

# Masonic Messenger



Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free & Accepted Masons

February 2013



*Grand Lodge Officers and their Ladies  
Enjoy a Tour of Scottish Rite Hospital*

**Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475**  
 Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201-6779 on your lodge secretary's monthly report. The editor does **NOT** keep the list of addresses.

**Grand Lodge Officers**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Grand Master</b><br>330 Wilson Caldwell Road<br>E-mail: rayknittel@windstream.net             | E. Ray Knittel (64)<br>Cohutta, GA 30710                                     |
| <b>Deputy Grand Master</b><br>822 Tails Creek Road<br>E-mail: edgarland@ellijay.com              | Edgar M. Land (81)<br>Ellijay, GA 30540                                      |
| <b>Senior Grand Warden</b><br>P. O. Box 396<br>E-mail: dmcdsr@hemc.net                           | Douglas W. McDonald (141)<br>Cornelia, GA 30531                              |
| <b>Junior Grand Warden</b><br>P. O. Box 1534<br>E-mail: drewlane11@bellsouth.net                 | F. A. "Drew" Lane, Jr. (182)<br>Dallas, GA 30132                             |
| <b>Grand Treasurer</b><br>203 Williams Drive<br>Email: bnsimmons81@bellsouth.net                 | Bobby B. Simmons (111, 756)<br>Bonaire, GA 31005                             |
| <b>Grand Secretary</b><br>811 Mulberry Street<br>E-mail: fam2@bellsouth.net                      | Joseph "Joe" W. Watson (298)<br>Macon, GA 31201-6779<br>Office: 478-742-1475 |
| <b>Grand Chaplain</b><br>21 Paris Drive  | Howard W. Touchstone (66)<br>Rome, GA 30165                                  |
| <b>Grand Marshal</b><br>1059 Pittman Rd., SE<br>Email: cblong@frontiernet.net                    | Charles E. Long (349, 221, 724)<br>Ranger, GA 30734                          |
| <b>Grand Orator</b><br>211 Hazel Drive<br>Email: je2009_wgm@yahoo.com                            | J. Edward Jennings, Jr., (105)<br>Dalton, GA 30721                           |
| <b>Senior Grand Deacon</b><br>3318 Mansfield Ln.<br>E-mail: garyleazer44@gmail.com               | Gary H. Leazer (99, 262, 744)<br>Snellville, GA 30039                        |
| <b>Junior Grand Deacon</b><br>5500 Interstate Pkwy, Ste. 415<br>E-mail: lnichols@wncpa.com       | Larry W. Nichols (59)<br>Atlanta, GA 30328                                   |
| <b>First Grand Steward</b><br>45 Glengarry Chase<br>E-Mail: mike.wilson@wilsonroofingcompany.com | Michael H. Wilson (6, 84)<br>Covington, GA 30014                             |
| <b>Second Grand Steward</b><br>P. O. Box 1921<br>garmon1@windstream.net                          | Johnie M. Garmon (114)<br>Blairsville, GA 30514                              |
| <b>Third Grand Steward</b><br>2897 Huncilift Drive<br>giddensj@comcast.com                       | Jan M. Giddens (33)<br>Marietta, GA 30066                                    |
| <b>Grand Tyler</b><br>1085 Creek Road, NE<br>Islewis99@windstream.net                            | Leon S. Lewis (64, 724)<br>Cohutta, GA 30710                                 |
| <b>Grand Treasurer Emeritus</b><br>171 Concord Road, S.E.  | Samuel R. Whitfield (323)<br>Smyrna, GA 30082-3909                           |
| <b>Grand Secretary Emeritus</b><br>150 Spring Creek Road   | James E. Underwood, PGM (367)<br>Canton, GA 30115                            |
| <b>Grand Secretary Emeritus</b><br>P. O. Box 6068  | Donald I. DeKalb (111)<br>Warner Robbins, GA 31095                           |

**Dr. Gary H. Leazer, editor (99, 262, 744)**  
 3318 Mansfield Lane  
 Snellville, GA 30039-4631  
 Cell: 770/851-0997  
 E-mail: editor@masonicmessenger.com

Dr. F. Lamar Pearson, Editor Emeritus

**Publications Committee**

Ross Laver, Chairman Home: 770-489-1864  
 E-mail: rosslaver@masonicmessenger.com  
 Paul E. Wells Lawrence Anderson David L. Canaday

Published bi-monthly at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201. The Messenger goes to all Masons holding membership in Georgia Lodges.  
**Subscription \$10.00 domestic, \$16.00 foreign per year**  
 ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION  
 CIRCULATION 50,000

# — From the Grand Master

I hope that each of you had a joyous Christmas and my wish for you all is for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. 2013 brings with it a clean slate, a chance to make this one the best ever, and a brand new year with most Lodges having a brand new core of Officers. I hope that you have resolved to work diligently and to take the experiences of our past and use them to make this year the best that your Lodge has ever had. I have seen the plans that many of you have and I know you are off to a great start.

Thank you for your support of the programs for this year, especially the "Lodge of The Year – L.O.T.Y." program. I hope that it will help your Lodge in developing some program ideas that will increase attendance and excitement. Set up a "call list" of your inactive members and let the officers and active members call these Brethren and invite them back to get involved. One of these programs is sure to be of interest to most and we all need to feel that we are needed, that we have a purpose and more importantly, we must believe that what we do has meaning. I would like hear from you as to how this L.O.T.Y. program is working (or not) in your Lodge and what we can do to improve it. Send your feedback to rayknittel@windstream.net.

Some of the programs listed are those near and dear to all of us like our Georgia Masonic Blood Drive. We are not even close to meeting the need for blood in Georgia but every unit that we give saves three lives. I am challenging the Worshipful Masters and Officers of the twelve Masonic Districts, with each

of you committed as well, to get involved — to commit to 500 units from your District. This is a reachable goal and we can do it. That would be 6,000+ units from the Masons of Georgia this year. If you need help with this or need information as to how to get started, send an email to W. Brother Steven Fishman, State GA Masonic Blood Drive Chairman at mstevenfishman@juno.com.

Secondly, there is no greater program that has been introduced in Georgia than our GACHip program. You are doing great work but we need to do more. We have issued ID kits to the parents of over 76,000 children and you should be as proud as I am of that. However, do you realize that there are over 1,700,000 Pre-K through grade 12 children in Georgia. Almost 575,000 of these children are in Pre-K through the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade? Staggering numbers and more children enter these grade every year! We must find a way to do more - has your Lodge held a GACHip event? You do not have to do it alone. Participate with another Lodge close to you. You will not only be doing a great service for the children, but it will provide great fellowship with other Lodge or Lodges close to you. Need help or additional information? Visit the Grand Lodge of Georgia Website — <http://glofga.org>, click on the GACHIP tab and you will be directed to the page which lists all of the contacts of our State and District GACHip leadership. They will be more than willing to offer information and assistance.

I cannot express in words how honored I am to serve as your Grand

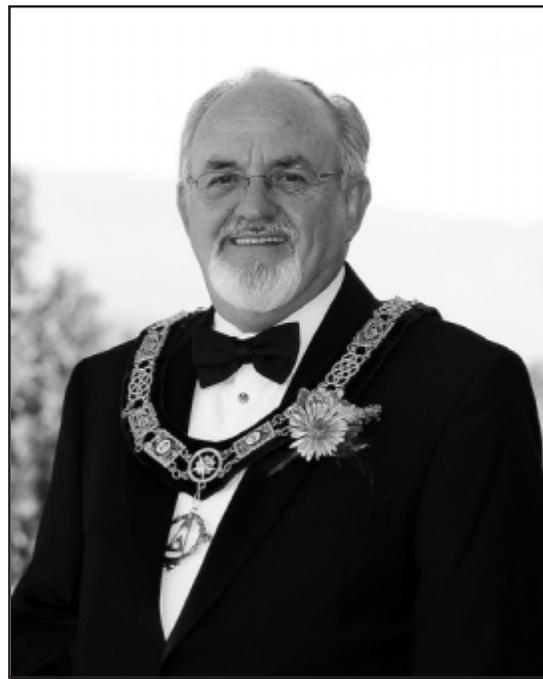
## Masonic Messenger Online

You may read, download and print the *Masonic Messenger* online at the Grand Lodge website, [www.glofga.org](http://www.glofga.org). Click on *Masonic Messengers* tab in the left column and then click on the issue you wish to see.

Master. I sincerely wish that all of you could travel with me as I visit Lodges of this Grand Lodge. From North to East to West, you can rest assured that Freemasonry is alive and well in Georgia. Are there problems? A few, but it seems that there are always a few who failed to absorb those teachings, ideals and principles that set us apart as men and masons. These amount to only a handful and I am most thankful for those of you who symbolically tie that pure white apron on each morning and proudly go about demonstrating Freemasonry in your daily actions.

In the charge to the entire lodge during the installation of the officers for the new year, we were admonished, ***“I, therefore, trust that you will have but one aim, to please each other and unite in the grand designs of being happy and communicating happiness.”*** Brethren, my wish for each of you when it comes to Freemasonry and membership in your Lodge is simply be happy and enjoy your journey through this wonderful Fraternity of ours. Enjoy the fellowship of others and especially your Lodge.

Finally, I leave you with a line from a Franciscan Benediction, ***“And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.”***



***“We Can Make A Difference”***

## Lodge Installations



Western Lodge No. 91



Philadelphia Lodge No. 73



Cordelia Lodge No. 296



Dallas Lodge No. 182

## GMCF and YOU

It comes as no surprise that many Brothers are not familiar with GMCF. On the other hand, almost every Brother and most members of his family are very well acquainted with the Masonic Home Endowment Fund or the Higher Education Fund and more recently the Masonic Home Operating Fund. GMCF is the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation. The foundation was established to receive and distribute funds to charitable efforts in addition to those established for the Masonic Home.

Funds donated to the Endowment Fund or the Higher Education Fund must be used exclusively for those purposes. The Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation was established so that donations could be made to support many other great things we do as Freemasons. GMCF currently funds the GACHIP (Georgia Child Identification Program), underwrites the costs associated with the Georgia Masonic Boy Scout Eagle Recognition Program, as well as others that may include DeMolay or Rainbow and can provide funds for the needs of the Masonic Home as well.

During each of the Grand Master's Forums held during the first weeks of the year, a presentation was made reintroducing Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation to those present. Those in attendance learned that a letter from the Grand Master would be mailed to every lodge in February in order to make more brothers aware of GMCF and the work it does. The letter will be mailed along with one commemorative coin bearing the logo of Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation. It is hoped that each lodge will donate at least \$50 to Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation and keep the coin as a token of that donation. Certainly a larger donation would be highly appreciated.

You, as a member of our Great Fraternity, are critically important to the growth of all of our Charitable efforts. Somewhere in your circle of acquaintances is a person that is part of a business or foundation that looks for programs like ours to make Charitable Donations. If you know such a person, tell them a little about what we do and ask if they can help us make an application to their business or foundation. The other night, a District Deputy told a lodge that GACHIP needs notebook computers. Following the meeting, a Brother approached the District Deputy saying that his business was replacing some of their notebooks and would consider making a donation. Other Brothers have reached out to businesses and helped us with donations of \$1,000 or more. That is why the Title above is "GMCF and YOU".

