

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

Trestle Board

Chartered December 8, 1886

Buffalo Wyoming



Anchor 7 Has A New Home...

In Masonry, the word Lodge is not used exclusively for the building or structure in which its members meet. It is also used to mean the collection of Masons who meet as a Lodge.

Anchor Lodge has purchased the Odd Fellows Hall at 155 Cedar Street. We have met in this building since the sale of our original lodge building downtown.

On this, our 125th year as a chartered lodge, we once again have a home in which to meet. While it is true that the building's exterior needs some work to dress it up, the building offers an abundance of opportunities for Masonic education, fellowship and growth in our community.

We are currently undertaking several improvement projects through donated time and materials. We have built steps under the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden stations. These will be carpeted by the time you read this article.

We have also built and carpeted the library. This room will house our various collection of masonic books and provide a comfortable place for masonic education and discussion.

We have also built the walls which create the lodge office. Having an official office for the lodge will provide a centralized administrative space for the various paperwork, accounting, record keeping, and business functions that all lodges are required to carry out.

We will soon tackle the "sprucing" up of the lounge area. This will be an area where the brethren can relax and enjoy each other's company. It has been suggested we add a card table, chess set, TV, or other items of leisure. The goal being the creation of a space for relaxation whenever a brother visits the lodge.

We are also in the process of organizing the pictures of our Past Masters to display in the dining hall. While we have a majority of these pictures from storage, several folks

took their pictures from the old lodge when it was sold. We hope to locate the ones we are missing to complete the collection in order to honor all of our Past Masters who have been instrumental in keeping Masonry alive and well in Buffalo.

It is our sincere hope that we will be able to raise the funds to improve the exterior look of the building. We are currently looking at several options including stucco, rock, masonry, siding, etc.

Finally, in honor of our 125th anniversary we will host the Grand Lodge Officers in a corner stone laying ceremony later this year. We have retrieved the corner stone from the original lodge building. That stone will be utilized to dedicate our new home. A home which will provide the Masonic fellowship, education and leadership opportunities which have existed in Buffalo for the past 125 years.

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Items of Special Note

Master's Breakfast will be held the first Saturday of the month. There is not a better breakfast in town!

About Anchor Lodge No. 7

At 125 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 meets at the Masonic temple on Cedar Street. Our regular communications are held at 7:30 pm on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Degree Work

EA - Wed Sept. 21st
7:00 P.M.
EA - Monday Oct. 17th
6:30 P.M.
FC - Wed Oct. 26th
7:00 P.M.

From The East



Brethren:

I would normally start this article with..."As our Masonic year gears itself into full swing" we have several exiting ventures underway...

However, one of the most exciting items is that we did not go dark this summer. For the first time in its history (At least that I could find), Anchor 7 stayed open throughout the summer months. A warm thank you to those who supported that effort. We have been able to accomplish several projects. As well, because of the time spent this summer, we will be able to start the "New" masonic year by initiating two new brothers. We have also received applications from two others and have three additional applications in the hands of prospective candidates.

On Wednesday, September 21st, at a special communication, we will initiate **Steve Bennett**, a local businessman and artist. Our second initiate that night will be **Jacob Ramey**, a UW student, Lewis (Son of a Mason), and life-long Buffalo resident.

As we are looking at a total of 7 candidates so far this year, we will be holding several special

communications in order to accomplish all of the goals we have planned.

This summer has been busy with Masonic work. Brothers **Dave Guyton, Ron McPhee, Kit Carson, Joseph St. Pierre, Jim Sturdevant, Tom Harmon** and myself attended Grand Lodge in August. I would like to commend Most Worshipful Past Grand Master **John Farmer** for an outstanding Grand Lodge session.

If you are interested in what went on during the Grand Lodge session, I have uploaded the "Timely Topics" publication from Grand Lodge on our website. It can be found with the electronic version of the Trestle-board.

Just after Grand Lodge, brother **Charlie Ellis** hosted everyone at his Cabin in Story for a wonderful picnic. I'm not sure of the final count but 35 is a good estimate.

Unfortunately, this summer we also provided masonic burial services for brother Harold Jeff "J.T." Thompson. Brother's **Kit Carson, Joseph St. Pierre, Ron McPhee, Jim McGlaughlin**, and five brothers from Lodge 383 in

Coatesville Pennsylvania joined me in this final tribute. Brother Thompson had lived in Buffalo for several years.

