

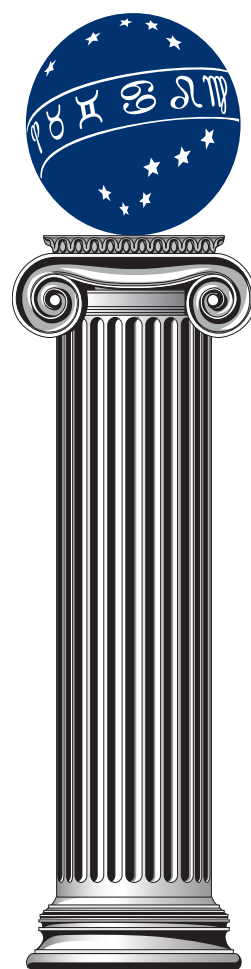
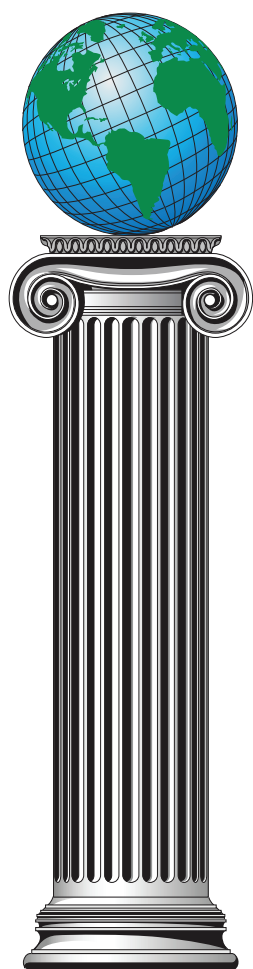
Leesburg Masonic Lodge No. 58

Free & Accepted Masons

Chartered January 15, 1868

Trestle Board

JUNE 2009



Vol. III Issue VI

Leesburg Masonic Temple

200 Richey Road, Leesburg, Florida 34748

352-787-5696

Stated Communications 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Each Month at 7:30pm

Officers for 2008

Worshipful Master	W: Richard Ecott (Lynn-Marie) .. 323-3569
Senior Warden	Donald McIntyre, Sr. (Nina) 728-6954
Junior Warden	Randall Jesmok (Joye) 321-669-2830
Treasurer	R: W: Ken Graves (Jean) 787-9538
Secretary	Ill. Garth Phillips (Molly) 753-4143
	Lodge 787-5696
Senior Deacon	Terry E. Carter (Debbie) 751-2874
Junior Deacon	Larry Duff (Brenda) 728-5270
Senior Steward	Richard Cartier (Frances) 315-1886
Junior Steward	Jim Angelos 728-6188
Tyler	Saul Goodkin (Joanne) 483-7406
Chaplain	W: Wayne Parks (Donna) 787-6501
Marshal	Dean Sever (Linda) 787-6667
Organist	W: Ronald J. Cottman (Cele) 365-1944
Lodge Instructor	R: H: Dennis Ricker (Ginny) 314-0828
Trestle Board	Larry Duff (Brenda) 874-2164
Trestle Board Printing	Leesburg Printing (Mike Mason) ... 787-3348



Active Past Masters

Charles Porter	1959
Theodore E. Weihe	1963
G. Kiser Hardaway	1964
J. C. Holloway	1968
R: W: Ray Richardson	1969*
R: W: Joseph H. Sellers	1970*
William "Ed" Davison	1974
Robert H. Smith	1977
R: W: Colin Crews	1980^*
H. C. Connell	1985
R: W: Theodore Jansen	1986*
R: W: Joseph T. Price	1987*
Michael Dozier	1988
John H. Meier V	1989
Jay A. Frizzell, Jr.	1992
Raleigh Sorenson	1993/1994
Don Barfield	1996
Tom Russell	1997/1998/2002
Mervyn Harris	1999
R: W: Kenneth Graves	2000*
Robert H. Browning	2003/2004
Dennis C. Ricker	2005/2007
Roland P. Gibson	2006
Bill Green	2008

Affiliated Past Masters

Carl Anzelmo
Henry DeBerry
Ronald J. Cottman
Jack Delauter
Robert C. Gleckler
Robert Kennedy
Garry Lee
Clifford Moore
Norman L. Payne
Frank Peregrin
Glenn A. Reynolds*
Edwin Robbins
Robert L. Welch
Forest Case*
John Ray Dean
Barry Rosenthal
Wayne Parks
Fred Lint
Raymond D Trudeau
M: W: Joseph Brearley

