

From The East

With a newly initiated member into our Lodge, I thought of the process, and proceeded to do some research. In my research I found this article of great interest.

“**Apprentice, entered**” - the first degree of freemasonry, in all the rites, is that of entered apprentice. in french it is called apprenti; in spanish, aprendiz; in italian, apprendente; and in german, lehrling; in all of which the radical or root meaning of the word is a learner. Like the lesser mysteries of the ancient initiations, it is in freemasonry a preliminary degree, intended to prepare the candidate for the higher and fuller instructions of the succeeding degrees. It is, therefore, although supplying no valuable historical information, replete, in its lecture, with instructions on the internal structure of the order. Until late in the seventeenth century, apprentices do not seem to have been considered as forming any part of the confraternity of free and accepted masons. Although apprentices are incidentally mentioned in the old constitutions of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, these records refer only to masters and fellows as constituting the craft, and this distinction seems to have been one rather of position than of degree. The Sloane Manuscript, no. 3,329, which Findel supposes to have been written at the end of the seventeenth century, describes a just and perfect lodge as consisting of "two enteredapentics, two fellow crafts, and two masters," which shows that by that time the apprentices had been elevated to a recognized rank in the fraternity. In the manuscript signed "Mark Kipling," which hughan entitles the York manuscript, no. 4, the date of which is 1693, there is a still further recognition in what is there called "the apprentice charge," one item of which is, that "he shall keep council in all things spoken in lodge or chamber by any masons, fellows, or freemasons". This indicates they had close communion with members of the craft. But notwithstanding these recognitions, all the manuscripts up to 1704 show that only "masters and fellows" were summoned to the assembly. During all this time, when freemasonry was in fact an operative art, there was but one degree in the modern sense of the word. Early in the eighteenth century, if not earlier, apprentices must have been admitted to the possession of this degree; for after what is called the revival of 1717, entered apprentices constituted the bulk of the craft, and they only were initiated in the lodges, the degrees of fellow craft and master mason being conferred by the Grand Lodge. This is not left to conjecture. The thirteenth of the general regulations, approved in 1721, says that "apprentices must be admitted masters and fellow crafts only in the grand lodge, unless by a dispensation." But this in practice, having been found very inconvenient, on the 22d of november, 1725, the Grand Lodge repealed the article, and decreed that the master of a lodge, with his wardens and a competent number of the lodge assembled in due form, can make masters and fellows at discretion. The mass of the fraternity being at that time composed of apprentices, they exercised a great deal of influence in the legislation of the order; for although they could not represent their lodge in the quarterly communications of the grand lodge---a duty which could only be discharged by a master or fellow-yet they were always permitted to be present at the grand feast, and no general regulation could be altered or repealed without their consent; and, of course, in all the business of their particular lodges, they took the most prominent part, for there were but few masters or fellows in a lodge, in consequence of the difficulty and inconvenience of obtaining the degree, which could only be done at a quarterly communication of the grand lodge. But as soon as the subordinate lodges were invested with the power of conferring all the degrees, the masters began rapidly to increase in numbers and in corresponding influence. And now, the bulk of the fraternity consisting of master masons, the legislation of the order is done exclusively by them, and the entered apprentices and fellow crafts have sunk into comparative obscurity, their degrees being considered only as preparatory to the greater initiation of the master's degree. “

At the moment, we have three Entered Apprentice Masons who are beginning their journey. We as Master Masons will show them our support, by word and example, but mostly by true brotherly love. May our Fredericksburg

Masonic Lodge #794 have the blessing of the Architec of the Universe for benefit to our families, our fraternity, the community, and ourselves.

Sal Pacheco, Worshipful Master

The West Gate

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well this unusually wet summer. I for one am enjoying the cooler and rainier weather we are experiencing this year. As I transition to a new chair this summer, I will try to work these columns to be more educational in nature rather than reflective. I am open to suggestions for topics, if you have any, please pass them along in lodge or via email.

My topic this month is investigations. I just returned from a very educational trip to the warden's retreat this past month in Waco. If ever you have the opportunity to attend, I highly recommend it. One of the topics of discussion was the investigation process. If you have ever served on the investigation committee, you know it is not always an easy job. You have the task of guarding the West Gate of your lodge to make sure that none should pass except those who our duly qualified. In this day and age, things continue to change with ever increasing technology and even social media. The task is no longer a few simple interviews and phone calls.

