

Trestleboard

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

MARCH 2004

The purpose of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is to foster the education of the Craft at large through prepared research and open discussion of the topics concerning Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and current events.

Next Communication

The New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education meets on the fourth Saturday in January, March, May and September.

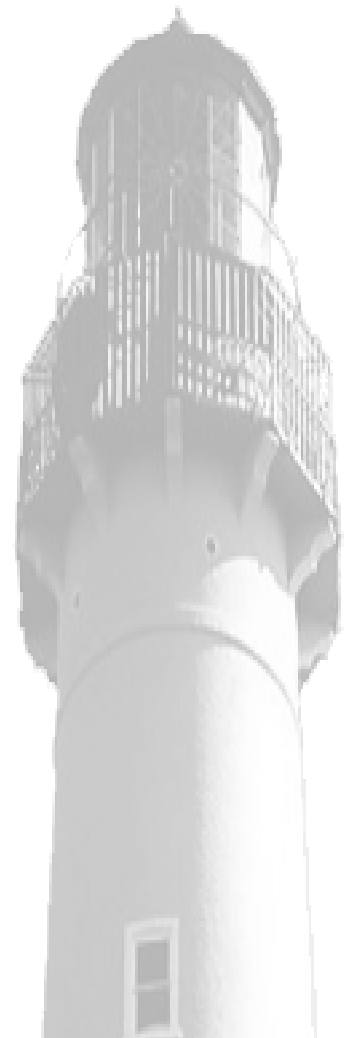
Our next communication will be held on
Saturday, March 27, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at:

**Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks Street
Trenton, New Jersey**

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!

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From the East

RW George A. Olsen, Worshipful Master

RWB George Olsen is at home recovering from surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers during his period of recuperation.

From The West

Bro. Tom Thorton, Senior Warden

My Brothers,

We are now completing our first two years of operation. It is good news and it is bad news. The good news, we have had excellent papers presented at each of our meetings. The sad news is most have been from just two writers. It was hoped that with over 20,000 Masons in the state there would be a few more interested in writing about Freemasonry.

And please remember research does not mean digging up and detailing the past. Really we need more effort in trying to research the future.

However I think probably LORE is suffering from the same thing that really is affecting all Freemasonry. We have many good things going and really too few Masons aware of what we have and what is going on.

At the Grand Lodge level, we find almost weekly functions and all well attended. At the Blue Lodge level, sadly we find we make Masons and in many cases rarely see them again. If fact, I think many depart not really knowing what Freemasonry is all about or the wealth of activities that are available.

So if any of you can suggest how we can get the word of what we do, when and where we do it, that contribution could 'make the difference'.

A Mason who is inactive only has two avenues of input. His local lodge's trestleboard and the quarterly New Jersey Freemason. The NJ Freemason does a excellent job but the local trestleboards are a different situation.

If any of you have any ideas how we could 'get the word' to just the newly made Masons it might help.

Fraternally,

Bro. Tom Thorton, SW

Scheduled Papers to be read at our March 2004 Meeting:

- Bro. Ben Hoff – Candidate Preparation & Obligation
- Bro. Matthew Korang – Daniel Coxe
- Bro. Ed Coster – Masonry and Geometry
- Bro. Jay Hochberg – Gov. Harry Moore's Address to the GL of NJ 1940

Come out for a morning of enlightenment!

Be sure to stop by our Display
at the 217th Annual Communication
of the Grand Lodge in
Atlantic City.

Take the time to introduce
a friend to our Lodge. Take a brochure
and application.
Just stop and say Hello!

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786

BY-LAW CHANGE

The following by-law change was submitted by Bro. Nathan Mark, a member of New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No. 1786. The following change will be voted up at the next regular meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2004:

Article III, 3.1 now states:

Stated Communications. Stated communications shall be held on the fourth Saturday of May, September, January and March, except if such be a legal or religious holiday weekend. The Worshipful Master will then select an appropriate alternate date. All Stated Communications will be held at the Trenton Masonic Temple located on 100 Barracks Street, Trenton, New Jersey commencing at 10 AM and ending no later than 3:00 PM.

Proposed change:

Stated Communications. Stated communications shall be held on the fourth Saturday of May, September, January and March, except if such be a legal or religious holiday weekend. The Worshipful Master *may, at his discretion, change the date and/or time of said Communication when he deems it necessary.* All Stated Communications will be held at the Trenton Masonic Temple located *at* 100 Barracks Street, Trenton, New Jersey commencing at 10 AM and ending no later than 3:00 PM.

