



# THE TRESTLEBOARD



Volume 4, Issue 1

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

August 2011

## **\*\*From The East\*\***

By Patrick Giles Worshipful Master

Brethren,

It's only been a short time since installation and the beginning of the new Masonic year and I think we seem to be off to a good start. I just want to let you know of a few things we have on the agenda. Firstly, the Widows program, I wanted to let myself and the two Worthy Matrons to get settled in, now that I think we have I will be pushing forward with that project and I will need everyone's assistance. We also will have some proficiencies and degrees coming up. Our first Family Night is scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup> for which we plan to go bowling. I will be making visits to Lodges in our area and while the membership is not required to attend, you are more than welcome to attend, I request that you do let me know if you want to so I can extend the courtesy of notifying the Master of that Lodge how many will be attending. I will be attending Community Lodge on August 8<sup>th</sup> and Helotes on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Bro. Secretary and myself have worked out an agenda to streamline our meetings, to help with that I refer you to page 14 of book 4 of the Texas Lodge System of Candidate Information and request that you extend the courtesy of notifying the Secretary or myself beforehand (at least 1 day) of any motions you intend to offer. While not necessary it is a courtesy, this will further streamline our meetings and make them more productive. It has been mentioned that our "trophy case" needs to be revamped or replaced, on that note I ask that any brethren with wood working skills who would like to discuss this project contact me on the subject. Bro. PM Keith Reynolds District Instructor for District 39B is holding a Lodge of Instruction for opening and closing all 4 Lodges and handling motions and balloting, it is open to all Master Masons and Officers in the 39<sup>th</sup> district and other Districts and your participation is earnestly solicited as is your attendance at our Stated and Called meetings. Come on out and enjoy a fun and satisfying Lodge experience.

## **Upon the Secretary's Desk!**

by Chris Williams Secretary

Greetings to all. You probably noticed that we had Brother Dan Mason's program presentation last month but it seems that we did not have our Worshipful Master's program. It is not a mis-print in the calendar. On July 19<sup>th</sup> we received our DDGM Rt Worshipful Elliott Samuels for his scheduled visit and he had asked that we have no other programs that evening so we just pushed all the scheduled programs back to the next Stated Meeting. So if you think you missed the "Why Square Your Work" program... you have another chance to hear it. It is a good one. I hope we have a good turnout to the first Stated Meeting this month because there are several issues that have been delayed due to time constraints. The WM has given me permission to deliver a short talk on the State of our Lodge. This is something that we all should hear for the future of our Lodge.

## **This Months Humor**

(What Not to Buy Your Wife)

My husband, being unhappy with my mood swings, bought me a mood ring the other day so he would be able to monitor my moods.

We've discovered that when I'm in a good mood, it turns green. When I'm in a bad mood, it leaves a big red mark on his forehead.

Maybe next time he'll buy me a diamond.

. 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> Wednesdays 6:30 to 8PM**

*Join Us For Exceptional Fellowship and Instruction!!*

## **\*\*\*\*\*STATED MEETING PROGRAMS \*\*\*\*\***

**Stated Meeting 8-2-11**

**Program**

**"Why Square Your Work?"**

**A Fresh Look at Masonic Symbolism**

**Presented By**

**Our WM Brother Patrick Giles**

**Stated Meeting 8-16-11**

**Program**

**"A Little Bit of Brit Wit"**

**"Tonight We Laugh at Ourselves"**

**Presented By**

**Bro Brad Kohanke**

**Stated Meeting 9-6-11**

**Program**

**"Symbolism of the Fellowcraft Degree"**

**What is the Degree All About?**

**Presented By**

**PM Brother Chris Williams**

## Light Reflected

A monthly "opinion" by  
Brother Bradley Kohanke, 32

So...the first thing you behold upon reading my article this month is that I have changed the title. I suppose the next part should be an explanation as to why (this sounds familiar to me). Anyway, because I intend to tackle some touchy subjects, and because I want to reiterate that these are my opinions on said topics, I changed the name to "Light Reflected." This alludes to the idea that I have received light, reflected upon it, and then shared my own interpretation of it. So much for that.

Prepare yourselves because I am about to make some of you angry. Those of you that were in Lodge the night of the DDGM visit heard what I chose as my reading from the Law Book; for those of you who weren't there it can be found on page 57 under "The Charges of a Freemason" section I "Concerning God and Religion." In order to be brief and get to the point of this month's article, I will paraphrase the section I want to focus on. Masonry requires that a man believe in those religious tenets to which all major religions agree; "...to be good men and true, or men of honor and honesty, by whatever denomination or persuasions they may be..." This way, Masonry becomes the one place where all men can come together in unity and equality, leaving their differences at the door and focusing only on those things that bind us together. It allows men who would normally be kept apart by religious intolerance to come together in a safe environment.

Now comes the tough part. Freemasonry is not a Christian organization that "tolerates" other religions. Freemasonry is not a religion at all. We do require a belief in Deity, a belief in the brotherhood of man, and a belief in the immortality of the soul...but that does not make us a religion. An oath taken before Deity is binding to the believer, brotherly love is the basic objective of the Fraternity, and eternal salvation is the goal of every believer. Freemasonry focuses on how to act in the "here and now" and leaves the requirements for achieving eternal salvation to each individual's chosen faith. Before I go any further, let me tell you something about me that you may not know. I believe in the teachings of Jesus. So much so that a few years ago I became an Ordained Minister (albeit a Unitarian Minister). So before you think I am jumping on the "political correctness bandwagon" and bashing Christianity; that is not the case. We've all heard about how "under God" was left out of the Pledge of Allegiance before the U.S. Open, and most of us have heard the rumor that the VFW is going to require written requests prior to funerals if prayers are going to be said. This is all as offensive to me as it is most of you. But what prompted me to write about this topic was something that actually happened to me while I was attending another Lodge.

