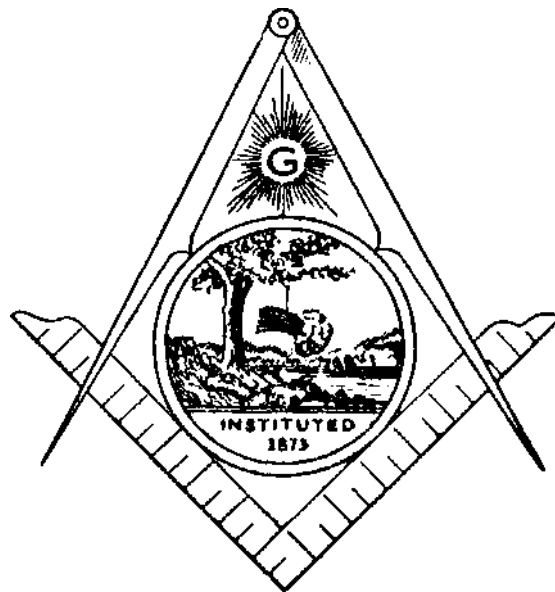


NEPPERHAN LODGE NO. 736  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS



1873 - 1978

YONKERS, NEW YORK

Preface:

In tracing the history of Nepperhan Lodge No. 736, we should first look back and see what the City of Yonkers, the State, the Country and, indeed, the world were like in those days so long ago. The year was 1873. What was going on in 1873? What was still going to happen? What were people doing?

Well, as an example, it was only eight years after the end of the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States. It was three years before the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell. It was six years earlier than Thomas Edison's invention of the electric light bulb. Victoria was Queen of England. Automobiles were still a thing of the future, and conveyance was by horse and wagon or, of course, by foot. What a thrilling sight it must have been to see the Albany Stage Coach, drawn by a team of six horses, roar up to the Getty House in the Square and discharge its passengers for rest and refreshment.

The Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower were things unknown. Wars with the Indian tribes were still occurring in the Western States, and it was still three years before Custer's last stand. The explorer, Stanley, had still not uttered his famous words, "Doctor Livingston, I presume?" The Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur, who would many years later invent the airplane, were mere boys.

Those good old days of 1873!! There was no television, no movies, no radio; even phonographs (record players to us) had not yet been invented. Fountain pens or ballpoint pens were a thing of the future, and our Charter Members had to sign the By-Laws by taking a scratchy old pen and dipping it into a bottle of ink. The year 1873 marked the first issue of 1\$ post cards, no doubt at the instigation of our first Secretary. It was the year Enrico Caruso, the famous singer, was born; it was two years before the first Kentucky Derby.

And, in Yonkers itself in 1873, there was no Fire Department, but merely three Volunteer Companies. Volunteers were alerted to fires by the ringing of Church bells. There was no municipal water supply, and water was obtained from wells or cisterns. There was no public school system as such, but there were two "free" grade schools, #2 and #6. Other Masonic Lodges in existence in the area were Rising Star in Yonkers, Diamond in Dobbs Ferry, Solomon's in Tarrytown, Westchester in Ossining (then known as the town of Sing-Sing), Courtlandt in Peekskill, and Phillipstown in Cold Spring.

## NEPPERHAN LODGE NO. 736

### 1873 — THE FIRST YEAR

The first meeting of Nepperhan Lodge (U.D.) was held on February 20, 1873 in the Lodge Rooms of Rising Star Lodge #450, located on the second floor of the Yonkers Savings Bank Building on South Broadway, Yonkers, near Getty Square. This building still exists and, at the time of this writing, is still occupied by the same Yonkers Savings Bank. Six members were present at that first meeting, including Wor. Bro. Eli L. Seger, a Past Master of Rising Star Lodge (1869) who was appointed by the Grand Master to serve as Master of Nepperhan Lodge while the Lodge was under dispensation. The other five original members were William Gibson, Lyman Cobb, W. H. Doty, G. W. White, and R. E. Prime. There were also two visiting Brothers from Rising Star Lodge. At that first meeting, the Worshipful Master presented and read the Dispensation granted by Grand Lodge over the signature of the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Elwood Thorne. The Dispensation noted that Rising Star Lodge #450, the only Masonic Lodge in Yonkers at that time, had agreed to, and recommended that permission be granted for the formation of a new lodge to be known as NEPPERHAN LODGE. Following the reading of the Dispensation, the By-Laws Committee presented a proposed set of By-Laws, which were read, discussed and adopted, pending approval of Grand Lodge. Lyman Cobb was elected Treasurer, and R. E. Prime was elected Secretary. Five of the Brothers present donated \$15 each towards purchase of Lodge supplies. (It must be remembered that \$15 probably the equivalent of \$100 today). The first meeting was then adjourned "in peace and harmony".

The second meeting was held five days later on February 25, 1873, in the same lodge rooms. Five members were present plus seven visiting Brothers from other Lodges, including representatives of Rising Star Lodge, Solomon's Lodge, and Beacon Lodge. Three applications for initiation and advancement were received and referred to investigating committees. The Secretary was authorized to have 100 copies of the By-Laws printed for the sum of \$15. The new By-Laws, approved by Grand Lodge, were spread upon the minutes of that Second Communication. Of particular note in those original By-Laws were the following:

1. The regular communications of the Lodge were to be held on the-second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

The candidate's initiation fee to be \$60.

The annual dues were to be \$6.00.

The By-Laws were signed by all members, and by the District Deputy, whose name was O. Baker. At that time, Nepperhan Lodge was in what was known as the Sixth District (Masonic) of New York State. Brother White was given a voucher in the amount of \$80, representing the cost of obtaining the Dispensation. The meeting closed (as usual) in peace and harmony.

At the third meeting, seven members and twelve visiting Brothers were present. Two more applications for initiation were received, as well as four requests for affiliation from members of other Lodges.

The first degree work performed by Nepperhan Lodge occurred at the fourth meeting on March 18, 1873, when A. J. Prime received his First Degree.

The Grand Lecturer visited Nepperhan Lodge at the eighth Communication, and observed the conferral of the Second Degree, for which services he received \$35. I would assume that the Grand Lecturer at that time was unsalaried, and this was probably the reason for charging fees to the Lodges. The Lodge also issued a voucher for \$5 to the District Deputy, probably for taking the Grand Lecturer to dinner.

At the ninth Communication, May 13th, the Secretary issued a quarterly report which indicated receipts to date of \$370 and disbursements of \$223.25. He noted, however, that "no dues have been received as yet from any member of the Lodge".

At the annual meeting of Grand Lodge in June 1873, Nepperhan Lodge was officially removed from the "Dispensation" category, and the number 736 was officially assigned to the Lodge.

At its tenth Communication, on July 8, 1873, Nepperhan Lodge No. 736 was officially constituted.

It was a gala occasion, with thirteen members of Nepperhan present, together with nineteen members of Rising Star Lodge, and sixteen other visiting Brothers, Eighteen representatives of Grand Lodge were present and assumed all of the officers' chairs during the Constitution ceremonies. Officers for Nepperhan Lodge were officially installed as follows:

MASTER	WOR. ELI L. SEGER
SR. WARDEN	WILLIAM A. GIBSON
JR. WARDEN	MATTHEW H. ELLIS
TREASURER	WOR. LYMAN COBB, JR.
SECRETARY	RALPH E. PRIME
SR. DEACON	GEORGE WHITE
JR. DEACON	ALEX HOUSTON
SR. M. of C	WILLIAM H. DOTY
JR. M. of C	A. J. PRIME
TILER	ALEX MOORHOUSE (Rising Star Lodge)

About that time, an agreement was signed with Rising Star Lodge whereby Nepperhan would pay them \$200 per year for the use of the Lodge Room plus 2/7 of the gas bill. (No electricity, of course, at that time).

At a meeting a few months later, it was noted that a bill had been received from Rising Star Lodge for \$6.06, supposedly representing 2/7 of the gas bill for that quarter. This seemed high and, after a protest, the Lodge was notified that the correct amount should be only \$2.02, and this amount

was ordered paid by the Finance Committee.

At the eighteenth Communication, in November 1873, a letter was received from Grand Lodge with relation to the Spanish atrocities upon Masons and their families in the Island of Cuba. It is interesting to note that the Spanish-American War did not break out until 1895, thereby indicating that there were more than twenty years of strife and disagreement before the actual war started with the sinking of the battleship Maine.

The first Third Degree performed by Nepperhan Lodge was at the eighteenth Communication at which time two Fellowcrafts were raised to the Sublime Degree. Prior to that, of course, there had been several first or second degree plus many affiliations from other Lodges.

At the first annual meeting in December 1873, it was noted that the membership had risen from six to eighteen. No deaths or dimits were registered during that first ten months. It was also noted that \$5 was paid out for the design and preparation of the Lodge seal, the same seal which graced the front of our Lodge notices for so many years up to the present. After the reading of the annual reports, the election of officers for the ensuing year was held. Brother W. H. Doty acted as presiding officer during the election, and one of the tellers was Moses D. Getty, who later was Mayor of Yonkers, as well as Master of the Lodge and a Grand Lodge officer. The same slate of officers was elected to serve another term. The installation was held at a special Communication on December 15, 1873. At that time, the By-Laws were amended, changing the meeting dates from the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month to the first and third Tuesdays.

#### **1874 — THE SECOND YEAR**

Degree work occupied most of the Communications in 1874. Of interest was the absence of Wor. Master E. L. Seger at the 34th Communication on September 1st, the first meeting he had missed since the Lodge organization in February, 1873. As commented by Bro. Ralph E. Prime, Secretary, Wor. Bro. Seger "must have been sorely sick to miss a meeting". The above-mentioned Ralph E. Prime, incidentally, later served as Master of the Lodge for a total of 12 terms (not all consecutive), by far the greatest number of terms in the history of Nepperhan Lodge. At the annual meeting in December, 1874, the Secretary's report indicated that membership had gone from 18 to 21, plus three Entered Apprentices. The reports were followed by election of officers, at which time W. A. Gibson, who was later to become Mayor of Yonkers, was elected as Master for 1875. The first Master, Wor. Eli Seger probably would have been re-elected but he had announced that he was moving away from the City of Yonkers and would be unable to continue in office. His plans must have changed at a later date, however, because his name crops up frequently in later years as substituting in one of the Chairs, or as a member of a committee. The elected and appointed officers were installed the same night.

## 1875 — THE THIRD YEAR

At the first meeting in 1875, the Lodge became formally incorporated under the laws of New York State. That meeting supposedly marked the last attendance of Wor. Bro. Seger (see note in last paragraph), and a lengthy resolution was read and adopted, part of which was worded as follows: **"RESOLVED, THAT WHEN OUR BRETHREN IN THE FAR-OFF FUTURE, WHO WILL NOT HAVE KNOWN OUR BROTHER, SHALL SEE HIS NAME IN THE AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH THEY WORK, THIS RECORD OF OUR ESTEEM AND RESPECT WILL ASSURE THEM THAT HE WAS WORTHY TO HAVE HIS NAME PERPETUATED IN THE MEMORY OF THE LODGE"**. At the annual meeting in December, 1875, the Secretary's report indicated that membership now included 29 Brothers. Finances of the Lodge improved slightly, the on-hand balance going from \$23.18 at the beginning of the year to \$83.75 at year-end. The Trustees report indicated that they had negotiated a new lease with Rising Star Lodge, reducing the rent from \$200 per year to \$100. After reading of the reports, the election was held. The ballot indicated that Wor. W. A. Gibson, the Master, was re-elected. He, however, declined to accept another term, so a new vote was ordered, and Ralph E. Prime was elected for the first of his 12 terms as Master. W. W. Wilson was elected Senior Warden, and served as such through the following six years. Brother Moses D. Getty, whose name is prominent in the minutes for many years thereafter, was elected Junior Warden. Apparently the job of Secretary was not very popular, because the present Secretary, A. J. Prime was re-elected but declined to accept. Then, in successive ballots, C. W. Torrey was elected and declined, a Brother Holden was elected and declined, and two further ballots were declared null and void because no Brother received a majority of the votes cast. Finally, on the sixth ballot, Charles Torrey was again elected, and this time he accepted. Following the election, all elected and appointed officers were installed. It might be added here, with a smile, that Brother Torrey's election was an unfortunate occurrence for the Editor of this History, because Bro. Torrey had atrocious handwriting, and the minutes, during his stay in office, were barely decipherable.

## 1876 — THE FOURTH YEAR

Masonic charity was frequently in evidence during those years. Requests for assistance to Brothers in need were received by the Lodge from other lodges far away, including Canada, Michigan, Cuba, etc. A rather amusing example of this charity was noted in the minutes of April 18, 1876, at which time the Master, Wor. R. E. Prime reported that he had been approached by a Brother from Beacon Lodge, seeking assistance. The Master gave him \$2.00 and, when reported at the meeting, was reimbursed. Even more interesting was an occasion that same year when the Secretary received a communication from Oasis Lodge, Prattsville, N. Y., requesting financial help for one of its Brothers. The hat was passed in Lodge and \$2.00 was raised and sent to Oasis Lodge for its needy Brother. Up until this time, the Lodge had held meetings all summer each

year, but in 1876 it was moved and carried that no Communications be held during July and August. At the annual meeting in 1876, it was reported that cash on hand had risen from \$83.71 to \$133.91 at the end of the year. The Secretary reported a membership of 29, which is rather confusing, since it also had been 29 at the end of the previous year and there had been numerous degrees during the year. Up to this time, no deaths had occurred, so it must be assumed that some Brothers dimitted, although the minutes have no such notation. As an interesting sidelight, the refreshments for the evening cost \$6.00 which, considering the value of a dollar in those days, must have been quite a spread. As a matter of fact, there was no allowance at all for it in the budget. Refreshments were not usually served. The Tiler of the Lodge up until this time was Bro. Alex. Moorehouse of Rising Star Lodge. Brother Moorehouse died shortly after the annual meeting in December, and an emergent Communication (the 82nd Communication) was called from which the Lodge, as a group, walked across the street to St. Johns Church, attended the Church Services, and then withdrew to the Chapel adjoining the Church, where the Masonic Funeral Service was conducted in the presence of family and friends. The membership then returned across the street to the Lodge Rooms and closed in due and ancient form. This was the first funeral conducted by Nepperhan Lodge.

#### **1877 — THE FIFTH YEAR**

An interesting point was revealed at this point in my study of the minutes, apparently never before discovered. The second meeting in January, 1877, was not, for some reason, assigned a Communication number. The first meeting of January, 1877, was the 83rd Communication, the second meeting had no number, and the first meeting in February was made the 84th Communication. Consequently, in these modern times, the number assigned to our present Communication is one short of what it should be.

The year of 1877 was not a year of much activity within the Lodge. There was no degree work at all during the year, and most meetings apparently consisted of ritual study and, at every meeting a reading from a section of the Grand Lodge Constitution by the Worshipful Master. In fact, it might be timely at this point to state that there was never a meeting, during Wor. Bro. Prime's tenure as Master, at which he did not read a section from the Constitution, a section of our By-Laws, and a passage from the Bible. Certainly the Nepperhan Brothers of that day and age must have been well acquainted with Masonic Law. The annual meeting in December, 1877 revealed that cash on hand had dwindled to \$107.89. Membership remained at 29 but, sad to relate, 28 of these Brothers were in arrears in their dues. The report of the Trustees, however, indicated that all lodges were in similar trouble — these were apparently hard times throughout the country and the world.

## **1878 — THE SIXTH YEAR**

The 100th Communication of Nepperhan Lodge was held on February 5, 1878, more than 100 years ago from this writing. At that meeting, the By-Laws were amended to change the initiation fee from \$60 to \$50, in the hope that this might draw new candidates. It had some results, in that one application for membership was received at the next meeting, and an additional one at the following meeting. One of these was Albert C. Benedict, who later became a prominent doctor in Yonkers. Even at that time, he must have been well known, because at his Third Degree in May, 1878, more than fifty members and visiting brethren overflowed the Lodge Room, the largest attendance to that date in Nepperhan's history. The bill for refreshments came to \$6.79.

