

# The Waller Mason Lodge #808 Online Newsletter



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

**Worshipful Master Gary Mosmeyer - Editor John "Corky" Daut**  
**The December 2012 Issue**

## SHOULD MASONS KEEP CHRISTMAS?

From the December 2012 Lodge Tawhiri Newsletter

Well, perhaps we should notice how a number of Jewish friends observe Christmas.

They may not believe in Christ as the Redeemer, but they recognize they live in a country largely Christian, and belong to a lodge which is largely Christian.

To a Jew, the Christmas celebration is not just one of Christ's birthday, but of the spirit of joyousness and love which we mean when we sing, at Christmas time: 'Peace on earth, good will towards men!'

A Jew has just as much right to refuse to recognise Christ as the Son of God, as he has to refuse to consider Mohammed the Prophet who the followers of Allah say he is.

We know Mohammed was a good man, a devout leader, a wise teacher. The religion founded by Buddha also has much in it that is good, and Confucius was a wise and just leader.

If you lived in a land where the birthdays of any of these were celebrated, would you refuse your part in the people's joy in their Leader, simply because you followed another?

In the same way, neither do our Jewish brethren or our Muslim brethren desire to be left out of our celebrations.

They may not believe in the Divinity of Him we, as Christians, follow, but if they are good men and good Masons they are perfectly willing to admit that the religion we follow is as good for us as theirs is for them, and to join with us in celebrating the day which is to us the glad day of all the year.



## What Should This Season Mean To A Freemason?

From the December 2012 Lodge Tawhiri Newsletter

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On the one hand, some say it's too religious, and so they don't want Christmas trees and nativity scenes. On the other hand, some others say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial.

They've been saying these things for years. Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But certain messages from the story of Christmas are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.

The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of Charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do unto you."

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith.

In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator." Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder we see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the Virgin Birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as

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those of us familiar with the working tools

explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know. So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft — faith, hope, and charity.

Doing so should bring satisfaction to us all at Christmas time.



## What Happened To Our Children

*In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.*

By Anna Graham Lotz

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Hurricane Katrina)

Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives.

And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events .. terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found recently) complained she didn't want prayer in body our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. the Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is through suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing yet?

Funny how if you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us then what God thinks of us.



# The Night Before Christmas, Down At the Lodge

'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the Lodge  
Not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge  
Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West  
you could savor the silence, most gladly divest  
All metal and mineral, it mattered not,  
since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot  
In the hearth of your homestead, all Masons abed,  
as visions of trestle boards danced in their head;  
When up on the roof there arose such a clatter,  
Our Tiler jumped up to see what was the matter!  
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,  
three knocks shook the panels - he wondered 'What for?'  
He answered the knocking with, raps of his own,  
and once the door opened he saw, with a moan  
Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red  
Except for one notable feature Instead!  
Upon his large finger lie wore what we knew  
was compass and square on a background of blue!  
'Why Santa!' he shouted and lowered his blade  
'I see you're a Mason!' the Tiler relayed.  
He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair  
and said, voice near trembling, 'Most Worshipful there  
Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!'  
The Master replied, 'Let's allow him - but wait!  
You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see  
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be  
Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?  
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?  
'I do beg your pardon,' old' Santa said quick

As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick  
But a cane with, engraving, two balls did appear  
and oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!  
  
Adorned like the Master' complete with a sign  
Of "Lodge Number One, the North Pole" on one line!  
"Now let man enter," the Master declared,  
and once in the Lodge room the Brethren all stared,  
For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen  
for many a century - there in between  
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar  
gleamed two golden reindeer that shone like a dollar!  
"It's Donner and Blitzen, who, I must confess  
Are actually images brought from the West  
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"  
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled  
An ear of fine corn and some oil from the east,  
"My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast  
On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"  
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,  
As presents and promises flew from his sack  
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack  
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,  
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they'd seen  
On this very night only happiness reigned!  
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained  
That only a Mason could be so inclined  
to make all kids happy, make all people find  
A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

## Franklin Roosevelt's Thanksgiving Debacle

The tradition of celebrating the harvest on a Thursday goes back to Plymouth and the Pilgrims. The most famous of these was the three day festival in 1621, when Plymouth governor William Bradford invited local Indians to join the Pilgrims feast.

But it wasn't until the 17th century that it became an annual custom. George Washington, issuing the very first Presidential proclamation, declared November 26th, 1789 as a day of national thanksgiving for the United States Constitution. But it never really caught on until 1863, when President Lincoln declared that Thanksgiving would fall on the fourth Thursday of November and the holiday began to be celebrated nationally.



Then comes Franklin D. Roosevelt, who decided after 75 years, he wanted to change what Lincoln had established. He proclaimed Thanksgiving as the next to last Thursday of November. Very few liked the change, and there was a huge controversy surrounding it. Some Americans simply ignored FDR and celebrated Thanksgiving as they always had when they always had. For the next two years, Franklin Roosevelt repeated the unpopular proclamation. Finally, in 1941, Roosevelt gave up on it. He signed a bill into law officially making the fourth Thursday in November the national holiday of Thanksgiving. And it's been that way ever since.





