

THE MAINE MASON

**MODERN
MASONRY
CELEBRATES
300 YEARS**

**IN LONDON'S
ROYAL ALBERT HALL**

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THE MAINE MASON

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line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

It's Thanksgiving Day as I pen this column. But events of the last few days and weeks cast a pall over this important — and favorite — American holiday.

It's Thanksgiving Day as I write this, surely a day demanding and deserving thanks and appreciation for so many blessings. But this year, this Thanksgiving Day, the thanks are tempered with profound sadness for me and for many others among our Craft.

While I give thanks for the gift of friendship of Past Grand Masters Bob Damon, Harland Hitchings, and Gerry Leighton, I'm greatly saddened by their passings. While I'm thankful for the friendship and brotherly love of Wor. Brother Dick Gunn of Rockland, I'm saddened by his death. While I'm thankful for the friendship of two remarkable long-time citizens of the Kennebunks, Catherine Adams and Carol Holmberg, their passing leaves personal sadness and gaping holes in the fabric of the community they loved so well.

And so today, I find myself trying to balance the almost overwhelming sense of loss of six friends over such a short period of time with the extreme gratitude for having known each of these good, loving and exemplary children of God.

* * * * *

I pause to reflect on the thoughts and words above, and in doing so sift through the 40 pages of this issue of The Maine Mason. What I read is uplifting. What you brethren are doing is inspiring. You truly are builders. You surely are making important differences in your communities whether it be by filling shelves of food banks, helping those with disabilities, treating special ladies, providing assistance so children can read, honoring our veterans, making hospitalized kids feel a bit better when they're not home for Christmas, or the many other important services you brethren routinely provide.

Scanning these 40 pages provides a lift, an upward shift in spirit. The sadness lingers, and won't soon take leave, but reflecting on your commitment, energy and accomplishment gives assurances that, despite the many losses, Thanksgiving remains, above all, a time to give thanks. And be filled with hope for what lies ahead.

From the Grand East

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

“A Time for Reflection and Hopefulness”

Euphoric! That’s the best way to describe my feelings when representing you in London where more than 4,000 Brethren from around the world gathered in Royal Albert Hall to celebrate our Masonic history, our values, as well as the 300th anniversary of the founding of the premier Grand Lodge on St. John’s Sunday, June 24, 1717. Pictures from the trip are displayed on pages 18-19.

The largest gathering of Grand Masters in history, from 136 jurisdictions, were welcomed in the East of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) by The Grand Master, Prince Edward, Duke of Kent.

I met the UGLE Grand Master, saying, “I extend my hand in friendship from all the Masons in Maine.” He responded, “That is very kind of you.” We then spoke of the trip to attend this spectacular event. Unquestionably, this will be a highlight of my term as Grand Master, as it will be for all who attended. Yet there are so many more highpoints of 2017 with which we all should be pleased.

Our achievements...attained together.

Those highpoints, my Brethren, are our many great achievements of the past year: strengthening Lodges and Districts; building membership; helping our Brethren and their widows; and making caring and powerful contributions to our communities.

Strengthening Lodges

Many Lodges are finding new resolve and hope, installing full officer teams and identifying priorities for the future. Active district associations are being formed to allow Brethren to join forces and coordinate their many activities – Lodges tend to be stronger where there is an active district association to lend a guiding hand.

Brethren are also reducing their financial risk by bringing nearly 100% of the building associations onto the Grand Lodge master insurance program. Your considerable efforts have yielded better protection at often significantly lower cost!

Building Membership

Lodges are holding successful fellowship nights designed to explain our Craft and its works to good men. Has your Lodge held one for men in your community? The fellowship night program is on the Grand Lodge website (www.MaineMason.org). Financial aid is available to support your membership development efforts.

Over 4,000 former Masons and degree candidates have been contacted and urged to return to the Craft.

Lodges were asked to waive old outstanding dues and to make follow-up calls to each person.

There has been a strong response to this effort, with many appreciative Master Masons and candidates coming home to Masonry. Referrals for Lodge and appendant body membership have been received as a result of the Grand Master’s Membership Appeal.

And letters were recently sent to 123 Scottish Rite Masons who have moved to Maine but have not joined a Maine Lodge. We thank our new Sovereign Grand Commander for helping us reach out with Brotherly Love to these Brethren.

Providing Relief to our Brethren

Since the first Brotherhood Grant was awarded in September 2016, the Charitable Foundation has assisted some 90 Masonic families with grants totaling \$145,000. Brotherhood awards are made within hours of requests being received, with larger relief grants being processed on an expedited basis. Your donations to the Brotherhood Fund, through the Grand Master’s Challenge at the 2017 Annual Communication and the Grand Master’s Annual Appeal, have totaled over \$36,000 since April 1st. Thanks to you all!

Contributing to our Communities

Freemasons are committed to improving the quality of life in our communities, especially the lives of children. How? By promoting enlightenment (Bikes for Books); service to others (Youth Honor Role); purity of life (Project Graduation, chemical free events); and in many other ways (Youth Activity Grants)!

We should all be excited with a new initiative by Maine Masons to provide relief, safety and security to vulnerable children. Since our Annual Communication



Continued on Page 18

Around the Grand Lodge Water Cooler...

By Brother Dan Bartlett
RW Grand Secretary

You were made a Mason when you were raised in a lodge. Did you have the makings of a Mason long before you darkened the doorway of a lodge room? I would say for many Brethren they did and after they were raised attached a name to the way they live their life and started a journey of self-improvement.

Like all of you, I've known many good men in my lifetime. Some were Masons, many were not. And others I just didn't know they were Masons. They have all had a big impact on my life.

My father John was not a Mason. For those who knew him, they would all unequivocally say he was a good man with a positive outlook and lived a good life. He worked hard, earned a good living as a truck driver and enjoyed the fruits of his labors. He was married to my mother for 57+ years and was a pillar of their church for 50 years. He served his community for many years volunteering his time for a food share program and served as a Cemetery Commissioner for many years after retiring. Tending to the town's cemeteries was one of his pastimes. Faith, hope and charity. He practiced these tenets his whole life and by example, led me to do the same.

As a young Coast Guardsman, I was stationed at Manana Island Fog Signal Station for more than 2 years in the early 1980s. I did not know anyone whom I could have told you was a Mason. At that time in my life, a mason was a bricklayer. As was typical at the time out there, I would work as a stern man for the lobstermen during the season on Monhegan Island. There were several men who I worked for but mostly it was a father and son who were both successful lobstermen.

I learned a great deal from them including how to salt down a barrel of herring and band lobsters. More importantly, they taught me skills needed to handle myself on the water, teamwork and taking care of each other. Living on an island 10 miles offshore necessitated putting into practice these lessons every day.

I discovered only recently that both are Masons. The father was raised in Meduncook Lodge #211 in 1947 and his son was raised in Hancock Lodge #4 in 1969.

I've discovered that men with whom I worked, whose

families I knew, enjoyed meals with and relied upon for my safety, were long time Masons; and men I've known for my entire life, while not Masons, espoused the characteristics and lived a life that any Mason would be proud to call his own.

There are many good men out there but Freemasonry doesn't have the corner on them. You may not find them in the news but, you will find them quietly going about their business. Taking care of their family, their neighbors and their community in much the same way that my father the non-mason did and the same way we Masons strive to live our lives. These good men are who we need to seek out going forward to collectively live our lives in an honest and upright fashion. By doing this publicly we shine as an example for others to follow. We as Masons need to lead these good men to our Fraternity to not only help them better themselves, but to better all of us in the process.

And now a shameless plug while we are talking about leading people. Among the many ways to serve your Brethren is by serving as a Grand Lodge Officer, on a Grand Lodge committee or as a Trustee of the Charitable Foundation. To serve as a Grand Lodge Warden or above you must have served successfully as a Worshipful Master. The remaining positions require you to be a Master Mason in Good Standing. We are looking for *active, forward thinking leaders* willing to serve. I know some of you will say you haven't been a Mason long enough. Decades as a Mason does not automatically equate to leadership skills. Accurately recognizing the business of our organization is the first key. I'm here to tell you we are in the people business, plain and simple.

We need Masons to serve who recognize this and thrive in this environment. Louis Mobley, the director of IBM's Executive School in the 1950s and 1960's noted that success comes 20% from knowledge and 80% from behavior. You don't need to be the smartest Mason in the room. Leadership lives in **how** we think, not **what** we think. So, think about it! If you're interested and believe you possess specific experience or skills that might be beneficial, or you just want to bounce some ideas around, give me a call and let's talk.

Do Good unto All



A Letter to our Grand Secretary and Charitable Foundation, but actually...

An Open Letter to Every Maine Mason

RW Daniel Bartlett, Grand Secretary and Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation:

I am writing to thank you for your very generous gift of \$3500.00 to assist Doris Leighton, daughter of the late William Leighton, a long-time lodge brother.

Ms. Leighton suffers from cerebral palsy and finds it very difficult to ambulate stairs. The front entrance to her home is nearly 4 feet from the ground, making going in and out of her home quite an ordeal.

Earlier this Summer, Brother Scott Walton was speaking with a relative of Doris who made him aware of her situation. Brother Walton contacted Grand Lodge, and the ball was rolling. The Grand Secretary contacted District Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Mike Pratt, 15th Masonic District, who in turn contacted Vernon Valley Lodge No. 99 Master Worshipful James O'Connor and Secretary Very Worshipful Charles Wadleigh.

The idea of building a ramp was brought up at the next Lodge meeting. A contribution of \$500.00 was made by the brethren, and an application for assistance was made to Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation approved an additional contribution of \$3500.00. With \$4,000.00 available for construction of a ramp, the Lodge set out to get estimates. Three estimates were received, all were in excess of \$7,000.00.

At the next meeting of the Lodge, the matter was discussed, and former Worshipful Master H. James Webster agreed that he would see that the job was done for the amount allocated.

The job required two 6ft. by 8ft. platforms be built and tied together with 20ft. and 27 ft. ramps respectively. The project was started on October 12 and completed eight days later.

Doris was very excited and happy to have her new ramp. Watching her traverse the ramp with ease was a real sense of joy for everyone involved.

This project was accomplished because Doris's father was a Mason, and even though he has passed from Earth, the faithfulness of Masonry, and the oath that we all took to watch out for the families of brethren, was lived out, and the World was made just a little bit better because of it.

Thanks go out to all who were involved in the project, especially the Grand lodge for its generous contribution.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. James Webster (Jim),
Past Master, Vernon Valley Lodge No. 99



Wor. Jim Webster, PM of Vernon Valley Lodge #99, Ms. Doris Leighton and VW Charles Wadleigh, Secretary of the lodge, stand on the new ramp and admire a job well done.



The completed ramp.

St. John's Lodge Hosts Annual Special Ladies Event

Members of St. John's Lodge #51 of South Berwick recently hosted their annual event recognizing and honoring its Masonic widows. The October 14th evening of entertainment and fellowship was again organized by Bro. Jerry Illig, who did a fantastic job pulling it all together.

The evening started off with the special ladies being treated to a fantastic meal prepared by brethren of the square and compasses club. Brethren of the club always seem to come through supporting the lodge's many activities, and they certainly came through for the ladies and guests on this occasion.

As they arrived, the ladies were presented corsages. After eating, all repaired to the lodge room where a brief presentation was given by R.W. John O Bond Sr., who also pinned several ladies who had not previously received a Broken Column widows' pin. The ceremony was very much appreciated by all the ladies and guests.

Entertainment for the evening was arranged by Senior Warden Al Sequeria, and consisted of more than a dozen talented young ladies from the McDonough-Grimes Irish Dance Studio of Dover, NH. The cast of dancers was directed by Mr. John Grimes, who was previously a member of the "Riverdance" cast. The girls performed a wonderful arrangement of Irish dances and performances, and everyone present agreed that this was one of the most enjoyable and successful Special Ladies nights at St. John's in recent memory.

