

# Trestleboard

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 4

December 2015

*NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education's purpose is to foster the education of the Craft at large through prepared research and open discussion of the topics concerning Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and current events.*

## **Next Communication**

New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education meets on the second Saturday in March, June, September and December. Our next communication will be held on **Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at:**

**Hightstown/Apollo Lodge #41  
535 North Main Street  
Hightstown, NJ 08520**

*All Master Masons are Welcome!*



## From the East

**WB David Tucker, Worshipful Master**

We are running out of time. What are you doing with the time you have left?

The Masonic Funeral Oration encourages us to "...wisely and usefully employ our time..." and this is very good advice. Let's not wait until the next funeral service to focus our attention on our use of time. Most of us reading this message can assume we have more life behind us than lifetime ahead of us. Let's make good use of it.

Before we can feed others, we must nourish ourselves. We must be strong and use our strength to help others along. I encourage you to make time for yourself. Nourish yourself, intellectually. Use LORE and the many Masonic and esoteric opportunities in our region to feed your mind. Many active Masons give time and service to others without pausing to maintain themselves. How are you using your time to feed your own intellect? Are you, perhaps, wasting time on unproductive activity at the expense of personal opportunities for advancement? Have you considered the possibility that, by improving yourself, you may improve your ability to contribute to others? Advancing ourselves advances our capacity for contribution.

Attending the NJ Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is definitely worth your time. You will be in the presence of like-minded individuals. You will thereby receive intellectual stimulation and your participation will stimulate others in return. That is a quality experience. This is Masonry's primary purpose.

We must continue our efforts to make our LORE a viable and relevant institution. We were chartered for the singular purpose of learning. The advancement of human understanding is said to be the highest purpose of humanity. We must work today to be better tomorrow, no-matter how many tomorrows we have left in this body. Let LORE nourish you and share that experience with a friend. Bring a Brother to LORE with you. In that one action you can help yourself and others. That is wisely and usefully employing your time, whatever time we may have left.



## From the West

Submitted by Bro. Jack Lanorith, SW

Do people ever called you a philosopher? That would be a person who lives and thinks according to a particular philosophy. So that would mean that you were inquiring into the nature of things based on logical reasoning. Let's look at this subject a little deeper.

Have you ever thought what makes things right or wrong or is there a God or Higher Power? In trying to understand the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence, philosophy tackles some of the greatest mysteries that exist. Many such

questions have puzzled philosophers for centuries. It is said that philosophy was developed to question what we take for granted.

How does one become a philosopher? Well you could take courses in college or at universities or maybe join in discussion groups or meet up with people who are liked minded. You could find some great material in magazines on philosophy and blogs or just go to your local library and check out the subject.

You may wonder what skills philosophy can give you. Since the subject is about reasoning and rational thought it could help with discussing philosophical problems which is a great exercise for the mind. Why not have a debate which in turn helps you to develop skills for presenting arguments, a convincing argument should be presented logically with a willingness to negotiate and mediate the subject. One of the core skills of philosophy is being able to recognized the strength and weakness of an argument, often this involves seeing things from both sides and finding middle ground between two opposing views.

How do we go about problem solving in a logical way? It is human nature to be inquisitive, we have a need to understand the world around us and our place in it, as well as the way we think and behave. Our search for knowledge demands explanations which includes how we came to know things and if we can be sure of what we know. Many things can prevent us from obtaining knowledge – such as the difficulty to understand the subject or the briefness of the duration of our own life span.



What would you say knowledge is? Is it when you say “I know that” when in fact you are simply accepting someone else’s opinion or conventional explanation. For a philosopher it is not enough just to accept that something is true; there must be a good reason for believing it backed up by convincing argument.

Have you ever thought – where did I get that idea from? One of the fundamental questions of EPISTEMOLOGY (which is the division of philosophy that investigates the nature and origin of knowledge) believes that ever since ancient Greek time’s philosophers have argued about whether we are born with knowledge or does it come from experience? Some say knowledge comes from reasoning. It seems as though we find out about the world from what we see, hear, touch, taste and smell. Our senses are not perfect and they can give us an imperfect idea of reality. Let’s not forget we have another faculty, our ability to use rational thought which many philosophers see as a more reliable source of knowledge. Plato argued that men and women have the same intellect powers and should receive the same education.

Here is an interesting question – do we really ever know what truth is? Philosophical inquiry can be seen as a search for truth but philosophers would debate that our ideas correspond to what the case is based on. Some may accept things as true while others will never that might lead us to a logical argument? Rational argument can take many forms but all move in steps from premises to a conclusion.

