



HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 • A.F. & A.M. • VIRGINIA

TRESTLEBOARD

FEBRAURY 2022

February 1, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School: Fellowcraft Degree, Receiving the DDGM
Alexandria Scottish Rite, Small Lodge Room

February 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting

Stated Communication

From the Toolbox: The Plumb

Alexandria Scottish Rite

February 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Lodge Breakfast: Royal Restaurant
Family and Friends, prospects, people off the street, all invited.

February 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Fellowcraft Degree
Alexandria—Scottish Rite, Lodge Room

February 22, 2022, George Washington's Birthday

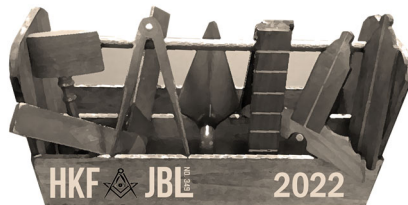
7:30 a.m. Wreath Laying at Mount Vernon, gather at traffic circle

6:00 p.m. George Washington Birthday Dinner, GWMNM, \$40

7:30 p.m. Fraternal Visit to Alexandria Washington Lodge, No. 22

Public Health Warning:

No one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to COVID-19 case (s) in the prior 10 days, is permitted to enter the Lodge building. Public gatherings are not without some risk. The safety of our membership is our number one concern. If, for any reason, you feel you are unable to follow the requirement to wear a face covering, DO NOT ATTEND LODGE.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

January flew by and here we are in February. Hope everyone is happy, healthy, and warm in these winter months. I do love when it snows—even more so when it's enough to close the schools.

Our first stated of the year was great. Thank you all who attended. I hope the presentation on the compasses will have us all reflecting upon the tools of Freemasonry and our obligations. This month's presentation will be from our Junior Warden J. D. Summers on the plumb.

We will have a fraternal visit to Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, on Feb. 22, honoring Illustrious Brother George Washington's Birthday. Also that morning is the wreath laying at the tomb of Illustrious Brother George Washington. If you will be able to attend the fraternal visit please drop me a note so I can inform Worshipful Dantev.

Thank you to all who made it out on short notice to ACG and Worshipful Froggett for being prepared to do a presentation on George Washington (even though we were double booked and he didn't have to). Also we will be passing Brother Kohler to the degree of Fellowcraft on the 15th of this month at 7pm more info to come.

Next month we will be receiving the DDGM for District 1A's official visit and I know RW Clark would love to see a good turnout. With winter weather and Covid please make sure everyone is being cautious and safe. And as always if you need anything please let myself or one of the officers or brethren know.



Sincerely & Fraternally,

Clayton J. Mitchell

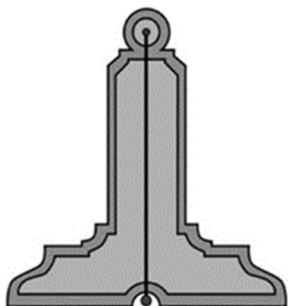
Worshipful Master

Clayton.Mitchell78@yahoo.com

703-577-1495

Teachings and Applications of the Level in Masonry

Erik N. Schultz, PM, and Lodge Education Officer



As Masons, we first encounter the working tool of the Level during the Fellowcraft degree. A contemplation of the teachings and ritual surrounding the Level can reveal several meaningful interpretations this symbol. This essay will outline a few of those layers, and highlight some lessons that we as Masons may draw from them.

The first and most immediate concept associated with the Level is that of Equality. When we state that Masons meet “on the level,” we assert the doctrine that all Ma-

sons are on equal footing, with no brother being greater or lesser than any other. Whatever our nationality, religious creed, political orientation, employment, or socio-economic standing, every brother who has been admitted through the West Gate and has taken upon himself the solemn obligations of the Craft possesses an equal claim to the rights and responsibilities thereof. The shared experience of receiving the degrees and taking upon ourselves the obligations of Freemasonry, of our own free will and accord, is the common bond of brotherhood by which we measure ourselves and our brethren. Indeed, these are the essence of the “level” upon which we all meet and stand as equals.

This is not to discount our diverse backgrounds. Indeed, Masonry recognizes and celebrates the different walks of life from which we approach the West Gate and seeks to make these differences a source of unity and strength, not of divisiveness and weakness. This is where a second concept associated with the Level comes to the forefront – that of Harmony.



A harmonious lodge recognizes and appreciates the various skills, talents, and perspectives of its brethren, and works to put these different skills to best use. This is what the Senior Warden (whose jewel is the Level) means when he states during opening and closing ritual that “harmony” is “the strength and support” of our institution. This serves a reminder to each of us to recognize and appreciate that other brethren have skills, talents, and perspectives that we do not, and vice versa. There is much that we can learn from each other, and by being open to learning in harmony with our brethren, we strengthen not only ourselves as living stones, but the lodge as a spiritual edifice.

A third concept associated with the Level is that of time; and more specifically, Mortality. During the presentation of the working tools of a Fellowcraft, the candidate learns that the Level “teaches us all that we are



traveling on the broad level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.” The term “undiscovered country,” borrowed from Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” (and reiterated in the 6th Star Trek film) refers to the inevitable death that we all will some day face. Within Masonic circles, death is often referred to as the Grand Leveler.

