



SAGGAHEW LODGE
A.F. & A.M.

Saggahew Lodge

A.F. & A.M.

**150th
Anniversary
Celebration**

Friday, May 6, 2016

HAVERRHILL, MASS.

CHARTERED DEC 13th 1865



*“Let there be light!” the great Creator spoke,
And, at the summons, slumbering nature woke,
While from the east the primal morning broke,
Back rolled the curtains of the night,
And earth rejoiced to see the light.*

*“Let there be light!” the Master’s lips proclaimed
And heart and hand unite in glad acclaim
To hail th’ enrollment of a Brother’s name,
While he beholds with ravished sight
The glories of the perfect light.*

*- from “Sit Lux”
by Wor. Thomas W. Davis*

~ TONIGHT'S PROGRAM ~

WELCOMING ADDRESS

R.W. James Antonopoulos & Wor. Alan M. Viens
Masters of Ceremonies /Committee Chairmen

INVOCATION

Wor. Daniel F. Verrington - Chaplain

MASTER'S ADDRESS

Wor. Willard C. Walker, Jr. - Master of SaggaheW Lodge

INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE

R.W. James Antonopoulos

INTRODUCTION of other DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Wor. Alan Viens

REMARKS FROM OUR GUESTS

BRIEF HISTORY and CHARTER of SAGGAHEW LODGE

Wor. Scott A. Reid

“SAGGAHEW”

Wor. Edward P. Felker

MOMENT of SILENT PRAYER

for SAGGAHEW LODGE DEPARTED BRETHERN

ADDRESS by THE GRAND MASTER

BENEDICTION

Wor. Daniel Verrington - Chaplain

A Message From The Grand Master

Dear Brothers, Family, and
Friends of Saggahew Lodge,

Welcome to the celebration of
the 150th Anniversary of Sagga-
hew Lodge A.F. & A.M.!

Joining together with Brothers
and friends to recognize and
commemorate a Lodge's mile-
stone anniversary is one of the
most significant events your
Grand Lodge Officers have the
privilege of attending. The his-
tory and tradition of the Lodge,
and the remembrance of the
Brothers who shepherded the
Lodge to this point, provide a

meaningful backdrop to the celebration. The warm fraternal glow
we experience as we look ahead to the Lodge's future gives us
assurance that as long as the Craft remains a place where friend-
ship, morality, and brotherly love exists, we will survive and
thrive until called again to celebrate the next, significant occa-
sion.

My sincerest congratulations to the officers and members of Sag-
gahew Lodge on the occasion of your 150th Anniversary.

Cordially & fraternally,

Harry Waugh



A Message From The Master



Dear Brothers, family and friends of Saggahew:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to Saggahew's 150th Anniversary celebration. This is indeed a monumental occasion which portrays the strength and durability of the Fraternity. We have been blessed by the dedication and hard work of those who have propelled us to this milestone. The future looks bright with our current line of Officers who will continue to carry the Fraternity into the future. With pride and Brotherly Love, I wish Saggahew Lodge all the success for anniversaries yet to come.

Cordially & fraternally,
Bill Walker
Worshipful Master

From the District



On behalf of all the Brethren of the 11th Masonic District, I would like to congratulate Saggahew Lodge as you celebrate your sesquicentennial. During the past 150 years, your Lodge has been an excellent example in the practice of the Tenets of our Profession and you continue to lead the way.

Freemasonry faces many challenges today and I have the utmost confidence that the Brethren of Saggahew Lodge will meet those challenges and continue to prosper. May the next 150 years be as successful as your last.

R.W. Fred A. Dobson
District Deputy Grand Master
11th Masonic District 2014-2016

Special Thanks to our 150th Committee Chairmen



R.W. James Antonopoulos
Past District Deputy Grand Master
11th Masonic District 2012-2014

