

St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

Trestleboard

OCTOBER 2010

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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FROM THE EAST

MWBro. Al Jorgensen
Worshipful Master



We should all be enjoying the warm afterglow from the reconstitution ceremony and 150th Gala Banquet held on September 11th. There are several brothers and ladies to be thanked and applauded for their hard work and diligence in making the events of the day so memorable. Two individuals in particular need to be singled out, VWBros. Chuck Brockway, the overall event chairman, and Jim Russell, for handling the myriad of administrative details. Both provided countless hours to making sure every detail was covered. I know if I try to list all the individuals that assisted in the planning and execution I might be guilty of leaving someone out, so let me just express a heartfelt thank you to each of you as I know you know who you are.

Our guest speaker for the Gala Banquet, Brother Jim Tresner, gave us some excellent thoughts to ponder as we launch into the next 150 years of our Lodge's existence. The Fraternity as we know it today is about to celebrate 300 years of existence later in this decade. Masonry has not been constant in its application over that period but has adapted, albeit somewhat slowly, to the changes. I think it was Brother Tresner's message to us that we are in a time of transition now. Our craft has always adapted to technology whether be it operative or speculative. We, who are speculative Masons, need to acknowledge the societal changes being brought about by the advances in technology. As Brother Tresner cautioned we do not want to impose limitations on the Fraternity's growth by "initiating old men in young bodies." The challenge for us now is to embrace the opportunity to learn from our new members and implement change that is beneficial to the Craft based upon the framework that has been developed over the previous three centuries. This is a daunting but do-able task and I look forward to working with the brothers of St. John's Lodge to accomplish it.

On Saturday, October 2nd, I had the opportunity to attend the first Regional Communication of the Grand Lodge in Wenatchee. The format is unique from that which we have experienced in the past as it combines a bit of the pomp of the Annual Grand Lodge Communication with a partial District Meeting format, and just a touch of Warden's Conference. In other words, there is Ritual in the formal Opening and Closing of Grand Lodge, the awards presentations and District reports associated with District meetings, and breakout sessions for information on topics of emphasis for the Grand Lodge year. It is time well spent and I encourage all members to save November 20th, for Regional Communication number three to be held at the Scottish Rite Center in Seattle.

Our Stated Meeting this month will feature step-up night. I encourage all our members to come out and show your support for the officers that will lead us into the next 150 years of our history. I want to make note that at our November meeting we will be honoring our Past Masters. This is always a great opportunity to reminisce about great times from the past and share thoughts on how these may be adapted for future use. We will also ask that brothers plan to bring their ladies for that evening as there will be an additional program for them hosted by my lady, Nancy. More information will be provided in next month's Trestleboard and on the web site.

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

Junior Warden Bro. Joe Oates invites all brothers to participate in the Fellowcraft degree this Thursday, October 14. Lodge will open at 7pm, with the degree immediately following. Bro. Hector Ramos will be passed to a Fellowcraft at that time.

Bro. Ramos was initiated into St. John's July 26th of this year. He is a computer programmer with Institute for Systems Biology of Seattle, a research innovator in personalized medicine, biofuels, and global health.



CALENDAR

- October 11 (7-9pm): Ritual instruction classes at Greenwood
- October 13 (4pm): Board of Trustees (2011 budget)
- October 14 (7pm): Fellowcraft Degree
- October 18 (7pm): Greenwood Fellowship Night – dinner & games
- October 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated
- October 27 (7pm): District 5 LOMA meeting
- October 28 (6:30pm): Officers Meeting
- November 8 (7-9pm): Ritual instruction classes at Greenwood
- November 10 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- November 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated Election of Officers, Past Masters Night
- November 20 (11am-9?): Grand Lodge Regional Communication Districts 4-5-6-7
- December 11 (10am): Installation of Officers (Saturday morning)
- December 11 (1pm): Secrets of the Chair (Saturday afternoon)

NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

3rd Wednesday in October!

