

Anchor Lodge No. 7 A.F. & A.M.

Trestle Board

Chartered December 8, 1886

Buffalo Wyoming



Exciting Times At Anchor Lodge

What an exciting time it is to be a Mason in Anchor Lodge. Over the past several months we have celebrated many accomplishments.

Since the beginning of the new year we have celebrated half century Masonic birthdays for Brothers Ray Clark, Dugal Dickerson, Wally Ramsbottom, Richard Reimann, Ed Chabo, Ken Penwell, Gerry Carroll, Gene Snider, Robert Holt, Arthur Burnett, Richard Suhr, and John "Kelly" McBride.

We have also discovered that Brother Clair Robinson has achieved an amazing 60 years of Masonic service.

If you were not in attendance, we have put on two 50 Year ceremonies in the past two months. These events are open to wives, family and friends. The ceremony celebrates a life time of Masonic labor and dedication. Thank you to all those Brothers who have been a credit to our fraternity for so long.

As we have celebrated with these special Brothers we have also welcomed many long time Brothers back to Lodge. At one of our February meetings we had 19 members of Anchor lodge in attendance, along with our wives, families, and several guests from Sheridan Lodge No. 8 and Big Horn Mountain Lodge No. 43 in Sheridan as well as the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of Wyoming A. F. & A. M., Thomas Nance.

For me personally, the last two months have been especially fulfilling. I have been the proficiency coach to our newest Mason Dave Chaney. The experience of bringing a new Mason into the lodge has given me the opportunity to make a new friend, and a new Brother.

However, it has also provided me with an opportunity to read about, think about and critically analyze the ceremonies and rituals of initia



(Above: Richard Reimann receiving his 50 year pin)

tion and passing. On March 12th, we will be initiating another new Mason. If you have not had the opportunity to be a coach, I highly recommend it.

As well, on March 19th, we will be putting on the Master Mason degree for Brother Chaney. I would like to encourage you all to come out and enjoy some of the great degree work the Lodge is putting on.

One final note of interest, on April 16th we will have an officer "move-up" night.

- M.J. Ramey

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Items of Special Note

Fifty Year Member:
Richard Reimann
Sixty Year Member
Clair Robinson

About Anchor Lodge No. 7

At 120 years old, Anchor Lodge No. 7 has met in Buffalo Wyoming since it was issued dispensation on November 8, 1885. Just over a year later on December 8, 1886 the lodge was granted its charter.

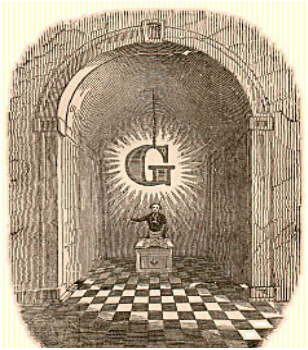
Anchor Lodge No. 7 currently meets in the Odd Fellows Hall on Cedar Street.

Our regular communications are held at 7:30 pm on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Special Communications

Monday Mar. 12th
Regular Communications
Monday Mar. 5th & 19th
Monday April 2nd & 16th
Monday May. 7th & 21st
Monday June 4th & 18th

From The East



The Middle Chamber:
Reprinted from Illustrated History and Cylopedia of Freemasonry Robert Macoy. Masonic Publishing Co., New York: 1896. Illustr. On p. 585

“I have a challenge for each member...I am sure each of you know at least one man with whom you would like to sit in lodge”

If you missed the meetings and/or our special events you missed some joyous times. Beginning with the Christmas party for the youngsters. The look on their little faces was priceless when they saw Santa. There was quite a line waiting, and one little girl at the head of the line thought brother Ramsbottom was going to “crowd” in. She looked him right in the eye and said quite vehemently, “I’M NEXT!!”

The tribute the lodge made in the presentation of four fifty year pins, to me, was as much an honor as it was to them, in that these sublime events took place during my year as master of Anchor Lodge No. 7.

All the other events of the year have been successful, and I am

sure everything planned for the rest of the year will be just as well received.

These things are being accomplished only through the dedicated efforts of the officers of the lodge of whom I have been blessed to have in my line this year. Ideas were conceived, I gave my okay and they ran with them.

I have been a Mason for many years, and I can truthfully say, that I have never before been associated with men or masons who are as dedicated to building a Masonic lodge to be proud of, and I thank them and all of you, who have made my year a wondrous chapter in my life, from the bottom of my heart.

In closing, I have a challenge for each member of Anchor Lodge No. 7.

