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Mt. Moriah Lodge #292 F. & A. M.  
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April, 2014

Calendar  
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Apr 06	(Thursday)
6:30 PM	Dinner
7:30 PM	Stated Meeting
Apr 10	(Thursday)
	TBA
Apr 13	(Sunday)
10:00 AM	Sweethearts' Brunch
Apr 22	(Tuesday)
6:30 PM	OAM—Los Altos #712
Apr 24	(Thursday)
6:30 PM	Hall Association Meeting
7:30 PM	2nd Degree Practice

Changes Happen!  
Call the Lodge Hotline: (408) 502-NEWS (6397)



Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 292 F. & A. M.

# Trestleboard



Volume 19 Number 4

<http://www.mtmoriah292.org>

April 2014

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- Notify Secretary Wayne Heimsoth of changes in address, email, or phone numbers

Send email to:  
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- Saves postage costs

## In Memoriam Robert D. Rowan, Jr.

1942-2014

Initiated June 18, 1986

Passed June 28, 1988

Raised September 14, 1988

In George E. Tutt Lodge #722

Entered into Rest March 25, 2014

Master, Los Gatos-George E. Tutt #722, 1995-1996

Inspector, 1998-2001

Assistant Grand Lecturer, 2001-2006

Master, Los Altos #712, 2009

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## From the East

Brethren,

We are all saddened by the sudden passing of one of our Past Masters, Wor. Bob Rowan. He was a two-time Master of what is now Mt. Moriah, as well as a former Inspector, Assistant Grand Lecturer for Division I, Senior Grand Deacon, and Grand Lodge committeeman. He was most active in Scottish Rite in recent years, serving as General Secretary for the Valley of San Jose. Our thoughts are with his family at this time. Memorial services will be held at the San Jose Scottish Rite Center on Sunday, April 27th at 1 PM. Please plan on attending to pay tribute to our fallen Brother.

Our annual Sweethearts' Brunch is also fast approaching, on Sunday, April 13th at Mariani's Restaurant. We need some more people to attend! Please make your reservations ASAP to Wayne Heimsoth. Cost is \$40.

Fraternally,  
Jeff Powell, *Master*

Jeff Powell  
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## The Gatling Gun

Brother Richard J. Gatling was a member of Center Lodge No. 23, Indianapolis, Indiana. Brother Gatling was born on September 12, 1818 on the Gatling family plantation located in the small town of Money's Neck, in Hertford County, North Carolina.

By Brother Luis J. Orozco, II, PM, FM  
EL Camino Research Lodge, California Lodge, No. 1, and Los Altos Lodge, No. 712

From a very young age he seemed to develop a special talent for invention and improvement. As a young boy he always looked forward to assisting his father, Jordan Gatling, who was also a gifted inventor, and invented several interesting machines.

While he was still in his teen years he helped his father, invent two very important machines of the day. One was for sowing cotton, and the other was for thinning young cotton plants. The word invention in the Gatling family was indeed an every day word, and as the young boy grew to manhood his father constantly taught him how to think creatively.

Then in 1839, at the age of 21, he invented a steamboat screw propeller. However, another person quickly filed a patent on it before Brother Gatling could do so. Later that same year, he invented and patented a machine for sowing rice, and when he moved to St. Louis in 1844, adapted it to drilling wheat. This invention made him a wealthy man in the later years of his life. In the 1840's, an outbreak of smallpox left him interested in medicine. He attended Ohio Medical College, and graduated in 1850 but after graduating he soon lost interest in medicine and decided to continue his career in the field of inventing.

For the next few years he continued to invent and improve upon his many already existing inventions, and it was not until 1857 that he invented a steam driven plow. Although he patented the plow, it was not well accepted by farmers, and failed to show much of a profit.

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Much later other arms designers developed the Vulcan Gun, a three barreled machine gun that used most of the basic principles of the Gatling Gun. The Vulcan Gun is also still used on helicopters and planes today, and it is well known that it can destroy heavily armored vehicles like tanks.

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. Government named a new destroyer the USS *Gatling*, in honor of the service he performed to his country. Brother Gatling died in New York City on February 26, 1903 and was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## The Apron

When the Master of the Lodge presents the candidate with his apron, using these impressive words, he is performing perhaps the most important single act in all the ceremonies of Masonry. In this act alone, the craft speaks to the candidate in worldly terms calculated to impress upon him all of the esteem in which Masons hold the fraternity. In every other ceremony, Masonry teaches man his duty to God, his neighbor and himself, but only in those few words does Masonry speak of itself.

To a real Mason, the fraternity and its teachings, its ceremonies and its associations are very precarious. The Brothers who first gave voice to these sentiments were stating the veneration in which Masons hold their craft as compared with other very noble human institutions.

