

The Waller Mason Lodge #808 Online Newsletter



The Waller Masonic Lodge Buildings From December 30, 1897 To The Present

Worshipful Master Bart Harvey - Secretary & Editor John "Corky" Daut
The June 2011 Issue

One Man's Journey Through The Chairs

By Corky

Way back in early 2002 I cornered Richard Ventra, the Senior Warden of Waller Lodge #808 AF & AM and ask him if he had anyone in mind for the Junior Deacon's chair during his upcoming year as Worshipful Master. When he answered, "No" I asked if would consider appointing me to that office. And, not knowing any better, he did. At that time and at my age and being the Secretary at Hempstead Lodge #808 AF & AM at the time, I didn't figure I'd be able to go any higher; I just wanted to have the experience of being a line officer.

Most of the readers who know me, know that I was a very late bloomer, Masonically speaking. I was raised in December of 1992, three months short of my sixty fifth birthday. So it isn't hard to figure that I was seventy five years old when I first took my seat in the chair beside the outer door.

At the end of the 2002-2003 Masonic year our Senior Deacon dropped out of the lineup and suddenly I was next in line to be the Junior Warden. Many of the Brothers convinced me I could do it and urged me to keep on going through the chairs. Of course the incoming Worshipful Master (my son John) was urging me and saying, "Come on dad, I know you can do it."

Our family was also a little backward, Masonically speaking. I had asked my son for my petition and he had instructed me through the degrees and now I was following him through the chairs.

I sailed through the 2003-2004 year with only a slight problem of remembering where the points of the compass are in the Lodge room. I thing the problem sprang from being a past member of the Humble Masonic Lodge #979 where the Masonic East was in the north end of the building.

My year as Senior Warden went pretty smooth. At least I had finally learned that I was in the west and the Worshipful Master was in the east. Then, a few months after my seventy eighth birthday, I was sworn in as the Worshipful Master of Waller Lodge. That was where I discovered that the temperature in the tiny part of the Lodge room where the Master's chair sits was about 10 degrees hotter than the rest of the building

I ask one of my "friends" how badly I had done, after my first stated meeting as the new Worshipful Master. "Don't worry Corky, I've heard worse." Brother Wes said. Well that left me feeling pretty good until a few minutes later when he walked back by and added with a big grin, "But, not much worse."

I made it through my year as Worshipful Master, admittedly with a tiny bit of prompting here and there. And, I did sometime forget to instruct the Junior Deacon (Jim Brown my son-in-law) when closing. And, I really did forget. But, I think I left the Lodge in a little better shape then I found it. And, I did leave the chair with a much better understanding of Freemasonry and how to work with people by asking rather than just telling them what to do. I remembered the old saying, "People are like a log chain. You can pull it almost anyplace, but you can't push it anywhere."

Now, 5 years later at 83, after adding a year as Treasurer and 4 years as Secretary, I am retiring as an active officer of Waller Lodge. And, I will have to say that I have enjoyed every minute of it.



**John N. Daut Sr. And John
"Corky" Daut**

My only regret is that I didn't start 44 years earlier at age 21, with my dad at Cade Rothwell Lodge, instead of at 65 with my son at Cedar Bayou Lodge.

But, I am not disappearing completely just yet. I'll still try to do the newsletter for a while longer.

Anyway, now I have earned the right to join all those old time Past Masters who sit on the sidelines and say, "That ain't the way we done it in my year."



The Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine

Don't miss reading the monthly Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine at, <http://www.mastermason.com/STTM-Emag/>

This Month features the John C. Pelt Masonic Lodge No. 1321 A. F. & A. M. and Texas Masonic History - Brother Thomas Jefferson Rusk



The Adventures Of Count Cagliostro

One believed to have been given the name of Joseph Balsamo but who later adopted the name "Count Cagliostro", has the doubtful distinction of being the world's outstanding Masonic charlatan.

He became a Mason in London in 1776, and later conceived the idea of his "Egyptian Rite", which he formulated and promoted with his wife. The project was a money making scheme; they founded lodges through out Europe.

His colorful career came to an end when he established one of his lodges in Rome. He was arrested on December 27, 1789, and charged with the "crime" of being a Freemason. He was imprisoned by the papal police and was questioned, tortured, tried and found guilty. He died some years later while still in prison.



Election Night

I'm sure everyone remembers, the June stated meeting is when members of Texas Lodges elect the Brothers who will fill the top five officer's chairs, namely the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Remember, the five men we elect this month will manage our Lodge for the next 12 months. I am confident that all of the Brothers currently in the line can do an excellent job. I hope you share that confidence and will help to support them.

However, if you are not in agreement, I hope you will attend the June meeting to let everyone know your viewpoint and support your own choices.



Brother Thomas Kenney passed away May 4, 2011 after being in the hospital for 16 days. He had been treated for a serious intestinal infection, but after it was cured he went downhill quickly.

Brother Tom had been a Mason for 56 Years. He was initiated Feb. 22, 1954, passed April 23, 1954 and raised May 24, 1954 in Garden Oaks Lodge #1306.

He affiliated with Waller Lodge #808 on April 11, 1978 and was Worshipful Master June 1983 thru June 1984. He demitted from Garden Oaks Lodge and affiliated with Pleasant Hill Lodge #380 as a plural member. He demitted from Pleasant Hill Lodge on April 16, 1983

Brother George Aubrey Chudleigh

By Corky

Brother George Aubrey Chudleigh was born February 1, 1930 in Houston, Texas to Walter Harold and Elaine Bell Painter Chudleigh. He was the fifth of eight children. After graduating from high school he moved to Hockley where he farmed and ranched.