Donations from all Brothers are encouraged, as well donations from lodges. If you donate \$50 or more you will receive a GMCF Commemorative Coin along with knowledge that you are a part of great things in Georgia Freemasonry.



Checks should be payable to Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc. and mailed to Grand Lodge of Georgia, 811 Mulberry St., Macon, Ga. 31201.

### Martinez Lodge No. 710 has Float in Parade



Members of Martinez Lodge No. 710 pose on their float which they had in the Columbia County Christmas Parade on December 2, 2012.

Left to Right - Top - Randy Moon Junior Deacon; Milton Steinberg Senior Warden; Jay Frye Worshipful Master; Bob Grzeskiewicz Junior Warden; Bottom - Mike Grzeskiewicz and his son; and Jarrod Coffey, Permanent Pro Tem. The Float was well-received by the public along the parade Route.

## St. Mary's Lodge to hold George Washington Memorial Service

On February 17, St Mary's Masonic Lodge No. 109 will perform a reenactment of the George Washington Memorial Service.

Residents of St. Marys were located so far south that the news of George Washington's death didn't reach them until about 30 days after his actual death. So distraught were the citizens of St Mary's upon hearing of the loss of our Great Founding Father that Fellow Master Masons were compelled to lead the community to perform their own Memorial Service. A wooden coffin was offloaded from a ship in the St Marys Harbor onto a horse drawn funeral wagon. A white horse with boots mounted backwards in the saddle followed the wagon as a sign a fallen soldier. Cannon fire rang out every half hour throughout the day. The towns Masons then buried the wooden coffin at what is now known as The St Marys Washington Stump.

Citizens and residents are encouraged to join us for this event. We will gather at 12:00 noon at the St Marys Masonic Lodge located on the corner of Weed and Wheeler street (2 blocks straight up from the boat ramp), where food will be served during the preparation. A procession will start at 2:30, consisting of Masons and Eastern Star Ladies, dressed in period costume and horses and carriage will head to the waterfront where the wooden coffin will be loaded, then to the



Washington Stump where the original memorial speech will be given.

Please join us in celebrating the life of one our country's Greatest Citizens, Founding Fathers and Masons

Fraternally,

Randell Kevan Duncan (WM)

St Marys Masonic Lodge No. 109

## 9th Masonic District Convention News



\$19,000 to deserving youth. The relationship between the lodges and youth has been growing for years within the Ninth District. Each July, the ninth district hosts a golf tournament at Double Oaks Golf Course with the primary purpose being to raise money for scholarships to be presented at the convention. The 9th District Lodges, along with Past Grand Master Tommy Irvin and Gainesville Lodge No. 219 provide continued support for the scholarship fund. The annual golf tournament set record numbers for hole sponsorships and players each year. This past July, we had 120 players and 60 hole sponsorships. Individual scholarships were awarded in the name of Rupert Bramblett, Grady Bozeman, and Tommy Irvin. The golf tournament for this year will be held July 27, 2013 at Double Oaks in Commerce, Georgia. Also during the convention, Duluth Lodge No. 480 presented Grand Master Moss with \$12,450.00 for the Masonic Home Operating Fund. Elections were held for the next year and Deputy Master E.C. Kelley was elected as Worshipful Master for 2013. The Grand Master installed all officers for next year. The 108th Annual Communication will be held on September 28, 2013 at Pickens County High School in Jasper.

— Mike Dover, Senior Deacon, 9th Masonic District

## Socrates' "Apology" and Freemasonry

The Greek philosopher Socrates (469-399 B.C.) has fascinated me since I first read his "Apology" while a college student in the early 1970s. We have no writings by Socrates, but depend solely on his students, including the famous Plato, for Socrates' philosophy. Socrates' most famous speech, written down by Plato and called the "Apology," is his defense (The Greek word for defense is "apologia" or "apology.") of his teachings before a jury of 500 Athenians. Socrates was accused of not believing in the state gods and of corrupting the youth.

I find the accusations leveled against Socrates parallel in many ways the accusations leveled against Freemasonry. Masons are accused of not believing in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and of corrupting youth through Masonic organizations such as Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay.

Socrates said he accusers spoke so persuasively that he almost forgot who he was. In spite of their eloquence, Socrates found "they have scarcely spoken the truth at all." Defending himself, Socrates admitted, was not an easy task, because the slander against him had been repeated so often and for such a long time. Critics of our fraternity make persuasive arguments against us, so much so, that some believe them. However, as I have examined their writings for more than twenty years, I find their charges to be groundless, and with Socrates I said, they "have scarcely spoken the truth at all."

Because the accusations had been repeated for such a long time, people believed the rumors about Socrates, saying, "there must have been something strange which you have been doing. All these rumors and this talk about you would never have arisen if you had been like other men." Today, there is a saying: "A rumor can travel around the world before the truth can pull on its boots." We live in a culture that thrives on rumors and conspiracy theories. Self-proclaimed spokesmen for God make a living selling the latest rumor or conspiracy theory. Rumors about Freemasonry have been spread almost since the day the Grand Lodge of England was organized in 1717.

Because rumors and conspiracy theories "explain" questions that people do not have an answer to, some ask Masons, "what strange things do you do in those buildings without windows?" We live in a culture of mistrust. Mistrust almost always comes first; it is easier to mistrust someone or something about which we know little or nothing. Building trust takes time and effort and requires moving outside our comfort zones to encounter ideas and people who are strange and different from us. Too many people love their comfort zones and refuse to budge from them. Their minds are like concrete: all mixed up and permanently set – but comfortable.

Socrates sought people who considered themselves wise: politicians (don't laugh), poets, and artisans, but he found that those "men most in repute were all but the most foolish."

Socrates discovered "that God only is wise; and by his answer he intends to show that the wisdom of men is worth little of nothing." Of the politicians in particular, Socrates said, "I am better off than he is – for he knows nothing, and thinks that he knows; I neither know nor think I know."

In my 34 years as an ordained minister and theologian, I have met many "pop theologians," often people who have turned against some group, religious or secular, and suddenly are experts in theology solely on the basis of their limited experience. Shifting the blame to some sinister person or group (Satan, the Illuminati, the government, the New World Order, Freemasonry, etc.) and claiming a revelation or new insight from God absolves one of any responsibility for mistakes he might make. It also puts the person on "God's side of the issue." (Conspiracy buffs claim singer Beyonce made the sign of the Illuminati during her performance at Super Bowl XLVII.)

Socrates was also accused of being "a doer of evil, who corrupts the youth." Masons teach youth to have respect for the law, pride in their country, respect for parents and others, a strong work ethic, a desire to make the world a better place to live. Socrates accused his accusers of not believing their own charges against him; I am pretty sure our critics do not believe their charges against us either; they just hope others do.

Socrates knew he faced probable death at the hands of the jury – he was condemned to die by a vote of 280 to 220. Even in the face of death, Socrates told the jury that a person should not calculate the chance of living or dying when he does something, but whether he is doing right or wrong. He reminded the jury that the evil they can do to themselves is greater than the evil they can do to him. The true Mason is one who determines to do what is right, even in the face of overwhelming attacks by those whose desire is evil.

After his death sentence by 56 percent of the jury, Socrates did not show anger or hatred toward his accusers or the jury which had condemned him, but said, "The difficulty, my friends, is not to avoid death, but to avoid unrighteousness; for that runs rafter than death." He continued, "If you think that by killing men you can prevent someone from censuring your evil lives, you are mistaken."

After the verdict, his friend Crito bribed the jailor and arranged an easy escape, but Socrates refused to take advantage of the arrangement. He always did what he believed was right, even in death, and "without hesitation or fear drank the poison hemlock that was given to him." May we, like Socrates, always take the high road when we respond to our accusers.

Socrates' desire was "to arouse in men the love of truth and virtue, to help them to think right in order that they might live right." He taught that "Virtue and true happiness are  
*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

identical; no one can be happy who is not temperate and brave and wise and just.” We are taught these virtues in Freemasonry.

Socrates also believed in God as he understood God. “I believe that no greater good has ever happened in the state than my service to God.” Early in our Masonic pilgrimage, we are led to the Volume of Sacred Literature, the Holy Bible, opened on the altar, and are told to search its pages for the words of Life. Masons are taught to seek the aid of Almighty God before we begin any important task. Masons are encouraged to find God in their faith, whether in their temple, synagogue or church, not in the lodge room.

May we always, with Socrates, say, “I shall obey God rather than you.” — Editor

## How Many Mentors Do You Have?

In the Masonic circle I find myself in, I hear more emphasis on the importance of mentors for our journey as Masons. Mentors, it is said, will make our journey through life easier and more worthwhile. I have been thinking about that lately and about the mentors – living and dead – who have helped me come to this point in my journey through life.

A dictionary defines “mentor” as a “wise and trusted counselor or teacher.” We find mentors in many places. Sometimes we search them out. Sometimes they search us out. Sometimes we find mentors quite by accident. We learn important lessons as we read books written by wise men who have personal experiences which they share with us. Often there is an important lesson in a word spoken to us in passing.

John Claypool, a minister friend of mine, told a story called “The Keeper of the Springs.” He borrowed it from the late Peter Marshall, a Presbyterian minister, chaplain of the U.S. Senate, and a Freemason.

It seems years ago a village in Germany paid a small sum to an old mountaineer who week by week saw to it that the springs that fed the village river were kept clear of any debris or impurities. It worked well for many years, until a cost-cutting mayor decided these services were unnecessary and terminated the relationship. The effects were not immediate, but in time they made themselves felt. The river ceased to be pure and sparkling. The level of water-related diseases began to climb and eventually the whole village was affected adversely. At that point, someone remembered the old “keeper of the springs” and he was rehired to do his quiet but important work. Before long the river was clear again and the overall welfare of the village improved.

Dr. Marshall applied this legend to the impact of the home on the larger society.

But I want to go a different direction with this parable. There are within each of our lodges wise men who work quietly behind the scenes to perform some important work.

## Masons Plan to Celebrate a Once in a Lifetime Event

2017 will mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of England. This will be a celebration for every Freemasonry around the world.

According to the February 2013 issue of *Freemasonry Today*, published in England, English Freemasons are already gearing up for this once in a lifetime event.

Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes wrote in the periodical, “We are proud to be Freemasons and 2017 is a great opportunity to show that pride not only to our families and friends, but to the non-Masonic community as well.

It might be to make repairs to the lodge building or to visit a brother or a widow who is sick or otherwise in need of help or friendship. It would certainly be the one who coached us as we began our lives as Masons.

It might be that Mason who mentors a newly made Mason as he begins his journey in the fraternity. All of us are concerned about the number of Masons who begin the journey, but who drop out and become inactive.

We lament the declining number of men who petition for membership as Masons, but I am also concerned about those who are Masons but who no longer are active. They cite many reasons: job and family obligations, age, illness, and so forth. But some are inactive because they did not find someone to teach them. When a man receives his Master’s degree, he is just beginning a great journey. But, he needs someone to help him take those first – and most important – steps.

Think back in your life. Who were the people who most influenced you? Your parents? If so, I am certain they taught you many valuable lessons. Your teachers? All of us have that special teacher. A book? Who were your mentors? How many mentors do you have? You do not have to be told they were and are important to you.

Now I would ask, are you a mentor to someone who needs help over the rough spots in life? As Masons, we are taught the importance of going to the aid of those in distress. We are taught the importance of helping someone be all he or she can be. A word of encouragement, a pat on the back. A phone call, car or visit. Sharing how we have overcome a problem that person may be having.