I am sure each of you know at least one man with whom you would like to sit in lodge with. Hand him a petition and tell him about us, and invite him to one of our social functions. Say, possibly our corned beef and cabbage dinner planned for ladies night (March 5th at 6:00 p.m.), it will be our pleasure to welcome you and them, and remember, there is no charge.

Fraternally, and w/brotherly love and affection

Dale Sain,
Worshipful Master
Anchor Lodge No. 7

Masonic Education From The West

Brethren, what a year Anchor Lodge No. 7 is having. We have just completed the Fellow Craft Degree on a new Mason. Brother Dave Chaney has completed his proficiency and will be raised as a Master Mason on March 19th at 6:00 pm.

We will also be initiating a new Entered Apprentice on March 12th at 6:00 pm. Please come out and help us even if you only come as an observer. I have heard that we have at least two more men out there that have a desire to become Masons.

I would also like to thank one of our new Masons for his

work and involvement in the Lodge. Our Historian Brother Ron Williams also makes a great Santa Claus and all the kids loved him.

He is trying to put together a photo album of lodge activities. Once he has it together, he plans on making it available at the lodge for everyone to see. If you have any photos (Past or present) you would like to include let Brother Ron know. Please try to have dates, places and names if possible.

We have had some instructional practice for the benefit of the new Masons. Brother Denny Hougard and

I have provided the instruction. This has been well received by all who have participated.

We find out where we need to do a little more work. I think it has been great that all Masons in this lodge are quick to contribute to the instruction. It helps us all become better Masons.

I hope to see more of you in Lodge.

Fraternally,

Jim Sturdevant
Senior Warden
Anchor Lodge No. 7



Illustrated History and Cylopedia of Freemasonry Robert Macoy . Masonic Publishing Co.

Calendar: Meetings and Events

March 2007:

Monday 5th: Regular Communication - **6:30 P.M.** (Note Time)

- St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- Ladies Night (Family & Friends Welcome)

Monday 10th: **(Special Communication)**

- Johnson County Health Fair: Pass out DNA kits

Monday 12th: **(Special Communication) - 6:00 P.M.**

- Entered Apprentice Degree

Monday 19th: Regular Communication - **6:00 P.M.** (Note Time)

- Master Mason Degree

April 2007:

Monday 2nd: Regular Communication - **6:00 P.M.** (Note Time)

- Fellow Craft Degree

Monday 16th: Regular Communication

- Officer Move Up Night
- Election of:
 - Mason of The Year
 - Citizen of The Year

May 2007:

Monday 7th: Regular Communication

- Election of Officers

Monday 21st: Regular Communication - **6:00 P.M.** (Note Time)

- Master Mason Degree

June 2007:

Monday 4th: Regular Communication - **6:30 P.M. (Note Time)**

- Chili Supper (Family & Friends)
- Installation of Lodge Officers (Open Ceremony)

Monday 18: Regular Communication

- Open Lodge of Sorrows
- Flag Day Ceremony
- Lodge Goes Dark for Summer

State Calendar of Events

March 2007:

Sat. 3rd: York Rite Festival

- Sheridan

Fri. 30th - Sat. 31st: Scottish Rite Spring Reunion:

- Sheridan Valley

By The Work You Did Today

By: Charles L. Mead 33°

Can you say tonight in parting
With the day that's slipping past
That you helped a single brother
Of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing
Over what you did and said?
Does the man whose hopes were fading,
Now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or lose it,
Was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness,
Or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber,
Do you think God will say,
You have earned one more tomorrow,
By the work you did today

Special Thanks From The East

My sincerest thanks and gratitude go out to three very special ladies, for their contributions and labors in making our social events so special, and most certainly thank you for putting up with us.

Mae Dean, Debbie Sturdivant, and Lisa Ramey... You ladies will always have a special place in my heart as well I am sure in the hearts of all the officers of Anchor Lodge.

Sincerely,

Dale Sain
Worshipful Master

Masonic Trivia

Many of you may know that the first known Masonic meeting in Wyoming took place at Independence Rock on July 4th, 1862. However, do you know the name of the Mason that presided over that first meeting?

Asa L. Brown served as Master of that first communication. Brother Brown later presented the Grand lodge with the Bible and cardboard cut-out, square and compasses used on that first altar. The square and compass have since been destroyed by fire. However, the bible still exists as a treasured possession of Wyoming Masonry.

Sickness & Passing

It is with sorrow for the loss of a Brother that we add this section to the Trestleboard.

