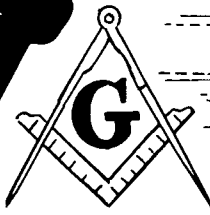


FOREST CITY



LODGE NO. 388 F. & A. M.

May-June 2009

Website: www.forestcity388.com

Lyndhurst, Ohio

FROM THE MASTER



Dear Brethren,

As we approach our summer recess, I encourage you to consult either the Trestleboard or our Website to learn of those events that will occur before mid-June, and to attend as many as you can. For those who have attended our meetings, they have seen degree work performed and candidate examinations given that would have brought smiles

to the faces of many of our 'long gone' brothers from the 40s, the 50s, and the 60s. If first impressions are of any value, some quality, potential line officers have recently joined our ranks.

Due to the goodly number of candidates waiting to receive their degrees in Forest City Lodge, we were able to assist two other lodges in our district by loaning a candidate to each of them for their respective lodge inspections. As a consequence, Bro. Todd Brown was initiated in Raymer-Covenant Lodge #683 – David Mumaw, W.M., and Bro.; Richard Ritley was raised a Master Mason in Euclid Lodge #599 – Wesley Keshtkaran, W.M.

On April 15th, following a delightful dinner attended by about 150 brethren, their ladies, and others, a number of our brethren were presented their 25, 40, 50, or 60 year pins. The large number of veteran members in Forest City Lodge provide us with a very substantial foundation. The entertainment for the evening was furnished by the SELREC Singers. A member of that group is Harriet (Wor. Bro. Bert) Siebert. We thank her for her hard work and participation in the performance.

April 29th was a very special meeting for your Lodge. Our sister lodge, Mosaic Lodge #559 from Toronto, Canada, brought a large contingent of their members "south of the border" to confer the E.A. degree – Canadian style. Full details of this event appear in this bulletin.

Our Annual Lodge Inspection occurred on May 6th in the FC degree. A large number of brethren from other lodges in the district were on hand. Our D.D.G.M., R.W.B. Martin Woodworth was pleased with our work, and following his remarks, your Master was given the Certificate of Inspection. Incidentally,

this inspection was the last for R.W.B. Woodworth as a District Deputy. Forest City Lodge presented him with a suitable gift to Commemorate the occasion. Lest I forget, the evening began with a fabulous dinner, as always, prepared by chef Kathy White and her crew.

May 20th was the occasion of our Annual Sports Night. A "sports-style" dinner of hot dogs, baked beans and other goodies was prepared by W.B. Burt Task and his supporting cast of workers. Our guest speaker for the evening was Tony Grossi of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Everyone in attendance had a great time.

Our meetings for June appear in the Trestleboard. I do want to mention that our speaker for Table Lodge will be Bro. Marvin Scheer, brother-in-law of W.B. Julian Cohen. Please try to attend.

Last, but certainly not least, the work for the Mark Twain Award will be sent to the MASANA for registration on June 1st. It is my fervent hope that all of the hard work done by the committee, especially by W.B. Jay Kaufman, will pay off. We won't know until 2010.

I should like to wish each of you a wonderful summer season. We will re-open lodge on September 2nd, and I look forward to seeing all of you re-invigorated and ready to do the lodge's work.

Fraternally yours,
Franck T. Kakou,
Worshipful Master

DID YOU FIND????

A women's coat taken by mistake following our Veteran's Night meeting on April 15th. Bro. Irving Heller and wife, Rita, attended the meeting at which he received his 50-year pin. Following the meeting, as they prepared to head for home, Rita discovered that her coat was missing. Someone obviously took the coat by mistake. If you have it, please call Editor Ron Wolfe at (216) 383-9798. I will arrange to have it picked up and delivered to its rightful owner. Thank you.

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2008 - 2009

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TRESTLEBOARD

NOTE: Stated Meetings are scheduled for the **first and third Wednesday** of each month. Variations from this schedule will, to the extent possible, be indicated in **bold type**.

