

Masonic Messenger



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

April 2015



**Heads of the Four Masonic Bodies
in Georgia Place a Wreath at the Tomb
of the Unknowns
at the Arlington National Cemetery**

MASONIC MESSENGER

Vol. 99

APRIL 2015

No. 2

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

Grand Master P. O. Box 396 E-mail: dmcdsr@hemc.net	Douglas W. McDonald (141) Cornelia, GA 30531 706-778-7178
Deputy Grand Master P. O. Box 1534 E-mail: drewlane1995@gmail.com	F. A. "Drew" Lane, Jr. (182) Dallas, GA 30132 770-317-0010
Senior Grand Warden 3318 Mansfield Ln. E-mail: garyleazer44@gmail.com	Gary H. Leazer (99, 262, 744) Snellville, GA 30039 770-851-0997
Junior Grand Warden 5500 Interstate Pkwy, Ste. 415 E-mail: lnichols@lwncca.com	Larry W. Nichols (59) Atlanta, GA 30328 404-735-3544
Grand Treasurer 203 Williams Drive Email: bnsimmons81@bellsouth.net	Bobby B. Simmons (111, 756) Bonaire, GA 31005 813-391-9616
Grand Secretary 811 Mulberry Street E-mail: fam2@bellsouth.net	Joseph "Joe" W. Watson (298) Macon, GA 31201-6779 Office: 478-742-1475
Grand Chaplain P. O. Box 278 egurley1997@gmail.com	Thomas E. "Eddie" Gurley (182) Dallas, GA 30132 770-480-9937
Grand Marshal 219 Jacob Drive marktireman@windstream.net	Mark A. Bradley (36) Hoschton, GA 34540 706-983-9216
Grand Orator	B. Palmer Mills, PGM (40) 706-663-2971
Senior Grand Deacon 3655 Jensen Ct. E-Mail: mike.wilson@wilsonroofingcompany.com	Michael H. Wilson (6, 84) Loganville, GA 30052 678-410-0833
Junior Grand Deacon P. O. Box 1921 □□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□	Johnie M. Garmon (114) Blairsville, GA 30514 706-781-9565
First Grand Steward 2897 Huntclift Drive giddensj@comcast.com	Jan M. Giddens (33) Marietta, GA 30066 678-232-4115
Second Grand Steward 1262 Meadow Lane SE don_combs@juno.com	Donald C. Combs (46) Darien, GA 31305 478-235-3750
Third Grand Steward 3592 Woodstream Circle NE kessler1@bellsouth.net	Mike Kessler (216) Atlanta, GA 30319 678-947-1001
Grand Tyler P. O. Box 1108 David.wall@gsccca.org	David C. Wall (325) Clarkesville, GA 30523 706-968-9735
Grand Treasurer Emeritus 171 Concord Road, S.E.	Samuel R. Whitfield (323) Smyrna, GA 30082-3909
Grand Treasurer Emeritus P. O. Box 129	Merrill L. Clark, Sr. (200) Shady Dale, GA 31085
Grand Secretary Emeritus 150 Spring Creek Road	James E. Underwood, PGM (367) Canton, GA 30115
Grand Secretary Emeritus P. O. Box 6068	Donald I. DeKalb (111) Warner Robbins, GA 31095

Dr. Gary Leazer, Editor (99, 262, 744)
3318 Mansfield Lane Snellville, GA 30039-4631
Cell: 770/851-0997
E-mail: garyleazer44@gmail.com

Dr. F. Lamar Pearson, Editor Emeritus

Publications Committee

Ross Laver, Chairman Home: 770-489-1864

Grand Photographer

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

— Grand Master Douglas W. McDonald

Spring has arrived and I can't believe five months of our Grand Lodge Year is history. Time does fly when you are having fun. I continue to maintain that you reap the benefits of your investments. You get out of Freemasonry, what you put into it. The opportunities to obtain more Light is yours for the taking, so I challenge you to seek those learning opportunities to open your minds and absorb the knowledge which is available at the my travels have been quite extensive to date. I have tried to make sure that visits to our Brethren in the northern and southern parts of our State have been equal.

I am pleased to report that our District Conventions are off to a good start. Attendance has been good and the convention meetings very productive. There is so much to learn at these District Conventions. They give us the opportunity to travel to different locations, meet new Brethren, re-connect with old friends and assist our Fraternity in growing to be the best it can possibly be. I urge you to attend and participate. You won't be disappointed.

I want to thank every person who works so hard to make meetings and events successful. Whether you are planning, coordinating, preparing, cooking, cleaning, decorating, speaking or any number of other things that must be done to organize these events, you are necessary, important and appreciated. Many times, your efforts go unnoticed and unappreciated, but without you and your sacrifice of time and energy, our fraternity would not flourish. Thank you for all you do for our great Fraternity.

A great big THANK YOU to those who worked at Shellman's Bluff, to ready our Camp for the Summer Season. The tens of thousands of dollars saved by the hard work of those dedicated Masons will never go without notice. Please remember April 11, 2015, is the Masonic Home Workday in Macon. Bring your rakes, lawn equipment, carpentry tools, etc., and help make the Home grounds beautiful.



Please take time to recognize and appreciate those Masons who put in the extra effort. You know the ones I am talking about...the guys who can always be depended upon to show up when the work is being done. They are always on the sidelines doing the thankless jobs that must be done, without any expectation of recognition. Masonry offers so many opportunities for service. We are not all cut out for the same types of service and that is a good thing, but I hope you will find your niche and serve in whatever capacity suits you best. Please follow the Grand Lodge Website and Officer's Planning Pack Calendars for upcoming events that will offer each of you great satisfaction.

Along with our Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Marshall, I attended the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where I represented Georgia as Chairman of the Planning Committee. The trip was exciting and exhausting, but it was so good to meet with Grand Masters from around the world and exchange Masonic views and ideas with them. The programs at the Conference were very enlightening and I am thankful that we were able to represent Georgia. I am confident that the things we learned will benefit our Georgia Lodges.

In pursuit of this year's Grand Lodge Patriotic theme, while on our way to an Official Visit at Azalea Lodge No. 716 in Valdosta, WB Mark Bradley, Grand Marshall and I, stopped to tour the Federal Registry Andersonville Civil

War Prison, in Andersonville, Georgia. Andersonville Prison was one of the largest Confederate prisons which existed during the Civil War.

Furthering our interest in Patriotism, and while at Shellman's Bluff for camp workdays, a visit was made to Sunbury, Liberty County, Georgia, the site of the first Masonic meeting held in the Georgia Colony on February 21, 1734. Two hundred eighty one years ago, a small band of British-Georgia Freemasons, gathered in the mystic tie beneath the extensive branches of a magnificent oak-tree then flourishing on the sea-coast bluff, and known as "Sunbury Oak".

While that large oak tree has since died and been removed, a stone monument was erected there in 1990 to commemorate this significant Masonic site. The nearby Solomon's Lodge No. 1, located in Savannah is celebrated as the "Oldest Continuously Operating English Constituted Lodge of Freemasons in the Western Hemisphere".

In America's Revolutionary War for independence, gained on July 4, 1776, Bro. George Washington chose many Master Masons to serve as leaders in his Army. Of the twenty-nine Major Generals in Washington's Army, twenty-four were Master Masons; of the thirty-seven Brigadiers, thirty were Master Masons. One of the more Patriotic things we can do is remember our Flag Day of June 14, 2015. Please plan to have programs on "Old Glory," the Flag of the United States of America, at your Lodge and proudly display the Flag everywhere you can.

Your Grand Lodge Officers, and many other Masons, marched behind a Grand Lodge Banner in a Parade at the Milledgeville, Georgia, Georgia Military College, March 27, 2015, at the Marquis de Lafayette 190th Anniversary Celebration. This very patriotic event celebrated the anniversary of General Lafayette's 1825 visit to Milledgeville. It was a humbling experience to participate in a re-enactment of the original Milledgeville Lodge Worshipful Master's actual greeting and exchange of pleasantries with General Lafayette during his 1825 visit to Milledgeville. Other events of the day included a community picnic on the grounds of the former Milledgeville State Capitol, exhibits, lectures and a sunset gathering and evening concert at the Old Governor's Mansion. There is so much to learn about General Lafayette's service to our nation during the American Revolution. It is reported that over 2,500 people attended. This was a glorious day for Georgia Freemasonry and everyone who participated.

Please remember that a state-wide Scottish Rite Class Reunion for those wishing to join the Scottish Rite, will be named in honor of Gilbert du Montier de Lafayette. This will be held at the Macon Scottish Rite Auditorium on May 30, 2015. I will be happy to sign each Mason's Petition as first line signer. I am also willing to do likewise, for the Grand Master's York Rite class to be held at the Grand Chapter Building in Macon on April 18.

Officer's Planning Packs are now available at the Grand Secretary's Office.

I would like to remind you that we have a limited number

of Grand Master Pocket Knives available for purchase. The cost of the knife is \$30.00. The proceeds from the knife sales go to the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc., for distribution to our Masonic Charities within our State. If you have not yet purchased a knife, I encourage you to do so by contacting me or my Grand Marshall, Mark Bradley. Thanks to everyone who has donated to the First Lady's Project to improve the Masonic Home Lobby. That fundraiser is being well received. The donations you have made will certainly go a long way toward creating a more welcoming and positive image for our Masonic Home lobby. If you have not given to this worthy cause, I hope you will consider doing so. Our Masonic Home kids deserve it. Mail your checks to the Masonic Home of Georgia, P. O. Box 4183, Macon, Georgia 31208, and please designate on the check's memo line "First lady's Project."

As an update on security issues surrounding our Lodges and meetings, three men have been arrested in the October 10, 2014, arson fire of the Winslow Masonic Temple in Arizona. The Temple contained Lodge furniture from the Chicago World's Fair held in the 1890's. Please remember to electronically store offsite copies of your valuable documents, minutes and photographs and be sure your insurance is current.

We believe in a Supreme Being. We acknowledge that Almighty God Jehovah created the heavens and the earth. Let us ever be mindful that God's greatest gift to mankind was His Son, Jesus Christ. St. John 3:16 ... "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV).

The Ancient Landmarks published by the eminent Author, noted and respected Dr. Albert Mackey, in his textbook on Masonic Jurisprudence, reflects: Landmark 19., that every Mason must believe in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe; Landmark 20., that every Mason must believe in a resurrection to a future life; and Landmark 21., that a book of the Law of God must constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge. While there is some discussion over whether or not the Grand Lodge of Georgia has adopted Dr. Mackey's The Ancient Landmarks, I recommend them to your reading, as they may be found at pages 138-141 of the Grand Lodge of Georgia *Masonic Manual*, 1999, Volume 2.

Please remember Micah 6:8 and do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. While there are wars and rumors of wars all around us, and it seems that our Country has lost its way, let us remember 2 Chronicles 7:14 ... "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

May God guide you and give you Light and may the peace of Christ rule in your Hearts (Col. 3:15).

With Brotherly Love,
Douglas W. McDonald, Sr.,
Grand Master

Eagle Scout Awards



Nichola Lloyd Eichenberger received his Masonic Eagle Scout Award from Wor. Bro. Jim Childress, DDGM - 7G. Nichola's grandfather, Ronald Hicks, shows his pride in his grandson.

Amity Lodge installs New Flag Pole



Amity Lodge No. 731 recently installed a new flagpole. The 20 foot tall white fiberglass one-piece pole replaces a multi-section aluminum pole that was damaged in a wind-storm. Thanks to generous donations of both time and money by several of the Amity brethren, Old Glory is once again flying high over Amity Lodge No. 731! A special thanks should go to Brother Allen Pierrati for his hard work finding, ordering, receiving (the pole was shipped on a flatbed truck!) and installing the new flagpole.



