



# Lodge Bulletin

September 2025



[www.AW22.org](http://www.AW22.org)

# Master's Message

Brethren,

It's hard to believe that September is already upon us, although I certainly welcome a more tolerant thermometer. August kept us busy, beginning with hosting our Ohio brethren from New England Lodge No. 4 to confer a Fellowcraft degree, twice-weekly catechism and ritual schools, a packed agenda at the stated communication and concluding with an Entered Apprentice degree for a new brother. Thank you to everyone who joined and supported these events, with special commendation for our officer line who each stepped up a chair to confer the EA degree with excellence.

Perhaps appropriate for the back to school season, this month has a focus on education. Following his initiation on Thursday, September 4, our youngest Entered Apprentice will leave the northeast corner of the lodge to join his brethren and mentors in the quarries of catechism work. After a great kickoff of the Beehive discussion group last month, our Senior and Junior Deacons will lead the next symposium on Saturday, September 6 following ritual school. Our stated communication will feature an open presentation by a guest author and brother about a courageous group of Masons who, at great personal risk, were the keepers of light in a time and place of immense darkness. Books will be available for purchase following the presentation.

Whether you've had perfect attendance or life has kept you recently absent, September will be a great month to return to lodge, learn something new, mentor and instruct our newer brethren and enjoy the deep fellowship uniquely fostered in Masonry.

I look forward to seeing you at lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Phillip Adam Smartt  
Worshipful Master  
Master@AW22.org





# September 2025

## *September 4*

7:30 PM | Called Communication  
Entered Apprentice Degree  
GWMNM

## *September 6*

12:30 PM | Beehive Discussion Group  
GWMNM

## *September 11*

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner  
7:30 PM | Stated Communication  
GWMNM

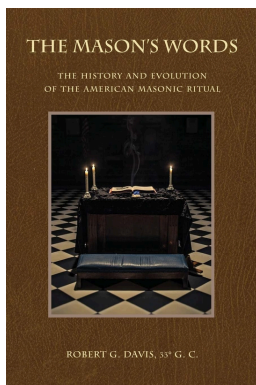
- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night (except on Stated or Called Communication nights) at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule. Please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.

# Ex Libris

## **The Mason's Words: The History and Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual**

**Robert G. Davis, 33° G.C.**

*Review by Bro. Ron Craft*



“Freemasonry is the pursuit of that which is noble in man. It is a quest for intellectual and spiritual knowledge...it articulates the nature of truth.”

- Robert G. Davis

As an Entered Apprentice, learning the catechism was challenging. Looking back, I suspect it was even more challenging (or perhaps irritating!) for my mentor, since I had so many questions. I wanted to understand not only the meaning behind this archaic ritual, but also where it all came from. I’ve since learned that some answers are only revealed after a brother is raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, but even then, many of us are still left wondering. That’s why Robert G. Davis’s The Mason’s Words is such an invaluable tool. The book sheds light on the history, evolution, and deeper purpose of our ritual in a way that satisfies both curiosity and reflection.

Davis takes readers on a historical journey through the development of Masonic ritual, starting in England and Scotland and then to us in modern America. What makes the book stand out is how clearly he shows that ritual wasn’t handed down in a perfect, unchanging form. Instead, it was shaped by Masons in time, making choices that reflected the world they lived in. The merging of the “Ancients” and “Moderns,” for example, is explained in a way that suddenly makes sense of why American ritual looks the way it does today.

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# Ex Libris

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The writing is straightforward and approachable. Davis explains the history, but always ties it back to why it matters to the Mason sitting in lodge today. You take away from his book what and why the ritual changed and what that says about the values of our fraternity.

What I appreciated most is that this book is history that is relevant to us today. Davis clearly respects the ritual as something meaningful and powerful, but he also reminds us that it's a living tradition, and each generation has put its mark on it. That perspective makes the words we use in lodge feel more real and connects us to those brothers who came before us.

Overall, The Mason's Words is both informative and inspiring. It deepens your appreciation for ritual, not as something to memorize and return, but as a carefully crafted language of ideas that binds us together as Masons. It's one of those books that makes you see familiar words in a whole new light.

