



June 2018

FROM THE EAST



"...from whose bourne no traveler returns."



As I sit to write the last Trestleboard article of my year in the East, I find myself thinking about time. Twelve short months ago, I had a head full of things that I wanted to accomplish and all the time in the world to accomplish them. Now, twelve short months later, the list of things to do seems to be as long or maybe longer than when I started, but the time to accomplish those things has fled. In this way, the year in the east of a lodge master is emblematical of life in general.

We start out with the whole world laid out before us like a vast carpet, waiting for our sure footsteps as we move out to explore and conquer. As we travel, we see many things, some new, some not so new, some old, and as we travel, we pick up little mementos of our travels and put them in our pack.

Some things we see with new eyes... eyes that are seeing differently, that seem to see with more colors than before or that seem to perceive more textures than before. Our step is sure, our stride long; our head held high, ready to see, to touch, to bring to light, to understand all we meet on our journey. As we move along the pathway of light, however, we see more things that require our attention. Our speed slows, our pack grows heavier with those things we find along the way that we feel we must take along with us.

The pathway, once wide, smooth, and straight, begins to meander through the woods and thickets of life's experiences. Our targets, once so clear in our sight, now seem to be partially hidden by the fog and mist of life's circumstances. People grow ill, schedules have to be changed, our obligations to family, to work, to our God, and yes, to our lodge increase or change in scope. Regardless of the reason, obstacles seem to spring up in our way, keeping us from moving as fast or as far as we once believed we would move, and hiding our destination behind a forest of life's necessities.

The path grows rough and rocky. Gullies, cuts, cliffs and rockslides appear in our way, requiring us to change our direction in order to get across or around the obstacles. But a side effect of those detours is that we find ourselves travelling in directions we never knew existed. We get to meet people and

experience things that we never would have met or experienced had our path remained straight, smooth, and level.

Our pack grows larger and heavier with the accumulated experiences that we collect. Heavier, and larger, but oddly, it never seems to grow any fuller. At no point do we look at our pack and say, "Okay, it's full. Time to close it up. I'm done filling it." Brethren, my pack has grown much larger during this year. I have found and filled side pockets that I swear weren't there a year ago with laughter and joy, with tears and hours of contemplation. I have wept over the passing of more than one brother who has laid down his working tools. I have seen the work being done in the quarries as our new Masons labor to learn the beginnings of our gentle craft, and my heart has swelled with pride as they begin to reap the fruits of their labors.

As I make ready to pass the trowel along to my successor, I'm glad to say that even with all I've put in my traveling pack, there's still room. Still room to hear with joy the work of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, the new Master Mason. Still room to store away the memories shared by a brother as he tells of what he's learned when the light of Masonry has shown upon his life. I will gladly carry this pack, no matter how large it grows, along with my working tools, until I too reach that undiscovered country, lay down my working tools, and pass into that celestial lodge, eternal in the Heavens.

When that time comes, I'll have but one request. Please let me take the treasures of memory with me. Please help me carry this pack, which is finally filled to overflowing with the joys and sorrows of life... the smile of a child, the tears of a new mother, the satisfaction of a job well done... These are the things which determine the worth of a man's life. Not wealth, nor power, nor fame, but the wisdom of years and of tears. I pray that these treasures of life and of living will, in some small part, help to polish the ashlar which I carved with my life and heart and sweat, and make it suitable for the Master's use.

Thank you, brethren, for giving me the honor of serving as your master for the past year. The treasures of experience that I've added to my pack are more than any man deserves, and yet they weigh as nothing. I will always treasure the experiences, the cuts and scrapes and laughter and tears which I've been honored to gain in this year. If your experience over the last year is even half as rich as my own, then we are all better for the trip.

Dow Mathis
Master



FROM THE WEST



As this month will bring the celebration of St. John the Baptist day, let us revisit the meaning behind such a day. Below is an article obtained from Midnight Freemasons.org in which Bro. James E. Frey lays out the meaning of the St. Johns.

"My Brethren, one of the most commonly celebrated holidays of the Masonic calendar is St. John the Baptist day. Celebrated on June 24th, St. John the Baptist day falls on the Midsummer's day which is known as summer solstice, which is often marked by festivals, fertility rituals, and celebrations. The Summer Solstice occurs when the tilt of a planet's semi-axis inclining the southern hemisphere 23° 26' toward the sun it orbits. This happens twice each year, at which times the sun reaches its highest position in the sky as seen from the north or the South Pole. This is the day that has the longest period of daylight. To understand the importance of this holiday it's important to trace its origins in primitive man.