The next item on my mind, is the fact that as of December 8th Anchor 7's charter is officially 125 years old. In commemoration of that sublime event, we will host a dinner full of celebration and fellowship.

Back in June, we held our annual Masonic celebration night. That evening, brother **Joseph St. Pierre** received the Mason of the year and Brother **Charlie Ellis** received the Citizen of the Year award.

Brother **Bob Ross** received the Masonic Anchor Award for a life-time dedicated to Masonry. As the anchor is a symbol of well-grounded hope and a well spent life, I ask you to join me in finding that next Masonic Anchor.

More importantly, join me in the never ending quest to improve ourselves in Masonry for the betterment of yourself, and your fellow man.

Fraternally,
Matthew J. Ramey
Worshipful Master

"join us in the never ending quest to improve ourselves in Masonry for the betterment of yourself, and your fellow man"

From The South



Welcome to all the brothers! We will be starting the New Year off right in our new home thanks to everyone's hard work and with the Supreme Architect looking with favor on us and this great fraternity. First, remember we always have a Master's breakfast on the first Saturday of the month starting at 8am. So, bring a friend and come join us. Remember all are welcome to attend, masons and non-masons alike. The lodge needs your support and we always look forward to the fellowship. As the newly elected Junior Warden I look forward to tackling the spatula. After conferring with the WM the lodge will put on 1 dinner and 1 pancake Breakfast as a fund raiser before the winter sets in. Tickets will be sent out by our Brother Secretary giving the dates and times so please try to attend and support the lodges Building fund. Thank you for your support I will do my best in making the lodge better for us all - Joe

Officers of the Lodge 2011-2012

Worshipful Master: Matthew J. Ramey
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Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
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1244 Greub Rd
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
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If you have comments, questions, or concerns please feel free to contact any member of the elected officers team. In future issues of the Trestle Board, we will post a complete listing of officers and trustees.

Masonic Trivia

Music written by Brother John Stafford Smith (1750-1836) of Inverness Lodge No. 4 in London was, at one time, used by an Irish Masonic Orphans' Home as their song. Later it became a popular drinking song for many years known as *To Anacreon in Heaven*. Then, some years later, the music was adopted by Francis Scott Key to which he wrote the words to our National Anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*.

The Work

The gavel sounds and all is still:

The Master speaks, proclaims his will:

Each one obeys, takes up his tools.

Inspects the plan, consults the rules:

With trowel and level, plumb and square,

Each stone is set exactly where

The plan provides, the drawing shows

And day by day the Temple grows:

The porch is finished, pillars placed;

The strands of net-work interlaced;

The chambers furnished, pavement laid,

The sacred vessels all displayed:

The walls are standing straight and true;

The roof is on, the labor through:

The Master speaks, The work is done:

The gavel sounds, God calls us home

Do you have something to share?

Have you ever thought about writing an article for the trestleboard? If you think you might have a poetic side, a philosophical side or just have something you would like to share how about sending it to me to be published here in our trestleboard. Its as easy as you need it to be.

E-mail me at: mjramey@gmail.com

Send it in the mail to: 341 Trabing Rd. Buffalo WY 82834
Or...Bring it to Lodge, we meet the 1st & 3rd Monday's



“... would a passerby be able to recognize you as a Master Mason?”



King Solomon, Hiram of Tyre and Hiram Abif

From the Historian...

While we were busy working on the lodge library, I couldn't help but to peak into some of the old paper-work, letters, minutes, and books we dug out of storage when the new building was purchased.

I'm just sure I will find that secret masonic treasure talked about on TV. While I didn't find a map to a pile of gold, I did find a rather interesting thing or two.

One of the more interesting is a burial lot certificate from March 28th, 1893. That was just three years after Wyoming became a state. In fact, it still has a Wyoming Territorial wax stamp on it.

The certificate is for a block of burial plots in Willow

Grove Cemetery here in Buffalo.

Being the inquisitive fellows we are... brother Ron and I called Adams Funeral home to discover that Anchor 7 indeed owns several... in fact many plots in the cemetery.

In one of the blocks, we found out that at least ten people are buried there. As a history buff, I'm sure you'll soon see an article discussing who is buried in those plots. However, at this time we are assuming they are all Masons.

We also found out that the lodge still owns several how shall we say.... Unused plots.

