

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



Online: www.ancientlandmark5.com
Email: lodge@ancientlandmark5.com

Volume 8, Number 2
February 2010



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FROM THE EAST

Bring in the New Year

Yesterday I was installed as your Worshipful Master. I am honored and humbled by this vote of confidence on the part of my Brothers. I will do my best to continue the excellent ritual and fun social events this Lodge has been noted for offering. I want to express my special thanks to Worshipful Brothers Bruce Sherman and Loren Davis for conducting the open installation so excellently. Those of you who were able to attend know that it was both a meaningful and fun event. Thanks to Drew Bjorklund for arranging for the food.

We are starting off the year with a whirl of activity. We have a number of new petitions which will be read and voted on at our January stated meeting. We will also close our Lodge of Sorrow for 2009 and open our Lodge of Sorrow for 2010. On a more personal note, I read in this morning's St. Paul paper that Angele Eckstrom, the wife of WB Bob Eckstrom, died on January 7th of this year. Bob served our Lodge twice as Worshipful Master. Our thoughts and prayers go out to WB Bob and his family.

Now that you have a new Master and Officer Team, what are our plans for this year? We plan to continue many of our former activities such as the Valentine's dinner (more about this in this newsletter), the Bunco nights, ladies nights, summer BBQ, etc. We will continue to provide the excellent ritual that has been our trademark for so many years. We also want to be more deliberate in getting newly raised Brothers involved in Lodge activities. To this end, we plan to invite each of them to become mentors for Brothers in the subsequent class of candidates, to play a part in the second and third degree rituals, and to participate in work day projects done at the Masonic Center. I am also soliciting at this time any suggestions any of you Brothers might have

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FROM THE WEST

Up the Winding Stairs

We have all taken those steps. The steps leading to the Middle Chamber, where we receive our wages and further instruction.

Have you ever reflected on what that space represents? What is the essence of the Chamber? What makes the space different from any other space in the speculative temple? What about those wages we received when we went there? What do they mean to us?

Our Brother Doug Kuchera asked me the other day, "Are you ready for the Middle Chamber?" which got me to asking these other questions of myself. Reflecting on these questions a bit, I realized that our trip to the Middle Chamber in the second degree only started the journey into the lessons of our Craft and the compelling search for answers to these seemingly obtuse references to wages.

The space; someplace between initiation and attainment. Its dimension; between secular understanding and omniscience. Its environs; between the chaos of daily life and Heaven. Step back to our secular existence a minute. As humans, we need air, food and water to exist. Of course clothing and a roof over our heads is nice to have as well. But in order to maintain the engine within us, we need the first three items.

In our Masonic setting, our wages consisted of nourishment, refreshment and joy. In exchange for our work in the craft, we are provided with these three (emblematic) elements, which will support our speculative existence. From the work entitled "Masonry Defined" by E.R. Johnston (a work of compiled writings by Albert Mackey), the elements of corn, wine and oil represent health, plenty and peace respectively. These are the wages of our Craft and the blessings of the GAOTU.

Am I ready for the Middle Chamber? Yup. But I recognize I am a work in progress.

May the labors of our secular lives provide for the corporeal needs of our bodies and the work that we do within the Craft be worthy of the "wages" we receive as speculative Masons!

Fraternally yours,
Drew C. Bjorklund
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH

The recent death of my grandfather has really had me thinking about Masonry and the Masonic journey over the last few weeks. For those who don't already know,

I am a fourth generation Mason, although not through my direct lineage. My great-grandfather was a long-time member of Nevada Lodge #13 in Nevada City, CA, and a 50-year member of both the Shrine and the York Rite. I can't yet confirm whether his father was a Mason, but I do know that one of his uncles was the Secretary of Nevada Lodge. My grandfather never joined the lodge, but his eldest brother did, and is still a member in Nebraska.

After I had joined the lodge, my grandfather and I had the opportunity to sit down and chat about his memories of his father's involvement in Masonry. He remembered that my great-grandfather was a very proud member of the York Rite Commandery, and every week would get dressed up in his Masonic Knight Templar uniform, complete with feathered chapeau, and march off to the lodge. Later in life, he became frustrated with his own Blue Lodge and complained in some journal entries that "the only thing the Masons are good for is arguing about what's going to be for dinner at the next meeting." While that may still be true in some lodges, I think we have certainly moved beyond that problem.

During the conversation with my grandfather, I asked why he had never become a Mason. He answered that his father had never talked to him about Masonry or the lodge and had never shown any interest in his joining. As a result, he thought either his father didn't want him at the lodge, or had become so disillusioned with the lodge that thought it would simply be a waste of time. Unfortunately, by the time my grandfather was ready to learn about the lodge on his own, he had seven children and no time to be a member.

I share this story with you because I believe it is important for each and every one of us to talk about Masonry with others. We do a much better job of this today than in the past, but there is always room for improvement. The goal is not to seek out and recruit new members, but to share the joy of Masonry. Hopefully our passion for the craft will spark an interest and cause some of them to gather more information and perhaps even ask the recommendation of a friend to become a member. My grandfather would have made an excellent Mason, but missed his chance because nobody talked to him about the organization. We should all try to help prevent this from happening in the future by talking about Masonry today.

Fraternally,
Keith Reierson
Junior Warden



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

We in Ancient Landmark Lodge No 5 are privileged to have many fine ritualists, orators and mentors. Some have been recognized by our Grand Lodge for their excellent work such as Worshipful Brother Don Olsen. But where did our ritual as we know it today begin? In the beginnings of organized Freemasonry in Britain many Lodges had their own ritual to teach the meanings and landmarks of our Gentle Craft but none of it was the same.

