

Trestleboard

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2006

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.

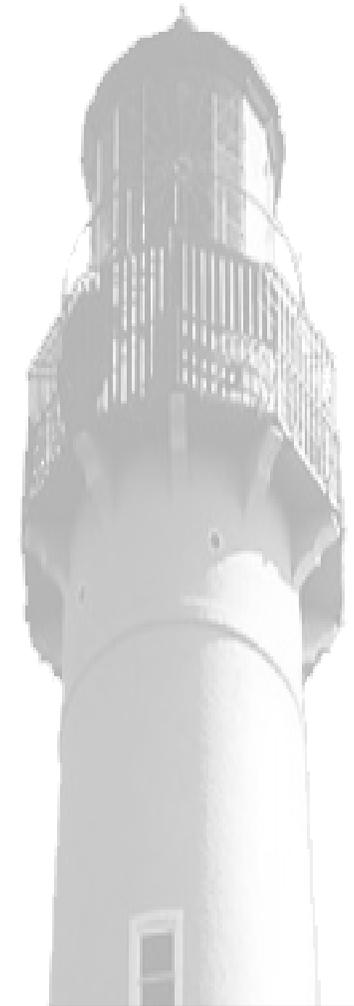
Next Communication

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, October 7, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at:

**Union Lodge No. 19
60 Cedar Ave.
North Brunswick, NJ**

ALL MASTER MASONS ARE WELCOME!



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From the East

WB Jay Hochberg, Worshipful Master

Brethren, we've got a lot of information to cover, so please pardon the abrupt delivery.

1. Our Regular Communication of September 23rd is now an Emergent Communication on October 7th. The "Great Templar Debate" is still on the agenda. W. Bro. John Corrigan of St. Stephen's Lodge and I will debate the resolution on the floor:

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.

John will argue in favor of adopting this resolution; I will argue against. Out of deference to the various activities honoring Junior Grand Warden Bill Berman that weekend, this Communication will be *very* brief. Officers will open the lodge at 9:30 a.m. and we're out the door before 11:59.

2. While the Trenton Masonic Temple undergoes renovations, we will meet Under Dispensation at Union Lodge No. 19, located at 60 Cedar Ave. in North Brunswick until further notice.

3. Our next presentation of papers will be at our January 27, 2007 Communication. This is the "Day of the Deacons," as Senior Deacon Marcus Carroll and Junior Deacon J.R. Avanti will present their first papers to LORE. Of course other papers are welcome also, and I'll have one too.

4. Senior Warden Ben Hoff generously offers to serve as a "thesis advisor" to any LORE brother who wants to get involved in our education work, but is having trouble getting started or keeping focused. Ben is an invaluable resource in this regard so don't pass up this tremendous opportunity. Speak to him as soon as you can.

5. LORE is going to broaden the scope of its work during this new term. In addition to our customary presentations of papers, we will host a few special events, like the Templar Debate, so be prepared for an occasional Emergent Communication. In the works are a "game show" type of competition between lodges or districts; a visit from Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865 in Virginia; and a "Table Lodge/EA Degree" exemplification using ritual from the 1760s. On top of all that, expect two trips to the GL of NY for a look at how its library operates (date TBA), and for a visit to Garibaldi Lodge to marvel at its Scottish Rite (French Rite) Entered Apprentice Degree on November 3rd.

6. I have been in touch with the Masonic Service Association of North America, publisher of the monthly Short Talk Bulletin. The executive director is open to receiving submissions for possible publication as STBs. We'll discuss this in lodge, but as you might guess here's a good opportunity for LORE to assist this venerable institution.

I feel highly honored to be part of our current officer line, a team of Masonic education enthusiasts who will make you even more proud to be a LORE brother. Brethren, our goal is to provide what is not available elsewhere. Please make certain you add our events to your calendar.

Fraternally,



Worshipful Master

NJLORE Notes...

And LORE's temporary home is....

A terrific lodge in the 12th Masonic District that has opened its doors and heart to us when we need it most.

Located in what is perhaps the most significant area as regards Masonic history in New Jersey. It is a thriving Craft lodge with a talented officer line and a corps of wise Past Masters.