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# Perspectives of the Craft

## Worth Another Look: Five of Freemasonry's Lesser-Used Symbols

Brother Raymon W. Bacchus

Freemasonry, often described as a journey of moral and spiritual development, contains a rich tapestry of symbols beyond its well-known emblems. Some of these lesser-known yet profoundly impactful symbols convey deep philosophical truths and provide valuable life lessons. Their meanings to me, while in most cases very subtle, inspire introspection and encourage the pursuit of personal growth. This essay explores five such symbols—the Beehive (my personal favorite), the Anchor and Ark, the Broken Column, the Acacia, and the Blazing Star—sharing my interpretation of the light they inspire, their significance and how they can enrich daily life by prompting self-improvement and fostering a deeper connection to humanity and the divine.



**The Beehive** represents industriousness, cooperation, and the harmony of collective effort. In Freemasonry, it serves as a reminder that we should work together for the common good and that

idleness detracts from both personal fulfillment and societal progress. I enjoyed the privilege and honor of serving as Worshipful Master four times in different Lodges. A different version of this symbol was published in every Trestleboard as a reminder to the membership of who we are and the various versions of ourselves that could be employed to both our personal success and the success of our collective. The bees' tireless dedication to their hive symbolizes the importance of contributing to something greater than oneself.

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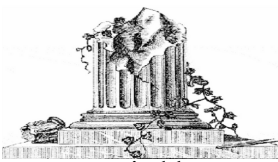
# Perspectives of the Craft

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In daily life, the Beehive inspires us to embrace hard work and teamwork. Whether building a family, advancing a career, or contributing to community projects, the Beehive encourages a spirit of diligence and collaboration. It serves as a striking reminder that meaningful achievements often arise from collective effort and shared purpose.



**The Anchor and Ark** symbolize hope and perseverance through life's turbulent waters. The Ark represents the safety and stability of a virtuous life, while the Anchor signifies hope, keeping one steadfast amidst adversity. Together, they reflect the resilience required to navigate challenges and the faith necessary to overcome them. This symbol is profoundly motivational in times of uncertainty. It reminds us to remain grounded in our principles, trusting that perseverance and hope will guide us to calmer seas. By embodying the Anchor and Ark, we can face life's storms with courage and emerge stronger.



**The Broken Column** is a poignant symbol representing loss, imperfection, and the unfinished nature of life. It depicts a column shattered in the middle, often accompanied by a weeping figure. In Freemasonry, it reminds us of the fragility of life and the inevitability of death, as well as the idea that no human endeavor is ever truly complete.

This symbol serves as a profound reminder in daily life to embrace humility and resilience in the face of life's unpredictability. It inspires us to approach challenges with grace and to find strength

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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in moments of sorrow. The Broken Column also encourages reflection on how to build a legacy that continues to inspire and uplift others, even in the face of imperfection.



**The Acacia**, a plant revered for its durability and resilience, symbolizes immortality and the enduring nature of the human spirit. In our Masonic tradition, it is associated with the concept of rebirth and the idea that virtue transcends physical existence. The Acacia also signifies purity and incorruptibility.

This symbol's lessons extend beyond the esoteric. It inspires us to focus on leaving a lasting legacy through virtuous actions and to find solace in the notion that our positive contributions endure beyond our lifetime. The Acacia encourages reflection on what it means to live a life of purpose and integrity.



**The Blazing Star**, often depicted as a radiant starburst, symbolizes divine guidance and enlightenment. It represents the inner light that leads us toward truth and spiritual awakening. To Freemasons, the Blazing Star also serves as a reminder of the Supreme Being's presence and the eternal quest for wisdom.

In practical terms, the Blazing Star inspires us to seek knowledge and understanding. It encourages the pursuit of one's highest potential and fosters a sense of wonder about the mysteries of existence. This symbol also serves as a beacon of hope, guiding us toward clarity and purpose even in times of confusion or doubt.

