

Trestleboard

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2003

The purpose of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is to foster the education of the Craft at large through prepared research and open discussion of the topics concerning Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and current events.

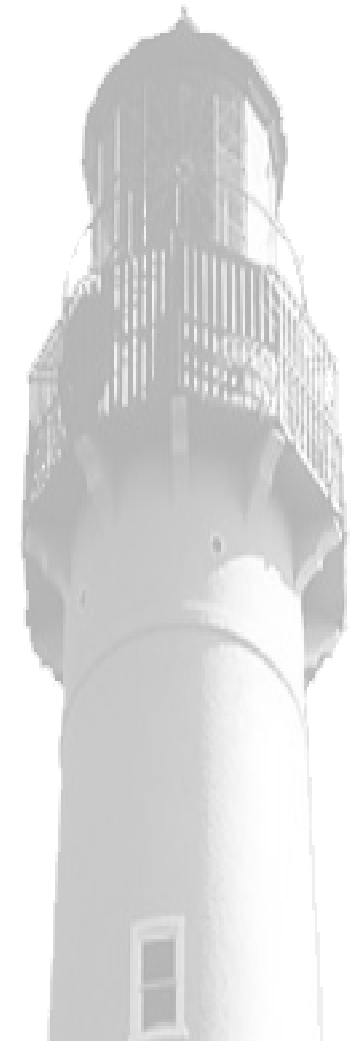
Next Communication

The New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education meets on the fourth Saturday in January, March, May. Due to Rosh Hashannah we will meet the third Saturday in September.

Our next communication will be held on
Saturday, September 20, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at:

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks Street
Trenton, New Jersey

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!



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From the East

RW George A. Olsen, Worshipful Master

Brethren,

As the Worshipful Master of the New Jersey Research Lodge each of my previous trestleboard messages have dealt, in a rudimentary form, with some aspect of research methodology. This message will be no different.

A research paper is only as good as the "sources" the researcher uses to uncover information and to develop the background necessary to support the premise of his paper. The "sources" one uses to produce the paper are most important and their selection should be most carefully made. Their identification, appropriateness, and application to the topic will, in all instances, govern the quality of the research paper.

Without going into great detail, "sources" are considered to be primary, secondary, tertiary, and supplemental. As a simple means of explanation let us assume the research paper is going to be about "An Abbreviated Cumulative History of Freemasonry in New Jersey from 1975-2000." A "primary source" would be the "Annual Proceedings" published each year by the Grand Lodge Office, or another primary source might be the "Grand Master's Calendar" for each of the years identified in the paper. They are "sources" which would definitely support the topic selected without additional corroboration. A "secondary source" could conceivably be various lodge minutes pertaining to activities of the Grand Lodge in which a particular lodge may have had participation, or an interview with and individual concerning a specific activity in which that person participated. For the most part they are "sources" which with additional corroboration can support the topic selected. "Tracery sources" are those which are only peripherally related to the topic or a part thereof and cannot stand on their own without considerable corroboration. Supplemental sources are those sources which concern unrelated activities or statements which substantiate something within a primary, secondary, or tertiary "source."

"...research can be fun, it opens portals to new concepts, different understandings, historical happenings, literary events..."

The skill of the researcher becomes evident as he selects the "sources," applies their information, and creates the document. A research professor once told me two simple, but important things. First, select many more sources than you think you will need and after reading, listening, or viewing them select the best and discard the rest, even if it means discarding half or more of the sources. His second admonition was that until you are considered an "expert" in the field in which the research is conducted give full credit for everything you use as a source of information, that it is better to over credit than to under credit.

Remember research can be fun, it opens portals to new concepts, different understandings, historical happenings, literary events, etc. Start with a small project complete it well and with each new project expand the depth and breadth of the undertaking.

Fraternally,

George A. Olsen, PDDGM
Worshipful Master



From The West

Bro. Tom Thorton, Senior Warden

Freemasonry today is recognizing some of its membership problems have existed since day one. Our society provides a multitude of opportunities for men, from following sports teams, mobility for fishing golf and outdoor sports, and other activities. In one line, our competition is taking most of our prospective members.

