



The GAVEL

Volume 32, No 01 December 2010

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The aim of Freemasonry is to:

Practice universal charity Provide opportunities for self-development
Build friendships Foster moral standards Seek excellence in all pursuits

The Master's Message

As I mentioned on my night of Installation in October, Jonadab is now at the stage where the majority of floor officers are Master Masons who are either single or have just started a family. This is exciting for our Lodge and I encourage the "family" of Jonadab to actively encourage our Master Masons as they aspire to higher office.

It is a fact that within our Lodge the amount of members who are able to undertake a "physical" role within the Lodge are dwindling, however that does not stop those members from being involved in other ways via participation on the various Lodge Committees, learning and delivering ceremonial ritual, attending Social activities and being a sounding board for our Master Masons.

Every member of Jonadab has been forwarded a "12 Month Calendar" in which I have attempted to list, month by month, the Lodge work program, Social activities, Ladies Auxiliary activities and Committee meeting dates. This document is obviously subject to, hopefully, minor change and is meant as a reminder to all members about the year's activities. During my year as Master of Jonadab I will be seeking the commitment of all members to ensure that we all work together to ensure the future of our great Lodge.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

At our December meeting we will be having a "Ladies in the South" in celebration of the Christmas Festive Season. Our meal will be a buffet provided by Colin our caterer. Members of Norwood Secondary College and Anglicare have been invited to attend so as John & Suzanne Seager can make cheque presentations of monies raised throughout their year. Entertainment for the night will be a 3-piece Jazz Ensemble (dancing encouraged) and some Christmas Carols via our organist, Harold Stafford. Cost for the night is \$5 per member and \$10 per lady and visitor.

1st SOCIAL ACTIVITY – 2011

An early reminder that our 1st Social Activity for 2011 will be a BBQ at the home of Jim & Vicki Pinsent on the 19th February. A Social Committee meeting will also be held. Car-pooling arrangements will be coordinated closer to the date.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

As we are fast approaching the Festive Season, Lorraine & I wish all members of the Jonadab Family a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas/New Year – if traveling, please stay safe and alert.

As this will be the last "Gavel" produced by Ray & Irene I on your behalf, sincerely thank them for their combined efforts over many years. The "Gavel" has been an important communication tool within our Lodge since its inception and both Ray & Irene have continued the tradition of providing timely and relevant information to the Members of Jonadab on a monthly basis.

WBro. Jim King WM

As mentioned above, this is the final Gavel Newsletter to be produced by Irene and myself. Recent health issues have necessitated a re-evaluation of our workload to the extent that some of our Jonadab & Jazz Archive activities need to be scaled back and passed on to others – thus giving us a little more time to "smell the roses".

Over the years the Gavel has evolved from a single typed page produced on a spirit duplicator (Joan Stafford will remember those "heady" times) to what we have today – **an important communication tool** within the lodge, and one that we sincerely trust will continue well into the future.

During the many years of our association with the Gavel (Irene for 25 and myself since 1995), we have thoroughly enjoyed putting it together, hopefully providing timely information and interesting snippets for all to enjoy and ponder upon. Our sincere thanks is extended to all those who have contributed articles for publication during this time.

We understand Jim & Lorraine King will take on the role of producing the Gavel for the moment, whilst it will be printed by courtesy of Gavin Birch. We extend our very best wishes to them and trust they will equally enjoy the editorial experience.

Ray & Irene Sutton

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AGE NEWS

Apologies to Joy Coleman – I mentioned Laurie's birthday in August instead of Joy's (so happy birthday to you both for you are both born in the same year.

1 st Farouk El-Bouchy	12 th Lyn Godwin
Alan Francis	15 th Stewart Reid
7 th Robert England	16 th Laurie Coleman
11 th Vicki Pinsent	25 th John Godwin

We wish everyone else a very Happy Birthday.

JANUARY 2011

14th Yvonne BurrIDGE

Yvonne is now our only January birthday girl. Happy day.

A bit of information about celebrating birthdays - "It wasn't until about 200 years after Christ's death that the Christians even thought about celebrating his birth.

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Saturday, 19th February 2011

Social Club Committee Meeting and BBQ

commencing 12:00noon

Jim & Vicki Pinsent's residence

122 McClland Avenue, Lara 3212

Melway 423 E 6

Saturday, 26th March 2011

Film Night

Meeting at 6:00pm

Eastland Cinemas

Warrandyte Road, Ringwood

Some further Christmas thoughts !

The best thing to put into any Christmas Dinner is your teeth!

Norman Vincent Peale once said : Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

Christmas is a time for love, joy, and peace: three things we all wish to experience. Nobody can possibly look forward to Christmas when they fear and dread what it is going to be like.

Christmas is the joy of brightening other lives.

