

November 2023

Blythe Needles Lodge #473

Trestleboard

A newsletter serving the Masonic and affiliated bodies of Blythe, CA

Trestleboard - a draftsman's designing board; that on which a Mason draws his designs for his character and spiritual growth; that on which the Worshipful Master lays out his designs for the workmen; a Lodge's newsletter and calendar of events.

Blythe Needles Lodge #473

From the East

Bro. Jeff Gatchell

Worshipful Master, Blythe Needles Lodge #473



Hello Brethren,

Hope everyone is doing very well! November is upon us and we are looking forward to what lies ahead in this and the coming months. Our Tuesday and Thursday evening (7pm) ritual work will continue as usual. These have been pretty successful, and I'm pleased with the progress of those that continue in the pursuit or perfecting the work, while learning more about the craft. Officer's School of Instruction (mandatory for line officers) will remain the 3rd Wednesday of every month, also at 7pm.

We are putting together plans for the 2024 calendar, which will include a handful of things that will increase our exposure in the community. If anyone desires to be included in the officer line, please let me know as soon as possible! Your Temple Association is formulating a plan to have a few needed upgrades to the lodge done, including a repaint of both the interior and

the exterior of the building.

Not to beat a dead horse here, but I would greatly appreciate all members of the lodge to participate as much as possible. As the saying goes, "The more, the Merrier! Even a little commitment is certainly better than none. Think back to when you took your obligations and try to honor that commitment. Speaking for myself, and probably a few others, you undoubtedly get more out of being a mason than you put in to it, when you participate.

Hope to see as many of you as possible!

On the square,

Jeff Gatchell
Master



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Blythe Needles Lodge

From the South

Brother Sutton Miller

Jr. Warden, Blythe Needles Lodge #473

As we journey through November, let's reflect on the incredible virtue of thankfulness—a cornerstone in our Masonic tradition. In this month of gratitude, it's a time to appreciate the virtues that bind us as brethren.

Among these virtues, humility stands tall. It's about being modest, recognizing each other's worth, and finding the path to self-improvement. Think of the noble George Washington, a true example of humbleness. His words, "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience," guide us to reflect and be humble in our moral pursuit.

In our quest for knowledge, morality, and brotherly love, embracing humility is fundamental. Through modesty and respect, we strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood, building a foundation for our unity.

Let's embrace this month with gratitude and humility, being thankful for the chances to serve, grow, and nurture the spark of conscience within us. November stands as a reminder of our blessings, encouraging us to remain humble and dedicated on our Masonic journey.

Fraternally,

Sutton Miller

Interim Junior Warden

Masonic Education - What would you say to your son?

Here are the words of one father to his son at the Initiation of his son into Masonry:

I congratulate you, son, on your admission into the most ancient and perhaps the most respectable Society in the universe. To you the mysteries of Masonry are about to be revealed, and so bright a sun never shed its luster on your eyes. In this awful moment, when prostrate at this holy altar, do you not shudder at every crime, and have you not confidence in every virtue? May this reflection inspire you with the noble sentiments; may you be penetrated with a religious abhorrence of every vice that degrades the dignity of human nature; and may you feel the elevation of the soul which scorns a dishonorable action, and ever invites to the practice of piety and virtue!

These are the wishes of a father and a brother conjoined. Of you the greatest hopes are raised; let not our expectations be deceived. You are the son of a Mason who glories in the profession; and for your zeal and attachment, your silence and good conduct, your father has already pledged his honor.

You are now, as a member of this Illustrious Order,

introduced a subject of a new country, whose extent is boundless. Pictures are open to your view, wherein true patriotism is exemplified in glaring colors, and a series of transactions recorded, which the rude hand of time can ever erase. The obligations which influenced the first Brutus and Manlius to sacrifice their children to the love of their country, are not more sacred than those which bind me to support the honor and reputation of this venerable Order.

This moment, my son, you owe to me a second birth; should your conduct in life correspond with the principles of Masonry, my remaining years will pass away with pleasure and satisfaction. Observe the great example of our ancient masters; peruse our history and our constitutions. The best, the most humane, the bravest, and most civilized of men have been our patrons. Though the vulgar are strangers to our words, the greatest geniuses have sprung from our Order. The most illustrious characters on earth have laid the foundation of their most amiable qualities in Masonry. The wisest of Princes planned our Institution, at raising a Temple to the eternal and Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

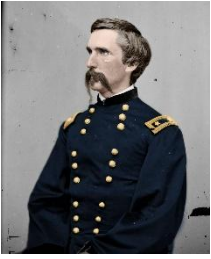
Swear, my son, that you will be a true and faithful Mason. Know from this moment that I center the affection of a parent in the name of a brother and a friend. May

your heart be susceptible of love and esteem, and may you burn with the same zeal your father possesses. Convince the world by your new alliance you are deserving of our favors, and never forget the ties which bind you to honor and to justice. View not with indifference the extensive connections you have formed, but let universal Benevolence regulate your conduct. Exert your abilities in the service of your King and your Country, and deem the knowledge you have this day attained the happiest acquisition of your life.