During these financially hard times, so many requests for relief were being received by all Masonic Lodges, that Nepperhan Lodge formed a joint relief committee with Rising Star Lodge, said committee consisting of the Master and the Wardens of each Lodge. In those days, it was customary for Lodges from great distances to make widespread requests for relief for its members. The Lodge minutes, at various times, show relief requests from Chicago, from Canada, from the West Indies, etc. Many requests were filled, even though our members may never have heard of the Lodge making the request, and never heard of it again.

During those years, reference is made many times to a so-called "Black Book". Apparently, whenever a Lodge, for whatever the reason, expelled a member, his name was sent to all of the Lodges in the State and entered in what was known as the "Black Book". Undoubtedly, this was where the expression "black-listed" came from. Also, in 1878, there was apparently a Yellow Fever epidemic. A letter from the Grand Master requested the Lodges to hasten to the relief of any Masons or their families so afflicted. By motion, Nepperhan Lodge instructed the Secretary to send \$50 to the Grand Master for this cause, the money to be replaced in the Lodge coffers by individual donations.

During the year, financial problems were still evident, and the rent of Nepperhan Lodge was reduced from \$100 to \$90 per annum. Membership of the Lodge at the time of the annual meeting was 29. Twenty-one Brothers were in arrears in dues for a total of \$188. Bank balance at the end of 1878 was \$131.93. As a point of interest, the Master's annual report mentioned that Rising Star Lodge currently had a membership of 153.

## **1879 — THE SEVENTH YEAR**

At the first meeting of 1879, the Trustees of the Lodge were instructed to request from Rising Star Lodge a return of two months rent because of the extremely poor conditions of the Lodge Rooms. Also, the By-Laws were amended to further reduce the initiation fee to \$30. Some degree work was accomplished in 1879, and at the annual meeting at the end of the year, an increase of two members was noted. Dues were still a problem, with 24 Brothers in arrears. Dues of the

Secretary were remitted to him in lieu of a salary.

### **1880 — THE EIGHTH YEAR**

The first instance of a blackball in Nepperhan Lodge occurred in February, 1880, when a proposed candidate was rejected. On April 6, 1880, the Grand Lecturer visited Nepperhan Lodge (there were no A. G. L.'s at the time), and exemplified the Third Degree with the assistance of officers from all Lodges in the District. By the end of 1880, membership had risen to 34, of whom 19 were in arrears. Bank balance at the end of the year had risen to \$272.06.

### **1881 — THE NINTH YEAR**

The minutes of the meeting of September 20, 1881, recorded the assassination of U. S. President James Garfield, a brother Mason. The work of the evening was suspended (a Third Degree), and a resolution was drawn up and adopted, expressing the grief of the Lodge at his tragic death. At the annual meeting in December, 1881, Wor. Ralph E. Prime declined to serve another year as Master (after seven years), and W. W. Wilson was elected Master for his first term. At this point, it is interesting to note that at some time during the year 1881, Wor. Ralph E. Prime became Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime. At no time in the minutes of that year is any mention made as to the change in his title, or of any receptions in his honor. At one point in the following year, however, the minutes reveal that he had been appointed District Deputy of our District

### **1882 — THE TENTH YEAR**

In January, 1882, a new organ was installed in the Lodge Room, Nepperhan's share of which was \$25. The Lodge was experiencing severe attendance problems. The Trustees report noted that average attendance per meeting was 13 in 1880, and only nine in 1881. In fact these figures included visiting brethren also. Dues in arrears at the end of 1881 amounted to \$326, and the Trustees issued a plea to members to pay up arrears. Apparently, in those years, no action was taken against delinquent Brothers. In April, 1882, an organist was hired for the first time, with a salary of \$2.50 per meeting plus remittance of his Lodge dues. It was at the same meeting that Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime was feted for his long service as Master, and the resolution covering this also noted his appointment as District Deputy Grand Master. Presumably this explains why he was unable to serve another term as Master.

The 179th Communication of Nepperhan Lodge (jointly with Rising Star Lodge) was indeed a gala one. The Grand Master, together with his entire Grand line of officers, arrived for his official visit to the District. In addition to the host Lodges, delegations were present from Diamond Lodge, Courtlandt Lodge, Solomon's Lodge, Phillipstown Lodge, as well as representatives from Lodges in Rhinebeck, Brewster, Mt. Kisco, White Plains, Tuckahoe, New York City, New Jersey, and

Connecticut. This seems rather amazing when we remember there were no automobiles at the time. Total attendance was 128 (every name listed in the minutes), which must have really jammed that small Lodge Room. Expenses of the evening (Nepperhan's share only) came to \$40.65.

The first death of a member of Nepperhan Lodge occurred in September, 1882, with the demise of our Junior Deacon, Bro. George Carlough. The Lodge opened in emergent session in the Lodge Rooms, then assembled on the North side of the Lodge in funeral procession and proceeded to St. Johns Cemetery for the graveside ceremony, following the hearse through the streets. The Lodge Room was draped in mourning for 60 days thereafter, and the page of the minute book immediately following those minutes was left blank. He was 30 years of age. At the annual meeting on December 5, 1882, Wor. W. W. Wilson was elected for his second and last term as Worshipful Master.

### **1883 — THE ELEVENTH YEAR**

At the first meeting in 1883, the newly elected and appointed officers were installed. At that same meeting, a bill was presented in the amount of \$100 to cover the funeral expenses of Brother Carlough. No further comment was made, so we can only assume that the Lodge was covering the entire expense of the funeral. Attendance at the Lodge was still a problem — the minutes of the Communication of March 20, 1883, indicate that Rt. Wor. R. E. Prime acted as Senior Deacon, Secretary, and Chaplain for the evening. As an example of the sentimental and flowery approach typical of those times, we quote from the resolution adopted by the Lodge upon the death of the wife of the Junior Warden, and spread upon the minutes as follows:

***"RESOLVED, THAT THE HEARTFELT SYMPATHY OF THIS LODGE BE TENDERED TO BROTHER GEORGE WHITE IN HIS LATE AFFLICTION. OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO HIM. THE HEAVY HAND OF THE LIVING FATHER IS LAID UPON HIM, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT LOVE IS BEHIND THE CLOUD, AND THAT TIME, WHICH CLEARS ALL CLOUDS, WILL YET LEAD OUR BROTHER OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS HOUR INTO THE BRIGHT LIGHT".***

By the middle of 1883, the Lodge was apparently in real trouble financially. A committee, consisting of the Master and two past Masters, worked up a comparison of estimated receipts and expenses which indicated there was no way the Lodge could continue on a sound financial basis without a drastic cutback in moneys paid out. It was noted there were 35 members whose dues of \$6 each would bring an annual income of \$210. It was also noted that, from past experience, it could be assumed that at least ten brothers would be delinquent in dues, thereby bringing annual income down to \$150. Against this were estimated expenses of \$259. The committee recommended that every attempt be made to cut expenses, and specifically recommended that: The services of the organist be eliminated (\$47.50).

The salary of the Secretary be suspended (\$25).

All Brothers in arrears for dues of more than one year be notified that the Lodge needs such money and that said Brothers should pay all or some part of their arrears by the next meeting, or should provide a satisfactory excuse for not doing so, under penalty of possible unaffiliation from the Lodge.

The organist, a member of the Lodge, immediately tendered his resignation from that job. Seven Brothers, who were most in arrears, were summoned to appear at the next meeting. Of these seven, two paid up in full, two offered satisfactory excuses or promises, one could not be located, and two were dropped from the rolls. At the annual meeting in December, 1883, Brother Charles Reed was elected as the fifth Brother to become Master.

### **1884/1885 — THE TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH YEARS**

For no explained reason, there were no meetings in January, 1884, and the installation of officers took place at the first meeting in February. Wor. Bro. Reed only served one term as Master. Attendance during the year only averaged seven members per meeting, and membership was listed as 36. In December, 1884, Brother Moses D. Getty was elected and installed as Worshipful Master, and served for two years.

### **1886 - 1889 — THE FOURTEENTH THROUGH SEVENTEENTH YEARS**

The year 1886 was another year with little activity. There was no degree work, no meetings other than routine, and an average attendance of only six or seven Brothers. At the annual elections in December, 1886, Rt. Wor. R. E. Prime was returned to the Master's chair, a position he was to hold for the next five years. The Treasurer's report at that time indicated an on-hand balance of \$0.63, indicating how deep the Lodge was in trouble. It was also necessary to assess members \$6.00 each to pay indebtedness to Grand Lodge. Nine members were summoned to appear and pay their dues arrears, or to give reasonable explanation why they were unable to do so, under penalty of unaffiliation. Two of these Brothers actually were unaffiliated. In the latter part of 1887, one of our Brothers was brought up on charges by the Lodge for (1) desertion of his wife, (2) unlawful appropriation of funds, and (3) conduct unbecoming a man and Mason. He was expelled from all the rights and privileges of Freemasonry, and his name dropped from the rolls.

At about the same time, the By-Laws were amended to set the first meetings of March, June, September, and December as "quarterly" Communications which were to be held at five o'clock in the afternoon. No reason for this was given, but it was noted that "suitable refreshment" would be provided at those meetings. It was also at this time that the office of Steward was created. The afternoon meetings were to be on the first Wednesday of the stated months.

At the annual meeting in December, 1888, it was reported that Rising Star Lodge was refusing to

continue to lease their Lodge Room in the Bank building to Nepperhan Lodge. Space was reported to be available (probably through our own Moses Getty) in the Getty House, free of expense. The Lodge initiation fee was reduced to \$20. (It was now several years since any applications were received).

In 1889, with consent of the Grand Lodge, only three Communications were held, namely, March 4th, June 13th and September 12th, all in Room 7 of the Getty House. This was probably the lowest point in the Lodge's history.

### **1890 — THE EIGHTEENTH YEAR**

In March, 1890, differences with Rising Star Lodge were adjusted, and it was agreed that Nepperhan Lodge would return to the Lodge Rooms in the Bank building with a guarantee of a minimum of six meetings a year. Rent would be \$5 per meeting, said fee to include the services of a Tiler. Monthly meetings were resumed on the second Thursday of each month. Eight applications for membership were received, the first in many years. The Lodge was so pleased at receiving candidates that degree work was carried on through the months of July and August. In the latter part of 1890, the By-Laws were again amended, this time to set Lodge meetings as the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, starting at 8 p.m.

### **1891 — THE NINETEENTH YEAR**

At a meeting in February, 1891, the Master (R. E. Prime) announced receipt of a letter from the Grand Master inviting the Lodge to attend the laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Home (then known as the Asylum) in Utica. During these years, application for initiation or affiliation continued to pour in, and virtually every meeting included degree work. The 300th Communication was held on February 12, 1891, in the Bank Lodge Rooms. An unusual situation occurred on March 12, 1891, when a special Communication (#302) was held at 6 p.m. to confer a degree. The Lodge was then closed, and opened again at 7:30 p.m. for Stated Communication #303. I am not aware as to why it was felt necessary to make two separate meetings out of it. At any rate, attendance was no longer a problem — as an example, 83 members and visiting brethren attended a Third Degree in March, 1891. It should also be noted that all candidates were examined in open lodge for their proficiency, before being accepted for the degree itself.

In April, 1891, the name of Leslie Sutherland was proposed for membership. This is the same Brother who later served as Master and still later became Mayor of Yonkers. His son, Robert L. Sutherland, was later also Master of Nepperhan Lodge. It is also interesting to note that during those years a ballot was taken before each degree on all candidates. At a special Communication in October, 1891, one candidate was given the First Degree, then two others were given the Second Degree. It must have been a long evening. As an indication of what a good year it was

financially, the Treasurer's report at the annual meeting in December, 1891, indicated the cash on hand had risen from \$178 at the beginning of the year to \$922 at the end of the year, During that same year, membership went from 36 to 61, a remarkable increase which indicated five classes of five each were raised during that year. At that annual meeting, Wor. Moses Getty, who had served as Master in 1885 and 1886, was elected Master for 1892.

### **1892 — THE TWENTIETH YEAR**

In 1892, the Secretary, who had received no salary during the lean years, was granted a salary of \$50 per year. In fact, there seems to have been a feeling among the Brothers that candidates were being pushed through without sufficient consideration. Of the first five candidates balloted upon in 1892, four were blackballed. Minutes in late 1892 indicate that the Masonic Home in Utica was completed and dedicated on October 5, 1892. Rising Star, Nepperhan and Hope Lodge #244 of New York City held a joint meeting in October, and then adjourned to attend in a body the funeral of Brother James Millward, a member of Hope Lodge, and the Mayor of Yonkers. At a meeting in November, Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime gave a detailed account of his trip to Scotland, from where he had just returned. While there, he visited Kilwinny Lodge #2 of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and was invited to inspect their minute books. He was shown the minutes of a meeting on February 1, 1787, at which the famous poet, Robert Burns, became an honorary member of that Lodge. Quoting from those particular minutes, Burns was described as being "well known as a grand poet, writer, and for a late publication of his works which have been universally recommended".

### **1893 — THE TWENTY-FIRST YEAR**

Economic conditions in the country must have improved during 1892 because, out of 69 members, only 31 were delinquent in dues, and only four of these were more than one year in arrears. The annual election results placed Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime as Master (once again) this term representing his twelfth and last time as Master. To keep this history in perspective, it should be noted that the 350th Communication of Nepperhan Lodge was held on March 9, 1893, approximately 20 years after the founding of the Lodge.

On February 20, 1894, a special summoned Communication was held to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the founding of Nepperhan Lodge #736. It was apparently quite a gala night, with 96 members and visiting brethren in attendance. The first Master, Wor. E. L. Seger was present, apparently being well on in years, since he had been Master of Rising Star Lodge some years prior to the formation of Nepperhan Lodge. At a meeting shortly afterwards, a new section was added to the By-Laws, providing life membership for any Brother who had been continuously a member of Nepperhan Lodge for 21 years.

## **1894 — THE TWENTY-SECOND YEAR**

The Lodge By-Laws were completely rewritten in 1894, although there were no startling revisions. The initiation fee was made \$25, with an extra \$5, called the Steward's fee, to be paid prior to taking the Third Degree. The annual dues remained at \$6.00. A member was also given the privilege of paying \$100, in return for which he was given life membership, regardless of his age. In this latter case, the money was turned over to the Trustees for deposit in a special fund, and the principal could never be touched, the interest being turned over to the Lodge general funds. This was the birth of the sinking fund which remained in existence for many years, and is still maintained but under different conditions. In this particular revision of the By-Laws, also, life membership was provided after 21 years, making the Brother exempt from any dues other than Grand Lodge dues.

Social get-togethers were very rare other than actual Lodge Communications, but it is interesting to note that in July, 1894, Brother Lederer invited the entire Lodge for a cruise and a picnic on his steam launch. It must have been a sizeable craft.

Another interesting requirement, in those early days of the Masonic Home, was the necessity, if a Lodge wished to obtain entrance to the Home of one of its Brothers, of getting agreement in writing from a second Lodge before the application was approved. At various times, Nepperhan received such requests from the Lodges in the area.

In 1894, also, Nepperhan finally obtained its own set of the three Great Lights (Bible, Square and Compasses) as a gift from our own Wor. Moses Getty. It is assumed that, up until that time, we had utilized Rising Star's Great Lights.

Another interesting note appeared in the minutes of 1894, whereby a New York Lodge sent a communication to Nepperhan requesting financial assistance because their Treasurer had absconded with all of the Lodge funds. The same letter was presumably sent to many Lodges. Nepperhan sent \$5 to Grand Lodge, with the request that it be forwarded to the Lodge in trouble, after verification of the facts.

At the end of 1894, membership had risen to 80 members. At the annual meeting Robert L. Calkins was elected Master.