Another interesting piece of history is a letter from one

brother Jean L. Van Dyke. The letter was written to the lodge on May 22nd, 1918. It is written from the U.S. Naval Training Camp in San Diego California.

While we have discovered many such letters written by brothers in war time or while off to boot camp, this one drew particular attention for one of the comments made by brother Van Dyke.

In his opening salutation, he mentions his pride at belonging to such a patriotic and wonderful group of men as Anchor 7. He commended the brethren for their purchase of a \$4,000 liberty bond. So now... we are on the hunt... where is that treasure map?

Who is that Mason?

This corner of the trestle-board has been dedicated to recognizing a Mason in our community.

I couldn't make up my mind about who would get the "light" of this article shined on them. So... I picked three good men this time.

First, Brother **Jack Morey** has embarked on a new adventure in his professional career. Jack is the Principle Engineer and owner of JLM

Engineering here in Buffalo. He recently purchased Meinecke Engineering and Land Surveying out of Cody Wyoming. We wish Jack good luck in his new adventures, and hope that if his travels back and forth afford him the opportunity to visit the brethren in Cody he is received in good form.

Secondly, our youngest Master Mason, Brother **Dakota Ramey** recently married the prettiest little gal in all of

Johnson County. Dakota and Melissa were married on August 27th.

As you looked at the guest list, the number of Masons totaled a dozen or more. Rumor has it they all behaved themselves.

Finally, I would like to recognize Brother **Bob Ross** for being listed among this year's Scottish Rite Honor Men. Brother Bob will receive his Red Hat on October 8th.

Anchor Lodge No. 7 Website: <http://anchor7.org>

Masonry... A Process not and Event

A Process in an Event-Fueled Society

In Masonry, one question that we as a fraternity are facing is how to maintain the interest of our newer members. This is by no means a new question or a new problem. A look back at the minutes of Masonic Lodge meetings from a hundred years ago shows that this is a challenge faced by every generation of Freemasons. Unfortunately, that same look back shows that what worked in the past will not necessarily work now. Society changes and we have to change along with it if we are to remain pertinent to the members of our Craft.

The society that we live in today is an event fueled society. Everything is an event, and then it's over and we're on to the next event. We go to a movie, out to dinner, on vacation. Our jobs are divided into projects that we plan, design, execute and then we start another project. T.V. time at home is an event; quality time with the kids; our lives are event-full. And, in most cases we either don't realize or don't see the processes that make those events possible.

Freemasonry happens

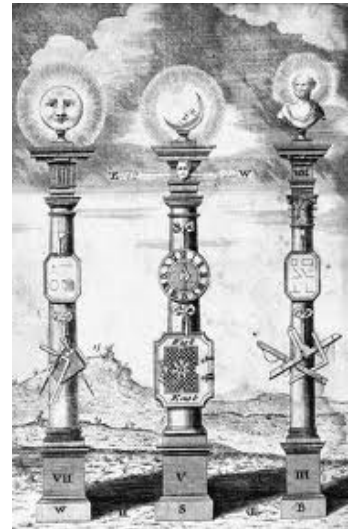
We've become so accustomed to our lives being a series of events that we, at best, ignore the processes or, at worst, find them boring and uninteresting. The Masonic society is filled with events: the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason; Lodge meetings, Lodge functions, Reunions, Festivals, Ceremonials, and the list could go on and on. *Freemasonry*, though, is not an event; it is a process. It is what happens in the background and in between and during those events. It is the processes involved in bringing those events to fruition that manifests as Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is working side by side with others toward a common goal and for the common good. It unites men who otherwise would never have met, and brings them together in an atmosphere of genuine support and affection. It is what happens in the heart and in the mind when men labor together to succeed, or even to fail, in shared aspirations. It is the admiration and respect of one man for another, not for material accumulation but for strength of moral character and selfless service. It is holding oneself up to an ideal even knowing that our human frailties make it impossible to achieve the ideal. Freemasonry is a process by which a man comes to know himself.

The Masonic Degrees are not Destinations

As we investigate potential candidates and discuss the fraternity with our newer members we need to make them understand that the three degrees of the Craft are only the first three steps in a life-long journey. To presume to know Freemasonry from the first three degrees would be to stand on the seashore, take three steps, and presume to know the world. The degrees of Masonry are intended, not to impart, but to ignite a desire for more Light.

