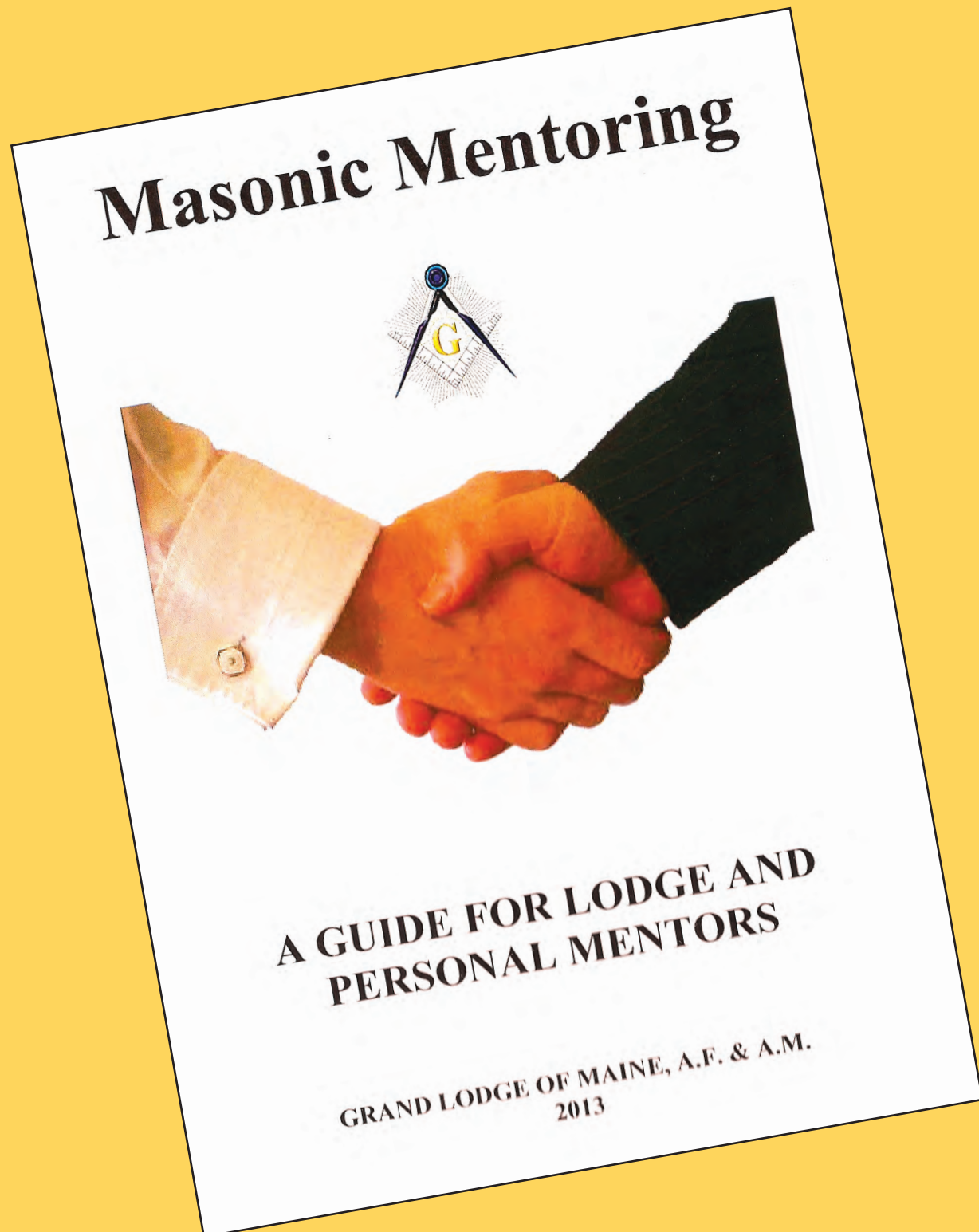


The Maine Mason



Autumn 2013

The MAINE MASON

THE MAINE MASON is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Maine, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The material printed herein does not necessarily represent opinions of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

At the 162nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1981, legislation was adopted to provide THE MAINE MASON to every member of the constituted lodges within this Grand Lodge without additional charge.

Members of lodges within other Grand Jurisdictions within the United States are invited to subscribe to THE MAINE MASON at \$3.00 per year. Cost for Masons outside the United States is \$5.00 Please send check payable to THE MAINE MASON with complete mailing address to the Grand Secretary at the address printed below.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Subscribers are advised to notify the Grand Secretary's office of any address change.

Editor

George P. Pulkkinen
15 Ocean View Road
Scarborough, ME 04074
207-883-5085 email: boatpiper@maine.rr.com

Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge of Maine

GRAND MASTER	DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
A. James Ross	David A. Walker
137 Albion Road	P.O. Box 182
Windham, ME 04062	Monmouth, ME 04259
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN	JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
John R. Irovando	Ronald S. Murphy
821 Bog Road	P.O. Box 6093
Limestone, ME 04750	Bangor, ME 04402
GRAND TREASURER	GRAND SECRETARY
Scott Whytock	Mark Rustin
1 Sextant Lane	P.O. Box 430
Scarborough, ME 04074	Holden, ME 04429

Grand Lodge Contact Information & Hours

207-843-1086
e-mail: grandlodge@mainemason.org
website: www.mainemason.org

Grand Secretary's Office Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Grand Lodge Library/Museum Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

Like a cauldron of thick, delicious stew cooking over a bed of glimmering maple embers, Masonry in Maine is bubbling.

Activities, like that stew, are feeding Masons with new information and skills that will nurture and strengthen brethren and lodges throughout the Pine Tree State.

The enthusiasm men are showing after attending the Leadership and Mentoring workshops will be demonstrated, in very positive ways, in their lodge rooms, in their personal lives and throughout their communities. And the Rookie Program provides a fast track for new members to realize full value from their Masonic memberships.

Throughout this issue you'll find articles describing these programs and providing information about where and when the next ones are being held. If you haven't availed yourselves of these exciting offerings, and if no member of your lodge has either, you may want to discuss these opportunities at your next lodge meeting then register with your brethren and car pool to an upcoming session.

The skills being taught and the information presented are designed to make each of us a better Mason. That includes being a better-informed Mason.

Speaking of information, the statewide Open Houses scheduled to be held October 19 are among the best opportunities we have to introduce family, friends and neighbors to the Craft. Again this year extensive publicity efforts will be made to assure your community knows something is happening. But it's the responsibility of each of us on the local level to have our lodge doors open and welcoming. Get the time and place announced in your local newspaper or public access television.

Grand Master Ross provides thoughtful, reasoned expectations of what lodges should take away from their efforts with his message on page 19 of this issue.

From the Grand East

A. James Ross

Grand Master of Masons in Maine

Have you ever stopped to think about what fraternalism means to you? Do we sometimes take the word for granted because we who are Free Masons know that fraternalism is just one of the essentials that define us? I've searched many dictionaries for an appropriate definition of fraternalism which closely describes who we are as Free Masons. The definition I subscribe to is: "turning people into brothers" — conducting social relations with people who are actually unrelated as though they were siblings, family members or personal friends. Fraternalism for me is just that and the condition of having brotherly qualities.

Though the word fraternalism is never specifically mentioned in any of our three degrees, the Entered Apprentice Degree clearly instructs the manner in how we must conduct ourselves as Masons towards one another and before the uninitiated. We are taught that we have a binding obligation to take care of one another and a Mason's family. We are also taught that we are dependent on each other for security and protection. Furthermore, these principles should be extended to the uninitiated. The Entered Apprentice Degree clearly demonstrates that we have entered the ground floor of an association or union of men; an environment of fraternalism.

The Fellowcraft Degree expounds on these same principles while it is preparing us for a greater calling and for a higher expectation which speaks to our moral conduct and truths. These truths are demonstrated as we become skilled workmen on the edifice we call life and which will ultimately be challenged in the Master Mason Degree. In the Master Mason Degree we swear to uphold specific obligations toward one another. In the second section of this degree, those obligations and

our principles and values are challenged by the three Ruffians who have strayed from those same teachings. The Ruffians represent those external forces in life which constantly pull on us in all directions. Like the Ruffians, those forces are challenging us to compromise or throw away entirely our high standards of conduct we hold for one another and for the people we care about in our lives. In the end, Hiram Abif gave the ultimate sacrifice rather than compromise the truths of being a Free Mason.

While no man or Mason is perfect, we do find ourselves facing an increasingly challenging world where our values and truths for one another are put to the test. Though minor infractions of our conduct may be corrected by aid and reformation through the good offices of a Brother, more severe infractions have direct and lasting negative consequences which may be deemed intolerable and moreover, unforgivable. Be mindful that we who are Free Masons have sworn to uphold, perpetuate and live by the highest standards of moral conduct which is richly entrenched in our Ritual. Our Ritual is not to be taken lightly. Our oaths (or obligations) are not to be considered archaic sound bites merely to wow a candidate while he kneels at our altar. They are not subject for self-interpretation to be applied when they are convenient to make a selfish point or to be used to mitigate or soften the errors of a Brother.

What do we as Free Masons have if we do not have truth, respect and adherence to our Masonic principles and high standards contrary to what we would expect from them? Fraternalism can only flourish when we are mindful of our own actions and inclinations and remember that every day, we are somebody's impression of what and who a Free mason is, including the considerations and expectations that one Brother has toward another.

Yours in Service to the Craft,
Jim



Around the Grand Lodge Water Cooler...

R. W. Mark E. Rustin, Grand Secretary

The compasses is the only working tool we have which allows us to scribe great arcs and circumscribe ourselves and our gifts and passions into measurable and appropriate bounds. Before we can square our work or plumb our behavior we must first describe the boundaries within which we work.

The possible forms of human giftedness and behavior are boundless from our normal perspective. Without guidance or boundaries we are without the understanding of acceptable behavior which allows society and more importantly civilization to happen. The Grand Architect set before Freemasonry a broad acceptable area of human behavior within which Masonry might thrive. With His compasses he circumscribed the boundary within which Brothers may appropriately work the Craft. The laws of physics, geometry, good, and evil are but a few examples.

With that definition, each of us as Masons put down the anchor point of our individual compasses and circumscribes the field of our Masonic endeavor. The light we receive in Masonry gives us vision to begin to understand ourselves and the gifts we possess as well as the appropriate boundaries of our behaviors and passions. The degree work, fellowship, and brotherly love we experience within the Craft empower us to investigate ourselves, our world, and our place within the Grand Architect's design. With that light we fearlessly circumscribe our place and live within it a better man.

If we find that our initial anchor point allows the circle of our being to cross the limits of the Grand Architect's designs, we are free to lift the anchor point and circumscribe a different boundary for ourselves which falls within Masonic territory. As we gain more light and improve our vision of ourselves, we are not only allowed but encouraged, as part of smoothing our ashlar, to constantly be aware of the appropriate boundaries of our lives. We learn that no one can encompass all gifts and behavior except the

Master of the Celestial Temple.

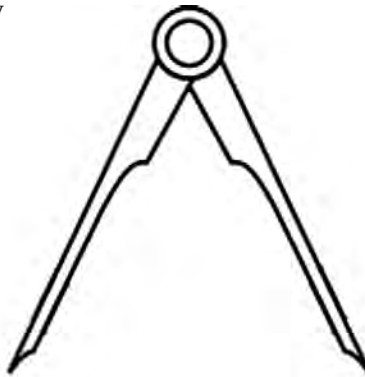
As Masons everywhere set about fulfilling this requirement to circumscribe their behavior and passions, it quickly becomes evident that these areas overlap. People share gifts, passions, and insights even though no two people are the same. Two men might share a passion for fishing but may or not share other interests. A Lodge forms and thrives where these shared interests and passions, our personal circle, intersect and overlap.