^ Past District Instructor

* Past DDGM

18th Masonic District

DDGM	R: W: Gary Smith 483-1556
District Instructor	R: H: Bill Siegenthaler..... 394-6941

Committees for 2009 and Members

Board of Relief

Chairman W: Richard Ecott, Don McIntyre, Sr., Randy Jesmok

Property

Chairman Don McIntyre, Sr., W: Tom Russell, Larry Duff,
W: Ed Davison, Randy Jesmok

Finance

Chairman R: W: Ken Graves, W: Tom Russell,
W: Ed Davison, Larry Duff, Don McIntyre, Sr.,

Vigilance

Chairman Randy Jesmok, Don McIntyre, Sr., W: Richard Ecott

Funeral

Chairman R: W: Ken Graves, All Officers & Members

Petitions

Chairman Don McIntyre, Larry Duff, Glen Bryan, W: Bob Browning

Charity

Chairman Larry Duff, R: W: Joe Price, Dean Sever, Saul Goodkin

Catechism

Chairman Don McIntyre, Sr. (EA), Randy Jesmok (FC),
W: Bob Browning (MM), Larry Duff

Greeters

All Officers

Scholarship

Chairman Larry Duff, R: W: Joe Price, W: Ed Davison,
Fred Neilson

Investments

Chairman R: W: Ken Graves, W: Tom Russell,
R: W: Theodore Jansen

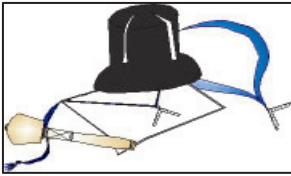
Education

Chairman Larry Duff, W: Richard Ecott, W: Bob Browning,
Don McIntyre, Sr. Randy Jesmok,

Activities & Awards

Chairman John Patterson, Dick Frazier, Cliff Frazier

**Officers and Committee Chairmen will meet at 6:30 pm
before the first stated meeting of each month for
business and planning.**



From the Worshipful Master

W.: Richard Ecott

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida met in May. M.:W.: Dale Goehrig of Clermont Lodge No. 226 was elected and installed as Grand Master for the upcoming year. Congratulations to all our Grand Lodge Officers and our new District Deputy Grand Master, District Instructor and District committeemen. (See Page 4 for more info).

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Master Masons, Brothers Gary Borders, Payton Grinnell, David Mass, Michael Abendschein, Christopher Vaughn, Richard Jones and Spencer Glover, who were all raised during the month of May.

I am happy to report that not only did we raise new Master Masons in May, you the membership have given out a number of petitions to prospective new members.

Our condolences to the family and friends of W.: J. Rock Halford who was called to the Celestial Lodge above on April 25th. W.: Halford was Master of Leesburg Lodge in 1955 and our eldest living Past Mas-

ter. A Masonic service was held on Thursday, April 30th at Christ United Methodist Church.

We have scheduled a lodge workday for Saturday, June 20th. We are in need of a few painters for the bathrooms, fan cleaners in the dining room, time permitting a few other housekeeping items.

Thank You goes out to our Brothers and Sisters who attend our Tuesday Mornings Breakfasts and Second Sunday Monthly Dinners. Our northern Brothers and families have returned home and your attendance not only financially aids our Lodge but provides the Fellowship that continues to make our Lodge grow and strengthen.

2009 is going fast and the year is half over. Your officers are planning for next year and we would like your input for 2010. Please contact SW Don McIntyre, Sr. or JW Randy Jesmok or myself and share your thoughts for 2010. Leesburg Lodge No. 58 is your, mine and our Lodge. Your thoughts and input to make our lodge better is important.



From the Chaplain

W.: Wayne Parks

W.: J. Rock Halford was called to the Celestial Lodge above on April 25th. W.: Halford was Master of Leesburg Lodge in 1955. A Masonic service was held on Thursday, April 30th at Christ United Methodist Church.

Lady Rita Neilson (wife of Brother Fred Neilson) underwent G.I. test at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville on May 12, 13 & 14.

Lady Cele Cottman (wife of W.:Ron Cottman) Had a hip implant operation which was a complete success and she has absolutely no pain in that hip any longer. Lady Cele is experiencing some temporary problems related to her blood,

If you know of someone that is ill or in distress, please, call a lodge officer. Keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers, extend a comforting hand, call someone in need of friendship today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS — We extend to all who have birthdays this month our best wishes for a happy, safe and healthy celebration of your birthday. If you can't party it up this year make plans for next year.

