

Masonic Messenger



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

June 2017



**Grand Lodge Officers from South Carolina
and Georgia who attended the
Georgia-South Carolina Exchange**

Get Your Tickets Now for Goose and Gridiron Banquet

See page 3 for details

Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475

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

Grand Lodge Officers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Grand Master | Gary H. Leazer (99, 262, 744)
3318 Mansfield Ln. Snellville, GA 30039
E-mail: garyleazer44@gmail.com
770-851-0997 |
| Deputy Grand Master | Larry W. Nichols (59)
5500 Interstate Pkwy, Ste. 415 Atlanta, GA 30328
E-mail: lnichols@lwncpa.com v 404-735-3544 |
| Senior Grand Warden | Michael H. Wilson (6, 84)
3655 Jensen Ct. Loganville, GA 30052
E-Mail: mike.wilson@wilsonroofingcompany.com 678-410-0833 |
| Junior Grand Warden | Johnie M. Garmon (114)
P. O. Box 1921 Blairsville, GA 30514
0000001@0000000000000000 (Cell) 706-781-9565 |
| Grand Treasurer | Bobby B. Simmons (111, 756)
203 Williams Drive Bonaire, GA 31005
E-mail: bnsimmons81@bellsouth.net 813-391-9616 |
| Grand Secretary | Joseph "Joe" W. Watson (298)
811 Mulberry Street Macon, GA 31201-6779
E-mail: fam2@bellsouth.net Office: 478-742-1475 |
| Grand Chaplain | Joe R. Bush (99)
2050 Buckley Trail Snellville, GA 30078
E-mail: joebush1207@gmail.com (Cell) 678-308-0344 |
| Grand Marshal | Tommy Towler (99)
E-mail: aandtowler@aol.com (Cell) 770-356-4071 |
| Grand Orator | E. Ray Knittel, PGM (2013) (64, 724)
330 Wilson Caldwell Rd Cohutta, GA 30710
E-mail: rayknittel@windstream.net (Cell) 706-463-3201 |
| Senior Grand Deacon | Jan M. Giddens (33)
2897 Huntcliff Drive Marietta, GA 30066
E-mail: gjiddensj@comcast.com (Cell) 678-232-4115 |
| Junior Grand Deacon | Donald C. Combs (46)
1262 Meadow Lane SE Darien, GA 31305
don_combs@juno.com (Cell) 478-235-3750 |
| First Grand Steward | Michael A. Kessler (216)
3592 Woodstream Circle NE Atlanta, GA 30319
kessler@bellsouth.net (Cell) 678-947-1001 |
| Second Grand Steward | Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
2859 Bridle Creek Dr. SW Conyers, GA 30094
bwposton@gmail.com (Cell) 678-571-2738 |
| Third Grand Steward | Mark A. Bradley (36)
219 Jacob Drive Hoschton, GA 30548
E-mail: marktirement@windstream.net (Cell) 706-983-9216 |
| Grand Tyler | Donnie Waynick (262)
E-mail: pepperwaynick@aol.com (Cell) 770-435-0437 |
| Grand Treasurer Emeritus | Samuel R. Whitfield (323)
111 Tower Rd, NE, Apt. 417 Marietta, GA 30060-6997 |
| Grand Treasurer Emeritus | Merrill L. Clark, Sr. (200)
P. O. Box 129 Shady Dale, GA 31085 |
| Grand Secretary Emeritus | James E. Underwood, PGM (367)
150 Spring Creek Road Canton, GA 30115 |
| Grand Secretary Emeritus | 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

Publications Committee

Ross Laver, Chairman, Home: 770-489-1864
E-mail: rosslaver@masonicmessenger.com
ross.laver@gmail.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, \$15.00 foreign per year
ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION CIRCULATION 38,000

Hampton Lodge No. 70 kills Two Birds with One Stone

Wor. Bro. Tim Legarth, now a District Deputy to the Grand Master, was Worshipful Master of Hampton Lodge No. 70 in 2005. As Worshipful Master, he was concerned about the declining attendance at lodge communications. He knew that unless the lodge tried something new, it would eventually not have enough Brothers attending to open lodge. But, he said the main reason for a new approach was to meet and learn the names of the lodge Ladies.

Hampton Lodge meets on the first and third Mondays so he announced that the lodge would meet for practice on Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:30. During the practice, the Ladies would be able to visit with each other in the dining hall, and at 7:30 the Brothers and their Ladies would go out for dinner at an area restaurant.

Wednesday night proved to be the wrong night as many of the Brothers and their Ladies had to get up to go to work Thursday morning. So the lodge did the only sensible thing. They changed the night to Friday and attendance mushroomed. Brothers from other lodges came to the practices primarily to go out to eat later.

Recently Wor. Bro. Joe Bush, Grand Chaplain, and his Lady Lorna, and the Grand Master and his Lady Ruth visited Hampton Lodge on a Friday night. Ruth and Lorna were warmly welcomed by the 18 Ladies in the dining hall as if they regularly attended. That evening, the Ladies played Mexican Train with dominoes. The Ladies have formed a close sisterhood and really care for one another — and the Brothers have learned the Ladies' names.

Wor. Bro. V. S. "Mac" McGee, recently installed as Master of the Sixth Masonic District Convention, Custodian of the Sixth District and a member of Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26, sat in the East. He adjourned the practice for an upcoming Master Mason's degree at exactly 7:30, and the Brothers and

their Ladies went out to a local Mexican restaurant where the fun and fellowship really happened.



Brothers and family waiting on their checks at a Mexican restaurant.

On a Saturday in May, the Grand Chaplain and his Lady Lorna, and the Grand Master and his Lady Ruth, attended a picnic held by Golden Fleece No. 6 at Hard Labor Creek State Park near Rutledge, and again, fun and fellowship was had by all, Brothers, Ladies and children.

The Grand Chaplain of Virginia, RW Barrye Lane Absher, was visiting Georgia and attended the picnic where he also enjoyed grilled chicken and all of the trimmings.

Hard Labor Creek State Park is one of the largest parks in Georgia. It is believed to have been named by Native Americans who had a difficult time crossing the creek or by slaves who were forced to work in fields along the creek.

Hard Labor Creek State Park was created by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. In 1946, the park was turned over to the State of Georgia where its golf course and walking, biking and equestrian trails have become very popular. The park is a great place for lodge picnics.



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW WHILE THEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

Goose and Gridiron Banquet

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

The only Official Georgia Grand Lodge Celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Creation of the First Grand Lodge in the World

Alee Shrine Temple Ballroom 100 Eisenberg Drive Savannah, GA

All Masons, their spouses, children age 12 & older and/or guests are welcome

Cost \$50 per person (please make checks out to Donald C. Combs) Only 600 tickets will be available (about 250 left as of now)

July 22, 2017 6:00PM

Social Hour starting at 5:00 PM (beer and wine only — sponsored by Alee Shrine — 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 (first come, first served)**



Goose and Gridiron Tavern

Mail checks 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**

Those attending the Goose and Gridiron Banquet will enjoy an experience similar to the Annual Feasts of Freemasonry in the 1700s. You may read more about the reasons for the organization of the Mother Grand Lodge on page 6 of this magazine. As the article on page 6 states, the Annual Banquet may have been the most important move made by the original Grand Lodge.

Although not a formal Table Lodge, it is an opportunity for Freemasons and their families to enjoy a fine meal in a common setting as I have encouraged lodges to do throughout my year as Grand Master.

As we think back to family dinners around a large table

in a room filled with laughter and conversation when we were children, my hope is that we will think back on this banquet and remember that experience years from now.

This banquet continues a fine tradition begun by our Masonic forefathers 300 years ago. It is my sincere hope that this banquet will encourage lodges to host formal banquets, either in the dining room of their lodges or in restaurants where Masons and their families can enjoy an evening together.

“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.”

An Enjoyable Night had at Quitman Lodge No. 106

Quitman Lodge No. 106, chartered on October 31, 1849, is the oldest and most historic civic organization in Ringgold in Catoosa County in far northwest Georgia. David S. Anderson was the first Worshipful Master.

Quitman Lodge erected a 3rd story on the Courthouse in Ringgold for its use prior to the Civil War. Just south of Chattanooga, Ringgold was a target for the advancing Union army. As was the general practice, Union forces set fire to many buildings, including the County Courthouse. When the Union General William T. Sherman realized a Masonic Lodge was on the 3rd floor, he ordered his soldiers to extinguish the fire, thus not only saving the courthouse and Masonic Lodge, but also the historic documents.

Later, the courthouse and lodge were "removed" to build the present Courthouse. A new Masonic Lodge Hall was built across the street where it still stands. The lodge room is one of the most beautiful in Georgia.

Bro. William Mills is the Worshipful Master this year.

The Grand Master, Grand Marshal Tommy Towler and Grand Chaplain Joe Bush visited Quitman Lodge on May 18. Wor. Bro. Tyler Pledger, DDGM-7A, was also in attendance.

A large number of Brothers from several lodges were present. A fine meal was prepared by the Ladies of Ringgold OES Chapter No. 245.

After which, lodge was opened and guests invited in. The Sheriff Department's Honor Guard presented the Colors. A number of law enforcement officers were present, several of whom are Freemasons. A 50-year award was presented to Bro. Milton Dailey of Gordon Springs Lodge No. 463.

Everyone had an enjoyable evening.



Certificates for completing the investigation course were presented to the Worshipful Master and Junior Warden by the lodge.



Sheriff Department's Honor Guard presenting the Colors



Quitman Lodge No. 106



Sheriff's Department Honor Guard



The Grand Master presents plaques to law enforcement officers on behalf of Quitman Lodge.

Rainbow Girls Recognized at Battle Hill Assembly



At an official visitation for Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 held at Battle Hill Lodge No. 523 on May 16, the Grand Master recognized the Rainbow Girls of Battle Hill Assembly. He thanks them for assisting with the lodge dinner.

Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens speaks at Fulton Lodge



Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens, Senior Grand Deacon and a member of Kennesaw No. 33, spoke at Fulton No. 216 on May 17 about the Masonic connection to the lynching of Leo Frank on August 17, 1915, two years after he was found guilty of murdering Mary Phagan, an employee at his pencil factory in Atlanta. Bro. and Gov. Roy Barnes, who was present, cited hatred toward Jews during and after the trial of Frank, who was Jewish.

A conspiracy arose among leading citizens of Marietta to hang Leo Frank who was serving a death sentence but which had been commuted to a life sentence. Wor. Bro. Giddens' research found that nine members of Kennesaw Lodge were directly involved in the lynching.

At least 31 men were involved in the planning and execution of the lynching. Several car loads of men left Marietta at different times and traveled by different roads

to the prison at Milledgeville, walked into the prison, grabbed Leo Frank, which took ten minutes, and drove back to Marietta by different roads and hanged Frank in Sheriff William Frey's orchard now occupied by I-75. Judge Newt Morris, who had lots of power and influence in the city, kicked the table out from under Frank. The lynchers put out a story that the hanging would take place on the Marietta Square so only the lynchers were at the orchard. During the kidnapping, the Mayor of Marietta said no cars were missing from the city. It was a well-planned conspiracy.

