

A photograph of a winter landscape. In the foreground, a wooden railing is partially covered in snow. The background is filled with tall, snow-laden evergreen trees under a bright sky.

THE MAINE MASON

*Wishing the Happiest
of Holiday Seasons
to one and all*

**VOL. 46, NO. 1
WINTER 2019-20**

THE MAINE MASON

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

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

All submissions of photos and articles for inclusion in THE MAINE MASON should be mailed directly to the Editor at either the email or postal addresses below.

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Deadline for the next issue of *The Maine Mason* will be 15 March, 2020. All materials should be sent directly to the editor.

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by George P. Pulkkinen

Joyous of Seasons

Sure hope you all are as happy this time of year as am I. The color, the music, the decorations, the smiles on kids' faces, wonderful memories of Christmases past (and when you're as old as I am that's a lot of Christmases past.) And, most especially, as a Christian, the reason, as they say, the reason for the season.

So here and now let me wish each of you the joyous of holiday seasons whatever and however you celebrate your traditions. And may the new year - the 200th Anniversary Year for Maine Freemasonry - be filled with good health, joy and happiness for you and yours. And for our beloved fraternity.

Now for some housekeeping.

As editor of your Maine Mason magazine, let me, here and now, thank you for every photo, every piece of information, every feature you submit for publication. For certain, *The Maine Mason* would be pretty skimpy without your offerings. They are all appreciated, all welcome.

To make the process run more smoothly, however, there are a couple of things you can do to help. Let me explain.

First, when sending an article with illustrations, please do not embed the artwork or photographs in your document. Send the art as separate attachments. That goes for pdf's, too. The magazine is limited by dimensions and that means, invariably, the pdf must be taken apart and reconstructed for publication.

And second, please limit your articles to 1000 words or fewer. That will allow for more variety on the pages. Thanks again.

From the Grand East

Mark E. Rustin

Grand Master of Masons in Maine

A Worldwide Fraternity

As a Fraternity, we are able to know that men just like us worldwide have circumscribed their lives and passions by the same principles and tenets that we have chosen for ourselves. Men, regardless of culture, national identity, or personal religious persuasion, work toward becoming better men and, by extension, to work toward building better communities for all to live within.

This is no mean accomplishment. It seems to me, the most salient principle that allows men of good will to work together worldwide is our affirmation of deism.

Deism is the belief in the existence of a supreme being, specifically of a creator who does not intervene in the universe. That affirmation, required of any man who petitions a Lodge of Masons, removes any potential strife which is grounded in sectarian religion. The founders of Free and Accepted Masonry recognized a simple fact – nearly all wars and cultural strife had its roots securely in the firmament of religious sectarianism. The founders of our republic recognized that the Masonic principle of deism provided the best opportunity to avoid the wars and strife grounded in religious difference that were the hallmark of Europe for generations. This great insight, which is still passed on in our day, is the bedrock upon which our worldwide fraternity is built. Nationally, no state sanctioned religion is allowed. Fraternally, no sectarian religion is seen as superior to any other – each Brother responds to his own conscience regarding his religious duty to God.

It is imperative that we guard against any pressures to chip away at this well fashioned cornerstone of our Craft. Efforts to allow one or another sectarian religious expression into Lodge, which may seem expeditious at the moment, will only serve to ultimately undo the worldwide nature of our Fraternity. As Brothers, we affirm our belief in a supreme being who created all people with certain talents and gifts. We should bend our attention to how those many gifts can be used by the Fraternity to better all humankind. How we as individuals chose to express our faith in a sectarian, religious manner outside of the Fraternity is not of our concern.

Rather, fealty to our oath and obligation taken upon a book of Holy Writ which has meaning to the individual, should be our only concern.

MWPGM Tusch recognized this important principle when, in 2006 he wrote, “A non-Christian monotheist must be able to take his Masonic Obligation on the Volume of Literature sacred to his faith or no such obligation would be binding upon him.” The Grand Lodge adopted his decision at the 2006 Annual Communication. Our common obligation is made worldwide upon a book of Holy Writ which evokes awe of Deity on the part of the

Brother making the oath. Without the inherent awe evoked by his belief in the Holy Writ, the obligation is meaningless. It is not the book that counts, it is the relationship with Deity the Brother holds in awe and to which the Brother gives credence.

Masonic Jurisdictions around the world are organized in a myriad of systems. They control varying amounts of wealth and property. They speak in a variety of languages. The words of ritual vary markedly from place to place. They are good citizens in many countries. In the face of all this manmade diversity, the spiritual bedrock of our Craft – Deism – empowers the Fraternity to be cohesive and mindful in pursuing the purposes of our profession. Empowering men to become better men if they choose, is a spiritual venture which takes place in the hearts of men. As they respond to the plans of the Supreme Architect they perceive by enlightened faith, they join with Brothers worldwide striving to reach the moral high ground revealing to the world around them how life can and should be lived. This is possible only when we scrupulously adhere to our affirmation of Deity without regard for various sectarian expressions.

With this in mind, as we enter into a time of the year when people of various religions around the world celebrate their relationship with God, I offer a hearty expression of Seasons Greetings to one and all. May the recognition of moral growth, expression, and purpose bring spiritual peace to every heart and the lives of all people. May all become better people living in a better world.

Fraternally,

Mark

Thoughts from our Grand Secretary...

By Brother Dan Bartlett

So, the Lodge Secretary...

There is no doubt that when the time comes in the existence of a Lodge that a new Secretary is needed it's a stressful process for the current lodge leadership and membership. When a discussion arises about who might be interested in serving as the next Secretary, many start looking at the floor, shifting uncomfortably on their feet or excusing themselves because they need to take care of something else...almost anything else to not be involved in the discussion or worse, maybe get asked to take the chair!

We have all heard the "old saw" that the Lodge Secretary's chair is a permanent assignment. Once you take it, it's yours for life. While that isn't accurate, it is fair to say that for many Lodges it is a difficult chair to fill. Why is that? The obvious answer is, it's a commitment and a fair amount of work. Let's be honest, most of us are not looking for more work to do and more responsibility. It is arguably one of, if not the most important position in the Lodge. Ask any current or past Master his feelings about the importance of the Secretary.

You will get many different answers, but I doubt anyone would downplay the importance of the position of Lodge Secretary. The Secretary provides the continuity from year to year to keep the business side of the Lodge functioning smoothly.

So, let's talk about the skill sets required to be successful while serving as Lodge Secretary. I would offer that first and foremost one must enjoy interacting with people. If you're not comfortable talking with people, then it's a challenge right out of the gate. And, note that I said talking "with" people. Talking "at" people will make it more difficult and there is a difference. Next up is being somewhat computer savvy. If you have some computer skills, then you have just dramatically cut the time needed to get the job done. And our time is what is so very precious to every one of us. The MORI membership database is a powerful tool that truly makes the job of Lodge Secretary less burdensome and time consuming. An upfront investment in learning and then using MORI will benefit you and the Lodge down the road. Some would say having

organizational skills are also necessary. There are just as many who would say they aren't. I would say that while it may work for some, if you know where everything is, and it works for you, you're all set. Anyone who has visited the Grand Lodge office and been in my office may not put my desk in the "neat and orderly" category.

A few cautionary notes here...the Secretary has the responsibility of being the Administrative Officer, if you will, of the Lodge. He is not responsible for the operation or decision making of the Lodge. The Secretary needs to firmly set boundaries to avoid becoming the de facto leader and everyone says "ask the Secretary" as a response to every question posed. The Worshipful Master governs his Lodge. The Secretary and the Treasurer assist him by keeping the administrative and financial work in order. This is a hard and fast rule to live by and the Secretary should never speak for the Worshipful Master or subvert his authority. And lastly, be discrete. You may know a great deal about what is going on that should not always be common knowledge. Don't let your tongue be your worst enemy.

So how do we make the job of Lodge Secretary more palatable? There are several thoughts here. One, help him! An Assistant Secretary can be appointed to help. Maybe there is a more tech savvy Brother in the Lodge who is looking for a way to get more involved. Appoint him as an assistant and he can take care of the MORI database. Also, be mindful of the time commitment involved to be the Lodge Secretary. If there is something you can take care of yourself, don't drop it on the Secretary's desk for him to figure out. And, finally, a sincere "thank you" now and then goes a long way towards making the Secretary feel he is a valued member of the Lodge and his efforts are truly appreciated.

It is a serious and important undertaking to serve as the Lodge Secretary. Certainly, at the Grand Lodge office we appreciate every lodge Secretary out there and we strive to be the backstop of support for all of them. While it is challenging, it is also very rewarding. As the Lodge Secretary you have intimate knowledge and understanding of your lodge and that you are also an integral part of keeping your Lodge running smoothly. We all like feeling accomplished and all those Brethren serving are getting the job done. I hope those of you reading this as members of your Lodge take the time to convey your appreciation to your Lodge Secretary.



Bro. Dennis Michaud chosen 2019 Mason of the Year

Brother Dennis Michaud of Crooked River Lodge #152, Harrison, was recognized as Mason of the Year in the 16th District for 2019. RW Brother Ryan Kane, DDGM/16 made the announcement and presented Brother Michaud with the award on Thursday, November 14 at the District Fellowcraft School of Instruction.

Brother Michaud was recently elected Senior Warden of his lodge for the ensuing year. He also serves as 16th District Association Treasurer.

RW Brother Kane described Brother Michaud as “one who is always present for the job or activity. no matter what or when.” He has been particularly valuable in organizing CHIPS programs, fundraising events, and above all, motivating his brothers.

Brother Michaud accepted the award with humble gratitude, stating that he never expected such recognition, especially so early in his Masonic life. Brother Michaud was raised December 18, 2014.

GL Elections

The following officers will be on the ballot at the Annual Communication May 5, 2020.

Grand Master

Deputy Grand Master

Senior Grand Warden

Junior Grand Warden

Grand Treasurer

Grand Secretary

Finance Comm - 2 seats

Charitable Fndn -2 seats

Any interested must declare themselves for a respective office to the Grand Secretary no later than 15 March, 2020.



Left to right: RW Doug Taft, SGW, RW Ryan Kane, DDGM/16, Brother Dennis Michaud and Wor. Paul Joyce, Master of Crooked River Lodge.

!!!!!!ATTENTION!!!!!!

MAINE MASONS WHO LIVE OR WILL BE IN FLORIDA ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

M W. Mark Rustin, would like to invite the Masons of Maine and their spouses/ friends to the 18th Annual Maine Masons in Florida Day at the SAHIB Shrine Center, # 600 N.Beneva Road in Sarasota, Fl.

This is intended to be a time of social enjoyment and a chance to meet and make new friends among Maine Masons and Maine Masonic Widows who reside or winter in Florida. MW Mark will be accompanied by Dan Bartlett Grand Secretary and Susan Scacchi, Director of the Maine Masonic Foundation, so any questions you have can be easily answered by this team.

The time to assemble is recommended to be 11:00 to 11:30 which will allow us time to socialize prior to lunch being served at 12:00 P.M. for a cost of \$25.00 for the men. Ladies will be guests of the Grand Master.

Following lunch M.W. Brother Rustin will be making a presentation.

Directions to Sahib Shrine Center are: Take exit 210 off I 75 and go west about 1-2 miles to N. Beneva Rd. Turn right and go north on Beneva about 2 blocks. The Shrine Center is on your right.

You may make reservations for this affair through R. W. Brother Pete Forrest in one of the following ways: Telephone: 207-745-0732, or email Pete at rgpete-forrest@aol.com. **NOTE: A check for the amount of your dinners (men only) needs to be made out to Ronald Forrest and sent to 8027A Carnoustie Pl. #4212, Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34986, prior to the cut off date of 2/3/2020.**

Let's make this a great time with Bro. Mark, Bro. Dan and Susan!

