

JULY / AUGUST 2018



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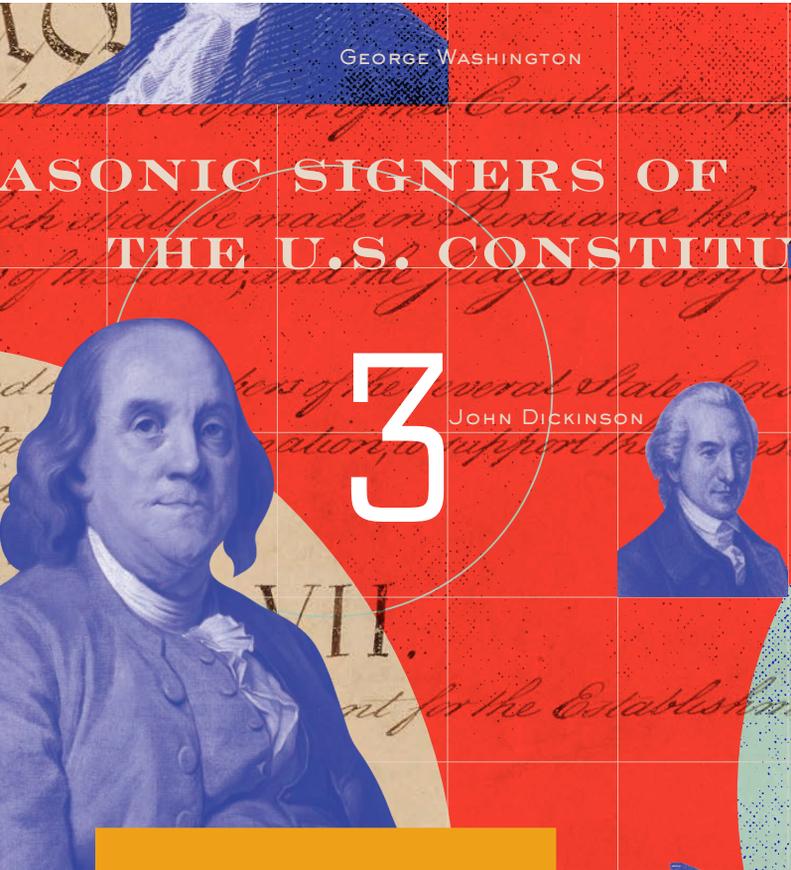
CALIFORNIA

# FREEMASON



# JULY AUGUST 2018

VOL 66 | NO 05



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# EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

## THE BONDS BETWEEN US

I can think of no organization as dependent upon mentoring as Freemasonry. Masons say, "We take good men and make them better." But, mentoring does not begin when a man submits his application, or when he is initiated. The good men who are drawn to our brotherhood have received mentorship throughout their lives, from fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and respected friends.

Fathers, whether Masons or not, teach children not only how to do things, but also how to lead moral and fulfilling lives. I was fortunate to have had a very caring father who, though he was not a Mason, guided me by way of example and encouragement. My father-in-law was a member of the fraternity, a 50-year DeMolay and 50-year Mason. Though we might not have realized it at the time, ours was a relationship between mentor and mentee. My great respect for him nurtured my desire to become a Mason. I knew that if he believed as strongly about Masonry as he did, it was an organization that I should be part of.

I look back fondly on Masons in my life who I consider to be great mentors. None of these men were "assigned" to me. I sought them out, or they found me, because we felt a sense of connection and mutual respect. Those who made the deepest impact did not necessarily answer my questions. They encouraged me to explore further to discover my own understanding of the world.

Few relationships are as strong as those between a father and a son, or between Masonic brothers. Mentoring and being mentored cements these bonds between us.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bruce R. Galloway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce R. Galloway, Grand Master

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...and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and  
...by their Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall  
...be required as a Qualification for any Office or Employment under the United States.

# Article VII.

...shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution before



## MASONIC EDUCATION

# FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

## TWO FOUNDING FATHERS' MASONIC PRINCIPLES GUIDED OUR VISIONARY CONSTITUTION

By John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Master

Not all the Founding Fathers of the United States of America were Freemasons, but quite a few were. And, those who were members of the craft may have been able to affect a greater influence because of their Masonic philosophy.

In his book, "Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order, 1730-1840," Steven C. Bullock notes the importance of Masonic ideas in the formation of the U.S. government. The American Republic was, above all, an idea – an aspiration that if given the chance a free populace could govern itself without falling into chaos and anarchy on one extreme, or despotism on the other. Freemasonry, says Bullock, was the inspiration for the extraordinary and successful attempt to transform a monarchical colony of a distant homeland into a self-governing republic.

The first American grand lodge was founded in 1733, so the fraternity was firmly established in the United States when the Constitution was written in 1787. Nine of its signers were Masons (others would later seek Masonic

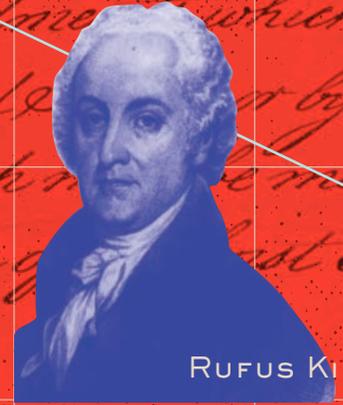
membership). Two of these Masons were so prominent that they truly encapsulated the spirit of the American Revolution and the creation of the American Republic: George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Perhaps of all the delegates, these men supremely represented the values that inspired the Revolution itself – the capacity of a political society to govern itself.

According to Bullock, Masons' role in the Constitution's creation is no surprise. The political skills that propelled the colonies toward revolution and freedom were incubated in Masonic lodges in the years leading up to the American Revolution. Unlike most organizations of the day, Masonic lodges had honed the skills of self-government and had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



GEORGE WASHINGTON



RUFUS KING



JOHN BLAIR

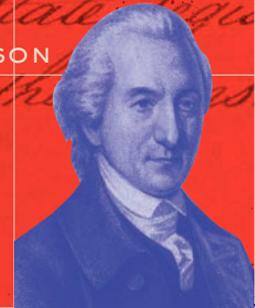
# MASONIC SIGNERS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



JOHN DICKINSON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



JACOB BROOM

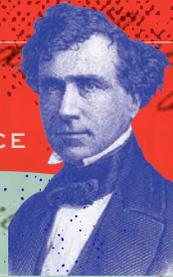


DAVID BREARLY

DANIEL CARROLL

N

FRANKLIN PIERCE



GUNNING BEDFORD JR.



committed themselves to the principles that would prove to be indispensable in a republic. Among these were pledges to respect every member's equality; to ensure every member could present his views without interruption; to treat every member fairly and with the standards of due process; and to practice leadership rotation and representative government. These values were exactly those needed by a self-governing society in order to avoid falling into anarchy or despotism.

