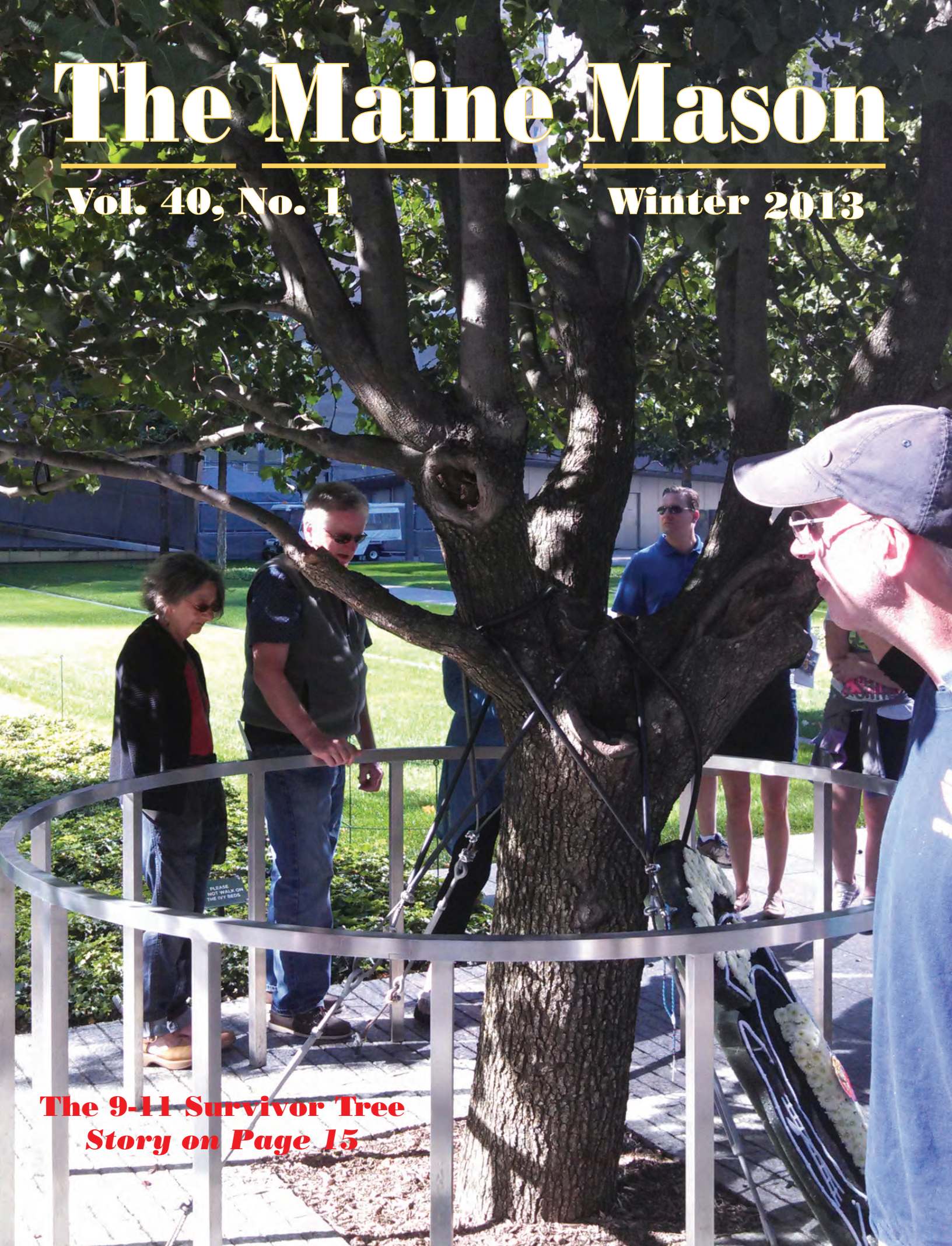


The Maine Mason

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**The 9-11 Survivor Tree
Story on Page 15**

The MAINE MASON

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line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

Masonry, we are reminded in a portion of our beautiful candle-light charge that follows the Master Mason Degree, affords us opportunity to meet and make the acquaintance of many fine gentlemen.

As I sit here at the keyboard on 23 November, I am saddened by the freshness of the loss of one of those fine gentlemen, a man I've known since I was a new Mason 50 years ago and he a youth active in DeMolay.

Two days ago, the Eliot Methodist Church was filled to near capacity as men and women gathered to say their goodbys to Brother John Moulton, a brother who has, for decades, filled the halls with beautiful music for the brethren and for our Eastern Star sisters.

As the sanctuary filled, we were treated to a medley of John's music, captured on the CD he recorded to support The Children's Cranio-Facial Association entitled *My Gift from God*. We heard a variety of tunes of all types, in all time signatures, and audible laughter lightened the room when strains of that classic *Chicken Dance* tickled many memories as the assembled recalled the times they had been treated to John's humor, often, but not exclusively, by his tune selection.

It always seemed that John had a tune in his heart and a tale to share, some stories, as was pointed out by several men that day, which should not be told in mixed company, and certainly not appropriate to be repeated in church. John was a treasure, a man who had much to share and shared much.

The back page of the Celebration of Life program included, in part, a message from his siblings, Brother Howard Moulton and Sister Mary Zimmerman. It read: "...You had the heart of a giant and determination beyond measure . . . I'm proud to call you my brother."

I believe each member of the Craft who was privileged to know John feel the same way. We, too, are proud to call him "my brother."

Page 1 Photo by Bro, Ted Libby

THE MAINE MASON

From the Grand East

A. James Ross

Grand Master of Masons in Maine

Famed former auto racer Al Unser said, "I tell all the rookies that come into our series and all the young drivers they can come ask me anything at any time, and we'll give them the straight shoot." Unser believed in telling it how it is and sharing his craft with young drivers coming into the sport. He knew that the sport of auto racing would endure and even prosper if the seasoned drivers would validate the rookies by taking care of them. So it should be with a seasoned Mason and a first year Master Mason.

47 new Master Masons have been certified as Rookie Master Masons since the inception of the program in May 2012. 34 of those Rookies and their spouses attended a banquet in their honor on December 8 hosted by the membership committee and yours truly. The event was employed to recognize their achievement in becoming certified Master Mason Rookies. Those Rookies, listed in this issue of the *Maine Mason* in an accompanying article and photo by R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen, achieved more than just completing a checklist handed to them by their lodge. Those Brothers have gained the confidence and trust of their seasoned lodge members by undertaking several duties and expectations entrusted to them as they made their first year journey through Freemasonry and their lodges. The program is crafted to engage the new Master Mason in the life of his lodge by encouraging him to establish relationships with his fellow members and to actively take part in the activities of his lodge. Recognizing those Rookies and their spouses at the banquet is this Grand Lodge's way of showing them that we care about the candidates who petition our lodges and for their well-being as they navigate their way during their first year. The lodges employing the program are experiencing ongoing involvement by their newly raised members. You can read more about their testimonies shared at the banquet in their honor in this issue.

I am fully aware that the Rookie experience is not for every newly raised Master Mason nor is it a part of the plan of every lodge. All of us have the choice of whether or not we want to become active members. You have heard me repeatedly say in my visits to your lodges and at District Meetings that this Grand Lodge does not issue mandates about how your lodge takes care of its members. Instead it offers tried and proven tools which are available for your choosing. If your lodge is employing tools which enhance the experience and well-being of your members, I want to know about them for two reasons: I will incorporate them into the Master Mason Rookie checklist

thereby affording them with greater opportunities and secondly, I want to share your good experiences with other lodges that ask how good candidate care and retention may be accomplished. I know of many lodges that are taking care of their candidates and affording them with opportunities and reasons to participate as members. Though not specifically the Rookie program, those same lodges also know how to refresh or reinvigorate their seasoned members and I laud them for it. The impetus for the program is drawn from examples of those lodges.

How do we address good candidate care and retention? How do we address getting our seasoned members back into the fold of our lodges? It begins with a belief that our greatest asset is our members; the very people we call our Brothers. It is a belief supported with the conviction or a "fire in the belly" that our purpose should be to enlighten and afford opportunities for every Mason to express himself by encouraging his talents to be an integral part of learning opportunities for others. It is the job of a Master and the defacto leaders of a lodge to provide for a lodge environment that is safe, friendly, and conducive to learning. We should encourage our seasoned members to take part in guiding our new members by actively becoming mentors who engage them in conversation about who they want to become and then by helping them to explore creative opportunities to fulfill their ambitions. Freemasonry is a vehicle which should be regarded as a proactive and demonstrative cause where Masons can learn about themselves and become better informed about the environment around them and better suited to meet the challenges they face in life.

The Master Mason Rookie program is just a start. It is not the only answer to the questions: how do we take better care of our new members, and how do we employ the talents of our seasoned members. It is but a starting point; a simple beginning to a path which begins a lodge's transition from how do we begin to engage our people to the end that our members actually demonstrate their values and want to share them with others.

The Rookies pictured in this issue of the *Maine Mason* and the lodges that are engaged in the program are demonstrating and reinforcing that Freemasonry is a vehicle for success where all good talents and contributions aid in validating a man's place in life. Congratulations to the first class of Rookies and to their mentors and to those lodges where good candidate care and member reinforcement is being practiced.

Yours in Service to the Craft,
Jim

Around the Grand Lodge Water Cooler...

R.W. Mark E. Rustin, Grand Secretary

Over the history of this society we have drifted from following a moral compass which informed us of the direction and values which would make our society stronger, to a direction and set of values based upon capitalism, an economic system, which sees and values everything as a commodity and denies morality has any value whatsoever. We have become a nation within which society has no value — only the individual exists. Our individual value is measured only by our consumerism and our ability to acquire enough wealth to sustain ourselves. Without the ability to spend or acquire, the individual has no intrinsic value. The understanding of people as moral agents is denied and replaced by an ethic akin to economic Darwinism — survival of the wealthiest. When a person can no longer compete for survival, he or she becomes expendable.

Several years ago an acquaintance of mine was running for the Maine House of Representatives. After reading some of his campaign material, I asked him why he did not address the needs of the disabled and less fortunate in the State. His reply was simple, “Mark, if we are to protect the valuable people in Maine, some who cannot care for themselves will die. That’s just the way it is.”

Ethically, he believed our value is determined only by our ability to take care of ourselves regardless of the means to achieving that end. The popular television reality show, “Survivor” is akin to a microscope slide which lets us look inside the ethical system we live by today. The only object to being on the show is to win — win at any cost — nothing that helps you win is ethically wrong.

Sadly, the show does not make our culture selfish and self-serving. Rather, it shows us, in an unsophisticated way, how we really are. Hence, the genre title, Reality Show.

During my earliest lessons of introduction to Craft at the knee of my mentor in St. George Lodge, I became aware the Fraternity in which I was endeavoring to become a part held tenets, insights, and teachings which could transform not only my life, but the society around me. I learned that circumscribing my life and keeping my passions within due bounds could make me a better member of society. I learned the value of harmony among people. I learned of my responsibility to assist a

Brother and those in need around me.

Many years ago I heard MW Walter Macdougall speak, read some of his writings, and interacted with him in the Craft’s work as a Grand Chaplain. A consistent, powerful theme became evident — Freemasonry’s place in any society is to achieve and hold the moral high ground in order to provide a beacon for society to follow. Around this single principal all things Masonic properly take their place and serve Freemasonry in the fruition of its purpose. Each day many other voices clamor for our allegiance. As Freemasons, we have the tools to decide which are appropriate and which lead us down into an amoral abyss which denies us the ability to provide moral leadership to society and leaves us little more than one more social group struggling to survive. We must choose to be Masons or to “go along to get along.”

We point to the founders of our nation and their Masonic roots. Do we recognize they did not endeavor to convert the society into a Lodge? Rather, they did the peoples’ work informed by the moral and ethical imperatives passed on to them in Lodge from the Supreme Architect of the Universe. What they labored to achieve in society was not the collaborative agreement of their individual opinions. Rather, they labored to make tangible that which was revealed to them in Lodge. They enshrined the concept of society built upon mutual responsibility for one another and mutual effort toward a greater good for all — not just the strong and the wealthy. Through their leadership of society, and ultimately, a new nation, the moral imperatives as seen from the high ground of Freemasonry were made central and primary in all endeavors.

