

Risen from the Ashes



January 2022 Trestleboard

Worshipful Master's Corner

Brothers and friends,
Happy New Year, our **January 2022 Trestleboard**. We hope all you had a wonderful holiday season and full New Year's celebration. As in previous Trestleboards, we begin with a calendar of events. Then some information about our successful lodge Christmas project at the local schools. As you will see, January is going to be a very busy month for our lodge. Beyond the Stated Meeting will have our installation of 2022 officers, presentation of the 2021 Hiram Award, multiple degrees and practices to prepare for them. Additionally, in this month's trestleboard there is



some information about our upcoming January Stated Meeting and luncheon, some information about Eastern Star, a bio of our 2021 Hiram awardee, some discussion of Hiram Abif, a thoughtful presentation about Masonic principles, an informative Masonic Formation essay, an article about California's Masonic mining district, with a recommended adventure, and information on how you can access candidate and management courses from our Grand Lodge website. Also, there a list of the 2022 elected and appointed officers of the lodge. As always, contact information is provide on the final page.

Every month we will try to adjust our content to ensure the Trestleboard remains interesting and informative. Your suggestions are appreciated. As you will read, we have been busy and January will be an exceptionally business month. **The Hiram Award and our Installation will**

be on Jan 15, 2022. The installation is open, so your friends, family and interested individuals may attend. Now is the time for more brothers to participate. Help us with this noble work. We can build it better, jettison the old habits, and build a more enjoyable and relevant organization. **The stated meetings are now on the first Saturday of every month to facilitate your participation.**

Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Lodge Events

- Jan 8, 2022, Saturday, Stated Meeting at 2 pm, luncheon starting at 12:30.
- Jan 15, 2022, Saturday, Installation of 2022 officers and the presentation of the 2021 Hiram Award at 2 pm. This is an open installation, so friends and family are invited.
- Jan 29, 2022, Saturday, 2nd degree starting at 2 pm.
- Feb 5, 2022, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm.



Golden Feather Chapter Eastern Star

- Jan 5, Wednesday, Eastern Star Stated Meeting at 7 pm. (Oroville)
- Jan 22, Saturday, Eastern Star Stated Meeting at 2 pm. Obligation Renewal. (Oroville)
- Feb 2, Wednesday, Eastern Star Stated Meeting at 7 pm. (Oroville)

Note: Golden Feather Chapter is a combined Paradise and Oroville Chapter. As such they split their events between these locations. Due to an accessibility issue at the Oroville Lodge, they have been meeting exclusively in Paradise. That is now resolved, so for a while their meetings will move back to Oroville. They will be meeting in Paradise for their May Official Visit event, and for their regular meetings in June and September.

Other scheduled Community Events at the Table Mountain Masonic Center

- February 19, Saturday, Paradise High School Dance.
- Paradise Rod and Gun Club - First Wednesday of every month at 6pm
- Butte County Family Health classes and counseling , Every Wednesday until May 2022, 4:30 to 9 pm.
- Homespun Holidays Crafts will also be in March & July



Lodge Christmas Project

On December 17, **Table Mountain lodge's Operation Welcome Back Christmas** started at the Cedarwood, Pineridge, Paradise Ridge (Ponderosa) elementary schools. Through the generous donations of friends and the *Angel Project* in Sacramento, we were able to provide gifts to over 700 children. Each child was able to choose a small, medium and large gift from a variety of toys and stuffed animals. Additionally, there were over 200 quilts for families that could use them. Kudos to Worshipful Woody Nelson for obtaining the donations and coordinating the delivery. Kudos to our new Entered Apprentice Cole Hamilton for picking up the gifts in Sacramento and delivering them to the schools on the ridge.



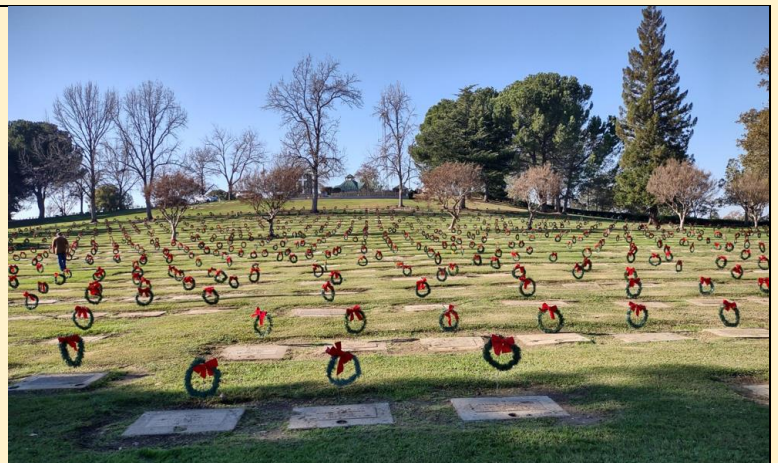
Next Stated Meeting

Our Table Mountain Masonic Lodge (Paradise) will have our next **Stated Meeting on Saturday January 8th at 2 pm**. At 12:30, lunch will begin. Lunch will be potluck chili, so bring your **best chili and let's see whose chili is most popular**. In the Stated Meeting, in addition to the regular business we will be discussing preparation and dates of upcoming degrees, improvements to our facilities, the scheduling of *brothers workdays* to accomplish simple repairs, some reorganization and moving of materials and other tasks. We will also discuss our current and future Charity work. **We also expect that some of our entered apprentices will demonstrate their proficiency.** Please be there.



Eastern Star Project – Veterans Cemetery Wreaths

For the last 11 years, Debbie Wendell, current Golden Feather Chapter Worthy Matron has spearheaded the making and laying of wreaths on graves of veterans at the Oroville cemetery. This has now become a community event, assisted by Eastern Star members, Masons, and volunteers from throughout the county. The latest event took place on December 5, 2021. 4,166 patriotic wreaths, one for each veteran, were laid on the graves.



