



HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 • A.F. & A.M. • VIRGINIA

TRESTLEBOARD

DECEMBER 2022

December 6, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Lodge Ritual School
Alexandria Scottish Rite, Small
Lodge Room

December 13, 2022

6:30 p.m. dinner,

7:30 p.m. meeting

Stated Communication

December 10, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

Lodge Breakfast

All are welcome!

Royal Restaurant

730 N. Asaph St., Alexandria

December 17, 2022, 8:15 a.m.

Firefighters and Friends

Coat and Toy Distribution Samuel

W. Tucker Elementary School

435 Ferdinand Day Drive,

Alexandria



A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

Brethren as the year draws to a close I want to thank everyone of you for the support, attendance, and just being a good brother. I hope that the year was as fun for everyone as it was for me. I truly hope that we learned about using our masonic tools and how important it is to be there for each other and for the community.

We have one event that will be in person coming up on the 17th which will be helping with a jacket distribution but there is also one more thing. I should have a list quickly of families that need some things for Christmas. I have mentioned this in lodge, but I will say it again. I grew up my dad was a steel worker so when that industry went so did work. Our families' names would be put up on Christmas trees at church and stuff like that. I remember being so embarrassed growing up until I learned what it was like to be able to give back. I have enjoyed these events and will continue them going forward. I want you to know that you will never know how truly special it is for a kid to wake up on Christmas morning and there is something under the tree. The smiles we can put on a child's face and their parents is truly amazing. What I like about it even more is that they have no clue where it came from its all anonymous. To me that means its truly from the heart. I hope that we can make an impact on the families in our community and will continue to do so.

If you haven't been out to lodge, December is our elections and it would be a great time to come out! Thank you all for this year and allowing me to serve as your Worshipful Master. As we began the year with an article on the compasses we will close the year with one as well. Always remember to keep your passions within due bounds.



Sincerely & Fraternally,

Clayton J. Mitchell

Worshipful Master

Clayton.Mitchell78@yahoo.com

703-577-1495

BEHIND THE MASONIC SYMBOLS: SQUARE AND COMPASSES



While there are many symbols associated with Freemasonry, none are more universally recognizable than the square and compasses. It is well-known enough that even those who are not personally acquainted with the fraternity understand the connection when they come across it. Like many aspects of Freemasonry, the precise origins of this symbol

are unknown. However, it is thought to have roots in the Medieval stonemasons' guilds.

Of course, for modern Masons, the square and compasses symbol has a unique, profound meaning. It resides at the heart of Masonic lessons, beckoning all Brothers to live a life that is honest, true, and dignified. Any traveling man understands that when he sees this symbol, whether on the façade of a Masonic temple, the bumper sticker of a passing car, or a lapel pin of a colleague, he is in the company of friends.

WHAT IS THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES?

This symbol consists of three core elements: the square, the compasses, and the letter "G." The square and compasses are considered to be the tools of the architect and builder, which are used to teach the lessons of the symbolic lodge. To understand the meaning



of the whole, it is necessary to break down the significance of each element.

THE SQUARE

The square, or builder's square, is two equal flat-edged metal or wooden arms fixed that form a perfect "right angle" – or 90-degree angle. This tool is critical in stonemasonry because it allows craftsmen to draw and carve perfect square corners. Having perfectly square corners when building is critical to ensuring buildings do not lean and are structurally strong and sound. In Freemasonry, this symbol is used to teach lessons of morality. The notion that being "square" in your actions implies being honest and fair.

THE COMPASSES

Most people likely know the compasses best from their geometry class. This tool consists of two legs equal in length that are fixed together at their apex by an adjustable hinge. In geometry, it is used for drawing perfect circles and arcs, a crucial element of architectural planning. In speculative Masonry, the compasses symbolize self-restraint and man's ability to reign in his yearnings so that he may live a balanced life.

In the teachings of Freemasonry, the compasses are symbolically employed to draw a boundary line around our desires to avoid overindulgence and maintain moderation, the foundation of morality and wisdom. Taken together, the square and compasses can serve as a reminder that acting truly towards others and balancing one's own needs will lead to a life of integrity.

