

Masonic Messenger



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

Summer 2024

*Promoting Fraternalism
within the State of Georgia
for the good of all.*



Benjamin W. Polston, II
Grand Master

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. 133

SUMMER 2024

No. 1

Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
Deputy Grand Master	Mark A. Bradley (36, 766)
Senior Grand Warden	Bill Shepard (717, 214)
Junior Grand Warden	Brian C. Coffey (271, 749, 710)
Grand Treasurer	Jeffery L. Anderson (200, 376, 06)
Grand Secretary	Van S. McGee (26, 70)
Grand Chaplain	Frank J. Batt, III (376, 06)
Grand Marshal	William M. Jones (06)
Grand Orator	Michael H. Wilson (06)
Senior Grand Deacon	Tom D. Bruce (42, 216)
Junior Grand Deacon	Scott W. Johnson (68, 376)
First Grand Steward	Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)
Second Grand Steward	W. David Baxter (35)
Third Grand Steward	Jeff L. Smith (131, 2)
Grand Tyler	Bradley L. Johnson (135)

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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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FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER

TYPE or PRINT information requested and mail to the
Grand Lodge address on the back cover.

Name in Full _____

Lodge Name and Number _____

If you have moved, PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ABOVE
TO THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA along with your new address.

Lodge Name and Number _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Remember, it is your responsibility to make certain your address is correct.
Be certain your Lodge secretary has your correct address.
Current addresses are kept in the Grand Secretary's Office in Macon.
The Editor of the Masonic Messenger DOES NOT keep a list of addresses.



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

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=Ilx-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

Now Available

You may now find the 2024 Georgia List of Lodges, Officers Planning Tool, and DDGM Contacts under My Portal on Grand View.

Grand View Secretary Training

The Grand Lodge Office is encouraging secretary training in all districts. Anyone can attend the training classes. Please contact the Grand Lodge Office if you are interested in organizing a training class.

2024 District Conventions

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Host Lodge</u>
1st District	March 23, 2024	10:00AM	Hinesville	Hinesville Lodge No. 271
2nd District	February 24, 2024	9:00AM	Albany	Dougherty Lodge No. 591
3rd District	March 16, 2024	10:00AM	Dawson	P.T. Schley Lodge No. 229
4th District	August 17, 2024	9:45AM	Greenville Lodge No. 321	Loftin Lodge No. 688
5th District	September 14, 2024	9:00AM	Tucker	Tuker Lodge No. 42
6th District	May 4, 2024	9:00AM	Griffin @ Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26	Mabel Lodge No. 255
7th District	May 10 & 11, 2024	9:00AM	Rome	Cherokee Lodge No. 66
8th District	May 18, 2024	9:00AM	Loganville	Fergus Lodge No. 135
9th District	September 28, 2024	9:00AM	Clarkesville Lodge No. 325	Mt. Airy Lodge No. 141
10th District	June 8, 2024	10:00AM	Louisville	Stonewall Lodge No. 98
11th District	September 21, 2024	10:00AM	Blackshear	Blackshear Lodge No. 270
12th District	April 20, 2024	9:00AM	Dublin	Laurens Lodge No. 75

Procedures for Grand Lodge Communication October 22nd and 23rd 2024

For ALL members including committee members.

Please log into Grand View, bring up your account and click on Pre-register for 2024 (blue banner). Open the download file and print your credentials. Bring your scan bar credentials sheet with you AND your DUES CARD.

Please remember to bring your Aprons!

We will be using electronic voting again this year and believe you will like the time savings and immediate results.

When you arrive at Grand Lodge you will check in at registration and pick up electronic fobs and voting panels, you may then enter the Grand Lodge Session and receive your Grand Master's Address.
Lodge Per Capita must be up to date or Lodge Representatives will be denied voting credentials.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Hickman at jhickman@glofga.org.

Grand Lodge Information

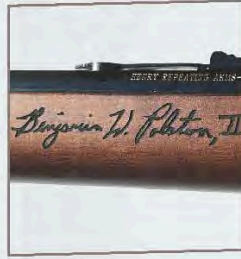
Grand Lodge 238th Annual Communication will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd, convening in the EX Hall A Convention Center of the Macon Centreplex, at 9:00 AM. Out of state guests and vendors will be present. Complete information will also be posted on Grand View. More details are available in this issue of the Masonic Messenger.

2024 Code Bills

The 2024 Code Bills will be available in the next issue of the Masonic Messenger. The Grand Masters Address and 2024 Code Bills will also be in your member portal on Grand View, on or before October 1st, 2024.

Win a Commemorative Henry Golden Boy Rifle!

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY WITH THIS SPECIAL GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA EDITION RIFLE, ENGRAVED WITH GRAND MASTER BENJAMIN POLSTON'S SIGNATURE AND SEAL



\$20 per ticket
6 tickets for **\$100**

Promoting Freemasonry in
Georgia.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the 238th Annual Communication
on Oct 22nd 2024

To promote Fraternalism within the
State of Georgia for the good of all
Masons
Benjamin W. Polston, II
Grand Master



Tickets will be available for purchase through the Grand Lodge Office, Grand Lodge Officers, DDGMs, District Masters, and anywhere and everywhere the Grand Master will be.

Additionally, each Lodge in the State will be mailed \$100 Dollars' worth (6) of tickets and encouraged to sell or purchase their tickets.

CHARLIE LONG BARN DEGREE

Saturday, October 5th, 2024



The Annual Barn Degree will be held at

Charlie Long's Farm

695 Orr Mill Rd SE

Ranger, Georgia 30734

On Saturday, October 5th, 2024

Gates Open Early! Degree at 3pm!

Come and Enjoy the Farm and Fellowship by the Creek!

Activities and Entertainment for Ladies!

Master Mason Degree will Begin at 3pm.

Admission \$15 Per Person. BBQ will be Served!

Degree Conferred by Brethren of the 9th District

All Master Mason's are Invited and urged to Attend!

Proceeds got to the Travel Fund for the Incoming Grand Master!



JOIN US FOR A

50/50
RAFFLE

SILENT
AUCTION



ROAST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024
5:30PM

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY
GRAND MASTER MARK BRADLEY

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ATLANTA, GA 30308

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SMOKED CHICKEN & ALL THE TRIMMINGS!

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OR MAIL CHECKS
PAYABLE TO UNITY LODGE #36
PO BOX 1129
JEFFERSON, GA 30549



\$50
PER TICKET

71st Annual Rock Quarry Communication

August 24, 2024

Morganton, Ga. 30560 Brawley Mountain

Dinner at the Spring 12-3:30 PM

Gate to Quarry Opens at 3:30 PM

Lodge opens at 6 PM

If heading North on 515/Appalachian Hwy, go to the 8th traffic light (there will be An Exxon Station with a Dunkin Donut on corner) and turn right onto Ga 60. In .54 miles, this will come to a dead end/stop sign, and you turn left to continue on Ga.60. In 1.45 miles (just past post office), you will turn right to continue on Ga. 60. In 7.5 miles, the Quarry will be on your right, and the spring where the food will be served is just .5 miles past that point. Signs will be posted along the route. Come on out and join us for a great even-ing. The Master's Degree will be performed by the Fellowcraft Team from Dooly Lodge No. 367.



Introducing Worshipful Brother Jeffery Anderson Grand Treasurer

Recently the Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Most Worshipful Grand Master announced the resignation of Worshipful Brother Paul Carter from his role as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. To fill his place, Grand Master Ben Polston announced the appointment of the Grand Tyler, Worshipful Brother Jeffery Anderson as the new Grand Treasurer. The Grand Master also nominated a new Grand Tyler for the remaining Masonic year—Worshipful Brother Bradley Johnson. The Masonic Messenger would like to reintroduce all our readers to Worshipful Brother Anderson and introduce everyone to Worshipful Brother Johnson. What follows is a reprint of the biography of Worshipful Brother Anderson and the biography of Worshipful Brother Johnson.

I was born in Clifton Forge, VA, and spent my early years in Clifton Forge. Schools are a treasure trove of memories and the beginning of friendships that have lasted a lifetime – and thanks to the wonders of social media, we're all still connected.

In high school, I threw myself into sports, dabbling in football, basketball, baseball, and track. But it was the gridiron where I truly felt at home. My passion for football followed me to college at East Tennessee State University, where I proudly played on a football scholarship. Two standout moments? Beating Terry Bradshaw and Louisiana Tech in his final college game – Terry and I have remained friends since – and being the first to graduate in four years with an engineering degree while playing football.

My stint with Western Electric in Winston Salem, North Carolina, was cut short when the draft called my number. Before I knew it, I was off to basic training and Southeast Asia – a place whose actual name stirs up memories I'd instead leave untouched.

Returning stateside, I jumped back into work with Western Electric, which soon led me to the secret shores of the Marshall Islands with Bell Laboratories for two years. My career path then wove through various roles within the Bell System – from South Central Bell to BellSouth, and finally to AT&T. I eventually landed in Atlanta, finishing my career as Director of Facilities and Planning.

On the home front, I'm blessed with my wonderful wife of 26 years, Penelope Elliott Anderson. She's my rock, keeping me active and happy. My two sons, one in Louisiana with his family and the other in Kentucky, pridefully filled me. They're good men, devoted to their families, and have given me two grandchildren – a lively 9-year-old boy and a 29-year-old granddaughter who's making her way in Louisiana.

My Masonic journey mirrors the diversity of my professional life. Raised a Master Mason on March 3, 2011, I've since served as the Past Master of Walton Lodge #200. I'm deeply involved in the Masonic community, from the Scottish Rite Valley of Middle Georgia, where I'm a 32° KCCH, to Covington York Rite's past leadership positions. I'm active in Cherokee Rose Priory #56 KYCH, the Red Cross of Constantine New Convent Conclave, W Joe Clarke York Rite College #203, and Henry Hooper Council # 312 of the Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees. Additionally, I'm a Legion of Honor Member at Al Sihah Shrine and a two-time Past Worthy Patron at the Madison Chapter #335 Order of the Eastern Star.

Each step in Freemasonry has been as enriching as the last, and I look forward to continuing this fulfilling journey.



Introducing Worshipful Brother Bradley Johnson Grand Tyler

WB Bradley Lanier Johnson has lived a life deeply rooted in Loganville, Georgia. Born and raised in this close-knit community, Brad, who turns 61 in July, has dedicated his life to his family, business, and Fraternity. A 1981 graduate of Loganville High School, Brad's journey through life has been marked by unwavering commitment and service.

Brad is the proud owner and operator of The Lawn Connection LLC in Loganville, a business that has flourished under his guidance for over 23 years. His fantastic wife of 35 years, Tammy Johnson, has raised two sons, Myles and Mason. Myles is a Special Education teacher and Head Wrestling Coach at Loganville High School, while Mason, who holds a degree in Turf Management, collaborates with Brad at The Lawn Connection. Mason is married to Joy, and they have blessed Brad and Tammy with a granddaughter, Nell Bradley Johnson.

Brad is also an avid Georgia Football fan. For 42 years, he has sat in the same seats at Sanford Stadium. Tailgating with his family and enjoying the game is a highlight of their college football season.

Brad's Masonic journey began when he was raised as a Master Mason at Fergus Lodge No. 135 on May 2, 1996. His passion for Masonry quickly grew, and he served as the Worshipful Master of Fergus Lodge in 2002. For over a decade, Brad has held the position of Secretary at Fergus Lodge, a role he took over from Worshipful Brother Donald Allgood, who served as Secretary for 25 years.

Brad is grateful to the men who have helped shape his journey in Masonry—especially the mentorship he received from Worshipful Brothers Wendell H Gieger, Jerald Trentham, and Robert Wing.