We are all concerned about the growth of Masonry in recent years. It has been spoken that Masonry is going by the wayside and dying of old age. Lodges sometimes are excited about potential growth with new EA's. We can't rush through an investigation process just to ensure that we perform another Entered Apprentice degree to grow our lodge and add new members. This brotherhood is founded upon trust. If we begin to allow just anyone in the gate, we have done a disservice to the craft. I came across these words from Past Grand Master, Right Worshipful Tommy Griffin, which pretty well sums it up. He said, "That what makes Masons different from the members of those other organizations is "trust". Yes, those other organizations are excellent in providing the civic and charitable work they do and the members work together to accomplish their goals. However, the bonds of trust between members that are made in a Masonic Lodge cannot be equaled by the civic organizations. We are truly a fraternity of Brothers, who, because of the obligations taken at the altar and the lessons taught in the degrees, bind ourselves with a commitment to each other that the civic organizations cannot match. Because of the character of Masons, and that obligation at the altar, a bond of trust is borne that goes between all Masonic Brothers, even if they have never met before. This is what makes Masons different. The minute that Master's obligation is taken by a new Brother, we all accept and trust him implicitly until proven differently."

If you are placed on an investigating committee, it is your duty as a Mason to research the procedure and do a quality job. If you are unsure about protocol and what to do, ask a well-informed brother, or go to the secretary for advice. The job must be done properly. The committee is formed to ensure that the candidate meets the expectations and qualifications of being a Mason. It is not enough to just trust the signers of the petition. They must be asked about their relationship with the applicant. Once all three members of the committee have interviewed the candidate, they must meet to discuss their findings. It is important that all the information be in writing in your notes on the questionnaire that is used for the interview. If more room is needed, attach it to a new page. The brethren in the lodge are trusting you to do your job, so they can make a qualified decision when the ballot comes to them.

If all these steps are carefully done, the gate has been well guarded. We all have gone through the same process as we petitioned the lodge for the first degree in Masonry. We would not allow someone to skate through just because old so and so said he was a nice guy. The importance is really brought home to me as I look around the lodge walls at the pictures of Past Masters, from the first Master of Fredericksburg Lodge #794, D.C. Daroch to Carroll Sultemeier, Marvin Daniel, and Duke Davis. I am reminded of the trust that these men placed in Masonry

throughout the years. They trust the brethren who perform the investigations to do the job properly.

Sincerely,

Randall King, Senior Warden

The South Gate

Why does a man return to a Masonic Lodge after being inactive for a number of years? For me, having just retired and moved into the area, I was looking to establish connections and friendships. Where better to search than a Masonic Lodge? After all, here were men and Brothers that have many of the same likes, attitudes and moral character that induced me to become a Mason.

As I was reading the June issue of "Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine," a light came on and helped answer the reason for my quest. The light was an article, "The Four Facets of Friendship" by an unknown author from the "Sunday Masonic Paper."

Let us think about friendships and the mark they leave upon us. Let us look at the four jeweled facets of friendship that can be remembered by four proverbs:

1. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he"
2. "Birds of a feather flock together"
3. "A faithful friend is the medicine of life"
4. "Never forget a friend when prosperity comes your way"

Friends are not wished upon us. We deliberately choose friends. We win them. The proverb that resonated best with me is number three. The author went on to say:

"The third facet of the jewel of Friendship is the proverb: "The faithful friend is the medicine of life." There is healing in friends. It is agreeable to have another human being share with us those things which burden us, filling our hearts beyond their own capacity to bear them. In this way, a faithful friend is the medicine of life – and in another way, too. Not only by sharing our burdens with others, but by taking into our lives the griefs and the hopes and the problems of our friends, we cleanse our own souls of self-coddling; we save ourselves from becoming too wrapped up in ourselves. We make ourselves well by giving and receiving.

There is another profound comment on friendship found in the Bible: "Just as iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Friendship changes us. A true friendship demands the best that is within us. We are not on parade before our friends. True friends can have sharp difference of opinion without losing their esteem or affection for each another."

I have not been disappointed, as I have met several Brothers and are well on the way to establishing faithful friendships way beyond the mere meeting of Lodge Brothers.

If you have not been to Lodge, or to a degree conferral in a while, perhaps this may be a reason to reconnect with a friend and a Brother.

George Hahn, Junior Warden

Mouth To Ear

Chipping at the Stone | Perseverance

We all want to have luck on our side, but hard work and perseverance are more certain than luck. As an artist, I have come to appreciate the difference that determination and perseverance can make to materialize an intangible idea. When I first conceptualize a painting, it has a rough form in my mind, but even rougher still is the result of the initial brushstrokes. To transform an inspiration into a finished painting takes many individual brushstrokes that ultimately combine to create a refined work of art.