Lodge Chaplain Wor. D.K. Horne closed the evening leading all in singing, *God Bless America*.

All the ladies left with big smiles on their faces, and hearts filled with appreciation while the brethren expressed happiness to have hosted such a pleasurable event. As Brother Bill Young said in reflection, "we certainly expect to repeat this success for our ladies next year."



Special ladies and program entertainers pose for a group shot in the lodge room.

FROM THE 'NEAR EAST'



Multi-Track

If you have ever seen the sound board at a music event; have a home music system which allows you to select or adjust audio tracks; or listened to professionally recorded music, you have experienced mixing multiple tracks together to achieve a desired output. I use multi-track music with the choir. This allows our choir to rehearse with the words and then perform the song with the words track removed. For such situations, this ability to select only the “music” track is very valuable. However, it seems to me, that “single track masonry” can be detrimental within your Lodge, to your Brothers, and to the community your Lodge inhabits and serves.

For many years, several, if not most, of the Lodges have valued only a single track of the symphony of Freemasonry despite the nearly endless possibilities inherent in the diversity in the lives of our Brothers. We focus on the ability to memorize ritual and fill a chair. A Brother’s value and authenticity as a Mason is determined by that single track. The fullness of the symphony that is Freemasonry is ignored in favor of just the melody line.

As defined by the sweep of the Great Light of Freemasonry, human value and purpose is found as we engage the fullness of our Brothers who all possess gifts and talents. Being true to our tenets and teachings requires us to celebrate the value of all of a Brother’s gifts and allow him to grow and become a better man by encouraging him to use those gifts for the betterment of the Lodge and Freemasonry in general.

From the beginning of a Brother’s Masonic life he is encountered with the insistence that he memorize certain items to demonstrate proficiency before he can continue his journey. Nothing in this demand recognizes whether or not he has a gift of memorization or

whether or not he understands the meaning of what he has been required to memorize. The Masonic Code requires he “demonstrate proficiency.” The Master of the Lodge has the prerogative to declare him proficient by whatever criteria he chooses.

As his horizons in Freemasonry broaden, we should take the time to know him well enough to discern his interests and abilities and encourage him to use them for the betterment of all within the Lodge. All too often we suggest by our actions that the only value he brings to the Craft is to fill a chair. How often have we missed a potentially great secretary, treasurer, chaplain, fund-raiser, cook, PR person, building manager, or just a Brother who seeks to be a great Brother to others because we hear only one track of the symphony which is Freemasonry.

The wisdom and insights of Freemasonry will continue to be shared in the years ahead. There are many now, and many more to come, who have the gift of memorization, who enjoy acting a part, or enjoy the tasks placed upon the Officers of the Lodge. We value their efforts. We should also value equally the efforts of those with other gifts. We wonder why so many men do not come back and finish the Degrees or, once raised, slip away almost unnoticed – forgotten as NPDs. Perhaps it has something to do with our inability to hear a track within the Craft which resonates for them.

Our Craft is strong and purposeful when we appreciate and value all of our Brothers. As we address the purposes of Freemasonry going forward, may we do so enjoying the full pleasure of the Masonic Symphony writ large.

Fraternally,

Mark Rustin

Deputy Grand Master

A Brother in Need...and how Masons Respond

By Terrence L. Magee
Jefferson Lodge #100, Bryant Pond

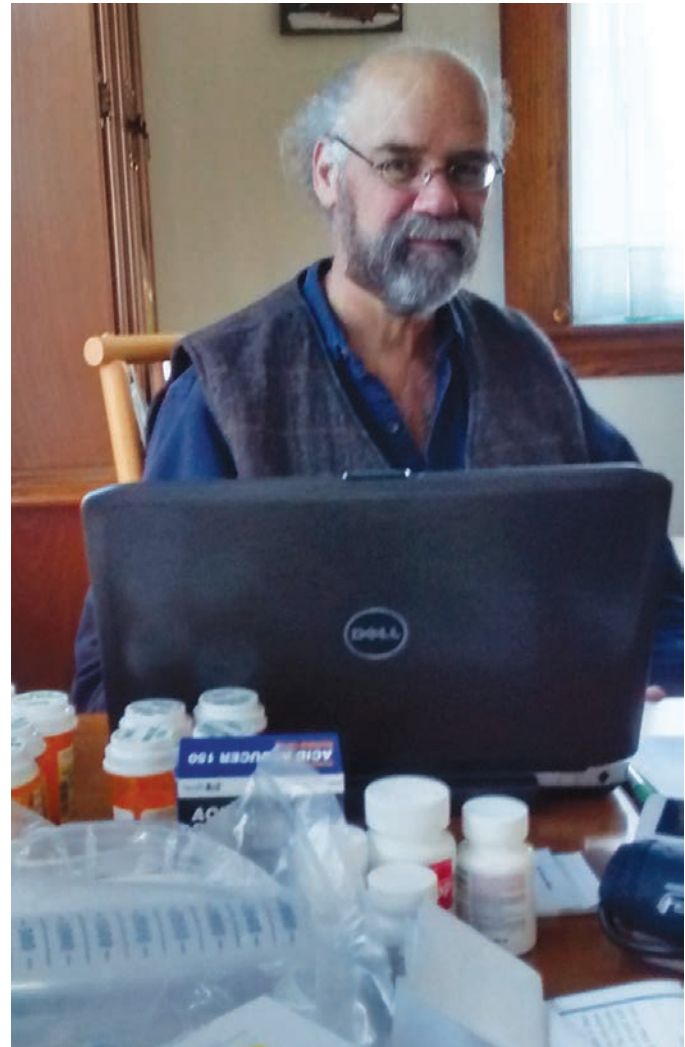
As Masons we are frequently called upon to offer assistance to others, whether it is the Grand Master's Appeal, the Brotherhood Fund, or something as simple as volunteering to work a benefit dinner. Most of us think nothing of it, it's one of the reasons we joined the Masons, to play a greater role in our community and assist others. I will freely admit that I didn't think any farther than how much will my financial situation permit me to contribute this time. The thought of what happens to that money and how is it used never entered my mind beyond a vague notion that it's used to help people. This all changed in July of this year.

I just had my 60th birthday and was beginning to feel a bit run down. I attributed this to some medication my doctor had prescribed and the stress of recently starting a new job. I passed it off with a joke; telling friends, "I hit sixty and it hit back...hard."

My doctor had ordered some blood work to determine why I might be feeling so run out. On a Friday evening in late July, my wife, Diane, met me at the door as I returned from work and said, "Your doctor just called, we need to go to the Emergency Room now." This began a series of visits to a gastroenterology group and a referral to the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Mass in late August. During this time, I felt worse each day and, with the approval of my supervisor, began taking some time off and working partial days.

We scheduled the appointment at Lahey as early in the day as possible figuring we would be able to complete the intake, provide blood for lab work, schedule a return visit and be home before dark. I met the doctor, went to the lab and, after lunch, returned to the doctor to get the results of the lab work. Reviewing the test results, the doctor said he was concerned as some of the values were much higher than normal and explained the he was admitting me for observation.

I was released four days later after receiving a diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver due to a reaction to prescribed medication. It was felt that, since the indicators were getting better, this might have been an acute event and the liver may recover in time. While waiting for the discharge paperwork to be completed, I received a call from my supervisor telling me I would have to resign my position as I no longer had any accrued time.



Brother Magee behind his computer and an assortment of many medication bottles.

After my discharge from Lahey, I was visiting Emergency Rooms almost every other day and spending a day or two in the hospital before being released and beginning the pattern all over again. During this time I contacted the Master and the Secretary of our Lodge to resign my position as Treasurer as I did not feel I could effectively complete my duties.

Shortly after resigning as Treasurer, I received a card signed by my Brothers at Jefferson Lodge 100, and a much-needed check as I no longer had a job and the medical providers were looking for their money. A short time later I received a card and donation from Jefferson Chapter 89 OES and then donations from the Grand

Continued on Following Page

A Brother in Need...

Continued

Lodge of Maine and the Grand Chapter of Maine. We have also received cards, phone calls, and donations from individual Brothers and Sisters and, to our surprise, from Mountain View Chapter 197 OES, a Chapter, I am sorry to admit, I have never visited.

Early September found me back at Lahey and on the list for a liver transplant as mine had pretty much packed up shop. It wasn't until September 30 that a liver became available and I received my transplant. In the meantime, things had become so desperate that my wife and I had begun making funeral plans. Having the surgeon come in that evening and say that a liver had become available was like the cavalry riding over the hill. Diane narrowly avoided receiving a Masonic widow's pin.

The donations we received permitted my wife to stay with me in Burlington instead of having to return to Maine. This, of course, was a great comfort to both of us.

On those occasions when she had to return to Maine, I could call her, but that isn't the same as being able to hold her hand. We have also been able to meet some of the co-pays and deductibles for medical bills and medications, and travel expenses for regular follow-up visits to Lahey.

This, then, is how those charitable donations are used and the effect they have. Diane and I do not have any family nearby, yet thanks to our Masonic Brothers and Sisters we did not feel that we were alone in facing these challenges. We are deeply grateful for the assistance we have received and feel that we owe a debt that we may never be able to adequately repay.

The benefit and effect of donations is plain to see and calculate, but the emotional support we have received has been invaluable. Masonic charity is provided in many ways, but perhaps the most important is letting someone know they do not have to face a challenge alone. As for Diane and me, we feel like a couple of latter day George Baileys.

Thank you all.

ATTENTION

Maine Masons Who Live or Will Be in Florida on Sunday, February 11, 2018

MW Thomas E. Pulkkinen and his lady Sharon invite the Masons of Maine and their spouses/ friends to the 16th Annual "Maine Masons in Florida Day" at the SAHIB Shrine Center, 600 N. Beneva Rd, in Sarasota. This will be a time of social enjoyment and an opportunity to meet and make new friends among Maine Masons and Maine Masonic Widows who reside or winter in Florida.

The time to assemble is recommended to be 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. which will allow us time to socialize prior to lunch being served at noon.

Following lunch M.W. Brother Pulkkinen will make an interesting presentation.

You may make reservations for this affair through RW Brother Pete Forrest either by phone at 207-745-0732, or email at rgpeteforrest@aol.com. It would help us if visitors would share their temporary Florida address, email address and telephone number.

Let's make this time a great time with MW Brother Tom and Sharon.

Deadline for reservations is February 5, 2018

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

Price will be \$22 per Mason. Ladies are guests of the Grand Master

Note: There will be a vegetable plate for those who do not eat pork.
Please advise if you need this meal option when you make your reservation.



An Introductory Letter from Your New Charitable Foundation Director

To the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Maine,

It is a privilege to write this letter to you as the new Executive Director of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation. I started officially on October 1, 2017, and I'm so happy to be here and to be a part of your world.

During my initial interview for this position, after much wonderful discussion about my previous work experience and the goals of the Foundation, I was asked, "Why do you want to work here?" Such a simple question, but my answer is a true reflection of what Freemasonry can mean. The reason is that I am a child and grandchild of Masons, and the integrity, worldview, and selflessness that comes from being a part of Freemasonry - something I experienced firsthand - is what called to me.

Friendship. Fraternal Love. Charity. Truth. Integrity. These words define the Mason, make him a natural leader, and have been relevant to Freemasonry since the very beginning. Brethren offer help to those in need, never judging, simply offering a hand as a friend. In my life, as a child, I watched as Masons were always there for our family after my grandfather died. This care remained until my grandmother's death, which came two decades later. She was never forgotten and, indeed, at her funeral there were men from my grandad's Lodge who came to represent the Brotherhood.

