



# THE TRESTLEBOARD



Volume 4, Issue 12

Davy Crockett Lodge #1225 A.F. & A.M.

June 2012

## Traveling from West to East

Wes O'Neill Senior Warden

Brethren,

On behalf of the officers of Davy Crockett Lodge in the year 2011-2012, I would like to thank our Worshipful Master for all his hard work and contribution throughout the year. We appreciate his dedication to the Lodge and the masterful way he has always opened and closed each Lodge with great skill and accuracy. He has always supported his officers and let us run with good ideas when we had them, never seeking recognition for his efforts, but selflessly allowing us the resources to get it done.

As this year draws to a close, I would like to look back on the year and say how proud I am of Davy Crockett Lodge, where we've been and where we are going. We had two incredible "Bring a Friend Night" programs this past year and that is entirely due to the talents and hard work of the members of our Lodge in planning and executing such a successful and impressive program. We had Brothers from throughout the city and state bring their friends to our program and I believe that speaks volumes for the caliber of men we have in our great Lodge. The Light Brigade continues to strengthen and grow and the subject matter covered, never dulls as time passes. I commend the brethren who are members and those who will someday become members on such an impressive organization of higher Masonic learning. It is these programs that keep the brethren interested in our great Fraternity and expands their knowledge of the Craft, two remarkable feats we aim to continue in years to come.

I wanted to thank the brethren in advance for participating in the survey we mailed out to the membership this week. With the permission and support of our Worshipful Master, I sent out a climate survey in order to get a finger on the pulse of the Lodge and what direction we need to go in the future. It is my sincere hope that each of you will take the time to fill this out and mail it, email it or drop it off at the Lodge over the next few weeks. This is your forum to say what you think, what you feel and most importantly, your opportunity to bring about change in the Lodge by sharing your opinions. I strongly urge you to complete this survey and send it in as soon as you can. I appreciate our Brother Secretary giving me the opportunity to address the Brothers through the newsletter and I look forward to a continued bright future for Davy Crockett Lodge and the wonderful things to come over the ensuing years. I hope this note finds you all well and healthy and itching to come back to Lodge to see what's new, to participate, to share your knowledge and experiences and to increase your Masonic learning.

All my best,  
Wes O'Neill  
Senior Warden

## Upon the Secretary's Desk!

By Chris

Brethren,

As we come to the end of this Masonic year there are some things that need to be recognized with an "Atta Boy". First to our Worshipful Master for his perseverance through personal issues and his professionalism in the ritualistic opening and closings of the Lodge, next an Atta Boy to our Brother Treasurer who took on the chore of the Secretary's duties at stated meetings this year for me while I was performing my duties as DDGM. Of course a couple of Atta Boys for our Wardens for their hard work this year in creating and delivering the many programs we had. Of course huge Atta Boys for our Stewards this year, I know that I speak for all the Brothers when I say that I have never eaten as good in a Masonic Lodge as in our Lodge this year. Great job guys. Gotta also give an Atta Boy to our Chaplain for serving with distinction this year and to our Fund Raising chairman for his hard work. As we end this year and get ready to begin the next we have great optimism in the energy and ability of the officers we expect to be elected. Speaking of elections, we will hold our elections on the 19<sup>th</sup> and I hope you will all attend our installation on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Hope you all have a great month.

## This Month's Humor

### The Problem With Texting

Wife texts husband on a cold winters morning:

**"Windows frozen."**

Husband texts back:

**"Pour some lukewarm water over it."**

Wife texts back:

**"Computer completely fried now."**

[Davy Crockett Lodge # 1225 A.F. & A.M](#)

**Stated Meetings— 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, Meal at 6:30;**

**Open Lodge at 7:30 for Business Meeting Masonic Philosophy and History during meeting.**

**Ritual Practice and Instruction 2<sup>nd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays.**

**Lodge of Instruction 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. 6:30 to 8PM**

***Join Us For Exceptional Fellowship and Instruction!!***

## Light Reflected

A monthly “opinion” by  
Brother Bradley Kohanke, 32

A couple of years ago while browsing in the gift shop at my church I ran across a sticker that said, “Be The Light.” Being a Mason, it held a profound meaning for me so I bought one and put it on the back of my truck. Every time I’d see it, I would be reminded of my Initiation, Passing, and Raising. But it did more than that. It got me thinking about “Light” and what it means to us as Masons.