## Happy Birthday Brothers

Name	Age
Waller Masonic Lodge	115
Robert E.P. Scarborough	85
Larry D. Hargrave	67
Robert W. Brush	63

## Masonic Anniversaries

Name	Years
James F. Loofs, Jr.	38
John "Corky" Daut	20
Paul B. Cox	18



## This Month's Humor

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken."  
She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed.  
My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal.  
I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA.  
He said they love animals very much.  
I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.  
I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.  
The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was.  
I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.  
She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.  
I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.  
Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous person I admired most.  
I told her, "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now...

Submitted By Brother Carl Jones



## Bungee Jump By Masons

From The Lodge Tawhiri 166 - New Zealand

The phrase "of my own free will and a cord" had a whole new meaning recently for some Freemasons in Essex.

Ten Essex brethren literally took a step into the unknown—a leap of faith—after saying the three words that meant so much to them. They stepped off a crane into thin air with only a cord as a lifeline.

They all took that leap of faith when stepping off the platform approximately 160ft up to bungee jump, all to raise money for charity.

The charity selected was Lifelites, named by RW Bro John Michael Webb, Provincial GM of the Province of Essex, as a 'Friend in Need', it being one of eight local charities that Essex lodges support. Lifelites started as a pilot project in 1999 with the idea of providing education and entertainment technology for children in hospices.

Since then, their work has risen to meet the growing demand, and now has 44 children's hospices through-out Great Britain.

Lifelites is the only charity striving to give British children in hospices the chance to spend quality time with their families; the means to keep in contact with their school and friends; and ways to enjoy themselves from the constant reality of their illness.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Nigel Catchpole originally planned to jump but was unable to due to doctor's orders. However he was also in attendance to support the jumpers and give them that push — we mean support.

With over £3,000 donated online, and a further £4,000 from fringe events and lodges, this event was a huge success.



# The Waller Lodge Electronic Newsletter

## Subscriber's Extra Features

### Joseph Stalin: Freemason Or Not?



**All Freemasons???**

I ran across this photo with the caption "Churchill, Roosevelt, & Stalin: Freemasons." It is well known and accepted that both Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt were Freemasons. Churchill was a member of Studholme Lodge No. 1591, England and Roosevelt was a member of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York. So the question is whether Joseph Stalin, the Premier of the Soviet Union who allied with the United States and Great Britain during World War II was also a member of the fraternity.

Since the 1950s, Stalin has frequently been cited as a Freemason. However, there is no record that Stalin was a Mason. It would not have been possible for Stalin to join a regular lodge even if he had desired admission. As a condition for membership, Masons must profess a belief in a Supreme Being, and Joseph Stalin was an avowed atheist.



### Mitt Romney: Freemason Or Not?



Mitt Romney has become a household name during the 2012 Presidential election. There has been a lot made over the fact he is a Mormon, but another question has been asked repeatedly--is the former Massachusetts governor a Freemason, too?

There are a number of articles and blogs posted claiming that Mitt Romney is a Freemason (a 33rd Degree even). There's even a YouTube video that makes that claim, and a few other claims that are somewhat unbelievable--like the assertion that all Mormons are Freemasons! Ac-

cording to the video, before Mormons can join the church they have to be raised a Master Mason (I'm not making that up).

Mitt Romney is not a Freemason, and being a Freemason is not a requirement to join the Mormon Church. Challenged numerous times on this point, not one shred of evidence has been supplied that indicates that either Mitt Romney is a Freemason, or that all Mormons are Freemasons. This is perhaps one of the poorest examples I've done so far in the "Freemason Or Not?" series. Usually there is some basis for the belief the individual in question was a Freemason. Like in the example of President Obama--in a Newsweek photo, it appeared as if the President was wearing a Masonic ring (however, it wasn't his hand in the photo). Or with Walt Disney--he was a Demolay as a boy (which is a Masonic organization) and it was assumed he later joined the Fraternity (but he hadn't).

Not a "Masonic" flag--it's Florida's state flag!

However, in this case, there is nothing at all to support the assertion that Mitt Romney is a Freemason, or the more ludicrous suggestion that all Mormons are Freemasons. Only one piece I found offered "evidence" which was a photo of Romney standing in front of a "Masonic" flag. I don't know how to break this to you, but that is the state flag of Florida . . .

So let me say what I've said several times before--and it is absolutely true. Masons don't keep their membership secret, and there is absolutely no reason to. There have been fourteen United States Presidents that have been Freemasons, countless Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, high ranking official, etc., and believe me, it's not hard to discover if they are a Freemason or not. I've spent a number of years on the subject of Famous Freemasons, and I've yet to run across a famous Freemason that has tried to hide his affiliation.

If Mitt Romney were a Freemason--he'd say so.

## A POLITICALLY-CORRECT GREETING

All sorts of Christmas cards are available today. Some of them now omit the word 'Christmas' altogether, and simply wish the recipients a 'Happy Holiday'.

So how long before we have Politically-Correct Cards? Here is a sample:

From me ("the wisher") to you ("the wishee"). Please accept without obligation, implied or implicit, best wishes for an environmentally-conscious, socially responsible, politically correct, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral, celebration of the winter solstice (in the northern hemisphere) or summer solstice (in the southern hemisphere) holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious secular persuasions and / or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all.

