

**ROCKY RIVER LODGE NO. 703 F. & A. M.
20149 LAKE ROAD
ROCKY RIVER OHIO 44116**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 01 Oktoberfest
- Nov 06 Special - Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Nov 13 Annual Meeting/Elections
Fish Fry Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Nov 20 Open Installation/Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Reservations Please!
- Nov 23 Past Masters/New Officers
Breakfast @ 8:30 am
- Nov 27 Dark - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec 04 Awards Night
- Dec 07 Children's Christmas Party 2:00 pm
- Dec 11 Stated - Master Mason Degree


Please see inside articles for additional information



November 2008
Volume 66 - Issue 08

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<http://www.rockyriver703.com/>

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From the East

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me make this year a success. To Worshipful Brethren Hayden, Lindsey, Gay and Croxford, I could not have done it without your help and guidance. To all my line officers, you have made me very proud. Your dedication to ritual work and your strong attendance made my job easier. Last, to the brethren of Rocky River Lodge. Thank you for your support and the honor of allowing me to be your Worshipful Master this year.



*Worshipful Master
Donald M. Auping*

It seems like just yesterday that I was installed. We accomplished some things and failed at others. We ate well and our ritual work was, as usual for Rocky River Lodge, extraordinary.

I had hoped that more brethren would attend Lodge and at that I feel I failed. In hind site I guess I should have tried to do more to entice you back to Lodge. I really thought if I fed you

well, you would come in more numbers. Hopefully SW Farah will have more luck with his program for next year.

So with that I end this swan song. Whatever honors may come my way in Masonry, none will ever mean more to me than being able to be the 80th Worshipful Master of Rocky River Lodge #703.

Fraternally,
Don Auping, Worshipful Master

Annual Meeting Is Upon Us

November 13th is our annual meeting and is that time of the year when it really would be nice to see you and have you participate in the election of next years officers. To intice you to appear, the Lodge is again adhering to a tradition started during the reign of Worshipful Brother Tom Plotz and that is our annual all-you-can-eat fish fry featuring fresh perch caught this summer off the Marblehead peninsula.

“What is in your wallet?” Hope it isn’t your dues check you meant to send in. The honorable Treasurer advises that dues must be paid by **November 13, 2008** if you expect to vote. If you can’t make it and you haven’t yet paid your dues, please arrange with your accounts payable department to push the obligation to the top of your stack. I mention this every year because I have to work with Treasurer Lindsey and when dues are slow coming in, he gets his underwear in a knot and is even harder than usual to work with and more importantly, to get to buy a round at #703½! Take pity on the rest of us thirsty souls and send in your dues if you haven’t yet done so.

WB Bill Gay, Secretary

In Memoriam
LLOYD E. WHITE

Brother Lloyd E. White was born on August 8, 1927 in Dallas, Texas.

Brother Lloyd White was initiated an Entered Apprentice on January 19, 1956, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on June 21, 1956 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 1, 1956.

All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703 F. & A. M.

Brother Lloyd E. White was called to the Grand Lodge above on September 6, 2008 at the age of 81, ending 52 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

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440-356-1717 redscot@gmail.com

Birthday Trivia

Hello, this is your Lodge Secretary and I approve this message. In case the politicians have gotten you to thinking that elections are the only event that occurs in November, let me remind you of a number of other much more significant goings-on. Don Fuller has been celebrating birthdays for 91 years which makes him the oldest in November. Wayne Bereman is our youngest, and has been celebrating for about a third as many years as Don. Past Masters Gene Ferrell, Jack Martin, Karl Hoffman and Russ Kilpatrick also enjoy November birthdays. Our newest Fellowcraft Sean Ginley also joins the November crowd. Other no less notable celebrants are Jack Twiggs, Alan Uren, George Sklinchar, Wylie Stone, George Csatary, Andy Mettler, Bob Lee, Bill Crates, John Osborne, Lloyd Irwin, Walter Miller and Clarence Frier. Where could you find a list of finer brethren to wish a happy birthday to? Occasionally someone asks what the average age of our membership is and effective with the month of November, 2009 it is 68.4 years.

Bill Gay, P.M., Secretary

From The West:

The Lodge's year is winding down and a new one about to start. Our present Worshipful Brother Don has had a good year, and I am hopeful next year will be the same.

Installation of Officers will be on November 20th. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., Installation at 7:30 p.m., and desserts and coffee afterwards. On Sunday, November 23rd, will be the traditional breakfast for the Past Masters and the new officers.

On October 16th, the Lodge opened with JW Ryan Wilson in the East, and SD Brian Spooner in the West. Great job, Brethren. We are developing a strong corps of officers.