Left to Right: DDGMs Raymond Gray and Tom D. Bruce, Scouts John R. Lyons and Harrison J. Dasher, Troop 77 sponsored by Oak Grove Methodist church, Decatur, Georgia.



Wor. Bro. Dexter Harrison, DDGM, presents an Eagle Scout Award to Benjamin Stewart



Sharon and Richard Bailey are a familiar couple at Grand Master's Forums and District Conventions where they sell Masonic items to interested Brethren. All profits from your purchases go to children and youth supported by Georgia Masons. In the past two years, they raised \$7,000 in profits.

Our Masonic Home Children and Youth explore Stone Mountain on an Annual Visit

Since the early 1970s, the children from the Masonic Home of Georgia have made the trip to Stone Mountain Lodge No. 449 where they are hosted for lunch before spending a day at Stone Mountain Park. On Saturday, October 16, they will visit the Lodge and Park for the 25th consecutive time since 1990.

The event is currently hosted by Stone Mountain Lodge with support Fifth District Lodges and Masons, the Fifth Masonic District, and the Order of the Eastern Star (OES). Following lunch each child and houseparent receives a bag of snacks, provided by the OES, and spending money provided by the supporting Blue Lodges and the Fifth Masonic District. Stone Mountain Park management has supported this event over the years by providing attraction tickets for the children and house parents, free parking for everyone, and a dedicated pavilion for all individuals with the group.

Once the children arrive at the assigned pavilion they are provided with the tickets for almost all of the park attractions. At 5 p.m., Stone Mountain Lodge provides the group with a light supper.

The children then return to the park's attractions and at dusk they all meet on the green to enjoy the laser show—an exciting day for all involved.

The children love to meet the Masons and their families. If you would like to come, please let Stone Mountain Lodge know if they should include you in the headcount for lunch or supper by e-mailing the Treasurer, WB Mac McGuirt, at merlin4670@comcast.net.



Roger Wood Lodge No. 438, Cobbtown, awarded four Brothers on March 4 with their Holy Bible, Apron and, Certificates. All four of these brothers are committed to the rebuilding of our lodge and making it "A Beacon of Light," in our small community.

From L to R are JW Nicklos Branson, SD Landyn Guy, WM Peter Jones, JD Robbie Sikes and SW Dustin Nail



Grand Master Douglas McDonald after his Initiation into the George Washington Chapter of Honorary Senior DeMolays on Saturday March 14 at the Atlanta Masonic Center.

400 Attend First Annual Blue Lodge Appreciation Day

At least 400 Masons attended the first Annual Blue Lodge Appreciation Day at the Macon Scottish Rite Center. It was a full day of fun with lots of learning about Masonry which we never hear about in Georgia.

Most Worshipful Ted C. Collins (2008), Personal Representative for the SGIG in the Valley of Macon, welcomed everyone and introduced the Past Grand Masters present:

Most Worshipful Bros. A. Charles Knowles (1983), Clyde E. Griffin (1996), Leonard E. Buffington (2010), Jerry D. Moss (2012), and Edgar M. Land (2014).

Past Grand Master Collins offered the floor to Most Worshipful Leonard E. Buffington, SGIG, who also welcomed everyone to this first annual event.



Leonard E. Buffington, PGM, SGIG

Most Worshipful Brother Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., the seated Grand Master, expressed his sincere appreciation to all in attendance. He then introduced the Grand Lodge officers present: Right Worshipful F. Drew Lane, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful Gary H. Leazer, Senior Grand Warden; Right Worshipful Joseph W. Watson, Grand Secretary; Wor. Bro. Mark A. Bradley, Grand Marshal; Wor. Bro. Johnie M. Garmon, Junior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Jan M. Giddens, First Grand Steward; Wor. Bro. Donald C. Combs, Second Grand Steward; and Wor. Bro. Michael A. Kessler, Third Grand Steward.

Wor. Bro. Robert "Bob" Davis, 33 G.C., General Secretary of the Valley of Guthrie, Oklahoma,¹ was our guest speaker before lunch. An extremely popular speaker, he spoke at Masonic functions on 26 weekends outside Oklahoma during 2014.



Robert Davis, 33° G.C.

Wor. Bro. Davis spoke of Freemasonry as an unfinished story or a story that has no end. We see this, he said, in our search for the lost word. The legend of the ruffians was not a part of Masonic ritual in the beginning; he said the Master Mason degree was probably not written until around 1723, several years after the Grand Lodge of London and

Westminster was organized in 1717.²

Wor. Bro. Davis said the real story of the ruffians is a story of the worst part of ourselves that we must overcome. In other words, the ruffian nature is within each of us and we must seek to expel it before we can become real Freemasons.

Wor. Bro. Davis spoke of the four parts of our initiation into Freemasonry: the social whereby we become a part of fellows seeking togetherness as men; the academic must be a part of our Masonic initiation [as Most Worshipful Bro. McDonald reminds us of "education, education, education."], the philosophical whereby we seek wisdom taught by men of old; and spiritual as we are told to read the Holy Bible whereby we will learn what God expects of each of us.

In Freemasonry, we are elected or chosen into a small group of men where we can learn to respect what is important by following certain rules of life and the world as laid down in Masonic history. Wor. Bro. Davis said he firmly believes young men are looking for what Freemasonry offers and it is up to each of us, without asking someone to join our fraternity, to give them an opportunity to become aware of who we are as Freemasons and what the fraternity can offer them.

At lunch, we were all treated to a fine lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs, provided without cost by the Scottish Rite.

The highlight of the afternoon was the Entered Apprentice Degree presented by the Germania Lodge No. 46 from New Orleans, Louisiana. They brought their own real candidate, a 20-year-old college student named Adam.³ The lodge gets its name from the fact that until 1944 the lodge conducted its ritual in German.

Although many of the words were recognizable to the Georgia Freemasons, the degree itself was very different. Only ten lodges in Louisiana present this degree, called the "Red" or the Scottish Rite Symbolic degree. One lodge in California and one in New York State also reportedly are "Red Lodges."⁴

Noticeable differences in the ritual are: no Stewards are used in the degree; the Junior Warden attends at the altar; the Junior Deacon is called the Inner Guard and the Senior Deacon is called the Master Expert. The Master Expert does the same work as the Senior Deacon in a Georgia lodge, except at the altar. The secretary and the treasurer sit on opposite sides of the Worshipful Master. During the degree, five very loud noise makers were used, as well as spray bottles of water and five-foot high flames of fire so the candidate can experience EARTH, WIND, and FIRE.

The reason for the day's event was to inform Master Masons about the Scottish Rite and to provide an

opportunity for them to petition for the degrees of the Scottish Rite in one of the six Valleys in Georgia.

(Endnotes)

¹ The Scottish Rite Center for the Valley of Guthrie is a 400,000- square-foot building with a fabulous library, one of the largest in the United States. The citizens of Guthrie voted to give the Scottish Rite Masons 10.6 acres originally platted as the Capitol Park, including the old Legislative Hall which housed the State legislature before the capital was moved to Oklahoma City in 1910, and which served another 9 years as the site of Oklahoma Methodist University. The Scottish Rite Masons voted to attach their temple to the old legislative building. The temple is Oklahoma’s most beautiful building. You may view the temple and its beauty at <http://www.guthrie.scottishrite.org>. Several fine articles with photos can be found on the website.

² The United Grand Lodge of England (“UGLE”) was constituted December 27, 1813 at Freemasons’ Hall in London after a number of unaffiliated lodges put aside their differences and aligned with the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster. The 1813 constitution did not end all the quarrels among the Brethren; that would come later.

³ Louisiana is one of a number of Grand Lodges to permit men under the age of 21 to receive the degrees of Freemasonry. Louisiana, along with 34 other Grand Lodges



From the left are Johnie Garmon 33°, Leonard Buffington 33° SGIG, MWB Douglas McDonald 32° KCCH, and Robert Davis 33° G. C.

allow a man to petition for the degrees of Freemasonry at age 18; five Grand Lodges allow a 19-year-old man to petition for the degrees; and Georgia, along with ten other Grand Lodges, require a man to be 21-years-old.

⁴ “Red Lodges” refer to those lodges who use the Scottish Rite ritual rather than the much more typical ritual used in “Blue Lodges.”



Pictured above is the cast for the degree and others of the day’s leaders. In the center is the Degree Master Wor. Bro. Klaus J. Kueck; to his right is MWB Douglas McDonald; and to his right is Wor. Bro. Robert Davis. To the Degree Master’s left is Leonard Buffington, PGM and SGIG, to his left is Wor. Bro. and

Dr. Azikiwe (Zeke) K. Lombard. On November 12, 1014, Dr. Lombard was elected to the office of Worshipful Master of Germania No. 46. Wor. Bro. Lombard is the first African-American Mason (that we know of) to be elected Worshipful Master of a lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

Masonic Home Graduates



Hello, my name is Arron Wood and I moved to the Masonic Home when I was eight. The day was August 16, 2004. I moved here with my two sisters: Ami, who was ten, and Sara who was 5. Before we moved here, we thought it was normal for someone to drop out of high school and go sell drugs or work in the streets. We didn't really understand how important a diploma was.

The environment that we were living in was not one suitable for children. It was full of violence, abuse, and all kinds of drugs. It wasn't safe for us to stay there. But at the time we thought it was what every kid was going through. So when my mom decided to send us here we thought when we moved everything would be pretty much the same. We did not know any better.

The home showed us how normal kids were supposed to live. They taught us that not all schools were public schools with no tuition. We learned that we were going to have three meals every day. Now at first everything was a little weird. I wasn't used to not seeing my mom or grandparents. Or living with so many kids. I hated it here. I thought we were sent here because we were bad kids. It took me a few years to actually understand all of this was in my best interest. But now I know for sure that everyone here cares for me and would do almost anything to see me graduate. Even though we had several rough times they still have not given up on me. This place is the greatest blessing on earth.

(Continued bottom of next column)

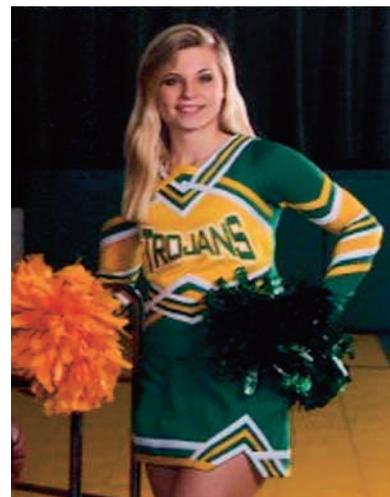


My name is Amy M. I am 17 years old, and a senior at Tattnall Square Academy. I came to live at the Masonic Home in September of 2009. I was just 12 years old and attended the Home School Program to help finish out the sixth grade. I have attended Tattnall Square Academy since 7th grade, and will graduate from there on May 18. I would like to attend Mercer University. I would like to pursue a career in Sports Medicine. The Home has provided me with many opportunities that I would not have otherwise been able to experience. The Masonic Home has given me the opportunity to attend a private school and receive an excellent education. I am beyond thankful for everything that the Masonic Home has done for me. I would not be the person I am today if it were not for the Home and all of the wonderful Masons across Georgia.

(Continued from previous column)

Thank you all so very much. If it wasn't for you I don't know where I would be right now. Thank you for providing me with this awesome opportunity to become someone great.