Reminder

Deadline for reservations is February 3, 2020

The meal will consist of Roast Loin of Pork, Herb Roasted New Potatoes, Chef Choice of Vegetable, Rolls/Butter, Chef Choice of Dessert, Iced Tea/Coffee

Note: There will be a vegetable plate for those who cannot eat pork.

Please advise if you need this at time of your reservation.

From Whence Came You, or You Never Know Where You'll Meet a Brother

by Jeff Sukeforth
Federal Lodge #6/Rockport

You hear the phrase, “you never know where you will meet a Brother Mason”, quite often and this statement rang true to me on September 28, 2019 when I had the pleasure to meet Brother William “Bill” Oxford.



**Brother William “Bill” Oxford,
National Commander
American Legion**

of Maine. We were gathering to dedicate the new POW/MIA Memorial at the Legion headquarters. This Memorial has been in the works, so to speak, for a few years and came to fruition with the dedication.

It just so happens that Bill Oxford is the American Legion National Commander, having been elected in 2019 at the 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis. When I first met Bill, I did not notice anything that would lead me to believe he was a Brother. It was not until receiving his official signed photo for our Legion Post, that I saw the light emanating from his right hand. There in the photo was the unmistakable Square and Compasses on his ring and identified Bill as a fellow Mason. Of course, I had to go back over to see him again and with a friendly grip, which he immediately returned, we knew we were Brothers.

I told him about noticing his ring in the photo and now that I knew a “true and faithful” Brother

was leading our great Legion Family we were indeed in good hands. With a smile and a firm grip, he thanked me for coming back over to greet him, this time on another level. He spoke briefly about his lodge in North Carolina and the fact he did not know when he might get back to visit them in his position as National Commander.

I mentioned to him that it really didn't matter because wherever he travelled as National Commander there was always a lodge he could call home. He smiled and said Thank You and with that a new Masonic Friendship was made.

Bill Oxford is a native of Lenoir, N.C., and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a Colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

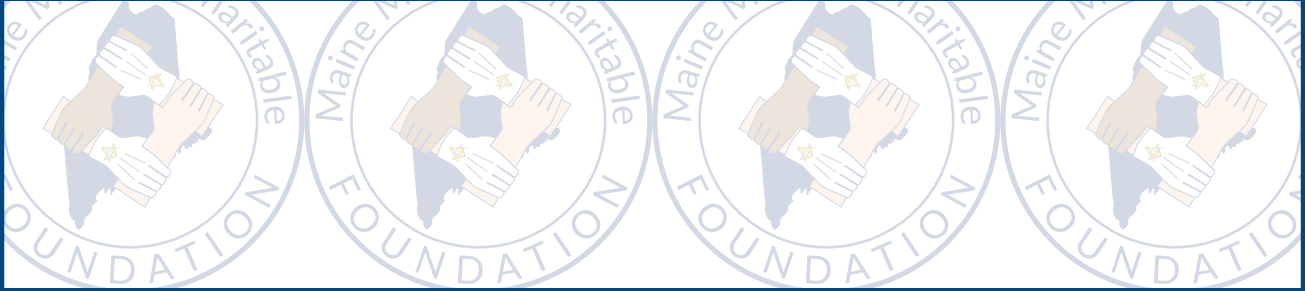
He is an active volunteer with several organizations and a member of his local Masonic Blue Lodge and the York and Scottish Rites of North Carolina.

So, as you can see, there really is no telling when and where you will meet a Brother Mason; you simply have to be observant and ready to greet him and welcome him as a Brother!



Members of War Memorial Post 30, Camden, Paul Satkowski, Ray Lewis, and Jeff Sukeforth with Bill Oxford, second from right.

December 2019



Maine Masonic Charitable FOUNDATION



Newsletter



IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS, THE FOUNDATION HAS PROVIDED OVER **109 MAINE MASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES** WITH ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THEM THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME. IN ADDITION, THE FOUNDATIONS HAS ALSO PROVIDED **274 MATCHING GRANTS** TO THE LODGES IN MAINE - FURTHERING THEIR ABILITY TO HELP SUPPORT AND IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES.

DID YOU KNOW ... The Foundation - as the Presenting Sponsor for the *Bike MS®: Great Maine Getaway*- **helped the MS Society raise over \$400,000** to



fund research and create a world free of MS! It was a real team effort. We had Masons from Massachusetts come up to participate in the ride and support the cause. And many thanks to the young ladies of the Gorham and Westbrook Assemblies of the Maine International

Order of the Rainbow for Girls, for staffing two rest stops and cheering on the bikers. These young ladies were so supportive and energetic, it really made a difference to all the bikers.

HIGHLIGHTS ... An exciting new partnership is about to bring inclusion in Central Maine to new heights and Masons in the 12th District will be leading the charge! Thanks to funding provided by the Foundation - The Alford Youth & Community Center (AYCC) in Waterville, Special Olympics (SO) Maine and the brothers of the 12th District (and their families) are creating the very first Unified Champions Club to promote a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance - one community of those with and without intellectual and physical disabilities. A program for coaches, athletes and spectators of all abilities to join in the fun and competition. **EVERYONE is INVITED!!**

"The experience of playing on a Unified team is like no other," states Sawyer Boulette, Wellness Director for AYCC and current SO Board Member, "sportsmanship rules!" Teams include half athletes with and half athletes without intellectual disabilities. With AYCC's newly renovated facilities, the Unified Champions Club program will offer participants of the SO Unified Champions Schools program the opportunity to continue team sports competition after they graduate from high school and allow all members in the community to partake.



12TH
DISTRICT



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools**

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO ... How about helping to protect Maine lakes? Bob French, a member of Drummond Lodge# 118 and his wife, Sibyl, are very active in a statewide group called Lake Stewards of Maine ("LSM"). LSM's mission is to educate, train and provide technical assistance for volunteers who monitor the health of Maine's lakes.

"This is how we spend some of our time in retirement" says Bob. "We always try to keep an upbeat attitude and find the fun in the work, so as not to burn out." Bob feels that community service, of some sort, not only helps the community, but also gets the name and meaning of Freemasonry out to the public.

LSM currently supports roughly 1300 certified volunteers, monitoring the health of approximately 500 lakes and ponds across the state of Maine. Bob and Sibyl are on LSM's Board of Directors and closer to home, Bob and Sibyl are both active in surveying - and providing support on the waters of Raymond, which include part of Sebago Lake and five smaller ponds.



Here is a way to combine enjoying the great outdoors with supporting your community and ensuring our beautiful Maine lakes are here for generations to come. For more information about Lake Stewards of Maine - volunteering or supporting their efforts financially - visit their website at lakestewardsofmaine.org or call them directly at (207) 783-7733.

TIS the SEASON for GIVING

HOLIDAY SHOPPING ONLINE?- If you are using Amazon be sure to sign up for Smile.Amazon.com and choose the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation as your designated charity.

It's EASY & it's FREE

Amazon donates .5% of your purchases to the FOUNDATION!

amazonsmile



And just a friendly reminder, you can always give directly to the Foundation. We kindly accept checks, credit cards or you can donate on line by visiting MaineMCF.org and click on the "Donations & Planned Giving" box in the upper right corner.

Donations & Planned Giving

EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING YOUNG LADIES AND YOUNG MEN

SAVE THE DATE - April 4, 2020

The Foundation is sponsoring the Maine International Order of the Rainbow for Girls conference in April 2020. Featuring keynote speaker Christine Beckwith, co-author *Breaking the Cycle*, the conference will focus on empowering and educating young adults while also including breakout sessions for their parents and teachers. Topics will include empowerment, sexual abuse training and awareness, cyber crime prevention and awareness, suicide prevention training and domestic violence education and awareness. Lunch will be provided. If you would like more information - contact Debbie Redmond at mainerainbow@gmail.com.



DONOR RECOGNITION

From July to the end of October 2019, the Foundation received 260 donations of various denominations, for a total of \$35,201. The following represent the three most generous donors for the past four months of this fiscal year:

Gold (1st)
Tied for Silver (2nd)

Low XII Riders
Tranquil Lodge
& Waterville Lodge

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST ... THE MASTER ARCHITECT SOCIETY
WAS ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE THE GENEROSITY OF THOSE
WHO HAVE REMEMBERED THE MAINE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS THROUGH A BEQUEST OR OTHER PLANNED GIFT.

THE SOCIETY IS COMPRISED OF A GROUP OF MASONS (AND FRIENDS) WHO,
FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SO MANY BEFORE THEM, PROVIDED FOR
THE CRAFT IN THEIR WILLS TO HELP ENSURE THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF
FREEMASONRY IN MAINE.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MASTER ARCHITECT SOCIETY TODAY!

Please contact Susan Scacchi for more information

(207) 843-1086 or director@maineMCF.org

Bikes for Books, and Grants for Books!

**Brother Matthew Gorman
Siloam Lodge #92, Fairfield**

The Brethren of Siloam Lodge #92 had a wonderful experience with the Bikes for Books program this year. Of course, this isn't exactly a revelation since we have a great time doing this project every year, as probably every participating lodge does. Assembling the bikes was a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in fellowship, and for newer brothers like myself it provided a chance to meet some men that I hadn't yet run into at lodge. Additionally, the smiles on the faces of the students at Benton Elementary—and not just the children who won the bicycles, either—made us all smile, too.

This year, however, the program took on added significance at Siloam Lodge, thanks to the librarian at Benton Elementary School, Mrs. Amanda Delorie. In our chats with Mrs. Delorie to finalize details for our assembly last spring she mentioned that many schools lack good, age-appropriate, nonfiction material for kids about recent history and current events. And although this initially

was very surprising to hear, when we considered just *how much* has happened throughout the world in just the last twenty years (two whole lifetimes or so for these kids), it made sense.

Simply put, the world these children are experiencing is so radically different from the world that shaped even somebody my



Bro. John McCutcheon presents a check to Mrs. Delorie.

age (32), that the books that you or I may have read growing up about our country, its place in the world, and what it means to be a citizen, will no longer suffice. Make no mistake, the children are curious! They want to know, they want to learn, and under the guidance of great teachers like Mrs. Delorie they want to find books that will help them do so.

Nevertheless, there are some pretty obvious challenges. Budgets are tight, and the rapid pace of change in this world means that keeping up with current events is

necessarily an expensive proposition. It is no secret that scholarship costs money: even at the elementary level new social science books can cost anywhere from \$10 to \$25, each! This means that in a school like Benton Elementary, which Mrs. Delorie described as “part of a very lucky district” that enjoys administrative support and a decent book budget, students can leave school with some rather glaring holes in their American history and citizenship educations.

When Worshipful Brother John McCutcheon, our Lodge Treasurer, heard that he knew just what needed to be done: the best way for us to do the most good was to contribute to the purchase of new books, and to utilize the generous grant programs offered by Grand Lodge to maximize our impact. This meant that in addition to giving away bicycles at the annual assembly, Siloam Lodge would donate \$500 for the school to purchase new books. That allowed us to provide an additional \$1,000 in community betterment grant funds from Grand Lodge, meaning that we now can put maybe as many as 100 quality new books into the hands of students in our community.

Recently, we stopped by Benton Elementary to present their second installment check, and to see what our initial donation had purchased. We could not be happier with what we saw: a whole spread of new, age-appropriate books focused primarily on American history and citizenship education. We had such a great experience doing this that we felt compelled to spread the word and encourage any lodges who may not be taking advantage of Grand Lodge's fantastic grant programs to reach out and see if the schools in their communities also could use similar help.

At the end of the day, our survival as an organization has always been dependent on the generations that come behind carrying forward the obligations of Masonry. By pushing a bit harder and doing a bit more, we have an opportunity to help shape the future of our communities. And our fraternity. What could be better than that?



New books on the shelves...and in the hands of young readers.

