

UNIVERSITY LODGE #631 F. & A. M.



# THE TRESTLEBOARD

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1 FALL 2018

*Celebrating Our 103rd Year*



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## UNDER THE MASTER'S HAT

### The Path of Initiation

Our last lodge education was most illuminating to me personally. So, I wanted to share it with all you brethren who could not have been with us. During our April 16th meeting, Bro. Daniel Hrinko was kind enough to share his presentation about the psychology of initiation. Since I am certain I could never do the full presentation justice in this short article, I will include some of the parts that touched me most. However, the full presentation is available online at [www.craftdrivenloge.com](http://www.craftdrivenloge.com)

One of the most important responsibilities of being a Mason is to make certain any recommended candidate will conform. However, your choice in candidate includes more than this. For the candidate to be truly successful, you need to understand what brings this man to our fraternity. As Bro. Hrinko explains:

### "What brings you to the door of Freemasonry?"

We need to recognize that when a man expresses a desire to learn of Freemasonry, it is the first step of the initiatory process. As the conversations between Brothers and the enquirer progress, the questions discussed will assist him in clarifying that for which he is truly seeking. As we learn about this man on a factual level, we should also attend to those statements that disclose his hopes, goals, and desires. This will assist us in understanding if Speculative Freemasonry can offer the kind of relationship he appears to be seeking. If we overlook this step, we do ourselves a great disservice by failing to learn about this potential Brother and the contributions he can make to our Order. We also perform a great disservice to this man by assisting him down a path that may not be appropriate for him.

Most explanations of Freemasonry focus on the simple, factual elements of the fraternity such as describing the process of completing a petition, outlining the three degrees, and other basic information. If we realize that this man is also seeking an emotional experience, a way of fulfilling fundamental psychological needs, then WE should share our experiences about how we have been able to connect with the concept of "Speculative Freemasonry" on an emotional level.

To assist him in making this connection, we should share our own emotional experiences with Freemasonry. Telling our personal story, sharing what we enjoy about our Order, the anxieties we experienced, and the satisfaction we have received. This teaches this potential Brother that our Masonic life is more than merely a set of simple activities. It teaches him that emotional experiences are part of our Order ultimately adding color and spice to the quality of our life that is often lacking in most activities. It also assists him in connecting with his own emotions assisting him to further understand those fundamental needs that he is attempting to fulfill through his exploration of Speculative Freemasonry.

So next time that you are discussing Freemasonry with a potential candidate or sitting on an Investigation committee, this could be something quite useful to consider. If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to let me know or take a look at Bro. Hrinko's website, [www.craftdrivenloge.com](http://www.craftdrivenloge.com).

Fraternally yours,  
Charles Weikel  
Worshipful Master  
University Lodge #631



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Sunday, June 10, 2018</b>	Ohio Masonic Home Day is Sunday, June 10, 2018, in Springfield. <a href="http://www.ohiomasonichome.org/ohio-masonic-home-day/">http://www.ohiomasonichome.org/ohio-masonic-home-day/</a>
<b>Friday, June 22, 2018</b>	The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 22, 2018, at The Jesse Owens Sports Complex on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Masons in aprons will lead off the parade at the ceremonies. Be there at around 5:30pm and bring your apron.
<b>Monday, June 25, 2018</b>	Fellowcraft Club baseball outing with the Columbus Clippers on June 25. This is dime-a-dog night. Contact Bob Giesseman <a href="mailto:univ631@gmail.com">univ631@gmail.com</a> or Rob Hance <a href="mailto:rhance@att.net">rhance@att.net</a> to sign up.
<b>Saturday, July 7, 2018</b>	The MS ride is Saturday, July 7th. The stop info: Jerome Township Hall, 9777 Industrial Parkway Plain City, OH Times: 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Contact Craig Lobdell <a href="mailto:clobdellms@gmail.com">clobdellms@gmail.com</a> to sign up.
<b>Saturday, May 12, 2018</b>	The 2018 University Lodge Golf Outing at The York Golf Club is set for Saturday May 12, 2018. It will be a shotgun start, time not set yet. Get your teams together now and let Rob Hance know by sending him an e-Mail to <a href="mailto:rhance@att.net">rhance@att.net</a> or Bob Giesseman at <a href="mailto:univ631@gmail.com">univ631@gmail.com</a> .
<b>Friday &amp; Saturday October 12 &amp; 13, 2018</b>	The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will be held October 12 & 13, 2018 at the Kalahari Resort & Conference Center in Sandusky. A packet of information will be sent to each Lodge Secretary in May.

## ABE LINCOLN'S AX

by Jim Tresner, Editor, Oklahoma Mason

The story is told of a historian recording folk history in Illinois in the 1970s. Several people in the countryside had told him of a farm family, which had the ax Abraham Lincoln used when splitting logs for a living as a young man.

The historian finally located the farm, and found the farmer in the yard splitting wood for a living room fireplace. He asked him about the story.

"Yes," said the farmer, "It's true. Abe Lincoln lived around here as a young man and he worked for a while splitting wood for my great-great-grandfather. Happened he'd bought a new ax from a peddler the day before Abe Lincoln came to work here, and he gave it to Lincoln to use. We've kept it ever since."

"That's a real historical treasure," said the historian. "It really ought to be in a museum. Would you mind going into the house and bringing it out so I could see it?"

"Oh, we know it's important," said the farmer. "I take it to the school from time to time and tell the kids about it and Lincoln. Seems to sorta make him real for them. But I don't have to go into the house, I've got it right here."

He handed the horrified historian the ax he had been using. "You mean you're still using it?"

