

YORK LODGE #563 TRESTLEBOARD

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2006

TRESTLEBOARD

JANUARY

Jan	2	.....	Stated
Jan	9	..... work on the FC degree	Special
Jan	16	..... INSPECTION REHERSAL	Stated
Jan	23	..... INSPECTION/DINNER	Special
Jan	30	..... work on the FC degree	Special

FEBRUARY

Feb	6	.....	Stated
Feb	13	..... work on the MM degree	Special
Feb	20	.....	Stated
Feb	27	..... FAMILY/PIZZA NIGHT	Special

MARCH

Mar	6	.....	Stated
Mar	13	..... work on the EA	Special
Mar	20	..... MASTER'S SPRING DINNER (TBA)	Stated
Mar	27	..... work on the FC degree	Special

* Please note that Special Meetings are at the discretion of the Master and may be cancelled or changed as regards date, time, and format.

York Announcements

York Lodge #563 and New England Lodge #4 have teamed up for a Christmas party. The party will be held on Saturday December 10th at 6:00 PM at the Lodge building in Worthington. If you are bringing children, make sure you bring a present. The present should be wrapped and clearly labeled. After dinner, Santa will pass the presents to the kids.

York Lodge will host its own Christmas Dinner on Monday December 19th. Dinner will be available starting at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 PM the officer will hold the last stated meeting of the year.

Looking ahead . . . York's inspection will take place on January 23rd, 2006. Steven L. Smiseck, DDGM will conduct the inspection. We will present the Fellow Craft Degree. Mark your calendars: February 27th is Pizza Family Night and March 20th is the Master's Spring Dinner. The speaker for our Spring Dinner will be announced shortly.

The purpose of York Lodge's Communications is to keep you up to date on your Lodges activities. Our Trestleboard is mailed to you for this purpose, but it is dated. Want to be informed in a timely manner? These are your options: visit the Lodge, check your Lodge's web page at www.york563.org, or give us your email address. We are working to implement "Voice Broadcast" and notify you by phone of meetings, funerals, etc. To be notified by Email and or Voice Broadcast about our activities please contact Worshipful Brother Ernie Suchy by phone 614-850-0762 or by email esuchy@columbus.rr.com. Please leave your name, phone number and or email address.

Now what . . .

You have passed your third degree exam and now you are a Master Mason. Now what? You have several options in front of you.

- Become an officer
- Become proficient in ritual work
- Move on to other degrees
- Join one of the other many organizations only a Master Mason can join
- Or slowly fade away like so many do, never to be seen or heard from, except for dues time

There are other options but these are the most prevalent. If you choose the last one on the list you will never know any more about Masonry than you know right now. You will never be any use to the fraternity nor will the organization be ever useful to you.

If you stay with one or more of the top four, you will learn how a group can act as a team. You will see how much

more the team can accomplish than just one person alone. This does not mean that we are not individuals. Masonry teaches free thinking and this can only be accomplished by self-sufficiency. A determination to be free from all types of restrains is preferred.

Free thinking will open up your thoughts, hopes, and aspirations. You will be able to express yourself by using your head and embrace those ideas in your heart. What this means is that you should speak with your head, listen to your heart and always, follow your dreams.

Brother Albert Pike, said, "It is for each individual Mason to discover the secret of Masonry, by reflection upon its symbols and a wise consideration and analysis of what is said and done in the work."

Brother Gordon T. Bond
York Lodge #563
Lodge Education Officer

Greetings from the East

First and foremost, let me take this moment to thank the officers and members of York Lodge #563 for the opportunity to serve the Lodge as Master for the year 2005-2006. I would be remiss in my duties if I fail to thank our Junior Past Master Joshua A. Miner for his service. Under his able leadership the Lodge completed three important tasks: first, it commenced the process of strategically allocating its assets where they can yield the best return; second, it flawlessly guided over fifty new Freemasons through the Grand Lodge's one-day class and lastly, it streamlined our committee structure making our internal organization more responsive to those seeking light in Masonry.

For some of us, watching these initiatives unfold and the endless debates they prompted was no better than watching paint dry. But their importance should not be underrated. Those of you who attended the November 7, 2005 stated meeting would agree with me that York's future looks bright indeed and as WB Alan Y. Brady indicated, the efforts and foresight of WB Miner will benefit our community, our Lodge and future generations of Freemasons for years to come.

My job henceforth is to continue the responsible stewardship of the Lodge's financial assets and to safeguard and extend a tradition of Masonic excellence that began in 1891 and has endured, in no small measure, due to the selfless efforts of York Lodge's one hundred and ten Past Masters. Thus with the Lodge on solid fiscal ground, aided by experienced and motivated officers and counting, as always, on the unfailing support of our Past Masters the officers and I have set a slate of activities aimed at bringing more of our Freemasons back to York Lodge.

Our program represents a blend of old and new ideas. They all, however, converge on our officers stated desire to remind the brethren of York Lodge that the Lodge is here for them and their families. Furthermore they aim at reminding our members that whether they visit the Lodge once a week (like their officers and many Past Masters do), once a month or once a year, they are always welcome to watch or to actively participate in our business meetings, our committee structure and our degree work. Your Lodge is far more than memorization and repetition.

