



*This book belongs to:*

My dad is a Freemason.



One night at home before he went to his meeting, I asked him what a Freemason is and why he is a Freemason.

My dad then participated in a ritual which Masons call a degree. He went through two degrees named Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft.



He wore special clothing during the degrees. The clothing was arranged differently for each degree.

 Masonic Degrees



A Masonic degree is a solemn ceremony. Often referred to as the ritual, the Members of the lodge perform the degree like a play. They use narrative, staging, props, costumes, music and visual aids to teach the candidate the important lessons of the Masonic degrees.

During the first part of a degree, the candidate must pay attention and listen because his eyes are covered by a hoodwink. This also teaches him to trust the Members who are guiding him while he cannot see.

 Different types of hoodwinks.

My dad's Masonic lodge is more than 200 years old. He explained that Freemasonry is very old, but that no one knows for sure where or when it started.



## Origins of Freemasonry



There are many theories about Masonry's beginnings. Some say it was created during Egyptian or Biblical times; others say it was formed from the medieval Knights Templar. While many older civilizations had groups with a philosophy, ritual, and purpose similar to Freemasonry, there is no evidence of a direct link between older and modern times.

Modern Freemasonry probably evolved from the medieval and Renaissance stonemason's guilds. The best evidence shows that the Freemasonry we know today can most likely trace its origins to the guilds and lodges of 16th-century Scotland.

Freemasonry came to America during the Colonial period. Many prominent colonists and military officers brought their Masonry from Great Britain, Scotland, Ireland and France. During the Revolutionary War, American officers often met with British Masons, even though they served on different sides. These wartime lodges showed the respect that these Masons had for each other.



*Clockwise from top left: A scene from the Egyptian Book of the Dead; an 18th c. stonemason; the three legendary Grand Masters discuss the designs for the Temple of Solomon; a Knight Templar initiation ceremony; Renaissance stonemasons.*



# Personal Masonic History



Use this page to record the important events in the career of a Freemason that you know. If you don't know a Freemason, research the life of one of the famous Freemasons on pages 24 and 25, and try to record their Masonic history.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Freemason

Entered Apprenctice: \_\_\_\_\_ Fellowcraft: \_\_\_\_\_ Master Mason: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date Date Date*

Made a Mason in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*State*

Blue Lodge Offices Held

Year(s)

Grand Lodge Offices Held

Year(s)

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Committees and Awards

Passed to the Celestial Lodge on \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date City, State*