



# The Trestleboard



Masonic Temple, 1155 Locust St., Dubuque, IA 52001-4751

## From the Trestleboard

To the Secretaries, Members and others receiving the Trestleboard. The Trestleboard would like any address changes, new members, deaths or members temporarily away to turn in these changes to

[dubuquetrestleboard@gmail.com](mailto:dubuquetrestleboard@gmail.com), send them to The Trestleboard, 1155 Locust ST, DUBUQUE, IA 52001, or leave them in the Trestleboard mailbox at the Dubuque Masonic Temple.

## Wes Struebing

In trying times, try!



## Ye Olde Editor's Ramblings

These are "interesting" and worrisome times. COVID-19 looms large over almost all of our human endeavors. And the Masonic Community is no exception. Grand Lodge has issued its own, open-ended "shelter-in-place" edict to us, as has the Shrine oases; we'll wager that most of the national/international Masonic-related bodies have done the same.

Since bodies are not meeting currently, we've decided to try something a bit different this month. Submissions to the Trestleboard were scarce; therefore, we decided not to submit for printing and mailing a sparse newsletter. Instead, this issue will be an experiment. Now, we have frequently included the test website wherein digital copies of the Trestleboard reside. It is an historical, as well as current repository. This month's experiment will be found, in all its glory (!) there in the current

year's location, with what we have, plus a bit of Iowa's Masonic history. Behold the Grand Experiment!

*In Good Health!*  
*Ye Olde Editor*

**OXUS Grotto #137**  
**Regular Meeting**  
TBD

**Dubuque Lodge #3**  
**A.F. & AM**  
TBD

**Key City Shrine Club**  
TBD

**Dubuque High Twelve Club**  
TBD

**Dubuque York Rite, Regular Meeting**  
TBD

**Metropolitan Lodge #49**  
**Next Meeting**  
TBD

**Mosaic Lodge #125**  
**Regular Meeting**  
TBD

**Julien Chapter #125 OES**  
**Stated Meeting**  
TBD

*(OES actually does have an article this month – thank you, Beverly! It follows here. Ed.)*

We did not meet in April but I do have lots of good memories of our Chapter I thought I would share. I know that many of our members who would remember these things are gone but maybe some who are not able to attend meeting will remember.

The days we would work getting ready for the Washington Day Dinner! The 80 cherry pies we would make! The beef and chicken, mashed potatoes (made with real potatoes!). With head cook, Geneva Knapp, the Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, in charge of the kitchen. The Conductress and Associate Conductress in charge of the dining room with the help of the star point officers.

The other officers were given duties where needed. That was to set up the large ball room with the long wooden tables covered with paper table clothes, arrange the chairs set the tables and after the dinner every body help with the dishes and clean up. Get home so tired we fell in bed. It wasn't only this dinner but the 15 or 16 big dinners we served during the year. This included High Twelve, which we served every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Friday as long as we had Cauldron, White Shrine, and Amaranth who each took a week preparing the meal. After all three of those organizations became defunct, Julien Chapter began preparing the meals under the leadership of Rex Brammer. Usually there would be 4 women in the kitchen and 2 in the dining room. We would hurry to get the main meal in the oven so we could play euchre! Those were wonderful days when close friendships were formed.

We are sorry to report the loss of Brother Keith Robertson. He died March 21, 2020. There was a Masonic service at the funeral home with just a few in attendance due to the Coronavirus epidemic. He is buried at the Garrison Cemetery. God rest his soul. That's it for this time. REMEMBER; if you haven't paid your 2020 dues to Julien

Chapter please do so soon. Look at your 2019 dues card to check the amount to send. Send to **Beverly Godsey 5297 Grand Meadow Dr. #212, Asbury, Iowa 52002**

**Jennifer Diller Worthy Matron**  
**Dave Patton Worthy Patron**  
**Beverly Godsey Secretary**

**(as promised, for your edification and enlightenment, we publish a bit of Iowa history and its Masonic tie-in. Brother Gerald Edgar (Mosaic 125) has submitted this. Thank you, Brother Gerald!)**

