



TRESTLEBOARD

**MOUNT MORIAH TWO BRIDGES NAHE
LODGE NO 823 A.F. & A.M.**

**UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE AMERICAN CANADIAN GRAND LODGE (ACGL)
WITHIN THE UNITED GRAND LODGES OF GERMANY (VGLvD)**

Postfach 1947 66927 Pirmasens Germany

2007

OCT - DEC

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Editor: VWBRO Peter Schell

Stated meetings every first and third
Monday at 19.30 hrs at our Lodge Hall in
Pirmasens, Beckenhofstrasse 36.

Lodge mailing addresses:

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Or

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CMR 434, Box 166
APO AE 09138-0166**

Or

**Mt. Moriah Two Bridges Nahe 823
Postfach 1947
66927 Pirmasens
Germany**

Or

**ACGL (823)
Attn. Jess Minton, Grand Secretary
P.O. Box 740
Simpsonville, KY 40067**

To contact Lodge secretary

**0049-6331 77313 (phone+fax)
email: secy823fm@t-online.de**

**Lodge annual dues
are \$ 60,00 for stateside
members and € 50,00 for all
others**

**Visit our Lodge`s
web-page
www.823fm.com**

Editor`s note

Two things my Brethren. First I like to apologize for the confusion created in our last Trestleboard. The two articles "Are you a Master Mason?" and "The process of Freemasonry" were not completed. One complete page was missing on each article due to a misunderstanding between myself and our printer. However you will find both articles reprinted in this Trestleboard edition.

Secondly I also like to apologize for the lateness of this Trestleboard. While reading the Brethren`s articles you will read Christmas and new Year`s greetings simply for the fact that the articles were provided to me before the Christmas holidays. My original goal was to get the Trestleboard out before the holidays.

Fraternally

Peter Schell
Editor

From the East

Holiday Greetings to all Brethren and their families,

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas holiday and a prosperous and safe New Year 2008!

Now is the time to reflect on the past year and contemplate improvements for the coming year. Look ahead with gladness and thanksgiving. Find the good things in your life and focus on that. Set goals for the New Year and develop a plan to achieve those goals. Continue to improve your knowledge of God and all his blessings.

Your Lodge continues to support the needy in the community and the soldiers who are at the Landstuhl Hospital. We provide money, items of need and personal visits to the wounded soldiers there. Even the Grand Lodge supports the Fisher House on Landstuhl with generous donations of money and needed items. Our Lodge is the POC for the ACGL to the Fisher House.

We have planned a joint Christmas Party with our sister Lodge, Zur Treuer am Berg Horeb, as we have for several years now. This is a major event and we all look forward to having a wonderful time with our German brothers. We will have 2 of our Widows attending as well. We do stay

in touch with our Widows as this is one of our commitments.

Remember to enjoy time with your families and friends and keep all brothers everywhere in your prayers, especially those brothers who are deployed and fighting for our freedom and the freedoms of others. They are Heroes.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!!

Fraternally,

Tom Shaver
Master

From The West.

I wish all our Brethren and their families a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our prayer is that your home is adorned with His love, graced with His peace and filled with His presence. Warm Wishes for a Season of Joy.

Fraternally

Manfred Weis
Senior Warden

A note from the Secretary

Greetings Brethren – One and All – Seasons Greetings to you, and your family, and to 'All', MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR. I hope that everyone is well. We keep you in our thoughts and prayers, so remember that we are with you even though we are so far away.

Thanks for an enjoyable two months. I have enjoyed corresponding with our members, from time to time, and as Bro. Ron would say; 'that is the most

rewarding part of this position. It has not been as I expected this first two months because of the rigors of learning, keeping the books straight, etc., etc., however, VWBro Ron Maskell is here to answer my questions and guide me, and together we will keep your Lodge business in order. We have received and read two Petitions within the past 60 days and the prospect of more Petitioners is looking good. The Lodge is very popular throughout the Europe for the Degree Work we perform and we are looking forward to being busy.

A big "Thank you" to those of you who have anticipated the coming year (2008) and sent their Dues remittance early. Prompt payment has helped tremendously in keeping our finances in order. Too, I have sent each of you 'Annual Benefit Drawing' Tickets for your consideration and I hope that you will decide positively on these as this small donation will help the PMR Charity Fund and ease the financial pressure on our Lodge.

I would be remiss if I did not again request those good brothers who have still not paid their 2007 Dues to please do so, but if you are having problems with this then please let us know. We may be able to assist and not have to suspend any members for NPD. Remember, 31 Dec 2007 is the absolute deadline for Dues payment.