We wish you a financially successful, personally-fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2012, but with due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures or sects, and having regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical or sexual orientation of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting you are bound by these terms: This greeting is subject to further clarification or withdrawal.

This greeting is freely transferable provided that no alteration shall be made to the original greeting and that the proprietary rights of the wisher are acknowledged.

This greeting may not be enforceable in certain jurisdictions and/or the restrictions herein may not be binding on certain wishees in certain jurisdictions and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher.



*An Un-politically Greeting Card*

The wisher warrants this greeting only for the limited replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

Any references in the greeting to "the Lord", "Father Christmas", "Wise Men", "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" or any other festive figures, whether actual or fictitious, dead or alive, shall not imply any endorsement by or from them in respect of this greeting, and all proprietary rights in any referenced third party names and images are hereby acknowledged.



## Morton Lodge Has Been Rehabbed

Brethren....

We have now completed the necessary repair work on the Lodge building. The roof has had a major overhaul, the area outside the back door has been concreted and cleaned up, the sign on the upper wall has been replaced and secured against further wind damage, the Fellowship Hall floor has been repaired and the Lodge Room walls have been covered with Hardy Board similar to the Fellowship Hall. We feel that everything we have done is a permanent improvement that will last for many years. Additionally, the seating in the Lodge Room has been replaced with comfortable benches that we acquired from the Ft. Bend County jury room. This seating was donated to us by the County and we are indebted to Mark Herman for his efforts in making us aware that they might be available and his helping us to procure the benches at no cost. Our Worshipful Master, Wayne Ley, picked them up and stored them while we were doing the repair work and then delivered them to the Lodge. We hope to be able sell the old seating to help us financially so if you have any ideas on that please contact me.

We would not have been able to do all this without the generosity of so many of our members. We have received donations ranging from \$10 to \$1,000 for which we are so grateful. There are still some small items to be addressed and one of these days before long we will need to replace the Fellowship Hall A/C. If you would care to help, please send the Lodge a donation to P.O. Box 582, Richmond,Tx 77406. We are a 501C organization so your donations are tax deductible.

A Memorial Plaque with the names of all donors will be placed in the Lodge in the near future. We know you will be pleased with the improvements and we look forward to seeing you at Lodge soon so you can see what we have been able to accomplish with your help.

With my fraternal best wishes and my personal thanks for all you do as Masons and as members of Morton Lodge No.72.

Lou Payton, Treasurer and P.M.



## The Waller Lodge Christmas Party Saturday December 15th 2012

**All Brothers, Eastern Star and Families Are Invited  
Traditionally, the Lodge furnishes the Ham, Turkey and  
Bread and Drinks. Brother or Wives and  
Eastern Star Ladies are requested to bring  
their favorite Side Dishes and Deserts.**



I'll bring my big pot of home cooked big butter beans if that same sweet lady does a pan Cornbread Dressing again- Corky



## Surviving The Big Ones

The “Big Ones” for me started with growing up during that period between the Great Depression and World War II. The “Big Ones” continued with marriage, 4 children, going to the army, having a career, moving to the country and just plain old living for 74 years. (Written in 2002)

Well the chickens are finally gone and the chicken yard fence is torn down.. We gave part of them, including Henny Penny, to the neighbor behind us and the rest to our daughter in Houston. Henny Penny was the first hen we bought and Nellie’s favorite.

That way she is close enough that Nellie can visit. Having chickens and fresh eggs every day seemed so “country” and such a good idea when we moved this old house to Pine Island and it only cost about \$15.00 a month to feed the chickens. They did pretty good and we would average getting about 6 or 8 eggs per day. What a way to save money and have fresh eggs every day. Besides that, having chickens and a little vegetable garden made me feel that much closer to Great grandpa Milam who first purchased and started farming this land way back in 1897

Then Nellie’s allergy to eggs got worse and she started getting sickish after the second bite of egg. Then as Doctor Granny, she decreed that with my hypertension and



Corky In The 1940s



*Building the chicken house and yard back then.*

the stents holding a couple of arteries open, I shouldn’t eat eggs more than twice a week. Besides that, we quickly learned that you have to walk out to the chicken yard and feed them every day. As the postal service says, “Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor gloom of night shall deter the chicken feeder on his or her appointed rounds.” or something like that. It finally got to where Nellie and I tried to out wait each other to see who would finally get up and go feed the chickens. Of course that didn’t work very long because the chicken couldn’t see how to eat and we couldn’t see inside the nests after dark. Just think how exciting it would be if you reached into a dark nest box to get a handful of eggs and grabbed a handful of chicken snake.

Don’t even start about those fancy chicken feeders that will hold 10 or 20 pounds at a time. To begin with, every chicken thinks that only one type of grain in the feed tastes special so they have to scratch around in it with their feet looking for that

special treat. That means half of the feed ends up on the ground and is only considered eatable when the feeder is empty and they are approaching starvation.

Second, every sparrow within 5 miles is hollering to all of his friends, “Free Lunch over at Poverty Acres.”

Third, and even more important is the fact that you need to gather the eggs every day so you will know which ones are the freshest.