## **Bro. David B. Henderson**

**(March 14, 1840 – February 26, 1906)**

Arguably the most influential political figure to represent Iowa in Congress is Mosaic 125's own David Bremner Henderson, Speaker of the U.S. House! Born in Old Deer, Scotland, his family immigrated to Illinois in 1846 and settled near Clermont, IA in 1849. David graduated from Upper Iowa University (where he also met his future wife, Augusta Fox) and almost immediately enlisted in the 12<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry in September, 1861. He quickly was chosen to become a First Lieutenant & was shot in the neck at the Battle of Ft. Donelson followed by an even worse wound in the Second Battle of Corinth in September, 1862. Here he lost a foot and part of a leg. Discharged in February of 1863 due to his loss of a limb, he was selected as Commissioner for the Iowa Board of Enrollment (forerunner to Selective Service) He returned to active duty in June of 1864 as Colonel of the new 46<sup>th</sup> Iowa Voluntary Infantry, finally mustering out in September.

He immediately began the study of law, was admitted to the bar and began his practice in Dubuque in November of 1865. He also was Collector of Internal Revenues from 1865 to 1869 when he became an Assistant Attorney General for the Northern District of Iowa. In 1871 he returned to private practice and then in 1892 was elected as a Republican to Congress from Dubuque (within the old 3<sup>rd</sup> District) for twelve\* terms, never losing an election. Ultimately chairing

the House Judiciary committee, he became Speaker of the House in 1899. In late 1902 he announced he would not run again stating his view on tariffs was at odds with many Republicans, as well as problems from his Civil War wounds. Leaving Congress in March 1903, he moved to New York City for treatment as well as to practice law and then to California for the better climate. He finally returned to Dubuque where he passed away in 1906. He was survived by his widow (a marriage of 41 years), a son and two daughters and is buried at Linwood Cemetery. A statue of him is on display at the Carnegie-Stout Library as well as at Clermont and at the Iowa State Historical Society. In Dubuque, Allison-Henderson Park was named for him and another Brother from Mosaic (stay tuned!)

***\*an Iowa record only broken by Bro. H.R. Gross (13 terms) & Bro. Neal Smith (18 terms).***



***(and then, on a lighter note, Brother David Patton presents this bit of Temple history):***

As I learn more and more about the Masonic Temple, located at 1155 Locust Street, some interesting stories keep coming up. One has to do with what the workers did back in 1931 as they were finishing up in the Egyptian Room.

(Before my story, you first need to know, not only the time when all this took place, but also what the climate was like in Dubuque back then.)

After the city of Dubuque was chartered in 1837, two main groups settled the area: Germans and Irish from out east escaping the big cities to make a new life for themselves – both of which happened to really enjoyed fermented drinks!

It wasn't surprising then that in 1898, Joseph Rhomberg started the Dubuque Star Brewery. Prohibition between 1920-1933, however, shut the place down. However, since many still wanted their alcoholic beverages, they illegally started brewing their own spirits in homemade stills.

This was against the law, so federal agents would regularly raid suspected sites. Knowing this, most would dump the evidence down the drain before the feds arrived. Consequently, the agents usually ended up leaving the place emptyhanded.

This was the case for the laborers that were working on the Egyptian room. As the feds were entering the front door, a signal was sent upstairs to the painters. They quickly dumped the contents of their gallon jugs into the paint buckets and mixed it in. So, you can probably guess that, when the agents finally entered the room, all they found were several men on ladders, nonchalantly painting away.

Years later, there were some spots that needed a little touching up; therefore, several Masons went to the local paint store. The original mixture, however, was unique; they were never able to find a matching hue! Perhaps that's why many are high when they enter the room! (By the way, we strongly DISCOURAGE anyone from licking the walls!)

***Fraternally submitted;  
David Patton***