

# Three Minute Mason



Published By:

**Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin**

36275 Sunset Drive  
Dousman, WI 53118  
(262) 965-2200

## "THREE MINUTE MASON" INDEX

### Topic

1. Blue Lodge- We have always heard of the "Blue Lodge". What does the term "Blue" mean and why are we using the "Blue Lodge" in present conversation?
2. Corn-Wine-Oil - We hear the terms "corn, wine and oil" in our ritual and see them used at cornerstone layings and building dedications. Each has a meaning. What do you think they may be?
3. How old are we? - Many wide and different stories abound as to the age of our Fraternity. What are some of these stories? How old are we? What can be proven?
4. Lodge Warrant - What is a Lodge Warrant? Where does it come from and what is its significance?
5. Masonic Date: A.L. - It is interesting to note that Masonic dates never correspond with present calendar dates. They also have the letters A.L. after them. Why? What does the A.L. mean and what calendar do Masons follow?
6. Master's Wages - We hear, in ritual, a familiar statement: "Master's Wages". What are they?
7. Moon Lodges - Numerous lodges were formed as "Moon Lodges". Presently, the only lodge so identified in Wisconsin is Silas Shepherd Lodge of Research. What does the term "Moon Lodge" mean? What significance could this title represent?
8. Obligation/Oath - Masonic discussions often involve two terms: Masonic Obligation and Masonic Oath. Is there a distinction between them? Does one have more importance or significance? What are they? What is the Masonic Oath? What is the Masonic Obligation?
9. Penalties - Masons are well aware of many stated "penalties". Many are purely symbolic, while others are actual and enforced. What are some of the enforced Masonic penalties? Which are classified as symbolic?
10. Regius Poem - What is the Regius Poem? How is it Masonically significant?
11. Sword pointing to a Naked Heart - One of the symbols in the Master Mason degree lectures is the "sword pointing to a naked heart". What is the symbolic meaning of that symbol?
12. Foundations - What are the "foundations" of Masonic law?
13. Lodge under Dispensation - What does the term "Lodge under Dispensation" mean? What are some of the regulations that relate to such a lodge?
14. Entered Apprentice - Where did the term "Entered Apprentice" originate? What does the title represent?

15. Oblong Square - What is an "Oblong Square"? What does it refer to and what have you heard to be its' history?
16. Grand Lodge Officer Qualifications - What are the qualifications for Grand Lodge Officers and Trustees in the State of Wisconsin?
17. Freemasonry as a Secret Society - Our Fraternity has often been referred to by our critics as a secret society. What is secret about Freemasonry and what is not secret?
18. Ancient Common Law - What is the Ancient Common Law of Freemasonry? How does it differ from the Ancient landmarks?
19. Perpetual Membership - What is the perpetual membership program? Of what value is it? Who is eligible? How does one join? Who benefits from it?
20. Charity - What are the primary concerns of Masonic charity? Who oversees lodge charity? Who is eligible for lodge charity?
21. Leadership Powers of a Grand Master - At times a Grand Master may lead by exerting his authority. Where does his authority come from? What controls and guides help to direct the actions of our Grand Master?
22. Masonic Claims and Divorce - Masonic charity extends to the wife, widow and children of Masons. What changes occur due to divorce? Re-marriage to a non-member? What obligations are changed, gained or lost?
23. Discipline of a Master - Does anyone have the authority to discipline the Master of a lodge?
24. Aprons - Why are they worn in lodge? Why must a Brother be properly clothed? What symbolism is suggested? Are aprons used as symbols of other institutions?
25. Characteristics of Freemasonry - What are some of the distinctive qualities of our Fraternity? Can Freemasonry be more?
26. Relief - What Masonic choices or possibilities are available to a sojourning Mason or a member of his immediate family, in need of help?
27. Constitution of the United States and Freemasonry- What relationships exist between Freemasonry and the Constitution of the United States? What are the basic freedoms of the United States? Of the signers, which ones were Freemasons?
28. Cowans and Eavesdroppers - What is the ancient meaning of the terms "cowans and eavesdroppers"? Are there any current meanings? What is the value of the Tiler's position?
29. Duly and Truly Prepared - To be "duly and truly prepared", a candidate for degrees must be hoodwinked. Why is this done?
30. Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin - Who was the first Grand Master? What were his professions? Who was the presiding officer at the first Grand Lodge Session?
31. Grand Lodge Officers - What are the titles of the Grand Lodge Officers. What is

meant by the term "Worshipful Master", "Right Worshipful"?

32. Hiram Abiff, Man or Legend - Was there such a Mason as Hiram Abiff? what is his story?
33. Joining the Fraternity - If Freemasons all believe in the same principles, support the same philosophy and feel the same obligations, is there any reason for membership in an organization? What are the personal factors or beliefs that result in membership? What reasons exist for membership? If so, why join?
34. Legal Information - Where is "legal information" mentioned in the ritual? Who know, or claims they know, legal information? Is a letter or telephone conversation legal information?
35. Lodge Opening - Who can open a lodge of Freemasons? For what reasons can a lodge be opened? How do the local lodge by-laws relate to Grand Lodge requirements and dispensations?
36. Lodge Trustees, Terms of Office - How are trustees elected? For what term of office? If they do not comply with duties, can they be removed? Why does a lodge have Trustees?
37. Arts, Parts, Points - What is the meaning of the phrase, "arts, parts, and points"? Where can the points be found?
38. Winding Staircase - The winding staircase is described in the Fellowcraft Degree. What is the symbolism with a staircase? What special symbolism is described in the Fellowcraft degree? What are the basic lessons of the staircase description? Are these lessons useful for non-Masons? Where else are they identified? .
39. "So Mote It Be" - What is the meaning of "Amen"? How does it differ from "So Mote It Be"? What is the origin of the phrase? Why not use "Amen" instead?
40. Table Lodge - What is a Table Lodge? How are they organized? What is their purpose?
41. Mozart - Name the Brother Mason who composed over 600 pieces of music. Which operas or odes seem to bear Masonic overtones?
42. "Act by the Plumb" - What is meant by the phrase, "to act by the plumb"? Are there lessons to learn from this biblical message?
43. Freemason - What is the origin of the term "Freemason"? Is there more than one theory?

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #1 BLUE LODGE

- A. We have always heard of the term “Blue Lodge”. What does the term Blue" mean, and why are we using the “Blue Lodge” in present conversation?
- B. List ideas - form teams and present a series of prizes, first to the team giving the most possible answers, and then to the Mason who gives the most accurate and complete answers, regardless of his team. Give points, keep score and do not give comments or hints until you go to Part C of this guide.
- C. Some authorities think that as blue has, from ancient Biblical times, been associated with truth, with Diety, with wisdom and hope; that, as Mackey taught, the blue of the Old Testament is a translation of the Hebrew “tekelet”, which is derived from a root meaning "perfection", and the color blue came into Masonry as its color by natural association. Others believe that as our ancient Brethren met on hills and in vales, over which the blue vault of heaven is a ceiling, that the covering of a lodge is the clouded canopy or starry decked heaven. These allusions seem to connote that blue, the color of the sky, is that of all celestial attributes for which Freemasons strive. "

Brother Harry E. Heinkel from Henry L. Palmer Lodge No. 301, Milwaukee, asked the same question: "Why do we say 'Blue Lodge'"? His findings are most interesting. At the risk of being termed a Masonic symbologist, he questioned and criticized the propriety of the term "Blue Lodge" when Freemasons speak of the Masonic Lodge of symbolic degrees: The term is peculiarly American; it is found nowhere else in the Masonic world. Evidence does not support the conclusion that the color Blue is the symbol of the three symbolic degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, whether Operative or Speculative, in time immemorial or of the present. That "Blue" is a significant or characteristic symbol of Freemasonry is not supported by the ritual. No pointed reference is made to it " in the three symbolic degrees. "Blue is emphatically the color of Freemasonry," wrote one authority. But the color of the United Grand Lodge of England is Garter (Oxford) Blue, while that of private (subordinate) lodges is Cambridge Blue, and the Grand Steward's Lodges in London, known as the "Red Apron" Lodges use crimson, thought to be suggested by the color of the ribbon of the Order of the Bath. The color of the Grand Lodge of Scotland is thistle green, while daughter (subordinate) lodges adopt a color of their choice. The recently instituted Grand Lodge of India adopted three colors, the Garter Blue of England, the Thistle Green of Scotland and the Sky Blue of Ireland. This is in honor of the three Grand Lodges by whom it was instituted.

