



TRESTLEBOARD

TABLE ROCK LODGE #680

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July, 2012

FROM THE EAST

Greetings, I hope everyone is staying cool; it looks like 2012 will be a very hot summer. My year as Master of Table Rock Lodge is quickly winding down. I have a few items I want to mention then listed below is the calendar.

First off, it is reported that Worshipful Master Ross Anderson will be having surgery on 6-27-12 at Cox Hospital in Springfield. It was mentioned in Lodge on 6-26-12 he should be out of the hospital in about a day. We wish Worshipful Anderson a speedy recovery.

July 10th will be move up night here at the Lodge; I wish all the newly elected officers the best for the coming year. I also want to point out our third annual "Bug Run" will be held in September, tentatively set for Sunday the 23rd. I want to personally thank everyone who participated in our ice cream social held at the lodge June 10th. It appears we raised approximately \$900.00 after expenses. I want to remind all executive board members there will be a joint board meeting with the Eastern Star on July 12th at 6:00 PM here at the lodge.

On a special note I want to remind everyone that installation of officers will be held here at the lodge on August 23rd.

Master

DATE	TIME	EVENT
7-10-12	7:00 PM	Regular Stated Communication "Move Up Night"
7-12-12	6:00 PM	Executive Board Meeting with Eastern Star
7-17-12	6:00 PM	Practice
7-24-12	7:00 PM	Regular Stated Communication (Meal at 6:00PM)
7-31-12	7:00 PM	Practice

FROM THE WEST

Brethren as July 10th "Step Up Night" approaches it is time to reflect on the past year in preparation for the new officers to be installed August 28th, 2012. We have had terrific officers this year. John Elmore has done an excellent job this year. I know how far he has come and how hard he has worked since I went to the workshop with him in Monett back in the early months of 2011 when we started learning our ritual. John has worked with his demanding job and remained vigilant of his family while devoting his time and efforts to the lodge. Kenny Adkins has really provided us with some great meals despite the tornadoes destroying his house. I also want to thank all of those that have helped me through the year as well as those that have continuously returned to the lodge to lend a helping hand even in some case where there has been very serious illness within the family. And let's not forget to thank those that have help improve our lodge's appearance to the community. Hopefully, we will continue the above dedication that has been shown this year into the next year as we dwell together in peace and harmony. Those that have been elected by the lodge as your new officers and others that are working to carry out our ritual have been working very hard. However, as hard as they work only you can fill the chair in the lodge and only you can express what you want to see in the future for the lodge. To me, ritual alone does not make a Mason but it is the continued dedication, service, and brotherhood, working together and helping others. Hopefully, you will help continue what those that have worked so hard to create for us, by continuing to come to lodge meeting and be part of our brotherhood. Please mark your calendars for **August 28, 2012** for the inauguration. From those that have committed to me so far it will be one for the record book. See you at lodge!

Rob Fuqua, Senior Warden

This came to me from Bartesville Masonic Lodge #264 in Oklahoma and I thought it would make a good point for our Brothers.

"Many years after the civil war had ended, a son of Brother L.J Williams of Downville Lodge #464 New York reported in lodge a story his father had told him of a masonic experience he had during the Civil War. When the war broke out the Entered

Apprentice and the Fellow Craft degrees had been conferred on him in New York. He went out in defense of his country without having been raised to the degree of Master Mason. It was his misfortune to be taken a prisoner of war while at or near Savannah, Georgia. While he lay in the southern prison, he communicated, through letters, with some of his friends in the north. His lodge in New York, through proper officials, got in touch with Zerbbabel Lodge in Savannah, and made the request that the Savannah Lodge, as a favor to the brethren of the north, confer the Master Masons degree on the Fellow Craft Brother L. J. Williams. One night my father was taken from his prison and conducted to the Savannah Lodge room. It was a remarkable occasion. He wore his bedraggled blue uniform, a token of his sympathy with the cause of the north. All of the chairs were occupied by Confederate Officers. He was surrounded by men whom he wore the gray. They were on opposite sides of a struggle to the death, but they were brethren. Then and there he was raised a Master Mason and acclaimed a friend and brother by his enemies. But, the more significant feature of the story was yet to come. For on the same night my father escaped from his prison and joined his companions of the north. I have visited Savannah since then and looked up the record of his raising. In red ink, on the same page that records the fact that the degree was conferred, is the brief annotation: "on this night Brother Williams escaped from prison".

I have talked with my father about the matter a number of times. When asked about his "escape" he always smiles peculiarly. You may put it down as an escape, he told me but it wasn't an escape, for on that night some men came to my prison. They put me in a boat and carried me off some distance, then they deposited me on some neutral soil between the lines. From there I found my way back to my friends. Who my rescuers were, I have never learned. It is their secret and it has never been disclosed; but in my mind I know exactly whom I may attribute the "escape" in question. His name is Hiram.

This story, apparently true, just confirms that "All Master Masons are under the same obligation to you". There are numerous other similar stories told of brotherly love overcoming hostilities and kindness being administered to those who would otherwise be considered our enemies.

Provided by R. W. Charles Pittman