These ideas’ have only been a fractional of what makes up philosophy, but it may of sparked your interest. So when all is said and done, do you still think you are a philosopher?

### **LODGE HAPPENINGS...**

NJ LORE No. 1786’s next meeting will be held at the Hightstown/Apollo Lodge #41 on Saturday, December 12, at 9:30 a.m.

On the Agenda:

- Short Business Meeting
- Knowledge and Wisdom - WM David Tucker
- On Liberty - Bro. Peter Carkhuff

Coffee and pastries will be served prior to lodge and lunch will be provided following. Hope to see you there!

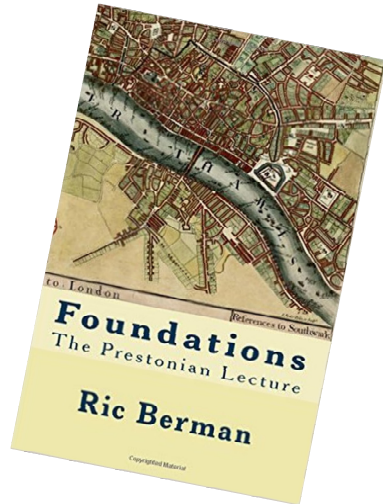
# New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786

*Proudly Presents*

The 2016 Prestonian Lecture

## *Foundations: New Light on the Foundation and Early Years of the Grand Lodge of England*

Presented by Brother Richard  
Berman, United Grand Lodge of  
England



Thursday January 14, 2016 6:30 p.m.

**Stage House Tavern**  
**366 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ**

\$49 per person due in advance.

Bring your check to the next NJ LORE meeting on  
December 12, 2015 or pay in advance with **PayPal**.

\$51.00 to [masonicrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:masonicrsvp@gmail.com)  
(**PayPal** transaction fee included)

Your fee includes a FREE COPY of Bro. Berman's book  
***Foundations*** courtesy of Inspiratus Lodge No. 357

Be among the first to hear the  
2016 UGLE Prestonian Lecture!

Deadline for reservation is Thursday January 7, 2016

## It Came From The Internet

Submitted by Bro. Matthew Korang, Secretary

### Was Titanic inquiry scuppered by the Freemasons?

The inquiry into the sinking of the Titanic may have been influenced by the Freemasons, new evidence suggests.

A secret archive containing the names of two million Freemasons has been made public for the first time on the genealogy site Ancestry which reveals extensive Masonic involvement in the controversial British investigation into the catastrophe.

It confirms that not only the judge who oversaw the British Wreck Commissioner's inquiry into the disaster and leading investigators, but also even some of those who escaped censure were all Freemasons.

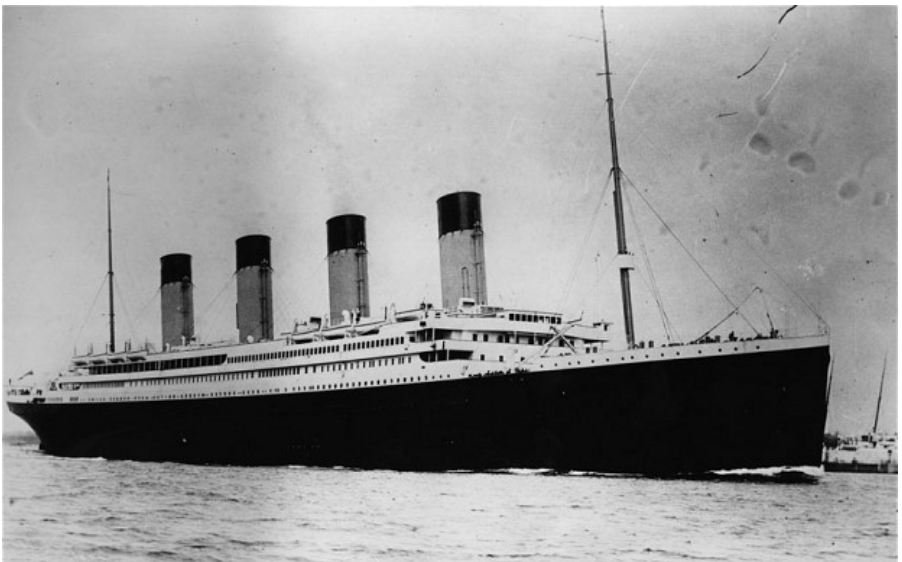
While a US Senate inquiry into the sinking savaged the White Star Line and singled out the British Board of Trade for blame for lax regulations which allowed the scandalously small number of lifeboats fitted on the ship, the UK investigation overseen by Lord Mersey avoided blaming the Board of Trade.

