

THE MAINE MASON

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VOL. 50, NO. 1
WINTER 2023-24

THE MAINE MASON

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

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

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

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Deadline for the next issue of *The Maine Mason* will be 15 March, 2024. All materials should be sent directly to the editor.

line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

An Elf Named Tom

It takes real guts for a grown man wearing a multi-colored elf suit to waylay strangers hustling along Portland's busy main thoroughfare, wrangle them through the lobby of 415 Congress Street and then into the tree-bedecked armory of the Portland Masonic building,

It takes real commitment to hail Boothbay boaters and offer them fistfuls of chances to win lucrative L.L. Bean gift cards.

It takes real commitment to work pretty much all year lining up organizations willing to sponsor Christmas trees covered with gift offerings worth tens of thousands of dollars.

It takes steely determination to accomplish all this even when the efforts are to support the Portland Learning Center for children struggling with dyslexia.

It takes a Freemason with sufficient vision and ability to recognize the need, create a plan to meet that need, and adequate strength and perseverance to make it all succeed.

While he'll undoubtedly be embarrassed to have it mentioned, that's what Brother Tom Pulkkinen has done for three consecutive years. Rather than have anyone make a fuss about his accomplishments, if pointed out he'd simply shrug it off, shift credit to volunteer help and say something like, "Not a big deal, it's an important part of what Masonry's all about."

True enough. But few Masons carry service to such a degree. In addition to having served Maine Masonry as Finance Committee Chairman and Grand Master, Tom also serves as Chairman of the Portland Dyslexia Center, Chairman of Maine Scottish Rite Membership Development, creator of the *Freemasonry in Maine* book, and Grand Recorder of the Imperial Grand Council of Maine. He's also Secretary of St. John's Lodge in Newburyport, MA, and is frequently called as guest speaker.

I grow weary just thinking of it all. But I'm also very proud of this elf named Tom..

Cover Photo by Bro. Jim Ross

From the Grand East.

Bro. Dan Bartlett, MW Grand Master

Maine Freemasonry in 2046

I have not spent a great deal of time thinking about what our Masonic Fraternity in Maine will look like in 2046. Having said that, I have spoken many times about how important planning for the future is for our success, so I felt it appropriate to offer some thoughts for your consideration.

I suspect one of the first questions on your mind is why I chose 2046. Like many things in our lives, there is little solid reasoning behind that answer. I was raised 23 years ago in 2000 so I have a personal frame of reference for change over the past 23 years. Add another 23 years to this year and you end up at 2046. As silly as that might seem, there it is.

So, let's get to it.

Our Grand Master in 2046 may not be a Freemason yet! Since 2000 when I joined there have been 12 Grand Masters. Five of them (40%) had less than 23 years of service when they were installed in the Grand East. That new Mason that your lodge raised this month might just be that guy!

I think structurally we will still be doing the same thing by electing a Deputy Grand Master every two years and Grand Wardens each year. It has been this way for so long and if it works, let's not change just for the sake of change. Besides, my experience is that changing those kind of structures in our Fraternity are akin to coming about in a 1000 foot loaded tanker. It can happen but it certainly won't be quick.

I think it is a safe bet that there will be fewer lodges in the jurisdiction. We have 18 fewer working lodges than we did in 2000 but 10 of those losses have been in the past 7 years. This year we have 175 lodges, and I say we will have around 140 lodges in 2046. And, mathematically speaking, we need to have fewer lodges because we have fewer Freemasons.

Our younger members are more focused on the experiences of our Fraternity and how they use their time is important to them. They insist on reaping satisfaction when they use their time. We are already in an age where millions buy their pet food online and many now place an order at the grocery store and pay for it while sitting on their couch.

Drive to the store, an employee rolls out and puts it in your car and you drive home. I can only imagine how one will get groceries in 2046! Lodge leadership must continue seeking ways to provide satisfying experiences to their members.

By 2046 I will be 85 if I live that long. And no, I will not be stepping down as Grand Secretary that year. Life expectancy in the U.S. for males (currently 77.2 years) combined with my family history is against me seeing 85 on this earth but I'm going to take a hard run at it. In 2046 a 45 year old Freemason will have been born in 2001 and just last year became eligible to join us. We must acknowledge that our membership will become more diverse. It is imperative that we embrace that diversity and reap the benefits that diversity brings to an organization. This isn't our Grandfathers Fraternity, nor should it be. I love our history and traditions, but we can't move forward if we are always looking in the rearview mirror. We cannot let the world move ahead of us over the next 23 years while we stand still!

None of this is based on anything but my own thinking and, quite honestly, guessing. The point of all of this is that there are going to be changes in the next 23 years that some will struggle to recognize or understand. Our Fraternity has evolved in the past 23 years since I joined, and it will continue. Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher is credited with the idea that the only constant in life is change. All of us, from the youngest Entered Apprentice in the northeast corner to our most experienced brethren must be open to considering change and how we can collectively best prepare our Fraternity to be thriving in the world, however our world looks in 2046.

And just how do we prepare for that? One answer is to encourage discussion about the future and make sure those brethren who are newer Masons and in their 40s or younger are at the table. Giving them ownership in the process early combined with a diversity of opinion will lend well to us being successful. Our Fraternity will most assuredly not be the same and it shouldn't be the same.

We need to honor our past, our Masonic veterans, and bring our special traditions with us into the future. While doing that we need to encourage our diversity, be bold in our thoughts and our actions to ensure that in 2046 we are a thriving Fraternity of good and honorable men.

Delta Lodge Brethren Doing Their Part to Feed Hungry Children



On October 5th, prior to the stated meeting, Delta Lodge #153 in Lovell, presented the Sunshine Backpack Food Program with a donation of \$2702. The Sunshine Backpack Food Program sends weekend food home to children in need who attend the three elementary schools in the MSAD 72 school district.

In the photo from left to right are JW Art Dewire, RW Barry Gilman, Marlies Ouwinga from the program, Wor. Jan Newhouse, RW Dana Gregson, Heather Sawin from the program, Dave Mills, WM John Weeks, Wor. Chris Mills, and Wor. Farwell Sawin.

The Philosophers: Epictetus on Lies

Wor. Michael G. Hopkins, PM York No.22, ME Lodge of Research

“The first and most necessary area of philosophy is the application of the principles, such as not to lie. The second area treats their proofs, such as the grounds for the principle that one should not lie. Third comes the field that confirms and analyzes the proofs; such as...what validity, contradiction, truth and falsehood are. Therefore, the third area is necessary because of the second, and the second because of the first, but it is the first that is the most necessary and where we ought to stay.

“In fact, we do the opposite. We spend our time on the third area, concentrating all our enthusiasm on it and neglecting the first one completely. The result is that we do tell lies, while we are ready to advance the proofs that we shouldn’t.” (Epictetus, c.55-135AD)

The Stoic philosopher Epictetus was a Greek slave who came to Rome in the time of Nero. After many years in slavery, he gained his freedom and returned to Greece to teach philosophy. He wrote no books, but his devoted pupil Arrian (c.86-160 AD) created two books from transcribed lectures. The philosophy of Epictetus, as is characteristic of Stoics, cautioned against relying on things outside oneself, such as property or the opinions of others. His life and teachings are a model for subduing one’s passions and circumscribing one’s desires.

The quotation from Epictetus is taken from Encheiridion (“Handbook”). My copy was published as How To Be Free, translated with an introduction by A.A. Lang, Princeton University Press, 2018, p. 91.



Crooked River Lodge Raises Fourth Generation of Master Masons

In March, Crooked River Lodge in Harrison raised Hunter Denison to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, making him the fourth generation of Master Masons in his family. At the same meeting, Hunter's great-grandfather, Wor. Brother Phil Denison, was presented with a service star for 70 years as a Mason and member of Crooked River Lodge.

All four generations are represented by active members of the lodge. Pictured left to right are: Hunter's grandfather, Michael Denison; uncle, Philip J. Denison; grand-uncle, Hobart Denison; great-grandfather, Phil Denison, a great man and Mason who passed to the Celestial Lodge as this issue was being put together; father, Ronald Denison; Hunter Denison and uncles, William Denison and Brandon Denison.

Masons Contribute to help Senior Citizens

This photo shows Worshipful Bro. John W Farrington and Worshipful Bro Galen F. Hale of Pine Tree Lodge #172, Mattawamkeag, presenting a check to the Katahdin Area Senior Citizens Group to help fund one of their three day trips planned each year.



