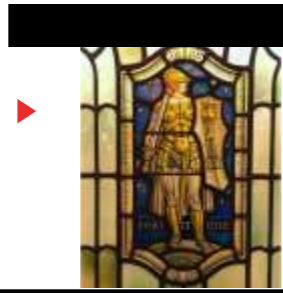


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Masonic  
 Virtue of  
 Fortitude

▶ Masonic Appendant Bodies  
 & Past Masters Featured

# Washington Post

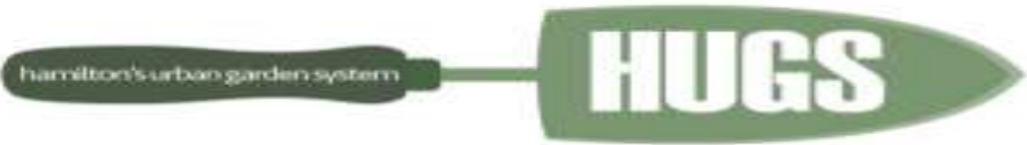


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Wednesday, May 11th, 2022  
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## HUGS-Hamilton Urban Garden Sys-



Starting back in 2019 with Worshipful Jeremy Spangenberg, Washington Lodge #17 has attempted to partner with HUGS, the Hamilton Urban Garden Society. However, due to a variety of reasons this has not come to fruition as of yet. Worshipful Jason Baynum arranged for the brothers of our lodge on May 4th to go to 545 S. Front Street where HUGS has a 2.3 acre community garden set up in a food desert

What is a food desert? According to Dr. Jessica Caporuscio in a 2020 Medical News Today article, a food desert exists in a region where people have limited access to a variety of healthful and affordable food. "This may be due to having a limited income or living" (more than a mile away in an urban area from the nearest grocery store according to the USDA).

To address this situation in the Riverview neighbourhood of Hamilton, Alfred Hall and Patty Burbacher co-founded HUGS in 2011. At the time Patty was an integrative studies senior at Miami University. They stated, "Everyone should have access to nutritional and gardening information, fresh produce, and the opportunity to grow their own food."

They made it their mission to "design, create, implement and sustain a year round Local Food System in the Great Hamilton" area. HUGS hopes to accomplish this mission by growing, processing, and

distributing organic locally grown food. In addition they hope to educate all the citizens of Butler County on the health benefits of a sustainable Local Food System.

HUGS says that among those it serves, almost 3/4 of its residents are non white and don't own their own home. Almost 1/3 of its residents are surviving on less than \$15,000 a year and about 15% of its residents are unemployed.

The excitement was palpable among the brothers of Washington to be able to assist in helping get the community garden ready for this year. Unfortunately events transpired once again to prevent Washington Lodge from going to assist. This time, the event coordinator had been exposed to COVID and was in quarantine.

Worshipful Jason Baynum stated, "At some point, Washington Lodge will assist HUGS and we will be involved with this worthwhile endeavour to make a difference in our community."



**Rocky Jackson**  
 AUTHOR  
 @Washington Post

When one first hears the name Pythagoras if you recall your high school math days you let out a groan as you hear the teacher utter the words  $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$ . Yet, whoever thought of a mathematician with a sense of humour. Enter the world of Pythagoras who invented the "Greedy Cup."

This cup is considered one of the greatest pranks of all times and still gets people till this day. One Theory regarding the cup says Pythagoras invented it to punish those who drank to excess and another says that he was trying to teach the principle of moderation.



## Pythagoras and the Greedy Cup



**Jeremy Spangenberg**  
 AUTHOR



### THE PAST MASTER

PERHAPS YOU THINK YOUR WORK IS DONE,  
 A TASK COMPLETED, HONOURS WON;  
 STILL THERE IS MUCH MORE WORK TO DO,  
 THE LODGE YOU RULED HAS NEED FOR YOU  
 MAKE NO MISTAKE, YOU'RE NEEDED NOW;  
 ASSIST SOME BROTHER, SHOW HIM HOW,  
 SAGE COUNSEL GIVE AND GOOD ADVICE,  
 THE CABLE-TOW, EXTEND IT THRICE;  
 EACH ACT WITH KINDNESS AND OPEN HAND,  
 REAL "BROTHERHOOD" THEN WILL EXPAND.

Unknown

### Monthly "Crafty" Humor



Unlike a normal cup, the Pythagoras cup has a stem in the middle. If you only pour below that level, you will be able to drink the contents comfortably. However, if you were to pour above that level, the entire drink will drain from it.

I believe that the lesson that we as masons can take from this is to do all things in moderation. Make sure that we do not become greedy such that everything pours out of us.



Tentative Sat. June 11th  
 Contact Kenny Napper or  
 Sean Carr if interested and to reserve your spot for a fun evening.



Joseph Hough was a pioneering Hamilton merchant who spent several months each year buying merchandise in the East, hauling it to Hamilton, and then transported local items in trade to New Orleans.

