

# Masonic Messenger



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

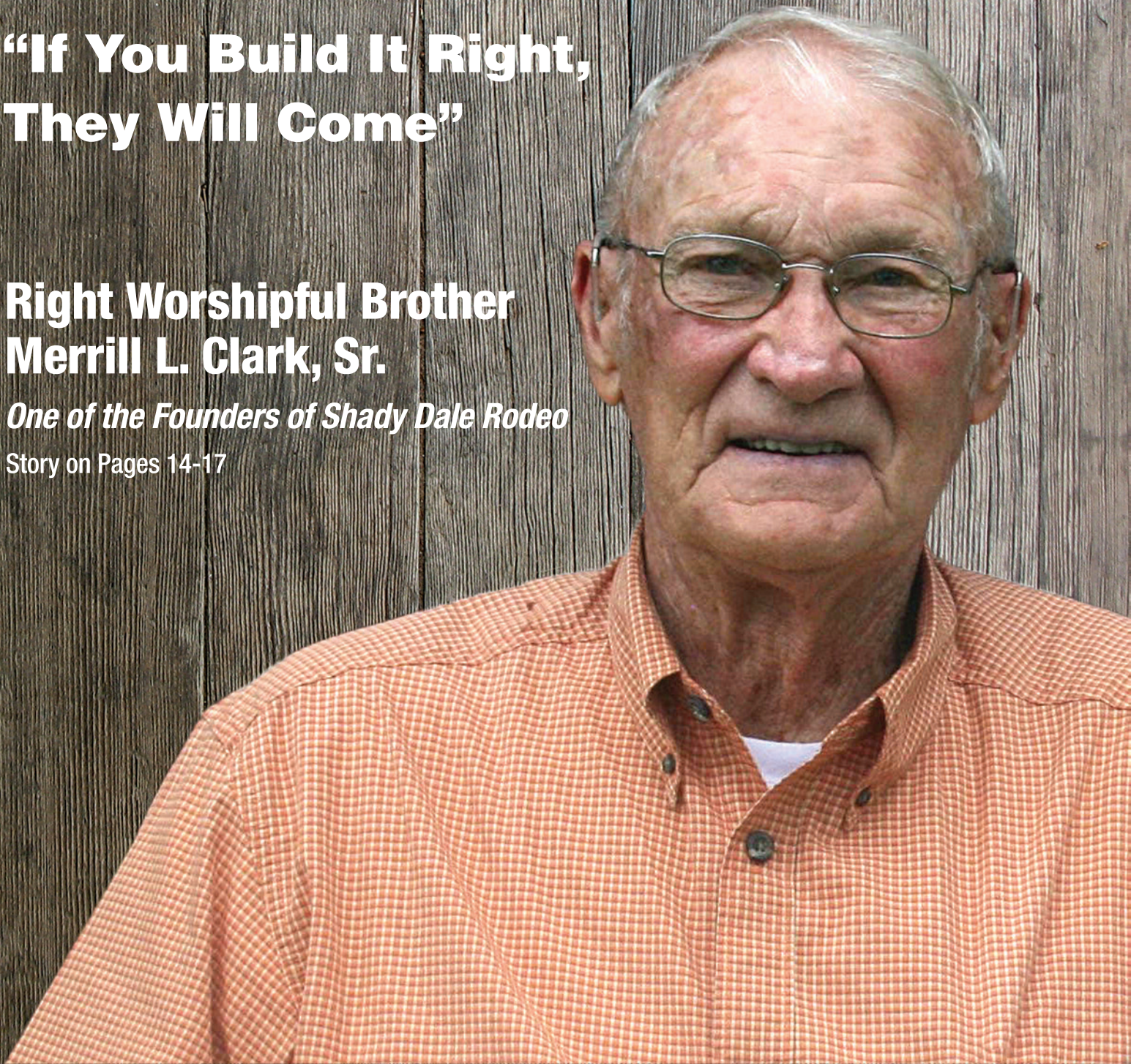
August 2015

**“If You Build It Right,  
They Will Come”**

**Right Worshipful Brother  
Merrill L. Clark, Sr.**

*One of the Founders of Shady Dale Rodeo*

Story on Pages 14-17





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

**Grand Lodge Officers**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Grand Master</b>                          | Douglas W. McDonald (141)      |
| P. O. Box 396                                | Cornelia, GA 30531             |
| E-mail: dmodsr@hemc.net                      | 706-778-7178                   |
| <b>Deputy Grand Master</b>                   | F. A. "Drew" Lane, Jr. (182)   |
| P. O. Box 1534                               | Dallas, GA 30132               |
| E-mail: drewlane1995@gmail.com               | 770-317-0010                   |
| <b>Senior Grand Warden</b>                   | Gary H. Leazer (99, 262, 744)  |
| 3318 Mansfield Ln.                           | Snellville, GA 30039           |
| E-mail: garyleazer44@gmail.com               | 770-851-0997                   |
| <b>Junior Grand Warden</b>                   | Larry W. Nichols (59)          |
| 5500 Interstate Pkwy, Ste. 415               | Atlanta, GA 30328              |
| E-mail: lnichols@lwncpa.com                  | 404-735-3544                   |
| <b>Grand Treasurer</b>                       | Bobby B. Simmons (111, 756)    |
| 203 Williams Drive                           | Bonaire, GA 31005              |
| Email: bnsimmons81@bellsouth.net             | 813-391-9616                   |
| <b>Grand Secretary</b>                       | Joseph "Joe" W. Watson (298)   |
| 811 Mulberry Street                          | Macon, GA 31201-6779           |
| E-mail: fam2@bellsouth.net                   | Office: 478-742-1475           |
| <b>Grand Chaplain</b>                        | Thomas E. "Eddie" Gurley (182) |
| P. O. Box 278                                | Dallas, GA 30132               |
| egurley1997@gmail.com                        | 770-480-9937                   |
| <b>Grand Marshal</b>                         | Mark A. Bradley (36)           |
| 219 Jacob Drive                              | Hoschton, GA 34540             |
| marktireman@windstream.net                   | 706-983-9216                   |
| <b>Grand Orator</b>                          | B. Palmer Mills, PGM (40)      |
|  | 706-663-2971                   |
| <b>Senior Grand Deacon</b>                   | Michael H. Wilson (6, 84)      |
| 3655 Jensen Ct.                              | Loganville, GA 30052           |
| E-Mail: mike.wilson@wilsonroofingcompany.com | 678-410-0833                   |
| <b>Junior Grand Deacon</b>                   | Johnie M. Garmon (114)         |
| P. O. Box 1921                               | Blairsville, GA 30514          |
| □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□                           | 706-781-9565                   |
| <b>First Grand Steward</b>                   | Jan M. Giddens (33)            |
| 2897 Huntclift Drive                         | Marietta, GA 30066             |
| giddensj@comcast.com                         | 678-232-4115                   |
| <b>Second Grand Steward</b>                  | Donald C. Combs (46)           |
| 1262 Meadow Lane SE                          | Darien, GA 31305               |
| don_combs@juno.com                           | 478-235-3750                   |
| <b>Third Grand Steward</b>                   | Mike Kessler (216)             |
| 3592 Woodstream Circle NE                    | Atlanta, GA 30319              |
| kessler1@bellsouth.net                       | 678-947-1001                   |
| <b>Grand Tyler</b>                           | David C. Wall (325)            |
| P. O. Box 1108                               | Clarkesville, GA 30523         |
| David.wall@gsocca.org                        | 706-968-9735                   |
| <b>Grand Treasurer Emeritus</b>              | Samuel R. Whitfield (323)      |
| 171 Concord Road, S.E.                       | Smyrna, GA 30082-3909          |
| <b>Grand Treasurer Emeritus</b>              | Merrill L. Clark, Sr. (200)    |
| P. O. Box 129                                | Shady Dale, GA 31085           |
| <b>Grand Secretary Emeritus</b>              | James E. Underwood, PGM (367)  |
| 150 Spring Creek Road                        | Canton, GA 30115               |
| <b>Grand Secretary Emeritus</b>              | Donald I. DeKalb (111)         |
| P. O. Box 6068                               | 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 38,000

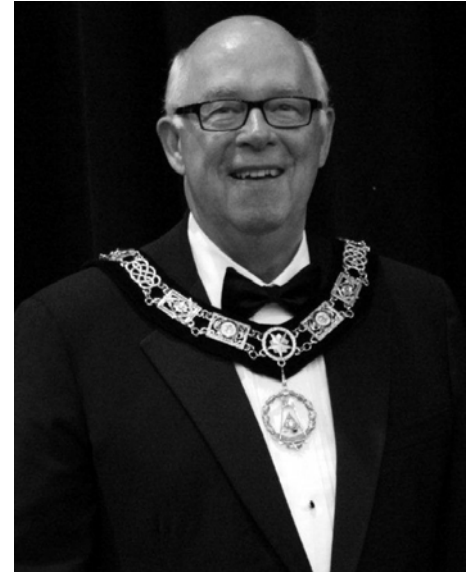
— Grand Master Douglas W. McDonald, Sr.

When you are having fun, time flies. Our Masonic Year is passing so quickly. Thus far, it has been a whirlwind year. With time marching on, many exciting things are ahead. I have made official visits to 21 Lodges since the June *Messenger* article was written. These 21 official visits were in addition to a District Convention, Seminars, out-of-state visits, and other meetings. There are many more official visits between now and the end of October. Needless to say, we have really been keeping the roads hot, traveling thousands of miles. I am truly grateful for every visit and the opportunity to fellowship.

As of this message, you should have already received our Father's Day Masonic Home Endowment Fund Appeal letter. To date, you have generously given \$99,013.28 toward this appeal. All gifts, large and small, will be put to good use. The children will be headed back to school very soon and as you probably know, back to school expenses (along with almost all of the kids' other daily living expenses), get more costly each year. Ecclesiastes 3:12 reminds us: "I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives." What better way to 'do good', than to help a child who is in need? It is never too late to donate to the Masonic Home and I pray that you will consider doing so.

Our Blood Drive Committee Chairman, Wor. Bro. Steve Fishman, reports blood donations are terrific. Since October 29, 2014, a total of 4,504 units of blood have been donated. Since the Blood Drive Committee was formed, Masonic Blood donations have totaled approximately 23,169 units. Everyone should be proud to know that the Masons of Georgia have made such a life-saving difference.

On June 6, First Lady Carol and I enjoyed attending the 32nd annual Shady Dale Rodeo in Shady Dale. The rodeo held Friday and Saturday nights, was attended by several thousand each



night. This rodeo was produced by our Masons from Walton Lodge No. 200, F. & A.M., and Jasper Lodge No. 50, F. & A.M. Cowboys from around the Country attended and participated. The Rodeo has been voted the number one outdoor rodeo in the Southeast on several occasions. Additionally, the rodeo in its class, has been ranked in the top 5 in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Proceeds from this successful event will be shared with the Masonic Home of Georgia, Shriners' Hospitals, the York Rite Eye Foundation and the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. We would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to all who participated in this event.

Education, Education, Education: The second annual MELD Leadership and Development Seminar was held at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, on June 19-20. The Emerging Leaders Seminar was held on July 11 at Al Sihah Shrine Temple, in Macon. Tennessee Past Grand Master John Palmer, also serving as the Editor of the *Knight Templar Magazine*, spoke at the seminar and did an outstanding job. I would like to thank the more than 200 who participated in these very important educational seminars. God's Holy Word at Proverbs 18:15 instructs us that "An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the

wise seeks knowledge". At page 22 of our 2015 Masonic Code, Declaration of Principles, regarding Freemasonry, it is stated: "It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonies, a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law. It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity." (emphasis supplied). An informed and educated Mason is a better Mason. Chairman, Wor. Bro. Wiley Forrester and his committee continue to do an outstanding job.

The Coosa Lodge GA- AL-TN Tri-State meeting was held on June 26-27 and the Tyrian Lodge AL- FL- GA Tri-State meeting was held on July 25. Both were well attended and informative. It is so important to gather at these Tri-State meetings with our Masonic Brethren from neighboring states to learn about what they have going on, and to share what we are doing here in Georgia. We all have so much to learn from each other and sharing helps our Fraternity to grow stronger.

On July 5, First Lady Carol and I flew as guests of the Shrine Temples of Georgia, to Houston, Texas, to attend the 141st Imperial Session of the Shriners International. This Session was packed with meetings and things to do and was a first-class event. We certainly appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in this annual meeting. Surprisingly, the country's temple representatives voted overwhelmingly at the session, to double their per capita.

The Georgia DeMolay Conclave, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and the Order of Eastern Star meetings have been held. Supporting these bodies is like making an investment in our future. We all need the fun and fellowship.