The Revolutionary Beginnings

Editor's Note: *Massachusetts Freemasonry is actively promoting the deeds of Massachusetts Masons who were instrumental in the formation of our country, The Boston Tea Party on 16 December 1773 being one of many. We present here the story of Maine Masonry's formation, and the men who were instrumental in that great work. And, interestingly enough, their involvement in many of the same struggles to create these United States. This story was presented by Wor. Chris Camire and Wor. Marlon Welch at the 250th Anniversary of the first meeting of Falmouth Lodge - now Triangle Lodge - on May 8, 2019. It just so happens that May 8, 2019 fell on the date of Triangle Lodge's Stated Meeting. This piece is long, much longer than usual submissions. But it is extremely interesting and important. We hope you enjoy learning of our founding as much as did we.*

by Chris Camire

Humble Beginnings

March 20, in the year 1762 - before Portland was a city, before Maine was a State, and before the United States of America existed - Maine's first Lodge was constituted. In that year, what we now know as Portland, Maine was called Falmouth, in Massachusetts Bay. More of a fishing village than a town, around that time the population of Falmouth was less than 2,000. The closest Lodge to those living nearby would have been in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and it would have taken somewhere around 11 hours to sail there - perhaps even longer to travel overland. Compare that now to a quick trip down Interstate 95!

Without a Lodge nearby to call their own, a group of Freemasons living in Falmouth and its surrounding communities gathered together and wrote a petition for a constitution - what we now call a charter - to form a new Lodge. Who did they ask? There was no Grand Lodge of Maine, not even a Grand Lodge of Massachusetts - these were colonists. In 1762, they were under the jurisdiction of the "Provincial Grand Lodge of North America" - sometimes referred to as St. John's Grand Lodge. This Provincial Grand Lodge was holden in Boston but operated under the auspices of the Premier Grand Lodge of England in London.

So, it was indeed the English who constituted Maine's first Lodge. A second Grand Lodge, operating under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, would come to

Boston some years later to charter Maine's second Lodge. The letter being received by the Provincial Grand Lodge in Boston, the petitioners were returned a constitution with which to form a Lodge. That constitution, dated March 20, 1762, appointed a single brother - R.W. Alexander Ross - to be the first Worshipful Master. The name of the Lodge would be called "Falmouth Lodge" but was sometimes referred to as "The Lodge at Falmouth".

It's here that our story takes a dramatic turn. Josiah Hayden Drummond, a prominent figure in Maine's Masonic history, chronicles the events of the Lodge in his book *History of Portland Lodge No. 1*. He writes of R.W. Ross:

"He came here from Scotland some time after the close of the war of 1744, but did not bring his family till 1753. He was largely engaged in commerce and became the most wealthy merchant of his day in the town.... He received the degrees in the "First Lodge" in Boston. He was afflicted with a cancer, which caused his death November 24, 1768. With him died the authority conferred by the warrant..."

A Revolutionary Restart

The man who would be Master died without having ever opened his Lodge. With no recourse, this group of Freemasons in Falmouth mourned the loss of their leader and petitioned the Provincial Grand Lodge in Boston a second time:

of Freemasonry in Maine

“The petition of the subscribers humbly sheweth that we, your petitioners, have this day met to celebrate the festival of St. John the Baptist. We have hitherto been destitute of a Lodge in this town. Upon an application made some years ago, our late Right Worshipful Grand Master granted a deputation to our late deceased Brother Alexander Ross, Esq. but his business being great, and his infirmities being greater, prevented his opening a Lodge. We now humbly beg that a new deputation may be granted.”

That petition made it to the desk of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. John Rowe. That brother, some four years later, would purportedly address crowds of disgruntled colonists at the Old South Meeting House in Boston and utter the famous phrase:

“Perhaps salt water and tea will mix tonight!”

On March 30 in 1769, R.W. John Rowe, a yet-to-be instigator of the Boston Tea Party, issued Falmouth Lodge a second, and lasting, constitution which named R.W. William Tyng the first Master of the Lodge. We’ll talk about him in just a moment. That constitution still lives today and is sealed within the vault of the Portland Masonic Temple. In the spirit of what took place at the first meeting of Maine’s first lodge, here’s an excerpt from this incredible document:

“Now therefore, know ye, that we, the great Trust, Power, and Authority reposed in us by his Grace, the Right Worshipful Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort, etc., Grand Master of Masons, have nominated and appointed our Right Worshipful and well beloved Brother William Tyng to be the first Master of the Lodge at Falmouth aforesaid, and do hereby empower him to congregate the Brethren together and form them into a regular Lodge, he taking special care that all and every member thereof, and all transient persons admitted

therein, have been or shall be made regular Masons...”

In his book, Josiah Hayden Drummond adds:

“By virtue of this Charter, the first Lodge ever opened in Maine was held on the eighth day of May, A.D. 1769.

The Lodge was opened, the commission read, and R.W. William Tyng declared Master in due form, who appointed Thomas Oxnard, Senior Warden, and John Greenwood, Junior Warden.

There were present, besides the Master and Wardens, Brothers: Jedidiah Preble, John Lowther, William Campbell, John Ross, and Abraham Osgood, the latter being an Entered Apprentice.”

A Portrait of Maine’s First Masons

The founding members of this Lodge paint a beautiful picture of what it means to meet on the level and part on the square; men - quite literally - of every country, sect, and opinion. Members were merchants, tanners, clergymen, and statesmen. One was a physician and apothecary. Some simply referred to their profession as “gentleman”.

Records tell us that the first meeting of the Lodge was held at the home of Mr. Daniel Ilsley, who lived on Payson Farm in Back Cove. The record says “Mr.” because he wasn’t a Mason yet. About a week later, Ilsley takes both his Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degrees in one evening. Brother Ilsley, the Lodge’s first candidate, would later go on to serve as a Major in the Revolutionary War, a delegate to the Massachusetts State Convention, a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and a member of the tenth United States Congress.

Continued on Following Page

The Revolutionary Beginnings of Freemasonry in Maine . . . Continued

In the South, Junior Warden Brother John Greenwood was a cabinet maker. Likely the least famous of the Greenwood family, John's father was a professor of Mathematics at Harvard University who wrote the first American book on mathematics. John's nephew lived with him for a time - that nephew kept a journal that lets us view a little bit about the life of his uncle - our Brother:

"At the age of thirteen I was sent eastward to a place called Falmouth, 150 miles from Boston, to live with my father's only brother, whom I was named after. He was a cabinet maker by trade but had concerns in the shipping business likewise, and was looked upon to be an able, or rich, man. His wife was dead, he had no children, and I was his favorite. The whole country at this time was in commotion and nothing was talked of but war, liberty, or death; persons of all descriptions were embodying themselves into military companies, and every old drunken fellow they found who had been a soldier, or understood what is called the manual exercise, was employed of evenings to drill them."

That nephew would go on to serve as George Washington's personal dentist - designing Brother Washington's famous false teeth.

At the Treasurer's Desk sat Brother Jedidiah Preble - a grizzled military leader, an ardent patriot, and a Brigadier General in the Provincial Forces. In October of 1774, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress put Preble in chief command of its army. Due to his advanced age, Preble declined the role and retired home. That post was assumed by a man named Artemis Ward and was eventually superseded by George Washington. Preble remained active as an advisor in the war effort and kept meticulous records of his activities. In his personal journal, he writes of his travels to the front lines:

"Monday, August 7, 1775: Waited on General

Washington, who received me very politely. I drank a glass of wine with him. He said he was sorry he could not accommodate me with lodging and asked me to dine with him the next day.

Tuesday, August 8, 1775: I breakfasted with General Putnam, after which I rode down to the lines and dined with General Washington, where one Colonel and six Captains of the Riflemen dined. In the evening some of the riflemen crawled within 100 yards of the enemy lines and killed one sentry."

In the East sat the first Master of the Lodge - William Tyng. Tyng served as a Colonel in the British Army, under the command of Governor Thomas Gage, and he also served as the second High Sheriff of Cumberland County. Tyng came from a very affluent loyalist family - his father is the namesake of Tyngsboro, Massachusetts as one example.

May Brotherly Love Prevail

A Brigadier General from one faction and a Colonel from the other - and the two had to make it through a Stated Meeting without killing each other. However, the story between these two brethren illustrates the true meaning of brotherly love. Lodge records tell us of a meeting in April of 1775, just days after the Battle of Lexington. The meeting took place in a tavern in town, owned and operated by one of the Lodge's Fellow Crafts:

"The members of the Lodge were divided in sentiment. Tyng, Thomas Oxnard, Edward Oxnard, Pote, Mayo, Sandford, and Shattuck espoused the side of England while Preble, Codman, Ilsley, McDaniel, and others as warmly espoused the side of the Colonies..."

Tyng left town immediately after the receipt of the news of the Battle of Lexington, not to

return for twenty years; the Oxnards left soon after as well as Pote, who never returned...”

