

Trestleboard

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December 2012

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

Celebrating 10 Years of Educating and Enlightening New Jersey Freemasons!

Next Communication

New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education meets on the second Saturday in March, June, September and December. Our next communication will be held on **Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at:**

**Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barrack Street
Trenton, New Jersey**

All Master Masons are Welcome!



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From the East

Bro. Raymond Thorne, Worshipful Master

Dear Brother,

NJ LORE 1786's next meeting will be held December 8, 2012, at 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, 9:30a.m. coffee & donuts, 10:00 a.m. meeting.

This meeting will be our Biennial, that is our Election and Installation that happens once every other year.

Then will come the traditional Inaugural Paper written and delivered by the Incoming Master, J.R. Avanti. His topic is "The Letter G."

Following the meeting will be lunch, on the lodge, at Mastori's Restaurant.

Members should make every effort to attend.

Fraternally,
Raymond Thorne, WM

LODGE HAPPENINGS...

NJ LORE No. 1786's next meeting will be held at the Trenton Masonic Temple on Saturday December 8th, at 9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- Short Business Meeting
- Election of Officers for 2013-2014
- Installation of Officers
- Inaugural Paper Presented by the newly installed Worshipful Master.

After the meeting, the Lodge will adjourn to Mastoris Diner in Bordentown for Lunch, Fellowship and discussion.

The Two Sts. John

Submitted by Bro. Raymond Thorne, Worshipful Master

Dear Brother,

One might assume that if an organization or trade group had a patron saint, that saint would have some connection with that trade. But neither St. John the Baptist nor St. John the Evangelist are patron saints of anything remotely connected with the building trade.

Masonry teaches we should educate ourselves, so perhaps St. John the Evangelist, a/k/a/ St. John the Apostle, was chosen because he is associated with the book. He is patron saint of, among other things, authors, bookkeepers, booksellers, editors, printers and writers. Or maybe he was chosen because he is the patron saint of friendships.

The choice of St. John the Baptist, based on what he is patron saint of, is more problematic. He is the patron saint of, among other things, baptism, epileptics, lambs, motorways and...printers.

Most likely the reason for their choice lies elsewhere. Both Johns were New Testament figures and in retrospect are considered founders of the Christian Church.

John the Baptist was a cousin of Jesus and about 6 months older. There are two dates of the calendar associated with him, August 29, the date of his death and June 24, the date of his birth. Feast dates for the two Sts. John, as well as other Biblical saints, were established early in the Church's history. Most saints have one feast day, supposedly the day they died/were martyred and therefore the day they were reborn in heaven. A feast day for the birth of a Biblical saint is unusual, but then there were a number of unusual events associated with John's conception, gestation, birth and circumcision.

He might have described himself as "The voice of one crying in the wilderness" but he was an active man who drew a large following. He was called a prophet (considered a transitional prophet from the Old Testament to the New Testament) and even had some disciples. He predicted the coming of the Messiah and had his followers baptized, a ritual act of purification. Even today most Christians are baptized at some point in their life.

John the Baptist lived a simple life and saw things in black and white, good or bad. He talked truth to power, condemning the sinful ways of some of King Herod's family. Flavius Josephus wrote that Herod was concerned that John was becoming so popular that he might cause a rebellion. Either way, Herod had John arrested in an attempt to silence him. He was killed by beheading about age 30.

John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman. One of the first to be called, it is said he was the youngest of The Twelve. Several times in the Gospel of

(Continued on page 4)

John is mentioned a disciple that Jesus loved and even had his mother move into this disciple's house so she could be cared for. This was while Jesus was on the cross and the beloved disciple was the only one of The Twelve to be mentioned actually witnessing the Crucifixion. The common assumption over the centuries has been that this disciple is John the Evangelist.

The Feast Day of John, Apostle and Evangelist, is Dec. 27 on the Roman Catholic and Anglican calendars. Like St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist has a second Feast Day on the Roman Catholic calendar, May 6, which is called St. John Before the Latin Gate. According to the story, Emperor Domitian had John brought from Ephesus, in modern-day Turkey, to Rome. On May 6, 95 A.D. the Roman Senate ordered John be taken to the Latin Gate, a single arch at the southern edge of the city and there thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil. He stepped out of the cauldron uninjured and more energized than before he was thrown in. Domitian then had John exiled to the island of Patmos. In England, from at least the twelfth century if not before, to the time Henry VIII broke from the Church of Rome, May 6 was a second rank holiday, a day off for most laborers.

