

## VESTAL LODGE NO. 1144

Masonry in Vestal, New York began flourishing as a separate entity on April 21, 1953 with the formation of the Vestal Masonic Association. The Association held a meeting in the Town Hall with approximately sixty Master Masons then living in their Vestal Township but belonging to other Masonic Lodges in the area. These Lodges were primarily Round Hill No. 533, Endicott, New York

The Vestal Town Hall, at that time, was located on the site of the Vestal Fire Company No.1.

Brother Charles B. Smith, later to become Master of Vestal Lodge No. 1144 in 1956 and the District Deputy Grand Master for the Broome-Chenango District in 1960, was elected President of the Association. Their purpose was to form a Masonic Lodge in Vestal and apply to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York for a Charter or Dispensation to work as such.

On September 21, 1953, Vestal Lodge, Under Dispensation, held its first meeting in the Vestal Grange Hall on Hawthorne Street in Vestal, New York. The District Deputy Grand Master of the Broome-Chenango District, The Right Worshipful Lynn N. Peterson, opened this meeting on the Third Degree of Masonry for the election and installation of the following officers:

R.·.W.·. Homer L. Galough	Master
W.·. William R. Taylor	Senior Warden
Bro. Charles B. Smith	Junior Warden
Bro. Harry D. Eldred	Secretary
Bro. Herman Kramer	Treasurer
Bro. Russell B. Chilson	Senior Deacon
Bro. Douglas A. Jones	Junior Deacon
Bro. Walter Dains	Senior Master of Ceremonies
Bro. Warren K. Lind	Junior Master of Ceremonies
Bro. J. Maxwell Cochran	Steward
Bro. LeRoy Reeves	Steward
Bro. Edgar A. Parker	Chaplain
Bro. Clarence Holdren	Marshal
Bro. Earl Osborn	Tiler

and presented the Dispensation to the Master of the Lodge, W.·. Homer L. Galough under which we could work, instruct and act until Chartered.

Petitions for Initiation and Advancement were received from the following applicants:

Harold Sherriff	Walter Arrufat	Maurice Ardell
Weldon E. Toeller	Floyd Sarvey	Arthur Sutton

Membership at this time was sixty-five (65), nearly all active and enthusiastic in the performance of their duties.

On October 5, 1953, the first stated communication of Vestal Lodge, Under Dispensation,

the First Degree of Masonry was conferred upon the following:

Weldon Toeller          Harold Sherriff          Floyd Sarvey

Vestal Lodge, Under Dispensation, became Vestal Lodge No. 1144, F. & A. M., officially on June 21, 1954, when Right Worshipful Nathan Turk, the District Deputy Grand Master of the Chemung, Schuyler and Tioga Districts, presented the Lodge with its Charter issued by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

In 1958, the Vestal Masonic Temple Corporation, a separate entity created to conduct business not strictly a Lodge function, as a Not-for-Profit Corporation under the laws of the State of New York, purchased 2.3 acres of land at the corner of Lincoln Drive and Main Street with the intention of building a Masonic Temple there.

Actual construction started with a “ Ground Breaking” ceremony on May 6, 1961 with Brother Robert Rathbone wielding the shovel, aided by Worshipful Master Elmer Pellow and Brother Arthur Coleman, President of the Vestal Masonic Temple Association.

Construction was under the supervision of the Rathbone Construction Company with the Brethren of the Lodge contributing their time, labor and much of the material that went into the building. Membership at that time was one hundred seventy-two ( 172 ).

The “ Cornerstone Laying Ceremony” and Dedication of the new building took place at a Special Meeting held on Saturday, October 19, 1963. The Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, The Most Worshipful Harry Ostrov, assisted by thirteen (13) of his Grand Line Officers, presided over the proceedings. At this time Vestal Lodge boasted one hundred seventy-eight ( 178 ) members.

The mortgage on the new Temple was paid off in 1973 with the monies received from the sale of a portion of the property, then owned on the corner of Main Street and Lincoln Drive to Brother Richard Lindsay, where he erected a building to house his State Farm Insurance Agency with rental space for another office or business. A “ Mortgage Burning Ceremony”, was held on June 4, 1973 with Past Master W. Clinton H. Johnston, Jr. lighting the match and torching the flame to the document. At this time there were Seventy-eight (78) members in the Lodge.

