

Yuma Lodge
No. 17, F&AM



January/February
Volume 18, Issue 01

TRESTLEBOARD

VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Michael Kofta, Worshipful Master

Brothers,

I pray that the Great Architect of The Universe continues to bless you and your families. This is my first “VIEW FROM THE EAST”, at least on this time around. I would like to thank all of the brethren for making this a special year, and challenge you all to help make next year even better.

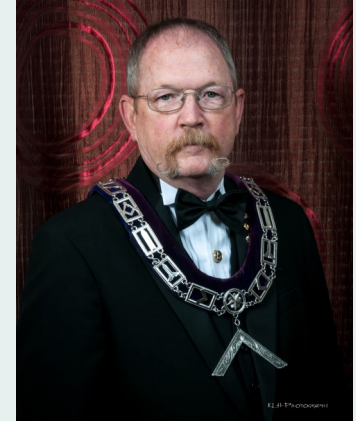
We had a fairly large attendance for our recent stated meeting and have seen an increase in the attendance at our degree nights as well. This is not just due to our winter visitors from the North as we are getting visitors from as far away as New Zealand!

Let us endeavor to continue to make all of our meetings a special occasion for all and come to show support for our new members joining our fraternity, those advancing in the craft and the Brothers doing the ritual work as well. For our committees, if you have any unique talents or would just like to help out with any of our many committees, please let someone know. Some of the positions only take a few minutes per week or month to complete and can have lasting results.

The Annual Barbeque is coming up fast and we can use a lot of help to ensure that it goes without a hitch. WB Mikel has been doing an excellent job in running this committee! But it takes all of us to make it really special and increase our presence in the community.

There are still jugs for donations to “paint the building” on the stage and near the display case on the second floor, every little bit can help. “Bikes for Books” can also use your charitable donations to sustain the program. If anyone has any additional ideas for fund raisers for these or any other project or program, please let them be known.

***Congratulations to Worshipful Brother Michael Dale
Mason of the Year***



STATED MEETINGS

Second Thursday of each month,
September through June.

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm

REGULAR MEETINGS

Degree work most every
Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Call (928) 783-7993 or visit
www.yumalodge17.org for
schedule.

OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503-4356 for an
appointment.

TRESTLEBOARD

Published bi-monthly.

**Article submissions are due
on the 15th of each even-
numbered month.**

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WHERE'S YOUR MANNERS?

BY JOHN BIZZACK, PH.D.

Did your mother ever tell you to "mind your manners?" Did you ever have anyone tell you what manners you are supposed to mind? Are you mindful of them?

Should you correct someone who has bad manners? You'll want to stop and ask yourself these questions if you plan to become, or think you are a Freemason.

You can learn to understand the meaning of the three degrees of Masonry and interpret them accordingly. You can become a spell-binding ritualist. You can, once a Master Mason tell everyone in the world about your membership, wear lapel pins, and place Masonic decals all over your car if you choose. You can read, diligently study Masonic history and philosophies, and genuinely integrate the principles of the Craft into your daily life, thus make great strides in advancing your Masonic knowledge as charged when you were initiated as an Entered Apprentice. However, if you do not have and practice fundamental manners, follow prescribed protocol and genuinely understand the importance of etiquette in Freemasonry, much less society in general, you are not going to be much of a Mason.

At the root of our Masonic foundation is civility. Without it, Freemasonry is far from the Craft, much less fraternity, it is intended to be. Men who practice only parts of our Masonic system- especially those who leave out the civility, manners and adherence to protocol parts, are merely members of the institution.

Can you think of a time in your life – no, instead ask this: can you think of a time in history that good manners were inappropriate? Of course not. There may a time you think good manners were not required, which is also difficult to believe, but there is no time that good manners are inappropriate. And remember: good manners involve more than "please" and "thank you."

We size up people by appearance, the words they speak, and their manners. Yes, even Freemasons do that whether we want to acknowledge it or not. We strive to practice the great principle of tolerance, and sometimes even Masons think it's supposed to mean we are tolerant of all things that are inappropriate that a brother might do aside from trespassing against our rules and regulations. Well, failing to use good manners and adhere to our protocols and etiquette is a trespass against the fraternity.