I was speaking to a brother from that Lodge who was explaining to me that they had just initiated a new brother into the Fraternity who was a Sikh. He then leaned in closely, put his hand on my knee and said in a reassuring tone, "But it's ok, his wife is a Christian." I was appalled. I've diligently studied the various religions of the world in my own personal search for over 30 years. Let me tell you briefly what Sikhs believe. From page 24 of The Kids Book of World Religions, "...there is only one God;" people "...can serve God by caring for each other, by living and honest life, and by working hard. All people are equal...and all [souls] can obtain mukti (liberation) [from the cycle of reincarnation]..." and become one with God. This sounds like he meets the initial qualifications for membership to me.

Let me tell you something. We are allowing ourselves to drift slowly away from the principle reasons our beloved Fraternity exists! Freemasonry is the one place where we can all come together as equals and prove to the world we can live in peace and harmony. This great Nation was founded on those principles. Those of you who have done any research into the Founding Fathers know this to be true. All were of the opinion that the separation of church and state was essential to proving we could all live together peacefully. That is what makes this Country great...and why it is referred to as "The Great Experiment." Freemasonry must stay true to its roots and so must the United States. This is the only way for us to prove to the world once and for all that people of all persuasions can live together in peace.

Let me leave you with a quote from George Washington himself. After it had been observed that while in office Washington had never once officially acknowledged a belief in the Christian religion, the New Church of Baltimore wrote to him and demanded that he disclose once and for all whether or not he was a Christian. This was his response:

*"We have abundant reason to rejoice that in this Land the light of truth and reason has triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition...In this enlightened Age and in this Land of equal liberty it is our boast, that a man's religious tenets will not forfeit the protection of the Laws, nor deprive him of the right of attaining and holding the highest Offices that are known in the United States."*

So was he a Christian? Probably. But what difference does it make as long as he believed in Deity, brotherly love, and the immortality of the soul. He is referred to as the "Father of Our Country," and it is obvious to me that he felt it was no one's business but his own what his religious persuasion was. I, as a Mason, believe in that as well...I think we all should.

## The Brother That Nobody Knew

Today we buried a Brother;  
a Brother that nobody  
knew

The ceremonies were very  
brief; attended by very few

I looked at the small crowd  
gathered, and I thought  
"what a shame"  
Nobody recognized his  
face, only a few  
remembered his name.

He never attended our  
meetings, the fellowship  
passed him by.  
When the last breath of life  
left his body, nobody was  
there to cry.

We extended the full  
ceremonies, the few of us  
that were there.  
The sand, the flowers, the  
Apron, did anyone really  
care?

He did not share his life  
with us, he had other  
things to do  
So is it any wonder that  
his death was shared by  
few?

Are you just a name on a  
roster, we hear from once a  
year  
When you reach your final  
hour, would you want your  
Brothers near?

Will you be satisfied to  
leave this world without  
your due?  
Today we buried a Brother;  
a Brother that nobody  
knew.

Author Unknown

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***"Masonry gives us all  
a chance to do and to  
be"***

--Carl M. Claudy PGM

## The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon

The day started out well enough and then just before the lunch hour I got a call from a guy with the absolute worst Russian accent I have ever heard. He wanted to know about some work on his truck...heh heh.... yeah right. I just knew it was John. I wasn't rude to him but I was intentionally vague and at one point I asked what part of Russia he came from and kind of chuckled as I said it. He said he was from the Republic of Georgia and I asked if everyone from Georgia talked like him. He seemed a little puzzled by my questions and I could sense he was getting a little irritated with my attitude and of course I was doing it on purpose. He asked me another question and I started to give him another dig about his accent when I happened to glance up and ..... Ohhhhhh Crap!!!! John Deacon was walking in the door..... and he wasn't on the phone. Man oh man!!! I started stuttering and stammering and apologizing to my customer. The more I tried to explain what I had done to him the more confused he got, and the more confused he got the more frustrated he got. After about 10 minutes of trying to make him understand that I wasn't making fun of HIM he finally agreed to bring his truck in and I got off the phone. John had been talking to Roger while I was eating a rather large helping of crow and commented to me that I might need to work on my customer service skills because I didn't do a good job communicating with my customer. Yes, you are right if you think I wanted to strangle him right then. I had been sure it was John on the phone and that had gotten me into deep kimshee with my customer. "Let's go get some lunch," I growled. "And you are buying, period." I stomped out the door with him following with a confused look on his face. We took my truck because I needed to stop by my house and pick up some papers I had left there and he whined and moaned the whole way about how hungry he was. Except for his complaining he didn't say much while we were driving which was not the normal John. He followed me into the house to have a glass of water while I searched for my papers. I finally found what I was looking for and as I walked back towards the kitchen I could see my big hound dog Nicki staring at something in the kitchen and I swear there was a look of disbelief on her face. When I rounded the corner and walked into the kitchen I saw that the whole kitchen table was completely covered with containers of leftovers and John had his head inside my fridge and all I could see was his rather large rear end staring at me. He jumped and bumped his head on one of the shelves when I yelled his name, "John, what the heck are you doing?" He turned around with a startled look on his face and I saw he had a fried chicken leg hanging out of his mouth and two more containers of something in his hands. He crossed to the table and sat the food down and pulled the leg out of his mouth and said, "Brother Chris, you've got a lot, and I mean a lot, of good stuff in there. Let's just eat here." Ok readers, I need to explain some things here so you don't get the wrong idea about my fridge. Pam and I work a lot of hours and then there are all my Lodge activities and there is not very much time left to cook at home so Next Panel.....