I couldn't imagine a better organization to work for, and better people to work with. The bedrock of Freemasonry is genuine care and concern for others, and these traits are what's needed to begin healing the sometimes stark and frightening divisions in the world. As I begin working both for and with all of you, I'd like to tell you a bit of what that means to me. Most important, I think, is the symbolism of light and illumination that speaks to so many of us, but most especially to Freemasons. Brothers study and then take this symbolism of light into the world, and there are times when it takes tremendous strength to hold the light high in the face of darkness. You are all pretty fearless! The following quote is from John L. Cooper's writings:



"While Freemasonry is concerned with self-illumination, it is more concerned with what a Mason does with that self-illumination. If it serves only to foster interior growth for the Mason himself, it has little value for the larger world in which a Mason lives each day. We expect the search for interior illumination to make a difference in a Mason as he grows in knowledge and understanding, but we expect much more that he will use that knowledge and understanding to make a difference in his family, his community, his country, and his world."

Your support of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation has been rich and constant, and your giving via the Grand Master's Appeal has been generous. Through this culture of philanthropy, which has been so clearly embraced by all of you, you make a profound difference for not just fellow Masons, but for entire communities. In a world that is frequently at odds, where even civilized discourse can be found wanting, Freemasonry leads with the heart and an outstretched hand. It is quite clear to me that Masonic principles improve everyday life.

What to say about an organization such as this, one that inspires and can always be counted on to help? One that selflessly provides assistance to its own Masonic community as well as communities at large? I think the most important thing to say is this - I am honored to be here. One of the greatest secrets to a happy life is really no secret at all, and it comes from the Sermon on the Mount - it is simply to know that our best work comes when we do unto others as we would have done to ourselves.

You have welcomed me so warmly! I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, returning that warmth. I also look forward to answering all of your questions about the Foundation, and working with you in service to our communities in the great State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Amanda

Amanda Larson

Masonic Model Student Assistance Program

The *Masonic Model Student Assistance Program* (MMSAP) is an intensive workshop for educators to learn how to identify, intervene with, and create appropriate referrals for students who may be at risk for substance abuse, depression, suicide, or violence. The program was developed in 1986, and the National Masonic Foundation for Children has worked with Masons in thirty states to present this extraordinary program to as many school staff members as possible. The workshop trains a Core Team of five to eight educators and support personnel from participating schools in how to intervene early and effectively with students who display patterns of behaviors that threaten their success at school and in life.

The Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation underwrites this training so there is **no cost** to participating schools, and the training has been certified for continuing education credit by the University of Southern Maine.

The photos are from October 4/5, 2017, when the Foundation welcomed staff from 11 Maine school dis-



tricts to Rabboni Lodge #150 in Auburn for a two-day intensive training. Many thanks to Worshipful Master James Thibodeau and an amazing team of volunteers for helping make this event so successful.

The Foundation looks forward to bringing this training to as many school personnel as possible in the coming years. We can do it with your help! Masons statewide can assist by speaking about MMSAP to school board members, administrator, and educators.

For more information please go to

**<https://www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org/programs/studentassistanceprogram/>
or email Amanda Larson at director@masoniccharitablefoundation.org.**



The Star and Garter

by Michael G. Hopkins
Saco Lodge #9

When the Master gives us our Lambskin, or white leather apron, as an Entered Apprentice, he tells us it is more honorable than the Star and Garter. To what does he allude?

Most Masonic scholars believe that the reference is to the Most Noble Order of the Garter, originated by King Edward III sometime between 1344 and 1348. England was at that time engaged in the early period of the Hundred Years War and King Edward was celebrating a great victory at Crécy. The original statutes required that each member already be a knight. The Order, still active, is considered the most prestigious non-military honor in the United Kingdom. It is also the oldest national chivalric order in continuous existence.¹

Membership, now as then, is limited to the British sovereign and 25 Knights Companion (or, if female, as is now allowed, Ladies Companion). Nowadays, there are also Royal Knights and Ladies Companion, consisting of some members of the royal family, and Stranger Knights and Ladies Companion, consisting of some foreign kings and queens. Only the sovereign (now Queen Elizabeth II) can appoint Companions. Knights are referred to as “Sir,” Ladies as “Lady.”



The Order has regalia of interest. The annual iconic Garter Day procession, where The Queen and the Knights process in grand velvet robes, glistening insignia and plumed hats, is one of the most traditional ceremonies in the Queen’s calendar. This ceremony begins with the installation of any new Companions.

The plumed hats of white ostrich are reminiscent of chapeau worn by knights of the York Rite Commandery. The Order Companions also wear a collar much like the collar jewels worn by Lodge officers in Masonry. A star is also worn on the left breast of Knights Companion which may also remind Masons of pocket jewels.

But most important is the blue garter, worn on the left leg by Knights Companion and on the left arm by Ladies. The garter is a blue velvet strap bearing the motto of the Order. The motto of the Order is, “Honi soit qui mal y pense.”

This motto is in Norman French and translates as, “Shame to him who thinks ill of it.”



It may seem a surprise to some that the English would have an important motto in Norman French until it is remembered that it was the court language at that time and had been since the conquest of England by William of Normandy in 1066. This situation was to change under Edward III. In 1362 he opened Parliament for the first time in English and that same year a law was passed making English the language used in law courts.²

Thus, the Master of your Lodge is alluding to a very noble and ancient order when he gives you your apron. The Order is indeed honorable, but not more so than that you are then receiving.



¹ The original “Founder Knights” of the Order are depicted in an illuminated book called the Bruges Garter Book made around 1431.

² See Michael Hopkins, “Chaucer and the Spirit of an Age,” an essay submitted to the Maine Lodge of Research, August 2015. Available from the Maine Lodge of Research or from the author.

Masons interested in the Order may wish to read Stephanie Trigg, Shame and Honor: A Vulgar History of the Order of the Garter, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. This book is available via interlibrary loan (MaineCat system) from Bowdoin College

In Memoriam

Most Worshipful Brother Robert Vernley Damon



**Our 85th M.W. Grand Master
Served 1990-1992**

Born April 11, 1928 Raised Oct. 17, 1963 Died Nov. 15, 2017

The Raising of RW Brother Samuel Stephenson

by Wor. Brother Chris Camire

Right Worshipful Samuel Stephenson was born in the District of Maine, in the State of Massachusetts, on April 5, 1776. Born in West Gorham, he made his trade as a merchant and shipmaster in the quaint village of Portland.

In Portland Lodge (now Triangle Lodge), Bro. Stephenson was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on April 17, 1799. The record of his Fellow Craft degree was lost. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on October 31, 1799.

Bro. Stephenson married Miss Abigail Longfellow, of Gorham, in October of 1801. Together, they would have three sons and six daughters. They lived in a three-story, Federal style house on the corner of Fore and Hancock Streets in Portland.

For a time, Abigail's brother and his wife came to stay with them while Bro. Stephenson was at sea. On February 27, 1807, Bro. Stephenson's nephew was born at home: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

After mastering a vessel for many years, Bro. Stephenson was gifted a large piece of land in Gorham by his father-in-law, Judge Stephen Longfellow. That was in 1812. The Stephenson family would retire there to live in a farmhouse that still stands to this day.

In 1822, Bro. Stephenson would become a charter member of Harmony Lodge #38, in Gorham. He served as the lodge's first Junior Warden, a post he would hold for three years. He was then elected the lodge's second Master. Eight years later, in 1830, Bro. Stephenson was appointed District Deputy of the First Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Maine, one of the first since the Grand Lodge's inception just ten years prior.

R.W. Brother Stephenson passed to the Celestial Lodge above on May 23, 1858 at the advanced age of 85. He is buried with his family in Eastern Cemetery in Portland.

During a recent inventory of the vault at the Portland Masonic Temple, a briefcase was discovered. Inside this briefcase were packed hundreds of Portland Lodge documents of all shapes and sizes, and spanning

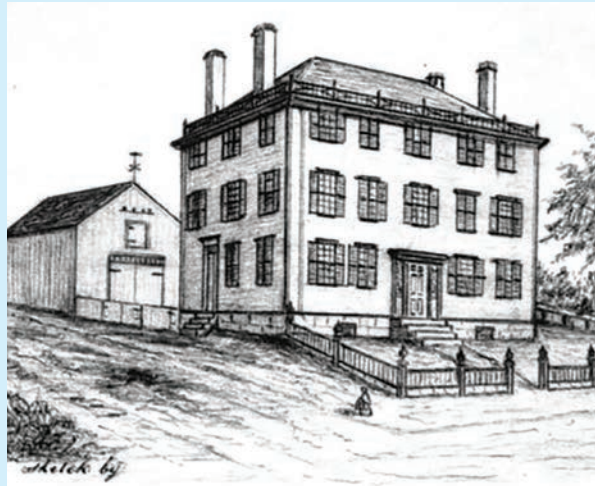
back many decades. At the bottom of this briefcase was folded Samuel Stephenson's Masonic Diploma.

Given the significance of this Right Worshipful and beloved brother, there was only one thing to do.

On October 18th of this year, brethren from Triangle Lodge visited Harmony Lodge for their Annual Visitation with the District Deputy Grand

Master. After a night of good fellowship and splendid degree work, the brethren of Triangle Lodge surprised their Harmony brethren with the framed diploma, commemorating the raising of one of their founding members, and first Masters, 218 years ago this month.

Harmony Lodge is working to preserve the document so that it may be displayed in their Lodge for years to come.



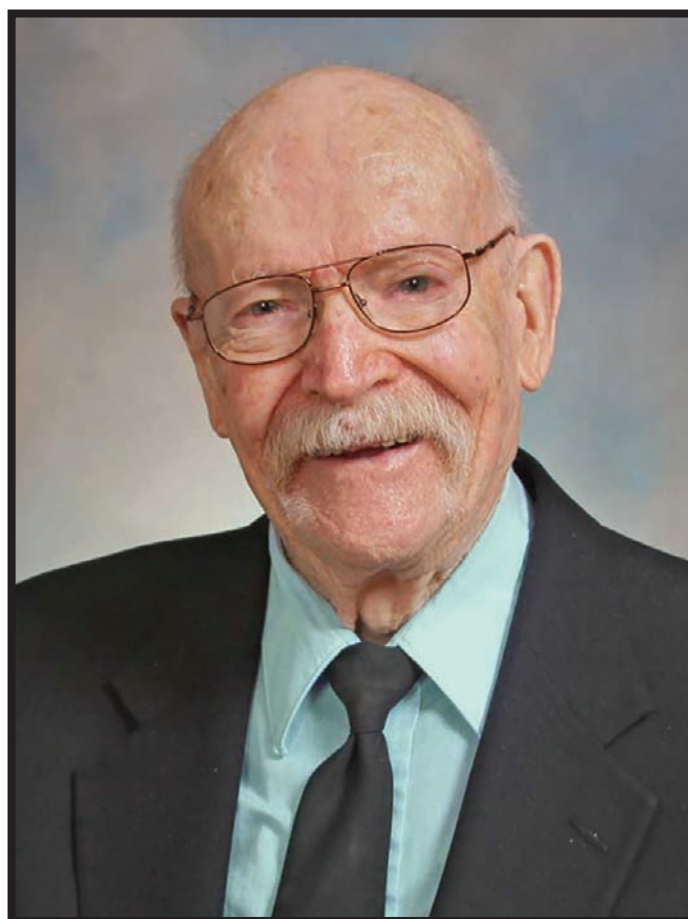
Bro. Samuel Stephenson's home in Portland, birthplace of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



Wor. Chris Camire, Master of Triangle Lodge #1 (left) presents Masonic Diploma to Wor. Keith Cook, Master of Harmony Lodge #38.