If asked, I’d bet that the first answer that would come to mind would be “knowledge.” As we progress through our degrees, we ask for light, further light, more light...and each time we ask, we are quite literally brought from darkness to light. So, is this symbolic of our being brought from a state of ignorance to knowledge? And if so, knowledge of what?

Remember the passage from Genesis that reads, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light?”

So, interpreting this in a strictly literal sense, everything was dark until God spoke, and then the stars were lit and all was visible. What if we interpreted it differently? What if we looked at it symbolically or figuratively? What if “Let there be light” means let there be knowledge? And again if so, knowledge of what? Knowledge of the difference between good and evil? Wait a minute...now we’re getting into some pretty dicey stuff. In the Old Testament wasn’t it the serpent who tempted Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, telling her she would become like God? And didn’t Eve tempt Adam? And weren’t they kicked out of the Garden of Eden for that?

Relax guys...this baloney is the same stuff that the conspiracy theorists have been using for years to convince people that Freemasonry worships the “Light Bringer,” or Lucifer. Which by the way, is a name that didn’t even apply to the “Devil” until the middle ages.

So what are we talking about here? You’ve heard the old saying, “Ignorance is bliss,” why would we want to leave a state of bliss? To be frank, it doesn’t matter. What’s done is done. We can no easier go back to living in a state of blissful ignorance than we could go back to living in the Garden of Eden. However we attained it, knowledge is something that can’t be given back. So how about the old saying “Knowledge is power?” Is that what we mean by Light? Power? Come on, I don’t think any Mason believes that.

So...what does it mean if not knowledge or power? Let me recommend a possible explanation. “Light” in Masonic terms means choosing to use knowledge for good instead of evil and using the power of knowledge to promote reason over tyranny. As I’ve said many times, tyrants are constantly trying to use hate, ignorance, and fear to control the masses. It is our duty as Masons to continue to learn, to fight the good fight, and to be a beacon of hope to humanity.

A couple of years ago, I bought a bunch of these stickers. Each time we’ve Raised a Master Mason in our Lodge, I’ve pulled them aside after the Lodge was closed and presented them with a sticker. Along with it, I try to convey to them that as Master Masons, it is now their duty and privilege to continue their Masonic learning, to share what they learn with their brethren that we may all benefit, and to endeavor to learn the ritual and work in the degrees as much as possible. I ask them to put it in a place where they will see it and be reminded of this duty. I hope it has meant as much to them as it has to me.

I would now like to offer one of these stickers to any of you who would like one. I have them with me at every Lodge meeting. Ask and ye shall receive.



Well...that’s it for this month.

Bradley Kohanke  
JW – Davy Crockett #1225

## Upcoming Davy Crockett Light Brigade Programs

**The Light Brigade is a Davy Crockett Committee charged With the duty to present a program of Masonic Education or Masonic History at all Davy Crockett Stated Meetings.**

**Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Senior Warden Brother Wes O’Neill will present **Masonry in the Movies II** - join us for a night at the movies in the lodge and see how Masonry is portrayed on the silver screen. See the good, the bad and the un-Masonic from movies of yesterday, today and a preview of some to come! We'll have popcorn, movie clips and some trivia...we'll see you at the movies...uh ur Lodge!

**Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup>** – PM & Secretary Chris Williams will talk about the ins and outs, and the rights and wrongs, and the goods and the bads of elections and holding office in the Lodge.

**Tuesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Our new Worshipful Master Wes O’Neill will have the program to outline his vision for the new Masonic Year. I know he has a couple of surprises for all of us that I know you all will like. Come out and support our new Worshipful Master as he begins his year.

**Tuesday July 17<sup>th</sup>** – Davy Crockett Lodge is very honored and pleased to have Right Worshipful Mike Gower, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas who will present a program “What is Freemasonry”. We also look forward to making Rt Wor Gower a full member of the Davy Crockett Light Brigade.

