

# Trestleboard

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2003

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.

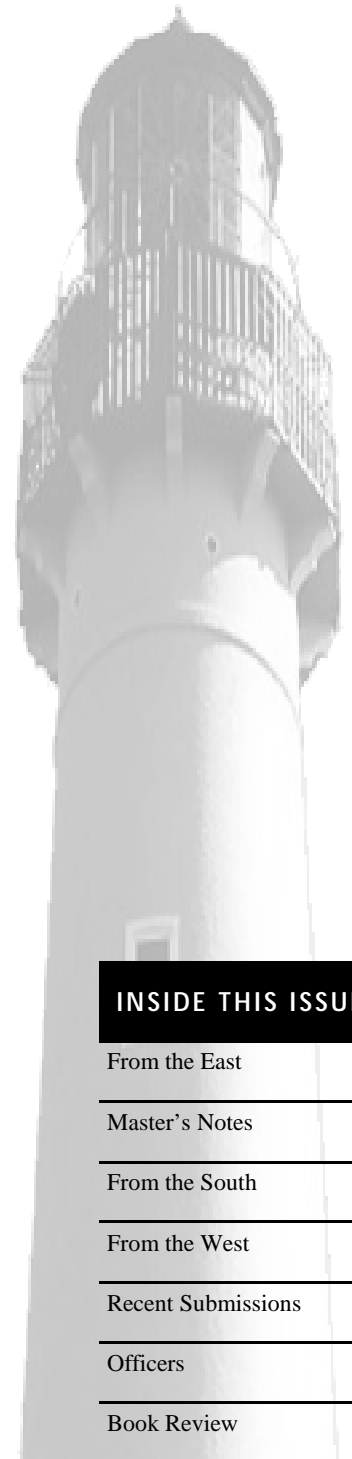
Our next communication will be held on  
**Saturday, March 22, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at:**

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

**ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!**

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## From the East

RW George Olsen, Worshipful Master

Brethren,

In the last Trestleboard, I attempted to define research for us using Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary. To continue in that direction, let me now identify some basic types of research in the most simplistic form. All research can basically be classified into three general types. The first is "Comparative Research", the second is "Descriptive Research", and the third is "Experimental Research".



All three of these general classifications have several subdivisions and can be interrelated. Comparative Research as the title indicates makes a comparison in quality, quantity, or relationship. It is characterized by the systematic and relative comparison of likeness and dissimilarities. An example of such might be a "A Comparison of Candidate Instruction as Found in Selected Grand Lodge Jurisdictions in the United States" or a "Candidate Instruction in New Jersey between 1900 and 2000"

*“All research can basically be classified into three general types...: Comparative... Descriptive...and... Experimental.”*

Descriptive Research is research in which the elements are used to create an image, a concept, a theory, a model, or idea. Usually, the basis of a Descriptive Research can be found in one of two possibilities. It can be either a survey or questionnaire, or it can be taken from statistical data. An example of such might be "The Number of Candidates Raised in New Jersey Lodges from 2000 to 2002 who are Serving as Officers," or "The Number of Candidates Raised in New Jersey Lodges from 2000-2002 Number who Petitioned Appendant Bodies"

Experimental Research is the most involved, elaborate, and time consuming of the three general types. It is utilized when attempting to push boundaries or expand an envelope of knowledge. It most times includes some aspects of both of the other general types of research and always includes trials, tryouts, and/or testing. An example of such might be "A Structured Approach for Preparing Individuals to become Worshipful Masters," or "A More Meaningful Means of Instructing Candidates." Experimental Research usually last months, even years, before the results can be codified and an intelligent interpretation be made.

The next Trestleboard will identify and explain what is meant by hypothesis and the difference between a "positive hypothesis", "a negative hypothesis", and a "null hypothesis". Research can be fun, but more importantly rewarding. Why not try your hand. There must be something that you have had a great interest in, why not research it and prepare a paper. I will make the same offer as before – To anyone who is interested in attempting to write a paper, I will be only too glad to help you get started.

Fraternally,

**George A .Olsen**, PDDGM

Worshipful Master

## ————Master's Notes————

NJ LORE has been charged with a responsibility and to date we have been meeting that responsibility with the types of materials that have been presented.