The Mason's Mark

By Michael G. Hopkins
York Lodge #22, Kennebunk

The practice of stonemasons placing individual marks on their work is historically accurate and undoubtedly ancient. Such marks can still be seen in some churches and cathedrals built many hundreds of years ago. These marks have been studied by modern scholars and architectural historians at several sites, such as the magnificent cathedral built between 1194 and 1220 at Chartres, about fifty miles southwest of Paris.

The purpose of stonemasons' marks is complicated by different uses for the marks at different times and places. Some stones show quarry marks, which may mark stones indicating assembly order. Such a use is echoed in our ritual when we are told that the stones are hewn, squared, and numbered in the quarries whence they were raised. Other marks were made on the building site by the builder. Scholarly work seems to closely follow our masonic tradition: a mason, after completing his apprenticeship, would choose a mark, be assigned one, or adapt that of his father or uncle, and would be known in the profession by this symbol. When working on a building, particularly a large one, the mason would carve his mark into each stone he cut or carved. This enabled an accurate account of his work and payment.

It is likely that in addition to the marks which have been studied at medieval churches, many others have been covered up by frescoes, plaster, or other surface treatments. It is also probable that stones with no visible mark may have one that can no longer be seen due to placement.

In operative lodges, marks were taken when any mason was made a "fellow of craft" or a master, as evidenced by one of the founding documents of Freemasonry, the First Schaw Statute of 1598. That document required that all F.Cs and Masters have their names and marks recorded on admission to that grade of the craft. However, The Mark as a Masonic degree is of more recent origin, making its appearance in England in the mid-1700s. The first documented instance of its conferral was at the Royal Arch Chapter of Friendship No.3, at Portsmouth, England on September 1, 1769. At that date, the degree was conferred in two parts, a Mark Man and then advanced to Mark Master. Those degrees are combined in



today's American York Rite system, and the degree is required for exaltation to the Royal Arch degree.

Because the Mark degree was left out when the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges formed the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813, the Mark degrees are administered in England by a separate Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons formed in 1856. It now has 1,500 Mark Lodges in England, Wales, and 45 other countries throughout the world. Because of this administration, the Mark Master is separated from the Royal Arch. In Scotland, the Mark Master may be conferred either in a lodge or a chapter and is required for exaltation. Ireland also requires the Mark Master for exaltation.

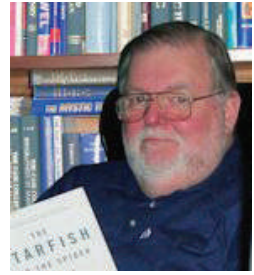
This essay, slightly modified, appeared in the September 2019 newsletter of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maine.

Pictured here are Grand Master Rustin and Wor. Eric Smith, President of the Mountain Division of Widows Sons, presenting a check for \$3000 to the family of Emma Childs who has MS. From left: Mom Brandy Degone, Miss Emma, Dad Nate Childs, and baby Waston Childs.

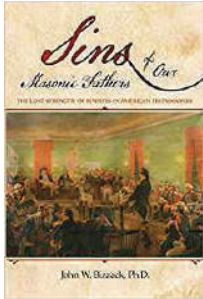


Life Balance is a fad today yet Masons have been taught its importance from their first days in lodge. With the world spinning so fast, don't lose sight of temperance, fortitude and justice - and please: take the time to read!

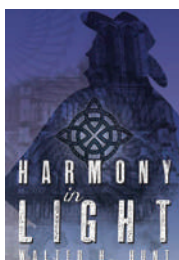
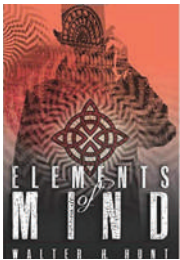
The Old Webmaster's BOOKSHELF



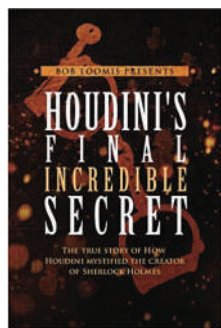
Hang around Masonic leaders at any level and you'll find a LOT of 'clutching of pearls' these days. The wolf is at the door constantly and there are enough 'solutions' to confuse a Chinese fire drill. "*Sins of our Masonic Fathers*" will help you understand a lot of the background behind today's rants and bombast and provide an understanding of how we got where we are - and what we might do about it. Not another prescription for how to turn the ship around but rather some very helpful pointers on what's important and what's not. John W. Bizzack Ph.D. is an astute writer who not only explains the past but does so in a way that helps us chart a sensible path forward! If you're involved in Masonic leadership at any level, I can't recommend this book to you enough: it'll make you think!



While I wasn't looking, in 2018 the Masonic 'energizer bunny' also known as the Grand Historian of the GL of Massachusetts Bro. Walter Hunt (who does double duty as the Grand Librarian as well!) has written a couple of books that some of you might like. They're - well - hard to



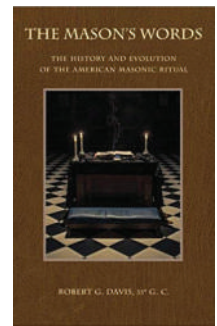
describe. 'Science fictiony' and metaphysical (but don't let that scare you), they really are interesting mysteries that most Masons would enjoy. **Oh, and if you're doing genealogy, be sure to check out masonicgenealogy.com - another of his projects.** Great stuff!



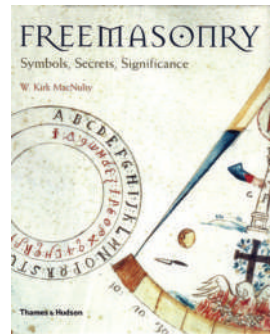
Like magic? You've got to like Bro. Erik Weisz better known as Harry Houdini. Like mysteries? Then you know the world's first consulting detective, Sherlock Holmes, the creation of Bro. Sir. Arthur Conan Doyle. These two were drawn together by a common interest in spiritualism and it was that which ultimately created a rift that even their bonds of fraternity could not overcome.

Bob Loomis' "*Houdini's Final Incredible Secret: How Houdini Mystified Sherlock Holmes' Creator*" explores the 'magic' Houdini used in a (failed) attempt to prove to Doyle the fallacy of communicating with the spirits. It's a fascinating story, made more compelling when you know the Masonic ties involved.

It's holiday gift time so if you're looking for something great, consider "*The Mason's Words: The History and Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual*" by Bro. Robert Davis. There is SO much in this book that every one of us should know about yet it's easy to read and will answer many questions you never knew you had. It sells for about \$20. Get one for a gift and one for yourself.



Want some eye candy for the coffee table? I'd recommend "*Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets, Significance*" by our Vermont Brother W. Kirk MacNulty will surely please. It's a truly gorgeous book, filled with stories, descriptions and much more. Non-Masons will be enthralled as well. If someone asks what you want for the holidays, point to the picture to the left: you'll be very glad you did!



OK. A lesson from your Grand Librarian - and this is NOT an advertisement for Amazon, believe me. Kindle, Nook, and others are devices - but they are ALSO reading systems that you can use on practically any computer or phone. And there are sales of books all the time, including free ones! *Don't use the excuse that you like the feel of paper: isn't that just an excuse to not read?*



🔍 Did Benedict Arnold ever visit a lodge in Maine? One book says he did and a Brother from NY's Livingston Masonic Library is trying to track that story down. Can you help with some provable facts?

Bro. Ed King is the Grand Librarian and Museum Curator. He'd love your ideas, suggestions and recommendations for things to read and review! Don't forget to take advantage of YOUR Grand Lodge Library where a world of learning awaits.

PGM Tusch at Tomb of the Unknown

Wreath laid on behalf of all Masons

Interesting Facts About the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 4" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard:

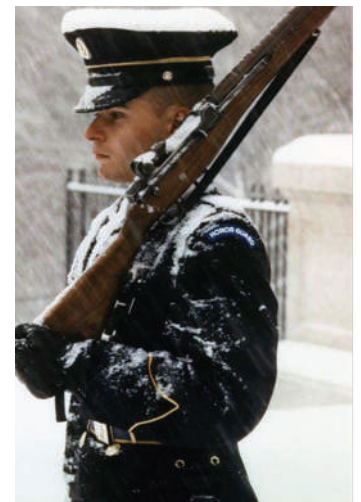


Brother Claire Tusch, 1st Vice President, and Brother J.F. "Jeff" Webb, President of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial are shown here laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier last August in Arlington National Cemetery. The site stands atop a hill overlooking Washington D.C. The wreath was presented on behalf of all Masons. Past Grand Master Tusch describes the event thus: "When Taps was played after the wreath placement, it was one of the most moving experiences of my life."

They must commit two years of life to guard the tomb. They cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. Guards must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

Eternal Rest
Grant Them
O Lord, and Let
Perpetual Light
Shine
Upon Them.



What Freemasonry Means to Me

The Ways Brotherly Love Prevails

By Bro. Christopher A. Mowatt

When I joined Biddeford's Dunlap Lodge #47 in 2010 I thought it was just a "boys club" that met once a month and talked about the Lodge. I had no clue what I was getting into. At first that's exactly what it was but I was the new guy and most of the brothers didn't know me. As I got to know them I started to learn more and more about exactly what it was that Freemasonry was all about. It is a brotherhood that extends beyond mere friendship.

For the first few months I only knew about Dunlap Lodge. I knew there were other lodges but knew nothing about travelling, district meetings, table lodges etc. As I was raised late in the year I was "voluntold" for the position of Junior Steward and that I would have to memorize part of a lecture. I can tell you I was mortified. Me, memorize a lecture, no way. The brothers assured me I could do it so I said no problem. I learned my parts and my lectures and haven't looked back since. I'm active in two lodges, the district and Grand Lodge.

Fast forward to July 6th, 2019. My wife and I were in a motorcycle accident that at first seemed minor. My rear tire blew out and I was able to slow the bike considerably

but it went down. As I felt the bike slide off me I was able to stand immediately but as I turned to find my wife I saw that she was not so fortunate. She was unconscious and almost died from her injuries.

Within days I had received a check from the brotherhood fund but it didn't stop there. Our lodge secretary called to inform me that Grand Lodge would be helping out with my bills via the relief fund. This was totally unexpected. I mean, we help others. I didn't want to take more money from Grand Lodge when there are so many needy people in this world. I still wasn't comprehending the gravity of my situation. I was still hearing my wife constantly saying things will work out, it will get better.

Once things started piling up I saw just how much I really did need the help and now I don't think I have ever been more appreciative of the bond that I have with my brothers and the fraternity as a whole. I once thought a few years ago that I would leave it but now I can't imagine not having it. I have made many friends that I now can't imagine not being apart of my life. Some have even been mentors

So what does Freemasonry mean to me? It means that I will always have the friendship and brotherhood of men who belong to arguably the greatest fraternity on the planet.

Save the Date: June 4-7, 2020

Maine Masons will travel by bus to Washington, DC and Alexandria, Virginia as part of our 200th Anniversary of Maine Freemasonry. We will travel on Thursday, June 4th.

On Friday, June 5th, we will tour the George Washington Masonic National Monument, confer the Master Mason Degree on a candidate from Maine, and enjoy a reception in the beautiful Memorial Hall during State of Maine month at the Memorial.

We will also visit the Scottish Rite House of the Temple and other important Washington area sites. Detail plans are being made at this time and will be published on the Grand Lodge website, Facebook page and in the next issue of The Maine Mason.

We hope to take several buses to Washington for this special event, and hope that you will be able to participate.

Please save the date now.



Grand Lodge Masonic Related Youth Achievement Awards



After months of discussions with the Grand Lodge Youth Committee, youth program leaders, and representatives of Scouting, the Grand Lodge instituted a series of “Youth Achievement Awards” designed to honor the youth who have demonstrated laudable achievement in their journey through life. The awards to youth members of DeMolay and Rainbow will be bestowed upon recommendation of the leaders of the respective groups with the concurrence of the Grand Master.



