

Vision Statement

To be an organization that attracts & retains Past Masters throughout the Hamilton Districts by providing the opportunity to enhance personal development through knowledge and fraternal friendships by providing opportunities for informational exchange and social interaction.

Mission Statement

Our Association will communicate more effectively to the Past Masters of the Hamilton Districts what we can do to support their development through education and friendship.

Core Values

Fraternal
Friendship
Knowledge
Support
Harmony

P M eh!

Contributions / comments?
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P M eh!

Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

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THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION
OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



A Message From The President

Greetings, Brethren: As the autumn leaves are now in full colour and the evenings are much cooler, we are reminded of those things we are most thankful for, family, friends, good health and our freedom. November 11th is just around the corner. Let us never forget our veterans.



President
Joe Barker

The PMA celebrated our return to in person meetings in September by welcoming our first guest speaker V.W. Bro. Ian M. Donald - Grand Librarian. Many thanks to V.W. Bro. Donald for a fascinating walk through the library archives and for bringing so many exhibits for the members in attendance to peruse. In October the PMA was pleased to host a Town Hall meeting with the Grand Master M.W. Bro. Hogeboom. It was indeed an honour to have the Grand Master in attendance, to hear him address the members and answer questions from the brethren. My apologise to those members who joined us virtually and experienced technical difficulties with the sound. I can assure you we are working on the problem and are attempting to resolve the issue.

Brethren if you are aware of a member who is ill or in distress please take the time to contact myself, the secretary or W. Bro. Gary Magwood so we may take the appropriate action.

As this is the last message before the Christmas season sets upon us, on behalf of myself and all the Directors of the PMA we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay safe and look out for one another.



The Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

cordially invites you to our Regular Meeting

on Saturday November 19, 2022.

Our guest speaker is **Mr. Tim Hackborn**, is from the **Mohawk Nation - Bear clan**, and Indigenous Office of Vocation Minister at the **United Church of Canada**.

His topic is "Why Do Reconciliation."

Participate either in person at the Ancient & Accepted **Scottish Rite** of Freemasonry at 4 Queen Street South in Hamilton starting with:

Meet & Greet: 8:30 am

Breakfast: 9:00 am

Meeting: 10:00 am

Cost for breakfast is \$20.00.

Please register in advance for the in-person Breakfast / Meeting using this link:

[Event Registration in person for Breakfast](#)

Or join us by Zoom video conference for the meeting portion at 10:00 am

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting at:

[Zoom Meeting Registration](#)

Once registered for the Zoom video conference, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

Any questions please contact our Secretary, Tom Peddle at thomaspeddle@gmail.com or (905) 741- 0357.



Trestle Board (banner portion) of Hay Market Lodge # 313, GL Virginia

The Trestle Board

One of speculative Freemasonry's oldest symbols is the Masonic Trestle Board. Often confused with its similar counterpart, the Tracing Board. The Trestle Board has its connection from the days of the operative stonemasons, where the plans for construction were laid out for the craftsmen to follow.

Whether, the plans were laid out in the dirt, on paper, or an area of plaster of paris is difficult to say. Perhaps all three as the timeline or need might have been?

The above refers to its origin, what remnants are still present today? In the lodge room, it is found in the East near the Rough and Perfect Ashlars. It is one of the Immovable Jewels (in pre-1813 ritual they are called the Moveable Jewels) "... the Trestle Board is for the Master to lay lines and draw designs on". As we all know this does not occur, but where does the Master lay out his plans for the future meetings? Scottish Masons call it 'the Notice Paper' while English lodges name it 'the Summons' but the proper name is 'the Trestle Board', as the Master would "draw designs" for the coming lodge work etc. Today, you'll find that many lodges around the world call their member newsletter or bulletin the Trestle Board.

Tracing Boards

Let's start with Ontario. Tracing Boards lie open in the lodge room. The E.A. Tracing board is on the wall behind the Junior Warden. The F.C. Tracing board is on the wall directly behind the Senior Warden. In both cases, it is most fitting as they are the ones to do the T.B. lecture in the first two degrees. In my Mother lodge, if we had a lean year (no candidates) we would not allow the Jr. Warden to move ahead until we heard him give the E.A. T.B. lecture.

This is very different from the United GL of Eng. who state in their ritual book, 'the T.B. lecture in the E.A. degree has fallen into disuse'. In my opinion, this is a great loss, as that lecture explains the layout of the lodge room and all of the objects found therein.

The Origin of Masonic Tracing Boards

Once Speculative Masonry was established, a Lodge generally met at some well-known Inn or Tavern. The furnishings of such a place were very bare and plain. There was no electric light or gas. Only candles provided the necessary light. Down the middle of the Lodge room tables were set on trestles. On these tables were set out the bowls of steaming punch, bottles of wine, rum, brandy, sugar, lemons, glasses, and also screws of tobacco for the smokers. It must be remembered that smoking and drinking were allowed in the Lodge room during the ceremonies in those days. Toasts were drunk and songs are sung between different portions of the ceremonies, the Brethren sitting at the tables, and the candidate passing round behind them.