Membership continued to decline during the ensuing years until in 1998, with a roster of fifty-four (54) members and officers of the Lodge having to succeed themselves in office, year after year. It became necessary to seek affiliation with another Masonic Lodge in order to continue functioning.

Otsenigo Masonic Lodge No. 435, finding themselves in similiar straights and at the time renting from Vestal Masonic Temple to hold meetings, agreed to petition Grand Lodge, along with Vestal Lodge No 1144 to approve a merger of our two Lodges.

With the assistance of Right Worshipful Lester B. Stockwell III, District Deputy Grand Master of the Broome -Chenango District, this merger was approved. In March 1999 we became chartered as Vestal-Otsenigo Lodge No. 435.

Vestal Masonic Lodge has been very community orientated. Some of their activities are as follows:

1. Sponsored the Vestal Little League for 45+ years
2. Supported the Vestal Babe Ruth Baseball Team for 15 years
3. Sponsored the Cinderella Girls Baseball Team for 10+ years
4. At Vestal's Centennial Parade - Vestal Lodge had a large float in the parade. The float was on a large flatbed truck. This was carried on for 45 years
5. At a few of the Vestal Day Parades, the members of the Lodge marched ahead of the Teams that they sponsored.
6. The Lodge sponsored a Pancake Breakfast with all of the proceeds going to the Vestal Little League Teams.
7. Open the Lodge for the Vestal High School Booster Club to conduct its meetings
8. Placed several ads in the newspaper indicating "Open House" at the Temple
9. Held a "Turkey Drive" on Thanksgiving and received monies, blankets and clothing which were distributed to needy families in the area

**PAST MASTERS OF VESTAL MASONIC LODGE NO. 1144  
1953 TO 1999?**

1953	Homer L. Galough*	1977	Joseph Libutti
1954	Homer L. Galough*	1978	Ralph Hitchcock*
1955	William R. Taylor	1979	Elmer Fenstemacher *
1956	Charles B. Smith*	1980	Gil Chubb*
1957	Russell B. Chilson*	1981	Merle Rigby *
1958	Douglas A. Jones*	1982	Lamar Mindler
1959	J. Maxwell Chochran*	1983	Gordon B. Miller
1960	Edgar A. Parker*	1984	Richard Ohmer
1961	Elmer P. Pellow*	1985	Levi Green*
1962	Clinton H. Johnson, Jr.*	1986	Warren Bakenhus*

1963	Herbert B. Moat*	1987	James Southard
1964	Ray M. Guston*	1988	Neal Stevens*
1965	Irving L. Guiles, Jr.*	1989	Neal Stevens*
1966	Kenneth Palmiter*	1990/91	John Goergen*
1967	Frank F. Haus, Jr.	1991	Perry W. Baumlin
1968	Harry L. Thorp	1992-93	Clinton H. Johnson, Jr.*
1969	Charles Hawkins	1993-94	Harold T. Billings
1970	William Gault, Jr.	1994-95	Harold T. Billings
1971	David Riley, Sr.	1995-96	Harold T. Billings
1972	Fred Phillips*	1996-97	Harold Holst*
1973	Raymond Durham, Jr.*	1997-98	Edward B. Wells
1974	Perry W. Baumlin	1998-99	Edward R. Wells
1975	Phillip Hartley	.	
1976	James Meyrick		
1977	Fred Johnson		

\* Deceased

## GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS TO VESTAL LODGE NO. 1144

### DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

R. . W. . Charles B. Smith	1960-61
R. . W. . Raymond E. Durham, Jr.	1976-77
R. . W. . Harold G. Holst	1983-84

### GRAND REPRESENTATIVE

R. . W. . Perry Baumlin	Grand Representative to Cartagena, Columbia	1997
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### DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD RECEIPIENTS

#### BEFORE MERGER

W. . Raymond E. Durham, Jr	1976
Bro. Leland G. Babcock	1977
W. . Ralph Hitchcock	1981
Bro. Richard Lindsay	1987
W. . Perry Baumlin	1991
W. . Neal Stevens	1998

