

Masonic Messenger



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

October 2018

*Remembering Past Grand Master
Clarence "Buster" Horne*



1925-2018

(See Story On Page 3)

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 The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

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Table of Contents

Grand Lodge Notices and Events

In Remembrance Clarence "Buster" Horne.....3-4
 Grand Lodge Calendar.....5
 Cottage Campaign Contributions.....5
 From the Grand Secretary's Desk.....6
 Grand Master's Calendar.....7
 A Note from WB Joe Colvard.....8
 A Note from WB Lloyd Bowen.....9

Masonic Happenings and Events in Georgia

"Remanded to the Quarry"10
 Freemasonry Around Georgia.....11-12

Scottish Rite News.....13

Grand York Rite News.....14

Articles

"A Masonic Numismatist"15
 "Masonic Home of GA Alumni Assoc"16
The Common Gavel.....17-18
Annals.....19
 "Justice Comes to Montana"20-21
 "Continuous Improvement"22-23
Veteran's Corner.....24
GA ChIP Communication Corner.....25
 Awards.....26-29
 Endowment Fund Contributions.....29
In Memoriam.....30-31

Back Cover: Sandy Springs Holds St. John's Celebration

In Remembrance

RESOLUTION

ILLUSTRIOUS CLARENCE ERNEST HORNE, 33°

“BUSTER”

Born: May 3, 1925 – Phenix City, Alabama

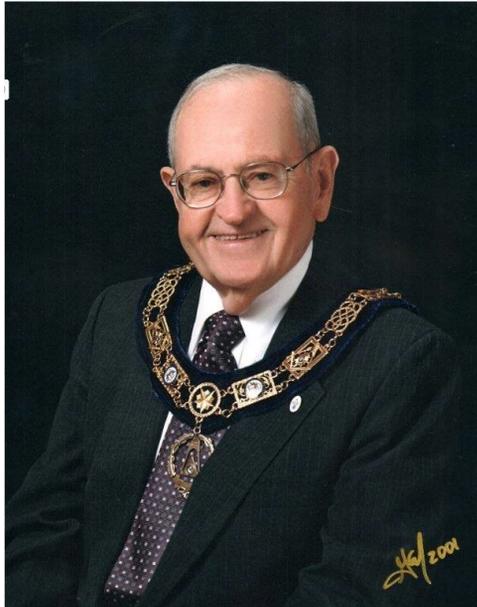
Died: October 5, 2018 -- Cumming, Georgia

PASSED TO THE GREAT BEYOND IN HIS NINETY THIRD 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 Clarence Ernest Horne, 33°, who, since November 3, 1961, has served the Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta, for fifty seven years in several capacities. Brother Horne in his years contributed greatly to mankind and our country. His zest for life, his accomplishments individually will not soon be forgotten and we are much better for his life here on earth. He was a kind, generous and compassionate Christian friend to many who traveled many miles with him to some remote place to confer degrees or offer assistance.

Upon graduation from High School, Brother Horne joined the United States Navy where he served in the Pacific Theater as an aerial gunner and radioman. After the war ended in 1945, he served on the staff of the Navy News in Manila, Philippines until his discharge in 1946.

He married Anita Ruth Strickland from Phenix City in 1946 and played amateur baseball in Alabama before moving to the Atlanta area about 1948. He began working for Ruralist Press as a printer in 1948 becoming an account executive and then Vice President before retiring in 1990. Ruralist Press was founded in the 1880s to produce the Hastings Seed Catalog, became Stephens Graphics in 1971 and was acquired by Bell South in the late 1980s where more than 65 million Yellow Pages and White Pages directories were printed annually. Our Brother “Buster” was involved with the



Atlanta Old-Time Baseball Players and again played amateur baseball in the early 1950s.

Brother Horne was initiated in East Point Lodge #288 on February 17, 1953, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 3, 1953, and raised as a Master Mason on March 28, 1953 serving as Worshipful Master in 1963. He was elected Secretary of the Lodge in December 1965 and served as its Secretary until December of 2016, a total of fifty-one years. He served as Grand Chaplain of Grand Lodge for William M. Hutcheson in 1991 and was appointed in

1994 as Third

Grand Steward of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia by James W. (Buddy) Seymour and he served with distinction as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 2002. He was very active in Grand Lodge serving on Charters and By-Laws Committee for over ten years, Publications Committee, and as a member of Jurisprudence Committee for several years.

Brother Buster was also a longtime member of Daylite Lodge #125 having affiliated with them as a dual member on December 4, 1991.

He joined Mt Zion Chapter #16, RAM on November 9, 1974, Jason Burr Council #13, RSM on November 9, 1974 and Coeur de Lion Commandery #4, KT on November 16, 1974. He was a past presiding officer of all these bodies and was invited to membership in Cherokee Rose Priory #56, Knights of the York Cross of Honour on August 30, 1994. He was very active in the York Rite bodies and was elected as Right Emi-

Resolution of Respect for Illustrious Brother Clarence “Buster” Horne Continued

Brother Horne was invited to become a member of all the Appendant-Honorary Bodies in Georgia and served in a position of leadership in many of them.

He became a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on November 3, 1961 as a member of the John Wimbish Guinn, 33° Class. He was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on November 20, 1965, and was Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33° on October 18, 1973. He was very active in the Scottish Rite becoming a charter member of the South Side Scottish Rite Association in 1977 and serving as President in 1990. He served as Preceptor of the Council of Kadosh in 1980. He was the Classroom Director from 1974 to 1989 and was also on the 29th Degree team when that Degree was done by the South Side Scottish Rite Association. In 2012, the South Side Scottish Rite Association made him a Life Member of the Association.

He was also Chairman of the Executive Committee for several years. In 1989 he was appointed as the Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Bill Hutcheson, in the Valley of Atlanta, and he served for Bill Hutcheson, Earl Harris and Leonard Buffington a total of fourteen years. He also served as a Trustee of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Scottish Rite Medical Center.

Brother “Buster” was a longtime Baptist, but after moving to his farm in Henry County near McDonough in 1977, he affiliated with Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church where he served as Lay Leader, Lay Member, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Administrative Board and Finance Committee. He was one of the Pillars of the Church during his forty plus years there and he was always being asked for his thoughts and guidance on the church and its activities.

Brother Horne’s wife Anita died on January 26, 2013, they having been married just over sixty six years. He is survived by one son, one daughter, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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 Clarence Ernest Horne and does hereby note in its records the passing from this life of a man who was esteemed by his associates, loved by his friends and respected by all.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the permanent records of this Valley and posted as appropriate, as a humble expression of the Scottish Rite's heartfelt sympathy.

Joe E. Turner, 33°



Grand Lodge Calendar*

*the Grand Lodge Calendar is correct as of the date of publication but may not reflect changes made after that date. For current information on the Grand Master's travels or Grand Lodge events please see the Grand Lodge Website at glofga.org

The 232nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia

October 23rd-24th, 2018 @ the Macon Marriott Hotel and Conference Center with Grand Lodge Committees meeting on October 22nd at Al Sihah Shrine Temple.

See page 4 and last month's issue for more Grand Lodge information. Also look in the August issue for current information on the various Bills and Resolutions submitted for this Grand Lodge Year.

GrandView Class Offering

Two classes for the new GrandView database will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at the Al Sihah Shrine located at 222 Mecca Drive, Macon, GA 31206 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Grand Master's Reception

Sunday, November 4 @ 2PM at the Yaarab Shrine Center @ 400 Ponce De Leon Avenue NE

Cottage Campaign Contributions from Lodges, Districts, and OES

Gate City Lodge No. 2	\$100	Clarkston Lodge No. 492	\$25,000
Mount Hope Lodge No. 9	\$500	Dougherty Lodge No. 591	\$1,315
Generous Warren Lodge No. 20	\$300	Grant Park Lodge No. 604	\$2,457
Unity Lodge No. 36	\$297	Crawford Lodge No. 689	\$599
Tucker Lodge No. 41	\$3,000	McIntosh Lodge No. 735	\$25
Lyons Lodge No. 49	\$4,000	Metro Daylight Lodge No. 743	\$25,000
Royston Lodge No. 52	\$4,000		
Dawson Lodge No. 68	\$500		
Jonesboro Lodge No. 87	\$2,000		
Allegheny Lodge No. 114	\$850		
Midland Lodge No. 144	\$4,000		
Roswell Lodge No. 165	\$1,165		
Dallas Lodge No. 182	\$200		
Fulton Lodge No. 216	\$1,000		
Alpharetta Lodge No. 235	\$1,092		
Tennille Lodge No. 256	\$200		
Leroy Duncan Lodge No. 262	\$100,000		
Masters Lodge No. 295	\$5,000		
Rutland Lodge No. 298	\$25		
Mount Hermon Lodge No. 304	\$1,000		
Vidalia Lodge No. 330	\$5,000		
Davidson Lodge No. 334	\$500		
Dexter Lodge No. 340	\$100		
Screven Lodge No. 368	\$150		
Harmony Lodge No. 405	\$1,000		
Stone Mountain Lodge No. 449	\$1,000		
Wellington Lodge No. 467	\$200		
Glenwood Lodge No. 479	\$100		
Mineral Bluff Lodge No. 483	\$100		

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS CONTRIBUTING

5 th	\$2,500
6 th	\$1,200
7 th	\$100
8 th	\$2,200
Tri-County (Whitfield, Murray & Gordon)	\$200

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Anne Wind Chapter No. 203	\$100
Tucker Chapter No. 407	\$500
Patrons Club of Georgia	\$1,000



From the Desk of the Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge Communication Information

Grand Lodge Committees meet on **Monday, October 22, 2018**. A complete list of meeting times and locations will be available to Committee Chairman by **August 15, 2018**.

