



GEMS OF PURPOSE

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BETHPAGE LODGE #521, F&AM OF TENNESSEE

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FCs Teach Students About Fire Safety

Below, Mickey Summers and Rick Donley, both Fellowcrafts of Bethpage Lodge, teach Westmoreland Elementary students how to safely react to a house fire. Summers and Donley are both members of the Gallatin Fire Department. They, along with Brad Howell, developed an interactive clown skit to teach elementary students the importance of fire safety. Brother Howell is Past Master of Trammell Lodge #436 and

frequent visitor at Bethpage Lodge. The brother and fellows did a wonderful job, and the students were extremely entertained by their comedy and instruction. They also included Brother Stafford, principal of the school, in the skit.

Bethpage Lodge is very fortunate to have several brethren who have dedicated their lives to public service. Several fireman and police officers are members of Bethpage Lodge. These men sacrifice their time to assure that the rest of us are safe and protected. Although we often overlook their service, it is because of them that we can all sleep soundly at night. Thanks for all you do guys!



L to R: Nozzle (Howell), Smoky (Summers), Steamer (Donley)

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Left to Right: David Stafford, Smoky (Summers), and Steamer (Donley)

The Order of the Golden Fleece



Philip III, Duke of Burgundy founded the Order of the Golden Fleece on January 10, 1429 to commemorate his marriage to Isabelle of Aviz, daughter of the King of Portugal (Coil, 1961; Woodward, 1896). The order was fashioned after the Order of the Garter. It was dedicated to Saint Andrew and initially limited to 24 members, later increased to 51 (Dawson-Marsh, 2004). Although its primary symbol was reminiscent of the pagan golden fleece stolen by Jason and the Argonauts of Greek mythology, Catholicism was a prerequisite for membership. Due to this paradox, the symbol was often the source of controversy. In attempts to distance the Christian order from its pagan imagery, the fleece was publically proclaimed to refer to Burgundy's primary source of income as well as the biblical account of Gideon. According to Woodward, one legend claims that the order received its name in reference to the golden hair of one of the Duke's mistresses.

Philip's intent in the creation of the order was to help unite the minor nobles within his realm in loyalty to himself. According to Dawson-Marsh (2004), petty infighting had erupted throughout all of Europe, and "Philip needed to create a brotherhood that would forge a common bond between he himself and those who served him" (p. 7). Philip later had aspiration to call for a crusade to invade and conquer the east following the fall of Constantinople in 1453. During this period the connection between the chivalric order and the crusading efforts of Jason and the Argonauts was again strengthen (Dawson-Marsh).

The order was divided into two branches due to a sovereignty dispute resulting from the death of Charles II, of the Spanish Habsburgs, in 1700. The sovereignty of the order passed to a Bourbon, and resulted in the order being divided into a Spanish and an Austrian branch. Both the Spanish and the Austrian orders are still in existence today (Dawson-Marsh, 2004),

