# Masonic X Messenger

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

April 2013



Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38
Passes Nine Fellowcraft Masons
in Two Weeks

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#### **MASONIC MESSENGER**

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#### - Worshipful Brother Gary H. Leazer

## From Beneath the Editor's Desk



#### Blue Moutain Lodge No. 38 Passes Nine Fellowcrafts, Raises Three Master Masons since January

Blue Moutain Lodge No. 38 in Dahlonega is a lodge on fire. During the month of March the lodge passed nine Fellowcraft Masons, five of whom were law enforcement officers. Since January, the lodge has raised three Master Masons.

As I watched four of these Brothers receive their Fellowcraft degree, I could not help but to think of Gideon, one of the judges in the Hebrew Scriptures.

In the Book of Judges, chapter 6, an angel comes to Gideon and calls him a "mighty warrier." I am certain Gideon responded, "You don't know what you are talking about. I am not a mighty warrier." But the angel saw

the future and knew what Gideon would become.

I wondered about what kind of Freemasons these nine Fellowcraft Masons would become. Will they become mighty Freemasons? With God's help and our mentoring, they can become truly mighty Freemasons.

Who knows what God has in mind for these new Brothers? We don't know but I believe one or more, maybe all, of these Brothers will become mighty Freemasons to serve our Craft in ways none of us can imagine.

I always wonder that when I watch a man take his degrees. There is a mighty Freemason within each of us. All we have to do is let him out.



(Front row from left) Wor. Bro. Jack Smoot, Worshipful Master; Fellowcraft Brothers Kevin T. Thomas; Rajpal Singh Sagoo, Nathanial Kirchner, Jason Canupp, Brendan Garland, and Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Deacon.

(Back row from left) Fellowcraft Brothers Sterling Cole, Patrick Wood, Alan Roach, Chase Greene, and Wor. Bro. Loyd Anderson, Director of Work.

#### — From Most Worshipful Grand Master E. Ray Knittel

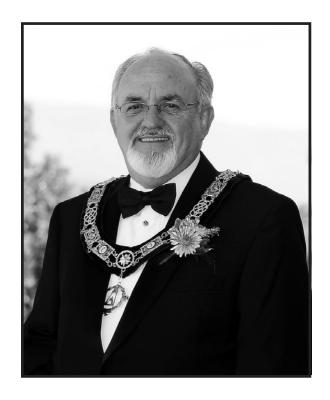
In the third section of the Master's Degree, there is a lecture, seldom used, called "The Hourglass." The lecture uses the hourglass to illustrate how swiftly the sands of human life run and how little time we have to make a difference. This is especially real to me as I reflect upon how quickly my first six months as Grand Master have flown by. I have tried to visit with as many of you as possible. I have visited Lodges in all of the Districts except for the Third District and I will be there soon.

I cannot express to you how grateful I am for your energy, your enthusiasm and your dedication to this great Fraternity of ours. From one end of this State to the other, you are making a difference. For example, with the GaChip program you have now supplied ID kits to over 77,000 children throughout Georgia and held over 850 **GaChip** Events. This is an amazing accomplishment that would not have been possible without you and your District leadership working together. It is indeed great but we have to do more. We have over one million children in Georgia that we have not been able to get to with our program. The State GaChip Leadership has assured me that within the next 60 days, we will have our own Child Identification software in place which will enable us to put more units in the field. More units equals more children. However, all of the units possible will do nothing without you and your Lodge continuing to promote, support and schedule GaChip events in your community. Working together, we can "Make A Difference" in doing all that we can to keep the children of our community safe and that is what is important.

I have some more good news. Wor. Brother Steven Fishman, State Chairman of the Georgia Masonic Blood Drive updated me this weekend with an outstanding report. Total units of blood given by the Masons of Georgia totals 10,086 Units for the 3 years and 6 months since the program began. That is terrific but what is really great is that our totals for the first five months since October is 2,561. Putting that in perspective:

10,086 in 42 months = 240.14 per month 2,561 since October = 512.20 per month

Our monthly average has more than doubled and at this rate, we will exceed 6,000 units for this year alone. You and the Lodges of Georgia are amazing. Keep up the good work. I am challenging each of the twelve Masonic Districts to give 500 units of blood this year. I know you can do it. My congratulations along with my thanks go to W. Bro. Fishman and to all of you who are working hard to make a difference. Keep up the great work Brethren, you are "Making A Difference".



I am amazed at the number of Lodges that are participating in the "Lodge of The Year" program. I encourage you to double your efforts as the time is fast approaching for the conclusion of this year's entries. I would like to see every Lodge in Georgia participate and win but Brethren, if you participate – if you have been able to use this program to bring new energy to your Lodge, even if you do not win, you and your Lodge are winners. Thank you for all of the positive feedback and the enthusiasm many of you have shown for this program.

You all know the old saying, "time and tide wait for no man." Brethren, as we begin together the next half of this Grand Lodge Year, I urge all of you to continue to let the light of Freemasonry shine in your community. Organize those blood drive and report the results, hold those GaChip events, do all that you can to demonstrate to those around you what we are all about as men and Masons. I want you to know how proud and honored I am to serve you, the Masons of Georgia. Your support and encouragement are the fuel that drives the Grand Lodge Officers and me to be all that we can be, to do our best as we serve this great Fraternity.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,

E. Ray Knittel Grand Master - 2013

#### **DeMolays Celebrate 94th Anniversary**

DeMolay Chapters around the world celebrated the month of March as International DeMolay Month to mark the March 18th anniversary of the founding of the Order in 1919.

Locally, Peachtree City Chapter held several events to celebrate the seven main virtues of DeMolay: Love of Parents, Reverence for Sacred Things, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanliness and Patriotism. They culminated their activities with a public installation of officers on Saturday, March 23 at 7:00 pm, at the Peachtree City Masonic Center.

DeMolay, an international organization for young men age 12 (and completed the 7th grade) to 21, utilizes local chapters as a "laboratory" setting for members to learn leadership skills, public speaking, time management and financial management. In addition to these skills DeMolay offers an expansive social and athletic program.

DeMolay chapters also work to become community assets through programs of community service. Each year, thousands of community service projects are undertaken by DeMolay chapters throughout the world.

Over 30,000 young men in the United States actively participate in DeMolay chapters today and well over one million men have benefited from the DeMolay experience since it was founded in 1919. Famous Senior DeMolays include: President Bill Clinton, Walt Disney, Gary Collins, John Wayne, Walter Cronkite, Fran Tarkenton, Astronauts, U.S. Senators, Governors, business leaders and successful community minded citizens.



Young men and their parents who are interested in or curious about DeMolay are encouraged to attend this public ceremony. For more information, visit www.peachtreecitydemolay.org, or contact Chapter Dad Skip Mason at (770) 487-6482 or (770) 855-4995.

PeachtreeCity Mayor Don Haddix read a proclamation for DeMolay Month. Pictured from left (top photo) are Mayor Haddix, Advisors Bill Lewis and Skip

Mason. Seated in the lower photo are DeMolays Justin Williamson, Master Councilor; Samir Davis; and Blake McElroy.



#### Masonic Eagle Scout Awards



Wor. Bro. Richard S. Bailey, Chairman, DDGM, 11th District, stands next to his grandson, Jesse Bailey (center), a new Eagle Scout, as Jesse's dad, Rick S. Bailey, Jr., beams with pride.



Wor. Bro. Russ Gee, DDGM, 9-D, presented a Masonic Eagle Scout award to Jordan Wallace at Harmony Baptist Church in Dawsonville on March 10. Jordan is a Sea Scout.

#### The Masonic Travels of the Golden Goose



The Golden Goose was presented by Coosa Lodge No. 622 to Oostanaula Lodge No. 113. Pictured from the left are Wor. Bro. Don Henderson, Bros. Shay Momon, Jar Edwards. Cell Ramey, Wor. Master Hefrman Brock, Sect. Jody House, Wor. Bro. Bob Bry.



The Golden Goose quickly flew on and made it safely to Oothacaloga Lodge No. 154, F. & A. M in Calhoun, from its temporary roost at Oostanaula Lodge. From the left are Wor. Bro. Don Henderson, Oostanaula No. 113 and Wor. Bro. Randell S. Hendrix, Oothacaloga Lodge No. 154.



#### Bryan Lodge No. 303 makes Donation to Salvation Army

Today at a ceremony held at the Salvation Army in Savannah Georgia, Worshipful Master Larry Lowe of Bryan Lodge No. 303 presented Captain Marion Platt with a check for \$527.46.

This money along with a truckload of assorted items was provided by Bryan Lodge No. 303 of Richmond Hill and was the result of a fundraiser held at the lodge.

According to Captain Platt, this money is enough to provide 283 people one meal or 32 people two meals and a nights lodging!

At Bryan Lodge No. 303, as well as at all Masonic Lodges, a primary goal is providing for the needs of others who just may need a little help with their day-to-day needs. The ongoing mission of Bryan Lodge No. 303 in the region is to leave this area and its citizens in better condition than we found it.