Most Worshipful Brother Al Jorgensen will watch next year's officers "perform" at our monthly stated communication October 20th as we approach the end of the Lodge year. Bro. George Rine and his officer corps will take their stations and places for the formal opening and closing. MWBro. Jorgensen will preside for the business share of the meeting on this annual "step-up" night.

Two major pieces of business will be addressed – proposed changes in the bylaws and an introduction of the proposed 2011 budget. The budget will be adopted in November, following the required one-month layover.

One or more newly raised Master Masons may also be demonstrating his proficiency in the degree at this meeting. The 2011 budget was prepared by Senior Warden Bro. Rine and submitted to the Board of Trustees for review. It addresses our customary operational expenses with a desire for charitable giving and reflects the interests of our active brethren. The annual expenses fall within the guidelines established over the last several years.

Please make your 6:15pm dinner reservations with the secretary at stjohns9@seattlemasons.org or 206 623-0261 by Friday (October 15th) prior to the stated meeting. Invite a brother to accompany you to lodge. Non-Masons and the ladies are especially welcome for dinner and the program which follows.

November Regional Communication

A regional communication of Grand Lodge for Districts 4, 5, 6, & 7 will be held Saturday at the Seattle Scottish Rite, November 20, opening at 11am and concluding with dinner at 6:30. The afternoon sessions are open to all Masons at no charge. Tickets for the dinner will be \$20 each. All members and ladies are invited for the dinner.

More details next month.

Service With a Smile . . .



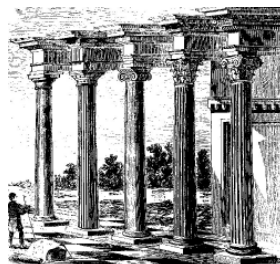
For the past year, brothers and guests have been enjoying the pleasant dinner service provided by several of our Masonic youth groups. Assisting our caterer Edwin Barber have been the Burien Job's Daughters (October –

December), Richmond Highlands Rainbow (January – March), the Occidental DeMolay (April – June), and Renton Job's Daughters (July – September). We look forward to the girls from Richmond Highlands Rainbow returning again this month.

Renton Job's Daughters



There are just three ancient and original orders of architecture, the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian, which were invented by the Greeks. To these the Romans added the Tuscan, which they made simpler than the Doric, and the Composite, which was more ornamental than the Corinthian.



THE FIVE ORDERS OF ARCHITECTURE
Tuscan Doric Ionic Corinthian Composite



Bro. George Rine

Here and About

Senior Steward Bro. Simon Letarte presided in the East to open Lodge at our September stated... St. John's brother Ron Woodall brought bananas, oranges and water for the Grand Master's Operation Smile charity walk around Green Lake in September...



Master Al Jorgensen presented WBro. Bruno Zittlau a 25-year pin last month... This year Jack Avery, Mac Fingeroot, and George Budlow each celebrate 60 years in Masonry!

150th Lodge Anniversary Celebrated

The brothers of St. John's celebrated 150 years of Masonry in Seattle on Saturday, September 11 (exactly seven days following our real birthday of September 4).



Masons pose following reconstitution ceremony

Over one hundred members and guests witnessed the re-constitution of the Lodge that

afternoon, and 160 enjoyed dinner, entertainment, and dancing that evening.

Special thanks to VWBro. Chuck Brockway, chairman of the all-day celebration, and his committee. Principle helpers included WBro. Hans Wehl (gifts and decorations), WBro. Bill Collison (speaker arrangement), Bro.



Adam Creighton (music), 160 attend dinner at Columbia Tower VWBro. Jim Russell (invitations, programs, history), Bro. Ken Wehl (news releases), and VWBro. Charles Tupper (reconstitution ceremony). Worshipful Master Al Jorgensen also pays tribute to the many brothers and ladies of St. John's who stepped in where needed.

History of the Jack-o-Lantern

People have been making jack-o-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket



next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he

would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. In England, large beets are used. Immigrants from these countries brought the jack o'lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, make perfect jack o'lanterns.

Source: The History Channel



Washington Masonic Code

CHAPTER 15- LODGE OFFICERS



Sec. 15.05 B.L.

