

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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### LOOK TO THE EAST

#### Reflections

Reflections on what? For me, it is a reflection on the past seven years. These years have been marked with the loss of my mother, my eldest brother, a most beautiful friend, and a full-time job. They have been blessed with the marriage of my daughter (to a great guy, I might add) and the birth of a grandson (my son's child). Claire and I have endured the remodeling of our primary bathroom and kitchen. We have taken some splendid trips, rekindling relationships with family and friends. The past seven years have been fantastic, in spite of the losses, and I credit Freemasonry on been a guiding light for me through thick and thin.

My experience in Masonry started out with a desire to belong because of historical precedence in my family and trusted friends from my church who are also members of the fraternity. I was nervous during the degrees, becoming anxious about the prove-up work (I was NEVER good at memory work), but I managed to get through it. The first time I was asked to do a lecture, I was convinced that I could not remember the dialogue sufficiently to be able to recite it – much less recite it in front of the entire Lodge. One day an epiphany of sorts hit me; I was not being asked to do anything that I did not want to do, nor was this a test of my loyalty to the Lodge. I was being asked to participate in the “work” that we do in the Lodge. After asking myself, “if not me, then who?,” I managed to muster the courage to do the memory work, and found a new confidence in myself at the same time.

This morning after church, I ran into our LEO, WB Barnes, and we briefly discussed his plans for the November LEO program. It will involve some introspection on our individual experiences in Freemasonry. As Barnes and I parted company, I thought about what Masonry has done for me. Has it met my objectives? Have I improved as a result of my Masonic experiences? Am I satisfied with what I have learned in the philosophies and tenets of Masonry? Is Freemasonry all that it is cracked-up to be?

*Look to the East continued on page 4.*



### FROM THE WEST

#### Veteran's Day

Two years ago, I had the great privilege to accompany my wife Karen and her family to Washington, D.C. for the interment of Karen's maternal grandfather, Elmer L. McGuire, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lester (I should probably mention here that Karen's mom's family has a tradition of being called by their middle name) joined the United States Army in 1942, completed Officer Candidate School, received his commission as a Second Lieutenant, and served three tours in Europe during World War II as a tank commander. Following the war, he left the Army, but was later recalled to active duty for multiple tours during the Korean conflict. After Korea, Lester decided to remain in the Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 26 years of service. During his career, Lester and his family traveled the world from his hometown in rural Indiana to Taiwan to Camp Ripley, MN to Washington DC.

The first time I met Lester, I was greatly impressed by his quiet and gentle demeanor and an unmistakable aura of power. He was not only the quintessential patriarch of his family, but also a traditional World War II era gentleman. People were naturally drawn to Lester, and he was impossible not to like. Having served in the Army and, more especially, as a member of a tank crew, I was intrigued with the prospect of getting some good stories, and so I inquired about his experiences in World War II and his career in the Army, and he did not disappoint.

Lester also happens to be one of the key reasons I'm a Mason. As I have discussed in previous articles, I have a distant family connection to Masonry, but I didn't know any Masons, or where to find any reliable information about Masonry in Minnesota. This all changed on that first fateful trip to Indiana to meet Karen's grandparents, who, as it just so happened, resided at the Indiana Masonic Home. Before the end of the first day, Lester and I had begun discussing Masonry, and with his help in pointing me in the right direction, my interest in joining the Craft had been rekindled.

*From the West continued on page 4.*



## FROM THE SOUTH

### October Second Degree

Brethren, our Fellowcraft degree will take place on Thursday, October 27th and will complete the second stage of our fall degree cycle. What is new and interesting

about this particular degree is the locale: we will not be presenting the Fellowcraft degree at our home Lodge building on Plato Blvd. Instead, we have selected a genuine Fellowcraft Lodge building in which to present our Second Degree to our newest Brethren. We will be holding the Fellowcraft degree at the Triune Temple at 1898 Iglehart Avenue in St. Paul. The building sits at the intersection of Iglehart and Howell in the Merriam Park neighborhood about two blocks west of Fairview Avenue and about a block north of Marshall Avenue. I've been able to gather a little bit of information about the building and its architect from a couple of sources and thought it would be fun to share:

Triune Temple is one of the few historic Masonic temples still remaining in the Twin Cities area. It is one of the earliest and best preserved buildings erected exclusively for the use of a single Masonic Lodge. The structure was built for Triune Lodge No. 190, AF & AM, by Henry C. Struchen (1871-1947), a member of Triune Lodge and a prominent builder in the city. Henry Struchen, although not an architect, was a contractor and designer.

