



**Published monthly Volume XCVII Issue No. 8 – August A.D. 2022, A.L. 6022**

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We will be having an EA Degree on 8/9 at JF Swartsel Lodge, featuring three candidates and a first timer in the East and SD! Our monthly Lodge Visit will be to Zephr Lodge no. 198 on August 25<sup>th</sup>

**Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:**

W. Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W. Stephen Edson – Br. Raymond Ciunci – Br. Allan A. Jenkins

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**Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?**

The Lutz Fire Department, TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56

BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12 Lutz

Lutz Little League Baseball

Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County

McKittrick Elementary School

“Helping Paws Program”

Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County)

De Molay (Hillsborough County)

Shriners’ Hospital

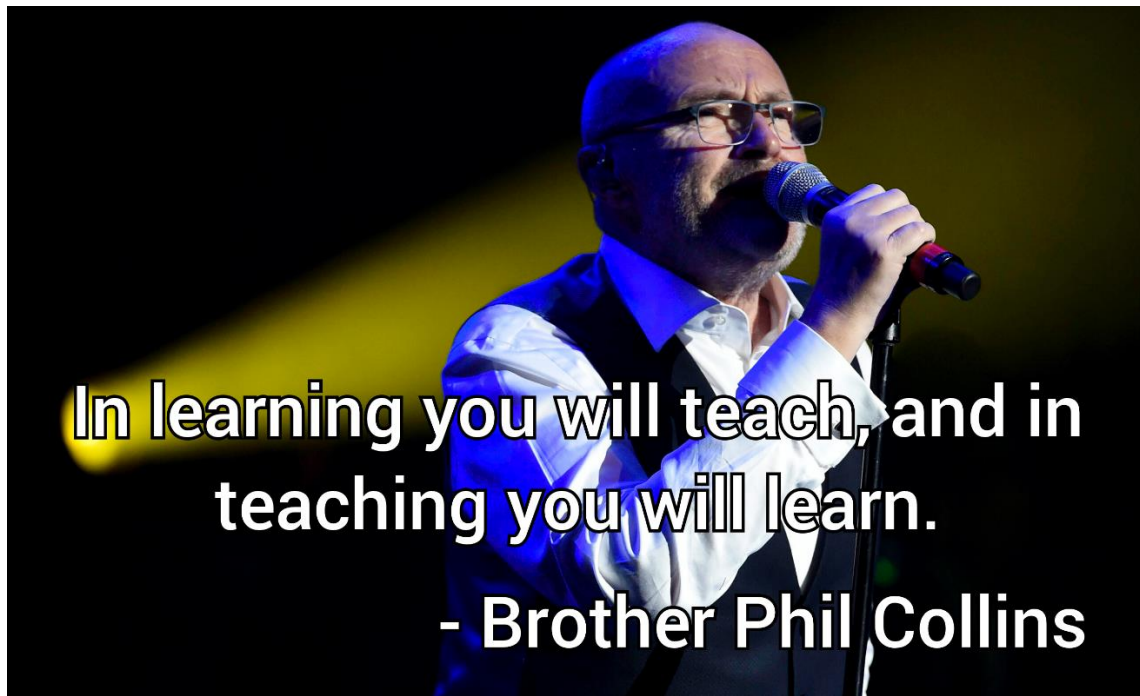
Lifepath Hospice

Jobs’ Daughters

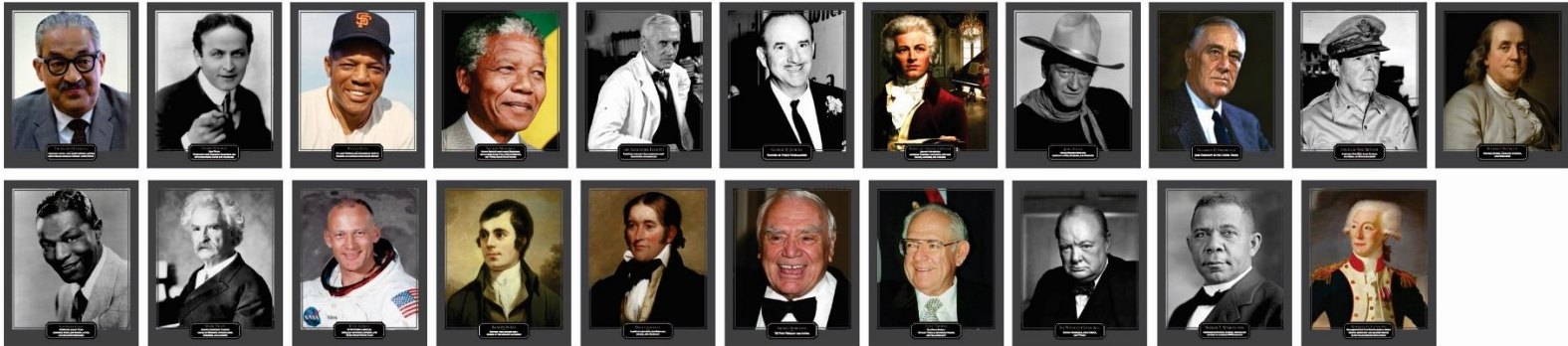
Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

Metropolitan Ministries

Joshua House



If they could do the things they did then,



imagine the things that we can do now.

**Thank you to all of our Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon**

**The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel and Community Lodge © who are still with us today, and continue to carry the torch of Light on behalf of Freemasonry**

1957 W • Randolph Dey - 1965 W • Thomas B. Daughtey - 1976 W • Phillip V. Getz - 1981 W • Edward B. Wilson  
