



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

2008

JAN - APR

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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, Beckenhofenstrasse 36.

Lodge mailing addresses:

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Or

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Mt. Moriah Two Bridges Nahe 823
Postfach 1947
66927 Pirmasens
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Or

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

To contact Lodge secretary

0049-6331 77313 (phone+fax)
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Lodge annual dues
are \$ 60,00 for stateside
members and € 50,00 for all
others

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

From the East

Greetings to all Brethren and their families,

I trust you all enjoyed a happy, healthy and
Blessed Easter holiday.

I can't believe that over half the Masonic
year has passed already. We have been
busy and the time just keeps on going by
faster and faster. Thanks to our committed
and capable lodge officers we continue to

do good things for our brothers, widows and the local community.



Stefanie Doss from the Ronald McDonald House and VWBRO Tom Shaver presenting the check.

We have found a new deserving charity to support. The Ronald McDonald Haus in Homburg. They have 15 rooms and often house Americans there as well. The house is located next to the children's clinic and the staff is wonderful. Stefanie Doss is the leader and she really has her heart into those children who are housed there. Some stay as long as 12 months. They do not rush to push out patients or families. Your lodge has donated 500 Euros to help this charity. Stefanie said that this donation will provide food for the house for 4 weeks. Look at the pictures and you will see a very happy Stefanie.

We will raise Brother James Hadley on 8 April and we have Brother Jeffery Russell getting ready to give his FC proficiency so we can schedule his MM Degree. Bringing in new members is essential to maintaining our Lodge in good order. It is refreshing to see these young men get excited about Masonry and what we stand for.

Fraternally,
Tom Shaver
Master

From the West

Greetings Brothers of Mount Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge # 823.

I hope this trestleboard find you and family well and to those not so fortunate and are having health problems I wish you all a quick recovery. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.

All is well in Pirmasens and we are keeping busy.

I wish you and your families a very wonderful summer season.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Manfred Weis
Senior Warden

From the South

I hope this short note finds you and yours in good health and spirit. Yes it is already april. Time is flying. The ACGL annual is just over and our Lodge was as usually very well represented. The new elected ACGL Grand officers as follows:

RWBRO Grady Adams
Grand Master

VWBRO Paul Curran
Deputy Grand Master

Joseph Cheek
Senior Grand warden

Paul Litteral Jr.
Junior Grand Warden

Michael Kunze-Concewitz
Grand Treasurer

Jess Minton
Grand Secretary

Our new DDGM for District 1 is

VWBRO Oliver Greatsch

Congratulations Brethren!!

Brethren, I wish you and yours a beautiful spring and summer season. God bless.

Fraternally and sincerely

Peter Schell
Junior Warden

From your past Secretary

Greetings Brethren,
I hope that you and family are doing well and have come through the problems that winter can bring ok (Web feet are in these days. HA HA)
Thank you for the many cards and kind words that I recieved on the death of my wife Irmgard.
Our Lodge is still doing very well and keeping up our reputation on good Degree work and our collations.
Glad to say the owner of our Lodge building has at last insulated the attic and had new windows installed so we should be able to save on our heating bills now.
I will now close with the fond memories of you all that are always with me.

God Bless.

Fraternally Yours

Ron Maskell,
Past Secretary 823.

A note from the Secretary,

Greetings Brethren,

I hope this finds everyone well. We are happy to welcome George James back on our roles. He requested, and was reinstated on 3 March 2008. Too, congratulations to Brother James Hadley who moved on to the Fellowcraft Degree and is diligently working to be raised.

We keep you in our thoughts and prayers, so remember that we are with you even though we are so far away.

Congratulation go out to Bro Martin W. Katz. Bro Martin's Dues Card Number was drawn to receive a "Free Dues Card" in 2009 when the drawing was held at our Stated Meeting on 7 January 2008. It does pay to send your dues remittance early. Once again I ask all of you who have not done so to please take care of that obligation as early as possible. Prompt payment helps tremendously in keeping our finances in order.

VWBro Harold Adams has added a 'Birthday' Calendar to our WEB Site. Take time to see when your Friend from the past has his and give him a call, or send him a card. Other improvements that VWBro Harold has made to your WEB Site can be seen at:
www.823fm.com

Have received many cards, notes and letters, that I read in Lodge and they are greatly appreciated – please keep them coming. We always enjoy news from our Stateside Brothers.

