

Masonic Messenger



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

February 2017



*Gov. and Bro. Roy E. Barnes Is Thanked
By The Grand Lodge For His Generous
Donation To The Masonic Children's Home
Cottage Campaign.*

(More Photos on Page 31)



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— Thoughts from the Grand Master

Keep on Churning, Brothers

I want to talk with you a few minutes about churning butter. Churning butter has more to do with Masonry than you might think. We can learn a lesson that will help us as Freemasons about the lesson we learn from churning butter.

I remember churning butter when I was a boy. My family had a plunge churn like the one pictured to the right. This type of churn worked by plunging a paddle up and down in a container, mixing the cream. Home production of butter was common in the U.S. into the 20th century, even with the advent of butter factories in 1856.

Butter is one of the oldest foods, dating back to 6500 BC. Legend says that butter was first discovered when a nomad tied an animal skin of cream to his horse. After a long journey the cream had turned to butter, and presto: butter was invented.

Churning butter takes time, lots of time, but the results are well worth the time and effort. Butter tastes so good and it makes life better.

Being a Mason requires much of the same time and effort as churning butter.

By churning as a Mason, you learn what makes life better. You grow. You change into something much better.

You grow your character, but it is not something you grow overnight.

Myan Spaccarelli is a well-known off road racer, but it took him years to reach his goal. He spent years building multiple successful businesses that had nothing to do with off road racing, for example he was a recycler picking up garbage wherever he could find it. Eventually, he owned 40 trucks picking up garbage. After years working at this, he had the money to do what he wanted to. But money is not all he had. He had the experience and the commitment to succeed. Success is not something we are born with; it is



something we achieve by years of hard work, like churning butter.

He sold his businesses to become an off road racer. Myan's history of racing includes Baja, motocross, shifter kart, stock car, short-course pro buggy and Pro2 Unlimited for the Lucas Oil Off Road Racing Series. Myan has the respect, loyalty, and the passion that all sponsors want in their corner. I counted 20 sponsors on his website. You can't do that if you stop churning.

You have to stay motivated even when you want to quit. Churning is the consistency required to reach a worthwhile dream.

Picking up garbage may be a long way from reaching your dreams. But you keep going. Never forget the "why" behind the churning you are doing. Don't get weary in doing the work of churning. If you keep churning, you can make a difference in your own life and in the lives of your Brothers.

So, let me stop with one more thought, when you are tired and just want to quit. Don't. Keep on churning; it is the only way you will reach your goals, whatever they are.

Goose and Gridiron Banquet

Celebrating 300 years of Masonry since the formation of the first Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster

Alee Shrine Temple Ballroom 100 Eisenberg Drive Savannah, GA

All Masons, their spouses, teenage children and/or guests are welcome

Cost \$50 per person (please make checks out to Donald C. Combs) Only 600 tickets will be available (about 350 left as of now)

July 22, 2017 6:00PM

Social Hour starting at 5:00 PM (beer and wine only — sponsored by Alee Shrine — and none to be brought into the ballroom)

Dinner (Roast Beef, but may accommodate special dietary requests), Presentations, music/entertainment, mementos (a special coin minted for the celebration)

Host Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn Savannah Midtown
5711 Abercorn St. Savannah, GA
Direct Phone:(912) 652-9300

Reserved are 50 rooms for Friday and Saturday Nights with a rate of \$139 plus taxes and fees



Goose and Gridiron Tavern

Mail monies to Donald C. Combs, 1262 Meadow Lane, Darien, GA 31305. Tickets will be delivered upon receipt of payment based on availability, First Come - First Served.

Black Tie or Dark Suit preferred

Speakers:

- Dr. Gary D. Lemmons, PGM, Grand Lodge of Georgia
- Richard "Dick" Fletcher, PGM, Grand Lodge of Vermont. Retired: Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America

Gregory Foster Named Custodian Emeritus



Wor. Bro. Gregory B. Foster, Secretary of East Point Lodge No. 288 and Custodian of the Uniform Work for the Grand Lodge of Georgia in the Fifth District for eighteen years has been named Custodian Emeritus. The Grand Master presented Wor. Bro. Foster with an apron officially naming him Custodian Emeritus at a Family Night at East Point Lodge No. 288 before a large gathering of sixty Masons and twenty family and friends.

Happenings at the Masonic Home



Students at the Masonic Home take a first look at the designs of their new cottages. Construction will begin in early 2017 with the first cottage scheduled for completion later in the year. Each cottage will have separate rooms for eight students and two rooms for house parents. A large common area and computer room are planned in each cottage. The students will be responsible for preparing their own meals.

Contract Signed to Build First Cottage



The Masonic Home Board of Trustees has hired an architect to draft the plans for the cottages. Those plans resulted in bids from selected builders. Service Complete Contractors of Covington, Georgia, has been awarded the contract to construct the first cottage.

Shown in the picture are Dr. Gary Leazer, Grand Masters of Masons in Georgia, and Wor. Bro. John Snipes, Masonic Home Superintendent/CEO signing the contract at the Board meeting January 20, 2017.

Construction is to commence once the necessary permits and site plans have been approved by the Bibb County authorities.



Wor. Bros. Richard Nicholas, Brad Williams (left) and Gary Monk (center) show \$2,000 worth of school supplies donated to the Masonic Home from Roswell Lodge No. 165. Wor. Bro. Nicholas holds in his hand checks for \$600 for the students' education fund and said more checks are on the way. The students thank Roswell Lodge for its donation of these necessary supplies and assistance.

Oak Grove No. 492 Presents Eagle Scout Award



Wor. Bro. Craig Knowlton, Master of Oak Grove No. 492, Scoutmaster Troop 231, recipient of the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouters Award and Col. U. S. Army (ret.), on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, presented Eagle Scouts Jared Lyons and Alex Nassar of Troop 129 with the Albert F. Garner, Jr. Masonic Eagle Scout Award at their Eagle Ceremony on January 21, 2017.

Really Important Dates!

March 3-4 - Shellman Bluff Work Days
April 8 - Masonic Home Work Day
October 7 - Masonic Home Family Day & Car Show
Bring your antique car, pickup or motorcycle.

The Masonic Home Needs YOU!

Benevolent Lodge No. 3 in Milledgeville



Benevolent Lodge No. 3 in Milledgeville has a most interesting history. In 1827 the Benevolent Lodge was No. 9 in the list of Georgia Lodges. In December of 1829 the Grand Lodge constitution was amended and Benevolent Lodge No. 9 became No. 6 on the list until November 17, 1938 when the number was changed to No. 3.

In 1827, there were two Blue Lodges in Milledgeville, Benevolent No. 9 and Fraternal No. 20. In October of 1828, by mutual agreement of both Lodges, they merged into one, Benevolent No. 9.

In November of 1828 it was decided by the Lodge members to undertake the raising of funds to build a Masonic Hall by lottery. At the time the Lodge met in the Darien Bank Building. The State authorized the Lodge to raise, by lottery, the sum of \$25,000 for construction of the Masonic Hall in the town of Milledgeville on December 9, 1828.

This Georgian style building was among the more elegant structures in Antebellum Georgia. It is also one of the earlier Masonry structures west of the Oconee River.

The cornerstone for the Masonic Hall was laid June 25, 1832 by R. W. Samuel Rockwell.

In June of 1834 the building of the Masonic Hall was complete and ready for occupancy. Judge I. L. Harris was the first Worshipful Master to serve in the new Lodge building.

The Grand Lodge of Georgia met in the lodge hall annually from December 1834 through the 1845 session when its site was moved to Macon, the new State Capitol. During the Reconstruction, the building housed the office of the Freedman's Bureau and its ground floor was headquarters of the local military garrison.

Comic actor Oliver Hardy grew up one block from the lodge and often spent time in the lodge hall. He would eventually become a Freemason and a Shriner. One room in the lodge hall had bunk beds so Masons who had business in town could spend the night. A Laurel and Hardy Museum is located in Harlem, Ga.

The building was built for Benevolent Lodge No. 3; Temple

Chapter No. 6, RAM; and Georgia Council No. 4, R&SM.

Wor. Bro. Joe Bush, Grand Chaplain, sits in the chair used by the Marquis de Lafayette when he visited Milledgeville in March 1825, then the State Capitol of Georgia, and sat as Master of Benevolent Lodge No. 3, then No. 9. For many years, the lodge did not allow anyone to sit in the chair, but the lodge recently refurbished and strengthened the historic chair to allow persons to sit in it.



The officers of Benevolent No. 3 are (first row from left) Benjamin Waller, Senior Deacon; Phillip Spence, Junior Warden; Kelly Montgomery, Worshipful Master; Joseph Rainy, Senior Warden; and Larry Wilson, Secretary. In the rear in no particular order are Dwight Riddle, Treasurer; George Griffin, Chaplain; Wayne Spiller, Junior Deacon; Ian McMullen, Senior Steward; and William Myers, Junior Steward. The Tyler, Larry Smith, was not present.



The most interesting structure in the lodge hall is the only free-standing, three-story wooden spiral staircase east of the Mississippi River.

2017 Lodge Officers

Dexter Lodge No. 340



First row from left to right are Mike Brantley, Secretary; James Smith, Sr. Warden; Donnie Allen, Worshipful Master, and Alan Todd, Jr. Warden. In the second row are Frank Morris, Sr Deacon; Edward Tyler, Jr. Deacon; K.D. Ingram, Tyler; Danny Whittle, Sr. Steward, and Ken Snider, Jr. Steward. Not shown are Ralph Mullis, Treasurer; and G.W. Darsey, Chaplain.

Tyrone Lodge No. 644



The 2017 officers of Tyrone Lodge No. 644 are Josh Hogg, Worshipful Master ; Alan Robinson, Senior Warden ; Al Smith, P.M., Treasurer; Kevin Edwards, P.M. (not pictured), Secretary; Jarrett Johnson, P.M, Chaplain ; Tommy Redd, Junior Warden; Sean Neal, Senior Deacon; Bob Temperly, Junior Deacon; John Loyd, P.M., Senior Steward; Adam Gosdin (not pictured), Junior Steward ; and Sosimo Aparis, P.M, Tyler.