 1985 W • Charles Inman - 1985/1997 W • Harold A. Glisson © - 1986 W • Gary F. Gentry  
 1987/1994 W • R. Willard Brown - 1988 W • Floyd G. Kirk © - 1992 W • Floyd A. Dozier - 1992 W • Michael P. Byers ©  
 1993 W • Winston A. Williams © - 1986 W • Gary F. Gentry 1995 R • W • Donald R. Bell, PDDGM  
 1995 W • Walter T. Beaver © - 1996 W • Robert Thibodeaux © - 1998 W • Gary A. Richey - 1998 W • Christopher Boles ©  
 1999 W • David B. Lambert, Sr. - 1999/2010/2013 W • Steven G. Whitmer © - 2000 W • David B. Lambert, II  
 2000 W • Kenneth C. Tucker © - 2001 W • James R. Lambert - 2001 W • John W. Warren © - 2002 W • Gregory A. Lambert  
 2003 W • Joseph E. Fara, Sr. - 2004/2007/2011 W • Steven C. Whidden © - 2005/2006 W • Robert L. Herman, Sr. ©  
 2008/2013 W • Gregory L. Savage - 2008/2012 W • Keith A. Crews © - 2009 W • Drew M. Keenan  
 2009 W • Matthew K. Jones © - 2011 W • Richard D. Sego - 2012/2019 W • Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - 2014 W • Jeffrey T. Sklet  
 2014/2015/2018/2019 W • Jerry A. Haywood © - 2015 R • W • Charles C. Osborne, PDDG - 2016 W • Danilo O. Valdez  
 2016 W • John Northrop © - 2017 R • W • Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM - 2017 W • David Jones ©  
 2018 W • Martin A. Greif - 2020 R • H • Adam S. Feldman, RHDI - 2021 W • Samuel McPherson



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**Next time you need something, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of [www](http://www), and select “the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.”, and ½% of your purchase will be donated to provide help, aide, and assistance to the residents of the Masonic Home!**

