



# Great Lights Lodge No.181, A.F. & A.M.

Lodge Address -106 West Water Street –Decorah, Iowa  
Mailing address – 611 Locust Road, Decorah, Iowa 52101

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Brothers:

Our Stated Meeting will be held Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. Following our business meeting we will be conducting a First Degree/Entered Apprentice Degree for Candidate Grant Burke.

**Brother Scott Nading** wanted to thank everyone for donating to the Northeast Iowa Food Pantry over the last two months. If you can, please bring non-perishable food items to be donated to our local food pantry so help those in need.

## NORTHEAST IOWA STUDY CLUB ROTATION:

All study club meetings begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Study Club Rotation is as follows: Decorah, Elkader, Postville, West Union The next **study club meeting will be held the First Thursday of the month February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decorah**. Local Area Masonic Lodge Meetings: Postville- 1st. Tuesday of month- 7:00 p.m. 201 Boody St. - Postville, Iowa 52162 Decorah- 2nd. Mon. of month- 7:00 pm. 106½ West Water St. - Decorah, Iowa 52101 West Union- 3rd Mon. of month- 7:00 pm. 132 South Vine St. - West Union, Iowa 52175 Elkader- 3rd. Mon of month- 7:00 pm. 500 Strawberry Pt Road - Elkader, Iowa 52043

Four our Scottish Rite Brothers we will be presenting **Nite at the Rite Season 7** starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share the dates are:

- January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 9<sup>th</sup> Degree, Master of the Temple.
- February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 11<sup>th</sup> Degree, Sublime Master Elect
- February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 15<sup>th</sup> Degree, Knight of the East
- March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 22<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Prince Libanus
- March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 29<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight of Saint Andrew

## Upcoming events:

- Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Valley of Cedar Rapids Scottish Rite Coordinate Council Meeting and education presentation.
- Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Brotherly Love Lodge, Postville will be doing a Third Degree/Master Mason starting at 7:00 p.m.



**2026 Officers** – Roger Hamilton, Worshipful Master – Matt Seibert, Senior Warden  
Dustin Cote Junior Warden - Gordon Buss, Treasurer - Tim Felton, Secretary  
Internet website - [www.DecorahMasons.org](http://www.DecorahMasons.org)

- March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Tex Heyer's Tribute at Maple Crest Manor at 7:00 p.m. (see attached invitation.)
- March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Brother Robert Goellers, Junior Grand Deacon's reception (see attached invitation.)

### Thought for the day:

*“A Mason always extends his hand in brotherhood, no matter where he travels”*

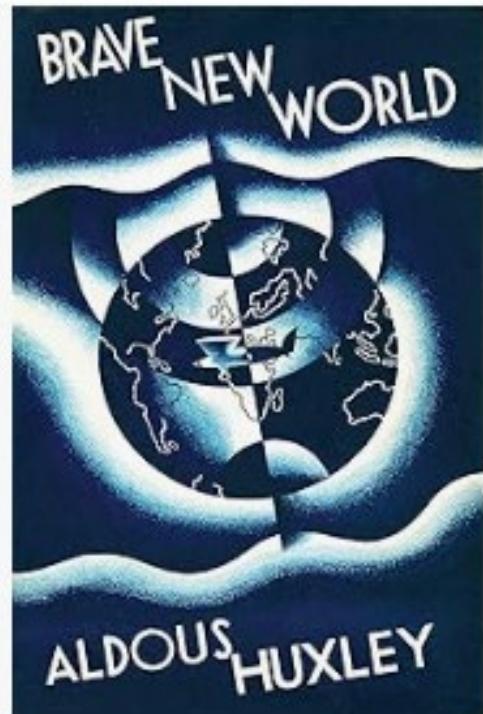
This quote emphasizes the universal bond of brotherhood among Masons , highlighting the importance of unity and support.

Timothy J. Felton, Secretary  
Great Lights Lodge #181  
[efelton@mchsi.com](mailto:efelton@mchsi.com) or 563.379.0852



### Further Education happening last month from around the world:

### Books we are reading:



**Title:** Brave New World  
**Author:** Aldus Huxley  
**Date:** 1932  
**Pages:** 144

This dystopian masterpiece was written 16 years before George Orwell's "1984", and both are classics in the Dystopian genre of government overreach.