The Southeastern Masonic Convention was held in Jackson, Mississippi on August 6-7. I attended this meeting and brought back some new ideas and plans to possibly implement here in Georgia.

The 62nd annual Rock Quarry communication is scheduled to be held on August 21-22 in Morganton, Georgia. Please mark your calendars and attend this meeting, as it always is a wonderful event.

Don't forget that Masonic Family Day at the Masonic Home is set for Saturday, September 5, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Those who attend always speak of it as being a very special time. The First Annual Grand Master's Car Show will also be held at the Masonic Home on the same day. Please bring your antique vehicles and show them off. Awards and trophies will be presented. Family Day will also be a great opportunity for you to see the completed First Lady's Masonic Home Lobby remodeling project. This project was a tremendous success, and was completed within budget. The First Lady and I would like to thank each of you who donated to this most worthy project.

In case you have not heard, our IT Committee is doing great things. The Grand Lodge Office is on its way to transitioning into the electronic age. Additional information about this exciting transformation can be found within a separate article in this issue of the *Masonic Messenger*.

I hope you are making plans to attend our October 27-28 Grand Lodge Session, as we have many exciting plans on the agenda. Remember that everyone is invited to the Farmer's Market Picnic. I hope you all can come out and bring your families for this wonderful evening. There are several items of important legislation to be considered this year. More information about the Bills and Resolutions to be discussed, will be forthcoming. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Brethren, I am growing more concerned by the day, about our personal safety in our Lodges, while assembled, as well as our Lodge properties, while not in use. Since my June message to you, one of our Masonic Centers has been intruded. Fortunately, no harm was done. Be vigilant. Preserve your Lodge Minutes, photographs and other valuable, irreplaceable items. I am noticing more and more, instances of the use of cell phones during tyled meetings. It is becoming a frequent practice which is disrespectful and exhibits a lack of attention, care and concern for the business of the Lodge. Please cease such conduct.

In closing, let me remind you that as Americans, we have so much for which to be thankful. It is no secret that the times in which we live are scary times. In God Jehovah's Holy Word, King Solomon in despair, wrote: "Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness." Ecclesiastes 3:16. But, even with all the turmoil in our world today, I hope you will find peace in knowing that our God is in control. Proverbs 18:10 tells us, "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." 2 Chronicles 7:14 reaffirms, "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn away from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land." I am praying for each of you and hope you will please continue to pray for your Grand Lodge officers and wives, and all other Masons in the world. Remember to make every day joyful, as, "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it, Psalm 118:24. God Bless you all!

Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., Grand Master  
The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons  
For the State of Georgia



## Scholarships



Flint River Daylight Lodge No. 761 presented its first annual scholarship to Bethany Smith who plans to attend the University of Georgia this fall. Wor. Bro. Bennie Pollard is Worshipful Master.

### Rockmart Lodge scholarships



Scholarship awards were presented to two of our high school students here in Rockmart. Pictured are Ann Marie and Ansley Rainey (center) along with the officers and family of Rockmart Lodge No. 97.



Alpine Lodge No. 211 presented Kevin Dooley with their 11th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 on July 14. Mr. Dooley plans to attend Emory University, beginning in the Fall of 2015, and hopes to become a physician. In the photo, from left are Kevin (2014-2015 Scholarship Recipient), Wor. Bro. Artis Pledger (Worshipful Master), and Mrs. Christie Dooley (mother of the scholarship recipient).



Harmony Lodge No. 405 presented a scholarship on May 19 to Zackery Hackel. In the photo L-R are Zackery Hackel, Zackery's Mother, and Worshipful Master Homer Rivers.

Harmony Lodge No. 405 presented a Scholarship on May 19 to Cody Love. In the photo L-R are Worshipful Master Homer Rivers, Cody Love, and Cody's Mother.



## Awards and Recognitions



The Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Bro. Joseph Watson awarded the Masonic Eagle Scout award to 6 members of Venture Crew 711, chartered by Fayetteville Lodge No. 711. Pictured from left to right: Mathew Aaron Brown, Andrew Preston Pepper, Alexander Angel Rojas, RWB Joe Watson, Christopher Clark Akin, Gregory Lee Pepper, and William Magruder Price.

(Photo to the right) \$500.00 scholarship awards were presented to two students from our two local high schools at the lodge in Louisville.

Worshipful Master Clay Hodges (front row, center) is flanked by the awardees: Abigail Lane Haythorn from Thomas Jefferson Academy (2nd from left, blue gown) and Victoria Lynn Wheeler from Jefferson County High School (4th from left, black gown). Both students plan to attend the University of Georgia in Athens beginning in the fall. Others present in photo are various officers and members of the Lodge.



### Be a Part of Something Bigger than Georgia!

Every year on June 14, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day (WBDD). The event, established in 2004, serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood, and to thank blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.



### Are your Donations being Counted?

You must report your donations directly to Wor. Bro. Steve Fishman to be counted! Call him at 706-829-1155 or email him at [mstevenfishman@juno.com](mailto:mstevenfishman@juno.com). Neither the Red Cross, any other blood donor center or any other person reports your donations. Only YOU! As of August 17, 4,504 donations have been reported since Grand Lodge; 23,169 since we began this effort.

Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279 donated two scholarships in the amount of \$150.00 to local Dodge Co High School 2015 Graduates. Pictured is Wor. Master Henry Hill presenting the checks to Hannah Sanders and Blake Smith.





## Masonic Leadership Conference 2015



The 2nd Leadership Conference was a big success this year. I am happy to report that we had 111 students attend; all 12 Districts were represented. As all of you are aware we were able to move the conference to the campus of Georgia College and State University. The school is a perfect place for us to have this event on a yearly basis. The housing and food staff were so easy to work with, and having Wor. Bro. John Lindsay as a liaison was a tremendous help. Anything thing we needed he took care of. Our team would like to hold this Conference on the 2nd weekend in July each year beginning next year. If we can make this a reoccurring time frame each year, this will help me and my team be better prepared. I put that date in this report as a note to future Grand Masters to keep in mind while they get their calendars ready for the upcoming year. We have reserved July 8-10 for the 2016 Conference.

I would like to thank Grand Master McDonald for allowing me to continue in my role as chairman of this Conference. It is indeed an honor to serve Freemasonry in a capacity to make a difference. The team that I have been so lucky to assemble has been nothing short of incredible. These dedicated brethren make us look very good. Their time and effort to be prepared for this event has been impressive. Bros. Mac McGuirt and Brian Coffey are dedicated to making improving the materials and finding the best techniques to help our instructors bring the material better. Without those two guys I most surely would lose my sanity.

At the end of the last session we ask each brother to fill out a course evaluation. We ask them to be brutally honest and direct on the materials, facilities, and instructors. These brethren for the most part complied on all levels. We are currently reviewing these evaluations and with this information will begin to upgrade our materials. The biggest concern regarding the entire program was time constraints. The team feels that this will always be our biggest challenge. As we wind down this year, we will take extra time to study this issue and hopefully have a solution before we get to the next Conference. We are putting a lot of information in

their heads at one time, and the guys are exhausted and losing focus by the last presentation. We have found that we need to be more spirited while presenting and have a fun skit or something to allow them to reset between each presentation. All of these things will only make this event more desirable to our brethren.

On the financial side of this thing, I believe that we will come in under our projected budget. I am currently gathering the last few invoices and hope to have a final financial statement in a few weeks. If we are under budget, this could allow us to continue to have seed money for the following year and even allow us to continue to find speakers for other leadership seminars. There are many ideas that I have stuck in my head about training our leaders, and if we can set ourselves up better financially in this program we can get some of those things accomplished. Such basic practices as how to manage a meeting, how to delegate effectively, and my favorite how to manage multicultural people are some of the things that I would like to bring to our leaders in the future.

Lastly, I would like to thank you Grand Master and all of the Grand Line officers for your unwavering support of this program. Thank you for taking the time to come and be with us over the weekend. This means so much to me and my team that you are steadfast in your support and your desire to see us grow our people. We have a long road to travel before this program is at the level that our team is looking for. With your continued support, we will make this program the envy of all Grand Lodges in North America. I want to say it again that I have the best team on the best committee serving the best Grand Lodge in the world. I hope each of had a safe Independence Day and safe travels to the Imperial Session. We pledge to make next year's event bigger and better than this one.

Wor. Bro. Wiley Forrester  
State Director  
Masonic Education  
Leadership Development



# Important Notice!

## New Location for 11th District Masonic Convention

The 11th District Masonic Convention will be held at the Brunswick Shrine Club at 3955 Darien Highway, Brunswick, Georgia 31525; telephone: 912-264-5654, on Saturday, September 19.

## Annual Barn Degree at Charlie Long's

September 26 — Same day as 9th District Convention  
At Charlie Long's Barn 5 mile north of Fairmount  
on Highway 411, turn right on Orr Mill Rd & follow signs.

Eat Bar-B-Q 3pm

Between 3-6:00 pm: horseshoes, bluegrass & fellowship

Lodge opens at 6:00 pm

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee  
will confer the Master Masons' degree .

## \*\*\*WANTED\*\*\*

We are seeking Masonic Brothers who are members of Barber Shop Quartets or other musical groups to perform on Tuesday October 27 at Grand Lodge during the tyled meeting. If you can assist, please contact Dede Dyer at 706-778-7178 or via e-mail to dede@mcdonaldcody.com.

**Members of Jonesboro  
Lodge No. 87  
presented a much  
needed scooter to long-  
time former Secretary  
Wor. Bro. Bill Conkle**



"Always dream and shoot higher than you can reach. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries and predecessors; try to be better than yourself."

## Fleming Lodge enjoys Blue Grass Music

At their May communication, the Brethren at Fleming Lodge No. 718 enjoyed a fine meal of smoked chicken and wonderful Blue Grass music. Bro. Greg Miller, the Jr. Deacon, and Worshipful Master Leroy Buckmore arranged to have live entertainment during supper.

Eryn Eubanks of Eryn Eubanks & The Family Fold of Augusta, GA performs bluegrass, gospel, classic country, Celtic, folk, old-time, and assorted genres of music. Eryn sings, composes songs, and plays numerous instruments that include: mandolin, resonator (slide) mandolin, acoustic guitar, resonator guitar, open-back banjo, 12-string guitar, electric guitar, mountain dulcimer, dobro, lap steel guitar, upright bass, electric bass, bouzouki, fiddle, autoharp, soprano ukulele, and baritone ukulele. Eryn was voted "Augusta's Favorite Female Musician" in 2004, 2005, and 2007; and "Augusta's Favorite Misc. Instrumentalist" in 2007 by the Lokal Loudness music organization. Readers of the *Augusta Magazine* awarded Eryn as "Best Female Vocalist" and "Best Performing Artist" in 2004. At the age of 16, Eryn received her minister's license. Eryn Eubanks & The Family Fold produced and broadcasted a weekly musical television show for 4 years in the Augusta area. Videos are still being produced and broadcast on their YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/eubanksfamilyfold](http://www.youtube.com/eubanksfamilyfold).

Eryn sang and played several instruments. Bro. Miller, playing the fiddle, accompanied Eryn on several songs. Bro. Miller said "I decided out of the blue to learn to play a fiddle after attending a few bluegrass festivals about 11 years ago". It didn't look that hard. That was a mistake. After a year of playing I gave up the fiddle for a mandolin. After playing the mandolin, a cousin called and asked if I wanted the fiddle that had been played by my great grandfather. He had passed away in 1943 and the fiddle had been lost until a few years ago.

It was in sad shape with haywire holding on the end piece. Otherwise it looked pretty good. I sent it away to be restored and enjoyed learning to play it. About 3 years ago I was rushing out to play and it fell out of the unsecured case and broke the neck. It was heartbreaking to see the damage. I sent it to a fine luthier in Missouri, Jerry Ray Field, and he restored it beautifully and made several adjustments. He said that it came from southern Germany and was made in the late 1800's. Pictured are Eryn Eubanks and Bro. Greg Miller.





## Lodges Donate Red Wagons to Two Hospitals

Nelms Lodge No. 323 was invited, along with Kennesaw Lodge No. 33, to attend the Grand Opening of the Kennestone Wellstar Pediatric ICU unit in Marietta on June 9, where they donated a red wagon to the ICU unit. In attendance from Nelms Lodge were Worshipful Master Jason Weldon; W. Bro. T. Leon Roberts, PM and Director of Work; W. Bro. David Kilgore, DDGM 7C and PM; Bro. Jerry Henry (Junior Steward); and Bro. Rick Hallwood (Junior Warden).

From Kennesaw Lodge, seated Wor. Master Cabot Rohrer; Senior Warden Kirk Martin; Junior Past Master Jeff Carter; Will Hester, Junior Deacon; and Wor. Bro. Hugh Watson, Director of Work. Also in attendance was Roger Leggett, creator and inventor of the Red Wagon Program.