we don't do much. The result is that we eat out frequently and most of the time we can't eat all of the large portions they give you at the restaurants and we end up with many containers of leftovers sharing space (most of the space actually) with the milk, juice, mayo, jelly and everything else. So there I was, watching John clean out my fridge, eating as he went with a constant jabbering of "oh my gosh, I can't believe you have this in here, this is soooo good, and look at this, I love this stuff, and ..... and then he stopped all of a sudden and slowly pulled out an empty wrapper that had contained .... something ..... and he looked at me and down at the empty wrapper and with a straight face said, "Brother Chris, I think something ate something else." We just stood there looking at each other and that empty wrapper. I saw it in his eyes just before he started to chuckle and I couldn't help it and I started laughing. I finally had to snatch the empty wrapper out of his hands and throw it away and he immediately went back to removing more stuff. When he finally sat down at the table there was no place to put our drink glasses. I just sat there in total awe as he first opened something, secondly smelled it and apparently it took a couple of seconds of looking straight ahead for the information to get from his nose to his brain and back down to his mouth and if the information was good he ate all of what was in that container. There was some Chicken Alfredo and Half of a Chicken Fried Steak which he popped in the microwave while he finished off a cucumber salad that Pam had left in there from the night before. Boy, she was not going to be happy about that. Nikki just sat there watching John with drool flowing out of the corners of her mouth. Then he opened up a Styrofoam container that had some Beef and Chicken Fajitas which he heated up and went back to the fridge to look for some Tortillas which to my surprise he found. I kept grabbing the empty wrappers and containers to throw away and the plastic ones went in the sink to wash and little by little I could see the top of the table again. I glanced over as he opened a plastic bowl and I saw there was several left over pork chops ..... and I sure do like those pork chops. I reached across to grab one and I nearly lost a couple of fingers. Yup, he growled and snapped at me like a dog. I looked at John and then at Nikki and they were just staring at each other.... She was just waiting for him to drop something but she didn't know John. Nothing was going to be dropped. Yup, it was just one dog staring at another dog. I began to think that I was probably not going to get anything to eat. I opened the fridge to see if I could snatch something that he had missed but there was nothing in there left to eat unless I wanted orange juice or mustard. He had totally cleaned it out. So I went back a sat at the table and glared at him until he grudgingly slid a couple of chunks of some BBQ Brisket and one scraggly pork chop my way. ....Go to page 5.....

## MOTIVATING THE MASON AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN

**Duncan C. Howard, Past Grand Master-Texas**

Howard Hill, the famous bow hunter, says that unless you know the habitat and the nature of the game you hunt you are not hunting at all, you're just walking in the woods. Our discussion will include some background in the habitat of citizenship and some discussion of the nature of Masonry and the principles of motivation, or else we're just talking in the woods.

Along with the word 'motivation', I've been thinking of another word, and this word is 'motivator'. Both words come from the Latin 'motivus' and both words mean 'motion or movement'. When we think of a motivator we think of someone who is capable of generating an action within him and then cause others to move around him. A motivator is always where the action is, because the motivator causes the, action that surrounds him.

Psychologists tell us that 94% of us just sit around and wait for something to happen, while 6% of the population are the motivators that make the something happen for us. What moves the motivator? What is this thing called motivation that sets him on fire with such a spontaneous combustion that he causes others to burn, too? Let's say that its imagination, or let's say it is determination to reach those goals which he himself considers a success in life. Or, let's say he is a dreamer and that he dreams of things as they could be and something inside says; "Why not?" Then, something says; "Why not now?"

The ability of a motivator and his energy are not as important as the excitement that is in him, because when people become excited others around them get excited, too, whether it be at a football game, a church revival, or in a Lodge meeting. But the dreams of the motivator can be good, or the dreams of the motivator can be bad. And while the dreams of our forefathers who founded this free nation were good, the dreams of the Communists can destroy our free world.

Masonry is the stuff from which good dreams come. It dreams of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Men; and it dreams of law and order, and good citizenship in state, community and nation. No one seriously believes that Masonry has a monopoly on good citizenship. But the Masonic dream became the American dream as the early Masons in this nation faced the problems of a wild frontier. But they had imagination and they had motivation.

They had motivation for law and order; and they had motivation for better living in their community. These early pioneer Masons became the motivators to establish free schools, free churches and Freemasonry wherever they lived. This is our inheritance from the past and we are proud of it, because no citizen in history ever 'had it so good' as we here in America, today, and even though America has its faults, since its citizens are human, let us not forget that this is earth we live on and that our country is the best that men have ever devised. The Masonic dream is the best dream for Masons tonight, and if enough Masons will dream, it can stay as the American dream for tomorrow. But, to maintain freedom we still need the motivations that our forefathers had. We still need to be motivators like our forefathers were, and we still need the dedication to stand up and be counted as our fathers did. The habitat of citizenship involves all people living within our country or community of government, the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the Mason, and the non-Mason. All citizens receive benefits from society, and all citizens owe a debt of obligation for the benefits they have received. In America we say that we live in a free society. We say that we are free to make our own decisions. But a free society depends, for the sake of its freedom, on whether its citizens will behave in such a manner that ...

that their actions are considerate of other people. In America we operate from a sense of pride in the things that are good for all people.

