

Trestleboard

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

MAY 2005

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.

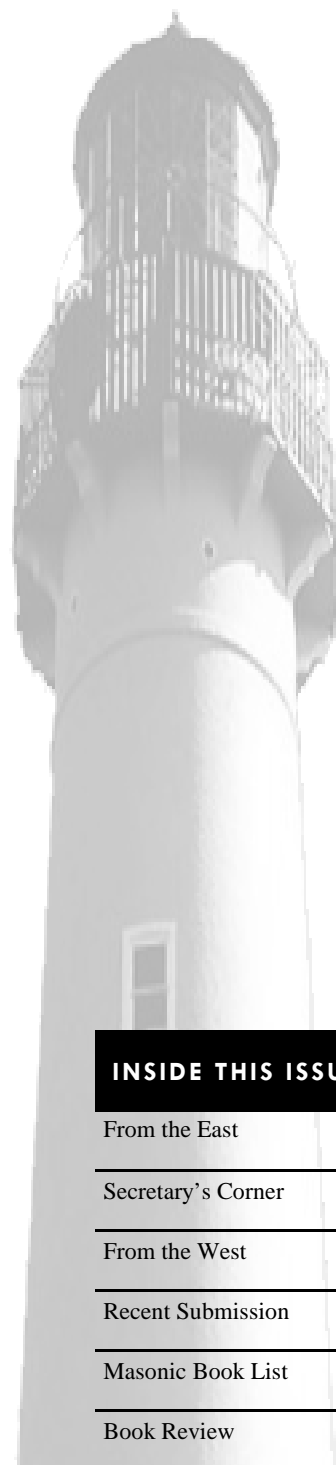
Our next communication will be held on
Saturday, May 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at:

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks Street
Trenton, New Jersey

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!

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From the East

WB Tom Thornton, Worshipful Master

My Brothers,

This is the first meeting of my second year. During the first year the LORE Notebook was developed and thanks to the help from many of you we now have over 100 items that provide the trivia and background information needed for those who really want to understand freemasonry in New Jersey.

So far, I have restricted its use to members of LORE and unless the membership feels otherwise will continue that policy.

This meeting I hope to do a better demonstration of using CD-ROM music to fill the voids during our opening and close. What I'm trying to demonstrate is that any brother, who is interested can, with minimum equipment, provide background filler music for Lodge meetings and degrees. We offer the simple "music script" that shows when music can be played during any portion of our meetings or degrees.

For the next year, I would like to begin collecting 'questions and answers'. If we can build a library of at least 100 questions and answers (using our NJ Documents, Constitution & By Laws, Ritual Manual, Protocol Manual) as open book for answers, we will have the basics needed to begin a correspondence course to offer to our members to further the passing of information to the members.

Several other jurisdictions have correspondence courses which, as long as one has a supply of questions & multiple choice answers, is pretty simple. The actual mechanics of mailing one question sheet (one mailing), when it gets returned with the answers, it gets graded and the next sheet of questions is mailed. One person has handled the Ohio version for years.

Fraternally,

Tom Thornton

Worshipful Master

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

You should be receiving your Dues Notices for 2005-2006 soon. If you receive them prior to the May meeting, feel free to pay me in person!

Our May meeting is our Annual Meeting. There will be no elections dues to the fact that NJ LORE officers serve for two years. We will be having our annual vote on the best paper of the year. The following papers were presented by Members to NJ LORE No. 1786 between March 2004 and March 2005:

- "Preparation, Reception, & Obligation and the Works of the Ancients and Moderns." Bro. Ben Hoff
- "Col. Daniel Coxe – Father of NJ Freemasonry" - Bro. Matthew Korang
- "Hermetic Influences on Masonry" - Bro. Ben Hoff
- "From A Point"- Bro. Howard Kanowitz
- "Freemason's Contribution To Freedom"- Bro. Matthew Korang

All of these papers are available <http://mastermason.com/njlore1786/>. Take a look, come out to the next meeting and vote for the best paper of the year!