Sincerely,
Arron



My name is Shelby Ford and I moved to the Masonic Home on Valentine's Day 2005. I was a very scared little girl and did not know what the Masonic Home was all about. I don't even know if I realized what living at the Home meant. I was so young and only in the second grade. They told me I would be going to school at the Home also. That was exciting to me! I thought that meant that I really would not be going to school. I did not know that the Home School Program was really a school.

Before I moved to the Home, I barely went to school. My life was just different everyday. It was chaotic. Consistency was something I did not understand because I had lived in so many different places. Going to school everyday was definitely something new. I was very behind academically. I did not know how to read like other second graders. The Home School Program helped me learn to read and I still remember my teacher Ms. Rachael. I also remember all those first faces at the home.

The kids were so kind to me and helped me adjust to my new life. To say what the Home has meant to me is not something that can easily be put into words. The one word that comes to my heart is HOME. It has not always been easy living away from my family but it gave my mother the opportunity to change her life. She has become a wonderful mother to both my sister and me.

(Continued on page 9)

Augusta Scottish Rite Masons learn about the Fisher House

Scottish Rite Masons and many of their ladies were treated to a presentation by Mrs. Anne Arnold, manager of the Fisher House at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta at the April meeting of the Valley of Augusta. The Fisher House is one of two in Georgia, the second one is at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center on Fort Gordon, just west of Augusta. There are 62 Fisher Houses in the United States with one in England and one in Germany. Ten more are in design or under construction. Each Fisher House is located on the grounds of major military and VA Medical Centers in the USA or Europe.

The Fisher House was the dream of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher of New York. Zachary was a residential and commercial developer and a major philanthropic benefactor for the men and women in the United States Armed Forces. In 1978, he founded the Intrepid Museum Foundation to save the historic and battle-scarred aircraft carrier Intrepid from the scrap yard. Although he suffered a leg injury as a teenager and was turned down for military service, he also spearheaded the opening of the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum in New York City, now the world's largest naval museum. In 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher began the Fisher House program, dedicating more than \$20 million to the construction of "comfort homes" for families of hospitalized military personnel.

The local community is required to raise one-half of the cost of the construction of a Fisher House. One of the largest, the Fisher House at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center cost \$5.7 million. Once completed the house is deeded to the VA which provides utilities and some other basic needs. It has 20 bedrooms with private baths. There is no charge to families of veterans using one of the two VA hospitals in Augusta. There is no time limit for stays as long as the veteran is a patient. One wife stayed 616 days.

Mrs. Arnold spoke of the ways Freemasons could help the Fisher House. She said Blue Lodges could provide evening meals for families who return to the house after spending the day with their loved ones. Personal needs are always welcome as some families come with their veteran

(Continued from page 8 - Shelby Ford)

The Masonic Home has given me other opportunities, too. I have gone on many trips, been tubing at Camp all summer, and even got to pet a Manatee! These are all things that I love about the Home but the single most important thing is that the Home has made me the young woman that I am. I don't know if I would have finished high school if I had not come to the Home. I will graduate this May from Twiggs Academy. I hope to go to college and become a Veterinarian Technician. I am so grateful for the love and support the Home has been to me the last eleven years. Just saying "Thank You!" could never be enough!

who is unexpectedly admitted, so toothpaste and tooth brushes are welcome. Paper products are especially welcome as no one wants to use VA toilet paper. Gift cards from local stores are appreciated. Individual and group volunteers are welcome. Mrs. Arnold encouraged Masons to be ready to provide transportation of families who cannot drive or do not have transportation. Eagle Scouts might be able to do projects to earn their badges.

The Fisher House is sometimes full and no one is turned away so the Fisher House developed the "Hotels for Heroes" program to place family members in local motels until a bed becomes available. The Augusta Scottish Rite Center presented Mrs. Arnold a check for \$500 for the Fisher House.

This is a perfect project for Georgia Freemasons who want to support the Grand Master's emphasis on veterans this year. Your editor with a group of Masons toured the two Augusta hospitals and the Fisher House two years ago; if you do, you will come away a changed person who will seek ways to help our veterans and this worthy program, whether your help is small or large.

If you are interested in learning more about the Fisher House or how you may help, you may call Mrs. Arnold at 706-729-5773 or email her at anne.arnold@va.gov.



Wor. Bro. Kennedy "Kenny" L. May, KCCH, Venerable Master, presents Mrs. Anne Arnold a check for \$500 from the Valley of Augusta.

Blood Drive Report as of April 9

We now have 21,007 reported units for the duration of our Georgia Masonic Blood Drive; 2342 units for this Masonic year. Congrats to all who helped.....M. Steven Fishman, chair.

Have you or your lodge reported the numbers from your blood drive(s) to Wor. Bro. Fishman? If you don't, no one will.

Hiram's Island at the Ocean

The Dallas Fellowcraft Club was almost bowled over by the most gracious and Brotherly hospitality extended to them by the members of Ocean Masonic Lodge No. 214 as well as those of Brunswick Masonic Lodge No. 717 on the Club's trip to the Ocean Masonic Lodge "Hiram's Island Family Night and Masonic Weekend" on March 27 and 28 just outside of Brunswick, GA.

During the 350-mile trip, the Club members were filled with anticipation of what to expect when they got to their destination. They were NOT disappointed.

They were met by Brethren from the two seaside lodges with open arms and a wonderful meal.

Ocean Lodge staged their Family Night Friday evening, and it was a sight to behold. A fantastic Low Country Boil was served, prepared by the Brethren, and for many of the landlocked members of the Dallas Fellowcraft Club it was their first taste of such a maritime treat. It was a great way to unwind after over five hours of driving, and these two lodges went all out to welcome the members of the Club. The Brethren of Ocean and Brunswick Lodges went overboard in making the Club members feel right at home. Their hard work of preparation was obvious from the moment the Club members began arriving on the Island.

Blue Heron Island is the home of the Woodman of the World "Camp Glynn." For the last 25 years, the island has been transformed into Hiram's Island once a year by the Brethren of Ocean Lodge for their Family Night and weekend events.

In October 2014, Wor. Bro. Bill Shepard, a member of Ocean Masonic Lodge No. 214 at Brunswick and Custodian of the Work for the 11th District, was present at the Sand Pit Event in Valdosta (Troupville), GA, hosted by the Brethren of St John the Baptist Masonic Lodge No. 184. The Dallas Fellowcraft Club had been invited to dramatize the Master's Degree there. After the dramatization Wor. Bro. Shepard (Ocean No. 214), impressed by what he saw, met with Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley (Dallas No. 182), Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Custodian of the Work for the Seventh District, and President of the Dallas Fellowcraft Club, and that conversation set the ball rolling. Wor. Bro. Shepard later recommended to the Officers and Brethren of Ocean Masonic Lodge that they invite the Dallas Fellowcraft Club (DFC) to dramatize the Master's Degree at the Island in March, 2015. The Lodge agreed, and thus began a lot of planning, hard work, and communication between the DFC (Dallas Masonic Lodge No. 182) and the members of Ocean Masonic Lodge. If the timing worked out, it appeared that neighboring Brunswick Masonic Lodge might have a candidate for the degree of Master Mason during the weekend in question. If the weather would hold out...if the Candidate was ready...if enough members of the Dallas Fellowcraft Club could commit to and actually make the trip...if Ocean Lodge

could again obtain use of the island for the designated weekend from the Woodmen of the World...it began to look as if this idea might actually turn into a reality.

The Brethren of Ocean Lodge got to work and obtained the necessary approval from the Woodmen of the World, who use it as a campground for their members.

As the weekend approached, Ocean Lodge was assisted in preparations for the Saturday morning dramatization of the Master's Degree by members of Brunswick Lodge, who, sure enough, had a Candidate for the conferral of the Degree, Fellowcraft Brother Keith Allen Krutchman. During the week preceding the event, the Brethren from both Lodges continued to labor diligently at the Island, finishing up preparations to ensure that everything was in place for the Family Night festivities, as well as the Degree Work on Saturday morning. Their hard work really paid off.



Wor. Bro. Skip Kretchman, PM, Brunswick Lodge No. 717, Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Dallas Lodge, Brother Keith Kretchman, Brunswick Lodge No. 717. Bro. Keith Kretchman, was raised by his father, Wor. Bro. Skip Kretchman, Past Master of Brunswick Lodge, who was also raised at this same outdoor degree some years ago.

The absence of rain on the Island on Friday and Saturday was a blessing; it was replaced by the heavy dew of Brotherly Love that settled upon the occasion. That night, the Club made Wor. Bro. Shepard an Honorary Member of the Dallas Fellowcraft Club and presented to him a Certificate of Membership. Ocean Lodge had made arrangements for the Club Brethren to spend Friday night in cabins on the Island, and the DFC members finally retired after a long but rewarding day. When they awoke Saturday morning, they were greeted by a delicious breakfast of slow baked ham and eggs and all the fixin's which disappeared almost instantly, prepared by the Brethren of Ocean Masonic Lodge. While they were sleeping, however, Saturday morning at 4 A.M., the final Club contingent consisting of Brothers Tim Adair, Jon Brown, and Ralph Leprone, all from Dallas Masonic Lodge No. 182, and Brother Eddie Ward, Rockmart Masonic Lodge No. 97, pulled out of

the Dallas Masonic Lodge parking lot in Brother Tim's truck.

About 6 hours later they were met upon arrival at the Island by the other Club members who had spent the night there, including Most Worshipful Bro. Edgar Land, Past Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, Oak Bowery Masonic Lodge No. 81, Wor. Bro. Tim Ingram, Past Grand Marshall, Pickens Star Masonic Lodge No. 222, and Wor. Bros. David Lyles, Bobby Walraven, Eddie Gurley and Brothers Ken Landes, Wil Rakestraw, Donny Pace, Garrett Gurley, and Tony DeRosiers, all from Dallas Masonic Lodge No. 182. Brother Tony D. towed the Club's trailer (containing costumes, props, etc.) from west Georgia to east Georgia, and back again.

The Brethren from Ocean and Brunswick Masonic Lodges then began setting up the outdoor Lodge Room, with members of the DFC assisting with setting up the bleachers, etc. When all was ready, with all visitors greeted and settled in, and with the Lodge properly Tyled, Ocean Masonic Lodge Officers opened the Lodge in impressive form. As soon as the Lodge was opened, members of the Dallas Fellowcraft Club assumed their proper stations and work on the Master's Degree began.

At the completion of the First Section of the Degree, the Lodge was called to Refreshment, and all present were feted to a truly wonderful barbecue prepared by the coastal Brethren.

After lunch the work on the Second Section began, with

the members of the Club in full costume. Then, with the proper solemnity due the Degree and the Candidate, the oft told story was dramatized, and our Brother Keith Allen Krutchman was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

The Officers of Ocean Masonic Lodge No. 214 then resumed their stations and closed the Lodge in due form.

Dallas Lodge would like to thank ALL of the Brethren in attendance (somewhere between 75 and 100), and especially the Brethren of Ocean Lodge No. 214, Brunswick Lodge No. 717, the Senior Warden of Ocean Lodge No. 214, Brother Kevin Miller, as well as the Ocean Lodge Wor. Master Jimmie Durrence, Wor. Master Brad Cooper, Brunswick Masonic Lodge No. 717, and all those who worked so hard to make this the success it was. Their most gracious hospitality will long be remembered and talked about. And we congratulate Brother Krutchman. Press on, Brother, there is more, much more, to be revealed.

