INTERSORIC STATE OF THE Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free & Accepted Masons Name 2022



The George Washington
Masonic Memorial
Centennial Cornerstone 1923-2023

Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475

Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201 on your lodge secretary's monthly report.

The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

THE GEORGIA MASONIC MESSENGER

Vol. 128

SPRING 2023

No. 1

Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	Michael A. Kessler (216)	
Deputy Grand Master	Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)	
Senior Grand Warden	Mark A. Bradley (36, 766)	
Junior Grand Warden	Bill Shepard (717, 214)	
Grand Treasurer	Larry W. Nichols (59)	
Grand Secretary	Van S. McGee (26, 70)	
Grand Chaplain	Ross M. Laver (371, 216)	
Grand Marshal	Jeff L. Smith (131, 2)	
Grand Orator	Stanley M. Baum (216)	
Senior Grand Deacon	Brian C. Coffey (271, 749, 710)	
Junior Grand Deacon	Tom D. Bruce (42, 216)	
First Grand Steward	Scott W. Johnson (68, 376)	
Second Grand Steward	Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)	
Third Grand Steward	W. David Baxter (35)	

Publications

Grand Tyler

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Published Quarterly at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201.

The Messenger goes to all Masons holding membership in
Georgia Subscription \$14.00 domestic, \$20.00 foreign per year.

Advertising rates on application.

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FOR	RM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER
T	YPE or PRINT information requested and mail to the Grand Lodge address on the back cover:
Name	in Full
Lodge	Name and Number
	have moved, PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ABOVE E GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA along with your new address
Lodge	Name and Number
Street	or P.O. Box
City_	
Zip Co	ode
1890	rethren, it is your respensibility to make certain your address is current. Be certain your ladge secretary has your correct address. Current addresses are kept in the Grand Secretary's Office in Macon. Editor of the Masonic Mossanger DOES NOT keep a list of addresses.



From the Desk of the Grand Secretary Right Worshipful Van S. "Mac" McGee

2023 District Conventions

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	Host Lodge
1st District	March 25, 2023	10:00AM	Glenville @ Tattnall Shrine Club	Rising Sun Lodge No. 32
2nd District	February 25, 2023	9:00AM	Camilla	Camilla Lodge No. 128
3rd District	March 18, 2023	9:00AM	Cordele	Cordelia Lodge No. 296
4th District	August 19, 2023	9:45AM	Greenville Lodge No. 321	Columbian Lodge No. 7
5th District	September 9, 2023	10:00AM	Stone Mountain Lodge No. 449	Stone Mountain Lodge No. 449
6th District	May 6, 2023	9:00AM	Griffin @ Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26	Mabel Lodge No. 255
7th District	May 12th & 13, 2023	9:00AM	Rome	Cherokee Lodge No. 66
8th District	May 20, 2023	9:00AM	Covington	Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6
9th District	September 23, 2023	9:00AM	Jefferson Civic Center	Unity Lodge No. 36
10th District	June 10, 2023	10:00AM	Sandersville	Hamilton Lodge No. 58
11th District	September 16, 2023	9:00AM	Kingsland	Camden Lodge No. 476
12th District	April 15, 2023	9:00AM	Eastman	Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279

How to register for Grand View

Below is a link to a video that will show you how to set up your user account and the step to set up your account. If you have already created your user account and forgotten your password you can click on "Forgot your password?" under the sign-in button, enter your email address in the box and click "Send me to reset password instructions."

Video link- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx-WliihfcM

- Step 1. Enter the URL for your jurisdiction. https://ga.grandview.systems
- Step 2. Click on Member Portal
- Step 3. Click on Member Registration (or you can Click the "Sign up" next to forgot password)
- Step 4. Enter your Lodge Number
- Step 5. Enter your Member ID
- Step 6. Enter your Last Name (case sensitive)
- Step 7. Click on Check Membership Status
- Step 8. Enter your email address
- Step 9. Enter a password that you can remember (password must contain at least 8 characters)
- Step 10. Enter Confirmation by entering the password again
- Step 11. Click on Submit

Will a Secretary Go to Heaven?

If a secretary writes a letter, It's too long.

If he sends a postcard, it's too short.

If he doesn't send a notice, he is lazy.

If he attends a committee meeting, he's butting in.

If he stays away, he's a slacker.

If he duns a member for dues, he is insulting.

If he fails to collect dues he's slipping.

If he asks for advice, he is incompetent.

If he does not, he's bullheaded.

If he writes reports, they're too long.

If he condenses them, they're incomplete.

If he talks on a subject, he's trying to run things.

If he remains quiet, he has lost interest in meetings.

If he goes on an errand and someone comes to the office,

he's taking time off from work and never does his job.

If the phone rings and he doesn't pick it up, he's never there.

If he picks it up on the first ring, he has nothing to do but listen for the

phone to ring. If the phone rings a few times, he's trying to look important.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust; if the others won't do it, the Secretary must.

WHY THE FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES

Have you noticed how the honor guard at military funerals or funeral home personnel at local funerals pay meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag thirteen times? (Most of us don't even realize that a 21-gun salute is determined by adding the digits of 1776 (1+7+7+6=21)). Here's why the flag is folded thirteen times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow or family at the burial of a veteran.

The FIRST FOLD of our flag is a symbol of life.

The SECOND FOLD is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The THIRD FOLD is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country in order to attain peace throughout the world.

The FOURTH FOLD represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The FIFTH FOLD is a tribute to our country, for tin the words of Stephen Decatur: "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The SIXTH FOLD is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The SEVENTH FOLD is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The EIGHTH FOLD is a tribute to the ones who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and also to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The NINTH FOLD is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The TENTH FOLD is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The ELEVENTH FOLD in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The TWELFTH FOLD, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto," In God We Trust." After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. Now you will know why.

The Grand Lodge Of Free and Accepted Masons for the State Of Georgia

EDICT NO. 2023-02

TO ALL CONSTITUENT LODGES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA, FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS:

I hereby issue this edict, to-wit:

WHEREAS, the Masonic Code of Georgia requires that each subordinate lodge display the flag of the United States of America at each tyled meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Official Code of Georgia, Section 50-3-1 describes the official state flag of the State of Georgia, and

WHEREAS, the flag described by said code section was approved by the voters of the State of Georgia in a referendum held in 2004, and

WHEREAS, the 1956 and 2001 Georgia flags are no longer recognized as an official flag of the State of Georgia;

NOW THEREFORE, it is my edict that:

Subordinate lodges operating under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia shall properly display an appropriate size official flag of the State of Georgia, as described in OCGA §50-3-1 only, on an appropriate flagpole in the proper position in the Lodge during every tyled meeting commencing not later than May 1, 2023. No other Georgia flag, or former Georgia flag, shall be displayed during any tyled meeting or on the Lodge property at any time effective immediately.

SO ORDERED and this edict is given under my hand and seal as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Georgia, and under the seal of the said Grand Lodge, this 17th day of January 2023.

Michael A. Kessler, Grand Master

Attest:

Van S. McGee, Grand Secretary

[SEAL]



From the Desk of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Michael A. Kessler



My Brethren,

District Deputies to the Grand Master have an important if not essential role in the proper functioning of Freemasonry in Georgia. They are the key to a Grand Master's success.

In January a two-day retreat was held in Macon for the District Deputies to help them understand what their role should be. Almost all District Deputies attended, and it was a worthwhile event with great fellowship and lots of Masonry. As Grand Master I rely upon the District Deputies to get my message out, support the Lodges, arrange official visits, promote programs, answer code questions, assist with request for Masonic relief, and make me aware of Lodge activities both in Lodge and in the community. DDGMs often deal with questions or issues without them having to come to the Grand Master.

The office of District Deputy to the Grand Master is created in Chapter 5 of the Masonic Code. The Code provides that the 12 Masonic districts in the state are divided into 60 subdistricts. The district consists of 3 to 8 subdistricts. Districts have as few as 15 lodges or as many as 66. Each subdistrict has a Worshipful District Deputy to the Grand Master. They are appointed annually by the Grand Master and serve at his pleasure.

District deputies have to be permanent members of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. In other words, they have to be a Past Master. That means they have the experience of running a lodge. They have to be a member of a Lodge in the subdistrict they serve and well versed in the knowledge of the customs, laws, ritual, and usages of the Craft. Each district has a District Leader who is to support the DDGMs in his district, report to the State Chairman of the District Deputies upon the program and progress of the Craft, and make recommendations for its welfare. The District Leader is tasked with coordinating the activities and work of the District Deputies in his district and to organize and publicize educational meetings in the District and at the District convention at the request of the Grand Master or District Master. They are also to perform such other duties as the Grand Master may request.

There is a State Chairman of the District Deputies appointed by the Grand Master. The chairman cannot serve as one of the 60 district deputies during his term as chairman but must have served previously as a District Deputy. He works with the District Leaders to train and supervise the activities of the District Deputies. He assembles quarterly reports due from the District Leaders, compiles those reports and furnishes a copy to the Grand Master and other Grand Lodge officers. He also performs other duties requested by the Grand Master. The Grand Master can also appoint an assistant State Chairman. This year, Worshipful Brother Jamie Newsome is the state chairman and Worshipful Brother Paul Carter is the assistant state chairman.

Each DDGMs duties are set out in Masonic Code Section 5-106. Each District Deputy is the personal representative of the Grand Master. They are not the Grand Master's spies, as some suggest, but they do report at least quarterly on the activities of each Lodge, both good and bad. They serve as a liaison between the Grand Master and the subordinate Lodges, the Worshipful Master, and lodge officers. Their duties include visiting each Lodge in their Sub-District and they should do so regularly. At least two official visits a year are required. They are to ascertain the state and condition of the Lodge in all respects and report any Masonic achievements or errors to the Grand Master. They are to organize and preside over a Lodge Officers Association in each Sub-District. They often present 50-year awards. The DDGM brings the Lodges closer together by promoting the work therein. When asked to do so by the Grand Master or the District Master they organize educational meetings. They arrange Official Visitation by the Grand Master in their Sub-District. When requested to do so by the Worshipful Master, they investigate all requests for Masonic relief to members of the Craft or their widows. They make confidential reports which includes their recommendation to the Grand Master and the Board of Relief. They perform other Masonic duties as may be requested by the Grand Master. x

I am grateful to have the support and assistance of sixty fine and dedicated Masons.

Remember Brethren, Always Do Right.

May the Grand Architect of the Universe bless and keep you, your family, and your Lodge-

From the Grand Chaplain's Study

Approach the Holy Altar and Cast your Ballot

10 LY 3/3/LE

"Approach the Holy Altar and Cast your Ballot"

I hear those words as I lie here on the Holy Altar of a Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons in Georgia.

In just a moment I will see members of the Lodge step up and Salute, but I am not sure they know what they are saluting. As I look up, I can see the eyes of a Brother. He's looking straight ahead to the East. Perhaps he thinks that he is saluting the Worshipful Master but that can't be right because the Master of the Lodge is not returning his salute. Two more Brothers do the same thing. In each case the brother steps to the left, puts his hand into the box on the altar next to me and I hear something drop. Having done this for so many years I know that he has chosen either a white ball or a black cube. He has either approved the petition in question or denied it.

That moment is one of the most important and sacred in a Masonic Career.