While most local lodges attempt to get more activities to attract men the results are not what is hoped. We do get candidates, but a large percentage of them become no shows in a very short time. We do not teach our benefits quickly enough to retain their interest.

To this end, the Internet, which has become the world wide information exchange, may provide some help in providing a source of reference to those interested in Freemasonry and what it has to offer. As our Lodge Of Research title includes 'education', we have the opportunity to select, edit, and present those items of Masonic education that may be missed in the short time a new member attends lodge. Items he can read and study in the comfort of his home. It will also permit his family to be included.

To accomplish this we all should, if we can, contribute that information we personally have found of value from our membership. That it may be stored on our web site for others to learn from.

“While most local lodge attempt to get more activities to attract men, the results are not what is hoped.”

From The South

Bro. Ira P. Drucks, Junior Warden

Now that we have had a number of official meetings, I can see an increase in the enthusiasm within our Lodge of Research and Education. Each brother who comes away from a meeting seems very excited about returning to another meeting to learn more from other papers written about Masonry.

Our Lodge of Research and Education is new and exciting and one that everyone should be a part of for general Masonic information.

New Masons especially can learn a tremendous amount of information and have many questions answered at the Lodge of Research and Education. Here is where those inquisitive questions raised by new Masons can be answered. These questions are being addressed in the papers prepared by our own brothers in the many lodges in New Jersey and then presented at the Lodge of Research and Education.

Pass this Trestleboard on to some of those newly raised brothers in your lodge and invite them to our next meeting. Let them see first hand what we are doing in New Jersey and let us help them become better Masons through Research and Education.

Scheduled Papers to be presented at our September Meeting:

- Books & Authors of Freemasonry by Tom Thorton
- York Rite by Jay Hochberg

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

September will bring an election or more proper— a “selection”. We will be selecting the first David A. Chase Honors Paper. According to the By-Laws, we must select what we consider to be the “best” paper presented from May 2002 through May 2003. The paper will be one of five presented to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research & Education. The choices are as follows:

Redemption at Gettysburg
Catechism as Ritual
The Symbolic Lodge
Lodge Opening Ceremonies
Enlightenment Light and Locke

I hope that you were in attendance when these papers were presented. If not, please go to our website and download a copy for yourself. I hope to see you at this important meeting!

Matthew Korang, Secretary, NJ LORE

NJ LORE NO. 1786 — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Initial Membership Fee is \$ 25.00 and the Annual Dues are \$25.00. A personal check, bank check or money order made out to “NJ Lodge No. 1786” in the amount of \$50.00 must accompany this application.

Mail to our Secretary: WB Matthew Korang / 344 East Union St. / Burlington, NJ 08016

Please clearly print or type the following information

Brother Dist. Brother WB RWB MWB

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Lodge Affiliation (Mother Lodge or Lodge currently attending)

Your Lodge Secretary must sign and seal this section of the application indicating that you are in good standing.

Name _____ Number _____

Address _____

Grand Lodge of New Jersey _____ Grand Lodge of _____

Signature of Lodge Secretary _____

LODGE
SEAL

“I respectfully represent that I am a Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge of Master Masons in the State of New Jersey or in a Grand Jurisdiction with which New Jersey maintains fraternal relations and do hereby make application for membership.”

Your Signature _____

Bro. Ignaz Pleyel

Bro. Tom Thorton, Senior Warden

Did you know that Pleyel's Hymn's origins date back to 1791? And that the lyrics were written separately from the music? Here is some history of the men responsible for origination of the Hymn we sing in the Third Degree.