Past Master
Saggahew Lodge 1997



Wor. Alan Veins
Past Master
Saggahew Lodge 1988

~ PAST MASTERS of SAGGAHEW LODGE ~

*R.W. James E. Gale	1865-66	*Wor. Dr. John M. Morey	1961
@*R.W. Nathan S. Kimball	1868-70	*Wor. Norman A. Field	1962
*Wor. Arvida M. Vance	1871-73	*R.W. George H. Harrison	1963
*Wor. Henry Cummings	1874-75	*Wor. Christopher Cottis	1964
*Wor. George S. Yeaton	1876-78	Wor. Robert T. Wilson	1965
*Wor. Olskar S. William	1878-81	*Wor. Robert D. Forsyth, Jr.	1966
*Wor. John M. Hill	1882-84	*Wor. John H. Scholl Jr.	1967-68
*Wor. J. Otis Wardwell	1886-87	*Wor. Joseph C. Langlois	1969
*R.W. Edward A. Fitts	1888-89	*Wor. Robert J. Danis	1970
*Wor. Edwin W. Andrews	1890-91	*Wor. Nerses DerGarabedian	1971
*Wor. Harvey L. Eastman	1892-93	*Wor. Raynond S. Seaver	1972
*R.W. Charles P. Sumner	1894-96	Wor. Robert C. Faulkner	1973
*Wor. Joseph A. Dalrymple	1897-98	*Wor. Earle F. Atwood	1974
*Wor. Charles E. Chandler	1899-00	*Wor. Leon J. Auclair	1975
*R.W. Fred D. McGregor	1901-02	*R.W. James H. Hastings	1976
*Wor. Charles A. Bodwell	1903-04	*Wor. Edwar C. Danielson	1977
@*R.W. Benj. B. Gilman	1905-06	Wor. Richard Driscoll	1978-79
*Wor. Sam A. McGregor	1907-08	*R.W. James H. Hastings	1980
*Wor. W. Eugene Ellis	1909-10	Wor. Lawrence W. Walker, Sr.	1981
*Wor. Irving L. Keith	1911-12	*Wor. Edward P. Dergarabedian	1982
*Wor. Fredrick H. Tilton	1913-14	*Wor. Richard Dupre	1983
*Wor. Matthew J. Gray	1915-16	Wor. Duncan C. Farmer	1984
*Wor. Ralph N. Davis	1917-18	*Wor. Mark E Conway	1985
*Wor. Urban W. Leavitt	1919-20	*Wor. John W. Morgan	1986
*Wor. Ira C. Titcomb	1921-22	Wor. Lee Roy Campbell	1987
*Wor. Tom W. Mitchell	1923-24	Wor. Alan M. Viens	1988
*Wor. Edwin F. Parker	1925-26	*Wor. John W. Morgan	1989
*Wor. Bennett McGregor	1927-28	Wor. Frank G. Graichen, Jr.	1990
*Wor. Morton R. Milner	1929-30	Wor. Richard E. Patterson	1991
*R.W. J. Bradford Davis	1931-32	Wor. James E. Bradley	1992
*Wor. Robert H. Sawyer	1933-34	Wor. Daniel F. Verrington	1993
*Wor. Warren B. Allen	1935	Wor. John A. Torrisi	1994-95
*Wor. Arthur B. Walker	1936-37	Wor. P. David Ryll	1996
*Wor. Charles F. Johnson	1938-39	R.W. James Antonopoulos	1997
*Wor. Leslie J. Wood	1940	Wor. Theodore W. Bitomski	1998
*R.W. Erving H. Malcolm	1941	Wor. Francis T. Parker	1999
*Wor. F. James Caswell	1942-43	Wor. Lawrence W. Walker, Jr.	2000
*Wor. Herbert S. Brasseur	1944-45	Wor. David E. Potter	2001
*Wor. L. Donald Parshley	1946-47	Wor. Richard Vinci	2002
*R.W. Frederick M. Faulkner	1948	R.W. J. Charles Rutledge	2003
*Wor. Benjamin L. Chase	1949	Wor. Lawrence W. Walker, Sr.	2004
*Wor. L. Frank Coles	1950	Wor. Alan M. Viens	2005
*Wor. G. Elbert Hall	1951	Wor. Terrence E. DeGrenier	2006
*Wor. Albert H. Snay	1952	Wor. Willard C. Walker, Jr.	2007
*Wor. Orrin F. Riley	1953	Wor. Justin F. Prescott	2008
@*R.W. Thomas J. Luby Jr.	1954	S Wor. Richard S. MacInnis	2009
*Wor. James M. McLeod Jr.	1955	Wor. Lawrence W. Walker Jr.	2010
*Wor. Moses S. Klien	1956	Wor. Keith Zibolis	2011
*Wor. William L. Eldridge	1957	Wor. Michael J. Walker	2012
*Wor. A. Johnson Porst	1958	Wor. Edward P. Felker	2013
*Wor. Chesley T. Bixby	1959	Wor. Winston K. Wong	2014
*Wor. Donald P. Stone	1960	Wor. Scott A. Reid	2015