Nelms Lodge No. 323 was also invited, along with Michael Howell, the Worshipful Master of Douglasville Lodge No. 289, to attend a dedication ceremony at Cobb Wellstar hospital in Marietta on July 1, where they donated two red wagons; Douglasville Lodge also donated two wag-



ons. They were met with an impressive number of hospital senior leaders, doctors, and nurses (See photo). The hospital was incredibly enthusiastic and appreciative of the red wagons, and placed two in the children's ER, one in the children's burn unit, and one in the children's surgical area.

The names of the lodges appear on the wagons.

## CHiP Event Held at Fort Benning

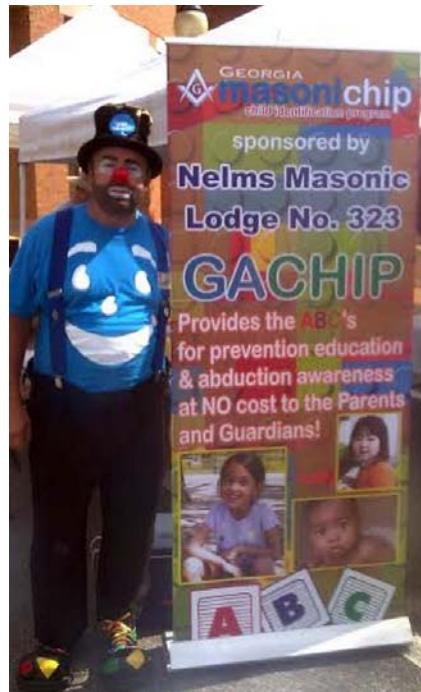


On Saturday, July 4, the Greater Columbus and West Georgia area celebrated the birth of our Nation at the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning. We were proud to be a part of this. While thousands outside the Museum were celebrating in various ways the events of the day, we inside the museum were working steadily on Georgia Child Identification Packets for the children. We had a total of 22 helpers and we ran eight machines.

While we were hoping to reach a goal of 250 children for the day, we fell a little short of the mark. Still, on July 4 we not only celebrated the Birth of our Nation, but also celebrated the passing of a milestone in GACHiP numbers. For the Greater Columbus area we passed the 4,000 mark ending the day with 4,028 since the spring of 2010 and for the State of Georgia we passed the 100,000 mark ending the day with 100,018. So you can see that July 4 was a great day for our Nation, Masonry and the children of East Alabama and West Georgia. As always we thank those who help us to make the day a success and continue to look for other areas in which to be of service.

## Nelms Lodge Holds CHiP Event

Nelms Lodge No. 323 of Smyrna partnered with the Smyrna Public Library's Closing of the Summer Reading Program. As you'll see in the pics, W. Bro. Rusty Cordle dressed up as Rusty the Clown, like he normally does for the Shriner's Circus. Also please note the sign that we had made for this event and all others going forward. We are proud of our new CHiP sign.



This is the 2nd time we've partnered with the Smyrna Public Library. Earlier this summer, we attended the Summer Reading Program Kickoff event, and they have

*(Continued first column on next page)*



## Auburn Lodge No. 230 Raises Three



Auburn Lodge No. 230 raised three new Master Masons on June 20. They are Randall Lee Green, Arturo Cruz, and Jesse Tyler Ethridge,

## Cornelia Lodge No. 92 Gives Scholarships



Cornelia Masonic Lodge No. 92 proudly sponsored and presented two \$1,000.00 scholarships to Alex Edwards and Drew Pitts. Alex will be attending Georgia State University this fall will pursue a degree in Actuarial Science. Alex is the daughter of John Edwards and Sunny Thomson. Drew will be attending Kennesaw State University this fall and will pursue a degree in Civil Engineering. Drew is the son of Keith Pitts and Margaret Stinespring. Pictured with Drew and Alex is Cornelia Lodge's Worshipful Master Charles Warren.

*(Continued from previous page, second column)*

invited us back to their 2016 Summer Reading Kickoff and Close events as well.

We were able to ID approximately 60 children between the two events this summer. Our next CHIP event is in November when we'll partner with First United Methodist of Smyrna during their Christmas Arts & Crafts event. This was the 2nd time we've partnered with First United Methodist Church of Smyrna as well.

Ed Lamour, from Mableton No. 17, photographed the event. Craig Pruitt, also from Mableton No. 171, was our expert finger-print taker. Wor. Bro. David Kilgore (DDGM-7C) is currently serving as Chaplain for Nelms Lodge.



Jesse Tyler Ethridge (on the right) was raised by his grandfather John D. Ethridge (on the left), a 63-year Freemason, while his father, Mike Ethridge, was the Senior Deacon for the degree work. What a joyous occasion for all of Auburn Lodge No. 230!

## Nelms Lodge Holds 2nd Annual Table Lodge



Nelms Lodge No. 323 held its 2nd annual table lodge in June. Right Worshipful Bro. Drew Lane was the guest speaker. Twenty-one brothers attended; four DeMolays served the seven-course meal. Wor. Bro. Jason Weldom is Master of Nelms Lodge.



Grant Pittman and Lex Williams were raised to the sublime degree of Mater Mason on June 18 in Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279 in Eastman.





**GRAND  
CHAPTER**  
J. Terry Farmer  
M. E. G. H. P.



**GRAND  
COUNCIL**  
Floyd E. Edmondson  
M. I. G. M.



**GRAND  
COMMANDERY**  
Lloyd J. Leinbaugh  
R. E. G. C.

## ***THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA***

**Editor: Michael H. Sampsell Email: [mike@thesampells.com](mailto:mike@thesampells.com)  
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org>**

### **Hierarchy of York Rite Masonry**

By Michael H. Sampsell

In an effort to highlight this portion of our amazing Fraternity, Rick Hallwood has produced a graphical representation of the hierarchy within the York Rite. Rick did this as a participant in the York Rite Emerging Leaders classes that are being hosted and taught by the SouthEast York Rite bodies at their annual conference each year. This is a 4-year program that helps to develop the future leaders of our institution. The first three years are devoted to classroom training and the fourth is engaged in the development of a project that will benefit the As part of this program, Rick's project was a direct result of the training and motivation that he received through the Emerging Leaders program. He used many of the lessons taught to think through and plan his Obelisk. As a result, a pyramid was chosen to represent the base of all of Masonry, the Blue Lodge.

Upon that base, he built the Obelisk in sections to represent the 3 bodies of the York Rite and to list each Degree & Order accompanied by a brief description.

The project is currently in the approval process but as soon as approval is granted, the posters (2'x4') will be available to be ordered. In conjunction with the graphical tool, a PowerPoint presentation has been created to allow any

York Rite Companion to give a history of the American York Rite and a more detailed presentation in a Blue Lodge to assist with bringing new members into the York Rite.

It is and has been Rick's goal that his 4th-year project will help to increase York Rite membership by communicating, sharing information, educating and encouraging Blue Lodge Masons to seek further Light in their Masonic Journey. His Obelisk gives a person the opportunity to see the progression of the York Rite degrees and offers a brief description for each degree or Order. Rick feels that as York Rite Masons, we need to focus on doing a better job of defining the York Rite to both our Blue Lodge Brethren as well as the public in general.



### **Upcoming York Rite Events**

| Date         | Time     | Event                                     | Location     |
|--------------|----------|---|--------------|
| August 22    | 11:00 AM | DeKalb Commandery #38 Inspection          | Decatur      |
| August 22    | 4:00 PM  | St. Bernard Commandery #25 Inspection     | Covington    |
| August 29    | 11:00 AM | Alexius Commandery #22 Inspection         | Lovejoy      |
| August 29    | 2:30 PM  | Griffin Commandery #35 Inspection         | Griffin      |
| September 12 | 2:30 PM  | Malta Commandery #16 Inspection           | Valdosta     |
| September 12 | 6:30 PM  | Coastal Plain Commandery #42 Inspection   | Tifton       |
| September 26 | 9:00 AM  | 6th District Chapter & Council Convention | Fayetteville |
| October 10   | 10:00 AM | 4th District Chapter & Council Convention | West Point   |

PETITION FOR YORK RITE BODIES  
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf>

#### **FIND YOUR CLOSEST YORK RITE:**

GEORGIA YORK RITE WEBSITE  
[www.yorkriteofga.org](http://www.yorkriteofga.org)

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



## Rockmart No. 97 Presents Eagle Scout Awards



Worshipful Master Dan Smith and Wor. Bro. Jim Childress, DDGM, presented Eagle Scout Awards to Steven Dean and Thomas Fitzpatrick.

## Flat Screen TV Presented to Seniors' Home



Brothers of Rockmart Lodge No. 97, Davitte Lodge No. 513, William G. England Lodge No. 747 and the Slate City Shrine Club presented a flat screen TV to the Rockmart Senior Citizens Home. The Brothers take pride in their many visits to the Home, playing bingo, serving ice cream or just visiting the residents.

## Woolhat Boys Degree at Jonesboro No. 87



## Springville Lodge No. 153 Holds Family Night

On Saturday, July 11th, Springville Lodge No. 153 at Powder Springs hosted their Annual Family Night. This night was a very special night for the lodge and turned out to be a wonderful experience for all those involved.

Springville's main benevolent focus for the year is the giving of their scholarship funds to worthy recipients. Springville Lodge hosts an annual golf tournament to generate funds they use for these scholarships. This year Springville Lodge handed out four \$1,000 scholarships to their recipients. Pictured above left – right are Annah J. Blair, Amanda B. Whitlock, Anna T. Staebler, Ashley W. Ertle. In Back: David Merck, Worshipful Master.



Also being recognized this evening was Springville Lodge's Master Mason of the Year for 2015. This year Tony L. Smith was selected by the lodge to receive this award as a result of his hard work and countless hours of dedication to the lodge. (Pictured left: David Merck, Worshipful Master; Tony Smith, Master Mason of the Year 2015). Tony is currently serving the Lodge as Senior Deacon and his hard work and dedication to Masonry is truly a credit to Springville Lodge. Brother Smith was raised March 27, 2012 in

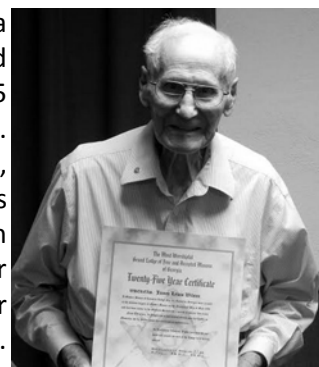


Springville Lodge No. 153 and has been an asset to the Lodge ever since.

Two brothers received their 25-year awards. To the right are Don Morrison and David Merck, Worshipful Master; Not Pictured is David Murl Cochran.



On June 8th, Cornelia Masonic Lodge No. 92 honored Brother Lewis Wilson for 25 years continuous membership. Brother Wilson is a WW 2 Vet, a former POW and celebrates his 95th birthday in August. Worshipful Brother Fred Reid presented Brother Lewis with a certificate and pin.





# The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

III. Leonard E. Buffington, 33°, SGIG, Orient of Georgia

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

The **Valley of Augusta** Scottish Rite meets the first Thursday of each month. Dinner is served at 7:00 PM with the meeting and program beginning at 8:00 PM. Please join us if you are in the area. Following is a list of events: August 6 LOP meeting was our awards night with over 170 brothers, family members and friends attending to witness the presentation of the Scottish Rite Mason of the Year Award, Five 50 Year Awards, 8 Scholarships, 30 plus Double Eagle Awards, Ring and Capping Ceremony for our 10 newest Scottish Rite Masons, Master Craftsman I, II, and III Awards, KSA Awards, and Annual Educator Award as well as several special awards and presentations. September LOP meeting will highlight one of the Local Juvenile Judges who will speak on children and grandchildren. October LOP meeting will celebrate the Feast of Tishri to include a guest speaker. Our valley will also host the statewide KCCH Investiture on October 3. Congratulations to all 30 brethren who received the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour this year as well as the 12 brethren who will receive the 33°, Inspector General Honorary on October 17 in Atlanta.

**Valley of Savannah** will be back to normal activities in September after a very hot summer. We held our Family Night on August 4 and will resume regular Lodge of Perfection on September 1 and a fundraiser golf tournament on September 26. October is a busy month with Feast of Tishri on October 6, one day Fall Reunion on October 10, combined Scottish Rite Associations meeting on October 13 and Grand Lodge October 27, 28. All this plus KCCH Investiture on October 3 in Augusta and 33° IGH Coronation in Atlanta on October 17. On November 3 we will hold our annual Awards Night to honor 25 and 50 year members, Double Eagle recipients, first line signers and others.