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### June Birthdays

Walt Hammons  
Larry Bracken  
Albert Moreno  
Art Reyna

Chris Drzymala  
Robert Swann  
Gregorio Zamora  
Thomas Lawhon

Baldamar Castro  
Steven Hibdon  
Leslie Guilliams  
David Kass

William Sharp  
Richard Gutierrez  
Robert Waggener

Harry Greer  
Bart Martinez  
John Root

Orville White  
John Watson  
Gerald Morgner

**Happy Birthday Brothers!!**

## Masonic Did You Know?

*By W. Bro. Dwight Seals*

May 16th, 1842: On this Day, 170 years ago... The Texas Navy defeated the world's most advanced warships in a historic battle! The two most formidable warships ever built were in the Gulf of Mexico...bought and paid for by the Mexican government, and out to get the Texas Navy. The larger of the two frigates, Montezuma, was a wooden-hulled ironclad. Guadalupe was twenty feet shorter at 183 feet, but she had a special distinction. She was the first iron-hulled steam warship in the world. PLUS, she had two explosive shell firing Paixhan guns made everything else afloat obsolete. Exploding shells had never been used in Naval battle, ever.. and thus the men of the Texas Navy were not sure what they were facing. So how did the forces stack up? For the Mexican Navy, The Guadalupe was fully armed and equipped as a vessel of war, manned with a war complement of British SeamenThe Montezuma was also a vessel of War; she was manned with upwards of sixty British seamen, and had on board a thousand stand of small arms and munitions of war. Mexican Navy? Not exactly. It was, for all practical purposes, the world's BEST Navy at the time (the Royal Navy of Britain) hired by the government of Mexico... with a few token Mexican sailors on each ship.

The Texas Navy was a different story. It was under-funded by the Texas government (Sam Houston did not believe in a standing Army or Navy, and after all.. we were NOT at war with Mexico) to the point Commodore Edwin Moore of the Texas Navy was fighting his own government to keep the little Texian fleet afloat.

President Houston, newly returned to office, had ordered Moore to bring the fleet back from New Orleans to Galveston and sell it, but Commodore Moore was not going to sell the fleet. So instead he rented it out to the Yucatan, and sailed out of New Orleans on one great adventure. The Yucatecos were fighting against the Centralists in Mexico, just as the Texians had been six years earlier, and needed help to break the blockade of their coast. On May 16, 1843, the Texas flotilla, which consisted of the two Texas Navy ships and two Yucatan Navy ships (and a few smaller boats) encountered the English-Mexican marvels, and bravely moved in to fight. But suddenly, the wind died and the Texas vessels were left becalmed. Oh, did I mention that the Montezuma and Guadalupe were STEAMSHIPS? The two steam powered Mexican ships had the Texans like sitting ducks, and trained their enormous 48 and 62 pounders on them and kept up the fire for two hours. Then the wind picked up as suddenly as it had died, and Moore sailed the sloop-of-war Austin between the two steamers, where they could not fire without endangering each other.

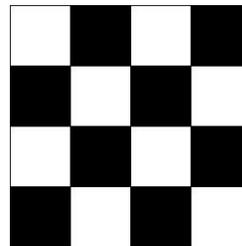
In this newly acquired position between the Mexican ships, the Texas Navy ship Austin got off 530 rounds of cannonade before the Mexican ships could disengage. Guadalupe suffered 47 killed and lost one of her paddles. Montezuma lost 40 men, including Captain Cleveland of the Royal Navy. Next panel.....

The Texas Navy ships took fewer casualties, but sustained more structural damage. When a third Mexican Steamer of War, the Regenerator, was spotted on the horizon on the way out to help the other two Mexican ships, Commodore Moore disengaged and set sail back to Galveston.

When he arrived, he was proclaimed a Texas Hero. Houston was so mad that Moore had not sold the ships, as he had ordered, he demanded that Moore be arrested as a pirate. Moore went to the Sheriff's office to turn himself in, but the Sheriff refused to arrest him. There is more to the story, but basically this was the final action of the Texas Navy. Now in possession of the few surviving Texas Navy Ships, Houston ordered the Texas Navy disbanded.. and everybody just went home.

The Battle of Campeche marked the first time exploding shells had been used in a naval engagement. It also marked the only time in history that Steamers of War were bested by sailing ships. But neither side was the clear winner. Interesting, but not surprisingly, both sides claimed victory. Mexico had a special medal made up for the Mexican sailors who had participated (and lived) and in Texas, people talked about the heroic exploits for decades afterwards, until the event was formally commemorated by none other than SAM COLT, when he had an engraving of a naval battle, with the words "Engaged 16 May, 1842" roll engraved on the cylinder of his new model 1851 pistol. The gun was forever more to be known as "The Navy Colt". What most folks who have seen the gun don't know that the "Navy" was the Texas Navy! Brother Commodore Edwin Ward Moore of the Texas Navy was a member of Harmony #6 in Galveston, Texas and was a D.D.G.M. in 1848. He also served on the Grand Lodge of Texas Finance Committee, and was the GL of Texas representative to the George Washington Memorial project. Brother Samuel Colt and Brother Sam Houston were also a members of the Masonic Fraternity.