~ PAST MASTERS of BETHANY LODGE ~

*R.W. Morton B. Merrill	1869-71	*Wor. Frederick C. Chase	1953-54
*Wor. Eldridge C. Sawyer	1872-74	*Wor. John T. Franklin	1955
*Wor. Frank Wigginn	1875	*Wor. Gerald M. Hargaves	1956
*Wor. Alexander Smart	1876-77	*Wor. Edward L. Smith	1957
*Wor. Ora A. Little	1878-79	*Wor. A. Noel Roy	1958
*Wor. Ralph H. Smart	1880-81	*Wor. Arthur E. Sharp	1959
*Wor. Fred M. Chase	1882-83	*Wor. George P. Hardie	1960
*Wor. M. Perry Sargent	1884-85	*Wor. Harold M. Daniels	1961
*Wor. William F. Ward	1886-87	*Wor. Leonard R. Burrill	1962
*Wor. John P. Thornell	1888-89	*Wor. Harold M. Waterhouse, Jr.	1963
*Wor. Herman W. Kelly	1890-91	*Wor. Harry M. Fleet	1964
*R.W. Daniel J. Poore	1892-94	D Wor. Wayne W. Williams, Sr.	1965
*Wor. Alexander Hanna	1895-96	*Wor. Francis Drenth	1966
*Wor. Bion Green	1897-98	Wor. Willard C. Gowan	1967
*Wor. Zanes Lovell	1899	Wor. George A. Waterhouse	1968
*Wor. Fred B. Judkins	1900-01	R.W. Merton E. Chute	1969-70
*Wor. Clifton B. Heath	1902	Wor. Byron S. Reynolds	1971
*Wor. William L. Smart	1903-04	*Wor. Richard T. Smith	1972-98
*Wor. William Jonah	1905-06	*Wor. Kenneth E. Randall	1973-86
*Wor. Oliver Jordan	1907-08	Wor. Richard N. Kendrick	1974, 2000
*Wor. John W. Grocut	1909-10	Wor. Russell M. Poor	1975
*Wor. Frank E. Pease	1911-12	*Wor. Carrol E. Twist	1976
*Wor. Charles W. Cutts	1913	Wor. Russell E. Smith	1977
*Wor. Frederick E. Grant	1914-15	Wor. Richard A. Waterhouse	1978
*Wor. Albert P. Wadleigh	1916-17	*Wor. Wayne G. Maglione	1979
*Wor. L. Allen Williams	1918-19	*Wor. Ernest D. Sargent	1980, 1990
*Wor. Frank F. Philbrick	1920	*R.W. Laurence J. Gardella	1981-82
@*R.W. William H. Franklin, Jr.	1921-22	D Walter E. Barker, Jr.	1983
*Wor. Carlton C. Witham	1923	Wor. R. Thomas Smith, Jr.	1984
*Wor. George E. Franklin	1924-25	*Wor. Joseph R. Burks	1985
*Wor. George L. Hosford	1926-27	DWor. Guy R. Williams	1987
*Wor. G. Willis Cummings	1928-29	Wor. Edwin H. Wright	1988-89
*Wor. A. R. Waterhouse	1930-31	Wor. Carl L. Booth	1991
*Wor. Howard C. Lovell	1932-33	Wor. Richard W. Lacombe	1992
*Wor. Elmer T. Grant	1934	Wor. Glenn W. Coffin	1993, 1995
*Wor. Willard T. Kelly	1935-36	Wor. Matthew A. Keiser	1994, 2002
*R.W. Cecil E. Welch	1937-38	*Wor. John E. O'Neal, Jr.	1996-97, 1999
*Wor. Alexander Q. Blake	1939-40	*Wor. Byron E. McNutt	2001
*Wor. Edward B. Germain	1941	Wor. Charles H. Graber	2004
*Wor. Malcolm A. Eaton	1942	R.W. J. Charles Rutledge	2005
*Wor. Chauncey D. McKay	1943-44	Wor. Willard C. Walker, Jr.	2006
*Wor. Alvin F. Heath	1945	Wor. Keith J. Zibolis	2007-08
D R.W. Frank M. Hargreaves	1946-47	Wor. Normand L. Lavoie	2009
*Wor. Isaiah Chase	1948	S Wor. Anthony M. Noguiera	2010-12
*R.W. Lloyd S. Ray	1949	Wor. Timothy J.D. Rand	2011-13
*Wor. Edgar P. Sargent	1950	Wor. Dana A. Wildes	2014-15
*Wor. Frank J. Russo	1951-52		

