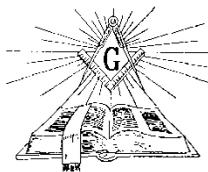


WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M.  
JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 TRESTLEBOARD (#354)



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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, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. 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.

**LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE:** 1. At the airport in Augusta, Georgia, an individual, later discovered to be a high school teacher, was arrested trying to board a flight while in the possession of a compass, protractor and graphing calculator. Authorities believe he is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. He is being charged with carrying weapons of math instruction. 2. Here are a few headlines found in newspapers across the country; Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers.....Iraqi Head seeks Arms.....Teacher Strikes Idle Kids.....Tornado rips through cemetery, Hundreds Dead.....Red Tape holds up New Bridges.....Astronaut takes blame for gas in spacecraft. 3. IN OTHER WORDS: A) ECONOMICS: The science of telling you things you have known all your life, but in language you cannot understand. B) DRAMA: What literature does at night. C) ECSTASY: Discovering a second layer of chocolates under the first. D) PERFECTIONIST: A person who takes great pains---and gives them to others. 4. SUMMER VACATION: When parents suddenly realize that teachers are grossly underpaid.



**MASONIC DEFINITIONS:** Here are a few words and definitions that I thought might not only apply to our daily lives but might be used when communicating with our brethren in the lodge: **Collaborate:** Meeting people half way is the most significant trip we can take; We don't work for each other we work with each other. **Contribute:** Great achievements are nurtured with the cooperation of many minds with a common vision working toward a common goal. **Walk the Talk:** Take the initiative and lead the way; You can make the difference. **Opportunity:** An opportunity is never lost; it's just found by someone else. **Communication:** Communication is the secret to success.....pass it on. **Change:** Sometime in the waves of change we find our true direction. **Leadership:** A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. **Service:** The high road to service is traveled with integrity, compassion and understanding; people don't care how much we know until they know how much we care. **Vision:** A leader's job is to look into the future and to see the organization not as it is but as it can become. **Excellence:** Excellence is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.



**CONSIDER THESE THOUGHTS:** 1. The best way to get even is to forget. 2. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death. 3. Some folks wear their halos much too tight. 4. Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around and faith looks up. 5. Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous; the traffic from both ways will knock you down. 6. Words are windows to the heart. 7. It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a mole-hill; just add a little dirt. 8. A successful marriage isn't finding the right person; it is being the right person.

**TAPS:** We have all heard the plaintive melody of "Taps" many times over, but few of us know of its sad but amazing origin, in short, it came from a Civil War battle and the heroism of an individual. The battle was that of Harrison's Landing in the state of Virginia in 1862. The battle had raged on during the day and night had fallen and with it the cries of the wounded. One individual, Union Captain Robert Ellicombe was so moved by the suffering of a wounded soldier who was moaning that he made the decision to bring him back. Amidst the nocturnal gunfire from both sides he finally succeeded in pulling the man to safety. It was only then that he discovered that the soldier was Confederate and had succumbed to his wounds. As the dim lantern light illuminated the soldier's face Captain Ellicombe went numb with shock, the man he had rescued was his own son. When war broke out, his son, who had been **studying music** in the south, had joined the Confederate ranks without his father's knowledge. The following morning his heartbroken father requested permission to grant his son a full military burial. Owing to the fact that his son was on the opposing side, his request was denied. The Captain then requested permission that a group of Army band musicians play a funeral dirge at his son's funeral, this too was denied, but out of respect for the father and his heroism was granted one musician to play at the interment. The boy's father chose the company bugler. Prior to the funeral the father found a piece of paper in his son's personal effects with **musical notes** written on it. He asked the bugler to play them at the funeral. This the haunting melody of "Taps" was first played. It so moved those in attendance that it was played again and again at funerals until adopted as a military standard. Later the following lyrics were added, which few of us are familiar with. They are as follows; Day is done, gone is the sun from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky all is well, safely rest, God is nigh. Fading light, dims the sight and a star gems the sky, gleaming bright from afar, drawing nigh falls the night. Thanks and praise for our days beneath the sun, beneath the stars, beneath the sky as we go this we know God is nigh. Out of the devastating conflict that pitted father against son and proud Americans against each other, and endearing song of military origin came into being, one that has remained unchanged despite the passage of time. It is symbolic of the Union of our great nation that was battle-forged from the great conflict known as the American Civil War.