The keystone of Masonic influence was the ideal of equality, regardless of birth or wealth. Bullock writes:

*Just as it illuminates the zones of participation and freedom that constitute liberty, Masonry also reveals crucial changes in the ideal of equality. Masonry's first century [1717-1817] spans the period when equality became a central and explicit national value. The fraternity served as a focal point for this transformation from a hierarchical society of superiors and inferiors to a republican society of independent citizens.*

It has taken time for the American Republic to realize in full the ideal outlined here, but every generation has added to this aim. Freemasonry has served as a wellspring, a guiding hand along the way.

That the U.S. is one of the oldest self-governing nations in the world is attributable to the commitment of our Founding Fathers to the principles fostered in Masonic lodges before the birth of our nation. Masons' leadership in our country's formative years was crucial to the enunciation of these principles in the Constitution itself. The influence of the nine Masonic Founding Fathers was profound, stretching far beyond proportion to their numbers.

Though these inspiring words, as articulated in the Declaration of Independence, are not explicitly in our Masonic ritual, the ideal behind them surely is:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed... ♦*



Bro. Jose Shepard with his mentor, Past Master Harold Whitford, at Menifee Valley Lodge No. 289.



Bro. Andrew Uehling of Prometheus Lodge No. 851 with his son, Sebastian.



Bro. Alfredo Del Castillo, past master of Mabini-Kalaw Lodge No. 195 in the Philippines, with his son, Bro. Alfred II, of Francis Drake Lodge No. 376 in South San Francisco.

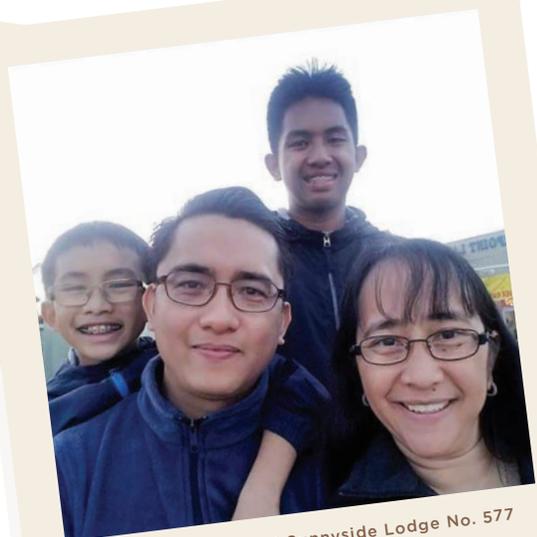
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Bro. Brad Palmer of Pacific Grove Lodge No. 331 with his children, Mia and Max.



Bro. Marlon Ribunal of Sunnyside Lodge No. 577 with his family.



Bro. Allen Cuenca of Alameda Lodge No. 167 with his cousins and grandfather, Past Master George Peter Williams of Sunnyvale Lodge No. 511 (now Mountain View De Anza Lodge No. 194), circa 1972.



(Left to right): Phil Gardner, past master of Alameda Lodge No. 167; his father, Ted Gardner, past master of Mountain Range Lodge No. 18; his nephew, Jason Tucker, now senior warden of Alameda Lodge; and his brother, Teddy Jr., also a past master of Alameda Lodge, celebrate Jason's first degree in 2013.



Bro. David Weaver of Crow Canyon Lodge No. 551 with his granddaughter, Cassandra, a member of Unity Assembly No. 65, CA Rainbow for Girls.

Our online community of Masons is full of dads and mentors who share their experiences with Freemasonry. Here are a handful of snapshots members shared of themselves with their fathers, children, mentors, and other role models.

## Team Lewis

In 2014, Jeffrey Schimsky, secretary and past master of Los Cerritos Lodge No. 674, learned that a family friend, Elliott Dixon, had a son who was contemplating joining Masonry. The son, Scott Dixon, was considering Los Cerritos Lodge because of his connection to Schimsky. Upon the acceptance of Dixon's application, Schimsky — who today is grand chaplain, former grand bible bearer, and marshal of The Downtown Masonic Lodge No. 859 — saw an opportunity. Beginning with his own father, Arnold Schimsky (a Mason of 50 years), he set about assembling a first-degree team composed entirely of fathers and sons.

On October 27, 2014, 15 lodge brothers — all grandfathers, fathers, and sons — came together to initiate Scott Dixon into Freemasonry.



The "Team Lewis" degree team of Los Cerritos Lodge No. 674, October 27, 2014. (Left to right) Front Row: Jeremy Turek, Stan Yellin, Jeff Schimsky, Scott Dixon, Elliott Dixon, Bob Kelly, Renee Espiritu. Middle Row: Al Turek, Victor Lindsey, Eddie Kelly, Greg Peterson. Back Row: Bill Melanson, Arnold Schimsky, Shawn Donohugh, Max Rush, Michael Hannum.

Schimsky nicknamed the degree team "Team Lewis," referencing the Masonic term for the son of a Mason. He hopes to reunite this multigenerational degree team to initiate other Masonic sons in the future. Perhaps, he muses, in 10 years, when his own son, Levi, applies to become a Freemason. "It's really amazing that we have these relationships — these lodge relationships, and these family ties," says Schimsky. "I wanted to celebrate that connection, to make it special."





## MEMBER PROFILE

# FOR COMMUNITY, FOR FAMILY

MEET TRAVIS SWEENEY  
MASON FOR FIVE YEARS  
FATHER, BARBER

*By Michelle Simone*

Travis Sweeney owns the San Mateo Zoo barbershop in San Mateo, California. He's a husband, father and stepfather to three children, and a mentor. He's also a five-year Mason at Peninsula Lodge No. 168 and a walking testament to Masonic values.

After an early career in homeless outreach, Sweeney came to his current profession through a vision of his grandfather, who once owned a family haircutting business. At the San Mateo Zoo, Sweeney aims to mirror the personality of his grandfather's shop as a hub of family and community. Fathers and sons come in together. High school students gather on benches outside. And, at Christmastime, the shop welcomes pro-bono clients from Gatepath, an organization that serves people with special needs and developmental disabilities.

