

# The Maine Mason

**Winter  
2013**



West Quoddy Head Light, Lubec

# The MAINE MASON

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## line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

So what, you might wonder, is West Quoddy Head Light doing gracing the cover of this Maine Mason issue?

Good question. Actually there are several good answers. One would be that it's a very attractive photo and it's never a bad idea to put a good picture way up front in any publication. It's also a distinctive symbol of Maine, as tightly identified with our state as the lobster, blueberry, potato and L.L. Bean.

But most importantly to the Craft in the Pine Tree State, this distinctive red and white striped beacon that has been guiding Downeast mariners to safety since it was first built in 1808 and rebuilt in its current state 50 years later, is symbolic of the bright light and clear vision Grand Master Ross is sending out as he directs Maine Masonry on a course of excitement, brotherhood and accomplishment.

As you read the pages of this issue reflect on the bold initiatives Grand Master Ross has undertaken as he wisely allocates resources to help Maine brethren strengthen their lodges.

Membership development, leadership training, immediate assistance from the Grand Lodge office staff are among the priorities available to every lodge, every brother, in our jurisdiction.

The Rookie and Mentoring Programs are both designed to educate new Masons and get them involved in lodge activities. And the mentoring effort provides great opportunity for veteran Masons to remain active or reactivate themselves by sharing their knowledge and experience with the younger brethren who are eager to learn.

This truly is an exciting time to be an active Maine Mason so tie up your apron strings and become part of the activity. Remember what the old timers always said: "You'll only get out of it what you put in." It was true then and it's true now.

There's just renewed opportunity these days.

Cover Photo by R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen



# From the Grand East

**A. James Ross**

**Grand Master of Masons in Maine**

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Aurora Lodge in Rockland, Grand Master David L. Wilson in his address to the Brethren observed:

*Masonry is not a collective movement, seeking to do things "enmasse," for the sufficient reason that men do not always see eye to eye in such things. It is a movement for the individual, seeking to give him certain fundamental principles of life, in which, if he walks and lives, he cannot materially err.*

The words of Most Worshipful Brother Wilson are just as applicable to the individual Mason today as they were when he served as Grand Master in 1926 and 1927. The same holds true for our Masonic Lodges. Lodges should not be carbon copies of other Lodges. Each should have its own focus and purpose being ever mindful that they are known by the very men who make up a Lodge and its culture.

During my recent visits to the 24 Masonic Districts in our Grand Jurisdiction, I encouraged Lodges to conduct self-assessments or evaluations to determine who they are, what they want to be and where they want to be. These questions are important in determining the type of culture and atmosphere a Lodge wants to project. More importantly, they are the fundamentals for establishing goals.

Successful Lodges have a plan or a path for enriching present membership and attracting the right men to the Craft. Those Lodges clearly understand, articulate and demonstrate that stressing value is essential for participation and growth. Those Lodges also understand the need for establishing a team-orientated environment where every individual deserves to be heard and is encouraged to demonstrate his talent which ultimately

leads to the collective building of Lodges.

The membership and leadership initiatives put forth by the leadership team of your Grand Lodge support this need. Those initiatives are reflected in this issue in the articles submitted by members of the various leadership teams of your Grand Lodge. The attitudes with which they are written demonstrate a changed philosophy in how your Grand Lodge is conducting the business of the Craft and its need to level itself with the constituent Lodges. I would never ask the Lodges to conduct self-evaluations without first leading the Grand Lodge organization to do the same.

The Grand Lodge organization took the opportunity presented to it during this year of transition to reevaluate its policies, procedures and practices all with the specific focus on how it best can be a partner to the Lodges in assisting them to meet their goals. Moreover, I believe the Grand Lodge organization is demonstrating a willingness to listen more and to be an encourager and promoter of the good works of the Lodges. It is also lending those same attributes to Lodges that are facing serious challenges and reaching out in need of help. I want to encourage every Lodge to be what it wants to be.

Please recognize for yourselves as individuals that you have merit and talents worth contributing to your Lodges. Pool those merits and talents with like-thinking members of your Lodges and assist the Master in setting the Craft at work with proper instruction.

Finally, during this season of Thanksgiving and blessing by the Almighty Creator regardless of your Faith, please let us remember the fundamental reason for our being: to care for each other during times of need and equally as important, to celebrate each others success. May 2013 be a year filled with opportunities for new beginnings and realizations.

Yours in Service to the Craft,  
Jim



# Around the Grand Lodge Water Cooler...

## R. W. Mark E. Rustin, Grand Secretary

We may not acknowledge or even realize it, but at the core of our being is a philosopher. As beings who reason our way through life, our fundamental philosophy of life guides our every decision whether we are conscious of it or not. Let me cite an example.

Along a particularly dangerous section of coastline many ships were destroyed on the rocks and shoals along with a terrible loss of life. A group of men decided to act rather than to stand by helplessly and watch people die. They pooled their resources, acquired a sturdy if somewhat shabby looking boat, and formed a lifeboat company. During the next storm a ship hit the rocks and they ran to their boat, prepositioned on the shore, and saved three lives. They were applauded by the community and soon others came to join in and outfit the company with more lifesaving equipment.

During the second storm season, one of the folks they rescued was a wealthy, big city banker. Grateful, he donated a large sum of money to the fledgling company. After much discussion, it was decided to build a permanent boat house and acquire a new, more capable boat complete with a trolley system to carry the boat to the ocean and back when needed. They served this area laudably and over time were the beneficiaries of substantial thank you gifts.

A few years later a particularly bad storm hit the coast and two ships foundered on the off-shore shoals. The alarm went out and the men rushed to the boat house. This time, however, they reasoned that in order to protect their assets, they would not risk their boat and equipment. After several such instances, the company members stopped responding to alarms; content to meet monthly and recount past glories. In the meantime, several persons perished in storms. In the face of this tragic loss of life, several other people were moved to start a new lifeboat company.

In our Lodges, where does our reasoning begin? What do we accept as valuable and fundamental as we make our choices? As Masons, we all experience the same ritual, lessons, and experiences as we journey toward becoming Master Masons. Do we accept the teachings of fraternity, brotherly love, and charity as the place to begin our thinking? It seems to me, acceptance of those fundamentals is the beginning of smoothing

our ashlar. By their use we are empowered to consciously change the perceptions of value in our lives and move toward the moral high ground taught to us ritually.

In the common Masonic symbol the letter “G” is bounded by the square and compasses. It is emblematic of geometry which in turn refers us to the Supreme Architect who uses the sublime power of geometry to hold the universe together in creative renewal each day. The society we live within calls us to allegiance to another deity: wealth.

Reasoning by the values dictated by wealth, we replace the letter “G” with the “\$” and let the supposed power of wealth define our actions. Inevitably, we will be forced to choose between coveting our wealth and responding to the fundamentals of the Craft. Our lives and the vitality of our Fraternity will show the choices we make. There is, however, another path we can choose.

The Supreme Architect has provided us with many working tools with which to fashion ourselves and the world we are called to build. We can choose to use our wealth along with the square, compasses, trowel, common gavel, etc. to do our work. As long as wealth is seen as a tool not an end, the Craft can be set to work with proper instruction. If operative masons valued their tools to the extent that they refused to use them out of fear they would become damaged, the structures they build would soon collapse. Erection of an enduring building requires the use of the proper tools, properly cared for, to reach the desired result.

As speculative masons, we should take our cue from our operative forebears. Square, compasses, trowel, level, plumb, and money are our tools. The Supreme Architect who writes on the trestle board of our hearts and imaginations can never be replaced by the tools designed to implement his plans. Our daily challenge is clear: to begin the day discerning the plans on the trestle board and to work together with the tools available to do this day’s work. In doing so, we will achieve the moral high ground and build a society which will endure.

Make no mistake, should we choose to rest on our laurels and worship our tools, the Supreme Architect’s work will be done . . . by some other group who follows his plan and purpose.



VS.



# Ten Masons made while Destroyer is in Bath

During the summer, Wor. Brother Michael Blum, the Master of Solar Star Lodge in Bath, invited M.W. Brother Wayne T. Adams to organize a suite of veterans to exemplify the Master Mason Degree on several active duty sailors from the USS Michael Murphy. The men would be divided into two groups, the first brethren to be raised on Saturday, August 25, the remainder on Wednesday, August 29.

At the time, the Murphy was nearing completion of its retrofitting after about 18 months at the Bath Iron Works. It left the friendly confines of BIW for good on September 6. There are about ten Masons in the crew.

Bro. James Mitchell of Solar Star Lodge, the Deputy Director Fleet Intro Logistics and Technical Support in the Precommissioning Unit at BIW, has for many years been reaching out to sailors who are Masons. He has invited them to Lodge and provided them with Masonic material in an effort to make them feel welcome while here in Maine.

After establishing a high level of interest among crew members of the Michael Murphy, he turned in ten petitions to the Master of Solar Star



The guided-missile destroyer Michael Murphy (DDG 112) makes its way through New York Harbor in preparation for its commissioning Oct. 6. The new destroyer honors the late Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy, a New York native, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in combat as leader of a four-man reconnaissance team in Afghanistan. Lt. Murphy was the first person to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan, and the first member of the U.S. Navy to receive the award since the Vietnam War. As Most Worshipful Brother Adams commented, the Murphy “is a fine ship we can all be proud of, and (aboard it) seven good Master Masons we can be proud we raised and set on their course. A little bit of us goes with that ship.”

*U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Erik Swanson*

Lodge from sailors currently serving on the Murphy.

The Grand Master had an opportunity to meet many of them, and he granted appropriate dispensations to allow the ten of them, in two classes of five each, to be initiated on the same day and in two classes of five to be passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on another day. In addition, he granted dispensations for the two Master Mason dates in August. He also arranged instruction to accompany those degrees.

Although summer is a busy time for all of us, so many brethren answered M.W. Brother Adams’ call for officers that he had to split participation in the various places and stations so that all brethren who volunteered could take part in these unique degree opportunities.

The new Master Masons were attentive candidates and will spread the good news of Maine Masonry wherever the Michael Murphy takes them around the world. The Murphy’s home port will be in Hawaii.



# Freemasonry: the Truly Special “Holiday Gift”

*RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen,  
Grand Lodge Membership Committee*

“It is better to give than receive.” And this *is* the season of giving.

How many listings did you make while preparing for the holidays? Perhaps lists of: Christmas, Hanukkah and other holiday card recipients; stockings and decorations to be hung; invitees to parties; food to be purchased and prepared; gifts for family members and friends; men who should be encouraged to become Freemasons.

What was that? A “prospective brother” list?

What better, life-long, life-improving gift could you give? It’s a gift that won’t wear out, become obsolete – or “undersized,” be returned, or left behind when you travel or move in future years.

