



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

david @ morelight . org

April 2009
The Fellow Craft

http://news.morelight.org



DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

In This Issue

- 1- Area News & DCMA Report
 - 2- Old Tiler Talks: *In Men's Hearts*
 - 3- List of Special Events
 - 4, 5, 6 - Symbolism of the Fellow Craft Degree
- Excerpted from various GL of Georgia publications

DCMA This Month

On Tuesday, 21 April, we'll be at Masters 295, where we hope you'll join us for dinner at 6:30 and the meeting starting at 7:30. As with all DCMA events, your family, friends, and the general public are invited.

Metro Atlanta News

The Grand Master is set to visit many North Metro Atlanta lodges (099, 131, 216, 295, 314, 480) in the upcoming weeks - please see Page 3 for details.

Don't forget the Valley of Atlanta Scottish Rite Reunion - Sat, 18 Apr.

A Lodge Action Planning Workshop was hosted by Masters 295 on Sat., 21 Mar., presented by WBro. Dennis Gueth of the MELD committee (and program author); just over a dozen brethren were in attendance.

Jack Harrison and John Ross, from the Alpharetta American Legion Post, were the speakers at the Past Masters Club of Chamblee. They introduced the "Heroes to Hometowns" program for assisting our returning disabled soldiers and veterans with relief and VA processing. The club meets on the 5th Mondays, and Past Masters of any lodge may join. Get more information on the program from <http://legion.org>

Grand Master Ed Jennings is proud to announce a statewide BBQ cook-off. The event will take place on October 16 and 17. The Shriners at Al Sihah in Macon have graciously offered their facilities for the cook off. The cook-off will consist of Masons only. Any team of Masons or Lodge are eligible for competition. Judging will consist of ribs, chicken, and pulled pork. Each team may enter one or all categories. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. Come on out and have a fun weekend with your fellow Brothers! Bring your family and friends! All profits for this event benefits the Georgia Child ID Program (GACHIP). For more details, contact Steve Thompson, PM, Chairman GA CHIP BBQ Cook-Off.

Masters 295

3038 LaVista Rd, Decatur 30033-1311



Come on out and see the results of WBro. Sims' programs so far. This is also Grant Park 604's new home so come give a visit!

DCMA Next Month

Lithonia 84 has decided not to host the DCMA this year, so at the April meeting at Masters 295 we will decide between a visit to Grayson Lodge (in conjunction with the Gwinnett County Masonic Association) and a Social Dinner hosted by EA Minor 603 and Glenwood Hills 703.

DCMA Last Month

Our March meeting at North DeKalb 714 brought an educational and historical program, by Worshipful Master Reginald Vickery, on the influences on the fraternity from the early Egyptian period. This was part of a series, and we hope to hear more of it at future gatherings.

DCMA This Year

- Pres: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Gate City 2
david @ morelight .org, 404 421 5279
- 1st VP: James Tyroff, Philologia 178 & Metro Daylight 743
jtyroff @ hotmail .com or 770 378 9531
- 2nd VP: Jim Cline, Clarkston 492 (Jim needs a second lodge!)
jclinejdcpa @ mindspring . com
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703 & EA Minor 603
billjoane256 @ aol .com or 770 922 5412

Special thanks to Bill Marsh for proofreading this mess!

The DCMA... Determined to Cover Masonry in Atlanta!
We'd like for your lodge to join us - ask one of us how.

Directions & Maps

Brethren: directions, maps and meeting information for all DCMA member lodges can be found from the DCMA website at <http://dcma.morelight.org>

Standard Disclaimer

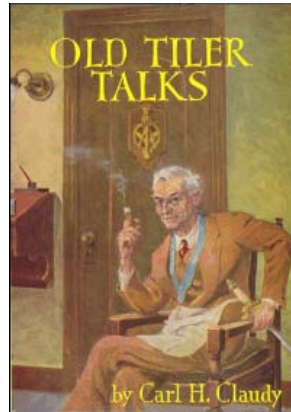
This publication is created to inform the brethren. Any views or opinions that manage to sneak in are solely those of the editor, who does **NOT** speak for any organization whatsoever. Really.

Where's YOUR News?

