

Lodge Waikato 475

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED FREEMASONS

MARCH 2020



'Rain - Rain come again'

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NOTICE PAPER



MASTER

W.Bro Adrian de Bruin
265A Hakirimata Rd. Ngaruawahia
Ph. 07 824 7234 (eve)

SENIOR WARDEN

W.Bro Andre Schenk
11 Beaufort Place
Flagstaff, Hamilton.
Ph 027 5784 060

JUNIOR WARDEN

Bro Trevor Langley
16 Cashmere Place
Flagstaff, Hamilton.
Ph 027 2797696

TREASURER

W.Bro. Alan Harrop
18 Cherrywood St
Pukete, Hamilton
Ph 027 499 5733

SECRETARY

W.Bro Richard Kyle
23 Kiwi Ave
Hamilton
027 529 8977

Dear Brother,

You are hereby summoned to attend the Regular Monthly Meeting of
Lodge Waikato, to be held in the Hamilton East Masonic Centre,
Grey St., Hamilton East , on Thursday 19th March 2020 at 7.30pm.

Ceremony: - Lodge - 3rd Degree working - Bro Mark Bunting
50yr presentation - Bro Norm Weir

1. Confirmation of Minutes
2. Accounts payable
3. Treasurer 's report
4. Correspondence
5. Almoner 's report
6. General Business
7. Lodge Notices

W.Bro Richard Kyle - Hon Sec.

Officers of the Lodge

I.P.M.- W.Bro Graham Hallam
Sen. Deacon - W.Bro Wally Lee
Chaplain - W.Bro John Dickson
Secretary - W.Bro Richard Kyle
Dir. of Cere - W.Bro Don McNaughton
Organist - Bro Norm Weir
Tyler - W.Bro Willy Willetts
Ass. Steward - Bro. Jacob Wallace,

Dep. Master - W.Bro Steve Weller
Jun. Deacon - Bro Jerry Newell
Almoner - W.Bro Graham Hallam
Ass Secretary - W.Bro Bill Newell
Ass. D.O.C. - W.Bro Kirk Spragg
Inner Guard - Bro Geoff Cooper
Senior Steward - Bro Aaron Peters

LODGE WAIKATO 475



To be Initiated -

To be Passed to the Second Degree - Bro David Panirau

To be raised to the Third Degree - Bro Mark Ashburner, Bro Mark Bunting

Please contact the **Lodge Almoner**, - W.Bro Graham Hallam, in all cases of difficulty and where any help is needed. - ph 07 8555198

Please contact the **secretary** to update any items. W.Bro Richard Kyle,
027 529 8977 - e-mail - lodge.waikato@gmail.com

Chairman of Management Committee - W.Bro Michael Tribe
Ph 027 249 8630 - e-mail - mtribe@xtra.co.nz

Editor of the Plumblin - W.Bro Graham Hallam.
Ph 07 855 5198 (eve) e-mail - mallah@xtra.co.nz

Lodge Notices -

Lodge Waikato Monthly Diary - March 2020

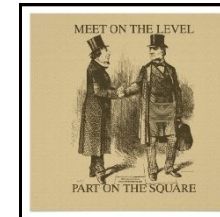
Thursday, 5th March at 7:00pm. Management meeting and practice

Thursday, 12th March at 7.00pm. Monthly practice

Thursday, 19th March at 7:30pm Regular Lodge meeting

Lodge Waikato Brethren with Masonic Birthdays in March 2020

Colin Wilson - 15th March 1962 (58yrs)
John Evered - 28th March 1977 (43yrs)
Eddie Jackson - 8th March 1982 (38yrs)
Stuart Finlay - 5th March 1990 (30yrs)
Bill Shaw - 26th March 2001 (19yrs)
Adrian de Bruin - 20th March 2003 (17yrs)
James Goodrich - 21st March 2005 (15yrs)
Michael Adam - 6th March 2010 (10yrs)
Warren Jones - 5th March 2012 (8yrs)
Kayol Robinson-Douglas - 7th March 2016 (4yrs)
Jerry Newell - 15th March 2016 (4yrs)
Aaron Peters - 15th March 2018 (2yrs)
Mark Ashburner - 21st March 2019 (1yr)



Special Thanks —

Lodge Waikato 475 would like to thank most heartedly the following business for their continued support throughout the year

FAIRVIEW MOTORS - JAMES R. HILL

Masters Report March 2020

Greetings Brethren,

Apart from it being a very hot month, February has passed by quickly. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend my first scheduled visit for the year to Lodge Tawhiri. Thanks to the brethren who did attend on my behalf. I did manage to get down to Lodge Waipa and enjoyed the 3rd degree for Bro Kale Pompey.