## MASON OF THE YEAR AWARDEES

1975	Bro. Raymond E. Durham	1990	W.·. Warren Bakenhus
1981	Bro. David Powell	1991	Bro. Bernie Stanton
1982	Bro. Warren Bakenhus	1992	Bro. James Kalbaugh
1983	Bro. James Kalbaaugh	1993	W.·. Neal Stevens
1984	Bro. Richard Lindsay	1994	Bro. William Kucera
1986	Bro. James Southard	1995	W.·. Clinton H. Johnson, Jr.
1987	Bro. Neal Stevens		
1988	Bro. Harold Billings		
1989	W.·. Richard Ohmer		

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF OTSENINGO MASONIC LODGE NO. 435

On August 19, 1857, Binghamton Lodge No. 177, F. 7 A. M., recommended that there be another Masonic Lodge formed in the Village of Binghamton, New York. In an undated petition stating, "that they were desirous of forming a new Lodge in the Village of Binghamton to be named Otsenigo. The petition was signed by the following men: Lewis S. Abbott, Dr. Pelatiah B. Brooks, Dr. John Chubbuck, The Honorable Daniel S. Dickinson, Dr. W. S. Griswold, Ransom Hooper, John Hungerford, William R. Osborne, Albert Phyfe, Edward Tompkins, John S. Wells, Simon C. Hitchcock, Daniel D. Denton, Franklin A. Durfee, Rev. Edward Andrews, Erasmus Chollar, Nelson J. Hopkins, Robert H. McKune, George Parks, Jacob Robie, Cornelius H. Webster and Chauncey Williams.

These men were to become the Charter Members of Otsenigo Masonic Lodge No. 435.

A Dispensation was issued on September 10, 1857, issued by John L. Lewis, Jr. Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York and James M. Austin, Grand Secretary.

The name given to the new Lodge, Otsenigo, was very appropriate because it means, "Meeting of Two Waters." Binghamton was at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers.

The first applicants for degrees were Julius T. Morgan, S. L. Carpenter, H. C. Preston, Gill S. Orcutt and E. N. Gillespy. Their petitions were received on September 17, 1857. They received their first degree on September 24, 1857.

The warrant was dated June 4, 1858 and was signed by John L. Lewis, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, John W. Simons, Deputy Grand Master, Quimby M. King, Senior Grand Warden and Clinton F. Page, Junior Grand Warden

During the period of dispensation there were 22 Candidates Initiated, 19 Passed and 19 Raised.

At the time of the issuance of the warrant there were a total of 44 members.

The Lodge was installed under the warrant from the Grand Lodge by R.. W.. Augustus Williard, District Deputy Grand Master of the Broome- Chenango District on the 14th day of June 1858.

The following officers were elected and installed in due and Ancient Form:

Cornelius H. Webster	Master
Ransom Hooper	Senior Warden
Jacob Robie	Junior Warden
Lewis S. Abbott	Treasurer
J. P. Morgan	Secretary
Robert B. Beach	Chaplain
Clay Preston	Senior Deacon
Chauncey Williams	Junior Deacon
Nathan B. Ellis	Tiler

Cornelius H. Webster, the first Master of Otseningo Lodge was made a Mason in Canada. It is said that he was Master 20 times in the various Lodges to which he belonged.

**THAT IS A RECORD THAT IS SELDOM EQUALLED.**

Several members of the Lodge, notably the Charter Members were present for this occasion. Many visiting dignitaries were also present. Some notables present were:

S. Stocking, G.H. Ellis. N. B. Ellis, S.E. Weed, E.F. Bloomer, F.W. Overhiser, H. C. Rogers, Philip Tripp, and H.H. Green of Binghamton 177, J. S. Hawley of Aurora Lodge No.22, Vermont, Charles Lee, Philo Lodge No.10, New York

A note of interest: The average annual receipts since the organization of the lodge are \$396.56. Initiations \$990.00, affiliations \$76.00, Subscriptions \$207.50, Dues @ 507.00 for a total of \$1780.50. Expenses \$225.45 to Grand Lodge, \$ 968.25 Individual expenses. Total \$1193.70. Annual Average \$ 265.28.

The cost value of the furniture owned by the Lodge is about \$486.00

Otseningo Lodge has, from its organization, been a model Lodge and very fortunate to have strong leadership from its officers and the strong cooperation of its members.

The listing of the Past Masters of Otseningo Lodge appears at the end of this history., but a note of interest at this point is that of Royal Arch Gunnison, Master in 1899. He was born on the evening that his father received his Royal Arch Degree. His father was so well pleased with the degree and so delighted to find the son on his return home that evening, that he gave him the name” ROYAL ARCH.”