I am referred to as the Greatest of the Three Great Lights. But why am I a Light? When the room is dark, I don't glow. I am simply paper and ink. I can't see into the hearts of men and know what they think. That is the job of the Creator. The Creator who created me. I am but a symbol; a symbol HE created to remind you that we are ALL created by HIM. Therein lies the answer. He is the Light. His light is Wisdom and Knowledge. Often, I hear the words "of what are you in search?" Then I hear "Light" or "More Light."

Another Brother approaches. This Brother actually looks at me, but I wonder what he is thinking. Is he thinking about the Oath he took on three separate occasions? In that moment, as he stands there, is he asking himself, "are you helping a Good Man to become a Better Man? Are you helping a Good Man to find the Light for which you have been in search?"

Another moment, another rattle, another drop in the box, another vote.

Use the moment it takes to salute the Three Great Lights to remind yourself of your obligations. Will your ballot reflect the Cardinal Virtues of a Freemason: Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude, and Justice? Will your ballot reflect some personal prejudice, revenge, or other petty reason for denying some good man the privilege of becoming a Freemason and joining you in the search for More Light?

As you stand there, look down at me. If you see light, understand that I am not the Light, as I like the Moon, only reflect the Light of the Creator. It is His Light that shines upon the Holy Altar with His Golden Rays of Truth.

Perhaps the instructions from the Worshipful Master should be, "Approach the Holy Altar, Salute the Three Great Lights, and be reminded of the Oath you took there. Then step to the left and cast your ballot.

Every man has the ability to search for "More Light." Are you including ALL good men in your search?

Georgia-South Carolina Exchange 2023

Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald C Mitchum and Most Worshipful Grand Master Michael A. Kessler invite you to the Annual Georgia-South Carolina Exchange Meeting.

This year, South Carolina will be hosting the Georgia-South Carolina Exchange Meeting on Friday, June 9, 2023, at the Blue Ridge Shrine Club located at

409 Shrine Club Road, Seneca, SC 29672.

A Bar-B-Que meal (\$10.00 per person) will be served at 6:00 pm with the meeting to follow.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

of the Grand Lodge of Georgia



Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Georgia

In an attempt to standardize publication dates and deadlines, the Publications Committee has determined to put in place the following deadlines for submissions.

Spring (March) Issue: deadline for content-Feb 1
Summer (June) Issue: deadline for content-May 1
Fall (September) Issue: deadline for content- August 1
Winter (December) Issue: deadline for content- November 1

When you make a submission to messenger@glofga.org, you should receive an automatic reply noting that your submission was received. If you are submitting a 50, 60, 70+ Award, you will get a second email notifying you when your award will run in the Messenger.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL, please check the email address or call the Editor at 770-608-6232 for issues.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR YOUR FRATERNITY ON YOUR VEHICLE AND ON YOUR LAPEL

Having a Georgia Masonic car tag shows the public that you are a proud Mason. But it also shows that you support the charities that your Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation helps fund, as a portion of each tag registration is returned to the Foundation. Now you can also so that support by wearing a Masonic car tag lapel pin.



Most Worshipful Grand Master Kessler has made available this lapel pin for all who either renew or order the Masonic car tag in 2023. Simply contact any Grand Line Officer with a copy of your 2023 tag order or provide a photo of your 2023 tag to receive your FREE lapel pin.

Thank you for your support and having pride in our Fraternity.







FOLLOW THE LIGHT, SHARE THE LIGHT

2601 Parkwood Dr. P. O. Box 6 Brunswick, GA 31521

100 MASON MEETING Monday April 10, 2023 Eat at 6pm, Lodge opens at 7:30pm

Brethren,

Ocean Lodge #214 F&AM is hosting the 5th annual 100 Mason Meeting. All GA/FL Master Masons are invited and encouraged to attend. We anticipate a wonderful evening of fellowship with good food, an engaging program, raffles, and a possible visit from Most Worshipful Grand Master Kessler.

Last year's meeting was held at Amelia Lodge in Florida with a turnout of 260 brothers so, to get a rough head count for meal planning, we are asking that lodge secretaries please email our secretary (Worshipful Brother Ken Pipkin tabaka45@gmail.com) with an approximate number of brethren who will be attending from your lodge. \$10 donation per plate requested. We look forward to seeing all!

THE SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA



Scottish Rite Masons from the six Scottish Rite Valleys in Georgia, along with Clinicians from RiteCare Clinics all over Georgia, met in Warner Robins January 21, 2023. During the meeting, reports were given on the current state of RiteCare in each of the Scottish Rite Valleys, and plans made to enhance and strengthen RiteCare statewide. A portion of the meeting was also dedicated to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia Scholarship Program, with plans made to ramp up the program with more funded scholarships. The seminar was hosted by the Valley of Middle Georgia in Warner Robins.

As has been done since it was founded in 1980, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia will present 85-100 scholarships to Georgia students attending Georgia colleges and universities. Applications are made through the Scottish Rite website January 1-31 and are presented at each Valley's spring meeting. This program has been ongoing since 1980, under our motto of:

"Investing in futures one student at a time".

The Foundation's support for RiteCare is increasing yearly. Each Valley supports at least one RiteCare clinic. In 2022 financial support to our RiteCare Clinics totaled more than \$116,000, with 1178 patients benefiting from our services. Our motto for our RiteCare program:

"Helping children communicate".

Several clinic directors made reports at the meeting. Dr. Kay Hancock, Therapy Specialist of Georgia spoke on speech disorders. Dr. Matt Carter, Valdosta State University, reported on language disorders. Erica Wilson, Clean Speech LLC, also spoke on autism and language disorders. Hearing the successes of our clinic partners is truly a testament to our impact on the children of our State.

Each Valley reported on their individual efforts to raise awareness and funds to support our RiteCare clinics. Fund raising efforts including golf tournaments, dove shoots, silent auctions, fireworks sales, and many other events. Please support your Scottish Rite efforts as we help the children of Georgia. Contact your Scottish Rite Valley. Information can be found on our new website gascottishrite.org.



SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA PRESENTS

GASINO FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING RITECARE

SATURDAY, APRIL



YAARAB SHRINE CENTER 400 PONCE DE LEON AVE., NE, ATLANTA, GA 30308

Enjoy a fun-filled night of casino games and help children overcome Speech, Language, Literacy and Communication Disorders

7-10PM

\$100 PER PERSON INCLUDES \$500 PLAY MONEY, PRIZES AND HORS D'OEUVRES

ENJOY

BEER & WINE RAFFLES -SILENT AUCTION - MUSIC **BUY TICKETS**





A child who cannot tell you that he is frightened or hungry lives in a world of



"We are all able to communicate one way or another. For example, a baby cries when they are hungry or is tired, a child throws a tantrum because they need something but can't put it in words, a person jumps and shrieks because they are happy or excited. Most of us are able to verbally communicate with others, which is the most common way of expression when interacting, but for some people, communication is a challenge and functional communication skills have to be taught. Communication is often one of the areas where people who have autism struggle. Some have the ability to eventually speak or use their verbal skills to have a meaningful two-way conversation, or they can use alternative ways to communicate, such as an augmentative communication device, sign language, writing/typing, or using picture cards."

The preceding paragraph is from the Arizona Autism United webpage: azaunited.org. Many conditions leave a child unable to communicate. Those conditions might include Dyslexia – Trauma – Cleft Pallet – Hearing Impairment – Physical Anomalies and many, many others.

Through RiteCare™ the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia supports Clinics, both Private and Public across Georgia. Some of our RiteCare™ affiliates are Universities. We not only provide funding to help offset the cost of services, but we help fund programs and scholarships to help in the development of the students who will become the clinicians.

By Supporting RiteCare through the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, Inc (501(c)3) you are helping to improve the life of a child. You are helping to open the door of Isolation so that he or she can be successful in life.

Please Donate Today

When donating, please mention ATLANTA in the comments



Brother Marcell Biggie Harrison

August 22, 1920 - August 23, 2022

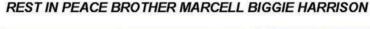
Brother Marcell was born in Pendleton, Texas to Tom and Bell Harrison on August 22, 1920, and passed to the Celestial Lodge above on August 23, 2022, one day after his 102nd birthday.

He served honorably in the U.S. Army during WW II, receiving the EAMET Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, World War II V Medal, Bx Sv Star Ardennes/Rhineland Campaign Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was in combat at the Battle of the Bulge, also known as the Ardennes Offensive, which was the last major German offensive campaign on the Western front during World War II.

Brother Marcell was raised to the degree of Master Mason on April 25, 1951, in Etowah Lodge No. 222, and had faithfully served as a Freemason until his passing. He was a Past Master of Macon Lodge no. 5 and his home lodge William A. Davis no. 753. He was a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, member of Al Sihah Shriners, the York Rite Bodies of Macon, Past Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and many Invitational Masonic bodies. He was well known and respected for his vast Masonic knowledge and mentoring skills; at the age of 100 he instructed a candidate on the three degrees and conducted the proficiency reviews; and as Senior Deacon protem received and conducted the candidate for each degree.

His lifelong profession was a high school Educator, teaching Social Studies, Driver's Education and coaching football. He was respectfully nicknamed and called "Coach" by his students and friends.

Our Masonic fraternity has lost an outstanding Masonic brother, friend and mentor.





Masonic Home of Georgia

The executive director of the Masonic Home of Georgia for over 30 years, Brother John Snipes, retired as of February 10th, 2023. He touched many lives during his tenure. John has been more than just an administrator; he was a father figure, a friend, and was not afraid of hard work. From mowing the lawn, to working on the lift station and digging ditches for phone lines - he did it all! He will be missed by his staff, our children, the board of trustees and many more. We wish him well in his retirement.



John Snipes **Executive Director 1987-2023**



Masonic Home Gym **December 2022**



Chattanooga
October 2022

Lodge members are encouraged to visit the revised Masonic Home website at masonichomeofgeorgia.com. This site provides an excellent overview of the home as well as promoting the service it provides.

A new feature incorporated into the website enables the donor to make a contribution electronically at the site. One can select to contribute to either Operating, Education or the Endowment Fund from this location. Our craft is encouraged to utilize the convenience of this option when contributing to the Masonic Home. To make an online donation please go to masonichomeofgeorgia.com or scan the QR code.



The long awaited Gazebo located in the vicinity of the new cottages is now under construction. The children are looking forward to its completion prior to the summer months when it can be enjoyed during the warm weather.

Longtime employee of the Masonic Home, Shakara Nicole Finney, passed away January 3, 2023. Condolences are extended to her family.

Mr. Jeff Cohen

The board of directors is pleased to appoint Jeff Cohen as executive director, effective February 1st, 2023. Prior to joining the Masonic Home of Georgia, Jeff served for the past nine years as executive director of Odyssey Atlanta, a year-round academic enrichment program serving

under-resourced youth, from rising first-graders to college graduation. While at Odyssey, Jeff was responsible for guiding two 5-year strategic initiatives that led to an expanded curriculum and the creation of a million-dollar endowment. Jeff earned his B.A. from Florida Atlantic University with a major in Political Science and has more than 25 years of youth development experience. Jeff and his wife Sarita are the proud parents of three children ranging in age from 16-21, as well as three golden doodles. If you are in Macon, please feel free to stop by and meet him!



