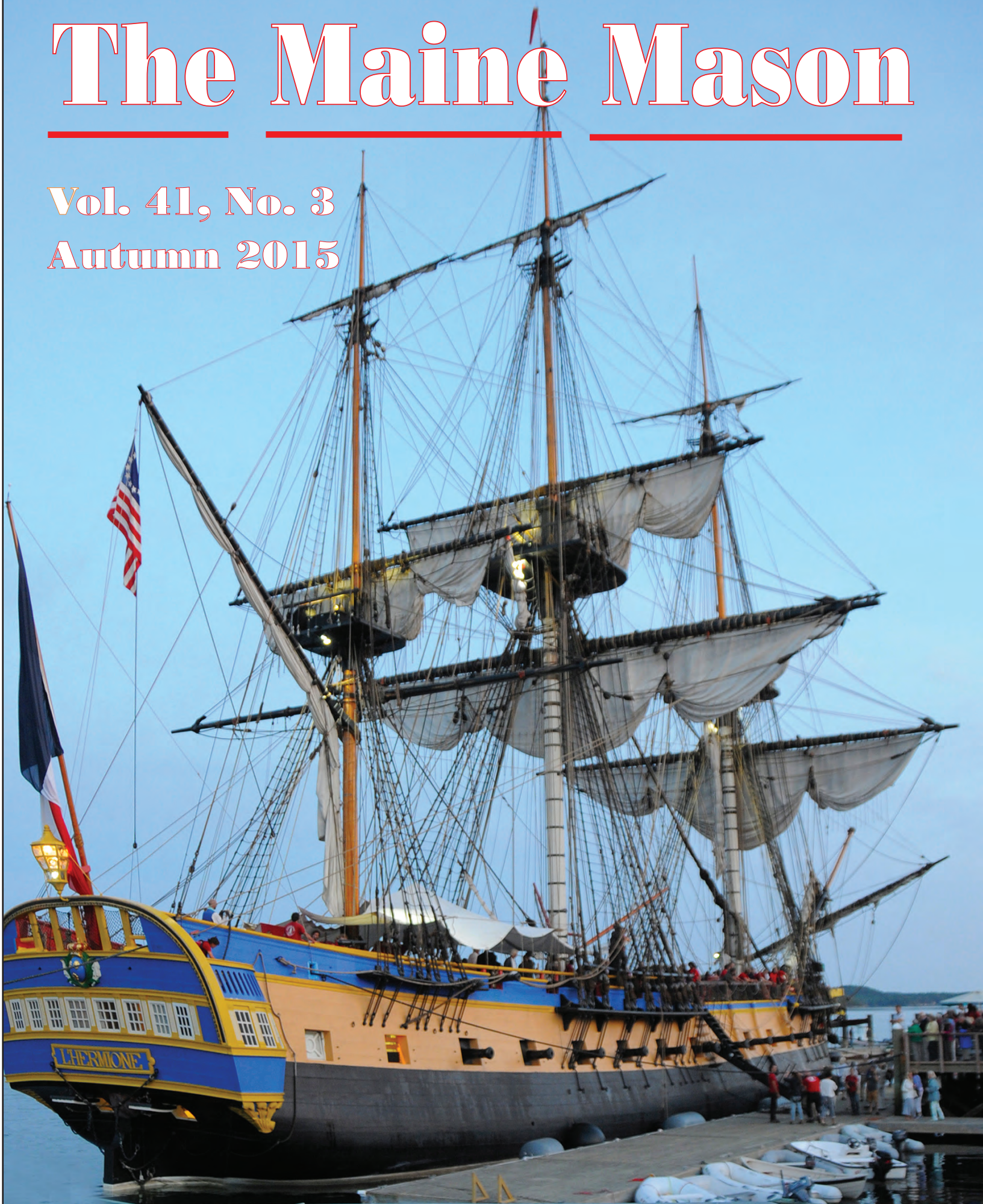


The Maine Mason

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The MAINE MASON

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line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

Summer is pretty well finished as you receive your new Maine Mason. Sweet old Mother Nature provided weeks of warm, sunny, dry weather, but days have shortened considerably, and it's not unusual to now need long sleeves for a comfortable early morning walk on the beach or through the woods.

For most, the summer of 2015 has been good. Flocks of tourists have left their gobs of valued green with merchants, restaurants and others providing accommodations to our seasonal guests. Gasoline prices stayed pretty much in check throughout the season, and the opportunity for those of us whose furnaces burn oil to fill our barrels at relatively low cost adds somewhat to the pleasure of this September.

It's been a wonderful opportunity for many to rest, recreate, recharge and prepare for what's ahead. For those of us active in our wonderful fraternity, we're about to vacate the Masonic season of darkness and take hold of the opportunity to move into a season of enlightened participation in our lodges.

Not that the summer months have been totally without Masonic activity. There have been outdoor degrees, picnics and other events for brethren and their families; there have been productive workshops and planning sessions as lodges draw plans on their trestleboards in anticipation of the busy autumn and winter activities that now are hard upon us.

This issue includes several offerings from brothers new to the Craft. Their interest and involvement speaks well for what's happening in many of our lodges. We urge all Masons to consider what these new brethren have to say. Read and reflect on their observations and excitement! The enthusiasm they exhibit can have a positive effect and light a spark in even those of us now a bit long at the tooth.

As we return to our labors, let us all reflect on what Masonry has done for us both individually and collectively, how much we have benefitted from belonging to this wonderful organization, and re-commit ourselves to helping our lodges and mentoring the new generation that will carry on our valuable work into the future.

The Cover Photo

I dare say, anyone who knows your Editor very well is abundantly aware of his love affair with the sea and the vessels that ply the big waters. Especially those propelled by the winds. When RW brother Phil Nowlan, PSGW of Massachusetts and Presiding Master of Gen. Henry Knox Military Lodge was in Maine this summer for the Knox Celebration, he took this photo of the French ship Hermione docked in Castine. We thank Brother Nowlan for this use of this beautiful image.

From the Grand East

David A. Walker
Grand Master of Masons in Maine

Brethren, the fall schedule is upon us. There has been quite a bit of Masonic activity all summer long, but the pace quickens once we hit September. The District Meetings will be starting and lodges that have been dark all summer will be opening again. Fall is an exciting time to be an involved Mason!

There are a couple of events taking place in September that need to be mentioned. One is a consolidation of Blazing Star in Rumford with Bethel Lodge. This will be held on Thursday, Sept. 10th in Bethel, beginning with a 6:30 supper. It would be nice to have a large turnout to celebrate with these Brethren.

The second event is a parade in Lewiston on September 19th. Kora Shrine is hosting the Northeast Shrine Association this fall and I have been asked to take part in the parade. I hope to be joined by a large contingent of Blue Lodge Masons. There is more information about the big parade on page 31 of this issue.

Looking at the Lodge calendars on the Grand Lodge web site tells me that there will be a lot of activity around the Grand Jurisdiction. I will be in attendance at several of these events and I hope to see many of you there. We have all heard that we are Master Masons, even if we don't attend meetings. While this is technically true, I believe that when we do not attend, we are losing out on great opportunities. It is my feeling that one of the most important benefits of being a Mason is being able to spend time with some of the best men we will ever know. I know that the

best men I know are Masons and I have learned immensely from being with them. The opportunity for personal growth is there for all of us.

Many of you will tell me that going to stated meetings is dull and a waste of time. If that is true in your Lodge, you need to let the Master and Wardens know that you expect more from those meetings.

There are many programs available, some of which can be found with your District Education Representative. If this does not work in your Lodge, consider attending a neighboring Lodge to see if they have something going that your Lodge does not. If they do, bring that information back to your Lodge and see if you can get something started. Remember that it is your Lodge as much as any other Brother's!

Many of you have heard about the Rainbow/DeMolay effort to raise money for Wreaths Across America in the past few years. They are doing this again and I have promised them my full support. Donations for these wreaths will be sent to the Masonic Charitable Foundation and then the funds transferred to the youth groups. The wreaths we buy here in Maine go to the graves of Maine servicemen. I think this is an excellent opportunity to honor our fallen Veterans and to support our youth at the same time. I will be buying at least one and ask you to consider doing that as well. Read more about this worthwhile project on page 10

Your Friend and Brother,
Dave



Around the Grand Lodge Water Cooler...

R.W. Mark E. Rustin, Grand Secretary

As I grew up in my hometown of Old Town it had a large Roman Catholic population. There were two parochial grade schools that educated most of the youth of this cohort. In addition to “readin, writin, and ‘rithmetic” they also taught the principles of human life as encompassed in their religious belief system as it existed in the parish. (I hesitate to mention that for several years I thought they were “Pinocchio” schools and could not understand what Geppetto’s son had to do with education. I since learned parochial is the description of an organization that takes the understands of the community they serve into account to accomplish its ends.) It seems to me each of our Blue Lodges is a parochial expression of Freemasonry as it is experienced and lived out in the communities we serve.

The framers of the Grand Lodge of Maine Constitution recognized and incorporated that organizational structure into our document. In order for a Lodge to be chartered it affirms it will “make” new Masons in a specific way, follow the Constitution in governance, and “do” Freemasonry in its community. That third qualification for a Charter is the method by which every Lodge may be successful and yet be very different from every other. Without it, Freemasonry could never thrive in a Grand Jurisdiction as large and diverse as Maine.

In conversation with Brothers I hear a not uncommon question, “What is Grand Lodge up to now?” The real question should be, “What is your Lodge up to now?” Collectively, we are Grand Lodge and how we fulfill the intentions of our Charter defines what we are up to.

To be sure, many of the laments are based in the many and varied programs made available to the Lodges. These programs are offered as possible ways each Lodge may “do” Freemasonry in its community. There are no mandates attached. It is “dealer’s choice.” If these tools can help your Lodge fulfill its responsibility to be Freemasons, then use them. If not, don’t. Nothing prohibits your parochial Lodge from developing your own character based

upon the community you bound yourselves to serve.

The only thing you cannot do is nothing. It is not possible to fulfill the promises you made upon receipt of your Charter by simply making Masons and filling out reports. Nothing has less value than workers without work.

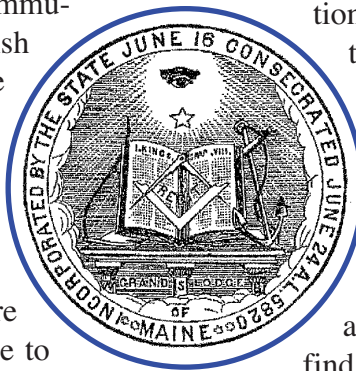
In my view, here lies the greatness, universality, and strength of Freemasonry. Within our Lodges we bring men together into the bonds of Fellowship who otherwise may have remained at a “perpetual distance.” When we empower the members of our Lodges to think together, plan together, and work together, we discover anew the ancient foundations of our Craft. We view and experience the Grand Architect inscribing the writ upon which our Craft is founded on the trestle board of our lives.

Freemasonry enlightens and inspires men to be more together than they can be by themselves. As they begin to appreciate the power and authority of that enlightenment, they will find ways to overcome the obstacles in the path of of their lives and the life of the community they serve as Masons. That service may take different forms in each locality however, each distinct form that improves lives in Freemasonry.

That service has little to do with buildings, financial holdings, or personal self-esteem. Rather, service to Brothers and community reveals the handiwork of the Supreme Architect in the midst of life. As we live in response to the trestle board we begin to understand that the principles of the Craft are the supports we depend upon. Service of this nature is another word for relationship — Brother to Brother and Lodge to community. Freemasonry is the revealed purpose of the Supreme Architect for the Craft — beneficial relationship.

