



# HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 ■ A.F. & A.M. ■ VIRGINIA

**TRESTLEBOARD**

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

September 6, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite, Small Lodge Room

PLEASE ATTEND

**September 10, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

**Lodge Breakfast**

**All are welcome!**

**Royal Restaurant**

**730 N. Asaph St., Alexandria**

**September 13, 2022**

**6:30 p.m. dinner,**

**7:30 p.m. meeting**

**Stated Communication**

***On the Square & Masonic Recognition***

September 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite, Lodge Room

September 27, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite, Lodge Room

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST**

Brethren,

September is here! And with it the times of harvest; the beginning of autumn and the changing of the seasons. And the best season ever begins....deer season.

I hope you all had a spectacular summer, August was a very busy month for the brethren. We attended the Reid J. Simmons Ritual Academy in Roanoke. Six members of our Lodge were present for the event! That same weekend we helped out the local community by stuffing back packs and helping kids out before school kicked off. Thank you to all who supported in person and financially.

Our annual Joint Stated Communication with Kemper Macon Ware Lodge, No. 64, was a success, with every seat being filled!. It was a great table lodge and a wonderful memorial to Worshipful Brother James Loudermilk. We ended the month with fraternal events across the District. Bowling in Falls Church with all of our District 1A Brothers on our Friends and Family Night was fantastic. There were nearly 100 masons, family members, and friends present! We were also pleased to be invited to join our brothers from Arlington Centennial Glebe Lodge, No. 81 for another installment of Eggs and Ammo.

As we get closer to grand lodge in November I hope that we will see more and more of you coming out for our stateds and events that are coming. I want everyone to recognize the strides that we are making as a Lodge to improve our ritual proficiency and be an active participant in our community. I hope you are all happy safe and healthy. If you need anything please contact myself or one of the officers.



Sincerely & Fraternally,

Clayton J. Mitchell

Worshipful Master

Clayton.Mitchell78@yahoo.com

703-577-1495

# The Square

THE SHORT TALK BULLETIN

The Masonic Service Association of the United States

VOL. 2 APRIL 1924 NO. 4

The Holy Bible lies open upon the Altar of Masonry, and upon the bible lie the Square and Compasses. They are the three Great Lights of the Lodge, at once its Divine warrant and its chief working tools. They are symbols of Revelation, Righteousness, and Redemption, teaching us that by walking in the light of Truth and obeying the law of Right, the Divine in man wins victory over the earthly. How to live is the one important matter, and he will seek far without finding a wiser way than that shown us by the Great Lights of the Lodge.

The Square and Compasses are the oldest, the simplest, and the most universal symbols of Masonry. All the world over, whether as a sign on a building, or a badge worn by a Brother, even the profane know them to be emblems of our ancient Craft. Some Years ago, when a business firm tried to adopt the Square and Compasses as a trademark, the Patent Office refused permission, on the ground, as the decision said, that "there can be no doubt that this device, so commonly worn and employed by Masons, has an established mystic significance, universally recognized as existing; whether comprehended by all or not, is not material to this issue." They belong to such, alike by the associations of history and the tongue of common report.

Nearly everywhere in our Ritual, as in the public mind, the Square and Compasses are seen together. If not interlocked, they are seldom far apart, and the one suggests the other. And that is as it should be, because the things they symbolize are interwoven. In the old days when the earth was thought to be flat and square, the Square was an emblem of the earth, and later, of the earthly element om, as the sky is an arc or a circle, the implement which describes a Circle became the symbol of the heavenly, or sky spirit in man. thus the tools of the builder became the emblems of the thoughts of the thinker; and nothing in Masonry is more impressive than the slow elevation of the Compasses above the Square in the progress of the degrees. the whole meaning and task of life is there, for such as have eyes to see.

Let us separate the Square from the Compasses and study it alone, the better to see its further meaning and use. There is no need to say that the Square we have in mind is not a Cube, which has four equal sides and angles, deemed by the Greeks a figure of perfection. Nor is it the square of the carpenter, one leg of which is longer than the other, with inches marked for measuring. It is a small, plain Square, unmarked and with legs of equal length, a simple try-square used for testing the accuracy of angles, and the precision with which stones are cut. since the try-square was used to prove that angles were right, it naturally became an emblem of accuracy, integrity, rightness. As stones are cut to fit into a building, so our acts and thoughts are built together into a structure of Character, badly or firmly, and must be tested by a moral standard of which the simple try-square

is a symbol.