2023 Officer Installations



Cornelia Lodge No. 92



Sincerity Lodge No 430



Metter Lodge No. 435



Daylite Lodge No. 125



Fayetteville Lodge No. 711



Hapeville Lodge No. 590



Chamblee-Sardis Lodge No. 444



Cordelia Lodge No. 296



Davidson Lodge No. 334



Eastpoint Lodge No. 288



Morrow Lodge No. 734

The Georgia Masonic Messenger publishes from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in the following articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM, The Georgia Masonic Messenger, the Managing Editor, or the Grand Lodge of Georgia Publication Committee but are provided for the interest, education, and consideration of the myriad of Brethren in the state of Georgia whose Masonic interests are as diverse and varied as its membership. The articles provided her are published with an interest toward providing every Mason in Georgia with something which he can enjoy when he receives this publication. Questions, comments, or concerns should be addressed to Messenger@glofga.org.

Freemasonry Across the Lines

By Worshipful Brother Jack Surette Walnut Grove No. 703

"As I am not a mason I do not understand the matter."

Written by Robert Hunt Rhodes, 2nd Rhode Island Infantry. 1863. Enlisting as a private at age nineteen, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel at war's end.



Members of the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry

During the American Civil War the research supports there were many examples suggesting the readiness of many Masons to remove themselves from the war, albeit briefly, and embrace the spirit of fraternal brotherhood they had known before the conflict. However, the lengths at which certain Masons took suggest the commitment to inter and present Masonic rights to fallen Brothers ran deeper than a simple fraternal nostalgia from a time before the war.

A fine example of this kind of commitment is the story of Colonel Joseph Wasden of the 22nd Georgia Infantry, killed at Gettysburg, 2 July 1863. A Union Soldier opposite the Georgia troops, Augustus Woodbury, a Chaplain with the 2nd Rhode Island, described what he saw.

an interesting incident occurred immediately after the battle of Gettysburg, which seems deserving of record. The Regiment was lying in the road, supporting the sharp-shooters. The enemy's dead were scattered over the field. One of the men of Company C, learning in some way, that Captain Foy was a member of the Masonic Order, brought to him a "diploma" bearing the name of Joseph Wasden, issued by Franklin Lodge, Warrenton, Warren county, Georgia. It had been taken from the body of a Colonel of a Georgia regiment, which was

lying in the road, a short distance from the position of the Regiment. Considering it his duty, as a Masonic Brother, to see that the last rights were properly and decently performed, Captain Foy took with him a Corporal Archibald Stalker and a detail of two to three men, proceeded to the place, carefully wrapped the body in a blanket, dug a grave in the field nearby, under the sharp fire of the enemy's riflemen, and tenderly and reverently deposited the corpse of the fallen Brother therein. A green leaf of corn supplied in the place of the customary acacia, and the soul of the departed was commended to its God. It was a graceful and fraternal act, and was well and considerately performed.

Woodbury's comrade, Robert Hunt Rhodes also known as Elisha, also witnessed the event and commented on Captain Foy in his diary.



Gen. Robert
"Elisha" Hunt
Rhodes

A colonel of a Georgia Rebel Regiment was found dead upon the field. Captain Foy of our Regiment discovered in some way that the Colonel was a Mason. And with the assistance of some other Masons buried him. As I am not a Mason I do not understand the matter. While the burial was going on the skirmishers were constantly firing. Wasden was buried on the grounds of the Codori family farm at the southern end of the family's barn. On Captain Foy's orders, Corporal Stalker marked Wasden's grave with a wooden headboard taken from an empty ammunition crate bearing the square and compasses.

Writing after the war, Foy, who was by then a past Master of King Solomon's Lodge #11, in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, recalled the event by telling a regimental historian that after the burial he entered the interior of the Codori

family barn that was occupied by many wounded Rebels, some of them from Wasden's regiment. He informed them of the burial, and requested of them, that if they lived to get home, to inform the friends of Colonel Wasden that he was decently buried, and by a Mason. This entire incident left a lasting impression on Elisha Hunt Rhodes. Shortly after the battle of Gettysburg he received a ninemonth leave, which he used to take a furlough home. There he petitioned Harmony Lodge #9, Pawtuxet, Rhode Island, for membership. Elisha was raised a Master Mason on 29 March 1864 before returning to the Regiment. Elisha survived the war and later wrote the book, All For The Union. It's a fascinating first-hand account of the war and I would encourage any Brother to read if his interest is so inclined.

As with any event or history many perspectives can be gleaned from them. Mine is that, as we sit together in Lodge, we can all look around and see good men. And as we look at each other we can realize that there are a lot of layers to each man's life. One of those layers being the life in which he has lived and the one in which he will live. It is as they say; "peel an onion, there's lots of layers." There are men in our Lodges that have done incredibly noble and honorable things for God, family, country, and neighbors far above their own self-interests and benefit; as well as some who have yet to do incredible things. As I can reflect on the layers of my own life; it has been my perspective that such an opportunity to do noble and honorable things will present itself if not once, but several times within every man's life. Question is: what will we do with these opportunities? My Brethren, we belong to a fraternal order with a set of values and virtues that if adequately applied within our lives, will outlive us all. If we should ponder it a bit, maybe in a hundred years or so, another Mason will, in his Lodge, tell one of our stories and how we lived and extended Brotherly Love, Faith, Hope, and Charity to a world, which at the time, didn't have much.

Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity

By Worshipful Brother Brigham Keys Tifton Lodge No. 47

"Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity:" a timeless motto of our organization which is very seldom explained or clarified. I would like to give some light on this beautiful landmark of Freemasonry. We have these mottos, and go through our Degree work but we rarely discuss the beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated through symbols that is Freemasonry. The following thoughts are my own and do not speak for any Brother other than myself.

Our motto of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" speaks of the undying hope of man, just as immortality is the undying hope of man. I think everyday about the world we would enjoy, the paradise we would build, if our society were governed by these three sublime principles; the absolute joy a man who would live in such a society as the motto prescribes happiness to every household. But those are flowery words, let us get into the logical analysis of the motto.

In our Entered Apprentice Degree the Chaplain reads from sacred scripture the words "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." What beautiful words to hear upon entering a lodge for the first time. But let us ask how is this sublime unity achieved. You



would not be surprised to hear that Liberty, Equality, Fraternity would be an unavoidable answer to that question. Before I discuss the interdependent nature of the concepts when it comes to building unity, let me define and discuss each aspect on its own.

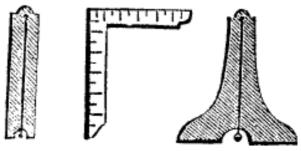
Liberty, commonly defined is an absence of arbitrary restraint. Some religions describe it as not being under the influences of sin and the material world. In a sense it is both, Liberty—and by extension human freedom—is a product of human obedience to the objective moral laws that govern all mankind regardless of religion, the Noachide laws that G-d gave to Noah are examples of these universal moral laws. When we obey G-d and live his commandments we have liberty, morality and human freedom are inseparable. This is why many Masons of old have been described as "disinterested," because being disinterested is a result of circumscribing our passions and keeping our desires within due bounds toward all of mankind, especially a Brother Mason. We must apply the

compass as a working tool to free ourselves from our passions and our prejudices not only to free ourselves but so that we can show love towards our Brothers and all of mankind.

Equality is symbolically represented by the level. In the Lodge we meet on the level as equals. We put aside our worldly titles, socioeconomic class, and meet as Brothers. Each man having an equal chance to speak, each man wielding one vote, each man having the same right to pursue any office. How better society would be if we were to put aside our passions and live as equals; equality of opportunity, equality under the law, just as we are all equal before G-d. The high monarch and the lowly beggars meet as equals at the gates of death, it is clearly the prescription G-d has given us in his holy word. G-d cares not for our titles, or ways we manage to stratify our race; for there to be equality we should pay as much regard to the divisions we make for ourselves as G-d does, that is to say to not allow these divisions to command any of our respect.

Fraternity, or Brotherly Love, cooperation and friendship. Naturally we do not desire to have equality and give people we hate liberty. Just like Liberty however, Love is also a result of moral choices we make. Brotherly love can take many forms, such as solidarity with each other, service, or meeting in Lodges in the character of Masons as we are in this moment. We were all created by the Grand Architect of the Universe, so no matter our backgrounds, beliefs, class, or any other distinction we are Brothers whether we like it or not. So long as mankind exists there will be brotherly love. When I was going through the Degrees, I was taught that Brotherly Love is not some type of abstract idea, or that if we follow a prescribed formula that we will in theory have Brotherly Love. No! The reality is that between every single one of us there is Brotherly Love already! The question is not whether or not there is Brotherly Love, the question is what are you going to do about it? What are we as a Lodge going to do about it? Are we going to express our love for each-other in ways most expressive? The love we must have for all of mankind, to free them from oppression, to free the spirit from its cell, to wish upon them the most candid and favorable of circumstances. Let the world observe how Masons love one another according to the will of G-d. The network found on the familiar Masonic pillars is an emblem of unity. The emblem of unity teaches us that as Brothers we are bound together by a chain of indissoluble friendship. The lily, found on these pillars is an emblem of peace. And the emblem of peace teaches us that here on this broad platform of brotherly love the high and the low, the rich and the poor, can meet together with one common purpose: the perpetuation of each other's friendship and each other's love

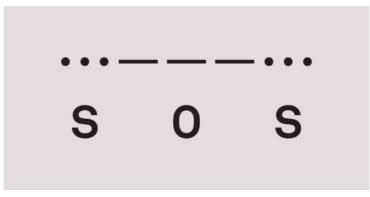
Now that I have addressed this troika of aspects of our fraternity, I must say that to have unity, or really to have any of the three we must have all of them as we cannot pick or choose. If we love our Brothers and have fraternity with them, we will naturally wish upon them liberty and will treat them as equals. Not having equality divides us and makes fraternity and liberty far more difficult as without equality we can easily be placed under tyranny and lose our liberty. Without liberty we may not be able to freely associate ourselves with others and express the Brotherly Love so desperately needed in this world. It is vital that as Masons we not only observe, but that we also practice these three aspects of our motto at all times, in our daily lives, with our neighbor, with anyone you meet, and especially with Brothers in this Lodge or any Lodge you may visit.



The Teachings of Masonry May Save Your Life

By Worshipful Brother Herbert Hughes Cordelia Lodge No. 296

Having been raised as Master Masons, you have been given some of the "Secrets" of Freemasonry. You may have taken them lightly but, I am living proof that one of these secrets saved my life on October 29, 1976. The following is my story of an event



you've got in the back cash office!"

that, if not for one of the secrets of Freemasonry, could have ended a lot differently.

The following incident was related in "The Cordele Dispatch" by Harvey Simpson, at the time a staff writer for the local newspaper.