The **232nd Grand Lodge Annual Communication** will be held **Tuesday, October 23rd** and **Wednesday, October 24th, 2018**. At the Macon Marriott City Center, 240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217. **BRING YOUR APRONS!**

You are encouraged to pre-register for the Annual Communication via the Grand Lodge Website glofga.org. The form can be filled out on the website and submitted directly to the Grand Lodge Office.

Two classes for the new database will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at the Al Sihah Shrine located at 222 Mecca Drive, Macon, GA 31206 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Lodges Not Represented At The 2017 Annual Communication

The following Lodges were not represented at the Grand Lodge Communication of 2016 or 2017 and will lose their Charter if not represented at the 2018 Grand Communication to be held Oct. 23rd and 24th. Reference Masonic Code Section 2-102.

Mount Hope Lodge No. 9

Hiram Lodge No. 51

Carroll Lodge No. 69

Gordon Lodge No. 108

Jesup Lodge No. 112

Howard Lodge No. 138

Bartlett Lodge No. 139

Trenton Lodge No. 179

Marshall Lodge No. 188

Willacoochee Lodge No. 197

Tunnell Hill Lodge No. 202

Altamaha Lodge No. 227

Swainsboro Lodge No. 244

Hazelhurst Lodge No. 283

Dewald Lodge No. 343

Whigham Lodge No. 356

Stephens Lodge No. 414

Chappell Lodge No. 511

Buck Creek Lodge No. 639



Grand Master's Calendar*

*the Grand Master's Calendar is correct as of the date of publication but may not reflect changes made after that date. For current information on the Grand Master's travels, please see the digital version of the calendar at <https://glofga.org/glofga/index.php/gm-s-calendar/2017-calendar>

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 AASR Valley of ATL	5	6 Family Day @ Home
7	8	9 Golden Fleece No. 6	10	11 Resaca No. 724	12	13 Rising Star No. 4
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Grand Master's Reception	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

TBD

(see page 7)

... and now a Note...

From Worshipful Brother Joe Colvard, Chair of the District Deputies

The time commitments placed on the Grand Master are great. Think about a typical year for the Grand Master: Service begins immediately upon election. There are numerous committee meetings which frequently are in Macon. By the way, many Brethren think that the Grand Lodge officers live in Macon—they don't—they come from all over the state, as far as from Brunswick to Blairsville. In addition, there are many annual recurring events such as the Grand Master's reception, Thanksgiving and Christmas services at the Masonic Home, meetings of the Masonic Home Trustees, and meetings with appendant bodies which take place throughout the year.

In December, in addition to Masonic Home Appreciation Day, the Grand Master is usually asked to do a number of Lodge installations consuming a large part of the month with more coming in January. With a very short break for Christmas and New Year's Day, the Grand Master's forums begin around the state. Almost immediately, the Grand Master begins to travel the state again for district conventions. The Grand Master is also expected to participate in the annual communications' of our neighboring jurisdictions which also occur throughout the year, not to mention special occasions such as the Rock Quarry, Cornerstone laying ceremonies, Tri-State Degrees, exchange nights with other Grand Lodges, and Masonic Home work and family days, etc.

We know that the Grand Master is a busy Brother, so what is the point? The Brother who is to be elected to the office of Grand Master often is besieged by requests, even prior to his election, asking him to Lodges often "because the Grand Master always comes to our Lodge" on a certain date. Others think having the Grand Master come to their Lodge would be a novel idea. Some even request visits more than once at the same location.

The Masonic Code in Section **5-106. Duties of Sub-District Deputies**; says that among the duties of the DDGMs "(f) is to arrange a program of inspection and visitation by the Grand Master in one or more Lodges meeting together in their Sub-District, as the Grand Master may request...."

Next year, with some exceptions, that will be the way visitations by the Grand Master will be arranged. It was never intended that the Grand Master make 150 to 200 Lodge visits a year.

The Grand Master's calendar has exploded in recent years and placed an unnecessary and undue burden upon him. A Grand Master's visitation used to be a rare treat. It was special to hear that the Grand Master was coming to your area. However, it has become commonplace in many districts. The following is a return to the way it was designed to work. This method will permit the Grand Master to have an opportunity to meet with members of every Lodge in the state but significantly reduces the Grand Master's travel.

The current program excludes the vast majority of the Brethren because the schedule is filled early in the year. Next year, Lodges should plan on scheduling a visitation with other Lodges in their sub-district and arranging the visitation through their District Deputy to the Grand Master. This will be an ongoing program; so Lodges in the sub-district can rotate being the host Lodge from year to year. Brethren are encouraged to work together to plan these sub-district meetings. Don't count on getting the Grand Master to come to your Lodge only, but follow this procedure, talk to your DDGM, and get the sub-district meeting with the Grand Master scheduled as soon as possible. Questions should be directed to your District Deputy.

Joe Colvard

DDGM State Chairman

From Worshipful Brother Lloyd Bowen

Dear Brother Secretaries,

Each lodge individually is required to file at least one annual return with the Internal Revenue Service each and every year since 2007. If your lodge had less than \$50,000 in Gross receipts for 2017 it is required to file a 990-N on-line.

If your lodge has more than \$50,000 in Gross receipts you are required to file either a 990-EZ or a 990, you should consult a Certified Public Accountant for this. The 990 series is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after your year end, May 15th for calendar year ends.

A copy of Forms 990 should be mailed to Georgia Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 740395, Atlanta GA 30374-0395, if you file the 990-N then File a copy of the receipt received from the IRS for the e-Postcard along with a brief statement as to why there is no paper return should be mailed to Georgia. If your lodge pays you or any individual more than \$600 per year for services then you are required to file a form 1099 for each such individual and a 1096 transmittal to summaries all the 1099s.

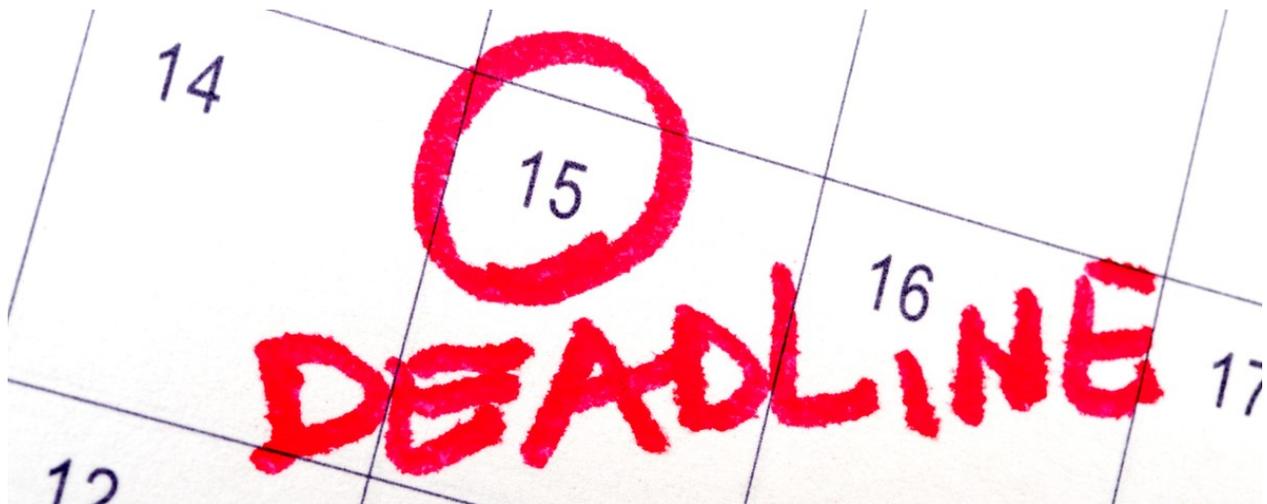
If your lodge has set up payroll then W-2s, W3 and 940 annual and quarterly 941 are required. The costs for late filing can be quite sever, please take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly. The appropriate code section in the Masonic code is 7-113

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

Also required is Sales Tax for the state of Georgia for special events, such as Dunk Tank fundraisers at Fairs of Circuses, BBQ fundraisers, etc. are reported on the State of Georgia's "MISCELLANEOUS SALES EVENT" FORM Rev. (04.14.16) you can get this form on line at this address <https://dor.georgia.gov/documents/fs-32-miscellaneous-events> These sales taxes are due to be mailed within 3 days of the event. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,

Lloyd R Bowen, Chairman
Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM
Tax Committee



“REMANDED TO THE QUARRY”

BY DANIEL P. BENNETT, EDITOR

“Why should I attend yet another Master’s Degree?”