Eight of the lynchers later petitioned Kennesaw Lodge for the degrees. Several of them were repeatedly black balled before being accepted; John Dorsey was rejected by the lodge six times between 1917 and 1935 before he was allowed to join in 1946. Dorsey is the only one who has a square and compasses on his grave. None of the eight ever served Kennesaw Lodge as Worshipful Master. Three others involved in the conspiracy who petitioned the lodge were never accepted.

The consensus of researchers on the subject is that Frank was wrongly convicted. Most researchers today agree that Jim Conley, a janitor at the pencil factory, was likely the murderer.

Gov. Joe Frank Harris pardoned Frank in 1985. He received lots of hate mail after he did.

The Grand Master and several other Grand Lodge officers were present for Wor. Bro. Giddens' presentation.

Special Flag Presentation at Salem Lodge

Salem Lodge No. 267 F&AM held a regular meeting on June 8 that was very special. Mr Bill Hatcher presented a flag to Salem Lodge that had been draped over his Uncle's casket. Col. H. P. Hatcher, U S Army, was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam Wars as well as a 50-year Mason. Col. Hatcher's daughter, Mary, was in attendance as well as several family members from North Carolina to Florida. Masons from Georgia, Florida and Alabama were in attendance. This was a humbling experience and made me proud to be a part of Masonry.

— Calvin Atkinson, Worshipful Master.



Cordelia Lodge No. 296 Holds 56th Annual Table Lodge

It was a distinct honor for the Grand Master, Grand Marshal and Grand Chaplain to attend the 56th Annual Table Lodge, always held on the EA degree, at Cordelia Lodge.



Table Lodge at Cordelia Lodge No. 296

Civilized people the world over cherish the family feasts: Christmas and New Year, and, in this country, Thanksgiving Day. Such gatherings are more than mere opportunities to eat: they are spiritual solidifications of family ties, opportunities for mutual rejoicing, a means by which the family becomes more closely knit.

The Masonic banquet, in which an elaborate menu is served, followed by the introduction of one or more speakers by a toast-master, the whole in commemoration of some anniversary, such as St. John's Day observance, or as a commencement of a new year, is common.

The feast as a function, a ceremonial, an occasion, is very old. How old it is not necessary here to attempt to determine.

The Masonic desirability of a social dinner is as old as the Freemasonry we know. In 1717, when the Mother Grand Lodge was formed to revitalize the Lodges in and around London, one of the reasons given was "To revive the Quarterly Communication and hold the Annual Feast." Many historians claim this Annual Banquet was the most important move made by the new Body. And a short time later, the Grand Master directed there be installed "the old, regular and peculiar Toasts and Health of Freemasons." From the idea of a feast in which brethren broke bread together and drank in common, came the Table Lodge of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

Famous Masonic authority H. L. Haywood, in "More About Masonry" says: "In the Eighteenth Century Lodges the Feast bulked so large in the lodge that in many of them the members were seated at the table when the lodges were opened and remained at it throughout the Communication, even when the degrees were conferred. The result was that Masonic fellowship was good fellowship in it, as in a warm and fruitful soil, acquaintanceship, friendship, and affection could flourish – there was no grim and silent sitting on a bench, staring across at a wall. Out of this festive spirit flowered the love which Masons had for their lodge. They brought gifts to it, and only by reading of old inventories can any present day Mason measure the extent of that love; there

were gifts of chairs, tables, altars, pedestals, tapestries, silver, candle-sticks, oil paintings, Bibles, mementos, curios and portraits. The lodge was a home, warm, comfortable, luxurious, full of memories, tokens, and affection, and even if a member died, his presence was never wholly absent; to such a lodge no member went grudgingly, nor had to be coaxed, nor was moved by that ghastly, cold thing called a sense of duty, but went as if drawn by a magnet, and counted the days until he could go.

"What business has any lodge to be nothing but a machine for grinding out the work: It was not called into existence in order to have the minutes read: Even a mystic tie will snap under the strain of cheerlessness, repetition, monotony, and dullness. A lodge needs a fire lighted in it, and the only way to have that warmth is to restore the lodge Feast, because when it is restored, good fellowship and brotherly love will follow, and where good fellowship is, members will fill up an empty room not only with themselves but also with their gifts." In a few Grand Lodges in the United States, the ancient custom of the Table Lodge is still preserved; some Masonic authorities believe that it might be revived in all Grand Lodges to the enlightenment and pleasure of the brethren."

Although alcoholic beverages did contribute to the festivities of the Table Lodge in days long gone, they were not a necessary adjunct. Wine was the libation, but that was changed when the 18th Amendment was adopted. Although prohibition was repealed, Freemasonry did not completely follow suit. It retained a substitution, mainly out of respect for the Brethren who practiced abstinence. Today, wine (in many Grand Jurisdictions), fruit juices and punches are used for the Toasts. Actually, it is not what the glass contains, but the concept it offers.

The Table Lodge is a heritage of our past, which should be revived. It has been stated that "the Table Lodge is the summary of Masonic doctrine." It prescribed reverence for Divinity and moral law. It strengthened the devotion that Masons held for Lodge and Country. It increased the unity and fellowship of the Craft.

This article was adapted from the Grand Lodge of Maine at mainemason.org. There are numerous websites which explain the Table Lodge in detail.

The small toasting glasses are from Sarasota Lodge No. 147 in Florida and Samuel S. Lawrence Lodge No. 721.

The large glass is a gift from Wor. Bro. Richard Sagar who served as toast-master the last time at Clarkston Lodge No. 492 while I was Worshipful Master. The heavy bottoms make the glasses sound like gun shots when slammed on the table after each toast.



Friends and Family Night Held at Meyerhardt Lodge Top Readers Recognized

On May 25, Meyerhardt Lodge No. 314 hosted its most recent "Friends and Family Night" with a visitation from our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Gary Leazer. MWB Leazer was kind enough to assist Meyerhardt Lodge in presenting awards to some of our local Elementary and Intermediate Schools Top Readers.

Pictured below are Ms. Barbara Powell-Schager who accepted the award on behalf of Big Shanty Intermediate School and her students Nathan Martinez-Chavez and Miss Auhdrina Flores who could not attend. Also pictured below, Grand Master Leazer presents the award for Kennesaw Elementary students Kayson Fernandes and Logan Cleghorne. Meyerhardt No. 314 had presented all four students with eReaders at a their school ceremonies earlier in the week. A good time was had by all!



Wor. Master David K. Grant and Ms. Barbara Powell-Schager



Logan Cleghorne



Kayson Fernandes

2017 Lodge Officers



2017 officers at **Rochelle No. 190** are: George Scott, Wor. Master; Jimmy Lee, Sen. Warden; Luke Gibbs, Jun. Warden; Berry Collier, Treasurer; Bland Brooks, Chaplain; Randy Coker, Sen. Deacon; Dale Frazier, Sen. Steward; and Raymond Gibbs, Jun. Steward.



2017 officers at **Chehaw No. 701** are Chris Owens - Wor. Master; Cyle Pittman, Sen. Warden; Melvin Eubanks, Jun. Warden; Del Murray, Treasurer; Julian Strickland, Secretary; Daniel Gardner, Chaplain; Gary Reynolds Jr., Sen. Deacon; Randy Clouser, Jun. Deacon; Gerry Rios, Sen. Steward; Billy Stewart, Jun. Steward; and Eric Aamons, Tyler.

New Perpetual Members at Rockmart No. 97



Perpetual Certificates were presented to two Brothers, Chris Miller (left) and Aymen Shaat, in Rockmart Lodge No. 97. Rockmart Lodge No. 97 currently has 60 perpetual members!!

Eagle Scout Awards



Wor. Bro. Gary Monk presented Benjamin Cole Kaminski of Troop 69 his Eagle Scout Award at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church on May 7. Pictured with Benjamin are his parents, Mrs. & Mrs. Jeff Kaminski.



Wor. Bro. Dexter Harrison, DDGM 9F, presented an Eagle Scout award to Will Carroll at Loganville American Legion.



Wor. Bro. Sonny Head, DDGM, presented Masonic awards to Eagle Scouts of Troop 25 of Waynesboro. Left to right: Ashley Clark, Cameron Chalker, Hunter Odom, Jack Phelps, Sonny Head, JC Ellison, John Bragg, John Scheider, and Myers Clark.



Wor. Bro. Jim E. Alford, Jr. presented two Eagle Scouts two Masonic Awards at Oostanaula Lodge No. 113.



RWB Joe Watson presented three Masonic Eagle Scout Awards at Greenville Lodge No. 321.

Carnesville No. 186 Presents MELD Certificates



Our brand new MELD director for 8-C Wor. Bro. Josh Blakely and our esteemed Brother Boyce Andrews as our new Meld Director awarded Brother Andrews with two completion certificates during one of our recent meetings.

Investigation Course Certificates Presented



Wor. Bro. Tony Dickerson, 8a, presented Investigation Certificates to Past Master Tony McCollum, W.M. Tony Temples, and Past Master Phil Bryant at Royston Lodge No. 52.

Brothers in Generous Warren Receive Investigation Certificates



WB Wiley Forrester, State Chairman of MELD, presented Brother Avery Jones and Brother Brandon Talbird with the Investigation Certificates they had earned, at the same meeting.

This was a long night. WB Billy Dawkins, WB Ashley Knight, and their team put on the EA degree on two candidates. Two uncles were there to see their nephews receive the degree. There were brothers from Campton Lodge No. 566 and Dawson No. 68 and a couple of other lodges too I think.

RWB Larry Nichols and Wor. Bro. Jim Goodman, DDGM, presented a 50-year award to Bro. Beecher Underhill.

We had a good time.

Investigation Course Certificates Awarded



On behalf of MELD Director Mike Nichols, MELD Certificates for completing the Masonic Investigation Course were presented at Springfield Lodge No. 440 by District Deputy to the Grand Master, Wor. Bro. Ron Boatright.

Receiving certificates were Bros. George Pratt, Wor. Master; M. P. Jones, Secretary; Randy White, Junior Warden; Ron Boatright, Senior Warden; Craig Johnson, Junior Deacon; Jordan Foster, Senior Deacon; Wayne Foster, Chaplain; and Shannon Murdaugh, Treasurer.

Mansfield Lodge No. 489 Hosts 8th Masonic District Convention

The 78th Annual Communication of the 8th Masonic District Convention was hosted by Mansfield No. 489 on May 20. Seventy-one District Masons, seven Grand Lodge officers and two out-of-district visitors attended the Convention.

Lodge was opened at 8:30 and the lodge was convened by the Worshipful Master of the District, Wor. Bro. Ray Sikes, at 10:00. After the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country, Most Worshipful Grand Master Gary Leazer was received and given Private Grand Honors. He introduced the Grand Lodge officers present.