We operate from a certain feeling of patriotism, or love of country in return for the privileges of being free citizens in a free nation.

If we were asked to pay our debt to America we would all become bankrupt, because so many good things have happened to us because of our American citizenship that we will -always be in debt to our country, and this alone, should motivate any Mason as a private citizen. As Masons we recognize the foundation of the American way of life to begin in the family unit. This is our first duty of citizenship-to our family, and if Masonry is to effectively motivate its persons and members as private citizen, it must start with the family unit. How about some family gatherings? Not just family Lodge suppers and entertainment, but special family gatherings so that everyone can learn some of the history and some of the purposes of Masonry, and so that Masons can learn from their own families what is needed in their community to make their, community a better place for family living. These special family gatherings can take as many shapes and forms as imagination can produce.

We talk about a 'generation gap'. There should never be this type 'generation gap' in the circle of Masonry. If there is, then our family meetings can help solve it, and Masons can, within their family group, become motivated to assist youth in either DeMolay, Rainbow or many others to the needs of an individual community.

The second duty of citizenship involves those things which strengthens our local community and makes it a better place for ourselves and our families to live. It is an old truth that when you brag on someone he will do his best to try and repeat it. Lodges can motivate by programs of appreciation for Masons who are good community leaders, from City Council to Baseball Coaches; from School Board Members to Animal Shelter Workers; and any other thing that a citizen is doing to directly contribute to the betterment of his community. These are all high pressure, non-salaried jobs and these Masons show an unselfish dedication to work free when many other citizens 'pass the buck'. They are called upon time after time to serve their community and too often they are criticized for being 'a clique' and trying to run things in their own way, but the hearts of Masons are with them as they practice out of the Lodge those things that they have been taught to do while they were in it.

There is another side of this motivating process, and that is that 'birds of a feather flock together', and these good Masonic citizens, who are serving on School Boards and committees can attract others to become Masons, too. This is how Masonry transfers hardhearted citizens into softhearted brothers through these personal communications. And then, these other private citizens, a Masonic instructed people can become better citizens, too. Masonry is nonpolitical and it has existed under King, Prince and Potentate. None of our teachings, ever stressed one form of government or the other, but century after century, and year after year, within our walls we have taught the principles of democracy. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to support freedom for your country and still be involved with the principles of Masonry. Continued on page 8.....

I gave him a sarcastic sideways look which he totally ignored and ate while I had the chance. I could see that he was slowing down a bit and finally ..... when there was nothing else..... he let out a big sigh and said, "Brother Chris, we need to eat here more often. That was awful good and it is quiet and nobody is bothering us." "Yeah, right," I replied. "You are full and I'm still hungry. If you have got anything to talk about this month you better get to it because I have to get back to work." He said, "I am in distress (which didn't surprise me considering how much he had just eaten) and something happened last week that really bothered me and I guess I need to vent. But first I need to wash my hands." When he got back I had rummaged through the pantry and found a box of old fashioned oatmeal and raisin cookies and was sitting at the table chewing on one when he got back. He got a shocked look on his face and accused me of eating dessert behind his back to which I informed him that while we were in fact Brothers and I did love him, I could eat anything I wanted anytime I wanted. Of course he just stood there glaring at me until I handed over the box and that was the end of the cookies. "I noticed that you were quieter than usual," I said. "Are you ok, John?" "No I am not," he said quietly. I am in a little distress and I really need to vent to someone." "Sorry John," I said quickly. "You go ahead and be the venter and I will be your ventee so vent away." I was trying to joke with him but he was not in a joking mood. He sat there looking out the window for a few seconds before speaking. Then he started talking slowly with a voice so low that I had to lean towards him slightly to hear him. "Brother Chris," he said. "I was in a Lodge the other night just visiting and the Chaplain gave the prayer and when he finished, instead of in the name of God or the Supreme Architect of the Universe he ended it with in the name of Jesus. What was worse is that I was the only one in the Lodge that seemed to be concerned about it." "You are kidding me for sure, aren't you," I said. "What did you do?" "Well, after the meal and before we went into Lodge I took the Chaplain aside who I have known forever and asked him why he did it and he said that he was a Christian and that's the way Christians pray. I told him that he couldn't do that in a Masonic Lodge and he got confrontational and said that was the way he was going to do it and if they didn't like it they could kick him out of Masonry." Brother Chris when he said that I just snapped and said to him, "Then let me have your dues card and you can go ahead and leave." The Brother just stood there and looked at me with a dazed look on his face and finally he asked, "Are you serious John? You know that Masonry is my life." I shook my head, collected my thoughts and I said to him, "I do realize that my Brother but it seems that you have somehow either lost your way or you just don't get it. You do realize that what you did not only is against the Grand Lodge Law of every Grand Lodge in this Country but it violates one of the most basic tenants of Masonry?" "But John it's the way I do it," he said. "And all the Brothers in this Lodge are Christians anyway so I don't see what the big deal is." I noticed a few Brothers had gathered around us and were listening to the conversation. ...(next panel).....

