

Masonic Messenger



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

October 2017



*Grand Master Gary H. Leazer and Lady Ruth thank the lodges
and Brothers who welcomed us into your lodges this year
and we pray we will see each of you at Grand Lodge.*

MASONIC MESSENGER

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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.

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RESOLUTION

ILLUSTRIOUS THOMAS TELFORD IRVIN, 33°

Born: July 14, 1929 – Lula, Georgia

Died: September 15, 2017 – Mount Airy, Georgia

PASSED TO THE GREAT BEYOND IN HIS EIGHTY EIGHTH YEAR

WHEREAS, The Officers and Members in the Valley of Atlanta, Orient of Georgia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, desire to record their deepest sorrow at the death of their Masonic Brother,

ILLUSTRIOUS THOMAS TELFORD IRVIN, 33°

who, since September 28, 1966, has served the Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta, for more than FIFTY years in several capacities. Brother Irvin contributed greatly to mankind and our state and country. His zest for life and his accomplishments will not soon be forgotten and we are much better for his life here on earth.

Our brother Irvin was the son of a sharecropper farmer. His father was killed in a sawmill accident when Brother Tommy was seventeen years old, forcing him to quit school and go to work to help support his mother and four younger siblings. By the time he was twenty five, he had become a very successful lumber businessman in Northeast Georgia. At the age of twenty seven and having dropped out of high school, he was elected to the Board of Education in Habersham County, and held that position for almost twenty years. The next year he was elected to the State Legislature and represented that area for eight years.

While he was in the Legislature, Lester Maddox persuaded him to run his gubernatorial campaign and when he became Governor, he appointed him as his Floor Leader, and later as his Chief Executive Officer. In 1969, Governor Maddox, appointed him to fill the unexpired term of Agriculture Commissioner Phil Campbell and he served in that position until January of 2011, being elected by the voters of



Georgia to 10 terms. He was the longest serving State Commissioner of Agriculture in the nation and the longest serving statewide elected official in Georgia history. •

During his long career of public service, Brother Tommy was elected as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture, President of the Southern United States Trade Association, and President of the Georgia School Boards Association. He was also a Trustee of the National Livestock Merchandising Institute. He was honored by *The Progressive Farmer* magazine as Man of the Year in Service to Georgia Agriculture. He received the Georgia School Boards Association Distinguished Leadership and Distinguished Service Awards, and was the first person elected to the Georgia Agirama Hall of Fame. He was at some point in his career appointed a Trustee of Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Georgia and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

PGM Tommy T. Irvin and Bernice



Brother Irvin was initiated in Mt. Airy Lodge No. 141 in Mt. Airy, Georgia on January 5, 1954, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on January 19, 1954, and raised as a Master Mason on February 2, 1954, serving as Worshipful Master in 1956. He served as Master of the Ninth Masonic District Convention and was awarded the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award in 1983. He was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia on October 27, 1993 and served the fraternity with distinction. For many years he provided a Past Master tie pin with the gavel and PM on it to every Past Master in Georgia.

He joined Clarkesville Chapter No. 67, RAM on October 20, 1954, E. L. McConnell Council No. 40, RSM in Toccoa on March 31, 1955 and then joined Philemon Commandery No. 33, KT in Toccoa on July 28, 1955. He was a Past High Priest of Clarkesville Chapter and served as High Priest of the Ninth District Royal Arch Convention.

He became a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on September 28, 1966 which was a one day class and not a named Reunion. He was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on October 19, 1981, and was Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33° on October 21, 1987. While he never held an office in the Scottish Rite, he was able to promote the Scottish Rite and its programs through the many opportunities that were afforded him during his many years in the business world and he was asked several times

to speak at Valley meetings.

Brother Irvin was a longtime member and deacon of Antioch Baptist Church of Mt. Airy. He is survived by two daughters, three sons, fourteen grand-children and eleven great grand-children. His wife Bernice, whom he married when he was eighteen years old, died April 29, 2014.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the officers and members of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta, hereby give formal expression of its grievous loss in the death of Brother Thomas Telford Irvin and does hereby note the passing from this life of a man who was loved by his friends and respected by all.

Joe E. Turner, 33°

“Masons and their Families Matter”

Welcome to Grand Lodge

The 231st Grand Lodge Session will be held at the



**Macon Centreplex
Convention Center
October 24-25, 2017**

**The Headquarters Hotel
the Macon Marriott
City Center Hotel
(Exit 2 off I-16)**

***Most Worshipful Brother Gary H. Leazer and First Lady Ruth
invite you to join our Masonic Family and enjoy our
Annual Communication to renew friendships and meet new friends.***

FIRST LADY'S RECEPTION

The First Lady's Reception will be on Monday from 1:30 - 3:00 P.M. in the Hospitality Room. Please stop by to meet First Lady Ruth.

LADIES LUNCHEON

First Lady Ruth invites the Ladies to a luncheon on Tuesday at 11:30 A.M. with entertainment. Purchase your ticket and come enjoy food, fun, and friends. Sunday dress please.

Welcome to the 231st Annual Communication

of the
**Grand Lodge of Georgia,
Free and Accepted Masons**

The Macon Marriott City Center Hotel is the host hotel

Telephone (478) 621-5300 (Be certain to say you are with the Grand Lodge of Georgia)

The Hospitality Room will be supplied with homemade goodies
and open Monday through Wednesday at designated hours for everyone's enjoyment.

GRAND LODGE BANQUET	HONORS BREAKFAST	LADIES LUNCHEON	FAMILY NIGHT COOKOUT
Marriott Hotel Monday - October 23 6:00 P.M.	Marriott Hotel Tuesday - October 24 6:30 A.M.	Marriott Hotel Tuesday - October 24 11:30 A.M.	Farmers' Market Tuesday - October 24 6:00 P.M.
(Dark Suit, Formal or Sunday Dress required)	Tickets: \$22.00	Tickets: \$27.00	Food provided by the District Lodges
Tickets: \$55	Red Cross _____	Number of tickets _____	Tickets: \$5.00
Limited to 200 people	K.Y.C.H. _____		Number of tickets _____
Number of tickets _____	32° K.C.C.H. _____		
(NO tickets sold at the door.)	33° _____		
	Number of tickets _____		

Military Veterans ALL

You are invited to attend YOUR free "Veterans' Luncheon" provided by the Scottish Rite Masons of Georgia as an important part of their Americanism emphasis during your visit to the Grand Lodge Communication at noon on Tuesday, October 24. You MUST obtain your free ticket through the Grand Secretary's office at 478-742-1475. The luncheon this year will be held in the activities building at the **Al Sihah Shrine Center**. Two buses will carry people to Al Sihah Center and return them — one round trip for each bus. The first bus will be reserved for out-of-state guests and Grand Lodge officers. This is a first-come, first-serve luncheon as seating is limited. The Grand Master, Dr. Gary Leazer, a Veteran, will speak briefly at the luncheon. Call today to reserve your Free Veterans' Luncheon Ticket.

Name(s): _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Make Checks Payable to: **Grand Lodge of Georgia**
 Send all orders to: **Grand Secretary P.O. Box 4665 Macon, GA 31208-4665**
 All tickets must be ordered by October 17th

Roswell Lodge No. 165 Hosts 113th Annual Fifth Masonic District Convention

The 115th Annual Masonic District Convention was held at Roswell Lodge No. 165 on September 5. Wor. Bro. Tom D. Bruce, Deputy Master, called the Convention to order. The flag of the United States was saluted with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gary H. Leazer, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, was found in waiting for an official visitation and was received with Private Grand Honors. MWB Leazer then introduced the Grand Lodge officers present.

Thanks to the District Secretary, Wor. Bro. Rodger C. Daniel from Alpharetta No. 235, the minutes and reports were printed and given to the brethren prior to opening the Convention. Business was conducted quickly.

Wor. Bro. Bill Kayma, the 5th District Children's Home Endowment Fund Representative, gave an excellent report on another successful year for endowment in the 5th District with all lodges in the District 100% endowed.

Wor. Bro. Michael A. Kessler, Past District Master, reported that lodges in the 5th District reported 621 units of blood were donated. This make the fifth consecutive year that reported units exceeded 500 units. He reminded the Brothers to report blood drive results to Wor. Bro. M. Steven Fishman, state blood drive chairman, as the Red Cross does not report donations.

Wor. Bro. Robert L. "Bobby" Jones, Custodian of the Uniform Work for the 5th District, reported that 24 of the 31 lodges in the district had participated in the Schools of Instruction. He issued 127 White Proficiency, 108 Blue, 33 Green and 22 Orange cards. A Wednesday White/Blue class at Oak Grove No. 492 continues to draw brethren from 4 to 8 lodges regularly. Wor. Bro. Jones reported that he and Chris have retired and are moving to Savannah.

Wor. Bro. Craig Knowlton, 5th District Director for GACHIP, reported seven events were held and 339 youth were processed during the year with seven more events scheduled before the end of October.