Roll call of convention officers and district lodges was taken by Wor. Bro. Joe Colvard, District Secretary. The minutes of the 77th Annual Communication were written in the program as were all of the other reports from the various committees. This saved much time.

Seven District Past Masters were recognized as were ten sitting Masters of Lodges. There were no 50-year Masons present, but 15 veterans were recognized.

The collection for the Masonic Home Endowment Fund yielded \$283.

The District Custodians' Report showed that one Orange card, seven green cards, 13 Blue Cards and 20 White Cards were issued during the previous year.

Golden Fleece Lodge No. 4 was recognized as having the most in attendance during all of the District meetings during the year.

Wor. Bro. Wiley Forrester, State MELD Director, recognized the 8th District for leading the state in investigation courses.

District Master Ray Sikes presented each District officer a small gift for their support during the year.

After the Grand Master installed the officers for the ensuing year, the Convention was adjourned, after which the Brothers adjourned to the dining hall for a prime rib dinner.



Billy Lee Dawkins, Jr., Worshipful Master of Mansfield Lodge No. 489, was recognized for his leadership in the 8th Masonic District during the preceding year.



Wor. Bro. Donald Doster was named Past Master of the Year.



District Deputies were recognized and presented plaques of appreciation for their hard work supporting the lodges during the year.



Outgoing District Master Ray Sikes was recognized for his effective leadership as Master of the 8th Masonic District.

Report on the 188th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida

Right Worshipful Brother Johnie Garmon, Junior Grand Warden, and his Lady Eva, the Grand Master and his Lady Ruth attended the 188th Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, May 28-30. The Grand Lodge of Florida has reserved the Rosen Plaza Hotel through 2020.

Six Brothers from the District Grand Lodge of the Bahamas and the Turks, a part of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, attended as did a Brother from the Grand Lodge of Paraguay. The District Grand Master of the Bahamas and the Turks, RWB Joseph R. Curry, is a Senator in the Bahamas. There are ten lodges in the District Grand Lodge of the Bahamas and the Turks.

Only seated Worshipful Masters and Grand Lodge officers, which include DDGMs, are allowed to vote for Grand Lodge officers. Past Masters cannot vote for Grand Lodge officers. The voting is done electronically with devices hanging around the necks of those allowed to vote, who numbered around 800 Brothers. Voting on the Grand Lodge officers took fewer than ten minutes. The Grand Lodge leases the devices on an annual basis. All Master Masons may vote by show of hands on other motions.

Right Worshipful Brother Richard G. Hoover was elected unanimously as Grand Master. Most Worshipful Brother Richard E. Lynn, PGM, was re-elected unanimously as Grand Secretary.

Three Past Masters from one Family in Nahunta Lodge No. 391



Wor. Bro. Henry Stone is a 50 year Mason and served as Worshipful Master in 1984; he is the father in law of Wor. Bro. David Burgess who served as Worshipful Master in 2003 and the grandfather of WB Jacob Burgess who served as Worshipful Master in 2016.

Wor. Bro. David has been the treasurer for Nahunta No. 391 since 2004.

Wor. Bro. Ronald Boatright, DDGM-1D, and a Brother in Springfield Lodge No. 440, also attended to see his twin brother, Right Worshipful Brother Rudy Boatright, elected Grand Treasurer of Florida.

Most Worshipful Brother Stanley L. Hudson, Grand Master, announced that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Florida had agreed to meet with representatives of the Grand Lodge of Florida in August concerning mutual recognition of the two Grand Lodges.

We were warmly welcomed and treated well at the Grand Lodge of Florida. I saw many Brothers I had met during my trips to speak at Florida Masonic meetings. I was actually made an honorary member of a Florida Blue Lodge before I was raised a Master Mason in Clarkston Lodge No. 492 here in Georgia. I missed seeing one of my best friends, Most Worshipful Brother Elmer Coffman, PGM and PGT, who was ill and unable to attend. He invited me to one of his District meetings when he was running for the office of Grand Master and then invited me to speak at Grand Lodge when he was installed. I told the Brothers I did the best I could in my speech at the District meeting but "you elected him anyway."

At that District meeting held at the Scottish Rite Center in Jacksonville, I met the General Secretary of the Valley of Jacksonville, Bernie Magary, who retired after 31 years as a Master Chief. As we visited we realized both of us were on the USS America (CVA-66) when we crossed the equator off the coast of Brazil in 1968 during our round-the-world cruise, stopping of course off the coast of North Vietnam to do some bombing. I was considered a "polywog" because I had not been initiated as a "shellback" in a ceremony when we crossed the equator. I learned the General Secretary had served as the "Royal Baby" in that ceremony. Heavy grease was smeared over his large bare belly and polywogs had to kiss his belly in the ceremony. The large certificate I received after my initiation 49 years ago still hangs on a wall in my bedroom.



Polywogs await their initiation as shellbacks on the USS America on crossing the equator in November 1968. They show evidence of over anxious shellbacks getting them ready for what lies ahead.

Harmony Lodge No. 405 Awards Scholarships



The 2017 Harmony No. 405 Masonic Scholarships were awarded Tuesday night June 6 at our Quarterly Family Night Dinner. Pictured are the two recipients and the Worshipful Master: Whitney Marie Webb, Worship Master John Webb, Christen Hunter Byrd

The Grand Master wishes to thank the many Brothers who have purchased one of his knives. Thus far, in excess of \$13,000 has been raised for Demolay and Rainbow scholarships. The Youth Council awarded seven Rainbow scholarships and three Demolay scholarships this year for a total of \$5,000 (only three Demolays applied for scholarships). The remainder of the money will be held over for next year to award scholarships to worthy students in 2018.

The Grand Master also presented a \$1,000 check to a Boy Scout troop near Macon who needed funds to upgrade their camp. Brothers, you out did yourselves — and we are not finished yet! Thank you!

Harris County Recognizes Young Scholars

Every May the Harris County Masonic Scholarship Association (HCMSA) hosts a Scholarship dinner where the recipients are recognized for their achievements in school. Since 2001 the HCMSA has given over 64 scholarships which totals over \$32,000. This year's dinner was held at Hamilton Lodge and our guest speaker was MWB Gary Leazer, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

The HCMSA was started in 2001 by the four lodges of Harris Co. for the purpose of recognizing the seniors at Harris Co. High School with an academic scholarship towards college. The HCMSA was formed by Hamilton Lodge No. 16, Chipley Lodge No. 40, Gordon Lodge No. 108, and Kimbrough Lodge No. 118. Due to unforeseen circumstances the HCMSA is down to only two lodges participating. As a teacher/coach at Harris County High School, a Mason and chairman of the HCMSA, I am proud of this tradition we started and that we continue to be able recognize and honor our young people.

Recipients of the scholarships are pictured to the right.

— WB Rob Grant, DDGM 4-D & Chairman of HCMSA.

Barrow County Lodges Award Scholarships



Masons from the five lodges (Davidson, Auburn, Carter Hill, Winder, and Statham) in Barrow County met at Auburn Lodge No. 230 to present eight \$470 scholarships to young scholars on their way to college or university this fall. In the past ten years the five lodges have awarded scholarships to 60 students in the amount of \$22,618.

This year the students receiving scholarships (pictured from the left) were Jason Craig, Summer Bortz, Lindsey Futch, Tyler Moore, Cassie King, and Phoebe Milledge. Two of the awardees were not able to attend.

The lodge was filled with Masons, families and friends who enjoyed a wonderful meal and then witnessed the presentations in the lodge room.



Pictured left to right are WB Michael Grant Worshipful Master of Chipley No. 40 and also a scholarship recipient of 2011; Walker Harris; MWB Gary Leazer, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia; Morgan Benefield; Becca Marston; Bailey Hotard; and WB Rob Grant DDGM 4-D & Chairman of HCMSA.

64th Annual Rock Quarry
Communication
August 26, 2017
Morganton
Brawley Mountain



Dinner at the Spring

**-1/2 mile from the Quarry: 12-3.30 PM Gate
to Quarry Opens at 3:30 PM**

Lodge opens at 6 PM

Degree Work by Cherokee Lodge No. 66

**If heading North on 515/Appalachian Hwy, go to
the 8th traffic light(there will be An Exxon Station with
a Dunkin Donut on corner) and turn right onto
Ga 60. In .54 miles, this will come to a dead end/stop
sign, and you turn left to continue on Ga.60. In 1.45
miles(just past post office), you will turn right to
continue on Ga. 60. In 7.5 miles, the Quarry will be on
your right, and the spring where the food will
be served is just .5 miles past that point.
Signs will be posted along the route.
Come on out and join us for a great evening.**

Family Night Held at Flint Hill Lodge No. 371



A fun evening was held at Flint Hill Lodge No. 371 beginning with an awesome dinner, including sugar-free cup cakes baked for the Grand Master by Mrs. June Laver. After dinner the Ladies and Brothers adjourned to the lodge room where the fun continued as the Grand Master encouraged the Brothers and their Ladies to attend the 300th Anniversary at Alee Shrine on July 22 to celebrate the establishment of the First Grand Lodge in London in 1717.

From the Grand Secretary's Desk:

The following are Important Dates and Deadlines for your consideration.

All secretary's Monthly Reports must be received in the Grand Lodge Office no later than July 10. Beginning July 20, a \$3.00 per day penalty will be charged the Lodge until all delinquent reports are received. (Masonic Code Section 26-109)

Funds from the Endowment and Educational Fund (Penny Box) must be turned in to the Masonic Home no later than July 31. Designation as to which Fund is to receive the money should be annotated on the check. (Masonic Code 25-122)

Proposed changes to the Masonic Code must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Office no later than August 1. (Masonic Code 3-114)

Per-Capita Statements are to be paid no later than September 1. After that date, a 10% penalty will be assessed. (Masonic Code 23-129) As a matter of information, the Per-Capita Statement will be mailed in July if all Monthly Reports have been received on time.

Any changes to the Lodge's By-Laws must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Office no later than September 15 in order to be considered by Grand Lodge (Masonic Code 22-102)

PGM Douglas McDonald Receives Flame Award



MWB Ted C. Collins, presents MWB Douglas W. McDonald his flame award. Flames are presented to those who make substantial contributions to the Cottage Campaign. The occasion was a reception commemorating Past Grand Master McDonald's fifty years as a Mason. Also pictured is Carol McDonald and PGM Edgar M. Land. Standing behind PGM Collins is PGM E. Ray Knittel.

Hero Recognized by Coweta and Sylvan Lodges

Deputy Sheriff Trent Hastings was recognized by Sylvan Lodge No. 429 and Coweta Lodge No. 60 as a “prime example of a public servant” for his heroism in saving a wheelchair-bound man from a burning building last year. Deputy Hastings was working a burglary patrol in Coweta County when he received a report of a house fire in Grantville. When he arrived he found one firefighter inside the house attempting to rescue the occupant. When he heard both men screaming for help, he rushed inside the burning building. He was joined by two other Deputies and a firefighter. The wheelchair-bound man was pulled to safety and flown by helicopter to Grady Memorial Hospital to be treated for second- and third-degree burns. Hastings and a second Deputy were treated at Piedmont Newman Hospital for smoke inhalation.