2021 Table Mountain Lodge Hiram Award Recipient

Brother Robert (Bob) McElroy is our 2021 Hiram Award recipient

The Hiram Award is the highest honor a California Mason may receive, other than being elected Master of the Lodge. It cannot be sought after, nor can it be something for which a recipient can apply. It is awarded at the request of the individual's Lodge. The Hiram Award is an award presented to a Master Mason who has unselfishly given of his time, talents and energy for the betterment of the Masonic community. It is not given for service as Master or any elected or appointed office or committee. The recipient is recognized by his brethren in Masonry for his overall service, and it is a singular distinction that indicates the esteem, respect and admiration of the members. The Hiram Award is simply the official recognition of a Brother by his own Lodge for his devoted service to our Masonic principles in general.

Bob McElroy was selected for this honor because he has been the very epitome of ideal Masonic humility, honor and personal conduct. His kindness, helpfulness and charity toward others has made him a role model for the community. Bob is a native of Klamath Falls, Oregon, later moving to California. After graduating from Watsonville High School and attending Cabrillo Junior College, Bob joined the U.S. Coast Guard, serving 4 years. Then Bob went to work for the railroad in San Francisco. While attending church, he met his future wife Peg. Sometime later they moved to Petaluma CA, where Bob began his Masonic journey in 1979 with Petaluma Lodge #180. Since then, Bob has been especially active in Eastern Star together with Peg, where they have held many local and statewide positions. Bob's job eventually necessitated a move to Omaha, Nebraska, which surprisingly they greatly enjoyed. Upon retirement, Bob and Peg moved to Magalia and immediately became part of the Paradise/Magalia/Ridge Masonic community, joining the Lodge and chapter. Since then, Bob and Peg both have been a blessing to the community. The *Camp Fire* destroyed their home, but not their spirit. Bob has been an instrumental part of rebuilding our Masonic community on the ridge. Bob is continuing his contribution to our Lodge by continuing in the office of Chaplin for the 2022 Masonic year.

"He is the true and steady hand of assistance, which is that living cement that binds our Fraternity into a true Brotherhood".

Who is this Hiram guy?

The name *Hiram* itself is Hebrew and means *my brother is exalted*, or *my brother is most noble*. In Masonic Legend, there are two Hirams: Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff (a widow's son), who was sent from King Hiram of Tyre to King Solomon (*2 Chronicles, 2:13*). Strong's *Concordance* indicates that the word *Abif* translates to *fatherless*.

The Hiram Abiff of Masonic Legend was the son of a widow who was from the tribe of Napthali and lived in Tyre. The tribe of Napthali was one of the northern Israelite tribes, who joined with David, who was to become the ruler of a unified Kingdom of Israel. David was the successor of Solomon, the King of Israel.

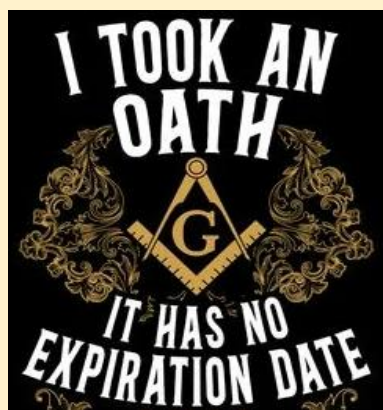
We read in the Bible (*1 Kings, chapters 6-8*) that King Solomon built the First Temple – also known as King Solomon’s Temple. King Solomon requested the aid of King Hiram of Tyre, who furnished Solomon with materials, workmen and a particular craftsman skilled in stone, metal, wood and fabric: Hiram Abiff. Hiram was not only a skilled craftsman, but he was known as a Master Architect and was renowned as a man who could get things done. He was a mover and shaker.

According to accounts, the First Temple took seven years to complete – even with over 150,000 masons employed at the building. These workmen – while provided with food, shelter and a steady paycheck during the construction – worked under the premise that when the project was finished, they would then achieve the status of Master Mason.

Seven years is a long time. And some of the workmen were less patient than others. A few dissatisfied workers conspired together to extort their promotions early from Hiram Abiff. They talked, cajoled and finally hunted him down, found him alone, and threatened him. But Hiram refused their demands and did not yield to their threats. He reminded them of their duty to God and the conditions of their employment by King Solomon. Unfortunately, his discussions with the workmen failed, and three of them, in their anger, murdered Hiram Abiff in the unfinished Temple.

That, essentially, is the answer to the question of who is Hiram Abiff?

Hiram was a man of noble character, who remained true to his word, his nation, his community, his promise, and to God even when confronted with certain death.



Masonic Principles, Revisited

by Brother Charles Donaldson, Operative Lodge of Dundee #47, Scotland

Published in "The Ashlar," September 1998

Edited for this Trestleboard

Are the principles on which Freemasonry was founded still relevant today and more importantly are they relevant to the future? First let us establish what Freemasonry is and what better way is there to do that than to take the accepted definition. **"Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. It is a movement whose members are joined together in an association based on brotherly love, relief and truth. These are the principal tenets of Freemasonry. Derived from these tenets are the virtues of faith, hope and charity – all supported on the three great pillars of wisdom, strength and beauty."**

There are many other principles and virtues, but it would be of no advantage to examine them at this time as they are derived from the **four sets of three**. Every Mason is familiar with these words but, unfortunately, familiarity often means that the definitions are forgotten. These words were probably penned in the early eighteenth century and more than likely taken from much earlier sources. Since then, time has moved on and as English is a dynamic living language, new words are added as knowledge increases while older and redundant words are dropped and again other words change meaning, some radically and some by degrees.

Have the words used in the description of Freemasonry altered in meaning? Are they still relevant today or, more importantly, for tomorrow? Have the concepts behind them changed? To answer these questions, it is necessary to examine the meanings of these words. Consider **the first set of three words** in the definition, which are **morality**, veiled in **allegory** and illustrated by **symbols**.