He married the love of his life, Esther Laverne Robertson, on April 28, 1956. Aubrey and Laverne had 5 children, Sharon (Steve), Vickie (Robert), Diana (Mike), George (Cathy), and Daniel (Pam).

They has 29 grandchildren; Jared (Haley), Rebecca, Daniel, Diane, Jason (Erica), Jacob (Elizabeth), Samuel, James, Catherine, Rachel, Katelin, Michael, Mary (Deven), Dallin, Daniel, Kristin, Kyle, Kelli, Calvin, Curtis, Hannah, Caleb, Benjamin, Levi, Megan, Samuel, Allison, Mason, David and 5 great grandchildren, Ruth, David, Ema, Bryen, Carsen.

He has participated in various community organizations. He was very involved and very active all his life in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where he served for a while as a Bishop in the Waller County area.

Brother Chudleigh was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason in Waller Masonic Lodge on March 18, 1958 and raised as a Master Mason on June 17, 1958. He worked through the chairs beginning as the Senior Steward in June 1961 and ended as Worshipful Master in the 1964/65 year. He received his 50 year masonic pin November 20, 2009.

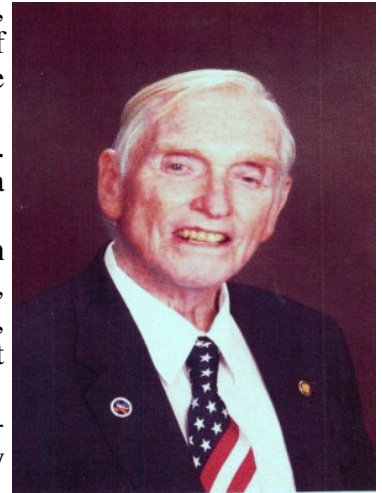
I only knew Brother Aubrey about 12 years, but I considered him a good friend and Brother. I will miss him as he always sat in the second or third seat in front of the Secretary's desk at the stated meetings. Just before every meeting started he would catch my eye and say, "Brother Corky, I sure did enjoy your newsletter this month."

He was also a dedicated member of the Farm Bureau, the Lion's Club and the School Board.

He will be remembered for his love of people, service to others but most importantly to the family as husband, father and Grandpa.

He passed peacefully on May 5, 2011 at home surrounded with family and loved ones.

The service was held May 7 at the LDS Church on 2209 Mayer Waller Rd in Waller, TX and he was interred at the Mathis Cemetery where the Masonic funeral service was performed by P.M. "Bob" Podvin.



OK , Brothers, Have You Seen Waller Lodge's Newest Rock

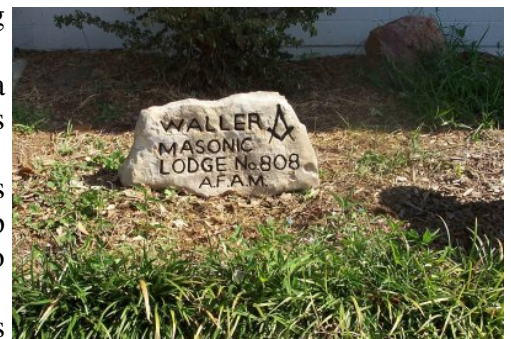
By Corky

A piece of west Texas limestone makes a really different looking sign with a little bit of work with a hammer an assortment of chisels.

Past Worshipful Master John N. Daut Sr. picked up this rock on a deer lease a little ways out of Camp Wood which is about 75 miles west of San Antonio.

Using some self taught skills, he created a very nice sign for his Lodge and Brothers. For a whole bunch of days I could hear the tap tap tapping coming from his garage next door as he carved the letters into the stone a tiny chip at a time.

Baring accidents it should as solid as a rock as long as our Lodge is there.



Reruns From Back Then

By Corky

Editor's Note; I was rereading some of my old Hempstead Lodge newsletters the other day and found this story in the April 2001 issue. I thought maybe I would share these thoughts one more time.

The Editor's Corner

This old house that Nellie and I have lived in for the past 44 years (in 2001) spent it's first 42 years, in Humble Texas, looking toward the north. A place of darkness, where we sat in our living room looking at the houses across the street and the airplanes flying just above their roof lines as the planes landed and took off at Houston's Intercontinental Airport.

Now, 2 years later (2001), after moving us, the house and everything to our 20 acres in Pine Island, we look through those same windows toward the south and watch the contented cows grazing in Menke's pasture all the way to the skyline. Now the winter sun shines through those same windows making our living room a place of light.

Now looking toward the north now from our kitchen windows we see the trees lining Three Mile Creek on the back edge of the 20 acres. I look across the same fields that my great grandparents William Jonas Milam and Mary Jane Garrett did when they started farming these fields in 1893 and I can see the steeple of The Pine Island Baptist Church in the distance.



What the heck does that have to do with Masonry you may ask? In the same way that Nellie and I now know what we have been missing all those years in our home, I have also discovered what I have been missing in the Masonic Lodge all those years before we moved to Pine Island.

After we recovered from the move I demitted my memberships in the Cedar Bayou #321 (298 members) and Humble #979 (330 members) Lodges and took dual memberships in the Hempstead #749 (52 members) and Waller #808 (74 Members) Lodges.

I remember one night after a year or so in the Humble Lodge when the Senior Deacon ask me to stand up and introduce myself and give the name of my Lodge. I guess he was just about as embarrassed as I was when I said, "John Daut, Humble #979".