Could the color Blue have been adopted when Blue Ribbons were attached to the Aprons? Perhaps, but aprons which can be seen in the museum in Freemasons Hall,

London are evidence that prior to and during the early years following the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1717, Aprons were white and of a considerable size. Rather than "Blue Lodge" Brother Heinkel prefers to proudly claim to be member of a "Masonic Lodge" which is understood by Freemasons and non-Masons throughout the world.

How and when the term "Blue Lodge" came to be known as the color of Freemasonry is yet to be discovered, but in present day usage, the term "Blue Lodge" identifies the membership and organization of Freemasons under the authority of the Grand Lodge.

D. References:

The WI Freemason, Vol XVIII Mar 1962 No 7 P 12 "Why do we say 'Blue Lodge'?"

The WI Freemason, Vol XVIII Jan 1962 No 5 P 11 "The 'Blue' Lodge".

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #2 CORN - WINE - OIL

- A. We hear the terms "corn, wine and oil" in our ritual, and see them used at cornerstone layings and building dedications. Each has a meaning. What do you think they may be?  
.
- B. You may wish to start by asking, "What are the three symbolic 'food' items used at cornerstone layings?" After you receive "corn, wine and oil", then go to your lead question. Remember, this is a guide for discussion. Let members freely offer their opinions - let discussion flow!
- C. Corn is the easy one; it is the corn of nourishment. Wine, by tradition, is served at celebrations, therefore it represents refreshment and marks important events. Oil, it is said, can be spread on troubled waters to calm them, and thus allow peace and joy to prevail. In dedications, it is believed that these symbols will bring plenty, a smooth path and happiness to those who make use of the Masonically dedicated structures.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #3    HOW OLD ARE WE?**

- A. Many wide and different stories abound as to the age of our Fraternity. What are some of these stories - how old are we? What can be proven?
- B. Remember, there are very many thoughts on this topic. Once again, be prepared to hear factual, symbolic, traditional and even some pretty far-fetched statements. Let the members talk! Don't cut off anyone or put down their thoughts. Your goal is to stimulate conversation and share ideas!
- C. No real answer is known! At this point, according to Past Grand Master Iding, we can trace our roots accurately to the oldest known Masonic document. It is the Regius poem and is reported to have been in existence as early as 1390 A.D. Some form of our present day Masonry evolved at the time of the building of the great cathedrals of Europe during the Middle Ages, about the tenth or eleventh century. The first recorded Grand Lodge was in existence in 1717. The Craft in the Americas dates from 1730, and perhaps even slightly earlier.

An alternate theory that is creditable, offered by Mr. John J. Robinson, author of "Born in Blood" is worthy of note. Mr. Robinson's research of the Peasants Revolt of 1381 in England lead him to the conclusion that the uprising was not spontaneous, but rather the work of a secret society. As outlawed Knights Templar sought refuge in Scotland and England, having fled the persecutions in France, they may have organized into a secret society to overthrow the government to reestablish their Order. Since they were required to work in secrecy, whereas stonemasons did not, they are the founders of Freemasonry. Other offers of proof are suggested in this interesting and thought-provoking book.

#### D. Reference:

Year Book 1991 of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland  
"Born in Blood" (sub-title, The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry)

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #4 LODGE WARRANT**

- A. What is a Lodge Charter, Warrant? Where does it come from and what is its' significance?
- B. This should not be a difficult topic. Most members have heard the lectures that describe the warrant's purpose. Locate your Charter for your own lodge. Trace some of its' history. It should prove interesting.

You may even decide to hold a re-dedication if your Lodge moves, rebuilds, or reaches a particular milestone. Contact your Area Administrator or District Deputy for possible scheduling.

- C. Essentially, there is no difference between the terms, “Warrant” and “Charter”. It may also be called a "Warrant of Constitution". In the United States, once a lodge has been approved after usually spending some time "under dispensation", it is given a "Charter", or "Warrant" by the Grand Lodge. This document is the authority by which a lodge is created and to act as a regular lodge.

In Europe, the first "Lodge Warrant" issued by any Grand Lodge was issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1731. The earliest date of when Modern Grand Lodge of England began to issue warrants to lodges is unknown, but the earliest preserved written warrant issued by the Ancient Grand Lodge of England is 1772.

- D. Reference:

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry, MSA 1988  
Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia by Henry Wilson Coil

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #5    MASONIC DATE: A.L.**

- A. It is interesting to note that Masonic dates never correspond with present calendar dates. They also have the letters "A.L." after them. Why? What does the "A.L." mean and on what occasions do Freemasons use the Masonic calendar date?
  
- B. Allow some time for discussion; a variety of answers may be given. How about a round of applause for the Brother who answers your questions?
  
- C. Traditional Masonic custom holds that the Craft follows an ancient belief that the world was created four thousand years before the birth of Christ. When God declared, "Let there be light", the earth and worlds began. You can add four thousand years plus the current year and always know the Masonic year! This process of dating according to "light" is called "Anno Lucis" or in the year of the first light. We do not write out "Anno Lucis", but simply use the letters, A.L.

A check of the Wisconsin Masonic Code reveals that the Masonic calendar is used here in Wisconsin. The Code states, "The corner or foundation stone is usually placed in the northeast corner. It should be engraved with the date of laying of the cornerstone and the year of Masonry, the Grand Master's name and such other inscription as the Grand Master shall have approved."

