



# The Newsletter Of Anniversary Lodge Of Research No. 175 New Hampshire



Number 25

Fall 2009

## Fraternal Visit to Benevolent Lodge No. 7 Milford, NH Tuesday, 1 December 2009

Anniversary Lodge will visit Benevolent Lodge, Milford, on Tuesday, 1 December. Supper is at 6:15 P.M. and the Lodge opens at 7:00. The agenda includes the regular business meeting, a presentation to Child and Family Services of Milford, and a presentation by Anniversary Lodge Master Paul Kelley.

Please make supper reservations with the Secretary, Mark Furber, by Sunday 29 November. Telephone 603-436-1523 or e-mail

[webmaster@anniversarylodge.org](mailto:webmaster@anniversarylodge.org)



## E-mail List

Anniversary Lodge is in the process of establishing an e-mail list to allow the Master and Secretary to notify members with e-mail of lodge events. This will be a limited access list so it will not be a source of "spam." To be included, please e-mail the Secretary at

[webmaster@anniversarylodge.org](mailto:webmaster@anniversarylodge.org)

and clearly identify yourself in the body of the e-mail, since e-mail addresses are sometimes less than revealing about someone's name.

The list will be limited to members of Anniversary Lodge. Anyone who does not want to be on the list will be removed immediately, upon request.

## Annual Meeting Summary



Left to right: Ed Hess, Dave Almon, Jerry Sawyer, Paul Kelley, Mark Langis, Phil Reed, David Lamprey, David Scott, Andy Hirst, Dick Gilbert (Photo courtesy of P.T. Sullivan)

Our annual meeting was held at the William Pitt Tavern, Portsmouth, on 8 July 2009. After supper at the Portsmouth Masonic Temple, catered by Brother Phil Fraser, the Lodge conducted a short business meeting, elected officers, and heard talks by the Master, Brother Paul Kelley, on the cog railway, and by Brother Lee Fisher on the Pitt Tavern.

The installing suite was:

Master	Jeremy J. Sawyer
Remaining Officers	Andrew F. Hirst
Chaplain	Richard A. Gilbert
Marshal	David J. Lamprey, Sr.
Secretary	Edward J. Hess, Jr.
Charge to the Master	Jeremy J. Sawyer
Charge to the Wardens	David J. Lamprey, Sr.
Charge to Brethren	Andrew F. Hirst

**Anniversary Lodge of Research No. 175  
F. & A. M.  
Officers for 2009-2010**

Worshipful Master	Paul M. P. Kelley
Senior Warden	Philip M. Reed, Jr.
Junior Warden	Robert J. Norton
Treasurer	Richard E. Melvin
Secretary	Mark E. Furber
Chaplain	Richard A. Gilbert, Sr.
Senior Deacon	Mark E. Langis
Junior Deacon	Brian A. Smith
Marshal	David W. Scott
Senior Steward	Robert D. Steel
Junior Steward	David Graham
Tyler	David D. Almon

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This newsletter is published by Anniversary Lodge of Research No. 175, F. & A. M., New Hampshire.

This issue has been sent to all members of Anniversary Lodge and to the secretary and/or editor of a number of Masonic Research Bodies in the United States and abroad. If you know of anyone who should receive it, please let the editor know. Back issues are available from the Secretary or from the Lodge web site.

Unless otherwise indicated, other Masonic Bodies are welcome to reprint articles from this newsletter provided that the article is reprinted in full, the name of the author and the source of the article are indicated, and a copy of the publication containing the reprint is sent to the Secretary.

Submissions to the newsletter are solicited and should be sent to the Secretary. Electronic submissions in a MS Office-compatible format are encouraged if possible.

Any opinion expressed in this newsletter is solely that of the author and not that of any Constituent Lodge or Grand Lodge. If the author is not identified, all content is the responsibility of the Secretary.



**Membership**

The by-laws of Anniversary Lodge establish two classes of members. Regular Members must also be members of a Constituent Lodge within the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, while Associate Members are members of Constituent Lodges within jurisdictions in amity with the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. The annual dues are \$10.00, and there is no affiliation fee. The first year's dues should be included with the petition. Petitions for affiliation are available from the Secretary and on our web site and are acted on by the Secretary as he receives them.