About this time, the minutes recorded an invitation from Solomon's Lodge to attend the public installation of its officers. This is interesting, because the writer (and many others) had assumed that installations had always been in closed lodges until a very few years ago.

## **1895 — THE TWENTY-THIRD YEAR**

In 1895, among other petitions for membership, was Edward A. Sutherland. Your editor of this history had the privilege of presenting Brother Sutherland with his 60 year Palm during my term as Master in 1955. Also in 1895, a communication was received from Woodbine Chapter of Eastern

Star, the first reference found to O. E. S. in Nepperhan minutes.

During 1895, Nepperhan received its third Grand Lodge appointment when Moses D. Getty, past Master, was made District Deputy of the Ninth District. At the annual meeting in December, 1895, Charles Hepenstal was elected and installed as Master,

#### **1896 — THE TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR**

During 1896, the Lodge was busy with degree work at almost every Communication. One of the Brothers initiated that year was Herbert Cutbill, who was presented his 60 year Palm in 1956 by the Master, Wor. Raymond Dykes.

#### **1897 — THE TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR**

The Master in 1897 was E. W. Taylor. His year was mostly degree work, but there was one joint meeting with Rising Star Lodge attended by the Grand Master and his staff.

Also during that year, Nepperhan assisting Rising Star Lodge in dedicating and unveiling a Masonic monument in Oakland Cemetery, and this monument still stands in the Cemetery, not far from the Ashburton Avenue entrance. The year 1897 also marked a revision to the Grand Lodge Constitution, whereby a Metropolitan District was created, consisting of Lodges in Norfolk and Suffolk Counties, New York City, and Westchester County, It was also provided that, in alternate years, the Grand Master would come from the Metropolitan District or the Upper New York District. The Deputy Grand Master would be from the other district.

#### **1898 — THE TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR**

On June 20, 1898, Nepperhan Lodge held a 25th birthday celebration. The affair was held at Teutonia Hall on Buena Vista Avenue, later known as the Prospect House. About 200 were present, including the Grand Master and numerous present and past Grand Lodge officers. After the guests enjoyed a "sumptuous" dinner, Wor. Lyman Cobb, Chairman, introduced Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime who related the 25 year history of Nepperhan Lodge, Other speakers followed and there was music and entertainment. Cost to the Lodge was approximately \$400.

#### **1899 — THE TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR**

In those years leading up to 1900, collection of dues was still a problem. Several members were unaffiliated and, in some cases, dues were remitted. The minutes of January 26, 1899, disclosed that Wor. E. L. Seger, first Master of Nepperhan, was delinquent, but that his dues were remitted since he was retired and "spending his declining years at Armonk, N. Y."

The year 1899 also marked the end of the use of the Yonkers Savings Bank building as a Lodge Room. At votes taken in Nepperhan Lodge, Rising Star Lodge, the Chapter and the Commandery,

it was agreed to move to the Hollywood Inn. The rent for Nepperhan Lodge was to be \$200 per year. The actual dedication of the new Lodge Rooms took place on June 27, 1899, and Nepperhan's first meeting there occurred on July 6, 1899.

### **1900 — THE TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

In 1900, following a disastrous hurricane in Texas, all Lodges were requested, if possible, to make a donation for unfortunate victims of the storm. Nepperhan Lodge appropriated \$25 for this purpose. One must assume that this was before the days when a state or locality could declare a state of emergency and obtain relief from the federal government.

The 500th Communication of Nepperhan Lodge #736 took place on Thursday, October 11, 1900 in the Hollywood Inn Lodge Rooms, during the term of E. F. Howard as Worshipful Master. At that meeting, Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime, who had just returned from a trip to the Middle East, related his experiences on that journey, and described a visit to the Royal Solomon Mother Lodge of Jerusalem. In that same trip, Rt. Wor. Bro. Prime also visited England and visited a number of Lodges there. He announced that he had obtained a Perfect Ashlar which had been excavated from Zion's Well in Jerusalem, and presented same to Nepperhan Lodge.

The death of Queen Victoria of England occurred that year. Among her other titles, she was also known as "Patroness of Ancient Craft Masonry in England", and a page was set aside in the minutes of Nepperhan Lodge as a memorial to her. A page was also set aside for her son and successor, King Edward VII, who at that time assumed the title "Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masonry in England".

### **1901 — THE TWENTY-NINTH YEAR**

In the minutes of a September, 1901, meeting, a communication was entered from the Grand Master, noting the death, by assassination, of Brother William McKinley, President of the United States. This was the second time that a Masonic president had been assassinated. As in the case of Queen Victoria, a page of the minute book was set aside in memory of Brother McKinley.

### **1902/1903 — THE THIRTIETH AND THIRTY-FIRST YEARS**

At the annual meeting in December, 1902, W. C. Prime, who had only been raised four years previously, was elected and installed as Worshipful Master. He was a son of Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime, and he emulated Rt. Wor. R. E. Prime, in that he held the office of Master for three terms. Other three term Masters over the years were Moses Getty, Edward J. MacSorley and George Ampagoomian. The Secretary's report, as of December, 1902, listed 117 members. This reflected little change in numbers from the previous years, largely because the Lodge had been taking decisive action in unaffiliating delinquent members, thereby offsetting the large number of new

members raised during that period.

#### **1904 — THE THIRTY-SECOND YEAR**

In February, 1904, the Grand Master visited Nepperhan Lodge. The minutes gave no particular reason for the visit, but there was a turnout of over 150 Masons. In April, 1904, notice was received that Radium Lodge in Ossining was being formed, and was presently U. D. (under dispensation).

During those years, Nepperhan Lodge had no Fellowcraft Team, and would customarily ask Lodges with teams to present the Drama at Third Degrees. One such example occurred on April 28, 1904, when a team and a choir came all the way from East Orange, N. J., to put on the Drama. Fifty-three members of Nepperhan were present that night, as well as 119 visiting Brothers from New York City and Westchester, plus 46 visiting brethren from Hope Lodge of East Orange, N. J., including the Past Grand Master of New Jersey. Your editor never had the opportunity to see the Lodge Rooms in the Hollywood Inn, but the attendance of 218 must certainly have strained the capacity to the utmost. Incidentally, one of the Brothers raised that night to the Sublime Degree was Robert W. Anderson, who was later Master of the Lodge and later held the post of Secretary for many years.

#### **1905 — THE THIRTY-THIRD YEAR**

Nepperhan Lodge had a public installation of its officers on January 5, 1905, at which time Wor. W. C. Prime was installed for his third and last term as Master. Expenses for refreshment amounted to \$18.86. Two hundred members, wives and guests were present, and heard an address by a Past Grand Master. Sylvester and Ambrose Havey, undertakers, and both members of Nepperhan Lodge, provided chairs for the occasion.

In the latter part of 1905, the By-Laws were amended to set the annual dues, which had been \$6 per year since the founding of the Lodge, to \$6.50 per year. During 1905, it was also noted that Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime, who had already been District Deputy, had now received an appointment as Grand Representative of the State of Oregon. The 600th Communication of Nepperhan Lodge occurred on October 12, 1905, to honor the occasion, Rt. Wor. Moses Getty presented a United States flag to the Lodge, for display at all Communications. The annual reports at the end of 1905 showed that the Lodge was indeed prospering. During the year, 18 Brothers were raised and three were affiliated, giving a membership at the end of the year of 142 Master Masons. Net worth of the Lodge was approximately \$1,700. At the annual elections, C. I. McCoy was elected Master for 1906.

#### **1906 — THE THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR**

At the first meeting in 1906, a reception was held for Rt. Wor. W. C. Prime, who, following in his father's footsteps, had been appointed District Deputy. Oddly enough, he had just been elected Senior Deacon of Nepperhan for that year. Fortunately, the By-Laws had recently been amended to provide for an Assistant Senior Deacon, a post filled by Robert W. Anderson, a future Secretary of Nepperhan and a future Grand Lodge officer.

At the official visit of Rt. Wor. W. C. Prime to his own Lodge, he presented to the Lodge, on behalf of Brothers Mee, Soeteman, Van Suetendail and himself, a mat to be used in the Middle Chamber Lecture. It is assumed that this is still the same mat presently in the Yonkers Temple.

At the meeting of April 26, 1906, mention was made of the great earthquake and fire in San Francisco, and the Lodge voted to send \$100 for the relief of "distressed members of the human family". Another big night for Nepperhan Lodge occurred at the 618th Communication on October 11, 1906. The occasion was a Third Degree at which the Grand Master, Most Wor. Townsend Scudder, was present and participated in the degree before a crowded Lodge. At the same meeting, Rt. Wor. W. C. Prime, who had visited the Holy Lands during the summer months, presented to the Lodge a gavel which he had caused to be made; the base was made of limestone taken from the Royal Quarries of King Solomon, and the handle made of wood from an olive tree on the Mount of Olives. He also presented a set of working tools made from olive wood. Degree work occupied many of the meetings in 1906, and seven Brothers were raised. Six Brothers were unaffiliated, however, for non-payment of dues, leaving a membership of 150 at the end of the year.

### **1907 — THE THIRTY-FIFTH YEAR**

Early in 1907, word was received that Eli Seger, the first Master of Nepperhan Lodge, was now in a home for the aged in Brooklyn, that he was destitute, and that he was in extremely poor condition, both physically and mentally. The Lodge made arrangements to pay \$10 per month for his care for the remainder of his life. The year 1907 marked the beginning of Collabergh Lodge in Croton-on-Hudson. At an official visit to Nepperhan Lodge, District Deputy W. C. Prime presented gavels made of wood from Cedars of Lebanon to Collabergh Lodge, White Plains Lodge, Rising Star Lodge, and presented to Nepperhan Lodge three such gavels, together with a trowel and a stone mason's hammer. Degree work in 1907 continued heavy, with petitions coming in almost faster than they could be handled. At a meeting on May 23, 1907, five candidates were put through the First Degree; then, presumably with permission from Grand Lodge, the same five Brothers received the Second Degree. To finish off what must have been a long evening, the Lodge considered un-Masonic charges against a Lodge in New York City, received two new applications for membership, and balloted individually on five candidates for initiation (one of whom was rejected), and then closed "in peace and harmony". During this year, also, possibly because

of the huge influx of applications, the By-Laws were amended to set the initiation fee at \$50 (it had been \$30). The Secretary's annual report at the end of 1907 indicated that 21 Brothers had been raised, three affiliated, five died and one dimitted, leaving a total membership of 166.

### **1908 — THE THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR**

Peter Soeteman was elected and installed as Master for 1908. A public installation was held, as in the previous year, at which a Past Grand Master was Installing Officer, and the present Grand Marshal acted as Marshal. During 1908, the minutes reveal that Dunwoodie Lodge was officially constituted. This was the first Lodge established in Yonkers since the constitution of Nepperhan in 1873. In July, 1908, word was received of the death of Wor. Eli L. Seger, the first Master of Nepperhan Lodge. He was 84 years of age. The Lodge purchased a grave in Mt. Hope Cemetery, and Wor. Bro. Seger was buried there, with Masonic services at the graveside. At the annual meeting in December, 1908, it was reported that Wor. Bro. E. F. Howard, a Past Master of Nepperhan Lodge, had been appointed as Assistant Grand Lecturer. This was apparently a new position, because up until then, the District Deputy had been responsible for the ritual in the District, including-Schools of Instruction, Robert W. Anderson, a future long-time Secretary, was elected as Master for 1909. The membership at the annual meeting also voted to raise the salary of the Secretary and the organist to \$100 per year.

### **1909 — THE THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR**

In 1909, Nepperhan Lodge was notified by Rising Star Lodge, that Nepperhan's rent, which had been \$100 per year, was being raised to \$250 per year. Nepperhan had, in conjunction with Dunwoodie Lodge, been looking into the possibility of constructing a Masonic Temple, This increase in rent gave additional impetus to the project, and the Lodge voted an appropriation of \$1,000 towards such construction. Late in 1909, Nepperhan Lodge was asked to consent to the forming of a new Lodge in Yonkers, to be known as Bryn Mawr Lodge. Approval was given. Also forming at the same time was Yonkheer Lodge, and seven members of Nepperhan withdrew to become members of that Lodge. Membership in Nepperhan at the end of 1909 was 162. At the annual meeting, F. M. Johnson was elected to serve as Master in 1910.

### **1910 — THE THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

The minutes of the January 13, 1910 meeting reveal that the Masonic Temple Committee (representatives from all Yonkers Lodges) had purchased a plot of ground on "South Broadway between property owned by the Elks and the Arlington Inn" for \$13,500. The "Yonkers Masonic Guild" was to be immediately incorporated. There would be 12 Trustees, one from each Lodge which contributed \$250 or more, and the others to be selected by the bondholders. Nepperhan

Lodge, as previously noted, had already voted to put \$1,000 into the project. A Masonic Fair, sponsored by all the Yonkers Lodges, realized a profit of \$3,500 to be applied to the Temple Building Fund.

The minutes of 1910 also disclose that a request was received from Bryn Mawr Lodge for the Nepperhan Degree Team to enact the Drama at a Third Degree. This is the first reference found in the minutes regarding a Degree Team, so we must assume that it was originally formed about this time. Another request was received from Rising Star Lodge shortly thereafter. In our own Lodge, a Second Degree was put on by Past Masters, with the East occupied by Wor. Bro. Moses Getty, twenty-five years after he first served as Worshipful Master. A total of 16 Brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree in 1910. At the annual meeting, B. FitzGibbon was elected Master for the year 1911.

### **1911 — THE THIRTY-NINTH YEAR**

The year 1911 was relatively uneventful. Outside of our own Lodge, the Degree Team presented the Drama at Dunwoodie Lodge and Westchester Lodge. One of those raised in Nepperhan was Spencer H. Anderson, who recently passed away, after 66 years as a Mason. Although living in Connecticut, he appeared in Lodge to receive both his 50 year pin and his 60 year Palm. It was the first year that the Lodge paid the expenses for the Master to travel to Utica, a practice that has been customary ever since. And it was in December that a group of Scottish Masons in Yonkers asked our consent to petition Grand Lodge to approve the formation of a new Lodge to be known as Thistle Lodge. Approval was given. Membership at the end of the year was 164, down from the previous year because the seven new members were offset by two deaths, four dimits and two unaffiliations for non-payment of dues. Cash on hand was \$1,000.

### **1912 — THE FORTIETH YEAR**

Wor. Bro. Robert W. Anderson was elected as Nepperhan's Master for 1912, his second term, since he had also been Master in 1909. At a Third Degree in February, the minutes reveal that a part in the Degree was taken by Worshipful S. MacPhail, first Master of the newly-formed Thistle Lodge (U. D.). The minutes of May 9th told how Thistle Lodge and Fernbrook Lodge had been granted their Charters at the Grand Lodge Session just concluded. The same minutes noted that the Master of Hope Lodge, East Orange, N. J. (a Lodge which frequently exchanged visits with Nepperhan) had been lost in the sinking of the Titanic. A letter of condolence was sent. Eighteen Masons were raised during the year, and two were affiliated. At the end of the year, the membership rolls totaled 181 members. George Mee (a son of F. B. Mee who was Master in 1907) was elected Master for the year 1913.

### **1913 — THE FORTY-FIRST YEAR**

The 40th anniversary of the founding of Nepperhan Lodge took place on February 13, 1913. Entertainment was enjoyed by all present, including the Deputy Grand Master and the District Deputy. Also present were Masters from all other Yonkers Lodges and many visiting brethren. The minutes of February 27th offered an interesting note -- Thistle Lodge requested the Nepperhan Team to portray the Third Degree Drama. This was probably one of the few instances that Thistle Lodge used another degree team since, although they were only one year old, they were already forming their own Fellowcraft Team, which was to become so renowned in later years. During the year another Nepperhan Brother received the Purple, Wor. E. F. Howard, Master in 1900 and 1901, being appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies. There were 12 members raised during the year, and membership total at the end of the year was 191. Your editor got quite a smile at the total bill for refreshments for the year which came to \$169.48, including \$42.50 for cigars (apparently boxes of cigars were set out at each meeting). At the elections in December, John Cullen was elected as Master for the ensuing year.