The Dallas Fellowcraft Club was honored to be invited back to the Event again next year by Ocean Masonic Lodge No. 214. In view of the Ocean of Brotherly Love that surrounded us during the weekend and all the new friends that were made, not to mention the truly gourmet meals, it was an invitation that could not be refused. We're looking forward to next year! — Phil Pearce, Webmaster, Dallas Masonic Lodge No. 182



Front Row, kneeling, left to right: Bro. Ryan Lockwood (717) SS; WB David Beard, WM (717)(707) Tyler; WB David Lyles (182); WB Eddie Gurley (182) Grand Chaplain and President of the Dallas Fellowcraft Club; Bro. Ralph Leptrone, (182) JS
Middle Row, standing, left to right:: Bro. Eddie Ward, (97); WB Jimmie Durrence, (214); Bro Wil Rakestraw, SD (182); Bro. Ken Landes (182); Bro. Tim Adair, (182) 3rd S, Ambassador to the Ga. Masonic Children's Home from 182; Bro. Kevin Miller, (717), SW.

Back Row, standing, left to right: Bro. Garrett Gurley (182) District 7 Ass't. Dir GACHIP; Bro. Tony Botita, (717) Sec'y; Bro. Tony DeRosiers, (partially obscured) (182); Bro Jon Brown, (182) JD; WB Brad Cooper, (717) WM; Bro. Donny Price, (182); WB Tim Ingram, (222), Immediate Past Grand Marshall; MWB Edgar Land, (81), Immediate Past Grand Master of Masons in Georgia.

Cordelia Lodge No. 296 hosts Third Masonic District Convention

Cordelia Lodge No. 296 hosted the 115th Annual Session of the Third Masonic District Convention on March 21. District Master Tommy Kimbrel and his officers opened the convention and he led the Brethren in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Most Worshipful Douglas McDonald was found in waiting and was received and welcomed by the Brethren. He introduced his officers who were present: Right Worshipful Drew Lane, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Warden; Most Worshipful Bobby B. Simmons, Grand Treasurer; Right Worshipful Joe Watson, Grand Secretary; Wor. Bro. Mark Bradley, Grand Marshal; Wor. Bro. Mike Wilson, Senior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Johnie Garmon, Junior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Don Combs, Second Grand Steward; and Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler, Third Grand Steward. In addition to Most Worshipful Bobby Simmons, the Grand Master also introduced Past Grand Master Ted C. Collins.

The song *God Bless America* was sung. A collection for the Masonic Home was taken; \$300 was received.

The names of those who had passed away since the previous Convention were read and prayer was offered thanking God for the service of the departed Brothers.



The Grand Master offers the gavel to the newly installed District Master, Wor. Bro. Thomas Green, and invites him to preside.

Wor. Bro. Lynn Turner was recognized for his hard work in York Rite Masonry and was presented a plaque by the York Rite Sovereign College.



Grand Master McDonald congratulates Wor. Bro. Turner for his honor in this photo.



The Grand Master poses with Brethren from Chehaw Lodge No. 701 who won Lodge of the Year.



Four Brethren were named District Masons of the Year.

District Master announced the 2016 3rd District Convention would be held at Pine Level Lodge No. 353 in Fitzgerald on the first Saturday in March, which is a change from the regular convention schedule.

The Grand Master gave a State of the Grand Lodge address and spoke of the importance of involving wives and children in Freemasonry.

Southern California Research Lodge

Many Georgia Freemasons are familiar with or are members of the Southern California Research Lodge.

We note with sadness the passing of Brother Norman B. Leeper, of Fullerton, CA, on March 29, 2013. Bro. Norm was Secretary of SCRL for many years and personally managed the SCRL book program, including the mailing of copies of Allen E. Roberts' *The Craft and its Symbols* to Entered Apprentice Masons nationwide.

Vidalia Lodge hosts First Masonic District Convention

Vidalia Lodge No. 330 hosted the 109th Annual Communication of the First Masonic District Convention on March 28. The officers of Vidalia Lodge opened the Convention at 10:00. After the Pledge of Allegiance to our country's flag, a selection from Joshua 1 was read.

After which the lodge officers vacated their stations and the convention officers assumed their stations. Most Worshipful Douglas W. McDonald, Grand Master, was found in waiting and was received by seven DDGMs present.

The Grand Master introduced his officers who were present: Right Worshipful Drew Land, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Warden; Most Worshipful Bobby Simmons, Grand Treasurer, Wor. Bro. Mike Wilson, Senior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Johnie Garmon, First Grand Steward; Wor. Bro. Don Combs, Second Grand Steward; Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler, Third Grand Steward; and Wor. Bro. David Wall, Grand Tyler. The Grand Master also introduced Most Worshipful Clyde E. Griffin, PGM, and Wor. Bro. John Snipes, Superintendent of the Masonic Home.

Reports were received by the various committee chairmen. Wor. Bro. George King, Chaplain, reported that 111 Brothers had laid down their working tools since the last Annual Communication. William Pilon announced that the 2016 Annual Convention would be hosted by Tybee Island Lodge No. 762.

A plaque of appreciation was presented to Vidalia Lodge for hosting this year's Annual Communication.

Most Worshipful Brother McDonald installed the officers. An excellent lunch was served after the lodge closed.



Wor. Bro. William F. Pilon was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. In this photo, Past Grand Chaplain and Second Grand Steward, Rev. and Wor. Bro. Don Combs offers prayer for Wor. Bro. Pilon and the officers

of the First District, as Wor. Bro. Mark Bradley, Grand Marshal, waits.

Past Grand Master Clyde E. Griffin was presented the J. Walter Cowart Award as Mason of the Year.



The Traveling Men, Chapter 14, Hiram's Hooligans escorted MWGM McDonald to the 1st District Convention in Vidalia March 28. The escort was assisted by brothers in the local law enforcement. The Grand Master arrived in a dark SUV surrounded by motorcycles that were led by GSP and county Sheriff. It looked like the Governor was in town.



The attendance award was won by Hinesville Lodge No. 271. Hinesville Lodge has won the attendance award for four years in a row.

Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 has announced that it will host a Masonic conference at Queens' College in Cambridge to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the first Grand Lodge. The conference will be held from September 9 to 11, 2016. The members of QC2076 are seeking out papers on the subject on the history and development of Freemasonry, in particular, of Freemasonry in England. It looks to be a real interesting conference from the premier research lodge in the world. 2017 is going to be a very busy year.

Dougherty Lodge No. 591 hosts Second Masonic District Convention

District Master Ronald Rowe and the officers of the Second Masonic District Convention opened the 112th Annual District Convention. Fifty-three Brethren, including ten visitors, were present. There were eight Past Second District Convention Masters present.

Right Worshipful Brother F. A. "Drew" Lane, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, introduced the Grand Lodge officers and representatives present: Most Worshipful Bobby B. Simmons, Grand Treasurer; Wor. Bro. Jan M. Giddens, First Grand Steward; Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain; Wor. Bro. Johnie Garmon, Junior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Jamie Newsome, Acting Grand Marshal; Wor. Bro. Donald Combs, Second Grand Steward; and Wor. Bro. John Snipes, Superintendent of the Masonic Home.

District Deputies to the Grand Master – Worshipful Brother Gene Jernigan, Worshipful Brother Ronald Rowe and Worshipful Brother Mike Marshall, were introduced.

The Worshipful Master recognized the following Masons: Bros. Atwood Lane and Herschell Brown (60 years); Bro. A. W. Holton (55 years); and Bro. Picket Condry (50 Years). Bro. Lane, a member of Cairo Lodge Nol 299 was also recognized as the oldest Mason in attendance; he is 93 years of age. The youngest Mason present at 27 years old was Bro. Ashy Helton, a member of Albany Lodge No. 24.

Roll call was taken. Thomasville Lodge No. 369 won the attendance award; the host lodge, Dougherty Lodge was not eligible for the award.

Reports were received. They included the MELD Committee; GACHiP; Lodge of Research No. 8, the Masonic Home; the First Lady's Project to refurbish the lobby at the Masonic Home; District Ambassadors to the Masonic Home; Trial Commission; the Children's Garden Project at the Masonic Home; Charter and By-Laws; and Nominations Committee.

Wor. Bro. Joe Bolin presented a program about the charity of Masons, including the impact Masonry has made on him. He spoke about the Scottish Rite Hospital in Atlanta, the Shriners' Hospitals for Children, St. Jude's Research Hospital and the Masonic Home of Georgia.

Wor. Bro. John Snipes, Superintendent of the Masonic Home, thanked Worshipful Brother Joe Bolin for his service at the Home. He reported that there are 30 children there now with one coming next week and two more after the school year ends. He said Georgia has one of only four Masonic Homes for Children left in the country. He reminded the Brethren of the work day scheduled for April 11 and the Family Day at the Home on September 5. There will be clean up required prior to September 5; please call Bro. John if you or your lodge can help.

Wor. Bro. Larry Manley was named Mason of the Year.

The 113th Annual Second Masonic District Convention will be held on April 2, 2016 at Cairo Lodge No. 299 at 9:00 A.M.

Right Worshipful Bro. Lane thanked the Grand Lodge Committee Members of the Second District for their hard work. He mentioned the Grand Lodge officers who are attending a Masonic function in Washington, D.C., including the Grand Master, Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Deacon, and Grand Photographer.



Right Worshipful Bro. Drew Lane was made an Honorary Member of the Second Masonic District.

Bro. Lane thanked the Ambassadors for their work and talked about the Children's Garden and the purpose of the program being the construction of cottages on the campus. He thanked the GACHiP directors and the Second District for their efforts. He mentioned that the GBI is grateful for our efforts.

He told the Brethren that the Grand Master wants us to go back to our roots, especially patriotism. He said that

Masons' ties to patriotism are deep and spoke about Masonic contributions to our liberties.

Right Worshipful Bro. Lane presented coins to Bros. Lavern Kistler and Larry Manley for their service to the Craft, 50-year coins to eligible Masons, and coins to sitting Masters. He also presented 22 Veterans' Pins to those in attendance.

Right Worshipful Bro. Lane then installed the Convention officers. Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain, returned thanks for the meal. The lodge was closed in due form.

Following lunch, Right Worshipful Brother Lane presented the Past Master's Degree.



(Left) Wor. Bro. Irvin Horne holds the plaque for Second District as District of the Year for GA ChIP. The Wor. Master is Ronald Rowe. (Below) Veterans pose for a photo. — Special thanks to Wor. Bro. Jamie Newsome for the photos.





**We the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of:
Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 Free and Accepted Masons**

**Humbly extend an Invitation to:
Most Worshipful Brother Douglas W. McDonald Sr.
Most Worshipful Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in Georgia**

**and all
Brethren, Family and Friends**

**We Are Proud to Host:
Worshipful Brother S. Brent Morris, 33° G. C.
Ph.D. in Mathematics from Duke University**

**Director of Strategic Communications
Editor of *The Scottish Rite Journal*
Supreme Council, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Worshipful Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge (2007-2008)
Grand Abbot, Society of Blue Friars (2004 -)
Author of 11 Books on Freemasonry**

Event Details:

Tuesday, May 19th, 2015

Refreshments, Hor D'oeuvres, Music: 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Program: 7:30PM

**KENNESAW LODGE NO. 33
547 Roswell Street
Marietta, Georgia 30060**

RSVP By May 1, 2015: events@kennesaw33.org



The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

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

Web Site:
GaScottishRite.org

The **Valley of Albany** had their Don Olin 33° Spring reunion class on March 7 with (9) Candidates getting their 4° thru 18°. We celebrated the renewal and remembrance ceremony on March 10 with about 40 attendees and was a open meeting. We are planning to have several candidates for the Grand Master's class in Macon, Ga. on May 30. We meet on second Tuesday of each month with dinner at 7:00 pm and meeting to follow, April 14 we will be doing the 19° thru the 30°. March 24 the Albany Valley had an Scottish Rite Association formed in Valdosta and will meet at the Moody Air Base Lodge on First Monday of the Odd months at 7:00 pm. Please come to our meetings and bring your wife. "If you are not a Scottish Rite Mason You need to be."