The next time you are in Lodge listen carefully to the discussions going on and “hear” what ethics support the conclusions. Is the Lodge relying on the tenets of Freemasonry to decide how to best address its challenges; or, is it being informed by the tenets of capitalism and responding only to the “bottom line” without regard to the moral high ground of the Craft. How we respond in Lodge will determine how we act in the world.

If the world is to be guided by the example of men of moral and ethical principle as it was in the revolutionary era, we must be Masons and we must be noticed irrespective of the difficulty involved. As Robert Frost once noted in his poem, “The Road Not Taken,” the path we chose makes all the difference.



Ira Berry: Who was that Mason, #5

By R.W. Richard Rhoda
Grand Historian

Past Grand Master and Past Governor of Maine, Robert Dunlop once said of Ira Berry, "You know you always were my Magnus Apollo." Not being steeped in classical references I went to Google and found it meant "My leader, authority, and oracle."

To warrant such praise we should anticipate that Ira Berry was something special to our beloved fraternity.

He certainly was held in high esteem by the Masonic Brethren of the Blue Hill area for in 1883 they petitioned to form a lodge bearing his name. At that time he had been Grand Secretary for twenty-seven years.

There is an interesting question to the name of Ira Berry Lodge. Whether it falls under "What's in a Name" or "It's Who You Know" I am not sure.

In May of 1878, fifty-five Masons had signed a petition to form a lodge at Blue Hill to be named Blue Mountain Lodge. The petition was denied as only one of the three adjacent lodges voted to approve the petition.

Five years later on November 12, 1883, fifty-four Masons again signed a petition to have a lodge in the town of Blue Hill. Adjacent lodges all approved and the petition was granted.

Why the change five years later? Who knows, but it should be noted that the petition requested that the lodge be now called Ira Berry Lodge!!

Originally numbered 187, Ira Berry Lodge designation is now 128 because of two consolidations of lodges. On March 13, 1976 Eggemoggin Lodge No. 128 of Sedgwick consolidated with Bagaduce No. 210 of North Brooksville. This lodge then consolidated with Ira Berry Lodge on November 21, 1983 with the latter assuming the lodge number of 128 originally give to Eggemoggin Lodge.

Ira Berry is the fifth Mason we have considered to have a lodge named after him using both his given and surname.

The life of Ira Berry can truly be reviewed

within the teachings of Freemasonry. His passage through life is clearly marked by years as an entered apprentice, then a fellow of his craft, and finally as a master of his calling.

Ira Berry was born the 23rd of September, 1801 in New Durham, New Hampshire, the son of Stephen and Alice (Chamberlain) Berry. His lineage is traced back to William Berry who arrived in Portsmouth in 1630. His grandfather, Stephen Berry, had been an officer in the French- Indian War.

On December 1, 1831, he was married to Lydia M. Hobart of Hingham, Massachusetts. They had nine children of whom six survived him.

He died at this home on Brown Street in Portland on September 20, 1891 and was buried three days later on what would have been his 90th birthday. He was buried in Evergreen Cemetery with the final Masonic honors officiated over by M.W. Josiah H. Drummond, by request of Grand Master Henry R. Taylor.

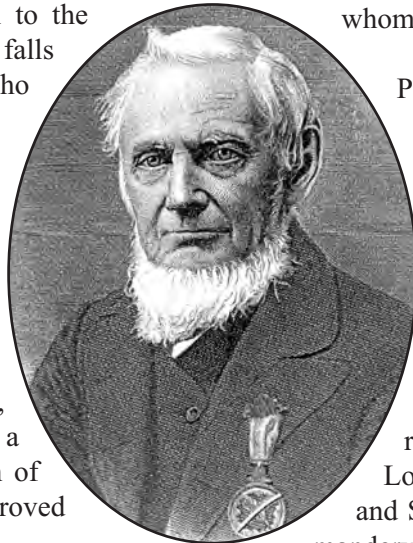
The procession to attend his service consisted of Ancient Landmark Lodge, Mount Vernon Chapter, Portland Council, representation of the A&A Rite and the Grand Lodge of Maine, under the escort of Portland and St. Alban Commanderies united as one commandery.

His apprentice years began when 17 years of age in Dover where he learned the printing trade. He gained experience at the *Patriot* in Concord, the *Statesman* in Boston, the *Argus* in Portland and the *Journal of Commerce* in New York.

Following his marriage in 1831 he entered his fellow craft years as he became part owner or helped establish various newspapers. These years included time in Augusta twice, Portland and Boston twice.

He was a Democrat in politics and an active one at that. For his service to the party upon supporting the winning Presidential candidate he was twice appointed to positions in the Custom House in Portland.

His paper was active in the William Henry Harrison campaign of 1840 but it failed to obtain a supporting circulation and closed two years later. With President Harrison's death he lost his position at the Custom House.



Ira Berry Continued from Preceding Page

In 1848 he joined Francis O. J. Smith who had established the *Umpire* to support the election of General Zachary Taylor who was victorious. Following four years in the Custom House as an inspector he was able to finally pay off his old debts from the *Argus*.

In 1853 he opened his own job printing office in Portland with his son, Stephen. He remained there until May 1, 1856 when he was first elected Grand Secretary. He found that the duties of the Grand Secretary-ship demanded his whole time.

Of Ira Berry we know that he was an ardent lover of music and flowers. He was a member of the Beethoven Society whose history he wrote and published. Later he belonged to the Haydn Association and was an honorary member of the Rossini Club for women. He was a recognized scholar, critic and composer of music in the Portland area. In addition to his Masonic and music activities, he was an accomplished botanist with an extensive library on the subject.

Bro. Berry was initiated into Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 17 on March 2, 1853, passed March 16 and was raised April 19, 1853. He then affiliated with the lodge on July 6, 1853.

That same year he was elected Junior Warden of the lodge. The following year he was elected Secretary,

a position he held until 1866. For his services to the lodge he was elected an honorary member.

In 1854 he was elected Secretary of the Grand Chapter and then in 1856 to the same office in the Grand Lodge, Grand Council and Grand Commandery. He served as Secretary of all these bodies until his death.

Ira Berry was the longest serving Grand Secretary in our history, serving from 1856 until the time of his death on September 20, 1891, thirty-five years. He was succeeded by his son, Stephen Berry, who had assisted him in his later years. Stephen is the second longest serving Secretary, twenty-six years. Father and son served Grand Lodge continuously for sixty-one years!!

Another son, Ira Jr., was also a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge as was Stephen Berry.

Few Grand Secretaries, wheresoever dispersed over the face of the Earth, if any, served the number of new lodges and new Masons as did Bro. Berry. He was first elected at the dawning of the rebirth of Maine Masonry following the Morgan Affair which came close to annihilating the Craft. Over the next three decades and five years Maine Masonry swelled in lodges and members.

In 1856 there were seventy-eight active lodges on the books and nine other lodges had ceased operating. Membership according to the returns for that year was 3,211.

By the time of Grand Lodge in May, 1891, when Aroostook Lodge No. 197 was under dispensation as the newest lodge, there were 192 active lodges, an increase of 137%. In addition, three lodges had surrendered their charters, one lodge's was revoked and one lodge consolidated with another lodge during his period of service.

The returns for May 1891 showed Maine Masonic membership to be 20,968, an increase of 553%.

In his annual report of 1886, Bro. Berry reflected on changes in the office and of duties which he had performed over the past three decades. As he said, "*They have been years of diligent labor, and it may not be amiss to refer to some of the work that has been accomplished.*"

He recorded the transactions of the Grand Lodge into four large sized volumes, writing three of them himself. He was responsible for the reprint of the first volumes of

the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of which he wrote, it:

Ira Berry seemed to me . . . "an integral part of the institution itself, a fixed pillar in the Masonic temple." -- W. Bro. Abner Wade

".... was a work of no little

labor, involving the careful inspection of the documents filed away for about forty years, to be sure that nothing important was omitted, and the copying from the record, the proceedings of which we could find no printed copy."

His greatest lasting contribution which is still used by Grand Lodge to this day was his filing documents relative to each lodge in its own file. In his own words, and with perhaps a slight pride showing through, he wrote:

Another task which I found necessary, which cost much labor, but is and will be of great convenience, was filing separately the papers relating to the several lodges. I found the documents for each year placed in a separate file; and if anything was desired to be learned about a particular lodge, unless the year of the transaction was known, it could only be found by searching those files, might take hours and possibly then be overlooked. I examined the files of some thirty-five years, made a file for each lodge and placed in it all the papers I found relating to the history of that lodge, marked the

Continued on Next Page

Ira Berry Continued from Preceding Page

files with the names of the lodges and arranged them alphabetically. It is easy to file the paper away that may need to be referred to, and to find any paper if in the archives.

The only change to Bro. Berry's procedure is that the files are now arranged by lodge number rather than alphabetically.

The Brethren of the Blue Hill area paid great homage to Ira Berry when they chose his name to be their standard bearer. Service such as his is worthy of recognition yet there is more to it than years of service. It is the qualities of the man which is truly recognized, not his longevity. When the two coincide a special occurrence has taken place.

Closing we should remember the words of W. Bro.

Abner Wade who wrote of Bro. Ira Berry in the "History of Mount Kineo Lodge":

"I like to see the name of Ira Berry, and like, to write it. He never seemed to me simply a Mason or simply a Secretary, but rather as an integral part of the institution itself, a fixed pillar in the masonic temple. As Secretary of a new lodge, I asked him many times for instruction, doubtless troubling him a good deal but the answer and the advice always came – clear to the point, not a word over nor one lacking, and always breathing that fraternal, true masonic spirit which I believe has always distinguished him throughout his official career. He has been Grand Secretary for thirty-three years, and is now eighty-seven years of age. God bless him."

So mote it be.

Sightless brother receives Text and Cipher stored on USB Drive

St. George Lodge #16, AF & AM of Warren raised two candidates the evening of June 1, 2013, Jeffrey Peck and John Moran. This event in itself was not unusual. In recent years St. George Lodge has worked as many as three candidates through the degrees at the same time. The unique part of this event was that Brother Moran has been completely blind since the age of 14.

Mentoring Bro. Peck through the lessons was, as one would expect, uneventful. He had been assigned a good mentor and he was able to self-study his lesson books like most other candidates. Bro. Moran, being blind, was dependent entirely on a good mentor and "the attentive ear", and an excellent memory.

The Brothers of St. George Lodge recognized from the moment we accepted Bro. Moran's application that we were going to have to pursue possibly unexplored paths to making Masonic information, specifically the Maine Masonic Text and the Cipher, available to him in a format he could use for self-study. We knew from discussions with his sponsor that Bro. Moran can read braille and that he has a computer. We determined he does not have a braille writer but he does have a program that translates plain text documents, such as e-mails and other information, such as might be included on a USB drive, to voice so he can hear their content.

We contacted the Grand Secretary's office to determine if Grand Lodge had either the Text or the Cipher available either in braille or in plain text on a USB drive that we could present to Bro. Moran so he



Bro. Moran and RW Brother Rustin in Bro. Moran's living room on September 5, the morning Bro. Rustin delivered the USB drive to Bro. Moran.

would be able to do self-study. RW Rustin did some research and discovered Grand Lodge had nothing of the like available. This set off a chain of events that culminated in a special order from MW Ross that a plain text copy of both the Text and the Cipher be made specifically for Bro. Moran, that it be stored on a USB drive, that the USB drive be personally delivered and placed in Bro. Moran's hand by RW Rustin, and that a specific password for access to the content of the drive be delivered by RW Rustin in a low voice.

We look forward to bringing Bro. Moran to our Lodge meetings and to helping honor his expressed desire to be able to work his way through the chairs.

Maine Masonic Rookies Celebrated

by R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen

No self-respecting Mainer would be caught without a good set of jumper cables, where one caring soul can give a boost to another. So it is with the Maine Masonic Rookie Program: new Masons getting a boost in their new fraternity from a Masonic “veteran.”

Many Lodges are encouraging candidates to pursue Rookie status right after being received as Entered Apprentices, and are assigning mentors to accompany the new Masons on their journeys.

MW A. James Ross, Grand Master, (first row, center) welcomed members of the first Rookie Class, and their guests, to the Waldo County Shrine Club in Belfast in early December to recognize their many accomplishments.