In addition to his service at Fergus Lodge, Brad is an active member of the Yaarab Shrine and the Loganville Shrine Club, having joined the Shrine on December 22, 2017. His involvement in York Rite Masonry began on February 1, 2014, further expanding his commitment to the Masonic fraternity.

Brad says his proudest moment in Freemasonry was raising his son, Mason, as a Master Mason on September 15, 2022. "Raising my son twice is a father's dream come true." This significant milestone is a testament to Brad's strong family values and Masonic traditions.

Brad has been actively involved in various charitable activities throughout his Masonic career. He's particularly proud of his Lodge's "12 Days of Christmas" gun raffle, an annual event that raises significant funds for those in need. Last year, the event raised \$10,000, which was used to purchase gifts and essentials for families during the holiday season. And a golf tournament, named in honor of mentor WB Robert Wing, took in another \$17,000 to benefit charities.

Brad's leadership and dedication were further recognized when he served as Worshipful Master of the 8th Masonic District of Georgia for the 2023-2024 term. During his tenure, he visited all 30 lodges in the district, making over 80 lodge visits, a testament to his commitment to fostering camaraderie and brotherhood among Masons.

Now, as he steps into the role of Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Georgia under the guidance of Most Worshipful Grand Master Ben Polston, Brad is filled with a sense of honor and responsibility. He is grateful for the support of the brethren at Fergus Lodge and looks forward to continuing his service to the Masonic community.

Brad Johnson's life is a testament to family, service, and brotherhood values. His unwavering dedication to the Masonic fraternity and his community inspires all who have the privilege of knowing him. As he embarks on this new chapter as Grand Tyler, Brad remains committed to helping those in need and fostering the bonds of brotherhood that make Masonry such a vital and enduring institution. All with the complete support of his incredible wife, who would often ask him, "Don't you have Lodge tonight?"

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today!

"Every child deserves a voice,
and we're making that possible."

- Erica Wilson, M. ED, CCC-SLP

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Georgia of
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With your donation, we can help
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to fund early interventions for
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disorders at low or no cost.

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\$33.33 recurring monthly gift can support
multiple children and purchase supplies

\$300 supports a child for one academic year

\$3000 supports 10 children for
one academic year

Three Ways to Give

- Scan the QR Code
- Visit www.gascottishrite.org
- Send check payable to
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P. O. Box 7927
Warner Robins, GA 31095





**GRAND
CHAPTER**
Joey E. Jackson
ME Grand High Priest



**GRAND
COUNCIL**
Timothy K. Starling
MI Grand Master



**GRAND
COMMANDERY**
Tyler W. Pledger
RE Grand Commander

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

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



Joey E. Jackson
ME Grand High Priest



Timothy K. Starling
MI Grand Master



Tyler W. Pledger
RE Grand Commander

The Grand York Rite Session was held during the first week of May and a new slate of officers was elected. Joey E. Jackson was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Timothy K. Starling, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Georgia and Tyler W. Pledger, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. Brandon P. Simmons was elected as the Excellent Grand Master of 1st Veil, Grand Chapter of Georgia. Peter D. Bard was elected as Illustrious Grand Steward of the Grand Council of Georgia. John T. Flener, Jr. was elected as Eminent Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

Congratulations to all and we hope for another fantastic year in York Rite Masonry.

2024 Greater Atlanta York Rite Festival

August 17th & August 24th, 2024

Atlanta Masonic Center, 1690 Peachtree St NW Atlanta, GA 30309

- The Chapter and Council degrees will be conferred on **Saturday, August 17th**
- The Orders of the Commandery will be conferred on **Saturday, August 24th**
- Come early each Saturday for fellowship, coffee and refreshments.
- Cost will be \$15 per person per day.
- Run all petitions/candidate fees through local York Rite body prior to the festival.
- **NO VOTING WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE FESTIVAL.**



CONTACT: Tyler W. Pledger, Pres. email: doc42884@aol.com Phone: 706-506-2113

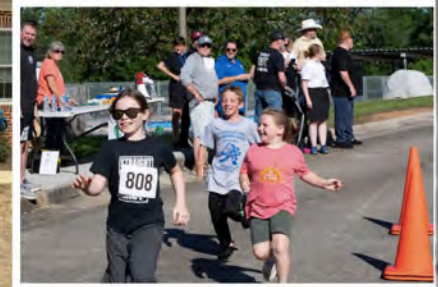
PETITION FOR YORK RITE BODIES
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf>

GEORGIA YORK RITE WEBSITE
www.yorkriteofga.org

FIND YOUR CLOSEST YORK RITE:
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org/yorkrite-by-city.html>

Masonic Home Spring 2024

Alumni Association, Amity #731, Benevolent #3, Dawson #68, Ezel #335, Gordon #240, Harlem #276, Hudson #294, Iron Order MC, Lyons #49, Mabel #255, McIntosh #735, Traveling Men, Worth #194



MASONIC HOME ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT-TABITHA COLEY

Tabitha Coley called The Masonic Home of Georgia her home for 11 years from 1998-2009. Tabitha's parents had a difficult time providing for the family, the death of a child only making matters worse. Tabitha's grandfather was a mason, and it was suggested the children could be cared for better at The Masonic Home.

Tabitha's first impression of the home was feeling afraid and angry. All she saw was that she was being forced to leave her parents. She was welcomed warmly by Mr. Chris and Mr. John which put her at ease. Over time Tabitha grew to love and respect her house parents, Jamie and Tiffany. Missy Adams, the Education Director had a huge impact on Tabitha's life, showing her the value and importance of education. Tabitha went on to Windsor High School where she graduated in 2009. Tabitha is married to her best friend and the love of her life and has three children. Ages 4, 11 and 14. She catches herself often teaching her children the same lessons she learned as a child at The Masonic Home. Professionally she works at the Jones County Sheriff's Office overseeing communications and loves her job.

Tabitha's favorite memories of the home are the trips, especially the manatee trip. As a child her family never took vacations, and she looked forward to the trips the home took. To Tabitha the home was place of light for children coming out of dark places. If it wasn't for the home Tabitha guesses she would be on the streets, doing drugs and trying to survive like so many of the young people that were her childhood peers.



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.

Columbian Lodge No. 7: Witnessing the Legacy of Freemasonry Through the Lewis Jewel Presentation

By Brother Armando Fernandez
Columbian Lodge No. 7

In a stirring and emotional regular communication, the Brethren of Columbian Lodge recently bore witness to a momentous Lewis Jewel Presentation. The Lewis jewel, a revered emblem within Freemasonry, holds profound significance, symbolizing the lineage and legacy passed down through generations. Crafted with meticulous precision, its design features an upper bar inscribed with the father's name and year of initiation, while the lower bar bears the son's details. Additional bars can be added to accommodate multiple generations, creating a tangible representation of familial continuity and commitment to the craft.

During this memorable event, Columbian Lodge No. 7 was privileged to partake in a poignant and heartfelt ceremony as Worshipful Brother Wil Garvin bestowed the esteemed honor upon his father. Hailing from Texas, his father's Masonic journey commenced in King Hiram Lodge 104, in Regina, now Corinthian 72 in Craven, Saskatchewan, Canada—an emblematic reflection of the universal brotherhood that transcends geographical boundaries.

The atmosphere of the ceremony was one of solemnity and reverence, emphasizing the profound connection shared between father and son within the Masonic fraternity. As the Lewis device descended along the chain, it served as a poignant reminder of the unbroken chain of tradition and values that bind Masonic families together.

For Columbian Lodge No. 7, this momentous occasion not only reaffirmed the timeless principles of Freemasonry but also celebrated the enduring spirit of kinship and fellowship that defines the Masonic community. As the Lewis jewel continues to be embraced and honored worldwide, it stands as a symbol of unity, strength, and the timeless bond between generations of Masons.

The Lewis Jewel Presentation at Columbian Lodge No. 7 serves as a poignant reminder of the rich heritage and legacy inherent within Freemasonry—a tradition upheld with unwavering dedication and reverence by Brethren across the globe.



The Masonic Legacy of Selflessness and Patriotism

By Brother Jim Robinson
Fraternal Lodge No. 37

In the hallowed grounds in Arlington, Virginia, a solemn ceremony echoed the Masonic principles of patriotism and selfless service. Most Worshipful Grand Master, Ben Polston, accompanied by Right Eminent Grand Commander Ditmar W. Chavez, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Walter D. Waddell, Jr., and Most Illustrious Grand Master Judd J. Wolfe, within the Grand Line of York Rite, along with distinguished military personnel, gathered in a heartfelt tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This sacred site, a beacon of remembrance and respect, honors the anonymous heroes who sacrificed their lives for the ideals of freedom and democracy.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stands as a powerful symbol, representing the ultimate sacrifice made by countless soldiers, known but to God, in their unwavering commitment to their country. It's a reminder of the price of peace and the valor required to protect the liberties we hold dear.

The wreath-laying ceremony, held in March, was not just a gesture of remembrance but a solidification of the Masonic values of brotherly love, relief, and truth. As the wreath was solemnly placed at the base of the tomb, a poignant silence fell over the crowd. This moment of quiet reflection offered everyone present an opportunity to pay their respects to those who had given their all for their country.

The Grand Lodge of Georgia, a body with a rich tradition of supporting the military and honoring the sacrifices of its members, led this tribute. This event underscored the Masonic commitment to community service and the recognition of valor and sacrifice. The participation of other dignitaries and military personnel added a profound sense of unity and respect for the fallen soldiers.

As the ceremony concluded, the message remained clear: the legacy of those who have fallen in service to their country will forever be etched in our hearts and memories. This event, emblematic of Masonic values served as a reminder of the importance of honoring our heroes, both known and unknown, and the enduring principles for which they bravely fought. In reflecting on this sacred tradition and the Masonic commitment to honoring those who have served, we are reminded of the timeless nature of our fraternal bonds and the principles that guide us. MWB Ben Polston and the Grand Lodge of Georgia's participation in the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington is a testament to the fraternity's dedication to community, country, and the values that define us as Masons. Through these acts of remembrance and respect, the light of Freemasonry shines brightly, illuminating the path of honor, sacrifice, and patriotic devotion.



Exploring the Ties Between Freemasonry and Public Safety: A Visits to Georgia Public Safety Training Center

By Brother Jim Robinson
Fraternal Lodge No. 37

There's no question why many Georgia Masons are drawn to public safety. The Fraternity emphasizes the importance of service to our communities and government, and the relationship between public safety and Freemasonry is long and storied, dating back to



the country's beginnings.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Benjamin Polston, II, saw this allure firsthand while visiting the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth County. The headquarters, which sits on more than a thousand acres, is well-known to those in public service as a comprehensive training ground. The Talmadge Family's incredible donation of nearly 700 acres ensured a head start to this successful program, which has endured since 1980.

Now, ten campuses across the state, offer a wide range of programs to produce

highly qualified, highly skilled police, fire, and emergency personnel who fill many vital roles within public safety.

Worshipful Brother Chuck Odom leads the Law Enforcement Operation at GPSTC. On a beautiful sunny day in May, WB Odom met with Grand Lodge officers, including RWB Mac McGee, a retired law enforcement officer, for a show-and-tell around the massive complex. The day started with explaining the more than 280 courses on law enforcement, firefighting, communications, emergency management, coroner, and jail operations.

The Correctional Training Facility includes "mock components that typify Georgia's county jails, lockups, and other correctional institutions."

Each facility on the campus is meticulously designed to simulate real-life scenarios, providing trainees with practical experience in many disciplines. The Firefighter Complex includes buildings set ablaze with controlled fires, making it the perfect setting for real-world firefighting simulations.