**Your 2022 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:**

**Worshipful Master    W ∴ Raymond Joseph Ciunci**  
**Senior Warden      Brother Wade Edward Angel**  
**Junior Warden      Brother Brian Andrew Reach**  
**Treasurer          W ∴ Jeffrey Thomas Sklet**  
**Secretary          W ∴ David Bruce Lambert Sr.**  
**Chaplain          W ∴ Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.**  
**Marshall          W ∴ Stephen Douglas Edson**  
**Senior Deacon      Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins (Pro-Tem)**  
**Junior Deacon      Brother Demetrios Thomas Dellis**  
**Senior Steward      Brother Joe Circhirillo**  
**Junior Steward      Brother Thomas Martin Sheehan**  
**Tyler              W ∴ Bahram (Tony) Hedayat**  
**Musician          Brother John Nagy**  
**Historian          W ∴ Samuel McPherson**



**Please remember your Lodge boosters and thank them!**

**R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley - R.:W.: Donald R. Bell - Mark L. Lager - Daniel Allen - Brad Sollberger - Ernest P. Sidlow**

## Chair Chatter

### From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert, Sr.

Brethren,

**Please check your Dues Card to see if you have paid your 2022 Dues,** and If you have changed your address, please give me a call @ (813) 838-7705 or email me at [dlambert7907@gmail.com](mailto:dlambert7907@gmail.com) so I can update your records. Also check your Dues Card to see if it is current.

### **Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: August 2022.**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:20 PM, Degree Practice.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154).
- 4<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 9<sup>th</sup> E A Degree at J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Holyrood Lodge No. 257 Stated Meeting @ J. F. Swartsel 251, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30p
- 12<sup>th</sup> 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240. **(Check for ZOOM meeting).**
- 16<sup>th</sup> 6:20 PM, Degree Practice.
- 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 7:30, York Rite Practicing at J. F. Swartsel Lodge.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30PM.**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 7:30 PM.**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Trestleboard Articles to R.: H.: Feldman**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> No Practice, JFS volunteering at ELECTION PRIMARY DROPSITE
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Monthly Lodge Visit: Zephyr Lodge no. 198, Dinner @6:30PM, Lodge opens at 7:30PM**
- 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ John Darling No. 154.**
- 27<sup>th</sup> 9:AM – Noon, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ John Darling 154.**
- 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.

### From the Worshipful Master: Brother Ray Ciunci

Brothers, as you probably know, I will be out of the Lodge for some time recovering from a hip operation. Bro. Angel will be running the Lodge in my absence, and I am very confident he'll do a fine job. So, help him all you can, and I will see you as soon as I can. God Bless.

Fraternally Yours,

Ray Ciunci  
Worshipful Master

### From the Senior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

As I write this article, our Worshipful Master Ray Ciunci is recovering from hip replacement surgery. He said his surgery went well and it was reported that he was on his feet the very next day with the assistance of a walker. Please assist me in saying prayers for a very speedy recovery. Worshipful Ciunci has been in a lot of pain for some time. I know how that wears on a person. I am glad that that will be behind him now.

In the meantime, I will be filling in for him in the East. Worshipful Valdez will be filling in for me in the west. All I can say is, PLEASE HURRY BACK RAY!!!! Please take the time to contact Worshipful Ciunci to wish him well.

Fraternally Yours,

Brother Wade Angel



## **From the Junior Warden: Brother Brian Reach**

First off, we were all happy to hear that our Worshipful Master Raymond Ciunci's hip operation went well and that he is out of the hospital and recovering at home. Here's wishing him a speedy recovery!

Congratulations to Brother Wade Angel for the great job he did filling in for Worshipful Ciunci in the East. Well done Wade!!

If you were not able to make it to Lodge on July 21, you missed a great meal! Brother Dellis provided us a fried Grouper nugget dinner with all the fixings. A good time was had by all, and I spied several Brother having a little trouble staying awake due to full bellies!

Degree practice is going well for the upcoming EA degree to be held on Tuesday night August 9. If you have any interest in taking part in a Degree, please come join us for practice on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. There is always a need for extra bodies to fill in for the conductors or candidates!

### **August Dinner Menu for stated communications:**

Aug 4: Baked Ziti with garlic bread, salad and dessert.

Aug 18: Swedish meatballs with green beans, salad and dessert.

