

The Oklahoma Mason

THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Vol. 2 • May 2013

The Wooden Masonic Ring of Major Enoch Obid Wolf

During the War Between the States, Confederate Major Enoch Obid Wolf (1828 - 1910) served with Ford's Battalion Arkansas Cavalry, Company C. In 1863, he was captured by the Union forces.

He was held in prison, condemned with six others to be shot in retaliation for the shooting of a Union officer.



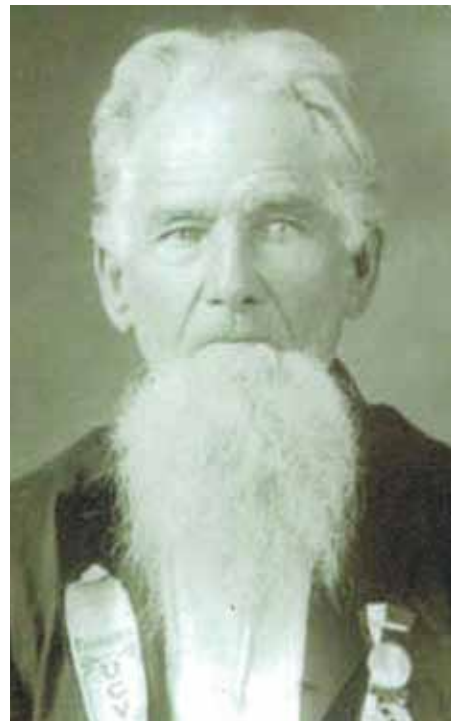
While he was a prisoner of war, Major Wolf, a Freemason, cut about 3/4 inch from the end of his cane, and carved it into a Masonic ring.

As he recounted some 50 years later to a newspaper reporter from the Sharp County Harold -

"I am the Major Wolf who was condemned to be shot at St. Louis in 1864, together with six Confederate privates in retaliation by the Federals for the killing of their Major Wilson and six of his command by Tim Reeves, one of our Majors belonging to Marmaduke's [sic] command. When we were captured we, in company with some others, were sent to St. Louis and there drew lots for our lives. There had to be one Major and six privates shot and the unlucky number fell to me as

Major, and Charlie Molken of Batesville, Blackburn of Independence, Burch and Ladd of this state, and two others whose names I have forgotten were the unlucky privates. I had four days for preparation for my doom because I was Major, while those poor boys only had 6 hours. During my 4 days of doom my Masonic brothers went to work with a zeal that is known only to a Brother in distress and wired to Washington City and had me reprieved just before the fatal hour arrived."

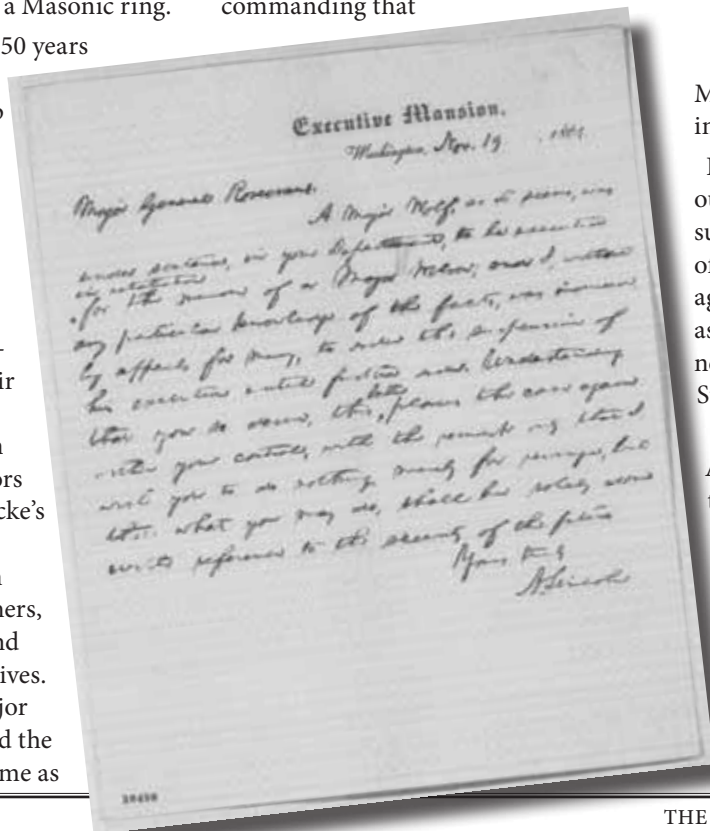
At the last minute (the firing squad were loading their weapons), orders arrived from Abraham Lincoln himself, commanding that



Major Wolf was not to be shot. (See insert)

In fact, Wolf became one of the outstanding citizens of Arkansas, a substantial and highly-respected leader of the community. He lived until an old age—dying in 1910—and was buried as he wished on the family farmstead near Franklin, Arkansas, in view of the Strawberry River.

Brother Wolf was a fascinating man. According to his great granddaughter, Arlene Wolf Singleton, during his life, he was a fighter in the War with Mexico, a Major in the Civil War, a sheriff, and a judge. "He ... drove a team of oxen to the Gold Rush in California, went through the Panama Canal, traveled up the Mississippi to Memphis and walked the many



From the Grand Master



Greetings Brothers -

I trust that you are enjoying our rather late start to spring... hopefully we do not head straight to summer! We hope you enjoy this second issue of the Oklahoma Mason. I am writing to you from sunny Boston, Massachusetts where I am here on a business trip. [Editor: this was received one week before the bombings in Boston.]

When we sent out the first issue of the magazine, we had about 1200 address changes sent us by the publisher which were updated in the course of mailing. These brothers not only hadn't received previous issues of the magazine, but also any other correspondence from their local lodges or the Grand Lodge. Brothers – please do yourself and your lodge secretary a big favor and keep your address up to date – and if you meet a brother not receiving the magazine, tell him to verify his address with us. (There is a form on the back of the magazine).

