

EMESSAY NOTES

January 2021



**THE
MASONIC
SERVICE
ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH
AMERICA**

**813 1st Avenue SE,
STE 357
Cedar Rapids,
IA 52402-5001**

319-206-5411

Fax: 319-365-1439

www.msana.com

msaoffice@msana.com

MSA Disaster Appeal Launched for Mississippi Hurricane Damage

Mississippi has experienced a tremendous amount of damage and destruction following Hurricane Zeta. J. Harold Norton, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, has requested the Masonic Service Association to issue this appeal for relief.

There were three Lodge buildings, housing four Lodges, that have been damaged. These Lodges are home to 461 Master Masons, many of whom have also experienced damage to their homes.

Please forward any donations you feel appropriate to help our devastated Brothers and their families in this stricken jurisdiction.

Contributions to the MSA Disaster Relief Appeal should be sent to:

Masonic Service Association
813 1st Avenue SE, Suite 357
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

All donations are tax deductible, because MSA is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. When remitting by check, please clearly mark that you wish the funds to go to "Mississippi Disaster Appeal."

Three Stories of Inspiration

Cruise Control

Ralph R. Teetor, of Hagerstown, Indiana, where he was a member of Hagerstown Lodge, was blinded in an accident at the age of 5, but he never let his loss of sight stop his ingenious work in the field of engineering.

One of his inventions used today by countless numbers of motorists on the highway is the mechanism known as "Cruise Control." It was invented in around 1957 by Brother Teetor, who called it "Speed-O-Stat."

In recognition of Brother Teetor's many accomplishments, the Grand Lodge of Indiana presented him with the Caleb B. Smith Medal in November, 1975, as a "Distinguished Masonic Brother of the Hoosier State."

This blind Brother used his God-given talents to bring pleasure and comfort to many as they cruise down the road of life. He regularly told others who were afflicted that they are not truly handicapped. His engineering successes allowed him to be donor of the land on which his Lodge now stands.

Light Shining Through

A father was showing his 12-year-old son through a great cathedral. The boy was so much taken with the beautiful stained glass windows brightly lit with the rays of the summer sun passing through the windows and falling on the cathedral floor.

Each window carried the image of a saint, and the father, noting his son's interest, identified them and answered his questions.

That evening, his mother asked the boy what he had learned from his visit to the cathedral, and after a moment's thought, he answered: "I learned that a saint is a person who lets the light shine through."

Standard Time

While the thought of changing our clocks back and forth twice each year, brings forth debated responses in this Century, the concept of the worldwide system of Standard Time, and the 24 one-hour equal time zones around the world on the prime meridian at Greenwich, was the contribution of Sanford Fleming, civil engineer, inventor, scientist, and Freemason.

He was admitted a member of St. Andrews Lodge in Toronto, Canada, in 1854. In 1855, he moved to Halifax, and became the chief engineer for the Intercolonial Railway, Quebec to Halifax.

In 1871, he was appointed chief engineer to the great nation-building project, known as a "highway to the Pacific," the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1872, he undertook what he called the "twenty-five-hundred mile journey across uncharted prairie, forest, mountain peak and canyon" to survey and map the route the railway would follow. It took 103 days to complete this "ocean to ocean" journey "by railway, steamer, coach, wagon, canoe, rowboat, dugout, pack and saddle horse and our own sturdy legs." Although politicians were given the credit for the project, Brother Fleming, the engineer who built the railway, qualified for substantial credit.

His greatest contribution, many agree, was the concept of Standard Time. Adopted in 1884, "it laid the essential foundation for the globalization of travel, communications, and economics."

But going back to that night in May, 1854, when Brother Fleming was initiated, some have speculated that two phrases in the ritual, "As the day is divided into twenty-four hours. . ." and "when the sun is at its meridian. . ." just may have planted an idea in the fertile mind of an engineering genius.

When Was Title 'Grand Master' Created?

"Grand Master" has become, almost universally, the prestigious, highest officer title in the Masonic Fraternity worldwide.

When was it used initially? Like many of the ancient traditions and practices, it is difficult to make a positive answer to the question.

But some studies and opinions agree that the title of Grand Master for the presiding officer was first used in A.D. 926, at a General Assembly held at York.

According to Masonic tradition, that first General Assembly was called by Prince Edwin, the son of King Athelstane. This tradition appears in all early manuscripts of the fraternity. The Regius Manuscript or Halliwell Poem is the earliest of these manuscripts, and is dated around 1390, centuries after the event, and indicates the first use of the "Grand Master" as the presiding officer.