Wor. Bro. Gary Monk reported that as of July 1, the DeKalb Memorial Club had conducted ten funerals.

Wor. Bro. Michael A. Kessler, Past District Master and Chairman of the 5th District Trial Commission, reported



Wor. Bro. Bill Kayma was named Mason of the Year, an award memorializing Wor. Bro. Charles Beasley



Randy Hazan named Ritualist of the Year

Joseph P. Suttles Award.

\$202 was collected for the Masonic Home and \$234 for the Masonic Service Association for disaster relief in Texas.

A fine meal was served by Roswell Lodge.

The 2018 5th District Convention will be held at the Atlanta Masonic Center on September 8.



Gate City Lodge No. 2 was named Lodge of the Year. Wor. Master Gregory Singleton stands next to the Grand Master.



Wor. Bro. Tom Bruce and his officers wait for their installation as 5th Masonic District Officers. Also pictured is Wor. Bro. Tommy Towler, Grand Marshal.

Blackshear Lodge No. 270 Hosts 112th Annual Eleventh Masonic District Convention

Blackshear Lodge No. 270 hosted the 112th Annual Communication of the Eleventh Masonic District Convention on September 16. Wor. Master William Ralipah Miller and his lodge officers opened lodge for the called communication and then vacated their stations which were then assumed by the District Officers.

Brother Gary Leazer, Most Worshipful Grand Master, was found in waiting and was received by the brethren. He then introduced his officers who were present, as well as the DDGMs present. Two were absent, including one whose home was severely damaged by Hurricane Irma and Wor. Bro. John Moncrief, who was in a serious automobile accident.

District Master Robert L. Gill welcomed all of the brothers to the convention; Deputy District Master Louis Chester gave the response.

The roll call of the District officers and the 11th Masonic District lodges followed. District Secretary Wor Bro. Huey P. Davis, Jr. read the minutes from the previous convention and led in a Memorial Service for the brothers who had passed in the last twelve months.

Committee reports followed. Wor. Bro. Richard Bailey reported on the Masonic Home, the progress on the first cottage and the upcoming Family Day and Dedication of the Cornerstone on the first cottage on October 7. Wor. Bro. John Shaw reported on GaCHIP and thanked the brothers for their support of this important program. Woodbine Lodge No. 326 was recognized for having given \$500 to the GaCHIP program. Wor. Bro. Ed Roden gave a good report on the Masonic Youth Council and the scholarships given to Demolays and Rainbow girls this year.



District Secretary Davis reported that Waycross Lodge No. 305 had won the attendance award today.

The Grand Master appointed Robert L. "Bill" Gill as prosecutor for the Trial Commission in the 11th District.

Wor. Bro. Elliott Peyton Harn, Jr. was presented a plaque naming him winner of the Sam Owens Award as Mason of the Year. Wor. Bro. Harn, age 81, is an alumni of the Masonic Home, arriving at the Home at age 9 years.

The Grand Master and Grand Marshal Tommy Towler installed the convention officers. Wor. Bro. Louis Chester, from Lakeland Lodge No. 434, was installed as District Master. Wor. Bro. Huey Davis, Jr. declined to serve as secretary-treasurer again; Wor. Bro. George Crews was installed as secretary-treasurer.

The 2018 11th Masonic District Convention will be held at Lakeland Lodge No. 434 on September 15. Sign in will be at 9:00 with the convention opening at 10:00.



Restoring a National Landmark: The George Washington Masonic National Memorial

By Shawn Eyer, Director of Communications and Development



Recently, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, received a singular honor. Our Fraternity's beautiful testament to the life and character of Bro. Washington was recognized as a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior. This exclusive status is reserved only for buildings and sites that possess extraordinary significance in our nation's history. National Historic Landmark status does not mean that the Federal government will become involved in the support of the Memorial, but signifies official recognition that the Memorial is "the only major unified, fully national initiative of the Freemasons and among the boldest attempts by a private organization to memorialize George Washington." In other words, the Memorial's status as a National Historic Landmark honors the fact that *American Masons have built and maintained the Memorial through private donations.*

An Inspiring Mission.

In 1910, when the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association was first created, those present declared their mission "To erect and maintain a suitable Memorial Temple to George Washington, the Mason; which expresses in durability and beauty the undying esteem of the Freemasons of the United States for him in whose memory it shall stand throughout the coming years." Today, it stands as one of the most beautiful and striking buildings in the entire Capital region—an area known for its beautiful architecture. Of course to us, as Freemasons, it is far more than just a building of timeless beauty, but a living expression of our vision: "To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country."

Open to the public seven days a week, the Memorial carries out its mission in many ways. On our daily tours, guests learn important facts about the Craft and how Bro. Washington embodied the virtues which make him the foremost Freemason in our history. For members of the Fraternity, the Memorial is all of this, and much more. You see, each American Freemason has a vital stake in the Memorial. This is a place that every Masonic family should visit, and we work to make that experience special and memorable.

Restoring Our Memorial for the Landmark Century.

The Freemasons of the past saw to it that the Memorial was far more than the "suitable" temple they so modestly spoke of building. In fact, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is sublime—a true beacon of Light to all mankind. Now, the responsibility for that beacon is in our hands, and there's work to be done. The quality of the Memorial's original construction was exceptional. That said, nearly a century of regular use, seasonal weathering, and even the effects of an earthquake several years ago mean that it is time for major restoration work.

In 2017, the Memorial's restoration is being carried out in two major areas: the fifth and sixth floor exterior walls of the Tower, and the famous Cornerstone Mural in Memorial Hall. This mural depicts a striking scene: Brother Washington laying the cornerstone of the United States Capitol. This painting is an irreplaceable masterpiece of the great American painter Allyn Cox. It is also a focal point on our tours, directly supporting our mission to educate and inspire. Unfortunately, after sixty years of display, the painting required major conservation. This work is underway, and it will soon be restored for the enjoyment of the public.

(Continued from page 8)

How You Can Participate.

These capital improvements have inspired a special initiative called the Landmark Century Campaign, which seeks to raise \$6.5 million to fund the restorations currently underway. Today, we are asking you to be a part of this work. The Memorial is a 501(c)(3) educational foundation, so all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. An excellent way that you can participate is to become one of the *Friends of the Memorial*. This program allows any individual, family, or group to support the Memorial at any time, in any amount. Donations are cumulative, and our new website makes it easy to participate through contributions of \$25 or more per month.

Major donors to the Memorial are known as *Patrons*. Whenever a donor surpasses \$5,000 in cumulative giving, he transitions to Patron status. It is possible to become a Patron with a single gift, or to achieve Patron status over time using our website's *Patron Pledge* system. Both individuals and lodges have become Patrons, providing key support to our restoration initiative.

There are many other ways to support the Memorial's work as well, including remembering the Memorial in your estate planning. For more information, visit the Memorial's website at <http://gwmemorial.org>, or contact me at seyer@gwmemorial.org or 703-400-4950. I am happy to explain all available support options, and assist you in setting up a monthly pledge amount or other contribution.

Masonic Home Trustees present RWB Joe Watson with a Henry Masonic Edition 22 Rifle



LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Ever so often you might (if you are lucky) run into someone who makes a big impact on your life. It has been our pleasure to have met someone like this. The first time we met this man we knew right from the start that we liked him. From that first meeting we have become the best of friends.

First impressions DO leave lasting impressions. He was nice enough to take the time out of his busy schedule to speak to us. We were just another person in the room and he was a man of some importance I could tell.....

He is the kind of person that is always there to help. Be it advice, guidance, a helping hand or just a friend you can always count on him. Always with a smile on his face. Oh we've seen him flustered but he still had that same friendly smile.

In our book he's a one of a kind. It has been a pleasure getting to know him and his lady Linda. What a lovely couple they are. We wish them only the best with their future. When you run into **Past Grand Secretary Joe Watson** again ask him about his "Booger Sleeve". And "that's all I'm going to say about that".

Richard and Sharon Bailey



**RWB Joseph Watson (Retired) Spoke at
Harmony No. 405**



Harmony No. 405 had a family night September 18 and RWB Joe Watson (Retired) made a wonderful presentation discussing the Shriners hospitals. The lodge served delicious food and great fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Salem United Methodist Church near Dearing held its 17th Annual Masonic Sunday on October 8. Around 24 Masons attended the worship service. Grand Master Gary Leazer was the guest preacher. After the service, the ladies of the church served a delicious meal in the fellowship hall.

**Gwinnett Daylight No. 744
Celebrates 25th anniversary**



Past Masters of Gwinnett Daylight Lodge No. 744 pose during the lodge's 25th Anniversary communication. Among the Past Masters are PGM Jerry D. Moss and Grand Master Gary Leazer.



Center Hill Lodge officers for 2017



When the brothers of Hollingsworth Lodge No. 355 heard that Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church was having difficulty paying its utilities, the brothers held a fundraiser and donated all of the proceeds to the church.