When To Elect Officers. The elective officers of every Chartered Lodge shall be chosen annually at a Stated Communication of such Lodge during the period beginning the first Monday after the close of Grand Lodge and ending December 14. **Rev. 2003**

Sec. 15.06 B.L.

Election. Election of officers shall be by written ballot. A Brother receiving a majority of all votes cast is duly elected. A blank ballot is not a vote. A show of hands is not permitted for an election of officers.

Sec. 15.07 B.L.

Failure to Elect. If a Lodge shall fail to elect its Master and Wardens, or any one of them, before December 15, or if the Master-elect or a Warden-elect shall fail or refuse to be installed, the Lodge shall immediately notify the Grand Master, who, for good cause shown, may grant a dispensation to hold an election as soon thereafter as may be practicable. Such dispensation shall be entered at length upon the records of the Lodge.

Sec. 15.08 B.L.

Installations. The Master of a Lodge may, for the Installation of Officers, either separate or joint, open his Lodge on the Master Mason Degree in a tiled lodge room of either Lodge. **Rev. 2004**

Officers of a Chartered Lodge shall be installed at a Stated or Special Communication as soon as possible after the election but not later than January 31. The ceremony shall be tiled unless, at the request of the Master-elect, the Lodge shall decide by a majority vote to hold it open to the public. The public Installation of Officers shall be performed after the Master has declared the Lodge at "off-session", and has directed the Junior Deacon to inform the Tyler to tile accordingly. The Three Great Lights, Lesser Lights, Columns and other Jewels shall remain displayed.

Any public Installation of Officers shall be Monitorial and shall conform to proper Masonic Usage deleting those parts of the ceremony not proper to be used outside of a tiled Lodge. Officers of a Chartered Lodge must be installed as often as elected or appointed. No officer shall be installed by proxy.

Mark your calendars now for the 10am Open Installation of Officers on December 11th.

2011 DUES NOTICES COMING SOON

What other organization gives you so much for as little as \$16 a year??? Many Masonic lodges need to have dues much higher than ours, because it's their "life blood." For us, it's



merely a reminder of our special connection to one another. Financially, our lodge has much to be grateful for, but your dues still count, contributing to the wonderful youth and senior groups, educational opportunities, and medical programs we support

throughout the year.

When your 2011 dues notice arrives later this month, please respond quickly and help the secretary to devote his time to more meaningful work at St. John's! (St. John's dues are waived for those who have been members of the fraternity for 40+ years.)



TRAVEL TRAVAILS

Sixteen years after the founding of our Lodge, Samuel Bowles describes

travel in Washington Territory following a long trek from Massachusetts: "The next question was, how to put eleven passengers in an open wagon that only held seven, for a ninety-mile and two day drive across the Territory. It was successfully achieved by putting three of them on saddle horses; and off we bounced into the woods at the rate of three to four miles an hour.....The road was rough beyond description; during the winter rains it is most impassable, and is abandoned; for miles it is over trees and sticks laid down roughly in swamps; and for the rest, - ungraded, and simply a path cut through the dense forest, - the height [sic] and depth are fully equal to the length of it. Those who worked their passage, by whipping lazy mules whose backs they strode, and paid twenty dollars for the privilege, made the best time, and had the laziest of it. Yet, since, I observe, with tender memories of hard saddles, they 'stand and wait,' instead of sitting upon wooden chairs."

It seems that our congested highways make travel today nearly as unkind by comparison.

Elections, Past Masters to Highlight November Stated

Elections of officers and adoption of the budget for 2011 will complete a jam-packed evening November 17. St. John's Past Masters will also be honored and will be invited to close the Lodge in traditional form. All active members are urged to attend this eventful evening.

In minutes we can seriously damage or destroy a relationship that took years to build up.

WHICH ARE YOU?

I watched them tearing a building down,
A group of men in a busy town.
With a ho! And a lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a side wall fell.
I asked the foreman, 'Are these men skilled?
The type that you'd hire if you had to build?'
He let go with a laugh and replied, 'No, indeed.
Just common laborers are all that I need.
I can tear down in a day or two,
What it takes the builder a year to do.'
And I thought as I went on my way,
Just which of these games have I tried to play.
Have I been a builder, who builds with care,
Shaping my life by the rule and square?
Have I proceeded according to plan?
Patiently doing the best that I can?
Or have I been a wrecker who walks the town.
Content to labor in tearing it down?