Sunday, May 31, 2009..... Master & Wardens Dinner Dance
For last minute reservations or information, please call
Bro. Marvin Danziger at (216) 491-9974

June 3, 2009 Stated Meeting
Master Mason Degree – For Masons Only
6:30 P.M. Early Bird Dinner – Reservations Required
7:30 P.M. Open Lodge

June 17, 2009 Stated Meeting
Table Lodge – E.A. Degree – For Masons Only
6:30 P.M. Dinner and Ritual Work – **Reservations a Must!**

August 2009 Annual Steak Roast
(Date and Time TBA)
Details will appear in the next bulletin. You may also call:
R.W.B. Morton S. Negin AFTER June 1, 2009 at 440-942-1144

Sept. 2, 2009 Stated Meeting
Memorial Night and Mason-of-the-Year Award
Open to non-Masons
6:30 P.M. Dinner **by Reservations Only!!!**
7:30 P.M. Open Lodge
7:45 P.M. Program

IMPORTANT: For further information regarding times, **Early Bird** dinners, or other details, please contact (1) Wor. Master Kakou, (2) W.B. Burt Task, or (3) the Forest City Lodge Website @ www.forestcity388.com

AU REVOIR

For those of our brethren who attend lodge more regularly, you know that for several years, Bro. David Brock served as Junior Deacon. Several months ago he announced that he was changing careers, and as a result he would be relocating to Ashburn, VA. Forest City Lodge is sorry to see Bro. Brock depart, but we sincerely hope this change will be of great benefit to him and his family.

He recently wrote the lodge as follows, “We have settled in our new house and Marlene and I love our new jobs. The kids are doing great in school and making lots of friends. Jesse will be taking television production next year during his Senior year. Jake will be going into high school and planning on playing football. Christi is just being her social self and making lots of friends.

I have found a Lodge here right by my house. I invite anyone to come to visit. I plan on getting into the Lodge full time and continuing my Masonic experience. It is the Ashburn Sterling Lodge #288. Please let everyone know that I send my regards and I will see you soon.”

AU REVOIR #2

Shortly before this bulletin went to the printer, we learned that our Marshall, Bro. Bradford Kaufman, is being transferred to Washington, D.C. by his employer, NASA.

Bro. Brad will be sorely missed because in his few years as a member of Forest City Lodge, he has been of enormous help to those Masters under whom he served.

While his absence will be a loss for our Lodge, we cannot in good conscience begrudge the potential advancement that Bro. Brad will enjoy in our Nation’s capital.

Good luck, Brad.

GREETINGS FROM THE WEST

As I continue through my Masonic journey, the amount of life lessons learned; the number of friendships garnered; and the additional joy brought into my life, constantly amazes me. In my travels through Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, and in neighboring Canada, the assistance, courtesies, and friendship extended to me and my family have reinforced my conviction that Freemasonry is the ultimate fraternity in the world.

With prevailing economic times being what they are, I believe we are entering a period of renewed interest in fraternal organizations, especially in Freemasonry. I relish this interest, and eagerly look forward to the potential growth of our Order. If you have a son, son-in-law, grandson, nephew, a friend, or simply an acquaintance, who you feel would (1) be a worthy addition to our Lodge, and (2) who would fit in the Masonic phrase, “we take good men and make them better”, make him or them aware of Freemasonry in general, and Forest City Lodge in particular.

I strongly encourage each of you to “*Reach Out*” and enlighten prospective candidates in whatever manner you can; to attend our meetings and events if and when you are able to do so; and to be an ambassador for our fraternity to the non-Masonic community. The bottom line, though repeated over and over throughout the years, is still valid. You will gain from Masonry in proportion to the investment you make in it.

Fraternally yours,
Allen Hammes – Senior Warden

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Members who have passed to the Celestial Lodge above:

Bro. Raymond V. Feldman – raised in 1955
Bro. Harry Golub – raised in 1963
Bro. Joseph H. Miller – raised in 1951
Bro. Paul Milner – raised in 1947
Bro. Paul Rubin – raised in 1961 –
a survivor of the Holocaust
Bro. Emanuel Schonfeld – raised in 1938
Bro. Philip Wexberg – raised in 1965 –
a survivor of the Holocaust

Deceased Relations of our Brethren and/or their families:

Shirley Goldberg – wife of Bro. Martin

Hospitalized or Recuperating either at Home or in a Nursing Facility:

W.B. Lawrence Preisler – arterial by-pass surgery in Cleveland Clinic.

W.B. Mark Nyer – fell on ‘black ice’ and broke his ankle.

Greg Presser – son of W.B. Martin & Carol Presser, received a ‘stem cell transplant’ for the type of lymphoma with which he has been living for several years. He currently resides in Bethesda, MD.

Bro. Morris Blatt – back home following a long ‘rehab’ in Montefiore Home.

R.W.B. Martin Woodworth’s son – had surgery, but is now at home, doing well.