#### D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code, Chapter 52, Lodges,  
52.15 Inscription on Corner or Foundation Stone.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #6 MASTER'S WAGES**

- A. In our ritual we hear a familiar statement: “Master's wages”. What are they?
- B. Work to direct the discussion and answers into the symbolic "wages". An example could be the bond of friendship, the enjoyment of relief, brotherhood and service.
- C. Today, the Free and Accepted Mason is concerned only with moral work. His reward, therefore, is found within himself. The spiritual wages go well beyond these and have countless worth. The very heart of being a Freemason and the joy received is a much more meaningful wage. The intangibles, of love, friendship, respect, opportunity, happy labor and associations are the wages of a Master who earns them. Not all earn them, hence, the phrase "to pay the Craft their wages if any be due. . ." A member may earn as much as he desires, and the more one puts into the Craft, the more one receives.
- D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code      Chapter 63

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #7    MOON LODGES**

- A. Numerous Lodges were formed as "Moon Lodges". Presently, the only Lodge so identified in Wisconsin is Silas H. Shepherd Lodge of Research. What does the term "Moon Lodge" mean? What significance could this title represent?
- B. Do not become judgmental. Let Lodge members give as many possible reasons as they can. You may ask "What stories have you heard about this topic?" Give an award to the member who gives the most original. How about a Masonic publication, gift certificate from a restaurant or some other inexpensive prize?
- C. As our early Lodges formed, it was at a time when our present conveniences of travel were nonexistent. Men often worked from "sun-up to sun-down"! Lodges met, therefore, on or just after a full moon, or just before a full moon. Members could see to travel under the bright light of the full moon. Presently, because of the difference between lunar dates and regular calendar dates, most Lodges follow a much more practical schedule of activities. Silas H. Shepherd is called a Moon Lodge but is not truly one. It uses the title only to keep it active as a past memory of our history. In fact, almost all of the meetings held for this traveling Lodge have been during the daylight hours. It is a Lodge which moves throughout the State, thus, travel is still a part of members' responsibility as they attend meetings.
- D. Reference:

The Wisconsin Freemason VOL XI, MAR 1955 No.7 P. 10  
"MOON LODGES" by Brother Warren Fowler McIlroy

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #8 OBLIGATION/OATH

- A. Masonic discussions often involve two terms: Masonic Obligation and Masonic Oath. Is there a distinction between them? Does one have more importance or significance? What are they? What is the Masonic Oath? What is the Masonic Obligation?
- B. Use a panel or allow open discussion. Ask each member present to comment. Set a time limit and record answers on a chart for reference.
- C. Oath is the "so help me, God" at the end of any solemn promise made with the hand upon the Book of the Law.

Obligation is the contents of the promises taken in Masonic Degrees.

The Oath is the symbolic respect of a commitment made to God; the Obligation is the very nature of that commitment.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #9 PENALTIES

- A. Masons are well aware of many stated "penalties". Many are purely symbolic while others are actual and enforced. What are some of the enforced Masonic penalties? Which are classified as symbolic?
  
- B. List them as given and hold identification of the two categories until all have been proposed.. Consider dividing your group into two teams and award a prize to the group adding the most to the list.
  
- C. The following penalties known to Freemasonry are the reprimand, definite suspension from membership, and expulsion from the Fraternity.

Additionally, the penalties of ritual are wholly symbolic and have never been Masonically enforced. They were however, legal penalties in the Middle Ages. Past accepted religious beliefs held that an incomplete body, or one buried in unconsecrated ground could not ascend into Heaven.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #10    REGIUS POEM**

- A. What is the Regius Poem? How is it Masonically significant?
- B. We close each prayer with a quotation from this ancient document. (You may want to give this as a hint.) Spend some time to prepare as you can, using part C.
- C. This particular writing dates to about 1390 A.D. It is, in some research, called the Halliwell Document, because it was discovered by a man named Halliwell, and is the earliest dated material of Masonic record. It presently is in the British Museum in the form of a book. It is said to be about Masonry and deserves continued study. Although it is in Chaucerian English, and often requires skilled interpretation, it gives Masonry its earliest identification. It is written in verse, and therefore referred to as a poem. The poem ends with the statement "SO Mote it be" in reference to charity. The word "Mote" is translated as "may".
- D. Reference:

101 Questions of Freemasonry,        MSA

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #11 SWORD POINTING TO A NAKED HEART

- A. One of the symbols in the Master Mason Degree lectures is the "sword pointing to a naked heart". What is the symbolic meaning of that symbol?
- B. Can the answer be found in the ritual? It appears so. The third section of the Master Mason lecture states, ". . . demonstrates that justice will sooner or later overtake us".
- C. However, the answer above is somewhat flawed. If justice is defined as impartiality, fairness, equality, correctness and lawfulness and it is a Mason's duty never to deviate therefrom, how can just men then be suddenly and unexpectedly overrun by what is right? Don't Masons expect, render and welcome justice?

Then what symbolic meaning is left for the symbol of the "sword pointing to a naked heart"? The answer - given in Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, p. 664: "vengeance, punishment, or death".

#### D. Reference:

Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia  
Multiple-letter cipher, EA & MM Third Section lectures

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #12    FOUNDATIONS**

- A. What are the "foundations" of Masonic law?
- B. Allow thought time and some discussion. Key in on anyone suggesting "landmarks". Tell the group that that is the answer, then expand the discussion into their understanding of the origin and number of such landmarks. The twenty-five landmarks of Mackey are excellent sources of Masonic education. In recent years students of Masonic jurisprudence have given considerable weight to the Ancient landmarks as defined by Roscoe Pound, Past Honorary Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Grand lodge of Massachusetts and Dean of Harvard law School. You may decide to present one of the Ancient landmarks according to both Mackey and Pound at each meeting during the year in order to increase the general Masonic knowledge of each attending Brother.
- C. Again, our Craft cannot come to a clear decision on this topic. No agreement has been reached on just how many landmarks there are, and which ones are the basis of our unwritten laws. As an example, Roscoe Pound, an authority on Masonic jurisprudence, lists only seven landmarks as the fundamental laws of the Fraternity. They are, however, known as our fundamental laws and are considered to be held universally unalterable and unrepealable, which differentiates and distinguishes the Masonic Fraternity from all other organizations.

Some Grand Lodges have adopted the twenty-five landmarks listed by Albert Mackey. The Wisconsin Grand lodge has never adopted any Landmarks officially, but we do state in our Constitution that the Grand lodge is the supreme authority, subject only to the ancient landmarks. Since the Wisconsin Grand Lodge has not adopted any landmarks, this allows for differences to develop between Wisconsin and other jurisdictions.

D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code    2.01  
Wisconsin Masonic Code    Appendix, Part 9 Landmarks

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #13 LODGE UNDER DISPENSATION**

- A. What does the term "Lodge under dispensation" mean? What are some of the regulations which relate to such a Lodge?
- B. "New" Lodges have not been forming for several years in our State. The term may be new to many, or even be considered a "negative label". Open discussion should be encouraged, yet the leader must be prepared to assist by reviewing Part C. Review the Wisconsin Masonic Code, Chapter 51, in preparation for this topic.
- C. A newly organized lodge, started by petition of no less than twenty-five Master Masons, may be granted initial operating rights by action of the Grand Master. The petition shall be recommended by the nearest Lodge. The Grand Master may, however, issue a dispensation to form and open a new Lodge without such recommendation. When voted on, a 2/3 vote is required to give consent for a new Lodge by the sponsoring lodge. It is important to note that the signers of a petition for dispensation to form and open a new Lodge are, in truth, given demits from their present Lodges by the Grand Master, through the process, unless they desire to retain a plural membership with the original Lodge. Such intention must be stated in the petition for dispensation.
- D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code CH 51

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #14 ENTERED APPRENTICE

- A. Where did the term "Entered Apprentice" originate from? What does the title represent?
- B. The question, on its surface, seems quite simple, and an easy one to answer quickly (note definition below). There is some depth to it though, and the discussion leader must be alert to ask follow-up questions to help participants by probing and asking what else this could mean. Move from present usage by going back to the operative roots of our Craft.
- C. In the Middle Ages, a Master was recognized as one who was classified at the highest point of professional recognition. Membership was by selection and took a long and prescribed route through the guild system. When a young man possessed the proper characteristics, he could become an apprentice Mason. The learning process took a full seven years. His examination was lengthy and ended with his submission of a "Master's Piece" which was judged before he could become a "Fellow of the Craft". Once he gained experience and recognition, he was entered on the book. Thus, he became an "Entered Apprentice":
- D. Reference:

The Pocket History of Freemasonry

Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, VOL I, 1929, P 333

"ENTERED. When a candidate receives the First Degree of Freemasonry, he is said to be entered. It is used in the sense of admitted, or introduced; a common as well as a Masonic employment of the word, as when we say, "the youth entered college" or, "the soldier entered the service".