In Memoriam

Most Worshipful Brother Harland Samuel Hitchings



**Our 87th M.W. Grand Master
Served 1994-1996**

Born Jan. 13, 1922

Raised April 6, 1955

Died Sept. 30, 2017

York County Masons Honor Vets on November 11

The day dawned sunny, bright, cold and windy, but that seemed not to deter grateful brethren and their families from turning out at the Veterans Cemetery in Springvale to honor the men and women who have served this great country in various branches of military service.

Planned and spearheaded by RW Brother Brian Ingalls, DDGM/19, and emceed by MW Brother Wayne Adams, the ceremony was complete with wreath laying by Grand Master Tom Pulkkinen, appropriate remarks by Army Capt. Brian McClellan, a color guard comprised of men who are both Masons and military veterans, and taps played by Wor. Bud Jamison, a past master of Fraternal Lodge #55 of Alfred.

The ceremony continued at Ocean Lodge #142 in Wells where brethren gathered in the dining area properly decorated in red, white and blue. Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard flags hung on the walls.

Five World War II veterans joined the gathering at the lodge and enjoyed the delicious steak dinner cooked by Brother Dana Brown on industrial sized outdoor grills. Three of these special honored guests offered appropriate remarks.

So successful, important and well-received by the community, brethren plan to make the Veterans Day ceremony an annual event.



Photos by Brother Rich Otten



A few of the assembled at Ocean Lodge.



In Memoriam

Most Worshipful Brother Gerald Sanford Leighton



**Our 93rd M.W. Grand Master
Served 2006-2008**

Born Dec. 15, 1944

Raised May 5, 1988

Died Oct. 29, 2017

More scenes from English Masonry's 300th



Near Grand Lodge is Freemasons Arms, where all good Masons might enjoy a pint of their choice.



Freemasonry in the Western Hemisphere started at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern in Boston. There are several taverns so named in London, this one near Buckingham Palace.

From the Grand East

Continued from Page 3

last May, three professional training sessions have been held for school teachers and administrators to help them identify and intervene with at-risk students – kids subject to abuse, bullying, drugs, low self-esteem and other disturbing factors. More training events are being scheduled for the year ahead and we hope to offer them state-wide.

One attendee said, “Going through the process at this workshop helped identify strategies for a student we have worked with all year.” Another said, “All schools...all staff should attend this training.” See our program video on: www.MasonicCharitableFoundation.com and urge educators you know to take advantage of this opportunity at no cost to them.

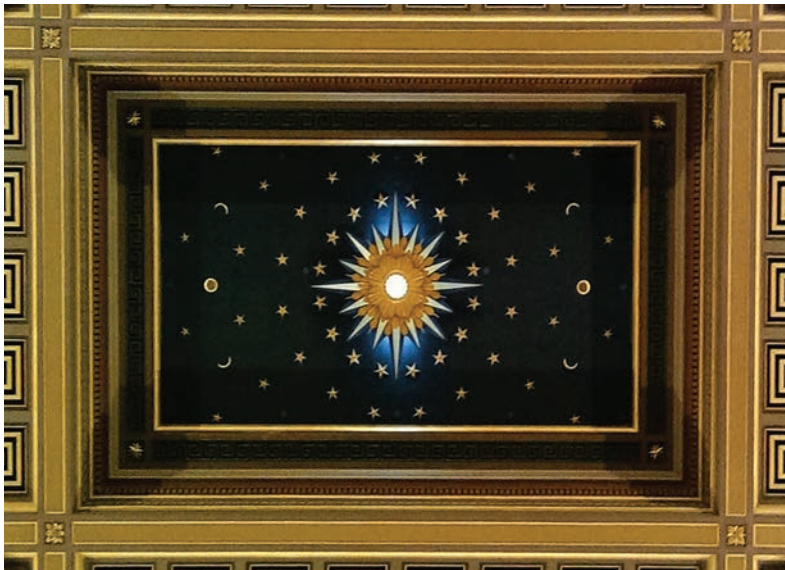
Looking Ahead with Hopefulness

Brethren, we should all enter the New Year with enthusiasm and excitement over what we can achieve together. Always strive to add value to the Masonic experience of Brethren and candidates. Pursue the Masonic Excellence Award. Look for good men in your life and community who should be Freemasons, and present them the greatest gift possible – an opportunity to partake in a life-altering journey. And lastly, prepare your candidates to become Master Masons on Saturday, April 7th – our first statewide Master Mason class.

So Mote It Be!



The Lord Mayor of London, a Freemason and former Grand Organist, lives in a spectacular mansion that hosted a cocktail party for all invited guests.



The Starry Decked Heaven of Freemasons Hall is spectacular, with very large mosaic murals beneath it, replete with Masonic symbolism and lessons, one saying: *He shall build me a house and I will establish his.*



Within the United Grand Lodge of England is a life size painting of Worshipful George Washington, a tribute to the honor in which he is held in English Masonry. That respect was prominently displayed during the Tercentennial Celebration. Pictures of other US Presidents who were Masons were also projected on the large screen in Royal Albert Hall.



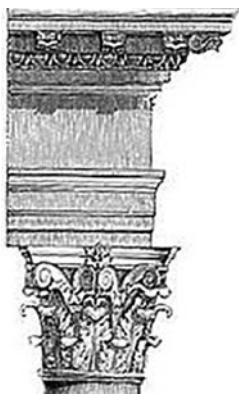
Pennsylvania Grand Master Benjamin Franklin lived in many places, but his only home still standing is this one at 38 Craven Street in London.



King George IV's Grand Master's throne was both ornamental and large as he weighed 20 stone or 280 pounds.



More than 4,000 Masons, including 136 Grand Masters from around the globe, witnessed a beautiful and meaningful ceremony that all Masons are encouraged to watch at www.RAH300.0rg



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

The College Briefly...

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

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

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

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

INVOLVEMENT!

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The Maine Masonic College Newsletter

The

ENTABLATURE

Whole Number 28

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Winter 2017-18



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COURSE OFFERINGS

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

-- ALL CLASSES OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC --

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

Dec 2 Astronomy

Of all the arts and sciences, Astronomy has the closest association with our human feeling of awe and our search for who and where we are. The Maine Masonic College through the University of Maine is pleased to present this planetarium program once each year for the enjoyment and edification of the whole family. The program is typically a blend of a guide to observe the night-time sky and an adventure into new discoveries in deep space. We have chosen December as the month for this occasion. The specific date will be announced.

Jan 6 Polishing the Stone:

In every Masonic Lodge Room, one enters one will find two stones prominently displayed – one rough cut the other smooth. These two stones – The Ashlars – bear special symbolic insight and significance to every man who has ever been or is now a Mason. They portray a man from the beginning to the end of his Masonic life and set before him a goal. This course is a study of these symbols and the meaning inherent within.

Instructor: Mark Rustin
Location: Horeb Lodge, Lincoln 9AM-12PM

January 20
Myth and Freemasonry

Continued on Page 22

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

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

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

The subject of this edition of the ‘Minutes’ is not only a Mason but a very active Mason. He was a Grand Master of Pennsylvania and founding member of a Lodge in France! He was also a Statesman, Governor of Pennsylvania, one of the founding fathers of America, first US Post Master General, Printer and Author, and a renowned scientist and inventor. Even today his face is on the \$100 bill which is known as a ‘Benjamin’. Brother Benjamin Franklin started his long and illustrious Masonic career on February 1, 1730 in St John’s Lodge in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

He was born January 17, 1706 in Boston, Massachusetts and passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on April 17, 1790. In recognition of his work with electricity, Franklin received the Royal Society’s Copley Medal in 1753, and in 1756 he became one of the few 18th-century Americans elected as a Fellow of that Society. He received honorary degrees from Harvard (advising the university in its acquisition of new electrical laboratory apparatus) and Yale universities. In the Metric System, a unit of electric charge has been named after him. He conducted extensive research on electricity in the 18th century. We learned in the last edition of The Minutes that electricity was moved from an intellectual curiosity to more a topic to study when William Gilbert associated static electricity, the first known version, to magnetism.

Brother Franklin’s most famous experiment was flying a kite, with a key attached, during a lightning storm. In 1750, he published a proposal for an experiment to prove that lightning is electricity by flying a kite in a storm. On June 15, 1752 Franklin, may possibly have conducted his well-known kite experiment in Philadelphia, successfully extracting sparks from a cloud. Some say he never did it! Why? Because if he did it like you see in the pictures, he would have been killed! Franklin described the experiment in the Pennsylvania Gazette. Joseph Priestley (See volume #6 of “The Minutes”) published details of the experiment in his 1767 *History and Present Status of Electricity*. In his

writings, Franklin indicates that he was aware of the dangers and offered alternative ways to demonstrate that lightning was electricity. Franklin was careful to stand on an insulator, keeping dry under a roof to avoid the danger of electric shock. So, Franklin did not perform this experiment in the way that is often pictured in popular literature, flying the kite and waiting to be struck by lightning. Instead he used the kite to collect some electric charge from a storm cloud, showing that lightning was electrical. On October 19 in a letter to England with directions for repeating the experiment, Franklin wrote:

When rain has wet the kite twine so that it can conduct the electric fire freely, you will find it streams out plentifully from the key at the approach of your knuckle, and with this key a phial, or Leyden jar, (The Leyden jar was the first means of storing an electric charge which then could be discharged at the experimenter’s will.) may be charged: and from electric fire thus obtained spirits may be kindled, and all other electric experiments [may be] performed which are usually done by the help of a rubber glass globe or tube; and therefore the sameness of the electrical matter with that of lightning completely demonstrated.

Next time, we will conclude our shocking journey down the path of the discovery of Electricity!



Brother Franklin with key.

Masonic College Course Offerings *Continued*

The purpose of this class is to express the basic and central nature of the spiritual life of the local Lodges as the foundation upon which Freemasonry is properly built. It will present information to the attendees, provide the opportunity for discussion and explanation, and utilize the true nature of the fraternity as an on-going resource for continued education and goal realization.

Instructor: Mark Rustin

Location: David A. Hooper Lodge, Sullivan 9AM-12PM

February 10

The Wondrous Fellow Craft Degree- a Journey for Our Times

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

Exploration will include the winding stairs, the liberal arts and sciences, the references to our human history and role of geometry and architecture, the jewels of a Fellow Craft, the passage to the Middle Chamber and the gem of Masonic

Teaching, the "Letter G Lecture".

Instructor: RW Donald McDougal and MW Walter Macdougall

Location: Rural Lodge, Sidney 9AM-12PM

February 24

Critical Thinking

This presentation is on the importance of Critical Thinking in society and our lives. Don McDougal and George Macdougall present on what Critical Thinking is, where it is used, how easily the brain can be fooled and ways to get to the correct decision.

Instructor: George Macdougall & Don McDougal

Location: Benevolent Lodge, Carmel 9AM-12PM

March 17

Examining the Modern Social Landscape: Implications for Freemasonry

The seminar serves as an introduction to understanding the complexities of demographic, social, and economic trends. We focus on both the United States as a whole and the State of Maine specifically. Masonic lodges have been an integral part of the social landscape for centuries.

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

Instructor: Christopher Howard

Location: Tyrian Lodge, Mechanic Falls 9AM-12PM

March 31

Rhetoric

While Rhetoric, as one of the seven liberal arts and sciences listed in the Fellow Craft Degree, covers the powerful and informative use of language in general, this training experience focuses on speech as an essential aspect of effective communication. This experience will provide the fundamental skills of organizing and delivery in speaking situations where the goal is either to inform

Instructor: UMO Staff-TBD

Location: Mystic Lodge, Hampden 9AM-12PM

April 14

Jurisprudence:

"A survey of the sources of Masonic principles and usages, of Masonic law and an analysis of how the former are expressed in the latter."