Although the bylaws do not provide for a class of membership for corporate bodies such as other Research Lodges or Masonic libraries, Anniversary Lodge is happy to exchange publications with other organizations. Please contact the Secretary.

**Web Site**

Please visit our web site at

<http://www.anniversarylodge.org>



**Photos from the Cog Railway Trip on 21 September**  
(courtesy of Paul Kelley)



Lined up to board the Anniversary Lodge car



The brakeman



Sixty-one Masons, family members and friends took the ride to the summit



Paul Kelley inside the car



Inside the car



Andy Hirst at the summit

## 2009-2010 Schedule

(as of late October 2009)

### Annual Meeting and Installation (semi-public)

Wednesday, 8 July 2009  
William Pitt Tavern, Strawberry Banke  
Portsmouth, NH  
Lodge opens at 7:30.  
Dinner 5:30-6:30 P.M. at Portsmouth  
Masonic Temple.  
Dress: business attire.

### Family Trip on the Mount Washington Cog Railway

Monday, 21 September  
Train leaves station at 4:00 P.M.

### Fraternal Visit to Burns Lodge No. 66

Littleton, NH  
Wednesday, 14 October 2009  
Supper at 6:00 P.M.  
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.  
Dress: business attire.

### Fraternal Visit to Benevolent Lodge No. 7

Milford, NH  
Tuesday, 1 December 2009  
Supper at 6:15 P.M.  
Lodge opens at 7:00 P.M.  
Dress: business attire.

### Table Lodge

Date and time to be announced  
At Saint James Lodge No. 102, Hampton, NH  
Dress: business attire.

### Annual Meeting and Installation (semi-public)

Thursday, 8 July 2010  
William Pitt Tavern, Strawberry Banke  
Portsmouth, NH  
Lodge opens at 7:00.  
Dinner arrangements to be announced.  
Dress: business attire.



## From the Worshipful Master

Anniversary Lodge is a group of men interested in the pursuit of historic knowledge, especially that of New Hampshire Masons. In some ways researching the history of masonry has become an easier task with the use of the Internet and of course Google! Once you begin researching a subject matter you really don't know what direction you will end up heading, but rest assured it will be an interesting journey. At our Lodge of Research, we enjoy taking this journey and sharing our results with those who are interested! This year, I have dedicated my research to Brother Sylvester Marsh, the inventor of the Cog railway. You may review elsewhere in this newsletter the short paper I put together on our brother. It is important for us to look back and remember our past. If we do not, the records and archives might forever be lost to forgotten history, disinterested people, or just the ebb and flow of time and tide.

If you would like to become a member of our lodge, our doors are open to all Masonic brothers in good standing. No ritual, no initiation, just brotherly friendship. We meet about four times per year and our events all tend to be social or educational in nature. I encourage you to join, even those of you who might never venture to the 'Live Free or Die' state!

The Cog railway trip was well received by all who attended. We were fortunate to have a turnout of 61 Masons, family and friends. The folks at the Cog treated us very well by giving us our own entire Cog train and car for our trip! Normally the Cog stays at the top for about 20 minutes, but since we had our own train we were treated to 40 minutes. You could not have asked for a better day weather wise. The temperature at the summit was 52 degrees, and visibility was over 110 miles, yes, one hundred and ten miles! I am happy to report the ride up and down was, well....uneventful, even as we passed over Jacobs Ladder, known as the most treacherous trestle bridge in the world. If there is interest, perhaps this could be a "first annual event."