The answer to “what Grand Lodge is up to now,” is the same as it has always been — chartering Lodges to do Freemasonry across this Grand Jurisdiction. It is how we assist men to become better men and how, through them, we build a world fit for people to dwell within.

That’s it from here — Back to work,



Our Revolutionary War Brethren Remembered

by **RW Thomas Pulkkinen, DGM**

Many a Mason's library contains books extolling the influence of Freemasons and Masonic principles on the formation of our great country. Principles like truth, justice, equality, patriotism, and education for all; of bringing together men of every country, sect and opinion – *E Pluribus Unum*...“Out of many, one.”

As Masons, we should seriously ponder the importance and presence of these values in today's society, and particularly in our own lives and relationships.

There will be many opportunities in the future to explore the application of these values to our own lives, but events of this summer have brought to the



Gen. Henry Knox

fore some of our most prominent Masonic Founding Fathers...Brothers named Revere, Lafayette and Knox. They epitomized those values, especially trustworthiness, a value judged so important by General Washington that he required all his primary officers to be Brethren of the Masonic order.

At the first event, on June 17,

2015, some 1,300 Freemasons marched four abreast for three-tenths of a mile along Tremont Street and the Boston Common, from Boylston to Park Streets, toward the Massachusetts State House. The reason? To rededicate the cornerstone first laid by Grand Master Paul Revere in 1795.

Paul Revere was a member of the Lodge of Saint Andrew, many of whose members were thought to be at a “special communication” on the night of the Boston Tea Party. Grand Master John Rowe is said to have pondered a week before the Tea Party: “One wonders how tea will mix with salt water.” Hum!

Then in June and July, the replica frigate

L'Hermione that had sailed from France to Virginia, traveled up the Atlantic seaboard, stopping in colonial ports visited in 1780 when the original craft brought the Marquis d'Lafayette to fight alongside his Masonic Brother George Washington to gain independence from the British. There was a significant Masonic presence in many of these ports as our Brethren of today gathered in remembrance of our celebrated Brethren of centuries ago.

L'Hermione emerged eerily through the fog as she sailed into Castine Harbor where she docked for two days. As a guest of the Master of the Major General Henry Knox Lodge in Boston and the Knox Museum in Thomaston, I had the pleasure to board the L'Hermione before she set sail for Nova Scotia and then back to France. During the afternoon, I met many Masons who had traveled to Castine for the celebration.

L'Hermione visited Castine because of the strong bonds of brotherhood evidenced in a 1784 letter from Lafayette to Knox in which he said, “...from the beginning of our great revolution which has been the beginning of our acquaintance, we have been activated by the same principles, with the same ideas, attached to the same friends, and we have warmly loved and confidentially entrusted each other...” Lafayette and Knox served together in several battles including the siege of Yorktown.

And then, on July 24, 2015, MW David A. Walker and members of several Maine Lodges joined visiting Brethren from the Major General Henry Knox Lodge to lay a Masonic memorial square and compasses at the Thomaston gravesite of Brother Knox.

Matthew Hansbury, Collections Manager at the Knox Museum, noted that biographer Mark Puls opined that Knox was one of if not the most trusted friend to General Washington, and that his knowledge and experience influenced every move that the Army made. And Knox would become one of Washington's first four cabinet appointees – as Secretary of War. It was Knox who advocated to Washington to establish a military academy at West Point, and to construct a new class of frigates and launch the United States Navy.

Our Brothers Knox and Lafayette were both members of the Society of Cincinnati conceived by Knox.

Continued on Following Page



RW Brother Phil Nowlan, Master of Gen. Henry Knox Military Lodge and Grand Master Walker at the Gen. Knox gravesite.

Revolutionary Brethren

Continued from Preceding Page

The Society's motto means "He relinquished everything to save the Republic," and its three goals are "To preserve the rights so dearly won; to promote the continuing union of the states; and to assist members in need, their widows, and their orphans." And their medal was designed by Brother Pierre L'Enfant who also fought in the American Revolution and laid out Washington D.C.

Our Masonic tenets were engrained in the thoughts and actions of these Brethren and so many, many other Founding Fathers. This summer has afforded Masons special opportunities to reflect on their exploits and examples of brotherhood and upright life.

May we all, as we return from the Masonic darkness of summer, make plans to attend the Maine Masonic College convocation on civility in October, and pursue other opportunities to learn more about the meaning of our Masonic teachings and their important application to how we conduct our lives.



Maine Maritime grad "comes home" to receive his 50-year Veterans Medal in Castine

Brother Jay Kerney, left, was raised in Hancock Lodge #4 in 1964 when attending The Maine Maritime Academy in Castine and then spent a lifetime on ships. He traveled to the Arctic and Antarctic and saw many beautiful places around the world, one of them being Grenada in the West Indies, which would become home for him and Bonnie. They returned to Maine in July for his 50th anniversary of becoming a Mason and graduating from the Academy. His Veterans Medal was presented by Rising Star Lodge #4. He then visited the French frigate L'Hermione where he met our Deputy Grand Master, RW Tom Pulkkinen, right.

ARION...the Maine Lodge, the Mythological Harper

by Michael Hopkins
Saco Lodge #9

Arion Lodge #162 is in Goodwins Mills in District 18. It's not my home lodge, but I've traveled there a few times and know it to be a very friendly and hospitable lodge which takes deserved pride in careful attention to ritual.

While traveling recently, it came to my attention that the origin of the term "Arion" in the lodge name may be lost to history and memory. As the name is a reference to classical mythology, I thought this right down my alley.

Actually, there is more than one possible source to the term Arion in Greek mythology. My favorite story is related by Herodotus in *The Histories*.

Arion was a famous poet, singer, and player on the harp. As such he was "second to no man living at that time," which was around 625 BC. He was situated in Corinth, ruled by Periander. He had served Periander for several years when he decided to travel to Italy and Sicily, plying his trade and likely competing in contests of singing, harp-playing, and poetry. He became rich doing this, and longed to return home to Corinth, so he hired a ship with a crew of Corinthians, thinking them the safest to confide in.

The crew, however, once they reached the open sea, contrived a plot to murder him and take his riches. He pleaded for his life, offering his treasure, but they insisted he must die. Arion convinced them to allow him to sing one last song, clad in his full regalia of poet's robe. As they were delighted at the prospect of hearing the best harp-player in the world, they consented. Arion sang a lively spirited

song and then threw himself into the sea. However, a dolphin (perhaps itself enchanted by Arion's song), took him on his back and carried him to Greece.

Arion made his way to Corinth, still clad in his musician's dress, and told Periander his tale. Periander waited for the ship to arrive and questioned the sailors for tidings of Arion. They answered that they had left him in good health in Italy, thereupon Arion appeared and they could not deny their guilt.

Some commentators question why Herodotus tells this tale, as it seems not to fit into the history he is telling. Herodotus does, however, give many later examples of gestures of bravery and fortitude, when a man faced with death performs with calm dignity some spirited but unnecessary gesture that demonstrates contempt for danger. Further, it should be kept in mind that the ancient Greeks hearing the story may well have taken Arion to be a historical person and not the subject of fable.

The story of Arion has been used by other classical writers. He has also been depicted in art. A terracotta statue of Arion and the dolphin is in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. A watercolor by the famous Albrecht Durer, painted in 1514, is in the Albertina Museum in Vienna. To save a trip to Austria, it may be viewed here:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5e/Arion_poet_riding_a_dolphin_circa_1514_D%C3%BCrer.jpg

I want to thank Worshipful Michael Shaw, Master of Arion Lodge #162, whose kind attention to my inquiries led me to this interesting path of research.



Arion, astride his rescuing dolphin.

The Arion story is told in Herodotus, *The Histories*, Book 1;23. The edition I used was the Everyman Library, Alfred A Knopf, 1910, as translated by George Rawlinson. The quotation in the third paragraph is from that translation.

16th District a “Happening Place”



Front: RW Michael Lowe, Granite Lodge #182; RW DDGM/16 Kevin Kugell, Oxford Lodge #18; RW Gary Young, Granite Lodge #182; Bro. David Roberts, Bethel Lodge #97; Wor. Lloyd Sweeter, Bethel Lodge #97; VW Bro. Doug Taft. Back: Wor. Wayne Cadman, 16th District Mentoring Coordinator, Pythagorean Lodge #11; Bro. Ben Madore, Triangle Lodge #1; Bro. Chris Mills, Delta Lodge #153; Bro. Karl Furtado, Delta Lodge #153; Wor. Shawn Fogg, Mt Moriah Lodge #56. Bro. Zachery Wozich, Crooked River Lodge #152, left before RW Bro. Brian Levasseur, Oriental Lodge #13, took the photo.

Mentoring

The 16th District held a Mentoring class on June 27th at Oriental Lodge in Bridgton. The invitation went to the 18th and the 20th Districts as well. The class was well attended with many conversations about what a Mentor should be. Also a Lodge Protocol program was put on by Very Worshipful Brother Douglas Taft, DER/16. RW Brother Gary Young, Granite Lodge #182, assisted with the latest update from Grand Lodge of Maine. It, too, was a very good program.

Ritual Challenge

April 9th was another great evening in the 16th Masonic District when the annual Ritual Challenge was held and seven of the eight lodges participated. It was a fun evening of competition, friendship and brotherhood.

Congratulations go to Oxford Lodge for being chosen as Best Over All Lodge. This honor was voted by all in attendance.

Judges for the events were Grand Master David Walker, Deputy Grand Master Tom Pulkkinen, Grand Lecturer Harlan Harnden, and the Timer was Clinton Cooledge.

Winners included-Ritual: Mt. Tirem, Waterford, 1st; Crooked River, Bolsters



The winning Oxford Lodge officers with Grand Master Walker and Deputy Grand Master Pulkkinen.

Mills, 2nd; Pythagorean, Fryeburg 3rd.

Floor Work: Delta, Lovell, 1st; Oriental, Bridgton, 2nd; Mt. Moriah, Brownfield, 3rd.

The Brethren chose the following:
Best Master, Ryan Paradis, Oxford Lodge; Best Sr. Warden, Rich Clough, Oxford Lodge; Best Jr. Warden, Phil

Denison, Sr., Crooked River Lodge; Best Sr. Deacon, Mike Lance, Oxford Lodge; Best Jr. Deacon, Karl Furtado, Delta Lodge; Best Chaplain, Ryan Kane, Oxford Lodge.

Congratulations to the winners and to all who participated.

No Fair Weather Riders, Here

by Jef Hamlin

I was originally going to title this article “What I did on my Summer Vacation.” Remember as a kid, you came back in the fall and the teacher wanted you to do a write up? Well, I figured this was perfect for the Widows Sons as we are a Masonic Motorcycle Riders Association which does most of what we do in the summer, right? Then I thought back and realized that there are no “fair weather riders” in the Widows Sons because riding is not all we do and what we do is year round.

First, a little about the Widows Sons of Maine. We are sort of like a Square and Compasses Club on two wheels. Do we ride loud motorcycles, dress in leather, and wear vests with patches (some of us like to call them “regalia” in fitting with Masonic terminology)? Yes, some of the motorcycles are loud, leather is a safety thing, and the vests with patches identify us to our Masonic Brothers from all over the world. Like Masonry, Widows Sons is an international organization.