Words to live by: Be good, be kind, be humane, and charitable; love your fellows; console the afflicted; pardon those who have done you wrong. - Zoroaster

From the Great Light in Masonry; [Love] "It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5

To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it — Confucius

M.:W.: DALE GOEHRIG

GRAND MASTER

***Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons
of the State of Florida***



Our congratulations to M.:W.: Dale Goehrig, who during the Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of Florida (May 25, 26 and 27) was elected and duly installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Florida.

M.:W.: Dale Goehrig is a Brother of Clermont Lodge No. 226. Thank You, M.:W.: Dale Goehrig for your many years of dedicated service to our craft and leadership.

We wish you and all the Grand Lodge Officers a healthy, happy, productive and blessed term in office.

***18th MASONIC DISTRICT
OFFICERS FOR 2009—2010***

Congratulations also to our new line of District Officers for 2009-2010.

R.:W.: Gary Smith — District Deputy Grand Master

R.:H.: Bill Siegenthaler — District Instructor

District Committeemen for 2009—2010

Masonic Home Endowment Glenn Little

LYPMGC, Wills & Gifts and MH-100

Masonic Education

Greg Jodarski

Public Education & Citizenship

Vaughn Roberts

Public Relations & Publicity

Larry Duff

Masonic Youth

Mark Draper

Grand Master's Charity

Alan Heist

Perpetual Membership

George Miller

Lodge Officer's Education

Ron Gainer

Child ID Program

Terry Allen

Frat. Admin. Endowment (FA-100) Roland Gibson



THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

Take time to think ...

It is the source of power.

Take time to play ...

It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read ...

It is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to pray ...

It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to love and be loved ...

It is a God given privilege.

Take time to be friendly ...

It is the road to happiness.

Take Time to laugh ...

It is the music of the soul.

Take time to give ...

It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work ...

It is the price of success ...

Time is the most precious gift

That molds into the soul.

It creates things of interest ...

It makes life pure and whole.

Each second of every moment ...

It cast upon a screen.

The wise, they take it and use it ...

And a fool lets it pass unseen.





Please Join Us for Fun

**Ted Jansen's extremely casual
80th Birthday Celebration
&
Roast**



Sunday, June 14, 2009

Arrive at 3:00p

Roast begins at 3:30p

Leesburg Masonic Lodge

200 Richey Road - Leesburg

(Across from Leesburg Lanes- Bowling)

RSVP – Regrets Only: (352) 787-7818

Absolutely NO Gifts but bring a memory for Ted's book!

A LITTLE SCRAP OF PAPER

By; Most Worshipful Frank H. Bertell, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands , September 1951

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper 2-1/2" by 3-3/4" in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or receipt for values, yet it is my priceless possession. IT IS MY MEMBERSHIP CARD IN A LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual and material forgive and forget the faults of my brethren; to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendoes; to care for the crippled, the hungry and the sick, and to be just to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among brothers and friends.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home and my household, are under the protection of every member of this great fraternity, who have sworn to protect and defend mine, as I have sworn to protect and defend theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune, the hands of every Mason on the face of the earth will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

And finally, it tells me, my brethren, that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered in my lodge room friends and brothers, who will recall to my virtues, though they may be few, and will forgive and forget my faults, though they may be many. It tells me all this and a great deal more, this little scrap of paper 2-1/2" by 3-3/4" in size.

Provided by Brother Dean Sever—Marshal



A CHEROKEE LEGEND

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of Passage?

His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he does this, he must not talk about it. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each

lad must come into manhood on his own. The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold.

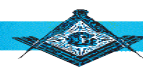
It would be the only way he could become a man! Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold.

It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm.

We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, Sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, All we have to do is reach out to Him.

Moral of the story:

Just because you can't see God, Doesn't mean He is not there. "For we walk by faith, not by sight."



PROUD DAD

Brother Dean Sever (Marshal) had the privilege of attending Elmer O. Smith Lodge #307 F & AM, in Pinnellas Park, Florida on April 20th and witnessing his son Michael passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft as he seeks more light in Masonry. Mike recently presented his EA catechism before the Brethren of his Lodge.

You may remember that it was just a few issues ago that the happy pappy reported to us his son was initiated an Entered Apprentice. In this short time Mike returned to his Lodge his Entered Apprentice Catechism and his Lodge conducted the ceremonies to pass him to Fellow Craft.

Shouldn't be to long before the proud papa tells us his son is a Master Mason. Congratulations Mike and Dean.

LODGE WORKDAY

Saturday, June 20th

Coffee and donuts at 8:00am, work and Fellowship to follow at 9:00am. Senior Warden Don McIntyre, Sr., has a host of projects, we need workers, if you are unable to labor, join us my sharing your fellowship.

