

White River Lodge #62
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White River Lodge #62

Trestleboard

June and July 2023



FROM THE EAST

Hello my brothers. For those of you who know me, you know that I am the most unsavvy, tech-tard, dumb-dumb there is. So, it might be a surprise to you, that I found this AI written poem to be so fascinating, and scary at the same time. The question was asked of “Chat GPT” to compose a poem about the benefits of living a life by the values in Freemasonry, and here is what it came up with.

To be of service to our fellow man,
To build a world that is brighter and less stern,
Freemasonry offers a way to live a moral life,
To be a light in the darkness, a beacon of hope
To be of service to others, to be kind, and to help,
To build a better world for me, and for you, as we cope.

So let us embrace the values of Freemasonry
And live a life of purpose, integrity and charity,
A path of self improvement, fraternity, and generosity
A journey of enlightenment, kindness, and humility.
A life informed by the values of Freemasonry
Is one filled with purpose, direction and charity
A path of self improvement, integrity and fraternity,
A journey of enlightenment, kindness, and generosity.
In Freemasonry, we learn to be true to ourselves,
To strive for excellence, in all that we do
To be of service to others, to be kind and to help
To build a better world for me and for you.

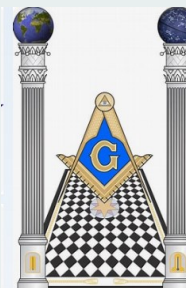
Through the practice of its teachings and symbolism,
We learn to be better men, to grow, and to learn.
(source: public domain)

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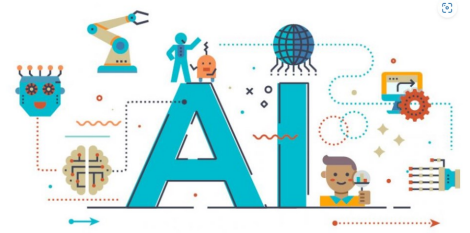
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FROM THE EAST— CONTINUED

I think the results demonstrate that the totality of data about Freemasonry is mostly positive. But I think we all knew that in our hearts, yet it is great to get confirmation. On the other hand, what if the question was more of a conspiracy based one, or a question posed in the “Secrets of Freemasonry”. How different those answers would be, and how transparent the secrets of our fraternity may become. I am just glad that our ritual does not allow robots in our fraternity, although the use of the word “we” in the above poem is a bit odd for a robot-generated poem. Is he a Freemason? But who knows? One day, there may be “AI Robot Lodge #1”, and man, will their degree work be spot on.



Fraternally,
Michael Gibbs,
Worshipful Master White River Lodge #62

FROM THE WEST

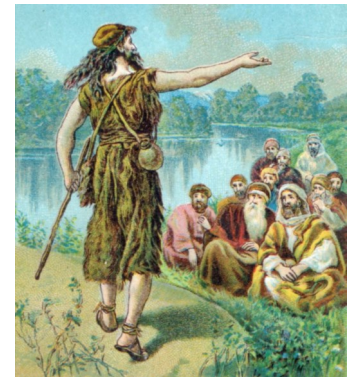
Greetings from the West. The Senior Warden exists to assist the Worshipful Master, and he has tasked me to have a super Labor Day Bar-B-Q in September. The up and coming Bar-B-Q will be big and profitable like in the days before Covid. It again will be held in the pavilion and our guests can dine outside with us or do a take-away meal. We want to return to it being a real community event, great beef and pork and much camaraderie among all Master Masons in our Lodge. We want to make sure all the guests get their money's worth and are very glad they came to our Labor Day Sunday event. The Lodge is only

asking of us one weekend a year of our labors - or only one day if that is all you can manage. We have a tradition of putting on a very fine deep pit meal. I want to thank all of you for your past Bar-B-Q labors, and at the next stated meeting you will be hearing more.