If you listen closely, you'll hear squealing tires and screaming brakes as driving trainers work with future officers. They carefully maneuver around hairpin corners and road barriers, simulating high-speed chases and poor weather conditions. On this day, the Grand Master's car reached speeds over 110 MPH



-- he even got behind the wheel to satisfy his need for speed.

In another area, you'll hear the echoes of gunfire ringing from the Firearms Complex. Grand Master Polston was permitted to pick up a high-power gun and learn proper shooting techniques with a highly skilled marksman and other experts who train recruits to handle deadly weapons safely.

Grand Lodge officers walked around the mock village, a facility that allows recruits to navigate potential situations in a controlled but realistic urban environment.

There's even a dedicated area for natural resources & water rescue training and a special train & rail safety training setup. Each facility is a testament to the commitment to practical and realistic training.

The campus has also invited some of the kids from the Masonic Home of Georgia to learn about potential careers in public safety while giving them a chance to have a little hands-on time.

You can learn more about this facility by visiting gpstc.org.



The Resilient Warrior: Remembering Brother John “Doc” Bahnsen

By Brother Jim Robinson
Fraternal Lodge No. 37



John C. "Doc" Bahnsen Jr. was born in Albany, Georgia, on November 8, 1934 -- and grew up embodying service and leadership, becoming a Brigadier General in the United States Army. His military career, rich in duty and distinction, stretched from 1956 to 1986. Over the three-decade career, he commanded various units including the Bandit Platoon, 118th Assault Helicopter Company, and the Air Cavalry Troop of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He also led the 1st Squadron and 1st Battalion of the 32nd Armored Regiment, as well as the 1st Aviation Brigade.

General Bahnsen's bravery, especially noted during his service in the Vietnam War, earned him many accolades including the Distinguished Service Cross, five Silver Stars, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Legion of Merit awards, four Bronze Stars, fifty-one Air Medals, two

Purple Hearts, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

After his retirement from the military, he continued contributing as a consultant, writer, and upheld the principles of Freemasonry in his everyday life as a farmer. Brother Bahnsen went home to the Celestial Lodge above in Rochelle, Georgia, on February 21, 2024. He was 89.

When Brother Bahnsen took his first steps into Freemasonry at Rochelle Lodge No. 190, in 1957, America was on the brink of new frontiers in space and society. His Masonic journey, which began in this era of progress, was a reflection of his career. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on July 12, 1957, reflecting his commitment to the principles he lived by both as a soldier and a Mason.

His dedication to the fraternity was honored in 2013 when he became an emeritus member of his lodge. His passing marks the end of a life, well-lived in steadfast adherence to the values we cherish in Freemasonry.

And Brother Bahnsen's life and military service also left a lasting impression on the cultural zeitgeist, inspiring the character of Lt. Col. Kilgore in *Apocalypse Now*, leaving as lasting legacy for generations to come.

We salute Brother Bahnsen not only for his service to our nation but for his embodiment of Masonic ideals.

His life story, filled with courage, complexity, and success, resonates deeply within our fraternity and more especially for Georgia Masonry. Inspired by his journey, we are reminded of the impact one individual can have when living by the virtues and values we hold so dear and through serving others.



From Railroads to Reverence: The Timeless Journey of Abba Lodge No. 550's Enduring Legacy

By Brother Jim Robinson

Fraternal Lodge No. 37

Images Courtesy of Worshipful Brother John H. Johnson



In the heart of Irwin County, lies a story of transformation and enduring spirit that intertwines the small community of Abba with the ancient traditions of Freemasonry. More than a century ago, the opening of a U.S. Post Office cemented a town's dot on the map. For Abba, this momentous occasion occurred in 1884, marking not only the birth of a town but also the foundation of what would become a beacon of Masonic light—Abba Lodge No. 550.

The establishment of this lodge in a burgeoning railroad community sowed the seeds of a brotherhood that would flourish in the fertile soil. Under the stewardship of Past Grand Master Henry Banks, a charter was granted to Abba Lodge No. 550 by the Grand Lodge of Georgia in 1909, marking its place in the Masonic fraternity and the community.



Imagine the first Worshipful Master presiding over meetings under the dim glow of kerosene and oil lamps--the soot from the lantern above the altar--



lasting evidence and a testament to countless gatherings. The ambiance on meeting nights was a symphony of hand-fans cooling the Brethren from the evening Georgia heat,, the soft crackle of candle flames, creaking floorboards, and the natural chorus of crickets and frogs, all punctuated by the resonant echo of the Master's gavel.

However, as time progressed, Abba, like many small unincorporated communities, slowly faded from prominence--its heartbeat decelerating. Yet, the spirit of Abba and its lodge endured, evolving through unions with Tifton Lodge No. 47 and Irwinville Lodge 315. These mergers were not conclusions but rather continuations of Abba Lodge's legacy, ensuring its light would

never extinguish.

Today, the lodge stands within the State Museum of Agriculture at





Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, a poignant relic of a bygone era. It now serves a new purpose: a custodian of tales and a silent witness to the undisturbed spirit of the Masonic fraternity. This building, once a cornerstone of Abba, now safeguards the collective memory of the brethren who once filled its halls, and continue to hold tiled meetings.

Earlier this year, MWB Ben Polston, II, and several Grand Line officers revisited this rich Masonic history during an official visitation. Devoid of modern luxuries like air conditioning or electric light, their experience was illuminated solely by the traditional implements from 140 years ago and the wisdom of our Grand Master -- along with the occasional smartphone reminder to tend to life's mundane duties.

Abba's narrative is not one of disappearance but of profound transformation. From its foundation in the echoes of the Civil War to its present-day role as a cherished piece of Masonic heritage, the journey of the lodge mirrors the resilient spirit of Freemasonry itself—a vital strand in Georgia's historical tapestry.

In reflecting on Abba Lodge No. 550, we are reminded of the enduring nature of our fraternal bonds and the timeless principles that guide us. It stands as a beacon to the importance of preserving our heritage, ensuring that the light of Freemasonry in Georgia continues to shine brightly for generations to come.



Freemasonry is as important today for ethical and moral behavior, as it was for George Washington and other U.S. Founders

By Brother Norman Black
Roswell Lodge No. 165



*Norman Black, a member of Roswell Lodge No. 165, has published a book entitled *Born in Blood, America 1754-1815*, which includes information about why Freemasonry was considered very important for the new United States by George Washington and a number of other prominent founders of this nation.*

His book tells the story of America, from the French and Indian War, to the American Revolution and independence from Britain, to the creation of the United States of America, and on to 1815, when a second American war with Britain ended.

During this period, war decided what America's and the world's main language would be, what governmental institutions and social and economic arrangements would dominate America and the world, and that there would be religious freedom in the United States and Canada.

By 1815, the U.S. federation's sectional character was visible, and events happened, which moved the young republic towards its current status. This period is, therefore, extremely important for an understanding of subsequent American history.

The book is available on amazon as both a printed book and a Kindle book. The following is an excerpt from it:

The American Revolution left money as the sole value

Though not intended by the United States' founders, the American Revolution discredited Europe's paternalistic and hierarchical order and resulted in creating the world's first and so far only completely commercial society. Pursuit of happiness, that is, making money, is the paramount value.

The old order had specific types of social relationships, mainly ones of dependency, based upon patronage and kinship. The American Revolution intentionally destroyed these relationships. The

revolutionaries wanted to establish alternative relationships, but were unable to. The result was a society very different than what they expected.

The old order was rationalist, but ordinary people in the 1700's were very religious. Educated people in the old order and in post-revolutionary America did not use religion to explain the world. Ordinary people made sense of life and explained the world with religion. By the early 1800s, as a result of the American Revolution ordinary citizens dominated American politics, culture, and social life and brought their religiosity with them.

Some prominent Founders were deists, but most were theistic rationalists. They believed in a mighty, rational, and benevolent creator who made laws governing how the universe functions. For them, God was a unitary and personal deity who was present and intervened in human affairs. Because of that, they believed prayers were effective. For them, one served God by living a good and moral life. Morality was the core value of their religion.

The founders did not expect the great spread of evangelical Protestantism, which developed in the Second Great Awakening of the 1820s. Even today, the United States is the most religious of the industrialized nations. That is because the relatively democratic form of United States' politics enables ordinary people to dominate American culture more than ordinary people dominate societies in Western Europe. It is also the cause of American vulgarity and materialism.

The Anglo-American culture of the gentleman was at its peak in the 1700s. A gentleman was a man that knew how to behave and how to rule. In the American colonies there was less weight given to family and wealth to create a gentleman and more to moral behavior. America's founders had little claim to important family backgrounds and significant wealth, and the definition of a gentleman by his moral behavior made it possible for Founders to aim for gentility.

The traditional English definition of a gentleman required one to have significant wealth, have no need to work, and be disinterested. He could not be a laborer or retail merchant, but he could engage in a profession such as doctor or lawyer. In the 1700s members of professions had leisure time and worked many fewer hours at their professions than men in similar professions do today. This accorded with the contemporary understanding that a gentleman was independent because of his wealth and leisure time. The purpose of a gentleman's leisure time was to rule through public service.

Gentlemen were men that were disinterested in daily commercial activities, and it was that disinterestedness, which qualified them for political leadership. After the revolution there was no traditional aristocracy left, except in southern states. Gentlemen remained a force in every other European society, and the old order survived.

In the old order, those that had power were deferred to. They could give orders to those dependent upon them and reward them when warranted. After independence, the Founders thought that the general public would obey them because they were well educated, capable, and had been elected. They were sure that once a candidate was elected by the people, the people would listen to him. Throughout his life, Jefferson held on to the revolutionary dream that talent would be elected and obeyed.

Men that doubted this became Federalists, a party founded from 1789 to 1890 by Alexander Hamilton. Federalists thought that those candidates that voters elected would not be the best qualified. They would be those that could attract attention. They would be the best talkers, the best looking, and the wealthiest.

Today Americans know that each elected politician and would-be politician is beholden to special interests, or he would not have a source of campaign funds. A recurrent hope voters have is that someone independently wealthy will step forward to lead.

According to Gordon S. Wood, in *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*, post-revolutionary America is a commercial society in which the political order supports the idea that people's decisions about their own economic interest are the only social connection between them. He noted that commercial society was a victory for ordinary, self-interested people who "political philosophers since the beginning of time have said are ill equipped to run any government.

They are too self-interested, too preoccupied with the pursuit of their own interests."

As the United States developed, the north was a capitalistic, materialistic society, and northerners increasingly saw buying and selling for monetary gain as society's basic connection. During this time, leading southerners' values remained nearer to values of the 1700s and the Age of Reason (also called The Age of Enlightenment).

The Age of Enlightenment or Age of Reason in America normally refers to the years from 1715 to 1789. It was distinguished by critical thinking about religious, social, and philosophical matters, and sought to reject beliefs of theories, which were neither based upon reason nor justifiable by logic. The Age of Enlightenment developed mainly in Western Europe and spread to America.

During the Enlightenment, classical republicanism developed as a way to bring together beliefs in reason, religious tolerance, and natural rights. This thinking rejected divine rights of rulers and supported government based upon a belief that every citizen had God-given natural rights.

Another philosophy that developed during the American Age of Reason, is liberalism based upon the thoughts of John Locke. Lock wrote that each man has natural rights to life, liberty, and property, which no government should violate. Locke's thinking about self-government became a central thought in Britain's American colonies.

The men that wrote the Declaration of Independence agreed with Locke's thinking and featured prominently in that document the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The writers also stated that these are natural rights, given by Nature and Nature's God, which governments' have an obligation to protect.

