



Light from the Great Land



Spring 2014

Volume 6, Issue 1

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THE COVER: The George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. This structure is a memorial and museum, an active Masonic temple, a research library, a cultural space, a community and performing arts center, and an important regional landmark. Photo courtesy of VWB Kevin Tennant.



Light of the Great Land

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Submit your articles in 12-point Calibri. Use the same typeface, or font, throughout the entire manuscript.
- Your manuscript should be double-spaced throughout. - No columns. - **DO NOT JUSTIFY YOUR TEXT.** All text should be FLUSH LEFT. - Do not use the space bar to achieve tabs or indents or to align text.
- Do not use the automatic hyphenation feature.
- The default, or "normal" style should be the only style used in your manuscript. - For capitalization, hyphenation, use of numbers, punctuation, and other matters of style, follow The Chicago Manual of Style, current edition. - Notes should be placed at the end of the article and single-spaced. - The proposed title of the article and the name of the author should appear at the top left of page one.

Submit your articles online only, to Bo Cline at: clineboak@gmail.com.

Contributions will be considered on the timeliness of their receipt, the amount of editing required, and space available. Please email me or call me at (907) 232-6269, if you would like to discuss ideas for possible articles.

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GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren,
I would like to say THANK YOU brothers for trusting me with this honor.

My message this year is twofold.

My first point is about having a LRP.

Remember over the last few years you have heard me say we are a fraternity with business challenges. So just like all businesses, we still need a long range plan (LRP). We can't stress enough the importance of having a plan coming from all the elected officers.

In your plan I challenge each lodge to come up with a statement that they feel is correct to them, and this statement is and an answer to the question **"WHAT IS A MASON?"**. If you can't just roll that answer off when asked "what is a Mason?", you need to look at your own heart and come up with your answer. Memorize your answer!

My answer is:

"I am a man who believes in God. I respect others opinions. I try to be a role model in my community. I believe in Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth".

Even I will continue to work on my definition of what I feel a Mason is.

Furthermore, in your LRP, you should have a Masonic awareness program. If not, why not? If so, how affective is your program? If you want good quality men in your lodges, they need to know you are around. They need to know how to get ahold of you.

My second point is about having PRIDE.

My friends what I really want to talk about is from the heart. I believe, not all but, some of our members don't have the pride of being a Freemason. Yes being proud to be a Freemason. We are, at the very beginning of our Masonic career, asked "where were you first made a Mason?" and that answer is "in our hearts"!!!!

So, what happens as time goes on? Some loose that feeling in their hearts. Basically they become a card carrying member or they are dropped for NPD. Some never finish the degrees. They just simply loose interest.

So, where do we start? We start in our own house,

what we call our lodges. Members should be the number one priority in all lodges. See, if we don't have good Masons, we don't have a fraternity. You would think that pride should come naturally just for the simple reason of our name Freemasons or being the first and oldest fraternity. The reality is, we are simply dealing with the human mind. To some members just the name Freemason is sufficient, but for others you have to continue to nurture. Let me explain.



Maslow's law of Hierarchy is a good example to use. Basically, Maslow said we have 5 levels of human needs, which are as follows:

1. Physiological needs
2. Safety and security needs
3. Love and belonging
4. Esteem
5. Self-actualization

Maslow's first level in his hierarchy is physiological needs. How do we compare this to Freemasonry? Well, Maslow's definition read like this: physiological needs are the physical requirements for human survival, such as water, air and shelter. Now we, as Freemason, can't help with water and air but I do want to talk about shelter or our lodge buildings. Our lodge building helps **define our image**. This is basically the first impression the community has of us. How many of you have seen lodge buildings that are run down and need major repair? What message does that send to our community? Does it show we are a proud fraternity? Our lodge buildings don't have to be new, big, flamboyant, but well kept up, well maintained; showing on the outside side we are a fraternity with PRIDE!!!!

The second level of Maslow's hierarchy is safety and security needs. Maslow defines safety and security needs as:

- Personal security
- Financial security
- Health and well-being
- Safety

So, how do we relate this level to Freemasonry? A Masonic lodge should be a place where people feel secure, comfortable, where they can be themselves,

where they can relax and not be stressed, where they have fun!!

The third level of Maslow's Hierarchy is love and belonging. Maslow defines love and belonging as:

Friendship
Intimacy
Family

We as Freemasons should excel on this level. Acquaintance turns to friendship, and our friendships turn to brotherly love. Our brotherly love turns to a

He becomes more and more proud to be a Freemason, and that moves him to Level five, self-actualization

So how do we maintain that self-actualization? Possibly just like Maslow's Hierarchy except let's call it:

Worel's Law of Hierarchy

Level 1. Keeping our buildings looking like something we are proud to be part of.

Level 2. Keeping our lodges friendly,

So how do we maintain that self-actualization? Possibly just like Maslow's Hierarchy except let's call it: Worel's Law of Hierarchy

Masonic intimacy that is next to none. Our Masonic intimacy turns to where basically we become a family.

Maslow's fourth level of hierarchy is esteem. He defines esteem as the typical human desire to be accepted and valued by others. As Freemasons, we develop self-esteem from the beginning. As a candidate, we are taught to trust a friend. We enter a room to the unknown. At this time our self-esteem is very fragile. We discover from our ritual that, as the candidate continues through the degrees, he develops a sense of security. Then naturally his esteem starts to grow. So we, as Freemason, can picture in our mind, as a brother progresses from the first degree and passes his proficiently, and moves forward in his degree work, his esteem starts to grow. When the candidate is finally raised and stands as a Master Mason, his self-esteem is about the highest he has ever had it in his Masonic career. Furthermore, when the brother starts moving through the chairs he may eventually become a Master of his lodge. Where do you think his self-esteem is then? How about becoming a Grand master? Some may call that EGO.

So, what really happens? He starts showing pride.

making guest, visitors and members feel welcome.

Level 3. Making our members feel brotherly love, Masonic intimacy, and keep family involved.

Level 4. Maintaining our members self-esteem by having a strong mentoring program and doing excellent masonic ritual work.

