



## Missouri Lodge of Research (MLR) Meeting in Columbia September 24, 2007

The Annual meeting of the MLR was held in the Windsor IV Room of the Holiday Inn Select Hotel at 4:15 PM on Monday, September 24, 2007. MWB Elmer E. Revelle, Worshipful Master, commented that it was great to be sitting before a room nearly filled with Brethren, however, as with the church he preaches in, the front row on both sides was mostly empty. He called the meeting to order and the Opening Prayer was given by our Chaplain, RWB Stanton T. Brown. The WM introduced all Grand Lodge Officers present, followed by PMs of the MLR. Our Secretary/Treasurer, RWB Ron Miller moved for approval of our previous meeting minutes. Seconded and Passed. MWB Revelle reminded the Brethren of the Resolution to Change Semi-Annual Meeting Time and Place, was “tabled at last years Annual Meeting. He asked if anyone desired to call said resolution from the table. There being no such response, the Resolution will remain tabled. He then stated that since the MLR’s application for 501(c)3 status had been approved during the past year that the officers, in a committee meeting, thought it would be proper for the Lodge of Research to begin the process for the MLR to be incorporated as a not for profit organization. A motion was made and seconded and with questions asked being answered, was passed by a unanimous vote of the members present. It was then announced by the Secretary that the books of the MLR had been audited and that as a 501(c)3 incorporation, it would require use of a professional auditor.

It was then announced that RWB Otha Wingo, who has written numerous articles on various Masonic subjects requiring considerable research, for the Missouri Freemason Magazine was designated by the committee, appointed by WM Revelle, to be named as a “Fellow” of the Missouri Lodge of Research for 2007. Our organization allows the naming of one Brother as a Fellow in any year by an appointed committee. Brother Otha was welcomed to the Honor by the membership standing and giving their applause.

MLR Book Editor, RWB Ron Wood, reported that the last book of the series of Missouri Lodges, “Lodges of St. Louis – No.2” (Volume LIV) had been printed and delivered by May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. However, there had been a slight problem in shipping, and many members had received a 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of a previously shipped Volume. When advised of the shipping error, action was started to correct the error and everyone who had received the wrong book, should have received the St. Louis No. 2 volume prior to Grand Lodge. If you haven’t received it, the MLR office needs to know. RWB Ron then stated that he still needs a biographical sketch input on several more Missouri Master Masons (those outstanding Freemasons who have been leaders (or otherwise gave that little bit more for the Craft than what would be considered normal) for the book about the *Outstanding Freemasons in Missouri since 1900* or some similar title. This year’s book to be published will be named “Masonic Thought for Each Day of the Year”.

MWB Revelle called for nominations for elected officers for the 2007-2008 MLR year. MWB Kinkead moved that we advance the entire line except for secretary-treasurer and the Chaplain and Tiler to be named by the newly elected Worshipful Master. Seconded and unanimously passed. RWB Jon B. Broyles, the WM-Elect stated that MWB Elmer E. Revelle would be appointed the new Chaplain and RWB Steve Harrison as Tiler. MWB P. Vincent Kinkead served as Installing Worshipful Master and the following officers of the MLR were installed: Jon Broyles as WM, Dale Bryant as SW, M. Robert Berger as JW, Ronald D. Miller as Secy/Treas, Stanley M. Thompson as SD, Larry R. Houge as JD, James E. Snavely as SS, Joseph L. Kile as JS, Nicholas R. Cichiolo as Marshal, Elmer E. Revelle as Chaplain, and Steven L. Harrison as Tiler.

RWB Broyles thanked the Lodge of Research members for their confidence in him and that he will do the best possible job for this next year. He reported that the Missouri Masonic Museum & Library would hold its formal opening on February 23, 2008 and the next regular meeting of the MLR will be held during the York Rite Grand Session on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The MLR Breakfast is scheduled for 7:00AM tomorrow in this room and our honored guest speaker will be RWB Ron Hartoebban who would provide part 2 of his talk given last year. Tickets are available from the secretary/treasurer or the MLR desk in the Inn lobby for only \$15. The Motion was then made to close the Annual Meeting. Motion seconded and Lodge was closed following prayer by MWB Revelle at 4:55 PM.

