouse. It should be mentioned that these Brothers entered well-prepared due to mentoring efforts of RW Charles Mackey and W Troy Kelley. The work of our mentors takes place primarily outside of normal meeting times and their labors are priceless.

Outside of any of our control is the laying down of Working Tools. With sadness, we lost three Brothers this Masonic year: Bro. Nelson Fiske, Bro. Marvin Slutzker and Bro. Ralph Williams. Rest in peace, Brothers.

Maine Lodge recently sold their lodge building and are now meeting at Vestal Temple. They have generously donated many chairs and other furnishings from their former lodge.

As the Masonic year came to a close, W/ Marty DeVault was elected and installed as Master for the ensuing year.

St. Mark's-Vestal No.435 got back to work early September with W/ Marty DeVault as our Master and W/Robert Schoonmaker as Secretary.

Over the summer break our Brother, friend and leader of this lodge laid down his working tools after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. W/David Warne passed away on July 19, 2016 at the age of 63. He had only two years ago energetically been installed as Secretary of the Lodge. He immediately began a project of digitizing records and pushed for and initiated a solid annual budget. His vision, organizational skills and leadership had a very positive impact on the lodge and will not be simply replaced. His legacy on masonry continues through two sons who are Master Masons, Bro. James Warne of Syracuse and Bro. Brian Warne of this lodge.

Lodges in the district are having a difficult time finding competent musicians to fill that chair. Musician lodge provides color to the palette and a universal language we all

understand. Putting technology to use in the lodge, our Master has found a way to fill the void. Using digitized recordings of RW Francis Wilcox, Oxford Lodge and Grand Musician and Bluetooth technology, our Master fills the room with music during the opening and closing of lodge and degree work.

We have again been able to confer degrees twice during the year, The result has been the raising of three new Brothers to Master Mason: Bro. Peter Wasowicz, Bro. Marty King and Bro. Gabriel Harrison. Some say we should throw a Marty Party now rthat we have three brothers with the first name, Marty.

Staying sharp and keeping the bar set high for degree work has always been a goal of the lodge. This year we have seen many brothers move into different chairs during degrees and expanding their respective “resumes” with what they.ve presented to the lodge and traveling to other lodges. We have been on a good course over the years and this year has been no different. The lodge is healthy, under good leadership and has a bright future.