



HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 - A.F. & A.M. - VIRGINIA

TRESTLEBOARD

JULY 2022

July 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Lodge Ritual School: MM Degree
Alexandria Scottish Rite
Small Lodge Room

July 19, 2022, 8:00 a.m.
William Hiram Wood School
Dale City Lodge
Master Masons only.

July 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Lodge Breakfast:
Royal Restaurant
All invited.

July 26, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Masters and Wardens
Association Meeting
Elmer-Timberman Lodge No. 54
6911 Columbia Pike, Annandale

July 12, 2022

7:30 p.m. meeting

Stated Communication

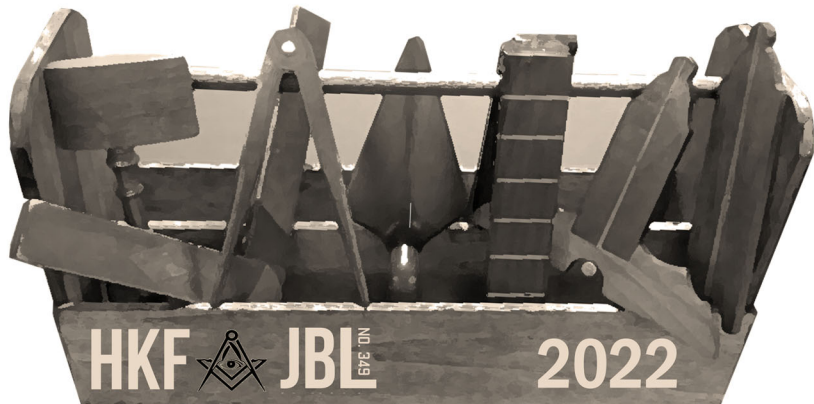
Annual Causal Lodge

BBQ—Wear your shorts!

RSVP your attendance:

fieldblairlodge349@gmail.com

All COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. Members are encouraged to continue to adhere to safety practices that make them and their families feel comfortable and protected.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

July is here and the summer is in full swing. The June Table Lodge was pretty amazing. Thank you to everyone who helped setup, plan, and execute this event. Our July Stated is our annual casual barbecue. I hope to see you all there.

June was a fun month as students graduated and things are somewhat back to “kinda” normal. I made a visit to my uncle’s lodge in Pennsylvania for his 60th year pin ceremony. It was great to see a different jurisdiction and how they do their ritual. It was a great time with lots of family there. Then we went in for a tiled meeting and I presented the lodge with a gavel I had RW Grant Routzohn make. I truly encourage everyone to get out and visit a lodge. If you are traveling and one happens to be nearby GO.

Unfortunately due to circumstances, our visit with the scholarship award winners was unable to happen this year but there is a zoom component coming. If you are interested in outreach or wanting to get involved in something please let me or one of the officers know. We miss those of you we don’t see. Please drop us a line and let us know what is going on your lives.

Our Saturday breakfasts have become a nice relief on a Saturday morning to break up the routine and have a good time with some of the brethren and their families. Also, every Tuesday unless something comes up, there is always something going on. Ritual school or masters and wardens or district ritual school. So come on out and have some fun times and polish up some of our ritual. Virginia ritual really is remarkable.



I hope you all have a safe and happy 4th of July and celebrate the freedoms our forefathers were able to provide.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Clayton J. Mitchell
Worshipful Master
Clayton.Mitchell78@yahoo.com
703-577-1495

THE LEVEL & PLUMB

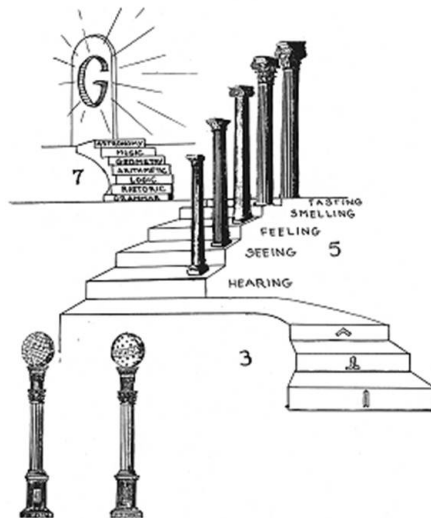
SHORT TALK BULLETIN - Vol.II June, 1924 No.6

Like the Square and the Compasses, the Level and the Plumb are nearly always united in our Ritual. They really belong together, as much in moral teaching as in practical building. The one is used to lay horizontals, the other to try perpendiculars, and their use suggests their symbolism. By reason of their use, both are special working tools of the Fellowcraft, along with the Square and they are also worn as jewels by two of the principal officers of the Lodge.