With regard to morality, it can be seen that all societies have a view of what is the correct way of life for both individuals and society, thus distinguishing between right and wrong. The first moral laws were evolved for the protection of the community. In the course of social evolution, they became systematic and codified on the basis of custom. The object of the moral code was to secure coherence in the group so that the members would act effectively.

Legal expressions of community morality sometimes needs the strong arm of the law to be effective. Such external authority also strengthens the non-legal but expected virtues such as chastity, truthfulness, kindness, benevolence and so on. The circumstances of the modern world have brought new moral dilemmas in such areas as euthanasia, abortion, birth control, medicine, human rights, the role of women, divorce and so on. Communities' ideals about morality continues to evolve and each generation must solve new moral dilemmas.

With regard to individuals, there is admitted being such a power in the mind as conscience which warns the person when they are doing wrong and to a certain extent, a force to make the person do right. **Conscience grows and needs to be trained and nurtured by precept, example and experience.**

There are variations in conscience among nations and amongst individuals in each nation. In the West, emphasis appears to be shifting away from social morals to individual morals. **The morality of Freemasonry requires Masons to deal justly with others, not to defraud, cheat or wrong them of their just dues and rights. A Mason is therefore particularly bound to never act against the dictates of his conscience.** The concept of morality, in the sense of right and wrong remains constant, is with us today and by the allegory present in Freemasonry, can assist us in living a moral life in our changing society.

The teaching of morals by allegory is a time-honored technique still relevant, though members new to the Craft may not be familiar with it. **Allegory is a story that can be read on two levels, firstly as a surface narrative and secondly at a deeper level which is moralistic.** It is the embodiment of a train of thought in a visible form by means of images and thus involves a transfer of meaning with a number of correspondences with the real world. For example, the whole of the third degree is allegorical for behind the story of the central character lies the foundation of the philosophy of Freemasonry.

The signs used in Freemasonry are derived from the allegory and are used as a method of recognition. The signs and the symbolic instructions are the only secrets of Freemasonry.

The symbols used derive from the distant past when the wisdom of the ancient peoples was largely symbolic. It was in the early seventeenth century that modern Masons adopted symbolism. **A symbol is an image which hides an inner meaning.** The meaning is usually hidden behind a form which most people think they can understand immediately. The Masonic Lodge itself is a symbol and the interior abounds with them. For example, the three lesser lights. Light in Masonry has a symbolic meaning. Light is opposed to darkness and suggests many opposites such as right and wrong amongst many others. **Symbols illustrate the principal tenets of Freemasonry. These are relief, truth and brotherly love – the second set of the four sets of three.**

By a tenet, is meant some teaching that is so obviously true that it is accepted and believed without question, for example, thou shalt not steal, not commit adultery, not bear false witness and so on. In terms of logic, they are axiomatic, that is to be relied on utterly for use as the basic assumptions from which conclusions are to be derived. Thus, they are self-evident, which means that no other evidence can make them more evident or less evident than they already are. **The certainty of the tenets lies in their being confirmed by experience and the impact of the tenets on the lives of those who receive them.** Tenets are part of the system of morality and not of the allegory that veils it or the symbols that illustrate it. They are a

fundamental part of Freemasonry which cannot be altered without destroying the identity of Freemasonry itself.

Love in itself is a concept that has been and continues to be one of the most potent forces within the traditions of humankind. Love has been described as the most powerful force in the universe binding all living things together. Love is a multi-dimensional phenomenon but can be categorized under three headings. Firstly, there is erotic or sensual love. Secondly, there is a divine love bestowed upon the recipient through grace. **Thirdly, there is brotherly or friendly love. This is offered in affection to another human being without thought of personal gain. It means that we place on another person the highest possible value as a friend, a companion, an associate, a neighbor.**

Brotherly love is an essential element which binds the Brethren to each other, as they have pledged themselves to exercise it, and it is one of the greatest duties of a Freemason. On this principle, Masonry unites people of every country, sect and opinion and conciliates true friendship. Brotherly love also manifests itself in the second tenet of relief, which is one of the forms of charity. **Masonic relief takes for granted that any man may be in temporary need of a helping hand. It can take many forms, such as alleviating misfortune, soothing calamity, helping to restore peace to a troubled mind, and so on.** This is one of the natural and inevitable acts of Brotherhood.

The third of the principal tenets is **truth**, which is a vital requirement if Brotherhood is to endure. Truth takes different forms, such as conformity of a concept to a fact or reality and not being false or erroneous. It is also the knowledge of the underlying reality of things. This form of truth is often linked with the concept of goodness and is regarded as eternal, absolute and immutable. To be good and true is the first lesson taught in Freemasonry. On this theme, **Masons should endeavor to regulate their conduct in order to eliminate hypocrisy and deceit. In Freemasonry, truth is accepted as the foundation of every virtue.**

The three principal virtues are faith, hope and charity – the third group of four.

Faith has variously been defined as belief, trust, devotion and dependence. It is a universal feature of humankind's response to the presence of the divine in the midst of life. In the words of St. Paul, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". Faith is the bond of friendship and a support of society.

Hope is an orientation towards some future event which will radically transform the present order. What is hoped for depends on the specific understanding of reality as displayed by a particular faith, by an individual or by society. Hope is a ground for expectation, trust or confidence. Hope can lead to dissatisfaction with the present order of things and becomes the basis of a liberating or transforming practice.

