

THE MAINE MASON

**WHEN
GRAND
MASTERS
MEET**

**AN EXAMPLE OF
INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDSHIP AND
BROTHERHOOD**

**VOL. 44, NO. 2
SPRING 2018**

THE MAINE MASON

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

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

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

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

Editor

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

Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge of Maine

GRAND MASTER Thomas E. Pulkkinen P.O. Box 413 E. Boothbay, ME 04544	DEPUTY GRAND MASTER Mark E. Rustin 2087 Carmel Rd. N. Newburgh, ME 04444
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN Rufus W. Cox 6 Pine Street Milo, ME 04463	JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN Kenneth A. Caldwell 884 Pequawket Trail Steep Falls, ME 04085
GRAND TREASURER Scott Whytock 14 Hidden Creek Drive Scarborough, ME 04074	GRAND SECRETARY Daniel E. Bartlett 267 Belmont Avenue Belfast ME 04915

Grand Lodge Contact Information & Hours

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

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

line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

As I gave this issue one last thorough check prior to sending it off to the printer, I was initially struck with the amount of information contained on the pages pertaining to builders. And buildings. And then I realized, "well, of course. Masons are, after all, first and foremost...builders."

There are articles about building relationships, building stronger lodges, building ramps to help those dealing with mobility problems, building reading skills among our youth with the ever-expanding Bikes for Books Program, building membership with opportunities such as the April 7 Masonic Day in Maine when degrees will be worked throughout the day and throughout the state. (Check for activity in your area on page 35.)

There are articles about the tremendous and inspiring accomplishments of the cathedral builders both in this country and those who, stone-by-stone and arch-by-arch, built the Gothic masterpieces of Europe.

We have an exciting opportunity to learn more about the design, inspiration and construction of these magnificent structures on May 19th in Bangor. *The Cathedral Experience*, held at historic All Souls Church, is the topic of this year's Maine Masonic College Annual Celebration of Arts and Sciences.

As a bonus for attendees, the Rev. Dr. and Brother James Haddix, pastor at All Souls for 26 years before retiring at the end of last year, will be available to point out and describe unique features of the Gothic revival structure.

We hope you enjoy reviewing, and in some cases learning, about the exciting occurrences in Maine Masonry. We hope you who will be voting at our 199th Annual Session read and consider well the views of the three brothers who seek your support as they seek to lead the Craft, first as Deputy Grand Master and ultimately as Grand Master in two years.

And finally, my brethren, my wish for each of you is to be well, be happy, and be involved. My 55 years as a Maine Mason has been a true blessing. The same opportunity exists for us all.

Deadline for the next issue of *The Maine Mason* will be 25 July. Enjoy your Summer!

From the Grand East

Thomas E. Pulkkinen **Grand Master of Masons in Maine**

"Thanks for the Memories"

Most Masons recognize *Thanks for the Memories* as the theme song of Bob Hope, the great entertainer and faithful supporter of our troops overseas. I thank you for the memories of the past two years, as well as your efforts to make this time productive and gratifying.

Hearing Masons' excitement upon receiving the Grand Master's invitation to return to the Craft demonstrates the value of trying new or at least long-dormant ideas. Many Lodges called candidates who hadn't completed their degrees and members who were suspended for non-payment of dues. As a result, several Lodges have welcomed home five or more Brethren, and some of these returning Masons have sponsored new candidates. Great work Brethren!

Seeing the nearly endless line of Brethren at the 2017 Annual Communication to "take the Grand Master's money" and support the new Brotherhood Fund tugged at everyone's heartstrings. There was mounting excitement as the donations were tallied by many in the room. The Brotherhood Challenge yielded nearly \$30,000 that has benefited so many appreciative Masonic families. Thanks to nearly 900 Masons, Masonic widows, Lodges and others for your caring donations to the Charitable Foundation this year.

Feeling the heightened levels of energy in many strong and even struggling Lodges leaves a sense that working together, the Craft has a strong future in communities large and small. Many Lodges have a full line of officers (often with no Past Masters) for the first time in years and are working several candidates. In fact, some Lodges are working 5, 10, 15 and more candidates, raising confidence that the values instilled by Masonry ensure that our Craft shall long endure.

Inter-Lodge efforts to form new District Associations and work the Master Mason Degree throughout Maine on April 7th gives credence to the adage that all things are possible for people who believe. These efforts also prove that Freemasonry thrives where strong District Associations bring Lodges together.

I will long cherish being warmly welcomed into the hospital rooms of our Brethren and the homes of 100 year old Masons who served their country during WWII. Each of us should visit our Brethren more.

A Brother shared that he and his wife traveled from Maine to Sarasota to attend State of Maine Day for THE MAINE MASON



Maine Brothers in Florida because he wanted to support this Grand Master. This demonstrates the strength of Brotherly Love and affection.

Again, thank you Brethren for making this journey so special, rewarding and memorable for this Grand Master and Lady Sharon!

More accomplishments by working together...

Many Lodges are hosting Fellowship Nights to introduce friends and community members to Freemasonry. Grand Lodge provides speakers and financial support for these events that produce many candidates for the degrees, puts Lodges to work, strengthens officer corps, and adds energy and workers to benefit the Lodges. Now is the time to schedule your next event.

With the generous support of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, our membership program has taken on a new message: "*Not just a Man. A Mason.*" Videos have been added to our Grand Lodge websites. Three different 20x24 inch posters have been provided to each Lodge for use in their buildings and at events in their communities. Electronic banners have been sent to Lodges for use on their Facebook and web pages. Scottish Rite created and customized these materials for our use, and Grand Lodge paid for printing and sending the posters to each Lodge. Use them often!

Strong financial and investment management has greatly strengthened the financial condition of Grand Lodge and no increases in per capita taxes have been needed for seven consecutive years (including next year). Please join me in thanking the Finance and Investment Committees for their ongoing efforts.

A slip and fall accident resulted in a lawsuit against an uninsured building association and individual Lodge members. Many associations were found to be in violation of the Grand Constitution by not having any general liability coverage. As a consequence, a new insurance directive was issued that required all associations to buy general liability insurance through the Grand Lodge master policy. As a result of the concerted efforts of many, all associations now purchase general liability insurance (and many purchase property insurance too) via the Grand Lodge master policy, usually obtaining better coverage for less money. Thank you Brethren for your hard work on this effort.

There's more for each of us to do...

I encourage every Brother to identify men of good report who might become Masons; perhaps a relative, a

Continued on Page 5

Thoughts from our Grand Secretary...

By Brother Dan Bartlett

THE STATED MEETING

There has been an ongoing discussion around lodges, districts and Grand Lodges about the Stated Meeting for a long time. And many of you that take the time to read this article are sufficiently interested in our Craft to the point where you have heard these discussions or been an active participant.

We have some lodges that are engaged in productive and worthwhile Stated Meetings and we can honestly say worthwhile because they have Brethren attending the meetings and leaving with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that it was an enjoyable evening. More importantly, they come back for the next one!

I recently was appointed to the Masonic Renewal Committee of the North American Conference of Grand Masters. The Committee's purpose is "to facilitate innovative endeavors of Masonic Jurisdictions as they strive to move the Craft forward".

One of the projects of the Committee is the Stated Meeting Project. We need to take a good look at and rethink how our Stated meetings are conducted. A hundred and more years ago a Stated Meeting was a time of teaching the ideals of Freemasonry, involvement in the welfare of our Brethren and their families and enjoying the company of our Lodge Brothers as well as doing the business of the lodge.

Over the past 100 years many of our Stated Meetings have slowly become nothing more than reading the minutes, paying the bills, maybe vote on an application and schedule a degree if you have a candidate and a quorum, have some refreshments and head on back home. We hear it time and time again; the Stated Meeting is boring. Many great and well-known men joined our Fraternity and they joined it for many of the same reasons you and I did. It wasn't to listen to minutes of the previous meeting being read to them.

After all is said and done; more is said **than** done. If the lodge is meeting once a month and that's what it's like each time many members, especially the newer ones are voting with their feet and not coming back. I can't blame them. There is a responsibility to come to lodge and take care of the business but when there is nothing else beyond that it is a short trip to "why bother"?

You have read it here before...all Masonry is local. The lodge is where it all happens. It's where new Masons are made. It's where we find fellowship with our Brothers. It's where we enlighten our minds and care for each other. None of that happens at Grand Lodge. We at Grand Lodge are here to provide support and assistance

to you. So, it is in your lodge where this change in the Stated Meeting needs to happen.

We have all heard the Closing Charge...We are about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue... Is your lodge a sacred retreat of friendship and virtue? It needs to be. In colonial times our Masonic forefathers met at lodge because it was a retreat where they could speak freely, conciliate true friendship, enlighten their minds as well as provide support and care for each other.

"Times have changed and lodge systems have not progressed with the times. Members are no longer content to sit upon the benches and listen to the ritualistic ceremonies and ordinary lodge routine-they must be entertained. If they do not find the entertainment at the lodge they will find it elsewhere. It devolves upon the lodge and upon the officers thereof to make the

meetings sufficiently interesting so that the individual member will say, 'I'm glad I came, I had a good time and I want to come again'." George H. Fuller, a Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the International Order of Odd Fellows said this in 1929! And here we are nearly 90 years later, and it is just as applicable.

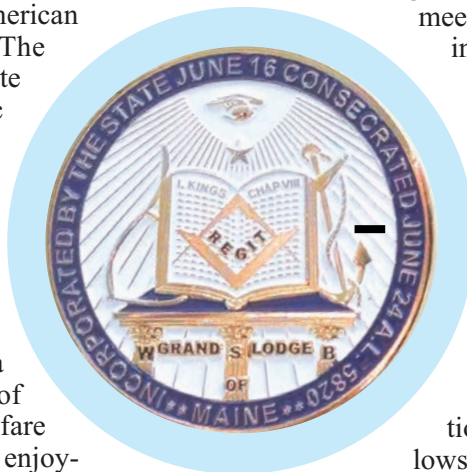
Is it time to be the agent of change in your lodge? Numerous writings and conversations have told us what a Brother's desired expectations are when going to lodge. Fun, fellowship, interesting, inspiring, entertaining, doing something positive are among those expectations. It takes time and a repeated effort, but it does work. There are lodges in Maine who have found success when they have added to the Stated Meeting a program that fulfills some of those expectations. And now they regularly have two and three times as many Brethren at a Stated Meeting as they had before.

Here is an example of a new order of business: Ritual opening and Pledge (creating the Sacred Retreat), Welcome, Business (minutes, bills, reports, Petitions, old and new business), Meeting our Obligations (enlightening the mind, caring for each other's welfare), Making good men better (conciliate true friendships, make Master Masons), Ritual Closing (close the Sacred Retreat) and last but no less important, Fellowship!

There is a lot more information in addition to what I presented here at the Masonic Renewal Committee website: www.freemasonnetwork.org/masonicrenewal2. I urge you to take a look.

Don't wait for someone else in your lodge to be the "agent of change" if your lodge is struggling. Sit down with the lodge leadership and have a discussion. If you need some help, you know where to find me.

Do good unto all.



Brethren Enjoying Their Togus Visitation



Members of Village Lodge #26, Bowdoinham, led by SW Keith Dirago, pictured at a recent visit to Togus Veterans Hospital where they escorted wheelchair bound patients to Chapel. Bro. Dirago is shown with his arm around Brother Norman Morehouse who served as MSA rep at Togus for 20 years and continues, at 96 years old, to transport patients every Sunday. Pictured behind Bro. Morehouse, in his red blazer, is Brother Dan Hill, Grand Chaplain and current MSA rep, who also has volunteered at Togus for nearly 20 years.

From the Grand East

Continued from Page 3

neighbor, a coworker or fellow worshipper. Give them our distinctive *Maine Freemasonry* brochure and invite them to a Fellowship Night. What a positive difference this would make to our Lodges, the Craft and to the men who join our Brotherhood.

Ask yourself: How can I help my Lodge? Maybe by serving as an officer or on a committee; or helping on a social, building or fundraising project. Or by providing a little extra financial support, especially if you are exempt from dues; mentoring Lodge officers and new members; visiting Brethren who can't attend meetings; traveling with your Brethren to other Lodges to capture a traveling gavel; or simply by attending meetings when you can – yes, sideliners are very important!

Upon touching down on the moon, astronaut Neil Armstrong said: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Brethren, each of us has something to contribute to our great fraternity. Please take an important step that might help your Lodge and Freemasonry make a leap forward to benefit ourselves and our communities. Every added step counts, most especially yours.

May God bless you and Freemasonry.

Thomas Pulkkinen

THE MAINE MASON



Grand Master Pulkkinen extends his hand, and with it the best wishes of all Maine Masons, to the Grand Master of England, HRH Edward George Nicholas Paul Patrick, the Duke of Kent and cousin of Queen Elizabeth.

Page 5

Grand Lodge 199th Annual Session Set for May 1

Maine Masons will gather in Portland for their 199th Annual Communication on Tuesday, May 1. The preceding evening, Monday, April 30 there will be a social get-together and banquet at the Italian Heritage Center, 40 Westwood Avenue, also in the *Forest City*.

The one-day business meeting will be held at The Portland Masonic, 415 Congress Street. Registration will take place from 7 to 8:30 pm during which time coffee and donuts will be served in the Dining Hall. The business meeting will open promptly at 9 a.m. in the spacious Scottish Rite Auditorium.