Opening ceremonies for the building were held Thursday, March 2, 1911. Triune Temple was recognized for its historic and architectural significance by being placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

Stylistically, the temple is a good example of the Neo-Classical Revival of the opening decades of the twentieth century. The exterior is virtually unchanged, while the interior retains its classic integrity and remains substantially intact. The front facade features four Doric columns, pedimented windows, and a decorative cornice, while the Lodge room itself is adorned with stately pillars representing the five classical orders of architecture. The front of the building gives a hint of the grandeur inside. The interior cherry and maple woodwork and many of the original furnishings remain. The building is notable because it incorporates elements of Masonic ritual into its architectural design.

Henry C. Struchen (1871-1947) was one of the first contractors in the State to work primarily with reinforced concrete, and his skill as a mason is evident in the building. Triune Lodge No. 190 was constituted in 1891, and many of the founding members of the Lodge were influential businessmen and social leaders in the Merriam Park area, and many were employed at the nearby Brown and Bigelow plant.

Brethren, this promises to be a great degree and should be a lot of fun. Come out and support our newest Brethren as they continue their Masonic journey.

Joe Amos, Junior Warden



## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

*Last month's article on how Minnesota Masonic Ritual came about continues this month.*

### Minnesota Chooses a Standard Ritual

The report of the Committee on Ritual was not ready in 1862 and in 1863 no mention is made of Ritual until the end of all the business when it was reported that "The M.W. Grand Master then proceeded to exemplify the work in the three Degrees as taught by him." It was then "Resolved, that the work [as exemplified] . . . be adopted as the work of this jurisdiction."

Now comes the interesting part: What ritual did they adopt? If I told you that they adopted the Conservator ritual you probably would not believe me, but that is what they did!

The "work" presented to the Grand Lodge had been prepared in two handwritten, plain English copies that were turned over by the Grand Master. (One of them is still in existence.) All of our subsequent work has preserved those handwritten words with very few minor changes. In 1981 Henry Van Geest (who was the Chairman of the Board of Custodians) showed me two books that he used to check the accuracy and spelling of the words in our ritual. These two books were the Mnemonics and Spelling Book of the Conservator Ritual!

In Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia it is stated that ". . . the rituals of several Grand Lodges closely resemble [the] Mnemonics." Minnesota did more than modify the Conservator Ritual to our own taste, after condemning it we then copied it word-for-word. Furthermore, we did not pay the author to use the ritual. We did not even give him credit -- we just stole it.

An aspect of this, which I think is very interesting, is that the Grand Lodges that adopted or openly used all or parts of the Conservator Ritual have subsequently made major changes to their ritual since that time. Contrarily, Minnesota, which purloined the same ritual, has preserved it with hardly a change.

Rob Morris' Cipher

[Quoted from Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, 1960 edition, pp127, 8]

The third major attempt to perfect Masonic cryptography was that of Rob Morris in the promotion of Conservators of Symbolic Masonry (q.v.) by which means he hoped to unify the ritual in the United States and preserve what he called the Webb-Preston work. Morris used two separate books, neither of which he considered meaningful without the other. One was called Mnemonics, which was the Masonic ritual in code, and the other was called the Spelling Book, which furnished the key to the code. Mnemonics continued for

# Views from the Canadian Visitation 2011



Terry's assistant, Valarie Freeman (AL 3), Ruby Boner and Terry Baker at the Saturday wine tasting event.



Dr. Steve Smith feeds the masses at the picnic.



Bocce ball was a big hit at the picnic. Here we have Shawn Towle, Bob Gibson (AL 3) and Matt Overmoen lining up their shots.



T'was a might chilly at the picnic? Here we are at South Valley Park in Inver Grove Heights

We are looking forward to making the trip to Winnipeg in two years!