The main character is a "savage" brought from the hinterlands to the modern day urban "utopia". Representing the reader, he is given a tour of all the modern conveniences of centralized planning. The caste system is created in the womb, where people are medically handicapped to a certain IQ, and bred to enjoy their working conditions. "SOMA" is introduced as a drugged food, fed to the population to medically make them carefree and happy all the time. Is this a callback to Rome's "Bread & Circuses" or a

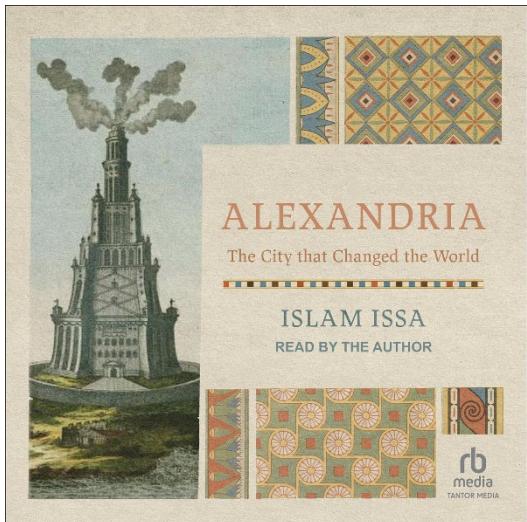
prognostication of our modern entertainment of TV, Internet, and Netflix?

This book will make you question the meaning of Freedom.

<https://www.amazon.com/Brave-New-World-Aldous-Huxley/dp/1841593591/>



**2026 Officers** – Roger Hamilton, Worshipful Master – Matt Seibert, Senior Warden  
 Dustin Cote Junior Warden - Gordon Buss, Treasurer - Tim Felton, Secretary  
 Internet website - [www.DecorahMasons.org](http://www.DecorahMasons.org)

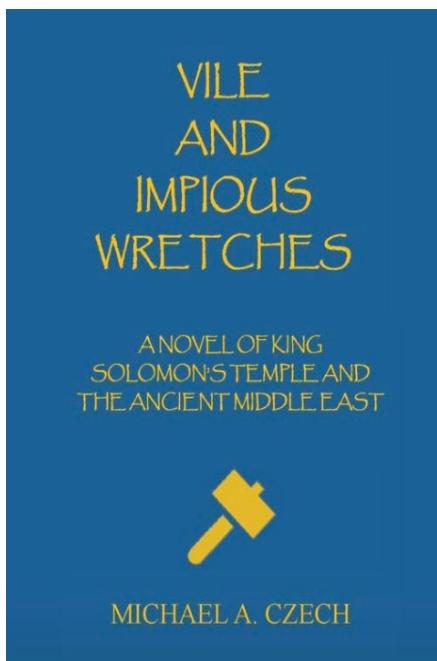


**Title:** Alexandria:  
The City that Changed the World  
**Author:** Islam Issa  
**Date:** 2024  
**Pages:** 496

The Egyptian city of Alexandria was one of the greatest cities of the ancient Mediterranean world, and is a place steeped in history, intrigue, and wonder. Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC and nurtured by the Ptolemaic dynasty, it has been a center of scholarship, trade, and culture for over two millennia.

Alexandria's contributions to the world of knowledge through its Great Library and architectural marvels, including its famed lighthouse, remain a symbol of human achievement, and it is also believed to be home to the lost tombs of Alexander and Cleopatra.

<https://www.amazon.com/Alexandria-City-that-Changed-World/dp/1639365451>



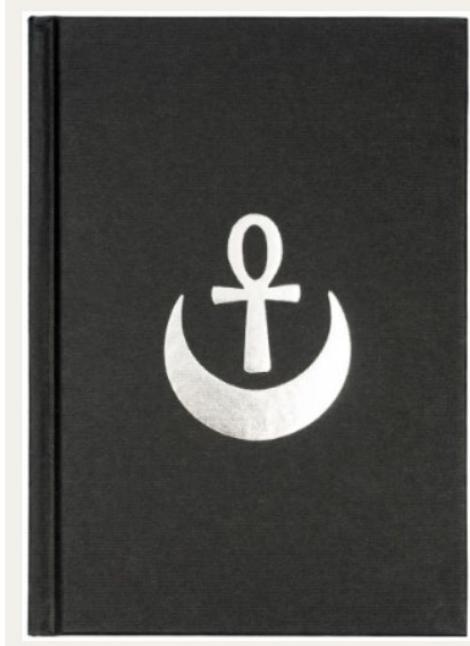
**Title:** Vile and Impious Wretches  
**Author:** Michael Czech  
**Date:** 2024  
**Pages:** 200

What if you could step into the dust, blood, and intrigue of the ancient world during the building of King Solomon's Temple? The author takes readers deep into the forgotten lives of those who toiled, schemed, and dreamed beneath the shadow of one of history's greatest monuments. From slave caravans and family betrayals to unexpected alliances and the harsh politics of the ancient Middle East, this novel re-imagines the human stories behind biblical legend—stories of ambition, suffering, and the eternal search for meaning.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581685263038>  
email: [buymcbook@yahoo.com](mailto:buymcbook@yahoo.com)