The **Valley of Augusta** Scottish Rite meets on the first Thursday of each month. Dinner is served at 7:00 pm with the program beginning at 8:00 pm. The Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite celebrated our Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal in the month of April. Our major fundraiser, "Master's Parking and Hospitality" will be held April 6-12th.

May's program will include a presentation by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. May 30th the statewide Scottish Rite Joint Reunion, June's program will be our flag day celebration, July is dark, August will host our awards night, September's guest speaker will be a local Juvenile Judge, October will be our Feast of Tishri ceremony and guest speaker, the Valley of Augusta will be hosting the statewide KCCH Investiture on October 3rd. May's program is open at this date and December will be a musical program with a local hand bell group performing.

Come join and fellowship with us on any of the above dates. If you are in the area and would like to see our facility please give me a call (General Secretary, Gregory Oblak, 706-829-1665).

The **Valley of Savannah** is exploring VMAP and looking to get on the program rapidly. Also, we want to revive our Ambassador program at the same time. Our annual Tournament of Champions event will be held May 9 at SRC in Savannah. Savannah will be involved in the LaFayette Reunion on May 30 and will confer the 32° on the statewide class. We are promoting the June 6 Braves vs Pittsburgh game in Atlanta and hope to take a large group to enjoy the day.

Greetings from the **Valley of Columbus**. Scottish Rite Freemasonry is alive and well in the River City. We congratulate the new officers on being elected to serve as the leaders of our valley for the ensuing year. Installed to Key Leadership roles for the Columbus Valley Bodies: Columbus Lodge of Perfection; Danny L. Dawson, 32°, KCCH Columbus Chapter Knights Rose Croix; James W. Tate, 32° KCCH, Columbus Council of Kadosh; Sidney Cooley Sr., 32° KCCH, Columbus Consistory; Isiah Hardin, 32° KCCH.

James W. Tate, 32° KCCH was elected and installed as President of the Scottish Rite Foundation.

We invite our Blue Lodge brethren to visit us on any 3rd Friday at 6:30pm and enjoy a free dinner (as a first-time visitor), before each our monthly meetings. Lodge of Perfection will start at 7:30 and Our Ladies Auxiliary will meet in the library at 7:30.

Please visit our web site at scottishritecolsga.com for more information.

The **Valley of Atlanta** has many interesting events scheduled. Brothers, if you are not receiving the email notices of activities, please call the Valley Office 404-873-3659.

April 25th - Discovering Labyrinths - This outdoor Masonic-oriented seminar explores how the labyrinth is a symbol that transcends traditions, and how walking its path brings us together in profound ways. Saturday April 25, 10am. Serenbe is located near Chatahoochee Hills.

May 30th – STATEWIDE – ONE DAY Reunion & Class honoring a Great Mason and Patriot, Marquis de Lafayette. Macon Georgia Download a petition from the Spring Reunion Link at www.AtlantaScottishrite.org

June 6th – Take me out to the Ball Game and help children who suffer from many disorders affecting their ability to communicate. Your Children, Grand Children, etc. will have an opportunity to walk the field prior to the game between the Braves and Pirates. Tickets are \$12. \$6 of each ticket sold will benefit the RiteCare Center at Scottish Rite Hospital. Game Time 7:15pm

December 5th - Celebrate 100 years of Scottish Rite Hospital History. We will be Marching in the CHOA Parade with a Birthday Cake and carrying the Candles (Battery Powered). March in the parade or sponsor someone with a donating \$100 for the privilege. The goal is to have at least 100 people who each donate \$100 which means we will be donating \$10,000 to support RiteCare. Call the Scottish Rite Office and Reserve your place in the parade. Your Lady is welcome to march with us (\$100 applies to your Lady as well).



**GRAND
CHAPTER**
Michael H. Wilson
M. E. G. H. P.



**GRAND
COUNCIL**
Charles e. Taylor
M. I. G. M.



**GRAND
COMMANDERY**
Terry L. Hensley
R. E. G. C.

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

**Editor: Michael H. Sampsell Email: mike@thesamples.com
[http://www.yorkrite of ga.org](http://www.yorkriteofga.org)**

Why Join York Rite Masonry? By Michael H Sampsell

As a man in the profane world, you were moved by a desire to seek knowledge and Light. You began this quest by becoming a Freemason. In Blue Lodge Masonry, you were introduced to the Light and ultimately became a Master Mason and learned a portion of the mysteries in our institution. And while doubtless opportunities have come your way to continue your journey on to further light, there will be many, many more options to illuminate your pathway while upon this journey.

According to your teachings so far, you have received symbolic or substitute secrets through this journey in the Blue Lodge. This was done, as you were taught, since the "true secrets" were lost. The York Rite degrees work to reveal the true secrets to the uninformed Mason and attempt to "fill in the gaps" that exists within the first three degrees.

The Capitular or Chapter degrees provide you with further light with the Royal Arch degree being the completion of the whole system of Freemasonry. Having started your

journey in the Symbolic Lodge, it is the duty of a Master Mason to complete that journey. only those who have attained their Royal Arch degree may be said to have completed their Masonic Work.

The Cryptic degrees or degrees of a Council of Royal and Select Masters, provides explanation as to the circumstances surrounding the recovery of the lost work. The Royal and Select Master degrees account for the concealment and preservation of the secrets revealed in the Royal Arch.

The Chivalric Orders or the Orders of Knighthood of the Commandery elevate the informed Mason to a level that provides a sense of spiritual enlightenment. The Order of the Temple is the crowning glory of York Rite Masonry. Freemasonry demands only a belief in a monotheistic God, allowing other religions to participate in the Craft. However, as a Christian Freemason the Masonic Orders of Christian Knighthood are the only conduit for the Christian Mason's belief in Christ as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

2015 Georgia Grand York Rite Session

WHEN: May 3 – 6, 2015

WHERE: Grand York Rite Building; 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 30111

Grand Chapter & Grand Council will open on Monday, May 4th

Grand Commandery will open on Tuesday afternoon, May 5th.

There will be many other activities taking place during the session including the Annual Banquet, the Memorial Service, the Annual Banquet, the Divine service.

There will also be the conferral of the York Rite degrees such as the Order of the High Priesthood for Past High Priests, the Order of the Silver Trowel for Past Illustrious Masters and the Knight Crusader of the Cross for Past Eminent Commanders.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Wade Smith, Grand Recorder/Secretary for the York Rite; email: wadesmith@yorkriteofga.org ; or the Grand York Rite office @ 478-742-2557

PETITION FOR YORK RITE BODIES

<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf>

GEORGIA YORK RITE WEBSITE

www.yorkriteofga.org

FIND YOUR CLOSEST YORK RITE

<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/yorkrite-by-city.html>

Conference of Grand Masters of North America Speech

Editor's Note: This was presented by James Hawkins, DeMolay's International Master Councilor at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Vancouver, British Columbia in March, 2015. James is a member of Mountain Park DeMolay Chapter, and the 3rd International Master Councilor from Mountain Park and the 4th IMC from Georgia in the last 10 years.

Imperial Potentate, Imperial Officers, Most Worshipful Grand Masters, DeMolay Grand Master Sprague, distinguished guests and friends, good morning.

I have to say that standing in front of so many distinguished and well traveled individuals this morning, I feel humbled. I feel humbled to say that I've come before you today to deliver a message on behalf of the many thousands of my brothers. That message is this, "DeMolay is changing, the youth of today are changing, and having accepted all the inherent challenges that come with change, we are moving forward in this new era."

Now when I say, "we," I don't just mean the young men of DeMolay. I'm talking about Shriners and Masons moving forward. Most importantly however, I'm talking about a family moving forward. A family blessed in the pursuit of building strong, selfless, and loving citizens who will be a credit to humanity. Change, progress, family, and service. All of these ideas and institutions require one thing to make them possible. Time. That precious resource of ours that is non-renewable, non-refundable, and cannot be taxed by any government in existence.

The question that persists then is what do we do with our time? The answer that has been made clear to me over the course of my career

in DeMolay is simple, invest it. The first person I learned that from was a Mason by the name of Mr. Johnson. At the age of twelve, I walked into Grayson Lodge No. 549 in Georgia and demanded to become a Mason. I'd recently seen National

Treasure and so many other movies that showed these amazing treasures, and so much adventure that inspired me to reach for something more. Mr. Johnson, being a polite and gentle man, let me down easy by informing me that I wasn't quite old enough for Masonry yet, but until then, there's something else I could try to see how it would work for me. That something else was DeMolay.

The next day he unexpectedly showed up at my house with a petition and a packet of information for me. Total time for him to do this? About 15 minutes. I took that in-

formation and ran with it, and almost a decade later I'm standing here in front you. The experiences I've had and the lessons I've learned since that day have shaped who I am. All my accomplishments, my ideals, my virtues, I owe to this family and especially Mr. Johnson. After being elected International Master Councilor, I returned home and was compelled to seek out Mr. Johnson and thank him for his investment in me. I was sad to find that over the years his health had worsened, but let me tell you that when I walked up and shook his hand, he remembered me.

The story I had to tell him about my DeMolay experience moved him immensely and did the same to me as well. Fifteen minutes invested with the return of a lifetime, I'm extremely grateful for that. I'm grateful for the support of our entire Masonic family, and know that in the continuing

years of our wonderful organizations, those bonds will continue to grow.

Now you may be asking yourselves, how do I invest in our young men, how do I show my support for the future of our world? And I say to you now that the single greatest thing you can contribute to our youth, and the future of our beautiful planet, is your time. Give our young men your genuine interest, your passion, and knowledge. Give them your assistance and be there for them when they need you most. You must do the things that you as masons, already know are the right things to do.

As I talked about earlier, the youth of today have decided to accept the challenges that the future has laid before them, and while youthful ambition is both hopeful and tireless, it at times lacks wisdom or forethought. I ask to-

day, that each and every one of you, as Grand Masters, as fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, take the obligation upon yourself to return to your home jurisdiction, seek out DeMolay and give it your time and effort. I ask that you compel every lodge and mason to seek

out DeMolay and redouble their efforts on behalf of the future of Masonry and our world.

DeMolay this year has pledged to meet positive growth on an international scale. A major part of that goal is the DeMolay Rush program. By encouraging every chapter and individual DeMolay to pledge to bring in new members, we hope to bring all of our brothers together in a glorious effort to bring DeMolay to the masses. In the month of March, we have a membership goal of 1000 new members internationally, with a special push from March 14th to the

If I could have The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, Dad Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., please join me at the podium.

Most Worshipful, it is my honor to present to you my petition for membership in Masonry, and pray that I may be a credit to my brothers in DeMolay as well as to those in Masonry by my rededication of service to my God, my family, and my community.

21st called Rush Week, where every jurisdiction worldwide comes together to bring in new brothers and we'd like every Mason possible to have a hand in achieving that goal. I know that if all of you, as the leaders of your respective organizations, actuate your brethren to aid our young men as they plot a course to success, whether it be through time or labor, inspiration or accountability, then not only shall DeMolay flourish, but Masonry will flourish as well.

The youth of DeMolay are your best opportunity for future membership, and I believe that any man who cares for the future of masonry would absolutely insist on being a part of shaping it. I myself intend to be a part of that cause. The cause of the future of freemasonry and all our Masonic family. If I could have The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, Dad Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., please join me at the podium.

Most Worshipful, it is my honor to present to you my petition for membership in Masonry, and pray that I may be a credit to my brothers in DeMolay as well as to those in Masonry by my rededication of service to my God, my family, and my community. Thank you, sir.