The Constitution of the United States says little about the role of a god in the new order it creates. As implied in the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation, the people are the authority for the political action declared. Justin B. Litke, in *Twilight of the Republic*, writes "God has so far served as a witness to the rectitude of the people's intentions or the guarantor — from the far-off moment of creation — of the legitimacy of self-government in general."

Freemasonry as an alternative to materialism

An organization based upon the Age of Reason's beliefs began to flourish in the new American nation concurrently with independence. It was a fraternity, which emerged in Britain in the early 1700s, and was based upon Age of Reason beliefs that good men associating with other good men would improve themselves ethically and morally and benefit society. It offered an alternative to materialistic values.

The fraternity is Freemasonry, and British civil servants and regiments carried the fraternity around the world to every British colony. Lodges formed during the American colonial era received their warrants from English grand lodges.

Freemasonry stresses good conduct and virtue. It sank deep roots in Britain's American colonies, and by the late 1700s, it counted many important men in its ranks: men that would soon lead the new nation.

These included Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, Paul Revere, John Hancock, and John Marshall. Washington served as master of his Virginia lodge and also as grand master of Virginia Freemasons.

In Britain's American colonies and in the post-revolutionary United States, Freemasonry created an institution of men, which was not based either upon blood descent or materialism. Regardless of their status in society, members fraternize as equals in lodge. This fraternity filled part of the vacuum left by destruction of the old order in the United States, and its popularity grew among well to do Americans in the post-revolutionary United States. Through its members, Freemasonry has had great influence on the development of the country.

Freemasonry was also part of many civic ceremonies as the U.S. began. The dedication of the cornerstone of the United States capitol is just one example.

On the morning of September 18, 1793, President George Washington and his entourage crossed the Potomac River from Alexandria, Virginia, into Washington, the new United States' capitol. They were in full Masonic regalia and were accompanied by the Alexandria Volunteer Artillery and members of Masonic lodges from Virginia, Maryland, Georgetown, and Federal City. They walked 1.5 miles (2.4 km) up the path that marked Pennsylvania Avenue to where the capitol was being built, and were met at the site by the grand master of Maryland Masons.

At the construction site Washington was met by Joseph Clark, Maryland's grand master, and three lodge masters. They climbed down into a builder's foundation trench where Washington was handed a silver plaque made by a local silversmith, which he placed on the cornerstone. The plaque was inscribed with a tribute to Washington's "military valor and prudence". It dedicated the capitol in the "first year, of the second term, of the presidency of George Washington...and in the year of Masonry 5,793". Then grains of corn, wine, and oil were placed on the cornerstone, which are Masonic symbols of prosperity, health, and peace. With the ceremony over, Washington and those with him left the trench to a 15-gun salute (one for each state) by the Alexandria Volunteer Artillery, and Clark said a short invocation. After that, a 500-lb (230 kg) ox was slaughtered, roasted, and eaten by those assembled.

Freemasonry was at that time at the center of public culture in the United States. There were then about 200 local masonic lodges under nine state grand lodges. By 1800, there were more than 500 local lodges and about 25,000 members, representing about 3% of the adult, white male population recorded in the 1800 census. That was many more than the percentage of men that were minimally propertied and therefore qualified to vote. They were men that could or would afford the Masonic order's dues and assessments.

The Masonic Order was considered a remedy for partisan disagreement. At their regular lodge meetings, rituals instill in members principles of disinterested virtue and brotherly love. The Order requires of its members rectitude and moderate conduct and forbids all strife and ill-tempered debate, riot and intemperance.

We Used to Be Strangers



COMMENTARY

By Author Unknown

Reprinted from MSA Emessay Notes October 2023

In the year 1800 it took five weeks to travel from New York to Chicago. In 1830 the railroad shortened that trip to two weeks. One hundred years later, in 1930, you only needed one day. Today, it's just twelve hours by car, or a two-and-a-half-hour flight.

In 1914 travel to Europe from the East Coast took five to ten days. From the West coast, ten to twenty. Travel to Asia was a month or more. By 2016 you could travel to Europe in under twelve hours. Now you can be almost any where in the world in a single day, with Australia and New Zealand being rare exceptions.

In just over seven generations our human race has eliminated the barriers which kept us separated for so many thousands of years. Think about that for a moment. It's not uncommon for a child to know their great-grand parents. That's four generations of people, living in the same moment. In less than twice that time we have connected our planet and united its inhabitants.

For most of human history, life was local. The people you interacted with as an adult were people you grew up with. You went to the same schools, played in the same parks and fields, and learned the same basic values expected by your community. There were still plenty of disagreements, but at least the people involved had similar points of view.

Travelers coming from a distance farther than a few towns away were viewed with fascination and suspicion. They spoke differently. They dressed differently. They acted differently. Immediately a distinction was made between us and them, and there was nothing particularly wrong with that. It wasn't necessary to understand them, let alone accept them. They were outsiders entering your community. It was their responsibility to conform if they hoped to be a part of it.

Once the barriers of time, expense, dangers, and doubts, were removed from travel, the 'us and them' mentality became more difficult to justify. The strangers are here to stay. The strangers are now the locals. You might be the stranger now.

The people of Japan had no contact with the outside world for 264 years, from 1639-1853. Isolated cultures across the globe are suddenly in daily contact. The results of this, particularly in America, is that we cannot rely on a common upbringing to understand

each other. Even people born in the same towns today might be raised with dramatically different cultural expectations. We need to depend instead on something universal; something that connects every human being.

Freemasonry teaches us to regard the whole human species as one family. Taken directly from the Tenets and Cardinal Virtues lecture in the first degree,

"... the high and low, rich and poor who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other: On this principle, Masomy unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

It is more obvious now than any time in our history, that we are one human family, whether we like it or not. How long did it take for the recent virus detected in China to spread so thoroughly that virtually every person on the planet has either had it, or knows someone who has? There are no more far away places. There are no more isolated events. There are no problems that are not our problem.

When we regard humanity, every single person, as a member of our family, we are united simply by virtue of being human. That's the only qualification. It doesn't matter where or how you were raised. It doesn't matter what language you speak, or what name you use to praise God. It isn't tolerance, it's acceptance. We seem to be misusing that word lately. I tolerate mosquitoes while I'm on a camping trip. I tolerate a screaming child on an airplane. That is to say, I hate those things, but I put up with them as unavoidable evils. I would feel awful if I learned that someone needed to tolerate me. Our diversity is our strength. It's as true for our genetics as it is for our society. The more, the better.

We have never needed the unifying principles of Freemasonry more than we do now. We are inextricably, irreversibly, inseparably connected. As our technology advances, the physical distances between us will become even smaller. We are realizing that we all live on the same small, fragile planet. Our lives are already desperately brief, when not cut shorter by disease or disaster. We are all in this together. Let's choose to face the uncertain future united as a global human family. There are no strangers left.

The Pillar of Beauty



COMMENTARY

By Brother William Brewer
Fayetteville Lodge No. 711

A brief reflection of the station of the Junior Warden and some of the symbolism of the station in the South.

The Sun at meridian is at the highest point between the horizon's and is plumb to your location, and the plumb is the jewel of the Junior Warden, so the Sun at its meridian is a daily reminder to us as men and Masons and is emblematic of the rectitude of life and the duties of the Junior Warden to guard the Craft against intemperance and excess.

To uphold ourselves as our office dictates and as the pillar of Beauty. The cornerstone of what we represent; an inward loveliness, a beauty of the mind, of the heart, a beauty of the spirit.

And of course, not these alone. But to me as a newly elected Junior Warden I clearly see that to fulfill the station and be the third pillar. Is to live inside and out by the plumb, upright before God and man.

To find balance in the order and beauty of life, and to help others do the same. To bring about a beauty Inside the lodge, to play off and with the worshipful Master and Sr. Warden To balance the time of refreshment and business.

I am looking forward to my time in the south this year. Looking forward to growing in the craft, and to coming along side the lodge as we grow and improve in times of business and refreshment. and I've heard some exciting new ideas for outreach and community involvement that have me even more hopeful for the years to come.

I am in constant awe of our craft of symbolism, of how well it is woven together and the deep meaning throughout. Every time I set myself to work to study any facet or area I learn more and more and make ties unseen at first.



The Right Mortar



COMMENTARY

By RW Brother Brian Coffey
Hinesville Lodge No. 271

I recently saw a post by a friend that is involved in preservation of a Historic Building, specifically the home of Brother George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The post was about the type of mortar used for historic buildings.

Did you know that mortar matters?

That's right, the type of mortar you use to point the brick or stone on your historic house or building matters. A LOT! Repointing is a common masonry repair for historic structures. This is when failing or lost mortar is removed and replaced with new mortar.

Historic mortars are frequently lime-based and are softer and more permeable than modern Portland cement-based mortars. This allows moisture to move in and out of the mortar joint, not the historic brick. The mortar breaks down, protecting the brick. If the historic soft mortar is replaced with a modern, harder mortar, moisture will move through the brick instead. This will cause the historic brick to break down because it is softer than the modern, impermeable mortar. This leads to visual and structural deterioration of your historic building. The same thing can happen with softer stones when paired with a hard, modern mortar.

The analogy with Freemasonry was immediately obvious to me. We often call this mortar that unites us into one sacred band or society of friends and brothers, cement instead of mortar, but the meaning is the same. We are taught to spread the cement (mortar) of brotherly love and affection, using the most important tool of a Master Mason, the Trowel. It is important that we maintain the structure of freemasonry, we use the right tools and materials to ensure that it will survive for the long-term.

When brothers want to introduce change to freemasonry, we are right to question the materials they bring to our structure.

There are those that would introduce to our craft the newest fads and trends of society so that we can match the world around us. These brothers seem to get on a crusade to remake freemasonry in their image and all others are wrong if we disagree. I am open to healthy discussion about the future of freemasonry, but I am not open to wholesale changes for the sake of change.

Freemasonry should not look like society; it should look like freemasonry. We have specific tenets and maxims that have been laid out over the centuries, and we should think long and hard before we make changes to our ancient craft.

I would remind our brethren that, if freemasonry had looked like society, we would have never achieved what we have as a fraternity. When the early lodges and Grand Lodges were formed, they did not reflect society. If the lodges matched society, they would be limited to the wealthy and titled, or they would be filled with only the working class, never the twain should meet. But they did not follow the societal rules, they ensured that men of all stations in society could meet together to form the mystic bond that we so cherish even today.

It is important to use the proper materials to build and improve our structure to ensure that they strengthen the fraternity, not introduce new mortar that will deteriorate the historic structure and cause it to fail and fall.

Although the Grand Master and the Worshipful Master appear to be in charge, they are really just the guardians of the Craft. His task, and one he must take very seriously, is to ensure the success of the craft for the generations that follow.

What Can I Do?



COMMENTARY

By Worshipful Brother John Loyd
Tyrone Lodge No. 644

“The country needs and, unless I am mistaken, its temper, the country demands bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it: If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something. The millions who are in want will not stand by silently forever while the things to satisfy their needs are within easy reach.”

This is a quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt, - Governor of New York and 32nd President of the United States; he was the only US president to be reelected three times. He brought his country out of the Great Depression, guided them through World War II and died in office. He was a Mason.

I believe those words still ring true about our fraternity. And you ask “What can I do?”

My response – there are numerous things you can try:

1. Attend regular meetings
2. Attend and assist in fundraisers
3. Study and take the Masonic courses and tests on line
4. Cooking a meal before lodge
5. Investigation committee
6. Learning lectures for degrees
7. Attending Masonic funerals
8. Learning funeral lecture part
9. Becoming a lodge officer
10. Coaching candidates
11. Attending Fellowcraft club meetings
12. Attending schools of instruction
13. Studying, preparing, and giving a lecture on anything Masonic in lodge
14. Preparing and submitting an article for The Messenger

These are just some of the opportunities that I could think of in a few minutes. If you are interested in any of these worthwhile activities please try; if you have any questions on how to attempt any of these activities, please ask.

