

Unity Lodge #58, A.F. & A.M. Thorndike, Maine



<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<Town>> <<State>> <<Zip>>

May 10, 2019

Greetings Brother:

<<Raised this month wording>>

Coming events:

May 15, 2019, Our stated communication. 6:30 Potluck Supper, 7:30 Meeting, Fellowcraft degree.

May 18, Supper and Woodchopper degree at Seabasticook Lodge in Clinton. This is a Semi Public event and families are welcome. Price is \$20 for brothers taking the degree which includes dinner. \$5 per person for those just having the meal. Please email wtml29@gmail.com to register for the degree. 5:00PM Super, 6:00pm degree.

Sunday, May 19, 7:00am - 10:00pm Seabasticook Lodge #146 Public All You Can Eat Breakfast \$8.00 per person
Location: Clinton Maine (1st & 3rd Sundays).

May 22 Masters and Wardens Assoc, 6:30 pm at Central Lodge in China.

June 22, Central Lodge Golf Tournament.

June 29 2019, 7:00am - 2:00pm Golf Tournament - Cedar Springs GC in Albion. Seabasticook Lodge will hold it's annual golf tournament at Cedar Springs GC in Albion. It will be a 8:00am shotgun start with food at the turn. Please email wtml29@gmail.com for registering your team or sponsoring a hole.

We have some new ways to keep in touch now: Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1998256393798057/>

Grand Lodge has started "Our Lodge Page TM": <https://58-me.ourlodgepage.com/>

Please notify the secretary if your address changes.

Thank you to those who have paid their dues.

Stated meeting are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 with a 6:30 supper
Bruce Hutchins, Secretary, 1053 Halldale Rd, Montville ME 04941. tel/fax 382-6226, email bruce@hutchinsbrothers.com
District Calendar <http://east.our.calendars.net/glme/glmedist12>
<http://unitylodge.hutchinsbrothers.com/>

The Stone Cutter

Zen Masonry

There once was a stone cutter who was dissatisfied with himself and with his position in life. One day he passed a wealthy merchant's house. Through the open gateway he saw many fine possessions and important visitors. "How wealthy that merchant must be!" he thought.

The stone cutter became very envious and wished he could be like the merchant. To his great surprise, he suddenly had his wish fulfilled and did indeed become the merchant, enjoying more luxuries than he had ever imagined, yet he envied and despised those less wealthy than himself.

Soon a high official passed by, carried in a sedan chair accompanied by attendants and escorted by soldiers blowing trumpets. Everyone, no matter how wealthy, had to bow low before the procession. "How powerful that official is!" he thought. "I wish I could be a high official like that."

Again his wish was granted and he became the high official, carried everywhere in his finely embroidered sedan chair, feared and hated by everyone. It was a hot summer day, so the official felt very uncomfortable in his sticky sedan chair. He looked up at the sun shining proudly in the sky, totally unaffected by the presence of the high official. "How majestic the sun is!" he thought. "I wish I could be the sun!"

Then he became the sun, shining fiercely down on everyone, scorching fields, cursed by farmers and laborers. But a huge black cloud moved between him and the earth, blocking his light from everything below. "How mighty that cloud is!" he thought. "I wish I could be a cloud like that."

And so he became the cloud, raining down and flooding fields and villages as everyone shook their fists and cursed at him. But soon he found that he was being pushed away by some great force, and realized it was the wind. "How peerless the wind is!" he thought. "I wish that I was the wind!"

Then he became the wind, blowing tiles off of roofs, uprooting trees, feared and detested by all. But after a while he ran against something that did not move, no matter how forcefully he blew against it. It was a huge towering rock. "How impervious that rock is! I wish I was that rock."

Then he became the rock, greater than anything else on earth. But as he stood there, he heard a tapping sound and he felt himself being changed. "What could be greater than me?" he wondered. Looking down, far below he saw the figure of a humble stone cutter, pounding at the rock with his hammer and chisel.