"About 40,000 years ago Homo sapiens first arose out of the primate family and had a very distinct difference from Homo erectus and Neanderthal, the ability to think abstractly. In ancient times man's survival was dependent upon primal urges, so if the wind blew, their thoughts were to find shelter. These nomadic peoples engaged in daily hunting and gathering for self-preservation and were dependent on nature. In this primitive state, man held nature to be the greatest of the mysteries. These new abstract thoughts began to arise to understand why the wind blew, or what the sun and the stars might be, instead of just the instincts related to the elements.

"Primitive people tried to explain mysteries in terms of their day-to-day lives, which allowed them to perceive the rising and setting of the sun as the greatest manifestation of nature. Its presence during the day warmed and comforted them at night, provided their crops with energy to grow, and kept away the wild beasts. The sun made their daily lives possible by acting as a guardian over them. So Sun worship was natural for men just struggling to understand and recognize basic understandings of the world. As different cultures arose elaborate mythologies were created to give meaning to the stars and planets as well as natural phenomenon.

"The central question to understanding the sun was not its daily journey east to west but its slow travel from north to south and back again through the seasons. So the summer solstice became a festival of harvest and a celebration of new life. In the same respect the winter solstice was significant of the end of the slow decline of the sun, the symbolic death that gave new life. The Greeks celebrated the story of Ceres and her search for her

daughter Proserpine as a metaphor for fertility and grown in the Eleusinian. The Egyptians held the allegory of Isis, Osiris and Horus in this same regard to celebrate the birth, death, and resurrection of the sun. In the Roman Empire especially among the soldiers the Rites of Mithras explained the solar mystery.

"When Rome became predominantly Christian, the old Roman feasts and festival days were turned from pagan festivals to Christian holidays dedicated to Christ or the Saints. So even today western culture retains its solar customs, but the origin of which is lost to most of us. The solstice dates once devoted to Apollo and Dionysus were now dedicated to the Saints John.

"It was a common custom in the Middle Ages for the workmen guilds to place themselves under the protection of some saint of the church who represented their trades. So the fishermen would adopt St. Peter, the builders would adopt St. Thomas, and the mason guilds adopted the two Saints John. The Masonic guilds adopted the Saints John as early as 1450 in Scotland which dedicated lodges to the Saints, creating Saints John Masonry.

"There is no historical evidence that either of the two Saints of the church were ever members of the Craft. But they were adopted as its patron Saints after the manner of former times, a good manner it is, too, and they have remained so in Christian lands. Lodges are dedicated to them, instead of to King Solomon, as formerly.' -Bro. Joseph Fort Newton

"St. John the Baptist is held as a major religious figure in the Canonical gospels, the Qur'an, the Bahai faith, and Mandaeism. It is believed that John was strongly influenced by the Essenes who were an apocalyptic sect who often performed Baptisms. He is prophesied about in the Old Testament in Malachi 3:1 'Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.'

"John is known as the one who first recognizes Jesus as the Messiah and then baptizes him in the river Jordan. John humbly requests to be baptized by Christ who in turn convinced John to bestow this favor upon him. Jesus refers to John as 'a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light' (John 5:35)

"John dies a martyr by denouncing publicly King Herod's marriage to his niece Herodias, which is incest and in violation to Old Testament Law. Herodias convinces her daughter Herod's grand-niece to dance before Herod and seduce him if he brings her the Baptist's head on a golden plate. Herod places John in a dungeon and gives him a chance to denounce his former teachings, embrace the Roman Empire, and claim Herod's rule as legitimate. John refuses three times and is beheaded and his head served on a golden Plate to Herodias.

"Josephus writes of a different reasoning in the 18th book of his Jewish Antiquities, chapter 5 about John 'who was a good man, and commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, both as to righteousness towards one another, and piety towards God, and so to

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come to baptism; for that the washing would be acceptable to him, if they made use of it, not in order to the putting away of some sins but for the purification of the body; supposing still that the soul was thoroughly purified beforehand by righteousness. Now when others came in crowds about him, for they were very greatly moved by hearing his words, Herod, who feared lest the great influence John had over the people might put it into his power and inclination to raise a rebellion” This gives us a view of John as a revolutionary speaking out against Herod’s right to rule as well as the Roman government which was quite common at the time. Josephus also states that the Jews believed that the destruction of Herod’s army was caused by God for this murder.

