



Gems of Purpose

The E-Trestle Board for

Bethpage Lodge #521, Free and Accepted Masons

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What Happened at the Grand Lodge?

The Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, F&AM was held March 22 and 23. Tim Roberson, WM and David Stafford, Sec'y represented Bethpage Lodge. There were several notable changes to the Masonic Code. For several years there has been a repeated change in the ability of a lodge to initiate men who lived in other counties besides the one in which the lodge is located. This debate was finally settled by allowing a lodge to receive a petition from any man who has resided in the State of Tennessee for at least one year, regardless of county of residence.

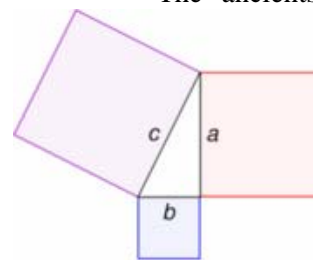
Perhaps the greatest change to Masonic Code was the action taken by the Grand Lodge in regards to the Grand Lodge Building. The Grand Lodge decided, by vote, for there to be instituted a \$10.00 tax per year on all lodges in Tennessee for every Master Mason on roll on December 31, excluding Fifty Year Masons. This tax will be imposed for the next 20 years to refurbish and preserve the Grand Lodge Building.

The Grand Lodge also voted for an increase in per capita tax (the amount of money that the blue lodge pays to the Grand Lodge each year) by \$3.00. This increases the per capita tax to \$15.50. This means that each lodge in Tennessee will pay the Grand Lodge \$25.50 per Master Mason each year, excluding 50 Year members.

Over the next couple of months, the lodge will be discussing how the increase in per capita tax and the newly imposed building tax will affect our dues.

THE FORTY-SEVENTH PROBLEM OF EUCLID

The 47th Problem of Euclid is taught to us within the Third Degree of Masonry. The degree does not provide a clear exhaustive explanation of the meaning of the symbol. We are taught that it is to teach us to be lovers of knowledge; however, there is more to this symbol than meets the eye. The 47th problem is a proof of the Pythagorean Theorem. The theorem states that the sum of the squares formed by the two lesser sides equal the sum of the hypotenuse, the side across from the 90° angle. Within the lodge room the lesser lights are spaced in lengths of 3, 4, and 5 units. These lengths create a very special Masonic figure, a right triangle with the measurements of 37°, 53°, and 90°, an angle that meets the requirements of the Forty-Seventh Problem.



The ancients considered this specific triangle sacred. They considered it a representation of man's strife in life to attain perfection. The two lesser sides, sides a and b, of the triangle were said to represent man as a physical and mental being. The hypotenuse, side c, represents man spiritually. The goal of Masonry is to improve men's character, the physical and mental aspects, so that he might be able to be strong and more fulfilled spiritually, through whatever medium and religion he chooses. (Taken from an article written by Brother Stafford for *The Philalethes*)

Do you know a brother who would enjoy receiving this E-trestle Board? Have them e-mail the lodge secretary at Bethpagelodge521@bellsouth.net. If you have the e-mail address of a fellow brother of Bethpage Lodge, the secretary would also like to add it to the Announcement list.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE STUDYING MASON

FIRST CORINTHIANS 13:1-3 KJV

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

1Co 13:2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

1Co 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Masonic Tidbits

Most people are aware of the fact that the Statue of Liberty was a gift of the French people after their own republic came into existence. However, many are not aware that there is a Masonic link to the statue. Frederic Bartholdi, a Mason, designed it. The cornerstone of the pedestal was laid by William A. Brodie, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York State, with impressive Masonic ceremony on August 5, 1884. The stone is still visible today. For more information on the construction and uniqueness of the Statue of Liberty visit:

<http://www.nyc-architecture.com/LM/LM002-STATUEOFLIBERTY.htm> .

Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man.

- General Douglas MacArthur

Myth Buster

Myth: Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry were Freemasons.

Fact: Neither Thomas Jefferson or Patrick Henry were members of the Craft. An exhaustive search of Masonic records in Virginia, and elsewhere, offers no iota of evidence to make them Freemasons. Jefferson participated in the cornerstone laying of his University at Charlottesville, which was done Masonically. He praised Freemasonry and his own words proved he had never been a member of the Craft.

(Taken from: <http://www.masonicworld.com/education/>)



The Philaethes Society?

The Philaethes Society was founded October 1, 1928. Its first members included Rudyard Kipling and H. L. Haywood. Its primary purpose is to support Masonic scholarship and research and serve as a clearinghouse for Masonic knowledge. The society publishes a bi-monthly journal featuring high quality articles written by Masons the world over.

Membership in the Society offers a subscription to *The Philaethes* magazine, opportunity to affiliate with a Chapter, leadership development, and much more. Membership in the society is \$40.00. There is an additional fee to affiliate with a Chapter. If you are interested in joining The Philaethes Society you may find a petition at the website provided or contact the lodge secretary. Brother Stafford has been a member for several years and has greatly enjoyed its benefits. It is a highly respected and worthwhile Masonic organization.

<http://freemasonry.org/psoc/joinbymail.htm>