Has a lodge room that's a brightly lit, intimate space benefitting from recent renovations and that offers superb acoustics (which is great for those who don't project their voices).

Features a nice dining room and plenty of parking. It is located in a safe, quiet residential neighborhood in a town that is very easy to reach from all directions.

Is a hub of all kinds of Masonic activity, and is home to both a Royal Arch Chapter and a Cryptic Council.

This lodge is Union Lodge, No. 19 in North Brunswick! The street address is 60 Cedar Ave.

Official dispensation authorizing this temporary relocation is in the works. Please join me in thanking Worshipful Master Leroy H. Schneider, his Wardens, Officers, Trustees and Brethren and RW Burnham Hobbs, DDGM-12 for welcoming us into their home while the Trenton Temple undergoes its much needed renovations.

NJ LORE HONORS

At our May 27 Communication, NJ LORE announced its latest scholarly honorees.

Bro. Howard Z. Kanowitz was chosen to become LORE's second Laureate Member, by virtue of having presented five (5) research papers to the lodge.

Bro. Ben Hoff was honored when the brethren chose his paper "Five Ages of Masonic Ritual Development" as the new David A. Chase Honors Paper.

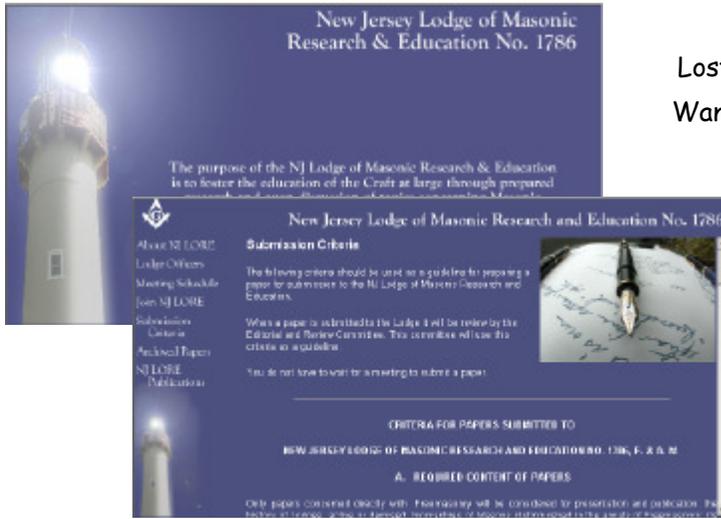
An appropriate awards ceremony will be held shortly to salute these treasured brethren.

LORE's Leaders In Research And Education

LORE's officers are committed to upholding standards of excellence in our research and education labors, and have pledged to take to the podium during this term to present the fruits of their hard work. This is just one facet of leadership to encourage other LORE brethren to enter the field of education, and is *not* meant to limit the officers to these dates or to prohibit anyone else from contributing to these meetings. The following is a schedule (subject to change) for 2007 of our officers' presentations of their own research papers.

Jan. 27, 2007	Senior Deacon Marcus Carroll and Junior Deacon J.R. Avanti
March 24, 2007	Treasurer Len March and Secretary Matt Korang
May 26, 2007	Chaplain Dennis Huey and Tyler Scott Simmons
September 2007	Senior Warden Ben Hoff and Junior Warden Ray Thorne (date TBA)

This schedule is intended to be only a foundation for our upcoming meetings. *All LORE brethren are encouraged to present their work as often as they please in accordance with the lodge's by-laws.* The Master will present a paper at each meeting as well. All submissions must be forwarded to the Master in a typed or electronic double-spaced format at least 45 days prior to the meeting date.



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.org>

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 _____

“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.”



Signature of Lodge Secretary _____

Your Signature _____

From The West

WB Ben Hoff, Senior Warden

Something to get you thinking...

In the course of my investigations into the history of Masonic ritual I have frequently come upon interesting little tidbits of illumination about how our forebears thought about Freemasonry in general, which often could be different from the assumptions about the fraternity we hold today. In reading Henry Sadler's *Masonic Facts and Fictions* (1887) I came across one particularly intriguing bit of early legislation adopted by the Modern Grand Lodge in 1724, which was 7 years after its founding, and one year after the record of minutes began to be kept:

“That if any Brethren shall meet Irregularly and make Masons at any Place within ten miles of London, the persons present at the making (The new Brethren excepted), shall not be admitted even as Visitors to any Regular Lodge whatsoever, unless they come and make such Submission to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge as they shall think fit to impose on them.”

