

THE TRESTLEBOARD

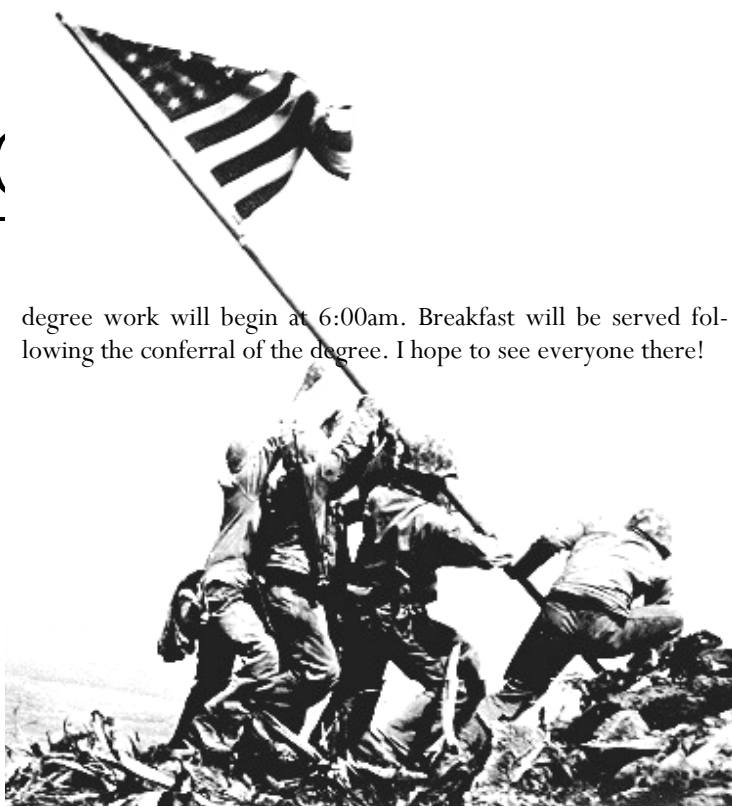
FROM THE EAST

BY WORSHIPFUL MASTER BRENT BAIRD

Dating back to the Civil War, Memorial Day has been observed to pay tribute to the men and women that have died to protect our freedoms. On May 24th, 2003, Memorial Day will hold special meaning because our troops are once again protecting freedoms.

In every war, our Masonic Brethren have played vital roles. They too have given the ultimate sacrifice. That sacrifice has created a nation where charitable organizations such as ours are able to exist. In our daily lives we sometimes lose sight of the price that our Brothers have paid to allow us to meet in fellowship.

It is tradition at Franklin Lodge to pay tribute by conferring the Master Mason degree on Memorial Day. This Memorial Day, we continue that tradition in honor of the men and women of our Armed Services. I invite you to please join us in that tribute. The



degree work will begin at 6:00am. Breakfast will be served following the conferral of the degree. I hope to see everyone there!

SPAGHETTI SUPPER ROUSING SUCCESS!

Marketing Committee Reports

BY BROTHER JOHN CHANG

Franklin Lodge #14 held their annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser on Friday, March 21st. Lodge members sold \$5 tickets in advance and at the door. Nearly 200 dinners were served. All proceeds from the dinner—\$1,734.98—will go to Ohio and Miami County Special Olympics organizations. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated!

Thursday, April 10th saw a busy evening in the kitchen at the Franklin Lodge. That was the night the brethren of the Blue Lodge cooked and served a special appreciation dinner for Eastern Star members to say “thank you” for all of their hard work and support throughout the year and for their superb preparation and serving of the Blue Lodge’s inspection dinner. Worshipful Masters Brent Baird, Dick Colley, Bob Counts, and Joe Simpson, and Brothers Bill Cusac, Bob Spiller, Tim Ray, Josh Gearhardt, and John Chang traded their Masonic aprons for kitchen aprons and performed all of the cooking, serving, and clean-up duties for the evening. The menu included roasted pork chops, red potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, cooked apples with raisins, and cheesecake with raspberry sauce. Nearly 30 dinners were served. And while Eastern Star members enjoyed dinner in the dining room, organized chaos reigned in the kitchen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Effective April 23rd, 2003, Franklin Lodge Secretary, Charles O. Spicer, is moving. His new address is 7244 Starkley-Clevenger Road, Blanchester, Ohio 45107. His temporary telephone number is (937) 783-3135, cellular telephone (937) 875-0684, work telephone (800) 253-5624, ext. 52304. Charlie’s e-mail remains as charles.spicer@lexisnexis.com.

The Troy Masonic Templeboard wishes to announce a new meeting day and time. Effective May 6th, 2003, the Templeboard meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

Grand apologies to those Brothers who participated in last month’s “Who & When” quiz by e-mailing their answers to Brother David Leytze at dleytze@earthlink.net. Brother Leytze’s e-mail account was attacked by several versions of an extremely pesky virus in early April and he was forced to change his e-mail address. Many thanks to all who endeavored to send their e-mail. Another “Who & When” will be on its way very soon!