The Roman Eagle, going back to Pre-Christian Era, was the standard under which the legions of Rome marched to conquer the ancient world. The Order of the Golden Fleece was an order of nobility founded by Philip, Duke of Burgundy in 1329. The Order of the Garter was founded by Edward III, King of England in 1349. To be compared to the dignity and antiquity of these organizations is to speak most highly of the craft. To compare the simple, snow-white apron, to the ornate trappings and insignia of these orders, is to set its value as a pearl above price.

To speak of the innocence of a Mason is to use the old connotation of the word. It means "to do no hurt or injury." It certainly does not mean a "lack of knowledge of evil" which is its present usage. The choice of the gentle lamb, as an emblem of this innocence in all ages, to furnish the proper material for the apron bears out this connotation. Haywood, the great Masonic writer says:

The innocence of a Mason, is his gentleness, his chivalrous determination to do no moral evil to any person, man or woman or babe; his patient forbearance of the crudeness and ignorance of men, his charitable forgiveness of his brethren when they willfully or unconsciously do him evil; his dedication to a spiritual knighthood in behalf of the values and virtues of humanity, by which alone man rises above the brutes, and world is carried forward on the upward way.

To be part of this fraternity, to help fulfill its mission in the world by a faithful adherence to the duties imposed in its obligations, are the meanings of this spotless vestment. To don the badge of a Mason, to wear it with pleasure to oneself and honor to the fraternity is to take upon oneself the highest, purest and noblest standards of humanity. It is an ever-present personal challenge to the craft, to be worthy to wear this badge. Virtue and exemplary conduct are said to be the title of our privileges, and the right to wear the apron worthily is the only reward we get for virtue in this world.

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## TRESTLEBOARD

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## The Two Pillars

THE Fellow-Craft is introduced to the wonders of his world of art and science through portals flanked by two massive pillars. Detailed description of these pillars in the Books of Kings indicates a style of design common to Egyptian architecture, where a pillar terminates in a capital representing a conventionalized lotus blossom, or the seed pod of that sacred lily. Such twin pillars are frequently found among Egyptian and Sumerian archaeological remains. The pillars of King Solomon's Temple, and in fact that entire group of structures, were the work of Phoenician artists, according to the Biblical account. From other sources we gather that these same designers and craftsmen, initiated Dionysiac architects, were responsible for the magnificent palaces and temples at Byblos, the cultural and esthetic center of ancient Phoenicia. The Phoenician realm occupied an area roughly the same as that of modern Syria and Lebanon, and in Biblical accounts is usually called Tyre, from the name of its then capital city. Byblos, also known as Gub'l or Gebal, the present-day village of Jebeil, was particularly famous for architects and sculptors.

The twin pillars symbolize the dual nature of life and death, positive and negative or rather active (establishment) and passive (endurance), male and female, light and dark, good and evil, uniting in a central point of equilibrium, the apex of an equilateral triangle; a circle between two parallel uprights. Isis represented standing between two pillars of opposing polarity, the Ark of the Covenant between two Cherubim, Christ crucified between two thieves, are all symbols of the same trinity, the complete ness and perfection of Deity.

That the twin pillars resemble the conventional symbol for Gemini, third sign of the Zodiac, is no accident, but rather due to the common ancestry of the two apparently unrelated symbols.

In some lectures the pillars are said to be 35 cubits high, the height given in II Chronicles, King James Version. Another version of the same source gives the height as 120 cubits. Since the height of the first or outer chamber was probably no more than 30 cubits, the measurement given in I Kings: 18 cubits, seems more likely to be correct. The addition of map globes atop the pillars is a modern invention, with little Biblical or other authority and serving little purpose but to permit the lecturer to harp upon the advantages of studying astronomy, geography, etc., worthy pursuits but wholly unrelated to the symbolism of the pillars. Whether the three chambers of the Temple were connected by stairs is debatable. The best-informed scholars believe the Temple roof was flat, in which case the successively decreasing heights of the chambers, plus the somewhat sloping configuration of the site, would require approach and connection by means of either stairways or of some sort of ladder and trapdoor arrangement. Certainly the fantastically elaborate many-storied versions of the Temple depicted by some well-intentioned but ill-informed Bible illustrators and Masonic artists are so illogical and at variance with the few known facts and testimony of both the Bible and history as to seem the figments of a disordered imagination. Josephus stated that the Temple was of Grecian style which implies entablature and consequently a flat roof, although he had the cart before the horse, since Greek architecture was derived from Phoenician, not the reverse.

In any case, the stairway of our lectures is purely symbolic, consisting as it does of the significant numbers 3, 5, and 7. In such a series, 3 symbolizes such qualities as peace, friendship, justice, piety, temperance, and virtue. 5 represents light, health, and vitality- 7 is a symbol of control, judgment, government, and religion.

*(Continued from Page 2)*

Following the outbreak of the Civil War, he turned his attention to the invention of firearms, and by 1862 he had completed and patented the Gatling Gun, making it his eleventh patent.

He is best known as the inventor of the "Gatling Gun," the world's first practical repeating gun that drastically changed the tactics of warfare throughout the world. He first conceived the idea of his revolving battery gun in 1861, however, the first gun was actually not produced until 1862, when it was introduced at Indianapolis Indiana.