The **Valley of Atlanta** continues to enjoy a growing spirit. The August meeting featured the presentation of Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia scholarships to 33 recipients. In addition 47 new Masters of the Royal Secret were knighted with family looking on. Close to 250 were in attendance. The Hospitaliers were able to provide a wonderful dinner to more people than the dining room holds. The Scottish Rite Guard, assisted by the Knights of St Andrew and the KCCH helped insure that such a large group was well accommodated and ushered to the correct locations. Thanks as always to our stage crew for their fine work and care for our scenery and props. The praise would not be complete without thanks to M.W.B. Danny Wofford, 33° and M.W.B.

Leonard Buffington, 33° SGIG for making the night memorable.

Our September meeting will feature the presentation of the Arthur S. Kaplan, 32° First Responder's Awards. The awards are now an annual tradition recognizing First Responders from throughout the Valley of Atlanta for the work they do for us. Those recognized come from all walks of life. Membership in a Masonic body is not required.

This year, the hospital whose creation was largely possible through the generosity of the Scottish Rite Freemasons in Georgia will celebrate its Centennial. Now part of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, CHOA has invited Scottish Rite Masons, their family, friends and all Freemasons to participate in the annual CHOA Parade, December 5th 2015. We will be walking in the parade along with a Birthday Cake Float and each person will carry a candle, (battery powered). To continue the generosity first demonstrated 100 years ago, each person walking in the parade is asked to donate \$100. The goal is to have at least 100 people in the parade who have each donated \$100 for a total of Ten Thousand Dollars that will be donated to CHOA for the benefit of the Rite Care Center(s). The RiteCare Center helps children with Speech, Language and Hearing Disorders. Please let us know that you will be walking with us. Send your check payable to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia. In the memo section of the check, enter the words Parade RiteCare. Mail your check to Rite Care Parade, c/o Scottish Rite, 1690 Peachtree St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309. Donations can be made by credit card by calling 404-873-3659

Greetings from the **Valley of Columbus**. Scottish Rite Freemasonry is alive and well in the River City. Please join the Valley of Columbus as we congratulate our Honourmen for 2015; receiving the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour: Brothers Alva M. Tatom, Philip E Harris, R. Scott Pless, James D. Moye, Joseph F. Oelgoetz III.

We congratulate our Valley General Secretary James W. Tate for receiving the 33°, Inspectors General Honorary.

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](http://scottishritecolsga.com) for more information.



# September is a Super Busy Month!

Don't be left out!

Family Day at the Masonic Home  
&  
First Annual Grand Master's Car Show  
Meet the Kids & See the New Lobby!  
September 5  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Free Lunch (Hamburgers & Hotdogs)  
Make it a Day for your whole Family

\*\*\*\*\*

5th District Masonic Convention  
September 12  
Alpharetta Lodge No. 235  
Lodge opens at 9:00 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

11th District Masonic Convention  
September 19  
Lodge opens at 10:00 a.m.

Brunswick Shrine Club  
3955 Darien Hwy.  
Brunswick, Georgia  
(Change of Convention Location)

\*\*\*\*\*

9th District Masonic Convention  
September 26  
Gainesville No. 219  
Lodge opens at 9:00 a.m.

Master Mason Degree  
at  
Charlie Long's Barn  
September 26

Same day as 9th District Convention  
5 miles north of Fairmount  
on Highway 411, turn right on Orr Mill Rd & follow signs.  
Eat Bar-B-Q 3pm  
Between 3-6:00 pm: horseshoes, bluegrass & fellowship  
Lodge opens at 6:00 pm  
The Grand Lodge of Tennessee  
will confer the Master Masons' degree .

\*\*\*\*\*

Grand Lodge

Macon Marriott City Center

October 27 - 28

Bills will be considered on Tues. October 27  
Bills are approved or rejected  
by Master Masons present & voting.

Veterans' Luncheon  
Macon Scottish Rite Center  
Tuesday at Noon, October 27  
Free Tickets - Order from Grand Secretary

Annual picnic Tuesday evening, October 27

Installation of Grand Lodge Officers  
October 28 in the morning

Meet new friends & renew old friendships!

## The Shady Dale Rodeo: “If You Build It Right, They Will Come”

This story begins on an early Friday morning in the month of June. Breakfast is cooking on the stove, livestock are being feed and the whole town is coming alive with anticipation. You see; it's not just any normal day in this quiet little rural town, it's **RODEO DAY!** That's right —rodeo day!The day the whole town has been waiting for. You see the Masons of Walton No. 200 and Jasper No. 50 have been preparing for a year since the close of last year's rodeo to put on the best rodeo in the Southeastern United States.

I've attended this rodeo for ten out of the last eleven years, but know very little about how it came about. So I started asking questions and most of the time got the same answer, ask Merrill! They were referring to Right Worshipful Brother Merrill L. Clark Sr., Grand Treasurer Emeritus of the

Grand Lodge of Georgia, and boy were they right! Bro. Merrill has an embedded passion for his family, his faith, his brother Masons and the Shady Dale Rodeo.

Bro. Merrill was born in DeKalb County, Georgia. He is one of 8 brothers and sisters. He went to school at Southwest Dekalb where he meet his sweetheart of 65 years, Lady Elaine. They moved to Shady Dale in 1978 and live there today. Bro. Merrill has a long and prestigious Masonic career. He

RWB Merrill L. Clark, Sr. welcomes the crowd to the Shady Dale Rodeo. He holds a cowboy hat he will present to the Grand Master.

was raised a Master Mason in Cedar Grove Lodge and served as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Georgia for 8 1/2 years. He now holds the distinction of having been named Grand Treasurer Emeritus. — Wor. Bro. Michael Wilson

Brother Merrill is one of the founders of the Shady Dale rodeo and here is his story in his own words:

This is a brief history of the Shady Dale Rodeo, how it started, progressed to date, and most importantly, what two lodges working together have accomplished and what has been done with the proceeds.

The Rodeo always starts with prayer and the singing of the National Anthem. Bonnie Tanner sang the National Anthem for many years. When she retired Leigh Thornton sang for several years. Now a different person sings the

National Anthem each year.

It is somewhat ironic that a vision was brought forth to have a rodeo was first conceived in a basement in Hugh Lewis' home in 1983. A group of ladies were having a shower upstairs and the men were in the basement. Some were Masons, some were not; they were trying to pick guitars, play the fiddle and sing, also to play a little pool. One of these men, Kenny Wright, who at that time was the manager of Shady Dale Farms, one of the largest horse and cattle operations in the State, asked Hugh if the Masons would consider sponsoring a rodeo. Kenny was at that time announcing rodeos for various associations throughout the Southeast. The next day Hugh told me (Merrill Clark) of their discussion. Hugh, Bro. Cliff Casaday and I met with Kenny to see what was involved in sponsoring a rodeo. He explained the major function in how a rodeo works and what we would have to do.

Walton Masonic Lodge No. 200 being so small, at that time only twenty-six members decided this would be more than we could handle by ourselves. We went to talk to the Worshipful Master of Jasper Masonic Lodge No. 50 who was Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bro. Henry Troy Hooper, to see if their lodge would be interested in joining with us to sponsor a rodeo. They decided to give it a try, with the approval of Grand Lodge and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. Bro. James Westbrook was Master of Walton Masonic Lodge No. 200 in 1983.

We said from the very beginning this would be a blue lodge function, but we would involve all phase of Freemasonry, all the Appendant Bodies, also to involve people from the city, county and others we could solicit for we wanted this to be a joint effort. This is to be a family event, no alcohol, no activities that was not in keeping with family, no soliciting from Politicians at the rodeo.

The owners of the Shady Dale Farms agreed to let us use one of their cow pastures on Ga. Hwy. #83 N, to hold this event. At this time there was a Horse Club in Athens, Georgia, that had disbanded and the lights, poles, etc. were for sale. One of our members loaned the rodeo a sum of \$3,000.00. We purchased the lights, poles and announcers' booth all for \$1,500.00. We went with tractors, cattle trailers and flatbed trailers to Athens and loaded up like a band of gypsies. We took back roads back to Shady Dale. We used our farm tractors and graded an arena in the cow pasture, erected poles, lights and put up the announcer's stand, put up a hog wire fence and used a tent from Jordan's Funeral Home to be used as a concession stand under the pecan trees. We were in business—we had made our arena—in the cow pasture. We were ready for our first Shady Dale Rodeo in June 1984. Bro. Jim Williams was Master of Walton Lodge No. 200. The saying is, “You build it and they will come;” sure enough they came. We think



we had about 2000 people for both nights, which we could not believe and the good part we made a profit of \$9,463.73. We thought this was super, so we started planning for the next year's rodeo. Then we found out that we would have to relocate or disband, the owners of Shady



Dale Farms had written us a letter stating we could use the farm for one more year. We did understand there is a tremendous liability or responsibility. The second year we made a \$10,412.47. Since we were broke, we had given all our money away, we were looking for another site to locate or disband. At this time a parcel of land located on Ga. Hwy. #83 S. containing 18.79 acres, property of the Anne T. Cotton Estate, became available. The property was one-half

open land and one-half timber. An offer was made by a lodge member of Walton Masonic Lodge of \$15,000.00 plus the sale of the pine timber, value of the timber was \$6,071.00. The Estate accepted the offer, so we were back in business, land closed and deeded to Walton Masonic Lodge No. 200, for charitable purposes.

So we took down our poles, lights, fence, announcer's booth, etc. and again we moved on the new parcel of land. The timber had to be cleared off the tract of land and graded to make an arena. Through the generosity of Yancey Brother's Caterpillar Company in Atlanta, a D-8 Bulldozer and a former heavy equipment operator, Wayne Taylor graded the land to perfection and all it cost us was diesel fuel and a letter of "Thank You." So again, we erected the poles, lights and set up the same announcer's booth. Cliff Casaday and I in Cliff's 2-ton dump truck went to Birmingham, Ala. to one of the steel companies, bought 4" steel posts that were needed. Lodge members installed welded wire (also called bull panels) to them to make the permanent fence we use today. Now we were ready for our third rodeo. Again it was more successful. By the way before each rodeo we would have to erect temporary seating and take them down the last night of the rodeo. "Boy, what a job!" Since that time we erected permanent bleachers to accommodate approximately 5,000 spectators and built a permanent announcer's booth. We bought the bleachers on August 1, 1989. It was brought to our attention that a private school in Barnesville, Ga. had closed and their bleachers were for sale. A group from Shady Dale Rodeo went to look at them. After much discussion we were

prepared to offer up to \$5,000.00 for them, finally the man representing the school said they wanted \$2,000.00 but would take \$1,500.00. We bought them on the spot for \$2,000.00. We went over again with farm trailers and dismantled and brought them to Shady Dale and set them up. We still use them today, having replaced the board seats a couple of times. Again businesses and individuals came to our aid. Hooper Trailer Sales turned over their trailer facility to us on weekends. We cut, welded and made bleachers in their facility. Later we had to update our lighting system, we installed much taller poles and much better lights (hydrogen). We thought at the time to accommodate T. V., but as yet they have not come—we thought that Sport South was interested.

Also, in 2002 it was apparent the concession stand had to have something done, workers working on gravel floors (these were former chicken houses that we moved and set up to use as a concession stand), the summer heat, plus no running water, something had to be done. Lynn Clark, son of a member of Walton Lodge #200 had a lot of steel that he had planned to make a storage building out of, but he donated the steel to the rodeo. A new concession stand was erected with concrete floors, bathroom, running water at very little cost. Bill Hardin, owner of Harding Plumbing, donated all plumbing at no cost. Bill is a member of Jasper Masonic Lodge No. 50.



As time went on, we began to have over flow crowds, we needed additional parking. Bro. Hugh Lewis said there was a small strip of land across the railroad tracks from the rodeo that if handled properly the Cotton Estate might donate it for a tax deduction. They were contacted and they agreed to do so, containing about 6 acres.

Shady Dale Rodeo has had five stock contractors since the beginning. First, in 1984 and 1985, was David Duke with ACA Assoc., in 1986 and 1987 Ken Treadway with ACA Assoc., starting in 1988 thru 2004 Charley Lowery & 4-L Rodeo Co. with ACA Assoc. and PRCA Assoc., 2005 thru 2008 Oubre with IPRA Assoc., from 2009 thru 2015 Southern Rodeo Co. (Robin Brooks) with IPRA Assoc. The Shady Dale Rodeo has won the number one Outdoor Rodeo five (5)

times with ACA which covered the Southeastern United States, one(1) time 2014 with IPRA Assoc. which cover the United States, Canada and Mexico.

It has always been our goal and always will be to put on the best, most enjoyable, cleanest, family oriented rodeo possible. This could not be possible without having the best stock contractors, attracting the best applicants (cowboys & cowgirls), the best sponsors and advertisers, and finally pleasing the spectators when the rodeo is over to hear them say "this was the best rodeo ever"!!