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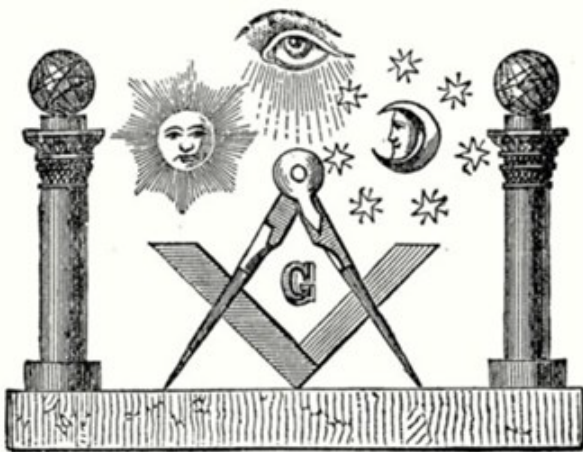


# Perspectives of the Craft

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## **Conclusion**

These lesser-known symbols of Freemasonry, though often overshadowed by more prominent emblems, carry profound meanings that resonate deeply with those who seek to explore them. The industrious Beehive, the steadfast Anchor and Ark, the poignant Broken Column, the enduring Acacia, and the illuminating Blazing Star each offer unique lessons for living a life of virtue, resilience, and purpose. By delving into these symbols and internalizing their teachings, you can uncover new dimensions of self-awareness and inspiration. These emblems challenge us to transcend the mundane and to embrace a journey of personal and spiritual growth. For those who are curious and willing to explore, the profound wisdom embedded in these symbols promises to enrich their lives and illuminate their path forward. Keep on learning. Every day.



# Bill of Fare

September 11

## Appetizer

Salads:

Traditional, Cucumber, Potato

## Entrée

Barbecue Chicken

Beef Brisket

## Side

Creamed Corn

Fiery Mac and Cheese

Baked Beans

Rolls

## Dessert

Bread Pudding

Cookies

*Suggested Donation: \$10*

Please RSVP to [reservations@AW22.org](mailto:reservations@AW22.org)

# Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Charles Samuel Wimberly, September 12, 65 Years

Bro. James Leighton Polley, September 15, 56 Years

Bro. Michael Lawrence Engle, September 13, 43 Years

Bro. Richard John Elman, September 15, 37 Years

Bro. Robert Frank Feldman, Jr., September 11, 36 Years

Bro. Ronald Kenneth Henry, September 12, 31 Years

Bro. Matthew James Downey, September 13, 18 Years

Bro. Michael Lee Stevenson, Jr., September 24, 18 Years

Bro. James Henry Ferguson, September 27, 15 Years

Bro. Jeffrey Worth Corbin Conn, September 27, 13 Years

Wor. John Joseph Grace, September 12, 11 Years

Bro. Nana Gyesie, September 22, 9 Years

Bro. Jonathan Russell Lynch, September 6, 7 Years

Bro. Dimosthenis Vasilios Pashos, September 6, 7 Years

Bro. Bryan William Hudson, September 15, 7 Years

Bro. James Earl Mohny, September 22, 7 Years

Bro. Bradley James Watts, September 11, 4 Years

# 2025 Lodge Officers

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Wor. Phillip Adam Smartt - Worshipful Master

*Mobile: 423-505-7704 Email: Master@AW22.org*

Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Senior Warden

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr. - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. David Gabriel Bella, PM - Secretary

*Phone: 757-656-1838 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22301*

Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton "Jack" Canard, Jr, PDDGM - Secretary Emeritus

Bro. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Senior Deacon

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Junior Deacon

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Chaplain

Bro. Brian Mark Williams - Senior Steward

Bro. Jon Edward Wulfekuehler - Marshal

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

## Board of Trustees

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Wor. James Berkley Stone, PM - 2025

Wor. Jesse T. McMahan, V, PM - 2026

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano - 2028

Bro. Paul Edward Konschak - 2029

## Living Past Masters on the Rolls

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1976 - James B. Stone

1991 - Earl C. Million

1992 - Granville C. Canard, Jr. PDDGM

1995 - George D. Seghers, PDDGM

1996,18 - Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM

1997 - Walter L. Margeson, II

1998 - Philip J. Hays

1999,17 - Michael P. Bible, PDDGM

2000 - Terry L. Gigure

2001 - Brent N. Campbell

2002 - Daniel M. Clark, PDDGM

2003 - James M. Stevenson

2004 - Frank S. Skwirut

2005 - Jesse T. McMahan, V

2006 - Thomas G. Little

2009 - Heber C. Willis, III

2011 - John P. Olson

2012 - Michael L. Bailey

2013 - Joshua D. Adler

2014 - Robert T. Weston

2016 - Stephen J. Pezzetti

2019 - Nikola N. Nikolov

2020 - Daniel E. Froggett

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella

2024 - Nelo A. Hamilton, Jr.