### **1914 — THE FORTY-SECOND YEAR**

In 1914, the European countries were at war, and the Grand Master composed a Prayer for Peace, which was to be read in every Lodge. At year's end, membership had risen to 193, but six deaths and two dimits had reduced the total to 185. The annual meeting in December resulted in the election of Leslie Sutherland as Worshipful Master. Rt. Wor. Moses D. Getty acted as Installing Master, as he had so many times in the past.

### **1915 — THE FORTY-THIRD YEAR**

The year 1915 was relatively quiet, although seven Brothers were raised. At one of the Third Degrees, the Thistle Lodge Fellowcraft Team presented the Drama, and the minutes described the "smart Highland costumes" as they performed their precise drill. During that year, Rt. Wor. R. E. Prime, one of our Charter members, who had dimitted from Nepperhan to be one of the founders of Yonkheer Lodge, was presented with an honorary membership to Nepperhan. He was escorted into the Lodge for the presentation by his son, Rt. Wor. W. C. Prime, who, likewise had left Nepperhan to be a founding Brother of Yonkheer Lodge. At the annual meeting in December, 1915, the Secretary's report showed that membership had again dropped, this time to 180, largely because there were two dimits, four deaths, one resignation, and five unaffiliations. Refreshment bills for the year totaled \$94, of which \$25 was for cigars and \$34 for ice cream. Ah, for those good old days!! The elections named Walter Blackburn as Master for the ensuing year.

### **1916 — THE FORTY-FOURTH YEAR**

Many events of interest happened to, and in, Nepperhan Lodge in 1916. Our 800th Communication occurred early in the year. Upon our request, our rent for the Hollywood Inn Lodge Rooms was reduced from \$250 to \$175 per annum. On September 23rd, with the Grand Master present, the cornerstone for the new Temple, on South Broadway at Guion Street, was laid. The cost of the cornerstone ceremony was \$1,000 which was shared by the Lodges on a per-capita basis. This came to 50 cents per member, which indicated that the seven Lodges then existing in Yonkers represented a total Yonkers membership of 2,000 Masons. In Nepperhan, six members were raised that year, one of whom was Alfred Watson, who would later serve as Master of Nepperhan, and as Mayor of Yonkers.

A severe blow to all the Lodges occurred on November 20th, when the Hollywood Inn was completely destroyed by fire. Most of our Lodge's possessions were lost, including working tools, candidate's clothing, gloves, aprons and jewels. The organ was also destroyed, of which we had a 50% interest. Fortunately (for your editor), all the historical records of the Lodge, including all minute books, were saved (probably they were kept in the Secretary's home). Temporary quarters for the Lodge were obtained in the Elk's Lodge Rooms, with permission from the Grand Master. At the annual elections in December, the same slate of officers was re-elected for another year.

#### **1917 — THE FORTY-FIFTH YEAR**

During 1917, World War I was being fought, and Nepperhan Lodge voted to remit the dues of all brethren in the armed services. The Lodge also purchased \$500 worth of Liberty Bonds. The big event of the year (other than the war) was the dedication and opening of the new Masonic Temple at its present location. The first meeting of Nepperhan Lodge in the new Temple occurred on September 13, 1917. The actual dedication of the Temple was on September 15, 1917. Rent of Nepperhan Lodge in the Temple was set at \$400 per annum, payable quarterly. Membership at the end of 1917 was 187, and our cash on hand had shrunk to \$898. At the annual elections, Palmer Hall Stilson was elected Master for 1918.

#### **1918 — THE FORTY-SIXTH YEAR**

The year 1918 marked the continuance of World War I, and many Brothers from Nepperhan served their country. On January 12th, Thistle Lodge, with the consent of the Grand Master, conferred all three degrees on a candidate leaving for military service. This was Brother Alex. Cunningham who, in later years, became organist for Nepperhan Lodge. During the year, our Nepperhan dues were raised to \$8.00, necessitated by the higher Masonic Temple rentals. New members of the Lodge that year, among others, were Alfred Senftner and Walter M. Hausel, who later became, respectively, Lodge Historian and Lodge Treasurer. During the year, another \$100 Liberty Bond was purchased, and Rt. Wor. Moses Getty presented the Lodge with a new Bible, to

replace the one lost in the Hollywood Inn fire. Our Masonic District, then known as the Twelfth, was, at the session of Grand Lodge, separated into two Districts, the First and the Second Westchester-Putnam Districts. During that year, there was a severe flu epidemic, and the Lodge meetings in October were cancelled at the request of the Board of Health. At our annual meeting in December, the Secretary's report showed membership slightly lower at 178. Cash on hand was down to \$739. Edward J. MacSorley was elected Master for 1919.

### **1919 — THE FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR**

In 1919 Wor. Walter G. Blackburn presented five small Bibles and five sets of Squares and Compasses for candidates in degree work. Also, Rt. Wor. Moses D. Getty, in celebration of 50 years as a Mason, presented the Lodge with an American flag, to replace the one lost in the Hollywood Inn fire. During the year a petition for membership was received from Wm. F. Grimm, later to become Worshipful Master and a Grand Lodge Officer. Wor. Walter Blackburn was appointed Assistant Grand Lecturer for the First and Second Districts. Several By-Law changes were authorized, one of which raised the salary of the Secretary to \$150 per year. Also revised was the initiation fee, which became effective at the end of that year. Whether that latter provision was the reason, your editor does not know, but in the November meeting eight applications were received, topped off by a record 26 applications in December. The Secretary's annual report indicated 14 Brothers were raised during the year. Membership at the end of the year totaled 190, and the cash-on-hand was \$1,382. At the elections, Wor. Edward MacSorley won another year as Master.

### **1920 — THE FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

The year 1920 was certainly a degree year. In January and February alone, no less than 28 candidates were put through the First Degree. Special Communications were the order of the day; in fact, on July 1st and July 8th ten Brothers (five on each night) received the Sublime Degree. One of the applications for membership during the year was from Kristen Kristensen, later to become Master of the Lodge, District Deputy of the First Westchester-Putnam District, and a long-time Mayor of the City of Yonkers. The annual report of the Secretary shows that no less than 38 Brothers were raised during the year, which certainly must have set some sort of a record, at least for our Lodge. Membership at the end of the year was 222, including four Entered Apprentices and two Fellowcrafts. During the year, there were 18 regular meetings and 11 special meetings, also undoubtedly a record. Receipts during the year were \$4,342.91 and disbursements were \$3,955 (including \$73.40 for cigars). Cash on hand at year end was \$2,340. During the year one of our prominent members passed away, Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime, a Charter member, our first Secretary, and a faithful and devoted member, until he left to help form Yonkheer Lodge. At the

annual meeting, George F. Nugent was elected Worshipful Master for 1921. As had been done several years back, a public installation was held.

### **1921 — THE FORTY-NINTH YEAR**

During the year, a memorial tablet to those Yonkers Masons who served in World War I was unveiled in the lobby of the Temple, and dedicated by the Grand Master. Also, during the year, our Past Master, Walter Blackburn, was honored with the Purple, being appointed as Grand Swordbearer. He was the seventh Nepperhan Brother to become a Grand Lodge Officer. He was presented his apron at our meeting of June 23, 1921. In October, our last surviving Charter member, E. Alex. Houston, passed away. The Altar was draped for 30 days in his memory. During the year, 21 new Brothers were raised, leaving the total membership at the end of the year at 235 members. Cash on hand had now risen to \$3,446.68. At the annual meeting, John R. Bray was elected Master for 1922.

### **1922 — THE FIFTIETH YEAR**

The public installation of officers was again held in January, 1922, and, it also being our 900th Communication, special entertainment was enjoyed. The minutes note that the rent for the Masonic Temple was changed from a flat \$400 per year to a per-capita tax of \$1.40 per member plus \$10 for each initiate. During the year, a delegation of 25 Nepperhan Brothers travelled to Utica for the dedication of the new Soldiers and Sailors Hospital at the Masonic Home. It was reportedly the largest gathering of Masons from all over the state ever recorded for a single event. During the year, 23 Brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree, bringing the membership at year end to 242 Brothers, of whom 40 were Life Members. Cash on hand was \$3,779.

Alfred Watson, later to be Mayor of Yonkers, was elected to serve as Master in 1923. Kris Kristensen, also to serve as Mayor of Yonkers, was elected Junior Warden.

### **1923 — THE FIFTY-FIRST YEAR**

During 1923, the Fiftieth anniversary of Nepperhan Lodge was celebrated at a gala affair including music, speeches and dancing. The Grand Master and many visiting dignitaries were present. Because of the rapidly increasing membership, with its attendant duties, the Secretary's salary was raised to \$200 per year. In June, it was announced that Wor. Walter Blackburn was again being honored with the appointment as District Deputy of the District. The Lodge gave its approval to a request for the formation of a new Lodge to be known as Van Cortlandt Lodge. At the end of the year, the membership had reached 262 Brothers. Eighteen were raised during the year, and the cash on hand rose to \$5,536. The annual meeting resulted in the election of Alfred Senftner as Master for 1924.

## **1924 — THE FIFTY-SECOND YEAR**

In the early part of 1924, the minutes reveal that the cornerstone for a new Temple to be built in Dobbs Ferry by Diamond Lodge was laid on February 22nd. Also, a petition was received requesting our approval for the formation of a new Lodge in Yonkers, to be known as Hawthorne Lodge. Approval was given. The big event of the year was the homecoming of Rt. Wor. Walter Blackburn, District Deputy Grand Master. Fourteen past District Deputies of this District were present, and 18 present District Deputies, colleagues of our Brother from the Metropolitan District were also there. There were also delegations from all lodges in the District. Twenty Brothers were raised during the year and membership at the end of 1924 was 270 Brothers. Kris Kristensen was elected to serve as Master in 1925. Wm. Grimm, later to receive a Grand Lodge appointment, was elected Junior Warden.

## **1925 — THE FIFTY-THIRD YEAR**

The year 1925 was once again heavy with degree work. There were 16 nights of degree conferral, including a Third Degree conferred by the Masters of the First Westchester-Putnam District. Twenty-five members were raised during the year, and the total membership at the end of the year was an even 300. The Lodge authorized the expenditure of \$1,150 for the purchase of uniforms for our Degree Team, the same outfits in the possession of the Lodge at the time of this writing. Also during the year, one of our Brothers contracted Tuberculosis and the Lodge donated a total of \$859 for his relief. At the annual meeting, Wm. Schwartz was elected Master for 1926.

## **1926 —THE FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR**

Again, degree work occupied much of the time of the Lodge in 1926. Fifteen meeting nights were engaged in one of the degrees. Also, during the year, the Grand Master announced the appointment of Henry Meacham as the Grand Lecturer. Rt. Wor. Bro. Meecham became the author of many books on Masonry, and is best remembered for his book on Masonic Etiquette. Also, during the year, the Lodge subscribed to the "Masonic Outlook", predecessor to the "Empire State Mason", for all of its members. In November, a banquet and dance, sponsored by the Lodge, was held at the Elk's Club. At the annual elections in December, Wm. F. Grimm was elected Master for 1927. Installation took place the same evening. Nineteen Brothers were raised in 1926, and the membership at the end of the year stood at 306. As an interesting note, \$42.45 was spent on cigars during the year.

## **1927 —THE FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR**

The year 1927 brought several happenings worthy of notice. A severe flood in the Mississippi valley and a disastrous hurricane in Florida both brought donations from Nepperhan Lodge. In

March, the De Molay Chapter was welcomed into the Lodge and performed one of their degrees. The big event of the year occurred on June 9, 1927, when Nepperhan celebrated its 1000th Communication. From our own Lodge, 225 members were present, probably the largest gathering of Nepperhan Brothers which ever happened. Distinguished Nepperhan Brothers in attendance included Rt. Wor. Moses D. Getty, celebrating 58 years as a Mason, and our other two living Right Worshipfuls, E. F. Howard and Walter G. Blackburn. All 21 living Past Masters were present, including the Master from 1885, 1892, 1897 to 1901, and every Master from 1908 to 1927. Entertainment and refreshments were enjoyed. Also in 1927, the By-Laws were amended to change the dues from \$8 to \$12. Among the membership applications received were those, from Albert Cooper and Sidney White, both of whom received their 50 year service awards this year (1978). At the annual election, John Magill was elected Master for 1928. During the year, 15 Brothers were raised, and the total membership advanced to 319. Current assets at the end of the year were \$5,833.

#### **1928 — THE FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR**

The year 1928 was an eventful year. Two Grand Lodge appointments were received, one for Kris Kristensen as D. D. and one for E. J. MacSorley as Grand Representative to Montana. During the year an elevator was installed in the Yonkers Masonic Temple, at cost of \$7,293, a welcome addition to those who had to climb to the upper floors. A very sad event was the death of Rt. Wor. Moses D. Getty who, for so many years, had been "Mr. Nepperhan Lodge". He was the senior Past Master, having served the Lodge as Master in 1885, 1886, and 1892. He was 60 years a Mason, 55 years of which was as a member of Nepperhan. He was District Deputy in 1897, and was 84 years of age at the time of his death. Masonic services were held in the Masonic Temple and there was a great outpouring of Brothers from all over the District. The annual meeting disclosed a year-end total membership of 321. Cash on hand was now \$9,121. Wm. Poole was elected Master for 1929.

#### **1929 — THE FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR**

In 1929, another amendment to By-Laws was noted, whereby a paid-up Brother, upon payment of \$200, could obtain life membership and pay no further dues other than Grand Lodge dues and assessments. The Secretary's salary was raised, setting it at an annual stipend of \$1 per member. During the year, a big event was the homecoming of our District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Kristen Kristensen. Every Master of every Lodge in the District was present, plus ten Metropolitan District Deputies, 77 Past Masters from the District, and a large group of sideliners. The minutes also reveal the formation of Hastings Lodge that year. Other big events were a dinner dance at the Abbey Inn, and a visit from Hawthorne Lodge including their Master, Wor. Leslie Sutherland, (a

Past Master of Nepperhan), and 75 Brothers. At the annual meeting, Harold Rose was elected Master for 1930. Membership at the end of 1929 totaled 329 Brothers, the highest ever reached. Cash balance as of December 31, 1929, was \$7,333.

### **1930 — THE FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

The year 1930 was a relatively quiet year, perhaps because the beginning of the Great Depression of the 30's caused many organizations to cut back on many of their plans. A sad event was the death of another of our old-time Past Masters, Wor. J. A. Hauser, who was raised in 1895 and was Master in 1899. The Fellowcraft Team was quite active during the year, performing for several other Lodges as well as our own. Only five Brothers were raised during the year and, for the first time in many years, our membership dropped slightly, standing at 327 at year end. Our bank balance showed \$7,775 cash on hand. At the annual election, James Campbell was elected as Master for 1931.

### **1931 —THE FIFTY-NINTH YEAR**

The year 1931 was another uneventful year, with only three Brothers being raised. With nine deaths and nine unaffiliations for non-payment of dues, the membership dropped back to 310 Brothers. Two of the deaths were two of our senior Past Masters, Worshipfuls E. W. Taylor and Philip Fitz, Masters in 1897 and 1898 respectively. Raymond Case and James Thomson were elected as Master and Senior Warden, respectively, for the year 1932.

### **1932 —THE SIXTIETH YEAR**

The year 1932 got off to a bad start with the death of our newly elected Junior Warden, Jason James. The Lodge paid all hospital and funeral expenses. On a happier note, the Lodge members attended the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of Thistle Lodge, and were welcomed by Thistle's Master, Wor. Peter Barr. Unemployment was becoming an increasing problem in those depression years, and the Lodge voted to donate \$30 to the unemployment committee of the First Westchester-Putnam District Association. During the year, a rather unusual event occurred when the Lodge opened on the Third Degree, then went from labor to refreshment, travelled to the Upper Lodge Room, entered Hawthorne Lodge as a delegation to welcome the District Deputy, then moved downstairs again, resumed labor and conferred the Fellowcraft Degree on Brothers in waiting. At the annual elections in December, James Thomson was elected as Master for 1933. During the year 1932, our membership dropped to 303, largely due to deaths and unaffiliations.