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A tasty sit down, served breakfast meeting was opened at 7:00AM on Tuesday. Following introductions, remarks and prayer; the Breakfast was served. Following the meal, a great “research inspiring talk” on pre-1700 Freemasonry (about artifacts found in the U.S. and around the world which could be linked to the Fraternity) was given by RWB Hartoebban. His program last year on pre-colonial American Freemasonry lit the fire wanting members to hear more this year. A copy of the text will be posted on the Lodge of Research Webpage and available to all shortly.

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## A Book Review

### ***The Rosslyn Hoax?***

By Robert L. D. Cooper

Published by Lewis Masonic, United Kingdom, 2006

By Mark A. Tabbert

**M**y Dear Masonic Brethren:

I am sorry to rouse you, but our long collective fantasy is over. Like a sharp rap of the Master's gavel, Robert L. D. Cooper's *The Rosslyn Hoax?* wakes the Lodge from its dreams. Within 416 dense pages and nine chapters, *The Rosslyn Hoax?* examines, dissects and disposes every theory, conjecture and hearsay heaped around the medieval Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel and Freemasonry in the last 200 years. Researching as only a Scots historian can, writing as only a Scotsman can, and defending the craft as only a Scots Freemason can, Cooper skillfully combines cold facts with warm humor to create a new reality that is as enjoyable as the fantasies he dispels.

*The Rosslyn Hoax?* begins with an explanation of the myth and its development. Cooper is careful to delineate between that which is believed and that which is documented. He is not interested in destroying fables, legends, or myths per se, rather he assures the reader that he is a "card caring" historian and is only concerned with what other self-proclaimed historians, journalists or scholars have written. He begins this process with a review of common mistakes, fallacies in logic and pitfalls of poor scholarship and how they generate myths and legends. His most important point is that Scottish Freemasonry is substantially different from English, Irish or any other form of Freemasonry. It is through this difference alone that most theories about Rosslyn Chapel collapse.

With his framework established, Cooper recounts the known history of the medieval Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel and Scottish Freemasonry. He then examines the development of Templar and Rosslyn myths and when they intersect with Freemasonry. For example, James Anderson's 1723 *Constitutions of the Free-masons* contends the Craft to be far older than the Crusades and erroneously concludes that it was the Freemasons who created the Knights Templar. Cooper pinpoints the time and books when this theory was reversed in the 1790s and the reaction Scots Freemasons had to the "revelation" they descended from the Knights Templar. Cooper focuses the remainder of the book on Rosslyn Chapel and its builder, the St. Clair family. Begun in the 1440s, Rosslyn Chapel has long been used as the link between the destruction of the Knights Templar in 1307 and the first Scots Masonic Lodges in the 1600s. Using primary source documents, records and the Scottish archives and quoting from the 1835 official *Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn*, he allows the family to tell their own story of why they built the Chapel.

Chapters 5 and 6, some 68 pages, closely examine every aspect of the Chapel. He begins with the bold statement: "There is no Masonic symbolism within Rosslyn Chapel!" Moving out from the Chapel, Cooper examines the famous Kirkwall Scroll. Popular writers say it's a 12<sup>th</sup> century Templar map, but like Rosslyn Chapel, it's amazing how much sense this curious item makes when compared to the Books of Genesis and Exodus. With a few Bible passages, Masonic facts and study of Masonic symbols, suddenly the scroll does not reveal the Holy Grail's location, but is only an important late 17<sup>th</sup> century Masonic tracing board.

In the last chapter, "Other Evidence," Cooper quickly dispatches such foolish ideas of a Templar fleet, Templar churches, grave slabs and the Knights Templar and Robert the Bruce. My favorite is the historical re-write that a flying column of Knights Templar won the Battle of Bannockburn. If this is true, Cooper asks, why didn't the Templars save Bruce from previous defeats, why was the Grand Master of the British Knights Templar fighting with the English and killed at an earlier battle, and lastly, why didn't the English report they were defeated by the Templars rather than young men and peasants guarding the baggage train?