Level 5. By performing these task you can finally achieve the full potential of a brother having a high self-esteem.

In Conclusion, I truly love this fraternity!!! Freemasonry is truly a progressive science. Moving through the degrees and moving through the chairs teaches us important lessons in life, lessons like:

responsibility
self control
taking direction
giving direction
humility
and many more

North American Freemasonry has evolved to a Ma-

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE (Cont.)

sonic family. No matter if your interest is just the blue lodge. The truth is we have a masonic family such as:

- Demolay, Rainbow, and Jobs Daughters
- Eastern Star and Amaranth
- Scottish Rite and York Rite Bodies
- Shrine, LOS, Daughters of the Nile and at least half dozen others I haven't mentioned.

I can prove that our Masonic families donate at least **\$8 MILLION dollars per day**. How can you not feel proud to be to be part of the Masonic family!!!! I sure am!!!!

Finally my brothers, Let me tell you a little about our Alaskan trip to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. There were 63 Alaskans in attendance. We had a fabulous tour of the Scottish Rite "House of Temple". Kena Shriners did a BBQ for us. We

opened Grand Lodge in Alexandria Lodge. We had 118 people attend the meeting. We had 17 lodges represented out of 20.

Oh yes, I actually held Bro. George Washington's gavel and trowel in my hand. These were the tools he used to lay the corner stone of the U.S. Capital. This was truly a once in a lifetime Masonic educational trip I will never forget. **I'm so proud to be a Free Mason from Alaska, and I'm so very thankful to all those who made this trip with me.**

Remember Grand Lodge is here to support you. Don't hesitate to call us for help.

Fraternally
David Worel
Proud to be your Grand Master



Wreath laying at the tomb of Illustrious Brother George Washington



February 22, 2014



Sam Roberts (DGM WA), James Herrington (PGM AK), Dave Worel (GM AK), Willam A. Garrard Jr. (GM AZ), Gale Kenney (PGM WA)



The George Washington gavel and trowel

ALASKA MASONIC NEWS

Grand Lodge of Alaska visit to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial 2/21 – 22/2014

By Kevin Tennant, Deputy of the Grand Master for District No. 1

Fraternal greetings to one and all. Sometimes it's hard to come up with a newsletter topic but I have to say, not this time! I just returned from what has to be in the top five trips of my life. At 50 years old, that's saying something. Of course I'm speaking of my first visit to the [George Washington Masonic Memorial](#), (GWMM) and the Grand Lodge of Alaska official visit to this memorial in February 2014. Everyone has something they take away from this unbelievable building in Alexandria, Virginia but for me the first thing I noticed was the permanent nature of this building. It reminded me of some of the great cathedrals I visited in Europe that were over a thousand years old, built from solid granite quarried nearby, just like many of the buildings in the DC area.

The second thing that stuck me was that unlike every other building and memorial in DC, this one was mine! That's what they told us on the tour, that it was our lodge and it's the only memorial I visited that said "private property" because it's not a public building. I got to ride the elevator to the 8th floor which by the way is way higher than 8 normal floors. It was more like 16 floors off the ground, the building being 333 feet tall and being perched on top of the highest ground in the area, (Shuter's Hill) added to the effect even more. The view from this perspective is stunning and offers a view of Washington DC and a good portion of Alexandria, VA where we stayed.

I could go on with details of the building itself, the massive granite slabs and columns are worthy of an entire article, but there were almost 60 Alaskan's that made this trip all the way to the other end of our country. Seeing so many familiar faces in such an unfamiliar environment was equally as comforting, as the many new friends we made there. We were treated very well by the Shiners, Staff at the GWMM and the Members of Alexandria Washington Lodge #22. Being able to open our Grand Lodge in the memorial as well as attend lodge as guest of Alexandria Washington Lodge #22 will forever be a highlight in my masonic travels. Watching as the Master of the lodge entered, I was stuck by the fact that this man was the latest in an unbroken chain of Past Masters that went all the way back to Most Worshipful Brother George Washington himself. I got to see the Trowel and Gavel held by MW Washington and used in event's such as corner stone laying ceremonies as depicted in many oil paintings throughout the building.

On the last day of the trip, we watched as MW Worel laid a wreath on the tomb of MW Washington at Mount Vernon, his final resting place as requested by his own hand in his will. MW Worel spoke briefly of the honor it was to participate in such a historic and meaningful event such as this. That evening the GWMM was closed to the public so we could enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres in the grand entryway followed by music in the theater, conducted by Ulysses S. James leading the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra. After several moving pieces and patriotic music we were conducted to the main ballroom where dinner was served by the head table. We ate surrounded by 8 massive 65 ton columns in the echo of 180 voices engaged in friendly conversation. I absorbed as much as I could take in but the day was certainly overwhelming for this Alaskan.

All in all, I can't find the words to describe how any Mason could consider his journey complete, without a visit to one of the finest edifices in the Washington DC area; The George Washington Masonic Memorial.

ALASKA MASONIC NEWS

Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alaska, February 6 - 7, 2014.

The outcomes of the voting on resolutions were as follows: Carryover resolution 2013-1 was adopted. Resolutions 2014-1, -2, -4, -5, -7, -8, -10, -11, -12, -13, and -14 were adopted, as well. Resolution 2014-3 failed to receive the necessary votes to be adopted, however it had enough votes in favor to be carried over to 2015. Resolutions 2014-6 and -15 were rejected, and resolution 2014-16 was withdrawn by its sponsor.

With regard to the election of Grand Lodge officers for 2014, David Worel was elected Grand Master, Douglas Teninty was elected Deputy Grand Master, Carl Lindstrom was elected Senior Grand Warden, John Bishop was elected Junior Grand Warden, James Grubbs was elected Grand Treasurer, and Jerry Wasson was elected Grand Secretary. Please congratulate these brethren on their promotions.

Petersburg Lodge No. 23

Roger Hansen has been updating records and managing the files for the Petersburg Lodge. Some of these many years of Masonic history were shipped off to the Grand Lodge of Washington, stored there, and eventually returned to Petersburg. Here they've been moved into a special room at the home of WM Dale Bosworth, and Brother Hansen has painstakingly catalogued and organized them for the future of Masonry in Alaska.