MEANING AND ORIGIN OF THE TERM FELLOWCRAFT

<http://www.masonicworld.com/education/articles/THE-FELLOW-CRAFT-DEGREE.htm>

"Fellowcraft - is one of a large number of terms that have a technical meaning peculiar to Freemasonry and are seldom found elsewhere. In the period of operative Masonry, a "craft" was an organization of skilled workmen in some trade or calling; a "fellow" meant one who held membership in such a craft obligated to the same duties and allowed the same privileges as all other members.

In Freemasonry "craft" possesses two separate meanings, one of which we may call the operative meaning, the other the Speculative. In their operative period Freemasons were skilled workmen engaged as architects and builders. Like other skilled workmen, they had an organized craft of their own, the general form of which was called a "guild." A Lodge was a local, and usually temporary, organization within the guild. This guild had officers, laws, rules, regulations, and customs of its own rigorously binding on all members.

It divided its membership into two grades, the lower of which, composed of Apprentices, was explained to you in an earlier degree. At the end of a member's apprenticeship he was examined in a Lodge; and if his record was good, if he could prove his proficiency test, and if the members voted in his favor, he was released from his apprenticeship and made a full member, or "Fellow," of the craft. According to the Ancient Charges, the term "Master" was applied to the head, or ruler, of a Lodge, as we use the term, "Worshipful Master," today.

Such was the Operative meaning of Fellowcraft. Now that the Craft is no longer Operative, the term possesses a very different meaning, yet is still used in its original sense in certain Darts of the Ritual. Operative Freemasonry began to decline about the time of the Reformation, when Lodges became few in number and small in membership. A few of them in England began to admit men, with no intention of practicing Operative Masonry, who were attracted by the Craft's antiquity, good reputation, and for social reasons. They were called "Speculative Masons." At the beginning of the eighteenth century these Speculative so increased in numbers that they gained control, and during the first quarter of that century completely transformed the Craft into the Speculative Fraternity as we now have it. Although they adhered as closely as possible to the old customs, they made some radical changes to fit the Society for its new purposes. One of the most important changes was to abandon the old rule of dividing the members into two grades, or degrees, and to adopt a new rule of dividing it into three. The second was called the Fellowcraft Degree and the third was the Master Mason Degree.

The term Fellowcraft is now used as the name of the Second Degree; of the ritualistic ceremonies and other contents of that degree; of a member of it; and to a Lodge when opened on it. You are a Fellowcraft; you passed through its ceremonies, assumed its obligations, are registered as such in the books of the Lodge, and can sit in either a Lodge of Apprentices or of Fellowcrafts but not of Master Masons. Your duties are to do and be all that is required of Fellowcrafts.

Freemasonry is too extensive to be exemplified in a ritual or to be presented through initiation in one day or evening. There is far too much for a man to learn in many meetings. One degree follows another and the members of each stand on a different level of rights and duties; but this does not mean that the Masonry presented in the First, or in the Second Degree, so far as its nature and teachings are concerned, is less important, or less binding, than that presented in the Third Degree. There is a necessary subordination in the grades of membership, but there is no subordination of the Masonry presented in each grade.

Do not, therefore, be tempted to look upon the Fellowcraft Degree as a mere stepping stone to the Third. Freemasonry gave to you one part of itself in the First, another portion in the Second, and in the Third it will give you yet another, but it is always Freemasonry throughout. We urge on you, therefore, the same studious attention while you are a Fellowcraft that you doubtless expect to give when you are a Master Mason.

"When is a Man a Mason?"

<http://www.jjcrowder743.com/poem.html>

- M** - When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage--which is the root of every virtue.
- A** - When he knows tat down in his heart every man is as noble as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellowmen.
- S** - When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins--knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.
- T** - When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.
- E** - When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.
- R** - When he can be happy and high minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.
: When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.
- M** - When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.
- A** - When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.
- S** - When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond sin.
- O** - When he knows how to pray how to love how to hope.
- N** - When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellowman, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song--glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give all the world."