Charity, or brotherly kindness, is said to be the chief of all the social virtues and ought to be the distinguishing characteristic of every Freemason. Charity is devoted to the promotion of

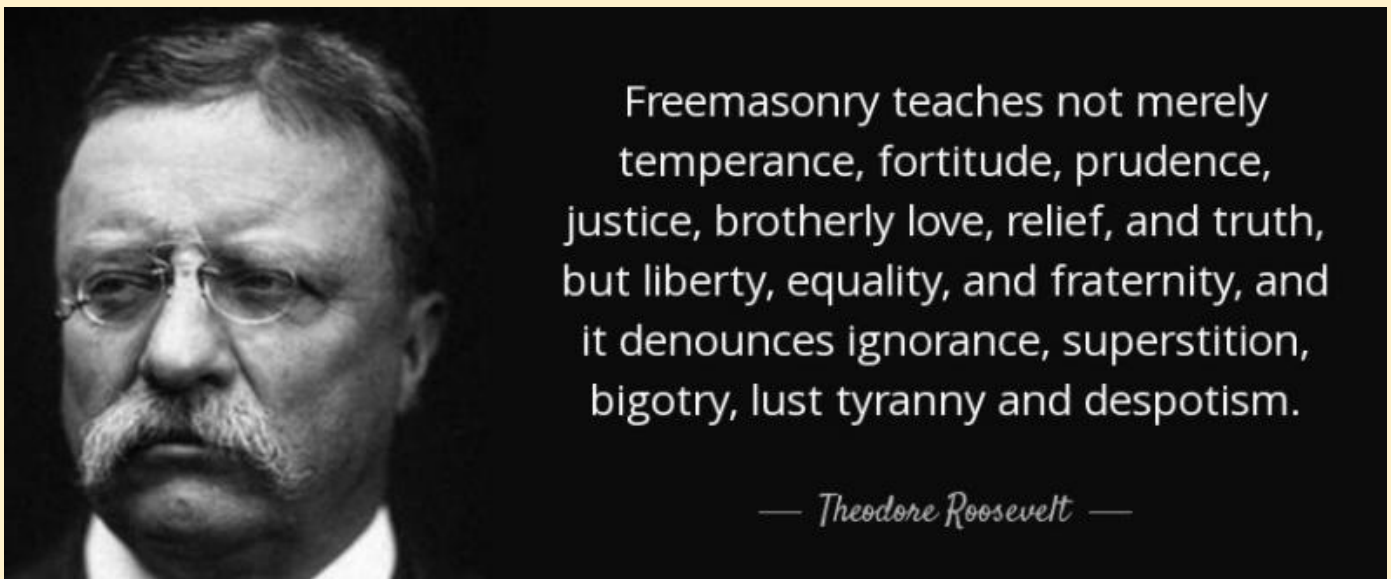
the welfare and happiness of humankind and not for the benefit of the individual. If charity is misapplied it ceases to be a virtue and becomes a folly.

Freemasonry is said to be supported by **three great pillars called wisdom, strength and beauty**, which have allegorical meanings. **This is the last of the set of four.**

In pursuing knowledge, the aspirant will find that **knowledge, in itself, is insufficient but if coupled with understanding it will produce wisdom**. In turn, **wisdom gives an inner strength** and these two combined will engender beauty, not the beauty of adornment, but **the inner beauty of insight**. The fact that knowledge expands through time should be a stimulus to those who pursue it and should give them greater wisdom.

Before becoming a Freemason, the candidate must affirm that he believes in a Supreme Being. **Inherent in Freemasonry is the understanding that while the Supreme Being may be understood or defined differently by followers of various religions and sects, there are certain universal tenets, principles, morality and behavioral foundations that good men of many faiths concur with. These concurrences align with the four sets of three discussed in this article. These concurrences are why Freemasonry can bring the Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhists together in friendship to perform good work, and improve each other and our world.**

**The foundations of Freemasonry are self-evident
and are still relevant and important.**



Masonic Formation – Refuting false claims about Freemasonry

Have you ever heard or read about someone making the false claims that Freemasons are deists or atheists? Despite the ridiculousness of these claims, they continue to be spread by uninformed individuals and organizations, and conspiracy theorists. Every Mason should be prepared to logically counter such claims. The following essay should assist you in being prepared to respond.



Most of the major religions are categorized as being Theist. Theism is broadly defined as the believing in the existence of a Supreme Creator, normally referred to as God, that to some degree is actively involved in the world of humans, and will respond to prayers. The Supreme Creator's earthly involvement includes sending prophets or representatives to humankind and through them providing guidance in the form of holy writings. Theists worship God and pray to God for assistance and guidance. All Christian churches, as well as the Jewish and Muslim faiths and some major other faiths are Theists. All of regular Freemasonry in the US and the UK requires a belief in God, and accepts candidates from any theistic religion.

Deism is the opposite of Theism. Deists do not believe in a God that intervenes, or that has representatives on earth. Therefore, Deists do not pray for intervention or guidance, and they do not accept the existence of any holy writings. Effectively, Deism is sort of a nature worship.

As any visitor to a regular Masonic lodge can plainly see, located in the center of room is the Holy Bible sitting on the altar. Masons begin and end every meeting, both public and private, with a prayer to the almighty Creator to offer thanks, request guidance and ask for positive intervention. Therefore, obviously Masons are not Deists. Deists would not have a bible and would not pray such as we do.

Also, Freemasonry unambiguously states that it is not a religion, nor a substitute for religion. As you all know there is no separate "Masonic" God. Some opponents of Freemasonry have falsely claimed that the term *Great Architect* or *Creator of the Universe* implies deism or a separate God. Such claims are false because the terms *Great Architect* or *Creator* it is just in keeping with the geometrical and architectural theme of Freemasonry.