### **1933 — THE SIXTY-FIRST YEAR**

The depression continued to hold a rein on Lodge activities during 1933. Only two new Brothers were raised, while ten died, two dimitted, and 32 were unaffiliated for non-payment of dues. Our membership dropped to 261, the lowest it had been since 1922. During the year, the By-Laws were amended to reduce the annual dues from \$12 to \$10. It was also decided to present new members with a Monitor, rather than with a Master Mason certificate as formerly. On February 29th (Leap Year Day), the 1100th Communication of the Lodge was noted. Among the ten deaths were the passing of our 1931 Master, Wor. James Campbell, and the Senior Warden, Bro. Henry Martin Baird. Brother Baird had previously been Treasurer of the Lodge, and was slated to become Master in 1934. The Ceremony of Investiture for all newly elected Masters of the First Westchester-Putnam District was held for the first time in December, 1933. Leon E. Botting, who would later serve as Secretary for many years, was elected Worshipful Master for 1934.

### **1934 — THE SIXTY-SECOND YEAR**

Again in 1934 there was little degree work, only one Brother being raised during the year. The Grand Lodge per-capita tax was raised from \$1 to \$3, bringing problems to Lodges already beset with such. The Master, Leon Botting, did his best to provide an interesting year, with "Past Master Night", "Roll Call Night", and "Life Members Night". The latter night was a huge success, with a turnout of 24 Life Members, one of whom was Rt. Wor. E. F. Howard, Senior Past Master (1900). Three of the Brothers dated back to the Class of 1891, and eight others were raised prior to 1900. We lost another faithful Brother when Rt. Wor. Walter Blackburn passed away. The annual reports at the end of 1934 showed our membership had dropped to 256. Cash on hand was \$9,300. John Hensey was elected Master for the year 1935. At the annual meeting, all three of our Rt. Worshipfuls and 13 Past Masters were present.

### **1935 — THE SIXTY-THIRD YEAR**

In 1935, the Lodge continued to suffer from falling membership and poor attendance. For the second straight year we only raised one candidate to the Sublime Degree and our membership fell to 249. Our financial status remained healthy, however, with cash on hand amounting to \$9,800. Many social events were held, including card parties, outings, and Ladies' Nights. The big event of the year was a dinner dance held at Murray's Parkway Casino, at which 172 were present, including 60 of our ladies. At the annual meeting in December, Henry Storms was elected Master for 1936.

### **1936 — THE SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR**

In 1936, membership continued to decline, but there were a number of pleasant, interesting nights. At a meeting in January, we received a visit from Brother Frank Ellis, a member of Nepperhan, who

had been a resident of the Masonic Home in Utica for several years. He gave an interesting talk on life at the Home. The By-Laws were amended during the year to decrease the initiation fee from \$100 to \$75. At another meeting, at refreshment, the members were instructed in the "new" game of Bingo. Two more Past Masters died during the year, Wor. John Magill (1928) and Wor. John M. Cullen (1914). A happy note, however, was recorded with the appointment of our long-time Secretary, R. W. Anderson, as Grand Steward, the ninth Nepperhan Brother to wear the Purple. Present at his reception were Rt. Wor. E. F. Howard, our senior Past Master (1900), eight Past District Deputies from the District, delegations from many Lodges, and 16 of our own Past Masters. Rt. Wor. Bro. Anderson was well-known and popular throughout the District and Metropolitan area. Membership at the end of the year was 234. At the annual election, George F. W. Grimm was elected Master for 1937.

### **1937 — THE SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR**

During 1937 our own Rt. Wor. E. J. MacSorley served as President of the District Association. The Secretary's salary, which had been based on \$1.00 per member, was fixed at \$300 per year. On March 11th, rededication ceremonies were held, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Grand Lodge founding. The District Deputy and many distinguished visitors were present, and all joined in repeating the Obligations of the Three Degrees, followed by lectures from our Right Worshipfuls on the meaning of those Obligations. Hymns were sung by the assemblage, and it must have been an inspiring evening. Later in the year, the Past Masters conferred a First Degree, with the East occupied by Wor. F. M. Johnson, who had been Master back in 1910. In honor to our ladies, a dinner dance was held at the Colonial Manor on Tuckahoe Road. The minutes sadly record the death of our senior Past Master, Rt. Wor. E. F. Howard, who had been Master in 1900 and 1901. During the year, we raised seven new members, but this was offset by nine deaths, two dimits, and six unaffiliations, leaving our membership at the end of the year at 224. At the annual meeting, James Case was elected Master for 1938. At the time of this writing, he is the senior living Past Master of Nepperhan.

### **1938 —THE SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR**

There were no candidates or no degree work in 1938, although our Degree Team continued presenting the Drama at other Lodges in and out of the District. On April 7th, a delegation from Nepperhan attended the dedication of the new Phillipstown Lodge Masonic Temple. Another big night was Constitution Night, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the U. S. Constitution. A curious point of interest was found in our minutes whereby the Grand Master requested all Lodges in the First Westchester-Putnam District to vote whether they wished to divide into two districts, one constituting the Lodges in Yonkers, and the other constituting Lodges

elsewhere in the District than Yonkers. Nepperhan voted unanimously to retain the existing District, and it must be assumed that the other Lodges did the same, since we are still one District at the time of this writing. The minutes disclosed no reason for the request. Our 1200th Communication was noted by a reading of Nepperhan's history by Wor. Alfred Senftner, Lodge Historian. During the year, we also reached the 65th anniversary of our founding, and quite a celebration was observed. There were 84 members of Nepperhan present, including 17 of our Past Masters. Principal speaker was Most Wor. John Dutton, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. Membership at the end of the year had dropped to 219. At the annual elections, Sidney White was elected Master. Wor. Bro. White has just received his 50 year pin this year (1978).

### **1939 —THE SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR**

The year 1939 was a relatively inactive year within the Lodge, but with many related activities to keep the members busy. Our Degree Team performed the second section of the Third Degree several times for Lodges in the Second District. Our bowling team won the Anderson Cup, emblematic of the championship of the Yonkers Masonic Lodges. We lost another Past Master during the year with the passing of Wor. Benjamin FitzGibbon, Master in 1911. Our Junior Warden, Arthur Thalacker, was appointed Police Chief of Burlington, Vermont. His chair was filled for the balance of the year by Bro. Walter Hausel. On April 20th, there was a testimonial dinner to Wor. Leslie Sutherland. May 11th was declared Masonic Home Night, and the various chairs were filled by the present Masters from each of the Yonkers Masonic Lodges. The Grand Chaplain was the principal speaker. There were no new members raised during the year, and the membership at the end of the year was down to 211 Brothers. At the annual election, Paul L. Bleakley was elected Master for 1940. The Senior Warden was Walter Hausel, who would later become our Treasurer for many years.

### **1940 — THE SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

In the early part of 1940, we received the first petition for membership in nearly three years. The petitioner was Raymond Sarmast who, at the time of this writing, was still an active member and, at 87 years of age, probably our oldest living member. On March 14th, we were honored by the presence of Most Wor. Charles Johnson, Past Grand Master and, at the time, Grand Secretary. He gave an interesting talk to the members and visiting Brothers. At another meeting, Wor. Franklin Wheat, Assistant Grand Lecturer, gave a talk on Masonic Etiquette. A Nepperhan delegation attended the 30th anniversary of Bryn Mawr Lodge, at which Grand Master Henry Turner was the principal speaker. To cap off an interesting year, the Master had a Past Masters' Night, at which 18 of our 22 living Past Masters were present. Membership at the end of the year was 204, with a bank balance of nearly \$10,000. At the annual elections, Walter Hausel was

elected Master for 1941.

### **1941 — THE SIXTY-NINTH YEAR**

The year 1941 started off with a testimonial dinner for Rt. Wor. Kristen Kristensen on January 29th, the occasion being the naming of our distinguished Brother as Outstanding Citizen of Yonkers for 1940. The dinner was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and was held at the Hudson River Country Club. On February 28th, we sent a large delegation to Gorton High School, where Most Wor. Henry Turner, Grand Master, held an area meeting. On June 12th, a large Nepperhan delegation travelled to Cold Spring to attend the 90th anniversary celebration of Phillipstown Lodge. The Grand Master was also in attendance at that affair. The District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Bro. Cornell, upon completion of his year, presented Nepperhan Lodge with a set of Bible markers for having the largest attendance at his visitations. The By-Laws were amended during the year, decreasing the initiation fee from \$75 to \$60. The father of Wor. Walter Hausel, our Master, donated an Altar cloth to the Lodge. We also had a visit from Rt. Wor. Richard Rowlands, Junior Grand Warden, who was soon to become Grand Master, and who would be elected an honorary member of Nepperhan Lodge. In the fall of the year, Nepperhan delegations attended Bryn Mawr Lodge for the reception to the new District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Alan MacDougal, and to Thistle Lodge for the presentation to Rt. Wor. David Inverarity, newly appointed Grand Steward. The final big event of the year was presentation of the 50 year Service Award to our Brothers Clark Sloan and George Peene. Membership at the year end was 205. Both Wardens found it impossible to remain in the line, so Rt. Wor. Edward J. MacSorley was elected to serve again as Master for the year 1942.

### **1941 — THE SEVENTIETH YEAR**

The year 1942 was the first full year we were involved in World War II, and the effects were felt in Nepperhan Lodge in many ways. The Lodge purchased \$1,000 worth of Defense Bonds. Attendance was spotty, largely because many of our Brothers were either in the Armed Services, or busy at defense work. Leon Botting was elected Worthy Patron of Woodbine Chapter, O. E. S. Theodore Wicht, our Tiler for many years, received his 50 year Service Pin from Rising Star Lodge. Our Lodge was saddened by the loss of two more Past Masters, Wor. F. M. Johnson, Master in 1910, and Wor. Palmer Hall Shilson, Master in 1918. Our Treasurer, Bro. Robert Light, resigned in mid-year, replaced by Wor. Walter M. Hausel. On October 30th, a joint meeting was held with the other Yonkers Lodges in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Masonic Home in Utica. Guest speaker was Rt. Wor. Charles Foressel, soon to become Grand Master and, at the time of this writing, the senior Past Grand Master. In November, Wor. Leslie Sutherland was presented with his 50 year pin in the presence of many Masonic dignitaries from all over the District. At the annual elections, once again both of our Wardens declined further office, and Wor.

Leon Botting once again was elected to the Master's chair. Membership rolls still decreased because, although we raised five Brothers, we lost eight through deaths and one through unaffiliation, leaving a total at the end of 1942 of 201 Brothers.

### **1943 — THE SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR**

In 1943 we had several nights of degree work, but otherwise not much activity. Social activity was also greatly curtailed, undoubtedly because of war conditions. The Lodge, in a very thoughtful gesture, remitted the dues of the five Brothers in the Armed Forces at that time. Membership at the end of the year amounted to 205. Once again, at the annual elections, a Past Master was called back to duty as Wor. Alfred Watson was elected Master for 1944. Seventeen Past Masters were present at the annual meeting.

### **1944 — THE SEVENTY-SECOND YEAR**

During 1944, the Lodge registered its 1300th Communication on March 9th. The death was reported of Brother George Peene, 52 years a member of Nepperhan Lodge. It was reported that, for the third year in a row, Nepperhan had exceeded its War Chest Quota. At a meeting of September 14, 1944, only five members were present, plus organist William Heyney, because of a terrible hurricane that day, which many readers of this history may recall. In any case, the meeting went ahead with its regular business even though the organist, Bro. Heyney, had to act as Tiler. During the year, Bro. John Forsyth received his 50 year Service Award. Also, all the Yonkers Lodges combined to have a Masonic Night at St. John's Episcopal Church, in honor of the Church's 250th anniversary. A flag was presented to the Church by the combined Lodges. Lodge membership at the end of the year was down to 201. At the annual meeting in December, Nicholas Milton was elected to serve as Master in 1945.

### **1945 — THE SEVENTY-THIRD YEAR**

In 1945, degree work picked up once again, with eight Brothers raised to the Sublime Degree, and several others in waiting. At the Communication of April 12th, the Lodge was notified of the death of Rt. Wor. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, on that very afternoon. The Lodge was raised in silent prayer. During the year, Fifty Year Service Medals were awarded to Brothers George Curran and Edward Sutherland. Brother Sutherland also lived to receive his 60 year Palm from your editor, who was Master in 1955. A note of sadness occurred when word was received of the death of Wor. Leslie Sutherland, who passed away on June 6, 1945 in North Carolina. He was a former Mayor of Yonkers, and was Master of Nepperhan in 1915. He was a member of the Lodge for 53 years. On November 1st, our Brothers and their wives and other guests enjoyed dining and dancing at the Rock House. Lodge membership during the year went

back up to 204, and our cash on hand was slightly better than \$8,000. At the annual meeting, Wm. M. Kent, Jr., was elected Master for 1946. Wor. Robert Anderson retired from the office of Secretary after more than 20 years, and Wor. Leon Botting was elected to replace him.

#### **1946 — THE SEVENTY-FOURTH YEAR**

The year 1946 registered a first for Nepperhan Lodge when our Senior Deacon, Albert Schweizer, conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree upon candidates in waiting. It was the first time in the history of our Lodge that any Brother below the rank of Junior Warden had conferred a Degree. According to the minutes, Brother Schweizer did an excellent job. One of the candidates that evening was Charles Zirkler, who later moved to New Jersey, took a dual membership in a Lodge there, became Master of that Lodge, and later became District Deputy Grand Master of that District. He still retains membership in Nepperhan Lodge. His brother, William G. Zirkler, joined Nepperhan a few months after his brother, went on to become Nepperhan's Master, and later became District Deputy of the First Westchester-Putnam District. It is one of the few instances where two blood brothers both became District Deputies. Another example of this, of course, is the Barton brothers from Collabergh Lodge. A Ladies' Night was enjoyed on December 6th at the Fanshaw Restaurant with dining, dancing and entertainment. During the year, Herbert Cutbill was presented with his 50 year pin, and was to live long enough to get his 60 year Palm in 1956. In fact, Brother Cutbill went on to establish an all-time record in Nepperhan Lodge, having reached 69 years as a member of Nepperhan before his death in 1965. Although ten Brothers were raised during the year, the membership total only rose to 205, due to deaths and unaffiliations. At the annual elections, Charles McConnell was elected Master for 1947.

#### **1947 — THE SEVENTY-FIFTH YEAR**

Degree work was again the order of business in 1947. In fact, early in the year, by special permission from Grand Lodge, seven Brothers were raised in one night. A rather sad event occurred in February; the death of our Past Master (1929), Wor. William Poole, was announced the same day that a notification came from Grand Lodge that he had been appointed a Grand Representative. His Masonic funeral service took place in the Masonic Temple. During the year our Fellowcraft Degree Team was reorganized after several years of inactivity. Another 50 year Service Award came to Nepperhan, this time to Brother George Allen. Presentation was by the newly appointed District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Eysten L. Anderson. Later in the year, Wor. Bill Kent was appointed District Service Representative. And another Grand Lodge appointment came our way, that of Wor. Wm. F. Grimm to become a Grand Representative, filling the opening left by the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. Poole. Our three other living Right Worshipfuls, Kris Kristensen, E. J. MacSor'ley, and R. W. Anderson were present at his reception. The By-Laws were amended,

effective January 1, 1948, to change the initiation fee from \$60 to \$85, and the dues from \$10 to \$12 per year. Life membership was also changed so that life members created thereafter would pay half dues instead of only Grand Lodge dues. Due to raising 15 Brothers during the year, our membership rose to 216. At the annual elections, Frank Morrissey was elected Master for 1948.