The Lodge was literally divided in half - loyalists and colonists. Tyng feared of a rebellion and fled to New York. While there, he learned that Jedidiah Preble’s son, another member of this Lodge, was imprisoned on the infamous ship the H.M.S. Jersey.

“More than 1,000 men were kept aboard the Jersey at any one time, and about a dozen died every night from diseases such as small pox, dysentery, typhoid and yellow fever, as well as from the effects of starvation and torture.”

Learning of this news, Tyng pulled rank to secure Preble’s release, put him up in his own home in New York, and provided him the means to return home safely. Thanks to Tyng, our brother survived what could have been certain death on that prison ship. That brother was Edward Preble.

Edward Preble, having survived, would go on to lead a prosperous career in the United States Navy. He rose through the ranks and eventually attained the rank of Commodore and command over the USS Constitution. He retired to Portland after declining an offer from President Thomas Jefferson to serve as Secretary of the Navy. He is memorialized in Preble Hall at the United States Military Academy among many other places across the country.

In Edward Preble’s biography, historians struggle to grasp what brought an influential loyalist onto that prison ship to release the likes of Edward Preble. Every brother reading this knows why.

Inundation and Conflagration

Portland’s mascot is the Phoenix, and its motto is Resurgam which is Latin for I shall rise again. Rightly so - the city has been set ablaze several times in its storied history.

During the Revolutionary War, the townspeople kidnapped a British Naval Officer who was ashore. Seeking a peaceful outcome, our own Jedidiah Preble

negotiated his release. The officer, named Henry Mowat, became maddened and, upon returning to his fleet in Portland Harbor, ordered the razing of the entire city. The city was bombarded for an entire day until it was burned to ash. Townspeople fled their homes and ran back inland into the fields, homeless. Anything they could carry was brought with them. Following the bombardment, it rained for several days - soaking and freezing, they wept as what little possessions they saved were ruined.

Members of the Lodge were there that day. Their Lodge’s charter was there that day. A devoted member of our Craft saved the charter from peril that day. Like the Phoenix, the Lodge rose from the ashes after that war split us apart.

The Great Fire of 1866 burned down most of the city again. Legend tells us that members of the Lodge, and particularly its secretary, rushed into the wreckage of the lodge to save its precious records and charter. That fire was the inspiration which led to the construction of the Portland Masonic Temple. The original documents of the building tell us that it was designed to be fireproof.

So far so good.

The Lodge, its City, our Craft - Freemasonry - has survived for hundreds of years one brother at a time. One brother defied the Crown to save another from certain death. One brother saved his Lodge’s charter, and then another did the same a hundred years later. One brother moved heaven and earth to see a Masonic Temple erected in his City.

Maine’s First Lodge could have folded and withered away into history if it weren’t for one brother. It may not be fire, and it may not be war, but the future of Freemasonry depends on one brother. Is it you?

On Page 14 of this issue, likenesses of three Masons mentioned in this article can be found, along with a map of Portland’s waterfront when known as Falmouth Neck, and the burned-out remains of Middle Street after the great fire of 1886.



Maine Masonic Charitable
FOUNDATION

Newsletter - December 2023

PLEASE



**AND TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ
THROUGH THE NEXT 3 PAGES**

**THE FOUNDATION IS EMBARKING ON A
MULTI-YEAR PROJECT AND
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN US**



Maine Masonic Charitable FOUNDATION

Newsletter - December 2023

**THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOUNDATION HAVE
APPROVED PROCEEDING WITH A PLAN TO
CONSTRUCT A
LEGACY PARK
ON THE FOUNDATION'S PROPERTY IN
HOLDEN, MAINE**

(to the right is an image of the planned structure)



**THE LEGACY PARK WILL SERVE AS A MEMORIAL AND
PLACE OF REFLECTION FOR ALL MAINE MASONS,
THEIR FAMILIES AND VISITORS**

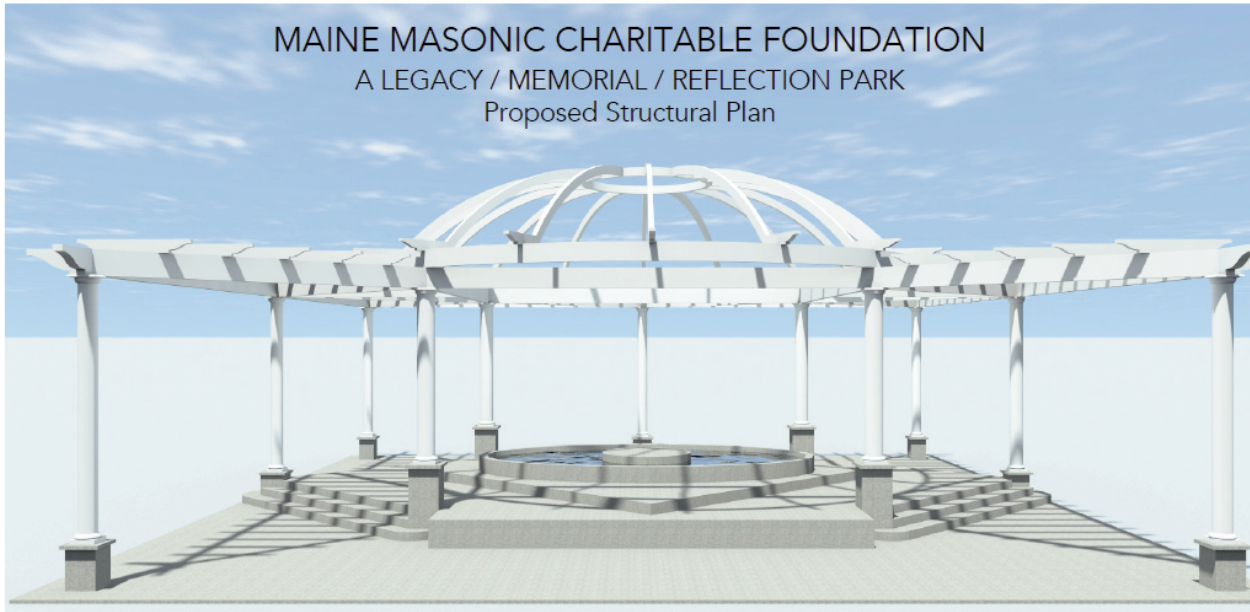
FROM THE TRUSTEES...

**THE LEGACY / MEMORIAL / REFLECTION PARK PROJECT SEEKS TO PROVIDE
CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MASONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO
PROVIDE FOR A LEGACY OF THEIR OWN THROUGH A PHYSICAL AND ENDURING
STRUCTURE THAT FURTHER BUILDS ON PREVIOUS GENERATIONS' CHARITABLE
GIVING. THIS PROJECT WILL THEREFORE BE ADVANCED BY FUTURE LEGACY
GIFTS.**

Maine Masonic Charitable FOUNDATION



Newsletter - December 2023



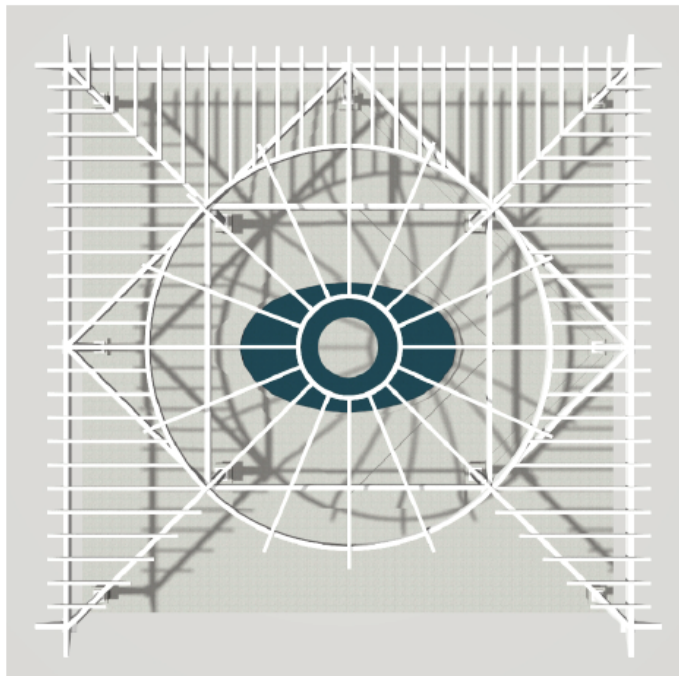
MAINE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
A LEGACY / MEMORIAL / REFLECTION PARK
Proposed Structural Plan

THE STRUCTURE WILL BE BUILT BEHIND THE EXISTING OFFICE BUILDING
- WHICH INCLUDES THE MASONIC LIBRARY & MUSEUM AND THE GRAND LODGE -
AND WILL BE SURROUNDED BY TREES, LANDSCAPING AND BENCHES

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Designed by a Mason to include some subtle and not so subtle layers of Masonic Symbolism

- the base will be granite pavers
- the structure will be made of steel enclosed in PVC materials for low maintenance
- a planned water feature and
- a place for a statue in the very center





Maine Masonic Charitable
FOUNDATION



Newsletter - December 2023

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR YOU TO BE INVOLVED

THIS PROJECT IS MEANT TO INCLUDE LODGES, MASONIC APPENDANT AND RELATED BODIES, INDIVIDUAL MASONS, THEIR FAMILIES AND WIDOWS. YES, EVERYONE! THE MORE THE BETTER AS IT IS MEANT TO UNITE US - THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE - RAINBOW GIRL ASSEMBLIES, DEMOLAY CHAPTERS, EASTERN STAR MEMBERS & CHAPTERS, THE SHRINE TEMPLES, SHRINERS & CLOWNS, SCOTTISH RITE MASONS & VALLEYS, GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS, GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS, GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF THE RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE, KYCH AND THE WIDOWS SONS OF MAINE.