Fraternally,

Paul Michael Patrick Kelley

## About the Worshipful Master



Brother Paul Kelley presides over Anniversary Lodge at the 2009 Annual Meeting

Paul Michael Patrick Kelley began his sojourn in Masonry in November 2000, in Saint James No. 102 in Hampton, New Hampshire, at the age of 43, and was raised in February 2001. In 2002, Worshipful Master Brother Bob Schreier asked him to join his line of officers as Junior Steward. It was a 'lean' year for officers and in 2003, Brother Kelley assumed the Junior Warden's Chair, in 2004 the Senior Warden's, and finally in 2005 the Oriental Chair. He was the youngest Mason, in Masonic years, from Saint James Lodge to reach the East, since he was a Mason but four years when he became Master of his Lodge. He was mentored along his journey to the East by Brother Andrew F. Hirst, Past Master of both Saint James and Anniversary Lodge of Research. A strong friendship developed and to this day Brother Hirst encourages Brother Kelley to continue to learn history and ritual. In 2006, Brother Kelley was the recipient of the Major General John Sullivan Medal in Bronze.

Brother Kelley had a yearning for further light in Masonry and became a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. He has played minor roles in the degrees and is currently the Junior Warden of John Christie Council, Princes of Jerusalem, Valley of Portsmouth-Dover. In 2003, Brother Kelley joined the N.H. Police Square Club, and in 2006 served as its president. He is also an active member and past president of the East Gate Club of the Greater Seacoast Area, an honorary life member of the National Sojourners, Portsmouth Chapter No. 386, and a Shriner of Bektash Temple in Concord, N.H.

Brother Kelley earned the degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from New Hampshire College, now the University of Southern New Hampshire, in 1993. He is employed by the State of N.H. as the Director of the Racing and Charitable Gaming Commission. In his capacity as Director, a position he has held since 1995, he is responsible for over-seeing all legalized gambling, except the lottery, in New Hampshire. The agency that he administers regulates over \$300,000,000 in sales per year. He started with the Commission in 1987, after working for several pari-mutuel facilities.

Brother Kelley is involved in civic affairs as the current chairman of the Seabrook Housing Authority, as Seabrook's Town Moderator and School Moderator, and as Vice Chairman of the Seabrook Library Trustees. He was instrumental in the building of the modern Seabrook Town Library.

Brother Kelley was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in December 1956, living with his parents in North Andover, Massachusetts, and summering in Seabrook Beach since 1962. In 1974 he became a year-round resident of Seabrook Beach where he still lives today. Brother Kelley is a confirmed bachelor. In his spare time, he loves to travel and does so frequently. He has sailed the Nile in Egypt and gone on several safaris in South Africa. He has traveled several times through the British West Indies, and visited Venezuela in South America. Brother Kelley has toured Italy extensively, having a love of the city of Venice. He has traveled throughout Ireland, the homeland of his grandparents

## From the Secretary

First, let me apologize for missing the Annual meeting, but health problems kept me away. I appreciate your confidence in me and your electing me as your Secretary for another year.

Dues bills for the July 2009 – July 2010 lodge fiscal year went out a few months ago and about a third of the payments are in. As usual, there are members who pay immediately, for which I thank them, and others who are in arrears. My goal, well before the July 2010 annual meeting, is to have determined the status of all of our members. If you owe dues, you will receive a reminder in the mail and then a telephone call. Please remember, if payment of the dues is any financial hardship for you, that you should contact me, in confidence, and the Lodge will be happy to remit your dues. Like all Masonic bodies, Anniversary Lodge wishes to keep its members and to assist members in distress.

A few members have sent in contributions with their dues payments, for which we thank them. The various notes I receive are always appreciated, since the dues payment is often the only communication from a member that we have all year.

I will also express my thanks to the many research lodges that send me their publications. I appreciate and read all of the publications with interest.

For a variety of reasons, mostly my fault, this newsletter has not appeared quarterly for a few years. Circumstances, such as my working at remote sites for some five months during 2008, as well as the level of Lodge activity, reduced the rate of publication. I have therefore slightly changed the name and the numbering system to reflect the fact that the newsletter is not a quarterly publication. This is, in fact, the 25<sup>th</sup> issue since I started as editor in 2000 during Brother Lee Fisher's term.

There have been some improvements to our web site and I am setting up an e-mail list for rapid communication with those lodge members who have e-mail. This will not take the place of more traditional means of communication, since some of our members do not and probably will never have e-mail, but it should allow better communication with many. Please sign up for

this service as noted on the first page. This will not be a source of "spam" for anyone, since I will moderate it.