I started feeling a little uncomfortable but I pushed on, "I just want to ask you something Brother Chaplain. What if there was a Brother in the room right then who was not a Christian. Being your Brother he may not have been offended by what you did but the fact is that you just left him out of the prayer. Brothers do not ever leave their Brothers out. Brother Chris, he just looked at me with a hurt look on his face and then without saying anything he turned and walked into the Lodge. I felt terrible right then and I had surely upset the peace and harmony of the Lodge but gol darnit, he was wrong and somebody needed to say it. Anyway we all went into Lodge and when it came time the Chaplain read the standard prayer at opening and without mentioning any God at all he paused for a couple of seconds and then said, Amen. I met his eyes across the Lodge Room and just shook my head. I could see he was deep in thought but he still didn't get it so at the appropriate time I stood up and addressed the WM and the Wardens and I said, "Brethren, Masonry treats every man the same regardless of his age, his race, his financial level, his class, his political views, or his religious affiliation. In Masonry no man is better or worse than another. It follows then that Masonry regards no religion better or worse than another. Praying to God or the Supreme Architect of the Universe and not to your God specifically is not intended to, nor does it lower the importance or significance of your faith. It is to show that just as all Masons meet upon the level so are all faiths equal and welcome within Masonry. Masonry doesn't care what your chosen faith is. It only cares that a Mason believes in God and you all know that. You may call your God anything you wish. That's why Masonry works my Brothers. I assure you there are men out there, good men, and maybe also good Brothers who are not of the same faith as you who, if they chose to or if they have wanted to come to Lodge or maybe wanted to join Masonry would change their minds because of the prayer that was offered here tonight. That's why Masonry works my Brothers. I assure you there are men out there, good men, and maybe also good Brothers who are not of the same faith as you who, if they chose to or if they have wanted to come to Lodge or maybe wanted to join Masonry would change their minds because of the prayer that was offered here tonight. I then thanked the WM and sat down. Before he could say anything the Chaplain slowly stood and after being recognized he apologized to the Lodge for forgetting how to be a Mason and thanked me for turning on the light again. You could tell that he really felt bad. When he sat down, one of the Brothers who had been listening to our conversation outside the door rose to his feet. He was having trouble coming up with the right words and he finally said that he was in fact not of the same faith as all the Brothers in the Lodge and he said that he loved the Lodge and he loved his Brothers and though he never was offended by the previous prayers, he did in fact feel like he was ..... next page.....

excluded from them. He thanked the Brother Chaplain for being a good Brother. A couple of other Brothers stood and thanked the Chaplain for doing the right thing. It all turned out OK in the end so I am glad I said something.” “Oh WOW, John,” I said smiling and shaking my head. “What a great story. So what are you down in the dumps about?” “I just can’t help thinking that there are more Lodges and more of our Brothers out there who have lost their way also,” he replied sadly. “You don’t think they are doing it to purposely hurt the Fraternity, do you,” I asked? He thought about it for a few seconds before he said, “I do think is it on purpose but not to hurt Masonry. I think that the Brothers who do this don’t fully understand what they are doing and haven’t even thought about the damage it can and will do to their Lodge, the Fraternity and to themselves as Masons. I really think it goes back to Masonic Education or the lack of it. There are so many Brothers out there who don’t have a clue about what Masonry stands for and it’s not because they don’t want to know. It’s that our Lodges have become supper clubs instead of learning institutions like they were meant to be. It’s nobody’s fault but our own.” “But John,” I asked hesitantly, “There are only 10 to 15% of all the Brothers that are Masons that come to Lodge. How are you going to teach all of them?” The reality is that we are never going to teach all Brothers,” he answered. “But the ones that come to Lodge can and need to get a steady diet of Masonic education. And it can be done at every Stated Meeting in a way that is not only informative and interesting but also entertaining. I know this is true because we are doing it at our Lodge and it is working well. I know the Brothers want to learn the lessons in Masonry. We just have to provide those lessons. If we do this, many of our absent Brothers will come back to Lodge. We also have to make them understand that Masonry is not about just one thing. The basic tenants of Freemasonry, free thinking, freedom of expression, freedom to worship how you choose, and the bond of Brotherly love are all elements of the whole of Freemasonry. It’s like that glue. You know that glue, right? “Glue? ... Glue? Good Lord John,” I said. “I hate it when you go off on all these analogies. What the heck are you talking about?” He fixed me with a hard stare while he was thinking and then the light came back on, “Epoxy... that’s the glue. It’s like Epoxy.” (I was rolling my eyes and twirling my finger in a circle on the side of my head which made him glare at me even more) You know how Epoxy has two or more ingredients that you have to mix together to make the glue stick? Each ingredient by itself won’t glue anything together. But when all the ingredients are put together it will hold together and never break apart. Masonry, my confused Brother is a lot like that.” “Ok John,” I said. “I get it and I agree with you. Do you feel better now that you got all that off your chest?” “Awww not really,” he answered. “I needed to say it to someone but the problem isn’t getting any better. Something needs to be done and it falls to all of us to do it. We can’t wait for someone else to do it. “I really do agree John,” I said. “And I’ve got to get back to work so load it up.” He didn’t say much on the trip back to the shop. He just sat there staring out of the window. If I had eaten what he ate I wouldn’t have been able to talk either..... or walk... or anything else but that wasn’t his problem He just had a lot on his mind I suspect. Just as I drove into the parking lot at the shop he said, “Brother Chris I am thankful that I have you to talk to about all these things. When I have something I need to say you are there to listen and I thank you for that.” I just smiled and nodded. “Brother John, it does me as much good as it does you. I really enjoy talking to you too.” I hope y’all enjoy it too. Have a great month everyone. .... Chris

## Traveling Man In Masonry

(From the Small Town Texas Lodge Newsletter)  
Thanks to Brother Corky Daut

In the ancient world of Operative Masonry the masons were often required to move from job to job much as in our modern time. It was further explained that ancient master masons, just as 1st class masons of today of today, were more likely to travel great distances than those of lesser ranks (FC & EA). Due to their experience (and today, usually a membership in the labor union representing the craft) they could move freely from job to job. Those doing so were normally members of a Masonic guild, whose members would, if known, vouch for the qualifications of (or recommend) another 'traveling' mason.