There'll be a lunch break from noon to 1 pm. Remaining business will be conducted during the afternoon, with installation of officers scheduled to begin at 4 pm. The budget proposed for the new year will not include a per capita increase. This is the sixth consecutive budget year with no increase in the per capita.

Election of Officers

Election of officers will take place at 3:00 pm as proscribed by the Constitution. There will be four contested offices to be decided and three uncontested including Brother Mark Rustin for Grand Master; Brother Scott Whytock, Grand Treasurer; Brother Dan Bartlett, Grand Secretary; and two candidates, Bros. Michael Lambert and Glenn Mower, for the two open Finance Committee seats.

The four positions being contested include Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and the Masonic Charitable Foundation where there are six candidates for two open positions.

Deputy Grand Master candidates include Brother Brian Ingalls, Brother Richard Nadeau and Brother Donald Pratt. Photos and interviews of these three brethren who aspire to lead our Craft can be found on pages 8, 9 and 10 of this issue.

Senior Grand Warden candidates include Brother Kevin Campbell and Brother William Stutzke; Junior Grand Warden candidates are Brother Richard Holman, Brother Michael Kimball and Brother Toby Williams.

Candidates for the two Charitable Foundation seats include Brothers Christopher DiSoto, Roland "Ron" Francis, Robert Hoyt, David King, H. Sawin Millett, Jr., and Thomas Pulkkinen.

Amendments to the Constitution

Two proposed amendments accepted last year as initial readings and referred to appropriate committees and the several lodges for consideration will be ripe for a final vote this year.

The first is a proposed amendment to SEC 34.4a, (Clothing in Grand Lodge) to read as follows: "Additionally, a Past Master's medallion may be worn, suspended from a collar; and a Past Grand Master's Lapel Button may be purchased through the Grand Lodge business office."

The second proposed amendment is to SEC. 35.5 and reads as follows: "SECTION 35.5 (Finance) Committee Members, who are not otherwise voting members of Grand Lodge, shall have the same status as other officers, while serving on the committee."

Additionally there is one new proposed amendment being offered for its initial reading at this session, a proposal to modify SEC. 74.5 dealing with lodge insurance.

SEC. 74.5 now reads: Each lodge shall remit its share of the cost of the Grand Lodge Blanket Liability Insurance, which covers its members while engaging in Masonic activities.

Proposed SEC. 74.5 would read: Grand Lodge shall arrange for blanket liability coverage for all Masonic Lodges and buildings owned by Masonic-based building associations and related organizations. Each lodge and building association shall remit the cost of insurance on its members and properties.

Proposed SEC. 74.5a would replace Standing Resolution 19 and would read: In addition to the coverage afforded by the Grand Lodge blanket liability insurance for Lodges and Masonic building associations, each lodge or building association shall obtain documentation of suitable liability coverage, including liquor liability coverage, if applicable, from parties leasing or renting Masonic premises, with the Lodge, building association and Grand Lodge named as additional insureds.

The proposed change in SEC. 74.5 and the new 74.5a will codify the Insurance Directive of 2016 which all Maine Masonic Lodges and building associations are now in conformance, and clarifies the need for third party insurance for parties that lease or rent Masonic-based facilities.

FROM THE 'NEAR EAST'



OBLIGATIONS

Imagine the following advertisement: “Wanted – men to join a bowling team. Great jackets and shirts. No bowling alley. Just send your dues, no need to attend.” Would you join?

Each of our Masonic journeys begins with taking upon ourselves some solemn obligations. One could reasonably argue, primary among those obligations is being there when the Lodge is together. Without “presence” the growth of a new Mason stops and an understanding of the nature of Freemasonry is stunted and of little value.

A corollary to this obligation for the Brother to be present is the obligation the Lodge makes to the Brother. In our actions, if not in our words, we promise revealed insights which can help a man to become a better man if he wishes; the closeness of fraternity which binds us together and offers us a clearer vision of ourselves and the other as well; and meetings which fulfil our obligations and potentially add value to the Brothers’ lives.

Freemasonry thrives upon the interaction of our Brothers with the distilled wisdom of the ages we call “ritual.” This interaction depends on the Brothers’ commitment to their obligations and Lodges’ commitment to provide the opportunity for this interaction to take place. Without the commitment of both, little of value happens.

The synergy between Lodges and their members is the strength and support of Freemasonry. Each of our Lodges is populated by intelligent men capable of the vision needed to carry Freemasonry forward. The Lodges can provide meetings of substance and the Brothers can make the meetings of their Lodge a priority in their lives. Unlike the “bowling team” above, the Lodges need a proper “alley” and the Brothers do need to attend. Fancy jackets and shirts are optional.

Fraternally,

Mark Rustin

Deputy Grand Master

Acacia Lodge #121 Family Degree

After seeing this degree in Durham who would dare suggest that Masonry is not an extended family affair. Bro.



Clifford Peaslee was raised to the Sublime Degree on Dec. 3, 2017. He's pictured here among family members who participated. l-r: Ralph Carter, 1st cousin once removed; Seth Vosmus, cousin; Dennis Peaslee, Jr., cousin; Wedgewood Wheeler, married to 1st cousin once removed; Neil Peaslee, Jr., brother; Neil Peaslee, Sr.,

father; Mark Carter, 2nd cousin; Bruce Vosmus, uncle; Clifford Peaslee, candidate; Fred Placey, cousin; Arnold Blackstone, married to 1st cousin once removed; Kenneth Vosmus, great uncle; Chuck Ridlon, married to 1st cousin twice removed. Not in photo: Craig Vosmus, uncle; and cousins Donald and Thomas Vosmus.

Deputy Grand Master candidates offer their views

Three brothers. Brian Ingalls, Richard Nadeau and Donald Pratt, have offered themselves as candidates for the office of Deputy Grand Master. A series of eight questions was asked to each of them, and we provide their answers here that you may have a clear understanding of their thoughts and ideas so you may choose wisely the man who will likely be our 100th Grand Master. Their answers are presented in alphabetical order according to their surname.

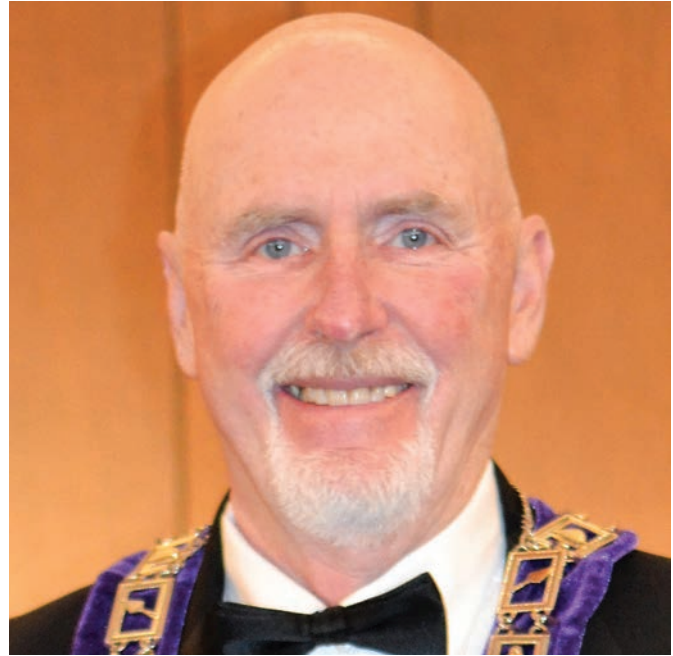
R.W. Brother Brian Ingalls

1. Why are you running for the office of Deputy Grand Master?

I believe that over the next 2 years Grand Lodge will transform its role. I sense Grand Lodge will become a supportive body and act as a resource for the 181 lodges that make up The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Maine as our Constitution prescribes. I also believe that the Constitution's intent is, Lodges of the State of Maine should be self determining, that their destiny should be decided on by the members of each of the Lodge with Grand Lodge giving them positive assurance or advice so their decisions align with the rules and regulations of our Constitution. I would like to play a key role in that vision and hopefully have the opportunity to continue it in the future.

2. What is your vision for your brethren and the Grand Lodge of Maine?

I envision an environment where the Lodges take responsibility for their own well being and make confident decisions about their own future. An environment where Grand Lodge isn't ruler but a supplier of ideas and resources to help the Lodges take responsibility for getting things done that they have chosen to do. I would like to be in a position to offer suggestions and motivation that will expand and strengthen the Lodges' self determining decisions. I would like to see an environment of true Brotherly Love and Friendship and discussions that will foster more open communications about the basic values we share as Brothers.



3. If elected, what specific skills and experience would you bring to the office that would help prepare you to wisely lead the craft as Grand Master?

My professional career covered 42 years working or owning companies that supplied services to other companies or to individuals. That experience combined with my earlier 6 years of leadership training and execution of leadership skills as an Army Drill Instructor has taught me how to develop team members who can and will achieve common goals. I am a person who listens to what is being said, who will ask open ended questions to expand ideas or cause them to be rethought, if needed, and then empowers associates to execute the plan. I have also learned that if a leader takes control from those who are charged with accomplishing a goal, he will lose his team's respect and support and thus have to complete the project himself. The opportunities for personal growth in management and/or leadership roles were for some of the largest consumer goods companies in our country's food industry. I have lead teams and departments consisting of as few as 5 to as many as 600. Having been awarded the Simon

Continued on Page 18

R.W. Brother Richard Nadeau

1. Why are you running for the office of Deputy Grand Master?

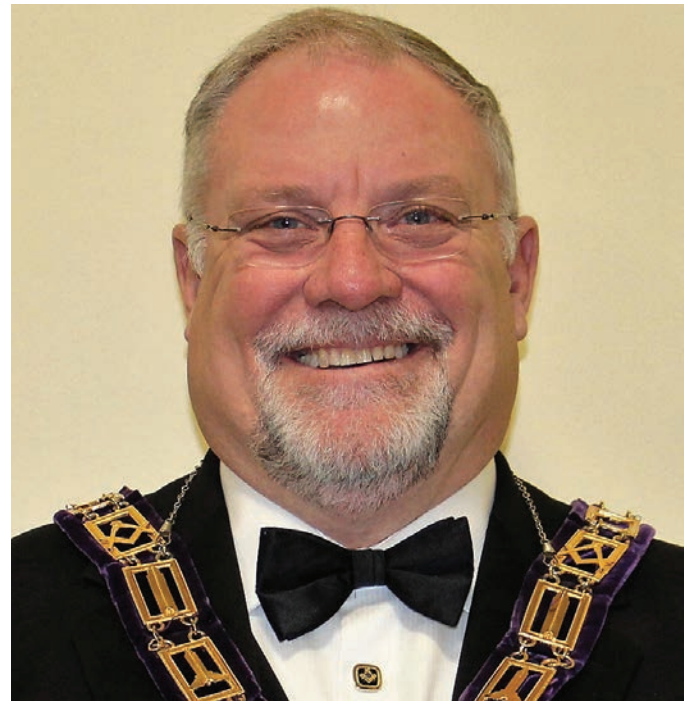
Grand Lodge and many local lodges have undertaken many fantastic initiatives to enhance the lives of our brethren and their families, advance the well being of Maine youth, and advance Freemasonry's vital, recognizable presence in our communities. These initiatives are works-in-progress and I would like to labor on them with Maine Masons to make Freemasonry an exciting fraternity.

2. What is your vision for your brethren and the Grand Lodge of Maine?

Maine Freemasonry will be as robust as our lodges and as exciting as our brethren. Lodges often dedicate precious resources on basic lodge operations and building upkeep, with little time available for creating exciting experiences that help make brethren better men and help lodges meet member expectations. My vision is for Grand Lodge to be viewed as an invaluable service organization for the craft, endeavoring to help every brother and lodge with guidance and resources that enable them to thrive in Masonry. With the right vision, guidance and resources, we can create the paradigm shift necessary to meet the expectations of Maine Masons.

3. If elected, what specific skills and experience would you bring to the office that would help prepare you to wisely lead the Craft as "Grand Master?"

Freemasonry is a people-oriented profession and I have been in the "people" business all my adult life. The many leadership and decision making roles in my diverse 40-year personal, professional, military and Masonic careers have given me skills needed to lead and advance the craft. My Masonic experience includes: actively conferring Masonic degrees and installing officers; creating Masonic education programs for candidates and other Masons; mentoring candidates and lodge officers; building and retaining lodge membership; and, caring for Masonic facilities. My US Army duties included the responsibility to train, maintain, supervise and advise soldiers, providing them with the knowledge and tools to accomplish the mission, stay alive and return home. My successful 20-year chiropractic career has afforded me the opportunity to teach students in the care and management of the most vulnerable patients, as we do through the care afforded by lodges and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. My 20 years of owning and operating a successful chiropractic practice has allowed me to assist and guide patients in the resolution of their often severe



health issues, as well as to attend to the business side of the practice – these perspectives directly relate to helping lodges address their needs. Leadership involves a cooperative effort and excellent communication with all those involved.

4. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Attracting the right men to our lodges, involving current membership in worthwhile activities, retaining our ranks and seeking ways to restore inactive Masons to active roles in the fraternity must be priorities for Masonry to flourish. What would you do to address these four areas of membership that are arguably so critical?