In April of 2015, Bethany Lodge, originally chartered in "West Amesbury" (Merrimack), merged with Saggahew Lodge. We welcome our new Brothers and honor their history and the legacies of their Past Masters as well.



Officers of Saggahew Lodge 2015-2016

(Front: L to R) Bro. Nicholas A. Brown, Jr. Steward; Adam B. Hathaway, Sr. Steward; Wor. David E. Potter, Treasurer; Bro. James F. Fergola, Jr. Warden; Wor. Willard C. Walker, Jr., Master; Bro. Kevin M. Moore, Sr. Warden; Wor. Francis T. Parker, Secretary; Wor. Daniel F. Verrington, Chaplain; Bro. Jason V. Bulman, Sr. Deacon

(Rear: L to R) Wor. Michael J. Walker, Electrician; Wor. Theodore W. Bitomski, Asst. Treasurer; Bro. Adam Rodis, Inside Sentinel; Wor. Winston K.T. Wong, Assistant Treasurer; Wor. Scott Reid, Marshal; Wor. Alan M. Viens, Ritualist; Wor. Charles H. Graber, Asst. Secretary; Wor. Edward P. Felker, Asst. Secretary

(Not Pictured) Bro. Joseph Hickey, Jr. Deacon; Wor. Justin Prescott, Tyler

Saggahew

'Twas a gallant ship on a trial trip
That left our shores one day,
And many a prayer for that noble craft
Went with them on their way.
We had no fears for their safe return
Though wind and tide should fail,
For strong and true was the gallant crew
And their Master was a Gale.

CHORUS

We'll drink success to that noble craft
With her free and accepted crew
Long may they sail with their Master Gale
In the good ship Saggahew.

There was Randall and Whittier, Poor and Hoyt,
Brooks, Bradley, Wheeler and West,
And Carleton, Nichols, Smith, Messer and Fitts,
And Sleeper came with the rest,
There was Hubbard and Evans and Frank C. Swan,
And of Chases not a few.
'Twas a gallant band that left the land
In the good ship Saggahew.

CHORUS

Again today that gallant craft
Has started from the shore
With "Square and Compass" at her prow
And her deck the "Checkered Floor,"
May heaven speed them on their way
May their skies be always blue,
And choicest blessings rest upon
The good ship Saggahew.

CHORUS

Charter of Saggahew Lodge

TO ALL THE FRATERNITY TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL
COME: THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE

*of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Ma-
sons, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sends greeting:*

*Whereas, a Petition has been presented to us by James E. Gale, J. B. Rich-
ardson, George Poor, .James F. West, Dani. Fitts, John N. Sleeper, Alvah
Whittier, Calvin Smith, O. S. Hubbard, A. S. Hodgkins, C. P. Messer, E. B.
Littlefield, R. Stuart Chase, D. A. Sleeper, Chas. R. Evans,, Frank C. Swan,
Jas. R. Nichols, Geo. H. Hoyt, John P. Randall, Jas. H. Carleton, E. A. Brad-
ley, Wm. A. Brooks, Chas. W. Chase, George S. Chase, Allison Wheeler, E.
M. Littlefield, & Alonzo W. Cram,*

*all Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, praying that they, with all others
who shall hereafter join them, may be Erected and Constituted into a regu-
lar Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which Petition appearing
to us as tending to the advancement of Masonry and the good of the Craft;
Know Ye Therefore, that we, the Grand Lodge aforesaid, reposing special
trust and confidence in the Prudence and Fidelity of our Brethren above
named, have constituted and appointed, and by these PRESENTS do con-
stitute and appoint them, the said Brethren, a regular lodge of Ancient Free
and Accepted Masons, under the title and designation of
SAGGAHEW LODGE:*