The Worshipful Master has appointed a committee to look at our bylaws. Our bylaws were last revised in 2002. If anyone is interested in a copy or wants to comment on them, please contact me. The proposed revisions will be circulated to the entire membership before we vote on them next year.

As always, I would like to thank my wife Mary for her unflagging support in my various activities, personal, professional and Masonic.

Sincerely and fraternally

Mark E. Furber



## Thought for the Day (From a Masonic listserv)

"Even with all of the recent advances in Masonic Education, there still remains no effective means by which you can communicate with a brother who already knows everything."



## Research Lodge News

On 31 October 2009, The Georgia Lodge of Research hosted the 10th Walter M. Callaway, Jr., Memorial Lecture at the Atlanta Masonic Center. Brother S. Brent Morris, noted Masonic author and managing editor of *The Scottish Rite Journal*, spoke about "Itinerant American Masonic Lecturers", an inquiry into the "degree peddlers" of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The Masonic Lodge of Research of Connecticut met on 23 September 2009 at the New Haven Masonic Temple. The brethren discussed Masonic ritual forms and the "essentials" of Masonry. The Grand Lodge of Connecticut counsels "in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty" with respect to the ritual worked by its Constituent Lodges.

## A Short Recapitulation of the Life of Sylvester Marsh

Submitted to Anniversary Lodge of Research No. 175 by Bro. Paul Michael Patrick Kelley, WM. at the Annual Meeting, 8 July 2009



“All Aboard” might have been that exuberant cry from Brother Sylvester Marsh on that historic day on July 3, 1869 as “Peppersass” the first steam engine made its inaugural run up Mount Washington; and so it was; the start of the Cog Railway.

Sylvester Marsh, the inventor of the Cog Railway was clearly a ‘traveling man’. He was born the ninth child of eleven children of the parents John and Mehitable Marsh on September 30, 1803 in the town of Campton, New Hampshire. When he was 20 years old he went to Boston Massachusetts, his journey took many days as he walked the entire 117 miles. From there, Marsh traveled to Ashtabula, Ohio where he engaged in the beef and pork business. In 1833 he moved to Chicago, Illinois, a bustling town at the time of 300 inhabitants. In Chicago he continued in the beef and pork packing business and was very successful. In 1855 he

moved to Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts where he resided until about 1860. He then returned back to Chicago and remained until 1863, and then he traveled on to Brooklyn, New York. He only stayed in Brooklyn for about a year then he moved to Littleton, New Hampshire where he developed his plans of building a railroad to the top of Mount Washington.

During his time in the busy town of Chicago he was involved with the live stock and packing industry. One of the major meat packers of that time was Gurdon S. Hubbard. His company was one of the major meat suppliers to the soldiers and settlers of that time. In his book of “Reminiscences”, Hubbard says: “The winter of 1830 and 1831 was the most severe one I have ever experienced in Indian country, and it was always remembered by the early settlers as the ‘winter of the big snow’. Marsh was one of the pioneers in the meat packing industries and joined Mr. Hubbard for a period of time. In later years, in 1883 Marsh was a witness before a senate committee in Washington, and was asked about the price of pork. He replied that in 1841, while work on the Illinois and Michigan Canal was in progress he paid \$2.00 a hundred pounds for all pork that weighed over 200 pounds to the animal, and \$1.50 per pound if the animal’s weight was less than 200 pounds. The same price prevailed for beef at that time.

Chicago in the 1850’s was becoming one of the largest grain ports in the world. One of the problems with shipping grain, especially overseas, was its tendency to sour, spoil or rot while in storage. In 1853 he ceased working in the meat packing business after obtaining a ‘handsome fortune’ and began devoting his time to grain drying. Brother Marsh obtained 11 U.S. Patents in his lifetime, six were for grain dryers. “Marsh’s Caloric Grain Dryers” and his grain shipping company provided him with a substantial income. The Chicago Tribune at the time reported “A perfect safeguard against the heating of corn has been discovered by our fellow citizen, Sylvester Marsh.”

