

# Trestleboard

Volume 126

September 2004

Published monthly

## Back East

### Lodge Officers

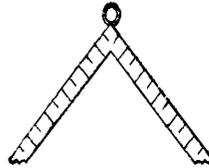
- Worshipful Master Gene Blackmore 972 222-7879
- Senior Warden Joe Moses 469 450-2964
- Junior Warden Fred Smith 972 342-0813
- Treasurer Warner Richeson 972 422-4268
- Secretary Harry F. Powell II 972 424-7153

### Inside this issue:

<i>The Master's Column</i>	1
<i>Senior Warden's Column</i>	2
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>Masons in History</i>	3, 4

Visit our website at:

<http://Planomasoniclodge.org>



There are many good reasons why you should take the time to learn the memory work, but I will only mention a few. First, the degrees and the associated memory work teach the moral lessons for improving ourselves and establish us as examples of our great fraternity to our friends and the community. By showing others good morals and leading by example we are working toward improving life for all while at the same time promoting Masonry. Secondly, when you travel and wish to visit lodges in other cities, you will have to be examined to gain admission. Having a good knowledge of the esoteric work will give you the confidence to go into the examination knowing you will gain admission and not be embarrassed. It will reflect well on you, your instructor and your lodge. Thirdly, should you meet with misfortune while in a strange city or somewhere where you are a stranger and require the assistance of a brother or another lodge, you will need to be able to prove yourself to be a mason.

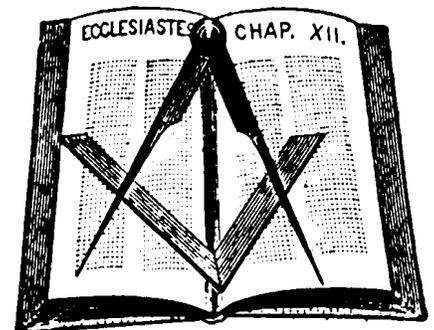
We recently had a brother from another jurisdiction come to us for assistance after being robbed of all his money and his wallet. He had no identification to prove to us he was a mason and had gone through a program where he was given all his degrees in one day and made a master mason without having to demonstrate any proficiency. He was ill equipped to prove he was a mason and in fact had been turned away by another area

lodge. It was only after a long distance phone call to the secretary of his lodge and a lengthy visit with the brother that he was given help to get back home. This brother, had he known his work, would have had a much easier time getting relief with far less embarrassment. Learning your masonry makes you a better mason, and a better person, and at the same time makes you more confident and fulfilled.

I want to take a minute to remind every one of the dress requirement for Plano Lodge. When the lodge is open for business: no shorts are allowed; shirts must have a collar and sleeves; and overalls are not permitted. One of the things I like about Plano Lodge is the casual dress and friendly people. I don't feel the need to wear a coat and tie each time I come to lodge and don't want anyone else to feel that it is required or expected either, but we must have respect for the seriousness of the work we do and the image we portray.

In the Light,

Gene Blackmore



## Senior Warden's Column

A while back, during 2003, some of the members of Plano got together and decided to study the ritualistic work for an Entered Apprentice Degree, and become the first, I believe, ever at Plano to receive a certified degree. Well, as you well remember, we passed with a score of, if I'm not mistaken, 980 out of 1000 points. To pass this graded degree we needed to score at least a 901. Then we reached another milestone. We then performed a graded Fellow Craft degree and passed it with a score of 970 out of a possible 1000 points. The degree team did an excellent job.

Learning the work to get a certification is one thing, but learning the work to ensure the integrity of the work will never be lost is most important. Why you ask? As we accept new brethren into our fraternity it becomes essential that we make certain that they understand the importance of learning the work to pass it along to other brethren in the future. Our lodge has many newly raised young masons. And, for the most part, they are excited about learning the work so that

they can participate in ritualistic work as well as being in the line up and someday becoming Worshipful Master themselves. If they aren't taught the work correctly then our fraternity will most likely lose that cohesiveness.

Now, after talking to the Worshipful Master, we will probably start up again in October or November to work on getting a team together for the graded Master's Degree. If you are interested in participating please let me know. You will be more than welcome. Remember, no part is too small or too large. As a team we can make it happen.

As always, I invite all who have not attended lodge for some time to come back and see what you have been missing. All you need is your dues card. The fellowship is still there, now all we need is you.

Your Senior Warden, Joe Moses

## The Chuckwagon



We want to thank the brethren for all the support given for the much needed refrigerator and range.

September dinner menu:

**2 - Jambalaya**

**9 - Turkey meatloaf**

**16 - Pulled pork**

**23 - Pot roast**

**30 - Chicken spaghetti casserole**

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

## Blood Drive in October!

Our goal this fall is to donate 100 units of blood for the Gift of Life program in Texas. We have been very close and with the hard work of everyone we should be able to achieve it.