Lord Mersey himself - John Charles Bigham - was, the records show, a Freemason, initiated in 1881 at the Northern Bar Lodge in London.

Crucially, so too appears to have been the President of the Board of Trade Sydney Buxton, initiated at Limehouse in East London in 1888 where he was the local MP at the time.

The names of at least two of the inquiry's five expert assessors – Prof John Harvard Biles, a specialist in naval architecture, and Edward Chaston, the senior engineer assessor – can also be found in the Masonic archive.

Meanwhile Lord Pirrie, who was not only chairman of the Harland and



Wolff shipyard in Belfast which built the Titanic but, crucially, also one of the directors of White Star's parent company, also appears to have been a Freemason.

The peer was born William Pirrie in Quebec in 1847. The records show a William Pirrie initiated at St George's Lodge in Montreal in 1904.

Titanic Expert Nic Compton, author of Titanic on Trial told History.com: "The Titanic inquiry in Britain was branded a 'whitewash' because it exonerated most of those involved. Only three passengers were interviewed, and they were all from first class.

"Even Captain Smith was exonerated on the grounds that most other ships at that time also sped through the ice at full speed with no serious consequences.

"The only person both inquiries heaped scorn on was the captain of SS Californian, the ship that had stood by about eight miles off, its crew watching the emergency flares being fired by Titanic, without doing anything about it until it was too late."

Mr Compton said the British inquiry got drawn into more populist issues, such as whether Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon had paid the crew of Lifeboat 1 a bribe not to go back and pick up swimmers and whether Bruce Ismay had behaved like a coward.

The passenger line sank in the Atlantic Ocean in the early morning of April 15 1912 after colliding with an iceberg on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

Lookout Frederick Fleet had spotted the iceberg and alerted the bridge but by the time First Officer William Murdoch had ordered the ship to be steered around the obstacle and the engines put in reverse, it was too late. The ship was carrying only enough life boats for half the passengers, the crew were not trained for a full evacuation. In all, more than 1500 people died and 700 survived the disaster.

The British inquiry was headed by the Board of Trade who had approved the ship, and some believed it had little interest in finding itself or White Star negligent.

It concluded that Captain Smith had done "only that which other skilled men would have done in the same position" and neither White Star or its parent company, the International Mercantile Marine Company (IMM) was found negligent.

However the new Freemason links cast new light on the proceedings.

"The records demonstrate the extensive involvement which freemasons have had in British society," said Diane Clements, director of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry.

"As freemasonry approaches its 300th birthday in 2017, we are pleased to be able to provide access to details of past members."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

## Freemasons Utd! Soccer stars to get their own lodge where they can perform Masonic rituals

For years, Freemasonry has battled conspiracy theories that its members secretly run the world – but now the shadowy organisation is planning to rule the football field.

This week, the organisation's Grand Master, the Duke of Kent, is set to grant a warrant for the first Football Lodge – a place where members meet – in Hampshire.

Players, managers and referees who are Masons will gather four times a year to listen to guest lecturers from the world of football as well as perform a series of Masonic rituals, though the organisation claims that many of the stereotypes, such as secret handshakes, are false.

In recent years the Masons have sought to expand their appeal by setting up a range of 'special interest' lodges.

Groups include a biker gang called the Widows Sons and 'a Lodge of Brevity' for the 'modern man' where meetings are about half the normal four hours.

The Football Association was formed in 1863 at the Freemasons' Tavern in London – now The Grand Connaught Rooms.

Stars including Stanley Matthews, Dixie Dean and Nat Lofthouse were all Masons.

Freemasons are also responsible for Premier League team Manchester City playing in blue. In 1894 the club was in a financial crisis and was bailed out by Masons, who asked that in return the team wear the Masonic colour of blue.

A petition to form a Football Lodge will be considered at this week's meeting of the Grand Master's Council.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk>





## A December day in Masonic history

Submitted by Bro. Jay Hochberg, PM

December 27 is the Feast Day of Saint John the Evangelist, and therefore is one of two major celebrations for Freemasonry (June 24, the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist, is the other). On the 27th of December 1779, while encamped at Morristown, New Jersey during the Revolution, the Masonic brethren serving under Gen. George Washington celebrated the Feast Day in the Masonic style of that period, with a church service, a lodge meeting, and a meal together.