Marsh was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago, and was involved in a land purchase deal for the Church. The going pay for a minister at that time was \$1,000 per year.

While in Chicago, Marsh was involved in a land dispute which became known as the ‘Sand Bar’ case, which involved title to a large amount of ‘shore’ property on Lake Michigan, north of the Chicago River. The title of the case was William S. Johnson vs. William Jones and Sylvester Marsh. Brother Marsh won his case, but what makes it note worthy was who his attorney was, a Mr. Abraham Lincoln!

At age 52 Marsh, a widower with two children married Cornelia Holt, originally from St. Albans, Vermont. Marsh was known as a workaholic, but now remarried with enough money to enjoy life he decided it was time to retire, relax and enjoy life. He moved his family to Jamaica Plain, a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts. Being retired just didn’t seem to fit Brother Marsh well at all. The sudden inactivity caused what he called “dyspepsia”, or physical upset. So he wasn’t long in retirement when he decided he needed a new project.

In the summer of 1857 accompanied by his Boston Pastor they went for a climb up Mount Washington. The Auto Road that we know today was not completed until 1861, so the men hiked up Crawford Path. It was reportedly a nice August day and the weather was calm. However after they got above the tree lines they were hit by a terrific storm with hurricane winds, and freezing rain and premature darkness. It appears that they somehow staggered and crawled their way back down the mountain, they lost their way for a time and stumbled into the Tip-Top House. It was rumored that then and there Marsh had found his new mission: to provide some easier way and safer method of ascension of Mount Washington.

His first attempt was to build a funicular railway line like the one just put into operation in Massachusetts at Mount Holyoke. This system uses two cars, going in opposite directions, connected by a single cable. That way the weight of each car offsets each other allowing for less energy to move two cars; one up the mountain the other down. This mountain was only 1/10 the height of Mount Washington. This system brought the cars up by a system of cables and stationary steam engines. Marsh soon realized that he could not achieve such a system on Mount Washington for the weight of the cable

alone would be too much for the steam engines to be able to move. He decided that the only way to achieve a railway was to have the steam engine drive itself up the mountain. Marsh tried several variations, but decided to settle on a ‘cog’ system. The cog being the center wheel that propelled the engine up the track by having its tines inter-lock with a grooved central track. The outside wheels were only on track for guidance and for breaking, but not for propelling.

The Marsh family moved to Littleton, New Hampshire. In the spring of 1866 he organized and directed building the first 660 feet of track. In Boston his son John Franklin, called Frank oversaw building the experimental locomotive later called “Peppersass” at the machine shop of Campbell, Whittier and Co. After he built it he had to take it apart and bring it to Littleton by train, then ox-carted it to the site and then had to reassemble it.

Sylvester Marsh’s calling to Masonry came later in his life at the age of 64. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on April 11, 1867 at Burns Lodge No. 66 in Littleton, NH. In the by-laws book signed by Brother Marsh it shows that he was raised with three other brothers whose age was in the 20’s. From that, we can deduce that Brother Marsh was well like by young and old alike.

Brother Marsh eventually moved to Concord, NH where on December 30, 1884 at the age of 81 he succumbed to pneumonia. On his death the Directors of the Mount Washington Railway published this notice in Concord’s *Daily People and Patriot*: “Resolved that in the recent death of Sylvester Marsh, Esq. the President of the corporation from its beginning, the board of directors recognize the loss of an associate whose genius and thoughtfulness suggested and originated the enterprise, and whose interest in its welfare and confidence in its ultimate success, whether in adversity or prosperity never flagged.”

Author’s Note: The intent of this recapitulation was not to do any new discovery of any material about Brother Marsh, but rather to comb the public records and public sites on the World Wide Web to remember a Mason who made significant

contributions to New Hampshire. It is believed all material contained herein is in the public domain and not protected or copyrighted in any way.

12. Portrait from *The Bay State Monthly*, Volume 3, No. 2, May 1885. Project Gutenberg website [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org) Available for public use.