Freemasonry is a gift...for the rest of a man’s life.

A gift that enlightens like a good book, by bringing further light to the teachings of *The Good Book*. An opportunity to share – not just a present under a tree – but perspectives that allow us to grow ethically, morally, spiritually and philosophically; as well as charitably in our thoughts, words and deeds. An offering of broader, deeper friendships with good men who share common, wholesome values.

A brother from New York City noted recently that many NYC lodges are welcoming large numbers of men who are seeking a “retreat” from the hectic and sometimes seemingly unforgiving life in the city, with its growing tendencies towards societal roughness as well as cut-throat business practices.

This brother’s observation parallels the perspectives of Bro. John W. Taylor, Secretary of Dona Ana Daylight Lodge #78 in New Mexico, who wrote:

“Freemasonry is a sacred retreat away from the outside world where we live our day-to-day lives. The lodge is meant to be different from that world. In that outside world men are separated by politics, religion, property, money, status and you-name-it; in the lodge that is all cast away, we meet on the level.

He continued, “...we should return to the basics of what Freemasonry has been, is now, and will be in the future, as a sacred and spiritual retreat from the ego-ori-

ented world outside. The teaching and practicing of the tenets and principles of Freemasonry is ‘who we are and what we do.’”

As Father Time passes and we begin a new year, lodge officers and other brethren should reflect on how we as Masonic organizations and individual brothers currently teach and practice the tenets and principles of Freemasonry, and how we might better spread those Masonic attributes to new and future generations of inspired and educated Masons.

Many – if not most – of us are Masons today because someone we knew felt Freemasonry would be good for us, and that we would be good for Freemasonry. Yes, Brethren, it should be a two-way beneficial proposition.

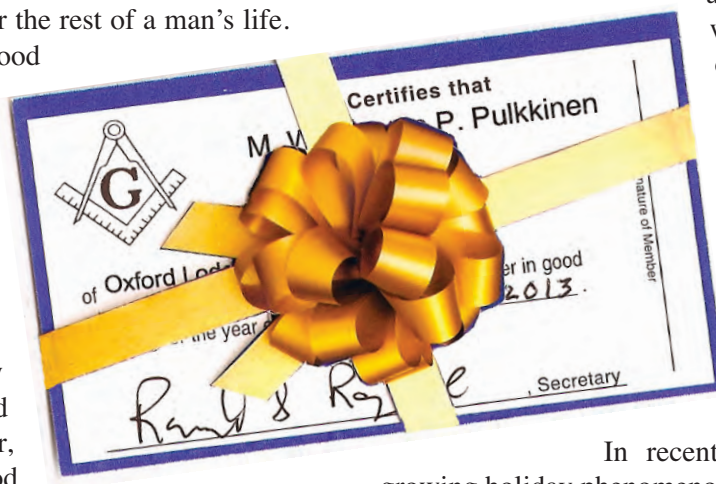
Perhaps that individual was a father, grandfather, uncle or brother. Perhaps it was a fellow-worshipper, co-worker or neighbor. Often it is a wife who values Freemasonry because of her experiences growing up in a Masonic family. Irrespective of who that person was, someone directed your attention to the Craft, and that act was his – or her – gift to you.

In recent years, there has been a growing holiday phenomenon called “regifting.” It is the process of rewrapping an unwanted gift received and giving it to someone else.

Regifting should be the practice of every Mason, not of an unwanted gift but instead of a cherished gift. Not of a gift that ends up unused in an attic or garage, but of a gift that is central to our being, of our innermost character.

A prominent Mason often explained the difference between the past, the present and the future. He says: “the Past is history” – we can’t do anything about that; “the future is unknown” – but may be influenced by what we do now; and “today is God’s gift to man – that’s why we call it the present.”

Freemasonry is also a gift from the Supreme Architect of the Universe. It is a gift that has historically brought: order out of chaos in many countries; freedom to the oppressed; equality to the masses; warm friendships among men of different races, religions and walks of life;



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## Mt. Olivet Lodge sponsors Kids' Summer Reading Program



On Saturday, August 25, 2012, children and parents packed the Gibbs Library in the town of Washington for the drawing of the winners of the "Bikes for Books Summer Reading Program." Fifty-five children read hundreds of books over the summer in order to have a chance at winning a bike and helmet. Drawing the winning names

was Kora Shrine Clown "Farmer Sam" pictured here with some of the children who participated in the program. Six bikes and helmets, and several consolation prizes were awarded. Mt. Olivet Lodge sponsored the program, raising funds to purchase the prizes by holding numerous steak suppers and breakfasts.

### Freemasonry...the Gift

*Continued from Preceding Page*

faith in God; hope in immortality; growth of our character; and charity to and caring for those less fortunate among us.

With all these positive Masonic-based effects on the lives of man, and on society, is it not our collective and individual duty to share our fraternity with other good men of faith?

Regift Freemasonry to one or more of the men you know who are right for the Craft. It will be the best present that you can give this holiday season to someone who you care for, as well as to the Craft so essential to our hope for future generations.

Brethren, please take that first step today in making someone a Masonic brother.

### *It Pays to Advertise*

To the Editor

I wanted to personally extend my thanks and gratitude for your assistance with placing the advertisement for Pioneer Lodge's moose hunters supper in the Maine Mason. The supper was a huge success for the lodge and raised over \$800, which is excellent for being a first time event. We had many people who attended tell us they saw the ad in the Maine Mason. We even had a brother who saw the ad send us a donation with a letter stating he saw the ad and even though he couldn't attend he wanted to help us out. Again thank you for your assistance and timely work that assisted us in making this event a success and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Fraternally,  
Wor. Richard Wark, Master, Pioneer Lodge #72



# Moses Webster: *Who was that Mason, #2*

by **Richard L. Rhoda**  
**Grand Historian**

Brother Moses Webster was one of only nine Maine Masons to have had a lodge named after him using both his given and surname. Previously, we have considered Brother David A. Hooper of Lodge No. 201 in West Sullivan.

Moses Webster had been a Master Mason less than four years when he was honored by having a lodge bear his full name. The only Mainer prior thereto to be so honored was Timothy Chase. He had been a Past Grand Master ten years when a second lodge in Belfast was named for him while he was still alive. A few other lodges had been named for living Maine Masons but only their surname was used.

Moses Webster Lodge No. 145 is located on Vinalhaven, an island lying some fifteen miles off the coast of Rockland.

The lodge was organized on January 17, 1868 and named to compliment a leading citizen and businessman of the island. At a special organizational meeting a few days earlier it was unanimously voted: "That in consideration of the eminent services thus far rendered by Brother Moses Webster in its establishment this Lodge shall be known as Moses Webster Lodge of Vinalhaven."

Who was Moses Webster the man? He was born in Pelham, N.H. in 1817, one of eight children of John and Elizabeth Bradford Webster. The family descended from John Webster who came to America from England in 1634.

Interestingly, Brother Webster began his business career as a stonecutter in the quarry business as had Bro. David A. Hooper.

Webster's first business venture as a stone cutter in Methuen, Massachusetts was a failure and left him considerably in debt.

In 1851 he came to Vinalhaven from Hudson, N.H. and bought into the "East Boston quarry" for \$300.00 and went into business with Joseph Kittredge. This quarry produced a premium platform stone which could be cut into larger, thinner slabs than into regular

block granite. At the time of his death in 1887 the value of his estate was \$154,997.

In the year 1852 Joseph R. Bodwell, who would become Governor of Maine, and a cousin of Moses, Simon Gilman Webster, bought out Joseph Kittredge. Simon Gilman retired in the spring of 1853 and the firm became known as Bodwell and Webster.

It is reported that early on Moses worked in the quarry and Bodwell drove the oxen to haul the granite. A long ways from having a lodge named for you or becoming Governor of the State!

In the early 1850's the firm received a Federal contract which

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**Portrait by Bro. Roger Morin  
of Monument Lodge, Houlton**

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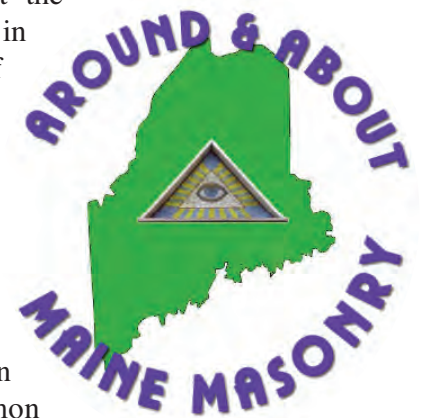
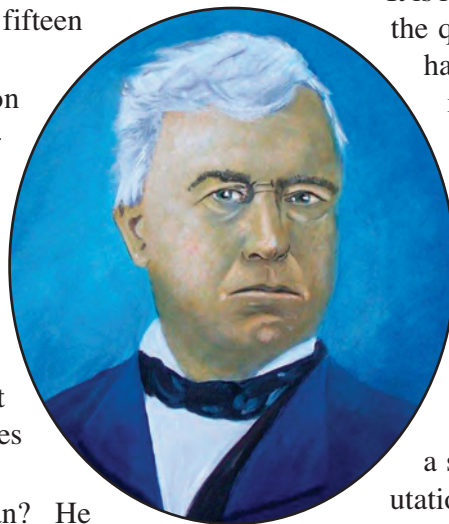
was to be the first in a long line for a successful enterprise based on its reputation for reliability and efficiency. To name but a few, it provided cut stone for the State, War and Navy department buildings in Washington and for the post office in Cincinnati.

Moses served his town well as a local selectman, then as a State Legislator in 1859 and finally as State Senator for Knox County in 1873-1874.

In 1871 he was one of the incorporators of the newly formed Bodwell Granite Co. and served as its Vice President. Moses was the man on the ground while Bodwell stayed primarily in Methuen, Massachusetts and was the super salesman for the company. He eventually moved to Hallowell, Maine and became involved in politics

Moses Webster died January 15, 1887 in his 69<sup>th</sup>

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## Veteran Chaplain Honored

On November 24, Brother Herbert (Herb) Bean of Hiram Lodge #180 of South Portland (pictured right) was recognized for his 37 years of dedicated service to Hiram Lodge, 30 years of which has been as Chaplain. Grand Master A, James Ross through the Grand Tyler, Wor. William Littlefield, also of Hiram Lodge, presented Herb with a certificate proclaiming him an Honorary Grand Chaplain. There were more than 50 people in attendance. Also that evening Herb presented his son with a 25 year pin as a member of the lodge.



## Moses Webster

*Continued from Preceding Page*

year. He must have known that his death was drawing nigh for his will was executed only eleven days before his demise. He was survived by his wife, Lydia Marie Barker of Manchester, New Hampshire, born November 1, 1819 and died April 7, 1899.