Sweeney, whose daughter, Emerson, has special needs, is acutely aware of the challenges that haircuts can pose. People with special needs are often sensitive to bright lights, loud noises, and vibrations. Being touched requires extraordinary trust. During the Zoo's holiday event, Sweeney and his colleagues took all these factors into consideration and created an atmosphere of acceptance, celebration, and warmth.

"The smiles on the children's faces were just amazing," Sweeney says. ✧

*Read more at [freemason.org/July18Sweeney](http://freemason.org/July18Sweeney)*

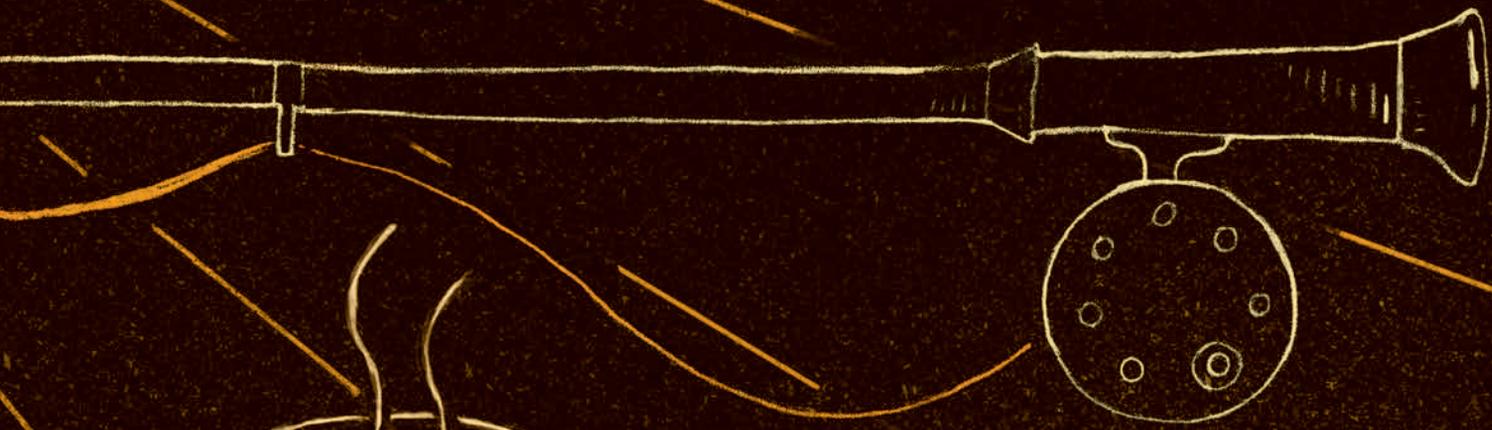
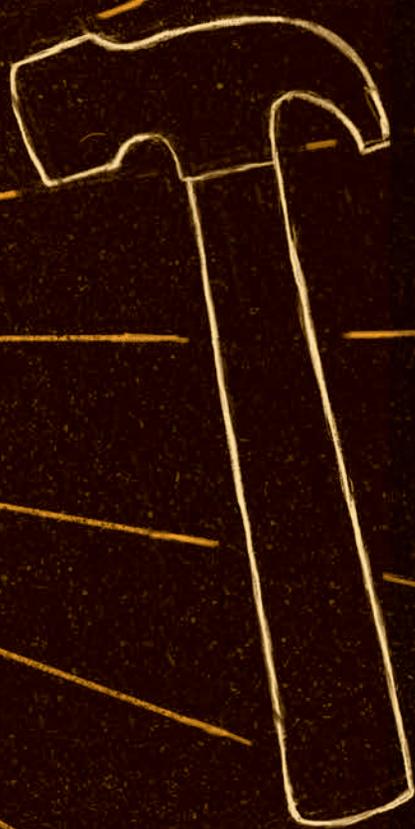
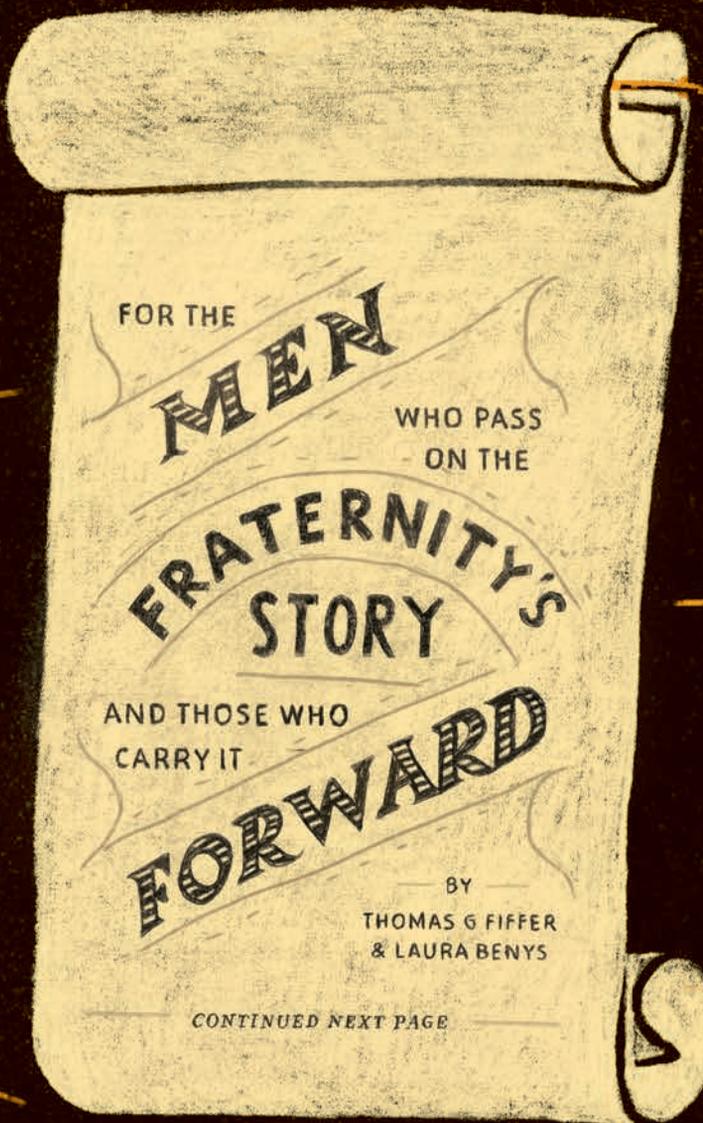
### WEB EXTRA

In 2017, Bro. Sweeney was recognized by Brawny Towels in their "Giants Among Us" campaign. Watch the video: [bit.ly/2FcMxOz](http://bit.ly/2FcMxOz)

FATHERHOOD

AND

FREEMASONRY



This story begins in the 1930s in Laramie, Wyoming, one of those big-sky Western towns that belong in a John Wayne movie. Dellmer and Edna Kettelhut raised their daughter here. Dellmer Kettelhut was a Mason, and he and the family were involved in just about every fraternal order they could join. He ran an electrical shop where he saw a steady stream of busted motors, alternators, starters, and other parts of automobiles that had limped into town and then quit working. Whether or not he knew the stranded travelers, and whether or not they had the money, Kettelhut would see to it they got back on the road safely. Baskets of corn and produce often found their way to the Kettelhuts' doorstep from farmers repaying his kindness.