*hereby giving and granting unto them, and their successors, full power · and
authority to convene Masons within the town of Haverhill in the County of
Essex and Commonwealth aforesaid; to RECEIVE and ENTER Apprentices,
PASS Fellow Crafts, and RAISE Master Masons, upon the payment of such
compensation for the same, as may be determined by the Grand Lodge: also
to make a choice annually, of a Master, Wardens and other Office Bearers;
to receive and collect FUNDS, for the relief of poor and distressed Brethren,
their Widows or Orphans; and in general to transact all matters relating to
Masonry, which to them may appear to be for the good of the Craft, accord-
ing to the ancient usages and customs of Masons.*

And we do hereby require the said Constituted Brethren to attend the Grand Lodge at its quarterly and other Communications by their Master and Wardens, or by Proxy, regularly appointed, Also to keep a fair and correct Record of all their proceedings.

And we do enjoin upon our Brethren of the said Lodge, that they be punctual in the Annual Payment of such sums as may be assessed for the support of the Grand Lodge; that they behave themselves respectfully and obediently to their superiors in office; and in all other respects conduct themselves as good Masons.

And we do hereby declare the Precedence of the said Lodge in the Grand Lodge and elsewhere, to commence from the sixteenth day of December, A.D. 1864. A.L. 5864.

By order of the Grand Lodge

Attest:

s/ Chas. W. Moore v

Grand Secretary

s/ William Parkman

Grand Master (seal)

s/ Wendell T. Davis

Sr. Grand Warden

s/ John O. Thornton

Jr. Grand Warden

In Testimony whereof, we, the Grand Master and Grand Wardens by virtue of the Power and Authority to us committed, hereunto set our Hands, and caused the Seal of our Grand Lodge to be affixed, at Boston, the Thirteenth day of December, Anno Domini One Thousand Eight Hundred and sixty-five, Anno Lticis Five Thousand Eight Hundred and sixty-five.

History of Saggahew Lodge

Haverhill in the 1860s is described as a “Flourishing town, with 98 shoe factories and 2 boot factories,” most of these are located right along Washington and Merrimack Streets! The bulk of these shoes were sold in the South, with “notes” due in 8 months. With the Civil War commencing, these “notes” became worthless and manufacturers were on the brink of ruins. Most of them though, were able to switch to manufacturing shoes and boots for the army and were able to stay in business.

At the time, the city’s prosperity, due mainly to the demand for labor in the shoe factories and wool mills, brought forth a strong interest in Freemasonry. The only Lodge in Haverhill was Merrimack Lodge. Records of 1864 show there were nearly 40 communications of Merrimack Lodge to perform degree work. With all this interest in Freemasonry, talks on the formation of a new lodge in Haverhill began to arise. In January of 1865 a petition was presented by nearly 30 members to have Merrimack Lodge give consent to the formation of another lodge in Haverhill. Unanimously, this consent was given and even included an offer to provide the new lodge with the use of their regalia, jewels and furniture for a year. During this time the relationships between the lodges was very harmonious with “no contention, save that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree.”

The petition for dispensation was granted to the newly formed Saggahew Lodge and in December of 1865 the lodge was duly constituted by M.W. William Parkman. In January of 1866, M.W. Charles C. Dame, Grand Master of of Masons in Massachusetts, along with ten other Grand Lodge officers, arrived in Haverhill and presented Saggahew Lodge their official charter and installed the suite of officers.

Among the twenty-seven original and charter members of Saggahew, all of whom demitted from Merrimack, were a good proportion of younger men. To mention some of the older men, Carlos P. Messer had been a Colonel in the Civil War; James H. Carleton was a public spirited citizen, who later purchased Whittier Birthplace and presented it to the Whittier trustees; the Chases and Daniel Fitts were men of substance; James R.