### Symbolism Corner



#### **The Checkered Flooring**

*“The mosaic pavement in an old symbol of the Order. It is met with in the earliest rituals of the last century. It is classed among the ornaments of the lodge along with the indented tessel and the blazing star. Its party-colored stones of black and white have been readily and appropriately interpreted as symbols of the evil and good of human life.”*

## The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon

*A Monthly Masonic Educational Column*

By

*PM Chris Williams*

Anthony, a good friend and Brother from another Lodge had given me some tickets to the local Comedy Club where a friend of his was appearing. The friend was a hypnotist and Pam and I were meeting several of my Lodge Brothers there. As usual I was alternately checking my watch and asking Pam when she was going to be ready when the door bell rang. Thinking it must be one of my neighbors I opened the door and My expansive Brother John Deacon was standing there. "What the heck are you doing here John, I asked. Why didn't you call? "I was driving through on my way back home and not feeling good about driving another five hours and just decided to see if you were home. It was just a last minute decision. Looks like you and the Misses are going out so I will just catch you another time." Well what could I do? I said come on in John you are going out to the comedy club with us. He mumbled something about not intruding on our evening as he shouldered his way past me to give Pam a hug. Actually it worked out pretty good because she kinda brightened up and seemed to forget the last half hour of my pressuring her to get ready. As usual I had to drive faster than I had intended to get there. John complained all the way downtown about how hungry he was. I told him we were late and that they had food at the club..... I sure hoped they did. We got there in time after all and after meeting with the other Brothers of my Lodge Brother Anthony took us to the seats he had ready for all of us.....right up next to the stage. Sure enough there was a menu on the table and John grabbed it and waved at the server at the same time. I wasn't paying attention to him but soon she was sitting all kinds of stuff on the table in front of John. There was Jalapeno Poppers, and cheese fries with chili of course, Cheese Sticks. Chips and Queso and Salsa , a couple of plates that I could not identify in the low light of the club that he ate anyway. You know, all the healthy stuff. Yuck!!! I made a mental note to try to talk Brother Brad into taking John back to his hotel after the show because by the looks of things John was consuming it might be a rather aromatic trip about that time. .... .Next Panel

Right then the show started and the hypnotist came out and explained to everyone what he was going to do and said that those that volunteered to be hypnotized for the two hour show would get the benefits of about ten hours of really good sleep and asked for anyone who wanted to be part of the show to come up on stage. Just then I felt something brush by me and looked up to see John heading for the stage. I reached out and stopped him and asked him if he was sure he wanted to go up there since he was probably going to be told to do some really off the wall stuff. He said, Brother Chris, I haven't had a lick of sleep in two days and I sure need it and surely it can't be that bad. And with that he headed for the stage. What happened then no one could have predicted. I saw that Monica, one of the ladies from our group had gone to the stage along with my Brother Brad and his wife Crystal and Brother Jason. During the process of putting everyone to sleep, Gary the hypnotist saw that Brad had a sly grin on his face and wasn't responding to the suggestions to fall asleep so he pulled him up and sent him back to our table. In no time at all he had the rest of them fast asleep and leaning on one another. That's when the fun started. I haven't laughed so much in a long time. Over the next hour he had them watching Leprechauns running under their chairs and singing crazy songs. He told them that the person sitting next to them had passed gas and they were all giving each other mean looks and holding their noses. Then he told them all that they were driving and to grab the wheel and while all nine of them were casually driving their cars he told them that they had driven into a nudist colony and there were a bunch of naked people on their right. Well of course the guys were looking and the girls were peeking except one held up her hand to the side of her face and refused to look but John just about fell off his chair looking all around. If he had been really driving he would have crashed for sure. Whatever he saw it was clear that he liked it. Me and everyone else in the audience were almost falling off our chairs .....Go to page 6...