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #15 OBLONG SQUARE**

- A. What is an "Oblong Square"? What does it refer to and what have you heard to be its history?
- B. You may wish to give a hint that present usage is much different from its original. A second hint may be needed as you may tell them that the term dates back to the time of King Solomon. Encourage free thought and have members "stretch" their thoughts and suggestions.
- C. When Solomon ruled what was then believed to be the world, the land mass was indeed an "oblong square". The form ran just north and just south of the Mediterranean Sea and stretched out from Spain in the West to Asia Minor in the East. It is said to have been a large rectangle or oblong square. It truly was such, as at that time the oblong square described a figure with right angles in all four corners and having parallel sides of different lengths. The present square still has four right angles, but must have sides of equal length. This "world shape" was also represented by the shape of the floor of Solomon's Temple; an oblong square which, in a symbolic way, represented the shape of the known world at the time.

In summary, "oblong square" meant to our ancient Brethren what "oblong" means today. The term is used in ritual to describe the shape of the lodge.

#### D. Reference:

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry MSA, Jan. 1988

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #16 GRAND LODGE OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS**

- A. To become a Grand Lodge Officer, what qualifications must you possess?
- B. We know that to be elected to the position of Worshipful Master, one must have served as one of the Wardens or as a Master in some lodge. Are there similar qualifications to become an officer of the Grand Lodge?
- C. All Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Lodge Trustees must be Master Masons, a resident of the State of Wisconsin, and each must be a member of a lodge therein. All Grand Lodge Officers, except the Grand Secretary, the Grand Chaplain, the Grand Marshal and the Grand Tiler must be Past Masters. The office of Grand Trustee is statutory and is not considered a Masonic officer.

The root of this rule is found in the Proceedings of the First Grand Communication, held December 18, 1843.

### BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF WISCONSIN

As adopted at the Grand Communication, December 18, A.D. 1843

- #3 No Mason shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge unless he be a Past Master, except in cases of emergency.

### D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code, Chapter 6  
FREEMASONRY IN WISCONSIN 1823-1852, page 25

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #17 FREEMASONRY AS A SECRET SOCIETY**

- A. What is secret about Masonry, and what is not secret?
- B. List the ideas that are derived from the membership.
- C. Wisconsin Masons may differ on points they care to reveal about the Craft. When operative Masons made a transition toward accepting non-operative (or Freemasons) between A.D. 1600 and 1725, certain "Charges" were developed to instruct the newcomers in their duties and responsibilities of the craft.

"The Old Charges" published in Dr. James Anderson's Constitutions in 1723 (as revised in 1738 to include his personal conjecture) are included in Wisconsin's Masonic Code on pages 81-84. These are followed by Albert Mackey's 25 "Landmarks" and Roscoe Pound's seven "Landmarks", pages 85-93.

Landmarks have been defined as those fundamental principles that "Characterize" the Craft (without which the Institution cannot be identified). Mackey's 23rd Landmark and Pound's 5th intimate that there is no secret about who is and who is not a Freemason. The world at large knows that our aims and ideals are religious, charitable, friendly and fraternal. The legend of the third degree, our means of recognition, degree conferral methods, obligations and balloting are private matters demanding individual secrecy.

The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in its Constitution declares fidelity to "The Old Charges" which, in discussing Masonic behavior, do not address the matter of secrecy. Wisconsin has never officially adopted any of the Landmarks.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #18 ANCIENT COMMON LAW

- A. What is the "Ancient Common Law" of Freemasonry?
  
- B. Is it the same as the Ancient Landmarks? If not, how does it differ? The Ancient Landmarks are the supreme Masonic Law, and are immutable, irrevocable, and unalterable. Ancient Common Law differs from the Ancient Landmarks.
  
- C. The Ancient Common Law of Freemasonry is the ancient usage's, charges and Regulations of Freemasonry, differing only from the Ancient Landmarks in that the Ancient Common Law may be altered and amended by the Grand Lodge in those rare instances when the welfare of the Craft shall require the proposed change.

#### D. Reference:

Masonic Code of Wisconsin, Article 2.03 Ancient Common Law

# HE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #19 PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

- A. What is the Perpetual Membership Program? Of what value is it? Who is eligible? How does one join? Who benefits from it? What is the purchase price of this plan?
- B. Before discussing the merits of this plan, it would be advisable to review the guidelines listed in the Wisconsin Masonic HANDBOOK, Chapter XXI, Perpetual Membership Plan and/or Chapter 94 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.
- C. Lodges may adopt perpetual membership plans by amending lodge by-laws to provide for the plan, or by resolution. The simple resolution process is the recommended way.

If adopted, the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership Plan can be determined by the lodge, but it cannot be less than the amounts determined by multiplying the sum of existing lodge dues and the existing Grand Lodge per capita tax by a factor in the following table:

<u>MEMBER'S ATTAINMENT OF AGE</u>	<u>FACTOR</u>
19-33	20
34-41	19
42-48	18
49-54	17
55-60	16
61 and older	15

The lodge benefits as it receives annual payment from the Grand Trustees, who administer the plan. The lodge will never have to face suspending such a member for non-payment of dues. The lodge will receive payments, even after the member's death. Each participant recognizes that his home lodge will always continue to gain funds because of the member's willingness to become a Perpetual Member. Someone else may purchase the plan for a qualified Mason. A lodge, however, may not itself purchase a plan for any member. A Perpetual Membership may even be purchased for a deceased Brother.

D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code, Chapter 94  
Wisconsin Masonic Handbook, Chapter XXI

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #20 CHARITY

- A. What are the primary concerns of Masonic charity? Who oversees lodge charity? Who is eligible for lodge charity? What is the source of the concept of lodge charity? Is it found in the ritual?
- B. Control the range of discussion to the lodge level. Do not let the discussion wander into Shrine, Scottish Rite or York Rite foundations or programs. Focus on the responsibility of the local lodge.
- C. The relief of Masons, their widows and orphans is the primary obligation of each constituent lodge. The Charity Committee is a standing committee of every lodge in Wisconsin, and consists of the Worshipful Master and Wardens. It is their duty to investigate all cases of charity and administer such relief as, in the discretion of the committee, may be found necessary to alleviate the distress of any member of the lodge, or others who may have a claim upon the lodge. For this purpose, every lodge should have a Charity Fund, which may be financed by a portion of the dues, or by fund-raising projects.

In addition, lodges are permitted to contribute to local, community, benevolent, educational or charitable organizations which qualify for charitable contributions under the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Charity is not mentioned in ritual. The concept comes from the obligation to aid and assist and from the definition of relief. Relief is defined in terms of sincere affection, happiness, restoration and compassion. There is no mention of financial aid.

