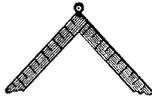




May 2018

FROM THE EAST



Traveling



In April, I was fortunate enough to travel to the Portland, Oregon area for work. While there, I visited the brethren of Beaverton Lodge #100, A.F. & A.M., in Beaverton. They were initiating a new Entered Apprentice that night, and it was a real treat to be able to compare the work between Oregon and Texas, especially in light of the three EA degrees we put on here in Kendall recently. Lots of things were the same, and lots of things were different.

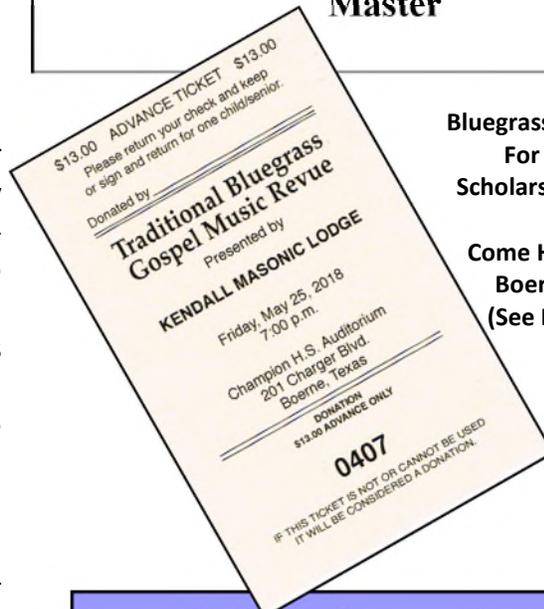
One of the greatest benefits of membership in this great fraternity of ours is the ability to travel and visit other lodges, both in our own and under other Grand Lodges. If you haven't traveled, then I highly recommend it. You'll meet new friends and find welcome and a home away from home in places where you know no one. You'll see new and different ways of doing everything from opening lodge to differences in the obligations, to differences in the floor work. Why, even the method of addressing brethren while at labor differ. For instance, when standing in lodge, at least in the EA lodge I visited, all brethren stood with the arms crossed over the heart, left over right, and all brothers were addressed as Worshipful Brother. In another jurisdiction that I've visited, (Colorado), the tiler receives the sword directly from the hand of the Master. The neat thing about seeing how others do the work is that the experience adds deeper understanding to our own work. I thought more about the EA lecture that evening than I have at any time recently, specifically because it was different from ours.

There are so many great things about our fra-

ternity, and if there's any way you can do it, make sure to visit lodges when you travel. After my experiences this year, I don't plan any trip without checking on lodge schedules in the area I'll be visiting. There are so many ways to gain more light, and traveling to earn those Master's wages is a great way to do it.

As an aside, there's a great new smartphone app called Amity, which is free and which, after you've been vouched for, gives you details about which lodges you can legally visit in places all over the world, along with locations, meeting times, etc.

Dow Mathis
Master



Bluegrass Gospel Fundraiser
For Kendall Lodge
Scholarships And Charities
Please
Come Help Us Greet The
Boerne Community
(See Page 6 for more
Info

Building Preservation March Donations	
<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Billy Lemmons Jr	Bro Billy Lemmons Sr
Bob Easterling	Ann's and My 37 Years of Marriage
Abb Kestler Jr.	Bro. Claude Hollen



The Trowel – a Lost Symbol? W Bro Steve Lourey



The trowel is a beautiful Masonic symbol which seems to be somewhat lost in English Freemasonry. We read in the Book of Amos, "Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, a plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any-more."

That wall would have been cemented to make it complete and that would have been applied by a trowel. The Vulgate Latin version renders it, "a plasterer's" or "mason's trowel"; with which they lay their plaster and mortar on in building. According to Coil's Masonic Encyclopaedia, its symbolism is that of spreading the cement which binds the brethren together, thus the Lodge is strongly cemented with love and friendship, and every brother is duly taught secrecy and prudence, morality and good fellowship.

In North American jurisdictions the proper place assigned to the working tool of the trowel is the Master Mason's Degree, as in operative masonry, while the Entered Apprentice prepares the materials, and the Fellow-Craft places them in their proper situation, the Master Mason spreads the cement with a trowel, which binds them together.

According to Mackey the work of unskilled apprentices and craftsmen was not completed until the stones adjusted have been accurately examined by the master workman, and permanently secured in their places by cement. This is accomplished by the trowel, and hence this implement is entrusted to the Master Mason. Thus, the tools attached to each degree admonish the Mason, as an Apprentice, to prepare his mind for the reception of the great truths which are hereafter to be unfolded to him; as a Fellow Craft, to mark their importance and adapt them to their proper uses; and as a Master, to adorn their beauty by the practice of brotherly love and kindness, the cement that binds all Masons in one common fraternity.