WE WANT TO SHARE THE PLAN WITH EVERYONE. I THINK IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT YOU ALL HAVE HAD A MASON OR MASONS THAT HAVE HELPED YOU ON YOUR LIFE'S JOURNEY, I KNOW I HAVE. OR MAYBE THERE IS SOMEONE YOU WISH TO HONOR WHO IS OR WAS INFLUENTIAL AT YOUR LODGE?

THIS IS A FUNDRAISER, SO WE HAVE ESTABLISHED MANY LEVELS FOR ALL WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE. OPTIONS THAT INCLUDE ONE FOOT SQUARE PAVERS, BENCHES, TREES, PILLARS, THE WATER FEATURE, THE STATUE AND NAMING RIGHTS.

WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE WILL PARTICIPATE, WHETHER AT AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL AND/OR AS PART OF A GROUP - THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

GOT IDEAS? WE FORMED A COMMITTEE TO HELP WITH THE PLANNING, TO SHARE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS. WE HAVE ALREADY MET WITH SEVERAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AND VISITED A HANDFUL OF LODGES. SO DON'T BE SHY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO COME AND MAKE A PRESENTATION AT ONE OF YOUR MEETINGS, JUST CALL OR EMAIL THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS COMMITTEE, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO DIRECTOR@MAINEMCF.ORG.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT PLEASE VISIT THE FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE [MAINEMCF.ORG] OR CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (603) 677-2436.

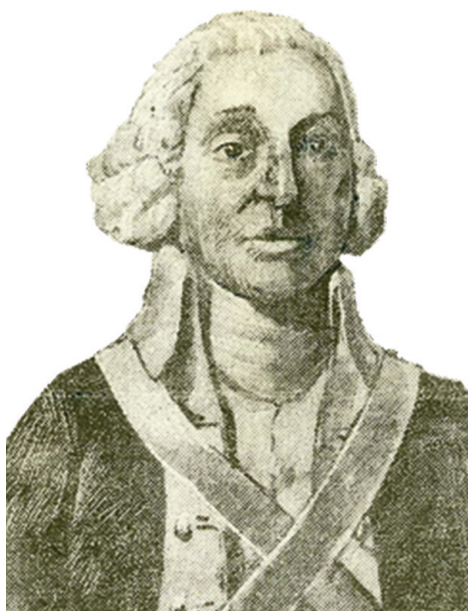
IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL RECEIVED OUR ANNUAL APPEAL LETTER IN THE MAIL. LOOK FOR AN IMAGE LIKE THIS ONE ON THE ENVELOPE. IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY MADE A DONATION YOU CAN SCAN THE IMAGE HERE AND DONATE ONLINE.



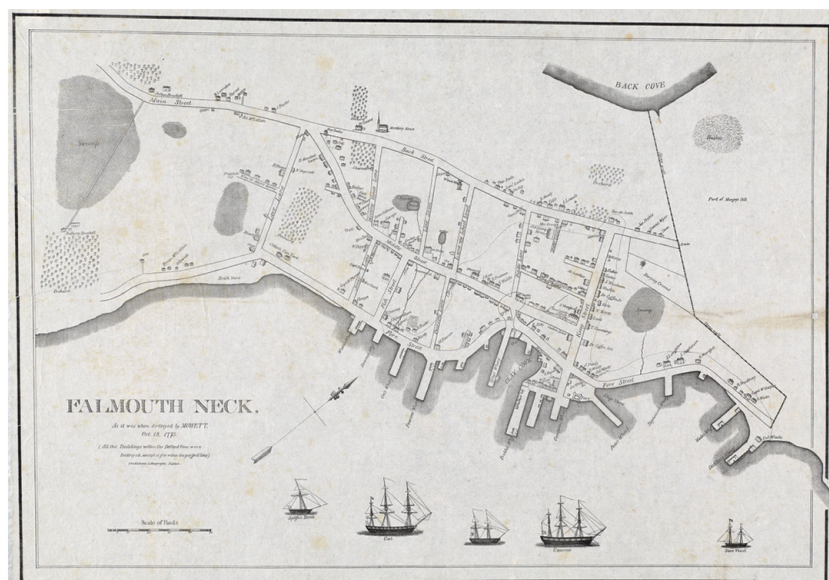
PREFER TO MAIL US A CHECK? PLEASE MAKE IT OUT TO
"MMCF" OR MAINE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
AND MAIL TO: MMCF
PO BOX 430,
HOLDEN ME 04429-0430





Brig. Gen. Jedediah Preble, an ardent Patriot, left, and Col. William Tyng, a Loyalist. Opposite sides of the American Revolution, but both brothers of Maine's first lodge.

Commodore Edward Preble, Gen. Preble's son saved by Col. Tyng, and also a member of Maine's first lodge.



Falmouth Neck circa 1773

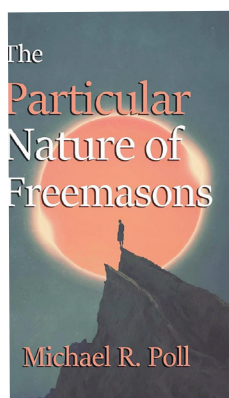
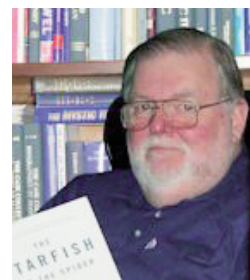
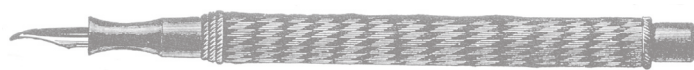
Faces and Places from the History of Maine's First Lodge.

Portland's Spring Street in
ruins after the fire of 1866.



What to do while driving to lodge? Be it a short or long trip, consider listening to an audio book. It's FAR easier than it used to be. Your local librarian can get you going for FREE! **You won't regret it!**

The Old Webmaster's BOOKSHELF



Bro. Michael Poll has written yet another book that'll give you a lot to think about. I particularly enjoyed his comments about the 'old guard' versus the 'new guys', having just received my 55 Year Veteran's Medal star but still often placed in the category of young-at-heart disruptor. *"The Particular Nature of Freemasons"* covers a lot of topics but all of them are timely and relevant to the Craft of today. Mike is an easy person to talk to and as a result, a lot of Brethren share their thoughts and feelings with him, Keeping their secrets as his own, he's thereby able to take the pulse of our Craft - and he doesn't hesitate to look at both sides while

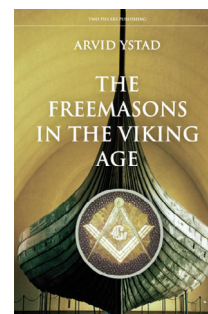
doing so. This work is great in audio too. Forgive the slight accent: he's from New Orleans! <grin>

Ask most any Mason who the first two Grand Lodges were and you'd hear "England and Scotland". Not true, I'm afraid. The honor (1725) goes to Ireland and Bro. Ric Berman who has been named the prestigious Prestonian Lecturer for 2024 has written a very enlightening paper (available in paperback format now) titled, appropriately, *"The Second Grand Lodge"*. If you're a Masonic history lover, you'll find this to be a book you won't want to miss. I found that the sending up of the word (if you've been in a NH lodge, you'll know what this is about) to come from this source. (Another plug here for visiting other jurisdictions! It's FUN!) This is a book that is FAR from dry history and it may start you on a life-long learning expedition. Happy travels!