So, among Speculative Masons, the tiny try-square has always been a symbol of mortality, of the basic rightness which must be the test of every act and the foundation of character and society. From the beginning of the Revival in 1717 this was made plain in the teaching of Masonry, by the fact that the Holy bible was placed upon the Altar, along with the Square and Compasses. In one of the earliest catechisms of the Craft, dated 1725, the question is asked: "How many make a lodge?" The answer is specific and unmistakable: "God and the square, with five or seven right or perfect Masons." God and the Square, Religion and Morality, must be present in every lodge as its ruling Lights, or it fails of being a just and truly constituted lodge. In all lands, in all rites where Masonry is true to itself, the Square is a symbol of righteousness, and is applied in the light of faith in God.

Such has been the meaning of the Square as far back as we can go. Long before our era we find the Square teaching the same lesson which it teaches us today. In one of the old books of China, called THE GREAT LEARNING, which has been dated in the fifth century before Christ, we read that a man should not do unto others what he would not have them do unto him; and the writer adds, "This is called the principle of acting of the square." There it is recorded long, long ago. The greatest philosopher has found nothing more profound, and the oldest man in his ripe wisdom has learned nothing more true. Even Jesus only altered it from the negative to the positive form in His Golden Rule. So, everywhere, in our Craft and outside, the Square has taught its simple truth which does not grow old. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master of North and East Yorkshire recovered a very curious relic, in the form of an old brass Square found under the foundation of an ancient bridge near Limerick, in 1830. On it was inscribed the date, 1517, and the following words:

" Strive to live with love and care  
Upon the Level, by the Square."

How simple and beautiful it is, revealing the oldest wisdom man has learned and the very genius of our Craft. In fact, and truth, the Square rules the Mason as well as the lodge in which he labors. As soon as he enters a lodge, the candidate walks with square steps round the square pavement of a rectangular lodge. All during the ceremony his attitude keeps him in mind of the same symbol, as if to fashion his life after its form. When he is brought to light, he beholds the Square upon the Altar, and at the same time sees that it is worn by the Master of the lodge, as the emblem of his office. In the northeast corner he is shown the perfect Ashlar and told that it is the type of a finished Mason, who must be a Square-man in thought and conduct, in word, and act. With every art of emphasis, the Ritual writes this lesson in our hearts, and if we forget this first truth the Lost Word will remain forever lost.

For Masonry is not simple a Ritual; it is a way of living. It offers us a plan, a method, a faith by which we may build our days and years into a character so strong and true that nothing, not even death, can destroy it. Each of us has in his own heart a little try-square called Conscience, by

which to test each thought and deed and word, whether it be true or false. By as much as a man honestly applies that test in his own heart, and in his relations with his fellows, by so much will his life be happy, stable, and true. Long ago the question was asked and answered: "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." It is the first obligation of a Mason to be on the Square, in all his duties and dealing with his fellow men, and if he fails there he cannot win anywhere. Let one of our poets sum it all up:

*It Matters not whate'er your lot  
or what your task may be  
One duty there remains for you,  
One duty stands for me.  
Be you a doctor skilled and wise,  
Or do your work for Wage,  
A laborer upon the street,  
An artist on the stage;  
One glory still awaits for you.  
one honor that is fair,  
To have men say as you pass by:  
" That Fellow's on the square."  
Ah, here's a phrase that stands for much,  
Tis good old English, too;  
It means that men have confidence  
In everything you do.  
It means that what you have you've earned,  
And that you've done your best  
And when you go to sleep at night  
Untroubled you may rest.  
It means that conscience is your guide,  
And honor is your care;  
There is no greater praise than this:  
" That fellow's on the square."  
And when I die I would not wish  
A lengthy epitaph;  
I do not want a headstone large,  
Carved with fulsome chaff.  
Pick out no single deed of mine,  
If such a deed there be,  
To 'grave upon my monument,  
For those who come to see.  
Just this one phrase of all I choose,  
To show my life was fair:  
"Here sleepeth now a fellow who  
was always on the square."*



