



Suffolk Lodge No. 60 F&AM

GOING FORWARD

21 May, 2023

Volume III Issue 20

*From The East
The Letter "G"
The Temple
Bro. L.N. Greenleaf
Trestleboard*

www.suffolk60.com

secretary@suffolk60.com

FROM THE EAST

Submitted by W.: Christopher W. Connolly

My Brothers,

This has been a truly amazing experience. I am deeply honored to have served as the Worshipful Master of Suffolk Lodge No. 60 this past year.

Together, we have achieved so much, far surpassing expectations. We organized more events this year than in any previous year, and none of this would have been possible without the invaluable assistance of numerous brothers and their families.

Bringing our families together as one has long been an objective, and it seems to be coming to fruition. As I have mentioned before, we cannot mention "Brother" without acknowledging the roles of our wives, sisters, sons, and daughters.

We have genuinely practiced what we preach, working together in perfect harmony. Even when differences in opinions arose, we navigated those challenging waters with respect for one another, always remembering that harmony is the support of all institutions, especially this of ours.

The foundation we have laid this year will serve as the bedrock for W.: Phil Lunarola to construct the future structure of our historic lodge.

In conclusion, my brothers, Suffolk Lodge has been in existence for over 200 years and will continue to thrive well into the future.

Sincerely and humbly,



W.: Christopher W. Connolly Worshipful Master, Suffolk Lodge No. 60

THE LETTER "G"

Excerpted from "Short Talks on Masonry" by Bro. Joseph Fort Newton
Submitted by W.°. Jason Intardonato

EVEN a stranger, entering a Masonic Lodge room, as he may do on a public occasion, must be struck by a mysterious Letter which hangs over the chair of the Master in the East. No one need tell him its meaning; it is a letter of light and tells its own story.

Yet no stranger can know its full import, much less how old it is. Indeed, few Masons are aware of all that it implies, either as symbol or history. There it shines, a focus of faith and fellowship, the emblem of the Divine Presence in the Lodge, and in the heart of each Brother composing it.

When the Lodge is opened, the mind and heart of each member should also be opened to the meaning of the great symbol, to the intent that its light and truth may become the supreme reality in our lives. When the Lodge is closed, the memory of that Divine initial and its august suggestions ought to be the last thought retained in the mind to be pondered over.

In English Lodges its meaning and use are made clearer than among us. There it shines in the center of the ceiling of the room, and the Lodge is grouped around it rather than assembled beneath it. Below it is the checkerwork floor, symbol of the vicissitudes of life, over which hangs the white light of the Divine guidance and blessing, so much needed in our mortal journey.

Also, in the Degrees its use is more impressive. In the First and Second Degrees the symbol is visible in the roof, or sky, of the Lodge, like a benediction. In the Third Degree it is hidden, but its presence is still manifest--as every Mason knows--since the light of God is inextinguishable even in the darkest hours. In the Royal Arch it becomes visible again, but in another form and in another position, not to be named here.

Thus, in the course of the Degrees, the great Letter has descended from heaven to earth, as if to show us the deep meaning of Masonry. In other words, the purpose of initiation is to bring God and man together, and make them one. God becomes man that man may become God—a truth which lies at the heart of all religion: and most clearly revealed in our own. At bottom every form of faith is trying to lay hold of this truth, for which words were never made.

THE LETTER "G"

...continued

Excerpted from "Short Talks on Masonry" by Bro. Joseph Fort Newton
Submitted by W.°. Jason Intardonato

In all the old houses of initiation, as far back as we can go, some one letter of the alphabet stands out as a kind of Divine initial. In the Egyptian Mysteries the solar Ra, symbol of the spiritual Sun shining upon the mortal path. In the Greek Mysteries at Delphi it was the letter "E" —Eta— the fifth letter of the Greek alphabet, five being the symbol of man, as evidenced by the five senses.

Hence also the pentagram, or five-pointed star. In olden time Fellowcraft Masons worked in groups of five, and five Brethren now compose one of their Lodges. Plutarch, tells us that in the Greek Mysteries the Letter Eta was made of wood in the First Degree, of bronze in the Second Degree, and of gold in the Third—showing the advance and refinement of the moral and spiritual nature, as well the higher value to the truth unfolded.