The strength of Masonry is dependent on the heartbeat of each brother – from the youngest Entered Apprentice to our most senior members. That heartbeat is strengthened when we fulfill their expectations of Freemasonry – a strong brotherhood with opportunities to become involved, grow and help others. When they are not satisfied, we often lose the brother and any associates that he might sponsor, as evidenced by the recent initiative to bring back former Masons, who are excited about being invited back and are sponsoring new candidates. All lodges should reach out to former members and degree candidates and let them know that lodge members would like them to return to lodge. Fellowship Nights effectively share our story and entice new candidates. We must deliver an inspiring message about our product – Freemasonry, and then deliver the product well. To

Continued on Page 14

R.W. Brother Donald Pratt

1. Why are you running for the office of Deputy Grand Master?

To continue to serve the craft in the same fashion that I have for the last 16 years; with dedication, energy, and passion.

2. What is your vision for your brethren and for the Grand Lodge of Maine?

My vision for the Brethren is for them to be enthusiastic about our Fraternity and be willing and able to promote our ideals as part of their daily life. For the Grand Lodge as a whole I would hope that our successful programs stay in place and we find a way to better educate people about who we are and what we do.

3. If elected, what specific skills and experience would you bring to the office that would help prepare you to wisely lead the Craft as Grand Master?

Having served as DDGM and JGW and many other leadership positions has helped my learning of the working of the Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation. Also, my personal experience as a self-employed contractor has given me the experience of being a self-motivated person, able to maintain a business and family life along with my commitment to the Fraternity and my community.

4. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Attracting the right men to our lodges, involving current membership in worthwhile activities, retaining our ranks and seeking ways to restore inactive Masons to active roles in the fraternity must be priorities for Masonry to flourish. What would you do to address these four areas of membership that are arguably so critical?

Membership is and always will be a challenge for our Fraternity. Social and political chaos seem to loom large in our everyday life. We must show potential members that what we offer is a chance to make them feel that what they do and what they learn from us is a way to make their life more meaningful and our world a much better place.

5. The Grand Lodge and Charitable Foundation have introduced, refocused or expanded several programs in the past five years. Are you supportive of these efforts? Do you think they are effective and, if not, how would you improve them? Please give your opinions on each of the five listed below.

The Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation have done a good job of charting a progressive course for the Brethren. I believe that the membership as a whole is supportive of that effort. The Rookie Program is very successful and does not require a large amount of financial



capital to maintain, and I believe that the success of the program speaks to the positive impact of mentoring.

I believe that it is time for a reassessment of the Dirigo Leadership program. I hear no feedback on it from the Lodges and it is not actively promoted in the districts. The reallocation of funding from Scholarships to the matching grant programs has had a positive effect on the craft as a whole allowing local lodges to become more creative with their outreach program.

The Maine Masonic College is an ongoing success; not only does it give the Brethren a chance to further educate themselves in many diverse areas. It also shows that we have many highly intelligent Brethren who are skilled at teaching.

6. What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing our Grand Lodge and Charitable Foundation? How would you meet those challenges?

Challenges facing the Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation include informing the public of our core values and mission. We must continue to encourage Lodges at the local level to self-promote in their own communities through local media and programming that benefits their community as a whole. Membership as previously mentioned is always a challenge. Increased membership can translate into increased funding not only for Grand Lodge programs, but also into a more robust ability for the Foundation to fund important programs and promote our Tenants of Brotherly Love, relief and truth.

7. Our Grand lodge will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2020. If elected, you would be Grand

Continued on Following Page

All in the Families at Jonesport Lodge #188



January was a busy and important month for Jonesport Lodge as three proud fathers raised their sons to the Sublime Degree. What makes it even more special is that each of the fathers is a Past Master of the lodge and each did the degree work to raise his son. Left to right, front row: Brothers Joseph M. McDonald, Tristan Alley and Gary Carver, Jr. Standing behind their sons are Wor. Joseph McDonald, Wor. Sheldon Alley and RW. Cary Carver, Sr. Brother McDonald was raised on January 18th, Brothers Alley and Carver on the 24th.

R.W. Brother Donald Pratt *Continued*

Master during much of that anniversary year. What are your thoughts on how we should celebrate our Masonic bicentennial?

The Grand Master has appointed a committee to work towards the goal of a unique and memorable 200th Anniversary celebration. I would implement those programs and actively promote them to the craft. I would also seek to partner with local and state celebrations at the Grand Lodge level and with local lodges.

8. Good stewardship of the Craft's finances must be a priority and practice of every Grand Master. If elect-

ed DGM, what steps would you adopt in planning to be GM? What priorities would your budget reflect for both Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation?

If elected Deputy Grand Master, I would continue on the course I have taken thus far. To study the budget as presented by the finance committee, seek the advice of Past Grand Masters, and rely on the expertise of qualified Brethren such as our Grand Treasurer. And to always remember that it is the Brethren's money. I believe that the budget must be balanced not only in terms of dollars and cents, but balanced in its ability to best serve the craft. By doing so we also allow the Charitable Foundation to fulfill its core mission.

The George Washington Bay at Washington National Cathedral

A magnificent statue of George Washington stands in the bay named in his honor at the Washington National Cathedral. Originally unveiled to the world in February of 1947, the seven foot, six inch masterpiece, carved from pure white Vermont marble, was gifted to the Cathedral by the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

The statue is one of very few free-standing statues within WNC and was designed by one of the most well-known sculptors in America, Lee Lawrie. Mr. Lawrie was present at the unveiling and spoke with representatives of the Cathedral about his inspiration. The following is quoted in *Cathedral Age* (Spring, 1947):

....In the statue I have tried to show not the soldier, not the president, but the man, Washington, coming into the church – Christ Church at Alexandria – pausing a moment before going down the aisle to his pew.

Washington was Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 at the same time he was President, and Cathedral stonemasons lovingly labored over the carvings for this beautiful alcove. You'll find stonework that shows the façades of both Mount Vernon and Independence Hall in Philadelphia as well as many other references to his life before the presidency. A sign of just how much pride Washington felt regarding his Freemasonry is the care the stonemasons took to incorporate references to Masonic life in the bosses and heraldic plaques that can be seen in the panels behind the statue. Over Washington's right shoulder you'll see a plaque that is carved with a likeness of the Bible, and a Square and Compasses. The words "Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, 1752" are inscribed, giving recognition to the Lodge where he was raised.

The plaque in the center is carved from a direct impression of his Past Master's Jewel (which is exhibited in the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA). It includes the words, "Alexandria Lodge No. 22, 1788."

The third plaque shows a mallet and two cornerstones. The first cornerstone shows the Capitol dome and the date 1793; The other shows the tower of the WNC and the date 1907, paying tribute to September 29, 1907, when workmen laid the first foundation stone. The mallet used by Washington in laying the cornerstone of the Capitol was presented to him by Potomac Lodge No. 5 – this same mallet was loaned by Potomac Lodge to Bishop Henry Yates Satterlee, and he used it in laying the cornerstone for the Cathedral.

Cathedral stonemasons labored for a number of



Sun through stained glass, Geo. Washington Bay.

years to create a fitting, permanent bay for the statue. At last, in 1964, it was moved from its temporary location in the north transept to the long-awaited George Washington Bay, located at the western end of the Cathedral's southern nave aisle, near the entrance to the Rare Book Library. Lee Lawrie's masterpiece will stand here in perpetuity, and the lettering on the base of the pedestal of the statue will remind those who walk by of all he embodied in his extraordinary life:

FIRST CITIZEN – CHURCHMAN
PRESIDENT – STATESMAN
FARMER – SOLDIER – PATRIOT
FREEMASON

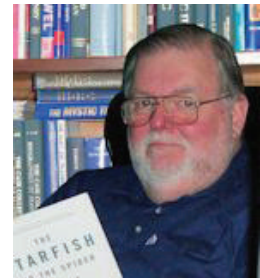
Photos ©Washington National Cathedral. Used with permission.



Northern Exterior of Cathedral.

Approaching our 200th year as a Grand Lodge and a state, there'll be LOTS of ways to learn and to enjoy history. 'Once in a lifetime' is a phrase sometimes greatly over-used but this truly will be. Enjoy it to the fullest. It'll be Grand indeed!

The Old Webmaster's BOOKSHELF

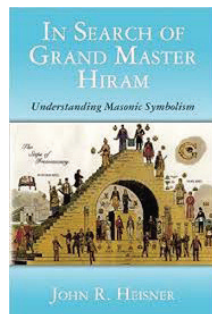
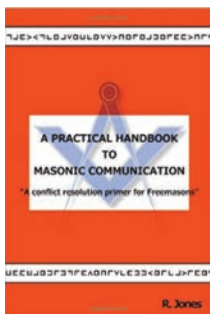


What do **you** think is the best book about Freemasonry? If you were to be given a book, what would you like to receive? What do you recommend for a new member of the Craft? Listened to any really enjoyable audio books? And, yet another question: how do you keep up with changes in the Masonic world - or do you?

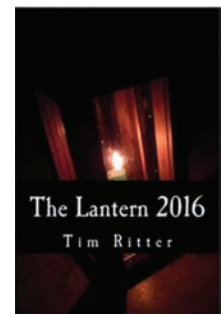
I'd like to put together a list of all sorts of great Masonic resources that Maine Masons have found to be useful, enlightening, enjoyable. Many of you have seen the 'usual' reading lists: this could be so much more. A guide for the Mason who wants to learn: through reading and hearing. Send me a note of what you think should be included. Whether a podcast, a book from long ago, whatever: it'll broaden horizons for us all and I'll be sure to include your name in the list of credits. Will you help? grandlibrarian@mainemason.org

Searching for symbolism? Bro. John R. Heisner of California has produced three truly excellent works on the subject, each intriguing and informative to say the least. "*In Search of Grand Master Hiram*" is the most recent but a worthy investment would be to also get "*The Secrets of Hiram Abiff*" and "*Advanced Meditations on Masonic Symbolism*". All are available in paperback on Kindle. Well worth your reading time investment for sure!

Conflict in a Masonic Lodge? Whoever heard of such a thing? </Irony> "*A Practical Handbook To Masonic Communication*", subtitled "*A conflict resolution primer for Freemasons*" might, for some, be a bunch of hooey. On the other hand, it could well be that those who dismiss this book as such may themselves be at the root of dissent that is so very disruptive to the smooth and fraternal functioning that we most desire. I've been of two minds about this work but would encourage you to give it a look.



Do you give Masonic presentations that others enjoy? With self-publishing today, creating a book is SO very easy and done with very little expense that you can be a published author as well. Have you ever considered adding to the stock of common knowledge by this means? If not, why not? It's really quite simple! A wonderful example of this being done is "*The Lantern*" by Bro. Tim Ritter. Short (just 42 pages for the 2016 edition) and often personal, it really demonstrates how a Brother can put his passion to work and thereby benefit us all. It's a paperback you can leave at your lodge library when you're done. Start a legacy now and share what you know.



Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the Premiere Masonic research lodge, has published "*Reflections on 300 Years of Freemasonry*" and despite the nearly \$100 price tag, it is certainly a book you should consider. Active Masonic readers will recognize the many contributors as among the 'best and brightest' of Masonic scholars today and the QC Lodge has put together a work that will greatly broaden your understanding of our Masonic history. Expensive? Indeed - but this is another of those 'once in a lifetime' works that will be a classic in no time at all. What a wonderful present this would be for your lodge's library: a legacy indeed. Not a book to collect dust for sure!



Podcasting: what is it? For some, it's a daily habit while others don't have a clue. Think "radio program" and you've got it! You can listen to a podcast on any smart phone, on your computer by using your browser or in a dozen other ways. Just Google for "Whence Came You Podcast" or "X-Oriente" for a couple of great examples. And soon, you'll also be able to look for "Maine Masonic Musings" - a special podcast for Maine Masons! Listen in your car while driving or using your Alexa. The possibilities are limitless. More info coming very soon now!

Bro. Ed King is the Grand Librarian and Museum Curator. You're encouraged to contact him with ideas, suggestions and recommendations for anything relating to YOUR Library and Museum. He really loves to hear about books you've enjoyed!

RW Brother Nadeau

Continued from Page 9

actively re-engage brethren, we must **MAKE THE CALL!** Nothing speaks louder than a personal connection. I would encourage lodge 'meet and greet' events

5. The Grand Lodge has introduced or expanded several programs in the past few years. Are you supportive of these efforts? Do you think that they are effective and, if not, how would you improve them? Please give your opinions on each of the five listed below.

The Rookie Program - The rookie program is an invaluable tool for our youngest brethren and their lodges. Since its inception, Masons have mentored our new Masons who are pursuing the award and, as a result, young Masons have become quickly engaged and steeped in Masonry – 90% have become lodge officers. Over the last couple years, the rookie award program has not been utilized as aggressively as it was when it was shiny and new. New ways should be explored to highlight the program.

The Dirigo Leadership Program and The Maine Masonic College - The Dirigo leadership program and Maine Masonic College remind me of the lecture where we hear of our ancient friend and brother the great Pythagoras who enriched his mind abundantly in the general knowledge of things. These programs are essential to creating strong leaders in our 182 lodges across this jurisdiction. The Dirigo leadership program prepares brethren to strengthen lodges and Maine Freemasonry and should be offered more frequently. The Maine Masonic College offers every brother and nonmason alike an opportunity to enrich their minds on many Masonic and non-Masonic topics, ultimately building a better future for Maine Freemasonry.