A couple experiences I had over the last few months I'd like to share with you:

1. I had the opportunity recently to present a large donation to the YWCA through our Masonic Charity Foundation to assist with the capital campaign for a new battered women's shelter in Oklahoma City. It saddens me that our state would need such a

facility, but it was gratifying to see the thankfulness of the women organizing the campaign for all you were able to provide them.

On my way home from that very presentation I had to stop for gas just off I-35, and as I was pumping gas, a run-down car pulled up and the woman driver begged for money for food. As it happened I only had a few dollars cash in my pocket to hand her as she drove off. I doubt she knew I was a Freemason though I have a masonic license plate on my car.

I was struck by the disparity between the two events so closely occurring in time and what our bonds of charity really mean to our fellow men and women. What should I be doing as a mason?

2. Here in Boston, I happened to chance upon a hat shop, and in looking for a new cap, struck up a conversation with the twenty-something shop owner and his female friend. She remarked on my masonic lapel pin and said that both her grandparents had been in Eastern Star, and she wondered if I knew how she could join. He remarked that he'd heard of Freemasonry but didn't know much about it.

The shop was just a few blocks from the Grand Lodge building of Massachusetts, a 9 story building which sits right on Boston Common. So close... and yet so far for these young people interested in what Freemasonry family has to offer. What responsibility do I have to act in a way that causes others to become interested in Freemasonry? What should I be doing as a mason?

3. One of my home lodges oldest and most active members recently passed away. I was surprised that while he had been a member for over 50 years, his daughter had almost no understanding of what Freemasonry was about, or how beloved he was to the

local lodge and its brothers.

I also realized that the older members who brought me into the Fraternity have all now passed away. To the newer members, I am the person they look to for stability and guidance. It was my time to shoulder the burden of responsibility for what my lodge meant to us. What should I be doing as a mason?

With the possible exception of politics, no institution has written and spoken more on the behavior and actions we ought to undertake as Freemasonry – and had its members act so contrary to its goals. I know it is unrealistic to believe that harmony will reign in each and every lodge and every relationship between brothers: but we can all work a bit harder at it as well. Speak your mind – hold to your values – but when the decision is made, go and make the chosen outcome a success regardless of whether you supported it. Remember the famous advertising executive who used to carry a coin in his pocket on which was written, "He may be right".

We have a number of important events coming up including Grand School in May. I hope to see you at a Grand Lodge event or visit, but regardless, if you haven't been to lodge in a while, why don't you consider going to a meeting before the heat of summer? You may just find something you are looking for. I look forward to visiting with you during my travels.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Rickelman". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Brad Rickelman, Grand Master

miles back to Arkansas.” Upon the death of Major Wolf, the ring passed to Warren Enoch Wolf (born March 25, 1892) who was a member of Talihina Lodge #73 and Atwood Lodge #413. Brother Warren Wolf served the Lodge as Secretary for many years and then, starting in 1972, served as Chaplain until his death in 1975. For many years, the ring was kept in the box of a military sewing kit, which is also in the display case.

The family has the letter signed by Abraham Lincoln which followed the telegram of reprieve. They have donated the ring to the Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma in honor of Brother and Major Enoch Obid Wolf and Brother Warren Enoch Wolf

We are deeply grateful to the family, and in particular to Paul Enoch Wolf, Arlene Wolf Singleton, Greg Alan Wolf, and Michael Paul Wolf for this artifact of a brave and courageous Brother.

We are often horrified by the casualty statistics of the war, but even for those who survived, the war was a time of terrible privation. Comforts were few, and the weather was a constant source of suffering.

The life of a prisoner of war was even more difficult. Many men did not survive the prison camps.

The Museum and Library of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma have several artifacts from this period of the history of our nation and the two Territories which would later become the State of Oklahoma.

Framed on the wall of the Museum is a Masonic Monitor or ritual prepared for the use of soldiers during the conflict. On one large sheet of paper, usually folded and kept in a leather wallet, is all the exoteric language needed to open a Lodge and confer the Degrees.

In the display cases are razors from



the period, their blades engraved with Masonic symbols. You will also find a bullet, a writing kit, spectacles, and other items from daily life.

In the large display case in the Territorial section of the museum is a painting of the Reverend Joseph Murrow. Not only was he almost singlehanded responsible for the establishment of Freemasonry in Indian Territory, he served as the Indian Agent for the military, being responsible for providing food and other essential supplies to the tribes. He was one of early Oklahoma’s most important civil, religious, and fraternal leaders.



Don't miss the only chance in 2013 to join the

ORDER OF THE SACRED WHITE BUFFALO

August 10, Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie

See story in this issue.



O.E.T.A. Presentation

Thanks to the contributions from the Lodges and Matching Funds from the Masonic Charity Foundation, the Grand Master was able to present a check in the amount of \$53,686.00 to O.E.T.A., Oklahoma Public Television. Mr. B.J. Wexler of O.E.T.A. accepted the check. As you know, the Most Worshipful Grand Master is not cursed with excessive shortness. It was useful for Mr. Wexler to stand on a box so that both could be in the same television shot. Our thanks for O.E.T.A. for the outstanding job they do in providing quality programming for Oklahoma, and to Mr. Wexler for being good enough sport to allow us to use the “boxing” photograph. 164 Lodges participated in the fund-raising event. Our partnership with O.E.T.A. started in 1996. Since then, the Fraternity has donated a total of \$827,092.00 to Oklahoma Public Television.

The Myths about Forget-Me-Not Flowers

M.:W.: BRADLEY S. & JEAN RICKELMAN

The blue, delicate, forget-me-not flower has a long history in German mythology but its association with Masonry dates back less than a hundred years to the time of the persecution of freemasons in Nazi Germany. Disentangling the myth from reality includes reviewing stories about the origins of its name and different meanings including love, remembrance and as a symbol of freemason resistance to Nazi oppression.

Enduring Love

The majority of the folklore surrounding the meaning of this flower comes from Germany. One German folk story recounts how after God named all the plants a tiny unnamed one cried out, "Forget-me-not, O Lord!" prompting God to reply, "That shall be your name." Several other Germanic stories feature medieval knights who are either in love or yearning for love. A common myth related to the origin of these flowers recounts how once upon a time there was a German knight who wanted to express his love towards his beloved by giving her some blue flowers. While searching for the flowers, he found them along the banks of the Danube River. As he picked some of the flowers the weight of his amour caused him to fall into the river. As he was drowning he threw the bouquet to his loved as he shouted "Forget-me-not." Women began wearing the forget-me-not as a sign of faithfulness and enduring love.