Bro. Bart Baker – was hospitalized, but is back at home, and back at work.

Betty Union (wife of Bro. Ray) – suffered a heart attack while in Florida. She is back in Cleveland, and on the road to recovery.

Bro. Sam Maizner – currently undergoing treatments. Get Well cards are preferable to phone calls.

Bro. Melvin Fishman, accompanied by wife, Goldie, has spent the past two months in Seattle, WA. He was undergoing treatment with an ‘eye disorder specialist’.

Congratulations to:

W.B. Mark and Rochelle Nyer – on the arrival of granddaughter, Emily Talia, born 2-26-09. The proud parents are Rabbi Shoshana and Stephen Langel, and the equally proud great grandparents are Bro. Mike and Dolores Rubin of Delray Beach, Florida.

W.B. Ronald and Shirley Wolfe – on the arrival of great granddaughter, Tamar Ayelet, born 2-27-09. The proud parents are Matthew and Rachel Klein who recently moved to University Heights after spending two years in Costa Rica as proprietors of a kosher “bed & breakfast”.

Bro. Scott and Jackie Jacobs – on the arrival of son, Connor, in California. The very proud grandparents are W.B. Ronald and Ann Jacobs.

Bro. Gary and Hanna Grunwald – on the arrival of daughter, Alexandra Riley.

Bro. Frank Weiss – on the arrival of grandson, Tyler.

Editor’s Note: How wonderful it is to report on the birth of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We know that death is inevitable, but these new babies are truly a gift from the Almighty, and a wonderful treat to mention in our Bulletin.

Contribution(s) to the Sunshine Fund

Bro. Edwin and Phyllis Green – In memory of W.B. Frank Candela.

Shirley Dembe – Best Wishes for a speedy recovery to Donna (R.W.B. Morton S.) Negin and to Betty (Bro. Ray) Union

Brethren: A card or phone call is always welcomed by someone ill at home, in a nursing facility, or in a hospital. It will certainly provide a Bright Spark of Appreciation and Hope.

IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE

Your Sunshine Fund Committee is only as good as the information YOU forward to it. PLEASE! Call a Committee member with good news and/or bad news. We want to remember our brethren and their families – whatever the situation may be.

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RENEWAL – MUSINGS FROM THE SOUTH

For many of us, the new year is a time for renewal. Time to take stock of one's life and to resolve to change old habits or adopt new ones. We get a chance to start over and, so to speak, reset the clock. Some of us pledge to live better through regular or increased exercise, through eating foods that are considered healthy, and by renewing friendships that have been neglected due to our busy lives.

Others among us think of renewal and the spring season as synonymous terms. As warm weather replaces the cold, we no longer resist the need to go out-of-doors; we shed our heavy clothing in favor of shorts and tee shirts; where our movements were previously restricted, we now seek the sun as we walk or ride a bike, or tend to our lawns and gardens. Summer follows spring, and renewal may mean taking a boat on the lake or simply basking in the sun on a sandy beach or in the private confines of our backyard.

As night follows day, autumn succeeds summer. This is the time for renewal in Forest City Lodge as a new Master is elected to lead our lodge. With him comes fresh ideas and exciting events to share with brethren and guests alike.

One of my responsibilities as Junior Warden is the management of the Fellowcraft Team. This lodge year, one of my goals has been the renewal of the F.C. team in several ways. First and primary

has been my objective to make the team *sharp and well-trained* so that veteran members might remark, "that's the way the team operated in the old days". I believe that we have made giant strides in this regard through well-attended rehearsals, and our last M.M. degree certainly was a wonderful reflection of those rehearsals.

Second and equally as important is the excitement and enthusiasm of the team as the individual members come to lodge and participate in the work. Essentially we are a social group, and to see fifty (50) brethren socializing and working together to make a new brother's experience an unforgettable one, just warms my heart. Remember that each *raising* is new to the incoming brother, and is the one by which he will view our Lodge. We must inspire confidence in this new member and show him that he will be a part of a vital, supportive, and worthwhile concern. As a team, when we show solidarity and strength, our new brother will want to reflect this to current members as well as passing that affirmation along to others who join our lodge in the future. The character and destiny of Forest City Lodge starts in the thoughts and actions of each member. I invite all of my brethren to be involved in our destiny by joining the F.C. team.

Please call me...

Jackie Woldering,
Junior Warden

HOW FULL IS YOUR BROTHERHOOD FUND PIGGY BANK?