laughing at him. Gary then had all of them thinking that someone in the audience had the hots for them so they were smiling and winking and trying to attract whomever it was in the audience they thought was looking at them. Then he told all of them that the person next to them was thinking inappropriate thoughts about them. That was pretty funny because all the girls were clearly upset and disgusted but all the guys were smiling and happy except John who was the only guy who was sitting next to another guy. He was not happy at all. And when I thought I couldn't laugh any more each of them were given a specific task to perform when a certain word was said. All were pretty hilarious but when he told John that he was a male dancer at a bachelorette party for the ladies at the table in front of the stage Brother Brad and I just about lost it. His music came on and he jumped up and immediately pulled off his shirt and ..... watching my 270 pound Brother jiggle and gyrate shirtless across the stage towards the ladies' table it was hard to decide whether to laugh or cry. The ladies at the table were senior citizens for sure and were hootin and cackling up a storm. John danced (I guess you could call it dancing) over to their table and was gyrating his hips (Boy was he going to be sore the next day) and those ladies were loving it. Then he did something only John would do. As he was bent over the ladies' table just a dancing his rear end off he caught sight of a cheese stick sitting all by its lonesome on a plate and in the blink of an eye he grabbed it in his teeth and danced around the table chewing on that cheese stick and while I was shaking my head a little embarrassed the ladies and the rest of the audience were eating it up.....his performance that is. Mercifully, Gary finally went over and steered John back to his seat and made him put his shirt back on. With everyone pretty much laughed out he gave them some post hypnotic suggestions and told them that they would remember everything that happened and they would feel like they had 10 hours of sleep. Then he woke them all up and they returned to their tables all insisting that they had not been hypnotized..... including John. Gary thanked all the volunteers and told John not to give up his day job. He then recognized the Masons and Shriners in the audience and recognized all the good they do. As we were leaving I realized .....next panel

that John hadn't said anything in the last three hours that anybody would want to hear and of course he just finished ruining his reputation. Then he started complaining that he was hungry. He seemed puzzled since he had just had 5 plates of food .....and one extra cheese stick. I reminded him that he had just done a complete aerobic workout and worked off what he already ate. I said my goodbyes to the group and loaded Mr Chippendale up and headed for home. Of course we had to drive through a Whataburger so he could get a "triple cheese burger"...I didn't even know that they made a "triple". Anyway he ate in silence as we drove and when he was done I looked back at him and said, "Well?" After he returned a "Well what?" I reminded him that this was our only meeting of this month and I have readers that were out there hanging onto his every word. He looked at me like I was nuts and finally sat back and took a deep breath and said, "Brother Chris I want to talk about the forks." "Oh my gosh John, are you still hungry," I asked? "I am asking for some profound Masonic wisdom and you are fantasizing about eating utensils." He gave me a long sad look like he felt sorry for my lack of intelligence, slowly shook his head and said, "My poor, poor Brother Chris, do you believe that I only think about food....now cut that out (as he saw me nodding my head) and let me finish. I am talking about the forks in the road that the Great Architect of the Universe leads us up to every day." He saw the puzzled look on my face and said, "Don't change the channel on me Brother. Hang in there a little bit while I explain." His voice got real serious and he said, "Brother Chris, have you ever made a mistake?" Before I could answer, Pam let out her breath a little too strongly and shook her head...which didn't make me look that good. "Are you kidding John," I said glancing sideways at Pam. "I have made some doozies. Some I am not very proud of." "And have you ever made a mistake," he asked, "that was so bad that you thought that everyone would give up on you or you felt so bad that you thought you would never be able to make it right?" "Yup, I've been there before," I told .....go to page 9

# June 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday                              | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---|---|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
|        |        |   |   |          | 1                                   | 2        |
|        | 4      | 5<br>Stated Meeting<br>Program:<br>Wes O'Neill<br>Masons in the<br>Movies                         | 6<br>Called<br>Meeting to<br>Certify Officers                                       | 7        | 8                                   | 9        |
|        | 11     | 12<br><u>Practice or<br/>Degree</u>   | 13<br>Ritual & Degree<br>Practice   | 14       | 15                                  | 16       |
|        | 18     | 19<br>Stated Meeting<br>Program: Chris<br>Williams on<br>Lodge<br>Procedure<br>Lodge<br>Elections | 20<br>Ritual & Degree<br>Practice<br>Master,<br>Wardens &<br>Secretaries<br>Meeting | 21       | 22                                  | 23       |
|        | 25     | 26<br><u>Practice or<br/>Degree</u>   | 27<br>Davy<br>Crockett<br>Lodge of<br>Instruction                                   | 28       | 29<br>Davy Crockett<br>Installation | 30       |
|        |        |   |   |          |                                     |          |