Finally, *The Rosslyn Hoax?* contains what all scholarly books must have, endnotes after each chapter, a 15 page bibliography, an astounding 11 appendices and a proper index. Indeed it is arguably the most important Masonic book written in the last 20 years-if not longer. Cooper has done his very best to shake his brothers out of the fantasy state they have lived in for many years. Tragically, the Knights Templar and Rosslyn Chapel have distracted the brethren from the many serious issues that plague the Craft. Alas, with *The Rosslyn Hoax?* we must accept the true, ancient and honorable history of the Craft. Freemasonry was indeed created by common men determined not to be warriors or priests, but only wanting to be free. The question still remains, do Freemasons still wish to be free or live in a fantasy?

*Paperback, 416 pages, color illustrations, "in text" line drawings, \$15.95 – (Discounts available for 10 or more copies)*  
To order, visit the Memorial's website at  
[www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org) or call 703-549-9234

Above review had been printed in "The Messenger", a publication of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, Volume 13, Number 2, 2007

Brother Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections for the GWMM in Alexandria, Virginia

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***Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.***

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## THE CORNER STONE

By

Byron E. Hams, PM, Prince Hall Lodge No. 1

Now my newly made Brothers you are placed in the northeast corner of the lodge and in this position you become representative of a spiritual cornerstone, and hence, to thoroughly comprehend the true meaning of this placement, it is essential that we should investigate the symbolism of operative and speculative masonry.

The difference between Operative and Speculative Masonry is simply that - that while the former was engaged in the construction of a material building, formed, it is true, of the most magnificent materials which the quarries of Palestine, the mountains of Lebanon, and the golden shores of Ophir could contribute, the latter occupies itself in the erection of a spiritual house, a house not made with hands, in which, for stones, cedar, gold, and precious stones, are substituted with the virtues of the heart, the pure emotions of the soul, the warm affections gushing forth from the hidden fountains of the spirit, and that the very presence of Jehovah, our Father and our God, shall be enshrined within us or His Shekinah as was in the Holy of Holies of the material temple at Jerusalem.

The Speculative Mason, then, if he rightly comprehends the scope and design of his profession, is occupied, from his very first admission into the order until the close of his labors served his life, and the true Mason's labors ends only with his life, in the construction, the adornment, and the completion of this spiritual temple of his body. He lays its foundation a firm belief and an unshaken confidence in the wisdom, power, and goodness of God. This is his first step.

Unless his trust is in God, and in Him only, he can advance no further than the threshold of initiation.

And then he prepares his materials with the gauge and gavel of Truth, raises the walls by the plumb line of Rectitude, squares his work with the Square of Virtue, connects the whole with the cement of Brotherly Love, and thus skillfully erects the living edifice of thoughts, and words, and deeds, in accordance with the designs laid down by the Master Architect of the Universe in the great Book of Revelation.

As the aspirant for Masonic light on your very first entrance within our sacred porch, you prepare yourself for this consecrated labor of erecting within your own bosom, a perfect dwelling place for the Divine Spirit, and thus commence the noble work by becoming yourself the Corner Stone on which this spiritual edifice is to be erected.

In Masonry, the north has ever been esteemed the place of darkness; and in obedience to this principle, no symbolic light is allowed to illuminate the northern part of the lodge. The east in masonry is symbolic of Masonic Light or universal knowledge.

You are in the northeast corner of the lodge because it is symbolic of your relation to the order and to the world, from the profane world you have just emerged. Some of its imperfections are still upon you; some of its darkness is still about you; so yet you belong in part to the north. But you are striving for Light and Truth, the pathway upon which you entered is directed towards the East. Your allegiance, if I may use the word, is divided. You are not altogether in darkness, nor altogether in

light. If you were wholly in darkness, the north would be the place to put you. If you were wholly in light, as a Master Mason, the East would have received you.

But you are neither; you are an Entered Apprentice, with some of the ignorance of the world cleaving to you, and some of the light of the order beaming upon you. One side of you faces the north, and the other side faces the East. You are neither wholly in one part nor wholly in the other part. As an Entered Apprentice you are not fully developed you are incomplete and imperfect, and therefore rightly placed in the northeast corner of the lodge, the joining point of darkness and Light.

