

mas Dobson of Philadelphia; an old Tiler's sword that belonged to a Revolutionary War patriot; an old Masonic Chart dated 1819; an old lantern of tin and wood with mystical openings which gives speculations as to its use; and the original minutes book from 1815 to 1826, inclusive. The history of Jerusalem Temple Lodge as gleaned from written records and memory of man reflects that the privileges and practices of Masonry manifested the interest and loyalty of men in the community who were energetic, influential, and dedicated.

Jerusalem Temple Lodge has remained an important part of community life in the Cornwall area for well over a century and a quarter. The tradition, stature, and prestige of Jerusalem Temple Lodge is a matter of record; the devotion to the high ideals and principles of Freemasonry, and the intrinsic treasures thereof, are a source of pride for the members who have worked so hard to serve the community and their Fraternity. The Lodge is well known for its charitable works and support of community events and projects. As history relates of Cornwall, a Dutch ship with an English-born master, Henry Hudson, anchored in the bay north of the Gate of the Highlands (Storm King Mountain) and uttered, "This is a very pleasant place to build a town on". The brothers of Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 721, F.&A.M. are proud to call Cornwall home.



So Who Are We?

Freemasonry is the oldest fraternity in the world. No one knows just how old it is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Many of the Founding Fathers, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, Joseph Warren, and John Hancock were Masons. Freemasonry played an important part in the Revolutionary War and an even more important part in the Constitutional Convention and the debates surrounding the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Many of those debates were held in Masonic lodges. Since that time, Freemasons and Freemasonry have been an important part of American history.

Since 1875, Jerusalem Temple Lodge has been an integral and important part of the Cornwall area too! It continues to serve the community locally through its charitable contributions, scholarships, and Child ID programs as well as joining with Masons from all over New York State in supporting youth programs, senior care facilities, and the world famous Masonic Medical Research Laboratory which continues to conduct cutting-edge research in the fields of cardiology and molecular biology.



If you would like more information about Jerusalem Temple Lodge or Freemasonry, please visit our website at www.JTL721.org or contact the Lodge Membership Chairman, Bro. Joe Leo, at (845) 401-8387 or by email at SrWarden@JTL721.org.

JERUSALEM TEMPLE LODGE AND THE CORNWALL COMMUNITY

A CONCISE HISTORY



Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 721
Free & Accepted Masons
Cornwall, N.Y.
Wor. Wayne Flavin, Master

A History of Jerusalem Temple Lodge

Masonry in the Town of Cornwall is known to have been present during the Revolutionary War era. There is a record of at least one traveling Masonic Lodge amongst the soldiers in the vicinity of West Point, which was then located in the Town of Cornwall. In the year 1815, a number of Masonic residents in the Town of Cornwall assembled in the Village of Canterbury, now Cornwall, and took the preliminary steps for organizing a Lodge.

Upon petition to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, a warrant was issued under the date of September 9, 1815 authorizing the charter for a Lodge in Cornwall under the name of Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 247 and appointing Wyatt Carr as Master. The warrant directed Worshipful Master James Reynolds of Hiram Lodge in Newburgh to constitute the new Lodge; this was done agreeable to the customs thereof on October 5, 1815. The first regular meeting of the Lodge was convened on October 7, 1815. On December 23, 1815, the first election of officers took place; Wyatt Carr as Master and a complete staff of officers in titles of today were elected and installed. The Honorable James Madison was President of the United States of America and the Most Worshipful DeWitt Clinton was Grand Master of our Grand Lodge.

The original Jerusalem Temple Lodge would exist for only eleven years. Brother Oliver Farrington was Master on April 22, 1826 at which time the records stop. In the summer of that year, communications ceased

and the Lodge became dormant for a period of 45 years until revived during the winter of 1871. During its early existence of eleven years, there were ninety-two candidates initiated. The meetings were held in the attic room of the Union Hotel and over Knapp & Breeds Feed Store in Cornwall. The Union Hotel went on to become Hey's store and is now a dry-cleaner and apartment building on Main Street. Knapp & Breeds Feed Store, which later became Edgar's Clothing, was also on Main Street but is no longer there.

When the Lodge was suspended and the warrant and Charter were forfeited on June 8, 1832, the paraphernalia was taken in charge by Brother Lane, proprietor of the Union Hotel and upon his death in 1863, they were preserved by Brother Dyer Brewster. Lodge historians have been told that Brother Brewster later buried the papers and implements of the original Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 247 somewhere in Cornwall but nobody has ever found them.

The old Lodge was revived using the same name but had a new number; thus Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 721, F.&A.M. held its first regular communication on Thursday evening, February 29, 1872 under dispensation in Canterbury with Charles McLean as Master. The Lodge worked under dispensation until June 14, 1872 at which time the Charter was granted to them. On July 27, 1872, the officers were installed by Most Worshipful Ellwood E. Thorn, Grand Master of the State, who was assisted by representatives from several other Lodges. The dedicatory rites were celebrated in the Methodist Church on Main Street in Cornwall in ample form with music furnished by the West Point

Band and was followed by a very festive and social affair. The Honorable Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States of America at that time.

Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 721 worked in Canterbury, now Cornwall, until March 29, 1883 then moved to Willisville, now Cornwall-on-Hudson, on November 1, 1883 and met on the top floor of the Week's Building on Main Street, which later became Santoro's store, and has since been demolished. Meetings continued at this location until June 12, 1924 when the Lodge purchased and moved to the Cornwall Press building at Main Street and Willow Avenue in Cornwall. This building was eventually sold and property was purchased behind Bernicker's Garage with the intention of building a new Lodge building. During this period, the Lodge met at the Cantonment on Route 300 at Kerem Lodge and the Pythian Hall off Main Street in Cornwall.

The Lodge finally sold its land and purchased the historic Mountainville Grange Hall on Rte 32 on Cornwall. While the building was renovated to improve its kitchen and meeting spaces, the character of the building was carefully maintained and in 1996 the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The building is currently the home of Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 721 and Hawthorne-Ramapo-Temple Star Chapter No. 286, Order of the Eastern Star, and is owned by the Cornwall Masonic Association.

In addition to the Lodge records, a few treasured relics of Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 247 are still in our possession; namely, an old Bible of large size printed in 1799 by Tho-