# July 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|--|--|----------|--------|----------|
|        | 2      | 3<br><b>Stated Meeting</b><br>Program:<br><b>Wes O'Neill</b>   | 4<br>Lodge Dark<br><br>Independence Day          | 5        | 6      | 7        |
|        | 9      | 10<br><b>Practice or Degree</b>  | 11<br><br>Ritual & Degree Practice               | 12       | 13     | 14       |
|        | 16     | 17<br><b>Stated Meeting</b><br>Program:<br>Past Grand Master<br>Rt Wor Mike Gower<br>"What is<br>Freemasonry?" | 18<br><br>Ritual & Degree Practice               | 19       | 20     | 21       |
|        | 23     | 24<br><b>Family Night</b><br>Honoring all Wives<br>and Ladies of<br>Masons.<br>(Widows Degree)                 | 25<br><br>District 39<br>Lodge of<br>Instruction | 26       | 27     | 28       |
|        | 30     | 31   |  |          |        |          |

**JD From page 6 ..... him in a low voice. He smiled a knowing smile and said, Me too Brother....me too. But you know that we come to a fork in the road every day and sometimes many times every day and we have to make a decision. The cashier at the store gives us too much change or the person next to your car drops his wallet on the ground. Maybe the person at the drive through gave you an extra burger. These are all tests....forks in the road.” “I don’t see you giving back an extra burger,” I interrupted. “But I think I know what you mean.” “Like I said,” he growled giving me the evil eye. “These are forks in the road to see if you will make the right decision or the wrong one. And you know what, we always know before, what the right decision is but we still sometimes make the wrong decision or do the wrong thing. And when we do, and we fall, the big guy grabs our hand and picks us up and leads us back to that fork in the road and gives us another chance to do the right thing.” “The big guy???” I asked???** He gave me a stern look and pointed skyward and said, “Yup, he never gives up on us. No matter how many times we make the wrong decision. We always have another chance to learn the lesson he is trying to get us to learn. But if we keep fighting it and taking the wrong fork again and again he still will lead us right back to the fork and give us another chance. Some people never learn and keep falling and falling their whole life but most finally figure it out. Did you ever see that movie “Bull Durham”? Without waiting for my answer he went on, “Well this old catcher in the minor leagues was assigned to teach a rookie pitcher the ropes so he could move up to the majors. This rookie pitcher wanted to do things his way and to throw whatever pitch he wanted, when he wanted and he just couldn’t manage to get the hitters out but still he kept making those wrong decisions. Finally, every time the pitcher would refuse to throw what the Catcher asked for he would tell the hitter what the pitch was and of course the hitter would hit the heck out of it....usually a home run. Finally the pitcher figured it out and decided to throw exactly what the catcher called for and all of a sudden things got a lot better and soon he went up to the Major Leagues. He just decided to start making the right decisions. He could have made that decision a lot earlier and saved himself a lot of time but..... In the Grand Scheme of Things, the object is every time you come to a fork in the road you make the right decision without even thinking about it.” And it’s kinda like our Masonry. We Masons follow the rule and guide of the Great Architect of the Universe and Brothers always support one another and help them in all their distresses. That support system of Brothers who teach and who also learn by the good example and good council of .....next panel

other Brothers leads us to that ultimate goal of always making the right decision..... and doing the right thing without having to think about it first. And while we enjoy the benefits that doing the right thing provides, suddenly here comes another fork in the road and another chance to do the right thing. It’s all about the forks Brother Chris. HE (again pointing up) will always give you the opportunity to do the right thing but the final decision is yours and mine..... it always has been and always will be. Yes when everyone else gives up on you and even when you give up on yourself the Great Architect of the Universe never gives up on you. I have come to look forward to those forks in the road,” Brother Chris. “I enjoy having the opportunity to do the right thing. And the more I do, the better I feel.....about everything.” “Brother John,” I said. “I really enjoyed what you said and I will enjoy bringing your message to all the Brethren. Thanks for the lesson. Instead of going to a hotel why don’t you just sleep on our couch tonight?” “Thanks for the offer,” he said. “But other than feeling a little sore, which I can’t figure out, I feel great and wide awake. I am going to drive on home tonight.” Pam and I tried to talk him into staying but he shook my hand and gave Pam a hug and climbed into that big truck of his and headed for home. It was a good night and a good lesson and later just before I nodded off to sleep it came to me how much I have grown as a man and a Mason since I have known Big John Deacon and in spite of all of the frustration he causes me and trouble he gets into, I like him a lot. God bless you Brother John. I hope to see all of you next month.