Now, after only 6 months as a member, just about everyone who attends the Hempstead and Waller Lodge meetings knows and recognizes Corky. And, at these Lodges, I am already being ask to serve on committees, work fund raisers, write this newsletter and serve Pro Tempora as a Lodge officers on many occasions.

I guess what I am trying to say is that I think a lot of the Hempstead and Waller Brethren do not realize how lucky they are to be a Brother in a "Small Town Texas Lodge" where you are greeted with a smile and a handshake that has honest enthusiasm behind it.

I think that many of our brothers here don't realize that the pleasure you get from handshakes, pats on the back, greetings from across the room and a shared meal with friends and family isn't always a part of Masonry in many of the big city Lodges. But brothers, I know exactly what those members of are missing every month, because I am enjoying it here.

Now you know where my often used term "Small Town Texas Lodge" come from.



Waller Lodge Masonic Service Awards

DDGM Bud Dumesnil will be handing out service awards at the June stated meeting to, Brother **Wayne Schultz** will receive his 60 year award. Brothers **Glen Canon, Carl Miller, Robert Scarborough** and **Calvin Trapp** will receive their 50 year awards.

Brother Jimmy Hooper will receive his 25 year award.

The awards will be presented during an open meeting at the Waller Lodge and family and friends are welcome to attend the ceremonies.

Brothers **Kenneth Healy** who will receive his 70 year Award will have his award mailed to his home in San Leandro California.

Happy Birthday Brothers

	Age
Tom A. Kenney	88
Carl G. Miller	79
George E. Talbott	68
Danny R. Williamson	63

Masonic Anniversaries

	Years
Thomas Roy Shields	70
James B. Haney	55
Edward M. Locklear	28
Zane Williamson	10
Robert Podvin	08
Jason Wade	02

This Month's Humor

One Sunday, in counting the money in the weekly offering, the Pastor of a small church found a pink envelope containing \$1,000.

It happened again the next week!

The following Sunday, he watched as the offering was collected and saw an elderly woman put the distinctive pink envelope on the plate.

This went on for weeks until the pastor, overcome by curiosity, approached her. "Ma'am, I couldn't help but notice that you put \$1,000 a week in the collection plate," he stated.

"Why yes," she replied, "every week my son sends me money and I give some of it to the church."

The pastor replied, "That's wonderful. But \$1,000 is a lot, are you sure you can afford this? How much does he send you?"

The elderly woman answered, "\$10,000 a week."

The pastor was amazed. "Your son is very successful; what does he do for a living?"

"He is a veterinarian," she answered.

"That's an honorable profession, but I had no idea they made that much money," the pastor said. "Where does he practice?"

The woman answered proudly, "In Nevada .. He has two cat houses, one in Las Vegas , and one in Reno "



The Spaghetti Dinner And Silent Auction

The Spaghetti Dinner And Silent Auction went well although the turnout was poor in comparison. The ticket sales were below normal. We mailed 100 tickets with the May newsletter and only received a check for two tickets from one Brother. We did have competition, as the American Legion had a spaghetti dinner fundraiser the day before. We still grossed almost \$1,200.00 however, making it a successful day.



Two good old boys from the Brazos bottoms are walking toward each other, and one is carrying a sack.

When they meet, one says, "Hey Tommy Ray, whatcha got in th' bag?"

"Jes' some chickens."

"If I guesses how many they is, kin I have one?"

"Shoot, if ya guesses right, I'll give you both of 'em!"

"OK. Ummmmm... three?"



Going To The Dogs

"Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued into the next yard."

..... Dave Barry

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."

..... Anonymous

Our “New Annual” Scholarship Awards Program Was Very Well Received



Left to right James Lenart, Principal Dr. Brian Merrell and Maria Razo



Left to right Maria Razo, Brother Doyle Sitton, James Lenart, Brothers Richard Ventrca and Bart Harvey

Two Waller High School students, Maria Razo and James Lenart each received a \$1,000.00 scholarship to be paid to the collage of their choice in their names.

James was on the Honor Roll and a four year Honor Roll Student, a Texas Scholar and a UIL Scholar.

Maria was on the Honor Roll and a four year Honor Roll Student, a Texas Scholar and received English 4 and Government AP awards.



The Maribeau B. Lamar Award



The Maribeau B. Lamar Medal is an award set up by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas to be presented by local Masonic Lodges to educators and students who have excelled academically or in other ways in spite of difficulties.

The award is named after Mirabeau B. Lamar who is widely recognized by historians as the Father of Public Education in Texas.

This year, Brothers Calvin Trapp and Doyle Sitton, representing Waller Masonic Lodge #808 AF & AM, presented the 2011 Maribeau B. Lamar Award for “Excellence in Education” to Ms Amy Frey. Ms Frey also earned the “Teacher Of The Year” award for 2011.

The Waller Lodge Electronic Newsletter

Subscriber's Extra Features

The Masons Made Him Do It

Cops in Asheville, North Carolina have arrested a 70-year-old man and charged him with a series of hotel robberies. Jack Meredith Martin is suspected of stealing \$100,000 worth of jewelry in April from a room at a local Holiday Inn Express, along with a string of other hotel robberies in which he allegedly used forged key cards to break into rooms.

Martin was tried and convicted of murder in the murder of one man and wounding of another in 2005, but was acquitted in a retrial and released after spending 56 months in prison. He had represented himself in the first trial, but lawyered up for the appeal.