Matthew Korang, Secretary, NJ LORE No. 1786

From The West

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Senior Warden

A Master Mason and two Fellowcrafts were walking about the quarry when they noticed a young Apprentice struggling with a very large stone. They saw he'd wielded his gavel deftly and had broken off all its rough corners, but moving the ashlar to the Fellowcrafts' work area proved too much for him.

The three observed the exhausted and breathless Apprentice until they could remain silent no longer. "Try using *all* of your strength, my brother," said one of the Fellowcrafts, chuckling. "Or is that stone too large for you?"

Incredulous, the Entered Apprentice wiped the sweat from his eyes with the back of a bloodied hand and looked up at the trio. "Don't worry, *brother*. I *am* using all my strength!"

The second Fellowcraft broke into a grin. "But you haven't even *begun* to start using your strength, Brother Entered Apprentice, because you haven't asked for help." The EA's face reddened with embarrassment. "Brethren. If you're so inclined, I'd be most grateful if you'd help me move this stone." And so the four Masons worked as one to tip the squarish ashlar onto a bed of logs, and then easily rolled it to the Fellowcraft area. They parted with the EA grip.

"Our brotherhood is truly great! A Mason in need can always expect help from his brethren," said the first Fellowcraft. "Indeed!" concurred the other. "When a worthy Mason asks for assistance, he shall receive it from every brother who is capable."

The Master Mason, who had yet to speak a word, smiled. "Brethren," he finally said. "Freemasonry is not great because Masons profit from each other. Our Order is great because we *serve* each other."

"We don't understand," said one. "What is the difference?"

"Consider your wages of corn, wine and oil," said the Master. "The sheaf of grain, the grapevine and the olive branch all produce their fruits without expecting anything in return... except the chance to yield even more in the next harvest. Masons must act like them, serving tirelessly, almost unconsciously. This is the Great Architect's order of things."

The Transactions of the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No. 1786 Volume I – 2002-2004

The Transactions of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No 1786 are provided to every member of the NJ LORE. They can also be purchased directly from the Secretary.

Our first volume contains all of the papers presented to the Lodge in our first two years. It also contains all of the minutes from all of the meetings held during this period.

Our first Volume is available for purchase for \$15.00 per copy. It is a perfect gift for a friend you wish to introduce the Lodge of Research to or to your Lodge as an addition to its library.

For a copy send a check payable to "NJ Lodge No. 1786"
along with your return address to:

WB Matthew Korang / 106 Wayland Rd. / Delran, NJ 08075





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 / 106 Wayland Rd. / Delran, NJ 08075

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 _____

“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.”



Your Signature _____

FREEMASON'S CONTRIBUTION TO FREEDOM

Submitted by Matthew Korang, Secretary

(The following speech was given on June 10, 1967, at Crescent Temple, Trenton, N.J., to a class of 185 by the Honorable Albert W. Hawkes, NJ Senator, retired)

"Illustrious Potentate Edward D. Stites, Sr., I deeply appreciate your kind remarks in presenting me to this fine Class and audience and for the great and meaningful tribute on this beautiful plaque from Crescent Temple, for which I trust I may in some measure be worthy.

I am highly complimented that this Class has been named in my honor. The fact that it numbers 186 gives me hope for the future, because the teachings of Freemasonry have been responsible for inspiring leadership and character for our Republic and other vitally important things in life.

I believe if the teachings of Freemasonry were understood by the leading citizens of the nations of the world, we would find a way to make all the necessary sacrifices to live in a world of freedom and peace and thus avoid the miseries and destruction of war.

It was Lord Byron who said "A thousand years are scarce enough to Form a state; a single hour may lay it in the dust." It is the responsibility of the citizens of all nations to avoid that "single hour." Every thoughtful American realizes that that single hour could occur and destroy everything we have and believe in, if the gray cells in a few irresponsible brains became confused and, in anger, pushed the wrong button.

When he was near the end of his long and productive life, George Washington was asked "To what do you attribute your calm and courage on the battlefields, your faith and determination in the right and your honesty and integrity in public office?" After some meditation, he replied "I think I must give as much credit to my teachings in Freemasonry as any one thing."