### **Menu for the EA Degree on Aug 9:**

Chicken and yellow rice with bread, salad and dessert.

Check our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251>, for changes to the above menu selections.

Brother Brian Reach JW

## **From the Editor: Right Honorable Adam Feldman**

During my terms heading Masonic Leadership Training for our District, J.F. Swartsel accounted for 11 of the 50 completions I registered with Grand Lodge, and I thank you for your participation! Now, as District Instructor, I would like to implore you to start working on your proficiency cards.

I am responsible for opening the safe at John Darling Lodge on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month for open books, and last month had an attendance of FOUR Brothers including myself. Open books presents the rare opportunity to read our work all written out in its entirety, and it is apparent by the attendance that very few of our Brothers are taking advantage of this opportunity.

If you are available to join me at John Darling for open books, we meet from 9a-12p on the fourth Saturday of the month, and I can not only offer you aide in your studies, but can test you for proficiency cards whenever you are ready to do so. It will never be easier to earn your Silver, White, Green, Blue or even Brown cards than when the guy who is grading you is a member of your own Lodge. I hope to see you there... and in the meantime, feel free to reach out to me at Lodge, via my email ([brotherfeldman@gmail.com](mailto:brotherfeldman@gmail.com)), or by texting/calling my cell @ 727-504-7671 with any questions you may have.

Fraternally,

Brother Adam Feldman, RHDI





# Order of the Eastern Star

## From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

To: Our Sisters and Brothers

From: Elizabeth McAbee, Worthy Matron

Via: Barbara Gant, Associate Matron

Friendship Chapter, as always, welcome Masons in good standing as well as their female relatives, eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Information and petitions are available by request.

Many thanks to those who participated by bringing snacks and other “goodies” and boxing them to sent to the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72). His Mother has reported the 4 boxes were received, he and his crew were very excited as he shared.

Friendship Chapter being dark June and July, continues to “get together” for activities to keep in touch. An enjoyable day for all at the Tampa Theater for the movie “Wizard of Oz” with dinner at the Olive Garden. Our next movie “Casablanca”, Saturday, Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m., meal , TBD.

On Sunday, August 21, at 2 p.m., at the A.W. Windhorst Masonic Lodge, a birthday celebration in honor of Dr. Rob Morris , Founder of the Order of the Eastern Star, with a meal and a program. Mark your calendar you are invited.



Our members take goodies to our Lutz and Van Dyke Fire fighters Stations to let them know how we appreciate their service. July, Gina and Barbara took peach cobbler to each station (during a horrible rain storm). They got wet but not the cobbler, which was just in time as they were having their dinner.



On a State level, Ms. Elaine Howell and Judy Dorn, attended an honor night for the elected Associate Grand Conductress, Sandy Leduc. Each dressed for the Rock the Night Away with the Golden Oldies theme.



Members of several chapters gather calling themselves “Forever Friends” for fun things and a lunch at chosen restaurants. A birthday celebration for Claudine Rogers was the highlight of this lunch at Ricks on the River. Some were privileged to attend the Cornerstone Ceremony at the Egypt Shrine Temple. Very touching to see and hear the Grand Lodge Officers presentation.



Please keep our members who are ill in your prayers. Covid is rampant again and touching the lives of many in our Fraternal Organizations. One to mention, Sister Elizabeth McAbee, Covid.

We cherish our family ties and appreciate all the Lodge does to support our Chapter. Have a safe and restful summer.

Praying you're blessed...

Fraternally,

Elizabeth C McAbee  
Worthy Matron  
813/494-6210

# York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

What does DUST RETURN TO EARTH refer to?

Has reference to man, when he travels to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns. Ec. 12: 7

“Be ever so humble, there’s no place like home.” John Howard Payne

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Doors of Masonic knowledge is one of the lamentable weaknesses of Masonry.