On February 23, 2007 Brother Marshall Knowles Herman Jr. traveled to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

He graduated from JCHS in 1954 and Casper College in 1957. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1959. In 1962 he graduated

from Montana State University.

Brother Hermann was the Master of Anchor Lodge No. 7 in 1972.

Also, in 1972 he married Carol Anne Shambaugh. The couple made their home in Johnson county. Throughout his life Brother Hermann worked at various ranches and livestock companies across the county.

In 2003 he retired from the Johnson

County Fairground due to ill health.

Along with his Blue Lodge work, Marshall was active in the Scottish Rite, Kalif Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star and the International Order of Jobs Daughters.

He was also a past president of the Johnson County 4-H council.

Past Master Hermann was laid to rest on Tuesday, February 27th 2007.

A Candle Lit Night...Now and Then

It's Friday February 23rd 2007 at 8:00 pm. Here on the Tisdale divide, south of Buffalo a cold Wyoming wind is howling around the eaves of the house, the snow is blowing and the electric is out. I am sipping a hot cup of coffee by candle light. In truth, I am also typing while the battery on my laptop is still charged. My sweetheart just wrapped a blanket around my shoulders to chase the chill out of my bones, as I went across the draw to check on my parents when we lost the lights.

The strange calm that has settled over a normally rambunctious house sends my mind drifting back to memories of my grandpa telling stories about earlier, simpler times. However, my contemplations quickly move to those early days in Anchor Lodge No. 7 which received dispensation on in 1885 and was granted its charter one year later on December 8th 1886. Men.... good men, have gathered in Buffalo ever since.

I can imagine those early days of snow, wind and candle lit lodge rooms. Can you picture the darkened lodge lit only by candle light, three

burning tapers, in a triangular position about an altar.

Who was that first man to be initiated as an Entered Apprentice, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason? How precious those rituals must have been. How exciting those times surely were, Master Masons building that first lodge, that Anchor of Freemasonry in Buffalo. An Anchor of morality, friendship and brotherly love, built by men and Masons. These most excellent tenants found in the lodge building first existed in the hearts of men, Masons dedicated to the betterment of both themselves and their fellow man.

Who raised those first new Master Masons?

Eugene Mathers... The first Worshipful Master of Anchor Lodge No. 7.

Eugene's parents were Sally Amelia Deming and Jedediah Peck Mather. The family of six sisters and two brothers moved from Pennsylvania in 1856. For six months they remained in Chicago and Eugene attended public school. Their next home was in Jonesville, Indiana for the next

nine months, then to Missouri then Kansas until 1860. During this period his father decided to grasp an unusual opportunity by moving to Council Grove, Kansas and building a grist mill and a saw mill. Eugene was a boy of about 13 and grew up helping his father and learning much about business practices and handling of mules, horses and oxen.

He attended Normal School at Emporia. He hauled sawmill equipment into Augusta in 1868 where he later went into the lumber business and met his future wife, Miss Mary Alice Pomeroy, who was attending school there. In May 1876 he went to Silverton, Colorado where he and his good friend George Munkers hauled the first blast furnace into Silverton presumably from Denver with their three 4-mule teams. They were in the freighting business for the next few years, taking several government contracts.

He married Mary Alice Pomeroy November 12, 1880 at her home on the ranch on the Fontenelle in Wyoming. They went to live in Alamosa, CO. where their son, Alvin was born. He later hauled freight into Buffalo, Wyo-

ming from Rock Creek on the U.P.R.R. a distance of 320 miles. His wife and son joined him at Buffalo in 1882 where they lived the remaining years of their lives. During those years he engaged in the hardware business, was appointed the first Receiver for Johnson County, started the Munkers and Mather cattle ranch, was the first Master of Anchor Lodge No. 7 A.F. & A. M. 1885-87.

His ceremonial sword can be seen in the Jim Gatchell Museum. He died May 4, 1935 at the home of his daughter, Inez Mather Kube. He was engaged in the freighting business during the years of 1882 to 1888. Robert Foot opened the first store in Buffalo

in 1882 and the first stock of goods was brought by wagons by George W. Munkers and Eugene B. Mather, presumably from Rock Creek. In 1891 he purchased the Hardware store of C. P. Organ Co. which he operated for 12 years (to 1903). Early in 1893 Munkers and Mather was selling coal from their mine just a few miles East of Buffalo for \$3.50 per ton.