- Pleyel's Hymn was written by Ignaz Pleyel and published in 1791. Pleyel was a Mason and the Hymn was part of his '4th Quartet, op. 7'. In "Die Geschichte der Fraumererei in Oesterreich-Ungarn" by Ludwig Abafi, published in 1899 in Budapest, you will read (Volume 5, page 288) you may observe in the list of lodge members for the year 1784 that Ignace Pleyel was a Fellowcraft in Lodge "zum goldenen Rad" [The Golden Wheel – ed.] in Eberau, Hungary. This lodge worked under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hungary, Grand Lodge of Austria, till the suppression of Freemasonry by Emperor Joseph II.
- The Lyrics to this hymn were written by Brother David Vinton. He was a teacher of the Masonic ritual (primarily the York Rite) in the Southern States, having the most success in North and South Carolina. He is best known for publishing at Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1816, a volume containing a selection of Masonic, Sentimental and Humorous Songs, Duets, Glees, Canons, Rounds and Canjonets, under the title of "The Masonic Minstrel." Dedicated to the "Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons," brother Vinton sold 12,000 copies by subscription. It was in this volume that the words of the beautiful dirge used in the Third Degree is found.
- Bro. Vinton was expelled from the Craft. The details that led to Vinton's expulsion from the Grand Lodges of South Carolina, North Carolina, Connecticut, and Virginia, have always been a bit sketchy, but apparently relate to his taking liberties as a ritual teacher and writer. In 1821, Vinton was summoned by the Grand Chapter of Virginia to be examined on charges preferred against him by Franklin Lodge #4 of Royal Arch Masons, of which Vinton belonged. The charges were for "highly improper and unmasonic conduct." Vinton did not respond to the summons, so lost his privileges as a Mason in that Grand Chapter, and "throughout the world." It was publicly claimed within the craft that Vinton had made Mark Masters and Past Masters without a dispensation or a warrant.
- Brother David Vinton died in Shakertown, Kentucky in July, 1833. While on his death bed at that place, the Masons of Lodge No. 73 at Bowling Green, wrote to the Grand Lodge inquiring whether David Vinton was a Mason in Good Standing. The reply was in the negative. Brother Robert Morris, in writing about the circumstances of Vinton's life in the Masonic Journal, Volume 53, 1880, eloquently said, "And so the sweet poet and Masonic songster of the period died under a cloud, and his tombstone no emblem of the Craft could have."



Bro. Ignaz Pleyel

(This article is a synopsis of a paper submitted to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education at its May 2003 Meeting. The paper is available, in its entirety, on our website – <http://www.njlore1786.org>)

The screenshot displays the website for the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No. 1786. It features a navigation menu on the left with links for Home, NJ LORE, Lodge Officers, Meeting Schedule, Join NJ LORE, Submissions, Contact Us, Archived Papers, NJ LORE Publications, and a search icon. The main content area is titled 'New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786' and includes a 'Submission Criteria' section. The criteria state: 'The following criteria should be used as a guideline for preparing a paper for submission to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education. When a paper is submitted to the Lodge it will be reviewed by the Editor and Review Committee. The committee will use the criteria as a guideline. You do not have to wait for a meeting to submit a paper.' Below this, there is a section titled 'CRITERIA FOR PAPERS SUBMITTED TO NEW JERSEY LODGE OF MASONIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NO. 1786, F. A. M.' with a sub-section 'A. REQUIRED CONTENT OF PAPERS' which begins with 'Only papers concerned directly with Freemasonry will be considered for presentation and publication. The topics of travel, genealogy, and other non-Masonic subjects are not within the scope of this journal.' The background of the website features a lighthouse image.

Missed the last meeting??

Lost your most recent NJ LORE Trestleboard?

Want a copy of a paper presented at a meeting?

Take a look at the NJ LORE website at

<http://njlore1786.com>

At our website, you will find all of the latest information from copies of Trestleboards and papers to important contact information and meeting dates. Be sure to check it out!!

New Jersey Lodge U.D. in California

By the late RW Bro. Lew Birt, PGH

SACRAMENTO, April 5, 1850 — After a meeting of the Worshipful Masters of the following Ancient York Masons, held at the Masonic Hall in Sacramento City, on April 5, A.D. 1850, vis: Brother John A. Tutt, Connecticut Lodge No. 75; Saschel Woods, Western Star Lodge No. 98; Wm. N. Doughty, New Jersey Lodge U.D.; B.D. Hyam, Benicia Lodge U.D.; on motion it was

Resolved, That it is deemed expedient to form a Grand Lodge in this State, and that a convention be held for that purpose on April 17, 1850, at the City of Sacramento....