A Past Master from Minnesota once said “In the lodge, it is our mission to make better men for a better world. We need good Masons as much as we ever have and we need the Masons we have to more fully live up to the standards of brotherhood and kindness that we who are passionate about the lodge believe in. You do not have to save the world to be a good Mason, but you must do something.”

I believe those words still ring true about our fraternity. And you ask “What can I do?”

My response – do something!

To Perform Those Solemn Services



COMMENTARY

By Worshipful Brother Nathaniel Wages
Davidson Lodge No. 103

Duty. Something one is expected or required to do by moral or legal obligation. In the Lodges Chaplains have but one: "To perform those solemn services which we should constantly render to our Infinite Creator." Services signifies a form followed in worship or religious ceremonies. Which solemn services do the Chaplains render to the Infinite?

At the opening of every communication, Prayer. The ritual prayer invokes Divine aid that a communication begun in order may be conducted in peace and close in harmony. Peace and harmony, you know, are the strength of all well regulated institutions, more especially this of ours.

Yet the Chaplains oft petition the Deity to serve us, to grant the most extraordinary things. Since distinctions in social standing, politics or religion remain beyond the Outer Door, how should a Chaplain appeal to the God of All" so that no Brother feels called upon to transgress his own conscience by approaching his Maker in a manner to which he does not subscribe?

There is such a prayer offered by one generally conceded to be an Expert in the field. His followers observed a rival teaching his disciples how to pray. So the disciples of Jesus of Nazareth asked Him to do the same. The composition is known as the Lord's Prayer, the Pater Noster (the Our Father...), the Model Prayer.

Attend. means to be present at or pay attention. "Brethren, Attend Lodge Prayer." The Brethren listen and if we concur, utter an archaic version of "Amen;" those who don't concur keep our mouths shut, I suppose; or we should.

So, Brethren; attend the Model Prayer:

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be done, in Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

I would call Freemasonry a discipline, a philosophy, a way of thinking and acting. Lodge Prayer we offer as a brotherly acknowledgment of our resignation to God's Will; a reaffirmation of our trust in God; and that regardless of particulars, such a faith, if not flawless, nevertheless is well founded. So we solemnly profess.

Charity or Goodwill we call the surest proof of the sincerity of our religion." We fellowship with all who of their own free will and accord subscribe to our tenets and strive to live by them; to thereby improve ourselves, to live better, wiser and consequently happier lives.¹⁴ That is our mission statement. Before embarking on any great or important undertaking, as such a mission is, we should invoke the aid of Almighty God.

To invoke His aid does not seem the same as asking Him to do everything, great and small, for us; or for Him to submit to importuning, influence or perhaps even manipulation to gratify the desires of His creatures. A nobler Lodge Prayer does what we say we should do: invoke His aid in helping us serve God, Country, Neighbor, Family and Self lawfully in a manner pleasing to a just and all seeing Deity.

To those ends we cultivate those virtues that all good men and true of every nation and creed, in every age of the World, strive to exemplify. Lodge prayer should be the communion of all such men, acknowledging we are but smaller parts of something much bigger, much grander; and seeking of our Maker and Governor little more than the opportunity to serve those to whom we bear an obligation.

To the God of all such men we should offer our prayers, our service and our lifelong effort to fulfill our duty.

First Grand Steward Wiley Forrester Presents Patents



WB Wiley Forrester FGS presented Bros Bill Garrison(292), Jim Schultz(729), and James Pitts(480) their patents for completing all the requirements of the Georgia Masonic Academy.

Sincerity Lodge Presents Awards



On March 21st Sincerity Lodge No. 430 presented one 50 year award, three 25 year awards, and a perpetual membership. Congratulations to all these Brethren!

Shady Dale Rodeo Makes Donations



The Shady Dale Rodeo in 2023 gave \$32,000 to the appending bodies. They also gave 30,000.00 to local charities and scholarships. Thank you for your support!

Don't Fear The "Ch.I.P."



“Are you going to put a chip into my child?” The answer is definitely, “No.” Masons get asked that question about every time they set up their Childhood Identification Program. It’s an easy, but mistaken, assumption. After all, the initials spell Ch.I.P.

“What it is is a wonderful and effective program that helps parents and law enforcement quickly identify their children,” says John Shaw, district director of the ID program for area masons. “You hate to think it could happen, but with today’s world of kidnappings and worse, this service is sorely needed.” It doesn’t take long. Personal information on the child is entered on a form. Fingerprints are taken as well as photos. Sometimes a child’s voice print is recorded. All of this is currently being put on a disc and given to the parents. Plans call for moving to a flash drive. The parents keep everything. The Masons keep nothing. Afterwards, parents are given a DNA swab kit to take home. In the photo, Freemasons from Waycross Lodge No. 305, F&AM, Shaw, (l to r), Chris Johnson, Harris Ritch, and Matt Sanford man the Ch.I.P. booth at the recent Downtown Merchants’ Day.

William A. Davis Daylight Lodge #753 Present Past Master’s Plaque



William A. Davis DL No. 753 recently presented their immediate Past Master, Worshipful Brother Charles Holloway with his Past Master’s plaque complete with a Master’s gavel and inscriptions in honor of the year he served.

Albert F. Garner Scouting Awards Presented



The Albert F. Garner Masonic Eagle Scout Award was presented to these three Eagle Scouts. The boys are from Troop 231 and the girl is from Troop 5231. To the far right is Scoutmaster Kim Baker who assisted in the female presentation. Congratulations!

Livonia Lodge Installs Officers for 2024



Harmony Masonic Lodge Honors Star Student and Teacher



The Treutlen High School Star Student and Star Teacher were honored by The Harmony Masonic Lodge #405 February 22, 2024. The 2024 Star Student is Ms. Harley Slade and the Star Teacher is Ms. Brittany Hobbs.

Sincerity Lodge No. 430 Presents Award and Gets Presented Flag



Recently, WM Scot Godwin of Sincerity Lodge No. 430 presented WB Britt Martin with the Mason of the Year Award for 2023, around the same time, Woodmen of the World presented Sincerity Lodge 430 with a 30ft Flag Pole and a new American flag.

Read to Ride Program



On Monday, May 13th the brothers of Madison Masonic Lodge # 376 presented bicycles to the Students of Morgan County Primary School. The students earned the bikes by the highest reading scores. Pictured are Kindergartners Reese Sapp and Rikki Ray, 1st Graders Madelyn Huff and Remi Reynolds, 2nd Graders Allie Basham and John Garber with their new bikes.

Masonic Home Ambassador's Workshop



The Association of Blue Lodge Ambassadors met for a workshop to increase awareness, communications, and education. There were many Ambassadors attending representing Masonic Lodges in Georgia. [From Left; WB Chad Pruitt, Ambassador for Mount Airy Lodge #141, Past Master of Mount Airy and Worshipful Master of Hollingsworth Lodge #355; WB Randy Jewart, Ambassador for Cornelia Lodge #92 and Past Master; WB David Shockley, District 9C Ambassador Director; WB Bradley Sullens, Worshipful Master of Cornelia Lodge #92.

Brother Fathers Install Brother Sons



Late into 2023, RWB Brian Coffey was able to install his son Jarrod Coffey as WM of Clarence H. Cohen Daylight Lodge No. 749 for the ensuing year. RWB Brian Coffey also pinned the DeMolay pin given to Clarence H. Cohen Daylight Lodge on incoming WM Jarrod Coffey.

Later that evening, WB Arthur Dickerson installed his son Andrew Dickerson as WM of Martinez Lodge No. 710. WB Art Dickerson also pinned the DeMolay pin given to Martinez lodge on incoming WM Andrew Dickerson.

Both Papas were very proud and both WM sons tried to play it cool. But they were proud as well to have such respected Masonic fathers to install them.

Ft. Benning Lodge Lays Wreaths



WB Robideaux and WB Luna representing the lodge with family and others brethren at Fort Moore Main Post Cemetery placing wreaths on Lodge brethren who served and buried there. (Tombstone of Illustrious Br Walter Rosso; PM of Ft Benning 579)

Dooly Lodge Confers Hiramic Legend



Dooly Lodge No. 367 now has a proficient, traveling Fellow Craft team that has conferred the Hiramic Legend four times during the past year.

Dooly, one of our smallest lodges in the state (44 members), has organized, memorized (no scripts used), and is now conferring the Hiramic Legend. The amazing aspect of this feat is that they had never attempted such a task. They had always invited other lodges to visit and confer the Master's Degree.

All that changed when our Worshipful Master Jeffery Ray Underwood challenged this

beautiful little country Lodge to assume stewardship of their own destiny and memorize and confer all aspects of all three degrees.

Even more amazing was the fact that it took the involvement and commitment of almost half of the membership of the lodge that they would accept and memorize their assigned parts in all three degrees.

When it became providential that a Hiramic Team could and would be formed and become an operative reality, the lodge's culture changed from "We Are Small, We Are Country, We Have Never Done That," to "We Can Do Any Thing Any Other Masonic Lodge Can Do." That was the spark that ignited the fire and today Dooly Lodge has memorialized and is conferring all three degrees to include the Hiramic Legend, a feat that requires at least fourteen participants. Worshipful Brother Underwood is to be commended for his positive leadership and encouragement and convincing all members that we can not only parallel but exceed other large lodges.

The cast members for the Fellow Craft team are as follows: King Solomon: WB Floyd Hughes; Hiram King of Tyre: Ty Cobb; Ruffians: WB Jeff Underwood, Kyle Underwood, and Jonathon Byars (Kyle and Jonathon have been Masons less than two years and are also progressing through the lodge line); Fellow Crafts: Roy Cobb, Bruce Lackey, and Wade Smith; Wayfaring Man: WB Robert Cochran; Sea Captain: WB Robert Cobb; Mate: Robert Gray (a Mason less than a year); Grand Scribe: WB Grover Smith; and Director of Work: WB Richard Corn, WB Charles Floyd, and WB Junior Chastain.

Three Generations of Officers at Oostanaula Lodge



Oostanaula Lodge # 113 F & AM is proud to celebrate that three generations of the Roberts Family are serving as officers for the 2024 year. In the picture from left to right: Junior Warden, Brother Jerec Roberts, Worshipful Master, Brother Dereck Roberts, and Senior Steward, Brother Paul Roberts.

Hudson Lodge Presents Community Awards



Hudson Lodge No. 294 recently presented a number of community service awards and Lodge awards to round out their year. Medal of Valor Awards were presented to Commerce Police Sergeant. A. Burnett and Detective M. Maddox in recognition of their bravery in action before, during,

and immediately following a potentially deadly situation while serving the citizens of Commerce, Georgia. Sergeant M. Norris of the Commerce Police Department was presented with the Overall First Responder of the Year award for her dedicated to service to the citizens of the City of Commerce, Jackson County, and our nation in her several roles including the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Services, and the Navy Medical Corps. Cpl. T. Gonazalez of the Commerce Police Department was presented with the Officer of the Year award in recognition of going above and beyond the call of duty on several occasions while serving the citizens of Commerce. Cpl. Z. Burnette of the Banks County Sheriff's Office was presented with the Deputy of the Year award in recognition of his dedicated service to the citizens of Banks County as well as numerous K9 assists of other local law enforcement agencies and communities. Captain K. LaCount, Jackson County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division Commander, was presented with the Deputy of the Year award in recognition of his 29 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Jackson County and always stepping up to take care of whatever the situation might be.