In our Jan.-Feb. 2009 bulletin, we added an addendum to our report of Brotherhood Night. With so many people going hungry these days, we suggested that each brother place at least \$1.00 per week into a container, and then mail the contents to the lodge just prior to the next Brotherhood Night.

As was reported, I have been saving 25 cents per day in a clean, empty milk carton. As of April 30, 2009 (121 days from the beginning of 2009) I have \$30.25 set aside for Brotherhood Night 2009. With so many of our fellow citizens 'hurting' so badly during the current economic downturn, can you refuse to put away a dime or a quarter each day in the name of 'brotherly love'?

On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement for the Jewish people, Jews around the world, in order to try to avoid the Almighty's 'evil decree', vocally and loudly proclaim, "Prayer, Penitence, and Charity". The first two are very personal, but require no tangible sacrifice. The latter, Charity, requires that we share some of our good fortune with others. When next Yom Kippur arrives in late September, and you again beseech the Almighty to enter your name and the names of your loved ones in the 'Book of Life', will you have fulfilled your pledge of Prayer, Penitence, AND Charity?

CANADIAN RITUAL COMES TO FOREST CITY LODGE

Wednesday, April 29th, was a special lodge meeting in every sense of the word. Through dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Canada, our sister lodge, Mosaic Lodge of Toronto, Ontario, was permitted to confer the Canadian version of the E. A. degree in Forest City Lodge. Approximately twenty (20) Mosaic Lodge brethren journeyed to Lyndhurst, Ohio from Toronto.

The evening began with a wonderful dinner, a choice of either prime rib or salmon. Almost every table in the social hall was full to enjoy the cooking of Chef Kathy White. Following dinner the brethren assembled in the lodge hall. Between our own members, our Mosaic brethren, several P.D.D.G.M.s, and a number of visitors from other lodges in our district, there were few empty seats to be found.

W.B. Kakou turned the meeting over to the acting W.M. of Mosaic Lodge who had one of their Past Masters explain a number of basic differences between their degree work and ours. Their officers were all attired in beautiful regalia. They then opened a Lodge of Entered Apprentices which was quite an eye-opener for Ohio Masons. Next, they surprised our own W.B. Mitchell L. Alperin by selecting him to be the candidate for the degree. The degree followed, and while there were many similarities between the Ohio and Canadian ritual, the many differences were striking, and made for an exceptionally interesting evening.

Forest City Lodge #388 wishes to thank all of the Canadians who made the journey and so enlightened those of us from south of the border. Special thanks, also, to the event arrangers and coordinators, Bro. Sheldon Kofsky and Bro. Sheldon Rose of Mosaic Lodge, and W.B. Mitchell Alperin of Forest City Lodge.



Simon S. Apple and his wife are surrounded by dignitaries, as the Grand Master presented his 70-year pin and certificate. Included, from left, are George O. Braatz, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master; Bradford A. Goebel, Senior Grand Warden; Charles R. Murphy, Grand Master; Franck T. Kakou, Worshipful Master of Forest City Lodge #388; Thomas H. Galyen, Grand Treasurer and Past Grand Master; and Terry W. Posey, Deputy Grand Master. Brother Apple, at 101 years old, is a member of Forest City Lodge.

ABOUT OUR SENIOR STEWARD

Still being new to Masonry, I find myself in a state of erudition both Masonic and culturally. There are few breaks in a Masonic education. There are examinations and obligations to memorize, protocols to be learned and followed, and names - *oh so many names* - to try to remember of the scores of brethren one meets here in our lodge, and also when traveling to sister lodges. This is especially true when you accept an appointment as an officer of the lodge. But there is much, much more. Now there are rituals, charges, and lectures to learn, chores to be done, and to brush up on exams so that it is possible to coach others that are going through the same things that I went through just a short time ago. Then there is the matter of how lodge business is taken care of, and how new members are evaluated. There is a lot to learn, probably more than I realize at this moment, but I look forward to this learning experience. After all, that is why I became an officer.







Culturally, I am learning more that I ever have before about my brethren of the Jewish faith. Being of a Catholic upbringing with strong ties to an Irish heritage, I have had few opportunities to learn or participate in Jewish customs. I've been introduced to new Jewish words and phrases that I won't even try to spell. I've learned that Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year, but it is not rung in in the same drunken fashion displayed by some on January 1st. I even participated in Chanukah for the first time (sorta). Thank you Bros. Alan and Michael Rothman and the rest of your family.