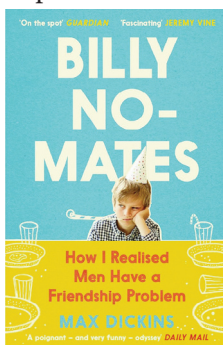


"The Freemasons in the Viking Age" was a book I had to buy based on my Norwegian heritage alone. Even if it turned out to be a lot of whackadoodle blather, I thought it was worth a peek and I'm glad I did. Bro. Arvid Ystad originally published this work in

2016 but has updated it for a 2023 release in English. He readily admits that many of his ideas and conclusions may be wrong but there are so few books which delve into the Scandinavian rites, this was a very welcome primer - and the author was generally careful to note when he's speculating rather than stating facts. There's a LOT of information here and I found it to be most intriguing even if I think the author may have stretched a bit on his assumptions as to our Masonic origins. (Odin, anyone??)



Our Grand Master has written and spoken on the topic of loneliness and you've likely come across news articles on the topic in recent months.

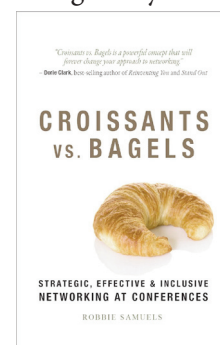


"Billy No-Mates: How I realized men have a friendship problem" by Max Dickens is a study of this topic, albeit UK oriented, it's certainly well worth your time. Here I'd encourage the audiobook format! For me, it was a stabbing realization of the many times I didn't reach out to another man who could have absolutely benefitted from the friendship and fraternity of our Craft but 'nobody asked him'. I hope this has woken me up to the opportunities to change the life of another - and I hope it'll do the same for you!

Finally, I stumbled across a 2017 book titled *"Croissants vs. Bagels"* by Robbie Samuels. It's all about how to manage that uncomfortable feeling many of us get when we go into a new environment and are expected to 'network', a common requirement for many jobs today. Even if we're completely at home in a lodge setting, we may still be ill-at-ease elsewhere. This is a book that might help you break that barrier.

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Read more in 2024!

I'd love your suggestions and recommendations for things to read and review! Drop me a line at masonicreading@gmail.com Though my checking account may sometimes squeak, it warms my heart! Help a Brother learn and share.

Marine Lodge Brethren Supporting Local Students



Marine Lodge #122 of Deer Isle recently made a substantial contribution to local non-profit Project Launch, an innovative program designed to help island students (and their parents) prepare for off-island post-secondary educational experiences. Pictured here, l-r front row: Lodge Treasurer Willie Morey, Kim Hutchinson, Director of Project Launch, Secretary Jack Scott and Royce Fifield. Back row, same order: Junior Deacon Mark Carter, Senior Warden John Sadler, Rodney Chadbourne, Wor. Frank Sadler and Junior Warden Erik Ream.

Greenleaf Lodge #117, Cornish, Enjoys Another Golf Tournament

By RW Bro. Mike Tremblay

September 8 found brethren with clubs in hand eager to take a few whacks. It had been a cold and drizzly summer but this was a beautiful morning with clear blue skies and comfortable temperatures, a perfect day at Indian Mound Golf Club for Greenleaf Lodge's annual golf tournament.

Seventeen teams were lined up for the Shotgun play of the day, teams of Masons, family, and friends. Reports are that everyone had a great time. The tournament is a fund-raiser for scholarships which are presented annually. Following play, all retired to the clubhouse for a great meal, awards presentations and a goodly amount of raffle prizes.

After several years of leading the tournament, RW Bro. Merle Googins decided it was time for another brother to take the reins. RW Brother Erik Durgin stepped forward to volunteer and with the help of other brethren pitching in, the tourney continued to run without a hitch.

Now it's on to 2024. And beyond.



RW Bros. Erik Durgin and Merle Googins

Bro. Marcel Morin: Mason, Blade Maker, Friend to All

by Bro. George Pulkkinen

If we're fortunate we've all met them, men and women we like immediately. They radiate warmth, kindness, and friendship, qualities impossible to fake.

Brother Marcel Morin is one of those quick-to-warm-to individuals. He comes complete with the smile, the extended hand, the interested-in-you demeanor.

Although a stroke and a couple of harsh bouts with Covid have slowed his gait a bit, the friendship and brotherly love are as strong as ever. So is his commitment to faith, family, and his brethren.

Raised to the sublime degree in 1982 at Tranquil Lodge #29 in Auburn, he transferred his membership to Webster Lodge in 1988, serving as Master in 2009.

Recognized for his leadership and mentoring abilities, Marcel was soon tapped as Ritual Instructor for the 23rd Masonic District, then appointed DDGM in 2014.

Now considered an "elder" in his lodge and still much sought after for advice and ideas, Brother Marcel enjoyed the Speaking Fellowcraft role until the need for oxygen therapy forced his decision to become an "active sideliner." While he admits he's not as involved as he'd like to be, Marcel's contributions continue in different ways. One example, he's justifiably proud his three sons are members of the lodge, as are three grandsons, one of whom he raised while serving as Master. "My daughter would join too, if she could," he quips.

Masonry runs deep through Marcel's veins. Past Grand Master Rich Nadeau perhaps describes it best. "Marcel is the only one of us who was born a Mason," is how he describes the man.

Besides family and Masonry, Marcel has other interests. He started his working career as an accountant but, not surprisingly, he wanted more contact with people so he went to work in Bro. Roland Champagne's pawn



The bladesmith examines his Bowie knife.

shop. He stayed there more than ten years before owning and operating his own popular Pine Tree Trading Company for another 33 years. "I always loved the people," he recalls fondly. "Still do." And the people still love him. After a recent sickness, Marcel received more than 300 get well cards.

Marcel is also a master blade maker, a talent he's honed since making his first knife from a piece of angle iron at 12 years old.

"It's always been a hobby . . . never a job." Primarily he gifts his beautiful blades or donates them for fundraising purposes. Military personnel have carried his blades to Iraq and Afghanistan. The beautiful grips are fashioned of finest woods and such exotic materials as African giraffe leg bones. Of knife making he says simply, "I build my blades to cut. It's been a passion for me."

Passion is a code word for Brother Marcel Morin. Family, friends, blade building all are passionate pursuits. As, of course, is his Freemasonry. He still attends meetings regularly "because it's such an important part" of his being.

Based on his own experience, Marcel offers sound brotherly advice to new Masons. "Once you've started on this journey," he urges, "stay on it. It makes for a meaningful life."



A few of Marcel's blades.

Village Lodge Brethren Actively Support Red Cross Blood Drives

by Steven Edmondson, Historian

Village Lodge #26, Bowdoinham

I had planned for some time to write an article about the blood drive efforts of Village Lodge. For years, we have proudly hosted the Red Cross three to four times a year for the chance for the public to donate this much needed commodity. Since 2016, the Red Cross has collected 568 units of blood within the halls of Village Lodge. Of those who donate, 92% are returning donors each time due to the convenience of our location and timing.

For all those years, VW Peter Warner led the efforts and was present for every blood drive, assisting Red Cross staff in setting up and tearing down. Currently, JW Mike LeMont has taken the reigns and will be leading the efforts for future blood drives moving forward.

Then October 25th happened. 18 deceased, another 13 injured in Maine's deadliest mass shooting. Many of those individuals undoubtedly needed blood during their care that evening and in the ensuing days.

In preparing for this article, I communicated with Jennifer Costa, the Regional Communications Director for the Red Cross, who provided the following information. The American Red Cross provided 175 blood products to Maine Hospitals on the evening of this tragedy and was prepared to deliver additional blood if necessary.

Volunteer blood donors are needed each and every day to help save lives. This tragedy illustrates that it is the blood already on the hospital shelves that helps in an emergency. Type O negative is the universal blood type and what emergency room personnel reach for when there is no time to determine a patient's blood type in the most serious situations.

VW Peter Warner made a good point when he shared that during the pandemic, many public institutions such as schools and government buildings were closed so several scheduled blood drives due to take place in these buildings were cancelled. Village Lodge, however, chose to remain open and continue to host the blood drives for the Red Cross



JW Mike Lemont and VW Peter Warner readying for another Blood Drive at Village Lodge.

On November 22, Village Lodge hosted its most recent blood drive for the Red Cross. Within days of the event being posted on the Red Cross web page, all 34 slots were reserved for this blood drive. On the day of the event, it was rainy and cold outside but it did not deter those wishing to participate. Our Lodge dining area was filled with beds and equipment with citizens waiting patiently for their turn. Both VW Peter Warner and JW Mike LeMont did their duty and rolled up their sleeves to donate.

We encourage all Lodges to consider taking part. The need for this life-saving commodity will never cease being needed.