Tolerance in Freemasonry refers to opinion, not a man's dress or his manner of practice of the Craft, at least as long as that practice is within the confines of our respective Constitutions.

We more often than not think tolerance has to do only with being accepting of another man's religious or political beliefs, when in fact it has to do with being accepting of other men, regardless of their opinion on any matter – at least those matters that are within the Constitutions that govern us as Masons and the obligations we take.

Should we be tolerant of ill-mannered men? Should we be tolerant of men who fail to regularly exercise the prescribed protocol and etiquette of our Craft? Are we not also charged with the responsibility to "whisper wise counsel" to a brother when it is appropriate?

Masons aren't told to police other Masons in all ways, but they are instructed to judge with candor, admonish with friendship and reprehend with justice when it comes to a violation or trespass. We can and should certainly do the same when it comes to a lack of manners.

Now, we would all like to think that the West Gate is guarded so effectively than men without manners are never permitted to knock on the door. After all, an ill-mannered candidate would not be duly and truly prepared in the correct sense of that term should he come into the Craft practicing uncivilized behavior. That would be a sign he was far from understanding the solemnity of the great and important undertaking on which he was about to embark.

Does it still happen? Yes.

Can it be corrected? Yes.

Should we always make a focused effort to correct it early and consistently? Yes.

Are there objections to this common sense? Yes.

MANNERS

FROM PAGE 2

The objections usually come from those who think they already have manners, but don't.

Considered this: is it mannerly to do any of the following?

- Talk in lodge?
- Pass notes in lodge?
- Read your texts and emails in lodge?
- Take or make a phone call in lodge?
- Chew tobacco in lodge – and spit?
- Clip your fingernails during ritual?
- Chew ice from your cup in lodge?
- Pick your teeth in lodge?
- Sleep in lodge?
- Walk between the altar and the Master in lodge?
- Fail to give the sign of the degree in a non-perfunctory manner when called upon by the Master?
- Walk around during lodge?
- Enter lodge without an apron?
- Use profanity when speaking before brothers in lodge?
- Dress in a disrespectful or insolent manner in lodge?
- Chew, blow bubbles, and snap gum in lodge?
- Interrupt during ritual?
- Fail to obey the gavel in lodge?
- Take off your shoes in lodge?
- Horseplay or engage in rowdy behavior during lodge?
- Slouch in your chair as if you were preparing for a long nap?

Does behavior like this happen in all lodges? No. Has behavior like this ever happened in lodge? Yes. Should they occur at all? No. Is it bad manners when they do occur? Yes. Who is responsible for correcting it? Every brother, but particularly the Master who is responsible for giving instruction during the lodge should this conduct occur.

Obviously, this list can be extended tenfold, but the point should be clear. Everything on this particular list ties back in to manners. Doing anything on this list in lodge is a breach of good manners, and shows either an unawareness of appropriate Masonic protocol or demonstrates a flagrant disregard for proper etiquette in lodge.

With civility underpinning our core ideologies in Masonry, how did we ever drift so far from what was once a fraternity that held high the values of basic manners and the art of being a gentleman?

We could examine this question in detail and add hundreds of pages to this paper, but that is not the intent. We know society has changed and with those changes there is less of a premium placed on manners today than has been in the past.

We could explore all the sociological reasons and look at parenting styles, or lack thereof, and add our schools to the list along with growing technology that contributes to watering down our language and abilities to have meaningful face-to-face communications. We could even point a finger to Hollywood, books and pop culture and not be too far off the mark. If we really want to look further into those things that lead to a decline in manners and etiquette, all we have to do is take an honest look at social media like Facebook and Twitter. Their explosion in popularity, thus encouragement of hypervisibility has gone beyond reconnecting with old high school friends, renewing acquaintances, and posting photos to share with grandparents. Social media ushered in an age of digital narcissism for many, and contributes to lax and slipshod writing, and a diminished ability for eloquent expression.

The intent of this paper is to point out that men who come into the fraternity today are expected to recognize what being a gentleman entails, and to practice all aspects of being a gentleman in and outside lodge. If they don't recognize the importance, and still get past the West Gate, then gentlemanly conduct needs to be taught directly and through example. The use of good manners needs to be demanded and enforced.

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Donate online at:
YumaLodge17.org

Yuma Lodge No. 17

Stated Meetings: Second Thursday at 7:30 pm preceded by dinner at 6:30.