Also, a number of years ago, Petersburg Lodge voted to contribute \$25,000 to the community as seed money to encourage the construction of a public library. The motion to



provide the funding was made by Brother John Enge, who passed away in 2009. The library was subsequently built, and last September the Masons were invited to participate in the dedication of the building and to cut the ribbon to

the Petersburg Masonic Lodge Archives Room. WB Dale Bosworth performed that duty, and remarked that he was doing it in honor of Brother Enge. Assisting Dale were WB Bert Stedman, VWB Roger Hansen, and MWB Jerry Pinion (who was representing Grand Master, James Herrington).

District No. 5

I wish to thank Grandmaster M. W. David Worel for my appointment as District Deputy of the Grandmaster for District No. 5 for his term. This District includes Matanuska Lodge No. 7, Eagle River Lodge No. 13 and Iditarod Lodge No. 20. The area covers Eagle River, Palmer and Wasilla.

I attended the Grand Communication at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage and was pleased to be able to participate in the ritual and ceremonies for the Grand Lodge of Alaska.

Congratulations to R. W. John Bishop upon his election to serve as our new Junior Grand Warden for the 2014 year.

This year is off to a great start in District No. 5 with the Official Visitation of the Grand Master scheduled for April 24th, hosted by Iditarod Lodge No. 20 to be held at Matanuska Masonic Temple in Palmer, 1022 S. Cobb Street. Dinner will begin at 6:30 PM followed by the ceremonies at 7:00 PM.

Please remember our Grand Master's theme for this year is "Long Term Planning." Don't hesitate to encourage your new Master Masons to seriously consider learning Lectures and Charges of the degrees. Many of us who have presented these are getting on in years and one day will no longer be able to fulfill the duties of presentation. It's never too early to start getting ready to serve your lodge.

Thanks to all who are assisting me to help the lodges of our district. Without your support, the District Deputy is just a title and a name who will soon enter the history and records of the Grand Lodge of Alaska. I ask you to help me make a difference in this role.

V. W. Lee O. Seagondollar, District No. 5



Conferences, Festivals, and Festive Boards

April 25 – 27, 2014 - The Masonic Spring Workshop, Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada. Often within Masonic ritual we are reminded that to promote happiness is the chief aim of the Craft. We should NEVER lose sight of this and the 49th Annual Masonic Spring Workshop is developed around this theme. <http://www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca/>

April 29, 2014 - A Fifth Tuesday lodge of instruction will be held at Matanuska Lodge No. 7 beginning at 6:00 PM. This will be a formal (black tie) event with a program consisting of a portion of the Preston Syllabus Books. A festive board featuring prime rib and ritual toasting will conclude the evening. For more information and to secure a reservation, please contact our Junior Warden, Nick Adair at 907-775-2949.

May 1, 2014 - District One District Meeting will be held at Tanana Lodge No. 3 Temple and all lodges have indicated that they will be attending. Given the distance between us, that's not an annual event like we all wish it could be. My goal is to have all my Deputy visitations for District One done before July, and I look forward to seeing everyone on mine as well as the Grand Masters visitations. - VW Kevin Tennant, DDGM Dist. No. 1.

May 15 – 18, 2014 – Little Norway Festival, Petersburg, Alaska.

Petersburg's signature event is a popular four day celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day or Syttende de Mai.

June 7, 2014 – Colony Days Parade, Palmer, Alaska, **July 4, 2014** – Independence Day Parade, Wasilla, Alaska, **July 12, 2014** – Bear Paw Festival Parade, Eagle River, Alaska. Join District No. 5 lodges as they participate in these annual events.

July 17 - 20, 2014 – Golden Days, Fairbanks, Alaska. Celebrate Fairbanks' golden past with Alaska's largest parade, sourdough pancake breakfasts, historic reenactments, beer festival, the Red Green Regatta and the rubber duckie race.

July 30 – August 3, 2014 - Gold Rush Days, Valdez, Alaska. Join Valdez Lodge No. 4 in a grand procession by marching in the Gold Rush Days parade as the "Alaska Masonic Family", to highlight the values, unity, and diversity of Masonry in Alaska. Valdez is a place of natural beauty and breathtaking scenery, world-class salmon and halibut fishing, and exciting activities to satisfy any Alaskan adventure. We hope to see and meet you and your family in Valdez for Gold Rush Days. Please RSVP to (907) 255-1300, by July 15th, if you and your family plan on attending.

August 15 – 17, 2014 – Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium, Cincinnati, Ohio. The 2014 MRF Symposium will be

co-hosted by four lodges, which represent the spectrum of new Lodges that have been formed over the last decade. Lodge Vitruvian No. 767 (IN) and Caliburn Lodge No. 785 (OH) are European Concept Lodges. Lodge Ad Lucem No. 812 (PA) is a Traditional Observance Lodge, and Arts & Sciences Lodge No. 792 (OH) is very much a blend of both styles of lodges with a emphasis on educational discussions in Lodge. Each Lodge will host a signature event during the Symposium to showcase one of their core practices. <http://www.mrfsymposium.org/>

August 28 – 30, 2014 – ANZMRC (Australia and New Zealand Masonic Research Council) Conference, Cairns, Queensland, Australia. <http://www.anzmmc2014.com/>

August 21 – September 1, 2014 – Alaska State Fair, Palmer, Alaska.

October 11 – 18, 2014 – Alaska Day Festival, Sitka, Alaska. The actual transfer ceremony occurred in Sitka when the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867. Celebrations include ceremonies, a period costume ball, dances, dinners, contests, a parade and more! Visit Sitka to enjoy all the festivities.

Grand Master's Calendar - Please visit the Grand Lodge of Alaska web page or click on the [Grand Master's Travel Schedule](#) here.

CIVICS: The science and duties of citizens, and of civic affairs,
CIVIL: Pertaining to or happening among citizens; pertaining to individual rights and defense of such rights; civilized; courteous; polite.