WOW – WHAT A TIME WAS HAD

By; Raymond Trudeau, Hawthorne Masonic High Twelve #547 Club President

Twenty-one members of Hawthorne Masonic High Twelve #547 traveled to visit our Masonic Home on Wednesday April 1, 2009.

We were warmly welcomed with a reception of coffee and pastry by Sheryl McKesson, Activities Director and Mary Ann Assistant - also Richard Dankert resident Past State President, Jim Edwards, Chaplain, Mac McTighe, Secretary & Treasurer and other members of the Masonic Home High Twelve Club.

We presented to the Masonic Home specifically Corky's Cupboard with \$140.00 in cash – 2 large boxes and three large bags of items that the members of our Hawthorne High Twelve Club donated.

GOOD GOLLY – you would have thought we brought them Wal-Mart – so thankful and appreciative was the staff and residents of the our Masonic Home.

We arrived at 10:30 a.m. for a reception from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by a tour of the facility and at 12:30 p.m.

a lunch in the cafeteria at a cost of \$6.50 with a choice of fried or baked chicken, beef, fish, potatoes gravy, pasta, veggies, 2 soups, salad, choice of desserts and drinks. The meals were excellent and we departed the facility at 1:30 p.m.

We were so impressed and moved by this visit that several discussed ways to continue the support of Corky's Cupboard as the need is great for these residents.

Janet has volunteered to be the collection point of any items listed and when sufficient amounts are collected we will make arrangements to transport them to the Masonic Home.

Talk about a wonderful and great



opportunity to put into action what we pledge as a Masons and members of Masonic appendant and concordant bodies.

We invite and hope other area High Twelve Clubs, Masonic Lodges, OES Chapters, Etc. will contact us to also be included with their donations.





Ocala Scottish Rite

www.OcalaSR.com

Ocala Scottish Rite next meeting is on Monday, June 1st at 7:30 p.m. NO DINNER is planned. October 10th and 11th have been selected as dates for the Ocala Scottish Rite's Fall Reunion.



York Rite Bodies

"A Continuation of the Blue Lodge"

www.flgyr.org

Ocala York Rite Bodies – Meetings at Belleview Lodge No. 95, Belleview.

Ocala Chapter No. 13 - Meets on the Second Wednesday of January, March, May, September and November beginning at 7:30 PM.

Ocala Council No. 22 - Royal & Select Masters - Meets on the Second Wednesday of February, April, June, October and December beginning at 7:30 PM.

Ocala Commandery No. 19 - Knights Templar - Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Eustis York Rite Bodies - Meetings at Eustis Lodge No. 85, Eustis.

Eustis Chapter No. 33, Meets on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Golden Triangle Council No. 28—Royal & Select Masters - Meets on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 PM.

*Triangle Commandery No. 38 -Knights Templar—*Meets on the on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM



Order of the Eastern Star, Leesburg Chapter No. 84

Lady Elizabeth Eldridge – Worthy Matron

W.: Roland Gibson —Worthy Patron

Meetings – 1st Thursday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.

If you are a member of the OES and wish to contribute a article or information for inclusion in the Trestle Board, just send it to the editor. Articles are requested to be no more than one or two pages.



Order of Amaranth, No. 34

RM — Mildred Kronberg

RP — Richard Keifer

Meetings – 3rd Friday of the Month at 1:30 p.m.

If you wish to contribute a article or information for inclusion in the Trestle Board, just send it to the editor. Articles are requested to be no more than one or two pages.



Tall Cedars, Lake Forest, No. 200

GT—Paul Davidson

Meetings – 2nd Saturday of the Month at 10:30 a.m.

If you wish to contribute a article or information for inclusion in the Trestle Board, just send it to the editor. Articles are requested to be no more than one or two pages.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JUNE 2009