Wor. Bro. Daniel P. Bennett Appointed Editor of *Masonic Messenger*

Daniel Patten Bennett 32^o KCCH KT
728 Baugh Mountain Rd. NW
Sugar Valley, GA 30746

Age: 31

Married, One Child: Grant Michael Bennett

Occupation: 8th Grade Georgia History Teacher at Red Bud Middle School

Education: B.A. from Kennesaw State University in History Education. Currently pursuing an M.A. in World History from the University of North Georgia at Dahlonega with a thesis focusing on the suppression of Freemasonry during the early 20th Century by Nationalist leaders in Europe. The thesis analyzes the role and extent to which an international focus among Masons may have led to their suppression in various countries.



I began my Masonic travels in August of 2012 petitioning Plainville Masonic Lodge #364, in Plainville, Georgia for the Degrees of Masonry. Being accepted, I was Initiated into the Degree of Entered Apprentice on 2 August, Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on 6 September, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 4 October. I stood proficiency on the Masters Degree in November of 2012. Being eager to expand my Masonic education I petitioned Kellogg Chapter No. 61 Royal Arch Masons in February of 2013, and was exalted to the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason at the 7th District Convention Royal Arch that March. I received my Degrees in the Scottish Rite up to the 32^o the following month after petitioning the Valley of Atlanta. Being again desirous to further extend my Masonic knowledge I petitioned Calhoun Council No. 61 Royal and Select Masters later in 2013 and received the Cryptic Degrees in August 2013 at the Greater Atlanta York Rite Festival. Finally in February of 2014 I petitioned St. John's Commandery No. 19 and received the Orders of Knighthood that June. Later that year I petitioned for and was granted dual membership with my Grandfather's Mother Lodge, Oothcaloga Lodge #154, in Calhoun, Georgia. I have been most honored to be received

into several invitational Masonic bodies including the Georgia College of the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, North Atlanta Council No. 313 Allied Masonic Degrees, and most recently Carl F. Lester Jr. Council No. 65 Knight Masons.

I have a fervent desire to be useful in whatever capacity I can be to the many Masonic organizations I am a member of and am always willing to work as my time permits. I am serving as Worshipful Master in Plainville Lodge for 2017 and have served as an instructor for the Degrees for both Plainville and Oothcaloga since receiving my blue and white cards from a locally-held School of Instruction. I currently serve as Treasurer of Oothcaloga Lodge #154. In the past I have served as Tyler for the 43rd Tri-County Convention and during the past year I have conferred the majority of Blue Lodge degrees on candidates in both Plainville and Oothcaloga. Three years ago, I initiated contact with the Red Cross and have been essential in getting members of both Lodges to assist in the regular community blood drives held at the Calhoun First United Methodist Church.

In Kellogg Chapter No. 61 I am sitting this year as High Priest and in Calhoun Council No. 61 as Illustrious Master. I have recently been serving as the Captain General for St. John's Commandery No. 19 following this year's inspection at which I was awarded the Grand Commander's Award for my work as Senior Warden. In the Georgia College SRICF I have presented the first half of a paper and will complete said presentation in January.

For the Valley of Atlanta, I occupy the station of Assistant Expert in the Atlanta Chapter Rose-Croix and serve as the Chairman of the Blue Lodge Liaison Officers program as well as serving as Liaison Officer for my two Blue Lodges. Additionally, I assist in maintaining the Facebook and Twitter feeds for the Valley and contribute to the management of the Valley's website. I have served for two years as President of the Northwest Georgia Scottish Rite Association and am currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. I have had a role in the Valley Membership and Achievement Program (VMAP) since its institution two years ago and have attended the semiannual VMAP conferences. I worked for a number of years in a limited capacity with the Scottish Rite Guard. During the Spring 2014 Reunion of the Valley of Atlanta I assisted Ill. Brother Joe Brooks in the classroom communication of Degrees and have been doing so since. I have recently been appointed the Degree master for the 17th Degree of the Scottish Rite, Knight of the East and West while also participating in the conferral of the 27th and 30th Degrees. In December of this year I was made a Knight of the Double Eagle in recognition of my services to the Valley. In August of 2017, I was invested with the rank and decoration of a Knight Commander in the Court of Honour for the services I have rendered to the Valley.

September 2017 Monthly Report from the Masonic Home

As of October 1 - we have:

12 Boys - age range is 9 to 21

18 Girls - age range is 7 to 21

School Breakdown

Tattnall Square Academy - 9

Windsor Academy - 5

Woodfield Academy - 4

SOAR Program - 1

Rosa Taylor Elementary - 1

CGTC GED Program - 1

Wesleyan College - 1

Middle Georgia State University - 1

Central Georgia Technical College - 3

For Labor Day Weekend a small group of kids went to the Camp. As always with camp the kids had a great time - we tubed, fished and swam. Little did we know at the time that Hurricane Irma would come two weeks later and destroy the dock. We also had some wind damage - fallen trees and limbs. Thankfully there was no building damage at all.

Macon had some damage as well - Nottingham Dr. looked like a war zone. There were at least 10 poles and close to 20 trees that were blown down. The Home lost power the morning of Monday, September 11, and did not get it back till Friday night. We began to send the kids Home on Wednesday due some of the schools being closed the rest of the week. All the kids were gone from the Home by Friday.

Kids presently involved in Extra- Curricular Activities:

Tattnall varsity Football 1

Tattnall Varsity Cheerleading - 1

Tattnall 7th/ 8th Grade Football - 1

Tattnall Middle School Cheerleading - 1

Woodfield Disc Golf - 1

I would like to know if anyone or the lodges would like to help me in putting together Disaster Kits for the halls for situations like we just had - if you can help, please contact me at babcock.chris@masonichomeofgeorgia.com.

Grave Markers

Ralph O. Dennis, PM
Secretary

Educational and Historical Commission

Few Masons in GA realize that the Grand Lodge places grave markers to honor our Past Grand Masters. It is the responsibility of the Educational and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge (E & H) to order and place a marker when a Past Grand Master goes to the celestial lodge. The marker is 13"X13"X3" and is made of granite. It bears the name of the Past Grand Master, the Past Grand Master's seal and the year he was Grand Master. The marker is usually placed at what would be the foot of his grave site. However, if the cemetery does not allow markers, he was cremated or other circumstances that would prohibit it at the grave; the marker is placed in a special area at the Masonic Home in Macon.

In 2017, we lost three Grand Masters. MWBs A. Ray Earwood, James E. Mosley and Thomas "Tommy" Irvin all entered the celestial lodge. On October 7, 2017, Most Worshipful Brother Gary Leazer and the Grand Lodge officers dedicated MWB Moseley's marker at the memorial at the Masonic Home. On October 21, 2017, they dedicated MWB Earwood's marker at his grave.

The marker for MWB Irvin has been ordered and will be placed once it is received. If the brethren have not witnessed one of the ceremonies- they should! The ceremony is short but very impressive.



Pickens Star Lodge No. 220 Travels to Tennessee for 46th Annual Cave Degree



Pickens Star lodge No. 220, Jasper, traveled to Kingston, Tennessee on August 19 in order to confer the Master Mason degree on two of their candidates at the 46th annual Cave Degree. The candidates, William Seaborn Atkinson and Ronald Gene Workman, were quite thrilled to be raised with a cave filled with Master Masons looking on.

The degree team was made up of the lodge officers except the Secretary and Chaplain. The Worshipful Master, Blake McFarland conferred the degree with the second section made up of various lodge members. Pickens Star Lodge had 19 members involved in the degree work.

The Cave Degree was attended by 299 Master Masons representing 134 lodges, 18 states, Canada, Germany, and Brazil.

All Master Masons in attendance on Friday night were presented with a Fellowcraft degree conferred by Bolivar Lodge No. 127 from Stevenson, Alabama. Our own Master Mason candidate, Ronald Workman, was fortunate to see an Alabama opening as they opened on the Fellowcraft degree.

A big THANKS goes out to Union Lodge No 38 Kingston, Tennessee, for providing Pickens Star Lodge No. 220 the opportunity to be a part of this year's program.

This is the third visit Pickens Star has made to the Cave Degree. In 2008, we conferred the Masters' Degree in the cave. In 2014, the Fellowcraft degree was conferred on Wayne Hellsby, our current Junior Warden.

50 Year Awards



Gerald Alvah Lenox
West Point No. 43



Gordon Madison Welch
Landrum No. 48



Coy John Cole
Cartersville No. 63



Ed Hay
Bellevue No. 63 (Indiana)



Fred Ellis w/ RWB Mike Wilson
Lithonia No. 84



Kenneth Earl Bobbit
Daylight No. 125



Barton McFall
Daylite No. 125



Billy Goss
Midland No. 144



Wesley Bailey
Sonora No. 221



Larry Jones
Sonora No. 221



Melvin Kilgore
Sonora No. 221



Douglas Jasper and Virginia Blakely
Rabun Gap No. 265



Nathan Starling and Wanda Blakely
Rabun Gap No. 265



Robert Grant Deal
Rabun Gap No. 265



George Buren Lasseter
Sylvan No. 429



James Franklin Henry
Ben Hill No. 674



Benjamin Lane Ridings
Ben Hill No. 674



Lloyd Hodges
Thunderbolt No. 693



Calvin Lavern Hodges (Past Potentate)
Tybee Island No. 762

Coosa No. 622 Presents Four 40-year Awards



Coosa Lodge No. 622 presented 50-year awards (from left) to Bros. Wayne Sanford Comer, Robert Earl Van Vlakte, David Mitchell Smith, Kenneth Wayne Keith.