The Hudson Lodge #294 F&AM cooking team committee, the Hudson Hawgs, are shown being recognized for their dedicated volunteer fundraising efforts to assist numerous worthwhile causes throughout the year including several school programs, special needs children, medical treatments, benefit events, crime victim assistance, etc. Our team was humbled to be able to raise over \$61,000 during 2023 for charitable causes thanks to the support of our community. Pictured left to right are Joe MciLvaine DDGM 9E, Hawk Committee Chairman Wor Bro Cameron D. Boswell, Wor. Bro Ben Wurtz, Wor. Bro. Brandon Marcus, and 2024 Hudson Lodge #294 Worshipful Master Will Dubois.



Lizella Lodge Presents Past Master's Plaque



Lizella Lodge #663 recently presented their immediate Past Master, WB Larry Rodgers with his Past Master plaque for 2023. The presentation was made by WB Bobby Jones. Congratulations!

VETERANS CORNER

By Worshipful Brother Rick Conn

Brothers, some recent developments related to veterans, their benefits, and legislative efforts that you may not know of:

Supreme Court Ruling on GI Bill Benefits:

The Supreme Court recently ruled that veterans with overlapping military service periods can use the benefits they earned from two different GI bills. This decision could have far-reaching effects for millions of students.

Major Richard Star Act:

Leading lawmakers and veterans groups are renewing their push for the Major Richard Star Act. This bill aims to dramatically expand benefits for veterans injured in combat. It would ensure that all service members who medically retire have full access to both military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits. Currently, veterans with fewer than 20 years of service and a disability rating of less than 50% have their retirement pay reduced by a dollar for every dollar of disability pay they receive. The Major Richard Star Act seeks to remove these restrictions so that all retirees with combat-related disabilities can collect their full retirement and disability benefits. (more on this below)

House Bills Supporting Veterans: The House recently passed four bipartisan veterans' bills:

Veterans Benefits Improvement Act: This bill aims to cut through red tape and ensure veterans easily access disability benefits from the VA. Isakson-Roe Education Oversight Expansion Act: This bill improves oversight of schools offering GI Bill benefits. Strengthening Benefits for Children of Vietnam Veterans: The bill addresses spina bifida-

related benefits. Hiroshi 'Hershey' Miyamura VA Clinic Designation: Honors an inspiring American hero who served in WWII and the Korean War.

Cost-of-Living Boost for Veterans:

House lawmakers finalized plans to guarantee a cost-of-living boost in veterans' benefits next year. This move ensures that veterans' support payments keep pace with increases in Social Security checks and other federal stipends

Brothers, there has been a lot of heated discussions on what was called Concurrent Receipt. This The Major Richard Star Act is a significant legislative effort aimed at improving benefits for veterans, was addressed back in 2004, but the Major Richard Star Act is an attempt to improve the pay received by combat related stress and injuries by our Veterans, particularly those with combat-related disabilities. Here are the key points about this act:

1. Purpose:
 - The Major Richard Star Act seeks to address a specific issue faced by veterans with combat-related disabilities.
 - Currently, veterans who retire from the military with a disability rating of less than 50% and fewer than 20 years of service experience a reduction in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive.
 - This act aims to eliminate this reduction and allow veterans to receive both their full retirement pay and disability compensation concurrently.
2. Key Provisions:
 - The act allows a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay without any reduction, even while receiving disability

compensation. In other words, veterans who qualify can collect both their full retirement benefits and disability payments simultaneously.

3. Bipartisan Support:

- The Major Richard Star Act has garnered bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- It was introduced as S.344 in the Senate by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) and as H.R. 1282 in the House by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL12).
- The goal is to ensure that disabled veterans receive the full benefits they deserve, regardless of the length of their service

4. Status:

- The act was introduced in the 117th Congress and has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services in both chambers. It represents a crucial effort to honor and support veterans who have sacrificed for our country.

The Major Richard Star Act reflects ongoing efforts to improve the lives of our veterans and ensure they receive the benefits they rightfully deserve. If you need more information you can go to the website: S.344 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Major Richard Star Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

Brothers, and Compatriots, I would just like to take a moment in this issue to inquire if any of you have heard about the National Sojourners? National Sojourners is THE Masonic Military organization within our fraternity. We are looking for a “FEW GOOD MEN” to join our ranks and help with the programs that we support. JrROTC/ROTC, Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge Youth Leadership camp, and promoting Patriotism in our Community, State and Nation. We have Chapters in all 50 States, Guam and Puerto Rico. Formed by a group of Masons in WWI in Manila, Philippines as a Sojourner group for Military Masons to meet and gather together for Brotherly Love and camaraderie. We are open to all

ranks both Enlisted and Commissioned. From E1 to O10. (Enlisted , Warrants, & Commissioned)

I would like to invite all military Veterans to attend one of our meetings and check us out. If you like what you see and what we do then join our ranks to further the cause of Patriotism. We have 10 Chapters in the Georgia Area:

- 1] Ft Benning Chapter #8 Columbus
- 2] Ft McPherson Chapter #60 Atlanta
- 3] Dobbins Chapter #434 Marietta
- 4] Blood Mountain Chapter #555 Blairsville
- 5] Lyman Hall Chapter #60 Gainesville
- 6] Clarence Cohen Chapter # 162 Augusta
- 7] Hunter Chapter #502 Savannah
- 8] Ft Stewart Chapter #396 Hinesville
- 9] Kings Bay Chapter #563 Kings Bay
- 10] Warner Robins Chapter # 526 Warner Robins

If you would like to have more information you can contact the following:

Area Representative Capt Roger W. Coursey: (912) 398-8055 captrog2000@yahoo.com

Or the Regional Representatives:

Chapters 162, 396, 502, 563 SFC Robert Allen Brooks (912) 312-9543 robert.a.brooksi@gmail.com

Chapters 60, 434, 555, 557 LTJG Thomas R. Conn, Sr (678) 873-3491 rickconn@bellsouth.net

Chapters 8, 526 Mr. Baron L. Conklin (706) 537-7448 lgtkd@knology.net

Looking forward to meeting our veterans at our meeting. At present we are presenting JrROTC medals at several High Schools in the area and are in need of Brothers who would like to attend the Dress Mess and present them. We also participate in the posting of the Colors at Grand Lodge. I hope to see you at our meeting. Thank you for your Service, Welcome Home, and may God Bless you and the Red White and Blue

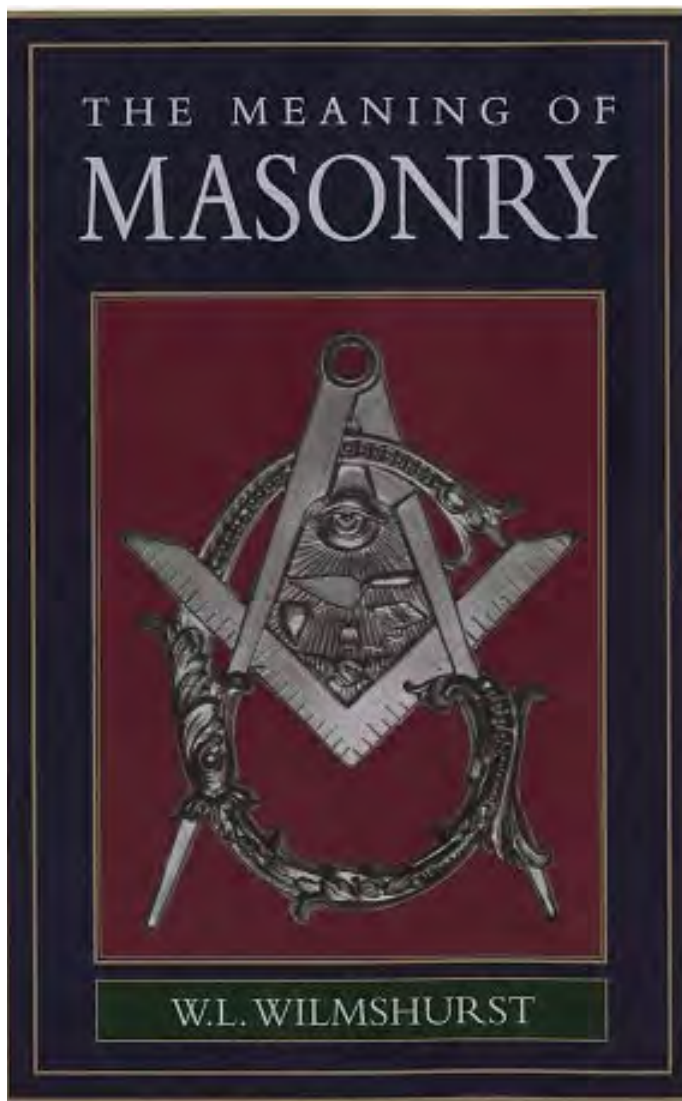
Book Review by F. Scott Kroll

The Meaning of Masonry

W. L. Wilmshurst

Various Publishers

Available on the internet from \$7.00 to \$24.00



In my review of *The Meaning of Masonry*, I will be referencing the hardcover edition from Gramercy Books, which is a division of Random House, Inc. I include this information as there are many editions of this book to choose from, some hard bound, some in paperback. I am quite fond of this edition as it was the first book on Freemasonry I ever bought. However, this is a reprint of the 5th edition of the book from 1927, and the font is quite archaic. Once the reader is accustomed to the font, the book is a forthright read.

The Meaning of Masonry is a collection of five papers gathered by the author with the stated purpose of

giving and overview of Freemasonry, namely the Craft Degrees and the Arch degrees. There is a foreword by Allan Boudreau who was then the Curator and Librarian for the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Wilmshurst then lays out an introduction of what his aims are in writing the book. The first chapter of the book is "The Deeper Symbolism of Masonry." Chapter two is "Masonry as a Philosophy." The third chapter is "Further Notes on Craft Symbolism." Chapter four is "The Holy Royal Arch," and the fifth chapter is entitled "The Relation of Masonry to the Ancient Mysteries."

In the introduction, Wilmshurst begins the book by presenting his reasons for writing and collecting the material contained in the book. He goes on to state that too often members join expecting the subjects touched upon in the initiative process to be expounded upon, and when it is not, they lose interest in their Masonic membership. He is adamant that intellectual and spiritual qualities of candidates are more important than swelling the ranks of the membership, which frankly is an issue we grapple with in the modern era of Freemasonry.

Wilmshurst was requested by many brethren who heard these lectures to compile them and have them printed so there would be material available to brothers who were looking for a starting place to investigate Masonic Symbolism. He mentions that this survey was for the average Mason, and is not exhaustive. He purposely avoids matters of Masonic History which are covered elsewhere. The focus is on the spiritual aspect of the Rites of Initiation.

"The Deeper Symbolism of Freemasonry" opens by stating the traditionally give definition of Freemasonry, the often used "...a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols," while true, is not a completely satisfactory answer to the question of what exactly Freemasonry is. He dissects some common misconceptions about Freemasonry and religion and comments on how degree work and our various other ceremonies should not be the prime focus of lodge meetings; rather, it should be exploration of the Craft's mysteries. Wilmshurst asserts this does not happen because, in general, Masons do not have even a passing familiarity with the mysteries that Freemasonry is supposed to promote. He goes onto explain how the deeper meanings cannot be taught from one brother to another, but how every man must discover these meaning for himself. It is important that a brother has someone who can lead him down the right path until

he reaches the point where he can continue the journey himself.

The author then expounds upon the idea that basic symbolism of the Craft taught in the degree work contains nothing in particular that is not taught by various religions, institutions, communities, or that are covered in the process of parenting. He then goes into detail expounding upon the connection between Masonry and the Mysteries of the ancient world. One of his more interesting and poignant statements is that a Lodge is not a building, but a great symbol, a representation if you will of the deeper meanings to be found in Masonic Symbolism. Wilmshurst then goes into detail explaining the various meanings to be found in our ritual and symbols.