Zora Neal Hearston said it best in her book, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, "Some years ask questions, others answer them." For the past number of years, I believe many questions have been presented to us. Where is our place in this new world, how will we adapt, and how will we still remain true to our great purpose. How will we ensure the future of our family? In this year, and the years to come, I believe the answers will be presented to us. I believe opportunities for progress, modernization, and collaboration will present themselves. I believe that all of you, as masons, will have the opportunity to discover the potential that our youth holds, and I hope it will inspire you to greater service, as your wisdom inspires us to greater service. I've been speaking to you now for 8 minutes and I pray that every second was worth your time as much as it was for me. As this year continues, I ask only that you look for these answers, in your heart, in your daily life, and in our young men, the ones for whom you've laid such costly a sacrifice at the altar of youth. Thank you for your time, God bless, and safe travels to all of you as you return home to the work that has been prepared for us.

Respectively Submitted,
James C. Hawkins
International Master Councilor
48th DeMolay Congress

Georgia DeMolay Needs Your Help As Mentors

1. Masons with Industry and Career Expertise Needed as Mentors.
2. Georgia DeMolay is starting a new program to provide those about to graduate from high school with some real world experience by speaking to and spending some time with mentors with experience in an industry or a discipline they have chosen to pursue.
3. If you have significant experience in a particular field and would be willing to share this experience with a young DeMolay, we would like to hear from you.
4. Please call Dad Mike Williams at 404-579-0598 or Dad Jim Stovall at 678-427-4816 or send us a note at stovie47@gmail.com or mikwms63@att.net to give us contact information and your field of expertise.

A New Career Development Program for Georgia DeMolay

Georgia DeMolay will initiate its career selection program on May 30th and 31st at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, near Eatonton, Georgia. The program will provide DeMolays, who are about to graduate from high school, with a scientifically based career plan.

The program is called Career Planning and Preparation Plus Opportunities, or C3PO. C3PO will include:

- 1) An analysis of each participants' aptitudes (interests + skills = strengths)
- 2) A classification of careers which are typically pursued by someone with those strengths
- 3) A decision on how much additional schooling will be necessary to handle a job in the chosen field
- 4) A list of schools that offer training in the chosen field
- 5) One or more meetings with expert Mentors in each DeMolay's chosen field

Georgia DeMolay is a young man's fraternity which teaches leadership, public speaking, ritual memorization, respect for women, patriotism, and comradeship. Local Chapters are located around the state. See gademolay.org for more information.



Leland Kenneth Blum
Gate City No. 2 with
Wor. Bro. Brad Groff,
DDGM



Ned Edward Burton
West Point No. 43



Paul Wesley Deason
Jonesboro No. 87



Max Hayden Hughes
Jonesboro No. 87



Frank Maddox
Jonesboro No. 87



James Haywood Upchurch
Jonesboro No. 87



Pat Phillips
Alleghany No. 114



James Lucius Clark
Bartlett No. 139



Charles Leonard Hardy
Bartlett No. 139



Max Gay
Doerun No. 151



Hubert Colquit
Lexington No. 158



Willard Brown
Alpine No. 211



Robert Yarbrough
Alpine No. 211



John Peter Knox Sr.
Harlem No. 276



John Lynn Stone
Douglasville No. 289

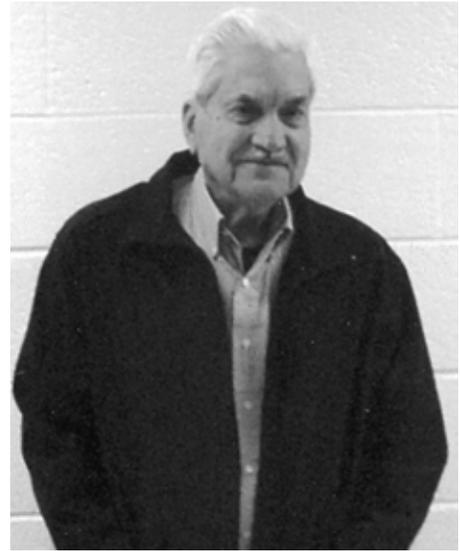
60 Years



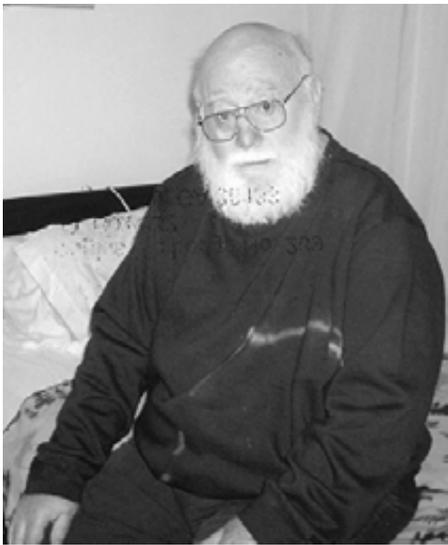
Henry Levy
Clinton No. 54



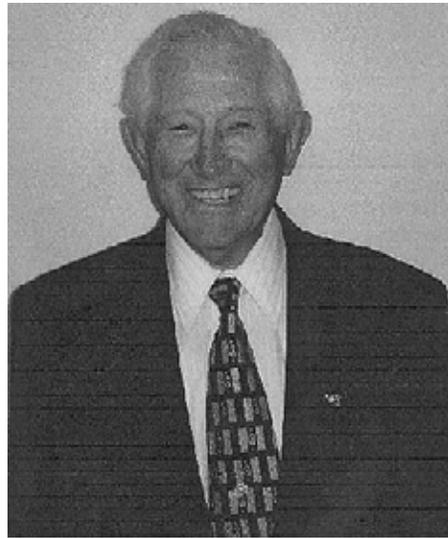
Robert Cook Eidson
Douglasville No. 289



Sanford Perry Rains
Douglasville No. 289



Richard Lawrence Taylor
Douglasville No. 289



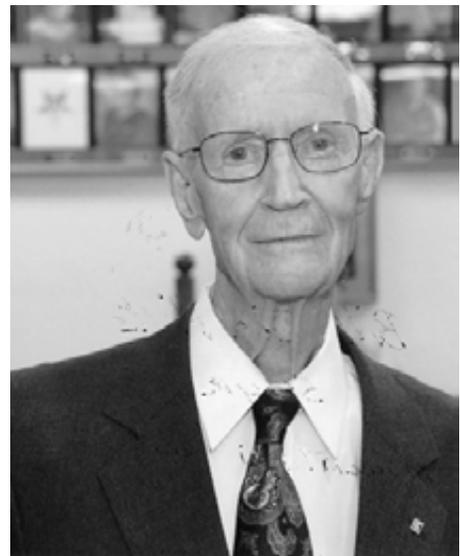
Donald Lee Barker
Wolihin No. 390



Lamar Boyd Leach
Mountain Park No. 729



Norman Ellis Himelhoch
Mountain Park No. 729



George Edward Robertson
Mountain Park No. 729

65 Years



Sidney Wayne Boone
Clinton No. 54



Willard Vernon Gilland
Douglasville No. 289



Loy H. Hogan
Davidson No 334

65 Years



Bro. John G. Norris of Ft. Benning Lodge 579 was presented his 65 year apron and certificate by Wor. Bro. James W. Tate DDGM (Chairman 4th District) along with Bro. Bob Poydasheff (Former Mayor of Columbus, Ga.) Bro. Paul N. Blankenbeckler and WB Sonny Head DDGM (4D)

70 Years



Charles Grady Harding
Latham No. 12
with Wor. David Kilgore, DDGM

Veterans Corner

Rick Conn, Grand Lodge of Georgia Veterans Committee, State Chairman

Brother Veterans all, let me start out this month with the announcement of a new group that is forming in Gwinnett County. It is a Veterans help group that will be dealing with Veterans from Operations OEF/OIF (Iraq & Afghanistan) who are suffering with PTSD and its related problems. It is called Trek Heroes, and is a Non profit organization that will have VA backing. Staff of this program is made up of retired VA Hospital workers and VAVS Volunteers who work within the several VAMC's and CBOC's in the area. If anyone has any returning OEF/OIF veterans please have them check out this program. It hopefully will teach them how to cope with the effects of a combat zone without all the medications. It will incorporate diet, exercise and physical activity to deal with the stress. It will incorporate also the spouse's if they want to be part of the program. Hiking, Dance, and Chess will be a part of this program.

Check out this group at the following website: <http://www.trekheroes.org/index.html> and see if it may benefit a loved one returning home. This is a 501C-3 organization.

In other areas such as VA Employment Resources:

VA offers numerous benefits, resources, and services to help Veterans transition from service to civilian jobs and enhance their education, skills, and careers. In addition to providing education and training assistance, vocational and employment counseling, and job seeking tools, educational training, employment services, vocational rehabilitation, and employment services are also offered. VA connects Veterans with employers and helps employers find qualified Veterans for the positions they're seeking to fill.

Here are just some VA employment services that you may want to explore:

Do you have a service-connected disability that makes finding employment challenging? You may be eligible for additional benefits for tuition, books, fees, supplies, monthly subsistence payments, and more through VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program.

Are you looking to earn a degree, go to technical school, or enhance your skills? Check out the GI Bill and other education and training.

Are you unsure about how to update your résumé or translate your military skills for civilian jobs? At the eBenefits Employment Center, access easy-to-use skills translation, résumé builders, and more.

Are you looking for a private-sector or federal job? Search nearly 3 million jobs at the Jobs, and Jobs Bank, and narrow your search by rank, salary, and other factors.

If you are a veteran looking for a job, there is a website that offers you a lot of help:

www.clearancejobs.com/ is a website where you can register and find a job suited to your skills and experience.

One such job is in summer camps for the youth. Have you ever heard of Camp Dixie? Camp Dixie, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northeast Georgia, is a small Christian private camp for boys and girls ages 6 to 15. One of the unique features about Camp Dixie is its size. Enrollment is limited to 70 campers per session and the focus is around nature and maximizing each campers experience through the individual attention they receive. Camp Dixie is about traditions and making memories in a fun, relaxing place. Programs are focused on character development and helping campers become the best possible versions of themselves that they can possibly be.

For information on employment at Camp Dixie, please check out their website at the following address:

<http://www.campdixie.org>

There are six such Camps offering employment during the summer months located in the Southeast from Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi, down to the Florida Keys. Two of these Camps are in Georgia. Check them out, they will be needing workers.

I hope all have a nice Easter Season remembering the one that died for us. And also those that are still putting themselves in Harms way to protect what freedoms we have today. May God Bless each of you and may God Bless America.

Did you know?

Two large paintings hang in the House Chamber in the U. S. Capitol in Washington, D. C., one on the right and one on the left side of the dais. The painting on the right of the dais is of George Washington. The painting on the left of the dais is of Marquis de Lafayette. Both of these men were Freemasons. No other paintings hang in the House Chamber.

Georgia Masons make Patriotic Trip

Most Worshipful Bro. Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. has made Patriotism a major emphasis during his year as Grand Master.

On March 27 most of the Grand Lodge officers joined the Grand Master in Milledgeville to honor the 190th anniversary of Marquis de Lafayette's visit to the city, then Georgia's State Capitol. Several thousand people attended the event to watch many groups, including Freemasons, march to the Old Capitol Building.



Grand Lodge officers and other Masons were one of several dozen groups which marched in the city parade.



The Grand Master spoke during the program. Here he shakes hands with "Bro. Lafayette." In 1825, Bro. Lafayette visited Benevolent Lodge No. 3 in Milledgeville. The chair he used is on display in the lodge hall.