Brother Webster joined Aurora Lodge No. 50 in Rockland in 1864. He took all three degrees on February 22th. He demitted from Aurora Lodge on December 4, 1867 and was a charter member of his namesake lodge formed on January 17, 1868. He never served as an officer of the lodge but was an active member of its finance committee.

The first history of the lodge covering 1868 to 1870, relates the following:

“From the very first, he (dove?) into the work with his whole heart, bearing almost the whole immediate pecuniary burden cheerfully and in fact has never ceased to be a pillar of strength from its inception to the present time; and having thus cherished and supported it in its infancy he now has the proud satisfaction of beholding it in the height of prosperity enjoying a healthy growth, with all the elements to eventually constitute a first class Lodge.”

Brother Moses Webster was a leader in his trade, his community and for Freemasonry on Vinalhaven. He was one of the prominent and outstanding members of the community and was deserving of the honor bestowed upon him of having his name given to a Masonic Lodge.

## A Word of Caution...

As Grand Historian, I feel bound to point out the importance of lodge histories being done every year and sent to Grand Lodge.

On June 6, 1967, the original Masonic Temple on Vinalhaven burned to the ground. Lodge Secretary Charles S. Mitchell, Th. D., D.D., wrote “That fire destroyed all the records and equipment in the building. The writer being acquainted with this lodge only since 1941, this account must be founded largely on memory and any former records available.”

The Lodge is fortunate today that a short history was written in 1870 relative to its founding and that Brother Freeman L. Roberts wrote another history of the Lodge in 1910. It is even more fortunate that these histories were prepared and sent to Grand Lodge.

It was the records of Moses Webster Lodge as duly kept at Grand Lodge which allowed this brief paper to be researched and shared that we might today more intimately know who was their namesake.

The Lodge Historian position is an important one and serves a vital purpose. Look well to your histories.

# “Enlightenment”... “Revolutionary”... and *How Do They Apply to Us?*

**BY R.W. Brother Joel B. Parsons**

I recently read a short article of Masonic Trivia in which there were some poignant quotes from fellow Freemason John Paul Jones. As a younger Mason, (38 yrs old) admittedly, my first thought when I read the name John Paul Jones and before I read the article turned to the bass player from the legendary rock band Led Zeppelin; however I quickly realized that I didn't recall him being a Mason nor did I think it likely that Freemasonry would be printing anything from any member of Led Zeppelin. I realized just as quickly that it was referring to the father of the United States Navy. This too intrigued me as a general lover of history. I am always genuinely excited to learn that another important and well known historical figure was a member of our great organization, lending his reputation to strengthen the reputation of our beloved fraternity.

John Paul Jones, not unlike many of our Founding Fathers was a Revolutionist. He was a principled man who fought for freedoms; who fought to change the way men had been forced to live for centuries. He fought to allow the freedom of thought and to speak one's mind, and certainly he championed the freedom to practice the religion of one's own choosing.

John Paul Jones, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, these men, these Freemasons did not accept the status quo or the social dogma of their day. They were compelled to speak up, speak out and, when necessary, to take action to ensure that they could secure for themselves and those whom they loved a better way of life.

A way of life Brethren. What does that mean? To me it means how you do (and are allowed to go about) your daily business and social interactions. The way of life these enlightened men most assuredly enjoyed was offered by, represented by, and embodied by Freemasonry. Many famous and inspirational men were members of the enlightenment movement as well as members of the various revolutions in the New World and throughout Europe. There are many documentaries detailing their doings; therefore let us focus on the meanings of “Enlightened”, “Enlightenment”, “Revolution” and “Revolutionary.” And more specifically how those terms as we view them back in the late 18th and early 19th centuries apply to us today, still at the dawn of the 21st century. That group of men was exceptionally successful in changing the way their society and the world functioned and thought. They were the genesis of what

have become the freedoms and opportunities enjoyed throughout much of the world today. Those men believed that change was not only acceptable, but necessary. Without change there would be no improvement. Brethren, they were right then and that belief remains right today.

Many of those men who embraced change were also part of the same society of friends and brothers that each of us proudly belongs to. A fraternity, nonetheless, whose membership is dwindling. A fraternity searching for ways to reach young men and inspire them to become part of something bigger, something with meaning, a society that unites men of every sect and opinion and which conciliates true friendship.

We are in danger of failing where those men succeeded. The question is why? The answer is change. Or rather our unwillingness to change. It is time that we became aware of how to reach young men in this country. It is time to be revolutionary.

Back at the beginning of this paper I made note of an article about Masonic Trivia. In that piece there was a short section about electronic devices in a tyled lodge. The article makes note of how disruptive cellphones are in the lodge room. Not only do they ring, but Brethren actually answer them. It reports that some read emails and continually receive and send text messages as lodge business is occurring. It even mentions that some lodge officers have written the ritual into their cellphones and are using the devices as teleprompters, and how some are even using their cellphones to take audio and/or video recordings of our sacred rituals. All of these things have caused the following action:



“On September 14, 2011, M.W. Brother Richard J. Stewart, Grand Master of Massachusetts, issued the following edict:

*All cell phones carried into a Lodge Room must either be turned off or silenced prior to entering the Lodge Room.*

*The Master will announce prior to Opening that all cell phones and other electronic devices are to be shut off or silenced.*

*If an emergency call is received while the*

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## Enlightenment *Continued from Preceding Page*

*Lodge is in session, the Brother must not answer the call within the Lodge Room. He must exit the Lodge Room according to proper Masonic protocol and respond to the call outside the Lodge Room area.*

*If a cell phone rings within a Tyled Lodge, the Master will instruct the Lodge Marshal to escort the Brother from the room. Readmittance of the Brother to the Lodge will be at the discretion of the Master.*

*Use of cell phones or other devices for texting, audio recording, video recording, or photography within a Tyled Lodge is strictly forbidden, except as has been previously approved for photography. Any reported infraction of this rule is subject to reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from Freemasonry.*

From Masonic Information Center “FOCUS” December 2011”

I agree that cellphones and other electronic devices can be disruptive when not silenced, but I would argue that they do have a place in a lodge room if properly silenced, cared for and used.

This is where change, enlightenment and revolution come into play.

Did any Mason complain when his Lodge building installed a furnace to heat the building more efficiently than a fireplace? Did any Mason complain when his lodge installed incandescent lighting? Did any Mason complain when a restroom was installed? Doubtful. And let’s not forget Brethren that these were modern technological advances not that long ago. They revolutionized the ways we enjoy our fellow-

ship. I dare say that many living members recall meeting in a place where indoor plumbing and electricity were not available. Having these conveniences required change and acceptance. It made life easier so it obviously was universally accepted. Not convincing enough? Ok.



Now let me ask you this; did you not take upon yourself a solemn obligation to keep sacred and inviolate the secrets belonging to Freemasonry? Did you not furthermore promise and swear never to: write, print, paint, cut, carve, stamp, stain, mark or engrave them? Of course

you did, as did I; however we have accepted that there exist various Masonic texts available, many not only written by Masons, but published by Grand Lodges. These texts contain much of our ritual, written in plain English.

I would expect that sanctioning these writings was at one time not only a revolutionary idea but emphatically opposed by the then older Masons. But change happened and our fraternity not only survived, it thrived. In fact I’d bet that change possibly even improved the quality of the ritual being performed in many lodges. It is time for that type of change again my brothers.



How we bring about that change is to take great care when Grand Masters and Grand Lodges decree if, when, and how modern technologies are allowed in lodge rooms. It becomes necessary to reflect on how Worshipful Masters and Secretaries conduct their communications. Is it ok for the Master to use an electronic agenda for conducting his meetings? Is it ok for the Master as well as the Brethren to take written notes on upcoming events? Are we permitted to use calendars? Day planners? The answer is yes to all of those aids, moreover it is encouraged to do so. Did the Worshipful Master of my lodge have those at his disposal in 1805 when my lodge was chartered? Unlikely on all and definitely a no on the day planner as we know it today.

Let’s consider, for a moment, the day planner. What uses does it offer? Among other things it keeps our calendar for the day, week, month, year. It contains important information such as dates and times, conversion tables, world maps, time zones, area codes, zip codes. It contains our contact lists, business cards, writing utensil, steno pad, etc. It’s easy to see why a Worshipful Master benefits from its use. We now readily accept that the “paper version” day planner is useful and we accept its use in our lodges. Not so universally do we accept the planner when it becomes electronic. And we wonder why we fail continually to connect with young men ages 18-25.

Can we not recognize that these men are men of a technologically advanced era? Must we not accept this generation of men for who they are and what they do? Shouldn’t we as a Fraternity practice what we’ve so frequently heard inculcated in our Masonic lessons, i.e. tolerance, acceptance, equality? Mustn’t we eagerly welcome these young men – and their technology – into our Fraternity?

Brethren we have reached an era where we must embrace technology and use it to benefit our craft. Can

*Continued on Next Page*

## Enlightenment *Continued from Preceding Page*

someone explain to me how we expect to progress without progress? In the past we were able to embrace change and progress. We accepted the typewriter which progressed to the word processor then to the computer and printer. It's universally accepted today that most of our documents and written communications are created, stored and even delivered electronically yet some frown on using a cellphone or other electronic device to plan and communicate lodge business.

It's time to move ahead. Again. This entire paper was written on a smartphone. On the same smartphone I looked up our Grand Lodge Standing Regulation after receiving an email question from a 23-year-old brother and former Secretary of his lodge. Did you catch that? I read from my Grand Lodge Constitution and Standing Regulations online at the website of my Grand Lodge using this smartphone. Yet there are some who say that the cellphone has no place in a lodge room. Had it been available, just imagine how MW Bro. Benjamin Franklin would put to use the device I hold in my hands when he served as Grand Master of Pennsylvania. A truly enlightened man with a love for science, technology, progress, communication, freedom and acceptance, he would most certainly use the device to touch the lives of men.

Now what will you, your Worshipful Master, and your Grand Lodge do with this knowledge? Will you allow cellphones in your lodge? Will you mandate a brother be escorted out of a lodge room and potentially disciplined for using a device he grew up with? Or will you petition your Grand Lodge to carefully govern the Craft when considering a mandate that keeps us in touch with our daily lives, our brethren, and answers many questions.



As I write this, I serve our Grand Master, M.W. Jim Ross, as one of his District Deputy Grand Masters. I can personally tell you that keeping my cellphone silenced in Lodge is as important to me as using it to keep track of Stated and Special Communications within my district, as well as assisting me in distributing information from the Grand Secretary and the Grand Master. And yes, I do so in opened and tyled lodge rooms. I do however follow my standing regulations and do not use it while Grand Lodge is in session. Something I hope we change in the very near future.