Instructor: Wayne T. Adams

Location: Limestone Lodge, Limestone 9AM-12PM

April 21

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

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

Instructors: Walter MacDougall & Don McDougal

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

Sailor Raised in Kittery's Naval Lodge #184



Bro. Gavilanoliner surrounded by five of the brethren who participated in his degree put on by a team of military veterans.

Brother Bruno Gavilanoliner became a Master Mason on September 13th in Naval Lodge. Born in Lima, Peru, he came to the United States at age 15.

Our brother joined the Navy seven years ago at age 21 and has had three tours of duty: first at FLC Patuxent River, MD (aviation supply division), second on the USS Gravelly DDG-107 (supply department S-10), and most recently at Portsmouth NSY (security department).

A married man, he is a second class petty officer now finishing his second contract. He is planning to re-enlist.

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



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

Actual Coin measures 2.5"



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

Please send _____ Maine Masonic Challenge Coins to:

Name _____ Address _____

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

Journey to the Southern End of the Earth

**By Brother James Michaud
Nollesemic Lodge #206**

Looking for a career change, I found myself entertaining several exciting job opportunities. After careful consideration I found myself on my way to Denver, Colorado for a job interview for a position in Antarctica, the seventh continent. After a second trip to the Mile High City, I was offered a job as a Maintenance Specialist at McMurdo Station, the gateway to the Antarctic Continent.

McMurdo is the largest by far, of the three year-round research stations on the continent. The United States operates some 30 stations and seasonal field camps in Antarctica and McMurdo Station, also known as McTown to the staff, is the flagship of them with around 1200 staff at the peak of the celestial summer season. The numbers drops to 150 during the winter. The station was established in December 1955. It is the logistical hub of the U.S. Antarctic Program, with a harbor, landing strips on sea ice and shelf ice, and a helicopter pad. Its 100 or so buildings range in size from a small radio shack to large, three-story structures. It has repair facilities, dormitories, administrative buildings, a firehouse, power plant, water distillation plant, wharf, stores, clubs, warehouses, and the first-class Crary Lab, all linked by above-ground water, sewer, telephone, and power lines.

Research is performed at and near McMurdo Station in aeronomy (the science of the upper atmosphere) and astrophysics, biology and medicine, geology and geophysics, glaciology and glacial geology, and ocean and climate systems. Participants of the Antarctic Artists and Writers Program also work at sites near McMurdo Station. At any given time in the summer months there are some 200 ongoing research projects.

McMurdo Station is built on bare volcanic rock on Hut Point Peninsula on the southern tip of Ross Island, which is in the New Zealand claimed Ross Dependency on the shore of McMurdo Sound. It is operated through the United States Antarctic Program, a branch of the National Science Foundation. McMurdo Station, located at 77 degrees 51 minutes S, 166 degrees 40 minutes E, is

the most southern piece of solid ground that is accessible by ship. Recorded temperature extremes have been as low as minus 58° F and as high as 46.4° F. The annual mean temp is minus 0.4° F. The monthly mean temperatures range from minus 26.6° F in January to minus 13° F in August. Drifting snow can accumulate up to 4' 11"



Brothers James Michaud, Mathew Sivers and Charlie Dwyer displaying the flag.

per year, although the station becomes snow-free in summer. Average wind is about 12 MPH. A gust of 173 MPH was recorded on the airfield at McMurdo Station in April of 2017.

Before I could embark on this adventure, an extensive health screening known as the PQ process was required. This was the most invasive and convoluted health screening I have ever been through. It is the cause for many folks being rejected or dropping out for various reasons. But, with that process behind me, I was soon on my way to the big freeze, called McTown and known by veterans as "The Ice" which refers to the Ross Shelf Glacier, home to all three airfields. McMurdo Station is nearly free of ice in the summer months, but is surrounded by the glacier. Amundsen-Scott Station is 800 mile away at the South Pole. The ice is approximately two miles thick there. With less than 1% moisture in the air, it doesn't rain or snow, but precipitation falls as tiny ice crystals

Soon after arriving on October 10, 2016, I was excited to learn that there are a number of Masons at the station and at the South Pole. A weekly Masonic "fellow-

Continued on Following Page



Masonic Flag flying at the South Pole alongside the flags of many nations.

Continued from Preceding Page

ship” meeting was organized and was open to all Masons and those interested in our organization. Over the months, I met many people from around the world. There were Brothers from the Philippines, Guam, a second mate from a Coast Guard cutter, and many others from the United States and New Zealand Armed Forces. Unfortunately no

a chance to see rare wildlife up close and personal, fly in various aircraft over the ice and mountains, hike trails and mountains that few people will ever see. I got to work, dine and socialize with scientists, researchers and explorers from around the world. I met world famous politicians, TV personalities and top military personnel, and even took part in the filming of two documentaries, one of which may put my image on national television (if the scenes make the cuts??).



View from the NASA RADSAT site, overlooking McTown and Observation Hill (OB Hill).

Each footstep taken, hike participated in, snow machine ride or trek out onto the ice puts one into an ever-smaller group of people to have been there and done that. I consider it an honor and privilege to experience this amazing place, to be able to serve my country and assist in supporting the research being accomplished here.

It is a further honor to support and spread Masonic Brotherhood while doing all of this. Freemasonry, I’m happy to report, is alive and well in Antarctica.

minutes were taken, so no accurate record of the attendees was kept.

During my time there, I found myself privileged to see the beauty and splendor of the landscape around this continent. Due to the rapidly changing celestial conditions as we transition from 24 hours of daylight to 24 hours of darkness and back again, the view is constantly changing.

Living and working in this environment presents unique opportunities and challenges, such as enduring the Antarctic cold and wind while walking to work and recreational activities. I had the opportunity to operate a snow machine out on the sea ice trails as well as on the lower slopes of Mt Erebus, an active volcano. Erebus is one of only two on the planet that is in a constant state of activity. It has a half mile open lava pool at the bottom. I had



Brother Michaud at the top of “Ob Hill”, Christmas Day 2016.

Honoring Our Masonic Veterans



Wilmer E. Redlevske, Sr., PM of Franklin Lodge #123 in New Sharon, received his 55-year star in the fall of 2016. In addition to serving as Master twice, he has served various capacities in DeMolay and Boy Scouts. and was active in building the new Masonic Hall in New Sharon.

Wallace M. Harvey, a member of Katahdin Lodge #98 in Patten, recently received his 50-Year Veterans Medal from MW Louis Greenier II.



Walter Lovett of Gov. Wm King Lodge #219, Scarborough, received his 50-Year Veterans Medal on September 14th. DDGM/17 Evan Mills and PDDGM/24 Guy Duprey presented the medal. Brother Walter's grandson, Bro. Stephen Sebastian, of Saccarappa Lodge #86, is shown here adjusting his grandfather's medal.



Saccarappa Lodge #86 in Westbrook enjoyed a special evening October 2 when Wor. Steve Laslie presented his father and his uncle their 40-year service pins. The brothers were raised the same night, April 11, 1977, in Bethlehem Lodge #35 in Augusta. Pictured here, flanking Wor. Brother Laslie, are his uncle, Carl, left, a PM of Bethlehem Lodge, and his dad, Paul, a PM of Saccarappa Lodge, now serving as lodge Senior Warden.

On September 13, at Tranquil Lodge #29 in Auburn, DDGM/23 George Herrick presented 50-year Veterans Medals to Bro. Donald Schoppe, Wor. Harland Lyman, and Bro. John Watson. Pictured here, left to right, are: Bro. John Ray, Bro. William Wing, and Bro. John Watson.

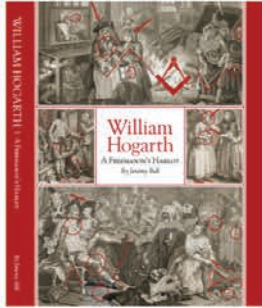


The holiday season is always filled with activity - and gifting. Don't forget to make some time to read - and consider books as gifts! The gift of a book (or perhaps an electronic reader?!) will be long remembered indeed. DO IT!

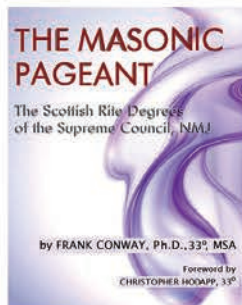
The Old Webmaster's BOOKSHELF



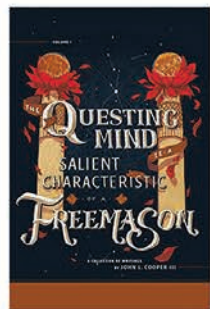
Here's a GREAT present for any Mason regardless of the season~and don't fear the title! This book will advance your knowledge of Freemasonry in so many ways. "**William Hogarth: A Freemason's Harlot**" is an education not only in art history (wished I hadn't skipped those classes in college now!) but also in the history of our Craft. Author Jeremy Bell has done truly exhaustive research which illuminates the time and events that were a part of Hogarth's art. It's hard to describe the breadth and depth of this work but believe me, you won't be disappointed. This is simply not a dull art book: it's far, far more! www.brotherhogarth.com



Now for all of you Scottish Rite members, if you haven't gotten this book already, you'll want to run to your nearest (probably online) bookseller and grab it immediately. "**The Masonic Pageant: The Scottish Rite Degrees of the Supreme Council, NMJ**" by Frank Conway, Ph.D. 33^o provides not only a description of all the *current* degrees but also a comparison to their counterparts in the Southern Jurisdiction along with insightful commentary to help you understand and appreciate the message the degree is meant to impart. You should get this soon: paperback only for now.



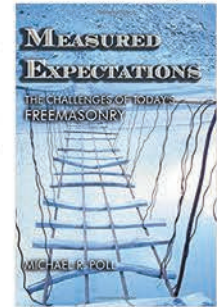
"**The Questioning Mind is a Salient Characteristic of a Freemason**" is a book which hasn't gotten a lot of attention from Masonic book reviewers but is so worthy of being read, it's lengthy title might be the only inhibition. PGM and PGS John L. Cooper III from California has, since the earliest days



online where I first encountered him, then and now easily impresses with his vast knowledge and ease in explaining even the most convoluted matters. A true and constant reader, his essays - more like storytelling - will enlighten and enrich your Masonic experience. This would be a great book as a gift for any Mason - or for yourself!

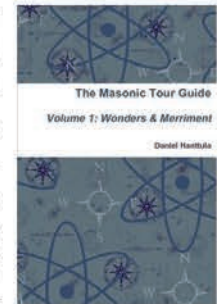
It seems every issue lately has a book from Bro. Michael R. Poll.

Honestly, I'm not on retainer to promote his books but I am proud to have nominated him as a Fellow of the Maine Lodge of Research in 2008, long before he became the prolific author he is today. "**Measured Expectations - The Challenges of Today's Freemasonry**" is another book of personal essays attempting to address the many challenges Masons and Masonry face in today's world. However, it's not a lofty academic tome or a dreamy sentimental journey. Rather, it presents real-life situations and actionable recommendations to help plot a course for future progress forward. Brothers have told me that the books they've read on Craft revitalization are "useless": I'd suggest that here's one that certainly isn't. Check it out and let's talk....



Bucket Lists are much in vogue today: things you want to do at some point in life. Well, here's a starter for you:

"**The Masonic Tour Guide - Volume 1: Wonders & Merriment**" by Bro. Daniel Hanttula is a listing of places to see and things to do, both in the US and abroad, all with a strong Masonic connection. Included are dozens of 'side degrees', their history and where they can be found. This is a wonderful potpourri of Masonic information and lore. Anyone up for a road trip or two?



Online 'training': would you be interested? In the new year we could do things like 'Using an electronic reader', for example - or other topics that might be of interest. If this is something that would pique your interest, give a shout.