On April 1, several Grand Lodge officers and their Ladies joined Georgia Knights Templar to travel to Alexandria, Virginia, for the Templars annual Holy Week trip.

One of our stops was Berkeley Plantation along the James River in Virginia.

The history of Berkeley Plantation begins in 1619 when on December 4 of that year, settlers from England came

ashore at Berkeley and observed the first official Thanksgiving service in America, being led by an Anglican priest onboard the ship. Most Americans contend the first Thanksgiving was observed by the Pilgrims in Massachusetts in 1621, but not Virginians.

The plantation was the home of the Harrison family, including Benjamin Harrison who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and three times Governor of Virginia; his third son, William Henry Harrison, a famous Indian fighter known as "Tippecanoe," became the ninth President of the United States. His grandson, Benjamin Harrison, was the 23rd President.

With more historical certainty, another historical event occurred at Berkeley Plantation. During the Civil War, Union buglers signaled "lights out" to their comrades with a tune called "Extinguish Lights," which was actually borrowed from an 1809 French bugle call. Finding the song too formal, in July 1862 Union Army General Daniel Butterfield decided to find a more appealing tune to end the day. During a respite at Harrison's Landing, Butterfield worked on the new tune. In collaboration with his bugler, Oliver W. Norton, the two rearranged an earlier bugle call, "Scott Tattoo," into the 24 notes of "Taps." Taps was soon being played by both Northern and Southern armies; it formally became a mandatory part of Army funeral ceremonies in 1891. We heard Taps played several times at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There are no official words to Taps. The 2013 Defense Authorization Act, Congress designated "Taps" the National Song of Remembrance.

Another stop was made at Ft. McHenry where, from Francis Scott Key wrote the words to a poem called "Defiance [or Defence] of Ft. McHenry" after he saw the American flag still flying through the rain, clouds and fog over

Mt. McHenry after a British bombardment from 19 ships during the nights of September 12-14, 1814, assuring the residents of Baltimore they were safe. The flag he saw measured 30 feet by 42 feet with 15 stars and 15 stripes.

Key's poem was put to a tune and called "The Star Bangled Banner" and still later Congress made the song our National Anthem in 1931.



Masons and their Ladies hold a 30 by 42 ft. flag, a replica of the flag Key saw that rainy and foggy morning.

Certainly the most moving stop was at the Arlington National Cemetery, our Nation's most hallowed ground, where more than 400,000 veterans are buried.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, also called the Tomb of the Unknowns attracts thousand daily. Honor guards, all from the U. S. Army, stand guard over the Tomb of the Unknowns, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in rain, snow and sunshine.

James W. Tate, 32nd KCCH, General Secretary of the Valley of Columbus, Orient of Georgia, is a former Honor Guard at the Tomb, and was able to arrange a brief tour of the guards' quarters under the Plaza.

After an Easter Sunrise Service at the Georgia Washington National Masonic Memorial led by the Knights Templar, we headed home.





Thomas Eugene Waldrop
Douglasville No. 289



George Elnon Wilson
Hudson No. 294



Hollis Patrick McLean
Masters No. 295



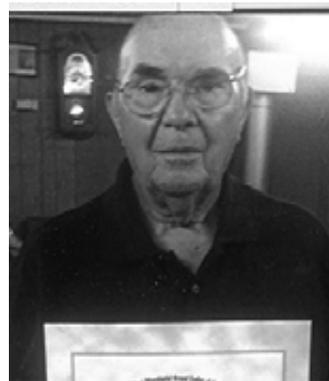
Jerry Willard Thompson
Coosawatee No. 301



D. F. Williams, Jr.
Coosawatee No. 301



Donald Farrell Satcher
Lindale No. 455



Rex Hammontree
Gordon Springs No. 463



Jerry Eugene Eley
Elm City No. 544



Joe Edd McAlister
Capitol View No. 640



William A. Tucker
Lizella No. 663

55 & 60 Years



George Teasley Hall
Lafayette No. 23



Billy Joe Pitts
Mountain Park No. 729



Russell Ferris Staton
Riverdale No. 709

Grand Lodge Ladies' Ask for Help to Reach Masonic Home Lobby Plans

The First Lady of Georgia Masons, Mrs. Carol McDonald, and her Ladies' plans to refurbish the lobby of the Masonic Home are still short of the needed funds. All of the furnishings are at least 28 years old. The carpet on which thousands of visitors have walked across has been replaced once in the 28 years. The sofas are thread-bare. The lobby does not present a positive image of the Heart of Georgia Freemasonry when visitors walk into the Masonic Home lobby. First impressions are lasting impressions and the Ladies plan to change those first impressions. Sofas, easy chairs, stands, carpet, window treatments and lighting are among the furnishings to be replaced. A letter was mailed to all of the Georgia lodges in early February requesting donations to help in the project laid out by the Ladies.

The Ladies are also interested in companies or individuals desiring to give donations in kind, for example, carpeting or furniture.

First impressions are lasting impressions. Your donation to this project will impress those who visit "the Heart of Georgia Masonry" and walk into the lobby of the main building. The Ladies also want to make the lobby more "kid friendly." Plans are afoot to bring the Masonic Home into the 21st century and we need your help.



Grand Master Douglas McDonald joins First Lady, Mrs. Carol McDonald (center) and Mrs. Jane Wilson as they announce their plans for the Masonic Home lobby.

Checks may be mailed to the Masonic Home of Georgia, P. O. Box 4183, Macon, Georgia 31208. Please designate on the check's memo line: "First Lady's Fundraiser."



The editor has received an email from Mrs. Jane Wilson, one of the Grand Lodge Ladies working on the lobby at the Masonic Home. The Ladies desire to sell the brass chandeliers hanging in the lobby and replace them with new lighting. The Ladies are asking \$100.00 for each of the seven large and \$50.00 for each of the ten small chandeliers. The chandeliers all work and the brass looks great. If you are interesting in these chandeliers, please contact either First Lady Mrs. Carol McDonald at cmcdon@hemc.net or Mrs. Wilson at jane.wilson@wilsonroofingcompany.com.



Latest News

A new phone system has been installed at the Masonic Home. New lighting in the lobby has been installed, a donated gift.

Carpet should be installed by the time you receive this issue of the *Messenger*.

When something needs to be done in Georgia Masonry, we need to ask the ladies to take charge.

Masons Honoring Veterans

Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens, First Grand Steward

On December 13th 2014 in National Cemeteries all across America something wonderful occurred.

Grateful citizens, by the thousands, gathered to lay wreaths on the graves of veterans as a token of love, honor, respect and patriotism. Many came as member of different organizations such as Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scouts, motorcycle clubs, High School JR ROTC Programs, Historical re-enactors, Masons, church groups and just your average citizen. This is all part of The Wreaths Across America Program, that began several years ago in Arlington National Cemetery.



There are two National Cemeteries in Georgia; Marietta National Cemetery and Georgia National Cemetery in Canton. Both cemeteries had a large turn-out that included many of our Masonic Brothers.

The cemetery in Canton placed over 11,000 wreaths on the graves of our veterans. Masons from E.W. Hightower Lodge No. 679, Ga. Mt. Daylight Lodge No. 758, Sharptop No. 680 and Ball Ground Lodge No. 261 under the direction of WB Ralph Dennis, E. W. Hightower No. 679, donated wreaths or were there to help lay them. This has been a multi-year event for these brothers.

In Marietta National Cemetery 6,600 plus wreaths were placed on graves. Many of the Lodges from Gwinnett Co. have been participating for this the 9th year. Masons from Lawrenceville No. 131, Auburn No. 230, Buford No. 480 and Mt. Park No. 729 working with the Gwinnett Civil Air Patrol have made this a combined event for their organizations. The Gwinnett Brothers set up a tent to serve hot chocolate, coffee

and doughnuts as well as donated and helped lay the wreaths. While there the Brothers from Gwinnett along with PGM Jerry Moss made their annual pilgrimage to the grave of Bro. Leon P. Edmonson of Mt. Park Lodge to place a wreath on his grave.

There were brothers from Kennesaw No. 33 and Dallas No. 182, with the opening prayer offered by Deputy Grand Master RWB Drew Lane.

The time and format of this program is the same all over the country. This event fits in with the "return to patriotism" program of our Grand Master Douglas McDonald who speaks of

patriotism where ever he goes. Your Lodge can participate in any number of ways, a donation of \$15 buys a wreath to be sent to a National Cemetery and there is the wonderful blessing of being in the cemetery and helping to lay thousands of Christmas wreaths or providing refreshments for those who attend. When you stand and gaze on that cemetery after all the wreaths have placed on the graves it is a touching and solemn.



If your Lodge is interested you can find out all the ways to participate by

going to the website: www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Apron Returned 113 Years Later

This year we are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the War Between the States, more especially the battles of 1864 that were fought in Georgia. There are many inspiring stories from the war of Masons living up to their obligations regardless of the color of their uniforms. In the August issue of the *Messenger* there were two articles, one about Dr. Rob Morris and the returning of the Masonic apron that was picked on the battlefield of Atlanta in 1864. The history of Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 in Marietta has an incident that relates to both of these stories.

In June 1864 the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, just outside of Marietta, was raging causing many of its residents to flee to Atlanta and other places of safety. On July 1st the Confederate forces retreated leaving the city undefended and at the mercy of Gen. Sherman and the Union Army. As the Union forces moved in there was the customary looting, pillaging and burning of homes and businesses. The Lodge was on the south side of the square and had been looted of almost everything before Union Officers realized it was a Masonic Hall and stopped any further damage to the building. The Masonic Hall was one of the very few buildings not burned to the ground as were

homes of Masons spared the torch also.

Fast forward 113 years to 1977, when a package is delivered to Kennesaw Lodge from Detroit Michigan. The package was a book from Mrs. Arlene Tooley, it had been in their family since it was taken from the lodge in 1864. Her brother, who was a Mason, wanted it returned to its home in Marietta. It is now a treasure of our lodge and one of its oldest possessions.

Now for "the rest of the story" as the late Paul Harvey would say. The book is the History of Freemasonry from the years 1829-1841 by the Rev. Geo. Oliver of England. This book is part of a collection of Masonic works in 30 volumes published in 1858. Now what makes it unique is that it is edited and published by Dr. Rob Morris and it is dedicated to Samuel Lawrence of Marietta who would later serve as Grand Master of Masons in Georgia 1869-1872. MW Bro. Lawrence was famous as a Masonic editor and publisher of the Masonic Signet and Journal and was considered the highest authority on Masonic jurisprudence in the country. These two great Masons were admirers of one another and had a long relationship of correspondence for many years. — Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens, First Grand Steward.



The Brothers of the states shown are proud Freemasons.



What about GEORGIA



We can't have a Georgia Masonic tag without



YOU



Currently, over 600 orders are needed before the State will produce our Georgia Masonic License Tag. Help us reach that goal today.



Applications and instructions can be downloaded at www.GLofGA.org.



The \$25 accompanying your application is a onetime fee which covers the manufacture of your tag. When you go to your local tag office, be prepared to pay a \$35 specialty tag fee, annually in addition to the \$20 license registration fee, annually and ad valorem tax if due.



Pancakes and Eggs Ralph O. Dennis, PM

E. W. Hightower Lodge No. 679

Easter often means egg hunts. This year was no different. In the small city of Nelson, E. W. Hightower Lodge No. 679 joined with the city of Nelson to co-sponsor the annual Easter egg hunt. This was the second year of the revitalized hunt. The brethren of the lodge welcomed the opportunity to serve the children of our community.