There is no reason to expect every Lodge to be a copy of the other Lodges. Every Lodge has a wealth of human capacity and insight within its members.

Their shared gifts, interests, passions, and light are the bonds which make them complete and whole. In the commonality of their lives in response to the Grand Architect's drawings on the trestle board of their hearts, a bond which survives the ages, Lodge Brothers, forms and allows the Lodge to be greater than the sum of its parts.

We celebrate the diversity of the lodges in Maine. There is among them a place for any man of good character who wishes to mature—find more light—to be among Brothers and grow into being the person drawn in his heart. Regardless of lodge affiliation, we share a common Masonic journey into the light of Masonry. As that light allows us to see, we willingly bind ourselves to our Lodges as an expression of who we are. No lodge will be home to every Mason however, there is a Masonic lodge for every Mason.

To the extent that each lodge, a band of Brothers, utilizes and honors the capacity of the Brethren within its walls, Masonry will continue to build a world of peace, harmony, and future for all humankind. Within the Supreme Architect's circumference is a place for all. Our operative forebears built structures which provided shelter and inspiration to society. In like manner our speculative work, done well, will provide the shelter of civilization and inspirational leadership to society in our time.



William King: *Who was that Mason, #4*

By **R.W. Richard Rhoda**
Grand Historian

The last lodge in Maine to take the first and last name of a Master Mason is Gov. William King Lodge, No. 219. But why only 52 years ago and when the Grand Lodge of Maine was 141 years old would a group of Masons forming a lodge in Scarborough name it after him? To honor a native son and a leader, a man who was the moving force behind Maine becoming a state in 1820 and to honor a Brother Mason who, only a little over three months after Maine's statehood, became the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

William King's life on the State's stage played out heroically and tragically as he advanced through the three stages of life: youth, manhood and age. A man who was elected Maine's first Governor with 96% of the vote in 1820 to a man who was deprived of his mental abilities well before his death in 1852.

In his youth he was industrious and occupied his mind with the attainment of useful knowledge. As a man he applied that knowledge to the discharge of the duties encumbered upon him as a leader among leaders. But in age he was denied the happy reflections consequent of a well spent life. His star rose bright and high but it went down in great darkness. His mental abilities failed him and his business fortunes were lost.

Maine Masons are proud of this man who gave this lodge its name and was the first Governor of Maine and Grand Master. Let us consider briefly aspects of his life that we may better know and appreciate this man.

William King was born February 9, 1768 on the family farm in what is now the Dunstan Corner area of Scarborough. He was the fourth child of Richard and Mary (Black) King of York. His father was an English housewright from Watertown, Massachusetts. He became a prosperous merchant and the owner of several trading vessels. He built masts for ships and young William would later appren-

tice at the trade.

His father died in 1775 when William was but seven years of age. On April 28th of that year, William was baptized in the First Congregational Church of Scarborough.

Following his completion at the local common school when thirteen years of age, William attended Phillips Andover Academy for one term in 1781. This was thought to be enough for him as the family expected him to follow a merchant's career.

His first gainful employment was working at a saw mill in Saco where he learned the trade which would serve him well.

About 1787 he moved to Topsham where within a few years he operated his own saw mill. He lived with his sister and her husband, Dr. Benjamin Porter. They went into business together with Porter running the store while King worked in the saw mill. By 1793 King had built his first vessel. He went on to prosper as a merchant and a shipper.

By 1800 his firm had acquired five vessels and he moved to Bath where he was to become its leading citizen. Known as the "Sultan of Bath", the first thirty years of the 19th century in Bath was known as "the age of William King."

The History of Bath, published in 1976, states that "his activities embraced many fields: politics and government, trade and commerce, shipbuilding, farming investments in vast acreage of real estate, religion and military affairs." Certainly he was a polymath for Maine in his time. By 1830 he owned in whole or in part forty-two ships which sailed the Atlantic coast, the Caribbean, and to England, France and Holland.

He became a partner in the Marine Insurance Company of Boston. He was active in banking circles in Wiscasset, Hallowell, and had his own bank which he started in Bath at age twenty-five. The town of Kingfield is named for him because of his partnership in the purchase of three townships in that part of the State while he was in the Legislature.

Passing over, for a moment, his involvement with the formation of the State of Maine and becoming its first Governor, he resigned its Governorship in May 1821 to go to Washington to become a Spanish Claims Commissioner appointed by President Monroe. This came about as part of the Florida Treaty of 1818 by which



William King Continued from Preceding Page

Spain gave Florida to the United States. He held this position until 1824 when he returned to Bath.

In 1828, he was chosen Commissioner of Public Buildings for the State, especially overseeing the erection of the new State House in Augusta.

He served as collector of Customs at Bath from 1829 to 1834 when President Jackson failed to reappoint him. He then bolted Jackson's Democratic Party and joined the fledgling Whig Party. He was its nominee for Governor in 1835 but lost overwhelmingly, gathering slightly less than 30% of the vote. Being sixty-seven years of age, he then withdrew from the public arena and slowly engaged the onset of old age which would last for another seventeen years.

His opponent in that decisive defeat was non-other than Robert P. Dunlap who had served as his Corresponding Grand Secretary in 1820 and then as Grand Master in 1830-1831.

His financial decline was precipitated by the Panic of 1837 when land values fell rapidly. His "million acre farm", which included the towns of Lexington, Concord, and Kingfield, became a financial drain on his resources. King soon became land poor.

By 1842 his cash assets were severely depleted. Most of his ships had been sold. His wharf and store in Bath provided his only significant source of income. The following year he had to secure a large mortgage on his land and buildings.

By 1847 his mind began to noticeably fail and his wife took action. She had a conservator appointed for his financial affairs. His memory was failing and his attention span was shortening. He was losing his mental faculties.

On the morning of June 17, 1852, William King died at his residence. The following week the *Bath Tribune* concluded its account of his passing with the following:

"He was an ardent Free Mason of the 32nd degree and he served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine."

In 1800 King had married Ann N. Frazier of Boston (b. 1782 – d. July 4, 1857). Of this union, a daughter Mary Elizabeth was born September 28, 1817 and died unmarried in 1847. A son, Cyrus, named for his uncle, was born December 25, 1819 and died April 16, 1881. He attended Bowdoin Medical School and became a physician in Portland.

Although a man of a most modest educational back-

ground, he was well respected for his help and guidance to Maine's educational institutions. He served as Trustee for Bowdoin College and also Waterville College which became Colby College. He was one of the prime movers which lead to the establishment of the latter college and therein lies a story.

Although a Congregationalist by his upbringing, in 1812 King helped a group of fledgling Baptists by sponsoring legislation in the General Court of Massachusetts to form the Maine Theological and Literacy Institution which was to serve as a training school for them.

Perhaps of special interests to Freemasons was his sponsorship of the Toleration Act of 1811 which abolished the requirement compelling towns to support a minister. This was landmark legislation bringing about the separation of church and state in Massachusetts.

After moving from Scarborough to Topsham he became involved in politics and was elected as its Representative in 1795 and 1796 to the General Court of Massachusetts in Boston. Upon moving to Bath in 1800 he was again elected as a Representative and re-elected

in 1801 and 1802. From 1807 to 1811 he was elected to the Massachusetts Senate represent-

ing Lincoln County while serving as the leader in the District of Maine of the so-called Jefferson Democrats. In 1814 and 1818 he received his party's nomination for the position of Lieutenant Governor.

He and Thomas Jefferson become good friends and the former President assisted him in writing part of Maine's Constitution in 1820.

King was rightly known as the Father of Maine for he was a man of great stature.

He was in the forefront of Maine's agitation to become a state and throw off the yoke of Massachusetts. Mainers felt especially aggrieved that Massachusetts had not provided them protection from the British ships in the War of 1812. He was well received by Mainers of all classes when he proclaimed "Maine is under the control of a foreign power – Massachusetts."

Starting in 1813 he went on to become the acknowledged leader of Maine's movement for separation. In 1816, he served as the President of the Brunswick Convention and later as President of Maine's Constitutional Convention of 1819. His dedication to the establishment of the District of Maine as the State of

"A Great Man Has Fallen"

-- *The Northern Tribune* on the death of Wm. King

Continued on Next Page

William King

Continued from Preceding Page

Maine led to his near unanimous election as its first Governor in 1820.

But what of William King the Free Mason? His career as a leading merchant and politician in Maine pulled along his Masonic Star.

On October 13, 1794 he received his Entered Apprentice Degree in The Massachusetts Lodge in Boston. He received his degree only after receiving a dispensation, assumedly because he did not live within the jurisdiction of the lodge even though he was a citizen of Massachusetts residing in the District of Maine.

Apparently the allure of Masonry was not overwhelming to him for he did not return to his lodge until February 3, 1800 when he received both his FC° and MM° the same day. At that time he was a Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts representing Topsham. His attached information card shows no other information about his Masonic career with his Mother Lodge.

Solar Lodge's request for a charter was granted on September 10, 1804. At a meeting on December 17th, King was elected Worshipful Master. Two more meetings were held that year. Although, twenty-one meetings were held in 1805, the installation of officers did not take place until September 26th. On December 5th new officers were elected and installed, about nine weeks from the prior installation. However it is calculated, King was Master of the lodge for less than a year.

Little is known of King's actions as Grand Master, another position he held for less than a year. With a paucity of records of its earliest years, the following information was derived from "Proceedings of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Maine," Volume 1, 1820-1847, which was printed in 1872.

With the expectation of Maine becoming a State in 1820, the Brethren of Portland Lodge issued a circular letter on August 13, 1819 calling for a Convention of Delegates to meet in Portland for the purpose of forming a Grand Lodge of Masons in Maine.

On June 1st, 1820 the Grand Lodge of Maine was organized with Solar Lodge being represented by Nathaniel Coffin, Proxy, and Nathaniel Cross. The Honorable William King, Governor of the State, was elected Grand Master and a committee was formed to notify him of his election.

Realizing the limitations to be pressed on him while serving as Governor, the M.W. Grand Master then addressed the Grand Lodge as follows:

"Brethren, as it will be impossible for me to attend personally at many of your meetings during the year, you will permit me to avail myself now of the privilege of my office to announce to you the appointment of a Deputy Grand Master, who will discharge the duties of the chair in my absence,. I have selected for this office, and do now appoint to be Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Worshipful Brother Simon Greenleaf, Esq., of Portland."

* * *

Following his funeral service, "the Masonic fraternity assumed the charge of the remains and a procession was formed...", which included Lincoln, United, Richmond, and Solar Lodges, and the Grand Lodge of Maine.

The *Northern Tribune* reported on June 25th "Nothing can exceed the solemn grandeur of the Masonic ceremony at the grave of one of their brethren. Grief – deep, earnest, heartfelt, but not grief without hope, strong and abiding, in the glorious immortality of their deceased brother, was on that occasion manifested."

"This peculiarly solemn and interesting part of the exercises was performed by Ex-Gov. Robert P. Dunlap of Brunswick, who is General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States – assisted by Rev. Uriah Balkam, Grand Chaplain."

"The dignified, and at the same time affectionate solemnity with which Ex-Gov. Dunlap performed his part of the services was highly creditable to himself, befitting the occasion, and worthy of the illustrious and beloved deceased."

And how are we Maine Masons today to think of M.W. Bro. William King? May I suggest that the man we know of as our First Grand Master should be remembered as was written of him by the Northern Tribune on its page one obituary under "A GREAT MAN HAS FALLEN,"

"Energetic and indefatigable, with an uncommonly clear perception, and endowed with a vigorous and powerful intellect wherever he might be, he was at once recognized as an individual of no ordinary ability. Wherever he has been associated with his fellow men, he has been an acknowledged leader."