Our first meeting for the year was a little rusty partly due to the heat in the Lodge Rooms and partly because it was the first time we used the Alternative 3rd degree. Bro Walker enjoyed the ceremony and said he was looking forward to the second half later in the year.

I would like to thank Bill Newell for the organizing the BBQ at St. Kilda again. Its always an enjoyable afternoon and a nice venue as well.

Our next social event will be ' pot luck ' at my place on Sunday, 29th March at 1:00pm.

If you are able to attend it would be great.

During the break Bro Geoff Cooper organized the cutting of firewood as part of a fundraiser - thanks to those who were able to help over the couple of days. We managed to cut and split 5 cubic metres of gum ready for winter delivery. If you want firewood, or know someone who does, the price for a trailer load, delivered, is \$100.00, so please let myself or Bro Geoff Cooper know.

Finally, please see the Plumline for up and coming visits and let me know if you can attend with me, Bro Mark Ashburner will have his 3rd degree on Wednesday the 18th March at Lodge Taupiri so please come along.

Yours fraternally - Adrian de Bruin WM

Lodge meeting in March -

March meeting will be a Grand Lodge Visit, and we will have the pleasure of presenting Bro Norm Weir with his 50yr badge.

Visiting - March 2020

Monday, 9th, The Beta Waikato Lodge no 12, Barton St. Hamilton 7.30pm

Tuesday, 10th, The Alpha Lodge no 81, Bryce St. Cambridge. 7.30pm

Wednesday, 18th, The Taupiri Lodge no 118, William St. Huntly. 7.00pm

Wednesday, 25th, Lodge Te Aroha no 52, Moorhouse St. Morrinsville. 7.00pm

The Taupiri visit will see Bro Mark Ashburner being raised to the MM degree,

So, I really need you visiting with me. Will be a 7.00pm start.

The Te Aroha visit is to see Bro Mark Dresser going into the Chair Of King Solomon, so I ask for your visiting support to Morrinsville.

If you need a ride, just ring me, Andre or Darryl to arrange a pick-up.

(Mark was initiated into Lodge Hillcrest and it is great to see him progressing in this manner.) Visitors will be received at 6.30pm.

Mark these dates on your calendar, and contact JW to arrange transport or arrange a ride, always a seat available, do try and come

WM

**Lodge Waikato
Monthly Planning 2020**

March -

Thursday 5th, Management meeting & practice 7.00pm
Thursday 12th, Practice of 3rd degree working 7.00pm
Thursday 19th, Monthly meeting, Bro Mark Bunting, 3rd degree.

**This will be a 'Grand Lodge Visit.'
Presentation of 50yr medal to Bro Norm Weir.**

**Sunday 29th - 'Pot-Luck' BBQ, Adrian and Debbie.
265a Hakarimata Rd., Ngaruawahia. - 1:00pm**
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April -

Thursday 2nd, Management meeting & practice 7.00pm
Thursday 9th, Practice of 2nd degree working 7.00pm
Thursday 16th, Monthly meeting, 2nd degree - Bro David Panirau ???
=====

May -

Thursday 7th, Management meeting & practice 7.00pm
Thursday 14th, Practice of 3rd degree working 7.00pm
Thursday 21st, Monthly meeting, 3rd degree final.

Social night - Whisky tasting - fund raising.

Saturday 2nd May, GARAGE SALE ——— !!!

Invitation - Come to our Lodge BBQ!!
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**BBQ at Adrian and Debbie's home
Sunday, 29th March 2020, 1:00pm
265a Hakarimata Rd., Ngaruawahia.**

This is a 'pot luck' BBQ, - Bring a surprise plate
and your own drinks,
Meats supplied

This is a family BBQ, so come-one-come-all.