“As speculative masons we see a clear similarity between St. John the Baptist and Hiram Abiff. Both man are celebrated in the fraternity as martyrs who died in order to preserve their integrity. The Grand Lodge of England adopted the holidays as landmarks for the craft in 1717. As Freemasons we should hold these holidays to preserve a connection with the early men of antiquity. This is a direct relation to the earliest of abstract thoughts to understand God and the world around us. As time passed and man’s perception of the world changes so did these sacred days, to adopt the tenants of man’s progress but also to preserve the earliest understanding of light and life.”

Matthew Archilla
Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH



So Mote it Be

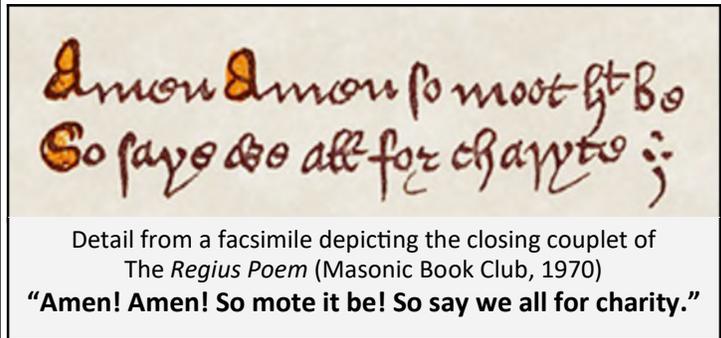
I have often thought of why and where this phrase came from. After all, we say it all the time. So why not study and learn about it. I read a few interesting articles and this is what I found out...

It is the accepted norm in our culture to conclude prayers by saying “Amen,” a word meaning “So be it.” It is a Latin word derived from the Hebrew word



which means “certainly.” The word mote is is an archaic verb that means “may” or “might,” and traces back to Old English. The phrase “So mote it be” means “So may it be,” which is the same as “So be it.”

Now that we’ve established the equivalence of “Amen” and “So mote it be,” the question remains, “Why do Masons end their prayers with ‘So mote it be’?” The answer goes back to the *Regius Poem* of about 1390 AD, the oldest known Masonic document (now housed in the British Museum, London). It is one of the Old Charges or Gothic Constitution used by early Freemasons to regulate their trade. It has a legendary history, regulations to guide the Masonic trade and rules of manners and moral conduct. The poem ends famously with this couplet:



Detail from a facsimile depicting the closing couplet of *The Regius Poem* (Masonic Book Club, 1970)
“Amen! Amen! So mote it be! So say we all for charity.”

I find it amazing; **we as Masons have been using the same vernacular as our Masonic brethren used back in 1390.** The next time you say “So mote it be” during Lodge or at a stated meeting dinner prayer, you are part of continuing a 600 year-old Masonic tradition.

For those interested in further enlightenment, the phrase appears in the *Halliwell* or *Regius Manuscript*. This is the earliest known document depicting the Masonic civilization in England dating from the first half of the 15th Century.

Ovidio Flores
Junior Warden



SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren... I told you in May that we had put **three (3) Entered Apprentice Masons to work** and more would be coming soon. Well in May's Stated Meeting we read two additional Petitions for the Degrees and one for Advancement. Come and help us do what we were chartered to do.

By the way... June 23rd is the end of the Masonic Year and I still have nine (9) 2018 dues cards in my office. So don't break your Masonic Service and stop procrastinating as this Masonic year is all but over. **Send your due\$ in** and I'll get your cards to you as quickly as I can.

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



On Saturday, June 2nd Kendall Lodge is putting on an **Outdoor Master Mason's Degree at Camp Alzafar**. We'll start at 9:00 AM so come and help us Raise this Brother.



Monday, June 18th, will be our **June 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.