So say the Brethren of William King Lodge No. 219. So say we all. So mote it be.

Dirigo Leadership Seminars Continue

by R.W. Jeff Sukeforth

Everyone knows the meaning of DIRIGO which is I Lead; and as we all are aware the Master of any lodge needs to be a strong leader. The reason for this is simple, if you are strong in leadership than others will undoubtedly follow. Of course leadership comes in many forms;

1. Authoritarian leaders, also known as autocratic leaders, provide clear expectations for what needs to be done, when it should be done, and how it should be done.

2. Participative leadership, also known as democratic leaders, generally demonstrates the most effective leadership style. Democratic leaders offer guidance to group members, but they also participate in the group and allow input from other members.

3. Delegative leadership, also known as laissez-faire leadership, is the least productive of all three groups. People in this group make more demands on the leader, show little cooperation and are unable to work independently.

What is the definition of a good leader when it pertains solely to our lodges? If you ask a group of 10 brothers this question you most likely may receive 10 different answers and who is to say any of them are incorrect.

Of course there are some who might feel the

Latin phrase, *nos inducas*, better pertains to the leadership branch in a masonic lodge. *We Lead.*

Perhaps lodge leadership is better served when it is a collaborative effort between the Master and Wardens. Who is to say, not I; because anytime you have a group of like-minded people together, differences will surface. However, they will most likely come to a consensus for the betterment of the group.

The DIRIGO Leadership Seminars do not pretend to have the perfect answer for those seeking how to best provide leadership to members of a lodge. However, the seminar will provide current and prospective leaders with some thoughts and tools to better prepare themselves for their leadership positions within the lodge atmosphere.

A lot of brothers have already discovered these tools and thoughts as 200 brothers from 88 lodges have attended at least one leadership seminar. Now it is your turn to discover what these seminars can offer you. The Grand Lodge Leadership Committee has scheduled seminars in three locations this fall so check the attached registration form for an event close to you and get you and your lodge mates signed up.

The amount of info packed into a short time is astounding and where else can you be greeted with a warm cup of coffee and donuts in the morning and a free lunch in the afternoon? Don't wait get signed up today. See you soon Brothers!



65-Year Star Presented

Wor. John L. Ault was presented a 65 year service star by Deputy Grand Master David A. Walker at a Master Mason degree at Asylum Lodge in Leeds on Saturday, May 4th. Wor. Ault was raised at Asylum Lodge April 2, 1948. The brothers Ault, John, Richard and Peter have a total of 190 years of service to the craft. A 25 year service pin was also presented to Bro. Robert C. Wentzell, Jr. by DDGM Donald W. Pratt. L-R in the photo: RW Peter L. Ault, RW Donald W. Pratt, Wor. John L. Ault and RW David A. Walker.

Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar

Limestone, September 28th – Rockport, October 26th – Brunswick, February 8th

What core physical, educational and personal fulfillment needs of your brethren does your lodge satisfy? What is the image of your lodge, as viewed by your brethren and the community? What do you want your lodge to emphasize in terms of: being a close, warm fraternal body; having fun; involving families; helping members, widows and the community; and, instilling in our daily lives the values and teachings of our ritual? Does your lodge have the resources it needs to fulfill the expectations of your brethren?

These are but a few of the questions to be raised in the Dirigo Leadership Seminars for officers of our Masonic lodges and appendant bodies, or any brother interested in pursuing new perspectives on how to renew our lodges and other Masonic organizations.

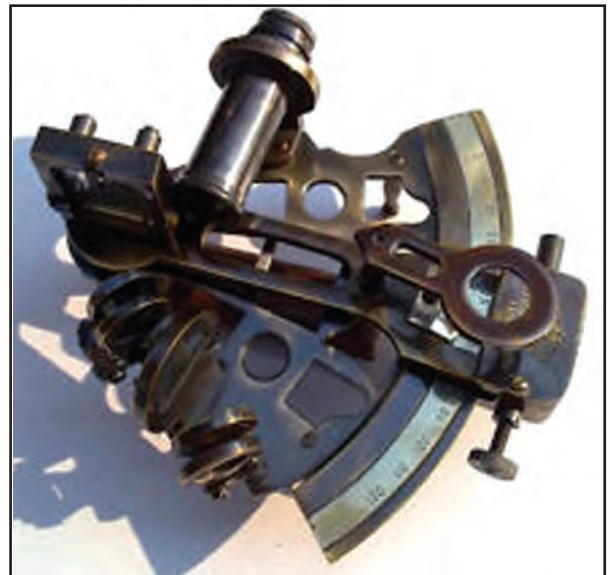
The seminars are held at multiple locations statewide each year, with offerings in five locations in the past year. Nearly 200 Masons from 88 lodges have attended the seminar so far or have registered for the upcoming seminars, and the reviews have been very encouraging for Maine Freemasonry. If your lodge would like to host a future offering of this seminar, please contact RW Jeff Sukeforth, the seminar leader, at 207-691-2270 or jandc79@myfairpoint.net.

The Dirigo Masonic Leadership Seminar modules cover a variety of topics, including:

- Envisioning Our Future
- Setting the Craft at Work
- Grand Lodge Support of Lodges
- Lodge Governance
- Program Budgeting
- Sharing the Gift of Freemasonry

The seminar begins with registration, coffee and donuts at 8:00 a.m., with the seminar starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 3:00 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend these seminars that will definitely benefit your lodge and your role as a Masonic leader.

To ensure that we have sufficient food and program materials, all lodge officers and other Masons interested in attending one of the leadership seminars are asked to return the following form to the program leader or send the requested information to him by email as specified below.



Charting a course for your lodge.

Dirigo Leadership Seminar Registration

Name:	Office Held:
Lodge Name/#:	Located At:
Preferred Tel.	Email:

Please check which seminar location you will be attending:

<input type="checkbox"/>	September 28	Limestone Lodge, Limestone	30 Main Street
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 26	St. Paul's Lodge, Rockport	361 Main Street
<input type="checkbox"/>	February 8	United Lodge, Brunswick	65 Baribeau Drive

Please return this completed form to Jeff Sukeforth, 47 Rawson Ave., Camden, ME 04843, or email the information to jandc79@myfairpoint.net at least one week before the date of the seminar to be attended. **WALK-INS ARE WELCOME**, but it is emphasized that pre-registrations help ensure that we have sufficient food and handouts.

Clyde Sukeforth

Baseball Player, Coach, Manager, Scout, and Maine Mason

By Wor. Victor G. Oboyski Jr.
Historian, Mt. Olivet Lodge #203

In the recently released movie “42”, with Harrison Ford as Branch Rickey and Chadwick Boseman as Jackie Robinson, the scout that Brooklyn Dodger president Rickey sent to Chicago to check out Jackie Robinson was identified only as, “Clyde”. In an earlier movie released in 1950, “The Jackie Robinson Story”, with Jackie Robinson playing himself, Ruby Dee as Robinson’s wife and Minor Watson as Rickey, the scout Rickey sent to Chicago was identified as, “Clyde Sukeforth”. Most likely Rickey called him “Sukey”, his well known nickname. Regardless of what he was called, the names of Rickey-Robinson-Sukeforth shall forever be linked for introducing the first African-American ballplayer into the major leagues. They made baseball history, and created a touchstone for racial equality.

Clyde’s Early Years

Clyde Leroy Sukeforth was born on November 30, 1901 in the rural farming town of Washington, Maine. His parents were Pearl and Sarah (Grinnell) Sukeforth. Clyde and his older sister, Hazel, attended the Hodge School, a one room schoolhouse about half mile from his home. Since that time the Hodge School has been moved to the Union Fairgrounds where it has become part of the Mathews Museum. After completing his studies at the Hodge School, Clyde attended Washington High located in the village, about three miles from his house. Clyde was one of four students who graduated from Washington High in 1918.

Clyde’s interest in baseball started at an early age and was likely influenced by his father and his surroundings. In one of his many interviews Clyde stated, “My Dad, he had a good reputation as a pitcher. He could

*throw harder than most country boys and he did a lot of pitchin’. Oh, growing up in that atmosphere...there was nothin’ else to do. I mean, there were two things you could do, you could take your ball and glove and play pass with the neighbor’s kids, or you could dig a can of worms and go fishin’ on the trout brook; that was it! No radio, no TV, so as a consequence, we played and threw the ball seven days a week.”*¹

After High School, Clyde attended the Oak Grove Seminary in Vassalboro, Maine for one semester. While there he played ball for the Town of Oakland. He later attended the Coburn Classical Institute in Waterville where he played ball, and later signed up with Great Northern Paper Team in Millinocket.

After playing ball a couple of years for Great Northern, he was offered a scholarship at Georgetown University. He attended Georgetown for two years, playing ball there as a catcher and left fielder. In 1926, after showing up well in spring training, Clyde was signed by the Cincinnati Reds and farmed out for a short time with the Nashua Millionaires of the Class B New England League.

The Majors

While the Cincinnati Reds recalled Clyde, they didn’t give him much playing time until 1929. That year turned out to be his best year as a professional ballplayer. Throwing right and batting left, Sukeforth had a .354 batting average. In November of 1931, Clyde was accidentally shot in the face while

hunting for quail. The birdshot pierced his right eye, and other areas of his face and neck. He recovered quickly, but his vision was diminished.

While in Ohio, Clyde met and later married Helen Porter Miller in 1934. Four years later they had a daughter Nancy. Unfortunately, Clyde’s wife passed away two



Clyde catching for the Dodgers.

Continued on Next Page

weeks after the birth. Nancy would later change her name to Helen.

In 1932 Clyde was traded to the Brooklyn Dodgers who used him as a backup catcher over the next three years. In 1935, still under contract with the Dodgers, he was assigned as the manager of a number of minor league teams and spent three years as the manager of the Dodgers farm team, the Montreal Royals.

In 1943, Dodger president and general manger, Branch Rickey, hired Clyde as part of his coaching staff. As a result of World War II there was a shortage of ballplayers in 1945. That year Clyde played eighteen games, batting .294 with fifty-one at bats. He was 43 years old. That year Clyde was also used as a scout.

Scouting Jackie Robinson

Regarding his Dodger scouting Clyde would recall, *"We had our assignments, and I would follow the old Negro National League teams like the clubs in Newark (NJ) and Philadelphia. Most players had a little age on them but there were some good younger players too. At that point, the other clubs didn't scout the Negro leagues to my knowledge."* Rickey had heard of Robinson and wanted Clyde to scout the young prospect. He sent Clyde to Chicago to see Robinson play. Clyde would later remember, *"He (Rickey) especially wanted me to look at his arm. He also said, if he looked good, I should make an appointment for him to meet him."* 2

In Chicago, Clyde found Jackie Robinson sidelined from the Kansas City Monarchs with a shoulder injury. Clyde told Jackie that Rickey was interested in him. Robinson was very surprised. Rickey didn't want the other clubs knowing that Brooklyn was scouting the Negro League, so Clyde followed Robinson to Ohio where the Monarchs were scheduled to play. That way Jackie would not be missed from the Monarchs lineup and Clyde would get the opportunity to watch him play. Clyde was convinced. Jackie Robinson was a great talent. After the last game in Ohio, Clyde and Robinson took an all-night train to New York City. In September of 1945, Robinson and Sukeforth met in Branch Rickey's office in Brooklyn. Rickey explained that he wanted to sign Robinson and send him to the

Dodgers farm team in Montreal and that if things worked out Robinson would join the Dodgers in Brooklyn. The next month, Robinson signed with the Dodgers. Two years later Jackie was brought up to the Dodgers. Prior to the beginning of the 1947 season, Dodger manager, Leo Durocher was suspended by Commissioner Happy Chandler for "conduct detrimental to baseball." Rickey asked Clyde if he would be manager, Clyde didn't want the job, but agreed to fill in. On opening day, April 15, 1947, interim Dodger manager Clyde Sukeforth put Jackie Robinson in the lineup. When Robinson took the field that day, history was made. Clyde would later be instrumental in bringing Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe into the majors. He would later join Branch Rickey in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization as a coach and scout. Later he would be a scout for Milwaukee and Atlanta.