At the age of 23 Joseph Hough moved to Hamilton and was in business here for the next 19 years.

## Royal Scofield Society-April's Appendant Body

The Royal Scofield Society, Ohio's premier Masonic education body helps one grow in their Masonic journey through education. It consists of 3 stages of learning. The first level is called the Fellows of the Craft in which the learner reviews the 3 degrees in the blue lodge and delves into a deeper meaning of what is trying to be taught.



The second level, Pillars of the Craft, causes you to begin reflecting upon Masonic lessons you are being taught, aids you making personal connections as well as exploring your values, and finally begins a journey of traveling to other lodges.



## Our Very First Past Master

He faced much difficulty in the mercantile business in these formative years. It was "three months... of toil and privation, and of expense of every kind," wrote Hough.

Local historian, Jim Blount says that when Worshipful Joseph Hough started his "business in Hamilton, the canals, the steamboats on inland rivers and the railroads were still in the future. Roads, at best, were widened paths with few rocks and tree stumps in the right-of way. Rivers were the highways, but only if the water levels weren't too high or too low."

Additionally he explains that "communication was low tech, too. The telegraph and the telephone wouldn't be developed until the middle and later years of the 19th century respectively."

Continued on page 2

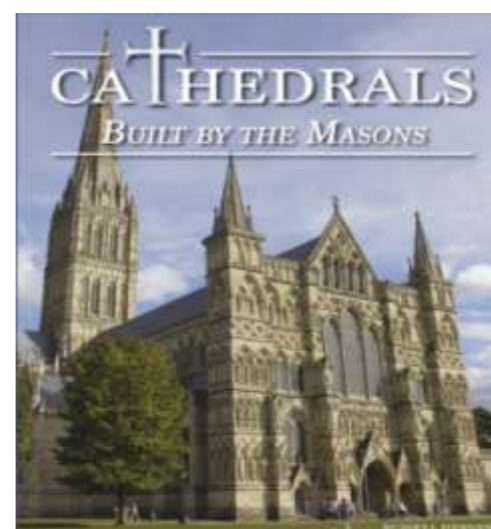
This combined April/May edition of the Washington Post features expanded coverage for Washington Lodge. In addition to containing an educational message from our LEO, Worshipful Jeremy Spangenberg this month has our first look back at the Past Masters of Washington Lodge by Worshipful Dave Lunsford.

The Washington Post continues its regular series highlighting community charities that the lodge assists as well as featuring an appendant body.

New to this edition is a Masonic word search as well as some Masonic humour. Additionally, we have a guest columnist from a lodge in NC. Further, we have begun a section on Masonic stamps as well as Masonic coins. Another new section features Masonic podcasts as well as information regarding Masonic books.

We hope the brothers of Washington Lodge enjoy this expanded newsletter. If you have any ideas for other columns, please let the editor know.

## The Expanded Washington Post Comes To Life



Save the Date—May 13th  
 RWB Russ Herner will give a presentation on the Cathedrals built by the Masons

7 PM Atrium at Dayton Temple

Coat and Tie Event

Book Available for \$40

# Becoming a Master of the Craft

The third stage elevates ones learning and continues the Masons journey. You will travel to lodges outside of the 2nd Masonic jurisdiction. You will either learn one lecture or all 3 charges. As you can see this is designed to help you grow in your journey.

The culminating step in this journey is what is referred to as one's masterpiece. For an example of this read elsewhere in this edition about Brother Rocky's Masterpiece presentation given at Washington Lodge #17 on the evening of April 20th.

This masterpiece is a reflection of your own research on a Masonic topic that interests you.

However, you are able to propose for your masterpiece something that is reflective of your talents, skills, and interests.

Upon successful completion of all three stages, you will receive an invitation to attend the Royal Scofield Society's induction ceremony that is held in conjunction with the yearly Grand Lodge events.



**Rocky Jackson**  
AUTHOR  
@Washington Post

# Joseph Hough-Washington Lodge's First Past Master

Continued from page 1

In June of 1806, Joseph Hough and his brother decided to make the trek to Ohio. The bought goods in Philadelphia and over the next 25 days they made their westward journey traveling on the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers. Upon their arrival in Cincinnati, they hired wagons to take their goods to Lebanon. However, after a short distance, they changed their minds and instead travelled to Hamilton where they promptly rented a log building where St. Mary Church currently stands (the west side of South Front Street near Court Street).

There was only one other store in Hamilton at the time which was owned by John Sutherland.

"We were generally engaged three months in going east, in purchasing our stock of goods and getting them safely delivered at Hamilton," Hough recalled. "We had to travel on horseback from Hamilton to Philadelphia a distance of 600 miles, to purchase our goods." Then "we had to engage wagons to haul them to Pittsburgh, a distance, by the then roads, of 300 miles."

"Their transportation over the mountains occupied from 20 to 25 days, and cost from \$6 to \$10 per hundred [pounds]," Hough explained.