In short, I know that I have a long way to go in terms of understanding and “getting to the next level” in the lessons of Freemasonry, particularly the lessons presented in the Scottish Rite. We all absorb information in different ways and apply that knowledge to suit the conditions we encounter in ways that we deem appropriate. For me, I have long held that the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments are sacred guides to living my life, and I have done my best to live honestly to them. What is really comforting is that the tenets of Freemasonry are right in line with both the Rule and the Commandments; and since they are so closely aligned, I can say with pride that not only does Masonry meet my objectives, but I have been living the tenets of the institution since I first adopted them as my rule and guide.

Give yourself a few moments to reflect on your work in Masonry thus far. I hope, as will WB Barnes, that you will share your reflections on yourself and Freemasonry when the time avails itself in Lodge. And don't be shy about sharing your reflections with family and friends. They have probably already noticed a positive change in you since you joined. Your revelations will undoubtedly reinforce what they see in you.

See you in Lodge, Brothers.

Fraternally yours,

WM Drew

## AMBASSADOR'S COMMITTEE

Are you looking for something different? Maybe you're curious to see how other Lodges present their ritual. Or perhaps you're just itching to get yourself over to the other side of the river. Then why not join your Brothers from AL5 in a visit to Minnehaha Lodge in Minneapolis? Mark Wednesday, December 7 in your calendars and let's get together and enjoy some Masonic fellowship.

Minnehaha is expecting us, and they will need a head count for the dinner. So please, RSVP by sending an email to [RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com](mailto:RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com) or by calling the Lodge office. Here are the details:

Minnehaha Lodge No. 165  
5149 Bloomington Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
612-722-3103  
<http://www.minnehaha165.org>

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Dinner 5:45pm  
Meeting 7:00pm

(Cost for dinner is \$10)

The rest of the story on how I joined the Lodge is nothing extraordinary, but I still think about my unusual path to Minnesota Masonry by way of the Indiana Masonic Home and Lester McGuire and can't help but smile.

While I only had the opportunity to know Lester for a few years, this short time left a lasting impact on my life. He was a wise, gentle, and good man, a true patriot and a shining example of Masonry in action.

I find it very appropriate to be writing about Lester for the November newsletter, as November 11th is Veterans Day; a day dedicated to honoring veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Lester was as patriotic a person as I have ever met in my life, and was proud to be a veteran of the United States Army.

As we go about our everyday activities this month, I hope we can all take a second to stop and think about the many military veterans in our lives; from the older World War II generation, to our friends, brothers, and neighbors who may have just returned from serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. Each of these veterans has a unique story, and we should not only make every effort to thank them for their service and sacrifice for our country, but also to take some time to get to know them and listen to their stories. You never know when you might meet someone like Lester McGuire, who changes your life forever.

Keith Reiersen, Senior Warden

## NEXT STATED MEETING

### Stated Communication - Awards Night

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Dinner at 6:00 PM, Meeting at 7:00 PM

### Special Communication - Master Masons Degree

Saturday, December 3, 2011

Time to be announced

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*LEO... cont. from page 2*

each appropriate section of the ritual a block of 17 columns of letters in 25 rows and, opposite that, a similar block of 17 columns of figures in 25 lines thus:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 _ _ 17	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 _ _ 17
1. T r h j b c f _ _ _	1. 9 7 6 5 4 7 8 _ _ _
2. d d v s w k m _ _ _	2. 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 _ _ _
3. o c s r n g b _ _ _	3. 9 6 7 8 5 6 5 _ _ _
4. e a s r t k y _ _ _	4. 6 5 6 5 4 7 7 _ _ _
5. a v f r d s w _ _ _	5. 9 8 2 4 5 4 3 _ _ _
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25. -----	25. -----

The left block was to be read downward, starting by taking the first letter T then finding the corresponding number in the right block, which is 9. By reference to the Spelling Book, which contained all the words used in the ritual, each bearing a letter and number, the reader found that T 9 was The. In the same way, he found that d 8 was degree; o 9 was of; e 6 was entered; and a 9 was apprentice. Hence, the first five words represented by column 1 were ‘The degree of entered apprentice,’ etc. In justification of this device, Morris stated: “It is the same as was employed by the Grand Lodge of England in 1728 when Masonry was introduced into France; in 1733 when Masonry was introduced into America; in 1795 when Preston transmitted his work and lectures to the United States, by Thomas Smith Webb, during the 24 years that he was engaged in promulgating this system; and by every Grand Lecturer whose name has become historical. It is a method practical, lawful, easy, and sure.” But the Grand Lodges would not permit Morris to perpetrate his on the Fraternity.