For catering purpose, please let Adrian know of your coming.

Ed



**Report on Management Committee Meeting
Thursday 6th February 2020**

This report is a summary of the Management Committee, held in February. For further details refer to the draft minutes that will be distributed

There were eight members present and nine apologies. The potential long weekend may have contributed to the low turn out.

The Master 's Report:

He welcomed back to our first management meeting of 2020, hoping we all had an enjoyable break. This months meeting will be a 3rd degree for Bro Brent Walker. Next month will be a second degree for Bro Davie Panirau as well as the presentation of a 50 year service award to Bro Norm Weir (OSM) by the District Grand Master. He also plans to hold a 3rd degree for Bro Mark Ashburner in March at Lodge Taupiri. (To be confirmed) I have set up a meeting to review our strategic plan for the next 5 months - in the mean time, can confirm: we will be having a pot luck lunch at his house on Sunday 29th March at 1.00pm. The garage sale has also been set for Saturday 2nd May. I would also like to thank Bro Geoff Cooper for organizing the firewood cutting days to raise money for the Australian fire victims - thanks to all that helped with that. The Lodge seating height alterations have been completed and the new windows installed. Thanks to W.Bro Hallam who was able to help with this. His up and coming visits are as in the plumbline.

The key points from the February meeting include:

Core Business

The financial statement was read from the chair in the absence of WB A.Harrop
Property Management. - Expired fire extinguishers were replaced to meet compliance
Strategic Long term Planning. - See Worshipful Master 's report
Charity, Almoning and Community Activities
Almoning. - Cards of thanks received for Xmas Gifts,
Two members who have recently undergone surgery are home and recovering
A Brother suffered a stroke but is ok.
Community. - Nil
Social Programme. - See Worshipful Master 's report

General Business

Annual Bar-B-Que - Discussion on Annual BBQ arrangements.
D Aplin and A Shenk to collect meat.

A reminder is to be sent to all members for RSVPs, and a reminder of BYO details.

Ceremonial Work

There was discussion on Ceremonial Matters as per the Book of Constitution and Masonic Jurisprudence in relation to standing orders. The resolution from the December meeting in regards to the Third degree Ceremony was reconfirmed.
The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and participation.

Closed in PLH @ 7.57pm

Michael Tribe - Chairman, Management Committee



“ Firewood anyone. ”???

‘ Justice of The Peace ’

Brethren, there are times when you may need a witness for transactions you are attending too, and you may need a **‘ Justice of The Peace ’** to sign and witness your document-signature.

Please be aware that within the Lodge there are several J.P ’ s and they are always available to assist you when they can, and when you need their assistance - just give them a call.

They are :-

W.Bro Bob Ancell	027 488 0513
W.Bro Dave Campbell	027 449 9306
W.Bro Barry Prior	07 855 2714
W.Bro Graham Hallam	027 855 5198
W.Bro Don McNaughton	027 680 7448
W.Bro Trevor Service	027 177 5710
Bro Norm Weir	027 496 9845

Ed.

Saturday 2nd May - GARAGE SALE ——— !!!

' Architect to a King '

Sir John Soane was great architect and prominent Freemason.

Story told by Yasha Beresiner.

Sir John Soane (1753 – 1837) symbolises Britain ' s architectural heritage of the late Georgian period at its best – the end of which coincided with his death in 1837. It is a period that gave England some of the nation ' s most beautiful buildings and Soane ' s unique style in some of them is still in evidence today.



John Soane, during his long and distinguished career, became involved with Freemasonry before his initiation. When invited to join, he was put through the three Degrees in one single afternoon and he remained dedicated to the Craft and enthusiastic for the remainder of his life.

He was born on 10 September 1753 near Reading in Berkshire and immediately after primary school his education was directed toward architecture. At 15 he joined George Dance the Younger (1741 – 1825) , from the distinguished family of architects. Soane continued his training from 1772 under the equally celebrated architect Henry Holland (1745 – 1806) , whose fame, among many other buildings, rests with the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane and the Royal Opera House.