Many meanings and much history are thus gathered into the Great Letter, some of it dim and lost to us now. In our Lodges, and in the thought of the Craft today, the Letter G stands for Geometry and also as the initial of our word for God. Now for one, now for the other, but nearly always for both, since all Masonry rests upon Geometry, and in all its lore Geometry is the way to God.

Of the first of these meanings not much needs to be said. In the oldest Charges of the Craft, as in its latest interpretations, it is agreed that Masonry is moral geometry. What was forefelt by philosophers and mystics in ancient times is now revealed to us by the microscope. It is an actual fact that Geometry is the thought-form of God in nature, in the snowflake and in the orbits of the stars.

Since this ancient insight is confirmed by the vision of science, in the most impressive manner the great Letter may stand as the initial of God, not alone by the accident of our language, but also and much more by a faith founded in fact. There is no longer any secret; it cannot be hid, because it is written in the structure of things, in all the forms which truth and beauty take.

Nor does Masonry seek to hide the fact that it rests on God, lives in God, and seeks to lead men to God. Everything in Masonry has referred, every lesson, every lecture, from the first step to the last degree. Without God it has no meaning, and no mission among men. It would be like the house in the parable, built on the sand, which the flood swept away. For Masonry, God is the first truth and the final reality.

THE LETTER "G"

...continued

Excerpted from "Short Talks on Masonry" by Bro. Joseph Fort Newton
Submitted by W.°. Jason Intardonato

Yet, as a fact, Masonry rarely uses the name of God. It uses, instead, the phrase, the Great Architect of the Universe. Of course, such a phrase fits into the symbolism of the Craft, but that is not the only-nor, perhaps, the chief-reason why it is used. A deep, fine feeling keeps us from using the name of Deity too often, lest it lose some of its awe in our minds. It is because Masons believe in God so deeply that they do not repeat His name frequently, and some of us prefer the Masonic way in the matter. Also, we love the Masonic way of teaching by indirection, so, to speak; by influence and atmosphere. Masonry, in its symbols and in its spirit, seeks to bring us into the presence of God and detain us there, and that is the wisest way.

In nothing is Masonry more deep-seeing than in the way in which it deals with our attitude toward God, who is both the meaning and the mystery of life. It does not intrude, much less drive, in the intimate and delicate things of the inner life—like a bungler thrusting his hand into our heartstrings.

No, all that Masonry asks is that we confess our faith in a Supreme Being. It does not require we analyze or define in detail our thought of God. Few men have formulated their profoundest faith; perhaps no man can do it, satisfactorily. It goes deeper than the intellect, down into the instincts and feelings, and eludes all attempt to put it into words.

Life and love, joy and sorrow pity and pain and death, the blood in the veins of man, the milk in the breast of woman, the laughter of little children, the coming and going of days, all the old sweet, sad, human things that make up our life—these are the bases of our faith in God. Older than argument, it is deeper than debate; as old as the home, as tender as infancy and old age, as deep as love and death.

Men lived and died by faith in God long before philosophy was born, ages before theology had learned its letters. Vedic poets and penitential Psalmists were praising God on yonder side of the Pyramids. In Egypt, five thousand years ago, a poet-king sang of the unity, purity and beauty of God, celebrating His presence revealed, yet also concealed, in the order of life.

THE LETTER "G"

...continued

Excerpted from "Short Talks on Masonry" by Bro. Joseph Fort Newton
Submitted by W.°. Jason Intardonato

No man can put such things into words, much less into a hard and fast dogma. Masonry does not ask him to do so. All that it asks is that he tell, simply and humbly, in Whom he puts his trust in life and in death, as the source, security and sanction of moral life and spiritual faith; and that is as far as it seeks to go.

One thinks of the talk of the old Mason with the young nobleman who was an atheist, in the Tolstoy story, War and Peace. When the young Count said with a sneer that he did not believe in God, the old Mason smiled, as a mother might smile at the silly sayings of a child. Then, in a gentle voice, the old man said: 'Yes, you do not know Him, sir. You do not know Him, that is why you are unhappy. But He is here, He is within me, He is in you, even in the scoffing words you have just uttered. If He is not, we should not be speaking of Him, sir. Who dost thou deny?'