Floyd County Convention Honors 50-year Masons



On August 19 the Floyd County Convention honored the Fifty-Year Masons who were present. Left to Right are Bros. Ronald K. Morris Sr., DDGM-7B; Charlie Miller; J.D. Ayer Sr.; Joseph B Greene; Hugh T. Cantrell; Thomas C, Butler; John Wade; Jan Giddens, Grand Senior Deacon; not in the picture are Bros. Micky White, and Jack Greasham.

60 Years

Dewey Larry Hunter
Latham No. 12



Russell Kinney Sibley
Latham No. 12



Nick Madison Pierce
w/ Wor. Master
Brock McCloskey
and Ron Boatright,
DDGM
Landrum No. 48



Thomas Lamar Harris
Hamilton No. 58



Louis McMicheal, Jr.
Thunderbolt No. 693



John Roberson
Thunderbolt No. 693

Wor. Bro. Keny Drescher, 1st District MELD Director, reported that the 25, 50 and 60-year award recipients were honored on Sept. 23rd. at Thunderbolt Lodge No. 693. It was a grand time for all, with breakfast cooked and served by our own White Star Chapter No. 367 of OES: Egg Casserole, Grits, Juice, Milk, Coffee and a healthy, Heaping room full of Fellowship. Bro. Gerald Henderson was the 25-year recipient.

Most Worshipful Brother Clyde Griffin, PGM and a member of Thunderbolt Lodge 693, officiated for the event.

65 Years



Jesse Bell
Goshen No. 71

Rupert H. Bramblett ,PGM

From 1966

“To those of you who believe in keeping Masonry alive in the world and in our nation; who recognize the fact expediency and appeasement are not the answers to the problems which we face today; who realize the very great need to retain our beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols, and honestly believe that Freemasonry should never be reduced to the status of a social club; to those who share my own belief that more than anything else today we need a REVIVAL in true Masonry, not a changed form of Masonry to “keep up with the times.”

Two Georgia Grand Lodge Officers Journey to South Carolina to present a Fifty-Year Award

Right Worshipful Brother Michael Wilson, Senior Grand Warden, and Worshipful Brother Jan M. Giddens, Senior Grand Deacon, drove to Latta, South Carolina to make a fifty-year presentation to a Brother from Georgia. They arrived in Latta, S.C. in time to meet the good Brothers of Dalcho Lodge No. 160 at a local restaurant for a fine dinner and fellowship. After everyone finished eating we all got in our cars and made the short trip to the Lodge located downtown for their regular communication. We all gathered upstairs for the meeting in a truly beautiful Lodge Hall, the opening was done proficiently in South Carolina fashion by the officers of the Lodge. Right Worshipful Brother Tommy Hayes Jr., District Deputy to the Grand Master, was in attendance making his official visit and participating in the fifty-year award.

The Worshipful Master presided over the award ceremony, Dalcho Lodge had a Fifty year award of their own. The Worshipful Master made some fine remarks and presented the Georgia and South Carolina fifty year pins to the Brothers. RWB Michael Wilson presented Brother Fred Ellis, who was raised in Lithonia Lodge No. 84 in 1966, his apron, a fifty-year coin and his certificate on behalf of our Grand Lodge and the Masons of Georgia (His photo is found

on page 14) Wor. Bro. Jan M. Giddens recited the poem, FIFTY YEARS A MASON, written by MWB Dewey H. Wollstein, PGM. The DDGM made his remarks and the Lodge was closed in due form.

It was a wonderful evening with the Brothers of South Carolina and our fifty-year Mason, coins and pins were shared on behalf of our Grand Master. The DDGM gave the two visitors from Georgia a Grand Master coin from the South Carolina Grand Master. We were made to feel welcome and at home, all courtesies were extended and our visit was one to remember.

Where else but a Masonic Lodge can two Brothers from another state show up, knowing no-one, be welcomed in and within minutes have Brothers and friends?

ENQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

Symbolism is a big part of Freemasonry and is used throughout all of the degrees to help to impart lessons and truths. This begins with the first lecture we hear as an Entered Apprentice, the Apron Lecture. Newly brought to light we are met with a multitude of words and phrases that might have been familiar to Shakespeare, but to modern man they are “fancy words” with an obscure meaning. We learn them, add them to our Masonic vocabulary, but sometimes our search for Masonic Light seems to get stuck at 25 watts. We seem to be happy in the dim light not knowing that there is a 100 watt bulb available if we just look for it. Masonry is a progressive science and we are encouraged to continue the journey which can be a life long journey but that takes effort and work. Unfortunately many of us are happy stopping at the first rest area (Masters’ catechism) and resting in the shade of a Masonic ring.

For me the Apron Lecture was and still is one of the most beautiful lectures we have and when properly presented is both moving and enlightening. It begins by telling us what a great honor it is to be made a Mason and how that honor continues throughout our lives until we lay down the working tools of this mortal life and enter the pearly gates of eternity. I took the lecture at face value until the time when I could delve deeper into its meaning. For those of you who are Masonic scholars please humor me while we take a look at some of the honors mentioned in the Apron Lecture.

Golden Fleece: my first thought was Jason and the Argonauts but Mackey says otherwise. The Order of the Golden Fleece was an Order of Knighthood in Austria and Spain founded by Philip III Duke of Burgundy in 1429 who choose the fleece for its badge because of the wool production in the country and it was one of the most important symbols of the Hermetic philosophers during the Middle Ages.

Roman Eagle: for Romans the eagle was the ensign of imperial power. Many cultures adopted the eagle as their standard, the Persians, France, Prussia, the United States and even the Nazi Party. Several Orders were created and are outgrowths of the original symbol of the Roman Eagle.

Star and Garter: The Order of the Garter is English in origin and dates from around 1344 possibly by Edward III at the siege of Acre when the King ordered 26 Knights to wear a blue thong tied around their legs. Another account says at a ball the Countess of Salisbury dropped her garter and the King picking it up and handing it to her exclaiming to the smiling crowd “evil to him who evil thinks”. The Order is still one of great prestige in England today and includes the Royal family.

The Order of the Star originated in France in 1351 in imitation of the Order of the Garter. The name has an allusion to the Star of Bethlehem, or the Star of the Magi.

Its existence was short lived but its use of the star symbol carried into many of the Orders of Chivalry.

Laurel wreath of victory: is of an ancient origin from classical Greece, Rome and Biblical times. It was woven of aromatic plants or in some cases was made out of precious metal. It was a crown of victory given to Roman generals; athletes were give a laurel wreath for success in sporting events such as the ancient Olympics.

Purple of the Fraternity: In ancient times the color purple was an emblem of wealth, royalty and/or status. The Roman guards placed a purple robe on Jesus mocking him as King of the Jews. Most Masonic jurisdictions use purple for their Grand Lodge Officers.

With all the talk and imagery, nothing is as honorable as that white lambskin apron we receive upon our first entrance into a lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons. May its pure and spotless surface be an ever present reminder of purity of life and rectitude of conduct expected out of each of us during our lives as Masons.

Freemasons- Uncommon Men

By Worshipful Brother John J. Murchison
Chaplain of Ashlar Lodge No. 209 A.F.& A.M.
and PGM of Oregon

Communicated in 1988 in a series of lectures as Chaplain
of his Lodge.

The image of Freemasonry is created by the lives and conduct of its members. It calls for uncommon men. Masons are charged to be good citizens, serving their God, defending their Country, providing for their families, helping their communities ,extending brotherhood to their fellow-men. In general, living their lives in a manner so consistent with their consciences that they will not fear to die.

Too often, common men do not meet these qualifications. Too many common men have discarded these values to conform to the practices of our modern times. Some disavow religion, denigrate patriotism, sneer at morality and work to tear down all previous standards. Many others are simply too apathetic to defend the right, and prefer the easy way of moral permissiveness.

Freemasonry has passed through numerous cycles over the years, depending upon the public’s appreciation of moral values. It has remained faithful to its mission of improving men. It has been said that mediocrity is a condition to which few men aspire-but fewer yet escape. If Freemasonry is to enjoy a resurgence of popularity it will depend upon the success of individual Masons living their lives in a manner that will reawaken the public awareness of and appreciation for good citizenship, there by establishing the fact that Freemasons are indeed-uncommon men.