To assist the Brethren in attendance I am recommending that the Lodge at the next meeting adopt a regulation that requires an individual presenter to provide, in sufficient number, an "Abstract" of the work being presented. Such an abstract should be no less than 500 words and no more than 700 words describing the presentation, basically a single sheet. This would cut down on the cost of duplication for the individual making the presentation and will save the full presentation for the Proceedings.

In addition there is a need to address some of the by-laws, paper procedures and operations of the lodge. I will attempt to keep these at a bare minimum at the next meeting

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### From The West

**Bro. Tom Thorton, Senior Warden**

My Brothers,

The date for our fourth meeting, (March 22nd) is rapidly approaching. We now have over 60 members. So far, only two members have submitted papers. I would hope you all are aware the Lodge was named Lodge of Research & Education to permit the presentation of educational papers as well. If your not in the mood/position/inclination to do a research paper, it sure would be helpful if you could do an educational paper.

As I sit in the west and look about the room, I see a number of experienced New Jersey Masons. I would hope a number of you can recall happenings in your Masonic careers that are worth telling. It would really help make our meetings more interesting and more importantly put the event/story on permanent record within our archives.

I know, because a number of you relate stories to me verbally, and I always ask if you would just put it in writing. Not because I'm too lazy to quickly write it down, but because I don't have the type of memory that permits me to do that. So I have to hope you will put it into writing, even long hand would be okay. I'll type it up and be happy to read/present it for you.

*“We now have over  
60 members. So far,  
only two members  
have submitted  
papers.”*

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### From the South

**WB Ira P. Drucks, Junior Warden**

After attending only two meeting where papers have been presented, I can now say we have a successful NJ Lodge of Research and Education and are proud of it. For anyone who has attended our last few meetings, I am sure you all have come away learning something new about Masonry.

When you go to a meetings there is always a lot of discussion about how to conduct meetings, how to do ritual, how to, how to and how to. Now we have a place where we can learn not how to, but why. What I am alluding to is the papers that are being presented. They make you think about why we are Masons and why we do things the way we do them. Every paper presented so far, has given the listener something to think about, whether it be about why we do ritual the way we do it or what it means to be a Mason.

This “Trestleboard” you are reading is being distributed to all members of this lodge. If you want to let other brother Masons know what we are doing, give them a copy of this Trestleboard and let them know that if they want to expand their interest in Masonry, this is the place to do it. Let’s make NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education #1786 successful by introducing and promoting the benefits of membership in this Lodge.

# Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

At this time we have 60 members on the books. I have personally handed out about six applications in the last month so, I look forward to some more brothers coming into the fold soon.

At a cost of one decent meal at a restaurant, you can pay one year's dues in the NJ Lodge of Research and Education. What does that get you? Well, for one thing, it gets you four Saturday's with a continental breakfast and a good lunch with good company. But, far more important, it gets you Masonic Knowledge. As Bro. Drucks stated in his message, the papers read so far have all had something that every member present could take home and think about. Something they did not know before the meeting.

You also get a sense of satisfaction knowing that you are helping an organization whose purpose is to research and archive the history of New Jersey Freemasonry. Without your assistance, we cannot do this.

How else can you help? Take this trestleboard and hand it to someone you think would be interested in joining our efforts. Unlike the Blue Lodge, you can ask a Masonic friend to join!

Below is an application form. Hopefully, you will use it! Give it to a friend.

*Matthew Korang*, Secretary, NJ LORE No. 1786

## NJ LORE NO. 1786 — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Lodge Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**LODGE  
SEAL**

## The Symbolic Lodge

Bro. Ben Hoff, Highland Park Lodge #240

The practice of “forming a lodge” around the center of the lodge room at a certain point in the first section degree ceremonies is largely a peculiarity of American Masonic ritual. It is a holdover from the days when lodge meetings of speculative Masons were held in rented rooms of taverns rather than in specially built lodge rooms we generally use today. Masons could only be made in a lodge, and a lodge had a number of symbolic items that no tavern room would likely have in addition to requiring a certain number of masons arranged in a certain way. So early speculative masons created symbolic representations of lodge buildings and their contents by drawing them on the floor. The necessary officers were arranged around the figure on the floor with the sideline brethren standing around the figure during the degree ceremonies.