Here’s a basic tomato meat sauce recipe from Brother Chang that you can try at home:

- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 Spanish onion, chopped in ¼ inch dice
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled and thinly sliced
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley, or 1 tablespoon dried
- 2 (28-oz.) cans peeled whole tomatoes, chopped by hand and the juiced reserved
- 1 pound lean ground beef or and other ground meat
- 1 garlic clove, peeled and diced
- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

In a 3-quart or larger saucepan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook until soft, about 8 minutes. Add the parsley and cook 1 more minute. Add the tomatoes and juice and bring to a boil, stirring often. Lower heat and simmer 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

In a separate skillet, heat 4 tablespoons of olive oil over medium-high heat and add the ground meat and the garlic. Cook until meat is done, but not overly browned. Drain off all excess fat. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add the cooked meat to the tomato sauce and simmer another 15 minutes until thick as hot cereal. Serves four!

THE LODGE

EDUCATION FLAME

BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER PAUL SLUITER

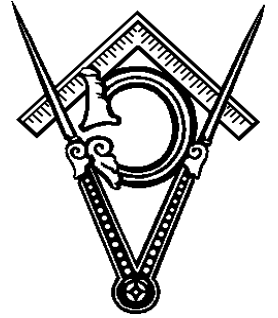
How did the term “free” come to be applied to Masons? Well, as most of us probably know, there are many explanations. This one goes back to the time of early operative stonemasons.

In ancient times, operative masons frequently were *free* of local laws. In some cases, they were even *free* from taxes. Their actions were not restricted like those of others. They were *free* to travel from country to country to work their trade. Legend tells us that masons who labored on King Solomon’s Temple enjoyed special privileges and were *free* from laws that others had to obey.

In these modern times, however, it seems that some *Freemasons* feel the term to mean *free* from attending Lodge, *free* from calling on the sick, *free* from obligations voluntarily assumed, *free* from giving aid to the Officers, *free* from taking any part in the work of the Craft, *free* from any responsibility, yet *free* with criticism.

Freemasons should be the kind who do not wait for *free time* in which to attend Lodge. We should not be the kind who believe that *Freemasonry* is *free*. Sure, we are *free* to do as we please about these things, but no man can be a *Freemason* in the truest and fullest sense of the word unless he *purchases that Freemasonry* with his time; with his energy, and through use of the faculties with which God has blessed him.

Why don’t you attend Lodge and purchase some of that *Freemasonry*?



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May 2003

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MAY 2003

THE TRESTLEBOARD

May 2003

"Kindly words do not enter so deeply into men as a reputation for kindness." Mencius

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 ● New Moon	2	3
4	5	6 • Noon Luncheon • Temple Board 6:30pm • #14 Blue Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30pm	7 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am • Master Mason Degree Special Meeting 7:00pm	8 • Eastern Star 7:30pm	9	10
Mother's Day 11	12	13 • Coleman Commandery 7:30pm	14 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am • 3rd District Officers' Dinner, Joyland Restaurant	15	16 ○ Full Moon	17 Armed Forces Day • Amaranth Installation of Officers, Columbus, 7:00pm
18	19	20 • Noon Luncheon • Potluck 6:30pm • #14 Blue Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30pm	21 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am	22 • Eastern Star 7:30pm	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day • Master Mason Degree Special Meeting 6:00am	27 • Franklin Chapter & Council 7:00pm	28 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am	29	30	31 ● New Moon



Photo by Hans Lorenz

Arguably the most elaborate piece of Masonic furniture of eighteenth-century America and the most important piece of signed Virginia furniture known, this Master's chair by Benjamin Bucktrout captures much of the finer symbolism of our fraternity. But its documented history is sparse.

It was presented to Unanimity Lodge #7 in Edenton, North Carolina on July 6th, 1778, by Brother George Russell. Tradition within that lodge maintains that Russell was a sea captain who rescued the chair from potential destruction during the Revolution and gave it to Edenton Lodge for safekeeping. The lodge's records also include references in 1811 and 1815 to requests from Norfolk Lodge #1 that the chair be returned to Virginia, though there is no specific evidence that it was made for that lodge. Nothing came of those requests, and the chair remained in Edenton until it was acquired by Colonial Williamsburg in 1983.

Former chief conservator Carey Howlett supervised the lengthy treatment of this grand chair and made an interesting observation. The five-pointed star, compass, and square placed on the open bible in the center of the back became, within a generation of the chair's being made, the precise form of jewel in Britain for a provincial Grand Master. Shortly after the chair was made in Williamsburg, a distinguished Williamsburg resident was appointed provincial Grand Master of Virginia—Speaker of the House of Burgesses, Right Worshipful Brother Peyton Randolph. In the summer of 1774, Randolph sat for an important commission in Williamsburg, his portrait in full regalia at full length by Charles Wilson Peale, a painter and Mason from Annapolis. Peale's portrait of Randolph was duly completed and hung for many years in the Library of Congress before its loss in a mid-nineteenth-century fire.

(Courtesy of *Colonial Williamsburg, Spring 2003*)

At left: The sun and the moon rise on this Master's chair made by Benjamin Bucktrout in 1778, which bristles with a tool chest's worth of Masonic symbols. (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)

Send your articles or announcements that you would like to see in The Trestleboard to David Leytze, c/o Franklin Lodge #14, or e-mail them to franklinmason@earthlink.net. We'll do our best to pass your information on to the Brethren.