So why did Martin claim he was originally convicted in the murder trial? You guessed correctly.

He claimed there was a "Masonic conspiracy" to convict him.

From Jury Finds Martin Not Guilty on the North Carolina Mountain Politics website:

Martin has for a long time expressed concerns about the involvement of Freemasons in his case and has said he felt there was a Masonic conspiracy to convict him. Motions in his second trial sought to keep Masons from being jurors.

When asked on Thursday if Masons were excluded from the second trial, Martin said, "I wouldn't say that they were kept out. I think I have some good evidence that Greenway is a Mason, and a few other people still in the area. I talked about compassing, which went over the head of a lot of people. What that word means is to contrive, plot and scheme among themselves. That was going on during the first trial. At this trial there may have been some, but I didn't see it."

So I suspect the Freemasons must have also conspired to make him illegally break into hotel rooms, point guns at victims, steal cash and jewelry, and engage in second-The World's?



The World's?

WORLD 'S LONGEST BRIDGE – CHINA

Donghai Bridge , China ...32.5 kilometers



Surviving The Big Ones

By John "Corky" Daut

The big ones for me were that 16 year period between the Great Depression and World War II. Being born in 1928, I grew up during the hard times between the stock market crash of 1929 and the end of World War II in 1945.

During the 1930's it was tough enough trying to find money to pay the rent and buy groceries. There certainly wasn't much money left over for entertaining a whole family. That's how it became popular for families to spend an hour or so on summer nights parked in the entrance of a cemetery.

The Forest Park Cemetery on Lawndale Street in Houston's east end was that place. There was a large pool with a fountain on the west side of the entrance with spaces to park in front of the pool. Actually the fountain was a number of different fountains in the pool that were choreographed to work together. The height of the streams and turning each spray head off and on for was controlled by a central control panel along with the lights.

The lights were what made the fountains so spectacular at night. There were different colored spotlights and floodlights in and around the pool that colored the water streams and sprays and changed colors as the water's spray patterns and highs changed every minute or two.

It was very dramatic to park and watch as beautifully colored jets of water shot up, some as high as 10 or 15 feet high and some only a foot or so, as they forming intricate patterns against the night sky. There was enough variation in the patterns of light along with the different heights and textures of the spray that it was almost impossible to tell when the pattern begin to repeat it self. That made it possible to watch for a longer period of time without becoming bored.

It was a particularly good place for young courting couples to park. There were enough families parked in the area and enough light to where a young girl didn't have to worry to much about things getting out of hand. The main thing though was that it was free and money saved could be spent later at Princes Drive In for burgers and cokes.

I was with one of the family cars. I would sometime be invited to go with the Henry family from next door. Mr. and Mrs Henry along with their 3 girls and myself.

We were always looking for something to do that didn't take money. Like most young boys (the early teens or so) we wanted to want to build something with tools. Our little gang of friends, Billy, Pete, Buck and I decided to build a little club house to hold our secret meetings in. Pete had a hard time getting permission to leave his yard sometime so we decided to build it beside his house. We scrounged the neighborhood for old pieces of lumber and our dad's coffee can collection of used screws, bolts, nuts and bent nails. People didn't throw those kinds of things away back then, not even bent nails, because they could be straightened and used again.

We built a frame work about 6 feet square and 6 feet high out of assorted pieces of 2 by 4 and 2 by 6 lumber against the back of Mr. Otto's garage. The garage wall formed the back wall of the club house, saving boards and it leant stability to our building.

We enjoyed that project so much, that a few weeks later we decided to expand so we added a second story. By the time we finished the second floor, we realized that the club house, being about 50 or 60 feet back from the street was susceptible to attack from our enemies, since we couldn't see them coming. That problem was solved by building a platform up in the tree beside the club house, from where one of the club members could keep watch over the house.

That worked well except that we finally realized there was a blind spot across the rear of Pete's house. We solved that problem when we discovered a 20 foot length of 2 inch pipe. It fit exactly between our tree platform and a tree about 20 feet further toward the rear of the property. With an old piece of rope stretched between the trees, a few feet above the pipe to serve as a hand rail, we could scurry between the trees without coming down to the ground.

"Now we will be safe from a surprise attack by any enemies." We said, congratulating each other.

"Unless they come down the sidewalk in front of the house." Someone said.

Back to the drawing board we thought. There was one insurmountable problem however. There wasn't a



Corky Back Then

board anywhere in the neighborhood that wasn't already nailed down. We finally solved the last problem by installing a tin can phone from the tree platform to another tree at the front sidewalk. This security system may seem to be excessive, but it worked perfectly. We were never attacked by an enemy (whoever they were) that whole summer.

Billy, who was the secretary, still has the original notebook with the club rules. Number 1. was, "Any one breaking wind inside the clubhouse gets two pokes on the arm from each member present."



Not One Person

by W.: Dan Weatherington, PM.

Not one person ever joined Masonry because George Washington was a Mason.

Not one person ever joined Masonry because Harry Truman was a Mason.

Not one person ever joined because of any of our great Masonic heroes. Joining doesn't make you any of those people.

Not one person ever joined in order to give a million dollars a day to charity, or homes, or crippled children. You don't have to be a member to give money.

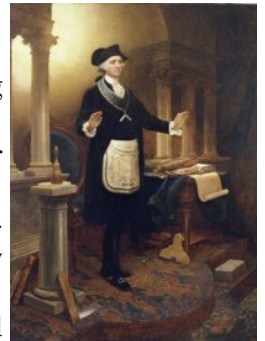
Not one person ever joined because our ritual is outstanding, or our minutes are accurate, or a hundred other things we worry about. They don't know about our ritual. They joined because someone they knew and admired was a Mason.