By Roe Parham Fulkerson (1870-1949)

Reproduced from *Stars of Washington*

By Connie Shrum 9/24/10



Roe Parham Fulkerson (1870-1949)

Born July 11, 1870 at Maryville, Blount

Co., TN, Roe was an optician in Washington, DC.

Prominent as a Correspondent in both the Scottish Rite and Royal Arch, he was also the founding editor of *Kiwanis Magazine*. It was in that publication where, in 1924, he published a column carrying the title "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" thereby coining a phrase later used by Boys Town. Brother Roe Fulkerson 33°, was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in 1925. He married in 1928, at age 58, and had a daughter at age 63.

When Roe retired in 1942, some of his friends republished a number of his *Kiwanis* columns in a book called *My Personal Pages*. A collection of his convention addresses was published by *Kiwanis* in 1947, unimaginatively titled *Convention Addresses By Roe Fulkerson*. He also had a 63-page collection of essays published, titled *Our Lodge Portrait Gallery* from the several Masonic magazines he wrote columns for; *The New York Masonic Outlook*, the *American Freemason*, the *American Tyler-Keystone* out of Michigan. Bro. Fulkerson is the namesake for Roe Fulkerson Lodge #299 in Hollywood, Florida, where he spent his declining years serving in the Florida state legislature before his death, January 10, 1949.

Promotion

Carl Claudy

The New Brother's face showed a bad case of peeve, and his voice reflected it as he greeted the Old Tyler in the anteroom.

"S'matter, son?" inquired the Old Tyler. "You look like a cross between a thunder cloud and the Black Hole of Calcutta!"

"Politics!" snapped the New Brother. "I thought it was bad form, undignified, un-Masonic to electioneer for officers. It's bad enough any time, but when they electioneer for one who isn't in line for promotion and to throw out one who has served years in the chairs, I think it's terrible!"

"Yes, yes, go on," encouraged the Old Tyler. "Get it all out of your system."

"Tonight they elected Bill Jones Junior Warden. He doesn't attend regularly, does he? And Smith, who was in line for promotion, was dropped. Smith never missed a night last year and did his best as Senior Deacon. Jones is more popular than Smith, and may make a better officer, but the point is that Smith worked and Jones never has. So I'm peeved!"

"Wiser heads than yours have been peeved at politics in a lodge," answered the Old Tyler. "It's a difficult question. By Masonic usage any electioneering is taboo. The unwritten law and the theory contend for a free choice of officers by unbiased votes. But men are men first and Masons afterwards, and politics always have been played. I know of no way to stop a brother from telling another brother how he ought to vote!"

"That doesn't dispose of the injustice of Smith," answered the New Brother. "It isn't right."

"The majority thought it was right," countered the Old Tyler. "Now that Jones has the job, I'll tell you that I knew Smith wouldn't get it. He has been faithful to his work, never missed a night, done his best. But his best just wasn't good enough. You speak of Jones being more popular than Smith. There must be a reason, and if he is better liked he'll make a better officer."

"But it is still an injustice." The New Brother was stubborn.

"You argue from the standpoint of the man who believes that a man elected or appointed to be Junior Steward has a neck-hold on the job ahead of him," answered the Old Tyler. "According to your idea any

Junior Steward who attends lodge and does his work ought to be elected to the succeeding position each year as a reward of merit. Actually the job, not the man, is important. The good of the lodge is more important than the reward for the man.

"You don't realize that Masonry is bigger than the individual, that the lodge is bigger than its officers, that the positions in line are greater than the men who fill them.

"A Master may make or mar a lodge. If he is a good Master, well-liked, popular, able, attentive to his duties and enthusiastic in his work, the lodge goes forward. If only enthusiasm and faithfulness recommend him and he lacks ability, and the respect and liking of his fellows, and he has not the equipment to rule, the lodge will go backwards. Smith is a nice fellow, faithful, enthusiastic. But he has more from the neck down than from the ears up. Jones hasn't attended lodge much, but he is a brainy man, accustomed to preside, knows men and affairs, and, if he bears out the judgment of the brethren, will carry this lodge to new heights.