Fidelity

The decision to adapt the blue forget-me-not in lieu of the square and compass by Nazi-era freemasons is lost to the mists of time. It is true that the Grand Lodge zur Sonne (Bayreuth, Germany) commissioned a forget-me-not pin in 1926 as a gift for delegates attending the annual meeting. The pins were manufactured in a factory in Selb, a small town close to Bayreuth. In March

1938, the Nazi's selected a forget-me-not pin as a token of recognition for those persons who made donations during the annual Winterhilfswerk, an annual charitable solicitation that actually went toward funding rearmament. Ironically, the pin was manufactured in the same Selb factory using the same molds as it did in 1926 for the Grand Lodge zur Sonne. Different pins were selected for each Winterhilfswerk, and the astonishing coincidence of the forget-me-not being selected to identify those who had already contributed is in keeping with German folklore about the forget-me-not flower association with remembering those less fortunate. However, given it was a criminal offense to wear a pin



that did not originate with the Nazi Party, it is highly unlikely that anyone dared to wear the pin beyond the month of the annual Winterhilfswerk

Nevertheless, the belief persisted that freemasons began wearing the forget-me-not since they were forbidden to display the square and compass. However, there is no record of the pin, or the flower, ever having been worn in concentration camps. This makes sense since the clothing in concentration camps was minimal and any personal adornment, including wearing jewelry or any ornamentation, was punishable by death.

After World War II ended, Grand Master Dr. Theodor Vogel, who later became Grand Master of the United Lodges of Germany, installed a new Lodge at Selb



in 1948. Remembering the forget-me-not pin distributed by the Grand Lodge zur Sonne in 1926, Grand Master Vogel went in search of the factory. By another extraordinary coincidence, the factory and the mold survived the war. Grand Master Vogel commissioned the pins to be made again and began to distribute them as a token of friendship. When he addressed the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, DC in February 1953, he hoped the forget-me-not could be used as an interchangeable symbol with the ideals of Freemasonry and a Germany now free of Nazi oppression. It also was a way to remember those masons who were victimized by the Nazi regime.

Remembrance

The forget-me-not as a symbol of remembrance flourished in England and Canada after World War II. In Newfoundland, the forget-me-not was adopted as a symbol of remembrance for those who had died in war. In English Freemasonry it is more commonly now worn to remember those that have died as a symbol that though someone may be gone they are not forgotten.

The 2013 Ladies Pin, which features the forget-me-not, is meant to symbolize three feminine virtues: enduring love, faithfulness and remembrance. By wearing the pin we are pledging our fidelity and love to our Masonic family, honoring our veterans, and remembering those in our Masonic Family who are no longer with us.

Bernheim, Alain. "The Blue Forget-Me-Not":

Another Side of the Story" and "German Freemasonry and Its Attitudes Toward the Nazi Regime" can both be accessed at <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/bernheim3.html>.

McKeown, Trevor W. "Masonic Myths" http://freemasonry.bc.ca/texts/masonic_myths.html



A QUICK REMINDER

The Grand Lodge Website — gloklahoma.com — has many forms which can be downloaded to save you time and effort. Go to Resources & Links > Forms. There you will find:

- *Name and Address Change Form*
- *Petition for Membership*
- *District Deputy Report*
- *Application for Reinstatement*
- *Petition for Advancement*
- *Filing Application for Grand Lodge*
- *Charity Foundation Board Filing Form*
- *Certificate of Good Standing*
- *Monthly Activity Report*
- *District Deputy Informal Report*
- *Application for Affiliation*
- *Order of the Sacred White Buffalo*
 - Petition for Membership*
 - Petition for Perpetual Membership*
 - Form for Memorial Membership*

The Masonic Charity Foundation announces the

MASONRY IN ACTION AWARD

To recognize the charitable and educational efforts of Oklahoma Lodges, the Charity Foundation has announced that awards of \$5,000 each will be granted to two Lodges to be distributed to local charitable or educational causes of the Lodge's choice. Full information on the awards has been mailed to the Lodges. You can also visit the website www.mcfok.org for more details.



OKLAHOMA BRETHREN TO SHOWCASE MUSICAL TALENTS

The House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. has announced that Oklahoma Brethren Brian Pierson, Jay Hannah, Jerry Ball, Charles Bartrug, and Danny Hargis have been selected to appear on Celebrating the Craft—a webcast on May 18th from 5 PM to 11PM our time. Our Oklahoma Brethren were selected from hundreds of audition tapes from across the United States. Congratulations, guys; we'll be watching!



Have questions? Ask Hiram! Send questions to the Editor, *jim.tresner@yahoo.com* or mail to Ask Hiram, Grand Lodge - P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044

Who can serve on a Lodge Audit Committee?

Any members of the Lodge appointed by the Worshipful Master. The Constitution and Code does not specify. Many people think that the members of the Audit Committee have to be Past Masters, but that is not true. They do not have to be present or past officers of the Lodge.

Can a Lodge “go dark?”

“Nay, not so.” To go dark means not to meet on a day specified as a Stated Communication by the Lodge’s by-laws. As a practical matter, if it is impossible or unwise for a Lodge to meet on its usual day (ice storm, threatened tornado, etc.) the minutes for that day should simply state that there were an insufficient number of members to open due to the weather, etc. Remember that a Lodge has the option of amending its by-laws if it wishes to specify holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc., on which the Lodge will not meet.

What is the difference between an A.:F.: & A.:M.: Lodge and a F.: & A.:M.: Lodge?