The practice of Civility will bring us closer; make us stronger and help us to become more focused. This will create a positive attitude and make our institution more desirable. It will help attract more members.

The practice of Civility will reinforce the motto that we must treat each other the way we would like to be treated, thus make us more successful in building our own temples and gaining greater light.

Remember, the first step to make a change is to take the step.

The Conference of Grand Masters centered on the usual concerns that plague us, finances, membership gains and losses, education, long range planning, youth groups, and public awareness. We broke into groups to discuss the possible ways we might solve our problems.

All in all, we had a very instructive and productive session. Networking with others of our kind helps to keep us ahead of the game and on the right track, going in the right direction. We must remember, Masonry is worldwide, and not just in our little corner of the world. We do have brothers all over the world who, if asked, are willing to help when needed.

As we were in the eastern part of our great country, we were able to take a short bus ride to enjoy the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Our visit coincided with the Alaska month at the Memorial. What a beautiful building. Our hotel room was on the side availing us a view of this building in all her glory. In the early morning, with the sun just rising, it gave a red orange glow to the building. At night the temple lights lit it up, with each elevation showing lights shining up on the next level. It was an incredibly gorgeous sight. Inside the statue of George Washington was a life-like giant. Everywhere we went were antiques and original photos of years gone by, the museum was filled with artifacts and memorabilia of famous Masons. You could spend days there and find many wonderful things of interest. Alexandria lodge # 22 was our host. We had a great dinner, with outstanding food.

We attended their lodge and were treated as welcome brothers. It was almost as if we were at home. They were most gracious hosts.

Now, please forgive me if I get some of this out of sequence, but we had so much to cover. Not only were we able to tour the Memorial, but we also toured the Scottish Rite House of the Temple, another beautiful home for our Masonic family. We visited George Washington's burial place and plantation at Mt. Vernon, where MW David Worel was privileged to place a wreath upon the tomb. Our Grand Master gave a small speech that represented us favorably. We next toured the plantation home and the working buildings, where we were treated to coffee with donuts and cookies. Just a note of interest, at one time this was a 8000 acre working plantation. Please check out our Alaska Masonic Facebook page, to see the many, many pictures taken and posted.

After the tomb visit, we were taken to the Kena Shrine Temple, another WOW! This place has a kitchen big enough to take care of two major hotels, and then some. Entering the main floor was as if we had just entered an airplane hangar. It was huge! I swear, you could put two football fields inside the room. Next, the George Washington Symposium in the Memorial Theater, with more than adequate seating. The stage is large enough to shoot an entire movie. We were fortunate to see the rededication of the flag.

The perimeter of the upper floor was nicely arranged in multiple units for the various clubs, including a lounge for returning vets from Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the end of the day, we were treated to an indoor barbeque. No one left hungry.

Last, but certainly not the least, we opened Grand Lodge at the Memorial. I could hardly believe it, but we were well represented with over seventy Alaskans and, I would guess, approximately twenty Canadians present. Seventeen Alaska Lodges were represented. As we had a quorum, we legally opened Grand Lodge to do business. Not only open, but we were honored to open with George Washington's Gavel, while also displaying his Trowel. It was a great and memorable day that we will not soon forget.

Sincerely,
 RW Douglas C Teninty
 Deputy Grand Master

Hi Brethren,

First, I want to thank you for electing me Senior Grand Warden.

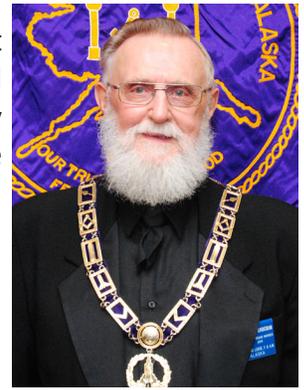
Five days after our Annual Communication, we were off to the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. This year the Conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland and was for four days, February 15 – 18, 2014.

On Saturday, The Western Conference of Grand Lodges met. This conference includes the grand lodges of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. The Grand Master and Deputy from the Grand Lodge of British Columbia/Yukon were also in attendance. At this meeting each sitting Grand Master gives a talk on a subject of his choice. Our Grand Master gave a talk on Masonic Awareness.

Virginia for Alaska Month at The Memorial. I have placed this trip in The Top Five of my Masonic career. One of the Best!

The highlights were:

- Feb 20, tour of The Scottish Rite, House of The Temple.
- The Kena Shrine Temple had a BBQ for us.
- Feb 21, we opened and closed The Grand Lodge of Alaska.
- In the evening we attended, Alexandria/ Washington Lodge #22 meeting Honoring Brother George Washington.
- Feb 22, George Washington Birthday, wreath



The theme for this year's conference was "Reclaiming Our Heritage for a Better Tomorrow"

The next three days were for the Conference of Grand Masters for which there are sixty-four member jurisdictions, with several Grand Masters from other countries in attendance, as well. The theme for this year's conference was "Reclaiming Our Heritage for a Better Tomorrow". There were around 800 masons and ladies in attendance.

On Monday, there were several breakout sessions. I attended Membership Development and Social Media and Grand Lodges.

The purpose of this conference was for a learning experience for present and future Grand Masters. We learn what other Grand Lodges are doing to improve Masonry and Membership.

Later in the week, we were off to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria,

laying at The Tomb of George Washington.

- George Washington Symposium.
- Saturday evening a Grand Banquet, Black-Tie Event. The event and food were FANTASTIC!

There were around sixty masons and ladies from Alaska and Canada in attendance and 17 Alaska lodges were represented; what a great showing for Alaska.

After all of these great events, Yolanda and I were able to be with our grandson and his family (two great grandsons) for a week. Our grandson is in the military and is deployed for a one year tour. He was able to get home for 15 days, during our visit.

Fraternally yours
Carl Lindstrom
Senior Grand Warden



Greetings from the South

Brothers, I am most humbled and honored by the faith and trust you have placed in me. I view my position in the South as one of Service to you, our Lodges, and to the Craft in general. In the months ahead

I look forward to meeting many of you, and learning more about your lodges. Your plans, problems, and aspirations and how we can assist you.