It could have been a father, a friend, a man down the street, or someone a thousand miles away.

Who, it didn't matter. They admired him and wanted to do the things he did, and they did it by the millions. Want to help our growth?

Be the kind of man someone admires.

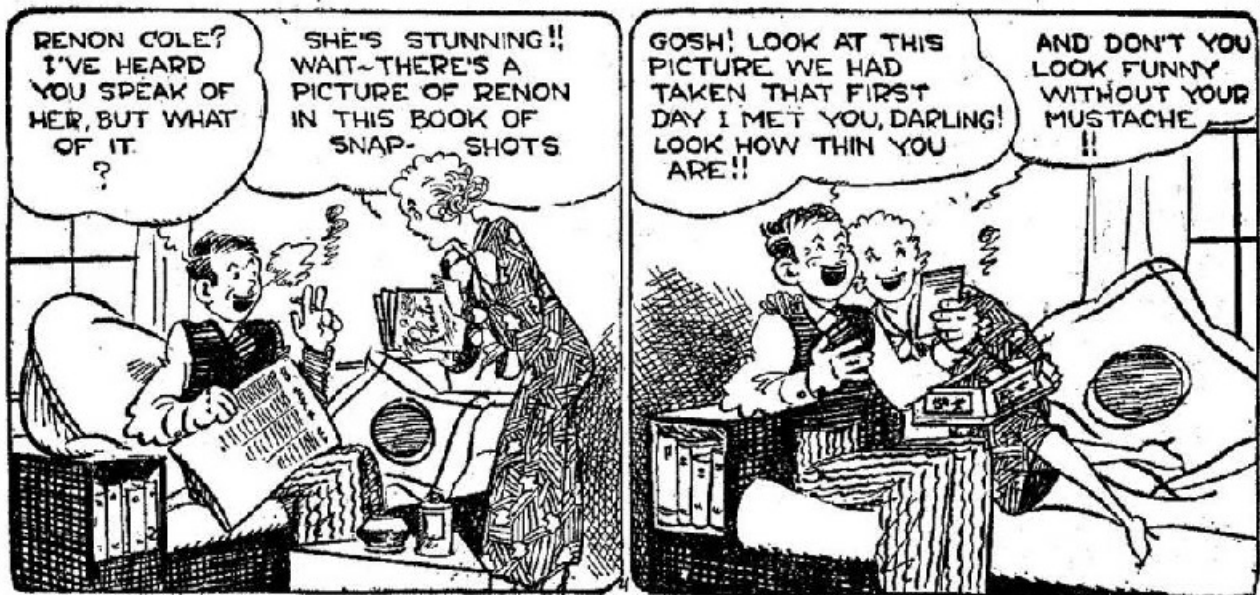
Someone will notice.





Here are some of the "funnies" our grandparents enjoyed.

THE NEWFANGLES (Mom'n Pop)



The Church Should Update Its Policy On Freemasonry

The Church Mouse BLOG at <http://churchmousepublishing.blogspot.com/>

The news that the Bishop of Ebbsfleet designate was appointed despite his high level involvement in the Freemasons has caused quite a stir.

The initial report from the Telegraph focused on the Archbishop of Canterbury's historic opposition to Church members being Freemasons. He had previously said that he had blocked senior appoints within the Church of Freemasons and that Freemasonry was 'incompatible' with Christianity.

And he is certainly not alone in that view. Many last week were expressing surprise that Freemasons could still be Bishops.

According to a statement from Rev Jonathan Baker, the Bishop designate concerned, Rowan 'invited him to reconsider' his membership of the Freemasons, but went ahead with the appointment without insisting on it.

There are a few interesting aspects to this story, not least the fact that the Catholic Church's position on Freemasonry is absolutely clear - it is prohibited, and defined by Papal Bull as a 'grave sin'. A relevant piece of information for a role where the previous incumbent left the Church of England for the Catholic Church and who's primary role is to oversee a largely Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church.

So what is the Church of England's official position on Freemasonry?

Well, there isn't really one.

Some have a hazy memory of a report and a debate at General Synod in 1987 which said that Freemasonry is incompatible with Christianity, but that wasn't actually the conclusion. That was certainly the view of many who wrote the report, but the group who authored the report also included Freemasons who opposed that view.

The actual conclusion of the report was:

This Report has identified a number of important issues on which, in the view of the Working Group, the General Synod will have to reflect as it considers 'the compatibility or otherwise of Freemasonry with Christianity'. The reflections of the Working Group itself reveal understandable differences of opinion between those who are Freemasons and those who are not. Whilst the former fully agree that the Report shows that there are clear difficulties to be faced by Christians who are Freemasons, the latter are of the mind that the Report points to a number of very fundamental reasons to question the compatibility of Freemasonry and Christianity.

So that's clear as mud. Whilst the report said that there were serious issues over whether Freemasonry is compatible with Christianity, it fell short of a clear and definitive conclusion. The resolution that followed at Synod merely commended the report to the Church and endorsed the concerns. No follow up ever happened, and no final conclusion was ever drawn which adopted a clear policy for the Church in senior appointments.

The House of Bishops reconsidered the position in 2007, after a request from Truro Diocese, and concluded that "the position adopted by General Synod in its motion of 1987 did not need to be revisited".

Mouse begs to differ.