The Lodge met for a time in Matthews Hall, 67 Court Street. In January 1862, it moved to the

Strong Block, 77 Court Street. In 1868, The Lodge moved to Bennett Hall, 153 Washington Street and occupied the same rooms as used by other Masonic Bodies in Binghamton.

Moses Stoppard was elected Treasurer of Otseningo Lodge in 1879, and David Johnson was elected Secretary in 1889. Both were serving in the 1920's. Major L.L. Olmstead, Charles Perkins, Moses Stoppard and Frederick A. Benson were the four oldest members of the Lodge, in that order, in 1924.

Otseningo Lodge appropriately observed its semi-centennial on September 25, 1907.

Reverend Harry S. Longley, then Rector of Christ Church, was the Master and gave the welcoming address. The Grand Secretary at that time, E. M. L. Ehlers, also addressed the Lodge in his inimitable way. The Grand Master, M.W.M. Townsend Scudder, had a word of commendation. The historical address was prepared by Zolton A. Stegmuller and was a gem.

The following prominent members were present at this important event although others may have been present their names have not been recorded:

Master W.M. and Rev. Harry S. Longley, Ransom Hooper ( The first Senior Warden of the Lodge), Junior Warden Jacob C. Robie ( the first Junior Warden of the Lodge), Albert Phyfe was a dry goods merchant, Chauncey Williams had a hat store on Court Street, Ransom Hooper a furniture store on Washington Street, John Hungerford was a dry goods merchant, Jacob C. Robie was a jeweler, F. A. Durkee, Nelson J. Hopkins and Edward Tompkins were lawyers, (Tompkins Street, in the Sixth Ward, bears his name), S. C. Hitchcock owned a paper mill in Port Dickinson, Daniel D. Denton and Lewis S. Abbott were in the grocery business, William R. Osborne was a cashier of the City National Bank , J. Stewart Wells a carpenter, William S. Griswold and C. H. Webster were druggists, and Edward Andrews an Episcopal Clergyman.

The Binghamton Masonic Temple was constructed and finished in 1924. Otseningo Lodge and the other Binghamton Masonic Bodies moved into the new Temple and began holding its meetings there.

Otseningo Lodge No. 435 observed its one hundredth anniversary in 1957 at the then Arlington Hotel. Herbert P. Moat was Master. The Grand Master and several of his staff were present. Membership in the Lodge at that time was approximately eight hundred, consisting of prominent lawyers, doctors, merchants, industrial personnel and politicians.

In 1986, renovations were begun on the Binghamton Masonic Temple to construct, on the fourth floor, apartments for the elderly. While this renovation was being done, the Masonic Bodies met in the Elgin Building. The building was across the street from the Temple. This work was financed by a HUD loan through the City of Binghamton. The work was stopped in 1991 due to a dispute with the City of Binghamton.

In 1993, problems arose with the meeting of Otseningo Lodge in the Elgin Building and the Lodge voted to move to the Ramada Inn, and to hold their meetings in a room at the Inn.

In January 1998, Otsenigo Lodge looked to consolidate with Vestal Masonic Lodge No. 1144. In November 1998, Grand Lodge initiated its review for consolidation. This was finalized and on March 3, 1999, Otsenigo Lodge No. 435 merged with Vestal Lodge No. 1144 to form Vestal-Otsenigo Lodge No. 435.

Otsenigo Masonic Lodge No.435 was noted for performing a full dramatization of the Third Degree, titled “ The Master Builder,” once a year. This presentation brought busloads of Masons from the Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton area of Pennsylvania and the Syracuse/Elmira area of New York. Many other areas came by the carloads.