The Mentoring Program - As the former State Mentoring Coordinator, among the many opportunities available to Maine Masons, mentoring is the nearest to my heart. I am grateful to the many mentors who have richly contributed to my advancement in Masonry. New brothers benefit greatly from having Brethren help them navigate through the basics of Masonry and learn Masonic protocol, ritual and symbolism. The mentoring program in conjunction with the rookie award creates an environment of encouragement for our brethren that makes them want to be active Freemasons. The mentoring relationship should be unique and tailored to everyone with the one goal in mind – building Masonic knowledge and our brotherly connections. -

The reallocation of funding from scholarships to the

matching grant programs with lodges - I fully support the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation decision to move funding to matching grants that engage more brethren in their lodges and help lodges benefit and be active in their communities. Each lodge is encouraged to raise money and become eligible to receive up to \$6,000 in matching grants each year, thereby having a more significant impact on the community programs the lodges chose to support.



6. What do you see as the three biggest challenges facing our Grand Lodge and charitable foundation? How would you meet those challenges?

Communication - Courteous, warm and responsive communications are essential to our brotherhood. In this technology age, communication has been one of my continuing concerns. Never have I asked a question or requested information from someone in a face to face conversation and not gotten a response. Yet over the years, communication has become less personal, more electronic and easily ignored. As a fraternity, it is imperative that we make a concerted effort to adopt current technologies while maintaining personal contacts. Compliance with the Grand Lodge social media policy is important. The Grand Lodge online calendar and the new MORI system improvements are being increasingly used. I will ask our DDGMs to continue to encourage updates of our brothers' contact information so we can reach more brethren more quickly.

Definition of Roles - Elected and appointed leaders need to clearly define the duties and expectations of brethren who assume Masonic responsibilities. It is my intention to clearly define and communicate the expectations of each position so candidates might determine whether they are prepared to fill the position and work diligently for the advancement of the Maine Masonry. If a brother cannot fulfill the demands of these positions to the standards expected, then the appointment should not be accepted.

Understanding, and Application of Ritual - Ritual is THE method used by Masons to convey great moral lessons. It is essential that the ritual be delivered accurately and with feeling, and be explained through education programs so that candidates and members alike understand the meaning of the ritual and its application to our lives.

Continued on Next Page

Continued from Preceding Page

The challenge of every lodge and Grand Lodge officer is to educate brethren in not just the words of the ritual but the ways in which the ritual's meaning applies to our lives. Not everyone is a ritualist, but the valuable lessons of Masonry apply to us all. We have made great advances to this end over the last couple years. It is imperative that we continue.

7. Our Grand Lodge will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2020. If elected, you would be Grand Master during much of that anniversary year. What are your thoughts on how we should celebrate our Masonic bicentennial?

As Grand Master, I would encourage our brethren, lodges and districts to embrace the opportunity for a year-long celebration, taking advantage of the mood that will accompany Maine's 200th anniversary as a state. We have a perfect opportunity to put Maine Masonry on the front page of many local and statewide publications. I envision the "Grand Master's Own Precision Degree Team" exemplifying an Entered Apprentice degree on the same day that the first degree was conferred after Grand Lodge was organized by the new Maine Legislature, with brethren from other jurisdictions in attendance. Our Maine Masonic College should schedule Masonic historical presentations. The summer parade season offers opportunities for high exposure. Family fun day events should be held. Events should be held that showcase our Masonic commitment to our communities, and community leaders should be invited to share in the fun. We should hold at least one huge event at a venue such as a civic center which invites the general public, and at least one event in each district. Consider a bicentennial calendar or publication? The possibilities are endless and limited only by our imagination.

8. Good stewardship of the Craft's finances must be a priority and practice of every Grand Master. If elected DGM, what steps would you adopt in planning to be GM? What priorities would your budget reflect for both Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation?

As Deputy Grand Master, I will prepare to shoulder the challenge of fiscal responsibility in the same way as I have done in business for the last 20+ years. I will develop guidance that lodges might optionally employ to better their own financial affairs. It is incumbent on individual lodges and Grand Lodge to conduct a regular self-evaluation of income and expenses to ensure the prudent and efficient use of the craft's funds. I would seek input from Grand Lodge officers and committees, as well as brethren with various business disciplines, to provide guidance on managing the financial affairs of the craft, thereby ensuring our long-term financial security. My priorities are and always will be directed to the craft. I will explore opportunities for assisting lodges in reducing the crippling financial burden associated with maintaining their older lodge halls, and explore options for housing or financing lodge meeting space. Our Charitable Foundation must continue to invest in the successful work that has been in place for the last several years; however, our charitable endeavors should be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that we do not invest in efforts that no longer produce the desired outcome.

From the Quarry

Rev. Bro. Michael Glidden

Eternal rock

shaped

From above

The chisel

chips

and shapes

A new stone

Perfectly fit

For the cornerstone

The quarry is a spiritual poem that reflects my life as a person and as a Christian. I see the great quarry as the land in the beyond or heaven per say. God has created me as a person. I am a human so I have many faults and shortcomings. But, because I am from His quarry, I can rest in knowing that I am being shaped for something better. I can rest in knowing that my life with all of the rough edges is being shaped, smoothed over and polished. Despite the difficulties of life, I know that I am in good hands. As my life progresses, God will take my life and use it for His glory. So I am perfectly fitted into the building of His choosing. The Good News is that in the here and now I can be at peace knowing that my rough edges are o.k. I can be myself and learn to laugh at who I am. I don't have to take myself so serious because after all—I come from the quarry.

'Duly and Truly Prepared'

*By Brother David Guarante
Master, Maine Lodge of Research
Rising Sun Lodge #71, Orland, ME*

On December 19, 2017, brother Sean Tomilson became the first ever in his lodge, and one of the first in the state in almost 100 years, to experience the "Chamber of Reflection" prior to his initiation into Freemasonry.

With this, Rising Sun Lodge #71, in Orland, Maine, takes its place among just a handful of Lodges in the entire state who have been proactive about taking on the mantle of the Chamber of Reflection. Before commencing on the Entered Apprentice degree, there exists in a darkened initiatory chamber, chock-filled with symbols, a place where the candidate is meant to sit, reflect, and write in solitariness as he reflects about where he is in his life currently at the point of his Masonic initiation, and contemplates where he is going.

The Chamber of Reflection, according to Albert Mackey in his "Encyclopedia of Freemasonry", is defined as: "...a small room adjoining the Lodge, in which, preparatory to initiation, the candidate is enclosed for the purpose of indulging in those serious meditations which its somber appearance and the gloomy emblems with which it is furnished are calculated to produce." Mackey also quotes: "...as [the Masonic scholar] Gadicke well observes, "It is only in solitude that we can deeply reflect upon our present or future undertakings, and blackness, darkness, or solitariness, is ever a symbol of death. A man who has undertaken a thing after mature reflection seldom turns back."

It was true then, it rings true today.

The Chamber includes: one lit candle constituting the single light source within the chamber, a veiled mirror challenging the candidate to pull back the veil and take a good hard look at himself, if he dares. the alchemical elements of salt, sulphur, and mercury, a skull, an hourglass, a piece of bread and cup of water.

The chamber is peppered with mysterious admonitions all urging the candidate to seriously consider what he is about to undertake, with explanations clarifying the meaning of symbols and shedding illumination on how to apply them in your life. Also, there are three questions that the candidate must answer honest-

ly, after the opportunity of soul-searching which the Chamber provides.

The Chamber of Reflection is the true starting point for a man upon his Masonic journey, one which has been denied, through lack of knowledge, to most candidates for at least a century. The Chamber is the more

current version which utilizes and represents, in an impressive manner, the symbolic connections between images of life and death, of the womb and the tomb, time, transition and illusion that constantly reappear in the initiative traditions and Mysteries, from ancient times to the modern day.

The Chamber forces us to be honest with ourselves, to reflect upon the reasons for wishing to become a Freemason, what we hope to achieve from it not just for ourselves but for the benefit of others as well, and to recognize that in our own mortality, our time is limited, and yet from this moment forward, realizing that a new life awaits us on the other side of the Lodge door, if we so choose it. With all this, we can now honestly and sincerely answer that we are now at last "duly and truly prepared..."





Lodge honors Brother Dodge

Worshipful Calvin Dodge of Alna-Anchor Lodge #43, recently received a plaque from Worshipful Andrew Mullin recognizing his countless hours of devotion and effort to the lodge. Brother Dodge's accomplishments include Worshipful Master of Alna-Anchor Lodge in 1969-1970 and 1988-1989. Brother Dodge was raised a Master Mason on Feb. 20, 1962, and is a member of Kora Shrine. On May 24, 2012 he received his 50-year Veterans Medal alongside his son Robert who received his 25-year pin. He received his 55-year service star on March 14, 2017.

Bro. Dodge has not only served as the lodge historian but is historian in the Town of Damariscotta, writing a column, with his wife, in the Lincoln County News. They have shared many great old photos of what life was like 50+ years ago. Worshipful Dodge has been a mainstay at Alna-Anchor Lodge #43 for 55 years. We thank him for his many years of faithful service to the Fraternity.



Maine Mason Day at the Ballpark



Saturday, July 14th 6:00 pm

The Portland Sea Dogs are proud to partner with the Grand Lodge of Maine to bring you Maine Mason Day on Saturday, July 14th. Cheer on the Sea Dogs as they take on the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, AA affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. Tickets are just \$4.00 for reserved seats. *Hope to see you there!*

Go to:

<https://www.mainemason.org/news/maine-masons-day-sea-dogs/>

Pre-order your \$8.00 tickets today for just \$4.00!

R.W. Brother Brian Ingalls

Continued from Page 8

Greenleaf Award is a demonstration of my ability to organize and motivate my Brothers to work together on projects and events that are not common to our Masonic calendar. Projects such as Veterans Day observances with both television and print media coverage, Lodges of reobligation, Outdoor Fun Day, and St. Johns Sunday observances. I have also made awarding 50 year medals and service stars to our members a special priority, having traveled half way up the State to correct a member not being awarded his. I also learned at a young age that in a volunteer organization, respect, motivation and support are the best tools a leader can have. The office of Deputy Grand Master will give me a great chance to possibly introduce the idea of Lodges and brothers achieving extraordinary goals if they work together.

4. What would you do to address the four areas of membership that are arguably critical?

Future members in our fraternity will come from men in our communities who see the values we offer to them, their families and our communities. Our cupboards are full of programs for community betterment projects and rewards for scholastic achievements. We need to use these programs to gain a higher profile and awareness of Masonry's values in our communities. These activities will attract men who we will be proud to call "Brother". I believe that we needed to make better use of Committee's of Inquiry and the ballot box, that we need to better understand *why* a man wants to become a member of a Lodge so we are not just adding another member to our rolls. And in these trying times not all men are suitable for membership. We need to look for quality not quantity when approaching potential applicants. It is better to be a Fraternity of 2000 men of character than an organization of 3000 men off the street.

My experience as Membership Chairman of an appendant body made me aware that brothera join our Fraternity for specific reasons. I believe one on one conversations with either the Master, a Warden or even a Past Master with a non attending member to discover why he joined and why he stopped coming are the first steps in reactivating non attending members. Finding something he may want to do in the Lodge just may bring him back. Finding a brother who will offer him a ride may also cause him to return, he may have lost his "buddy Brother" and may not have someone he has a bond with in the Lodge. A conversation will uncover a lot of reasons we may not be aware of for not attending.

Suggesting to Lodges that they schedule an annual contact with unaffiliated Brothers of their Lodge to see if they would like to return to Lodge is a proactive program

that can be aided by looking at payment of past dues. Suggesting that a Lodge look at its by-laws to see if payment of past due dues is a requirement for reinstatement may also be necessary. If the details can be worked out for reinstatement and he can be assigned something he would like to do in the Lodge, he may become one of the strongest leaders in the Lodge.



5. The Grand Lodge and Charitable Foundation have introduced, refocused, or expanded several programs in the past few years. Are you supportive of these efforts?

Yes, in my role as District Deputy Grand Master I have been an advocate for the programs listed as well as:

Bikes for Books

Maine Veterans Home Supportive Program

Project Graduation

Youth Activities Matching Funds Program

I believe the ones listed, as well as the ones above, are wonderful tools for our Lodges to bring further light to our Brother and also increase our activities in our communities. I also believe that the use of the Rookie Program, Dirigo Leadership Program, the Mentoring Program and Maine Masonic College courses offers Brothers an inducement to travel, gain leadership skills, assist new Brothers and to increase their knowledge of Masonry. I believe that candidates for the degrees and raised Brothers should make their own decisions about participation or attendance at these four programs.

5a Do you think they are effective and, if not, how would you improve them?

I think all 5 programs you have listed are effective and that they will become more effective as our Lodges engage in discussions about the value they offer our membership. I also think that all members may not want or have the time to participate in these programs. It should be the choose of the individual.

5c Please give your opinion on each of the five listed below:

Rookie Program - Great program to get candidates and newly raised Master Masons involved in their Lodges, the Fraternity outside the walls of his Lodge, to develop relationships, and to start his education beyond the lessons of the three degrees. When the officers of a Lodge come to understand the value of this program to the "Rookie" and his future value to the Lodge after his participation in this program, they will become advo-

Continued on Next Page

R.W. Brother Brian Ingalls

cates. I also think that once a new Master Mason is qualified, a District Grand Lodge officer should travel to his Lodge so he can receive his award in front of his Brothers, furthering his relationship with them.