2026 Officers – Roger Hamilton, Worshipful Master – Matt Seibert, Senior Warden  
Dustin Cote Junior Warden - Gordon Buss, Treasurer - Tim Felton, Secretary  
Internet website - [www.DecorahMasons.org](http://www.DecorahMasons.org)

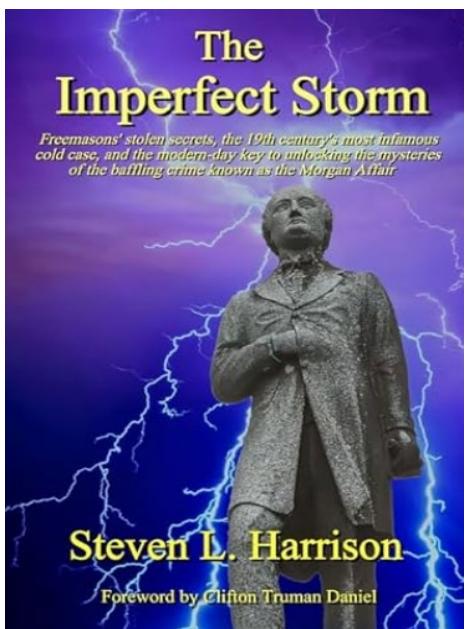


**Title:** A Stranger in the Elemental Temple:  
The Rituals of the Ancient Oriental Order of Ishmael  
**Author:** Billy J. Hamilton, Jr.  
**Date:** 2024  
**Pages:** 361

The Ancient Oriental Order of Ishmael is a para-masonic system of 36 degrees, having a documented history and a unique ritual that has never been published before.

These rituals are rooted in the biblical story of Abraham and his family's journey from Ur of the Chaldees. The order's rituals weave a narrative of initiation into an elemental priesthood, exploring themes of exile, inheritance, and reconciliation.

Publisher: <https://tinyurl.com/4cfmb4fw>  
<https://dagenhamdave.com/2025/02/16/a-stranger-in-the-elemental-temple/>



**Title:** The Imperfect Storm  
**Author:** Steven L. Harris  
**Date:** 2023  
**Pages:** 250

Of all the conspiracy theories and slander levied against Freemasonry, the kidnapping and disappearance of William Morgan in 1826 actually did happen at the hands of rural New York Freemasons.

This book outlines the historical backdrop of the post-Revolutionary period of America, to help explain how and why this tragedy occurred. It gives a fair representation of who William Morgan might have been, and displays the political backlash against Freemasons that haunt us to this day.

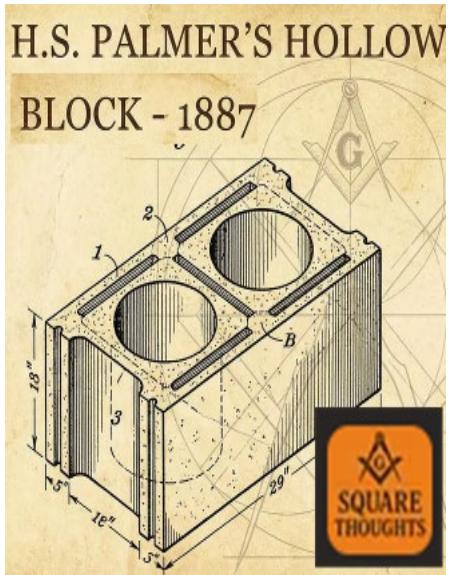
It concludes with brand new evidence that William Morgan may have lived his life out in peace & harmony while exiled in the Caribbean Islands.

<https://www.amazon.com/Imperfect-Storm-Freemasons-Hardcover-Harrison/dp/B0DWQLWNMQ>



2026 Officers – Roger Hamilton, Worshipful Master – Matt Seibert, Senior Warden  
Dustin Cote Junior Warden - Gordon Buss, Treasurer - Tim Felton, Secretary  
Internet website - [www.DecorahMasons.org](http://www.DecorahMasons.org)