By restricting a young man from employing the tools he is accustomed to we are limiting his interest and his ease of communication. These young men are the next generation of Freemasons. They are enlightened 21st century thinkers who are going to revitalize our fraternity, but only if we embrace them and what they need. If we fail them, we fail the fraternity. If we fail them we most certainly will lose them. If we fail them lodges around America will relinquish charters. Do we want to suffer losses similar to those resulting from "The Morgan Affair"? Of course not. Then let's not have an "electronics affair."

Some have had the wisdom to contrive, now it devolves upon us to have the strength to support this great and important undertaking. Will you be part of the technology revolution or will you decide that you are too old, too traditional to accept and embrace the changes that will strengthen and support our beautiful Ancient Free & Accepted craft?

Master Hiram, consider well your situation. Do not let your Fraternity suffer the same fate as our Grand Master Hiram because we fail to employ new tools available to our craft. We must not fail the skilled younger craftsmen necessary to continue work on perfecting the temple.



**"All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth," the request being made to Santa (Bro. Bryan Gess) from Brody Vigue (the son of Bro. Duane Vigue) at the Mt. Olivet Lodge "Breakfast with Santa" held on December 1, 2012. Twenty-nine children had their pictures taken with Santa that morning. Mt. Olivet Lodge meets in the town of Washington.**



# First Masonic Rookie Is a Really Active Freemason



Bro. Robert Haigh is welcomed and congratulated in the East of Morning Star Lodge in Litchfield by his brethren, left to right: RW David A. Walker, Deputy Grand Master; MW A. James Ross, Grand Master; Bro. Haigh; RW Leon E. Allen, Master; RW Donald C. Pratt, District Deputy; and VW Michael P. Meservey, District Education Representative.

MW Brother A. James Ross adopted the Masonic Rookie program last May to encourage Masons to become actively engaged in the affairs of their lodges. Earning the Masonic Rookie Award requires new brethren to make a commitment to Masonic education, involvement and service, which in turn creates fraternal bonds between them and their lodges that will not easily be broken.

During the Eleventh District Meeting, Grand Master Ross awarded the first Master Mason Rookie Pin to Bro. Robert R. Haigh, the Junior Deacon of Morning Star Lodge #41, who said becoming a Mason has given purpose to his life, where previously there was none. “My greatest enjoyment is centered around Masonry.”

Bro. Haigh is a retired military veteran, with three years in the Marines and 21 in the Air Force. A true patriot, he currently serves as Commander of the William R. Bold Post #181 of the American Legion in Litchfield.

He knew of Freemasonry while growing up in New Hampshire, but never knew what the Craft was really all about until after he started dating Kathy, who became his wife two years ago. Her family has many Masons, including her brother-in-law RW G. David Byras who stirred Bro. Haigh’s interest in Masonry and gave him an application.

“Masonry has given me a lot,” said Bro. Haigh, “and I could never repay what it has done for me. It has shown me a better way to live my life. Now my life is in focus and it has purpose...” including helping his fellow man any way he can. One way he helps others is by refurbishing sleds for kids and donating them to churches at Christmastime.

A Mason for about 18 months, Bro. Haigh has helped several other lodges confer Masonic degrees by filling officer chairs and delivering degree charges. He is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, but his greatest feeling of pride is when he witnesses a candidate being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason and perceives a brother’s enthusiasm to learn and do more.



The passion that this new Master Mason exudes when he speaks about Freemasonry is contagious and bespeaks well of the solid grounding he received as a candidate and the contributions he will make as an active officer and member of Morning Star Lodge in Litchfield and elsewhere in the “mighty Eleventh District.”



**Brother  
celebrates  
90th  
Birthday  
and  
receives  
65-year  
Service  
Star**



Brother Vaughn Pierce is presented his 65-year service star at his 90th birthday party on September 22 in Weeks Mills by Brothers from Dirigo Lodge 104 of Weeks Mills. Left to right R. W. Don Pauly, Brother Vaughn Pierce, Wor. Robert H. Holt, Brother Clarence Tuston. Wor. Sheldon Goodine.



Bro. Alton Withee received his 50-year Veteran's Medal on Sat. Dec. 8th at the Maine Veteran's Home in Bangor ME. He was raised in 1962 at Ralph J. Pollard Lodge #217 in Brewer. He was in the US Army as an engineer during WW II and worked for Leon Williams Lumber Company in Eddington, his home town, for 40 years. The presentation was made by R.W. Pete Forrest, PSGW.

We congratulate Brother Withee for his service, both to the craft and to country.

His address:

Alton Withee  
Maine Veteran's Home,  
44 Hogan Rd, Bangor, ME 04401



# Maine Freemasonry celebrates 250th Anniversary

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

The 250th Anniversary of Masonry in Maine and the issuing of the warrant by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for “the lodge at Falmouth,” now Triangle Lodge No. 1, was celebrated on Saturday, December 1, 2012 in Corinthian Hall in Portland.

The meeting was opened by Worshipful Brother Shawn Losier and the officers of Triangle Lodge. They then received Grand Master A. James Ross and his suite of officers who rededicated the hall according to ancient ritual. About one hundred people were present for this special public event including Past Grand Masters Wayne T. Adams and Claire V. Tusch and also R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen, Past Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and Chairman of our Grand Lodge Budget Committee.

The Grand Master gave an inspiring talk on the history of Masonry in Maine and of its commitment to the betterment of its members and of them to their lodges, communities and the State. He observed “While in so many other parts of the world, political animosities, contentions and wars interrupt the progress of humanity and the cause of benevolence, it is our distinctive privilege, in this happy region of liberty and peace, to engage in the plans and to perfect the designs of individual and social happiness.”

To the members of Triangle Lodge he concluded with his hope that “This Hall (may) be the happy resort of piety, virtue and benevolence. May it be protected from accident, and long remain a monument of your attachment to Masonry. May your lodge continue to flourish, your union be strengthened, and your happiness abound.”

R.W. Bro. Christian Ratliff, Past Master of Triangle Lodge, gave an informative and animated history of the lodge. Especially interesting was his vignette of the relationship between Revolutionary War era lodge members, Col. William Tyng, a loyalist, and Brigadier-General Jedediah Preble, “as strong a patriot as the other was loyalist.”

Also explained was the history of the name of Triangle Lodge No.1 which was established on August 7, 1981 when three lodges, Portland No. 1; Ancient Land-Mark, No. 17; (1806) and Atlantic No. 81 (1855) were consolidated. The name was chosen to represent the heritage of the three lodges becoming one.

The First District Masonic Beau Tie Society was represented

by its Roving Ambassador, R.W. Richard Rhoda, who was allowed by the Grand Master to make a special presentation of its new offering, Kente Tie No. 2. Ties and membership in the Society were presented to the Grand Master; R.W. David A. Walker; Rodney Gilmore, of Triangle Lodge; Joel Stevenson, the only non-mason so recognized; and his father, Meon Stevenson, the incoming Master of Siloam Lodge No. 92 in Fairfield.

The tie represents the cultural heritage of Africa from the area around Ghana. As Masonry uses the tools of the workmen to represent wise and serious truths, so do the colors in the Kente Cloth denote the same wise and serious truths; yellow for spirituality, green for growth, black for maturity etc....

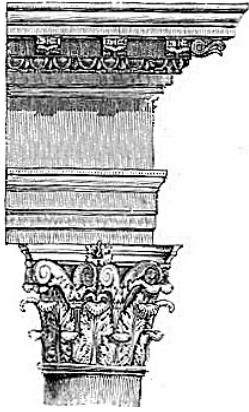
All profits from this offering will be given to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation to help sickle cell research in the United States. It is an inherited anemia blood disorder which affects red blood cells. While the cell trait is most predominant in African-Americans (approximately ten percent) and other people of color, persons of all races and ancestry may test positive for it.

This fund drive was undertaken to support part of Grand Master Ross’ commitment to actively promote diversity and toleration in Maine. By such he “believes we will each grow inwardly as a person and outwardly as an organization. By our ties they will know we are Brothers in our thoughts.”



Left to right – Deputy Grand Master, David A. Walker; R.W. Richard Rhoda, Presenter; A. James Ross, Grand Master; Bro. Rodney Gilmore, Joel Stevenson, a DeMolay, and Bro. Meon Stevenson as they were presented their tie and Honorary Membership in the 1st District Masonic Beau Tie Society.

*Photo by Doris Auger*



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



## What Has Masonry Done for the World?



*This article is adapted from the Masonic Information Center, an affiliate of the Masonic Service Association of North America, which publishes the Short Talk Bulletins, among its other activities. The Maine Masonic College is procuring copies of this brochure for distribution at its classes.*

### The College Briefly...

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

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

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

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

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Freemasonry has done more for the world in which we live than most people, even most Masons, realize. In the last few years, educators and historians have begun to realize that Freemasonry runs as a significant thread through many of the events which have shaped the political, economic, cultural and social world we know today. An exciting story is unfolding.

Historians, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, professors of architecture and music, and representatives of other disciplines, for the most part having no association with the Masonic Fraternity, have been led in their own areas of research to the Lodge as a "major player" in shaping the world.

**Individualism.** We pretty much do what we want to do today with regard to dress, hair style, diet, what we read, what we say. In A.D. 1230 stone masons were ordered by the church to shave off their beards and cut their hair. The masons resisted this order and won, striking the first blow for individualism. Throughout the Enlightenment the idea spread from Masonic Lodges to the society as a whole that men and women were entitled to respect as individuals.

**Democracy.** Historians now realize that Masonic Lodges in Europe served as the first models of democracy. Members in Lodges made their own bylaws and elected their own leaders. This was unheard of except in the Lodge. It is fair to say that this model was finalized in the United States, exists in many nations today, and was an invention of the Masonic Lodge. Many of the political debates in North America in the 1700's involved leading Masons such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere and Joseph Warren and led to the creation of the new nation, the adoption of the Bill of Rights, and the establishment of democracy as we know it today.

**Human Rights.** Throughout the great majority of history, people were valued on the basis of their wealth and social position. Even in the churches, there were separate seating areas for the upper and lower classes. Masonic Lodges were the first organizations to break down those barriers. Even actors (regarded as near the bottom of the social scale) were permitted to sit in Lodge as equals with members of the aristocracy. Masonry, although a fraternity, has always taught respect for women as equal human beings entitled to equal consideration.

(Continued on page 2)





*When we think of Architects, Engineers and Scientists that have influenced the Art that has created the modern world around us, we would probably think of men such as M Pei and Frank Lloyd Wright. However, these men have not changed the Art as much as they have mastered the use of it. This is one article in a series on the people who created, discovered or redefined how modern architecture, engineering and science came about.*

In this installment, as well as the next two, we will look to the stars! No, not stars like Fred Astaire or Sean Connery. I mean the stars up in the heavens. This article will deal with someone known as the 'Ancient Copernicus', Aristarchus of Samos. The next installment will be on Copernicus himself followed by an article on Galileo. What is it that ties all three of these gentlemen together? Heliocentrism!