Now we figure the real cost for eggs. Now days we actually use about 6 eggs a week, or 2 dozen a month, which means we give 15 dozen eggs a month, more or less, to the kids, family members and a couple of Lodge Brothers. Of course we can’t charge our kids or the Lodge Brothers for eggs, especially when we have 4 or 5 cartons and a big coffee can full in the refrigerator and today’s collection on the table, that we desperately need to get rid of. OK, figure 2 dozen eggs a month divided into \$15.00 for feed means our costs for the eggs we use is \$7.50 per dozen.

Of course, you have to realize that price doesn’t include the capitol expenditures required to build the chicken house and the fence. Well, maybe I should only count the cost of the fencing since it ended up in the dumpster. The chicken house with the nests, roosts and feed room removed makes a great equipment shed for the little Massy Ferguson tractor and the Craftsman riding mower. It’s also a good place to store the rakes, hoes and other yard and garden equipment. Especially since it’s right next to the garden.

Adding about half of the old chicken yard to our little vegetable garden will add some tomatoes and squash and other stuff to the vegetables we have to give away this summer because we can’t eat them all. Another plus for the extra gardening area is that it should be very fertile.

I guess I am just a romantic because I still miss hearing the rooster crowing in the mornings and the old hens singing every time they laid an egg.



## The Hallowed Hall

Old Tiler, let's start a campaign to buy new jewels and furniture."

"I have heard that before," answered the Old Tiler to the New Brother. "What's the matter with our jewels and our furniture?"

"So old-fashioned!" returned the New Brother, disgustedly. "I visited Corinth Lodge last night, in their beautiful new temple. All new paint, new mahogany furniture, new leather, bright and shining new jewels and all. It rather made me ashamed of our outfit."

"But Corinth is a new lodge," protested the Old Tiler.

"And this is an old one," retorted the New Brother. "Why should we let the new lodge beat us?" "We don't. We have them beaten seven ways," returned the Old Tiler, puzzled. "Our old jewels are beautiful in themselves, and are hallowed with age and memories. "

"Don't you believe in lodges making progress and getting new things? Can't we out-grow our temple?" asked the New Brother.

"We can. I doubt if we have. But a new temple is one thing, and new fittings quite another. The only beauty in modern fittings is their newness. There is no musk of age about them; no feeling of these having watched Masonic sights which have been worth seeing. We may have a new temple someday but when we give up our hundred-year-old Master's chair and the crude jewels our officers have worn for more than a hundred and twenty years I want to see it from the Great Beyond."

"Well - I never thought of it that way.

"You are not the only one," retorted the Old Tiler. "Let me tell you a little story. In 1789, I think it was, a lodge in Trenton, N. J. - Trenton No. 5 - built a temple. It is two stories high. Below is one big room, probably a refreshment room. Above is a lodge room. Atop that, an attic. Built of stone it was, and built to last.

"Trenton Lodge grew much too big for the little lodge room. In 1867 the old building became a school. Later it was used for commercial purposes. The brethren of Trenton Lodge, in those days, were too close to their old home to know what they were doing to it. They let it go.

"Years passed, and sentiment grew. Trenton began to make parks and change its streets. The old Masonic building was to be torn down to make room for a street. By now sentiment was all to the fore. So the Grand Lodge picked up the old building, lock, stock and barrel, and moved it to land it owned, and laid another cornerstone with impressive ceremonies in 1915. Now the old building is a house of Masonic and patriotic relics, carefully and lovingly restored. Much of the old furniture was recovered. The East, a niche in the wall, had been boarded up to make a square room. That sacrilege was removed. The ceiling had been papered; when it was depapered, they found a sculptured sun, with radiating rays, directly above the Altar and seven stars, and moon. They have been lovingly restored.

"Lafayette and Washington trod the boards in that floor. The old building was made when memories of Washington crossing the Delaware were fresh. The old jewels of the lodge are carefully preserved. If you were a member of Trenton Lodge No. 5, would you want to see all this thrown away for a new outfit?"

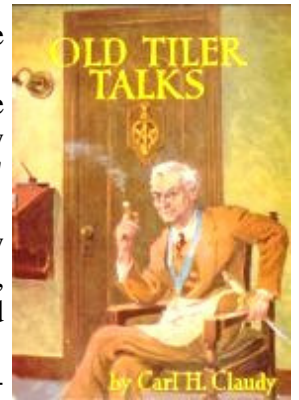
"Well, er - no. But does Trenton Lodge meet there?"

"No. They meet in a new temple immediately adjacent to the present site of the old building. Trenton Lodge has a vast pride in this ancient possession; it is a Mecca for the visiting Mason. Perhaps our old lodge will become such someday.

"I am in old man, and I love old things. I try to be progressive; I am accustomed to electric lights and steam-heat. But I could never be reconciled to diamond-set jewels for Master and Wardens. The Bible on the Altar our first Master gave us four generations ago is hallowed to me. I believe in progress, in comfortable meeting places and settings worthy of Masonry. But let us not discard the old merely because it is old. Let us cherish the hallowed old; when great history, patriotism, sacrifices, accomplishments are woven into the old, then should we cherish them.

"Such a lodge is this lodge. To wear the jewel a hundred Masters have worn is an infinitely prouder joy than to wear for the first time the newest and most elaborate jewel. To take an obligation on a Bible on which thousands have been obligated is holier, though not more binding, than to do so on a new Book.