Your Editor recently had the chance to attend his second “Rock Quarry Degree” in beautiful Morganton, Georgia on a warm summer night. I took the almost two hour drive with Worshipful Brother Jeff Self from Oothcaloga Lodge #154 and we enjoyed good conversation on our way up and even caught up to Worshipful Brothers Mike Kessler and Tom Bruce on our way up. On our drive, the conversation of “attending another Master’s Degree” came up and I offered my usual opinions at the time, but the question still lingered with me as we arrived and the Lodge was opened. Why would two Millennial Master Masons wish to drive almost two hours to sit through the evening to watch a Degree?

The “Rock Quarry” as it has come to be known, was started in 1953 after Brother Woodrow Smith, while visiting Knoxville, Tennessee, saw a Master Mason Degree conferred in a quarry. He was so impressed by the work and the idea that he took it back to McCay Lodge No 423 and presented it to the Lodge. They formed a committee to investigate the matter and an association—the Fannin County Masonic Association—was formed for the purpose of organizing the event. Ocoee 201, Blue Ridge 67, Mineral Bluff 483, McCay 423, and Sweet Gum 542 all formed the Association and set about organizing the ceremony, the work, and all other details necessary to hold such a Degree at a quarry in Morgantown. The Grand Lodge initially did not sanction the event, but that would change one year later in 1954.

At that initial Degree there were 700 to 800 members present representing fifty-three Lodges and five districts from the State.

It was a spectacular Degree put on by the Cove Waterfall Degree Team and the food and fellowship were top notch. We raised two new members of our Fraternity to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. However, the crowd was off from that initial 800.

As the Grand Master began to speak, I jotted down some of the things he said regarding the “Rock Quarry.” What stuck out to me the most was this, “Brethren, I urge you to attend Degrees such as this one, if for this reason only: it is at this type of Degree, and this type only, that you have the opportunity meet some good Brother upon the level, and to break bread with him, and sit in Lodge with him, and enjoy Masonic converse

with him. And you will probably never see that Brother again that year because we all come from so far around this great State.”

So, why go attend yet another Masonic Degree? We are remanded to the quarries to do that which we as Masons always have done: to work, to fellowship, to encourage one another, to visit, to talk, to reminisce, and to enjoy being a part of this great Fraternity of Masons.



Freemasonry Around Georgia



William G. England DL Lodge #747 recently hosted it's annual "Past Grand Master Appreciation" communication. The Lodge has hosted this event in March of each year in honor of these men who served our Fraternity. Behind are all he attendees present at this communication.



Traveling Men Chapter 19, Steel Goat Riders donated 300 "J-Dollars" to Brother Herman Floyd of Cool Spring Lodge No. 185. Brother Floyd has a type of cancer that affects the blood platelets and has had excess expenses from traveling to and from treatments. "J-Dollars" are those that the serial number letter on the bill is a "J" and we call them Jesus dollars. The Brothers save the bills and donate them.



Cornelia Masonic Lodge # 92, F&AM, proudly honored our 2018 scholarship recipients. There were three recipients and each received \$1000.00 to help with their education.



Flowery Branch Lodge #212 lead a team at the Hall County Relay for Life under the name of Georgia Masons and Eastern Star.



Harmony Masonic Lodge #405 presented \$500 scholarships to Makenna Love and Hannah Grace Corbett.

The members of Flowery Branch Lodge #212 also presented Sergeant Major Patrick C. Amos with a check for the DAV Chapter 17. DAV, the Disabled American Veterans Charity is an organization chartered by the United States Congress for disabled military veterans of the United States Armed Forces that helps them and their families through various means.



Freemasonry Around Georgia



Clarkesville Lodge No. 325 recently raised three Fellowcraft Masons to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at a morning communication complete with a southern style breakfast provided by the Junior Warden.



Tunnel Hill Lodge No. 202 recently held a busy family night and presented not only a 25 Year Award, but also a Past Master's Apron with a packed house and a great meal enjoyed by all!



DDGM 7-D, Cris Lynch, presents an award to France Adams in recognition of his loyalty, contributions, and service to the Lodges of Murray County, Georgia.

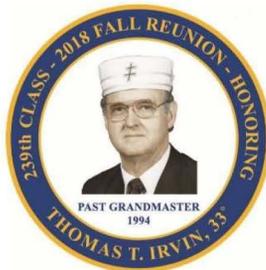


Panthersville #543 making a presentation of a check to Ms. Julie Solomon, the Woodland Elementary School librarian for the library fund, and the pictures of the two young ladies who won the school's reading contest for the 2nd and 5th grades. This is the second year Panthersville has donated the bicycles for the winners at Woodland Elementary School and contributed to the library fund.



Lavonia Lodge No. 241 hosted a Widow's and Past Master's Night. It was well-attended and included Past Master's from over 20 years ago and the Widow's of Brethren who passed on many, many years ago.

Nov. 10th & 17th
239th Reunion & Class
Honoring
Thomas Telford Irvin, 33° PGM



**A Commemorative
Coin will be
presented to each
Candidate &
1st Line Signer**



Illustrious and Most Worshipful Bro. Irvin served the Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta, for more than FIFTY years in several capacities. He contributed greatly to mankind and our state and country serving as Georgia's Secretary of Agriculture for 41 years. He was the longest serving State Commissioner of Agriculture in the nation and the longest serving statewide elected official in Georgia history. He left High School due to the death of his father. Despite that he was elected to the Board of Education in Habersham County, and held that position for almost twenty years. Ill. Bro. Irvin was appointed a Trustee of Truett McConnell College in Cleveland, Georgia and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Georgia School Boards Association presented him with the Distinguished Leadership and Distinguished Service Awards, and was the first person elected to the Georgia Agrirama Hall of Fame.

Scottish Rite members can honor his memory by talking with brothers who are not yet Scottish Rite Brothers and offering them the opportunity to join. Both those who join and this class and First Line Signers will receive a Commemorative Coin.



GRAND
CHAPTER
Steve C. Higgins
M. E. G. H. P.



GRAND
COUNCIL
Larry C. Bennett
M. I. G. M.



GRAND
COMMANDERY
Steve A. Kirk
R. E. G. C.

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

Editor: Michael H. Sampsell Email: mike@thesampsell.com
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org>

Why Join York Rite Masonry?

By Michael H Sampsell

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

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

The Capitular or Chapter degrees provide you with further light with the Royal Arch degree being the completion of the whole system of Freemasonry. Having started your journey in the Symbolic Lodge, it is the duty of a Master Mason to complete that journey. Only those who have attained their Royal Arch degree may be said to have completed their Masonic Work.

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

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

Annual Christmas Observances in the Commandery

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

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MASONIC HOME OF GEORGIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

What is the Masonic Home of Georgia Alumni Association?

Many of you are probably asking yourself that question right now. The Alumni Association consists of anyone who has ever lived at or been employed by the Masonic Home. But I like to call it My Great Big Wonderful Family! After all, how many people can say they have hundreds of siblings and family members? And who can say they grew up in a castle? I CAN!!!!



The first Homecoming for the Alumni of the Home was held on September 5, 1948 in the old gym at the Home with over five hundred former and current residents, employees and Masons attending. The Alumni Association was formed, and the first officers were elected.

Homecoming has continued to be an annual event and every third Sunday in May the Home is filled with love, laughter, memories, and fun as our family gathers to reunite and to meet new family members. We all share a bond, no matter the age or years that were spent

at our Home.

On May 20, 2018, we celebrated the 70th birthday of our Alumni Association! What a celebration it was! There were about one hundred attending including our featured speaker, Mr. Walter Matthews, Grand Master Larry Nichols and several other Masons. The highlight of our birthday party was a poem recited by the children currently living at the Home.

May is not the only time of reunion for our Family! Each September we have the privilege of spending a glorious weekend at our beautiful Camp at Shellman Bluff just being kids again.

We also try to say thank you in a small way to the Masons who so generously give so much support to provide a safe, secure and loving home for so many children. A donation is made each year for any special project that is needed. For example, this year one thousand dollars was given for the College boys apartment renovation. And we currently are selling T-shirts to support the Cottage Program.

On behalf of my two sisters and myself and my Alumni Family I would like to say “Thank You” to all the Masons of Georgia for giving us this Family and Home. I am so excited about the Cottage program and can’t wait to see what the future holds for our Home and the children to come.

Brenda Lawless Brannon

Secretary/Treasurer

Masonic Home of Georgia Alumni Association

The Common Gavel

By Brother Tim Henry, 32°



“Big John and the Kid”

The journey of life often takes many different twist and turns. I have looked through the pages of my life and discovered many experiences that I felt were common occurrences or just by chance many times had God's finger prints all over them. I will endeavor to shed light on one such path I have travelled with no knowledge of God's divine direction.