#### Rossville Masonic Lodge No. 397 Helps Feed Veterans

On Saturday March 16, the Rossville Masonic Lodge No. 397 with the VFW post No. 3679, American Legion Post No. 214 and Post No. 217 along with Rolling Thunder Tennessee 2 motorcycle group went to Murfreesboro and feed the Veterans. "There were over 400 to 500 fed and we had to go and get more food." The Georgia VFW State Commander, Rusty Rogers, was also present to help.



#### Cornerstone laid at the Elberton-Elbert County Conference Center and Museum

#### Dr. Joyce Davis, Elberton Historian

The Auditorium-Armory/Rock Gym was dedicated on March 14, 1941 with a Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony and today on March 17, 2013 is being rededicated as the Elberton-Elbert County Conference Center and Museum.

This building served many years as a city auditorium, high school basketball gymnasium, and National Guard headquarters.

It opened in January 1942 for the Elberton Chamber of Commerce annual banquet and served as the site for many banquets, high school plays and assemblies, high school basketball games, high school graduations, and numerous other events, such as dances.

The National Guard moved away in 1960 to its new headquarters on Calhoun Falls Highway, and the building continued to be used by the Elbert County High School and then the Elbert County Middle School. After being used for adult reading classes under the auspices of the late Betty Williford, it fell into disuse in the 1990s.

In December 1998, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, through the initial efforts of the Elbert County Middle School classes of Dr. Alice Terry, with assistance from the Elbert County Historical Society, the Elbert County Board of Commissioners, and the Elbert County Board of Education.

In 2003, Elbert County Historical Society president Jane D. Farmer appointed Iris T. Anderson chair of the Rock Gym Steering Committee which was formed to save and renovate the building; and, in 2012, the building was reopened with a formal ceremony on October 13. Today it is being formally rededicated with a Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony.

#### A Celebration of 300 Years of Freemasonry

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska is doing a five-year build up to the 2017 300th anniversary of our current form of Freemasonry. The history is based on a family tree they created looking at the origins and ancestry of their three Grand Lodges which signed their first charters. Different parts of that history will be celebrated and featured each year at their annual communication through 2017. Their 2014 meeting will feature Masonry's arrival in the United States and begets the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1778 and the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in 1787. — The North Carolina Mason, March/April 2013.

On February 21, 1734, a lodge of Freemasons was organized at Savannah under the "old Customs" (without warrant). On December 2, 1735, the lodge was warranted

by the Grand Lodge of England and entered on the engraved list as "The Lodge at Savannah in Ye Province of Georgia." The lodge at Savannah changed its name in or prior to 1770 to Solomon's Lodge.

On December 16, 1786, four lodges met together and created the most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia. However, Freemasonry has been alive and well in Georgia since 1734.

The Grand Lodge of Georgia will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the creation of the first Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of England, in 2017.

A series of historical articles will be published in the Masonic Messenger highlighting important events and leaders of our fair Craft.

#### Middle Georgia Daylight Lodge No. 756 Raised Three New Master Masons

The Brethren at Middle Georgia Daylight Lodge No. 756 had a great day on Monday, April the first. Since Christmas they have raised three Brothers who have all passed proficiency on the Master Mason degree. The Brethren celebrated in an open event by presenting them with a Master's Apron, a certificate of proficiency, and Masonic Bible. Their wives and families were invited to join in this celebration. The morning began with another fabulous breakfast prepared by the Lodge Ladies, then the celebration and awards.

Pictured are Bros. Kevin Gomes, Rob Nethaway, John Glenn and Worshipful Brother Art Sim.



#### Yaraab Shrine Potentate Visits Snellville Lodge

Worshipful Brother and Potentate of the Yaraab Shrine Chuck Pittman and several of his officers visited Snellville Lodge No. 99 recently. The visit was arranged by Worshipful Brother Gary Lewis, a Past Master of Snellville Lodge and Treasurer at the Yaraab Shrine.

Potentate Pittman said this was his twelfth visit to a Blue Lodge during the past three months. He indicated his visits were to support Most Worshipful E. Ray Knittel's desire for "Unity, Education and Image" throughout the Brotherhood.

The Shriners showed two brief videos to the Brethren at Snellville Lodge. The first was a quick look at the history of the Shrine, which was begun in 1872 as a social club by thirteen Master Masons in New York City. In 1922, the first Shriners Hospital was opened in Shreveport, Louisiana. Today, there are 22 Shriners Hospitals in the United States, Mexico, and Canada to give children a brighter future.

The second video was entitled "Love to the Rescue," a moving story of how Shriners Hospitals change children's lives. The beautiful young lady who narrates the video was a patient in a Shriners Hospital and received a prosthetic hand and two legs. You may view this video at the Yaraab Shrine website at yaarabshrine.org.

Yaraab Shrine will hold its annual circus at the Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta May 3-12. May 4 is Masons' Day.



Illustrious Potentate Chuck Pittman presents a Shrine statue to Worshipful Master Mack Brannan.

Freemasons and their families will receive complementary entrance to the circus by showing a dues card or wearing a lodge shirt. The Grand Master, Most Worshipful E. Ray Knittel, will be the honorary ring master at the 7:00 p.m. performance on May 4th. There is a rumor he will ride an elephant; that is something you won't want to miss. For more information, visit www.marietta.com/yaarabshrine-circus.

#### Doerun Lodge No. 151 is a busy Lodge

The Brothers of Doerun Lodge No. 151 in the 2nd Masonic District Convention are busy taking their Masonic Light into the community. The Lodge sponsored a Masonic Blood Drive at the Church of Christ in Moultrie, GA on March 14. This blood drive was a huge success and 54 units were gathered for the Red Cross. The Brothers pulled together to aid where possible and some of the volunteers cooked hamburgers and funnel cakes for the donors.

We also sponsored a GACHIP event at Doerun Elementary School on March 20. After a large amount of rain in Southern Georgia foiled our Feb. 27 attempt, we rescheduled for the 20th of March. We planned ahead and sent home the permission slips with the students in advance of our visit. This proved to be a valuable idea because the paperwork was already filled out and made entering it into the computer a lot easier and faster. At the end of the event, we had successfully identified 86 children using 5 CHIP computers.





(Left) Wor. Bro. Joe Bolin, our current Senior Deacon and the Masonic Home Trustee for the 2nd District works at one of the computer stations.

Pictured below is Wor. Bro. Greg McGhee, the sitting Worshipful Master of Doerun Lodge.

#### Hampton Lodge Holds Valetine Luncheon for Masonic Widows

Every year Hampton Lodge No. 70 honors our "Special Ladies," our Masonic Widows, with a Valentine Luncheon in heir honor. They always look forward to it and have a great time.

First Row *left to right*: Lottie Greer, Evelyn Hines, Louise Howard, Lucille Henderson, Ellen Henderson, Jeanette Sutton. Second Row *left to right*: Becky McBrayer, Martha Garrett, Betty Copeland, Faye Settlemyer, Judy McGehee, Betty English, Barbara Akins. Masons standing *left to right* are Chaplain Coy Whittington, Junior Deacon Joe Yeater, Tyler Jim Sanders, Ambassador to the Children's Home Mike Butler, Secretary Tim Legarth DDGM 6D, Past Master Barry Brooks, Past Master Tom Moore.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, the "Special Ladies" of Hampton Lodge attended a Valentine Lunch in their honor and the honor of their late husbands who were members of our lodge. We appreciate these ladies and the time that we are able to spend with them on this special day.

The lodge was decorated for Valentine's Day and lunch



was served which consisted of Meat Loaf, Butter Peas, Creamed Potatoes, Copper Pennies (carrots), Pear Salad, Tea, Coffee and a myriad of desserts

> Fraternallly, Tim Legarth, DDGM 6D Secretary, Hampton Lodge No. 70

#### Wolihin Lodge Holds Disc Golf Fundraiser for Special Olympics



Wolihin Lodge No. 390 held a Disc Golf Fundraiser on March 9, to benefit the Special Olympics. Brother C. Tyler Crowley (not in picture) put the event together. Wolihin Lodge Brothers grilled hotdogs for the players. Over \$2,000.00 was raised that day.

Pictured from left to right are: Wor. Bros. W. J. Holder, Worshipful Master; C. T. Crowley, Jr.., T. J. Graham, T. M. White, Bro. W. D. Phillips, Bro. A. K. Jones, and Wor. Bro. C. T. Crowley, Sr.

#### William G. England Lodge Hosts Annual Past Grand Masters Appreciation Communication

Six Past Grand Masters attended the Past Grand Masters Appreciation Communication at William G. England Lodge No. 747 on March 5. Each of the six told many interesting stories from their year as Grand Master.

Grand Master Most Worshipful Brother E. Ray Knittle, who introduced each of them, made several comments about each of them.