The newly initiated candidate is left to shift for himself, and not instructed there is more to Masonry than just a few grips, signs, and passwords. He has received the key, the degrees, and it is necessary, if he desires to leave the rut of ritualistic routine and inform himself on the nature and character of the institution, that he enter the recesses of its caverns with Masonic pick and shovel, in search of the jewels hidden there, and invest himself with the rich fruits of Masonic knowledge as the days of his life Mt 13: 1-17

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What does this veiled allegory signify? DOORS SHALL BE SHUT IN THE STREETS WHEN THE SOUND OF THE GRINDING IS LOW.

In the beautiful and affecting description of the body of man suffering under the infirmities of old age recorded in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ecclesiastes we find this expression. It refers to the loss of teeth, and trying to chew food. Ex 12: 4

“Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.” Theodore Isaac Rubin

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HEAL is one of the prerogative rights of a Grand Master.

Any person made a Mason irregularly and desiring to correct the mistake will have to be “healed” by the Grand Master of his jurisdiction before he will be permitted to petition a regular Lodge for initiation . Isa 6: 10

“The hardest years in life are those between ten and seventy. Helen Hayes (at seventy three)

---

What was symbolized by the tribe of Issachar?

The ninth son of Jacob, and the sixth point of the ancient English lectures, which alluded to the circumambulation about the altar, because, as the tribe of Issachar was a thriftless and indolent tribe, they required a leader to advance them to equal elevation of the other tribes. Gen 49: 14

“He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.” John Tillotson

Zealously,

Most Excellent Companion

James F. (Robby) Robertson KYGCH

Past Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of RAM of Florida

813 416 0152

**Your most humble and obedient servant.**



# What have we been up to?

**6/18: Sisters from Friendship Chapter attending the District 16 OES Homecoming Star Wars themed Dinner**



**6/25: Master Mason Degree at J.F. Swartsel Lodge! Congratulations to our newest MMs, and thank you to the many Brothers from various Lodges that helped us put this Degree on for our worthy Brothers. Unfortunately, we had two members drop out of the Degree due to illness...but fortunately, we travel and befriend fellow Masons from around the District, and were able to fill key chairs (including the East) on 4 days' notice. Thank you all!**





**6/30: Family Night is always fun at JFS! We usually have 4 per year, always on the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Come join us!**





**7/7: J.F. Swartsel Lodge was honored to receive Julian Mackenzie, DDGM of the 19<sup>th</sup> Masonic District into the Lodge for his Official Visit. He was joined by RHDI Adam Feldman, his Committeemen, and several sojourning Brothers including our SGW RW Don Cowart. The RWDDGM commended JFS on their records and activities in the community, and the fellowship continued after the meeting at our local watering hole Panini's.**



**7/9: Members of JFS and their families came together to donate their time and help out at Metropolitan Ministries**





**7/15: Our famous Fish Fry is firing on all cylinders! Thank you to all of our Brothers and their families who come help us put this together, and thank you to the community who consistently and enthusiastically supports us!**







# Masonic Education – Pleyel's Hymn

(Funeral Dirge for MM Degree)

Composed by Bro Ignaz Joseph Pleyel - 1791

Words by Bro David Vinton - 1816

The melody, Pleyel's Hymn, has been used by many lyricists and appears in many hymnals. These include at least one early edition of a Methodist hymnal, as well as in *Hymnbook for Christian Worship* (Judson Press and Bethany Press: 1970), as Hymn 340: "Word of Life, Most Pure, Most Strong" with text by J. P. Bahmeir (1740-1841); and, *Christian Worship: A Hymnal* (Judson Press: 1940) as three hymns: Hymn 267: "Children of the Heavenly Father" with lyrics by John Cennick (1718-1765); Hymn 595, "Praise to God, Immortal Praise" with lyrics by Anna L. Barbauld (1743-1825); and, hymn 640, "Jesus, Hear Our Humble Prayer" with lyrics by John Newton (1725-1807). Pleyel's Hymn was even used as the church recessional in the movie "Mrs. Miniver".