We learn something new everyday. In my brief Masonic career, I believe I have learned more about myself and others than I would have had I not joined. I look forward to the new lessons I will learn through the experiences I will have as I continue in Masonry and the interaction with my Masonic brothers and their families. After all, that is why I became a Mason.

Christopher B. Stafford
Senior Steward

About Chris Stafford: Born 37 years ago in Parma, Ohio. Married to beautiful wife, Natalie, with whom two (2) wonderful and entertaining children were created – Justin, age 6, and Eryka, age 4. Chris is a programmer at Relay Health. In his spare time, he likes to write programs, ride his motorcycle, camp, play with the kids, and brush up on Masonic memorization. Chris was raised in 2008, and was our inspection candidate.

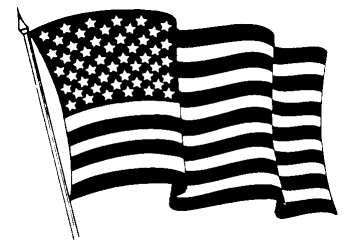
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21ST ANNUAL STEAK ROAST

Wednesday August 12, 2009

Horseshoe Lake – Shaker Heights

5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

\$14.00 per person



Salad, Steak or Chicken, Corn-On-The-Cob, Watermelon, Dessert, Cold Drink

Because of limited parking there will be two shuttle buses for parking at Shaker Middle School located at Warrensville Center and Shaker Boulevard.

For Tickets Mail a Check to:

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Burton J. Task at work (216) 831-9455 or at home (216) 297-0150 *or*

Alan Rothman at home (216) 381-2203 or work (216) 292-6900

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KNOW OUR ADVERTISERS

This is the third in a series to acquaint Forest City Lodge members with the advertisers who support our lodge with their ads.

Classic Memorials in University Heights, Ohio is a quality monument company owned and operated by Vladimir and Marina Konstantinovsky. Though not a Mason, Vladimir recently furnished our Bulletin with a series of articles about monuments from the perspective of the operative mason. The company is a member of the Monument Builders of North America, and Vladimir is a Certified Memorialist.

Bro. Gary Grunwald is the owner of Nicholas Jewelers, Inc. (named after Gary's late father). He and wife, Hanna, are the proud parents of Samantha, Nicholas, Victoriana, and Alexandra, the latter having just arrived on the second day of Passover. Bro. Gary has been a mason since 2003, and during his brief years in Forest City Lodge, has served as the Marshall and as a Steward. Additionally, he has served on the Fellowcraft Team.

Wor. Bro. Mitchell Freiberg is president of CMC Pension Services, Inc. They say that behind every successful man is a good woman. That being said, Suzanne Freiberg fills the bill to a "T". W.B. Mitch served as Master of Forest City Lodge in 1997. Since leaving office, he has remained very active by serving several Masters as Chaplain, and by being the Chairman and/or a member of the Budget and Finance Committees.

MAKING CONTACT WITH MY MASONIC PAST

Every Mason who actively becomes a part of his lodge is rewarded with the pleasure of meeting and interacting with other members of the lodge. Within the Masonic community he will meet many others, and will develop life long relationships. One thing a Mason holds dearly to his heart, is the lodge in which he was raised to the degree of Master Mason.

Although my roots are in Ohio, I joined and was raised in Michigan. In early March of this year, I traveled to attend my old lodge, Belding Ionia Lodge #355 in Belding, MI. I brought along with me, three (3) tokens which are the Forest City Lodge "Fellowship Pins".

Shortly before lodge opened, the Wor. Master approached me to inquire if I would fill in for their Jr. Deacon who was absent on this particular evening. I was only too glad to oblige since this was my station when I moved back to Ohio, and which I currently occupy in Forest City Lodge. When lodge was preparing to close, I requested to approach the East. Upon reaching the Wor. Master, I extended fraternal greetings from our W.B. Franck Kakou and our lodge. I then presented our "Fellowship Pins" to the Wor. Master and both the Senior and Junior Wardens.

It was a great experience to again dwell with my old brethren; to sit in my old station; and to see many of my Masonic mentors who were by my side for all of my degrees from the Blue Lodge to all of the York Rite Degrees. The whole experience redefined over and over again the true meaning of Brotherhood.

Dale R. Jackson – Junior Deacon

FOREST CITY LODGE ENDOWMENT FUND – WORKING FOR YOU!!!

Brethren, in case you haven't noticed, our lodge has not had a dues increase for many years. This wonderful phenomenon is the result of several factors.

