



BUILDING MASONRY

COUNCIL OAK LODGE NO. 745 JUNE 2025

19780 BRICK ROAD, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46619 574.272.4073

... AND GIVE THEM GOOD AND WHOLESOME INSTRUCTION...

The US National Archives recently asked an interesting question - is reading cursive your superpower? The Citizen Archivist program is looking for assistance with transcribing documents, especially with ones that are written in cursive. "Many of the documents at the National Archives are handwritten records such as letters, memos, and reports, many of the words within those documents are not picked up by a search in our Catalog."1 Through this program, volunteers can sign up for an account and then after receiving instructions and training, they can get started contributing to the effort.

Transcribing governmental records is important in order to make information available in digital form. According to the Royal Historical Society, digitizing historical records is necessary "to make collections accessible to remote audiences; to enable text searching, and to allow for new types of research."2 What makes the need to digitize documents even more crucial now is that older documents are often written in cursive because they were created by hand. However, in the United States there are younger generations that are no longer being taught penmanship in schools. This is mainly due to the US Government removing cursive requirements in 2010 from Common Core Standards for K-12 Education.3In addition to not being able to write in cursive, younger generations are also not able to read cursive. This could lead to a significant problem when future citizens want to conduct research of original historical texts.

What does this have to do with Freemasonry? Our Fraternity also has many handwritten records dating back hundreds of years. Many Lodges have boxes full of documents sitting in their attics. We have Lodge Register books where members sign in to indicate their attendance at meetings and events. What will happen when future generations of Masons eventually look through these materials and they cannot decipher any of them? Do we need our own version of the Citizen Archivist program to transcribe Masonic documents so that they can be researchable in the years to come? Will we need to teach younger Masons how to read and write in cursive?

If we truly want to encourage Masonic research and education, we will need to take into account this potential educational deficit that will soon impact us. Freemasonry has a rich and storied history that we should work to preserve. Otherwise, our Fraternity will be no different than any number of social clubs.

READING CURSIVE TO UNLOCK THE PAST Bro Jim Stapleton, USS New Jersey No. 62 [The Midnight Freemasons](#)

!! STATED MEETING AND DINNER !!

MONDAY, JUNE 2ND

DINNER AT 6:30 PM.

LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM.

GOOD FOOD! ... GOOD EDUCATION! ... OUTSTANDING FELLOWSHIP!!

CALENDAR JUNE 2025

JUNE 2nd - STATED MEETING AND DINNER.
DINNER AT 6:30 PM. LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM

3rd - Elkhart York Rite. Stated Meeting. 7:00 PM. At Kane Lodge Hall, Elkhart.

5th - Mishawaka No. 83, R.A.M. Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6:00 PM. Chapter convenes at 7:00 PM. At the Mishawaka No. 130 Lodge Hall.

9th - Open.

11th - Plymouth Chapter, RAM. Dinner at 6:45 PM. Chapter convenes at 7:30 PM. At Plymouth.

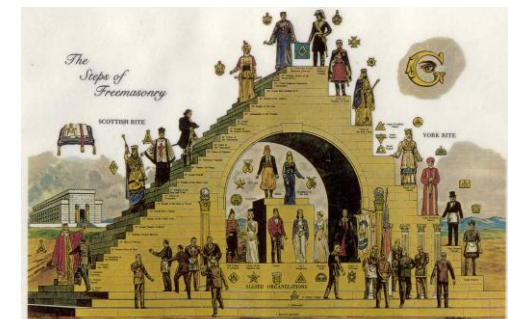
12th - Valley of South Bend, AASR. 7:00 PM. At the Scottish Rite Cathedral in South Bend.

16th - Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30PM. At the Lodge Hall.

17th - Zanzibar Grotto. 6:30 PM.

23rd - Open.

30th - Refreshment at Wings, Etc. 6:30 PM.



Mason Marks

They're traced in lines on the Parthenon,
Inscribed by the subtle Greek;
And Roman legions have carved them on
Walls, roads and arch antique;
Long ere the Goth, with vandal hand,
Gave scope to his envy dark,
The Mason craft in many a land
Has graven its Mason mark.

The obelisk old and the pyramids,
Around which a mystery clings,-
The Hieroglyphs on the coffin lids
Of weird Egyptian kings,
Syria, Carthage and Pompeii,
Buried and strewn and stark,
Have marble records that will not die,
Their primitive Mason mark.

Upon column and frieze and capital,
In the eye of the chaste volute, -
On Scotia's curve, or an astrogal,
Or in triglyp's channel acute,-
Cut somewhere on the entablature,
And oft, like a sudden spark,
Flashing a light on a date obscure,
Shines many a Mason mark.

These craftsmen old had a genial whim,
That nothing could ever destroy,
With a love of their art that naught could dim,
They toiled with a chronic joy;
Nothing was too complex to essay,
In aught they dashed to embark;
They triumphed on many an Appian Way,
Where they'd left their Mason mark.

Crossing the Alps like Hannibal,
Or skirting the Pyrenees,
On peak and plain, in crypt and cell,
On foot or on bandaged knees; -

From Tiber to Danube, from Rhine to Seine,
They needed no "letters of marque;" -
Their art was their passport in France and Spain,
And in Britain their Mason mark.

The monolith grey and Druid chair,
The pillars and towers of Gael,
In Ogharn occult their age they bear,

That time can only reveal.
Live on, old monuments of the past,
Our beacons through ages dark!
In primal majesty still you'll last,
Endeared by each Mason mark.

FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Broken Column: None.

Bro. Al Stohler is recovering from ankle surgery.

WB Tom Dolly will be having right hip surgery on June 4th.

Best Wishes to **WB Rodney Strozewski's** granddaughter, who is recovering from a gunshot injury.

Pray for the **Vaughn Brothers** who are experiencing various illnesses and surgeries. Also, **Bro. David** has a new address:

Brookdale
17441 State Rd 23, Room 138
South Bend, IN 46635-1786

Congratulations to the **COL 745 Officers** on Entering two Apprentices in excellent form!

Please be in Prayer for our Country, our Service Men and Women and our 1st Responders!

June Birthdays: 1st – Michael Miller, 3rd – David Vaughn, 5th – Timothy Maurer, 7th – James Blakeman, 12th – Richard Thompson, 13th – John Taylor, 15th – Timothy Genge, 19th – David Sexton, 21st – Arlen Paul, 25th Donald Edwards and the 27th – Nathan Hopkins.

Give these Brothers a call and wish them a Happy Birthday or Best Wishes!!

COUNCIL OAK LODGE OFFICERS - 2025

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: James Snyder, PM, 574.520.3335, snyderj24@att.net; SENIOR WARDEN: Charles Yost; JUNIOR WARDEN: Thomas Dolly, PM;
TREASURER: James Gillen, PM; SECRETARY: Anthony Meller, PM, ameller31@yahoo.com; SENIOR DEACON: Colton Eads; JUNIOR DEACON: James Arrvia;
SENIOR STEWARD: Austin Raab; JUNIOR STEWARD: Carl Sabinas, PM; CHAPLAIN: Terrence Vukovits; TYLER: Rodney Strozewski, PM; TYLER EMERITUS: David Vaughn;
TRUSTEES: David Wood, Michael Koziel and Kyle Dolby; PROPERTY MANAGER: Rodney Strozewski, PM; TRESTLE BOARD EDITOR: David Wood, PM, 574.286.5686, dwood52281@aol.com