**PAST MASTERS OF OTSENINGO MASONIC LODGE NO. 435  
1857 THROUGH 1999**

1857	Cornelius H. Webster	1927	Charles W. Yeomans
1858	Cornelius H. Webster	1928	E. Ray McCloskey
1859	H. Clay Preston	1929	E. Roland Whitten
1860	H. Clay Preston	1930	Harry W. Gillette
1861	H. Clay Preston	1931	Percy D. Morton
1862	Charles M. Brown	1932	Leslie H. Potter
1863	Cornelius H. Webster	1933	Gerald G. Harper
1864	Arthur Vosbury	1934	Frank W. O’Connell
1865	Cornelius H. Webster	1935	J. Richard Willard
1866	L. L. Olmstead	1936	J. Elwin Webster
1867	John Anderson	1937	Ernest H. Parson
1868	John Anderson	1938	Harold W. Pettingill
1869	Chauncey Marvin	1939	Harold S. Tewksbury
1869	Silas Washburne	1940	Lawrence E. Berthof
1870	Silas Washburne	1941	G. Nelson Watts
1871	A. L. Tremain	1942	Robert M. Neild
1871	Manton E. Anderson	1943	E. Stanley Pier
1872	Zan L. Tidball	1944	F. Ellis Bond
1873	Zan L. Tidball	1945	Wilber L. Beesmer
1874	James F. Carl	1946	Harold E. Williams
1875	James F. Carl	1947	Creighton E. Wray
1876	E. D. W. Randall	1948	James A. Copper
1877	Horace E. Allen	1949	John W. Brusil
1878	Horace E. Allen	1950	Kenneth W. Benson
1879	Frederick A. Benson	1951	Orson S. Finch, Sr.
1880	Frederick A. Benson	1952	John B. Pierson
1881	Frederick P. Ronk	1953	Harry D. Odell
1882	Frederick P. Ronk	1954	John R. Bartholomew
1883	Taylor L. Arms	1955	Kenneth H. Chapple
1884	W. Wayne Babcock	1956	Harold E. Robinson
1885	W. Wayne Babcock	1957	Herbert P. Moat
1886	Allen C. Stewart	1958	Nicholas H. Nazak



1887	Allen C. Stewart	1959	John M. Rennell *
1888	Harry L. Fowler	1960	Thomas Shimrock
1889	Harry L. Fowler	1961	Roger E. Stanton **
1890	Harry L. Fowler	1962	Harry Dwyer
1891	Henry F. Turner	1963	Emerich J. Bares, Jr.
1892	Henry F. Turner	1964	Ray W. Gardner
1893	John W. Cutler	1965	Richard A. Friend
1894	John W. Cutler	1966	Arthur M. Coffman
1895	Hugh A. Cameron	1967	Lloyd G. Harrison
1896	Robert J. Parsons	1968	George E. Ravert
1897	Orastus D. Delavan	1969	Harold Walrath
1898	Fred L. White	1970	Thomas Williams
1899	Royal A. Gunnison	1971	Eugene L. Alise
1900	Benjamin F. Weldon	1972	Charles F. Kipper
1901	Richard R. Daly	1973	James R. Cline
1902	Harry C. Walker	1974	James R. Cline
1903	Frederick H. Foote	1975	Clifford F. Athorn **
1904	Charles H. Hustis	1976	John L. O'Brien, Sr.
1905	H. Carl Hardie	1977	Vincent C. Howell
1906	Frederick W. Welch	1978	John L. O'Brien, Jr.
1907	Harry S. Longley	1979	James E. O'Brien
1908	Frank C. Goodnough	1980	John Bares
1909	Robert D. Douglas	1981	Jerry D. O'Brien
1910	Franklin M. Cossett	1982	Kenneth L. Nixon
1911	Gilbert E. Rodgers	1983	Carl P. Riley
1912	Arthur D. Legg	1984	Kenneth L. Nixon
1913	John Marcy, Jr.	1985	Harold H. Skinner
1914	LeRoy E. Barnes	1986	Ronald J. Kratky **
1915	Foster Disinger	1987	Harry Beeby **
1916	Ralph D. Adams	1988	John A. Clark
1917	Eldon R. Carver	1989	John A. Clark
1918	Robert B. Davis	1990	John A. Blythe
1919	J. Stephen Cowles	1991	John A. Clark
1920	Leon E. Mason	1992-99	Lloyd G. Harrison*
1921	Mark H. Georgia		
1922	Dana B. Hinman		
1923	Milton H. Steele		
1924	Charles H. Conrad		
1925	Karl T. Wright		
1926	L. Raymond Smith		

