



# TRESTLEBOARD

May 2011

MILWAUKIE LODGE #109 AF&AM OF OREGON | MILWAUKIELODGE.ORG

## *Masters thoughts*



visit our site for  
up-to-the-minute  
calendar updates!

*I would like to start of with an apology to everyone for missing the trestleboard last month. My month got away from me and I kept thinking I have time until all of a sudden I did not have any more time. So you would think I would be all proactive and have the one for April/May all done. Well here I am on Saturday night typing out my portion send out emails asking my officers and brethren if they have any thing they would like to include in it, Once before this year is over I am gonna have the trestle board out to every one by the start of the month. So to go along with the first apology comes the second. My printer is broke and I am short on time so this is being sent out as is my lovely and amazing wife who normally proofs the whole thing for me will not get a chance to work her magic on my horrible spelling punctuation and grammer.*

*As we come into summer we have a lot going on. However this last month was the first time where we had a nice break. We went 3 weeks with out a degree. We did however hold an officers meeting which gave us a chance to discuss some things and do some brain storming. Well it actually started out as light drizzle but it picked up speed quickly from there. We talked about lodge finance, upcoming events set a date for Lodge of remembrance / Past Masters dinner and fund raising . If any one has any ideas for fund raisers they would be greatly appreciated.*

*We will be having our first Family Movie Night. It will be Friday June 24th. This is family and friends but unfortunately not open to the general public. We will be using big screen and showing a family friendly film. Suggestions accepted and appreciated other wise it will be all up to me and if any of you have looked at my Facebook page you will know I am a rather large Star Wars fan. so unless you are into guys with white armor and blasters send me your ideas. This is a donation event as we would like to run to Little Caesars and grab some pizza, wings and soda. So feel free to bring the kid with blankets jammies chairs ect. and kick back for a fun night with friends and family.*



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*We have Grand Lodge coming up the first Wednesday Thursday and Friday in June. This is definitely a more the merrier type trip. Some guys are thinking of bunking up together. I have been kicking around the idea of taking my travel trailer over and camping for it. This will be a really good time no matter what option you take. Fadi has volunteered to run our table and will be selling shirts and cigars again. Br. Gene is working on a T-shirt design and says he can have it complete and shirts printed before Grand Lodge. So hopefully we can make a little money while we are down there.*

*To end my column I would like to ask for every ones help. In an effort to save a little money we would like to convert the Trestleboard over to a mostly email/digital format. We still send out quite a few paper Trestleboards. This costs stamps copying not mention time. We send the Trestleboard out via email every month and also post it on the lodge web site. If you do receive a paper copy now and can and would be willing to switch over to an E-Trestleboard please email me ([rice99\\_97068@yahoo.com](mailto:rice99_97068@yahoo.com)) and I will get you on the electronic mail list and off the snail mail list. Not to mention you will be able to get it a few days sooner.*

## *Continuing the Craft*

*These last couple of months we had some great work. At our stated meeting we passed out multiple 50 and 60 year pins. It was an honor to stand next to our District Deputy and Worshipful Deputy Grand Master as we present the men with their jewels. We even had the opportunity of having former Gov. Vic Atiyeh receive a 60 year jewel along with our very own Bud Burdick. On the same night we also got to hear a proficiency for Jay Wilt accompanied by his Coach Rod Lippert. We also heard from Rob Harms and his coach Bob Montief (sorry if I spelled that wrong Bob) . Both gave amazing proficiency.*

## *The Digital Freemason*

*This month's Digital Freemason selection is tdf115 - Non-Secrets of Freemasonry - Master Mason's Degree. Take a few minutes and give it a read. Better yet log into iTunes and subscribe to it. They are short and only take a few minutes to listen to. These are great very informative and will really make you think.*

[http://www.thedigitalfreemason.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=164&Itemid=30](http://www.thedigitalfreemason.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=164&Itemid=30)



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## *Jr Wardens Menu*



### *May Menu:*

*Buster's Barbecue: e Beef Ribs, Baby Back Ribs, Link Sausage hot and mild. BBQ Beans and Potato Salad and Garden Salad.*

### *Carl's Corner:*

*You have to hand it to our Jr Warden. When it comes to finding interesting stories or pictures pertaining to masonry he is the guy to find it for you.*

written by Michael Halleran, M.M.  
From the Scottish Rite Journal

Lying nearly forgotten in the archives at Wichita State University in Kansas are the personal papers of Adm. John Grimes Walker who began his naval career in the Civil War. He was born in New Hampshire and relocated as a young man to Iowa—his uncle was governor of the