While serving in the South I will also be serving the Research and Education Committee. This last year Grand Master Herrington tasked the committee to produce a monthly education paper for dissemination to the Lodges, Grand Master Worel, recognizing the need for Masonic education is continuing this program. The

committee tries to cover a wide spectrum of Masonic subjects and opinions, but does not necessarily intend that they are absolute. You may very well differ in position or opinion. You may desire to research the subject yourself? To inspire Masonic discussion, and conversation, we believe to be instructive, and is one of the purposes of the committee. We hope you find these papers useful, use them as best fits your Lodges purposes. As chairman of the committee I solicit your feedback, so please feel free to contact me.

As I prepare to travel with your Grand Lodge team to the arctic blizzards of the northeast, and the festivities at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, I look forward to the year ahead, and the honor of serving you. May God be with You, your family, our Military, our Country, and our Ancient Craft.

John Bishop
Junior Grand Warden

MYSTERY LODGE



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS LODGE?

This photograph was found in the archives of the Alaska Masonic Library and Museum, with no identifying information. Please email the Editor, if you know which lodge this is and who the officers are. We will post the information in next quarter's edition of *Light from the Great Land*.



Valdez Lodge No. 4

F. & A.M. of Alaska
P.O. Box 1354
Valdez, AK 99686-1354

www.Valdez4AK.org

Greetings Brothers,

On behalf of Valdez Lodge No. 4, I would like to cordially invite you and your families to join us in Valdez on July 30th through August 3rd for Gold Rush Days. In the past, Masons and their families from around Alaska have honored our Lodge by coming to Gold Rush Days and sharing in the fun and fellowship; we intend to continue and build on this great tradition in 2014!

For this year's Gold Rush Days, we are planning memorable events for you and your family. Sunday's Gold Rush Days Parade has always been the high point of the festivities. This year, we would like to have all Masons and their families to join us in the parade. We are planning a grand procession by marching in the parade as the "Alaska Masonic Family", having all Masonic organizations represented, and most importantly having our families march with each of us in the parade. The purpose of this grand procession is to highlight the values, unity, and diversity of Masonry in Alaska.

Valdez is a place of natural beauty and breathtaking scenery, world-class salmon and halibut fishing, and exciting activities to satisfy any Alaskan adventure. We hope to see and meet you and your family in Valdez for Gold Rush Days. Please RSVP to (907) 255-1300, by July 15th, if you and your family plan on attending. I will also be happy to answer any questions that you may have about Valdez and preferred lodging.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

John May
Worshipful Master
Valdez Lodge No. 4

REFLECTIONS OF A BLUE LODGE MENTOR

BY JOHN MAY

Being asked to mentor new Masons and guide them through their proficiencies with the posting lectures is one of the greatest honors I have had in Masonry. These opportunities have also been invaluable learning experiences for me. They have caused me to contemplate the symbolism and meaning of our labor, helped me build a greater bond with these new Brothers, and has evolved our work into some astounding discussions about Masonry.

I remember when I began my Masonic journey, being initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason, and the work that followed. At the time I was living outside of Baltimore, Maryland. I was first assigned to be mentored by a Mason who had a number of conflicts

met two, sometimes three times a week to work on the catechism (as they refer to the posting lecture in Maryland). At the time, the work in Maryland was all from memory. I still remember the greatest practice was reciting the catechism during my drive to the Lodge; sometimes I would recite it four or five times, during my drive, before arriving at the Lodge. I proudly committed Maryland work to my memory. My only regret is that the time I spent with my mentor never allowed much time for discussion, explanation, or education.

The first time I set foot into my Lodge, aside from the Degree conferrals, I was very out of place. I was ignorant to the sound of the gavel, the attitude of prayer, even passing between the Altar and the East. Sadly,

Being a Blue Lodge mentor is one of the greatest honors in Masonry. A Blue Lodge mentor is entrusted with the quarry of humanity, and their important labor is to ensure that the rough ashlar is first prepared for the use of the Craftsman, the Master, and, ultimately, the Great Architect of the Universe.

with the Grand Lodge, many of which he regularly brought up during our few mentoring sessions together. When I called this man to schedule another session, he informed me that he had been suspended from the Fraternity. I spent the next few months, actively searching and trying to get in-touch with someone from my Lodge. After a few months, I got a hold of the Senior Warden. He was surprised to hear from me, and to hear that I really desired to be a Mason, despite the setbacks that I had encountered. The other Entered Apprentice that was being mentored with me had some words with the Lodge about our former mentor and quit; the Lodge assumed that I had made a similar decision. However, once I got in-touch with my Lodge I continued to be persistent until the Lodge assigned a new mentor to work with me.

I often learned Lodge etiquette the hard way. Did I mention that I was also Senior Deacon during all of this? My mentor was a great ritualist, and he engrained Maryland's ritual work into my memory. Small details like Lodge etiquette may have escaped the scope of his instruction plan. I, being unfamiliar with many Masonic customs at the time, did not know what to ask until the moment of breeched etiquette was upon me. Luckily, my Brothers kindly corrected my errors and provided me with instruction. My Brothers in Maryland are excellent men and Masons; they are great friends, and we keep in-touch to this day. I learned a lot from my Masonic labor in Maryland and the experiences I had; they have provided me with a foundation to be a good mentor.

In April 2010, Cecilia and I moved to Valdez, Alaska. During our second evening in Valdez, a Tuesday, we

My new mentor was very accommodating. We

went for a walk around town. We were excited to walk around town and become familiar with our new home, despite the heavy snow and slick sidewalks. As we rounded the corner of Egan and Hazelet, we noticed a small building with the Square and Compasses, and quite a few cars parked outside. We went inside and we were warmly received; we felt like we were long lost family members, coming home after a long journey. That evening, I first met W.Bro. Karl Amundsen and his family, including his son, Karl Amundsen, Jr. During my time in Valdez and my journey through the line at Valdez Lodge No. 4, I have worked closely with Bro. Karl; he is more than a Brother, he and his family are family. That said, I was overwhelmed and deeply honored when I was asked (for the first time in my Masonic career) to be a mentor, and for my newly initiated Brother, Karl Amundsen, Jr.