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NJ LORE Takes to the Road!

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is looking to visit other Masonic districts in New Jersey. This is a great opportunity for a Lodge to host a meeting of NJ LORE as an event in its District. You set up the visit and provide refreshments and we do all the work!

We are looking for visitation dates for March 2013. If you have interest in NJ LORE visiting your district, let your DDGM know of this program and contact our Worshipful Master or Secretary.



**The Transactions of New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research
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Volumes III & IV

2007-2010

Will be arriving in your mailbox sometime soon! Keep an All-Seeing
Eye out for it!

(Continued from page 4)

If St. John the Evangelist is John of Patmos (and there is a school of thought that says he is not), the author of Revelation (or Apocalypse), then he is a contrast to St. John the Baptist. John of Patmos saw not the stark reality about him, but saw prophetic visions cloaked in symbolism. It is said that John, Apostle and Evangelist, is the only one of The Twelve to not die a martyr's death, but died of natural causes at age 100, after returning to Ephesus.

John the Baptist could represent the passion of youth and John the Evangelist could represent the wisdom of age.

In Masonic symbolism, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist are represented by two parallel lines connected by a circle upon which rests the Holy Bible. I think this suggests that we should plan our activities (St. John the Evangelist) and then clearly see them through (St. John the Baptist). Planning without execution is just unproductive daydreaming. Action without planning is could easily be futile or counterproductive. And whatever your thoughts, whatever your actions, be guided by the Holy Scriptures.

One interpretation I read--and I apologize that I don't know who wrote it--suggested that the circle connecting the two parallel lines represents the zodiac, the course of the sun and moon through the sky over the period of a year. St. John the Baptist (June 24) represented summer and St. John the Evangelist (Dec. 27) represented winter. Perhaps this is another reason why these two saints were chosen. The original Grand Lodge of England, the first Grand Lodge in the world, was instituted in 1717, on the feast day of St. John the Baptist. Today, many grand jurisdictions, including New Jersey, have their lodge installations in December, on or before the feast of St. John the Evangelist.

While time can be considered cyclical, it can also be considered linear. Both Sts. John in their own way looked forward to the end times, a time when God's plan for planet Earth and those who lived on it will be fulfilled, when we hopefully will inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. And we are admonished several times in the ritual to look forward to and prepare for our own end time.



An Insight into the Masonic Letter 'G'

Submitted by Bro. J.R. Avanti, Senior Warden

The Masonic Letter 'G' should remind us that our every act is done in the sight of the Great Architect of the Universe.

When the lodge is opened, the mind and heart of every Brother composing that lodge should be deemed as also opened to the "G" and all that it implies, to the intent that those implications may eventually become realized facts of their Masonic and life experiences. The Letter G stands also for Geometry, which is the mathematical science upon which Architecture and Masonry were founded. In Hebrew, 'G' is called Gheenel or Gimel and has a numerical value of 3. Throughout history, we see reference to the number 3 when we speak of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.....no matter which language we speak!



The letter G in Freemasonry stands for both the GAOTU and geometry or to be technically correct it stands for Geometry under the Great Architect of the Universe.

Further, great significance lies in the centrality of the G. The lodge is grouped around it not assembled below it Accordingly, the floor of the lodge is left open and unoccupied and only at its extremities do the assembled Brethren sit.

The letter 'G' denotes the universal spirit of God permeating and unifying all things. Instruction-lecture of a degree outside our present constitutions, the letter G is explained as have a three-fold reference;

- 1.The glory of God or glory in the center
- 2.Grandeur, or the greatness of perfection to which man may become raised by his initiation into union with God
- 3.Gom-El - a Hebrew word of praise for the divine power and goodness is designing that perfection and the union between the Creator and the creature.

Sources and References:

Masonic Lodge of Education
 Masonic Initiation - W.L. Wilmshurst
 Grand Lodge of British Columbia

It Came from the Internet

Submitted by Bro. Matt Korang, Secretary

'Oxford guru' jailed for swindling French aristocrats

BORDEAUX, France — A fake guru was sentenced to eight years in jail Tuesday for swindling three generations of an aristocratic French family out of their fortune and their chateau after convincing them they were the targets of a masonic plot.

The judge who handed Thierry Tilly the sentence described him as the perpetrator of a "Machiavellian plot" against Ghislaine de Vedrines and 10 members of her family.