Following a delicious meal catered by Wor. Ryan Otis, Master of Belfast Lodge, class members shared what becoming a Mason and achieving Rookie status means to them. Many of their stories were deeply touching, with their Masonic journeys starting at difficult times in their lives, or in communities far from home.

Bro. Bob Haigh told of losing his wife and “feeling his life was over.” But then he met Kathy, and through her, RW George Byras who gave him an application and told him to fill it out. He did and Masonry has given meaning to his life. He serves as the District 11 Mentoring Coordinator and he will soon be installed Master of Morning Star Lodge in Litchfield. That’s called fast-tracking: he’s been a Mason for 28 months.

Bro. Mike Benjamin, one of three Village Lodge Rookies present, spoke on gaining a great family in

Masonry just as he was being diagnosed with cancer. The Three Amigos, he and his Brothers, enjoying and getting involved in Freemasonry together.

RW Mark Rustin, our Grand Secretary, related that when he awoke after recent open heart surgery, what did his eyes behold but Wor. Audie Gould of Lynde Lodge standing at his bedside. Bro. Rustin said that the prayers, visits, calls and hundreds of cards – mostly from his Masonic Brethren – facilitated his recovery. Bro. Gould’s caring (and leadership) was also evidenced by the four Masonic Rookies from his Lodge who gave all the credit to their Master. Audie’s wife Roxanna smiled with pride.

Bro. Dennis Drews spoke of retiring from Turner to Lubec and joining the Eastern-most Lodge in the United States. He asked a friend from Tranquil Lodge to sponsor him, and it’s “the best thing that I’ve ever done.”

Bro. James O’Gorman said he and his very small family moved from Massachusetts to Farmington where he joined the Lodge and gained a whole new perspective on life ...plus a “ginormous” family.

These meaningful words on what Freemasonry means to new Masons should encourage all Lodges and new Masons to pursue the Maine Masonic Rookie program and Masonic mentoring.

May attendance at next year’s Rookie Banquet be even larger, with more heartfelt testimony on the beginning of Masonic journeys by a new crop of Masons destined to become the Masonic leaders of tomorrow.

Rookie Class Members Listed on Next Page





This photo shows Wor. Bro. Will Halpin, Secretary of Pleiades Lodge of Milbridge, in front of the Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial at the Gettysburg Veterans' Cemetery. 2013 marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The Memorial depicts mortally wounded Confederate Gen. Lewis Armistead entrusting his Masonic watch to Union Captain Henry Bingham with the request that the watch be given to Union Gen. Winfield Hancock. Hancock and Armistead were close friends before the war. All three soldiers were Freemasons.



Brother Ed Tooma, left, a member of Rising Virtue Lodge No. 10 in Bangor was presented his 50-year Veterans Medal on April 4, 2013 at a stated meeting at Hunter Lodge No. 135, AF&AM in Edinburg, VA where he is a Life Member. The brother on the right is John William (Bill) Roller, a member of Hunter who received his 60 year Virginia award the same evening.



Brother Dana Faulkner, a member of Ashlar Lodge #105 in Auburn and a resident of Clearwater, FL received his 50-Year Veterans Medal last summer while in Saco. MW James Ross, Grand Master, is shown congratulating Bro. Faulkner for 50 years of service.

Our First Rookie Class

Arion Lodge: Michael V. Shaw; **Ashlar Lodge:** Jeffrey A. Hart; **Benevolent Lodge:** Reginald J. Clement; **Blazing Star Lodge:** Michael P. Walsh; **Caribou Lodge:** Murray N. Walker Jr.; **Crooked River Lodge:** Paul F. Joyce; **David A. Hooper Lodge:** Troy A. Hanna; **Dunlap Lodge:** Scott E. Pullen; **Euclid Lodge:** Lance D. Lord; **Excelsior Lodge:** John C. Moran; **Jefferson Lodge:** Vincent M. Roberts; **King David's Lodge:** Donald R. Heald, Seth E. Silverton; **Lincoln Lodge:** Travis Lincoln; **Lynde Lodge:** Richard H. Spreng, Robb M. Smith, Mathew T. Murphy, Shane H. Stacey; **Maine Lodge:** Vincent O. Nelson, James F. O'Gorman; **Mechanics Lodge:** Benjamin T. Denison, Nicholas M. Willey; **Morning Star Lodge:** Robert R. Haigh, Edward M. Libby, Orville D. Shelton; **Pine Tree Lodge:** Henry F. Gary; **Pythagorean Lodge:** Tye E. Zimerle; **Ralph J. Pollard Lodge:** Gregory M. Patterson; **Rising Star Lodge:** Richard S. Bowden; **Rising Virtue Lodge:** Phillip W. Joy; **Solar Star Lodge:** Carl C. Miller; **Springvale Lodge:** David A. Dalessandri, Michael P. H. Stanley; **St. Andrews Lodge:** Ryan J. Collins; **Tranquil Lodge:** Richard J. Bouchard II, Etheridge L. Tate III; **Tuscan Lodge:** Ronnie L. Hinkle, Todd E. Emerson; **Union Lodge:** Ricky A. Starrett, Joshua D. Smith; **Village Lodge:** Michael D. Benjamin, Marc M. Cram, David R. Richards; **Washington Lodge:** Dennis E. Drews; **Webster Lodge:** Michael R. Roy; **York Lodge:** Michael J. Hludik, Scott G. Rocray.

Civil War Vet Honored by Ashlar Lodge

Ashlar Lodge No. 105, Auburn, presented a Civil War Master Mason Degree on May 10th at Kora Shrine Temple in Lewiston. The work was performed by a degree team made up of Civil War Reenactors and other guest officers who were all dressed in Civil War uniforms and clothing.

The evening was dedicated to Bro. Major William Knowlton, who served as Ashlar Lodge's Charter Junior Deacon in 1860 to 1861. Bro. Knowlton was mortally wounded at the Battle of Winchester, Virginia and died on September 20, 1864. A vacant chair was placed in the North of the lodge room in his honor. The Colors for the evening were the Battle Flags, the National & Regimentals, of the Third Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry, a local Civil War Reenacting Group.

Candidate for the evening was Bro. George E. Peterson who has been reenacting since he was ten years

old, first as a drummer boy and is now a private in the Third Maine Regiment. Bro. Peterson is currently a Civil Engineering Major at the University of Maine at Orono. More than two hundred brethren attended from all over the State of Maine, as well as from Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut. A wonderful meal was provided by Kora Crazy Cops, who prepared a beef stew made from a recipe by a Civil War Cook Sergeant in a New York Regiment. The degree work was done in the dark by candle light. Civil War infantry bugle calls and period music was played throughout the degree, provided by MBQ — Masonic Brass Quintet.

Master for the evening was Wor. Bro. Steve Peterson, the candidate's father, who has been reenacting for almost twenty years. According to those attending, the evening was a great success and will be remembered for years to come.



The MBQ — Masonic Brass Quintet; WB John Knox, Bro. Duncan Webster, Bro. Tom Ackley, WB Steve Peterson, Bro. Eric Anderson, Bro. Mel Tukey, and Bro. George Peterson (kneeling).

In the photo of degree team; Front row (left to right) WB Michael Farrell, Bro. Jeremy Bright, WB Shane Davis, Bro. George Peterson, WB Steve Peterson, RWB Charles Plummer, WB Michael Nicherson, & WB Tom Nelson. In back row (left to right); Bro. Bob Swan, Bro. Dave Roy, WB Phillip Trevarrow, WB Stephen Perry, Bro. Jeff Hart, Bro. Matt Swan, VWB Greg Edwards, WB Sam Michaud, VWB Dave Walton, Bro. Richard Hooper, and WB Craig Young.

Happy Birthday to *The Maine Mason*

**by R.W. Brother Richard Rhoda
Grand Lodge Historian**

A special recognition is appropriate at this time as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary Year of the first publication of *The Maine Mason*. From R.W. Bro. Charles E. Briggs to M.W. George P. Pulkkinen the editors deserve a heartfelt "Thank You for a job well done!"

Prior to *The Maine Mason* there was a publication known as *The Wayfayer*. It was first edited by M.W. Ralph J. Pollard and the last three volumes were edited by then-R.W. Walter Macdougall. It is reported to have been mimeographed, stapled and a limited number mailed out to the lodges.

At times there has been an Editorial Board but more recently everything has fallen on the shoulders of the editor. Thank You M.W. Editor George.

The first issue was published as "Volume 1, November 1, Winter 1973". It featured on its cover a black and white picture of M.W. Charles Robert Glassmire, 76th Grand Master. It was sixteen pages in length. Contributions included "The Editor's Desk", "The Grand East" and "On the Grand Secretary's Desk".

Other articles included a Masonic Service Association article on M.W. Ralph J. Pollard entitled "The Captain and His Lady"; a De Molay update from State Master Councilor John P. Mosley; an article on John Paul Jones; and one entitled "Lewiston – Auburn Build New Temple" featuring four pictures of the building.

The first editor of this new publication, R.W. Charles E. Briggs, reports that a limited number of an issue would be mailed to each lodge for distribution therein. Larger lodges received more copies or one could be assured of receiving a copy by paying an annual subscription fee of \$1.00 for three issues.

At first it was thought the publication could be financed by profits from Grand Lodge travel tours which was the rage for a time. But increased operating costs for Grand Lodge, then increased postage, and a decline in

travel tour income delayed the goal until 1976. Ultimately the cost of publication was assumed by Grand Lodge by imposing a per capita assessment on all Maine Masons.

Bro. Briggs advises that "the intent was to have an informational and forward looking Masonic publication for Maine Masons." It was not to be, as M.W. Glassmire wrote, "...just another bulletin which reports the endless list of Past Master nights and to ubiquitous baked bean suppers."

Upon concluding his service as Grand Master, M.W. Glassmire became the editor for the next sixteen years.

From its earliest years to the present, "The Maine Mason" has been recognized as one of the finest Masonic publications in the country.

Volume 4, Number 2, Fall 1976 was a landmark publication for the Grand Lodge of Maine as it was mailed to every member of every constituent lodge within the State of Maine – over 42,000 copies. As M.W. Donald S. Smith said, "Probably I am in the unique position of being the first Grand Master in the history of the Grand Lodge of

Maine to be able to communicate directly with every one of our members...."

Generally there have been three issues per year, designated Spring, Fall and Winter along with a volume and number designation. With changes of editors sometimes the designation became a little muddled. There never was a volume twenty-eight or thirty-one. Since the "Fall 2008" issue no volume and number has been used.

Publications have usually been 8 ½" x 11" but from the Fall 1996 issue through the "Annual Communication Issue 2002" they were 6" x 10 ½". This was necessitated by severe budgetary problems which even cut issues to two a year.

Over the years there have been seven editors of the magazine. It should be noted that our "M.W. Editor" George P. Pulkkinen is serving his eleventh year and his



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Happy Birthday Maine Mason *Continued from Preceding Page*

third tour as such.

The first cover to have a color picture was the 1975 Winter issue which featured the Kora Kraftsmen.

In the Fall of 1976 M.W. Donald S. Smith was the first Grand Master to have a color picture of him featured on the cover. This has become a tradition for all subsequent Grand Masters except for M.W. Claire V. Tusch who shared it as a team with his Deputy Grand Master, Gerald S. Leighton. in 2005.

The 1979 Winter issue was the first to carry "Letters to the Editor". This has been a column that has waxed and waned according to the activity of you brethren's pens. Thoughtful letters will always be welcomed. It is your magazine!