It was a cool, clear night in Cordele, Georgia. Only two days were left before Halloween. and everyone was anticipating the coming of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I was one of three Assistant Managers for Gibson's Discount Store. Bob Bull and Roddy Russell were the other two. Jack Roche was the Store Manager. On that particular day I was scheduled to come in at noon and work until our 9:00 pm closing. That meant I would get out of the store about 9:20 pm. My plans for the evening were to finalize all the Christmas orders. I was up in the Office, busy checking to see how many of our Christmas orders had been received and making notes on following up on orders not received. The phone on my desk rang and I answered the call. It was Sandra Smith, the cashier in charge at the checkout counter and working the Courtesy Desk. She informed me there was a customer in front of the peanut machine asking to see the store manager. I got up from my desk and walked over to the two-way mirror we had across the width of our second story office. I could see Sandra talking to a man in jeans, a plaid shirt, and a lightweight tan jacket. I didn't recognize him. I told Sandra to tell him I would be right up. Normally, when I went to the front to talk to a customer, I would go straight up to them, shake their hand and ask them how I could help them.

Something about this customer didn't feel right to me, so, I walked between register one and register two, opened the three foot door, and walked up behind the

Once again I said, "Explain just what it is you want and we'll see about getting it done."

hot nut machine, keeping

it between myself and

the stranger. I told the

customer who I was and

that I the manager on

duty, and would try to

help him if he would tell

me his problem. He

responded by pointing to

the back of the store and

said, "I want everything

"You know! I want all the money you've got back in that cash office!" He then pulled up his jacket and I could see that he had a gun tucked into the waist band of his jeans. I said, "You need to come around here and talk to me."

As I walked back to the service area of the Courtesy Desk, he followed closely. I ran my hand under the countertop and activated a silent alarm. The alarm was set to call local law enforcement officers, the three Gibson Assistant Managers, the Store Manager. When any of this group answered their phone, they would hear the following taped message,

"This is not a test!! There is a holdup at Gibsons Discount Store, located at 911 16th Avenue East in Cordele, Georgia. I repeat - This is not a Test!!"

When any of the agencies called received this message they were to proceed to the location of the store. If closed they would proceed to a predetermined area near the store and drive to the store as a group. After sending the silent alarm, I turned back to the man and tried to talk him out of what he was attempting to do. He wasn't having any part of what I was telling him. In a stern voice he said "Look fellow I ain't got time to fool with you." He then pointed to a man standing between the two exit doors, "That man is with me. He's a psychopath and has a gun. If we don't start walking to the back, he's going to start shooting."

At this time I realized I had to get the man away from the front, my employees and my customers. I told him to follow me to the back of the store. I walked from behind the Courtesy Desk and started to the rear of the store. At this time the stranger was walking behind me. His gun was pulled up his jacket sleeve, out of sight of my employees and customers. I led him through the store, speaking to customers along the way. We entered the stock room and walked to the outer office door. I opened the door and went over to the door of the inner cash office. As I walked through the stockroom to the cash office I picked up an empty cardboard box to put the money in. I walked to the safe, opened it and started pulling out the money and putting it in the box. To stall for more time for law enforcement to arrive, I asked the man about the change he told me he didn't want any change, I told him there was over four-hundred dollars in ten-dollar rolls still in the safe and the man said to put it in the box as well. While I was doing so, Jimmy Troxell, Sporting Goods Manager, came into the Outer Cash Office, walked up to the door between the outer and inner Cash Offices, saw me kneeling on the floor, a box of money in front of me, the empty cash bags scattered on the floor and the stranger standing behind me. Jimmy said, "Herbert, there's a man with an old Zebco Rod in Sporting Goods. It's splint, old and filthy. He wants it replaced with a new one or repaired. It's at least ten years old." I told Jimmy to go back on the floor and give the man a new rod. He left the Outer Cash Office and went back out on the floor and gave he man a new rod.

The phone in the Office began ringing and I started to answer it. The man told me to continue putting the money in the box and not to answer the phone. I explained that the line ringing was the intercom line from the front desk and Sandra probably wanted me to okay a check. He told me to answer the phone but, not to do anything to alert her as to what was happening in the Office. I answered the phone. Sandra was on the line. I moved farther away from the stranger so that the only part of the conversation he could hear was what I was saying and not what Sandra was saying. Sandra said, "Herbert, Herbert Whittington is on the phone and says our alarm is going off. What should I tell him?"

I replied, "Mr. Whittington and I are going fishing in the morning and he probably wants to know the details. Connect him so I can give him all the information." She connected me to Herbert, who was a Deputy Sheriff, answering calls at the Sheriff's Office that night. He was also the only employee in the Sheriff's Office who was a Master Mason. Before Whittington had the chance to say anything I said, "Yes. We're still going fishing in the morning. Can you meet me at my house at 10:00? If you can, we'll be on the water before 10:30. The Farmer's Almanac says the best fishing tomorrow is from 10 to 1. This has been a busy week and it will be good to be on the water, with nothing on my mind but catching fish." I then relayed the verbal sign of a Master Mason in Distress to him. Herbert replied, "I understand just what you mean! See you in the morning," and hung up.

What the man didn't know was that I had just told Deputy Whittington that I was in extreme danger and needed help quick. I began to see a small ray of sunshine! Thank God for Masonry! I still had a slim chance of coming out of the situation alive.

I hung up the phone and went back to collecting the money for the man. I also had to come up with a plan to get the man out of the store without him harming anyone, especially me! Having the stranger and I in a well-lit space did two things - I recognized him and he recognized me. He grew up a little over two miles from me and went to East Crisp Elementary School. Seven years we had rode the same school bus twice a day.

We left the Office and walked to the front of the store. The first thing I noticed was that the second man was no longer around. The second thing I noticed was the crowd of people and law enforcement planning around the outside of the exit doors. I also realized that the man walking behind me had noticed the same things. He had gotten closer to me. When he heard me greeting the law officers, he pushed closer to me and jammed the gun that was up his jacket sleeve harder into my back. Another thing I realized was that he wasn't going to let me live - if he could help it. He told me to go toward the gas station at the southwest corner of the parking lot. It was already closed. There was a lone car sitting near one of the pumps and he said to go to that car. As we walked toward the car, a Sheriffs car with two deputies in it careened in on two wheels, into the parking lot and pulled up in front of the store. The two Deputies jumped out with their guns drawn and went inside.

They started asking employees and customers if they had seen me, Herbert. As they got close to the stockroom door, Jimmy Troxell approached them and asked what was going on. He was told the store had been robbed and they couldn't find me. Jimmy told

the Deputies that he had seen me go into the stockroom and the office with a strange man and that I was acting funny. He said that I had left the stock room, heading to the front with the man and a box. Deputies Claxton and Felton rushed to the front of the store and exited the building. They saw me and the man at a parked car near the gas station and started walking our way.

When we reached the car, I opened the back door on the driver's side and put the money in the seat. I closed the door and started to walk away. The man jammed his pistol into my side and asked, "Where do you think you're going?"

I replied, "Over there," pointing toward the closed gas pumps, "and watch your taillights disappear into the darkness." "No you're not! The minute I leave you'll yell at the police and they'll catch me before I can get out of the parking lot. You're going to drive me out of here!" The pistol was against my neck. He had to lower it so I could get behind the steering wheel. I opened the front door to get in. When he was doing so, I grabbed the pistol with my left hand and jammed the right webbed area of my right hand, between the firing pin and the gun body. We struggled for the gun. As I pulled it loose I tore the web on my right hand. During the struggle one of us had pulled the trigger. The firing pin tore the web in I heard the Deputies screaming at the man, "DON'T MOVE!"

Holding the pistol above my head, I started yelling "DON"T SHOOT! I'VE GOT HIS GUN!!"

About 11:30 that night they called me to come up to the courthouse. One of the State Patrol Officers had picked the second man up. He was hitchhiking up I-75. I never found out if the second man was armed. I learned a lot about myself that night. I never panicked and never got scared. I kept my cool and tried to be aware of everything going on. I got home about 10:00. My wife, who had been in Pitts, Georgia at a wedding shower for her sister, had heard what happened from several people. Years after the event I would wake up seeing the gap between the pistol's firing pin and the remainder of the pistol. I would be sweating and shaking!

Several things went my way that night.

#1: We had a silent alarm at the store and I managed to activate it without being seen doing so.

#2: We had an away football game that night. Law Enforcement wasn't tied up at a High School Football Game. and were able to respond quickly.

#3: Only one Deputy Sheriff on the entire Sheriffs Staff was a Mason and he happened to be the one to answers the alarm and he was able to talk to me!

#4: Law Enforcement Officers got to the store quickly. It led to the second culprit not waiting for the man who took me to the rear of the store. I only had to deal with one gun and one man.

#5: I realized that the only way I had to let Deputy Whittington know that I was in danger was the distress sign of a Mason and Deputy Whittington knew what I was telling him!

I sincerely hope that each of you take the Grand Hailing Signs of Distress seriously and know how and when to use them but, never have to! I am aware that what I did wasn't heroic, but what I attempted to do was what the majority owner of the Gibson Store, Brother Louis Perlis, had always told us, in case we happened to get robbed. Give them the money. Insurance will replace it. Don't be a hero and endanger employees, customers, and yourself! I can assure you that I was attempting to do just what Brother Perlis had told us to do when he tried to get me in the car behind the steering wheel all rules had changed.

I realized several things:

1: If we left the store together, we would pick up the second man. That would give them two guns and me no gun! They would drive to a secluded spot and kill me!!

#2: I wouldn't be able to subdue both men and get their weapons.

#3: I was rather fond of my Mother's oldest child and didn't want him to come to serious harm that night!

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL 1923-2023

By Past Grand Master Jan M. Giddens

This marks the centennial celebration of the laying of the cornerstone for the George Washington National Masonic Memorial which occurred on November 1, 1923. This year on February 20th, will be a rededication with another cornerstone with all the pomp and ceremony of the original event. Representatives from all the Grand Lodges of the United States, government officials and invited guests will make for a spectacular event. The annual Conference of Grand Masters of North America will be meeting in Arlington Virginia February 18-22, and the rededication ceremony will be part of the conference. The Grand Lodge of Georgia delegation will be led by our Grand Master Michael A. Kessler along with the Grand Secretary, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden.

In 1923 the Georgia delegation was led by MWB Joe P. Bowdion, accompanied by MWB George M. Napier (1911 &1912) who left Macon on October 30 for "Washington City." They were met in Washington be MWB Charles L. Bass ((1920 &1921) who was the Grand Lodge of Georgia state chairman for the George Washington Memorial. The Grand Lodge of Virginia opened Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 to a packed house. MWB Bass was appointed to be one of the bearers of the Orders of Architecture and MWB Napier on a committee to repair to Washington and call on President Calvin Coolidge and Chief Justice Howard Taft and invite them to attend and participate in the ceremonies. President Coolidge watched as the original trowel used by George Washington on the cornerstone of the U.S. Capital was used to spread the cement. Each Grand Representative was given a replica silver trowel and helped to spread the cement as part of the ceremony. The artifact placed in the cornerstone from our Grand Lodge was a copper plaque 5/8 inches thick and 4 inch square with the Grand Lodge of Georgia seal on one side and the seal of the State of Georgia on the other side.

For this cornerstone each Grand Master has been asked to prepare two short articles significant to their jurisdiction. MWB Kessler has written and submitted an article about the George Washington chair in Solomons Lodge No. 1 in Savannah. The other is about Samuel Elbert, Provincial Grand Master, Governor of Georgia and General with George Washington at Yorktown. The article has to do with the battle of Brier Creek Georgia in March 3, 1779. General Elbert fought bravely against overwhelming numbers of British soldiers. General Elbert was saved from being bayoneted to death when a British officer recognizes him as a Mason and spared his life. Please see these articles in the follwing pages.