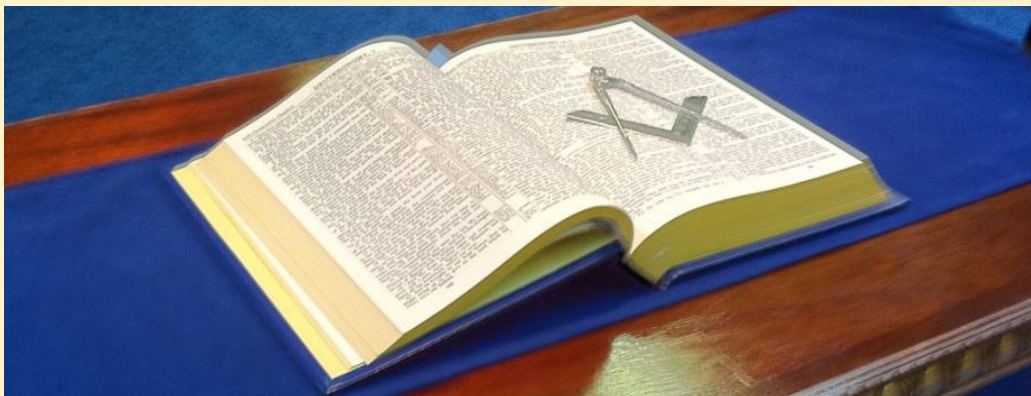
Then why do some people still promulgate the myth that Masons are Deists? Part of the reason is just an arrogant refusal to acknowledge what is visibly obvious. However, perhaps a part is another misunderstanding. Specifically, their failure to understand that regular Masons / Freemasonry does not include the foreign and ill-regular French family of so-called freemasons, sometimes referred to as continental freemasonry.

In a previous essay in the December 2021 tresleboard, it was explained that that French freemasonry developed with a more activist and political paradigm than the regular forms of Freemasonry that evolved from the English, Scottish and Irish lodges. Specifically, the British Isles and America Freemasonry developed with focus on individual growth, social brotherhood, relief, charity and good citizenship. However, in France the totalitarianism of the absolute monarchy, the lack of economic mobility of the desperately poor masses, the persecution of unsanctioned religious groups by the state and the Catholic church, and a more radically minded intellectual cadre, combined to create a volatile situation which eventually led to a bloody revolution.

Unfortunately, in some French cities a cadre of violent and anti-religion radicals infiltrated Freemasonry, radicalized its goals and reputation. The violence of the French revolution was extreme. Beyond just targeting the monarchy, all churches and religious representatives were violently attacked. This was known as the reign of terror. Religions, as we know them, were virtually banded. They were temporarily replaced by two cults, one deist and the other atheist. When Napoleon seized control of France, he stopped the terror and banded those two cults. However, lasting damage was done to French masonry.

For many years French masonry has been splintered into various groups. Currently there are some eleven organizations calling themselves Grand Orient or Grand Lodge, few of which officially recognize the legitimacy of the others, and none currently recognized as regular by American Masons. The primary reason that French / continental masonic organizations and their members are not recognized as regular Masons is because they continue to be overtly politically active, and they allow atheists and deists to join their lodges. These are the primary reasons that the leaders of the Catholic church and some other religious groups remain deeply suspicious of Freemasonry. They do not understand or refuse to acknowledge the significant differences between our regular Freemasonry and what is called continental freemasonry.

We suggest that in conversations about Freemasonry with non-Masons, it is important to emphasized that regular Freemasons in the US and in most of world, do not recognize the French so-called masonic organizations (continental freemasonry), because they have significantly departed from our core Masonic principles.



Masonic Travels - Freemasonry in the Mining Camps of California

Looking for some interesting travels? Ready for an adventure? If you have a 4 wheel drive vehicle or a good truck, and you like the outdoors, then this may interest you. Sometime ago, while traveling in the eastern side of the California Sierra Nevada mountains, we came upon the ghost town of **Bodie**, which led to our discovery of the **Masonic Mining District**, **Masonic Mountain**, the **ghost town of Masonic** and **Masonic mountain road**.

The Masonic Mining District is situated in Northern Mono County at an 8000-foot elevation, about 12 miles northeast of Bridgeport and 1-1/2 miles west of the Nevada state line. There were additional claims in the district that were inside the Nevada state line and were also registered in Nevada, also as the Masonic Mining District. This area was primarily known for its extensive gold deposits. This was a difficult area to live in and mine. The climate is cold and semi-arid, with a mean annual precipitation of 12 to 25 inches, much of it snow.

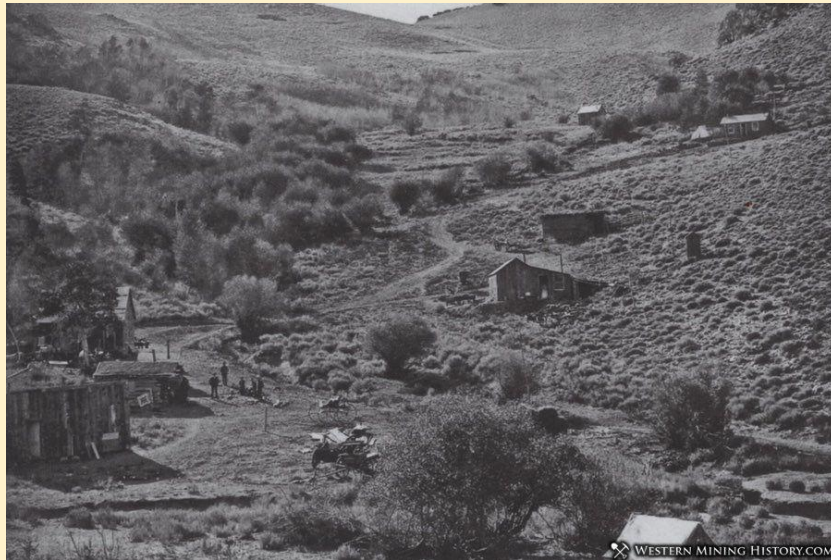
In the summer of 1860, prospectors discovered promising gold ore in the area. The new district was named Masonic because a majority of the workers were Masons. During that period, the rich Aurora gold strike and the possibilities at Bodie (another town primarily inhabited by Masons) created an economic boom.



