

The Trestle Board

**Messalonskee Lodge #113
Oakland, Maine
Richard K. Penney, Master**

Meetings on the Third Tuesday at 7:30 PM

From the East

November Message

Hello brethren,

I would like to express how very enjoyable sitting in the East has been this year, but Wow! it sure passes quickly.

We are very fortunate to have several new candidates to work in the E.A. degree on our stated meeting Nov. 17th. I encourage you one and all to come out and be supportive of our new prospective brethren.

We will have a pot-luck supper for our Nov degrees and these meals have been outstanding. It is worth the trip.

Dec. 16th, is our annual meeting and election of officers, once again I hope you can be there.

Brethren, hopefully this message finds you and yours in good health. I hope to see you all on the third Tuesday of November.

Fraternally,

Wor. Richard K. Penney, Master

Lodge Tel.# 465-2021

Master's Tel.# 465-2939

E-mail rjpenney@roadrunner.com

From the Secretary

Would all of you that have an email address please forward it to me so we can send future Trestle Boards to you by email. We are now sending the Trestle Boards by First Class Mail which is a great expense. The email transmission will begin for the January 2010 addition and will also be posted on the Lodge's Website: www.messalonskeelodge.org

Wor. Dana W. Wrigley, Secretary

207-465-3830

My new email is: dwwrig@myfairpoint.net

24 Chairs and 2 Spittoons

by Wor. Blaine Ellis



In reviewing the history of Messalonskee Lodge #113 A.F. & A.M. I found that in 1860 several members of Waterville Lodge #33 petitioned to establish a lodge in West Waterville, Me. which is now the town of Oakland, Me. The Charter to establish Messalonskee Lodge was granted in 1862 from the Grand Lodge of Maine. The masons met in several different halls in town for a time. In 1862 it was voted to furnish the lodge with the following furniture. One hundred dollars was to be used to purchase three tables, four oil lamps and a quart of oil, twenty four chairs and four spittoons. Jewels and Masonic clothing was also purchased with this money. The lodge was lighted with electric lights in 1889. Sometime before the turn of the century (1900) the lodge began meeting in the Bank Building located on Main St. in Oakland. It had a dining hall and a kitchen on the 2nd floor with the lodge hall on the 3rd floor. Our Lodge facilities in the old bank building were not ideal. Our lodge was located on the third floor, the 38 steps leading from the street level were steep and it was a long and difficult climb for many of our older members. Due to the age of the building it was difficult to heat during the winter months and was not always comfortable for our meetings.

In the year of 1973 it was made known to us that the Calvary Church of God, building on Oak St. was going to be offered for sale. Upon meeting with church officials the asking price for the building was going to be

\$25,000. Because our rent had been increased several times due to the cost of heating the building, it was decided to try to raise funds to purchase the church building on Oak St.

A committee was formed and I was asked to serve as co-campaign chairman along with Bro. Ralph Palmer. Having recently had the experience in a major fund drive for the Boys Club in Waterville, I was asked to try to raise the funds needed to purchase the church building. We published a brochure with a picture of the church building along with plans drawn up by R.W. Doug Taylor showing how we would renovate the building for our needs. The brochure was sent to the members belonging to each of the Masonic bodies occupying our lodge facilities. We formed a committee of volunteers to

accomplished our goal. Many of those members have now passed on.

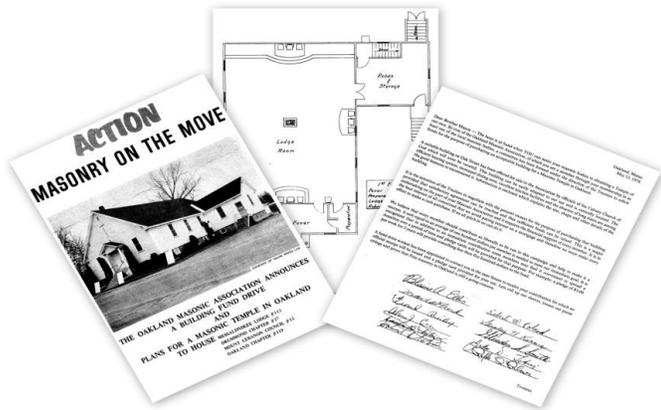
Our building is managed by the Oakland Masonic Association with members from each Masonic body elected to serve on the board of directors. Improvements to the building have been made thru the years making it a comfortable and attractive building for Messalonskee Lodge #113 A.F. & A.M., Drummond Royal Arch Chapter #27, and Mt. Lebanon Council #13. We no longer have The Order of the Eastern Star, as they disbanded several years ago. The Rebekah's, share our facilities with us now.

From the Editor

My thanks to Worshipful Blaine Ellis for the very interesting articles he has submitted this year. I have enjoyed them immensely and hope you have also. It has been my pleasure to edit the trestleboards this year and look forward to doing it again next year.