He said at first "the road from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh was exceedingly bad. It was only graded and turnpiked to Lancaster. The residue of the road in many places was very steep and exceedingly rough" through a mountainous portion of Pennsylvania.

"From 3,000 to 3,500 pounds were considered a good load for a good five-horse team," Hough said. At Pittsburgh, "we usually bought flatboats, or keelboats, and hired hands to take our goods to Cincinnati, and we were able to have them hauled to Hamilton at from 50 to 75 cents per hundred," Hough explained.

"In one of my trips from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati, I was 39 days on a keelboat with six men besides myself to man the boat. The [Ohio] River was then as low as has ever been known" with some spots having "scarcely a foot of water."

"My boat drew one foot and a half after taking out all such articles as we could carry ... in a large canoe," Hough said. "We had to scrape out channels ... of sufficient width and depth to float our boat." Then "we reloaded our goods and proceeded to the next" low spot, "where the same labor had to be performed, and the same exposure endured." Hough said "we were frequently detained three days at some of the worst ripples."

After Hough completed the three month long ordeal he would then sell or in most cases barter with the area citizens. Most transactions consisted of barter where the merchant received agricultural goods in exchange for his merchandise.



**Joseph Hough made 14 trips from Hamilton to New Orleans on crude, one-way flatboats -- similar to the illustration above -- before two-way steamboats replaced them.**

Hough said that he was "compelled not only to do the ordinary duties of" being a merchant, but "he had to become the produce merchant of the country" too having to pack pork, making barrels, converting wheat into flour, and building flat-bottom boats in order to transport "the farmers' produce to New Orleans, the only market we could reach" at the time.

Hough made the trip to New Orleans 14 times navigating the Miami, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers.

"The first time ... I left Cincinnati in December 1808 with five flatboats, all loaded with produce," Hough recalled. "At that time there were but few settlers on the Ohio River below the present city of Louisville."

"The whole country bordering on the Mississippi, from the mouth of the Ohio to Natchez," was "an almost unbroken wilderness. The Indians seldom visited the banks, except at a few points where the river approached the high lands."

"The bands of robbers who had infested the lower part of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers had not been entirely dispersed, and were yet much dreaded by the merchant navigators of those rivers so that the men on the boats were well armed, and during the night, when lying at the shore of the wilderness country, a sentinel was kept on deck to prevent surprise," Hough said.

The pioneer Hamilton merchant said "the difficulties of the trip were not overcome when we had safely arrived at New Orleans. In returning home we had either to travel 1,000 miles by land, 500 of which was through the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Cherokee nations of Indians, or else go by sea, either to Philadelphia or Baltimore, and thence home by land."

"I traveled home by land eight times, and we were usually about 30 days in making the trip," Hough said.

"The first two trips I made by land, there were neither ferries nor bridges over any water course from Bayou Pierre, at Port

Gibson, in the Mississippi Territory, to George Colbert's Ferry over the Tennessee River near the Mississippi-Tennessee border, or about 300 miles.

"When we came ... to a water course which we would swim with our horses, we would throw our saddlebags and provisions over our shoulders and swim our horses over."

Hough said during those trips over the Natchez Trace "we were compelled to camp without tents, regardless of rain or any other unfavorable weather, and to pack provisions sufficient to last us through the Indian nations."

In the spring of 1816, Hough was in New Orleans when Captain Henry Shreve, a pioneer in Mississippi River steamboat design and development, arrived with the two-deck Washington, which "was preparing for her trip to Louisville," a 24 day voyage. By 1853, this same trip took only four and half days. "The price for a cabin passage was \$150 and for freight \$5 per hundred pounds," said Hough, who "regarded the charge most exorbitant, and in preference, bought a horse and went home by land."

Our first Worshipful Master, Joseph Hough married Jane Hunter in Hamilton Dec. 27, 1810 and in 1825 moved to Vicksburg, Miss., where he operated a store until 1828 and then he engaged in land speculation.

During the summer months, he would travel back to Hamilton and spend time on his farm south of the city. He died on April 23, 1853 in Vicksburg and is buried in Hamilton.

This account of our first Worshipful Master comes largely from a Jim Blount article in 1989 in the Journal News and expanded upon in 2017 as recorded by the Lane Libraries.



**Dave Lunsford**  
A Featured Column  
@Washington

## Masonic Word Puzzle



- PROFICIENCY
- MEMORIAL
- LESSER
- LEVEL
- INCENSE
- PRONE
- MANNA
- DARKNESS
- MARK
- PROVENANCE
- ORNAMENTS
- PEDAL
- PRUDENT
- MOTE
- EAVESDROPPER