The young John Soane ' s talents were soon to manifest themselves. In 1771 he was accepted into the Royal Academy of Art aged just 18 and within a year one of the drawings he submitted to the Academy ' s competition won him the Silver Medal award. Four years later he received the

prestigious Gold Medal, as a result of which he was introduced to George III by Sir William Chambers (1723 – 1796) , the influential architect who was Soane ' s patron.

There were several ramifications, some Masonic, following this encounter. Soane ' s extraordinary achievements induced the King to sponsor and fund him, through the Academy, on a three-year travel scholarship to Italy, from which Soane profited to the fullest. This was also the start to a Royal connection – later enhanced by Soane ' s appointments as Clerk of the Works to St. James ' s Palace and the Houses of Parliament (1791) and Deputy Surveyor to His Majesty ' s Woods and Forests (1797) – which Prince Augustus Frederick, later the Duke of Sussex, the King ' s penultimate surviving son and future Grand Master, would have noted.

Intellectually armed with vast knowledge of fine ancient and renaissance buildings, in addition to well placed contacts in Europe, Soane returned to England in 1780 to set up his own business. His career took on a most positive turn when he followed in the footsteps of Sir Robert Taylor (1714 – 1788) as the newly appointed Architect to the Bank of England, in which capacity he continued until 1833.

His vision and execution of the new greatly enlarged Bank of England building – of which today only the surrounding outer wall commonly referred to as ' the curtain ' survives – is still considered a masterpiece of architecture. Sir Herbert Baker ' s Bank of England, completed in 1928, which demolished most of Sir John Soane ' s earlier building, has been described as " the greatest architectural crime, in the City of London, of the twentieth century " (Pevsner).

In 1802 he became a full Royal Academician and was made the third Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy in 1806, a post that he held until his death.

In his long and illustrious career John Soane was responsible for many remarkable works. Among some of the notable ones are the dining rooms of both numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street, some buildings in Westminster and Whitehall, the Royal Hospital in Chelsea and Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, London, which had originally been built by Thomas Sandby (1721 – 1798), a Freemason and the first Professor of Architecture at the Academy, in 1775 – 76.

As the agreement for a Union of the two Grand Lodges (achieved on 27 December 1813) was reaching its final stages in October 1812, Grand Lodge, under the supervision of the Deputy Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex, decided on the acquisition of properties next to the existing Freemasons' Hall.

The first step was for a survey and valuation of the property involved and the Grand Treasurer at the time, John Bayford, was instructed to approach John Soane for that purpose. Prior to March 1813, when Bayford finally made contact with Soane, there is no evidence at all to suggest that the architect had any interest in becoming a Freemason.

He would have certainly had a passing knowledge of some of his eminent colleagues and predecessors having been members of the Craft. However, considering this was a time when Soane was at the peak of his professional career, the chances of his finding time for Freemasonry were clearly very limited.

Nonetheless, on 19 November 1813, James Perry, Past Deputy Grand Master (1787 – 90) and a radical journalist and friend of Soane and Thomas Harper, Deputy Grand Master of the Antient, or Atholl Grand Lodge, proposed and seconded John Soane into Freemasonry in the Grand Master's Lodge No. 1.

At an emergency meeting held on 25 November 1813 at Freemasons' Hall, London, Soane was Initiated, Passed and Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason during the course of the same evening. Two other candidates, Jonathan Parker and Hymen Cohen Junior, were also bestowed the three Degrees at that meeting.

The first Masonic meeting that Soane attended as a new member, was a rather important one. On 1 December 1813, in anticipation of the election of the new Grand Master of the Antients Grand Lodge, the Duke of Sussex became an "Antient" Mason, thus allowing him to attend the installation of his brother, the Duke of Kent. The ceremony included several members of the Duke's entourage of Grand Officers, which was later to facilitate the ceremony of the Union that took place later in the month.

His meteoric rise in the ranks of Freemasonry continued. It was undoubtedly induced by the Duke, who involved himself in all aspects of the running of Grand Lodge. The Grand Master-elect met Soane personally in August of the same year when the latter's Initiation, Passing and Raising, as well as his Grand Rank may well have been discussed and agreed upon.

Having followed in the footsteps of his teacher and mentor, Thomas Sandby, as Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy, Soane would have been attracted by the invitation to follow in Sandby's footsteps as a highranking Freemason.