*Though tarnished by the disputes of his day, Bro. David Vinton, as poet and ritualist, has a place of note in 19th-century American Masonic history.*

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"Solemn strikes the funeral chime...." There's a sad irony in the fact that the man who wrote these words, sung in Lodge rooms and at graves by thousands of Freemasons in America, was himself buried without Masonic honors.

Brother David Vinton died in Shakertown, Kentucky, in July, 1833. While on his deathbed at that place, the Freemasons of Lodge No. 73 at Bowling Green, wrote to the Grand Lodge inquiring whether David Vinton was a Mason in good standing. The reply was in the negative. Brother Robert Morris, in writing about the circumstances of Vinton's life in the *Masonic Journal*, Volume 53, 1880, eloquently said, "*And so the sweet poet and Masonic songster of the period died under a cloud, and his tombstone no emblem of the Craft could have.*"

Very little is written about Vinton's life. He was a teacher of the Masonic Ritual (primarily the York Rite) in the Southern States, having the most success in North and South Carolina. He is best known for publishing at Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1816, a volume dedicated to the "*Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*" containing a selection of "Masonic, Sentimental and Humorous Songs, Duets, Glees, Canons, Rounds and Canjonets" under the title of *The Masonic Minstrel*. Bro. Vinton sold 12,000 copies by subscription. It was in this volume that the words of the beautiful dirge used in the Third Degree is found. Known as the "Pleyel's Hymn," the music was composed by Ignaz Joseph Pleyel, a composer who was a student of Bro. Franz Joseph Haydn's, and also a Freemason himself. It is the hymn from Pleyel's "4th Quartet, op. 7," published in 1791. The details that led to Vinton's expulsion from the Grand Lodges of South Carolina, North Carolina, Connecticut, and Virginia have always been a bit sketchy, but the incidents apparently relate to his taking liberties as a teacher and writer of Ritual.

The last three-quarters of the 19th Century could well be called the era of the Masonic Degree peddlers. It was a time when the thought of a uniform Ritual was offensive to many Freemasons. So many diverse systems found their way into the American workings that it was an extraordinary undertaking indeed to standardize the work. Men who had been taught one way were very stubborn toward the idea of relearning the Ritual they already knew. In every Grand Jurisdiction where the travelling ritualists worked, there was a quiet resistance to change in many of the Lodges.

To some extent, Ritual diversity between Grand Jurisdictions was actually promoted by the Grand Lodges themselves. After all, if the Grand Lodge was not able to impose a uniform standard, then the next best thing was to approve Brothers who were well-versed in some form of ritualistic work. A half-century earlier, Thomas Webb and his students created a new method for how men learned the work in Lodges. Masonic lectures were no longer a system whereby men would learn Masonry by discussing the lessons in Lodge and contemplating Masonic emblems around their own individual symbol systems. They learned Masonry as something which was to be memorized.

And these early promoters of a uniform working were known and respected throughout America as legitimate teachers of the work. They were the first of several generations of travelling ritualists. These men were hired to instruct Lodges within a jurisdiction in a certain mode of working for the purpose of standardizing the work within a Grand Lodge.

The problem, of course, was that, after the death of this first generation of "ritualists by rote," men who claimed to know Webb's work would market themselves as travelling lecturers for the purpose of profiting off the Brethren they taught. And, too, individual Lodges would avail themselves of the services of travelling ritualists without the sanction of Grand Lodge. For example, in Indiana,



the minutes of Webb Lodge No. 24, Richmond, state that the Lodge engaged one Brother Michael McLaughlin of Ohio to deliver a course of lectures covering a period of ten days, at \$5 per day.

By the 1840s, when Grand Lodges were unable to agree on a system of instruction and did not have the finances to pay the salary of a Grand Lecturer, there were numerous instances in which Lodges arranged for their own schools of instruction. Minutes of Lodge after Lodge indicate repeated “*contracts*” with men who had been hired to deliver a course of lectures for a fee, plus expenses. The going rate was generally \$20-25 a week, along with a vote of thanks from the Lodge.