#### **1948 — THE SEVENTY-SIXTH YEAR**

The year 1948 started off in a sad way with the deaths of Rt. Wor. Edward J. MacSorley and Bro. John Forsyth, a member of Nepperhan for 54 years. Rt. Wor. MacSorley had been an outstanding, faithful and hard working Brother of Nepperhan Lodge and, indeed, of the entire Masonic fraternity. His presence was sorely missed for some time. However, the mood of the Lodge turned to joyous with the celebration of our 75th anniversary. It was a glad occasion with the guest speaker the Senior Grand Warden of Grand Lodge, Rt. Wor. Richard Rowlands. The District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Eysten Anderson was also a speaker, as were our own Wor. Harold Rose and Rt. Wor. William F. Grimm. During the year a delegation from Nepperhan also attended the 40th anniversary of Dunwoodie Lodge. Another big night was when Bro. Joe Holland received his 50 year Service Award, escorted into Lodge by Bro. George Allen, who had first proposed Bro. Holland as a member 50 years previously. On December 3, a festive Ladies' Night was held at Mayer's Parkway Rest, with dining and dancing enjoyed by all. The year 1948 was also the year when your perspiring editor, Rt. Wor. F. D. Maxwell, and the current Lodge Treasurer, Wor. Burton Bourne, were raised to the Sublime Degree. Membership at the end of the year totaled 225 and, at the annual election, Albert Schweizer was elected Master for 1949.

#### **1949 — THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH YEAR**

The year 1949 was a busy year for degree work, with 16 Brothers being raised to the Sublime Degree. Among other candidates was the late Charles Anderson who, for many years in Nepperhan, was famous for his "once around the ring" rendition of the questions and answers pertaining to the Perambulation of the First Degree. During the year, we visited Van Cortlandt Lodge on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. We also noted our own 1400th Communication on September 22nd. There was a most enjoyable Ladies' Night on November 18th, when we again brought our ladies for dining and dancing at Mayer's. It was the year that our own Rt. Wor. Kris Kristensen was elected as Mayor of Yonkers. It was also, sad to say, the year that marked the death of Rt. Wor. Robert Anderson, who, like Rt. Wor. Bro. MacSorley, had been the backbone of Nepperhan for so many years. He served as Secretary of Nepperhan Lodge from 1920 to 1945 and seldom missed a meeting during those years. Our membership total at the end of the year remained at 225. At the annual election, Robert L. Sutherland, a son of Wor. Leslie Sutherland, Master in 1915, was elected as Master for 1950.

## **1950 — THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

In 1950, there were several events which contributed to making this an interesting year. Our Brother John T. Windell received his 50 year Service Award, an occasion so few of us enjoy personally. Your editor was present that evening (serving as Chaplain), and it was an immense thrill to watch Brother Windell enter the Lodge, escorted by two other previous recipients of the 50 year medal, Brothers Herb Cutbill and Joe Holland. Over 150 years of Masonry was represented in those three Brothers. During the year, a delegation of 20 Nepperhan Brothers visited Kings County Lodge in Brooklyn, an annual exchange of visits at that time. Another ceremonious night was enjoyed when the Grand Master, Most Wor. Richard Rowlands, visited our Lodge and was made an honorary member. It was a "standing room only" night with Masonic dignitaries from all over joining in the ceremonies. Still another big night occurred on November 9th, when the Lodge had a "Harold Rose" night in honor of this hard-working Brother, a Past Master (1930), who had done so much over the years for Nepperhan Lodge, Socially, we enjoyed a night out with our ladies at the annual Ladies' Night on November 17th at Mayer's Restaurant. At the end of the year our membership stood at 223, and our net worth was slightly over \$7,000. At the annual meeting in December, Francis R. Noffko was elected to serve as Master in 1951.

## **1951 — THE SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR**

During 1951, there was not much activity degree-wise, with four Brothers being raised to the Sublime Degree. Our Degree Team was revived (again), and performed for Rising Star Lodge as well as our own Lodge. We also sent a large delegation and a huge birthday cake to Rising Star's 125th anniversary meeting, A 60 year Palm was presented, in absentia, to Brother Clark Sloan, who was too ill to attend. The big event of the year was on September 27th, when Rt. Wor. Walter Hausel received his apron and jewel, emblematic of his appointment as Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge. A tremendous gathering paid honor to our distinguished Brother, including District Deputy Adolph Jutkowitz and 23 Grand Lodge officers. In November, our Fellow-craft Club also sponsored a testimonial dinner to Rt. Wor. Bro. Hausel. Membership at the end of the year totaled 223. At the annual meeting, Michael Cholowsky was elected to serve as Master in 1952. As an interesting bit of trivia, 1951 marked the first year that beer could be served in the Temple refreshment halls.

## **1952 — THE EIGHTIETH YEAR**

The year 1952 was a quiet year for Nepperhan, only four Brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree and they all took that Degree the same night. Three sad events headlined the year; the first was the death of our Historian, Wor. Alfred Senftner, Master of Nepperhan in 1924. He seldom missed a Lodge meeting, unless sick, and the many talks he gave on the history of

Nepperhan Lodge were extremely interesting. Unfortunately, your editor was unable to locate copies of his many reports, which would have enhanced this present writing immensely. Also, during the year, Grand Lodge reported the passing of Rt. Worshipful George Barnewall, Deputy Grand Master who, in a few short months was slated to be elected Grand Master. And, near the end of the year, the Great Architect summoned another Past Master of Nepperhan, Wor. William Kent, Jr. Wor. Bro. Kent had, for several years, acted as District Service Representative, and he always placed himself at the disposal of all Lodges and Masons in the District. Your editor remembers him as a very serious, dedicated Mason. Effective the end of 1952, the dues were raised to \$15 per year. Qualifications for life membership were raised from 21 years to 30 years of continuous service. Membership was again down, being 220 at the end of the year. At the elections in December, Raymond Bell was elected as Master for 1953. Wm. G. Zirkler became Senior Warden, and F. Donald Maxwell, your editor, was elected Junior Warden.

### **1953 — THE EIGHTY-FIRST YEAR**

In 1953, the Lodge had a variety of activities. Brother Wilfred Fuller received his 50 year pin on the same evening that the Lodge celebrated its 80th birthday. Also present that night were two other 50 year Brothers, George Allen and Herbert Cut-bill. That year there were nine Brothers raised, including Bernard Marion, who received the Dedicated Service Award from Grand Lodge this year (1978) and who is serving as Lodge Chaplain in this, our final year. Another Brother raised was Sandy Tepper, who owned a tavern in Larkin Plaza. Many are the Nepperhan Brothers who learned their Masonic ritual in the privacy of Sandy's basement, and your editor, who delivered the Middle Chamber Lecture in Lodge on five separate occasions, learned and practiced most of it in that same basement. Also, more than one Fellowcraft Dinner was held in the dining room of that tavern. At one Third Degree, the Mayor of Yonkers, our own Rt. Wor. Kristen Kristensen, took the part of King Solomon, and your editor worked with him as Hiram, King of Tyre. The Lodge made its annual visit to Kings County Lodge and, on another occasion, the young men of DeMolay portrayed one of their Degrees in our Lodge. On April 23rd, at a Second Degree, all chairs were filled by employees of Otis Elevator Company. Richard (Bud) Flower was one of the Brothers entering the Lodge that year, and your editor had the pleasure of occupying the East during his Entered Apprentice Degree. The Lodge was saddened by the death of Bro. Clark Sloan, 62 years a member of Nepperhan Lodge. Needless to say, he was the oldest member of the Lodge at that time, both in years of service and in age. Membership at the end of the year had risen to 228. At the annual election, Wm. G. Zirkler was elected as Master for 1954, and the editor-to-be of this history was elected Senior Warden. Raymond Dykes became Junior Warden.

### **1954 — THE EIGHTY-SECOND YEAR**

In 1954, the District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Douglas Rolfe, initiated the idea of a Traveling Gavel for the District. It was a different concept than the one currently in practice to the extent that the idea was to keep the gavel moving as quickly and as often as possible. The Lodge which had it in its possession was supposed to travel to another Lodge, confer a Degree (or simply pay a visit), and leave the gavel for the second Lodge to get rid of it. Since Nepperhan was the first official D. D. visit in 1954, they were given the gavel by Rt. Wor. Bro. Rolfe. Within a short while, we arranged to do the first section of the First Degree in Courtland Lodge in Peekskill and, upon completion, left the gavel with them. Our own records do not show what happened to it from that time on. During the year, we also sent a delegation to Thistle Lodge to help honor Rt. Wor. Bro. Roy MacMurchy on the occasion of his completion of 25 years as Lodge Chaplain. At the time of this writing, 1978, Rt. Wor. MacMurchy was still going strong as Chaplain. Socially, our Fellowcraft Club enjoyed a bock beer party at Sandy's Tavern. Late in the year, Brother Fred Hubbell, a life member who, with his wife, had resided at the Masonic Home in Utica for several years, passed away. He was a member of Nepperhan Lodge for 49 years. During the year, 13 Brothers received the Sublime Degree, and our membership at year end totaled 230. At the elections in December, your ever-so-wordy historian, F. Donald Maxwell, was elected Master for 1955. Raymond Dykes became Senior Warden and James O. H. Carroll was elected Junior Warden.

### **1955 — THE EIGHTY-THIRD YEAR**

The year 1955 was a busy year for Nepperhan, both in and out of our Lodge Room. In March, we celebrated our 1500th Communication with a Roll Call Night. There were present 83 Nepperhan Brothers, including 18 life members and four 50 year medalists. The Master gave a brief history of the Lodge (see, I was doing it even then), and read a poem he had composed for the occasion. In April, we had the presentation of a 60 year Palm to Bro. Edward Sutherland. To make the evening more interesting, your Master had requested several of his 1955 Master colleagues to bring some of their own 50 year medalists, and a total of ten were welcomed by the Master. Including the guest of honor, those 11 Brothers represented close to 600 years of Masonry, a rather startling figure. Another Brother, George Curran, was supposed to receive a 60 year Palm but was unable to be present. It was presented to him at his home. The Lodge was grieved to learn of the death of Bro. George Allan, 58 years a member of Nepperhan Lodge, and an active member for most of those years. Our only honorary member, Most Wor. Richard Rowlands, Past Grand Master, also died during the year. Our Treasurer, Rt. Wor. Walter M. Hausel, decided to retire and move to his home upstate. A farewell party was held for him. Wor. Wm. G. Zirkler was elected to fill his unexpired term. Our Line Officers travelled upstairs and conferred the first section of the Fellowcraft Degree at Hawthorne Lodge. Also, during the year, your Master joined with the other 1955 Masters in putting on degrees in White Plains and in Dunwoodie Lodge. A supper dance at

the Amackassin Club was enjoyed by the members and their ladies. Membership went down to 229 Brothers at the end of the year. At the annual meeting in December, Raymond Dykes was elected Worshipful Master for 1956. James Carroll was made Senior Warden. Edward J. Goldner was elected Junior Warden.

### **19 5 6 — THE EIGHTY-FOURTH YEAR**

Early in the year 1956, our organist, Bro. Alex, Cunningham passed away. He was a member of Thistle Lodge, and was a frequent vocal soloist as well as playing the organ. Only four new Brothers were raised during the year, one of whom was Anton Andree, who went on to become Nepperhan's Master in 1962, became Lodge Secretary upon the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. Leon Botting, and received a Grand Lodge Commission as Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1976. At the time of this writing, Rt. Wor. Bro. Andree is still serving faithfully as Lodge Secretary. The Lodge enjoyed the presentation of the Fellowcraft Degree by Terrace Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and, on another night, the first section of the Sublime Degree by a team from Otis Elevator Company. The Drama was portrayed by our own Degree Team in their usual proficient manner. At the first meeting in September, a reception was tendered to Wor. Bro. Donald Maxwell, newly appointed Assistant Grand Lecturer for the District. The Lodge Room was filled to capacity, and the festivities included songs by the 1955 Masters, the colleagues of Wor. Bro. Maxwell. In December, the Lodge presented Bro. Herbert Cutbill with his 60 year Palm. Membership at the end of the year was 228. The annual elections resulted in the election of James O. H. Carroll as Master for 1957. Warren McKenzie became Senior Warden and Wm. G. Floyd was elected Junior Warden.

### **1957 — THE EIGHTY-FIFTH YEAR**

In 1957 we marked the death of another old-timer, Brother Sam Thompson, a Nepperhan member for 49 years. Early in the year, we were honored with the presence of Rt. Wor. Howard Potts, Grand Lecturer, who selected Nepperhan Lodge for his annual convention in the lower half of the District. The big night of the year was the reception to our own Rt. Wor. William G. Zirkler, newly appointed District Deputy of the First West-chester-Putnam District. The Lodge Room was packed as our Brother was presented with his commission, his jewel and his apron, the latter being conferred by the Mayor of Yonkers, our own Rt. Wor. Kristen Kristensen. Interestingly enough, the jewel was presented by a former Yonkers Mayor, and a Past Master of Nepperhan, Wor. Bro. Alfred Watson. In the fall, announcement came that Wor. Donald Maxwell had been re-appointed as Assistant Grand Lecturer. Lodge membership showed a net increase, being 230 at year end. Another two old-timers left our midst at the end of the year, Bro. Edward Sutherland, 62 years a Mason, and Bro. John Windell, a 57 year member of the Lodge. At the elections in December,

Warren McKenzie was elected Master for 1958. Harold Sorensen and Sidney Pound were elected Senior and Junior Wardens respectively.

### **1958 — THE EIGHTY-SIXTH YEAR**

During the first half of the year, with our own Rt. Wor. Bill Zirkler as District Deputy, we were busy following our distinguished Brother around the District. At his homecoming on April 24th, the Lodge Room was jammed to capacity, an indication of how popular Rt. Wor. Bro. Zirkler was. Even the Mayor of Yonkers, Rt. Wor. Kristen Kristensen, took time out from his civic duties to be present and give the D. D. jewel to Rt. Wor. Zirkler. A large group from the Lodge also attended the Testimonial Dinner on May 9th. On June 12th, celebrating our 85th anniversary, we enjoyed a night of entertainment with our ladies, following the business meeting. Some of us attended Dunwoodie's 50th anniversary meeting in the fall. In December, we welcomed still another 60 year Mason, Bro. Joseph Holland, a member who was an active member through most of those 60 years. He was escorted into the Lodge Room by another 60 year Mason, Bro. Herbert Cutbill. The presentation was by Rt. Wor. Robert Sasso, District Deputy. Membership at year end totaled 237 and, at the annual meeting, Harold Sorensen was elected Master for 1959. Sidney Pound became Senior Warden and Alex. McKendrick was elected Junior Warden.

### **1959 — THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH YEAR**

The year 1959 had relatively little activity, with seven Brothers being raised to the Sublime Degree. We also had an affiliation, Brother Malcolm Barclay, who also took over as Tiler of the Lodge. Brother Malcolm was the father of Brother James Barclay, our present Tiler and one of the stalwarts of the Lodge. One of the Brothers raised was George Ampagoomian, who went on to become elected Master three times, and is well known and respected throughout the District. The Lodge had the pleasure of hosting both the DeMolay young men and the Triangle young women during the year. On June 11th, we had a friendly visit from Rt. Wor. Walter Hausel, our former Treasurer, who had moved upstate. Wor. Warren McKenzie, Past Master (1958) presented the Lodge with five sets of candidates Squares and Compasses. At one of our Third Degrees, we had the pleasure of watching the Fellowcraft Team from Fernbrook Lodge in action. Financially, the Lodge was sound, with over \$12,000 in the bank. Our membership dropped to 231, largely because of five deaths and eight unaffiliations. At the annual meeting in December, Sidney Pound was elected to serve as Master in 1960.