In our event-filled society it is easy to take for granted or lose sight of the processes that make the events possible. The processes, though, are where most of the learning, growth and progress happens. By understanding our own motivations and being able to express those motivations to others we can help our fledgling brethren to appreciate the truly precious jewels of Freemasonry. Find a quiet place to contemplate what being a Freemason means to you, and why it means so much to you. Then, put it into words so that the next time someone asks why you are a Mason you'll know exactly what you want to say.



Guidelines For Investigating Committees

Those who are charged with the duty of investigating the character and other qualifications of applicants for the privileges of masonry hold positions of distinction and trust. Of all the committees appointed by the Worshipful Master, none is more important to the preservation of this great Fraternal Order Way of Life than this committee, whose duty is to determine the fitness of a candidate prior to balloting on his petition. They are, of necessity, the inspectors to examine the material wherewith to add wisdom, strength, and beauty to the Universal masonic Temple. Carelessness, indifference or negligence in the discharge of this responsible duty are of the nature of misdemeanors.

Every member in the Lodge is part of the Investigating Committee, especially the voucher of the petitioner. The member who vouches for a profane should be certain of his fitness for membership. Also, it is the duty of every master Mason who is aware of something which would cause a profane to be unfit for membership, to inform a brother of that Lodge or the Investigating Committee, so these things can be Verified or clarified. For it is the responsibility of every member to exercise scrupulous care in guarding the door of Masonry from gaining access and introducing Godless ideology. It is our duty as Masons, to jealously examine a profane's fitness for membership, for on this examination rests the honor, glory, and reputation of our institution.

Every member and the investigating Committee is urged to constantly bear in mind that membership in the craft is much too priceless to be shared without due consideration. So... think and act for the good of Masonry at all times.

1. When visiting a candidate at his home, the committee should first determine the family's attitude toward his desire to join the masonic Order. If there is serious opposition to him joining which cannot be overcome by the committee and there is every likelihood that his membership in the Lodge would cause internal family problems, the petition should be returned or rejected.
2. Ascertain whether the petitioner's home surroundings are such as to permit him financially to continue his membership without depriving his family of the essentials of life. While a man's financial circumstances or his educational background ought not bar him from participating in Masonic privileges or render him unwelcome in the Craft, his standard of living may so differ from those of the other members as to make him uncomfortable in their presence.
3. The applicant should be given the understanding that his character is subjected to the closest scrutiny, and that friendship, personal consideration, or favoritism, must not control or bias masonic action. He is informed that he must pass the scrutiny of the investigation and the ordeal of the ballot, as all have done who have gone this way before him. If there be a doubt in regard to his fitness to become a mason, let the lodge have the benefit of the doubt. Remember that the dignity, honor, and reputation of the institution are in your hands.
4. The committee should determine how long the petitioner has been acquainted with this proposer. If the acquaintanceship has been but a brief one, it is all the more reason why the committee should make a thorough search of the petitioner's background. References should be carefully checked, as well as business affiliations. This of course should be handled in a discreet manner, especially if questions are directed to non-Masons who may not be favorably disposed towards the Institution.
5. Ascertain the petitioner's motive for wanting to become a mason and what is his conception of the Fraternity. Of course, one who is new to the order may not be expected to offer an opinion, but he should have at least some idea of the type of organization he is expecting to join.
6. Is the petitioner charitable by nature? Does he contribute to needy causes as his finances permit? Also, is he charitable in thought and actions towards his fellow man? Is he bigoted or prejudiced? All these questions, discreetly put, will help bring out the true character of the man.
7. Is he prompt in meeting his financial obligations and honorable in his business dealing with others? Can he afford to become a mason? The answers to the first two questions can be obtained by investigating his references, both business and personal.
8. Does his occupation permit him to attend meetings regularly?
9. Does the petitioner believe in a Supreme Being? Does he attend a church? Masonry does not require a man to adhere to any particular creed or religion, but, he must believe in God and in the immortality of the soul.
10. The Worshipful Master should be kept honestly and fully informed. A complete report of the investigation committee should be presented at the regular lodge meeting.
11. A fearless discharge of this duty may, for a time, subject the committee to the frowns of the rejected and his friends, but faithfulness and courage will, in the end, command the applaud of every lover of the fraternity.
12. Don't overlook any references, the last one may be the one needed. Reports on the petitioner should be obtained from neighbors, courts, police departments, credit bureaus, business dealings, and other places as necessary.
13. The investigation should be conducted so that, even if rejected, the applicant gains a higher respect for the Fraternity.