Recall to memory the ceremony of your initiation; learn to bridle your tongue and to govern your passions; and ere long you will have occasion to say, "In becoming a Mason I truly became the Man; and while I breathe will never disgrace a jewel that kings may prize."

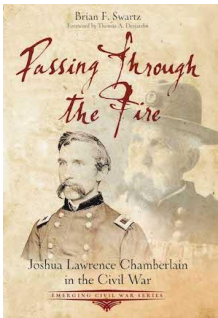
If I live, my son, to reap the fruits of this day's labor, my happiness will be complete. I will meet death without terror, close my eyes in peace, and expire, without a groan, in the arms of a virtuous and a worthy Freemason.

Famous Mason: General Joshua Chamberlain, Professor, Soldier, Politician, Freemason

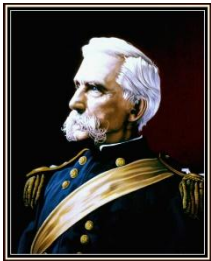


Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain was born in Brewer, Maine on September 8, 1828 – and died February 24, 1914. His father, also named Joshua, was a farmer and one of the area's leading citizens in civil and military affairs.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain was an American college professor from Maine who volunteered during the American Civil War to join the Union Army. He became a highly respected and decorated Union officer, reaching the rank of brigadier general (and brevet major general). He is best known for his gallantry at the Battle of Gettysburg, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor.



Chamberlain was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment in 1862, and fought at the Battle of Fredericksburg. He became commander of the regiment in June 1863 when losses at the Battle of Chancellorsville elevated the original commander, Colonel Adelbert Ames, to brigade command. During the second day's fighting at Gettysburg on July 2, Chamberlain's regiment occupied the extreme left of the Union lines at Little Round Top. Chamberlain's men withstood repeated assaults from the 15th Alabama Infantry Regiment and finally drove the Confederates away with a downhill bayonet charge. Chamberlain was severely wounded while commanding a brigade during the Second Battle of Petersburg in June 1864, and was given what was intended to be a deathbed



promotion to brigadier general. In April 1865, he fought at the Battle of Five Forks and was given the honor of commanding the Union troops at the surrender ceremony for the infantry of Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

After the war, he entered politics as a Republican and served four one-year terms of office as the 32nd Governor of Maine from 1867 to 1871. After leaving office, he returned to his alma mater, Bowdoin College, serving as its president until 1883. He died in 1914 at age 85 due to complications from the wound that he received at Petersburg.

Chamberlain emerged as a key character in Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning historical novel about Gettysburg, *The Killer Angels* (1974), and in a prequel novel by his son, Jeff Shaara, *Gods and Generals* (1996). Chamberlain is portrayed by actor Jeff Daniels in the films *Gettysburg* (1993) and *Gods and Generals* (2003), based on the books. His portrayal in these books and films significantly enhanced Chamberlain's reputation in the general public, making him into a more popular and well-known figure.

He was a Master Mason whose life was guided by a firm belief in the tenets of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief and truth.

We do not know for certain what his primary motivation was to join this great fraternity, but it would

seem likely that he had received favorable reports about this ancient institution from colleagues on the Bowdoin faculty who were Masons. The principles of Freemasonry were certainly consistent with the moral principles that guided his life.

At a special communication of United Lodge No. 8, held on the evening of August 27, 1862, the secretary presented a dispensation from Grand Master Josiah H. Drumond, to allow Chamberlain to take his Masonic degrees in less than the prescribed time. This, in itself, was somewhat unusual, for dispensations were usually handled by the District Deputy Grand Master. A ballot was taken and Chamberlain was accepted for the Entered Apprentice Degree. While he was being notified of his acceptance and in the process of being brought to the lodge to take the degree, another ballot was taken and it was voted to confer upon him the Fellowcraft Degree. Thus, on that very same night, he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice and passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. At 8:00 a.m. the very next morning, the lodge reconvened and he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. On September 12, 1862, he was proposed as a member, and on October 7, 1862, a ballot was taken and he was officially elected a member of United Lodge.