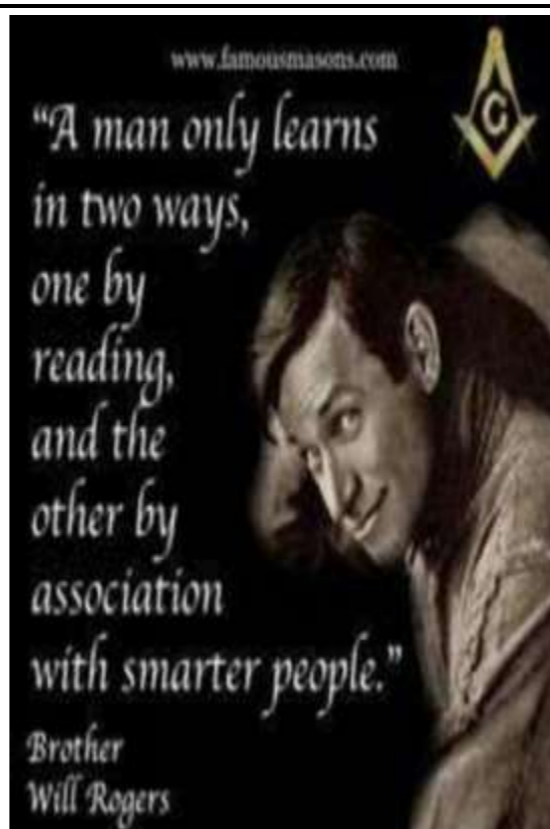
## The Mosaic Floor

The Mosaic Floor is an important part of masonic lore. Often in artwork with Masonic symbols in it, there appears a white and black checkered floor. This is often referred to as a the Mosaic floor or the Mosaic pavement.

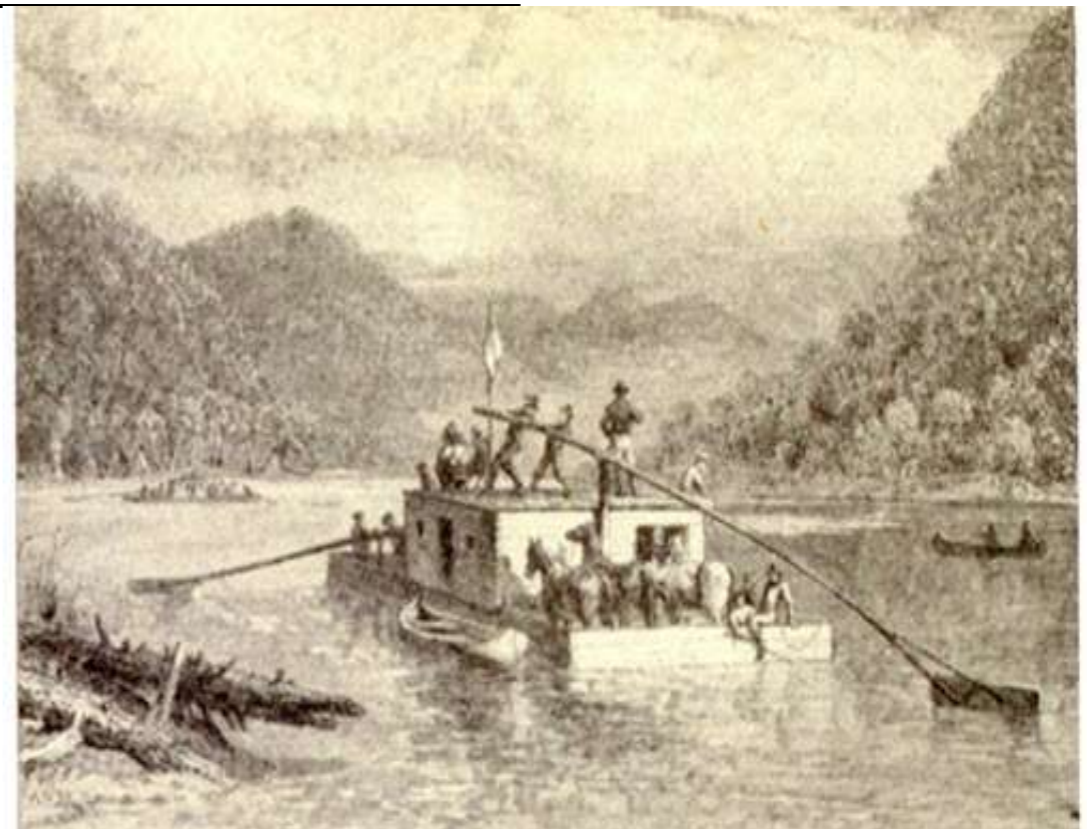
In some descriptions it is based on the main floor of King Solomon's Temple. Although some dismiss this, there are descriptions making it clear the floor of the temple is made of wood and it's elevated. The argument is stone was not used for an elevated floor. While this is most likely a true argument, it does not take into account a Mosaic floor does not have to be built of stone, merely one of multiple colors. It makes it difficult to prove or disprove what the floor was made of since no archaeological evidence of the Temple of Solomon exists and any written accounts of the temple were most likely done by scribes in the court of Solomon, who had no knowledge of the engineering which went into the building of the temple.



