



July 15, 2016

In Memory of
RWB Samuel M Willis

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Opening

WM: Brother Secretary, read the dispensation (*Secretary, reads dispensation*)

WM: (*rises*) Brethren, it has been the custom among the fraternity of Ancient Free Masons, at an appropriate time in the activities of the lodge, to adjourn to the banquet room and there open a table lodge for the purpose of celebrating the traditional “Ceremony of the Seven Toasts.” In accordance with this ancient custom, my brethren, will you please rise as our Chaplain delivers the invocation?
(***)

Chaplain: Let us pray. Most holy and glorious Lord God, we reverentially ask Thy blessing as we gather around this festive table in the spirit of universal friendship and brotherhood. We have assembled here to rededicate ourselves to the principles and ideals of our beloved fraternity. As each of us endeavors to erect our spiritual temple agreeably to Thy laws, May the beauty of Thy Light give us strength to build with wisdom.

Brethren: So mote it be! Amen.

WM: Brethren, please be seated (*)

Opening of Table Lodge (EA)

WM (Opens a Lodge of Entered Apprentice)

Charge to the Brethren at the Opening

WM: Brethren, in this solemn hour, I charge each of you to rededicate yourself as a Freemason to the noble and glorious purpose of bringing light to dispel darkness; to the service of Him in whom you put your trust; to the precepts set forth in the great light in Masonry, the rule and guide of our faith. I charge you to keep your apron an emblem of innocence, unspotted by the world; to practice that most excellent gift of charity; to make constant and proper use of the square of virtue, the level of equality, and the plumb of rectitude.

Craftsmen in the quarries, I summon you to greater loyalty to your lodge and your fraternity; to integrity in all your dealings with your fellow men; to study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed. Guard against innovations, my brethren. Preserve the landmarks. Maintain the reputation of our fraternity.

Aid and succor the needy. Remember your brother's welfare. Be circumspect always in speech. Assist and support him who is falling. Whisper good counsel in the ear of him who needs encouragement. Let each of us make use of the trowel to spread the cement of brotherhood. Let us labor with the common gavel that these rough ashlar may become perfect ashlar. And finally, my brethren, remembering how once you stood in the northeast corner, a just and upright Mason, I give it you strictly in charge ever to walk and act as such.

Brethren: So mote it be! Amen. (*)

Introductions

WM: All Brethren except current Grand Lodge officers introduce yourself starting with my left.

WM (***)

WM: Brethren I have the pleasure of presenting to you Most Worshipful Brother, William B Rogers, Grand Masters of Masons in South Carolina. (*Introduces the Grand Master*)

WM: Please join me in presenting Public Grand Honors; Give your attention to our **Grand Marshal** RW Brother Benny Hammond.

Grand Marshal (*Public Grand Honors*)

WM: Most Worshipful Sir, I present you with the Gavel of Authority and invite you to preside.

WM (*lodge goes from labor to refreshment*)

Explanation of the Ceremony of the Seven Toasts

Masonic authority H. L. Haywood, in "More About Masonry" says: "In the Eighteenth Century Lodges the Feast bulked so large in the lodge that in many of them the members were seated at the table when the lodges were opened and remained at it throughout the Communication, even when the degrees were conferred. The result was that Masonic fellowship was good fellowship in it, as in a warm and fruitful soil, acquaintanceship, friendship, and affection could flourish - there was no grim and silent sitting on a bench, staring across at a wall. Out of this festal spirit flowered the love which Masons had for their lodge. What business has any lodge to be nothing but a machine for grinding out the work: It was not called into existence in order to have the minutes read: Even a mystic tie will snap under the strain of cheerlessness, repetition, monotony, dullness. A lodge needs a fire lighted in it, and the only way to have that warmth is to restore the lodge Feast, because when it is restored, good fellowship and brotherly love will follow, and where good fellowship is, members will fill up an empty room not only with themselves but also with their gifts."

The Table Lodge is a heritage of our past, which should be revived.

The ancient craft tradition of refreshment and feasting was handed down to us by the mediaeval guilds. At table lodges the brethren sat around tables arranged in an elongated horseshoe shape and enjoyed a drink and a smoke while they worked the old lectures or catechisms. Labour and refreshment were so closely intermixed that the Junior Warden's injunction to: "Cease from refreshment and go to labour" and vice versa, was a perfectly normal and real order.

