

## MEMORANDA

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of RLC will be on Apr. 29, 2017, at 3 pm, at the Fort Collins Masonic Temple at 225 W Oak St, Ft. Collins, 80522. Papers will be presented by Bros. Steve O'Donnell, Van Troy Perozo, and Don Nichols.

Please visit our website at [www.rlc Colo.org](http://www.rlc Colo.org) for more information and to RSVP.

### DUES

The secretary sent out a letter to all in arrears for dues. Unfortunately this created some confusion among the Craft. Several Brothers were good enough to remind the Sec'y of payments already made. The Sec'y thanks the Brethren for their indulgence while he continues to sort out the membership database which is nearly up-to-date. Several were also kind enough to remind the Sec'y that the Grand Master's Opinion regarding suspension from one Lodge rendering a Brother suspended from all Lodges was not actually carried by the Jurisprudence Committee at the Grand Sessions. Thus the Opinion became an Edict and ended with the GM's year. (Although, the third degree obligation seems to contest this situation since a suspended Brother cannot receive Masonic communication in a Regular Lodge.) Unsure of the present state of affairs, the Sec'y thought it prudent to include a warning to this effect among the arrears notice, so that late-paying Brethren might ward off approaching danger. He apologizes for any upset this warning might have caused. As of March 30, 56 members are still in arrears. This represents \$560 in unremitted funds. If you are receiving this newsletter and are unsure if you have paid dues this year, please contact the Sec'y. Unpaid members will be suspended from RLC come June 30.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Want to contribute content to *Lucerna*? Please email the Sec'y with your contribution as a .doc file, 12 pt font, single spaced, no line-break between paragraphs.



## FROM THE EAST

**B**RETHERN,  
I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you this year. I wish to extend a hearty thanks to all the officers both elected and appointed, who are serving Research Lodge of Colorado. Each and every one of you make a significant impact on our endeavors. We all have different strengths and weaknesses, therefore functioning as a team going forward, I see great times to come.

With that said, please look at the upcoming schedule and mark your calendar now. As you can see our July communication is shifting into August as several of us have conflicts on the last Saturday in July. We will be looking to schedule one additional communication into January 2018 so as to get four actual communications for papers and presentations, and a separate communication for the annual, elections and installation by the newly elected Grand Master.

I look forward to a wealth of papers and presentations this year. Going forward let us always remember, our Craft, our beloved fraternal lessons we acquire. These are not lessons merely practiced within our Lodge rooms, but lessons we must inculcate into our daily life with every person we encounter. If we do this, one by one, day by day we can make this world a better place.

Keep smiling!

S&F,

*Bruce J. Lawlor*  
WORSHIPFUL MASTER

# Timeline of the Disappearance of William Morgan

by W.Bro. Ben Williams

Originally Published in Issue 13 of the *Rocky Mountain Mason*

## May 31, 1825

William Morgan of Batavia, NY, is exalted to the august degree of Royal Arch Mason at Royal Arch Chapter No. 33 R.A.M. in LeRoy, NY.

## Summer, 1825

Morgan's name is upon a petition to charter a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Batavia. When the Charter issues, though, Morgan's name has been removed.

## March, 1826

Morgan files for copyright protection in the Northern District of New York for his book, to be titled "Illustrations of Masonry by One of the Fraternity – God said Let there Be Light & There was Light!". Morgan enters a contract with David Miller, once Entered Apprentice in Albany, but never advanced, to print Illustrations. Together with John Davids and Russell Dyer they would share the proceeds.

## August 9, 1826

The following ad is run in area newspapers such as the Ontario Messenger:

### NOTICE AND CAUTION

If a man calling himself William Morgan should intrude himself on the community, they should be on their guard, particularly THE MASONIC FRATERNITY. Morgan was in this village in May last, and his conduct while here, and elsewhere, calls forth this notice. Any information in relation to Morgan can be obtained by calling at the MASONIC HALL in this village. Brethren and companions are particularly requested to observe, mark, and govern themselves accordingly. Morgan is considered a swindler and a dangerous man. There are people in this village who would be happy to see this Captain Morgan.