At first blush this regulation might seem unremarkable. No making of masons outside of regularly constituted lodges. It is the kind of thing that we expect from grand lodges. But keep in mind that this dates from the time when grand lodge was something new, and was only beginning to invent what it meant to be a grand lodge, and what were its powers and prerogatives. Indeed, this resolution captures a moment in the process of developing the whole concept of regularity, which did not exist until grand lodges invented it.

Of interest here is the scope of the statute (within ten miles of London), and most particularly, against whom the penalty is directed. Notice that the “New Brethren”, in other words, any Masons initiated at the “irregular” meetings, were particularly excepted from the penalty of exclusion. In other words, Masons were not irregular, only meetings were irregular. And by implication, otherwise “irregular” meetings were perfectly acceptable outside of the ten-mile limit. All of this stands completely to reason once we understand the situation of this newfangled thing called a grand lodge.

In the days before grand lodges, a man was made a Mason by other Masons in a meeting called a lodge provided that all participants were agreeable. No more authority was needed since no other authority existed. It would be difficult for the founders of the Grand Lodge to assert that other men, initiated exactly as they had been, were not Masons simply because the lodge where they were made was not affiliated with the grand lodge. Unaffiliated Masons outnumbered grand lodge Masons in the early years, and were quite welcome to visit or join lodges affiliated with the Grand Lodge. Neither were grand lodge Masons prohibited from visiting unaffiliated lodges. Most of the early growth of the Grand Lodge's membership was not from initiations in their own lodges, but rather from affiliation by Masons made elsewhere. The old ways persisted for some decades after the first grand lodge was formed. This legislation indicates that even Masons affiliated with the Grand Lodge continued in the old ways they had always known. Even Anthony Sayer, the first Grand Master, ran afoul of this legislation, and had to “make submission to the Grand Lodge”. Various measures with similar purpose but different formulation were adopted over subsequent years.

So what happened to change this view of regularity, and who was considered to be a Mason? Ultimately it seems to have been about money, or more particularly, about charity. The following item from the Grand Lodge minutes of March, 1735 makes this clear:

“The Grand Master took notice (in a very handsome speech) of the Grievance of making extraneous Masons in a private and clandestine manner upon small and unworthy considerations, and Proposed that in order to prevent that Practice for the future; No person thus admitted into the Craft, nor any that can be proved to have assisted at such Makings shall be capable either of acting as a Grand Officer on occasion, or even as an Officer in a Private Lodge, nor ought they to have any part in the General Charity which is much impaired by this clandestine Practice.”

The motion was passed, almost without discussion. So some eleven years later, the new-made “person” is now excluded, as well as the other participants. But most importantly, the reason given is impairment of the charity funds. As much as Grand Lodge would have liked to recognize new brothers, however they were made, it seems that men of already limited means were being made “upon small and unworthy consideration” – none of which went to grand lodge it appears – who were then applying to the Grand Lodge for charity. Grand Lodge took Freemasonry's traditional charitable obligations seriously. But they did not intend to be taken for unfair advantage. Even so, the new mason is not excluded from visiting or joining regular lodges, but only from holding office, attending grand lodge, and partaking of GL charity.

It seems that our commonly accepted view of regularity did not stem from the Grand Lodge's assumption of authority to make Masons, but rather from more practical considerations.

Just something to get you thinking...

From The South

Bro. Raymond C. Thorne, JW

Dear Brother,

Over the summer, the History Channel aired a program “Mysteries of the Freemasons The Beginning.”

In it, one of the commentators stated. “When I joined, the rituals were just about as crazy as I thought they would be. I asked everybody what they meant and the answer was, ‘Well, you’ll find out, don’t worry.’ And over the next two or three years it became evident they hadn’t a clue; nobody knows that those rituals are about. So, it started me my quest to try to understand them further.”

I thought to myself, ‘What is he talking about? The second section of the E.A. Degree is the explanation of what happened in the first section and why.’”