His accomplice Jacques Gonzalez, 65, was sentenced to four years in jail by the court in the southwestern city of Bordeaux. Both were also stripped of their civic rights for five years.

The family of Protestant nobles remained under Tilly's sway from 2000 to 2009, locking themselves away in their home, selling their belongings, including the family chateau, and giving him 4.5 million euros (\$5.7 million).

They were dubbed the "recluses of Monflanquin" by the French press because of the sequestered lives they lived for years in their chateau near the medieval village of that name.

The so-called Oxford guru, after the British city where he had his base, claimed descent from Austria's royal Hapsburg dynasty and said he had been a prisoner of the Freemasons.

Tilly, 48, who used manipulation techniques to convince the family their lives were at risk from an international plot by Freemasons that only he could defeat, was convicted of false imprisonment and psychological abuse.

The presiding judge in Bordeaux said that among the techniques the self-styled guru used were "creation of group paranoia... exploitation of family weaknesses... (and) a constant presence by their side, physical and then by telephone or email".

French tax authorities eventually seized the chateau when the family stopped paying taxes, after which Tilly took them to Oxford to live.

Tilly was arrested in Switzerland in 2009 following a complaint by a family member who had escaped his clutches in Oxford.

[Agence France-Presse](#)

Freemasons launch recruitment drive for young women

Nikki Roberts is someone a teacher might call a good "all-rounder": smart, pretty, lots of friends. Aged 31, she is also a far cry from your typical Freemason. But that, if the Federation of the International Order of Co-Freemasonry has its way, is about to change.

Forget secretive circles of white-haired men locking fingers in strange

handshakes, they say. A British branch is in the throes of a thoroughly modern recruitment drive. It is using Facebook and Twitter to sign up new members, particularly young women, to its society.

“A lot of people have misconceptions about what Masonry is,” Ms Roberts says. Not surprising, given that for centuries members of this traditionally male club have refused to divulge what goes on behind closed doors in meetings and ceremonies. “I can say that it [the Freemasons] is an association, a fellowship if you like, dictated by a system of morals, with lot of symbols and philosophy...” Roberts explains. She compares it to an “occult”: “You need to believe in a divine intelligence or supreme being.”

Since joining the Freemasons five years ago, Roberts says her life has been transformed. “I gave up a lucrative job in the City and now I work in health and social care, something more rewarding,” she says. While cohorts at her lodge (one of the only mixed gender orders in the world, the British Federation) range from party-planners to nurses – many of them female – there are other common elements among members, she says. “The kind of people it draws are interested in being good people; we have respect for laws, we like giving to charity... we live by certain morals.” It is a “life-long commitment”, she adds.

The biggest misconception, Roberts says, is that women are not suited to joining the club. “People choose the Masons in order to become more aware and to awaken areas of their mind to their true nature; women, being naturally nurturing and intuitive, are particularly responsive to that.” That, however, is a matter of opinion. Ask Ken Kirk, 86, a former policeman and a member of the strictly-male United Grand Lodge of England and the answer is clear: “Mixed gender orders? Absurd.”

Worldwide, there are 6 million active Freemasons, with 2 million in the US and around 400,000 in Britain. At the moment the Federation of the International Order of Co-Freemasonry, founded by ideological polymath Annie Besant in 1902, has around 300 members (the majority of them women), and is one of the most progressive – and smaller – orders; many orders won’t let a young woman through the door.

<http://www.independent.co.uk>

Juror dismissed from Dowdye murder trial denies making Masonic gestures

ST. THOMAS, VI - A juror accused of making covert Masonic signals to a murder defendant during a 2007 trial was brought back to V.I. Superior Court on Tuesday to answer questions from a judge and attorneys about his conduct.

Joel Lloyd, a juror in the 2007 trial of Joel Dowdye, said under oath Monday that he did not make any gestures to Dowdye intentionally.

“I had no knowledge of any gestures,” he said.

Lloyd became the subject of controversy when he was dismissed late in the trial of Dowdye, a former police detective found guilty of murdering his ex-

girlfriend, 22-year-old Sherett James, and trying to kill her companion, Daren "Bogle" Stevens, in a room at the Bunker Hill Guest House on March 25, 2006.

Dowdye was convicted of six of the eight felony charges he originally faced, including first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder and first-degree assault. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole, plus 40 years.