We'd be honored to support the community by publishing your news and events - all you have to do is let us know by emailing david @ morelight . org with all the information you'd like listed.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia
Mostly written in the 1920s



In Men's Hearts

Where is the most beautiful Masonic temple in the world?" asked the New Brother of the Old Tiler.

"Wouldn't the answer depend on one's conception of beauty?" retorted the Old Tiler. "I might think one, and you another, while an architect or an artist might choose still another."

"Well, which one do you choose?" persisted the New Brother.

"I don't!" answered the Old Tiler. "The House of the Temple in Washington is impressive; Detroit has a wonderful temple; Philadelphia's temple is massive and beautiful, the Albert Pike memorial in Little Rock is considered fine. I cannot choose."

"You think it is one of these?"

"No, I am simply trying to oblige," laughed the Old Tiler. "I know three temples which impressed me more than any of these."

"I asked because I am taking a winter vacation. I'd like to see the wonderful temples Masonry has erected. Tell me where your three are located!"

"One temple that to me is great in beauty is in a town of about 2,000 people in the Middle West. The lodge room is over a country store. The floor is bare of carpet. The chairs are plain wood. The heating plant is one large stove; it is the Junior Deacons' business to feed it during the meetings. The walls are stained, the lamps are kerosene, there is no organ or piano and the ribbons in the lodge jewels are frayed. Not very up-to-date, the members of this lodge.

"But this lodge made a boy of twenty-two a Master Mason just before he went to France in the first world war. After Soissons he lay all night on the field with a shattered leg and an arm so badly mangled that later they cut it off. While he lay there he heard familiar words from the familiar burial service of a Mason; 'this evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of the illustrious dead is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul.'

"The wounded boy called for help. Came crawling to

Him was a man slightly wounded, who had said the service over the remains of a comrade. At the risk of his life he hauled the wounded boy to safety. That wounded boy came back to this little country lodge to tell his brethren of what Masonry means in men's hearts when they carry it into the battlefield. As I listened the plain board walls fell away, the deal floor became tessellated marble, the low stained ceiling became a vaulted archway and the Great Architect Himself entered the East Gate.

"Another beautiful temple I only heard of. Civil engineers were building a railroad in the Andes. One of their laborers, a Mason, had fever and had to be sent home. This party of five sat out under the trees and the stars and talked on the square. Each of them gave a month's salary to the sick laborer. He had a wife and two babies in Denver, the wife trying to live in spite of the dread disease Denver's high altitude cures. Our ancient brethren met under the stars, where their 'covering was no less than the clouded canopy or starry-decked heaven.' But none of these ever held a more beautiful lodge than those five young men, filled with Masonic charity, giving each more than he could afford for a day laborer in hard luck, because he was a Mason.

"My third most beautiful temple was made of many little tents. There were children in them; children large and small, and there was no distinction between them of race, creed, color. All a child had to be was poor to have two weeks in the open. Nor was this a lodge charity; it was the work of a Masonic club, and run by individual contributions. As I looked I heard the organ peal as I have never heard it in many temples of stone.

"As a teacher said, 'for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' Where three, five, seven or more Master Masons gather in the name of Masonry, there is the temple. It is right and wise that we build great temples of stone and carving; which give testimony to all the world that here men gather in brotherhood. Masonic structures play a great part and we could spare them ill. But the greatest Masonic temples are builded in men's hearts.

"If you would visit beautiful temples in your travels, seek less for mighty building and more for a house not made with hands. 'Masonry builds her temples in the hearts of men' and in men's hearts shall you seek for, and find, those most beautiful."

The Old Tiler ceased and looked off into space as if he saw a vision. The New Brother looked at the Old Tiler. "I do not need to travel far to see one of the most beautiful temples," he said.