Then the Kettelhuts' daughter, Karin, met and married a young man named Billy Mills. Mills admired his father-in-law's ways, and the fraternity that seemed to play such a big part in the Kettlehut family. "Dellmer was of the belief that a man's handshake is more important than any piece of paper, because his reputation is something to be valued. That's how he talked," Mills says.

Billy and Karin Mills moved to Colorado and started a family. Mills became a father, and then, following his father-in-law's example, he became a Mason.

### THE MEN WHO LEAD THE WAY

Fathers are, in a sense, where every story begins. They are the prologue – every life starts with one. For that matter, so do ideas, fields of study, and countries. See: Galileo, the father of

modern science; Chaucer, the father of English literature; Washington, Franklin, and the other Founding Fathers of America. But the ideal father is more than a beginning. He is an active force in our growth, from infancy to old age. From Greek mythology to classic literature to the Bible, the father archetype at his best represents wisdom, discipline, and unconditional love. Like Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird," he doles out lessons in tolerance and compassion, with a gentle dose of porch-swing philosophy.

This isn't limited to biological fathers. Studies show that children with involved "father figures" are also less likely to get in trouble with the law, tend to do better in school, and are more likely to hold a job. Father figures can be older friends, teachers, coaches, professional mentors,

spiritual advisors – anyone who takes a sincere interest and is willing to share his time.

In other words: Whether actual, surrogate, or symbolic, fathers play a powerful role in our development. They're vital in Freemasonry, too. In many ways, the whole fraternity lives and dies on father figures. The apprentice-master relationship hinges upon it. Just as a son looks to his father to help him navigate the path to manhood, a new Mason turns to more experienced brothers in his lodge – the father figures, in all the different ways they can look – to teach him about the fraternity and help him grow into the best version of himself. When someday he finds that he can do the same for someone else, it's a sign they've all succeeded.



Every summer, Billy and Karin Mills packed up the kids and headed back to Wyoming to visit the grandparents. Their son, Kendall, watched his grandfather in awe, and the Masons that filtered in and out of the house all summer. Someday, he decided, he would become a Mason, too.

But by the time Kendall Mills reached the age to apply (then, 21), he was on his way to marrying his high-school sweetheart, and soon after that they were on their way to having four kids in three years – a daughter, then triplets (even the doctor was stunned). Billy Mills hadn't been active in the fraternity since his Colorado lodge, either; work had moved the family from state to state until they settled in San Jose, California, and he hadn't yet affiliated with a local lodge.

For both father and son, the tide might have swept Masonry out of reach for awhile. Luckily, it didn't get the chance, because the next generation took a stand and turned it right back around. Kendall Mill's kids, three girls and one son, got involved in the Masonic youth orders. The age requirement for Job's Daughters was lower, so the girls went first. The only boy, Keenan Mills (one of the triplets), waited impatiently to join DeMolay. By the time he started attending meetings at age 12, he wanted his father to sit in. At the time, only Master Masons were allowed. Overwhelmed with work and family, Kendall Mills worried he didn't have time for Masonry. He told his son he'd have to wait a bit. As he recalls it, his son's response was, "Like, until I'm done with DeMolay?"

"After I pulled the stake out of my heart," Kendall Mills laughs, "I agreed

I'd look into Masonry. Now I wish I did it sooner. I needed the push."

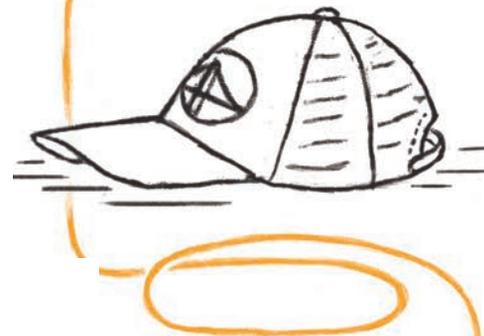
He decided to apply to Friendship Lodge No. 210 in San Jose, where the other youth order dads were members. Then, in a sort of son-to-father domino effect, he turned around and urged his own dad to affiliate, so that they could be part of lodge together. It turned out that Billy Mills was ready for a push, too. He joined Friendship Lodge in time to be part of his son's degrees. He became active again in Masonry.

### SCRIPTING EACH GOOD MAN

This is part of the power of father-son relationships: They motivate both sides to be their best. The father tries to be the best version of himself for his son, so that he can protect and prepare him for the world. The son tries to be the best version of himself for his father, so that he can grow to fill his shoes.

As young Keenan Mills was growing up within DeMolay, his father and grandfather became actively involved in Friendship Lodge. Billy Mills joined lodge leadership in 2002 as senior steward, and Kendall Mills wound up in the junior steward's chair right behind him. For seven years, father and son went up the line together. They spent hours practicing ritual together, often in Billy Mills' computer room, with the door closed and a Masonic Bible and English dictionary at hand. "That was quality time together," Kendall Mills recalls. "Talking about why they used this word, what about the deeper meaning, how can we use that in our lives. Before Masonry, we'd always bonded over sports.

The conversations were more along the lines of, 'What kind of trades do the Warriors need to make'? Then Masonry came in the door."



Some fathers spend time having conversations about what it means to be a good man. For others, it's a quiet process of teaching by example. The Mills men had been leading by example for years, deeply invested in giving back to the community and living upright and moral lives. But when Masonry entered the picture, they gained a way of speaking directly about those values.

For more than 300 years, Masonry has served as a structure for passing down a moral code from generation to generation, and a framework that informs each member's role in society. It's a script, in many ways, for the conversations a father might have with his son. In the short term, this brings order and direction to the younger man's life. In the long term, it prepares him to be a contributing member of society and, eventually, to take the elder's place. Without this chain from one generation to the next, important traditions would be lost.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



**LIKE THE LEWIS SYMBOL, A GREAT DEAL OF STRENGTH HAS ALWAYS COME FROM THE SON - FROM THE PROMISE OF THAT NEXT GENERATION, AND FROM EACH FATHER'S COMMITMENT TO BE THE VERY BEST FOR HIM.**

In a family, that could be a language, a code of values, a knowledge of family history, or a special recipe. Or it could be a tradition of Freemasonry.