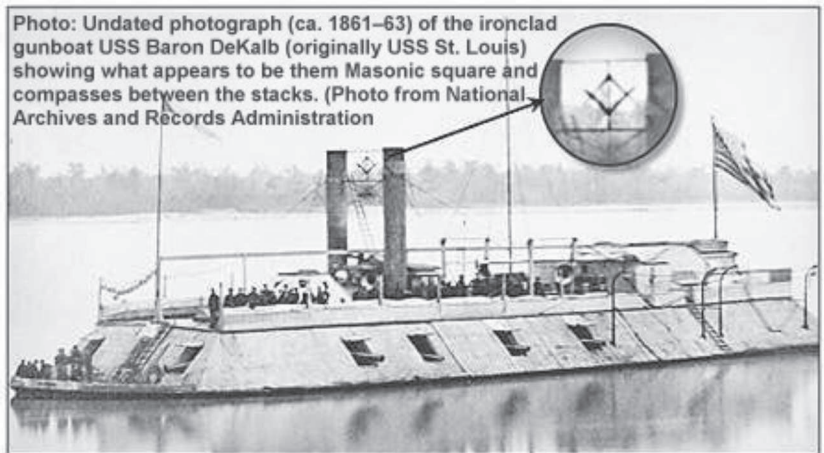


Photo: Undated photograph (ca. 1861–63) of the ironclad gunboat USS Baron DeKalb (originally USS St. Louis) showing what appears to be them Masonic square and compasses between the stacks. (Photo from National Archives and Records Administration)

*state—before attending the Naval Academy on the eve of war. Wichita State purchased his personal papers in the 1970s, and the collection comprises the correspondence and personal stamp collection of the admiral, who was an avid philatelist and by all appearances a faithful correspondent. Walker was also at the center of a mystery. During the war, he was the fifth—and last—captain of the USS Baron DeKalb, known as the “Masonic Ironclad.” At a recent Masonic speaking engagement, I came upon a photo of a Civil War ironclad, part of the Union’s “brown-water navy,” which bore what appeared to be a Masonic emblem between her stacks. I was not aware of any other ship—or tank, aircraft, or other implement of war—so decorated, and I decided to investigate.*

*The USS Baron DeKalb was named in honor of Baron Johann DeKalb, a German officer who served as a major general in Washington’s army during the American Revolutionary War. DeKalb is claimed to be a Mason and usually believed to be a member of Pennsylvania Lodge No. 29 attached to the Maryland Line.1*



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## *Carls Corner* Cont.

*The ship was laid down in 1861 and was originally named the USS St. Louis. Upon the discovery that another ship had already been named St. Louis, she was re-christened USS Baron DeKalb in September 1862. DeKalb was the first “City” class gunboat, a class of ironclads that are sometimes referred to as “Pook turtles” after their designer, Samuel M. Pook. Six other city class gunboats were built in addition to the DeKalb, and these 500-ton workhorses were the backbone of the Federal river fleet. Armed with two 8-inch smooth bore cannon, four 42-pounder rifles, and seven 32-pounder smooth bores, DeKalb was a formidable foe, but a slow one. Sporting armor plate in excess of 100 tons, her top speed was a stately nine miles an hour.*

*DeKalb saw action on the Tennessee, Cumberland, Yazoo, and Mississippi rivers during her tour of duty before she was finally sunk by a rebel mine below Yazoo City on July 13, 1863. Her sister ship, Cairo, also sunk by a Confederate mine (the first ship to suffer such a fate), was raised in 1964 and is now on display at Vicksburg National Military Park.*

*Although much is known about the DeKalb, the history of the ship betrays no clue as to why an ostensibly Masonic device appeared so prominently on her superstructure. The ship’s log, a transcription of which resides at the Louisiana State University library in Baton Rouge, makes no mention of Freemasonry at all, and no anecdotal evidence exists that explains a Masonic connection. Deductive reasoning, however, led me to investigate her captain, who must surely have approved any such device on his ship.*

*DeKalb actually had five captains during her brief, twenty-month career.<sup>2</sup> Her first four captains were Lt. Leonard Paulding (January–April 1862), Lt. Henry Erben (April–June 1862), Lt. Wilson McGunneagle (June–July 1862), and Capt. John Ancrum Winslow (July– October 1862). Captain (later Admiral) Winslow, who went on to command the USS Kearsarge during her famous fight with the CSS Alabama, contracted malaria on the river and was granted a furlough to return home to recuperate on November 1, 1862.<sup>3</sup> The Masonic affiliations of these four men are not known. Her fifth and final captain was Lt. Commander (later Admiral) John Grimes Walker (October 1862–August 1863). My preliminary research found no grand lodge records in Iowa, Maryland, or the District of Columbia that proved Walker was a Freemason. I came to Wichita in the vain hope that his correspondence would include something—anything—of Masonic significance. After several hours sorting through stamps, postcards, old letters, and financial records, I had*



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## *Carls Corner* Cont.