Of that first early model he produced 12 guns, which were used in battle by General Butler on the James River in Virginia. The U.S. Navy had adopted the gun in 1862, and installed several on its ships in that year.

By 1865, he had changed the gun so that it could fire a metal cartridge, and in 1866 the U.S. Army finally officially adopted it. It rapidly became known around the world and before long it was in demand in Europe. Thereafter it began to be manufactured in Austria and England and was then used by several other European governments.

The first gun fired about 250 rounds per minute, but later improvements including a motor drive raised it to 3,000 rounds per minute. The gun was a rapid fire, hand cranked weapon and solved the enormous problems of rapid loading and rapid firing. He was 44 at the time, and he spent the rest of his life improving and living off the monetary benefits he received from his invention of the Gatling Gun.

Although those who thought he was a pacifist have accused him of being a hypocrite, he really saw the invention of the gun as something, which would save many lives. This proved to actually be true when the Union Army began finding that they could field with many less numbers of troops. In some cases it was said that one gun and 5 soldiers could do the work of 100 soldiers without a Gatling.

In fact, he invented the Gatling gun after he noticed that the majority of dead returning from the American Civil War died of illness, rather than gunshots. In 1877, he wrote: "It occurred to me that if I could invent a machine - a gun - which could by its rapidity of fire, enable one man to do as much battle duty as a hundred, that it would, to a large extent supersede the necessity of large armies, and consequently, exposure to battle and disease [would] be greatly diminished."

He continued working to improve the gun for several years following the Civil War, and many years later the Gatling Gun Company merged with the Colt Patent and Fire Arms Manufacturing Company. It is interesting to note that the Gatling Gun was used in many wars, both domestic and foreign before the gun was declared obsolete in 1911.

The war in which the gun saw its first truly major action in was the Spanish-American War, where it was used in close support of the American troops. In the interim he continued developing the device, and while experimenting with improving the Gatling gun he developed an electric motor, which thereafter powered the gun. This created the first "Minigun".

Miniguns and electric powered Gatling cannons of various sizes would go on to be used as on airplanes and helicopters starting in the early 1960's. Ground forces used some as well. The United States Army declared the hand-cranked Gatling gun obsolete in 1911.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

### From the Secretary's Table

Thank all of you that have paid your dues for 2014. We only have 24 brothers that still have not paid, so we are doing great.

As I said last month, it is now necessary for us to have on file the release form so that we can show your name, address, email, or photo in the Trestleboard. Please return these so we can show information in the Trestleboard.

We have also completed a number of projects at the lodge, come on by and see what's changed.

Fraternally,

Wayne Heimsoth                      *Secretary*

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### From the West

Brethren,

We have started practicing in advanced stations. We are currently working on the second degree. The Lodge Officers are part of a "progressive line", which is also known as "going through the chairs" ...or as the Masonic Officer Chairs. This line of succession moves up one position at a time from one year to the next. If no one asks to "step out of line" for any reason, 7 years from the time of becoming Junior Steward, the Master Mason will arrive at the chair of the Worshipful Master. The progression is as follows: Junior Steward, Senior Steward, Junior Deacon, Senior Deacon, Junior Warden, Senior Warden...and then Worshipful Master. I am looking for a Junior Deacon and Stewards for next year. If you would like to fill one of these positions let me know.

Fraternally,

Nick Schilling                      *Senior Warden*

Nicholas Schilling  
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### From the South

Brethren, the menu for our April Stated Meeting dinner, which will take place at 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 3rd, 2014, will consist of ham, chicken Kiev, mixed vegetables, scalloped potatoes, and a vegetable salad, with cheese cake for dessert. The cost of the dinner will be \$10 per person. If you are planning to attend the dinner, please RSVP no later than Tuesday, April 1st, 2014, preferably by email, to dialdice@gmail.com. You may also RSVP via phone or text, at 408-550-5039. As usual, I will use the RSVP count when planning for how much food to prepare. These dinners are a great way to share good times with fellow brothers and their families. If you have any suggestions for a future dinner this year, please let me know. Also, any help, especially with taking money at the door or cleanup afterwards, would be greatly appreciated.

Did you know that originally, lamb was the traditional meat eaten for Easter? But in northern Europe, the pig was always important, as they were considered a symbol of good luck and prosperity. Hams, from pigs slaughtered in the winter, then salted and smoked, were ready to eat in the spring around Easter time, before fresh meats were available. As a result, ham became the traditional Easter meat in northern Europe. In North America, lamb was never an important meat. Because there was no refrigeration at the time, the fresh pork from pigs that were slaughtered in the fall or early winter had to be cured first. The curing process took a long time, and the first hams were usually not ready until early spring, around Easter time. Thus, ham was a natural choice for the celebratory Easter dinner in the United States.

Fraternally,

Allen Diamond                      *Junior Warden*

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