INTEREST and CONCERN

Our sincere sympathy go to Lincoln and Simone Wymer on the recent death of Lincoln's father Colin. Several members of Jonadab were able to attend the funeral in Kyneton on the 19th November.

Yvonne BurrIDGE has not been well for some time and we sincerely hope that she will soon be on the improve.

Alan Francis has also been unwell and we hope it soon gets satisfactorily remedied.

Some more Christmas thoughts:

Christmas is like a grand opera tour. It takes months in the preparation, a few hours to perform, then hits the road and disappears for another year.

Some International Customs :

There is a figure similar to Santa Claus among the Lapps known as "The Yule Swain." However, he is different in that he is about 11 feet tall, and instead of a sleigh, he rides on a goat and makes visits between St Thomas's Day and Christmas Eve.

In Portugal, children place their shoes by the fireplace – hoping they will be filled with gifts – but they ask the infant Jesus for their gifts, not Santa Claus.

Throughout the world today you can find Christmas tree decorations that include painted eggshells, cookies, gingerbread, nuts and candies.

Nuremberg in Bavaria was the first place to produce metal and foil ornaments for Christmas trees. They exported them worldwide in designs such as miniature musical instruments, butterflies, stars and icicles.

A star is often hung or placed on the top of the Christmas tree as a sign of faith and guidance and to remind everyone of the star of Bethlehem that guided the Magi.

A goodbye from me – I have enjoyed finding little items to fill the gaps in the Gavel over the years, and that perhaps will be the only thing I will miss. I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year filled with health and happiness.

Thank you all.

Irene S.

King Solomon's Quarries / Zedekiah's Cave

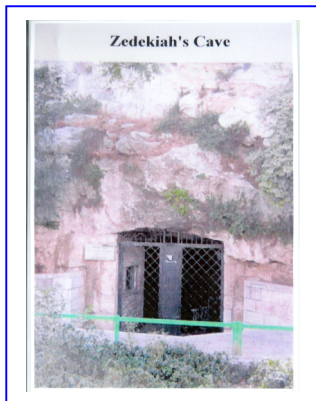
Brethren, I have been requested to provide a précis of the talk I delivered at our November meeting entitled "King Solomon's Quarries" so here goes.

The evolution of Freemasonry from "Operative" to "Speculative" has been written about in a myriad of books and articles over hundreds of years and if you look at any large cities within our World you will see the legacy of "Operative Masons" from years gone by via Temple, Cathedrals, Churches, Monuments, Shrines and Castles.

As "Speculative Masons" we marvel at the skill of the "Operative Mason" and wonder how such magnificent structures could have been erected with such accuracy and precision with the tools and equipment available in those times and the sheer weight of the materials used.

Unfortunately we cannot gaze upon one of Freemasonry's most revered structures, "King Solomon's Temple", as it no longer exists however between our Ritual and the Volume of the Sacred Law we can gain a sense of what the Temple would have looked like and what was involved in the building of that structure.

Both our Ritual and the Volume of the Sacred Law make reference to the materials for the building of the Temple being sourced from "quarries" – this talk expands on those references and examines one particular "quarry" which was located at the very walls of the acknowledged site of King Solomon's Temple which is known as Zedekiah's Cave but commonly referred to as King Solomon's Quarry.



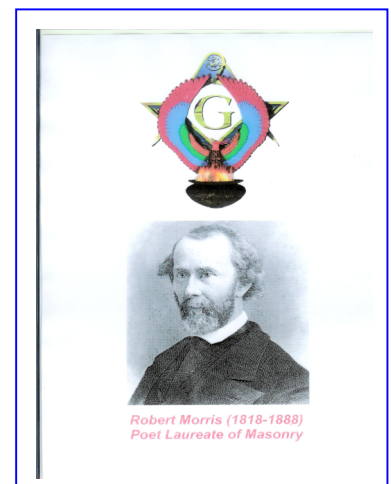
The quarry is located just beneath Jerusalem's Old City wall, between the Damascus and King Herod gates, and is an underground limestone quarry that runs the length of five city blocks under the Muslim Quarter of the Old City.

It was carved over a period of several thousand years and it can be argued that it was the source of stone for the building of many structures including King Solomon's Temple.

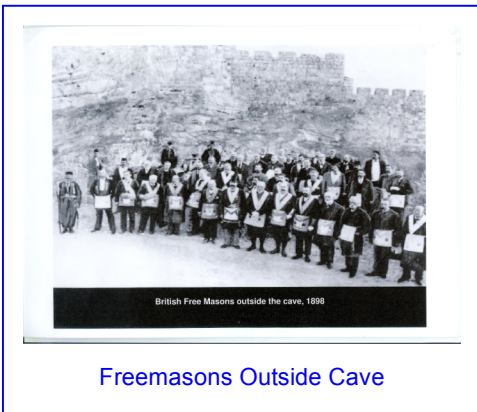
There are a number of Masonic Connections to the quarry dating back to May 1868 when the first recorded Masonic Ceremony took place in a large open area within the quarry known as the "Freemasons Auditorium".