They were silent for a spell, as the train moved on. Something in the old man touched the Count deeply, and stirred in him a longing to see what the old man saw and know what he knew. His eyes betrayed his longing to know God, and the old man read his face and answered his unasked questions: "Yes, He exists, but to know Him is hard. It is not attained by reason, but by life. The highest truth is like the purest dew. Could I hold in an impure vessel the pure dew and judge of its purity? Only by inner purification can. we know God."

All these things—all this history and hope and yearning which defies analysis—Masonry tells us in a shining Letter which it hangs up in the Lodge. It is the wisest way; its presence is a prophecy, and its influence extends beyond our knowing, evoking one knows not what memories and meditations. Never do we see that great Letter, and think of what it implies, that we do not feel what Watts felt:

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope in times to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

THE TEMPLE

Poem by Bro. Lawrence Greenleaf

The temple made of wood and stone may crumble and decay,
But there's a viewless fabric which shall never fade away
Age after age the Masons strive to consummate the plan,
But still the work's unfinished which those ancient Three began;
None but immortal eyes may view, complete in all its parts
The Temple formed of LIVING STONES, the structure made of hearts

'Neath every form of government, in every age and clime;
Amid the world's convulsions and the ghastly wrecks of time,
While empires rise in splendor, and are conquered and o'er thrown,
And cities crumble into dust, their very sites unknown,
Beneath the sunny smile of peace, the threatening frown of strife,
Freemasonry has stood unmoved, with age renewed her life.

She claims her votaries in all climes, for none are under ban
Who place implicit trust in God, and love their fellow man;
The heart that shares another's woe beats just as warm and true
Within the breast of Christian, or Mohammedan or Jew;
She levels all distinctions from the highest to the least,
The King must yield obedience to the Peasant in the East.

THE TEMPLE

Poem by Bro. Lawrence Greenleaf

...continued

What honored names on history's page, o'er whose brave deeds we
pore

Have knelt before our sacred shrine and trod the checkered floor!
Kings, princes, statesmen, heroes, bards who squared their actions
true,

Between the Pillars of the Porch now pass in long review;
O, Brothers, what a glorious thought for us to dwell upon
The mystic tie that binds our hearts bound that of Washington!

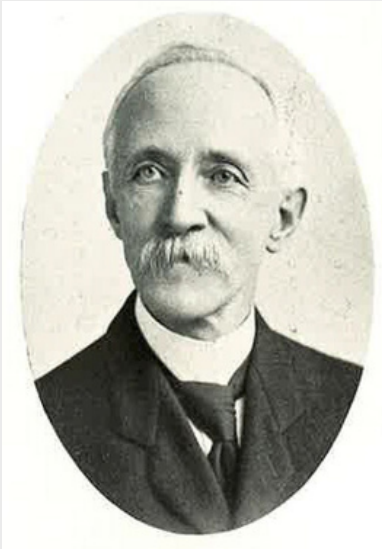
Although our past achievements we with conscious pride review
As long as there's Rough Ashlars there is work for us to do
We still must shape the Living Stones with instruments of love
For that eternal Mansion in the Paradise above;
Toil as we've toiled in ages past to carry out the plan,
'Tis this, the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man!



Edward H. Collins (left), Lawrence N. Greenleaf (center), and William N. Byers
(right) in Masonic regalia circa 1870

BRO. LAWRENCE N. GREENLEAF

Submitted by W.°. Jason Intardonato



Lawrence Nichols Greenleaf (1838-1922), a renowned pioneer of Colorado, was widely celebrated for his diverse pursuits, but none stood as distinct as his Masonic career. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, he completed his education in public schools, which carved his path towards a career in an emporium that later fueled his entrepreneurial endeavors.

Bro. Lawrence Nichols Greenleaf
Photo taken Jan 1, 1909

The onset of the Pike's Peak Gold Rush in 1859 led Greenleaf to partner with Gardner G. Brewer, establishing a mercantile business in Colorado. Their venture into mercantile business and their subsequent transformation of their store into a toys and fancy goods shop laid the foundations of their Masonic journey. Both Greenleaf and Brewer were Freemasons, members of Denver Lodge No. 5 A.F. & A.M., Brewer serving as Past Master from 1870 to 1872.