The George Washington National Masonic Memorial is a wonderful tribute to the Father of our country, a great man and a great example of a Freemason.



M∴W∴BROTHER SAMUEL ELBERT

On March 3, 1779, a small regiment of the Continental Army led by MWB Samuel Elbert fought the British Army at the Battle of Brier Creek in Screven County, Georgia. It was considered one of the most gallant stands of the Revolutionary War. MWB Elbert was almost killed but his life was spared when he was recognized to be a Mason.

MWB Samuel Elbert was a Revolutionary War general, a major general in the Georgia Militia and brigadier general in the Continental Army. He was the sheriff of Chatham County, Georgia and served one term as Governor of Georgia. As Governor, he oversaw the founding of the University of Georgia. A member of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in Savannah, he served as the last Provincial Grand Master in Georgia. Also, a member of the Council of Safety and an officer in the Georgia Militia, he is said to have contributed as much to Georgia=s independence as any other man. Elbert County and the City of Elberton in Georgia were named after General Elbert. He is entombed in Colonial Park Cemetery in Savannah.

MWB Elbert was captured by the British at Brier Creek. After more than a year as a prisoner in the British camp he was exchanged in 1780. MWB Elbert went immediately to Gen. George Washington's headquarters. General Washington gave MWB Elbert command of a brigade during the Siege of Yorktown. While there he developed a friendship with the Marquis de Lafayette which continued after the war. MWB Elbert named his son Lafayette.

MWB Elbert died at age 48.

Michael A. Kessler, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CHAIR IN GEORGIA

January 25, 2023

In May of 1791 President/Worshipful Brother George Washington traveled to Georgia. It was the only time he came to Georgia. He was greeted by Grand Master George Houstoun. The President spent 10 days visiting the state.

During his four days in Savannah, Worshipful Brother Washington attended dinners, dances, church services, and visited Solomon's Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M. Solomon's Lodge was founded by General James Ogelthrope in 1734 and has met continuously ever since. First know as the Lodge at Savannah and later Solomon's Lodge. It is the oldest continually operating English constituted Masonic Lodge in the western hemisphere.

While Solomon's Lodge was founded in 1734, Worshipful Brother Washington's visit to Georgia came only four and a half years after the Grand Lodge of Georgia was formed. William Stehpens, a Past Master of Solomon's No. 1 and the first United States Judge in Georgia was elected Grand Master.

During his visit to Solomon's Lodge No. 1, President Washington sat in the Worshipful Master's chair. That chair remains in the east today. Having been well maintained and reupholstered more than once, that chair serves the same purpose it did when Washington visited. Many Grand Master's of Georgia, including the current Grand Master, have had the honor of sitting in that chair.

Michael A. Kessler, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia

Perfecting Our Ashlars Through Masonic Education

By WB Jimmy Densmore Picture Credits Ross Laver, Jimmy Densmore, Jim Robinson, Lloyd McCoy

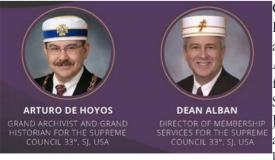
It may have been a cold, wet, and dreary Saturday morning in Warner Robins, Georgia, but more than 120 Brethren knew that the Masonic education, beaming from the Lodge this day, was worth the drive and bad weather.

Inside Tyrian Lodge No. 111 in Warner Robins, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Ted Collins, 33°, and Grand Master Michael Kessler, 33°, set the stage for an enlightening day of fellowship and learning. The event, sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Georgia's membership initiative and the Scottish Rite Orient of Georgia, was open to all Master Masons, regardless of Scottish Rite membership.





Continuing the Masonic Journey brought worldrenowned speakers Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, and Dean Alban, 33°, from the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, headquartered in Washington, D.C. De Hoyos is the



Grand
Historian
and Grand
Archivist
for the
Southern
Jurisdiction
and wellknown

author and speaker who has been on numerous television programs and documentaries. Alban is the Director of Membership Services.





The event began with a presentation on a key focus for GM Kessler's mission for the year, membership. The Grand Lodge of Georgia is in the middle of a significant effort to improve membership in the state, with the campaign being led by Grand Tyler, WB Dennis Hewett.



WB Dr. Jeff Smith presented findings from the current program and provided great detail regarding the trend we are seeing with the decline in membership, along with a few of the tactics being taken by the initiative to promote the Fraternity and be that light within our community, reflecting what our Fraternity is and what it has to offer for those good men seeking to better

themselves and their communities.

GM Michael Kessler further expounded on the findings and spent a few moments sharing his story behind this year's coin and pin and their significance.

Dean Alban, 33°, shared his insight with an amusing presentation on Freemasonry's perception in the public and media, including televised clips from well-known shows that could be seen as quite harmful to our good name and reputation. Many of us are not aware of how Freemasonry is perceived outside of



the four walls of our lodges. Alban explained the wrongful perception is intertwined with myths and legends like that of the Leo Taxil Hoax, the William Morgan Affair, The DaVinci Code, or the Anti-Masonic Party movement. His presentation showcased

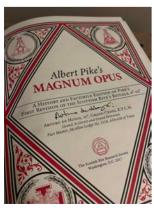
excerpts of footage from TV shows, cartoons, movies, and the media.

One such video clip shown shook all of us. It was a clip from the British show, "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (1957), and Alban prefaced it with, "...let me know if you recognize anything," then he hit play on his laptop.

Gasps filled the Lodge room, and Brethren in attendance couldn't help but share their concern and shock after watching this scene that most likely flickered into living rooms one evening so many decades ago. The scene includes Robin Hood being made a Speculative Mason by quickly being shown and given the phrase, "There's marrow in these bones," while upon the Five Points of Fellowship! You can check this out for yourself. https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/fiction/images/robin_hood.html

Ahead of a delicious traditional Southern lunch that included green beans, De Hoyos spoke briefly on the symbolism of the Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite. We broke for a hearty lunch provided by Tyrian Lodge #111 and The Scottish Rite Valley of Middle Georgia.

A post-lunch presentation highlighted the honored and charitable arm of the Scottish Rite, RiteCare. Since the 1950s RiteCare has offered assistance to children with speech and language disorders and other learning disabilities. A child who cannot communicate with the world around them will find themselves in a dire situation that could impact their growth as a person and their voice as individuals. If you are interested in further information, please visit https://www.gascottishrite.org/scottish-rite-foundation/



Magnum Opus."

De Hoyos didn't come emptyhanded; his book, "Albert Pike's Esoterika," was available for sale, and being the incredible Brother he is, he took plenty of time for a few candid photos and signatures. Some of those in attendance brought other works by De Hoyos to sign. I brought along my copy of "Albert Pike's After lunch, De Hoyos continued the session and spoke further about the Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite and shared a few of the benefits of becoming a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society, which is available to Master Masons, regardless of membership in the Rite. You can find more information at: https://www.scottishriteresearch.com.

During his Q&A, Brethren had an opportunity to ask questions on various topics from esoteric meaning and symbolism, to history and etiquette. De Hoyos didn't disappoint with his quick and well-researched answers.

The last bit of discussion jointly focused on the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Course. It is a complete, online multimedia learning system designed by Masons for Masons and is similar to online learning platforms used by colleges and universities worldwide.

In a joint effort between the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction and the Grand Lodge of Georgia, any Master Mason can access the course, *The Master's Steps*, at no cost. In this mini-course Master Masons will be quizzed on their existing knowledge of essential Masonic History, Ritual, and Symbolism. Whether the Mason has been newly raised or is a Mason with decades of experience, this course will test your knowledge about Freemasonry.

Having the opportunity to spend this time with De Hoyos and Alban is a memory of my Masonic career that I will cherish for years to come. This event is another example of how, when common interests and a willingness to learn more about our beloved craft, come together, so will Brotherly love and fellowship. Our discussions on the way to, during, and after this event made the trip down to Warner Robins worth it!

Let's continue to promote our Fraternity, to provide education to our current members, and to provide events such as this. Let's do all this and more to continue



to spread light to the members of our Fraternity, to society, and our communities as a whole!



The Master Mason's Perambulation Interpreted

By Worshipful Brother Bill Edwards and Worshipful Brother Paul Buckner Riverdale Lodge No. 709

The Masters Perambulation Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Brethren, this paper came about in a strange sort of way. Worshipful Master Paul Buckner thought it would be a good time to present an interpretation of the perambulation of the Master's Degree, since some of its wording is vague in its references, during the meeting prior to the Past Master's Degree scheduled for March 15, 1996. I was not aware of W. B. Paul's work, and I was working on the same thing and at the same time. When I showed my work to him, he was as surprised as I to learn of our duality of work. He gave me a copy of his work and with his permission, I combined both papers into one, to which I have appended both our names. His research is from a Masonic Bible that he purchased just after he was raised. It is essentially Albert Mackey's interpretations of these verses. My work is a combination of Mackey's, some of my own, and some from various books that I have at home. These interpretations are strikingly similar, however there are some fundamental differences near the latter part of these verses where I disagree with Mackey's interpretation and have included both in comparative form. This is not to say that Mackey is wrong, only that I disagree with him. Neither am I trying to place myself on a par with this eminent scholar, for he is a much more accomplished writer than I. Having said that, let us begin.

1. Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shall say, I have no pleasure in them;

Brethren this verse is telling you to remember your creator while you are young and enjoying reasonably good health so that you may praise and thank Him for His many blessings; that you may carry this praise into your old age as your health starts to decline instead of waiting until you are old when you may not appreciate these blessings and may feel something less than admiration for Him due to your ills.

2. While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

This verse is a continuation of the first; that while still young the "sun or the light, or the moon, or the stars" are easily seen with youthful clarity.

3. In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

Man's body is the temple or house of god and "the keepers of the house shall tremble" is an allegory to the arms and legs of the body, whose function is to provide its maintenance, trembling in old age. "The strong men shall bow themselves" means that the men will stoop over from old age and long years of toil and labor. The "grinders cease because they are few" refers to the teeth that have been lost over time and eating becomes difficult. "And those that look

out of the windows be darkened," is a reference to the diminished vision of the eyes because they are the windows of the soul.

4. And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all of the daughters of music shall be brought low.

"And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low "refers to the doors of opportunity, i.e. employment, etc., being closed to the aged man." And he shall rise up at the voice of the bird" refers to the crow of the cock in the morning. "The daughters of music" are physical means of making or hearing music (the mouth and ears), and refers to the diminished capacity of the ears as well as to the voice that has become weak.

5. Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

"When they shall be afraid of that which is high and fears shall be in the way", has reference to the fear of death.

"And the almond tree shall flourish" is a parable to the white flowers of the almond tree to the white hair on the head.

"And the grasshopper shall be a burden" could mean that even the slight weight of the grasshopper will be hard to bear.

Or it could refer to the eating of the insect, which was and is still a common practice. "And desire shall fail" should be self-explanatory; your primal drive will diminish or ahate. "Because man goeth to his long home" describes the grave wherein his remains will be laid. The remaining part of this verse is self-explanatory.

6. Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Brethren, concerning the "silver cord", there are two schools of thought on this subject that we will address here. Albert Mackey's and mine. First, Mackey has interpreted this as "the spinal marrow, its loosening causes a stopping of all the nervous system and brings on the approach of old age and death." I, however, disagree. Have you ever heard of astral projection or astral travel? Maybe you know it as an "out of body experience." In almost every case, the person having this experience describes a "silver cord" that is connected to both the astral (or spiritual) body and the physical body. They also knew, or know, that if this "silver cord" is ever severed while in this state, they would never get back to their physical body again. Their physical body would be dead. Here we have a reference to this "silver cord" in the Bible and its relationship with death. Yes? No? Maybe? You decide. The "golden bowl be broken" is described by Mackey as the brain, I think it is the skull if it is fractured or broken. "Or the pitcher be broken at the fountain": Mackey's interpretation is that it is the great vein that carries the blood to the right ventricle of the heart. I think it is describing the heart and all of its blood vessels. "Or the wheel broken at the cistern", again, Mackey thinks that it is the great artery that receives blood from the left ventricle of the heart. My research has led me to believe differently. The word for the potter's wheel means "two stones." The "cistern" is a vessel that holds water. Take your best guess!

7. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Amen

Brethren, you are free to accept or reject any, all, or part of these interpretations as your belief directs you. This is simply an attempt to bring further "light" to the Master's Degree so that you may better understand it.

Loftin Lodge No. 688 F & AM 100th Anniversary October 1922-2022



At the 236th Annual Communication Most Worshipful Brother Michael H. Kessler, Grand Master of Georgia, in his closing remarks was talking about a couple of events he had been invited to attend during his first week as Grand Master. He asked how many in the audience had heard of Ephesus, Georgia. Only a few hands went up and they were from members of the 4th District. He invited everyone to Ephesus to attend Loftin Lodge's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Ephesus, Georgia is a small rural city of about 450 people located in Heard County. The area was originally known as the Loftin community and the City of Ephesus was founded in 1964. Loftin Lodge was charted on October 30, 1922 and originally met in an upstairs room in one of the buildings located on the Ephesus School grounds. The lodge moved to its present location in 1983.

Loftin Lodge held its 100th Anniversary Celebration on October 30, 2022. There were several Georgia Grand Lodge Officers in attendance. In addition, brothers from Alabama including the Deputy Grand Master (an honorary member of Loftin Lodge) also attended. Our Worshipful Master, T.J. Yarbrough, is a fourth-generation member of Loftin Lodge. As fate would have it, his term as Worshipful Master fell on our 100th Anniversary year. We also had a coin minted to commemorate this event. The Mayor of Ephesus spoke on the history of the Loftin Community and the City of Ephesus. One thing Grand Master Kessler mentioned was that even though Loftin Lodge comes from a small rural community it has persevered for 100 years where lodges in large cities have gone dark.

The brethren of Loftin Lodge are excited to see what the future holds. We currently have a building fund started to construct a new lodge building complete with a dining hall and kitchen. It is a slow process. We have had several fundraisers and are grateful for donations we have received from other lodges.



During a recent visit to Benevolent Lodge #3 in Milledgeville, Grand Master Mike Kessler was invited to sit in the chair once used by our brother the Marquis de Lafayette.

Grand Master Visits Graves of Past Grand Masters

During a trip to Augusta in January, Grand Master Mike Kessler took time to visit Westover Memorial Park – the final resting place for two of Georgia's Past Grand Masters.



The first grave visited was that of Most Worshipful Brother and Colonel Clarence Henry Cohen. Grand Master Cohen was born in 1901 and passed to the Celestial Lodge above in 1979 at the age of 77. Cohen was Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 1962. He was a member of Webbs Lodge #166 in Augusta having been initiated, passed, and raised in 1925. Clarence H. Cohen Daylight Lodge #749 in Augusta was named for the Past Grand Master.

Grand Master Cohen was appointed to the Grand Lodge line in 1956 by B. Lee Amon (more below), who became Grand Master in 1956.

Cohen appointed Paul H. Ponder of Landrum Lodge #376 to the Grand Lodge line. Ponder went on to be Grand Master in 1967.

Grand Master Cohen was born in New York City and worked as a grocery agent, in the insurance industry, and later served as an executive, owning a medicine wholesale manufacturing company.



The second grave visited was that of Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Lee Amon. Grand Master Amon was born in 1887 and passed in 1974 at the age of 76. Amon was a member of Webbs Lodge #166 in Augusta, having been initiated, passed, and raised in 1925. Amon served as Grand Master of Masons in 1956.

Grand Master Amon was appointed to the Grand Lodge line in 1947 by Marvin Gilbert Pound of Sparta Lodge #442, who became Grand Master in 1951. As mentioned above, Amon appointed Clarence H. Cohen to the Grand Lodge line.

Grand Master Amon was born in Greenville, Pennsylvania and worked as a grocer and a tobacco salesman. He later served as the Secretary of a fisherman's organization.







Middle Georgia Daylight Lodge #756 recently held its installation of officers. Middle Georgia Daylight has a tradition of inviting the Third Grand Steward to lead the installation of officers. Besides our current Third Grand Steward, Dave Baxter, several past "Third Grand Stewards" including Jan Giddens, Mark Bradley, and Bill Shepard were also in attendance. Sherman Rankin was installed as the Worshipful Master of Middle Georgia Daylight Lodge.



As a memorial to WB David Burk, who passed away in 2021, Grayson Lodge #549 has funded a vending machine at Grayson Elementary School where students can obtain books for free. The school staff offers tokens to students based upon outstanding performance or achievement which the students can then use to obtain a free book from the machine. WB Burk built a strong relationship between the Lodge and the school, and this our tribute and a lasting legacy for our departed Brother.

The 'Traveling Team of 216' (a group of Brother from Fulton Lodge No. 216 of the Fifth Masonic District) went to Fayetteville Lodge no. 177 of the Sixth Masonic District to claim a district traveling gavel. This particular gavel created by Brothers of Fulton Lodge in 1995 was presented to The Fifth District Convention to promote travel between Districts. The gavel has been

least 2018. The Gavel now resides at Fulton Lodge in the Fifth Masonic District and may be claimed by a lodge with a sufficient number of brothers (four) from a lodge outside of the Fifth Masonic District at a regular meeting of Fulton Lodge. Fulton Lodge Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday except for June, July and August When we meet on the 3rd Wednesday only and in December when we meet 1st Wednesday only.

We meet at the North Lodge Room of the Atlanta Masonic Center located at 1690 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Dinner at 6pm, Lodge opens at 7pm. Let us know you are coming and we'll have dinner waiting. Then we will have to visit your lodge to take it back.





Twelve brethren from Sandy Springs Lodge #124 visited Roswell Lodge #165 on Thursday night, February 16th, to witness an EA degree and to claim the Roswell Lodge #165 Subdistrict 5C Traveling Gavel.

On January 12th, 2023, severe thunderstorms tracked from Alabama and bore down on middle Georgia taking aim on Spalding and several surrounding counties. At about 4:15pm Griffin, Georgia took a direct hit from outside of the Fifth District since at up to 5 tornados which the National Weather Service estimated at least one was an EF-3 with winds of 158 miles per hour. Griffin is a diverse town with a population of 70,000 and in less than 20 minutes over 2500 homes were damaged, up to 250 were a total loss, businesses were destroyed and many were left without shelter and/or basic necessities of power and water The damage to the area was indescribable and as someone observed there were more trees and power poles down that were left standing. After the initial shock wore off it started to sink in that "Somebody Needs to Do Something".

Griffin Lodge #413 is located near one of the hardest hit areas and the members quickly made contact with the other Masonic Lodges in the area as well as the Oglethorpe Chapter of the Widows Sons and Griffin Shrine Club. Members jumped into action and brought chainsaws, tools and tarps to clear roads, as well as check on the welfare of local neighbors. Due to the extensive damage and lack of resources in the immediate area the Masons and volunteers then turned their attention to providing the necessities for those affected. Even as the Lodge building received damage and was without power, generators were brought in and what started as cooking some hamburgers and providing a few cases of water, quickly turned into thousands of hamburgers and hundreds of hotdogs prepared, pallets of water and tons of miscellaneous food items provided to those in need. outpouring of support from family, friends and local businesses was amazing.

In a time like this everyone wants to lend a hand to help, but it takes someone to lead the way, set the pace and coordinate the efforts. Masons, we saw the need and because we are taught the principles of charity and relief, we accepted the challenge and made it happen. We are reminded that 1st John 3:17-18 says "For a man to have riches of this Earth and see his neighbor

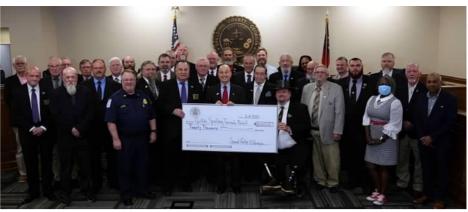
without and have no mercy on them, how can God be in that man. And it is done with deeds and truths and not with words".

We could not have done this alone and want to thank our local Masonic Brethren, Widows Sons, Shriners, family, friends and businesses that donated their time, energy and supplies to provide for those in need.





On Saturday, February 25, DDGM Andy Frazier presented the Grand Lodge of Georgia Masonic Eagle Scout Award to Scouter Liam Randolph Reed.



On February 26, 2023, Grand Master Michael Kessler met with members of the Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce to present a check from the Grand Lodge Board of Relief on behalf of the Masons of Georgia. The check was presented to help citizens in the county with ongoing flood relief efforts. The Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce had established a foundation to accept funds after the devastating flooding in their county in September of 2022.

Grand Master Kessler was joined by officers of the Grand Lodge and a host of brethren from local lodges - Chattooga (704), Lyerly (338), Trion (160), and Alpine (211) - for the presentation. Also present were the mayor of Summerville, Harry Harvey, and the County Commissioner, Blake Elsberry.

Grand Master Kessler explained the lessons in charity taught to Masons during their first entrance into Freemasonry. He also spoke of the value of community and Freemasonry's role in it. The elected officials and members of the Chamber of Commerce expressed their gratitude for the generous donation.

Tallapoosa Lodge No. 126 donated money to purchase some stetson hats to help improve the morale of some of our service members. What follows is an email from SFC Shawn Edison:

From myself, SFC Shawn Eidson, and on behalf of the Mortar Section of Outlaw Troop, 4th Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, would like to apologize for our late "thank you" for your extremely generous donation. We have been very busy and in the field training with very little connectivity to the outside world.

Award to Scouter Liam Randolph Reed. Your donation of \$2,500 allowed me to purchase 12, 1865
Black Cavalry Sietsons, and the Infantry blue hat cord for all my
soldiers. The guys had no idea that they were going to be gifted with a Stetson hat and infantry hat cord and they were
all very excited when they received them. I have attached a picture with all the guys wearing their hats that the lodge donated the funds for us to purchase. There
were two soldiers that could not be in the picture due to still being away on a training mission.