Paul Revere, who sounded the alarm so valuable to our revolutionary soldiers, was another Freemason and he, like Washington, was Worshipful Master of his Lodge.

The records reveal that a majority of all those who signed the Declaration of independence were Freemasons. Those patriots knew that if their efforts failed, the signing of that great document meant for them the supreme sacrifice.

A majority of those who signed the Constitution of the United States were Freemasons. That important document became the foundation for our American system of free men, under a rule of laws as enacted by the people's freely-chosen representatives. Our Constitution was referred to by William E. Gladstone, the eminent Prime Minister of England, as "the greatest piece of work ever struck off by the brain and purpose of man." Our Constitution was again referred to by William Pitt, defender of the rights of American colonists, as "the admiration of all future generations."

Behind the chair of George Washington, who presided over the Constitutional Convention, was a representation of the rising sun. After the delegates had signed the Constitution, the venerable Benjamin Franklin, who had been Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in the State of Pennsylvania for three years, said "In the course of the session . . . I looked at the sun behind the President without being able to tell whether It was rising or setting, but now, at length, I have the happiness to know it was rising."

When a nation remains faithful to the ideals of freedom of the spirit—the essence of Freemasonry--there is no final sunset for its people.

The late Winston Churchill, said by many to have been the greatest statesman of this century, was also an active Freemason.

The years since we became a nation have brought swift changes in the American scene. However, patriotic public service remains now, as in the time of our Masonic forebears, the keystone of the Republic's vitality and power. We Freemasons, who are proud of our heritage, can do no more than emulate their example and we can not, in good conscience, do less. If we are eternally vigilant and act courageously, on time, in defense of our way of life, we will be worthy of our heritage and will thus discharge our duty as citizens.

Lest we forget, I beseech every American to recall those unforgettable words of our great patriot, Nathan Hale

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(Continued from page 5)

who, when sentenced to death at the age of 21, said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." That is such a great statement that it makes those who have lived many years realize it is not the years one has lived that count, but rather what one has done in those years.

For some time Americans have faced the controversial question of whether our political leaders were wise in abandoning Washington's advice in his Farewell Address "Beware of foreign entangling alliances." In disregarding his advice, before we were prepared to accept world leadership, all will agree that we have not made the world safe for democracy.

We are now an inseparable part of a sick world, therefore we must stand together to help the world find peace. We have cured nothing, even though we have given away hundreds of billions of dollars. It is reliably stated that our total debts of Federal, State and local government are as great as the total assessed valuation of all the property in the United States for taxation purposes.

No price, except the abandonment of principle, is too great to pay for peace and freedom, but we must spend our "substance" wisely to avoid defeat of our objective.

If we would have freedom and peace in a happy world, our conduct must be governed by equity--which is the soul of justice and the spirit of righteousness which know from the bosom of God.

In our negotiations to establish peace and preserve freedom, here are some of the things we must never forget.

- See things clearly and as a whole.
- Remember that there are usually three sides to every controversy our side, the other fellow's side and the right side.
- Realize that who is right is inconsequential when compared with what is right. Who is right fades from the memory of man in a few generations or centuries, but what is right is eternal.
- Try to teach the world that fair reward as an incentive to accomplishment has done almost as much as "old mother necessity" in causing human beings to burn the midnight oil to find new and better ways of doing things, not only for one's own benefit, but for humanity in general.
- Understand that "he who seeks equity must do equity." That "he who comes into equity must do so with clean hands."
- Voluntary cooperation is the mainspring of free men at work. Voluntary cooperation cannot exist without confidence in one another. Confidence in one another cannot exist without character, honesty, integrity and a spirit of equality in the hearts of our citizens toward one another.

Liberty is freedom, but freedom is not free. It is the most expensive thing in the world, because it is the most valuable thing in life. Life without freedom is a tragedy. In seeking the preservation of individual freedom in a peaceful world, it would be well to remember Abraham Lincoln's advice that our objective in this country should be to find a way to divide "the fruits of common effort fairly among the people who produce those fruits."