## September 1, 1826

Bro. Henry Brown's censorious letter is printed in the Spirit of the Times decrying oath-breakers.

## Monday September 11, 1826

Constable Holloway Hayward arrests Morgan in Batavia, NY, on a warrant sworn by Ebenezer Kingsley, a tavern-keeper in Canandaigua, over alleged theft of a shirt and cravat taken five months previous. Morgan is taken by a posse of six men and arraigned in Canandaigua. Charges of larceny are dropped, but he is immediately rearrested for inability to pay a debt of \$2.68 (or \$2.69). He's jailed.

## Tuesday September 12, 1826

Morgan is released in the evening after his debt is paid by another party and leaves in a coach in the company of several men. His hat, remaining in the street, suggests there was some struggle, or haste.

## Wednesday September 14, 1826

After a rapid ride to Lewiston Morgan is allegedly taken across the river to Canada in the custody of Bros. Eli Bruce, Sheriff of Niagara County, and Colonel William King sometime before dawn. A meeting with two Canadian Masons (one allegedly a Canadian Member of Parliament, Eric McBride) returns Morgan stateside while arrangements are made for his resettlement in Canada. Morgan is holed up in an unused magazine in deserted Fort Niagara just before dawn.

## Saturday September 17, 1826?

Morgan may have been taken into Canada again, and rode without ceasing to Hamilton. If so, thereafter his whereabouts remain unknown.

## Monday September 19, 1826?

Morgan may have been taken in a rowboat by several overzealous Masons and cast into the ink black water and weighed down into the depths of time.

## September 25, 1826

Launching on the disappearance of Morgan, the first Anti-Masonic rally is held at Batavia, NY.

## October 4, 1826

A second Anti-Masonic rally is held at Batavia, NY.

## October 7, 1826

Governor DeWitt Clinton (Past Grand Master of Masons of New York) issues first proclamation censuring the alleged abduction of William Morgan and calling for order.

## October 26, 1826

Governor Clinton issues second proclamation offering a reward for information leading to Morgan's recovery or the conviction of any party guilty of the abduction.

## December, 1826

Grand Jury of Ontario County indicts Bros. Chesebro, Lawson, Sawyer, and Sheldon for conspiracy to "seize and carry William Morgan to foreign parts, and there continually to secrete and imprison him."

## January 1, 1827

Trial begins against Bros. Chesebro, Lawson, Sawyer, and Sheldon at Canandaigua with Judge Throop of Canandaigua presiding. All men are found guilty. Lawson receives two years in the Ontario County lockup, Chesebro one year, Sawyer one month, and Sheldon three months.

## January 13 - 31, 1827

Anti-Masonic Convention held at Seneca, NY. Then one at Lewiston, NY, and another at Canandaigua.

## February 4, 1827

Thurlow Weed, editor of a local paper at Rochester, NY, receives \$4,000 to start the Anti-Masonic newspaper, the Anti-Masonic Inquirer, based out of Albany, NY. Weed becomes active in the Anti-Masonic Party as a diligent and effective organizer.

## February, 1827 through March, 1827

Twelve Anti-Masonic rallies are held in as many cities of central New York.

### March 3, 1827

Convention at Elbo, NY, adopts the resolution not to “support any person for any office either in town, county or state; nor hear any preacher of the Gospel, who is a member of the Masonic Fraternity.”

### March 19, 1827

Governor Clinton issues a third proclamation offering \$2,000 for any information leading to discovery of Morgan’s whereabouts or the conviction of any guilty party. A full pardon is offered to any accomplice willing to assist in the investigation. But no one comes forward.

### April, 1827

Jesse French, James Hurlburt, Roswell Wilcox, and James Ganson are tried at Batavia for the forced arrest of David Miller, Morgan’s printer, previous to Morgan’s abduction. French is sentenced to one year, Wilcox for six months, and Hurlburt for three months. Ganson is released.

### June, 1827

Convention at LeRoy, NY, adopts resolutions denouncing Freemasonry. Seventeen reasons are cited in support of their condemnation of the Craft.

### September 24, 1827

Timothy Munroe, of Clark, in Newcastle, Canada, is last seen rowing across the Niagara river.