Greenleaf's Masonic journey started under mysterious circumstances. He served on a jury during the trial of a Freemason's killer, Patrick Waters. This experience possibly sparked his interest in Masonry. Greenleaf was initiated into the Masonic fraternity in Boston at Columbian Lodge in 1863, and upon his return to Colorado, he affiliated with Denver Lodge No. 5 A.F. & A.M.

Greenleaf's Masonic career was illustrious. He served five terms as Worshipful Master of Denver Lodge No. 5 and was the Grand Master of Masons in Colorado in 1880. His influence extended to the Royal Arch Masons, where he held the title of Excellent High Priest and served as Grand High Priest in 1885. He was inducted into the Order of High Priesthood by Albert Mackey and participated in chartering the Grand Council of High Priesthood in Colorado in 1887, later serving as President for thirty-five years.

BRO. LAWRENCE N. GREENLEAF

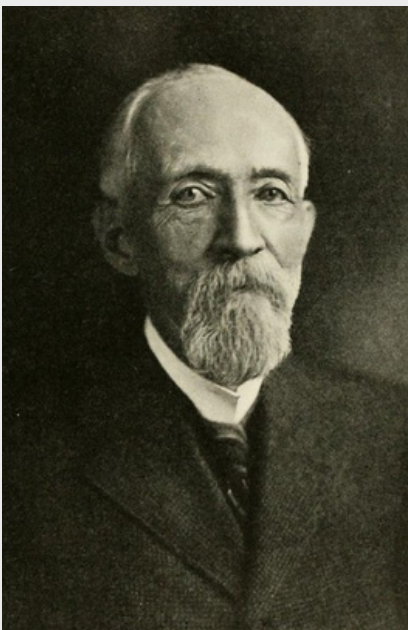
Submitted by W.°. Jason Intardonato

...continued

In addition, Greenleaf was a Knight Templar and a Scottish Rite Mason. He received his 33rd Degree in Washington, D.C., in 1880, and in 1883, he was commissioned as Deputy Inspector General of Scottish Rite Masonry in Colorado by Henry M. Teller. His profound influence and contributions to Freemasonry earned him significant friendships, including those with Albert Pike and Robert Freke Gould.

Greenleaf's Masonic journey extended beyond his leadership roles. His literary pursuits served as a platform for his Masonic ideologies. Post high school, Greenleaf started publishing poems and, over time, published satirical writings, poems, and jokes in the Rocky Mountain News under the pen name Peter Punever. In 1893, he purchased the Square and Compass magazine, using it as a platform to disseminate his written works and promote Freemasonry.

Greenleaf's Masonic career left an indelible mark on Freemasonry in Colorado. Following his death in 1922, a new lodge was chartered in his honor in Denver's Cherry Creek neighborhood in 1927, named Lawrence N. Greenleaf Lodge No. 169 A.F. & A.M. His journey and contributions to Freemasonry remain an enduring part of his multifaceted legacy.



TRESTLEBOARD

THURSDAY, MAY 25

SUFFOLK LODGE - SOCIAL NIGHT

*Meeting from 7-8PM with Prospective Members, all are welcome.
Followed by special video presentation on the 47th Problem of Euclid
for Master Masons only. Afterward, usual social night shenanigans.*

Where: Port Jefferson Masonic Temple 312 Main St. Port Jefferson, NY
When: May 25th, 2023 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM
Attire: Casual
Collation: TBD

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

SUFFOLK LODGE - STATED COMMUNICATION INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

*This will be a tiled meeting, opening on the 1st degree, EAs and FCs
welcome.*

Where: Port Jefferson Masonic Temple 312 Main St. Port Jefferson, NY
When: June. 1, 2023 from 7:30-9:30 PM
Attire: Tuxedos for Officers, Black/Dark Suits for non-officers

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

SUFFOLK LODGE - SOCIAL NIGHT

Usual social night shenanigans.

