

Grand Lodge of Maine
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

The Maine Mason

Vol. 43, No. 1
Winter 2017



Morrill Worcester
Awarded Joshua
Chamberlain Medal

Story on Page 5

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Medal

Presented to

Morrill R. Worcester
Wreaths Across America

by Grand Master Thomas E. Pulkkinen
September 24, 2016



The MAINE MASON

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

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

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

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

Editor

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

Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge of Maine

GRAND MASTER Thomas E. Pulkkinen P.O. Box 413 E. Boothbay, ME 04544	DEPUTY GRAND MASTER Mark E. Rustin 2087 Carmel Rd. N. Newburgh, ME 04444
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN William M. Layman 21 Edward Street Augusta, ME 04330	JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN Donald W. Pratt 17 Maple Grove Rd. South China, ME 04358
GRAND TREASURER Scott Whytock 1 Sextant Lane Scarborough, ME 04074	GRAND SECRETARY Daniel E. Bartlett 267 Belmont Avenue Belfast ME 04915

Grand Lodge Contact Information & Hours

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

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

line-o-type

by George P. Pulkkinen

The end of an old year fast approaches as I scribble these few words; a new year stretches ahead, filled with hope and promise.

The new year, always welcome, has a special allure as 2017 approaches. To be sure 2016 proffered many good, exciting opportunities and occurrences, but, for many it was, in multiple ways, following a script that would have been far better with an extensive rewrite.

Much illness among loved ones tends to take the shine off things. And even with prospects of improving health in the months ahead, watching suffering among family and friends puts a trig to the wheel.

From my perch, though, Masonic activity in much of our jurisdiction appears to be on solid footing. Lodges are busy, problems are being tackled, and solved. Progress is being made on several levels. I'm always privileged to be a part of many installations and the quality of men I see taking on lodge leadership roles betokens talent, commitment and hard work.

These leaders want their lodges to better serve their memberships. They want their lodges to better serve their communities. To accomplish these goals they intend for their lodges to take a more well-planned, business-like approach to their labors. This is most encouraging for a Mason now long at the tooth.

Reports throughout this issue offer solid testimony to active involvement by the brethren. To them, to all of you, I take the liberty of using this space to wish the happiest and most productive year now beginning.

May 2017 be everything you would hope it to be. Happy New Year my brethren, to you, your families and your lodges.

From the Grand East

Thomas E. Pulkkinen
Grand Master of Masons in Maine

Looking Forward with Optimism

Between the times that I write and you read this message, our families and friends will sit down to celebrate Thanksgiving. Christians will celebrate the birth of Christ and Jews will commemorate the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem – both religious seasons known for their “Festival of Lights.” And all of us will welcome in a new year – putting behind us the trials and tribulations of 2016 and looking forward with optimism to the opportunities for good health, happiness and success that may await us in 2017.

These holidays are so much more than the superficial turkey dinner and football; of Santa and the glow of brightly lit decorations; and the celebratory lifting of a glass with friends. These special days and seasons accentuate our tenets of faith, hope and charity – of love of God, family and our fellow men. The holiday season often brings a tear of loving remembrance of those family members no longer in our midst, or a squeal of joy brought about by receiving an engagement ring or sharing a baby’s first Christmas. A time for remembering the past yet looking to the future!

So it is in Freemasonry; the scythe of time has taken many of our friends and Brothers...and even some Lodges. Yet one Lodge has regained its charter that had been turned in years ago, and many men have been raised with great expectation to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Many Lodges have defined a vision for their future and a way forward to add value to the lives of their Brethren and communities. Their visions reflect and localize that of Maine Freemasonry – Enriching Lives through Education, Charity and Spiritual Growth. These Lodges – and our Craft throughout Maine – have set a course towards achieving Excellence in Masonry.

Masons should build upon the foundation

stones of our fraternal temple by attracting and engaging men of faith who demonstrate the highest levels of honesty, integrity and character; men who will abide by the tenets of our Craft. Freemasonry is not for everyone, nor is everyone fit to be a Mason! Every Mason must exercise his serious and solemn duty to protect the West Gate; to recommend and elect only those men whose character and beliefs are compatible with the Ancient Landmarks and tenets of our Craft.

As Grand Master, I ask every Mason, every Lodge or group of Lodges, to systematically consider who they know that have the requisite qualities and interests to be just and upright Masons. Think well about who within our families, workplaces, communities and houses of worship would be good candidates for Freemasonry. Lodges are urged to hold fellowship nights to introduce these men to the Craft. Grand Lodge will help by providing speakers and by underwriting the cost of the guests’ meals.

And then we need to offer these men, and every Brother, a truly valued experience as evidenced by warm fellowship; good ritual; thought provoking education; and opportunities – no, an expectation – for Masons both new and longstanding to become involved in their Lodges and their community-centered activities. New Masons should be encouraged to pursue the Masonic Rookie Award and all Masons should consider accepting the new Master Builder Award as a personal challenge to help Freemasonry be all that it can be as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of Masons and other Mainers.

Freemasonry should be and *IS* special; a much needed exemplar of civility and good works in today’s world that society longs to behold. Yes, Freemasonry affords each of us a good reason for looking forward with optimism!



Grand Master



Around the Grand Lodge Water Cooler...

Servant Leadership

R.W. Dan Bartlett, Grand Secretary

It is the day before Thanksgiving as I write this so gratitude is in the forefront of my thoughts as I ponder topics for this piece. Like most everyone, I have many things I am grateful for in my life and among those is serving as your Grand Secretary. It is truly rewarding serving the Brethren of this great Fraternity.

Which brings along another thought about the importance of serving others and the concept of Servant Leadership. For those who are unfamiliar with the principle of Servant Leadership, it is generally defined as “a philosophy and set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better organizations and ultimately creates a more just and caring world”.

Enriching lives, building a better organization and a just and caring world. Where have we heard that before?! Take a moment and consider how your lodge and more importantly you as a Mason fit in with these principles. Having traveled to numerous District meetings around the state this fall I have witnessed firsthand how many lodges and Masons are putting these ideals into practice. Children in our communities are having their lives enriched through the Bikes for Books program. Lodges are partnering with each other on projects and community events which is building a better organization. And, by living our Masonic tenets and principles as we participate in our programs and communities we are building a just and caring world one person and one event at a time.

Servant Leadership has an obvious connection to leadership and it is worth exploring that further. Sheri L. Dew, author and publisher is quoted as saying “True leaders understand that leadership is not about them but about those they serve. It is not about exalting themselves but about lifting others up.” “It is not about exalting themselves but about lifting others up.” Yes, I repeated it because it is

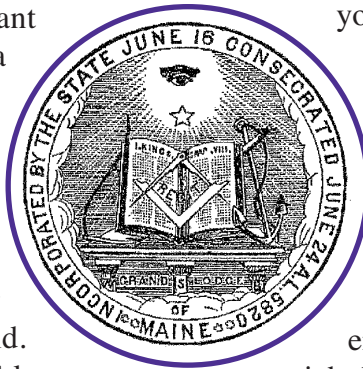
important. Do you become the Worshipful Master of your Lodge to raise your own stature? Or do you offer yourself to be elected in order to raise up all of your lodge members by striving to make a difference and enrich their lives and thereby strengthen your Lodge and community as a whole? Do you offer yourself to be elected as a Grand Lodge Officer to become a permanent member? Or do you do it because you truly feel you have something to offer and feel that you can make a difference in the lives of your brethren and this Grand Lodge?

These are important questions to consider as you talk with your peers about how you may serve your Brethren, our Fraternity and your community. It really is about building a better world one person at a time and it all starts with you.

Great leadership isn’t measured by being in charge and making every decision. Many successful leaders of this world lead by example first. They empower those around them to get the job done. They conduct themselves in such a way that others enjoy working with them and feel they are part of the team working towards a greater good. We all like being a part of something. It is one of the reasons many join our Fraternity.

I am sure there are Masons who stand out in your mind as Servant Leaders. The leaders in my mind stand out in a very positive way because they truly make it about lifting others up with them and not about exalting themselves. Who in your Lodge comes to mind when you think about serving and leadership in this context? Encourage them! Sometimes all that is needed is to ask the question. Would you consider serving as an officer of the lodge? It is important that we seek out those Brethren who have a passion for serving others and encourage them to assume leadership roles in our Fraternity. It is a sure fire way to enrich lives and create the just and caring world that everyone deserves. Every human being has a claim on your good offices.

Do good unto all.



Maine Freemasons Award...

Morrill Worcester the Joshua Chamberlain Medal

Worcester Wreath Company commenced operations in 1971 and Morrill Worcester has served as president since that time. With a peak season workforce of 550, the company operates year round managing its own forests and producing wreaths and garland that engender great joy because of their beauty and the pungent balsam aroma that wafts through homes every Christmas season.

Morrill Worcester started the Wreaths Across America program in 1992 as the Arlington Wreath Project, when 5,000 wreaths were donated and placed on veteran gravesites at the Arlington National Cemetery. Growing rapidly over the past decade, thousands of volunteers will lay 1,200,000 wreaths this year in ceremonies in over 1,200 State, National and local cemeteries and at monuments all across the United States and overseas. Wreaths Across America's mission is to Remember the fallen; Honor those who serve; and Teach children the value of freedom.

Wreaths Across America encourages every volunteer who places a wreath on a veteran's grave to say that veteran's name aloud and take a moment to thank them for their service to our country. This small act goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our veterans alive.

Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America, says "We are not here to 'decorate graves.' We're here to remember not their deaths, but their lives."

What Morrill Worcester started and has carried on for 25 years is truly remarkable, deeply heartfelt and greatly appreciated. The caravans of wreaths move patriotic Americans to stand tall, at attention, with tears of happiness and hearts filled with pride in remembrance of our fallen and departed heroes, those preservers of our freedom, liberties and precious way of life.