#### D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code, Chapter 63  
Wisconsin Multiple Letter Cipher (EA Degree, Third Section, MM Degree First section - obligation)

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #21    LEADERSHIP POWERS OF A GRAND MASTER**

- A. At times the Grand Master may lead by exerting his authority. Where does his authority come from? What controls and guides help to direct the actions of our Grand Master?
- B. Many Masons do not truly know the answers to these questions. They often believe that there are no controls, but that the Grand Master is free to act as he pleases. Ask for examples or specific events. Follow up on them in discussion.
- C. The Grand Master has such prerogatives and powers to act, as provided from five areas: the Ancient Landmarks, the Ancient Common Law, the Constitution, the Statutes of the Grand Lodge and the Trial Code. He also has controls such as, "He may not dispense with any of the qualifications of a petitioner for the degrees, he may not grant a dispensation authorizing a lodge to join in the funeral procession of a deceased Mason unless the funeral is conducted by the lodge, he may not waive the examination of a candidate in open lodge". He may not dispense with the Landmarks, Ancient Common Law, Constitution or Statutes of the Grand Lodge.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #22    MASONIC CLAIMS AND DIVORCE**

- A. Masonic charity extends to the wife, widow and children of Masons. What changes occur due to divorce? Remarriage to a profane? What obligations are changed, gained or lost?
  
- B. Divorce is more and more common. Remarriage is also more prevalent. Lodges may face questions. Let members ponder situations. Give some "what if's" and see what "rules" are offered.
  
- C. A divorced wife of a Master Mason has no claims on his lodge for Masonic relief or aid. If the widow of a Mason marries a profane, she loses her Masonic claim. If she again becomes a widow, her Masonic claim is not restored. If the widow of a Mason marries a profane, his child does not lose his or her Masonic claim. The mother, sister or daughter of a Master Mason, who is the wife or widow of a profane has no further claim on a lodge for assistance. The widows of non-affiliated Masons retain their Masonic claims. And finally, the widow or child of an expelled or suspended Mason has no Masonic claim.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #23 DISCIPLINE OF A MASTER

- A. Does anyone have the authority to discipline the Master of a lodge?
- B. The Master's powers are almost limitless within the bounds of the Masonic Code. He can be disciplined. Let members try to express "how". List possibilities.
- C. The Grand Lodge may discipline a Master for misconduct, whether official misconduct or otherwise. A Mason may prefer charges against the Master of his lodge to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master may discipline a Master or any other officer of a lodge to the extent of suspending him from office until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge for official misconduct, neglect, malfeasance or gross unmasonic conduct. A lodge cannot discipline its Master for any cause during his term of office, nor for official misconduct at any time, but upon the expiration of his term, it may discipline him for unmasonic conduct while Master.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #24 APRONS

- A. While sitting in lodge, all Masons wear aprons. Why do they wear aprons?
- B. Is it worn only as a symbol of operative Masons, who wore it to protect their clothing? What is the significance of the apron?
- C. The use of the apron is extremely old, not as with the operative Masons, as a protection of clothing and body against tools and stones, but as a badge of honor. It was so used by the priests of Israel, by candidates for the mysteries of Mithras in Persia, by the ancient Japanese in religious worship. Ethiopia knew aprons, as did Egypt. In all times and climes, it has been a badge of distinction. It is as such that a Mason wears it.

The material of the Masonic apron - lambskin - is a symbol of innocence, as the lamb has always been.

Color and material are important in its symbolism, but Masonry admits the "symbol of the symbol" - as for instance, an electric light in place of a candle. Hence, a Mason has more than once been "properly clothed" when the lambskin aprons of the lodge were all in use and he came through the tiled door clad in a white handkerchief. .

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #25 CHARACTERISTICS OF FREEMASONRY

- A. What is Freemasonry? Our ritual defines Freemasonry as, "a regular system of morality, veiled in allegory, which will unfold its' beauties to the candid and industrious inquirer". Can Freemasonry be more?
- B. This topic is important for lodge discussion. Every member should participate. To further examine the question, ask what are the main characteristics of Freemasonry. Check them off as members respond. After the survey, let them know the remaining answers. (see note below)
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry is a force of good.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry promotes equality. "It asserts in language not to be misunderstood, the natural equality of mankind."  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry promotes fairness - in our vocations and daily life.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry is in harmony with the government of the country. Freemasons are known to be lovers of peace, freedom and many are patriots. They are known to perform their duty to their country when called upon.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry practices tolerance. No particular religious creed, dogma or theology can be discussed at lodge meetings.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry is unobtrusive. Our philosophy is not forced upon anyone.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry has a moral code. "Its' teachings are nobility of virtue".  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry is not a religion, but is religious. It acknowledges the existence of the First Cause - A belief in a Supreme Being.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry is good fellowship. The cement of friendship binds Brothers together worldwide. (Brotherhood)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry promotes uncommon kindness to the Brethren, to the elderly, to widows, orphans and to all mankind. Gentleness and compassion is a Freemason's balm for calamity, misfortune and misery.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry values no man for his worldly wealth or honors. We all meet upon the level.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry's principles of Brotherly love, relief and truth are exemplified by charitable work and service to the community and society as a whole. "  
\_\_\_\_\_ Freemasonry in a philosophical and religious sense is a search for truth.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other examples

NOTE: You may wish to hand out a tract titled "Freemasonry" which also details what Freemasonry is about. This tract is free and may be obtained from the Grand Lodge Office upon request.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #26 RELIEF

- A. What Masonic choices are available if financial, material or physical hardship comes upon a sojourning Mason or a member of his immediate family?
- B. Direct discussion to focus comments on the various Masonic possibilities available. Remember that we are talking about a sojourning Mason. Some may wish to comment on known or special cases, which show others the meaning of Masonic Relief. Be prepared by having information regarding some of the possibilities on hand. Review the references below.
- C. The Masonic Relief Association is an organization located in most states. Its' membership includes 46 Grand Jurisdictions and 140 Boards of Relief. These Boards and Agencies will assist the sojourning Mason and his family in time of need. Many of these Boards serve as Employment Bureaus. The Masonic Relief Association has aided others by:
- Conducting hospital and nursing home visits upon request.
  - Assisting in the distribution of benevolent funds.
  - Aiding widows during immediate times of need.
  - Conducting, for Grand Lodge or for local lodges, a Masonic Memorial
  - Providing assistance in obtaining cemetery lots.
  - Recruiting blood donors, or arranging for blood.
  - Assisting those Masons who were victims of crimes.

Contact with local lodge secretaries or the Grand Lodge Office is always advised. Additionally, a book named THE LIST OF LODGES, Pantagraph Printing Co., Box 1406, Bloomington, IL 61701, contains a listing of all the Masonic Boards of Relief, Service and Employment Bureaus, 'Regular Masonic Grand Lodge Offices in the United States and a listing of the lodges in each jurisdiction.

D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code, Chapter 63 "Charity"  
Wisconsin Masonic HANDBOOK, Chapter IV "Charity & Welfare Committee"  
"Chapter XI "Charities"  
The Short Talk Bulletin, Vol. III, Feb. 1926, No.2  
The Short Talk Bulletin, Vol. 69, Jan. 1990, No. 1'  
The Wisconsin Masonic Journal, Vol. 23, No.2, Feb. 1989 "Masonic Relief Association Available 24 Hours a Day to Help Sojourning Mason and Family"  
Pamphlet "Masonic Charities" published by the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #27 CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND FREEMASONRY**

- A. What does the Constitution of the United States mean to Freemasonry? Which signers were Freemasons?
- B. This topic should be wide open and clear to all men. The basic freedoms of our country and our right to work are interwoven in the Constitution. It is the framework for freedom.
- C. Have a copy of the Constitution available for discussion and review. Guide a discussion through a logical outline. Use a chalkboard or flip chart. Be ready to assign a committee to further investigate topics. A special pamphlet has been published by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin titled, "Freemasonry and the Constitution of the United States of America". It is available upon request from the Grand Lodge office.