I am not a generational Mason, I have no immediate family to claim as Past Master or that of a Master Mason. I have always been drawn to Freemasonry through curiosity or the influence of men God had placed in my life who were Mason's, unbeknownst to me. I did all the things that no one should do who is curious about Freemasonry. I searched the internet, watched TV shows, formed opinions through ignorant ramblings of scared Pastors and ill-informed individuals who seemed as though they had a good read on this group of men.

In the early 1990's I was laid off from Georgia Power due to job cuts and restructuring of the company. I was a very young married man with a wife and new daughter to support. The weight of all this was completely overwhelming. It was very difficult to find work at that time and when I could get an interview, the answer seemed to always be the same: most companies would not hire me since I had five years in at Georgia Power and they believed that if Georgia Power were to open job posi-

tions, the fear was that I would quit and return to them. Therefore, searching for employment became my full-time occupation.

Now, I had a friend that was allowing me to work for him and as I had been a "lawn technician" in High School and he needed some help, I went back to work treating lawns. I am sure you have discovered that a high school job isn't paying enough to support a wife, child, and a house hold. Angie and I were praying nonstop for direction and had no idea where it would come from or how. Then, one afternoon I received a call from out of nowhere. I had no idea who this person was or where they got my number from, and so listening very suspiciously I took down the information and shared with Angie that I had a job prospect on Monday. I reported to the location on Monday which was the headquarters of the Operating Engineers Local union hall. I went in and spoke with a lady who took my information and gave me a report slip to go to a new job on Tuesday morning. I tried my best to get some clarity as to how all this had happened—however nothing really added up—and so I attributed it to this: they had possibly found out that I was a heavy equipment apprentice at Georgia Power and that surely was the connection.

I reported to my job on Tuesday and walked into a very scary shop. I opened the door to

find myself face to face with some very grizzled and hard looking men all in a circle listening intently to one stocky round-faced gentlemen with graying hair and a very harsh tone. I thought to myself, "So, this is it, my new job. I can do this. We need the money. I had never been an "Oiler" for a crane company. I was an operator at Georgia Power. What do you mean "Oiler?" What is this title and how do I perform this job?" Little did I know that God was about to guide me down one of the greatest paths of my life!

My parents divorced very early in my life and I had little to no interaction with my father, but the great thing about my situation was that God had always made it a priority to provide me with wonderful men as role models. To this day one of the greatest blessings in my life are the influential men that God has given to me to call friend, mentor, or Journeymen. The list is overwhelming when I think back on it at times and I am so grateful for these men. It is a gift that I can never repay or say, "thank you" enough for.

Many of you reading this will recognize the name of the man that I had come to for employment—Brother Jake Heaton. Now, I didn't have a much interaction with Mr. Heaton, however working for his company was quite the honor. We would exchange "hellos" as he came and went from the office and he had a very pleasant face and was extremely well respected by all of us who worked in those green uniforms. I had no idea now that Mr. Heaton was a Mason, however I did know he was well thought of and he treated all his guys with respect and made you feel appreciated. Working

at Heaton was hard! The labor was rough and the field of work was dangerous, but this all was very instrumental in molding the fabric of who I am as a man. The gentleman that I worked for directly was Mr. Sammy Carter. He was tough, hard-nosed man who took no backtalk and expected you to jump first, then ask how high on your way up. Sammy became very instrumental in my life as well. He took a snot-nosed kid and made a man out of me. He refused to listen to excuses and would fire you in an instant for being divisive or disloyal. Sammy ingrained in me the idea that if you work for someone then you owe them the respect of doing your very best. No exceptions.

In my job, I had the great pleasure of working for a gentle giant, a man whose shadow cast long and far upon my earth. He was in the true sense a "man's man" and that was Big John Callahan. I had no idea that Big John was a Mason nor did that ever present itself in any of the conversations that we had. What I did know was that I enjoyed his company immensely and tried to position myself to be the "Oiler" that went to service the crane Big John would be running. Big John and I enjoyed many laughs and life lessons as we sat on the tailgate of his truck eating lunch or worked together moving a crane. Whatever the task was I always looked forward to being around John and he made me believe that there were better things awaiting me if I would only work hard and press toward what made me happy. Little did I know what I know now: that I was surrounded by the Square and Compasses and the lessons of those two emblems were playing out before my very eyes.

TO BE CONTINUED....

Annales or "a Chronicle"

By Daniel P. Bennett, Editor

"Brothers Without Borders..."

This past June, I had the unique opportunity to more fully earn my title as a "Travelling Man" by embarking upon a trip to Greenville, South Carolina to be present at the Annual Georgia-South Carolina Exchange (*see pages 8-9 of the August Masonic Messenger for this story*). My wife and I made a weekend out of it, as she had arranged a "trunk show" with a small yarn shop in Greenville to sell some of her yarn. While there, I had the opportunity to meet so many different Masons from various parts of South Carolina and to sit and talk to Masons from Georgia that I had not seen in a while. I also had the opportunity to talk with Most Worshipful and Illustrious Michael D. Smith, Grand Master of Ancient Freemasons in South Carolina (who also serves as Sovereign Grand Inspector General of South Carolina) about the history of this auspicious event.

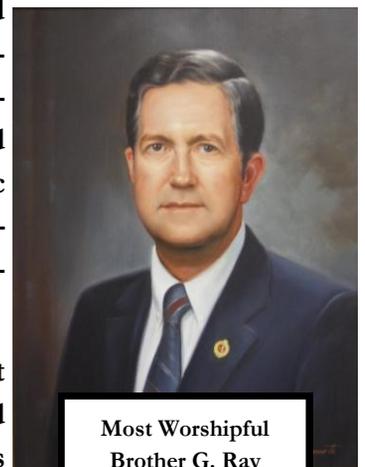
He shared the following:

The Grand Lodge Exchange has its roots in a minor event from almost thirty years ago and it involves two Grand Masters, one from Georgia, one from South Carolina. The Grand Master from South Carolina was Most Worshipful G. Ray Marsh, began visiting Georgia Lodges—at their invitation—near his home town of Anderson, South Carolina. When Most Worshipful Brother Marsh became Grand Master of Ancient Freemasons of South Carolina, following proper Masonic protocol, he informed the Grand Master of Georgia at the time—Most Worshipful Brother Earl D. Harris—of his upcoming invitation to a Georgia Lodge for a Degree conferral.



Most Worshipful
Brother Earl D.
Harris

The two Grand Masters met in a joint meeting at Nancy Hart Lodge No. 690 in Hartwell, Georgia and thus began the tradition which continues until this day. Even now, into 2018 Lodges along the border of South Carolina and Georgia have travelled to each jurisdiction on an annual basis to enjoy the fellowship and fraternity and to see the work of each jurisdiction. Even recently, the Grand Master of South Carolina, Michael D. Smith and others attended a Master Mason Degree at the Cove Waterfall meeting in Jasper, Georgia. Following proper Masonic protocol of gaining jurisdictional approval and dispensations between Grand Masters, South Carolina conferred the Master Mason Degree on a candidate from St. John's Lodge No. 333 in the presence of Brethren from both states.



Most Worshipful
Brother G. Ray
Marsh

This past June, I engaged with part of that tradition. With over one hundred sixty Brethren present at one communication, it was definitely a packed house, but Brotherly Love prevailed and everyone walked away with a new experience in Lodge. I say all this to encourage Brethren to attend this event. Next June we will again assemble, this time at Philomatheamthea Lodge No. 25. Will you be among their number?

JUSTICE COMES TO MONTANA

By: Steven T. Purvis

We all learned in the Entered Apprentice Degree what the Cardinal Virtues were. Remember, they were Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and **JUSTICE**, those human virtues that allow us to judge correctly what is right and what is wrong. For now, let us consider the virtue of **JUSTICE**. One of the many definitions of **JUSTICE** is “fairness in protection of rights and punishment for wrongs”. While all legal systems aim to uphold this ideal through fair and proper administration of the law of the land, there were times in American history when there was lawlessness, where the rule of law did not prevail and where the citizenry was left to fend for themselves. No law and no law enforcement equaled no peace and no prosperity.

I recently had the wonderful experience of attending lodge at Kalispell Lodge #42 AF&AM in Kalispell, Montana. These good brothers took me in, and I could not have been afforded any better hospitality. The spirit of brotherly love did prevail! While at refreshment these brothers shared with me some Montana history of which I was not aware. They asked me if I knew the significance in Montana history of the numbers 3-7-77, and unfortunately, I did not. They went on to explain that in territorial Montana in the 1860's and 1870's there were times when lawlessness prevailed and violent crime was rampant. These were gold rush times when immigrants and others searching for new lives were making their way west to be part of the New World, America, where freedom was more than just a word. It was something that God-loving men and women so desperately wanted.