Some time in December, Soane was appointed Grand Superintendent of Works and declared as such by the Duke of Sussex, (1773 – 1843), the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), on 27 December. He was reappointed in 1816 and held the same rank to his dying day. He was made President of the Board of Works in 1814, to enable him to supervise the building of the new Freemasons' Hall.

On 4 June 1823 Soane was elected to the UGLE Board of Finance for a four-year period and exactly five years later, in 1828, he was nominated to the Board of General Purposes, where he served for the next seven years.

At the ceremony on 27 December an Ark of the Masonic Covenant was centrally placed in the temple and played a focal point in the proceedings when the two Grand Masters and their respective deputies advanced toward it to perform the symbolic act of Union of the two Grand Lodges. The Ark, an idea conceived by the Duke of Sussex, had been built by John Soane and presented to newly formed United Grand Lodge, at his own expense.

The first Minutes record: "...the ark of the Masonic Covenant, prepared, under the direction of W. Brother John Soane, Grand Superintendent of the Works, for the Edifice of the Union and in all time to come to be placed before the Throne." Sadly, the Ark was burnt and destroyed in the disastrous fire of 5 May 1883.

His initial association with the Craft may have been on a purely business basis, which he had almost neglected. It took several letters from one of the joint Grand Secretaries, William Henry White, following on the Grand Treasurer's initial approach, for Soane to submit finally his valuations, which were gratefully received and faithfully applied.

Existing correspondence shows that in all transactions with Grand Lodge, there were delays in execution of the contracts and the final payments to Soane were delayed because of a shortage of funds in Grand Lodge. This caused considerable embarrassment to Grand Lodge and some concern to Soane, as recorded in his diaries.

His involvement with the valuation and acquisition of the adjacent properties at 62 and 63 Great Queen Street extended to negotiations of price and counselling Grand Lodge on the excessive cost required by the vendors. On his advice alone, Grand Lodge refused to pay the price demanded.

The two properties were placed in auction on 23 June 1814 and bid for and purchased on behalf of Grand Lodge by Soane, for less than one-third of the original price.

Furthermore, the payment for the acquisition was made by Soane personally, who began to finance Grand Lodge.

At one stage Soane was convinced that he would not be paid at all for the work. These were no mean sums of money and it took until 1820 for Grand Lodge to disburse their debts to him in full – far longer than it should have done.

In 1833, John Soane bequeathed to the nation, by a private Act of Parliament, his house at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields in central London which contained his museum and library. He had made extensions to his home during a period of 30 years since 1794, having purchased the two adjoining properties.

This allowed him to fulfil, in practice, architectural concepts with which he wanted to experiment, whilst allowing for the housing of his vast and growing collection of classical antiquities and architectural paraphernalia salvaged from historical sites, all objects worthy of the British Museum.

They are on view today at his museum: a sarcophagus of Seti I, Pharaoh of Egypt of c.1294 BC, dramatically situated beneath the dome; Roman bronzes from Pompeii from 79 AD; several Canalettos and a collection of paintings by Hogarth, including An Election which came directly from Hogarth's family through the estate of David Garrick, among many other fascinating objects and paintings.

The culmination of his achievements are reflected in the knighthood he received in 1831 and the special gold medal presentation made to him, three years after his retirement in 1835, by his colleagues in the newly founded Royal Institute of British Architects. Grand Lodge presented him with a Certificate of Thanks in March 1832, signed by the two Grand Secretaries. In the same year, he commissioned John Jackson to paint a full length portrait of himself in full Masonic regalia as Grand Superintendent of Works. The painting hangs prominently today in the Picture Room of the John Soane Museum.

On 20 January 1837 Sir John Soane, now 84 years old, died, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Pancras Old Church in the vault which he himself had designed for his wife and himself in anticipation of their inevitable mortality.

The design of the vault was a direct influence on Giles Gilbert Scott's (1880 – 1960) design for the red telephone box of 1926 – a permanent and visual tribute to a long and distinguished professional and Masonic career.

Where are today's "famous" Freemasons?