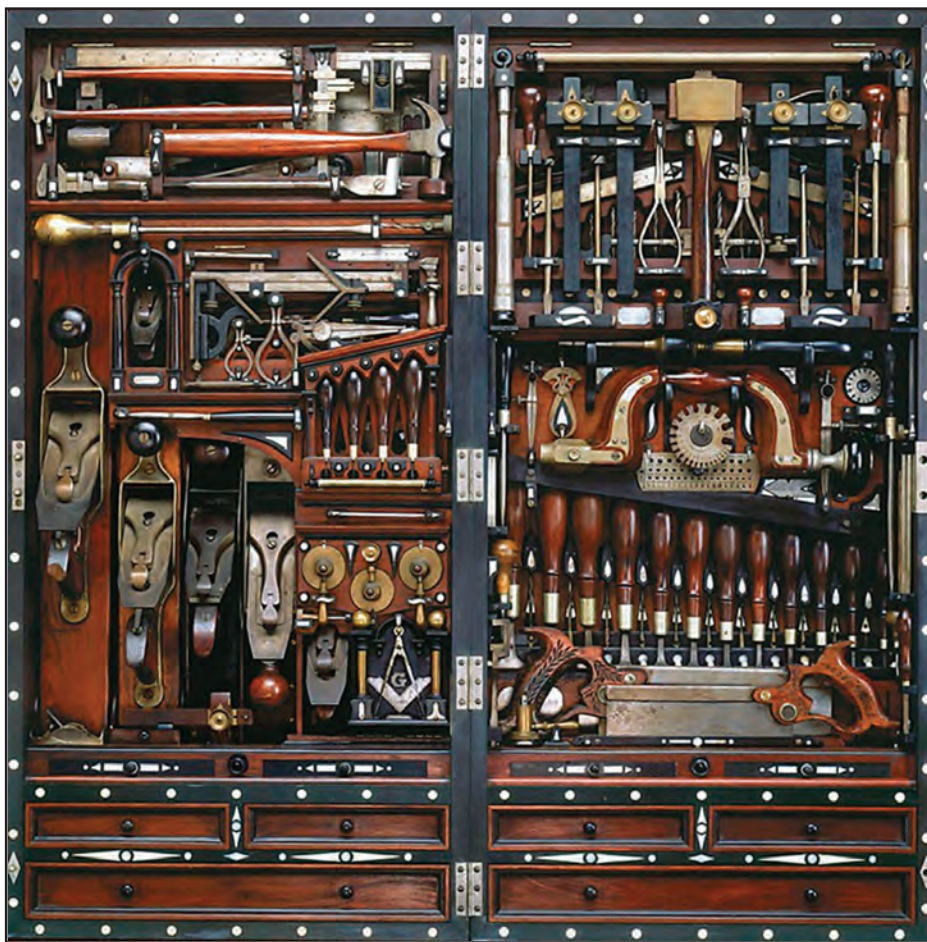
As M.W. Glassmire said of "The Maine Mason" in

that historic Fall issue of 1976, "Brethren, read it through! Have your family read it and pass it along to you friends, both Masonic and Non-Masonic."

Editors of *The Maine Mason*

1973-1974	Wor. Charles E. Briggs
1974-1990	M.W. Charles R. Glassmire
1991-1995	Wor. Arthur M. Griffiths
1996-1998	Bro. Homer T. Ford
1999-2000	M.W. George P. Pulkkinen
2001-2002	Wor. Michael E. McFadden
2003-2004	M.W. George P. Pulkkinen
2005-2007	R.W. James Ross
2008-	M.W. George P. Pulkkinen

The Studley Tool Chest



Photograph by GREG SUTTER

Wor. Brother Bob Scott of Asylum Lodge #133 in Leeds, came upon this exquisite example of working tools and sent it along thinking it likely of interest to any Masonic brother. We agree and expect you, too, will find it an extraordinary example of pride and workmanship. Master craftsman Henry O. Studley (1838-1925) was an organ and piano maker, carpenter, and Mason. He is best known for building this incredible tool chest during his tenure at the Poole Piano Company in Massachusetts, working on it over the course of 30 years. Using ebony, mother-of-pearl, ivory, rosewood, and mahogany – all materials used in the manufacture of pianos – he refined the chest to the point that, even now in the 21st century, it is still in a class by itself.

The Studley Tool Chest holds 300 tools, yet measures only 9 in. deep, 39 in. high, and 18 in. wide, when closed (22.86 x 99.06 x 45.72 cm). Every tool has a custom-made holder to keep it in place, many with beautiful inlay, and tiny clasps that rotate for easy access. As the chest folds closed, tools from the left side nestle precisely between tools on the right side.

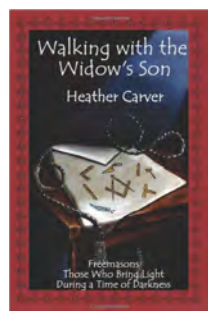
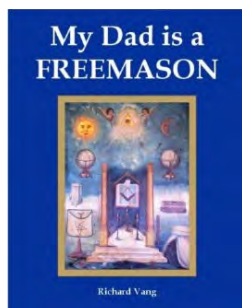
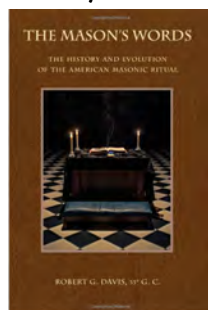
Freemasonry provides endless opportunities for self-enjoyment through learning. Reading and sharing enhance these even more. Resolve to start the new year right and READ, READ, READ!!! You'll be changed by it, guaranteed.

One of the best books I've read this year is a new work by a friend of Maine Masonry, Bro. Robert Davis of Oklahoma. **"The Masons' Words: The History and Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual"** takes a long, detailed but *very* interesting look at the development of our Masonic ritual, something we all seem to be curious about. From the earliest days of the times before the formation of the first Grand Lodge in 1717 on through, there are examples along with exhaustive footnotes and explanations. Think this is going to be dry and boring? Forget it! It'll teach you about not only ritual but Freemasonry itself. Bob is a recognized Masonic scholar who has been a presenter at Maine Masonic College Convocations: he is truly gifted at explaining in understandable terms the most complex topics. As of this review, there were 14 reviews on Amazon, every one giving this 5 out of 5 stars. You **MUST** make the time to read this book, also available in Kindle format.

Younger Masons often have difficulty explaining to family just what it is they've become a part of. Here are two books which will make this task much easier. The first, **"My Dad is a Freemason"** by Bro. Richard Vang is for children 8 and up. It's quite readable and, in addition, has detailed information to amplify the descriptions and allusions on the page. Although written by a young New York Mason in 2006, I'd not encountered it until now. It's short, simple and a great book for its purpose. If you've got a son who hasn't joined but have grandkids, this might be a nice way to poke your son into sharing information about what Grampa is doing and it might, finally, stimulate his interest as well.

"Walking with the Widow's Son" by Heather Carver is the second recommendation of 'good for the family' reading. It's by the wife of a Tennessee Mason who is clearly passionate about her husband's avocation and wants to communicate to the world that there's

THE OLD WEBMASTER'S BOOKSHELF



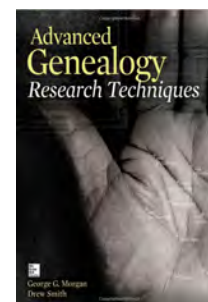
nothing wrong (and a LOT right) about being involved with Freemasonry.

Although sharp critics will find great fault, anyone with an open mind will see the love and affection she has for Freemasonry. In addition to showing your new candidate's lady the new Pollard Tape for the Accepted Candidate, this book would make a solid and worthwhile gift from the lodge to her. It will pay dividends for sure.

"Curiosities of the Craft" is a gorgeous coffee-table book very recently published by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and the Scottish Rite Museum and Library. It's a true gem you'll be proud to display and to read. It features 133 of the 'treasures' accumulated by the Grand Lodge since their formation in 1733 and presents rich history lessons based on the objects involved. If you're looking for a truly wonderful gift that will surely have a place of honor in the recipient's home, this is the one. It's available for sale from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts by phone or online for \$44.95 plus S/H. Well worth the price, in my opinion. Drop in at the library and look at our copy!

Whatever the subject: public speaking, management, computers, organizational development, genealogy, history or many more, you can find books of interest at YOUR Grand Lodge Library. Borrow them for a month by calling or sending an email. We'll ship them to you at no cost and ask only that you pay the postage for their safe return. A great deal, especially if you're housebound at the moment!

Want to see what books we have? You can now do so on the internet. Just go to www.mainemason.org and in the lower right corner, there's a link to our fully-searchable library database. This catalog is updated as new books arrive - and that's very regular. You'll find LOTS - and not just Masonic books either.



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 - Anti-Masonry: Points of View had over 3.2 million individual visitors last year. He's (the husband of the) Webmaster for our Grand Lodge and is also our Grand Librarian.



Bro. Maurice "Moe" Oliver of Jonesport Lodge #188 was recently presented his 50-year Veterans Medal by R.W. William J. Cherry, DDGM/3. Pictured here, l-r, are Wor. Clifford Johnson III, Brother Oliver and R.W. Brother Cherry.

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

MAINE MASONS WHO LIVE OR WILL BE IN FLORIDA ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014

M W. A. James Ross and his lady Gerry invite the Masons of Maine and their spouses/friends to the 12th Annual Maine Masons in Florida Day at the SAHIB Shrine Center, # 600 N.Beneva Rd, in Sarasota, Fl.

The time to assemble is recommended to be 11:00 to 11:30 which will allow us time to socialize prior to lunch being served at noon. \$21.00 for the men. Ladies will be guests of the Grand Master.

Following lunch there will be entertainment and a presentation.

Directions to Sahib Shrine Center: 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. Shrine Center is on the right.

You may make reservations for this affair through R. W. Brother Pete Forrest in one of the following ways: Telephone: 772-344-6564; email: rgpeteforrest@aol.com; mail: 609 SW Treasure Cove, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986.

Deadline for reservations is February 2, 2014

The meal will consist of Yankee Pot Roast, 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 prefer.

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

What's new with Your MEALS Committee

by R.W. Tim Martel

The Masonic Education and Lodge Services (MEALS) Committee is chartered by the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Maine. Committee members are selected annually by the Grand Master. Current members are R.W. Tim Martel (Chairman), R.W. Dave Walker, R.W. Eric Kuntz, R.W. Steve Mairs, R.W. Harry Grinder, R.W. Gary Young and R.W. Randy Raymond.

Committee duties are as follows: Provide assistance to the Grand Master, Select Raymond Rideout Award Winner, provide all training manuals, Maintain Speakers' Bureau, oversee and train the 24 District Education Representatives.

Among the Committee's most recent accomplishments are updating and distributing Instructors Manuals to the lodges and developing new training videos in DVD format. The Instructor Manuals are based on the Pollard Plan and are designed to be used by Masonic Instructors to conduct candidate training. This manual should also be very useful to Masonic Mentors.

The second achievement and probably the most significant is the development of new Masonic training videos. The original videos were produced in the VHS format and their shelf life is rapidly nearing its end. The new DVDs will be distributed to every lodge this fall. Wor. Brother Ed King did most of the work on this project and we owe him our gratitude. R.W. Richard Bowden, R.W. Harry Grinder, Wor. Craig Rubner, R.W. Walt Hodgdon, R.W. Christian Ratliff, R.W. Chris Disotto and Wor. Don Carrigan also devoted a considerable time and effort in support of this project.

Your MEALS Committee will provide customized Lodge Officer Training on site to any lodge in the state upon request. This training should not be confused with Schools of Instruction, Masonic College Courses, Mentoring, etc. Our training is designed to help lodge officers better understand their respective responsibilities and to make suggestions that will enable all officers to succeed as they move. We are here to help you and your lodge succeed both now and in the future. If interested, call Tim Martel at 729-1433. We will do our best to meet your Lodge officer training needs.

Survivor Tree in 9-11 Memorial Park

*by Bro. Ed Libby
Morningstar Lodge #41*

Back in September, Worshipful Mike LaPlante, Master of Kennebec Lodge #5 in Hallowell. Worshipful Jeff Jones, Master of Morning Star Lodge #41 in Litchfield, his lady, my Wife Lori and I travelled to Bourne, Massachusetts where we joined with the Brethren of the Cawnacome Sunshine Lodge for a trip to the Grand Lodge of New York and a family tour of the Ground Zero Memorial.

R.W. Brother Charles Coombs, of DeWitt Clinton Lodge, Sandwich, MA whose brother was in the jet that struck the North Tower, organized the trip.

We had a tremendous day filled with awe at the beauty of the Grand Lodge rooms and the emotions generated by walking on hallowed ground at the 9-11 Memorial.

I took more than 200 pictures but the Survivor Tree was the biggest punch in the gut for me. This "Survivor Tree" is a symbol for the families of victims and the rest of our nation.