Jackie and Clyde in the Dodger dugout.

In 1951 Clyde married Grethel Pitcher Winchenbach of Waldoboro. Later they would build a house overlooking Old Broad Bay in South Waldoboro where they would live out their lives.

Brother Clyde Sukeforth

The Sukeforths have a long Masonic history in Maine. That history begins with Wor. Thomas Sukeforth who was raised in Union Lodge # 31 in August 24, 1871. He demitted from Union Lodge in 1891 and later became

Continued on Next Page



Limestone Lodge 'moving forward.'

Three members of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics community in Limestone joined Limestone Lodge this spring. New members were welcomed by, (left to right), Luke Shorty, by D.D.G.M. Robert Hancock; Dr. Brian Sullivan, by W. Paul Poitras and Matthew Thompson by Bro. Michael Lambert. Bro. Shorty is the Executive Director of the school while Bro. Sullivan teaches Physics. Bro. Thompson's wife is a Secretary at the school while he is an Information System Specialist for Visiting Nurses of Aroostook. R.W. Hancock observed "It is exciting to have such young men joining the lodge. We are moving forward."

Sukey *Continued from Preceding Page*

a charter member of Mt. Olivet Lodge #203 on May 7, 1898. Wor. Sukeforth would later become Master of Mt. Olivet from 1899 to 1901. It should be noted that Wor. Thomas Sukeforth, as well as many of the Sukeforths in mid-coast Maine, could trace their roots to Andrew Suchfort (later changed to Sukeforth). Andrew was born in Volkeroda, Germany in 1755. He came to the United States in 1778, and later settled in Union. He eventually moved to Washington.

Clyde's father Pearl, and cousin, Fred Sukeforth, were members of Mt. Olivet Lodge; both being raised on May 16, 1913. Clyde's uncle, Bro. Earl Grinnell was raised in Mt. Olivet on August 17, 1917 and would later become Master (1925-1926). Clyde Sukeforth was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason at Mt. Olivet Lodge on December 7, 1923. Bro. Sukeforth's career had him living outside of Maine for years at a time, but he found time to visit the lodge for special occasions.

On December 21, 1973, at a stated meeting in Mt. Olivet Lodge, Bro. Clyde Sukeforth was presented with a 50-year Veterans Medal by DDGM RW Chester Meservey. On May 24, 1994, a ninety-four year old Bro. Sukeforth returned to Mt. Olivet Lodge to receive his 70-year longevity star. It was presented to him by then-DDGM RW Alan Heath. In the spring of 1999, three brothers from Mt. Olivet Lodge visited Bro. Sukeforth and presented him with his 75-year longevity star.

Bro. Sukeforth was accepted into the celestial lodge above on September 3, 2000. He was predeceased by his wife Grethel.

Clyde's Legacy

Clyde was survived by his daughter, four grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren. He was inducted into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame, Sports Hall of Fame and there is the "Clyde L. Sukeforth Memorial Field" in Waldoboro. There have been many interviews conducted and much written about Bro. Clyde Sukeforth, enough to fill a book or two.

His best legacy comes from the man that he will be forever connected with, Jackie Robinson, who wrote to Clyde in 1972, "I have been very appreciative of the fact that whenever there were problems in the earlier days, I could always go to you, talk with you and receive the warm and friendly advice that I always did. I have always considered you to be one of the true giants in this initial endeavor in baseball, for which I am truly appreciative."³

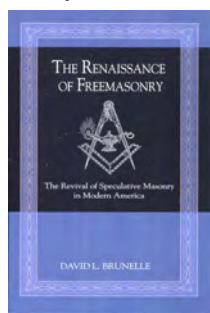
Sukey will forever be remembered as the quiet and humble farm boy from Maine who played in the major league and helped make baseball history.

Footnotes: 1. Maine Historic Society; Maine Memory Network, Interview with Clyde Sukeforth (Sukey), 1998. 2. Bangor Daily News, "Real Robinson story provided by Sukeforth", by Mike Dowd. 3. The Gibbs Library, Washington, Maine, "The Era of Clyde Sukeforth" edited by Bo Marks, 1995. Letter from Jackie Robinson to Clyde Sukeforth dated July 21, 1972.

Photo Credits: Clyde catching for the Brooklyn Dodgers, courtesy of Alma Jones, Clyde's first cousin, Washington, ME. Clyde and Jackie in the dugout, courtesy of centerfieldmaz.com

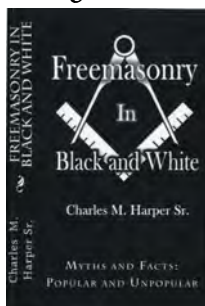
When new Masons ask you questions, do you feel ill-prepared to help? Any of the books mentioned here can help minimize your concern. Don't forget to pass what you've learned on to the others in your lodge: Masonic Education is more fun when shared.

THE OLD WEBMASTER'S BOOKSHELF



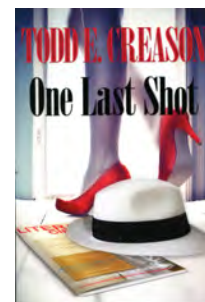
"A new generation of seekers has inherited the craft, desirous of excellence, and without tolerance for ignorance or apathy. Freemasonry is being challenged from the inside with a call to restore Masonic excellence and to revive the fundamentals of speculative Masonry." Does this resonate with you? If so - even if not! - you should read the small but very powerful **"The Renaissance of Freemasonry-The Revival of Speculative Masonry in Modern America"** by (Bro.) David L. Brunelle. I've been around a LONG time and it jolted me to the core. If you care about your lodge and our fraternity, PLEASE invest time with this book! You will be changed, guaranteed.

"Freemasonry in Black and White - Myths and Facts: Popular and Unpopular" by (Bro.) Charles M. Harper, Sr. is written from a very unique perspective: that of someone who joined an unrecognized and irregular lodge and now wants to 'set the record straight'. Covering a wide variety of topics relating to the history of both Freemasonry AND of Masonry among Blacks, this is clearly a work of love. Here in Maine we have precious little opportunity to interact with this 'other world' of Freemasonry, which has had for more than its share of internal and external problems. A few typos and an odd footnoting methodology but otherwise, it's a book you should make time to read.

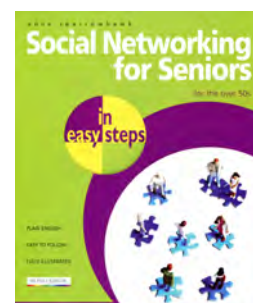


In an earlier *Bookshelf*, I wrote praising (Maine Bro.) John Ford's first book, **"Suddenly, The Cider Didn't Taste So Good"**. He's back again with more tales of his days as a Maine Game Warden in **"This Cider Still Tastes Funny"**, just as comical and well-written as before. It's a great gift for those 'from away' and Waldo County residents might even recognize a few of their neighbors. It's the kind of book anyone who likes humor, set in Maine, will enjoy. And what's more, all these tales are (ostensibly) true!

(Bro.) Todd E. Creason has garnered well-deserved attention for his books about Famous Freemasons. No 'one trick pony', he's been writing murder mysteries too. When I started his second book in that genre, it quickly became clear that these were characters with a history I wanted to know more about. **"One Last Shot"** published in 2011 begins the tale and while there's nothing particularly unique about the plot with characters not that unusual, the story's progression, pacing and resolution are well done indeed - and now I'm ready for the second. Although Bro. Creason is writing as a hobby, it's clear that he's got both the desire and capability of having it be more than that, should he so desire. It'll be interesting to see where his talents take him next.



As we age (and we all seem to be doing it), the world revolves faster and faster each day. Keeping up, many suggest, is impossible. I'd contend that by reading and 'digging in', it can be far less intimidating than you imagine. Case in point: social networking. You've all heard the term but many have chosen to ignore it. Why not take a peek at some of the many, many books on the market written specifically for those over 50, in their language, and without a lot of assumptions that you already know this stuff. Some Masons say, "I don't care: I'm fine without connecting with distant relatives or people from my past." My Brother, you're missing SO much - but you won't know that unless and until you try. Pick up a book written for YOU and dip a toe in the water. What have you got to lose?



Remember: all of these books can be borrowed from your Grand Lodge Library and some are available through your local public library. All are readily available for sale online too. We encourage you to take advantage of all that libraries have to offer!

Although many think Bro. Ed King spends his life online, he's an avid reader and writer as well. He also occasionally publishes essays on the web as "The Old Webmaster". His personal website at www.masonicinfo.com - Anti-Masonry: Points of View had over 3.2 million individual visitors last year. He's (the husband of the) Webmaster for our Grand Lodge and is also our Grand Librarian.

Saco Lodge #9 Celebrates Past Masters' Night



Front Row: RW Richard Clark (81 & 97), Bro. Philip Sherman, Wor. Mark Whitmore, Wor. Robert Hooper (65), Wor. Raymond Boughner (90) Second Row: Wor. Steve Cappers (Macedonian Lodge), Wor. David Perkins (01&08), Wor. Robert Barris (86), Wor. James Pate (98), Wor. Richard Tripp (99), Wor. James Gould (Dunlap Lodge). Back Row: Wor. Steve Boucouvalas (11), RW Joel Tripp (03&04), RW Carl Marsano (02), Wor. Forrest Tripp (00), Wor. Gordon Workman (12), Wor. Michael Tremblay (10). In photo at right, Wor. Brother Mark Whitmore presents Bro. Michael Dunn with his grandfather's diploma.

by Carl Marsano
Photos by Larry Tripp

Saco Lodge has traditionally celebrated Past Masters' Night in April. This practice dates back to the late 1800s. This year was no different, and Tuesday, April 9th ended up being a special event for all who attended but more especially for two members. Bro. Michael Dunn, the candidate, obviously was one. The other was a brother who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason exactly 50 years prior on Past Masters' Night in 1963. After the Past Masters were introduced, Brother Philip Sherman was escorted to the East, where RW Richard Clark, PDDGM 18th, and the Past Masters of Saco Lodge presented Bro. Phil with his 50 Year Medal.

After the work of the evening was completed, the meeting was not over. Wor. Mark Whitmore, presiding Master, presented Bro. Michael with his great grandfather's Masonic Diploma. His great-grandfather was raised in 1911. This diploma has been passed down from generation to generation within the family. Bro. Michael hopes that future generations will appreciate this as much as he does now.

During the meeting, minutes from April 9, 1963 were read. Not only was that April 9th a Past Masters Night, but it too was a Tuesday and Eastern Star had also served baked ham for dinner...so many coincidences, it was unbelievable. The minutes read like a who's who from Saco Lodge Masonic history. We can only hope 50 years from now, when Bro. Michael receives his 50 Year medal; someone will say the same for us.



Bro. Richard N. Berry, of Portland, received his 75-year service star on June 9 at his home. He was 22 years old when raised on May 12, 1938. Wor. Stanley Waltz, Master of Alna Anchor Lodge #43 of Damariscotta, made the presentation.

R.W. Ralph Knowles Photo

St. Andrews Lodge Keeps on Truckin'

By Brother Ryan Collins

St. Andrew's Lodge #83 of Bangor went on the trip of a lifetime last April when they travelled to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia for the purpose of building the bonds of fraternal relations and raising to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, Brother John McAleer.