List of Special Events - April & May 2009

The Grand Master's Calendar

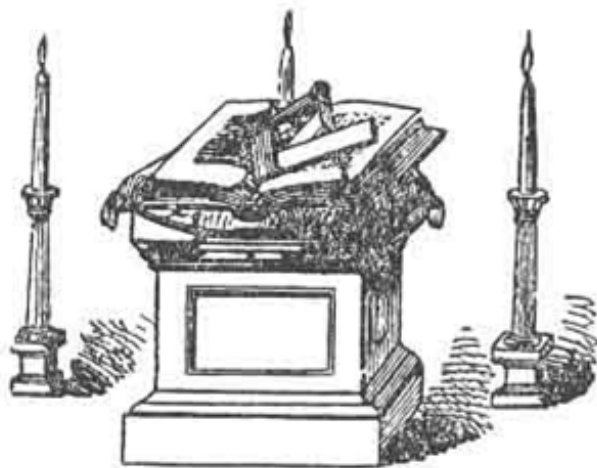
- 01 Apr, Wed - Official Visitation**
at Fulton 216, Atlanta - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 04 Apr, Sat - 2nd District Convention**
Thomasville 369, Thomasville - 9:00 meeting.
- 07 Apr, Tue - Official Visitation**
at Lawrenceville 131, Lawrenceville - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meet'g.
- 08 Apr, Wed - Cobb County Convention**
at SS Lawrence 131, Marietta - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 09 Apr, Thu - Official Visitation**
at Meyerhardt 314, Kennesaw - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 11 Apr, Sat - Official Visitation**
at Campbellton 76, Campbellton - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 20 Apr, Mon - Official Visitation**
at Snellville 99, Snellville - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 21 Apr, Tue - Official Visitation**
at Duluth 480, Duluth - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 25 Apr, Sat - 3rd District Convention**
Millwood 198, Pinehurst - 9:00 meeting.
- 19 May, Tue - Official Visitation**
at Masters 295, Decatur - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

Special Programs

- 28 Apr, Tue - Gate City Religion & Culture Series**
Topic: *Jewish History: Surviving Auschwitz - Murray Lynn*
at the Atlanta Masonic Temple, 6:30 meal. RSVP info will appear at <http://gatecity2.org/> to ensure ample food.

25/50 Year Awards, PM Nights

None scheduled at press time.



Associations, Clubs, Instruction

- 01 Apr, Wed - DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club** (open)
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 2:00 start.
- 11 Apr - Sat - Home Trustees & Workday for Dist. 2/3/6/7**
at the Children's Home, Macon.
1:00 pm for Trustee meeting, 8:00 am for Workday
- 21 Apr - Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association** (open)
at Masters 295, Decatur. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.
- 14 Apr, Tue - Gwinnett County Masonic Association** (open)
at Dacula 433, Dacula. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.
- 09 May, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association** (open)
at Grayson 549, Grayson. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.
- 27 May, Wed - Southside Mem. Assn. & Lodge of Inst.** (tyled)
Tyrone 644, Tyrone. 6:30 Mem. Assn., 7:30 L/ Inst., 9:00 meal.
- 30 May, Sat - Masonic Home Workday for Dist. 1/4/9/12**
all districts & visitors welcome. 8:00 start.

Fundraisers

- 04 Apr, Sat - Breakfast Fundraiser**
at Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 8-11 am.
- 04 Apr, Sat - Breakfast Fundraiser**
at Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee. 8-11 am.
- 11 Apr, Sat - Breakfast Fundraiser**
at Lakewood 443, Lovejoy. 8-11 am.
- 11 Apr, Sat - Breakfast Fundraiser**
at Panthersville 543, Stockbridge. 8-11 am.

Degree Conferrals

Conferral schedules are *TENTATIVE*; confirm with host lodge.

- 07 Apr - Tue - Entered Apprentice Conferral**
at Masters 295, Decatur. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 18 Apr - Sat - Master Mason Conferral & Dramatization by the Knights of Mecca**
at Fayetteville 711, Fayetteville. 8:00 meal, 9:00 meeting.

GACHIP Programs

- 18 Apr, Sat - Buford 292, Sponsors**
at Earth Day, Gwinnett Env. & Heritage Ctr. 9:00 - 5:00.
- 18/19 Apr, Sat/Sun - Kennesaw 33, Sponsors**
at Kennesaw Days Festival, Kennesaw. 8:00 - 4:00.
- 25 Apr, Sat - Piedmont 447, Sponsors**
at Touch-a-Truck, Alpharetta 10:00 - 2:00.
- 02 May, Sat - Norcross 228, Sponsors**
at Comcast Spotlight, Norcross 10:00 - 2:00.
- 09/10 May, Sat/Sun - Roswell 165, Sponsors**
at Arts Day, Roswell 10:00 - 5:00.
- 16 May, Sat - Fulton 216, Sponsors**
at GBI Child Safety Day, Decatur 11:00 - 4:00.