*“...early speculative masons created symbolic representations of lodge buildings and their contents by drawing them on the floor.”*

Over time, the brethren standing around the figure became more involved with the ceremony, including by representing the walls of the lodge figure drawn on the floor. At the same time, the drawn figures became more elaborate and time consuming to produce. Eventually this led to the practice of drawing the symbols on floor cloths. The lodge rooms we use today are scaled up versions of the symbolic floor drawings, complete with physical representations of the symbolic contents such as pillars and ashlar. Officers’ chairs are also placed where the officers once stood around the symbolic lodge drawings.

With this change to meetings in purposely built lodge rooms instead of rented tavern rooms, some of the ritual practices that had grown up around the use of floor diagrams had to change. But old traditions die-hard. In some jurisdictions such as in England, the floor drawings, which became floor cloths, are now retained as pictures called tracing boards. In the United States, we have retained other usages from those days, most notably the formation of a symbolic lodge around the candidate and altar as part of the first section degree work.

*(For more information on this subject, please see Bro. Hoff’s paper, “The Symbolic Lodge”, recently submitted to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research & Education. It is available on-line at the NJ LORE website at <http://mastermason.com/njlore1786>.)*

## The Internet for Researchers

Bro. Tom Thorton, SW and Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

The Internet is a vast expanse of information of all sorts. You can look up such things as recipes, cars, people, and pets. You can find information on just about everything. It is also a great place to find Masonic information.

Looking for Masonic information you must have an understanding of the two main areas of the Internet.

### WORLD WIDE WEB

One area is called the World Wide Web. It contains what are known as 'web pages' which are documents and photos prepared to describe the various organizations or topics that are made available thru what is called their "URL" (Uniform Record Locator) or web address. This URL always starts with "http://" and usually has "www." as part of its address.

There are several websites that are starting points for Masonic Information. These are known as indexes or portals. The simplest description of these is the 'yellow pages' of the Internet. You enter the address or topic into a search feature and a list of websites is displayed for you to click on. Several topics may already be available when you first go to the portal. Click on a particular listing or topic and the pages are displayed for your viewing. There maybe several items (links) that are strictly for downloading information to your computer. However, downloading these usually requires a special program such as 'Acrobat Reader'.

Masonic researchers will find resources too numerous to list here but the best places to start are the following addresses:

**<http://www.bessel.org>** - Brother Bessel is the librarian at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandra VA. He has prepared the most current info on a number of national Masonic subjects. Paul has collected much that has been researched on the Internet relating to Masonry.

**<http://gomasonry.com>** – This resource provides many links to both national and international websites concerning everything from Blue Lodge Masonry to Appendant Bodies.

**<http://www.4masonry.com>** - Another portal for info concerning Freemasonry including links to lodges and a nice selection of Clip Art.

**<http://owmg.org>** - Operative Webmason Guild. This is a pretty comprehensive site with lots of information for the websavvy user. At this time, the website is under renovation and is kind of hard to navigate. The info is there though. Lots of info for webmasters.

For those of you that want a touch of international flavor here are some international website of note:

**<http://users.libero.it/fjit.bvg/freemas.html>** – Pietra-Stones is an Italian based Freemason website that has many research articles.

**<http://www.freemasonry.net>** - This is a United Kingdom website with links to many international destinations.

**<http://freemasonry.bcy.ca>** - The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and the Yukon is a Canadian website that has a vast amount of interesting information for both the researcher and browser.

Hardcore Researchers can join such societies as the Philalethes Society which maintains its website at **<http://freemasonry.org/psoc/>**. Also the Quatour Coronati Lodge is the world's oldest research lodge and maintains its website at **<http://www.qccc.co.uk/>**.

Then there is a new entry on this list (**<http://www.masonicresearch.org/>**) – Masonic Research.Org is a

*(Continued on page 7)*

*“There are several websites that are starting points for Masonic Information.”*

(Continued from page 6)

new webserver hosted by Mastermason.com. Once it becomes a little more populated, it promises to be a fine portal for Masonic Researchers.