Where? A long-lost but very dear Masonic friend and Brother (DeMolay Brother as well - **Hi, Scotty!**) got a copy of the Maine Mason Magazine and wondered if the Grand Lodge was afraid to give out my contact information. Maybe they are, but you can email grandlibrarian@mainemason.org or call Grand Lodge and leave a message at 843-1086. I'm only there a couple of days a week but I will get back to you.

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

A Knotted String, the Master's Jewel, and Nile Floods

by Brother Donald McDougal

These three seemingly disparate items are all connected by man's ongoing need to form perfect right angles. Only in recent history have we been able to run down to the corner hardware store and purchase a perfect square. Fifteen hundred years before Solomon needed a square to erect his Temple the Egyptians knew how to construct right triangles using only knotted strings. Over 1000 years before Pythagoras formulated his theorem, the Babylonians (present day southern Iraq) knew and used the principle of his theorem. Pythagoras is given credit for framing this (ancient to him) knowledge into a formal mathematical theorem and offering an introductory proof. A little more than two hundred years after Pythagoras, Euclid, in his 47th Problem, is credited with the first rigorous formal proof of the Pythagorean Theorem.

Within our ritual and lectures we have multiple references to ancient individuals but we tend to minimize, if not gloss over, their importance and contributions to our medieval brothers who were operative craftsmen. One such individual is Pythagoras referenced in the lectures of the Master Mason Degree. There, in two short paragraphs, we credit him with formulating the 47th problem of Euclid or Pythagorean Theorem and finish his significance with complimentary remarks about his abundant general knowledge and wise philosophy. We seem to neglect consideration of the place and significance he occupied in the historical timeline we attempt to carry on.

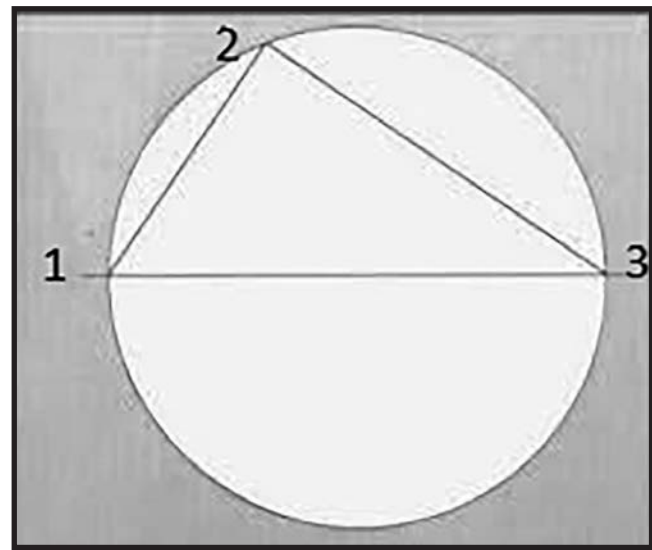
We skip over the necessity of the broad range of knowledge he represented which enabled our ancient Brother Master Masons to construct their own working tools. Lacking the luxury of big box hardware stores where they could buy plumbs, levels, and squares, their "secrets" would, of necessity, include a working knowledge of The Pythagorean Theorem. That insight would enable them to construct a square without error whenever needed. They also had to regularly "prove" their squares (check the squareness and accuracy of that important working tool).

The diagram on the facing page, downloaded from mainemason.org, can be used to demonstrate how a square may be proved or how a square may be constructed with just a piece of string to start.

In addition to using a version of the Pythagorean Theorem, the following are two "Secrets of a Master Mason" which our operative brothers would use and knew well. During the medieval period a Mason could construct a square by selecting a piece of string equal to

the length of the diagonal of the square he needed. The string would be folded in half and a circle would be drawn with that radius. He would bisect that circle with the original string. (Line 1-3) Then any suitable point on the circumference of the circle when connected to points 1 and 3 has to be a 90° angle.

Similarly to "prove" an existing square, a circle was drawn with a diameter equal to the diagonal distance between the leg ends of the square (Line 1-3 above). The square would be placed on the circle with the ends of the



legs touching at points 1 & 3 above. If the right angle end of the square just touched the circle at some point the square had to be a perfect square with an angle of 90°.

Using principals later known as the Pythagorean Theorem, the Egyptians employed a knotted string to construct right angles and used that to square their pyramids and lay out boundaries of their fields after the annual floods of the Nile erased their markers. The so called Egyptian rope trick employed a rope with knots tied at twelve equal intervals with the two ends tied together. Great care was taken to have the twelve intervals correctly spaced and equal.

This rope and three slender pointed sticks were all that was needed in their system. At a known starting point one stick was driven into the ground with a knot placed on the stick. A second stick was placed three intervals away in the proper direction. The third stick was placed at the knot between the fourth and fifth intervals. The angle between the third and fourth interval was then exactly 90°. By utilizing large intervals between the

Continued on Next Page

A Knotted String... Continued

twelve knots they could quickly and very accurately lay out boundaries for large fields.

It has been suggested that, historically, there was some prejudice toward a square such as our Master's Jewel with its equal length legs. A square with equal length legs has an irrational diagonal length between the leg ends which is equal to the square root of two times the length of one of the legs. An irrational number is a number with an infinite number of decimal places and no repeating sequences. The Pythagoreans felt that any number that could not be expressed with a finite number of decimal places was considered to be lunacy and complete insanity. The historical practice of using unequal leg lengths in a carpenter's square is proposed by some to be a response to that prejudice. It would have been difficult for our ancient Masters to measure and form a perfect square

without having an exact finite number to measure.

The 47th Problem of Euclid is reported to have been proven more than 300 times. Arguably this is more than any other Theorem. The proof offered by Pythagoras for this principal, which was known by many peoples for a couple of thousand years before his time, was apparently very simplistic. Euclid was the first to give one of the more rigorous proofs and has been given principal credit for the first proof of the theorem. Proofs have been given by such notables as Leonardo da Vinci, Einstein, and President James Garfield. Proofs have included the Euclidian proof, similar triangles, differential calculus, algebraic proofs, geometric proofs, and constructions like we encountered in high school geometry.

The next article in this series will explore more of the life of Pythagoras and the world in which he lived.

Ashlar Lodge #105 AF & AM **'Civil War' Master Mason Degree** **Saturday Evening, March 10, 2018** **at Kora Shrine Center. Lewiston, ME** **Supper at 6 p.m. Degree begins at 7 p.m.**



Degree team will be made up of Civil War Reenactors dressed in Civil War Period Uniforms
For more info contact Wor. Steve Peterson at 713-5318 or ashlar105@down-east.com

A Generous Fraternity with Caring Friends

Part 2 – Masonic Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters and Other Bodies

Donations to the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation from our Masonic family of organizations during the period April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017, are listed below. These gifts and donations received from individuals and non-Masonic organizations (which were listed in Autumn 2017 issue of *The Maine Mason*) helped make a positive difference in thousands of lives touched by our fraternity here in Maine. How? By extending a helping hand to many. By encouraging children to read and serve others. By assisting school teachers to identify, reach out to, as well as refocus and perhaps even save the lives of at-risk students. And to purchase over 1,300 wreaths placed on the graves of our departed military veterans here in Maine. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters, for your heartfelt support.

\$2,500 to \$25,000

Bangor Masonic Center
St. Andrews Lodge #83
Widows Sons

\$200 to \$1,000

12th Masonic District
Ancient Brothers Lodge #178
Arundel Lodge #76
Bay View Lodge #196
Bethlehem Lodge #35
Central Lodge #45
Dunlap Lodge #47
Ira Berry Lodge #128
Lygonia Lodge #40
Marine Lodge #122
Mechanics Assn. Charity Fund
Meridian Lodge #125
Monument Lodge #96
Mystic Tie Lodge #154
Penobscot Lodge #39
Pythagorean Lodge #11
Rising Virtue Lodge #21
Solar Star Lodge #14
St. George Lodge #16
Triangle Lodge #1
Webster Lodge #164

\$100 to \$200

Alna Anchor Lodge #43
Amity Lodge #6
Arion Lodge #162
Asylum Lodge #133
Bangor Council #5
Baskahegan Square and
Compass Club
Bristol Lodge #74
Caribou Lodge #170
Casco Lodge #36
Crescent Chapter, OES
Cumberland/Mt. Vernon Chapter,
OES
Delta Lodge #153
Dirigo Lodge #104
Eastern Lodge #7
Evening Star Lodge #147
Fireside Chapter #103, OES
Greenleaf Lodge #117
Harwood Lodge #91
Hermon Lodge #32
Hiram Lodge #180
Lafayette Lodge #48

Lewy's Island Lodge #138
Meridian Splendor Lodge #49
Mosaic Lodge #42
Nollesemic Lodge #205
Oxford Lodge #18
Paris Lodge #94
Portland/St. Alban Commandery
#2
Preble Lodge #143
Pythagorean Chapter, OES
Ralph J. Pollard Lodge #217
Rising Star #4
Rural Lodge #53
Seaside Lodge #144
Siloam Lodge #92
St. Amand Commandery
St. Croix Lodge #46
Tranquil Lodge #29
Tremont Lodge #77
Village Lodge #26
Washington Lodge #37
Waterville Lodge #33
York Lodge #22

Up to \$100

24 Inch Gauge Club / Lebanon
#116
Abenaki Chapter, OES
Adoniram Lodge #27
Alcyone Chapter #71, OES
Aldworth Chapter #39 OES
Almeda Chapter, OES
Arbutus Chapter #19, OES
Aroostook Lodge #198
Aurora Lodge #50
Beacon Chapter, OES
Belfast Lodge #24
Benevolent Lodge #87
Bethlehem Chapter #16, OES
Buxton Lodge #115
Central Council #18
Columbia Doric Lodge #149
Corner Stone Chapter #193,
OES
Crescent Lodge #78
Deering Chapter #59, OES
Drummond Lodge #118
Electa Chapter #2, OES
Elm Vale Chapter, OES
Evening Star Chapter #189,
OES
Felicity Chapter, OES

Franklin Lodge #123
Freedom Lodge #42
Freeport Lodge #23
Gold Sheaf Chapter #114,
OES
Gov. William King Lodge
#219
Grace Chapter #93, OES
Harbor View Chapter #136,
OES
Harmony Lodge #38
Howard Lodge #69
Hugh Depaynes
Commandery
Irene Chapter #97, OES
Island Falls Lodge #206
Ivy Chapter #16, OES
Jefferson Chapter #89, OES
Jefferson Lodge #100
Josiah H. Drummond Chapter
#91, OES
Kennebec Lodge #5
Keystone Chapter #78, OES
King Hiram Lodge #57
King Solomon's Lodge #61
Lakeside Chapter, OES
Lakeview Chapter, OES
Lebanon Lodge #116
Lewiston Assembly, Rainbow
Lewiston Commandery #6
Lily of the Valley Chapter,
OES
Lunar Chapter, OES
Machias Chapter #83, OES
Madonna Chapter #144,
OES
Marion Chapter #63, OES
Marsh River Lodge #102
Martha Washington Chapter,
OES
Millwee Chapter #198, OES
Minerva Chapter #74, OES
Mizpah Chapter #3, OES
Molunkus Lodge #165
Molunkus Valley Chapter #95,
OES
Morning Star Lodge #41
Mountain View Chapter #197,
OES
Mountain View Square &
Compass

Mt. Abram Lodge #204
Mt. Bigelow Lodge #202
Mt. Moriah Lodge #56
Mt. Olivet Lodge #203
Mt. Zircon Chapter #142,
OES
Mt. Bigelow Lodge #202
Mystic Lodge #65
Mystic Chapter #69, OES
Naomi Chapter, OES
Nokomis Chapter #42,
OES
Northern Star Lodge #28
Ocean Lodge #142
Oppalunski Chapter #125,
OES
Orient Lodge #15
Oriental Lodge #13
Orion Chapter, OES
Orono Assembly, Rainbow
Pine Cone Chapter #26,
OES
Pioneer Chapter #11, OES
Piscataquis Royal Arch
Chapter
Pleasant River Assembly,
Rainbow
Pleasant River Lodge #163
Pondicherry Chapter, OES
Primrose Chapter,, OES
Queen Esther Chapter #10,
OES
Riverside Chapter, OES
Ruth Chapter, OES
Saccarappa Lodge #86
Sarah Orne Jewett Chapter
#176, OES
Sebasticoock Lodge #146
Seminary Hill Daylight
Lodge #220
Springvale Lodge #190
St. Paul's Lodge #82
Star in the West Lodge #85
Temple Lodge #25
Tillikum Chapter #99, OES
Trinity Lodge #130
Tuscan Chapter #148, OES
Unity Lodge #58
Vassalboro Lodge #54
Vernon Valley Lodge #99
Winter Harbor Lodge #192

Smoking Barrels and a Bright Blue Sky

**By Brother David Keith
Maine Lodge #20**

The Masonic Trap Shoot 2017 was a “Blast” for all who attended!