The second chapter is entitled “Masonry as a Philosophy.” His main point in the chapter begins by comparing a deeper understanding being achieved in stages as a parallel to a new brother progressing through the degrees of the Blue Lodge. Wilmshurst states, “...every Member admitted to the Order enters in a state of darkness and ignorance as to what Masonry teaches, and that later on he is supposed to be brought to light and knowledge.” He goes on to describe the learning of the ritual as being a first stage into the understanding of Freemasonry. He further develops this idea by saying that most Masons never make it past this initial stage. He argues that philosophically Masonry supplies the answers to the questions “What am I?,” “Whence come I?,” and “Whither go I?” He also deals with the issues of why the world requires systems of religion and philosophy.

Chapter three is named “Further Notes on Craft Symbolism.” He reiterates many points covered in the previous two chapters and then begins to interpret various aspects of Freemasonry. Wilmshurst begins with the Form of the Lodge. He states that not only can this form be applied to the gathering place of Masons, but can also be applied to the Mason himself. He then discusses the positions of the officers in a Lodge. He states that seven officers of the Lodge are the “...functional mechanism...” of a well regulated Lodge. Seven is recognized as a number of completeness. He then discusses the spiritual and philosophical aspects of the function of each of the officers. He covers the opening and closing of the Lodge in the Blue Degrees, and concludes with a discussion of the Masonic Apron.

Chapter four is completely dedicated to the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem as in English Constituted Lodges, the Royal Arch is the culmination of the Blue Lodges (Wilmshurst was an English Mason). He describes how a symbolic “house of the Lord” is created upon a foundation comprised of Wisdom, Love, and Power, of which he describes as an “indissoluble trinity.”

The fifth and final chapter of the book is “Freemasonry in Relation to the Ancient Mysteries.” Wilmshurst’s goal with this chapter is to connect the information contained in points of symbolism, anthropology, and archaeology to the great spiritual truths to be gained through the study of comparative religion. This is, of course, not a subject unique to Wilmshurst, as it has been the focus of many Masonic works, such as Albert Pike’s *Morals and Dogma*. He asserts that the goal of religion in general is to find a restoration of the original state of man which was broken in it’s original fall. He then describes parts of Masonry that reflect aspects of the mysteries and philosophies of various ancient cultures.

This book is an excellent resource for any Mason interested in the deeper symbolism of the Craft. It opens many new avenues of thought and is a great starting point for the student of Masonry to branch out to other avenues of Masonic Research. As this is a modestly priced book, it makes a perfect gift for a recently raised brother, or even a seasoned veteran of the fraternity interested in a more in depth look to the symbolism of Freemasonry.