Mt. Airy Lodge No. 314



Front row: Thomas Ayers, Sr., Tyler; Phillip Morris, Senior Steward; Ed Hefner, Junior Steward; and Kevin Lomax, Chaplain.

Middle row: John Dodson, Senior Deacon; Clayton Burrell, Wor. Master; and Ronnie Pritchett, Secretary.

Back row: Jerry Lewallen, Treasurer and Director of Masonic Education; Matthew Holbrooks, Junior Warden; Chris Ivester, Senior Warden; and Larry Caudell, Junior Deacon.

Grant Funk, Director of Work; and Kevin Lomax, Ambassador to the Masonic Children's Home.

Eugene Smith No. 279



The 2017 officers at Eugene Smith No. 279 are Morgan Tennyson Fordham, Worshipful Master; Thomas Kelly Dykes, Senior Warden; Willie Grand Pittman, Junior Warden; James Marshall Knight, Treasurer; Billy Ray York, Secretary; Thomas Reese Fountain, Chaplain; Lex Alan Williams, Senior Deacon; Mark Allen Doss, Junior Deacon; Joseph Jefferson Harmon, Jr., Senior Steward, and Leonard Giddens, Tyler.

Bro. Johnny Fred Weeks was not present.

Young Cane No. 597



2017 Officers for Young Cane Lodge #597 of Blairsville were installed by PGM Jerry Moss and DDGM Charles Floyd. Pictured from left to right are PGM Jerry Moss, Stewart Blankenship SW, Junior Graham WM, Chris Lovell JW, Randy Brown Treasurer, Dwayne Campbell SS, DDGM Charles Floyd. Middle row Jim Nash Chaplain, Jeff Potts JS, Mark Thomas JD, Cody Thomas Tyler. Back row Richard Corn Secretary, David Abercrombie Director of Work, Tim Hilton SD.

MASONIC HOME CAMP WORKDAYS MARCH 3RD & 4TH, 2017

PROJECTS:

COMPLETE SIDING ON SHOP BUILDING
REPAIR SOFFITT ON REDBIRD COTTAGE
REMOVE DEAD TREES AND CLEAR UNDERBRUSH
COMPLETE LATTICE WORK ON COTTAGES
PRESSURE WASH BUILDINGS
REPAIR POOL PUMP HOUSE
PAINT END WALL ON BOAT SHED
PAINT PARTITIONS IN GIRLS DOR RESTROOM
TIDY UP DOCK AFTER PILINGS ARE REPLACED
PAINT FLASHING SUPERINTENDENT'S COTTAGE
SEAL DECK ON SUPERINTENDENT'S COTTAGE
PAINT BACK DOOR ON REDBIRD
PAINT A/C MOUNTS
CLEAN GUTTERS & VALLEYS

TOOLS NEEDED:

CARPENTER TOOLS
LADDERS
CHAIN SAWS
GLOVES

CONTACTS:

BOB WHITLOW – HOME (912) 832-6287
ROY STAMPLEY, JR. HOME (706) 798-7691
RICHARD BAILEY, SR. HOME (912) 579-2300 CELL (912) 294-6100

Davitte Lodge No. 513 Reports GA-CHiP Event

Pictured are members of Davitte Lodge No. 513, Polk County Sheriff Dept, and the Polk County Police Dept. who volunteer their time each each year insuring the Children of the Polk School System are afforded an opportunity to participate in this worthwhile cause of caring for the safety of all our children. At this event we were able to insure 75 children had the opportunity to participate

Harold McDurmon, P.M.



Write Your Lodge's Unique Story

We want you to discover, articulate, and write your Lodge's story and the legacy you want to leave behind. By Brothers talking with each other and gathering the essential stories you should be able to write a brief history of your Lodge.

The Educational & Historical Commission wants each Lodge to send a brief history to the Atlanta Masonic Library, 1690 Peachtree St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Thank you.
Lanier Dasher
Member, E&H Commission

2017 Lodge Officers

Cherokee No. 66



Back Row from left: Danny Morrison, PM No. 66, Marshall; William Bannister, Senior Deacon.; Howard Touchstone, PG Chaplain, Chaplain, No. 66; Kevin Aronhalt, Junior Stewart.; Bob Bryant, PM No. 66, PDD, Installing Master, Wes Melton, Junior Deacan.; Middle: Floyd Meadow, Chaplain.

Front Row from left: Charles Hoge, Tyler; Phillip Martin, Senior Warden; Andy Gentry, Worshipfull Master; Jeffrey Adair, Junior Warden; Bob Mount, Senior Stewart.

Cornelia Lodge No. 92



On December 12, Cornelia Lodge No. 92, Free and Accepted Masons, elected officers for 2017. These officers will be responsible for the operations of the Lodge throughout the year.

Pictured from left to right are Wor. Bro. Donald Hobson, Senior Deacon; Bro. Steve Allen, Tyler; Wor. Bro. Randall Jewart, Treasurer; Bro. Mark McCoy, Junior Warden; Bro. Larry Warren, Chaplain; Wor. Bro. David Hobson, Worshipful Master; Bro. Adrian Brooksher, Junior Stewart; Bro. Shane Brooksher, Senior Warden; Wor. Bro. Marcus Tench, Secretary; Bro. Andy Tench, Junior Deacon.

Not pictured is Brother Brian, O.P., Coward, Senior Stewart.

Ducktown No. 572



Corey Milford 9th District Deputy; WB Doyle Carder, Senior Deacon; Jimmy Burns, Junior Steward; Ben King, Senior Warden; Jeff Blalock, Worshipful Master; WB Danny Greeson, Secretary; WB Larry Bennett, Director of Work; Joe Burns, Senior Steward; Herb Denny, Junior Warden; WB Delmer Watson, Tyler.

Thomasville Lodge No. 369



The 2017 officers for Thomasville Lodge No. 369 are: Bottom Row: Treasurer, Bob Cummings; Senior Warden, George Beckham; Worshipful Master, Larry Price; Junior Warden, Hershell Brown; and Secretary, Tom Gilbert.

Top Row: Junior Deacon, Scott Barwick; Senior Deacon, Bruce Fykes; Chaplain, Tom Vancel; Tyler, Levy Hall; Junior Stewart, Dennie Best; Senior Stewart, Billy Taylor, Jr.

Communicate and Invite are KEYS to Lodge Growth

As we continue to increase our communication, we again ask each of you to show your commitment as at the last communication and bring a Brother Mason with you!!! We had several members at our last communication who had not attended lodge in some time, but were glad to be among the Brethren.

Remember ... dinner at 6:30 with a tri-Lodge meeting with Kingston and Stilesboro members will be in attendance.

— Wor. Bro. Harold McDurman, Rockmart No. 97

Alpharetta Lodge and Shop With A Cop

By Senior Deacon Barry George

In early 2016, the Worshipful Master of Alpharetta Lodge No. 235, Dan Linihan, made a unique challenge to the Lodge. He asked the brothers of Alpharetta Lodge to donate five dollars per meeting, above and beyond their traditional donations for the building fund and children's home, to a new initiative. Now it's certainly not unusual for the Worshipful Master of a Lodge to ask the brothers to donate money, but this was special. WB Linihan had a particular cause in mind. The five dollars donated each meeting would go into a fund that would purchase a new bicycle and helmet for a child in need, during the holiday season. Understanding the significance of this project, the brothers of Alpharetta Lodge responded in mass. Throughout the year, the donations kept coming in. Many brothers donated enough, over the course of the year, to purchase two bikes and helmets. Then something very special happened. Visitors to the Lodge from all over the State of Georgia, and throughout the U.S. began to donate as they graced the doors of 194 Milton Ave. Even the Grand Master of Georgia, Most Worshipful F. Andrew Lane and his Grand Line got involved, during a visit to the Lodge.



Bro. Barry George, Senior Deacon

As the year was coming to a close, and the holiday season was approaching, it became time to purchase the bikes and helmets. The amount of money donated throughout the year, by brothers, visitors, friends, and family, was enough to purchase 71 bikes and helmets. Through our strategic relationships with Walmart (Midway) and Whitetail Bike Shop (Milton) the Lodge was able to secure the 71 assembled bikes and helmets by the early December deadline.

Our chosen charity partner for this initiative was the Alpharetta Police Athletic League ("PAL"). The Alpharetta PAL is an outstanding local organization serving the youth of Alpharetta, and North Fulton County. The Alpharetta PAL's Shop with a Cop Program offered, the Lodge, a unique opportunity. As part of the Shop with a Cop Program, the Alpharetta PAL provides children in need with a 100 dollar gift card to Walmart. During the event, that is hosted by Walmart, children that are selected for the program shop throughout Walmart with a Police Officer and/or a First Responder. Many times, the children buy presents for their



family, and use the rest of the money to buy something for themselves. Receiving the bicycle and

helmet, as donated by Alpharetta Lodge, allows them to receive a gift without having to use the gift card. The joy of the holiday season is multiplied by receiving that special unexpected gift.

On the day of the Shop with a Cop Program, brothers of Alpharetta Lodge attended the kick off ceremony for the event. The bike and helmets were well received by all. The thanks from the children and their families, as well as the gratitude from the Alpharetta PAL, the Police Officers and First Responders warmed the hearts of all Masons in attendance.

Freemasonry is a unique and ancient brotherhood. Freemasons throughout history have built outstanding physical and spiritual temples, but it is truly an outstanding moment when Freemasons engage in the building and support of local communities. Though there is no cornerstone, no edifice to mark the occasion of the special events of December 13, 2016, the memory lives on in the hearts and minds of those involved, and the peddling feet of 71 special kids.

Date Change for Coosa Tri-State Meeting

The 26th Annual "James Sanford Payne" memorial Tri-state convention for **JULY 1ST, 2017** please also note the date change on the Grand Masters calendar. The Grand Master has previously been contacted and approved the date change to help accommodate Tennessee's request.