The lust for gold and wealth also had its down side and with the gold rush towns came the bars. With the bars came drunkenness, gambling, prostitution, robberies and murders. Gold rush era Montana was typical and no different from other gold rush areas like California, Nevada or Alaska. The first territorial capital was Bannack, followed by Virginia City, which was then followed by the present day state capital of Helena. During the time when Bannack and Virginia City were the territorial capitals Montana was overwhelmed with wickedness associated with the gold rush. Violent crime was beyond control of what limited law enforcement could manage. It seemed the darkness of evil was prevailing over the light of goodness. More particularly, murders were commonplace and public

safety was non-existent. It was so bad that the only form of law enforcement, the local Sheriff, was thought to be part of wickedness. So what were the good citizens supposed to do? Montana was not yet a state, so there was no state government to call upon. The Civil War was taking place, so moving U. S. troops to solve a local problem was out of the question. The territorial government was in its infancy and had no state police force or operating militia, so what were the people to do? They had no one to plea to restore order. Here is where this story gets interesting.

We know there are times in U. S. history when extraordinary problems were dealt with by extraordinary means by extraordinary men. This was the case in Territorial Montana. It seemed that many of the emigrants coming to Montana territory from other states, particularly Minnesota, and some of the other territories, were Freemasons. They were the good men of the communities, the merchants, blacksmiths, bankers, doctors, haberdashers, barbers, and many other kinds of tradesmen necessary to support the new gold industry. They were recognized as being men of honor during a time when honor was not a virtue attributed to many. There came a time when one of the Freemasons passed away and many of the emigrant masons wanted to provide a masonic funeral. At that time there were no masonic lodges in the territory and the Grand Lodge of Montana did not exist. They could not open a regular lodge and they could not confer degrees; however, there were enough Master Masons skilled in the workings of the craft to perform a masonic funeral. History and masonic legend tells they gathered together for the purpose of not only holding the funeral service, but also to deal with the overwhelming evil prevalent in their community. It is said there were 3 principal lodge officers at the meeting, 7 floor officers and other brethren present to form a quorum necessary to vote, and all total 76 masonic brothers were present representing lodges from other states and territories. Including the deceased brother, there were 77 brothers present. Here we see the numbers 3-7-77. The masonic fraternity, being esoteric in nature, has several explanations as to what happened next. It is known the masonic funeral was held, but what exactly transpired in the aforementioned non-sanctioned meeting remains known to only those who were present.

A historical truth is that a group of men gathered and took the law into their own hands. They were known to some as the vigilantes, as were similar groups formed in San Francisco, California and elsewhere. Evidence, both circumstantial and prima facie, indicates this group of men were the Freemasons. When a known criminal was positively identified, these men would paint the numbers 3-7-77 on his tent, on his saddle, or on the doorpost of his dwelling serving as a fair warning that he was the target of territorial justice. He could buy a \$3 ticket on the 7 a.m. stage to Butte, Montana, or be prepared to suffer the meeting of a secret committee of 77 men. There are several other explanations of the number riddle. Some say it stood for the dimensions of a grave, 3' wide, 7' long, and 77" (6'5") deep. Others contend you add 3+7+7+7 which equals 24, indicating you have 24 hours to leave town. Whatever the truth happens to be, the intent was that warning was given prior to justice being served. There is historical evidence that dozens of road agents, murderers, thieves, and others with nefarious criminal attributes, met their Maker at the end of a rope, but only after having been given warning to leave or having been tried by a miners' court. Either way, when bona fide justice came to Montana in 1864 by the appointment of a Chief Justice of the Montana Territory, it was declared vigilantism was no longer necessary. Even then, vigilance committees continued to function in some form or fashion for several more years at least until 1889 when Montana became the 41st state.

Regardless of its meaning, the numbers 3-7-77 are emblematic of the first organized law enforcement in Montana, and it honors the first men in the Montana Territory who organized for the safety and welfare of the people. Today these numbers are easily recognized on the shoulder patches of the Montana Highway Patrol. Also, vehicles and aircraft used by the Montana National Guard proudly display these symbolic numbers. If you ever need to contact the Montana Highway Patrol simply dial 1-855-MHP-3777. Justice will arrive soon!

It was mentioned previously that Bannack was the first territorial capital of Montana and some of the history associated with the masonic connection to vigilantism certainly originated in Bannack. In 1874 Montana Freemasons in Bannack built a schoolhouse for children in the community. It was also used as a masonic lodge, and today the old building is located at Bannack State Park near Dillon, Montana. Bannack

Historic Lodge #3-7-77 AF&AM holds an annual meeting the second Saturday of September each year in the old restored building. All Master Masons in good standing with their lodges are invited to attend. Or, if you are inclined to do so, as many from the Augusta, Georgia, area in the 10th Masonic District have done, you may become a member of Bannack Historic Lodge #3-7-77 for an annual fee of \$37.77, or a Life Membership for \$50.00. All proceeds from these memberships go to historic preservation of the old lodge-schoolhouse. Simply go to (www.bannack3777.com) where you will find a drop down on the left side of the website for a Petition. Follow the instructions on the petition and lend support to this great group of Montana brothers. You will receive a very nice membership document, a lapel pin, and a Life Member Montana Dues Card.

Anyone wishing to dig deeper into the masonic connection to Territorial Montana can use Google, Wikipedia or other research methods to learn different perspectives on this interesting masonic history. There are dozens of volumes of books and reference materials giving many theories different from the above as to how Freemasons played a part in taming the Old West. Where the truth actually lies is known only to the 76 brethren who took part in the original meeting, and they didn't write it down!

Now, for the rest of the story: by PGM Gary Leazer
The 81-mile road between Bannack and Virginia City was the scene of more holdups, robberies, and murders than almost any other comparable stagecoach route during this period. Thousands of dollars of gold dust and treasury notes were stolen by road agents before vigilantes began to suspect Sheriff Henry Plummer (b. 1832 in Maine; elected sheriff in May 1863, who had served time in San Quinton Prison in California, for second degree murder, was behind the robberies and murders as he knew when gold shipments were to be made. Between January 4 and February 3, 1864, the vigilantes arrested and hanged at least 21 members of Plummer's gang, including Plummer who was arrested and hanged on January 10, 1864. The robberies of gold shipments ended with Plummer's death. The Story of Henry Plummer is told by R. E. Mather and D. E. Boswell in *Hanging the Sheriff - A Biography of Henry Plummer*. Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1987. ISBN 0-9663355-0-3.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

“...and to improve myself in Freemasonry.”

Adapted by Brian C. Coffey from “Continuous Improvement” by Tim Bryce

<https://timbryce.com/2018/02/02/continuous-improvement/>

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I start with this truth: the responsibility for improving yourself in Freemasonry rests with you, not your Brethren. Your Lodge may offer Education but more than anything you are responsible for your development, not anyone else. You must take the initiative. Often, your Lodge will assist you in your development, but you must show your willingness to learn and improve.

Regardless of your “age” as a Mason, your perceptions of the Craft will change over time. This is because as you mature, your needs change and perceptions change; what was vital 10 years ago is now routine and you have moved to other areas where you need self-improvement. Improvement is a normal part of growth. **You must either evolve and adapt, or be left behind.**

There are numerous sources available to you for ongoing Masonic development:

1. Personal Observations – there is probably no better instructor than your own power of observation as you will be able to watch others succeed and fail in their positions in the Lodge and other Masonic Appendant and Concordant Bodies, their work habits and ethics, as well as their interactions with others. This requires an attention to detail, the ability to detect changes, and an inquisitive mind that constantly asks “**Why?**” When studying people, consider their strengths and weaknesses, what motivates them, their character, and their formulas for success or failure, e.g., what worked and what didn’t? Never hesitate to ask questions, particularly as a new Mason.

2. Masonic Journals and Magazines – Just about every Masonic body has some form of publication, either printed or in some electronic format, to report news and discuss trends. These are invaluable in order to stay abreast of what is going on in your organization. There is also considerable information made freely available to you over the Internet, such as the Grand Lodge web sites, along with pertinent blogs, discussion groups, and podcasts. Use discernment to determine if the information is accurate, if you have questions ask a well-informed Brother for help. The important point here is that you should develop a habit of staying current. It also helps to associate with Masons from outside your Jurisdiction to gain different perspectives, understanding that the rules of your Jurisdiction are your Law.

3. Lodge Education – Your Lodge should have Masonic Education sessions at each Regular Lodge Meeting. The Worshipful Master is charged to “*set the Craft at Labor under good and wholesome direction or cause the same to be done.*” If your Lodge is not conducting Education, work with your Worshipful Master to institute it; teach it yourself if necessary. You will grow by the research and study to present topics to others.

4. Participation in Research Lodges and Masonic Study Clubs – Most Jurisdictions have Research Lodges that delve deeper into the philosophical, esoteric areas of Freemasonry. If there is no Masonic Study Club in your area, start one. Such groups typically offer its members monthly/quarterly meetings to listen to guest speakers, workshops and seminars, and access to a library of research papers. More importantly, it provides a venue for its members to network and compare notes pertaining to their Masonic journey. Participation in such groups is a great way to support your continuing education.