Fraternally,
Danny Keelin
Senior Warden
Worshipful Master White River Lodge #62

FROM THE SOUTH

“To circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds toward our all mankind.” Of course I found part of this thought provoking and what we are taught as Master Masons to follow. And it hit me “Holy Saints John!” The summer solstice starts on June 21st and our celebration of St. John the Baptist is on the 24th! Where Masons around the world recognize him as the patron saint of Freemasonry. In fact, it is the closest thing we have to a Masonic holiday that are considered “feast days” in most Masonic lodges here and abroad. Due to my interest in history particularly Freemasonry. I decided to look further. The connection goes back centuries and remains shrouded in mystery. It shouldn't be found as strange that there would be a patron saint in Freemasonry. During the Middle Ages in England and Scotland many societies and guilds were dedicated to a particular saint. Now, from a Masonic perspective we can understand we can understand the balanced dualism of John the Baptist on one side and John the Evangelist on the other. But, let me concentrate more on John the Baptist. In the 17th and the 18th century, the “Mason Word” was a very important secret given to the newly made obligated Mason. This was so important that they were referred to as “St. John's Masons.” The connection to the “Holy Saints John” in the Masonic ritual originated with St. John the Evangelist so, we can assume that the reference to the St. John the Baptist as the second patron saint of Freemasonry came later. No records about why they adopted that name by the “ St. John Masons” we're left. But this is a good guess as any.



Fraternally,
Santiago Limon
Junior Warden
White River Lodge #62

CLAYSTONE TABLET EXCAVATED RECENTLY

FRANK EDENS, PM WHITE RIVER LODGE



Claystone tablet excavated from the pilgrim path in Jerusalem recently

In an article published in the Times on Israel on May 17, 2023, a claystone tablet had been recently excavated from the pilgrim's path in Jerusalem. It contained accounting records from an individual. It was an indication that there was widespread literacy in ancient Israel about 2000 years ago.

Words were carved in simple cursive script into a flat claystone slab that had been taken from a nearby ossuary. It included the name Shimon that was a typical name in Israel followed by the Hebrew letter mem which was used to represent a measure or economic value. Other legible lines represented letters or symbols followed by the letter mem. The letter resh was also found on the tablet that stood for 'quarter.' The tablet was used to represent what happened in daily life in the area.

The pilgrim's path had been used by Israelites on their way to the Temple Mount. Also found in the area were tables of commercial weights and an administrator's standard tables. The discovery was made in an area that had been a commerce market.

Claystone is composed mostly of calcite, which is calcium carbonate. It is used as blackboard chalk and when kilned to produce quicklime. It is used in builder's putty, in wood working, and in toothpaste among other uses.

References: [2,000-year-old ledger found in City of David points to widespread 2nd Temple literacy | The Times of Israel, May 17, 2023, retrieved May 25, 2023](#)

[Chalk, Chalk | Properties, Composition, Formation and Uses \(geologyscience.com\) retrieved 5/26/2023](#)

ISRAEL-ARCHAEOLOGY

Nashed Abel Halim, an Arab-Israeli archaeological digger, holds a chalkstone core uncovered at an excavation site dating to the Roman period in the Israeli village of Reina, near the northern city of Nazareth, on August 10, 2017. Archeologists discovered thousands cores of mugs on a rare site where Jews used to produce tableware made of chalk-stone, believed to meet the requirements of purity according to Jewish beliefs. The site is located about three kilometers from the place where Jesus performed the miracle of turning into wine water contained in stone jars during the Cana wedding according to Christian tradition. / AFP PHOTO / MENAHEM KAHANA (Photo credit should read MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP via Getty Images)



SCHEDULE

WHITE RIVER LODGE

Stated Meetings: June 13;



July 11 stated meeting will be Hawaiian Night. Dinner at 6, Meeting at 7.

Saturday June 24 at 10 AM—
Third Degree

Fall BBQ: Burning of pit on September 2, Breakfast on September 3 at 8:00 AM. Serving BBQ from 12:00 until 2:00 PM. We will recognize the 60th anniversary of the Lodge this at this year's BBQ.

MIZPAH CHAPTER OES

Stated Meetings: June 15 and July 20 at 7. PM

June 10: Installation of officers at Noon

June 24 from 4 to 6 PM
Steak Fry

Grand Chapter OES: August 1 through 5

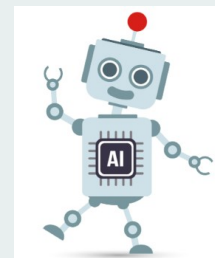
WINSLOW YORK RITE

Royal Arch Degree: June 10 at 10 AM. Will be in costumes. Recommended dress for sideliners is Tuxedo.