Schedule of Events July 1, 2017

- 7:00 am Open Lodge, Dignitaries and Special Guests introduced
- 7:30 am Breakfast served
- 8:30 am Tennessee to confer the E.A. Degree
- 10:00 am Alabama to confer the F.C. Degree
- 11:30 am Lunch served
- 12:45 pm Georgia to confer the M.M. Degree
- 3:00 pm Lodge closed.

Also, please add to your calendar Coosa Lodge No. 622 43rd annual "Lloyd H. Lewis" memorial EA Breakfast on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

You will not want to miss it.
Let Brotherly Love Prevail!

77 Attend Grayson Lodge's Quarterly Family Night Dinner



Grayson Lodge No. 549 hosted its Quarterly Family Night Dinner — always on the 5th Monday of the month — at Jim and Nick's BBQ in Snellville on January 30. Wor. Bro. David Burk (in the plaid shirt) began the Family Night Dinners when he was Junior Warden of Grayson Lodge.

Brothers and their families from surrounding lodges enjoyed the fellowship and a fine meal. A prospect for affiliation — a Master Mason from Indiana — at Grayson Lodge was presented a coin and a pin by the Grand Master.

The next Grayson Family Night Dinner will be May 29.

In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased from December 7, 2016 to February 15, 2017

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
WILLHOIT, EARL BROADWELL	1SOL	YOUNG, DAVID ANDERSON	030
GUNTER, GUY THERON JR	002	SPINKS, WILLIAM ANDREW	033
ADAMS, JAMES ROY	003	LORD, SILVER LEE	034
USERY, WILLIE JULIAN JR	003	HUTSON, RUSSELL HARRY	035
SIGMAN, EDWARD MONROE	006	MCDOWELL, WALTER CLEMONS	035
YEAGER, JACK ELLIOTT	006	MCGUIRE, JOHNNIE LEE	035
SMALLWOOD, JOSEPH CARLTON	011	MCKINLEY, JAMES OSCAR	035
FREEMAN, ALFRED MURRAY	012	TUCKER, ROBERT JACKSON	036
GUNNELL, RAYMOND EDWARD	012	CROY, BENJAMIN WILTON	037
WYATT, JAMES FRANKLIN	012	PALMER, THOMAS PAUL	037
AENCHBACHER, LOUIS EARL	015	MILLER, THOMAS ELMER	038
DAVIS, PHILLIP REUBEN	015	KIMSEY, FRANK JOHNSON	041
WESSELL, WALTER HENRY	015	BEUSSE, HORACE ODELL	042
HIGGINBOTHAM, JOSEPH CARTER	025	HANNERS, HAROLD VICTOR JR	042
CAVANAUGH, GARY GLENN WAYNE	026	JANUSEWSKI, DONALD BENJAMIN	042
GORDY, CARL WILLIS JR	027	PLASPOHL, WILLIAM ARCHIE	048
STRAUGHAN, OGLE KIRK JR	027	ANDERSON, AUBREY [NMN]	049
WINDHAM, TROY RICHARD	027	ODUM, JAMES GEORGE JR	049
WHITE, JOEL WILKS	028		

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MORRIS, JAMES ROBERT	063	COLE, CHARLES WALLACE	182
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WELCH, LEON (NMN) JR	153	CARTER, STANLEY EUGENE	300
MATHEWS, JAMES ALLEN	158	MADARIS, JOHN BAXTER	300
MCWHORTER, LEWIS CLIFFORD	160	NANCE, LELAND BRUCE	300
SEARS, HIRAM FRANKLIN	163	SHOOK, LAWRENCE GEORGE JR	300
SWAILS, LEE WAID	163	THOMPSON, WILLIAM HENRY	300
BARFIELD, RALPH TEMAN	171	WALLACE, EDWIN LEON	300
BARRETT, ELLIS (NMN) JR	171	WESTBROOK, JAMES BERNARD	300
DUNSON, WILLARD RANDOLPH	171	MATHIS, THEO (NMN)	304
DUTTON, JACK (NMN)	171	BRANTLEY, BARNEY LAMAR	305
ELLER, WILLIAM AUTREY	171	SOMMER, WILFRED LOUIS	316
HARALSON, ROBERT LEE	171	HARRIS, LOWELL	321
MALSBY, JACK JOHN HUFF	171	EARWOOD, ALVIN RAY	323
MARABLE, WILBUR EARNEST	171	WILLIAMS, JACK LESTER	330
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William T. White Installed as Worshipful Master of Allegheny Lodge No. 114



William T. White, known to most Masons as “Whitey,” was installed as Worshipful Master of Allegheny Lodge No. 114 in Blairsville, GA. On December 10, 2016 by Past Grand Master, Bobby B. Simmons. A proud Family, his wife, Mechelle, Son, Hunter, and his Mother, Virginia White, who traveled from Collinsville, Mississippi were in attendance.

Middle Georgia was represented by Keel Broom and Lady Sharon, PM James Piper and Lady Pam, Grand Secretary, Joe Watson and Lady Linda and PM Charles Ferguson and PGM Bobby Simmons and Lady Nancy.

Worshipful Brother White is also serving as Eminent commander of Blue Ridge Mountain Commandery No. 37 in McCaysville. Bobby and Nancy Simmons attended the Commandery Christmas Observance on Sunday, December 11, 2016.

Brother White retired from the United States Air Force while stationed at Robins AFB as a Lt. Colonel. He was very active in Tyrian & Middle Georgia Daylight Lodge, plus Al Sihah Shrine. He Served as a Personal Aide to PP Broom.

His Father and Brother are Past Masters in Mississippi where he was raised.

We are very proud of this Brother, who has served so well, his Country, Family and Masonry.

John Tinsley Retires as Secretary at Age 92



Bro. John Tinsley has retired at age 92 Years as Secretary of Fellowship Daylight Lodge No. 746 in Valdosta.



The officers of Clarkesville No. 325

Back row from the left are Bros. Charles Black, Chaplain; Morgan Myers, Senior Deacon; Darrell Tucker, Treasurer; Justin Williams, Junior Deacon; and Jerry Fisher, Senior Steward.

Front row from the left are Bros. Ralph Perkins, Secretary; Rodney Anderson, Senior Warden; James Ron Anderson; Worshipful Master; Matthew Anderson, Junior Warden; and Cecil Myers, Tyler

Not pictured is Bro. Michael Tanksley, Junior Steward.

Wor. Bro. Jason Stribling accepted the position of Director of Work and Bro. Justin Williams will be the Lodge Ambassador to the Masonic Children’s Home.

Allegheny Lodge No. 114 hosts Awards night

On February 6, Allegheny Lodge No. 114 honored many local community leaders



Awards were presented to Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Captain (& Brother) Chad Deyton and Union County Jailer of the Year Captain Susan Rhodes (not pictured).

The Northeast Georgia Mountain District Outstanding Scouting Volunteer Award was presented to Mr. Ryan Scott.

The Lodge presented a \$250 check to Troop 101 to help send a Boy Scout to Summer Camp this year.



Plaques were presented to Union County Outstanding Scouting Volunteer Rick Corbin and Fannin County Outstanding Scouting Volunteer Tom Orchanian



Five Masonic Eagle Scout awards to James Owen (Troop 101) and Tommy Orchanian (Troop 460). Four Eagle Scouts are enrolled in college and could not be present: Ben Bruce, Hayden Queen, Colton Carpenter, and Sam Woodall, all from Troop 460.



Justin Byers was named Union County School Teacher of the Year.



A Union County School Staff Appreciation Award was presented to Asst. Principal Shane Womack



A plaque was presented Union County Outstanding 4-H Volunteer Timothy Jennings and a \$250 check to help in development of the 4-H "Shooting Range."

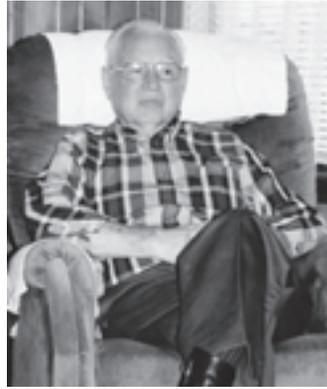
A Union County Outstanding Military Hero Recipient was presented on behalf of (late and Brother) Maj. Leon Davenport (received by his wife Barbara)



50 Year Awards



Charles Allen Lessuer
Philomatheia No. 25



Phillip Alexander Livingston
Statesboro No. 27



Charles Davis
Unity No. 36



DDGM Russ Gee (who presented the awards), John Paul Justice, Claude Gilstrap, William Robert Weaver, & Wor. Master Craig Alan McCamish - Blue Mountain No. 38



Robert Bobby Turner
Rockmart No.97



James Kenneth Bunch
Richard T. Turner No. 116



Isaac Grant LaRoche
Richard T. Turner No. 116



Billy Kenneth Padgett
Oothcaloga No. 154



James B. "Jim" Phillips
Oothcaloga No. 154



Thomas Grey England
Webb No. 166



James Willard Hogan
Webb No.



Charles Thomas Lamar King
Mableton No. 171



Paul Aubrey Forrester
Mableton No. 171



Ray Burke Gary, Sr.
Mableton No. 171



Charles Thomas Lamar King
Mableton No. 171
Bro. King celebrated his
86th birthday on the day
he received this award.



