

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

January 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 07 Special Meeting - Happy New Year and a warm welcome back!
- Jan 12 Stated Meeting
- Jan 19 Awards Night - Celebrate the service of your fellow brethren!
- Jan 21 Typewritten Ritual - Masonic Temple 36th & Euclid - details within
- Jan 26 Stated Meeting - MM°
- Jan 29 Breakfast in the Park (dress warmly!)
- Feb 02 Special Meeting
- Feb 16 Lodge Inspection Night EA° - Please plan to attend and enjoy fine degree work and fellowship.

Volume 70 - Issue 02

Please visit our website at:
<http://www.rockyriver703.com>

Fraternal Greetings from:

**Worshipful Brother
 Eric D. Butler**



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What Came You Here To Do?

“And now, my brethren,
What came you here to do?
When you joined our mystic circle,
Had you a purpose in your heart
To be of service to your fellow man,
And perform your allotted part?
Or came you out of curiosity
Or motives personal in view?
Tell me, brother of the square,
What came you here to do?
Have you failed to grasp the meaning
Of the symbols of our chart?
Have you learned to subdue your passions
And make improvements in your art?
Do you always, always uphold the trusts
On which we firmly stand,
Teaching the Fatherhood of God
And the Brotherhood of Man?
Have you been willing to aid the brother
When life surges were fierce and wild?
Have you offered cheer and comfort
To the Mason’s widow, wife and child?
If you have done so, my brother,
You are a Mason good and true,
And can give a correct answer
What came you here to do?”

-Reprint from “The Masonic News” (IL)

From The East

Brethren, it’s a brand-new year! We have many excellent opportunities with a fresh start, the very beginning of 2012. Everyone we meet, everywhere we go every day, we are Masons. We’ve all heard that Masonry competes with religion. Well, let’s think about this.

Masonry complements religion, doesn’t it? We all learn valuable lessons in our degree work. These lessons, coupled with the LEO’s upcoming programs, aid and assist each one of us to be a better person. We build within our minds, our spirits and, as a consequence, we are better on the outside. Our light has to shine, doesn’t it? And doesn’t that lend itself to being more conscious of our dealings with each and every one we meet and deal with every day?

Sounds like Masonry and religion are pretty good partners. Further, Masonry doesn’t direct anyone into a particular religious direction. Therefore, it actually is more universal than most non-Masons think. A Supreme Being must be believed in, period. From there, Masons take the lessons learned and incorporate, add-to, and augment our own personal Temples within, seeing God as we deem appropriate.

Masonry can learn a lot from religion. Religion can learn a lot from Masonry. Each is important by itself. But together, they are much stronger.

As we ramp-up for 2012, we will all strive to improve ourselves, thereby improving each other. Like Masonry and religion, we all stand well alone, but we stand much stronger together. You already know this or you wouldn’t be a Mason. Let’s help each other through our Masonic year and through our lives. Everyone we meet along the way will benefit, including us. Remember, “Virtus Junxit Mors Non Sep Arabit”.

Happy New Year,
Eric

Typewritten Ritual

The annual Ritual Training Session and type-written ritual will be presented at the Masonic hall 36th and Euclid downtown Cleveland on Saturday, January 21st. This presentation is a bit of living Masonic history as you can read in the associated article that follows. Please contact your lodge officers for more information. They usually assemble a car pool for transportation and any interested Master Masons are welcome to attend!



*Worshipful Master
Eric D. Butler*


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The Ritual of The Grand Lodge of Ohio

by M.W. Charles B. Hoffman, Chairman

The lodges in Ohio which formed the Grand Lodge in 1808 were at that time using the rituals of the respective Grand Lodges that had chartered them. Consequently, the ritualistic work varied with the number of Lodges. When Masonry was brought to the American Colonies from England, the ritual was still in process of formation in the mother country, which probably had much to do with the variation in the ritualistic work of the respective Grand Jurisdictions in America. The rituals of that early day were not written but were communicated only by oral instruction. To this day, there is no single official ritual for the Grand Lodge of England.

The proceedings of our Grand Lodge are silent on the subject of ritual until 1834 when Samuel Reed, the Master of Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No.2, started a movement in the Grand Lodge to make our ritualistic work uniform. Reed subsequently became Grand Lecturer and continued in that capacity until 1847 when he resigned. Brother Reed used and taught the work of Thomas Smith Webb, which he had learned from Brother Calvin Washburn, a Past Master of Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge, who in turn, along with Brother Webb had learned it from Brother Eason, Provincial Grand Lecturer from England. The "Webb" work has continued to be the work of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

However, in 1855, our Grand Master complained that there was a serious lack of uniformity in ritual in the various Lodges in Ohio, even in those meeting in the same buildings. This lack of uniformity was the apparent result of the ritual not having been committed to writing.

In 1856 the Grand Lodge passed a resolution forbidding unauthorized persons to visit Masonic Lodges in Ohio and give instructions in Freemasonry for pay.

