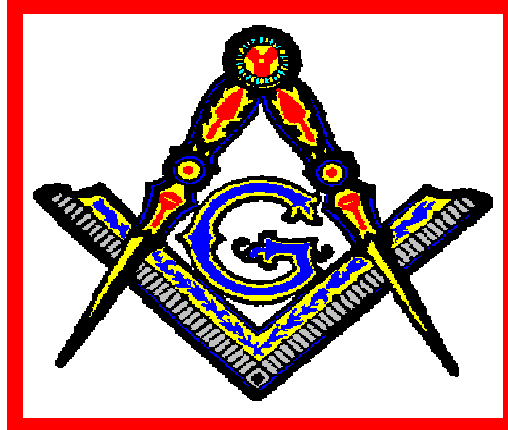


# Blue Hill Lodge, A.F. & A.M.

The members of Blue Hill Lodge would like to invite  
You



to join our worldwide fraternity!

Would you like to join an organization whose creed is  
Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love?

**If so then we would like to invite you to join our Masonic  
family.**

There is much to know about Freemasonry. It is our sincerest hope that  
Masonry will someday become a true Family Affair for you and yours. There are  
many opportunities for family involvement, not only in the Lodge, but also in  
charitable activities in the community and much, much more. We hope this letter  
answers some of the questions you might have about our fraternity and that you  
will consider joining us by becoming a member of Blue Hill Lodge.

**Blue Hill Lodge has been active in Canton since 1863.**

**The Square and Compasses, Masonry's most popular symbol,  
integrity and virtue.**

# **What Masonry Is and Is Not**

## **Freemasonry IS:**

The oldest, largest and most charitable fraternity in the world.

Spiritual, not religious in nature, requiring every member to profess a belief in a Supreme Being of his choice.

Family oriented with many programs and groups to involve the entire family.

An opportunity for a man to improve himself.

Rich in history, tradition and patriotism.

Sensitive to the needs of each community where it exists.

Open to men of good character regardless of race, creed or religion.

## **Freemasonry IS NOT:**

**A Secret Society.** Much information about Masons can be found at a well-stocked bookstore or local library as well as on the Internet. Lodges are clearly marked and listed in the phone book.

Members wear Masonic Jewelry. The only secrets about Masonry are that *there are no real secrets!*

***A Mason is Proud of his membership in the Fraternity.***

**FAMILY VALUES ARE CRITICAL TO THE MASON.**  
**MEMBERSHIP SHOULD NEVER INTERFERE WITH FAMILY**  
**LIFE.**

## **A very brief look at Masonic History:**

No one knows the exact origin of Freemasonry. The ancient "Regius Manuscript" places Masonry in England as early as 926 A.D. Masonry is certainly linked to the builders of the Middle Ages, who eventually opened their doors to men of all occupations who met certain moral standards. Freemasonry in America was initiated by our early settlers, and was supported by men such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock and Paul Revere. We urge your family to investigate Masonic History; and its proud heritage. You may now join a fraternity, which has three million members in North America, and five million members world wide. There are very few places in the entire world that could not offer you and your family Masonic friendship or assistance if needed.

## **The Degree System of Masonry:**

A Candidate for Masonry goes through a unique experience in the modern world as he participates in our three degrees, leading up to his achieving full membership as a Master Mason. Ancient in origin, each degree teaches an important lesson through the use of symbols. There is never any “hazing” in a Masonic Degree. The Degrees are dignified, and when understood can add great value to the Mason’s daily life. All Masons wear aprons at their meetings to symbolize the historic link between our current Brotherhood and the cathedral builders of old.

## **Masonic Meetings:**

All Lodges meet on a regularly stated basis, which allows your family to plan events. Masons receive more of the benefits of Masonry by attending meetings, so long as that attendance does not harm the family in any way. We hope that your family will support and encourage your attendance at Masonic meetings, and that your whole family will take every opportunity to participate with you.

## **What is the purpose of Masonry?**

The main purpose of Freemasonry is to take good men and assist them in becoming better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. Masonry does this by keeping them exposed to moral and ethical teachings, and by consistently asking them to consider important character building issues. One of our most important concerns is what each Mason gives back to the community. Masonry’s cornerstone is Charity. Over 1.5 Million Dollars A Day is given to charity by all Masonic organizations combined. In short, by improving ourselves, we are placed in a better position to help others.

Masons help in good times too! Inquiries about Scholarships for college bound teens, and housing for aged family members. There are many ways in which Masons live out their way of life. It is up to each Masonic Family to choose its own way to contribute.

## **How can your family be involved in Masonry?**

*Some of the countless ways that your Family can be involved in the Masonic Family include:*

Attending Lodge sponsored functions such as public programs, parties, dinners, dances, tours and civic events.

Working with the Lodge at its various charitable events such as MY CHIP (Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program), Blood Drives, and private charitable work, like visiting the sick and tending to needs of widows.

## **How can I join Freemasonry?**

If you would like to become part of our fraternity, contact the person who's name is at the top of this letter and he will then set up a Pre-Application Committee meeting to interview you and answer any questions about the fraternity that you might have.

## **Is Masonry on the Internet?**

Freemasonry has many web sites on the world wide web where you can learn about Freemasonry. A couple of the local web sites are listed below:

**The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts:** <http://www.glmasons-mass.org>

**Blue Hill Lodge, Canton, Massachusetts:** <http://www.BlueHillLodge.com>

Sincerely, **Ralph W. Staples**, *Secretary*

Secretary's Phone: **(781) 828-4088**