Through the generosity of brethren, their widows, Masonic Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters, the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation contributed \$20,000 to Wreaths Across America to purchase 1,333 wreaths to be placed in Maine Veterans Cemeteries.

One of Maine's most distinguished sons, a Freemason, college professor and president, Governor and Civil War General, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, famously lead the 20th Maine Regiment on Little Round Top in Gettysburg, valiantly and repeatedly repelling the

advancing Alabama Confederate troops, thus preserving the Union line and contributing to an ultimate victory in that pivotal battle in our Civil War.

At Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 12, 1865, General Chamberlain called to order the Third Brigade – including the 20th Maine – as the Confederates advanced a final time to "lay down all tokens of Confederate authority and organized hostility to the United States." By receiving the defeated Southern troops respectfully, Chamberlain afforded the downtrodden foe reason to hold their backs straight and heads high as they relinquished their weapons and battle flags. Chamberlain's act of valor earned him great respect and helped mightily to heal a deeply divided Union.

In 1995, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maine established the Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Medal to be given, at the Grand Master's discretion, to a Maine citizen, Mason or non-Mason, who best exemplifies the characteristics of leadership, citizenship, honor and integrity, as repeatedly demonstrated by that great Maine man and Mason, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.

When making the presentation on 24 September, 2016, Grand Master Thomas Pulkkinen said:

"It is my distinct pleasure, as Grand Master of Masons, to present the Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Medal to Morrill Worcester for his faithful remembrance of those men and women who valiantly served their country and fellow-citizens, and who protected and preserved the values we hold dear, subjecting themselves to and often giving the ultimate sacrifice...their lives."

Previous recipients of the Joshua Chamberlain Award have included Senator George Mitchell philanthropist Harold Alfond and R.W. Brother Charles W. Plummer.



Merrill and Karen Worcester, left, and Rainbow and DeMolay representatives listen as the Grand Master reads from the Chamberlain Medal presented to Mr. Worcester at the annual District 3 Meeting.

“Where the Graves Have No Names: A Plea or a Song”

**By Brother Richard C. Rhoda
Past Grand Historian**

As we come on to our 200th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 2020, we will often hear the names of Capt. Alexander Ross, a ship master and merchant, and of Sheriff and Colonel William Tyng from the Revolutionary War era.

How proud are we as Masons of these two men who founded Masonry in Maine?

Ross was the leading merchant in the 1760's in Falmouth, now Portland, and received the first charter to form a Masonic lodge in the District of Maine.

Tyng, a sixth generation descendant of George Cleaves who first settled the area, was the first Master of “The Lodge at Falmouth.” He later served as the first Master of Ancient Land-Mark Lodge No. 16 and thus served as Master of 2/3rds of the lodges which now form Triangle Lodge No. 1.

Ross was the leading merchant when he died. He was buried in Eastern Cemetery on Munjoy Hill in a table tomb.

Tyng, son-in-law of Ross, had the first memorial in the cemetery adorned with an obelisk. This was an indication of his wealth and status in the community even though he had been a proscribed Loyalist who was allowed to return from New Brunswick.

Both stones have suffered from the ruthless hand of ignorance, vandals and natural causes. Of the 3 dozen or so table tombs in the cemetery, none are in as bad condition as that of Ross. It has become a collection place for broken stones placed on top of it and along its sides. A



**Gravesite of Capt. William Ross,
a founder of Maine Freemasonry.**



**Burial site of Brother William Tyng,
first Master of “The Lodge at Falmouth.”**

tree has recently been growing within it but has been cut. This table has been broken and its pieces scattered so that his “grave has no name.”

Tyng's memorial was made of sandstone and was topped with an obelisk. His “grave has no name” as the four white marble tablets which had been placed on the die of the memorial have been destroyed over the years. All that remains are the base, the 2 plinths of the die walls and the broken obelisk.

What a display of the Masons' commitment to these two brothers it would be for Triangle Lodge and the 17th District to join together to restore the graves of our founders.

Joseph Dumais, Superintendent of Portland Cemeteries, advises that restorative work can be done within the guidelines and standards set by the National Parks Service.

When Mrs. Tyng died 24 years after her husband, there was no family left in the immediate area. An adopted niece of his wife married and moved away. It is not the responsibility of the Portland Cemetery Department to maintain the stones. We are the family of Bros. Alexander Ross and William Tyng. Let us do something before it is absolutely too late.

Hopefully, we will soon hear and read of a committee formed to show our pride and commitment to Maine Masonry. If you are interested in being part of such an exciting project, please contact Chris Camire, S.W. of Triangle Lodge No. 1 at chriscamire@me.com

Brethren, let's not give Bono and U2 cause to write a song about our founders entitled “Where The Graves Have No Name.”

FROM THE 'NEAR EAST'



BASICS

We all know who is eligible to become a Mason – don't we? A man of good character eighteen years of age or older who holds a belief in a Supreme Being and has resided in Maine for at least six months. Those are the basics. Any man who possesses the basics and desires to become a better man by joining our Fraternity may petition for degrees if two Brothers sign his petition.

With such straight forward basic requirements it seems to strain credulity that several cohorts of males in this State are woefully under-represented in our Craft. If we compare our demographics with the State as a whole, we observe that we are under-represented regarding ethnicity, race, and religion.

(94.4% of the population was non-Hispanic White, 1.1% non-Hispanic Black or African American, 0.6% American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.0% Asian, 0.1% from some other race and 1.4% of two or more races. 1.3% of Maine's population was of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin) (Christian 60%, Other Faiths 5%, Nothing in particular 29%, and Atheist and Agnostic 6%) (36.5% of our male population is over 18, 32.8% are 35 to 54,

and 9.7% are 55 through 64. The majority of our membership is 60 and over).

We do not have, nor do I think we should keep, demographic records within the Craft. However, my anecdotal experience informs me that we are not reflective of the State's male population. Look around your Lodge or District and draw your conclusions from the Brothers around you. I do believe that, to the extent that we do not open the Craft to other than white Christians or those of no particular religion, we are diminishing the future of Freemasonry in terms of numbers and relevance within this Grand Jurisdiction.

As you look around your communities from the moral high ground seeking new members, remember the basics of eligibility to become a Mason. Set aside other 'requirements'. The basics have and will continue to provide Brothers who seek to build a better world. Speaking with a diverse voice which can be heard across the Grand Jurisdiction will allow us to reach that laudable goal.

Fraternally,

Mark Rustin

Deputy Grand Master

A GIFT THAT CONTINUES TO GIVE

Have you considered establishing a lasting legacy through your Masonic Charitable Foundation which would help insure the continuation of Relief, Youth Programs, and Charitable Outreach in perpetuity? For more information about making such an accomplishment part of your Estate Planning, simply contact the Executive Director of the Foundation at 207-843-1086 or HYPERLINK "mail to:

Director@masoniccharitablefoundation.org"

You, too, will be able to view the work of your generous foresight from the front porch of the Supreme Architect's Temple.

FROM THE 'NEAR EAST'



BASICS

We all know who is eligible to become a Mason – don't we? A man of good character eighteen years of age or older who holds a belief in a Supreme Being and has resided in Maine for at least six months. Those are the basics. Any man who possesses the basics and desires to become a better man by joining our Fraternity may petition for degrees if two Brothers sign his petition.

With such straight forward basic requirements it seems to strain credulity that several cohorts of males in this State are woefully under-represented in our Craft. If we compare our demographics with the State as a whole, we observe that we are under-represented regarding ethnicity, race, and religion.

(94.4% of the population was non-Hispanic White, 1.1% non-Hispanic Black or African American, 0.6% American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.0% Asian, 0.1% from some other race and 1.4% of two or more races. 1.3% of Maine's population was of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin) (Christian 60%, Other Faiths 5%, Nothing in particular 29%, and Atheist and Agnostic 6%) (36.5% of our male population is over 18, 32.8% are 35 to 54,

and 9.7% are 55 through 64. The majority of our membership is 60 and over).

We do not have, nor do I think we should keep, demographic records within the Craft. However, my anecdotal experience informs me that we are not reflective of the State's male population. Look around your Lodge or District and draw your conclusions from the Brothers around you. I do believe that, to the extent that we do not open the Craft to other than white Christians or those of no particular religion, we are diminishing the future of Freemasonry in terms of numbers and relevance within this Grand Jurisdiction.

As you look around your communities from the moral high ground seeking new members, remember the basics of eligibility to become a Mason. Set aside other 'requirements'. The basics have and will continue to provide Brothers who seek to build a better world. Speaking with a diverse voice which can be heard across the Grand Jurisdiction will allow us to reach that laudable goal.

Fraternally,

Mark Rustin

Deputy Grand Master

A GIFT THAT CONTINUES TO GIVE

Have you considered establishing a lasting legacy through your Masonic Charitable Foundation which would help insure the continuation of Relief, Youth Programs, and Charitable Outreach in perpetuity? For more information about making such an accomplishment part of your Estate Planning, simply contact the Executive Director of the Foundation at 207-843-1086 or HYPERLINK "mail to:

Director@masoniccharitablefoundation.org"

You, too, will be able to view the work of your generous foresight from the front porch of the Supreme Architect's Temple.

Arundel "Table Lodge" Honors Bro. Ed Baker



Guest of Honor, Brother Baker

Sounds from the rebellious Scottish north rang out in the south of Maine on November 5th as Arundel Lodge #76 in Kennebunkport held its annual Table Lodge, this time with a Highland theme. MW Brother Wayne Adams began the night of kilned celebration with a rousing first toast. The large gathering of brethren answered his call and soon a steaming Haggis was brought forth in procession with MW Brother George Pulkkinen playing the pipes at the lead. Thanks and prayers were offered, rousing Scottish songs sung and many laughs shared throughout the evening. The gathering was in honor of Worshipful Brother Edward Baker for his many contributions as Past Master of Arundel Lodge and to his ceaseless work in support of Masonry. Many thanks to the hard working kitchen crew.



