

TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



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July 2014

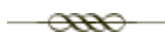


Jim Lofton
Master

Greeting Brothers!

I hope that this Trestleboard finds everyone doing well, and enjoying the beautiful summertime that is upon us now. For those that were unable to attend, we had a terrific Saturday morning third degree on June 14th where we raised three new brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason. It was a terrific event that was enjoyed by many brothers. I look forward to our next degree and an even larger crowd. This year has certainly flown by and as we move into July I can't help but begin to think about fall events like Grand Lodge Annual Communication, our annual BBQ, and of course officer elections. If any of you have not attended Grand Lodge before, it is a terrific opportunity to mingle with brethren and witness the business side of our fraternity on a state level. We will begin talking about the proposed amendments at our upcoming Stated Communications, and I encourage every brother to speak to one of the Wardens or myself if you have an opinion about the vote on a specific amendment. Our annual BBQ is our largest fundraising event of the year and this year we are going to need assistance to make it as profitable as possible. This year we will be signing up for time slots to help with the BBQ and times will be available in 2 hour shifts throughout the day on October 25th. This is yet another opportunity for us to experience the best parts of our fraternity, fellowship with our brothers while raising money to support our charities. I look forward to seeing many of you at our July Stated.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton - Master



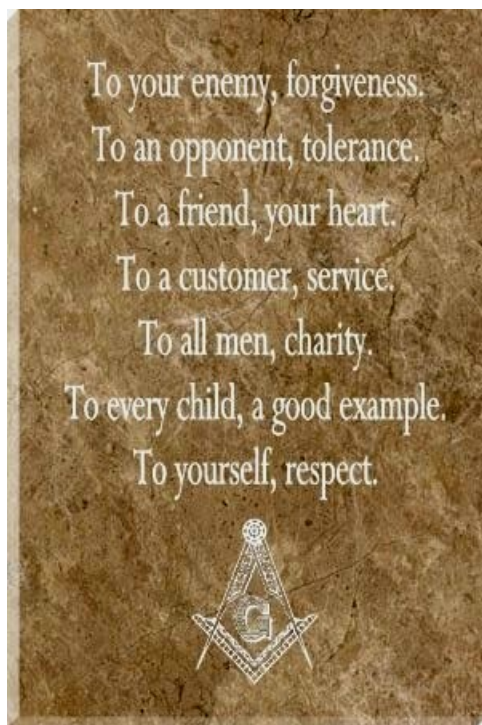
Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

Brothers,

We've begun our Spring/Summer fundraiser with the availability of Autobell car wash vouchers. For \$16.00, each voucher will give you the Full Service Wash which includes interior vacuum, exterior wash, dash/door panel/console wipe down, interior window cleaning and hand dry. You may choose to upgrade to any of their other services at the store location if you wish. Half of the cost of the voucher is retained by the Lodge and will be split between our Masonic charities. Please see me to purchase, or mail a check to the Lodge with "car wash" on the Memo line, and I'll send you the voucher(s).

Brothers, please endeavor to drop a check in the mail for your 2014 dues if you have not yet done so. Before the next Trestleboard comes out, I will be preparing final delinquency notices for mailing.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM





Chris Crump
Junior Warden

Hello Brethren,

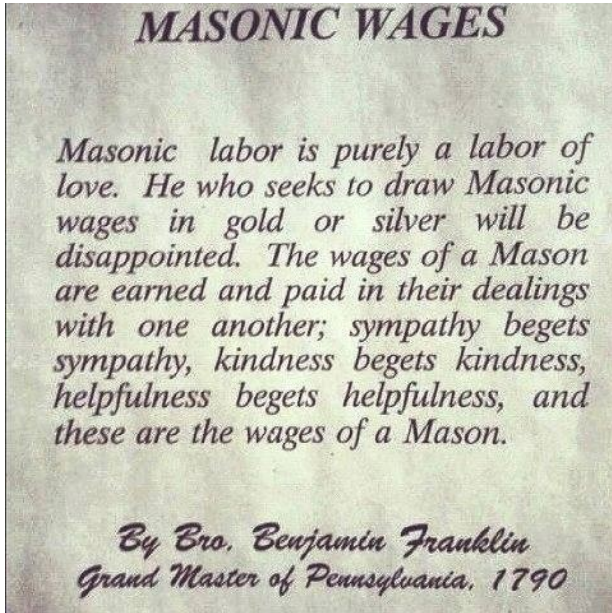
I would first to congratulate Phalanx's newest Master Masons , I am sorry I was unable to attend .

The Masonic Trowel

... To Spread The Cement Of Brotherly Love And Affection, That Cement Which Unites Us Into One Sacred Band Or Society Of Brothers, Among Whom No Contention Should Ever Exist, But That Noble Emulation Of Who Can Best Work Or Best Agree ...

Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promote of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother.