The Blood Drive is very important to our lodge, so let's work hard to make this goal by helping get the word out.

It is typically the 3rd or 4th Saturday in October, so keep your eyes open. We will have a write-up about it in October's Trestleboard.

## Calendar of Events for September

### Plano Lodge Events

Sept 2 – Stated Meeting

Sept 9 – EA degree

Sept 13 - Certificate Exam  
6PM

Sept 16 – Degree TBD

Sept 23 - MM degree

Sept 30 - TBD

Oct 7 - Stated Meeting

### Events for the Super-Mason

- Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas stated meeting September 13th.
- Hella Shrine stated meeting September 16th.
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, September 14th & 28th.
- Plano Chapter #703 Order Of Eastern Star September 20th.
- Plano Shrine Club meeting September 28rd, 6:30PM Los Rios CC

# Masons in History

### For more research:

While watching a documentary on the History Channel about the Vatican the Knights Templars were discussed and a religious scholar named Dr. Barbara Frale spoke about a document she had discovered in the Vatican Archives in 2001. It was almost 700 years old and called the Chinon Parchment. It was issued by Pope Clement V in 1314, the document secretly pardoned the Knights Templars of all crimes and acknowledged they were charged falsely.

### On another note:

**Can you imagine being a mason during a time or in a country where it was illegal?** Can you imagine being sentenced to death or suffering life imprisonment because of your Masonic affiliation? And yet this has been the case throughout history. We cannot comprehend how blessed we are to live in a country with such toleration for all groups. Try to imagine living through what some of our brethren before us have endured.

The most recent example was in World War II. In the early years of Adolf Hit-

ler's reign, after he was finished imprisoning German communists, he outlawed Masonic lodges and arrested many of the brethren during his crack-down on all political activists and opponents. He sent the brethren to the work camps where most of them eventually died. Masons who had evaded capture often wore a blue "forget-me-not" so Masonic widows and orphans could find aid and support. They wore this flower at the risk of their own lives knowing they too risked being sent to a concentration camp.

Throughout Europe, and most notably Italy and Spain, Masonic lodges were permitted to operate in public and then were abolished as the political needs of the King-de-jour required. Masonry spread in part by the immigration of different religious groups seeking refuge from persecution in their homeland. The Catholics were no exception. The Catholics who fled England during the 1600's brought Masonry with them to Italy where it flourished among the middle classes and some of the aristocracy. Shortly after the Masons became public in Italy, Pope Clement XII issued a Papal Bull on

(continued on page 4)

## **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](mailto:jjmiller768@yahoo.com)

This Internet thing might just catch on yet!!

## ***Kester "Sez"***

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

See Larry Kester for Name badges.

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!" 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 September**

Romans 12: 9-21

Proverbs 10: 1-5

### **Duties to rulers & civil authorities:**

Romans 13: 1-13

### **The shortness and troubles of life:**

Job 14: 1-15

### **On teaching your children:**

Proverbs 4: 1-12

### **Seven things hateful to God:**

Proverbs 6: 16-19

### **The danger of anger:**

Proverbs 14: 17-35

Plano Masonic Lodge #768  
P. O. Box 860282  
Plano, TX 75086

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 420

PLANO, TEXAS



April 28, 1738 outlawing Masonry in all Papal states and forbidding Catholics from joining.

Pope Clement then assigned the most notorious arm of the Catholic Church, the Inquisition, to investigate and prosecute all instances of Masonic affiliation. Lodges in Italy, Spain, and Portugal were hit the hardest. Even the slightest whisper might land someone in prison for untold years to be tortured and subjected to incredible mistreatment.

This back and forth between the Kings, the Vatican and the Masonic lodges continued for the next 200 years as the power struggle between the three groups was dictated most often by political strife and social change.

So try to imagine what kind of fraternal bonds existed between brethren in these countries. The importance and urgency of *learning* and more importantly really *knowing* your work takes on a whole new meaning under these circumstances. Forget about keeping the secrets of Ancient Freemasonry - not keeping the secrets of membership could cost you, your family, and many other brethren their lives. How seriously do you think they took their obligations? How seriously do you think they took their work? What do you think the examination was like for a visiting brother? I can only imagine. The strength of their brotherhood is a testament to the fact Masons still practice in these countries today.

### **The Statue of Liberty**

Frederick A Bartholdi, a freemason, designed the Statue of Liberty which stands in New York harbor. The Grand Lodge of New York laid the cornerstone on August 5, 1885.

The Statue of Liberty was restored and rededicated on August 5, 2004 in a joint celebration between the Masons of New York and French Masons. In attendance were New York Governor George Pataki, a Mason, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as well as many other elected officials.

Plano Lodge Brother Ryan Lambert assisted in the planning of this event.