#### Sources:

1. <http://www.cog-railway.com/smarsh.htm>
2. *History of Cook County, Illinois* by Editors Weston A. Goodspeed, LL.B. and Daniel D. Healy. Goodspeed Historical Association, Hammond Press, W.B. Conkey Company, Chicago, 1909
3. *The First Presbyterian Church - A history of the Oldest Organization in Chicago* by Philo A. Otis. First Edition, Clayton F. Summy Co., Chicago, 1900, Second and Revised edition, Fleming H. Revell Co. 1913
4. <http://cowhampshire.blogharbor.com/blog/archives/2007/7/9/3024790.html>
5. Report of the Mount Washington Railroad Company for year ending September 30, 1883. Arthur Clarke, Public Printer, Manchester, NH, 1900
6. "Early Struggles of New England Families - The Rapid Growth of Chicago". *The New York Times*, January 12, 1884.
7. Directory of the City of Chicago, August to December 1843.
8. *A Century of Marvelous Growth* by J. Seymour Currey. The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago 1912
9. Records of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire.
10. Conversation with Bro. Darrel Louis, Secretary of Burns Lodge No. 66
11. Conversation with Brother Lynn M. Presby, partner, Cog Railway

#### New Members

Anniversary Lodge of Research welcomes several new members.

Brother John K. Martin is a resident of Hampton, NH and currently Senior Warden of Saint James Lodge No. 102 in Hampton. He is also Secretary-Treasurer of the East Gate Club of Seabrook and a member of the New Hampshire Police Square Club, Scottish Rite and Shrine. He works for the State of New Hampshire Racing Commission.

Brother David D. Almon is a resident of Raymond, NH, and a member of Star in the East Lodge No. 59 of Exeter. He is a highway foreman for the N.H. Department of Transportation.

Brother Arthur A. Dunham, Jr., is a member of Benevolent Lodge No. 7, Milford, NH, and a resident of Lyndeborough, NH. He is a native of Boston and works as a manager.

Brother Philip M. Reed is a resident of Seabrook, NH, and a member of Saint James Lodge No. 102, Hampton, NH. He is retired.

Brother Dean E. Shankle was born in Canton Ohio, the home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He has lived in New Hampshire since 1981 and has a wife and two children. He has worked in local government as a manager since 1984 and also has a consulting business specializing in technology transfer and knowledge management. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and became a Master Mason in May 2009 in Benevolent Lodge No. 7 in Milford, NH, where he resides.

Brother Gary R. Wall is a native of Bridgeport, Connecticut and a resident of Bradford, NH. He is a member of King Solomon's Lodge No. 14 of Elkins, NH, and was raised in the William Pitt Tavern in 2006. He is a businessman.

## **Who, What, Where, When, Why and How?**

Brother Robert D. Steel, member, Anniversary Lodge of Research and Past Master and Secretary, Grafton Kane Lodge No. 46, North Haverhill, NH

### *WHO are you?*

A familiar question to a Freemason! It matters not which degree you are a candidate for, this question is always asked, in one way or another. Let us take this question a bit further.

WHO ARE YOU? A Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason, a Royal & Select Master Mason, a Knight Templar, a Scottish Rite Mason – the list of titles goes on! Still we do not know, WHO ARE YOU! Perhaps even you do not know who you really are! Each of us is different and especially unique in our own right, each of us has differing reasons for being. There are no two of us exactly alike, similar perhaps, even amazingly alike, such as in identical twins, however, there are differences.

What unites us as Freemasons and unites us into one is our “Oath and Obligation!” Each of us has so very much in common, starting with our desire to become a member of this fraternity. Each of us took an Obligation, an Oath that propelled us forward and into the then unknown world of a Freemason. Depending upon your Jurisdiction and the individual Brethren who conferred the degrees, there were differences, these differences are only human. The meaning, the heart of the degrees means the same to everyone. Greater knowledge comes with additional research into EACH degree. It is here that we again separate and become unique individuals.