Addressing the Haggis.



The first toast.



Boiling the Haggis.



Master chefs at labor.



Brotherly Love Prevailed

One for all and all for one. Wor. Master David Rairdon, third from left, was still recovering from rotator cuff surgery when Houlton's Monument Lodge met last February. His officers did not want him to feel self-conscious about his sling at his first stated meeting so they all dressed appropriately. Fortunately no sign of distress had to be given that evening!

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

MAINE MASONS WHO LIVE OR WILL BE IN FLORIDA ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Our MW Grand Master, Bro. Thomas Pulkkinen and his wife Sharon invite the Masons of Maine and their spouses/friends to the 15th Annual "Maine Masons in Florida Day" at SAHIB Shrine Center, 600 N.Beneva Rd, in Sarasota, FL.

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

We will assemble between 11:00 to 11:30 am to allow time to socialize prior to lunch that will be served at noon, followed by a presentation by the Grand Master.

The charge will be \$25.00 for the men, while ladies will be guests of the Grand Master.

Directions to Sahib Shrine Center are: Take exit 210 off I75 and go west about 1-2 miles to N. Beneva Rd. Turn right and go north on Beneva about 2 blocks. The Shrine Center is on your right.

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

***It would help us if visitors would share their temporary Florida addresses.
Deadline for reservations is February 6, 2017***

The meal will consist of
Chicken Cordon Bleu, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Rolls/Butter
Chef Choice of Dessert Iced Tea/Coffee

***Note: There will be a vegetable plate alternative that must be requested
when making your reservation.***

Enjoy a “Get-a-Way” to Grand Lodge

Do you think that you can convince your lady that attending the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge would be a great “get-a-way” opportunity? We can all see our wives rolling their eyes skyward, muttering “sure” to themselves, and maybe even calling for the men in white coats. Have a Grand Lodge vacation?

The 2017 Annual Communication really is such an opportunity; just sit back in a rustic log cabin, curl up in front of a fire in the “old Franklin,” perhaps hike some beautiful trails, use the fitness center or bowl a few strings, and dine overlooking the panoramic Penobscot Bay as musicians play for our enjoyment. All that will be possible at the Annual Communication at the beautiful Point Lookout mountain resort in Northport. For more information and a video on this facility, please visit www.visitpointlookout.com.



A typical cabin exterior.

And when the Brethren are doing their Masonic business, the ladies will be off to the Farnsworth Museum to view the Wyeths and other artwork, come back for a mountaintop lunch and work with or

against other attendees to solve a “murder” mystery staged by some of Maine’s well known mystery authors who are members of the sinister “New England Sisters in Crime.”

The cabins have been discount priced for our May 1-3, 2017, Annual Communication, and you may be able to rent a cabin before or after the session for an extended stay, just a few miles from Belfast and Camden with all these communities have to offer.

Individuals or couples sharing a two or three bedroom cabin with a living room and full kitchen will pay around \$80 a night plus taxes per bedroom, much less than we paid in

our recent stays in Lewiston or Bangor. This will allow us to offer an outstanding dining experience and still keep the costs down. There will be a limited number of single bedroom cabins available.

A reservation package will be sent out to Lodges, Grand Lodge officers and Permanent Members in early 2017, but start planning now, and for heaven’s sake share this advance notice with your lady so she can start planning to enjoy a great time in a beautiful place. Information will also be emailed to Brethren and be available on Facebook and our Grand Lodge web page

See you in May to conduct the important business of Maine Freemasonry and share a good time with our ladies and Brethren.



A typical cabin interior.



The elegant dining area.

The Healthy Lodge

By Brother Michael Glidden

As a pastor, I like to study the dynamics of what it takes to be a healthy church. I think that there are key ingredients that are needed for this to happen. I haven't been a mason for a long time. I joined in 2012 but I have been around now long enough to be able to reflect on what a healthy organization looks like. I'd like to just take a few minutes here to share some perspectives that I have gained. These principles could be applied to a church, lodge or perhaps even a business.

1. Engaging—an engaged atmosphere is a place where everyone is a part of the team. There are no loose players or stragglers. Everyone has a voice and is heard. Each person is highly valued and respected. Each man's talent is used for the building up of that esoteric temple.

2. Inviting—when men come to visit, they feel like they're at home. They're greeted in a warm and friendly manner. They're looked at in the eye, given a warm handshake and are asked some basic questions like "what is your name?" and "where are you from?" It's good to give a positive impression. The entry way to the lodge can be the most inviting space. How does it look? Is it neat and clean? Or cluttered?

3. Passion—for me, passion is the evoking of great desire for any cause or purpose. Passion is the opposite of indifference or aloofness. Passion suggests having



presence with a cause. It means to share that you "care" about something, pouring one's whole heart and soul into a cause. It can also mean to have great enthusiasm that's contagious. And it's this "contagious spirit" that can draw the uninitiated into the fraternity.

4. Purpose—why do we gather together? What's the mission of our organization? What values do we promote? One of the greatest turnoffs for me is to attend any type of organization where there's no purpose to the meeting or gathering. I'd much rather attend a meeting 30 minutes long with a purposeful agenda rather than 2 hrs that get nowhere.

5. Vision—vision is "eyesight" that looks into the future and sees something "new." This is where goal setting is so important. Where do you see your local lodge in 5 years or 10? It's important to get input from all the brethren and then write down these goals. By including all of the brethren in the discussion, there's greater ownership toward those yearly benchmarks.

What makes a healthy lodge? What are your ideas? I think this is a discussion that should take place. To me, a healthy lodge is one that is: engaging, inviting, passionate, purposeful and vision seeking. What is a healthy lodge to you?

Communication: Sharing the Ideals of the Craft

by Brother Christopher Weininger
Mystic Lodge #65, Hampden

Communication is something that has fascinated me for some time. In college, I studied literature and language alongside the varied arts and sciences, and it was there that my love for communication really took hold of me. It was there that I realized that communicating took on more forms than just understanding and regurgitating words.

As a still rather "fresh" Master Mason, who joined the Fraternity for fellowship and a deeper understanding of history and philosophy, I am finding that the art of communication is very much alive today within the Craft.

By communication, I don't mean Brother speaking to Brother, although that is an inherently important aspect of Freemasonry. Communication is more than that; it is conveying understanding and meaning, though not nec-

essarily through spoken word. This is something that Freemasonry excels at.

I have attended several degrees since I was raised in February. During each of those initiations, be it Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or the Raising of a Master Mason, I've noticed that each degree communicates the many secrets, signs, and passwords of the Craft through more than just recitation of lines from the code book.

Signs, tokens, passes, and other allusions displayed and revealed during each degree begin to build a beautiful tapestry of the deeper philosophies of Freemasonry, especially when you begin to think about and connect the meanings behind these things, be they spoken or inferred.

It is easier to understand inferred meanings once you're on the other side of the altar, as it were. Witnessing degrees becomes magical, in a way, as you

Continued on Page 12

Bro. Colin Littlefield, 4th Generation Corinthian Lodge Mason



Last May, for the second time in Corinthian Lodge #95 of Hartland, a Littlefield became a fourth generation Mason when Brother Colin Littlefield was raised to the Sublime Degree. The top photo pictures all Brother Masons and relatives together at the time of the raising. Front row, l-r: Tanner Littlefield, Zachary Littlefield, Dana Littlefield, Colin Littlefield, and Elwin Littlefield.

Second row: Kenton Littlefield, Adam Littlefield, Dwayne Littlefield, Chris Littlefield and Elmer Littlefield. Alone in the back row is Brother Harvey Hayden, the candidate's great uncle.



The photo to the left includes, Bro. Dana Littlefield, father; the candidate; and Brother Elwin Littlefield, grandfather. They are holding an apron signifying Colin's great-grandfather. Brother Alton Littlefield.

Communication, Sharing the Ideals of the Craft

Continued from Page 11

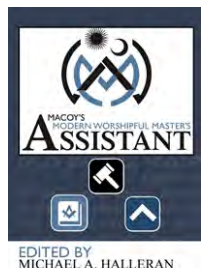
draw connections between different symbols and historical reference; different arts, religions, and philosophies embraced and artfully communicated by the encompassing, compassionate Fraternity that we have all grown to love.

This has been a truly unique and wonderful journey so far. It has been one that has taught me to be a better

man by communicating the ideals of our Craft both verbally in the Lodge and through silent action outside of the Lodge. Remember, some of the greatest tenants of Freemasonry are communicated silently, and often by compassionate action. So, too, should we communicate the peace and love of our Craft to the public. Humbly and silently, we must serve our fellow man and show empathy and kindness for all who are in need of guidance or relief.

A brother said to me recently, “I’d love to read all those books you recommend but I just don’t have that much money!” EVERY book reviewed here is in the Grand Lodge Library and can be borrowed at any time. If you aren’t near Holden, just call and we’ll send it to you postpaid. In a month, you get it back to us. It’s that easy and one less reason for not reading!

THE OLD WEBMASTER’S BOOKSHELF



For over a century, helpful brothers would give a newly installed lodge Master a copy of *Macoy's Worshipful Master's Assistant*, too often far after the time when it should have been read. Now, though, you should give the newly elected **Junior Warden** his personal copy of *Macoy's Modern Worshipful Master's Assistant*, edited and brought

into the current age by Michael A. Halleran. It's a very well-written revision by a (now) PGM who, as an attorney, is acutely aware of the many inter-jurisdiction variations in the practice of our Craft. He has carefully and thoroughly provided a wealth of guidance to those headed towards the East. This is *truly* a work that every lodge should have available. Imagine: information on handling the lodge's social media, hints about welcoming visiting Masons, realities of planning a budget and so much more. It's timely and relevant - and cannot fail to help in your lodge's management!