Paul James Berry Jones
Mableton No. 171



Gary Thomas Cook
Worth No. 194



Ray Dennard Shiver
Worth No. 194



Glenn Barrett
Bowden No. 206



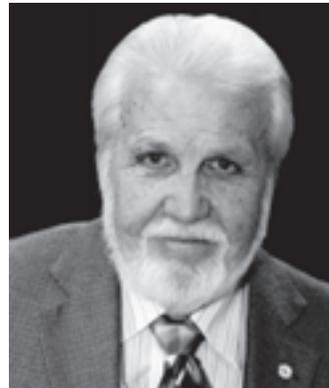
Carl Lafayette Hendricks Sr.
Ancient Landmark No. 231



Quitman Brigmond
Mabel No. 255



Roy Miller
Mabel No. 255



Roy M. Schultz
Mabel No. 255



James Maurice Perkins
Waynesboro No. 274



Frank Beckworth
Masters No. 295



Russell Parker
Masters No. 295



John Sager
Masters No. 295



Eddie H. Floyd, Jr.
Dexter No. 340



Terrell Neidlinger
Springfield No. 440



Edgar Ray Brock
Lindale No. 455



Charles Murrell
Zingara No. 519



John Driggers
Helena No. 536



Donald Eugene Bedwell
Pleasant Grove No. 702



Jimmie Ray Kirkland & his Lady Camille
Martinez No. 710

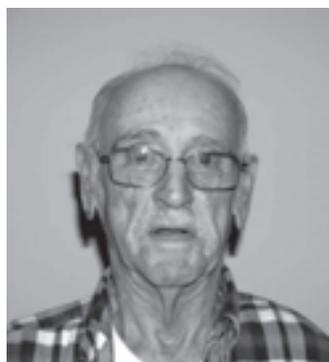


Russell Bonnell Williams
Martinez No. 710

Grove Lodge celebrated the 50th Anniversary of W. Bro. Donald Eugene Bedwell, Past Master of Sumach Lodge No. 55 and Twice Past Master of Pleasant Grove Lodge No. 702. He also served 7 terms as District Deputy to the Grand Master, 2 years as Secretary of the 43rd Tri-County Masonic Convention and 3 years as President or Secretary of the 43rd Tri-County School of Instruction. He has worked degrees for hundreds of Brethren in lodges all over our area. Past Masters Jennings and Knittel were two of the Grand Masters he represented. Pictured with His Father is W. Bro. Mitchell Bedwell, Past Master of Pleasant Grove Lodge No. 702 and the 43rd Tri-County Convention



John L. McGlohon, Sr.
Roger Lacey No. 722



James David Price
East Floyd No. 728

55 Years



Willie Buford Dause, Jr.
Clinton No. 54

THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!

The Editor asks that all Brothers who send photos to the Editor for inclusion in the Masonic Messenger to please include the names of the person(s) in the photo, his or their lodge affiliation and the reason the photo was sent to the editor.

60 Years

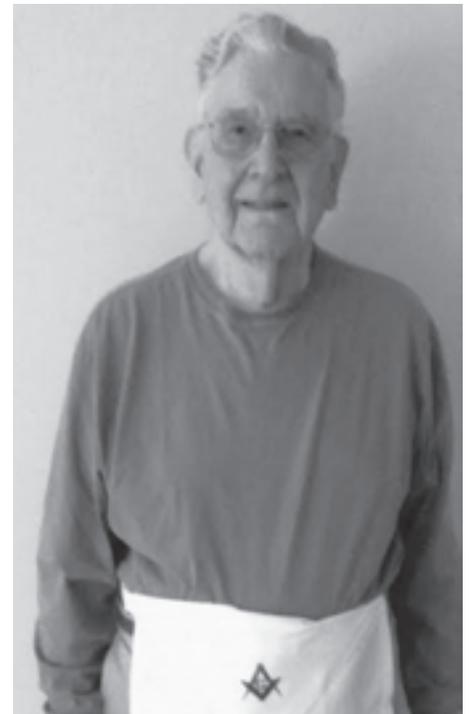
65 Years



James Hutchins
Golden Fleece No. 6



Phillip Alexander Livingston
Statesville No 27 (North Carolina)
Patient in Rehab in Sandy Springs, GA



Robert Charles Lynn
Sandy Springs No. 124



Bobby Giles Freeman
Mabel No. 255



James Franklin Hughes
Meyerhardt No. 314



Charles Edward Ray
Blaine No. 534



J. R. Hunnicutt
Mabel No. 255



Howard Henry Ray
Blaine No.534

SPRING IS AROUND THE CORNER – A PERFECT TIME TO SCHEDULE A GA CHIP EVENT!

Respectfully submitted: Brother Cabot M. Rohrer – State Director of Georgia Child Identification Program.

Brethren,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Spring is around the corner and a great time to schedule a Georgia Child Identification Program Event with the local schools, Sunday Schools, local police departments, stores and other family focused venues. Over the course of the past 6 weeks, it has been a pleasure to meet many of you through my travels across the state as part of the Grand Lodge Advance. Your enthusiasm for GA CHIP is note worthy and so important as we expand the program throughout 2017. At the present time we are nearing 111,000 ID's and a number of Lodges have already scheduled events for the upcoming months. This is 'Our Time' to provide such an important and needed Program for the communities surrounding our Lodges.



In addition, on behalf of the Program, "THANK YOU" to the 51 Lodges who contributed financial support

through donations in 2016. Such monies help each of us to

ensure the Program is 'FREE' to our Lodges and the public. What a meaningful expression of our Masonic Charity to the community.

Aside from providing the service of the identification it is such a great opportunity for our local Lodges and their families to serve such an invaluable and community oriented service to parents, guardians and care givers. It is often said that, the best teamwork comes from men who are working independently toward one goal in unison. So I encourage all of the Worshipful Masters and GA CHIP representatives in the Lodges to speak to the local schools, Churches, Police Departments and retailers promoting our Program. Check out our pictures of a GA CHIP event at a local Home Depot Family and Safety Day. Home Depot is a great place to get our foot in the door for GA CHIP!!! Let us all support our Lodges and District Directors to hold Georgia Child Identification events across our great state in 2017.



Let's make Georgia Child Identification Program the 'BEST' in the Nation.

Let's make Georgia Child Identification Program the 'BEST' in the Nation.

Students Awarded Bikes in Joe Ward Read to Ride Program



Madison Lodge No. 376 in Madison is once again on the search for the readers at Morgan County Primary School. Three students read the greatest number of hours to win new bicycles. The mid-year winners of the Joe Ward Read to Ride Program are: Kindergarten - Jamai Dismuke, First Grade - Brody Richardson, and Second Grade - Wesley Denton. Lodge members from left to right are: Jessie Mayfield, Aubrey Moon, Bob Nesbitt, L.A. Hensley, Jim Briscoe, and Bob Wilbanks.

Rockmart No. 97 Honors Teachers



It-rt: Rebecca Shepard-Van Wert Elementary School; Dana Hillhouse-EastSide Elementary; Adam Blalock, Rockmart High School.

REAR from It-rt: officers from Rockmart Lodge....Matt Elrod-J.W.; Jerry Dabbs-S.W.; and James E Ward;Wor. Master.

NOT PICTURED IS THE TEACHER FROM ROCKMART MIDDLE SCHOOL:Lisa Owens who had previous commitment

Veterans Corner

Rick Conn, Grand Lodge Veterans Committee State Chairman

Brothers, after two years of study and debate, November 11, 2016, (Veteran's Day) DoD has allowed 16 million honorably discharged veterans to shop online for discounted military exchange products. Months of preparation are needed to make e-shopping portals more robust and to allow the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) time to create software for verifying veterans' status using VA records.

Several million vets who are active or reserve component retirees, or 100-percent disabled from service-connected injuries or ailments, or Medal of Honor recipients are already eligible to shop in exchanges - on base or online.

The new program will permit all honorably discharged veterans with access to computers to shop. This will reward their service with savings that, on average, will be near to 20% vs. commercial store prices when the exemption from state and local sales tax are considered too, and will increase exchange revenues to help offset troubling declines due to the drawdown of active duty forces, base closures and the end of military tobacco discounts for the higher priority of healthier populations.

The online benefit does not extend to veterans' dependents, although spouses and family members theoretically could use the authorized customer's log-in credentials, given the nature of an online shopping benefit. With DMDC verifying shopper identifies electronically, the department will not have to produce special identification cards. DMDC estimates 13% of eligible veterans, primarily those who served before 1981, might not be in their data base when the shopping benefit becomes available. Presumably guidance will be issued for veterans who might have access problems.

Current exchange patrons won't see more store traffic and discounts for exchange shopping on base are expected to remain higher than savings online. Military exchanges acknowledge that they are losing sales to popular online sites such as Amazon, particularly as military patrons grow increasingly comfortable with using smart phones and tablets to shop. The more highly prized commissary benefit isn't being opened to all veterans.

The veterans online shopping benefit was effective on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2016. While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families. This policy change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support.

"We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family," said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"In addition, this initiative represents a low-risk, low-cost

opportunity to help fund Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in support of service members' and their families' quality of life. And it's just the right thing to do," Levine added.

The online benefit will also strengthen the exchanges' online businesses to better serve current patrons. Inclusion of honorably discharged veterans would conservatively double the exchanges' online presence, thereby improving the experience for all patrons through improved vendor terms, more competitive merchandise assortments, and improved efficiencies, according to DoD officials.

"As a nation, we are grateful for the contributions of our service members. Offering this lifetime online benefit is one small, tangible way the nation can say, 'Thank you' to those who served with honor," Levine said.

Also, for your information, did you know that in addition to Boys State/Nation, Girls State/Nation, the American Legion offers college scholarships? You can go to the following website below for more information about the program and also for the online application. <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

Also, ATTENTION, The National Sojourners Inc. at the last annual Convention in Greenville, SC the rules and requirements for membership were changed by a vote of the general membership. ALL military rates/ranks are now eligible for regular membership. From E-1 all the way up to O-9. There are presently six Chapters in the State of Georgia with a possibility of a 7th one in Blairsville. WB Wayne Barnes, MWB Jerry Moss along with WB Johnnie Garmon, JGW Grand Lodge of Georgia, are working on starting a new Chapter in the Blairsville area. If you are in the Blairsville area and are a Military Mason contact WB Johnnie and see about being a Charter member of this new group.

The National Sojourners is a good group that supports the ROTC both Jr and Sr programs in the State of Ga. We have several Military service programs that can be presented at Lodge functions. Programs such as Building the Flag, Lodge of Military Tribute, Folding the Flag, and Service Flag program.

All veterans, check out this program and see if you would like to be a part of it. Thanks and May God Bless you and May God Bless the United States of America.

Japan's Surrender was signed on the USS Missouri BB-63, called "Might Mo" by her crew.



DEFINING BROTHERLY LOVE

Every Mason has heard the term **BROTHERLY LOVE**. You hear it in degree work, in Masonic discussion and, of course, you have heard many times the phrase “may brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us.” If you are like me, you may not be able to define **brotherly love**, but you know it when you see it. This short story is meant to challenge the intellect and have you think about just what is **brotherly love**?