Wor. Bro. Earl Byrom, DDGM-4C presented Deputy Hastings with a plaque from the lodges. Bro. Byrom, said in his presentation, “There’s no doubt, God was with you that day along with the family. We know how Coweta County is growing, so we’re indebted to the young officers who protect us and save lives. We’re truly blessed to live in a county as protected as we are.”

Upon receiving the award, Deputy Hastings replied,



“When you hear someone screaming for help, what else do you do? When that happens, you have to try. You don’t sit back and watch it play out.”

Coweta Lodge No. 60, chartered in 1847, is one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in Georgia. Two of its members have been Governor of Georgia, William Y. Atkinson and Ellis Arnall.

Sylvan Lodge No.429 was chartered in 1899; its main charity is the Masonic Children’s Home in Macon.

The article which appeared in the *Newman Times Herald* also mentioned that Masons do not recruit members, but welcome candidates who share their ideals.

Grand Lodge Officers Dedicate Cornerstones



On May 31, Harlem Lodge No. 276 requested that the Grand Lodge officers dedicate the cornerstone on the new Columbia County Library at Harlem. A large crowd gathered



to hear dignitaries speak before the dedication.

After the dedication, Harlem Lodge served a meal for the Grand Lodge officers.



On June 17, Nancy Hart Lodge No. 690 requested that the Grand Lodge officers dedicate a cornerstone at the Hart County High School in Hartwell.



The cornerstone can be seen in the upper left corner of the photo above.

Among the dignitaries present were Jaybez F. Floyd, Superintendent; and Kevin T. Gaines, Principal.

Nancy Hart Lodge provided lunch after the dedication.



Lyons Lodge No. 49 Provides Disney World Trip THE MOST MAGICAL PLACE ON EARTH Where Your Fantasy Becomes a Reality



After a couple of years of steak cookouts at the Masonic Home, the members of **Lyons Lodge No. 49** set out on a mission to send our Masonic children on a trip to Disney World.

Opened on October 1, 1971, Walt Disney World, commonly called Disney World, is the most visited vacation resort in the world, with an average yearly attendance of over 52 million. The property covers 27,258 acres (43 sq. mi.). In addition to the Magic Kingdom, the most popular of the several Disney resorts, Disney World consists of twenty-seven themed resort hotels, nine non-Disney hotels, three other theme parks, two water parks, several golf courses, a camping resort, and other entertainment venues.

Walt Disney died on December 15, 1966, before construction began, so did not live to see his dream come true and open, but untold millions enjoy it every year. Those millions include the children from our own Masonic Home.

Lyons' main fundraisers for the last two years have consisted of a chicken plate sale each March and October, an annual car show, and an annual haunted house. With the regular fundraisers and an extra raffle thrown in, starting the last half of 2015 through 2016, the members of Lyons Lodge No. 49 donated approximately \$24,000 toward this trip.

The children mean a lot to us and we hope they had a great time.

Pink Lodge held at Lafayette Lodge No. 44



A fun night was had by all at the Mount Zion No. 1 Pink Lodge held at Lafayette Lodge No. 44. The Ladies kept us laughing during their meeting. I am not certain what crimes Right Worshipful Bro. Johnie Garmon committed but they must have been serious, such as forgetting to introduce Lady Eva when she was present at a lodge meeting. That's him in the funny hat and pink glasses. Mrs. Lori Sanders was Worthy Madam.

50 Year Awards



Beecher Underhill
Generous Warren No. 20



John Edmond "Moon" Mullins
Meridian Sun No. 26



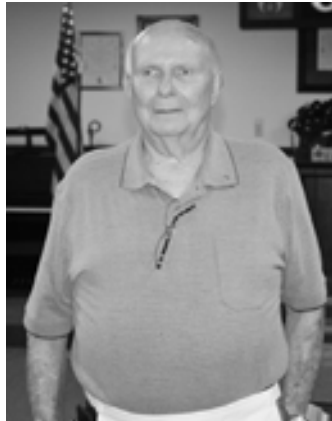
Rev. Jimmy Lewis
Cherokee No. 66



William Lamar Willis
Tucker No. 42
Presented by Mississippi
River Valley No. 6 in
Minnesota



Glenn O'Neil
Blue Ridge No. 67



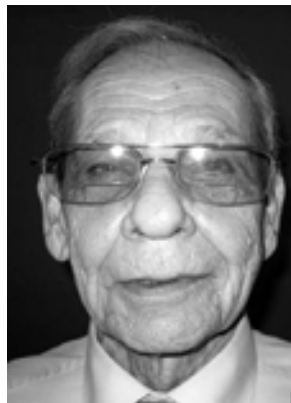
Rev. Larry Gene Davis
Rockmart No. 97



Warner Lee Hall, Jr.
Rockmart No. 97



James George Dockery
Cornelia No. 92



Billy Clarence Gore
Oostanaula No. 113



James Barry Jones
Mableton No. 171



Donald Eugene Bedwell
Dallas No. 182



John Paul Crowe
Pickens Star No. 220



Earl Lucious Gaskins
Pickens Star No. 220



Charles Eugene Gay
Pickens Star No. 220



Richard Rambler
Pickens Star No. 220



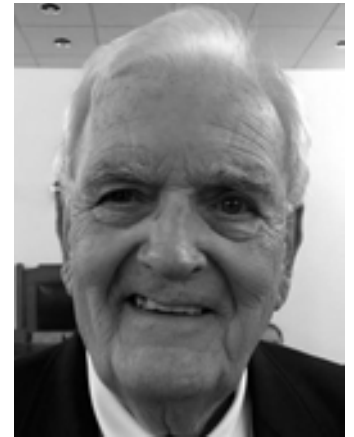
Jimmy Whitmire
Pickens Star No. 220



Sanford Lenieu Carter
Hinesville No. 271



Jack Daniel Keen
Western Light No. 272



William Daniel Brady
East Point No. 288



Aaron Spencer Brandon
East Point No. 288



Fred Willis Hurley
East Point No. 288



Robert Earl Moore, Jr.
East Point No. 288



John Bruce Woody, Jr.
East Point No. 288



Charles Gray Newman
Meyerhardt No. 314



William Allen Barwick and Elaine
Washington No. 359



Philip Harmon Merrell and Dawn
Washington No. 359



Hubert Garland Slinger
Rossville No. 397



Daniel Allen McCranie, DDGM
Harmony No. 405



Roy Smedley
Long Cane No. 424



Benjamin Robert Franklin III
Metter No. 435



Edwin Clayton Dasher
Guyton No. 428



Milton Leon Dailey
Gordon Springs No. 463



Brannon Wilkinson
Hebron No. 564



Bob Cloud
Matt No. 694



Almond John Manders, Jr.
Matt No. 694



Lyman Hugh Martin
Matt No. 694



Edward Gilcrist
Martinez No. 710 from New Mexico

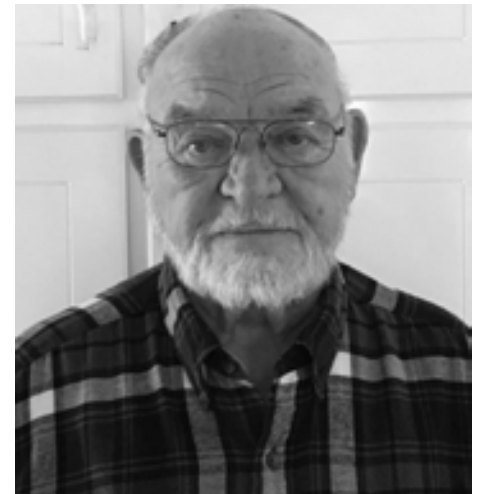


Jack M. Kirsey and Faye
Morrow No. 734

55 Years



MWB Douglas W. McDonald
Mt. Airy No. 141
(left and above)



Roy Teasley Jordan
Nancy Hart No. 690

60 Years



Donald Herbert Faunce
Meridian Sun No. 26
on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Florida



Ernest Calvin Miller
Euharlee No. 47



Robert Lee Frazier
Tennille No. 256
Presented by RWB Joseph T. Kelly, Sr,
DDGM, South Carolina

65 Years



Wor. Master Scott Peacock of Cape Coral (FL) Lodge
No. 367 presented a 65-year award to Bro. William
Bostwick, a member of East Point Lodge No. 288. Bro.
Bostwick now lives in Cape Coral, Florida.

70 Years



Horace Grady Edmondson
Cherokee No. 66

Seventh Masonic District Holds 120th Annual Communication

District Master Harry Nelson of Samuel S. Lawrence Lodge No. 721 and his officers opened the 120th Annual Communication of the Seventh Masonic District Convention on a beautiful Friday morning on May 12th. The District Communication was held at its regular place at Cherokee Lodge No. 66 where it has been held since 1898 and Wor. Bro. Harry Nelson and his officers opened to a packed house as usual. Over the two-day Communication forty-eight Lodges from the 7th District were represented as well as a number of Lodges from without the 7th District. Business was under way in short order as the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Gary Leazer was found in waiting. He was waited on by a committee of District Deputies to the Grand Master from the 7th District led by Worshipful Brother Jamie Newsome, Chair of the District Deputies for the 7th District. The Grand Master was escorted to the East and was given Private Grand Honors and was invited to preside over the meeting. The Grand Master took the opportunity to introduce his Grand Line Officers present and also the Past Grand Masters in attendance. MWB Leazer returned the gavel to the District Master and asked him to proceed with his business. WB David Kilgore, serving as Seventh District Chaplain, gave the invocation and WB Gregory Dobbins, Worshipful Master of Cherokee Lodge No. 66 welcomed the Brethren to the convention as did Brother Tim Burkhalter, Floyd County Sheriff. WB Wayne Lochridge gave the Convention response.

Most Worshipful Brother Gary D. Lemmons, PGM requested the Grand Master to present himself West of the Holy Altar after which he presented the Grand Master with a check from Resaca Daylight Lodge's "Grand Master's Coffee Fund." Finally, Most Worshipful Brother E. Ray Knittel, PGM welcomed a number of distinguished guests while Deputy Master Randall Payne recognized and welcomed nine 50 Year Masons in attendance. District Past Masters and various Committee Chairs were also recognized and welcomed.



WB Touchstone & Bro. Bard

The District Master made presentations to the oldest and youngest Master Masons in attendance (WB Howard Touchstone and Bro. Peter Bard), the oldest and youngest sitting Worshipful Masters (WB David Fleming and WB Daniel Bennett) and the Secretary with the longest tenure (WB J.T. Winters).

An offering for the Masonic Home Endowment Fund was collected and a donation in the amount of \$278 was taken in for the Endowment Fund.