"Let us have a new temple when we must; let us even have new carpets and new lights. But let us keep our old and time-worn jewels; let us stick to our old Bible; let us keep our memories and those objects around which memories cling, for of such stuff are the dreams of men. When a man thus dreams, his Freemasonry



touches the heart because it comes from the heart."

"You ought to have been - why, Old Tiler, you are a poet!" cried the New Brother.

"Humph!" snorted the Old Tiler. But lie fingered his old sword, not unpleased.



## Becoming a Dues – Paying Mason

By Brother Terence Satchell

Throughout my entire experience in Freemasonry, I have wondered what can be done to bring those Freemasons that do not attend lodge meetings back into our temples. I found these dues-paying Masons to be a frustrating breed. They must believe that being a Freemason is important enough to continually make a monetary payment to their Masonic organizations and yet it is not important enough for them to actually attend and contribute their time. I assisted in planning and executing a number of lodge functions in order to bring these silent members back and there seemed to be no response. I began to develop the opinion that these men were simply neglecting their Masonic duties.

And then, I became one of them.

It wasn't intentional at first. It started by moving to another town, then I became busy with my career, then I lost contact with my closest Brothers, and then before I knew it, Masonry wasn't even on my mind anymore. Occasionally I would post a story on The Euphrates that I had written while I was active in the lodge, but that was only because it was convenient and could be done in five minutes. I was literally uninterested in Freemasonry.

This sounds like an easy problem to fix. If you aren't an active Freemason, just attend a lodge meeting and get involved, right? Wrong. I found out rather quickly that there was nothing motivating me to go back to lodge. There isn't anything interesting about a lodge meeting. We pay the bills, plan mundane dinners, and discuss our charitable endeavors. I didn't join the Freemasons to do any of those things and no one ever told me that that is what we really do when I was petitioning. I stopped caring about Masonry, because Masonry was boring and a complete waste of my time. I realized that the only reason I used to be active was because I enjoyed socializing with the many good friends that I had in my lodge. Without that connection, Masonry was no longer important.

That is the problem with modern Freemasonry. I've heard so many Masons say "You'll meet so many good men in Masonry." Well, sure you do, but I have also met many good men outside of Freemasonry and the vast majority of my friends do not belong to the fraternity. So that is no reason to join or remain a Freemason.

Many men cannot explain exactly why they want to be a Freemason, but it almost always has the same theme. Men join Freemasonry because they believe that it will lead them to enlightenment both mentally and spiritually, give them some sort of moral compass, and will help them to lead a better life. They expect a top-notch society. One in which all men meet upon the level, but upon a level above the profane world outside of the lodge. They expect an education. They expect class. They expect a life-changing experience.

I know, because that is exactly what I expected.

Sadly, our lodges are stuck in a time warp. We are obsessed with sticking to the 1950's model of a civic organization. We talk about making our lodges more attractive and yet we continue to operate them in the same outdated way. We want to operate on the cheap. We want to "dumb down" Masonry to make it easier to grasp. We want to copy the model that Rotary and Kiwanis have provided instead of following the model that Freemasonry created over 250 years ago. We have turned our organization into an outrageous bureaucracy where every single event requires the unneeded approval of some Masonic dignitary. The world's greatest fraternity has become the world's most mundane organization.

That is the state of Freemasonry today. That is why men become dues-paying Masons. That is why I became a dues-paying Mason. If Freemasons want the society to survive, some radical changes must be made.

Over the next few weeks, I am going to discuss this in detail. The question that must be discussed is: "What must Freemasonry become in order to be relevant in American society again?"



# University Masonic Lodge No.1190

Masonry had a profound effect on the University of Texas in earlier years. As early as 1914, a Masonic study club was active on the University of Texas Campus, the nucleus of which grew by 1920 to consist of thirty-nine active members and nine honorary members. "Believing in Truth, in Justice and in Light as immutable laws of God," this group looked, "forward to a fuller realization of the ideals of Freemasonry," and dedicated themselves "to a faithful study of the illustrious past in order that we may better comprehend its great truths." Brother Wiley Glaze, a member of the study group, summoned up the feeling on the campus when he wrote:



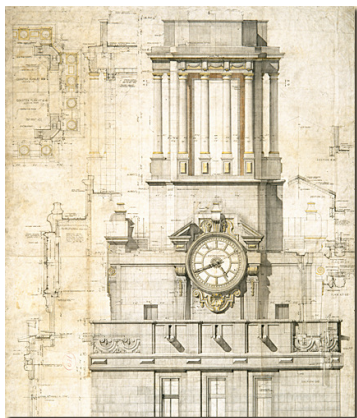
*After World War I, some of these Master Masons, including students and faculty, returned to the campus with a keener realization of the values of the teachings of Freemasonry. To them, Masonry was a science of life, a system of morality, and philosophy of life taught in a society of men by signs, symbols and ceremonies, with a peculiar ritual, having for its purpose, the improvement and perfection of the individual and mankind."*



Albert M. Scott, serving as President of the Masonic Study Club, initiated a movement to gather together all Masons on the University of Texas campus. In a letter dated October 22, 1921, Scott noted that the club met in Room 312 of the Education Building every Thursday evening. In the letter, Scott wrote that no dues were required with the only qualification for joining be that a man be a Mason in good standing. He enclosed a questionnaire which would provide for "some very important information needed for the intelligent conduct of Masonic activities in the Institution." Special reference was made "to the proposed organization of a new Blue Lodge near campus, to be essentially a University Lodge."