Having mentors is important. Being a mentor is just as important. Let’s pass on some of life’s wisdom our mentors have taught us. Let’s keep the “stream” clean and clear for those depending on us. I would bet that you and the one you mentor would both grow as Freemasons.

— Editor

# Gwinnett Masons Join in Laying Wreaths at Marietta National Cemetery

Over 18,742 veterans from every war fought by the United States are buried at the 23.3-acre Marietta National Cemetery. The Marietta National Cemetery was established in 1866 to bury nearly 10,000 Union soldiers killed in the battle for Atlanta. From the first, the cemetery was also open to Confederate veterans, but because of animosity between the two sides, most Confederate veterans were buried in the Marietta Confederate Cemetery. Today, many Confederate veterans are buried in the Marietta National Cemetery.

Forces under the command of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman occupied Marietta for five months during the Civil War. In November 1864, Union troops set the town of Marietta on fire before embarking on their infamous "March to the Sea." The cemetery site was, at one time, the proposed location of the capital of the Confederate States of America. Two Medal of Honor recipients are buried at Marietta National Cemetery.

The cemetery does not accept new burials at the present time, except for spouses and close family members who are buried in the same grave at the veteran. From time to time a lot may become available if a body is disinterred and moved to another cemetery.

On December 15, a good number of Gwinnett County Masons joined several hundred others in the annual ceremony



to place over 3,000 wreaths on graves. Georgia Masons involved in the ceremony were Right Worshipful Bro. F. A. Drew Lane who delivered the invocation and Bro. Marion Nesmith, a veteran of World War II and a member of Snellville Lodge No. 99 and Gwinnett Daylight Lodge No. 744, who placed a wreath honoring the 93,000 veterans missing in action or otherwise unaccounted for. Also present were Past Grand Master Jerry D. Moss and Senior Grand Deacon Gary Leazer.

Gwinnett Masons set up a tent and offered free coffee, hot cocoa and donuts to many of the 400 or more individuals present for the ceremony and wreath laying. The hot drinks were popular as the morning was chilly.

During the 30-minute ceremony, in addition to honoring the veterans missing in action, wreaths were placed at graves

A few of the wreaths placed on graves at the Marietta National Cemetery.



of veterans representing the Army, Marines,

Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. At the conclusion of the ceremony, wreaths were placed on the graves throughout the cemetery. Several individuals placed wreaths on graves of family members or friends. Each year, more wreaths are donated; the goal is someday to place wreaths on all of the graves in the cemetery.

## Wreaths Across America 2012

Ralph O. Dennis, PM

On December 15, at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, several brothers joined to honor our



American service men and women. Wreaths Across America began in 1992 by placing wreaths on the headstones of the fallen at Arlington National Cemetery. This year, 800 cemeteries across this nation honored our departed military by placing wreaths at the same time. Lodges in Cherokee participated by donating to the program and sponsoring wreaths. These Lodges – Hickory Flat No. 205, Canton No. 77, Georgia Mountain Daylight No. 758, Ball Ground No. 261 and E. W. Hightower Lodge No. 679, also had representatives there to place wreaths. Sharptop Lodge No. 680 also had a brother there. There were over 7,000 wreaths placed that day. It was an honor to represent our fraternity and to honor these citizens.

The 2013 event will be held on December 14. There are 15 cemeteries, not all national, that have the ceremony in Georgia.



## Lodge Officers for the Ensuing Year



The newly installed officers of Orion Lodge No. 8 for the ensuing year are (front row left to right) Joe Frank Battles, Senior Deacon; Kevin Causey, Senior Warden; Tony Miller, Worshipful Master; Hill Yates, Junior Warden; and Michael Rentz, the Junior Deacon.

In the back row (left to right) are Bennie Brookins, Secretary; Bruce Mann, Treasurer; John Skipper, Senior Steward; Wesley Roland, Junior Steward; W.L. Barber, Chaplain; and Johnny Buie, Tyler.



The Grand Master installed the officers of Gordon Lodge No. 240 on December 12 (That's 12-12-12.). Pictured are (front row from left to right), Grand Master E. Ray Knittel; Alvin Wells, Senior Steward; Ron Stanley, Tyler; Art Silsby, Treasurer; Worshipful Master Marion Owens; Rick Williams, Senior Warden; and Charles E. Long, Grand Marshal.

Back row from left are Gene Daniels, Senior Deacon; Ricky Starley, Junior Steward; Wayne Granade, Secretary; and Rodney Redd, Junior Deacon.



Irwinton Lodge No. 150 officers for 2013 are (front from left) Morris Wood, Chaplain; Thomas Taylor, Senior Warden; Mike Blizzard, Senior Deacon; Thomas Hightower, Junior Warden; Kenny Wood, Treasurer; Raymond Bacon, Secretary; Philip Hadarits, Tyler; and Douglas Bridges, DDGM.

Back from left, Robert Langston, Junior Steward; Nat Bacon, Worshipful Master; Barry Gibson, Senior Steward; and Jimmy Wentworth, Junior Deacon.



The officers of Hickory Flat Lodge No. 205 were installed by Past Grand Master James E. Underwood. Pictured are the new officers for 2013. Front row from left are Gene Anderson, Tyler; Dennis Davidson, Junior Warden; Jeremy Speich, Worshipful Master; and Tony Vaughn, Senior Warden.

Back row from left are Steve Harris, Chaplain; Kirby Grier, Junior Steward; Jerry Hicks, Treasurer; Perry Fowler, Senior Deacon; Charles Lawton, Senior Steward; Bob Blum, Secretary; and Tim Arp, Junior Deacon.

### Masonic Statistics

The 2011 Membership statistics have been received and there are 1,336,503 Masons in the United States. This represents a decrease of 36,950 from 2010, or about 2.7 %.

In addition, there are 84,182 Masons in Canada.

2012 figures are not yet available. — Masonic Service Association of North America.

## Lodge Officers for the Ensuing Year



Grand Master E. Ray Knittel prepares to install Bro. M. Steven Fishman as Worshipful Master of Webb Lodge No. 166.



Crawford Masonic Lodge No. 689 hosted a free BBQ dinner for the public followed by a presentation from Brother Wesley Jones, a member of Fickling Lodge No. 129 and pastor of Crowells Church. Brother Jones recently returned from a Pilgrimage in the Holy Land and was gracious enough to share his experiences with us. Thank you, Brother Wesley.

Later that evening the guests were invited to stay for an open installation ceremony to install the officers of Crawford Lodge for the ensuing year. The installing officer for the evening was Brother Troy S. Cook, Past Master of Lexington Lodge No. 158 and now a member of Crawford Lodge. Brother Cook had the privilege of installing his father-in-law, J.D. Argo, Sr., as Worshipful Master of the lodge. The other officers installed included: Charlie Westberry, Rudy Cannon, Keith Nelson, Tony Pupo, Eugene Mason, Ray Graham and Fred Childers. Brother Jackie Cooper filled in as Chaplain in the absence of our regular Chaplain, Brother Marvin Rowell.

Crawford Lodge No. 689 wishes to thank all the guests for their attendance and sincerely hopes that everyone enjoyed the evening. Crawford Lodge would also like to extend a special thanks to Sheriff Lewis Walker and Chief of Police Benny Thomas for their attendance and support.



The following officers were installed at Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722: Worshipful Master Howard S. Major, PM; Christopher K. Barnes, Senior Warden; Andrew S. Atkinson, Junior Warden; Charles O. Woods, PM, Secretary; William P. Jacobs, PM, Treasurer; Tod L. Reed, Senior Deacon; Michael W. Johnson, Junior Deacon; Alberto Tapia, Senior Steward; F. Andrew Ventura, Junior Steward; Swean P. Wilson, Third Steward; Andrew K. Favor, Chaplain; Jack Streicher, PM, Tyler; David E. Hall, Jr., PM, Archivist; Michael W. Johnson, Masonic Home Ambassador; and Howard J. Robbins, PM, Director of Work.

(Right) Battle Field Daylight Lodge No. 764



## Lodge Officers for the Ensuing Year



Rockmart Lodge No. 97 installed its 2013 officers on December 6.

They are (back row from left) Bros. Eddie Ward, Senior Steward; Dan Forsyth, Treasurer; Tom Landrum, Worshipful Master; Joe Smith, Junior Warden; Travis Kendrick, Junior Steward; and Don Thacker, Tyler.

On the front row from the left are Bros. Jack Galloway, Installing Chaplain; Howard Howell, Installing Grand Marshal; PGM Tommy Blanton, Installing Grand Master; John Sprayberry, Senior Deacon; Bobby Hardinger, Secretary; and Harold McDurmon, Director of Work. Bro. Jamie Simpson, Junior Deacon, is not pictured.



Mickey Fuller Lodge No. 729



(Above) In a unique installation, the Grand Master installed officers from the three lodges in Colquitt County at the same time: Doerun Lodge No. 151, Moultrie Lodge No. 381, and Berlin Lodge No. 465.



Chatsworth Lodge No. 664

(Right) Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131



## Garner gets Gavel at Strict Observance Lodge



On January 6, Strict Observance Lodge No. 18 held an open lodge installation of their 2013 Lodge Officers. After an excellent meal, we gathered together upstairs to witness the open installation of all of our lodge officers. The room was filled with over 45 visiting Brethren, friends and family members as we celebrated this event together. Installing officers were Right Wor. Bro. Joseph Watson, Grand Secretary, Rutland Lodge No. 298, Installing Master; Wor. Bro. Charles Holloway, DDGM 6E, St. John's Lodge No. 45, Installing Marshal; Wor. Bro. Michael Chidester, Mickey Fuller No. 720, Installing Chaplain. Many of the visiting brethren present were members of the degree team "Nights of Mecca" when Bro. Garner was raised.

Pictured from right to left Front Row: Bro. Robert Muckenfuss, Junior Deacon; Wor. Bro. Charles Holloway, DDGM; Wor. Bro. Robert Michael Garner, Worshipful Master; Right Wor. Bro. Joseph Watson, Grand Secretary; Bro. Ira Watts, Jr., Junior Warden; Middle Row: Bro. Virgil "Bucky" Allen, Tyler; Bro. Benjamin Andrews, Senior Warden; Wor. Bro. Matthew Pippin, PM, Junior Steward; Bro. Roy Jefferies, Chaplain; Bro. Jeffery Corley, Senior Deacon; Bro. Brian Adams, Senior Steward; Wor. Bro. Bentley Cox, PM, Secretary.

Wor. Bro Garner thanked all who attended and explained how excited he was to serve as Wor. Master with like minded brethren, and the desire to bring Strict Observance Lodge No. 18 to the next level. Wor. Bro. Garner's first words of encouragement were to remind everyone why we call each other Brethren.

## Lodge Officers Installed



Resaca Daylight Lodge No. 724



Tilton Lodge No. 291



Ocean Lodge No. 214

## Some Things Have Changed

As a member of the Missouri Lodge of Research, I receive (and or order) books published by that fine research lodge. Recently in some meeting, Grand Master E. Ray Knittel mentioned something about lodges in the past. It reminded me of several books I have in my library from the Missouri Lodge of Research, which mentioned some of the history of early Missouri lodges. Most Worshipful Brother Harry S Truman signed the charter of the Missouri Lodge of Research in 1941. (Bro. Truman had no middle name, only the letter "S," thus the "S" is without a period.)