Being a Blue Lodge mentor is one of the greatest honors in Masonry. A Blue Lodge mentor is entrusted with the quarry of humanity, and their important labor is to ensure that the rough ashlar is first prepared for the use of the Craftsman, the Master, and, ultimately, the Great Architect of the Universe. The successful development and retention of new Masons is bolstered by the efforts of their Blue Lodge mentors. Being a Blue Lodge mentor is important work, and it is also very rewarding! As I prepared for instruction and engaged my pupils, I found that my journey towards Masonic Light took a turn on to a grand avenue of new realizations and self-discovery. I developed greater insights into Masonic symbolism, a greater understanding of our labor and traditions, and I found that I could begin to explain Masonry to my new Brothers. This new learning fostered within me a greater respect and admiration of our Sacred Institution. As a Blue Lodge mentor, I became a big Brother, and developed a greater understanding for Brotherly Love and Friendship. Being a mentor helped me to develop strong bonds with these new Masons. Our discussions about Masonic symbolism and philosophy have helped reinforce the beautiful rituals of the Lodge's work, and provided them and me with lasting and vivid impressions of Masonry.

Having the opportunity to serve as a Blue Lodge mentor has made me a better man and Mason. It has helped me to begin to realize that which I have sought. Being a mentor has caused me to carefully contemplate and study Masonry, and has brought new light to my

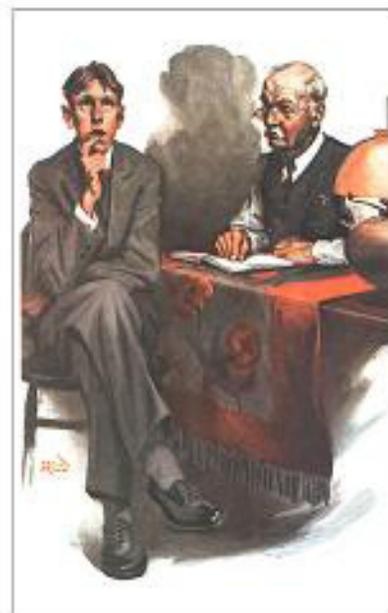
understanding of Masonic symbolism and philosophy. My Brother, I thank you for taking the time to read about my Masonic journey. I hope that my experiences will encourage you in your journey, and may cause you to become a Blue Lodge mentor. As a mentor, learn about the man you are working with, and encourage him on his Masonic journey. I will now leave you with this thought, and welcome your discussion: Masonry is a culture.

Sincerely & Fraternally,
John May

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



John May is responsible for marine oil spill response for Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. in Valdez, AK. He was made a Mason in Concordia Lodge No. 3 in Towson, MD and is currently the Worshipful Master of Valdez Lodge No. 4.



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AFFINITY MARKETING BREAKFAST PRESENTATION - CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF NORTH AMERICA (KANSAS CITY - 2013)

BY THOMAS W. JACKSON

My distinguished colleagues, it is a great pleasure for me to speak once again at the Affinity Marketing breakfast. I spoke at this breakfast 15 years ago and it is a privilege to be asked to speak again.

In those 15 intervening years I have traveled to many countries for the purpose of Freemasonry, have had the privilege of speaking in over 30 countries and had the honor to meet some of the greatest men I will ever know. These travels have given me the opportunity to understand more fully the significance of Freemasonry in the historic evolution of the societies of the world and writing the book reviews for the "Northern Light" magazine for 23 years has aided me in comprehending much the thinking of current Freemasons.

I am going to be somewhat candid with my comments this morning, not meaning to be offensive but with the realization that I am getting older, and my clock is running down. In the limited time I have left, I will try to stimulate you to think more emphatically upon the direction we are going with Freemasonry; to think about what we are and to what we should and can be and cause you to understand a little more of world Freemasonry. It is always my goal when I speak to cause you to think. If I fail to do that I waste both your time and mine.

I realize that I could stand here and reiterate to you how great we were or even how great we are. I could rehearse the enormous accomplishments that our brothers in the past have made to this world. I could review a list of those Freemasons whose influence changed the direction of civil societies and what the probable influence the philosophy of Freemasonry had on their lives. I could do all of this and you could walk away happy, satisfied and content with what I said. But what value would that be to you? You have heard it all before.

My brothers, we are living in a remarkable age for Freemasonry. Our craft in much of the world is achieving continuing success, expanding into geographical areas where it has either not existed in the past or where it

is reappearing following the fall of oppressive regimes. Indeed, we are probably growing more rapidly now than at any time in our history. There have been 26 new Grand Lodges consecrated in this millennium and they are attracting some of the more prominent personages in their societies. It is impressive to observe the quality of these new brothers, along with the attention of government leaders concerning the potential impact of the craft on the development of their societies.

And yet, while we are thriving and expanding in some areas of the world we are declining in others, becoming less visible and less influential in society.

I have been looking at divisive issues in Freemasonry with great concern for this decline. There are numerous factors that are contributing to our increasing failure but the greatest problems facing Freemasonry today are quite different from those which we faced even 50 years ago. The lack of vision in too much of present-day leadership is causing us to concentrate more of our effort on mundane exercises of little consequence to the philosophical purpose of Freemasonry. In so doing we lose the opportunity to make contributions of those magnitudes for which we have been known for centuries.

We have lived for decades parasitizing the glory of our past and of what value has that been to us? We have lost three quarters of our membership in North America. We have surrendered our societal influence and where we once were prominent have become almost invisible.

The time is long past due for us to recognize that our attempts to regain our prominence in society has failed. We cannot continue to emphasize what we were and accept the responsibility that we assumed when we were given the privilege of becoming Freemasons.

We must confront the challenges of the present. In the past our greatest challenges were external. Our supreme enemies have historically been oppressive government leaders and oppressive religious leaders. Please note, I said leaders of governments and not governments and leaders of religion and not religions.

It is leaders who create the opposition not the government and not the religion.