By the time Billy Mills took his chair in the east as master, and Kendall Mills took his in the west as senior warden, father and son had spent seven years studying ritual together. That December, in the final month of Billy Mills' term, young Keenan - then 20 - submitted an application to the lodge. All three generations were going to be Masons. A few weeks later, when Billy Mills went out as master, he installed his son to take his place.

**LEADERS OF THE MODERN WORLD**

For all the symbols in Freemasonry, few allude to fathers and sons, at least overtly. Perhaps the Mills men are symbols enough. They symbolize the succession plan for Freemasonry: A new generation enters the lodge, and with the help of more experienced brothers, begin their education. Eventually, they come to share in the

responsibility of articulating and demonstrating that education to the next generation. They also symbolize the special bond between all the fathers and sons of the lodge - those who are related by blood, and those who aren't. The mentor-mentee relationship that men discover in Masonry represents this father-son bond at its best. Brothers pass on the principles they've been taught to help new members become better fathers, better leaders, and better men. By acting in a fatherly way towards both lodge and community members in need, Masons create a virtuous circle, as those who have been given to learn to give back.

Matthew Sebastian is a young Mason who currently has no children. But this does not prevent him from playing a fatherly role in the lives of other men. To him, one of the most interesting aspects of Masonry is recognizing that brothers come to Masonry from many life experiences. "It's the fraternity's role to meet each man where

he is," he says, "in order to shape him into the best man he can be."

"A lot of guys come in who haven't had a great male presence in their life," Sebastian says. "As members, we hold each other accountable, building each other up when we're down, calling each other out when we're wrong, and providing a badly needed support system for men that we don't get anywhere else. It all comes back to the foundational relationships, as mentor and mentee, and also as brothers, that we are forming with each other. There's nothing I would trade for those supportive relationships. They sustain me."

And together, they are sustaining Masonry. In 2016, Sebastian helped form a new lodge, Sempervirens No. 860 in San Francisco. Soon after, he took a job as a new lodge development consultant at the Grand Lodge of California. In this position, he shepherds members through the steps of the lodge development process in communities underserved by Masonry. As new lodges take seed throughout the state, a new generation of Masons is stepping forward to lead. They'll instill new brothers with a solid set of values for their communities, and groom them as mentors for the next chapter of the fraternity. They're an example of an expanded definition of fatherhood - one that extends beyond raising one's own children, and encompasses raising men to be leaders in the modern world.



Young Keenan Mills had been a Master Mason for barely a year when he joined the officer line of Friendship Lodge, following in the footsteps of

his father and grandfather. He went to his grandfather for help with the ritual, just as his father had. They met in the same computer room in Billy Mills' house; they referenced the same Masonic Bible and dictionaries. The ritual lessons wove between their households. After a coaching session, Keenan Mills would often head home to debrief with his father – comparing experiences; asking if Grandpa had quizzed his father on this word or that.

Billy Mills is a private, composed man, not prone to extemporaneous speeches about his emotions. He makes an exception for this subject.

“That was special, coaching both my son and my grandson,” he says carefully. “Those were very, very special moments together, over a number of years. A bond was created that was unlike any other.” He pauses, then adds in the same feeling tone, “There’s no way to describe what Masonry has done for this family in our lifetime.”

In December 2014, Keenan Mills became master of Friendship Lodge – at age 27, the youngest in lodge history, and the lodge’s first third-generation master. It became his turn to lead the lodge forward. His father and grandfather both played a part in his installation.

## SUSTAINING FATHERS, LIFTING SONS

There is, in fact, one Masonic symbol that speaks directly to fathers and sons. In speculative Freemasonry, a son of a Mason is called a *Lewis*. Billy Mills, who serves as Friendship Lodge’s historian, has researched the origin of the symbol, and culled through lodge archives to determine the number of “Lewises” in lodge

history. (He found 60 father-son pairs, and only two other three-generation families. The Mills are the only members to have all three generations serve as master.) When Keenan Mills became a Mason, Billy Mills presented his son and grandson with special Lewis lapel pins.

In the days of operative masonry, the Lewis was a metal clamp that made it possible for stonemasons to support and lift very heavy stones into place. As a symbol, it denotes strength, and the duty of a Mason’s son “to bear the heavy burden in the heat of the day and help [his aged parents] in time of need.”

In other words, Billy Mills says: The strength of a Mason is through his son.

It’s proven true in his family. It was young Keenan Mills who persuaded his father to take the leap into Masonry. Today, Kendall Mills is chairman of the fraternity’s Public Schools Advisory Council (PSAC) in the South Bay, a representative of the Youth Orders Committee, a past inspector and past junior grand steward – to name a few distinctions. Kendall Mills, in turn, urged his father to become active again. Now Billy Mills is a constant presence at activities. When his son’s PSAC meets students for the Investment in Success scholarship, he is one of the interviewers.

On weekend mornings, when the lodge serves breakfast at the local homeless shelter, all three generations of Mills men are on the egg line. They’re together at other service events year-round, along with spouses, siblings, and the next generation of the family (the youngest is Keenan Mills’ niece, who is 10 months and recently attended her first



Masons4Mitts fundraiser). Through years of studying the ritual, coming up the line together, and serving side by side in the community, all three generations have pulled each other more tightly to Masonry. But, like the Lewis symbol, a great deal of strength has always come from the son – from the promise of that next generation, and from each father’s commitment to be the very best for him.

In this sense, the strength of Masonry will always depend upon the next generation. The fraternity survives on brothers who embrace their responsibility to prepare a new line to replace them. When their work is done, the next brothers step up to take their place, using all they’ve learned to fulfill their promise to the next. One after another, they’ll take the prologue of their fathers, and carry the story on. ♦

*Editor’s Note: Thomas G. Fiffer is an author, speaker, and storyteller. He is executive editor of The Good Men Project, an online community of thought leaders who explore modern masculinity.*





# SEGERSTROM FAMILY ROOTS

A FATHER-SON JOURNEY THROUGH MASONRY,  
LIFE, AND GIVING BACK

*By Laura Benys*

The first photograph was taken in 1917, when Costa Mesa, California, was still a sleepy agricultural community. Theodore Segerstrom's great grandfather, C.J. Segerstrom, stands in front of the family farmhouse beside a Holt caterpillar tractor. Segerstrom has four more photographs to complete the set: his grandfather, his father, himself, and his son, each standing in the same spot.