So what have the Widows Sons have been doing? Well, first, we have been growing. Since Grand Chapter was Chartered on October 15th, 2009 with the official blessing of then Grand Master, W. Louis Greenier II, six more chapters have formed with the strong possibility of more in the wings. There are now close to 200 members of the Widows Sons in Maine. Of course, we have also been riding. Widows Sons have sponsored more than a dozen rides supporting charities like Marine Corps Toys for Tots, Hear Me Now (raised over \$5000!), and the Marvin Tarbox Scholarship. In addition to the rides they sponsor, the chapters support dozens of rides sponsored by other organizations, and individual members ride for even more charities. It would be safe to say that the Widows Sons of Maine raise tens of thousands of dollars for charities throughout the state, and also have participated in charity rides in New Hampshire, Massachusetts,

Vermont, Kentucky, and New Brunswick!

Widows Sons Chapters across Maine have donated food baskets at Thanksgiving time, donated money and rung bells for the Salvation Army, assisted our widows with yard work, stacking firewood, and food. The Grand Chapter has sent kids to camp, donated firewood and filled oil tanks for Brothers in need, provided rides to a Brother in a nursing home, helped a Brother with travel expenses while his wife was undergoing cancer treatments, visited the Maine Veterans Home, made donations to lodges, donated to a high school wrestling team, and countless other acts of charity.

The Wayfarers, newest of seven Maine Chapters of Widow Sons, had as its first event a ride for Sarah’s house, residential housing for cancer patients at Eastern Maine Medical Center’s Cancer Care of Maine. The event raised \$2350. And Grand Chapter of Widows Sons built a ramp for a child confined to a wheelchair.

It’s not all charity work for the Widows Sons. There have been Christmas parties, bike rodeos, camping trips, and this year, The Northern Invasion, a gathering of 80 Masons from all seven Maine Chapters as well as Widows Sons from Vermont, New Brunswick, and New Hampshire.

The Northern Invasion was a Masonic event of grand proportions. There was music, food, fun, and games for the Widows Sons and their ladies. Of course the event did include a charity ride and the presentation of a \$1000 check to C-A-N-C-E-R.com or Caring Area Neighbors for Cancer Education and Recovery. It also included The Branding, a very special event to Widows Sons. This is a degree of sorts modeled after Masonic degrees that reinforces the virtues of aid and charity as well as loyalty. Further, it reminds us that goals reached without character, dignity, and honor are devalued. The first Mason “branded” that evening was Past Grand Master Greenier.

What an honor!!

Widows Sons’ ranks include newly raised members, Brothers who are pillars of their lodges, and even more than a few Shrine Clowns! The Low XII Riders Chapter was recently certified as an official Masonic Degree Team! Fair weather riders? Not a label that can be attached to Widows Sons. They ride in all weather to support the events and each other. The chapters never “go dark” as they are always planning the next event, the next ride. They are available to help widows and orphans, and Brothers in need. They live their Masonry on two wheels.



From left: Bro. David Lambert, Dunlap Lodge; MW Louis Greenier, Bro. Paul Harmon, and Bro. Scott, all Caribou Lodge.

'Remember, Honor, Teach'

Why is the mission to teach so important?

In the immortal words of Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Maine Rainbow Girls and DeMolay Boys are learning, through their Masonic teachings, the very valuable lesson of Patriotism. They are "Remembering, Honoring and Teaching" these valuable lessons every day and most especially as they participate right here in Maine in "Wreaths Across America."

They have been participating in this project for the past several years. On the second Saturday in December you can find them in Augusta and Togus, placing wreaths on the graves of our fallen Maine veterans. In 2014 they raised funds to place 586 wreaths. They've placed wreaths without snow on the ground and they've shoveled snow off the graves to place the wreaths. They've been there at times with bright sunshine, as well as in howling winds and falling snow.

They read the names and remember the service that each veteran has given in each war, each conflict and in time of peace. They have found parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. The kids and their advisors enjoy the time that they spend together while honoring our fallen heroes. Everyone involved—from the mailing



of fundraising letters, to waiting for the trucks bringing wreaths to arrive, to actually placing the wreaths on the graves of our Maine veterans—understands that freedom isn't free and that our forefathers have preserved our rights and many have given the ultimate sacrifice that we may continue to enjoy these freedoms.

Please help reach our goal of placing 1,000 wreaths on the graves of Maine veterans in 2015! This year, Rainbow and DeMolay are working with the Grand Master of Masons in Maine and the Masonic Charitable Foundation to bring attention to this very worthwhile and very special project.

Name _____ Lodge/Chapter _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ Email _____

SPONSORSHIP	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual (1 Wreath)	\$15.00		
Family (4 Wreaths)	\$60.00		
Small Business (10 Wreaths)	\$150.00		
GRAND TOTAL			

Wreaths are \$15 each. Please make checks payable to: Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation
Mail to: Grand Lodge of Maine, PO Box 430, Holden, ME 04429
SORRY! WE CAN NOT TAKE "GRAVE SPECIFIC" REQUESTS

Musings of a “First Year” Freemason

Melvin Coffin
Horeb Lodge #69, Lincoln

There are so many interesting and unexpected things that have happened during my first year as a Mason that I find it difficult to know where to start. For that reason I will write about a perception that has developed because of the many new things that have occurred and have come to my attention.

The new idea has to do with one of the greatest mysteries of our time. Where is the Ark of the Covenant? There are so many theories about the Ark. These theories span the spectrum from aliens to the supernatural and I have found it interesting and enjoyable to contemplate their relevance. I find these theories offer little if any value and actually detract from the importance and content of the Ark. The physical Ark is located in as many places as there are speculators but the contents of the Ark are alive and well in a very special place.

As one navigates through the steps from the Accepted Candidate to the honor of being raised to a Master Mason, so much new information is involved that it is difficult to embrace and internalize all of the symbols and meanings of each individual degree. Further investigation was necessary for me to get an understanding of the obligations that I had undertaken. During this time of study I found the location of the contents of the Ark of the Covenant.

Are you ready?

The content of the Ark of the Covenant is located in the hearts and minds of the members of the Masonic Fraternity. How closely the values and teachings of the Craft follow the Ten Commandments, which is the content of the Ark. If all peoples could follow the obligations of Masonry, the world would be a much more wondrous place.

The Ark is also considered to be a very powerful weapon. The Craft is a powerful entity with its millions of members world wide. This power was



demonstrated in the formation of the greatest country known to man. Our founding fathers, many of whom were Masons, formed a union that contains many of the ideals of the Masonic Fraternity. As our country slowly dismisses these values it may be time for the fraternity to flex its muscles once again. Our Lodges need to reach out and search for candidates who will perpetuate the beautiful values of the Craft. New vessels for the content of the Ark.

Maine Masons give \$10,000 to help veterans get back to work

The Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation is the newest contributor to Goodwill NNE's Veteran's Fund. Their \$10,000 gift will go entirely to Maine veterans who need some help – the Veteran's Fund has zero overhead costs.

The Masons have long helped Maine veterans. They have a long history of charitable efforts across Maine communities – whether it is putting in a bench at a park, helping a library, raising funds for a food bank or fuel assistance.

The recent \$10,000 gift will go to veterans who are having trouble paying for something that they need for work, such as new car tires or new dentures. The fund also helps veterans in need who would like to progress in their careers. For instance, some money was given to a veteran who needed help paying the fee to take the bar exam to become an attorney.

The Veteran's Fund is supported by donations like this and by Goodwill NNE's annual Little Black Dress Event. All money donated goes right to veterans in Maine within a year. A volunteer board hears all of the applications and works to do the most good for veterans who have given so much to their country.

For more information, visit masoniccharitablefoundation.org.

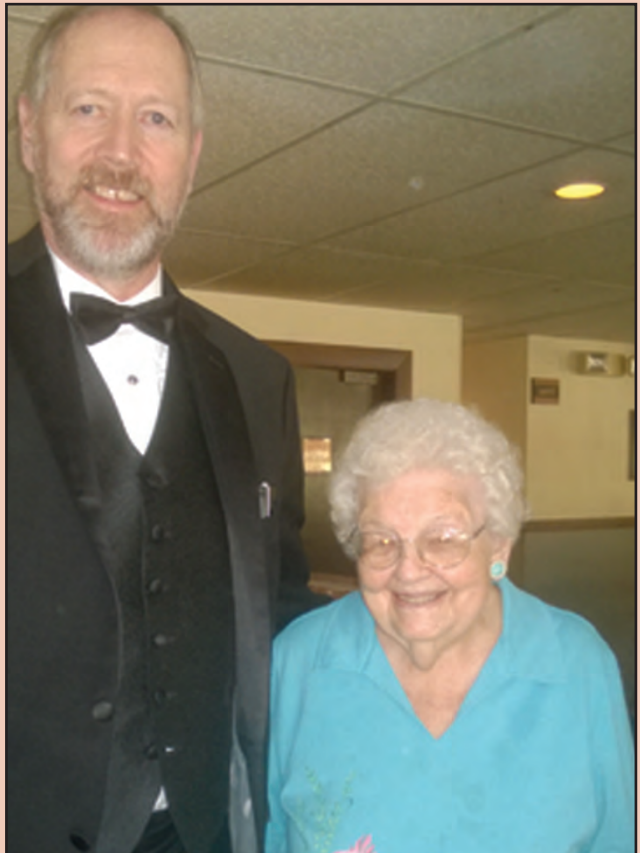


The Ties That Bind

Bro. Steven Edmondson, left and Bro. Winn Dodge, right, are holding the Master Mason Certificate of Bro. Steve's grandfather, Milton Baker, who was raised at Village Lodge #26 in Bowdoinham 72 years ago in 1943. The certificate was signed by the lodge Worshipful Master, Winfred Dodge, grandfather of Bro. Winn Dodge.

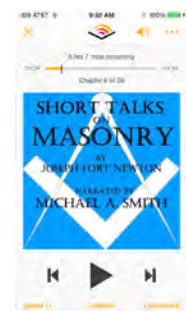
The Grand Master and a Special Lady

Orient Lodge #15 in Thomaston recently held a luncheon for the "special ladies" of the lodge. The Grand Master attended the luncheon and is pictured here with Mrs. Dot Jameson, a 98-year-old special lady he met there.



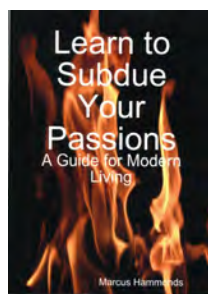
Your Grand Lodge Library is growing to serve YOU! Next issue we'll have an update on the expansion so stay tuned - and THANKS!

Never find the time to just sit and read? Audiobooks can help: they've come a long way since the days of cassette tape recorders and now, with any smartphone, you can listen to some great material. Even



Masonic-related works are starting to find their way into this arena thanks to Brethren such as our own Michael A. Smith of Arundel Lodge. Recently Bro. Smith recorded a true classic, *Short Talks on Masonry* by Joseph Fort Newton. It's a great audiobook for your first (or 500th). Books such as this are inexpensive and it's great to listen to something other than your usual Reggae music while you're driving somewhere. Stop, start, replay - you need to try this! You can find this and more at Amazon.com or Audible.com. In addition, Bro. Smith is working with the Masonic Service Association of North America to record ALL of their *Short Talk Bulletins* and will be offering them at a minimal subscription price with part of the proceeds going to the MSANA. More announcements on this to follow. You know, we've got some VERY talented Masons here in the Pine Tree State.