[GEORGE WASHINGTON]



Upcoming Masonic Happenings

Tue, July 8 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Tue, August 12 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Tue, September 9 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Fri/Sat, September 26 & 27 - NC Grand Lodge Annual Communication - Winston-Salem, NC

Tue, October 14 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Fri/Sat, October 24,25 - Charlotte Scottish Rite Fall Reunion

2014 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020	Senior Deacon	Rocky Boyle, PM	704-552-0648
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	secretary@phalanx31.org			tyler@phalanx31.org	

BIRTHDAYS

JULY	19 - Zacques Oudin	29 - David Campbell	10 - Charles Whitmire	20 - A.J. Morton
02 - Thomas Kirkpatrick Jr	21 - Bill Goodyear Jr	31 - John W. Cain III	10 - Ronnie Long	20 - Jeffrey W. Stegall
03 - Brad Hufeld	21 - Michael Davis	AUGUST	11 - Mike Miller	21 - Walter Moody
04 - Rocky Boyle Jr	22 - James Eskridge	01 - Robert D. Elf	12 - David Austin	24 - Craig Dougherty
04 - Ralph Harkey	22 - Robert Hall	01 - Billy Howard	14 - Josie Smith	24 - Jeff Britt
05 - Garry Krueger	23 - Harry Burns	01 - Gene Poore	15 - Robert Welch	28 - Kevin Stegall
08 - Charles DeKrafft	24 - Daniel Lawing	03 - Thurston St. Clair	15 - James Corne	28 - David Potts
10 - Richard Bohart	24 - Chris Cox	03 - George Ginn	16 - Charles Boggs	29 - John Knox
13 - Tommy Blacka	25 - John W. Cain Jr	04 - Mack Wilson	18 - Larry Glasson	30 - Thomas Mann
13 - Ken Caudle	28 - Shane Smith	05 - James Gibson III	19 - Boyce Roberts	31 - Anthony Reis
17 - William Bradley	29 - Roscoe Lindsay Jr	08 - Mihran Hamamgian	19 - Harry Hood	



ABE LINCOLN'S AXE

By Jim Tresner - (originally appearing in the Oklahoma Mason - April/May 1995)

The story is told of a historian, recording folk history in Illinois in the 1970's. Several people in the countryside had told him of a farm family which possessed the axe Abraham Lincoln had used when splitting logs for a living as a young man.

The historian finally found the farm, and found the farmer in the yard splitting wood for the living room fireplace. He asked him about the story.

"Yes," said the farmer, "it's true. Abe Lincoln lived around here as a young man, and he worked for a while splitting wood for my great-great-grandfather. Happened he'd bought a new axe from a peddler the day before Abe Lincoln came to work here, and he gave it to Lincoln to use. We've kept it ever since."

"That's a real historical treasure," said the historian. "It really ought to be in a museum. Would you mind going into the house and bringing it out so I could see it?"

"Oh we know it's important," said the farmer. "I take it to the school from time to time and tell the kids about it and Lincoln. Seems to sorta' make him real for them. But I don't have to go into the house, I've got it here."

He handed the horrified historian the axe he had been using. "You mean you're still USING it?!"

"Sure thing. An axe is meant to be used." The historian looked it over carefully. "I must say your family has certainly taken good care of it."

"Sure, we know we're protecting history. Why we've replaced the handle twice and the head once."

In many ways, Masonry is like Abe Lincoln's axe. All of us tend to assume that Masonry has always been the way it was when we joined. And we become fiercely protective of it in that form. But, in fact, we've done more than replace the handle twice and the head once.

When Brothers George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Paul Revere (and the other Masons of their era and for decades to come) joined the Fraternity, they did not demonstrate proficiency by memorizing categorical lectures. Instead, the same evening they received a degree they sat around a table with the other Brethren of the Lodge. The Brethren asked each other questions and answered them for the instruction of the new Brother. They asked him questions, and helped him with the answers. The discussion continued until they were confident that he understood the lessons of the Degree. They then taught him the signs and tokens, and he was proficient. In many cases, he took the next Degree the next night. The custom of allowing 28 days to pass between Degrees came about for no other reason than the fact that most lodges only met every 28 days, on the nights of the full moon. There was no mystery behind that. Very few horses come equipped with headlights, and only on nights of a full moon could people see well enough to leave their homes in the country and come into town for a meeting safely.

So yes, Masonry changes. It changes fairly frequently and sometimes dramatically. Far from being a bastion of conservative resistance to change, through most of its history it has been a major change agent - fostering revolutions in political life (the American revolution, for example) and social life. It created the tax-supported public school system. It created homes for the elderly and orphanages, and then worked for the sort of social legislation to make those widespread. It sought economic development for states and communities. Until the late 1940's and 50's, it was one of the most potent forces for change in America.

And Masonry is like Abe Lincoln's axe in another way. For, although the handle and head had been replaced, that axe was still the one used by Abe Lincoln in truth if not in fact. The farmer used it to teach. He told children about it and about Abe Lincoln. He helped make the past real to them, so that they could learn the great values of honesty and hard work which Lincoln typified.

It's the same with Masonry. In spite of the many changes which have already happened and the changes which are bound to happen in the future - for Masonry, like any living thing, must change and grow or die - it is still the same. It's essence - the lessons it teaches, the difference it makes in the lives of men, that great moment of transformation which is the goal of Masonry, when a man becomes something new and better than he was when he came in the door as a candidate - that essence can not and will not be lost, as long as Brothers meet in the true Masonic spirit, to work and learn and study and improve themselves and the world.

That's Masonry. And like Abe Lincoln's axe, it was meant to be used, not to rust away in a museum case. That use keeps it bright and sharp and Masonic, no matter how often the handle and head need to be replaced.