Similarly, if we are to consider our life our most important masterpiece, we are to work diligently and persistently to transform our life to a work of art. We are merely rough stones hewed from the quarry with an ultimate goal to be incorporated into the masterpiece of a Temple. However that transformation requires hard work and dedication. Every action you take to improve yourself is like a chisel blow breaking off the excess in your life. Every chip that breaks off that rough stone, reveals the masterpiece that lies within.

Therefore, if at any moment you feel frustrated because the ultimate vision of your Life has not yet materialized. Remember that it takes countless strikes of the chisel; countless brushstrokes to reveal that masterpiece. Make sure your vision of your ultimate self is as clear as possible and work on making every brushstroke move you in the direction of materializing that vision.

Juan Sepulveda

<http://www.TheWindingStairs.com>

Labors of the Craft

Our July edition of the Guiding Light is out later than normal due to the installation of our new officers.

Installation for the 2015-2016 Officers took place on Monday, July 6th. Special thanks to Right Worshipful Gene Carnes who was Installing Master. We've got a strong line of officers this year and four new Masons so we look forward to a great year!

The Law Enforcement Tribute was a huge success on Wednesday, June 24th. This was the inaugural event scheduled at the new Texas Ranger Heritage Center and co-presented by Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #794 and the Former Texas Rangers Foundation, who graciously donated the use of the facility at no cost. A beautiful shadow box containing a Texas flag flown over the Capitol on September 11, 2014 along with a letter of commendation signed by former Governor Rick Perry was presented to all five branches of law enforcement as a token of appreciation for their service to Gillespie County. Calbob catered the event with his usual scrumptious Bar-B-Q and the event was well appreciated by all law enforcement personnel in attendance. Thanks to all Masons who turned out to support this, and a special thanks to Brother Vern Shankle from Georgetown Lodge for coming in to assist.

The Breakfast Boys Social Club will convene this month on Tuesday, July 21st at Sunset Grille beginning at 8:00 AM. All Masons and friends are welcome.

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, July 27th at Gatti's Pizza at 11:30 AM. Masons, wives and friends are all invited.

We initiated a new EA on Thursday, June 25th. We currently have one EA who is turning in his proficiency in the first section at stated meeting on Monday, July 13th and one EA who is studying to do proficiency in all three sections.

Words of Wisdom

“There is never a deed so foul that something couldn't be said for the guy; that's why there are lawyers.”

- Attorney Melvin Belli -

“Calamities are of two kinds; misfortunes to ourselves and good fortune to others.”

- Ambrose Bierce -

“Once the toothpaste is out of the tube, it's going to be very tough to get it back in.”

- H.R. “Bob” Haldeman -

“The enemy of my enemy is my friend.”

- Kautilya -

“If everything seems to be going well, you've obviously overlooked something.”

- Second Corollary to Murphy's First Law -

Tongue in Cheek

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her somewhere expensive, so I took her to a gas station.

And then the fight started.

The day before her birthday, my wife told me that when she woke up the next morning there better be something in the driveway that went from zero to 200. She got up on her birthday, went outside to the driveway and there was a bathroom scale.

And then the fight started.

Little Larry attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs, rump and chest.

After a few minutes, Larry asked, ‘Dad, why are you doing that?’

His father replied, ‘Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are all healthy and in good shape before I buy.’

Larry, looking worried, said, ‘Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom.’

And then the fight started.

Recipe of the Month

BBQ Ribs

By Carol Bradshaw

5 lbs. pork spareribs, sliced apart

½ cup butter or margarine

1 medium onion, chopped fine

1 tablespoon minced garlic

1 cup water

½ cup white vinegar

1 cup catsup

1 cup barbecue sauce, hickory smoked flavor

1 lemon, juice of

Salt

Black pepper

Place ribs in a large skillet. Cover with salted water and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat and simmer over low heat for 1 hour, or until meat is tender, but not falling off the bone.

Melt the butter in a saucepan and sauté the onion and garlic until the onion is tender

Remove from heat and pour into a blender with all remaining ingredients

Puree for 1 minute and then pour back into saucepan

Bring to a boil and then remove from heat

Place the boiled ribs in a shallow dish and pour sauce over them

Place in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours

Barbeque ribs on an outdoor grill over moderately hot coals, basting with the sauce and turning often until well browned

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