"Smith was given his chance for four years. In that time he could not demonstrate to the satisfaction of his brethren that he would make a good Master. It was a kindness to drop him now and not let him serve two more years. It is hard to be told 'we don't want you,' but the lodge showed wisdom in choosing as Junior Warden a man in whom it believes, rather than merely rewarding faithful effort.

"I am sure the Master made a nice speech to Smith and thanked him for his work. His brethren will show him they like him as a brother if not as a Junior Warden. Smith will not be as peevish about it as are you. He has been a Mason long enough to know that the majority rule is the only rule on which a Masonic lodge can be conducted. He won't understand his own limitations, or believe he couldn't be as good an officer as Jones, but he will bow to the decision of his fellows and keep on doing the best he can. That is Masonry at its best. Politics is often Masonry at its worst, but in the long run the right men get chosen to do the right work. Sometimes it is a bit hard on the man, but the good Mason is willing to suffer for the love he bears his mother lodge."

"As a peeve-remover you are a wonder!" smiled the New Brother. "But I wonder how you'd like to be supplanted by another Tyler?"

"When the lodge can find a better servant, I shall be glad to go," answered the Old Tyler simply. "I try to be a Mason first, and an Old Tyler afterwards!"

Save The Date

Blue Nile Children's Organization

Annual Fundraising Event

Saturday October 23rd 2010

from 5:00 PM until 9:00PM

**At Saint Mark's Cathedral Church,
1245 10th Ave E, Seattle WA**

Program: Speaker, Entertainment, Ethiopian Cuisine, Music, Silent Action

- BNCO will open a clinic in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, January 2011
- BNCO currently cares for 71 orphans
- BNCO has four students in Technical College
- BNCO has three students in the university

What makes Blue Nile Children's Organization unique from other organizations is the children wishing to go to college are supported through BNCO until they complete their degree.

For more information about reservations and ticket purchases contact: 206 760-2873 or admin@bluenile.org. Visit BNCO on the web at a www.bluenile.org

Thank you so much for all your support

Blue Nile Children Organization (BNCO) has established the Richard Oslund Memorial Clinic (ROMC) and a guest house in an impoverished area of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The clinic sponsorship program is asking for a minimum donation of simply \$10 per month, only 35¢ per day – enough to treat 50 to 60 patients per day!



The Richard Oslund Memorial Clinic

HALLOWEEN AT THE
HAUNTED CASTLE
OCTOBER 31 • 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

HAUNTED WALK, GAMES,
KIDS CARNIVAL AND TREATS

SUGGESTED CASH DONATION OF \$5 PER ADULT,
\$2 FOR KIDS 12 AND UNDER, OR EQUIVALENT
VALUE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION
FOR THE DES MOINES AREA FOOD BANK.

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Masons lose bid over charity status

By HAMISH RUTHERFORD - BusinessDay.co.nz

Freemasonry's national executive (*New Zealand*) is conceding defeat in its battle to maintain the charitable status it has held for decades.

Last year, the . . . society's highest body in New Zealand, the Grand Union, lost the tax-exempt status it had held since 1933.

Responsibility for determining charitable status was passed from the Inland Revenue Department to the Charities Commission in 2008, forcing thousands of organizations to reapply for tax exemptions.

High-profile organizations including Greenpeace and the Sensible Sentencing Trust have had their applications rejected.

Freemasons New Zealand appealed to the High Court last month, arguing that the Grand Lodge's primary activities were "beneficial to the community" and therefore charitable.

As well as directly charitable activities such as university scholarships (which the commission conceded were charitable), the lodge also teaches public speaking and lessons on ethics to its members, which it argued should also be considered charitable.

Acting for the Crown, Tania Warburton argued that many of the activities of the Grand Lodge were primarily for the benefit of its members, not the entire community. She said its membership, limited to men over the age of 21 who reached the rank of master mason, was too exclusive for a charity.