The Master Mason is given the trowel because it is symbolic of his function in the great work of Temple building; when that tool has done its work there is nothing more to do, because the structure stands complete, a united mass, incapable of falling apart; the stones which were many have now, because of the binding power of the cement, become as one. If the stone represents an individual man, and if the Temple represents the Fraternity as a whole, it is evident that the trowel is the symbol of that which has power to bind men together. Burrage states that the equilateral triangle was originally the trowel. It represented the greatest and most abstruse mysteries, signifying equally the Deity, creation and fire.

The trowel teaches that nothing can be united without proper cement, and that the perfection of the building must depend on the suitable disposition of the cement. So Charity, the bond of perfection and social union, must link separate minds and separate interests; that, like the radii of a circle, which extend from the centre to every part of the circumference, the principle of universal benevolence may be diffused to every member of the community.

From some versions of the old catechism we learn that the junior Entered Apprentice was armed with a "sharp instrument" which was a pointed trowel. In exchanging the sceptre for the trowel it was the role of Junior Entered Apprentice being armed with the trowel as the means of keeping out all cowans and intruders. So the earlier use of the trowel may have been transferred to the sword.

The trowel was the emblem of circumspection and was called the "Jewel of the E.A." In an early ritual the E.A.F. was extolled to "Emblematically... stop up all interstices in the Lodge so that not a sound shall escape from within nor an eye pry from without, whereby our secrets and mysteries may become known to the popular world.

In 1 Peter 2:5, the author describes us as living stones, built upon a spiritual house. The cement of those living stones is charity and concord. The Christian writer Chrysostom writes: From solidity follows compactedness, for you will then produce solidity, when having brought many things together, you shall cement them compactedly and inseparably; thus a solidity is produced, as in the case of a wall. But this is the peculiar work of

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

love; for those who were by themselves, when it has closely cemented and knit them together, it renders solid. And faith, again, does the same thing; when it allows not reasonings to intrude themselves. For as reasonings divide, and shake loose, so faith causes solidity and compactness.

Interstice comes from the late Middle English from the Latin to 'stand between' and architecturally is an intervening space, especially a very small one, as in a, gap, opening, hole, cranny, crevice, chink, crack, or breach. For our ancient Brethren, cementing interstices was vital in preserving cisterns. Cisterns are subterranean reservoirs, sometimes covering as much as 4000 square metres of land, in which the rainwater is gathered during the spring or to preserve underground streams. Their extreme necessity is attested by the countless old, unused cisterns with which the Middle East is honeycombed. Cisterns were hewed into the rock and then lined with impervious masonry and cement. If the cement of the cistern gave way, the reservoir became useless and was abandoned.

So too with Masonry. **If we do not take care to spread the cement of brotherly love, relief and truth, there is a risk that we, like the ancient cisterns, may become abandoned and useless.**



References:

Algernon, R. (1932). The director of ceremonies. London: Kenning & Son, p.89.
 Buchan, M. (1992) The Masonic Trowel, Scottish Rite Journal – September.
 Burrage, C. (1912). Annual address of Charles Dana Burrage. [Massachusetts]: The Society.
 Haywood, H. (1995). Symbolical masonry. Kila, Mont.: Kessinger.
 Mackey, A. Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and its kindred sciences....
 Macoy, R. General History, Cyclopaedia and Dictionary of Freemasonry
 Roberts, Allen E. Coil's Masonic Encyclopaedia.
 Shackleton, E. (n.d.) The Symbols of the First Degree. Dormer Masonic Study Circle



Brothers Kyle Jackson & Garrett Ethridge Stir Those Puppies!



The Finished Product—Ready for Serving



SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren...

Last month we put three (3) Entered Apprentice Masons to work. They are working hard with their instructors to begin to absorb our esoteric work. We're also preparing for an Outdoor Master Mason's Degree at Camp Alzafar. More will be coming out soon.

By the way... I have more 2018 dues cards in my office than I want (which is 0) and you Brothers need them. So, stop procrastinating as this year's almost over. Send your due\$ in and I'll get your cards to you quickly.

Here are some thanks from me... To those brothers who attended and/or helped out in the EA degrees last month, especially the Graded EA... to those brothers who worked on the 14th to make our Spring Fish Fry Fundraiser a great success with 555 dinners sold... to Brother Dale Curry who comes with his trailer mounted fryers and really does make a difference working with us... to the Masons who collected money on the wet and drizzly streets of Boerne for the Alzafar Shrine Children's Hospital's Transportation Fund on the 21st... you make a difference... and finally to those Brothers who helped us move the foyer, hall, and Secretary's Office furniture so that we could get the new wood-grained flooring installed because of our "flood" a few month's ago... it looks great! So, as I started with... THANK YOU MY BROTHERS!

Here are a few things to put on your calendar for May:



Monday, May 21st, will be our **May Stated Meeting** with Dinner starting at 6:30 PM, Food and Fellowship last until 7:20 PM or so, and our Stated Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. **Come on and join us!** Some of our wives stay in the Banquet Room during the meeting so bring your wife and/or other family members and come to the dinner and meeting.



This month our **Scholarship committee** is working with the Counselors in the Boerne and Comfort High Schools to decide who to honor with our 3 scholarships this year and help them start the next step in their lives. We present them

at each school's Honors & Awards Program which is usually in May and invite them to our June Stated Meeting to be honored individually.