Here is our story. Every Thursday morning a group of Masons from Martinez Lodge No. 710 and several other lodges meets at a local restaurant in Martinez, near Augusta, for breakfast. There are usually six or eight of us. We always talk politics, endeavor to solve world problems, talk about lodge activities, etc., and we always seem to have good, fun discussions, sometimes at someone else’s expense! In general, we just have a good time with one another and always look forward to the next time we can meet.

One member of our breakfast group was Brother Dayne Romine. He was a regular on Thursday mornings, and we all vicariously kept up with his plan to retire to another country where he and his wife Frances could enjoy a milder climate and more comfortable life style. Dayne and Frances spent many hours reading and studying the benefits for retired Americans relocating to another country. There were, of course, cost of living concerns, climate differences, language barriers, quality of healthcare, transportation, the stability of the government, and the general quality of life for retirees.

Over a period of several years, Dayne and Frances took trips to several countries; but when it was all said and done, it looked like the finger of fate was pointing to the South American country of Ecuador. It seemed that Americans and Canadians were flocking to this country to take advantage of average 75 degree daytime temperatures and nighttime temperatures of 55 degrees year round. A higher altitude eliminates bugs and pests, most Ecuadorian citizens are bilingual, the country uses American dollars as their primary currency, good restaurants and shopping abound, healthcare providers are mostly U.S. trained, and they have modern hospital and dental facilities every bit as good and up to date as we have here in the States. Ecuador also has favorable treatment for retirees, regardless of whether you are an Ecuadorian citizen or not, such as public transportation from anywhere to anywhere within a city for 60 cents. Or you can have a private driver take you anywhere in town for \$1.00 each way. Retirement benefits were so attractive that Dayne and Frances made several trips to the city to which they finally chose to retire – Cuenca, Ecuador – a colonial city about the same size as Augusta, Georgia, on the lower slopes of the Andes Mountains and only an hour and a half from the Pacific Ocean. On one of their trips they stayed for nearly a month to make sure everything they heard and read about was true.

When they returned to Martinez, Dayne advised they found everything better than expected, and he and Frances made up their minds that Cuenca, Ecuador, would be their new home. They had not jumped into this move haphazardly and only after serious investigation had they made their decision. Over a period of time, they disposed of their home, vehicles and other personal items for which they had no need in Ecuador. Dayne advised he found a group of English-speaking Masons in Cuenca who met for breakfast one Thursday morning each month. They did the same thing we did in Martinez, just enjoyed their time together. This group of Masons only recently obtained a charter for Cuenca Wayfarers Lodge No. 69, the only English-speaking lodge working under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ecuador. These brothers had done just what Dayne and Frances were doing – they had retired to a foreign country which had a high standard of living for Americans and others.

Brother Dayne and Frances made their move to Cuenca in March 2016, and we kept up with them regularly by email. They were living a good life and were really enjoying themselves.

Then, on or about September 27, 2016, Martinez Lodge received information from Dayne and Frances’ granddaughter that Dayne had suffered a brain aneurism (a stroke) and that he was not doing well. This was a serious life-threatening event and other than knowing Dayne sustained the illness, we knew nothing more. One of our breakfast meeting brothers knew the name of the lodge in Cuenca where Dayne had visited. He immediately contacted Cuenca Wayfarers Lodge No. 69 Worshipful Master Ron Watkins via email advising him of the bad situation. It was explained that now was the time and this was the occasion for Masons to come to the relief of a brother Mason and his wife during their time of peril. Can you imagine being in Frances’ place, in a foreign country, unable to speak the common language, having no support group to speak of, and your husband is lying at death’s door? The fear and uncertainty must have been overwhelming. It was explained to Brother Watkins what had happened and what little information we had about the situation. Brother Watkins emailed back within an hour advising he had passed the information to other brothers who were checking hospitals to see what they could learn. Before the end of the day, Brother Watkins emailed back advising they had located the hospital and that Dayne was in an intensive care unit, not doing well at all. They met Frances and offered support to her, but what later transpired was far beyond what anyone could have ever expected.

Dayne remained on a ventilator in intensive care for eight days, during which time brethren from Cuenca

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

Wayfarers Lodge regularly checked on Frances and provided a support group for her. Dayne was still in very grave condition. Once he started healing and could be removed from the ventilator and taken out of the intensive care unit, hospital staff advised that someone needed to be with him 24 hours a day for an unknown period of time. How in the world could Frances manage this? The answer: the brothers of Cuenca Wayfarers Lodge did what Masons do best - they came to the relief of their brother and his wife. If I am not mistaken, this lodge has only nine members. These brothers and their wives got together and worked in two-hour shifts all day every day for two weeks! They worked 7:00 am until 7:00 pm when Frances would take over for night duty. This went on until Dayne began his recovery and started taking a turn for the better.

We are very happy to report Dayne and Frances are now at home in Cuenca and have regular home healthcare and in-house physical therapy sessions. His physical condition is improving daily, and he has informed us the medical infrastructure in Ecuador is exceptionally good. Frances advises they have been visited by brethren from Cuenca Wayfarers Lodge several times and that the help she received from these good brothers is beyond anything

she could have ever expected. She witnessed Freemasonry at its best. Remember, these brothers barely knew Dayne and had never met Frances.

So, here we are back where I began. I may not have the intellect to properly define **brotherly love**, but I know it when I see it. I have seen through this example that hardcore Freemasonry transcends borders, time zones, languages and cultures. It is the mysterious thing in each of us (at least it should be in each of us) that we should, by moral and Masonic principle, help each other when help is really needed. The brethren from Cuenca Wayfarers Lodge #69 have shown us all what brotherly love really is. They came to the relief of a distressed brother and his wife when they were in a time of dire need. Now I have seen it and I know what it is, whether I can define it or not. To our Cuenca brothers, well done good and faithful brothers, well done. Thank you for taking such good care of Brother Dayne and Frances!

Steven T. Purvis

He is a long time member of Martinez Lodge No 710. He had a distinguished career as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer for CSX Railroad. He is a 32° Scottish Rite Mason and did an excellent job as Commander of Valley of Augusta Knights of St. Andrew a couple of years ago.



2017 Photo Contest

FUN – CLICK – FUN!

Theme: "Come, take a Georgia Photo"

**CONTEST OPEN TO:
GEORGIA MASONS, EASTERN STAR,
RAINBOW, AND DeMOLAY, AND THEIR
IMMEDIATE FAMILIES**

MAKE IT A FAMILY AFFAIR!

CHOOSE FROM FIVE CATEGORIES TO ENTER:

- SCENIC LANDSCAPES
- PORTRAITS (INCLUDING FAMILIES AND KIDS)
- LODGE BUILDINGS (INSIDE AND OUTSIDE)
- MASONIC EVENTS
- ANYTHING MASONIC RELATED IN GEORGIA.

DUST OFF THE LENS AND GO CAPTURE THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR FAVORITE GEORGIA SUBJECTS.

**Contest Begins:
May 1st and ends August 31st**



Email Subject Line: 2017 Photo Contest
Photos must be digital graphic format: jpeg, jpg, or gif and at least 1600 pixels wide or tall if landscape mode or portrait mode.
Include: Category, Your Name, Organization (and number), and Caption (Where, When, Who, the camera used, etc.).
Submit up to 3-photos maximum to:

2017glofphotocontest@gmail.com

The Last Sad Tribute of Respect

Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens, Junior Grand Deacon

Congratulations to all the new Worshipful Masters and officers of the more than 400 lodges of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, as you begin a new year of service to the craft. Your duties and responsibilities are many and are outlined in the installation, your by-laws, the codebook, and the ancient charges. Of all the duties that are required of you and the Lodge for the brethren you serve, none is of a more solemn and difficult task than that of laying a brother to rest. If requested, a Masonic funeral is the duty of the Worshipful Master and the Lodge as the last Masonic ritual we can perform for those who have laid down the working tools of this life. It can also be a comfort to the family and is a most impressive ceremony for those unfamiliar with Freemasonry.

The Masonic Code (sec. 51) defines who is eligible for a Masonic funeral and how the Lodge is to conduct itself at the service. The Masonic Manuel Vol. 1 contains everything from opening a Lodge of Sorrow, a Masonic Memorial Service to several versions of the funeral service itself. The Masonic Etiquette book is another good resource for valuable information that will prepare the Lodge members to perform the ceremony with the proper respect and decorum. The Grand Lodge Office has a booklet that contains a beautiful funeral ritual that can be used. Any of

these books can be obtained from the Grand Lodge Office by the Lodge secretary or you can order them yourself. In many areas a Masonic Memorial Club has been established to conduct funerals, but that does not relieve the Lodge of its responsibility of opening their Lodge and attending the funeral service.

Many times when a Brother passes away, he is not known by many of the current members since it could be quite some time since he has attended Lodge. This is common in our Lodges today with the average age of our membership to be over 70 years of age others are active and well known. He is still our Brother and he left us the Lodges that we enjoy today. As Masons, "we build on foundations we did not lay, we warm ourselves by fires we did not light, we sit in the shade of trees we did not plant, we drink from wells we did not dig, and we profit from those we did not know". I realize that many funerals are during the day and we must make a living to support our families, but we owe our deceased Brothers our respect. If you cannot attend the funeral you can spare thirty minutes of your time and go to the Funeral Home to pay your respects to him and his family. There you will find that mystic tie that binds to our brethren whoever and where ever they may be.

Important News from ABLA

The Association of Blue Lodges Ambassadors has decided to use our Association of Blue Lodge Ambassadors Facebook Page as a forum for all news events, pictures and announcements. If your Lodge is planning an event or has held an event that supports the Masonic Home or you have pictures of an event that you want to post, please post them here and anyone that is registered for the site will receive that information. You will be required to join the page and be vetted by our page administrator to make sure that you are a Mason, relative or friend. All pictures that are posted to the page will be vetted for appropriateness. Please use this page as often as you wish to tell us about your activities supporting the Masonic Home. Our hope is to get all of our Ambassadors and all other Masons in the state to join this page.