Several months ago I was contacted by Bro. Marcus Hammonds who asked if I would review his new book, *Learn to Subdue Your Passions: A Guide for Modern Living*. Looking at the chapter headings, I'll admit to being apprehensive. Inappropriately pre-judging, I suspected that this was going to be just another 'holier than thou' screed against those who didn't meet a particular standard. Quite the contrary: Bro. Hammonds has done a LOT of thinking about the various ways we succumb to temptation daily. He doesn't preach to you but rather offers practical and constructive suggestions as to how we can all be better. It's deceptively simple to ignore our obligations or to concoct excuses for violating them. This book will make you think the next time you're tempted to wander off the path.



Those who've had the privilege of hearing our own Past Grand Master Walter M. Macdougall speak invariably come away impressed feeling that they've somehow learned a life lesson. Whether it's the story of a Maine railroad or the how Masons laid out the map of Maine, Bro. Macdougall's books have been truly enjoyable. He's got yet another book and

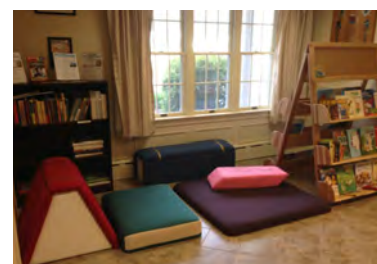
THE OLD WEBMASTER'S BOOKSHELF



Angel of Bataan is certainly worth reading. Alice Zwicker grew up in Brownville and went on to become a World War II nurse. She was, in fact, the only service woman from Maine to be a prisoner of the enemy in either of the two World Wars and she survived the horrors of war in the Philippines. Having served there with the US Navy, I'd heard the stories of and visited all of the locations in the book and knew much of the trials those prisoners endured. Walter has brought a remarkable woman's story to life and, as with his talks, he leaves us with something to long remember: how, for Alice, the terrible legacy of war did not end with her liberation from internment camp, or even with her coming home. When her victory finally arrived it was achieved in her own soul. A very readable book and one I'm pretty sure you'll enjoy.



Brethren, our library expansion program has reached well-beyond our initial plans. As we were progressing with the building portion, the Grand Secretary and I were musing about the many visitors who drop by the building each week. Often they're accompanied by children or grandchildren who quickly get bored with 'just stuff'. A light came on and now your Grand Lodge has what is probably the very first children's section in a Masonic library anywhere in the world. Do you have some gently used children's books sitting around unused? We'd love to add them to the collection. When you and your family drop by, we want the youngsters to know that Freemasonry is a place they'll enjoy both now and throughout their life! Thank you to all who supported the fundraising: now come and enjoy YOUR library! We're open M-F 8:30-4:30 and weekends by appointment.



Remember, you can search our entire book catalog online 24/7 and borrow books by mail. There's a library-like graphic at the top of the page at www.mainemason.org

Bro. Ed King is our Grand Librarian/Museum Curator and (the husband of the) Webmaster for our Grand Lodge. His personal website at www.masonicinfo.com - Anti-Masonry: Points of View is now in its 18th year online.

Walter's Dream

The Grand Lodge of Maine and Piscataquis Lodge No. 44 were recently presented an oil painting entitled "Walter's Dream." The painting was a gift in appreciation for the lifetime of service and leadership given by M.W. Bro. Walter M. Macdougall to Maine Masonry. The presentation was preceded by a supper which filled the dining room to capacity by some 60 Masons and their wives. Several of M.W. Bro. Walter's officers from 1996 and 1997 were present while others sent letters.

The idea for the painting came from M.W. Walter's book, *"Freemasonry: The Vital Exploration, Chapter 6, By Way of the Virgin Weeping."* It previously had been published in the Spring 1983 issue of *The Maine Mason* when it was a popular talk delivered by Bro. Walter at lodge meetings around the State. The article was from a dream Bro. Walter had where he found himself in the Highlands of Scotland. His attention was aroused when he came upon a brook which led him into a cave guarded by a great brass door with a square and compasses on it.

"Walter's Dream" is a 20" x 30" oil painting by Bro. Roger J. Morin of Monument Lodge No. 96 and his interpretation of what Walter observed. The painting was given as a gift by Bro. Richard L. Rhoda, Grand Historian, also of Monument Lodge, as a token of thanks to Bro. Walter.

In a short talk given by Rhoda, he observed that *The Virgin Weeping* is, as our ritual tells us, the symbol of the temple unfinished. For Bro. Walter it is not King Solomon's temple but rather the temple of mankind. The Virgin, for him, weeps for the unfinished temple within the heart and character of individual men. For Hiram Abiff, the journey had ended. For Masons, it is but the beginning of a Masonic journey through life.

Rhoda said "Bro. Walter dreamed of how Freemasonry unfolds the intricate relationship that exists between service to our fellow human beings and the personal gaining of inner wisdom. He writes of



M.W. Bro. Walter Macdougall and RW Bro. Richard Rhoda examine the painting "Walter's Dream" as artist, Bro. Roger J. Morin stands by.

"...the intimate association of the inner temple of our individual characters and the creating of a caring and wise society."

In Masonry we search for wisdom knowing that understanding is critical. We must have understanding, if both the inner and the outer temples are to be beautified and adorned.

Also presented with the painting were framed copies of Chapter 6 and Chapter 12, "A Lodge at Work." In this later chapter Bro. Walter spoke of "Builders' Lodge in Needsville" which could be any Masonic lodge in Maine. He spoke of the trickiness of words like *lodge*, *work* and *jurisdiction*.

Rhoda said: "For Bro. Walter, though, 'lodge' is not a place or an event but rather it identifies a human entity of intent and brotherhood." Bro. Walter wrote that "The real work of a lodge is when each member gives of his time and capabilities to promote true friendships, to administer relief, or restore peace to troubled minds. For Bro. Walter, *jurisdiction* is not what a lodge used to draw candidates from but rather "is its extent of compassion and service."

For Bro. Walter, "all successful lodges are operative lodges." Note, operative not speculative lodges. He continued, "Hopefully, we realize with greater clarity why our degree work is so important yet is not an

Continued on Following Page



Four Distinguished Masons Honored at Wilton Table Lodge

Scores of Masons gathered at Wilton Lodge last spring at a Table Lodge to honor four brethren who have served District 20 and this Grand Lodge with distinction.

The honorees were, left to right, starting with the red jacket: R.W. Brother Ernie Lowell, R.W. Brother Clint Coolidge, R.W. Brother Harland Harnden, and R.W. Brother Bob Lawrence. As

an indication of the esteem and respect these brethren command, among the attendees were Deputy Grand Master Tom Pulkkinen, representing M.W. Brother David Walker, and Past Grand Masters Jim Ross, Bob Landry, Chuck Ridlon, Wayne Adams, Brian Paradis and George Pulkkinen. It was a gala event to be sure!

Walter's Dream

Continued from Preceding Page

end in itself. Giving significance to the builder or Mason's life, that is the work of the degree gives within the lodge."

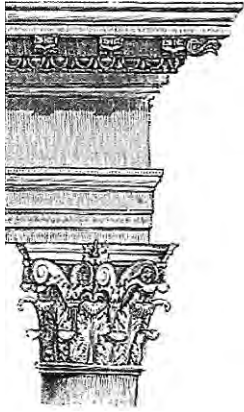
Rhoda finished his remarks with the following charge regarding the painting and, more importantly, the words of Bro. Walter: "Brethren, this painting is but the lure to draw you in again or for the first time. Read and consider the beauty and the direction that Masonry needs to pursue as Bro. Walter found in the Highlands of Scotland one sleepy afternoon."

Bro. Walter then spoke giving an observation from Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*. He first spoke of Santa Claus of Christmas Present and of the two small

children named "Ignorance" and "Want." He observed, "*The Temple, in all its beautiful possibility, is unfinished because Ignorance and Want work their dark havoc through the history of human kind.*"

He spoke of the point within a circle and of our need to expand the limits of the circle, i.e. Masonry. And concluded: "*As Masons we deal with light not darkness.... What we stand for is desperately needed. Who we are depends on how wide our circle is, how much we care. Together we strive against Ignorance and Want, working so that someday the Temple will be completed and the innocent weep no more.*"

M.W. Bro. Walter, again we thank you for your words of guidance for Maine Masonry as we go forward. So mote it be.



An *entablature* refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.

The College Briefly...

Our name inspires us to a 'higher educational calling.' We are not a bricks and mortar school but a "Temple of Knowledge," offering a growing variety of learning opportunities in various modalities

We believe that Freemasonry is relevant in society today, helping to create a continuum of knowledge for those who are interested in personal enrichment.

Masonic ritual exhorts us to broaden our knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences. Thus, our programs include topics of interest to anyone with an inquisitive mind: ethics, astronomy, logic, public speaking and more. We have molded the Maine Masonic College on the best features of not only traditional and modern Masonic-oriented education but also "senior college" and lifelong learning endeavors.

In addition, we are developing audio and video material along with reading lists and more. At the Maine Masonic College, we encourage your input, your recommendations and - most of all - your....

INVOLVEMENT!

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The Maine Masonic College Newsletter

The

ENTABLATURE

Whole Number 21

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Autumn 2015



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COURSE OFFERINGS

In its continuing effort to offer "more light in Masonry" the Regents of the Maine Masonic College announce the following course offerings. As with all College offerings, they are designed to provide brethren the opportunity to expand their vision of Freemasonry and its principles. Whether you are on the path to a Masonic College Diploma or simply want to be a more enlightened Mason, these programs are for you. As the cold, dark season of mid-winter comes upon us, the offerings of the Maine Masonic College heat up with three, light filled opportunities!

SEPTEMBER COURSES

Free Masonry & Alchemy: A look at the similarities and possible connections between the symbols in Freemasonry and those of alchemy and depth psychology.

Instructor: Eric Kuntz

When: September 21

Time & Location: 7:30-8:30 PM Ira Berry Lodge, Blue Hill

Bonds of Fellowship & Spirit: The purpose of this class is to express the basic and central nature of the spiritual life of the local Lodges as the foundation upon which Freemasonry is properly built. The workshop will accomplish its task in a 3-hour format. It will present information to the Masters, Chaplains, Brethren, and non-masonic attendees, provide the opportunity for discussion and explanation, and utilize the true nature of the fraternity as an on-going resource for continued education and goal realization

Instructor: RW Mark E. Rustin

When: Sept 12

Time & Location: 9AM-12PM Piscataquis Lodge Milo, Maine

Lunch: (\$5.00)

The Wondrous Fellow Craft Degree- a Journey for Our Times

This course explores the Fellow Craft Degree as the central introduction to the quest which Freemasonry offers. It suggests that among all the good attributes of the Masonic environment, it is this opportunity of quest which makes the Fraternity of special importance to men and society today.

Assisted by visual images and interactive discussion this exploration will begin with that ancient legend that two great pillars stand at the beginning of the journey that all must take if they are to find wisdom, strength and estab-

Continued on Page 18

#17 The Minutes of “Old Builders Lodge #1000”

Brother George M.A. Macdougall

This is one article in a series on the people who created, discovered or redefined how modern architecture, engineering and science came about.

In order to construct anything, our ancient brethren had to make many alliances. As a primary example, consider the brother who guards the door of the Lodge. In ancient times he wasn't a brother Mason, he was a Brother Tiler. In other words, he belonged not to the Masonic Guild but to the Tiler's Guild. The Tilers were the guild who made the roof tiles. There is another alliance alluded to in the ritual as well. Masons shaped blocks and designed structures but they needed instruments to do both of these tasks. These instruments were not made by the Masons since they were made of iron, brass or bronze. The temples were also adorned with ornaments made of these metals. That is probably why Tubal Cain is one of the primary non-masonic characters named in the third degree.