"Sure thing, an ax is meant to be used."

The historian looked it over carefully. "I must say, your family has certainly taken good care of it."

"Sure, we know we're protecting history. Why, we've replaced the handle twice and the head once."

In many ways, Masonry is like Abe Lincoln's ax. All of us tend to assume that Masonry has always been the way it was when we joined. We have become fiercely protective of it in that form. In fact, we've done more than replace the handle twice and the head once.

For example, when Brothers George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere (and other Masons of their era and for decades to come) joined the fraternity, they did not demonstrate proficiency by memorizing categorical lectures.

Instead, the same evening they received a degree they sat around a table with other brethren of the lodge and asked each other questions and answered them for the instruction of the new Brother. They asked him questions and helped him with the answers.

The discussion continued until they were confident that he understood the lessons of the degree. They then taught him the signs and tokens, and he was proficient. In many-cases, he took the next degree the next night.

The custom of allowing 28 days to pass between degrees came about for no other reason than the fact that most lodges met every 28 days, on the nights of the full moon.

There was no mystery behind that, very few horses come equipped with headlights, and only on nights of a full moon could people see well enough to leave their homes in the country and come into town for a meeting safely.

As to other changes, for instance, the names of the three ruffians have changed at least three times since the Master Mason Degree was created around 1727.

More importantly, the nature and purpose of the fraternity has changed radically over time. It certainly is no longer a protective trade association, nor a political force amounting almost to a political party, but it has been those over its long history.

So, yes, Masonry changes. It changes fairly frequently and sometimes dramatically. Far from being a bastion of conservative resistance to fostering revolutions in political life (the American revolution, for example) and social life. It created homes for the elderly and orphanages, and then worked for the sort of social legislation to make those widespread. It sought economic development for states and communities. Until the late 1940s and 50s, it was one of the most potent forces for change in America.

And Masonry is like Abe Lincoln's ax in another way. For, although the handle and head had been replaced, that ax was still used by the Abe Lincoln in truth if not in fact.

The farmer used the ax to teach. He told children about it

and about Abe Lincoln. He helped make the past real to them so that they could learn the great values of honesty and hard work, which Lincoln typified so well.

It's the same with Masonry. In spite of the many changes which have already happened and the changes which are bound to happen in the future (Masonry, like any living thing, must change and grow, or die) it is still the same.

It's essence -- the lessons it teaches, the difference it makes in the lives of men, that great moment of transformation which is the goal of Masonry, when a man becomes something new and better than he was when he came in the door as a candidate -- the essence cannot and will not be lost, as long as Brothers are meeting in the true Masonic spirit; to work and learn and study and improve themselves and the world.

That's Masonry, and like Abe Lincoln's ax, it was meant to be used, not to rust away in a museum case. That use keeps it bright and sharp and Masonic, no matter how often the handle and head need to be replaced.

**REMINDER:** Please make sure your family knows where you keep your white lambskin, and that you are entitled to a Masonic funeral at your passing. A Masonic funeral is our way of bidding farewell and offering condolences, hope, and sympathy to your family. It does not conflict with, or replace, any funeral observances of your faith, and is yours and your family's for the asking. You can contact the Lodge directly (614) 792-6311 or ask your funeral director to make the arrangements.

Spring jackets now also available for sale! Contact Bob Giesseman [univ631@gmail.com](mailto:univ631@gmail.com) to place your order!

## Order your Lodge Golf Shirts Now!

In response to overwhelming popular demand, we are making embroidered golf shirts available to our members.

The cost is \$45 each, and they are available in either Royal Blue or White.

If you would like to place an order, please let us know which Lodge name you would like, how many shirts you would like, color and size of each required. You'll be able to pay for and pickup your order in the Lodge at a stated meeting.

Please contact Ed Badger at (614) 906-5621; [ewbadger@gmail.com](mailto:ewbadger@gmail.com); or Bob Giesseman at (614) 792-6311; [univ631@gmail.com](mailto:univ631@gmail.com).

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**UNIVERSITY LODGE #631 F. & A. M.**

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
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**Psalms 133**

Verse 1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Verse 2: *It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;*

Verse 3: *As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life forever more."*

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**Looking for more information?**



The Grand Lodge of Ohio  
[www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com)

14th Masonic District



[www.14thmasonicdistrict.org](http://www.14thmasonicdistrict.org)

Fourteenth District  
Masonic Officers Association,  
F. & A. M. of Ohio  
[www.14thmasonicdistrict.org](http://www.14thmasonicdistrict.org)



York Rite Freemasonry:  
USA & International  
[www.yorkrite.org](http://www.yorkrite.org)



Grand Encampment of  
Knights Templar, USA  
[www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org)



Scottish Rite Freemasonry,  
Valley of Columbus  
[www.valleyofcolumbus.com](http://www.valleyofcolumbus.com)



Supreme Council, 33°, A. A. S. R.,  
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction  
[www.scottishritenmj.org](http://www.scottishritenmj.org)



Aladdin Shrines  
[www.aladdinshrine.org](http://www.aladdinshrine.org)



**CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have a new address, telephone number, or an email address, your Lodge would like to know about it! Less than a third of our members have their phone numbers or email addresses in our records, and it makes it difficult to communicate with you if we can't find you!



So, PLEASE send an email to your Secretary with your name, any address changes, your preferred telephone number, and preferred email address.



We'll keep your information confidential, and use it only to communicate with you about things of Masonic interest.



We hope to hear from you soon.

**These Member Benefits are available, see:**  
<http://www.freemason.com/member-benefits>

- AFLAC Supplemental Health Insurance
- Automated Calling Services
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