COMPASSES VS. COMPASS

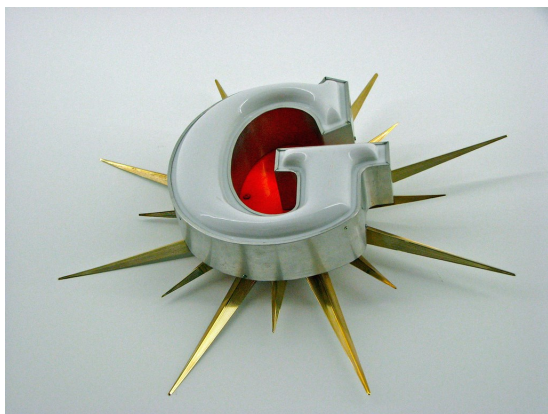
When looking at the term "Square and Compasses" itself, there is often confusion around whether or not "compasses" is correct as many believe it should be referred to as the singular "compass". However, in Masonic Ritual, the correct usage is in fact "compasses", as cited on page 162 of the Combined Ritual. Further, on page 173 of Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry (1929 edition), the entry under compasses reads:

"In Speculative Masonry, this important implement symbolic of that even tenor of deportment, that true standard of recti-

tude which alone can bestow happiness here and felicity hereafter. Hence are the compasses the most prominent emblem of virtue, the true and only measure of a Mason's life and conduct. As the Bible gives us light on our duties to God, and the square illustrates our duties to our neighborhood and brother, so the compasses give that additional light which is to instruct us in the duty we owe to ourselves – the great, imperative duty of circumscribing our passions, and keeping our desires within due bounds.”

THE LETTER “G”

In America, the letter G is often found in the center of the square and compasses. It is less common in England and other parts of the world. Different people will ascribe different meanings to the letter G. For some it refers to Geometry and



supports the Masonic lessons and symbolism associated with builders and architects, as well as the measurement and understanding of the order and perfection of the universe. Others see it as referring to God or the “Great Architect of the Universe,” which is an ecumenical term used by Masons of different faiths to refer to Deity as they pray together, each according to his own beliefs.

FREEMASONRY AND BEYOND

There is little doubt that the square and compasses is most frequently used in connection to Freemasonry. However, a number of other organizations also employ it in some variation or another, including the Order of Free Gardeners, the Latter Day Saints, and The Junior Order of United American Mechanics. While the square and compasses means different things to each, for Freemasons, the values this symbol stands for have remained unchanged for centuries. Today, it is a source of unity and inspiration for the members of the fraternity all over the globe, a beacon of truth, relief, and brotherly love.



The Most Worshipful Grand
Lodge of Virginia,
A.F. & A.M.

fraternally invites you to
participate in the
**George Washington National
Masonic Memorial Cornerstone
Centennial Celebration**

as part of the
2023 Conference of Grand
Masters of
North America

*Monday, February 20, 2023 at
1:00 P.M.*



**EARLY BIRD! 2023 Parade
Unit Registration**

Parade Registration Fee is \$50



www.grandmastersva23.com





December

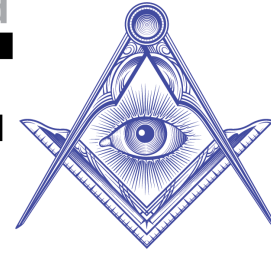
Masonic Birthdays

Robert Clyde Prichard 12/4, 60 Years
 Joseph Homer Croyle 12/6, 56 Years
 Kenneth Dale Bawden Sr. 12/15, 52 Years
 Clarence Thomas Johnson 12/19, 50 Years
 James Dewey Buckles 12/6, 44 Years
 Charles Harry Scott 12/5, 44 Years
 Leonard Stanley Bodnar 12/4, 43 Years
 William Hudson Pennell Jr. 12/20, 39 Years
 David Charles Shaw 12/16, 36 Years
 Luis James Ferreira 12/8, 21 Years
 Matthew Leonard Ferreira 12/8, 21 Years
 Michael Jude Calandruccio 12/3, 20 Years
 John Chalmers Dickinson 12/6, 18 Years
 Donald Gerald Eden 12/31, 12 Years

henry knox field

HKF

A.F. & A.M.



JBL

NO. 349

john blair lodge

2022 OFFICERS

Clayton J. Mitchell
 Worshipful Master

Mark A. Boughner
 Senior Warden

Jonathan Summers
 Junior Warden

Wor. Kenneth R. Reynolds
 Treasurer

Wor. Daniel E. Froggett
 Secretary

Steven Aguilar
 Senior Deacon

Xavier Mariscal
 Junior Deacon

Ronald E. Markiewicz
 Chaplain

Joseph Dergham
 Senior Steward

Arnold McNeal
 Junior Steward

Bradley J. Watts
 Marshal

Wor. Jaime H. Flores
 Tiler & Webmaster

Wor. Erik N. Schultz
 Education Officer