We learn in the third degree that he was “The first known curious artificer and cunning worker in metals”. But what more can we learn about this briefly mentioned but key person for the Masonic Order? Obviously, if he was the ‘first’ he existed a very long, long time ago so anecdotal information is a little sketchy. We will need to rely on the times he is mentioned in the Bible. We learn right away that he was related to Cain as in “Cain and Able”. We find that he was six generations removed from Cain making Cain his great, great, great, great, grandfather .

It is said that Tubal Cain had a sister Naamah and two brothers named Jabal and Jubal. (think on that last one for a while...) Genesis, Chapter 4 Verse 22 (usually denoted as 4:22) says that Tubal-cain was the “forger of all instruments of bronze and iron” or an “instructor of every artificer in brass and iron”. Although this may mean he was a metalsmith, a comparison with verses 20 and 21 suggests that he may have been the very first artificer or the first person to work in brass and iron.

Other sources suggest that Tubal-cain was the first chemist and he “discovered the possibilities of cold forging native copper and meteoric iron*.”

Other sources say many commentators identify

Tubal Cain with the Assyrian Tubal, a people living Southwest of the Black Sea and in later times they were called “Tibareni” (Ezek 27:13). Tubal Cain may be the ancestor of these people, and giving them their name, whose principal industry seems to have been the manufacture of vessels of bronze and iron.

Others have connected Tubal-cain's work to making weapons of war.” In *The Antiquities of the Jews*, Flavius Josephus says that “Tubal exceeded all men in strength, and was very expert and famous in martial performances, ... and first of all invented the art of working brass.”

Why was Tubal Cain used in the Masonic Ritual? Even if he was the first known curious Artificer and cunning worker of metals why mention him? It would seem that he is one of those Masonic symbols veiled in allegory and shrouded in mystery!

** Meteoric iron leads us to a fascinating aside - meteoric iron is a native metal found in meteorites and made from the elements iron and nickel. Before the advent of iron smelting, meteoric iron was the only source of iron metal apart from minor amounts of telluric iron. Meteoric iron was already used before the beginning of the iron age to make cultural objects, tools and weapons. A dagger made from meteoric iron was found in the tomb of King Tut!*



Tubal-cain at his forge. Tapestry in the Musee de Cluny, Paris.

Maine Masonic College Course Offerings *(continued)*

lishment. What will follow is a consideration of the ways in which the Fellow Craft Degree introduces the candidate to this most remarkable passage which leads to a world of enlarging enlightenment, ability and contentment.

Exploration will include the winding stairs, the liberal arts and sciences, the references to our human history and role of geometry and architecture, the jewels of a Fellow Craft, the passage to the Middle Chamber and the gem of Masonic symbolism.

Instructors: Walter Macdougall & Don McDougal
When: September 26th
Time and Location: 9AM-12PM Bangor Masonic Center, Bangor, Maine
Lunch: \$5.00

The Entered Apprentice Degree: an opening door to the Brotherhood of Masons and their purposes and beliefs:

Through the use of lecture, illustration and seminar dialogue, this course seeks to expand the participant's realization of the extraordinary experience which takes place when candidates become Entered Apprentices.

Together those involved in this course will seek to explore the expanding space of particular human experience in which the new Masons find themselves. Governing the working geometry of this space are such cardinal points as Ethical Care, Scope of Understanding, Practical Skills and Professional Responsibility as a Mason.

As a source of historical perspective, attention will be given to one of the oldest Masonic documents, the Regius Poem, and its significance to the E.A. Degree. Every part of the Degree has a symbolic meaning as well as a literal interpretation. That most important symbolic part will be highlighted and explored.

The final goal of this course is to have everyone present leave with an understanding why...the greatest and best of men in all ages have been encouragers and promoters of the art, and have never deemed it derogatory from their dignity to level themselves with the fraternity...."

Instructors: Don McDougal & Walter Macdougall
When: September 29th
Time and Location: 6PM-9PM Springvale Lodge, Springvale
Dinner: Yes

OCTOBER COURSES

Short Talk-Critical Thinking: A short presentation (1 hr) on the importance of Critical Thinking in society and our lives. Don McDougal and George Macdougall present on what Critical Thinking is, where it is used, how easily the brain can be fooled and ways to get to the correct decision.

Instructors: Don McDougal & George Macdougall
When: October 15th
Time and Location: 6:30-9:00PM Seabasticook Lodge, Clinton
Meal: Yes

CONVOCATION: This year's Convocation topic is Civility/Harmony. We have lined up some great speakers to join us this year. One confirmed speaker is Russ Charvonia from California. Once confirmed, other speakers will be named at a later date.

Convocation will be held at Spectacular Events this year. The hotel we are using is the 5 points Sheraton at the Airport. As the event gets closer, announcements will be sent out giving you information on reserving rooms for Friday night.

When: October 16th and 17th
Time and Location: Spectacular Events, Bangor Maine. Friday evening and Saturday.

Vitruvius and the Foundations of Freemasonry:

In the reign of Caesar Augustus, Vitruvius was an engineer who wrote a series of texts on Architecture and the art of building. We read those texts with amazement. So often what Vitruvius has to say shares with the world-view of modern Freemasonry- a "virtually seamless relationship... between the critical, rational methods of science and the maintenance of the ancestral traditions including religion" or perhaps as better phrased, a spiritual reverence for the beauty and the order of the universe.

This course introduces what Vitruvius sees as fundamental to the work of the Builder along with the importance of the Arts and Sciences in an inspirational adventure with very practical results.

Instructors: George Macdougall & Don McDougal
When: TBA
Time and Location: Yorkshire Lodge in North Berwick, Time TBA
Lunch: TBA



Charitable Foundation and MPBN partner to re-broadcast Ken Burns's "Civil War"

This is the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. The Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation is pleased to underwrite, along with two others, the Maine Public Broadcasting Network as they present a rebroadcast of the Ken Burns Production of the "Civil War." The program, which will air over 5 consecutive nights – September 7th through the 11th, provides an in-depth look at the causes, the major battles, the political intrigues, and the results of that great national struggle.

Maine Freemasonry is deeply rooted in the conflict that defined our nation and, in many ways, defined the Craft then and now. Set aside some time to watch and reflect upon the implications of the Civil War on our lives today.

Drummond Lodge #118 had a Bikes for Books ceremony at the South Hiram Elementary School on May 21, 2015. The lodge gave eight bikes, four to boys and four to girls from K thru 3rd grades. Principal Monique Sullivan wrote the following." I want to thank the members of Drummond Lodge #118 of North Parsonsfield for sponsoring the Bikes for Books Program which provided bikes and helmets for eight of our students. We had over 1000 books read. Thank You all!" Kindergarten winners were Bella Wansor and Trenton Cope; Grade 1, Ava Smolinsky and Jackson Parker; Grade 2, Jayden Fenderson and Chase Fox; Grade 3, Madison Wight and Dylan Capano. Lodge Members present at the ceremony included Wor. Samuel Miller, Master; Wor. Gary Nickerson, Secretary; Wor. Ed Hermance, Treasurer; Bro. Brian Moore, Jr. Warden; Bro. Chris Nickerson, Tyler; Bro. Henry Granahan and RW Roger Berube DDGM/18.



Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015
4:00 - 6:00 PM

4th ANNUAL MOOSE HUNTERS SUPPER

Hosted by Pioneer Lodge #72
32 Plum St., Ashland, ME
N46° 37'47" W68° 24'07"

Deep Fried Turkey and All the Fixings...and Dessert
\$10 Per Person

An Evening of Joshua Chamberlain, Maine Leader and Mason

by Bro. Jason Carey

Imagine living in such a turbulent time that the harmony of society has degraded to the point where your obligation shifts from caring for your family and living the actionable components of your Masonic obligations to that of being swept away into a climate of intolerance, strife and complete and utter despair. Please pause here to reflect on what you've just read.

Many of our Masonic brethren have known these experiences. Through their sharing of good humor, tall tales, and sometimes even the raw and honest truth, we come to know the challenges of a regular and upright Masonic life. We, as good men, seek truth and act upon the square. A virtuous life, well studied, may gift us rare insights by which we make our own observations and fortify our capacity to make wise decisions.

We can learn about one of these brothers, Gen. Joshua L Chamberlain, at a special evening September 18th in Augusta.

It's strange how this is coming about. I've been contributing to the Maine Mason magazine for only a short time. Recently I received an email from an old high school classmate, Jason Libby. In it he asked if I was the Bro. Jason Carey writing in the Magazine. To my surprise, he is also a Mason and his fathers before him were raised in Augusta's Bethlehem Lodge #35, the same lodge in which I became a Mason.

Just weeks before, Worshipful Bro. Cedric Novy and I were talking about the significance of 1894 as it relates to the Abnaki (Masonic) Club here in Augusta, how regal and stately the area is and how its regular arrangement of proportions and ornamentations manifest greatness. Cedric's wish was to dedicate a room inside the Abnaki Club to our Brother Joshua Chamberlain.

Jason C. Libby, whose family worked with Chamberlain's family during the Civil War, is an accomplished student of the Civil War. His interest was sparked by Brother Novy's dream, and he agreed to present a program as part of the dedication project.

Brother Jason C. Libby grew up in Augusta. He is a graduate of Cony High School and the University of Maine with bachelors degrees in history and political science and a graduate degree in education. Returning to Maine from New York after several years in higher education administration,

Brother Libby ran a historic preservation nonprofit and oversaw two museums. He currently works full time as a policy analyst for the State of Maine and is an adjunct at Central Maine Community College and at the



Bro. Jason Libby will be presenting the Sept. 18th program in Augusta.

University of Maine. He is author of several books and a member of several historical societies including the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is a director of the Maine Golf Hall of Fame, a cubmaster, and currently serves as vice chair of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Brother Libby is married, has two sons and a dog and is backup caregiver to his sons' various other pets. He was raised in Mechanics Lodge #66 in Orono, and is a member of the Scottish Rite Valleys of The Androscoggin and Portland. While in New York he served as secretary of his lodge and as a member of a Grand Lodge committee.

This semi-public event on September 18th will start with dinner at 6:30 PM and Brother Libby's presentation to follow promptly at 7:30. Tickets are only \$10 for the entire evening, and with a 100-ticket limit, is expected to sell out quickly.

Come and be part of the dedication of the Abnaki Club's Joshua Chamberlain Room at 317 Water St. in Augusta on this night! Out of respect for Bro. Cedric Novy -- and his vision -- Bro. Novy's portrait will be on display. For tickets and more information please visit www.facebook.com.abnakiclub on the web for updates.

This event is sponsored by the Abnaki Club and will be held in Bethlehem Lodge. Both bodies are at 317 Water St., Downtown Augusta, Maine.

Measuring the Length of a Cabletow

by Wor. Brother Pete Cutler
Freeport Lodge #23

How often have we heard the phrase “the length of your cabletow” employed in conversations alluding to our Masonic duties? And how frequently do we hear the echo in our minds of the description “as long as you want it to be”?

It is true that as Free and Accepted Masons we entered Masonry of our own free will and accord and voluntarily requested initiation into its fold. But just as the cabletow was used to visually symbolize a pledge of submission and fidelity throughout the process of advancing to the sublime degree of a Master Mason so was its eventual removal representative of a new Mystic Tie, one of Brotherly Love.

This new symbolic tie to the Fraternity was emphasized by the importance of its two separate ends; when you placed yourself under an obligation to Freemasonry so did the Fraternity place itself under an obligation to you: to assist you in learning to be of more service not only to the Craft, but also to your fellow man. Your vow is to assist another and the strength and length of that cabletow depends upon an individual’s ability to fulfill his obligations, the depth of his character and his moral principles, his capacity to love. Thus does Masonry construct a universal Brotherhood.

