

Trestleboard

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2005

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 and September.

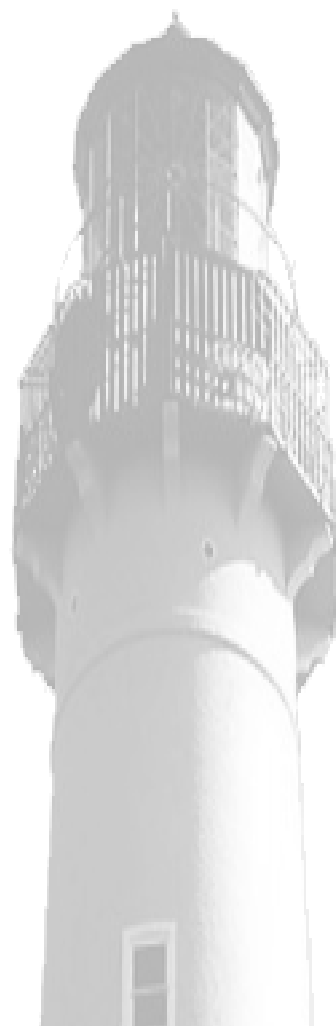
Our next communication will be held on
Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at:

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

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!

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From the East

WB Tom Thornton, Worshipful Master

My Brothers,

Our fall meeting plans are coming together.

The feature will be helping Ben Hoff decode Brown's Ritual from 1798. It is all questions and we will get to help guess what the answers might be.

The final version of our LORE Notebook index will be presented and discussed. It has been suggested that the index include the Lodge Histories (on yahoo-groups) and the names of the papers on our website. Orders will be taken for a January CD delivery.

There will be three pages from our 'Questions' Library for review by the members. The first two pages handled at the last meeting were very helpful. (Don't let 3 pages fool you, we took 45 minutes for just 2).

We expect some new members from the Spring class.

Meeting only four times a year, it is difficult to know who is who. To aid in recognition, I have asked our photographer Val Kornsiak to take a simple photo of those attending and are ok with the idea. It will be copied to CD (with any bio material you might like).It will be available at our Jan meeting. Thus we all will have the opportunity to be better acquainted.

If you can't make the meeting you may email me a simple waste up photo (regular or digital) and simple bio and I'll include it.

Fraternally,

Tom Thornton

Worshipful Master

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

My apologies for not getting your dues cards out to you. I moved in April and have yet to locate my seal press to seal the Dues Cards. I hope to find it this week and get the cards out prior to the next regular meeting.

Thus far 48 have yet to pay their 2005 dues. Of these, 14 are two years behind. This totals to over \$1500 in dues owed. Please brothers, let us keep this great thing we have going. Without your dues we will not be able to continue to function in the way we now do.

Third notices will be going out after the next regular meeting.

Matthew Korang, Secretary, NJ LORE No. 1786

From The West

Bro. Jay Hochberg, Senior Warden

In our lodge's not-so-distant future, we'll add to our repertoire of lodge discussions and paper presentations several new formats intended to encourage more dialogue in our shared pursuit of Light.

In September of next year, New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education will host a debate. No need to worry about contentious argument & peace and harmony; this will be all in good fun and focused on a topic that I'm sure each of us finds at least a little interesting.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons is a descendant of the Poor Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, also known as the medieval Knights Templar.

We are seeking one informed and capable Brother Mason to advocate adoption of the proposed resolution. An Officer of the Lodge, already chosen, will argue in opposition. The names of the two debaters will be announced this coming St. John the Evangelist Day, Dec. 27, 2005. The rules of the debate will be announced shortly thereafter. The debate will take place during the Lodge's Regular Communication of Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006.

This challenge has been communicated in writing to the entire Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for New Jersey. We've received favorable responses and reactions, including volunteers to argue the pro side. However I'll leave the offer open through the autumn to see if more brethren step forward.

Since LORE convenes only eight times in our two-year term, with one meeting being dedicated to our Annual Meeting ceremonies, I don't want to add too many new activities to our schedule. However there is one more group activity that, like the debate, I hope will bring more curious Masons through our door.

You may recall those "university challenge"-type contests, in which teams of students from two colleges compete in a question-and-answer game. Well, I'm hoping to bring that same format to LORE. Just a friendly competition between lodges, or perhaps districts. Look for this sometime in 2007.

In the meantime, please know that your officers are working on other ways to raise LORE's profile and generate greater interest in our doings. For example, we're initiating a program to assist Worshipful Masters with their "From the East" messages in their trestleboards. We'll be discussing this in great detail at our Sept. 24 meeting. I hope to see you there.

The Transactions of the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No. 1786 Volume I – 2002-2004

The Transactions of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research & Education No 1786 are provided to every member of the NJ LORE. They can also be purchased directly from the Secretary.