Symbolism of the Fellow Craft Degree

Excerpted largely from "The Lodge System of Masonic Education", "Mentor's Manual", and "Masonic Manual 1983" by the GL of Georgia

The Symbolism of the Degree: In the Degree of Fellow Craft, we try to emphasize the dignity and worth of the individual. Man should be an instrument of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. As such, he is a workman whose duty is to invent, create, and achieve; and, by doing so, express his own genius and individuality. All Lodges are designed to encourage the development of individual genius and to allow man, if he works hard, to become as great as he wants to be. The main principle of this form of government is that the State should not interfere with the individual's freedom any more than is necessary to preserve government by the State, but still give the individual freedom to flourish.

The Degree of Fellow Craft symbolizes man in the prime years of his life. He is shown as an adult who is ready to accept the responsibility of life, not only for himself, but for his family and all of society. When the Mason assumes the duties and privileges of a Fellow Craft, he is taught that he is responsible for his own destiny and that of the State. The themes of this Degree are education and achievement. The more a man learns through pursuit of knowledge, the more he achieves.

Our Evolution from Operative to Speculative: We are unable to accurately pinpoint the time when we made this transition. The change was gradual, and probably stretched over a period of more than 50 years. It began early in the 1600's and may have begun with the acceptance of patrons into the Operative Lodges, as was mentioned in the Entered Apprentice Degree instruction. Others who were not interested in becoming stone masons, followed the patrons. Those who were admitted by consent of the Operative Masons became "Accepted Masons". Membership was sought after because of the spiritual, social and cultural advantages. During this time our Craft grew rapidly in numbers.

The decline of Gothic architecture and the reduced demands for great building projects had greatly lowered the number of skilled Operative Craftsmen needed to carry on the construction during this period. If we had not become Speculative Masons, our Craft was faced with extinction. Many of the institutions of that day did pass into oblivion; but, by becoming Speculative, the Craft has grown to a point never envisioned by its founders. Much of this growth can be attributed to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, when the four old Lodges of England held a meeting at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in 1717, at which a man by the name of Anthony Sayer was elected Grand Master. From there, Masonry spread over much of the world, and other jurisdictions developed their own Grand Lodges.

The Basic Teachings of the Second Degree symbolize the years of manhood and responsibility during a man's life on earth. During these years, he obtains knowledge and applies this knowledge to the building of his character, and improving the society in which he lives. As the father of our Masonic Rituals, William Preston conceived Masonry to be used to educate man in the liberal arts and sciences. In the Ritual of the Degree, a Fellow Craft is urged to advance his education in these fields. By using the method of Initiation into the Fellow Craft Degree, we hope to help you understand the symbolic importance of these liberal arts and sciences.

The Preparation: The changes in dress from an Entered apprentice Mason to a Fellow Craft Mason have been explained in the ceremony. Gaining admission is similar to the First Degree, with addition of a pass, which is given for him by his conductor. We are trying to teach that the knowledge and energy are freely given toward gaining the privileges of Freemasonry, and that by the aid of others, we are able to advance.

The Reception: It takes on a new significance during your reception for this Degree. The square should be a rule and guide to your future actions with mankind.

The Cable-Tow is a symbol of control for the individual. To many, the Cable-Tow is symbolic of the umbilical cord, which is necessary to begin life; but, is severed, when love and care replace it, and the individual grows on his own. The length of the Cable-Tow is frequently referred to in the language of Freemasonry, but many of the new Brethren do not understand its meaning. Formerly, a Cable-Tow was deemed to be the distance one could travel in an hour, which was assumed to be about three miles. In California this is any reasonable distance from which a summons may be answered, health and business permitting. Each Mason is bound to all other Masons by a tie as long and as strong as he himself determines his ability will permit.

The Obligation is the heart of every Degree and its solemnity must be impressed upon every candidate. In addition to the vow of secrecy in the First Degree, the Obligation has other important points which bind each brother. Obedience, assistance, and the protection of one another, are pledged by each Mason to all others, binding them by a tie which should last their lifetime. The penalties have the same significance as those invoked in the First Degree, and are symbolic rather than physical, as already explained.

