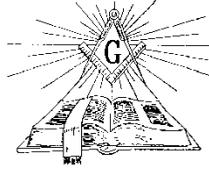


**WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M.
AUGUST 15TH, 2016 TRESTLEBOARD (#344)**



3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia 30909

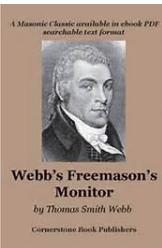
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Brethren: *The Regular Communication of Webb Lodge #166 F. & A.M. will be held at the Masonic Temple, 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia, on Monday, August 15TH, 2016. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. and a Lodge of Master Masons will be opened at 8:00 p.m. Please remember to call a brother or widow and invite them to come and share an evening of fellowship with us on that date. If you, another brother or widow need transportation to and from the lodge please call one of the officers. Ladies are invited. (Telephone numbers are located on the reverse side of this newsletter) Widows have an open invitation to come join us for dinner each month and please bring a guest.*

- 1. THOMAS SMITH WEBB: (Bro. Stoney)** Thomas Smith Webb, the man for which Webb Lodge # 166 was named stands as one of the patriarchs of the fraternity. American Freemasonry owes a large part of its ritual to Bro. Webb. In practically all jurisdictions some of his words are used; in a majority, all the “work” is used. Bro. Webb parents were English and immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts where he was born October 13, 1771. Webb was educated in Boston and became proficient in Latin, French and his mother tongue of English. He was described as a poet, dreamer, visionary and practical man of action. His talents found fertile ground in Freemasonry allowing him to express his poetry, idealism, passion for improvement and teaching. As to his profession, history is a bit fuzzy in that he was either a printer or a bookbinder or both. During the course of pursuing his trade craft he came to the town of Keene, New Hampshire. There in the Rising Sun Lodge on December 17, 1790 he was made a Mason. He was 19 years of age at the time. Shortly thereafter he married



Miss Martha Hopkins and moved to Albany, New York where he owned and operated a book store. Webb's fire for Masonry having been lit he worked to establish both a Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry and an Encampment of Knights Templar. Other Masonic endeavors in Albany are sketchy due to the records being incomplete. It is known however that he devoted much time and effort to Symbolic Masonry as is evidenced with his publication in 1797 of the first edition of his *Freemason's Monitor, or Illustrations of Masonry*. The book has been of vast importance to the Craft with most of the Grand Lodges adhering strictly to its text, which, of course, is the written or exoteric work. It is within the pages of Webb's book that you find the 133rd Psalm in the “charge at opening”, here also is found the prayer at closing, “May the blessings of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons, may brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.” Within our petitions for membership are found Webb's words that the petitioner “seriously declares upon his honor” that the petition is made “unbiased by friends, uninfluenced by mercenary motives....a desire for knowledge and sincere wish of being serviceable to your fellow creatures, etc.” Here too are found a familiar prayer, “Vouchsafe thine aid, Almighty Father of the Universe...” Isn't it amazing that many of the words we use in Masonry today were written in 1795 by a 26 year old man? Webb's influence was not limited to the above phrases; he went on to write our exoteric ritual for the four cardinal virtues, the description of Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy plus the five orders of architecture and the five senses. We also owe Webb a debt of gratitude for his words regarding the many emblems to include the Bee Hive, Pot of Incense, Book of Constitutions, Sword and Naked Heart, All Seeing Eye, Anchor and Ark, Forty Seventh Problem, Hour Glass and Scythe. Finally, during the installation of a newly elected Master of a lodge Webb's words are used almost verbatim; “You agree to be a good man and true...” Now watch this. Much of Webb was really William Preston. Webb spent most of his time rearranging, abbreviating, and changing Preston's work to fit American conditions. His work was an American book for American Masons that he spent considerable time teaching. Webb believed in what he was doing so strongly that he went out of his way to teach, promote, memorize it himself and encourage others to do the same. In the early days of American Masonry there was little conformity in the work with variations being rather large. Through the efforts of Webb there was a modicum of unity brought to the work. While the esoteric works of the various Grand Jurisdictions vary little in some cases and greatly in others, the printed work is markedly similar. This is due to the success of Webb's efforts.