Dirigo Leadership Program - A good program for Deacons and Wardens. It offers them a chance to be better prepared for their journey to the office of Master. After a review I would like to see on-line leadership courses offered on our Grand Lodge website. My experience in Masonry tells me that successful Lodges have a good leader at the helm. If we could offer Brothers the opportunity to improve their skills, it would be time well spent.

Maine Masonic College - As the College offers more courses I would suggest Grand Lodge take a more aggressive approach to "advertising" them. Brothers who attend readily look for other courses to take after experiencing their first session. I think that greater effort by Grand Lodge officers should be put behind the encouragement to not only host but to attend the courses. I also believe that Grand Lodge officers should set the example by attending the courses and invite Brothers to attend with them.

The Mentoring Program - This is a great program and we would be well served if it were combined with the Rookie Program. The creation of bonding relationships, by sharing light in Masonry, by working together within the Lodge and traveling to other Lodges to attend degrees and other programs such as Maine Masonic College courses has a positive effect on all Brothers involved. A very strong program for creating and retaining members.

The relocation of funding from scholarships to the matching grant programs - I believe strongly that our Lodges should offer scholarships to Lodge brothers' children, grandchildren, Rainbow girls and DeMolay boys as a benefit of membership. I think it is the responsibility of the Lodges, who choose to offer scholarships, to engage in fund raising activities to support their Lodge's program.

6. What do you see as the three biggest challenges fac-

ing our Grand Lodge and Charitable Foundation?

I see the number one challenge facing *Free Masonry* being the perpetuation of our Lodges and thus, our Fraternity. I believe that *how* Lodges do it is the second most challenging step and the *accepting of responsibility* for the perpetuation of their Lodge by the Lodges the third biggest challenge. All of this while adhering to the Constitution and Standing Regulations.

7. What are your thoughts on how we should celebrate our Masonic Bicentennial?

I think that local Lodges should be at the center of the celebration, that they should consider holding a Charter Night during the celebration year. That Grand Lodge celebrate its charter in different locations in the State so Brothers can attend without incurring additional cost to themselves.

8. Good stewardship of the Craft's finances must be a priority and practice of every Grand Master. If elected DGM, what steps would you adopt in planning to be GM?

My budgeting experience and common sense tells me that budgets are set according to the financial needs of activities and programs. First, I would want to see a draft of the year's plan, ask that it be reviewed against cost, project cost against income, make adjustments where needed, establish a final draft and finally, review the plan with its stakeholders.

8a What priorities would your budget reflect for both Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation?

The first priority should be to see that all Constitutional requirements are met by the Grand Lodge and the Charitable Foundation's budgets. After that, to see funding is in place for the Charity and Relief Funds, for the matching grant programs, for the Bicentennial Celebration and other standing committees, and all of the line items that make up the budget itself. That the needs of the Lodges be recognized based on the history of their demands for funding from Grand Lodge or the Charitable Foundation. That contingency funds are addressed. And finally, that the Craft itself have their traditional opportunity to review it before it is voted on.

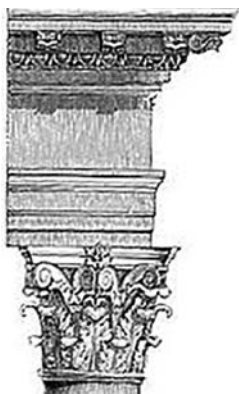


Your support helps make it happen!

Maine Masonic Charitable
FOUNDATION

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website,
masoniccharitablefoundation.org
for more information or to make a gift.

Committed to making
a positive difference
in the lives
of Masons,
their families,
and their
communities.



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

The College Briefly...

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

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

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

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

INVOLVEMENT!

LIKE us on
Facebook



The Maine Masonic College Newsletter

The

ENTABLATURE

Whole Number 29

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Spring 2018



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COURSE OFFERINGS

In its continuing effort to offer "more light in Masonry" the Regents of the Maine Masonic College announce the following course offerings. As with all College offerings, they are designed to provide brethren the opportunity to expand their vision of Freemasonry and its principles. Whether you are on the path to a Masonic College Diploma or simply want to be a more enlightened Mason, these programs are for you. As the bright season of Spring comes upon us, these offerings of the Maine Masonic College will add light.

-- ALL CLASSES OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC --

Please Note: There will be a lite luncheon served after each class. The charge is \$5.00. If you plan to attend the meal you must pre-register for the class by calling Theresa at the Grand Lodge office at 843-1086.

April 14

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: Wayne T. Adams

Location: Limestone Lodge, Limestone 9AM-12PM

April 21

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

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

Apprentices. **Instructor:** Walter MacDougall & Don McDougal

Location: Star in the West Lodge, Unity 9AM-12PM

May 5

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: Wayne T. Adams

Location: Crooked River Lodge, Bolsters Mills 9AM-12PM

Continued on Page 22

#25 of the Minutes of “Old Builders Lodge #1000”

Brother George M.A. Macdougall
george.macdougall@maine.gov

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

As I write this edition of the Minutes it is well past Christmas time. But, what is one thing you need a lot of at Christmas? Batteries!!! Keeping that in mind and finishing our current theme of electricity, our subject in this edition of the Minutes invented the first battery! Also in this edition, we learn about the origins of the combustion engine and the book *Frankenstein*!

Alessandro Volta was born in Como, Lombardy, Italy, on February 18, 1745. His family was part of the nobility, but not wealthy. Until the age of four, he showed no signs of talking, and his family feared he was not very intelligent or possibly dumb. Though slow to speak, he actually learned many languages which came in very handy when he travelled around Europe presenting his findings.

Volta invented the first electric battery – which people then called the “voltaic pile” – in 1800. Using his invention, scientists were able to produce steady flows of electric current for the first time, unleashing a wave of new discoveries and technologies. Within weeks of Volta’s invention of the battery, William Nicholson and Anthony Carlisle built and used a battery to decompose water into hydrogen and oxygen. Within just six years, Humphry Davy isolated new chemical elements barium, calcium, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, and strontium and deduced that chemical bonds were electrical in nature. By 1821, Michael Faraday had produced an electric motor.

Volta was the first person to isolate methane and discovered methane mixed with air could be exploded using an electric spark: this is the basis of the internal combustion engine. He also suggested that the sparking apparatus he used to explode methane could also be used to send an electric signal along a wire from Como to the city of Milan which is how a telegraph works as well as how we transfer electricity today. He also discovered “contact electricity” resulting from contact between different metals. This was something we had to be careful of in bridge construction because if the wrong metals came in contact,

one would eventually disappear due to the other one stealing electrons from it!

In recognition of Alessandro Volta's contributions to science, the unit of electric potential is called the volt.

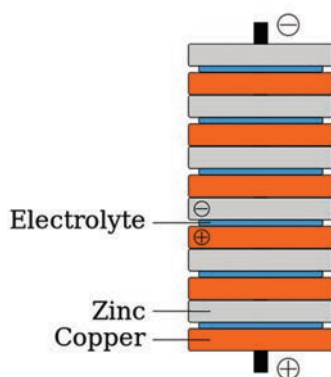
A feud over frog's legs led to the writing of *Frankenstein*. Luigi Galvani was a professor of anatomy. In the late 1780s he noticed that a spark of static electricity carried by a metal scalpel touching the nerves of a dead frog while the legs lay on metal caused the legs to move. This was an amazing discovery: animal movement was based on electricity in some way. In 1817, this led to Mary Shelley writing *Frankenstein*. In this

novel, a creature made from a monstrous mixture of body parts from dead people is brought to life by Doctor Frankenstein using electricity from a lightning storm.

In 1792, Volta said that the “animal” part of Galvani’s animal electricity was not needed. Animals merely responded to normal electricity. There was

no difference between animal electricity and electricity. Volta performed various experiments on frogs' legs. He found the key to getting them to move was contact with two different metals. Contact with pieces of the same metal did nothing.

This closes the switch on our electrical journey. There are many other people involved in the discoveries of this field and well worth an internet search!



The Voltaic Pile



Volte explaining his battery to Napoleon.

Masonic College Course Offerings *Continued*

May 12

Tenets & Cardinal Virtues

Freemasonry is not a revealed religion. It is, however, as are all great human searches after what is truly significant. Instructor Reginald Wing will lead us in such a search for the interrelated significance of the Cardinal Virtues and the Tenets of our profession not only as Freemasons but as human beings. Brother Wing's course is intended for participation and is supported by excellent hand-out material.

You will leave with a new understanding of the importance of our tenets and cardinal virtues.

Instructor: RW Reggie Wing

Location: Ashlar Lodge, Auburn 9AM-12PM

May 19

Celebration Liberal Arts and Sciences- The Cathedral Experience

Once a year 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 of science or in arts and science education followed by a banquet and an open session encouraging participation on the part of the participant.

Instructor: Prof. Michael Grillo, MW Walter Macdougall

Location: All Souls Church, Bangor 9AM-12PM

June 9

Understanding World Religions

A highly important and timely subject and open to all. A recent poll of Americans revealed an alarming lack of basic knowledge about the world's religions. Surprisingly, a Gallup poll revealed that only half of American adults could name even one of the four Gospels of the New Testament. This course has been designed to teach participants the basics of world religions including their origins, historical figures, rituals, scriptures, holidays and key teachings – all that Masons should know and understand in order to consider themselves

religiously literate. By studying the religious traditions of the world, we will better understand our world and our neighbors, and because religions deal with the fundamental questions of human existence, understanding religion will help us to better understand ourselves as Freemasons who profess to be linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection and who regard the whole human species as one family.

Instructor: RW Charlie Plummer

Location: Delta Lodge, Lovell 9AM-12PM

July 14

The Wondrous Fellow Craft Degree- a Journey for Our Times

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

This course is designed to bring new focus to that all important middle degree in Freemasonry and to afford an opportunity for new masons as well as their mentors to expand their horizons as they labor to be builders of knowledge and worthy, life giving vision and ideals.

Instructors: RW Donald McDougal and MW Walter Macdougall

Location: Greenleaf Lodge, Cornish 9AM-12PM

July 28

Examining the Modern Social Landscape: Implications for Freemasonry:

The seminar serves as an introduction to understanding the complexities of demographic, social, and economic trends. We would focus on both the United States as a whole and the State of Maine specifically. Masonic lodges have been an integral part of the social landscape for centuries. To maintain our viable and relevant presence, we need to develop an enhanced awareness of and critically

Continued on Following Page

examine the changing sociocultural factors that impact our fraternity.

Dr. Christopher Howard is the Chair for the Social Science division and an Associate Professor of Psychology at Husson University. Christopher is currently serving as the Worshipful Master of Seminary Hill Daylight Lodge as well as the Dean of the Maine Masonic College.

Instructor: Christopher Howard

Location: Mt. Kineo Lodge, Guilford
9AM-12PM

Aug 18

Symbolism II (This course is substituting for Alchemy)

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 and VW Christopher Howard

Location: Washington Lodge, Lubec
9AM-12PM

Aug 25

Myth and Freemasonry

The purpose of this class is to express the basic and central nature of the spiritual life of the local Lodges as the foundation upon which Freemasonry is properly built. 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: Deering Lodge, Portland
9AM-12PM

“SAVE THE DATE”

MAY 19, 2018

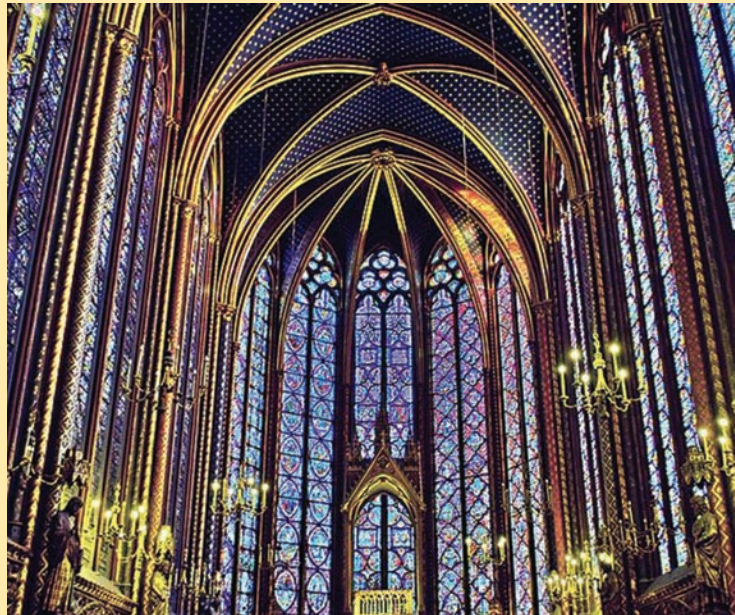
**Annual Celebration of Arts
& Sciences**

The Maine Masonic College

featuring

DR. MICHAEL GRILLO

‘The Cathedral Experience’



Also presenting will be

**DR. and M.W. BROTHER
WALTER MACDOUGALL**

**Special Guests -
UM Honor Students**

All Souls Church

10 Broadway, Bangor, ME 04401

8 AM - 12 NOON

The Cathedral Experience



*Exterior and
interior Views
of
Cologne
Cathedral*



Brother Walter M. Macdougall, PGM

Why should we Freemasons be enthralled, interested even, with the medieval achievements of the operative stone masons? Why should we look more carefully at the cathedrals they erected?