\*\* DIMITTED

### MASON OF THE YEAR AWARDEES

1980	W.. Creighton E. Wray	1981	W.. Joseph Libutti
1982	W.. Clifton F. Athorn	1983	W.. Willis L. Beesemer
1984	Bro. John A. Clark	1985	W.. Roy Gardner
1986	W.. George Ravert	1987	W.. Richard A. Friend
1988	W.. Vincent C. Powell	1989	None
1990	None	1991	Bro. Daniel A. McDaniels
1992	W.. Roger E. Stanton	1993	None
1993	None	1994	None
1995	None	1996	None
1997	None	1998	None
1999	MERGED WITH 1144		

### GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS FOR OTSENINGO LODGE NO. 435

#### DISRTICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

R.. W.. Cornelius H. Webster	1860-61
R.. W.. Charles M. Brown	1876-78
R.. W.. Frederick A. Benson	1881-84
R.. W.. Horace E. Allen	1887-92
R.. W.. Elmira A. Cobb	1895-96
R.. W.. Henry L. Fowler	1897-98
R.. W.. Harry C. Walker	1903-05
R.. W.. John Marcy, Jr.	1914-16
R..W.. Eugene Ray McCloskey	1929-30
R.. W.. Leslie H. Potter	1940-41
R.. W.. J. Elwin Webster	1945-46
R.. W.. John M. Rennell	1961-62
R.. W.. John W. Brusil	1972-73
R.. W.. Kenneth Nixon	1985-86

#### GRAND LODGE STAFF OFFICER

R.. W.. Robert D. Douglas	Grand Sword Bearer	1923-1924
R..W.. Karl T. Wright	Grand Director of Ceremonies	1924-1925
R.. W.. Percy D. Morton	Grand Steward	1930-1931
R... W.. Harry D. Odell	Grand Director of Ceremonies	1975-1976

R. . W. . Emmerick J. Bares, Jr. Grand Director of Ceremonies 1981-1982

### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER**

W. . H. S. Longley  
W. . Lloyd Harrison

### **HISTORY OF VESTAL-OTSENINGO MASONIC LODGE NO. 435**

The finalization of the merger of Vestal Lodge No.1144 and Otseningo Lodge No.435 was affected in March 1999. The new Lodge became chartered as Vestal-Otseningo Lodge No.435. The merger has proven to be most beneficial to both groups and we look forward to many years of continued success.

In 1999 a flag pole and flag was donated by Very Worshipful Edward R. Wells and today graces the front lawn of our Masonic Building, richly enhancing the appearance of the Vestal Masonic Temple-Home to Vestal – Otseningo Lodge No. 435.

On Monday Evening, January 28, 2002, a group of R. . W. . 's from Vestal-Otseningo No. 435, Johnson City Unity No. 970, Eastern Light Lodge No. 126, St. Mark's-Philetus Lodge No. 1001 and Maine Lodge No. 399 had the opportunity to be the first group to meet with Prince Hall Lodge in Binghamton, New York. The Lodge's name is Chenango Lodge No. 39. The following attended: R. . W. . Holst and Nixon (435), R. . W. . Calisi, Smith and Williamson (970), R. . W. . Whitbeck and Joslyn (126), R. . W. . Lloyd Lindloff (399) and R. . W. . Mackey (1001). We were well received and had a very worthwhile experience.

Brother Donald H. Elliott was the first Brother in the Broome-Chenango District to be awarded the Grand Masters Certificate for Community Service. Brother Elliott was recognized for his exceptional work with the Child ID Program in the District. He took the reins of this service from Brothet Gordon Miller and has developed it into a Statewide Recognized Program. In 2008 Brother Elliott was appointed by the Grand Master, as the Statewide Chairman of the Child ID Program.

On March 29, 2003 The Grand Master's Class was held at the Kalurah Shrine Center in Endicott, New York. The purpose of the Class was to aid in building membership in our Lodges. 74 Candidates were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Our Lodge had the following Brothers Raised:

Stephen Castine, Lawrence N. Curtiss (FC), Gordon F. Gardner, Garry G. Gnall (EA1001), Nelson Jones and Brock M. Leonard.