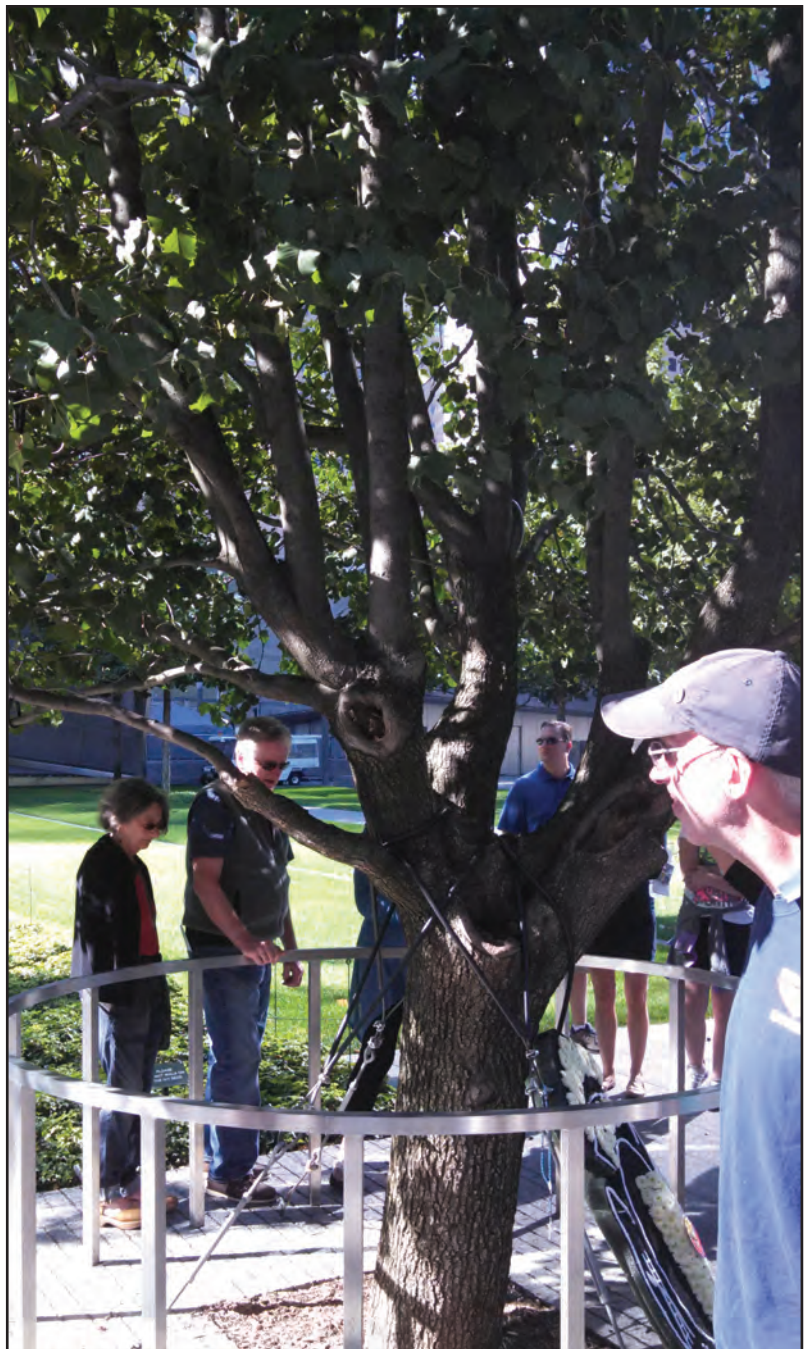
This tree was recovered from the rubble. It was broken, under 17 storeys of steel and concrete debris. The root system was found to be still alive, and the tree was transplanted to a nearby park, and almost forgotten. While at the park, growing beside a wall that caused the tree to grow "flat" on one, it was again up-rooted due to a Nor' Easter, and leaned on the wall that had been blocking the sun from it and impeding its growth. The wall actually supported the tree just enough to keep the roots intact, allowing the tree to survive again.

One of the architects of the 9/11 Memorial remembered the tree and went set about recovering it.

The Survivor Tree is a pear tree, a specie that normally has a life span of roughly 20 years. While it no longer bares "fruit", this sturdy survivor does bare Hope, Strength and Longevity. Originally planted when the Towers were first completed back in the 70s, it survived the attacks, being transplanted, uprooted, two Nor' Easters and Hurricane Sandy.

Notice how the lower portion of the tree has rough bark, and as it goes up and branches, the bark becomes smoother. It is the new growth. New life. New hope.

And yes, there many cables wrapped around the



tree, to provide strength, security and support. It is emblematic of what we as Masons hold dear. The tree represents all mankind, more especially a brother, and the cables, the cable-tow of the fraternity, tying us to our brethren and to all mankind, that we may provide strength and support to all societies, more especially our own.

This tree touched me most of everything at the Memorial, especially when reflecting on it. I hope that it will mean something to you as well.

God Bless America, and us all.

Masonic Education at Abner Wade Lodge is A Process Other Lodges Might Well Emulate

By Wor. Dannel H. Starbird, Past Master

During 2011 and 2012, Abner Wade Lodge #207, in Sangerville, undertook a Masonic education project. The effort was based on the premise that Freemasonry itself is an educational enterprise. We saw this in consistent, albeit sometimes indirect, references. When asked what we came here to do, our answer might best be to improve ourselves in Masonry. As we improve ourselves as Masons, we can improve ourselves as individuals. We recalled the adage that Masonry helps make good men better. To become better, it seemed, we need to learn principles and practices that we don't already know. At our first Masonic experience, we were charged to increase in Masonic knowledge by conversing with well-informed brethren, who would be as willing to give as we were willing to receive instruction. Instruction by well-informed brethren, we reasoned, was education.

Remembering that "it is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that Masonry regards"; we proposed that those qualifications are developed through education. Given the importance of conforming to the principles of the Order, we reflected that conforming to principles required learning them in the first place. We are charged to "inculcate" certain values and duties, and recalled that to inculcate is to teach persistently and earnestly, and to impress by repeated statement (Random House College Dictionary). The process of inculcation requires thorough knowledge of what is to be inculcated. We can't show what we don't know.

We have been told that Masonic lore is allegorical (and thus represents an abstract or spiritual meaning through concrete or material forms, or treating one subject under the guise of another (Random House College Dictionary)). It is through guided study that deeper or hidden meaning emerges.

Masonic ritual is not the lesson, but rather the concrete or material form in which the message is imbedded. If we study the message, we may get the lesson. As many symbols of Masonry are metaphors, we concluded that to grasp the underlying principles, studying beyond the obvious is indicated. If we are to be endued with knowledge, we must be exposed to information with guidance that allows us to comprehend its meaning.

Layer upon layer of excellent rules and useful maxims are laid down in the several Masonic lectures. These infuse our inborn fund of science and industry with the great truths of morality which we are charged to live by. As individuals with limited perception, any one of us could easily miss the lesson at one layer, but get it at another. As a group in conversation, however, we can help each other see more clearly, and all develop greater depth of understanding.

We favor practicing and performing ritual work correctly. Ritual, however, is the container in which the cake of Masonry is baked. The cake itself, the substance of knowing how to live as a Freemason, is made of tried and true ingredients best developed by following tried and

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Attendees at an Abner Wade Lodge Education Session.

Abner Wade Education

Continued from Preceding Page

true recipes. With due respect for maintaining the ritual, more education in the ingredients and recipes is a worthy plan.

To start and to continue are the first rules of success. In hopes that a small program might be easier to continue, we made a simple, time-limited effort. We started with a ten minute segment inserted between opening Lodge and the business meeting. This would keep us from running beyond our agreed upon time, and we wouldn't have to stay late to get business done. This encouraged us to keep our business meetings to the point and organized. When other work of the evening was planned, the educational piece could be omitted, as none of us minds missing class every now and then.

In two years we've taken small steps. The very first was to thoroughly outline the project to the lodge, encourage participation, discuss concerns, and to reassure all that their own experience must, eventually, have established its value. At the next meeting, we went around the entire Lodge and asked each brother to rise and share a quick thought, quotation, question, idea, observation, or bit of history; anything about Masonry really!

The primary intent was to get each of the brethren on their feet and communicating. This was important and difficult for some at first.

Prior to our second meeting, brethren were asked to come prepared to share something, with the understanding there would be no follow-up questions or discussion. The third meeting was similar, but brethren were asked to emphasize some principle they had learned from Masonry. Throughout, any offering from any brother was responded to warmly and positively by all. We reminded ourselves that we were teaching each other. While it was perfectly acceptable for brethren to say they did not want to speak on a particular occasion, all were encouraged (and mostly all did participate).

We then proceeded month-by-month, asking for volunteers to read or discuss the various Masonic lessons, charges, lectures, prayers, etc. Once established as a regular practice, we found there need be virtually no limit on how this time can be beneficially spent. Future steps (for example) may include (1) identifying moral principles and social virtues and inviting presentations about them, (2) asking members to write brief descriptions of Masonic principles, to then be read by another brother, or (3) asking small groups of two or three to discuss a particular principle, point, practice, value etc.

As we increase in knowledge, we improve in social intercourse. As we improve in social intercourse, we are better able to share our acquired knowledge with our brothers. Perhaps as we become increasingly articulate in speaking of the fundamentals of Freemasonry with each other, we will the better be enabled to discuss these with our non-Masonic brothers.

SECRECY...

As a newcomer to the fraternity, I've been thinking a great deal of "secrecy." Why is it important? Why is it so highly valued? As a Christian minister, I know the importance of confidentiality. When one person "confides" with another, he or she is sharing his or her burdens, struggles and perhaps joys with that person. To share with another is to have one heart touching another heart. In many cases, one needs to be heard and then affirmed by the listener. This can help in restoring and healing.

Secrecy between brothers is also of benefit. There are many times in life when a person has the need or burden to share. The loads of life can be quite overwhelming. Having someone else, as a sounding board can be very therapeutic. The wonderful thing is knowing that the listening brother will keep it to himself. This is a great assurance to the bearing soul that what they have shared is respected and guarded. It also shows trust at a very high level.

I like the masonic symbols that I have been reading and studying. One of the most intriguing for me is the one with the sword and naked heart. When I think of a sword, I can visualize something being protected. What is it that is being protected? It is that which is guarded in the heart. That what is in the heart is the innermost thoughts and desires that God knows. Of course, we can also share with a trusted pilgrim along the path. I know that my dear brother will guard what I say or know.

I love the fraternity because I know that other brothers respect me and who I am. What I share will always be kept "close to the chest." I know that I can always be myself and never need to worry that any of my disclosures will be broadcast. With that, I am happy to keep company with good friends.

-- Rev. Bro. Michael Glidden

“Who Comes Here?”

A New Brother Shares His Masonic Journey

by Brother Michael Hludik

One Sunday evening during the summer of 2012 I was searching the internet for information on my late grandfather who passed when I was only 11. I remembered hearing his stories about serving on a submarine during World War II. After scrolling three or four pages of a Google search, I came cross a post on an ancestry website. While shopping at a yardsale, a lady living in upstate Wisconsin had purchased Dept. of the Navy letters written to my grandmother describing Gramp’s burial at sea. Included in the packet was a letter by a crew mate describing the weather that day, and some nice words about the kind of man Gramp was.

She was looking for members of the family so she could return the letters to where they belonged. I emailed her right away and my family and I were overjoyed when they arrived within a few days.

My internet search for information continued. I was about to give it up when I discovered one other important fact; grandfather was a Past Master of Ocean Lodge #142 in Wells. My Masonic journey had begun.

A few months later my fiancé and I attended a work-related retreat at Sunday River. We were given several free time activities options. One of the choices was skeet shooting at a site away from the mountain.

We were asked to provide transportation for another attendee headed for the shooting range. Little did I know that this passenger would play a major part in my Masonic journey.

Chuck Morin, Senior Deacon of York Lodge in Kennebunk, climbed aboard and we headed off. Later that evening as we gathered for dinner, I met the next man who would become a Masonic brother. His name was Fred Fortier, a member of Saco Lodge. Fred had been my salesman for years. During dinner Chuck and Fred talked some Masonry. I was listening. I began to ask questions and a light began to shine on me.

A few weeks later Chuck and I met for dinner. He

had an application with him. Before the evening ended I had filled it out. My Masonic journey had taken its second step.