Please take time to update your email address. See the latest news and improvements that VWBro Harold Adams has made to your WEB Site at: www.823fm.com

Thanks for being a part of Lodge # 823, and once more, Best Wishes to you all.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Darrell Huddleston
Secretary

PS, please take time to update your address and Zip Code. Also, if you have email please send a short note my way so I can update your email address. If any Brother has contact with Brother James Powers, please ask him to furnish us his current addresses.

From your past Secretary

Greetings Brethren,

I wish you and your family a Peacefull, Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year with success in all your endeavours.

Christmas is that time of year, when possible, all family members and friends come together for a joyfull happy holiday with

many phone calls from and to those unable to make the party.

With all this going on let us all take 5 minutes of this joyfull time and cast our thoughts to those less fortunate, that are unable to celebrate this holiday because they are ill or have suffered the loss of a wife, husband, daughter, son, family member or a friend due to failing health or from being involved in one of the war ridden zones of the world.

May God Bless you all.

Fraternally and sincerely.

Ron Maskell
Past Secretary

A FRIENDLY HAND SHAKE.

It is a wonderful feeling to meet a stranger and one of you introduces yourself to the other and get the grip. At that moment you feel you are not strangers at all.

In the past years I have had this happen to me on many occasions and I still get a thrill.

I think one of the best ways to make friends is if you see someone who seems to be alone, walk up to him and introduce yourself.

If he is a Mason he will be glad and so will you, if he is not he will appreciate your friendly gesture.

This I learned from my father many years ago.

If you have not been practicing this, you should, for you will enjoy this experience.-

--Exchange.

Author unknown

WBRO Dr. Thomas Lenhard, our first Lodge Musician

For the first time in Lodge history we installed a Lodge Musician during our annual installation. His duty is to provide the Lodge with the appropriate music during opening/closing of the Lodge and during degree work. Our first Lodge Musician is the sitting Master of our german sister Lodge "Zur Treue am Berge Horeb No. 701. He is also a member of our Lodge. WBRO Dr. Thomas Lenhard also provided both Lodges with a computerized Dolby Surround sound system which he operates. WBRO Thomas has the right "musical feeling". He knows, which music is appropriate for what purpose.

Below a picture of WBRO Thomas sitting in the Musicians corner of the Lodge after being installed, wearing his Musician apron.



Mt Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge No. 823

Birthday Listing
For the Month of October

Name	Birthday
Philip J. Hanson	3 October 1932
Dale M. Barker	4 October 1952
Richard W. Hammontree	5 October 1938
Timothy Kennedy	5 October 1962
Stephan A. Bangert	8 October 1965
Karl Gafiuk	9 October 1930
Terrance Conner	9 October 1946
Ralph P. Roberts	9 October 1946
Gary N. Hemmings	13 October 1928
Tibor Giffel	17 October 1937
Leonard A. Cywinski	17 October 1953
John R. Scott	21 October 1930
Joseph Tworek	23 October 1944
Charles B. Hummel	26 October 1955
Ralph S. Worley	27 October 1944
Rainer O. Klan	28 October 1955
Henry McKinney	28 October 1931
Harry J. Moosegian	29 October 1922
Harold W. Adams	30 October 1940
John W. Donley	31 October 1938

For the Month of November

Name	Birthday
Dirk B. McCoy	7 November 1955
Julius F. Prieto	7 November 1931
Timothy F. Haley	8 November 1959
Wolfgang Koch	20 November 1939
Graham W. Bishop	20 November 1942
Daniel J. Maxwell	20 November 1942
William R. Tackett, Jr.	21 November 1926
Earl Carrell	23 November 1933
Douglas R. Dorrer	28 November 1962
Stephen P. Riley	30 November 1948
Ralph H. Houghton	30 November 1944
Donald R. Harris	30 November 1931

For the Month of December

Name	Birthday
Donald D. Watts	2 December 1933
Richard R. Westlake	5 December 1948
W. Allen Schmid	6 December 1957
Jonathan P. Bailey	10 December 1963
Kervin L. Bradford	15 December 1936
Jeffery A. Beringer	17 December 1965
Harry R. Magargee	19 December 1936
Allen D. Steele	22 December
Ricky Dale Emery	22 December 1964
Dale E. Cox	25 December 1919
Bruce A. Henry	25 December 1955
Keith L. Garrett	25 December 1920
Martin W. Katz	26 December 1946
Richard B. Judy	29 December 1934
David H. Day	31 December 1938

Mr. Richard A. Myldy
268 Wee Springs Lane
Irvington, Kentucky 40146
Phone 270-536-3885

December 3, 2007

Dear Brothers,

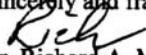
Once again it is that time of year for enjoying the holidays with friend's and family during Christmas and the New Year. I have never felt far from home while station in Pirmasens. There was always the Lodge and the friendship that was found their.