While the nature of the group was serious, he stated that they would find time for a social event like a smoker or barge ride at least once each term. The questionnaire asked if the person was interested in forming such a Lodge, and requested nominations for the top three offices.

The returns from the questionnaire showed that sixty-five of the 270 Masons in the University were members of the faculty and staff, while 205 were students. Of the 270 Masons, only 130 returned the questionnaire. Sixty-one indicated they would be willing to join the new organization. Scott, encouraged by the response, thought that "sufficient material" existed to establish a "good, sound Blue Lodge." The problem was to find a suitable meeting place, but this was possibly solved by the fact that the Scottish Rite Temple at 18th and Lavaca was only a few blocks from the campus. Scott asked Joe H. Muenster, Secretary of the Austin Scottish Rite Bodies to secure the approval of the Scottish Rite Executive Committee for the proposed Lodge to use their Lodge room for one night each week.



The Study Club continued its weekly meetings and its membership increased. From the Education Building, the meeting place was moved to B Hall, and then to Sutton Hall, but there was difficulty with the absence of facilities needed for the floor work and with the proper tiling of the room. Then in early 1922, Scott assisted by Law Professor George C. Butte, and J.E. Stullken of the Chemistry Department, issued a call for a meeting to convene at the auditorium in the Young Mens' Christian Association building at 22nd and Guadalupe on Sunday,



January 9, 1922. The specific purpose was to transact business in regard to the organization of a new Lodge. The letter calling the meeting noted that two places for the Lodge's home were available. The Scottish Rite Bodies had offered the use of the blue room in the Temple for a temporary meeting place, while Lomis Slaughter had available the second floor of the Slaughter Building at 19th and Lavaca for \$35.00 per month. Masons who had promised to join the new Lodge were urged to communicate with their home Lodges to acquire a dimit. A resounding success crowned the efforts of this careful planning. At the meeting, Scott began by reviewing the efforts of the Masonic situation in Austin and the University to the 45 persons present. Scott was followed by George C. Butte who gave a good summary of the need for a new Lodge. The minutes of the meeting outlined his talks as follows:

*Upon invitation of the temporary chairman, Dr. George C. Butte, of the School of Law, addressed the gathering. He gave a short exposition of the various considerations which had led the advocates of this movement to believe the new Lodge would be desirable. He said that the few years during which young men were more or less retired in study, away from the active affairs of business, and while they had the academic attitude, afforded a splendid opportunity for protecting themselves in the great teachings of Masonry, thus rounding them out as men while acquiring something of the liberal art and sciences; that young college students, and their instructors, having a great deal in common, would feel among their own colleagues, to a greater degree than even in the splendid and hospitable Lodges downtown: that the membership of the two present Lodges was already becoming too large for convenience, also. He emphasized that it was not the desire of those leading in this movement to foist an unwelcome project down the throats of University and other Masons whether wanted or not; that "railroading" tactics were far from their aims; and that if the Lodge was to come into existence it would have to come at the wish and on the initiation of the main body of Masons; he expressed the desirability of throwing the meeting entirely open for discussion and question by any Mason present."*

Buttes address was followed by "commendatory and encouraging talks" by James W. McClendon, Worshipful Master of Hill City Lodge No. 456; H. F. McDonald, Secretary of Hill City Lodge No. 456; and John E. Stullken and E. C. H. Bantel, both connected with the University of Texas and members of Hill City Lodge No. 456.

Twenty-seven Masons agreed to ask their Lodge for a dimit, and a committee, consisting of E. Karl McGinnis, J. E. Stullken, W. Lambuth Cox, and John K. Webber, was appointed to continue the canvass on the University campus to secure additional members. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Grand Lodge Secretary to secure the necessary forms for the formation of a new Lodge. F. E. Giesecke, E. C. H. Bantel, and Robert A. Grundy were appointed as a Finance Committee to raise the money necessary for the submission of a charter. After announcing another meeting for Thursday, February 2nd, Chairman Butte adjourned the meeting. One other note about this meeting should be made. James R. Beverly was elected historian to keep "an historical record of the preliminary proceedings in the organization of the Lodge, to begin from the earliest conception of the idea and extend down to the time the Lodge is actually brought into existence."

On February 2, 1922, the applications for dispensation and a charter were signed, the organization was officially named "University Lodge," and the first Thursday in each month was selected as the meeting time in the Scottish Rite Temple. John E. Stullken was elected to be Worshipful Master, Wiley E. Glaze as Senior Warden, and W. A. (Block) Smith as Junior Warden.

## **The History of Waller Lodge**

**Do you remember when Waller Lodge met upstairs over the German-American Bank? — How did Waller Lodge prove that a petitioner lived closer to Waller Lodge, then to Pleasant Hill, Lodge in 1898? — What did the Waller Lodge have to sell In 1939 in order to pay the rent? — How did Waller Lodge change it's stated meeting nights in July of 1946?**

### **For The Answers Read**

**The 64 page booklet with 110 years of Waller Lodge History, 1897 thru 2007 has been reprinted. Send Your Donation Today, To — Waller Lodge — P.O. Box 158 — Waller, TX For A Measly \$10.00 Donation, Postage Paid. — Larger Donations Will Be Welcomed**

## The Multi Talented Masonic Graphic Artist Brother Ryan J. Flynn



There is a new Masonic graphic artist on the scene and he is on fire! Brother Ryan Flynn, Senior Deacon of Ancient York Lodge No 89, Nashua, New Hampshire has designed two stained glass windows for his Lodge building. And it all started with an E-Mail.