This meeting was organized by MW Bro Robert Morris who was one of the most distinguished Freemasons of his time and was honored with the "Poet Laureate of Masonry" in 1884, 100 years after the first Poet Laureate, Robbie Burns, had received the same honor.

Morris was the most versatile and learned mason of his day – a prolific writer and author whose writings included "The Rosary of the Eastern Star" which was later used as a guide to the ritual of that order and led to the beginning of the organization of Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star in the United States as well as internationally.



Starting in the days of the British Mandate (1920's) the quarry was used for the ceremony of Mark Master Masons. Although this practice was temporarily suspended between the years 1948 and 1967, when the Old City of Jerusalem was captured by Jordan's Arab Legion, the impressive ceremony of the Consecration of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Israel was held at the site on 2nd July 1969 and ever since then the Mark Master Masons Degree has been performed in the quarry on an annual basis.



Freemasons Outside Cave

The quarry is now an official tourist site however the Freemasons of Israel hold an annual ceremony in the Freemasons Auditorium within the quarry and consider it (the quarry) one of the most revered sites in its history.

The very proximity of Zedekiah's Cave/King Solomon's Quarry to the known site of the First Temple provides a compelling set of circumstances for Freemasons when contemplating the Volume of the Sacred Law and our Ritual.

When we perform our various ceremonies we are drawing upon ancient history and telling its story. Whether that history is accurate or not doesn't really matter for we all know that "Operative Masonry" did exist - and the evidence and accuracy of its existence is all around us.

We as "Speculative Masons" can only marvel at the work of our "Operative" predecessors yet we can all strive to continue the traditions handed down to our Craft from past generations of Freemasons; be they "Operative" or "Speculative".

WBro. Jim King WM

Ancient Evidences *(continued from September Gavel)*

(by G. W. Baird - PGM, District of Columbia, USA)

The block C was believed to be the rough ashler; A the perfect ashler; the square B is very distinct, and has been so identified with Masonry, in all ages, that its presence added great weight. The Committee thought the stone, with figures, resembling snakes, was emblematic of Wisdom. They thought the "axis stone" represented the trestle-board and the marked stone bore the mark of a Mark Master. The two implements, the trowel and the lead plummet, are emblematic of Freemasonry; the white stone is the symbol of purity, as we have always understood it.

A French Archaeologist, in New York, was the only person to question the opinion of the Egyptologists, but as he was not a Mason, Goringe thought he was not competent to be a judge. The Obelisk was brought to New York and erected in Central Park, where it now stands. The corner stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies on the 2nd of October 1880, and the emblems were replaced exactly as they had been found at Alexandria.

In the National Museum, at Naples there is equally remarkable evidence, which was discovered in the ruins of Pompeii, in 1896. The writer is indebted to the late Brother S. G. Hilborn, then a member of Congress from California, for a picture of this "find" (which is reproduced in a photograph included with the original 1915 article). It is a mosaic tabletop, or altar top, which was situated in the centre of a rectangular room, exactly as Masonic Altars have ever been erected in lodge rooms. The workmanship is excellent, and the colouring, when the discovery was made, was bright and fresh, but has probably faded some, as all the Pompeii colours have done. Mural paintings, so many of which have been found in those ruins, have all suffered the same fate.

This beautiful mosaic, which is believed to be the top of the altar, shows a large square, above death's head, with a plumb line from the angle of the square to the middle point of the crown of the head. From each arm of the square there is suspended a robe; one was scarlet, the other purple, which are distinctive colours used in the Royal Arch degree. Below the chin of the head is a butterfly, beautifully coloured, and under the butterfly is a circle; that Masonic emblem of Deity, without beginning or end.

In addition to this there were found, in the same room, several articles inherent in Blue and in Royal Arch Masonry, a little urn, which is believed to be the pot of manna, a setting maul, a trowel, a spade, a small chest, thought to be an imitation of the ark of the covenant, and small staff, thought to be phallus. These evidences, potent as they appear to be - are confirmed by the inscription over the door of the house, which is DIOGENE SEN, meaning Diogenes the Mason.

The writer gives these facts as to the Pompeii find, as he received them from Brother Hilborn. We have not been in Pompeii since 1878, when with General Grant, but the existence of the altar top may be verified by a visit to the museum at Naples.

The evidence, to an enthusiast, is convincing; to the writer they seem every bit as good, maybe better, than the evidence that Rome has accepted and propagated as to the Apostolic succession.

*(Courtesy of Masonicdictionary.com)
(The Builder Magazine 1915)*

I encourage you to continue making a "daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge" by undertaking additional research via your local library or the Internet Website: <http://www.masonicdictionary.com> **WBro Ray Sutton PJGD (Editor)**