It appears that the 22nd Masonic District will be continuing its monthly leadership series, commencing on Saturday, December 13th. I encourage the officers and interested brethren to attend.

Ben Farah, Senior Warden

Trestleboard Advertising

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For those of you that aren't familiar with advertising in the *Trestleboard*, I would like to offer you a wonderful opportunity to promote your business. This fine publication is sent to over 200 people every month via the Postal Service, email, and internet websites throughout the greater Cleveland and Ohio areas. We also encourage our readers to patronize our advertisers to support their businesses as well. Each space is only \$45.00 per year for the 9 issues that are published.

I'm sure you have noticed a few Brethren have just placed a greeting. What a great way to support and help defer the cost of producing this newsletter. If you would like to advertise, please call Russ Kilpatrick at 440-356-1717 or email at redscot@ameritech.net.

The Price They Paid

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the revolutionary army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the revolutionary war.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers or both, looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Targetshooter's notes:

They gave you and I a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot of what happened in the revolutionary war. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Perhaps you can now see why our founding fathers had a hatred for standing armies, and allowed through the second amendment for everyone to be armed. Frankly, I can't read this without crying. Some of us take these liberties so much for granted.

We shouldn't.

Peace my friends,

Garry Hildreth (Targetshooter) Erie, Pa

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OLE' SOL

There I was, sitting in the Northwest corner of the Lodge trying to assume a posture of importance behind the Secretary's desk and at the same time, portray an expression of intellectual interest while the rest of the immediate Masonic world was conferring the Entered Apprentice degree on Mr. William P. Ritley. You might think the humble Secretary was conjuring up thoughts about how long it would be before we could re-convene at Lodge #703½ and indulge in a more liquid-oriented conferral process...but, thee would be wrong.

As I was observing Brother Ritley being escorted around the Lodge room by the Senior Deacon, the thought occurred as to just how many men had preceded Brother Ritley in his blindfolded perambulation of the premises. Except for the participants in the degrees, the rest of us sit and watch the process reminding ourselves and every other aspiring #703 Master Mason, that this same effort was expended on behalf of each of us. The many dozens of times we have seen it sometimes causes us to take for granted the routine and lose sight of the impression it is intended to make on the brother receiving it.

So, off I went to the archives of our membership and sorting the information by Entered Apprentice conferral dates, I discovered the following:

1. The first Entered Apprentice Degree conferred by #703 was performed on August 9th, 1928 for brother Walter G. Trautman and the second was conferred the next Thursday night on George S. Moore but not in the temple we call home today. Dover Lodge then was meeting in a building located at the corner of Center Ridge Road and Dover Center Road, made their facilities available to our fledgling Lodge recently chartered out of dispensation (a Lodge couldn't then and can't today, raise a candidate while under Dispensation).

2. 37 additional Entered Apprentices were introduced into the mysteries of Freemasonry by our Lodge at the Dover Temple until that fateful time in the history of the United States that there came to pass, the end of the Month of October, 1929. Of consequence to the country was that on October 24, 1929 there came the day when investors and manipulators were taking turns leaping out of windows on Wall Street in New York City. It was labeled many things but the most lasting was Black Thursday when the crash of the stock market occurred. One week later, on Thursday the 31st of October, 1929 there came the opportunity to confer the first Entered Apprentice degree in our brand new temple and William H Walton was the 40th person so initiated that memorable evening.

3. Since brother Walton, there have been 985 men who preceded him in his perambulations and that makes Brother Ritley our 1,026th Entered Apprentice candidate. Forgetting for a moment that most of these brothers went on to also receive their Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees in this venerable building, it is a testament to the quality of the carpet that there is not a path worn into it today from all the traffic.

4. All told #703 has processed 1,532 men into our membership and that includes the former brothers of A.A. Stephens Lodge #733 which also met in our temple and merged with us in 1984 (so they also contributed to the carpet's traffic testimonial). Some men never went beyond their Entered Apprentice degree and others joined our Lodge after having received their degree somewhere else but they all have made their mark one way or another and we are certainly the richer for their presence no matter the duration.

Ruminations aside, there are still certain inalienable necessities that must be tended to on this and every Thursday nights after the closing of #703. Perhaps Brother Ritley and his dad will see fit to affiliate with 703½ if even for a trail membership. Perhaps nothing, both Bill Ritleys' graced the establishment with their presence and now it is time to "un-grace" (probably no such word) my presence and head for home if only to set a good example.

Til our next opportunity, next month.

Ole Sol, Secretary #703½

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