A month or so passed when Chuck called and asked if I would like to attend the lodge’s Second Saturday breakfast. Admittedly a bit nervous, I kept my cool and agreed to go. I awoke early that morning, my stomach a churn. How should I dress? What should I take with me, should I take anything at all? Well, I went as myself. Upon arrival I was met with nothing but smiling faces, handshakes and several men I knew from town but never knew to be Masons. We enjoyed a great meal and interesting conversations. After breakfast I was invited to see the inside of the hall. When the doors opened and I took my first steps inside I was speechless. It’s hard to put into

words what I was thinking; it was beautiful and so rich with history. A few lodge members escorted me around the hall, explaining various items and asking me questions. Again I thought, “relax, be yourself, and everything will be fine.” It was a great morning. Later they asked me if I would like to accompany them to a local cemetery where they would be conducting a Veterans Day observance the following week. Another fantastic day.

I was continuing to wait a time with patience but beginning to wonder if I would be accepted into the ancient fraternity. I had no idea how long the process would take; days, months or years. Within a few weeks my fiancé and I attended a dinner with many

Masons. At this event I met Chuck’s father, Neil Morin, a Past Potentate of Kora Shriners. I was meeting some really special people and every step of my Masonic journey was getting better.

Early one Saturday morning I got a call from R.W. Randall Burleigh, Secretary of York Lodge. He asked if



Brother Mike Hludik

Continued on Next Page

Masonic Journey Continued

I would be able to make it to the lodge a week from the following Monday for my Entered Apprentice Degree. What a great call to wake up to on a beautiful weekend morning. The following days dragged by. It seemed to take forever for that day to arrive. To say I was nervous would be a gross understatement.

What an amazing experience I had going there for my first degree. Again I was greeted by nothing but outstanding, friendly men. The degree was actually several firsts for the lodge as well as for me. It was the first degree performed by a new officer line, the first degree work of 2013, and the first degree work of the lodge's 200th Anniversary year. I was and am extremely honored to be part of such an historic event.

A few weeks later I received another phone call; would I be able to make another Monday night to receive my Fellow Craft degree? I had been working on my EA lesson, reading it over and over. I was a bit nervous again not knowing what would be expected of me. Would I pass? Is this a pass or fail thing? Whatever was going to happen I was as ready as I could be.

Again, my arrival was met with smiling faces, warm handshakes and kind words. To my surprise, I was not the only candidate that evening. I was to be passed with three other brothers. What a great experience. The lectures were fantastic and very informative. As I readied to leave, the Secretary asked if I would be willing to be the candidate for the lodge's 200th anniversary on March 9.

I could not even try to put into words the emotions I was feeling at that time.

On March 9th I arrived at the lodge and pulled into a jammed-packed lot. I had trouble finding a parking spot. As I walked toward the door I was greeted by many brethren, some I already knew, others I was meeting for the first time. Some wore kilts, some tuxedos, some sport jackets; all wore broad smiles. Inside the building was as crowded as the parking lot. If I had been uneasy for the prior degrees I was a downright nervous wreck for this one.

It turned out to be one of the best times of my life, a night I will never forget.

Nearly 90 Masons squeezed into the hall; brethren from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maryland. Grand Master A. James Ross helped with my raising, and five Past Grand Masters were in attendance, as were members of the famed Kilwinning Club from Massachusetts who provided bagpipe and drum music for the event. I am honored that M.W. George Pulkkinen was in the East for my Master Mason degree. As he was the candidate at the lodge's 150th anniversary, it's an honor to share our Masonic birthdays.

I am blessed to have been a part of York Lodge's 200th anniversary celebration. Since being raised I have visited other lodges, attended a table lodge and took part in a Masonic memorial. I am having a great time traveling my Masonic journey, and I'm looking forward to enjoying many more miles on this exciting trip.



The Widow Keepers Masonic Riders Association, Mountain Chapter, is shown presenting a check to Potentate Everett Kaherl at the second annual Kora Kares for Kids MC Rally to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children. The Chapter raised the money at their annual Maddy's run and presented it at the Rally. All net proceeds from the Rally will be donated to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Grand Lodge of Maine Masonic Beau Tie Society and Topsy*

*by R.W. Richard Rhoda
Grand Historian*

The Grand Lodge of Maine Masonic Beau Tie Society was started four years ago by the Masters and Wardens Association of the First Masonic District, the northern most group of Maine Masons. It was originally named The First District Masonic Beau Tie Society but it has been changed as it “just grew like Topsy.”

It was started to have fun; to allow its members to find that old dogs can learn new tricks; and to share a common bond, especially on the first day of Grand Lodge.

A 2012 trip to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America meeting in Atlanta, Georgia led to attendance at a Sunday church service at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the home church of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The thirty-three men in the choir that morning not only sang beautifully, they look exceedingly sharp with their Kente bow ties being representative of their African heritage.

From that church experience this program was born and like Topsy it just grew and is growing. Inspiration and sustenance for this project has come from Grand Master A. James Ross’ commitment to support diversity and toleration. He has said that “with diversity comes that toleration taught in the lesson of Freemasonry.”

At first, it was felt that buying a few dozen bow ties

and making a modest profit to buy more ties would be enough but more importantly we would learn something of significance about the African-American culture which we share with some Masonic Brethren.

Like Topsy, it grew when we decided we would give one to our Past District Deputy Bro. David King who so ably served us a few years back. If we couldn’t afford to give one away then why even do it?

Like Topsy, we experienced further growth when we realized that if our net proceeds were to be used for a charitable cause, more Brethren might buy one. Conferring with Bro. King, we quickly decided that support for Sickle Cell research would be most appropriate.

While there are “purests” who want self-tie bow ties, we learned from our first offering that the market would be much greater if we provided under the collar clip ties.

Like Topsy, we then experienced a double growth. We decided to go state wide and simultaneously said we would give one to each African-American Brother. We thought there were about five or six in Maine but now learn that there are fourteen. Our Grand Lodge records do not denote race, creed or color as Masonic membership is not based on such criteria.

Like Topsy, we continued to grow when our Grand Lodge Master was invited by North Star Lodge No. 22 of Prince Hall Masons in Bangor to attend their meeting last

Continued on Following Page

As Masonry uses symbolic colors of white, red, and blue to denote wise and serious truths, so too is Kente cloth used. Developed in a different time and place, Kente cloth is an African art form presenting visual representation of history, philosophy, ethics, and social values....

Symbolic meanings of some of the colors which men tend to prefer are:

YELLOW – Associated with the yoke of the egg – symbolizes sanctity, preciousness, spirituality, vitality and fertility;

GREEN – Associated with vegetation, planting, harvesting – symbolizes growth, vitality, fruitfulness, abundant health and spiritual rejuvenation;

MAROON – Associated with the red-brown color of Mother Earth – symbolizes healing and the power to repel malevolent spirits;



BLACK – Signifies the notion that as new things get darker they mature and with physical aging comes spiritual maturity – symbolizes intensified spiritual energy, maturity and potency; and **WHITE** - Associated with the white part of the egg and white clay – symbolizes spiritual purification, healing and sanctification. When used in combination with yellow, green, or black it expresses the notion of spirituality, vitality and balance.



Maine Masons who received their 33rd Degree in Washington, DC in August. Back Row: James H. Witham, Valley of the Androscoggin; A. James Ross, Valley of Portland; Maurice J. Marshall, Valley of Bangor; Alexander G. Lyle, III, Valley of Rockland. Front Row: Barry J. Gates, Valley of the Androscoggin; John H. Gailey, Valley of Portland; Charles E. Briggs, Valley of Bangor. Elected to receive the 33rd Degree in 2015 in Indianapolis: John A. Caldwell, Valley of Portland; Robert G. W. Lobley, Valley of Bangor; David A. Walker, Valley of the Androscoggin.

TOPSY *Continued from Preceding Page*

February. Ties were presented to all their members from what was then known as the 1st District Masonic Beau Tie Society.

Like Topsy, further growth occurred after the spring 2013 issue of *The Maine Mason* which carried an article on the Kente Beau Ties and our meeting with North Star Lodge. This publication is sent to all Maine Masons wheresoever dispersed. A check for \$1,017.00 came in for one tie from a sixty-five year member of Columbia-Doric Lodge who now resides in Mississippi and believes in the cause. Now we are growing around the country.

Like Topsy, further growth came quickly. This past July the Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons for Massachusetts, which includes Maine, attended North Star Lodge and we were again invited to attend. Ties were again presented to our Brethren which were most graciously accepted.

Like Topsy, we grew even more when we decided that you did not have to be a Mason to belong to our Beau Tie Society: you only need to want to learn, be tolerant and share, no matter your age. We have had grandfathers buy ties for young grandsons and themselves!

But wait! Like Topsy, we have grown more and gotten even better. We have just had our first lady buy a tie to wear herself. She wants to sell some for us to her friends back in Portland, Oregon to support Sickle Cell

research. Now we are really growing across the country.

Can Topsy grow even more? Yes!! A Prince Hall Mason from Minnesota now living in Pittsfield, who has been given a tie, wants to share it with his 2,000 friends on the internet. He believes many will want one. A Past Master of Monument Lodge has said he will create and host a site on the internet. Watch out world!!

Topsy can grow even more with your commitment and support for diversity and toleration. We invite you to come and join with us in learning what is important to others; in having a greater sense of toleration; and most importantly in joining the fight against Sickle Cell Anemia.

Help Topsy grow! We have raised over \$3,000.00 with a goal of \$14,000.00. Join us now with a \$17.00 donation for a tie. We need you. We all need each other!!

To order a tie now, please contact Richard L. Rhoda, P.O. Box 743, Houlton, ME 04730, Telephone (-207-532-9595 or rlrhoda@myfairpoint.net

**Topsy was a young African-American girl in Harriett Beech Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." At one point she said "I spect I grow'd. Don't think nobody never made me." With that, birth was given to another American idiom generally taken to have the simple meaning of accelerated growth although at first it meant growth without supervision or prior planning.*

The Tale of the Travelling Gavel

by Brother Steve Edmondson

Gather around my brothers as I share with you a tale; a tale of legends, of great bravery, gallantry and determination. A tale which will stand the test of time and be told over and over among men and Masons alike. Legend has it there existed a quaint village to the north occupied by men of seemingly quiet demeanor and solitude. Men who work the soil, craft wood, tend to animals and the like. But what lies beneath their content exterior is one of legends. Small in numbers, they loom large in stature among their peers.

Tradition calls for hospitality when visitors call upon a neighboring Lodge. Strangers from away are not uncommon and are always welcomed. However this story takes a dark turn when after one such calling, the visitors from away left with more than with what they came.

Things were amiss in the Lodge. An emptiness existed as if someone or something was gone. In fact that was precisely the problem. A highly prized treasure that was hard fought to obtain had been taken from them. Taken by a band of ruthless neer-do-wells from the lodge by the sea. Visitors from who were guests in the Lodge boldly walked out the door with a possession so valuable and so significant that something had to be done. They could not just stand idly by as rogues from away enjoyed their hard got gains. What were they to do?

The leader of the Lodge from the north developed a plan. They would take back that what was rightfully theirs in a bold nighttime raid. But who among them had the strength and courage to take on this worthy foe? Numbers too few would result in failure. A previous attack was aborted at the last moment because the men of the north were scarce. Only time would tell.

On an unusually warm autumn night in October, this band of northern renegades mounted their steeds and ventured south to this foreign land by the sea in a crusade for the ages. They bravely rode through treacherous territory intent on taking back that what was once theirs.

The night was as black as the air was still. Ride they did the brave men from the Lodge of the north with but one thought on their mind and that was to retrieve the coveted prize and claim it as it their own.

With the stars as their guide the northern marauders advanced towards the lodge by the sea. What was in store for them? What were they to expect from the inhabitants?

As the brave men from the north approached their destination, they proceeded with caution. Many thoughts entered their minds as they mustered their forces outside of this mighty fortress.

Suddenly their existence is no longer a secret. Men of the Lodge by the sea recognize the northerners and call them by name. It soon became apparent to the locals the purpose of this invasion.

As the invaders numbers grew the locals recognized their fate. A sad realization drifted over them knowing they would not be able to maintain control of that what was being sought by the invading hordes. Resistance would be futile.

Rather than do battle with the invading foe, the invaders were met with open arms, smiles and camaraderie by the very men who possessed the prize they sought. Was this a trap, a fade to trick them into a false sense of security?

Cautiously the invaders entered the hallowed halls of the Lodge by the sea. Despite the grand welcome, one could not ignore the piercing stares from those unappreciative of the effort of the northerners.