Originally, a Lodge whose Grand Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of England was known as Free and Accepted Masons (F.: & A.:M.:). Those chartered by the English Grand Lodge commonly known as the “Anti-ents” (Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons according to the Old Institutions) were



known as Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.:F.: & A.:M.:). Today, it is usually a distinction without a difference. Sometimes the designation of a Grand Lodge reflects the designation of the Grand Lodge which chartered it, but it may not since Grand Lodges often select their own “letters.” In some instances there are minor ritual differences. When visiting in another Jurisdiction, the only question is whether the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma recognizes the Grand Lodge where you are visiting. It makes no difference whether there are 3 or 4 initials in the name. By the way, there are also recognized Grand Lodges which are A.:A.:F.:M.: (Ancient Accepted Free Masons), F.:A.:A.:M.: (Free and Accepted Masons) and others as well.

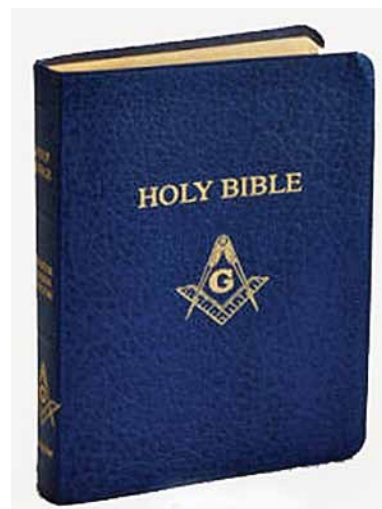


Why are the Senior and Junior Deacons called “Deacons?”

The word “deacon” comes from the ancient Greek διάκονος, which, among other things, means “messenger”—the function the deacons perform in the Lodge. It is interesting that, in Scotland, the title “Deacon” was also given to the head of a trade guild.

Are all Bibles used in Lodge the King James Translation?

Most are by default. Almost all “Masonic Bibles”—Bibles printed with a Masonic emblem on the cover and/or Masonic identification and reference material inside showing Biblical sources for Masonic ritual—are of the King James Translation, but that is not a requirement. The translation used is up to the Lodge.





The Order of the Sacred White Buffalo

Dear Brothers, and especially New Master Masons,
The next annual POW-WOW for the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo will be held at the Grand Lodge Building in Guthrie on Saturday, August 10, 2013. The Degree is always conferred by our own World Renowned Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team in full Native American dress. It is a most impressive sight to behold.

As you may have heard, the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo is an organization with two purposes: to recognize and honor the importance of the Native American tradition in Oklahoma Freemasonry, and to support the Grand Lodge Endowed Building Fund. The White Buffalo is a symbol of special significance to our Native American Brethren. It was a symbol of deliverance in time of need--of the special connection between man and nature.

Eligibility and Membership

To be eligible for membership, the applicant must be a Master Mason, a member of a Master Mason's family, or a member of an Affiliated, Appendant, or Other Masonic Body in good standing. The Initiation Fee of \$100 and 1st year's dues of \$50 (\$150 total) must accompany the application. Dues are \$50 annually. Both husband and wife and children over 14 years of age may join.

Your dues cover the cost of the meal at the meeting which you join. Meals at following meetings will be at your expense.

Perpetual Memberships are available after you complete your degree for \$500 (10 X \$50 dues). This is another good way for us to support Oklahoma Masonry and maintain our beautiful Grand Lodge building which houses a big part of our history.

Memorial Memberships are available for a one-time cost of \$50. It is a good way to honor deceased brethren or their spouses. A certificate will be sent to the person purchasing the Memorial Membership which may be displayed in the lodge or given to the brother's family.

Registration will start at 11:00 AM with a meal at noon. The charge for the meal for members will be \$10. The degree will start at 1:15 PM. Dress is casual, but please no shorts. Applications should be received by the Grand Lodge no later than July 20, 2013; however, walk-ins will be accepted. Meals may not be available without prior registration.

For a petition for the Order of the Sacred White Buffalo, call the Grand Lodge {405-282-3212} or e-mail us at okmason1@coxinet.net Or visit the Grand Lodge Website at gkoklahoma.com.

GRAND MASTER'S CALENDAR

MAY

- 2 – 50yr pin presentation: Cleveland Lodge
- 3 - Trustees Meeting
- 4 – Cornerstones: Tipton
- 7 - District 15 Meeting: Pond Creek
- 9 – 50 & 60yr pin presentation: Tecumseh Lodge (with Macomb)
- 11 – Jurisprudence Meeting, 50yr pin presentation: Guthrie
- 17-18 – Grand School
- 17 - McConnell Picnic
- 18 – Putt Putt Tournament, Eastern Star; Rainbow Installation, Yukon
- 22 – D-13 RGLO: Bristow
- 23 – Amaranth Grand Court
- 25 – Day Lodge RGLO (morning),
- 26 – Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly, Norman
- 30 – D-16 RGLO: O'Keene

JUNE

- 1 – Job's Daughters Statewide Assembly, Tulsa
- 3 – Canadian Lodge RGLO, Indianola
- 4 – Prince Hall of Oklahoma Grand Lodge, Tulsa
- 7 – Trustees Meeting
- 8 – D-28/31 District Picnic: Broken Bow
- 15 – Cowboy Outdoor Degree, Glenpool
- 19 - MCF board meeting
- 20 – Apache Lodge GM visit
- 27 – Atoka (Oklahoma #4) - St John's Day and pins
- June 30 – July 7 – Imperial Shrine (Indianapolis), GM attend June 29-July 2

JULY

- 12 – Trustees Meeting
- 13-14 – DeMolay Conclave (Stillwater)
- 20 – Colbert Cornerstone, Senior Citizens Center

Dates subject to change: for current calendar listings, see <http://www.glokla-homa.com/events.html>

From the Senior Grand Warden

Simple but Complete

Sometimes it's the little things that catch our attention; the simple ideas that are the most impressive. A while back, Carolyn and I were on our way to an out-of-town Masonic gathering. On the way, we passed by an impressive looking church. It was a small church, with a fresh coat of white paint and a neat and trim lawn. Out front along the road was a sign, a sign like most churches have which usually tell you the topic of next Sunday's sermon. As we drove by, we both read the sign and asked each other what it said. Curious to see if it said what we thought it did, I drove around the block so we could look at it again. This time I stopped to read it. It was so impressive I took a picture of it. This sign was a little larger than others we had seen. It was divided into parts; the upper half had a question and the lower half had the answer to the question. The question was: "What is the best vitamin for a Believer?" The answer shown on the lower part of the sign was short. It was only two words...actually it wasn't even two words; it was two characters...one letter and one numeral. The answer was B1. Consider this answer. How simple it is; how complete it is; yet how profound it is.