"We'd have liked the decision to have been in our favor, but it really won't affect our charitable activity all that much at all. It just means a bit more work for me and my office," Mr. Milton said.

The organisation spent \$3 – 4 million on charity in New Zealand each year.

History set in Stone

Northern Neck News
9/14/2010 4:02:36 PM

Nearly 1,000 people watched as history was made in Lancaster County this weekend. For the first time in Virginia, racial walls came down and Masons of all colors cooperated together to dedicate the cornerstone at the new Lancaster County Courthouse.

For over 150 years, Virginia has been home to two Masonic Grand Lodges, the predominantly caucasian Grand Lodge of Virginia AF & AM and the African American based Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia F & AM.

Racial tensions had precluded the two organizations from even recognizing each other until a decade ago. In 2005, a compact between the groups was struck, allowing private meetings to occur that would promote growth and education between the two lodges.

However, the two groups have never publicly participated in any activities together, until now.

On Sept. 11, with the sun shining down and a gentle breeze in the air, the two Lodges, once divided by race, locked arms together and walked as equals in an ancient Freemason ceremony.

"This is a great day for Virginia," said Prince Hall Grand Lodge Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes. "It is a brand new day for both races. This shows that, as people of color, we have arrived and are important."

The historic moment had humble beginnings, with Lancaster County Administrator and fellow Freemason Bill Pennell looking for a special way to commemorate the finalization of construction on the new county courthouse.

"The local lodge master asked if we had ever thought of having a cornerstone celebration," said Pennell. "It started out that two local lodges would perform the ceremony together, but [after discussions with the Grand Master] the plans began modifying and growing until we had something truly historic on our hands."

According to Pennell, it took countless hours of dedication and cooperation between the two Grand Lodges to organize the affair.

"This is truly an amazing thing, it is a first for both lodges and we are proud that it is happening in Lancaster County," said Pennell.

Alan Wayne Adkins, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia could not agree more.

"This is a historic occasion to come together with our counterpart," said Adkins. "We have always had mutual respect, but now we go into fraternal relations."

Adkins also noted out that the ceremony was especially important for William Rorer, Jr. and Larry Christian, the Grand Masters from the two Virginia Lodges.

"[Rorer and Christian] grew up together and have known each other since childhood," said Adkins. "This event brings them closer together in brotherhood."

For the Masonic order, nothing is more important than those bonds of brotherhood.

"The basic things about both organizations is that we have a firm base in our personal faith and the characteristics of the bible," said Hughes. "We want to

enable and give opportunities so that people can improve their lives."

For over a century the two lodges in Virginia seperately funded local charities through scholarships, humanitarian efforts and disaster relief funds as well as donating to many important medical charities including the Shriners Hospital for Children.

With the increased cooperation between the two Grand Lodges, Masons hope to be able to reach far greater audiences.

"I think that we can now look to share ideas and do things together in the future," said Adkins.

Hughes agreed, adding that the events of the day would have far reaching effects.

"Generation after generation will remember Saturday, Sept 11, as a defining moment in history when black masons stood united alongside white masons, with no differences between them," Adkins said.

Society of Secrets

While Freemasons are often regarded as cloaked in mystery, they are a nation of brotherhood.

Despite depictions by various media outlets, members maintain that they are not part of a clandestine organization.

"It is a society of secrets, not a secret society," said Pennell. "Throughout history, very good men have belonged to the Freemasons."

Freemasonry is the world's oldest fraternal organization. Its body of knowledge and system of ethics is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to his family, faith, country and fraternity.

Masonry provides opportunities for fellowship, charity, education, and leadership based on the three ancient Masonic tenets: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Freemasonry exists in various forms all over the world, with current membership estimated at around 6 million people, including approximately 48,000 Virginians. Although the origins of the cornerstone ceremony are unclear, the custom dates back more than 5,000 years.

"This was an opportunity for the public and our members to engage in a ceremony that used to happen all the time," said Adkins. "We are practicing today what our ancestor's trade was."