## January Blog Posts:



**Website:** Square Thoughts

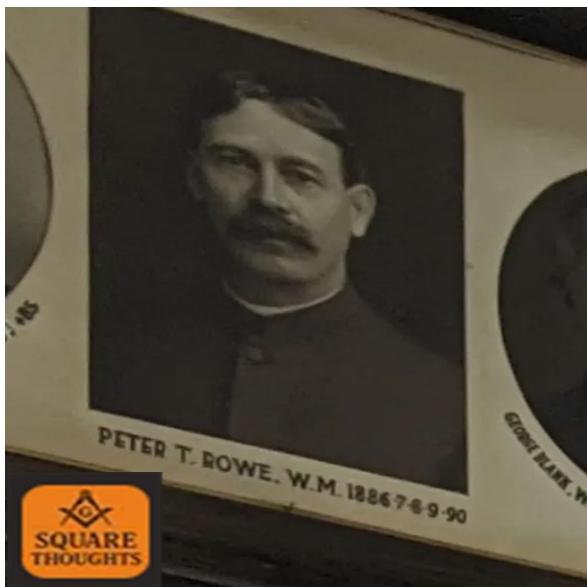
**Author:** Brother Rob

**Date:** 01/06/2026

**Article:** "Fit for the Builder's Use"

**Summary:** Using the metaphor of Palmer's failed solid bricks vs. his successful hollow bricks, the author suggest that the future of Freemasonry and our own Lodge will be based on the **quality** of our members, not the quantity.

<https://squaredthoughts.substack.com/p/fit-for-the-builders-use>



**Website:** Square Thoughts

**Author:** Brother Rob

**Date:** 01/26/2026

**Article:** "The Mushing Bishop"

**Summary:** Who were the men who graced our Lodges before we joined? Before we were ever born? An innocent letter from 3,000 miles away caused the author to go on a path to discover the rich & interesting life of a 'forgotten' Past Master from 1886.

What other gems are hiding in plain sight? Hanging from framed photos on our walls? What do these men have to teach us from across the centuries?

<https://squaredthoughts.substack.com/p/the-mushing-bishop>

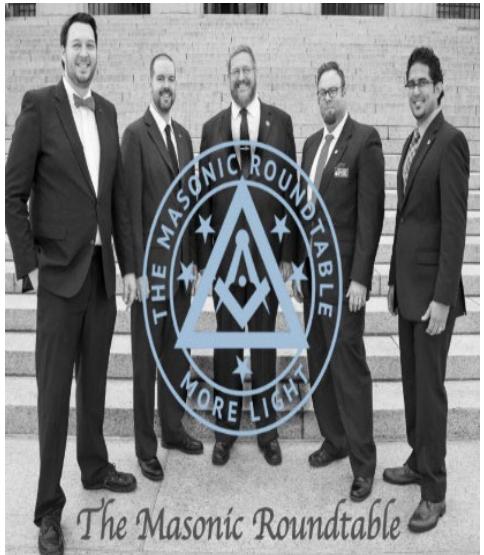


**2026 Officers** – Roger Hamilton, Worshipful Master – Matt Seibert, Senior Warden

Dustin Cote Junior Warden - Gordon Buss, Treasurer - Tim Felton, Secretary

Internet website - [www.DecorahMasons.org](http://www.DecorahMasons.org)

## January Podcasts:



**Podcast:** The Masonic Roundtable  
**Episodes #541:** The Rise & Fall of Social Media  
**Date:** 1/15/2026

**Topics:** Explore the shifting landscape of online engagement and the evolving nature of communication within the Craft. Is it possible to maintain substance and value over time? Can we maintain meaningful discourse and contribute to a lasting and impactful presence in the digital age?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clHmbxmGlxw>



**Podcast:** The Masonic Roundtable  
**Episodes #543:** Education vs. Service  
**Date:** 1/30/2026

**Topics:** The hosts of The Masonic Roundtable discuss the "unspoken war" of Freemasonry: education vs. service!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DirhGjsZDp0>



**2026 Officers** – Roger Hamilton, Worshipful Master – Matt Seibert, Senior Warden  
Dustin Cote Junior Warden - Gordon Buss, Treasurer - Tim Felton, Secretary  
Internet website - [www.DecorahMasons.org](http://www.DecorahMasons.org)



**Podcast:** Whence Came You?  
**Episode #698:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Esoteric  
**Date:** 01/04/2026  
**Topics:**

- The Mystery of the Circle and Square
- Younger Masons joining today are even more interested in esoteric topics. How do we accommodate them?

<https://wcypodcast.libsyn.com/whence-came-you-0698-21st-century-esoteric>



**Podcast:** Whence Came You?  
**Episode #700:** Gratitude, Ambition, & the Trial of Truth  
**Date:** 12/21/2025  
**Topics:**

- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Scopes Trial: Where science clashed with faith in a courtroom spectacle.
- Examining Virtues: Balancing gratitude with ambition to build a stronger brotherhood

<https://wcypodcast.libsyn.com/whence-came-you-0700-gratitude-ambition-and-the-trial-of-truth>



**2026 Officers** – Roger Hamilton, Worshipful Master – Matt Seibert, Senior Warden  
Dustin Cote Junior Warden - Gordon Buss, Treasurer - Tim Felton, Secretary  
Internet website - [www.DecorahMasons.org](http://www.DecorahMasons.org)