The Current Issue of *Harashim*

I have subscribed to the *Harashim*, the publication of the Australian New Zealand Masonic Research Council for more than a dozen years. *Harashim* is Hebrew for Craftsmen and is emailed at no cost to any Freemason in the world. You may also read it online at <https://issuu.com/harashimed>. I am always amazed at the research this Council does, literally around the world.

This issue has an article about Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher who lived from 1724 to 1804. His beliefs continue to have a major influence on contemporary philosophy, especially in the fields of ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, political theory, and aesthetics.

This issue (No. 76, October 2017) also reviews American Freemasonry: Its Revolutionary History and Challenging Future By Alain De Kegel.

This issue reviews two companion books: The Enigma of the Knights Templar by Marilyn Hopkins; The Enigma of the Freemasons by Tim WallaceMurphy.

This issue announces the Quatuor Coronati 2018 Conference: 'Freemasons in the Transatlantic World' to be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, 14-16 September 2018.

How to Book

Booking could not be easier: go to the QC website and click link to the in-house QC ticketing page under 2018 conference. You can book using a credit card or PayPal. www.quatuorcoronati.com/meetings/2018-conference/book-tickets/ How much does it cost?

Conference Registration Fee The current early bird rates are: Whole conference (3days) US\$119 for QCCC members.

US\$149 for non-members

Friday only: US\$85 for QCCC members/ US\$ 115 for non-members

Saturday/Sunday (2 days): US\$105 for QCCC members

US\$125 for non-members

Celebration Dinner Saturday Evening US\$87 per person.

Program

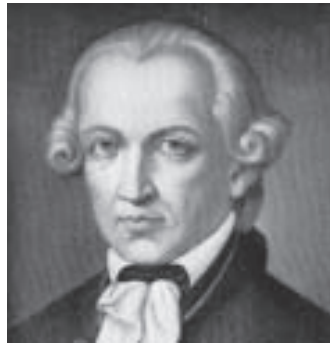
Friday 14 September - Day One George Washington Masonic National Memorial

09:00 - 09:45 Registration

09:45-10:30 Welcome & Introduction, plus Highlights of the Tercentenary Event at the Royal Albert Hall, part I

10:30-11:15 Paul Monod: The Conflicted Identity of Early 18th Century English Freemasonry

11:15-12:15 1st Panel: Scottish-American Freemasonry in



Immanuel Kant

“When we once again fulfil our members, they will fill our Lodges.” —Robert Herd.

the Eighteenth Century — Bob Cooper and Mark Wallace
12:15-13:15 Lunch

13:15-14:30: 2nd Panel: Freemasonry in the Caribbean Neil Wynes Morse, Susan Snell & Andreas Onnefors

14:30-14:45 Coffee.

14:45-16:15 3rd Panel: Freemasonry in North America John Laurence Busch, Jeffrey Croteau &

Ric Berman

16:15-17:15 4th Panel: French Lodges and Connections in the Americas.

Eric Saunier & Jeffrey Kaplan

18:00-19:00 Demonstration Lodge and talk on Masonic symbolism in the capital, a personal view, by

Akram R. Elias, PGM of DC. North Lodge Room, GWMNM, Followed by an evening in Alexandria

Mark Tabbert will be conducting guided tours of the GWMNM Throughout the Conference
Saturday 15 September – Day Two.

George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

09:15 Welcome

09:45-10:45 Jackie Ranston: The Multifaceted Freemasons of Jamaica

10:56-11:00 Coffee

11:00-12:30 5

th Panel: Freemasonry in North America. David Bell, Eric Morgan Huhn & Shawn Eyer.

12:30-13:15 Lunch

13:15-14:30 6

th Panel: Religion & Freemasonry: Lucio Artini, Roberto Pertocucci. Fenando Gill Gonzalez & John Acaster.

14:45-16:00 7

th Panel: Material & Print Culture: Felipe Corte Real de Camargo, Hilary Anderson & John Slifko.

16:00-17:00 8

th Panel: Transatlantic and Back Again. Marsha Keith Schuchard & Hans Schwartz.

18:45 Celebration Dinner. Followed by an evening in Alexandria.

Sunday 16 September- Day Three.

George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

09:45-10:45 Ric Berman: Over the Hills and Far Away—The Irish & Antients Freemasonry in Pennsylvania and the Sothern Colonies.

10:45-11:15 Dominic Selwood introduces: Highlights of the Tercentenary Celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall part II.

11:15-11:30 Conclusions: Ric Berman, Mark Tabbert. Susan Mitchell Sommers.

14:00 Guided Tour of Washington. Depart from GWMNM.

Rabun Gap Masonic Lodge No. 265 Clayton, Georgia 1867-2017

The following article is a summary of a working draft by Wor. Bro. Larry Lynn, a member of Rabun Gap No. 265.

Rabun Gap Masonic Lodge No. 265 celebrated its 150th anniversary in September 2017. The first meeting of Rabun Gap Lodge was held under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Georgia on September 3, 1867. The charter was granted on October 31, 1867. The charter was presented by the Deputy Grand Master in January 1868.

It is not known from what lodges the twelve founding members came, perhaps they had been initiated in Military Lodges of the Confederate Army or members of nearby out-of-state lodges such as Blue Ridge No. 92 in Walhalla, SC; Blue Ridge No 135 in Highlands, NC or Junaluska No 145 in Franklin, NC.

The first Worshipful Master was George M. Netherland, a 2nd Lieutenant in the 25th North Carolina Volunteers and a local Clayton attorney. Eight of the original lodge officers served in the Georgia or North Carolina Confederate armies. At the end of the war, military lodges ceased to exist and members were required to join elsewhere; at least nineteen Military Lodges existed in Georgia alone. No records can be found to indicate where these founding members were affiliated prior to the formation of Rabun Gap Lodge, which did not meet in Rabun Gap, but met in the home of a member of Blue Ridge Lodge in Walhalla, South Carolina. Nineteen petitions were submitted in 1867; eight were rejected.

At the first meeting, thirteen new petitions were read. The lodge met at 3:00 P.M. In February 1868, the lodge voted to meet on the Friday before each full moon, unless the full moon fell on a Friday in which case the communication would be held on that day. In 1875, the lodge voted to begin meeting at 10:00 A.M. on the same Friday as before.

Fees were set by the lodge: ten dollars for an EA degree, five dollars for a FC degree and six dollars for the MM degree payable to the secretary before the degree was conferred. Ministers in the actual discharge of his ministerial duties were not required to pay for the degrees.

Dues were fifty cents per quarter. "Extraordinary contributions" could be assessed by the vote of two-thirds of the members present.

In 1870, Rabun Gap Lodge moved to Rabun Gap. A lot was purchased on Main Street in Rabun Gap for \$100. The first floor of the lodge hall was complete enough to allow the first floor to be rented in 1870.

As required by the lodge By-laws, annual Festivals were held in honor of St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist. Members would march to the Baptist Church where



a Masonic lecture was given.

Several Masonic trials were held during this period. In all cases the guilty parties were fined twenty-five cents each for unmasonic conduct.

In 1873, Franklin Alexander Bleckley was elected Worshipful Master, a position he would hold for a total of seventeen (non-consecutive) years. Wor. Bro. Netherland moved to Toccoa where he served as Worshipful Master of Toccoa Lodge. Wor. Bro. Bleckley died in 1902 and was the last founding lodge who remained an active member until his death.

By 1874, membership stood at sixty-five, even though a large number of petitions were rejected.

The finances of the lodge were very fragile in the 1870s; lodge attendance averaged fewer than 20 per regular meeting. The lodge was unable to pay its Grand Lodge assessment in 1878, but made it up the following year. Maintenance on the Masonic Hall was a constant issue. Another problem was the practice of non-Masons writing letters to lodges or traveling around the country claiming to be Freemasons and asking for money from the lodges.

A Lodge of Good Templars formed in Clayton during the 1880s. The Masonic Hall became their meeting place. The records for the period beginning in 1900 are much more detailed than those preceding. Requests from lodges on behalf of their members or widows were usually answered with a one dollar donation. In 1901, a former lodge secretary was found guilty of misappropriation of lodge funds and was excluded from membership. Two years later he requested he be forgiven and readmitted, but his petition was rejected.

Several purchases for the lodge were made in the early 1900s: a bookcase, twelve chairs, and a “respectable” letter “G” for \$2.90. A dozen spittoons (cuspidors) were purchased by the committee on carpeting after the lodge hall had new carpeting laid. A porch was built on the lodge hall; the lodge was insured, and a Bible was purchased. A desk was ordered for the secretary, a pipe organ was purchased for \$60 and swinging lamps for \$8.75.

New By-laws drafted in 1904 relieved members aged 70 years and older with 20 consecutive years as a contributing Mason from paying lodge dues as the Grand Lodge had previously enacted. The tiler’s fees were raised from 75 center per meeting to \$1 per meeting. His duties included provided lights, wood for the stoves and refreshments, to clean the lodge hall and ante-rooms and to serve notices, summons and citations issued by the Master. The chaplain’s position was changed from an elected position to an appointed one.