Heliocentrism is the astronomical model in which the Earth and planets revolve around a stationary Sun which is at the center of the solar system. "What!" you cry. "I know that, I should be a famous astronomer and have my life recorded in one of these articles. I even made a model of the solar system when I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, after all!". No doubt you are very knowledgeable and clever to attach all those Styrofoam balls and pipe cleaners, but the difference is that you probably built your model in the 1900s; Galileo knew this in the 1600s; Copernicus in the 1500s; and Aristarchus in...get this...250 BC. "So" you say, "Big deal. Everyone knows that". But that wasn't always true. This train of thought was not generally accepted

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

By Bro. George M. A. Macdougall, *Vice Chairman, Board of Regents, MMC*

until 1758, when the Catholic Church dropped the general prohibition of books advocating heliocentrism from the Index of Forbidden Books. That means, if you had this theory in your book, it was forbidden for Catholics to read it! It wasn't until 1822 that Pope Pius VII approved a decree by the Sacred Congregation of the Inquisition to allow the printing of heliocentric books in Rome. Our three gentlemen faced great peril in voicing their beliefs, especially Galileo as we will see. Oh, and by the way, out of you four, only Galileo and you had the advantage of a telescope - and his was about as good as a pair of cheap binoculars today!

Now, let's think about it. You are standing on the Earth and it sure as heck doesn't look or feel to you like you are moving at all (if it does, you are either very sensitive to movement or should see a doctor). Up comes the sun in the East and travels across the sky and sets in the West. Then the moon comes up, goes across the sky and sets. The stars appear on one horizon, travel across the night sky and disappear at the other horizon. Pretty clear to see that everything rotates around the Earth! This is known as a Geocentric universe. The Geocentric theory placed the Earth at the center of the Universe and everything rotated around it. If your own observation isn't enough for you, the Bible and the Church were also pretty clear on this subject! In the King James Bible there are a number of passages on the subject: Chronicles 16:30 state that "the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved." Psalm 104:5 says, "[the Lord] Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever." Ecclesiastes 1:5 states that "The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose." This was the basis for the Church's stand on the subject for close to two thousand years. Now, what could have happened to make someone think not only outside of the box but way outside the known Universe of their time? Not only would this person be going against Religious beliefs of their time but this person would also be up against great scientific thinkers such as Aristotle.

The first person credited with presenting the heliocentric model was Aristarchus. He was a Greek astronomer and mathematician, born on the island of Samos, in Greece in 310 BC. He has been dubbed the 'Ancient Copernicus'. He presented the first known heliocentric model of the solar system, placing the Sun, not the Earth, at the center of the known universe. He was influenced by Philolaus of Croton, who was

a Greek Pythagorean and Presocratic (Fancy word for 'before Socrates') philosopher born in southern Italy about 470 BC. In contrast to Philolaus, Aristarchus identified the "central fire" with the Sun, and put the other planets in their correct order of position around the Sun. Philolaus believed that everything rotated around a central fire including the Sun. Aristarchus was able to make observations and by these observations determine that the moon was much, much smaller than the Earth. He also determined that the Sun was much, much larger than the Earth. His thoughts were that if the Sun were so much larger than the Earth, then the Earth must travel around the Sun! He didn't even have Newton's theories on gravitation and bodies attracting each other to go by like we do today! However, his astronomical ideas were nearly universally rejected in favor of the geocentric theories of Aristotle. The heliocentric theory was pretty much ignored until it was successfully revived nearly 1800 years later by Copernicus and championed by Galileo.



Next we will explore more of why these people were able to determine that their theories were right and convince others. The next topic will be the Heliocentric theories from Copernicus. We will look at what he did and some pitfalls he fell in to. Remember, he was trying to prove these without the aid of a telescope.



Aristarchus's 3rd century BC calculations on the relative sizes of the Earth, Sun and Moon, from a 10th century AD Greek copy. He used eclipses to determine size differences among these three bodies.



### ***Wor. Brother Dave Cairnie: 50 Years His Lodge's Chaplain***

The above photo pictures a gathering of Masons at Siloam Lodge in Fairfield to honor Worshipful David W. Cairnie and celebrate his 50 years as Chaplain of Siloam Lodge. This is indeed a rare occasion. Brother Dave was made an Honorary Grand Chaplain by our Most Worshipful Grand Master Jim Ross. Pictured, left to right: V.W. R. Charles King, DER/12, R.W. Chris Disotto, Grand Marshal; R.W. David Walker, DGM; M.W. A. James Ross, Grand Master; Wor. Brother Cairnie; R.W. Daniel Hill, Grand Chaplain; Wor. Brother Kevin Madore, Master of Siloam Lodge; Wor. Meon Stephenson, Grand Steward; and R.W. Dan Pratt, PJGW. The event was attended by Dave's family and friends, members of the Eastern Star; Masters, Chaplains and brethren from many local lodges who have served the Craft with Dave over the years. Congratulations Brother Dave. And many, many thanks.

## **Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum**

***by Wor. James E. Dufresne,  
Past Grand Librarian. Grand Lodge of Maine***

A new Library and Museum has been established in the old Grand Secretary's office at 415 Congress Street, Portland. This new Library and Museum has its main focus on Maine Masons who fought in the Civil War as well as Masonry in general. This new Library and Museum will be open to all Masons and the public.

When the Grand Lodge of Maine planned to move the Grand Lodge Library to Holden I saw that a very large gap would be left in southern Maine. After serving the Grand Lodge of Maine for over twenty years first as assistant to the Librarian, then as Librarian to the Grand Lodge and finally as the Worshipful Grand Librarian, I was not sure how to keep a Masonic library active in the Portland area. I was approached by Bob Kahn, Chair of the Masonic Building Trustees to establish a new Library and Museum in the same building after the Grand Lodge moved out.

Plans are to have this new Library and Museum be a 501(c)3 organization and would be called "The Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum." I see this as a way to continue having a place for my Masonic Brothers

in southern Maine to resume borrowing books and doing their research.

The new Library and Museum will be opening in the spring of 2013. However; before it can open, a great deal of work has to be done. The shelves need books and the museum cases need to be stocked with exhibits. When the Grand Lodge Library moved, it took its books leaving a gap of centralized Masonic resources in Southern Maine. If you have books on Freemasonry or related subjects which you want to donate to the Library, or items on the Civil War that would be appropriate for display and which you may be interested in giving or loaning to the Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum please contact me.

The Library and Museum could also use financial assistance. If you or your lodge would be willing to support this new project please send your contributions to:

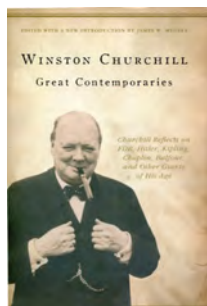
**The Masonic Temple Foundation, 415 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04112, on the for or memo line write: "For the Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum."**

My contact information is 207-294-1152 or [jdufresne7575@gmail.com](mailto:jdufresne7575@gmail.com)



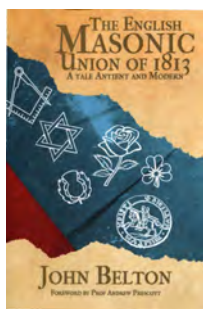
It's time to be thinking about New Year's resolutions - and one I hope you'll consider is to read a book about Freemasonry each month. Remember that promise of a 'daily advancement'? Now's the perfect time to put it on your life's calendar. The time is there if you want it to be....

# THE OLD WEBMASTER'S BOOKSHELF



I think that holiday reading should be both entertaining and educational. **Winston Churchill - Great Contemporaries** is a work from several years ago but the newly published edition, edited by James W. Muller meets that criteria and more. We often glorify Churchill as a Freemason despite his minimal involvement in the Craft - and this work adds nothing which would change that. It does, however, provide the reader with an outstanding perspective of the times in which he, and a number of other Masons (and non-Masons) lived. Nearly every page has exhaustive, explanatory footnotes to assist in clarifying what Churchill has written. It's a book you can pick up and put down as time allows - and that's another reason for adding this to your Holiday Reading List.

Those who know their Masonic history will recall the story, oft repeated, of how a group of (ostensibly) Irish Masons, upset with the changes being made by the London Masonic authorities went off to form their own Grand Lodge, and came to be (confusingly) called the Antients to differentiate them from the others (the Moderns). In **The English Masonic Union of 1813 - A Tale Antient and Modern** Masonic researcher John Belton, FPS has taken a fresh look at the commonly accepted tale and found that there's far more to this than we've been led to believe for the past couple of hundred years. The formation of the United Grand Lodge of England with it's 3 degree system (that somehow includes the Royal Arch) is something that's difficult to comprehend in its entirety. Positing that the actions/reactions of the parties involved are interwoven with societal changes throughout England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Belton has, in effect, rewritten history into a much more understandable, realistic and rational explanation of events. Well worthwhile!



The longer you're a Mason, the more likely you are to have a discussion with someone about the Rosicrucians. In fact, many of those approaching our door today

have questions on this from their first inquiry. Unfortunately those who've been around for years are usually mystified over it all. Is there a connection from these early secret societies to Freemasonry? It's a hotly argued topic but unless you understand what some of our supposed roots are, you really can't understand the argument - or the possibility. Those interested in the ostensible esoteric roots of our brotherhood are rarely vocal - or even locatable but more and more members (current and potential) are asking about this sort of thing! If you want to learn more about esotericism from a beginner's perspective, you should read **The Rosicrucian Enlightenment** by Dame Frances Yates. Published in 1972, it is still one of the foundational works on this subject - and it's a book that will help you get grounded as you seek to understand esoterica more fully. Highly recommended and quite easily readable.



Templar Fiction is a genre that appeals to Masons and non-Masons alike. This past year I've become addicted to the **Red Cross of Gold - The Assassin Chronicles** series, now coming to an end with the publication of the 30th book. Author Brendan Carroll has fantasized a group of former 13th century Knights Templar who've lived for hundreds of years and continue to prepare to defend the Church and its teachings at Armageddon. These stories of their trials and tribulations are set in present times (2000-2100AD) and are truly fantastic. For me, they're great 'escapist' reading and while they're available in paperback, you can get them for your Nook or Kindle at only \$3.99 apiece, a price that's hard to beat. Start with #1- **The Knight of Death**.



(Disclaimer: I've chatted online with the author and he's made me a Knight: Knight of the Secret Stuff! I'm not in the books though, darn it!)