I wish to extend a personal greeting to those York Lodge Freemasons who joined our fraternity during the past year. As our newest members our Lodge needs and welcomes your input and energy. I sincerely hope you'll take this opportunity to attend one of special meetings, experience our degree work and yes, break bread with us in one of the many dinners we have scheduled during the coming year.

In preparation for my year in the East I attended the Grand Lodge's 196th Annual Communication. The two-day event highlighted the Grand Lodge's activities during the past Masonic year, gave the membership the chance to vote on new and pending legislation and marked the beginning of MWB James M. Williamson as Grand Master of all Ohio Masons.

As your representative to the Annual Communication I voted on your behalf on a series of legislative measures ranging from plural lodge membership to un-Masonic conduct. It is my intention to offer a review of all legislation brought to the floor at a future stated meeting.

Finally, as the Holiday Season quickly approaches I wish to encourage all of you to consider donating to York Lodge's Charitable Fund. Furthermore, I ask you to help us in the difficult task of deciding where and how to allocate our charitable contributions.

As we ponder these financial decisions let us remember that charity is not a leisure pursuit. Freemasonry advocates it and all Volumes of the Sacred Law demand its practice. The Torah teaches that "if there will be a poor man among you... you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand toward your poor brother; you shall open your hand to him and shall give him enough for his needs." The Koran finds righteousness among those who give "out of love for God, for your kin, for orphans, for the needy, for the wayfarer, for those who ask and for the ransom of slaves." The New Testament admonishes its followers that "if anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? . . .let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Our first post-installation stated meeting took place on November 21st, 2005. On that night the officers served a Thanksgiving dinner from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. On November 28, 2005 our traditional Award Nights/Dinner was held. Our secretary Carl Raidiger received his 60 year pin. On Monday December 19th York will host its Christmas dinner from 6:00 to 8:00PM. Hope to see you there.

Fraternally yours,

Jose

BOOK REVIEW

Freemasons for Dummies

By Christopher Hodapp

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
"In the beginning there was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." William Shakespeare's King Lear contains 34,314 words, Hamlet 39, 476, Julius Cesar 25, 670 and my personal favorite The Merchant of Venice 26,885. The lesson here is clear: words matter. Whether the Old Testament or Shakespeare words can shape our lives and broaden our understanding. More importantly, there are plenty of them floating out there.

Those of us traveling from West to East and from East to West in search of that which was lost are very fortunate. Freemasons are rarely at a loss for words and are more than willing (perhaps too willing?) to put pencil to paper and generate even more words. The result hitherto has been a torrent of Masonic ink that confounds experts and novices alike.

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BOOK REVIEW continued . . .

Inevitably, out of the endless deluge of Masonic literature a simple and proficient look at the craft has finally emerged. Its title: *Freemasons for Dummies* by Indiana Freemason Christopher Hodapp. The book follows the formulaic and highly successful path of the "Dummies" series. Its aim is to remove the clutter and offer those interested in Freemasonry an easy to read and rather uncomplicated view of the craft.

If you are new to Freemasonry and want to learn more about it but cannot stomach the dusty tomes with unpronounceable titles hidden in your local libraries *Freemasons for Dummies* is for you.

Want to know a little about Confederate General and Scottish Rite Mason Albert Pike and his Morals and Dogma without reading three and a half pounds of text? *Freemasons for Dummies* is the real deal. You just became a Freemason but don't remember this "working tools business?" It's all spelled out in *Freemasons for Dummies*. Does the "G" stand for God or Geometry? Look it up in *Freemasons for Dummies*. What does the Temple of Salomon has to do with Ohio Freemasons? Read *Freemasons for Dum-*

mies and find out. Freemasons seem like nice guys. Why were Hitler, Mussolini and the Ayatollah Khomeini after them? *Freemason for Dummies* is on the case.

Oops when you became a Freemason the Master of the Lodge forgot to mention that your yearly dues come with a front row seat to a "Zionist-inspired", "Freemason-supported" worldwide criminal conspiracy. It probably slipped his mind! *Freemasons for Dummies* will explain the origins of this and other mind-boggling fantasies and the colossal efforts of our detractors to halt and destroy that which never was.

Are the "ancient charges" related to your overdue credit card bills? Take a look at *Freemasons for Dummies* for an explanation of the Ancient Charges as well as the full text of two important Masonic documents: The Regius Manuscript and Anderson's Constitution.

In short, this is a fine, albeit not controversy free, look at American Freemasonry and its symbols. Those of you new to the craft can benefit from this birds eye view of our ancient and complex fraternity.

By Jose O. Diaz, WM

William Clark Cole's 1864 Masonic Bible

- written by Bro. Chad Simpson, PM

William Clark Cole, an only child, was born in 1815, in Seneca County, New York. He graduated from the University of New York Medical College in January 1835. He was appointed Surgeon over the 22nd Regiment of the New York State Militia in 1837.

He was in the South when the Civil War broke out and lost his fortune at this time when his cotton burned and his gold in the bank was returned to him in worthless Confederate money. He risked his life to come north and join the Union Army at Camp Dennison near Cincinnati.