According to Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony, the actual placement of the cornerstone on the northeast corner of a building is also an ancient tradition. The north location stands for darkness while the east location represents light, thus highlighting man's journey from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge. Cornerstones are traditionally engraved with the date, the name of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master and the Masonic Emblem. Often included will be a time capsule, in this case commemorating various local officials, judiciary members and county employees.

Cornerstone ceremonies are considered a great honor and help instill civic pride while acting as a celebration of community involvement. They have also played an important role in history. George Washington laid the cornerstone in our nation's capitol and Benjamin Franklin laid the cornerstone at the State House in Philadelphia.

Pardon me ma'am, you are a Mason, I Presume?

The only woman to have a Masonic emblem carved on her tombstone was buried in tiny McMadden Cemetery in Newton County in 1878. She was Mary Jane McMahan Kimmey, who was accepted as a Mason around 1850 because she supposedly overheard some of the Masonic secrets during a meeting. The story insinuated that Mary Jane, if she had not become a Mason, would have been done away with. She was born 29 Jan 1840 in Newton County, Texas.



THIS IS A SMALL CEMETERY LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF YELLOW BAYOU ON HWY 87 Texas

THE MODERN COWAN

by Floren L. Quick

In Scotland, the operative Mason knew cowans to be ignorant builders who put stones together without mortar. They piled rough fieldstones into a wall without hewing them true, or squaring them. They masqueraded as Masters, but they did not have the Word.

Now and again, today - fortunately not too often - we find a modern equivalent of the operative imposter. One such is the Mason who manages a place in an officer's line with little or no effect of his own to deserve it. With only that exertion that is necessary to maintain his place, he continues to advance in line until he receives the jewels and honors that he prizes so highly. But he does not know the Constitution, and he does not understand the traditions and dignity of the Craft. As a presiding officer, his vocal ability is more noteworthy than his executive ability; and when his term is ended, he is seldom seen until another honor or prize appears to be within his grasp.

He is a contemporary builder who works without the benefit of the mortar of real enthusiasm or accomplishments. His structure is liken unto the rough stone wall, having little beauty of value. He is the cowan of modern speculative Masonry.

He is to be pitied, for he is a Masonic failure. His honors are shallow. Bringing no interest to his position, he received little of the satisfaction and respect that belong to the real Master.

Masonry has failed to reach him with a clear understanding of those marks of true devotion which she has to offer. He never knows the opportunities that the Craft makes available to those who diligently seek them. He misses the opportunities that the Craft makes available to strive for a just and worthy cause. He misses the opportunity for continuing fellowship and friendship. He misses the opportunity for loyalty and devotion. He misses the opportunity for development of his executive, intellectual and oratorical abilities. And most of all, he misses the opportunity for service - to God - to his community - and to his fellow man.

These are the jewels that Masonry has to offer, but in his quest for position and honors, the modern cowan misses them. Like the operative cowan, he does not have the Word.

-reprinted from the Masonic Shimbun in the GLBC Bulletin, Nov. '79

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894) was gifted in poetry (*Poet at the Breakfast Table*) and prose (*Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*); Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1831-1935), served as a United States Supreme Court Justice 1902-1932. Now this news item release:

Oliver Wendell Holmes IV, 24, 910 David Road, Home; pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, while charges of marijuana-small amount for personal use, use/possession of drug paraphernalia and public drunkenness were withdrawn; sentenced to serve one year probation and pay \$308.50 in costs and restitution. Poetic? Justice?

email ADDRESS? LET US KNOW!

The secretary reminds those who have email to let us know so that we can include you in our special notices issued throughout the month "in between Trestleboards." For some, your addresses have changed and we have not been able to continue our correspondence. If this is by accident and not on purpose, contact us at stjohns9@seattlemasons.org, today.

