

The following presentation was given before a "gathering of Masons" on what was to have been the Regular Stated Meeting of Ida Masonic Lodge #324 at the town of IDA, LOUISIANA on August 14, 2014... but due to a lack of the needed number of Principal Officers ... The Talk was still given by Frater James A. Marples, VIII° on behalf of Nebraska College SRICF to the Masons in attendance. The Brethren in attendance expressed their thanks.

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## **IDA and diligent MASONIC WORK**

**by Frater James A. Marples, VIII°  
Life Member, Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F.**

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I had heard the feminine name of "IDA" before. In fact, my father who was a Mason 52 years had two sisters who were twins IDA and INA. It turns out, "IDA" is a given name in several different cultures. In Greek Mythology, Ida is the Mother of Minos. Also in another context: Ida or Ide is the nymph of Mount Ida and one of the nurses of Zeus.

However, more significantly in modern times, is that the feminine given name of IDA originates from the Germanic root word 'id' meaning LABOR or WORK. I wish to make it clear that this is NOT the same 'id' as defined by Sigmund Freud whose different 'd' was Latin for "it". Freud's differing word described 'id' as a human being's basic instinctual drives for gratification or impulse. The Germanic word 'id' is quite different since it is derived from the Old Norse language denoting "DEEDS" or "CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS".

Looking back at my own family heritage: I realize that my late Aunt Ida (Marples) Treddenbarger (1912-1990) was appropriately named. She was a hard worker. She had folksy sayings that I quote to this day such as: "It doesn't work to beat around-the-bush". And, if she was given a lame reason or excuse for a task or program not being done, fulfilled or organized correctly, my Aunt Ida would say: "That doesn't feed the bull-dog". In other words: The deed was not done or it was insufficient.

In a Masonic context: We as Master Masons MUST see that our Masonic Work is done. This isn't just limited to doing degree-conferrals properly and proficiently ---but also seeing to it that our extending our hand in Brotherly Friendship and Fidelity is done daily. It means caring for the needs of the the disabled, the elderly, the widow, the orphan, and the downtrodden. Our presence must be visible in each of our communities ---not just that we exist and have meetings --- but that we give something "positive" back to our local areas. The Holy Bible rests in a prominent place inside our Lodges. It is "The Great Light of Masonry". Upon it rests the Square and Compasses. Our conscience is molded by Almighty God. Each Mason worships the Creator according to his own conscience and individual creed. Although our members come from various denominations and faiths: we can all meet in Harmony to "do good Work" in this world to help people, our families and ourselves. Such work, also entails that our Masonic Ethics be our standards of honorable conduct. We make solemn promises that are honorable in every sense. Too many people forget that the 'oath' portion is technically "So Help Me God". Just like the Presidential Oath, Military Oath, Jurors' Oath and other binding pledges: we merely strive for Truth, Justice, Diligence and an honorable Outcome.

Our "standards of conduct" are the DEEDS and ACTIONS that the public sees....not merely our own members. I am proud to see IDA MASONIC LODGE, in Ida, Louisiana, is making a difference



in the Community. Good Fellowship prevails inside the Lodge Hall and Good Character is the actions/deeds exhibited outside the Lodge Hall, too.

I think all Lodges and Masonic Bodies can benefit by emulating the virtues of IDA. Just in the case of my late Aunt IDA..... what mattered most, to her, was that **any** type of LABOR be done honorably, and that the WORK be done completely, with due diligence, and ending in results of sterling quality. So Mote It Be.

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Sources / References / Recommended Readings:

- Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry by Dr. Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33<sup>o</sup> and a Knight Templar.
- Archives of The Masonic Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, Canada.
- Special thanks to Bro.: William Treadway of Ida Masonic Lodge #324 of Ida, Louisiana.
- Archives of The Supreme Council, 33<sup>o</sup> Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction, Washington, D.C.
- Macoy's Masonic Manual by Robert Macoy, 33<sup>o</sup> and a Knight Templar. Fifteenth Edition. New York. Published in New York, Year 1861 by Clark, Austin, Maynard & Company located at 3 Park Row & 3 Ann Street, New York, New York. "A Pocket Companion for the Initiated".

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About the Author:

Frater James A. Marples, VIII<sup>o</sup> is a Perpetual Life Member of Mulvane Masonic Lodge #201 A.F. & A.M. in Mulvane, Kansas. He is a Life Member of The International Peace Gardens Lodge of Freemasons (Canada-USA) and also an Honorary Member of Golden Rule Masonic Lodge #562 in Willard, Ohio; as well as an Honorary Member of Nelson Masonic Lodge #77, in Nelson, Nebraska, which has recently consolidated with the Superior Masonic Lodge at Superior, Nebraska.

Companion and Sir Knight Jim is a Life Member of the Wichita York Rite Bodies (Wichita Chapter #33 R.A.M.; Wichita Council #12 R. & S.M.; and Mt. Olivet Commandery #12 K.T.). He is also a Life Member of the Lincoln Nebraska Scottish Rite Bodies; The Robert-the-Bruce Association (California); The George Washington Masonic Stamp Club; Masonic Order of the Gordian Knot (Indiana); Masonic Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill; Kentucky Chapter #134 of National Sojourners and Heroes of '76; North Texas York Rite College #118 of Sherman, Texas; and Nebraska College S.R.I.C.F.

He is a Regular Member of The Allied Masonic Degrees; Grand College of Rites; St. David Conclave of The Red Cross of Constantine; Shawnee County Kansas Square and Compass Club; and Holyrood Council #61 of Knight Masons (Nebraska).