Nichols was a doctor and chemist who later would build Winnekenni Castle as a summer home. But the natural leader was James E. Gale, who for many years was cashier at Haverhill National Bank. He was deeply drawn to Masonry, and his Masonic career included:

Marshal of Merrimack Lodge	1862-1863
Excellent High Priest of Pentucket Chapter	1862-1863
Master of Saggahew Lodge	1864-1867
Commander of Haverhill Commandery	1868-1870
District Deputy Grand Master	1870-1871
Chorister of Saggahew Lodge	1869 and 1872-1874

The eighteenth special communication of Saggahew Lodge was held on the afternoon of January 12, 1866, with M.W. Charles C. Dame, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts and ten other Grand Lodge officers present, when, with appropriate ceremonies, the new charter of the lodge was presented, and the Master and Wardens installed. This was indeed a gala occasion for our founding fathers, and they proudly celebrated with a levee. The regular exercise of the afternoon being accomplished, the lodge repaired to the Eagle House, accompanied by the Grand Lodge officers, a group to the number in all of forty-five, where a bountiful dinner was spread for them by Col. Wm. Brown, landlord of the "Eagle." It was indeed a sumptuous repast, the main dish being a choice of Roast Turkey, Chicken, Canvas-back Duck, Mongrel Goose, or Partridges Larded. It was here that the song "The Good Ship Saggahew" was sung, written for the occasion by Mrs. D. B. Tenney. (The original manuscript, in suitable frame, was presented to the lodge by Bro. Oliver S. Hubbard on the 50th Anniversary in 1915.) A little after seven, the dinner party broke up to re-assemble with the ladies half an hour later in the Hall, "Where with singing, music, the ripple of sweet voices and merry dance, the evening glided away."

It may be remarked that our brethren were greatly pleased to have at their Constitution and Installation Moses Wingate, then in his 97th year. Wingate was Master of Merrimack Lodge in 1813-1814, and Saggahew made him an Honorary Member at its next meeting.

In December of 1867, James E. Gale ended his term as Master of Saggahew Lodge. It was then the custom for the Master to give an account of his stewardship at the close of his term, and the talk given by Gale so

impressed the members that they voted it to be entered on the records, where it occupies twenty-two pages, and gives us a living picture of the early lodge, its hopes and its problems.

During the early years of Saggahew Lodge, the meetings were held at a Hall on Fleet Street. Masonry in Haverhill was flourishing, including Merrimack Lodge, the York Rite Bodies, as well as Saggahew Lodge. Due to this expansion along with growing dissatisfaction in their current location, an effort was made in early 1872 to find a new location. Acting quickly, a lot was purchased on the corner of Merrimack and How Streets. A special meeting was held in June 1873 for the laying of the cornerstone for the new Masonic Temple. This was performed by M.W. Sereno D. Nickerson along with the other Grand Lodge officers.

It seems the first ever con-fraternal meeting was held by Saggahew and Merrimack Lodges in May of 1888.... The attendance was incredible with 332 Masons attending, including 115 Saggahew Lodge Members! Eight years later, a second con-fraternal meeting was held... this time only 325 Masons were in attendance.

On August 20, 1888, Bro. James E. Gale died. Of him, the resolution in the Secretary's book says, "Its first Worshipful Master, its constant and devoted friend, its judicious and faithful advisor ... may his example teach us that he most truly leads who most willingly serves his fellow men. To such belong the Grand Master's welcome: Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

On December 5, 1889, the 25th Anniversary of Saggahew Lodge was celebrated. The night was cold and stormy, in spite of which the occasion was truly Masonic and one long to be remembered. R.W. Nathan S. Kimball presided and presented to the company a pleasing medley of entertainment and instruction, consisting of music, both vocal and instrumental, and remarks by Bro. George S. Chase and Past Grand Master, M.W. William Parkman (the Grand Master who signed our charter). After the entertainment, all ascended to the hall above, where a banquet had been spread, and the evening's pleasure closed with a social dance.

A noteworthy meeting was held on June 17, 1895, when Saggahew held a special communication at 8:30 A.M.. In conjunction with Merrimack, lines were formed and 114 brothers of both lodges marched to the rail-

road station where they entrained for Charlestown to attend the celebration of the dedication of Bunker Hill Monument erected to the memory of Joseph Warren. Lodge was closed at 6:30 P.M.