“The rituals are merely auxiliaries in commencing the investigation of the recondite mysteries concealed in the ceremonies, allegories, and symbolisms of the craft.” M.W.B. A.T.C. Pierson

“The trust of a Mason is in the most high God, as a basis which can never fail and a rock which can never be shaken, and will sustain and protect him under all the trials, difficulties and dangers while traveling through this vale of tears.” Most Worshipful Brother Azariah Theodore Crane Pierson. Past S.G.I.G. of A.A.S.R. S.J.”

Barnes’ footnote: In Minnesota the ritual is assigned to the Board of Custodians of the Ritual Work who are responsible for its integrity and interpretation. We are fortunate in Ancient Landmark No. 5 in having one of our Brothers serve on this committee, WB Donald Olsen. For any questions on the ritual or proper Masonic etiquette, he is our ‘in-house’ expert. Our appreciation is expressed to him for the service that he has given us.



**Termination, Impeachment or Retirement?**

There are but a few ways to leave the office of Secretary. One is either terminated, impeached, or takes the high road of retirement. Termination could mean a couple of things--either you did something terribly wrong and it’s the highway, or your term literally outlives you... Now I believe that both of those options are just not acceptable ways to leave, though a Master or two may have thought differently at times.

So if termination is out of the question, how do you leave the office of Secretary? Well, I did try impeachment multiple times which WB Allan Floyd will attest to, since I did my best to make it happen in his year. This behind-the-scene story happened spring of last year just before a degree. I am enjoying socializing during dinner, and I am quickly pulled away. WB Allan approaches me and politely asks for a list of the candidates for tonight’s degrees. Annoyed, I respond something along the lines of “Damn it, I emailed it to you earlier today!” Feeling deviant, I get up, walk into my office, print the list in 5pt type, and hand it to him. He looks at it, puzzled, and responds, “I can’t read it.” To which I reply, “Surprise. You can’t read an email either”. Holding back many certain urges every Master comes to learn while in office, he quietly takes the list and walks away shaking his head. What he doesn’t know is that I had already made additional copies in 16pt type which we all can read and put a copy on his podium ahead of time. When he sits down, he reviews his shrunken list, struggling to read it. Then, he moves on to the other paper work on the podium, finding the new list! We lock eyes and he mouths a couple of words to me, but I just don’t recall what they were—wait, maybe it was something about his Irish Grandmother’s favorite saying. I am guessing that impeachment was on the Masters mind that day.

Well if impeachment is not an option I guess Retirement is the final choice. Yes that’s right, I am going to retire as the Secretary of the Lodge. I have made a commitment to both Keith and Joe to be the Secretary if so elected by the Lodge, but after, that I am hanging up the quill. I will transition to the role of Treasurer for the following year, both to help the New Secretary in his role and to keep continuity in our operations.

Just food for thought for everyone out there.

The “Best Job you could ever have in a Lodge” will be open in two years. On December 31, 2013, I will retire. I cannot end this without saying, “Thank You Brethren for allowing me to serve.”

Doug Kuchera, Secretary



# LODGE of SORROW 2011



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Isadore Kanevsky	11/21/1920	4/2/1958	5/1/1958	5/21/1958	2/3/2011
James Bramer	9/12/1918	9/17/1946	10/1/1946	10/25/1946	2/12/2011
Fred Hrachovina	9/2/1926	4/19/1949	5/3/1949	5/14/1949	4/16/2011
David Eckstrom	9/13/1938	10/3/1967	11/7/1967	12/9/1967	7/15/2011
Robert Vesaas	12/22/1919	3/18/1948	4/1/1948	4/14/1948	8/9/2011



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