(No Stated Meeting in June)

Stated Meeting: July 5 in Show Low, Opening will be in the Commandery

Grand Sessions: August 16-19, 2023 at the Hilton Doubletree in Mesa



DIANA NORTH PLAQUE

On April 3, 2023, representatives of White River Lodge and the Winslow York Rite presented Diana North of the North Star Business Center with a plaque honoring her assistance to us. She has given both the Lodge and Winslow York Rite great service over the years. She professionally prints several copies of our Trestleboard so we may have copies at the Lodge for those who do not receive them by email.

She assists the York Rite by mailing letters to members twice a year to keep members informed.

We very much appreciate being able to work so easily with a local company.

Fraternally,

Frank Edens, Steve Beardsley, Don Anderson, Clay Howard



MYSTERY LOST SILVER MINE IN KENTUCKY

BY PAUL DIAZ, PAST MASTER WHITE RIVER LODGE #62

Much like our own Lost Dutchman mine here in the Superstitions, there is a legend of a lost silver mine in Kentucky, which not only contains large amounts of silver but, also apparently a horde of treasure...think like the movie National Treasure starring Nicolas Cage. To this day that mine/treasure has been left undiscovered, despite some very detailed and accurate directions and maps that are still in existence.

During the Revolutionary War, lead was a sparse commodity in America. Massive amounts of it were needed to support the war effort. That the British would constantly seize armories and weapons/ammunition stores, made it even more important that the colonies have their own source of lead. This is where HE comes in. HIS father-in-law was sent out west to locate, mine, smelt and produce lead bullets in support of George Washington's army. In the process of performing this very important task...he apparently discovered a large, rich silver vein. Over the course of many decades, even well after HIS father-in-law passed away, HE returned to this mine on numerous occasions with large trains of pack animals...both going and coming, well after the war had ended.

For most of HIS life he was a very wealthy man in Virginia. HE owned many properties, including wharfs and large fleets of "merchant" vessels. HE made quite a living selling and trading goods that HIS fleet of merchant vessels brought into Alexandria. For over 40 years HE was a prominent merchant in Alexandria. HE was pals with most of the influential men of HIS time, including a lifelong friendship with our Illustrious Brother George Washington. In fact, HE was the one who threw the first handful of dirt over George's coffin at his funeral.

HE was born to Samuel and Ann in 1764. HIS father Samuel was one of the "Mohawks" who participated in the Boston Tea Party and was a partner with John Adams in his law business. Based on activities before and during the Revolutionary War Samuel was probably the most important and influential individual in organizing and leading the Revolutionary War effort that you have never heard of...Unfortunately, he died from disease while a prisoner in his own house during the siege of Boston.



Masonic Skull and Bones

HE is described as a Gentleman of dignified and elegant manners, tall, of commanding aspect, with blue eyes and a dark complexion. HE first comes to the attention of history books in Alexandria, VA at the age of 20 when an advertisement is run indicating that HE has just returned from London with a general assortment of goods which will soon be put up for sale.

MYSTERY—CONTINUED

After England had destroyed the shipping commerce of the colonies, General Roberdeau purchased a 1/8 share in each of the privateer sloops *Congress and Chance*. And in a letter from John Adams to his wife in May of 1776, John reports “It appears that these vessels were successful in making some valuable captures...” and further claims that a valuable prize was taken by the privateer fitted out by Daniel Roberdeau. On July 25th, 1776 Roberdeau is paid the sum of 6,097 pounds from the treasurer of the privateers *Congress and Chance*.

In February of 1785, HE was passed to the degree of Master Mason, in Alexandria Lodge #22. The Lodge where George was member and Master. HE was a common visitor to Brother George’s household and enjoyed many a dinner invitation there.

HIS wife Ann’s parents were Brigadier-General Daniel Roberdeau and Mary Cunygham who met while living in the British West Indies. Brigadier-General Roberdeau was also another of those very important participants of the Revolutionary War of whom we have never heard of.