	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<i>1</i> Ocala Scottish Rite 7:30 pm DeMolay Chapter 7:30 pm at Eustis	<i>2</i> <i>Coffee Klatch 8 am</i> <i>Leesburg Stated Meeting 7:30 pm</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Order of the Eastern Star No. 84—Meeting at 7:30 pm	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>		<i>8</i> Plantation Hi-Twelve Club #719 Meeting 11:00am At Plantation Oaks	<i>9</i> <i>Coffee Klatch 8 am</i>	<i>10</i> Ocala York Rite Chapter 7:30 pm	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Triangle Commandery No. 28 7:30 pm @ Eustis Lodge	<i>13</i> Tall Cedars Meeting at 10:30 am
<i>14</i>	<i>Sunday Dinner</i> 11:30 — 1:15 pm <i>Chicken Parmesan,</i> Spaghetti, Salad, Rolls, Drinks and Desserts	<i>15</i> Lake / Sumter DeMolay Chapter Meeting 7:30 pm at Eustis Lodge	<i>16</i> <i>Coffee Klatch 8 am</i> <i>Leesburg Stated Meeting 7:30 pm</i>	<i>17</i> District Association The Villages 7:30 pm	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Amaranth 1:30 pm Golden Triangle Council & Chapter 7:30 pm @ Eustis	<i>20</i> <i>Leesburg Lodge WORKDAY</i> Open Book Winter Park Lodge 9:00am—2:00pm
<i>21</i>		<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Coffee Klatch 8 am</i>	<i>24</i> Ocala York Rite Commandery - 7:30p District Instruction TBA 7:30 pm	<i>25</i> Leesburg Hi-Twelve Club, Meeting at Taste Tempters	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>		<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> <i>Coffee Klatch & Breakfast 8:00 am</i>				

**FLORIDA MASONIC HISTORY BOOKS
DONATED TO LEESBURG LIBRARY**

W:M.: Richard Ecott, and R:W.: Joe Price (PM) presented to the Director of the Leesburg Public Library the five volume set of the Florida Masonic History.

This set of five books was presented to the Lodge by R:H.: Dennis Ricker (PM) for presentation to the Leesburg Public Library by our Lodge.

Want to know Florida Masonic History, now to can go to the Library, check out a volume and learn our history.



TRESTLE BOARD SPONSORS

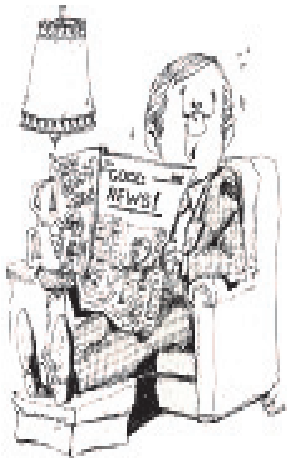
YOUR NAME HERE - INDIVIDUAL OR COUPLE FOR ONLY \$20.00

Current year or any part thereof - HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED!



- George Shoemaker
- Larry & Brenda Duff
- Leo & Patsy Blum
- Donald & Nina McIntyre, Sr.
- R:W.: Ken & Jean Graves
- Garth & Molly Phillips
- W.: Charles & Marlene White
- William and Sharen Aston
- W.: Tom & Lynn Russell
- R:W.: Ray & Betty Richardson
- Saul & JoAnne Goodkin
- W.: Bob & Carolyn Browning
- Hawthorne Hi -Twelve Club
- R:W.: Joseph Price
- George Wikane
- William Kerakos
- W.: Forest & Anneliese Case
- Terry & Judy Schook
- Irvin & Dorothy Creed
- George & Glenna Dean
- W.: Edwin Robbins
- Paul Shires, Jr.
- Othel & JoAnn Wilkens

- Betsy Jordan
- Delores Duff
- Bob & Judi Rowden
- Dean & Linda Sever
- W.: Richard Ecott
- Pete & Nancy Taylor
- W.: Bill & Nancy Green
- M.: W.: Joseph & Anna Brearley
- Frank & Lois Toth
- Richard & Francis Cartier
- W.: Ronald & Cele Cottman
- Randy & Joye Jesmok
- Dan Bloxom
- Plantation High Twelve #719
- Dick Whiteman
- Edward & JoAnne Davis
- W.: Roland & Anna Gibson
- Terry & Debbie Carter
- Ed & Kathy Sowden
- W.: Wayne & Donna Parks
- Cliff Frazier
- Joe & Kathy Schlegel
- Thomas & Beverley Wright



Our goal for 2009 is 60 sponsors, the sponsorship money will cover the cost of postage for 2009. That's 6 more than in 2007 and 23 more than in 2008, were at 44 WE just need 16 more sponsors.

Editors Note: All articles and information for publication must be received by the editor prior to the 15th of the publishing month for inclusion in the next issue. Articles can be e-mailed to Larry Duff at Ldduff@comcast.net

MASONIC EDUCATION & DISCUSSION

Seek to mentor a Brother Mason: It's good for him, it's good for you, and it's good for Freemasonry!