Thanks for being a part of Lodge # 823, kind regards and best wishes to you all.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Darrell Huddleston
Secretary

PS, please take time to update your address and Zip Code. If any

Brother has contact with Brother James Powers, please ask him to furnish us his current address information.

Youtube video "What it Means to Be a Mason"

This notice of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts' video is taken from a listserve maintained by the Grand Lodge Education Officer, M.W. Neil Neddermeyer, PGM, of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota:

Here is a great Masonic promotional video produced by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=yfJVWv5Umc4&feature=related>

COWANS and EAVESDROPPERS by, Bro. Bobby A. Lupess

COWAN, 1. (1) a builder of dry-stane dykes. (2) disparaging one not properly apprenticed and trained as a mason, 2. freemasonry, one outside the brotherhood, especially one seeking to know its secrets, 3. an unskilled or uninitiated person; an amateur.

EAVESDROPPER, n., one who stands close to walls of a house under the eaves to listen to secrets; listen secretly to private conversations.

There is no doubt that the origin of the word Cowan is distinctively Scottish and was used originally to describe a man who was a builder of dry-stane dykes, which are walls or fences where the stones stay in place without using any type of mortar. These dry-stane

dykes are found all over Scotland where they are normally used to serve as boundaries between areas of land, and the more commonly used term for the builders of these dykes today are dry-stane dykers. The word Cowan can also be used to describe one who has not been properly apprenticed to a master or trained to work as a mason, although these days the term Cowan is not normally used in association with these men and has become a purely Masonic expression and when applied in conjunction with eavesdropper signifies an intruder and or listener. The term eavesdropper however is not a peculiar Masonic expression, although when used with the word Cowan it becomes so, Mackey gives this description of an eavesdropper;

Eavesdropper. A listener. The punishment which was directed in the old lectures, at the revival of Masonry in 1717, to be inflicted on a detected Cowan was: "To be placed under the eaves of the house in rainy weather, till the water runs in at his shoulders and out at his heels."

The first record of the use of the word Cowan in a Masonic context occurs in the Schaw Statutes of 1598. These statutes were codes of practice and rules drawn up by William Schaw, Master of Work and General Warden of Masons appointed by James VI of Scotland: the paragraph reads; No master or fellow of craft shall accept any cowan to work in his society or company, nor send any of his servants to work with cowans, under the penalty of twenty pounds as often as any person offends in this matter. These statutes by Schaw were strictly adhered too in Masonic Lodges throughout Scotland, so much so that in the minute books still extant from Lodges of the time, the statutes are inscribed within their pages. The Lodge of AITCHISON'S HAVEN, now dormant, has the statute engrossed in the pages of its records, this minute of less than two years later than the issuing of the Schaw statutes shows the Lodge took the paragraph regarding Cowans very seriously; Upon the VII day of Januarie the zeir of God 1600 being convenit of or brither Wilzeam Aiton of Mussillbrugh Wairden for ye present and

Thomas Petticruif Deiken for ye present and John Fender John Pedden Robert Widderspoon Wilzeam Miler Edward Ramage and fund Thomas [illegible] to haif ane cowan in his Companie and had [illegible] the foresd. Cowan qr for it was ordainit yt he should pay X, lib of for his offense and should [illegible] also he was found [illegible] XII day of May and promisit never to offend under the pains containit in or buik of Ordinansis the zeir of God 1600.

Also in the minute books of the Lodge of Kilwinning in 1707 is found this passage; "no maeson shall employ no cowan which is to say [a mason] without the word to work."

There have been several suggestions that some Lodges allowed Cowans to do less skilled stone work, such as the building of dry-stane dykes, which was looked upon as unskilled work by the early operative masons. Some sources report that old Masonic records like this would indicate Cowans were unaffiliated operatives who were allowed by the regular masons, that is, who were not part of a guild, but who under some circumstances might be employed by the "trained" Fellow of Craft or Master Mason in some minor rough work, thus allowing the mason with the connection or word to work at the more skilled stone work. The inference being that the unskilled mason without the word was a Cowan, and with the transformation of operative to speculative masonry the word Cowan would come to have a purely Masonic meaning, and the Cowan would become admitted into the Craft.