## HAPPY HOLIDAY READING!

Although many think Bro. Ed King spends his life online, he's an avid reader and writer as well. He also occasionally publishes essays on the web as "The Old Webmaster". His personal website at [www.masonicinfo.com](http://www.masonicinfo.com) - Anti-Masonry: Points of View had over 3 million individual visitors last year. He's (the husband of the) Webmaster for our Grand Lodge and is also our Grand Librarian.

# Maine Masonry: A New Beginning

by *RW Thomas Pulkkinen*

It's 24-24, and I believe "he stole my playbook!"

No, it's not the fourth quarter score of the latest Patriots game, and Coach Belichick isn't upset that his game plan was somehow known by the opposition.

24-24 denotes that the Grand Master has completed a hectic fall schedule of district meetings. All 24 districts welcomed the Grand Master and his leadership team during the ten week period leading up to Thanksgiving. Masons from Kittery to Madawaska heard tell of a new beginning for Maine Freemasonry with an essential new focus by the Grand Lodge on the Craft and its members, as well as on initiatives galore to put the Craft at work with proper instruction.

But if it had been a football game, what might be the post-game assessment: Of the messages delivered by the Grand Master, his officers and committeemen? Of the Q&A sessions between Grand Lodge representatives, lodge leaders and brethren? Of the questionable assertion that "He stole my playbook!"?

## The Grand Master's Trestleboard

MW Bro. A. James Ross explained to the hundreds of brethren attending these meetings that, even before becoming Grand Master, "he had to sit down with the Grand Lodge Finance Committee" to assess the Grand Lodge committee structure, set priorities, redirect funding, and set the Craft at work with a new focus – partnering with the lodges to strengthen Maine Freemasonry. At well-attended district meetings, he told brethren that "the Grand Lodge and I won't take credit for your success; instead we want to help you achieve success."

During each district meeting, after setting a Thanksgiving sized table with initiatives underway under his direction, the Grand Master called upon elected officers and committee chairmen to bring more light on several new programs and opportunities for the Grand Lodge to help lodges and brethren, including:

- Heightening the commitment to service by the new Grand Lodge office in Holden,
- Expanding and communicating opportunities for Charitable Foundation assistance to lodges and brethren,
- Expanding Masonic knowledge through the Maine Masonic College,
- Growing our fraternity with actively involved men of good character,
- Building Masonic leaders with wisdom, strength and character, and
- Mentoring new Masons – supporting and encouraging them to manage their own learning.

## Grand Lodge Commitment to Prompt and Quality Service

RW Mark Rustin took over as Grand Secretary during the summer from interim Grand Secretary MW Gerald

Leighton, who did a superb job preparing the new Grand Lodge headquarters in Holden and starting up operations in the new office. Brother Rustin has continued these

*Continued on Next Page*



During the 21st District Meeting, Brother Carl A. Gomm, Junior Warden of Tremont Lodge #77 in Southwest Harbor, was presented the RW Edward J. Walsh Master Mason of the Year Award, named to honor RW Bro. Walsh who passed away early in 2009. Bro. Gomm is pictured here, flanked by Grand Master Ross and RW Daniel Bartlett, DDGM/21.

In creating the award, the 21st District Officers' Association not only honors Ed but reminds everyone now and then of the ideals by which he lived every day. Ed was a "salt of the earth" brother who never missed an opportunity to help, counsel, and lead the way in all the District lodges. He was held in the highest regard throughout the 21st. The award criteria and selection process were developed in 2009.

Brother Gomm is the second recipient of the award. He was raised just over 2 years ago, embracing Masonry and working at improving himself through numerous ways. Most notably he has visited area lodges for degree work and other events, studied and improved his ritual, learned the flag charge and delivers it at each meeting he attends (to the enjoyment of the Brothers in attendance), attended the membership seminar in Machias in June and joined the Scottish Rite. Late last year a Brother was laid up for several months due to complications from knee replacement surgery. Brother Gomm delivered meals, visited and called regularly during the day to say hello. He is also a "salt of the earth" Brother and it was the Officers' Association honor to unanimously select Brother Gomm as the recipient.



## **A New Beginning** *Continued from Preceding Page*

good works, and attended nearly every district meeting, except when he was meeting with lodge secretaries at district locations throughout the jurisdiction.

Bro. Rustin emphasized his view that the role of the Grand Lodge office is to be of service to the Grand Master, other officers and committees, and perhaps even more importantly to the lodges and brethren of Maine.

His district meeting repertoire continued with news that: the office goal is to answer questions and fill service requests on the spot or, at the most, within 48 hours; the Grand Lodge office is now open on Monday evenings to serve the Craft; the new MORI membership database is being used by more than 83% of the lodge secretaries and he is working with other lodges to use the system; new, clearer diplomas are being personalized and printed at Grand Lodge for all new Master Masons; and that the many Maine and out-of-state visitors to the new Grand Lodge office are really impressed with the facility and the friendliness of the office personnel.

One brother attending the district meeting in Old Town mentioned how impressed and appreciative he is with the responsiveness of Grand Lodge. He said that he recently stopped by the Holden building unannounced and inquired about family members who had been Freemasons. He said that someone took him to the card file maintained on members of all Maine lodges during the nearly 200 year history of our Grand Lodge and helped him find information on seven family members. The records were then copied for him. As a result, the visiting brother was able to help a woman from Texas doing genealogical research on her Maine ancestors.

This is but one example shared by Maine Masons during district meetings of the helpful, pleasant atmosphere and commitment to service at the Holden Grand Lodge office.

### **Masonic Charitable Foundation Support**

RW John Irovando, the Senior Grand Warden, usually enumerated the many ways that the Foundation supports individual brothers, lodges and many other individuals and organizations.

He reminded brethren that lodges can apply for *each* of the four \$500 Foundation matching grants every year: community betterment, project graduation, youth activities, and the new bikes for books program. The per capita payment assistance available for Masonic and military veterans and for active servicemen was explained (contact the Grand Secretary for more information), as was the financial relief that is available under certain circumstances for brethren and Masonic widows.

Bro. Irovando also discussed the fund-raising challenge being faced by the Charitable Foundation in order to maintain its favorable IRS public charity tax status. The need and opportunities for supporting the Charitable Foundation initiatives will be addressed in future issues of the Maine Mason.

### **Teaching the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Regents from the Maine Masonic College spoke regularly of the many interesting courses offered at locations around the state. RW Steve Nichols explained one course on the works of Marcus Vitruvius Pollio.

Of whom? Vitruvius lived before the birth of Christ, and wrote ten volumes on architecture that are still used today. He explained the differences in the dimensions (remember: the length, breath and thickness?) of the five columns described in the middle chamber lecture.

Wor. Donald McDougal told of a course on grammar. He said it's not a discussion of dangling participles and the use of commas, but an interesting and enjoyable presentation entitled "The King's Speech – Grammar Made Fun" by long-time

Professor Jay Hoar.

Brethren are urged to go to the Grand Lodge website, [www.MaineMason.org](http://www.MaineMason.org), for more information on the col-

### ***I Want You*** **To Help Masonry...**



**Grand Master Ross and his committees have many good works on the trestleboard that require energy, expertise and a fresh outlook. If you would like to offer assistance and have both interest and knowledge in any of the following areas, please contact the Grand Master or the Grand Secretary toll-free at 855-843-1086 or [GrandSecretary@MaineMason.org](mailto:GrandSecretary@MaineMason.org)**

- **Publicity/Media Relations**
- **Website Development**
- **Cellphone Applications**
- **Finance/Investing**
- **Mentoring**

*Continued on Next Page*

## **A New Beginning** *Continued from Preceding Page*

lege and its upcoming courses.

### **The Grand Lodge Budget**

RW Thomas Pulkkinen, chairman of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee, addressed the ongoing efforts of the Finance Committee and the new Grand Treasurer, RW Scott Whytock, to improve financial management and reporting practices, as well as the committee's initiatives over the past year to control costs, identify the most important needs of the Craft, and redirect Grand Lodge spending to those priorities, particularly on candidate education, membership development and leadership development.

These areas – critical to the future of Maine Freemasonry by directly supporting our lodges and individual brethren – represented only 2.5% of total expenses in 2011, but represent about 18% of the current year's budget. This significant increase in funding was accomplished *without increasing the Grand Lodge per capita tax* this year.

### **Membership Development**

In the past, Grand Lodge provided lodges with brochures on the Craft and recognized – during the Annual Communication – those lodges raising the most candidates. This year, the Membership Committee chaired by RW Richard Bergeron sought to engage brethren throughout the jurisdiction on essential membership initiatives.

The committee held six membership seminars around the jurisdiction, addressing membership development, activation and retention, with particular emphasis on holding fellowship nights and actively participating in the open house program held New England-wide each year on the third Saturday of October.

Bros. Bergeron and Pulkkinen told district meeting goers that the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts graciously gave our Grand Lodge professionally developed television and radio spots featuring Tony award winning actor Richard Easton portraying the role of Founding Father and Past Grand Master Benjamin Franklin. These spots ran statewide. And for the first time, messaging on Freemasonry was on Facebook and LinkedIn media sites, which produced many inquiries for more information on Masonry. Grand Lodge also purchased 200 reusable roadside banners for lodges to attract and welcome the public.

Many brethren attending district meetings commented on being approached on the street and during the open house by people who heard the TV and radio spots. Wor. Adam Fisher of Kennebec Lodge #5 in Hallowell said all five prospective members taking applications had heard the radio spots. Other attendees said that they had passed the lodge for years and didn't know it was there. The banners and radio spots really worked. Bro. Fisher told



**The second recipient of the Masonic Rookie Award, Brother David Richards of Village Lodge #26 in Bowdoinham was recognized by Grand Master Ross during the 14th District Meeting. Information on the Rookie Award is available on the Grand Lodge website.**

the Grand Master that “your investment of resources and time in this effort were very worthwhile. Thank you.”

While open house results varied from lodge to lodge, several lodges passed out five or more membership applications at their open houses. Tranquil Lodge #29 in Auburn passed out 27 applications, with many applications being filled out at the open house. Even small lodges like Tremont Lodge #77, Mount Desert Lodge #140 and David A. Hooper Lodge #201 (all on Mount Desert Island) reported passing out two or three membership packages; several applications have already been returned to lodge secretaries.

Clearly the sentiment during the district meetings was that the Grand Lodge membership initiatives helped more this year than in the past, and that lodges are already generating ideas for even more productive events next year – on Saturday, October 19, 2013.

### **Dirigo Leadership Development**

Bro. Audie Gould, the next Master of Lynde Lodge #174 in Hermon, attended the first session of the new Dirigo Leadership Seminar and reported to his brethren that the seminar was “packed with useful information.” So much so that he wants to attend again – and will be

*Continued on Next Page*



## **A New Beginning** *Continued from Preceding Page*

handling food preparation when the seminar is held in Bangor!