The URL is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ABLA.GA/?ref=bookmarks> Once there, please click on the 'JOIN' box at the top of the page to join the site.

Thanks for all you do!

Fraternally,
David M. Wellman Sr.
President
Association of Blue Lodge Ambassadors

Seth Love, Treutlen County Star Student, and his Father, Dwight Love, Star Teacher were Honored at Harmony No. 405 Family Night.



(Left-Right) Tonya Love (Seth's mother), Seth Love, STAR Student, Dwight Love (Seth's Father and STAR Teacher), and Wor. Bro. John Webb, Worshipful Master, Harmony No. 405

What a Man's Funeral Tells You about Him

A man's funeral tells you most of what you need to know about a man's life. Yesterday, I went to the funeral of a friend, a good man and fellow mason, Wor. Bro. Bobby Miller, who was 51 years old. We were raised together in Masonry in 2010, during which we got to know each other's character, and five short years later Bobby was running the lodge. He lived his life that way. He was proud of his accomplishment, humble in his soul, sincere in his friendship, and generous to the core.



Thirty masons showed up for his funeral, along with 70 family and friends to the chapel service and his graveside on a snowy day in Suches. Some meeting for the first time, but all of whom shared a common sense of loss and a memory of one of Bobby's favorite phrases, "If y'all need any help just let me know". But for those readers who never got to meet Bobby let me tell you a little about the man. Bobby could have been a character in a Hollywood movie, if the script had called for "a loveable southern good ole' boy." He grew up hunting and had a knack for the woods. He just had a sixth sense about him, like this last December when he woke up early one morning, and told his wife Brandy as he got dressed, "I believe it is a good day to get a deer." Two hours later Bobby came home with a 10 pointer. He caught copperheads by hand, outwitted many a coyote, trapped out beavers to prevent them from flooding overpasses, and this was just in the last year. But Bobby was always a man of the outdoors, and his memorial demonstrated it as people in attendance saw pictures of a young boy of preschool age in his underwear on Christmas morning with a new BB gun.

Bobby was a family man and the world was his family. He looked for occasion to help everyone he could along the way. He was especially proud of his grandson, and his face would light up when he would tell tales about his latest endeavors with him. But he was also a favorite uncle to his nieces and nephews. Children have a way of seeing through adult hypocrisy and give their love easily to humble sincerity which Bobby had by the bucket load. To them Bobby was that favorite adult whose warmth made them feel safe and secure as his guiding hand helped them experience new

adventures without fear. He also had a touch of the perennial child in him, as he rediscovered the world around him with the children he loved.

Bobby had worked hard all his life. He had a powerful build which could only be attained through countless days of hard physical labor. When I first met him he was a mason, laying brick and stone as the foundations for homes or patios or gardens. Later he worked for the county on a road crew. I heard he recently got promoted there but had not gotten the chance to congratulate him on this. Bobby was the kind of guy you could depend upon, and those strong shoulders carried the weight of his fellow man easily and with Christian patience.

Bobby was a Mason and loved the brotherhood and sense of community that Masonry provided. The tenets of generosity and devotion to one's neighbors were perfectly aligned with Bobby's own values. He ran the most successful blood drive the lodge had seen, in 2011, and ran the lodge itself by 2015. He worked hard to bring the best out of the people around him and to honor those who had gone before by fulfilling the expectations laid upon him. I never saw the man angry with another man, just occasionally frustrated with their actions or disappointed with their performance. But he had a predisposition to turn the other cheek, and an earnest desire to see everyone succeed.

And yes, Bobby was a devote man. When we were going through the EA degree within masonry Bobby was moved by the bible lecture and he dedicated himself to learning and presenting it. Bobby was an inspired follower of Christ, and from the first time he presented the lecture his sincere inspiration came through in its delivery. In 2012 he was baptized for the second time in his life, so it is comforting to know that of all of God's children, Bobby is most likely to be at God's side, probably making sure God does not take himself too seriously by cracking a joke here and there.

So as 100 people bid farewell to a man who they loved on Sunday, one could only reflect on what a success this man had been. People came from far and wide. 84-year-old men and newborn babies were in attendance. People in suits and people in plain clothes, all mourning the loss of a man who's life had positively touched each of theirs. He loved and did for all of his fellow man. He protected and cared for his family. He never stopped trying to make himself a better man to serve those around him. He did not earn wealth or fame or glory. He did not define himself by extravagant consumption. He was a humble man, proud of his accomplishments, sincere in his friendships, and generous to the core. He was a brother, a follower, and a guide to the rest of us. He was a "Good Ole' Boy," a Mason, and I am lucky to say, a friend. We will all miss you Bobby.

— Bro. Mike Borsodi, Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38

(Continued from page 11)

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EVANS, LLOYD [NMN]	353	OWENBY, CARL EUGENE	534
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BUXTON, JAMES CHARLES	444	VANCE, ROBERT HOWARD	688
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SATTERFIELD, JOHN DEE JR	444	HAMBY, BRUCE ALLEN	691
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THOMAS, LESTER	513	SPENCE, IVEY LEROY JR	750
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Dec .07, 2016 to Feb. 15, 2017

\$500 OR MORE

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Rex Lodge	No. 251
Masters Lodge	No. 295
Harmony Lodge	No. 405
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2017

Scottish Rite Scholarship Program



RiteCare
Scottish Rite Masons
Helping Children Communicate

The Scottish Rite
Foundation of Georgia

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia was founded August 26, 1980 by the Scottish Rite Masons of Georgia. Its purpose is to give financial assistance to gifted Georgia students and fund Rite Care Speech and Language Clinics.

The high cost of tuition can be a shock to any family's budget and the Scottish Rite Masons of Georgia want to help as many Georgia students as possible. The Scottish Rite Foundation grants a maximum of \$1000 per year to qualified Georgia students who plan to pursue an education in a Georgia College or University. No graduate scholarships are available as a part of this program. In the words of Albert Pike:

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

For complete Georgia Scottish Rite Scholarship rules and to register, please go to:

<http://gascottishrite.org/scholarship.html>

All Applications Must Be Completed And Submitted No Later Than Saturday April 15th, 2017

Responding to Commonly Asked Questions about Freemasonry

© Gary H. Leazer, Ph. D., Grand Master, 2017

In January and February 2017, a number of anti-Masonic pamphlets were placed on the doors of Masonic lodges or mailed to lodges around Georgia by unknown persons. The following questions answer many of the questions the Freemasons have about these misguided, ignorant persons.

When did Freemasonry begin?

No one knows when Freemasonry began. Masonic historian Henry W. Coil says there have been at least 25 theories about Freemasonry's beginning. They include King Solomon, the Greek philosopher Pythagoras, Moses, the ancient pagan mysteries, the Knights Templar, the Crusades, Lord Bacon, and Sir Christopher Wren at the building of St. Paul's Cathedral. Creditable historians have easily discounted most of these and other theories.

In the early 1800s, it was popular among churches to claim their roots went back to the first century Church. Alexander Campbell began a "restoration" movement to restore Christianity to its first century roots. Joseph Smith claimed that Jesus, God the Father, Peter, James and John appeared to him to ordain him as a prophet. Southern Baptist J. M. Carroll wrote "Trail of Blood" to "prove" Baptists had existed in an unbroken line since the first century. Masons were not the only ones to try to tie their roots to the ancient past.

The most reasonable theory is that Freemasonry, as we know it today, arose as the period of the building of great European cathedrals drew to a close. The builders or skilled craftsmen who built the cathedrals had formed guilds to improve their skills and as a guarantee to others that their work was of the best quality. As the number of these skilled craftsmen dwindled, it is believed the guilds opened their ranks to other men, often wealthy or noble citizens. The goal of these guilds changed from building magnificent cathedrals to building personal character. Masons speak of the change from "operative" craftsmen to "speculative" craftsmen. Eventually, the name "Mason" became associated with those in these guilds (or unions).

Modern Masonry is said to have begun in 1717 when four lodges in London, England, formed a Grand Lodge. While it is possible to find references to lodges in earlier centuries, even as far back as the 14th century, it is impossible to know with certainty whether these references were to earlier operative guilds or to lodges as we find in 18th century England.

The catalyst for the beginning of modern Masonry in the early 18th century may have been England's rejection of Roman Catholic control in the 16th and 17th centuries and the establishment of the Church of England as the national church by King Charles II in 1660.

To what does the term "Freemason" refer?

In medieval England, some craftsmen worked for certain landowners. They built buildings for their landowner and sometimes cathedrals in their local towns and cities, but no one else. They were not free to travel from city to city in search of work. Other craftsmen were "free" to travel; they were not bondservants of certain landowners. The term "Freemason" arose to refer to those who were free to travel from city to city to find work as especially skilled craftsmen. Mason and Freemason are interchangeable terms.

Is Freemasonry a "Secret Society?"

Secret societies were popular in the 1800s and early 1900s and hundreds of groups claimed to be secret societies. However, that term has fallen into disfavor and is seldom used by Freemasons or many other groups formerly called secret societies.

Some Freemasons like to say the fraternity is not a secret society but has secrets. In the Masonic rituals, certain terms or passwords are shared with candidates. While most of these terms, rituals or passwords, often mixed with a lot of misinformation, can be found by a diligent search of major university libraries, Freemasons have promised not to share them with non-Masons. A person may purchase videos of Masonic rituals performed by critics of the fraternity. Masonic ritual varies in different states, so the ritual in one state may differ from the ritual used in an adjoining state.

Perhaps the only secret in Freemasonry is the change its teachings make in the heart and mind of a member. As Masons are quick to remind a person, Masonry tries to make a good man better – if he applies himself to the study of Masonic education and morality.

Who have been some famous Freemasons?

A small number of famous Freemasons are Wolfgang Mozart, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Harry Truman, John Glenn, General Douglas MacArthur, General James Doolittle, Admiral Richard Byrd, David Crocket, Red Skelton, John Wayne, and Roy Rogers.