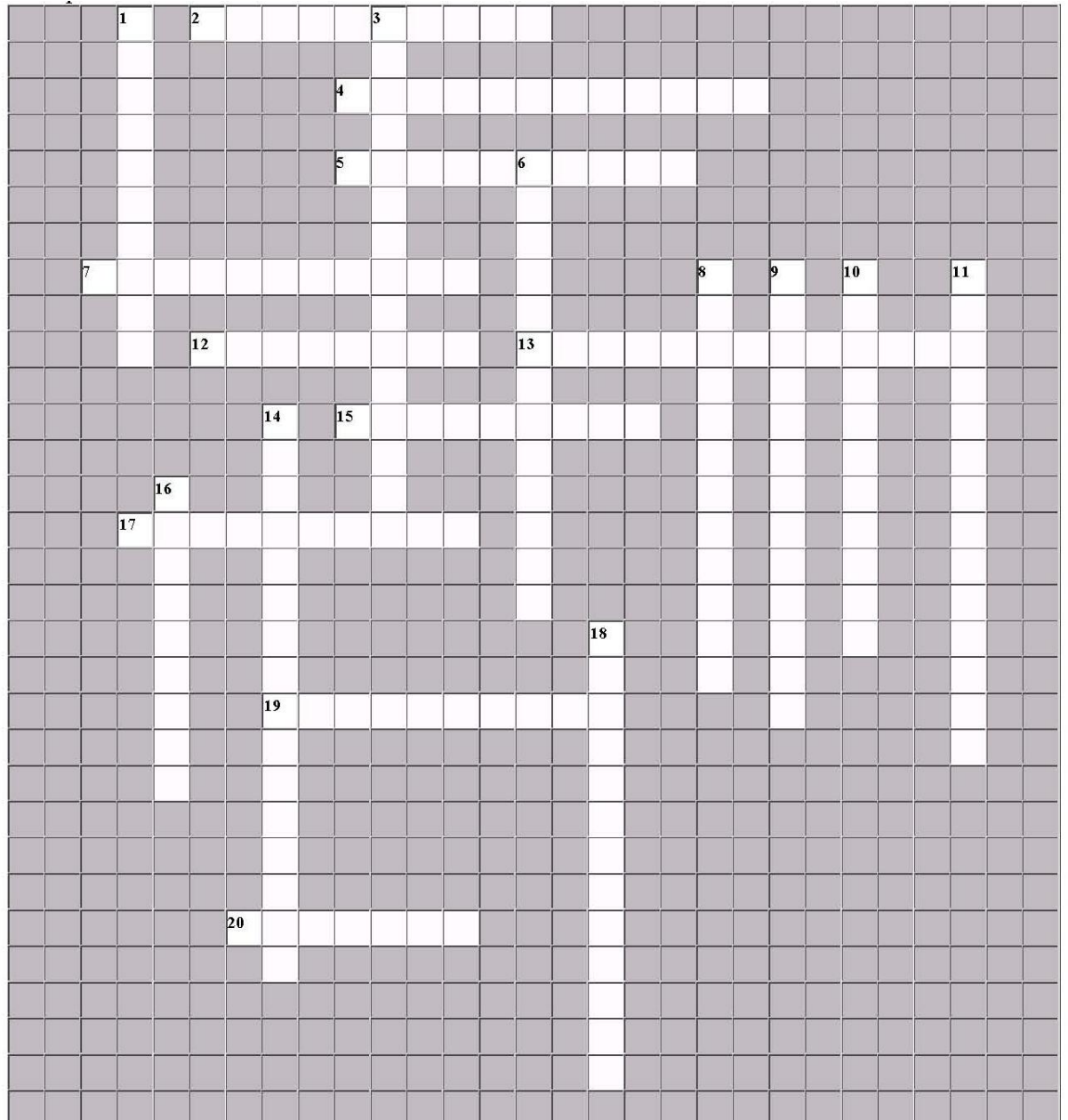
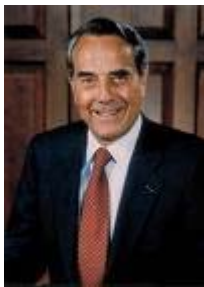
The collar of the order is composed of separate links that are hooked with each other to form a union of support. The fundamental ideas of the order is "the equality and brotherhood of its members, who are bound together by their membership". The jewel of the order is composed of a golden fleece inclusive with head and feet, resembling a whole sheep (Coil, 1961).



References

- Coil, H. W. (1961). *Masonic Encyclopedia*. Macoy Masonic Publishing: New York.
- Dawson-Marsh, B. (2004). *The Naples L'homme arme Masses, Burgundy and the Order of the Golden Fleece: The Origins of the L'homme arme Tradition*. (Master's Thesis, UMI #1419066) Rice University.
- Woodward, J. (1896). *Heraldry: British and Foreign, Volume II*, W. & A. K. Johnston, London.

Famous Masons



Down

1. The Freemason's Monitor; or, Illustrations of Masonry (2 words)
3. First Grand Master of Tennessee (2 words)
6. Seventh US President (2 words)
8. Finnish Composer (2 words)
9. Founder of American Federation of Labor (2 words)
10. Masonic funeral service on National TV (2 words)
11. Revolutionary Traitor (2 words)
14. "Father" of US Masonry (2 words)
16. "If I cannot smoke in heaven, I shall not go!" (2 words)
18. President made an EA but no father (2 words)

Across

2. Confederate General w/ statue in D.C. (2 words)
4. Marbury v. Madison (2 words)
5. Grand Master of CA & Supreme Court Justice (2 words)
7. France, Women, Coon Cap, key (2 words)
12. Author of Candide
13. Batavia, NY - Kidnapped by Masons (2 words)
15. Rooster Cogburn (2 words)
17. Late night rider, Grand Master of MA (2 words)
19. Republic of Texas 2nd President (2 words)
20. Ran for President in 1996 (2 words)

Tennessee Lodge of Research

Do you want to read more about the Order of the Golden Fleece and the Order of the Garter? The article on page 2 comes from a paper that will appear in the 2007 Proceedings of the Tennessee Lodge of Research. If you like lodge history, esoteric thought, and Masonic instruction, you should be a member. For more information, visit:

<http://www.grandlodge-tn.org/TLR/tlr.htm>.



Scriptures for a Studying Mason

Rth 4:5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy *it* also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

Rth 4:6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem *it*.



Rth 4:7 Now this *was the manner* in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave *it* to his neighbour: and this *was* a testimony in Israel.