In October, 1857, the old Grand Lecturer system was abolished and instruction in a revised ritual was entrusted to the revisers. Some controversy arose over the matter of "District Deputy Grand Masters"; their title was changed to "District Lecturer" and their powers restricted to instruction in the revised ritual.

In 1859 a ritual was adopted, and in 1860 a resolution by the Grand Lodge required all Lodges to comply therewith.

With all this effort to insure uniformity of work, results were not satisfactory. Grand Master Levi Goodale in 1891 addressed the Grand Lodge on the matter and recommended a plan in use at that time by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which had proved successful. This plan provided for a pen- and-ink copy of the official ritual adopted by the Grand Lodge to be placed in the custody of the Grand Master and at the expiration of his term to be turned over by him to his successor.

His recommendation was adopted, a committee appointed, the ritual prepared and written by Brother J. W. Iredell, Jr. and adopted by the Grand Lodge as the official ritual, in 1892. It was soon discovered by the Grand Master that some more rapid means of conveying the new official ritual to the Lodges must be found and in 1893 Grand Master Allen Andrews authorized the printing of two hundred copies in code or cipher form, and in the same year additional copies sufficient to supply each Lodge with one were authorized; this was accomplished in 1895.

In 1921 a new issue of the cipher ritual was printed and supplied to the Lodges. This edition included a number of revisions most of which were in the instructions (or rubrics) for conducting the work. In 1942 a significant step was taken in the authorization of divided cipher rituals for use by officers and candidates in committing the work. Until 1948 the esoteric and the monitorial material had been supplied in separate volumes. Dissatisfaction with this inconvenience to our officers brought a steadily increasing demand for a change which resulted in the printing of a new issue that included both the esoteric work in cipher code and the monitorial sections arranged in proper sequence. At the same time the number of rituals

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IN MEMORIUM



David Burton Evans

Brother David Burton Evans was born on July 6, 1911.

Brother Evans was initiated an Entered Apprentice on September 15, 1949, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on October 20, 1949 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 17, 1950.

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

Brother Evans was called to the Grand Lodge above on December 7, 2011 at the age of 100, ending 62 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

Spencer Allen West

Brother Spencer Allen West was born on August 18, 1923 in Cleveland, Ohio

Brother West was initiated an Entered Apprentice on October 29, 1968, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on January 7, 1969 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on February 18, 1969.

All degrees were conferred in A. A. Stephens Lodge #733, F. & A.M. Brother West dimitted to Rocky River Lodge #703 F.&A.M. on January 31, 1984 when A. A. Stephens Lodge #733 could no longer sustain its existence and merged with our lodge.

Brother West was called to the Grand Lodge above on December 20, 2011 at the age of 88, ending 42 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

More Light in Masonry

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- www.facebook.com/grandlodgeohio
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supplied each Lodge was increased from one to five. The original and only pen-and-ink copy of this ritual which had been prepared and adopted in 1892, remained in the custody of successive Grand Masters until 1944. Because of the evidences of wear, it was at that time placed in the custody of the Chairman of the Ritual Committee for reference but was not to be taken from its place of safe-keeping except for the annual meetings of the Grand Lodge. In 1949 these latter restrictions were removed by the Grand Lodge.

Increasing evidences of wear and tear on this priceless volume prompted the Ritual Committee in 1956 to recommend that a typewritten copy of the ritual be made for instruction purposes, and that the original pen-and-ink ritual be kept in the Grand Lodge building at Worthington in the care of the Grand Secretary.

This recommendation was approved and the typewritten copy of the ritual, of which this history is a part, is the result.

Since the adoption of our official ritual in 1891, changes in its text have been firmly resisted, for ours is a ritual which is unique in terseness and beauty of diction. Any change, there- therefore, is more apt to weaken than to strengthen it.

The preparation of this typewritten copy posed a number of interesting questions to the Ritual Committee, all of them of minor import. For example, it was discovered that the pen-and- ink ritual contained two or three unquestionable errors in spelling; many "in-consistencies", if not errors, III punctuation; and a decided lack of uniformity in the use of capital letters. Neither have the revised editions of the cipher ritual been consistent with the original pen-and-ink copy nor with themselves.

The Ritual Committee has decided these points as seemed for the best interests of Masonry in Ohio and hopes their efforts, meets with general approval.

The actual work of typing was done both in preliminary and final form entirely by Rt. Worshipful Brother Harold W. Hall of Marion, a former District Deputy Grand Master and a member of the Ritual Committee.

Masons once "Met on the Square"

"In the Prestonian Lectures as practiced in the beginning of the eighteenth century, it was said that Masons "met on the Square and hoped to part on the Level." In the American system of Webb a change was made and we were instructed that "they met on the Level and parted on the Square."

In 1843, the Baltimore Convention made a still further change by adding that they "act by the Plumb," and this formula is now, although quite modern, generally adopted by the Lodges of the United States of America."

- Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry

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