The explanation Freemasons use is the black and white floor of King Solomon's Temple is representative of the good and evil in every man's life. This explanation attempts to explain the reasoning for the floor. It tends to make the concept of the Mosaic floor a more modern creation, at least in it's philosophy. Scribes most likely understood the basic concept of good and evil. Since this fact is not related in the descriptions of the temple it is less likely it was the reasoning for the floor. Again there is no archaeological evidence for the Temple of Solomon so it is hard to say whether it is lost knowledge or a modern interpretation. Regardless of whether it is meant as a direct representation of the floor in Solomon's Temple or not, the philosophical explanation is what is most important to the Freemason. The reminder good and evil is present in all of our lives is taken as a reminder and as a warning. A reminder there are always those who, by design or by accident, bring unhappiness or "evil" into our daily lives and to be vigilant to those threats and concerns. It reminds us not to just avoid them, but also temper our reaction to those events and actions. It warns us we are just as capable of inflicting unhappiness or "evil" on others. Freemasons remember it is our own deeds coloring the Mosaic floor. We all have good days and bad days, the goal is to always have the one extra white square balancing our life to the good and not the bad. We keep this balance by how we respond when "evil" enters our life and whether we choose by our actions to insert "evil" into the lives of others.



This article provided by Today in Masonic History at <http://www.masonrytoday.com>



**There were no rules on flatboat size and design. Capacity of larger boats ranged from 20 to 40 tons. In 1817, the Hornet, a flatboat built in Middletown, claimed 120 tons of cargo.**

# Masonic Podcasts The Masonic Vir- Of Fortitude



As a brother seeks to expand their Masonic knowledge and education one avenue that more and more brothers turn to is listening to Masonic podcasts. In episode 544 of the Whence Came You podcasts, a review is given of The Midwest Conference on Masonic Education which took place recently in Kansas City. A discussion takes place about best educational practices among various Masonic education officers. They discuss going to a used book store and the treasures one can find within.

I can attest to this as I found the classic gem 3-5-7 minute talks in a used bookstore in Huntington, West Virginia. Finally, they will discuss what it means to be your own teacher. This is a worthwhile endeavour for any mason trying to improve their own mind.

To access the Whence came You podcasts go to <https://wcyodcast.com/>

▶ **Rocky Jackson**  
AUTHOR  
@Washington Post



## Creating a Masonic Journey and Legacy

Washington Lodge #17 was the host on April the 20th to our Junior Deacon, Rocky Jackson's Royal Scofield Society Masterpiece Presentation. During the presentation Rocky discussed the struggles he had regarding his grandfather being a Mason and the church he grew-up in railing against the "evils of Masonry." He then discussed how after going through a divorce, he was re-evaluating every aspect of his life and began to for the first time actually research his home church's teachings. After being able to refute their claims through research he conducted, he decided to join our Fraternity. He paid tribute to those that have become his mentors at our lodge.

He then discussed his grandfather's Masonic journey. Rocky then took the brothers through his own journey discussing various appendant bodies, how he has sought out his own masonic education through attending other lodge's virtual meetings, and how he crafted his own masonic reading list.

He then discussed how he sought to combine his hobbies and interests with Masonry. He gave many examples of how stamps depict Masonic symbols, how they can pay homage to a Masonic brother, or how they can even showcase a specific Masonic organization or event. As the president of the George Washington Stamp Club, he made available for sale after the presentation some of the covers that they have. Several brothers availed themselves of this opportunity and began their own collection of Masonic related stamps.



Rocky then related how Masonry connects to coin collecting as well. Most brothers were astounded at how he was able to relate his avid interest in anything dealing with railroads to its historic connection with Masonry. He showed them examples of how both stamps and railroads were connected with Masonry. Then he showed example of Model Trains depicting Masonry and how even a Lodge in California had a replica of their Temple placed on a Garden Railroad. The Union Pacific Railroad Masonic employees in Omaha, Nebraska were even wholly responsible for one of the degrees at their Valley's Scottish Rite. He also played a video clip showing the Shriners of Toronto Canada restored locomotive and passenger car in parades. He also talked about railroad degrees and how he will be attending his first one later in May.

His final examples of combining his hobbies and interests came in the form of how Masonry connected with his interest in Ham radio. In September, the brothers in a lodge in Northeast Ohio will be sponsoring the 2nd annual Masons on the Air campaign. Continued on pg. 4

# Masonic Stamp Of Approval

Back in 1892, Charles F. Bahnson wrote The North Carolina Lodge Manual. In the First Degree Lecture, he states that Fortitude is one of the Four Cardinal Virtues. As I was seeking to learn more about this I discovered a November 1977 (a few years before I was born) Short Talk Bulletin by Alphonse Cerza in which he says, "The word is related to the word "fort," which originally denoted a structure built around something for protection. It is a word that comes to us from the Latin and indicated not so much a moral attitude, but rather the true quality of manhood, as is implied that one had strength and courage. Fortitude, therefore, is that quality of character which gives a person strength to withstand temptation and to bear all suffering in silence. Fortitude is a virtue, for it permits one to do his duty undisturbed by evil distractions. It is in great measure a frame of mind to regulate one's words and deeds with courage and with determination. It is both a positive and a negative quality in that it creates courage to do what is right and also creates strength or character to withstand intemperance. Above all else, it also creates the mental attitude to bear one's burden bravely when all other remedies fail."