Rth 4:8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy *it* for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

Rth 4:9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye *are* witnesses this day, that I have bought all that *was* Elimelech's, and all that *was* Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.



LIGHT SHINETH IN DARKNESS.

"The Past is the Fate of the Present;
Is the realm that no change knows;
Is the Lawgiver of the future,
The Source of its joys and woes;
The dead years are diadem's Monarchs,
Whom the years that come after obey;
And yesterday is as remote from us
As the stars are far away."

--Albert Pike.

The Builder Magazine, Feb 1915 1(2)



THE FLAG

Stuart R. Hilton

Traditionalists say I was born of a woman's hand... fashioned from bits of cloth by a seamstress in Philadelphia a year after the new country was born.

I first became influenced by the power of a flag in 1958 after completion of basic training in Her Majesty's Royal Engineers. It was the Sunday Church parade after graduation. We were dressed immaculately with every button gleaming in the sunlight. Our faces mirrored in the deep black shine of our boots. We reverently took our seats as the chaplain blessed us with health, strength, wisdom, and fortitude. We were about to go out to protect the British Empire and Her Majesty the Queen. He then quietly turned and pointed to the ragged, torn, and blood-stained flags in the corner of the great cathedral, and with growing emotion he recalled battle after battle and war after war in which the "colors" had proudly flown. Then, in a still, quiet voice that seemed to echo around and around the walls until it almost deafened us, he said, "Never let these flags ever fall to the ground in battle or in peace. Use the last drop of your life-giving blood to see that they never die and keep them flying high for the world to see."

Since that day of pledging my loyalty to the Union Jack, I have also been able to include the Canadian Maple Leaf, the Puerto Rican Flag, and the Stars and Stripes. But none stirs the emotions higher and deeper than the flag of the United States of America. My professional life has taken me to almost all countries of the free world, and some of the not-so-free world. In each country, I visited the American Embassies, and the sense of pride and security as one passes by the Marine guard and under the flag cannot be expressed in words, but only felt in the emotions of the soul. America is the most flag-flying country of the world, and so I've borrowed some words from Bob Nelson of KYW Philadelphia, who wrote of Old Glory in honor of the Bicentennial, and I added some of my own.

“Traditionalists say I was born of a woman's hand...fashioned from bits of cloth by a seamstress in Philadelphia a year after the new country was born.



Historians are less certain of my origin. Yet, no one doubts my existence. I was created out of necessity to serve as the emblem of a people whose experiment in nationhood was as unique as the arrangement of my stars and stripes.

I have proven my adaptability to change. I've accommodated growth. I've stood up to time and troubles. I fluttered in the fall air with General Washington and his loyal French allies at Yorktown. My fabric was shredded by cannonballs from British frigates in the War of 1812, and I was carried in triumph by Andy Jackson at New Orleans. The British could see me clearly in the mists of "the dawn's early light" waving from the standards of Fort McHenry.

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THE FLAG

Continued from Page 5

I've witnessed turmoil and bitterness, even lost some of my glory in mid-century in a war between brothers, but I was restored as a Nation's emblem at Appomattox.

I traveled West with new frontiers. I flew from the headlamps of the Iron Horse in Utah. I was with the prospectors at Sutter's Mill, and with the cavalry at San Juan Hill.

I crossed the Marne with the doughboys anxious to make the world safe for democracy. I was raised over a shell-pocketed hilltop at Iwo Jima, and I stood by grim-faced negotiators at Panmunjom. I was on the last helicopter from Saigon.

I have been around in victory and defeat. I've been folded smartly by soldiers and handed gently to weeping widows. I've covered the coffins of those who've served country and community. But I've also decorated bandstands and concert halls. I am saluted to in parades, in schools, and at ball parks.

Traditionalists say I was born of a woman's hand... fashioned from bits of cloth by a seamstress in Philadelphia a year after the new country was born. I am a part of political campaigns, high holidays, and ice-cream socials. I fly from skyscrapers and bungalows. I've been to the moon and to the ocean floor.

I've felt the heat of the tropics, the cold of the frozen north and the searing sands of the "Desert Storm." I've flown proudly as food is distributed to the less fortunate and cried tears of shame that caused my red, white, and blue to run together as I was spat upon, trampled in the ground and burned before a mocking crowd.

So, I am everywhere my people are. Saluted, scorned, held with pride, ridiculed because I am everything my people are: proud, angry, happy, sad, vengeful, argumentative, ambitious, and indifferent.

I was created to serve a people in struggle and a government in change. There are now more stars in my blue field than there were in the beginning and if need be, there's room for more.

But this I promise, those red and white stripes will remain in the future as I have kept them in the past, always clearly visible through whatever struggle I am put through. I will always remain a symbol of "The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."