There then follows the Ceremony of the Seven Toasts.

The seven toasts which follow are recommended but may be changed or substituted for at the option of the lodge except for the first and last; to our country and the tiler's toast. These two should always be given. The toast to the local Lodge and the one to our visiting brethren should be included and if a Grand Lodge Officer is in attendance, the toast to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge should be included. Other toasts may be used for special occasions such as a toast to the initiates, to the Past Masters, or others.

Practice

History and Protocol of the Seven Toasts

(Reviews toasting procedure, demonstrates and practices with the Brethren.)

Procedure for “fire” / “the good fire” / “sharpest of fires”

(Format same – all toasts)

1st - **WM: Right Hand to Arms** *(The right hand touches the glass)*

2nd - **WM: Ready** *(The glass is raised breast high, arm extended forward)*

3rd - **WM: Aim** *(The glass is brought to the lips)*

4th - **WM: “fire” / “the good fire” / “sharpest of fires”**. *(All Drink)*

5th - **WM: Present Arms** *(The glass is brought to the 2nd position in unison with the Worshipful Master, the glass is brought to the left breast, then to the right breast, then again to the second position so that the movement makes a triangle. This triangle is made and finally the cannon is forcibly in unison to the table.)*

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: VIVAT! VIVAT! VIVAT! *(Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table)*

The foregoing should be done with the exactness and evenness so that everyone will execute all movements in unison and the firing cannons (glasses) shall strike the table simultaneously!

TRADITIONAL VOCABULARY OF TABLE LODGES:

Glasses are called CANNONS

Wine -- STRONG POWDER

Forks -- PICKAXES

Coffee -- BLACK POWDER

Spoons – TROWLES

Knives are called SWORDS

Water -- WEAK POWDER

Salt -- WHITE SAND

Bread -- ROUGH ASHLER

Pepper -- BLACK SAND

("Vivat! vivat! vivat!" is the acclamation which accompanies the honors in the French Rite. Bazot (Manuel, page 165) says it is "the Cry of joy of Freemasons of the French Rite." **Vivat** is a Latin word, and signifies, literally, "May he live"; but it has been domiciliated in French, and Boiste (Dictionnaire Universel) defines it as "a Cry of applause which expresses the wish for the preservation of anyone " The French Freemasons say, "he was received with the triple vivat," to denote that "He was received with the highest honors of the lodge." - **Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry**

First Toast – Worshipful Master

WM: *(Rises)* Brethren, charge and align your cannons *(glasses filled and aligned)*.

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, *(Wardens rise)*, you will see that all cannons on the columns of the North and South are properly charged and aligned for fire. *(Done by inspection)*

SW: All cannons on the column of the North are properly charged and aligned for fire.

JW: All cannons on the column of the South are properly charged and aligned for fire.

WM: And they are charged and aligned in the East. We will now fire our volley to our Country. I claim for myself the words of command.

WM: Attention, my Brethren! *(***All rise)*

WM: Right Hand to Arms *(The right hand touches the glass)*

WM: Ready *(Raise glasses from firing line to chest.)*

WM: Brethren, I give you our Country, the United States of America. Our wish is for its honor and prosperity in peace, and for its continued sovereignty, independence, and freedom. We pledge anew our undivided loyalty. I invite you to deliver your fire as handsomely as possible.

WM: Aim *(The cannon is brought to the lips)*

WM: With me my Brethren, to Our Country!

Brethren: To Our Country! *(Repeat in unison)*

WM: Fire! The Good fire! Sharpest of fire! *(Drains cannon.)*

WM: Present Arms! *(The cannon is raised breast high, arm extended forward)*

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! *(Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table)*

WM: At ease. (*)

WM: Brethren, partake of the first course.

Serve First Course

Second Toast - Junior Warden

WM: *(Rises)* Brethren, charge and align your cannons *(glasses filled and aligned)*.

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, *(Wardens rise)*, you will see that all cannons on the columns of the North and South are properly charged and aligned for fire. *(Done by inspection)*

SW: All cannons on the column of the North are properly charged and aligned for fire.

JW: All cannons on the column of the South are properly charged and aligned for fire.

WM: And they are charged and aligned in the East. We will now fire our volley to the Founders of Ancient Craft Masonry.