The Grand Master and the Past Grand Masters stationed themselves in officers' chairs and closed the lodge, afterward retiring to the dining hall for good food and fellowship.



Grand Master Knittel and Wor. Bro. George A. Gormley, Worshipful Master of William G. England Lodge



From the left are Past Grand Masters B. Palmer Mills (2011), J. Edward Jennings (2009), Albert F. Garner (2005), Thomas L. Blanton (2004), Joseph P. Suttles (1995), and James E. Underwood (1993). Standing behind the Past Grand Masters are Wor. Bros. Charles Long, Grand Marshal; Grand Master E. Ray Knittel; Wor. Bro. Howard Touchstone, Grand Chaplain; and Wor. Bro. Leon Lewis, Grand Tyler.

#### Traveling Men Escort Grand Master



Traveling Men Chapter 19, Steel Goat Riders, had the pleasure of escorting the Most Worshipful Grand Master E. Ray Knittel to Tyrian Lodge No. 111, Warner Robins, on March 12. The escort was assisted by the Houston Co Sheriffs office.

Pictured from left to right are Seabey Dykes, Eddie Ferguson, Grand Master E Ray Knittel, Eric Bledsoe, Danny Galpin, and Mitchell Bennett.

#### Get Involved in Relay for Life

Get involved in Relay for Life in your community. Help fight a terrible disease.

Buford Lodge No. 292 is again taking the lead in the 2013 Relay for Life of Gwinnett at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds on Friday, May 10, at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Bro. Gerald Gifford at 404-713-7928.

#### Real Support for a Brother

To show their support for a fellow officer, Bro. James, who is undergoing chemo therapy, each of the officers of Carter Hill Lodge No. 268 shaved their heads.





#### A Proud Dad! A New Master Mason!

As Worshipful Master of Morning Star Lodge No. 27 I recently raised my son John Clifford Roberts on February 11. I was also was his coach for all three degrees. Cliff had seen how much Masonry had changed my life many years ago. He was full of joy when his 21st birthday came on October 25, 2012. The next day he had asked me for a petition. It must have been in the cards for him to do his degree work the same year that I am the Master of the Lodge. I am glad to see him in the lodge because he is full of enthusiasm and is ready to sit in a chair. His goal is to be the Master of the Lodge. He also comes from four continuous generations of Masons.

At his raising ceremony he was presented with his great grandfathers ring which had been passed down to him. The picture is of Cliff just after standing his Masters proficiency.

Billy Roberts Worshipful Master Morning Star Lodge No. 27



#### Morrow Lodge No. 734 Presents Check to the Morrow Good Shepherd Clinic

Morrow Lodge No. 734 F&AM presented the Morrow Good Shepherd Clinic a check for \$1,000 at Morrow First Baptist Church on December 11, 2012. The event was well attended by pastors from Morrow First Baptist, Morrow United Methodist, Morrow Presbyterian, the general community and Brothers from several lodges. Morrow Lodge's charity committee made the Clinic the focus of the lodge's charity for 2012.

Medical doctor, Dr. Thomas Kelly, and a minister, Bro. and Rev. Dr. Jimmy Lewis, Cherokee No. 66, had a vision that all Clayton County residents should have access to quality care without consideration for their ability to pay. Their vision was realized on September 16, 2000, when the Good Shepherd Clinic opened with Dr. Kelly providing medical care. Since opening, the clinic has provided medical care, along with medications, to several thousand Clayton County residents. The Clinic is funded by donations.

Pictured clockwise from upper left are Wor. Bro. Hugh D. Smith, PM and Senior Warden of Morrow Lodge, presenting the check to Lisa Page, Clinic Administrator;







Wor. Bro. Robert H. Brannon, PM, introducing Bro. and Dr. Jimmy Lewis, co-founder of the Clinic; and Masons present for the presentation.

#### Live Oak No. 137 Makes Donation to Home



Pictured from left are Wor. Bro. Bob Whitlow, Vice President of the Board of Trustees; Right Wor. Bro. Joe Watson, Grand Secretary; and Wor. Bro. Ty Poppell, Worshipful Master of Live Oak Lodge No. 137.

#### Are You a Perpetual Member?

Mrs Hellon Thompson Hooper, widow of PGM Henry Troy Hooper (1974), went to be with her Lord, Tuesday, April 9th. Interment was at Talmadge Cemetery in Monticello. Please remember her family when on bended knee in devotion to our Heavenly Father.

The members of Live Oak Lodge No. 137 held a very successful fundraiser in the month of October 2012. The fundraiser was for the Molly and Spencer McGurdy Scholarship, the Masonic Home and other charities the Lodge supports.

The Lodge made a donation to the Home in the amount of \$1,600.00. Grand Lodge was notified and Right Worshipful Brother Joseph Watson, Grand Secretary, and Worshipful Brother Bob Whitlow, vice president of the Board of Trustees, came down to receive the check. Worshipful Brethren Watson and Whitlow were welcomed and enjoyed a wonderful dinner that was prepared by Worshipful Brother Tommy Douglas and fellowship with the brethren before the meeting.

#### Masonic Information Center Announces End of Mark Twain Award Program

In 2006, the Masonic Information Center, an arm of the Masonic Service Association of North America, launched the Mark Twain Award for Excellence in Masonic Awareness, planning to sponsor the Award for three years. With growing Lodge participation, the competition was extended for an additional four years. Now, having completed its 7th year and having recognized 129 winners, MIC feels it is being pulled to serve new initiatives, and no Twain Award will be offered in 2013.

#### Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722 Hosts First Masonic District Convention

The 107th Annual Communication of the First Masonic District Convention was opened by the officers of Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722 at their Masonic Hall on DeRenne Avenue in Savannah on March 23. All present were welcomed to Roger Lacey Lodge and the pledge of allegiance to our national flag was given.

The Grand Master, Most Worshipful E. Ray Knittel, was found in waiting. He was presented to the lodge by District Deputies to the Grand Master for the First District. Private honor were rendered.

Grand Master Knittel introduced his officers attending the Convention: Right Worshipful Bros. Edgar M. Land, Deputy Grand Master; Douglas W. McDonald, Senior Grand Warden; Joseph W. Watson, Grand Secretary, and Bobby B. Simmons, PGM, Grand Treasurer. Other Grand Lodge officers present were Wor. Bros. Charlie Long, Grand Marshal; Gary H. Leazer, Senior Grand Deacon; and Johnie M. Garmon, Second Grand Steward.

In addition to Past Grand Master Simmons, Past

Grand Masters Clyde Griffin and Rex Chilton were present and duly recognized.

The roll call of lodges was taken. One hundred sixteen Masons from registered.



Rev. and Wor. Bro. Irvin D. Smith was the First District and presented the J. Walter Cowart Award an additional 18 as Mason of the Year by Past Grand brothers from out- Master Griffin and Grand Master Knittel side the District were on behalf of the 11th District.

The secretary-treasurer, M. P. Jones, Jr., reported balance on hand after bills were paid today of \$2,966.34. He moved that the Convention donate \$1,500 to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. The motion passed. In addition, \$200 was collected for the Endowment Fund.

Wor. Bro. David Pollock reported that 10 GACHIP events were held in the District by 5 lodges since the 2012 Convention. He reported the GACHIP program is doing well in the District.

Wor. Bro. Andrew Favor reported that 130 Brothers had passed away since the last Convention.

Wor. Bro. Robert "Bob" C. Whitlow presented a most interesting report on the Masonic Home. He reported there are 26 children and youth at the Home with four in higher education in the Macon area.

Bro. Whitlow then gave an interesting historical summary of the Home in 1931 from articles in the Masonic Messenger. One hundred ninety-six children lived at the home in January 1931. He read a recommendation from the 1931 report on the home: "As soon as it is possible for the board to plan for cottages housing small groups of 10 to 15 boys and girls these cottages should be built and these children removed from the main building." More beds were needed at the Home as 2-3 children slept in one bed. More toilets were needed as "only two toilets [were] available for the use of 53 girls and the toilet facilities in all the halls are inadequate."

The farm superintendent and the boys were busy in March planting Irish potatoes and an early spring garden. The Home asked the Brethren of Georgia to send enough sweet potato plants for potatoes to last through the next winter. Because the price of citrus fruit in Florida was low, it was reported the children were enjoying an abundance of oranges and grapefruit.

Bro. Whitlow closed by reminding the Brothers of the two statewide workdays at the Home: April 13 and August 10. He encouraged as many as possible to be present as a good number of projects are on the trestle board.

The First Masonic District Custodian for the past 24 years, Wor. Bro. William F. Pilon, reported he gave out seven orange cards, 18 green cards, 88 blue cards and 124 white cards since the last Convention.

The District presented plaques to Wor. Bro. Mark Bennett, the out-going Master, and Wor. Bro. H. Jay Robbins, Master for the ensuing year.

Grand Master E. Ray Knittel, assisted by the Grand Marshal, Wor. Bro. Charlie Long, and Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer, acting Grand Chaplain, installed the District officers for the ensuing year.