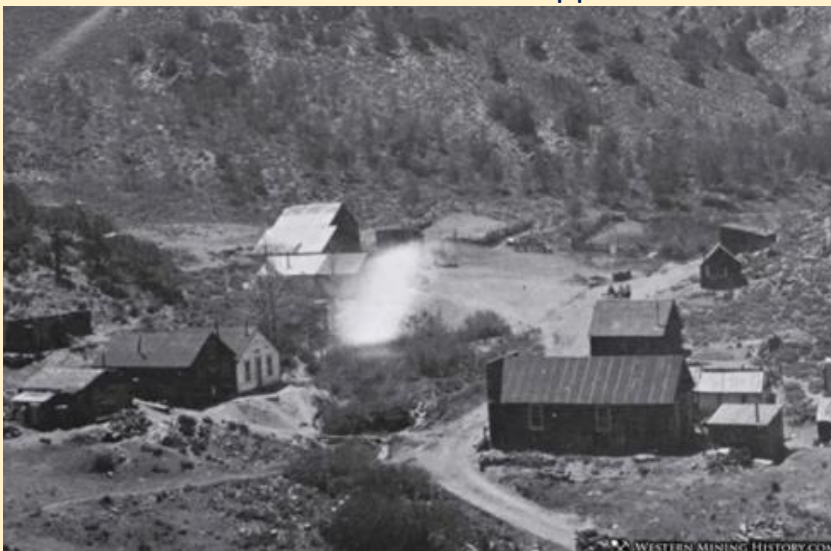
Masonic Lodge, Bodie California

Then in 1900, Joseph Green, a 16-year-old boy from Bodie, found rich gold samples in the middle of the **Masonic gulch** and staked his claim as the Jump Up Joe Mine. This led to the creation of the town of Masonic, California.

Masonic, California was founded by Freemasons, hence its name. It is now a ghost town located about 10 miles (16 km) northeast of Bridgeport, Mono County, California. The town consists of an upper, middle, and lower town; most of the few ruins remaining are in the middle town. The town's population peaked at about 1,000. In many ways the town and district was a model Masonic community.



Upper Masonic town



Middle Masonic town



Masonic Memorial



Lower Town Masonic

On July 4, 1902, mining partners John Stuart Phillips, Caleb Dorsey and John M. Bryan located a rich quartz ledge on the southern edge of the district. The rich gold ore assayed at \$35 to \$800 per ton. In November of 1904, gold found in a nearby mine assayed at \$4000 per ton.

The Masonic Mining District covered an area of about 6 by 12 miles. Individuals from Masonic, Bodie, Bridgeport and Nevada were soon financially and socially connected through a network of roads, businesses and mines

By 1904, new roads to Masonic from Bridgeport and Bodie allowed passenger and freight traffic. Lumber for buildings came from Mono Mills on the south shore of Mono Lake. It was first transported to Bodie on the Bodie & Benton Railroad and then hauled to Masonic in wagons over Geiger Grade by 6-horse teams, a distance of 48 miles. By 1906, a passenger stage line was operating between Masonic and Wellington, Nevada. In 1907, additional stage service began running between Masonic and the Conway Ranch in the Mono Basin.

By the end of 1907, Lower Masonic Town boasted a hotel and two saloons. The Jeffry Hotel and one saloon were operated by Mr. & Mrs. John Jeffry, the owners of the Occidental Hotel in Bodie. The other saloon was owned by Bridgeport resident Ed Murphey.

Middle Masonic Town merchants included a livery stable, the Frank L. Wedertz Butcher Shop, a combination hotel/boarding house operated by Minnie Smith, and the Harvey Boone & Son General Store. Wedertz also operated a shop in Bridgeport and Boone owned another store in Bodie.

In Masonic, the Boone Store provided clothing, liquor, cigars, hardware and miner supplies such as blasting power, all of which were delivered to the store by pack train, and the store served as the stage station.

Even though Masonic's population grew to about 1000 people, there were no churches, fraternal organizations (other than Freemasons), or brothels in the town. Dances were popular, as reported in the newspaper on September 12, 1908, of a dance in Lower Masonic Town: "Over 50 couples tripped the light fantastic to the excellent strains of the Bodie Orchestra. Supper was served at the Jeffry Hotel."

Dr. E. T. Krebs of Bridgeport often visited Masonic to provide medical treatment, but not for injuries from shootings or other violent actions. The district was proud of its quiet and diligent work ethic.

The Masonic Pioneer newspaper was first printed on November 8, 1905, by George Montrose, editor and publisher of the Bridgeport Chronicle-Union. The Pioneer lasted only 2-3 years before it folded, but **Masonic town and mining district news** continued to be printed in the Bridgeport paper.

During this time, also formed was the **Masonic Investment Company** and the **Masonic Mining Company**. Masonic's principal mine, the Pittsburg-Liberty Mine, produced \$700,000 in gold before closing in 1910. By 1911, Masonic was in decline, although some mines kept in production until the 1920s.

Between 1920 & 1929, there were occasional discoveries of new ore veins in Masonic gulch. Only 12 registered voters were living in Masonic in 1924. In 1929, the Serita mine reopened for a short time, but there was no longer large-scale production in the area. By the mid 1950's there was no one living in the Masonic. Only remnants of the old mill and several buildings remain now to remind one of what it must have been like.

In the vicinity of the Bodie and Masonic ghost towns is **Masonic Mountain**, a high mountain peak at an elevation of 2,812m (9,225 ft) above the sea level. Masonic Mountain road is one of the highest roads of California.