Thirty-seven brethren representing six different Maine Masonic districts boarded a Cyr charter bus at 7:00 PM Thursday, April 11th. After much fellowship and many attempts to get the bus onboard digital video disc system working (how many Masons does it take to play a movie?), the bus picked up Harold "Mac" McKenny, past Grand Treasurer and honorary lifetime member of St. Andrew's Lodge in Westbrook. Following a successful re-connection of some wires, the brethren were treated to a digital video disc presentation on the National Masonic Memorial, courtesy of Right Worshipful Brother Royce Wheeler. The video excited curiosity and created a sense of eager anticipation among the travelers.

With a 14-hour trip behind it, the bus and its weary passengers arrived at the Memorial around 10:45 AM. Brethren were treated to a special all-access tour by a brother who pointed out many items of interest within the displays and was very knowledgeable of not only the memorial but of Washington himself - both man and Mason. The observation deck at the top of the memorial provided 360-degree views of Washington, DC. Many pictures were taken despite fog and light rain.

The brethren re-assembled at 5:30PM dressed in tuxedos and suits for a catered dinner at Embassy Suites. Many heads were turned as guests observed the formal dress, lapel pins, and apron cases. A special treat was having the candidate, Brother John McAleer, join the brethren for dinner after completing his studies for the day at George Washington University in Washington, DC where he majors in Economics and is involved with the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Following dinner the brethren returned to the Memorial for the degree. Brother Matthew Myers (Junior Steward, Andrew Jackson Lodge #120) was instrumental in assisting St. Andrew's Lodge stewards Ryan Collins and Jeffrey Hammadey (pro tem) with unlocking and opening storage areas and setting up the lodge hall. Thank you Brother Myers for your steadfast support and fellowship. Worshipful Brother Ernest Wheeler and Brother Robert Wheeler also deserve many thanks for providing music, visuals, and lighting that greatly enhanced the candidate's experience during the degree. Sidelines were full with many past masters as



Newly-raised brother John McAleer and his St. Andrew's Lodge brethren in the North Lodge Room of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.

well as past and present Grand Lodge of Maine officers enjoying the impressive work. Later, members of Andrew Jackson Lodge #120 invited the Maine brethren to Joe Theisman's restaurant for refreshment, an invitation that was gladly accepted.

Saturday morning, April 13th, the brethren had the choice of meeting Brother Darryl Lyon, Senior Deacon St. Andrew's Lodge for a tour of Arlington National Cemetery that included the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and changing of the guard, or meeting Worshipful Brother Glenn Sherman, Master of Star in the East Lodge #60 for a tour of the national mall and associated memorials. R.W. Brother Royce Wheeler elected to tour the national mall and fulfilled a long time goal of seeing the World War II memorial. He was accompanied

Continued on Page 19

Maine Masonic College Course and Event Schedule 2013-2014

September 21 **How to Survive a MMC Diploma**, R.W. Mark Rustin, Instructor. Meridian Splendor Lodge, Newport, 9:00 am-2:00 pm Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit. (New course)

September 28 **Tenets and Cardinal Virtues**, R.W. Reginald Wing, Instructor. Harwood Lodge, Machias, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit.

October 5 **Critical Thinking**, Sam McKeeman, Instructor. Monument Lodge, Houlton, 9:00 am-2:00 p.m. Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit.

October 12 **Curiosity**, R.W. Charles Plummer, Instructor. Bethlehem Lodge, Augusta, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open. (New course)

November 16 **Symbolism**, R.W. Eric Kuntz, Instructor. Maine Lodge, East Wilton, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit.

December 8 **Astronomy Event**, University of Maine Planetarium, 4:30 pm. Open. **Limited to 20.**

January 11 **Masonic Psychology**, R.W. Eric Kuntz, Instructor. Bangor Masonic Center, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit. (New course)

February 15 **Understanding World Religions-What a well informed Mason should know**, R.W. Charles Plummer, Instructor. United Lodge, Brunswick, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open.

March 15 **Fourth Annual Celebration of the Arts and Sciences** (focus on music in our lives), Suzanne Nance, Soloist and Leader. Bangor Masonic Center, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Dinner \$5.00. Open.

April 5 **Ethics**, Sam McKeeman, Instructor. Lygonia Lodge, Ellsworth, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch \$5.00. Open. Diploma credit.

April (TBA) **Seminar for Chaplains**, R.W. Mark Rustin and Wor. Douglas Drawn, Leaders and Instructors. Meridian Splendor Lodge, Newport. This offering was originally intended for lodge.

Pillars *Continued from Page 17*

the Temple between Verse 21 and Verse 39, we are left to conclude that the right pillar – “Jachin” — would be on the south side of the Temple and the left pillar – “Boaz” — would be on the north side.

That perspective of the Temple would parallel our perspective on the right and left sides of a car. We determine right and left from a position sitting in the car, not when approaching or leaving the car.

According to the sources available to us, King Solomon’s Temple was oriented due east and west, with the entrance facing east and with the inner chamber, or Holy of Holies, at the opposite end of the Temple, in the west. Between the entrance and the Inner Chamber was the Middle Chamber. We learn from the second section of the Entered Apprentice Lecture that our Masonic lodges should be a *representation* of King Solomon’s Temple where the Inner Chamber, or Holy of Holies, is in the west, at the opposite end from the Temple entrance, which faces east. In our lodges, we learn from the Senior Deacon’s Lecture that the outer door is represented by the Jr. Warden’s station in the south, that the inner door is represented by the Sr. Warden’s station in the west, and that the representation of the Inner Chamber is in the east, where the Worshipful Master is found.

In bringing the pillars into the lodge with our east-west orientation reversal, the issue of which pillar should

be on the left and which on the right again creates a quandary.

Until we have valid documentation to the contrary, we are left to conclude that Boaz was on the north and Jachin was on the south of the “porch of King Solomon’s Temple.” As for their placement in the lodge, our ritual says that Boaz is on the left at the entrance of the porch of King Solomon’s Temple and Jachin is on the right at the entrance, but it does not specify whose left nor whose right.

Perhaps we would be better off following the admonition of a noted scholar of Maine Masonic ritual which I shall here paraphrase: “For many questions about our ritual, there is no valid trail of long term historical documentation. Much in our ritual is, in fact, only long standing custom.” For many questions about our ritual, the answer to the question, “Which of these ways is correct?” is this: Whatever the customs within your lodge have been and whatever the Master of your lodge prefers. Finally, if we allow ourselves to be distracted by questions of left-right, north-south, entering-leaving, facing in-facing out, we miss the powerful symbolism of the pillars which is the real lesson that we should take away from our ritual: Those two pillars represent a portal through which we pass in the pursuit of our Masonic journey. They symbolize the strength we are given with which to establish something that will endure beyond our mortal time on this Earth.

A Word from the Grand Master about our Oct. 19 Open Houses

Celebrating and Sharing Fraternal Bonds

Dear Brethren,

As Masonic Lodges throughout Maine prepare to celebrate and share the Fraternal bonds of Free Masonry with members of your respective communities on October 19th, I just want to say thank you for your time, efforts and enthusiastic approach with which you are employing the resources that your Grand Lodge has to offer in assisting you to prepare for this special day. Last year, I was amazed by the planning and thought process that you undertook in making your Lodge Halls centers of activities which included public breakfasts, lunches, suppers, special ladies programs, child identification programs, public installations, autumn festivals and much more. These are just a few of the many ideas and activities that created excitement by involving Lodge members and members of our communities.

October 19th should be regarded as a celebration of Masonry in one or many ways. I am proud of you for seizing the opportunity that is before you. You obviously see the benefits that this day will provide for you. Moreover, it underscores the excitement, creativity and pride that you are demonstrating as Masons. These are just some of the reasons why I hope you will join with me in repeating last year's success.

I am emphasizing that these Open Houses should be opportunities to share our individual experiences of

Masonry with the uninitiated. They are our neighbors and our friends who may have a certain curiosity about the Masonic Lodge that sits in your town. They are those who may want to meet the men who are Masons; men who are members of a values-based organization which exalts high standards of moral and ethical living. They are those that may be expressing an interest in becoming Masons but just do not know how to approach a Mason. To regard these Open Houses as "a way to get new members" will only create frustration at the end of the day. To regard these Open Houses as opportunities to demonstrate our pride as Masons will bode better for us in the long-run. We must remain ever mindful that Masonry is defined by the men who make up its ranks. Masonry is who we are; it is the very essence of what we contribute to its being that makes Masonry what it is. Be creative, be positive and wear your pride as you show your homes to those that stop by on October the 19th.

As we put the finishing touches on our plans to celebrate Masonry that day, bear in mind that we will get what we give. Think, act and speak as if everything is a congenial pleasure and people will surely regard you in favorable ways. Be proud of who you are and know that you are making a difference.

Yours in Service to the Craft,

Jim

St. Andrew's Truckin'

Continued from Page 15

by his sons, Ernest and Robert. Several who elected to tour the mall indicated they had not walked as fast, for many years, but all were all glad to have seen as much as they did in the time available. The brethren who toured Arlington indicated that the cemetery has a "presence" that was palpable while visiting the hallowed grounds.

Later that morning the bus loaded for its return to Maine. The brethren enjoyed lively conversation about the degree and the trip. They arrived in Bangor shortly after midnight on Sunday, to waiting friends and family.

The Officers of St. Andrew's Lodge and brethren on the trip offer a heartfelt thank you to Brother Darryl Lyon for all of his efforts in planning, negotiating, and coordinating this adventure. The trip was a huge success and created many lasting memories.



The North Lodge Room in the Memorial.

‘One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Maine Freemasonry’

by R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen

One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Maine Freemasonry.” Astronaut Neil Armstrong once said something like that. It was 44 years ago on July 20, 1969, as he stepped from the lunar landing module onto the moon’s surface. His words were broadcast for the world’s population – sitting on the edges of their seats – to hear, “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!” Those who watched those images and heard those words, vividly remember the excitement of man being on the moon.

Later that year before a joint session of Congress, Armstrong recalled an earthly journey that he said reflected the true meaning of the spirit of Apollo.

“I stood in the highlands of this Nation, near the Continental Divide, introducing to my sons the wonders of nature, and pleasures of looking for deer and for elk.

“In their enthusiasm for the view, they frequently stumbled on the rocky trials, but when they looked only to their footing, they did not see the elk. To those of you who have advocated looking high we owe our sincere gratitude, for you have granted us the opportunity to see some of the grandest views of the Creator.

“To those of you who have been our honest critics, we also thank (you), for you have reminded us that we dare not forget to watch the trail.”

The guidance given to his sons to both look down at their path as well as up to the beauties of the Creator has application to us as Masons. We need to look out for the proper care for our lodges and buildings, as well as pursue the beauty and wonders of Freemasonry’s great lessons.

It also might remind us of the need to carefully learn the correct words of our Masonic ritual (and deliver them well and with feeling), while recognizing that Freemasonry’s beauty is not so much to be found by studying the precise words themselves. The beauty is found by appreciating how the often unspoken messages behind these words, and the accompanying allegory, reinforce the importance of making our Creator the great light in our lives, and the guide to our thoughts, words and deeds. Accepting the insightful lessons of the Great Book and of Freemasonry will make us better individuals; help us practice strong moral values; and give proper focus to our endeavors and our commitment to improving ourselves and helping others.

We may all temporarily stumble on a word here and there when delivering a degree lesson; unwanted, but so be it! Yet to realize and experience the beauty of Freemasonry, we must constantly strive to behold the deeper meanings conveyed within our degrees...and apply those lessons to our lives.