After the Grand Master closed lodge, the brethren were treated to a fantastic meal prepared by two ladies, Mrs.



Past Grand Master Griffin and Grand Master Knittel presented the Master of Hinesville Lodge No. 271 the attendance award.

#### Announcement Approved by Most Worshipful E. Ray Knittel

This announcement first appeared in the October 2005 Masonic Messenger

The Grand Lodge of Georgia acknowledges no degree of Masonry or Order of Knighthood to be legitimate and genuine except those conferred by or under the authority of the following regularly continued Masonic bodies of the United States of America, and those of corresponding rank in foreign countries, to wit: The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the several States and Territories; the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States and Territories; the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International; and the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters of the United States and Territories; the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States and Territories; The Supreme Council of Ancient and Accept Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States; and The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States.

Further, the Grand Lodge of Georgia recognizes the following Masonic-related organizations as legitimate:

- Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour and affiliated Conclaves.
- United Grand Imperial Council Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders for the United States of America, Mexico and the Philippines and affiliated Conclaves.
- York Rite Sovereign College of North America and affiliated Colleges.
- The Grand Council Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America and affiliated Councils.
- The Grand College of America Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and affiliated Tabernacles.
- Grand Council Knight Masons USA and affiliated Bodies.

- Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis and affiliated Colleges.
  - Grand College of Rites of the USA.
- The Supreme Forest Tall Cedars of Lebanon and affiliated Forests.
- Imperial Shrine of North America, (AAONMS) and affiliated Temples.
  - National Sojourners, Inc. and affiliated Chapters.
  - The Royal Order of Scotland and Associations.
- Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America and affiliated Courts.
- International Supreme Council of the Order of Demolay and affiliated Chapters.
- International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and affiliated Assemblies.
- International Order of Job's Daughters and affiliated Bethels.
- General Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star International and affiliated Chapters.
- Supreme Council Order of Amaranth and affiliated Grand and subordinate Courts.
- Internal Order of White Shrine of Jerusalem and affiliated Shrines.
- Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm (MOVPER), Grotto)

Other legitimate organizations:

- The Philalethes Society
- Society of Blue Friars
- The Masonic Society
- St. Thomas of Acon
- Royal Society of Knights Occidental
- Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor
- Nine Muses Council
- Knights Bienfaisants De La Cite Sainte (CBCS)



#### Travis Karr Receives Eagle Scout Award

Worshipful Brother Carlton Ethridge, a member of the Masonic Home Board of Trustees, and Right Worshipful Brother Joseph W. Watson, Grand Secretary, visit with Travis Daniel Karr after presenting his Masonic Eagle Scout award.

#### Tenth District Traveling Gavel Presented to George Walton Lodge

Wor. Master Milton Steinberg of Martinez Lodge No. 710 presents the 10th Masonic District Traveling Gavel to Wor. Master Tom Miller of George Walton Lodge No. 699 on March 14. Nine members of Martinez Lodge accompanied WM Steinberg to George Walton Lodge to witness the presentation.

The 10th District Traveling Gavel is supposed to travel to each Lodge in the District, in order, from the highest number Lodge to the lowest number Lodge during the Masonic year, prior to the 10th Distric Convention. Each Lodge is to present it to the next Lodge in sequence.

Wor. Bro. Steinberg is on the right; Wor. Bro. Miller is on the left. The ugly guy in the middle is Wor. Bro. Brian Coffey. — Wor. Bro. Brian Coffey.

(Editor's Note: I print the news as I receive it!)



#### Grand Master Knittel Visits Cochran Lodge

The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bro. E.Ray Knittel, visited Cochran Masonic Lodge No. 217. After a plate FULL of food the Grand Master, Grand Marshal, Grand Secretary, the Brethren, their families and guests adjourned to the lodge room where the Grand Master presented an outstanding and entertaining talk. The room was overflowing with extra chairs being brought in.

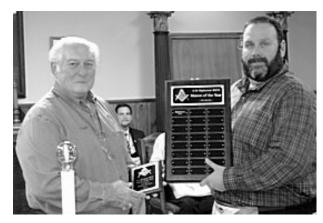
After his talk the Grand Master presented his Veterans Pins to the Veterans and the First Lady's Pin to ALL the ladies present.



#### Hightower Lodge Honors Wor. Bro. Dennis

E. W. Hightower Lodge No. 679 began awarding the Mason of the Year Award for 2012. The first recipient of this award was Worshipful Brother Ralph O. Dennis. Brother Dennis is a Past Master and current Secretary. He has served the lodge in several other positions since coming here. He has served the Grand Lodge of Georgia as a District Director for Masonic Education and Leadership Development. He is currently serving the Grand Lodge on the Educational and Historical Commission. He has authored numerous articles for the Grand Lodge magazine, The Masonic Messenger, and handles the lodge's press releases. He has represented our lodge well and has served in any way asked. He was quite moved to be honored as the first. A large plaque will be placed in the lodge with the names of future Masons of the Year on it.





#### Tenth District Traveling Gavel Presented to Martinez Lodge No. 710



On February 4, Worshipful Master Billy Childers and members of Fleming Lodge No. 718 of Augusta presented the Tenth District Traveling Gavel to Worshipful Master Milton Steinberg of Martinez Lodge No. 710.

Pictured are Worshipful Master Childers and 13 members of Fleming Lodge No. 718 of Augusta presenting the Tenth District Traveling Gavel to Worshipful Master Steinberg of Martinez Lodge No. 710 in Martinez Lodge, Martinez, Georgia.

#### Rockmart Lodge No. 97 Holds Annual "100 Member Event." **Grand Master Makes Official Visitation**

Eighty-six Brethren from around the 7th District and other districts gathered at Rockmart Lodge No. 97 for the annual "100 Member Event" on March 21.



Wor. Master Tom Landrum presents Grand Master E. Ray Knittel a plaque naming him an honorary member of Rockmart Lodge.



The Grand Master and Wor. Master Landrum present a plaque of appreciation to Bro. Curtis Barron for his untiring services to Rockmart Lodge now has 34 perpetual Lodge who each year collects 100s of toys to distribute to needy families in the community. bers.



The Grand Master presents a Perpetual Membership certificate to Wor. Master Landrum. Rockmart members out of 215 total mem-

#### 7th District Lodges Hold Quad Communication

On April 4, Lindale Lodge No. 455, Plainville Lodge No. 364, Lyerly Lodge No. 338 and Floyd Springs Lodge No. 167 held a Quad Communication at Lindale. Grand Master E.Ray Knittle, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Georgia, was present with Wor. Bro. Charles Long, Grand Marshal; RightWorshipful F.A. Drew Lane, Grand Junior Warden; Wor. Bro. Howard Touchstone, Grand Chaplain; and Wor. Bro. Leon Lewis Grand Tyler. Seventh District officers present were Wor. Bros. F.A. Drew Lane, Worshipful Master, Charles Long, Deputy Master; Greer Henderson, Senior Warden; and Randy Payne, Senior Steward. Their were over 17 lodges repersented with over 77 Master Masons in attendents. This was the first ever in Floyd County with four lodges meeting at the same time in the same building.



Eagle Scout Patrick P. Bonito, III from BSA Troup No. 23 receives the Masonic Eagle Scout award from Wor. Bro. Jamie Newsome, DDGM



#### 2013 Masonic District Conventions

Registration is one hour before meeting time

#### THIRD DISTRICT

Master: Melvin Gilley (229), P.O. Box 351, Dawson

Cell: 229-869-3121

Secty: Wilton King (190), P.O. Box 62, Rochelle 31079

Ph: 229-365-7725 Cell: 229-401-8292

Convention: Dawson

Host Lodge: P. T. Schley Lodge No. 229 Date: April 27. 2013 Time: 9:00 am

#### **FOURTH DISTRICT**

Master: Doyle R. Hatfield (586), 15246 Ga. Hwy. 85,

Waverly Hall 31831

Ph: 706-582-3962 Cell: 706-681-0480 Secty: Len Davis (424), 108 Falls Crest Dr.,

La Grange 30240 Cell: 706-333-7110 Convention: Manchester

Host Lodge: Stephens Lodge No. 586 Date: August 17, 2013 Time: 9:45 am

#### FIFTH DISTRICT

Master: Jack J. Bell (235), 10985 Bell Road, Johns

Creek 30097

Ph: 770-476-1849 Cell: 770-570-2446

Secty: Charles Beasley (674), 2890 Fairburn Rd., SW, Atlanta 30331

Ph: 404-344-9674 Cell: 404-313-4466

Convention: Alpharetta, GA

Host Lodge: Alpharetta Lodge No. 235 Date: September 14, 2013 Time: 9:00 am

#### SIXTH DISTRICT

Master: A. Hendry Betts, II, (734), 6006 Mailbu Dr., Morrow 30260

Ph: 770-961-4854 Cell: 404-368-9656

Secty: Neil Maddock (691), 545 Ivey Lane, Stock-

bridge, 30281

Ph: 770-474-7611 Cell: 404-216-5466

Convention: Jackson

Host Lodge: St. Johns Lodge No. 45 Date: May 4, 2013 Time: 9:00 am

#### SEVENTH DISTRICT

Master: F. Andrew (Drew) Lane, Jr. (182), P.O. Box

1534, Dallas 30132

Ph: 770-445-1455 Cell: 770-317-0010 Secty: Hugh F. Watson (33), 2774 Hicks Road,

Marietta 30060

Ph: 770-436-6047 Cell: 404-838-7124

Convention: Rome

Host Lodge: Cherokee Lodge No. 66 Date: May 10 & 11, 2013 Time: 9:00 am

#### **EIGHTH DISTRICT**

Master: Terry Robertson (348), 366 Moon Road,

Royston 30662 Cell: 706-988-7667

Secty: Joe Colvard (25), 1577 Brewers Bridge Ct.,

Elberton 30635

Ph: 706-283-7533 Cell: 706-788-9048

Convention: Danielsville

Host Lodge: John H. Jones Lodge No. 348 Date: May 18, 2013 Time: 10:00 am

#### **NINTH DISTRICT**

Master: Ernest Charlie Kelley, Jr., (220), 14351 Hwy.