**“Try as he might, Rex could not master the freemason handshake.”**

## A Masonic Tale

*"It was a tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up: 'I can tell you more about Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books. Everybody stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire.'*

They did that.

*"Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to you.'*

They did that too.

*"Now, what do you see, looking ahead.'*

*"The face of a Brother Mason through the flames.'*

*"What do you feel in front of you?"*

*"The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night.'*

*"What do you feel at your side?"*

*"The warm hand of a Brother.'*

*'OK. Now drop the hands and turn around.'*

They did so.

*'Now, what do you see, looking ahead?'*

*'Complete darkness.'*

*"What do you feel, looking ahead?"*

*'Complete darkness.'*

*'What do you feel, looking ahead?'*

*'A sense of loneliness, of being alienated.'*

*'What do you feel at your side?'*

*'Nothing at all.'*

*'What do you feel on your backside?'*

*"The warmth of the fire."*

*'So it is with Masonry,' said the old man. 'In Masonry gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of a Brother. When you turn away from Masonry and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone and are alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you.'*

# The Sunday Masonic Paper

Thanks to W Bro

*Wayne Anderson, FCF, MPS*

## The Inventors

By: R.W.Bro. Brad Fickling, DDGM London East District, Grand Lodge of Canada.

Tonight we focus on “The Inventors”, those men who used their intellect and imaginations for the betterment of mankind, men who truly were researching into the hidden mysteries of nature and science in their own fields of study. In the late 1700’s, Benjamin Franklin’s inventions revealed his natural curiosity about how things work and how to make them better. Ben Franklin was a member of St. John’s Lodge in Philadelphia PA. He had poor vision and needed glasses to read. He got tired of constantly taking them off and putting them back on, so he decided to figure out a way to make his glasses let him see both near and far. He had two pairs of spectacles cut in half and put half of each lens in a single frame, thereby inventing the bifocal. When his brother suffered from kidney stones, he developed a flexible urinary catheter to make him feel better, the first one produced in America. On his eight voyages across the Atlantic Ocean, Ben had time to learn about ships and how they worked. His idea of watertight compartments in the ships hold prevented many ships from sinking and saved many lives at sea. Everyone knows the story of Ben’s famous kite flight. Although he did not invent electricity, he did invent the lightning rod which protected buildings and ships from lightning damage. In colonial America, most people warmed their homes by building a fire in the fireplace even though it was dangerous and used a lot of wood. Ben figured a better way by inventing an iron furnace we know call a Franklin stove. He also invented the first fire company and the first fire insurance company to help people live more safely. As postmaster, he invented a simple odometer to keep track of distances on his routes.

In the 1840’s, Edward Jenner, a member of Faith and Friendship Lodge # 270 in Berkeley U.K., gave the world his vaccination for smallpox. This disease was greatly feared at the time as it killed one in three of those who caught it and badly disfigured those who were lucky enough to survive it. Jenner was a country doctor who had studied nature and his natural surroundings since childhood. He had been fascinated by a rural old wives tale that milkmaids could not get smallpox, but only a weak version of it. He observed that milkmaids developed blisters on their hands when they got smallpox and the puss in those blisters somehow protected them. By injecting this puss into a healthy young boy and then injecting him with smallpox, he made his brilliant discovery for the vaccination of smallpox. Jenner did not patent his discovery as it would have made the vaccination more expensive and out of the reach of many. It was his gift to the world. In London England in 1844, 8,048 people died of smallpox in that year. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared smallpox was extinct throughout the world, thanks to Edward Jenner.