The speaker was Christopher Knight, co-author of “The Hiram Key,” so you can take his comments for what they are worth. At least Brother Knight found some answers, in a muddled--yet profitable--way.

Unfortunately, many, if not most, candidates see no sense to our ritual--and therefore show little if any interest in being an active member. Most candidates do not think, or are not taught, to look past the surface. Many instructors only have the candidate memorize a string of words. Only a few (O blessed exceptions!) talk about the meanings of those words.

True, candidates are given books for explaining some of the history, ritual and structure of Freemasonry, but without encouragement from anyone in the lodge, most new brothers use those sources of light as dust catchers.

How many lodge officers learning their part only memorize a string of words devoid of much meaning? How many ritual instructors of whatever level correct the officer’s words without a context of meaning? I know it took me a great many years to understand that if I understood what the ritual is saying, it helps greatly to memorize and recite the correct words. And hopefully I can then better convey some of that meaning to the candidate.

The cartoon symbol for a sudden realization is a light bulb. LORE can be the switch to turn on that light bulb. Invite a friend to travel with you to the meetings. Talk with our well-informed brethren (which, I like to think is anyone attending our meetings). Take advantage of our resources to spread Masonic light and knowledge around your lodge.

See you in North Brunswick October 7.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NJ

LORE’s next regular communication will be held as an
EMERGENT COMMUNICATION

To convene at

UNION LODGE No. 19

60 Cedar Ave.

North Brunswick, NJ

on

Saturday, October 7, 2006

NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education

Important Information

Brethren,

You are cordially and fraternally invited to an Emergent Communication of the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786 to meet on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at the Union Lodge No. 19, 60 Cedar Ave., North Brunswick, NJ at 9:30 a.m.

Order of Business

- Continental Breakfast (served 9:00 a.m.)
- Opening Lodge (9:30 a.m.)
- Short Business Meeting
- Templar Debate
- Closing

Officer's Dress – Business Attire

Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

Most Worshipful Douglas R. Policastro
620 Weston Drive
Toms River, NJ 08755-3271
732-240-6112

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. Ben Hoff at 732-398-1230**

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From the Editor's Desk.....

Next Trestleboard will be published about January 1, 2006.

We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by December 15, 2006.

Matthew Korang, PM, Secretary
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New Jersey Lodge of Masonic
Research and Education No. 1786

Trenton Masonic Temple
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Trenton, NJ 08608

*Bringing Light to New
Jersey Freemasonry!*

We're On the Web!!
njlore1786.org

Back Page Book Review

WB Jay Hochberg, Peninsula Lodge, No. 99

“Collectanea”

Printed by the Grand College of Rites of the United States of America

Among the curios of Masonic organizations is the Grand College of Rites, a regular body that serves as a repository of defunct rites' otherwise forgotten rituals. If you've ever attended A.M.D. Weekend in Washington, then you've been near the GCR's annual meeting. Thurman Pace, Owen Henry, Harold Elliott, Harold V.B. Voorhis and Godfrey Pittis are among the New Jersey Masons who've served as Grand Chancellor of the College in its 74 years. Annually it publishes a new “Collectanea,” the reproduction of a ritual or law book that takes the reader back to an age when the Masonic family was so much larger than what remains today, when the Scottish and York rites had formidable competition for the loyalty of Master Masons.

Needless to say, “Collectanea” volumes are not for everyone. You really need to be deeply interested in Masonic history-mystery to love these books, but I must insist they are not mere memorials to what once was. These books tell the stories of Masonic chapters, senates and other bodies that can help a student fill in the blanks of our own extant rituals that have been dumbed down in our lifetime. What remains of our contemporary Scottish Rite Rose Croix Degree lacks much of the poetic explanation we find in, say, the Egyptian Masonic Rite of Memphis from 1867. An added benefit is the way “Collectanea” reveals where some of today's clandestine organizations have borrowed their identities.

The GCR has a slate of officers and a number of committees handling the administrative and ceremonial work, but the man behind “Collectanea” is the indispensable Arturo de Hoyos, Grand Archivist, who you may know from his work in the Antient & Accepted Scottish Rite and elsewhere. To learn more about the GCR or perhaps to become a Fellow, visit us on the web at:

www.grandcollegeofrites.org