## *September Masonic Birthdays*

Bro. Robert Weston Wagner, 52 years  
Wor. Arthur Cardoso Ferreira, 48 years  
Bro. Ralph Leland Devers, 47 years  
Bro. James Paul Raines, 45 years  
Bro. Richard Lee Stickles Jr., 35 years  
Wor. Stephen Louis Weigert, 26 years  
Wor. William Charles Hecht, 23 years  
Bro. Bryan Nicholas Morris, 12 years  
Bro. Mark Allen Boughner, 6 years  
Bro. Matthew Joshua Cavey, 6 years  
Bro. Gregory Ellsworth Safsten, 6 years  
Bro. Matthew Elijah Summers, 1 years  
Bro. Samuel Elisha Summers, 1 years  
Bro. Bradley James Watts, 1 years

## From the Secretary

Brethren,

Dues notices will be prepared for 2023 soon. If you have not yet paid your 2022 dues, please do so. If you have not yet logged into Grand View, please do so. If you need another invitation email, please email FieldBlairLodge349@gmail.com.

Of late, the Lodge has received two anonymous letters addressed to the Secretary. I want to underscore that a cardinal virtue of a Mason is fortitude. To me, anonymous letters do not demonstrate that virtue. In fact, anonymity is reserved for very little in Masonry. We cannot testify to our Brother's worthiness to the rest of the world if we are uncertain of who he is in the spaces we share. So, before addressing the complaints in the letters, let me assert that those brothers who choose to communicate in a cloak and dagger game have already lost my respect and my trust.

The letters specifically complained that the Lodge was not recognizing its Masonic Birthdays. This is simply not true. Since taking over as secretary, I have mailed more than 30 certificates recognizing 50th, 60th, and 70th Masonic anniversaries. Each letter stated that, at the request of the recipient, the certificate could be presented in Lodge. We have received only on such request. It was honored. In the transition to Grand View, some certificates were mailed directly to recipients, without a letter from the Lodge. If you are one of these brethren, a phone call or email could have easily placed you on the agenda for recognition at a Stated (and still can). It is that simple. If you feel you have not received a certificate or letter or anything else that you felt due you, you can reach me at the above email address at any time or call me (703-283-5401).

Now in our fifth year since consolidation, I still don't know many of our members. This is due, in part, to the fact that many of you are geographically dispersed. Those who live locally have made choices or live in such circumstance that they do not attend. We have sent letters to connect and received few responses (those who did now get a hard copy of the bulletin each month).

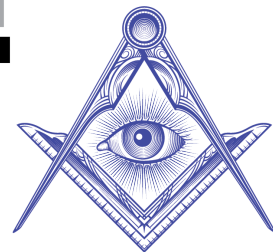
I work tirelessly, with great satisfaction and alacrity, for our Lodge and for our District. It pains me that a brother cannot speak to me directly. It pains me that a brother would attempt to create disharmony over a certificate in a Lodge that is doing its level best to grow and be a part of our community. Everyone is welcome at our ritual schools, events, and meetings. My information is available. Let's, individually or as a Lodge, discuss what it is we seek from Masonry—a certificate or actually helping men grow. I am working hard on the latter. I hope my anonymous penpal(s) will join me.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Daniel E. Froggett, PM  
Secretary  
FieldBlairLodge349@gmail.com  
703-283-5401

henry knox field

# HKF

A.F. & A.M.



# JBL

NO. 349

john blair lodge

## 2022 OFFICERS

**Clayton J. Mitchell**  
Worshipful Master

**Ronald E. Markiewicz**  
Chaplain

**Mark A. Boughner**  
Senior Warden

**Joseph Dergham**  
Senior Steward

**Jonathan Summers**  
Junior Warden

**Arnold McNeal**  
Junior Steward

**Wor. Kenneth R. Reynolds**  
Treasurer

**Bradley J. Watts**  
Marshal

**Wor. Daniel E. Froggett**  
Secretary

**Wor. Jaime H. Flores**  
Tiler & Webmaster

**Steven Aguilar**  
Senior Deacon

**Wor. Erik N. Schultz**  
Education Officer

**Xavier Mariscal**  
Junior Deacon