Our first volume contains all of the papers presented to the Lodge in our first two years. It also contains all of the minutes from all of the meetings held during this period.

Our first Volume is available for purchase for \$15.00 per copy. It is a perfect gift for a friend you wish to introduce the Lodge of Research to or to your Lodge as an addition to its library.

For a copy send a check payable to "NJ Lodge No. 1786"
along with your return address to:

WB Matthew Korang / 106 Wayland Rd. / Delran, NJ 08075





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!!

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 / 106 Wayland Rd. / Delran, NJ 08075

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 _____

"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 _____

FREEDOM AND FREEMASONRY

Submitted by Matthew Korang, Secretary

Oration delivered to Kirby Lodge, 2 February 2002

© Michael Baigent

When each of us came to be initiated we were first asked whether we were 'free'. And we answered that we were. But did we really understand what we were saying? For this challenge, and our assertion, is supremely important. Yet it is little explored in the complications of the ritual which followed. Nevertheless, it underpins our entire Masonic journey, both then – with us – and now – with our newly made brother, and that yet to come.

In freemasonry, truths are veiled in imagery; not so much to hide them – although that is a popular understanding – but, paradoxically, to communicate them. This needs some explanation: they are hidden because they are not seen – like a face cleverly concealed by an artist in a painting ostensibly of rocks, or of a landscape. They are not seen because they entail a shift of perspective; such a shift of conscious awareness that, in its absence, these truths effectively do not exist.

Such describes the secular world inhabited by ideologies and shallow social philosophies where answers are sought in focus groups or statistics; where theories masquerade as realities; where a well-shined form counts for more than integrity of purpose.

So how might we approach, perhaps find these truths? By recognizing that in our hearts we already know them. Which makes the task one of remembering: remembering who we really are; where we really come from; why we are here. To do this we need prompting. We need catalysts which can evade the rational skepticism of our minds which have long been trained by the logical structure of our language into viewing reality in a rational and logical manner. Of course, this is very useful in our daily life, but not so useful in the search for meaning. It is difficult to prod such a mind into allowing thought patterns which are markedly different to emerge and grow. We need help in this task. And Freemasonry, with its symbols and rituals, exists for that very purpose.

While truth remains veiled in symbols, these provide a regulated and well-mapped set of paths into this unknown and apparently hidden destination which we seek. For symbols can be understood without rationality and logic which makes it easier to pass through those secular pillars in order that we may journey from ignorance to knowledge. Brother Clive: you long knew, but you now know, that Freemasonry is a journey. In your case, not a new one, but a variation on an ancient theme with which you are very familiar. Nevertheless, I hope that you have touched some of the depth which seeks expression in Freemasonry, especially so in this ritual of Initiation, where even the symbols are veiling a more hidden imagery, in layer upon layer of patterns of meaning in order that each Freemason can move ahead on his journey at his own speed, confident in the knowledge that, 'Where the name of God is invoked, no harm can ensue'. A line which can long be pondered upon for its layers of meaning.

You entered the temple. You attested to your freedom to choose and to journey ahead. You traveled a path, simultaneously actual and symbolic, where your self-concept was rocked and humiliated. But you passed the test and you were, in our temple, amongst our brethren, accepted into our fraternity; and into this lodge of freemasons, as a brother. This acceptance began when you were first presented to the Wardens as a candidate recommended for admission.

'Enter, Free and of Good Report' the Junior Warden said to you. Enter: Enter into our lodge as an equal. But further, enter on the journey of a freemason: that which travels from darkness to light, from the rough to the smooth. A journey where, instead of treading the rocky ground alone, you have kin to help you.

Of good report: your reputation as a man has preceded you. Your conduct in the temple has become you, and the Warden has confidence in the future success of your endeavors.

But free? Here is the heart of the matter; freedom sits at the heart of freemasonry. You had to be free to enter through the doors of our temple. You had to be unencumbered by social, political, or ideological baggage. Historically, in the days of travelling masons, you had to be free to work. But we are not now concerned with politics or history; we are concerned with meaning and with the timeless now. And here, talk of freedom means

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much more. It allows us to travel on the greatest journey a human being can make: towards that Light which is eternally present, absolutely beneficent and the very source of meaning and truth. Divine, we can call it, but it demands no names or explanations. For names too often get themselves lost and take us with them into their divided confusion.

Each man's journey is unique, yet, in order to begin it, and to make it, he needs to be free; for he must choose for himself, to begin: 'Step off with the left foot'; 'The first regular step in freemasonry'; 'Advance to the east in due form'; our Craft has all the symbolism if we but recognize it.

Freemasonry is based upon the realization that once the journey has begun our faith and our hope can be transmuted within the crucible of compassion, tolerance, and a humble charity, into a living knowledge of the True – which, as masons, we speak of symbolically as the G. A. O. T. U.