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

It was decided at the last meeting to have the vote for the selection of the Paper of the Year in March. We would include all papers presented during the first two years of the Lodge. Once a paper is selected, a Plaque will be presented at our annual meeting in May.

Please visit our website and take a look at all the papers presented over the last two years. Remember which one you think is best and remember that paper when you vote in March.

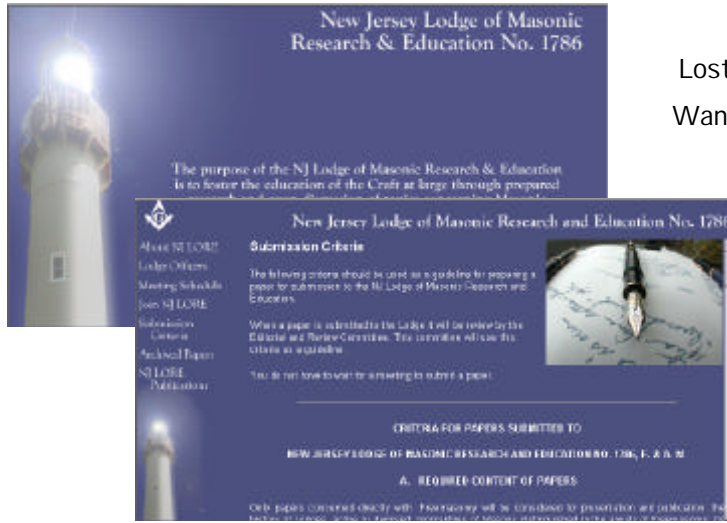
We are getting price quotes on the printing of our Proceedings. They should be available to members at our Annual Meeting in May. We hope to make these publications available to Blue Lodges for their libraries. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

We have added three new members bringing our total membership number up to 78.

Help the New Jersey Lodge of Research and Education!!!

When you are finished with this month's trestleboard, place it in a prominent location in your home Lodge. Hopefully, someone will grab it up, read it, find it interesting, and submit an application to join NJ LORE No. 1786!

Matthew Korang, Secretary, NJ LORE No. 1786



Missed the last meeting??
 Lost your most recent NJ LORE Trestleboard?
 Want a copy of a paper presented at a meeting?

Take a look at the NJ LORE website at

<http://njlore1786.com>

At our website, you will find all of the latest information from copies of Trestleboards and papers to important contact information and meeting dates. Be sure to check it out!!

NJ LORE NO. 1786 — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Initial Membership Fee is \$ 25.00 and the Annual Dues are \$25.00. A personal check, bank check or money order made out to "NJ Lodge No. 1786" in the amount of \$50.00 must accompany this application.

Mail to our Secretary: WB Matthew Korang / 344 East Union St. / Burlington, NJ 08016

Please clearly print or type the following information

Brother Dist. Brother WB RWB MWB

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Lodge Affiliation (Mother Lodge or Lodge currently attending)

Your Lodge Secretary must sign and seal this section of the application indicating that you are in good standing.

Name _____ Number _____

Address _____

Grand Lodge of New Jersey _____ Grand Lodge of _____

"I respectfully represent that I am a Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge of Master Masons in the State of New Jersey or in a Grand Jurisdiction with which New Jersey maintains fraternal relations and do hereby make application for membership."



Signature of Lodge Secretary _____

A Wall of Separation Between Church and State

Bro. Howard Z. Kanowitz

“One Nation, *blank blank*, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. Is this the fate of our Pledge of Allegiance?” These are the opening lines of the paper. The issue is whether the First Amendment to our Constitution, which guarantees our Freedom of Religion, will, in an ironic twist of law, prevent us from being a country “Under God”.

The answer proposed is bitter-sweet. It contemplates three levels of religion: Atheism, the religion of no religion; Monotheism, the foundation stone of Masonry, and Polytheism, the religion of more than one god. The analysis charts a brief look at Deism and the challenges to church and religion from the Enlightenment, the rise of Atheism and the French Revolution. Then the writings of Thomas Jefferson, the architect of the First Amendment are considered in order to gain some insight into what he meant when he wrote “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” Lastly we will see how our Courts view the problem as the paper concludes with a prediction as to where we are headed and offers some suggestions on how to view government and religion through Masonry in our changed society.

I was in kindergarten and had just learned the Pledge of Allegiance when it was changed to add the words “Under God”. All the kids were upset because it threw off the whole cadence teacher had used to get us to memorize it. Now the cadence doesn’t seem right when I try to go back.

Harry S. Truman – The Foremost Freemason of the Twentieth

Truman is said to have proven that an common man could become President, but in fact, he was really an uncommon man and he was an uncommon youngster. While children his age were playing games, he was studying. He believed that before he reached the age of twelve he had read every book in the public library of Independence, Missouri.