Signers of the Constitution of the United States who were Freemasons: Gunning Bedford, Jr., John Blair, David Brearley, Jacob Broom, Daniel Carroll, Jonathan Dayton, John Dickerson, Benjamin Franklin, Nicholas Gilman, Rufus King, James McHenry, William Paterson, George Washington.

#### D. Reference:

"Freemasonry and the Constitution of the United States of America" published by the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin

"Masonic Membership of the Founding Fathers" by Ronald E. Heaton, published by The Masonic Service Association

Short Talk Bulletins, published by The Masonic Service Association, Feb. 1937, Aug\_ 1957, Sept. 1970.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #28 COWANS AND EAVESDROPPERS**

- A. When the Tiler expresses his duties, he uses the terms "cowans and eavesdroppers". What do they mean?
- B. It is doubtful you can find the term "cowan" in the dictionary - "eavesdropper" does appear. Get as many ideas as to the meaning of these terms as possible.
- C. "Cowan" is believed to be an old Scottish word. The origin or beginning of this word is unknown. The term "cowan" used by the Scots was meant to mean, "A Mason without the word; the apprentice who tries to masquerade as a Master". A more modern usage is defined as "an ignorant mason who places or lays stones together without mortar, or piles them together into a wall without working them square and true".

The "eavesdropper" in ancient times was a would be thief of secrets who listened under the eaves of houses (there was often a space between the wall and roof for ventilation). Because to hear, he had to get close to the wall under the eaves, he received the droppings from the roof if it rained - hence, eavesdropper.

In modern times, he is the man who forges a good-standing dues card, or finds one and masquerades as its owner; the man who has read a so-called "expose" of Freemasonry and tries to get into a lodge. He is very rare, and few Tilers have ever met him! The "cowan", however, is the Fellowcraft or Entered Apprentice stopped for cause, the one-time member in good standing who is now dropped for one cause or another. These not infrequently try to pass the Tiler.

D. Reference:

Claudy, Carl: Introduction to Freemasonry, pp 16  
Coil, Henry Wilson: Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, pp 149, 216

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #29 DULY AND TRULY PREPARED

- A. To be "duly and truly prepared", a candidate for degrees must be hoodwinked. Why is this done?
- B. Only a very literal minded man can imagine the hoodwink is for the purpose of concealing the lodge room and Brethren until the initiate is obligated. Ask the Brethren to think of and discuss the symbolic and other reasons associated with the hoodwink.
- C. In all systems of initiation, darkness has been a symbol of ignorance; hence, ritual that the eye should not see until the heart has conceived the mysteries of the order.

Blindfolding a candidate is symbolic of that state in which he is immersed in intellectual darkness, groping in search for light in Freemasonry. It is not to keep him from seeing the lodge room, or the officers, or the Brethren, but to make a deep and lasting impression on his mind that:

1. As he was then in darkness, so should he keep the world regarding the secrets of Masonry; and,
2. His heart might be taught to conceive before his eyes beheld the benefits of Masonry; and
3. Should he refuse to submit to the forms and customs of that degree, he might be led out of the lodge without discovering even the form thereof.

Besides the symbolism of the hoodwink, there are other reasons for depriving the candidate temporarily of sight. First, a man has only a certain amount of power to receive impressions; if this power be divided between eye and ear and feeling, it is less strong for many, than if some senses are temporarily blocked. The blindfold emphasizes the words heard; there is more attention paid to ritual when the attention is given to the use of one sense.

Secondly, a candidate is more impressed when he is a part of the action of a degree. The more he becomes part of it, the greater the impression. Hoodwinking the candidate singles him out from his fellow. He is immediately made dependent. He can no longer defend himself. He must rely on a friend. He is made "different" and because he is "different" he becomes, in his own mind, more important.

Masonic light is not created anew for each initiate. It is always with the Fraternity, just as the perfect ashlar awaits the chisel of the Master, so does knowledge await the removal of the hoodwink.

#### D. Reference:

Short Talk Bulletin, 8-57  
Claudy, Carl - Foreign Countries, Ch. 4  
Multiple Letter Cipher, page 55

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #30 GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN WISCONSIN

- A. Who was the first Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin? What was (were) his profession(s)?
- B. Except those who live in southwest Wisconsin, very few may know anything about our Most Worshipful Brother.
- C. Brother Benjamin T. Kavanaugh was born on April 28, 1805 in Jefferson County, Kentucky. His father was a minister. He served as Grand Master in 1944-45. He died on July 3, 1888 at Mt. Sterling, Kentucky.

His professions include:

Bookbinder	Newspaper Editor
Tanner	Doctor of Medicine
Flat-boating	Army Chaplain and Surgeon in the
Civil War	
Land Agent	Teacher
Methodist Minister	Writer
Missionary to the Indians	Lecturer

An interesting bit of Masonic history concerning Brother Kavanaugh - at the first convention of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin, Brother Kavanaugh was elected to be Wisconsin's first Grand Master to preside over the body, but wasn't present at the session. Brother Dwight F. Lawton had to preside as Grand Master Pro Tern. At the time, Most Worshipful Kavanaugh was in Indiana as a circuit rider (traveling minister) and was too ill to return to Wisconsin.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #31 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

- A. What is meant by the term "Worshipful Master", "Right Worshipful" , etc.
- B. You could add to the discussion by asking the members to list the officers of the Grand Lodge. You could further increase the educational impact of the discussion by having the Brothers group the officers into the "Most Worshipful", "Right Worshipful" and "Worshipful" categories.
- C. Titles for the Grand Lodge Officers and their rank are:

Most Worshipful Grand Master	Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master	“ Senior Grand Steward
“ “ Senior Grand Warden	“ Junior Grand Steward
“ “ Junior Grand Warden	“ Grand Marshal
“ “ Grand Treasurer	“ Grand Orator
“ “ Grand Secretary	“ Grand Tiler
Worshipful Grand Chaplain	“ District Deputy
“ Grand Lecturer	
“ Senior Grand Deacon	

The title, or form of address Worshipful is an adjective which means worthy of honor, entitled to respect. It is used for public officials in several countries, but more so in Freemasonry than elsewhere. Right and Most are used for titles for offices in several Christian denominations, as Right Reverend and Most Reverend. However, Worshipful has no religious implications. It is used like Your Honor and Lord Mayor.

D. Reference:

Unabridged Dictionary  
Post, Emily. Etiquette, Funk and Wagnalls Co., Inc., New York  
Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Masonic Code 6.01, pp 8  
The Masonic Service, Association of the U.S. - Short Talk Bulletin,  
Vol. 67, No. '11, November, 1989 Freemasonry and Religion are Compatible

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #32    HIRAM ABIFF**

- A. Was Hiram Abiff a legend of Masonry, or did he exist as an actual character of history?
- B. Open discussion to either side of the question should be supported. Ask lead questions, such as what historical symbolism is, and what it means to Freemasonry.
- C. According to non-Masonic writings, Hiram Abiff was indeed an actual character sought by King Solomon, as attested in I Kings 7:13-14, to assist in the building of his temple. Scripture tells us that Hiram Abiff was skillful in bronze work, but an interesting biblical translation relating to his skill can be found in Reference #1. Also, read Reference #2, The Theory of Hutchinson, relating to Hiram Abiff. Masonic tradition gives him the honor of Grand Master or Grand Architect for the Temple of Solomon, and overseer of the work. Thus, he is both actual and legendary.

