

Trestleboard

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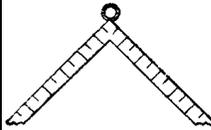
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Please remember our website location
<http://planomasoniclodge.org>



From the East



Brethren,

Now that the holidays are over, I hope you and yours had a merry and joyous holiday season. I hope you had time to spend with family and friends and be able to reflect on the true meaning of this season.

Plano Lodge and Masons in general have reason to be proud this year. We had a call for help for a Brother in need in one of our area lodges and Masons came through. We helped a Brother and his family in their time of need. One of the comments I heard from a Brother involved went something like this: "If I never have another Christmas it will be okay, because this is the best one I've ever had". It's times like this that make me proud to be a Mason and you should all congratulate yourselves on being part of this wonderful fraternity.

I have included an article in this Trestleboard that we all should read and ponder. It is titled The Masonic Funeral. As you read it, see if you rec-

ognize anyone and remember the charge from the Entered Apprentice Degree, where it says "Your attendance at our meetings is earnestly solicited". Look inward to see if we are fulfilling this part of our obligation.

February will be another busy month for us. We start with the official visit from the DDGM, J.I. Page on February 5th. We will have degree work each Thursday. On February 21st, we have our George Washington Birthday dinner. This will take place at Plano East High School starting at 5:30 and lasting until 8:00 or 8:30. This is a great event for food and fellowship. It is open to anyone, so bring your friends and family. Our cooks and Stewards will have a fabulous meal waiting for us. Hope to see you there.

Hope to see all of you in lodge soon.

Fraternally,

Mike Heidenreich

The Square and Compasses

While not unique to Freemasonry, the interlaced Square and Compasses are almost universally recognized as the emblem of Freemasonry. However, the Square and Compasses have not always been linked in Masonic ritual and it appears the symbolism of these two emblems developed separately. In early 18th century Masonic charts, the Square and Compasses are often depicted without the other, and when they are both presented, they are rarely shown together and never are they interlaced as we see them presented today. None of the early Masonic publications appear to have contained representations of either the Square or the Compasses. It appears, based on early Masonic disclosures, that the Square and Compasses were considered simply Furniture of the Lodge until later in the 1700's when they were elevated to Great Lights in the Masonic ritual. Furthermore, it was into the 19th century before the interlaced Square and Compasses were being depicted in Masonic charts and publications. A glimpse of the symbolic nature of

the Square and Compasses as individual symbols has been discussed in previous articles.

Over the years, these two symbols of Freemasonry have become inextricably linked as a public symbol of the Fraternity. In 1873, a flour manufacturer attempted to trademark the interlaced square and compasses but the United States Patent Office denied the trademark request. In rendering its decision, the Patent Office said, "this device, so commonly worn and employed by Masons, has an established mystic significance, universally recognized as existing; whether comprehended by all or not, is not material to this issue. In view of the magnitude of the Masonic organization, it is impossible to divest its symbols, or at least this particular symbol - perhaps the best known of all - of its ordinary signification, wherever displayed..."

The Freemason is introduced to the Square and Compasses during the Entered Apprentice Degree and they are prominent symbols through the Fellowcraft and Master Mason De-

grees. As obvious as the lessons of these two symbols may appear upon first glance, deeper reflection suggests far greater symbolism that can be grasped only after long and patient study of the Square and Compasses. As individual symbols, the Square and Compasses take on special meanings for the pupil of Freemasonry. However, as the degrees progress, an increasing seriousness and depth of meaning are discoverable to the Freemason.

When the Square and Compasses are viewed as a compound symbol, their individual symbolism takes on greater meaning. In the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees the Square and Compasses symbolize the earth and impress upon the Freemason the importance of controlling our desires. In the Master Mason Degree the Compasses represent those things Heavenly. Within the context of the three degrees they represent our personal journey in life where our understanding progresses from a worldly viewpoint of life to the ultimate spiritual perspective.

To help understand this symbolism, one must consider the use of the Square and Compasses in each degree and the representation of the three degrees as a whole. Without this reference, much of the meaning of the Square and Compasses is lost to the Freemason. Viewed in the aggregate, the lodge is emblematic of the world, while initiation is representative of birth, and the three degrees represent man's existence here and in the hereafter.

In the Entered Apprentice Degree, one learns that the symbolic lodge extends from East to West, from North to South, and from the center of the earth to the heavens. As such the lodge symbolizes the world and the place where all men live and work. If the lodge represents the world and the Mason represents man, it follows that initiation must represent the introduction of the individual to the world or the birth of a child.

The introduction of the Entered Apprentice candidate into the lodge represents the entrance of man upon the

Calendar of Events for February

Plano Lodge Events

February 5 – stated meeting

February 12 – EA degree

February 19 – Degree

February 21 - George Washington Birthday Dinner, dinner served at 6:00 PM

February 26 – Degree

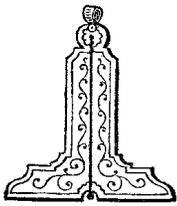
March 4 – Stated meeting

Special Events

- Scottish Rite—Valley of Dallas stated meeting February 9th
- Hella Shrine stated meeting February 19th
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, February 10th & 24th
- Plano Chapter #702 Order Of Eastern Star February 16th

Senior Warden's Column

Brethren,



The past month has been a busy one with stated meeting, 4 degrees and, the MWSA meeting in Frisco. By the time you receive

this a new Rainbow advisory Board will have been Installed for this year and the Rainbow officers will have been installed on the 31st of January.

