



# Gems of Purpose

The E-Trestle Board for  
Bethpage Lodge #521, Free and Accepted Masons



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## On the Rise?

Lodges across the state are experiencing the financial crunch of increasing per capita taxes, expenses, and costs of living. Bethpage Lodge, as you know, is no different. As you visited your mailboxes this past month, you received a letter telling you the lodge would consider a proposed change in the bylaws to increase dues. At the stated meeting in June, the lodge unanimously approved the proposal to increase dues to \$50.00 per member, excluding fifty year members. This increase will cover the recent hike in per capita tax and the Grand Lodge assessment of \$10.00 per dues paying member.

## Anderson's Constitutions

The Rev. James Anderson, D.D. was probably born in Aberdeen, Scotland, migrating to London sometime before taking over the lease of a Presbyterian chapel in Swallow Street in 1709-10.

In September 29, 1721 he was directed by the Grand Lodge of England to "digest the old Gothic Constitutions in a new and better method." The first edition of the Constitutions, including the Charges of a Freemason, was published in 1723, with a second edition in 1738.

Here is the first of the six charges set forth by Brother Anderson. Hope you enjoy.

### I. Concerning GOD and RELIGION.

A Mason is oblig'd by his Tenure, to obey the moral law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist nor an irreligious Libertine. But though in ancient Times Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of that Country or Nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is, to be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Center of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd at a perpetual Distance.

(<http://bessel.org/landmark.htm>)



## Missing Brother

### A request for help from the Secretary's Desk!

We have a lodge brother for whom I have no contact information, **Brother Gary Gann**. Bro. Gann moved from Westmoreland to Gallatin last year. All of my attempts to locate his address have been futile. If any of you know how to contact this brother, please let me know or instruct him to contact me as soon as possible.

- DES

### SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED

Bethpage Lodge awarded Amber Desha Wyman and Zachary Lewis Williams. Recipients received \$500.00 to help finance their academic pursuits. Amber plans to pursue a career in nursing and Zachary criminal justice. The lodge wishes them all the best in their ventures.



## Scriptures for the Studying Mason

**Amo 7:5** Then said I, O Lord GOD, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he *is* small.

**Amo 7:6** The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord GOD.

**Amo 7:7** Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall *made* by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.

**Amo 7:8** And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:

**Amo 7:9** And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.



## Masonic TidBits

California's first Masonic funeral service was given in 1849 over the body of an unknown brother found drowned in San Francisco Bay. A silver mark of a Mark Master was found on the body. Tattooed on his left arm were all the emblems of an Entered Apprentice. On his right arm were the emblems of a Fellowcraft. On the left breast were the lights of Masonry, and over the heart was the pot of incense. *Tattoos* on other parts of his body were the beehive, the sword and heart, the all-seeing eye, the hourglass, sun, moon, stars and comet, the three steps, weeping virgin and Father Time with his scythe.

## Myth Buster

**Myth:** Much of our Masonic ritual was written by William Shakespeare.

**Fact:** There is no evidence to indicate Shakespeare even knew there was an organization of stonemasons that would eventually become Speculative Freemasonry. The old Gothic Constitutions are the basis for The Constitutions of the Freemasons compiled by Dr. James Anderson in 1722 and adopted in 1723. There is nothing in the Gothic tomes that remotely resembles the writing of the Bard. Many of Shakespeare's phrases have found their way into the rituals of the Craft, but they certainly were not written especially for this purpose. It would be nice to claim William as an early-accepted member, but we cannot. Let us stop trying.

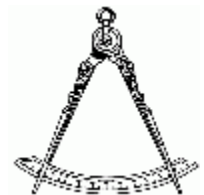
(<http://freemasonry.org/nking/>)

*I believe, with abiding conviction, that this people-nurtured by their deep faith, tutored by their hard lessons, moved by their high aspirations-have the will to meet the trials that these times impose.*

- Lyndon B. Johnson, An Entered Apprentice

## The Past Master

"Who's the stranger, Mother, dear?  
Look: he knows us--ain't he queer?"  
"Hush, my son, don't talk so wild,  
"He's your father, dearest child."  
"He's my father? It's not so,  
Father died six years ago."  
"Dad didn't die, O lover mine,  
He's been going through the line.  
But he's been Master now so he  
Has no place to go you see---  
No place left for him to roam---  
That is why he is coming home,  
Kiss him---he won't bite you child.  
All Past Masters are quite mild."



(<http://home.midmaine.com/~gleighton/thepastmaster.htm>)