As I considered this question and the answer, I thought how aptly it also applies to Masonry. What is the best vitamin for a Mason? B1! We have many times seen its "cousin" on Masons' cars; the bumper sticker "2 B1 ask 1". At one time, every Brother asked to be a Mason,



R. W. Gary Beisly

knelt before the Altar, took his Obligations, said he wanted to be a Mason, and he became a Mason; and then he continued living the way he always had, the way he had been living. But, now he had a name. He had the name of Mason. I think this simple phrase, B1, is a striking way of demonstrating our steady attachment to our Masonic principles. To B1 is the way for us to fulfill our Masonic Obligations; to remind the Craft, the community, and the world what Masonry is. It is a way of fulfilling the admonition given during the installation of lodge officers; "and by amiable, discreet and virtuous conduct to convince mankind of the goodness of the Institution". This is how we continue our initiation into Masonry...B1. So, what is the best vitamin for a Mason? B1!



From the Grand Treasurer



Brethren, the overall finances of Grand Lodge are in good condition. The Bond market has softened over the past six to seven months

and that has affected the distribution checks that were mailed to the constituent Lodges from the Perpetual Endowed Membership fund for 2012. This amount was \$506,290.85. This amount was \$116,000 less than the 2011 distribution because of the lower yield from our GNMA bonds. The current economy of the nation appears to be improving. However, interest rates have continued to be weak. How long we will experience this roller coaster economy is anyone's

guess, so be conservative in your Lodge disbursements.

Currently the 2013 PEM Endowed funds are earning 8.0 to 8.5 % interest, which is less than in 2012 due to the current U.S. Economy. The question comes up, are these GNMA bonds still a good investment? My answer is Yes! You cannot earn this high of interest anywhere else at the present time and it is an investment in the future of your Lodge.

The overall income for the first five months of the operation through 2-28-2013, of your Grand Lodge General Fund budgeted revenue was down because the per capita invoices to the Lodges were not mailed until the middle of March. As of 2-28-2013, our income was 37.3 % of a budgeted income of \$178,445.00. Our total expenses for the same period were \$137,939.35 or 77.4 %

of budgeted expenses of \$178,288.00.

I was fortunate to be present last week when a knowledgeable masonic gentleman gave a speech and made the following analogy. Do you know why the rear view mirror in your vehicle is less than 1/4 the size of your windshield he asked? That is to keep us looking forward and not looking where we have been. Somehow does this not relate to our Masonic fraternity? We continue to concentrate on what we have done and where we have been. Let's all be aggressive by looking forward to the future and continue this great masonic legacy for our children and grandchildren.

If you have questions concerning the Budget or PEM Funds you can contact me via e-mail at

johnalextr@valornet.com

John C. Alexander Grand Treasurer

From the Junior Grand Warden



R.:W.: Ridge Smith

Brethren, I am very pleased and proud to have the honor of serving the Craft of Oklahoma as an elected officer. During the past few months, I have visited

many of the Lodges in Oklahoma and I have been overwhelmed by the response of the Brethren with whom I have met. I want to assure you that I will do everything in my power to merit the honor that you have conferred upon me.

One of the privileges that comes with being an elected officer is attending the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. I'm sure that there are many of the Masons in Oklahoma who wonder what these conferences are about and what good they do for the membership. After attending my first Conference of

Grand Masters, I am convinced that our time and money were well spent. The Conference this year was held in Kansas City, MO; and was hosted by both Kansas and Missouri Grand Lodges. There were 56 Grand Masters attending from the several states and other Grand Jurisdictions. One of the pleasant surprises was the quality of the information provided. One speaker that especially impressed me was M.:W.: Jim Cole, Past Grand Master of Virginia, who gave a talk entitled, "The IRS, Grand Lodge, Local Lodges, and You." That was particularly informative to help us keep our processes in proper order to avoid problems with the IRS. I know it opened my eyes.

Another very informative feature of the Conference were the "Breakout Sessions" There were three different groups of four breakout sessions spread over three days. I found these very useful. The three sessions that I personally attended were "Technology in Today's Masonry," "Mentoring & Membership

Retention," and "Lodge Officer Training Programs." Without going into great detail about what was covered in these sessions, I want to assure the Craft of Oklahoma that every minute was filled with valuable information that will help me to do a better job in my position as Junior Grand Warden.

Oklahoma also was distinguished by having M.:W.: Randy Rogers as a presenter for two breakout sessions. My biggest problem was trying to choose from the different sessions available. Our R.:W.: Deputy Grand Master and Senior Grand Warden and I put our heads together to try to cover as many different sessions as we could so that we could avail ourselves of the maximum benefit of the sessions.

In summary, I feel that the Conference of Grand Masters was a very worthwhile use of our time and I look forward to the opportunity of going again, and I want to thank the Brethren of Oklahoma for giving me this great experience.



Thought for Food

Imagine a fully-loaded Boeing 737, full of passengers and fuel, ready to fly. Now imagine 315 of them!

That fleet of planes would weigh less than the food provided by the organizations we partnered with last year to help feed hungry Oklahomans—especially kids! According to their published records, the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma provided 42.2 million pounds of food to counties in Central and Western Oklahoma.

The Community Food Bank provided food for families and children in Eastern Oklahoma, so we covered the state. All you have to do is imagine one of your kids or grandkids going to sleep at night, crying from hunger, and you know we are helping to do good!

Grand Master Bradley Rickelman feels it is important for us to assist those most

in need - and we will do so again this year. But there is one point we especially want to stress. The money your Lodge gives stays in your community. It goes to help the people in your town. Hunger is hidden in Oklahoma. The chances are that some of your neighbors or the people you work with don't have enough to eat. Many parents go hungry so their children can have a little more. Hungry kids do not do well in school, and hungry adults do not earn as much. It becomes a vicious circle.