We currently have a position where some, including the Archbishop of Canterbury in the past, are blocking senior appointments as a result of membership of the Freemasons, whilst others, including the Archbishop of Canterbury today, are not. We also have some within the Church arguing that Freemasons are heretics and pseudo satanists, whilst bishops argue there is nothing wrong with it.

Mouse asked Lambeth Palace how many other bishops are Freemasons, and they didn't know.

Mouse's has two issues with Freemasonry. Firstly, he doesn't like the idea of Bishops being members of a secret society which requires pledges of primary loyalty. That doesn't sound like the kind of thing bishops should be doing. He is also nervous about the pseudo-spiritual nature of some of the rituals he hears about.

However, the problem with Freemasonry is that the secret nature of it makes it pretty easy for members to claim that reports of their activities are not accurate, and it is hard to look at it from a position of certain knowledge.

So Mouse suggests that the dust should be blown off the 1987 report, and the Church of England should revisit this position, if only to ensure consistency of approach across the country.



What You Should Know About the Freemasons

From The Raj Thackeray Web Site @ <http://www.rajthackeray.info/what-you-should-know-about-the-freemasons.html>

Editor's Note; This is a somewhat strange web site, apparently from India by the site name and the slightly different wording style. But, I enjoyed reading something that is about as neutral as I've seen about Freemasonry.

Freemasonry has been common around the globe – in fact, famous freemasons are presidents of countries, prime ministers, kings, supreme court justices, senators, military leaders, civic leaders, authors, businesspersons, sports heroes and even actors and celebs. Their secrecy has caused quite a few to be accused of being part of any number of conspiracy plots and government cover-ups.

The Freemasonry is basically a fraternity of men that has been current considering the 16th and seventeenth hundreds of years and has continued to exist in the modern times.

With members of the freemasonry 'secret society' spanning all over the planet, it is also one of the greatest and most well-known fraternities of men. Right from the start, the organization has additionally been exclusive to men. Although this worldwide organization's fundamental rules are recognized to the public, quite a few of their activities, rituals and meetings are held in secret, thus typically labeled as a secret society.

Members of the organization nonetheless would argue regarding their being a 'secret society' they have however described the organization as an group with secrets or an esoteric one.

Apart from the group's secrecy, there are additionally many controversies and talks regarding their existence. Even from the centuries ago, many speculations have been aroused from the existence of this kind of a freemasonry 'secret society'. From the architectural emblems that they use for their organization to their genuine mission, these have never ever escaped from people's curiosity.

With the necessity that a member could possess a belief in a supreme being, in which the definition is dependent on the interpretation of the individual, the organization additionally never escaped of the allegations of being a cult. The Roman Catholic church has additionally been discouraging and prohibiting its associates to be associates of the freemasonry, in fact, the church in the 18th century has banned Roman Catholics to be member of freemasonry criticizing that the said secret society is advocating deism.

There are also talks concerning most rituals of this alleged 'secret society' as against Catholicism, although this was not proven.

Another thing that placed the organization in the watchful eye of the planet is that quite a few of its members secure high positions in the government, although it has been explained that discussions political in nature are not allowed in their Masonic lodge. Apart from possessing freemasons that are prime ministers, and top government officials, they also have Supreme Court justices, military officials, even celebs and sports heroes. With this, the common goal of the organization has also been in the prying eyes of the public.

The challenge of discrimination was also not left unnoticed. The freemasonry 'secret society' does not allow women membership and this has been criticized widely.

In spite of the many controversies that have stalked them even in the earliest time of their existence, the fraternity has remained visible in humanitarian missions and in their civic activities. And even though most of their little secrets have been divulged by individuals, former associates, political and non secular groups and anti-freemasonry organizations and societies, their existence has often carried an air of mystery in particular when it concerns their genuine objective and goals.



Muldoon's Dog

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not, we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no telling what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.

"OK," Muldoon said, "I'll go right away father. By the way, do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't ya' tell me that the poor dog was Catholic.

Music

From the Old Tiler's Talk - by Carl H. Claudy, The Temple Publishers

It's a shame! Our music! We don't get nearly what we pay for!" complained the New Brother.

"Is that so!" exclaimed the Old Tiler. "I thought Brother Henderson trains and leads a very good quartette."

"Brother Henderson, I suppose, is a competent musician," answered the New Brother, "but he hasn't much voice. People who can't sing ought not to. Why did the Master appoint him? We pay for our music; why can't we get it."

"I take it, then, if you were Master, you would not have re-appointed Brother Henderson director of the choir?"

"I certainly would not."

"And how would that have affected Brother Henderson?"

"Oh, I'd be sorry for the poor old chap, of course. But age must give way to youth. He can't expect to sing forever."

"How would it affect the membership of the lodge not to have him there?"

"It would affect them pleasantly. We'd have good music, without his quavery voice."

"My son," answered the Old Tiler. "You are right in theory and all wrong as to practice. Perhaps I can make you see better. Brother Henderson's voice is not what it once was. But Brother Henderson is still Brother Henderson."

"Not long ago I was so unregenerated as to go to a ball game. A once great pitcher was on the mound and they pounded him all over the lot. When they took him out to give place to a younger man, there was heartier cheering than when the game was won. The cheers were for what the old pitcher was in days gone by; the joy he had given, the work he had done, the manly way he played the game."

"John L. Sullivan was more famous in defeat than in victory; fight fans revere the memory of Lanky Bob Fitzsimmons, no less that he was finally supplanted in the ring by a younger man, because of the fair, square, hard hitting, honest fighter he always was."