Now, granted, when you think of us as Masons, I'm quite sure, Fortitude didn't suddenly jump into our minds. It didn't mine. So, why then is Fortitude so important for us Masons? I think it would be due the obstacles that we face as Masons (whether they be goals or setbacks for our Lodges, disputes between Brethren, threats from anti-Masons, or even just a struggle of memorizing ritual) may require the Fortitude necessary to overcome them.

President (and Brother) Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. once said: "The longer I live the more I think of the quality of fortitude ... men who fall, pick themselves up and stumble on, fall again, and are trying to get back up when they die."

Being strong does not mean that we never stumble or fall down; in fact, it is a given that this will happen to us regularly, given that we are mortal, imperfect human beings. Rather, being strong means picking ourselves up and carrying on until the obstacle is overcome. Setbacks happen all the time. We lose our jobs. Friends and family pass away. Misunderstandings occur, threatening relationships. We get tired before the job is done and are tempted by the thought of calling it quits. What do we do? We continue, being the best version of ourselves that we can be.



▶ **Creighton Lovelace**  
Guest Columnist  
Worshipful Master  
Western Star Lodge 91  
Rutherfordton NC  
@Washington Post

## Second Guest Chef

Back at the January Stated Meeting Past Master Jeremy Spangenberg was Washington Lodge's first guest chef. May saw another one of Washington's Past Master's become a guest chef for the lodge. Ryan Napper provided the lodge with a delicious meal of Mets, Bratwurst, and

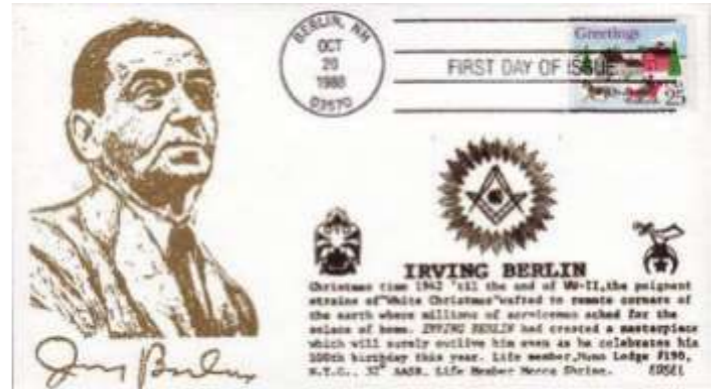
Sauerkraut. He even made hot dogs available for those with special dietary considerations. Throughout the lodge brothers had very satisfied palates thanks to the efforts of our second guest chef this Masonic year.



The Washington Post is requesting help with writing articles. In particular, it would be great if a brother could write the Book Review or guest chef column. Additionally, the editor would appreciate any ideas that you have for various columns. This is your newsletter and it will be only as good as we, the members of Washington Lodge #17 make it. If you are worried about grammar or conveying your thoughts don't be—that's what the editors are here for—to assist in smoothing out the writing. Several brothers indicated on our survey a desire to write for the benefit of the lodge. Now's your opportunity. Send the editor a text at 214-663-4237 or talk to him at lodge.



Our Brother Irving Berlin (born Israel Berlin) was born on May 11, 1888 in Imperial Russia. He emigrated to the United States at the age of 5. The first song he had published, "Marie from Sunny Italy" in 1907 earned him the grand total of 33 cents for the publishing rights. He went on to write an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores of 20 original Broadway shows and 15 original Hollywood movies. His Broadway musical and 1943 Hollywood film, This is the Army starring Ronald Reagan had Kate Smith sing Berlin's "God Bless America" which was first performed in 1938.

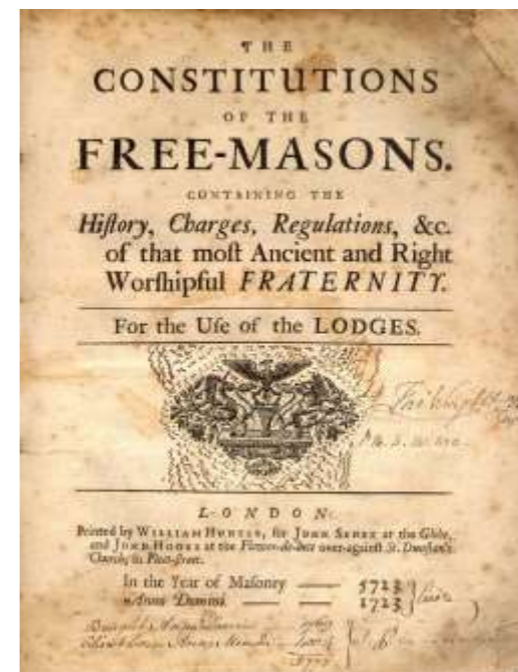


At Berlin's 100th birthday tribute Walter Cronkite said, he "helped write the story of this country, capturing the best of who we are and the dreams that shape our lives." Berlin died a year later on September 22, 1989 in New York City.