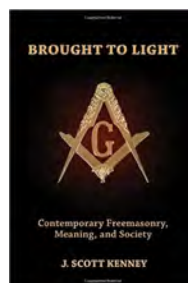
For me, it's both a blessing and a curse to find great new books. Self-publishing brings more books to market faster and although there's a fair amount of chaff amongst the wheat, there are often true gems. One such work is *Casting Light: A Journey Through Craft Masonry and Beyond* by Bro. Jason Eddy. Personal and reflective, there's much to learn and much to be gained from this small book. Included are some of his poems to help bring futher light to the reader. The Library also has his book *Musings Along the Road Less Taken Vol. I*, described as "...a poetic journey through the mind of a dreamer, philosopher, and esotericist. It contains inspirational and deeply contemplative poems..." Both are well worth reading but the former really does 'speak to' so many things in Masonry and those joining that it would certainly benefit the new seeker as well as the old cynic.



Here's something both old AND new: published in November, a (small) portion of this work actually was posted anonymously on the web some 16 years ago. *Contemplative Masonry: Basic Applications of Mindfulness, Meditation,*

and Imagery for the Craft (Revised & Expanded Edition) by C. R. Dunning, Jr.

Its subtitle will alert the prospective reader that this isn't just a book of 'reading' but rather, it has suggested exercises for the mind and body, grounded in the ritual and teachings of Freemasonry. Those looking for a 'workbook' will likely find this intriguing and it's FAR better than a couple of other works along these lines in the past. If you're the type of reader who likes activity-oriented learning with triggers to help stimulate your mind, this may well be the book for you. Others would likely find it a waste of time. Me? I'm warming up to it actually!



Brought to Light: Contemporary Freemasonry, Meaning, and Society by J. Scott Kenney addresses many of the problems our organization and its members face today. It's academic yet very approachable, with facts, figures, a great bibliography for further study and importantly some suggestions for addressing those things we find concerning in

our lodges and the world around us. You may not fully agree with the responses to Bro. Kinney's surveys but after reading this book, it'll be awfully hard to keep holding every preconceived notion of what's right and wrong about it all.

It's inappropriate for a reviewer to be blathering about books he's not read but I'll make this one exception. Arriving too late for me to finish it is 'Coach' John Nagy's *The Craft Unmasked - The Uncommon Origin of Freemasonry and its Practice*. Some will remember Bro. Nagy from a Maine Masonic College program several years ago. How I missed this book for the past two years, I don't know. There's lots and lots of good stuff here indeed.

Some great things are in the works for your Library and Museum as we move towards MaineMasonry200. Stay tuned!!!



Bro. Ed King is our 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!

Oral Instruction and Oral Law

by Brother Michael Hopkins
Saco Lodge #9

Most Masonic instruction is provided orally, mouth to ear. All that is esoteric is given orally; and there is, per Mackey, a law of the Institution that forbids that such instruction be written. The twenty-third of Mackey's Ancient Landmarks states that the form of secrecy is a form inherent in Freemasonry, existed with it from its origins, and is secured to it by its landmarks. The twenty-fourth such Landmark further expounds on the significance of the foundation of a speculative science upon an operative art, and the symbolic use and explanation of the terms of that art, for the purposes of religious or moral teaching.¹

The Fellow Craft learns the significance of the attentive ear and instructive tongue. In this way, and through symbols most expressive, the most valuable tenets of Freemasonry are transmitted unimpaired.

In Jewish teaching, the oral law is the name given to the interpretation of the written law given by God to Moses. It is said to have been delivered to Moses at the same time, accompanied by the Divine command, "Thou shalt not divulge the words which I have said to thee out of my mouth."² The oral law was considered of the same sanctity and importance as the written, and was preserved in the memories of the judges, prophets, priests, and other wise men. It was handed down, from one to the other, through a long succession of ages. The Jewish philosopher Maimonides (1135-1204), has described how Moses impressed the principles of this oral law upon the people. Freemasons who wish to perfect themselves in the esoteric lessons of their Institution might benefit from considering this example of oral instruction.

Per the rabbinic traditions related by Maimonides, when Moses had descended from Mount Sinai and had spoken to the people, he retired to his tent. He was visited by Aaron to whom, sitting at his feet, he recited the law and its explanation as he had received it from God. Aaron then rose and seated himself on the right hand of Moses. Aaron's sons Eleazar and Ithamar now entered the tent, and Moses repeated to them all that he had communicated to their father; after which, they seated themselves, one on the left hand of Moses and the other on the right hand of Aaron. Then came the seventy elders, and Moses taught them, in the same manner as he had taught Aaron and his sons. Afterward, all of the congregation who desired to know the Divine Will came in; and to them, also, Moses recited the law and its interpretation, in the same manner as before.

The Law, given by God to Moses (see *Exodus*, Ch. 20) was thus orally delivered by Moses and had now been heard four times by Aaron, three times by his sons, twice by the seventy elders, and once by the rest of the people. After this, Moses withdrew and Aaron repeated all that he had heard from Moses, and retired. Then Eleazar and Ithamar repeated it, and also withdrew; and finally the same thing was done by the seventy elders; so that each of them having heard the law repeated four times, it was fixed in their memories.³

The written law, divided by Jewish lawgivers into 613 precepts, is contained in the first five books of the Bible, what Christians call the Pentateuch and Jews the Torah. But the oral law was transmitted by Moses to Aaron, by him to the elders, and from them conveyed orally up to the time of Judah the Holy (135-217). At a time of grave existential threat to Jews Judah edited it into the written work known as the Mishna to preserve it from being lost forever.

It is an interesting aside to consider that in the rabbinic story above Aaron's sons Eleazar and Ithamar received the instruction. In the Bible, Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu accompany him with Moses and the elders to Mount Sinai to see the Lord while Eleazar and Ithamar are not mentioned (*Exodus*, Ch. 24). What happened? The answer is that Aaron had four sons. Nadab and Abihu, being the two eldest, were to inherit Aaron's priestly office. However, Nadab and Abihu were later to violate the sanctity of the burnt offering and die as a result (Leviticus 10:1-2).

The Hebrew phrase *Yimakh Shemo* means "may his name be obliterated." And thus have Nadab and Abihu been forgotten in the redaction of the oral law, the younger two sons taking their place. This classic Hebrew curse is echoed in our Masonic ritual. Let us remain steadfast to our own obligation as Master Masons, lest our memories suffer the same fate.

¹ Maine Masonic Text Book, 17th edition, Maine Printing Company Inc, 2002, pp.165-66.

² Mackey, Albert G, Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences, 1873. May be viewed at www.phoenixmasonry.org/mackeys_encyclopedia/

³ Ibid



Maine Masonic 2017 Plane Pull to Defeat Multiple Sclerosis

**Bro. Erik S. Nelson,
RWDDGM/13**

Most of us go to bed each night knowing what the next day has in store for us. We know that we will be able to awake, make and eat breakfast, dress ourselves and perform the myriad other tasks required of us in order to prepare for our day. Most of us hardly give a thought to these mundane daily rituals. However, for an increasing segment of our population, this certainty at the end of the day is far less sure. Many will wonder if they will be able to get out of bed without falling, or needing assistance.

Some will wonder if they will be able to stand long enough to prepare breakfast for themselves or their family. Many will fear that they may lose their balance and fall at work, or at the store, embarrassing or injuring themselves. Some may not be physically capable of dressing or even caring for themselves. For roughly 400,000 people in the United States living with Multiple Sclerosis such assurances and certainties are hardly commonplace.

The Maine Chapter of the National MS Society holds one of its largest, and certainly most spectacular, fundraisers at the Portland Jet-Port. Each June, teams of 25 pit their might against a fully loaded Fed-Ex 727. Teams are required to each raise \$1500 to participate (that's only \$60 per participant) and are given the opportunity to pull this 72 ton aircraft a distance of 12 feet. In 2016, the fastest time was 4.976 seconds and teams raised over \$20,000 for the Society.

In 2011, as the then Master of Somerset Lodge

#34 in Skowhegan, and with my wife Stephanie, an MS Patient since 2007, as my inspiration, I issued a Challenge to the other 23 Masonic Districts in the State of Maine to form a team, raise the required funds and meet the 13th District team in Portland to compete in what I hoped, at the time, would have been the 1st annual "Maine Masonic Plane Pull Challenge."



A scene from the 2011 Plane Pull Challenge.

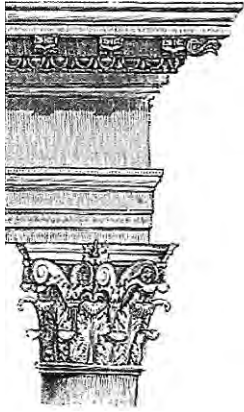
Due to the always changing and unexpected nature of this disease, my family was dealt some curveballs and we were unable to issue the challenge the following year.

However, without even being issued the challenge, District 7 and District 16 formed a team and showed up to the event in 2012. District 7 also showed up the fol-

lowing year.

With health issues calming a bit and life now back to some semblance of normal, I would again like to issue this challenge for this amazing cause to each of the other 23 Masonic Districts to form a team, raise the funds and meet the 13th Masonic District in Portland in June 2017.

Anyone interested in forming a team may contact Shawna Chigro-Rogers at shawna.chigro-rogers@nmss.org, or (207)781-5617. You can also find out more about the event by visiting <https://goo.gl/Zhcd7x>. Lets all join together and help the National MS Society to help put an end to this often debilitating disease of the central nervous system!



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



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.