I have come to recognize this over the years. The first steps on my Masonic journey were taken in an American/Canadian Lodge in West Germany and my ongoing connections have been both varied and wide to include such diversity as The United Kingdom and South Korea.

The most recent manifestation of this strength of Masonic ties presented itself during a recent visit to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our week’s stay on this beautiful island. Although a bit warm and humid for our northern tastes, a myriad of exotic flora and fauna plus many scenic vistas provided endless opportunities to explore. The surrounding ocean is a paradise for those who enjoy sailing, fishing, underwater diving and lazy days on stunning beaches. The people were invariably friendly and helpful, including expatriates from U.S. northern climes who initially came for a short visit and elected to stay and enjoy life under “island time.”

Masonry in the Virgin Islands dates from 1756, when The Grand Lodge of England founded St. George’s Lodge on the island of St. Croix. As the years passed, English and Danish Lodges came and went until eventually the Danes gained prominence on the island of St. Thomas.

There were many Masons who had affiliated with short-lived English Lodges on St. Thomas, but since the

Danish Lodges would not allow Jews or free-coloreds to join their ranks many of the native or foreign-born Jews, Gentiles, merchants, shopkeepers, clerks, seamen, civil servants and planters decided in 1818 to petition the newly united Grand Lodge of England for permission to establish a Freemasons Lodge on St. Thomas.

There are two Masonic Lodges located on the island of St. Thomas and these are the only two English Masonic Lodges currently existing on American soil. The oldest is Harmonic Lodge No. 356 (established Oct. 9, 1818).

I was fortunate to encounter one of Harmonic Lodge’s members, Bro. Om Sukhani, who owns a local business. Bro. Sukhani extended every possible courtesy to my wife and me and spent hours providing us with information that helped make our stay on the island that much more enjoyable. His shop’s window features Masonic jewelry (of his own design) that is unique and beautiful and he has some entertaining stories of his experiences with visiting Masons from around the world who have enjoyed and profited from his generous treatment of their needs. For anyone interested in contacting Bro. Sukhani he may be reached at starjewelers@gmail.com.

St. Thomas is indeed beautiful, restful and entertaining. But one of my most lasting memories will be that even on this miniscule part of a very large world the unbreakable tie of the Masonic cabletow is alive and well and provides an anchor for a traveling man.



Bro. Om Sukhani extending a Masonic welcome to Bro. Pete Cutler.

The Grand Lecturer's Corner: *The Regius Poem*

by R.W. Don McDougal, Ass't Grand Lecturer

FROM WHENCE COME WE?

The "True" history of Freemasonry is a fascinating unending topic of discussion and interest within the Craft. Reliable documentation is limited. Often, we are left weeding through interpretations and speculations represented as "facts". One dependable source we have is the Regius Poem which is accepted as the oldest authentic record of the Craft of Masonry known at this time.

It is generally considered to have been written between 1390 & 1425. However some scholars place it as late as 1450. It seems to have been written to comply with regulations that Guilds submit annual returns to City Councils and Parliament. From line 143 "By olde tyme wryten y fynde" - a still older document must have existed when the poem was written. From the words on line 629, "And, when the Gospel me rede", the writer was probably a priest.

Searching for new sources of wealth to tax, Richard II's October 1388 Parliament issued two Writs. The first required the masters of guilds and brotherhoods to send the King a "Return" of origins, holdings, and regulations of their guilds. The second required the masters of all mysteries and crafts to do the same. An interesting side note to these Writs is that Parliament in 1363 passed a statute requiring all people of "mysteries" to choose and hold only one. We are left to wonder which of the crafts were considered to be "mysteries" and why just those craftsmen were required to "hold only one".

From the: **PIETRE-STONES Review of Freemasonry**

The **Regius Poem** "is described in David Casley's Catalogue of the MSS. of the Old Royal Library, 1734, page 259, as "A Poem of Moral Duties: entitled, Constitutiones Artis Gemetrie secundem Euclidem."

The existence of the Regius Poem had "been known for a long time, but its contents were mistaken until Mr. Halliwell-Phillips drew attention to it in a paper "On the introduction of Freemasonry into England," read before the Society of Antiquaries in the 1838-9 session."

When reading the Poem, I am fascinated by the principles and wordings which have been preserved and echoed in our existing Ritual. Based on the dates given above, our ritual was set down before the true nature of

the Regius Poem was known. Yet in our ritual we find uncanny parallels to the Regius Poem. The similarities between the two documents seem too extensive to be dismissed as mere coincidence.

According to the Regius Poem, Masonry has its basis in Geometry.

*"In that time, through good geometry,
This honest craft of good masonry
Was ordained and made... ",*

And came to England between 925 and 939 (Athlestan's reign).

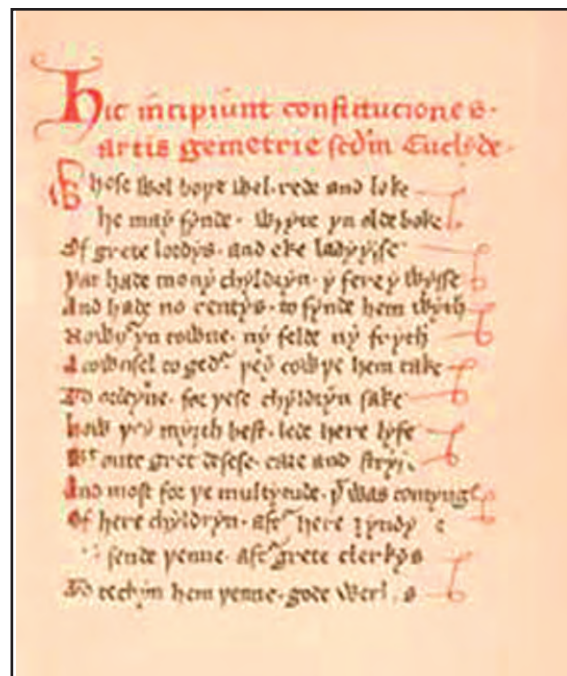
*"This craft came into England, as I you say,
In time of good King Athelstane's day;"*

The seven liberal arts and sciences are emphasized and were included as central to the Mason's Guild as a "Grace from Heaven".

*"... the good clerk Euclid
Taught the craft of geometry full wonder wide,
Through high grace of Christ in heaven,
He commenced in the sciences seven;
Grammar is the first science I know,
Dialect* the second, so I have I bliss,"*

*In the original Regius manuscript the word "Dialect" is "Dialectica" which is from: the Ancient Greek, "the art

Continued on Next Page



The Regius Poem *Continued from Preceding Page*

of argument through interactive questioning and answering”), “competent debater”), “to participate in a dialogue”. Dialect is possibly a misprint and should instead be “**Dialectic**” - *Any formal system of reasoning that arrives at a truth by the exchange of logical arguments*. This interpretation suggests “**Logic**” as “**the second**” which would then align with the list of The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences named in our current Senior Deacon’s lecture.

*“Rhetoric the third without doubt,
Music is the fourth, as I you say,
Astronomy is the fifth, by my snout,
Arithmetic the sixth, without doubt,
Geometry the seventh maketh an end,
Grammar forsooth is the root,
Whoever will learn on the book;
But art passeth in his degree,
As the fruit doth the root of the tree;
Rhetoric measureth with ornate speech among,
And music it is a sweet song;
Astronomy numbereth, my dear brother,
Arithmetic sheweth one thing that is another,
Geometry the seventh science it is,
That can separate falsehood from truth, I know
These be the sciences seven,
Who useth them well he may have heaven.”*

In its introduction, the Poem references how Masons should address and treat each other.

*“Furthermore yet that ordained he,
Master called so should he be;
So that he were most worshipped,
Then should he be so called;
But masons should never one another call,
Within the craft amongst them all,
Neither subject nor servant, my dear brother,
Though he be not so perfect as is another;
Each shall call other fellows by cuthe, (friendship)”*

Emphasizing the need for Masons to have a broad range of knowledge, the manuscript cautions us:

*“But much more you must wyten, (know)
Than you find here written.
If thee fail thereto wit,
Pray to God to send thee it:”*

The Poem finishes with a section containing admonishments about one’s personal habits, manners, and integrity,

Be reverent in church!

*“In holy church leave trifling words
Of lewd speech and foul bordes, (jests)”*

And know your place when meeting your superiors!

*“When thou comest before a lord,
In hall, in bower, or at the board,
Hood or cap that thou off do,
Ere thou come him entirely to;”*

And ends with the following lines.

***“Amen! amen! so mot hyt be!
Say we so all per charyté.”***

Some translate “per charyte” as “for charity” however others say “per charyte” was a reverential exclamation in the fourteenth century, less strong than “by God’s will!”. And again we are left wondering about the author’s original meaning.

The next article in this series will consider the Poem’s fifteen articles which list in detail a Mason’s duties and obligations to the Craft and his Brothers.

Scholarship Winner



Alex Wulf is the 2015 scholarship winner awarded by Penobscot Lodge #39 in Dexter. Alex is a senior at DRHS and resides in Dexter. He has completed one year at Tri County Technical Center in Criminal Justice. He plans to attend Beal College this fall in Conservational Law, a 2-year program, then transfer to Husson University or Thomas College to complete his bachelor’s degree. His goal is to become a State Trooper.

The Day of the East Wind

by Brother David A. Guarente
Ira Berry Lodge #128, Blue Hill

Being newly raised impressed upon my mind how much Masonry truly is a gift and a privilege, one that not all good men are admitted to, or would even be accustomed to joining; and it really prompted me to want to seek out and search the deeper meanings behind the lectures of all the degrees, as well as the esoteric meanings and reasons behind the degree work itself; in order to be able to assist and be available to all Brethren who want to get the most out of their Masonic journey, who constantly want to learn, hold themselves to a higher standard, and want to better themselves in all aspects of their daily lives, utilize their Masonic network to the fullest, and live their lives truly excelling, within the sublime degree and beyond.

Those of us in today's age who are naturally "seekers" by nature are drawn to Freemasonry, stemming with that drive of not being merely contented with that which we face in life on an everyday, mundane level. Deeper meanings persist in our thoughts, and a zeal to know further light, which will, if we persist, as we harness the energies within ourselves, bring us face to face with our true natures, and the divine.

Freemasonry, as an ideal, if taken to its logical conclusion, is a prototype for a more perfect civil society, a codification of the unique philosophic essence of the Renaissance, and an experiment in living with excellence all-prevalent, where men of all diversities are able to come together in unity to undertake the potential of Lodge meetings as philosophical, intellectual and spiritual Journeys of Learning, to affect an even higher good for their fellow creatures, both within the Lodge, as well as those without.

In order for us to better serve others, and to expect any amount of victory over ignorance in life, and further, as a by-product, gain a greater appreciation and admiration of our fellow man, we must first get to work on ourselves by overcoming our own negative aspects. Only once we have perfected ourselves within this liberating enablement of self-mastery, becoming capable of acquiring knowledge beyond our current state of being, understanding that true insight arises from conduct, and accessing hidden knowledge, and the inspiration it provides, by means of honest searching, can we then successfully and effectively branch out and extend that "charity" to others in its truest sense. We, therefore, become Master Masons, not just in name, but in deed.