### **1960 — THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

In March of 1960, the annual Inter-District D. D. meeting was held at Nepperhan Lodge, and the outpouring of Brothers from both the First and Second Districts was indeed heartwarming. In May,

our well-beloved and very active Brother, Hugo Wegener, received his 50 year Service Award. This was a happy occasion, and we were therefore dismayed a week later to hear of the death of Brother Joe Holland, 62 years a member of Nepperhan Lodge. Another sad occasion was the passing away in June of our junior Past Master, Wor. Harold Sorensen. They say bad news often comes in lots of threes, and it was certainly true here when Wor. Alfred Watson passed away in September. He was a former Mayor of Yonkers, and had been President of our Past Masters for many years. On the happier side, our Nepperhan "B" bowling team won the championship of the Lower District Bowling League. We also had a very welcome visit of Wor. James Case from Florida. Wor. Brother Case is, at the time of this writing, our senior Past Master. And we certainly were proud when our Marshal, Bro. Clyde Hartley, gave the Middle Chamber Lecture in his first year in the officers' line. That year also marked the beginnings of Galaxy Lodge in our District. Our membership at year end was down to 228 and, at the annual elections, Alex. McKendrick was chosen as Master for 1961.

#### **1961 — THE EIGHTY-NINTH YEAR**

At the first meeting of 1961, the Worshipful Master congratulated Wor. F. D. Maxwell on his election as President of the District Association. Also in January, we learned of the death of Rt. Wor. Walter M. Hausel, formerly Lodge Treasurer, and a member of Nepperhan for 43 years. Other deaths during the year were George Curran, our oldest living member at age 92 (66 years a Mason), Hugo Wegener (51 years a Mason), and Wor. Raymond Case (Master in 1932). During the year, a Nepperhan delegation travelled to Spring Lake, N. J. to visit Wor. Charles Zirkler, Master of Spring Lake Lodge, and a dual member of our own Lodge. Also in that year, Wor. Bro. Warren McKenzie presented a new American flag to Nepperhan Lodge. Bro. Spencer Anderson received his 50 year pin and, ten years later, was there to receive his 60 year Palm. Many of us attended the institution of Galaxy Lodge and the 1000th Communication of Dunwoodie Lodge. Brother Richard Stowbridge, who was later to become Master, conferred a First Degree when he was only Senior Deacon. Wor. Burt Bourne was presented the Bowling Sportsmanship Award by the Bowling League. And, to climax the year, a reception was held for your blushing editor, F. Donald Maxwell, when he received his Commission as Grand Representative of Missouri. It was a gala occasion with a jammed Lodge Room, including 23 Rt. Worshipfuls and 16 of the 1955 Masters (my year) who favored (?) Rt. Wor. Brother Maxwell with some plagiarized songs. The Mayor of Yonkers, Rt. Wor. Kristen Kristensen, presented the apron. At the end of the year, our membership had dropped to 216, largely because of 11 deaths and six unaffiliations. At the annual meeting in December, Anton Andree (who himself would wear the purple) was elected Master for the year 1962.

## **1962 —THE NINTIETH YEAR**

Early in 1962, we were favored by the presentation of "The Rusty Mason" by a delegation from Thistle Lodge. This is always an enjoyable presentation, and was always doubly so when Wor. Francis Frew of Thistle Lodge played a part, as he did that night. Unfortunately for Thistle Lodge, and for all Masonry, Wor. Bro. Frew passed away in the latter part of the year. The Lodge had another "first" when Brother Bill Newby stepped up from a Master of Ceremonies' chair to confer a First Degree in very proficient fashion. The Lodge lost another old-timer with the death of Bro. Fred Hosfelt, 42 years a member of the Lodge. Our Nepperhan "B" team (Burt Bourne, Captain) again won the championship of the Masonic Bowling League. Many of us attended the 50th anniversary of Thistle Lodge, at which the Grand Master was principal speaker. Before the year was over, the Past Masters again put on a Degree, with Rt. Wor. Donald Maxwell occupying the East. Once again, deaths and unaffiliations were heavy and at year end, the membership was down to 211. At the annual meeting, Clyde Hartley was elected Master for 1963.

## **1963 —THE NINETY-FIRST YEAR**

In 1963, there was only one night of degree work, but the Lodge was kept busy with many programs set up by the Master. Bro. Rufus Cushman, a resident of the Masonic Home in Utica, received his 50 year pin from the Master, who made the trip up there to make the presentation. One night was set aside as a testimonial to our Secretary, Wor. Leon Botting, and the attendance was gratifying. On May 23rd, the 90th birthday of the Lodge was celebrated. Seventeen Past Masters were present, as well as all four living Right Worshipfuls from our Lodge. Many stories were told about the "old days", and Rt. Wor. Donald Maxwell read a poem dedicated to the Lodge. In April, our Nepperhan "B" bowling team again won the League championship (three years out of four), and won permanent possession of the District Association Cup. There was a Life Members Night, at which 25 life members were welcomed, some of them for the first time in years. On November 16th, we enjoyed dinner, entertainment, and dancing with our ladies at the Parkway Casino. During the year we lost another of our old-timers, Bro. Edward Lefurgy, a Nepperhan member for 49 years. At year end, our membership had dwindled to 207, but we were financially sound with total net worth of \$12,600. At the annual elections, Richard Stowbridge was elected Master for 1964.

## **1964 — THE NINETY-SECOND YEAR**

The year 1964 was a quiet year, with little degree work and little activity. It was the year of the World's Fair, and many Brothers availed themselves of the opportunity to go there and visit the Masonic Center. The Lodge sold several hundred tickets to the Fair, Grand Lodge benefiting from each ticket sold. One session of Grand Lodge was held there, and your editor, in his capacity as

Grand Representative, was privileged to sit on the dais on that occasion. During the year, we attended Hawthorne Lodge in a body to celebrate their 40th anniversary. In October a very enjoyable Ladies' Night was held at the Parkway Casino, with dinner, dancing and entertainment. One sad point of the year was the death of Wor. Bro. Harold Rose, Master in 1930, and a member of the Lodge for 41 years. Our older Brothers will recall the fun we had going to Wor. Bro. Rose's house on the day of the annual Lodge picnic, and washing the glasses and collecting paraphernalia for the outing, Many of our Fellowcraft Club meetings were held in his house, also, with the inevitable keg of beer. In the latter part of the year, the Lodge welcomed a large delegation from Otis Elevator on the occasion of the conferral of the Sublime Degree on two Otis employees, Brothers Wallace Ruiz and Ed Pattison. At year's end, our membership had gone down to 196. At the annual elections, George Ampagoomian was elected to serve as Master in 1965.

### **1965 — THE NINETY-THIRD YEAR**

In 1965, the Triangle young ladies visited Nepperhan and put on one of their Degrees. Our Brother Khoona Shomon was installed as Eminent Commander of the Knights Templar. Wor. George Nugent, who had been Master in 1921, received his 50 year pin. We lost a number of our old-timers during the year, including Wor. Frank Morrissey (39 years), Robert Light (48 year.s), Arthur Schlaf (49 years), Howard Sherwood (42 years), and our oldest Brother in terms of service, Bro. Herb Cutbill, 69 years a Nepperhan member. Your editor was present when Bro. Herb received both his 50 and 60 year awards. A family picnic was held in June at Tibbett's Brook Park, and enjoyed by the young and old alike. A delegation from our Lodge attended the 100th anniversary on September 11th of Diamond Lodge. And a very enjoyable Ladies' Night was enjoyed on October 28th. Only two Brothers were raised during the year and, because of nine deaths our membership sank to 187. Our funds remained stable at \$12,420. At the annual elections, Alex. Mellor-Lumb was chosen as Master for 1966.

### **1966 — THE NINETY-FOURTH YEAR**

The 1966 installation had an interesting sidelight in the presence of the 1966 Masters from other Lodges in the District. Included in that group were Wor. Raymond Staib of Hastings Lodge and Wor. Hans Freyer of Yorktown Lodge, both of whom were originally raised in Nepperhan Lodge and later transferred to the Lodges mentioned. In March, Brother Ed Cole gave us an interesting pictorial talk on Africa, from where he had recently returned. In May, the DeMolay young men put on a Degree for us. We lost two more of our old-timers in the deaths of Robert Turner and Fred Hebach, both Nepperhan members for 47 years. The By-Laws were again amended, increasing the dues from \$17 to \$19 per year. In October, we had a gala Ladies' Night at the Coach and

Four, including some Nepperhan hula dancers. Our membership at the end of the year was 182. Bro. W. Burton Bourne was elected Master for 1967.

#### **1967 — THE NINETY-FIFTH YEAR**

In 1967, we had no candidates and no degree work, other than a "dry run" by the Past Masters on the First Degree. At the beginning of the year, Wor. Bro. Anton Andree was congratulated on being elected as President of the District Association, the third member to be so honored. On April 20th we had a "Ray Bell Night" in honor of our Past Master (1953) who had done so much for the Lodge over the years. We also had a visit from Wor. George Nugent, our oldest living Past Master (at the time) who was in town from California on a visit. At another meeting, the Triangle young ladies put on one of their Degrees in their usual lovely style. Death once again took its toll in the persons of C. A. Bennett (41 years), Bill Gadsby (47 years), Ernie Platt (47 years), Malcolm Barclay (our Tiler for many years and father of Bro. James Barclay) and Harold Floyd, one of our most active members over the years. In the fall, we again enjoyed a Ladies' Night at the Coach and Four. With no new members, our membership at year end had dropped to 174. At the annual elections, Edwin Zuraw was elected Master for 1968.

#### **1968 — THE NINETY-SIXTH YEAR**

The year 1968 was again devoid of candidates and degree work. It was the year when the Nepperhan "A" bowling team won the Masonic League championship. The District Deputy Exchange Visit was held in our Lodge with a tremendous turnout from both Districts. The Lodge Ladies' Night was held at the Dunwoodie Country Club. The biggest night of the year was the reception for Wor. Leon Botting, at which he received his Grand Lodge Commission as Grand Swordbearer. Rt. Wor. Bro. Botting thus won an enviable distinction; he became one of the very few who held Grand office in both the Masons and the Eastern Star (he had been District Grand Lecturer of the Star previously). Delegations included an outstanding group of 21 Past Grand Lodge officers and 20 Past Masters of our own Lodge. There was also a delegation of Lodge Secretaries. Rt. Wor. John Flockhart, District Deputy, was the principal speaker. During the year, we again lost by death several of our old-timers, including Herman Eggers (43 years), Wm. Sussman (45 years), Sidney Medina (52 years), as well as Wor. John Hensey, who had been our Master in 1935. Membership dropped to 168 Brothers. At the annual elections in December, Andrew Robertson was elected Master for 1969.

#### **1969 — THE NINETY-SEVENTH YEAR**

In 1969, Nepperhan enjoyed the first degree work we had experienced in several years. Three Brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree, including two future Masters, Leslie Read and Robert

Tauber. We also had a 50 Year Night when three Brothers, Rt. Wor. Leon Botting and Brothers Arthur Pearsall and Norman Mackay were present to receive their 50 year Service Awards. One of our Brothers, Charles Zirkler, was appointed a District Deputy in New Jersey. He was a dual member in Spring Lake Lodge, where he was (and is) a Past Master. During the year, we again found it necessary to raise the dues, this time to \$22 per year. One of our meetings was dedicated to Wor. Ray Bell, who was leaving to live in Florida. On the sad side, death claimed five Brothers, including Herb Pike (37 years), Harry Watson (39 years) and Gus Schneider (43 years). Membership went down to 158. At the annual elections, Simeon Malutich was elected Master for 1970.

### **1970 — THE NINETY-EIGHTH YEAR**

In 1970, two of our Past Masters, Rt. Wor. Wm. F. Grimm (1927) and Wor. Charles McConnell (1947) received their 50 year pins at a meeting set aside in their honor. Congratulations were extended to our own Bro. Alex. Mellor-Lumb on his election as Eminent Commander of the Knights Templar. The Nepperhan "A" bowling team again won the District Bowling League title. Our hearts were saddened by the deaths of five Brothers, Otto Stahl (40 years), Wm. Shrive (47 years), Walter Donaldson (43 years), Wor. Sidney Pound (Master in 1960), and Wor. Ray Bell (Master in 1953). Your editor had the pleasure of serving as Junior Warden for Wor. Bro. Bell in 1953, and can only say that seldom was there a more dedicated Mason. At year end, membership totaled 144. George Riggan was elected Master for 1971.

### **1971 — THE NINETY-NINTH YEAR**

Again in 1971, there were no candidates, but the Lodge found itself busy conferring 50 year and 60 year awards. Brother Spencer Anderson came down from Connecticut to receive his 60 year Palm. On the same night, Bro. Ronald Vanderwende received his 50 year pin. Also, Brothers Archibald Wiley and Wm. Schott were presented their 50 year pins in Florida. One of the biggest nights ever in Nepperhan Lodge was the night 50 year awards were presented to Rt. Wor. Kristen Kristensen and Wor. James Thomson. Every Lodge in the District was well represented, and the list of Worshipfuls and Right Worshipfuls took several pages in the minute book. The most astounding statistic was the number of 50 year members present — no less than 23 of them, including four from Nepperhan, three from Rising Star, five from Thistle, three from Bryn Mawr, two from Dunwoodie, two from Peary, two from Hawthorne, and one each from Diamond and Phillipstown. All five living Right Worshipfuls from Nepperhan were present. Your editor had the privilege of occupying the East during the ceremonies, and it was truly a thrill. Death also laid a heavy hand on us during the year, with the passing of Dave Slater (44 years), Bill Hendry (43 years), Emil Meske (50 years), Rufus Cushman (58 years a Mason and 95 years old), and Wor. Bro. Wm.

Schwartz, Master in 1926, who had only received his 50 year pin three weeks before his death. Our Nepperhan "A" bowling team again won first place and retired the District Trophy, under the able leadership of Captain Anton Andree. Membership at the end of the year was down to 136. George Ampagoomian, who had been Master in 1965, was elected to serve as Master in 1972.

### **1972 — THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR**

In 1972, we again had no candidates and no degree work. The annual Inter-District D. D. meeting was held this year in Nepperhan Lodge with an attendance of 173 Brothers, of whom 96 were from the First District. During the year, we donated money and clothing for the victims of the hurricane "Agnes". The Nepperhan "A" team again won the bowling championship. Our 1800th Communication was observed on October 26th. The By-Laws were amended to set the Lodge dues at \$25 per annum. Towards the end of the year, the Lodge received a terrible blow with the death, in rapid succession, of our Treasurer, Rt. Wor. Wm. Zirkler, and our Secretary, Rt. Wor. Leon E. Botting. Rt. Wor. Zirkler was raised in 1947, was Nepperhan Master in 1954, was appointed District Deputy in 1957 and died in October, 1972. Rt. Wor. Bro. Botting was raised in 1918, affiliated with Nepperhan in 1926, was Nepperhan Master in 1934 and 1943, was appointed Grand Swordbearer in 1968, and died in November, 1972. We also marked the passing of Wor. George Grimm, Master in 1937. At the end of the year, membership totaled 130. With the death of Rt. Wor Brothers Zirkler and Botting, Wor. Anton was elected Secretary, and Wor. W. Burton Bourne was elected Treasurer. Wor. George Ampagoomian was re-elected to again serve as Master in 1973.