St. John's No. 9 Officers 2010

Worshipful Master	Alvin Jorgensen	253 862-3083
Senior Warden	George Rine	206 784-9617
Junior Warden	Joseph Oates, Jr.	425 883-4457
Treasurer	James Maher	253 630-0218
Secretary	James Russell	425 778-6823
Chaplain	Alex LaBarba	206 617-7308
Marshal	Charles Brockway	253 845-9735
Senior Deacon	David Flood	206 720-1560
Junior Deacon	Hans Wehl	425 688-1401
Senior Steward	Carl Tokarek	206 588-0909
Junior Steward	Simon Letarte	206 859-0370
Musician	Adam Creighton	206 818-9210
Tyler	Terry Grove	425 610-4561

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LODGE BYLAWS
ARTICLE VI - Board of Trustees

Section 1. There shall be a ~~nine~~ **seven**-member Board of Trustees consisting of; the Worshipful Master, ~~Junior Past Master~~, Senior Warden, Secretary, and Treasurer (who shall be *ex-officio* Trustees during their terms), and ~~four~~ **three** elected members of the Lodge. **No two members of the same family, by birth, marriage, or related to a significant other, can be a Trustee unless one is the Master of the Lodge.**

Note: Having the Junior Past Master as a Trustee can be awkward. New programs are tried from time to time, but not all are successful. A presiding Master may find it difficult to institute his own program without offending the Immediate Past Master who sits on the Board of Trustees. Including the Immediate Past Master on the Board is a recent innovation found to be unsatisfactory. By also dropping one elected Trustee, the Board remains at an odd number, thereby avoiding ties in the voting process. It is best to avoid several members of the same family serving on the Board of Trustees in order to avoid appearances of undue influence by one family and to gain the wisdom from a wider pool of the brotherhood.

Section 2. At each annual election of officers of the Lodge there shall be elected one Trustee who shall serve a term of ~~four~~ **three** years from the date of such election, and until his successor is elected and qualified. If a Trustee is unable to complete his term in office, notice will be given to the Lodge members and a special election held. The newly elected Trustee will complete the remaining term of the Trustee he is replacing. Qualification shall consist of oral acceptance of the office in open Lodge or written acceptance thereof filed with the Secretary. (6/17/09)

Section 3. Unless a Trustee is appointed by the Worshipful Master, the Worshipful Master shall serve as the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Trustees. The Secretary *ex-officio* shall serve as the Secretary of the Board. ~~Five~~ **Four** members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business **if it includes at least one elected Trustee.** (6/17/09)

Section 4. The duties of the Board shall be as follows:

a) To advise the Master and the Lodge regarding policy considerations. (new)

Note: The Trustees are in a position, by virtue of their experience, to give sound and careful counsel to the Master and the Lodge.

- b) To conduct regular quarterly Board of Trustee meetings. The Secretary shall provide written notice of the date, time, and place of regular quarterly meetings to each member of the Board of Trustees by personal delivery, or regular mail, or e-mail at least fifteen (15) calendar days in advance of each meeting. Any three members of the Board may, in writing, call for a special meeting of the Board at any time, provided that notice is provided as set forth above. Any action that may be taken by the Board of Trustees may be taken without a meeting only if consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by all members of the Board of Trustees. Trustees may waive the right to notice of a meeting in writing, and such waivers will be recorded by the Secretary; (6/17/09)
- c) To review the annual budget as prepared by the Senior Warden with assistance of the Treasurer **and Secretary** and submit the budget to the Lodge with its recommendation for approval; (6/17/09)

Note: The Secretary is in a position to contribute significantly to the budget building process. Until a couple years ago, the Secretary was a part of the process.

- d) To review monthly the expenditures of the Lodge. The Trustees will ensure that the annual budget, approved by the Lodge, is not exceeded as a whole or for any category or budgeted item, except by resolution. The Treasurer will provide to the Trustees on a monthly basis a report that shall contain the approved annual budget (updated with any resolution adjustment). The report shall list the year to date expenses of the Lodge in each category and budgeted item; (10/4/00)
- e) To assume supervision over the real property, stocks, bonds, and other holdings of the Lodge;
- f) To advise on the investment of surplus Lodge funds; and
- g) To meet with our investment advisor(s) and report to the Lodge at the Stated Communications for the months of February, May, August, and November the full status and condition of all properties and other matters under their supervision, together with their recommendations in relation thereto. (10/4/00)