We must carefully tread the path we travel in

Masonry while beholding the great beauty of His gift to us. The practical as well as the aspirational!

Mystery Creates Wonder

Neil Armstrong also opined before that Congressional gathering that “Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man’s desire to understand.”

His feelings about exploring mystery and wonder go to the heart of Freemasonry. Our gentle Craft affords us an inspiring opportunity to improve ourselves – and our relationships – if only we would pursue our curiosity about those wonders and mysteries so intricately interwoven into the fabric of Masonry by our fraternal forefathers.

RW Brother Charles Plummer passionately offers his perspectives on curiosity on page 26 of this issue of the Maine Mason, and he is presenting a course on this topic sponsored by the Maine Masonic College on October 12, in Augusta. All mentors and brethren interested in pursuing their Masonic curiosity should attend. Contact M.W. Walter Macdougall at 207-943-2331 to enroll.

Yet personal growth requires more than pursuing our curiosity. It hinges upon us intellectually embracing and diligently practicing the important lessons expressed in our Masonic degrees. By so doing, we will be healthy stewards of the Craft and positive examples to family, friends and the general public of “What it means to be a Mason.”

That Small Step Yet Giant Leap

But let’s return to those first words spoken on the moon – about that small step yet giant leap – for they also have relevance to the exciting initiatives we have undertaken together in Maine Freemasonry over the past sixteen months under the leadership of MW A. James Ross. Steps that heighten the value of being a Maine Mason; that encourage all Masons, particularly our new Brothers, towards an active and never-ending pursuit of more light in Masonry!

What are those initiatives? The Dirigo Leadership Seminars. The Maine Masonic Rookie Program. And Maine Masonic Mentoring.

The Dirigo Leadership Seminars pursue the question: To what extent and how does a Lodge – either my Lodge or your Lodge, provide value to its members? Value as measured in terms of what belonging to and attending the lodge offers in terms of: fraternity, education, value driven lives, social interaction among brothers and families, philanthropic caring for one another and others...and so much more! Or said another way, why do or don’t Brothers continue to attend and want to be

Continued on Next Page

One Giant Leap *Continued*

involved.

The Maine Masonic Rookie Program encourages new Masons to become involved in their Lodges as soon as they are received as Entered Apprentices. Becoming and remaining involved by lending a helping hand on Lodge activities; getting to know their Brethren; pursuing their interests and Masonic education!

Our Grand Master now writes to each new Master Mason, encouraging him to pursue the Rookie Program, and providing him a Brother Benjamin Franklin DVD on Freemasonry to share with his family and friends.

Information on these important steps can be found on the Grand Lodge website, www.MaineMason.org.

Masonic Mentoring

The most exciting and important of these initiatives – the giant leap forward if you will – is Masonic Mentoring, establishing strong fraternal bonds built upon our teachings that cannot easily be broken.

Remember the 1985 science fiction movie *Back to the Future*. It featured an eccentric scientist who modified a DeLorean into a time machine that allowed a teenager to visit the past and see people, places and events as they were, and maybe even change them and their destiny?

I've seen plenty of "vintage" automobiles outside Lodge buildings over the years, but never that DeLorean.

Nevertheless, our new mentoring initiative began with a 40-year step backwards to an elder brother program active back then right here in Maine. It was described in Pollard Plan booklet #5, last published in

1971.

That booklet has been reworked for today. And we have added another new tool, the Maine Masonic Mentoring Handbook, drawing on the good works of our English Brethren. Both booklets may be downloaded from the Grand Lodge web site or may be purchased in booklet format from Grand Lodge.

Our step back is in reality a great leap forward towards restoring the tenets and teachings of Freemasonry as the core of who we are and what we do. It is a purposeful refocusing on who we were back when the Craft was flourishing and growing rapidly with many new members, but not to the exclusion of who we have become.

We are a fraternity that grew out of the guilds of craftsmen of hundreds of years ago. Those craftsmen had a strong code of ethics and lessons still taught in Lodge, as delineated in the Regius Poem or Halliwell Manuscript that dates back to at least the year 1390. The poem speaks in rhyme of the seven liberal arts and sciences and much more, for example, using updated language:

*For to keep the commandments ten,
That God gave to all men;
And pray to Him in mild voice
To keep thee from the sins seven,
That you here may, in this life,
Keep thee well from care and strife;
Furthermore he grant thee grace,
In heaven's bliss to have a place.*

Continued on Next Page



Brethren from throughout Maine listened attentively and appreciatively to Bro. John Jenkins' outstanding mentoring presentation at the Bangor Masonic Center. 235 Masons from 113 lodges attended the inaugural mentoring sessions held last June in Auburn and Bangor.

Freeport Receives Flags in Time for the Holidays

By Pete Cutler

Past Master Alan Hindley, of Freeport Lodge No. 23, may not be a mover of mountains, but he can certainly cause some significant tremors.

Wor. Bro. Hindley is a craftsman in the building trades and his work frequently takes him to the downtown Freeport area. Last year he was working along Freeport's Main Street and could not help but observe that during the Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations there were fewer than a handful of flags displayed along the route. This did not set well with the Navy veteran.

Consequently, he enlisted the aid of Wor. Norman Williams, another Lodge member noted for getting things done. They formed an alliance with Freeport American Legion Post No. 83, with the goal of increasing the patriotic ambience of the town.

Members of both organizations canvassed Freeport merchants and other entities and were successful in raising enough funds to purchase twenty-six flags and holders for utility poles along the usual Main Street parade route. The Town of Freeport provided men and equipment to install the new flags on the selected poles and all was in place in time for the annual Memorial Day Parade, a beautiful sunny day that highlighted the new flags rippling in a gentle breeze.

It is noteworthy that this project succeeded through the efforts of Freeport Lodge #23 and the contributions of Freeport residents. It is indicative of how important community outreach projects can be when initiated and



Old Glory now decorates Freeport's Main Street.

carried out by the fraternity. Wor. Bro. Hindley and Wor. Bro. Williams have received many favorable comments on the new flags and since their placement will last through the summer months and for identical periods in future years the effect will be long lasting.

For those of us who revere and respect the flag of our country, we find a great deal of pleasure in seeing it so honored. We are grateful that our Freeport Lodge was able to make such a meaningful contribution to our community.

One Giant Leap *Continued*

North American Freemasonry has over the past several decades increased its public charity focus far more than in other parts of the world, with less emphasis on fraternity and philosophy. During this period membership has declined undoubtedly for a variety of reasons, including our loss of focus on what makes the Craft different...and special: making good men better through the values-centered lessons Masonry has long taught.

The emphasis of Maine Masonic Mentoring is on bonding with our Brethren, sharing life's lessons, joys and travails. Brotherhood!

It's about going beyond teaching the ritual contained in our three little candidate lesson books to practical discussions on the spiritual and philosophical lessons of the degrees.

It's about performing caring, charitable works for and with our Brethren and their families.

And then it's about exercising our values by helping others in the communities of which we should be an integral part, such as by encouraging kids to read by participating in the Bikes for Books Program, or by undertaking community mentoring opportunities.

Seeking More Light on Mentoring

The Grand Master and his leadership team will be visiting your area this fall for a District Meeting. Find out when he will be in your District (see page 31 of this issue for the complete schedule) and pose your questions and comments to him on how to attract good men to the Craft and assist them by being their personal mentor – their friend, teacher, coach and Masonic traveling companion.

Becoming a mentor will help Freemasonry make that leap back to the future as the fraternity that is truly making a difference in the lives of men and their communities. It will help new Masons purposefully take their early steps in Masonry, and view with delight the Great Architect's designs for our Craft.

Arundel Lodge Honors its Masonic Veterans



Brother Dennis Coolbroth receives his 40-year pin from RW Larry Vennell.



Brother James Welch is presented his 40-year pin from R.W. Larry Vennell.



Brother Ralph Smith receives his 60-year Star from Grand Master Ross.

Nearly 100 Masons and guests gathered at Arundel Lodge in Kennebunkport on April 23 to enjoy a delicious supper and see six veteran members receive recognition for their service. Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maine A. James Ross was in attendance as

were Past Grand Masters George Pulkkinen, Gerald Leighton, Wayne Adams and Claire Tusch. Before the awards were presented, RW Larry Vennell presented an interesting slide show on the history of Arundel Lodge. *Photos by Brother John Price*



Brother Sonny Hutchins is presented his 60-year Star from Grand Master Ross.



Brother Robert Daggett is presented his 50-year Veterans Medal from Grand Master Ross.



Grand Master Ross presented M.W. Wayne T. Adams his 50-Year Veterans Medal which was then pinned on by his son, Brother Bradford Adams.

If you missed the Convocation...you really missed something

by R.W. Richard Rhoda
Grand Historian

"The best yet" was the overwhelming consensus of those present following the conclusion of the fourth annual Maine Masonic College Convocation held at the South Portland Marriott the last week in July.

The theme of "Polishing the Stone" was presented by three well known Masonic lecturers and by yet another home grown Mason, Grand Secretary Mark Rustin.

While not officially part of the program, M.W. Walter Macdougall gave a most interesting introduction to the day as he set the foundation of Masonry as coming from stones. He spoke of stones first serving man as tools; of how stones have mysterious and spiritual qualities, and have provided destiny and continuity to man's evolution; of how they have given protection, foundations, and permanence to society; and finally of how man's work with the various aspects of stones have shaped us as humans.

The first official speaker was our own R.W. Charles Plummer who spoke on the curiosity of stones and the development of Masonry from the quarry as the craftsman ventured forth. He traced the history of masonry into Freemasonry and the rise and decline of the craft during the Golden Age of Fraternalism from 1870 to 1910. He concluded with consideration of the growth of Freemasonry's charitable works from only its members to its wider breadth across society to meet the needs of others.

R.W. Robert Davis who hails from Oklahoma and is a nationally renowned Masonic speaker challenged us with a dynamic presentation titled "What's in the Stone?" He spoke of the initiation experience being the conferral of a new status into manhood for the candidate. He challenged us to truly experience the authenticity of Masonry in our lives. He expanded on Polonius' admonition to his son Laertes in *Hamlet* of "To thine own self be true." He said the clarion call of Masonry today is "Be what you say you are

to others. Act with honor and integrity to all men." He reminded us that from our response of "To build a temple to God" to the inquiry of "What came you here to do?", we must remember that we become the building stones of that temple and to govern ourselves accordingly.

R.W. S. Brent Morris, well known American Masonic author, addressed the issue of "What does the public think of Freemasonry?" He spoke of the positive perception of Freemasonry from the relatively recent movie "National Treasure" and Dan Brown's novel "The Lost Symbol." While they raised the national consciousness of Freemasonry they also brought forth the detractors and their innumerable articles defaming the Craft. His sage advice was the response of "Think what you will but please don't lie about me." He spoke of his interpretation of how Anderson's First Charge, Concerning God and Religion, "brought about the broad basis for Freemasonry and its worldwide expansion." He said that in Masonry one will, on the whole, meet men of higher quality and diversity and will better enjoy each other's company.

The final speaker was our Grand Secretary and Past Assistant Grand Chaplain Mark Rustin who for many years served as a Congregational Minister in Portland. He questioned what use are we as a perfect ashlar if we do nothing more than shine up a new perfect ashlar and then another. Our teaching of brotherly love is akin to mentoring a new brother not just making him one. He opined that Masonry needs to grow by attraction, not just by promotion. We need to exploit the potential of human capacity in each person. We need to reflect on the smooth ashlar we have become and work our own ashlar every day. We need to reflect the light of the Supreme Architect.

The program concluded with remarks of M.W. A. James Ross who shared how his grandfather brought him to Masonry and how important it is for each Mason, "to remember that you are the face of Masonry to the public."