In speculative masonry we as Master Masons may freely move from Lodge to Lodge (either visiting or moving membership) and upon proper avouchment or by testing be found worthy to attend another Master Mason Lodge. This is much the same as moving from one job to another or from one ancient Masonic guild to another. Also, a Master Mason is a traveler from west to east, as east is the where the sun comes up, hence the source of light. This is why the master sits in the East. Because it is the source of light. Thus being a traveling man represents our journey from darkness to Masonic light (enlightment). We "traveled" symbolically when we were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Remember the words, "It will be necessary for you to travel"? and the condition of the road we would have to travel?

In Masonry we are told to seek the light. Light in Masonry is knowledge and from that knowledge comes information and understanding.

# Calendar for July and August

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Stated Meeting (The Program for this meeting will be “Why Square Your Work?” presented by Wor Master, Bro Patrick Giles. This is an original and fresh look at Masonic Symbolism.)**

**August 9<sup>th</sup> – Practice or Degree**

**August 16<sup>th</sup> – Stated Meeting (The Program for this meeting will be “A Little Bit of Brit Wit” presented by Brother Brad Kohanke. This is a humorous look at how some people look at Masons. The Light Brigade fulfills its’ obligation to entertain. No Masonic education or history tonight)**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Practice or Degree**

**August 24<sup>th</sup> -- Lodge of Instruction. Hosted by Davy Crockett Lodge and put on by District Instructor for District 39 B Brother Keith Reynolds. This Monthly Lodge of Instruction will primarily address opening and closing all four Lodges and is open to any Master Mason who wishes to attend.**

**August 30<sup>th</sup> – Family Night!! Hey everyone, we’re going bowling. The WM is having a Bowling Night for Davy Crockett Brothers, Wives and Ladies. Come out and show your stuff. If you don’t Bowl then come out a heckle those who are.**

**September 6<sup>th</sup> -- Stated Meeting (The Program for this meeting symbolism of the Fellowcraft Degree. Presented by PM Bro Chris Williams.)**

**September 13<sup>th</sup> -- Practice or Degree**

**September 20<sup>th</sup> – Stated Meeting (program will be announced)**

**September 27<sup>th</sup> -- Practice or Degree**

**September 28<sup>th</sup> – Lodge of Instruction. Hosted by Davy Crockett Lodge and put on by District Instructor for District 39 B Brother Keith Reynolds. This Monthly Lodge of Instruction will primarily address opening and closing all four Lodges and is open to any Master Mason who wishes to attend.**

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## *Birthdays for August*

<i>Garil Allerkamp</i>	<i>Leroy Becker</i>	<i>Ronald Belden</i>	<i>William Boyers</i>	<i>Travis Cox</i>	<i>Charles Davenport</i>
<i>Juan Garza</i>	<i>Billy Wright</i>	<i>Ben Youngblood</i>	<i>Harold Gavitt</i>	<i>Reagan Hill</i>	<i>Morris Johnson</i>
<i>Dan Mason</i>	<i>Samuel Pullom</i>	<i>Juan Ramos</i>	<i>Keith Reynolds</i>	<i>Fred Russell</i>	<i>James Rogers</i>
<i>Charles Shaw III</i>	<i>Dennis Wikoff</i>	<i>William Wise</i>	<i>Vic Woodfield</i>	<i>James Pue</i>	<i>Lawreace McMahan</i>

**Happy Birthday Brothers!!!**

Continued from Page 4.....

It is a wonderful feeling to be able to support freedom for your country and still be involved with the principles of Masonry. There is nothing wrong with a Mason as a private citizen to ask another Mason, who is qualified, to seek a political office. It is good Masonry, and it is good for a Lodge program to discuss such things as a community hospital, the needs for a blood bank, etc. And then, it is just plain good citizenship for the member so instructed to support these things in their local community. The ways and means to motivate Masons as private citizens are as endless as the imagination of the Master or of the Program Chairman. It is a matter of motivating through excitement, and the next problem is just of communication so others will know how best to serve in their community. Thomas Jefferson wrote that men are happiest when they are serving mankind and gripped in the throes of achievement. This is true and Masonry is a magnificent preparation for community service. There is another thing that is true, and that is that success always occurs when opportunity meets a magnificent preparation. This is how our scientists got to the Moon in the first place, and this is how Masons can motivate Masons as private citizens. We can plan programs to inform Masons of the needs of the community, we can recognize Masons for their effort in service, we can prepare our members to think Masonry in their daily lives and through Lodge instruction we can inform our new initiates and give them a magnificent preparation for a community service.

Archimedes, the great Greek mathematician, invented the lever. He said; "give me a place to stand and I'll move the world." Masonry gives us a place to stand. If we stand together as citizens we can certainly move this society of ours, because Masons are good citizens and, Masons understand that it is not the individual nor the army as a whole, but the everlasting teamwork of every bloomin' soul.

