

Trestleboard

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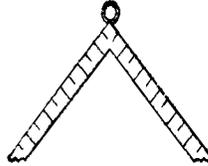
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- Senior Warden Joe Moses 469 450-2964
- Junior Warden Fred Smith 972 342-0813
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Back East



From the East:

Brethren, we have had a good first month of this Masonic new year and I am looking forward to our lasting success. We continue to gain in membership through affiliations and petitions. These gains are a positive sign for the future of Plano Lodge. Remember to talk about Masonry to your friends and to live by the lessons taught you during the degrees. Through these positive actions we will continue to thrive. I am not advocating the solicitation of members, but by telling others what being a mason means to you, by demonstrating what it means to be a moral, honest, charitable and upright person, they will ask you about our gentle fraternity, and we will gain good men to help them and Plano Lodge because of it.

past master of Plano, is in charge of these events and gives a dynamic presentation with a volume of information about our history and purposes. He will answer any questions you may have and brings to light many things you may not have thought about. This next workshop will be held at Farmersville Lodge on August 26th. Dinner will be at 6:00 and the presentation will start at 7:00. This workshop is open to all masons: Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons. I strongly encourage everyone to attend and participate because it is one of the best programs I have ever attended.

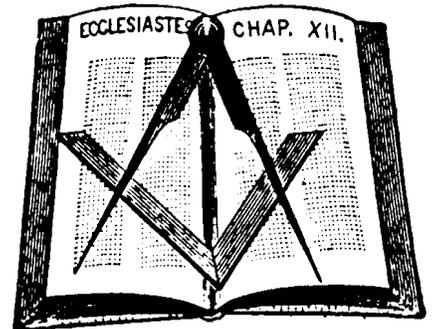
In the Light,
Gene Blackmore

Visit our website at:

<http://Planomasoniclodge.org>



We will be dark on August 26th but we will not be idle because we have another Briscoe workshop. For those of you who attended the first workshop in Wylie, I am sure you are looking forward to this one. Brother Charles McKay, a



Masons in History

Masons at Gettysburg

One of the great and tragic chapters in American history is the Civil War. In 1861, Freemasons across the U.S. found it increasingly difficult to keep peace and harmony towards all, both inside and outside of the lodge room. Masons had to make the same choices as their non-Masonic counterparts as the nation split and each person gravitated towards their respective personal beliefs. But larger issues confronted the Masons. Could a Mason continue to uphold the principles of the craft while fighting his Masonic brethren? The following stories provide an insight into how deep our Masonic beliefs transcend all conflicts.

During the Civil War, Masons represented about 11% of the armed

forces in both the United States and Confederate armed forces. There were 163,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who fought during the battle at Gettysburg, or about 17,930 Masons. There were also an estimated 51,000 casualties or 5,610 Masons.

The first shots of the battle at Gettysburg were fired on Wednesday July 1, 1863 at 7:30AM by Lieutenant Marcellus Jones, a Mason, and member of the 8th Illinois Cavalry while encamped west of Gettysburg along the Chambersburg Pike.

During this first day, Private Anson Miller of the 151st Pennsylvania Volunteers had been shot four times and was unable to retreat from the battlefield before attacking Confederate infantry.

(Continued on page 4.)

The Chuckwagon



The Junior Steward's son, Cade David McNeese, was born July 14, 2004. He was 7lbs 8ozs, and 19 inches long. Make sure to congratulate Jim when you see him.

August dinner menu:

5 - Chicken & dumplings

12 - Sausage & Rice casserole

19 - Smoked brisket

26 - Spaghetti

And it's all low-fat and low-carb!

Stop Alzheimer's!

And improve your memory.

Certificate practice began Wednesday, June 9th at Plano Lodge in preparation for the certificate exam.

Practice begins at 6:30 PM every Wednesday. The certificate exam will be given Monday, September 13 at 6PM.

This is one of the most important labors for the blue lodge craft and an amazing way to learn more about Masonry than you ever thought possible.

August study sessions will include EA and MM work.