Well-known Southern Baptist leaders who have been Masons include: B. H. Carroll, the first president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and W. T. Conner, who taught theology at Southwestern Seminary from 1910 until his retirement in 1949. James Draper, Jr., a former Mason and retired president of LifeWay Ministries for the Southern Baptist Convention, has written that Conner was "perhaps the most famous theologian to be associated with Southwestern Seminary." Other Southwestern Seminary faculty, who were Masons have included L. R. Scarborough, who served the

seminary as professor of evangelism before being elected president of the seminary in 1914. W. W. Barnes, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary, was a Mason. William W. Hamilton, a Mason, was the Home Mission Board's first director of its Department of Evangelism in 1906; he was also president of the Baptist Bible Institute, now called New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. C. E. Autry, another Mason, also served as the director of the Home Mission Board's Division of Evangelism from 1960 until 1968. George W. Truett, long-time pastor of the First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, was a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. In 1946, the Georgia Baptist Convention held ceremonies at Cleveland, Georgia, to mark the establishment of a new liberal arts college, the Truett-McConnell College named for Truett and Fernando C. McConnell. The ten Masons who served as presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention between 1913 and 1986 included Truett, Lansing Burrows, credited with forming the Cooperative Program, and Herschel H. Hobbs. W. A. Criswell said of Hobbs, "We need men, and even many more men of God like Herschel Hobbs who will do the work and devote themselves to ministry. The libraries at Southwestern Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary are named after Masons. The founder of the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in North Carolina was a Mason. All of these Southern Baptists were dedicated, conservative Christians, most with advanced theological degrees, who found no conflict between their faith in Christ and their membership in the Masonic fraternity.

Why are Roman Catholics opposed to Freemasonry?

The Roman Catholic Church has been opposed to Freemasonry since 1738, in part because the Roman Catholic believed Freemasonry to be supportive of the Protestant church, especially the new Church of England.

Pope Leo XIII issued his infamous encyclical *Humanum Genus* in 1884 in which he condemned Freemasonry as a "wicked force" and a "contagious disease" because Freemasons:

- Call for religious liberty;
- Call for separation of [the Roman Catholic] Church and state;
- Call for education of children by laymen rather than the [Roman Catholic] Church;
- Believe people have the right to make their own laws and elect their own government.

The encyclical was issued shortly after Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi, a Mason, led in the unification of the Papal States into the nation of Italy, leaving the Roman Catholic Church with only the 109-acre Vatican City. The Archbishop of Santiago, Chile, has stated his opposition to Freemasonry because, he claims, Masons were behind the

removal of the crucifix and images from public schools "as if we were not in a Catholic country," a reference to Chile. He charges Masons were behind the organization of the Boy Scouts "with the concealed purpose of alienating the children from the [Catholic] Church." He claimed Masons were behind the effort to replace the Catechism and the influence of Catholic parents with "teachers of a lay morality, without religion." The Archbishop further charged that Freemasonry favors and helps Protestantism, which he defines as "a rebellion against the authority established in His Church by Our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Roman Catholic Church is still opposed to Freemasonry, although many Roman Catholics are Masons.

Why do Masons use the phrase "Great Architect of the Universe" when referring to God?

The phrase "Great Architect of the Universe" was introduced into Masonic ritual in 1723 with the publication of the Rev. Dr. James Anderson's *Book of Constitutions*. Anderson, a Scottish Presbyterian minister, borrowed the phrase from John Calvin's *Commentary on the Psalms* and Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, in which Calvin refers to God several times as "Architect of the Universe." In his *Institutes* (Book 1, p. 157), Calvin wrote, "Hence God was pleased that a history of the creation should exist on which the faith of the Church might lean without seeking another God than Him whom Moses set forth as Creator and Architect of the world."

Masons use the term for two reasons. First, especially in the first two hundred years of its existence (1717-1914), Masons enjoyed using elaborate terms (and rituals) to distinguish the fraternity from words used in everyday life. Second, non-Christians, especially Jews, were attracted to Freemasonry, in part because of Freemasonry's use of Solomon's Temple in its ritual. Masons sought a more neutral term than Jehovah or Yahweh, which Jews were not permitted to utter because God's name was too holy to pronounce.

What do Masons mean when they speak of the "Fatherhood of God."

God is known in the Bible "as Father in three separate senses that must not be confused."

(1) He is Father of Jesus Christ in a unique sense – by incarnation (Matt. 11:25-17; Mark 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6; and 2 Pet. 1:17).

(2) He is Father of believers – by adoption or redemption (Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 11:2, 13; and Gal. 3:26).

(3) He is Father of all persons – by creation (Ps. 68:5; Isa. 64:8; Mal. 2:10; and Matt. 5:45).

"The Baptist Faith and Message," a statement of faith adopted and changed by the Southern Baptist Convention several times, speaks of God as "fatherly in His attitude toward all men."

Masons speak of the Fatherhood of God because God is the creator of all things, including human beings.

Who can be a Mason?

Any male can petition a lodge for membership; a popular Masonic saying goes, "To be one, ask one." In a few states, it is permitted to ask a man to consider becoming a Mason. In some states, particularly in the Old South, African-American men are not usually considered for lodge membership. The Grand Lodge of Virginia recognized Prince Hall Masonry at its November 2001 Annual Communication, the first state in the Old South to do so. Texas soon followed Virginia. A man may petition a lodge at different ages in different states, for example, from age 18 to age 21.

Forty-two of the 51 Grand Lodges (50 states and the District of Columbia) in the United States recognize Prince Hall Freemasonry, the largest African-American Masonic organization in the United States. (There are a number of African-American Grand Lodges other than Prince Hall. Prince Hall Freemasonry is not the largest African-American Grand Lodge in some states.) Prince Hall, who lived in the 18th century, secured permission from the Grand Lodge of England to form a black lodge in Massachusetts. Several Grand Lodges, including the Grand Lodge of Georgia, have African-American members, and this is becoming more common. There are approximately 35 separate black Grand Lodges in Georgia.

American Grand Lodges recognize Grand Lodges in other countries where members are predominately black, such as Jamaica and Brazil [There are 25 separate Grand Lodges in Brazil; not all are recognized by every American Grand Lodge. Unrecognized lodges are referred to as "clandestine" lodges. They are often called "clandestine" because their rituals are not approved.] Masonic courtesy extends visitation privileges to members of recognized Grand Lodges.

There are no statements in the *Masonic Code* of Georgia that prohibits an African-American or a man of any other race from petitioning a Georgia lodge for degrees.

Prince Hall Masons were present and accepted as voting members at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America at the February 2017 annual meeting in LaVista, Nebraska.

Why do Masons use the term "Worshipful Master?"

The Worshipful Master holds an office, generally for one year, as "president" of a local lodge, to use a more common term. Other officers are Senior Warden (first vice-president), Junior Warden (second vice-president), Senior Deacon (assistant to the Worshipful Master), Junior Deacon (assistant to the Senior Warden), Senior and Junior Stewards (assistants to the Junior Warden), Chaplain, Secretary, Treasurer, and Tyler (master at arms). Lodges in some states may have other officers.

The term "worshipful" is a term of honor and is used of a Mason, the Master, who holds the most honored position in the lodge. The term is an Old English term, which means "honor" or "to honor." English Reformer John Wycliffe (1324-1384) translated the Bible from Latin to English. He translated Exodus 20:12, "Thou shalt worship thy father and thy mother, that thou be long lived upon earth." It is obvious that Wycliffe's term *worship* did not refer to the divinity of one's parents, but was a term meaning "to honor." The term *worship* has a different meaning today than it did to Wycliffe and others living in fourteenth-century England. Masons use the term as Wycliffe did. William Shakespeare used the term "worshipful" numerous times in his plays.

In Canada, England, and certain other nations, it is customary to speak of judges and mayors as "your worship," while in American we use the phrase "your honor." The mayor of London is referred to as "Worshipful Lord Mayor."



This is the approved Masonic tag and is being prepared by the State of Georgia. It should be in your county tag office by March 31.

The term *worshipful* may be archaic; but when its usage is understood, it is not offensive or sacrilegious.

Shouldn't Christians only call Jesus "Master?"

For Christians, Jesus is the Master (Luke 8:24; 17:13), even though most of the uses of the term "master" in the Bible refer to men such as Abraham or the owner in Jesus' parable of the talents (Luke 19).

Popular culture and language also refer to others as "master." There is a Masters' Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia. Postmaster and stationmaster are postal positions. A master mechanic is an expert in mechanics, just as a master electrician is a skilled electrician. The Master of Ceremonies is in charge of a program. The Master Chief Petty Officer is the highest-ranking non-commissioned Navy man.

Masons call the Master by that term because he holds the most important position in the lodge and is supposed to be the wisest of Masons.

Does Masonic ritual mention the name of Jesus Christ?

The ritual does not mention any specific name. Much of the ritual is taken from the Old Testament where the specific name of God is not mentioned. [YHWY, the tetragrammaton for the name of God, is almost always translated as LORD, except in a few translations where the name Jehovah is used. There is no letter "J" in the Hebrew language. The Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon suggests the pronunciation *Jehovah* was unknown until 1520 when it was introduced by Galatinus, an Italian Catholic Friar who defended its use. Biblical translator William Tyndale used the word as "Iehouah" in his translations; "Iehovah" was used in the original 1611 Authorized King James Version of the Bible; "u" and "v" were used interchangeably in early English. Jews either use LORD, G-d, or Ha Shem (which means "the Name") when referring to God.]

In the Masonic burial service in Georgia (this ritual varies slightly in every state), the chaplain quotes John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord. He who believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." The Worshipful Master also mentions the resurrection in the ritual. All Masons repeat the Lord's Prayer in the burial ritual. In Georgia, the Lord's Prayer is repeated during cornerstone rituals.

I have been in a number of lodges where the chaplain concludes his prayer "in the name of Jesus." The name of Jesus is used more often in rural lodges.

What do Masons mean when they use the term "Light?"

Some people insist the term "Light" always refers to Jesus Christ or salvation. Indeed, it sometimes does. However, as any dictionary indicates, there are many definitions of light. The term does not always refer to Jesus Christ or salvation.