While California and 1850 may seem a long ways off in time and place from New Jersey today, this newspaper account mentions New Jersey Lodge Under Dispensation in what, five months later, would become the State of California. But as of the date of this notice, California was a territory, and was of course also the site of the Gold Rush. As many thousands went west seeking their fortunes, Freemasonry was brought along. In addition to New Jersey Lodge, ten others were established in California, representing Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri and Wisconsin. But as regards the formation of the Grand Lodge of California, it was New Jersey Lodge and two others that formed the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of California on March 13, 1850 — nearly three weeks before the above newspaper story was published.

What transpired during those weeks was a confusing cluster of questions that challenged the legitimacy of this new Grand Lodge. First, some of the California brethren were not present at the Communication, and it was wondered if they'd even been invited. Second, the lodge chartered by Louisiana Masons was challenged on its legality because the Grand Lodge of Louisiana itself was often suspect during this period. Third, New Jersey Lodge's role was considered illegitimate because, some said, a lodge under dispensation could not participate in the formation of a Grand Lodge. Shortly thereafter, these doubts were resolved when the organizers rescinded their action on April 15, 1850. Two days later the formation of the Grand Lodge was attempted again, but this time the earlier problems were anticipated and avoided. Three lodges met at Sacramento to form the Grand Lodge: California Lodge, originally chartered by Masons in Washington, DC; Western Star Lodge, originally chartered by Missouri Masons; and Connecticut Lodge. These lodges were numbered 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Lodge Number 4 was to be called Berryman Lodge... formerly New Jersey Lodge Under Dispensation.




The twisting tale of New Jersey Lodge doesn't end there. In its new incarnation as Berryman Lodge, No. 4, it was named after W. Berryman Jennings, the first Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of California. A year later, the brethren changed the name to Jennings Lodge, No. 4, and so the Senior Grand Deacon had a lodge named after both his first name and his last.

This paper was forwarded to NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education by MW Bro. Kenneth Larsen, Past Grand Master. It was present to the Lodge by Bro. Jay Hochberg, SD (Protem)

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

Important Information

<p>Brethren,</p> <p>You are cordially and fraternally invited to the next Regular Communication of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 to meet on Saturday, September 20, 2003 at the Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barracks St. Trenton, NJ at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Order of Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.) - Opening Lodge - Short Business meeting - Presentation of Papers - Lunch Break - Finish Paper Presentations (If necessary) - Election of Honors Paper - Closing <p>Officer's Dress – Business Attire</p>	<h3><u>Officers for 2003-2004</u></h3>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey Most Worshipful Robert L. Miller 383 Bloomsbury Rd. Bloomsbury, NJ 08804 908-479-6599</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>George A. Olsen 25 Gail Dr. East Hanover, NJ 07936 Genesis #88</p> <p>Thomas W. Thornton 11 Adelpia Rd. Parsippany, NJ 07054 Cincinnati #3</p> <p>Ira P. Drucks 64 Oakwood Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039 Germana C. Union #11</p> <p>Leonard M. March 1059 Davistown Rd. Blackwood, NJ 08012 Laurel #237</p> <p>Stephen B. Speirs Matthew Korang (Protem) 344 East Union St. Burlington, NJ 08016 Beverly-Riverside #107</p> <p>Matthew Korang Jay Hochberg (Protem) P.O. Box 264 Caldwell, NJ 07006 Little Falls #263</p> <p>Stewart D. Thomas 96 Sheridan St. Irvington, NJ 07111 Alpha #116</p> <p>Ronald A. Poeter, PM 70 Shunpike Rd. Madison, NJ 07940 Madison #93</p> <p>Scott Simmins 62 Lochatong Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628 Mercer #50</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p style="text-align: right;">Worshipful Master 973-887-2515 (H) kenmike167@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Senior Warden 973-887-8772 tomthornton@nac.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Junior Warden 973-994-2963 bikerira@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Treasurer 856-228-4408 lenthekid@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Secretary 609-386-8902 mkorang@comcast.net matthew.korang@lmco.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Senior Deacon 973-256-0374 euclid47@earthlink.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Junior Deacon 973-372-5233 epps@bellatlantic.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chaplain 973-822-1483 r.a.poeter@worldnet.att.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tyler 609-882-5983 rdsxfn09@yahoo.com</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>George A. Olsen 25 Gail Dr. East Hanover, NJ 07936 Genesis #88</p> <p>Thomas W. Thornton 11 Adelpia Rd. Parsippany, NJ 07054 Cincinnati #3</p> <p>Ira P. Drucks 64 Oakwood Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039 Germana C. Union #11</p> <p>Leonard M. March 1059 Davistown Rd. Blackwood, NJ 08012 Laurel #237</p> <p>Stephen B. Speirs Matthew Korang (Protem) 344 East Union St. Burlington, NJ 08016 Beverly-Riverside #107</p> <p>Matthew Korang Jay Hochberg (Protem) P.O. Box 264 Caldwell, NJ 07006 Little Falls #263</p> <p>Stewart D. Thomas 96 Sheridan St. Irvington, NJ 07111 Alpha #116</p> <p>Ronald A. Poeter, PM 70 Shunpike Rd. Madison, NJ 07940 Madison #93</p> <p>Scott Simmins 62 Lochatong Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628 Mercer #50</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Worshipful Master 973-887-2515 (H) kenmike167@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Senior Warden 973-887-8772 tomthornton@nac.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Junior Warden 973-994-2963 bikerira@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Treasurer 856-228-4408 lenthekid@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Secretary 609-386-8902 mkorang@comcast.net matthew.korang@lmco.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Senior Deacon 973-256-0374 euclid47@earthlink.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Junior Deacon 973-372-5233 epps@bellatlantic.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chaplain 973-822-1483 r.a.poeter@worldnet.att.net</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tyler 609-882-5983 rdsxfn09@yahoo.com</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Like to Write?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interested in Masonic History or Theory?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Why not consider submitting a paper to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education?</p> <p>The NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is looking for individuals interested in the history and activities of Freemasonry in both New Jersey and the world.</p> <p>Only papers concerned directly with Freemasonry will be considered for presentation and publication: The history of Lodges, active or demised; biographies of Masons distinguished in the annals of Freemasonry; its ceremonies, usage, and practices; the speculative or philosophical aspects of Freemasonry; and any other Masonic subject of general interest to the Fraternity.</p> <p>Interested? If you have a paper you would like to submit or would like more information concerning writing and submitting papers, please feel free to contact :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RW Thomas Thorton at 973-887-8772</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">From the Editor's Desk.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Trestleboard will be published by January 1, 2004. All articles must be submitted by December 15, 2003.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary</i></p> 		