53W, Fairmount 30139

Ph: 706-337-3362 Cell: 770-241-5081 Secty: William H. Lewis (729), 5508 Bowers Rd..

Stone Mountain 30087

Ph: 770-921-8194 Cell: 404-202-8488 Convention: Jasper, Georgia - Jasper High School,

Host Lodge: Pickens Star Lodge No. 220

Date: September 28, 2013 Time: 9:00 am

#### TENTH DISTRICT

Master: Roy Stampley (699), 3101 Wyman St.,

Augusta 30906

Ph: 706-798-7691 Cell: 706-564-1522

Secty: Charles Johnson (276), P.O. Box 697, Harlem

30814

Ph: 706-556-9677 Cell: 706-833-9676

Convention: Augusta

Host Lodge: George Walton Lodge No. 699 Date: June 8, 2013 Time: 10:00 am

#### **ELEVENTH DISTRICT**

Master: Wendell Browning, (716), 3173 Loch Laurel

Road, LakePark 31636

Ph: 229-244-0827 Cell: 229-415-3885

Secty: Hendry Howard (270), 3410 Ware St., Black-

shear 31516

Ph: 912-449-1548 Cell: 912-614-7904

Convention: Valdosta, Georgia Host Lodge: Azalea Lodge No. 716

Date: September 21, 2013 Time: 10:00 am

#### TWELFTH DISTRICT

Master: Raymond E. Taylor (393), 69 Parker Ln.

Milan 31060

Secty: A. Neal Mimbs (217), 121 Jeanette St.,

Cochran 31014

Ph: 478-934-4187 Cell: 478-697-4187

Convention: Cochran Lodge No. 217 Host Lodge: Milan Lodge No. 393 Date: April 20, 2013 Time: 9:00 am

#### Masonic Widows — A Lodge Presentation for Widows' Night

Rev. Don Combs, PM, Past Grand Chaplain

When I was first asked to do a presentation for Masonic Widows, I wasn't really sure what direction it should take. So I started to do some research and found there is really very little beside the indictment to every Mason to support our Brother Masons' widows. So I decided to go back to a beginning to where widows are first mentioned. I turned to the Bible to see just what it had to say about widows and see if I could find some Masonic connection. There are about 8 widows that I found in the scripture, and 5 have Masonic connections. The first three are all in the book of Ruth; Naomi, Orpah and Ruth. This book contains my mother's favorite verse in the bible, and one of mine as well.

From Ruth 1:16 (NIV); But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

All three became widows, with Naomi being the mother-in-law of Orpah and Ruth. After the death of their respective husbands, the three went to Judah. Since the two daughters-in-law were Moabites, Naomi tried to persuade them to return to their homeland so that they could resume their own normal lives before they got remarried. However, while Orpah listened to her mother-in-law, Ruth decided to stay in Judah. It is while she lived with Naomi that Boaz took notice of Ruth, and in accordance with ancient Israelite custom claimed her for his wife. Ruth was the Great-Grandmother of David. The Book of Ruth has also produced biblical passages that hint at part of our EA degree regarding redeeming and changing. This was great study, but of no help.

Next was the beautiful Bathsheba. This is a unique story in itself and concerns one of the Grand Masters that Masonic tradition teaches us is the very foundations of our teachings. The scripture, specifically 1 Samuel 11: 1-27, says that one evening David walked on the roof of his house and saw a very beautiful woman washing herself. Learning later that she was the wife of Uriah the Hittite who was one of his generals, and secretly coveting her for himself, he ordered that Uriah be sent to the front lines, the most dangerous part of the battlefield, there to do battle and consequently die. After the required period of mourning, David took Bathsheba as one of his many wives and on her second pregnancy with him, Solomon was born. Probably not the nicest story in the book and it is sometimes skimmed over when speaking of King David by saying he was not allowed to build a Temple, but he fathered Solomon, who was directed by God to do so. Bathsheba, the short termed widow, has Masonic connections, however, there is nothing here telling us why we honor our brothers' widows.

The one most familiar widow to Masons is Hiram's mother. Undoubtedly the most popular widow to Freemasons (and understandably so since all have represented Hiram Abif), this widow is neither named nor clearly identified in the Bible. To confound matters, the writer of 1 Kings says she is from the tribe of Naphtali, while the author of 1 Chronicles claims he is the son of a Danite woman. However, since Naphtali and Dan are sons of Jacob by the same mother named Bilhah, then it should follow that if Hiram Abif was a descendant of Naphtali, then he could not be a descendant of Dan, and vice versa!! More confusion among the craft here and still no reason as to the oath we take to honor our Brother's widows. By the way, the name "Abif" is not mentioned in the Scriptures. It is most likely that it is a form of the Hebrew word for father "Abba".

Next, I turned to the New Testament for guidance. 1st Timothy 5:9-10 (NIV) says,

No widow may be put on the list of widows, unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds."

If this were a baseball game I would have just struck out

Better, I like this. It is coming into line now. I am getting closer, but still I am perplexed. One more try, going ancient this time. I found an article so esoteric, so far out there that I couldn't resist mentioning what it had to say. In short, in Freemasonry we are encouraged as Master Masons, to contribute to the relief of worthy, distressed brother Master Masons, their wives, widows and orphans. Truly this is one of the greatest things we can do in the name of brotherly love, relief and truth, and this thought is not to diminish that in any way. In the ancient mythologies world wide, and in the teachings of Jungian Psychology, titles implying "Master", "Widow", and "Orphan" have specific symbolic connotations. Symbolically, an orphan represents that stage of development in which we feel abandoned and want to be taken care of. The widow on the other hand, represents the feminine side of man, which is not complete without being wed to the Master side. It is that side of ourselves that recognizes we are stuck in the world, and we have to deal with it. Therefore, as Master Masons we are told that part of our duty is to come to the relief of worthy, distressed Master Masons, their *widows* and orphans. From a symbolic standpoint, this would imply helping those brothers around us achieve greater levels of Mastery, raising up those aspects of themselves (and ourselves) that are still in the "orphan" or "widow" side of things, and reminding ourselves that we have Mastery within us. This thought is treated to explore these concepts further, so that we can define these traits from a symbolic standpoint, and give examples from world mythology.

Now it should all be clear, but not to me. So I guess I have to go off on my own and express it in my own way. When a candidate first approaches the door of the Lodge and asks admission into the room, he is sometimes addressed as Mister. This title may follow him during the first part of his initiation until he takes the solemn obligation of an Entered Apprentice Mason at which time he is referred to as "*Brother*", and in a very real sense has become a part of our fraternal family. But does that mean that his wife is now part of the fraternity?? After all, she doesn't pay dues, except maybe for the fact that they are usually the ones who write the check because we are too lazy to do it.

Working with the young Men of DeMolay, they have something called "The Flower Talk." Perhaps some of you have heard it before. It is a public ceremony honoring Mothers and I have heard this talk quite a few times. The young men often regard the talk a success if they can get at least one of the Mothers in the room to shed a tear or two, and I think they are pretty good at it. I recall one section of the talk in particular and it is as relevant to women as wives as it is to mothers. It goes like this:

Far in the dim recesses of her heart, where all is hushed and still, she keeps a shrine.

Tis here she kneels in prayer, while from above long shafts of light upon her shine.

Her heart is flower fragrant as she prays.

Aquiver like a candle flame, each prayer takes wing to bless the world she works among, to leave the radiance of the candles there.

So, our obligation to "aid and assist" our widows comes not so much from any obligation we take at an altar, but rather from that of our faith in our Masonic family, of which you became a part of when your husband, our brother, became a Mason. For while masonry continually reminded him of that purity of life and rectitude of conduct so essential to gain admission into that Celestial Lodge above where the Grand Architect of the Universe presides, it was you, his wife, who made sure that he remained on the path that allowed our departed brother to arrive there. May God bless you for honoring the memory our departed brother by being here today, and on behalf of this Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Georgia and Masonry in general, I thank you!!!