He was particularly interested in biographies and history, all which helped him in later years. Referring to Andrew Johnson, the Mason from Tennessee, and his being thrust into the Presidency of the United States, Truman said: "When the same thing happened to me, I knew just how Johnson had coped with his problems, and I did not make the mistakes he made."

And Truman didn't. From the moment he took the oath of office as President of the United States he assumed the full responsibility and authority of the position. In doing so he shocked politicians, businessmen, detractors, and especially the media. The latter, for the most part, never forgave him for proving it was wrong.

Truman was asked after his election as President of the United States: "How much of an influence did Freemasonry have on the life of Harry S. Truman?". His answer was:

"The greatest honor that has ever come to me, and that can ever come to me in my life, is to be Grand Master of Masons in Missouri."

Some of you may, or may not know, that M.W. Harry S. Truman attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 1945 and was the keynote speaker. It is also important to note that the Annual Communication was held in this very building.

Although a majority of his speech addresses World War II, I found a large portion of it relevant today.

(The above articles are synopses of papers submitted to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education at its January 2004 Meeting. The papers are available, in there entirety, on our website – <http://www.njlore1786.org>)

Preston's Staircase

Bro. Bernard Hoff

One certainly must wonder if the Masonic ideal that Freemasonry does not change, indeed *cannot* change or be changed, literally applies to Masonic ritual in light of the vast amount of what appears to be change in our ritual over time as evidenced by both historical records and the diversity of contemporary Masonic ritual practices across the globe. Out of many possible examples of change in ritual and symbolism, my particular favorite relates to the staircase in the well-loved Middle Chamber lecture. The earliest mention of the staircase in our lectures notes that it has seven steps symbolizing the number needed to form a perfect lodge. Other early FC lectures entirely omit any reference to a staircase. Instead, the symbolic significance we apply to the staircase in current American ritual used to belong to the numbers needed to compose a lodge, and was communicated as part of the Entered Apprentice degree.

The first known lecturer to apply anything like our modern significance to the staircase was William Preston in the 1770's. Indeed most of the verbiage contained in our current Middle Chamber lecture was originally written by Preston. But Preston's staircase had only seven steps, among other interesting differences. Preston also introduced several other explanations for the numbers which compose lodges of various degrees, apparently based loosely on the forms of lodges used much earlier in the century. But he still employs the older symbolism to explain why a lodge of Fellow Crafts should be composed of five.

The version of the staircase symbolism we employ today came to us from Thomas Smith Webb, the first noted American lecturer whose adaptation of Preston's lecture system set the standard for American style work. It appears, however, that the staircase as we know it today it is not Webb's invention, or at least not entirely. An English Contemporary of the American Webb was William Finch, whose lecture system has many points of similarity with Webb, particularly notable when Webb differs from Preston. Since both Webb and Finch were contemporaries living in different countries, and therefore unlikely to know of each other, we must surmise that both Webb's and Finch's work were based on yet another ritual tradition which contains the American version of the Middle Chamber staircase.

(This article is a synopsis of a paper submitted to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education at its January 2004 Meeting. The paper is available, in its entirety, on our website – <http://www.njlore1786.org>)



Required Reading

Bro. Matthew Korang

Below is a continuation of a list of recommended reading from the website – www.workingtools.com. This website contains some of the most prevalent authors in England at this time. Many of the writers of Freemasonry Today, an English Freemasonic Magazine, are regular contributors to the website. Noted author and editor of Freemasonry Today, Michael Baigent is a regular contributor.

Anyway, the website editor, Matthew Scanlon, posted his quite extensive listing of what he considers “required reading” for today’s Freemason. The website lists the books in three parts. I will reprint them for you with Bro. Scanlon’s commentary. If you get a chance take an Internet trip to this webpage, you will not be sorry. The rest of the list will be reprinted in future editions of the Trestleboard. Even though this is a list for English Freemasons, it is still interesting.

Recommended Reading

Carlile, Richard

An exposure of Freemasonry - or a Masons' printed manual with an introductory key-stone to the Royal Arch of Freemasonry
(London, 1831)

Carlile, Richard

Manual of Freemasonry in three parts
(4th edn., London, 1858)

Carr, Harry

Lodge Mother Kilwinning No. 0. A study of the earliest minute books, 1642 - 1842
(Quatour Coronati Lodge, London, 1961)

Despite some minor errors, this is still the best history available on this internationally famous old lodge. Out-of-print, but second-hand copies can be found.

Carr, Harry

Early French Exposures (Privately printed, London, 1971).