V. . W. . Edward R. Wells was made an Honorary Member of Vestal-Otseningo Lodge No. 435.

## **PAST MASTERS OF VESTAL-OTSENINGO LODGE NO. 435 AFTER MERGER**

1998-00	Clinton H. Johnston, Jr.*	2000-01	Kenneth Nixon
2001-02	Thomas Tefft*	2003-03	Merle Rigby*
2003-04	Emerich J. Bares, Jr.	2004-05	Clinton H. Johnston, Jr.*
2005-06	Clinton H. Johnston, Jr.*	2006-07	Lawrence N. Curtiss**
2007-08	Gordon F. Gardner, Sr.	2008-09	Gordon F. Gardner, Sr.
2009-10	Melvin Junker	2010-11	Emmerich J. Bares, Jr.
2011-12	Robert Schoonmaker		

\* Deceased \*\* Dimitted

### **GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS AFTER MERGER**

#### **DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**

R..W.. Clinton H. Johnston, Jr. 2002-2004

#### **GRAND LODGE STAFF OFFICER**

R..W.. Merle L. Rigby 2004-06

### **DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD RECEIPIENTS AFTER MERGER**

1999	W .. Harold Billings
2000	W.. Warren Bakenhus
2001	W. Richard Friend
2003	W.. Richard J Ohmer

### **MASON OF THE YEARS AWARDEES AFTER MERGER**

1999	W.. Thomas Tefft	2000	W.. Merle L. Rigby
2001	W.. Harold Billings	2002	Bro. Donald Elliott
2003	R.. W.. Kenneth Nixon	2004	W.. Vincent Howell
2005	Bro. Lawrence N. Curtiss	2006	Bro. Gordon F. Gardner, Sr.
2007	Bro. Melvin Junker	2008	Bro. Patrick J. Hunter
2009	NONE	2010	Bro. Robert Schoonmaker
2011	Bro. Alan Disbro		

In September 2006 Vestal –Otsenigo Masonic Lodge held its In-Lodge Rededication Ceremony

honoring the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grand lodge. This ceremony was to have the Brothers of the Lodge rededicate themselves to Masonry by participating in the recapturing the feeling of taking the Obligations of the Three Degrees of Masonry as well as the Third Degree Charge. The members of the Lodge participating in the In-Lodge Rededication Program were: Lawrence Curtiss, Alan Disbro, Perry Baumlin, Harold Billings, Gordon Gardner, Clinton Johnston, Jr., David Main, Richard Ohmer, Merle Rigby, Edward R. Wells.

Visitors that were in attendance: William Hush, Paul Peters, Walter Jones and Michael Warren.

### **“CASTLE ON THE HILL” REDEDICATION 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

The 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 was an important event that was presented by attended by several members of the Masonic Bodies of the Broome-Chenango District—THAT OF REDEDICATING THE “CASTLE ON THE HILL” ( THE OLD NEW YORK STATE INEBRIATE ASYLUM IN BINGHAMTON)

The corner-stone of the original building was laid by Grand Master M/.W/ John L. Lewis, Jr., the Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

The rededication of the “Castle” was to be presented by Grand Master M/W/ Edward G. Gilbert, but due to other pressing duties, he was unable to attend. The duties were delegated to R/W/ Thomas M. McMullin, the Junior Grand Warden in the State of New York. The following Right Worshipful’s participated in the rededication: R/W/ Thomas M. McMullin portrayed the Grand Master’s part. R/W/ Gerald Putman, District Deputy Grand Master of the Broome-Chenango District, R/W/ e. Donald Lounsberry, Staff Officer of the State of New York, R/W/ John Henry Hill, Grand Chaplain gave the invocation, R/W/ Jose’ Valencia, gave the Benediction , and Charles J. Mackey, Secretary of the District’s Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers was the Junior Warden.

Members of this Lodge attending the ceremony were: Emmerich J. Bares,Jr., Lawrence N. Curtiss and Richard J. Ohmer.

On Sunday, September 28, 2008, R..W.. Thomas M. McMullin, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge in the State of New York was presented his Junior Grand Warden’s Apron. The apron was presented by the Most Worshipful Edward G. Gilbert, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. R..W.. McMullin spoke on his feelings concerning being a Mason from the time he was raised until this evening. He commended the Lodges within the District as well as the Brothers within the District.

The Brothers in the Broome-Chenango District feel that Tim will put the District in the spotlight.

Members of the Present and Past Grand Lodges were there, as well a fine representation of the Past Grand Lodge Officers of the Broome-Chenango District. There was a strong representation from the Lodges in the District along with their Ladies.

There were 146 in attendance for this presentation.

Consolidated with St. Mark's-Philetus 1001 on October 7, 2011  
New Lodge's Name St. Mark's-Vestal No. 435