**SOME OLD FRIENDS: (Brother Stoney):** After riding some pretty tough trails earlier this year I find myself back at the corral and able to share more about this wonderful Craft of ours. Today we are going to explore some of the oldest of Masonic literary documents and the impact they have had on the Fraternity. The oldest known document is the *Regius Poem*, sometimes referred to as the *Hollwell Manuscript*. It dates from the fourteenth century, probably somewhere around A.D. 1390. There is general agreement that it was definitely not written earlier and most likely a few years later. During that period in history, i.e., before printing was invented, when writing was an art form known only to a few, it was common practice to pass along knowledge by means of songs that rhymed making them easier to remember. As the *Regius Poem* is obviously a copy of some older document(s), its form bears out the belief of critics that its antiquity is much greater than the date of its writing. And it is still used in lodges today. No prayer in lodge is ended without saying "so mote it be." The manuscript itself is written on 64 pages of vellum which vary in size from 4" to 6". The script is Old English and therefore many of the words would be difficult for someone not versed in that style to read. For those interested, G.W. Speth, an English Masonic authority, has compiled a glossary of the Old English words of the poem for those who wish to translate this oldest of Masonic documents. It is interesting to note that Robert Gould, a noted Masonic historian, began a controversy that continues to this day when he said of the poem, it was a "code of manners" that was intended for speculative Masons, and that gentlemen, not craftsmen had already joined the fraternity as speculative members. As you can imagine, there is controversy on both sides of this argument.

Almost as old and equally as important as the *Regius Poem* is the *Mathew Cooke Manuscript*. It is so-called because it was prepared for publication by Cook, a scholar, in 1861. There is considerable evidence for it having been written about 1450. Like the *Regius Poem*, the *Cooke Manuscript* was written on vellum, forty folios, each about 4 1/2 "by 3 1/3" in size with 960 lines. While the English is much easier to read than the *Regius Poem*, it is still difficult for the novice. It begins with the seven liberal arts, continues with an explanation of geometry, has a fanciful history of Masonry (which is found in many other of the Old Charges or Manuscript Rolls) and ends with nine articles and nine points, a charge, and concludes with "Amen, so mote it be." Much has been written about the *Cooke Manuscript* which draws most of its importance from the fact it is without a doubt a copy of an older document. An example of some of what is in the *Cooke Manuscript* follows (the words have been modernized): *That no Master shall for any reward take as an apprentice a bondsmen born, because his lord to whom he is a bondsman might take him, as he is entitled to, from his art and carry him away with him out of the Lodge, or out of the place he is working in. And because his fellows, peradventure, might help him and take his part and thence manslaughter might rise; therefore it is forbidden. And there is another reason, because his art was begun by the freely begotten children of great lords, as aforesaid.* As we all know, Masons today still require that a man be "free born." This is not a modernism designed to prevent black men from being permitted in the Craft. It is rather for the purpose of not admitting a bondsman into the fraternity. A vast multitude of interesting tidbits can be found in the *Cooke Manuscript* which makes it a must read for an aspiring Masonic scholar. There are some seventy six old Masonic manuscripts in existence; nine more are printed versions of ancient lineage, and thirteen others are known to have existed. Whether the later thirteen have been destroyed or will be found later, only time will tell. Needless to say, there are a number of source documents for the serious Masonic scholar to delve in to and learn.

**QUOTABLE QUOTES:** 1. You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them. (Ray Bradbury) 2. Flattery is counterfeit money which, but for vanity, would have no circulation. (La Rochefoucauld) 3. Now and then an innocent man is sent to the legislature. (Kim Hubbard) 4. Truth hurts, not the searching after; the running from! (John Eyberg) 5. Foolproof systems don't take into account the ingenuity of fools. (Gene Brown)

**HOW TO PLANT A MASONIC GARDEN:** This was written by Joseph W. MacIntyre in the Scottish Rite Journal:  
*First plant four rows of peas: Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness.*  
*Next plant three rows of squash: Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference.*  
*Then plant four rows of lettuce; Let us be Truthful, Let us be Unselfish, Let us be Loyal, Let us be Thankful.*  
*No garden is complete without turnips; Turn up for Volunteer Work, Turn up with a Smile, Turn up with Determination.*  
 Let's all get to work on our garden!!!



**Editor & Secretary**  
**T. Gregory Oblak, P.M.**



**Worshipful Master**  
**Jack P. Goldenberg, P.M.**

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