The young people who populate these groups are exemplary in their character and dedication to improving their lives. Throughout the ranks of each Masonic Related Youth Group you will find enthusiasm, devotion to each other and the group, caring for the world we share and the people in it, and a series of adult leaders who are mindful of the enormous responsibility they have guiding these youth to remarkable adulthood. It is right and proper that we honor these young leaders who are guided by the tenets of our profession.

Grand Lodge of Maine Masonic Scouting Achievement Award

“The youth of our State are a resource and presence that we should uplift and affirm. We are blessed by their growth and insights as we look to them to carry on and improve the legacy we leave them.” - Grand Master Mark Rustin in an email to all Maine Masons.

The Masonic Scouting Achievement Award was authored by Brother Stephen Spratt who, along with Brother Sandy Smith, helped guide this award to fruition.

GM Rustin announced via email statewide on September 11th, 2019 that the Grand Lodge of Maine had formally established the “Maine Masonic Scouting Achievement Award.” This award will recognize the significant efforts of those young men and women who have achieved the highest level of achievement in the various Boy and Girl Scouting programs. Deserving Scouts will receive a personalized commendation certificate from the Grand Lodge of Maine, a personal congratulatory letter from the Grand Master, and a distinctive recognition medal. A brief formal presentation will be made at the Scout’s award presentation ceremony or some other appropriate occasion.

Similar to the Masonic Degrees, both the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) have established tiered ranks and achievement awards to recognize the determination and dedication of those Scouts who voluntarily complete the journey to the highest level of achievement in Scouting. Although requirements vary for each program, all ultimately share the need for self-improvement, leadership, skill enhancement, project planning and management, reverence, community service and personal growth. Each of these achievements requires substantial time, effort and dedication and will require several years to

complete. Fewer than 5% of all Scouts successfully achieve one of these prestigious awards.

American Freemasons have long been strong proponents of the Scouting movement by supporting the development of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) programs. They have served as volunteers, assisted their Masonic lodges in forming, chartering and supporting Scout units, and donated time and funding towards the success of these youth programs. The relationship between individual Masons and the Scouting movement over the last 100+ years (BSA 1910 and GSUSA 1912) has also proved to be mutually beneficial. In fact, many of the key founders and influencers of the American Scouting movement were themselves Freemasons – men such as Daniel Beard, James E. West, E. Uner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson (founders of BSA’s Order of the Arrow Honor Society), and Rudyard Kipling (who is said to have had heavy influence with Sir Baden Powell, founder of the world scouting movement). There is much speculation that Sir Baden Powell was himself a Freemason, but no concrete evidence exists.

Due to the shared principles and tenets between Freemasonry and Scouting, many former Scouts gravitat-

Continued on Following Page

ed towards Freemasonry as adults. Common interests gave them strong bonds to other Scouters within the community and Craft. A quick look around any given lodge is likely to reveal several former Scouts. The growing recognition and membership of the National Association of Masonic Scouters (NAMS) also bears testament to this fact.

Significant parallels are easily seen in the ideals, guiding principles and ceremonies of Freemasonry and the Scouting programs. Of particular note are the BSA's Scout Oath and Law and GSUSA's Promise and Law. The first important thing is that each Scout must make a promise to abide by certain guiding principles and subscribe to the Scout Law in the same way a Mason does in his obligation, promising to practice Masonic precepts. The Scout and Mason must both believe in God and cannot be accepted in either organization if they are atheists.

Listed here are the various scouting programs and their associated pinnacle achievement awards:

Eagle Scout - the highest rank attainable in the traditional Boy Scouting program of the BSA, and was established over one hundred years ago. Only 4% of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process. The requirements take several years to fulfill and must be completed before the 18th Birthday - As of February, 2019 young women are also eligible for membership in Scouts BSA Troops and can now also earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Gold Award - the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Girl Scout program, and can only be earned by Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts. Only 5.4% of eligible Girl

Scouts will successfully earn the Gold Award. The requirements necessary to achieve this award may take more than a year to fulfill, and must be completed before the Scout's 18th Birthday.

Quartermaster Award - the highest achievement attainable in the maritime-focused Sea Scout program. Only 0.5% of all Sea Scouts earn the Quartermaster Award each year. Sea Scouts is a co-educational program for boys and girls aged 14 through 21.

Summit Award - the highest achievement attainable in the high adventure focused Venture Scout program. Venture Scouts is a co-educational program for boys and girls aged 14 through 21.

Other BSA programs include Explorer Scouts and the new STEM Scouts, both of which are co-educational programs for boys and girls aged 14 through 21.



Masonic Scouting Achievement Award

“The youth in all of these organizations are taught the moral and ethical precepts Freemasonry champions. By affirming their accomplishments we are increasing their awareness of the Craft while celebrating their achievements. Together, we all are exemplars of lives well lived, while lifting up the communities and the world around us.” – Grand Master Mark Rustin

The Grand Lodge of Maine's new award will serve to highlight and celebrate the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of the Scouts to the ideals of Scouting, their communities and our country. It will also celebrate the mutually supporting relationship between Maine

Freemasons and Scouting. Further, the establishment of Maine's award will be singularly unique, as no other Grand Lodge in the United States offers such an award to recognize the Quartermaster, Summit, or other achievements.

During the current year, 85 Boy Scouts have achieved the rank of Eagle in the State of Maine. On the following page, you'll be introduced to two Eagle Scouts who received the first Masonic Scouting Awards from Grand Master Rustin.

Robert Springer, son of Michael and Sidney Springer of Ellsworth, has achieved Boy Scouting's highest rank, that of Eagle Scout.

Springer, 14, is a member of Boy Scout Troop 86, sponsored by the Ellsworth Congregational Church under the leadership of scoutmasters Peter Cabanaillis, Joseph Wright and Dr. James Rauch.

Springer began his scouting career as a Tiger Cub with Pack 86 and continued through Cub Scouting to achieve the highest award, the Arrow of Light.



As a member of Troop 86, Springer has held numerous leadership positions including New Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. He has earned 29 merit badges, the Mile Swim Award, and BSA Lifeguard. He was inducted into the Pamola Lodge of the Order of the Arrow in 2017 and earned Brotherhood Membership in 2018.

Springer has attended the National Boy Scout Jamoree in July of 2017 as well as many outings at Camp Roosevelt Scout Reservation, with this summer as his first serving as a member of camp staff.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Springer led an effort that erected an illuminated flagpole with a stone patio at Lygonia Lodge #40 in Ellsworth. Under his direction, scouts and adult volunteers completed the project that took more than 215 man-hours.

Springer is a freshman at Ellsworth High School. He reached his goal of Eagle on June 26th and received his Eagle badge during a court of honor ceremony September 11, 2019.



Remy Pettingill, a member of Troop 479 in China, has also enjoyed a busy and productive Scouting journey starting as a Tiger Cub in 2013. He worked through his Cub pack earning the Arrow of Light on February 6, 2017.

He entered Boy Scouts the next month, moving to First Class in October of 2017. By November of 2018 he had earned his Life Badge. One year later, on August 28 of this year, he became an Eagle at the age of 13.

Leadership positions he has held include Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Chaplain's Aide for nearly three years.

He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and Scouting's National Honor Society.

During his two years as a Boy Scout, Remy has earned 32 merit badges, 11 more than the 21 total badges needed for Eagle rank. His Eagle Scout Service Project included making 50 hygiene care packages for distribution to Togus veterans.

He is the son of Lee and Danielle Pettingill and is a student at China Middle School. Remy's older brother, Aiden, became an Eagle Scout two years ago.



Grand Master Rustin presented the Masonic Scouting Service Award to Eagle Scout Remy Pettingill on November 10.

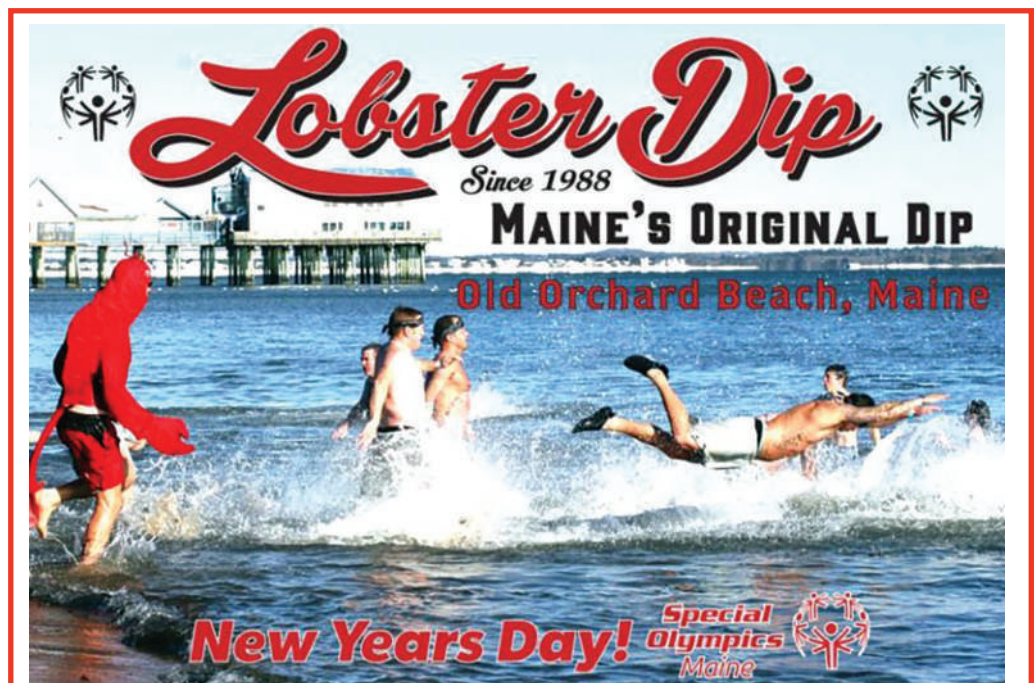


Bro. Dan Bernardini, center, and Bro. Phillip Amidon, second from right, received their 3rd degrees in Waterville Lodge #33 on Sept. 16th. The work was done by this team of 33rd Degree Masons which included five Past Grand Masters.

Bro. Bernardini was raised by his cousin, Bro. Christian Trott, left. Lodge Master, Wor. Brother Bruce Rueger, third from right, welcomed the brethren who travelled from around the state for the occasion.

The 33^o team, organized by MW Brother Charles Ridlon, has worked several Master Mason Degrees in different lodges the past two years and usually features different brethren working in the various chairs for each outing.

Always good work and always entertaining.



High Noon January 1, 2020

The Brunswick Hotel, 39 West Grand Ave., Old Orchard Beach 04064

Calling all able Brethren! Ancient Brothers Lodge #178 is in need of your assistance. Please help us by committing to join our team and reach our goal of \$1,000 for the Special Olympics Maine. We need as many able bodied brethren as possible to show up for a good cause and a cold-but-fun time.

For more information contact Dan DiDonato at 207-740-4227
or email ancientbrothers@yahoo.com.

If you would like to join our team or donate, please go directly to this web address - <https://www.firstgiving.com/team/396776>.

The

ENTABLATURE



Whole Number 34

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Winter 2019-20



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



MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE COURSES

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!

LIKE us on
Facebook



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 colorful season of Autumn comes upon us, these offerings of the Maine Masonic College will add light.

All Classes are subject to change. Please check website for any changes!

PLEASE NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, there will be a light luncheon served after each class. The charge: \$5.00. If you plan to attend the meal you must pre-register for the class by calling Theresa at the Grand Lodge office, 207-843-1086.