The month of February looks to be a busy month also. Don't forget the George Washington Birthday Celebration at Plano East High School on the 21st. This has been a long standing event for Plano Masonic Lodge and gives us a chance to show the community and all our friends

what we are all about. Come celebrate with us and by all means bring your family and a guest.

I have already committed to have a place in the Independence day parade in Plano and will be contacting the other Masonic bodies such as Rainbow, DeMolay and Eastern Star encouraging them to take part in the parade.

Also I have been told Mac McGriff is working with our brothers in Oklahoma at Will Rodgers lodge to try to put something together with them to re-establish our annual trip to Oklahoma and to have them come here with a degree.

Come to Lodge, have a great meal and good fellowship with brothers. This is your lodge, support it, attend it, and help it grow by being active.

Plano Lodge to hold George Washington's Birthday Dinner



Plano Masonic Lodge plans to hold their annual George Washington's Birthday celebration with a barbeque dinner on February 21st at 6:00 PM.

The barbeque usually includes brisket, chicken and sausage along with all the trimmings cooked and served by the famous past and present Plano Lodge Stewards. The dinner will be held at the Plano

East Senior High school cafeteria. Serving starts at 6:00 PM.

This is an annual event which the secretary says has been held for at least forty years. The dinner is open to all. And, it's free.

Following dinner there will be entertainment.

Plano East Senior High school is at 3000 Los Rios Blvd, Plano, TX.

THE MASONIC FUNERAL

A new Worshipful Master in a small Georgia town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first Lodge meeting.

The following Thursday the Lodge was all but empty. Accordingly, the Worshipful Master placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that because the Lodge was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Masonic burial. The funeral would be held the following Monday afternoon, the notice said. Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral". In front of the Altar, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Chaplain delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his Brethren to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead Lodge.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead Lodge", all the Brethren eagerly lined up to look on the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped on the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty sheepish look.

Kester "Sez"

See Larry Kester for Name badges. A Blue Lodge AND a Scottish Rite emblem costs \$15.00

A reminder to all Blue Lodge Masons. To become a Shriner "It is no longer necessary to be a 32nd degree Mason or a Knight Templar to become a Shriner!" If you desire to become a Shriner, see any Shriner or, Larry Kester, for an application.

A reminder to all Shriners: There is a fine and active Shrine Club here in Plano. Meetings are the last Tuesday of every month at the Los Rios County Club. Start time is: Social Hour at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$17.00 per person, for dinner and entertainment. Dues are \$25.00 per year. Bring your wife or significant other for a wonderful night out.



“The Square and Compasses” continued from page 2

world's stage. As a child we enter this world dependent upon those around us for the necessities of life and for our intellectual and moral development. Thus the Entered Apprentice represents childhood and youth, that preparatory stage of life where we grow into mature and responsible adults. The Fellowcraft Mason represents man during the productive years of his life, where he worships his God, provides for his family, serves society and continues his pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Thus the lodge in the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees represents the world where all workmen labor at their vocations and in the acquisition of human knowledge and virtue.

In the Master Masons Degree, the lodge represents the Sanctum Sanctorum of King Solomon's Temple, a symbol of Heaven. It is here the Freemason is symbolically brought into

the presence of Deity, where nothing earthly or unclean is allowed to enter. In this degree, the Freemason is encouraged to pursue divine truth and understanding and admonished to develop his spiritual self. The reference to death and the afterlife is obvious, with the emphasis being on the spiritual afterlife. Thus the Master Mason Degree represents the reflective stage of life, old age, death, the resurrection, and the everlasting life.

In ancient symbolism, the square signified the earth, while a circle, drawn with the compasses, represented the heavens. For the Freemason, the Square represents what is earthly and material while the Compasses signify the heavenly and the spiritual. It is not without significance then that the position of the points of the compasses within the interlaced Square and Compasses changes as the Freemason progresses from an Entered Apprentice Mason to a Fellowcraft Mason and finally to a Master Mason. It represents his progression in life from the here to the hereafter, from birth to the everlast-

ing life, from the seeker of human knowledge to the seeker of divine understanding where the spiritual has obtained full mastery and control over the earthly and material.

The Square represents the moral law that dictates our relationships with others and guides our actions here on earth. The Compasses signifies our endless pursuit of spiritual understanding and our relationship to God. Together, the Square and Compasses should constantly remind the Freemason of the balance required between the earthly and the spiritual, that our spiritual nature should rule and govern our earthly nature knowing that in the end He will dispense impartial justice and will either reward or punish us in the everlasting life according to our obedience to His divine commands while on this earth.