Jan 14

Tenants & Cardinal Virtues

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

Instructor: RW Reggie Wing

Location: Tyrian Lodge, Mechanic Falls 9AM-12PM District 23

Jan 21

Polishing the Stone

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: RW Mark E. Rustin

Location: Alna Anchor, Damariscotta 9AM-12PM District 10

Feb 11

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: MW Wayne T. Adams

Location: Piscataquis Lodge, Milo 9AM-12PM District 6

February 18

Esoteric Masonry

This seminar is a continuation from the basic symbolism course and it would be helpful if you have taken that course in the past. Here the Entered Apprentice degree will be analyzed and explored and so it is a prerequisite that you have received the EA degree and therefore are a Mason. RW Brother Eric Kuntz and VW Brother David Guarente will lead us

Continued on Page 18

THE MAINE MASON

The College Briefly...

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

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

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

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

INVOLVEMENT!

LIKE us on
Facebook



#21 The Minutes of “Old Builders Lodge #1000”

Brother George M.A. Macdougall

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

This installment of the *Minutes* takes a different twist from our usual subjects which have been along the lines of architecture and engineering. This installment of the ‘*Minutes*’ is about someone who had us all in mind when they perfected their work. Their driving force was to improve the world and they did that by making electricity available to everyone! The subject for this edition of the ‘*Minutes*’ is Nikola Tesla. He perfected the use of Alternating Current (AC) in a world of Direct Current (DC) and even paved the way for radio and made a radio-controlled boat. His ultimate dream was to provide electricity wirelessly to everyone for free!



Nikola Tesla

Nikola Tesla was born July 10, 1856 in modern day Croatia and he died January 7, 1943 in New York City. While growing up, his father was a minister and his mother invented household appliances and memorized poetry. Tesla attributes his mother with his having a photographic memory. He came to the United States in 1884 with an introduction letter from Charles Batchelor to Thomas Edison: “I know two great men,” wrote Batchelor, “one is you and the other is this young man.” Due to Edison’s negative views on AC and extensive investment in DC, Tesla soon left the company and found other backers for his experiments.

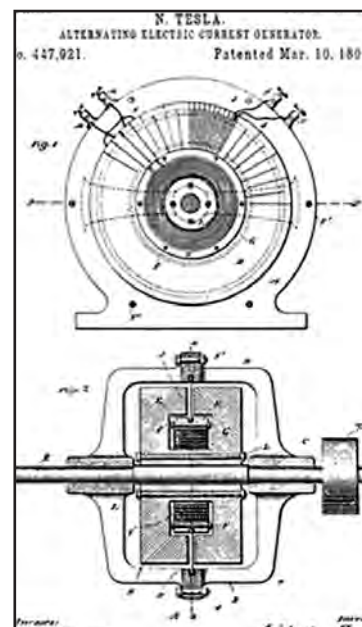
The war for electrifying America was on! Edison was on one side with his DC power and Tesla, backed by George Westinghouse, was on the other side with AC power. At this time, very few homes in America had electricity. Then two things happened that would swing the war in AC’s favor. Tesla and Westinghouse were picked to demonstrate AC at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and soon after won the contract to build the first AC Hydro Dam at Niagara Falls. This allowed them to supply power to the entire city of

Buffalo, New York which gained them national recognition. At one point, to keep the company solvent, Tesla gave up his rights to royalties on every kilowatt of AC power sold that he had originally contracted for with Westinghouse. This decision personally cost him millions of dollars but allowed people to get a better and cheaper power source.

The primary difference between Alternating Current and Direct Current is the flow of electrons (the flow of electrons is what makes up electricity!). Direct Current provides a constant voltage or current like a stream of water. In the case of AC, the flow of electrons changes direction 60 times per second, alternating back and forth.

The problem with DC, and Edison’s idea, was that DC could not go very far before it lost too much power. In fact, after it travelled less than 2 miles, it no longer had enough power to light a light bulb! This meant that to cover great distances, extremely high voltage was needed at the source, a very dangerous situation. This made electrifying rural America impossible or at least way too expensive to be practical. Tesla solved this problem by using Alternating Current. He realized that by using AC with transformers (you can see cylinder shaped transformers out on the power line poles today) to step down voltage until it reached its destination, say your house, then another transformer steps it back up to the right power to charge your cell phone, he could cover very long distances safely.

Tesla was a pioneer in many fields. The Tesla coil, which he invented in 1891, is widely used today in radio and television sets and other electronic equipment. His alternating current induction motor is considered one of the ten greatest discoveries of all time. He also discovered or contributed to the fluorescent light, laser beam, wireless communications, wireless transmission of electrical energy, remote control, robotics, Tesla’s turbines and vertical take-off aircraft. He registered more than 700 patents worldwide.



Tesla’s schematic for an AC generator

Course Offerings *Continued from Page 16*

on a journey through the words, objects, gestures and movements of the degree while they integrate deeper meanings and connections to other esoteric practices. This will be a lengthy course running from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. This is the second in what we hope will become a four part series beginning with general symbolism and going on to cover each individual degree. Come out and enjoy.

Instructor: RW Eric Kuntz

Location: Lygonia Lodge, Ellsworth 9AM-12PM District 21

March 4

Vitruvius & MM Secrets —

Whenever we set out to become educated about an aspect of our lives, we will be challenged by the intellectual pursuit of what we have here-to-fore taken for granted. Pursuing a diploma from the Maine Masonic College is no exception. In order to academically study Freemasonry one must be prepared to have 'truths' challenged, myths laid bare, and new light to flood the dark recesses of previously unexplored territory of understanding. This course is designed to make one ready for this journey of academic discovery- the Masonic College Diploma- while increasing one's love for Freemasonry rather the losing it.

Instructor: MW Walter Macdougall, RW George Macdougall, RW Don McDougal

Location: Mt. Kineo Lodge, Guilford 9AM-12PM District 5

March 11

Symbolism

This course will help establish a foundation of understanding for several Maine Masonic College courses dealing with Masonic and other forms of symbolism, allegory, myth and philosophical expressions of belief. It was developed from a psychological and practical perspective which examines the use of dynamic roles of symbols as instruments of understanding and vehicles of exploration both in our personal lives and in our mutual and significant inter-relationships with others.

Instructor: RW Eric Kuntz

Location: David A Hooper, Sullivan 9AM-12PM District 21

March 18

Understanding World Religions — What any well informed Mason should know — A highly important and timely subject open to all.

A recent poll of Americans revealed an alarming lack of basic knowledge about the world's religions. The Gallup poll revealed that only half of American adults could name even one of the four Gospels of the New Testament. This course has been designed to teach participants the basics of world religions including their origins, historical figures, rituals, scriptures, holidays and key teachings.

Instructor: RW Charlie Plummer

Location: Messalonskee Lodge, Oakland 9AM-12PM District 12

April 1

Rhetoric Speech

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 or to persuade. Special effort is made to provide a friendly and supportive atmosphere in which participants may practice what they are learning.

Instructor: TBD

Location: TBD 9AM-12PM District TBD

April 15

Celebration of the Arts and Sciences

Once a year the Maine Masonic College holds a celebration of the arts and sciences which are the magnificent achievements and courageous outreach of the human mind and spirit. Traditionally, the format for these annual celebrations includes a morning presentation by a leading figure in a particular art of science or in arts and science education followed by a banquet and an open session encouraging participation on the part of the participant.

Instructor: TBD

Location: Spectacular Events Center, Bangor

April 29

Free Masonry & Alchemy: A look at the similarities and possible connections between the symbols of Freemasonry and those of alchemy and depth psychology.

Instructor: RW Eric Kuntz

Location: Tuscan Lodge, Addison 9AM-12PM District 3



Presentation to the First Congregational Church of Bridgton

Again during 2016 the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation awarded \$2000 grants to deserving community efforts in each of the 24 Masonic Districts across the State. Every lodge was encouraged to submit three nominations, and District Committees selected the winners. For the second year in a row Oriental Lodge #13 of Bridgton nominated the First Congregational Church of Bridgton, and for the second time the church was chosen to receive the award. Among its many community outreach programs the Church supports a local food pantry and provides a clothing distribution center for those in need. The above photo was taken during the presentation ceremony in April. Pictured in front are Brother Kevin Kugell, then-DDGM/16, Brother Matthew Gavett, Brother Tom and Charlotte Nolan, Dodie and Brother Carl Henning, Brother Scott Gavett, Brother Doug Taft, now DDGM/16, and Brother George Drisko. In the rear are brethren from Oriental Lodge and other 16th District lodges.

Brother Eric Kuntz honored for years of Dedicated Service

R.W. Brother Eric Kuntz recently stepped down after leading The Maine Lodge of Research for the past nine years. This photo depicts Wor. Brother Lorne Urquhart presenting Brother Kuntz a certificate of appreciation for his leadership and dedicated service. He also received a pretty good sized cardboard box with "Masonic Lamp" written on its side and a "Fragile" sticker affixed below. "It was a nice ruby lamp, not a 'major prize' nor the 'Leg Lamp'," we are told. The presentations were made at the MLR December meeting.



An Examining of Early Masonic History

***This is the first of a two-part study of the
Origins of Modern Masonry***

by Brother Donald Beane

History teaches us many lessons. As it shows us the world which existed before us; it also shows us the world which created us. A world which provided the context against which our socialization-our cultural education-occurred.

It is important to remember; context is not constant. For each time, place, event, and individual, it is different. Even though individuals may share a common contextual moment, for each it is slightly different, because each socialization experience is different.

When we look at an organization, such as Freemasons, which has existed for a long period of time, it is important to remember the history of the organization, and hence its participants, and that, because of their duration, they have gone through many contextual periods. And these contextual periods have shaped the behavior of the organization and individuals, and in turn, to some degree, been shaped by them.