*very little to show for myself. In the ninth box, however, I came upon a folder bearing the notation "Code book." Inside the folder was a small notebook about the size of a pack of playing cards, bound in blue leatherette. It was dated July 15, 1859, and Grimes had written his name on the inside cover. "That is an old code book," the reference assistant told me, "probably a military code."*

*I looked through it for a moment and then contradicted her: "It's not a military code," I said, "It is a Masonic cipher." And to prove it, I read off a few of the more innocent sentences which had the effect of a clever parlor trick. The cipher alone does not answer why the USS Baron DeKalb bore the square and compasses, but it does shed light on how it could have occurred. The book proves her captain was a member of the Craft before he took command. However, some questions do remain.*

- Is that truly a square and compasses between her stacks?*
- When was the photograph taken?*
- Do any contemporary accounts describe the emblem?*
- Was the emblem to honor Bro. DeKalb, to identify the captain as a Mason, or to do something else?*
- Are there other, yet undiscovered, vessels decorated with Masonic emblems?*

*Owing to the dearth of first-person accounts of the Brown Water Navy, it is possible that the mystery of the "Masonic Ironclad" will never be fully explained.*

## *Demolay*

*we were down at Conclave all weekend and just got back. In April, the Chapter held an informal meeting/fun event at Ultra-Zone Lazer Tag and attended the annual Conclave from April 28th to May 1st, where we visited the Evergreen Aviation Museum, played sports, and installed the State Master Councilor for 2011-2012. In May we'll go bowling on Thursday the 12th and have our formal meeting at the Lodge on Thursday the 26th. If you know a boy between the ages of 9 and 20 would might be interested in joining DeMolay or being a Squire, please contact Douglas Chipman at 541-948-4783 or douglaschipman@aol.com.*



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## *The Road to becoming Master Mason*

*This last January was two years since I started my journey in Masonry. I started out by wanting to be a Mason to carry on the family tradition. I have found that without me knowing it at the time that I also wanted to be a part of something positive and build lasting friendships.*

*I come from a line of Masons in my family. While most of my life I thought it was only on my Mom's side of the family that there were Masons, however I have recently found that my Dad's side did as well. Growing up I always saw my Gramps "go to lodge" on Tuesday's. I never knew why he did or what he did, I just knew he went. I also knew that his Dad and Uncle were both Mason's. As I got older I started to see how being a Mason affected his life. I think the first real in my face experience I had of the love for Masonic brothers was when my Great-grand daddy passed away and there were at least twenty brothers from several lodges that showed up. I saw in their eyes the true love they had and the sadness in losing a brother. This left an impression on my heart and mind. My Grandparents had two girls and a son. My Uncle never showed interest in becoming a Mason. I have an older cousin who also has not shown any interest. I think my Gramps felt that the Masonic line was going to end with him. I have to say that I never heard anyone smile through a phone until I told him that I was going to petition the lodge. To have him help me out and then to be able to be there when I was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason was a great thrill for both of us. I now have my brother coming up through the degrees and gramps is equally as excited. The feeling of being able to give back this small but meaningful gift is a great honor. My Gramps is very active in his lodge and many other auxiliaries. I have been able to see the friendships that he and my Grandmother have formed through Masonry. I can not name any of their close friends that are not Mason's. They travel together, have each other over for dinner, and celebrate life together. I very much want that for myself and my family. I have found that here at Milwaukie Lodge. From the time that I stepped foot into the lodge I have been welcomed with open arms and treated like I have been a member for years. Masonry has brought me a sense of belonging and has helped my family by making me a better man and making my daughter a better young lady through Job's Daughters. The Masonic family is a true family. For this I am truly grateful.*

*Fraternally Yours,*

*Bro. David Anderson*



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## *York Rite*

*Clackamas Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons*

*Multnomah Council No. 13, Cryptic Masons*

*Meet at 7:30 pm on 1st Thursday of every month except July and August.*

*Meetings preceded by a no-host dinner at Chan's at 6:00 pm*

*We would like to welcome Scott Heacock and Neil Clevenger. They received their York Rite Degrees at the Spring York Rite Festival in March.*

*Welcome Companions!*

*Contact Information:*

*Scott Cameron, High Priest & Illustrious Master*

*503-692-3368*

*scott@cameronsinstallations.com*

*Dick Harris, Sec.*

*503-201-7977*

*harrisazor@yahoo.com*

## *Daphney Chapter*

*I would like to remind everyone about Daphne chapters No-Junk Sale. So to everyone come and see what treasures they can find. May 22, 2011 - Sunday.*

*Thank you Wanda, WM*



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## May Calander

- 5/6 *First Friday*
- 5/9 *Bethal #10 Regular Meeting 7:00*
- 5/10 *Stated Dinner 6:30 meeting @ 7:30*
- 5/19 *Demolay @ 6:00*
- 5/20 - 5/22 *Daphne Garage Sale*
- 5/23 *Bethal #10 Regular Meetin @ 7:00*



*Roger JD says while at home practice your Due Guard! and wear a tiny top hat for effect.*



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Milwaukie Masonic Lodge  
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[MilwaukieLodge.org](http://MilwaukieLodge.org)

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