Among the Craft Masons of olden time the actual work of building was done by Fellowcrafts, using materials gathered and rough hewn by Apprentices, all working under the guidance of the Master In our Symbolism, as the Apprentice is youth, so the Fellowcraft is manhood, the time when the actual work of life must be done on the Level, by the Plumb and Square. Next to the Square and Compasses, the Level and Plumb are among the noblest and simplest symbols of the Craft, and their meaning is so plain that it hardly needs to be pointed out. Yet they are so important, in use and meaning, that they might almost be numbered among the Lesser Lights of the Lodge.

The Level, so the newly made Mason is taught, is for the purpose of proving horizontals. An English writer finds a lesson in the structure of the Level, in the fact that its surface is level when the fluid is poised and at rest. From this use of the Level he bids us seek to attain a peaceful, balanced poise of mind, undisturbed by the passions which upset and sway us one way or the other. It is a council of perfection, he admits, but he insists that one of the best services of Masonry is to keep before us high ideals and, what is more, a constantly receding ideal, otherwise we should tire of it.

Of course, the great meaning of the Level is that it teaches equality, and that is a truth that needs to be carefully understood. There is no little confusion of mind about it. Our Declaration of American Independence tells us that all men are "Created equal" but not many have tried to think out what the words really mean. With most of us it is a vague sentiment, a glittering generality born of the fact that all are made of the same dust, and sharers of the common human lot, moved by the same great faith and fears, hopes and loves - walking on the Level of Time until Death, by its grim democracy, erases all distinctions and reduces all to the same level. Anyone who faces



the facts knows well enough that all men are not equal, either by nature or by grace. Our humanity resembles the surface of the natural world in its hills and valleys. Men are very unequal in physical power, in mental abilities, in moral quality. No two men are equal, no two are alike. One man towers above his fellows, as a mountain above the hills. Some men can do what others can never do. Some have five talents, some two, and some but one. A genius can do with effortless ease what is futile for others to attempt, and a poet may be unequal to a hod-carrier in strength and sagacity. When there is inequality of gift it is idle to talk of equality of opportunity, no matter how fine the phrase may sound. It does not exist.

By no glib theory can humanity be reduced to a dead level.

The iron wrinkles of fact are stubborn realities. Manifestly it is better to have it so, because it would make a dull world if all men were equal in a literal sense. As it is, wherein one lacks another excels, and men are drawn together by the fact that they are unequal and unlike. The world has different tasks demanding different powers, brains to devise, seers to see, hands to execute, prophets to lead. We need poets to inspire, scientists to teach, pioneers to blaze the path to new lands. No doubt this was what Goethe meant when he said that it takes all men to make one man, and the work of each is the glory of all.



What, then, is the equality of which the Level is the Symbol? Clearly it is not identity, or even similarity of gift and endowment. No, it is something better: it is the equal right of each man to the full use and development of such power as he has, whatever it may be, unhindered by injustice or oppression. as our Declaration of Independence puts it, every man has an equal

and inalienable right to "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," with due regard for the rights of others in the same quest. Or, as a famous slogan summed it up "Equal Rights for all Special Privileges to None!" That is to say, before the law every man has an equal right to equal justice, as before Deity, in whose presence all men are one in their littleness, each receives equally and impartially the blessing of the Eternal Love, even as the sun shines and the rain falls on all with equal benediction.

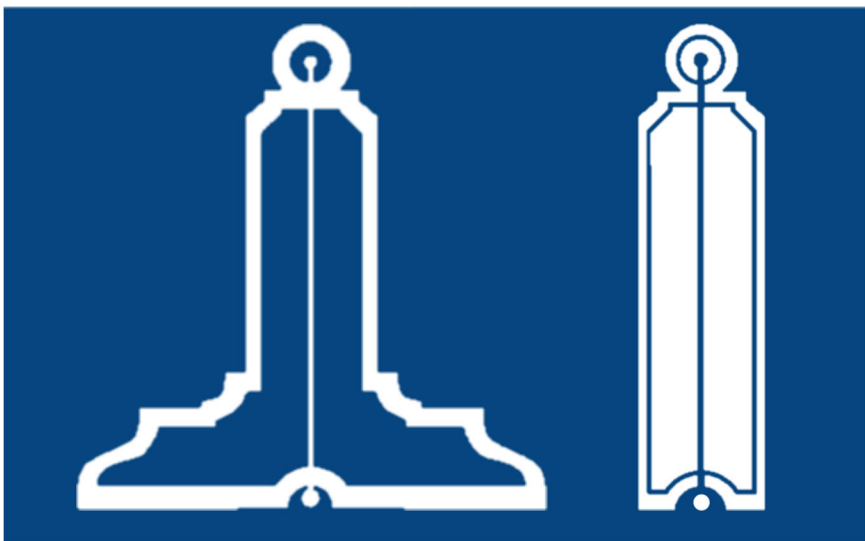
Albert Pike, and with him many others, have gone so far as to say that Masonry was the first apostle of equality in the true sense. One thing we do know Freemasonry presided over the birth of our Republic, and by the skill of its leaders wrote its basic truth, of which the Level is the symbol, into organic law of this land, the War for Independence, and the fight for Constitutional Liberty, might have had another issue but for the fact that our

