

TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



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May 2015



John Harder, PM
Master

My Brothers,

This spring has been pacing nicely with three new Master Masons being raised (all three are pressing onward learning their Master Mason catechism), a rising Fellow Craft in the wings, word of more petitions to come, and we are also very close to full funding of our MHC project. Two of our brothers attended the Scottish Rite spring reunion and are now processing their experiences while receiving the 4th through the 32nd degrees. Those who are already members, and those who wish to join Oasis Shriners, the next Ceremonial is the first weekend in June (5th-7th) in Maggie Valley, NC.

Plan on joining us for our May 12th Stated when we will receive our DDGL & DDGM on their official visit to our lodge. Mean-time, do you know someone you think would make a good Mason? Bring them to dinner at our next meeting!

Please remember our brothers who need your prayers and support, also keep our nation in your prayers and thoughts - it appears we are entering trying times. (Some of the recent incidents in Baltimore happened less than a handful of blocks from an AF&AM lodge, while the unrest in Ferguson, MO was less than 5 miles from an AF&AM lodge).

Fraternally,
John Harder - Master



"Give me better wood and I will make you a better cabinet."

*Sir John A. Macdonald
Prime Minister of Canada*



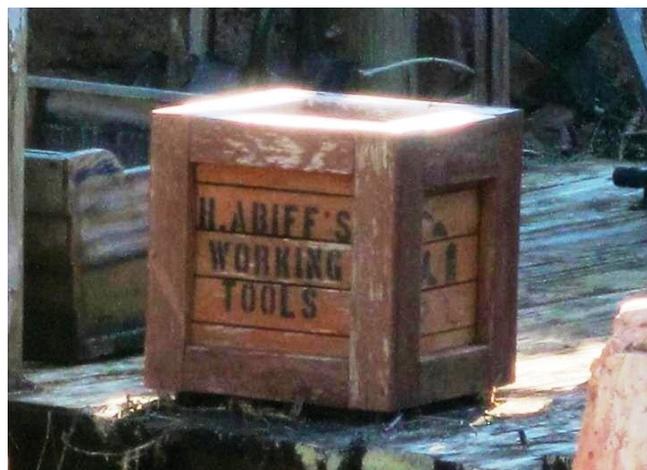
Chris Crump
Senior Warden

"Freemasonry is an attempt to organize harmony, and therefore it is essential that all its arrangements for the promotion of concord should be of the most perfect character and most delicately adjusted. Whatever tends in the least degree to produce disagreement and discord, to cause a jarring and clashing among the elements composing the society, or any of its branches, must have a tendency to defeat the purposes of the Institution, must in itself be destructive of the spirit of Masonry, and must be something foreign to that spirit, something not to be cultivated, but to be avoided by Masons.. Masons are supposed by the profane to be religiously devoted to the maintenance among themselves of harmonic principles, and this supposition is based upon the professions which Masons and Masonic writers and advocates have ever made to the world. The supposition is well-grounded, and the profession does not exaggerate the intention of all true Masons."

The Masonic Monthly, February 1867



Pictured to the right is a box in the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World, you'll find along the Big Thunder Mountain rollercoaster. The small box says "H. Abiff's Working Tools" on one side, and the other has a trowel, level, and plumb. While Walt Disney was not a Mason (brother Roy Disney was) he was a DeMolay as a youth.