MWB Gary D. Lemmons PGM introduced MWB Gary H.

Leazer and the Grand Master closed the morning session with a speech which touched on the principles of Freemasonry, and how we can engage those principles through "fun" which was one of his emphases for the year. The Grand Master spoke on the importance of family and that families matter to the Masonic Fraternity in Georgia.

The Friday afternoon session was attended to after a meal served by Samuel S. Lawrence Lodge and a number of committee reports were given, discussed, and approved by the Convention. Included in the reports were MELD, Board of Relief, Trial Commission, Georgia CHIP, By-Laws, Masonic Home, and others.



RW Rusty Newport

The District Deputies recognized their various sub-district Master Mason of the Year winners and presented their certificates. Of the eight Master Mason of the Year recipients, WB Bryan "Rusty" Newport of Samuel S. Lawrence Lodge #721 was awarded 7th District Master Mason

of the Year for all of his hard work and dedication to the Craft.

The usual Lodge of Sorrow and Memorial Service was held Friday evening and was attended by nine widows from the District. The Memorial Service was led by WB Richard Cunningham and several other Seventh District officers. Each widow was presented with a small token gift and a Masonic Widow's pin. WB Jan Giddens, Senior Grand Deacon also addressed the group and gave each a coin from the Grand Master and one of his pins. The reception was hosted by Etowah Chapter No. 30, OES

The Saturday session finished up the business of the previous day. Past Grand Masters Douglas W. McDonald and Edgar Land, along with the current Grand Master Gary Leazer, were made Honorary Members of the Convention and Honorary Past Masters of the Seventh Masonic District Convention.

The day continued in a celebratory manner as the District awarded twenty-seven \$1,000 scholarships to worthy recipients who were either beginning or were already attending college to pursue their dreams of obtaining a college education. Corporate donors for the Scholarship Program were recognized and awarded plaques for their previous and continued support. Additionally, the Ladies of

(Continued on next page)

Hamilton Lodge No. 58 Hosts Tenth District Masonic Convention

District Master Douglas Bridges and his officers opened lodge for their annual convention on June 10 with a full lodge room. Grand Master Gary Leazer was received with Private Grand Honors. He, in turn, introduced his officers attending the convention: MWB Bobby B. Simmons, Grand Treasurer; RWB Michael H. Wilson, Senior Grand Warden; RWB Johnnie M. Garmon, Junior Grand Warden; Wor. Bro. Jan M. Giddens, Senior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Tommy Towler, Grand Marshal; Wor. Bro. Joe R. Bush, Grand Chaplain; and Wor. Bro. Mark A. Bradley, Third Grand Steward. District Deputies to the Grand Master (Wor. Bros. Nathaniel R. Bacon, 10A; John Wayne Collins, 10B and chairman; and Richard T. Williamson, Sr. (10C) and other Distinguished Tenth District Brothers were also introduced.

The Memorial Service for deceased Brothers was conducted by Wor. Bro. Wayne Collins, DDGM. He asked Grand Master Leazer to lead the Brothers in prayer.

A roll call of the Convention officers and lodge representatives was taken. Martinez Lodge No. 710 had the most in attendance.

Reports were received. Wor. Bro. Ray Sampley, Masonic Home Trustee, reported on the first cottage now being built

(Continued from previous page)

the Convention were recognized for all their hard work in support of the Scholarship Program.



Scholarship Recipients

The outgoing District Master presented several token gifts for those who assisted him in his year and made his final remarks before the installation of the Worshipful Master for the Seventh District—Randall Payne—and his slate of officers by the “Dream Team” of MWB E. Ray Knittel, WB Howard Touchstone, and WB Charles E. Long.

The annual Convention was closed in ample and sufficient form by WMB Gary D. Lemmons, PGM with peace and harmony prevailing. — Story submitted by Wor. Bro. Daniel Bennett.

and said the Masonic Home is in need of two golf carts. Grand Master Leazer reported on the First Lady’s project to refurbish an apartment on the second floor of the main building for three young ladies who will be attending college this fall and asked Masons to support her effort.

A report of the Georgia Child Identification Program was received. One hundred seventy-nine children were ID’d in the 10th District last year with 112,900 children ID’d in Georgia since the program began. Wor. Bro. David Winkler, the 10th District GA-CHIP director, recommended taking a photo of your child with your cellphone before going into a store in case your child wanders off.

Wor. Bro. Steve Fishman reported that over 300 units of blood were donated this year in the 10th District in 22 drives. Blood drives in Georgia this year have netted 2,682 units with 32,851 units donated in the seven and one-half years since the Grand Lodge began the program.

Wor. Bro. Thomas C. Scott reported he had issued ten orange cards, twelve green cards, 66 blue cards, and 21 white cards this year as Custodian of the Uniform Work.

The Brothers donated \$500 to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

Wor. Bro. Ronny D. Lanham announced that Wor. Bro. Brian Coffey had received the E. Alton Rogers Award.



Wor. Bro. Coffey

Wor. Master Kelly Steven Montgomery, Benevolent Lodge No. 3, reported that his lodge will celebrate its 200th anniversary this fall.

Wor. Bro. Jim Lively announced that the 2018 Tenth District Masonic Convention would be held at Grovetown Lodge No. 730 on June 9 with lodge opening at 10:00. Wor. Bro. Lively closed the Convention with peace and harmony prevailing after the Grand Master reminded him that if he didn’t close the Convention he would not receive another opportunity.

A fine meal of barbequed pork and chicken was enjoyed afterwards.



District officers for 2017

Photos from the First District Masonic Convention



Hinesville Lodge No. 271 again wins the attendance award at the First Masonic District Convention. Wor. Bro. James David Arnold is Worshipful Master.



Grand Master Gary Leazer and PGM Clyde Griffin present the 2017 J. Walter Cowart Memorial Award for Mason of the Year from the First Masonic District Convention to Wor. Bro. C. Wayne Barnes.



Wor. Bro. Tommy Towler, Grand Marshal, introduces Wor. Bro. Joey Jackson prior to his installation as District Master. His officers await their installations.



Grand Master Leazer visits with newly installed District Master Joey Jackson.

Sixth Masonic District Convention meets at Jasper Lodge No. 50

The 111th Annual Communication of the Sixth Masonic District Convention was held at Jasper Lodge No. 50 on May 6. Lodge was opened by Wor. Bro. Charlie Lane, District Master, and the District Officers.

The Grand Master was received by the Grand Marshal and DDGMs.

Attendance awards were presented to Hampton Lodge and Meridian Lodge.

Wor. Bro. Mac McGee, Custodian for the 6th District, reported he issued 188 white cards, 155 blue cards, 22 green cards and 9 orange card for proficiency. He also reported there are 38 lodges in the 6th Masonic District.

The collection for the Masonic Home was \$317; a vote was approved to increase the amount to \$400.

The John S. Perry Award for Mason of the Year was presented to Charles Westberry of Crawford No. 689.

Wor. Bro. V. S. "Mac" McGee was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.



Wor. Bro. Charles Westberry (center) is presented the John S. Perry Award as Mason of the Year.



Newly installed District Master Mac McGee presents Wor. Bro. Charlie Lane a plaque for his outstanding year as District Master in 2016-2017.

Veterans Corner

Rick Conn, Chairman GL of Ga Veterans Committee

Do you know about the Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) and what it provides?

1] Increased security for your personal information - no personally identifiable information is contained on the magnetic stripe or barcode.

2] Unique Member Identifier -- Department of Defense assigns an electronic data interchange personal identifier (EDIPI) that allows VA to retrieve the Veteran's health record.

3] A salute to your military service -- The emblem of your latest branch of service is displayed on your card. Several special awards will also be listed.

4] Accessibility -- Braille "VA" helps visually impaired Veterans to recognize and use the card

5] Anti-Counterfeiting -- Microtext helps prevent reproductions

The VHIC is issued only to Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system.

The purpose of the VHIC is for identification and check-in at VA appointments. It cannot be used as a credit card or an insurance card, and it does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA facilities.

To Receive a VHIC you must fill out form 10-10EZ and submit it to the VA with the appropriate paperwork and be approved and entered into the VA System. You MUST be enrolled in the VA health care system to receive a VHIC.

To enroll, effective immediately, Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, can complete applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. All other Veterans may apply by phone starting July 5, 2016. You may also apply for enrollment online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday -- Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET., or in person at your local VA medical facility. Once your enrollment is verified, you may have your picture taken at your local VA medical center, so that a VHIC can be mailed to you.

When Veterans choose to enroll, VA offers an enhancement to their enrollment experience through "Welcome to VA" (W2VA). W2VA enhances communication by reaching out to newly enrolled Veterans through personal phone calls upon enrollment, providing assistance with health care inquiries and assisting with their initial appointment at their preferred VA healthcare facility. In addition, VA sends each new enrollee an introductory letter and personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook in the mail.

For more information about the Veterans Health Benefits Handbook, visit <http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vhbh/index.asp>.

Increased Security - Two Forms of Identification Are Needed to Receive a VHIC

In addition to serving as identification for enrolled Veterans when they check in for their VA appointment, VHICs

are also being used to access U.S. military bases and in some cases, allows access through U.S. airport security. As a result, VA wants to assure that VHICs are issued appropriately and to the correct person. To ensure a Veteran's identity, enrollees must provide one form of primary identification and one form of secondary identification when requesting a VHIC. Acceptable forms of primary and secondary identification are listed below.

Must present ONE form of Primary Identification, And ONE form of Secondary Identification: State-Issued Driver's License, Social Security Card, United States (U.S.) Passport (unexpired) Original or certified Birth Certificate, Foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A (unexpired) Certificate issued by US Consular Offices documenting the birth of a child on foreign soil to a US citizen. (Form FS-545, Form DS-1350, DS Form, U.S. Military card, Certification of Report of Birth issued by the Department of State (Form DS-1350), Military ID Card, Voter's Registration Card, Military dependent's ID card, Native American Tribal Document, Foreign Passport with temporary I-551 stamp, U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197), Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I- 551), Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179), Federal, State or local issued photo ID, Employment Authorization document issued by the Department of Homeland Security, Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I- 766), Canadian Driver's License, Passport from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) or the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with Form I-94 or Form I-94A, School ID with photograph, VA Identification Card (VIC) or VHIC* (*VIC or VHIC is considered a Federal-issued photo ID).

Once you have your picture taken, you should receive your VHIC within 7 to 10 days. If you have questions about the status of your VHIC, you may call your local VA medical facility where you receive your care or contact us at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

If you have an old Veterans card, what to do with it: (Old Veterans Identification Card, or VIC). VA wants all enrolled Veterans to have the VHIC, which is more secure and protects their personal information. If you have the old VIC, you should destroy it by cutting it up or shredding it.

If you are qualified for this service you should apply and receive it. It will also help when they open up the Military Exchange privileges to all veterans in November of this year.