leaders were held together by a mystic tie of obligation, vowed to the services of the rights of man. Even Thomas Paine, who was not a Mason, wrote an essay in honor of an order which stood for Government without tyranny and religion without superstition - two principles which belong together, like the Level and the Plumb. Thus, by all that is sacred both in our Country and our Craft, we are pledged to guard, defend and practice the truth taught by the Level.

But it is in the free and friendly air of a Lodge of Masons, about an Altar of Obligation and Prayer, that the principle of equality finds its most perfect and beautiful expression. There, upon the Level, the Symbol of Equality, rich and poor, high and low, prince and plain citizen - men of diverse creeds, parties, interests, and occupations - meet in mutual respect and real regard, forgetting all differences of rank and station, and united for the highest good of all. "We Meet Upon the Level and Part Upon the Square" titles, ranks, riches, do not pass the Inner Guard and the humblest Brother is held in sacred regard, equally with the Brother who has attained the highest round of the wheel of fortune.

Every man in the Lodge is equally concerned in the building of the Temple, and each has his work to do. Because the task demands different gifts and powers, all are equally necessary to the work, the architect who draws the plans, the Apprentice who carries stones or shapes them with chisel and gavel the Fellowcraft who polishes and deposits them in the wall, and the officers who marshal the workman, guide their labor, and pay their wages. Every one is equal to every other so long as he does good work, true work, square work. Thus Masonry lifts men to a high level, making each a fellow-worker in a great enterprise, and if it is the best brotherhood it is because it is a brotherhood of the best.

The Plumb is a symbol so simple that it needs no exposition. As the Level teaches unity in diversity and equality in difference, so the Plumb is a



symbol of rectitude of conduct, integrity of life, and that uprightness of moral character which makes a good and just man. In the art of building accuracy is integrity, and if a wall be not exactly perpendicular, as tested by the Plumb-Line, it is weak and may fall, or else endanger the strength and stability of the whole. Though we meet upon a Level, we must each build an upright character by the test of the Plumb, or we weaken the Fraternity we seek to serve and imperil its strength and standing in the community,

As a workman dare not deviate by the breadth of a hair to the right or to the left if his wall is to be strong and his arch stable, so Masons must walk erect and live upright lives. What is meant by an upright life each of us knows, but it has never been better described than in the 15th Psalm, which may be called the religion of a gentleman and the design upon the Trestleboard of every Mason:

"Lord, who shall abide in Thy Tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy Holy Hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is condemned but he honoreth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

What is true of a man is equally true of a nation. The strength of a nation is its integrity, and no nation is stronger than the moral quality of the men who are its citizens. Always it comes back at last to the individual, who is a living stone in the wall of society and the State, making it strong or weak. By every act of injustice, by every lack of integrity, we weaken society and imperil the security and sanctity of the common life. By every noble act we make all sacred things more sacred and secure for ourselves and for those who come after us. The Prophet Amos has a thrilling passage in which he lets us see how God tested the people which were of old, by the Plumb-Line and by the same test we are tried:

"Thus He Showed me and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a Plumb-Line, with a Plumb-Line in His Hand. And the Lord said unto me "Amos, what seest thou?" And I said, "A Plumb-Line." Then said the Lord, "Behold, I will set a Plumb-Line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass them by any more."

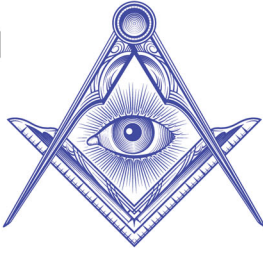


The new Grandview system pulls Masonic Birthdays by date of initiation rather than date of raising. We are working with Grand Lodge on correcting this error (and making it possible to simply retrieve a list from the database of Master Mason Degree dates). In the meantime, for all of those raised in the month of July, the Lodge sends its warmest fraternal greetings for a very Happy Birthday!

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

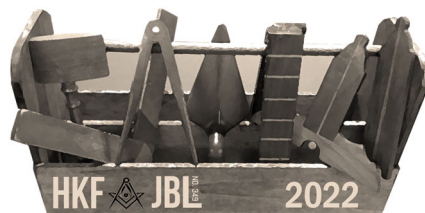
Senior Deacon

Wor. Erik N. Schultz

Education Officer

Xavier Mariscal

Junior Deacon



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.