SAILOR'S TEARDROP

Bro. Robert Millard Lane
Adoniram Lodge #27, Limington

In June, I had the chance to share a story in open lodge that I was told by my college professor in 2009 during a navigation class. At the time we were starting to work on celestial navigation and somehow the conversation topic came to the winter hexagon – the asterism made up by Sirius (Canis Major), Rigel (Orion), Aldebaran (Taurus), Capella (Auriga), Pollux (or even Castor, both in Gemini), and Procyon (Canis Minor). The professor said she had a story about this asterism's creation and then told it, which is as follows:

One clear winter night, a ship was sailing upon waters well away from land or any navigational landmarks. It was bitterly cold with harsh winds that cut to the bone. The captain of the ship, a salty man of a sailor who had spent most of his life at sea, came onto the bridge and surveyed the instruments and charts before draping his coat over the gyroscope, saying that it had toppled and that they needed a fix on their location. He looked at the men before pointing at one and telling him to take the sextant and to go get his marks.

The poor sailor, knowing of the cold awaiting him outside, tried to dress as warm as possible. The winds, however, still pierced easily through his coat and a fine mist of seawater would reach him from time to time. He found the stars for his first two marks easily enough, though the cold slowly made his hands unsteady and hindered his progress.

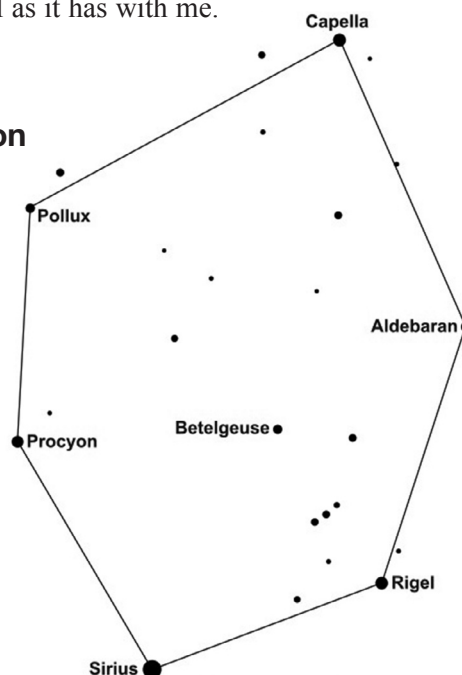
When he looked to the southern portion of the sky, he couldn't find any stars to get his third mark. He continued looking for a while to find a suitable star but the wind and sea spray wouldn't let up, and the sailor became very mis-

erable trying to complete his task. Soon, the sailor started to cry out of fear he would never find a third star to finish his triangulation and return to the warmth inside.

At that time God happened to be watching over that area of water and the ship and sailor caught his attention. He watched for a time and finally, either out of frustration with or pity for the sailor, took one of his tears and threw it up into the southern sky. He told the sailor to stop crying, get his last mark, and get back inside - which the sailor most certainly did with haste.

This rendition takes the basis that I remember my professor reciting in class that day and embellishes it, but the story ends the same - with God taking the sailor's tear and splashing it upon His celestial canopy to allow the sailor to finish his task and return inside. Since then, I have tried occasionally to find records or some trace of this story online or hoping to find other naval or astronomy-based lore that might hold common threads, but I have yet to find anything. I'm sure I could have always reached out to the professor, but never thought of it at that time. Perhaps someone reading now might have heard this same story or something close to it and knows more about its origin. If not, stories like these are always good to share with others, and hopefully it will stick with you as well as it has with me.

**Winter
Hexagon**





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...

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ENTABLATURE

Whole Number 46

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Winter 2023-24



#40 The Minutes of "Old Builders Lodge #1000"

Brother George M.A. Macdougall

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

This edition of the Minutes isn't about a person but instead a material used very often by Engineers and Architects. Concrete. Cement is a major part of concrete and people mistakenly refer to concrete as cement. Cement is actually an ingredient of concrete. Concrete is a mixture of aggregates and paste. The aggregates are sand and gravel or crushed stone; the paste is water and cement. Concrete is used for roads, buildings, homes, monuments, floating wind turbine bases and even canoes for concrete canoe races (at all respectable Universities with a Civil Engineering department of course!!!)

Concrete is very strong in compression, or if you try to crush it. But it is very weak in tension (pulling apart) or if you try to bend it which is why we now add reinforcing steel or rebar. So, it is excellent for high Arches or Columns but terrible for beams (unless heavily reinforced with steel to handle the tension!).

So, who discovered Concrete? The birth of modern concrete as we know it today can be attributed to a stonemason from Leeds called Joseph Aspdin. He made a new, improved cement in 1824 by heating chalk and clay together then grinding it down to fine powder. He called it Portland Cement due to its resemblance of stone in Portland when it sets up or is in the hardened/solid state. Today's concrete is made using Portland cement, coarse and fine aggregates of stone and sand, and water. Admixtures are chemicals added to the concrete mix to control its setting properties and are used primarily when placing concrete during environmental extremes, such as high or low temperatures, windy conditions, etc. Modern day concrete lasts about 50 years before starting to crumble. In school I figured it didn't refer to Portland, Maine but maybe Portland, Oregon. Turns out that this Portland is an island in the English Channel!

But that isn't the first appearance of concrete in construction. In 600 BCE, the Greeks discovered a chemical reaction that changed the ways concrete could be used. By mixing a natural pozzolan, found on Santorini Island, which contained silica-alumina with lime, they created concrete that would harden under water as well as in the air. By 200 BCE it was being used on a mass scale in their structures. It was even used in the Pantheon which is still standing today after more than 2000 years! It is also still

Continued on Following Page

Old Builders Lodge Continued

the largest unreinforced dome ever built!
Maybe the next paragraph explains why...

Here is the incredible thing about Greek Concrete. It is believed that the quick lime in the Greek Concrete gave it a 'self-healing' property. In other words, when a crack forms, Greek Concrete could actually fill it in and repair itself! Modern concrete can heal cracks up to 0.3 millimeters (mm) but the Greek Concrete can heal cracks up to 0.6 mm!! Twice as much!!

Why are cracks bad? Water can get into them and freeze which causes it to expand which is like driving a wedge into the crack and further breaks up the concrete. In modern concrete, it makes the reinforcing steel (which is added to concrete to help in tension) rust which makes the steel expand and that also breaks up the concrete even more. In fact, to try to stop this we sometimes put in epoxy coated rebar or galvanized rebar or even Polymer Rebar to prevent rusting (the formation of Iron Oxide).

Another way to prevent cracking is adding air entrainment. In 1930, air-entraining agents were developed that greatly increased concrete's resistance to freezing and improved its workability. Air entrainment is done by the use of chemicals that, when added to concrete during mixing, create many air bubbles that are extremely small and closely spaced, and most of them remain in the hardened concrete. These tiny bubbles can compress slightly, absorbing some of the stress created by expansion as water turns to ice and helps prevent the concrete from cracking.

This edition of the Minutes was an idea presented to me by a good friend who grew up with me 'on the hill' in Milo. Ryan Bradeen is a Dartmouth College Engineer who travels the world in the US Foreign Service in the Diplomatic Service. He read an article on 'Greek Concrete' and flagged me down to tell me about it while we were both visiting parents 'on the hill'.



MMC recognized as a sponsor.

National History Day in Maine

It happens every spring right around the first of May. Students from all over the state come to Orono to compete in the National History Day Maine State Finals after getting through regional competitions throughout Maine. The members of the Maine Masonic College not only help sponsor the event but also participate as judges. You can participate too!! No matter what category you choose, you come away learning something!! Contact Bro. George Macdougall at George.Macdougall@Maine.gov for more information.

For a great article on National History Day see the item written by Alyssa Rosenberg in the Washington Post, October 30, 2023



Bro. George Macdougall, representing the Maine Masonic College, presenting medals in the final ceremony.

CASTLES *Who Needed Them?*

William The Conqueror to solidify his victory at the Battle of Hastings and establish his control and subjugation of the entire country!

From: nationalarchives.gov.uk

“The castle as we know it today was introduced into England in 1066 during the Norman invasion led by William the Conqueror. After their victory at the Battle of Hastings, the Normans settled in England. They constructed castles all over the country in order to control their newly-won territory, and to pacify the Anglo-Saxon population.”

by Bro. Donald McDougal

Estimates of the number of castles built in Europe during the Middle Ages vary widely but all estimates accept that the number is in the thousands. Some sources say *“Thousands and Thousands”*. Many of them, with the permission of the King, were constructed as defensive private residences to protect the families of local lords and nobles. They were built as a status symbol to display wealth and power and subjugate the surrounding populations.