At least from 1724 to 1782 the drawings needed to carry out a degree were laid down by the Tyler. This duty was called 'Framing and Forming the Lodge'.

On an area in front of the Master, it was the Tyler's duty to draw, with chalk and charcoal, various Masonic Emblems. The chief items were the two Columns, Seven Steps, Tessellated Pavement, a Flaming Star with the Letter "G," the Square, Plumb Rule, and Level. These were all carefully drawn in black and white, the floor being previously whitened, in that area, to form a suitable background.

The Tyler would be paid a fee for drawing the Lodge, as well as his normal fee for performing the usual duties of Tying.

So that the drawings on the floor would not be disturbed the Brethren would square the lodge, a practice we still carry out today. At the end of the night's proceedings the candidate was given, a broom, a mop, and a pail of water. With this, he washed away all of the designs and symbols. This was done as a lesson in labour and humility, and of course to remove all secrets.

As time went on, Lodge rooms were made more comfortable and the bare floors were covered with carpets on which it would be impossible to draw with chalk or charcoal.

By 1733 a floor sheet was used. When the lodge was closed, the sheet was rolled up and stored away. With time the floor sheets cracked and faded. Around 1760 the old floor symbols appeared on the wall and were the forerunners of the suspended tracing boards. In some lodges, the Tracing Board is rested on a trestle, but in my opinion, this does not make it a Trestle Board but only a Tracing Board on a trestle.

By the early 1800s Freemasonry, had become prosperous

and Lodge's soon acquired their own buildings. The interior of the lodge rooms became more elegant with well crafted furniture, a permanent altar, and the tessellated Mosaic Pavement with the Star in its centre. At this time attempts were made to standardize the "wallboards". These wallboards are what we now call the Tracing Boards.

In 1846, the Emulation Lodge of Improvement called for new Tracing Board designs and those sent in by John Harris were accepted. However, their design/use was not made mandatory.

John Harris' Tracing Boards



Masonic racing boards used for teaching the different degrees. (Provincial G. L. of Middlesex)



In the UGL of England's bid to be totally nonsectarian, it appears that they didn't see the cross at the bottom of Jacob's Ladder? That can be easily corrected, just paste an 'F'(aith) over the cross. I have seen T.B.'s where three women are spaced out on Jacob's Ladder. Their names are Faith, Hope, and Charity.



U.S. Tracing Board

Since all three degrees are displayed, do they cover up what cannot be seen by the candidate? When visiting and seeing degrees in Florida, I never saw a Tracing Board. When I asked about it, they informed me that they never use it. **Conclusion:** Placing a Tracing Board on a trestle, does not make it a Trestle Board.

Sources:

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction—Scottish Rite
Masonic Bulletin—GL of B.C. & Yukon— 1950
It has been edited with comments by
V.W. Bro. Barry D Thom, St. Clair Lodge No. 577
GL of Canada in the Province of Ontario

PMA Town Hall with the G M



**The Grand Master
M.W. Bro. Thomas W. Hogeboom**

The Grand Master spoke to the assembled members of the Hamilton Districts' Past-Masters' Association who were in attendance, as well as to members who were watching and listening to the proceedings on ZOOM.



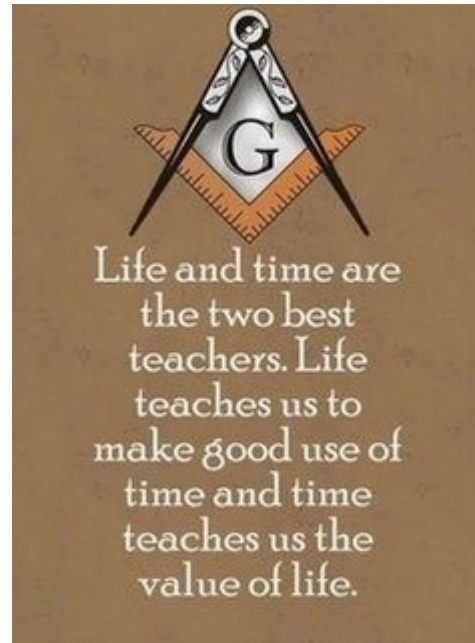
Grand Master enjoyed breakfast with District C DDGM , R.W. Bro. Bill Paul (at rear table) and other PMA members. At front table, DDGM R. W. Bro. Jamie Ireland facing the camera, R. W. Bro. Zavar Byramjee opposite.



Members enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the G M and to hear him speak and to answer their questions.

Many thanks to Joe Barker and Jon Stewart for the photos.

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How Many Past Masters Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?



From the Editor.....

A tip of the Editorial Hat to Joe Barker for his presidential message, the article on The Tracing Board and The Trestle Board and the Images above.



“ Life is what happens to you, when you are busy making other plans!”- John Lennon