In looking at Masonic history, we see an organization whose history goes back into the mists of time. An organization whose existence easily goes back, as a minimum, 1500 plus years. And according to our traditions, the history goes back at least another approximate 1,000 years before that time. So when we seek to find clarity and specificity in early Masonic history, it is similar to looking down a long dark road with increasingly, thickening mists obscuring our vision the further back we go. A brief examination of some of the major factors which influenced the creation of the environments the Masons developed through and, of course, influenced their development are:

* Particularly with the final conquering of Rome by Odoacer in 476 CE, literacy in the Western world dramatically declined for close to a thousand years until Gutenberg's printing press revolutionized the dissemination of knowledge within Western society. So, with the printing press, information, which had been situationally restricted to very few, now became widely available to a great many more. It revolutionized society; contributed too many deep social, political, and cultural revolutions; and helped lead to the development of the middle-class in many countries. A middle-class which was crucial to the development of our Order, because, as a minimum, many of our members came from it.

* One of the spin-offs of this revolution was the rise

of literacy. A literacy which dramatically not only increased communications between groups and people, but also recorded words and ideas which could be more easily passed through time. The four major manuscripts (the Regius, Cooke, Dowland, and Lodge #1) which give us the early history of our Order are classic examples of this process. We have them today even though some were written (the Regius) potentially over a thousand years ago, and reference actions and actors, a thousand years before then.

* Membership in our order has tended to not be restricted to any one social class. It is about ideas-not social class. For the period of time from the earliest years up until approximately 1100, for example, the Order was led by the aristocracy of their societies. This arguably helped the society survive and grow, and perhaps even more importantly transmit knowledge, because literacy basically only existed at this level of society. Additionally, the middle class, which particularly through the late middle ages on became the home and sanctuary of the Order, did not yet exist at this earlier time. Also, the aristocracy, particularly under Phillip IV of France, in approximately 1307, turned against the Order. This changing relational nature of our Order to the different groups in society illustrates perhaps more than anything else its basis in ideas and concepts, such as duty and honor, as opposed to just social power, greed, and force. Interestingly, this perhaps more than anything else, is why our core values have survived over all this time and continue to play their part in our fraternity, and those forces which frequently tried to destroy and repress our Order are no longer able to do so-at least currently.

* As groups have periodically tried to destroy our Order, its survival was greatly aided by the nature of our organizational structure. Perhaps because of conditions in earlier times when communications and travel between groups was very difficult if not impossible, we developed as a highly de-centralized organization. Each area and region were basically autonomous. Historically this has meant several things among of which are: 1) each group became somewhat culturally specific which enabled them, among other things, to be a more integral part of, and better serve, their cultures. It is important to remember, the cultural characteristics were only manifestations of the same core beliefs which all groups shared. 2) We became one of the first international groups, transcending state borders and hence becoming

Continued on Page 22

The Flammarion Engraving and Our Ritual

By Brother Don McDougal
RW Past Asst. Grand Lecturer

As I start my day on the computer, most days ease into the workday with a stop at “Astronomy Picture of the Day” <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>.

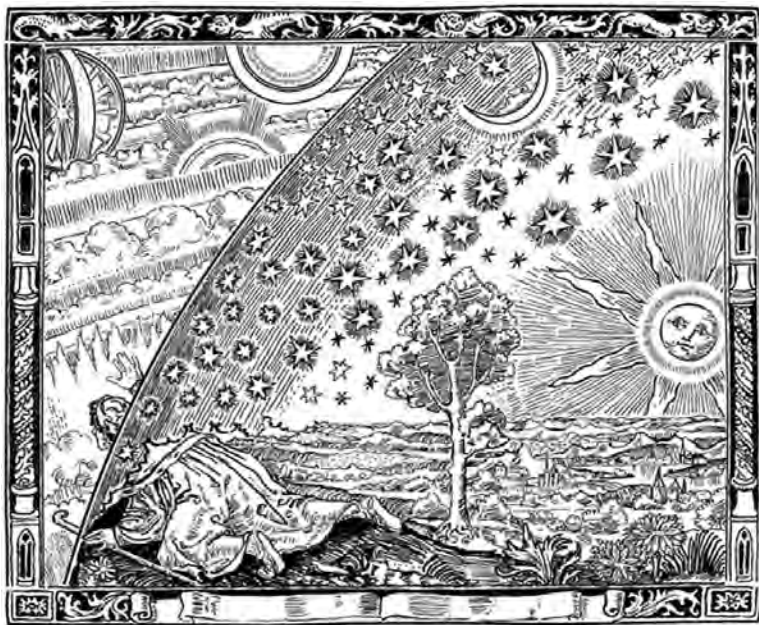
On the morning of July 19, 2016, the image for the day was of the Flammarion Engraving. Published in 1888 by astronomer Camille Flammarion, it is often used “to show that humanity’s present concepts are susceptible to being supplanted by greater truths.”

The engraving represents cosmology as understood by ancient Hebrews. This concept of the Universe proposed a relatively flat earth floating on water surrounded by the arched roof of Heaven or solid Firmament (See Genesis 1:6-8). To this Firmament were attached the sun, moon, stars, and sky - beyond which lay Heaven. It depicts a robed man with a staff bending down and looking through a cleft and discovering astonishing beauty and a breathtaking cosmos beyond. Occasionally, early travelers would return with tales of traveling far enough to have visited this earthly boundary and peering under the firmament to see the grandeur of heaven further on. Eventually, during the Copernican era, humanity revisited this version of cosmology.

I was struck with the parallels in symbolism contained in the engraving with those I see in our Fellow Craft Ritual. Our Ritual does not wish us to stand idly by in our safe little cocoon of earth, sun, moon, stars and sky. For the benefit of our human family, it exhorts us to reach out beyond that comfort zone of current knowledge. The Senior Deacon tells us that implanted within each of us is the ability and need to travel in that vast treasure-house of uncharted knowledge to seek out enlightenment for the best most beneficial purposes of humanity.

The two pillars referenced in his Lecture symbolically represent the beginning of this quest. They mark the beginning of a journey which leaves the safe world of the certain and known to enter the risky world of a quest for new knowledge and enlightenment. In contrast to Galileo and Giordano Bruno, we now have the privilege and safety to propose and consider unpopular ideas. Our ritual parallels Galileo’s thoughts about a search for knowledge: “I do not feel ...that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.”

Later in the Degree, the Letter G Lecture outlines



The Flammarion Engraving

multiple lifetimes of opportunities for us to follow Francis Bacon’s plan proposed in *Novum Organum*. In that work he outlined the need for all of humanity to acquire and develop new knowledge. The Letter G guides us from “Nature’s most concealed recesses” of the micro world of bacteria, fungi, and archaea to the unimaginable expanses of the “Numberless worlds” which surround us.

An APOD entry on August 15, 2016 – “Human as Spaceship”, gives us an illustration of “Natures Most Concealed Recesses”, that figure metaphorically refers to us as “Human Spaceships” carrying a myriad of microscopic creatures on a voyage through our universe. Our *Microbiome*, made up of countless individual bacteria, fungi, and archaea, apparently outnumbers our own cells. It battles intruders, aids digestion, impacts oral health, and assists in the production of certain vitamins. We may be captain but we do not understand much about our crew.

An APOD entry on June 5, 2014 - Hubble Ultra Deep Field image gives us a way to estimate the “Numberless worlds” around us. It is an image of an “empty” section of the night sky south of Orion which occupies about 1/10,000,000 of the total sky. It could be covered by a 1 mm square piece of paper held an arm’s length. Or, it is about the size of the tip of a ball point pen held at the same distance. It is said to contain about 10,000 galaxies. Considering that image

Continued on Page 23

Early Masonic History *Continued from Page 20*

somewhat independent of states and protected from them. So when some leaders of states, such as Phillip IV tried to harm us, our organizations in other states were somewhat protected.

* Finally, because much of our early history occurred during periods of massive illiteracy, much of the transmission of the Order's history and beliefs utilized myths, allegories, metaphors, and symbolism. The reasons for this would seem obvious. People remember stories which they can emotionally associate with more easily than impersonal data which is just memorized. It is like poetry or music, the flow and rhythm act as connective pieces to the whole. A classic example of this process is the New Testament of the Bible. All the gospels were passed by word of mouth for well over a hundred years (a minimum of three lifetimes) before they were written down.

With this brief list of factors in mind we begin our examination of the early history of Freemasonry by looking at the Old Charges in the context of the times when they were probably written. They provide the earliest, somewhat verifiable history of the Order; recount the earliest myths, allegories, metaphors, and symbols which reach back into the farthest mists of its beginning; and describe the common core of beliefs which all the early lodges, back into non-documented time, generally adhered too as a belief. It is important to mention, this is the common core of beliefs which we adhere too, even today. They have always been central to the Order regardless of time, location, or context.

The Old Charges came from apparently similar sources, but also dissimilar ones. The only area where they seem to be exactly similar is in listing the duties and obligations of its members, the structure of the organization, and generally the role of the organization in society. When they discuss the history of the Order; they may differ dramatically. Probably the main reason for this was, before the printing press, the Lodges wrote out their own founding documents (most likely passed to them through word of mouth) and without a unifying overall organization until the formation of the Grand Lodge of All England (approximately 1583); there was no drive to standardize them. And upon these copies of theirs; they swore their oaths of allegiance and obedience.

The Old Charges, as I will specifically discuss later, reach back into the far reaches of time to the building of Solomon's Temple (approximately 832 BCE), to Euclid's writing of the *Elements* (300 BCE)) and the creation of geometry, to Abraham (born 1800 BCE in Ur Kasdim (the first known agriculturally based civilization in what

became Sumer), and the children of Lamech, Cain's master builder (whose children were Jubal, Tubal, and Naomah) whose origination goes back to the development of agricultural based societies about 9,000 BCE. All of the above comments concerning lack of written records, transmission of ideas, etc., of course apply here, and for the next thousand plus years.

Order traces its beginning back to the beginning of civilization in Mesopotamia. Its then movement among Semitic tribes to the Southern Mediterranean (the Southern Levant), and very oddly for its context and times, to Greece during its Golden Age. This is odd because the Jewish peoples hated the Greeks. They saw their preoccupation with reason and empiricism as being the deepest heresy in the Jew's deeply religious society. If, as the Old Charges say, all of this actually occurred, then perhaps here is where we see the fusion in our Order between our deep devotion to our God and our usage of reason and empiricism to find our way to belief and understanding. It should be noted here, all this greatly precedes Christianity and Islam and most of the Eastern philosophes, such as Buddhism.