The Square is the symbol of morality, truthfulness and honesty. The direction of the two sides of the Square form an angle of 90 degrees, or a right angle, so-called because this is the angle which stones must have if they are to be used to build a stable and upright wall. It symbolizes accuracy, not even varying by a single Degree. It is 90 Degrees, not 89 or 91. When we part upon the Square, we go in different directions, but in full knowledge that our courses in life will be going according to the angle of the Square (Which means in the right direction), until we meet again.

The Level is a symbol of equality. We do not mean equality in wealth, social distinction, civic office, or service to mankind; but, rather, we refer to the internal, and not the external, qualifications. Each person is endowed with a worth and dignity which is spiritual, and should not be subject to man-made distinctions. The quality practiced in Masonry recognizes that one man may have greater potential in life, service, or reward, than another; but, we also believe that any man can aspire to any heights, no matter how great. Thus, the Level dignifies labor and the man who performs it. It also acknowledges that all men are equal without regard to station.



Symbolism of the Fellow Craft Degree

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The Plumb is a symbol of uprightness of conduct. In Freemasonry, it is associated with the plumb line which the Lord promised Amos he would set in the midst of His people, Israel, symbolizing God's standard of divine righteousness. The plumb line in the midst of a people should mean that they will be judged by their own sense of right and wrong, and not by the standards of others. By understanding the Plumb, a Mason is to judge his Brothers by his own standards and not those of someone else. When the plumb line is thought of in this way, it becomes a symbol of an upright life and of the conscience by which each person must live.

The Jewels: The attentive ear, the instructive tongue, and the faithful breast, remind the Craftsman that the time-honored method of instruction is by word of mouth. The secrets of Freemasonry are always deposited in the hearts of faithful Brethren. These Jewels should signify the necessity to learn to utilize good Masonic instruction and develop a devotion to the teachings of our Craft.

The Wages: Corn, Wine, and Oil, are symbolic wages which are earned by the Fellow Craft who completes his task and comes to the Middle Chamber. These symbolize wealth in mental and spiritual worlds. Corn represents nourishment and the sustenance of life. It is also a symbol of plenty, and refers to the opportunity for doing good, to work for the community, and to the performance of service to mankind. Wine is symbolic of refreshment, health, spirituality, and peace. Oil represents joy, gladness and happiness. Taken together, Corn, Wine, and Oil represent the temporal rewards of living a good life. The actual "wages" are the intangible but no less real compensation for a faithful and intelligent use of the Working Tools, fidelity to your obligations, and unflagging interest in and study of the structure, purpose and possibilities of the Fraternity. Such wages may be defined in terms of a deeper understanding of Brotherhood, a clearer conception of ethical living, a broader toleration, a sharper impatience with the mediocre and unworthy, and a more resolute will to think justly, independently, and honestly.

The Great Values of Life: We gradually achieve a greater appreciation of the great values of life. Religion, which is man's quest for God. Brotherhood, which is a life of fellowship grounded in good will. Art, by which we enjoy the beautiful. Citizenship, by which we enjoy the good communal life. Science, by which we learn the nature of the world we live in. Literature, by which we enter into communion with the life of all mankind. A good life is one in which all such things are appreciated and enjoyed. The belief that the good things in life come by chance to the fortunate, is a fatal blunder. The satisfying values of life; spiritual, moral, intellectual, or physical cannot be won like a lottery prize. They cannot come at all except through patient, intelligent and sustained effort.

The Pillars on the Porch: There are two pillars, placed before the entrance to King Solomon's Temple, which are symbolically represented within every Lodge of Fellow Craft Masonry. These pillars are symbols of strength and establishment - and by implication, power and control. One must remember that power and control are placed before you, so you might realize that power without control is anarchy, or that control without power is futility. Man must have both if his life is to be successful.

The Globes Surmounting the Columns: These are the celestial globe and the terrestrial globe, and are symbols of universality. The shape of the globes let us know that this is a modern addition to Masonic Ritual - because our forebearers thought the earth was flat and the heavens a sphere revolving around it.