From the records of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey:

*“The headquarters of Washington, at the close of the year 1779, were at Morristown, in this State. The American Union Lodge, which was an army Lodge, whose Warrant had been granted by Colonel Richard Gridley, Deputy Grand Master of Massachusetts, was at that time with the army under Washington at Morristown. At the festival meeting of this Lodge, held to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1779, the record shows the presence of sixty-eight brethren, one of whom was George Washington.”*

Considering the hardships faced by the Continental forces at Morristown (better informed historians know it was Morristown, not Valley Forge, that was the site of the most grueling, bitter winter for the troops during the war), it is not surprising that Masonic paraphernalia was not on hand for this celebration. The daunting feat of sending to Newark for the proper regalia was successful, and St. John’s Lodge No. 1 (now located in Morris County) answered the call, providing the needed items.

It was at this meeting where a project was launched to bring some order and unity to the Masonic fraternity in the colonies by establishing a single grand lodge for all America. Mordecai Gist, representing the Masons in the armed forces of Maryland, was made president of the committee that several months later would issue the formal call for this general grand lodge—with General and Brother Washington as Grand Master.

*From this committee’s petition:*

*TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL,*

*The Grand Masters of the Several Lodges  
in the Respective United States of America.*

*Union. Force. Love.*

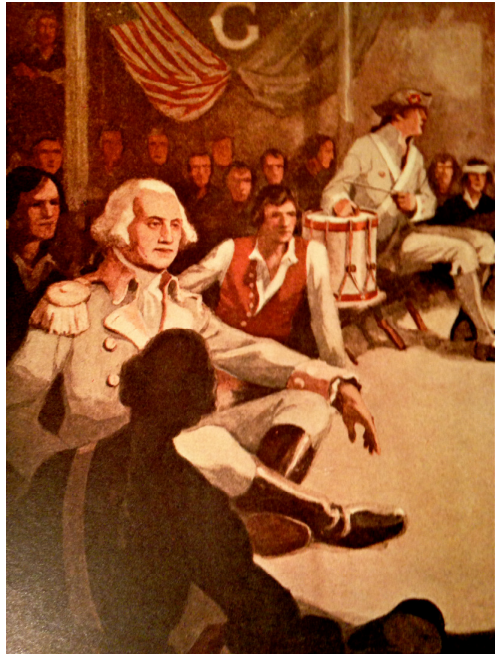
*The subscribers, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in convention, to you, as the patrons and protectors of the craft upon this continent, prefer their humble address.*

*Unhappily, the distinctions of interest, the political views, and national*

*disputes subsisting between Great Britain and these United States have involved us, not only in the general calamities that disturb the tranquility which used to prevail in this once happy country, but in a peculiar manner affects our society, by separating us from the Grand Mother Lodge in Europe, by disturbing our connection with each other, impeding the progress, and preventing the perfection of Masonry in America.*

*We deplore the miseries of our countrymen, and particularly lament the distresses which many of our poor brethren must suffer, as well from the want of temporal relief, as for want of a source of LIGHT to govern their pursuits and illuminate the path of happiness. And we ardently desire to restore, if possible, that fountain of charity, from which, to the unspeakable benefit of mankind, flows benevolence and love. Considering with anxiety these disputes, and the many irregularities and improprieties committed by weak or wicked brethren, which too manifestly show the present dissipated and almost abandoned condition of our lodges in general, as well as the relaxation of virtue amongst individuals, we think it our duty, Right Worshipful Brothers and Seniors in the Craft, to solicit your immediate interposition to save us from the impending dangers of schisms and apostasy. To obtain security from those fatal evils, with affectionate humility, we beg leave to recommend the adopting and pursuing the most necessary measures for establishing one Grand Lodge in America, to preside over and govern all other lodges of whatsoever degree or denomination, licensed or to be licensed upon the continent, that the ancient principles and discipline of Masonry being restored, we may mutually and universally enjoy the advantages arising from frequent communion and social intercourse.*

While Washington was not named in this petition, it was made known that he was the choice of the brethren. Washington did not accept the position, and the general grand lodge in America never came to fruition.



*A Tent Masonic Lodge During the Revolutionary War, watercolor by Ed Greissler. The original hangs at the University of Michigan, and a reproduction appeared on the cover of Masonic News in 1923.*

## Officers for 2015-2016

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### *From the Editor's Desk.....*

*The next Trestleboard will be published on or about March 1, 2016. We are always looking for articles. All articles must be submitted by February 15, 2015.*

*Matthew Korang, Secretary*  
*mkorang@comcast.net*

New Jersey Lodge of Masonic  
Research and Education No. 1786



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*Bringing Light to New  
Jersey Freemasonry!*

We're On the  
Web!!  
[njlore1786.org](http://njlore1786.org)