With exaltation,¹ the great, medieval cathedrals rise into a God-arched cosmos. They defy their ponderous mass as if angels had removed the weight of stone. They arose from one of those up-wellings of creative and technical achievement alive with the accumulating skills of the Arts and Sciences that inspired and enabled artisans to reach upwards and beyond the limits of their past. We Freemasons are also builders for humanity and laborers for our Creator; we share so much intent and spirit with our operative ancestors.

The second millennium, Anno Domini, was a time of growing towns, of learning, relearning and the appearance of the first universities. Skilled workmen, apprentices and fellows banded together in guilds thus finding recognition, advancement and a certain level of independence. A new profession, the Master Mason or

Master Builder, replaced the skilled monks who had once been in charge of larger building projects. It is a story of a heritage and a team accomplishment important in so many ways to Freemasonry today.

If asked, the master builders of these Cathedrals would have identified the architectural style they employed as *Opus Francigenum*, the French work, as it was in France that this architectural form first appeared before spreading across northern Europe. Some four hundred years later, the term *Gothic* became firmly attached to these grand structures. Those who coined this term intended it to be pejorative. For them this new architecture was barbaric, like the “rude and uncouth” northern tribes which had contributed to the destruction of Rome.² With such an appraisal these critics saw the work of the High Medieval builders as an “uglyfication.” This negative view may be why there is little emphasis on the medieval craft in our masonic ritual.³

Robert G. Davis in his book *The Mason's Words*⁴ brings alive those early compilers of our present Masonic ritual. Influential in this exceptional group was William Preston (1742-1818), a classicist and bibliophile. At age four Preston was able to recite passages of Latin and Greek. He welcomed and perhaps amplified those

¹ The medieval worldview sees humankind involved in a divine drama. God is indeed omnipresent- the writer and director of the play. There is an old story of finding a lone mason carving an intricate detail far up in stone intricacy of a cathedral. “Why are you taking such pains; who will see what you have done?” the artisan was asked. His answer was “God will.”

² The oxford Universal Dictionary

³ The Ancient Charges or Gothic Constitutions and the Old Regulation do bear witness to our medieval heritage.

⁴ *The Mason's Words: The History and Evolution of the American Ritual*, Building Stone Publication, 2013.

Continued from Preceding Page

ideas from Greek philosophy which illuminated the traditions of the builder and extolled the balanced elegance of classical architecture. As Davis shares, Preston and the other early compilers of our degree work had discovered in the lore of operative masons an amazingly rich heritage. It was a heritage of fact, hope of accomplishment and of myth too important to be lost with the passing of the operative lodges.

Out of the dynamic drapery of the Beginning, out of the creative mythic of the Light and the Darkness comes the human odyssey- a story of *building* spanning from when humans first contrived shelters, to the glories of King Solomon's Temple in stories which still haunt our Masonic ritual, to a growing fascination with proportions and geometry, to all the arts, to the birth of a new science and finally to a glorious liberty based in responsibility.⁵

In addition, there existed a powerful synergy between the builders' art and the moral path. Even the simple tools -- the plumb, the level and the square--seemed, by their very employments to teach of human relationships. Such coincidence is found in all trades where the doing sheds light on what it means to be truly human and where being human gives meaning to the art. In the case of morality and physical building, especially with stones, this locking together appears providential. There are two interactive architectures: one of the hand, the doing, concrete and physical; one of the mind, of concept and of the growingly possible.

Nowhere in all this connectivity was human achievement more alive and focused than in the building of the Medieval Cathedrals. The objective was to create awe and spiritual inspiration through greater height, wider spans and more open, light-filled spaces. The seemingly inescapable obstacle was the collapsing weight of stone. In the words of Andrew Martindale, "Medieval masons solved this difficult problem about 1120 with a number of brilliant innovations."⁶ What Martindale describes is a system of ribbed vaults, pointed arches, "flying arches," piers and buttresses that focus and carry the weight of the high vaults downwards

⁵ A fascinating source in which one can see this human journeying in progress can be found in Vitruvius' The Ten Books on Architecture written during the Roman Augustinian era. Don't be put off by the "ten books." They are no more than chapters.

⁶ Martindale, Andrew Henry Robert, *Gothic Art and Architecture*, Internet.

to the ground. In addition to physically working together, these architectural elements create an aesthetic "lifting." As a result of their vector carrying, large areas of wall space are opened for windows. Through these fields of colored glass streams what was and is so desired- *light*. As did medieval parishioners standing in a cathedral, we feel we are in the presence of that which is more endowed with wisdom and alive with creative passion and compassion than we ourselves!

The Gothic did not deface or break company with the Classical impulse. Michael Grillo, Professor of Art at the University of Maine, argues that "... the Gothic, although using innovative forms, did so to fulfill Classical ideals rather than rebel against them."⁷

One pervasive link between the two styles lies in their irrepressible humanism. In ancient Greece the gods walked as super-humans among men and women. The Acropolis was so wonderfully created that Athenians



Ekkehard and wife Uta (Naumburg Cathedral)

ascending the last flight of stairs felt they had entered the courts of Olympus. Had they met a god or goddess, apprehensive as they might be, they would have recognized that deity and held a conversation just as Adam walked and talked to

⁷ Communication from Dr. Grillo to the author.

Continued on Following Page

The Cathedral Experience *Continued from Preceding Page*

Yahweh in the garden. There is a similar familiarity in the Gothic sculpture. Angels with believable bodies under their pleated gowns smile- not a stony smile but one of warmth. Saints have strong features and faces which know their sins and ours. A queen holds the collar of her cloak against her graceful cheek as if she posed for a fashion photo while her husband stands with his hand grasping the hilt of his sword. He knows a dozen intrigues. The mason-sculptors had been instructed by the Church to be tellers of stories in stone. Perhaps the sculptors told more than was intended by the authorities, but there is truth in what they carved and an implication that the individual counts.

It took a century to complete many of these complex cathedrals. Some never were finished. Master Masons came, grew old and passed on the plans to their successors. In the lodges, built up against the growing walls, generations of craftsmen applied their various skills and trained the men who would take their place. There were destructive fires, collapses and times when operations were halted for lack of funds. It was a miracle that the effort continued to produce structures that would

become the center and pride of the sponsoring community and of the countryside around.

Imagine that you stand upon a lashed pole staging one hundred and twenty feet above the paving stones of a cathedral floor, the buttressed walls rise up before you course upon course while above the centering is being placed upon which the reaching ribs of a vault will be constructed. These craftsmen you see working around you are our operative brethren, and the work they are doing is an allegory and figurative example for the building you and I are called to do.

This is perhaps the most important reason Freemasons should be enthralled with the medieval achievements of the stone masons. Awe-struck, we look at what they built and cry out with Gilbert Chesterton: "What poet-race shot such Cyclopean arches at the stars?"⁸

⁸ From Gilbert Chesterton's *King's Cross Station*.

Chesterton's reference in the poem is not to a medieval architectural accomplishment but his intent, concern and exuberance fit.

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 Secretary, PO Box 430, Holden, ME 04429.

Please send _____ Maine Masonic Challenge Coins to:

Name _____ Address _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$13.50/per coin, includes tax and postage)

Somethings Cookin' in the Sixth District

On January 27, the Sixth District held its First Chili/Chowder Cookoff to raise money for the Bangor Veterans' Home Activities Fund. There were 13 Chili Entries and 4 Chowder entries. The competition was fierce. Entries included mild, hot and spicy, and even alligator chili, while chowders ranged from corn chowder, haddock chowder, shrimp & haddock chowder, and seafood chowder.



Brother Audie Gould, DDGM/6 congratulates chowder king, Brother Troy Devoe of the Widows Sons.



Brother Audie Gould, DDGM/6 with chili expert Wor. Rick Spring of Lynde Lodge.

The event was very well attended by Masons, veterans and community members. The winner for the best Chili was Lynde Lodge #174 of Hermon, and the winner for the best chowder were the Widow's Sons. Everyone had a great time and plans are in the works for next year. A total of \$789.25 was raised for this worthy cause.

Springvale Lodge Working for Vets in Scarborough

Springvale Lodge #190, as part of its fund-raising endeavors, presented a wide screen TV for our veterans to enjoy at the Veterans Home in Scarborough. Pictured, left to right: Brother Dr. Michael Stanley, Wor. Richard Smth, Wor. Ellis Beals, Brother Richard Jagger and Wor. Kevin Worden



The Holy Saints John

Why Are They Freemasonry's Patron Saints?

by Thomas E. Pulkkinen, MW Grand Master

RW Charles Plummer often speaks on the importance of curiosity: the desire to learn by exploring the often unexplained meaning of our Masonic ritual and symbolism. When asked to deliver a sermon on St. John's Sunday last June at the Dixfield Congregational Church, my thoughts turned to explaining the importance of faith to our fraternity and, more specifically, to explaining why Freemasonry adopted two historical figures as the protecting or guiding saints of our Craft. What follows is my message as Grand Master at that St. John's Service.

Freemasonry – is a family of God-centric bodies for men, women, boys and girls – people of all monotheistic religions and essentially of all ages – presently from ages 8 to 104 here in Maine.

Contrary to the mistaken beliefs of some, Freemasonry is NOT a substitute for Church life; it is NOT in conflict with Church teachings; but Masonry meaningfully complements Church life and teachings.

The three Masonic degrees respectively focus on: the moral man – the educated man – the spiritual man. The Holy Scriptures are integral to Lodge life and Masonic teachings. The building of King Solomon's Temple – as taught in 1st Kings and 2nd Chronicles – takes on an essential role in these degrees.

For instance, Masons will certainly relate to the lesson of 2nd Chronicles, chapter 2, verse 2 that says: ... Solomon directed 70,000 to bear burdens, and 80,000 to hew in the mountain, and 3,600 to oversee them.

While we learn of the building of King Solomon's Temple, it is essential that we understand that this lesson is a metaphor for the importance to each of us to build a great temple within ourselves – a Temple of Faith in God and a Temple of Upright Character – important lessons to believe in God and live by his commandments.

Whether the great Biblical teachings are learned in our Houses of Worship or in our Masonic Lodges, hopefully the lessons will create both curiosity and a desire to explore our faith, our God and the fulfillment ... in our lives ... of the lessons contained in the Good Book.

The autumn issue of *The Maine Mason* magazine featured an article by a minister in New Brunswick, whose calling to serve in the ministry of Christ was a direct

result of his increased spirituality ... brought about by studying the philosophic symbolism contained in the Masonic lessons.

And he is not alone in this life path ... from Masonry into the ministry.

Masons often gather together with family members and friends in both June and December – to observe Saint John's Sunday – to celebrate the Patron Saints of Freemasonry, the Holy Saints John.

We celebrate St. John the Baptist near the Summer Solstice and St. John the Evangelist at the Winter Solstice. This has been done for centuries, in fact the premier Grand Lodge of Masonry, the Grand Lodge of England was organized on St John's Day 300 years ago on June 24, 1717.

The depiction of the Patron Saints of Freemasonry on the front of this morning's church bulletin (and on the next page of *The Maine Mason*) is from a painting in Corner Stone Masonic Lodge in Duxbury, Mass. The painting allows that Lodge to teach ... visually ... important symbolic lessons. The two Saints John represent the Summer and Winter Solstice, and the placement of The Holy Bible between these dates is at the Vernal Equinox – a time associated with Easter and Passover.

When my wife and I traveled to Finland – my family's ancestral homeland – a few years ago, we visited the Holy Cross Church in Hattula whose construction started in 1472. In the 1500s, some 180 murals were added to the walls. One alcove has a full wall painting of the genealogical tree of Jesus.

Continued on Next Page



Holy Cross Church in Hannula, Finland



Uncovered *family tree* mural from the 1500s.

But these paintings were hidden from sight for hundreds of years. During the Reformation these frescos were white-washed, the walls cleansed. The paintings were found centuries later as the peeling lime whitewash was being removed.

Many medieval Finns could not read ... and there were no Bibles printed in Finnish available to the masses. So the paintings allowed Finns from 500 years ago to envision the Biblical lessons. One painting even includes a birch twig like you might find in a Finnish Sauna...to help get your blood circulating.

You see, a picture – even a mental picture – is worth a 1,000 words and helps us to understand important teachings and concepts. Let me quickly draw and contrast two mental images for you this morning. First, I believe that you will agree that your loving congregation and religious lessons represent the soul of this church.

So is the case made by 19th Century Freemason Albert Pike, a philosopher and a profound student of religion. He similarly opined that “Brotherhood and symbolism is the soul of Freemasonry.”

Attempting to understand symbolism is like trying to understand the meaning of a painting – we each see the art through our eyes ... through the prism of our life teachings and experiences. Your judgements and mine will likely vary from those of art aficionados and certainly from those of the artists ... most especially Picasso and other modernists.

The Call to Worship this morning comes from one of our Masonic teachings – “The Anchor and Ark.” Imagine them for a moment! Masons say The Ark safely wafts us though our tempestuous lives and the anchor mores us in a peaceful harbor where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary shall find rest. The ark, of course, represents our faith in God, and the anchor denotes our hope for immortality at the hands of God, reunited – in peace and without torment, pain and sickness – with loved ones who have gone before us.

Looking again at the accompanying picture, we see St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist holding rods, along with a circle with a dot at its center, and atop the circle is The Holy Bible. We learn from this picture, that if each of us – represented by the dot – live by the teachings of the Holy Bible

and limit our desires and passions within the bounds of the circle, we might live just and upright lives.