A quick explanation of the difference between a pirate and a privateer. A pirate is one who robs or commits illegal violence at sea or on the shores of the sea. While a privateer (and the crew) is an armed ship that is privately owned and manned, commissioned by a government to fight or harass enemy ships.

On the 5th of February, General Roberdeau along with Robert Morris and Benjamin Franklin were elected members of the Continental Congress by the General Assembly of Philadelphia. His time there was short lived; however, because on April 11th of 1778 he was granted leave of absence to go out west to supervise the workings of a lead mine and provide protection against Indian raids. In furtherance of this effort, he erected Fort Roberdeau which was built solely by his own expense.

Sometime between 1786 and 1880, our hero served as Senior Warden of Alexandria #22. And on Sunday, the 26th day of November in 1786, HE and HIS wife joined George Washington at his house for dinner.

On the 15th of April, 1791, HE was present at the Masonic ceremony of laying the first cornerstone of the District of Columbia and on the 18th of September, 1793 HE was present at the Masonic ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone of the United States Capitol.

On August 24th 1824, Alexandria Lodge #22 held a Lodge of Emergency and opened on the 1st degree in order to pay their last Masonic honors to HIM.

During HIS 40 plus of years of living in Alexandria, there were over 48 silversmiths and apprentices who practiced there, but it is still unknown as of today where the silver they smithed came from. HE is known to have purchased and owned over 11 pieces of property all generally located around a particular piece that is upwards of 20,000 acres in Kentucky.

HIS comings and goings between Alexandria, VA and western Kentucky read like a story of fiction, full of intrigue, murder, treason and treasure. And were it not for the fact that they are true we might be inclined to believe that we had read about them in a particular story book already. In fact, many of you have probably read this book. The real-life story of this man compared to the fictional characters portrayed in this book is uncanny and cannot go without giving serious consideration to the weight of the similarities. In fact, it appears that the author purposefully encoded the life of our hero in this book... it is full of allegories and symbolism which lead directly to him. We are still left; however, with why and when we examine these allegories and symbols thru Masonic lenses... maybe, just maybe...we will understand a little better.



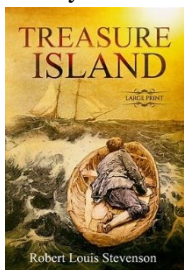
Jolly Roger

MYSTERY—CONTINUED

Any idea yet???

HIS nephew Joseph Gardner was the first cadet to graduate from West Point.

HE may have been named for the Dean of St. Patrick's Society in Dublin, Ireland. This is the same "Dean" who wrote Gulliver's Travels....



HE and HIS wife named one of their sons George Washington Swift....

HE is Jonathon Swift and the book I am referring to is none other than Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Robert Louis Stevenson was a member of the Speculative Society in Scotland, which still exists to this day...and while I have not been able to find anything that specifically states he was a Mason... almost all members of the Speculative Society were.

Source: *The Strange Case of Jonathon Swift and the Rea*

Masonic Birthdays		
Name	MasonDay	Years
Robert Williamson Neely, III	6/24/1986	37
Jason Anthony DiCamillo	6/26/2021	2
R. FRANKLIN EDENS	7/16/1977	46
ROBERT QUACKENBUSH, Jr	7/19/1980	43
MICHAEL ALAN PORTER	7/13/1985	38
STEPHEN VINCENT WEST	7/12/1986	37
GUY MICHAEL WEST	7/19/1986	37
HARRY DAVID QUAYLE	7/16/1987	36
PETER CHARLES FOUNTAIN	7/20/1991	32
RONALD DELOY POWELL	7/18/1992	31
COPP (Beau) Parsons COLLINS III	7/24/1999	24
Robert Russell Stirling	7/31/2004	19
Neal Patrick Smith	7/26/2008	15
Chad Phillip Berlin	7/10/2010	13
Lawrence Robert Pedersen	7/7/2012	11
Kahauanu Lake Kai	7/21/2012	11
Thomas Gustave Cedarblade	7/27/2013	10

MIZPAH CHAPTER OES

It is an exciting time in Mizpah #57, in June we will be installing our new officers for the 2023-2024 term. Our installation will be held on June 10th at 12:00pm. We would like to invite the members of Whiteriver Lodge #62 and their wives to join us to get a peak into the Order of the Eastern Star. There will be light refreshments after the installation.