Thanks to Brother Wayne Anderson, FCF, MPS for supplying the Sunday Masonic Paper

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**“What we have done for ourselves  
alone dies with us;  
What we have done for others and  
the world remains and is immortal”**

**J, Nelson Deakin, Jr. 32**

## *Masonic Did You Know?*

*By W. Bro. Dwight Seals  
Camden Lodge #159, Camden, Ohio*

John William Poe was born in Mayesville, Mason County, Kentucky on Oct. 17, 1851. In 1868, he left home to be a buffalo hunter in Texas. In the 1870s, Poe became town marshal of Fort Griffin, a well-known stop for buffalo hunters. When his term ended, he made a deputy U. S. marshal. He traveled to the Tascosa area in about 1879 and got work on the ranches in the area. In late 1880 or early 1881, he replaced Frank Stewart as the cattle detective for the Canadian River Cattleman's Association. His first assignment was to go to New Mexico and investigate the dealings of Pat Coghlan, the self-styled "Cattle King of the Tularosa," who frequently dealt with cattle stolen from the CRCA. Poe made his headquarters in White Oaks, in the summer of 1881, was approached by Sheriff Pat Garrett, who deputized him. Poe later claimed that he acquired information that Billy the Kid was living in Fort Sumner from a drunken friend of his and relayed this info to Garrett. The two of them, accompanied by fellow deputy Thomas McKinney, rode to Sumner in mid-July, where Garrett allegedly killed the Kid in a darkened bedroom. While Garrett became a celebrity, Poe decided to remain in New Mexico rather than return to Texas. He married Sophia Alberding on May 5, 1883 in Roswell. Afterwards, he succeeded Garrett as the next sheriff of Lincoln County. In early 1884, Poe led a posse after an escaped killer and rustler named Nicholas Aragon. The posse caught up with Aragon and a gunfight ensued, in which posse member Johnny Hurley was killed. Poe eventually resigned from his sheriff position in 1885 and turned to banking, helping to found the Bank of Roswell in 1890. Although he became the bank's president in 1893, he resigned in 1899, after it became the First National Bank of Roswell. He then founded and became president of the Citizen's Bank. In 1919, Poe wrote a manuscript entitled "The Death of Billy the Kid," which was published in *Wide World Magazine*. He later traveled to Michigan, where he died, of congestive heart failure. There has been some speculation that his sudden death on July 17, 1923 was a suicide but that has never and will never be proven. His manuscript was later published in book format in 1933.

M. W. Brother John William Poe was a member of Fort Griffin #489, Fort Griffin, Texas. He demitted from there and joined Roswell Lodge # 18, Rosewell, New Mexico as a charter member. He was a Past Grand Master of New Mexico; Past Grand High Priest, Royal Arch Masons of New Mexico; Past Grand Eminent Commander of Knights Templar of New Mexico and a 33\*, Scottish Rite Mason belonging to the Valley of Sante Fe, New Mexico. In 2003 Bro. Joseph Bennett wrote a great short story about Bro. Poe for the Royal Arch Mason Magazine. It is too long for a short DUK so click on the link below or copy and paste the link into Google and read the article. It is a great article.  
[http://poefamilyresearch.net/KY/Studies/PoeJohnW\\_Mason.htm](http://poefamilyresearch.net/KY/Studies/PoeJohnW_Mason.htm)

# Masonic Symbol Quiz - 20 Questions

Test Your Masonic Symbol Knowledge!

1. What does the "Pot of Incense" symbol represent?
  - a. Innocence of Youth
  - b. Purity of Heart
  - c. Aroma of the Gods
  - d. One of the Six Senses
  
2. What does the "Beehive" symbolize?
  - a. Honey
  - b. Unity
  - c. Industry
  - d. Brotherhood
  
3. What does the "Sword to the Naked Heart" symbolize?
  - a. The duties of the Tiler
  - b. To be reminded of the tenets of Freemasonry
  - c. To be reminded of your obligation
  - d. To never reveal the secrets of Freemasonry
  
4. What does the "Rough Ashlar" represent?
  - a. The cornerstone of the Lodge
  - b. Building of the Temple
  - c. The imperfect, untutored state of man
  - d. A tool used by the craftsmen
  
5. What does the "Perfect Ashlar" represent?
  - a. An educated, refined man whose mind is filled with Light
  - b. Part of King Solomon's Temple
  - c. A condition that is rarely found in a candidate
  - d. Found in the Middle Chamber of King Solomon's Temple
  
6. What does the "Anchor" symbolize?
  - a. That early Masons were sailors
  - b. Part of Noah's Ark
  - c. That you should be set in your ways
  - d. The voyage of life
  
7. What does the "Compass" symbolize?
  - a. Used for navigation
  - b. Used to draw circles
  - c. Infinite spiritual boundaries
  - d. The Junior Deacon's Jewel

8. What does the "Square" represent?
- a. Fairness, balance, firmness and stability
  - b. Honesty, charity, fairness and balance
  - c. Brotherhood, hope, faith and charity
  - d. The Treasurer's jewel
9. What does the "Level" represent?
- a. A symbol of equality
  - b. A symbol of stability
  - c. A symbol of truthfulness
  - d. A symbol of brotherhood
10. What does the "Sheaf of Corn" represent?
- a. Harvest b. Plenty c. Fall d. Straw
11. What does the "Lambskin Apron" represent?
- a. Cleanliness
  - b. Neatness
  - c. Innocence
  - d. Honor
12. What does the "Mosaic Pavement" symbolize?
- a. Love and Hope
  - b. Peace and Harmony
  - c. Good and Evil
  - d. Charity and Forgiveness
13. What does the "Tessellated Edging" of the Mosaic Pavement represent?
- a. The blessings and comforts that surround us
  - b. The trials and tribulations of life
  - c. The evils of life
  - d. The continual circle of life
14. What does the "Blazing Star" symbolize?
- a. The North Star
  - b. An aid to guide you through your travels at night
  - c. Reliance on the divine providence
  - d. One of heaven's wonders
15. What does "The All Seeing Eye" represent?
- a. Sanctum Sanctorum
  - b. Holy of Holies
  - c. Lodge of Master Masons
  - d. Deity