Camp Dennison was located on some 500+ acres along the Little Miami River, approximately 17 miles north of Cincinnati. The site was selected by General George McClellan and laid out under the direction of Colonel William Rosecrans. It was named in honor of Ohio Governor William Dennison and was utilized during the Civil War as a general training center and recruiting depot for Ohio troops.

The camp also included a 2300-bed hospital, one of the largest in the medical service of the Union Army. It was at this hospital that 2nd Lieutenant William C. Cole first served in the Union Army. In 1864, while stationed at Camp Dennison, he carved the Masonic Bible now on loan to the Grand Lodge of Ohio Masonic Museum by York Lodge No. 563. The only tools used in fashioning the Bible from a single block of wood were a penknife and chisel.

The Bible is 22 inches wide, 13-1/2 inches high, and 2-1/4 inches deep. The Bible is carved to appear as though opened at the 133rd Psalm. Upon the open Bible rest several Masonic emblems including the Square and Compasses with the letter G, trowel, 24 inch gauge, common gavel, level, plumb, Jacob's ladder, the point within a circle, the All Seeing Eye, and two keystones.

The cover of the Bible is carved to look like highly decorated leather. On the front is an image of two Cherubim-their wings extended over the Ark of the Covenant within the Sanctum Sanctorum. The back cover is decorated with an image of the High Priest, King, and Scribe from a Royal Arch Chapter under an arch with a keystone and behind blue, red, purple, and white veils. Below this image is a cipher code which can be read by Royal Arch Masons.

Along the spine of the Bible are carved two hands clasped in brotherly love and friendship, the words "Holy Bible," and three Masonic aprons.

On September 5th, 1864, Brother Cole was ordered from Camp Dennison to a new post. The driver who came for him had a blind horse, and through the driver's carelessness, they fell from a bridge and crashed on rocks twenty five feet below. Cole broke his lower jaw in four places and fractured his spine. After being taken to an isolated farmhouse, he realized that some bone splinters needed to be removed from his jaw. With no doctors available, he performed the surgery himself with the aid of a mirror.

Brother William Cole survived this accident and the war, living to the ripe old age of 87. He performed his last surgery just a year before his death. He died in Van Wert, Ohio in 1902.

The Bible remained in the possession of his daughter, Norma Cole Briggs, whose husband Knowlton N. Briggs was a member of York Lodge No. 563. After Brother Briggs death in 1971, Mrs. Briggs had a Brother Mason bring the Bible from her home in Tampa, Florida to York Lodge No. 563, Columbus, Ohio. This part of the Bible's story was not known until Mrs. Patricia Millard, daughter of Knowlton & Norma Briggs, visited the Grand Lodge Museum on November 11, 2005 with her daughter Karen Millard.

Brother Cole's Masonic Bible was found in the walk-in vault in the basement of the old York Temple just before the building was sold in June of 2004. The Bible can be view by visiting York Lodge any 1st or 3rd Monday. Our meetings begin at 7pm. Tours of the Grand Lodge museum are generally available after the meeting.

Are You Planning to Move ? Have You Moved?

Your Lodge wastes money every year by sending mail to bad addresses. Not only do we waste postage, but we are charged for returned mail. PLEASE, if you are moving, or if you have already moved, send us your new address care of the Lodge Secretary.

The Lodge webpage will be updated in the near future. The plan is to have a more interactive site providing information on the activities of the Lodge. The web address is www.york563.org. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. Please note that address changes cannot be made at the web site.

**YORK LODGE #563
TRESTLEBOARD**

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

Although we have arrived at that time of the year when play diminishes to those hardy few who enjoy playing wearing ski caps, gloves, long underwear, and multiple sweaters; there is still considerable activity. The party room is rented out for seasonal social events, and Chuck Dahn (Clubhouse Mgr.) is booking next year's weddings and reunions. Please be advised that as a Lodge Member you are entitled to rent the facility and a reduced rate. Again, it appears the course will be offering specials to Lodge Members who are interested in becoming Golf Course Members. If you are interested, please contact Chuck at 614-885-5968.

As to physical changes to the course itself, Chris Gates (Superintendent) has the following programs either under way or soon to be started. The #2 tee has been raised and leveled; a new spillway is planned for the pond at #5; sand bunkers are being worked, and in some cases converted into grass bunkers; the retaining wall behind #15 green has been replaced; and the walk bridge in front of #16 green is being replaced and grassed over. All of this plus our program to trim and replace trees is constantly underway, to include a large spruce which was donated to the City of Worthington for their city square green, just in time for the Holidays.

- Br. Mike Starn, PM

YORK-LODGE No. 563, F. & A.M.

www.york563.org

Jose Oscar Diaz Worshipful Master
William G. Hall, Jr. Senior Warden
Randall N. Drum Junior Warden
Donald C. Emery, P.M. Treasurer
Carl W. Raidiger, P.M. Secretary

York Lodge — 847-6066

Shawn P. Frye Senior Deacon
Kenneth Ray Harrington Junior Deacon
Doran Carrier Senior Steward
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