The years 1897 and 1898 were hard times culminating in the crisis of 1898; The demands on charity increased. Frank C. Swan, the "Charity Committee" for eighteen years, died in 1898, and in December of that year, after some prodding by the Grand Lodge, it was voted on motion of R. W. Ed A. Fitts "that fifty cents of the annual dues received from each member be placed in a separate fund to be known as the Charity Fund of Saggahew Lodge." Some money was raised by subscription, and a year later, L. H. Chick, C. P. Sumner, and F. D. McGregor were appointed a committee to draw up a suitable by-law. The fund grew slowly, during which time regular appropriations were made from the treasury of the lodge for charity besides what income could be had from the fund. In 1917, J. A. Dalrymple presented the lodge with a Liberty Bond for its charity fund, the first recorded gift of an individual. Later, Chick and Sumner remembered the fund in their wills, and Will Bixby and Charles Bodwell made gifts when they were presented their fifty-year medals.

A certain maturity came to Saggahew Lodge because of the quality of the work both before and after the turn of the century. The Masters were polished in the social graces; they had a flair for the showmanship in Masonry; they were well known throughout the District and at the Grand Lodge. Attendance at meetings was high, and candidates became plentiful.

Fred D. McGregor had sixty applications during his years of 1901-1902. He was a capable man of pleasing manner and friendly personality. In one of his first meetings he invited Merrimack to visit the lodge, and 190 enjoyed the meeting. Charles P. Sumner was District Deputy that year, and at visitation in November 250 attended. A public installation was held in 1902 attended by over 250 persons. At the visitation in November, Saggahew was visited by M.W. Charles F. Gallagher, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. 325 Masons saw Bro. Perley Leslie raised that night.

On June 18, 1902, Merrimack Lodge celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its founding. Wor. Fred D. McGregor for Saggahew presented

Merrimack with a silver punch bowl and ladle, closing his remarks with “... may brotherly love always prevail and may the going down of the sun never find discord among the Masons of Haverhill.” Wor. Master Nelson J. Hunt replied, “May the maternal care of Merrimack Lodge and the reciprocal love and affection of Saggahew Lodge which now exists last till time shall be no more.”

By 1915, the building required extensive renovations... When they were completed it was discovered that while the cornerstone of the building was laid in 1873, the building was never dedicated. This was rectified in Dec of 1916 by M.W. Melvin Maynard Johnson assisted by the Grand Lodge Officers where they dedicated this building to “Freemasonry, to Virtue and to Universal Benevolence” agreeably to ancient form.

Through the Service Committee the lodge speaks to the individual member. In 1955, Wor. James M. McLeod, Jr., announced the forming of the modern Service Committee under direction of Bro. William B. Thompson. This committee has functioned efficiently up to the present time, and is of inestimable value to the lodge.

For many years now, one of the causes to which Masons contribute is blood donation. There is no substitute for blood when it is needed. In 1951 the lodge was asked for donors by the local Red Cross chapter, and about that time the Grand Lodge formed its program. In 1952 Saggahew and Merrimack jointly sponsored their first blood bank, at which 187 pints were donated to the Red Cross program. Over the years thousands of pints of blood have been donated from the brothers of Saggahew Lodge. In 1965 Saggahew Lodge was given a Grand Lodge citation for donating over 100 pints of blood for the year. This dedication to giving is carried on faithfully by the members of the Lodge.

Much of the success of this program depends on the hard work and tireless effort of the chairman. He must select committees, arrange lists for calls, keep records, make reports, keep interest high, and answer all requests for blood needed by the brethren and their families. R.W. Thomas J. Luby, Jr. was Regional Chairman of the Northeast District for the Grand Lodge Service Department, was also Saggahew’s first Chairman; he was followed by Wor. Moses S. Klein, who took over for four years when he completed his term as Master. Highgaz DerBogosian and Arthur C. Morrow were Chairmen, and from 1962 until the 1990s the

program was ably headed by Joseph C. Langlois. In recent years the blood donation program has been very successful in no small part due to the dedicated efforts of Wor. David E. Potter, whose committee holds a drive every two months and will consistently yield 30-40 pints of blood.

Today, our blood drives continue, as do other service programs including the successful MyCHIP program, which provides parents and law enforcement valuable tools when a child is missing, a Masonic widows program, community clean-up projects, Habitat for Humanity, assisting local food pantries and local school programs.

Although Lodge meetings are not open to the public an obligation to one's family is not forgotten. Various events are scheduled throughout the year in order to include family members. In 1968 this was marked by the first annual children's Christmas party. This event has continued to grow on an annual basis and is one of the events most looked forward to by friends and family of Saggahew Lodge and in recent years has been organized by Wor. Frank Parker.