Calendar of Events for August

Plano Lodge Events

Aug 5 – Stated Meeting

Aug 12 – EA degree

Aug 19 – FC Degree

Aug 26 - Briscoe Workshop in Farmersville

Sept 2 - Stated Meeting

Sept 13 - Certificate Exam

****Every Wednesday night at 6:30PM at the Lodge is certificate exam practice.

Events for the Super-Mason

- Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas stated meeting August 9th.
- Hella Shrine stated meeting August 19th.
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, August 10th & 24th.
- Plano Chapter #702 Order Of Eastern Star August 16
- Plano Shrine Club meeting August 26th, 6:30PM Los Rios CC

Down South

From The South:

In the past few weeks I have had conversations with several brothers who have asked the question, "What can I do to help my lodge?" These brothers are not officers, but they are seeking ways to assist their lodge or Masonry in general. With a lodge as large as ours there are many opportunities. Unfortunately, there are very often not enough officer positions to meet the demand in a large lodge. But then, the real work of the lodge takes place outside the lodge room.

We need volunteers to help organize the many projects that we take on as a lodge; the Halloween distribution of candy, or the organization of the Independence Day parade. We could always use a brother's help to organize a Family night by finding an interesting speaker or an entertaining program. We haven't had a regular family night in some time. Or maybe someone would like to organize a chili cook-off or a quarterly Saturday breakfast in the lodge or some other place.

One brother asked me if he could help by driving brothers to lodge that don't have transportation or don't drive. Or

just assist on a calling committee to keep in touch with our brothers that we don't see as often as we like.

I'm sure the building committee could always find a fix-up or paint up project. Or, maybe, cleaning or repair of props used in degrees?

We are lucky to always have a number of brother's proficient in degree work, but, we seem to always need some one to give the charge, (and those are written in the monitor and easily memorized from the written word) as are the Masonic funeral ceremonies. There are a very select few brothers that know the Masonic funerals which are also written in the monitor.

Let me know how I can help you find a way to use your talents on behalf of the lodge.

Sincerely,

Fred Smith

E-mail my Trestleboard !!!

Send me your e-mail address and I will e-mail you your trestleboard each month in an Adobe *.pdf file format.

jjmiller768@yahoo.com

This Internet thing might just catch on yet!!

Kester "Sez"

The Dallas Valley of the Scottish rite will have a one day reunion on August 14th. The next three day reunion will be October 16th and 23rd and November 6. November 6th will also be a one day reunion.

See Larry Kester for Name badges. A Blue Lodge emblem and name only on blue background.

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.

Larry Kester; Plano Shrine Club Membership Chairman

Scripture for August

On the blessedness of unity among brethren:

Psalm 133.

Regarding this fall's election:

Proverbs 29.

Regarding the beautification of King Solomon's Temple:

I Kings 7.

The importance of veiled allegory:

Matthew 13.

For conversation:

Genesis 1:1-5.

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Unable to defend himself, the Confederates took his clothing, blankets, food and other personal items. In his distress, he gave the words and amidst the fury of battle, a Tennessean named Menturn stepped forward and demanded that the clothes and possessions be returned immediately and it was done. He returned within a few hours and brought Miller food and water. Several other Confederate Masons visited Miller throughout the day to look after his safety and needs until he was taken to the field hospital.

Sergeant Drewry B. Easley of the 14th Virginia Infantry marched in Pickett's charge on July 3rd. As his unit approached the "Angle" wall, they were about to bayonet some Union infantrymen who had been outflanked when several Yankees

gave the sign of distress. Sergeant Easley spoke up and their lives were spared.

John W.C. O'Neal, M.D. was a local physician from Gettysburg. During the battle he attended to both Union and Confederate soldiers. He kept one of the most detailed and precise burial records of the Confederate dead and spent his own personal money to contact the families to inform them of their loved ones' burial locations so they could be exhumed and interred to family cemeteries in the South.

Colonel Henry Andrew Morrow commanded the 1st Brigade (the Iron Brigade) of the 24th Michigan Infantry Regiment. He was wounded by advancing Confederates and treated by a Confederate surgeon when the position

was well behind the Confederate lines. The surgeon decided Morrow's scalp wound was "too serious" for him to be taken prisoner and marched away from the battlefield and after treating him, left him on the battlefield where he was able to escape. Due to the incredible hardships of being a prisoner during the Civil War this action most certainly saved his life.

Text extracted and summarized from Freemasons at Gettysburg by Sheldon A. Munn © 1993.