In a lodge in southwest Missouri which met at "early candlelight," the lodge by-laws stated that the duties of the Stewards included providing "sufficient candles and wood, to keep the lodge room clean and well-lighted."

As was common in many lodges, meetings were held near the full moon and were called "moon lodges." A lodge in Lebanon, Missouri, met "The first Wednesday night, after the first full moon, of each month." A number of lodge brothers had to travel ten to fifteen miles (on horseback or in a buggy) to lodge, and the light of the moon was a great help to them.

Some Brethren of the lodge in Steelville lived in St. Clair, a distance of over 40 miles, "in which case the journey [for a lodge meeting] would occasion a two-day horseback ride, the first day's ride would bring them to Sullivan, where it was the custom to stay overnight with some of the Brethren who lived at that place. On the following day, they rode on to Steelville and attended lodge that night. After the meeting, they

### "Make No Little Plans"

I came across this quote while reading one of the magazines that mysteriously appears in my mailbox regularly. Although it may be a little late for the newly installed Worshipful Masters, as their plans have already been placed on their trestle boards, maybe it will help those of us who are working our way through the various chairs and stations in the lodges.

"Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans. Aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency. Remember that our [children] and [grandchildren] are going to do things that would stagger us." — Ray Ortlund, "Make no little plans."

Aim for the stars in your trestle board plans. Maybe you will only hit the moon, but that is an accomplishment well worth the effort. Brethren, strive for a better future in your lodge.

slept at the lodge hall, and started the return trip the next morning. In all, four days were consumed in order to attend one lodge meeting."

A Brother walked from Summersville to Houston, Missouri, a distance of some 25 miles, to attend lodge. He carried his shoes and near Houston, he stopped to wash his feet and put on his shoes, before walking on to Steffens Hotel to attend lodge. In the same year, he walked some 15 miles from Houston to Licking trying to find enough Masons to organize a lodge closer to his home.

In 1872, a committee was appointed in Appleton City Lodge report the propriety of purchasing a cuspidor (spittoon) for the lodge.

At a trial in 1861, the question was asked, "How often can a Mason get drunk without violating his obligation." Answer: "Not one time." In 1885, a brother was suspended for five years on a charge of un-Masonic conduct as follows: "For being habitually and repeatedly drunk and being arrested and serving a term in the City Calaboose for drunkenness."

Members of a lodge in Fillmore were growing old. Winter weather forced many of the members to forego the pleasure of a lodge meeting and the lodge was dying. A campaign for new blood was agreed upon. All of the young men in Fillmore and the vicinity were balloted upon in the lodge. All the successful candidates were handed a petition. Masonic or Un-Masonic, it bore fruit, and a young man signed his petition. He was soon followed by others and within a year, there were enough young members to keep the lodge from passing into oblivion.

A motion was made to buy a new stove for the lodge in Liberty, Missouri, in 1897. The motion failed, but was brought up again numerous times for 27 years.

In 1920, Gate City Lodge in Kansas City met every day of the week, except Sunday, to confer a record 1,107 degrees, averaging 21 degrees a week. — Editor

### Living Alone

According to CBS News and the U.S. Census data, 32.7 million Americans live alone, up from 4 million in 1950. Half of those who live alone are between 35 and 64; one-third are 65 or older. In some cities in America, 4-in-10 live alone.

New York University sociologist Eric Kleinenberg says, "The rise of living alone represents the greatest social change of the last 60 years." Single people "go out into the world like no one else does, and they spend time and money in bars and restaurants and cafes, in gyms and clubs," he says.

All of us work with or know men who live alone. The next time your lodge has an open house, be certain to invite them. I think the lodge is a much better place to hang out than a bar, don't you?

# Free Labor

Ronny Lanham, P.M., Harlem Lodge No. 276

Freemasonry has wrestled with two persistent problems for the past 50 years: loss of membership and lack of attendance. Virtually all chapters of fraternities and civic organizations have suffered similar losses. Many are struggling to satisfactorily function and remain viable, while many others have ceased to exist.

Churches and other gathering places have experienced great losses in attendance because of changes in social attitudes and habits and ease of access to religious teachings and worship services on TV and the internet.

A century ago men's time was consumed with the task of providing the necessities of life and they had little or no transportation or time to seek social fulfillment.

Recovering from the great depression and two world wars, American men had an insatiable desire for a better life.

They felt a sense of greatness and deserving. They had the energies to work and new educational opportunities to learn to better earn and manage their wealth of time and income. In the '50s and

'60s we enjoyed an optimum social climate. Industries were established to manufacture and market recreational and time saving devices. This put men to work. They made shiny things to entertain themselves and could afford them.

Newly designed neighborhoods have all of the amenities necessary to keep one's interest. The modern man endures the stresses of work. The trip to and from the workplace is often more stressful than his job. In the evening, he arrives home to retire into a professionally engineered world of pleasure. These communities have golf courses, tennis courts and swimming pools, exercise rooms, saunas and lounges.

The modern home has entertainment centers with movies, satellite or cable TV, wet bars, pool tables, libraries, internet access, refrigerators and cupboards filled with favorite snacks, climate control and a clean, private bathroom with his favorite soap, towel and tissue and no waiting in line. He also knows that his property and family have his protection.

When a man spends money on toys, he will naturally seek time to enjoy those things in order to justify the expenditure. His carefully created and hard earned atmosphere of recreation and pleasure naturally holds his attention and consumes much of his free time.

When today's man withdraws to his retreat, he has no real reason to leave. He has his family and pets at his side. He is warm and comfortable and secure and he knows where his family is and that they are safe. Regardless of his living standard, his home is where his heart is.

We ask and expect him to sacrifice all of this, for what? We ask that he disconnects himself from his personalized haven, get dressed, bid farewell to his family and come to the Lodge.

Why would he want to go there?

He is most likely inclined to remain home where he knows that he and his family are at peace.

Why would one leave his comfortable surroundings to come to Lodge? What does he expect to find there to make it worth his time, effort and inconvenience? If he is denied

enough positives to offset his sacrifice, the choice will be certain. He will naturally remain at home.

Soon after he stops coming to the Lodge, he will find it hard to justify paying

dues to a group with which he has no contact or anything in common.

Where shall we look for the answer?

Perhaps we should look to the leadership for solutions.

Twice at each meeting, the Master of the Lodge is admonished to set the Craft at labor under GOOD and WHOLESOME instruction or cause the same to be done. How much thought and effort are given by the average Lodge Master toward the fulfillment of this responsibility? His time is too often consumed with preparing for degrees, crisis management, property maintenance matters and petty conflicts. Why in the East and his duties? The first step is to define "duty". It is the Master's obligation and responsibility to see that Lodge time is well spent. He is to monitor and manage the collective efforts of his officers and the Lodge. In this process, he must constantly understand that the Brothers' time is free.

He should also remember that each Brother's only stated purpose for becoming a Mason was to learn to subdue his passions and to improve himself in Freemasonry.

Nowhere in a Brother's journey through the degrees was there any mention of yard sales and spaghetti dinners and

---

**The choice of where one spends his time and energy is always up to the individual. Our task is to offer the Brother something of value that he cannot find elsewhere. What is it? What do we have that is particularly Masonic?**

---

endowment funds or hospitals or clinics. These are things that we do because of our good nature. They are the effect and not the cause of our existence and our involvement as a guild. What come ye here to do? We came here, not to conduct fund raisers, have dinners or repair buildings.

The Worshipful Master should assign the Craftsman labors commensurate with his skills and experience. The Brother must be given apposite guidance. Otherwise he might be destined to no gain or even total failure. Nothing frustrates a man more than someone wasting his valuable time by setting him up for failure.

He is subjective and probably has an elevated sense of value when it comes to his time. We speak of duties that we owe to God, our country, our neighbor, our families and ourselves. If he is expected to pay less attention to those duties and contribute a portion of his time and attention to the fraternity, he needs adequate justification to confidently defend it to his family and to himself.

Time is limited to 24 hours a day. While a Brother gives his attention and time to the Lodge, he cannot give it elsewhere.

The choice of where one spends his time and energy is always up to the individual. Our task is to offer the Brother something of value that he cannot find elsewhere. What is it? What do we have that is particularly Masonic?

Too much time is spent on mundane issues and we ignore the obvious. We polish the square and neglect the compass. We have and teach a system of philosophy that has stood the tests of time and is more relevant now than ever before.

Recall the excitement of learning the catechism and your sense of gratification. Discovery is always new and stimulating. The beauty of Freemasonry is that there is always undiscovered treasure. There are always depths of truths to which even the most advanced scholar has not reached.

The average Brother neither knows where to start nor the resources to use in pursuit of these truths. The success of his quest to learn to subdue his passions and to improve himself in Freemasonry depends, chiefly, upon exposure to ever-expanding knowledge of all of the symbols that were shown to him during his initiation ceremonies.

The value of his involvement in Freemasonry then becomes much greater and richer than all else because he gains peace through understanding of God and nature that will auger well toward a richer life for him and thus, his family.

Membership and attendance of membership is a Lodge problem and should not fall upon the Worshipful Master to solve and manage.

Regardless of how well the Master and other Lodge

leaders prepare programs and impose upon qualified Masonic teachers, speakers and mentors to nourish the Brethren, bad attitudes and conduct from attending members will negate these noble efforts. Each Brother should come dressed if as he was attending an occasion of great importance. He should act with dignity and honor, as if he were at church. If we fail to do these things, then fail, we will.

A new brother comes into our gentle order and is greatly impressed with the pomp and pageantry as it contrasts the vulgarity and meanness of the profane world. Only good men are admitted but even the best of men arrive infested with many of the outside world's crass philosophies, attitudes and habits. One great challenge as Masons and leaders is to accept this reality and resist the natural urge to condemn. Our objective is to dispel the darkness of ignorance and false philosophy and urge him to yield to his better nature to improve himself through the knowledge, understanding and worship of God.

We are in the spiritual progress business. Our aim is to help good men to become better, not perfect. If perfection were our benchmark, we would soon become disillusioned and absent. Perhaps it explains why some remain absent. If we seek perfection in man, we are looking on the wrong planet. Our vanity leads us to expect it of others but not in ourselves.

Indifference, apathy and self interest have always been impediments to spiritual progress. These negatives are to be expected and weigh much when we seek balance. They create a vacuum into which are drawn the weak and lazy. Mental energy, as all energies, will seek the path of least resistance. Some men stumble through life and wander dangerously near pits filled with ill or false systems of religious and political thought. Too often, their descent into those pits is voluntary, though ill advised. Men are always drawn, and not pushed, into those systems of thought.

We have, at our disposal, a tremendous wealth of indisputable truths. Through these maxims and axioms, we gain invaluable perspectives. We yearn to share these truths so that our lives and families and our liberty and freedom might be best managed and enjoyed. Our efforts here are to offer the tools with which a man might better enjoy a life within that world, which he has struggled, sacrificed, fought for, earned and deserves. A life without joy is like grits without salt.

The teachings, history and traditions of the order serve to remind us of who we are and why we are.

You are the Order and someone's impression of it. Make it worthy of a good man's free time.



# The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

III. Leonard E. Buffington, SGIG, Orient of Georgia

Web Site: [GaScottishRite.org](http://GaScottishRite.org)

Check out the **Valley of Savannah** website:  
<http://www.savannahscottishrite.org> for news, highlights and upcoming activities.

