

Florence Lodge #281 A.F. & A.M.

Trestleboard

September, 2009

W.. Randall A. McFarland
Worshipful Master, 2009

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- Monday, September 21—Business meeting at 7:30
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Saturday, September 26—Charlie Amidon's dinner
celebrating his 60 years service to Masonry
@ Scottish Rite Masonic Center
- Monday, September 28—degree practice at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, October 5—Business meeting at 7:30
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, October 12—informal gathering
Tangier Shrine Crescent Room
- Monday, October 19—degree practice at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, October 26—degree practice at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281

Happy Birthday!

September

Donald Anderson	William Nary
Doyle Berg	Paul Nerz
Chris Boughter	Wilson Schollman
Richard Burgess	Dennis Shannon, IV
John Carter	William Steiner
Donald Engdahl	Robert Whipple, Jr
Karl Hoffmann	
James Johnson III	
Richard Lewis	



In Memoriam

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of
Brother Theodore Perry II

Born: April 12, 1937

EA: May 12, 1975

FC: June 9, 1975

MM: September 22, 1975



Trestle Board

Masonic Tracing Board ...Why We Square the Lodge

A Masonic trestle board is a design board for the Master Workman (Architect) to draw his plans and designs upon to give the workmen an outline of the work to be performed. In today's terms, we might call it a blueprint.

It is one of the 3 Movable jewels.

A trestle board is a framework consisting of (usually 3) vertical, slanted supports (or legs) with one or more horizontal crosspieces on which to hang or display an item. Today, it is better known as an "easel".

Some jurisdictions around the world call it a tracing board. It would be somewhat of a "circular logic" task to argue the difference, as, while neither can be fully proven (in historical writings), the "Tracing board" may very well have preceded the use of the word "Trestleboard" because lodges in Europe use the word "Tracing Board".

Hiram's Tracing Board: Hiram Abiff's tracing board is believed to have been made of wood, covered with a coating of wax. Each day he would draw his Master architect's measurements and symbols into the wax in order to instruct his Master Masons of the work that was to be accomplished.

At the end of the day, he would simply scrape off the wax and pour a new layer of hot wax onto the board to ready it for the next day's work.

Masonic Tracing Board: Much later, in the days where lodge was held in secret areas and on hills and vales, (valleys) once lodge was in session, the Tiler (or Tyler) would draw an oblong (rectangular) or oblong square depiction (image) into the dirt that represented the form of the lodge. Again, onto that tracing board was drawn the architect's plan...the working tools in the degree that was to be worked.

Masonic Trestle Board: Through the years, the Masonic Tracing Board progressed to charcoal or chalk on the floor of taverns where lodges were held back in the 1700s. After the lecture, the Stewards or the Entered Apprentice, as a lesson in secrecy, would get a mop and bucket and remove all trace of these drawings.

Continued on reverse. . .

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<http://www.florence lodge.com>

Trestleboards continued. . .

This, obviously, was a somewhat tedious and messy procedure, so cloths or rugs were created which could be laid onto the floor and simply folded up when the lecture was complete.

Later, these cloths (or rugs) were placed onto a table. As time passed, they were finally hung onto an easel... (a trestle board) much like a drawing board at a construction site where each workman could receive clear instruction as to what his specific participation entailed.

When the team's work was completed, it was obvious that each Master Mason not only understood their specific part in the undertaking, but how their part (no matter how small), contributed to the construction of the entire edifice.

The meaning of the words "Nothing further remains to be done, according to ancient custom, except to disarrange our emblems" is a reference to the now antiquated use of these trestleboards (or tracing boards) during which the dirt on the ground was erased or the chalk marks on the floor of these lodges was mopped or scrubbed, to leave no trace of the form of the Lodge or the contents drawn thereon.

The reason why our lines of travel are at right angles within the lodge and thus the reason that we "square" the lodge is a throwback to the antiquity of the ritual.

If the brethren were to walk atop the markings made in the dirt on hill and vale; atop the chalk on the floor of the taverns; or tread upon and thus soil the cloths or rugs used to provide the workings of that degree, the message of that lecture which was being worked could be partially or fully destroyed.

Therefore, "Squaring the Lodge" in a semi-military-like precision, goes back many centuries as the means of preserving the ritual and the degrees being worked so as not to destroy the symbolism of their markings before their usefulness on that day has been completed.

. . . and now you know "The Rest of the Story!"

2009 Officers

W.. Randall A. McFarland.....Worshipful Master/ rmcfar@cox.net
David L. Rose.....Senior Warden/ dlrose@cox.net
W.. James E. Westcott.....Junior Warden/ jewestcott@cox.net
W.. Paul L. Welsch.....Treasurer/ plwelsch@up.com
W.. Dale E. WagnerSecretary/ dewagner@cox.net
W.. Micah I. Evans.....Chaplain /mevans0424@cox.net
Carl H. Moum.....Senior Deacon/ carlmoum2@hotmail.com
Brian W. Saathoff.....Junior Deacon
Sean T. Kesterson.....Senior Steward
W.. Jeffrey A. Merriman.....Jr. Steward/ frostymerriman@cox.net
W.. F. Edward LaBreck.....Tyler/ alabreck@cox.net
W.. Doyle E. Berg.....Marshal

From the East

Last week, Dan Brown released his new book *The Solomon Code*. Like *The Da Vinci Code*, his new book promises to be an excellent read and a great thriller. Of course, there is a tablespoon of truth mixed with a gallon of exaggeration.

That's why it is your job to remind the public about the ideals Masonry stands for: fraternity, philanthropy, truth, and integrity. Our job is to remind our co-workers, family members, and friends that Masonry is truly about men who strive to improve themselves as well as their communities.

Of course, uninformed or mean-spirited people will choose to believe popular fiction. It is always more fun to believe the legends rather than the facts.

Remember, YOU are the Lodge public relations officer. If we are to promote our Craft, all of us have to take a proactive role and represent all that is best about Masonry.