Edward I (1272-1307) began a campaign to subdue the Welch. That began a terrific period of castle building. Sources say that at least 600 castles were constructed in Wales during the late 1200's and early 1300's.

From BBC News

Wales is *“the most castellated land on Earth. Estimates suggesting in the medieval period there was one castle for every 12 square miles. The Welsh endured three and a half centuries of sporadic conflict with the English. Anglo-Norman lords tussled with a series of warring Welsh principalities, and the Welsh were fighting each other as much as the English.”*

Estimates indicate that it took from five to ten years for construction of most castles. That would require from two to four thousand workers. Approximations were 4-500 masons including 2 or 3 Master masons, 200 quarrymen, carpenters, 50-100 carters, mortar mixers, 30 blacksmiths, diggers, woodcutters and on some projects up to 2000 laborers. Most of the skilled tradesmen were traveling men because very few of the surrounding areas could provide the large labor force needed to undertake building a castle.

Apparently, not all of these undertakings were popular enough to attract a suitable work force, because there

are occasional references to conscription of workers.

In a 2016 podcast by David Crowther on History of England entitled “Medieval Prices and Wages” the following are listed for mid-1300's:

Unskilled laborer	2 Pence/ working day	2 Pounds/ year
Mason	4 Pence/ working day	5 Pounds/ year
Carpenter	3 Pence/ working day	4 Pounds/Year

The average castle was constructed with walls ranging from 10 to 20 feet thick. They had an inner and an outer wall made of dressed stones held in place with mortar. These walls usually were from 3 to 4 feet thick. The space between those two walls was filled with rubble and mortar. The use of mortar limited castle building to non-freezing seasons usually the months from February through November in England.

Not all castle work was on construction, however. “Nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/medieval-castles” has the following entries.

“In 1175 a group of carpenters and masons, led by Alnoth the Engineer, travelled to Suffolk to dismantle Framlingham Castle on royal orders. King Henry II ordered that the castle should be knocked down because Earl Hugh Bigod had joined a rebellion against his rule.”

And, not all of the kings projects attracted enough workmen as the following transcript of an ancient document shows.

“John Cook of Wykeham, Peter Geveyn, Walter Walton, mason, Walter Weston and Thomas Clever, carpenter, are ordered to arrest all masons, carpenters, sawyers, artificers and

Continued on Following Page

labourers necessary for the repair and fortification of Portchester castle, and they are given the power to imprison contrarians [those who refuse to work]. They are also to arrange for the provision of stone, lime, lead, boards, tiles, cinders, timber and materials for the building work."

Service to The King in defense of his castles would also allow you to request special privilege from The King in the future - such as this request for pardon for murder in 1326.

Transcript - *William Perheved requests a grant of pardon regarding the death of William le Sotheren, on account of his service to the king at the sieges of Berwick and Leeds, at Burton upon Trent and in Scotland."*

In the erection of Cathedrals, a Lodge of Masons would be formed to be responsible for the construction of that Cathedral. In contrast to that, when building a castle, one to three Master Masons were hired to draw architectural plans, recruit and supervise all necessary workmen, arrange for all materials, and oversee the construction through to completion.

From BBC History "The medieval mason was a highly skilled craftsman who combined the roles of architect, builder, craftsman, designer and engineer. Using only a set of compasses, a set square and a staff or rope marked off in halves, thirds and fifths, the mason was able to construct some of the most amazing structures ever built: Gothic Cathedrals. Their awesome size combined with their appearance of lightness and fragility have led people to believe that medieval masons had some magical secret but this was actually just an understanding of proportion and basic geometry.

Gill Bullen as quoted in *Quora*, "The mediaeval stone masons who built the

cathedrals were the most highly educated and skilled people around in this field, and they had quite a lot of very important, highly secret knowledge. It was basically advanced mathematics."

Medieval People thought that the cathedral was an earthly representation of the heavenly home. So, the masons working on them felt their work was to inspire reverence and construct a space which would glorify and uplift vitality and spirits.

However, those working on a castle knew their labors were to erect a subjugating structure which was to dominate, subdue, and crush the spirits of those around. Those vast differences, in workers' perception of their jobs, would probably account for some of the difficulties encountered in recruiting enough workers on some castles.

The rituals of Our present day Speculative Masons were formulated out of the "Old Charges". Those "Old Charges" were the operating rules and regulations of the medieval Cathedral Builders. Therefore, it is from the Lodges of the Cathedral Builders not the guilds of the Castle Builders that we Speculative Masons descend.

In our lives as Masons, we should strive to embrace and adopt the gaelic charge that M. Wor. Walter Marshall Macdougall included in *"Journeying in Macdougall Country."*

"Cuimhnich air na daoine o'n d' thainig thu"
"Remember the men from whom you sprang"



Dunollie Castle in Oban, Scotland, ancestral home of Clan Macdougall.

Saco Lodge #9 Bikes for Books Golf Tournament

By RW Bro. Mike Tremblay

October 9 was the perfect day for golf; the sun was shining and Dunegrass Golf Course in Old Orchard Beach was in perfect shape. (At least the summer rain was good for something.)

15 teams of Masons, family and friends took to the course in a shotgun start. The event is a fundraiser for our Bikes for Books project. Last year we awarded 51 bikes to students at three local schools. The lodge expects to at least match that effort in 2024. The Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation's matching grants provides substantial support for our effort and Saco Lodge certainly appreciates that assistance.

Wor. Andrew Nightingale and Bro. Trey Kirkpatrick headed up organizing the tournament, aided by several other members and wives Noreen Scott and Stacy Nightingale.

Major sponsor this year was Prescott Metal showed up with a team and performed well. And Chris Finley of 207 Bounce sponsored lunch and provided a great meal. Our final finisher team led by Chris Cassette maintained its consistency and once again held on to its last place finish.

Our Bikes for Books Program this year joined forces with the Michael Goulet Foundation which fits kids with approved upscale helmets. The Foundation runs entirely on donations and Saco Lodge was pleased to help fund its efforts. The Foundation's mission is to help prevent brain injuries.

It was started by Brad Goulet in memory of his son, Michael, who suffered massive brain injury.

The Foundation's thoughtful slogan: "Love Your Brain."



Susan Neumyer and Brad Goulet flank the Foundation poster.



Trey Kirkpatrick, Bill Cline, Stacey Nightingale and Jaso DiDonato

Northern Star Lodge Supporting Athlete and the Lobster Bowl

by Bro. W. Daniel Hill

The members of Northern Star Lodge #28, North Anson presented a check to Noah Lattin on June 12th to be contributed to the Shrine's Children's Hospitals. Noah had been chosen to participate in this year's 33rd Annual Shriner's Lobster Bowl Classic. This premier sporting event showcases the best high school Senior class football players and cheerleaders in the State of Maine. Not only do the talented athletes get to play in what could be the biggest game of their life but they work hard to raise money for the Shriner's Hospitals for Children.

To become a participant and represent his team and town, Noah was nominated by his coach and teachers of Madison High School. A nominee must be a senior, football player or cheerleader, be an honor student, must demonstrate their talents by hard work, determination and integrity and be a positive influence on and off the field. Out of the hundreds of nominations only about 150 football players and cheerleaders are selected.

One of the requirements for each of the chosen participants is to reach out and present themselves to the community and raise a minimum of \$500.00 of which 100% of the money donated goes to the Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Noah tells us, "It has been an unexpected honor to be chosen for this year's Shriner's Lobster Bowl Classic. I am very excited to not only experience this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity but also to help raise money for such an amazing organization. Thank you for this kind and generous donation. You are giving hope and healing to sick children and their families".

Pictured in the presentation photo above l-r: Bro. Skip Pond, RW Daniel Crowley, Noah Lattin, RW Daniel Hill, and Bro. Kenneth Ingalls. Northern Star Lodge thanks the donors and the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation for their kind contributions.



On November 2nd several Past Masters of the 13th District performed a Past Masters Degree on six worthy Past Masters at Northern Star Lodge #28. RW Robert Ward and RW Neal Hunnewell organized the event and were assisted by RW Robert Mercer, RW W. Daniel Hill, W Noah Whitt, and W Nolan Wagh. A great meal was arranged by RW Daniel Crowley and all enjoyed an evening of enlightenment and fellowship. Pictured in the photo, left to right: RW Neal Hunnewell, RW James Owens, DDGM/13 Robert Smith, RW Daniel Crowley, W Dale Burrill, RW Eric Nielson, RW Gary Bulmer, and RW Robert Ward.

Traveling Upon the Seasons of Time

by Bro. Mike Lothrop

Whether it be traveling in the literal sense or upon the level of time, Brethren of this Fraternity are by definition, Traveling Men. I recently contemplated the idea that we are also traveling through the seasons. I'll explain.