My faith in the teachings of Freemasonry tells me we will find a way and make the necessary sacrifices to save and improve the important things our Masonic forebears helped so much to create for the benefit of mankind.

Let us, as Freemasons and Shriners, by our conduct and example, be an inspiration to others and thus help show the way to the preservation of freedom in a peaceful world.

I can think of no better way for us to keep faith with our Masonic forebears than to make one of our most important objectives the outlawing of war by the powerful nations of the earth and thus prove that we no more condone mass murder throughout the world, as a means of settling our differences, than we condone single murder in our midst for the same purpose.

Our No. 1 objective in life, which includes most of the other objectives, must be the accomplishment of the mandate of the Supreme Architect of the Universe--Peace on earth, good will toward men.

(This Speech is part of paper presented to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 at it March 2005 Meeting.)

Required Reading

Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

Below is a continuation of a list of recommended reading from the website – www.cornerstonesociety.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

Perrin, Dennis

The Sacking of the Masonic Temple in Jersey by the Nazis

In 1941 (Lewis Masonic, 1993)

As many brethren know, Freemasons were not exactly the favoured friends of the Fascist regimes in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Germany. This neatly produced paperback tells the sad story of what happened to the Masonry in the Channel Islands during the second World War.

Piatigorsky Alexander

Who’s Afraid of Freemasons?

(Harvill Press, London, 1997)

A phenomenological study of modern Freemasonry from the early Eighteenth century. The author is a Professor at SOAS, the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. Not for the faint-hearted. Available in paperback.

Pick, F, L & Knight, G, N

The Pocket History of Freemasonry.

(Muller, 8th edn, 1991.)

An extremely useful pocket-size reference work on the history of Freemasonry, with a foreword by Harry Carr. This tome ranges from theories and evidence concerning the origins, to the craft in the modern world.

Pick, F, L & Knight, G, N

The Freemason’s Pocket Reference Book

(3rd edn., Frederick Muller, London, 1983)

Like the Pocket History above, this is again an extremely valuable quick reference work on many aspects of the craft.

Preston, William

Illustrations of Masonry

(Wellingborough, 1986)

A Masonic Classic first released in 1772, re-released with an introduction by Colin Dyer.

Prestonian Lectures

The Collected Prestonian Lectures.

Vol., 1. 1925 - 1960 (ed), H. Carr,

(Lewis Masonic, 1984)

Vol., 2. 1961 - 1974 (ed), C. N. Batham,

Vol., 3. 1975 - 1987 (ed), Rev. N. B. Cryer,

Vol., 4. 1988 - 1996.

Available in hardback.

Ridley, Jasper

Freemasons (Constable, 1999)

A popular overview of Freemasonry’s involvement in major historical events, such as the American, French and South

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(Continued from page 7)

American Revolutions. It ends with a look at Freemasonry in the world today. A fair introduction to Masonic history, and despite some errors, it makes a good introductory tome to Masonic history. (now in paperback)

Roberts, Allen

House Undivided, the story of Freemasonry and the Civil War

(Missouri Lodge of Research, 1961, reprinted again in 1964 and '76, by Macoy Pub. & Masonic Supply Co, Richmond, Virginia)

A detailed historical investigation of the American Civil War. During the bloody years of this conflict and its aftermath, Freemasonry's membership quadrupled from 200,000 members to 800,000. This perhaps stands as a testimony to the noble ideals of the brotherhood, highlighted all the more by the savagery of war.

Roberts, J, M

Mythology of the Secret Societies

(Secker & Warburg, 1972)

This is an extremely important milestone in the academic study of Freemasonry in the English speaking world. The author is a noted retired Oxford Professor, who was one-time editor of the English Historical Review and Warden of Merton College Oxford. He is the author of numerous books and papers and has presented a number of programmes for television. This work places Freemasonry in a wider social and political context. Sadly it is out of print, but second-hand copies can be found.

Robison, John

Proofs of a Conspiracy

(1797)

This is a classic Masonic Conspiracy work, written by Professor John Robison in the 1790s, alleging the uncovering of a Masonic plot behind the French Revolution. Will interest the more avid historian. Available in paperback.