As you did last year, the Grand Master asks your Lodge to raise or vote \$1.50 per member, and then have the money matched. That's such a small amount of money, but it can make a very big difference in some very small, young lives. It would be great public relations if your Lodge did a fund-raiser in the com-

munity to help feed the hungry—but whether you raise funds in public, pass the hat in Lodge, or vote money from the Lodge treasury, please participate. If you can give more than \$1.50 per member, that will be even better.

In order that we can coordinate with the efforts of the Food Banks, your check needs to reach the Masonic Charity Foundation by August 30th. Mail the funds in a check payable to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, P.O. Box 2406, Edmond, OK 73083. Please write "food bank" in the memo section of the check. The Charity Foundation will match the check and we'll present the amounts to the Food Banks.

No one likes to think of someone going hungry, especially a child. We've made a major difference before, and, with your help, we can do so again.

Special Alert on a Great Deal

The *Short Talk Bulletin*, published by the Masonic Service Association of North America, is sent each month to American Lodges, and has been since 1923. Each is designed so it can be read aloud in Lodge in just a few minutes. The Short Talks are a great source of Masonic information and education.

Now they are being collected, re-edited and re-typed, and published in book format. The first volume, to be published in the fall, is more than 750 pages in length and covers the years 1923-1937. A notice has been sent to the Lodges, alerting them that they can order a single copy at a special price, but individual Masons can also buy copies. This is a great deal, and highly recommended for your personal Masonic library.

The book can be ordered at substantial pre-publication savings, and in two different formats. You can have the Master Mason edition — a copy bound in linen-covered boards and with sewn signatures (the pages are sewn in, like a regular well-published book, not glued in like a paperback). The pre-publication price is \$55 + \$7 S&H for a total of \$62.00. (Publishing price is \$97.00)

You can also order the Grand Master edition, bound in bonded leather, with gilt edges and satin book markers bound in for \$110 + \$7 S&H for a total of \$117.00. (Publishing price is \$157.00) I've already ordered a leather-bound copy for myself.

To order or for more information, visit the website at www.msana.com

Jim Tresner

SENIOR ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



With thanks to the 89 Lodges and the teachers at the 115 schools who created the opportunity for 1,597 students to submit essays in the 2012-2013 Senior Essay Contest. To the 20 winners who will share the \$13,700 in prize money, CONGRATULATIONS!

SENIOR WOMEN'S CONTEST

Emalee Alexandra Williams - 1st Place - \$2,000
Kenna Stanton - 2nd Place - \$1,500
Courtney Michelle Niece - 3rd Place - \$1,000
Olivia Lockard - 4th Place - \$750
Jennifer Nicole Phillips - 5th Place - \$500
Kathleen Arongay - 6th Place - \$400
Emilee Danielle Cross - 7th Place - \$300
Raylee G. Woodward - 8th Place - \$200
Sara Smith - 9th Place - \$100
Abbey Worrell - 10th Place - \$100

Marlow H.S.
Lawton H.S.
Adair H.S.
Stratford H.S.
Lone Grove H.S.
Lawton H.S.
Lone Grove H.S.
Kingston H.S.
Wyandotte H.S.
Owasso H.S.

Marlow Lodge #103
Lawton Lodge #183
Adair Lodge #99
Stratford Lodge #118
Lone Grove Lodge #25
Lawton Lodge #183
Lone Grove Lodge #25
Kingston Lodge #287
Frisco Lodge #24
Owasso Lodge #545

SENIOR MEN'S CONTEST

Lee Kantowski - 1st Place - \$2,000
Patrick Broach - 2nd Place - \$1,500
Joshua Garrette - 3rd Place - \$1,000
Seth Hunter Neal - 4th Place - \$750
Daniel Stacy - 5th Place - \$500
Pryce Michener - 6th Place - \$400
James P. Atkinson - 7th Place - \$300
Levi Hilliard - 8th Place - \$200
Mason Shane Stidham - 9th Place - \$100
Adam Dean Pearson - 10th Place - \$100

Lawton H.S.
Jenks H.S.
Fairland H.S.
Broken Bow H.S.
Poteau H.S.
Lawton H.S.
Jenks H.S.
Valliant H.S.
Valliant H.S.
Cheyenne H.S.

Lawton Lodge #183
Jenks Lodge #497
Frisco Lodge #24
Broken Bow Lodge #441
Poteau Lodge #46
Lawton Lodge #183
Jenks Lodge #497
Valliant Lodge #301
Valliant Lodge #301
Cheyenne Lodge #133

WWW.MCFOK.ORG

Check it out! This is the site of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma. It's a great resource. You will find information about the programs we have for helping Brothers and the programs we have for helping those who are not Masons. Lodge secretaries can download any form they need. There are photographs and stories about problems solved with the help of Masonic charity. The site is updated often. If you want to feel a real pride in your Masonry, this is a great place to start.

“Like” the *Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma* on Facebook! Keep up-to-date on events and deadlines, and connect with other Masonic bodies in the State. We'd love to hear your feedback, and Facebook is a great place to start.

From the Deputy Grand Master

I have been amazed at the number of responses to my article concerning the investigating committee. Many have mentioned that they appreciated someone saying what they thought needed to be brought to everyone's attention.

The problem I see is complacency in doing what is necessary to keep our fraternity as strong and as viable as it has been in our past. We have taken solemn obligations to see that our investigations find the best qualified men in order for our fraternity to succeed.

We have not only become complacent in the investigation process but, also in our degree work. Not teaching the new Masons what their respective positions require. Then advancing them to officer positions and eventually even Worshipful Master where they do not have the slightest idea what their responsibilities are.

Is it any wonder that after they have been rushed through a couple of positions and become Worshipful Master you never see them again? They don't come back because in your effort to put someone new in the office of Worshipful Master you forgot to teach them Masonry. They don't come back because they didn't learn anything that they could teach someone else.

As an example, I visited a lodge recently, while there I had a conversation with the Junior and Senior Stewards. I asked them what they were working on their response was "nothing". I mentioned that it would be helpful to their lodge if they would start working on their respective language in the second section of the Masters degree. In order to fill those positions when there was work to be done in the lodge.