The Ties That Unite Us as Freemasons

Gary Leazer

2002 Southeast York Rite Conference

Columbia, South Carolina

29 June 2002

I am honored that you have asked me to speak to you this morning.

For most of my professional life, I have worked in the religious arena, either for a denomination or in a church. It is amazing to me how much the issues that the Church struggles with are the same issues about which Masonry struggles.

I heard a Companion yesterday afternoon mention the struggle to interest new members in the York Rite Bodies, but also about the "back door" problem. By that he was referring to the number of members who resign or demit, in other words, they come in the front door and soon leave by the back door. I cannot count the number of meetings I was in while working for the Southern Baptist Convention when the issue of the "back door" problem was discussed.

I am convinced that organizationally, there is more that unites the Church and the fraternity than which divides the two. Maybe you will see a little of this as during then next few minutes.

The theme of our meeting this weekend is "Unity." We have heard many fine presentations on the theme. I want to continue with that theme. The title of my presentation this morning is "Ties that unite us as Freemasons."

While the ties that unite us as Freemasons are strong, we must be ever vigilant because there are those who seek to destroy those ties that unite us. We have seen in the past decade or so a renewed effort by some to discredit and even destroy our fraternity. Not since the early to mid 1800s have we seen such a determined effort against our fraternity. This morning I want us to think about those ties that unite us as Freemasons.

How are the white wedding dress; the red, white and blue of our nation's flag; the red rose; the black of mourning; the blue of the sky; the white Masonic apron; and countless other objects, images and figures of speech alike? They are all used as symbols. We humans are symbol-making people, and have been since before recorded history. One of the things that unite us are the special symbols we use as Masons.

Symbols are a part of everyday life. The dictionary defines "symbol" as "something used for or regarded as representing something else, esp. a material object representing something immaterial; emblem, or sign." Common everyday symbols include the eight-sided red stop sign, a flashing yellow light tells us to use caution, and a male or female figure tells us whether we can use a restroom. In the Church, the cross, a manger, a circle are among the symbols that carry special significance. The fraternity shares with the Church a number of symbols, including the open Bible on the altar.

Sometimes symbols mean something different to different people. One writer has pointed out that the 500 most commonly used words have over 15,000 different dictionary meanings.

Masons were made acutely aware that words and symbols have different meanings after the 1992-93 investigation of the fraternity by the Southern Baptist Convention, when SBC

leaders defined Masonic terms and symbols the way SBC leaders used them. Masons simply shook their heads in disbelief as their teachings were being intentionally misinterpreted.

A dragon is not always an evil animal; rats are worshipped in some cultures. Rats may make you shiver or even scream, but that does not change the fact that in some cultures rats, especially white rats, are considered divine. The letter "X" can mean love and kisses, but it also can be a symbol for multiplication, a railroad crossing, or for a football player, it refers to an offensive position.

Freemasonry has been widely defined as "a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." Allen E. Roberts defines Freemasonry in much more everyday way when he writes, "Freemasonry is a way of life; as an organization, its purpose is to make good men better."

Alphonse Cerza defines symbols in Freemasonry as material objects that "represent a basic moral truth or lesson." Roberts says, "symbolism is the life-blood of the Craft."

I remember reading in a church history book that the early Church was confronted with a rumor that the "bread" used during communion, the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist was an infant which had been sacrificed in the name of Christ. As Masons, we have heard of ridiculous rumors similar to these, which have been spread about us.

We need to be ever vigilant that we understand the meaning of our symbols and not allow others to distort the beautiful meaning we give to our symbols.

Masonic Light

The first symbols a candidate experiences in his journey into Masonry are "darkness" and "light." "Light" has been a central part of Masonic ritual from the earliest days.

Light has long been a symbol of divinity and the spiritual. Every faith around the world has used light to symbolize deity, truth, ultimate reality, and wisdom. The New Testament speaks of Christ as the "Light of the world," but the term light is used in many different ways. Islam also uses the term light when it teaches, "Allah is the light of heaven and earth."

In the first verses of the Holy Bible, we see the writer comparing light with the chaos of darkness. In Genesis 1:3, we read that God said, "Let there be light." The poetry of Genesis 1 has puzzled many biblical interpreters, because it is not until the 16th verse that we read God made the sun and the moon. The Hebrew text does not actually say "sun" or "moon," but uses "the greater light" and "the lesser light," probably to emphasis that people are not supposed to worship the sun and moon, but the Creator alone. The light in verse 3 probably is the poet's way of stating that God, the True Light, was involved in, but apart from, all of Creation, and that that "light" was somehow different from created light in the heavens.

The symbol of "Light" unites Masons in a common mission: to "become Masonically educated." *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia* says that Masonic light is a symbol of intelligence, information,

education, knowledge, and truth and is opposed to darkness which symbolizes ignorance and evil."

Wearing a Masonic apron does not by itself change me; it is a symbol of what I should become as a Mason.

Allow me to digress a little here. My father and his father, who lived with us before his death, were both Master Masons, but I really knew very little about Masonry until I was directed to conduct an investigation of the fraternity in 1992. I never saw my father's apron until it was placed on his body in his casket.

Our Obligations

Upon first entering a Masonic lodge, the candidate is told to remove his street shoes. This may be traced back to Exodus 3, when God told Moses to take off his shoes because the ground he was standing on was "holy ground."

What does removing one's shoes before entering a lodge have to do with Moses' encounter with God? God told Moses the ground was "holy." The word "holy" means different or set apart. God is "holy" because He is different from everything else.

Moses was a different man when he came down from Mt. Horeb. Removing one's shoes is a reminder that because of the obligation a Mason takes; he should be a different person than he was before the obligation.

We are united because we have been on a different kind of journey than the rest of the world since we took our obligation. We have together, each of us and millions of men before us, in our Masonic pilgrimage recognized that

1. God is Supreme
2. That we have a duty to fulfill to God and our fellow man.

Our obligations were the beginning point in a journey that unites us in ways that none of us yet fully understands.

Masonic Charity

Masons are taught that the great principles or tenets of our Craft are Brotherly Love, Morality and Relief. One of the problems we have with the English language is that words can have so many different meanings. I love seafood. I love homemade ice cream. I love my country. I love my wife. I love life. I love Freemasonry, but I don't love all these things in the same way. Some languages have more than one word to describe different kinds of love.

In Greek, the original language of the New Testament, three words are used for the word "love." Sexual love is *eros*. The word "erotic" comes from this Greek word. Brotherly love is *philos*, as in Philadelphia, "the City of Brotherly Love." Sacrificial love is *agape*. It is the kind of love used by Jesus when He said, "Greater love has no person than when he lays down his life for a friend."

When the Greek New Testament was translated into the Latin Vulgate, a Bible translated by St. Jerome as requested by Pope Damasus I, the word used to translate *agape* was *caritas*. That word came into English as "charity." "Charity" originally meant sacrificial love. Today is generally refers to benevolence or almsgiving.

I am reminded in each of our Stated Communications in my lodge that the money I put into the charity box is added to the money placed in the boxes in lodges across Georgia to fund important charities that Masons have adopted. There are other

times when a Brother will share with us a special need he has learned about. We will decide that is a worthy cause to which we want to contribute. I have found that Masons are quick to share of their resources when they are told of a need.

Remembering that reminds me we Masons are united in our effort to make the world a better place to live. It reminds me more when I remember that my money and my Brother's money helps boys and girls, men and women, who are not able to help themselves.

I don't know of anything that can change a person better than true love. The poet Edward Markham once wrote:

He drew a circle that shut me out –
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But LOVE and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

We Masons are united in drawing circles around people who would shut us out. We must redouble of our efforts in this area. At a time when some in the Church want to draw the parameters of acceptable belief or practice too tightly, we need to remember the words of Christ when his disciples came to Him to complain about people doing good works who were not Christ's disciples. Jesus said, "He who is not against me is for me" (Mark 9:40).

Meeting on the Level

As Masons we meet on the "level," a symbol that no matter our station in life, as Masons we are truly Brothers, a word, which by the way, means "from the same womb." We first enter a lodge room with no sign of our wealth or occupation. Whether the president of a large corporation or the janitor who cleans his restroom, in the lodge they meet on the "level." As one Mason said, "Rich or poor, high or low make no difference there. The pomp of life is thrown aside. Only that which is important counts. Masonry has taught me the follies of petty distinctions and the shams of pride and place. I am grateful to it [Masonry] for that." We are united as one Brotherhood when we meet as Masons.

The Mystic Tie

It is not always a physical symbol that unites Masons into a worldwide Brotherhood. Sometimes that which unites us, that bonds us one to another, can only be expressed in poetry. I am thinking primarily of Robert Burns, a Scottish poet and member of several Masonic lodges. In a farewell to St. James Lodge No. 22 at Kilmarnock, Burns wrote, "Adieu! A heart-warm, fond adieu! Dear Brothers of the mystic tie." Both Albert Mackey and Allen Roberts used *The Mystic Tie* as the title for books. How do you describe the mystic tie that unites us?

I have had the pleasure in the past nine years of speaking to Masonic groups across our nation and in Canada. I often ask to stay in the homes of local Masons, which helps the local lodge with expenses and gives me an opportunity to get to know a Brother better. I am a far richer person because I have had the opportunity to stay in the homes of Masons like Bros. Richard Stewart of Robbinsville, North Carolina; Pete Norman of College Station, Texas; Jeff Burnett of Houston, Texas; and Sid Case, PGM of the Grand Lodge of Washington. There is a unity with men like these that cannot be described but which is as real as the chains of the anchor of a large ship.

How strong is your mystic tie to the Craft?

June GA ChiP Report

Wor. Bro. Cabot M. Rohrer - State Director for Georgia Child Identification Program

Brethren: Summer is here!!! Our grills are in red hot BBQ mode, the kids are swimming, the gardens are in blossom and the sun from the east shines brightly. With the kids out of school, this is a great time to promote our Georgia Child Identification Program. As we gather around our picnic tables, we need to share the crucial importance of completing child ID's and what it means to parents and guardians and to our children. A free and lasting charity from our heart to their hearts.

Brother, World Entertainer, and the Founder of St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, Danny Thomas describes so well our mission when he said: *"Our purpose is noble and humanitarian. Our labors will be crowned with success, for as Freemasons we will bring to our mission the best we have, regardless of what it demands from us in the way of sacrifice and service. The task challenges us to larger efforts and higher goals that will demand from all of us the best we have to make a better life for others. My promise to Freemasons everywhere is that I will give the task my best!"*.

A special call out to Worshipful Brother Craig Knowlton, our Georgia Child Identification Program District 5 Director for organizing an event with Tucker Lodge No. 42. Worshipful Master Noble and the Brethren of Tucker Lodge hosted a CHIP event during Tucker Days on May 13. The event was well attended with 43 youngsters being identified; the youngest was 9 months old! Wow! Fantastic! Worshipful Brother Craig Knowlton presented Worshipful Master Noble and his wife, with a Georgia Charities Foundation coin. Way to go Tucker Lodge No. 42!