Translation and commentaries of the early exposures that appeared on the continent of Europe from 1737 onwards. A good book for serious historians and those interested in the development of Masonic ritual. Currently out of print but second hand copies can be found.

Carr, Harry

The Freemason at Work (Revised edition, London, 1981).

The work comprises a large and extensive collection of questions and answers concerning many aspects of Freemasonry and its working.

Carr, Harry

World of Freemasonry: The collected papers and talks of Harry Carr
(Twickenham, 1984)

Chevallier, Pierre

Histoire de la Franc-Maconnerie. (3 vols.)

Tome 1: La Maconnerie: ecole de l'egalite, 1725 - 1799.

Tome 2: La Maconnerie: missionnaire du liberalisme, 1800 – 1877.

Tome 3: La Maconnerie: eglise de la Republique, 1877 - 1944. (Paris, 1974 - 75).

An excellent three volume study of Freemasonry in France over three-centuries, by this eminent Professor of the Sorbonne. In French. Available in paperback.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Chevallier Pierre

Le Sceptre, la crosse et L'equerre, Sous Louis XV et Louis XVI, 1725 - 1789.

(Honore Champion, Paris, 1996)

Pierre Chevallier was not a Freemason but an extremely fine scholar of the movement's history primarily in France. This was the last book produced by this eminent Professor of the Sorbonne, and is a must for the serious student of eighteenth- -century Freemasonry. Available in French.

Chudley, Ron

Thomas Dunckerley - A remarkable Freemason

(Lewis Masonic, 1982)

The story of this remarkable Freemason is told in lucid prose.

While not as good as Henry Sadler's biographical portrait, it remains a study that should be consulted for anyone interested in Freemasonry in Georgian England and this alleged illegitimate son of King George II.

Clark, Peter

British Clubs and Societies, 1580 - 1800, the origins of an Associational World

(Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2000)

An excellent social history of club life over two centuries, a Professor of Economic and Social History at the University of Leicester. The work looks at many societies of which Freemasonry is but one, and examines both the 'Modern' and 'Antient' Masonic Grand Lodges in the eighteenth century, incorporating an interesting factual analysis.

CMRC

Transactions of the Canonbury Masonic Research Centre

The first volume of 'The Canonbury Papers' containing the transactions of the second International Conference, held in November 2000. Available soon.

www.canonbury.ac.uk

Cohn, Norman

Warrant for Genocide - The Myth of the Jewish Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion

(London, 1996)

This work succinctly explains the reasons for the paranoia and ghastly conspiracy theories concocted by the Nazis, which lead to the terrible crimes of World War II. There are many references to Freemasonry, as the Nazis believed the movement was linked with this imaginary conspiracy. This work should be read by every Democrat and Freemason alike, as a reminder to future generations, that tolerance is the central tenet essential to both.

Coil, Henry Wilson

Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia

(Macoy, New York, 1961, revised edn., 1996)

A very good encyclopedia concerning all aspects of Freemasonry in the English speaking world, though a little weak on the Latin world. That said, it is very probably the best Masonic encyclopedia available in English.

Coil, Henry Wilson

A documentary account of Prince Hall and the Black Fraternal Orders (1982)

Cooper, Robert L


An introduction to the origins and history of the Order of Free Gardeners

(QCCC Ltd, London, 2000)

This tome explores one of the many clubs and societies that thrived in eighteenth century Scotland, and includes a lot

Continued in May 2004 Edition

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education
Important Information