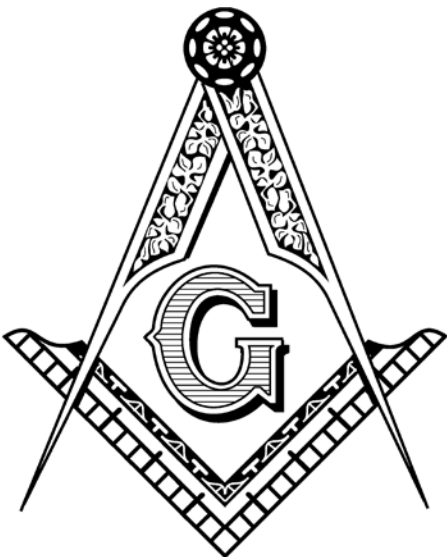
R. W. Chambers

You would have thought that I had come up with a new revelation in what should be required of the lodge officers. No one had ever mentioned anything about this to them.

Even if you are unable to attend your lodge regularly, go as often as possible. You have something you can share with our new brothers that will help them in their journey through this great fraternity. And in your daily life serve as an example to others as to what being a Mason really is.

Brethren the success or failure of our organization is in your hands.

I will leave you with this quote by Thomas Edison. "We shall have no better conditions in the future if we are satisfied with those which we have at present".



From the Grand Secretary

Making Better Men, Not Perfect

In September of 2011, Glenn Almy, Grand Master of Oklahoma gave a short speech at a York Rite event. He stated that we said we would “make good men better, not perfect”. This is also found on our petitions.

This got me thinking about what man does to improve himself and by what measure he determines his improvement. I thought back to my time in the service when we were implementing a program called “Total Quality Management”, introduced by Dr. W. Edward Deming, and how we could apply this to our goal of self-improvement.

Dr. Deming was a statistician during World War II. He lived by numbers and statistics. During this time, he came up with an idea on how to improve the quality of products by statistical analysis. As it turned out, Dr. Deming had the opportunity to implement his theories in post-war Japan.

After the industrial base of Japan was rebuilt, they began selling on a global scale. The problem was the quality of their products. It was almost a worldwide joke that the Japanese made cheap products across the board. In 1947, Edward Deming was sent to Japan to conduct a census for the Department of the Army. He had already been working on his quality management theories and was invited to speak at the Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers. Shortly after that, he was invited to teach hundreds of Japanese scientists and engineers statistical process control and quality management.

Deming’s methods of quality improvement had such a dramatic effect on Japanese industry that they became not only the quality leaders of the world, but reduced cost of manufacturing,

which also increased their sales. He was awarded numerous honors in Japan for his work.

Dr. Deming later returned to the United States and implemented the same quality programs that had brought Japan to the forefront. First came Ford, who introduced his processes and brought the Ford Taurus to creation. In 1987, he was awarded the National Medal of Technology.

How does this apply to making good men better? Deming studied production processes. He knew that there was no such thing as a perfect car or manufactured item, but by studying the manufacturing process and specifications of each, he could always make them better and more efficiently. The goal was always to strive for perfection, even though unattainable.

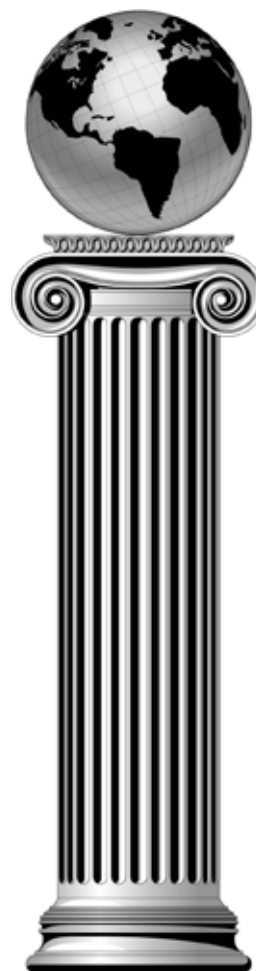
We can very easily apply these same principles to our lives as Masons. We cannot achieve perfection on this celestial globe, for no man is without fault. But by applying the principles of Masonry, evaluating how we live our daily lives and finding ways where we can be better, we can improve the quality of our “product,” namely ourselves.

The challenge to us as Masons is; how often do we evaluate our progress towards this goal, and make corrections accordingly? I would suggest that this is best done by participating in our lodges, not just ‘carrying the card.’ The process doesn’t end with the Master Mason degree, but through repeated evaluation of ourselves as Masons. Involvement in degrees (and striving to understand them), improving our lodges and communities, all move us closer to that goal.

Do your part to “improve your product” – live your obligations and constantly strive to improve.



R. W. Steve Singleton



From the Grand Lecturer – Don't Miss GRAND SCHOOL!



R. W. Ronald Wray

Greetings my Brethren All.

The year seems to be getting away fast—it's time for Grand School!

That's right: Friday, May 17th and 18th at The Grand Lodge Building in

Guthrie. School will start at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of The 17th. Remember, you will be able to stay at The Scottish Rite Temple Inn Friday night, so be thinking about making your reservations now. Cost is \$10. Reserve a room by e-mailing the Innkeepers at inn-keep@att.net

I have been very pleased with the number of schools already held throughout

the state. We held schools in districts which have not held a school in some time, so congratulations to these districts.

Brethren, I cannot tell you how important the Schools of Instruction are to us as Masons. We need to attend as many schools as we can, because this is how we learn to do the work being taught by the Board of Grand Lecturers, and the work is what makes us who we are as Masons. Remember the Certificate Lecturers meeting will be held Saturday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m. in the Master's room at the Grand Lodge building.

My Deputies and I are only a phone call away for any questions you may have, and we are all here to serve you. I challenge each of you to invite someone who perhaps has never attended Grand School. I have plans for something



different this year. But you will have to attend to find out what it is.

I look forward to seeing each of you this year. Let's make GRAND SCHOOL of INSTRUCTION 2013 the best one yet!

A Special Masonic Invitation

to have a lot of fun, learn something new, and give a real service to your Masonic Brothers.