In the fall of 1906 a fire started in one of the galleries of the mine. Fifty men worked hard to seal off the burning area with temporary barriers of wet sawdust and straw backed by a brick wall to keep air from the fire. After two weeks they succeeded.

It was pioneering spirits such as Brother Mathers that laid the foundation of Freemasonry in our community. Over the next several Trestleboards we will spotlight various brothers from the archives of Anchor Lodge No. 7 including those who met by candle light and braved the blowing wind, rain and snow those many years ago as well as those who waited for the lights to come back on this cold and blowing night in February, 2007.

- M.J. Ramey

(The above information pertaining to Eugene Mathers has been provided by the Jim Gatchell Museum and a website developed by family members descended from Eugene and Alice Mathers.)

Freemasonry in Popular Culture...& The MSANA

As we have talked about in lodge over the past several months, our fraternity has been portrayed publicly in a positive manner over the past year. The following excerpt from the Masonic Information Center's Vol. 85, No. 2, 2006 Report released in February, 2007 discusses just a few of the means in which Freemasonry has been portrayed, positively in recent popular culture.

A new book, *The Book of Fate* by Brad Meltzer; a TV series, *Vanished*, which appeared on the Fox Network; the movie version of *The Da Vinci Code*; and possible sequel to the movie *National Treasure* all portray Freemasonry in a positive if sometimes misleading way. Many plotlines still de-

pic the fraternity as guarding an enormous, monetary treasure or the Holy Grail.

The Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) was formed in 1919 to provide services to its member Grand Lodges that they would otherwise find difficult to provide for themselves. Thus the national voice that the MSA has is dedicated to the Service of the Masonic community.

The primary functions and activities of the MSANA are:

- **Disaster Relief** - since 1923 the MSA has collected and forwarded funds for disasters around the world.
- **Education/Information Publications** - the MSA has a free catalog of

publications, bulletins and other materials available.

- **Masonic Information Center** - to provide information on Freemasonry to Masons and non-Masons alike and to respond to critics of Freemasonry.
- **Hospital Visitation Program** - provides assistance and service to our sick or wounded veterans.
- **Service** - The Masonic Service Association of North America is a servant of Freemasonry. Formed of and supported by Grand Lodges, it is a voice that they can move to action, that the great heart of the Fraternity be made manifest and that the will of a united Craft may be done.

The Masonic Service Association's Website is: <http://www.msana.com/>

Don't Forget...

Brothers, don't forget. On Monday April 16th, we will be voting on both the citizen and Mason of the year.

Last year Mark Wilson, the owner of IGA was our citizen of the year. Join us in Lodge on the 16th and help

choose this years honoree. This is a great opportunity for the Lodge to interact with the community.

Anchor Lodge No. 7 In Pictures

This area of the Trestleboard will be dedicated to sharing our activities and events with you in picture.



At Left: On February 19th, 2007 Brother Richard Reimann received his 50 year pin.

Pictured from L to R: Worshipful Master Dale Sain, Mrs Reimann, Richard Reimann, Senior Warden Jim Sturdevant, and Junior Warden Denny Hougard.



Above: On January 15th, 2007 Anchor Lodge held a 50 Year Ceremony. Pictured from L to R: Denny Hougard (who presided over the ceremony), Ray Clark, Wally Ramsbottom, and Dugal Dickerson.

After the ceremony, the lodge gathered downstairs for some absolutely outstanding deserts made by the ladies.



Above: On December 18th, 2006 Anchor Lodge held the first annual Community Children's Christmas party. The star of the evening was Santa Claus, who was outstandingly portrayed by Lodge Historian Ron Williams.

Pictured from L to R: Worshipful Master Dale Sain, Senior Deacon Matthew Ramey, Ron Williams (Santa Claus) and Senior Warden Jim Studevant.

Also pictured are Candace and Elizabeth "lizzy" White. Two of our Christmas party angels.

Anchor Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master: Dale Sain	307-674-0494
Senior Warden: Jim Studevant	307-672-8391
Junior Warden: Dave Guyton	307-684-5419
Secretary: Ron McPhee	307-684-5373
Chaplin: Kit Carson	307-674-6751
Senior Deacon: Matthew Ramey	307-684-8932
Junior Deacon: Ray Clark	307-684-2867
Marshall: Denny Hougard	307-684-7545
Treasurer: Wally Ramsbottom	307-684-2435
Senior Steward: Robert Wagner	
Junior Steward: Ephraim Moore	307-684-9300
Tyler: Al Benton	



The Lamb Skin

By Edgar A. Guest

It is not ornamental, the cost is not great,

There are other things far more useful, yet truly I
state,

Tho of all my possessions, there's none can compare,
With that white leather apron, which all Masons wear.