16. What is an "Eavesdropper"?
- a. Another name for the Tiler's door
  - b. Someone who attempts to steal the secrets of Masonry
  - c. An item of clothing
  - d. Another term for the Hoodwink
17. What does the "Setting Maul" symbolize?
- a. A tool used by craftsmen
  - b. A tool used by the Worshipful Master
  - c. Violent death
  - d. Another name for the Gavel
18. What does the "Sprig of Acacia" represent?
- a. A plant with deep roots
  - b. Faith and Hope
  - c. Faith and Immortality
  - d. A part of the Lodge furnishing
19. What does the "Father Time with a Scythe" symbol represent?
- a. Death
  - b. Masonic funeral
  - c. Passing of time
  - d. Life is passing
20. What does the "24 Inch Gauge" symbol represent?
- a. A tool used by early Masons to draw lines
  - b. The Junior Steward's jewel
  - c. A tool to teach us to divide our time between God, work and rest
  - d. The principle working tool of a Master mason

Answers on next page.

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\*\*\*\*\*Excellent Video\*\*\*\*\*

**Brethren, This is one of the best videos I have seen on the Craft. Great to show to non-Masons. As Brother Wayne Anderson said "This is about as good as it gets." Well worth the time to view. It is a two part video, there is a few seconds between the parts... you will see a white screen then the rest of the video will proceed.**

**[http://app.talkfusion.com/fusion2/view.asp?OTg4NDMw\\_3446635](http://app.talkfusion.com/fusion2/view.asp?OTg4NDMw_3446635)**

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**If we shall not be careful in the admission of candidates and improve the procedure of admission, we are then starting the composition of a funeral hymn for the death of our noble institution.**

**As Freemasons, we should not allow this to happen. If and when we do, we are doomed, for we have just hammered the last nail in the sarcophagus of Freemasonry.**

**- Anonymous Bro., Rejections on Masonic Values**

Bottle of Wine  
(Women will LOVE this one!)

A woman and a man are involved in a car accident on a snowy, cold Monday morning; it's a bad one.

Both of their cars are totally demolished, but amazingly neither of them is hurt. God works in mysterious ways.

After they crawl out of their cars, the man is yelling about women drivers.

The woman says, 'So, you're a man. That's interesting. I'm a woman. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt.

This must be a sign from God that we should be friends and live in peace for the rest of our days.'

Flattered, the man replies, 'Oh yes, I agree completely, this must be a sign from God! But you're still at fault...women shouldn't be allowed to drive.'

The woman continues, 'And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune. She hands the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opens it and drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman.

The woman takes the bottle, puts the cap back on and hands it back to the man.

The man asks, 'Aren't you having any?'

The woman replies, 'No. I think I'll just wait for the police...'

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Women are clever, evil, deceitful, .....Don't mess with them.

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## Master Mason Quiz Answers

1---B 2---C 3---D 4---C 5---A 6---D 7---C 8---A 9---A 10---B  
11---C 12---C 13---A 14---C 15---D 16---B 17---C 18---C 19---A 20---C

## *Ode to Texas*

*The devil wanted a place on earth  
Sort of a summer home  
A place to spend his vacation  
Whenever he wanted to roam.  
So he picked out Texas*

*A place both wretched and rough  
Where the climate was to his liking  
And the cowboys hardened and tough.*

*He dried up the streams in the canyons  
And ordered no rain to fall  
He dried up the lakes in the valleys  
Then baked and scorched it all.*

*Then over his barren country  
He transplanted shrubs from hell.  
The cactus, thistle and prickly pear  
The climate suited them well.*

*Now the home was much to his liking  
But animal life, he had none.  
So he created crawling creatures  
That all mankind would shun.*

*First he made the rattlesnake  
With it's forked poisonous tongue.  
Taught it to strike and rattle  
And how to swallow it's young.*

*Then he made scorpions and lizards  
And the ugly old horned toad.  
He placed spiders of every description  
Under rocks by the side of the road.*

*Then he ordered the sun to shine hotter,  
Hotter and hotter still.  
Until even the cactus wilted  
And the old horned lizard took ill.*

*Then he gazed on his earthly kingdom  
As any creator would  
He chuckled a little up his sleeve  
And admitted that it was good.*

*'Twas summer now and Satan lay  
By a prickly pear to rest.  
The sweat rolled off his swarthy brow  
So he took off his coat and vest.*

*"By Golly," he finally panted,  
"I did my job too well,  
I'm going back to where I came from,  
Texas is hotter than Hell."*

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## Why Parents Drink

The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees was absent but had not phoned in sick. So he dialed the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper. ' *Hello ?* ' 'Is your daddy home?' ' *Yes, he's out in the garden* ,' whispered the small voice. 'May I talk with him?' The child whispered, ' *No* .' ; So the boss asked, 'Well, is your Mommy there?' ' *Yes, she's out in the garden too* ' & The boss asked; 'May I talk with her?' Again the small voice whispered, ' *No* .' Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, 'Is anybody else there?' ' *Yes* ,' whispered the child, ' *a policeman..* ' Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, 'May I speak with the policeman?' ' *No, he's busy* ,' whispered the child. 'Busy doing what?' ' *Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the police dog men.* ' Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background, the boss asked, 'What is that noise?' ' *It's a helicopter* ' answered the whispering voice. 'What is going on there?' demanded the boss, now truly apprehensive. ' *The search team just landed a helicopter* ' 'A search team?' said the boss. 'What are they searching for?' Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle.... ' *ME* '