### **LIST SERVERS**

The second part of the Internet is the Internet itself, which originally was one-to-one sender-to-writer but early on the list-server was developed which permits one writer sending a message to a list server and it resends the message to all the members of the list.

That's what we do with njfreemasonry. In addition, to 'njfreemasonry' there are a number of other 'list servers' carrying Masonic posting by Masons worldwide.

The following are a few of the Masonic list servers. Most of these you sign up by sending special emails, and you'll get a reply how to 'get off'. Remember that, because if you get tired of it you have to remove yourself.

**masonic.org** - open to all, 650+ members, very lightly moderated. To get onto masonic.org do the following: send email from your account to freemasonry-list-request@masonic.org. Subject line is optional in the text only the following word - SUBSCRIBE, and no signature line. Keep your log in information, if you want off you have to know how to remove yourself.

**PSOC list** - Members of the Philalethes Society ( est 750 online) dues \$ 40.00 1st year \$ 30.00 thereafter world wide but very heavy into recognition. Go to their website for more details.

There were a number of list servers early on but most all have been absorbed by Yahoo, (though I notice MSN is trying to start some) To join Yahoo groups, go to **http://yahoo.com**, register, (no cost, no private info just name and email address).

- go to groups
- select one of the below names
- be sure to click where you want the mail sent

*“The Internet...was originally designed to permit schools and other agencies to quickly transfer text information.”*

**lodge1786@yahoogroups.com** - our own list, not moderated , not busy.....yet

**MASD@yahoogroups.com** - 476 mbrs estimate 3 posts a day (Masonic education)

**AL6031@yahoogroups.com** -, 111 mbrs estimate 1 post a day (Masonic education)

**Masoniclight@yahoogroups.com** -, 4 posts day, probably the most active general topics

**njfreemason@yahoogroups.com** - NJ Lodge members only 1136 mbrs, 5 posts a day, moderated (censored)

One thing to note about your account on Yahoo – they will set your preferences to have junk e-mail sent to you. You can go to your account preferences and uncheck the e-mail notifications buttons for the junk stuff (SPAM). Once your name gets on a junk e-mail server, it can be very hard to get off. Also, as a tip, if you ever get junk e-mail, just delete it, never click on the link they provide to “unsubscribe” you from the mail list. This will let the junk mailer know that your e-mail is valid and they will sell the address to others. Before you know it, you are inundated with junk e-mail.

The Operative Webmason Guild Website has a comprehensive listing of Masonic List Servers. Unfortunately as stated earlier, the website is under construction and things are tough to find at this time.

If you have further questions about this topic, please don't hesitate to seek us out and ask. If you know of any other 'www' sites or list servers you use on a regular basis we would appreciate knowing about them.

## Freemason – Defined

As with many facets of the Fraternity, the origin of the term "Freemason" has been lost over the centuries and modern scholars are left with theories and speculation. One thing that we do know, is that the term "Freemason" was not used to describe a brick mason.

One theory, proposed by George F. Fort, was that the term was taken from the French "frere macon," meaning "brother mason," and which has been corrupted via English translation into Freemason. This theory has little support among current authorities.

A second, and more credible theory is that the term originated with the Scottish masons and that it meant that the mason in question had become free of the masons' guild or incorporation and had the freedom to practice throughout the burgh or countryside. This would be in keeping with a like practice to other guild artisans such as the free vintners, free fishermen, free linen weavers, free gardeners, free dredgers, etc. These terms were common place in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and persisted well into the eighteenth century when the Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717. However, it should be noted that a guild of stone masons, as such, did not exist at that time in England. Therefore, it is doubtful that such a guild of builders was operating in Scotland. Indeed, there were builders in Scotland, but they also included members of other crafts or building trades and were not exclusive in association to those members who were stone masons.