As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant,
When Dad hustled around, and so much time was
spent

On shaving and dressing and looking just right,
Until Mother would say: "It's the Masons tonight."

And some winter nights she said: "What makes you
go,

Way up there tonight thru the sleet and the snow,
You see the same things every month of the year."
Then Dad would reply: "Yes, I know it, my dear."

Forty years I have seen the same things, it is true.
And though they are old, they always seem new,
For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,
Seem a little bit closer each time that we meet."

Years later I stood at that very same door,
With good men and true who had entered before,
I knelt at the alter, and there I was taught
That virtue and honor can never be bought.

That the spotless white lambskin all Masons revere,
If worthily worn grows more precious each year,
That service to others brings blessings untold,
That man may be poor tho surrounded by gold.

I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,
That enmities fade 'neath the compass and square,
That wealth and position are all thrust aside,
As there on the level men meet and abide.

So, honor the lambskin, may it always remain
Forever unblemished, and free from all stain,
And when we are called to the Great Father's love,
May we all take our place in that Lodge up above.

A Question For All Of Us

Brethren, rarely is the right or comfortable time to contemplate our own end. However, there are many decisions which we want to make for ourselves... particularly, we should inform family members of our wishes at the end of our earthly journeys.

Questions we might ask ourselves:

- Do we want a Masonic service?
- Do we want to be buried with our Masonic Apron?
- Does our family know where our Apron is located?
- Does our family know to which Masonic organizations we belong?
- Do we communicate with the Lodge? In other words, do we attend and do we keep in touch with our Brothers, do they know if we are unwell?
- Would we want donations made in our memory to some

lodge or some Masonic Charity?

- Have we remembered our Masonic organizations in our will?
- If we have Masonic jewelry to whom should it to be given?
- Does our family know to send our ritual books to the Lodge? Do they know where they are?
- Have we asked a Brother to check on our family or assist in any way?

These are not particularly joyful items to discuss with family and friends, or even ourselves. However, young or old we will all travel along that winding path of life to that undiscovered country from whose Bourne no traveler returns. It is often better for them to know and understand our sincerest wishes in those trying times of life, after death.

Tyled Room... a little humor

The wife of one of the newer members of my Lodge said that her husband had started behaving strangely since joining Masonry.

I asked her to explain.

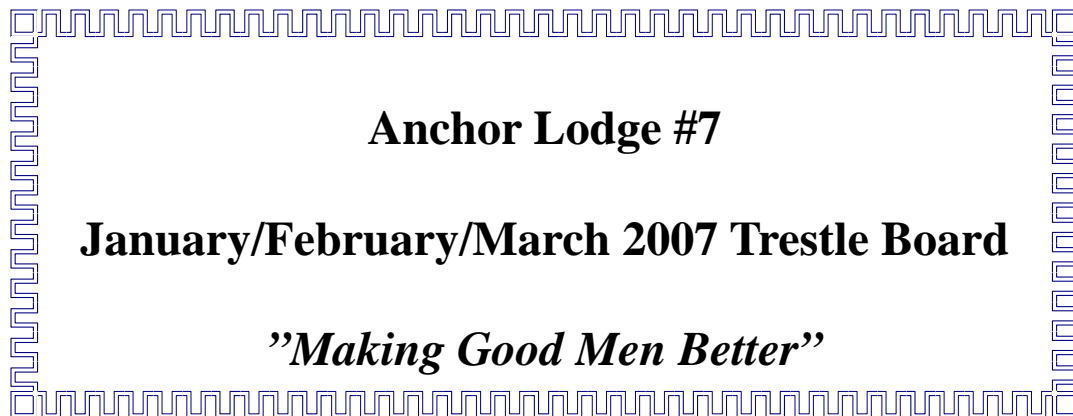
"Well, he takes this little black book into the toilet and talks to himself for hours and hours".

At the next Lodge meeting I took him to one side and asked him if everything was OK.

He replied "yes", so I asked him about his visits to the toilet. He said that he went there to read his book "as that is the only

TYLED room in the house".

Do you have a favorite Masonic Joke, poem or story you would like to share through the Trestleboard? Contact Matthew Ramey at mramey@sheridan.edu or 307-684-8932



Anchor Lodge No. 7 AF&AM
PO Box 26
Buffalo WY, 82834

Place
Stamp
Here