"Brother Henderson has done something for Masonry. Year after year he has directed the choir and sung in this lodge. We pay him a pittance, but what he has given is not paid for by money. Never the funeral, no matter how cold or dreary the day, that Brother Henderson hasn't given the comfort of his voice to those who mourn. Never the entertainment for charity that Brother Henderson has not sung himself hoarse for. Never the sick man getting well that Brother Henderson didn't appear at his house to sing some cheery songs."

"I have seen Brother Henderson at a funeral sing with dry eyes when I knew his heart was breaking for some brother he loved; why? To comfort those who remained. I have known him to sit up many a night with the ill. He is first to respond to any call of distress. He is a Mason through and through. And I'll tell you a secret he doesn't know I know. The checks he gets from lodge for singing he signs over to the charity fund."

"Brother Henderson has not a good voice now. But we are a lot of old timers. We take in new members slowly. All the old timers love Brother Henderson. They would rather have Brother Henderson on the job than the shade of Caruso to lead the choir. For every cracked note he sings, they see a cracked heart he mended. For every false note he sounds they remember a false step he corrected for some wayward brother. For every husky note he whispers, they see the husky strength with which he has served the Craft through nearly sixty years."

"If you want to be unpopular, just say something to any of our membership about Brother Henderson retiring."

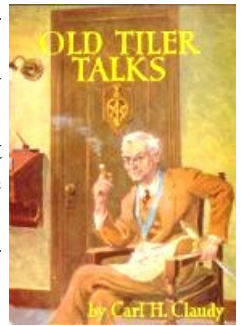
"Brother Henderson isn't perfect.. He's human. And, like all singers, he hates to admit his voice isn't what it was. But what does it cost us? We pat him on the back and tell him how beautiful his voice is, and how we enjoy it, and Brother Henderson is heartened and encouraged in his declining years."

"He would work just the same if we took him off the choir, but he would be cut to the heart to think we didn't like his voice any more; the voice he wore out in our service and for the comfort and the strengthening of his brethren."

"If we were a commercial organization we might have to think of value received! But we are brethren who love and comfort each other. What Brother Henderson has done entitles him to whistle in the choir, if wants to; and he could direct and never sing a note, and we would still tell Brother Henderson that his voice is lovely! For that kind of a lie the Great Architect loves, my son; even as He must love Brother Henderson and . . . where are you going in such a hurry?"

"To a committee room, to see how many times I can kick myself in five minutes, and then to tell Brother Henderson his solo touched my heart . . . only, Old Tiler, it is you who touched it!"

The New Brother gulped as he went to kick himself; but the Old Tiler grinned.



So You Want To Be An Officer

by W.: Tim Bryce, PM, MPS

So you have been asked to sit as a Steward or some other appointed office in the Lodge. Before you say yes, there are a few things you should know. First, there is really no such thing as a trivial office in a Masonic Lodge. But there is more to it than dressing up in a tuxedo and marching around in the Lodge room, there are certain duties and responsibilities associated with each chair which you will be expected to perform. In other words, there is more to being a Masonic officer than pomp and circumstance, you will be expected to work. If you are agreeing to become an officer simply as an excuse to buy a tux or to have some sort of Masonic title, than you are getting into it for the wrong reasons. Lodges need working officers, not facade.



More importantly, understand that becoming a Lodge officer requires considerable commitment. It means attending additional meetings, classes, workshops, and more memorization work. Further, once you are in the chairs (aka "in line") it will be expected that you stay in the rotation until you have become Worshipful Master, and this can take as long as seven years depending on where you enter the line. Although I am not necessarily a fan of our custom of rotating through the chairs, I do concede each chair teaches us a different set of responsibilities and skills. (As far as I am concerned, the Senior Deacon is the best seat in the house). If you are willing to accept the commitment and have something to offer the Lodge, great. If not, forget it.

Too often I see smaller lodges, who are desperate to fill chairs, raise new Brothers and immediately appoint them as officers (sometimes on the same night). The newbies are, of course, flattered and accept the position without question. Only later do they realize the commitment expected of them and balk at advancing through the line. Yes, we need to get our newly raised Brothers active in the Lodge, but this should not include putting them in the officers line right away. Instead, they should be allowed to sit on the sidelines, observe what is going on, then allow them to make a conscious decision to go into the line. By going in with both eyes wide open, they are more likely to accept the commitment required to properly serve as a Lodge officer.

I am most definitely not poo-pooing becoming a Lodge officer. Masonry teaches us a lot of lessons in life, becoming a Lodge officer kicks it up a notch and teaches us some basic management and people skills which are invaluable in both our personal and professional development. I just believe people should know what they are getting into, and are getting into it for the right reasons. For example, there are those shallow individuals who are only interested in having a Masonic title, and accomplish nothing for the Lodge. It chafes me when I see a "puppet" Worshipful Master who is led by his officers as opposed to the other way around. If they are only interested in chasing a Past Master's apron, I say let's give them the apron and get them the heck out of the way.



So That's How That Started

Next time you are washing your hands and complain because of the water temperature, think about how things used to be...Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children.



Let's Visit A Neighboring Lodge This Month

Did you know that there are 23 different Lodges within an hours drive from Waller?