They represent a family that has helped transform Orange County into a hub of culture and commerce. What began with 20 acres of lima beans grew into 2,200 acres, the largest independent grower of lima beans in the country, and expanded into real estate development, including South Coast Plaza, now an international destination for high-end shopping; and philanthropy, funding such institutions as the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

Through it all, the family has kept a stake in farming. Today Ted Segerstrom oversees the 30 remaining acres of lima bean fields, maintained with a collection of vintage tractors inspired by the 1917 photograph. "Our roots are in the ground," he says.

"It's symbolic of the family," adds his son, James. As a bit of trivia: James Segerstrom is allergic to the family

crop. "A cruel twist of irony," he says. "Took five generations to breed it out of us," Ted Segerstrom cracks. Allergy or no, they meet every August for the harvest. It's one of many traditions that father and son go out of their way to share.

Masonry is another. In fact, when James Segerstrom told his father – on the day of his 18th birthday – that he intended to ask for a petition, Ted Segerstrom asked for one too.

Ted and James Segerstrom represent at least the fourth and fifth generations of Masons in the family. (There's a picture of a great-grandfather in a Shriner's fez, but nothing's been confirmed.) As a youth, Ted Segerstrom was in DeMolay, where he led his chapter friends there, men who to this day retain a boyish

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love for pranks. "When you get the three of them together, the more you struggle, the worse it'll get," his son says.

When he aged out of DeMolay at 21 though, Ted Segerstrom hesitated before approaching a blue lodge. "I didn't feel I was ready for Masonry. There was too much going on in my life," he says. "It took James being born and coming up. He's my only son." When his son asked about applying, Ted decided it was time.

They applied together to Orange Grove Lodge No. 293, and were initiated the same night. James Segerstrom went first - "Masonry skipped a generation in the family for all of 20

minutes," he says. They did their first-degree proficiencies and received their second degrees together. The younger Segerstrom was raised two months before his father. When Ted Segerstrom received his third degree, his son delivered the charge.

Within a few months of his third degree proficiency, James Segerstrom joined the lodge's officer line. He is currently in eager countdown to December, when he is scheduled to be installed as master. Despite their hectic schedules, father and son now see each other at least once a week through Masonry, whether at lodge, in the offices of the Shrine, or helping at fundraisers. They share a deep-seated

commitment to the community: "Giving back is part of this family," as James Segerstrom puts it. "It's how I was raised."

Masonry is one of the ways they honor it. Ted Segerstrom is on the leadership committee for the fraternity's "Let's Write the Future" campaign, which is raising money to build upon the Masonic Homes' advanced care services and facilities, and to double the number of children served by the fraternity's literacy partnership with Raising A Reader. Meanwhile, James Segerstrom has helped expand the fraternity's Masons4Mitts campaign, which donates baseball gloves and supports life skills programs for at-risk kids.

Is passion an inheritable trait? Masons4Mitts seems to combine three of the Segerstroms': Masonry, philanthropy - and baseball. Both Segerstrom men played growing up, and are avid baseball fans today. They were together at Game 7 of the 2002 World Series when the Anaheim Angels won the championship. So a few years ago, James Segerstrom had the idea of expanding Masons4Mitts to include Angels Baseball. He took it upon himself to pursue the baseball team's top management, and eventually enlisted the California Masonic Foundation to seal the partnership. "Having grown up playing baseball, I know how important it is to have your own glove. For these kids, it makes all the difference in the world," he says. "And the fact that the gloves have a square and compass - it shows the kids that Masons care about the community." ♦



# The Second Family

## FATHERS TO MASONIC YOUTH

*By Laura Benys*

An old pickup winds its way through the sleeping streets of Orange County. It is 2 a.m. Tackle boxes and fishing poles rattle in the truck bed. H. Frank Gillespie is at the wheel. Another brother – often, Mark F. Patton, the master of Golden Trowel Norwalk Lodge No. 273 – is beside him. Three young members of DeMolay, Job’s Daughters, or Rainbow for Girls nap in the back seat. Other vehicles follow, packed with adult advisors and more Masonic youth. They are headed to a mountain lake where they’ll set up camp, or the ocean where they’ll board a boat. They’ll cast their lines by 6 a.m. For many of the kids, it’ll be their first time fishing.

This is one of the traditions Gillespie has passed on to countless Masonic youth during his years as an adult advisor locally, and as Grand Lodge Youth Representative for California. As the early morning wakeup might suggest, he is tireless. During his eight years of Grand Lodge service, traveling to all the state’s chapters, bethels, and assemblies, he wasn’t home but one night a week. Today, he helps lead youth support at Golden

Trowel Norwalk Lodge. The kids call him “Papa.”

*“It’s so important for these kids to have the lodge involved; to know that somebody’s there.”*

**H. FRANK GILLESPIE**

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“It’s so important for these kids to have the lodge involved; to know that somebody’s there,” he says. “I will always be with them, as long as I can. Our lodge is a family, and we stick with our kids.”

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

In 1996, psychologist Michael Gurian introduced the idea that three families are needed to raise a child to be a happy, successful adult – first, the nuclear family; second, an extended family of adult mentors; third, the surrounding community.

For the Excelsior Chapter of DeMolay, the Buena Park Assembly of Rainbow Girls, and the Norwalk Bethel of Job’s Daughters, the second family is Golden Trowel Norwalk Lodge.

The brothers make time for simple togetherness, from Gillespie’s fishing trips to family game nights to bringing a busload of youth to Dodger Stadium for Masons Night. They provide financial support so the youth can attend leadership conferences and meet fundraising goals. The youth serve and occasionally cook at stated meeting dinners, providing a chance for brothers to catch up with them. Youth play key roles in lodge installations and special events. When lodge officers visit youth meetings, they’ll often pair off with the youth to shadow their ritual movements. At one favorite event, DeMolay kick off the evening with an opening march, followed by the lodge officers, who take up places next to them. Each brother places his officer’s jewel on the young man beside him.

Together, these efforts build trust, and give steady examples of Masonic values in practice. The youth come to

understand that they have a network of adults who they can look up to as role models – and who are looking out for them.

As Gillespie says, “Kids need guidance. Having all these people around them teaches them what to do and how to act as they grow up.”