The trail, according to the Charges, becomes obscure here until the beginning of the rise of modern Western Europe around the time of the collapse of the Western Roman Empire (427 CE). This is a lot of time, over approximately a thousand years. During this time, there is the collapse of Greece; the rise of Alexander II of Macedon (who legend says was a Mason and who took it East to India); the spread of Hellenism as a thought and ideal, primarily to the West (probably conveying the ideas of our Order); the rise of the Roman Empire (republic then imperium); the coming of Christianity in the West and Buddhism plus others in the East; the split of the Roman Empire between East (and the rise of Byzantium) and West; the decline and destruction of the Western Empire by basically a series of Germanic invasions West; and the rise of nascent Western European states which is where Charles Martel (686-741 CE) comes onto the scene with his later grandson Charlemagne (742-814 CE).

According to the Dowland (1550) and 1st Grand Lodge manuscript (1583) Masonry resurfaces at (686-741) this point in the guise of Maymus Grecus who teaches masonry to Charles Martel. Contextually, by approximately 500 CE the Western Roman Empire has fallen.

The only major power left in Rome was the Catholic Church.

To Be Continued



The Hubble Deep Field Image.

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, H. Teplitz and M. Rafelski (IPAC/Caltech, A. Koekemoer (STScI), R. Windhorst (ASU), Z. Levay (STScI)

The Flammarion Engraving

Continued from Page 21

and a close up view of a typical galaxy such as Messier 9 simultaneously, we reach a near incomprehensible number of worlds around us.

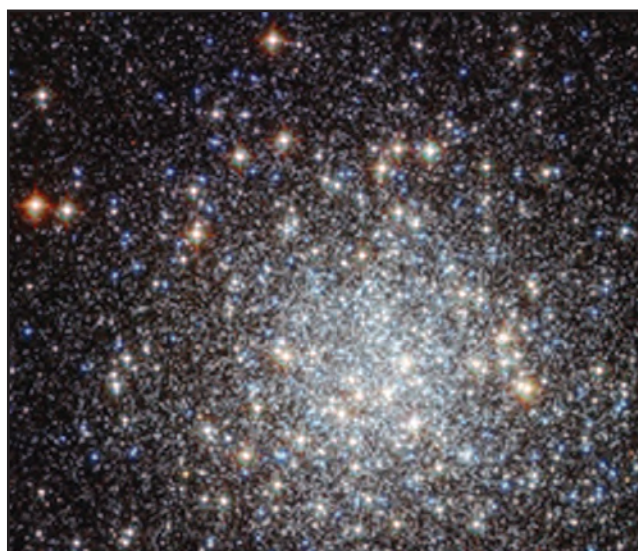
APOD: 2012 March 23 - Messier 9 Close Up is a close up of a “typical” galaxy. An “average” galaxy is estimated to contain 40 billion stars (that’s 40,000,000,000). So if we take the 10,000 galaxies seen in the “Hubble Ultra Deep Field” then multiply that by 10,000,000 (the total Ultra Deep Fields it would take to cover the entire sky) we would get 100,000,000,000 estimated galaxies in the observable universe. If we multiply that by the 40,000,000,000 stars in the “average” galaxy we get an estimate of 4,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (4 sextillion) stars in the universe. Those stars would harbor the planets which make up the “numberless worlds” around us.

The foregoing offers opportunity for us as individuals to pursue further growth in the areas suggested by the Sr Deacon’s Lecture. If we examine our ritual in light of the current stage of mankind’s humanity, spirituality, enlightenment, ethics, conscience, and virtue; the peoples of the earth have enormous room for advancement.

We learned at the Convocation on October 15 that Masonry played an important role in the worldwide changes in methods of governments that took place during the time period of the Revolutionary War. In his

book *Revolutionary Brotherhood*, 1996. University of North Carolina Press, Dr Bullock points out that after the war our “fraternity increasingly identified itself with the ideals of the nation as a whole”. pg 137

As it ever has, Mankind still needs a voice of conscience stressing ideals and universal integrity over short term personal gain. It is imperative that there be an active voice promoting ideals in civilization’s path to the future. Freemasonry could take a lead role in that voice. It is time to search our ritual to find thoughts bearing on how to “identify with ideals” of the entire body of humanity.



Messier 9 Close Up

Image Credit: ESA/Hubble, NASA

Rev. Brother Richard Allen, the Man, the Freemason

***by Bro. Richard Rhoda
R.W. Past Grand Historian***

This past March the U.S. Postal Service celebrated Black Heritage month with a stamp commemorating the life of Richard Allen (February 14, 1760- March 26, 1831).

Allen purchased his freedom in his twenties and became a traveling minister throughout the Mid-Atlantic states.

He purchased an old blacksmith's shop and moved it to land he owned at Sixth and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia where it was dedicated in 1794 as Bethel Church.

In 1816, Allen and other black Methodist leaders founded the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Philadelphia. Allen was elected and consecrated as its first bishop.

Today the present church, lovingly known as Mother Bethel AME Church, stands on the site where Allen converted that old blacksmith's shop. Today that denomination has more than 2.5 million members.

The above information was printed on the reverse of the 20 stamps sheets sold at the post office. What follows is "the rest of the story," as commentator Paul Harvey would say.

We are fortunate that Bro. Allen was a man of such character and leadership who found the teachings and brotherhood of Freemasonry to be worthy of his time and personal endeavors.

He was a personal friend of Prince



Hall and they worked jointly on matters to promote civil rights in both Boston and Philadelphia.

He became a Mason joining the original Prince Hall Masonic Lodge in Boston, African Lodge No. 459.

He was a co-founder of the first Prince Hall Lodge in Philadelphia in 1797 which was also known as African Lodge No. 459. He served as the first treasurer of this lodge for a number of years.

The ground floor of the church Allen founded contains a museum to his memory.

Military Vets work the MM Degree



Seats were filled along the sideline.



The Grand Master presents a Challenge Coin to Brother Stanford as PGM Adams looks on.



A goodly number of brethren gathered at Triangle Lodge #1 on Wednesday, 30 November. They were there to participate and see Brother David Stanford raised to the sublime degree. An active duty Coast Guardsman stationed in South Portland, Brother Stanford, a native of Naples, Maine was the 56th active duty serviceman raised by a group of dedicated military veteran Masons since M.W. Brother Wayne Adams put out a call for the first group back on 14 April 2004.

It was Brother Adams's idea to create a nucleus of military veterans who would gather to work active duty servicemen – and only active duty servicemen. Since then the team has worked throughout much of Maine, both in lodge rooms and at appropriate outdoor settings.

The visit to Triangle Lodge was the first time the group of military veteran visiting officers had worked in Maine's oldest lodge, and the first time they had raised a member of the Coast Guard.

Brother Stanford completed basic training at Cape May, NJ, Maritime Law Enforcement Academy in Charleston, S.C., and Bosun Mate "A" School in Yorktown, VA. He was assigned aboard the 270' USCG Cutter Seneca out of Boston before his current assignment at USCG Station South Portland.

Honoring Our Masonic Veterans



Brother Louis Ruby, a 53-year member of Triangle Lodge #1, received his 50-year Veterans Medal on Nov. 17 in Citrus Springs, FL from RW Pete Forrest, PSGW.



Brother Arthur Dearborn, a member of Adoniram Lodge #27, received his 50-year Veterans Medal on Nov. 16 at his home in Delray Beach, FL. The presentation was made by RW Jack Lagerquist, PSGW



Brother James Hennigar, a member of Triangle Lodge #1 received his 50-year Veterans Medal on Nov. 29 at his home in Titusville, FL. RW Pete Forrest made the presentation. Brother Hennigar joined while still in college. He took his degrees at Ancient Landmark Lodge #17 which has since merged with Triangle #1.



Brother George S. Paradise, a member of Keystone Lodge #80 in Solon, received his 50-year Veterans Medal on Nov. 16. at his home in Port St. Lucie, FL This photo shows him being congratulated by RW Pete Forrest.



On Nov. 16, two brethren of Corinthian Lodge #95 in Hartland received service medals. A 50-year Veterans Medal was presented to Brother Ronald A. Tasker, and a 25-year medal to his son, Greg A. Tasker Both have served as Worshipful Master of the lodge. On the same night, Leah Tasker, daughter and granddaughter of the honorees, was recognized for winning the 2016 kayak raffle.



Spending Time with Our Veteran Veterans

The Grand Lodge of Maine and other jurisdictions present a “Veteran’s Medal” to Masons who have been Lodge members for 50 years. And Maine then presents a gold star to Brothers for each additional five years of Masonic service. This year we have presented stars to many Brethren in recognition of 70 or 75 years of service. Most had also reached age 100, served in World War II, and had most interesting stories to share!

Bro. Alfred K. Fogg, age 101, was an active 75-year Mason in Cumberland Lodge #12 in New Gloucester who served during WWII within months after being raised as a Master Mason. He was a Marine and Navy Seabee who helped rebuild airstrips after the bombing of Pearl Harbor 75 years ago on December 7, 2041, using coral dug up from the seabed. He later served in the Battle of Iwo Jima where he laid communication lines for troops advancing toward Mount Suribachi. It was here that he was wounded, for which he was awarded a Purple Heart.



Brother Alfred Fogg

Bro. Philip B. Thomas of Columbia Doric Lodge #149 in Greenville served as a military doctor in the European theater during the Second World War. This centurion and 70 year Brother was on a ship steaming towards Japan when Most Worshipful Brother and President Harry Truman ordered atomic bombs to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He went on to a long medical career delivering babies in Monson, Greenville and Bangor.