A transplanted Scotsman, Brother William Preston, had become a Mason and visited other Lodges and found it strange that each of them had different rites, rituals and orations. Being a printer by trade, he set about the work of making a systematic catalogue of rituals and lectures from the various Lodges existing in Great Britain at that time, the last third of the 18th century. He sought out the help of many of the best informed Freemasons, even those from foreign countries, and corresponded with those in his home country.

On May 21, 1772 Brother Preston did a very risky thing by convening and acting as host of a Grand Gala, as he termed it, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, which was attended by Grand Officers and many others. On that occasion he delivered an oration on Freemasonry, which met with general approval and was afterwards printed in the first edition of his *Illustrations of Masonry*, published in that same year.

Brother Preston employed a number of Brethren to visit different Lodges for the purpose of studying their forms and rituals; they would report to him weekly. When his work was completed he offered a course of lectures on all three degrees, which was delivered at the Miter Tavern, London in 1774. His improvements in ritual raised the reputation and created renewed interest of the Fraternity. He was invited to schools of instruction and other meetings to lecture and talk about Freemasonry. Many of the most eminent men of the era were attracted to the Society.

He was invited to join many other Lodges, both Modern and Antient. He was awarded with Grand Lodge posts and did much writing of Masonic texts and appendices. His heyday lasted about 5 years, when jealousy that his accomplishments inevitably aroused showed its effect. On December 27, 1777, Saint John's Day, he and delegation from the Lodge had attended a Divine Service at a church almost across the street from his Lodge. The group which attended with him were dressed in Masonic regalia and after the service walked back to the Lodge without removing their aprons and jewels. This was met with protest from some members who filed a grievance with the Grand Lodge. Preston would not apologize and was expelled from Masonry. After approximately 10 years of various machinations and travails

Ancient Landmark Lodge #5

Cordially invites you to the

2010 Valentine's Dinner

At



1096 Grand Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55105

Friday February 12, 2010

6:30pm Social Hour and Appetizers/Cash bar

7:30pm Table Service Dinner

Menu:

Top Sirloin Steak or Prime Rib

Chicken Vesuvio

Walleye Almondine

Cost is \$35.00 per person. Please RSVP to rsvp@ancientlandmark5.com

or call the Lodge Secretary at 651-222-2643 by February 8, 2010.

Anceint Landmark Lodge #5 Installation 2010



Front row - Earl Wolford-Chaplin, Drew Bjorkland-Senior Warden, Allan Floyd-Worshipful Master, Keith Reiersen-Junior Warden
Middle row - Jeremy Nienow-Junior Steward, Joe Amos-Senior Deacon, Justin Carlin-Junior Deacon, Daniel Baker-Senior Steward
Back row – Alan Peterson-Treasurer, Art Lingo-Lodge Education Officer, Barnes Sharitt-Marshal, Terry Mallberg-Tyler, Not pictured-
Doug Kuchera-Secretary



Worshipful Master Allan Floyd



The Officers, elected and appointed, taking their Oath

LEO cont. from page 2

he petitioned the Modern Grand Lodge and was reinstated. He died in 1818.

Preston's Illustrations of Masonry was one of the most widely read and most influential books ever written about our Fraternity. It was very well written and eventually had 14 editions in English, the last two posthumously. It was also translated into German; 2 editions were published in 1776 and 1780. Two editions were published in America in 1804, one at Alexandria, Virginia by Cotton and Stewart and one at Portsmouth, New Hampshire by George Richards.

Preston was loyal to the Fraternity to the end. He bequeathed 300 pounds to be used by the Grand Lodge to pay for the annual delivery of his lectures. He also gave 1000 pounds to Grand Lodge Charity for Female Children and the General Charity Fund.

His work on rituals remains today the basis for most of the ritualistic work performed in English Lodges throughout the world. I commend all who aspire to do their best to be perfect in their performance of Masonic Ritual. It is a wonderful method of teaching new Brothers but more importantly in is the greatest way to learn the most from our Gentle Craft.

Submitted by,
Art Lingo, LEO



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for other projects/activities you would like to see occur this year.

Your Lodge officer team will do their best to make 2010 a great year for Ancient Landmark 5, but this can't really happen without your support. Together, we can make this a year to remember!

See you in Lodge!

Allan Floyd

Worshipful Master

NEXT STATED MEETING

February 11, 2010

Dinner and fellowship 6:00 PM

Sound of the gavel at 7:00 PM



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I am writing this as the year ends and before I step in as Secretary, I can only anticipate what the year may bring. I am excited by the challenge, by our in upcoming Officers and our progressive line and how it will imprint the future of AL 5.

First and foremost I would like to thank the Brethren for allowing me this most important role in our Lodge. Secondly WB Bruce Sherman who has mentored me over the last year, his insight and work have been outstanding and will be big shoes to fill (just in case you are wondering, spelling will not improve).

Take a moment next time you see him and say "Thanks" for a job well done.

By now the transition from one to another will be nearly complete. My office hours will be virtual Mon- Fri from 11-1. If you are calling outside those hours please feel free, the phone sits on my desk (calls to lodge office are forwarded). I have set up mobile systems to assist most of our needs. Once I have my professional calendar in place and see what our needs are, I will slot some physical office hours into it. As always I am willing and able to meet at most times by appointment.

The Secretary's role extends far into the lodge when it comes for assistance. From procedural knowledge, to investigation ,to mentoring ,to introducing new candidates and making them feel that they are most welcome. When asked, please say yes and do your finest work, because it is the work of every brother that makes it our Lodge, Ancient Landmark No5.

Doug Kuchera

Secretary

Ancient Landmark Lodge No.5

al5lodge@sprint.blackberry.net



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LODGE of SORROW 2010



And we shall become immortal by our deeds which will live on after us.

Name

Birth

Initiated

Passed

Raised

Celestial Lodge



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A.F. & A.M. of Minnesota
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