“ We represent a fraternity which believes in justice and truth and honorable action in your community... men who are endeavoring to be better citizens... [and] to make a great country greater. This is the only institution in the world where we can meet on the level all sorts of people who want to live rightly.”— *Harry S Truman, 33rd President of the United States*

A few famous people who have been rumoured to be Freemasons but for which no evidence can be found include presidents George Herbert Walker Bush, Bill Clinton, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson, along with Thomas Paine, Neil Armstrong, Walt Disney, Charlie Chaplin, Bob Hope, Ringo Starr, Rev. Billy Graham, and Charles Taze Russell, the founder of Jehovah's Witnesses.

George H.W. Bush was sworn in as president on George Washington's Bible, which belongs to the St. John's Lodge of New York City. Clinton was a member of the Order of DeMolay as a teen, but never joined a Masonic lodge. LBJ took his first degree in 1937, but never became a Fellowcraft or Master Mason apparently due to lack of time to pursue both his Congressional duties and his Masonic studies. Lincoln petitioned a lodge but withdrew his petition before being accepted, apparently to keep from appearing to be wanting to join for political reasons. In 1988, Reagan was given a Certificate of Honor from the Grand Lodge of Washington, D.C., and made an honorary member of the Scottish Rite and of the Imperial Shrine, but was never a Mason.

Saturday 2nd May, GARAGE SALE ——— !!!

‘ Importance of the Cable Tow ’
A better understanding of the Cable Tow in Masonic Ceremonies.
Ray Hollins

Masonic ritual uses very little in the way of cordage, or rope. In fact, only 23 words cover the subject of the cable tow in a brief explanation to the candidate during the initiation ceremony. - What, therefore, can be written about the subject to justify an article?

This is the fascinating thing about Masonic research – to delve into a subject that clearly has very little to commend it from the ritual creates a challenge.

It also creates an opportunity for that daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

In some Lodges the cord suspends banners, even jewels – and the best example is the plumb-line/plumb rule – and often it ties the apron. The Second Degree tracing board in one

jurisdiction depicts a sheaf of wheat suspended by a cord on the banks of the river Jordan near to a waterfall.

The operative construction process in laying walls of ashlar must have used ropes as part of the material handling process. It does not appear to get a mention.

For example, in The First Degree tracing board where the word ‘ Lewis ’ is defined:

.....the word Lewis denotes strength by certain pieces of metal dovetailed into a stone, and when in combination with some of the mechanical powers, such as a system of pulleys, it enables the operative Mason to raise great weights to certain heights with little encumbrance.

But of the rope, there is not a word.

This is extraordinary because there is Masonic symbolism in the very method of making a rope, the process of twisting many weak fibres together to make a strong, unbreakable cord.

The weaving of many weak strands into a strong one is a symbol of a fundamental truth dating back to antiquity, and revered by the whole Craft in which the weakness of the individual – when brethren are banded together to some common purpose – is multiplied by the strength of millions.

There is no Biblical reference in the ritual – but there is an allusion to it in Ecclesiastes, Chapter 4 verse 12:

.....and if one prevails against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Also from Chapter 12 (used in many Lodges as an oration during the Third Degree), there is the reference to ‘ the silver cord ’ which alludes to the spinal cord – if broken it results in death.

Some of these biblical connections should remind us of the first and fundamental truth learned at an initiation, when helplessness and dependence upon our fellow man teaches us that Mankind was made dependent upon each other for mutual protection and security.

Edmund Burke wrote about the history of Parliament:

.....The King and his faithful subjects; The Houses of Parliament of this realm – The Triple Cord that no man can break.

From the earliest civilisation, man combated nature. In domesticating livestock, the rope was the means whereby man was able to control them. It was therefore not long before the material took on a moral significance with symbolic meanings

Ropes and cords were used in several ancient religious ceremonies. The candidate would be led into the temple by a rope, and if he fainted from fright he was dragged out by it! Druid priests wore either a cord or a chain about their neck or waist to symbolise spiritual rebirth. In some of the medieval courts, a rope or cord was tied about the neck or middle of the accused person to show that he was at the mercy of the courts.

The ancient Egyptians used a remarkable and ingenious system to create right-angles when measuring their fields after the annual Nile floods that always washed away their boundaries. If you take a length of string and tie knots in it to accurately divide it into 12 divisions, with the two ends joining, the divisions must be equal and correct.