Degree Work: Most every Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Trustees' Meetings: First Tuesday at 6:00 pm. Lodge members welcome.

York Rite Bodies

Stated Meetings: First Monday at 7:30 pm.

Practice: Third Monday at 7:30.

Order of the Eastern Star

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 pm preceded by dinner at 6:00.








Yuma Shrine Club

Meetings: Second Monday at 7:00 pm.

Yuma Shrine Ladies Lunch









Third Tuesday at 11:30 am.
Call Betsy Ramirez (928) 210-8740 or Shirley Hettervik (928) 210-0717 for location.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2  Trustee	3	4	5	6
7	8 	9 	10	11  Stated	12	13
14	15 	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

***Masonic Barbeque
Sunday, February 18th, 11 am to 3 pm.***

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 	6  Trustee	7	8  Stated	9	10
11	12 	13 	14	15	16	17
18  BBQ	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 	28			

The History of Freemasonry

From The George Washington Masonic National Memorial

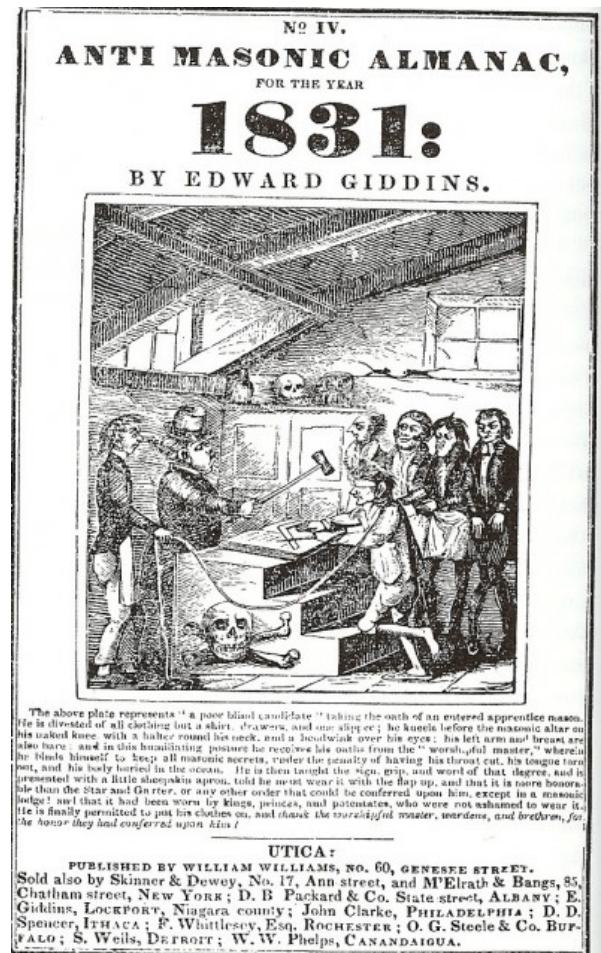
Anti-Masonic Period 1825-1850

By 1825, the United States government was firmly established and Freemasons had played a recognized role in this process. But unlike the federal government, Freemasonry's lack of national authority left it vulnerable to innovations, immigrations and attacks.

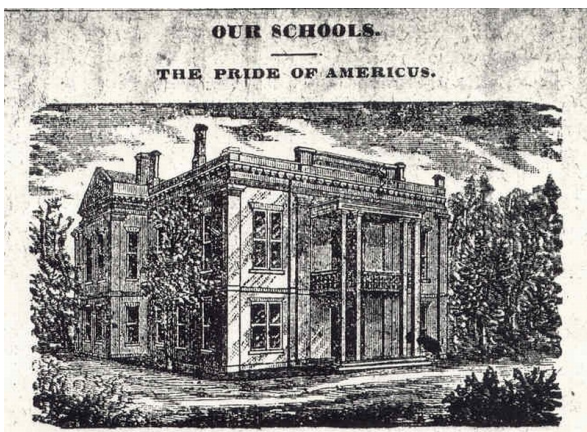
The innovations were new Masonic initiation rituals. Freemasonry consists of three degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason. By 1800, however, four additional Royal Arch degrees were being conferred in separate chapters with state grand chapters organizing into a confederation. These innovations encouraged European immigrants to perpetuate and peddle new Masonic initiations. As a result, membership in Freemasonry grew rapidly in the early 1800s. However, that would soon change.