The Rodeo has had three Chairmen over the years, Merrill Clark, Wes Chester and Rusty Bullard.

In the beginning we had two vendors that sold tack, one from Tenn. (Skipper) and one from Ala. (Linda's Western Wear) later one could not be here, we brought in a local (Cowboy Shop) who we used until we built a building and sold tack ourselves (2014). Jeff Anderson, member of Walton Masonic Lodge No. 200, is in charge of buying and selling tack. Carolyn and Henry Johnson have been selling boiled peanuts for many years. The Shady Dale Community Club sold Shady Dale Rodeo T-Shirts.

We are always improving our facility by changing or adding something that will improve our rodeo. We have been blessed that when we tell our story we have had a great part of materials donated. We Masons and others do the work. Prior to the rodeo, weekends and during rodeo week you will see all phases of Masonry working together. In addition you will see Rescue Squads, Fire Fighters, County Commissioners, the Sheriff's Department, Farm Bureau Ladies, Eastern Star Members (headed by Mrs. Hellen Hooper) and Community Club Members at work. You come and ask what can I do, you will be put to work—doing something.

The Farm Bureau Ladies headed up by Mrs. Louise Westbrook, Chairman, along with Jane Hooper, has sponsored, since the beginning, what they call a "Sweet Tooth Booth." They get all their cakes, cookies, brownies, peanuts, popcorn, etc. donated. Mrs. Westbrook was in charge of the "Sweet Booth" for many years. The "Sweet Booth" have added Cotton Candy to their list of "goodies."

The best information we have is the Shady Dale Community Club started in 1995 and what is known as The Shady Dale Round-Up. They rent ground spaces for vendors on private property in the city of Shady Dale, starts at 8:00 A. M. until 3:00 P. M. or until after the parade.

Bro. Gary Miller, Past Potentate of Al Sihah Shrine Temple, started a Shrine's Parade in 1992 as an added feature of the rodeo on Saturday afternoon (3:00 P.M.). This parade grew every year to be the largest in the area. As a matter of fact it got so large in the year 2000 we had to cut back tremendously because of complaints of blocking the State Highways for over an hour. After the parade, all participants were invited to the Lodge for Bar-B-Que dinner or fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings.

All of this is great but the rewarding part is what has been done financially. As I stated earlier all phases of Masonry is involved and each year we have made large donation to all appendant bodies such as: First, the "Heart of Georgia Masonry" our Georgia Masonic Children's Home, Scottish Rite Hospital and Rite Care, Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Molly Mosely Eye Foundation, Shrine One Million Dollar Hospital Foundation, and Eastern Star. In 1992, we added \$500.00 scholarships for students entering college. To date we have awarded approximately 460 scholarships. In addition to Masonic charities we have donated to flood victims, purchased smoke detectors for every house in Shady Dale that did not have one, purchased and help install a new flag pole at Jasper County's new Sheriff's Department, sponsor children to Washington, D. C., donated to the Leukemia Society, sponsored Little League Ball teams, purchased shells for youth Gun Club, sponsored a BB team, Mentors Program, and many others, also each Lodge keeps a small percentage of money to use for local needs as they may arise. Presentations are made each year at a dinner in September.

In the past we have used approximately 10% of funds for capital Improvements. About 1988, Mr. Troy Hooper said each Lodge needs to put back certain amount of money in CDs to be used to help if the rodeo ever had a rainout. Without verification our records show starting 1988 thru 1993 skipping 1990 a total around \$16,000.00 to \$20,000.00 in CDs.

It has been our policy from the beginning to provide a rodeo program for the spectators or others who would like to purchase them. Members from both Lodges sell ads, chute signs and sponsorships, the proceeds help to under write the rodeo. Star Printing Co. in Forsyth printed the program the first two years, 1984 and 1985. In 1986 and 1987 we changed to Prestwood Printing Co. in Milledgeville. The owner, Walter Prestwood, Jr. changed the name of his company to Heritage Printing Co. in 1998. We still use them today. The first year 1984 we sold the program for \$1.00 and admission was \$8.00. In 2008 the programs were free and admission was \$15.00 and still is today, 2015. After a few years we decided to dedicate the program to a past Mason (deceased) or a present Mason, latter we added any person, male or female, who had contributed or worked hard for the rodeo.

In 2012 much discussion was talked about to incorporate the Shady Dale Rodeo, the pro's and con's to make the rodeo a 501-c-3 tax exempt corporation. Due to the fact we may be eligible for some Foundation monies in order to help with capital improvements, this was done. We also had to keep the Grand Master of Masons in Georgia "in the loop," Most Worshipful Bro. Jerry Moss, as to the progress. The final approval was given by The Internal Revenue Service on May 14, 2012. With financial help we were able to erect a metal building called the Tack Building prior to the 2014



rodeo. Now the Shady Dale Rodeo can sell tack and receive all proceeds. Also the rodeo had some help with capital improvements for 2015 from the same Foundation, such as ice machine, sod, and gravel, etc.



We realize that what we have accomplished could not be possible without the help of businesses, individuals and other Lodges and the Good Lord. Through all the years we have always strived to put on a clean family-oriented show and always try to provide the best show for the spectators, the most convenient and comfortable facilities for the cowboys and the convenience for the spectators.

Going back to the very first three years of the Shady Dale Rodeo, just to show how businesses come to our aid, the rodeo bought their hamburgers and hotdogs through the Dairy Queen, from the Dairy Queen to Harrisons Processing Plant in Milledgeville for hamburgers, Sysco Foods, U. S. Foods, then Neal Prewitt and Jeff Anderson buy food and supplies from different businesses.

Our Motto and thinking is the saying: "A man never stands as tall as when he stoops to help a child." Our goal has and always will be to make Freemasonry visible and proud in our community and State. One of the most gratifying statements written by from someone outside the county to the letter to the Editor of the *Monticello News* was and I quote "You build it RIGHT and they will come". The article stated that from the time he entered the ticket line until the Announcer said, "Goodnight Ladies and Gentlemen", every phase of this family oriented performance was done professionally.

(SHADY DALE ....NEED ONE SAY MORE?)

Writer's Note:

1992 marked my first visit to the Shady Dale Rodeo. It was the first professional Rodeo I had attended in adulthood and, although I had gone to a couple of rodeos as a child,

they were but vague memories. I left on Saturday night thinking all rodeos I was destined to attend in the future would be like Shady Dale. I was mistaken. There is something unique on Hwy. 83 that exists in very few places. Kenny Wright calls it chemistry. I have a tendency to call it love and pride and devotion and a hundred other very positive words. I've been fortunate to spend a great number of hours talking to Kenny, Merrill Clark, Hugh Lewis and Cliff Casaday about the Shady Dale Rodeo and its history. I have some three hours of taped conversations and over twenty pages of notes that I've collected in the past two years. What I have written here in no way captures the heart of the Shady Dale story, for space is limited and words to give it meaning do not come easy.

However, I find it somewhat ironic that a vision which has brought forth the pinnacle of ACA rodeo was first conceived in a basement. It might do us all good to go downstairs for a little while, consider a vision and dream a few big dreams. The world would probably be a much better place.

In closing I hope you found Bro. Merrill's story on the idea, ambition, hard work, and determination as intriguing as I have. This is, true Masonic work with the fundamental Masonic purposes in mind.

As I travel through this great state of ours visiting Brethren and lodges I often ask the question, "Are you going to the Rodeo this year?" The answer I hear most often is, "I've been meaning to do that." If you haven't made the trip to the Sleepy Little Town of Shady Dale that comes alive with excitement on the first weekend in June, load the family and friends up and come see the 5th largest outdoor rodeo in the country. A rodeo that is put on by your brother Masons.

Wor. Bro. Michael H. Wilson  
Senior Grand Deacon  
Grand Lodge of Georgia

Total Amount of Rodeo Proceeds 1984 -2015

|      |             |         |                |
|------|-------------|---------|----------------|
| 1984 | \$ 9,463.73 | 2001    | 49,068.33      |
| 1985 | 10,412.47   | 2002    | 49,885.12      |
| 1986 | 9,051.65    | 2003    | 26,266.83      |
| 1987 | 8,695.13    | 2004    | 52,355.26      |
| 1988 | 14,492.22   | 2005    | 42,672.06      |
| 1989 | 17,113.43   | 2006    | 46,201.97      |
| 1990 | 19,968.73   | 2007    | 32,024.32      |
| 1991 | 20,414.94   | 2008    | 46,663.28      |
| 1992 | 28,862.40   | 2009    | 34,682.00      |
| 1993 | 34,393.83   | 2010    | 20,846.58      |
| 1994 | 32,219.61   | 2011    | 20,980.80      |
| 1995 | 43,529.24   | 2012    | 32,423.78      |
| 1996 | 26,887.47   | 2013    | 31,429.12      |
| 1997 | 34,492.45   | 2014    | 30,447.52      |
| 1998 | 41,644.59   | 2015    | 40,346.17      |
| 1999 | 43,488.48   | Total-- | \$1,009,784.31 |
| 2000 | 58,360.80   |         |                |

# Required Federal and Georgia Tax Returns

Dear Brother Secretaries,

Each lodge individually is required to file at least one annual return with the **Internal Revenue Service** each and every year since 2007.

If your lodge had less than \$50,000 in Gross receipts for 2015 it is required to file a **990-N on-line**.

If your lodge has more than \$50,000 in Gross receipts you are required to file either a **990-EZ or a 990**, you should consult a Certified Public Accountant for this.

The 990 series is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after your year end, May 15th for calendar year ends.

A copy of Forms 990 should be mailed to **Georgia Department of Revenue**, P.O. Box 740395, Atlanta GA 30374-0395, if you file the 990-N then File a copy of the receipt received from the IRS for the e-Postcard along with a brief statement as to why there is no paper return should be mailed to Georgia.

If your lodge pays you or any individual **more than \$600 per year** for services then you are required to file a form 1099 for each such individual and a 1096 transmittal to summaries all the 1099s.

If your lodge has set up payroll then W-2s, W3 and 940 annual and quarterly 941 are required.

The costs for late filing can be quite severe, please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

The appropriate code section in the Masonic code is 7-113.

7-113. Form 990 to Grand Lodge by June 30.—Each Subordinate Lodge, by and through its Worshipful Master, shall send a copy of any and all required Federal Tax Returns (including, without limitation, Forms 990, 990-N, 1099s, W-3s, etc.) **to the Office of the Grand Secretary within ten (10) days** of the time that the same is required to be filed for each year hereafter.

Also required is **Sales Tax** for the state of Georgia for Special events, such as Dunk Tank fundraisers at Fairs or Circuses, BBQ fundraisers, etc. see form. If the price includes the sales tax then show taxable sales as the sales price divided by 1 plus point your sales tax rate, i.e. \$5 sales price in Fulton County 7% sales tax ( $5.00 / 1.07 = 4.67$ ; Sales of \$4.67 times .07 sales tax rate give .33 sales tax and 5.00 collected) These sales taxes are due to be mailed **within 3 days of the event**.

Thank you for your attention.  
Respectfully and Fraternaly,  
Lloyd R Bowen, PM Palestine Lodge No. 486  
Chairman Tax Committee  
Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM

Lloyd R Bowen, CPA  
Bowen, McElrath & Company, LLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
11285 Elkins Rd Ste F-1A  
Roswell, GA 30076-5837  
(770)-664-3634 Office (770)-664-3650 Fax

## Golden Fleece Holds First Skeet Shoot

On Saturday, August 8th, Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6 of Covington held its first Annual Skeet Shoot. Worshipful Master Joe Waters pronounced it was a Great Success!

The photo below is of Individual Public Shooters and Winners! Wor. Bro. Steve Nelson (Not Pictured) of Wellington Lodge No. 467 and his Lodge Team Won the Masonic Skeet Shoot Traveling Trophy and will have to defend next year.



## Golden Fleece Lodge Honors Covington Police Officers

On August 11th, Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6 honored two City of Covington Policemen chosen for Over and Above service in the Line of Duty! Lt. Mike Tinsley and Officer Patrick Womack received the honors.





## Morrow Lodge Presents Scholarship

Morrow Lodge No. 734 presented the 23rd annual William M. McGarrah Memorial Scholarship after dinner to University of Georgia-bound Natalie Bowles. She will receive \$400 per semester for eight semesters or a total of \$3,200 to assist her in her university education. She plans to major in journalism.