Before our summer ends, encourage your Lodges, local churches, and Retail Stores to promote our CHILD Identification Program. Remember it always begins with one conversation at a time to schedule and plan an event.



Workers at the Georgia Child Identification Event at Tucker 42



So as our Brother, Danny Thomas, requested, let us all pledge to 'give the task OUR best'!

Safe Travels this summer.

Masons bring GACHIP Program to Emanuel County

Since 2004, Masons from various states and some Canadian provinces have conducted child identification programs in an effort to raise awareness about child abductions and exploitation. The Georgia Child Identification Program, also known as GACHIP, is one of the most comprehensive programs ever to be offered to parents in our state.

The Ridgeway Lodge No. 104 of Garfield, sponsored a local GACHIP event on Saturday, May 20. From 9 a.m. until 12 p.m., parents and their children were invited to take advantage of the program, free as a public service, where each child was tended to by Freemasons and their volunteer aids to generate completed child identification kits. These kits contained full color digital photos showing the child posed various ways, a complete set of digital fingerprints, and information about the child as provided by the child's family.

Several stations were established prior to the public's arrival so that when the program's beneficiaries arrived, each child could progress smoothly from one station to the next. The entire process took approximately 10-15 minutes, and once completed, the kits were released to the child's parent or legal guardian for safekeeping.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Shows Man's Inhumanity to Man, Too Much to Fathom

A few years ago I accepted an invitation from Aaron T. Kornblum, reference archivist at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., for a 3 1/2-hour guided tour of the museum. The museum is arranged chronologically, beginning with Adolf Hitler's rise to power. I visited Dachau, near Munich, Germany, in 1980, but I was not prepared for the scope of the Holocaust so graphically presented in the museum. After a couple of hours of looking at photographs and reading about the Holocaust, I found myself ready to leave. The demonic horror of the Holocaust was too much to fathom.

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of up to 13 million people by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. The most often targeted group was Jews. Up to six million of the more than nine million Jews in Europe in 1933 died from starvation, slave labor, firing squads or in gas chambers or ovens during Adolf Hitler's bloody reign.

Within a month of being named Chancellor of Germany in 1933, Hitler (1889-1945) began targeting people he believed undesirable in the Third Reich. Communists were his first target; the first concentration camp was set up at Dachau to imprison Communists. The first nationwide boycott against Jewish businesses and professional offices began on 1 April 1933. A Jew was anyone with one-quarter Jewish blood or someone with one or more Jewish grandparents. The Star of David was painted in yellow and black on doors and windows of businesses owned by Jews. Newspaper headlines and signs proclaimed, "Germans! Defend yourselves. Don't buy from Jews" and "The Jews are our disaster."

Books were targets. On 10 May 1933, 25,000 books, most by non-Jews, were burned in Berlin.

A new law passed in September 1935 stated that only persons of "German or kindred blood" could be citizens of the Third Reich. People were said to be either Aryan or non-Aryan. A hierarchy of races was established with German and Nordic people, who were considered "racially superior," at the top of the list. Slavs (which included Poles), Roma or Gypsies, and Blacks came next on the list. Jews were at the bottom. In 1937, children of German soldiers and African women were sterilized.

Jehovah's Witnesses were also targeted in 1933, and, beginning in 1937, sent to concentration camps as "voluntary prisoners." They were released if they recanted their faith; none did. Children of Jehovah's Witnesses were sent to reform schools. In 1935, all Masonic lodges were abolished and Masons were put in concentration camps for being "allies of Jews in the international conspiracy." Roma or Gypsies were first sent to concentration camps in 1935. German invaders executed Catholic priests and teachers in Poland after the 1939 invasion. As many as 50,000 "Aryan-looking" Polish children were taken from their parents to be adopted by Germans.

Protestants also were targeted by the Nazis. Pastor Martin Niemoeller's famous statement sums up the attitude of too many people, "In Germany, the Nazis first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, but I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak for me." Only the dissident Protestant Confessing

Church declared that unquestioning obedience to the state was not compatible with the Christian faith.

The Nazis first tried to find other countries to take Jews as immigrants. While this failed, Hitler turned to the "Final Solution." The first methodical gassing of Jews occurred on 8 December 1941 in Poland. Despite urgent appeals, the United States refused to accept Jews as immigrants from Germany. When Jewish refugees aboard the ship S.S. St. Louis were not allowed to disembark in the United States, the ship returned them to Europe.

When Germany invaded the Soviet Union, mobile killing squads accompanied the invading army with orders to kill all Jews, Communists and Roma, as well as handicapped persons and psychiatric patients. Between June 1941 and May 1945, 3.3 million Soviet prisoners of war died in German custody, most of starvation, disease and exposure. Of the Soviets, Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945), head of the state police called the *Gestapo*, and the *Schutzstaffel* troops, also known as the SS, said, "On the other side stands a population of 180 million,

a mixture of races whose very names are unpronounceable, and whose physique is such that one can shoot them down without pity and compassion. . . . These people have been welded by the Jews into one religion, one ideology, that is called Bolshevism."

In January 1945, 714,000 people were inmates in concentration camps; 200,000 were women. Auschwitz, the most notorious of the concentration camps, housed 405,000 inmates during its five years of operation. "Anatomical research" and other medical experiments were performed on inmates. Valuables, including clothing and gold teeth and fillings, were taken from inmates before they were gassed. Women were shorn of their hair.

The museum's primary mission is to inform Americans about this unprecedented tragedy, to remember those who suffered, and to inspire visitors to contemplate the moral implications of their choices and responsibilities as citizens in an interdependent world. The museum succeeds in fulfilling its mission.

In 1935, all Masonic lodges were abolished and Masons were put in concentration camps for being "allies of Jews in the international conspiracy."



The Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

80th Annual Session of the Grand Assembly of Rainbow for Girls in Georgia



Miss Lacey Rooks, Grand Worthy Advisor, is escorted by her Grand Officers and Grand Pages into the Grand Assembly Room



The entrance into the Grand Assembly Room is a beautiful pageant with marching, flag waving and singing. The Cavalcade of Flags presentation during the informal Opening reminded the girls off the universality of Rainbow.

Miss Rooks chose as her theme for the year: "The Life I Lead," and a quote from Audrey Hepburn, "As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

She attends Dalton State College and plans to transfer to Georgia State University next year. Her major is Spanish and her minor is Arabic. She hopes to become a flight attendant when she graduates.

At the informal opening on Friday evening, Dr. Gary Leazer, Grand Master; Mrs. June Matthews, Worthy Grand Matron; Mr. Rick Klenke, Worthy Grand Patron; Mrs. Helen Cox; Past Most Worthy Grand Matron; Mrs. Delaine Hughes, Grand Royal Matron; Mr. Dan Sims, Grand Royal Patron; Mr. Bill Hendry, Grand Commander; Mr. Mark Bradley, Grand High Priest; Mr. John Haggis, Most Illustrious Grand Master; Mr. Mark Bohn, State Executive Officer of DeMolay; and Mr. Tucker Peeler, State Master Councilor of DeMolay, brought greetings.

Grand Master Leazer presented scholarships to seven young ladies upon approval of the Grand Lodge Youth Coun-

cil, money raised from the sale of his knives. He also presented a plaque to the Rainbow of the Year.

The Grand Master and Lady Ruth also attended the Awards Banquet held Saturday night. They declined the opportunity to attend the dance held immediately following the Awards Banquet.

There are twelve Rainbow Assemblies in Georgia, the most recent Assembly was organized in Hartwell in June. Another Assembly will be formally organized in Blairsville in September or October. I hope many of you Brothers can attend this organizational meeting at Allegheny Lodge No. 114 when the Assembly is organized.

I made the Youth organizations one of my emphasizes as Grand Master. The Rainbow girls, their leaders and all of you Masons who support the youth are making me look good, but it was not me, but you who did it. Thank you.

The Regius Poem: A Poem of Moral Duties

The Regius Poem or Regius Manuscript is sometimes called the Halliwell Manuscript because its Masonic character was first discovered and announced in 1839 by James Orchard Halliwell-Phillipps, born James Orchard Halliwell (21 June 1820 – 3 January 1889), who was not a Mason, but was an English Shakespearean scholar, antiquarian (someone who deals in old books), and a collector of English nursery rhymes and fairy tales. It had been catalogued as “A Poem of Moral Duties” in several libraries for nearly five hundred years before Halliwell discovered its Masonic character. The original Regius Poem is in the library of the British Museum.

The Regius Poem contains 794 lines with the pages approximately four by five and one-half inches. It is written in verse, which is why it is called the Regius (meaning king or royal) Poem. Scholars date the Regius Poem somewhere between 1350 and 1450, with most dating it about 1390.

English is a West Germanic language that originated from dialects brought to Britain in the mid-5th to 7th centuries A.D. by Germanic Angles, Jutes and Saxons; this English is called Anglo-Saxon or Old English. It sounded very much like German. Two more invasions, from Scandinavia and France, added other words to Old English. Scholars speak of Middle English spoken between the 11th and late 15th century. Geoffrey Chaucer’s great poem, “The Canterbury Tales” was written in Middle English in the late thirteenth hundreds. Early Modern English – the language used by Shakespeare – is dated from around 1500. Slowly, during the fifteen hundreds; English became the modern language we would recognize. Many English speakers today would be able to communicate with English speakers, although with some difficulty, in the last part of the Sixteenth Century. The King James Version of the Bible which is found on our Masonic altars, although published in 1611, is in the Standard English language text of 1769.

A Closer Look at the Regius Poem

Robert Freke Gould (10 November 1836 - 26 March 1915) was a soldier, barrister and prominent Freemason and Masonic historian, who wrote the *History of Freemasonry* (3 vols.) (London: Thomas C. Jack, 1883-1887), which remains a standard reference work on the subject. Gould speculated that the Regius Poem was not written for operative Masons, but for speculative Masons.

Masons, like many churches such as the Mormon Church, like to trace their beginnings to ancient times without any historical evidence or proof. *The Trail of Blood*, a book written by a Baptist minister J. M. Carroll in 1931, that claims modern Baptists are the true successors of a strain of Christianity dating to the time of Christ. Still popular among many Baptists, the book claims that religious groups opposed by Roman Catholics during the centuries must have been secretly Baptists.

Scholars are certain the Regius Poem was a copy of an earlier manuscript, probably transcribed by a priest. Another possible theory is that masons in the 14th century borrowed heavily from the Regius Poem, or its earlier predecessor, and adopted the moral teachings found in it. I know of no historical date when masonry as an occupation became Masonry as a guild or fraternity.

The Regius Poem begins by giving credit to the Greek

mathematician Euclid, who was born about 300 B.C. in Alexandria, Egypt, where he is best known for his treatise on geometry. To give credit to Euclid as the founder of Masonry is a stretch that historians have a difficulty accepting.