5. Visit – Travel to other Lodges in your area, visit Lodges in other Jurisdictions. Meet your Brothers that you do not know; your life will be enriched. Find those things in other Lodges that you can use to enhance your own. The Craft grows stronger, as a whole, through the free flow of ideas and the exchange of practices.

6. Leadership Training – The Georgia Masonic Leadership Conference is an excellent instructor-led workshop held annually under the auspices of the Masonic Education and Leadership Development (MELD) Committee of the Grand Lodge. It is open to Senior and Junior Wardens and Senior Deacons to help them prepare for the

possibility of leading their Lodge as Worshipful Master.

7. Certification Programs – The Masonic Education and Leadership Development Committee has six self-study Certification courses: Georgia Masonic Code; Georgia Masonic History; Masonic Etiquette; Georgia Masonic Manual; Symbolism of the Three Degrees; Masonic Rules of Order. They also offer Instructor led Certification courses: Masters and Wardens Workshop; Deacons and Stewards Workshop; Masonic Investigation; Masonic Mentor. These programs train you and authenticate your level of knowledge in a subject area. As a new Mason, you should pursue these programs. Not only will you personally benefit from it, but it could greatly benefit your Lodge and Brethren as well.

8. Mentors – In the Grand Lodge of Georgia, we are required to assign mentors to Masons chaperone them on their journey through the Degrees and beyond. According to the Georgia Masonic Mentor Manual, a Mentor is “*a wise and faithful adviser, friend or teacher.*” In the old operative Lodges of Scotland, the officer entrusted with the task of instructing the new apprentices bore the title of Intender. It was his duty to intend, increase and intensify the knowledge of the new Craftsman. The Mentor, in our present system, will seek to expand and intensify the Masonic instruction imparted by the ritual, adding many other points which will enlarge the new brother’s understanding of Freemasonry and its relationship to life in this twentieth century.” I know that this program has not been properly executed in many of our Lodges, or for us as we began our Masonic journey’s, but the Grand Lodge feels strongly enough about it to include it in our Masonic Code.

A mentor has three primary duties to perform:

Role Model – a mentor has attributes the subordinate wants to aspire to attain.

Teacher – a mentor has to be able to teach, not just academic or technical lessons but also those pertaining to Masonic life; e.g., etiquette, ethics, history, organization, etc.

Guidance Counselor – to guide the new Mason on their journey through their Masonic life. Very importantly, both the mentor and the new Mason must realize the mentor will not have all of the answers, but should be able to point the Brother in the right direction to get the answers they need. The mentor also has to know when their work is complete and they can move more to the role of Brother than Mentor, but in Freemasonry Mentorship should be for life.

9. Other Vehicles – there are a variety of other ways for perpetuating development in your Lodge:

Member education or roundtable discussions – held on a regularly scheduled basis to discuss pertinent subjects. In other words, your own in-house study group. The only problems here are: scheduling (we are all very busy), and getting people to participate (many of whom will not attend outside of Regular Lodge meetings.) But if you can develop such a forum, it can become invaluable as a learning aid.

Private Blog or Discussion Group – to use as a clearinghouse to discuss your journey and learn from the journeys of others.

Again I remind you, your improvement is up to YOU, not your Lodge. In most cases, your Lodge will encourage and support you in your self-improvement, but they cannot spoon-feed you. YOU must show the initiative. To quote my Senior Warden, Brother Jerry Wood, “*The process isn’t just about YOU changing YOURSELF. If you have a real and genuine interest in Freemasonry, you will inevitably change your Lodge, your mentor(s), and your Brethren for the better, too. Learning is reciprocal; it’s a two-way street. When we set out to learn, invariably, we also teach through the process.*”

The Author, Tim Bryce, is a writer and management consultant who writes commentaries about the times we live in be it in the corporate world, the Masonic world, or our personal lives. His writings are well known on the Internet and are humorous, educational, and at times controversial. You won’t always agree with him, but Tim will definitely get you thinking. For more of Tim’s columns, see timbryce.com

Brian C. Coffey, is a thirty-four-year Mason, twice Past Master and Past Master of two Lodges of Research. He serves the Most Worshipful Grand Master as a District Deputy to the Grand Master and as a member of the Educational and Historical Commission. He is a 32°KCCM Mason in the Valleys of Augusta and Savannah Scottish Rite.

“Veterans Corner” by Worshipful Brother Rick Conn, MSA

Brothers, do you know that 100% Disabled Vets are now Authorized Space “A”? The new National Defense Authorization Act has granted disabled veterans a huge travel perk that has virtually gone unnoticed. Not only will the new perk save veterans thousands of dollars, but it will increase morale, esprit de corps, and open the door for many veterans to connect with the military again in ways they can only imagine. Under the new Disabled Veterans Access to Space-A Travel Act, veterans with a service-connected, permanent disability rating of 100% can hop on any scheduled or unscheduled military flight within the U.S. (and scheduled overseas flights) operated by Air Mobility Command (AMC).

The Act would authorize veterans with a service-connected, and permanent disability rated as 100% to travel on Space-A at no additional cost to DoD and without aircraft modifications, according to military officials. Clarification on whether or not required caregiver accompaniment is authorized has not yet been promulgated. This is a huge benefit to disabled veterans who travel on aircraft. Many veterans find airports unaccommodating, and difficult to get around. Flying from military terminals are much less congested and will probably be more suitable for disabled veterans. Complete AMC Form 140, Space-A Travel Request found at (<https://www.amc.af.mil/Portals/12/documents/AFD140926-014.pdf>) and e-mail it to your desired AMC Passenger Terminal. See the form for required information.

News on the Veterans ID program. Veterans who apply for ID cards through the VA program rolled out last year should start to see a faster turnaround time in October. "VA is establishing a data-sharing partnership with the Department of Defense that will essentially automate much of the VIC eligibility determination process starting in October, thus substantially expediting card deliveries to Veterans," Curtis Cashour, a VA spokesman told Military.com.

Current turnaround time for mailing the cards is typically "up to 21 business days from the time a veteran's application is approved," Cashour said. But application processing times can take up to six months, he said, "depending on individual veterans' service circumstances."

To date, 138,337 veterans have applied for the ID card, while 47,241 cards have been mailed, Cashour said. That number is a substantial increase from the about 90,000 applications and 21,000 cards awaiting mailing in early May.

Cashour noted that not all individuals who have applied for the card qualified. Any honorably discharged veteran is eligible to receive one of the new veteran ID cards through a program established last year. Ordered by Congress in 2015, the cards are meant to serve as proof of military service at private businesses. They are not considered official forms of federal or state identification and do not entitle veterans to any VA or Defense Department services or benefits. Veterans should visit Vets.gov to apply for the card.

Currently, veterans can access the application by entering VA's site through the DS Logon system, managed by the Defense Manpower Data Center, or through ID.me, a private secure identification service used by private companies. Veterans then certify their eligibility by submitting their personal information, a copy of a government ID and a shoulders-up photo that will be printed on the card.

Applications for the card first opened last year through the VA's website. But the process was almost immediately suspended as visitors overwhelmed the system. The program was then reopened early this year only to face additional glitches and delays.



Georgia CHIP Communication Corner

By Worshipful Brother Cabot Rohrer

Welcome to the month of Grand Lodge!!!

Over the past several weeks, many of you have been earnestly working to prepare for Grand Lodge. Your Georgia CHIP leadership team has been preparing to hold a number of planning sessions, meetings and setting forth in motion our plans for the 2019 GACHIP Program. But first let's reflect on some great accomplishments in 2018. These are accomplishments that all Masons and their families should be proud of. We all know that 'people' make it happen. It is the volunteering of time, traveling to deliver equipment, circulating brochures and sharing the good news of GACHIP that are the vital ingredients of such a worthwhile charity of the Grand Lodge. Let us be honest, no machines, robots or artificial intelligence could ever replace the warmth of the smiling face of a parent or guardian expressing a small measure of gratitude for what we do. Yes, people like you, your families and your friends facilitating events, meeting families, and going through the process of ID'ing children is what makes us proud of what we do. Congratulations to the Masons of Georgia, families and dozens of volunteers covering 59,425 square miles of land across our great state. Our GACHIP volunteers stand tall from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to the border of Florida.

Through your efforts we are on track to complete a total of 118,000 ID KITS since the inception of GACHIP events. Not only has 2018 been a great year of increasing our number of ID's completed, we also increased the number of requested events across the districts. Thanks to our District Directors, a number of new venues, such as Day Cares, are becoming a fantastic opportunity to meet the families of children and through working with the local administration setting up family days and GACHIP Events. I hope by now you have seen our completely re-designed and up-to-date GACHIP brochure. This new brochure is a great piece of marketing material for your Lodges to have on hand to distribute for family nights at the Lodge. Your GACHIP District Directors have a ready supply to share with your Lodges. Please invite your District Directors to your family Lodge nights to speak for a few moments about GACHIP. As we all know, the best enthusiasm of what we do as Masons starts at our Lodges. In addition, through the great creativity of one of our District Directors we struck a lapel pin called our 'GACHIP Lodge Champion'. Each Lodge GACHIP Champion receives a lapel pin as recognition and appreciation for their tireless efforts in coordinating events. What a great blessing it would be to see all 40,000 Masons across our state wearing the GACHIP Lodge Champion Pin.