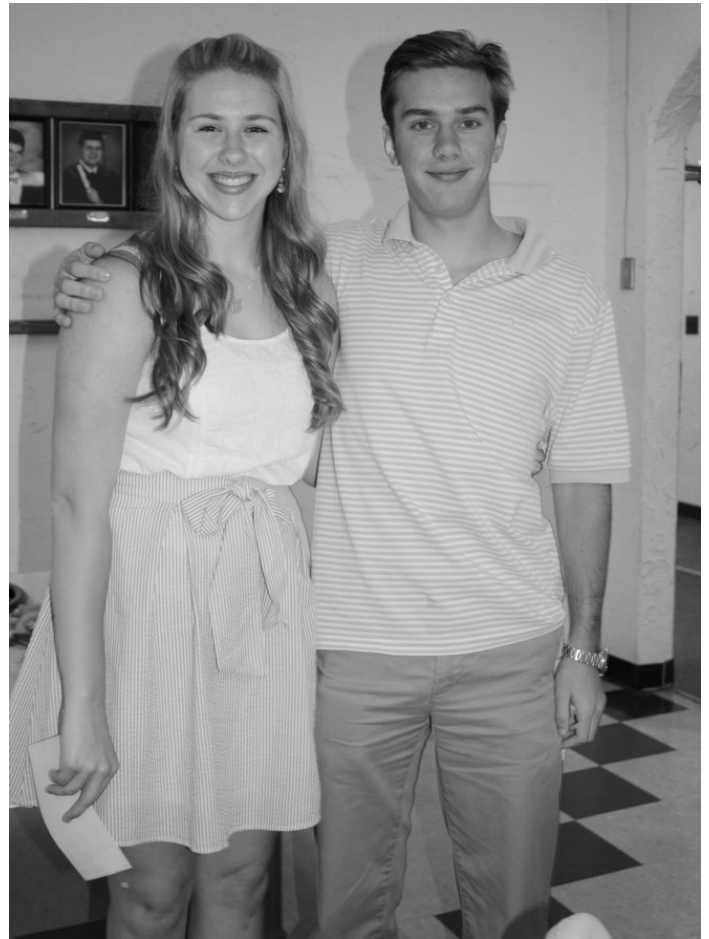
Her brother, Zachery Daniel Bowles, also a student at the University of Georgia, received the scholarship last year.

The lodge received letters from several past recipients of the scholarships, including one student, Ashley Laughlin, who received the scholarship in 2002 and has since graduated from the Colorado State University and is now in Thailand studying the Thai language.

The lodge also presented Dr. Ed Judy, pastor of the Morrow First United Methodist Church, a plaque for his work with the lodge over the past eight years. Dr. Judy is being transferred by his district to another parish.

---

**Eugene Smith Masonic Lodge No. 294** would like to thank The Leathermen Motorcyclists for hosting a Charity Benefit Ride for the Lodge. The ride raised \$1800 that will be used for the Eugene Smith Masonic Lodge scholarships for local high school students, supporting the Masonic Children's Home of Georgia, and various other charitable activities of the lodge. The lodge would also like to thank all who participated in and contributed to the ride.



Natalie and Zachery Bowles

## Ninth District Masons Paint Boys' Dorm at Masonic Home

This past weekend, six brothers from the Ninth Masonic District traveled to Macon to repaint one wing of the boys' dormitory at the Childrens' Home.

Pictured are Bros. Steve Carson (Grayson Lodge No. 549), Bill Lord (Grayson Lodge No. 549), Kevin Weinz (Snellville Lodge No. 99) and Bob Gittings (Sweetwater Lodge No. 421) Not pictured and still working Larry Rice (Snellville Lodge No. 99) and JR Mattiucci (Snellville Lodge No. 99 & Buford Lodge No. 292).

Special thanks also go out to Arron Wood, a resident of the home, for his assistance throughout the day. Arron is getting ready to start his first semester of college. All of us wish Arron continued success with his education.

To the rest of the Masons in Georgia, there is paint left. Does your District want to tackle some more rooms?



*50 Year Awards*



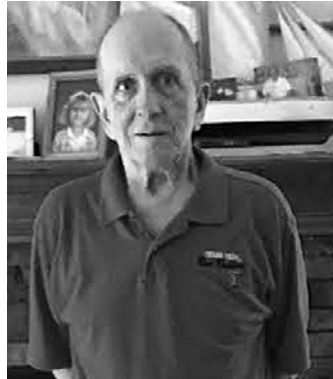
Jack Knight  
Kennesaw No. 33



James Raleigh Mock with his wife, Worshipful Master and Right Worshipful Joe Watson at Lyons No. 49.



Donald Peace  
Cartersville No. 63



Joseph Curry  
Jonesboro No. 87



John David Kitchens, Bro. Alonzo Roberson "Buster" Minor, and Worshipful Master Clay Hodges. — Stonewall No. 98

DDGM Douglas Bridges (who made the presentations of behalf of the Grand Lodge), Bro. Lucian Andrew Weeks, Bro.



Kenneth Ray Hughes (center) with Dexter Harrison, DDGM, and PGM Jerry Moss - Snellville No. 99



Fred Hilburn Crouch  
Oostanaula No. 113



Jimmy Morris  
Cartersville No. 63



Aubrey Waites Harvey  
Ancient York No. 127



Gary Conrad Wright  
Ancient York No. 127

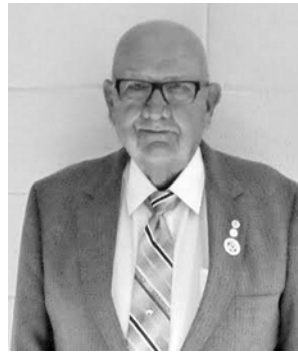


J. W. Ralston  
Oothcaloga No. 154





John Mashburn with PGM Ted Collins and WM Glenn Byres - Millwood No. 198



James Alton Howell  
Frank C. Folks No. 192



Robert Bearden  
Tunnel Hill No. 202



Robert Lee Hyatt  
Tunnel Hill No. 202



Bobby Gene Hampton  
A. J. Miller No. 204



William Cecil Mabry  
A. J. Miller No. 204



Thomas Lovett Mobley  
A. J. Miller No. 204



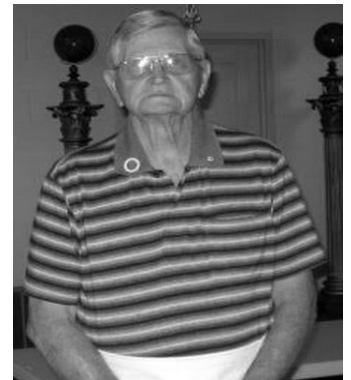
William Bryant Swan  
A. J. Miller No. 204



James A. Talkington  
A. J. Miller No. 204



Benjamin Franklin Johnson  
Lavonia Lodge #241



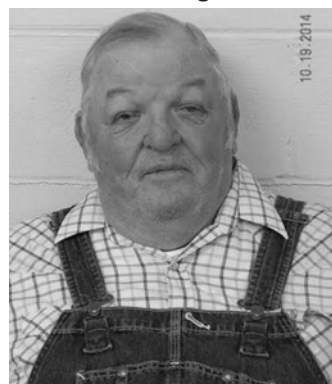
Marvin Ellis Banks, Sr.  
Davidson No. 334



Sims Moody Elliott, Sr.  
Davidson No. 334



Charlie Sims Copeland  
Forest Park No. 399



William Walter Wiggins  
Centralhatchee No. 403



Stevie Lee Meeks  
Harmony No. 405



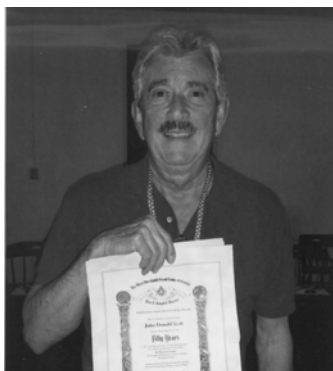
Walker Ray Smith  
Richmond No. 412



William P. Davis  
Sylvan No. 429



L to R - Calvin Hartford Shields, Jack Ray Shields, 50-year recipient James Hartford Shields of Dallas, NC, & Johnie M. Garmon, Grand Jr. Deacon — Sweet Gum No. 542

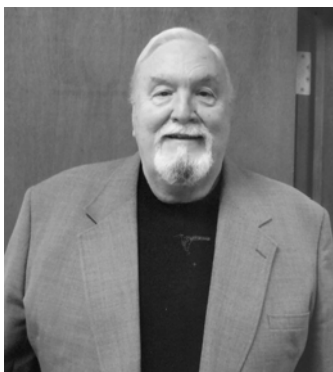


Jack Donald Scott  
Newington No. 503



Curtis Darral Keene  
George Walton No. 699

Bro. Keene & his wife drove 650 miles from Ponchatoula, LA to receive his award. Bro. Keene said, "This is the reason why I stayed a Member of George Walton Lodge. The Love and Brotherhood brought me to this Lodge 50 years ago and that Brotherhood is here today." Wor. Bro. Wayne Collins, Chairman/DDGM-10B, did an awesome job making everyone feel at HOME, in addition to bringing back memories from Bro. Keene's EA degree and what it meant to receive his first lamb skin apron. I don't believe anyone can represent Grand Master Douglas W. McDonald as well as Wor. Bro. Collins does.



David Gartell Lemacks  
Riverdale No. 709



Melvin E. Horton  
Hoboken No. 740

### 55 Years



Charles Howard Keheley  
Young Cane No. 597



Worth J. Mason  
Young Cane No. 597

### 65 Years



James Walter Harris  
Union No. 28

### 65 and 69 Years



Brothers Watson Spradley, a Mason for 69 years, and Ossie T. Spradley, a Mason for 65 years, with PGM Ted C. Collins - Millwood No. 198



## 60 Years



Jesse Hilderbrand, Jr.  
Kennesaw No. 33



Jack Knight  
Kennesaw No. 33



Roy Maxwell  
Kennesaw No. 33



Franklin Moates  
Kennesaw No. 33



Billy Joe Smith  
Kennesaw No. 33



Melvin Donald McEntire  
Shannon No. 100



Neil S. Schwartz  
received his 60-year  
apron from  
Wor. Bro. David Kilgore, DDGM  
Mableton No. 171



Rooney Bowen with PGM  
Ted Collins and WM Glenn  
Byres - Millwood No. 198



Causey L. Brown with PGM  
Ted Collins and WM Glenn  
Byres - Millwood No. 198



Tom Frank Petrsek  
Davidson No. 334



Robert Earl Robertson with  
his son (left) and grandson  
Red Hill No. 533



Mark Ray Lutrell  
Metro Daylight No. 743

## 70 Years



Henry Luther Hasty  
Seminole No. 83

On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Seminole Lodge No. 83 had the honor of presenting Bro. Henry Luther Hasty his certificate and apron in recognition of his 70 years as a Master Mason and his faithful service to the Masonic Fraternity. A luncheon honoring Bro. Luther, his family, & the Masonic Widows was held at the Lodge hall Saturday, August 15. A large crowd attended. Well done Bro. Luther. Thank you for your years of exemplary service!

## 99-year-old is friendly face at St. John Towers

Frank Holt has lived through two world wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War and the terms of 17 U.S. presidents. Frank is Past Master (1996) of Fleming Lodge No. 718 F&AM in Augusta.



Wor. Bro. Holt, 99, talks with St. John Towers' marketing manager, Tony Wood, at the reception desk on Tuesday. Holt volunteers at the desk every weekday from 5 to 7 p.m. and has been doing so for four years.

At age 99, he shows no signs of slowing down. For the past four years, he's been the smiling face behind the reception desk at the St. John Towers senior living complex from 5 to 7 p.m. on weeknights, greeting visitors and answering phones.

"I like meeting people," said Holt, who has lived in the Augusta area since 1961.

He spent nearly the first half of his life in New York and New Jersey.

"My mother loved New York City. We lived right over the river, and she could get there by ferry boat," he said.

Bro. Holt learned the danger of New York's streets at age 12 when he was hit by a Western Union telegram messenger on bicycle while playing on 116th Street. He suffered a compound fracture in one leg.

Some of his fondest memories of the Big Apple are baseball-related. "At that time, the Giants and the Dodgers were there, too. I went to their games – the Giants at the Polo Grounds and the Dodgers at Ebbets Field," said Holt, whose favorite New York team was the Yankees.

In 1942, Holt was attending Pace Institute when he was drafted into World War II.

"I was drafted into the Medical Corps with the 65th General Hospital in England with the 8th Air Force," he said. Holt wasn't a medic but served in a support capacity. One of his jobs was pitching large field hospital tents.

"I was stationed in Diss, England, and we were handling up to 500 patients a day. It was enlarged to handle another 250," he said.

He also was in charge of a group of German prisoners of war who helped set up the tents.

Even though he wasn't in combat, Holt had a few frightening experiences while serving in England.

"We had interleague hospital teams, and we were watching a ball game when a group of German planes went over on their way to London to bomb it, and I was in London twice during bombing raids," Holt said.