Get three thin sticks just strong enough to stick into the soil. Stab one stick into the ground and arrange a knot at the stick, stretch three divisions away from it in any direction, and insert the second stick into the ground against the knot.

Now place the third stick, so that it falls on the knot between the fourth part and the fifth part – or division – and this creates a 3:4:5 right-angled triangle. The angle between the third and fourth divisions is of necessity a right-angle or a square.

So there you have it!

Freemasonry has nothing in common with the ancient and savage superstitions regarding knots. In Rome, the human embodiment of the sky spirit Jupiter was not allowed to have a knot in any part of his garments. Moslem pilgrims to Mecca may not wear knots.

Savage tribes believed that knots in the clothing of a bride prevented a true marriage, that it prevented childbirth. Some believed that a knot prevented a proper passage of the spirit of one in the throes of death.

Freemasonry has preserved ancient symbolism in the cable tow of a pledge, promise or obligation, and a submission to the laws of character building.

Much has been written about how long is a cable tow? But if the question is rephrased to asking what is a cable 's length, then the answer is a matter of fact, not opinion. Consider, for example, William Falconer 's Maritime Dictionary: Cable 's length – a measure of 120 fathoms – or of the usual length of the cable.

The last eight words are something of a let-out clause, but by simple arithmetic a fathom is six feet or 1.8 metres. Therefore, a cable 's length will be 120 x 6 ' i.e., 720 ' or 216 metres.

I cannot resist the mischievous thought of apprehending the next candidate immediately after his initiation to ask him: " By the way, can you tell me – what was the length of the cable tow? "

Brother Arthur Powell wrote something which I consider to be a fitting conclusion to this subject:

.....What is it that strand that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken in the rough ways of the world. He asks the question: ask what it is in the wild that calls to the little wild things?

.....What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hill men, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world?

.....What mysteries does the sea tell to the sailor? The desert to the Arab? The Arctic ice to the explorer? The stars to the astronomer?

When we have answered these questions, maybe – just maybe – we can divine the magic of Masonry. Who knows what it is? Or how? Or why?

Unless of course it be ' the long cable tow of God running from heart to heart.

SLIPSHOD

Within the workings of our ritual the commonplace word 'slipshod' is understood by everyone.

The dictionary definition is interesting and worth reproducing -

" may imply an acceptance of the shabby, worn out, and imperfect. Something unsound inexact that had the conscientious craftsman's contempt. "

If that is the case - then the term and practice is singularly inappropriate.

Actually, the terminology is at fault here. In many constitutions the term used is 'the rite of disalceation' from the Latin disalceatus, meaning "unshod" or "barefooted."

A candidate for Initiation into a Freemasons Lodge often finds odd those requirements that he must fulfill in order to do as all good brethren have before him. Indeed, that preparation may often remain a puzzle to him.

Not always does the new-made brother, bewildered by the new world into which he is thrust, investigate further to learn a deeper meaning to the ceremony through which he has just passed. In our ritual we quote from the 3rd chapter of Exodus, "put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place wheron thou standest is Holy Ground. "

In some workings of English Rituals the ritual, they quote from the Book of Ruth, Chapter IV, verses 7 & 8:

" Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor: and this was a testimony in Israel. Therefore, the kinsman said unto Boaz, buy it for thee.

So he drew off his shoe. "

' Redeeming ' here means the taking back or the recovery of land or property pledged as a debt. ' Charging ' refers to the transfer of ownership.

As both were then, as now, matters of importance, it is evident that the act of plucking off a shoe was a pledge of honour and fair dealing, was of equal importance, compared with our practice today with our swearing to our signature to documents before a Commissioner for Oaths.

Education -

From questions asked of our Lodge Consecration, "What are the meanings of the elements used when Consecrating the Lodge.?"

What is the meaning of -

SALT - The emblem of friendship and hospitality.

CORN - The symbol of plenty and abundance.

OIL - The emblem of joy.

Wine - The emblem of refreshment

' Pullman Veteran - Tom Harding '

Story told by John Jackson about his meeting with the famous.