Rosslyn, Earl of

Rosslyn Chapel

(Rosslyn Chapel Trust, 1997)

Amid all the hype of many recent, wild and speculative books on this enigmatic chapel, this well written and colourfully produced official guide to Rosslyn Chapel is by far the best read on the subject, with not a spaceship in sight! Available in paperback.

Sadler, Henry

Masonic Facts and Fictions

(Aquarian Press, Wellingborough, 1985)

With an introduction by John Hamill, former Librarian and Curator of the United Grand Lodge of England, now Director of Communications.

Sadler, Henry

Masonic Reprints and Revelations, including original notes and additions (1898)

An informative account of early English and Irish Masonry.

Sandbach,

Priest and Freemason

(Lewis Masonic)

The Life of the Masonic researcher and priest George Oliver.

Scottish Rite Museum

Bespangled, Painted & Embroidered, Decorated Masonic Aprons in America 1790 - 1850

(Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, Mass., 1981)

Catalogue of the Exhibition, with colour and black and white pictures of Masonic Aprons, with explanations of each.

Continued in September 2005 Edition

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, May 28, 2004 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 (9:30 a.m.)
- Presentation of Papers
- Lunch Break
- Short Business meeting
- Closing

Officer's Dress – Business Attire

Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

Most Worshipful Robert J. Sheridan
403 Breaker Drive
Galloway, NJ 08205
609-652-5390

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 : **Bro. Jay Hochberg at 973-256-0374**

Officers for 2004-2006

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published by May 1, 2005. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by April 15, 2005.

Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary
mkorang@comcast.net





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

“Heredom,” Vol. 12, 2004

The Transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society

Edited by Ill. Bro. S. Brent Morris, 33°, Grand Cross

The Scottish Rite Research Society, 380 pages.

Like the Masonic Book Club, extolled in this space last year, the Scottish Rite Research Society is an excellent source of Masonic education. Formed by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, in 1992, it has swiftly surpassed larger, older Masonic research bodies by virtue of its impeccable scholarship and broad diversity of subject matter.

Don't be misled by its name; neither members nor authors need be Scottish Rite Masons to be part of this society. In fact, this 12th volume of annual transactions features three papers by women researchers. Nor are the topics covered limited to Scottish Rite Masonry. While there's plenty to read of the names, dates and places of Masonic history, the SRRS seems to delight in looking “outside the box” to tell Masonry's story. Wendy Rae Waszut-Barrett, a specialist in theatrical scenery restoration, reveals how social, cultural and economic realities of the mid 19th century moved Scottish Rite degrees from the lodge to the stage, with all the necessary sets, props, costumes (and architecture to house them). It's a fascinating account of a side of Masonic life few of us think about, assuming it has always been that way. In a similar vein, Dr. Harriet W. McBride, a historian of costumes and textiles, chronicles the way supply companies influenced the growth of fraternal orders as much as the fraternities' members themselves. Freemasonry is but one of many organizations to have sought uniformity of its regalia based on what was available from the catalogs of M.C. Lilley & Co. or Pettibone Brothers in the time between the Civil War and World War I.

The contributions of non-Masonic writers complement the indispensable papers by today's foremost Masonic scholars. This edition of “Heredom” alone includes brilliant papers by A&ASR Grand Historian Arturo de Hoyos; Michel Brodsky, a past Prestonian Lecturer and Past Master of Quatuor Coronati; and Paul Rich, a fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. And I can't resist pointing out that New Jersey's very own RW Bro. Richard W. Van Doren has a paper in this edition.

The cost of your annual dues? Only \$30, which entitles you to each year's beautifully bound hardcover volume of “Heredom,” the quarterly newsletter “The Plumbline,” plus another unique book each year as a gift, and the bimonthly “Scottish Rite Journal” magazine, and sometimes other surprises like a previous edition of “Heredom” and more. Visit srrs@srmason-sj.org or phone (202) 777-3110 or see your Senior Warden.