I am your past.

I am your future.

I am your flag.

What will YOU do with me?."



The EA Ritual Crossword Answers

From Last Issue

Across

3. Vouchsafe
5. Mosaic
6. Lambskin
9. Square
10. Garter
12. Charge
13. Shoe
14. Fides
15. Conductor
16. Tabernacle
17. Sharp Instrument

Down

1. Morality
2. Hammer
4. Holy Bible
5. Money
7. Compasses
8. Prudence
11. Atheist



Fraternal Lithographs

One of my hobbies is collecting fraternal lithographs. These wonderful relics from the boom of the Fraternal Age are both beautiful and insightful. These two are early Masonic Charts. They would have been purchased by a brother to adorn his home or office to commemorate his being made a Mason.

Masonic Lecture Series Schedule

W. Bro. John L. Palmer, PGM—January 15, 2008

Bro. Thomas Driber, Ph.D.—April 16, 2009

Bro. Joe Kindoll—July 16, 2009

Bro. George Ladd—October 15, 2009

Each evenings event will begin with a meal at 6:00 PM. The lodge will open at 7:00 PM, and the lectures will begin prompt following opening.

Quick and Fun Fact

Lodges in Tennessee are generally heterogeneous collections of men from varied backgrounds; however, in many areas of the United States and the world there are lodges made of men from a particular background. One of the best examples of a “themed” lodge in the United States is The Harvard Lodge, AF&AM in Boston, MA. The lodge is an Academic Lodge. It is made up of men who are either a student, alumnus, faculty member, or employee of Harvard University. Another aspect that makes the lodge unique is that members wear their academic regalia at meetings. Their lodge website is very interesting, and I encourage you to visit it at:

http://www.harvardlodge.org/index_1.html



About Us

Bethpage Lodge No. 521, Free and Accepted Masons was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Free and



Accepted Masons of Tennessee on January 27, 1885. It is named for the small community in which the lodge hall sits. Bethpage, Tennessee is an unincorporated town in northern Sumner County, just north of Nashville. In its 123 years, the lodge has flourished and been the Masonic home to many traveling brethren. It is a country lodge with many traditions. It currently has an active membership of around 90 members. Bethpage Lodge meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 7 pm, and its meetings are open to all Master Masons from Masonic Jurisdictions recognized by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.∞

Gems of Purpose is the electronic trestleboard or newsletter of Bethpage Lodge. Its primary mission is to assist in the spreading of Masonic light to not only the members of Bethpage Lodge but to Masonic brothers wherever this publication might land. It is edited and compiled by Brother David E. Stafford, Past Master and current Secretary of the lodge. Brother Stafford began publishing *Gems of Purpose* in 2006 as a service to the Lodge and has continued to do so. Although it is an official media of Bethpage Lodge, the views and opinions contained in *Gems of Purpose* do not necessarily reflect those of the lodge, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, or Freemasonry. If you have questions or comments, please direct those to Brother Stafford via e-mail at bethpagelodge521@bellsouth.net. ∞



Submission - Although *Gems of Purpose* is the official educational voice of Bethpage Lodge, the lodge encourages anyone who has an interest in Masonic Education to submit possible material for inclusion in the newsletter. Items on Masonic history, philosophy, ideology, figures, and symbolism will be considered. Of course due credit will be given to the writer and if the writer is not a member of Bethpage Lodge, his lodge will be identified. *Gems of Purpose* reserves the right to edit all submissions. ∞

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125 Years of Masonry

Bethpage Lodge, #521



ANNIVERSARY MASONIC LECTURE SERIES

BETHPAGE LODGE NO. 521

Bethpage Lodge is pleased to announce that it will host an *Anniversary Masonic Lecture Series* in celebration of 125 years of Masonry in Bethpage, Tennessee. Lectures will be held quarterly throughout 2009 at our Stated Communications. The lodge invites all regular Master Masons to attend the lectures. A meal will be served at 6:00 pm, and the lodge will open at 7:00 pm. Brother Palmer's lecture will immediately follow the opening of the lodge. Speakers of upcoming lectures include Brother Joe Kindoll, Brother George Ladd, and Brother Tom Driber, Ph.D.. For more information, contact David Stafford, the lodge secretary, by the means provided below. If you plan to attend the January lecture with a group, please let Bro. Stafford know, in order to prepare the numbers for dinner.

What: Anniversary Masonic Lecture Series

Presenter: Worshipful Brother John L. Palmer, PGM of Tennessee

Subject: *The Evolution of the Tennessee Craftsman*

Where: Bethpage Masonic Lodge,
602 Old Highway 31E, Bethpage

When: January 15, 2009

Time: Meal at 6:00 PM
Lodge Opens at 7:00 PM

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