#### Polk County Lodges Hold GACHIP Event

Three Polk County lodges, Rockmart Lodge No. 97, Davitte Lodge No. 513, and William G. England Lodge No. 513, held their annual GACHIP event, the week of March 11-14 in four elementary schools. A total of 127 children were ID'd. We as Masons enjoyed the fellowship with one another and the service to our many children. We are thankful for our local law enforcement men and women who were with us in each of the four schools.

Pictured are members registering and weighing the students, students at the computers along with our law

enforcement officials and members putting information in the packetsto be given to parents — just several of the many necessary tasks at a GACHIP event.





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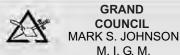
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### The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

III. Leonard E. Buffington, SGIG, Orient of Georgia

Web Site: GaScottish Rite.org

Charles Nagle, Superintendent of the Columbia County Schools, will be our guest speaker for our May 2<sup>nd</sup> Lodge of Perfection Meeting in the **Valley of Augusta**. He also will be presented with our Scottish Rite Educator Award.

Our Spring Reunion will be held on May 17 and 18. Our Flag Day Celebration will be held at our June Lodge of Perfection Meeting and the Superintendent of the Masonic Home, John Snipes, will be our guest speaker.

Renovations continue at the Scottish Rite with a new entry way just recently being completed, ceilings have been refinished, crown molding has been installed in the foyer and hallways, and a Scottish Rite Store is being completed for sale of Masonic Items. Come join us on the first Thursday of each month for a fine meal, a great program and fellowship.

You may call General Secretary Greg Oblak at 706-733-5387 if you have any questions.

The **Valley of Albany** will have Spring Reunion on April 20 beginning at 9:00am. Come and enjoy. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month and ladies are welcome.

Greetings from the **Valley of Columbus**. Scottish Rite Freemasonry is alive and well in the River City. On Saturday, October 20, 2012 the Columbus Valley held the Fall Class in honor of Ill. Bro. Edgar William Miller 33°. We congratulate Bros. Chris Ballard, Victor Birdseye III, Andrew Bourke, O.P. Carlile, Joseph Davis, Nicholas Depue, William Moseley, and Steven Saccente.

We congratulate eleven (11) members from the Valley of Columbus for their years of dedicated service to Scottish Rite Masonry. Each are awarded a 25 Year or 50 Year Pin and Certificate as a token of our appreciation and esteem.

For 25 Year: Ill. Bro. T. Edward Tante 33°, Henry Aderhold 32°, Vilas Anthony 32°, Kelly Dillon 32°, Robert Fleck 32°, James George 32°, Teddy Harman 32°, Jerry Harris 32°.

For 50 Year: Milton Guy Jr. 32°, Bobby Harris 32°, Carl McDonald 32°.





Thomas Neal Cromer Philomethea No. 25



Donald E. "Buck" Massengale Meridian Sun No. 26



David H. Smith, Sr. Coweta No. 60



Jodie Leon Hill Cartersville No. 63



Bill Turpin Cornelia No. 92



James Pelfrey Shannon No. 100



Melton Hugh Terry Mackey No. 120



Kade Gaines Ocilla No. 134



Weyman Mobley Ocilla No. 134



Jerry Sapp Live Oak No. 137



James Houston Cantrell Bartlett No. 139



Ronald Irven McClung Bartlett No. 139



Three brothers of Yonah Lodge No. 382 were presented their 50 Year awards on Feb. 28. Pictured from the left are Wor. Bro. Wilford Dean, Bro. Eugene Boggs, and Wor. Bro. Andy Hathaway, and Wor. Bro. Kevin Lomax, DDGM 9-C, who presented the awards.



Leslie Wayne Arrington Springville No. 153



James A. Connally Springville No. 153



Arthur Pete Hardt Springville No.153



Edward Road Hulsey Springville No. 153



Wayne A. Plunkett Springville No. 153



Howard Barnes Philologia No. 178



Willis Payne Marble Hill No. 207



Fletcher Eugene Green Flowery Branch 212



Most Worshipful Jerry D. Moss presents Bro. Clyde Young his 50 year award at Plainville No. 364 as Bro. Ranal Young watches.



Russell Pierce Harp Battle Hill No. 523



Gregory Ernest Thrower Elm City No. 544



Henry T. Douglas John S. Davidson No. 677



Joseph William Ledbetter Sharptop No. 680

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#### 60 Year Masons



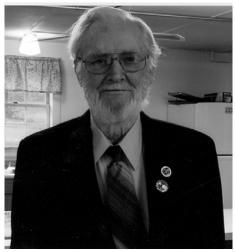
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Samuel DouglasCochran Ancient York Lodge No. 127



John R. Archeson Springville Lodge No. 153



Ralph L.Spratlin Springville Lodge No. 153

James Edwin Crow Flowery Branch Lodge No. 212



Wor. Bro. Richard Bailey, DDGM, 11-B, presents a 65-year apron to Bro. Wiley Waters at Jessup Lodge No. 112.

#### 70 Year Awards



Seminole Lodge No. 83 was honored to present Bro. Mosely Johnson his 70 year pin and certificate on February 25 on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Bro. Mosely was raised a Master Mason in Anchor Lodge No. 151,

Key West, Florida, in 1943.

He was in fine form on this evening and joyfully shared with the lodge of his many travels to Masonic Lodges around the world. When asked how many lodges he had attended, he quickly responded "the easiest way to remember my Masonic travels is from Maine to Spain."

Congratulations to Bro. Mosely for 70 years of his contribution to the world's largest fraternity.

Pictured from the left are Wor. Bro. Jimmy Womble, District Deputy, Grand Lodge of Georgia; Bro. Stan Kennedy, Sr. Warden, No. 83; Bro. Mosely; Wor. Bro. Steve Bailey, acting Worshipful Master, No. 83.

Bro. Johnson has sinced passed away. His funeral, with a Masonic graveside service, was on March 17, 20 days after receiving his award.

Brethren, if a Brother in your lodge is due his 50, 60, 65, or 70-year award, please do not delay presenting it to him.

#### Work Day at the Masonic Home

Food, Fun, Fellowship





I'm not certain but it looks like someone is keeping these Brothers from their work.





#### Houston Lodge Hosts Successful CHIP Event

Saturday was a great day to be a Brother in Houston Lodge No. 35. We held a GACHIP event on Robins Air Force Base Saturday, March 30. We identified 103 kids during the event. We started the day with 8 computers but finished the day with 6 computers. We had two people at each station and several people floating around the room to help with anything that can up. We were assisted by Cathy Shaw's Sweat Peas and a group of Airman. The Sweat Peas were: Cathy Shaw, Charlene Rackley, Sandy Yawn, Lilli Ann Barrette, and Susan Contrail.

The Brothers: WM Thomas Brannen, Charles Berry, SW Ken Howell, JW Dan Kitchen, PM Johnnie McGuire, Guy Crowe, Juan Solis, Alan Shaw, PM David Baxter, 12TH District Chairman of GACHIP and Dave's Fatherin-Law, Dean Miller and Wes Collier. Lodge Ladies: Judy Hall and Linda Baxter.

The event started at 10 am and concluded at 3 pm.





Pictured from left are: standing Cathy Shaw, seated Charlene Rackley and Lilli Ann Barrette

#### Association of Blue Lodge Ambassadors

Brother Secretary,

Your assistance is greatly needed. The Association of Blue Lodge Ambassadors humbly asks for your help with information regarding the Ambassador to the Masonic Home of Georgia who has been selected by your lodges. We urgently need the name, address, phone and email of the brother who is representing your lodge as Ambassador to our Children's Home. We also request that on future Annual Election Reports that you include this information.

The Association of Blue Lodge Ambassadors has gained a lot of ground over the last few years in regard to communication but we have a long way to go. With your assistance we will be able to unite all the lodges in the state with regard to the welfare of our children's home.

Send information to: jmbutler54@gmail.com or John M. Butler, 699 Derek Place., Locust Grove, Ga. 30248
Remember if we all do a little no one has to do a lot.
Thank you for your assistance

At your service John M. (Mike) Butler Vice President Association of Blue Lodge Ambassadors

#### **Anno Lucis**

The Masonic calendar is traditionally dated from 4004 BC/BCE; the alleged creation of the universe, *Anno Mundi*, as computed by Archbishop James Ussher in 1650-54 and inserted by Bishop William Lloyd of Winchester as a marginal note in the Great (1701) Edition of the English Bible, authorized by King Henry VIII of England to be read aloud in the church services of the Church of England. The date remained without explanation until 1900 when Cambridge University Press removed it from further editions.