In 1918, three children of a Brother who had passed were sent to the Masonic Home. Cost to send the children to Macon by train was \$14.48.

On July 28, 1922, Rabun Gap Lodge first used the “Uniform System” to open and close lodge.

In late 1925, the Rabun Gap Lodge Hall was sold for \$2,985.42.

The lodge voted in 1926 to send \$36.50 to the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, which was then under construction. Also in 1926, a “Penny Box” began to be used for donations to help fund the “Masonic Orphans Home.”

The minutes of the lodge meetings from the mid-1920s through the mid-1970s are missing.

In 1956, the Walt Disney Company arrived in Clayton to film the movie, “The Great Locomotive Chase,” starring Fess Parker. Twenty-three California Masons signed their names and sent a certificate to Rabun Gap Lodge thanking the Brothers for courtesies extending to them during the filming.

In 1957, the lodge constructed a new hall at 26 West Savannah Street, where the lodge still meets, at a cost of \$30,000.

Lodge dues were increased to \$8.00 in 1962, to \$12.00 per year in 1972, to \$20.00 in 1981, and to \$30.00 in 1988. Dues were increased to \$40 per year in 2015.

Smoking and chewing tobacco was outlawed in the lodge room in 1988. In 1991, the prohibition was extended to the entire lodge hall. The lodge began presenting lambskin aprons to new initiates in 1989.

The financial situation of Rabun Gap Lodge began to see a positive turn-around in 1990; Christmas fruit baskets were delivered to widows and shut-in Masons about 1990; the scholarship fund continued to grow; the dining hall was carpeted; new officers’ jewels were purchased. The lodge volunteered for the Special Olympics in 1995, a practice

still followed. The kitchen was refurbished in 1998 to include new cabinets and linoleum. A new Georgia State Flag was purchased in 2004. Updates on the lodge have continued since then.



On September 28, 2017, Grand Master Gary Leazer visited the lodge for its 150-year anniversary celebration and dedicated a room to Edgar Allen Campbell, Sr. to be used as an office, library and coaching room.

Brother Edgar Campbell, Sr. conducted his first examination of a candidate on May 26, 1978. Wor. Bro. Campbell is still coaching and conducting examinations in 2017, nearly 40 years later.

After lodge was opened and business conducted, the lodge was put at ease to travel seven miles to the Dillard House to enjoy a fine meal with the Ladies and other guests.

Freemasonry has truly thrived in Rabun County since 1867. Even when finances were lacking, the Brothers found a way to overcome every difficulty. The 112 members of Rabun Gap Lodge No. 265 are committed to continuing this great tradition.



The officers of Rabun Gap Lodge No. 276.

Benevolent Masonic Lodge No. 3 in Milledgeville Celebrates its 200th Anniversary

Since 1817, Benevolent Lodge No. 3 has a long and prestigious history in Milledgeville, Georgia. In 1827 the Benevolent Lodge was No. 9 in the list of Georgia Lodges.

In December of 1829 the Grand Lodge constitution was amended and Benevolent Lodge No. 9 became No. 6 on the list until November 17, 1938 when the number was changed to No. 3.

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

Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834), came to the United States from France at the invitation of Congress and toured all twenty-four states between August 1824 and September 1825. It took him 15 days to cross Georgia, mostly due to very primitive roads.

In Milledgeville, he visited Benevolent Lodge No. 9 which at that time was meeting in the Darien Bank Building. Benevolent Lodge No. 3 still displays the chair used by Lafayette on his visit.

Lafayette had fought in the Revolutionary War (1775-83) at the crucial Battles of Brandywine in Pennsylvania and Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, and in his old age, he hoped to attend ceremonies for the fiftieth anniversary of Boston's Bunker Hill in 1825.

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

This is the oldest Masonic building in Georgia with continuous usage since its dedication on June 24, 1834. This Georgian style building was among the more elegant structures in antebellum Georgia. It is also one of the earlier Masonry structures west of the Oconee River.

The cornerstone for the Masonic Hall was laid June 25, 1832 by R.W. Samuel Rockwell, and assisted by William Davis, Thomas Greene, E. H. Pierce, P. Wright, John Miller, Drury Murphy, John Mitchell, and William Hill.

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

Among its structural uniquenesses is the free standing wooden spiral stair case which is still used. Benevolent No. 3 is also rather unique in that the lodge boasts two pool tables.

The Grand Lodge of Georgia met here annually from December 1834 through the 1845 session when its site was



Benevolent Lodge No. 3, located at the corner of North Wayne and East Hancock Streets in Milledgeville.

moved to Macon. During reconstruction, the building housed the office of the Freemans's Bureau and its ground floor was headquarters of the local military garrison.

The celebration of its 200th anniversary continues until December 9 when a formal (black tie recommended) banquet will be held at the Magnolia Ballroom at Georgia College.



Wor. Master Kelly Steven Montgomery stands in front of a plaque dedicated by Grand Master Gary Leazer.

Old Masonic Cornerstones on the Campus of Georgia College and State University



John Sheldon Davidson (1846-1894), an Augusta native, local educator, and Masonic leader.

John S. Davidson Lodge No. 677 was appropriately named for one of the most brilliant and illustrious Masons who ever lived in our fair state. Most Worshipful Brother John Sheldon Davidson (1846-

1894) was born and reared in Augusta. He was a brilliant parliamentarian and eminent Mason. For seven terms he was Worshipful Master of Webb Lodge No. 166 of Augusta (1875-1881) and in 1883 enjoyed a distinction known only twice in the history of Georgia Masonry, that of being elected from the floor of the Grand Lodge of Georgia to its highest office, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and served from 1883 until his death in 1894.



John Sheldon Davidson

In the year 1884 he was chosen to represent the Tenth District in the State Senate, and in 1886 was unanimously elected to be the president of that august assemblage, and was admittedly one of the finest presiding officers who ever wielded a gavel in Georgia legislative halls.

He was elected to the Board of Education for Richmond County in 1871 and was credited for helping lay a solid foundation for the present comprehensive system of public education in Richmond County. He served on the board for 21 years, 15 of which he served as President. He is still known as the "Father of Education in Richmond County." John S. Davidson Fine Arts School is named in his memory.

He was also a journalist and a lawyer. He served the City of Augusta for 13 years as the City Attorney.— *From Webb Lodge No. 166 website.*



George Moultrie Napier was an Attorney General of Georgia (1921–1932) and a Grand Master of the Freemasons (1911-1912)

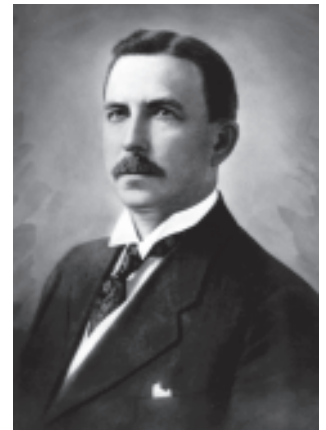
Grand Master Napier was born on March 28, 1863 in La Fayette in Walker County to Nathan Campbell and Julia Louis Sharpe Napier.

He received a Bachelor of Arts at North Georgia College in 1882 and a Master of Arts from the University of Georgia in 1898.

He began his law practice in Monroe in 1885 before moving to Atlanta in 1900 to form his law firm, Napier, Wright and Wood.

He was solicitor general of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit from 1913-1920 and attorney general of Georgia from 1921 to 1932; he died in office from a heart attack in Decatur, Georgia. He was a colonel and judge advisory general of the Georgia National Guard from 1899 to 1908. He is interred at Rest Haven Cemetery in Monroe.

Grand Master Napier was Worshipful Master of Generous Warren Lodge No. 20 from 1893-1901. He was also a Shriner. — *From various sources, including Generous Warren Lodge secretary, Wor. Bro. Julian Hayes.*



George Moultrie Napier

These two cornerstones were on buildings which no longer exist; one of the buildings burned. I have been told there is a third Masonic cornerstone on a building on the campus, but have not located it. — Gary Leazer, editor.

Georgia Child Identification Program!!!

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

Brothers:

Our Summer season has ended. With the beginning of the school terms, it is an excellent opportunity to contact your local schools and promote our Georgia Child Identification Program.!!! Our Brother and President Harry



The Team

S. Truman once said “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”

Throughout the Summer months, our CHIP District Directors have risen to the status of our unsung Heroes. On many occasions throughout the past several months, our District Directors have assisted other Districts by traveling to events outside of their jurisdiction, delivering



equipment and training our volunteers. Wow!!! We all owe a great debt of gratitude to our District Directors for what they do every day. It has often been said that **TEAM** stands for “**Together Everyone Achieves More**”. So true! Although I think as Masons we can add to the acronym of **TEAM** - “**Teach Everyone About Masonry**”. We have in our sights the best way to accomplish that task through our GA



Tina on the computer

CHIP Program!!!