A mentor should be qualified to answer your questions; in reality, most only know the words. Perhaps he has a differing thought process from you? Perhaps the mentor is really knowledgeable? If he is, will he be able to guide you too the answer, instead of giving it to you? Discovery is the key to advancing knowledge! Your self-discovery of an answer will place it forever in your memory. If, however, you are given the answer, perhaps you will retain it, more than likely though, it will the sooner fade in time.

Each of the Veils you remove by your own efforts builds your character; your individuality; your sure knowledge! Each step you take upon the path of enlightenment separates you from the masses. Veering neither to the left or right, progressing in life; YOU become more unique!

Who are you? In truth none of us knows with absolute certainty who we are! We DO, individually, decide who we will appear to be to others by our own endeavors, initiative and progress in our “Travels” through life! How often have you heard or read “KNOW THY-SELF?” It is the individual whose efforts in this complex endeavor, whose “Temple not made with hands” that defines WHO YOU ARE! Pray that your Light so shines before all and exclaims to the world, “*I am a Man AND a Master Mason!*”

### *WHAT am I?*

My close friends and Brethren all know me as a Master Mason; however I am more, much more to my family, my students; my co-workers and acquaintances. Depending upon opinions, perhaps desires, even envy or greed, I am many things to many people.

Perhaps this question is better asked of me by myself! I have already explored Who I am, What am I is again a subject that will vary from one extreme to another depending upon who is answering this question. The person(s) asking can be negative or positive in their judgment upon you. Will this make a difference to you? Will you persevere? Will you be your own Man? Will the temper of the mortar you use be binding; uniting the stones from your personal quarry into a solid “Temple” regardless of negative opinions and perhaps even ignorance and jealousy?

After all is said and done, I AM a Man and a Master Mason! As such I can be, if I put my efforts behind it, a LEADER! Of what? Of others of like mind; of those who have the same desires as I; of thinking individuals whose desire it is to BE! Too make a difference in our world, both immediate and far reaching; even “McNamara’s Band” if that is your goal! Some of you will be asking “what is this band?” Ask an old timer, he

will undoubtedly smile; hopefully he will inspire you to set a goal and accomplish it!

It is important to know what I am; to Know Myself and to be All I can be! "The proof is in the pudding" results speak for themselves! What you are now does NOT have to be what you desire to become! Age has nothing to do with it, only your attitude! Are you a man of 40 years going on 70 or a man of 70 with the vitality of a man much younger? Look at it this way: IT IS NEVER TO LATE TO LEARN and IT IS NEVER TO LATE TO ACT! If you are an "Old Man" in spirit, CHANGE! If you are a YOUNG man in Spirit, use it, you already have the experience of years that you can and should impart to those who will listen. The wise youth will observe, listen and act with a greater confidence when he has the knowledge of your mistakes and successes to guide him!

What are YOU? A TEACHER OF MEN AND MASONS!

#### *WHERE?*

We should all know where we were first prepared!

The other obvious answer is in the Lodge Room or in a room within a Temple. However, there are as many places as there are imaginations; quarries; open fields; caves; woods and others.

After the initial stage comes the real formation of a Mason. My first tutor worked out of his study, a true cubbyhole within his living room. Years later, my next tutor worked in my car, in the middle of all kinds of weather; his theory was a student would learn faster if he was not comfortably coiled up before a fire or stove. It worked for me and I learned fast! In my turn, I have used cars, trucks, Temples and even foot paths in the woods. The where is not important when you have "IT" burning within yourself; firmly lodged, where, hopefully, it is eager to escape and "infect" another with its burning vitality.

A little secret I would pass on to you: If you are fortunate enough to have more than one to tutor (better yet, MENTOR), even if one started earlier than the other; perhaps he already knows the Entered Apprentice degree or a major portion

of it, work them together! The advanced student will hopefully learn another lesson or two involuntarily; the lessons of giving and sharing, the beginning of a mutual aid program; become close to the other and gain a friend. Perhaps as fate may will it, even that partner to work with as they progress side by side in their quest for Light and knowledge of "WHO & WHAT."

#### *WHEN?*

The age old problem that always rears its' head is precisely this: We all get a "round to-it" for this non-effort. There is never a better time to start than NOW! Of course there will be some logistics, planning and other circumstances to overcome before you can actually start a project. How you count those efforts makes a difference. To me, you have already started if you are clearing the way!