We are also happy to announce we are able to bring back our annual Steak Fry this year! We have missed the fellowship of seeing everyone while we hold this much-Loved annual fundraiser. This year, the Steak Fry will be held on June 24th from 4-6 pm. Please plan on joining us for a great meal and even better company.

After a long winter, June is one of my favorite months in the White Mountains, the snow has melted, and the long dormant trees and flowers are blooming. The birds have returned and are enjoying the feast set out for them in my back yard. Please take some time and enjoy the wonderful temperatures, smell the roses and visit with a friend or loved one!

Cheri Witt
Worthy Matron Elect
Mizpah Chapter #57

Officers White River Lodge 2023		
Master	Mike Gibbs	928 414 1122
Senior Warden	Danny Keelin	805-266-0424
Junior Warden	Santiago Limon	661 496 6927
Treasurer	Pat Place	928 367 6911
Secretary	Clay Howard	928 242 2994
Senior Deacon	Alberto Cruz	480 528 0770
Junior Deacon	Jason DiCamillo	928 242 4185
Chaplain	Steve Beardsley	619 857 8274
Marshal	Al Warner	928 537 1937
Senior Steward	Gene Stirling	928 242 3128
Junior Steward	Robert Stirling	928 242 4947
Tyler	Don Anderson	928 243 5342

TRESTLEBOARD CHANGES

White River Lodge is changing the frequency of Trestleboard publications to align with recommendations of Grand Lodge committees. Below is a table of due dates and ideas for future publications so you may plan future articles well in advance.

Opinions and subjects that are strictly of your own writing do not need to be referenced. When considering a topic that could be controversial such as relating to history for example, please find at least three references. Study then enough that you can put the subject into your own words. I would prefer that you not just copy articles and paste them: this could be considered plagiarism in many instances. We want an upgraded Trestleboard that readers enjoy and that will stimulate thought. You may include poems, which can be copied, but please give your reference.

The Article Due Date is when articles are due for the respective Trestleboard. I may give you a little leeway.

Frank

Trestleboard Due Dates, Issue Names, and Possible Discussion Ideas

Issue	Due Date	Issue Name and Possible Discussion Ideas
June and July 2023	Sunday, May 28, 2023	Issue: Summer - Discussion: Masonic Education. Mizpah Chapter New Officers' Objectives
August and September 2024	Friday, July 28, 2023	Issue: Outdoor - Discussion: Upcoming BBQ and Decisions made at last Grand Lodge
October and November 2023	Wednesday, September 27, 2023	Issue: Fall - Discussion: Results from Fall BBQ and Thanksgiving
December 2023 and January 2024	Monday, November 27, 2023	Issue: Winter - Discussion: Christmas and New Year, New Officers' Objectives for Lodge
February and March 2024	Sunday, January 28, 2024	Issue: Wellness - Discussion: George Washington
April and May 2024	Thursday, March 28, 2024	Issue: Spring - Discussion: Upcoming Grand Lodge Legislation

The most important Discussion topic is leadership to promote attendance, participation and assist members give potential members informatio.

Format of Trestleboards	Proposed Page	
Index	Page 1	Pages may vary depending upon the length of articles and pages may be added if necessary. Due Dates are a few days before the issue will be published on the first day of a month. Please do not wait until the Article Due Date to start writing articles. Trestleboards are published on the White River Lodge Website under the Trestleboard tab (whiteriverlodge62.org) Links to trestleboards are mailed to those on the White River Lodge Mailing List. If you want to be on the mailing list, please let us know.
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Schedules	Page 3	
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Masonic Education Articles	Pages 5 through 7	
Officer Contact information	Where fits	
Masonic Birthdays	Where fits	

WHITE RIVER LODGE #62

P. O. BOX 336

SHOW LOW, ARIZONA
85902

WEB PRESENCE

Lodge Website: whiteriver-lodge62.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRiver62>

Member Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WhiteRiver-Lodge62Mizpah57>



Never mind the Ritual Book, we'll do it my way!

Mailing Label



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