For this edition of the *Messenger* a special call out to District 9 GA CHIP Director Joel Turnpin and Past Master Joe Brown of Sweetwater Lodge No. 421 for putting together an exceptional event for the City of Lilburn. In attendance were over 18 volunteers including the Eastern Star, Lodge Brothers and families. You will see many of our friends and family in the pictures: Adam Garner, Brother Brian Faubion, WB Joe Martin Brown, Ms. Lydia Whiting, WB John Head, Mrs. Melodie Head, Mrs. Patty Garner, Mrs. Judi Garner, Mrs. Louise Horton, Mrs. Tina Spier, Brother Robbie McAdams and Brother John Todd. Back row (L-R) Brother Herb Griffin, Brother Joel Turpin, WB Charles Horton and WB Wesley Spier. Not shown but volunteered for the event were: Wor. Master Carl McAdams, WB Andy McAdams, Ms. Gabby Pucket and Mrs. Lisa Pickens. A BIG THANK YOU TO Sweetwater Lodge No. 421.

Brothers, our formula for success is simple: **Together Everyone Achieves More** - ‘no matter who gets the credit’. Don’t forget about GA CHIP; Don’t forget to: **Teach Everyone About Masonry!!!!**



33° Coronation - Orient of Georgia



October 7, 2017 - A session of the Supreme Council of the 33° Scottish Rite Southern Georgia was convened in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Atlanta Masonic Center at which time those elected to receive the Honor of 33° Inspector General Honourary were Coroneted.

The New Inspectors General Honourary:

Albany – Marvin Bruce Banister

Atlanta – Roy Eugene Barnes

Atlanta – Elmer Ray Knittel

Atlanta – Edgar Michael Land

Atlanta – Benjamin Wesley Polston II

Augusta – Kennedy Lee May

Augusta – Richard Thomas Williamson, Sr.

Columbus – Danny Lloyd Dawson

Columbus – Robert Lamar Head, Jr.

Macon – Raymond Keel Broom

Macon – Charles Evans Holloway

Macon – Joe Lynn Turner

Savannah – Roger Warren Coursey

Savannah – Bruce Harley McNall

Eagle Scout Austin Weaver recognized at Flint Hill Lodge

Many Scouters gathered to recognize the efforts of Austin Weaver at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor At Flint Hill Lodge No. 371.

Following the presentation of his Eagle Scout Neckerchief, Badge, Pin and Certificate, Michael Kessler, First Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Georgia and James Rothrock (Rocky) District Deputy to the Grand Master of Masons in Georgia presented Austin with the "Albert F. Garner, Jr. Masonic Eagle Scout badge and certificate. Austin addressed the Court of Honor taking the time to thank the Leaders and those who influenced his life. With special thanks to his parents, Shannon and Randy. He made it a point to extend thanks to his fellow scouts.

Flint Hill Masonic Lodge, No. 371 is the proud Chartered Partner of Troop 39, BSA. — Wor. Bro. Ross Laver.



Ceremony of Dedication and Consecration for a Past Grand Master's Grave Marker



The dedication and consecration of a Past Grand Master's grave marker may take place at the PGM's grave if permitted by the cemetery or at a site near the Little White House on the Masonic Home Campus.



The ceremony for Past Grand Master James E. Moseley who served as Grand Master in 1980. He passed away in February 2017 and is buried in Griffin.

Cornerstone Dedication of the First Cottage



The cornerstone on the First Cottage at the Masonic Home was dedicated to Thelma Louise Matthews, an Army Nurse during World War II. Her brother, Bro. Walter W. Matthews donated the money to build this first of five cottages, each of which will house 8 youth.



Grand Master Gary H. Leazer stands next to the cornerstone of the First Cottage.



Gov. and Bro. Roy Barnes speaks during the cornerstonededication.



The Grand Lodge officers fill their stations for the dedication.



Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler checks the cornerstone. Wor. Bros. Mark Bradley and David Baxter cope the cornerstone.

WHATEVER HAPPENED?

Whatever happened to my Lodge?

Whatever happened to the men waiting in line to become an officer?

Whatever happened to the necessity of being ritually proficient before being appointed or elected to a station in the Lodge?

Whatever happened to the monthly officers meeting at the various officer's home?

Whatever happened to rehearsals for ritual work?

Why do we excuse poor ritualistic performances by saying, "He really tried and had tremendous desire to do this properly?"

Desire without ability is folly. Lord knows the blind man wishes to see and the cripple wishes to run. And we know that desire without capability is ineffectual.

Whatever happened to "good and wholesome instruction" coming from the East?

How many Masters can even confer a degree or give a lecture?

When did we start spelling Chaplain as chaplain; Brethren as brethren; Masonry as masonry?

Whatever happened to proper attire in the Lodge? Since when do we wear shorts and tee-shirts to a Lodge dedicated to GOD and the Holy Saints John?

Whatever happened to visiting our sick Brethren? We now are content to just mention their names under sick and distressed and that is enough?

Whatever happened to caring for our Brethren?

When did we descend to infighting in open Lodge?

Whatever happened to courtesy and respect for the opinions of others?

Are older and more informed Brethren succumbing to the slow death and resultant apathy of the uninformed brotherhood?

What ever happened to those men who joined to become better men through Freemasonry? Now they want Freemasonry to change to suit them.

Whatever happened to that desire to be better than the world as opposed to being part of the world?

Whatever happened to my Lodge?

— Worshipful Brother Anonymous

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

August 26, 2017 to October 10, 2017

\$500 OR MORE

Mt. Airy Lodge No. 141
Tennille Lodge No. 256
Barry Lee Bloser
Order of the Arrow-Ventur Crew 9236
Avni S. Shah
Tim's Auto Upholstery, Inc.
Tom Ward

\$1,000.00 OR MORE

Sandy Springs Lodge No. 124
Ruskin Family Trust
Corley Insurance Agency, Inc
Archie Z Davis Estate
Harry N. Flowers Estate
Jack C. Griffis, Jr.
George Hubler
Helen S. McPheeters Estate
Shady Dale Rodeo, Inc.
Lawrence M. Rich
Louis Marion Scott, Jr. Estate
Paul Schultz





GRAND
CHAPTER
Mark A. Bradley
M. E. G. H. P.



GRAND
COUNCIL
John I. Haggas
M. I. G. M.



GRAND
COMMANDERY
Drewey W. "Bill" Hendry
R. E. G. C.

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

Editor: Michael H. Sampsell Email: mike@thesampsell.com

<http://www.yorkriteofga.org>

The Annual Christmas Observance in the Commandery

By Michael H Sampsell

As an organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of the Christian religion, the Grand Commandery of Georgia holds a number of religious observances throughout the year. One of these observances is the Christmas Observance which is held at multiple sites in the state. These are either held jointly among a group of Commanderies in a regional area or independently at various subordinate Asylums at the local level.



great opportunity to fellowship and pray with other Sir Knights and their families. They also give a platform to promote our Knight Templar organization to Brother Masons and their families as well as the general public.

These Christmas Observances are one of the hallmarks of Templary and guide us on the path of the defense of the Christian religion. As Christians, we are taught to place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Redeemer and are also taught to share that Faith

There are a variety of ways that this Observance can be held but consistent themes throughout them are reverence, honor and solemnity which are the foundation of these celebrations. These celebrations include a combination of Scripture, lessons, prayer, music and various toasts to honor the leaders and exemplary figures in our Masonic bodies as well as celebrating the Christmas season. The celebrations are openly held and give a

with all who are within shouting distance from the distant foothills to the top of the mountain. We hope that you and your family will take the opportunity to share this great season with other Knights Templar and be sure to include your friends and neighbors throughout your community.

Check with your local York Rite bodies to find out where and when the Commandery in your area will be celebrating their Christmas Observance and take the time to join in the Celebration!



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

GEORGIA YORK RITE WEBSITE
www.yorkriteofga.org

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

The Cobb County Scottish Rite Association presents Halloween Costumes to Scottish Rite Hospital



Trick or treat will be heard in the halls of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta again this year thanks to Scottish Rite Masons and their wives. Cobb County Scottish Rite Association of Marietta Georgia working with a local Party City delivered 250 Halloween costumes to the hospital on Friday October 6th. This is the fifth year the Association has raised the money to purchase the costumes and deliver them to the hospital. Melanie Turner of Volunteer Services met the members of the Association in the lobby of the hospital with a two large racks on wheels to handle the boxes of costumes, Avery Evans came to help stack and move the racks of costumes to their work area.

The lobby was busy with a lot of people coming and going about the business of taking care of the many children at the hospital. The children could see the costumes and were very excited looking at all the costumes hanging on the rack with the picture of how they would look all dressed up. Melanie Turner told us that this one of the staffs favorite things that come in every year, that they enjoy dressing up as much as the children. The costumes are altered by the staff to fit the children, this is necessary because not all the costumes are made for children, so they make them work to fit every size and shape.

