

Trestleboard

Unity No. 146 Masonic Lodge
Chartered December 13, 1870 by the Grand Lodge of Virginia
www.Unity146.org

August 2013

Master's Message

Brethren of Unity Lodge No.146 A.F.&A.M.,

Centuries ago, there were other legends associated with Masonry besides the current legend of Hiram Abiff. At one time, Noah was considered one of the early Grand Masters of Freemasonry. This may be discounted by those who are not familiar with the Bible. How can the guy who built the big boat be comparable to the guy who planned the Temple of Solomon? Noah had an enormous task before him, to make an ark of gopher wood. He was provided guidance in this by the direct order of God, much as the Temple was constructed with specifications similar to that of the Tabernacle Moses erected in the desert to protect the Ark of the Covenant.

According to Albert Mackey, "Before the Flood, there was a system of religious instruction which from the resemblance of its legendary and symbolic character to that of Freemasonry, has been called by some authors "antediluvian Masonry." This system was preserved by Noah, and after the deluge was communicated by him to his immediate descendants. This system was lost at the time of the dispersion of mankind, and corrupted by the pagans in their Mysteries. But subsequently it was purified, and Freemasonry, as we now have it, was organized by the King of Israel at the time of the building of the temple.

Another great building is related to Noah. The descendants of Noah, about 101 years after the Flood, contrived to build the Tower of Babel, in the Valley of Shinar, that they could make for themselves a name. Fifty-three years was spent in this construction, before the language of the builders was confused, and they were scattered throughout the world, the dispersion mentioned by Mackey. Nimrod, King of Babylonia and Assyria, was the Grand Master at this time, and had many cities constructed after this dispersion, and the science of Geometry was preserved in the area between the Tigris and Euphrates, by the Magi. According to the York Constitutions, likely written after Anderson's, the descendants of Noah brought their construction skills and sciences to all the nations of the world after this dispersion.

Mackey compares the two legends here by reducing that of the Tower of Babel, from the source of Freemasonry, to the confused state of darkness an initiate finds himself in before seeking light, at the building of the Temple of Solomon, as in our current legend. He does not agree with this characterization himself, as the Babylon of the Tower of Babel was indeed the birthplace of the sciences and architecture.

The cities of Assyria, according to legend, were built under the guidance of Nimrod, and under the direction of Ashur, the son of Shem and therefore grandson of Noah. This was the legend until the beginning of the 18th century, perhaps coinciding with the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1717. Anderson did not believe that Ashur was a proper name, but was instead a reference to the building of the cities of Assyria.

The legend of Noah is still within our current ritual, although it may be indirectly. His father was Lamech, possibly the same Lamech who was the father of Tubal-Cain, the first instructor of artificers in brass and iron. These men were probably at least half-brothers, and may have been the same person. Many of the names in the Bible are not actually proper names, but are titles or epithets describing a person. Tubal-Cain instructed the artificers of brass and iron. Noah instructed his three sons in the art of Masonry, preserving the Craft.

As always Brethren, let us Meet on the Level, Act by the Plum and Part upon the Square. This is our Lodge....Your Lodge. Be the change you wish to see in the world....it all begins where you were first made a Mason. Until we meet again brethren, may the God of Peace and Love delight to dwell with and bless you.

Events

August 7

Dinner (\$10) &
Stated Communication
6:30 pm

July 24

Lodge Breakfast
8:00 am

Inside

Master's Message
Study of Freemasonry
Brother Birthdays
Royal Arch Message
OES Message



S & F,
Dennis Mark
Haas

A Study of Freemasonry

By Benjamin H. Weston 32 degree, THE NEW AGE - APRIL 1961

God alone knows precisely how old the art and practice of Freemasonry are. Certainly the individual Lodge is the prime unit of Freemasonry. We know today that in Florida no less than twelve Master Masons can join together to form a Regular Lodge. Whether this has been true from the beginning of Freemasonry we cannot say, but we do know that all the ancient and established usages and customs of the Fraternity have been faithfully and carefully preserved. •

To fix this more firmly in our minds we have only to converse with visiting brethren from around the world or read the reports of our Sovereign Grand Commander as he tells of Freemasonry in other countries. The ceremonies of Freemasonry never change no matter where you go.