District meeting attendees learned that the seminar is designed to encourage brethren to assess the *value* associated with membership in their individual lodges and to decide what *they* want their lodges to be: dedicated to teaching Masonic philosophy, focused on fraternal support to members and widows, committed to community service, or some mix of the three.

After deciding on the vision chosen by each lodge for itself, brethren learned about setting goals, objectives and priorities; putting the craft at work on achieving those goals; understanding the rules for lodge governance; building a workable budget; and, building membership.

Bro. Evan Mills, Senior Deacon of Deering Lodge #183, went back to his lodge, told lodge elders what he had learned, and asked, "Can we do that?" The response was sure, why not?

### **Mentoring**

Bro. Pulkkinen asked a simple question. "In whose hands does the future of Freemasonry lie?" To which, RW Royce Wheeler quickly responded, "Today's candidates." Bro. Pulkkinen then asked, "But in whose hands are they?" Bro. Wheeler then responded with equal speed and conviction, "In ours!"

Attendees at the more recent district meetings were informed of a new mentoring program initiative that will be developed and rolled-out by early 2013. The new mentoring program builds upon the new Rookie Program (see page 13) and the Membership Committee efforts to engage our past masters and other knowledgeable brethren interested in helping their lodges by building fraternal bonds with new members, communicating Masonic knowledge, and accompanying candidates and other Masons to Masonic events outside their own lodges. In other words, to emphasize and practice the fraternal and brotherliness aspects of Freemasonry!

The new Masonic Mentors will be essential to creating positive and lasting Masonic experiences that result in new Masons building lasting Masonic relationships, better understanding our Masonic teachings, and achieving the potential greatness latent within them.

### **The Q&A Sessions**

As the district meeting schedule progressed through

the fall, there seemed to be a building consensus among attendees that a refreshing effort was underway: the Grand Master was leading a welcomed effort to deconstruct the "we / they" wall of divisiveness that at times has been perceived to exist between some brethren and lodges, and Grand Lodge.

Many brethren arose during the Q&A session to applaud the Grand Master for all that is being done this year, the new emphasis on helping lodges, and the clarification of policies and procedures affecting lodges. Many expressed appreciation for holding the meetings in the tiled format so that brethren could comfortably ask questions on Freemasonry and the health of the fraternity.

Questions were numerous and varied, including: Will the per capita remain stable? (Every effort will be made to do so.) May I wear a Lewis Jewel? (It would take a constitutional change.) May the content of Schools of Instruction be changed? (Each district may modify the content as desired – it need not be just a reading of the ritual.) Does Grand Lodge really need so much financial data from lodges? (We're looking at that right now.) Do building associations have to file their own IRS 990 forms? (Yes, they must be separate legal entities.)

Other questions were: Why is there confliction in the ritual between God's recognition of our faith and our works? (Freemasonry is not a religion, but encourages brethren to give serious thought to religious teachings and to actively pursue their faith in the house of worship of their choosing.) Can there be a secretary seminar in my area? (Most assuredly, contact the Grand Secretary to schedule one.) Can we better serve brethren who are in the service or are military veterans? (Likely, we'll get right on it.)

Only after repeatedly asking if there any more questions and determining that there were none, did the Grand Master proceed to close the district meetings. After which he was surrounded by brethren with even more questions and comments.

### **"He stole my playbook!"**

So, if not said by Coach Belichick, then by whom? The answer: by Deputy Grand Master David Walker!

Bro. Walker explained that over the years he has given a lot of thought to the Craft's needs and what he might like to work on should he be ever be honored with the opportunity to serve the Craft as Grand Master.

Well, he was elected Deputy Grand Master in May and – good Lord and the brethren willing – he will become the next Grand Master in 2014. On being elected DGM, he found out that much of what he had put on his personal Trestleboard was already on that of Grand Master Ross;

**The Dirigo Leadership Seminar** will be held

- At the Bangor Masonic Center on January 26
- For Districts 2-3, Tuscan Lodge in Addison on Feb. 23
- Oxford Lodge, Norway on April 23

Contact Bro. Pulkkinen at 207-633-7167 to schedule the seminar in your district

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## A New Beginning

*Continued from Preceding Page*

programs addressing membership development, leadership development, candidate instruction, further financial assistance to our lodges and brethren, and getting new members involved and committed early. These initiatives were all well underway at the beginning of the new administration in May. And then came the announcement of plans for the Masonic mentoring program.

As Brother Walker said, "I want the Craft to know that there is a four year commitment to these important initiatives. The next Grand Master pledges that he won't be changing the positive direction of the Craft as laid out this year. "There will be tweaks each year, but the programs will continue." You can count on that. Continuity and further progress are watchwords that brethren can count on for the good of the Craft...for four more years!

*RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen, of Bay View Lodge #196 in East Boothbay, serves as chairman of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee and is assisting the Grand Master on the membership, leadership and mentoring initiatives of Grand Lodge.*

## Maine Freemasons Open Wallets to Victims of Sandy

Dear Brethren,

Your generosity has generated in excess of \$17,000.00 to date for the relief efforts to New York and New Jersey Masons during their difficult times as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The appeal continues as checks trickle in every day.

Lodges in Maine and individuals have been very kind in extending their cable-tows to provide direct relief to Masons in those two states. I do want to reinforce that 100 percent of your contributions are going directly to assisting those Masons.

During this season of giving and expressing generosity and appreciation for all that you do, I am proud and very grateful to all who have contributed to this most worthy cause.

Thank you and Fraternally,

A. James Ross

Grand Master of Masons in Maine



## Maine's 33rd Degree Team at Work

A team of Maine's 33<sup>o</sup> Scottish Rite Masons gathered at Tranquil Lodge #29 in the handsome Auburn Masonic Building on Wednesday, 19 September to work the Master Mason Degree on Brother Marcel Leclare. Following a sumptuous banquet the work of the evening was enjoyed by more than 70 brethren.



R.W. Brother James Buss was recently presented with a 50-year certificate and lapel pin from the Grand Lodge of Vermont. Pleased to present the prestigious honor on behalf of our Vermont brethren were M.W. Gerald Leighton, Past Grand Master of Masons in Maine, and Right Worshipful David Richardson, DDGM/22. The presentation was made at Jim's home in Monroe where he resides with his biggest supporter, his lovely wife of 66 years, Marian.



Right Worshipful Buss took the degrees of Masonry in 1962 in Lybanus Lodge #47 in Bristol, Vermont. In the military and with orders to deploy, he was initiated, passed, and raised in just seven days. Shortly after his deployment, Jim's first opportunity to sit in a Masonic lodge as a Master Mason came in Cuba. After serving nearly three years in Cuba, Jim returned to the US and eventually ended up in Maine. Brother Buss affiliated with Archon Lodge #75 in East Dixmont in 1967 and served as Master in 1972. He served the craft as District Deputy of the 22nd Masonic District from 1980 to 1982 and was elected to the office of Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1984. Jim is affiliated with both the Bangor Valley and the Portland Valley of Scottish Rite Masonry. Right Worshipful Buss is well known and highly respected in Maine Masonic circles and still attends Archon regularly where he is a wealth of masonic knowledge and a tremendous asset to his lodge.

## !!!!!!ATTENTION!!!!!!

### MAINE MASONS WHO LIVE OR WILL BE IN FLORIDA ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013

M. W. A. James Ross and his lady Gerry, invite the Masons of Maine and their spouses/friends to the 11th Annual Maine Masons in Florida Day at the SAHIB Shrine Center, # 600 N.Beneva Rd, in Sarasota.

This is intended to be a time of social enjoyment and a chance to meet and make new friends among Maine Masons and Maine Masonic Widows who reside or winter in Florida.

Asembling time is recommended to be 11:00 to 11:30 which will allow us time to socialize prior to lunch being served at 12:00 P.M. for a cost of \$ 21 for the men. Ladies will be guests of the Grand Master.

Following lunch there will be entertainment and also M. W. Brother Ross will be making a presentation. It would help us if the visitors would share their temporary Florida addresses.

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

You may make reservations for this affair through R. W. Brother Pete Forrest in one of the following ways: Telephone: 772-237-5832; email: rgpeteforrest@aol.com; mail: 8121 Meadowlark Lane Savannah Club, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.

#### ***Reminder*** Deadline for reservations is February 4, 2013

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

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

Please advise at time of your reservation if you prefer the vegetable plate.

# Kennebunk's York Lodge #22 celebrating 200 Years

York Lodge will celebrate its 200th Anniversary every month throughout 2013, but major activities will be held in March, April, May and June.

On March 9th a Master Mason Degree will be worked on a qualified candidate to commemorate the actual chartering of York Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts two hundred years earlier on 9 March, 1813. M.W. Brother George Pulkkinen will be in the East for the degree. And that will be an anniversary of sorts in itself as he was the candidate 50 years ago in March of 1963 when the lodge celebrated its 150th Anniversary.

In April the lodge will host a Table Lodge of Instruction dedicated to all brethren who have signed the lodge by-laws and served the Craft in whatever way they have, during the past two hundred years. York Lodge will invite daughter lodges, Arundel #76 (1854) and Ocean #142 (1868) to participate and hope to have the Masters of the three lodges sit in the East, West and South.

In May, York Lodge will host a Community Event, in part to illustrate the many contributions to the community and to local and state government by members of York Lodge over the past two centuries. The event will include participation in a parade and a community pig roast. Plans are to have the event coincide with Kennebunk's Old Home Week.

June will be a busy month with the lodge holding multiple events on the weekend of June 23 and 24. On Saturday the 23rd there will be a parade to include the Grand Lodge of Maine, led by M.W. Brother A. James Ross, and, again, daughter lodges, Arundel #76 of Kennebunkport, and Ocean #142 of Wells will be invited to participate. There will be a festive banquet that day which will include Masonic widows.

Then, on Sunday the 24th St. John's Sunday will be observed with church services and a concert in Christ Church, Kennebunk, featuring the music of Masonic composers from the 1700s to the present. The event will be tied in with Kennebunk's Brick Store Museum.

Other Bicentennial Events during the year will include compilation and publication of an updated history of York Lodge #22. As part of that project interviews will be conducted with veteran Past Masters and other senior members, old photos will be solicited from members, and a Commemorative Program created which will be included as part of the history.

The lodge is also creating commemorative pins and/or coins, and is presenting items/programs of historical interest at every stated meeting during the year.

The lodge invites and encourages all area brethren to participate as possible.