New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
Research and Education No. 1786

Trenton Masonic Temple
100 Barracks St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

**We're On the Web!!
njlore1786.org**

Back Page Book Review

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Peninsula Lodge No. 99

"The Freemasons: A History of the World's Most Powerful Secret Society"

By Jasper Ridley

Arcade Publishing, New York, 357 pages

The danger in judging a book by its cover sometimes lies in being thrown by what the publisher's marketing department devises for a title. The author of this book shows Freemasonry as a positive force throughout modern history, so it's unlikely he intended for sensational language like "the World's Most Powerful Secret Society" to appear on the cover. In fact, he starts and ends the book with empathetic thoughts, the latter of which reads: "Let us hope that it will not be necessary for six million Freemasons to be slaughtered before it becomes unfashionable to denounce them."

More than just Freemasonry, this book is about Western history. The author shows how, where, when and sometimes why Masonry shaped the people and events which make that history. Citing numerous sources — there's an average of 23 endnotes per chapter — Ridley explains how Freemasonry earned its reputation as a meeting place for brave people who would topple political and religious powers — by either ballot or bullet — to win freedom for numerous nations and bring individual liberty to their citizens.

But Ridley does not worship Masonry as do some "historians," and shows that sometimes Masons fought each other. In the Mexican-American War: "Santa Anna, Iturbide, Guerrero, Bustamante, Travis, Houston, Polk and Scott were all Masonic brothers." He also shows some giants of history who appear in many lists of famous Masons as having taken almost no interest in Masonry beyond their initiations. The Duke of Wellington is quoted writing he had "no recollection of having been admitted a Freemason," although he had been in Ireland, where his father and brother were Grand Masters. Winston Churchill is shown to have let his membership lapse in 1911.

Jasper Ridley's "The Freemasons" gives a rational account of how Freemasons have improved the world over the past three centuries. This is a respectable book each lodge should have in its library, and that each lodge should present as a gift to its local municipal library.