This ties back to the original lesson of equality; no matter how high or low we may find ourselves in this life, eventually, death will find us. As Marcus Aurelius wrote in Meditations, Alexander the Great and his mule driver met the same fate. But this need no be a somber lesson for us. The middle chamber lecture of

the Fellowcraft degree tells us that, despite the “lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastations of war” laying waste to “the utmost exertions of human genius,”

“Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has survived.” This should be a source of hope for us. If we live in accordance with the teachings of the Level, though we will die, the positive impacts we have had on our brethren, our lodge, our families, and our communities will yet live on.

So what can we draw from all of this? How do we apply the tool of the Level to our lives? When thinking about equality, harmony, and our mortality, one idea comes to mind – humility. The way in which we can apply the Level to our lives is to “check our egos.” When we interact with our brethren, our friends and family, and members of our community with a sense of equality and harmony, we necessarily subdue our egos. This is a good example of keeping our “passions within the due bounds” established by our compasses. And when we confront our mortality, it reminds us that our time in this life is short, so we ought to get on with improving ourselves, and our brethren, every day.

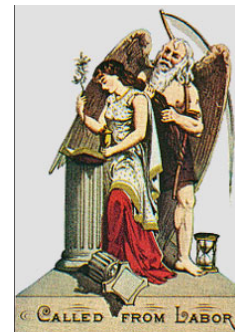
Sources

<https://soundcloud.com/on-the-level-297954005/on-the-level-102-timothy-dougherty-talks-about-his-influencers-from-demolay-to-freemasonry>
<https://www.keson.com/choosing-the-best-levels-for-masons/>
<https://www.simplytarot.com/tarot-card-meanings/major-arcana-tarot-card-meanings/death/>
 Marus Aurelius, Meditations, book 6, verse 24



Happy Birthday

Brother Rodney Gerald Bourassa - February 24, 1965 - 57 years
 Brother Murray Cameron - February 3, 1970 - 52 years
 Brother Dennis Earl Brown - February 4, 1975 - 47 years
 Brother James Arthur Bland - February 1, 1983 - 39 years
 Brother Lowell Aloyous Griffith - February 20, 1990 - 32 years
 Right Worshipful David Benjamin Browning, Jr. -
 February 8, 2005 - 17 years
 Worshipful Clayton Jennings Mitchell - February 20, 2016 - 6 years
 Worshipful Timothy J. Fisher - February 20, 2016 - 6 years



In Memoriam

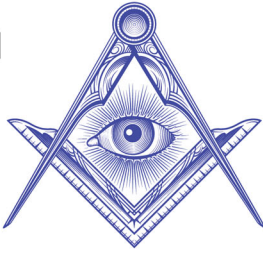
Brother Richard Walter Harper, born November 6, 1931, was initiated in Henry Knox Field Lodge on June 6, 1961, passed August 15, 1961, and raised February 6, 1962. He passed to the Celestial Lodge above on April 15, 2005.

Brother Richard David Wright, born December 24, 1943, was initiated in Richard C. MacLaurin Lodge at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on December 15, 1971, passed January 19, 1972, and raised February 16, 1972. He passed to the celestial lodge on November 3, 2020.

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

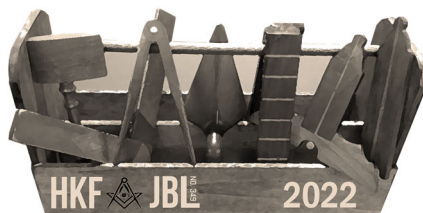
Joseph Dergham
Senior Steward

Arnold McNeal
Junior Steward

Bradley J. Watts
Marshal

Wor. Jaime H. Flores
Tiler

Wor. Erik N. Schultz
Education Officer



LODGE HISTORY

Henry Knox Field Lodge, No. 349, A.F. & A. M., was chartered in the Town of Potomac, Virginia, on February 12, 1925. It was named in honor of Henry Knox Field, a local businessman and community leader from Alexandria, Virginia, who served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, in 1917. Most Worshipful Field was raised to the degree of Master Mason on February 20, 1890, at Andrew Jackson Lodge, No. 120, A.F. & A.M. On June 24, 1893, he was installed Worshipful Master of that Lodge. Most Worshipful Field was born on April 20, 1860 and passed away on August 1, 1917, while serving as Grand Master.

John Blair Lodge No. 187, A.F. & A.M., was instituted on July 31, 1970, and chartered at Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349 on February 10, 1971. The lodge was named in honor of Virginia's first Grand Master and inaugural United States Supreme Court Justice John Blair, Jr. Jewels, aprons, the bible, and tiler's sword were given by Worshipful Raymond L. Colins. The speakers podium for the Lodge was constructed and donated by Right Worshipful Clarence A. Dains. The brazen pillars were constructed and donated by the Charter Treasurer, John Newton Crawford, and the altar cover was later donated by Most Worshipful Werner Herman Morlock, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1993, who died in office on Saturday, March 5, 1994.

The lodges initiated the consolidation process in February 2017, with the Resolution on Consolidation being adopted in June of the same year. Henry Knox Field—John Blair Lodge, No. 349, A.F. & A.M., officially began work January 1, 2018.

HENRY KNOX FIELD—JOHN BLAIR LODGE, No. 349, AF&AM
1430 WEST BRADDOCK ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302
WWW.FIELDBLAIRLODGE349.ORG

Stated Communication:

Second Tuesday 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m.