In 1907, the Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Albert A. Michelson, a member of Washington Lodge # 21 in New York City. His invention of an interferometer was able to measure the velocity of light and able to demonstrate that light travels at a constant speed. His work helped establish the use of range finders used by the Navy in wartime. In the same year of 1907, Canadian John McLaughlin of Cedar Lodge # 270 G.R.C., invented the modern Canada Dry version of ginger ale. His mass bottling technique created a very successful sales campaign of that well known label of a map of Canada and a picture of a beaver.

In 1928, Scottish biologist Sir Alexander Fleming, made a discovery that would change the course of history. The active ingredient in a mould he named penicillin, turned out to be an infection fighting agent of enormous potency. The most important life saving drug in the world, penicillin would alter forever the treatment of bacterial infections. By the middle of the century, Fleming’s discovery had spawned a huge pharmaceutical industry, churning out synthetic penicillins that would conquer some of mankind’s most ancient scourges, including syphilis, gangrene and tuberculosis. Sir Alexander Fleming held Grand Office in the United Grand Lodge in England.

Throughout the 1920’s, 30’s and 40’s, Vannevar Bush was an active mason with the Richard C. Maclaurin Lodge for members of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was an American engineer and science administrator known for his work on analog computing, his role in the Manhattan Project developed the nuclear bomb and introduced the idea of memex, a memory bank that preceded development of the world wide web. Bush was a well

known policy maker and public intellectual during WWII where he became the first presidential science advisor. He coordinated the activities of six thousand leading scientists in the application of science to warfare.

In the 1970's, an American computer engineer and programmer Steve Wozniak founded Apple Computers with the late Steve Jobs and Ronald Wayne. Wozniak helped create the Apple I and Apple II computers that contributed greatly to the microcomputer revolution of that era. Steve Wozniak is a member of Charity Lodge #362 in Campbell CA. His latest claims to fame though are appearing on Dancing with the Stars and playing himself in an episode of the hit television series Big Bang Theory.

In conclusion, these are but a few of a long list of masons who have made significant contributions to their communities, their countries and to the world. These were men who used their intellectual powers to become useful members of society, and like skillful craftsmen, strived to excel in what is good and great.

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## **The Spoon:**

**A lesson on how consultants can make a difference in an organization. Very Impressive!**

**Last week, we took some friends to a new restaurant, ' Steve's Place,' and noticed that the waiter who took our order carried a spoon in his shirt pocket.**

**It seemed a little strange.**

**When the busboy brought our water and utensils, I observed that he also had a spoon in his shirt pocket.**

**Then I looked around and saw that all the staff had spoons in their pockets. When the waiter came back to serve our soup I inquired, 'Why the spoon?'**

**'Well, he explained, 'the restaurant's owner hired Andersen Consulting to revamp all of our processes. After several months of analysis, they concluded that the spoon was the most frequently dropped utensil. It represents a drop frequency of approximately 3 spoons per table per hour.**

**If our personnel are better prepared, we can reduce the number of trips back to the kitchen and save 15 man-hours per shift.'**

**As luck would have it, I dropped my spoon and he replaced it with his spare. 'I'll get another spoon next time I go to the kitchen instead of making an extra trip to get it right now.' I was impressed.**

**I also noticed that there was a string hanging out of the waiter's fly.**

**Looking around, I saw that all of the waiters had the same string hanging from their flies. So, before he walked off, I asked the waiter, 'Excuse me, but can you tell me why you have that string right there?'**

**"Oh, certainly!' Then he lowered his voice. 'Not everyone is so observant.**

**That consulting firm I mentioned also learned that we can save time in the restroom.**

**By tying this string to the tip of our you-know-what, we can pull it out without touching it and eliminate the need to wash our hands, shortening the time spent in the restroom by 76.39%.**

**I asked quietly, ' After you get it out, how do you put it back?'**

**'Well,' he whispered, 'I don't know about the others, but I use the spoon.'**

# JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2012

## DAVY CROCKETT LODGE #1225

PRESENTS

# THE WIDOWS DEGREE

**HONORING ALL WIVES AND LADIES OF MASONS**

Brethren, If your Wife or Lady has not received the Masonic Widows Degree then she has been deprived of one of the greatest honors to a Masonic Lady and definitely one of the most enjoyable and fun experiences ever in a Masonic Lodge.

Please register your Masonic Wife or Lady no later than Tuesday July 17<sup>th</sup> at [c-williams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c-williams@sbcglobal.net).