In 1826, William Morgan promised to publish Freemasonry's secrets. Allegedly, a group of Masons kidnapped Morgan, after failing to stop him with threats. He was never seen again. His disappearance was instrumental in the formation of the Anti-Masonic Political Party. Incited by politicians and preachers, opponents accused Freemasons of being part of an evil, international conspiracy to destroy America's freedom. As a consequence, Freemasons suffered persecution as town officials forced their Lodges to close, churches banished them, and neighbors shunned them.

The anti-Masonic hysteria was over by 1842, and Freemasonry began to renew itself. A main reason for its revival was a return to the basic teachings of Freemasonry by enlightened individuals settling on the frontier. As they improved the land and founded towns, they improved their manners and minds. Through Freemasonry, generations of pioneers learned about classical education while practicing etiquette and proper diction. Many local and Grand Lodges began libraries and, in the spirit of Benjamin Franklin, to lend books and to educate their brethren.



Pictured above is the cover of an anti-Masonic almanac from 1831. The woodcut on this almanac's cover highlights the central role the press played in spreading the fear of Freemasons.



Furlow Masonic Female College, Americus, GA; founded 1859



Masonic College, Lexington, Missouri, ca. 1860



Masonic Anniversaries

When you became a Master Mason



JANUARY

Donald Beaton
 Ernest Cunningham
 Vernon Dugan
 Carl Greenwell
 David Johnson
 Mark Jones
 David McBride
 Mark Melton
 John Mullins

Wilbert Orem
 Menelaos Patsiouras
 Robert Payne
 Maurice Peters
 Jacky Pettigrew
 Philip Schrier
 Gary Stigall
 William Treherne
 Leon Wilmot

FEBRUARY

John Alguire
 John Armour
 Jesus Barraza
 Chris Dempsey
 James Dennis
 Randall Gaetz
 Robert Gordon
 Glen Harris

Harold Hawes
 Norman Hill
 Robert Lehl
 Kelly McDowell
 Freeman Mitchell
 Richard Ruzanka
 Daniel Weedle
 Mikel White



The officers and members of the Yuma Chapter 14 of the Order of the Eastern Star cordially invites all members of the order to attend meetings each 2nd and 4th Tuesday, September through June. A light dinner is served at 6 pm with the meeting at 7 pm.

Prospective members may inquire by calling Quaid Smith at
 928-920-3659

928-342-5060
 Cell 928-503-3332
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Jack Puckett

Budget

Worshipful Master

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Cemetery

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

Facilities Maintenance

Michael A. Dale, PM

Funeral

Mikel K. White, PM

Grievance

Michael A. Dale, PM

Library/Archives

Mikel K. White, PM

Masonic Education & Ritual

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

Timothy Williams, PM

Michael A. Dale, PM

Masonic Relief

Worshipful Master

Master's Advisory

Michael A. Dale, PM

Jack A. Frost, PM

David McHone, PM

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

Timothy W. Williams, PM

Scholarship

Sean R. Godfrey, SD

Wives, Widows & Orphans

Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

Jerry Leckrone, PM

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Candidate Instruction

Quaid Smith, PM, KYGCH

Officer Instruction

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

FUNDRAISING

Barbeque

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

Balloon Glow

Dale Kreger, PM

Raffle & Other Venues

TBD

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bikes for Books

David McHone, PM

Roadside Clean-up

Michael A. Dale, WM

Law Enforcement Memorial

Michael A. Kofta, WM

MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS/ FRATERNAL SUPPORT

Birthday Cards

Benjamin T. Hinderer

Facebook

Michael McLaughlin

Mason of the Year

SW & JW

Membership Participation/Retention

Worshipful Master

Sickness and Distress

Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

Telephone Calling

Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

Trestleboard

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Timothy Williams, PM, Printing

Jerry I. Leckrone, PM, Distribution

Website

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Return Service Requested

Annual Masonic Barbeque

Tri Tip Dinner

\$12 donation



Sunday, February 18th

Yuma Civic Center

11 am to 3 pm

Craft & Vendor Booths