Jan 11 Curiosity As A Tool For Enriching One's Life. Studies have revealed that the greatest opportunities for joy, purpose, happiness, and personal growth in life happens when we are mindful of the world around us, when we explore what is new or novel, and when we live in the moment and embrace uncertainty. Positive events last longer and we can extract more pleasure and meaning from them when we remain open to new experiences and relish the unknown. Curiosity offers us a tool for building lasting and meaningful relationships, improving mental and physical health, increasing creativity, and boosting productivity. In this course Bro. and Dr. Plummer will share studies that have been conducted that reveal that curiosity plays a very critical role in the pursuit of a meaningful life and that it offers a gateway to the creation of profound intimacy, insights, and meaning in life. He will also share tools and techniques that can be used to renew the relationships with the curious explorer in one's self. And he says a good place to begin is to ask yourself the question, "Are you curious to know more?"

Instructor: RW Charlie Plummer

Location: Messalonskee Lodge, Oakland 9AM-12PM

Continued on Page 22

#28 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.

On a recent canoe trip from Dover to Milo on the Sebec River, I was talking to a friend who had let me use his camp on Sebec Lake as a launching sight. In finding out I was an old Bridge Engineer, he asked me if I knew who designed the Golden Gate Bridge. It being one of my favorite bridges (YES, Bridge Engineers have favorite bridges!!) I said, “Joseph Straus.” My friend shook his head ‘No’ and said “it was actually a Parkman, Maine-born man named Charles Ellis.” He further told me he was currently reading a book by John Van Dee Zee, *The Gate, The True Story of the Design and Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge*. From comments he had found on the internet, this is the most definitive book on the Golden Gate Bridge.

I did a little research and found out the following about Mr. Ellis:

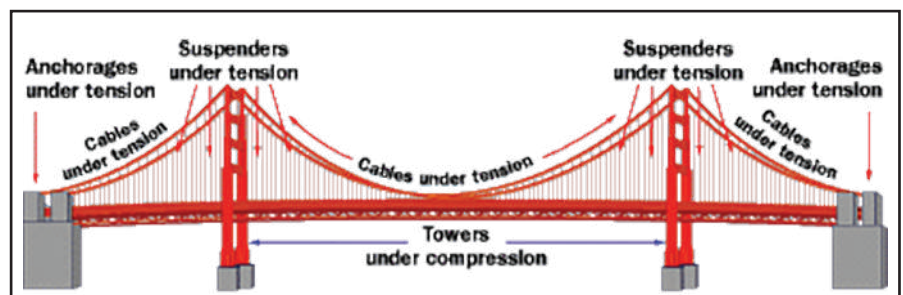
Charles Alton Ellis (1876–1949) was a Greek Scholar, a professor, structural engineer and mathematician who was chiefly responsible for the structural design of the Golden Gate Bridge. Because of a dispute with Joseph Strauss, he was not recognized for his work when the bridge opened in 1937. He was born in Parkman, Maine in 1876 and earned a degree in mathematics from Wesleyan University (where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity) and a graduate certificate in engineering (C.E.) from the University of Illinois. During his career, he was a professor at the University of Michigan, the University of Illinois, and Purdue University.

A dispute over the time it was taking to complete the design led Strauss to accuse Ellis of wasting time and money, and to dismiss him from the project. The copy of the engineering drawings for the Golden

Gate Bridge on file at the Library of Congress is signed by Ellis, but the plaque placed on the bridge in 1937 did not give him any credit. The good news is that as of May 10, 2007, Ellis was officially given recognition for his part in the designing process of the Golden Gate Bridge!

But what is a suspension bridge? As the name implies, suspension bridges, like the Golden Gate Bridge, suspend the roadway by cables, ropes or chains from two tall towers. These towers support the majority of the weight as compression pushes down on the suspension bridge’s deck and then travels up the cables, ropes or chains to transfer this compressive load to the towers. The towers then dissipate the load directly into the earth. (Before we go much further we should clarify what forces are and do. Compression is a crushing force while tension pulls things apart.)

The supporting cables, on the other hand, receive the bridge’s tension forces. These cables run horizontally between the two far-flung anchorages. Suspension bridge anchorages are essentially solid rock or massive concrete blocks in which the bridge is grounded. Tensional force passes to the anchorages and into the ground.



In addition to the cables, almost all suspension bridges feature a supporting truss system beneath the bridge deck called a deck truss. This helps to stiffen the deck and reduce the tendency of the roadway to sway and ripple. Suspension bridges can easily cross distances between 2,000 and 7,000 feet enabling them to span distances beyond the scope of other bridge designs.

Continued on Page 23

Masonic College Course Offerings *Continued*

February 8 Critical Thinking. This presentation is 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. The presentation includes class activities to emphasize the importance of observation and using probability when there are no sound facts to go on. It uses riddles to demonstrate the importance of understanding what the question really is and then the deductive process to solve it. It ends with a presentation on how the brain functions.

Instructors: RW George Macdougall & RW Don McDougal

Location: Meridian Splendor Lodge, Newport. 9AM-12PM

Feb. 15 Jurisprudence. “A survey of the sources of Masonic principles and usages of Masonic law, and an analysis of how the former are expressed in the latter.”

Instructor: MW Wayne Adams

Location: Rising Star Lodge, Penobscot. 9 AM-12 Noon

March 7 Tenets & Cardinal Virtues. This opportunity is designed to be an interactive study of the fundamental beliefs and responsibilities of Freemasonry as presented in the tenets and the cardinal virtues which are so beautifully embedded in our ritual but which are too often hurried by. Special emphasis is placed upon the moral and the deeply spiritual nature of these essentials and the crucial need for the presence and practice in our present world situation.

Instructors: RW Doug Taft & Wor. Karl Furtado

Location: Freedom Lodge, Freedom 9AM-12PM

March 14 Myth and Freemasonry. 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. It will present information to the 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: MW Mark Rustin

Location: Tranquil Lodge, Auburn 9AM-12PM

April 4 Liberal Arts and Sciences. Once a year in April the Maine Masonic College holds a celebration of the arts and sciences which are the magnificent achievements and courageous outreach of the human mind and spirit. Traditionally, the format for these annual celebrations includes a morning presentation by a leading figure in a particular art or science or in arts and science education followed by a banquet and an open session encouraging participation on the part of the participant.

Location TBD 9 to 3

April 11 Why Ritual and Myth. From a rich lifetime of study and thought, Brother Plummer brings us a grasp of the role that ritual and myth play in the development of the human psyche and the well-being of societies.

Instructor: R.W. Charlie Plummer

Location: Drummond Lodge, North Parsonfield 9AM-12PM

April 18 Symbolism. This course will examine the symbolism behind several central aspects of our identity as Freemasons. Our conversation will delve further into the history, origins, traditions, and practical applications of common Masonic symbols. Although this course is titled Symbolism II, participation in previous courses on symbolism is not required and we encourage anyone who is interested to join us.

Instructors: MW Mark Rustin

Location: Caribou Lodge, Caribou 9AM-12PM

Continued from Page 21

Some Golden Gate Bridge facts:

The height of the towers above water is 746 ft. Above the roadway is 500 feet.

It took just over four years to construct. Construction commenced on January 5, 1933 and the Bridge was open to vehicular traffic on May 29, 1937.

It cost \$35 million dollars in the 1930's, approximately \$1.5 billion in today's dollars.

The name Golden Gate does not refer to the Bridge's color, it is the name of the entrance to the San Francisco Bay from the Pacific Ocean, which is called the Golden Gate Strait.



Golden Gate Bridge from Marin County looking at San Francisco

When constructed in 1937, it set the world record for the longest bridge span, the distance between supports (4,200 ft) and also the tallest towers.

Total length of Bridge from abutment to abutment is 1.7 miles or 8,981 ft.

The weight of the Bridge is 840 million pounds.



Brethren from Arundel Lodge #76 of Kennebunkport visited their mother lodge, York #22, Kennebunk, in early November in an effort to ferret away the coveted District 19 Travelling Gavel. But as mothers always do, York brethren made certain the offspring were properly prepared. This was accomplished by requesting Brother Jonathan Rosen, a Past Master of Arundel #76 and DER/19, to assume the West for the Fellowcraft Degree being worked that evening. Brother Rosen readily accepted the offer and did an excellent job on the shortest of notice. Hence the Travelling Gavel found a new home.

Bro. James Stuart Holmes “The Pioneer Lawyer of Piscataquis Cty”

By Brother Don McDougal

As we celebrate our 200 years of service to the people of Maine, we must consider the path, bearing and objectives we wish Freemasonry to pursue during the next 200 years. In doing that we should consider those who have gone before - men like James Stuart Holmes, Park Holland, Moses Greenleaf, Simon Greenleaf, and that long registry of Brothers whose efforts, labors and performances got us here, ever remembering the Herculean tasks they faced and overcame to provide our Masonic legacy. This is the story of Brother Holmes.

From the inception of The Grand Lodge of Maine in 1820, Maine Masonry and Maine Masonic Lodges enjoyed several years of rapid growth and expansion. That growth was brought to a halt with the turmoil caused by the disappearance of William Morgan in Canandaigua, N.Y. in September 1826. Morgan had been arrested September 11, 1826 on, as some said, trumped up charges of stealing and placed in debtors prison. Jailed in Canandaigua, later that month a group of Masons paid his debt and convinced the jailor's wife to release him. Morgan was spirited away in the night and apparently no confirmed vestige of him has ever reappeared. That disappearance led to rampant rumors of his murder by Masons in order to protect their secrecy. Those rumors inspired extensive Anti-Masonic fervor and led directly to the formation of the Anti-Masonic Political Party. By the late 1830's much of the frenzied Anti-Masonic emotion began to fade. Then, during the 1840's, Freemasonry in Maine began its revival.

Animosity and hatred were not limited to State and National affairs but were widespread in County and Local happenings. In Pollard's **Freemasonry in Maine 1762-1945** page 47- "*The effect of the Anti-Masonic movement on the Maine Lodges was paralyzing. Candidates ceased to apply for the degrees. Members ceased to pay their dues.*" In 1834 in Piscataquis County: "Rev. N.W. Sheldon of Brownville, who was Initiated and Crafted in Piscataquis Lodge, has renounced and denounced it [Masonry] in the most bitter invectives, has created a considerable Anti-Masonic excitement in the neighborhood and with the assistance of a few of his influential neighbors has deluged the town with Anti-Masonic papers almanacs &c"

Luckily, at the county and local level, Maine Lodges still had equally ardent, (though less vocal) supporters who worked, with equal ardor and passion, in a more rational, less emotional foundation. In Piscataquis County, in addition to the Greenleaf Brothers, the name of James Stuart Holmes esq., stands out.

The following is excerpted from **The Pioneer Lawyer of Piscataquis County** a paper by J. F. Sprague read before the Maine Historical Society May 20, 1886. Holmes, "*born November 13, 1792, in what was at that date, the town of Hebron, now Oxford... graduated from Brown University...classmate of Horace Mann,...friend of Honorable Stephen Longfellow father of Henry...*" "*In 1822, he settled in the town of Foxcroft where his two brothers, Salmon and Cyrus had settled. That autumn he opened and taught a high school...which was incorporated in 1823 as Foxcroft Academy. He was also one of the earliest in the county to join the order of Free Masons....he was made a mason by Penobscot Lodge. At that time the Highways were impassable for carriages, and he used to make the journey of ten miles on horseback to attend meetings. Subsequently he was instrumental in forming Mosaic Lodge, at Foxcroft, in 1826 and was one of its charter members. He was the first master after its reorganization in 1845.*"

J. F. Sprague continued: "*I remember a scene in 1845 where he was an active participant. Millerites were numerous in Atkinson. Their preaching was deemed heresy by local citizens and a group went to Dover and instituted legal proceedings against Israel Damon, and others, under the vagrant act. They were arraigned before Moses Scott. Without compensation, even though he completely disagreed with their theology, James Holmes volunteered his services for their defense and the support of religious freedom.*"

Millerites or Adventists were followers of William Miller a Self-taught expert on Biblical Revelations. Conversions for followers included frenzies, falling to the floor, convulsions, shouting, speaking in tongues, hugging, holy kissing, weeping, prostrations, visions, and prophesying. Women were often considered prophets. Believing they were destined for Salvation, they felt they were therefore incapable of sin. Many felt they were not bound by existing social customs & mores. In a Portland group, they especially engaged in taboo sexual behaviors. In the Atkinson group, work was considered unnecessary.