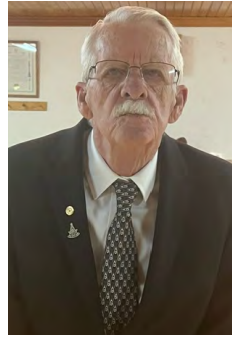
50 Year Awards



Roy T. Worley, Jr.
Madison #376



Roger Allen
Zingara #519



Andrew W. Hutcheson
Etowah #222



Fred Crews
Douglasville #289



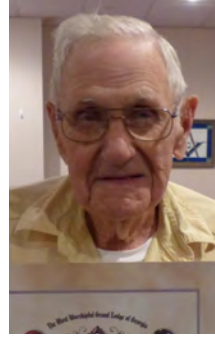
Jack Jones
Douglasville #289



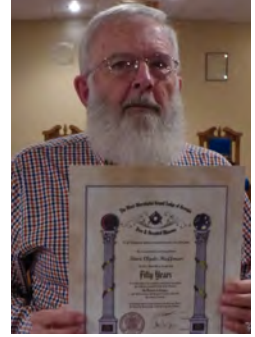
Peter G. Campbell, III
Jesup #112



Allen E. Ward
Blue Ridge #67



James F. Whitener
Blue Ridge #67



James F. Whitener
Blue Ridge #67



Paul C. Loggins
Murrayville #30



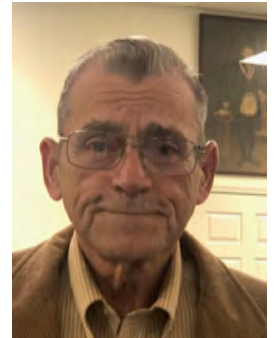
Crawley A. Butler, Jr.
Acacia #452



Larry White
Trenton #179



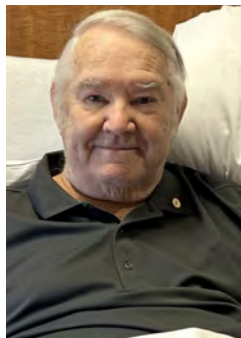
Eivin B. Andresen
Hampton #70



Paul E. Newburn
Duncan #234



Dannie L. Reid
Generous Warren #20



Robert Cash
Shannon #100



Joseph D. Greene, Jr.
Sincerity #430



James T. Ross
Pleasant Grove #702



John W. Taylor
Statham #634



Weymouth E. Betts
Fleming #718



Herman G. Stover
Sumach #55



Russell T. Miller, III
Sumach #55



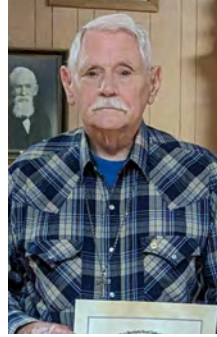
John R. Moore
Houston #35



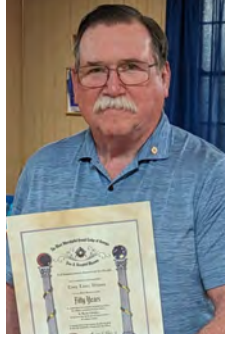
Richard R. Powell
Coweta #60



Robert H. Langley
Coweta #60



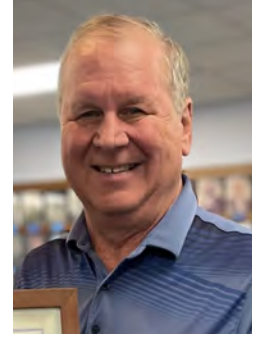
Bill E. Wise
Villa Rica #72



Tony L. Watson
Villa Rica #72



Thelbert D. Gupton Jr.
Woodstock #246



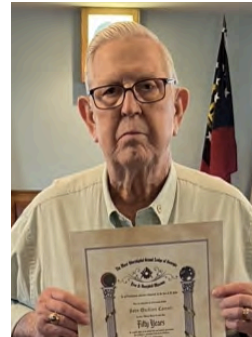
Fred Meyer
Mountain Park #729



Paul E. Newburn
Duncan #234



John L. Baker
Duncan #234



John Q. Carroll
Duncan #234



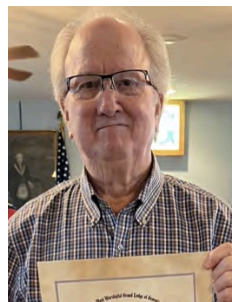
Robert S. Lovein
Duncan #234



Edward H. Adams
Duncan #234



Roy D. Tyson
Duncan #234



Norman M. Lovein, III
Duncan #234



Allen J. Lovett
Morning Star #349



Lonnie Mahan
Mountain Park #729



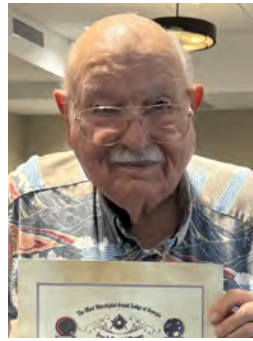
James B. Brewer
Magnolia #86



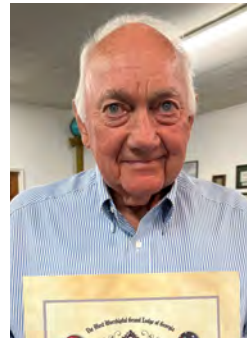
Karl G. Waechtler
Oostanaula #113



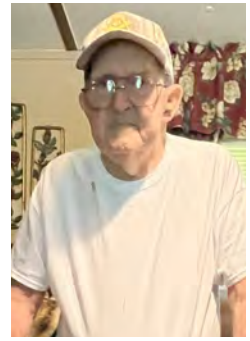
Daniel E. Genson
Gate City #2



Archibald M. Hyde
Gate City #2



Charles L. Skelton
Nancy Hart #690



Buck L. Jarrett
Oostanaula #113



Jim Wilson
Bryan #303



Joseph L. Skinner
Martinez #710



Sam M. Akin
Cordelia #296



Phillip A. Williams
Chipley #40



William J. Buffton
Hamilton #16



Seth L. Sommerville
Riverdale #709



Willie L. Deleshaw
Riverdale #709



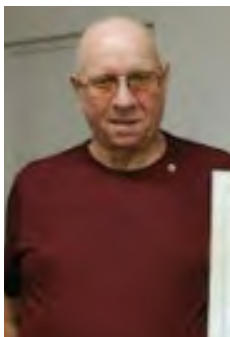
Samuel I. Luckey, Jr.
A.J. Miller #204



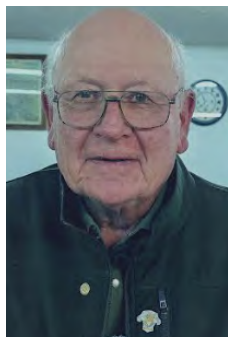
Lamar S. Fincher
Ancient York #127



Jimmy A. McDaniel
Western #91



Landon G. Chastain
Sumach #55



Robert L. Little
Western #91



Thomas J. Moore, Jr.
Clarkesville #325



Stanley E. Terrell
Clarkesville #325

60 Year Awards



Charlie Wilson
Dacula #433



Ivan J. Vasquez, Sr.
Mt. Hermon #304



James R. Moore
Cartersville #63



William R. Alexander
Cartersville #63



Bobby G. Holcombe
Buck Creek #639



Wilbur Ridings
Alpharetta #235



Bobby G. Entrekin
Draketown #252



Louis M. Lovin
Auburn #230



Berlon W. Graham
Hermon #304



Kyle Stouder
Houston #35



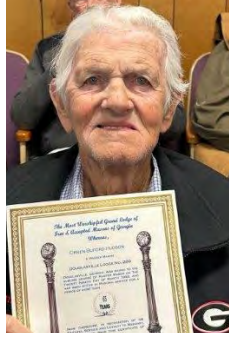
CJ Blalock
Oothcaloga #154



Recall V. Ethridge
Duncan #234



Eugene M. Griffin
Riverdale #709



Buford Hudson
Douglasville #289



Billy G. Sims
Draketown #252



Malcom Lane
Macon #5



Kenton L. Adams
Nancy Hart #690



William L. Strickland
Ocean #214
70 Years



Clyde E. Bryant
Zingara #519
70 Years



Paul M. Varnedoe, Jr
Ocean #214
75 Years

In Memoriam

Members Reported
Deceased February 2 to
May 1, 2024

Turner, Charles Brit	2	Autrey, Milford Steven	70	Lewallen, Morris Anthony	141
Carter Sr., Lynn Eugene	3	Meeks, James Oliver	70	Wiley, William Todd	141
Autry, Michael Douglas	6	Narron, Jimmy Ray	70	Mixon, James Nolan	144
Hanson, Emmett Steve	6	Rakestraw, Wayne Allen	72	Elliott, George Allen	151
Barker, Jack Lee	9	Canaday, David Lee	74	Fain, Ernest Jackie	153
Lawson Jr., Roger Hugh	9	Jackson Sr., Jack Thomas	74	Whitlock, William Norris	153
Harbuck Jr., David Thomas	14	Couey, Bobby Clyde	75	Wilbur, William Randall	153
Crouse, Arthur Edgar Johann	15	Currie, William Thomas	81	Morgan, Benny Ray	160
Slack, James Joel	15	Keesee, James Arthur	82	Klingenfus, Emil John	166
Marsh, Thomas Alvin	18	Brownlee Sr., Barney Edward	86	Manning, Ronald Mitchell	168
Hall Jr., George Teasley	23	McQueen, Clarence Rollice	90	Phillips, Glendle	176
Schlock, MacK	25	Caldwell, Gregory Owen	97	Rigg, Michael Lee	184
Landrum Sr., William David	26	Sparks, Robert Starling	97	Gardiner, Charles Franklin	186
Burgess, George Clayton	27	Sanctuary, Robert Eugene	99	Martin, Barry Lee	186
Cadenhead, Jimmie Hill	27	Pittman Jr., Robert Carter	105	Bahnsen Jr., John Charles	190
Coogler, Jesse Maude	27	Barger, John Joseph	106	Deaton, James Emory	191
Shaver, Matthew Scott	27	Hunter, John Edwin	109	Hurst, David Allen	194
Matthews Jr., James Ralph	28	Ferguson Sr., Charles Edwin	111	White, Garland Ellioh	199
Poole, William David	30	Parker, Robert Winston	111	Smith, Albert Wayne	207
Roth, Ronald Martin	30	Settles, Hayward Meddy	112	Smith, John Robert	212
Bachman, Robert Vernon	33	Smith, Franklin Arieal	112	Fields, Larry Brinson	213
Grosskreutz, Alvin George	33	Chitwood, John Anthony	114	Kaplan, Alan Morton	216
Hawkins, Harry Elbert	35	Kissel, Walter	114	Mendel, Herbert Alan	216
Nelson, Jarrett Chapman	35	Everson, Hermis Eugene	115	Fisher, Joseph William	217
Price, Robert Stillwell	37	Graham, Lemuel Archie	116	Bilyeu, Arthur Eckert	219
Slater, Robert Warren	41	Henderson, Vernon Greer	120	Johnson Jr., William Vernon	221
Sims Jr., Howard Brooks	42	Mobley Sr., Dorian Crawford	120	Mangrum Jr., Charles Lee	221
Garrett, Rowe	42	Smith, Hoke Gilbert	121	Coble, Bobby Lee	227
Perry, Ralph William	44	Self, Franklin Dearl	124	Bramlett, Raymond	230
Weaver, James Ellis	48	Wood, James Wilson	128	Dickerson, Edgar William	230
Grizzle, Edward Russell	52	Clack, Billy Jerald	131	Hendricks Sr., Carl Lafayette	231
Davenport, Benny Ray	55	Westervelt, Michael Earl	131	Hallock, George Bainton	235
Clark, James Cochran	56	Norton Jr., Chester William	134	Haralson, Richard Howard	240
Blanton, Thomas Lee	63	Cruse, Joe Eugene	135	Kinney, Kenneth Alan	241
Bryant, Robert Lew	66	Shaffer, Dennis Charles	135	Small, Buford Gerald	248
Dickens, Thomas Richard	67	Wheeler, Donald Ray	135	Welden III, Luther Bateman	248
Mathis, Reid Harold	67	Sykes Jr., William Eugene	137	Self, Johnny Ellis	251
Shadinger, Jerry Herman	69	Ethridge Sr., Joseph Doyle	139	Durham, Wayne Ford	255

In Memoriam

Members Reported
Deceased February 2 to
May 1, 2024

Dawson, Kenneth Dewey	271	Horton Sr., Charles Radford	421	Crow, Gary Otis	664
Cullen, Thomas Wilson	274	Turpin, Jimmy Lamar	421	Ledbetter, Joseph William	680
Ross Jr., Thurman Cecil	279	Queen, Rodger Glenn	423	Brown, Thomas Linder	690
Weeks, Johnny Fred	279	Malcom Jr., Jackson Edward	428	Burden Sr., Thomas William	690
Deese Sr., William Troy	280	Henson, Philip Larry	429	Donald, Gary Lamar	690
Bradberry Sr., Stephen Lawrence	288	Etheridge, Donniss Randall	433	McClain, Donald Dwight	690
Huiet III, Ben Tillman	288	Billingsley, Warren Leo	444	Vaughn, James Donald	690
Hurley, Fred Willis	288	Davenport, Franklin Columbus	444	Cosby, Arthur Carroll	691
Williamson Sr., Robert Preston	288	Smith, Willie MacK	449	Patton, Riley Lawrence	691
Dowda, Ira Thomas	289	Terry, William Horace	455	Richardson, Lawrence Owen	691
Bagwell, John Blake	292	Smith, Howard Hulan	456	Shaw, Edmond Howell	691
Heilman III, Frank George	294	Merck, Vernon Howard	457	Staton, Marcus S. T.	691
Murray, Robert Thomas	294	Bunn Sr., Frank Robert	484	Kennemore, Marion Wayne	694
Powell, Jesse Fenton	301	Corriheer II, James Edward	509	Green, Gerald Edward	699
Stapp, Gerald John	301	Williams Sr., John McLarty	523	Holloway, Havis Lavon	699
Craft, Eustus Lamont	302	Wood, Naaman Elijah	537	Johnson, Richard Russell	699
Andrews Sr., Richard Michael	309	King Sr., Robert Hartman	542	Plemmons Jr., Burnett	699
Outlaw, Richard Curtis	314	Butler Jr., Samuel Eugene	543	Smith, Lamar William	699
Stephens, William Roy	323	Butler, James Lee	544	Adair, Joe C.	701
Maney, James Monroe	325	Brooks, Claude Larry	558	Brock, Claude	701
Nichols, Grady Lee	325	Hatfield, Doyle Ray	586	Jordan Jr., Durward Lee	703
Skinner, Richard Addison	333	Kierbow Jr., John Elzie	586	Simpson, Billy Joe	704
Carter, Richard Lamar	334	Hogue, Perry Ellis	590	Allen, Alvin Wayne	709
Lamb, Samuel Timie	335	Johnston, James Keith	590	Manous, Benjamin David	709
Madden Sr., William Claude	348	Berry, Chris Allen	591	McMonigle, Dee Everett	709
Strickland Jr., Robert George	348	Cotton Jr., Charles Lafayette	591	Messer, Robert Herman	709
Autry, Wyman Harold	364	Wade, James Lloyd	591	Smith, Billy Joe	709
Blair, Leon Lanier	369	Mouchet, John Vandiver	595	Vernon, Christopher Lee	709
Tillman Sr., Raleigh Max	369	Temples, Ronnie Joe	595	Green, Roy Lee	710
Glover, Darwin Rollo	371	Dills, Leonard Frank	597	Rhoden, David Lewis	710
Lanham, William Thomas	382	Graham Jr., Herman Boyd	597	Usry Jr., Harry Elmore	710
Patten Jr., Curtis Clifford	391	Patton, Eddie Rex	597	Chandler, Thomas Buford	711
Berry, Charles Marlin	393	Cagle, Thomas Eugene	622	Kirby, Paul Renè	711
Harrell, Embry	393	Cooper, Judson Henderson	622	Shelnutt, Wendell Eddie	711
Smart, Alexander Bradley	394	Trapp, Michael Garland	622	Bush, Jessie Norman	716
Clonts Jr., Cecil Leroy	405	Fuller, Wilmer Carlos	639	Spicer, Danny Randall	716
Rivers Jr., Melmoth Garlington	405	Hambrick, Jack Daniel	652	Copeland, Vernon Avery	717
Ledford, Larry Garnette	412	Mathis, Roy Brooks	663	Outland, Charles Roscoe	717

In Memoriam

Members Reported
Deceased February 2 to
May 1, 2024

Stevens, Walter Franklin	717
Toole, Marvin Richard	717
Alligood, Maurice Hinson	718
Childress, Vernon William	718
Harris Jr., William Garland	718
Byers, Charles Phillip	720
Jacobs, Hugh Carlton	720
Thomas Jr., John Broadus	720
Atkinson, Christopher Harold	722
Blackmon Sr., Thomas Elton	729
Morris Sr., Thomas William	729
Stotts, Dennis Martin	729
Williamson, Pullen Rux	729
Thorson, Dennis Michael	730
Johns, Charles Wesley	740
Wilkinson, Randolph Lynn	740
Underwood, Thomas Edward	748
Lasseter, Bobby Tommy	755
Spencer, Logan James	762
Dumas Jr., William Gordon	5000
Galate Jr., Charles Veto	5000

When My Working Tools Are Laid
Down
by Andrew Anderson
Martinez Lodge No. 710

When the dreaded messenger of
death
Visits me to say,
Put down your working tools,
You have worked your final day.
I will lay them down in peace
And submit to the great will,
Of the Great Architect of the
Universe
Who I served, and will serve still.
I hope my brothers remember me
As worthy, kind, and true,
And coins left in my pocket
I hope are very few.
Due to my charity
While I was mortal man,
Which eased another's burden,

And helped him understand.
True riches are not found
In silver or in gold,
But rather in the wisdom
Of words, ancient and old.
I hope it will be said of me
His actions he did square,
And circumscribed his passions,
Loved justice, and was fair.
He met others on the level
Kept passions in due bounds,
Flew to brothers' relief
Even upon frozen grounds.
Never spoke he ill
Of another fellow brother,
Nor would he tolerate
Such actions by another.
He rather used his tools
To build up, and not tear down,
Knowing great, bright Temples
Must rest upon a solid ground.
He delighted in the beauty
And the glory of the day,
Always looking East
Lest his faith not go astray.
What did he place his faith in?
God, of course, no doubt!
Which caused him to be rich always,
Even when he went without.
How did he know this God, you ask?
Well, by his Holy Book.
Upon which, long ago,
His obligations he first took.
He knew the hidden mysteries
But never did reveal
Them to another mortal man
Unless they shared the zeal,
For living a good life
Based on temperance, fortitude,
Prudence, justice, charity,
All of which he did protrude.
He built so much on Earth
With his tools of Masonry,
An edifice of sacrifice,
A home, a family.
Those family members' eyes now
filled
With tears that fill the seas.

He told them not to cry, but
That was naiveté.
To expect them to be dry
When such a man as he's laid down?
And commits his soul to Heaven
And his body to cold ground?
Perhaps one hundred years from now
At the breaking of the dawn,
A worthy brother shall visit him,
And gently lay upon
His forgotten grave a bright sprig
Of green Acacia tree,
To remind all those who know the
Craft,
He lives eternally.
Perchance a passerby shall ask
"What King or Saint lay here?
To receive such an honor,
Even passed so many year?"
"No King or Saint lay here, my
friend,
A man, and nothing more.
But a man who was a Mason
Deserveth honor, evermore!"
And in this darkest moment
He knows that he will be raised,
By the lion's paw of Judah
And pulled out of the grave.
By a kind and helpful brother
Who's already crossed beyond,
And in eternal company
Of bless'd Holy Saints John.
And when he joins the Heavens
He'll be tempted to take rest,
But virtue is his nature,
Not mere idleness, nor jest.
For this man is a Mason
He will continue to serve and build,
Even in the afterlife
If't be Architect's will.
So remember, when the working tools
Are put down on this Earth,
That is not the end
Of a Mason's work and worth.
For the Great Architect of the
Universe
Lives forever, and is just,
And immortality is
The greatest gift from Him to us.

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

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The Masonic 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)