“The Building Committee is looking to do some decals for the windows in the east. I mentioned your name. It’s time to do your thing.”

Flynn’s business partner and friend Brother Chris Busby knew that he had the right man for the job. So these two, working with Past Master Robert Bianchi of Nahua’s other Lodge, Rising Sun No 39, created two windows in plastic in five weeks. The artwork was all Flynn’s and when they get the funds to put it into real stained glass that will also be the work of Flynn. Not just a designer and artist, Flynn has also a deep understanding of the art of making stained glass windows.

It will be quite an improvement on the immense shutters that cover the windows now and make the Lodge look like a building trying to survive an imminent hurricane. “Those dingy old shutters have never been opened since I was raised a Master Mason here 3 ½

years ago”, quips Flynn. “Let there be light, beautiful light, is our new motto.”

Flynn has been an artist since childhood and has the credentials, the education and the experience to spread his wings now in this new found Brotherhood of Freemasonry.

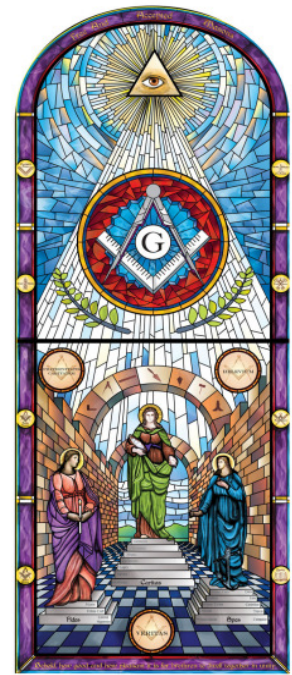
“I have been artistic ever since I could remember, but when I went to High School at Lexington Christian Academy, my teacher and mentor Chip Vanderbrug really implanted the love of art into my heart. That coupled with another amazing teacher of history, Dr. Watts, I came out of high school loving history and art and eventually went on to get my Bachelors degree from the University of Massachusetts in Fine Art and Graphic Design. While I was in school I loved to study about symbology, numerology and architecture. It became a hobby of mine. In 2006 I studied at the Univeristy of Richmond in Florence, Italy for a summer. While I was studying painting and architecture there I didn’t realize it but I was learning the beginnings of Freemasonry. I learned of the guilds of stone masons who worked together and trusted one another to create the architectural masterpieces of the Renaissance, and how they would learn from the ancients about geometry and science, yet only shared the knowledge with other members of the guild. So when I was approached to design these two windows I was eager to implant the lessons of art history and numerology into them.”

It’s one thing to be an artist but it’s another to have the knowledge of the Craft to actually create something that is relevant. Flynn is not a one dimensional person. He combines a knowledge of history, numerology, religion, ancient symbols and sacred geometry with his art and design. And he has the ability to manufacture art, a person of great creativity who also has the abilities of practical application. How many artist’s do you know who can also make a stained glass window?

Here is how it all came together:

“I was facing two windows, and I knew immediately that I wanted to express the two types of masonry, speculative and operative. The colors used would be Blue for Blue Lodge, Purple for Grand Lodge and incorporate red, historically, the most brilliant, expensive glass color. (due to it being made with gold). The window space was a 108 x 44 rectangle but I knew I wanted to make it an arch. The border of the window would be 3 levels, with 8 medallions in them. 8, numerologically speaking represents eternity (hence, if you take a number 8 and rotate it 90°, it becomes the infinity symbol.)”

“The operative masonry window would be in the north window. It would have the square and compass being illuminated by the light of deity. The compass would have a 24 point star behind it with a circular border consisting of 32 sections. Surrounding would be the icons of the 5 Masonic organizations that have met in the building - York Rite, Scottish Rite, Eastern Star, Rainbow and DeMolay and these would be done in cir-



cles with borders that have 32 sections. In the medallions around the border are 8 symbols from the master mason degree.”

“The light shining down has a ratio connected to it. Many people do not know that 3,5 and 7 can be used to make Euclid's 4th problem. By combining the circles in a particular way, it creates a specific angle that would be used to show the beam of light. I have attached a diagram here that outlines that.”

“Underneath the compass, lies 2 sprigs of acacia, with 32 total leaves.”

“On the bottom, I have placed the 2 columns on each side, with the masters apron, and the unfinished temple below. In the temple, the top, unfinished level lies large blocks. This is historically accurate for the ancient temples and ziggurats of ancient times, large unfinished blocks were placed to hold walls and arches in place before finishing pieces were added for aesthetic values.”