The hats have really given the guys a great sense of esprit de corps and has allowed them to stand out in formation amongst all the Cavalry Scouts that wear the yellow hat cord. See, we are infantry soldiers that are attached to this Cavalry unit and are a very small section compared to all of the Scout soldiers. There are 785 soldiers in our squadron (44 Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment) and 102 soldiers in my troop (Outlaw Troop). Out of the entire squadron there are only 36 of us that are infantry soldiers the rest are all cavalry scouts. Our mortar section is the only section in the whole squadron where all soldiers have the Cavalry Stetson and blue hat cord. This allows us to show our pride and stewardship of the profession in the Infantry amongst all the Cavalry soldiers or as we like to call them... "want to be Infantry"!

A little history of the Cavalry Stetson, it is a cavalry traditional headgear dating back to the late 1860s and worn by cavalrymen or attached infantry soldiers. Legend has it that in 1964 the hat was adopted to raise esprit de corps in the new era cavalry squadron and was meant to look similar to the campaign hat worn by the original Cavalry Trooper. A "wetting down" ceremony is held for new Soldiers to be accepted as members of the Cavalry troop. Before they can wear their Stetson, they "chug-a-lug," a hatful of random liquid and condiments. The crossed sabers adorning the Stetson is another traditional icon symbolizing the original weapon of the Cavalry Trooper. There are many traditions of the Cavalry, but these are the most dominant and well-known customs. They set Cavalry Troopers apart and honor the lineage of the Cavalry Regiment. Once again, behalf of myself and all the soldiers of the Mortar Section, Outlaw Troop, 44 Squadron, 2d Cavalry
Regiment, we sincerely thank you for your generous donation of \$2,500. The soldiers wear their hats with the utmost pride. They wear their Cavalry Stetson to show their respect and to symbolize the honor and traditions of the soldiers before them, and for the soldiers that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. Additionally, the Mortar Section will be sending you a plaque with the attached picture and a few kind words along with all the soldiers signing it.

My First Year in the Craft

By Brother William Brewer Fayetteville Lodge No. 711 **COMMENTARY**

The beginning of my journey into masonry and the most impactful lesson thus far:

As a young man growing up in Georgia and as a young adult. I had known a few brothers and like many I had heard all the misleading rumors about the fraternity. But never really had a chance to see the true side of it. I never really took the time to get to know a brother to see the faith, hope and charity that envelops the craft and its members. As I've gotten older and more mature in my own life and learned to look at things for more than face value. It was about a year and a half ago that found out that a man that I've known and respected. was a mason, because he shared a lodge BBQ flyer on his Facebook page. And that was it. I ask him and that started my journey. It has been a year of hurry up and wait, work, memorization and finding my place among my new family, my home away from home.

It's kind of funny looking back at the stages of my life thus far. First part of my young adult life it was work all day all night no matter what I did I poured myself into it 110%. I never slowed down and pushed towards what my immature mind thought being a man and successful meant.

Then I met my wonderful wife jessie and we started our family. now in this part or new beginning in my life I shifted into "father mode" and this in my immature mind, in line with what I thought it meant to be a man. I put more into work, more time, more effort. Non stop work even at home I was not at home my mind still running in over time.

This continued for many years. I made time for church and other events that would come up. But I had no balance and because of this I became burnt out. my inability to be with my family as I desired to (and to be honest I still struggle to turn off work in my brain when at home).

So, I stepped away from my chosen career after I could not find balance in life. Even though I did not know that's what was missing. I stumbled around a while and after a knee injury. I fell into working for myself. (No pun intended) And with that I found the ability to have better balance. Now life is busy with three kiddos running around. Ball games and school events. but much better balance.

Then I start the process of joining my local lodge #711 a building and group of people I have come to love. The start was slow at first, everyone I met treaded me with respect and welcomed me happily into the lodge. Now I could right volumes on all the wonderful lessons I've learned thus far in my new journey. I would like to look at one of the lessons that has had the biggest impact and looking back in my life I can see this principle coming to pass as I have matured as a person, husband, father and man. Even though I did not have something to call it at the time. The principle of the 24inch gage was shaping in my life.

As soon as I heard the working tools explained and the 24inch gage. It hit me like a ton of bricks and put a name to the principle in my heart and as I looked closely at some things in my life, made some changes that are still on going. But the balance in God, family, self and work is getting better every day. I am excited for the future in my life and I am excited for my future in the craft.

Thank you, God, for my first year at Fayetteville #711 for the lessons learned and for the ones I've yet to learn. For the brothers earned and people touched through charity. Lord, may you loving hands guide us and keep us.

So mote it be.

New Masonic Year

By MWB Jan Giddens Kennesaw Lodge No. 33



With the election and installation of the Lodges of our Grand Lodge behind us, it is time to do the work that we promised we would do as part of the installation. I would encourage every officer both elected and appointed reread your part of the installation, you can find it in Volume 1 of the Masonic Manuel. Every office uses similar language to re-enforce the serious nature of being a lodge officer, from the Worshipful Master to the Tyler you hear "faithful discharge", "regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested", "vigilance and attention", "zeal and attachment". Being a lodge officer is a commitment of your time and talent, whether this is your first time in a chair or called upon to serve again, it requires of each us prove ourselves worthy of this important trust.

The progressive nature of the chairs is to prepare us to one day assume the East, so not only are we learning along the way we are showing our brethren that we are prepared for the next chair. Progression is NOT a right but should be based on merit, if a lodge continues to move up an officer who doesn't show up regularly to lodge communications, practices or participate in lodge activities that will be the type of Master you will have. It is difficult to complain about your lodge direction when you have elected officers not committed to the lodge. The Grand Lodge Leadership Conference is a great tool to prepare officers for leadership and to make our lodges successful.

Peace and harmony MUST exist if any lodge is to succeed. The Tyler installation contains some beautiful language and advice for all of us and our lodges, "so it should admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch at our lips, post a sentinel over our actions, thereby preventing the approach of every unworthy thought or deed, and preserving consciences void of offense toward GOD and man."

Planning For a Grand Master Visit

I cannot thank the many Lodges in Georgia for the many courtesies shown me as I visited your Lodge. The food was always exceptionable, and I loved seeing the many different Lodge Halls looking at your charter and the treasures that each Lodge has. But it was always the fellowship with my Brothers that was the highlight of every visit. If your Lodge has not had a Grand Master visit you should plan to do so, the Grand Master will not come unless you invite him.

For a Worshipful Master a visit from the Grand Master can be the event of your year in the East, but it can be overwhelming as well. The invitation, the food, cleaning up the Lodge, committee assignments, and the scariest part, the reception of the Grand Master. Planning is essential, fortunately the Grand Lodge has a wonderful resource to assist your lodge, the book "Masonic Etiquette" has everything you need to know to plan a successful visit.

The planning should start when you are serving as Junior Warden or Senior Warden. Look at the list of Grand Lodge Officers and determine who will most likely be Grand Master when you are Worshipful Master and reach out to them. Many Grand Lodge Officers begin taking visit request early so if you want a visit schedule early. Inviting Grand Lodge Officers to visit is a good idea too, it is a good way to get to know that future Grand Master and build a relationship with him. Remember the Grand Master is elected by the craft, the better you know these men the more confidence you will have in them as they assume the Grand East.

For many Grand Masters no Lodge is too small or too far away to visit if they are invited. Some Lodges have never had a Grand Master visit, or it has been a long time since the last visit. Plan a visit as part of your year as Worshipful Master, it will help your year memorable and successful.

Finally, remember that the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers serve and work for you and are willing to assist your Lodge in any way they can. This time together will be as meaningful to the Grand Master as it is to your Lodge.

What is Your Elevator Speech?



By Worshipful Brother Kevin M.Nishimura Mt. Hermon No. 304

Have you ever ridden in an elevator or stood in the checkout line at the grocery store, and someone pointed to your Masonic ring and said, "my granddaddy was a Mason". What was your response? I must admit that at first, I would not have known how to respond, other than with some uplifting form of politeness. There are thousands of books on the art of starting a conversation, and how to "think on your feet". This paper is not an instructional guide to one of the seven liberal arts and sciences, namely rhetoric; rather my goal is to share my experiences and perhaps give some inspiration to help you refine your elevator speech.

I was made a Mason in Mt. Hermon No. 304 F & A.M. of Columbus in 2016. Fortunately, I had the abundance of wise counsel from many learned Past Masters as they prepared me over the years to potentially ascend the three steps of the dais in 2022. At first if you were to ask, "What do Masons do?", I would have responded with: "We are a fraternal organization that does benevolent work, our main emphasis is raising money to support the Masonic Children's Home in Macon, GA". I was able to deliver it with confidence because I believed in what we did.

Then one day it happened, it was the follow-up question I was not prepared for: "Who do you support locally?" This was not one of those defining moments where my words or actions would define my character, but it was a legitimate question that deserved an answer and a question that moved me out of my comfort zone and became the catalyst to reevaluate my goals for my presumptive term in the East. I attended the 2019

Leadership Conference - MWPGM Michael H. Wilson Class when I was the Senior Deacon. Following the conference, I began to incorporate the lessons learned into a plan but 2022 was three years away. There was no time to waste, the die was struck, it was time to socialize the concept with the brethren.

A little history is needed to put things into perspective. Columbian Lodge No. 28 F & A.M. was chartered in 1828, two months before Columbus, Georgia became a city. One score and one year later, Columbian Lodge was renumbered to No. 7. Columbus was a frontier town and was established as a trading post to strengthen the western border of Georgia. So according to the timeline, Freemasonry is unarguably the oldest and longest continuously operating fraternity in Columbus. Freemasons were known throughout Columbus because they were pastors, judges, doctors, and business owners. Masonic parades and the laying of cornerstones were published in the local newspaper. These events were well attended by many distinguished members of the community. Although they may have not been above the fold headlines, they were stories worthy of not being buried among the classified ads. The local newspaper was also a way to communicate the meeting dates and other announcements to the members and visiting brethren. The point is, Freemasons were a visible presence in the community.

What happened? How did we go from being front and center in the community to becoming unknowns hidden in the metaphorical shadows of what the public perceives us today as a secret society? My goal in 2022 was not to try and change public perception, but to begin on a journey to restore that which was lost: our prominence in the community.

Columbus and just across the Chattahoochee River is Phenix City, AL, who form the Bi-City Community. Annually, they co-sponsor the Bi-City Annual Holiday Parade. The Shriners, DeMolay, and Rainbow Girls have participated in years past, but to my knowledge, not the Blue Lodges in Columbus. I attempted to organize where the six Blue Lodges would march in the parade under one banner, the Columbus Masonic Community. The pandemic disallowed the endeavor for 2020 and 2021, but in 2022 it came into fruition. It was a small gathering, but every Blue Lodge was represented. We carried a parade banner, waved to the crowd, and handed out candy to the children while being televised and represented on social media. Along the way you could see the brethren gesturing to people they knew in the crowd. I shared those same experiences, but what drove it home for me was when I made eye-to-eye contact with the Director of an organization of whom accepted a donation from our Lodge just days before. She admitted not knowing anything of Freemasonry but seeing us in the parade she now knows firsthand that we are a visible presence in the community. This alone made the parade a success, and with the enjoyment it created among the other Lodges, there are now discussions for more formal planning.