The corner stone, as the foundation on which the entire building is supposed to rest, is, of course, the most important stone in the whole edifice. You, my Brothers as Entered Apprentices are the most important Brothers here, for you are the Master Masons of tomorrow. We, the Craft are charged with giving you all our knowledge of Masonry that you are qualified to receive. And I stress the word, qualified, for if you never become qualified, the teachings of Masonry will die with us. You are charged with, first becoming qualified to receive this knowledge, second with receiving this knowledge, and third and most important seeing that only those duly qualified receive it from you. In this manner the teachings of Masonry have been preserved over the ages.

As the Corner Stone of Freemasonry you are the link between those of us that have the knowledge and those that will come to Masonry in the future to find the knowledge.

This is why you are placed in the northeast corner of the lodge as the Corner Stone of Masonry.

My Brothers, I have explained to you on three different levels why you are in the northeast corner; Mentally, Physically, and Spiritually. Masonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.

We will give you the allegory and the symbols, but only of your own free will and accord through your own desire will you be able to remove the veils.

Brethren please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Look well to the East.

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## 2008 MLR Dues are NOW Due!

Check your Lodge of Research Dues Card NOW. If it does NOT say "2008" on it you must send your \$15.00 check (payable to: **Missouri Lodge of Research**) to the Secretary/Treasurer NOW.

Each year the MLR provides each member with a book on a Masonic topic. Historical documents, once unavailable, are now accessible to Freemasons for research and reference in works for publication. --- AND, above all, you get this GREAT Quarterly Newsletter in the mail to keep you current with what is going on in the MLR and some Masonic Research Papers submitted to the MLR Office.

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**RP 07-04**

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**RULES FOR PLAY:**

You must **circle the ALL Masonic Words**, LETTER BY LETTER, in the puzzle, then line through or check the name off the list. **DO NOT black or blot out the letters** in the puzzle, as some of the same letters are used in another word. When all words are checked off, you should have 12 letters **NOT circled**. Writing down each of these letters from the top left to the bottom right, will sequentially spell out the word which is the answer. Every Lodge, even the Grand Lodge, has one.

**MASONIC WORDS**

- |                    |                     |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Abif</b>        | <b>Globe</b>        | <b>Oath</b>         |
| <b>Acacia</b>      | <b>Hoodwink</b>     | <b>Obligation</b>   |
| <b>Ball</b>        | <b>Icon</b>         | <b>Open</b>         |
| <b>Clandestine</b> | <b>Jachin</b>       | <b>Orphan</b>       |
| <b>Collar</b>      | <b>Jewels</b>       | <b>Refreshment</b>  |
| <b>Compasses</b>   | <b>Labor</b>        | <b>Rite</b>         |
| <b>Door</b>        | <b>Landmark</b>     | <b>Ruffians</b>     |
| <b>East</b>        | <b>Lodge</b>        | <b>Salute</b>       |
| <b>Emblem</b>      | <b>Master Mason</b> | <b>Square</b>       |
| <b>England</b>     | <b>Minutes</b>      | <b>Staff</b>        |
| <b>Freemasonry</b> | <b>Mortality</b>    | <b>Trestleboard</b> |
| <b>Fellowcraft</b> | <b>North</b>        | <b>Tribe</b>        |
|                    |                     | <b>Visitor</b>      |

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**MASONIC WORDS      Solution: 12 Letters**

H T R O N O S A M R E T S A M  
 O R N O I T A G I L B O I R O  
 O E F E L L O W C R A F T O R  
 D S R R E F R E S H M E N T T  
 W T A I E L A B O R N S F I A  
 I L L T G E B O L G N N I S L  
 N E L E D A M S L L L A B I I  
 K B O B O S T A C A C I A V T  
 N O C I L T N A S T A F F L Y  
 N A L R A D N E P O T F I M E  
 I R H T A O R P H A N U O E R  
 H D O O R L A N D M A R K L A  
 C L A N D E S T I N E N Y B U  
 A E T U L A S S E T U N I M Q  
 J E W E L S C O M P A S S E S

The answer will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Last Quarters answer was: **JOHN PERSHING!!**