“Another feature I wished to use was the use of linear perspective when drawing the bottom half of the windows. As I mentioned before, in Italy I had studied the Italian architectural wonders of the past. My favorite person who I studied was Filippo Brunelleschi, who arguably started the Renaissance by spending his time observing the works of the ancients and dedicating himself to learning about geometry, physics and math. One of his lesser known contributions to mankind was the discovery of linear perspective, a way of organizing mathematical points on a 2 dimensional plane that mimic 3 dimensional objects. This type of drafting was used to draw the mosaic floor and temple structure. On the bottom, celebrating the two blue lodges that use the temple, have been placed Ancient York No 89 and Rising Sun No 39.”

“The south window's theme was speculative masonry. The top is nearly identical, with the exception that the square and compass stand alone. Below, I placed the 3 tenants of Freemasonry written in Latin - Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, surrounding figures representing - Faith, Hope and Charity, with charity above all else. Each stand on a pedestal consisting of 3, 5 and 7 steps with the corresponding titles of what they stand for written on them. Above the figures rises an arch with the working tools of Freemasons inside the bricks.”

“The figure of faith, on the left, stands holding her hands clasping a candle. As we learn in the EA history, faith was traditionally represented by two hands joined together. This is my way of incorporating that into the windows. Symbolically speaking, fire or light was a traditional representation of faith going back to times immemorial. Some of the most ancient religious structures in the world such as the tombs of Knowth and Newgrange Ireland were built to channel and deliver light onto the selected few who sought it. Thus, I included the lit candle into the figure of faith. Traditionally, the colors of red and purple were used to symbolize faith.”

“Hope, stands looking up in the traditional pose of hope, with the hand covering the breast. This pose was traditionally used in paintings and other depictions of the Annunciation in Christian art as well as in Greek and Roman art depicting the gods. She stands with her anchor by her side. Along with Masons representing hope with an anchor, the Hebrews and Christians use it as well, based on the book of Hebrews. She stands wearing blue, the color of hope, which was thought to go back to the times of ancient seafarers that would hope for blue skies and easy sailing.”

“Charity stands center, above all others. She is clad in green and brown, the earth colors, which symbolize harvest and plenty. She stands handing out grain from a basket, looking out at the viewer. I wanted it to look like she was challenging us to follow in her footsteps and be as charitable as possible.”

“Finally, on the bottom of the window, the words "Behold how good and pleasant it is for men to dwell together in unity," one of my favorite lines from ritual.”

This multidimensional, multi talented Mason is already looking ahead to the next project for his Lodge, multidimensional and multi talented because he is also a student of hieroglyphics. And that expertise will translate into 3 large clay tablets depicting the 3 Degrees in Freemasonry stylized to mimic Egyptian hieroglyphics.

But first he must get the stained glass design made into actual stained glass windows. And that is going to take money. If you would like to contribute to this endeavor, this labor of love, please visit <http://>





www.thedigitalmason.com/ and consider purchasing a Masonic Stained Glass Print!

“This project was an amazing experience to partake in. I have been looking for a way to use my talents for something bigger than myself, and Masonry seems to be giving me the opportunity to do so. I hope I can work with my Lodge for more opportunities to produce artworks that will bring in funds for charity and others. I have many other ideas that I think will help me help Lodges to really make a difference in this world. And hope other Lodges will contact me to do this. I feel it is my civic, Christian and Masonic duty to use my talents to help out as many as I can, and God willing, these windows will be just the beginning of my Masonic journey.”



From The “From Labor To Refreshment” Blog At <http://toddecreason.blogspot.com>



**Merry Christmas To  
All Y'all**

# A Christmas Story

Little Leroy came into the kitchen where his mother was making dinner. His birthday was coming up and he thought this was a good time to tell his mother what he wanted.

"Mom, I want a bike for my birthday."

Little Leroy was a bit of a troublemaker. He had gotten into trouble at school and at home.

Leroy's mother asked him if he thought he deserved to get a bike for his birthday.

Little Leroy, of course, thought he did.

Leroy's mother, being a Christian woman, wanted him to reflect on his behavior over the last year, and write a letter to God and tell him why he deserved a bike for his birthday.

Little Leroy stomped up the steps to his room and sat down to write God a letter.

## LETTER 1:

Dear God:

I have been a very good boy this year and I would like a bike for my birthday. I want a red one.  
Your friend,  
Leroy

Leroy knew this wasn't true. He had not been a very good boy this year, so he tore up the letter and started over.

## LETTER 2:

Dear God:

This is your friend Leroy. I have been a pretty good boy this year, and I would like a red bike for my birthday.  
Thank you,  
Leroy

Leroy knew this wasn't true either. He tore up the letter and started again.

## LETTER 3:

Dear God:

I know I haven't been a good boy this year. I am very sorry. I will be a good boy if you just send me a red bike for my birthday.  
Thank you,  
Leroy

Leroy knew, even if it was true, this letter was not going to get him a bike. By now, Leroy was very upset. He went downstairs and told his mother he wanted to go to church. Leroy's mother thought her plan had worked because Leroy looked very sad.

Just be home in time for dinner," his mother said.

Leroy walked down the street to the church and up to the altar. He looked around to see if anyone was there. He picked up a statue of the Virgin Mary, slipped it under his shirt and ran out of the church, down the street, into his house, and up to his room. He shut the door to his room and sat down with a piece of paper and a pen, and wrote his letter to God.

## LETTER 4:

I GOT YOUR MAMA.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN, SEND THE BIKE.

Signed,

YOU KNOW WHO



# And A Happy New Year