Within the Fraternity there are the doubting Thomases, the probers, and searchers who cannot believe until the naked proof is presented to them. Along with them are the lovers of the Craft who are continually trying to enlighten their brethren concerning the Fraternity.

In connection with this study of the Craft, a wise Masonic churchman said that it might be helpful to start as near the beginning as possible. Then the question arises, where is the beginning? This is a logical question and deserves honest study.

As is generally known among Masons the ordinary calendar is not generally used by Freemasons in dating their official documents.

They have one peculiar to themselves, differing among their various rites. Blue Lodge Masons date their documents by adding 4,000 years to the Christian era and calling it Anno Lucis or Year of

Light, using the abbreviation A.L. before the date recorded. This is known as Ussher's Chronology. It came into being in Armagh, Northern Ireland, about A.D. 1650 and was first used in Biblical computation in 1701. Hence, the Speculative Masons and not the Operative Masons gave Masonry this chronology. Certainly it would be neither wise nor fair to Masonry to use this chronology, even though it is now in general use among Free and Accepted Masons. What then can be considered as a good starting place? To go before recorded history leads only to fragmentary evidence and gives rise to doubts and speculative questions.

It is known that outside the sphere of recorded events there grew up in the ever-expanding and ever-apostatizing nations all kinds of gross pantheistic, idolatrous, and absurd traditions. This has caused some of the great traditions of Freemasonry to be questioned, among them the Hiramic Tradition. Let us then use this incident as a starting place for our research.

Upon being initiated, we are told that Lodges were anciently dedicated to King Solomon, as he was our first Most Excellent Grand Master, although in reality there is no record of the existence of Masonic Grand Jurisdictions at or before the time of King Solomon.

Josephus is known for his reliability and the Masoretes are noted for their careful preservation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Examination of the Masorah text reveals that Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house." The word used to describe masons in this passage is the same word used to describe Tubal-cain, that first well-known artificer in brass and other metals. Hence, we know that operative masons were well-established from the time of Tubal-cain to the time of Hiram, king of Tyre. Josephus relates that Hirom, king of Tyre, was a great builder and had close relations with King Solomon concerning problems which were of mutual interest. This tends to confirm the belief that there was some close Masonic tie between them.

Further, a passage in the First Book of Kings reads as follows:

And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the Lord, and the king's house, (Now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir frees, and with gold, according to all his desire,) that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.

And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not. And he said, What cities are these which thou hast

FRATRIBUS IN UNITATE
BROTHERS IN UNITY//

Continued on page 5

Masonic Birthdays

RW Kevin Joseph Davidson - Aug. 29, 1984
RW Ward Easton Myers, Jr. - Aug. 24, 1960
Bro. Robert Errol Badger - Aug. 16, 2010
Bro. James Jeffrey Bruce - Aug. 27, 2005
Bro. Thomas Lee Hackney - Aug. 16, 2000
Bro. Roy Lee Jackson - Aug. 20, 2003
Bro. Henry Elith Larsen, Jr. - Aug. 15, 2012
Bro. Jason Lynn Manear - Aug. 27, 2005

Bro. Cory Bradford Michael - Aug. 29, 2012
Bro. Joshua Leo Nowell - Aug. 9, 2006
Bro. Donald Eugene Rasnake - Aug. 22, 1987
Bro. Walter Scotty Reid, Jr. - Aug. 15, 2012
Bro. Floyd David Senter - Aug. 27, 2005
Bro. Russell Howard Stanley - Aug. 22, 2001
Bro. Paul Jones Thomas, III - Aug. 10, 1984
Bro. William Luther Wheat - Aug. 27, 2005

Living Past Masters:

1963 - Wor. William Newton Wood
1968 - RW Ward Easton Myers, Jr.
1975 - Wor. Ronald Grant McManus, Jr.
1977 - Wor. Edward William Ahlers
1978 - Wor. Harry Wesley Hammack, Jr.
1979 - Wor. William Amos Hall
1982 - Wor. Darryl E. Windham, Jr.
1985 - Wor. Robert Keith McMillen
1991 - Wor. Timothy Darr
1993 - Wor. Raymond Mickey Moats
1995 - RW Charles Randal Seaford
1998 - RW Arthur Alvin Heiserman
1999 - Wor. Charles Edward Davis
2001 - Wor. David Martin Zuckerman
2002 - RW Scott Douglas Cabazolo