WM: Attention, my Brethren! *(***All rise)*

WM: Right Hand to Arms *(The right hand touches the glass)*

WM: Ready *(Raise glasses from firing line to chest.)*

WM: You will now attend to the words of our Junior Warden.

JW Brethren, I give you the Ancient and Gentle Craft of Freemasonry, and the memory of its founders. The mystic tie unites us in a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. I invite you to deliver your fire as handsomely as possible.

WM: Present, arms!

JW: With me my Brethren, to Founders of Ancient Craft Masonry! *(Repeat in unison)*

Brethren: To Founders of Ancient Craft Masonry! *(Repeat in unison)*

WM: Fire! The Good fire! Sharpest of fire! *(Drains cannon.)*

WM: Present Arms! *(The cannon is raised breast high, arm extended forward)*

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! *(Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table)*

WM: At ease. (*)

WM: Brethren, partake of the Second course.

Serve Second Course

Third Toast - Chaplain

WM: *(Rises)* Brethren, charge and align your cannons *(glasses filled and aligned)*.

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, *(Wardens rise)*, you will see that all cannons on the columns of the North and South are properly charged and aligned for fire. *(Done by inspection)*

SW: All cannons on the column of the North are properly charged and aligned for fire.

JW: All cannons on the column of the South are properly charged and aligned for fire.

WM: And they are charged and aligned in the East. We will now fire our volley to the Memory of our Departed Brethren.

WM: Attention, my Brethren! *(***All rise)*

WM: Right Hand to Arms *(The right hand touches the glass)*

WM: Ready *(Raise glasses from firing line to chest.)*

WM: You will now attend to the words of our Chaplain.

Chaplain: Brethren, I give you the Memory of our Departed Brethren. Their labors here on earth have ended, but we shall always cherish the memory of their fidelity, kindness, and brotherly love. May their contribution to our brotherhood inspire us to more earnestly dedicate our lives to the service of our fellow men. I invite you to deliver your fire as handsomely as possible.

WM: Present, arms!

Chaplain: With me my Brethren, to the Memory of our Departed Brethren!

Brethren: To the Memory of our Departed Brethren! *(Repeat in unison)*

WM: Fire! The Good fire! Sharpest of fire! *(Drains cannon.)*

WM: Present Arms! *(The cannon is raised breast high, arm extended forward)*

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! *(Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table)*

WM: At ease. (*)

WM: Brethren, partake of the third course.

Serve Third Course

Forth Toast - Grand Officer or Past Grand Officer

WM: *(Rises)* Brethren, charge and align your cannons *(glasses filled and aligned)*. Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, *(Wardens rise)*, you will see that all cannons on the columns of the North and South are properly charged and aligned for fire. *(Done by inspection)*

SW: All cannons on the column of the North are properly charged and aligned for fire.

JW: All cannons on the column of the South are properly charged and aligned for fire.

WM: And they are charged and aligned in the East. We will now fire our volley to the Grand Master.

WM: Attention, my Brethren! *(***All rise)*

WM: Right Hand to Arms *(The right hand touches the glass)*

WM: Ready *(Raise glasses from firing line to chest.)*

WM: You will now attend to the words of our Gr. Officer.

Gr. Officer Brethren, I give you the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient Free Masons in South Carolina, symbol of our continuing relationship to an Ancient Craft and to the Grand Lodge of which he has been called to preside. May he lead and deliberate with wisdom, decide with justice, and plan with a vision worthy of the great Fraternity he serves. I invite you to deliver your fire as handsomely as possible.

WM: Present, arms!

Gr. Officer: With me my Brethren, to Our Grand Master!

Brethren: To Our Grand Master! *(Repeat in unison)*

WM: Fire! The Good fire! Sharpest of fire! *(Drains cannon.)*

WM: Present Arms! *(The cannon is raised breast high, arm extended forward)*

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! *(Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table)*

WM: At ease. (*)

WM: Brethren, partake of the forth course.

Serve Forth Course

Fifth Toast - Past Master

WM (*Rises*) Brethren, charge and align your cannons (*glasses filled and aligned*).

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, (*Wardens rise*), you will see that all cannons on the columns of the North and South are properly charged and aligned for fire. (*Done by inspection*)

SW: All cannons on the column of the North are properly charged and aligned for fire.

JW: All cannons on the column of the South are properly charged and aligned for fire...