The **Valley of Albany** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every Month at 7:30 PM. We had a good year in 2012 and hope to have a better year in 2013. The new Venerable Master is G. David Powell. We are planning a big reunion for April 2013; come and be a part.

For all activities for the **Valley of Augusta** Scottish Rite please refer to our new website at [www.augustascottishrite.org](http://www.augustascottishrite.org).

## The New “Kid”

Back a little over nine (9) years ago, I was appointed to the Masonic Education and Leadership Development commission by Most Worship Brother Tommy Blanton. I thoroughly enjoyed traveling the state teaching our brethren. This past Labor Day, I received a call from (at the time) the Deputy Grand Master. He asked me that were he elected Grand Master would I accept an appointment to the Education and Historical Commission. Of course, my answer was yes. I knew of some of the work of the Commission but had no idea as to the extent of their duties. I have had courses approved and I really thought that that was all they did. *BOY WAS I WRONG!*

I have now attended my first meeting. Prior to this meeting, we as a commission had reviewed several items via email. This is making the process faster. I have been assigned to a subcommittee or two and am enjoying my duties. What I found overwhelming was the reception of the members. I have, throughout my life, found that usually the “new kid” is held at arm’s length until they prove themselves. Well, not with these esteemed brethren. They readily accepted me and actually listened to input. I can say that this commission is a very busy one. “E & H” is entrusted with the protection of the Craft. It is their duty to be insure that nothing that should be released to the public is released. They also insure that all publications, videos and other forms of media shed a good light on the Fraternity. Did you know that they help maintain the history of Freemasonry in Georgia? They are working on several projects. One that I find interesting is the photographic history of the lodges in Georgia. They are working on a complete history of every lodge in Georgia. They maintain a digital album of photographs of the lodges. Another area of

responsibility is headstones for Past Grand Masters. I would have never imagined that this commission would have that responsibility. They are also indexing and binding the *Masonic Messenger* which will help preserve our history.

What shocked me the most was that even the Grand Master asks them for input before he begins a program. By using the email process, the commission is now able to review new materials without waiting to have a formal face to face meeting. This is speeding up the process to approve important educational and instructional materials getting into the hands of the brethren.

I am honored to serve on this Commission especially looking at its membership. I sit with Past Grand Masters, current Grand Lodge officers and those that have held high office in other Masonic bodies. I feel unworthy but I am going to learn and with their guidance and patience pray to become a valued member. This time it is fun being the new kid.

Ralph O. Dennis, PM  
E. W. Hightower Lodge No. 679  
Educational and Historical Commission  
Grand Lodge of Georgia



**GRAND  
CHAPTER**  
JIMMY T. PORTER  
M. E. G. H. P.



**GRAND  
COUNCIL**  
MARK S. JOHNSON  
M. I. G. M.



**GRAND  
COMMANDERY**  
JOHNIE M. GARMON  
R. E. G. C.

## **THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA**

**Editor: Benjamin W. Polston, II, KYCH, KCCH, Email: [bwpolston@gmail.com](mailto:bwpolston@gmail.com)  
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org>**

<p><b>Chapter Degrees</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn the value of your "Mark"!</li> <li>2. Learn value of Humility in the Past Master Degree!</li> <li>3. The Temple is Completed in the Most Excellent Master Degree!</li> <li>4. Learn the Long Lost Master's Word in the Royal Arch!</li> </ol>	<p><b>Council Degrees</b></p> <p>Fill in the Gaps of the Blue Lodge Degrees!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn the True Chronological Order of the Degrees as a Royal Master!</li> <li>2. As a Select Master you will learn how the True Word was Hidden in the Royal Arch Degree and Value of Duty!</li> </ol>	<p><b>Commandery or Christian Orders</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the Illus. Order of the Red Cross learn which is stronger, Wine, Women or Truth?</li> <li>2. In the Order of Malta or Knight or as a Knight of St. Paul learn power of Faith!</li> <li>3. You will become a KNIGHTS TEMPLAR with the Completion of the Order of the Temple.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.yorkriteofga.org">www.yorkriteofga.org</a></p>	<p><b>PETITION FOR YORK RITE</b> <a href="http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf">www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>FIND THE CLOSEST YORK RITE</b> <a href="http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/bycity.pdf">http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/bycity.pdf</a> Or Call: (478) 742-2557</p>

### **Grand Master's Forums 2013**

These numbers do not include Grand Lodge Officers or Committee Chairs

#### **Savannah / January 5**

Number of registered Brethren in attendance: 129  
Worshipful Masters: 21  
Wardens: 20  
Deacons/Stewards: 18  
DDGM: 8

#### **Albany / January 12**

Number of registered Brethren in attendance: 51  
Worshipful Masters: 8  
Wardens: 8  
Deacons/Stewards: 7  
DDGM: 6

#### **Augusta / January 19**

Number of registered Brethren in attendance: 76  
Worshipful Masters: 12  
Wardens: 16  
Deacons/Stewards: 9  
DDGM: 6

#### **Atlanta / January 26**

Number of registered Brethren in attendance: 274  
Worshipful Masters: 64  
Wardens: 56  
Deacons/Stewards: 43  
DDGM: 19

#### **Macon / February 2**

Number of registered Brethren in attendance: 117  
Worshipful Masters: 25  
Wardens: 34  
Deacons/Stewards: 13  
DDGM: 14

"Masonry compliments my faith by allowing me to associate with men of strong moral conviction; it does nothing for my need to worship God and has no plan of salvation." — Most Worshipful Bro. Ted C. Collins, Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, Grand Lodge of Georgia, 2007-2008, on August 29, 2008.

In 1789, Worshipful Brother and President George Washington issued a proclamation which read in part, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

Most Worshipful Brother and President Harry S Truman, Past Grand Master of Masons in Missouri, established the National Day of Prayer in 1952. Truman encouraged citizens to "beseech God to grant us wisdom to know the course which we should follow, and strength and patience to pursue that course steadfastly."

## Corrected Article

### Richmond Lodge No. 412 celebrates paying off Final Bank Note

In late November, Richmond Lodge No. 412 members held a special ceremony celebrating the final payment of the bank note for its 12-year-old lodge. Including members of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 463, Chapter of Rainbow Girls and Legion of Honor, whom all use the lodge building for their meetings, 65 people witnessed the burning of the mortgage. Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer, the Senior Grand Deacon from the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Wor. Bro. Wayne Collins, DDGM Chair, 10th District, and visitors from other lodges also attended.

Richmond Lodge No. 412, located in Hephzibah, began in 1897 when the first Worshipful Master was elected. The next year, lodge members met at Hephzibah High School, known as the Old Academy Building. Under Worshipful Master William F. Bowie, the lodge met at Hephzibah High School through 1906. Because of the growth of the lodge, members needed their own building. In 1907, they acquired their own building, which burned down and was rebuilt. Members met in this new building in 1913. This lodge on Brothersville Road would remain another 87 years.

Seeking a larger building, the lodge acquired land off Hwy. 88. Groundbreaking for the new building - twice as large as the old lodge - was held in 1997. The building was complete in 2000, and lodge members have been meeting there ever since.

Lodge members paid off the 16-year loan in 148 months, more than three years ahead of schedule. Lodge members and friends in the community helped pay down the loan. In recent years, the lodge held fundraisers like an annual 5k race in Hephzibah, monthly fish fry events and fall turkey shoots.

(Right) Wor. Bro. Charles Gay, Worshipful Master of Richmond Lodge No. 412, holds the paid-in-full mortgage which will be hung in the lodge hall. Below, Wor. Bro. Gay burns the mortgage.



## 65 Year Masons



(Left) Gostin Dupree Blankenship, Gordon No. 240

(Center) John Dominey, Helena No. 536

(Right) Bo Jackson, Helena No. 536

*50 Year Awards*



Branson Fowler with Worshipful Master Gregory Dyer at Mt. Vernon No. 22



Charlie Albert Cook (The award was presented by Past Grand Master James E. Miller.) at Hiram No. 51



Russ Hutson  
Houston No. 35



Mack Peyton  
Houston No. 35



Most Worshipful E. Ray Knittel, Bro. Franklin Davenport, Mary Ann Davenport, and Past Grand Master B. Palmer Mills celebrate Bro. Franklin's 50-year award at Chipley No. 40.



Donald Ware  
Hiram No. 51



Willie Chester (W.C.) Daniel  
Hamilton No. 58



James Pelfrey  
Shannon No. 100



Daniel C. Crawford  
Allegheny No. 114



Franklin D. Hunter  
Allegheny No. 114



Bobby Ann Kitchens  
Webb No. 166



Bobby Keheley  
Woodstock No. 246



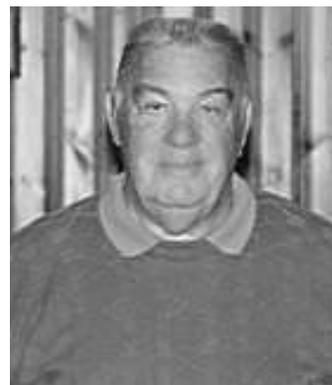
George Robert White  
Hinesville No. 271



Jacob Franklin Fountain  
Wolihin No. 390



James A. Ellington  
Forest Park No. 399



Walter Milton Edmonson  
Forest Park No. 399



George Ralph Kelly  
Forest Park No. 399



Arthur Alston Morrison III  
Forest Park No. 399



Willis Hughes  
Acacia No. 452



Emory Vernon Moore  
Panthersville No. 543



Marcie Edward Dover  
Campton No. 566



J. W. Howard  
Matt No. 694



Thomas Larry Martin  
Matt No. 694



James Chamblee  
Samuel S. Lawrence No. 721

## 65 Years



(Left) Bro. Joe C. Ingram  
received his 65-year apron at  
Nelms Lodge No. 323

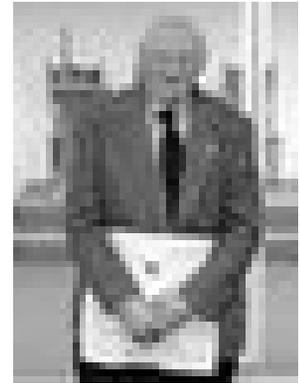
# 60 Years



Dr. Milton I. Johnson  
Macon Lodge No. 5



Charlie Daniels  
Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38



W. H. Pelfrey, Sr.  
Shannon Lodge No. 100



Louie F. Holmes and Melba  
Marshall A. Weir No. 448



Joe Echols Burns  
Panthersville Lodge No. 543



Samuel Hoyt Harmon  
Panthersville Lodge No. 543



Joseph Bobbie Marrett, PM  
Panthersville Lodge No. 543

# 70 Years



George Virlyn Pace  
Panthersville Lodge No. 543



Bro. Julius Paul Littrell received his  
70-year apron at Panthersville Lodge  
No. 543

# Grand Master's Forums Highlight Masonic Home

The five Grand Master's Forums just concluded in Savannah, Augusta, Albany, Atlanta, and Macon highlighted the importance of the Masonic Home in Georgia Freemasonry. On June 14, 1905, Superintendent A.S. Harris and the Home staff welcomed the first 14 guests to the Masonic Home. Initially the Home provided care for the elderly as well as children. The Grand Lodge made the decision in 1912 to admit thereafter only children. The elderly already at the Home continued to live there and the last adult, "Aunt Molly," passed away in 1945. The Masonic Home has truly been the "Heart of Georgia Freemasonry" for more than a century.