Our Lodge experienced much success in 2022 with regards to fundraising. Our efforts enabled us to not only donate greater amounts to the organizations we previously assisted but helped to establish new relationships with other organizations in need within the community. We capitalized on the influence of social media to show that Freemasons are a visible presence in the community. Harnessing the influence of social media as part of your marketing and advertising strategy is a topic for a different day,

my aim here is to demonstrate that to be a visible presence in the community, you must have a diversity of relationships with local organizations to impact a broader audience. The key is recognition, there must be verifiable events to corroborate your relationships. When your Lodge is "tagged" in a social media post for its charitable work, that event has the potential to influence a global audience, versus the limited viewing area of the evening news. These organizations can also influence your fundraising success by sharing your events. Visualize a local benevolent organization in your community that has a large social media following to post the following: "The Masons from Your Lodge Name No. _ have supported us throughout the year by helping us to defray the costs of feeding the homeless in the community from their generous donations. Help them to achieve success by visiting their fireworks stand at 7550 Veterans Pkwy in Columbus."

Today, in 2023, I can carry on a conversation if someone comments on my Masonic ring, but most importantly, I am prepared to answer the question: "Who do you support locally?" In summary, to become a visible presence in the community, Lodges must reestablish or create symbiotic relationships with local organizations who will use their social media influences to promote us in a positive light, but we must be able to speak intelligently to the work they do and how our efforts help to enrich the lives of those they serve.

Change Ain't Good...right?

By Worshipful Brother Erik Davis Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154

One of the most fundamental human emotions is fear, and one of the things that people fear most is change. This fear of change is deeply rooted in our nature and has been with us since the earliest days of human civilization. Change can be a scary thing because it represents the unknown. When something changes, we are no longer in control and we are forced to adapt to new circumstances. This can be difficult and stressful, especially if the change is sudden or unexpected.

But despite this fear, change is an inevitable part of life. Nothing stays the same forever, and the only constant in the world is change itself. From the smallest personal decision to the largest global event, change is always happening and always will be.

Some people are better at dealing with change than others. Some people thrive on change and seek it out, while others avoid it at all costs. But no matter how we feel about it, change is something that we all must confront at some point in our lives.

One of the biggest fears that people have about change is the fear of failure. When something changes, there is a risk that things will not go as planned and that we will be unable to adapt to the new situation. This fear can hold us back and prevent us from taking risks and trying new things.

But the truth is that change is not something to be feared. Change can bring new opportunities, growth, and progress. It can open up new doors and introduce us to new experiences and ideas. And even if things don't always go as planned, change can teach us valuable lessons and help us to become stronger and more resilient.

Refusing to change is detrimental to society because it stifles progress and innovation. When people are afraid of change, they are less likely to take risks and try new things. This can lead to stagnation and a lack of growth in society.

For example, imagine a society that is afraid of change and is unwilling to try new technologies or ideas. This society will be stuck using the same



old methods and technologies, even if they are outdated or inefficient. As a result, this society will fall behind other societies that are willing to embrace change and innovate.

Furthermore, refusing to change can lead to conflict and division within society. When people are afraid of change, they may resist or reject new ideas and ways of doing things. This can create tension and conflict within society, as people with different views and opinions struggle to coexist.

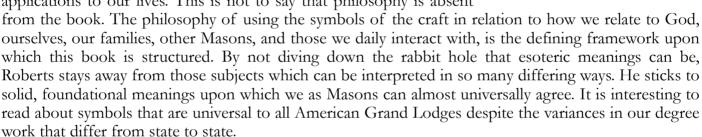
Additionally, refusing to change can prevent individuals from reaching their full potential. When people are afraid of change, they may be afraid to take risks and try new things. This can hold them back and prevent them from achieving their goals and realizing their dreams.

As we are taught, Freemasonry is a progressive science that has the potential to usher in a new era of change. As members of this fraternity, it is up to us to use our knowledge and understanding to help others raise their level of awareness and consciousness. We should be the mental architects of our communities, using our working tools to help shape a better society. This means being open to new ideas and ways of thinking, and being willing to challenge our own beliefs and assumptions. It also means being proactive in our efforts to help others grow and develop.

In this way, we can be the catalysts for a new era in human history, helping to usher in a period of re-enlightenment. By working together, we can help to create a society that is more just, more compassionate, more tolerant, and more understanding. It is up to us to take the lead in this effort, and to use our knowledge and understanding to help others reach their full potential. In conclusion, the fear of change is a major obstacle to progress and growth, both as individuals and as a society. As Freemasons, we have a responsibility to overcome our fears and embrace the opportunities that change can bring. After all, Albert Einstein said "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." So, let us broaden our minds and make the world a better place, one step at at time. What are you so afraid Book Review by F. Scott Kroll
The Craft and Its Symbols
Allen E. Roberts
Macoy Publishing
Available from the Publisher for \$16.00

When we are Initiated, Passed, and Raised through the three degrees of the Blue Lodge, we are subject to a plethora of symbols and symbolic ritual. It is difficult to take it all in from experiencing it one time. Even with seeing these degrees conferred multiple times, it can be difficult to catch every meaning and the depth of every lecture. *The Craft and Its Symbols* by Allen E. Roberts is a straightforward look at the symbols of the three degrees of Craft Masonry and serves to give the new Mason a point of reference for that which may have seemed overwhelming during their degree work, and serves as a great starting point for the experienced Mason who is looking for a deeper understanding of his journey in Masonry.

This book stays accessible by forgoing the more esoteric meanings that can be associated with our ritual. It focuses on symbolism as it relates to building our symbolic lodge through more practical applications to our lives. This is not to say that philosophy is absent



THE CRAFT

The book is divided into three sections, each relating to one of the degrees. Each section is then further split into sub sections. This structure makes for a straight-forward read and makes the book useful as a resource for further study. The book is moderately illustrated with pictures showing various parts of the Hiramic legend. Each of the different items on the tracing boards for the three degrees are printed right above the sections of the text that discuss those particular objects. This also makes using the book for cross-referencing in the course of further study that much easier. There are also several Masonic poems at different points in the book used to help introduce ideas touched upon in the following sections. There is a foreword by Alphonse Cerza who collaborated on some parts of the book and a preface by the author describing his aims in writing the book.

The Craft and Its Symbols has a presentation page on which you can write who is giving this as a gift, who is receiving it, as well as the date it was given. Giving this gift to a new Mason beginning his journey in Freemasonry will help deepen his understanding of the craft. Given to the experienced Mason, it will serve not only as a just good refresher course on the symbols of the Craft, it can also become an excellent starting-point for deeper study into Masonic Symbolism. You can order it directly from Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company for a very reasonable price. Why not order several copies for your next class of newly raised Master Masons? The read will be well worth their time and yours!





William Q. Brackett Eton #509



Winford D. Casey Tallapoosa #126



Curtis W. Thompson Tallapoosa #126



Wayne T. Thompson Tallapoosa #126



Willard M. Robinson Tallapoosa #126



Lee Mullins Pickens Star #220



Gene T. Smith Bowdon #206



Ronald A. Crowe Latham #12



Frederick D. Stone Latham #12



Robert Grezeskiewicz Lincolnton #354



Billy J. Goldman Lincolnton #354



Kenneth L. Pipkin Ocean #214



Don Shearon Snellville #99



Tommy Cheek Coosawattee #306



Ruel T. Hice Blue Ridge #67



Johnnie H. Bottoms Matt #694



Bobby O Peacock Swainsboro #244



Hugh C. Murphy Carnesville #186



Robert R. Morris Screven #368



Ben J. Payne Phi Delta #148



Chehaw #701



Freddie D. Bishop Kenneth J. Holtzclaw Matt #694



Larry J. Westray Matt #694



Hubert B. Padgett Tucker #42



John Lindsey Middle Georgia DL #756 Stockbridge #691



Scott H. Packard



Charlie D. Hall Worth #194



Louis Dohanich Bigham #53 55 Years



Earl Gaskins Pickens Star #220 55 Years



Paul Crowe Pickens Star #220 55 Years



Donald E. Haygood, Sr. Blue Mountain #38



Ralph Brown Tallapoosa #126



Robert F. Griner Swainsboro #244



Paul Buckner Riverdale #709



Paul E. Weatherby Sharptop #680 65 Years



Joe E. Turner Hampton #70



Robert B. Cook Tucker #42

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Allen, Ernest Nelson	6
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Hanson, Melvin Martel	7
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Murphy, Foster Frank	16
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Hollis, Wayman Charles	22
Scarborough, Robert Morris	25
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Golder, Donald Alden	35
Wigley, Marvin Wayne	38
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Williams, James Larry	219
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Elsner, Jesse Eugene	289
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Bagwell, Harold Lee	292
Tuttle, Richard Vernon	292
Bolden, John Paul	298
Land, Melvin Leo	298

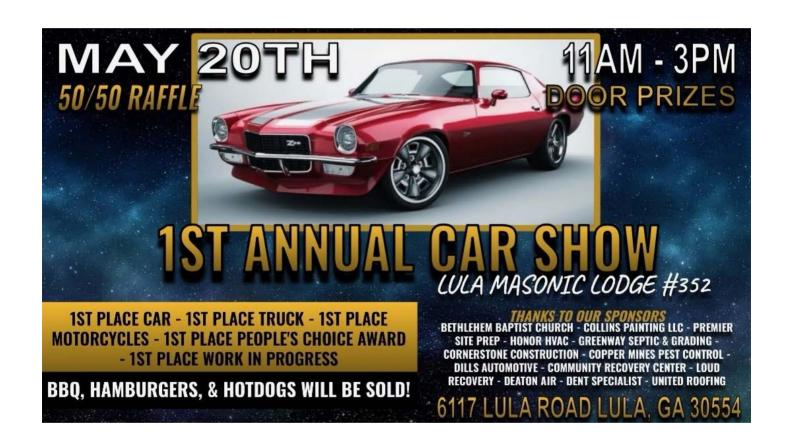
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Norris, Herman Denzil	309
Stowe, James Daniel	309
Hay, William McInvale	310
Lamar Sr., Henry Clayton	312
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Lawhorne Sr., Charles Eugene	523
Bandy, William Franklin	542
Rich, Calvin Odis	572
Roper, Marcus Franklin	572

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McBride Jr., Robert Clyde	579
Wilson, Dorsey Lee	586
Whitfield, Donald MacK	680
Hale, Timothy Rene	693
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Sosebee, Thomas Walter	702
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Newby, Barge Darrell	711
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McClellan, Willie Rodney	716
Tucker, John Edward	716
Logan, Richard Milledge	718
Avery, Jimmy Trifon	719
Bookhoop, George Allen	722
Deloach Jr., Homer Hinton	722
Johnson, Charles Richard	730
Kidd Jr., Elvin Linzy	734
Sowell, John Bowden	734
Woodall, Hershell	734
Bishop, J. O.	5000
Pierce, William Ray	5000

The Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons Masonic Messenger 811 Mulberry Street Macon, Georgia 31201-6779

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The "Grand Lodge of Georgia" Store is now online at

https://av8rstuff.com/GLofGAindex.html

While many items are from the "Kids Store" (we're working in partnership with them), we are also going to be offering many new and unique items for our many Masons in Georgia to show their pride, leading their friends and neighbors to inquire as to what a Freemason is and what we're all about. We are excited about the new outlet we Georgia Masons have to obtain the items we want.

You can also find the link on the Grand Lodge of Georgia website or can contact "Whitey" White (478-997-1011) or Ivy Smith (478-731-6050)