Masons from around the state traveled to Carrabassett Valley, Maine to take part in a fundraising event sponsored by The Maine Lodge #20 Square and Compass Club. Host was the Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association (CVOA) which generously donated the use of the CVOA Shooting Range. A special “Thank You, too,” to the CVOA members who volunteered their time to make this a safe and enjoyable event.

Brothers and Guests shooting were, Scott Adams, Stephen Millett, Daniel DiDonato, Larry Small, Don Poulin, John Zaiser, Bill Bealieu, Marcell J.B.Morin,

Mike Collins, Shane Cote, Skip Herrick, Erik Nielson, Gerald Gilman, Curtis Lawrence and David Keith.

Now ...for those who wish to keep track of how the event unfolded... let’s just say that some of us were not hitting them as well as our Brothers from Webster Lodge #164 of Wales. They took “First Place Lodge Squad” and Marcel J. B. Morin was awarded “High Gun.” A Fellowship Squad formed of Masons and guests from around the state took “First Place Fellowship Squad.” As for Maine Lodge #20; those brothers say “they’re going to be practicing a wee bit more. Ok, ok a bit more ...alright, a lot more...”

Anyone interested in receiving information for this event in 2018, send an email to dskeith@tds.net.



Katahdin Lodge #98 Honors Past Masters

Four Past Masters of Katahdin Lodge #98 of Patten recently were presented Past Master Certificates by Wor. Master Tom Dube, Sr., far right in this photo. Left to right, the recipients are: Wor. Steve Giles, Wor. Kenneth Libby, and Wor. Erik Pipes. Also receiving his certificate but not shown here was Wor. Ronald Libby.

A Christmas Elf's Journey



by **Dennis J. Healy**

My name is Dennis J. Healy. I live in Biddeford and am a member of Saco Masonic Lodge #9.

I began my quest to become a Mason in late 2016 enjoying the bond a fraternal brotherhood brings to one's life. I enjoy the rituals and historic significance shared during the process of becoming a Master Mason. More importantly I enjoy being a part of a group that works together to help the community.

I was raised to the subline degree of Master Mason in June of this year, and on September 30 became a member of Scottish Rite and obtained my goal of becoming a Shriner.

When I was brought into this world by our great creator, he chose me to be special as he created me as an Achondroplasia Dwarf, otherwise known as a Little Person, more commonly known as the derogatory termed Midget. Midget is upsetting to little people as the term refers to a time when Little People were featured as Midgets in carnival sideshows. My favorite question is when people ask me what they should call me. I always pause a second and respond "Dennis, my name is Dennis thank you."

All my life I had to overcome obstacles, both physical and those created by others who would automatically discount me for my stature rather than my ability. I learned from a young age that if I could make someone laugh they would forget about my stature.

Usually my humor is self-deprecating, initially making a "short" joke or two to offset a person's obvious discomfort with my stature. Once that ice is broken it seems they feel I'm OK. There is like a big "phew" and we go on with whatever we need to do. But, believe it or not, I have had people react by telling me that I am a "Midget" as if I didn't know. So, humor became, and still is, my defense.

So why my quest to become a Shriner? It started when I was 12 years old. It was Mother's Day, 1976, and I woke up prior to my mother to surprise her by cooking her Mother's Day breakfast. I had to stand on a chair to reach the stove buttons at the rear of the electric stove. As

things came to a boil I reached over to turn down the heat unknowingly igniting my nylon t-shirt on the burner. Screaming, I frantically jumped off the chair and spread the flames as I ran to awaken my mother.

She tried, successfully, to douse the fire but in the process seriously burned herself. My only response to my mother at that time was... "Mom, I'm not going to school tomorrow." Not going to school was a big deal for me because I'd never missed a day of school since kindergarten. Well, I didn't go to school that day. Or the next. In fact, for nearly three months, from May 7th to July 3rd, I spent lying in bed at the Maine Medical Center. While there, I died once, had an out-of-body

experience, and stabilized, I'm convinced, because of a huge army of prayer-givers. At one point I was nearly sent to the Shriner's Hospital but the decision was to keep me at the Maine Medical Center. Once released I spent most of the next year in bandages, healing.

Since that fire incident I was determined to overcome my fear of cooking and fire. As a teen, I enrolled in cooking classes at school, took a job as a fry cook, and later, when I turned 18, joined the local volunteer fire department. During my 12 years on the department I often taught in elementary school's fire prevention programs and the "Stop, Drop and Roll" technique to extinguish one's self if on fire. Ultimately, I became Captain of my station, and an Emergency Medical Technician for five years. This was a wonderful experience and the opportunity to give back to my community.

In 1984, during our fire department's annual Christmas Party, my favorite role in life was born. I became Dennis the Elf. In this role I participated in many children activities including meeting children in the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, my favorite place to visit. When I arrive there with Santa I tear up the place. I ride and spin out in Big Wheel tricycles and make kids laugh. I have Santa scold me in front of the kids to make me behave. I do that to show kids it's OK to be a kid, even in front of Santa. Over the past 35 years I have seen

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Village Lodge #26 of Bowdoinham Celebrates 200 Years

by Steven Edmondson
Village Lodge Historian

On September 16, Village Lodge #26 of Bowdoinham celebrated its Bicentennial Anniversary.

On June 9, in the year 1817, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts granted a charter to Village Lodge but it was not signed and delivered until September 16 of that year.

As part of the bicentennial ceremony, an Entered Apprentice was passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft in a Lantern Degree. Only lanterns and candles were used to illuminate the Lodge, simulating lighting as it would have been 200 years ago.

In attendance was Most Worshipful Thomas E. Pulkkinen, Grand Master of Masons of Maine. The ceremony was preceded by a steak meal provided by the Past Masters of the Village Lodge. Keeping in tune with the time being celebrated, attendees were charged 25 cents for the meal. Lodge Officers also dressed in period outfits. Upon conclusion of the degree, this writer gave a history report highlighting events in the Lodge's history that shaped who we are today.

Among the many Brothers in attendance for this celebration was 65-year Member, Worshipful Brother George



Sergeant. Village Lodge has seen and experienced much during these two centuries including three fires that destroyed the Lodge each time and 22 years of darkness during the time of the Morgan affair. Despite each setback, the dedicated Brothers of Village Lodge persevered and stood together to keep Freemasonry strong in Bowdoinham and the surrounding communities it serves.

From WM Dave Richards; "As Master of this Lodge, it has been a most humbling and honorable experience. It is my hope that the continuance of our commitment to those principles shall reflect the great work that all Freemasons do for their communities, whether the work is seen or unseen."

Christmas Elf *Continued*

so many sad stories, shared so many laughs, tears, and oh so many hugs and fist bumps. Last year the most amazing moment happened, I held a one pound premature baby so the parents could have a picture of their child with me, Dennis the Elf. It was so precious, so amazing..

When I began my Elf visits I promised that I would never profit from being "Dennis." To offset personal costs and loss of income while making 30 to 35 holiday appearances, I do accept funding from businesses or money-making events so I typically break even in the end.

This is my 35th Christmas Season so I wanted to do something special. Becoming a Master Mason and a Shriner I wanted to use my new connections to help children in a big way. So, I have joined forces with a media partner where we are creating a holiday package for parents to purchase for their children where their child can email and video chat with Dennis the Elf, live from the North Pole. I will be providing toy critiques and updates to the children through the holiday season. One child will win a free home visit from Dennis the Elf where, together, we will find and decorate a Christmas tree and decorate the house for the holiday. We'll even make Christmas cookies. Additionally, I will provide any child staying in the Barbara Bush and Shriner's Children's Hospitals free web access to this special website.

Please contact me personally at elfdennis@yahoo.com for details on the website or any other questions. I am hoping to raise as much money as possible for these great kids who really deserve the merriest of Christmases this year.

I thank you for reading my Short Story. One must keep looking up and I plan to for the rest of my life, helping children as long, and as much, as I can.

Scottish Rite Dedications at Portland Masonic Temple

The Valley of Portland has dedicated two apartments in the Temple at 415 Congress Street after two distinguished Maine Masons. On Saturday afternoon, Oct. 21, the Scottish Rite Auditorium was dedicated to Illustrious and Most Worshipful Brother Josiah Hayden Drummond, 33°, the first Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who served from 1867 to 1879. And the Scottish Rite Reading Room was dedicated to Illustrious and Right Worshipful Brother Walter E. Webber, 33° who was the thirteenth Sovereign Grand Commander, serving from 2003 to 2006. These two Brothers are the only from Maine to have been elevated to that most distinguished office.



Bronze plaques made in honor of for each Brother were uncovered by family members and will be mounted outside of their respective apartments dedicated to them. Following the dedications there was a reception held for those in attendance.



We were honored to have with us Illustrious Brother David A. Glattly, 33°, the present Sovereign Grand Commander and his wife Monica.



Monument Lodge Family Fun

*by Bro. Lee Oliver
SW Monument Lodge*

Monument Lodge #96 of Houlton sponsored its second annual Family Fall Fun Day on October 21. Worshipful David Rairdon started the event last year and around 25 kids and adults showed up to enjoy the festivities. As we planned for this year's Fun Day we wanted to grow the event and had a local farmer provide pumpkins for carving and painting.

The kids are what it's all about. As we plan and discuss activities we always hope the outcome will be participants saying "WOW! That was fun."

As I write this short article and look ahead to my first year as Master of Monument Lodge it really gives me hope that year three's Family Fun Day will be even bigger and better than the first two.

And I hope Worshipful David Rairdon will continue on with the great works he has started with this youth activity.



Tip of the Iceberg

by Philip Schmidt
Saco Lodge #9

Friendship, loyalty, comradery and brotherhood; these words never entered my mind when I chose to join the military my junior year of high school. But I wanted to get out of my town, see the world and be on my own. I dreamt of seeing how I measured up against others and joining the United States Navy seemed my only option.

Upon completing boot camp and "A" school, I was sent to my duty station, USS Enterprise, CVN-65 stationed in Norfolk, VA on a cold, cloudy day in 2003; there I would spend the next three years being immersed in the culture of my rate, Aviation Ordnance. It was here that I learned to look out for others and that there was something bigger than myself I needed to fight for. It was up to us to uphold the proud tradition of those who came before us. After I completed two deployments, I was itching to get out and to go back to the town that I was so desperate to leave.

We all made that promise, after a quick exchange of

information that we will stay in touch, but some never did, others drifted away, and others I'll never see again. While others I can't get rid of, not that I would want to, anyway. This left a void in my life and heart. People I was so close to were suddenly back with their friends and family but all those jokes and shared moments were now just faded memories; stories I would one day share with my bored and appeased children.