Wor. Bro. John Snipes, superintendent of the Masonic Home for more than two decades, spoke at each of the Forums to explain the activities of the Home and answer all questions from Brothers present. The Georgia Masonic Home is one of only four Masonic children's homes in the United States. The other states are Nebraska, Illinois and Pennsylvania.



Wor. Bro. John Snipes

Bro. Snipes explained the process for placing a child in the Home. The child must be six years old, unless the child has a sibling at the Home. If so, then a child can be accepted at age 5. An application can be found on the Masonic Home's website. In the interview, the staff in the Social Services Department meets with the guardian and

---

"Finding someone who shows an interest in us means a lot." — Kyla, on the value of lodge and host families being involved in the life of the children and youth at the Masonic Home.

---

the child and examines other records related to the child to determine if the Home environment can help the child. The Home takes temporary custody, not full custody.

Bro. Snipes emphasized the importance of and need for lodges to sponsor the children and youth at the Home. There is no regular financial obligation to the lodge. Sponsoring lodges are needed to "adopt" one or more children or youth and send cards, call, visit or take them out to a restaurant or local mall.

Education is one of the most expensive programs at the Home. The children and youth are either home schooled or placed in a private school. No Bibb County school meets the minimum requirements for success; the graduation rate in Bibb County schools where Masonic Home students would attend is only 47 percent. Bro. John said Masonic Home students, especially the girls, were regularly harassed by some of the

male students when they attended public schools, so the decision was made by the Board of Trustees to place the students in private schools where they have a greater opportunity to receive a quality education.

The Home pays for high school graduates to attend college or trade school. The graduates must attend a local college the first year. If grades and attitude is good, the student may transfer to any state college in Georgia. The Home currently has four students in college. At the Atlanta Forum, three Masonic Home college students, Kyla, Samantha and Noah, spoke about their experiences at the Home and at college. Each one thanked Georgia Freemasons for the opportunity to receive a college education, which all agreed probably would not have been possible otherwise.



Samantha, Noah and Kyla

The Masonic Home home-schools students with discipline or academic problems. Many of the children come to the Home with poor study, reading or math skills; the home school brings them up to grade level so they can function in a regular classroom. One teacher, whose salary is paid by the Bibb County schools, teaches up to five students at a time in the home school.

Wor. Bro. Joe Powell, chairman of the Board of Trustees, spoke at the Atlanta Forum.



Grand Master Knittel and Wor. Bro. Fishman

"Failure is not an option," the Grand Master stressed concerning the effort to secure the financial future of the Masonic Home.

Also at the forums, Wor. Bro. Steven Fishman, chairman of the Georgia Masonic Blood Drive, spoke. In Atlanta, the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother E. Ray Knittel, presented his brother, Bro. Jack Fishman, a medal and framed letter from the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, Canada, for having donated 84 ¼ gallons of blood – that is over 1 ½ 55-gallon barrels of



Bro. Jack Fishman

blood. Bro. Jack has donated more blood than anyone else in southeastern United States. By contrast, Wor. Bro. Steve has donated only 32 ½ gallons; he is still working on his first barrel.

Wor. Bro. Steve emphasized the importance of reporting to him whenever an individual Mason or lodge donates blood or participates in a blood drive. The Red Cross does not report blood donations.



Some of the 268 Brethren who registered for the Atlanta Forum.

Wor. Brother Ross Laver, chairman of the GACHIP committee for the Grand Lodge of Georgia, reported that over 71,000 children had been ID'd. He said the future of GACHIP looks great with new, much less expensive, software has been developed; a number of laptops have been donated. He stressed that no Grand Lodge funds are used to support GACHIP so contributions are essential. He said many companies and corporations are willing to donate to worthy causes such as GACHIP, but that they don't know about GACHIP unless someone tells them.

### Tour of Scottish Rite Hospital

After lunch at the Scottish Rite Center in Atlanta, the Yaarab Shrine Center provided a bus to transport the Grand Lodge officers and their ladies to the Scottish Rite Hospital for a tour



The Grand Master thanks each of our guides at the Scottish Rite Hospital and presents each with one of his coins.

of that fine facility.

Our eyes were opened to the many unique opportunities made available to the children who are patients at the hospital from being transported in little red wagons instead of wheel chairs, to a putt-putt golf area and the "Zone" where volunteers help the young patients with games, coloring and other activities. The "Zone" is an opportunity for the children to "get away" from the hospital environment of needles, pills and a myriad of tests. There is even a koi pond for the children's (and adults') enjoyment.

An administrator at the hospital met with us and thanked all Scottish Rite Masons for their financial support of the hospital.

### Yaarab Shrine Masons Honor Grand Master

The day was concluded with a fine dinner honoring Grand Master E. Ray Knittel at the Yaarab Shrine Temple. Potentate Charles "Chuck" Pittman welcomed all to a fine dinner prepared by the Shriners at what was the first ever evening honoring the Grand Master by the Yaarab Shriners. Membership chairman John Law also spoke. Gene Bracewell, Potentate in 1973, welcomed the Grand Master and his officers.



Potentate Pittman and Grand Master Knittel enjoy a conversation.

Grand Master Knittel spoke of his deep appreciation to the Shrine Masons for holding the event and spoke at length about the importance of presenting a positive image to the world. He reminded the Freemasons that every morning we symbolically put on our white lambskin aprons which should remind us of the promises we made at the holy altar.

Potentate Pittman mentioned the Shrine Circus to be held in May in Marietta. He said the 7:00 p.m. performance on May 4 would be dedicated to all Master Masons and that Masons who present a current dues card will receive up to four free tickets.

While the Freemasons were enjoying the evening at the Shrine Center, the Divan Ladies hosted the Grand Lodge Ladies at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse.

The evening's festivities were a perfect way to end a great day.

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

There are more than 8,000 Shrine Masons in Georgia and 325,000 Shriners in the United States. Shrine Masons spend \$2 million a day to support their 22 hospitals in the United States. All care and services provided at Shriners Hospitals are totally without charge to the patient and family.

The full name of the Shrine is the Ancient Arabic Order of The Nobles of The Mystic Shrine. You may view the Yaarab Shrine website at [www.yaarabshrine.net](http://www.yaarabshrine.net). The website for the Al Sihah Shrine in Macon is [www.alsihahshriners.com](http://www.alsihahshriners.com); for Hasan Shrine in Albany visit [www.hasanshrine.org](http://www.hasanshrine.org). The website for Alee Shrine in Savannah is under construction; the phone number is 912-355-2422.



Gail Pittman, First Lady of Yaarab Shrine, and Marilyn Knittell, First Lady of the Grand Lodge, pose with their Ladies.

## When did Freemasonry arrive in the United States?

The first duly constituted and chartered American lodge was St. John's Lodge of Boston<sup>1</sup>, Massachusetts. Henry Price, Provincial Grand Master of New England, constituted eighteen brethren into a lodge on July 30, 1733. They went by the name of "First Lodge" until February 7, 1783, when they changed their name to St. John's Lodge. Massachusetts lodges are not numbered, so while St. John's Lodge is the oldest chartered lodge, it does not have "No. 1" in its name.

Once we get past the requirement of being duly constituted, there is tantalizing evidence of earlier, unchartered lodges.

The web page for St. John's Lodge says, "Contemporary accounts reveal that a Masonic lodge had met in King's Chapel, Boston, as early as the 1720s (meeting according to the "old customs")."

Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* for December 8, 1730, says "There are several Lodges of Freemasons erected in this Province."

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania owns the unusual volume *Liber B*, the account book of an unchartered Pennsylvania lodge. On June 24, 1731, Benjamin (Franklin) is entered as paying dues five months back, implying lodge activity back to February 1731 or possibly December 1730, depending how you calculate five months back.<sup>2</sup>

In 1734, Franklin sent twenty-five copies of his edition of James Anderson's *The Constitutions of Free-Masons* to South Carolina. Franklin was too shrewd a businessman to send that many books on speculation, and this is a book that most appeals to active Masons. Thus we can infer a lodge was meeting in South Carolina in 1734, but the first known lodge was Solomon's Lodge No. 1, chartered in Charleston in 1735.<sup>3</sup>

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia, George Washington's mother lodge, didn't begin meeting until 1752. However, it began as a "time-immemorial"<sup>4</sup> lodge and worked without a charter until 1758, when it accepted one from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Mother Kilwinning Lodge No. 0 of Scotland is the most famous time-immemorial lodge,

predating the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the granting of charters. Mother Kilwinning still works without a charter today.<sup>5</sup> — *The Scottish Rite Journal*, May/June 2007 and *Emessay Notes*, June 2007.

### (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Instituted on July 30th, 1733, by Right Worshipful Henry Price, *Grand Master*, at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, on King (*now State*) Street, Boston, St. John's Lodge meets on the first Monday of each month. The institution of the first Masonic lodge in America has led to numerous good-natured disagreements.

<sup>2</sup> This lodge met at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia; it expired in 1738.

<sup>3</sup> In the history of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in Savannah, the Robert Shig Porter, II, states, "The first Masonic Lodge instituted in this State, now known as *Solomon's Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M.* at Savannah, was established on February 21, 1734 and was entered upon the official engraved lists of the *Grand Lodge of England* as Lodge "No. 139 Savannah in Ye Province of Georgia and was constituted in 1735."

Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in Charleston is the oldest Masonic Lodge in South Carolina. It was established in either 1735 or 1736.

<sup>4</sup> "Time-immemorial" refers to English common law which basically says something has existed longer than anyone can remember. Lodges can claim to be "time-immemorial" since no one knows when lodges came into existence. Grand Lodges are never "time-immemorial" since the first Grand Lodge was formed in 1717 by four "particular" (now called "subordinate" or "constituent") lodges. Many lodges operated for years without Warrants, but under the immemorial right of Masons to form lodges.

<sup>5</sup> *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* states that the first record of a speculative lodge with non-operative members was the Lodge of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1600. This lodge was last mentioned in 1709.

# Eagle Scout News

## Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38 helps Eagle Scout Project



Joseph Head contacted us about his Eagle Scout Project, which was a coat, hat and food drive to benefit Unseen Hands Ministries. The lodge passed the hat and collected \$235.00, to which we voted to add \$100.00 in lodge funds, for a total of \$335.00. I know the Grand Master asked the lodges to support Scouting and we did our part to assist him in his mission and help Joseph towards his Eagle Scout award.

I have attached a picture of Blue Mountain Lodge's Worshipful Master Joseph Shoffeitt and future Eagle Scout Joseph Head.



Grand Lodge Ladies surprised Most Worshipful Bro. E. Ray Knittel with a birthday cake on his special day.

One thing you can say for small children — they don't go around showing off pictures of their grandparents!



Grand Master E. Ray Knittel draws our attention to the Three Great Lights in Freemasonry: the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses.