Fraternally,

R.W. Peter Davis Couture, Editor



visit our members with pledge cards, to personally ask for pledges to the fund. Pledge cards were mailed to our members who lived out of state. The lodge's unsuccessful attempts in past years had raised only \$700 for a building fund. We were successful in raising \$18,000. in pledges this time. Not having enough money to purchase the building and to make the necessary renovations we decided to approach our membership for loans for the project. We would pay 6% interest to be paid off over a period of time. We were able to raise another \$18,000 making a total of \$36,000 which enabled us to purchase the church building with enough funds left over to make the necessary renovations to it.

Moving Day was an experience long to be remembered. The piano and the long benches from the lodge room had to be lowered from a window in the back of the building that was four floors above the ground. With the help from some of our members who had experience in rigging heavy equipment we were able to move everything without any casualties or damage. Our lodge members volunteered the labor and under the direction of R.W. Douglas B. Taylor, who was experienced in the building construction trade we proceeded to renovate the church building for our Masonic Lodge. With the hours and hours volunteered to work on the building by so many of our members we

Birthdays November/December	
Patrick R. Linehan	11/02
Alexander M. Vieta, Jr.	11/03
Colen K. Brooks	11/03
Robert H. Rowe	11/16
Robert J. Soper	11/18
Robert A. Bucknam	11/18
William P. Pulsifer	11/19
Frederick R. Milligan	11/22
Ralph E. Hathaway	11/24
John R. Bradshaw, Jr.	11/25
Nelson A. Bolduc, II	11/27
Carl G. Yeaton	11/28
David E. Knowles	12/05
John W. Weeks	12/08
Michael J. Davidson	12/11
Paul J. Silverman	12/16
Raymond E. Collier	12/17
Raymond B. Hutchinson	12/20
Ronald G. Parlin	12/21
Allen D. Sanborn	12/23
David A. Powell	12/28
The Officers and Members of Messalonskee Lodge wish all of you a very Happy Birthday.	

Father & Son

While doing some Masonic research, I noticed Lodges used to have “Father and Son Dinners.” This way the proud father could show off his son to the members of his Lodge and show off his Lodge to his son. We are encouraged to have a “Bring a Friend Night” and “Bring a Mason Night”, but maybe we should think about having a “Father and Son Night/Dinner” again, which could turn into a night of enjoyment for both father and son.

I, like many others, hope and pray that our Masonic teachings will be taken up by our sons, and hopefully, they will walk at least partially in our footsteps and their beliefs will be parallel with ours. Our actions, deeds, and words are the one commodity we have to sell, and by so doing, we can only hope our sons and the generations to follow will want this priceless gift of Freemasonry and pass it ON.

From: “Where Are Our Sons” by Wor. David Alex Burkus, Virginia Masonic Herald.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

William Howard Taft—Distinctive as both National leader and Mason, left a political legacy in Ohio lasting for more than a century. As a national leader, he was distinctive in that he served as both President of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Born in Cincinnati in 1857, Taft was elected President in 1908, and served one term. In 1921 he was appointed to the top position at the Supreme Court.

As a Mason, he also was distinctive because he was made a Mason at-Sight by Ohio Grand Master Charles S. Hoskinson on February 18, 1909, just before he took office as President of the United States. The event took place in Cincinnati, with 14 Grand Masters from sister jurisdictions present, along with 12 Past Grand Master of Ohio. The crowd included 302 Worshipful Masters and many others.

Later that evening, Brother Taft was present when the Master Mason’s Degree was conferred in Kilwinning Lodge No.356. He was presented “a beautiful lambskin apron.” Later he was elected to membership in Kilwinning Lodge, where he maintained membership until his death in 1930.

At a speech to Altair Lodge in New York City in 1916, former President Taft told his brethren how he felt about “Masonry,” he said, “takes men as they are and seeks to make each man better in his own field, It instills a sense of duty; it helps to improve the condition of society by its teachings.”

Brother Taft said the “right” ideals are contained in the “genius of Masonry.”

The Taft legacy in Ohio continues in several ways. The Taft Theatre, adjacent to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Cincinnati (where the President-elect became a Mason), is often the site for sessions of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Their annual communication was held in the Taft Theatre in October 2000.

The legacy of William Howard Taft in politics continues also. Both his son and grand-son , both named Robert A. Taft, were U.S. Senators from Ohio, and his great-grandson, Bob Taft is the current Governor of Ohio.

On his death in 1930, a much copied cartoon showed William Howard Taft standing back-to-back with himself as president of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The inscription stated, ‘He kept the faith.’

From More Light about Masonry in the Beacon of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Recently read good thought:

Knowledge isn’t power, the ability to act upon knowledge is power.

From Southern California Research Lodge F&AM

Oakland Meetings:

Mt Lebanon Council Nov 2nd, 6:30 Supper

Drummond Chapter Nov 4th, 6:30 Supper

Messalonskee Lodge Nov 17th, 6:30 Supper