Where: Port Jefferson Masonic Temple 312 Main St. Port Jefferson, NY
When: June 8th, 2023 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM
Attire: Casual
Collation: TBD

TRESTLEBOARD

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

SUFFOLK LODGE - STATED COMMUNICATION

Work of the evening to be announced at a later date.

Where: Port Jefferson Masonic Temple 312 Main St. Port Jefferson, NY

When: June. 15, 2023 from 7:30-9:30 PM

Attire: Black/Dark Suits

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

SUFFOLK LODGE - HORSESHOES & BURGERS

Instead of holding our usual social night at the Temple, we will be gathering at Bro. Jason Intardonato's house for some horseshoes, corn hole, axe throwing & BBQ! Open to all brothers of Suffolk Lodge.

Where: Port Jefferson Masonic Temple 312 Main St. Port Jefferson, NY

When: June 22nd, 2023 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Attire: Casual

Collation: BBQ!

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

SUFFOLK LODGE - SOCIAL NIGHT

Usual social night shenanigans.

Where: Port Jefferson Masonic Temple 312 Main St. Port Jefferson, NY

When: June 29th, 2023 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Attire: Casual

Collation: TBD

Suffolk Lodge No. 60 F&AM

TRESTLEBOARD

TUESDAY, JULY 4

PORT JEFFERSON 4TH OF JULY PARADE

We will be marching in this year's parade. Stay tuned for further details.

Where: Port Jefferson Masonic Temple 312 Main St. Port Jefferson, NY

When: July. 4th, 2023 from 9:30AM-1:30 PM

Attire: TBA

Suffolk Lodge No. 60 F&AM

BUSINESS

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

2023 DUES

Dues are payable by January 1st of the new year.

Brothers, your lodge depends upon timely remittance of dues to operate and maintain our beautiful temple, which is our sanctuary. Please pay your dues on time or better yet, in advance. Dues can be paid by check, cash or credit.

Regular Member Dues: \$400/year

35 Year Member Dues: \$220/year

Please make checks payable to:

Suffolk Lodge No. 60 F&AM

and remit to:

Suffolk Lodge No. 60 F&AM

312 Main St.

Port Jefferson, NY 11777

To pay by credit or debit card you may either pay at the bar register at the temple or pay online by going to: <https://store.suffolk60.com>

Credit transactions incur a service charge.

STORE

SHOPPING

SUFFOLK 60 LAPEL PIN



Item: Suffolk #60 Lapel Button

Description: Show your Lodge pride with this handsome Suffolk 60 200th Anniversary Lapel pin. A sharp addition to any Masonic ensemble.

Cost: \$ 10:00 - [available online](#)

SUFFOLK 60 WINDOW DECAL



Item: Suffolk #60 Window Decal

Description: Deck out your ride and be the talk of the town with a nifty Suffolk 60 200th Anniversary window decal

Cost: \$ 5:00 - [available online](#)

SUFFOLK 60 CHALLENGE COIN



Item: Suffolk #60 Challenge Coin

Description: Suffolk Lodge is the oldest masonic lodge on Long Island. Now proudly display your membership with a Suffolk 60 200th Anniversary Challenge Coin

Cost: \$ 20.00 - [available online](#)

SUFFOLK 60 2022 POLO SHIRT



Item: Suffolk #60 2022 Polo Shirt

Description: The 2022 Suffolk Lodge #60 Polo Shirts are now available. This year's version is in a handsome navy blue with gold lettering.

Contact W: Chris Connolly for additional details.

Cost: \$ 25.00

REFERENCE

HELPFUL RESOURCES

SUFFOLK60 WEBSITE

<https://www.suffolk60.com>

SUFFOLK 60 FACEBOOK (PUBLIC)

<https://www.facebook.com/Suffolk60/>

SUFFOLK MASONIC DISTRICT WEBSITE

<https://suffolkmasons.com>

SUFFOLK MASONIC DISTRICT BAND

<https://band.us/band/70497133>

The **Going Forward** Weekly Newsletter is edited by W.⦿ Frank Miranda and W.⦿ Jason Intardonato under the direction of W.⦿ Christopher Connolly, Master of Suffolk Lodge No. 60 AYM, F&AM. Please submit any questions, corrections, announcements, or other suggested content to secretary@suffolk60.com.