Then I was introduced to Freemasonry, through a co-worker named Michael Shaw, who was wearing a ball cap with the famous square and compasses and MASON in gold letters. He got me a pamphlet and said if I had any questions don't hesitate to ask. The more questions I asked the more he couldn't answer, and told me I needed to go through my degrees before I could understand, which I did.

Through Freemasonry I was able to fill the void in my life and heart through friendship, loyalty, and comradery with the brotherhood. I have just scratched the tip of the iceberg, of the fraternity, by getting involved in York and Scottish Rite starting my journey towards the East by sitting in the Junior Steward's chair next year. I thank all of my past, present and future Brothers of the Craft in allowing me to take part in the journey with you.

4-Star Mason Missing Three

On September 30th, Bro. Fred A. Bither, Jr. was a 4-Star Mason who was missing three stars on his Maine Masonic Veterans Medal. This oversight was corrected when M.W. Tom Pulkkinen and P.G.M.'s George Pulkkinen and A. James Ross called upon Bro. Bither at his assisted living residence in Portland. Each of them pinned a missing star onto his Veterans Medal and made a few appropriate remarks of appreciation for his service to his Country and Freemasonry. *It's what Masons do for Masons!*



Bro. Bither joined Monument Lodge No. 96 in Houlton on May 29, 1946 after serving four years in WW II. He served as Chief Clerk to General Willis D. Crittenberger at the time of the planning for the D-Day Invasion. Upon returning home, he spent a career working for Bangor & Aroostook Railroad and then the Maine Central Railroad.

With changes in lodge secretaries and the passing over of record books to brethren who had no experience in record keeping and were totally unfamiliar with older Brethren who lived away, Bro. Fred got lost in the "proverbial crack." Fortunately W. Bro. Bruce Folsom, upon becoming lodge secretary for the second time, really dug into the records and found this oversight.

Barring an unforeseen winter blizzard big enough to keep Aroostook County Masons home, Monument Lodge plans to hold a special meeting in a Portland lodge hall on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. to celebrate Bro. Fred's 100th birthday. Masons who might be able to attend are cordially invited to plan ahead for this celebration.

Augusta Brethren Hold Open House, Get Bonus for Quick Thinking

Brethren of Bethlehem Lodge #35 AF&AM hosted an open house October 15 that included an extensive and tasty breakfast, guided tours of our Temple, and a guest speaker on the history of Augusta.

Little did they know that Maine General Hospital also planned a walk for cancer on Water Street the same day. So, with some quick thinking, they hung their "Augusta Area Masons - Faith in God, Family and Community Values, Charity to Others" parade banner across the front of our build-

ing, opened the doors wide, and sought to capitalize on the extra activity.

Two of the guests included a Kennebec Journal reporter and photographer who had come to cover the cancer walk and whose curiosity overcame them. We had a nice time with them and the result was a positive article published in the newspaper; not too bad for a spur of the moment opportunity!

Thanks to the brethren and ladies who worked very hard to make the Open House successful, and who do so on a regular basis.



Inside the Abnaki Room in Augusta's Masonic Building.

Village Lodge Brethren at Work for the Community

Members of Village Lodge #26 pitched in at the annual Bowdoinham Farm Days barbecue. All the food served was grown and provided by local farmers, highlighting locally grown food sources. For their efforts in preparing, serving and cleaning up after, Village Lodge was given \$600 for their Wayfarers fund. After applying for a matching grant from Grand Lodge, the money was split between the food banks of Richmond and Bowdoinham. This money will provide more than 2000 meals for needy in the community. It was a very long day for the Lodge Brothers but a very worthy effort for the communities served.



Village Lodge brethren working the trenches.

11th ANNUAL "Scottish Rite Ladies Weekend Out"

All Master Masons and their Ladies are cordially invited to attend our 11th "Ladies Weekend Out" to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 26th, 27st & 28th, 2018 at Point Lookout Resort in Northport, Maine



Accommodations:

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

Two Bedroom Queen, Two Bath Cabin; \$149 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 29, 2017 for these prices.

Website: www.visitpointlookout.com

The activities reservations below must be made through the Scottish Rite Office by **January 19th**
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 "Pizza Party" at Erickson Hall located at Point Lookout 5:00-10:00 PM

Saturday afternoon - Bowling Tournament & Card Playing at the Resort 1:00-4:00 PM

Saturday Night Banquet / Dancing 6:00-7:00 Social Hour, 7:00 Dinner

Sunday Morning Breakfast at "The Summit" at the Top of the Resort 8:00-10:00 AM

Couples Package #1 - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - \$130

(Friday) Pizza Party; (Saturday) Bowling, Banquet & dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast; all at Resort.

Couples Package #2 - For those spending 2 nights at the Resort - \$120

(Friday) Pizza Party; (Saturday) Banquet & dancing; (Sunday) Breakfast; all at Resort.

Couples Package #3 - For couples spending 1 night at the Resort - \$100

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

Couples Package #4 - For couples spending 1 night at the Resort. - \$90

(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: _____

Email: _____ Package #: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Maine's 'First' Temple Lodge Celebrates 200 Years

October 7th was a joyous day for the Brethren of Temple Lodge No. 25 in Winthrop. A special meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. in the Catholic St. Francis Parish Hall. The lodge is without its own quarters at this time but a committee is actively pursuing the building of a new lodge hall.

In the evening a special meeting was held in LaFayette Lodge No. 48 in Readfield. M.W. Thomas Pulkkinen watched the Master Mason Degree worked on Bro. Ralph Bailey. Also among honored guests were P.G. Master David Walker and J.G.W. Robert Schremser of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which chartered the lodge on September 8, 1817.

The meeting was special on two accounts. First, it was Past Masters' Night with two of the chairs being filled by P.M. of LaFayette Lodge No. 48 in Readfield where the lodge holds its meetings while homeless.

The candidate, Bro. Ralph Bailey, was made a Master Mason with the assistance of his two brothers-in-law, Keith Fancy of Boylston Lodge in Massachusetts and David Hooper of Temple Lodge who raised him. Also assisting in the work were two nephews, W. M. Joshua Hooper and Adam Hooper, Treasurer.

The future is looking encouraging for the lodge. W. Master Joshua Hooper has been a Mason only nine years and is leading a contingency of young Masons who are committed to the future of Temple Lodge.

R.W. Richard L. Rhoda, Past Grand Historian, presented a lost aspect of the lodge's history. He told how there were two lodges in Maine called "Temple Lodge" until Saccarappa Lodge No. 86 was formed on December 20, 2002 with the consolidation of Temple Lodge No. 86 and Warren Philips Lodge No. 186, both in Westbrook.

Temple Lodge was chartered by The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts on September 8, 1817 while Maine was still a district of the Commonwealth. With the formation of The Grand Lodge of Maine on June 24, 1820, Temple Lodge was numbered 25 according to its seniority.

On January 13, 1817 a charter had been sought by Nathaniel Herricks, Thomas Becket and Josiah Dewey and five other Master Masons. It was supported in its endeavor by Kennebec Lodge and the District Deputy Grand Master of the 9th District.

The following is taken from "Temple Lodge No. 25 of Free and Accepted Masons: History of Temple Lodge No. 25 from 1817 to 1860" by Bro. Samuel Wood and from Grand Lodge of Maine Vol. 1: A piecing together of excerpts from these two works will explain how the Grand Lodge of Maine came to have two Temple Lodges.

The importance of writing and then preserving good lodge histories readily became apparent with Temple Lodge. Neither the Master nor his officers had ever heard of another Temple Lodge in Maine.

With the onset of the Morgan Era in Maine Masonry in 1826, Temple Lodge suffered the same indignities as other lodges but its administrative history was unique. The story of how the lodge sought to dissolve but did not because of technicalities is as follows according to Bro. Wood and Grand Lodge records.

"Aug. 8, 1831 – Unanimously, voted by 11 present, not to give up the Charter.

They soon ceased to hold any meetings of Lodge and the Institution became virtually dead and a complete wreck.

In 1839 the members voted to sell all their furniture, jewels and all the paraphernalia pertaining to masons, masonry, and Lodge Hall and voted that Temple Lodge be now and forever dissolved and a final adjournment took place. They believed that there was no Grand Lodge to surrender the Charter to, that there had been a general crash and ruin, and final dissolution of all things so far as Masonry was concerned. (*Underline added*)

Strange that some mason should not have bethought that the whole world had not been destroyed, and should not have taken and preserved the Charter. That too was lost in the crack.

Sometime after Bro. S. P. Benson went into a store, belonging to a man who had never been a mason, and observed him folding papers in a sheet of parchment, which Bro. B. soon discovered to be the Charter of Temple Lodge. He soon negotiated with the trader by giving him other sheets of parchment, obtained the Charter, safely deposited it in a safe, and thus preserved it. The book of records was preserved. The last Secretary found it in a law office, carried it home, and thus preserved it."

The dark clouds of the Morgan Era were blown away by 1848 and Maine Masonry rebounded with phenomenal growth in the 1850's and 1860's. In the 1850's 34 lodges were chartered and 54 the following decade.

Grand Lodge records reflect the following from its transactions for 1857, 1858 and 1859.

In 1856 a charter was granted to Temple Lodge No. 86 in Westbrook. The following year Moses Dodge, Grand

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A lot was happening Oct. 10 in Crescent Lodge #78, Pembroke. First, it was the District 2 Annual Meeting with the Grand Master. Second, Lodge Master Jamey Gower was recognized as 2017 Mason of the Year for the Second District. And third, Wor. Brother Ralph Mahar received his 60-year Veterans Medal star. In the accompanying photo, left to right: MW Brother Tom Pulkkinen, Brother Dennis Mahar (Wor. Brother Ralph's son who was raised when Ralph was Master), Wor. Brother Mahar, and lodge Master Jamey Gower.

Brother Jed Stevens is the newest Master Mason in Mt. Bigelow Lodge #202, Stratton. He was raised earlier this fall and is pictured here with two members of his family. From left are: Wor. Brother Mark Stevens, his uncle; Wor. Brother Scott Stevens, the proud father; Brother Jed; and current lodge Master, Wor. Brother Peter Farnsworth. Brother Jed is a fourth generation Mason following in the steps of grandfather, Wor. Harry Stevens, and great grandfather, Brother Charlie Stevens. On his mother's side, great grandfather Bro. Ernest Caldwell and two great uncles, Wor. Jess Caldwell and Wor. Joe Caldwell were also members of the Craft. Now that is an impressive Masonic pedigree! Welcome to this wonderful fraternity Brother Jed. Enjoy all it has to offer.



TEMPLE LODGE *Continued*

Treasurer, reported that while Temple Lodge No. 25 had not resumed work and still retained its charter he knew of no constitutional or legal objection to two lodges bearing the same name.

In May 1858 a committee recommended the charter of Temple Lodge in Winthrop be annulled.

On December 6, 1858 "some of the old members of Temple Lodge... who formerly gathered in holy conclave, feeling the importance and necessity of a resuscitation of their ancient rights and privileges..., to petition the Grand Lodge of the State of Maine to congregate them... into a regular lodge again,..."

In his annual report in May 1859, Grand Master

Hiram Chase reported that he granted them a charter with their old name of Temple. The Committee on Dispensations and Charters reported and it was voted that their old charter be restored and it was so noted on the reverse of the original charter.

Thus began the 143 year history of the Grand Lodge of Maine having two lodges bearing the same name. Fifteen years ago this anomaly ceased to exist with the formation of Saccarappa Lodge from a consolidation of the "second" Temple Lodge and Warren Philips Lodge in Westbrook.

A final point of a historical note, "Saccarappa" is the term used by pre-contact natives to designate "falling towards the rising sun" relative to the Presumpscot which means "many rough places river."

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