The poem sets forth fifteen articles and fifteen points which it states were the result of a great assembly called by King Athelstane. It states that many lords, dukes, earls, barons, knights, squires and many others attended, but Masons are not mentioned. He was the first King of all England, and Alfred the Great’s grandson and reigned between A.D. 925 and 939. A distinguished and courageous soldier, he pushed the boundaries of the kingdom to the furthest extent they had ever reached.

The fifteen articles list moral practices, some of which are: “The Master must be trusty and true, pay fair wages, take no bribe nor allow workmen to do so, judge fairly and honestly.” He must attend general assemblies unless he has a good excuse, such as illness. He must agree to serve seven years as the Master and be of a “gentle” disposition. He must not undertake a job he cannot finish, and the job must be done at a profit to his lord. The Master must not work at night and must not criticize the work of his fellow workers, but should always praise their work so that eventually they will learn the craft well and be able to work anywhere they find it. The Master must not accept false oaths lest he and his workers be put to shame.

The fifteen points state that a worker must work and earn his wages; he must love God and the Holy Catholic Church and his fellow workers. He must be able to keep secrets and not be false to his craft. He must not argue because of envy or hate, must not quit working before the day ends and must relax on a holy day. He must not make love to his Master’s wife or concubine. Workers are to serve each other and share in the cost of refreshments at meetings. They must live well together and not slander each other. If a worker makes a mistake in his work, another worker should show him how to do the work correctly. He must swear loyalty to his fellow workers, to his lord and to the king and to all parts of the Craft. The penalty for not doing so is imprisonment, with the sheriff putting “their bodies in deep prison.”

Another part of the Regius Poem deals with the importance of the seven liberal arts and sciences. A third part of the poem is devoted to how to act at the table in the presence of superiors; to the church and the worship of God. A reference to the Four Crowned Martyrs is mentioned in the Regius Poem. The designation Four Crowned Martyrs or Four Holy Crowned Ones (Latin, *Sancti Quatuor Coronati*) refers to nine individuals venerated as martyrs and saints in the Catholic Church. The original four martyrs were beaten to death by order of the Roman emperor Diocletian (reigned AD 284-305). Their story became conflated with that of a group of five stone carvers, also martyred by Diocletian, in this case because they refused to carve an image of a pagan idol. Due to their profession as sculptors, the five early Christian martyrs were an obvious choice for the guild of stonemasons, but their number seems often to have been understood to be four.

Much of this article came from pamphlets published by the Masonic Service Association and various articles on the Internet. — Dr. Gary Leazer, Grand Master

In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased
from April 16, 2017
to June 22, 2017

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
HALL, WAYMAN HERSCHEL SR.	011	MCCART, ROBERT KELLY	135
SNIDER, MARION LOUIS	011	EARWOOD, JAMES WILEY	139
LAMBERT, JOHNNY PATRICK	013	WAKEFIELD, KENNETH EARL	144
HADLEY, TALMADGE DELANO	016	GRAY, RALPH EDWIN	154
SOLOMON, JOSEPH CLARKE	020	HOLCOMB, JULIAN ALTON	154
COFFEEN, GLENN LAMAR	022	FOSTER, RONALD GROVER	178
SIMMONS, WILLIE MICIER	025	HINSON, HENRY DOUGLAS	178
STOWERS, SYLVIA CHARLES JR	030	FARR, JOHN WILLIAM JR	179
GRIFFIN, WAYNE BASCOMB	033	SAMPSON, JOHNNY WAYNE SR.	179
HAYNES, ARTHUR DEAN	033	STEPHENS, J C [IO]	179
WARD, DAVID EUGENE	037	VICE, JAMES CHRISTOPHER	179
HEAD, VERLYN DEAN	038	MINICK, THAD JR.	188
PAUL, GEORGE DOUGLAS	038	SPIVEY, JAMES GLENN	188
WEAVER, WILLIAM ROBERT	038	PHILLIPS, BENJAMIN BREVARD JR	191
DAVIS, JAMES BAXTER	042	HALL, DONALD ARTHUR	194
BEAL, CECIL MACON	045	MASHBURN, JOHN W [IO]	198
ROBERTS, DANNY PRESLEY	045	SPONBERGER, JOHN HENRY JR	202
AMERSON, DONALD (NMN)	048	COKER, HERBERT RUSSELL	210
BARBER, JAMES ORRIN	053	BOOK, BOBBY JOE	219
BROCK, PRESTON ALBERT	055	GOODE, DAVID DANIEL	222
SAWYER, FORREST LAMAR	057	HARPER, LEROY FRANCIS	222
HUNTER, MELVIN LEE	060	HOWARD, DENNIS LEROY JR	227
TANNER, JOE WILLIAM	070	ODUM, DONALD MURRAY	227
PERRY, MICHAEL RAY	071	MALONEY, SOLOMON DOWIS	228
DAVIS, ARCHIE ZILFER	084	HAYES, MARCUS AVNER	234
GILBERT, JOHN LAMAR	084	RAY, ROY MARCUS JR	234
HAMM, JONCE LYNN	085	BERRY, RALPH CLINTON	235
MINICK, THAD JR	085	CROWELL, LESTER EVANS	246
COTTON, WILLIAM JUNIOR	092	ARITA, EDWIN NOBORU JR	248
SMITH, FRED EADEN	092	LYLE, JESSE EDWARD	251
BEATTY, GUY SLOAN	097	MANN, WILLIAM CONNER	255
FLOYD, CHARLES HOWELL	097	HULSEY, RAYBURN (NMN)	261
HARDINGER, BOBBY WARREN	097	SOUTHARDS, MAX ROY	265
ABSTON, JAMES MICHAEL	111	SOLOMON, WILLIAM BYRON	267
SCHIRMER, HERBERT LEWIS	111	NEFF, CARROLL FORSYTH	268
BRADSHAW, JAMES M (IO)	113	POWERS, HENRY CONDOR	274
PURDY, LEONARD MARSHALL	113	RICHARDSON, JIMMY FRANKLIN SR	274
MORGAN, SCOTT ANDREW	116	BLEDSON, JOHN DENNIS	276
NEAL, BERNARD RALPH	116	THOMAS, DANIEL MCNIEL	280
ERWIN, PAUL LAWRENCE	120	HARTLEY, HORACE FRAZIER	288
ABERCROMBIE, GEORGE WELBORN	124	JENKINS, BILLY PAUL	288
ACTON, JOHN STACY	124	KIEVE, JOE MEYER	288
PARTAIN, JACQUES OSCAR JR	124	SHEPPARD, HARLIN ANSLOW	288
GRANT, CHARLES DIVINARD	125	THOMPSON, CHARLES IRVIN	288
WEIMORTS, STANLEY	125	WILSON, DAVID CHARLES	288
HORNE, WILLIAM IRVIN	128	GAMEL, JACK FRED	289
LONGMATE, MARK WILLIAM	131	HARRISON, WILLIAM JOSEPH	289

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
CHESTER, JOHN (NMN) IV	291	LANGLEY, BILLY FRANK	566
GOWER, JOURNEY PRESTON	292	COLLINS, BENNIE LEE	572
EVANS, HARRY LAVELLE	294	FIELDS, CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTER	591
CALLAHAN, CHARLES EDWARD	295	LANGLEY, BILLY FRANK	591
MCNEELY, THOMAS TREVOR	295	HUMPHREY, TALMADGE LAVONNE	622
STONE, HORACE JACKSON	295	OSBURN, WILLIAM FRANKLIN	639
CAIN, IJON NATHANIEL	299	JACKSON, CHARLES HARRISON	640
YATES, LAMAR CANTRELL	300	HAYNES, WILLIAM GRAY	644
RUTHERFORD, FRANK HENRY	301	HALL, RANDOLPH HARLEY	663
DAVIS, HIRAM WILLIAM	303	BEASLEY, CHARLES ROBERT	674
LANDBECK, STEVEN DELGAR	303	LIGON, FRED HENRY JR	699
MILES, JIMMIE FRANKLIN	303	LEONARD, VANE CAMERON	709
CATO, BILLY FRANK	304	WILSON, DAVID CHARLES	709
CHILDERS, EDWARD AMERICUS	306	WOODWARD, RICHARD FREDERICK	710
HEMPHILL, MAURICE JACKSON	309	BEASLEY, CHARLES ROBERT	711
SCOTT, BILLY EUGENE	309	BRADSHAW, JASPER CARTER	721
RAY, ROY MARCUS JR	310	PRESLEY, GENE CLINTON	722
REGISTER, ROSCOE RABURN	310	GRANT, CHARLES DIVINARD	734
BERNIER, AL THOMAS	312	GOWER, JOURNEY PRESTON	744
HORNE, WILLIAM IRVIN	312	ARITA, EDWIN NOBORU JR	757
JAMERSON, JAMES THOMAS	312	TRIPPE, JEFF HOWARD	758
SWANSON, JOHN WILLIAM	322	DAWSON, JAMES EDGAR	764
HALL, WAYMAN HERSCHEL SR	323		
BASSETT, ROBERT FAY	337		
HAYNES, WILLIAM GRAY	337		
HUNTER, SIDNEY VERNON	337		
MARSH, PLYDE POSTELL	353		
HAMMOND, MARVIN DUNAWAY	354		
PARKS, BOBBY CHARLES	354		
GILREATH, EARL EUGENE	382		
BURCH, ELISHA LEON JR	386		
DAWSON, JAMES EDGAR	397		
MCKENZIE, CHARLES DECKERD	403		
ANDERSON, WILLIAM THOMAS	421		
COUNTS, GEORGE ELLISON	428		
BOBBITT, THOMAS LEE	444		
BYERLY, DONALD LEE	444		
LORD, OLLIE DANIEL JR	444		
MANN, WILLIAM CONNER	448		
HARRISON, WILLIAM JOSEPH	454		
SMITH, MORRIS GLYNN	454		
FRAZIER, ROBERT EARL	455		
GRAY, JIMMY LEVECK	455		
HAMES, DUARD DELK SR	457		
LANGLEY, BILLY FRANK	457		
REYNOLDS, GLENN LANE	457		
BECK, WILLIAM TRAVIS	466		
WEBB, JEROME TERRY	469		
SPIVEY, JAMES GLENN	503		
COSBY, KERRY LEE	537		
DIPINO, JOHN ALEXANDER	543		
JOHNSON, GERALD FRANKLIN	549		

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

April 16, 2017 to June 22, 2017

\$500 OR MORE

Live Oak Lodge No. 137

Cobb Community Foundation
Tenth Masonic District Convention
Puryear Farms

\$1,000.00 OR MORE

Buchanan Lodge No. 78
Plainville Lodge No. 364
Statham Lodge No. 634

AT&T
LPL Financial
Arthur D. Gaynor
Tom Phillips
Helen S. McPheeters Estate
Mildred Swanson Coggin Estate
Roy Sparks Trust
Harry N. Flowers Estate
Emily P. Norton Estate

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)

Have You Ordered Your Masonic Tag?



This brother received tags (200, 201, and 202) for his three vehicles.