2004 - Wor. Robert Mitchell Cairnes
2005 - Wor. Neil Gene Lilly
2007 - Wor. Darryl Bowser
2008 - Wor. Larry Lee Adams, II
2009 - RW Joel David Ratliff, Sr.
2010 - RW Kevin Joseph Davidson
2011 - RW Kevin Joseph Davidson
2012 - RW Scott Douglas Cabazolo

Living PDDGM:

1985 - RW Ward Easton Myers, Jr.
2001 - RW Arthur Alvin Heiserman
2003 - RW Charles Randal Seaford
2005 - RW Scott Douglas Cabazolo
2007 - RW Kevin Joseph Davidson
2010 - RW George Oscar Glavis

Secretary's Message

Brethren!

The delinquent membership list has been sent to The Grand Lodge!
You will be receiving a letter from The Grand Master soon. Please respond as soon as you can and let your wishes known. Remember that if you belong to another pendant body and you are suspended in the blue lodge you are subsequently suspended from the others also.

Each person on the lodge roster cost the lodge \$38.00 in Grand Lodge Dues.



We currently have 15 delinquent members. They will cost the lodge \$570.00 if not paid. So do your part and help catch up this dilemma by December 31, 2013.

We have several Petitions for degrees and you are still eligible to attend. Come on out and support the new applicants.

S/F

Charles R. Seaford PDDGM

Royal Arch Chapter

High Priest Message:

Greetings from the High Priest and officers of Hiram #45 Royal Arch Chapter.

The Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, James Aurthur Fields will visit the 15th Capitular District at Winchester's John Dove #21 on August 10th at 6 pm. Dinner will be served at 6 pm with a Tiled meeting to follow. Cost of the meal is \$12.00.

Hiram #45 Stated Communication will be held on August 16th at our Tabernacle at 7:30 pm.

The Bev. Arnel School of Instruction will be held on August 22nd at 7:30 pm in Unity Lodge. Any companions needing certification should attend this school.

Companions, come out and help us spread the cement of brotherly love and affection.

- H. Wes Hammack H.P.

Stated Agenda

6:30 PM

Dinner in the Stewart C. Payne Social
Hall, \$10.00

7:15

Presentation
2013 Unity Lodge No. 146
Scholarship Awards

7:30

Open Master Masons Lodge

7:50

Featured Speaker:
RW Kevin J. Davidson,
District 3 Instructor of Work

8:15

Masonic Education Lodge Talk:
“Why Mentoring?”
Read by
Bro. Jerome Thomas Meehan, III

8:25 PM

Reading from the
Book of Constitutions
Bro. SW Melton Jewell Roland, Jr.

8:30 PM

Administrative Matters:
Brother Secretary “Clear Your Desk”
Treasurer Report
Committee Reports
Business Matters – Old/New
- Fire Suppression System in kitchen
- Gas stove
- Pillar/Fence Project

9:15 PM

Close Master Masons Lodge



Message from the Order of the Eastern Star

Sisters and Brothers,

Hope this newsinvitees.

Sandy J. Ratliff, Worthy Matron Joel D. Ratliff, Sr., Worthy Patron

Pictures from the July Meeting





visit our web site at
<http://www.unity146.org>
 and our Facebook page for updated
 calendar events and degree work.

2013 Officers

Dennis Mark Haas Worshipful Master	Stephen Craig Wheeler Treasurer	Luther William Wheat Junior Deacon	Cory Bradford Michael Junior Steward
Melton Jewell Roland, Jr. Senior Warden	Charles Randal Seaford Secretary	Larry MacRae Funk Chaplain	Edward Neal Powell, Jr. Marshal
Harry Wesley Hammack, Jr. Junior Warden	Joseph Paul Plazio Senior Deacon	Joseph Embree Senior Steward	Edward Neal Powell, Sr. Tiler

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