At times there are light moments in the Lodge such as in May of 1971 when Brothers Raymond Stevens Stewart and Raymond Stevens Stewart Jr. filled in a Senior and Junior Steward respectively. This may be a first in Masonry for and Senior and Junior Stewart to serve as Senior and Junior Steward. On April 1, 1984 another such moment occurred when the "Great" comedy Bowling Match between Saggahew and Merrimack Lodge was held. Although it was recorded that this event took place it was not noted in the next Lodge minutes which team was victorious. This must have been an inadvertent oversight. And of course, there was the Bro. Nicholas Antonopoulos situation. Brother Antonopoulos was about to complete his Master Mason Degree when word came that his wife had gone into labor... while the Lodge was at refreshment. His degree was completed, and he was rushed off to be there for the birth of his daughter. While not necessarily funny at the time, it is a moment that none of us present will ever forget.

Over the years, Saggahew Lodge has seen numerous special degree teams perform ritual, including degree teams of Postal Servicemen, Haverhill Electric Company, the Beacon Hill Square and Compass Club, the Hood Rubber Craftsman, an Armenian group and the Hellenic Square and Compass Club.

During the 2011-2012, year Saggahew Lodge raised 12 new Master Masons during the term of Wor. Michael J. Walker. Many of these men have remained very active and two of them, Brothers James F. Fergola and Jeremy W. Hill, attained the Master Mason Rookie Award. This award is presented by Grand Lodge for completing certain tasks aimed at creating a particularly strong attachment between a Brother and his Lodge. Saggahew's 1460th regular meeting on December 2014 marked the start of our 150th year, where we celebrated with a Table Lodge of Instruction, Wor. Scott Reid presiding.

In April of 2015 Bethany Lodge of Amesbury merged with Saggahew in a ceremony presided over by Most Worshipful Harvey John Waugh, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. Wor. Dana Wildes led Bethany Lodge through the difficult decisions leading up to the merger, while Wor. Winston K. T. Wong & Wor. Scott A. Reid guided through a process foreign to many of us. Though bittersweet to many, this decision by Bethany Lodge to merge ultimately has given their members a new and exciting opportunity to participate in a new beginning and has strengthened Saggahew with an injection of new blood and ideas which will undoubtedly be a benefit to the future of the lodge.

On June 17, 2015 a large contingent of Masons from both Haverhill Lodges joined 1,200 of their brethren from around Massachusetts in a procession from the Grand Lodge building to the Massachusetts State House for the purpose of reconsecrating the cornerstone of that beautiful and historic building. The event was some of the best media exposure for Freemasonry in recent memory, and featured the most impressive, "So Mote It Be" many of us will ever hear.

Today, Haverhill Masonry is still strong. Both Saggahew and Merrimack Lodges have full lines of officers and good attendance. Saggahew is a very active lodge with an eager membership. Over the past several years, the lodge has had a mostly fresh officer line, backed up by 15 or more Past Masters who regularly attend and are quite active in the lodge, its committees and appended bodies. From the start Saggahew has been made up of great men and still is today.

Freemasonry is a way of life; as an organization, its purpose is to provide good men the tools with which to better themselves. For the past one hundred and fifty years the members of Saggahew Lodge have done this

through the principal ingredient in Freemasonry - Brotherly Love. It is this principle that unites men of every country, sect, and opinion into our great Fraternity. It is Brotherly Love that can unite the world into one circle with a common interest - peace on Earth and good will to all men.

In the past twenty-five years we have seen many new members raised, many brothers celebrate a great number of years within the craft and some of our brothers depart to a place sacred to all Masons.

Thus in this brief account, we have watched 150 years of the sands of time fall through the hourglass, and we are reminded that as the tenets of Masonry are larger than we are, so the strength of Masonry lies in the lives of those who dedicate their purposes to it. Saggahew has been fortunate in the men who have given her history purpose, and as long as she finds and uses such men, her history will continue bright.

In the words of L.B. Mitchell:

*Let us then be forging, forging stronger still the Mystic chain,
For the glory of the meeting and the work that doth remain.
In the spirit of the Poet, let us do our work with care
“As we meet upon the Level, and we part upon the square.”*



~ NOTES & AUTOGRAPHS ~