The Cobb County Scottish Rite Association started this idea a few years ago in order to raise some funds for the hospital. One year the association donated enough money to purchase four of the little red wagon the hospital uses to move the children around in. When one of their past presidents and loyal attendee to the meetings passed away the association named the fund in his honor and it became the Don Capper Fund. Bro Don's wife and daughter have

been a big part of the effort to raise the money , his daughter Donna actually helped make the initial connection with Party City.

The report we get from the hospital is how much the children love being able to dress up and to do a little Trick or Treating at Halloween. It gives them some sense of being a regular kid even while being in the hospital. I can say from experience that it is sometimes difficult to hold back tears when you see some of those children, but it is rewarding when you see the smiles and excitement when they see all those Halloween costumes. We don't get any photographs of the children dressed up because it is against hospital policy to distribute photographs with-out parents permission. We don't need the photos to know that our efforts have brought some happiness and fun to children going through a difficult time.

The members of the Cobb County Association who were present this year at the hospital for the presentation were Ted Rambo33° and his wife Aiko, Bob Bachman 32°KCCH and his wife Jan, Rusty Cordle 32°,Carl Gamel 32 °KCCH, Lloyd Leinbaugh 33° and his wife Helen, Jan M. Giddens 32°KCCH , Gary Monk 32°. The Cobb County Scottish Rite Association is the oldest association in the State of Georgia and just celebrated their 50 years of Scottish Rite service.

In Memorium

*Members Reported Deceased
from August 26, 2017
to October 10, 2017*

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
GARDNER, MILTON FREDRICK	003	BELCHER, WILLIAM ANTHONY	098
LOLLIS, ALTON GLENN	003	WEIDMAN, CHARLES HENRY JR	111
WOOD, BILLY GENE	003	FARMER, HOUSTON DOUGAN	113
LEE, FORREST WALTON	004	SUTTON, JAMES VERNON	113
MARTIN, LESTER ROYLE	015	LAWRENCE, ELWOOD LESTER JR	114
WEBSTER, JAMES RALPH JR	015	HOOPER, CHARLES VOIED	121
RANDALL, DAVID WYNNE	023	WILLIAMS, SEALS LEON	121
HARPER, BILLY (NMN)	025	SELF, JAMES WELBORN SR	124
SPIVEY, REMER JACK	025	BURSON, WILLIAM MAHLON	131
RIDGWAY, ED [NMN]	026	PHILLIPS, WILLIAM BYRON	131
FERGUSON, GEORGE EDWIN JR	027	FREEMAN, DAVID EUGENE	139
LAMBERTH, JOHN EDWARD	035	SKINNER, DARRYL LAMAR	139
MULLICAN, JOHN ARTHUR	048	HICKS, MICHAEL ADAM	141
SMITH, JOHN LARKIN JR	059	IRVIN, THOMAS TELFORD	141
GOVENSKY, JOHN SIMON	060	HENDRIX, WOODIE VON	144
HAMMOND, HAROLD SMITH	060	SMITH, PERRY RAY SR	148
LEE, FORREST WALTON	061	DAY, JOSEPH BENJAMIN	150
WIMBERLY, WILLIAM PASLEY	066	ECHOLS, THOMAS WILSON SR.	153
HARP, TERRY DALE SR	070	WHITFIELD, J. B. [IO]	154
SMITH, CHARLES HENRY	070	DRUMMOND, OLIN MATHAIS JR	171
THAMES, OTIS HAYWARD	076	FORRESTER, PAUL AUBREY	171
MARTIN, WILLIAM ANDERSON JR	077	JONES, WILLIAM PENN	171
TANT, RONALD RAY	078	MORRISON, JAMES RICHARD	173
SHAW, HENRY EUGENE	084	SHAW, LYNDON ELLSBURG	178
LAMB, CLARENCE EUGENE JR	087	COLLINS, HOLLIN BARGE JR	180
UPCHURCH, JAMES HAYWARD	087	TIBBITTS, CHARLES BOYD	182
PITTMAN, LLOYD LEON	090	BROWN, FRED DONALD	194

Name	Lodge No.
DINKINS, DANIEL RICHARD SR	196
RODDENBERRY, JACK EDWARD	196
BRYANT, GERALD ALLEN	204
PEARCE, AUSTIN EUGENE	214
GRAVITT, EDWIN BUNION	228
SWOFFORD, MICHAEL RAY	235
SCARBOROUGH, FRED CONEY	240
BROWN, JOHN CARROLL JR.	241
BOWERS, WALTER LOUIE	255
HARRELL, HOMER DEEN	255
HILL, HOWARD HAMRICK	255
MILLER, ROY EUGENE JR	255
RAULERSON, CHARLES ANTHONY	270
WAINRIGHT, DAVID KNIGHT JR	271
WHITE, GEORGE ROBERT	271
DYKES, THOMAS REUBEN	279
COLEMAN, JAMES HARRIS	288
WEIR, WILLIAM PAUL JR.	288
MCCOY, STEVE ABNER	299
THOMAS, WILLIAM ESTUS JR	299
MORRISON, CHARLES WESLEY	305
KEENER, FRANK SANDERS	309
HOWARD, WILLIAM CHARLES	322
BECKUM, THOMAS WAYNE	330
TOMLIN, HUGH CARROLL	330
ASHLEY, JAMES WILLIAM	340
MULLIS, JAMES HILBERT	340
PEYTON, WILLIAM BRUCE	355
ABERCROMBIE, WILLIAM EDWARD	386
PENN, CARLTON MONROE	386

Name	Lodge No.
FREEMAN, JACK MILLS	412
YOHO, ARTHUR JOE	412
PFUND, DAVID LEE	423
LIVINGSTON, RONALD VAN	434
GREEN, EDWARD ROY	455
HAWN, ALVON JEROME	467
TOBIN, WARREN ERNEST	480
DAVISON, CHARLES JULIAN	511
PIERCE, MILTON ALFRED	536
STEEN, ISAAC EDWARD	579
MAYO, JERRY CLARK	590
JONES, WOODROW EULIS	677
CRAFT, JOHN COLLIER	690
ISLEY, HEDRICK LEONARD	690
NOWELL, GERALD EUGENE	691
WADDELL, MICHAEL JERRY SR	698
WARE, JOHN JOE	699
SCHLEMMER, JOSEPH LEE	709
SPENCE, BILLIE CLAUDE	709
PEARCE, AUSTIN EUGENE	717
BAREFIELD, MICKEY CARLYLE	718
SHAUFELBERGER, JERRY CURTIS	718
HUDSON, EMORY SCOTT	720
STOWE, RAYMOND TYRONE	721
DAUGHERTY, THOMAS JEFFERY	733
ROSS, JOSEPH RALPH	762

The Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons
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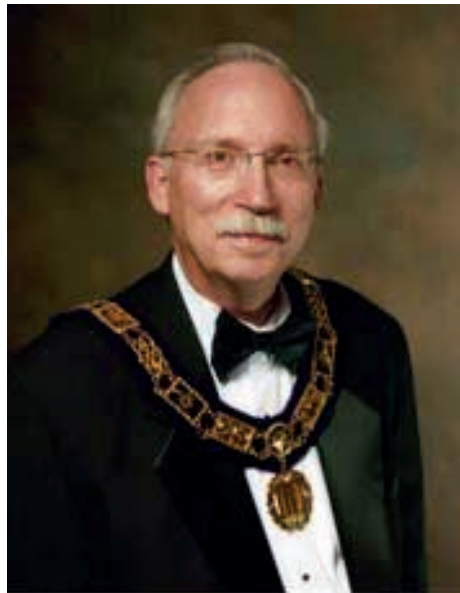
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Most Worshipful Grand Master Gary Leazer, Grand Lodge officers, Grand Lodge members, Brothers all,

As Grand Lodge is approaching, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as your Grand Chaplain this year. I was so honored when Gary asked me to serve as his Grand Chaplain. Thank you Grand Master for this honor. Also, I want to thank my wife, Lorna, for her patience and understanding this year and allowing me to spend hours and days away from home while serving as your Grand Chaplain. Fifty weeks have gone by so very fast, I can't believe that there are less than two weeks left. I have many fond memories of the lodges and districts that I have visited this year and the many old friends and new friends I have had the pleasure to sit in Lodge with. Although I may no longer be your Grand Chaplain and traveling with the Grand Master for Official Visits, installation of officers and District conventions, I plan to remain active in all aspects of Masonry.

Finally, my brothers, for many years, some unknowing people have spoken evil of Masonry, but we remained silent. As Entered Apprentices we are taught that we should

not be lead into argument with those who through ignorance ridicule Masonry, but always show dignity and integrity. This principle is best illustrated in the book of Titus, Chapter 2, verses 7 and 8, where we find:



"Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."

Finally my Brothers, I say to you continue to be a model of good works and our fraternity may prosper from your good works and continue to be a light for future generations.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Joe Bush
Grand Chaplain