Miller announced that the world would end beginning with the second coming in April 1843. (The Advent). All worthy people would ascend to Heaven Oct. 23 1844. As they neared that date some sold their earthly possessions, dressed in white robes, climbed high points including high hills, rooftops, or mountains and awaited their ascension

On Saturday February 15, 1845, 50 or 60 "Disappointed" Millerites gathered in James Ayer Jr's

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house in Atkinson. The group was led by Israel Damon (former sea captain from Exeter) and featured “visionary Prophets” Ellen White Harmon & Miss Dorinda Baker of Orrington. Ellen White Harmon (Portland) had been struck in the nose with a rock when young by a schoolmate and had been in a coma for 3 weeks. She “recovered”, had continuing “visions”, and was considered a Prophet. Piscataquis County was one of the first places to take concerted civil action against the group.



Millerites Awaiting the End.

At the meeting in Atkinson two men watched participants through the window for some time. They then burst in, rushed to Elder Damon, and said “In the name of the State of Maine lay hold of this man”.

The trial of *Elder Israel Damon Reported* was published by the “**Piscataquis Farmer**”

“HARTFORD J. ROWE, of Dover, upon his oath complains, that Israel Damon, Commorant of Atkinson, in said County, Idler, is, and for several days past, has been a vagabond and idle person, going about in the town of Atkinson, aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, from place to place, begging:- that he the said Israel Damon is a common railer or brawler, neglecting his calling or employment, misspending his earnings, and does not provide for the support of his family, and against the peace of the State of Maine, and contrary to form of Statute in such cases made and provided. He therefore prays that the said I. Damon, may be apprehended and held to answer said complaint and dealt with relative to the same as law & justice may require.”

James Stuart Holmes esq. volunteered to represent Israel Damon without pay. Plea – Not Guilty

The trial then proceeded for four days. During that time a continuing series of interruptions from followers took place including: praying, singing, shouting, groans, applause, prostrations, and other distractions.

Testimonies for the Prosecution and Defense almost completely contradicted each other:

THE MAINE MASON

The subject of kissing came up 26 or more times. It was part of their faith - sisters kiss brothers – brothers kiss sisters. Which brothers went into the bedroom with Sister Baker for Prophecy and Spiritual inspiration? Which women crawled on the floor? Which men were butting them from behind?

Throughout the din and turmoil Brother James Holmes kept his composure. Again from the 1886 Sprague Paper: *“Above all these distracting sounds could be heard Mr. Holmes’ eloquent argument for religious freedom and toleration, and the right of every person to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, under his own vine and fig tree...one of the grandest defenses of religious toleration and freedom that has ever been my pleasure to listen to.”*

The Verdict – Not Guilty

Later, across the state, others were brought up on similar charges, tried, and convicted in Bangor, Paris, Orrington, Poland, Portland, and Norway.

But Brother Holmes, adhering to the basic principles of Freemasonry, mounted a successful defense for his unpopular clients. We Freemasons of today, and those who’ll follow us, must be equally diligent and committed to those principles as we tackle the problems and defend the freedoms that do and will continue to be threatened.



Maine DeMolay Executive Officer Dr. Rok Morin received his new fez at the Kora Shrine DeMolay Breakfast October 6. He is pictured with Wor. Brother John Knox, Recorder of Kora Temple who is also a Past State Master Councilor of DeMolay, a Past Master of Saco Lodge #9, and a Past Potentate of Kora.

Five Lodges Honored with Grand Lodge Excellence Awards



HARMONY LODGE #38, Gorham. Wor. Brother Justin St. Germain receives the award from Grand Master Rustin.



The four lodges pictured on these two pages, plus Village Lodge #26, Bowdoinham, earned the coveted Masonic Excellence Award this year. In doing so, brethren in each lodge evaluated where their lodge is and where they want it to be. They then established objectives for their lodges and took steps to reach those goals.

In evaluating lodge strength, they examined, among others, the following questions:

- What value does the lodge provide to brethren, their families and the community?
- How does being a lodge member afford opportunities for brethren to improve themselves?
- Is the lodge attractive, vibrant, warm, engaging... the place where people want to be?
- What is the public awareness and perception of the lodge, if they even know it exists?
- What will the lodge look like and be doing in ten years?

Taking the steps these five successful lodges have taken will improve the strength of any lodge and provide added value to individual brethren.

Criteria for being recognized with a Masonic Excellence Award can be found under the Resources tab at the top of the Grand Lodge Home page. Will your lodge be among the Excellence Award winners in our Bicentennial Year? That decision rests in the hands of each individual lodge. Grand Lodge stands ready to assist any lodge. If a brother has questions, all it takes is a phone call to get started.

DAVID A. HOOPER LODGE #201, West Sullivan. Left to right: Wor. Master Troy Hanna, Junior Warden Daniel Craig, Senior Warden Joseph McErlain, Grand Master Rustin.



RALPH J. POLLARD LODGE #217, Orrington. Left to right: RW Rick Rogerson, DDGM/6, Grand Master Rustin, Immediate Past Master Scott Walton, Wor. Jeremy Edwards, and Senior Warden Jason Littlefield.



NOLLESEMIC LODGE #205, Millinocket. Left to right: V.W. Dave Duplisea, RW Jim Catell, RW Rich Nadeau, Deputy Grand Master, M.W. Mark Rustin, Grand Master, Bro. Shawn Perley, Bro. Bob Raymond, Bro. Val Babineau, and Bro. Scott Walsh.

Own Your Own 200th Anniversary Challenge Coin... ...or Gift One to a Favorite Brother



These handsome commemorative coins feature the Grand Lodge Seal on the face; on the reverse, our Square and Compasses with the letter "G". The perimeter message reads:
"Maine Freemasonry Enriching Lives 1820-2020"



Actual Coin measures 2.5"

To receive your Challenge Coin in time for Christmas, please send your request by Dec. 15th to the Grand Lodge of Maine, PO Box 430, Holden, ME 04429.

Please send _____ Maine Masonic Challenge Coins to:

Name _____ Address _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$14.05/per coin, includes tax and postage)

Self Awareness as a Key Attribute in the Practice of Civility

By Bro. Charles W. Plummer

The decline in the practice of civility in American Society is attracting a lot of attention across a wide spectrum including the Masonic Fraternity. In our own Grand Jurisdiction, this was the topic that was addressed at the last annual convocation that was sponsored by the Maine Masonic College and I think it would prove to be an interesting and meaningful Maine Masonic College course.

There are two important questions that I believe need to be answered when discussing civility and the first one is: What do the words "civility" and "civil" mean? The Merriam - Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines civility, which is a noun, as a polite act or expression in which one is being polite and courteous when interacting with others whereas the word civil, which is an adjective, means possessing the ability to be courteous and polite when interacting with others. The second question is : What level of knowledge and understanding must one possess in order to be civil when interacting with others in a variety of social gatherings which includes committee meetings and seminars.

Studies that have been carried out by Neurologists, Physiologists, Cognitive Scientists, Anthropologists, Sociologists, Economists, Psychiatrists, Cognitive Scientists, and Psychologists in an attempt to answer this question as it relates to human behavior. I would add that the term "human behavior" covers the physical, mental, and social activity of an individual or group classified as common, unusual, acceptable, or outside of acceptable behaviors. Also, the factors that can influence one's behavior include culture, emotions, values, coercion, and genetics. As a result of their studies, two factors have been identified that play an important role in the practice of civility when associating with others in a variety of settings.

First, one must have a positive self-image, have self-esteem, and have positive feelings of self-worth. If he doesn't, when interacting with others he will have the tendency to project his inadequacies onto others whose beliefs may differ from his own. He will often react in anger and express it by resorting to the use of put-downs, insults, sarcasm and physical force. The second factor is that one must be aware of his preferred learning style and personality style, the personal characteristics that are associated with each, and possess the ability to recognize them in others. Tests that can be taken to assess one's styles, and the personal characteristics that are associated with each, are readily available on the web-site at no cost.

Although there are several learning styles, the three main ones are visual learner, auditory learner, and kinesthetic learner. Statistics reveal that 65% of the people in America are visual learners, 30% are auditory learners, and 5% are kinesthetic learners. Those who have a preference for visual learning organize their work and avoid distractions, use visual imagery to improve their memory, allow adequate time for planning and recording their thoughts when engaged in problem-solving activities, and are active participants in group activities. Those with a preference for auditory learning work in quiet areas to avoid distractions, attend lectures, discuss topics with others, and practice verbal interaction to improve their motivation and self-monitoring of the progress they are making with any tasks they have undertaken to complete. And those with a preference for kinesthetic learning keep their verbal discourse short and to the point, they use all of their senses when engaged in learning activities which are sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing, they actively participate in discussions, and they allow for physical movement when reading or engaged in the act of writing.

The personality style assessment identifies 16 personality styles and they act as a useful reference point for understanding one's personality type by identifying four preferences that one prefers to deal with. These are extraversion or introversion, sensing or intuition, thinking or feeling, and judgement or perception. The preferred style is then identified by using the first letter of each style except intuition in which the second letter which is n is used. The first pair is concerned with the direction of one's energy. If that energy is directed to deal with people, then the preference is for Extraversion. If the preference is to direct one's energy to deal with ideas, information, explanations or beliefs, then the preference is for Introversion.

The second pair concerns the type of information that one processes. If one prefers to deal with facts, what he knows, or to describe what he sees, the preference is for Sensing. If the preference is to deal with ideas, to look into the unknown, to generate new possibilities, or to anticipate what isn't obvious, then the preference is for Intuition. The third pair reflects one's style of decision-making. If they prefer to make their decisions based on objective logic and the use of an analytic approach, then their preference is for Thinking. If they prefer to make their decisions based on values and what is deemed to be important, then their preference is for Feeling. The fourth pair describes the type of lifestyle that one has adopted. If they prefer to live a life that is planned out

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and well-structured, then their preference is for Judging and should not be confused with the word judgmental. If they prefer to simply go with the flow, to maintain flexibility, and to respond to things as they arise then their preference is for Perception. Having taken the personality style assessment several times, I always come out with the same preferred style which is INFP. But this does not mean that I don't use the other styles when the need arises.

The practice of civility involves two important areas of the brain which are the temporal lobe located near the brain's center that plays a very important role in our intellectual and emotional functions, and the frontal lobe that plays a role in making our decisions and value judgments which can be good ones or bad ones. The temporal lobe plays a role in the making of decisions by the frontal lobe. If one is in a high emotional state of anger that can affect the frontal lobe's decision – making process which may cause one to resort to inappropriate behavior when interacting with others who express differences of opinion. However, when one has a better understanding of the learning and personality styles of others, when interacting with them he can better control his emotions and in turn respond more appropriately to one's angry and emotional outbursts when differences of opinions arise.

My objective for writing this article is to increase a reader's understanding of the factors that play an important role in the practice of civility and because self-awareness is also an important attribute in the practice of civility, to motivate him to do a self-assessment of his behavior for the express purpose of identifying any areas that may be in need of improvement when interacting with others. If one is to practice brotherly love, relief, and truth, and the four cardinal virtues, temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice, then he must embrace civility. And I will close with this favorite story of mine that can teach us an important lesson as it relates to what one needs to keep in mind when it comes to making needed changes in behavior, attitudes, and overall demeanor.