Aside from our promotional materials, we have redesigned our GACHIP.org site for the public to learn about our Program and easily request events. Also we continue to receive, at no cost to the program, laptops donated through the generosity of a local company in Columbus Georgia. Through their benevolent gift, the program has saved tens of thousands of dollars and we have ensured that the active districts in the program have the required equipment inventory for their events.

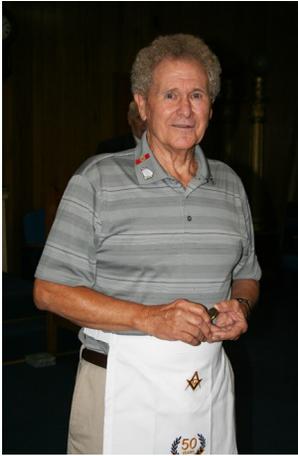
Throughout 2018, our Worshipful Brother Harold Culpepper continues to replace and upgrade the equipment for each district, while at the same time assisting in setting up the Grand Lodge of Alabama's Child Identification Program. The Grand Lodge of Alabama has made a generous donation to the Georgia Masonic Charities on behalf of the work provided by Worshipful Brother Harold Culpepper. We were so overwhelmed with gratitude by receiving a \$10,000.00 gift from Clarkston Lodge. Let us not forget that we would never be successful without the undying enthusiasm and management of our supplies by Worshipful Brother Steven Fishman and operational support by Associate Director Richard Gibson. We are so indebted to our Brother Russ Cooke for his expert website work throughout the year significantly improving the GACHIP Website toolkit for the Directors.

It is with the highest level of gratitude that we call out and thank our **District Directors: David Pollett, Darryl Moyer, Craig Knowlton, Michael Bowman, James Watkins, Mike Rentz, Joel Turpin, David Winkler, John Shaw and Walter Ashby.** They are the **TRUE** unsung **Masonic Heroes** of the Program who have traveled hundreds of miles across their districts, maintained and delivered equipment, worked events, organized volunteers and who best emulates our mission: "It is not what we do, it is who we do it for!" Contact them today and join our winning TEAM! As you know Together Everyone Achieves More! We have an army of expertise to successfully assist you.

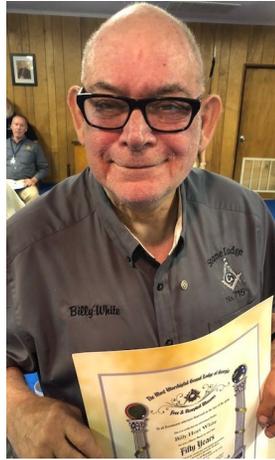
I hope that you, my Brethren, will place support for the GACHIP Program at the top of your 2019 Lodge priority list. GACHIP is one of our most visible charities and a great opportunity for your Lodges to provide a lasting community outreach.



Fifty - Year Masons



Neal Nunnally
Stone Mountain Lodge No. 449



Billy White
Stone Lodge No. 715



Clifton Boone Strickland
Stone Lodge No. 715



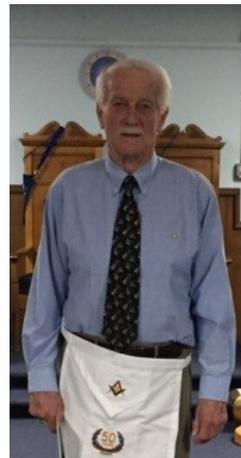
Lawrence Miller
Stone Lodge No. 715



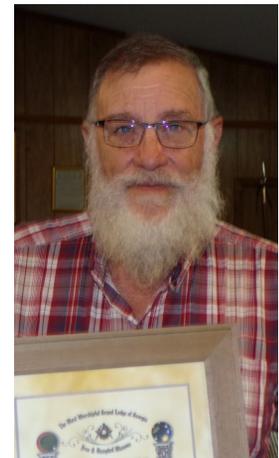
James Oren Russell
Washington Lodge No. 359



Charles Warren
Cornelia Lodge No. 92



John Abbot
Cornelia Lodge No. 92



Leonard Frank Dills
Young Cane Lodge No. 597



Alton Worth Haynes
Philomatheia Lodge No. 25



Ben Hill Strickland
Bartlett Lodge No. 139



Joseph Conner
Murrayville Lodge No. 30



Gene Robinson
Murrayville Lodge No. 30

Fifty – Year Masons



Simeon Alexander Gray
Waynesboro Lodge No. 274



Gerald Thomas Mashburn
Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154



Lewis Wayne Brown
Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154



Lucian Lamar Snead
Ducktown Lodge No. 572



James Kenneth Greenway
Acworth Lodge No. 176



Bobby Gresham
Philologia Lodge No. 138



William Lloyd Hunter
Raburn Gap Lodge No. 265



Donald Saxon Stein
Fulton Lodge No. 216



Jimmy Wayne Pollard
Loftin Lodge No. 688



Hugh Harold Holcomb
Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131



Carl Grizzle
Pickens Star Lodge No. 220



Ernest Jones
Clyo Lodge No. 280

Sixty - Year Masons



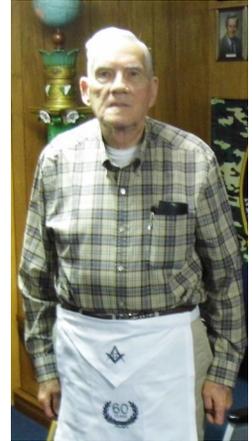
Bobby J. Phillips
Rockmart Lodge No. 97



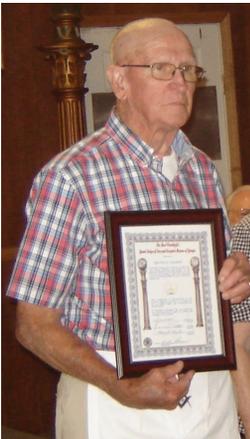
Louis "Snookie" McMichael
Thunderbolt Lodge No. 693



Everette Hoke Parks
Chestatee Lodge No. 102



Bob Adams
Peachtree City Lodge No. 288



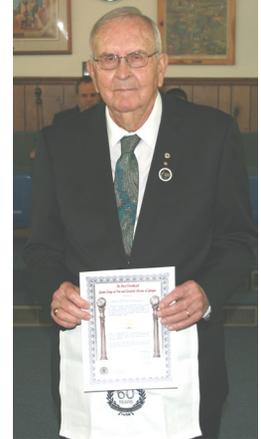
Ogle Harris Campbell
Bartlett Lodge No. 139



Joe Palmer
Dallas Lodge No. 182



Richard Wendell Hardeman
Ducktown Lodge No. 572



Philip Thomason
Pickens Star Lodge No. 220



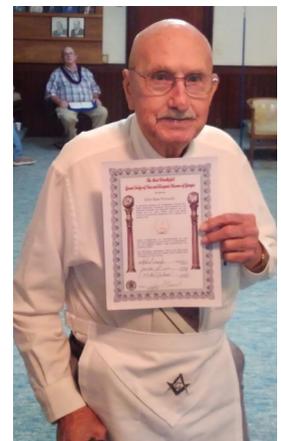
John Franklin Brooke
Waleska Lodge No. 57



Berry Edward Brock
Old Campbellton Lodge No. 76



Carlyon Woodson
Elm City Lodge No. 544



Glen Bias Prescott
Hoboken Lodge No. 740

Seventy - Year Masons



Marvin Gibbs
Stone Mountain No. 449



Bethel Buchanan
Allegheny Lodge No. 114



William Edward Fouts
Adairsville Lodge No. 168

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS July 21, 2018 TO October 8, 2018

\$500 OR MORE

Springville Lodge No. 153
Pickens Star Lodge No. 220
Grayson Lodge No. 549
Ducktown Lodge No. 572

Ninth Dist Convention
Barrie Lee Bloser
Bartow County Masonic Convention
Branan Mal Trust
Helen McPheeters Trust

\$1,000.00 OR MORE

Hampton Lodge No. 70
Duluth Lodge No. 480
John W. Akin Lodge No. 537

William Marshall Atkinson Estate
Fred Jakobsen
Ruskin Family Trust
Shady Dale Rodeo, Inc.
Teresa Key
Weston L. Lipscomb Estate