Dear Brother, You've been through the Degrees, so you know that was only possible because your Brothers learned the words of the ritual and conferred the Degrees upon you. In Lodges all across Oklahoma, men just like you are guiding new candidates through those Degrees each week. It's important work— new Masons cannot be made unless someone takes the time to do the "work."



I'd like to tell you about the Certificate Lecturer's Association. As Grand Lecturer, I have the responsibility to see that the ritual is

performed and taught across the state. To do that, I have the help of some very special men, known as Deputy Grand Lecturers, and, most importantly, a group of men known either as "C" Certificate Lecturers or "A" Certificate Lecturers.

The ritual of Masonry is divided into two kinds of work. One is called exoteric or monitorial (printed in plain English in the monitor) and the other is esoteric. When you look at a monitor and see rows of dots instead of words, it means the language which goes there is esoteric.

You probably remember the categorical lectures, although you may not know them by that term. After you received the first part of each Degree, two Brothers stood up and gave a question and answer exchange. That exchange is the Categorical Lecture of the Degree.

I'd like to invite you to earn a Certificate and become a Certificate-lecturer.

To earn a "C" Certificate, a man learns the questions and answers for all three Degrees, and then "checks out" by reciting them to a Deputy Grand Lecturer. The Deputy will correct any errors, and then, when a man has it right, the Grand

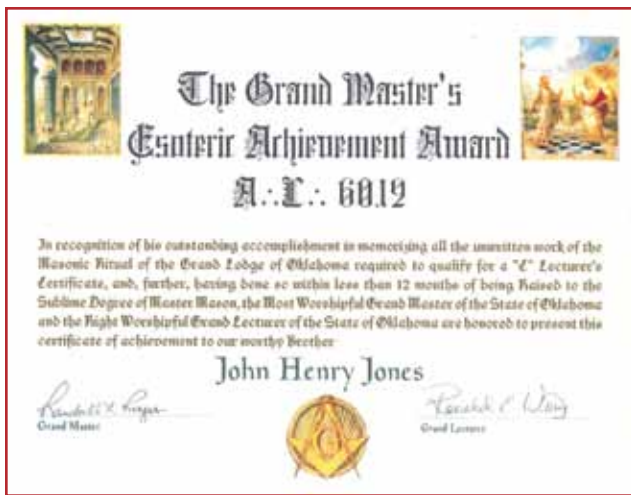
Lecturer will issue him a card which looks like this



That is a "C" certificate, and it says that you have qualified to teach the categorical lectures on the Degrees and have authority to teach.

And here's something really special! If you earn a "C" Certificate within 12 months of the day you receive the Master Mason Degree, you will receive a special Grand Master's Esoteric Award, presented to you at Grand School by the Grand Master. And the fact that you earned that award becomes a permanent part of your Masonic record. Reduced in

size, the Esoteric Achievement Award looks like this.



Some Brothers go past a "C" and earn an "A" Certificate. An "A" Certificate Lecturer had learned all the esoteric work for all three Degrees, and also has learned the "floor work"—how and where men move during the ritual. Just like a "C" Certificate Lecturer, he proves his knowledge to a Deputy Grand Lecturer, and then receives a card.

How can you learn the work?

The best way is to learn it from someone who already has a "C" or "A" Certificate. But because it can be hard to find the time to get together, you can also learn it from the Red Book or

Cipher Key. It has all the ritual, but the esoteric parts are written in a 3-letter cipher. But be sure you work with someone at the beginning! "Est" for example, might mean "esteemed," or "estimated," or "establish," or any number of things. Don't guess! Ask someone until you are comfortable with the words.

You can also learn the work at schools held in your Lodge and in each Masonic District. And in May each year we have Grand School. You can learn or check out at any of those places. You have to renew your "C" or "A" Certificate each year by having someone check you out. It's easy for words to slip a little or get changed in our memory.

Why should you do it?

First of all, it's fun—it's hard to imagine just how much fun it is until you do it. Second, it's a real accomplishment; it's something you can be justly proud of. And third, it lets you give back to a new generation of men, and help them in their Masonic journey.

If you want to know more, please contact me. My cell phone number is 580-623-0035 and my e-mail address is rewray76@hotmail.com

Fraternally,
Ronald Wray,
Grand Lecturer

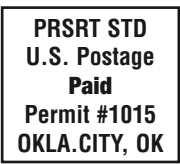


BRETHREN, WE'D LOVE TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR LODGE!

Please send photographs to the editor at

jim.tresner@yahoo.com

**Don't limit yourself to check presentations, installations, etc.
Be creative—just we sure we have permission to use the photographs.**



Address or Name Change (please print)
Lodge # _____ Date Address Effective _____
Name _____
Street or Box address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Send to *Address Change update, The Oklahoma Mason, P.O. Box 1019, Guthrie, OK 73044*

CHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Brethren, the Child Identification Program (CHIP) continues to be available to all Lodges. This year all the equipment and consumable supplies are stored at Broken Arrow Lodge #243. When you decide you would like to have an event, contact me and I can help you schedule the event. I will make arrangements to get the equipment and all necessary supplies to your Lodge.

We have divided the State into 4 areas. The North-South divider is Interstate 40. The East-West divider is Interstate 35. In the Northeast quadrant there are approximately 70 Lodges. In the Southeast quadrant there are approximately 70 Lodges. In the Northwest and Southwest quadrants there are approximately 40 Lodges each. We are looking for volunteers in each of the quadrants to assist in arranging the CHIP events in

these areas. We need people who have the time to help with this program.

We are encouraging doing a school system as that's where the children are. And, with parental or guardian permission it can be done with very little disruption of classroom time. We do as many as possible during the P/E class time. With proper scheduling, a student will miss less than 30 minutes of study time. We have some suggestions on how to survey the School and after the survey getting the forms to the parent or guardian and back to the School. We then schedule the date with the School. We realize that the Lodge members will need some help. There are numerous organizations looking for a place to help such as PTA or PTO in each School, Church Groups, Sigma Phi E.S.A., Telephone Pioneers, and other Fraternal Organizations.



We will be happy to support and assist any Lodge that requests us to do so. Please call or email.

Fraternally,
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