WM: And they are charged and aligned in the East. We will now fire our volley to Our Lodge.

WM: Attention, my Brethren! (****All rise*)

WM: Right Hand to Arms (*The right hand touches the glass*)

WM: Ready (*Raise glasses from firing line to chest.*)

WM: You will now attend to the words of our Past Master.

Past Master: Brethren, I give you our precious Lodge, so close to the hearts of its members and to the brotherhood that has existed through the years. It has commanded an interest and loyalty unshaken by adversity and unspoiled by prosperity. May we all ever reflect its integrity and stability of principle in our daily lives. I invite you to deliver your fire as handsomely as possible.

WM: Present, arms!

Past Master: With me my Brethren, to Our Lodge!

Brethren: To Our Lodge! (*Repeat in unison*)

WM: Fire! The Good fire! Sharpest of fire! (*Drains cannon.*)

WM: Present Arms! (*The cannon is raised breast high, arm extended forward*)

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! (*Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table*)

WM: At ease. (*)

WM: Brethren, partake of the fifth course.

Serve Fifth Course

Sixth Toast - Senior Warden

WM (*Rises*) Brethren, charge and align your cannons (*glasses filled and aligned*).

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, (*Wardens rise*), you will see that all cannons on the columns of the North and South are properly charged and aligned for fire. (*Done by inspection*)

SW: All cannons on the column of the North are properly charged and aligned for fire.

JW: All cannons on the column of the South are properly charged and aligned for fire.

WM: And they are charged and aligned in the East. We will now fire our volley to Our Visiting Brethren.

WM: Attention, my Brethren! (****All rise*)

WM: Right Hand to Arms (*The right hand touches the glass*)

WM: Ready (*Raise glasses from firing line to chest.*)

WM: You will now attend to the words of our Senior Warden.

SW: Brethren, I give you our Masonic guests of the evening who will not doubt the cordial hospitality of our welcome. May this occasion persuade them to share again in our hospitality whenever circumstances permit. I invite you to deliver your fire as handsomely as possible.

WM: Present, arms!

SW: With me my Brethren, to Our Visiting Brethren!

Brethren: To Our Visiting Brethren! (*Repeat in unison*)

WM: Fire! The Good fire! Sharpest of fire! (*Drains cannon.*)

WM: Present Arms! (*The cannon is raised breast high, arm extended forward*)

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! (*Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table*)

WM: At ease. (*)

WM: Brethren, partake of the sixth course.

Serve Sixth Course

Seventh Toast -Tyler

WM (*Rises*) Brethren, charge and align your cannons (*glasses filled and aligned*).

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, (*Wardens rise*), you will see that all cannons on the columns of the North and South are properly charged and aligned for fire. (*Done by inspection*)

SW: All cannons on the column of the North are properly charged and aligned for fire.

JW: All cannons on the column of the South are properly charged and aligned for fire.

WM: And they are charged and aligned in the East. We will now fire our volley to All Freemasons, Wheresoever Dispersed.

WM: Attention, my Brethren! (****All rise*)

WM: Right Hand to Arms (*The right hand touches the glass*)

WM: Ready (*Raise glasses from firing line to chest.*)

WM: You will now attend to the words of our Tyler

Tyler: And now let us drink the age-old, traditional toast of the Craft - to All Freemasons wheresoever dispersed over the face of the globe. May our Brethren of all Nations be united under the mantle of universal friendship and brotherhood for the benefit of all mankind.

WM: Present, arms!

Tyler: With me, my Brethren, to All Freemasons, Wheresoever Dispersed!

Brethren: To All Freemasons, Wheresoever Dispersed! (*Repeat in unison*)

WM: Fire! The Good fire! Sharpest of fire! (*Drains cannon.*)

WM: Present Arms! (*The cannon is raised breast high, arm extended forward*)

WM: With me my Brethren!

Brethren: Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! (*Vivat at left, Vivat at right, Vivat at 2nd position and finally the cannon is forcibly, in unison, brought to the table*)

WM: At ease. (*)

WM: Brethren, partake of the seventh course.

Serve Seventh Course

Presentations

WB Vincent W Petraroli

Address by the Grand Master

MWB William B Rogers

Closing of Table Lodge

WM: Brethren, our work is now completed. We will close this Table lodge in the usual manner.

WM (*lodge goes from refreshment to labor and close*)