### **1973 — THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST YEAR**

At the beginning of 1973, our newly-installed Master, George Ampagoomian, suffered a heart attack and his duties were assumed by Wor. Sam Malutich, who had previously been Master in 1970. This was our 100th anniversary year, and a busy one. The 100th anniversary meeting was held on March 22nd and was preceded by a dinner in the Temple. At the meeting itself, Rt. Wor. Donald Maxwell presided in the East and gave an interesting history of the Lodge, particularly with relation to the early years. The principal speaker was the Grand Master, Most Wor. Lloyd S. Cochrane, who congratulated the Lodge and spoke in his usual inspirational style. Our District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Donald Klein, also spoke, and other speakers were Rt. Wor. Charles Zirkler, a dual member of our Lodge, who brought the greetings of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and a Past Grand Master of New Jersey, Most Worshipful August Ulrich, who brought news of a bequest to Nepperhan Lodge left by Rt. Wor. Bro. William Zirkler in his last will and testament. Later in the year, we also had a dinner with our ladies in Seven Pines Restaurant in Mamaroneck. The DeMolay boys were invited to one of our meetings and put on their "Mothers" Degree. We had

three candidates for membership (first in several years) and all Three Degrees were conferred upon them. At the Third Degree, the first section was conferred by the 1970 Masters of the District, and the second section (Drama) was by the Police Square Club of New York City. The District Association held its first Family Picnic, replacing the stag picnics of former years, and it was an outstanding success. During the year, a 50 year Service Award was presented to Bro. Philip Schlobohm. One of our meetings was set aside for a talk by Rt. Wor. Arthur Williamson, of Thistle Lodge, to our newly-raised Master Masons. It seems very few years go by without the deaths of old-timers and this year was no exception. Passed on to the Great Architect were Wor. George Nugent, Master in 1921 and a Nepperhan member for 59 years; Bro. Charles Anderson, a member for 48 years; Bro. Gus Massas, a member for 46 years; and Wor. Bro. Henry Storms, Master in 1936, and a member for 48 years. Membership at year's end was 123. Robert Tauber was elected Master for 1974.

#### **1974 — THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND YEAR**

The year 1974 was an active year, with Wor. Robert Tauber providing some sort of activity at virtually every meeting. Three new candidates worked their way through the Three Degrees, with the Master Mason Degree portrayed by Pelham Lodge in interesting fashion. In the line of Civic Participation, Wor. Robert Tauber arranged a city-wide Bicycle Inspection Day at the Cross-County Shopping Center, and about 75 young people brought their bikes for that inspection. Rt. Wor. Charles J. F. Keil attended one meeting and gave a talk on Paul Revere in connection with the Bi-Centennial Celebration. The Lodge decided to present 25 year pins (this had not previously been a custom in Nepperhan), and this was done at one meeting, preceded by a spaghetti dinner. Congratulations were sent to Wor. James Case and his wife on their 50th wedding anniversary. Wor. Bro. Jim was Master back in 1938. Fifty year pins were presented to Brothers R. C. Chipman, George Milton, John Barmore and George Jackson. And, once again, the Lodge suffered a severe blow in the deaths of members. Wor. Robert Sutherland, Master in 1950 (and the one who first put your editor in the officers' line), passed away in Delaware. And, in quick succession, we lost two more Rt. Worshipfuls in the deaths of Kris Kristensen and Bill Grimm. Rt. Wor. Bro. Kris was raised in 1921, was Master in 1925, was appointed District Deputy in 1928, and received his 50 year pin in 1971. Rt. Wor. Bill Grimm was raised in 1920, was Master in 1927, was appointed Grand Representative in 1948, and received his 50 year pin in 1970. Both Brothers were tremendously active all during their Masonic careers. Thus, in the space of two years, Nepperhan lost four Right Worshipfuls. At the end of the year, membership was down to 115. Khoona Shomon was elected Master for 1975.

#### **1975 — THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD YEAR**

The year 1975 saw two more Brothers go through the degrees and become members -- probably the last members to join Nepperhan Lodge before the merger. At the Third Degree, the Thistle Fellowcraft Team portrayed the Drama in their matchless style. In February, Rt. Wor. Donald Klein gave us a talk on George Washington, the Man and Mason. A reception was held in Ossining in April for Rt. Wor. Eugene Barton, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge. Rt. Wor. Barton, a member of Collabergh Lodge, was District Deputy of our District in 1954-5, when your editor was Master of Nepperhan for the first time. The Lodge received a plaque from Grand Lodge commending Wor. Robert Tauber and Nepperhan Lodge for the Bicycle Inspection Program. Fifty year Service Awards were presented to Brothers Andrew Hoerup and Clarence Nelson. Again, death took from us some of our old-timers, notably Bro. Lee S. Richards, 69 years a Mason; Wor. Bro. James Thomson, 54 years a Mason and Master in 1933; and Bro. Wm. Schott, 56 years a Mason. The Lodge, as a delegation, visited Hawthorne Lodge on their 50th anniversary celebration. Membership at year end was 103, Leslie Read was elected to serve as Master in 1976.

#### **1976 — THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH YEAR**

In 1976, not much activity was evident in the Lodge, with attendance seldom more than an operating minimum. In the spring, our Nepperhan "A" bowling team again won the League championship under the direction of our long-time Captain, Anton Andree. But the big news of the year, of course, was the appointment of Brother Andree as Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of New York. Rt. Wor. Bro. Andree was raised in 1956, was Master in 1962, was President of the District Association in 1966, and became our Secretary on the death of Rt. Wor. Leon E. Botting. During his year as Staff Officer, Rt. Wor. Bro. Andree conducted seminars for Lodge officers throughout the District, and was truly a "right hand" to our District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Donald Urquhart, throughout his term of office. The reception for Rt. Wor. Anton was a full-house affair, with representatives from most Lodges in the District. Many of us also attended the reception for Rt. Wor. Bro. Urquhart at Thistle Lodge. We learned of the deaths of two more of our old-timers, Ronald Vanderwende (55 years) and Clarence Bleakley (48 years). Membership at the end of the year was down to 101. At the annual elections, Wor. Robert Tauber was elected to serve his second term as Master in 1977.

#### **1977 — THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH YEAR**

In 1977 there was no degree work, but several interesting meetings were enjoyed. Rt. Wor. Robert Sasso gave us a talk on George Washington. The DeMolay boys put on their "Mothers" Degree. Three Brothers received their 50 year pins, Brothers John Betchley, Elias Bistany, and Alvin (Bud) Shuster. The latter two came to Lodge and received their pins personally. Rt. Wor. Donald Maxwell read original poems dedicated to them, as he had at so many similar occasions in

the past. In April, we had a home-coming night for Rt. Wor. Anton Andree, and once again the full-house sign was up. Many were the tributes paid to "Andy" that night. Many of us also attended the Thistle Lodge homecoming for Rt. Wor. Donald Urquhart. At our June meeting, after a short business session, we and our wives went to Wor. Bob Tauber's house for a very enjoyable social evening. Our organist for many years, Bro. Fred Gee was killed in an auto accident late in the year. And, before year end, a committee of Nepperhan Lodge Past Masters met with a committee from Thistle Lodge and started merger proceedings. Our membership at the end of the year was 95. For our final year, Rt. Wor. Donald Maxwell was elected to serve as 1978 Master.

### **1978 — THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH AND FINAL YEAR**

So, the history of Nepperhan Lodge No. 736 comes to its final year, 1978. Rt. Wor. Donald Maxwell was installed at the first meeting in January for his second term as Master. Wor. George Ampagoomian and Wor. Andrew Robertson were installed as Senior and Junior Warden respectively. Rt. Wor. Anton Andree served as Installing Master. At our first meeting in March, both Nepperhan and Thistle Lodges voted favorably for the merger. Meanwhile your Master (and editor), who had first become interested in the Lodge history back in 1955 when he had to prepare a presentation for our 1500th Communication, set for himself the task of putting such a fascinating history into book form for the interest of our Brothers, and as a memo of Nepperhan Lodge. Portions of this history were read at our February meetings. At our second meeting in March, we welcomed our District Deputy, Rt. Wor. Theodore Sheehan, on the occasion of his official visit to Nepperhan Lodge. Yonkers Lodge No. 882 attended in a body following their own meeting in the Upper Lodge Room, and there were also sizeable delegations from Dunwoodie Lodge, Hastings Lodge and Thistle Lodge. A social hour was enjoyed after the meeting. At our meeting of April 13, we were again favored by the presence of our District Deputy. At this meeting, he presented a Dedicated Service Award from Grand Lodge to our faithful Brother, Bernard Marion. He also presented a 50 year pin to Wor. Bro. Albert Cooper, who brought a delegation from Jamaica Lodge to witness the occasion. Wor. Bro. Cooper was Master of Jamaica Lodge in 1977, but he is also a dual member in Nepperhan Lodge where he was raised in 1928. The Worshipful Master read original poems dedicated to each of these Brothers. To make the evening more enjoyable, wives and friends had been invited, and we had a fine outpouring of the distaff side. Our written history necessarily ends at this point in order that this epic (?) may be placed in the hands of our printer. At the time of this writing, the Judge Advocate of Grand Lodge had approved the merger, and there remains the formality of approval by Grand Lodge which is expected the early part of May. A tentative date of Saturday, June 10th has been set as a Merger Meeting, representing the first meeting of the New Lodge. We salute Nepperhan Lodge No. 736, and bid her farewell.

## **INTERESTING FACTS** (Sometimes known as "TRIVIA")

There have been a total of 787 members of Nepperhan Lodge since its inception.

Of the above number, eight were Charter Members, 87 were Affiliates, and the balance of 692 gained their membership by initiation.

The first Yonkers Mason killed in World War I was Brother Robert Glover, a member of Nepperhan Lodge.

Our peak membership year was 1929, when we had 329 members.

Our heaviest influx of members was in the year 1920 when we raised a total of 39 members. That year there were eleven special communications.

In the ten year period, 1920 through 1929, we took in 214 new members — an average of over twenty per year.

Our oldest members, in terms of years of membership, were Brothers Lee Richards and Herb Cutbill, each 69 years a Mason.

Over the years, we had 46 Fifty-Year Members.

As of the time of this writing, the total membership breaks down as follows: 353 died, 206 unaffiliated, 128 dimitted, 5 unaccounted for, and 95 (bless them) are still alive.

Rt. Wor. Ralph E. Prime certainly must have enjoyed creating new lodges. He left Rising Star Lodge to become a Founder of Nepperhan Lodge, and then left Nepperhan Lodge to become a Founder of Yonkheer Lodge.

The oldest Master was Wor. Khoona Shomon, who was 72 during his year as Master.

The youngest Master award goes to Wor. Philip Fitz and Wor. John Bray, each of whom was 27 years old when Master.

The Past Masters who lived the longest are still alive at the time of this writing; Wor. Jim Case and Wor. Charles McConnell are both 87 years -old and going strong. Wor. Alfred Watson was 85 years old when he passed away.

*Rt. Wor. F. Donald Maxwell 1978  
Historian*

## PAST MASTERS

1873	Eli L. Sager	1926	William W. Schwartz
1874	Eli L. Sager	1927	William F. Grimm
1875	W. A. Gibson	1928	John Magil
1876	R.E. Prime	1929	William F. Poole
1877	R.E. Prime	1930	Harold A. Rose
1878	R.E. Prime	1931	James F. Campbell
1879	R.E. Prime	1932	Raymond Case
1880	R.E. Prime	1933	James D. Thomson
1881	R.E. Prime	1934	Leon E. Botting
1882	W.W. Wilson	1935	John Hensey
1883	W.W. Wilson	1936	Henry Storms
1884	Charles Reed	1937	George F.W. Grimm
1885	Moses D. Getty	1938	James H. Case
1886	Moses D. Getty	1939	Sidney White
1887	R.E. Prime	1940	Paul L. Bleakley
1888	R.E. Prime	1941	Walter M. Hausel
1889	R.E. Prime	1942	Edward J. MacSorley
1890	R.E. Prime	1943	Leon E. Botting
1891	R.E. Prime	1944	Alfred Watson
1892	Moses D. Getty	1945	Nicholas Milton
1893	R.E. Prime	1946	William M. Kent, Jr.
1894	George B. Wray	1947	Charles McConnell
1895	R.L. Calkins	1948	Frank Morrisey
1896	Charles Hepenstal	1949	Albert Schweitzer
1897	E.W. Taylor	1950	Robert L. Sutherland
1898	Philip Fitz	1951	Francis Noffko
1899	J.A. Hauser	1952	Michael Cholowsky
1900	E.F. Howard	1953	Raymond Bell
1901	E.F. Howard	1954	William G. Zirkler
1902	F.A. Baldwin	1955	F. Donald Maxwell
1903	William C. Prime	1956	Raymond Dykes
1904	William C. Prime	1957	James G.H. Carroll
1905	William C. Prime	1958	W. Warren McKenzie
1906	C.I. McCoy	1959	Harold Sorenson
1907	F.B. Mee	1960	Sidney G. Pound
1908	P.W. Soeteman	1961	Alexander McKendrick
1909	Robert W. Anderson	1962	Anton Andree
1910	F.M. Johnson, Jr.	1963	Clyde Hartley
1911	B. FitzGibbon	1964	Richard Stowbridge
1912	Robert W. Anderson	1965	George Ampagoomian
1913	George Mee	1966	Alexander Meller-Lumb
1914	John Cullen	1967	W. Burton Bourne
1915	Leslie Sutherland	1968	Edwin Zuraw
1916	Walter Blackburn	1969	Andrew Robertson
1917	Walter Blackburn	1970	Simeon Malutich
1918	Palmer H. Stilson	1971	George Riggin
1919	Edward J. MacSorley	1972	George Ampagoomian
1920	Edward J. MacSorley	1973	George Ampagoomian
1921	George F. Nugent	1974	Robert Tauber
1922	John R. Bray	1975	Koona Shomon
1923	Alfred Watson	1976	Leslie A.J. Read
1924	Albert Senftner	1977	Robert Tauber
1925	Kristen Kristersen	1978	F. Donald Maxwell

## GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

1881	Ralph Earl Prime	District Deputy Grand Master
1885	Lyraan S. Cobb	Grand Steward
1890	Ralph Earl Prime	Grand Representative
1895	Moses D. Getty	District Deputy Grand Master
1905	William C. Prime	District Deputy Grand Master
1913	E. F. Howard	Grand Director of Ceremonies
1921	Walter G. Blackburn	Grand Swordbearer
1923	Walter G. Blackburn	District Deputy Grand Master
1928	Kristen Kristensen	District Deputy Grand Master
1928	Edward J. MacSorley	Grand Representative
1936	Robert W. Anderson	Grand Steward
1947	William Poole	Grand Representative
1947	William F. Grimm	Grand Representative
1951	Walter M. Hausel	Grand Steward
1957	William G. Zirkler	District Deputy Grand Master
1961	F. Donald Maxwell	Grand Representative
1968	Leon E. Botting	Grand Swordbearer
1976	Anton Andree	Grand Director of Ceremonies

## THE FINAL WORDS

And so we come to the closing of Nepperhan Lodge No. 736, Free and Accepted Masons. It leaves us with a heavy feeling of sorrow, that is true. And yet there will always remain that feeling of pride and joy that we, you and I, all of us, were members of Nepperhan Lodge, that we were a part of Nepperhan Lodge, that we were Nepperhan Lodge.

Yes, Nepperhan Lodge is gone, but our memories remain of our happy times, of our friendships, of our Brotherhood. Perhaps this History may strengthen those memories, and recall to us those past glorious days that made Nepperhan Lodge such a vital part of our lives and our community.

And now we turn, with great anticipation and hope, to our new Lodge, to Thistle Lodge No. 900, to a new group with the same ideals and purpose — the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God. And so, we close the history of Nepperhan Lodge with these few words:

*To thee, Oh Nepperhan we bow,  
And bid a fond farewell.  
And on thy name we'll e'er bestow  
The thanks that words can never tell.*

*Through a span of over one hundred years,  
You held us all together.  
You've brought us joy and calmed our fears,  
Through fair and stormy weather.*

*Your Altar often was the place  
We met our Brothers new,  
Our memories will never erase,  
We'll e'er remember you.*

*Nepperhan Lodge, we say Goodbye,  
As history claims your name.  
But evermore as time goes by,  
Our thoughts will be the same.*

"I NOW DECLARE THE LODGE DULY CLOSED. BROTHER JUNIOR DEACON,  
INFORM THE TILER,"

F. Donald Maxwell

Worshipful Master