



MISSOURI
Lodge of research
OFFICERS

Worshipful Master - Jon B. Broyles
Senior Warden - Dale Bryant
Junior Warden - M. Robert Berger
Secy-Treas - Ronald D. Miller
 6033 Masonic Dr Suite B
 COLUMBIA MO 65202-6535

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

The 2004 movie *National Treasure* was a box office success and is now being followed by *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* to be released **December 21, 2007**. It promises to be an action packed film involving such scenes as treasure diving in the Dry Tortugas¹ and looking for a city of gold under Mount Rushmore.

Freemasonry, particularly the Scottish Rite, will play a role in the film. The trailer describes the plot of the movie as: "Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates (Nicholas Cage) looks to discover the truth behind the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, by uncovering the mystery within the 18 pages which are missing from assassin John Wilkes Booth's diary."

One of the 18 missing pages gets discovered. On that page are the names of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. Thomas Gates, Ben Gates' great-great-grandfather, is listed on the page. After discovering this, Ben does not want Thomas Gates to be remembered "as a conspirator in the assassination of the man who brought this nation together." His quest to clear his family's name leads to unexpected twists and turns. An agent tells Ben that a secret book has the information he needs.

The President's "**book of secrets**" holds documents, **for Presidents' eyes only**, of all of the nation's secrets; from the truth behind the *JFK conspiracy*, *the missing minutes from the Watergate tapes*, and *Area 51*. When Ben's request to see the book is denied, he's able to get more clues that leads him closer to a *discovery* that the world isn't ready to believe.

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MLR RP **07-05**
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There are also apparent references to an organization known as the "Knights of the Golden Circle²."

All in all, it should be a pretty good movie and we know "National Treasure" involved Freemasons -- and parts of this one were filmed in The Scottish Rite "House of the Temple" in Washington DC --- so mark 12-21-07 as "**a day to go to the movies!**"

Notes:

1. Almost 70 miles (112.9 km) west of Key West lay a cluster of seven islands, composed of coral reefs and sand, called the Dry Tortugas. Along with the surrounding shoals and waters, they make up Dry Tortugas National Park. The area is known for its famous bird and marine life, its legends of pirates and sunken gold, and its military past.

2. This order, Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC), was apparently formed in 1861 and had links to the Confederacy. Its purpose was to influence the outcome of the Civil War. Legend has it that a vast fortune was accumulated and guarded by its members known as *Sentinels*. There is a book, released in 2003, titled *Shadow of the Sentinel* by Warren Getler and Bob Brewer, which deals with this subject and tells that The Knights of the Golden Circle was a secret society originally founded to promote interests and prepare the way for annexation of a "golden circle" of territories in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean which would be included into the United States as southern States.

“EVERY MEMBER, PLEASE GET AT LEAST ONE NEW MEMBER”

We do need “new” members (or re-instated members) into the Missouri Lodge of Research. Familiarize yourself in what the MLR is, where it came from, and the benefits of the \$15 dues!

The Missouri Lodge of Research (MLR) was, originally, a local Masonic Study Group founded in 1923. That study group was chartered in **1941** by the Grand Lodge of Missouri (Article 25.060) while **MWB Harry S Truman** was serving as Grand Master, and since then, has gone forth with the desire to provide educational and instructional materials that will enable our members to learn about and understand the "beautiful system of morals, veiled in allegory" which Freemasonry teaches all who knock upon it's door.

The purpose and function of the Missouri Lodge of Research is to provide a forum for the study, discussion and sharing of Masonic knowledge, and to encourage interest in Speculative Masonry. This Lodge becomes involved with, not only the historical and philosophical aspects of Masonry, but also with the important issues confronting it – past, present and future.

The Lodge of Research is chartered by the Grand Lodge of Missouri which has extended to it the authority to conduct research, maintain a library, gather and preserve Masonic Information, hold discussions, supply speakers or papers at the request of constituent Lodges, and to conduct programs of general service to our Fraternity in the field of Masonic research, education and information.

A Research Lodge differs to a regular constituent Lodge in that a Research Lodge cannot confer degrees, nor are they entitled to representation at or any vote in any Grand Lodge Communications. However, the Annual Communication of the Missouri Lodge of Research is held and the end of the first business day of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. Its regular semi-annual meeting is normally held during the Annual York Rite meeting period.

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.

Any Master Mason residing in Missouri may become an Active Member. Those living in another jurisdiction may become a Corresponding Member. Any Lodge, library or other organization that cares to join may become Subscribing Members.

The Lodge is supported by a **very modest \$15.00** annual dues, paid by all members. There is no initiation, affiliation or other membership fees. The dues are used for all administrative costs, printing of Masonic literature, purchasing/printing books for our members, and funding grants to Masonic researchers.

This newsletter, should continue to be published at least quarterly and is an added benefit to all MLR members. If you have short articles or papers you would like considered for this publication, please send them to our Secretary as listed on the return address on page 4.

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(GET A NEW MEMBER NOW!!!!)

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the Missouri Lodge of Research

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email: _____

Date Sent: _____

Check Number _____

Amount of Check: _____

Yearly Membership Dues **\$15.00**. **Recommended by:** _____ **(Please Print)**

This includes the Missouri Lodge of Research Publication for the current year.