Wor. Leroy D. Day, an active 70 year member of Jefferson Lodge #100 (matching his age) in Bryant Pond, served for many years as a Lodge officer, including several years as Lodge Chaplain, after serving his country during World War II.



Brother Philip Thomas with VIPs.



Wor. Leroy D. Day

The Masonic Diploma of departed Bro. James Smith, age 101, was presented to the Grand Master when he was in Connecticut. The diploma was returned this fall to Moses Webster Lodge #145 on Vinalhaven Island. Brother Smith had been a proud Mason there for eighty (80) years.

In total, 20 Maine Masons have celebrated their 100th birthdays. Fifty Brethren have 70-74 years of Masonic service; ten have been Master Masons for 75-79 years. And Brother Frank L. Wellcome Jr. of Saccarappa Lodge #186 in Westbrook has 80 years in Masonry; he served as a Lodge Steward in 1937-39.

Thank you Brethren for all you have done in and for Maine Freemasonry, your communities and your country.

Brother Roy I. Nickerson of Nezinscot Lodge #101 in Turner also celebrated his 70th Masonic birthday this year. He is the youngster of this group of World War II veterans, being only age 96. He served in the Army for over 20 years and then served his community as a State Representative for eight years after running the general store in Turner for many years.

The Masonic Diploma of departed Bro. James Smith, age 101, was presented to the Grand Master when he was in Connecticut. The diploma was returned this fall to Moses Webster Lodge #145 on Vinalhaven Island. Brother Smith had been a proud Mason there for eighty (80) years.



Brother Roy Nickerson and friend.

Arundel Lodge #76 Honors Three Veteran Members



Among the many Masons recognized throughout the jurisdiction during 2016 were these three long-time members of Arundel Lodge #76 in Kennebunkport.

In the photo at left, Brother George Barbour receives congratulations from M.W. Brother Claire Tusch for his 60 years of service as M.W. Brother Wayne Adams and Wor. Brother Don Barbour, a Past Master of Arundel Lodge and the son of the honoree, look on



In the photo above, Brother John Cluff's daughter, Robin Lovejoy, pins a 50-year pin on her father's collar.



In the photo at left, R.W. Brother Brian Ingalls, DDGM/19, tucks a 50-year Veterans Medal into the jacket pocket of Brother Sherman Thompson.

These awards were made on October 4.

Delta Lodge Honors Three Men for 165 Years of Service



BELOW: Brother Phil Shorey has 65 years of service to the Craft. He is a member of Phoenix Lodge in Hanover, MA as well as Delta Lodge #153 of Lovell. In the photo, Brother Shorey is being congratulated by his son, Brother Ron Shorey, as MW Brother Brian Paradis looks on with obvious approval.



ABOVE: Brother David Mills of Delta Lodge #153, Lovell, has 40 years of service to the Craft. He has also been a member of DeWitt Clinton Lodge in Sandwich, MA, and Wyoming Lodge, Melrose, MA. Pictured here, l-r are daughter-in-law Stacey Mills, son Chris Mills, JS at Delta, RW Brother Doug Taft, DDGM/16, Brother Mills, his wife Judy and Wor. Brother Rod Cole, Master of Delta Lodge.



Wor. Brother Maynard Craig, a Past Master of Delta Lodge has served the Craft for 60 years. He is also a PP of Pondicherry Chapter, OES. Pictured here are Wor. Gary Craig, left, also a Past Master of Delta with the honoree flanked by his daughter, Nina Barker, standing, and his wife Carol, and the remainder of the Craig family.

2500 Miles in the Saddle to help Others

by Wor. Brother Dennis Drews
Washington Lodge #37, Lubec

Imagine this Brethren—you're a retired Air Force Colonel who has flown more than 130 combat missions in the F-15 and F-16 over the skies of Iraq and Bosnia, you survived the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on 9/11, you're an ordained minister who serves as operations pastor of your church, you keep your hand in at flying for an executive air taxi business. All that and you still haven't reached your 60th birthday.

Time to just kick back and relax, right? Well, not for Col. Gary "Gumby" West USAF (retired). Fearful he might become a couch potato (unlikely) he began looking for other ways to share his talents and skill. As a career military man who had come back safely from every mission -- and a compassionate soul -- he began looking for more ways to help others as well as get back in shape.

Gary felt a strong obligation to help the families of servicemen and women whose loved ones did not return from their service to our country. He was drawn to Folds of Honor, a non-profit which provides scholarships to the spouses and children of soldiers killed or disabled in service to America. As far as getting back into shape, why not do some physical training on a bicycle? And while you're at it, why not combine them both and ride your bike roughly 2500 miles from Lubec, Maine to Key West Florida, passing through 15 states and the District of Columbia, taking 60 days to try to raise \$60,000 for Folds of Honor, and finish the trip on your 60th birthday!

And that's just what Gary did. He began his program in Lubec on July 31, 2016, raising 16 American flags at Quoddy Head State Park, the eastern-most point in the U.S.A. Quoddy Head State Park Manager Shawn Goggin helped with the flag raising, as West Quoddy Head Light Keepers Association visitors' center manager (and Masonic Lady) Kimberly Ashby, and Board of Directors member WB Dennis Drews looked on. Each of these flags would be raised again, lowered, and folded at various stops along his route, each commemorating a fallen or disabled American hero. These flags represented a scholarship to be awarded to a member of that hero's family.

His actual bike trek began the morning of August 1st at the Lubec end of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Bridge, connecting the US and Canada.

Gary's stops along the way south included the Wreaths Across America Museum in Columbia Falls, Bath Iron Works, a visit with the Flag Ladies in Freeport, Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium, Ground Zero in NYC,



The Colonel and his support crew raising flags at Quoddy head state Park, Lubec.

Independence Hall in Philadelphia, NRA Headquarters, and Daytona International Speedway, where he took a lap around the course on his bike. All along the way, local school children and community and veterans' groups joined him in flag folding and honoring our fallen warriors. Gary also was featured on numerous local and national news broadcasts.

To date, Gary's quest, Patriot Honor Ride, has raised approximately \$53,000 for Folds of Honor, but his goal is still attainable. More details about his trip are available on his Facebook page,

Although not a member of the Craft, Gary exhibits all the traits of a Brother. He acts with courage in his convictions, he has an enduring belief in God, he cares for the welfare of others, and he has vision. As Grand Master Thomas Pulkkinen is quoted as saying in *Maine Seniors*, (September 2016, page 19) "Freemasonry doesn't have a corner on virtuous living . . . there are so many opportunities ...to volunteer and make a difference in the lives of others by doing all kinds of things. Just find something that you enjoy, and engage yourself in helping people."

Gary is a great example for all men and women, but particularly we Masons who have found this great fraternity. We have vision, compassion, and opportunity to, according to MW Pulkkinen, "make a positive difference in people's lives."

by Brother Jef Hamlin

I started out writing this article about all the fundraisers, donations, volunteer work, and community connections the Widows Sons had been involved in just since the beginning of the riding season in May (yes, I know some of the hardcore Brothers were out earlier), but I realized that would take far more space that could possibly be made available.

There have been visits to Veterans' Homes, the lawns of Masonic widows mowed, charitable donations in the tens of thousands made to organizations and individuals, rides sponsored, rides supported, fundraisers attended, scholarships given, parties and get-togethers (most of which also raised money for donations), a bike rodeo, and even a new chapter formed.

One recent event by Widows Sons Grand Chapter of Maine raised \$10,700 (after matching donations) for the Hear ME Now Foundation with their "Break the Sound Barrier" ride. This was the largest amount raised this year by a Widows Sons ride. Other recent events (Wayfarers Chapter's Sarah's Ride) raised \$2,900 for Sarah's House and then the Ladies raised an additional \$2,600 for gas cards to help defray the costs of families getting to Sarah's House! And yet another Widows Sons (Men of Tyre — Northern Invasion) event had already raised over \$2,000 for Cary's Camp Adventure before it even happened! And these are two of the smaller chapters!

As I thought about what I could say about the Widows Sons, it occurred to me that what is most often said amongst the Brothers themselves is that "We are Masons first." More than that, we are Masons who live our Masonry both on our bikes raising money for charity and behind the scenes helping and planning. We also live our Masonry

through the fraternity and fellowship that is displayed at our meetings and events.

The Widows Sons are active and though we are a Motorcycle Riders Association, our activities are year round. Further, the Widows Sons have events (almost all of them) that include our Ladies as well as true family events such as picnics, bar-b-ques, and parties where the kids are involved.

Our membership also includes veterans, first responders, and many others who step forward when others step back. As a result, the Widows Sons support projects like House in the Woods (Wayfarers and Low XII Riders presented a \$1410 check), and visit Veterans' Homes.

Blankets with the Masonic Emblem and the Widows Sons logo were presented to Masonic Veterans in Bangor by the Low XII Riders last winter and the Grand Chapter has at least two members visiting the Veterans' home in Scarborough every Sunday.

And, we are growing. Our membership includes Brothers from the newly raised to a Past Grand Master. And our members learn what it is to be a Mason. Our younger members become active in their lodges, taking chairs and serving on committees. Our older members either were already active or have renewed enthusiasm for their lodges.

Widows Sons shows them what it means to be involved and that they can make a difference. "The greatest of these is Charity" and our Brothers are learning that charity is not just in the giving of things, but of time, and of themselves. Their Lodge reinforces this...or is it the other way around? Does it matter?

We have enthusiastic and involved Masons and Widows Sons looking to make a difference. What could be better?



The --- MAINE MASON ---

Grand Lodge of Maine
PO Box 430
Holden, ME 04429

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Portland, Maine
Permit No. 256

If undeliverable, please do not return.



*Once again, Brethren, you have done yourselves proud by honoring
our Veterans who gave the last measure with your support of the
Wreaths Across America campaign.
Thank you. May you enjoy a Happy and Prosperous 2017.*