Once, a long time ago, there was a Zen master and people would come from far and near to seek his counsel and ask for his wisdom. Many would come and ask him to teach them and enlighten them in the way of Zen and how to practice it. Seldom did he turn anyone away. One day a man, whose behavior included commanding obedience from others when associating with them, came to visit the master. "I have come today to ask

you to teach me about Zen. Open my mind to enlightenment." The tone of this man's voice, who thought himself very important, was one he often used to get his own way. The Zen master smiled and said that they should discuss the matter over a cup of tea. When the tea was served the master poured the visitor a cup. He poured and he poured and the tea rose to the rim and began to spill over the table and onto the robes of the wealthy man. Finally, in anger, the visitor shouted, "Enough. You are spilling the tea all over. Can't you see the cup is full?" The master stopped pouring and smiled at his guest. "You are like this tea cup, so full that nothing can be added. Come back to me when the cup is empty. Come back to me with an empty mind." The moral of this story is that we must empty out some of the old that is in our minds before we can add anything new and I think it serves as a good reminder when it comes to making needed changes in our rational and thinking minds as it relates to behavior. In order to act more civil in our relations with others sometimes we have to empty out the old and replace it with the new. In the final analysis I can't change the behavior of others but I can change mine when the need arises to act more appropriately with others and act as a positive role model.

"You are like this tea cup, so full that nothing can be added."

I believe that all that I have shared with you in this article has a strong relationship with our Masonic ritual which, unlike some rituals, is a rite-of-passage. If a candidate understands all that has been taught to him when he takes his degrees and incorporates that into his rational and thinking mind, then he is a better man than he was when he began his Masonic journey. If that doesn't happen, then he didn't experience a rite-of-passage.

For that reason I believe it is very important to talk with a candidate before he takes his degrees and explain to him that he will be embarking on a rite-of-passage and what that means. I also believe that he should be informed of the meanings of some of the words and phrases that he will hear when he takes his degree such as "to be brought from darkness to light," the word "cardinal" as it relates to the four cardinal virtues, the word "liberal" as it relates to the seven liberal arts and sciences, and a host of others used in the lectures.

And after he has taken his degrees, I believe that it is very important to meet with him and reflect on all that he has been taught to enhance his understanding and to ensure that he did experience a rite-of-passage. Lastly, this has prompted me to think that a glossary of terms would be a good addition to the masonic ritual. And now,

Monument Lodge Remembers

“The Soldiers of Meduxnekeag” of Hancock Barracks

To paraphrase Bro. David Barker’s “*The Soldiers of Meduxnekeag*,”

“Come on with me now, let us travel on,
Not far, not many a league

From the spot where the old and bold St. John,
Locks hands with Meduxnekeag

As a pay or a fee for this stroll with me,
I will tell you a tale to-day.

*Of the soldiers who served their country here,
In years so long ago.”*

On November 9th this year, at high noon, 37 U.S. Army soldiers who died at Hancock Barracks between 1829 and 1844 in Houlton were remembered by Masons from Monument Lodge No. 96 with a wreath laying ceremony.

Boundary disputes still existed between the United States and Great Britain 45 years after The Treaty of Paris (1783) formally ended America’s War of Independence. This led ultimately to the so-called “Bloodless Aroostook War” in March of 1838. This conflict was ended by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842.

In 1828 America established its most northeastern outpost in Houlton, Hancock Barracks, which was named for Bro. John Hancock, First Governor of Massachusetts¹. Troops first arrived in Houlton in late 1828 and encamped on 25 acres overlooking the town less than 3 miles from the eastern border with Canada. It was built to support the troops assigned to protect U.S. interests in the timber territory from Mars Hill to near the Saint Lawrence River. By 1842, peace was firmly secured and the post was closed in 1845 when the troops were transferred to Texas to confront issues with Mexico. It was abandoned by the Army in 1847 and sold at auction in 1873.

Federal troops at Hancock Barracks were never direct-

ly involved in “The Aroostook War” which was “fought” by militia raised solely by the State of Maine between March 1838 and 1839 when troops withdrew and awaited a boundary settlement which was finally established by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty signed on Aug. 9, 1842.

Set atop the highest and windiest spot in town, the soldiers lived a hard existence, especially in the winter when temperatures could drop to below -30°F. During their first winter soldiers had to sleep in tents as barracks had not yet been raised. Over a span of 15 years, 37 soldiers died, nine in 1841.

Steven Devars, the first to die in 1829 at age 40, was born in Holland in 1789. There were seven who were born in Ireland, 6 in New York and 5 in Maine. Others came from England, Scotland and as far south as Kentucky and Virginia. Eight were but 21 years of age. These were some of the men who have helped build and protect the Country and the privileges of life which we enjoy today.

Lodge Master Lee Oliver welcomed more than 45 attendees from Houlton and Southern Aroostook. Colors were posted by the American Legion Chester L. Briggs Post No. 47 with the Pledge of Allegiance delivered by 8-year-old Iver Hall, a student from the Greater Houlton Christian Academy.

Remarks were given by Federal, State, County, and Town Officials. Major Bernard McMann, U.S. Marine Corp., Ret., delivered the keynote speech remembering those who die, then and now, in faraway places in service to their country but not neces-

sarily in the line of fire.

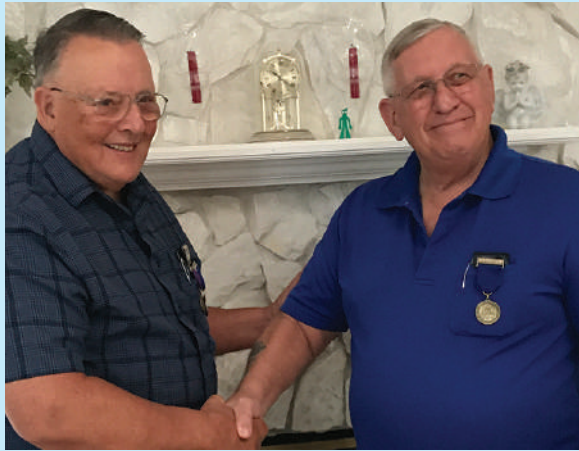
Wreaths were laid by Monument Lodge Masons, members of American Legion Post #47 and members of the Marine Corp. League Detachment No. 1368. As a soldier’s name, age and place of birth was announced, a wreath was deposited on his headstone and a salute of respect and appreciation was given.

Monument Lodge has a special connection and commitment to this cemetery. In 2003, under W.M. Darrell Malone, the lodge obtained, with special assistance from



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Honoring our Masonic Veterans



Bro. Ashley Badger, Sr. received his 50-year Veterans Medal from RW Bro. Jack Lagerquist on Nov. 12. Bro. Badger is a member of Webster Lodge #164 in Wales.



Bro. Robert Gagne of St. Johns Lodge #51, South Berwick, received his 50-year Veterans Medal from RW Bro. DK Horne, DDGM/19, in September.



Bro. Lloyd Day, of Star in the East Lodge #60, Old Town, received his 50-year Veterans Medal on Sept. 19 from Grand Master Mark Rustin.



RW Bro. Stephen Wentworth received his 50-year Veterans Medal on Nov. 21 in Crooked River Lodge #152, Harrison, from RW Bro. Ryan Kane, DDGM/16. Bro. Steve has served his lodge in every capacity except Treasurer and Secretary. Besides serving as DD, he also served the Grand Lodge as Grand Marshal.

Continued from Preceding Page

Senator Susan Collins, 37 headstones from the Veterans Administration. Research materials on the history of Hancock Barracks and the soldiers was readily supplied by Dr. Dale Steinhouse, Military Historian.

The lodge undertook the establishment of “Soldiers Cemetery” with the assistance of a Grand Lodge Community Betterment Grant. It was built around the

1. Born in 1737, Hancock joined Marchants Lodge No. 2777, United Grand Lodge of England, in Quebec, in 1762 and affiliated with St. Andrews Lodge, Boston, on Oct. 14, 1762. By 1764 he was perhaps the wealthiest man in Boston. He was President of the Second Continental Congress and first Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He died in office in 1793.

remains of one of Houlton’s earliest cemeteries which was virtually abandoned when the residential population moved to another part of town. On May 24, 2003, the Dedication and Remembrance of Soldiers Cemetery took place with Grand Master Charles E. Ridlon, U.S. Congressman Michael Michaud, and Bro. Major Gen. Stephen Nichols, among those in attendance as speakers.

Today’s members of Monument Lodge still strive to remember their history and to build upon its lessons.

The Holocaust: Another Story

New Shoes for a New Country, and Hope

Corinthian Hall was the site of The Maine Lodge of Research's semi-public program October 19, 2019, considering the second of the three rungs of Jacob's ladder: Hope. Charles Rotmil of Portland, a survivor of The Holocaust, shared with the gathering stories of his personal experiences before and during the horrors of W.W.II. The meeting was attended by non-Masons including several women.

Charles said of himself. "I am a witness. I was a hidden child. As a young child my name was changed two times as we couldn't be Jewish." His mother was German, his father Polish, and he was born in Belgium, but they were only considered as being Jews.

He was the youngest in his family. As he said, "I was spoiled. I lost my mother when I was seven. I had a good mother up to that point.... Even to this day I'm longing for a mother."

As a 13-year-old on the go in 1945, Charles' footwear was sabots shoes carved out of one piece of wood from the Belgium forest. When he arrived in England, on his way with hope for a new life in America, he was given a new pair of leather shoes. As Charles said, "I waited until I came to this country to wear them so I could step into the new world with new shoes."

Masonry models its lessons through the medium of symbols to teach us values which will shape us as we grow and mature. We must strive to be aware of and appreciate these lessons in our daily



Charles Rotmil

lives as did Charles.

Have we stepped into a new world with our Masonic lessons?

Charles, *today, rabah leha.*
(Thank you very much.)

Richard L. Rhoda, Master
The Maine Lodge of Research



Grand Master Mark Rustin and his suite joined the brethren of Evening Star Lodge #147 in Buckfield in honoring the 150th Anniversary of the lodge charter. Nearly 40 attended the celebration on October 19.

Lincoln Lodge Brethren award Bikes to 12 Students



"These bikes just gotta be perfect..."

On 24 May, just before the school year ended, Lincoln Lodge #3, Wiscasset, traveled to the Wiscasset Elementary School to fulfill the promise of a successful Bikes for Books Program.

Brother Dave Renfro was in charge of the effort assisted by Wor. Dave Sawyer (present Master), James Munson, Jeff Averal, Allen Hersom, Chuck Billings and Paul L. Bonyun.

Brethren had gathered at the lodge at 0800 hours to assemble the bikes. Upon arrival at Wiscasset Elementary, the principal called for an assembly of the students and the children who read the most books each received a shiny new bike.

The winners, by grade, were: Kindergarten, Dyken Howard and Cora Robinson; First grade Corbin Bryer and Arianna Scott; Second grade, Preston Giles and Makynee Wright; Third grade, Jameson Lincoln and Nicole Caton; Fourth grade Connor Knight and Mia Marshal; and grade five Cavin Keene and Brooke Lincoln.

New Year's Eve Gala

Tues, Dec. 31 - 7:30 pm-12:30 am

Dance the night away,
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Save a Nationally Registered
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portlandmasonic@gmail.com

Donate via credit card:

www.portlandmasonic.com/donate.html
207-761-1190

THANK YOU!

PUBLIC WELCOME

Masons Honor Ladies at Annual Luncheon

More than 40 attended the Annual Ladies Luncheon held at the Brownville Community Church on October 19th. Hosted jointly by Pleasant River Lodge #163, Brownville, and Piscataquis Lodge #44, Milo, the event honors widows of brethren from both lodges. Avis Spear was the oldest attendee this year. She is 106 and was really excited to be included in planning for the day and had a great time. Ann McDougal did a fiber demonstration for the day's program, which featured both flax and wool being spun on antique wheels. Avis announced she is planning to be back again next year.

The Brownville church generously donates use of the large, handicap-accessible hall, and the

minister and usually one or two non-Masonic church members attend and help out. Non-Masonic affiliated community ladies are also invited and a few attend.