In Memoriam

**Members Reported Deceased from April 3
to June 1, 2018**

Name:	Lodge No.	Name:	Lodge No.
COCHRAN, RICHARD MICHAEL	0	COHEN, JERALD	56
MASK, ALBERT SAM	6	SUMMEY, JOHN EDWARD	63
MUNDY, EDWARD LAWRENCE	7	ADAMS, KENNETH WAYNE	69
OWEN, WILLIAM DAVID	12	BOWEN, GRADY	74
COTTLE, HENRY BEEMAN	15	BEDROSIAN, MICHAEL	82
EDWARD, CHARLES G	15	FUSSELL, OWEN LAWRENCE	86
DUCK, JOHN HARVELL	16	BAIN, JAMES LARRY	93
SISK, HAROLD NORMAN	20	SHEETS, GARY LEE	93
PETERS, RALPH MERRON	22	PINION, GERALD LAMAR	97
HOZEY, JAMES CURTIS	25	ATKINS, THOMAS LEE	97
DYE, BILLY RAY	25	MURDOCK, WILLIAM PRESTON	103
HAWKINS, LAWRENCE EUGENE	27	GARLAND, ROBERT LEE	105
MARTIN, LOYD CECIL	30	COPELAND, ROBERT WILLIAM	106
ROBINSON, GENE WILLIAM	30	PATTY, WILLIAM ROY	106
BLOCKER, MERRIAM KENNETH	32	CRADDOCK, PAUL RAY	111
SMITH, FELIX DUANE	32	SIMMONS, JOHN OTIS	112
SMITH, THOMAS STEPHEN	33	HOLDEN, BOBBY HAROLD	113
STEPHENS, MARSHALL DELMER	33	WEAVER, WILLIAM OWENS	113
HOWARD, WILLIAM CLYDE	33	STOVER, SIDNEY	114
NESMITH, IDUS WOODARD	35	COOK, TROY LAVON	115
MOORE, WALTER MILNER	37	ROBINSON, CHARLES JERRY	121
BURSON, MELVIN LEON I	38	BAILEY, EVERETTE CULLEN	128
CHASTAIN, BENJAMIN RAYMOND	38	RUSTIN, MASON SIDNEY	129
FRASURE, ROY LEMMON	38	MYERS, HERBERT JUNIOR	135
JUSTUS, LUTHER JAMES	38	HODGES, JOHNNIE ALLEN	137
PIERCE, ROBERT MICHAEL	38	SORRELLS, DICKEY EUGENE	139
TRAMMELL, JOHN CLAYTON	38	ANSLEY, HERSHEL LAMAR	141
CALHOUN, JAMES RALPH	38	DREHER, BOBBY LEE	141
TURK, CICERO DAVID	38	WOOD, EDGAR KINDRELL	150
RALSTON, JOHN DUDLEY	38	BOOTH, CODY ANQUISH	151
CROWELL, FRANCIS A.	38	WALDEN, BILLY JACKSON	153
HARRISON, DANIEL VERNON	42	SMITH, GLENN ARTHUR	166
MAJOR, HAROLD EMORY	44	BREEDEN, OLLIE	167
STERLING, LEWIS FRANKLIN	44	WORLEY, MAX OTTIS	167
BLACKWELDER, PRESTON MARTIN	46	HAYS, EARL BRYAN	178
DEAL, VIRGIL LEONARD	46	SMITH, CLARK MILES	178
ELKINS, JAMES HAROLD	48	AMONDS, ROBERT LEWIS	182
FESLER, FRANK ELIGE	48	BOWDEN, CHARLES STANLEY	186
DAVIS, JAMES CALVIN	48	MOORE, NATHAN	190

Name:	Lodge No.	Name:	Lodge No.
WINGATE, KENNETH HOWELL	202	BROWN, EZRA WASHINGTON	533
KIMBRELL, BOBBY JOE	205	O'KELLY, THOMAS WELDON	543
MASSEY, CHARLIE VETURN	210	MCMILLAN, TED EUGENE	575
WRIGHT, ELTON GLENN	211	WOODWARD, NORMAN FRANKLIN	575
DRAISEN, SAMUEL MORRIS	216	MARTIN, JACKIE DUANE	586
GERSTEIN, JOE WILLIE	216	LUCKEY, JAMES MILTON	586
ATKINS, ARTHUR B	220	DAWKINS, WILLIAM HOMER	591
CULLUM, KEVIN EUGENE	221	TRUITT, JOHN LEE	639
FIELDS, GRADY HUGH	222	MCFARLIN, JOEL DEWITT	652
WALDRON, ROBERT RAY	230	BLACKWELL, BOBBY JACK	680
GRIMES, RAYMOND DOUGLAS	240	EDMONDSON, JAMES STARLIN	680
BRINSON, ROBERT CAIL	240	DREBBER, BRIAN EUGENE	680
TIMMS, WILLIAM IRVIN	241	BOLES, CHARLIE	690
BANISTER, JACK	246	FLOYD, NORMAN RANDALL	704
BURDETT, VERNON RAY	251	JONES, HOMER FRANKLIN	709
ALLISON, LUTHER THOMAS	251	LEMACKS, DAVID GARTRELL	709
COX, THOMAS JACK	262	SCREWS, TED HOWARD	710
MCKEE, JOSEPH FRANKLIN	262	BURDETTE, JOSEPH QUINTON	711
LOGAN, CHARLES MACON	267	HARRELL, ROBERT FLOYD	711
RICHARDSON, CHESTER HOLDEN	288	HOPKINS, BILLY MACK	711
WILSON, GEORGE ELMON	294	LEARD, RICHARD EDWIN	717
BURNAM, ROBERT CLAYTON	298	CHANCEY, LARRY PADGETT	718
O'BRYAN, JAMES ELLIOTT	303	HOLT, FRANK EVERETT	718
DAFFINEE, ALBERT HARRIS	304	HOWARD, HOMER LARRY	718
QUINN, JERRY CLIFTON	306	JOHNSON, LOUIS HUGH	718
ROUNTREE, MILES LAMAR	310	DELOACH, HENRY WADE	719
SMITH, ARLIE LAVON	310	HUNNICUTT, BILLY JOE	720
MARSHALL, JOHN HERMAN	312	ABERNATHY, JOHN SILAS	721
BLACK, CHARLES EDWARD	325	BROWN, BILLY TRAMMEL	724
VANDYKE, LEWIS HOBSON	330	GREESON, MELVIN EUGENE	724
BRADLEY, DOYT	335	RUFF, JAMES DOYAL	738
THOMPSON, GERALD HUGH	353	CRENSHAW, JEWEL DONALD	753
ALLEN, CLYDE WILLIAM	354	CLOWDUS, ROGER WILLIAM	144, 304, 760
JAMES, WILLIE BRAY	359	RIDLEHOOVER, GRADY FRANK	166, 354
MILLER, JACK WESLEY	364	ATKINSON, CALVIN EUGENE	267, 83
MUNS, RAYMOND NEWTON	371	HORNE, CLARENCE ERNEST	288, 125
MORGAN, HOMER RAY	381	LETTEER, LYLE EDWARD	30, 334
KEHELEY, OTIS LEE	382	MCCLURE, GEORGE GILBERT	314, 742
CARTWRIGHT, WAYNE MORRIS	393	WALLACE, WILLIAM THOMAS	32, 335
BALL, DONALD LEE	397	EVERETT, WILLIAM RALPH	66, 721
PULLEN, CHARLES JOSEPH	405	VOLLRATH, JOSEPH PETERMAN	7, 760
WELCH, CHARLES GORDON	423	DUNMON, THOMAS ELLIS	75, 14
WILLIS, AUBREY EDWARD	444	GRAVES, LUIE DALE	82, 53
ATKISON, TRAVIS CLARENCE	455		
RICKMAN, CHARLES WAYMAN	455		

Sandy Springs Lodge Hosts Table Lodge to Celebrate the St. John the Baptist

On June 23rd, 2018 Sandy Springs lodge #124 held its first St John's Day Celebration. We commemorated the event in a table lodge setting. "A table lodge is part of our heritage and considered part of the mysteries of our Order," explained WM Robert Soderstrom. We enjoyed fellowship, relaxation, humor, fine dining and were enlightened by a fine lecture that night.

We were blessed to have 30 brothers in attendance for the event. Sandy Springs #124 was happy to welcome a group of brethren from Alpharetta lodge #235 who joined us for the celebration. "It was very enjoyable," said WB Jack Bell, from Alpharetta. "We do ours differently."



Using Grand Lodge approved ritual; we set about to commemorate one of the founding Saints of our Fraternity. Everyone had fun with the seven-toast ritual and special procedures and terminology used in their delivery. Between toasts and before our main lecture, attendees were treated to various short videos of music, archeology and literature inspired by St John the Baptist. We were fortunate to have the Right Excellent Grand Scribe of Royal Arch Masons in Georgia Michael Sampsell as our main speaker; his talk was entitled St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist: Patron Saints of Freemasonry. WBro. Sampsell accompanied by a visual presentation explained the relationship of the two Sts. John to Freemasonry.

A special 5 meal course was prepared by our wonderful cooking crew consisting of Bros Ghassan Bitar and Mathew Watters. The meal culminated in a seasonal dessert of Key Lime pie; after a steak and lobster main course which was enjoyed by all.

Full of good food and spirit; four hours later we said our good byes. The group posed for a picture after the event ended. "Everyone had a great time and I want to continue the practice next year," said Kevin Rowell, SW. Conversations continued into the parking lot as the brethren slowly left for home.

If you can make it next year, we would love to have you join us. The event is limited to 33 attendees.