Brother, welcome. We are honored to have you beside us as we too walk on that journey.

ALL-SEEING EYE

An important symbol of the Supreme Being, borrowed by the Freemasons from the nations of antiquity. Both the Hebrews and the Egyptians appear to have derived its use from the natural inclination of figurative minds to select an organ as the symbol of the function which it is intended peculiarly to discharge. Thus, the foot was often adopted as the symbol of swiftness, the arm of strength, and the hand of fidelity.



On the same principle, the open eye was selected as the symbol of watchfulness, and the eye of God as the symbol of Divine watchfulness and care of the universe. The use of the symbol in this sense is repeatedly to be found in the Hebrew writers. Thus, the Psalmist says, Psalm xxxiv, 15: "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry," which explains a subsequent passage (Psalm cxxi, 4), in which it is said: "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

In the Apocryphal Book of the Conversation of God with Moses on Mount Sinai, translated by the Rev. W. Cureton from an Arabic manuscript of the fifteenth century, and published by the Philobiblon Society of London, the idea of the eternal watchfulness of God is thus beautifully allegorized:

"Then Moses said to the Lord, O Lord, dost thou sleep or not? The Lord said unto Moses, I never sleep: but take a cup and fill it with water. Then Moses took a cup and filled it with water, as the Lord commanded him. Then the Lord cast into the heart of Moses the breath of slumber; so he slept, and the cup fell from his hand, and the water which was therein was spilled. Then Moses awoke from his sleep. Then said God to Moses, I declare by my power, and by my glory, that if I were to withdraw my providence from the heavens and the earth, for no longer a space of time than thou hast slept, they would at once fall to ruin and confusion, like as the cup fell from thy hand."

On the same principle, the Egyptians represented Osiris, their chief deity, by the symbol of an open eye, and placed this hieroglyphic of him in all their temples. His symbolic name, on the monuments, was represented by the eye accompanying a throne, to which was sometimes added an abbreviated figure of the god, and sometimes what has been called a hatchet, but which may as correctly be supposed to be a representation of a square.

The All-Seeing Eye may then be considered as a symbol of God manifested in his omnipresence—his guardian and preserving character—to which Solomon alludes in the Book of Proverbs (xv, 3), where he says: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding (or, as in the Revised Version, keeping watch upon) the evil and the good." It is a symbol of the Omnipresent Deity.

 Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Volume 1, Albert G. Mackey. New York : Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co., Inc., 1966. pp. 52-53

Required Reading

Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

Below is a continuation of a list of recommended reading from the website – www.cornerstonesociety.com. This website contains some of the most prevalent authors in England at this time. Many of the writers of Freemasonry Today, an English Freemasonic Magazine, are regular contributors to the website. Noted author and editor of Freemasonry Today, Michael Baigent is a regular contributor.

Anyway, the website editor, Matthew Scanlon, posted his quite extensive listing of what he considers “required reading” for today’s Freemason . The website lists the books in three parts. I will reprint them for you with Bro. Scanlon’s commentary. If you get a chance take an Internet trip to this webpage, you will not be sorry. The rest of the list will be reprinted in future editions of the Trestleboard. Even though this is a list for English Freemasons, it is still interesting.

Recommended Reading

Smyth, Frederick

Brethren in Chivalry
(Shepperton, 1991)

A sound general history of the Masonic Orders of Chivalry, including the Knights Templar, Knights of Malta, and Knights Templar Priests. Available in hardback.

Smyth, Frederick

Freemasons' Reference Book
(Lewis Masonic, 2000)

A helpful and easy to read reference book for Freemasons.

Stevenson, David

The Origins of Freemasonry, Scotland's Century, 1590 - 1710
(Cambridge University Press, 1988)

A scholarly work which examines the various masonic craft organizations in Scotland during the seventeenth century. The author, now Emeritus Professor from the University of St. Andrews, argues that Freemasonry emerged in Scotland after the re-organization of the mason craft there in 1599. Available in paperback.

Stevenson, David

The First Freemasons, Scotland's early lodges and their members
(University of Aberdeen Press, 1988)

A complimentary study to The Origins of Freemasonry. This tome is devoted to the early Scottish Masonic lodges and their membership, according to their geographical location. A very good study. Second-hand copies can be found.

Tydeman, Canon Richard

From the Canon's Mouth - A collection of prose, verse and doggerel
(QCCC Ltd)

Some interesting musings from a figure well-known to English Freemasons.

Vaughan, William Preston

The Antimasonic Party in the United States, 1826 - 1843
(University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1983)

Villard de Honnecourt

Revista Villard de Honnecourt
Transactions of the French research lodge.
41 volumes to date.

www.detrad.com/detrad/LibrairieFMVillard_de_Honnecourt.html

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Webb, John

Rudyard Kipling - Man, Poet, Mason
(Lewis Masonic)

The story of this famous and enthusiastic mason is told beautifully by the author in this neat little booklet.