After being discharged from the Army in December 1945, he returned to New York, where he got an accounting job with Bradley and Baker, which was purchased in the early 1960s by Columbia Nitrogen, bringing him to Augusta.

He retired in 1983 and lived in south Augusta for many years before his move to St. John Towers.

He's a popular resident at St. John and could have been its king, according to Tony Wood, the retirement community's marketing director.

"He refused to be king," said Wood. "We have that title at Valentine's Day. He was voted Valentine King."

Holt keeps busy at St. John. He was the bingo caller for a while, but he now serves as backup when the regular caller can't make it. He likes to read and averages about three books a week. He doesn't have a favorite genre, but he likes fiction.

He still drives his 2008 Charger and takes regular trips to S&S Cafeteria. He was walking about two to three miles a day until he fell a few months ago.

"Concrete isn't soft," he said. He's backed off walking the downtown streets – especially in the 100-degree heat. Wood said Holt is a great asset to St. John.

"He's a nice guy, and he comes to work early. He's never late." — Submitted by Billy G. Childress, PM, Secretary, Fleming Lodge No. 718.

## September Serenade: Children's Masonic Home of Georgia Benefit Concert

Gwinnett Daylight Lodge No. 744 and Snellville Lodge No. 99 will host an afternoon of familiar songs from yesteryear and beautiful light classics for a fun concert in support of the Children's Masonic Home in Macon on September 12 at 4:30 p.m. at the Snellville Lodge.

Featured artist will be Adam Crane, a viola soloist. Mr. Crane attended Mannes College of Music in New York City and has enjoyed a versatile musical career. Adam's conservatory training prepared him well as a concert artist, con-

ductor, orchestra principal, chamber musician, college lecturer, professional coach and educator.

There is no charge for the concert. September Serenade is Adam's artistic gift in support of the Children's Masonic Home.

Come, enjoy his gift and make your donations to benefit the Masonic Home.



## — From the Masonic Home

Brethren,

How this summer has flown by! Our children have had a great summer! We finished up with our camp session on July 12th. Many Lodges attended trips and visited the children during this year's camp sessions.

I hope everyone has the date of September 5th on their calendar to attend our Masonic Family Day at the home from 11:00am -2:00pm. Our children will be giving tours and lunch will be served at 12:00pm. The Grandmaster has also planned a car show during this time. If you would like to bring your car and participate in this event please make contact with Bro. Bill Pilon at (912) 876-8820.

I would like to thank a number of special people. John W. Akin Lodge No. 537, for providing the home with a brand new covered trailer donated in memory of Mrs. Thelma Langley. Thanks to the First Lady Mrs. Carol McDonald, Mrs. Jane Wilson and Mrs. Nancy Simmons for all their work on the First Lady Project to refurbish the lobby. And also thank you to Mr. Derrick Fowler for finishing all the lighting for this project.

We have also replaced the ceiling tile in the dining room and installed new lighting. The lighting was donated by Mrs. Samar Salmon whose husband was a past member of Sandy Springs Lodge No. 124.

If it were not for so many brothers and sisters out there we would not be able to provide all the wonderful things for our children. So please remember you are so very special in our hearts and we also look forward to seeing you during your next visit to the home.

Fraternally submitted,  
John J. Snipes, Superintendent

## John W. Akin Masonic Lodge No. 537 Donates Trailer to Masonic Home



John W. Akin Lodge No. 537 donated this trailer to the Masonic Home in loving memory of Mrs. Thelma Langley. The Masonic Home will use the trailer for luggage and supplies when the children and youth trailer to the camp and to other sites.



Bro. Mike Burns and a number of Brothers from Snellville Lodge No. 99 spent several hours recently taking the kids from the Masonic Home on airplane rides.

After the flights, the kids were treated to pizza. The kids agreed it was an exciting day and they all had a wonderful time.

## The 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the 4<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Convention Held in Roopville

Goshen Lodge No. 71 hosted the 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the 4<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Convention in Roopville.

Wor. Master Jason Hester and the officers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Convention opened lodge at 9:45. The Brethren were welcomed by Wor. Bro. Ken Knight, Worshipful Master of Goshen Lodge.

Most Worshipful Brother Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. was found in waiting and was welcomed with Private Grand Honors. Past Grand Master Bobby B. Simmons was also given Private Grand Honors. Grand Master McDonald introduced his officers as well as other Grand Lodge officers present. Other distinguished guests and District Past Masters were introduced by Wor. Bro. Bob Rouland.



Wor. Bro. Len Davis, District Secretary, called the roll of lodges and announced that a quorum had been established. There are 35 lodges with 1,750 members in the 4<sup>th</sup> District, a net loss of 27 members in the past year.

Chaplain Cecil Davis and Secretary Len Davis led the brethren in the Memorial Service for brothers who had laid down their working tools during the previous twelve months.

Committee reports were submitted. No trials were held in the district during the past year. District Custodian Mike Hilley reported that three schools were held during the year and that he had issued 79 white cards, 69 blue cards, 14 green cards and 10 oranges. The Board of Relief met six times during the year.

During the past year, districts lodges held GaChip events and ID'd 1,116 kids.

\$213.41 was collected from the brethren at the Convention. In addition, Rose Hill Lodge No. 484 presented the Grand Master a check for \$415.54 while Ft. Benning Lodge No. 579 presented a check for \$1000 for the Grand Master.

Wor. Bro. Rob Grant gave a great youth committee report. The Columbus Chapter, Order of DeMolay, received the Travel Gavel for bringing the highest percentage of its current membership on roll to a Georgia DeMolay function.

Bro. Garrett Brown received the Grand Lodge Eagle Scout Award this year.

Columbus Assembly No. 15, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, received five ritualistic completion awards in 1015, as well as 18 Grand Assembly awards. Miss Erin Moore was elected Grand Worthy Advisor; her special project was Samaritan's Purpose. Five Rainbows were elected Grand Representatives and eleven Rainbows were named to Supreme Competition Team; Miss Anna Hardy was named to serve on the State Executive Committee. Miss Mckenzie Knight was elected Worthy Advisor; her theme was "Don't Stop 'till We Reach the Stars. Columbus Assembly No. 15 meets twice per month at the Columbus Masonic Temple.

Grand Master McDonald installed the officers for the ensuing year. Wor. Bro. Danny Dawson, a member of West Georgia Daylight Lodge No. 760, was elected District Master for the ensuing year. He announced the 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention would be held at Ft. Benning Lodge No. 579 on August 20.

After the convention was closed by Most Worshipful Brother McDonald, the brethren enjoyed a fine meal served in the dining hall.



District Master Danny Dawson takes his obligation for the ensuing year.



Most Worshipful Douglas McDonald presents the Past Master's Jewel to out-going District Master Jason Hester.



## Report from the IT Committee

The December 2014 edition of the *Masonic Messenger* reported that a budget allocation was approved at the October Grand Lodge session to assist our newly appointed IT Committee, and that this committee would start the process of bringing the Grand Lodge office into the digital age. I am pleased to report that a committee composed of IT professionals in our Masonic community was organized and the process has begun. This will mark the first comprehensive modernization of our office processes in at least a quarter century. Some of the software now used in the Grand Lodge office will reach the end of its supported lifecycle this year, so we have reached a point where in order to continue to meet the needs of our members we must of necessity evolve.

After interviews with the Grand Lodge staff and after conducting an inventory of the Grand Lodge records, a plan is being developed to move forward. The initial findings suggested that we needed to act quickly to preserve many of the historical records that are rapidly deteriorating. This includes roughly 1.2 million pages of information recorded on aging media. Once gone, that part of our history could be gone forever if not properly preserved.

Consequently, the first shipment of records in most urgent need of preservation departed the Grand Lodge office in late July for processing. Fortunately, the cost to convert this information has been very reasonable and is covered by the budget already authorized for 2015.

Early in the next Grand Lodge year, the process will continue with conversion of approximately one million paper documents containing membership information as well as other Grand Lodge correspondence. Water, fire, insects, accidents, and other causes can easily damage historic paper documents. Digitizing them will make them easier to find, more accessible, and ensure their survival for future generations. Keeping those digital copies in multiple places will ensure that no disaster can easily eliminate our Masonic history.

Concurrently with this, we will begin the development of a modern member information system. The new system will reside in the internet cloud and information will be replicated to secure, audited, redundant data centers, ensuring that our Grand Lodge can continue to operate using proven methods for disaster recovery and business continuity.

The system being planned proposes to automate many of the administrative tasks associated with handling paper files by providing tools for database management, document management, and workflow automation so that we can accelerate and improve our business processes. Eventually, the system will be opened to the lodges allowing them to maintain member information, submit required reports, receive email notifications of important upcoming events such as 50-year awards, review membership reports, and other functionality that now must be handled by phone or mail. For example, lodges will be able to use simple, intuitive guides to generate the forms required to initiate routine tasks with the Grand Lodge such as transfers and demits. Recognizing the absolute and urgent necessity to preserve our history, to improve business processes, and to prepare the Fraternity for the future, we are planning for ongoing costs in support of this project. The Finance Committee will budget additional allocations required to purchase software, conversion services, implementation services, and to cover the recurring costs of hosting and maintaining this new system. Funding is currently available and no per capita increase related to this project is anticipated at this time.

These improvements to the administrative needs of our organization will lessen distractions from our mission to make good men better, one man at a time. This will allow us to turn our attention to the practical application of Free Masonry—a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols.

Wor. Bro. Tom Bruce  
Chairman, IT Committee

# FIRST ANNUAL GRAND MASTER'S CAR SHOW



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 — 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (FAMILY DAY)**

**THE MASONIC HOME OF GEORGIA**



**TROPHIES TO BE AWARDED**

**ADMISSION: FREE**

**ENTRY FEE: DONATION**



**\*\* All Proceeds Benefit the Masonic Home of Georgia  
Endowment Fund**

For Info, Contact:  
Wor. Bro. John Snipes, Superintendent  
Masonic Home of Georgia  
(478)743-5154  
[johnsnipes@masonichomeofgeorgia.com](mailto:johnsnipes@masonichomeofgeorgia.com)





## Veterans Corner

Rick Conn, Chairman Grand Lodge Veterans Committee

Brother Veterans, have you heard of the Veterans Choice Program? The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), goes a long way toward enabling VA to meet the demand for Veterans health care in the short-term. VA has put considerable focus and attention on ensuring the law is implemented seamlessly, without confusion, and without creating hardships for Veterans. This legislation provides authorities, funding and other tools to better serve Veterans in the short-term. We are appreciative of this temporary measure to improve access while we build capacity within the VA system to better serve those who rely on us for health care. Many Veterans will now have the option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. On November 5, 2014, the new Choice Program began to cover non-VA care for eligible Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. The number of appointments made and authorized under the Veterans Choice program has more than doubled in the past two months, according to Veterans Affairs Department officials. As of 26 June, VA had granted 115,645 authorizations for appointments and 84,385 appointments have been made under the Veterans Choice program, up from 48,583 authorizations and 40,546 appointments in April. A VA official said the increase can be attributed to a change in the program's eligibility requirements. VA expanded eligibility in late April by changing the 40-mile requirement from a straight distance measure to actual driving distance from a VA medical facility.

The Veterans Choice program was launched to improve health care access to veterans who live in remote areas or have waited more than 30 days for an appointment. Veterans and advocacy groups have pushed for broader expansion of the program, seeking legislation that would allow veterans who live less than 40 miles to a facility to use the program if the medical services they need are not available at their closest VA clinic or medical center. The Senate passed legislation that would allow the change; the House has not yet considered a similar measure.

VA budget officials have asked for flexibility to use some of the \$10 billion marked for the Veterans Choice program for other funding needs, including the Care in the Community medical outsourcing program and hepatitis C medications. VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson told lawmakers that the department faces shutting down hospital operations if it does not get the OK to use VA Choice funds or receive more money. VA officials and lawmakers say they are confident they can reach an agreement on covering a \$3 billion shortfall before the end of July. I have not heard anything yet on the findings but it is only the 1st of August. I hope that the news will be coming in shortly.

If you need any information on this program you can go

to the following website for information and help: <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>

As with all Government programs there are problems. I worked with a Brother the other day who they are giving the run-a-round. Nobody wants to take responsibility. Typical Government worker. If you experience problems you need to contact a VSO. (Veterans Service Officer) who works for the various Veterans Service organizations. Some are: VFW, DAV, PVA, American Legion, Purple Heart Veterans, Military Order of the Cootie, Amvets, Jewish War Veterans, to name a few. These are private organizations that work for the Veterans, they are not Government organizations. Their job is to assist veterans at NO CHARGE to file their claims, and then represent them before the BVA (Board of Veterans Appeals). This is the board that approves or denies your claim. Find a local VSO in your area and call and make an appointment to speak with them about your claim and what avenue you need to go. They are a big help to the veterans in getting their claims approved.