- A. Recent Masters, along with their Budget and Finance Committees, have made a concerted effort to be more fiscally responsible.
- B. As reported to you in previous Bulletins, the Lodge gets additional income from the "Ads" in our bulletin, and from the sale of Entertainment Books and the Our Town & All-Around Books.
- C. Most important of all is the interest earned from our Endowment Fund. Most of you contribute to this fund every year with \$1.00 added on to the amount of your dues. The Lodge uses only the interest earned – the principal is never touched.

By building up the Endowment Fund, the future financial strength of the Lodge is assured. IF, at any time, you are able to send an extra few \$\$\$ to the fund, you will be helping yourself, your Lodge, and a multitude of future brethren.

SCOTS AND FREEMASONRY

Part 3, taken from ElectricScotland.com – by Carson C. Smith, FSA Scot

“There’s mony a badge that’s unco braw;
VVi ribbon, lace and tape on;
Lets kings and princes wear them a’,
Gie me the Master’s Apron!

English translation:

There’s many a badge uncommonly handsome;
With ribbon, lace and tape on;
Let kings and princes wear them all,
Give me the Master’s Apron!

*The Master’s Apron
by Robert Burns*

Robert Burns (1759-1796) was initiated as an E.A. at Lodge St. David in Tarbolton on July 4, 1781, at the age of 23. He was passed to F.C., and raised a master Mason on October 1, 1781. He upheld the Masonic ideals of Liberty, Equality, and Religious Toleration. He is celebrated as the Poet Laureate of Freemasonry.

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry has been defined as “a system of morality, veiled in allegory”. Simply stated, it is a society of men who symbolically apply the tools of “operative” masonry, to the “speculative” science of character building. It is often said that the goal of Freemasonry is “to take good men and make them better”. Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, most respected, and at the same time, the most dreaded Fraternity in the World.

It is respected for its ideals of Liberty, Equality, and Religious Toleration, but it is equally hated by Religious Fundamentalists and Anti-religionists, the latter because no Atheist can be made a Mason; and by Religious Fundamentalists because in a just and lawfully constituted lodge, Freemasons, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and all who acknowledge the Great Architect of the Universe, sit as Brothers.

The history of Freemasonry can be divided into three (3) distinct categories or periods; the Ancient or “legendary”, the Medieval or “operative”, and the Modern or “speculative”. The first refers to the building of King Solomon’s Temple, the second to the tools of medieval stonemasons, and the third to the spiritual application of mechanical principles.

As the members of the ancient guilds were initiated into their craft, so too are Freemasons initiated in the degrees of their Craft. When stonemasons set about the task of building a castle or a cathedral, they erected temporary shelters called *lodges*. Likewise, Freemasons conduct their meetings in a building called a *lodge*. And, like “operative” stonemasons, Freemasons wear as the uniform of the craft, a ceremonial apron which, in the case of Freemasonry, is made of white lambskin, or an imitation thereof.

The ancient stonemasons guilds received E.A.s, who were trained to become “fellows of the craft”, to one day be elevated to the status of a master mason. Likewise, after submitting a petition to a just and lawfully constituted lodge of Freemasons, a candidate becomes an E.A., is passed to F.C., and finally raised an M.M.

Freemasonry is **NOT** a secret society. They openly identify themselves as Masons, and proudly wear the square and compass, which have become one of the most recognized insignia in the world. Our buildings are clearly marked. We are Listed in the phone book. We sponsor public fundraising efforts to support Masonic Homes, Shriners Hospitals, and a variety of programs to benefit the disadvantaged.

Freemasonry is a society that has secrets, but our rituals, hailing signs, penal signs, pass words, and grips, are revealed to our members at each degree of their initiation into greater Masonic Light. And as they progress, candidates are presented the working tools of the “operative” mason – the square, the compass, the 24-inch gauge, the common gavel, the level, the plumb, and the trowel, as they are taught their spiritual application for the “speculative” mason.

Many aspects of Masonic Ritual have worked their way into our common language. We work toward making a “square deal”; conducting our business “on the level”; we seek to “subdue our passions” when we share a confidence; we guard against “eavedroppers”; when we are deceived, we claim that we have been “hoodwinked”; if someone is excluded from membership in a group, he is “blackballed”; and when we are subjected to a severe line of questioning, we complain that we are being given the “third degree”.

So, what do the Scots have to do with Freemasonry and visa-versa?

More of Carson Smith’s writings will appear in future editions of the Lodge Bulletin.