You must first prepare the ground before planting; if you really desire a bountiful crop! When you fall back to the Who; What; and Where, we observe that this "planting process" is already in progress or has been accomplished. IF you accomplished your job, with purpose and honor; truth and dignity, those seeds of truth and the self awareness process are now firmly embedded in the mind set of our NEW Brother. This process also is very effective in reviving a Brother who has "Dozed Off" during his journey. Some of you may recognize these words from the Scottish Rite;

"Time Is; Time Was; Time is, NOW!"

Perhaps the "Odds" are against my success, say you? If you do not ever start, make the effort, of course the "Odds" are against you! This is both logical and common sense. When one does not start, they have already finished. What were the "Odds" of the Revolution's success when it first started? To give the nay-sayers their way was to say, not a chance, ever! We have, each of us, overcome obstacles in life we never anticipated. Obstacles we never foresaw. Yet, with patience, hard work and deliberate action, problems were and are solved. They did not just disappear, you worked too make them go away! You did not wait till, who knows what, happened

or some shining Knight saved you, did you? If so, you are more than likely, still waiting!

The WHEN is NOW! We must Reflect upon the Past and Observe the Present: Armed with the knowledge of both the Present and Past, we may hopefully Plan properly for the Future! Today is the First day of the Rest of Our Lives; Act accordingly! Knowledge is only as powerful as the use it is properly applied too! Remember also; Knowledge is the Gift of God to the children of God! Use it wisely and never abuse it!

### WHY?

There are reasons why each of us becomes a dedicated Mason, but dedicated to WHAT? Life is always resplendent with choice. These choices are not always pleasant or rewarding to us, or so it may first appear! Most often, we know not why, only that it is right, correct and necessary for you! Others, usually often play a significant part in our choices; even when they do not contribute (outwardly) to the WHY.

Perhaps we experience doubt in a choice, once made, non reversible. There are at times, moments of choice that offer other chances to correct your decision. These types of choices are really rare in life. Every choice has a WHY involved, every Why is reduced to your inner self, your conscience, your future, your life. Every Why has an answer but NOT always the answer you hoped for.

Again, we stumble and perhaps fall; this is the time to question motives; actions; results and your Inner Self or conscience. The WHY is blatant, it is your answer, right or wrong! In time we learn more about ourselves and become educated. In time we adjust our desires; set our feet on new pathways; advance our knowledge; discover new choices and through past experiences we are better equipped to deal with results. Our individual strengths are supporting our decisions with firm resolve.

It is usually in this stage of life that a man first approaches our doors. He has questions yet to be answered, dreams yet to be fulfilled; even contributions to be made. Perhaps he comes from a Masonic family or a friendship situation; perhaps there is too little knowledge of the

fraternity, barely name recognition? This last man is the one who needs the most answers to his WHY! It is your job to be able to supply them, if not, be knowledgeable enough to understand your lack; assist him in finding the answer and thank him for your opportunity to learn. Remember, we are constantly building our own Temple, our own mental capacity and our own self confidence by answering together, WHY?

### HOW?

There is no magic answer or formula!

If you have worked diligently in preparing the way by working out the FIVE W's above you are well on your way already!

I am reminded of a song I learned as a boy in a choral group. These words have both struck me and stuck with me, throughout these many years. As I remember them, they are as follows:

“You who have dreams, if you act, they will come true!

“Would you turn your dreams to a fact, its' up to you!

“If you have the soul and the spirit, never fear it, you'll see it through;

“Hearts can inspire other hearts with their fire;

“For the strong obey when a strong man shows them the way!”



### Research Lodge News - Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Lodge of Research will meet in Carlisle, PA, on 19 December 2009 for the Lodge's election and installation, and to hear three papers: “A Short History of Cumberland County and Masonic Connections Therein” by Brother S. Eugene Merrill, “George Washington's Grave” by Brother Jack Speece, and “John A. Brashear: Astronomer and Mason” by Brother Albert Kappeler