Dowdye appealed his case to the V.I. Supreme Court in 2009, attorneys argued that Lloyd's late-stage dismissal from the jury, violated Dowdye's right to a fair trial.

In a split opinion issued last fall, the high court concluded that an "overwhelming and compelling suspicion" of improper contact between Lloyd and Dowdye warranted further scrutiny. The Supreme Court remanded the case back to Superior Court Judge Brenda Hollar, who oversaw Dowdye's trial, to determine whether the removal of Lloyd was justified and whether he lied about being involved with the Freemasons.

Under questioning Tuesday from Hollar, Assistant Attorney General Sigrid Tejo-Sprotte and Dowdye's attorney Dolace McLean, Lloyd denied any improper conduct.

He told the judge that he did not disclose any connection to the Freemasons "because I'm not involved with that." He also denied knowing Dowdye, who has a Masonic symbol tattooed on his chest, according to police records.

"I found out later that they suspected me of being a Mason," Dowdye said.

Hollar, who described the Masons as "a society of secrets," asked the former juror whether he was aware that he had been observed making "wiping gestures" to his face, then focussing on Dowdye, and that Dowdye was then observed mirroring those gestures while making eye contact with Lloyd.

"No, I wasn't," Lloyd said.

Lloyd said any gestures he made to his face had to do with making sure he stayed awake and attentive during the trial.

"I was probably tired and uncomfortable," he said. "I may have touched my face, but I do that normally."

Hollar, who later said she personally observed the wiping gestures by Lloyd and Dowdye, asked Lloyd whether he found the case to be "very boring." After a long pause, Lloyd said he found there was "a lot of repetition."

After confirming that Lloyd grew up and still owns property in Tullahoma, Tenn., Hollar asked Lloyd whether he was aware of the Masonic temple on a street corner near where he lived as a young man.

"The caucasians control that building," Lloyd said when he was showed a photograph of the temple. "There were no black people in control of that building."

In addition to denying that he was intentionally making gestures to Dowdye, Lloyd said if he happened to be looking at the defendant, it was probably only to see his responses to questions.

The court also heard testimony from the prosecutor in the case, Nolan Paige, and from William Curtis, then a V.I. Justice Department investigator who, according to Hollar's statements in court Tuesday, was also the president of the Masons at the time.

Hollar asked the prosecution and defense attorneys to brief the issues further before she makes a ruling.

<http://virginislandsdailynews.com>

Recent Acquisitions: Freemasons and the Case of the Missing Jewel

By the time Charles F. Crocker received the 33rd Degree of Inspector General Honorary in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the ornate breast jewel was well earned. The English-speaking Masonic world is usually governed by a three degree system, but for members who make substantial contributions to society and Freemasonry, only a diamond and ruby encrusted jewel will do.

When Crocker received the jewel in 1892, the early Bay Area resident had worked his way up from lowly clerk to Vice President of the Southern Pacific Railroad. His father, Charles Crocker took his place among Leland Stanford, Collins P. Huntington, and Mark Hopkins as the chief entrepreneurs -- known as "The Big Four" -- of the Central Pacific Railroad construction, the western portion of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

The jewel -- along with an estimated \$400,000,000 -- remained in the possession of the family, accomplished Freemasons in their own right, but after William Crocker's death in 1937, it disappeared.

Fast forward to 2011: A gemologist in Massachusetts easily ascertained the fair market value of the precious stones, but the craftsmanship gave him pause. Hesitant to break up the piece for sale without further research, he contacted the National Heritage Museum in nearby Lexington for provenance.

Here we see the Freemason network in action. The museum in Massachusetts just happened to be founded by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and belongs to the Masonic Library and Museum Association. "Through these intimate channels we may share our knowledge and protect rare items," explains Adam Kendall, vice president of the association. This kind of Californiana is never long for the market, quickly snatched up for its high value, which all too often results in the destruction of an antique in favor of profit. Kendall believed the jewel belonged back in San Francisco, where he is also the collections manager at the Henry W. Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry. The same San Francisco Bodies of the Scottish Rite who originally bestowed the jewel on Crocker agreed with Kendall, and purchased it from the gemologist for the museum.

The jewel can now be seen by the public in the museum on California Street, where it enjoys pride of place in a glass case donated by the Crocker son's lodge, California No. 1.

<http://blogs.sfweekly.com>

Officers for 2011-2012

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published on or about March 1, 2013. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by February 15, 2013.

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New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
Research and Education No. 1786

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*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

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