The Winding Stairs: This represents the progress of an inquiring mind, toiling and laboring toward intellectual cultivation and study. This is the road to Divine Truth. The Winding Stairs, by their very shape are also symbols of courage and faith. The Winding Stairs lead us to an unknown life. For some, there will be a Middle Chamber filled with reward of fame and fortune. For others it will be filled with frustration, pain and discouragement. The "Angel of Death" could stand on the next step of any traveler. Yet, we climb because we have faith, and because we are filled with courage. We believe that the winding stairs of life lead to our destiny, and that the wages to be earned by the Fellow Craft are worth the risk. Corn, Wine, and Oil are symbolic wages. A Fellow Craft's wages are truth, or getting as close to the truth as is appropriate for him. While winding through the stairs, the Fellow Craft learns a beautiful lesson on the great doctrines of the science of Masonic symbolism - that he is ever to be in search of truth. For the wise, there is also the lesson that the full knowledge of the nature of God, and in this life. Each man must seek a knowledge of God "on his own", Masonry teaches a need for this relationship - not the way.

The Symbolism of Numbers is first presented to the new Mason in the diagram of the Winding Stairs. The total number of steps is fifteen, which is a significant symbol, and is thus explained. The first three steps teach us that we are dependent upon God, and that we must harmonize our will with His, building our own spiritual temple according to the Divine Plan. The Second group of five steps teaches the use of order in architecture, and that this order must be applied to our own spiritual temple. The final seven steps symbolize the crowning glory of man - the development of both mind and spirit, and the acquisition of the courage and faith which causes each person who possesses these virtues to climb to the summit and attain the rewards that await those who labor and faint not. These are the symbolic wages of a worthy Fellow Craft.

Admission to the Middle Chamber represents man's journey from ignorance to enlightenment. His wages as a Fellow Craft are received in the Middle Chamber. These wages are a symbol of the Divine Truth. The candidate must also find the doors to knowledge - the outer and inner entrances. To enter one of these, he needs a pass. To go through the other, he must have a word. Help is given him in each instance, but such assistance is limited. This signifies that man must acquire knowledge chiefly through his own effort, though he is often dependent upon others for some help. Emphasis should be placed upon the amount of effort put forth by the candidate, for without effort, he cannot reap the reward he seeks.



Symbolism of the Fellow Craft Degree

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The Middle Chamber: In modern Freemasonry, the Middle Chamber is the symbolic place of reward. This was thought of as the place where the Fellow Craft met to receive wages for their labors on the Temple of Solomon. During its construction, they assembled on the evening of the sixth day of the week. Those who were entitled to the wages of a Fellow Craft were invested with certain mysterious signs, tokens, and a word, which enabled them to pass the inner and outer guards and to enter the Middle Chamber. If they did not have the proper identification, they did not get into the Middle Chamber or receive their wages.

King Solomon's Temple: Freemasonry did not originate in the Temple of Jerusalem, but our rituals are enriched by reference to this magnificent structure. For a full description of the Temple, you should read the accounts found in the First Book of Kings, Chapters 5 to 8, and the record found in the First Book of Chronicles, beginning in the second chapter.

The Letter "G": The letter "G" is a symbol of Geometry and, also, of Deity. By the letter "G", we are reminded that our every act is done in the sight of God, and that Divine Providence is over all of our lives. Man is reminded that God is in all nature and in every man. Our life and all its blessings come from Him in an orderly fashion. These are disrupted only by the vileness of man when he does something contrary to the Divine Will. The letter "G" is placed in the center of the Masonic emblems worn by many here in the U.S., but not by Masons in England or other nations of the British Commonwealth. We don't know why this occurs.

Emblems of a Fellow Craft: These include the Plumb, Square, and Level; Corn, Wine, and Oil; the Pillars in the Porch; the Winding Stairs; the Liberal Arts and Sciences; and the Letter "G". The Fellow Craft should become very familiar with them, for they epitomize the lessons of this Degree. To really understand their significance, you must study them until the lesson learned is engraved upon your heart.

Rights of a Fellow Craft: In addition to the rights you have acquired as an Entered Apprentice Mason, you have the right to sit in a Lodge when opened in the Fellow Craft Degree. You may visit another Lodge opened in the Fellow Craft Degree. You have the right to be instructed and examined. If you are proficient and worthy, you have the right to ask for advancement.

Responsibilities of a Fellow Craft: These are to be found in the Obligation, and you should review these and the Obligation of the Entered Apprentice Degree. Finally, you are reminded that you are to acquire knowledge and apply that knowledge to your duties in life, so that you can fill your place in society with satisfaction and honor.



Fellow Craft Trestleboards.

Images found online.