By the mid-eighteenth century, Masonic usage had shifted to the year of light, *Anno Lucis*, which dates from 4000 BC/BCE. It is abbreviated A. L. There is no Masonic significance to either date, other than a desire by early Masonic writers to create as ancient a lineage for Freemasonry as their imaginations would allow.

Anno Lucis is computed by adding the formerly supposed age of the world, 4000 BC/BCE to the present era. AD/CE 2013 would make 6013 A. L. — Adapted from the Grand Lodgeof Iowa Bulletin, March 2013.

## The Second Annual Cove Waterfall Masonic Meeting

Date: May 18, 2013

Time: Lodge Open — 6:00 pm

Location: Jasper, Georgia

Presented by Blaine, Pickens Star, E. W. Hightower, Ballground, Sharptop, Marble Hill, Waleska, Oak Bowery, Canton and Hickory Lodges.

#### Tennessee Master Mason Degree Team

honoring the 200th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee Re-enactors are welcome to wear their regalia

Dinner served from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm (BBQ Pork with baked beans, coleslaw and roll) \$5.00 donation

We suggest you bring a folding chair as there will be limited seating on the bleachers

Directions: From Cherokee County, travel north to Hwy 575/Hwy 515 to Hwy 53, then turn right and follow the Masonic signs to Cove Road.

From Gilmer/Fannin Counties, travel south on Hwy 515 to Hwy 53, turn left and follow the Masonic signs to Cove Road.

Contact: Cove Waterfall Masonic Meeting Chairperson Information: Jem Hames — 706-299-0677 Cove Waterfall Masonic Meeting Secretary Ryan Loudermilk — 706-502-0441 Email — RL121169@gmail.com

#### **Veterans Corner**

#### By Rick Conn, State Chairman Veterans Committee

Brother Veterans, have you heard of the VetSuccess Program? It is a new and comprehensive program for service members leaving active duty due to medical issues and Veterans with service connected disabilities. While this program may not affect our present Veteran population, if any of you have children who are now or have been discharged from Active duty in the past couple of years it could benefit them greatly. Please share this information with them.

The program provides services leading to employment or help for individuals to live more independently. These services include vocational counseling, training, career placement and special rehabilitation services available to eligible active duty service members, Veterans, and dependants.

Do you qualify? To receive an evaluation for VetSuccess services you must 1) Have a VA Memorandum (or preliminary) disability rating of 20 percent or greater, 2) Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) VetSuccess services, 3) Have an Honorable or other than Dishonorable Discharge, 4) Have a VA service connected disability rating of 10 percent or greater, and 5) Apply for VR&E VetSuccess Services.

A Memorandum rating is a preliminary disability rating made to determine a Service members eligibility for VetSuccess Services. Service members without a VA Memorandum rating need to complete VA Form 28-0588. (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment – Getting Ahead After You Get Out). You must submit a copy of your medical records along with this form (VA Form SF-180 to obtain copy if you do not have one). An application for VR&E services, VA Form 28-1900, (Disabled Veterans Application For Vocational Rehabilitation), needs to be completed as well.

Submit both VA Forms (28-0588 and 28-1900) along with medical documentation to a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, VA Coming Home to Work Coordinator, a Military Services Coordinator, or to your local VA Regional Office next to the VAMC in Decatur on Clairmont Ave. The law at present provides for a 12 year basic period of eligibility in which services may be provided. This 12 year period begins on the later of these two dates: 1) Date of Separation from Active Duty, or 2) Date the Veteran was first notified of a service connected disability rating. If you have a serious disability, you may receive services outside this 12 year period. A counselor will help determine if you meet these criteria. If you believe

you need VR&E services, you should apply ASAP, even if the 12 year period has passed.

What's Next? The next step will be to complete a comprehensive evaluation with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. This will include: 1) A full assessment of your interests, aptitudes, and abilities to assist in selecting the most suitable career path, 2) An assessment of how service connected disabilities may impair your ability to find and/or hold employment utilizing occupational skills already acquired, and 3) identification of services needed to help you gain and maintain a career or become as independent as possible at home and in the community.

For more comprehensive information and instructions you can go to the following webite: http://www.vetsuccess.gov/. Take a look at the website and see if there is anything there that will assist you in re-entering civilian life from the pressure and hardships you have just come from.

Brothers, THANK YOU for your service and may God bless you and help you re-acclimate yourself back into a productive civilian life and career. We care, and we will always be there. Please call if you need assistance, or guidance on where to go or who to talk to. If you have any questions for me, contact me at rickconn@bellsouth.net or call me at 770-985-1622 and I will try to research your question and put it in the next issue.

Brothers, you are not alone; you have help available.



"Pollywogs" wait their initiation to become "shellbacks" in the hanger deck as the USS America (CVA-66) crossed the equator off the coast of South America in November 1968. This initiation makes the Masonic initiation seem like "a stroll in the park."

Your editor became a shellback in April 1968. Part of my initiation was kissing the greased belly of the "Royal Baby," who later became the General Secretary of the Valley of Jacksonville, Florida. It's a small world!

#### **Putting HIGH-TECH to Work**

#### Russ Charvonia, Senior Grand Warden Grand Lodge of California

Exabyte.<sup>1</sup> I was just getting comfortable with the concept of a gigabyte, and now I need to try to wrap my arms around the idea of *exabytes*. Apparently a single exabyte equals one *quintillion* bytes. And all these years, I thought my children were making up the word quintillion!

It has been said that we are now creating as much information (many exabytes' worth) in a two-day period as was generated in total by mankind over the last 30,000 years, beginning with the first drawings on cave walls until 2003.

I had the distinct honor and privilege in 1996 of serving as master of what was then San Buenaventura Lodge No 214 (now Channel Islands) as we celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At the time, I commented on the fact that "communications which used to take weeks to be delivered from the north of the state to the south are now measured in nanoseconds." As remarkable as the technological "advances" were 17 years ago, technology today is even more incredible and mind-boggling.

No longer is technology only in the hands of computer scientists or our children. Every generation uses and benefits from modern technology.

We are making great use of technology in California Masonry through iMember; Intaact; our newly implemented lodge accounting and reporting solution; the lodge-finer app; Facebook; Twitter; YouTube; and so many other ways.

Is the pervasiveness and pace at which we are making technological advances "good" or "bad"? Well, just as the gavel, when placed in the hands of the master of a lodge may be used as an instrument for great good or even greater evil, technology may be considered similarly.

Masonry has always created friends among men who might otherwise have been kept at a perpetual distance. Yet with the ability to communicate instantly with almost anyone on the planet, Masonic bonds are now created across borders and languages with great ease.

However, with this instantaneous and often impersonal nature of technology comes the need to govern ourselves with temperance and civility. In the haste to react and respond to something that strikes a chord within us, our message can be misinterpreted and cause great hurt.

But, despite the ease and ability to connect with each other "virtually," there is a special need that is fulfilled when brethren gather, in person and on the level. I challenge each of you to put high-tech to work for you and for our beloved craft; to use it as a tool for creating the "high touch" experience we all seek in Freemasonry.

And if all those exabytes (or zettabytes) of information are causing you undue stress and giving you a headache, perhaps going to lodge this week and reconnecting with your brethren will be the tonic to cure you. Just remember to leave your smartphone and tablet at home. — An article in the *California Freemason*, February/March 2013.

<sup>1</sup> A gigabit is the number 1 followed by 9 zeroes. A terabit is the number 1 followed by 12 zeroes. A petabit is the number 1 followed by 15 zeroes. A exabit is the number 1 followed by 18 zeroes. A zettabit is the number 1 followed by 21 zeroes. There is even a yottabit, the number 1 followed by 24 zeroes.

I think I'll take that aspirin and go to bed. Signing off: 110 0111 110 0001 111 0010 111 1001 [I would spell my first name "Gary" like this if I were a computer. To a computer we are all just a bunch of 1s and 0s.]

#### Lunar BibleExhibit at Atlanta Masonic Library and Museum, Inc.

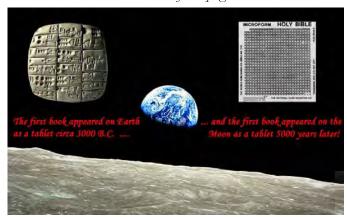
On February 5, 1971, the First Lunar Bible was carried to the surface of the moon on board the Apollo 14 lunar module *Antares* by Lunar Module Pilot Edgar D. Mitchell.

The quest to land a Bible on the moon was born of the deaths of three Apollo 1 astronauts who died in a flash fire on the launch pad on January 27, 1967. One of these astronauts, Edward White II, had told a reporter before his death that he hoped one day to carry a Bible to the moon. From the ashes of Apollo 1 emerged a NASA information scientist and chaplain John Maxwell Stout with a vision for the Apollo Prayer League and a quest to land a Bible on the moon in the name of astronaut White and in memory of his own brother who was killed while attempting to prevent a burglary. Stout had planned to retire, but decided to stay on and see White's dream fulfilled.