- OR -

You may also purchase an Endowed Membership at the cost of **\$300.00**. **(One time for LIFE)**

This will allow you to receive the Missouri Lodge of Research Book yearly and alleviates having to pay dues each year.

Please **make check payable to the Missouri Lodge of Research** and send to the following address:

Ronald D. Miller, Secretary/Treasurer
6033 Masonic Dr. Suite B
Columbia, MO 65202-6535

THE PROPER WAY TO WEAR A MASONIC RING

[This instruction is based upon an article which appeared in THE MONTANA MASON in May of 1936, which in turn was based upon a bulletin entitled Temple Topics from the Grand Lodge of Illinois and is now being quoted with approval by other Masonic papers FROM THE California LOR, 11-07.]

What is the proper way to wear a Masonic ring? Should the points of the compass be toward or away from the body?

If you were hanging the American flag, would you put the stars down? The same holds true of the ring.

Usually it is a gift, and has sentimental value for the wearer. It should look right side up to him. Rings are therefore worn with the points of the compass toward the wearer.

This subject is one on which Grand Lodges have made no regulation and popular opinion is divided. We must therefore reason from analogy.

When the emblem of the square and compasses is displayed on a building, pennant, button, watch, charm, etc., universal custom requires the points of the compass point downward.

When displayed on the Altar they point away from the Master. As the Master from his station views the compass from the Altar of his lodge, the points are from, not towards him.

As the wearer of a pocket watch views it, the points are down and away from his eyes. In a similar way as he views the emblem on his ring the points should be down or away from his eyes. The square is the symbol of earthly, the compass of heavenly perfection. As a combined emblem the ends of the square point up as a symbol of man's aspirations toward God; the points of the compass are down to represent heavenly qualities coming down from God to earth.

Therefore it would seem that the proper way to wear a ring would be that in which its symbolism is best expressed; namely, that in which, when the hand is held in its usual position the points of the compass are towards the earth and away from the wearer's eyes.

Thus it will be seen that our conclusion does not agree with the writer in Temple Topics. He truly says that in hanging an American flag we would not put the stars down, but in hanging a compass or a square and compass, he surely would put the points of the compass down. The same rule holds when worn as a ring or button or a watch fob; namely, they would be worn the same way with the points down. When so worn they all serve the same purposes, and by no means the least of these purposes is to announce to the world the proud wearer is a Mason.

The dead batteries were given out free of charge.

* A Reminder *

Back in the days of World War II, M.W. Brother and President Harry S Truman made a national appeal to get 10 cents per Mason per year to help support this charitable work, that goal was never accomplished. If we were fortunate enough to receive 10 cents per member today we would be able to expand our program to include all 172 V.A. Medical Centers and all State Veterans Homes.

Every community in the nation would hear about this benevolent work and our Fraternity would benefit from it. We would erase the false impression that the Masonic Fraternity is a secret organization only interested in itself.

Dear Brethren:

1919 was the year in which the Grand Lodges of the United States formed the Masonic Service Association to be their contact point with our troops serving in the Armed Forces. This was done in World War II through the use of Masonic Service Centers - similar to USO's - where a little bit of home away from home was available, primarily through Masonic locations, in various cities around the country.

After World War II, because there was such a huge number of wounded Veterans in that conflict, MSA concentrated on visiting our Veterans in VA Hospitals, State Veterans Homes, and Military Hospitals across the United States. We continue doing so to this day.

We are seeing Veterans in VA locations from all of the wars since World War II. We are also seeing young soldiers and Marines who were wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan, many of whom are suffering loss of limbs because this war, unlike previous wars, has roadside bombs as a major point of attack. These kinds of deadly explosives cause devastating wounds requiring long periods of recovery. In spite of these terrible wounds, the most often heard expression from our young soldiers and Marines is: ***I can't wait to get back to my unit.***

The Veterans from previous conflicts also deserve our support because when our nation called they were there, now it is our turn to say thanks for the service they rendered. Thanks for your consideration in supporting our Hospital Visitation Program.

It is not possible for every Mason to be a visitor in a VA Hospital but it is possible for every Mason to support those who are!

Most sincerely and fraternally,
<SIGNED>
RICHARD E. FLETCHER
Past Grand Master (Vermont)
Exec Secretary - Masonic Service Association

**"MASONS CARE
AND
WILL ALWAYS BE THERE"**

--
Please make checks payable to: **"Masonic Service Association" VA Hosp Visitation**
8120 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Contributions are tax deductible.

Thanks for your participation.

MISSOURI LODGE OF RESEARCH
 RONALD D. MILLER, Secy
 6033 MASONIC DRIVE SUITE B
 COLUMBIA, MO 65202

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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 6 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.

"MORE" MASONIC WORDS

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Adam | Gavel | Rite |
| Almond tree | Geometry | Symbol |
| Ballot | Grip | Seal |
| Beehive | Immoveable | Secretary |
| Blue | Judah | Shoe |
| Builder | King | Trowel |
| Bibles | Lambskin | Unanimous |
| Brother | Lecture | Wardens |
| Candidate | Legend | Wayfaring |
| Charges | Medal | Welcome |
| Coat | Password | Widow |
| Deity | Petition | Workman |
| Election | Recognition | Zeal |

MORE MASONIC WORDS Solution: 6 Letters

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

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

Last Quarters answer was: **INSTALLATION!!**