#### D. Reference:

History of Freemasonry by Albert Mackey, VOL II, 1906, pages 412-432  
Mackey's Revised History of Freemasonry, VOL 1, 1921, pages 145-146

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #33 JOINING THE FRATERNITY

- A. We are all Brothers, believing in the same principles and general philosophy. We all express adherence to the same Masonic obligations, ties, deities and guidelines for our lives. Yet, each of us first sought to become Freemasons for a wide range of different reasons. If each man would share his reasons for joining the Fraternity, we may have a clearer picture of the forces, which have driven the organization for centuries.
- B. A national survey was commissioned in 1988 by the Masonic Renewal Task Force and presented during the annual Grand Master's Conference, February 1989. It can be found in the May 1989 and May 1990 issues of The Northern Light magazine, published by the Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA. Excerpts from these publications are listed below. (On file at the Grand Lodge Library)
- C. No "common reason" may be found. Each member has his own and the force, which drives membership, may well be a personal desire. If men join for hundreds of reasons, then hundreds should find a proper place in the Craft, when they realize that it is a personal and yet united Order.

#### RESPONSE TO SURVEY BY MEMBERS OF THE FRATERNITY:

Important Reasons for Being a Mason	% who said very important
1. Gives meaning and perspective to life	94
2. Provides moral, ethical development	92
3. Chance to form new friendships	86
4. Opportunity to socialize with friends	86
5. Opportunity to perform community service	81
6. Recognition and pride	79
7. Leadership opportunities	72
8. Family tradition	65

#### RESPONSE TO SURVEY BY NON-MEMBERS WHO HAVE SOME INTEREST IN JOINING:

1. Meeting people/socializing	37
2. Community service	36
3. Charity/helping others	20
4. Friendship	15
5. All others/miscellaneous	15
6. Business contact	13
7. Do not know/no response	10
8. Keep busy/something to do	9

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #34 LEGAL INFORMATION

- A. What is legal (or lawful) Masonic information?
- B. In the candidate's obligation, we hear reference to legal (or lawful) information. To what does it pertain? How do we determine this information?
- C. Legal or lawful Masonic information can be obtained in three ways:
  - 1. Legal Masonic information that Brother A is a Mason is attained by sitting in lodge with him.
  - 2. When he is vouched for by someone who has sat in lodge with him.
  - 3. By Brother A passing an examination before a committee appointed by the Master.

A letter from a friend introducing Brother A as a Mason is not legal Masonic information. The real Brother may have lost the letter, and it may have been found and presented by a stranger. You cannot accept avouchment that a man is a Mason by telephone conversation with one who knows him to be a Mason. Unless in the presence of both the Brother and the one being vouched for, no one can know that the Mr. A spoken of over the telephone is the Mr. A in mind.

Only by strict adherence to these principles can Masons be sure that no cowan or eavesdropper sits in their lodge.

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #35 LODGE OPENING**

- A. Can a lodge ever be opened in the Master Mason Degree without the Master and the Wardens present?
- B. The Wisconsin Masonic Code tells us that the Master or one of the Wardens must be present for a lodge to be opened and do its' work - conduct its' business. For what other occasion is a lodge opened?
- C. A lodge can only open and remain open to transact business or do work when there are present at least three Master Masons who are members of the lodge, one of whom must be the Master or a Warden, except in the case of a special communication to conduct a funeral, when it is permissible for the Master of the lodge to permit a Past Master to open the lodge and conduct the funeral service.
- D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code 65.15

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #36 LODGE TRUSTEES, TERMS OF OFFICE**

- A. Can a Lodge Trustee be removed from office?
- B. Suppose a Trustee fails or refuses to comply with his duties as stated in the Wisconsin Masonic Code. What action can be taken? Can the Master remove him? If not, what then? How are Trustees elected? For what term of office?
- C. "The intentional failure or refusal of a Trustee to comply with any stated duties or with the direction and mandate of the lodge in any particular, shall constitute a Masonic offense for which he may be disciplined, and on the proceedings that he may be tried and removed from office. A Trustee cannot be removed from office without a trial".

"Trustees shall be elected at the annual election of lodge officers in such number and for such term as the by-laws provide. A Trustee shall not be eligible for re-election to such office after he shall have served as Trustee for six full years, but a part term to fill a vacancy shall not be considered part of such six full years".

Primarily, the Trustees' duties and responsibilities are to supervise, manage and control all of the lodge's property for the lodge. In addition, they are the ones that deal with the public in the lodge's name for the lodge in the conduct of the lodge's business.

D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic Code, Chapter 60  
Wisconsin Masonic Code, 56.07

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #37 ARTS, PARTS, POINTS

- A. The phrase, “arts, parts and points” refer to everything esoteric in Freemasonry. Can you first define what the “arts, parts and points” are? Where can the points be found? What are they?
- B. Start the discussion off with naming one of the points. Then ask each member to name another. Compare the answers given in our obligation and the points listed in the Regius MS. Don't forget to answer the question of, what are the “parts”.
- C. “Arts, means the knowledge or things made known; Parts, the degrees into which Freemasonry is divided and Points, the rules and usages”. The Regius MS specifies fifteen points for the craftsman. They are paraphrased as follows:

#### POINTS

1. The Mason must love God and his Brethren.
  2. He must work diligently in working hours that he may lawfully refresh himself in the hours of rest.
  3. He must keep the secrets of the Brethren with fidelity.
  4. He must be true to the Craft.
  5. He shall receive his wages without murmuring.
  6. He shall not turn a working day into a holiday.
  7. He must not carnally lie with a Brother's wife.
  8. He must be just and true to his Master and Brethren in every capacity.
  9. He shall treat his Brethren with equity and in the spirit of brotherly love.
  10. He must live peacefully and without contention with his Brethren.
  11. Seeing a Brother about to err, he must admonish him with kindness.
  12. He must maintain the general regulations of the Craft.
  13. He shall commit, no theft or succor a thief.
  14. He must be steadfast to these laws and to the laws of his country.
  15. He shall submit to the lawful penalty for whatever offences he may commit.
- D. Reference:

Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, 1961  
History of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders, 1892  
Masonic Quiz Book, 1950

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #38 WINDING STAIRCASE

- A. What symbolic meanings can be drawn from the ascent of the WINDING STAIRCASE by the Fellowcraft?
- B. Inform the members to mentally picture the WINDING STAIRCASE, consisting of three, five and seven steps. Encourage those involved in the discussion to explain their thoughts. Ask them to tell the reason for their comments. Help them to extend their concepts. (NOTE: you may want to read "Symbolism of the' Winding Stairs" by Albert G. Mackey, published in the Wisconsin Masonic Code Monitor, 1908, pp 147-152, for a short explanation.)
- C. To some, the symbolic meaning may represent the three divisions which include the organization of order. Others may recall the invention of architecture, its form and the five human senses to receive knowledge represented by the five steps and finally, the seven liberal arts and sciences represented by the seven steps. A more thoughtful approach could be the ascent from darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge, or a quest for TRUTH. The staircase winds upward, hiding the steps ahead. The Fellowcraft soon realizes that effort, both physical and mental, are required to find TRUTH. Courage and faith are needed - for what is around the corner is unknown, and as one aspires to higher ground, and as TRUTH unfolds, a greater reward is realized to lie ahead. Upon reaching the Middle Chamber, the Fellowcraft finds that greater reward – DIVINE TRUTH.

It is stated that the Romans erected their temples with an odd number of steps to their entrances. The reason was that as one ascended the temple from the bottom, starting with the right foot, one would find the same foot when one reached the top. This was considered a favorable omen to the ancient Romans.