The word Cowan was not known in English freemasonry until James Anderson wrote his constitutions, being Scottish and a member of the Lodge of Aberdeen, Anderson would know all there was to know regarding Cowans, and when in 1738 the second edition of his Constitutions was published on the behest of the Grand Lodge of England, he introduced into English freemasonry the term Cowan; But Free and Accepted Masons shall not allow cowans to work with them ; nor shall they be employed by cowans without an urgent necessity; and even in that

case they must not reach cowans, but must have a separate communication. This was the first use of the word Cowan in England and is not to be found in any of the old manuscripts of the English Freemasons before the eighteenth century. The word was in the opinion of Brother Mackey, came to the English Fraternity directly from the Operative

Freemasons of Scotland, among whom it was used to denote a pretender. Thereby speculative masonry was quick to use the word as part of their ritual, for to the early speculative mason the cowan was an eavesdropper, a snoop, a listener. In the middle of the eighteenth century any man not a mason was considered to be a Cowan. In fact, in early Scottish Masonry, the cowan was an outsider. He did not have the word. Today, the Speculative mason has labelled him otherwise. There can be no doubt that the word Cowan comes from the Operative Masons in Scotland when it was used as a derogatory term for an unskilled worker. During the transition from Operative to Speculative, a Cowan relocated with the ritual to be used as a term for the uninitiated into the Craft. The cowan is really only a person who is not a mason. Before you became a mason, you too were a cowan.

Thank you my Brethren

I like to thank my Brethren for all the phone calls, get well cards, thoughts, prayers and good wishes for a speedy recovery while I was in the hospital to get my knee operated.

God bless you all

Fraternally

VWBRO Wolfgang Koch
Senior Steward

Degree Team for Bro. James Hadley`s FC Degree after degree Work



From left: BRO Allen Steele, WBRO Jim Bellieu, WBRO Manfred Weis, VWBRO Tom Shaver, Bro. James Hadley, VWBRO Peter Schell, WBRO Thomas Lenhard, BRO George Davis, BRO Jonathan Bailey, WBRO Karl Gafiuk, VWBRO Wolfgang Koch, BRO Darrell Huddleston and VWBRO Ron Maskell

On the following two pages you will find two examples of letters sent to Bro. Secretary from our stateside Brethren with mostly good but sometimes sad news. See the letter from our Bro. Ed St. John.

Mount Meriah Two Bridges NAHE Lodge 823
Postfach 1947
66927 Pirmasens, Germany

29 March 2008

Dear Brother Secretary,

My hearty greetings to all. I am writing these few lines in a sincere token of appreciation for the 45 year membership certificate the lodge members were so kind to grant for my service to our beloved FRATERNITY. I, like every member in our lodge, have always worked hard for the continued recognition of our Masonic Fraternity. The majority of my Masonic life was with Mount Meriah Lodge #823, yes, of course, I did belong to other Masonic organizations and participated in many events but I have always felt that to enter in our Masonic way of life is the foundation, the 1st, the 2nd and 3rd degree, it is then when an upright man finds himself and continues his path of life. It all comes from the heart.

Bro Jarpell, again please convey my "THANK YOU" to the Worshipful Master, his officers and Brethren of Mt. Meriah Two Bridges NAHE #823 for this kind recognition.

With fondest regards, I salute you all

Fraternally

Jose Santana

BROTHER ED ST, JOHN
3585 MAVERICK, STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, 89108

19 APRIL 2008

DARRELL HUDDLESTON
CMR 434 BOX 166
APO AE 09138-0166

Dear Brother Darrell

First- I would like to thank the Master,
all the officers and Brothers for my Birthday
Card, for the past few weeks I have been
under the weather with the Flu (Part B) I'm
Told, and last week I received notification
from the Nevada State Health Dist. that when I
got my Flu shot last fall it was a USED Needle
contaminated with Hepatitis-D-C and HIV - There has
been a number of deaths from this and I could
be next - They said "They were sorry but they
were on a low budget" So Brother Darrell if you
don't ^{get} word from me in 09 you know what
I have enclosed a check for \$75⁰⁰ I'm sorry
to be late but it's the best I can do, Many
thanks for the reminder and God Bless you
All.

Fraternally and Sincerely

Brother Ed St John