The lodge also supports the youths’ academic success through a grade incentive program, masterminded and led by David Swanston III. Each semester the local Masonic youth – from middle school through two years of college or trade school – turn in report cards to the lodge. They’re rewarded with a monetary gift based on their grades, with substantial increases for higher marks.

When Swanston presents the incentive awards, what he hopes they’ll take away is this: “We see you. You’re important. You’re going to do great things. And we want to help.”

### GROWING TOGETHER

But not only the kids get a second family. At the June stated meeting for Golden Trowel Norwalk Lodge, the Job’s Daughters read a poem titled “My Father Was a Mason,” dedicated to all the brothers, in honor of Father’s Day. Every year the lodge families receive postcards, visits, and phone calls from youth who have grown, moved away, and started their own families.

“We all walk around like peacocks for our kids,” Gillespie says. “We’ve seen every avenue of their lives. We have seen our children grow.” ❖

*Read more at*  
[freemason.org/July18GoldenTrowel](http://freemason.org/July18GoldenTrowel)





# FATHERS OF THE FOLD

UNITING FAITH, FATHERHOOD, AND FRATERNITY

*By Antone R.E. Pierucci*

“A rabbi, a priest, and a minister walk into a bar...” or so the old jokes go. The premise of the humor, of course, is that three men from different faiths will naturally have different perspectives of a situation – and that hilarity will ensue from their discord. Freemasonry, however, makes no such assumptions of its members. Unified by their fraternity, Masons of many faiths build lasting friendships that deepen their understanding of diverse perspectives.

## **THE CANTOR**

“I see the two values, those of my faith and those of Masonry, as very similar,” says Michael Anatole, a member of Channel Islands Lodge No. 214. Anatole has been a Master Mason for four years. For the past four decades, he’s served as the cantor of Temple Beth Torah in Ventura, California. Today he sees the two experiences as parallel paths. “It’s all about being better and doing better, he says.”

Anatole is far from alone in this discovery. In a fraternity where faith is a prerequisite to membership, it should come as a no surprise that a number of California Masons wear the vestments of a religious office. Faith leaders in particular find common ground in many of the

fraternity’s values, including uprightness, love, and philanthropy. At the intersection of faith and Freemasonry, one shared value in particular repeatedly rises to the surface: the virtues of fatherhood.

Perhaps without realizing it, Anatole was in search of male role models. He found one in Past Grand Master Russell E. Charvonja, president of his synagogue and his law partner. “I had known Russ for a number of years,” Anatole says. “To me, he just epitomized the characteristics of a good man, in all ways.” Thinking there had to be something to Freemasonry if his mentor was involved, Anatole

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decided to petition for membership. "Today I can say with certainty that Russell is entirely a product of the fraternity," he says.

This experience likely sounds familiar to many Masons. After all, many men seek the fraternity for the same reasons, and most have benefited from Masonic role models. But the journey is a bit different for men who are faith leaders. In addition to their own moral responsibility, they are responsible for the spiritual well being of those in their faith communities.

#### THE PRIEST

Later this year the bishop will install Steve De Muth – also known as "Father Steve" – in his new position as the 18th rector of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Covina, California. De Muth is a Master Mason at Destiny Lodge No. 856, which meets on the campus of the Masonic Home at Covina. He's also an Episcopal priest and a nondenominational chaplain for the Covina Masonic Home and his lodge.

It was the virtues of Freemasonry and desire for male mentorship that first attracted De Muth to the fraternity. "I had my dad, but a lot of the male relatives in my family died young," he says. "There was a part of me that yearned for more companionship; that life experience and guidance."

Today, he knows where to turn for inspiration when the going gets tough. "I have numerous brothers whom I look up to in Masonry who teach me what it means to be a better person," he says. "I strive to live up to the examples I've seen and experienced."

#### THE MINISTER

Ernest "Ernie" Reyes has found similar strength in his Masonic experience. "When I first joined," Reyes says, "I was amazed at these wonderful guys, the good work they were doing, and how they lived the Masonic value of brotherly love." More than 15 years later, when he was ordained a minister in the United Church of Christ, he felt confident in his role as shepherd to his flock, in part because of his time in the fraternity.

Today, he needs that confidence more than ever. Every weekend for the past three years, pastoral care has taken Reyes 270 miles from his home in Los Angeles to a community in Las Vegas. It is difficult to be away from his family every weekend, but he focuses on emulating his Masonic mentors. "I do this not just for the community in Las Vegas

and for God, but to be a role model to my children," he says. "It's part of living the values of Freemasonry that have been nurtured in me over the years by my brothers. We give of ourselves to serve others."

## ***At the intersection of faith and Freemasonry, one shared value in particular repeatedly rises to the surface: the virtues of fatherhood.***

#### CREATORS OF HARMONY

When spiritual obligations and Freemasonry intersect, religious leaders aren't the only ones to walk away better men. In his role as lodge chaplain, De Muth often finds himself proffering the same sort of advice and care that he ordinarily does in his day job at the church. As an example, when De Muth learned that an elder member who hadn't spoken to his brother in decades desperately wanted to reconnect with his family, he took it upon himself to facilitate their reunion. "It was a beautiful and deeply rewarding experience," he says.

Reyes had similar experiences when he served as his lodge's chaplain. Being deeply involved in his brothers' lives on social and spiritual levels offered great meaning. "Whether it was the death of a loved one or the birth of a grandchild, it was an honor to be there to offer counseling to my brothers when they needed it," he says.

In the end, the benefits that faith leaders receive from their Masonic role models are given back to the fraternity in equal measures. The relationship between the two forms of giving and sharing wisdom is symbiotic. And why shouldn't it be? After all, in their shared exhortation to do good work in the world, religions of all sorts and Masonry sing the same tune. For Masons-cum-faith-leaders, the tune is an especially sweet one.

"To me, Freemasonry and my role as a priest work well together," De Muth says, echoing Anatole's sentiment. "In some wonderful meta-scale contexture, there's a harmony to all aspects of my life." ❖

# Healthy Ways to Improve Your Child's Self-Esteem

THE BEST PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS  
ARE BUILT ON UNDERSTANDING

*By Lisa Goodwin, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Clinical Director  
of the Masonic Center for Youth and Families in Covina*

There are hundreds of “how-to” books on parenting, but being a good parent involves more than following a set of rules. It requires listening, acceptance, and patience. It calls for us to support and champion those who look to us for guidance and care. “Positive self-esteem is one of the most important traits to instill in a child,” says Kimberly Rich, executive director of the Masonic Center for Youth and Families. “Helping children feel empowered, resilient, and deserving of happiness – through life’s successes as well as setbacks – is essential to their overall well-being.