Some similarities of those ancient legends can be found in our ritual. For instance, the Winding Stairs are divided into three sets of odd numbers, and a Fellowcraft steps off with his right foot, the second degree of Freemasonry, in the Fellowcraft degree.

D. Reference:

"Lippincott & Johnson, Masonry Defined pp 463-469  
Oliver Day Street. Symbolism of the Three Degrees pp 48-52  
The Masonic Service Assn., Pocket Encyclopedia of Masonic Symbols pp 58  
The Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin, The Shawano Experience pp 33-34  
Elbert Bede. 5-15 Minute Talks pp 86-95

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #39 “SO MOTE IT BE”

- A. When do we say "So Mote It Be" instead of "Amen" at the close of a prayer?
- B. From where do we get the term? What is the origin of that phrase?
- C. "So Mote It Be" are the final words in the Regius Poem. "Mote" is old English for "may". Masons have used the phrase since the beginning of written history of the Craft. Freemasonry includes many words, now obsolete, which bring the sanctity of age and the continuity of ritual from ancient days to modern times.

"So Mote It Be" really means "So May It Be".

#### D. Reference:

MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION, 1955 Question #8 One Hundred One  
Questions About Freemasonry.  
THREE MINUTE MASON, Topic #10

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### **TOPIC #40    TABLE LODGE**

- A. Two thirds of the Masonic jurisdictions in the United States have Table Lodges. What are they? How are they organized? What is their purpose?
- B. Confer with your Worshipful Master and Junior Warden and make plans to have a Table Lodge after this talk. Guidelines can be found in the Masonic HANDBOOK, Chapter V and X.
- C. A Table Lodge (The Ceremony of Seven Toasts) is a tiled formal ritualistic ceremony held in the dining room of the lodge, or any other suitable dining place that can be tiled. A Table Lodge is a Lodge of Entered Apprentices that allow Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to benefit by table instruction, and enables them to enjoy Masonic fellowship early in their Masonic life.

The Table Lodge is not an innovative practice, as it has existed prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge. One of the reasons the Mother Grand Lodge of England was formed was to "revive the quarterly Communication and hold an Annual Feast".

The "seven toasts" is the highlight of the meal and universal in all jurisdictions. Terms such as "cannons" for glasses and "powder" for wine are used. Wine is used for the toasts, but soft drink beverages are available for those who prefer otherwise. The main feature is an address that must be Masonic in nature. No reference can be made to fund raising or controversial subjects. Singing is encouraged. The wearing of aprons is optional in Wisconsin.

This is one of the finest programs a Lodge can have; fine because it is strictly an all Masonic event, valuable because it is an excellent avenue for Masonic education.

#### D. Reference:

Wisconsin Masonic HANDBOOK, Ch. V & X  
Nov. 91 info. packet SCRL

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #41 MOZART

- A. What Austrian music composer died 200 years ago at age 35, having composed over 600 works, and which of his works were Masonically inspired?
- B. Seek composer's name and mention of any operas or odes that seem to bear Masonic overtones.
- C. Brother Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria, was initiated into Masonry December 14, 1784, at Lodge Charity. He received his second degree at Lodge True Harmony January 7, 1785, and was raised to the sublime degree along with his father in Lodge Charity April 22, 1785.

Lodge Charity united with two other lodges (Three Fires and St. Joseph) to form a new lodge, Newly Crowned Hope, by decree of Emperor Joseph II, December 1, 1785. For this Mozart wrote OPENING ODE K. 483 and CLOSING ODE K. 484.

(The "K" numbers assigned are those given by Ludwig Kochel, who catalogued a complete listing of Mozart's musical works. Albert Einstein updated this catalogue in 1937.)

Mozart's last opera "THE MAGIC FLUTE" (K.620) contains three chords, played thrice to the rhythm of the three raps in the third degree. He was said to have written much of his greatest music after his initiation. Feeling that Freemasonry was being persecuted in his time, THE MAGIC FLUTE was intended to vindicate the aims of the Craft.

Other compositions for use in Masonry included the following:

- K.468 "Gesellenreise" - Fellowcraft's Journey, probably written when his father took the FCD April 16, 1785
- K.471 "Maurerfreunde" - Masons Joy
- K.623 "Kleine Freimaurekantate" - Little Masonic Contata, written for the consecration of Newly Crowned Hope Lodge
- K.477 "Die Maurerische Trauermusik" - Masonic Funeral Music

Mozart died of kidney failure at Vienna December 5, 1791. His body was placed in a grave with three other corpses, but later his lodge held a Lodge of Mourning (along with a raising ceremony) where Bro. Ignaz Alberti delivered a eulogy to the famed Mason and composer.

#### D. Reference:

- Main, Lewis. "Brother Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart"  
Bulletin of Southern California Research Lodge, January 1, 1991
- Gustafson, Rick. "Three Famous Music Composers" Annual' Transactions VOL 2
- Silas.H. Shepherd Lodge of Research #1843, F. & A.M. Wisconsin. 1985

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS

---

### TOPIC #42 “ACT BY THE PLUMB”

- A. The ritual contains many beautiful biblical messages, i.e. Amos 7:7, 8. What lessons are implied from this message? Also, at the closing ceremony of our lodges the Junior Warden admonishes us to “act by the plumb”. What is meant by this?
- B. Read Amos 7:7, 8. The plumb is one of the immovable jewels of Freemasonry and exemplifies rectitude of conduct.
- C. Part 1: The message is that God's people are to live according to the standards and hopes He has set. This message is exemplified by the plumb line. The plumb line is for testing, decision, judgment, straight line, perpendiculars. The suggestion is that we are constantly being judged and tested by the plumb line - the standards and expectations of God.

The wall upon which God stood in Amos' vision had been made “plumb” by use of a plumb line, and He (God) had a plumb line in His hand. When Amos admitted he saw a plumb line, God said: “If my people measure up - if they deal with all peoples in a straightforward manner and obey my teachings of love for neighbor and love for God, I will treat them graciously and remain with them”.

Part 2: To “act by the plumb” is a rule of conduct for the Craft. Masons are to judge their fellows, if at all, by their fellow's plumb lines, not their own. One Brother must not condemn another by personal standards; only when a Brother is false to his own standards can we judge him.

#### D. Reference:

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry, MSA ‘88  
Wisconsin Masonic Journal

# THE THREE – MINUTE MASON

## *AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN LODGE DISCUSSIONS*

---

### TOPIC #43 FREEMASON

- A. We have often heard the term "Freemason". What is the origin of the term?
- B. Make transition from stone masonry to speculative masonry. Mention other theories.
- C. The most widely accepted explanation for the term "Freemason" dates back to the operative days of masonry. The earliest known use of the word "Freemason" occurred in 1376 when it implied an operative mason of a somewhat superior class.

In the Middle Ages masons were, by civil law and the law of their guilds, confined to their own localities either in their parishes or their townships. Freemasons on the other hand, were a select group; were the highest-class artisans of their time. They were permitted to work on the great Cathedrals and travel from one Cathedral to another. This freedom of travel shielded the masonic worker from restrictions of the local guilds that set the rules and wages and thus led to the origin of the Freemasons.

However, it is the consensus of Masonic scholars that the term "Freemason" has had various meanings at different periods of time: i.e., the cutter of freestone, a member free from his guild, and the stoneworker who was not a slave. At some point in history they were all considered "Freemasons".

- D. Reference:

The Pocket History of Freemasonry