To begin with, I have transferred my membership from Custer Lodge 624 to Bewleyville Lodge 228 located in Beautiful down town Bewleyville, Kentucky. It is smaller in size than Custer, Kentucky. The Lodge has a membership of 53 brothers most of them in their 70's. At the last stated communication on Dec. 1, 2007 they elected me the Junior Warden for the coming year (2008). There is no running water or toilets in the Lodge which I am hoping to change, but they have a good time and they make everyone welcomed. So, if you are in this part of the country give me a call and stop by. Fort Knox is about 35 minutes from my location (home).

I am applying for a passport and hope to come your way some time after March 2008. The last picture I received of the Lodge it really looked great. Please give Brother Ron Maskell my very best in his retirement as Lodge Secretary. He did a great job as secretary over the years, not only keeping me informed what was going on in our Lodge but everyone else

Well, I an enclosing a check for my dues for 2008. I wish I could due more but thing are on the tight side this year with three kids in college. Some time's I feel one step away from the poor house Ha, Ha, Please give my best to all the Brother's and I'll be thinking of them over the Holladay's

Sincerely and fraternally yours,


Br. Richard A. Myldy

Brethren,

Above a letter received from our dear Brother Richard A. Myldy



SISTER IRMGARD MASKELL

Sister Irmgard Maskell, the beloved wife of our VWBRO Ron Maskell silently passed away in her sleep on 19 December 2007 after she suffered a massive stroke the day before. Sister Irmgard had other medical problems in the recent past, but this was totally unexpected. Our heartfelt condolences go VWBRO. Ron and his family. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

From the South

Greetings my Brethren,
When you get this Trestleboard the New Year 2008 has already launched and 2007 is history.
We just celebrated our combined Christmas Party together with our german sister Lodge and as usual it was a success. During the party we had our tombola with beautiful and valueable gifts donated by Brethren of both Lodges. Through the sale of tombola tickets we were able to donate a sum of more than 350.00 Euros to the Ronald McDonald Foundation for needy children.

In spring we are looking forward to more activities together with our wives and families.

Brethren, I wish you and yours a happy New Year 2008. May all your good thoughts and wishes become reality

Fraternally

Peter Schell
Junior Warden

*WE WISH ALL
OUR
BRETHREN
AND THEIR
FAMILIES A
HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2008*



ARE YOU A MASTER MASON?

From Ad Astra Lodge #130 (Nova Scotia)

Contributed by Bro. Dale Palileo

"I have been a Mason for a year now," remarked the Young Brother to the Old Past Master. "While I find a great deal in Masonry to enjoy and like the fellows and all that, I am more or less in the dark as to what good Masonry really is in the world. I don't mean I can't appreciate its charity or its fellowship, but it seems to me that I don't get much out of it. I can't really see why it has any function outside of the relationship we enjoy in the Lodge and the charitable acts we do."

"I think I could win an argument about you," smiled the Past Master.

"An argument about me?"

"Yes. You say you have been a Master Mason for a year. I think I could prove to the satisfaction of a jury of your peers, who would not need to be Master Masons, that while you are a Lodge member in good standing, you are not a Master Mason."

"I don't think I quite understand," puzzled the Young Mason. "I was quite surely initiated, passed, and raised. I have my certificate and my good standing card. I attend Lodge regularly. I do what work I

am assigned. If that isn't being a Master Mason, what is?"

"You have the body but not the spirit," retorted the Old Past Master. "You eat the husks and disregard the kernel. You know the ritual and fail to understand its meaning. You carry the documents, but for you they attest but an empty form. You do not understand the first underlying principle, which makes Masonry the great force she is. And yet, in spite of it, you enjoy her blessings, which is one of her miracles. A man may love and profit by what he does not comprehend."

"I just don't understand you at all. I am sure I am a good Mason."

"No man is a good Mason who thinks the Fraternity has no function beyond pleasant association in the Lodge and charity. There are thousands of Masons who seldom see the inside of a Lodge and, therefore, miss the fellowship. There are thousands who never need or support her charity and so never come in contact with one of its many features. Yet these may take freely and



largely from the treasure house which is Masonry.

"Masonry, my young friend, is an opportunity. It gives a man a chance to do and to be, among the world of men, something he otherwise could not attain. No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises again the same man. At the altar something is taken from him never to return: His feelings of living for himself alone. Be he ever so selfish, ever so self-centered, ever so much an individualist, at the altar he leaves behind him some of the dross of his purely profane make-up.