1st Monday	Bellville #223	7:30 pm	
2nd Monday	Navasota #299	7:00 pm	
3rd Monday	Conroe #748	7:00 pm	
3rd Monday	Sugarland #1141	7:30 pm	
1st Tuesday	Oak Wood #1444	7:30 pm	(In Woodlands)
1st Tuesday	Northwest #1434	7:30 pm	(In Spring)
2nd Tuesday	Waller #808	7:30 pm	
2nd Tuesday	Morton #72	7:30 pm	(In Richmond)
2nd & 4th Tue.	Cypress #1423	8:00 pm	
3rd Tuesday	Montgomery #25	7:30 pm	
3rd Tuesday	Rosenberg #881	7:30 pm	
2nd Wednesday	Hurbert #67	7:30 pm	(In Chappell Hill)
3rd Thursday	Magnolia #113	7:30 p.m.	
1st Thursday	Brookshire #1066	7:30 pm	
1st Thursday	Graham #20	7:30 pm	(In Brenham)
2nd Thursday	Katy- A.S. C. #1439	7:30 pm	
2nd Thursday	Tomball #1096	7:30 pm	
2nd Thursday	San Felipe #239	7:30 pm	(In Sealy)
3rd Thursday	Spring #1174	8:00 pm	
3rd Friday	Planters #147	7:30 pm	(In Plantersville)
3rd Saturday	Pleasant Hill #380	12:00 noon	(In Fields Store)
Last Wednesday	Washington #18	6:00 p.m.	(In Navasota)
2nd Saturday of Feb., June, and July.; 1st Sat of Nov.	Olive Branch #26.	1:30 p.m.	(In San Felipe)



The Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound, is more powerful than a huge locomotive is faster than a speeding bullet, and walks on water, and talks with God.

Senior Warden

Leaps short buildings in a single bound, is more powerful than a switch engine, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on water if the sea is calm, and talks with God with special approval.

Junior Warden

Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds, is almost as powerful as a switch engine, is faster than a speeding BB, walks on water in an indoor pool, and receives instructions from God.

Deacons

Barely clear a Quonset hut, looses tug of war with a locomotive, can fire a speeding bullet, passes water, and is occasionally addressed by God.

Treasurer

Makes high marks on the wall when trying to leap over buildings, is run over by a locomotive, can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury, dog paddles, and talks to animals.

Stewards

Fall over doorsteps when trying to enter buildings, says, "Look at the choo-choo," squirts self with water pistol, plays in mud puddles, and mutters to self.

Tiler

Runs into buildings, recognizes locomotives two out of three times, is not issued ammunition, can stay afloat with a life jacket, talks to walls.

Secretary

Lifts buildings and walks under them, kicks locomotives off the tracks, catches speeding bullets with his teeth and eats them, freezes water with a single glance, and answers only to God.

Masonry And The Ku Klux Klan

The M.W. Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. and A. M.
Office of the Grand Master
1501 Praetorian Building
Dallas, Texas

September 24, 1921

To the Worshipful Master and Secretary

My Dear Brethren,

"I enclose two official communications to the Members of your Lodge together with a blank form to be filled out and mailed to me immediately after the meeting at which these communications are read."

"You are instructed to summons every member of your Lodge to this meeting, to be held on some evening selected by you to be the most convenient for your membership during the week beginning Monday, October 10th."

". . . Please make it clear in your summons that the meeting is called under the instructions of the Grand Master and obedience to the summons is obligatory upon every member of the Lodge. . ."

(Editor's Note; Now when you receive a letter like that from the Grand Master of Texas, you know it's time to get serious. The original Communications was four, 2 column pages, and in small print. The short version skipping the flowery language was as follows.)

". . . An Organization known as the Ku Klux Klan has recently come into this State and has become the subject of wide popular discussion. It appropriates the name and some of the methods of the original Ku Klux Klan, for the temporary existence of which there was ample excuse in the chaotic conditions, prevailing in the South immediately after the Civil War, because of which there was no protection to life and property until law and order were restored."

". . . It is a secret organization with a secret Membership, and therefore wholly irresponsible to the very government whose laws it claims to uphold."

". . . The Ku Klux Klan is a serious menace to Masonry both internally and externally, and the imminent dangers therefrom are causing the Masonic leadership of the Nation deep concern. It is because of this menace that I am compelled to speak plainly to all Texas Masons. The public in this and other states are holding Masonry responsible for the Klan. They have been given to understand that Masons compose the membership of the Klan to a very large degree and that the Klan is really a militant branch of Masonry, organized and operated by Masons to do things as Klansmen that it would not be proper for them to do as Masons. Organizers, speakers and members of the Klan are responsible for this belief among the people at large, which even to the school children in some of our cities and towns. Everywhere the Klansmen claim their membership is Masonic and everywhere the public charges the Klan to Masonry"

". . . It is because of this deplorable situation that my sense of duty compels me to remind you that neither the Ku Klux Klan or any other order or organization is Masonic unless recognized as such by proper Grand Lodge authority. Nor will the tying of the Ku Klux Klan to Masonry by claims of Masonic membership be permitted or tolerated for one moment. . ."

(This correspondence was found in some of the old minutes and papers in the Hempstead Lodge. This story first appeared in the June 2001 Hempstead Lodge Newsletter. It just goes to show that a Masons life runs over a few speed bumps now and then.)



The old lady had 3 sons who left home and went to work in different businesses. All three were big successes and wanted to thank their mother.

Jimmy bought mama a huge beautiful house.

Roy bought mama a big fancy BMW convertible.

Bubba remembered that mama couldn't see well enough to read her beloved Bible, so he bought a parrot that could recite the entire Bible.

Mama said Jimmy's house was to big, she couldn't see well enough to drive Roy's car, but she loved Bubba's chicken, it was delicious.