Brothers,

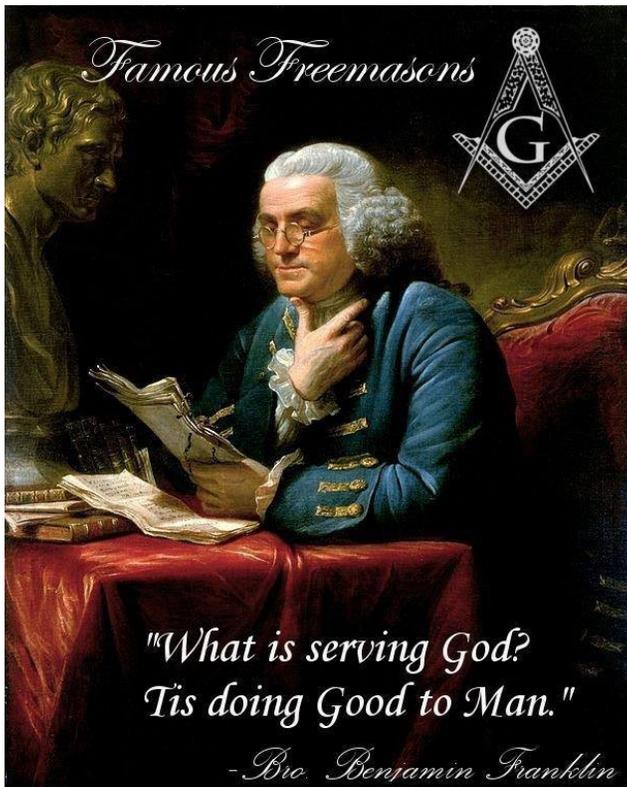
Rocky Boyle, PM
Junior Warden

I have almost finished reading **THE PILLARS of the EARTH** a rather long book (973 pages) by Ken Follett. The book is well written and easy to read. The story is line weaves around a **fictional family of Operative Masons** involved in building homes and cathedrals in the 12th Century (1123-1174). The book traces the lives, trials and tribulations of several generations of a family of masons through what was a very brutal time in English history. The book is a very interesting depiction of the life of kingly royalty and lesser nobility, priests, merchants and peasants during that time and depicts how masons fit into the culture. Master Masons of those days were the architects and engineers of the building projects that they supervised and were responsible for designs on the trestleboard (often drawn on the ground) as well as for supervising the workmen and obtaining the building materials. I highly recommend **THE PILLARS of the EARTH** for its very interesting depiction of our early operative Masonic ancestry!

Follett also wrote a sequel, **WORLD WITHOUT END**, which spans the years 1327 to 1361. Both of the books cover time periods before **Speculative Masonry** came about. Follett has announced that he is working on a third book in the series. It will be interesting to see if this third book is set in the 1700s and whether or not it introduces the origin of **Speculative Masonry**.

FYI: If you are interested, **Julias Cafe and Books at Restore** over on **Wendover Road** has or had several used copies of Follett's books in very nice condition and at very reasonable prices (less than \$5.00).

Rocky Boyle, PM, Junior Warden



Upcoming Masonic Happenings

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

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

Masonic Quote:

"Freemasonry has endured not because of its antiquity, its influence, or its social standing, but because there have been so many who have lived it. The effectiveness of Masonic teachings will always be the measure by which the outside world judges Freemasonry; the proof of Freemasonry is in our deeds and it is in our deeds that Freemasonry is made known to non-Masons. The only way that the Craft can be judged is by its product. The prestige of Freemasonry lies squarely on the shoulders of each of us."

- G. Wilbur Best

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

- 02 - Robert Kirkley
- 02 - Christopher Baxas
- 04 - Billy Garris
- 05 - Douglas Mann
- 07 - Wayne Anderson
- 11 - Ben Honeycutt
- 12 - Chris Crump
- 13 - Jones Thompson
- 14 - Robert Goodson
- 16 - Edward Norris
- 20 - John Caudle
- 20 - Harry Rice
- 20 - Chris Lueck
- 23 - Richard Armstrong
- 23 - Anthony Crosby
- 24 - Phillip Kinmon
- 25 - Greg Strother
- 28 - William Hodges

JUNE

- 04 - Neal Saunders
- 05 - John Dwelle
- 11 - Bobby Golibart
- 12 - Russell Kruse
- 14 - Scott Shelton
- 15 - William Snow
- 15 - Larry Martin
- 18 - Jerry Cohen
- 18 - Roger Huse
- 20 - Steve Jones
- 21 - Paul Whitfield
- 29 - Jerry McCorkle
- 29 - William Ross
- 30 - James Shore



Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

Brothers,

We have been pretty busy so far this year, and the near future promises to keep us at least as busy. While a number of dates have not yet been nailed down, stay tuned for the upcoming dates for all of the following: Entered Apprentice Degree, Fellowcraft Degree, Lecture Service (officers required to attend) and the first of two Service Awards presentations for those reaching their 25, 50 or 60 year membership milestones (we have 13 Brothers who will be eligible this year).

Please note that your 2015 dues were payable by January 1, 2015. We've received dues payments from 240 of our 276 members, with some still coming in each week. I am mailing out dues cards within a day or two of receiving payment, so the date on your current dues card should indicate whether or not you are in good standing with the Lodge.

We also hope to begin our first fundraiser soon, with the sale of AutoBell vouchers. Available for \$16.00 (the price of their Full Service Wash), the Lodge retains \$8.00 of every voucher sold.

Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary



Why I Became a Mason

by Stewart M. L. Pollard

The Master of a Virginia Lodge a few years ago received word just as he was about to Open his lodge that his guest speaker for the evening had been rushed to the hospital moments before. Undaunted, he opened the lodge, conducted the necessary business, and then announced the alternative program for the evening. What induced YOU to become a Mason? he asked. After allowing the brethren to think about it for a few minutes, he called upon several brethren to give their answers. It seems that each of us have vivid memories of when, where and why we made the decision to apply for membership in the worlds largest and oldest fraternal organization.

This paper was inspired by the answers given on that night. Since then, all over the country, that question has been posed to many brethren. The responses have been fascinating, inspiring and interesting. Basically, the responses fall into several general categories: Example set by family and friends, Urging of wives, mothers or sweethearts, Demolay activities, Impressive Masonic funerals, Masonic Charities, Curiosity. Surprisingly, the number who indicated that they joined just so they could get into one of the appendant bodies, or who acknowledged that they were ASKED to join, were so few that it appears not to be a major factor. One Grand Master confided that when he proposed to his wife, one of the stipulations she made before she would agree to marry him was that he would have to petition a Masonic Lodge. (She was active in Jobs Daughters.)