He was initiated on May 10 passed on May 26 and raised on June 3 in 1910 at Munn Lodge #190 in New York City. He was a Scottish Rite Mason at the Valley of New York and was a Shriner at Mecca Temple #1.

This First Day cover was sponsored by the Masonic Stamp Club of New York which had its beginnings back in 1934. Although this body no longer exists, volunteers do maintain their presence on the website <http://www.msnewyork.net/> where one can obtain back copies of issues in pdf form to various Masonic Stamp publications.

▶ **Rocky Jackson**  
President George Washington Masonic Stamp Club  
For info on Joining ask him or fill out the form @ <http://gwmasonicstampclub.com/membership.php>



Anderson's Constitutions was the original guide for Freemasons who were part of the Grand Lodge of England.

The original Anderson's Constitutions was published in 1723. It was written by James Anderson, a Presbyterian clergyman, at the request of John Theophilus Desaguliers, the third Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.

There are three sections to Anderson's Constitutions, the history of Freemasonry, the Charges or general rules to be followed by Freemasons and Payne's Regulations.

The history section of Anderson's Constitutions, is largely written by Anderson who interpreted previous available histories. He provided the most extensive history of Freemasonry. In his history Freemasons were cast as Noahides, followers of the Seven Laws of Noah.

The Seven Laws of Noah include:

1. Do not deny God.
2. Do not blaspheme God.
3. Do not murder.
4. Do not engage in incest, adultery, pederasty or bestiality.
5. Do not steal.
6. Do not eat of a live animal.
7. Establish courts/legal system to ensure obedience to the law.

The Charges section includes various standards for the Freemason, both inside and outside the lodge. This includes such things as how to behave during a meal and a section on how to view a brother who has decided to rebel against the government of his nation.

Continued on page 4

# Freemason Book Review



Continued from page 3

The final section was written by George Payne who was the second Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. He was Desaguliers' predecessor and successor running for a second term in 1720. In his 1720 term he wrote the regulations appearing in Anderson's Constitutions. Some of the regulations included how to constitute a new lodge.

Anderson's Constitutions has been compared in places to the United States Constitution. In it, as far as the regulation of lodges, there are clear comparisons with freedom of speech and the right of the citizenry, or in the case of a lodge membership, to vote.

Anderson's constitutions was reprinted in several countries and in different languages. With each printing items, particularly related to the history of Freemasonry, were taken away or added. A pocket version of the constitutions was also published, which Anderson himself did not like.

A copy of Anderson's Constitution can be found [here](http://www.masonrytoday.com/resources/files/andersons_constitutions.pdf).

Anderson's Constitution can be accessed at [http://www.masonrytoday.com/resources/files/andersons\\_constitutions.pdf](http://www.masonrytoday.com/resources/files/andersons_constitutions.pdf)  
 This article provided by Today in Masonic History at [http://](http://www.masonrytoday.com/resources/files/andersons_constitutions.pdf)



From 1943 - 1948 the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Missouri published a magazine that featured a page entitled "Vignettes in Masonry" which was designed in the style of Ripley's Believe-it-or-Not! and drawn by Worshipful Brother William G. Denlow (1916-1998). Bro. Denlow also wrote the popular 4-volume classic 33,000 Famous Freemasons.

# Exploring Masonic Coins

## And Their Symbols

In this blog, we take a closer look at select Masonic coins, focusing on the meaning of their symbols and origins. Masonic coins often raise many questions for those looking to better understand the significance of the coins themselves as well as the symbolism represented in their imagery.



Masonic Coin; London Coin Centre Inc.

In fraternal culture as a whole, symbolism has always been a significant part of these organizations' identity, especially in Freemasonry, as Masonic coins are rich with symbolism, reflecting different events and characteristics of Freemasonry that give them the priceless value they hold. There are several varieties of masonic coins and tokens, and all tokens will fall into one of the following categories: a token celebrating a particular mason, lodge or event; an initiation token showing when a Brother was initiated, passed and raised; and finally the mark mason token (or penny) which signifies a pivotal part of a Mason's initiation.

One last category is currency, which was created for just one Masonic family. In 1794, Brother James Sketchley from the Grand Lodge of England minted the first and only masonic currency. It took the form of a 28mm copper coin and was accepted as currency throughout the entire British empire, which at the time was most of the world. The coin commemorates the Prince of Wales, King George IV, being elected as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) on November 24, 1790.