But why did Freemasonry adopt these two Biblical characters as Patron Saints?

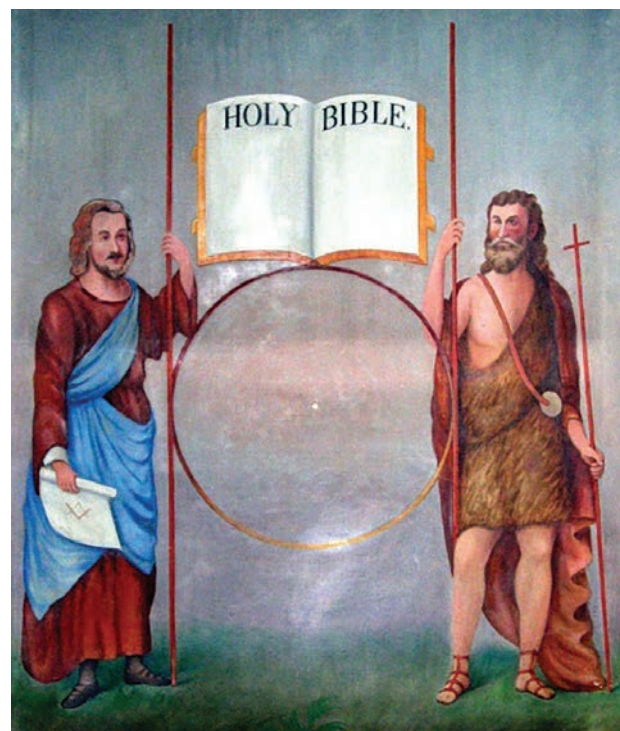
A friend of mine, a Methodist Minister, says that, from his reading of the Scriptures, he has “...discovered that both of these saints were true men of God. Both John the Baptist and John the Evangelist come upon the scene with a vital God-given message. Their word and their countenance demonstrate that they have been in the presence of the Holy. Both come with a message that reports what God is about to do. Each one speaks with an authority that comes from the Divine Creator of the Universe. And most interestingly, each one has a message for us as people of God and as members of the Masonic Fraternity.

My friend says that “John the Baptist is fiery. Standing in the Jordan River, clothed in a leather apron, he cries out ‘Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!’ ‘Thunder in the Desert,’ ... that is what the prophets called him.

“His message is like lightening piercing the darkness. ‘Make straight in the desert ... a highway for our God.’ John’s challenge is for each and every one to turn away from all wrongdoing, and to prepare for the arrival of God’s promised Messiah.

“John urges the people of his day to live uprightly, to cast off acts of darkness and wrong. Likewise he encourages us to put on a mantle of holiness, and to

Continued on Page 31



The Holy Saints John

Honoring our Masonic Veterans



Bro. Ed Dagenhardt was recognized at Maine Day in Florida for his 65 years as a member of Monument Lodge #96 in Houlton.



Arundel Lodge #76 of Kennebunkport recently recognized each of these three veteran Masons for their 55 years as members of the Craft. From left: Brother Gavin "Scotty" Falconer, Wor. Richard Bibber and Wor. Carl Hooper.



Bro. John R. Stratton "Pete" is a 50-year member of Aurora Lodge #50, Rockland.



Bro. Sterling Boyington is a 50-year member of Hiram Lodge #180 in South Portland.



Wor. Phillip Farrington is a 50-year member of Jefferson Lodge #100 in Bryant Pond.



Bro. Robert "Butch" Gowell is a 50-year member of Solar Star Lodge #14 in Bath.



Bro. Harry Green is a 50-year member of Lincoln Lodge #3 in Wiscasset.



Wor. Douglas Jowett of Springvale was presented his 50-year Veterans Medal by the man who raised him, Wor. Richard Ford.



Bro. Spencer Pickett is a 50-year member of St. Aspinquid Lodge #198 in York.

The Holy Saints John *Continued from Page 29*

live our lives with compassion and kindness. Moreover, John's word is one of readiness. John prompts us to live as though we are about to encounter God at any moment."

Living uprightly, compassionately in accordance with God's teachings are marks of a good Mason!

According to Matthew 11:11, Jesus said: "Among those born of women, there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist." It is said that: "God sent John to preach about repentance, to baptize with water (even unto Jesus), to preach about the Kingdom of God and to prepare people for the Messiah's coming." And he did all this with humility.

For living out this profound, steadfast purpose, John the Baptist suffered death by beheading at the hands of Herod, for much the same reason and with the same fate that beset Hiram Abif – dying for his just and upright convictions.

Looking briefly to St. John the Evangelist, his word is a message about light. He speaks of the Light of God coming into the world. John writes, "The true Light that enlightens every man was coming into the world," and likewise he tells us "The Light shines through the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

But there is more, for the evangelist gives us all a warning. He writes about judgment. "This is the judgment," says St. John. "The Light has come into the world, but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does what is evil hates the light, and does not come into the light lest his deed be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light ... that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought by God."

The great and abiding lesson of St. John the Evangelist is to love one another. He concluded in learning and eloquence, what St. John the Baptist had begun with zeal.

What powerful lessons the patrons of Freemasonry reveal to us! As we – Masons and non-Masons – seek to live our lives within the Circle, let us continue to walk uprightly, casting off every work of darkness, and let us seek to live in the light of God's countenance that others may see our good deeds and glorify our Father who is in heaven!

The Second Bible Reading this morning is from 1st Corinthians Chapter 13 that ends with: And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. The Greek word "Agape" translates to both love and charity and these words are used interchangeably in various versions of the Holy Scriptures.

Each of us, Freemason or not, is taught to love one another, to help one another, to serve one another, to perform acts of charity in His name's sake.

It is said in James 2:26, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." We must not only learn of God's will for us, we must labor to fulfill His expectations of us.

While watching a condemned criminal being led to the execution chamber, 18th Century fire and brimstone minister Rev. George Whitefield, said "There but for the Grace of God go I."

When we listen to the news these days, when we survey the goings on in our communities, when we see the challenges before our youth, we might well repeat those words..."There but for the Grace of God go I."

Let us all remember that Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the skillful resolving of conflicts as they arise, which they often will, following the teachings of our Lord.

As we leave God's House this morning, may each of us make every effort to build a great Temple of Faith, and a Temple of Upright Character and Living within us, in the name of the Lord our God...and allow his grace to guide us.



Bro. Sherwood Estes, left, has been a member of Crooked River Lodge #152 in Harrison for 50 years.

Bro. Leonard Harvey, right, has been a member of Oriental Lodge #13 in Bridgton for 50 years,



M.W. Edward P. Burnham

Key contributor to the Town of Saco, Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution & Saco Lodge

*by Brother Carl Marsano
Secretary, Saco Lodge #9*

I first became interested in MW Edward Payson Burnham while researching the history of Saco Lodge, to prepare for my term as Master, which was our bicentennial. I came across his name in the "Portrait Gallery of Prominent Freemasons throughout the United States" by John C. Yorston. He was one of only two Masons from Maine in the book. The other was MW Josiah Drummond. This book outlined 75 masons who were important to Masonry. He was raised in 1852, at a time where lodges were finally recovering from the Morgan Affair and the founding fathers of Maine Masonry (Dunlap, King, Greenleaf, Swan) were dying off. Into this, a new generation for brethren had to take the lead and along with Josiah Drummond, Edward Burnham was one of them.

According to the New England Genealogical Society "he was an easy and interesting speaker, and gave many valuable talks on local and family histories. His wide range of information made him a first class conversationalist, and he delighted to give as well as to receive information."

He was born in Kennebunk on December 3, 1827. His parents were the Reverend Bro. Owen Burnham and Elizabeth Smith Burnham. He went to Bridgton Academy where his father preached. When his father died in June of 1836, he began to work for his uncle for 4 years, and then studied law under William Sewall and Hon. Edward Bourne. He was admitted to the Bar in April, 1849. In 1851 he became Deputy Collector of Customs in Kennebunk for two years, until he found his life's work being elected Secretary and Treasurer of Saco Biddeford Savings Institution and the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Saco.

For 32 years (1853 to 1885) he served in that position, at that time a position equivalent to Chief Executive Officer. During this time with Saco Biddeford, he helped

it grow into a much larger and successful bank (which continues today). He resigned his positions in 1885 to move to Roxbury, Mass. He returned three years later and was elected President of Saco Biddeford Savings until 1901.

Not only was Bro. Burnham active in Masonry but also within the community of Saco. Bro. Burnham was chosen Mayor of Saco in 1872 and 1873, and was an alderman for five years.

He was married to Mary Osborne of Kennebunk in 1854. They remained a devoted couple until her passing in 1897. They had no children.

Brother Burnham was made a Mason in York Lodge, Kennebunk, Maine on July 26, 1852 where his father had been a member, and his grandfather, Seth Burnham, was a founding member and three time Master. Wor. Seth was also one of the first candidates being raised to a Master Mason in Saco Lodge in 1803.

In August 1853 after his move to Saco, he affiliated with Saco Lodge No. 9, and in 1856 became its Master. That same year he was appointed Grand Junior Deacon. Before he was Master, he served as Secretary and after his term as Master, he served as the lodge Treasurer from 1871 to 1885. He was District Deputy Grand Master in 1860 to 1862. He would continuously hold various Grand Lodge positions until his death in 1902, including 30 years on the Charitable Foundation Board, 1870 to 1900.

When Saco Lodge lost its charter in a fire in 1854, it was Bro. Burnham who was at the center of renewing our charter. From the 1855 Grand Lodge proceedings we first see his name: "On motion of Bro. Burnham, the petition of Saco Lodge for the renewal of charter was taken from the table and referred to the Committee on Dispensations and Charters."

Continued on Next Page

M.W. Edward P. Burnham *Continued*

He would go on to serve as Senior Grand Warden for three years before progressing to Deputy Grand Master, and finally Grand Master from 1877 to 1878. Up until 1874, Grand Masters served three years, the same for DGM & SGW. After 1874, the constitution and bylaws changed so Grand Wardens could only serve a one-year term, Making Edward Burnham the last Senior Grand Warden to serve three consecutive years.

He was also a member of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar starting in 1857, and after serving as a subordinate officer for fourteen years, became Grand Commander in 1881 and 1882. He was a delegate to the Grand Encampment in 1859 and 1880 at Chicago.

In May, 1858, he was created a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33° and elected an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States in Boston, May 22, 1862. On September 27, 1883, he became an Active Member.

In May, 1861, he was among the petitioners for the charter of Maine Consistory at Portland.

Due to ill health, Brother Burnham moved to Somersworth, NH to be with relatives, and passed to the Celestial Lodge above on May 12, 1902. He is buried in Kennebunk at Hope Cemetery.

From the 1903

Grand Lodge Proceedings:

"We remember that at the last communication of this Grand Lodge one was absent who had not been absent before during a long course of years. Past Grand Master BURNHAM was not here. We remember also that at the last Proceedings of the May session of that communication, upon the motion of Past Grand Master DRUMMOND we stood up, unanimously desiring to send some friendly word to the brother that was ill.

How much has he accomplished for human institutions who has lived a long life actively, honestly, intelligently! Brother BURNHAM did the day's work manfully and for many days, and as we recount the external events of his life and the positions of trust that he held, we shall find them clearly marked sign posts in a long course of honorable action. Honor to his memory."

MW Edward Burnham Award

To honor MW Edward Burnham and spur interest in his memory, Saco Lodge presented its first of what will be an annual MW Edward Burnham Award for Lifetime Achievement to Masonry.

This award will be issued to a member of Saco Lodge. And unlike the lodge's Mason of the Year or Table Lodge honoree awards, a brother will be eligible to win it only once.

At the lodge's Annual Lobster Stew and Awards Night in December, Saco Lodge had the pleasure to award this to RW Richard Clark, a 50-year member, twice Past Master, DER and DDGM/18, an officer of Saco Lodge for 18 years, and a key contributor to the fraternity.



Wor. Brother Greg Maxwell shown here with Burnham Award honoree, RW Brother Clark.

Rising Star Lodge Supports Kids, Honors Long-time Master



Wor. David J. Drew, left, in photo below, is presented with a gift after serving 11 years as Master of Rising Star Lodge #4, Penobscot. Photo taken at the installation of the lodge's new Master, Wor. Richard Bowden.

Brethren of Rising Star Lodge #4, Penobscot, participated in the Bikes for Books Program last year and presented bikes and helmets to three very happy boys and three equally happy girls in both the Penobscot School and Adams School in Castine. In this photo Wor. Davis Drew, left, and Brother Erik Ream draw the winning names at the Bikes for Books event at the Penobscot School.



A Masonic Love Story

M.W. Brother Roger Snelling passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on May 11, 2015. His wife of nearly 70 years, Rosemary, followed a short time later. This stone marks their final resting place in Scarborough. The clasped hands within a heart, and the square and compasses on the cuff say much about this wonderful couple, loved by all who knew them.

Grand Lodge of Maine - Masonic Day in Maine - April 7, 2018

The first Saturday in April is Masonic Day in Maine. Our Masonic degrees will be conferred in more than 20 lodges throughout the State, some in the morning and others in the afternoon or evening. Several venues will be working four or five candidates, and Auburn is planning for 10 candidates across two lodge rooms, then joining together for the lectures. Altogether 75 candidates are expected to be worked that day.