### September 28, 1827

Governor Clinton removes Sheriff Eli Bruce from office.

### August, 1827

Eli Bruce, Orasmus Turner, and Jared Darrow are tried in Canandaigua. Bruce is found guilty and sentenced to two years and four months in the Canandaigua jail. Turner and Darrow are acquitted.

### October 7, 1827

A corpse washes ashore at the beach of Oak Orchard Harbor, N.Y., approximately 40 miles below Fort Niagara. The coroner lists cause of death as drowning. Word spreads that a corpse has been found. Opinion mounts, it could be Morgan!

### October 13, 1827

A party of Batavians, descending upon Oak Orchard Harbor, effects disinterment of the corpse.

### October 15, 1827

Morgan’s widow, admitting the clothes on the corpse were not her husband’s, nonetheless testifies that the corpse is Morgan. Miller, Dyer, and others testify the corpse is Morgan. Thurlow Weed, Anti-Masonic organizer, is later accused of dressing up the corpse to resemble Morgan by shaving it and placing hairs in its ears – a charge he virulently denies to his dying day.

### October, 1827

Munroe’s widow, Sara, comes to Oak Harbor and describes the clothes her husband was wearing on the night of his disappearance, Sept. 24. The match is enough, a Coroner’s Jury impaneled at Batavia reverses the verdict on the basis of her testimony – the corpse is not Morgan, it’s Timothy Munroe of Clark, Canada. If not Morgan, it was “a good enough Morgan until after the election,” Thurlow Weed is heard to say at the inquest. (He denied saying this, claiming he’d said the corpse was “...a good enough Morgan until Morgan can be found.”)

### December, 1827

Captain William King, John Whitney and Burrage Smith are indicted for Morgan’s murder. Of the three, only King is not tried – he dies suddenly before the trial can begin (see later).

### November 1828

Despite the wave of anti-Masonry, Andrew Jackson, Past Grand Master of Tennessee, is nonetheless elected President of the United States beating out incumbent John Quincy Adams, who ran on the Anti-Masonic ticket.

### October 22-24, 1829

Baptist Conference at Whitesboro, NY, adopted resolution to bar Masons from Baptist congregations to “...withdraw the Hand of Christian Fellowship from these [Masonic] brethren.”

### May, 1829

John Whitney and James Gillis are tried at Canandaigua. Whitney is convicted and sentenced to one year and three months. Gillis is released after a hung jury.

## RLC Officers 6016 A. L.

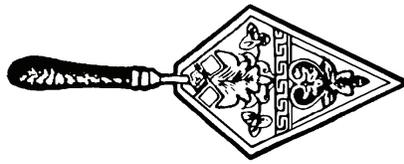
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### June 1830

David Hague, William King, and Burrage Smith are all dead. William King apparently dies suddenly after receiving testimony given by Bruce at the trial of John Whitney.

### 1835

The number of Lodges in New York state, 227 in 1827, falls to 41. Every Lodge in Vermont has surrendered its charters. All surrounding states have seen dramatic decreases in Masonic affiliation.



# MASONIC EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFORMATION
Research Lodge of Colorado	Apr. 29	Ft. Collins	<a href="http://www.rlc Colo.org">www.rlc Colo.org</a>
AASR Reunion	May 4 - 6	Grand Junction	
AASR Reunion	May 11-13	Denver	<a href="http://denverconsistory.org">denverconsistory.org</a>
Red Cross Regional	May 8-10	Pasadena, CA	
Masonicon, MWGLNM	Jun. 9-10	Albuquerque	<a href="http://Masonicon.org">Masonicon.org</a>
Angel of Shavano [last time]	Jul. 8	Salida, CO	
Royal Order of Scotland	Jul. 29	Denver, CO	
Research Lodge of Colorado	Aug. 12	Lafayette Lodge	<a href="http://www.rlc Colo.org">www.rlc Colo.org</a>

Laughing Lion Press 

*Flux in Cenebris Turci et Cenebrae eam Non Comprahendunt*



Under the Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful  
Grand Lodge of Colorado



*Mors et Vita*

Research Lodge of Colorado  
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Littleton, CO 80127

Est. 1953