Due to weight restrictions on personal items that could be carried by the Apollo astronauts in their assigned personal preference kits, it was necessary to find a Bible small enough and light enough to be taken. It would also need to conform to NASA-specified requirements for

Lunar Bible continued on page 28

Lunar Bible Exhibit continued from page 27



stowing onboard the Apollo spacecraft. Fortunately, a new microfilm technology had recently been developed whereby all 1245 pages and 773,746 words of the Bible could be reduced to a small piece of film the size of a color slide. Here, Reverend Stout recognized, was a Bible that could be carried to the moon.

At the request of Reverend Stout, Apollo 12 Lunar Module Pilot Alan Bean agreed to carry a single microfilm of the King James Bible produced by NCR (National Cash Register Company) and published by World Publishing Company. Due to an error in the log manifest, however, the Bible was stowed on board the command module rather than the lunar module and orbited the moon but never descended to the lunar surface.

Multiple copies of the microfilm were then purchased by the Apollo Prayer League, of which 512 were packaged for stowing on board Apollo 13. The Bibles were personally presented to the Apollo 13 crew prior to launch by then-congressman George H.W. Bush accompanied by Reverend Stout. However, due to an on board explosion on the way to the moon, the Apollo 13 spacecraft circled the moon and returned to earth without landing.

Reverend Stout then split a group of 300 Bibles into two packets: 100 to be carried in the lunar module and 200 in the command module. Apollo 14 Lunar Module Pilot Edgar Mitchell agreed to carry the Bibles on behalf of Reverend Stout and the Apollo Prayer League; and on February 5, 1971, the quest of Reverend Stout and the Apollo Prayer League was realized when the spindly legs of Apollo 14 lunar module *Antares* touched down on the powdery surface of the moon.

Unbeknownst by many, accompanying the 100 Bibles in Apollo 17 lunar module *Antares* was a single unique "multi-version" microfilm Bible titled "The First Lunar Bible." This unique Bible was created, developed, and packaged by members of the Apollo Prayer League employed at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston

working on their own time and was comprised of two microfilm versions of the Bible"the RSV (Revised Standard Version) used by Apollo 1 astronaut Ed White II and the KJV (King James Version) Edition 715 placed back to back. This Bible was packaged separately so that Mitchell could leave it on the moon if he chose to do so. Due to time constraints on scheduled lunar surface activities, Mitchell elected not to leave the First Lunar Bible on the surface of the moon; and after his release from quarantine, the Bible was returned to Reverend Stout along with the 300 NCR Bibles.

After their return, each of the Apollo 14 lunar Bibles carried was engraved with an encrypted serial number by Reverend Stout signifying its sequence and placement in the Apollo 14 lunar module or command module. The serial numbers were then entered in the Apollo Prayer League First Lunar Bible Registry along with acknowledgments of specific individuals and organizations that had inspired and supported the Prayer League's effort to land a Bible on the moon. Several were cut up into tiny 50-page segments for distribution to Apollo Prayer League members and dignitaries. One of the lunar-landed Bibles was later presented to astronaut Ed White's widow by Reverend Stout.

Lunar Bibles can be seen in various museums, including the Atlanta Masonic Library and Museum Association, Inc. at the Atlanta Masonic Center. Visit the library's website at www.atmaslib.org for open hours.

David Frohman, President of Peach State historical Consultants, owner of the Lunar Bible Display at the Atlanta Masonic Library and Museum, has agreed to extend the loan of the display to the Library/Museum for another year and a new agreement has been signed by both parties, according to Most Worshipful Brother C. Danny Wofford, Curator of the Library and Museum.

One of the Lunar Bibles sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York in December 2012 for \$56,250. The purchaser was Steve Green, who is President of "Hobby Lobby." He has built one of the finest collections of Bibles in private hands in the world. Highlights of Steve's collection are currently touring the United States as the "Passages" exhibit. The exhibit was on display in Atlanta from November 19, 2011 through June 30, 2012. It will be on exhibit in Colorado Springs from May 16, 2013 through January 5, 2014.

Steve regards the Lunar Bible as one of the treasures of his collection. After the display in Colorado Springs, it will go on display at the Vatican in Rome before arriving at its to-be-built permanent home at the "Museum of the Bible" in Washington, D.C. in 2015.

## In Memorium

#### Members Reported Deceased from January 25, 2013 to April 3, 2013

VAN EARL CHAMBERS of Phi Delta Lodge No. 148 was reported deceased in the February issue of the *Messenger*. The Secretary of Phi Delta called our office to say that he reported the wrong member as deceased. The member who should have been reported deceased is J. T. (I.O.) CHAMBERS of Phi Delta Lodge.

| 1 J                        | T 1 NT    | - <b>-</b>                 | T 1 NT     |
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| BARFIELD, JACK HAWKINS JR  | 1SOL      | TAYLOR, FRANK DARRYL       | 049        |
| BRISTOW, WILLIAM RICHWINE  | 002       | PEDEN, BOBBY TIE           | 055        |
| FREEMAN, RICHARD GEORGE    | 002       | AVIRETT, ERNEST RAYMOND JR | 058        |
| MANNERS, PAUL EDDIE        | 002       | TOOLE, HARRY GLENN         | 058        |
| MCCULLOUGH, WILLIAM CECIL  | 002       | TUGGLE, MARION LEE         | 066        |
| MCGEE, WILLIAM RADINE SR   | 002       | CHASTAIN, EUGENE WORTH     | 067        |
| CARPENTER, KENNETH WILLAR  | 003       | BRANNAN, ORICE EDISON      | 069        |
| GOLDSTEIN, JACOB LOUIS     | 003       | CASWELL, JACK ALLEN        | 069        |
| WILDER, NORMAN JAMES JR    | 003       | BROWN, ANDREW DONALD       | 070        |
| DAVIS, JOHN RUBEN          | 004       | LUNA, GEORGE CARROL        | 070        |
| LEWIS, THOMAS WALDA        | 004       | MCLEMORE, HERBERT          | 070        |
| BLAKE, ELZIE THOMAS        | 007       | LONG, WILLIAM JACKSON      | 071        |
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| O'QUINN, JAMES WARREN      | 008       | TODD, JOHN CECIL           | 076        |
| STONE, ROBERT GUNTER       | 009       | HENDRIX, CARLTON WITT      | 077        |
| BROOME, HAROLD DUWARD      | 012       | PACE, EUGENE HENRY         | 077        |
| WEINSTEIN, MARION LOUIS    | 013       | STELL, WILLIAM HARRY       | 077        |
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| FREEMAN, BOBBY JAMES       | 018       | KELLEY, JAMES BERTO        | 084        |
| HARDAGE, ALEX STEPHENS JR  | 018       | SARGENT, FRANK ANTHONY     | 084        |
| DENARD, MARCUS ODIAN       | 023       | BIRCHFIELD, GUY LINWARD    | 087        |
| DOZIER, WILLIAM THOMAS     | 023       | JONES, CLOVER LEE          | 087        |
| NUNN, WARREN CANDLER       | 023       | MILLER, PAUL EUGENE        | 087        |
| PHELPS, LYMAN CRAYTON      | 025       | STEVENS, THOMAS ELVIN JR   | 087        |
| MELTON, OLIVER QUIMBY JR   | 026       | BROWN, BRUCE [NMN]         | 092        |
| PULLEN, JAMES TERRELL SR   | 026       | COFFEY, JOHN STEED         | 105        |
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| PARTIN, THOMAS WILLARD     | 049       | TERRY, EARL CRAWLEY        | 125        |
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| MCNAIR, ROBERT VERNON        | 399        | TAYLOR, BOBBY JOSEPH JR       | 595<br>595         |
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| STIKELEATHER, SAMUEL LOUIS   |            |                               |                    |
| WILLIS, GEORGE STEVENS       | 399        | FARR, JAMES SHEDRICK          | 604                |
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| CARSTARPHEN, ORRIN HALL JR   | 418        | WITHERS, ARTHUR GEORGE        | 640                |
| HARDY, JIM BERNARD           | 418        | JACKSON, GUY WIGGINS          | 663                |
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It is gratifying when we witness increased attention from the non-Masonic community, and it presents a challenge for us as Masons to provide a balanced view of the fraternity from those who have experienced Masonry from within our fair Craft. The most significant aspect of this challenge is that few Masons hold the same level of knowledge and abilities as those in the academic community. To help rectify this discrepancy, The Masonic Society (www.themasonicsociety.com) and the Masonic Library and Museum Association (http://www.masoniclibraries.org) have joined forces to establish The Quarry Project. Phase

one of this endeavor will be the Conference on Masonic Research and Preservation to be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA on September 27-29, 2013. The conference is open to anyone interested in Masonic research and preservation, but will be specifically targeted toward two groups: members of Masonic lodges of research as well as authors, writers, and researchers (both published and aspiring), and Masonic librarians and museum curators. Program details and conference registration, along with hotel reservation information, are now available at www.thequarryproject.com.