Soon the festivities began with considerable fanfare and traditions not unlike their own. It was eerily familiar as the men of this lodge openly went about their business as if the invaders were expected. This prize you see is coveted by many but taken by few.

The inevitable task was at hand. The locals knew this moment was upon them. Graciously the leader of the Lodge by the sea handed over the treasure to the leader of the northerners. Sadness replaced determination on the face of the host. Remembering all too well the pain in relinquishing this prize, the leader of the north spoke in calming words, fighting the urge to gloat in order to maintain the tentative peace that existed that evening.

Soon the night came to an end as the lights of the lodge by the sea went dark. Whispers filtered through the empty sky however as the locals spoke in hush terms of retaliation. Was this simple bravado, trying to ease the pain of this tremendous loss or did they have it in them to brave the journey north and take back the allusive prize.

With the treasure in hand the men from the north started the long trek to familiar lands with revelry and mirth in their hearts. A conquest worthy of tales to be told to later generations indeed.

As the journey ends at the lodge of the north, the weary riders place the prize in its rightful place to be admired and appreciated for the effort in obtaining it. There not just to be admired but as a reminder for the dedication and sacrifice it took in retrieving it for their own and at the same time as a challenge for those who

Continued on Following Page

Travelling Gavel *Continued from Preceding page*

sought to take it away. At the foot of the Worshipful Master it rests for all to gaze upon.

Rest not the men of the north as word has spread among the land that others seek that which they possess. How long will they be able to keep this prize and at what cost? Who will be next in setting upon a journey for that which the lodge of the north fought so bravely to possess?

Let the word be spread across the District. The brave souls from the Lodge in the north stand ready to defend that coveted prize and will travel to the far reaches of the District to ensure its safety and presence in its rightful home. There exists no mountain too high to climb or river too wide to cross to keep the men of the Lodge of the north from seeking that which they so covet.

To what prey tell would cause such gallantry and vigilance among men? Is it an instrument of power? Is it magical? What possesses men to risk so much for what seems like so little? Surely those that possess it gain from its presence. That part is most certainly true.

Fear not my brothers as all is well in the land. No blood was shed nor feelings hurt and a good time was had by all. That which is coveted by so many is merely a symbol of dedication, spirit and camaraderie. A nondescript slab of wood with a hammer attached. Is it an instrument of power? Is it magical? What possesses men to risk so much for what seems like so little? Surely those that possess it gain from its presence. That part is most definitely true as I share with you the story of the District 14 Traveling Gavel.

Borrowing from Paul Harvey, allow me to share with you the rest of the story. The District 14 Traveling Gavel was constructed and donated by several members of the Ancient York Lodge #155 in Lisbon. Lodge members Norm Palmer, brothers Grandville and Roland Morgan, along with their father Wilfred Morgan, presented the Traveling Gavel at a District 14 meeting on November 29, 1982. With 19 members present that evening, the Gavel made its first home at Solar Star Lodge #14 in Bath.

As part of the ritual and almost as important as the Traveling Gavel itself is the accompanying record book.

Wherever the Gavel goes, so goes the record book where notations are made listing the date of each subsequent exchange and which Lodge now had possession of the Gavel. While in the custody of the Village Lodge recently, I had the opportunity to look through the record book and read up on the history of the Gavel and offer the following stories.

In 31 years the District 14 Traveling Gavel has changed hands 214 times among the Lodges. It changed hands twice in the time it took to write this story. The length of ownership has varied from as little as 24 hours to as long as six months. Some additional tidbits include the largest contingent of Brothers to seize the Gavel occurring in 1983 when 32 Brothers from the Ancient York Lodge took back the Gavel. The rules require five members be present in order to take control of the Gavel. Do you think they meant business that night?

In 1994 Polar Star Lodge #14 seized the Gavel for the first time in 14 years. Finally, in a rare vent and one that required a tie-breaker, three separate Lodges with six members each arrived in Bowdoinham one evening this past June seeking the Gavel. Having to resort to the official rules, the Gavel was awarded to the Lodge which has been without it the longest.

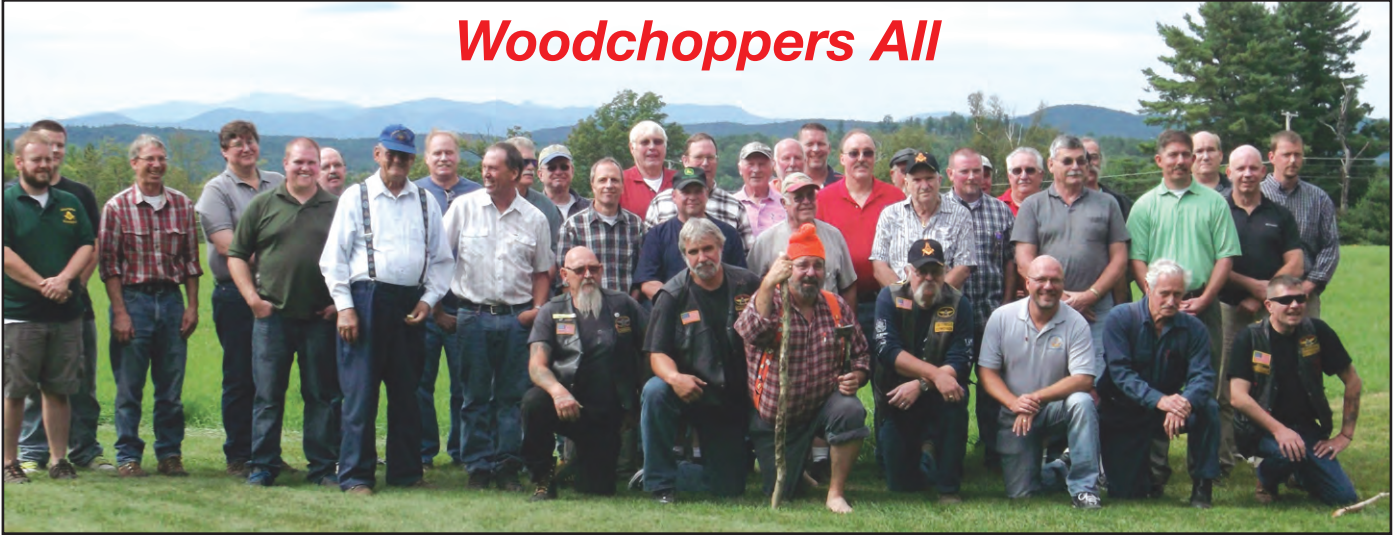
Another change in ritual that has occurred over time are the notations in the record book. For the first few years, a single line indicating the date, Lodge and num-

Continued on Next Page



Sometimes the gavel is not easily relinquished as this brotherly tussle between Village Lodge Master Dave Thompson, left, and Ancient York Lodge Master Daniel Henton shows.

Woodchoppers All



On Saturday, September 7, R.W. Brother Frank Theriault travelled from his home way Down East to Wor. Hobie Dennison's Farm in Harrison which overlooks the White Mountains. At the invitation of Wor. Brother Tom Nolan of Crooked River Lodge, R.W. Brother Frank made the trip to work the famous Woodchoppers Degree on 25 eager brethren. Crooked River Lodge in Harrison hosted the event which was followed by a barbecue put on by Brother Leroy Edwards and his wife Phyllis. It was a beautiful Fall day and nearly 70 brethren and family members enjoyed the work of the day. And the delicious meal. Among the participants were: Kneeling: Bro Butch Cole #118 Drummond, Bro Gary Nickerson #118 Drummond/ #42 Freedom, , RW Frank Theriault Jr. PSGW / Wood Chopper Degree Master, Bro Sam Millen #118 Drummond, Bro Mike Shaw #162 Arion, Bro Frank Mullins #13 Oriental/#153 Delta, Bro Brian Moore #118 Drummond. Front Row standing: Bro Dan Scribner #152 Crooked River, Bro Tom Scribner #152 Crooked River, Worshipful Master Tom Nolan #

152 Crooked River, Bro Hobie Dennison #152 Crooked River, Bro Phil Dennison #152 Crooked River, Bro Rick Martin #152 Crooked River, Bro Edward Arnott #100 Jefferson, RW DDGM Dave Eaton #56 Mt Moriah, Bro Jeff Solter #56 Mt Moriah. Second Row: Bro Philip Dennison #153 Crooked River, Bro Jack Carroll #13 Oriental, Bro Dana Gregson #153 Delta, Bro Albert Greenhalgh #153 Delta, Bro Chris DeCapua #13 Oriental/#153 Delta, Bro Cliff Brown # 153 Delta, Bro Doug Taft #153 Delta, Bro Rod Cole # 153 Delta, RW Brian Levasseur #13 Oriental, RW Ryan Paradis # 18 Oxford. Third Row: Bro Tim Bushy #38 Harmony, Bro Jan Newhouse #153 Delta, Bro Farwell Sawin #11 Pythagorean/#153 Delta, Bro Chris Rugg #13 Oriental, Bro Bob Drew #153 Delta, Bro Brian Cushing #152 Crooked River, Bro Wayne Cadman # 153 Delta, Bro Dave Milles #153 Delta. Fourth Row: Bro Chris Nickerson #118 Drummond/# 42 Freedom, Bro Paul Joyce #152 Crooked River, Bro Leroy Edwards #152 Crooked River, Bro Mike Dennison.

Travelling Gavel *Continued*

ber of members that were present when the Gavel changed hands was that all that was required. In the mid-80s, Lodges began providing brief narratives of the circumstances of the exchange, often with compliments to the host Lodge. In the late 80s, many Lodges started adding imaginative stories of conquest and battle in obtaining the Gavel. In 2002, Lodges began listing the Brothers who were present in seizing control of the Gavel which offers great insight into the history of particular Lodges. Poetry even made its way into the record revealing hidden talents of various Brothers.

Although a vast majority of the entries contained

some good natured ribbing, I detected some genuine concern over the tactics some Lodges resorted to in keeping the Gavel. Host Lodges have been known to apply extreme measures in retaining the Gavel, perhaps none more so the Ancient York Lodge which has a natural paternal instinct with this prized possession.

Now you know the rest of the story. For those Districts that employ a similar tradition know exactly the feeling of having sufficient Brothers take the time to travel to a neighboring Lodge and take home this symbol of dedication and camaraderie and the feeling of loss when having to hand it over. For those that do not, I invite you to District 14 and come see what you are missing.

Masons Recognize, Honor Vets in Kennebunk

For the second consecutive year, York Lodge #22 of Kennebunk organized and led the town's Veterans' Day observance, this year at the West Kennebunk Cemetery.

Actual site of the service was at the grave of Civil War veteran Joseph H. Redding Burroughs who was wounded and sent home three times during the war between the states, only to re-enlist each time.

Among the battles Pvt. Burroughs was engaged in were Antietam and Fredericksburg. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. His final service duty was standing guard over President Lincoln's body following the martyred president's assassination.

Speakers at the event were retired Army Major General and Brother Stephen Nichols who represented the Maine Veterans Homes; Brigadier General Gerard F. Bolduc, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General – Air, Maine National Guard; Grand Master A. James Ross; and Maine's Junior Grand Warden, R.W. Brother Lawrence Vennell who also served as Master of Ceremonies.

More than 100 brethren, veterans' organization members and other interested residents marched in procession to the grave site to attend the ceremonies, then enjoyed a light lunch at the lodge hall following the service.

WMTW-TV, Channel 8, had a reporter and photojournalist on site throughout the morning. There were approximately 20 on-air interviews and reports telecast from the site.

Wor, Brother Brian Ingalls conceived the idea of his lodge heading up the important activities to honor our veterans locally. He hopes that lodges across Maine will pick up the idea and become leaders in their respective communities to do the same.

Grand Master Ross's remarks

"We who are Freemasons are honored to join with the inhabitants of Kennebunk and other organizations that support this community to pay tribute to Private Joseph H. Redding Burroughs and to remember all Veterans who have served; past and present, living and deceased.