The honored ladies were joined this year by members of a local quilters group. Truly the luncheon has begun to develop into a community event. This year Ann McDougal and husband Don made four different soups and chowders, 2+ gallons of each. Cullen Skink was one of the offerings. Any excess is sent home in cottage cheese containers with the ladies. Brother McDougal reports there was no Cullen Skink (Scottish smoked haddock chowder) left for anyone to take home.



This Happy Thanksgiving photo shows a certificate of appreciation Mrs. Spear made for the lodges.



Ann McDougal demonstrates her newly-acquired vintage mini wheel to Avis Spear as RW Brother Dennis Green, Master of Piscataquis Lodge, and MW Brother Walter Macdougall look on.

16th District Holds Outdoor Master Mason Degree

Under sparkling clear, blue, September skies, brethren gathered in Harrison on Saturday the 28th for a Master Mason Degree with special dispensation from Grand Master Mark Rustin.

Brother David Lausier was the lucky candidate. He was raised by his long-time friend and employer, Brother Avril Davis, also a member of Crooked River Lodge.

Planned and produced by the district's Outdoor Degree Committee, the nearly "sold out event was held on the property of Hobart "Hobie" and Martha Denison in an isolated hayfield that was easily tyled.

The event fulfilled a decades-long dream of hosting a Master Mason Degree in the field. "We've been thinking about this for a while," Brother Denison said, adding, "We wanted the whole district to be



Lodge room under the "canopy of heaven."

involved and do something that the brethren would remember. I'm very happy with the way it turned out."

Brother Denison is a Past Master of Crooked River Lodge #152 in the Bolsters Mills section of Harrison. He now serves as President of the 16th District Association. Also involved in the planning was Hobie's dad, Wor. Brother Philip H. Denison, a 66-

year member of Crooked River Lodge and a terrific slide trombone player. Brother Phil has also served as a Grand lodge officer.

Officers for the work of the day were chosen from among winners of the annual District Ritual Challenge held in April.

Grand Master Rustin and Grand Marshal W. Scott Walton attended the splendid event. They were joined by several Past Grand Masters and Grand Lodge officers.

Dinner was served during the degree while brethren were at refreshment.



Maine Mason Awarded OSD Medal For Valor



Brother Alan Johnston of Windsor, a member of Dirigo Lodge #104 in Weeks Mills, is one of only 17 men who have been awarded the Medal of Valor by the United States Secretary of Defense.

The Medal is the highest civilian award for valor presented by the Department of Defense. Created in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, the medal recognizes government employees and private citizens who perform an act of heroism or sacrifice, with voluntary risk to their personal safety in the face of danger.

Brother Johnston served 12 years in the Army, the first six as an enlisted man, then received his commission after matriculating at Norwich University. He held the rank of Captain when he separated from active duty.

He first became interested in

General David Petraeus presents the Award to Brother Alan Johnston.

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OSD AWARD FOR VALOR Presented to MR. ALAN JOHNSTON NARRATION

Attention to Orders. The Secretary of Defense takes great pleasure in awarding the Medal for Valor to Mr. Alan Johnston for performing an act of Heroism with voluntary risk of personal safety in the face of danger on 07 August 2004. On that afternoon, insurgents launched a coordinated, complex attack on Al Kasik Military Training Base, Northwest of Mosul, Iraq. During the most intense period of incoming fire, which lasted over ninety minutes, insurgent forces employed rockets, mortars and two Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices in an unsuccessful effort to destroy the Iraqi Armed Forces training there. During the attack, Mr. Johnston acted without hesitation to sound the alarm and direct others to take cover. Within seconds of this action, an explosion resulted in significant damage to the headquarters building. With total disregard for his own safety, and despite suffering from his own injuries, Mr. Johnston began to triage victims and administer treatment to others who were injured during the attack. He then proceeded through the rubble, again exposing himself to enemy fire, to assess victims in the Base Command Center. Utilizing material on hand, Mr. Johnston assisted in quickly fabricating several stretchers from broken doors, desks and chairs. Mr. Johnston provided necessary care and remained with the injured troops until they were securely loaded into medevac helicopters. Mr. Johnston flew in on the medevacs with the wounded for a total of eight trips to the hospital in Mosul. Mr. Johnston's courageous actions under fire, selfless dedication to duty, and willingness to answer the call of duty reflect great credit upon himself, his family, the United States Department of Defense, and the United States of America. Signed, Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense, United States of America.



Junior Warden Justin Hatch was awarded Mason of the Year at Mystic Lodge #65, Hampden, by Wor. Brother Don Muth.

Medal For Valor

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Masonry when a cousin was treated for club feet at a Shriners Hospital for Children. So good was the treatment that when completed one wouldn't have known there had been a problem. Bro. Johnston decided then that he wanted to become involved with the kind of men who provided such noble good works.

Masonic membership became a reality while on active duty in Germany when he joined a military lodge. As it turned out the military lodge was a Prince Hall lodge, so, as he says, while much of the work was "word for word" he had to take the degrees again in Maine.

Brother Johnston, now active in veterans affairs, is blind. He's frequently seen at functions with his service dog, Gypsy, a five-year-old Malinois. They have been together for nearly five years, having gone through a 40-week training course. He serves as Commander of the Maine Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, an organization established 100 years ago under the leadership of General John J. Pershing. He is also is a member of the National Sojourners military organization.

Helping Feed the Hungry



VW Brother Peter Warner of Village Lodge in Bowdoinham, hands a check for \$825 to Jeanette Sweem, Director of the Richmond Food Bank. A check in the same amount was provided to the Bowdoinham Food Bank. These funds were earned by the lodge by their participation in Bowdoinham Farm Day this past summer.

On the Beaches of D-Day, 75 Years Later

By Brother Michael Tremblay, DDGM/18

Being sort of a history buff, I like to incorporate historic tours into my vacations. As the 75th anniversary of D-Day was this year I knew this was the right time for me to visit that historic site.

Our journey started in London on August 1st where I joined 39 others on a tour which took us to the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and the Churchill War Room where Sir Winston conducted war effort planning under the Ministry buildings. A cruise on the River Thames topped off the trip. Unfortunately we didn't see Big Ben as that famous clock was under cover for repairs.

We then crossed the English Channel, not on the water like so many of our troops had so long ago, but under the water in the "Chunnel." Once in France, our home base for several days was Caen. From there we visited Sword and Gold Beaches where the British Divisions landed, moving on to Juno Beach where the 3rd Canadian Division landed, then on to the American attack points, Utah Beach and Omaha Beach, scene of some of the bloodiest battles.

The beaches are so peaceful today, so different from the horrible events that took place there in 1944 when more than 5000 ships of all descriptions delivered fighting men onto the shores and paratroop forces rained down from the skies in that supreme effort to rid Europe of the Nazi scourge and secure peace and freedom for much of



Brother Mike Tremblay at the American Cemetery.

the world. But at such a price.

America suffered 29,000 dead, 106,000 wounded or missing; Britain, 11,000 dead and 54,000 wounded or missing; Canada 5,000 dead and 13,000 wounded or missing. Additionally it is estimated that more than 12,000 French civilians died.

All is quiet now. The American Cemetery is beautiful; it overlooks Omaha Beach. Crosses and Stars of David line up as if in final formation. An interesting fact: all the soldiers are buried facing America. If one draws a straight line from the Cemetery to America, Lubec, Maine is where it first touches the USA. 87 Maine men are buried there. I was able to find their graves.

From Normandy we went on to Combiens, a Gestapo clearing center, then on to Paris. In many photos we see Adolph Hitler looking at the Eiffel Tower from a distance. Did he ever enter the tower? The story is no, as French Resistance had cut the elevator cables and he was not inclined to climb the 1100 steps.

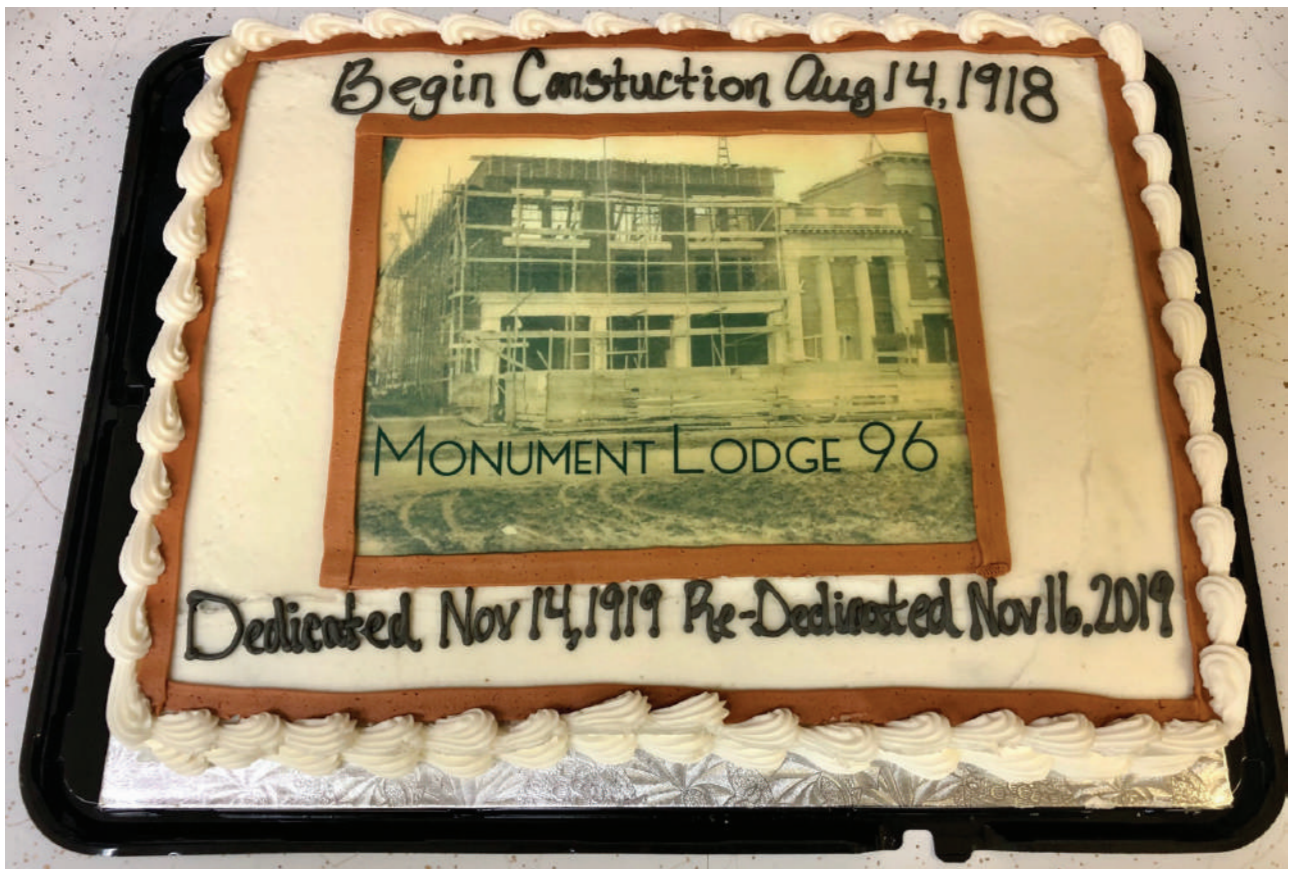
We had a much more pleasant experience there, ending our trip with dinner at the Eiffel Tower Restaurant. Our wonderful trip was complete.



Tourists now stroll the beaches freed by brave fighting men.



Brethren of Village Lodge #26, Bowdoinham, ring the bells at Walmart in Brunswick on Black Friday for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive. All District 14 lodges take part in this annual ritual on the day after Thanksgiving.



Monument Lodge #96 brethren celebrated the 100th anniversary of their Houlton home on Nov. 16th.

The MAINE MASON

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