2nd ANNUAL MOOSE HUNTERS SUPPER

Hosted by Pioneer Lodge #72

32 Plum Street, Ashland, ME

N46° 37'47.0" W68° 24'07.4"

Saturday, September 21

5-7 PM

Deep Fried Turkey and All the Fixings...and Dessert

\$10 Per Person

Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum Opening Soon

by Wor. Brother James Dufresne

On October 5, 2013, from 9:45 am to 2:00 pm, the newly-established Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum, dedicated to those brave Masonic Brethren who served in the Civil War, will open in grand style.

The event will kick off the “Local & Legendary: Maine in the Civil War” grant project established by the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Historical Society. Grant partners are: Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum, Friends of Evergreen (Evergreen Cemetery), Portland; My Place Teen Center (formerly Mission Possible Teen Center), Westbrook; Walker Memorial Library, Westbrook and the Westbrook Historical Society. The Maine Masonic Civil War Library Museum will open its doors after a short parade.

Activities begin at 9:45 a.m. with a parade from Monument Square to the Library site at 415 Congress Street. Marchers will include Civil War reenactors and R.W. Brother Charles Plummer as General Joshua L. Chamberlain who will make a few remarks at the monument before leading the parade. Other activities planned are tours of the Temple Building by members of Triangle Lodge #1, local authors on hand to promote and sign their books, and much more.

“As Freemasonry emerged from its own period of crisis, *known to many as the Anti- Masonic period, the clouds were gathering with the approach of one of the darkest times in American history — the Civil War! In the years immediately preceding the outbreak of hostilities, Masons in the North and South were responsible for a series of compromises made during the 1850s which delayed moves by the Southern States toward secession. They were in vain however, and the hotheads and fanatics on both sides ruled the day.*

“Grand Lodges and Masons on both sides sought to find solutions — first to stop the steamroller rushing toward the breakup of the Union, and when that failed, to find a way for the Confederacy and the Union to get along with each other in peace. When that failed, they worked to remind Masons of their obligations to their Brethren whichever side they were on.

“In view of tensions and hostilities which eventually broke out, they succeeded in this last beyond expectations, in what might be called one of Freemasonry’s finest hours. During four years of bitter battle, there were hundreds of incidents recorded where Masons on both sides gave assistance to prisoners, tended their wounds, gave the dead a decent burial, notified families of dead and wounded enemies, and even allowed captured enemies who were Masons to visit their own lodge meetings on occasion.”(1)

“Two members of Alna Lodge, No. 43, of Damariscotta, were captured at the Battle of Bull Run, and were sent to a Prisoner of War Camp near New Orleans. Here, they, together with other Masons among their fellow prisoners, were found by Grand Master John Q. A. Fellows, who supplied them with clothing, medical attendance, and every needful comfort in their hour of extremity. This truly Masonic conduct on the part of Brother Fellows not only won for him the gratitude of the Grand Lodges to which the prisoners belonged, but also elicited official resolutions of commendation from the neutral Grand Lodge of Ireland. Brother Fellows also managed to send word through the lines telling the families of these prisoners that the boys were alive, well, and in the hands of brothers.

“Grand Master David Ramsay of South Carolina sent out an encyclical letter to the Lodges under his obedience, in which he outlined the correct Masonic attitude in time of war. Copies of this letter reached Maine, were published by the Grand Lodge, and were much appreciated by the Maine brethren. Years after the War was over, framed copies of this letter could be found on the walls of many Maine Lodge rooms.”(2)

If your Lodge has a copy of this encyclical I would like to borrow it for display in the Museum.

After the opening, the Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum hours will be Wednesday thru Friday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm and Saturday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

1. History of the Grand Lodge of Maine AF&AM, 1820-1995, by Wallace M. Gage
2. Freemasonry In Maine, 1762-1970, by Ralph J Pollard



Gen. Joshua Chamberlain, aka RW Brother Charles Plummer, threw out the first pitch at the July 3 Sea Dogs game which was billed as Civil War Night at the ballpark as it marked the 150th anniversary of the third-day battle at Gettysburg. The pitch, by the way, was a hard fast-ball strike at the knees.

CURIOSITY:

the Key Attribute for Achieving Success as a Mentor and Mentee

by R.W. Charles W. Plummer

Based on my experiences as a mentor to student teachers, first year teachers, new Master Masons, and others, if someone were to ask me what the key attribute is for achieving success in that role I would have to answer “curiosity.” That is also true for achieving success as a mentee.

Albert Einstein, who was awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics, was quick to point out that his successes as a physicist were not because he had a “special gift” but because he was “passionately curious.” Like Einstein, I have never thought of myself as possessing any special gift but I, too, have been passionately curious and that started at a very early age. I never was one to take everything that I was told at face value whether it came from a teacher, college professor, or someone else. Rather I was driven to ask questions. I will admit they were not always well received and, at times, I was viewed as a pain-in-the-neck to

put it mildly. But I have never regretted asking them because they enhanced my personal growth and understanding of

what it means to be a human being and the kind of life I should live. Likewise, I did not take everything I read at face value, and for that matter, still don’t.

Curiosity is a positive engine for personal growth in many ways which include the following: first, by being curious we explore possibilities; second, by exploring we discover new understandings; third, when we explore and discover new understandings we are more likely to repeat it; fourth, by repeating it we develop competency and mastery; fifth, by developing competency and mastery our knowledge and skills are enhanced; sixth, as our knowledge and skills are enhanced, we stretch and expand our understanding of who we are and what life is all about; seventh, by dealing with novelty we become more experienced and intelligent and infuse our lives with meaning; eighth, curiosity begets more curiosity the more knowledge we acquire, the more details we attend to and the more we realize that there is much more to be learned.

One might ask the question, why is this so? The answer is because when we embrace the unknown our

perspectives change and we begin to recognize the gaps, both literal and figurative, that were not apparent before. Thus it is that I have come to the conclusion that the place a mentor should guide his mentee toward is that of being curious and always asking questions because that is an important factor in maintaining an open mind to new possibilities. It is that which opens the door to broadening one’s learning and self-understanding as it relates to leading a meaningful and productive life as compared to maintaining a closed-mind system.

Curiosity is also an important attribute in developing a positive working relationship with one’s mentee because it fosters positive communications between the mentor and his mentee through the asking of questions. It is through the asking of questions that one develops an enquiring mind. Curiosity is an attribute that can be developed in a relatively simple way by turning verbal and written statements, as well as one’s thoughts, into questions. I would add that the asking of questions

should be a two-way street between the mentor and his mentee.

As an example of turning written statements into questions, a short time ago I reviewed our

Masonic ritual focusing on statements contained in the lectures for the purpose of enhancing my understanding of the lessons they were designed to impart. Some were not historically true, some were legends, some were veiled in allegory, some were mythological, and some were metaphorical but all were designed to teach powerful truths about morality and ethics. The following are five of the questions I wrote down for the purpose of gaining a deeper understanding of their meaning: One, why is our ritual a rite-of-passage as compared to other types of ritual?: two, what is the “Great Book of Nature?”; three, why are the four virtues called cardinal virtues?: four, what is the difference between an emblem, a sign, and a symbol?: five, what do the words “exoteric,” “esoteric,” and “monitorial” mean? Again, I cannot overstate how important it is to inculcate the asking of questions into the mentoring process. They are a source of power for extending one’s understanding of the lessons that our Masonic degrees are designed to teach. They help us to gain new knowledge and understanding

‘Curiosity is a positive engine for personal growth in many ways...’

Continued on Following Page

Masons at Work

Brethren of Pleiades Lodge #173 donated time and elbow grease to clean up Riverside Park in Milbridge during Earth Day this year. Members shown are, from left to right: Wor. Leland Beal, Brother Chris Chipman, and Brother Brian Strout. Not shown because he was taking the photo is Wor. Will Halpin.



Curiosity *Continued from Preceding Page*

in our search for “more light.”

I suspect that at the outset of a new mentoring relationship, both the mentor and his mentee may be thinking about the same question and that is “What are we going to talk about?” As a mentor one should understand the importance of creating a comfort level for the mentee so that he can feel free to ask all kinds of questions, not for the purpose of having his mentor provide the answers but to explore the answers together. I believe strongly that that is at the heart of gaining new insights into the meaning of the lessons that are such an important part of our Masonic degrees.

As a mentee, I would write down a list of questions I would want to ask my mentor at our first meeting. These are a few of them: first, have you ever mentored someone before or is this your first time?; second, have you ever had a mentor yourself?; third, what are some of the questions you have asked about our Masonic ritual?; fourth, in what ways might I be of assistance to you in your quest for more light in Masonry? Likewise, as a mentor I would write down a list of questions I would want to ask my mentee, and these are a few of them: one, what do you expect of me as your mentor?; two, what are some of the outcomes you would like to achieve by having me as your mentor?; three, do you think of yourself as having a curious nature?; four, what outcomes might I gain by having you as my mentee?

Studies have revealed that the greatest opportunities for joy, purpose, happiness, and personal growth in life happen when we are mindful of the world around us, when we explore what is new or novel, and when we live in the moment and embrace uncertainty. Positive events

last longer and we can extract more pleasure and meaning from them when we remain open to new experiences and value the unknown. Curiosity offers us a tool for building lasting and meaningful relationships, for improving both our mental and physical health, for increasing our creativity, and for boosting our productivity. The ultimate goal of curiosity is to add to the knowledge, skills, and competence that we already possess and by doing so we develop a better understanding of ourselves and the outside world, we can better cope with the challenges we face in everyday life, and we can improve our ability to handle difficult situations when they arise.

In closing this article I would share with you, the reader, two more of my favorite quotes which I believe sum up all I have written about the ways that curiosity can enrich our lives as Freemasons. Again, one is by Albert Einstein; the other by Arnold Edinborough who was an author, broadcaster, promoter of the arts, and director of The International Scholarship Foundation in Ontario, Canada prior to his death in 1990. Einstein made a profound statement when he said, “The important thing is to not stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.” Edinborough’s statement was not only profound but thought-provoking when he said, “Curiosity is the very basis of education and if you tell me that curiosity killed the cat, I say only the cat died nobly.”

I leave you with this question to think about: When Edinborough said “the cat died nobly” just what did he mean?

A New Mason Shares His Journey to Freemasonry

By Brother Steven Edmondson

On July 20, I was raised to the degree of Master Mason in a rare outdoor ceremony. I came to Masonry fairly late in life when, at age 56, I submitted my application to Village Lodge in Bowdoinham. I take this opportunity to share with you my long and somewhat unusual journey to Masonry. It was emphasized during my raising that each individual's purpose or reason for becoming a Mason is unique to him. The following words describe the path I took and the reasons I chose to become a member of this fine old lodge.

Partly due to my nature and with considerable influence of my 36-year law enforcement career, I researched and investigated Masonry for some time before seeking admission. My journey began years ago with my appreciation and interest in history, particularly American history. Having a brother who is in his third decade of teaching history at the local high school, and a mother who has spent considerable time researching our family genealogy, contributed greatly to this passion.

Of course American history cannot be told without the contribution of Freemasons during the time of our battle for independence. This fact alone started the long burning fuse of interest in Masonry quite some time ago. My father was born and raised in Washington DC and spent 20 years in the Navy, having never been exposed or involved in Masonry. My Grandfather on my mother's side, who I will talk more about later, was a Mason but died when I was young so I didn't have any Masonic influences growing up.

Ironically, I spent my youth in Bowdoinham and lived just 100 yards from Village Lodge, spending many an hour with my friends just outside the front doors of the building, never really knowing what went on inside. It was just one of those iconic structures of my hometown that everyone knew about and took for granted.