Last month our **Scholarship committee** worked with the Counselors in the Boerne and Comfort High Schools and selected three (3) deserving individuals to receive our 2018 \$2,000 Scholarships. We presented them at each of the school's Honors & Awards Programs in May. This month we will honor them at our Stated Meeting Dinner. Please come, meet these outstanding kids and help Kendall Lodge honor our Scholarship Recipients. As with our tradition we also presented the one or two runners-up at each high school with a certificate and a gift card.



Brethren.... In this month's Stated Meeting we vote to 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, Brethren.... June's Stated Meeting will be the last one for the 2017-2018 Officer's Corps. Come and let them know that you appreciate the job they did... and are doing.

ALSO OF INTEREST
TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:



Put Saturday, July 14th, 2018 on your calendar as that will be this year's Installation of Officers for 2018-2019. It hardly seems possible that this year has gone by so fast. We hope to see you there.



Nobles of Boerne Shrine Club and families. Our **June meeting will be at Lung Fung's on N. Main.** 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, June 27th, 2018 at Rising Star Lodge No. 429 in Center Point, 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

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897
Deaths



Johnnie R. Wimpy Jr.
L. D. Martin



Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the souls of our beloved Brothers.



<i>June Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Eric V. Viereck	6/2
Darrell S. Noah	6/4
Terry A. Stahl	6/7
William H. Sorenson	6/7
Brenan S. Cook	6/11
Bryan W. Dedeker	6/12
John D. Pritchett	6/13
Henry E. Martin	6/19
Donald K. English	6/22
John W. White	6/24
Jeffrey D. Roach	6/24
James W. Ziehmke	6/30

<i>Raised In June</i>	
Brother	Years Ago
Edward A. Heath	56
Michael L. Whiteside	54
Joseph E. Sill	53
Roger D. Duncan	40
Albert S. Rosenberg	40
Rodney G. Edmondson	34
Claude Smith Jr.	32
Alexander H. Zogheib III	32
Thomas L. Taylor	22
Larry D. Ross	21
James W. Ziehmke	20
Jerry L. Kelley	20
Brandt C. Klutts	15
Ryan J. Maltsberger	12
Zane L. Maltsberger	12
Jeffrey D. Roach	11
Daniel E. Roane	8
Scott D. Hoiberg	7

OUR BUILDING’S FUTURE DEPENDS ON US

Our lodge building, like many of us, is starting to age. It is a beautiful building and has always been a place of prominence in our community. Many of us received our degrees and were raised within its walls. I am sure most of us have many fond memories of times spent with our Brethren sitting in lodge, attending dinners, fund raisers, award ceremonies, family activities and other functions in our building. Although the members of the lodge are what the lodge is truly about, our building is an integral part of our lodge and all we do.

Many of our past Brethren worked hard to provide us with a wonderful building that would withstand the test of time for Masons to work and fellowship. It is up to us and future Masons to make sure we keep our lodge up to date and in good condition. The building structure is sound, but we have to look forward to present and future major repairs. We must keep our building safe and within code standards at all times. The best way to prepare for future major repairs, to keep our building in a good state of repair, and to modernize different elements when necessary is through our Building Preservation Fund.

In 2013, after relying on benevolent donations, we were able to replace one of our air conditioners and complete necessary kitchen repairs. After much consideration, the members opted to establish a Building Preservation Fund to be funded by donations from the members. The purpose of the fund is to be able to make significant repairs without having to go out to the members for benevolent donations. The fund is only to be used for major repairs and maintenance, and the use of the fund has to receive approval by a vote of the members of the lodge.

There is no minimum requirement for a donation, and members can make donations in honor of or memory of

Building Preservation May Donations	
<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Billy Lemmons Jr	Bro Billy Lemmons Sr
Bob Easterling	Bro. Jack Easterling
Abb Kestler Jr.	Bro. Bill Scales

loved ones and friends. The Trestle Board reflects donations to the Building Preservation Fund by members monthly without identifying the amount donated. What better way to memorialize or honor someone than to know the money will be used in that person’s name to help keep our building standing strong and beautiful in our community?

It is up to us and future members to make sure our building and property is able to stand the test of time and continue to serve current members and future members in their activities.

I urge you to consider donating to the Building Preservation Fund while honoring or memorializing family and friends at any time for any amount.

Fraternally,
Bob Easterling, PM

Kendall Masonic Lodge #897 A.F. & A.M.



Address Service Requested



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Boerne, Texas 78006