It is also significant that the opposition of the leadership of both these entities, opposed us for the very same reason, a need to control the minds and bodies of those under their influence. They would take from their adherents everything that Freemasonry stands for.

Now, however, the greatest threat to our future lies not from without but from within. There are far more divisive issues for Freemasonry today existing within the egos of the leadership of the craft than from challenges outside of us. No oppressive governmental system nor any oppressive religious regime has been able to defeat the philosophy of Freemasonry. They certainly have tried and they have temporarily impacted us but none has destroyed us. We now are accomplishing what they could never do. Over the past several years, we have watched the ego of one Grand Master almost totally destroy a very prominent and significant Grand Lodge and that was simply the most visible incident.

In much of North America over the past 30 to 35 years we have excised most of the intellectual and philosophical qualities of the craft, eliminating the stimulus to learn and removing the requirements to do so. Tragically, the result has been an erosion of our image along with a decreasing interest in the Craft. In doing so, we have surrendered the qualities that made Freemasonry such a unique entity. Freemasonry was one of the primary enclaves that provided the environment during the age of the Enlightenment that attracted great minds and laid the framework for a democratic society. The United States of America is one of the results.

The greatest threats to Freemasonry's integrity worldwide today have been the impact of appendant bodies interfering with Grand Lodge operation, the spread of irregular forms of Freemasonry and our willingness to accept it, along with encouraging an increased exposure of Freemasonry to the public.

We must never accept that any organization appendant to Freemasonry having any influence over the operations of a Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge is the supreme authority in all jurisdictions and any interference by an appendant body is unacceptable. The greatest challenges to the success of Freemasonry in Eastern Europe and Africa have been a result of interference by organizations that require Masonic

membership for affiliation. Higher degree numbers does not mean higher status in Freemasonry. There is no higher degree than a Master Mason's degree.

Irregular Freemasonry has been relatively quiescent and has offered little challenge to our success. Now, however, they are expanding into jurisdictions that has had regular Freemasonry for centuries. Our concern must be with the Masonic leadership today willing to accept and grant recognition to these irregular bodies.

Finally, our willingness to tell the world all they want to know about us has had a major impact on those who were attracted by the mystique and the unknown of the craft. When we take away the mystique we take away a stimulus for many who might have petitioned. Many of our leaders today feel the need to expose to the public that which we kept concealed or attempted to keep concealed for several hundred years. This created an aura that surrounded us and tended to lift us to a higher plane from other fraternal organizations.

Approximately 20 years ago I took part in a debate on the proposition that the internet would make Grand Lodges obsolete. I was on the side that took the opposing view and made the observation that it would not make Grand Lodges obsolete but would certainly change Freemasonry's visible image to the world, and indeed it has done that.

We live in a society dominated by a concept of political correctness today, the attitude that everyone should have the same as everyone else regardless of ability, initiative or work ethic. Freemasonry has bought into that concept with a devastating effect upon the quality of the craft and as quality declines so too does our image and our ability to impact the ongoing evolution of civil society.

In the internet our enemies have found a fertile field in which to plant the seeds of doubt as to what is our true purpose and our intent. However, our misinformed membership probably does more harm to us than do our enemies. I never cease being amazed at the misinformation that is offered by our brothers on the web who think they know and by those who have been members for a short period of time having all the answers, yet never having heard the questions.

For the last 15 years I have been attempting to place the Freemasonry of the world into what I refer to as styles based upon their operational philosophy. The structural philosophy of Freemasonry is universal and unalterable but the operational philosophy depends

upon the response to the sociological pressures of the environment in which it exists. Thus far I have differentiated five styles and all have experienced levels of success but there are those that are beginning to fail in both numbers and influence due to the lack of vision and comprehension of Freemasonry's significance. With the exception of the Freemasonry in Australia, North American Freemasonry is today leading the way in this failing.

Every style that exists today came from an origin emphasizing an intellectual foundation based upon emphasis on learning and with the philosophical intent to improve the individual man. It is when we began to lose sight of the real meaning of Freemasonry that we began to observe the failure of its influence.

The more I study this craft the more impressed I become with how much its presence meant to the development of civilization. Freemasonry made this world what it is today. It made it by taking the best man it could find and improving that man. I look at the results of our early leadership with their magnanimous long-range vision to produce what we have inherited. Then today, I observe not only the lack of that vision but even of the understanding of our significance to the world. It is sad to see our willingness to lower the quality of the membership simply to maintain the quantity. It is sad to watch our efforts to support programs of a consequence that will never approach those of our past and it is sad to watch those leaders whose abilities will never match the size of their egos seriously damage our potential to set an image to this world.

Freemasonry is a unique organization. Its uniqueness is what made the craft into what it is; the most outstanding and significant organization that the mind of man has ever structured and Freemasonry made this world what it is today. There has never been an organization that could approach the positive influence that Freemasonry has had on the evolution of civil societies. This influence was not generated by the quantity of the membership, it was generated by the quality of its members. It was generated by the wisdom and the long-range vision of its leadership, it was generated by the dedication of those brothers who saw in the philosophy of the craft the opportunity to change this world into something better than it was. It laid the foundation for democratic thought and provided the environment to stimulate it.

It is time now for us to lay our egos aside and contribute to restoring regular Freemasonry to the prominence it once had. I well know that no matter how important I may ever think I am to this world, a year after I am dead, the world will ask, Tom who? And, my brothers the same applies to you. We each have achieved what we have because we have an ego driving us. Our legacy will survive us but whether that legacy is a benefit or detriment to the craft will depend far more upon our willingness to limit our ego than to use our ego.

My brothers, Freemasonry remains the most significant organization ever conceived by the mind of man. We, the present day leaders of this heritage have assumed responsibility of perpetuating it. This heritage is the result of taking one good man at a time and making him into a better man. It was then, that better man who generated all that we have, all that we are. But it was not Freemasonry that made this world a better world. It was that better man that made this world a better world through the philosophical precepts of Freemasonry. If Freemasonry is not succeeding it is not the fault of Freemasonry's failing, it is a result of Freemasons failing. Freemasonry does not fail, Freemasons fail.