Most authorities (i.e. Knoop and Jones in their Introduction to Freemasonry as well as Harold V. B. Voorhis, one of three editors of Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia) give the greatest credence and respect to a third theory. First of all, it is supportive of an origin from the operative era. It holds that the term came from the fact that the finest craftsmen of the gothic cathedral builders were those that carved and sculpted "free stone." Free stone was a limestone or fined grained sandstone which could be cut in any direction without splitting and which had been "cut free" of the mountain or quarry. It was then readily worked at the building site or the worker's shop (or perhaps the lodge) where it was sculpted to form arches for window and door frames, vaulting, capitals and other carved figures found in gothic stone structures and cathedrals.

The hewers of hard stone were ultimately called "hard hewers." The term "freemason" was reserved for the carving artisans to distinguish and separate them from the brick masons and their haulers, walling and setting crews, as well as the hard hewers of the stone masons.

The term first came into use around the middle of the 16th century. It appears in Charters granted by the King of England in 1604 and among the minutes of the Masons Company of London in the 1620. In Scotland, the usual form was for a "free man" or for a "free-man mason." However, the Lodge of Edinburgh's minutes of 1636 contains the term "frei masones" and in the Melrose version of the Ancient Charges, that term is repeatedly interchanged with the term "free- man mason." From the middle of the same century onward, the terms "mason" and "freemason" are used interchangeably. It is therefore of no surprise that Anderson used "Freemason" in the Constitutions of 1723 and 1738.

In summary, the term was, and hopefully still is used to distinguish those craftsmen who are true artisans, the most highly skilled and respected members of an ancient and honorable society.

*(Editor's Note – The above article is a reprint of an article that appeared in the NJ Freemason in 1990. It was written by Richard W. Van Doren, Past Grand Orator.)*



## NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

### Important Information

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 22, 2003 at the Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barracks St. Trenton, NJ at 10:00 a.m.

#### Order of Business

- Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.)
- Opening Lodge
- Short Business meeting
- Presentation of Papers
- Lunch Break
- Finish Paper Presentations (If necessary)
- Closing

Officer's Dress – Business Attire

#### Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

Most Worshipful Larry S. Plaskett  
17 Carlisle Court  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054-2349  
856-234-4784  
E-Mail: gmnj2002@hotmail.com

#### Like to Write?

**Interested in Masonic History or Theory?**  
**Why not consider submitting**  
**a paper to the**  
**NJ Lodge of Masonic Research**  
**and Education?**

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.

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.

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**

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#### *From the Editor's Desk.....*

*Next Trestleboard will be published by May 1, 2003. All articles must be submitted by April 18, 2003.*



*Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary*  
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New Jersey Lodge of Masonic  
Research and Education No. 1786

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Trenton, NJ 08608

*Bringing Light to New  
Jersey Freemasonry!*

We're On the Web!!  
[njlore1786.org](http://njlore1786.org)

## Back Page Book Review

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Menorah Lodge No. 249

"Freemasonry: A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol" by W. Kirk MacNulty  
Published by Thames and Hudson, 1991 – 96 pages

W. Kirk MacNulty's "Freemasonry: A Journey Through Ritual and Symbol" takes us on a revealing tour of Masonic philosophy, esoterica, history and, naturally, ritual and symbols, and does so in far fewer pages than one might expect given the title.

The written chapters fill the first third of the book, and what makes it an instructive introduction to Freemasonry is not just what's included inside, but also what is *not* included. MacNulty doesn't overwhelm the reader with countless dates and numerous unknown names. Instead he quickly sketches the progress philosophy makes, from the Mysteries to the Enlightenment, while smartly explaining why Hermetic, Kabbalistic and neo-Platonic movements are crucial influences on Freemasonry. These easily digestible chapters will whet the appetites of those who come to the Craft to learn, and sufficient references are given for the motivated reader to seek the primary sources and conduct his own scholarship. Our Worshipful Masters would do well to present this book to newly raised Masons, but seasoned Masonic scholars also will take away a lesson or three.

The remaining two-thirds of the book consist mostly of photographs, engravings, paintings and other illustrations that offer glimpses into many Masonic rites and customs. If a picture truly is worth a thousand words, then these pages perform the work of a tireless, gifted, multilingual lecturer. Even the book's layout and design are conducive to learning; it is published in magazine size, so you'll want it in your hands, not on your shelf.