Each District/Lodge has developed its own plan for the day. The presiding Masters in the 17th District will be working the degree in South Portland's Hiram Lodge. District 8 has a "progressive" Degree Team, working candidates in Northport, then going to Brooks with everyone traveling to Belfast for the final degree with lectures.

All Masons are urged to attend these degrees and fill the sidelines to support the candidates and officer teams. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts may observe the degrees they have already taken.

Many Masons find it difficult to attend lodge at night. This is a good opportunity for you to attend lodge and renew your Masonic friendships. There will be special Masonic education programs at each venue that you will not want to miss. You likely will hear a lot that you have never heard about our degrees.

Call a brother and take him to lodge with you!

Any schedule updates will be posted to the Grand Lodge Calendar at www.MaineMason.org

District and Degree Venues	Deg.	Times	Information / Contact
1 Washburn, 3 Berce St	MM	5:00 supper, 6:00 work	RW Richard Wark – 227-3310
2 Lubec, 15 Main St	FC	12:00 lunch and degree	Wor. Dennis Drews – 733-2499.
3 Addison, 32 Plum St	MM	6:00 supper, 7:00 work	VW Robert MacLeod – 214-8963
5 Dover-Foxcroft, 56 East Main St.	MM	12:00 lunch, 1:00 degree	Wor. Gary Sudsbury – 343-4389
7 Union, 149 Sennebec Rd	MM	11:30 lunch, 12:30 degree.	RW Daniel Beardsley – 785-5114
8 Northport, 57 Saturday Cove Rd	MM	7:00 breakfast and degree	conferring degrees in Northport &
8 Brooks, 65 Veterans Hwy	MM	11:00 degree & lunch	Brooks (w/no lectures) then Belfast with
8 Belfast, 17 Wight St	MM	4:00 degree, supper & lectures	RW Cunningham 548-2407
10 E. Boothbay, 118 Ocean Pt Rd	MM	8:00 breakfast & degree	Wor. Michael S. Alley – 380-5743
11 Augusta, 317 Water St	FC	7:30 breakfast, 8:30 degree	Wor. Edward Libby – 485-7867
14 Brunswick, 65 Baribeau Dr	MM	8:00 brkfast, degree & lunch	RW Peter Cutler – (207) 865-3536
17 South Portland, 111 Ocean St.	MM	8-10 breakfast, 11:00 degree	VW Timothy Bushey – 653-8753
18 Cornish, 142 Maple St	MM	12:00 BBQ and degree	RW Eric Durgin – (207) 423-8617
18 Saco, 258 Main St	MM	8:30 breakfast and degree	Bro. Steven Polley – 423-8086
19 Kennebunk, 159 Alfred Rd	MM	10:00 degree and lunch	Bro. Paul Gregoire – 502-2976
19 Kennebunkport, 10 North St.	EA	9:00 breakfast, 10:00 degree	Wor. Jonathan Rosen – 251-9626
19 North Berwick, 77 High St	FC	11:00 lunch and 12:00 degree	Wor. Richard Otten – 851-4045
19 Sanford, 16 Elm St	MM	8:00 breakfast, 9:00 degree	Wor. Craig Durocher – 229-0962
21 W. Sullivan, 132 Bert Gray Rd.	MM	11:00 degree, break for lunch	Wor. James Huff – (207) 422-8214
22 Newport, 265 Moosehead Trail.	MM	7:30 breakfast, 8:00 degree	WM Bert Wiswall – (207) 368-4878
23 Auburn, 1021 Turner St	MM	9:00 degree and lunch	Bro. David CoWallis – 891-9395
24 Lincoln, 75 Main St	MM	5:00 supper, 6:00 degree	Wor. Michael Lambert – 290-7966

District 10 Calendar

DISTRICT 10's "RAILROAD DEGREE" at the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway

Saturday / June 16, 2018
97 Cross Road / Alna, Maine

District 10 will be hosting the annual "Railroad Degree" this year which started years ago by Lincoln Lodge of Wiscasset – open to all Maine Masons. This unique event takes place in the open air, with the train leaving promptly at 1:30 PM. All should be at the staging area fifteen minutes prior with a folding lawn chair in hand for sitting during the degree. There will be a barbeque prior to the degree, with the degree taking place at Lincoln Lodge in Wiscasset should there be rain that day. For further information, contact Wor. Jeff Averill of Lincoln Lodge at cindieandjeff@gmail.com.

DISTRICT 10 BOOSTERS' ASSOCIATION FAMILY WEEKEND AT PITTSTON FAIR-GROUNDS

August 10-12, 2018

District 10 Boosters' Association will be having their third annual "Family Weekend" at the Pittston Fairgrounds from August 10 – 12, 2018 — with the event open to all Maine Masons and their families. The entire Pittston Fairgrounds has been reserved for this annual event, with hook-ups for camper available at no charge and areas available to set up tents for those brave at heart. The Fairgrounds does have dumping stations for those needing one, with showers on the property for all's use. Plans for the weekend are still being formulated with the Saturday night BBQ planned — talk of bringing back the ice cream maker, a band for Saturday night, offering a Woodchoppers' degree, and family activities on Saturday. For more information or to share some ideas, feel free to call or e-mail the President of the 10th District Boosters' Association, Wor. Mike Alley at malleylbc@hotmail.com or (207)-380-5743. Hoping to see you in August!

An Open Letter to Maine Masons

Dear Brothers,

I write to you today as I have the Maine Mason magazine beside me and a classroom full of kids in front of me. I work as a substitute teacher while I am going to seminary, studying to be a minister.

I love reading the Maine Mason magazine as I get updated with what all the lodges are doing. I thought it would be good to update you with a trip I took to Boston. It was not the destination that was important, but the journey. I say that because I think it shows how close we are as brothers, even when we don't sit together in the same lodge.

I currently reside in Gorham and am a member of Harmony Lodge #38. I like to take trips north as often as possible because the traffic down here is too much to handle sometimes! You can imagine my hesitation about trying to make it into Boston.

I drove to Saco to hop on the train to make it to Boston. Wearing my Masonic hat, I was nervous about how to get to Boston, and once there, the location I intended to go. Immediately as I walked in, I heard a "Good morning Brother!" An employee of the Saco Transportation Center talked with me at length about the train ride to Boston. Once the train came, we departed and I stood in line to board. Then another brother saw my hat and we had a wonderful conversation all the way to Boston. I told him I was nervous about taking the subway and wasn't quite sure which line to take. He looked it up once we were at North Station and escorted me to the proper line so I could get to where I needed to go.

I was only raised to the sublime degree two months ago and yet, brothers are everywhere willing to help. Masonry truly does make good men better. Masons listen to the Grand Architect and help each other when needed.

I joined Harmony Lodge, the same lodge my grandfather joined in 1949. I remember him going off to lodge and not talking much about it. Sometimes he would go once a week, sometimes a few times a week. I have been traveling to different lodges a lot since I was raised. Everywhere I go, whether inside a lodge or outside of one, I see brotherly love prevail. If this is what Masonry has offered me in the first two months as a Master Mason, I look forward to a lifetime in the Craft.

Fraternally,
Bro. Forrest Genthner

Masters of the Invisible Lodge under the Arch:

The Adventure & Lessons of Two Masonic Explorers- Lewis & Clark

*by Brother David Guarente
Master, Maine Lodge of Research
Rising Sun Lodge #71, Orland, Maine*

As one visits the Jefferson Expansion National Monument, on the west bank of the Mississippi River, better known as the grounds and structure of the Gateway Arch to the West, in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, one is, without perhaps realizing it, also standing on the site where existed, along a once extant street corner in the oldest part of town, the location of a first Masonic Lodge west of the Mississippi River- St. Louis Lodge Number 111.

As we learn from our Masonic studies, the West is a place symbolic of “the setting sun”, i.e., the place of death. Nowhere does this become more apparent than when we learn about and encounter the sad, tragic ending of one of our most famous, beloved American Masons, the explorer, Meriwether Lewis.

Lewis was the first Master of St. Louis

Lodge #111. But before that, he was handpicked as a “favorite son” by President Jefferson, to lead an expedition of 33 persons, named the ‘Corps of Discovery’, or more commonly known as the ‘Lewis and Clark Expedition.’ This quasi-secret mission’s goal, among other items of interest, was to explore the unknown, vast wilds of the newly-purchased Louisiana Territory, and beyond, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. For this endeavor, he sought to accompany him his “brother from the Army”, William Clark, and their dedica-



Meriwether Lewis and William Clark



The Gateway Arch

tion to each other was so complete, that they ended up sharing the command equally in all respects, unbeknownst to any of the men of any indication to the contrary.

Lewis carried his affinity for the Masonic Craft with him throughout his travels. During his way to the Pacific Ocean, while still in western Montana, having yet to cross the snowy and treacherous Rocky Mountains, he encountered a confluence of three small rivers comprising the source of the Missouri River system, of which he had personally named Wisdom, Philanthropy, and Philosophy, all Masonic virtues which he cherished.

While true, Clark himself was not a Mason during the Expedition, he later became one while back in St. Louis after the mission for the President had been complete, and just only a month before Lewis’s own tragic death. In fact, Clark had been raised in the same St. Louis Lodge #111, and his raising was done so, it is suggested, by Lewis himself.

Both men, years later, met very different fates. Clark prospered in both his appointed positions as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and as Governor of the Missouri Territory, as well as in business and social activities. This all occurred while Clark was starting his own Masonic Lodge later, in St. Louis, chartered as Missouri Lodge #12. He was later buried with Masonic honors.

Mysterious Masonic Poet Surfaces in Bowdoinham

Since being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason five years ago, I have had the privilege of submitting several articles to the Maine Mason highlighting the activities of Village Lodge and its members. In keeping with this tradition, I have somewhat of a mystery to share with you. In January of this year I received a package in the mail containing several poems. The below cover letter was attached to the package only heightening the mystery. Upon reading the poems I met with Worshipful Marc Cram of Village Lodge to share in the mystery. Convinced they were authentic and both agreeing the poems were well written, we decided they were worthy of reading in Lodge.

What convinced us of their authenticity and worthiness was the nature of the poems themselves. The Village Idiot, as he called himself, wrote specific poems on practically every aspect, position and title of a Masonic Lodge. Each poem captured the essence of the topic so that listeners could nod their heads in agreement with each poem. It is with great appreciation to M.W. George Pulkkinen that I submit these poems for publication in *The Maine Mason* for all Brothers to read and enjoy. As there are 19 poems in all, it is possible the author will reveal his identity before they all are published. If and

when that happens I will share with you the identity of the Village Idiot.

Brother Steven Edmondson
Historian, Village Lodge #26
Bowdoinham, Maine

The first three poems are entitled *Petition for Freemasonry*, *Committee of Inquiry*, and *Balloting*. We reprint the first of the three here.

Petition for Freemasonry

*Curiosity and desire to figure it out
A man with interest there is no doubt*

*He stares blindly at the petition
Wondering of all that he may envision*

*Should he write his words and seal his fate
By making his mark and stamping the date*

*The questions are personal and do dig deep
For it is the answers they are trying to reap*

*Perhaps more than one draft is in need
So that neat and perfect is what they'll read*

*To work so that it looks the best
Ready to be put to the test*

*All completed and ready for show
No need to be feeling small or low*

*A masterpiece for those to see
One wonders what it could be*

*A petition you see has been filled out
With that there is no doubt*

The Mystery Letter

Brother Steve Edmondson,

Enclosed you will find a series of Masonic poems that have been composed over the years. It is with deep regret that my introverted and timid nature has left me in a position only to write them and not to speak aloud to my Brethren of whom the utmost respect is warranted. If you would entertain the notion of reading one, or perhaps two, during each stated meeting, I shall be in your debt as I believe it is for the Good of the Order.
p.s. If well received, I will assemble the courage to divulge my true identity in the presence of the Lodge.

*Your Brother,
The Village Idiot*

Masons There to Help, Aid and Assist



Several York County Masons worked together to build an access ramp for Sister Dora Lanciani, a member of Sarah Orne Jewett Chapter #176, OES, who suffers from congestive heart failure and is unable to get around very well without her wheel chair. Dora and husband Eddie, a member of Naval Lodge in Kittery, extend a profound *thank you* to the many who have labored on their behalf including Alan Martin and John Howarth of Ocean Lodge in Wells; Troy Hall, Fraternal Lodge in Alfred; Jason Hussey and Bruce Wiggins of Naval Lodge; and to Shannon Hussey, John Hannon of Lowe's in Sanford and Robert Gonnello, who, at 89, helped with the cement portion of the ramp. As Eddie says, it's a great example of "Masons helping Masons in the bonds of the fraternity."



**Maine Masonic Charitable
FOUNDATION**

**Committed to making a positive difference in the lives of Masons,
their families, and their communities.**

**Your support helps make it happen! Follow us on Facebook or visit our website,
masoniccharitablefoundation.org, for more information or to make a gift.**

The MAINE MASON

Grand Lodge of Maine
PO Box 430
Holden, ME 04429

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Portland, Maine
Permit No. 256

If undeliverable, please do not return.

The 199th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine

**will be held Tuesday, May 1
at 415 Congress Street, Portland, Maine**

Doors open at 8; Annual Session Begins at 9

*Information about the session can be found on Page 6 of this issue,
and on pages 8, 9, and 10, our three candidates for Deputy Grand
Master put forth their ideas for where they would lead the Craft.*