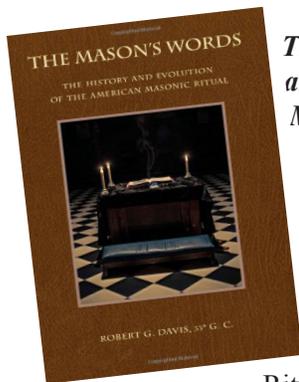
My brothers, I trust my comments this morning will cause you to pause and to think about our responsibility not only to Freemasonry but to our past brothers who gave us this heritage to a world that needs it.

"Mr. Mason" Worldwide



Brother Thomas W. Jackson, RW Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and Executive Secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges, is a distinguished Masonic scholar and lecturer. He is highly regarded throughout the Masonic world. From the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania we have, "Thomas W. Jackson is a giant in service to brotherhood and mankind, a goliath in Masonic knowledge, a titan in dedication to Freemasonry, and stands as tall as can be in the esteem of the Masons of Pennsylvania."

BOOK REVIEWS:



The Mason's Words: The History and Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual

This is one of the best Masonic books I have read in a long time and one that I would recommend as a foundational book for all Master Masons. Brother Robert Davis brings the history of our Masonic Ritual to life with his easy going conversational style. While many Masonic history books are dry and read like a text book this one boldly tells the “story” like a novel and delivers solidly on the history.

His research is extensive with pinpoint accuracy. It is refreshing how he adds personal anecdotes for the various personalities that he discusses. He brings to light many little known texts that have meaning even today. He also describes many key figures in the history of our ritual that inspires one to seek further information on.

My two favorite parts of the book are where he describes William Preston’s *Syllabus* and his concept of Social Honor.

Preston’s *Syllabus* was quite enlightening both from a philosophical and historical perspective. It was fascinating to see the progression of our ritual especially the lectures. It also provided a more in-depth understanding of the philosophy of our degrees.

Brother Davis’ concept of Social Honor is profound and spot on! It is one of those things that you knew was there but never really explored or comprehended the way that he does. I think the concept will be very useful in the future to the development of our jurisdiction.

I enthusiastically and with-out reservation recommend that everyone read this truly monumental book.

Reviewed by: Joe Dahl PM

Executive Director

Alaska Masonic Library & Museum

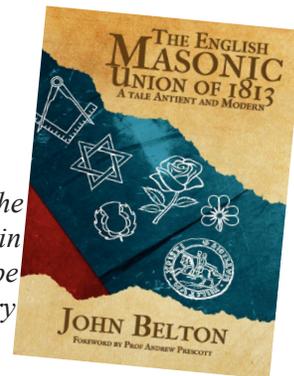
Building Stone Publishing (2013), Guthrie, OK

345 pages

Paperback \$ 17.79, Kindle \$ 9.99

The English Masonic Union of 1813: A Tale Antient and Modern

by John Belton, with foreword by Prof Andrew Prescott



“If one wants to understand the history of English masonry within Britain there is simply no escape from getting to grips with the story of Irish freemasonry.” Belton

On St John the Evangelists’ Day, December 1813, the two Grand Lodges of England, the Antients and the Moderns, joined together to become the United Grand Lodge of England. On the eve of the 200th anniversary of this historic event, TMS Fellow John Belton has published a book that sheds light on the actions surrounding this Union. *The English Masonic Union of 1813* tells a tale from a global perspective, not solely from an English perspective. Brother Belton describes how events which contributed to the development of Freemasonry in Ireland and Scotland, and elsewhere about the British Empire, also had an impact on and influenced the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England.

One of the major issues that had to be resolved between the two rival English Grand Lodges, before union could be accomplished, was how to include Royal Arch Masonry in the body of English Freemasonry. As Brother Belton explains, “It seems that freemasons have always had an appetite to experience more degrees and the early nineteenth century was no exception from this tendency.” The concept of ‘pure ancient Masonry’, which consists of ‘only three degrees’, was being assailed by a craft that was hungry for more degrees. Brother Belton handles this issue without difficulty, and further describes the impact of the union on the development of other ‘higher degrees’.

The English Masonic Union of 1813 is a compact text and easily read in a few evenings. Although, it covers the topic well, with the limited source material available, it left this reader anxious to read more about various protagonists in the story (the Duke of Athol, the Earl of Moira, William Preston, the Duke of Sussex, and Alexander Seaton and the Grand East of Ulster). With much pleasure, I recommend *The English Masonic Union of 1813*.

Reviewed by: Bo Cline

arima publishing (2012), 137 pages

Paperback (\$16.00)

*** BACK PAGE ***



Masonic Funeral Procession. I. Officer of S. S. Excelsior killed by a mad steer.
Masonic Funeral Procession. I. Officer of S. S. Excelsior killed by a mad steer.



University of Alaska Anchorage. Archives & Manuscripts Dept.

Valdez street scene in summer, 1899-1905

A search of the University of Alaska digital archives provides some clues, but doesn't tell the whole story. The photo above shows the same street scene as that in the funeral procession, and is dated between 1899 and 1905. However, the power pole in the first picture (funeral) has an extension added to it, which implies it was taken at a later time. The photo at right shows the S. S. Excelsior docked at Keystone Wharf (Valdez) in 1905.

I am sure there are many more mysteries just like this one waiting for you to solve them. I would love to publish your discoveries in the Light of the Great Land and I await your submission.

The Editor

The curious post card above was purchased on eBay by our Grand Secretary and given to the Alaska Masonic Library and Museum. The caption on the card indicates that a Masonic funeral procession was conducted for the I. (assuming it means 1st) officer of the S. S. Excelsior, who was killed by a mad steer. Someone with better eyes than mine was able to determine that the picture was taken in Valdez, Alaska. The questions that come to mind with regard to this curious photo are, who was this supposed Mason, when was the picture taken, and what were the circumstances that led him to be killed by a mad steer.



Anchorage Museum of History & Art. Library & Archives.

S.S. Excelsior at Keystone Wharf, Valdez, Alaska, Aug. 10, [19]05.