The motto of the *Baltimore Sun* is "Light for all." Would anyone suggest the *Baltimore Sun* is teaching salvation in its pages? No, it uses "light" in the sense of knowledge or information, just as do Freemasons.

Early in the rituals, a candidate is told "Masonic light" refers to knowledge. He is encouraged to search Masonic sources for "more Masonic light," a reference to more knowledge about himself and the world in which he lives so that he will be a positive and more productive contributor to the society in which he lives.

In the rituals, the candidate is led to the altar in the center of the lodge room where the open Bible lies and is told to search its pages for salvation.

Why do Masonic rituals contain oaths when the Bible speaks against them?

The *Holman Bible Dictionary* says an oath is "A formal appeal to God or some sacred object as a support to fulfill a promise." We read of oaths made throughout the Bible. Even the LORD is said to have made an oath (Deut. 6:18). Among the requirements for dwelling in God's tent is that the individual "stand by their oath even to their hurt" (Ps. 15:4).

Jesus said, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'N'." (Matt. 5:33-37). At the same time, the *Holman Bible Dictionary* says, "Jesus did not condemn oaths, only the abuse of God's name in the taking of oaths."

While critics are quick to point to the so-called "bloody oaths" in Masonic ritual, there are probably hundreds of statements in Masonic sources that while the penalties in the obligations [the preferred terms used by Masons] are to be taken seriously, they are symbolic.

Concerning the symbolic nature of Masonic penalties, Albert G. Mackey (1807-1881), who is often quoted by critics, writes that Masonic penalties "refer in no case to any kind of human punishment; that is to say, to any kind of punishment which is to be inflicted by human hand or instrumentality. The true punishments of Masonry affect neither life nor limb. They are expulsion and suspension only."

Jesus spoke of gouging out eyes and cutting off hands in Matthew 5:29-30. Concerning these verses, William Barclay in his commentary, *The Gospel of Matthew*, states, "Of course, the words of Jesus are not to be taken with a crude literalism."

When I enlisted in the Navy, I took an oath to defend my country to the point of giving up my life. My obligation as a Mason reminds me that there are certain things for which I should be willing to give up my life: my faith, my country, and my family, just as did many men and women in history – and still do today.

Why does Masons refer to the Bible as "furniture"?

Dictionaries define "furniture" as an essential article in a room. For example, a table and chairs are essential articles in a dining room and are rightly called "furniture."

A picture on the wall is not an essential article in a dining room and is not referred to as “furniture.”

Masons refer to the Bible as “furniture” because an open Bible is an *essential* book in a lodge room before the lodge can be opened for business. For Masons, the Bible is the “greatest Light” in Masonry; each candidate is led to the open Bible on the altar and told to search its pages for the Words of Life.

Does Masonry teach salvation by works?

No. Religions teach salvation. Masonry is not a religion; it is a fraternity of men, most of whom are active in their churches or synagogues. Masons are encouraged to be faithful in their houses of worship.

Many critics quote Albert Pike in *Morals and Dogma* when he says, “Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion; and its teachings are instruction in religion.” Pike also spoke of “a religion of toil,” and “a religion of society.” In another place in *Morals and Dogma*, he says, “Masonry is not a religion. He who makes of it a religious belief, falsifies and denaturalizes it.”

What does Pike mean by his use of the term *religion*? Pike is not saying there is a religion of toil or a religion of society any more than he is saying there is a religion of Freemasonry. As I said in *Fundamentalism and Freemasonry*, Pike “is using the term *religion* in a much broader sense than one typically thinks when a person uses the phrase *the Christian religion*. Pike is using the term to mean the general awareness that people have of a Supreme Being and of doing what is pleasing to Him in our toil and in our relationship with each other and the general society.”

Masonry would indeed be a curious religion if it were a religion. In most Grand Lodges, Masons may not ask a man to be a member. Women are not permitted to become Masons. What kind of religion prohibits members from asking others to join their religion and automatically rules out half the population?

Critics often point to the white apron worn by Masons as an “emblem of that purity of life and conduct which is essential to his gaining admission to the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.” Neither the Masonic degrees nor the white apron brings that purity of life and conduct. The apron is a symbol of the purity of life and conduct essential for admission to heaven, which for me, as a Christian Mason comes only through my faith in Jesus Christ – nothing more.

Who was Hiram Abif?

There are two Hiram in the Bible. One was Hiram, King of Tyre, who was the son of Abibaal (“my father is Baal”). The second was Hiram Abi, referred to as Hiram Abi or Hiram-abi in some translations. Martin Luther translated the name as “Hiram Abif” in 2 Chronicles 2:13 and 4:16. The Hebrew Scriptures refer to him as “Hiram his master

craftsman. Hiram Abi was from Tyre and had a widowed Jewish mother.

According to Masonic ritual, Hiram Abif was murdered by three “ruffians” and secretly buried. King Solomon launched a search party who found the grave, removed (“raised”) the body from the temporary grave and reburied it in a more appropriate place.

All Masonic rituals are dramas performed by actors (lodge members) to teach certain moral lessons to candidates. As with all dramas, whether “The Ten Commandments” or Masonic ritual, the drama does not exactly follow the Biblical text.

The drama about Hiram Abif is supposed to teach the candidate to keep his word even if it might mean losing his life. Hiram Abif is not the Masonic Savior; he is a man whose character as portrayed in the ritual made him one that others should emulate.

What is *Morals and Dogma*?

Morals and Dogma is a 1,000+ page book written by Albert Pike, who lived in the 19th century and who served as Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, in the United States. The Southern Jurisdiction generally refers to those states south of the Mason-Dixon Line and west of the Mississippi River. The other states form the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite.

Morals and Dogma is a history of religious and philosophical thought of many cultures and religions over many centuries. It is a difficult book to read. Pike uses lengthy sentences, jumps from one thought to another (and back) and uses words not used by people today. The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, has added a Preface to *Morals and Dogma*. It states, “Perhaps it would have been better and more acceptable if he [Pike] had extracted more and written less.”

A copy of *Morals and Dogma* was given to Scottish Rite Masons when they received their degrees until a number of years ago. The large book became expensive to publish; furthermore, Scottish Rite Masons seldom read it anyway. Recently, the Southern Jurisdiction re-translated *Morals and Dogma* into more modern English to make it easier to read and understand.

Is *Morals and Dogma* the Masonic Bible?

No! The Masonic Bible, found on the altars of all Masonic Lodges, is the King James Version of the Bible [Masons like those Old English words!] *Morals and Dogma* is never found on the altar in a Blue or Symbolic Lodge.

The Masonic Bible usually includes a section of questions and answers concerning the Bible, but the text is exactly the same text found in every King James Version of the Bible.

What does *Morals and Dogma* say about Jesus Christ?

A lot! Pike refers to Christ as “Jesus of Nazareth” at least eight times. He refers to Him as “Christ” or as “Jesus Christ” at least sixty-seven times. Pike also refers to Christ as “Him who died upon the cross,” as the “Good Shepherd,” as the “Son of God,” as the “Son of man,” as “the Word Incarnate,” as “*Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior,*” as the “WORD of God,” and as “the Only-Begotten.”

It is often pointed out by critics that in one instance, Pike refers to Christ as a “teacher or reformer.” But, he also refers to “The Christ of the Apocalypse, First-born of Creation and of the Resurrection.” And, “The agonies of the garden of Gethsemane and those on the Cross on Calvary preceded the Resurrection and were the means of Redemption.”

One of the many symbols used by Masons is the Delta or triangle. Of the three sides of this symbol, Pike writes, “to the Christian Mason, they represent the Three that bear record in Heaven, the FATHER, the WORD, and the HOLY SPIRIT, which three are ONE.”

Didn't Albert Pike say that Masons secretly worshipped Lucifer?

No! No! No! This false rumor is popularly called the Leo Taxil Hoax. Taxil, also known as Bagriel Antoine Jogand-Pages, was an anti-Catholic and an anti-Mason, who claimed that Pike gave a speech on 14 July 1889 in which he said, “Masonic Religion should be, by all of us initiates of the higher degrees, maintained in the purity of the Luciferian Doctrine . . . Yes, Lucifer is God.”

Pike died in 1891. Taxil admitted his hoax in January 1897. However, by then, the hoax had taken on a life of its own, and is still regularly repeated by Masonic critics, even though non-Masonic scholars have found very conclusive evidence that Taxil's claim is a hoax. Readers are referred to *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?* by Art deHoyos and S. Brent Morris for a list of some of the accounts of Taxil's hoax.

Pike refers to Lucifer six times, the Devil eight times, and Satan twenty-two times in *Morals and Dogma*. There is no evidence that Pike was Luciferian or that he believed Lucifer was God. In the majority of times Pike cited Lucifer, the Devil, or Satan, they were references to how an individual or religion, such as Gnosticism or the Manichaeans, used the terms. ●

Cover Photo

Persons in cover photo from the left:
Most Worshipful F. A. “Drew” Lane, Jr., PGM
Most Worshipful E. Ray Knittel, PGM
Right Worshipful Johnie Garmon, Junior Grand Warden
Wor. Bro. Tommy Towler, Grand Marshall
Wor. Bro. Charles E. Long, Trustee at Masonic Home
Wor. Bro. Jan M. Giddens, Junior Grand Deacon
Governor and Bro. Roy E. Barnes
Most Worshipful Gary H. Leazer, Grand Master
Most Worshipful Joseph P. Suttles, PGM
Right Worshipful Larry W. Nichols, Deputy Grand Master
Wor. Bro. Curtis Anderson, Chairman of Masonic Home
Trustees.
Wor. Bro. Donnie Wynick, Grand Tyler
Wor. Bro. Michael Kesser, Senior Grand Deacon



Upper photo: MWB Joe Suttles visits with Gov. Barnes.

Upper right: RWB Larry Nichols points out design of a Cottage.

Right: RWB Nichols shows Mrs. Marie Barnes a design of the Cottage.

Left: A small percentage of the large gathering who attended the morning's presentation.



The Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons
Masonic Messenger
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