"No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises the same man because, in the place where the dross and selfish were, is put a little of the most Divine spark which men may see. Where the self-interest was is put an interest in others. Where the egotism was is put love for one's fellow man. You say that the 'Fraternity has no function.' Man, the Fraternity performs the greatest function of any institution at work among men in that it provides a common meeting ground where all of us be our creed, our social position, our wealth, our ideas, our station in life what they may, may meet and understand one another.

"Time has demonstrated that Masonry is too strong for war, too strong for hate, too strong for jealousy and fear."

"What caused the Civil War? Failure of one people to understand another and an inequality of men which this country could not endure. What caused the Great War? Class hatred. What is the greatest leveler of class in the world? Masonry. Where is the only place in which a capitalist and laborer, socialist and democrat, fundamentalist and modernist, Jew and Gentile, sophisticated

and simple alike meet and forget their differences? In a Masonic Lodge, through the influence of Masonry. Masonry, which opens her portals to men because they are men, not because they are wealthy or wise or foolish or great or small but because they

seek the brotherhood which only she can give.

"Masonry has no function? Why, son, the function of charity, great as it is, is the least of the things Masonry does. The fellowship in the Lodge, beautiful as it is, is at best not much more than one can get in any good club, association, or organization. These are the beauties of Masonry, but they are also beauties of other organizations. The great fundamental beauty of Masonry is all her own. She, and only she, stretches a kindly and loving hand around the

world, uniting millions in a bond too strong for breaking. Time has demonstrated that Masonry is too strong for war, too strong for hate, too strong for jealousy and fear. The worst of men have used the strongest of means and have but pushed Masonry to one side for the moment; not all their efforts have broken her, or ever will!

"Masonry gives us all a chance to do and to be; to do a little, however humble the part, in making the world better; to be a little larger, a little fuller in our lives, a little nearer to the G.A.O.T.U. And unless a man understands

this, believes it, takes it to his heart, and lives it in his daily life, and strives to show it forth to others in his every act unless he live and love and labor in his Masonry I say he is no Master Mason; aye, though he belong to all Rites and carry all cards, though he be hung as a Christmas tree with jewels and pins, though he be an officer in all Bodies. But the man who has it in his heart and sees in Masonry the chance to be in reality what he has sworn he would be, a brother to his fellow Masons, is a Master

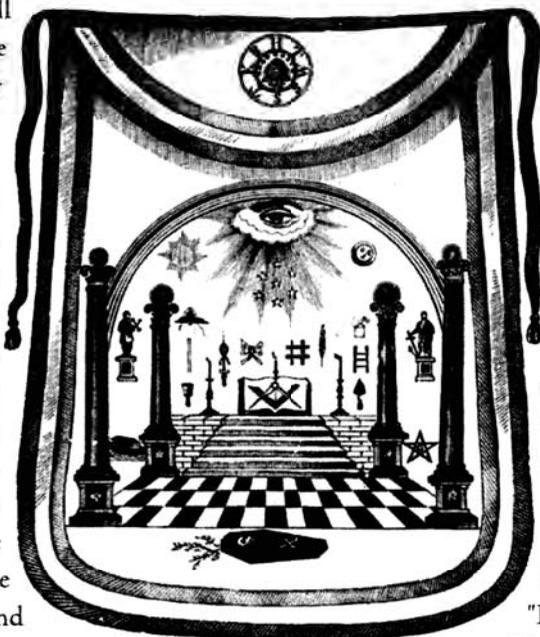
Mason though he be raised but tonight, belongs to no body but his Blue Lodge, and be too poor to buy and wear a single pin."

The Young Brother, looking down, unfastened the emblem from his coat

lapel and handed it to the Old Past Master. "Of course, you are right," he said, lowly. "Here is my pin. Don't give it back to me until you think I am worthy to wear it."

The Old Past Master smiled. "I think you would better put it

back now," he answered gently. "None are fit to wear the Square and Compasses than those who know themselves unworthy, for they are those who strive to be real Masons.



THE PROCESS OF FREEMASONRY:

"We should square corners, not cut them"

By Bro. Paul Trusten, Midland Centennial Lodge No. 1448, AF&AM, Midland, TX
Researched / Contributed by WBro. Tony Ligaya, P.M.

"There are two cardinal sins, from which all the others spring: impatience and laziness." --- Franz Kafka

My father was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1950, two years before I was born. He also became a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine, and cherished his memberships. "When you turn 21, I hope you'll become a Mason", said he to me one day when I was about nine, and these words, coming from this very laconic gentleman, made a lasting impression on me. They were steeped in time and forged in a sense of loyalty. They were part of a Masonic process.