The TITLE PAST MASTER STANDS FOR;

*Provided by R.:H.: Dennis Ricker, Past District Instructor
18th Masonic District of Florida*

- P** is for **Participation** beyond our years serving in the Lodge's line officer positions.
- A** is for **Assistance** to our Master, Officers and Brethren so that they may be successful.
- S** is for **Supporting** our Brethren, our Lodge, our Districts and our Grand Lodge.
- T** is for being willing to **Teach** our Brothers and Officers as the future leaders of our Craft.
- M** is for being willing to let our lives and actions **Motivate** other Brothers to take leadership roles.
- A** is for remaining **Active** even when we are no longer in an Officer position.
- S** is for **Strengthening** our Lodge, our District, and our Grand Lodge through our actions and words.
- T** is for **Training** our Brothers when the opportunity comes up.
- E** is for being an **Example** of how a Mason and especially a Past Master should live and act.
- R** is for remembering that our **Role** as a Past Master never ceases.

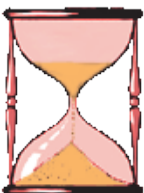


THE HOURGLASS, THE SCYTHER, AND THE SPRIG OF ACACIA

Author Unknown, forwarded by an Out of State Brother

Three of the most meaningful symbols in Freemasonry—the Hourglass, the Scythe, and the Sprig of Acacia—are often the least thought about, except at times of sorrow.

“The Hourglass is an emblem of human life. Behold how swiftly the sand runs and how rapidly our lives are drawing to a close! We cannot, without astonishment, behold the little particles in the device, how they pass almost imperceptibly, and yet, to our surprise, in



the short span of an hour, they are all exhausted. Time wastes man. Today he puts forth tender leaves of hope.

Tomorrow blossoms and bears his honors; the next day comes a frost which nips the shoot; and when he thinks his greatness is still aspiring, he falls like autumn leaves to enrich our mother earth.”

Our time on earth is short. We establish ourselves; we strive for success, and when we think we have everything where we want them, we fall like autumn leaves. Think of it! We enrich the earth by dying. When the Craft chooses, it can be brutally direct as it enlightens us with the honesty of its Logic.

“The Scythe is an emblem of time, which cuts the brittle thread of life and launches us into eternity.”

Our lives—our deaths, a difficult subject for us to confront, but as Freemasons, we are prepared for we know that we live our lives according to the tenets of the Craft, immortality awaits us.

Deaths frees us towards that “clouded canopy or starry-bedecked Heaven where all good Masons hope at last to arrive” knowing that if we “have erected our spiritual building in accordance with the designs of the Supreme Architect of the Universe in that great Book of Revelation which is our Masonic trestle board,” if we have lived our lives as “true” men, a glorious immortality will be ours.

As we reflect upon the scythe we find the words very direct.

“Behold what havoc, the scythe of time makes upon the human race! If, by chance, we should escape the numerous ills incident to childhood and youth and with health and vigor attain years of manhood, yet, withal, we must soon be cut down by the all-devouring scythe of time and be gathered into the land where our fathers have gone before us.”

Reality presented in Masonic terms; words we do not enjoy hearing, but words we must reflect upon and understand if we are to complete our lives as Master Masons.

In the description of the hourglass, we fall like autumn

leaves to enrich our mother earth from our graves. In the description of the scythe, we are gathered into the land into our graves. While it presents an uncomfortable reflection, the grave is a most important symbol in Freemasonry. Let's pause for a moment and recall GMHA lying in his. Reflect upon the meaning paying special attention "to the lessons of integrity, fidelity and immortality" that are portrayed.

In the light of this, should we fear death? Absolutely not, for we know the earth is a comforting place, if we have lived our lives according to the teachings of the Craft.

"There is nothing more zealous than clay, our mother earth, for it alone of all the elements has never proved unfriendly to man and when at last we are called upon to pass through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, she once more receives us, and tenderly enfolds our remains within her bosom, thus admonishing us that, as from the earth we came, so to the earth we must surely return."

Our mother earth has never proved unfriendly to man. She tenderly enfolds our remains within her bosom. These words are there to comfort, not scare us.

The hourglass admonishes us to make the most of our lives, not to waste a tiny particle or minute, the scythe is the symbol for the end of life, but it is the Sprig of Acacia that is the most important symbol in all Freemasonry because it is the symbol for what awaits us at the end of the successful life's journey—immortality.



The sprig of acacia reminds each of us that we have a soul which lives beyond the grave, but only if we conduct ourselves as "true" men.

The sprig of acacia is the reminder of those things we must accomplish as Masons to achieve eternal life.

"These emblems of the operative Mason's art indicate the labors he is to perform, the dangers he is to encounter, and the preparations he is to make in the up rearing of that spiritual fabric wherein his soul shall find rest forever and forevermore."

Everywhere we look in the Standard Work, we come upon those tenets, emblems and symbols we must fully reflect upon and understand if we are to achieve immortality.