Webb, John

Horatio Admiral Lord Nelson - Was he a Freemason?
(Lewis Masonic)

John Webb investigates to see if Britain's famous war hero was ever a Mason.

Weir, John

Robert Burns, the Freemason
(Lewis Masonic, 1996)

Commemorating the bicentenary of the death of one of Scotland's favourite sons and National Bard. John Weir's presentation is a welcome addition to the many works already available on this popular wordsmith.

Weisberger, R. William

Speculative Freemasonry and the Enlightenment, a study of the craft in London, Paris, Prague and Vienna
(Columbia University Press, New York, 1993)

Dr. Weisberger begins with an introductory look at the Enlightenment in different parts of Europe, before investigating speculative Freemasonry in early Hanoverian Britain, Paris, Prague and Vienna. A study worth reading for those interested in a crucial period of European cultural development. Available in hardback.

Weisberger, R. William (ed)

Essays concerning European and American Freemasonry
Prof. Wallace McLeod (ed) (Columbia University Press, 2001)
Dr. Brent Morris (ed) Forthcoming!

Wells, Roy A

Some Royal Arch Terms Examined
(Lewis Masonic, 1978)

A though provoking short study of the terms used in both the craft and Royal Arch degrees looking at their respective etymologies and Biblical background. Available in hardback.

Wells, Roy A

Royal Arch Matters
(Lewis Masonic, 1984)

A short and succinct study of the Royal Arch as a completion of the Master's degree. Available in paperback.

Wells, Roy A

Understanding Freemasonry
(Lewis Masonic)

This tome comprises a collection of papers on a wide range of topics from the noted Masonic researcher.

Wharton, Duke of

Logia de Estudios e Investigaciones, Duque de Wharton
(Duke of Wharton Research Lodge, No.18, Spain)
Vols., 1, 1996 - 97; 2, 1998 - 1999. Vol.3 Forthcoming!
In Spanish.

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

Important Information

Brethren,

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 24, 2004 at the Trenton Masonic Temple, 100 Barracks St. Trenton, NJ at 10:00 a.m.

Order of Business

- Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.)
- Opening Lodge (9:30 a.m.)
- Presentation of Papers
- Lunch Break
- Short Business meeting
- Closing

Officer's Dress – Business Attire

Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

Most Worshipful Robert J. Sheridan
403 Breaker Drive
Galloway, NJ 08205
609-652-5390

Like to Write?

Interested in Masonic History or Theory?

Why not consider submitting a paper to the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education?

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.

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.

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 : **Bro. Jay Hochberg at 973-256-0374**

Officers for 2004-2006

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published by January 1, 2006. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by December 15, 2005.

Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary
mkorang@comcast.net



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

“A Dictionary of Freemasonry”

by Robert Macoy

Gramercy Books, 700 pages.

Bro. Robert Macoy, 33° authored this reference book in the mid 19th century as a history, “cyclopedia” and dictionary of Freemasonry. What you get in this edition from Gramercy Books is two dictionaries in one volume. First there is Macoy’s work, which is followed by “A Dictionary of Symbolical Masonry” by the prolific 19th century author Rev. George Oliver.

Over the years Macoy’s dictionary seems to have taken a backseat to Mackey’s ubiquitous encyclopedia and Coil’s late 20th century follow-up, yet it stands apart from those two works in the way it captures details of long-forgotten rituals and Masonic beliefs. His entry on the Twelve Grand Points of Masonry, in which he explains the pre-Union teaching of the Antients that connects the 12 Tribes of Israel to a dozen aspects of Masonic initiation, is an excellent example of the book’s ability to show today’s reader what Masonry was like to those who came in the same way and manner so many generations ago.

In his General History of Freemasonry, Macoy takes us on a fairly detailed 60-page journey back in time. Starting at the time of Moses in Egypt (I guess Knight and Lomas read this book) and advancing through Pax Romana, the rise of Christianity, and the Grand Lodge era all the way to the founding of the Grand Encampment of the United States in 1816, Macoy weaves an enjoyable story of the Craft, mixing hard fact with hopeful fable. Although to his credit, the author starts his history explaining that no one can pinpoint the origins of Freemasonry, something that other historians of that era neglected to acknowledge.

And on to Dr. Oliver. He was a learned man who authored numerous books on the Craft and subjects of antiquity and he is remembered largely as a controversial character in Masonry for his unapologetic insistence that Freemasonry was Christian to its core, a point of view that has hurt his reputation among later generations. Still his dictionary is a comprehensive 300 pages that is highly useful, especially to Masonic researchers who seek out Biblical references and allusions in Masonic rituals and lectures.