"One cannot help but think how courageous a man and soldier Private Burroughs surely must have been. He enlisted in the Grand Army of the Republic in January 1862. He fought at Antietam and was wounded at Fredericksburg. He was honorably discharged in March 1863 as a result of his wounds. He reenlisted in April 1864 and was wounded again being discharged in July 1864. He reenlisted in December 1864 and survived the war being discharged in November 1865. Private Burroughs had the distinct honor of standing guard over the body of President Lincoln. He served his fellow Veterans and his community as Commander of Willard Post Number 70 of the Grand Army of the Republic Department of Maine. Burroughs surely knew that he had put his life on the line for a cause greater than himself; a cause worth fighting for; a cause that preserved the integrity of the Union and which ultimately upheld the Founding Fathers' vision for a great and lasting nation among nations of the world. Private Burroughs saw fit to do his duty and he did it well.

"Joe Burroughs was laid to rest right here by beloved family members and a grateful community for his contributions to preserving the Union and for being a contributor to his community. They saw fit to place this plaque on his gravestone to enlighten and even to remind visitors of his courage and valor. His service was important to them and they wanted to make a statement to all future ages that he shall not be a man to be forgotten.

"I have to wonder what Joe Burroughs would say to us if he could return to us just for an instance, perhaps even today, right here and now. He may humbly and modestly just say thank you. But like many Veterans, past and present, Joe would most likely tell us to pay the tribute forward and to continue to remember all who have stood vigil over our nation. I believe he would tell us that if he had the chance. Perhaps he did in his day. Perhaps he is telling us all now as we allow ourselves to pause for just a moment to remember, to reflect and to give vitality and purpose to the men and women of the uniformed services of today; those we are proud to call Veterans and who continue to preserve our freedoms today, just as Private Joseph Burroughs did 150 years ago."



The start of the procession.

Brothers Forrest and Lagerquist “on the road” again



Pete pins the Medal on Brother “Bud” Kitchen.

RW Pete Forrest and RW Jack Lagerquist continue their service travelling across Florida presenting 50-Year Veterans Medals to deserving brethren. They recently visited Brother E. K. “Bud” Kitchen, a member of St. Andrews Lodge, Bangor, for the purpose of presenting him with his Grand Lodge of Maine Veterans Medal. Bud retired from Maine Air Guard in Bangor.

From Barefoot Bay, they traveled north and west to the City of Saint Cloud, into the driveway of Brother Kenneth S. Dix, to whom they presented his Veterans Medal. Brother Dix is a member of Harmony Lodge, Gorham. He owned a company called Portland Clutch.

Brother Jerry Daigle, a member of Columbia Doric Lodge in Greenville, also received his Grand Lodge 50-Year Veterans Medal from Brothers Forrest and Lagerquist. Brother Daigle worked, in his early career,



Pete congratulates Brother Jerry Daigle.



Brother Kenneth Dix receives his Medal from Pete.

for Scott Paper Company in both Greenville and Monson. He then went to South Carolina, and worked in the construction industry for 27 years. Following his retirement the Daigles moved to Port Ritchey. During the visit R.W. Lagerquist spotted a lovely cabinet. It turns out that Bro. Jerry is a highly skilled cabinetmaker. He proudly showed several pieces that he has made.

On Tuesday, Nov 12, 2013, Pete and Jack traveled to Jensen Beach to present a 50-Year Veterans Medal to Brother Robert E. Morgan, a member of Nollesemic Lodge #205, in Millinocket. Brother Bob was due his Medal back on May 15, 2011. It was learned that Acadia Lodge in Stuart, Florida, had Brother Bob’s Medal. R.W. Brother Lagerquist retrieved the Medal so it could be duly delivered.



Pete and Brother Robert Morgan.

Rebuilding Our Masonic Foundations

By R.W. Thomas Pulkkinen

Traveling about Maine last fall, I drove into the town of Patten, took a right onto Houlton Street and glanced at Katahdin Lodge #98. Something wasn't quite right; what happened to the cellar wall? There was nothing between the basement footing and the first floor sill plate, where once a four foot wall supported the building above.

I parked the car and peered into the cleanly swept cellar toward the massive wood furnace on the far side, and the neatly stacked wood against the front wall. Everything seemed ready for someone to throw a log on the fire to warm the Brethren come cold weather, except for that long, gaping hole in the cellar wall that would cause one serious winter draft.

But all is well. The Katahdin Lodge Brethren had determined that the wall needed rebuilding, that it was not properly supporting the two-story lodge building above. Demolition had been completed; time to rebuild!

What twelve workers among the good Brethren in Patten were doing is an appropriate metaphor for what our Grand Master has been doing for the past two years.

Most Worshipful A. James Ross realized that the foundation of Maine Freemasonry needed more than repointing to strengthen and support the work designed by our Masonic forefathers – to assure that a healthy Craft may be passed down to generations to come. He wanted the Grand Lodge to be a partner – a supporter – in creating greatness within our Lodges and among our Brethren.



Katahdin Lodge in Patten

Our Grand Master assembled his Craftsmen and together they began drawing designs on his trestleboard. The working tools at his avail were put to work, and the results of his efforts and those of many Grand Lodge

Continued on Following Page

“on the road” again *Continued*



On April 4, 2013 the dynamic duo of Forrest and Lagerquist traveled to the town of Sunrise to present a 50-Year Veterans Medal to Brother Marsh J. Tellan, a member of Solar Star Lodge in Bath, the Scottish Rite Valley of Portland and Kora Shrine. During his 30-year military career, Bro. Tellan achieved the rank of Colonel, USAR.



Wor. Brother Malcolm A. Michaud, Past Master of Deering Lodge #183, Portland, received his 50-Year Veterans Medal on Dec. 5, 2013 when R.W. Bro. Jack Lagerquist made the presentation at Bro. Michaud's home in Cape Coral, FL.

Rebuilding Our Masonic Foundations

Continued from Preceding Page

officers and committees – amplified by the enthusiasm of Lodge leaders and Brethren – are resetting the foundation stones upon which our great fraternity thrives: brotherly love, Masonic philosophy and education, leadership, charity and a large dose of positive inspiration.

The Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation

The Charitable Foundation looked for ways to further support the charitable efforts of our 185 Maine Lodges. Every Lodge is now eligible for four \$500 matching grants each year: project graduation, youth activities, community betterment and bikes for books. Some 90 Lodges will award around 1,000 bikes this year to children who read books as part of school or public library reading programs. What a great way to motivate children to read, which is so important because books enlighten, inspire, bring happiness and success, challenge our perspectives, and provide comfort at difficult, lonely times in our lives.

Your Charitable Foundation also increased funding of the Maine Masonic College, enabling it to develop and present many new courses to enable Brethren statewide to learn more about Freemasonry, mentoring and the seven liberal arts and sciences.

Grand Lodge

Wanting to ensure that proper focus and priority would be given to his initiatives, Grand Master Ross formed two new committees: one on leadership development, the other on Masonic mentoring. The Finance Committee budgeted these initiatives as well as a heightened commitment to membership development ... to attract good men to the fraternity and to encourage them to become involved in their lodges right from the beginning of their Masonic journeys.

Banners were provided to each Lodge participating in the fall **Open Houses**. A powerful message on Freemasonry appeared on television and radio. The open houses attracted men to Masonry and increased public awareness of our Craft, complementing other lodge fellowship initiatives. As a result, membership is booming! During the District 18 meeting, every lodge reported having at least three candidates in 2013...and some 50 overall. Vernon Valley Lodge # 99 in Mount Vernon announced during the District 15 meeting that it had five candidates in the past year, four of whom became Lodge officers – the Lodge only has 43 members, so that's really impressive. Similar stories abounded during each District Meeting. Truly outstanding!

Reception of the new **Mentoring and Masonic Rookie** initiatives has been overwhelmingly positive. Many Lodges have several new Masons pursuing Masonic Rookie status that recognizes their enthusiasm and activities during their first year in Masonry. The exciting first annual Rookie Recognition Banquet recently held in Belfast is covered on Page 9 in this issue.

And the **Dirigo Leadership Seminar**, designed to bring leadership perspectives and tools to lodge leaders is being very well attended. Three more sessions are scheduled: at United Lodge #8 in Brunswick on February 8th; and in York Lodge #22 in Kennebunk and Lynde Lodge #174 in Herman later this year.

Taking Advantage of These Opportunities

These initiatives provide added working tools available at no cost to lodges throughout the jurisdiction. As MW Bro. Ross repeatedly says: "No mandates, only opportunities to use new tools."

Each Lodge is a little different from the one down the road. What works well for one, may not for another. What's important in all these

new tools and educational opportunities is that they allow us all – new Masons and veterans; large lodges and small, in the North and in the South – to ask ourselves: What makes my Lodge special and adds value to our members...and our communities? How does my Lodge personalize the Masonic experience; how does it allow us to improve ourselves and benefit life in our communities?"

Is it time to rebuild or repoint the foundation upon which your Lodge can best promote brotherly love, Masonic education, leadership development and charity, all with a large dose of positive inspiration and increasing numbers of active members?

If we all take it upon ourselves to apply the plumb, level and square to that first stone upon which to build our moral and Masonic edifices, Maine Freemasonry will take a large step forward.

And by so doing, like the brethren in Patten throwing wood into that old furnace to heat up the hall, you will be stoking the fraternal fire in the bellies of Masons new and old, and the tenets of Freemasonry will brightly glow within and outside the walls of our Masonic homes.

RW Thomas Pulkkinen is chairman of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee, authored the DIRIGO Leadership plan and chairs the Mentoring program.

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, January 24th, 25th & 26th, 2014
at Point Lookout Resort in Northport, Maine**

Accommodations:

One Bedroom King Studio 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

Room Reservation must be made by December 24, 2013 for these prices.

**The activities reservations below must be made through the Scottish Rite Office by
*January 13th***

**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 207-772-7711 or email him at
scottishrite@mainemason.org**

Friday Night Dinner at the Rockport Masonic Center

Saturday afternoon - Bowling Tournament & Card Playing at the Resort

Saturday Night Banquet / Dancing

Sunday Morning Breakfast at the Top of the Resort

Couples Package #1 - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - \$89

***(Friday) Dinner at Masonic Ctr; (Saturday) Bowling, Banquet & dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast;
all at Resort.***

Couples Package #2 - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - \$79

***(Friday) Dinner at Masonic Ctr; (Saturday) Banquet & dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast; all at
Resort.***

Couples Package #3 - For couples spending 1 night at the Resort - \$69

(Saturday) Bowling; Banquet & dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast; all at Resort.

Couples Package #4 - For couples spending 1 night at the Resort. - \$59

(Saturday) Banquet & dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast; all at the Resort.

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Lady: _____ Phone: _____

Package #: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

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Disaster Relief Fund for the Philippines

My Brothers,

The Masonic Service Association of North America has established a Disaster Relief Fund for the Philippines, with all donations to be transferred directly to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for distribution to those in need. While it is too soon to determine the final extent of the loss of life and destruction of buildings, we know the suffering is extensive and will be long lasting. The MSA has made initial contact with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, and they have asked for this Disaster Relief Appeal to be made. Although the MSA is unable to receive any information on the losses that might have occurred to Masons or Lodges, we know from our "List of Lodges," that there are Lodges operating in Tacloban City and Cebu City, and perhaps other cities that were in the direct path of the storm.

We who are Maine Masons have an opportunity to demonstrate again, our Charity for what are obviously the right reasons by helping those affected by this tragedy. To that end, I am appealing to Masonic Lodges and individual Masons in Maine to consider making a monetary donation to assist in the relief efforts now underway in the Philippines. This is strictly a voluntary effort on your part.

To coordinate an organized effort and to insure that your funds are accounted for, please make checks written out to ***Masonic Charitable Foundation*** and mail them to ***Grand Lodge of Maine, PO Box 430, Holden, ME 04429-0430***. Please mark clearly on your check ***Philippines Appeal***. **Checks will be deposited and reissued to the Masonic Service Association of North America who will act as the conduit in seeing that 100 percent of your contributions are distributed directly to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines to benefit Masons and their families affected by Typhoon Haiyan. If you and your Lodge wish to make a donation, I ask that it is done in accordance with the guidelines set forth in this letter and only so far as your cable-tow will allow.**

Thanking you in advance for your kindness and charity as only Maine Masons and Masonic Lodges know how.
Fraternally,

A. James Ross

Grand Master of Masons in Maine

The Masonic Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Maine is recognized as a tax-exempt 501 c(3) public charity by the IRS and therefore your contribution is tax deductible applicable to the laws of the United States and the State of Maine.