The Logic of Freemasonry is obvious. If we perform all the duties set forth in our degrees to God, our

neighbor and ourselves, if we make the most of the best in ourselves, if we divest our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life, we will then fit our minds "as living stones, for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

That's it my brothers...the perfect definition of immortality— "that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." And immortality and what we must do to achieve it is one of the basic tenets of Freemasonry. Never, ever forget: "the true man is the human image of the Mason's God" and the Mason's God is immortal and so are you if you become the "true" man.



THREE

As every Freemason can attest, one of the first aspects of Freemasonry that becomes embedded into the psyche of a newly made Brother is the recurrence of the same number, the number Three.

There are so many portions of our fraternity that reflect themselves in this mystical number that it is nearly impossible to describe them all. There are, of course, three initial degrees in the blue lodge; there are three symbols in the Square, Compasses, and the letter G; three geographical locations in lodge, South, West, East, with the North being a place of darkness; and three officers for those stations.

When you go deeper in the degrees it becomes even more apparent; there are three Great Lights and three Lesser lights represented by the three officers of the three geographical locations. This number is also repeated in the very fabric of our degree work.

To bring it to a more broad horizon, three is repeated on a much larger scale starting with our planet's position in the solar system. Earth is the third planet from the Sun. Thus in this aspect three becomes a number representing the creation and sustaining effect of life. A number that can be connected to a solitary degree of distance which is suitable for the flourish of our existence. Three is an ideal position.

Three can also be attributed to the Holy Trinity in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this aspect the number three becomes a relation of faith, spirituality, and religious teachings. Three is a spiritual connection.

Three is representative of the three stages of life, Childhood, Adulthood, and Old Age. In this capacity Three gives us the sum of education, experience, and wisdom. Three is a path of life.

Three is the first prime number that we come to that is more than the sum of its two predecessors. Why is this number so often repeated in the course of our experiences? Is it a divine truth that yet escapes our full understanding or is it merely a set of coincidences that bar any unforeseen explanation?

As Freemasons it is our privilege to be able to investigate such mystical occurrences and try to decipher either for our Brethren and the common good or for our own personal benefit, what truth we can come to ourselves in the never ending journey of the sublime path that such metaphysical matters afford us.



AN ERRING BROTHER

by: Author Unknown—From a Short Talk Bulletin

Next to the word Mother, no word in our language has more meaning and music in it than the word Brother. It is from above, and it reaches to the deep places of the heart. It is religion on its human side; and in it lies the hope of humanity. The highest dream of the prophets is of a time when men shall be Brothers.

When used Masonically, the word Brother has a depth and tenderness all its own, unique and is beautiful beyond words. It tells of a tie, mystical but mighty, which Masonry spins and weaves between man and man, which no one can define and few can resist. In time of sorrow it is a tether of sympathy and a link of loyalty.

Of course, like all other words, it is common enough, and may be glibly used without regard to its real meaning. Like the word God, it may be a coin worn smooth, or a flower faded. But when its meaning is actually and fully felt, no other word is needed among us, except on occasions of high Masonic Ceremony, when we add the word Worshipful, or some other term of title or rank.

No other word has a finer import or a more ample echo, expressive of the highest relationship in which dignity and devotion unite. If we are really Brothers, all the rest may go by the board, save for sake of

ceremony. If we are not truly Brothers, all titles are empty and of no avail. For that reason, to omit the word Brother when speaking Masonically is not only a lack of courtesy, but shows a want of fineness of feeling.

What does the word Brother mean, Masonically? It means the adoption of a man into an inner circle of friendship, by a moral and spiritual tie as close and binding as the tie of common birth and blood between two brothers in a family. Nothing else, nothing less; and this implies a different attitude the one to the other - related not distant, united not opposed, natural and unrestrained - wherein are revealed what the old writers used to call "The Happy and Beneficial Effects of our Ancient and Honorable Institution."

Since this is so, surely we ought to exercise as much caution and judgment in bringing a new member into the Lodge as we do in inviting an outsider into the family circle. Carelessness here is the cause of most of our Masonic ills, frictions and griefs. Unless we are assured beyond all reasonable doubt that a man is a brotherly man to whom Masonry will appeal, and who will justify our choice, we ought not to propose his name or admit him to our fellowship.

Still, no man is perfect; and the Lodge is a moral workshop in which the rough Ashlar is to be polished for use and beauty. If the Lodge had been too exacting, none of us would have gained admission. At best we must live together in the Lodge, as elsewhere, by Faith, Hope and Charity; else Masonry will be a failure. The Brotherly Life may be difficult, but it is none the less needful. Our faith in another way may be repelled, or even shattered - what then?