In other news, the Representatives of The American Legion and Disabled American Veterans have warned lawmakers to reject calls to impose an age ceiling or other new cost control on VA compensation payments to veterans whose service-connected disabilities leave them unemployable. An age ceiling is perhaps the most tempting cost control option discussed in a new Government Accountability Office report that examines weaknesses and 22 inefficiencies in the way the Department of Veterans Affairs administers Individual unemployability benefits for 318,000 recipients. Keep your eyes open for this in the coming months as this administration finds new ways to cut Veterans programs leaving our country's Heroes hanging.

On the local front here in Georgia, a supervisor at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta has been named in a 50-count indictment alleging he ordered staff to falsify medical records of veterans in need of outside care. Cathedral Henderson, 50, of Martinez, made his first court appearance in U.S. District Court on 17 July and was released on a \$15,000 secured bond. According to his indictment, Henderson from 2012 to 2014 was supervisor of the revenue department and chief of fee basis (now called Non-VA Care Coordination), which helped coordinate medical care to eligible veterans. The indictment, sealed at the U.S. attorney's request until Henderson made his first court appearance, was returned 8 July by a federal grand jury. It accuses Henderson of 50 counts of making false statements. The crime is punishable by a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. You can read about this in the *Augusta Chronicle* from 17 July 2015.

Till next issue, May God Bless each and every one and may God Bless America and her Red, White and Blue.

# In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased  
from June 1, 2015  
to August 10, 2015

| Name                            | Lodge No. | Name                          | Lodge No. |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| BROUSSARD, MORRIS LANI          | 1SOL      | NOZAWA, EDDIE TOMOMI          | 124       |
| LOYD, HARVEY LEE                | 1SOL      | COCHRAN, HAROLD RICHARD       | 127       |
| ROACH, JACK ALTON               | 1SOL      | GABLE, LESTER DAN             | 139       |
| WILLOUGHBY, JOHN DANIEL         | 1SOL      | GRIFFITH, JAMES ALFORD        | 139       |
| CAREY, ROBERT (NMN)             | 1SOC      | TANT, TRAVIS CARL             | 139       |
| DURDEN, WILLIAM RALPH           | 006       | BAKER, WINFORD MARTIN         | 148       |
| LAWHORN, JOHNNIE JAMES          | 009       | SAILORS, RICHARD DELANO       | 153       |
| MCCORKLE, JOHN THOMAS           | 011       | PARRIS, JERRY ALLEN           | 167       |
| GREENBERG, ROBERT RAY           | 015       | WHITENER, PAUL ALVIN          | 168       |
| COLLINS, GEORGE RALPH           | 018       | VAUGHN, JOE ANDREW            | 171       |
| ALEXANDER, ALAN MCFARLAND JR    | 022       | PAYNE, JAMES TILLMAN JR       | 176       |
| CRAVER, CHARLES LEE JR.         | 024       | BRANCH, CLENNIE [NMN]         | 195       |
| MCDOWELL, JAMES DEWEY III       | 024       | LONG, EDWIN PHILLIP           | 201       |
| ROUSEY, HENRY CLYDE             | 025       | OWENS, KELVIN MONTGOMERY      | 205       |
| DUNCAN, WILLIAM THOMAS          | 033       | TOMLINSON, THOMAS EDWIN       | 213       |
| GORDON, RICHARD MILO            | 033       | WILLIAMS, JOHN DONALD JR      | 213       |
| WHITEHEAD, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN JR | 033       | SABAN, RICHARD SCOTT          | 216       |
| CAMP, WILLIAM EUGENE            | 042       | ALLEN, JAMES MORRISON         | 228       |
| HUDSON, JOHN GORDON JR          | 042       | HUGHES, RUFUS PAUL            | 228       |
| RAPPAPORT, DUSTIN PARKER        | 042       | JOHNSON, FARRIS HAYDEN        | 251       |
| SMITH, WILLIAM PRESTON          | 042       | MORGAN, WILLIAM DEANE         | 251       |
| WHITFIELD, ROBERT ALLISON       | 042       | JACOBS, ALBERT SPENCER        | 255       |
| JORDAN, WILEY PHILLIPS          | 050       | WEBSTER, FRED KEITH           | 256       |
| VINSON, CHARLES DENNIS          | 051       | BAUMBACH, NED WILLIAM SR      | 270       |
| COUCH, MORGAN ROWELL            | 053       | HOGAN, WILLIAM ROBERT JR      | 276       |
| OLSEN, THOMAS GEORGE            | 057       | FINLEY, JAMES CLYDE JR        | 288       |
| LANIER, JAMES SIDNEY            | 065       | HENDRIX, JESSE THURMAN        | 288       |
| DORSEY, CARLTON GLENN           | 070       | ABERCROMBIE, MAC CLAUDE JR    | 289       |
| GREEN, STEPHEN DOUGLAS          | 072       | HOUSE, JOE BAGGETT            | 289       |
| HUEY, JOHN BILLY                | 072       | MARLOW, RUSSELL               | 289       |
| WIMBISH, LARRY DEAN             | 072       | KIMMERLE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN   | 292       |
| SIKES, AUBREY E.                | 073       | FULLERTON, ROBERT SHEFFIELD   | 296       |
| THOMPSON, JOE ANDY              | 074       | MITCHELL, PRESTON LEON        | 299       |
| BOOTH, HENRY VICTOR             | 079       | BRADFORD, RONALD FREDERICK    | 300       |
| FISLER, ROBERT IRWIN            | 081       | VEAL, ROGER DALE              | 300       |
| FERGUSON, EDWIN KENNETH         | 084       | SHARP, FRANKIE EDWARD         | 304       |
| THOMAS, RODDY EDWARD            | 087       | FRAZIER, DANIEL HOWARD        | 312       |
| FOGARTY, ROBERT CAREY           | 088       | WILLIAMS, SAMUEL DONALD       | 319       |
| ALEXANDER, BERNARD HOLT         | 092       | SHEPARD, WILLIAM HUGH         | 322       |
| ANDREWS, JAMES EDWIN            | 092       | WIMBISH, LARRY DEAN           | 322       |
| FREE, JAMES MORRIS              | 092       | LANTHIER, LUDGER WILFRED III  | 333       |
| WOOD, CURTIS FRANKLIN           | 093       | ROBERTSON, EDWARD BRUCE       | 337       |
| EARWOOD, EDWARD RAY             | 097       | HEWETT, WILLIAM WOODROW       | 353       |
| CHAMPION, WILLIAM RALPH         | 110       | SAUNDERS, GRADY FELTON        | 381       |
| POINDEXTER, JAMES THOMAS        | 112       | CANTRELL, JOHN GEORGE         | 382       |
| TERRY, MELTON HUGH              | 120       | MANNING, FLOYD DENNY          | 397       |
| MCCELWEE, WILLIAM THOMAS        | 121       | RIMASFSKI, FRANKLIN DELANO R. | 397       |



| Name                      | Lodge No. |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| BAKER, GORDON FRANKLIN    | 412       |
| PRICE, GREGORY STEVE      | 413       |
| PRICE, SAMUEL ROBERT      | 413       |
| DUTTON, ROBERT THURMAN    | 421       |
| GRIZZLE, KENNETH MELVIN   | 421       |
| HAMMETT, CARLTON GERALD   | 421       |
| MEEKS, RONALD LAMAR       | 421       |
| MOORE, LONNIE EDWARD      | 421       |
| PRINTZ, JOHN MICHAEL      | 421       |
| CROCKER, JAMES CURTIS     | 444       |
| WALKER, WOODROW WILSON    | 454       |
| MOORE, KENNETH MELVIN     | 455       |
| TERRY, DARWIN HAMPTON     | 455       |
| GORDON, WIRT HARRINGTON   | 466       |
| NORTON, LESTER EUGENE JR  | 466       |
| ARNSDORFF, ALAN LEE       | 469       |
| BARLOW, NEEDHAM ARNOLD JR | 476       |
| ADAMS, LARRY RAY          | 483       |
| RAPER, LONNIE G.          | 483       |
| BAILEY, CECIL OLIVER      | 484       |
| KNOX, ROBERT LAMAR SR     | 484       |
| MILLER, LUTHER ODELL      | 484       |
| ROBINSON, PAUL EDWARD JR  | 512       |
| WATSON, JERRY HERMAN      | 523       |
| BALDWIN, EDWIN HALL       | 536       |
| GRESHAM, MARSHALL CLYDE   | 549       |

**ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS**

June 1, 2015 to August 10, 2015

**\$500 OR MORE**

Resaca Lodge No. 7  
 Sandy Springs Lodge No. 124  
 Pickens Star Lodge No. 220  
 John W. Akin Lodge No. 537  
 Walter Fuller  
 John P. Knox, Jr.  
 James Newberne  
 Dennis Strickland

**\$1,000 OR MORE**

Allegheny Lodge No. 114  
 John Vann Davidson  
 Charles Harden  
 Tony R. Johns  
 Joshua Morris  
 Louis Scott, Jr. Will  
 Weston L. Lipscomb Trust  
 Stephen Rosenberg  
 Ruskin Family Trust  
 Arthur M. Sanford Estate  
 Maurice Wheeler

| Name                          | Lodge No. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| WATERS, RICHARD OTIS          | 558       |
| LOTT, DONALD ERNEST           | 572       |
| GATLIN, LORANZY DYCE JR       | 579       |
| NORRIS, JOHN GRANVILLE        | 579       |
| JUSTICE, BARNEY IVERSON       | 603       |
| LAUDICINA, RALPH JOSEPH       | 603       |
| BUTLER, JERRY DONALD          | 622       |
| WHITE, BILLY MCCLUNG          | 639       |
| COTSAKIS, GEORGE JAMES        | 640       |
| JOHNS, DANIEL CHARLES         | 640       |
| MCCANN, TOBY TOM              | 664       |
| CRAIG, WILLIAM STANLEY        | 674       |
| KEZER, DAVID KENNETH          | 710       |
| PORTER, KENNETH LARENCE       | 711       |
| AVANT, CHARLES WILBUR         | 720       |
| BRITT, CECIL ALEXANDER        | 720       |
| WINGERS, HENRY WALTER         | 720       |
| JONES, W. B. (IO)             | 721       |
| STINER, WALTER GLENN          | 721       |
| DAVIS, MATTHEW SCOTT          | 729       |
| SHELBY, JAMES COOPER SR       | 730       |
| WILLARD, BENJAMIN RAY         | 730       |
| COOPER, WILLIAM HOMER         | 734       |
| DAILEY, JOHN WILLIS SR        | 734       |
| HOWARD, KENNETH ALAN          | 742       |
| WOODS, PHILLIP PRESTON        | 748       |
| NORTON, LESTER EUGENE JR      | 764       |
| RIMASFSKI, FRANKLIN DELANO R. | 764       |

**Chipley Lodge Raises Three; Fathers Participate**



Three Master Masons were raised at Chipley Lodge No. 40. To make the raising even better, the fathers of the three new Master Masons participated in the raising of their sons with PGM B. Palmer Mills participating in the conferring of the degrees in his home lodge.

In the picture front row, you have Wor. Bro. Rob Grant; MWB B. Palmer Mills, PGM; Bro. and Sheriff Mike Jolley; and Bro. Ralph West. In the 2nd row you have Bros. Michael Grant; Cody Jolley; and Ellis West.

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)

### Harris County Lodges Provide Scholarships

The Harris County Masonic Scholarship Association (HCMSA) was started in 2003 by four lodges, Hamilton Lodge No. 16, Chipley Lodge No. 40, Gordon Lodge No. 108, and Kimbrough Lodge No. 118, of Harris County for the purpose of recognizing the seniors at Harris County High School with an academic scholarship towards college.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the HCMSA is down to only two lodges participating. Every May the HCMSA hosts a Scholarship dinner where the recipients are recognized for their achievements in school. Since 2003 the HCMSA has given over 52 scholarships which totals over \$26,000. As a teacher at Harris County High School and a Freemason, I am proud of this tradition we started and continue to recognize and honor our young people. — Robert M. Grant

(Right) Wor. Bro. Gary Dawson, Wor. Bro. Rob Grant, MWB B. Palmer Mills, PGM, Noah Adair; Sarah Howard; Laney Pater-son; Mary Vaughn, MWB Douglas W. McDonald, GM; WB Mervin Jackson; and WB Mitch Pilkington.



(Left) Wor. Bro. Rob Grant; Zachary Gallatin; Sydney Hunter; Bro. Jan Giddens, First Grand Steward; Ariauna Washington; Bradley Holloway; and Wor. Bro. Harold Culpeper.