1. What does the "Pot of Incense" symbol represent?
 - a. Innocence of Youth
 - b. Purity of Heart
 - c. Aroma of the Gods
 - d. One of the Six Senses



2. What does the "Beehive" symbolize?
 - a. Honey
 - b. Unity
 - c. Industry
 - d. Brotherhood



3. What does the "Sword to the Naked Heart" symbolize?
 - a. The duties of the Tiler
 - b. To be reminded of the tenets of Freemasonry
 - c. To be reminded of your obligation
 - d. To never reveal the secrets of Freemasonry



4. What does the "Rough Ashlar" represent?
 - a. The cornerstone of the Lodge
 - b. Building of the Temple
 - c. The imperfect, untutored state of man
 - d. A tool used by the craftsmen



5. What does the "Perfect Ashlar" represent?
 - a. An educated, refined man whose mind is filled with Light
 - b. Part of King Solomon's Temple
 - c. A condition that is rarely found in a candidate
 - d. Found in the Middle Chamber of King Solomon's Temple



6. What does the "Anchor" symbolize?
 - a. That early Masons were sailors
 - b. Part of Noah's Ark
 - c. That you should be set in your ways
 - d. The voyage of life



7. What does the "Compass" symbolize?
 - a. Used for navigation
 - b. Used to draw circles
 - c. Infinite spiritual boundaries
 - d. The Junior Deacon's Jewel



8. What does the "Square" represent?
 - a. Fairness, balance, firmness and stability
 - b. Honesty, charity, fairness and balance
 - c. Brotherhood, hope, faith and charity
 - d. The Treasurer's jewel



9. What does the "Level" represent?
 - a. A symbol of equality
 - b. A symbol of stability
 - c. A symbol of truthfulness
 - d. A symbol of brotherhood



10. What does the "Sheaf of Corn" represent?
 - a. Harvest
 - b. Plenty
 - c. Fall
 - d. Straw

Don't forget ...!

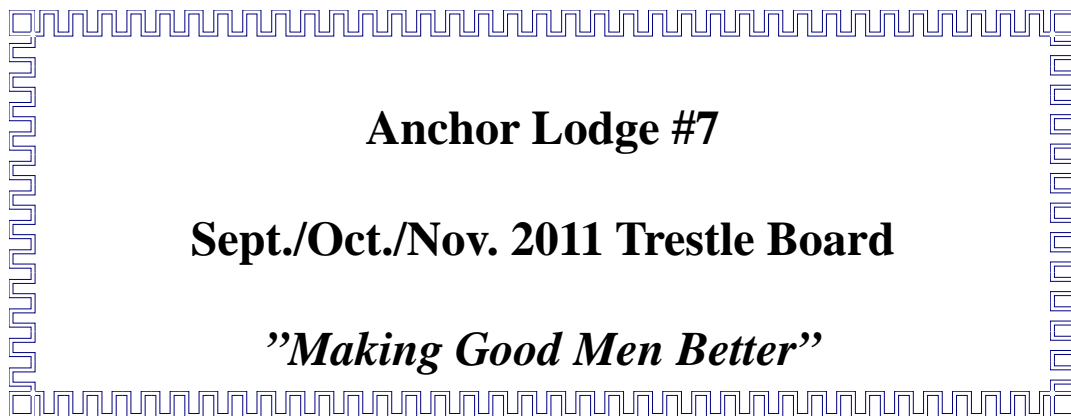
It's that time of year again, when we all start receiving our Masonic Due's notices. Don't forget to pay your Blue Lodge dues. All of the other Masonic organizations require you to stay current with your Blue Lodge dues.

Also, remember that you can get a life-time membership in Anchor Lodge No. 7. You will automatically receive your dues card for the rest of your life!

Best Breakfast In Town!!

On the **first Saturday** of the month, Anchor Lodge No. 7 hosts a "Master's Breakfast". This tradition started out because we told the Master of the Lodge he had to cook for us. If you leave this meal hungry, its your own fault.

Breakfast is at 8:00 a.m. Don't miss some great conversation, tell a few jokes and tackle some Lodge work if we need too. Friends, family and non-Masons are welcome!



Anchor Lodge #7

Sept./Oct./Nov. 2011 Trestle Board

”Making Good Men Better”

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

Place
Stamp
Here