Another factor that led me to this point is my constant feeling the need to belong. This is tough to explain other than I have always felt the need to be around people of similar background and interests. Over the years I have belonged to many political, social, fraternal, athletic and professional organizations but most just never pro-

vided what I was looking for. Frankly I don't believe I can put into words exactly what it was I was looking for. It is one of those intangibles that defy explanation. My wonderful wife seemed to understand. When possible I took great measures to make sure she was included in the activities of said groups.

Over the years I discontinued my association with many of these organizations because they failed to keep me sufficiently engaged or provide that intangible I was seeking. Some simply drove me out due to dynamics that I no longer felt comfortable with. Throughout my 30s and 40s, working as a law enforcement officer, being married and raising two daughters sufficiently filled my days. But despite the great marriage, wonderful children and terrific home life, that feeling of wanting to belong to something continued its tug on me.

During this time, Freemasonry wasn't even on my radar as no one I knew or any family members were involved at that time. It wasn't until I retired from working at the Topsham Police Department after 26 years and immediately began working for the Sagadahoc County District Attorney's Office in Bath that I became exposed to fellow officers in the County Building that were Masons. It was also around this time that I became somewhat more enlightened to the historical significance of Masons in the establishment of this Country.



Brother Steven Edmondson

As I became more aware of the significance of Masonry and of the folks around me who were Masons, I started the process of asking questions and seeking information. All of the Masons in my building never hesitated to take the time to talk with me about their experiences. The more I heard, the more interested I became. I hesitated to jump in and join as clearly this is not an organization you simply pay dues to and take a seat. This actually added to the desire to want to learn more as I found an organization that actually had standards and one that required you had to earn your way forward.

The tipping point came during the summer of 2012 when during a conversation with my mother, she mentioned her father was a member of Village Lodge. Earlier in this piece I mentioned my Grandfather and his contribution to my story. It was during that conversation with my mother that she revealed her father had served a term

Continued on Following Page

Journey *Continued from Preceding Page*

as Master of this very lodge. How I hadn't heard this before still amazes me but as a believer in fate, it simply started to make sense. This was all meant to happen just this way.

In September 2012 I submitted my application to become a Freemason with Village Lodge in Bowdoinham. I met with the Committee of Inquiry a short time later and entered the lodge building for the very first time. While waiting for the members of the committee to arrive, I had a chance to walk around and view the various plaques and memorials mounted on the wall. When I found the plaque honoring the past Masters, I diligently searched for my Grandfather's name. There it was; 1949, Milton Baker. I actually couldn't wait for the Committee of Inquiry to start so I could build into the conversation about my Grandfather. The committee members were diligent but laid back. We conversed more than engaged in a Q & A. To be honest I had been practicing what I wanted to say for some time and made sure I got it all in including my Grandfather's Masonic connection, my youth in Bowdoinham, my Scotch-Irish background, my law enforcement career and my 300-year family history in the area. We weren't leaving that meeting without me getting all that in.

I made my first appearance at the Lodge in December 2012 when I received the degree of Entered Apprentice and thus began the next phase of my journey. The rituals both amazed and baffled me. I was told this is normal and it would soon start to make sense. I spent whatever spare time I could muster studying the lessons. One fellow member of the Lodge was particularly helpful during this time. I can't recall how many calls, texts and e-mails we exchanged as I plowed my way through the E.A. and Fellowcraft Degree lessons. With each subsequent meeting, I learned more about both the rituals and the underlying philosophy of Masonry. Information was shared about sick members, meetings and ceremonies at other Lodges, community projects and the like. Members carefully took notes in their calendars and planners with tremendous attendance at each event.

I completed my lessons and achieved the Fellowcraft Degree in early spring. I was eager to advance to Master Mason so I could participate more fully in the various programs and tasks associated with the Lodge. When W.M. Dave Thompson approached me about participating in an outdoor degree. I was hesitant at first because it meant waiting two more months before my raising. It quickly became apparent that what he was proposing was something quite special. Brother Thompson shared with me that in the 197-year history of Village Lodge, there

had only been one previous outdoor Master Mason degree. How could I not go along with this? I waited patiently as other Fellowcraft who joined around the same time as I did were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. As I listened to the brethren talk about the outdoor degree it, I realized just how unique and special this was to the entire lodge.

My day finally arrived. On a sweltering July day in a field in West Gardiner, another candidate and I were raised as Master Masons. I was fortunate to have gone first so I could watch his raising. Again, I am amazed and impressed with the seriousness each Brother portrayed in his respective role, particularly having to perform it twice on a hot summer day. At the conclusion of the ceremony I was handed the by-laws to sign signifying my membership in Village Lodge. The secretary then took the time to show me the signature of my Grandfather, Milton Baker, who had signed the very same book 70 years earlier, in 1943. I don't mind telling you how special that was. I honestly believe the Secretary and Worshipful Master got as much enjoyment in showing it to me as I did seeing it.

Earlier I mentioned a particular Brother who has been extremely helpful in getting me to this point. Brother Doug Bellevue, the lodge Senior Warden, is a fellow law enforcement officer who actually worked for me many years ago. During my E.A. and Fellowcraft ceremonies, Brother Bellevue mentioned in Lodge that I had the privilege to pin his badge on him when he graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and how significant that was to him. At the conclusion my Master Mason ceremony, I asked Brother Bellevue to pin my first Masonic pin on me as thanks for all of his support. I had purchased a police Masonic pin and held onto it for several weeks until this day. Unbeknownst to me, Doug had also purchased the same pin and was most willing and eager to comply with my request.

After the Lodge was closed, out came the instruments, on went the food and a good time was had by all. I was struck by the enthusiasm all of the members expressed both before and after the degree work. Just taking part in this unique raising was as special to them as it was to me and I am forever grateful for their participation and brotherhood.

I left there with multiple thoughts swirling through my head. Do I have what it takes to be a Freemason? Can I live up to the standards expected of a Mason? Will I muster the same enthusiasm and dedication shown by the Brothers of Village Lodge? And perhaps most importantly of all, have I found what I have been looking for all these years? Only time will reveal the answers to these questions. One thing I feel certain about today; my Grandfather would be proud.



This photo shows the officers of Siloam Lodge in Fairfield sporting their new Aprons. At a stated meeting on April 4, the lodge retired their old aprons and new aprons were presented to the officers by retiring Master Kevin Madore. In the picture from left to right: Bro. Elden Bartley, Tyler; Bro. Millard Ratklif, Senior Deacon; W. Bro. John McCutcheon, Treasurer; Bro. Ivan Glidden, Jr. Deacon; W. Bro. Pat Holt, Sr. Warden; W. Meon Stephenson, Master; Bro. Jerry Shea, Jr. Warden; W. Bro. Dave Cairnie, Chaplain; Bro. Dan Gilbert, Jr. Steward; Bro. Norm Dickinson, Secretary; Bro. Bruce Vines, Sr. Steward.



On April 11, RW Jack Lagerquist, PSGW, and Sandra Lagerquist, his photographer, traveled to North Fort Meyers, FL to the home of Worshipful Brother Arthur Dickson and his wife, Linda to present Brother Art his 50-year Veterans Medal. Brother Dickson is a member of Orchard Lodge in Old Orchard Beach. He was raised April 8, 1963 and served as Master of the lodge in 1970-71.

To the Editor

Just finished reading the Spring issue of The Maine Mason. I enjoyed the entire issue but particularly enjoyed three articles: Around the Water Cooler - There are givers and takers, workers and drones, Tuscans or Corinthians.

Mentoring Makes Us Better Men and Masons - we have mentors and predators, but no man stands as tall as when he stoops to help a small child.

Abner Wade - and we should always remember those who have blazed the trails that we follow, because that gives us courage to go beyond, blaze new trails, and find new avenues for service.

As Masons, we have much for which to be grateful, but more importantly, a lot to offer those who might need a helping hand, an encouraging word, or perhaps a buck or two to tide them over. Unfortunately, Masons often get a bad rap as stuffy old men with secret meeting and subversive agendas. We don't need to toot our horns, but take on a new resolve to quietly help where and when needed. Masonry would soon then become the sought after organization.

Regards,
Kib Shorey
Horeb Lodge 93, Lincoln and Zuhrah Shrine,
Minneapolis MN

P.S. We have lived in Georgia for the past 35 years but still enjoy reading about the work of Maine Masons. Keep those articles of service coming!

2013 DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

BE SURE TO READ EACH CAREFULLY AS THERE IS A MIX OF TYLED AND SEMI-PUBLIC EVENTS AS WELL AS SUPPER AND MEETING TIMES.

District 7	Friday, September 13, 2013, Union Lodge, Union, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 9	Thursday, September 19, 2013, Eureka Lodge, Tenants Harbor, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 21	Friday, September 20, 2013, Lygonia Lodge, Ellsworth, 6:00 Supper, 7:00 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 13	Monday, September 23, 2013, Carrabassett Lodge, Canaan, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 23	Tuesday, September 24, 2013, Auburn Masonic Hall, Auburn, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 22	Thursday, September 26, Corinthian Lodge, Hartland, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 17	Thursday, October 3, 2013, Deering Lodge, Portland, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 15	Friday, October 4, 2013, Vernon Valley Lodge hosting, using the Lodge Hall in new Sharon where Franklin Lodge meets, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting, SEMI-PUBLIC, TUXEDO ATTIRE.
District 12	Thursday, October 10, 2013, Star in the West Lodge, Unity, 6:30 Supper 7:30 Meeting TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 3	Friday, October 11, 2013, Harwood Lodge, Machias, 6:00 Supper, 7:00 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, TUXEDO ATTIRE.
District 2	Saturday, October 12, 2013, St. Croix Lodge, Calais, 8:00 AM Breakfast, 9:00 A.M. Meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 24	Friday, October 18, 2013, Island Falls Lodge, Island Falls, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 1	Saturday, October 19, 2013, Limestone Lodge, Limestone, 6:00 Supper, 7:30 Meeting SEMI-PUBLIC, TUXEDO ATTIRE.
District 11	Wednesday, October 23, 2013, Litchfield Masonic Hall, Litchfield, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, TUXEDO ATTIRE.
District 4	Thursday, October 24, 2013, Naskeag Lodge, Brooklin, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUITE ATTIRE.
District 8	Friday, October 25, 2013, Mariners' Lodge, Searsport, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 20	Friday, November 1, 2013, Evening Star Lodge, Buckfield, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 18	Tuesday, November 5, 2013, Orchard Lodge, Old Orchard Beach, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. TYLED MEETING, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 14	Saturday, November 9, 2013, Ancient York Lodge, Lisbon Falls, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 19	Thursday, November 14, 2013 St. John's Lodge, South Berwick, 6:00 Supper, 7:00 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, TUXEDO ATTIRE.
District 6	Saturday, November 16, 2013, St. Andrew's and Rising Virtue Lodges hosting, Bangor Masonic Center, Bangor, 6:00 Supper, 7:00 Meeting, SEMI-PUBLIC, TUXEDO ATTIRE.
District 10	Wednesday, November 20, 2013, Bay View Lodge, East Boothbay, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.
District 16	Friday, November 22, 2013, Oriental Lodge, Bridgton, 6:30 Supper, 7:00 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, TUXEDO ATTIRE.
District 5	Tuesday, December 10, 2013, Mt. Kineo Lodge, Guilford, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. SEMI-PUBLIC, BUSINESS SUIT ATTIRE.

The MAINE MASON

Grand Lodge of Maine
PO Box 15058
Portland, ME 04112

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Portland, Maine
Permit No. 256

If undeliverable, please do not return.



AskAFreemason.org

Is there Greatness in You?

Statewide Open House
Saturday, October 19th
Bring a Prospective Brother to Learn About Masonry