Grand Lodge of Ohio

## LOOKING AT THE SYMBOLS

Many of the symbols Masons come across on a daily basis are reflected on each of these coins. Taking a deeper look at the coins themselves, we'll notice that each will typically hold some if not all of the following symbols and imagery:

- **Square and compasses:** As seen in the image of the Grand Lodge of Ohio coin, the symbol in the center is that of the Square and Compasses, which we covered in one of our more recent posts around [Square and Compasses](#). These symbols, usually accompanied by the letter G, stands for making one's actions good and understanding one's role in the spiritual universe
- **The Letter G:** Also mentioned in [our recent blog](#), The letter "G" surrounded by a compass and square, is often interpreted in one of two ways: for some it refers to Geometry and supports the Masonic lessons and symbolism associated with builders and architects, as well as the measurement and understanding of the order and perfection of the universe. Others see it as referring to God or the "Great Architect of the Universe," which is an ecumenical term used by Masons of different faiths to refer to Deity as they pray together, each according to his own beliefs.
  - **Apron and gloves:** These symbols stand for living with a pure heart and to keep one's hands clean.
  - **All-seeing eye:** This symbol is designed to remind Masons that God and others always see their thoughts and actions.
  - **Ashlars:** You may see rough and smooth ashlars on Masonic coins. They are to remind Masons of the contrast between man's natural state and perfection.
- **Level:** This symbol found on some Masonic coins reminds Masons that everyone is equal before God.



Masonic Token; B and G Coins

One other key characteristic, especially with masonic pennies, is the often queried letters "H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S." which is a mnemonic associated with the Mark Master Degree in York Rite Masonry. It is sometimes called the Tyrian Signet and represents a keystone with symbolic meaning that has been given various interpretations by different people at different times. *While we skimmed the surface of the full understanding and true meaning of each of these coins, there is still much education around backstory and history left to be desired which we will go into in greater detail in future posts.*

What more do you want to learn about in regards to the symbols and coins mentioned? Share your thoughts and knowledge by contacting us [here](#), and please find us on Facebook and Twitter at [@GrandLodgeOhio](#).

The Grand Lodge of Ohio's Blogs can be found at <https://www.freemason.com/blog/>  
 This blog post is located at <https://www.freemason.com/exploring-masonic-coins-symbols/>



## Creating a Masonic Journey and Legacy

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.Then Brother Rocky turned to a discussion about Masonry and genealogy. When he began this project, he knew only that his maternal grandfather, his namesake, Roscoe Marshall Robertson, was a mason. He discovered the various offices he held in his lodge including being the Worshipful Master as well as his other masonic activities.

He then related his discoveries about how his paternal great-grandfather as well as his 3rd paternal great-grandfather were Masons. He also talked about all the discoveries he made concerning other relatives that were masons.

Enter the Realm of DNA. This helped him find out several more generations of Marshalls back in Scotland. He was excited to discover that they were operative Masons. He was able to find out some history regarding St. John Lodge #187 in Carluke, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Although, he has not been able to find out at this point whether or not they were also operative Masons in addition to being speculative Masons.

Just before concluding with how he is seeking to carry on the Masonic legacy left by his ancestors, Rocky offered some suggestions and recommendations for the brothers to establish their own Masonic journey and legacy. These included:

- Remembering that the Blue Lodge is the Foundation
- Fill in what you are looking for in Masonry with appendant bodies
- Education through Reading and Meetings (whether in-person virtually, or through podcasts)
- Learning the Ritual, Lectures, and Charges
- Through coaching and mentoring other brothers
- Combining Hobbies and Interests with Masonry
- And the importance of keeping records for future generations to make their own research easier.

Brother Rocky has made a copy of the following available to any brother who wishes to receive it:

- Masonic Reading List
- His paper that went with the presentation
- A recording of the presentation itself

He is available to give this presentation in whole or in part. To schedule him to speak or to receive a copy of the above he may be contacted by text at 214-663-4237.



At May's stated meeting, the Ohio Masonic Home was scheduled to talk to the brothers of Washington Lodge about the various services that they provide and that are available through them. Unfortunately, unforeseen technical issues prevented this presentation from proceeding. The presentation will be rescheduled at a later date. Stay tune as to when.

## Grand Master's One Day Class



In April, the three principal officers of our lodge, Worshipful Jason Baynum, Senior Warden Tim Miracle, Junior Warden Kenny Craft assisted in putting on the degrees at Middletown's one-day class. Almost 20 new masons were raised that day including 1 from Washington Lodge #17. Back in March, a Grand Master's One Day Class was held in our vicinity at the Masonic Temple in Dayton, Ohio. Nearly 800 masons were raised that day throughout Ohio, over 100 in Dayton alone including 3 from Washington Lodge #17.

This one day class attracted the attention of Brother Chris Hodapp, the author of Freemasons for Dummies. He wrote a blog post on April 10 looking at the history of one-day classes, the controversy concerning them, how they came into being, and the results from them. To see his well-written discussion see <http://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/2022/04/welcome-brothers-gl-of-ohio-raises-780.html>

**THERE ARE NO STRANGERS IN FREEMASONRY, ONLY FRIENDS YOU'VE YET TO MEET**

Brother Dave Thomas,  
 Founder of Wendy's