This discovery leads us to conclude that all aspects of



Nature, music, language and mathematics are inextricably linked. Further, the journey of the three degrees taking place inside different positions within King Solomon's Temple, also represent the three aspects within you — the Spiritual, the Mental/Intellectual (or Soul), and the Physical. It is a journey for the individual who participates, symbolizing a journey within one's own internal experience, starting out within the context of your own religious background and experience.

Unlocking the secrets of yourself requires you to know and understand each of these gateways. The goal of mystical Freemasonry describing the psychological and spiritual processes in "raising a man up" from his

lower animal nature "by circumscribing his passions and desires" toward a higher realm of divine consciousness, are accomplished with the aid of various "tools" provided and paths made ready, namely: the processes of sublimation and regeneration, the harnessing of personal and spiritual Alchemy, knowledge of the nature of the Hindu *kundalini shakti* passing through the seven chakras of the human spinal column, the example of the true self-actualized Master — Jesus the Christ, an understanding of gematria, the sephiroth of the Kabbalistic Tree of Life and the Zohar, the arcana of Hermetic and Rosicrucian philosophies, access to the Gnostic Gospels, the teachings of the Essenes, and the lessons and symbolism of the Ancient Mystery Schools, more especially, the Eleusinian. These

are the signposts along the way, with an inter-connected sense of purpose and meaning among them all; with all pointing toward a common Source.

Don't sell yourself, or your Masonry, short. You are symbol, emblem, number and geometry of something much deeper and greater — the attainment of universal enlightenment and human regeneration. Seek out your own Philosopher's Stone. Tap into that hidden heavenly realm within your very own temple walls that awaits to be re-discovered; one that doesn't prevent, but rather enriches, understanding on how to achieve our own special and unique process of sublimation and divine consciousness, with each grain of passing time

Let us not dare become "drones in the hive of Nature." Let us search together for that which exists beyond us all. Advance past petty squabbles and the illusion of ego, focus on merit, and reward excellence. Mortal, materialistic men die every day. The Philosopher endures for all time.

The Day of the East Wind has arrived.



Long-time Masons Honored with Veteran Medals



Bro. Paul Webster, above, received his 60-year star from R.W. Mark Rustin on March 30. Bro. Webster was raised in Deering Lodge #183 in Portland, later affiliating with Gov. Wm. King Lodge #219 in Scarborough where he held several offices.

Bro. Douglas S. Glenn, right, was raised a Master Mason May 7, 1964 in Hancock Lodge #4, Castine, while at Maine Maritime Academy. He served on cargo ships while traveling the world's oceans. He also served as master of a research ship in Scotland and on nuclear powered LPG ships. He maintains homes in Key Largo, FL and the Philippines. He was presented his Veterans Medal by RW Bro. Jack Lagerquist



Bro. John R. Hill, right, of Windham, received his 50-year Veterans Medal on April 16. It was presented by R.W. Pete Forrest, PSGW.



Bro. James Royal, center, received his 50-year Veterans Medal from RW Jack Lagerquist, PSGW, in May of this year. Raised in St. Croix #46 in Calais, he transferred membership to Mystic #65 when he moved to Bangor. He now lives in Manchester, NH. The presentation was made at Lafayette-Bible Lodge in Goffstown, NH. Pictured with Bro. Royal are Brother Lagerquist, left, and Bro. Robert James, Master of Lafayette-Bible Lodge.



Bro. Blair Laughlin, Jr., far right, a member of United Lodge #8 in Brunswick, recently was presented his 50-year Veterans Medal by R.W. Stan Hudson, Senior Grand Warden of Florida where Bro. Laughlin now resides. Bro. Laughlin joined United Lodge while serving with the Navy at Brunswick Naval Air Station. He was a Flight Engineer who served his country for 24 years.

To The Editor

Some Buildings Need Upgrades

Dear Brethren:

My name is Christian Powers, Marshal at the Presumscot Lodge in Windham. I am writing to inform you of something very upsetting to me

I have had to step down as Marshal because I recently broke my leg and will be off my feet until October at the earliest. I am stepping down because I cannot get into my lodge. Steps are simply too hard to get up. This is something that has not gone unnoticed by me. Last year my 92-year-old grandfather could barely get in or out of my lodge.

This is the case in many Maine Masonic lodges today. They are simply not up or close to ADA standards. This act requires buildings to be both handicap and accessible to anyone who requires or needs it. This act has been in place for 25 years now.

As someone with autism and who serves as vice-chair on the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council this is unacceptable.

I joined the Masons because of all its great traditions that it has and I have enjoyed many of them. But how can we say we are a proud organization when many of our senior members can barely get in, or not at all, and those with wheelchairs can't get in period.

Surely there must be something we can do so that we can tell our senior Masonic members they are always welcomed and more importantly that those in the disability community do not feeling left out. And even some of our returning Masonic soldiers are coming back with missing limbs while serving our country. Are we going to tell them that even though they served their country with honor they can't join our ranks simply because they can't get in the door and are unable to get up or down the the stairs? I would hope not.

I write this because I know the masons to be of great character and strong moral values. That was one of the biggest reasons why I joined the masons. So I'd be part of this great organization and learn what it means to be a person within my community with these qualities and brotherhood

Please help me in getting the campaign started to get Maine Masonic Lodges up to ADA standards so that no man who is worthy of joining our ranks may do so and be a part of all the great traditions and honors that come with being a mason.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me and wishing you all the best.

Sincerely,

Christian Powers

Portland Masonic Temple Enjoying Continuing Success

2015 marks the 4th anniversary of the relationship between The Masonic Temple of Portland and Blue Elephant Events and Catering. We have greatly enjoyed helping build the public and social event programming during this time, and learning more about the Masons in general. Numbers have steadily increased over the years, and we were excited to host over 30 paid events in 2014 alone with similar numbers projected in 2015.

The Masonic Temple of Portland has hosted many varied social and cultural events under our direction. These include wedding receptions, corporate meetings, and everything in between. Highlights include:

- * The Maine Historical Society's First Annual Magical History Tour

- * WGAN/Maine Public Broadcasting's Donor Event featuring a pre-airing preview of the first episode of Season Five of Downton Abbey

- * Breakout sessions for Maine Start Up and Create Week

- * Portland Ovations annual Season Preview Party for its membership

- * Corporate Events for Bangor Savings Bank, CashStar, the Retail Association of Maine, The Telling Room Crossroads, and Pierce Atwood

- * Graduation and Conference Events for the University of New England College of Pharmacy, Bowdoin College, and the University of Southern Maine

- * A documentary film shoot for The History Channel in which the Scottish Rite Room appeared in a documentary commemorating the sinking of the Titanic in which the Scottish Rite Room appeared as a Titanic dining room

- * Two film shoots with local production company 217 Films, including the recently released film *The Great Confusion: The 1913 Armory Show*

- * Greater Portland Landmarks 50th Anniversary Celebration (complete with a cake/scale model of Portland's Union Station!)

The list goes on, and we are continually excited about the interest in the Temple as a space to hold special events. The Temple has gained a foothold in the Greater Portland events community and has quickly become a "go to" place to check out when

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THE MAINE MASON



Brother Seth Fitts

Wor. Brother Stacy Fitts

Bro. Spenser Fitts

Very Special Past Masters' Night at Meridian Lodge

On June 19, 2015 Meridian Lodge #125 of Pittsfield held its annual Past Masters' night steak dinner followed by the raising of two Master Masons. Brothers Spenser and Seth Fitts, the sons of Past Master Stacey Fitts, had the honor of being raised by their father while their grandfather Thomas McDonald looked on. Wor. Fitts had the pleasure of sitting in the East, as he did for their previous degrees, and did an outstanding job. He had chosen many special friends and relations to take various offices and other parts for the work. These included honorary hunting camp uncles Wor. Kirk Fitts, R.W. Ross Fitts and R.W. David Wright and special friend Brandon Wright, who have proudly watched these boys turn into fine young men. M.W. Brother Gerald Leighton, a dear friend to Meridian Lodge, got in on the act by playing the role of wayfaring man. Special evenings like this help to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood in a small town lodge.

Portland Masonic Temple Successes *Continued from Preceding Page*

planning a special event in the city. We have hosted thousands of guests in the last few years, all of whom leave with an appreciation of the building and its history and, more importantly, a sense of the Masons as a important part of local and international history and an active and unique part of today's community.

On another note, we both took the first step and did our EA Degree in October of 2014. We are excited to continue this journey. Reuben's father is a Mason in Saco and his grandfather was a Mason in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1950s and 60s. Two young men on our staff that have spent many hours working with us at the Temple in the last few years are also considering taking this step in the very near future.

Thank you to the Masonic Trustees of Portland for their support of this project! Special thanks, too, to Keith Cook and Larry Benson for their day-to-day help and support. What we do is a team effort, and Blue Elephant Events and The Masonic Temple of Portland make a great team!

Reuben P. Bell, III and Fausto Pifferrer, Blue Elephant Events and Catering

Brotherhood at a Bethel Lodge #97 Breakfast

by Bro. Jason Carey

People speaking from the heart can effect change and when I'm enjoying my favorite meal of the day, which is breakfast, I'm all heart!

While driving through the town of Bethel, Maine, with my family, on our way to Telstar High School for some American Legion Baseball which my son loves to play, we noticed several white sandwich boards strategically placed on the streets, each with black lettering on them. What really caught my eye was the masonic looking stuff on each sign. It was an early, misty morning as we rolled into town.

We didn't know it at the time, but it was the famous MollyOcket Day in Bethel. I didn't get a good look at the first sign so as we rolled by the second sandwich board sign, I slowed up in order to fully read it. The sign read public PAN-CAKE BREAKFAST at Bethel Lodge #97. We decided to first deliver our boy for his baseball warm-ups at Telstar then my wife and I headed back to find Bethel Lodge.



Bro. Todd Davis

We easily found the building with a little help from SIRI and Apple Maps. We parked the car and walked in never once feeling like strangers in a foreign land. We first met two dedicated Brothers Todd Davis, Chaplain, and Bill Mcaloney, Senior Warden, who were eager to chat and encouraged us eat plenty of breakfast.

Before we sat down they explained that Bethel Lodge #97 was getting ready to merge and reconnect with Blazing Star Lodge #30. Both Lodges shared the same building and I would learn more after breakfast...

The blueberry pancakes were great tasting and plentiful. The bacon was loaded onto my plate, and I loved it. The juice and coffee were fresh and delightful. My wife and I made more freinds and enjoyed pleasant conversation while at the breakfast table - some non-masonic locals bringing us up to speed on some local chatter.

After breakfast we got a tour of the beatiful lodge and learned that the two lodges were rejoining after being separate for 155 years, since 1860. The lodge room felt like a home away from home as I sat in the Senior Warden's chair and snapped a shot of the East for those of us who have not yet visited this beautiful space.

Thank you for the great times Brothers!

The Maine Mason
George Pulkkinen, Editor

RE: A Moslem, A Catholic, and a Baptist

Masonic lessons of toleration are working.