R.W. Brother Jack Kelly, Past Grand Master of Texas, recalls that when he was a small boy in Indiana he was recuperating from pneumonia at the time that his grandfather died. He remembers being wide-eyed when the house seemed to be filled with men wearing funny hats with white feathers on them and carrying swords. He was told that they were Knights Templar and were there to conduct Grandpas funeral. He also has fond memories of the kindnesses and concern the men had for him. When it was explained that his grandfather had been the Commander of the Knights Templar and the men were there because of their love of his grandfather it made a great and lasting impression upon him. One of his most cherished possessions is the engraved Templar sword which had been his grandfathers. He claims that that early exposure to Masonic brotherhood was a great influence on his desire to become a Mason. A surprising number of brethren informed me that they were Masons as a result of the urging of their children, who were anxious to join one of the youth groups, and many of them expressed how surprised they were when they learned that other close family members or business associates were sitting on the sidelines when they were raised. Had they known that these family members or friends were members of the fraternity they would have petitioned sooner. This points up the fact that we tend to carry Masonic secrecy too far when we fail to talk about our Masonic activities to our friends and family.

A young Junior Warden of a Wyoming Lodge, approached me at a Grand Lodge of Wyoming Annual Communication and announced that he was a Master Mason as a result of an M.S.A. Short Talk Bulletin. When asked to explain, he said that he had come home from work one day and his father passed him a copy of the Short Talk Bulletin, suggesting that he read it. That evening he did read the bulletin and the following morning asked his father for a petition. As a matter of curiosity, I asked him if he recalled the title of that Short Talk Bulletin. It turned out that it was a bulletin I had written several years before, entitled, Dear Son. I hope his father knows how proud I am to have assisted in being an influence.

Ed Rose, former Director of the Veterans Administration Voluntary Services Division, tells his fascinating story related by his Grandmother when he was growing up. It seems that she and his grandfather had gone to Arkansas from their home in Virginia for a vacation. While there, his grandfather be-came gravely ill and passed away. His grand-mother was at wits end. She wanted to take the body back to Virginia for burial in the family plot, but she had no funds until she could get back. Fortunately, the Coroner learned that her husband was a Mason, and contacted the local Arkansas lodge. Almost immediately, members of the lodge were there to comfort and console her and to offer assistance. Within a few hours, they had made arrangements for the body to be shipped to Virginia by train and she was provided with a train ticket to accompany the body. Members of that lodge also traveled with her until they were met by members of her husband’s lodge. She quickly went to the bank and withdrew funds so she could repay them, but those who had accompanied her could not be located. She told that story over and over again to her grandchildren, emphasizing that that was the kind of men they should try to be. Ed likes to tell that he made the decision to be a Mason when he was eight years old. Isn’t it great to know that there are men of that stature in our government!

Ill. Bro. Joseph R. (Jose) Gilbert, 33, a Pennsylvania Mason living in New Jersey gave this reply when asked what had induced him to become a Mason. Without the built-in advantage of having my Dad or brother as members of the Craft, I made my decision to petition a lodge for membership only after much thought and some years of decision. I did my best to find things I did not like about Freemasonry and found that I was wasting my time; there was no such thing! Every man I saw with that pin on, every man I called a dear friend who wore the Square and Compasses, every man I met in business, at church, socially . . . all were of a purpose, a principle, a way of life . . . that I felt a kinship with. I felt quite sure, even before I submitted my petition, that the men I assumed to be Masons as I went through life, were an accurate representation of what I would find if I were fortunate enough to be accepted. That was over forty years ago and I have no reason to think otherwise since that night I was raised. I thank God for that!

From In the January 1989 issue of The Virginia Masonic Herald :

Several years ago I met and married a young woman who would turn my life around in ways neither she nor I expected. You see she is the daughter of a Master Mason. I knew very little about Freemasonry then, but the more I became acquainted with her father the better my perception of Freemasonry became. My respect for this man has grown to immense proportions. He is a good man, an honest man, a man of virtue and integrity, a spiritual man; a man that will go out of his way to do what he feels in his heart is right; a man that cant be swayed by the evils of the world and a man of immeasurable character and pride. The more I got to know this man the more I began to think to myself that there must be something to Freema-sonry.

Several years after I married, I approached my father-in-law and asked him how I could become a Mason . He said, All you have to do is ask. I did and soon thereafter, I was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. This was the first step towards what have been some of the richest, greatest, and most pro-found experiences of my life.

Think about it! What induced YOU to petition for the degrees? Think about the Masons who have influenced your life, and your way of thinking, and perhaps whether or not you yourself might be that influence to someone else!

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