Zerubbabel Lodge Square and Compasses

# Is a Lodge of Research Right for You?

## Dr. Gary D. Lemmons, PGM

### Chairman of the Education and Historical Commission

One of the best kept secrets of Freemasonry in Georgia is the existence of the Lodges of Research. Many brethren have no idea that such Lodges exist, and, thus, miss out on an exciting source of Masonic Light. Hopefully this article will inform a number of brethren that this resource exists and remind other brethren, who may have forgotten, that this resource is available

Lodges of Research are authorized by **Chapter 66-1** of the **Masonic Code**. Each of these Lodges operates under a Charter from the Education and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge and is organized for the purpose of *“preparing and publishing programs for the education and advancement of the craft and all other prerogatives necessary for the achievement of Masonic Light.”*

It must be understood, at once, that Lodges of Research do not operate in the same capacity as a Symbolic or Blue Lodge. The Lodges of Research do not use the ritualistic opening of the Symbolic or Blue Lodge and the Lodges of Research do not confer degrees within their meetings. The *“entire purpose of a Lodge of Research is solely educational and instructive in nature.”*

Lodges of Research may be formed by seven or more brethren, who are members of a Regular Lodge operating under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia or who are members of a Regular Lodge operating under the jurisdiction of some other Grand Lodge that is in amity with the Grand Lodge of Georgia. A request should be made to the Chairman of the Education and Historical Commission and an Application Packet will be provided. This packet contains a formal Application for a Charter for a Lodge of Research, a set of sample By-Laws that may be used to develop By-Laws for the new Lodge of Research, and other instructions.

Lodges of Research must meet, at least, quarterly. Additionally, each Lodge of Research must have a permanent home in the facility of some Symbolic or Blue Lodge and the Annual Meeting of the Lodge of Research Lodge must be held in that facility. With the exception of the Annual Meeting, the other quarterly meetings and any called meetings may be held in appropriate facilities at other locations as announced by the Master of the Lodge of Research.

Lodges of Research are not a new thing in Georgia Masonry. Although almost 10 years in the planning, the Education and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge of Georgia did not become fully operational until the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in October of 1932. One of the first endeavors of the Commission was to undertake the formation of Lodges of Research throughout the state. By the following year, 1933, there were 26 Lodges of Research in Georgia,

and by 1935, the number of Lodges of Research had reached its pinnacle of 50.

For a number of reasons, the Lodges of Research declined in the 1940s. Part of this may have been due to the activities surrounding the war effort. It may have been a loss of interest. For whatever reasons, by 1961 only six Lodges of Research were active.

In 1977, the Education and Historical Commission reorganized the Lodges of Research and renumbered the several bodies. This scheme is still in use today.

Today, in 2013, we have five Lodges of Research operating in this Grand Jurisdiction:

Lodge of Research No. 1 at Savannah  
Lodge of Research No. 2 at Columbus  
Lodge of Research No. 4 at Macon  
Georgia Lodge of Research at Atlanta  
Lodge of Research No. 8 at Thomasville

Our newest Lodge of Research is No. 8 at Thomasville. It was chartered on January 12, 2013. Under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Edward Max Davis, who is the Charter Master, the brethren of Lodge of Research No. 8 of Thomasville hope to be of service in furthering Masonic education and enlightenment throughout the Lodges of the Second Masonic District.

If you have a sincere interest in exploring “more light” in the historical and philosophical areas of Freemasonry, we encourage you to seek out and become affiliated with one of these Lodges of Research.

If a Lodge of Research is not available in your area, we urge you to seek out and join with other like-minded brethren in organizing and applying for a Charter for a new Lodge of Research.

Inquiries may be made by emailing:  
[ZabudL@aol.com](mailto:ZabudL@aol.com)

or writing:

Dr. Gary D. Lemmons, PGM, Chairman  
Education and Historical Commission  
Grand Lodge of Georgia  
131 Rosewood Drive, SE  
Calhoun, GA 30701

# VETERANS CORNER

by Rick Conn

Brethren, two things I would like to bring to your attention this month: Tinnitus and TriCare for Reservists.

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently approved Sound Cure's new device, the Serenade, to treat tinnitus, which plagues many people who have been exposed to explosions in war zones or have spent time working around large aircraft or with loud weapons. "We're seeing lots of providers that are having very good success with patients," said Jeff Carroll, director of clinical services and engineering at Sound Cure and one of the Serenade's creators. The Serenade consists of a handheld device that produces sound waves through earphones to help mask tinnitus. It's been on the market for a little over a year. Tinnitus has been the leading cause of military service-related disability since 2005, according to an analysis of Veterans Affairs statistics by the American Tinnitus Association.

Tinnitus primarily is caused by noise exposure, either cumulative or from a single extreme noise. Head and neck injury is also a cause, said Jennifer Born, director of public affairs for the Tinnitus Association. She said military members are disproportionately impacted by tinnitus compared to civilians because of the nature of their work. "They've been exposed to noise that is going to do damage to the ear instantaneously," Born said. About two-thirds, or more than 840,000, of all service members who seek disability care from the VA do so for tinnitus, she said. It costs the government about \$1.28 billion annually to compensate them. Born said tinnitus causes sleep problems and sometimes makes it hard for people to go to work. She said it is often linked closely with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Existing treatments do not work for many people and have often proved to be more uncomfortable than the tinnitus itself, Born said. There is no known cure. Several years ago, the Tinnitus Association provided a grant to Sound Cure to come up with a new product to treat a wider range of people with more success. The Serenade was born.

Other treatments use sound waves to try to mask the tinnitus or ringing sensation. Often, the devices' "white noise" sounds had to be played loudly to cover it up, said Carroll with Sound Cure. Many patients choose to suffer their tinnitus rather than deal with the devices' loud noise, he said. The Serenade uses a softer level of a wider variety of sound waves, which the developers call S tones, to mask the tinnitus. The softer level makes it easier for patients to comply with the therapy. "It's not trying to cover up all these other sounds but still provides relief," Carroll said. "A long-term program could lead to perceptual changes where they can hopefully habituate

and be able to stop using the treatment." Last summer, the VA approved the Serenade, meaning VA audiologists could begin prescribing it to appropriate patients. The VA is authorized to foot the bill for medical visits and the cost of the device, estimated at \$800, Born said. Veterans seeking more information should contact their local VA medical providers. TRICARE beneficiaries covered by TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) or TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) were required to switch to electronic premium payments by 31 DEC. Those who did not make the change risk having their coverage suspended. Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, TRICARE will only accept monthly premium payments using recurring automatic payments by credit or debit card, or by recurring electronic funds transfer (EFT) from a linked bank account. To avoid confusion, beneficiaries should verify that their bank sends EFT payments electronically. Beneficiaries can contact their regional or overseas contractor to set up automatic payments and get more information. Contact information is available online at <http://www.TRICARE.mil/contacts>.

The Defense Manpower Data Center has sent email messages to current TRR and TRS members, and new beneficiaries are informed in their welcome package information. Electronic payments make it easy for members to pay their premiums on time, ensuring continuous coverage for beneficiaries. When beneficiaries don't pay their premiums it results in suspension of coverage. TRS and TRR are premium-based health plans. TRS is available for purchase by qualified members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and their families; and TRR can be purchased by qualified retired Reserve members, their families and qualified survivors of deceased retired Reserve sponsors. For more information about TRS or TRR go to <http://www.tricare.mil>.

May God Bless and remember our troops who are deployed in Harms way. God Bless America.

# State of GACHIP

GACHIP continues to be the greatest outreach program of the Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. To date we have met the families of more than 76,000 children as well as young adults and the elderly.

With the passing of code that makes GACHIP an official committee of the Grand Lodge, the commitment has been made to maintain it for the future. We have made a commitment to continue to provide families with information that may help the speedy recovery of a missing person. We have made a commitment to greet any family seeking this service and see to it that they have it without cost to them. We have made a commitment to extend the charity of our Fraternity to all and demonstrate who we are. To our benefit, we have had some of the good men we meet ask about us and seek to be our brothers.

Maintaining the equipment and preparing to increase our ability to increase the number of GACHIP ID kits created, we had to reduce the costs. To that end we have been highly successful. Prior to this effort, we were paying approximately \$2,400 for each system. With the help of brothers we have reduced that cost to under \$1,000. The biggest cost savings comes from the development of software which was donated by Brother W. Russ Cooke of Tyrian Lodge. It is estimated that his donation has reduced the cost of each system approximately \$1000. At the time of this writing, the software is being tested. With the help of other brothers, we have received a number of computers with more to be delivered in the next few weeks. It is important to remember that GACHIP is not funded by the Grand Lodge. Every dollar comes from donations to Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation.

The participation of each lodge is critically important to the success of GACHIP. Each event must be sponsored by a lodge. While sponsorship does not require any financial commitment, it DOES REQUIRE the participation of its members. Many organizations that are not Masonically-affiliated have reached out to help us because they recognize the value to the safety of children and others in Georgia. However, we cannot be satisfied to have others do the work for us. Our presence at every event shows our commitment. It is a great opportunity to work with others and acquaint them with who we are and what we stand for. If a college fraternity is there to help, we have an opportunity to answer their questions. Either we are there and answer them or they are left to the internet which too often can be a source of misinformation.

Many Districts are now working with local School Districts and at local schools to provide GACHIP ID kits. This is the most effective way to provide our program to as many families

as possible. Again, the help of the lodge is critical and helps to link the lodge to the community it serves.

No statement of the State of GACHIP would be complete without publicly thanking the District Directors and Associate Directors. These brothers expend great energy making the events a success. They donate many hours of personal time and see to it that equipment and supplies are available for each event. These are brothers with great passion. If you have the passion and desire, please contact the District Director for your district or the Grand Lodge Office.

GACHIP is well. With the support of every lodge and every brother we will continue to make Georgia Safer.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,  
 Ross Laver, State Director  
 GACHIP



## Columbus Masons Report Busy CHIP Year Ahead

Columbus, GA Masons has started off the year 2013 with its first event at the TSYS Learning Center. This is the third year we have had the opportunity to do this event. The event was held on January 24 and 25. We were able to identify and document 68 Children.

Already we have on our schedule 9 events for this year. The ones listed below now have firm dates. We are excited about how the Georgia Child Identification Program is "Catching On" here in the Columbus area.

**Columbus GA Masons**  
 UNITED AND SUPPORTING  
**GACHIP**

Date	Event Name	Event Location	Children Identified
Children Identified and Documented in 2010			311
Children Identified and Documented in 2011			420
Children Identified and Documented in 2012			852
1/25/2013	TSYS Learning Center	Columbus, GA	68
2/9/2013	Country Breakfast & Chip	Midland Lodge #144, Midland, GA	?
3/5/2013	Dawson Elementary School	Columbus, GA	?
<b>Event Totals for Year 2013</b>			<b>68</b>
<b>Total Children Identified and Documented</b>			<b>1651</b>

Masonchip! It's not what we do, it's who we do it for!