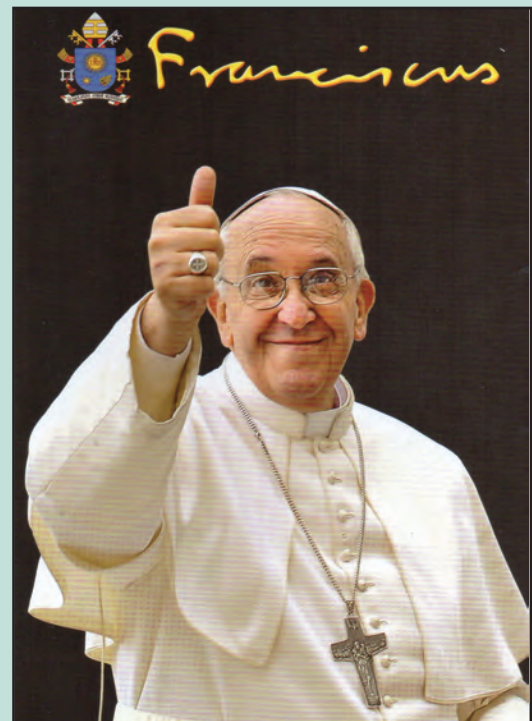
I recently received this postcard of Pope Francis which I now have in my office bookcase "Well, we all get postcards" you might say. This one, though, has a Masonic story attached.

A few years ago, Bro. Wiliam Bilal joined Monument Lodge after attending two of three semi-public lodge programs on religious toleration. He eventually was appointed a Grand Chaplain by M.W. Jim Ross.

In 2014, he and his wife were in Rome on their way to visit family in Pakistan. They took a tour of the Vatican and he sent this postcard. "So," you say. Well, think about it. We have a postcard of the Roman Catholic Pope being sent by a Moslem to a Baptist Mason in Maine. Relationships are going forward and in this case, Masonry was the root cause of it! May brotherly love prevail.

Fraternally yours,

Dick Rhoda



Maine Masons and MPBN Make Merry

As part of the Charitable Foundations support for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network, Freemasons sponsored a matching pledge break during MPBN's "Super Thursday" fund raising campaign on August 6.

Five Brothers, Tom Pulkkinen, Mark Rustin, Brian Ingalls, Chris Camire, and Evan Mills were at the Portland Broadcast Center taking telephone calls from people making pledges from 6AM until 8AM. The on-air announcers repeatedly mentioned our Craft including several informational tidbits about Freemasonry in Maine. Callers, including a number of Brothers from around the State, praised Maine Freemasonry for our support of this vital statewide radio network. MPBN is the only radio signal which covers the entire Grand Jurisdiction and provides in-depth State and National news reporting, statewide emergency broadcast alerts, and a variety of music and entertainment programming.

MPBN sends this message to the volunteers and our Craft for its support. "Thank you so much for volunteering your time at MPBN this morning. We are truly grateful for the tremendous support of the



Brothers Tom Pulkkinen and Mark Rustin in front, backed up by Brother Evan Mills of Deering Lodge, Brian Ingalls, York Lodge, and Chris Camire, Triangle Lodge.

Maine Freemasons. Your organization's underwriting, membership, and matching pledge challenge have all made a significant contribution to our work for the people of Maine.

"The final results were very good. In spite of terrific summer weather, we raised \$174,166 from 1,615 pledges and gained 477 new members! We were especially pleased with the new member number because the one-day campaigns don't give us as much time to tell our story and it's very important that we continue to recruit new folks. Your generous matching funds gift played a big part in our success. Thank you so very much for your support!"

It's What Masons Do...

Bro. Howard W. Stacey died at age 90 on Sunday, May 31, 2015 in Houlton. He joined Hesperia Lodge in East Boston, Mass. in 1957 and affiliated with Monument Lodge in Houlton when he had retired. With no funeral or recognition of his life to be held by his family in Hawaii, the Masons stepped in again. They had previously made his apartment handicapped accessible. He later had frequent lodge visitors in the nursing home. The son of a Mason, the fraternity was the pride of his life. As a final act of Brotherhood, the Masons stepped forward and held a special meeting to do a Masonic Funeral Service for him at the lodge. It's what we do for a Brother. So mote it be.



5th Annual Celebration of the Arts and Sciences

by Wor. Dannel Starbird

Abner Wade Lodge #207, Sangerville

University of Maine professors, scholars and honor students convened with the Maine Masonic College on April 11, 2015 for the 5th Annual Celebration of the Arts and Sciences. Entitled Essential and Besieged, the event explored the vital yet increasingly underappreciated role of liberal arts, sciences, and humanities in modern society. Introductions were made by Gen. Steve Nichols, chairman of the MMC board, Dr. Eric Kuntz, Dean of the MMC, and Grand Master M.W. David Walker.

Professor Jeffrey Hecker, Executive Vice-President and Provost of the University of Maine, was the first speaker, and summarized the current state of education in Liberal Arts and Sciences. He reported that while there is growing investment in physical sciences the humanities, arts, and social sciences are indeed besieged. He cited widespread but inaccurate media insinuations that liberal arts (English, history, philosophy, music, art, etc.) are associated with unemployability, and quoted radio and television personalities joking about low income and joblessness of Liberal Arts graduates. These attributions by critics, while not true, are apparently widely believed. Discussing why support for degrees in liberal arts and humanities have declined, Dr. Hecker focused on a national growth project (STEM), which targets Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math with expanded funding. The doctor implied that to emphasize STEM programs as more valuable, supporters devalue other programs that compete for funding. Public universities, he said, are not funded nearly as well as in the past, particularly in liberal arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Dr. Hecker reported, in contrast, that businesses highly value the qualities learned in liberal arts and humanities education. Employers look for employees who can function most effectively in the work environment. Tech employers plan to teach specialized tech skills on the job. Hallmarks of liberal education such as critical thinking, appreciation of diversity, commitment to lifelong learning, informed judgment, integrity, and inclusiveness are now considered essential employee characteristics. Employers value diverse education, as more important than particular degrees or specialized technical skills. Diversity in education leads to a broad view of the world with room for differences in cultures, religions, assumptions and historical perspectives.

Dr. Liam Riordan, the second speaker and

director of the University of Maine Humanities Center, said humanities help us deal with qualities and experiences that are at the core of being human. To help us understand ourselves as we face an ever-changing world, he said humanities deal with common meaning, purpose, and intent. We have complex ways of communicating, and benefit from holistic understanding that allows us to integrate findings of all disciplines. Concerning educational cross-pollination, he quotes Steve Jobs (of Apple computer fame) who is said to have suggested technology needs to be married with liberal arts. Progress in human development follows from integrated knowledge of how people interact and communicate. Exposure to diverse positions lets light shine into our experience from many directions.

Dr. Riordan, an expert on revolutionary America, said that the enlightenment combined scientific knowledge with ancient wisdom. The light of this new consciousness migrated to the America, embedded in Freemasonry. Dr. Riordan believes that the wisdom and understanding of Freemasons allowed them to emerge as leaders in the early Republic. He said the interest of students of humanities, and modern Freemasons have much in common. Funding possibilities whereby Freemasons individually and in their respective Lodges could assist ongoing projects was raised for further discussion. (Dr. Riordan recommended, for Masonic readers, the book

Continued on Following Page



**A belated Happy Anniversary
Royce and Joyce, from all
your friends and brothers.**

Joyce and Royce Wheeler were in Bar Harbor in late May enjoying the SR Spring Fling! Harriet Stretton took this picture as they toasted on their 67th anniversary.

You're Invited to Enjoy Northeast Shrine Events on September 19, 2015

Lewiston and Auburn will be hosting over 2,000 Shriners and their families on the weekend of September 17-19, 2015. All Maine Masons are invited to join M.W. David A. Walker and the officers of Grand Lodge as they lead the parade that will march along Canal and Main Streets back to the Kora Shrine Center (this will be a mostly flat parade route).

And before lining up for the parade, you and your family are invited to travel to the Auburn Mall at 550 Center Street to witness the Clown and Motor Corp competitions taking place between 9:00 am and noon. Additional parking will be available behind the Mall at the Auburn Masonic Building, 1021 Turner St. Or enjoy performances of the highlanders, oriental and other bands as well as costumed characters at the Amand A. Dufresne Plaza (on Lisbon Street near its intersection with Main St.) from 10 am until noon. Bringing chairs is recommended.

This is a great opportunity for Masons to



display our colors before thousands of Mainers and our out-of-state guests. Masons marching with the Grand Master will muster at the Oak Street Parking Garage (behind Kora Shrine Center, 11 Sabattus St.) at noon. There will be food carts in that area and all marchers will be bussed to the parade starting point. The parade attire will be a dark suit (or dark pants and jacket), black shoes and a conservative tie. If the sun is strong, Brethren may wear an "appropriate" cap.

Let's make this a Masonic-Shriners event to remember!

5th Annual Celebration *Continued from Preceding Page*

REVOLUTIONARY BROTHERHOOD by Steven Bullock).

The final presenter was Dr. Francois Amar, Dean of the Honors College at the U of M. A theoretical chemist, researcher, and devoted interdisciplinary educator, Dr. Amar, also a poet, is an excellent example of a scientist well versed in the liberal arts. As head of the honors program he promotes community engaged research. He stated that igniting passion for learning is the mission of the Honors program. Nine honor students from the University and Orono High School gave descriptions of their Honors projects. Examples of their scholarship were conveyed as they summarized their findings: (1.) Exploring culture, collaboration, and the importance of working together, we learn to differentiate who we are from who we are becoming, and come to be part of the evolving whole. (2.) Childlessness is not being able to have children, whereas childfree means choosing not to have children. Stigmatization of childfree couples was more commonly seen in religious individuals who said these couples were selfish, or devalued their choice by predicting they would change their minds. Childfree couples commonly embrace freedom that derives from not bringing children into their family. (3.) Melding science and technology with humanities corrects the mind-

set that technology is superior, avoids narrow mindedness, and leads to valuing all disciplines. (4.) Students are not empty vessels, but need to be active participants in meaningful discourse. (This sounds amazingly like mentoring as Masons are now discussing it.) Letting go of preconceived ideas should enable all to speak with freedom of expression, so that everyone is allowed meaningful interaction and contributions. This freedom allows awareness that learning is essential.

In closing remarks, M.W. Walter Macdougall, Past Dean of the MMC, reiterated that interests of Masonry and of the University are much the same. He quoted Pliny as saying "this above all reason, when life's path grows steep, keep an even mind." No matter what besets us, there is a reservoir of human capacity that emerges to meet challenges. Freemasonry, he said, has gone through stages. We are coming into a phase of welcoming outside influences, wanting to more actively help meet the needs of society (as we did during Revolutionary times).

Evoking a Biblical image, he said we are entering the "valley of decision," where our openness to understanding the Liberal Arts and Humanities will be crucial in making decisions about our lives as Masons, and about the future of human society.

The MAINE MASON

Grand Lodge of Maine
PO Box 430
Holden, ME 04429

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2015 DISTRICT MEETINGS

District	Date	Time	Lodge/Town	Format
1	17 Oct	6:00	Ashland	Open
2	3 Oct	6:30	Lewys Island	Open
3	2 Oct	6:30	Machias	Open
4	11 Dec	6:30	Blue Hill	Open
5	23 Oct	6:00	Dover-Foxcroft	Open
6	14 Nov	4:00	Bangor Masonic Ctr.	Open
7	12 Sep	5:00	Mt. Olivet	Tiled/Ladies Program
8	23 Sep	6:30	Northport	Open
9	16 Dec	6:30	Rockland	Open
10	22 Oct	6:30	Alna-Anchor	Open
11	28 Oct	6:30	Litchfield	Open
12			TBA	
13			TBA	
14	12 Dec	6:30	Bath	Open
15	10 Oct	6:30	Kingfield	Open
16	4 Dec	6:30	Oriental	Open
17			TBA	
18	1 Dec	6:30	Greenleaf-Cornish	Tiled
19			TBA	
20	14 Oct	6:30	Bethel	Open
21			TBA	
22	26 Oct	6:30	Newport	Open
23	16 Jan	Noon	Auburn	Open
24			TBA	