But on rare occasion, the Lodges would turn against their own travelling degree peddlers. One such unfortunate fellow was David Vinton. In 1821, Vinton was summoned by the Grand Chapter of Virginia to be examined on charges preferred against him by Franklin Lodge No. 4 of Royal Arch Masons, to which Vinton belonged. The charges were for “*highly improper and unmasonic conduct.*” Vinton did not respond to the summons, so he lost his privileges as a Mason in that Grand Chapter and “*throughout the world.*” It was publicly claimed within the Craft that Vinton had made Mark Masters and Past Masters without a dispensation or a warrant.

But the real reason for the charge was that Vinton was caught furnishing cipher notes of the lectures. Vinton felt that competing lecturers, among them such noted names as Jeremy Cross, were simply trying to discredit his work. The incident caused some heated debate in the South.

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina followed with a public condemnation of Vinton in the Raleigh newspapers. This action upset the Grand Lodge of Georgia which declared that every Masonic Brother ought to have his good name protected until such time as he is formally accused by a regular Lodge, notified of the charges against him, and then given an opportunity to answer and stand before his accusers. In Vinton’s defense, the Freemasons of Georgia issued a manifesto dated May 16, 1821, in which they claimed Vinton had “*shown them documents which proved his moral character as a private citizen and a Mason.*”

Apparently, his fame as a learned Mason made the matter of his offense debatable among the Grand Lodges where he had worked. He was certainly popular in Georgia where the Grand Lodge stated, “*We hailed with pleasure his arrival among us, and because, by his means, we could improve ourselves in the noble and ancient art of Masonry. We have not been disappointed. His instructions have been sensibly felt. His deportment has been that of the gentleman and the Mason; and, if we are allowed to form an opinion, we will say, that the man who has thus behaved while here cannot be charged with unmasonic conduct.*”

The Brethren of Georgia strongly disagreed with Virginia and North Carolina that Vinton had committed a Masonic offense. According to their assessment, Vinton was simply more liberal than most as to the method of his communicating the lectures to the officers of Lodges and Chapters. According to Georgia, he did not “*infringe on the principles of Masonry in the least.*” In fact, they revealed that Vinton’s lecture ciphers had been approved by “*upwards of 200 lodges and chapters in the United States, and by some of the brightest luminaries in the galaxy of Masonry.*”

It turns out that Vinton’s notes were far less extensive than is normally found in monitors of the present day. In fact, according to Thomas Hayward, Grand Master of Florida in 1858, who personally reviewed Vinton’s lectures, his printed work would not even raise an eyebrow compared with what Pike or Mackey had published by the 1860s.

Thus, the real reason for Vinton’s demise was that of conferring the Chapter Degrees without authority. For this, he should have been disciplined by the Grand Chapters under which he worked. But it is hard to conclude that he actually committed any offense against the laws of Masonry. Since Webb, Cross, Dove, Barker, and others made a living by peddling degrees of the York Rite before Vinton’s time, it can be argued that he was simply following the precedent set by others before him, men who may have been trying to control their own market as lecturers. Although wrong in his own actions, there were no grounds for Grand Lodges to denounce him as they did. Still less, to expel him from Masonry.

Nevertheless, he was hunted down, and his last hours spent without the honor or privilege of Masonic charity. He died a broken man, a “stranger in a strange land.”

The kind Brethren of Kentucky, who declared themselves “*willing to give him funeral honors if his character were cleared up,*” could find no official declaration of forgiveness in his name. They could do nothing for him or his memory.

David Vinton lives on today only because his lyric contribution to the Masonic Ritual is almost universally employed in the workings of the Third Degree in this country. To tens of thousands of Masons, David Vinton will forever be a star in the annals of Freemasonry. His simple, poetic dirge has earned him the respect of every Brother who has marched the march of Solomon or prayed the soliloquy over a fallen Brother. Perhaps it can truthfully be said that David Vinton, of all men, indeed journeyed “*here below, through a pilgrimage of woe.*”

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