<p>Brethren, You are cordially and fraternally invited to the next Regular Communication of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 to meet on Saturday, March 27, 2004 at the Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barracks St. Trenton, NJ at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Order of Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.) - Opening Lodge - Short Business meeting - Ballot on By-Law Proposal - Ballot for Paper of the Year - Presentation of Papers - Lunch Break - Finish Paper Presentations (If necessary) - Closing <p style="text-align: right;">Officer's Dress – Business Attire</p>	<p><u>Officers for 2003-2004</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>George A. Olsen 25 Gail Dr. East Hanover, NJ 07936</p> <p>Thomas W. Thornton 11 Adelphia Rd. Parsippany, NJ 07054 Cincinnati #3</p> <p>Ira P. Drucks 64 Oakwood Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039 Germana C. Union #11</p> <p>Leonard M. March 1059 Davistown Rd. Blackwood, NJ 08012 Laurel #237</p> <p>Stephen B. Speirs</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Worshipful Master 973-887-2515 (H) kenmike167@aol.com</p> <p>Senior Warden 973-887-8772 tomthornton@nac.net</p> <p>Junior Warden 973-994-2963 bikerira@aol.com</p> <p>Treasurer 856-228-4408 lenthkid@aol.com</p> <p>Secretary 609-386-8902 mkorang@comcast.net matthew.korang@lmco.com</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>George A. Olsen 25 Gail Dr. East Hanover, NJ 07936</p> <p>Thomas W. Thornton 11 Adelphia Rd. Parsippany, NJ 07054 Cincinnati #3</p> <p>Ira P. Drucks 64 Oakwood Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039 Germana C. Union #11</p> <p>Leonard M. March 1059 Davistown Rd. Blackwood, NJ 08012 Laurel #237</p> <p>Stephen B. Speirs</p>	<p>Worshipful Master 973-887-2515 (H) kenmike167@aol.com</p> <p>Senior Warden 973-887-8772 tomthornton@nac.net</p> <p>Junior Warden 973-994-2963 bikerira@aol.com</p> <p>Treasurer 856-228-4408 lenthkid@aol.com</p> <p>Secretary 609-386-8902 mkorang@comcast.net matthew.korang@lmco.com</p>
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<p>Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey Most Worshipful Robert L. Miller 383 Bloomsbury Rd. Bloomsbury, NJ 08804 908-479-6599</p>	<p>Matthew Korang (Protem) 344 East Union St. Burlington, NJ 08016 Beverly-Riverside #107</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Like to Write? Interested in Masonic History or Theory? Why not consider submitting a paper to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education?</p> <p>The NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is looking for individuals interested in the history and activities of Freemasonry in both New Jersey and the world.</p> <p>Only papers concerned directly with Freemasonry will be considered for presentation and publication: The history of Lodges, active or demised; biographies of Masons distinguished in the annals of Freemasonry; its ceremonies, usage, and practices; the speculative or philosophical aspects of Freemasonry; and any other Masonic subject of general interest to the Fraternity.</p> <p>Interested? If you have a paper you would like to submit or would like more information concerning writing and submitting papers, please feel free to contact : RW Thomas Thorton at 973-887-8772</p>	<p>Matthew Korang Jay Hochberg (Protem) P.O. Box 264 Caldwell, NJ 07006</p> <p>Senior Deacon 973-256-0374 euclid47@earthlink.net</p> <p>Stewart D. Thomas 96 Sheridan St. Irvington, NJ 07111</p> <p>Junior Deacon 973-372-5233 epps@bellatlantic.net</p> <p>Ronald A. Poeter, PM 70 Shunpike Rd. Madison, NJ 07940 Madison #93</p> <p>Chaplain 973-822-1483 r.a.poeter@worldnet.att.net</p> <p>Scott Simmins 62 Lochatong Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628</p> <p>Tyler 609-882-5983 rdsxfn09@yahoo.com</p> <p><i>From the Editor's Desk.....</i></p> <p><i>Next Trestleboard will be published by May 1, 2004. All articles must be submitted by April 15, 2004.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary</i> <i>mkorang@comcast.net</i></p> 		



New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
Research and Education No. 1786

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

We're On the Web!!
njlore1786.org

Back Page Book Review

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Peninsula Lodge No. 99

"Symbols of Freemasonry" By Daniel Béresniak
Barnes & Noble Books, 2003, 128 pp.

Last summer, Barnes & Noble Books published another worthy Masonic title with this translation of Daniel Béresniak's "Les Symboles des Francs-Maçons," first published in France seven years ago. Knowing in advance that this book views Masonry's symbols from the European side is crucial to the reader's appreciation, as some of the discussion is foreign to American Masonry, and Béresniak takes an angle that isn't frequently approached by authors writing for American readers.

In 19 chapters, with titles like "The Vegetable World" and "The Animal World," the author harvests significant meanings from numerous symbols from the degrees of both Craft Masonry and the Scottish Rite. Béresniak cites centuries of scripture, history, myth, literature and lore to show how Freemasonry is a path of learning, and in doing so, he hints that merely memorizing the ritual is not the same as comprehending it. Read his passage on acacia and you'll smile knowingly to yourself the next time you see the 11th Craftsman take note of that "very singular occurrence."

The Craft's teachings are illustrated with symbols, so it is only fair to expect a book that endeavors to explain those symbols to be illustrated magnificently; this slim volume is exactly that. Many marvelous photographs, including a number of extreme close-ups, put into focus a variety of tracing boards, aprons, jewels, paintings, stained glass windows, works of folk art, entire lodge rooms and a lot more. The fine details revealed in these beautiful photos account for much of the information compressed into so brief a book.

Daniel Béresniak's "Symbols of Freemasonry" is an excellent read for anyone desiring further Light in Masonry; priced at only \$7, it should be on everyone's reading list.