At 93, Tom Harding, a Mason for more than 50 years, is as sharp as when he dealt with Royalty and other VIPs on the famous luxury Pullman cars, where passengers were served their meals at their tables – no first or second sittings in restaurant cars for them. He was born the year the First World War began, and was brought up in the desperately poor area of Neath in south Wales, and so came to London, aged 14, to seek work. Little did he know then that he would rub shoulders with some of the world 's most powerful and famous people – royalty, statesmen, film stars and other celebrities.



He recalls: "There was only one telephone in the village and that belonged to the local doctor. To see a motor car was a luxury. It is difficult to explain that to people today. "

"One of the places I worked at was the Butler 's Head in the aptly-named Masons ' Avenue in the City of London. We would work there in the evening, often at Masonic events, for an extra sixpence plus a meal. "

Tom joined a club in Soho which was largely a meeting place for people seeking work, and vacancies would be posted on a board. He met one man who, through ill health, had to give up his job on the Pullman cars. Why not apply for his job, the man suggested?

After being taken on for a trial period, not knowing when he would be asked to leave, Tom adds: "It so happened I stayed 44 years. "

And, he has a large illustrated memento in his flat signed by the many senior railway figures who came to his farewell party. But he had never forgotten his attendance as a waiter at Masonic festive boards, and in the 1950s became a Mason himself with Sprig of Acacia Lodge No. 3318 at Barnet in the Province of Hertfordshire, of which he is now an honorary member. Then, in 1979, he moved to Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire and joined a Lodge there. In addition, he was in Mark, Royal Arch, Mark Mariners and the Knights Templar.

But all this time he was travelling on the Pullman cars, on trains now legendary for their luxury such as the Brighton Belle, the Golden Arrow, which went from Victoria via the boat train to the Gard du Nord in Paris, and the Orient Express. His time on the Pullman cars ran from 1934 until his retirement in 1979.

Among his fondest memories are shaking hands with US President Harry Truman and meeting President Jimmy Carter, and receiving a menu card from Haile Selassie, known as the Lion of Judah, then Emperor of Ethiopia. Foreign royalty included King Baudouin of the Belgians and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Other VIPs he met included General (Later President) Eisenhower, Anthony Eden, then Foreign Secretary but later Prime Minister and another occupant of 10 Downing Street – Neville Chamberlain.

He would often, as the chef, prepare meals for these VIPs, and later ran the luxury cars himself. He adds: "You were never supposed to ask for autographs, but I did break that rule once. Churchill was in a carriage and had thrown a number of papers on the ground.

I picked them up and handed them back to him. Then I asked for his autograph.

'Certainly not ' said Winston and returned to his work. "

Sadly, but with pride, he recalls how many years later he looked after the Churchill family when Sir Winston 's body was carried in a Pullman as part of his journey back to Bladon, in Oxfordshire, where he is buried. But one of his most memorable occasions was when he arranged for five Pullman trains to escort the numerous VIPs to the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales by the Queen at Caernarvon Castle in 1969.



March 2020 (New Zealand)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1st Quarter	4	5 Management & Practice - 7.00pm	6	7
8	9 Visit Beta Waikato 12 Barton St 2nd degree	10 1st Moon Visit Alpha Lodge 81 Cambridge	11	12 Lodge practice 7.00pm	13	14
15	16	17	18 Visit Taupiri Lodge 118 3rd Degree Bro Mark Ashburner	19 Lodge Meeting 50yr Bro Norm Weir GL visit 3rd Bro Mark Bunting	20	21
22	23	24 New Moon	25 Visit Te Aroha Lodge 52 Installation Bro - Mark Dresser	26	27	28
29 P/L - BBQ Master 's home 1:00pm	30	31	1 April Fool's	2	3	



April 2020 (New Zealand)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 1st Quarter April Fool's Visit Lodge Piako 160 Installation	2 Management & Practice - 7.00pm	3	4
5	6	7	8 1st Moon	9 Lodge practice 7.00pm	10 Good Friday	11 Holy Saturday
	13 Easter Monday	14	15 3rd Quarter	16 Regular meeting 3rd degree Finals - 7.30pm	17	18
	20	21	22	23 New Moon	24	25 ANZAC Day
26	27 ANZAC Day observed	28	29	30	1 1st Quarter	2



' Ring someone - Bring someone. '