Nothing in life is sadder than the pitiful moral breakdowns of good men, their blunders and brutalities. Who knows his own heart, or what he might do under terrible trial or temptation? Often enough qualities appear or emerge of which neither man himself or his friends were aware, and there is a moral wreck. Some "Defect of Will or Taint of Blood," some hidden yellow streak, some dark sin shows itself, and there is disaster. A man highly respected and deeply loved goes down suddenly like a tree in a storm, and we discover under the smooth bark that the inside was rotten. What shall we do? Of course, in cases of awful crime the way is plain, but we have in mind the erring Brother who does injury to himself, his Brother or the Lodge. An old Stoic teacher gave a good rule, showing

us that much depends on the handle with which we take hold of the matter. If we say, "My Brother has INJURED me," it will mean one thing. If we say, "My BROTHER has injured Me," it will mean another; and that is what the Brotherly Life means, if it means anything.

Every Master of a Lodge knows how often he is asked to arraign a Brother, try him and expel him from the Fraternity. It is easy to be angry and equally easy to be unjust. If he is a wise Master, he will make haste slowly. There is need of tact, patience; and, above all sympathy - since all good men are a little weak and a little strong, a little good and a little bad; and anyone may lose his way, befogged by passion or bewitched by evil. It is a joy to record that Masons, for the most part, are both gentle and wise in dealing with a Brother who has stumbled along the way. Masonic charity is not a myth; it is one of the finest things on earth.

What shall we do? If we see a Brother going wrong in Masonry, or in anything else - "Spoiling his Work," as the old Masons used to say - well, we must take him aside and talk to him gently, man to man, Brother to Brother; and show him the right way. He may be ignorant, weak or even ugly of spirit - driven by some blind devil as all of us are apt to be - and if so our tact and Brotherly kindness may be tested and tried; but more often than otherwise we can win him back to sanity.

Have you heard a tale about a Brother, a suggestion of a doubt, an innuendo about his character, some hearsay story not to his credit? If so, did you stand up for him, ask for proof, or invite suspension of judgment until the facts could be heard; remembering that it is your duty as a Mason to defend a Brother in his absence? Such things are seldom said in his presence. It is not fair to tell him what is being said and learn his side of the tale? If we fail in our duty in such matters we fail of being a true Brother.

When we have learned the truth and have to face the worst, what then? Long ago we knew an old Mason, long since gone to the Great Lodge, who was chided by a Brother for continuing to trust a man they both knew was taking advantage of the kindness shown him. The old man replied:

"Yes, but you never know; I may touch the right chord in his heart yet. He is not wholly bad, and some day, perhaps when I'm dead and gone, he will hear the music

and remember." And he did!

Hear the music? Ah, if we would hear it we must listen and wait, after we have touched "the right chord." And if the right chord is "In Us" something in him will respond, if he be not utterly dead of soul! If he does respond, then you will have gained a friend who will stick closer than a Brother. If he does not respond - and, alas, sometimes they do not - then we must admit, with a heart bowed down, that we have done our best, and failed. Some inherent failing, some blind spot, has led him astray, dividing him from us by a gulf we cannot bridge.

So a Mason should treat his Brother who goes astray; not with bitterness, nor yet with good-natured easiness, nor with worldly indifference, nor with philosophic coldness; but with pity, patience and loving-kindness. A moral collapse is a sickness, loss, dishonor in the immortal part of man. It is the darkest disaster, worse than death, adding misery to guilt. We must deal faithfully but tenderly, firmly but patiently with such tragedies.

It is facts such as these which show us what charity, in a far deeper sense than monitory gifts, really means. It is as delicate as it is difficult in that we are all men of like passions and temptations. We all have that within us which, by a twist of perversion, might lead to awful ends. Perhaps we have done acts, which, in proportion to the provocation, are less excusable than those of a Brother who grieves us by his sin. "Judge not lest ye yourselves be judged." Truly it was a wise saying, not less true today than when the old Greek uttered it long ago, "Know Thyself." Because we do not know ourselves, it behooves us to put ourselves under the spell of all the influences God is using for the making of men, among which the Spirit of Masonry is one of the gentlest, wisest and most benign. If we let it have its way with us it will build us up in virtue, honor and charity; softening what is hard and strengthening what is weak.

If an erring Brother must be condemned, he must also be deeply pitied. God pities him; Christ died for him; Heaven waits to welcome him back with joy. He has done himself a far deeper injury than he has done anyone else. In pity, prayer and pain let our hearts beat in harmony with all the powers God is using for his recovery. "There remaineth Faith, Hope and Charity; but the greatest of these is Charity."





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