# In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased  
from November 27, 2012  
to January 25, 2013

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
DUNN, JAMES HERSCHEL	1SOL	CROOK, THOMAS MELVIN	121
HAMPTON, WILLIAM ROY	1SOL	GLEN, JOHN RANDOLPH	121
SHULER, CARL WESLEY	1SOL	HAUBRICH, HAROLD VINCENT	125
WESTMORELAND, JOHN LENOIR JR	002	GREEN, THERMAN WASHINGTON	131
SHANNON, CHARLES (NMN)	005	DAVIS, CHARLTON C [IO]	135
DAHL, ROY CLYNARD JR	008	HEMLY, HUGH ALEXANDER	138
DANIELS, ANDREW (NMN) SR	009	MCINTYRE, EVERETT LAWRENCE	139
ANDERSON, DONALD RAYFORD	012	MORRIS, BILLY WAYNE	139
MINCEY, STEVE THOMAS	015	READ, LAWRENCE BENTON	144
RASKIN, SIDNEY LOUIS	015	CHAMBERS, VAN EARL	148
ELLIOTT, ROBERT (NMN)	021	CARROLL, BUFORD ZELMER	153
CONNER, CARL BOYD	030	COLLINS, CLIFTON A (IO)	153
ORR, HUGH ALEXANDER JR	033	DANIEL, WILLIAM HARRY JR	165
WILLIAMS, CHARLES HAROLD	034	DENMAN, HARRIS GORDON	165
WEST, JAMES EDWARD	035	FINLEY, LESTER JOE JR	165
PERRY, WILLIAM AZZ	042	MAYES, JOSEPH EDMOND JR	171
ALFORD, JAMES LEWIS SR.	046	FORTNER, ALFRED JUNIOR	176
HUDSON, ODIS LEE	047	HICKS, ALVA DEWEY	176
DE REAMER, JOHN WESLEY	048	PURYEAR, JAMES WARREN JR.	176
ALBERT, EDGAR MALCOLM	054	DENMAN, HARRIS GORDON	182
CARNES, JOHN GILBERT	054	MABERY, WILLIE CHARLES	182
GRUNIN, REUBEN [NMN]	054	MATON, L D (IO)	182
MCCUTCHEN, BERRIEN T.	061	PURYEAR, JAMES WARREN JR.	182
SOUTHERN, CECIL RAY	063	BLAIR, JAMES EUGENE	184
MCCLELLAND, FRANK SHURTLEFF JR	065	MOORE, HENRY FRED JR	198
DAVIS, EUGENE TALMADGE	067	GAINES, HAROLD DEAN	212
EIDSON, BENNY BURNS	071	MONROE, WADE MIMS	213
DENNEY, JACK RAYFORD SR	077	HIGHSMITH, MARVIN JOEL	214
HALE, ANDREW JACKSON JR	077	KAUFMAN, JOHN AUGUSTUS	214
WILLIAMS, L. C. (IO)	078	NAZZRIE, LEONARD WRIGHT	214
CLARKE, ADOLPHUS HAMPTON	086	LEVY, JULIAN JACK	216
ADAMS, WILLIAM HEXTER	087	ORENSTEIN, MARVIN SAUL	219
BOWEN, MILTON LEE	087	DAVIS, CARL EDWARD	222
TARPLEY, ARTIE JOE	087	GARMON, RONNIE JIM	228
ADAMS, WILLIAM HEXTER	090	DAVIS, THOMAS LEWIS	231
LATHAN, CARLTON WILLIAM	092	HALL, EDWARD DELBERT	231
BAKER, CHARLIE MACK	104	FUTCH, CLARENCE WILLIAM JR	234
CULPEPPER, OLIN PEPPER	111	SCHRAMN, CALVIN WALKER	249
HEATH, HANSFORD DUNCAN	111	MAULDIN, CHARLES RICHARD	255
KUNKEL, WILLIAM ROY	111	RABUN, JAMES ROBERT JR	255
DENNEY, JOHN WILLIAM	118	LORD, OWEN CLESSIE JR	256

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
HUGHES, DAVID CROCKETT JR	257	BURNS, THORNTON AKIN JR	579
BOLING, CLYDE BRADY	261	MIMS, HIRAM RAY	579
PARKERSON, DON NEWTON	279	JENKINS, WILLIAM STEVE III	590
CANIDA, MARVIN EUGENE	288	HARRIS, ERNEST RAY	597
JENKINS, WILLIAM STEVE III	288	FOX, MARSHALL ELMER	622
KIRBY, DAN PHILLIP	288	GINN, HIRAM GREER	622
ROBINSON, WILLIAM CARSON	288	JUSTICE, LARRY EUGENE	663
POPHAM, RONNIE LAYNE	289	BAKER, WILLIAM HEZEKIAH	674
BRYANT, SAMUEL KYLE	292	FAIRES, NED TRACY	674
MCFALL, LAWRENCE IRVIN SR.	295	SPEROS, CHRIS (NMN)	674
NEWTON, PAUL KELLER	301	ROBINSON, LEROY [NMN]	683
LAPIDES, LEON (NMN)	304	LINDSAY, LARRY JEROME	702
KELLER, JIM JOHNSON	309	GRAY, JOHN THOMAS	710
WILLIAMS, JAMES DARRELL	319	THAXTON, LOUIS STEPHEN	711
BRENNER, CHARLES LAWSON	326	BRIDGES, JOHN MARK	715
PHILLIPS, QUILLIAM RUDOLPH	330	BURRELL, WAYNE PHILLIP	715
FIELDS, CHARLES REUBEN	335	WILSON, ROBERT WALLACE	716
SISE, ROBERT CALVIN	369	KEITHCART, RAYMOND EDWARD	717
MUELLER, DONALD FRED	382	SAMMONS, BENNIE ROBERT	718
GUTHRIE, JOHN R [NMN]	386	WEBSTER, CHARLES BEZZ	718
MCCOY, ROBERT HOWARD	397	REED, JOHN ARTE	722
WHITE, HAROLD LEE	397	HULEN, WILLIAM EARL	729
BORNSTEIN, HORACE RAY	399	NEW, THOMAS RALPH	729
WITHERINGTON, WILLIAM ALLEN	399	BLAIR, JAMES EUGENE	746
HARNED, GEORGE CLINTON	413	GRIFFITH, AUSTIN MCKINNEY	764
PENCE, ROBERT LUSTER JR	435	STONER, JERRY WALTER	764
WILLIAMS, CARL ALVIN	435		
JACKSON, JAMES REID	456		
CULP, BOBBIE GLEN	457		
HARBERT, DOWLING GRANNON	484		
SATTERFIELD, RAY ODELL	512		
HUGHES, HENRY BRITTEN	513		
ROGERS, LARRY HUGH	513		
STREETMAN, WILLIAM HOWARD	513		
HILL, MAX RYLAND	523		
PENDLEY, ESTON TRUELL	523		
LOW, NORMAN CHESTER JR	534		
LAVELY, CALVIN ELSON	536		
JENT, JAMES TWEED	543		
LEWIS, JAMES EDWARD JR	543		
NEW, JAMES HOWARD JR	543		
VANDERSLICE, EDWARD (NMN)	543		
SIMPSON, EURIS [NMN]	544		
COUSINS, CURTIS EMANUEL	549		
MCFALL, LAWRENCE IRVIN SR	549		

---

### Did You Know? Lodge Room Plays Available

The Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) has more than a dozen plays designed especially for use in the lodge room. Each one is intended to communicate understanding about some aspect of Freemasonry.

A "Catalog of Lodge Room Plays" is available if any lodge would like to study possible use of a play. This Catalog can be found on the webpage — [www.msana.com](http://www.msana.com) — by going to the "search" location and keying in "Catalog of Plays." Or, you may send a note (MSANA, 8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785) or email your request to [msana@ix.netcom.com](mailto:msana@ix.netcom.com), and a catalog will be sent to you free.

Most Worshipful Brother George O. Braatz (PGM-OH) is Executive Secretary of the MSANA.

**William G England Daylight Lodge No. 747 to  
Host Annual Past Grand Masters  
“APPRECIATION DAY”**

On Tuesday, March 5, William G. England Daylight Lodge No. 747 will hold their annual Past Grand Masters “Appreciation Day” at Rockmart Lodge No. 97 at 10.00 a.m.

The event will be an open communication, so we ask you to bring your wives and friends, let’s honor these men for their many years of service, lodge visitation, and miles they spent for our Fraternity!

If you have any questions, please contact Harold McDurmon at 404-379-2136.

LET’S FILL THE LODGE HALL TO THANK OUR PGMs FOR THEIR SERVICE!

**Georgia Lodge of Research**

The meeting schedule for 2013 is:

**March 29:** Master Rick Conn will present a paper on some ‘Special Masons’ in American History and Lore. Our main speaker will be State Chapter DAD Skip Mason who will introduce the DeMolay. The State Master Counselor will speak about some of the DeMolays’ experiences and several of the young men will be present. Please come and learn how you can help in the DeMolay program.

**May 31:** Wor. Bro. Joe Keyes is the guest speaker.

**August 30:** Wor. Bro. Mel Lockaby, our guest speaker, will speak about the Gavel and its history in our fraternity.

**November 29:** Wor. Bro. Carter Wood is our guest speaker. This will be a special meeting where we will honor a program that is near and dear to Masons, both at the Grand Lodge, Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite levels. We will have a special program on the Boy Scouts of America. Wor. Bro. Wood is not only a lifelong Scouter himself, but is also the Secretary of NAMS (National Association of Masonic Scouters).

Come and be with us for some interesting papers this coming year.

We meet at the Atlanta Masonic Temple on Peachtree Street at 7pm. Ladies, friends, and guests are welcomed.

**Three Generations**



It’s not often that three generations of Masons are members of the same lodge, but take a look at these Brothers in Campton Lodge No. 566. From the left are Carl Morrow, David Morrow, Jacob Morrow. They are all members of Campton Lodge.

**ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS  
November 27, 2012 through January 25, 2013**

**\$ 500 OR MORE**

Laurens Lodge	No. 75
Daylite Lodge	No. 125
Ducktown Lodge	No. 572
Fort Benning Lodge	No. 579
Raymond E. Crews, Sr.	
John & Emma Derst Foundation	
Earl B. Hays, Jr.	
John H. Todd	

**\$ 1,000 OR MORE**

Hiram Lodge	No. 21
Riverdale Lodge	No. 709
Morrow Lodge	No. 734
Southside Masonic Memorial	
Richard S. Bailey, Sr.	
Helen S. McPheeters Trust	
Ruskin Family Trust	
Purvie B. & Margaret Y. Watts Trust	

The Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons  
Masonic Messenger  
811 Mulberry Street  
Macon, Georgia 31201-6779

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MACON, GA  
PERMIT NO. 477

## FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER

TYPE or PRINT information requested and mail to the **Grand Lodge** address above

Name in full \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_  
If you have moved, **PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ABOVE TO THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA** along with your new address.

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P. O. Box) (City) (Zip Code)

**Brethren, it is your responsibility to make certain your address is current.**

**Be certain your Lodge secretary has your correct address.**

**Current addresses are kept in the Grand Secretary's office in Macon.**

**The editor of the *Masonic Messenger* does NOT keep a list of addresses.**

### Don't Get Scammed!

Not so long ago all of the email addresses in one of my accounts was hacked and used to send a bogus email saying I had been robbed in Madrid, Spain, and needed money to get home. It, of course, was a scam. Don't get scammed! Double check before you send money. In addition, no one is going to send you millions of dollars from Africa. They just want your checking account information to clean your account out. Read the following.

The "Grandparents Scam" has been around a while, but it's still so prevalent: grandchild/niece/nephew/friend is trav-

eling abroad and calls/texts/emails to say he or she has been mugged/arrested/hurt and needs money right away ("...and please don't tell mom and dad!"). Plus the FBI says that, thanks to social media, it's getting easier and easier for scammers to tell a more plausible story because they can use real facts from the supposed victim's life ("Remember that great camera I got for Christmas?" "I'm in France to visit my old college roommate."). Easy rule of thumb – before you wire money in an emergency, check with their family members to make sure they really are traveling. Odds are they are safe at home.