Brethren... In case you haven't noticed **the Masonic Year is coming to a quickly approaching >>> close.** In June's Stated Meeting we will decide who will lead the lodge for the next 12 Months in the Stations and the Places. Are you going to be there, and do you know who is in the line desiring to continue to serve **Kendall Lodge** and its Brethren, as well as; **The Grand Lodge of Texas?** NO... then come.

ALSO OF INTEREST TO PUT ON

YOUR CALENDAR:



Nobles of Boerne Shrine Club and families. Our **Stated Meeting for May will be at Z's Wood Fired Pizza at 118 Old San Antonio Road.** We meet at 6:00 PM for Fellowship and have a short business meeting at 7:00 PM. If you are a Noble and don't belong to the Boerne Shrine Club then come and eat with us. You might want to join. If you're a Master Mason who is interested in the Shrine and our philanthropy, then come eat with us and we'll tell you what you have to do to join Alzafar Shrine and the Boerne Shrine Club.



The M. C. Holman Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association of the 51st Masonic District, M. W.: **Grand Lodge of Texas** will meet on Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018, at Kendall Lodge No. 897 in Boerne, TX and you can come and join us. We have a light meal at 6:30 PM and a short Business Meeting at 7:00 PM. All Masons, their wives, and other visitors are welcome to attend. **This is a real short trip for you Boerne Masons so come on down!**

We're here and we always have something going on that you can be a part of and make a difference.

Gary L. Bausell
Secretary



<i>May Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Austin L. Roberts III	5/2
Alfred C. Gray	5/4
Claude Smith Jr.	5/9
Lennox W. Stewart	5/11
Oscar B. Martin	5/12
James R. Schmitz	5/12
Philip W. Archilla	5/13
Abner L. Kestler Jr.	5/16
Charles W. Lloyd Jr.	5/21
Lon J. Jett III	5/23
Harold E. Sill Jr.	5/26
Parker W. Archilla	5/26
Gabriel H. Garner	5/27
Thomas L. Cottle	5/31

<i>Raised In May</i>	
Brother	Years Ago
Ralph C. Lawless	66
Garth W. Gombert	66
Don M. Edmondson	54
Jackie D. Elliff	48
Johnnie R. Wimpy Jr.	45
David L. D'Spain	43
Cecil L. Noah	42
Garil D. Allerkamp	40
Paul M. Holekamp	40
Jeffrey A. Sill	33
Richard B. Daniel	33
William L. Webb	29
Henry C. Kohl	23
William R. Martin Jr.	19
Herman H. Haas Jr.	16
Scott A. Hardin	12
Clarence M. Smith	12
Robert D. Easterling	10
Carl G. Praesel	10
Cary L. Clark	7
Bradley D. Pecor	7
Philip W. Archilla	5



Brother Dale Cury and Helper Cook The Fish & Fries

“MEMORIAL DAY—DECORATION DAY”

Many of us older folks remember when Memorial Day was called Decoration Day, but the majority of the population in our country today is not aware of the history of Memorial Day or its significance.

In the late 1860s, Americans in various cities and towns had begun holding springtime tributes to the countless fallen soldiers of the Civil War, decorating their graves and reciting prayers. It is not clear where this practice originated with many communities claiming the origination, but in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo was chosen, because it hosted the city's first annual community wide event, during which businesses were closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

What is now Memorial Day started as Decoration Day when General John A. Logan, leader of a Northern Civil War veterans' organization called for a nationwide remembrance in May 1868. General Logan proclaimed “The 30th of May 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in the defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.” General Logan called the day “Decoration Day”, and it did not coincide with the anniversary of any particular battle. On this very first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Many Southern states continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

Almost all cities and towns annually hosted parades, often incorporating military members and veterans' or-

ganizations. Decoration Day originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War, but during World War I the holiday evolved to commemorate American military who died in all wars. As time passed, the practice of decorating the graves of American military who died in all wars evolved into a time to decorate the graves of lost loved ones as well.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, continued to be observed on May 30, but in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971 and the same law declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Most young people only know that Memorial Day is a federal holiday and a wonderful opportunity for a long weekend to have fun with family and friends participating in parties and barbeques as the holiday unofficially marks the beginning of summer. Fewer and fewer towns and cities host Memorial Day parades, and the original purpose for what we now call Memorial Day seems to be forgotten by the masses. All graves in our National Cemeteries are adorned with flags for Memorial Day, but the majority of our war dead buried in the cemeteries of our towns and cities are not decorated, and the practice of decorating graves on Memorial Day is becoming lost in our fast paced world and the desire to relax and have fun on any given holiday.

As we enjoy our Memorial Day holiday and activities, we should each give pause and thanks to those who this holiday was designed to honor, those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Bob Easterling
SGM (Ret.) USA



Champion High School

Friday, May 25th, 7:00 pm

the
Marksmen

<http://www.marksmenquartet.com/>

(Visit & Listen)