It was early November and I was traveling from my home in New Hampshire to visit my mother lodge, Aurora No. 50 in Rockland. You see, despite growing up in Rockland, and my father, grandfather, and several uncles having been members, I had not set foot in that room in over a decade. It was Rockland No. 79 at the time and since then we had merged with Aurora No. 50.

An absence in the line that night lead to me being asked to sit in the Junior Deacon's chair- for an inspection. While my New Hampshire ritual is pretty good, my Maine ritual is a little (lot) rough. I believe I provided a good selection of lines from both and likely provided the entertainment for the night by doing so.

Sitting in that chair and looking at the spot on the floor where my father and I had been both raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, I realized that just as the season outside was shifting from fall to winter, Masonry goes through many seasons. Seasons not just for the Craft itself, but for the Brethren individually.

It has been said by our Master at my New Hampshire lodge that the hardest steps in Masonry are from your car to the door if you're just coming back or going through the degrees.

I found this to be true when I came back to lodge as a guest in what is now my lodge in New

Hampshire. I was in a season of life where work and family commitments finally aligned for me to make Masonry a priority. Once I made that first visit, the actions of the Brethren kept me coming back.

Masonry as a whole goes through seasons as well, based largely on the seasons in life of its members, but also how those Brothers handle making it through their current season. Brethren both at home and in Rockland have been welcoming, keeping me in the loop, and forgiving of mixed up ritual.

As we concluded the inspection that night the DDGM who was sitting in for the DDGL gave his remarks. He acknowledged a good exemplification of the degree, and was even generous about the weird Junior Deacon rendition.

Driving home that night, I couldn't help but wonder how many Brethren were sitting at home, contemplating making that change in season in their own life and return to lodge but were nervous

to do so. I encourage you to help make those steps from the car to

... the hardest steps in Masonry are from your car to the door ...

I encourage you to help make those steps from the car to the door easier for them.

the door easier for them. Reach out to the "card holders" and bring them in the circle. This surely is one of the ways we will see the craft as a whole change seasons and enter that spring and summer we all hope for.

I have great Brothers in New Hampshire, but I can't lie, it was great to be home again for a night where people know how to speak the English language properly. I'm proud to be a Mason and lucky that I get to do this. I encourage each of you to reach out to your Brothers and help them bring the Craft into the next season.

Euclid Lodge #194, Madison, Aids Vet Dental Care

by Bro. W. Daniel Hill

Brethren of Euclid Lodge #194 Madison, presented a \$2000.00 check to RW W. Daniel Hill to be donated to the Maine Veterans Dental Network Program on June 17th at the annual 13th District Table Lodge performed at Carrabassett Lodge #161

The Maine Veterans Dental Network is intended to serve as an oral health safety net for Maine veterans and is operated on a first-come, first-serve basis until grant funding runs out.

With a generous \$200,000 grant from Delta Dental in 2022, 232 veterans sought dental services before the funds ran out. Very few of our veterans get dental care through the VA. There are hundreds of veterans on a waiting list for dental care here in Maine because a veteran has to be 100% service-connected to the VA to receive dental services. Nationwide only 10% of our veterans meet that criteria.

Our Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation immediately donated \$30,000 to the MVDN fund and with additional contributions from some Masonic appendant bodies and Blue Lodges we were able to assist those veterans remaining on the waitlist at that time.

Dental hygiene is critical to the health of us all and there are thousands of veterans out there who can not afford it. The wait list will continue to grow as it did last year and the average cost of roughly \$500 per visit will probably grow also.

Pictured in the presentation photo are, from left: Bro. Lewis Bryson, W John Kenney, RW Lester Smith, RW Daniel Hill, DDGM/13 Robert Smith, RW Robert Ward, DGM Donald Pratt and in the background W Noah Whitt.

Euclid Lodge thanks the donors and the Maine Masonic Charitable foundation for their kind contributions.



SAVE a Brother's LIFE!

Bro. Bruce Adams of Paris Lodge #96, South Paris, has a good source for any Lodge that is looking to buy an AED machine (the ones used if someone is having a heart attack.)

They typically go for upwards of \$1,200 but Bruce has a source that can provide them at just under \$800. It is through TriCounty EMS, Joanne LeBrun at (207) 795-2888. **Call her! Save a brother's life!**



Happy Birthday, Brother Walter

M.Wor. Bro. Walter Marshall Macdougall was honored at his Piscataquis Lodge #44 in Milo recently on occasion of his 90th birthday. Brother Macdougall has served his community, a generation of students and the Craft for more than 64 years. Author, lecturer, educator and Freemason, Brother Walter served with distinction as Grand Master of Masons in Maine from 1996 to 1998.

St. Croix Lodge #46 Honors Veteran Freemasons



St. Croix Lodge # 46, Calais, held its annual Service Awards Night with a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Saturday, August 26. Pictured L to R, WB Don Brown 40 years, RW Dennis Bryant 25 years, WM Jamey Gower, WB Kenny Seeley 55 years and WB Lynn Wallace 60 years. *Congratulations to all.*

Arion Lodge Practices Masonry in Goodwins Mills

By RW Bro. Mike Tremblay

In 1862, brethren of Lyman and Dayton petitioned Grand Lodge to allow formation of a lodge. As a result, Arion Lodge #162 was chartered and for the first few years brethren met at various locations before moving into quarters over the Goodwins Mills Village Store, their meeting place for decades.

About 37 years ago brethren decided they needed new space. Two flights of stairs to the third floor meeting room and other necessary repairs prompted the move. Land was acquired just down the street and a new building was constructed with lodge room, kitchen, dining room and bathrooms all on one floor. The building has proved to be a great place for all of Arion's activities.

This year brethren decided the building was starting to show its age and work was needed to bring the building up to speed. Under the direction of Wor. Steve Joyce, new handicap accessible bathrooms were constructed, new doors and siding was installed, painting was done wherever needed, and a handsome new sign erected.

Arion brethren have been cooking a monthly breakfast and on 9/11 first responders were treated to a special meal. The lodge has also placed Masonic flags on graves in the cemetery across the street.

Arion Lodge is also very



proud that the current DDGM/18, RW Bro. Michael Shaw, is a member of the lodge.

Arion #162, a small but active rural lodge where Masonry continues its good work.

Sixth Masonic District Honors Its Veterans



The 6th Masonic District held an annual Veterans Appreciation Night on November 11th at Ralph J. Pollard Lodge #217, Orrington. It was a chance for Masons to honor their veterans and show our thanks and appreciation for their service to our country. A wonderful meal was prepared by the brothers of Lynde Lodge# 174. This was indeed a district event with 67 in attendance and 22 Veterans receiving Veterans pins, which included our very own MW Daniel E Bartlett, Grand Master, and Junior Grand Warden, RW P. Michael Blank.

The evening started with the American colors being posted by the Bangor High School JROTC Color Guard. These young men did an outstanding job honoring the service of our veterans.

Representatives from the Maine Veterans Home were invited to discuss a new project that the 6th District Masonic Association, in conjunction with the Maine Veterans Home in Bangor, has begun. The proceeds from this project will purchase a Lucynt system, which is an interactive projection system that employs state of the art technology to track body movements and gestures. Whether it's projected onto a table and activated by hand movement, or onto a floor and used with one's entire body, the revolutionary system creates a world of play that's therapeutic and fun. It is a therapeutic technology that helps patients with Dementia who are

unable to receive any type of cognitive therapy.

Between local 6th District Lodges, matching funds from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, and donations from those in attendance, we were able to secure the purchase of a system and will be continuing this project to be able to purchase more, including a mobile device.

Heartfelt presentations were made by Bangor JROTC Cadet Captain Jacob Biberstein as well as Wor. Christopher L Robison who shared his pride and thoughts on being a veteran.

The evening continued with a performance of all the Armed Services anthems by "Wee Dram Pipes & Drums" of Central Maine. Thanks goes to Bros Wor Ernie Smith, Al Baker, and Gerry Lapointe for making the evening that much more special. 6th District brothers Wor Troy Bagley, RW Aaron Mower, and Kris Donovan then presented 22 pins to all the veterans present, including a few ladies. They were greeted with a standing ovation for their service.

The evening was capped off by one of our veterans, Bro Phil Joliet, receiving his 50 Year Masonic Service Medal from MW Daniel E Bartlett. The evening was ended by remarks from our 6th District Association President, Kris Donovan, 6th District Deputy Grand Master, RW Aaron Mower and final comments by MW

Trunk or Treat Time at York Lodge



Scores of kids, parents, ghouls goblins and princesses turned out for this first community event in Kennebunk.



Photos by Leslie Brown



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