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## LET YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT YOUR LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL

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## MAKE TIME TO PLAY, LAUGH, AND HAVE FUN WITH YOUR CHILD

Every day, make time for your child - whether its sitting on the floor and playing a game, or having a laugh or conversation. Children who feel connected to their parents feel good about themselves, and play is a powerful way to nurture family bonds. Parenting will always have its difficult moments - so make fun ones a priority.



## ASSIGN AGE-APPROPRIATE HOUSEHOLD CHORES

There's always a way to help out around the house - from gardening to helping with the grocery list. Your children will feel proud of the responsibility you've given them, and the life skills they're learning.

*The Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF) offers therapeutic support for children who are struggling with behavioral, emotional, and educational difficulties, as well as their families. Headquartered in Covina (Los Angeles County) and San Francisco, MCYAF serves Masonic families statewide. If a child in your life may benefit from assistance, please contact MCYAF at (877) 488-6293 in San Francisco or (626) 251-2300 in Covina. Or, visit us online at [mcyaf.org](http://mcyaf.org).*

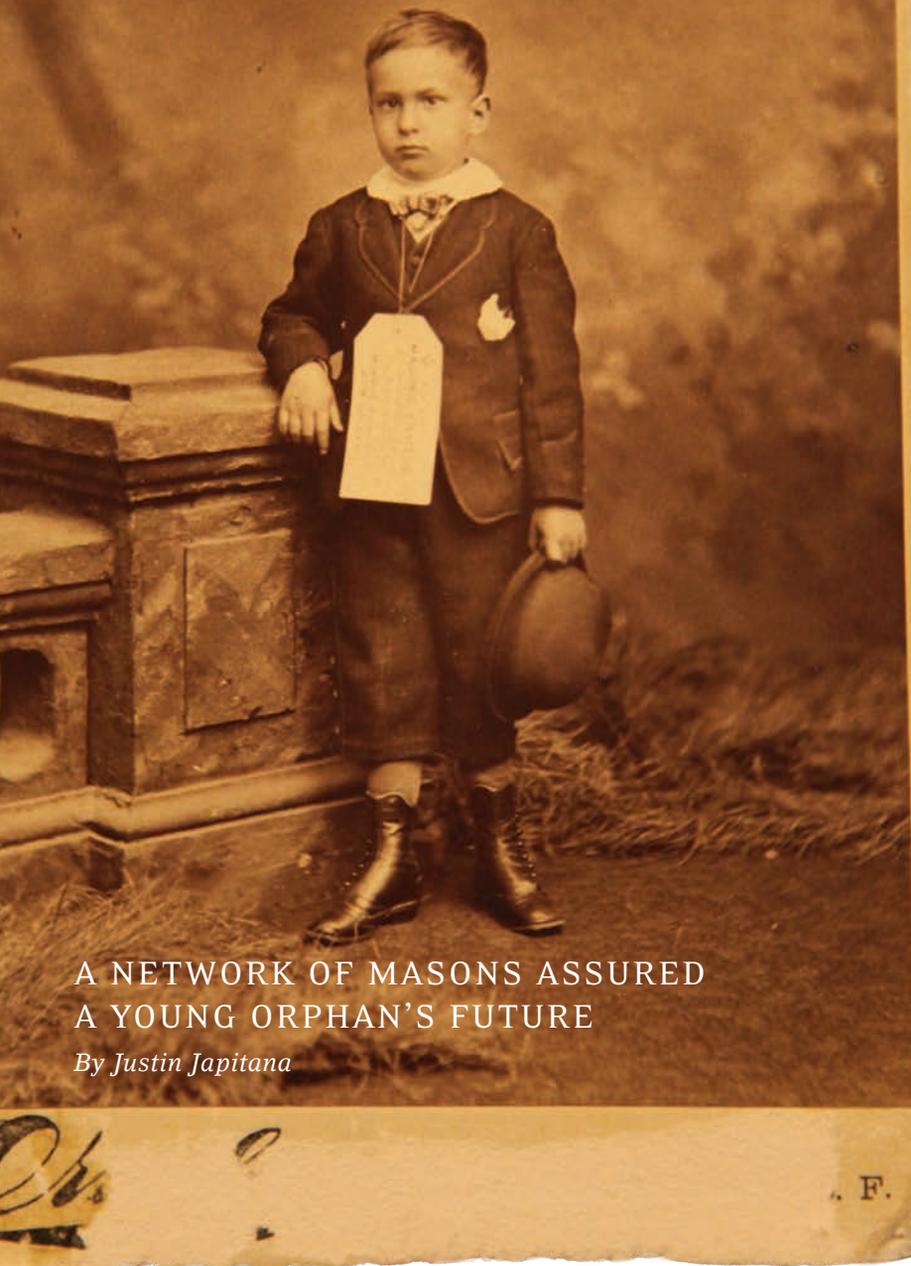


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# How Destiny Chose Walter Wilcox



A NETWORK OF MASONS ASSURED  
A YOUNG ORPHAN'S FUTURE

*By Justin Japitana*

On October 3, 1878, 4-year-old Walter Cary Wilcox sat on a Louisiana train heading towards Oakland, California. A packing ticket tied around his small neck stated his plight: “The bearer of this is Walter Wilcox, who has been orphaned by the epidemic which has pervaded this city... I bespeak for him, on the part of railroad men between New Orleans and Chicago, every possible attention, looking to his comfort and protection.”

When Wilcox’s mother died of yellow fever, funeral arrangers discovered a watch with a Masonic emblem among her belongings. They sent a petition for the orphan’s case to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, which in turn purchased Wilcox’s train ticket to Oakland, where his grandmother lived.

Following his arduous journey, Wilcox received a warm welcome from California Masons, including Grand Master Nathaniel G. Curtis. Their empathy for his plight was so strong that the Grand Lodge of California offered to make him a ward of the fraternity, helping pay for his care. He became famously known as “The Masons’ Boy” throughout the fraternity and California.

When Wilcox’s grandmother passed away in 1888, Grand Treasurer Nathan Spaulding adopted Wilcox and raised him as his own. When he was old enough, Wilcox followed his mentor’s example. He was raised a Master Mason on May 11, 1895 at Oakland Lodge No. 188.

The touching story of Walter Wilcox remains a moving testament to the strength of fraternal affection and Masonic relief. ✧

*Learn more about Walter’s journey  
and explore archival documents at  
[masonicheritage.org/exhibits/Wilcox](https://masonicheritage.org/exhibits/Wilcox).*



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