York Ldge's 200th Anniversary Apron is a replica of the apron worn by Wor. Brother Moses Savory in 1824 when he presided over the lodge. It is a one-of-a-kind item created by Bro. Patrick Craddock, a Masonic artist who lives in Franklin, TN. The handsome apron was donated by Brother Dan Fink, Junior Warden of the lodge. It will be worn by Wor. Brother Tom Dudevoir, lodge master, during 2013 and then placed on display in the lodge along with the original. *Photo by Bro. David Shaw*

## Why Not A Fellowship Committee?

One of the things I wanted to do during my time in the East was to increase attendance at all meetings. Our lodge didn't have a lot of money for dinners and special entertainment but we did have a strong line of officers.

We decided to try an active fellowship committee. The committee started with choosing the right Brother to chair it. Then three other Brothers were added to help. We used our list of Brethren to get started. We divided the list into sections and started making calls.

These calls would start with an introduction by the caller and a "how are you doing brother?" We would follow with a greeting from the current mas-

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# Widow's Sons Mountain Chapter Raises \$\$\$

On October 13th at Kora Temple's Fall Ceremonial the Mountain Chapter of the Widow's Sons presented a check for \$1538 to be given to the Child Life Department at Shriners' Hospitals for Children in Springfield, MA. These funds were from a run that they held on August 25th in the name of Bro. Shane Ross' daughter, Madison Ross, aptly named "Maddie's Run."

Early last spring, chapter president Bill Keirstead saw Madison's video on YouTube of her first experience with having hip surgery at Shriners, "Still Smiling: Maddie's Journey with Shriners." Then, upon learning that Maddie would again have surgery this past summer, he decided that he wanted to do something to help.

Bill thought of doing a motorcycle run to raise money for the hospitals. He floated the idea with the Brothers from his chapter and they enthusiastically got behind it. Over the next couple of months they planned out the route, designed a flyer, and spread the word.

Maddie's Run was the first fundraiser organized by the newest chapter of the Widow's Sons. The run was roughly 130 miles and was held in conjunction with Moose Alley, a bowling alley in Rangeley. The participants set out about 10 AM and returned early in the afternoon. The Alley then held a bowl-a-thon to raise some more funds.

Brother Ross extends heartfelt thanks to Brothers Bill Keirstead, Mike Adams, Pete Smith, Barry Bracket, Harry Clark, Jim Geib of the Mountain Chapter and their ladies! Many patients at the hospitals will benefit from your efforts.

THE MAINE MASON



Maddie Ross, always smiling.

## MASONIC TEMPLE OF PORTLAND Partial Summary of Progress, Achievements in 2012

January – Lone Wolf Productions does *Titanic* segment in Temple. Motion approved to buy back Portland Water District easement on Outer Congress St. land for \$1,000.

MTP received a bequest from the Tornquist family totaling approximately \$312,500 by the end of 2012. The funds will be placed in an H.M. Payson investment account. Only the income from the account can be utilized by the MTP.

April – Masonic Temple Foundation (MTF) is successful in receiving 501(c)3 status from IRS, which allows donations to be tax-deductible. Sarah Bouchard receives approval for her installation project in the Temple for June 2013 art event.

July – MTP received approximately \$525,000 from the sale of the Outer Congress St. land. Total amount has been placed in H.M. Payson investment account. There are no restrictions on MTP for utilization of funds.

October – Greater Portland Landmarks includes the Masonic Temple on its first *Places in Peril* list. Wedding reception at Temple for great granddaughter of prominent Mason Josiah Hayden Drummond.

Blue Elephant Catering estimates approximately \$25,000 income to MTP for 2012.





Past Masters of Bethlehem Lodge #36 in Augusta gathered for their special, annual event on October 22 to work the Master Mason degree. Onlookers report it was an “amazing event.” Back Row left-right: Wor. Ivan Labree, Wor. Bud Pringle, Wor. Michael Kimball, Wor. Mark Mansir, RW. Robert Stratton, Wor. Darrell Mansir. Front Row left-right: Wor. Stanley Painter, Wor. Brian Farrington, Wor. Joseph Gilbert, newly raised Master Mason Bro. Marcus Niedner, VW. Michael Meservey, RW. Robert Marr, Wor. Carl Laslie, RW. Steven Mairs, Wor. Newell Farrington.

## ***Woodchoppers All!***



16 Brethren from lodges across the 12th Masonic District became “Woodchoppers” on Jan. 21. The evening began with a Chili Cook-Off among the Brethren. Individual Brothers from Siloam Lodge were bragging that their Chili was the best, so the issue was to a test. Awards were given out for Best Taste, Best Aroma, Best Texture, Best Presentation and the coveted Best Overall Chili. Meon Stephenson won Best Overall. It was a great way to overcome a freezing cold January evening. More than 60 members and guests attended the meal and degree. A wicked good time was had by all.



# Historic Masonic Records Found on the Banks of Thompson Lake

*RW Thomas E. Pulkkinen*

Many a good story weaves together people and events from the past, has a happy ending and teaches an important lesson. Such are the stories told in the three degrees of Freemasonry, and also this short but true tale of old Masonic records thought to be lost forever.

A few days before Christmas, I received a call from a friend, a real live Indian Chief – RW Walter Vickers, of United Brethren Lodge in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and Chief of Nipmuc Nation. Bro. Vickers suggested that I contact his son-in-law, Bro. Rick Cavers of Oxford Lodge No. 18 in Norway, because Rick's son Eric had some old Masonic records.

Within hours, three generations of Cavers, including Eric's son Nolan, were seated with me in the Gray Dunkin Donuts looking at the history of Presumpscot Lodge No. 70, in Windham, from its beginnings in 1864 to the mid 1880s, and discussing how they and more recent records were found. This is the lodge of MW A. James Ross, our Grand Master.

Eric Cavers recently purchased a home near Thompson Lake in Otisfield. A neighbor asked whether he had seen the old bus in the woods on the property. The answer was, "What bus?" It seems a former owner had a bus that he used as an office, as a workplace for his duties as Secretary of Presumpscot Lodge.

Bro. Ephraim S. Jillson, "Mayor of Otisfield" and a dedicated Mason for nearly 65 years, kept the lodge records in the old bus. No one in his lodge knew it, and

when he passed years ago, few even were aware of the bus. But Mother Nature knew. So over many years, the records were subjected to the ravages of weather and marauding critters. While most of the records in the old bus were destroyed, and many others have had



their corners nibbled away by field mice, there still were some in pristine condition, including the lodge records from its inception in 1864 through 1884.

Recorded were the dispensation and charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Maine; the formation of a committee to see if the Masonic Hall was safe to use; the retention of Josiah Hayden Drummond to form the lodge corporation, records of many, many local men becoming Masons...and so much more.

So the happy ending is that at least some records of the lodge's history are home again where they should be, thanks to two Masons and a man who cared. And the story's lesson for all lodges is that Masonic records should be adequately protected at all times. They should be kept in the lodge, but when they must be removed, the lodge should know where they are and that they will be safe.

# York Lodge Conducts Memorial Service on Veterans' Day



*Photos by Bro. Dan Gaucher and Barbara MacDonald*

Veterans' Day 2012 dawned cold but clear in Kennebunk, perfect for a memorial tribute to a veteran of York Lodge who lost his life in France during World War I, and to all veterans who have served our country. Brother Harold A. Webber died Oct. 31, 1918. His body was returned to Kennebunk shortly thereafter and buried in Hope Cemetery where the memorial was held.



Brethren, including Grand Master A. James Ross were joined by members of the local American Legion Post, named for Brother Webber, and other interested citizens in a procession to his grave where Past Grand Master Wayne T. Adams offered most appropriate remarks. Lodge Master Brian Ingalls, who planned the event, also spoke and he and the Grand Master placed a wreath on Brother Webber's grave.

The lodge provided refreshments at the hall following the ceremony.



## **Why not a Fellowship Committee?**

**Continued from Page 25**

ter and an update of upcoming meeting and events. We would talk about how we hadn't seen them recently and that they were missed. The call would end with an invitation to our next meeting and an offer of a ride if needed.

The idea was to contact every Brother living in Maine at least once every three months. Some of the Brethren were so excited to hear from us that they came to a meeting shortly after being contacted; some for the first time in years. The feelings we got from these conversations were amazing. Brethren I encourage you to see if your lodge has a program like this. If it doesn't, maybe you can discuss it at an upcoming meeting. The rewards, personal and for your lodge, will be significant.

Fraternally,  
V.W. David K Walton



# 5th ANNUAL SCOTTISH RITE "LADIES WEEKEND OUT"

All Master Masons and their Ladies are cordially invited to attend our  
5th "Ladies Weekend Out" to be held  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 15th - 17th, 2013 at Point Lookout Resort  
in Northport, Maine

**Accommodations:**

One Bedroom King Studio, One Bath Cabin; \$99 per night.

Two Bedroom Queen, Two Bath Cabin; \$139 per night.

Three Bedroom, Two Bath Cabin; \$179 per night.

Please make your Cabin reservations with Point Lookout Resort  
67 Atlantic Highway (US Route 1), Northport, Maine  
Tel: 800-515-3611

The activities reservations below must be made through the Scottish Rite Office by February 2  
Checks payable to Valley of Portland, and mailed with Registration Form below to:  
Valley of Portland, PO Box 303, Bowdoinham, ME 04008  
Any questions call Brad Blake at 207-666-8397 or email him at scottishrite@mainemason.org

Friday Night - Pins & Pizza at the Resort  
Saturday afternoon - Bowling & Card Playing at the Resort  
Saturday Night -- Banquet & Dancing in the Ballroom  
Sunday Morning - Breakfast at the Top of the Resort

(There will be a Hospitality Cabin open evenings after dinner.)

**Couples Package #1** - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - **\$95**  
(Friday night) Pins & Pizza at the Bowling Alley; (Saturday) Bowling, Banquet & Dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast at the Top.

**Couples Package #2** - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - **\$85**  
(Friday) Pins & Pizza at the Bowling Alley; (Saturday) Banquet & Dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast at the Top.

**Couples Package #3** - For couples spending 1 night at the Resort - **\$75**  
(Saturday) Bowling; Banquet & Dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast; at the Top.

**Couples Package #4** - For couples spending 1 night at the Resort. - **\$65**  
(Saturday) Banquet & Dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast at the Top.

**THIS YEAR, ALL ACTIVITES WILL BE AT POINT LOOKOUT RESORT**

**Saturday night dress: Jacket & Tie; Ladies dress appropriately. - All other events casual.**

----- **REGISTRATION FORM** -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lady: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Package #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

# The --- MAINE MASON ---

Grand Lodge of Maine  
PO Box 15058  
Portland, ME 04112

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**

Portland, Maine  
Permit No. 256

**If undeliverable, please do not return.**



Temple Lodge #25 of Winthrop had a number of visitors and brothers stop by during the recent open house including this future member, 13 month old William Hooper, son of Bro. Joshua Hooper. *How about that enthusiastic smile!*