As a result of this exchange, and watching my father proceed through life as a man who cherished kindness, honesty, and fair dealing with all, I gathered that Freemasonry was an outward celebration of just the kind of man he was, and that the fellowship of the old Craft was a valued device within which such good men could congregate and communicate. In fine, Freemasonry was more than a club. It was a society within a society, a special relationship among men to be patiently maintained.

This "favorable opinion conceived of the institution" made it all the more exciting for me when, at last, on March 26, 1980, I was initiated into Freemasonry as an Entered Apprentice in Monument Lodge No. 96, AF&AM, of Houlton, Maine, USA. As the elderly Tiler helped me dress for my entrance, he remarked, "You know, Masons are all equal.

I'm just an old farmer...and I would not have met all these wonderful people if I hadn't become a Mason." I don't know if he planned to say those words to me, but the effect on me was like the planting of a seed. Again, the process of Freemasonry was proceeding like the patient cultivation of a crop. The truism of his seemingly off-hand words would echo across a quarter century of "wonderful people" I would meet, and also befriend. Even more dramatic was the pronouncement of the entrance ritual just before my entrance into the lodge. With my mental preparation, it seemed that the words had been written for me personally. Once again, I felt I was part of a process.

My knowledge increased gradually with each degree that year of 1980: with my EA memorization, with the panoply of information as a Fellowcraft on May 14, the long summer (as it turned out) of perfecting my FC memory lesson, and the high drama of my Master Mason degree on November 5. Not expecting my hard-working, rarely traveling, 60-year-old Dad to get on an airplane and fly up to northern Maine for the occasion, I nevertheless asked him if he would come to Houlton, 350 miles away, for this event. He didn't flinch. He agreed immediately and cheerfully.

My jaw dropped. Here I realized that there was a patient process afoot, that Freemasons are closer than one would think, that they take care of their own, across time and space. It was his hand that raised me that evening, and next day he just took me to the nearest jewelry store in Houlton and bought me a Master

Mason ring, my most cherished ring today.

In years to come, I would be a regular brother in attendance at lodge, and see "many a brother and fellow" follow in my steps through the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. This was happening in the usual way, despite the crisis of membership we faced even in the early 1980s.

Suddenly, in the 1990s, a number of Grand Lodges of Masons decided that the process of cultivating Masons was hindering the future growth of the Fraternity, and came to conclusions which seem to me to never have been made before by Masonic leaders: that most prospective candidates for the degrees of Masonry are "too busy" to attend several degree conferrals and memorize the lessons which are emblematical of their honorable labor. They enacted provisions for so-called "One Day Masons" or "One Day Classes", in which the precious experience, which I have outlined above, would be gutted by expedience, to an assembly of men, which would observe all three degrees and leave the occasion as Master Masons. True, this plan has the potential to swell the membership roster and the coffers of the Grand Jurisdictions which adopt it. But, my experience cries out, to what result? What kind of Mason, and by extension, what kind of Masonry, will we have?

The rituals of the Grand Jurisdictions seem to militate against this "reform". They speak of "waiting a time with patience", of "fitting our minds as living stones for that spiritual building", that Freemasonry should be on guard against the cowan or poorly educated Mason, that Masons should be "duly qualified". But, most important, Freemasonry continually emphasizes the message of craftsmanship, both in our usual vocations, and in our relationships among people. Freemasonry is a call

to diligence, patience, and pride in one's work. How it can be represented to anyone in a single day is beyond the ken of this Mason who has been delighted to see it represented across a lifetime.

The slow steeping of anticipation and learning leading up to my Master Mason degree is an experience that no thinking and feeling man would deny himself. As the ritual itself explains, it is emblematical of the passages of life itself, with the primary metaphor being work. This is why we call the activity of degree conferral "degree WORK", or "the WORK of the evening". It is emblematical of successful labor, with the rewards of that labor being conferred in a magnificent association of men. These strengths of purpose, I fear, are now under assault from among our ranks.

Although I am a liege subject of a Grand Jurisdiction which supports this plan, and am obligated as a Mason to cheerfully support its execution, I cannot avoid a certain amount of dread in this matter, for our Fraternity seems to be headed for a Pyrrhic victory --- a victory of numbers, but a setback in strength. For those men contemplating becoming Masons, I strongly recommend that they join us in the traditional manner. Again, it is an experience not to be missed, in an organization of matchless worth, which offers a lifetime of satisfying return unobtainable in one day of exposure.

In our requirements for membership, as on the floor of the lodge, we should continue to square our corners, not cut them.