- 2. A CHALLENGE TO THE OFFICERS AND BRETHREN OF WEBB LODGE:** The last several months the attendance of Webb Lodge has not been what it has in the past few years. Where is the commitment? Where are the brethren? Where are the new members? Where are the candidates? Why is the attendance so low? Where are several of the Past Masters who attended regularly? These are just some of the questions that you and I should be asking ourselves so that we may be able to “FIX THE PROBLEM.” A statement by Doyle Brittain, Worshipful Master of Amity Lodge #731 in the *Masonic Messenger* caught my attention. He said “Proper prior planning prevents pitifully poor performance.” If we expect things to happen, we need to plan our work and then work our plan. As Brother Brittain stated, “If it ain't planned, it ain't gonna happen!” My “Challenge” to the Officers of Webb Lodge (especially the incoming Master for 2017) is to make a difference. As we will soon begin a new year with new officers, we have the opportunity to make a difference. What will we do with it? We can open and close meetings, vote to pay the bills and go home and not think of Masonry until the next Blue Lodge or Sister Masonic meeting and then talk about how Masonry is not growing. Or we can take advantage of the situation, plan something “New”, do something “Different”, reinvent and bring something into the lodge which will excite the brethren into coming back. My “Challenge” to the “Brethren” of Webb Lodge is to take the time and get back into the “Habit” of attending lodge. It is necessary for your attendance for “Your Lodge” to survive. We need your participation



on committees (Scholarship, Visitation, Audit, Education, etc), coaching candidates, giving lectures, filling the chairs, fund raising and the list goes on and on. Those of you who are familiar with the 80/20 rule know that it has been said that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the membership. In Webb Lodge it should be referred to as the 90/10 rule. Brethren you can ask the question, "What has Masonry Done for Me?" when you decide to participate in the various activities of your lodge and contribute. Maybe the question should be "Have I permitted Masonry to help me?" Brethren; take the time, attend lodge, "BE ONE OF THE FAITHFUL FEW!!!!" So mote it be.

- 3. LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE:** God asked Adam "What is wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman. He said, "This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing she will wash them for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you have had a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it. Adam asked God "What will a woman like this cost?" God replied, "An arm and a leg?" Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?" And the rest is history!!



Life is not a final. It is daily pop quizzes. (Crittenden)

- 4. EMAIL ADDRESSES AND CURRENT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:** Brethren: I am trying to update our list of telephone numbers for "ALL" members and trying to establish a new email address list for ALL members. Take the time to send me your current telephone number and email address, if you have one. You can call me with this information at 706-829-1665, mail it to the lodge at: Webb Lodge #166 F. & A.M., 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, GA 30909 or send it electronically to my email address: (preferable) goblak@comcast.net. Please take the time and make the effort. Thank you for your support on this matter.



- 5. SOUTHERN WOMEN:** Appreciate their natural assets: Clean skin, a winning smile and that unforgettable Southern drawl. Southern women know their manners: 'Yes, ma'am.' 'Yes, sir.' 'Why, no, Billy!' Southern women know everybody's first name: Honey, Darlin or Shugah. Southern women know their religions: Baptist, Methodist, Football. Only a Southerner knows the difference between a hissy fit and a connoption fit, and that you don't 'HAVE' them, you 'PITCH' them. Only a Southerner knows how many fish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc., make up 'a mess.' Even Southern babies know that 'Gimme some sugar' is not a request for the white, granular sweet substance that sits in a pretty little bowl in the middle of the table. A Southerner knows that 'fixin' can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adverb. And to those of you who are still having a hard time understanding all this Southern stuff...bless your hearts, I hear they are fixin' to have classes on Southernness as a second language!



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T. Gregory Oblak, P.M.



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WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M. 2016 OFFICERS

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3201 Wrightsboro Road
Augusta, GA 30909
(Return Service Requested)