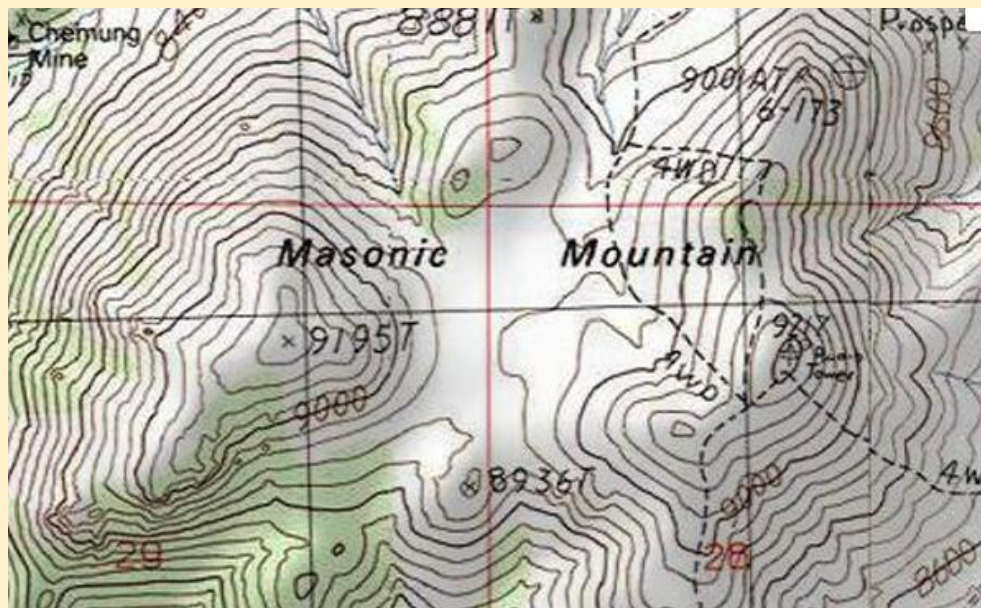
Set high in the Sierra, the road to the summit is totally unpaved with ruts and embedded rock. It's called NF-169 (**Bodie Masonic Road**). This road is usually closed from late October through late June or early July (depending on snow). It is not generally snow-free until late June or even July in some years.

The road to the summit is very steep, hitting a 29% of maximum gradient through some of the ramps. Starting at the paved Sweetwater Road, the ascent is 15.9km (9.87 miles) long. Over this distance the elevation gain is 823 meters. The average gradient is 5.17%.

The road is suitable for most stock SUVs with 4-wheel drive and moderate clearance. Be prepared for a lack of cell reception. The drive offers epic views of the Sierra, nearby mountains and historic abandoned mine structures stretching out in all directions.



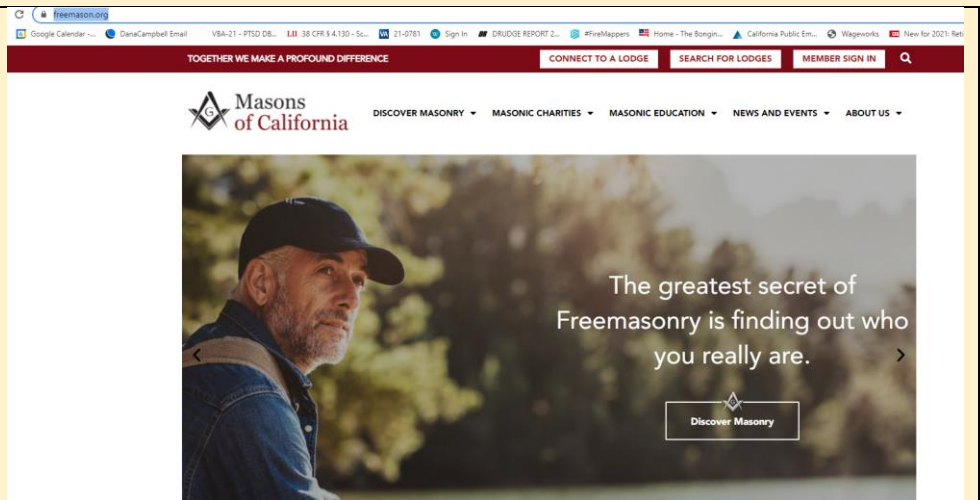
See you at the top?



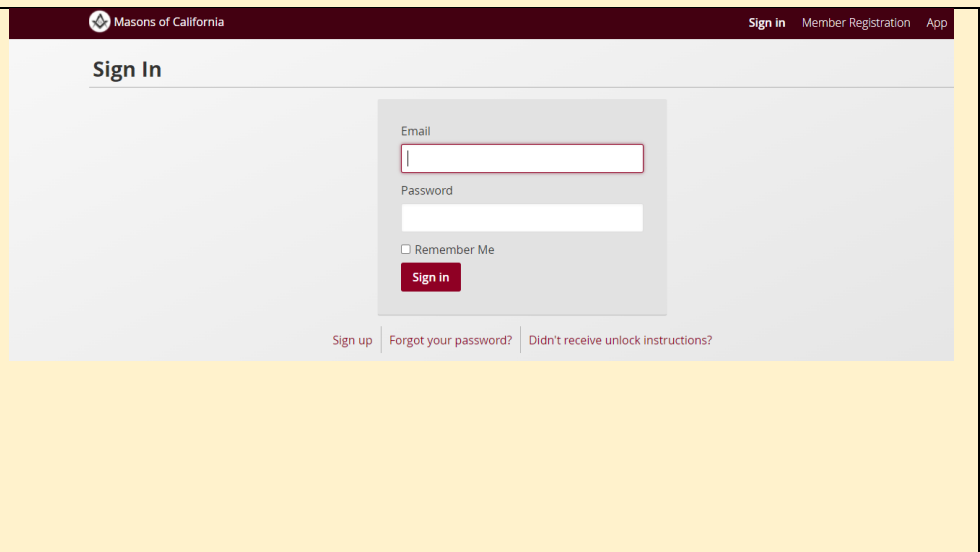
Candidate courses and lodge management courses available at the Grand Lodge website

Using your computer, open your browser and go to <https://freemason.org/>. You will see this website.