The city supplied the baseball field, the careful eyes of the police kept early hunters out and guarded the grand prize baskets. The lodge supplied the advertising, the eggs and the candy. Worshipful Master Alex Ball had to work that day but went by the field early and put out over 1,000 eggs. The egg hunt was scheduled for 11 am.

Prior to the hunt the lodge hosted a pancake breakfast fund raiser. Many of the brethren from surrounding lodges and citizens of the community came and enjoyed the pancakes, sausage and beverages. This was the first pancake breakfast that the lodge had ever had and all present felt it was a good one. They felt that they learned a lot and the next one will be even better.

When the hunt began, it appeared that close to 100 children came to seek the prizes. Every child left with at least some candy. The lodge has already decided that next year will be better.

Educational and Historical Commission Request Ralph O. Dennis, PM

The Educational and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge of GA has numerous responsibilities. As their title implies, history is one of them. The Commission has for some time been compiling the histories of the individual lodges in the state. They need your help. Please assist them by compiling a history of your lodge and send it in. It does not have to be a book but can be several pages giving the important facts about your lodge. Once the Commission has all, or most, of the lodge histories, the histories will be put into a book for distribution.

Please check the website of the Atlanta Masonic Library (www.atmaslib.org) photo gallery of lodge photos to make sure your current building/meeting place is there. If not, the Commission would like photos of your lodges. Not the current building, unless it is the only home you have had, but **all** of the buildings your Lodge has met in. We would like these in digital format. It doesn't matter how many buildings your lodge has had as a home, the Commission wants pictures of all of them. If possible, please list the years that you met in the particular building. Also,

The history of Freemasonry in Georgia is not just the Grand Lodge. It is also the local lodge and what it means to each and every community.

Please forward all information and photos to Worshipful Brother Ralph O. Dennis, PM, Secretary of the Educational and Historical Commission, and he will make sure it reaches the proper sub-committee.

His email address is bigrodennis@gmail.com. Please place "Lodge photos" or "Lodge History" in the subject space. This email address can also be found under the Grand Lodge website under committees.

Meld Awards



These Brothers from Hudson Lodge No. 294 pose with their MELD certificates. Kneeling are Bro. C. J. Johnson and Wor. Bro. Cameron Boswell. Left to Right Front are Bro. Chris Tullis, Wor. Bro. Andy Burns, Bro. Ricky Lacey, Bro. Greg Banks, Wor. Bro. Kenny Banks, Bro. Johnny Wayne McLendon, Bro. James Brooks, and Wor. Bro. Harland Waters. In the back from the left are Bro. Wayne Mainor, Bro. Brady Killingsworth, Wor. Bro. Chris Pritchett.

In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased
from February 07, 2015
to April 08, 2015

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
HARDIE, WENDELL AUBREY	003	RALEY, MELVIN GIBSON	257
HENDRICKS, JOHN HUGH	003	TYSON, ROY ALLISON	267
SCOTT, LINZA MILTON	008	ERKINS, HENRY GILBERT	268
JORDAN, DENNIS MATHEW	012	CLACK, NATHAN LAMAR	272
OWENS, BILLY GENE	012	SELF, DONALD EUGENE	274
WILSON, WILLIAM ERNEST	012	HOPSON, JIMMY RONALD	276
PEACOCK, ROY LESTER JR	013	WALLACE, JAMES CLEVELAND	276
HOWE, WILLIAM EUGENE	024	STUCKEY, WILLIAM FRANKLIN	279
GUNTER, JAMES VANDIVER	025	STRICKLAND, DAVID (NMN)	288
WEBB, HANSEL AYERS	025	WALTON, WENDALL BARTLETT	288
WILHITE, WILLIAM DOYLE	025	COOLEY, WILLIAM GILBERT	298
FROST, DELMAS BERT	032	MOORE, JOHN ROLAND	304
STANLEY, WILLIAM AUGUSTUS	033	SAMPLES, NATHAN LOYAL	304
THOMASON, LAWRENCE EDWARD	033	FULFORD, DENNIS DALTON JR	305
WARD, JAMES PATRICK	033	HENSON, BILLY CRAIG	306
WEEKS, DAVID ISAAC	033	JOHNSON, RUSSELL VARDRY	306
BURKHEAD, JERRY MAC JR	037	ROBISON, JAMES RICHARD	306
HARDY, OLIN MARTIN	042	BENNETT, FOSTER EUGENE	307
WESTRAY, ROY EUGENE	044	KIMSEY, J. E. WILLARD	309
BELL, DURHAM KEITH	047	LANE, ROGER LADON	312
MOORMAN, GLYNN JULIUS	047	HOLLOWAY, ELVIN TERRELL	325
BARNARD, DARVEL LELAND	049	COTTLE, DAVID EDGAR JR	326
BOWEN, BOBBY [NMN]	049	DIXON, CHARLES KENNETH	381
BROCK, GORDON HUGH	050	WILSON, SILAS ROMIE	381
LAWALIN, DONALD REY	066	SELF, DONALD EUGENE	385
STEPHENS, WINFRED JULIUS	066	WYNNE, JOHN THOMAS	385
SHEPARD, KENNETH LYLE	068	BROADWELL, ORVIE LEE	399
GLASS, BARNEY JOE	086	ROGERS, THOMAS HARREL JR	405
MORFOOT, THOMAS RAYMOND SR	087	ROYALS, JOHN LETHA	434
WALLER, LARRY DAVID	088	HARTLEY, CECIL GLENN SR.	444
PITTS, ROBERT CLAYTON	090	HOVERS, JAMES EDWARD SR.	455
KESLER, MARVIN ALFRED	092	BOWMAN, RONALD LEE	466
CATO, WILLIAM TERRELL	098	ROBERTS, JOSEPH BYRON	466
DEAN, EUGENE JACKSON	113	SPEER, PAUL HERSHEL	467
WHITWORTH, ELBERT [NMN]	125	GREEN, WILLIAM HERBERT	483
PARKER, EUGENE RODOLPH SR	128	DUNAGAN, FORREST BECKETTE	486
GARRETT, DONALD EDISON	135	SMITH, JACK RANDOLPH	486
VANALLEN, DALE LEE	137	NELSON, MALCOLM MACE	512
LAWSON, JIMMY JOE	144	SHIELDS, JEWEL DEAN	542
AGEE, MONTE PRESTON JR	166	SMITH, HOLLIS EUGENE SR	543
BROWN, DAVID JOHN	182	YEARWOOD, REUBEN RALPH	558
THOMASON, GUY HOWELL	182	NORMAN, CECIL FRANKLIN	591
WILLIAMS, CLAUDE GUSTAVOUS JR	195	WALTON, BOBBY DEAN	639
BELUE, BILLY JOE	198	ALLBROOK, WILLIAM HOBSON SR	642
ALLEN, PAUL WILLIAM	213	FURMAGE, CHARLES MORRIS	663
ANDERSON, EUAL CONE	213	FULCHER, FREDDIE WILLINGHAM	677
NEASE, WARREN AUDRY	213	PAGEL, JOHN THEODORE JR	689
MCKINZIE, JAMES ARTHUR	246	CRUMP, JAMES ALTON	690

Name	Lodge No.
DAVIS, ALBERT GARY SR.	693
SIMPSON, WALLACE DAVID JR	693
BYRD, JOE REGINAL	699
KULL, LOUIS CRISS JR.	703
COBB, WILLIE DANIEL JR.	709
COOTS, JERRY GEORGE	709
MCCOLLUM, WILLIAM MARVIN	738
KNOWLES, EARL LIDALE	751
PAYNE, JAMES SANFORD	751
PHILLIPS, JAMES ELIC	751
POWELL, KENNETH WAYNE	751
SHIRLEY, JAMES FRED	751
THORNTON, WYATT CLAYTON	751

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS February 07, 2015 to April 08, 2015

\$500 OR MORE

Rising Star	No. 4
Pinta Lodge	No. 88
Chehaw Lodge	No. 701
G. M. Forum	
Woodmen of the World Lodge	1245

\$1000 OR MORE

Brunswick Lodge	No. 717
Ruskin Family Trust	

Crossed Quill Pens

Bro. Steven Emilius, Acworth Lodge No. 176

The jewel that Blue Lodge Secretaries wear is the Crossed Quill Pens, which is symbolic of their skill in the art of writing. In addition to requiring a high degree of lodge experience and diplomacy, the Secretary's duties include above all else possessing detailed writing and recording skills. The art of writing is very important to the Secretary in that his duties require him to handle voluminous correspondence addressed to the lodge and its' members, as well as administering the minutes and submitted petitions. Drafting communications to other lodges as well as the Grand Lodge are the responsibility of the Secretary. The Secretary at Acworth Lodge No. 176, Wor. Bro. Charles McEntire, III, performs these responsibilities in an exemplary manner. But Brethren, writing should not be exclusive to the Secretary. Writing about Freemasonry in your life should be encouraged. The writings of Masonic activities and personal accounts I understand this can be a challenge for Masons in their daily busy lives. We find ourselves communicating in day to day operations at the speed of light. Utilizing various forms of technology in our daily communications, our messages seem to always take the form of bullet points or short pithy messages sent at high-speed and real-time.

Our communications have evolved from thoughtful written words to a short messaging service with the use of various instant messaging services via the web. The internet has set this transformation in its due course. To be sure, this technologically advanced work order has brought many advantages to individuals. The convergence of technology has brought speed and efficiency to our daily lives and to our work product. That is good, but the advancement of high-speed communications also has a cost.

The rules and passion of writing have been abandoned by many since the inception of instant messaging, text messaging and social networking sites. Our linguistic patterns have become two sentence e-mails with emoticons and instant messaging codes. Albeit that technology accelerates our communications it has also created a degeneration of our writing skills. However, Masons who decide to practice the lost

art of good writing can reap the rewards.

I would encourage Masons to rediscover the enjoyment and benefits to long-form writing. This can be tricky when writing on Freemasonry subject matter in that it may require intensive research and study. Good writing however, still contains a certain aesthetic that is lacking in many media based communications. Therefore, just like anything else you want to improve in, you need to practice.

Let us dare to read, think, speak & write." John Adams. One form of systematic writing that can be quite enjoyable and which is similar to one of the duties of the Secretary, is the keeping of a journal. While practicing your writing within a journal, you are also recording the history of your life experiences.

Many of our world leaders kept journals, which became the foundation to historical record. Masons have the benefit of having unforgettable experiences throughout their career and it is these experiences that can serve as the backdrop to your journal. Writing in journals can be the vehicle of your values and ideas that can take you from being only a participant, to a leader within a Lodge. Masons can also practice their writing skills through article submissions. There are many Masons that have extraordinary ideas, but they are unnoticed. Take the time to collect your thoughts, write them in an article and submit it for publication. These articles could also support various historical commissions throughout the Fraternity. This will transform the smart Mason to an actual thought provoking lodge leader.

Now, step away from your smartphone! Start to write down some of your ideas. Masons encounter issues every day that challenge their moral compass which requires deep analysis and thought. Therefore, these issues deserve written responses that contain organized analysis and not a response that is on impulse. Resist this thoughtless impulse and take the time in structuring your analysis in writing when responding to these issues.

So my fellow Brethren, where is your quill pen?

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

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)



Knights Templar and their Ladies hold the Ft. McHenry flag, a replica of the flag Francis Scott Key saw on the morning of September 14, 1812 after a nighttime bombardment by a British fleet of 19 warships. The 30 ft. by 42 ft. flag signified the British had failed to take the fort as the citizens of Baltimore cheered the victory. When daylight broke and the fog and smoke lifted, the flag inspired Key to write the famous words, "Oh say can you see. . ." The flag is unique with its 15 stars and 15 stripes, one of each for each of the 15 states.