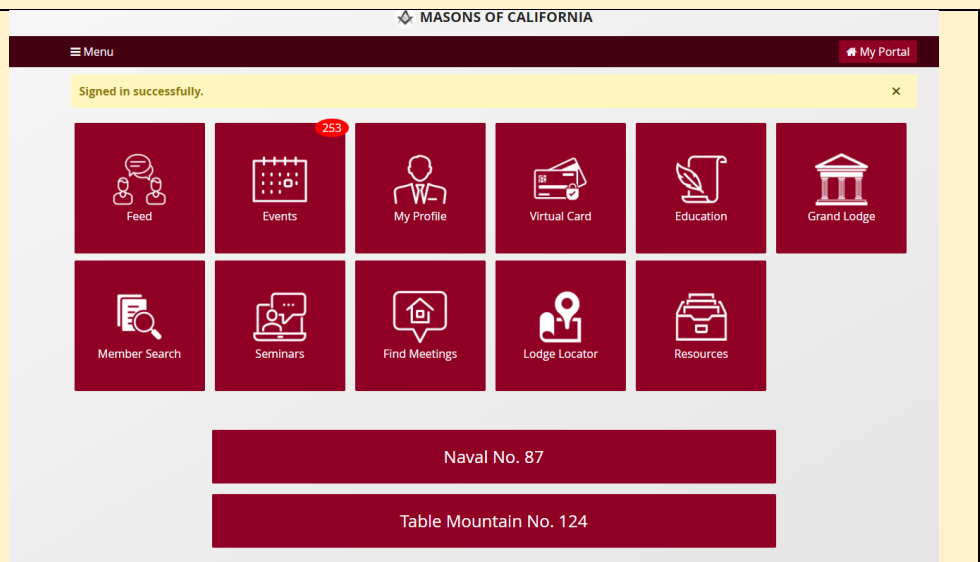
In the right corner, push “member sign in”



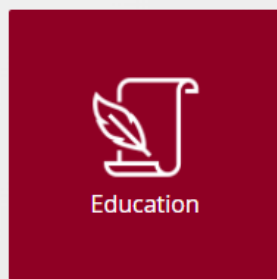
This is the “sign up” and the “sign in” page. If you have never been to this website before, then go to “Sign up” in the lower left. It will only take you a minute to create your password. You will need your member number which is on your dues card. After that you sign in using your email and password



This will be the page you see after signing in



Selection Education



There are courses for our Candidates (see below)

Candidate Learning Center

Welcome Candidates!

The free, newly updated Candidate Learning Center is now available in an easy-to-navigate flipbook format. Meet the requirements of the California Masonic Code for the Basic Masonic Education Course at your own convenience - wherever you are!

These courses have been prepared by California Masons, for California Masons and include a wealth of extra study materials, as well as personal interviews from fellow Masons! We hope you will enjoy this exciting period in your Masonic career.

How to use the Candidate Learning Center

- The flipbooks shown below match your degree status in the Member Center. (Entered Apprentices will only see the Entered Apprentice degree, Fellow Crafts will see the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees, and so forth.)
- Select the name of the degree course below to open each flipbook in a new window.
- Thoroughly review each flipbook to immerse yourself in the lessons of each degree. If any questions come up during your review, make a note of them to discuss them with your coach.
- Once you feel adequately prepared for each degree, you can take the final exam for the course
- A score of 70 percent is required to pass each course. Once you pass, a checkmark will appear in the box in the "passed" column and your score will appear in the "score" column. You can take the test as many times as you would like. If you score a new, higher score, it will replace your previous score in the score column. Record of your passing the course will also appear in your member record in the "Basic Masonic Education Courses" section.

| Course Name | Score | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Entered Apprentice Final Exam | Study Guide | Take Exam |
| Fellow Craft Final Exam | Study Guide | Take Exam |
| Master Mason Final Exam | Study Guide | Take Exam |

There courses are informative and helpful to our candidates. There is no cost for these courses.

There is also a Lodge Management Certification Program online. It is a total of four courses on aspects of lodge finances, management and administration. All officers should complete these courses. Each course take about one hour to complete.

See next page:

Lodge Management Certification Program

The Lodge Management Certification Program courses have been prepared by California Masons, for California Masons and will help prepare you for leadership in your lodge. They are designed to give you the basic knowledge you will need to help manage the business administration of your lodge. We hope you will enjoy this exciting period in your Masonic career.

How to use the Lodge Management Certification Courses

- Select the name of the course below to open each guide in a new window.
- Thoroughly review each guide to immerse yourself in the lessons for each course.
- Once you feel adequately prepared for each exam, you can take the final exam for the course.
- A score of 70 percent is required to pass each course. Once you pass, a checkmark will appear in the box in the "passed" column and your score will appear in the "score" column. You can take the exam as many times as you would like. If you score a new, higher score, it will replace your previous score in the score column. Record of your passing the course will also appear in your member record in the Training Programs section.

| Course Name | | Score |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Finance Exam | Study Guide | Take Exam |
| Hall Association Management Exam | Study Guide | Take Exam |
| Lodge Administration Exam | Study Guide | Take Exam |
| Member Experience Exam | Study Guide | Take Exam |

There are no costs for these courses.

You can access the Grand Lodge Website from your computer or your smart phone. There is no cost and no risk. This website is very easy to use. Please try it. If you have any trouble using it, ask one of us (your brothers) for assistance.

There is also a I Member 2.0 app for your smart phone. Information about how to obtain and use it can be found at <https://masonichome.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Intro.iMemberLOApp.pdf>



The 2022 elected appointed officers of Table Mountain Lodge

- *Master* – Harwood (Woody) Nelson, PM
- *Senior Warden* – Scott Miller
- *Junior Warden* – Douglas Campbell
- *Treasurer* – Richard Gingery
- *Secretary* – Brian Grandfield, PM
- *Senior Deacon* – Justin Purcell
- *Junior Deacon* – Ehren Hawkins
- *Senior Steward* – Phil Howard
- *Marshall* – Matt Sutter
- *Titler* – Caleb Chin, PM

Contact Information

Table Mountain Building/Rooms Rentals - Woody Nelson, 916-202-6942

Table Mountain Lodge Worshipful Master - Woody Nelson, 916-202-6942,
email: woody@wolfranchfarm.com

Table Mountain Lodge Secretary - Brian Grandfield PM, 530-864-6323,
email: bgrandfield@gmail.com

Table Mountain Building Association President - Doug Campbell, 530-519-1695,
email: dgcphd@gmail.com

Tresleboard - Doug Campbell, 530-519-1695 email: dgcphd@gmail.com

