

Masonic Messenger



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

August 2013



Past Grand Masters Pose at
Mableton Masonic Lodge No. 171

See Page 27 for Names

Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475

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CIRCULATION 50,000

— From Most Worshipful Grand Master E. Ray Knittel

To paraphrase a sentence in the lecture on the hourglass in the third section of the Master's Degree, "*Behold how swiftly the sands run and how rapidly our lives year is drawing to a close!*" In this issue of the Messenger you will find information on the upcoming Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge. It just does not seem possible that the year has gone by so quickly. It is always that way when you are doing something that you truly enjoy and I have really enjoyed these few short months visiting Lodges and getting to know more of you. Our Editor, W. Brother Gary Leazer has been on me for days now to get this article to him and each time that I have tried to begin, the words just would not come. I decided this afternoon that you might enjoy my thoughts regarding the upcoming session and some of the legislation that you are likely to see. This is not a complete list nor will they likely to appear in this order when you see a copy of them published in the next issue of the Messenger.

1. Emeritus - I have talked about this at a good number of my visits this year. We have too many Lodges throughout Georgia that have a significant number of their membership who are Emeritus. Sometimes these outnumber the regular members. The Bill that will be introduced will "Grand Father" in all of those who are or will have attained Emeritus status as of December 31, 2013. After that date, the Emeritus exemption from dues, etc. will be terminated. The Bill will allow the designation of Emeritus as an honorary title and further will allow those Lodges that wish to exempt their Emeritus members from dues to do so but the Lodge itself will be responsible for paying the Grand Lodge Per-Capita tax.

Brethren, this is something that none of us wanted to see but as with the York Rite Grand Session in May, we saw the same legislation.

2. Masonic Home & Finances - You will remember our "Forums" held throughout the State beginning in January. At each of those we presented a program which attempted to describe in detail the issues with our Masonic Home - where we have been, where we are now and what we need to do going forward. These were designed to be open discussions and we encouraged your questions and comments. You will remember that I promised that following these "Forums," I would appoint a special committee to take your concerns, comments and suggestions and further study the situation with the Children's Home. I did in fact appoint that committee. That committee has met several times this year and they will have a report that will be submitted to you, the Masons of Georgia, which will offer some ideas and suggestions which could be implemented. I believe that you will find that this report will in fact provide us with a road map that can be used to enable us to finally secure the financial future of "The Heart of Georgia Masonry," our Masonic Children's Home.

Two other items that you have heard me talk about this year:

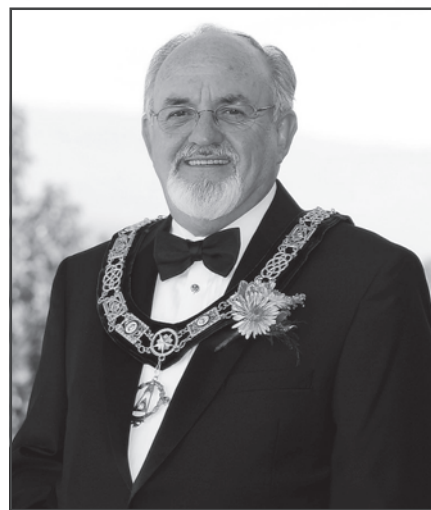
a. There will be a Bill presented which will allow your Properties and Investment Committee more flexibility in wisely investing your Endowment Fund. As you know, only the income from that fund can be used to fund the Masonic Home. The Masonic Code now allows us to invest 50% of the funds available in Equities, which is where most of our income comes from. It will also allow the Committee more flexibility in the investment in the bond market by allowing the Committee to

add “Investment Grade” Bonds to the menu of investments that they can utilize. This Bill will allow the Committee, working with our fund managers to invest up to 60%. This will create more income for the Home and I know it to be a tremendous benefit as we work to do all that we can to provide for the future of our home. I urge your support when it comes to the floor of Grand Lodge.

b. There will be a Bill for your consideration which will increase the Per-Capita from the current \$6.00 per year to \$10.00 per year. This increase will still not fully fund the Home but is very much needed as we all work to balance the budget. It has been a long time since we have come to you for an increase for our Children’s Home but believe me when I tell you, it is very much needed. I want you to be thinking about this in the coming weeks and I am asking for your support for this important legislation. It is only **\$4.00 a year - FOUR** dollars. Thirty Four (34¢) cents a month will not hurt any of us individually but when combined with all of us, working together, it will make a great difference in our Masonic Home budget. Again, I urge your support for this important legislation.

I have been informed that there will be several other Bills and Resolutions for your consideration and I have a great faith in the wisdom of each of you individually and collectively when we all meet each year at our annual Grand Lodge session to study these and make the right decisions that will make our Grand Lodge better and stronger.

In the information about the upcoming Grand Lodge session you will see another change. In the past the Grand Master’s Banquet has been for ‘invited guests’ only. This year I am opening it up to anyone who would like to come. There will be a charge for the tickets (I believe that the ticket costs will be \$25 each) but that will include everything including the entertainment and you are going to enjoy the



entertainment. Make your plans now, order your tickets as there will be a cut-off in the number that we will be able to accommodate.

We still have almost three months to go and there are many Lodges yet on my schedule to visit. There are several District Conventions and Cornerstone Dedications on the calendar as well. I want you all to know how much I appreciate the effort, the planning and the preparation that you have put in to having us visit your Lodge. It has been a year of memories and I can never repay all of your many kindnesses, your support, your encouragement and your dedication to this wonderful Fraternity of ours. You and your Lodge have indeed made a difference.

I hope to see many of you soon.

Fraternally,
Ray Knittel

Grand Master – 2012-13

Grayson Lodge No. 459 was Grand Master’s 204th Meeting Since taking Office last October

Grand Master E. Ray Knittel visited Grayson Lodge No. 459 on August 11 and reported it was his 204th meeting since taking office as Grand Master last October. He said he and the Grand Marshal had traveled 50,000 miles with many miles yet to go before Grand Lodge in October. In spite of his busy schedule, Most Worshipful Brother Knittel said every meeting has been wonderful.

At Grayson Lodge he presented a 25-year award and spoke on the joy of being a part of a great fraternity.

In the photo at the right, the Grand Master stands with veterans at Grayson Lodge after presenting each one with one of his veteran’s pins.



We can make a *Difference!*

Welcome to Grand Lodge

**The 227th Grand Lodge Session will be held
at the Macon Centreplex Convention Center
October 22-23**

The headquarter's hotel is
The Macon Marriott City Center Hotel

478-621-5300 or 800-228-9290

(When making reservations, be certain to say you are with the
Grand Lodge of Georgia)

Rates will be \$109 plus tax.

Cut off for room reservations is October 4.

Most Worshipful Grand Master E. Ray Knittel and First Lady Marilyn invite you to join our Masonic Family and enjoy our Annual Communication to renew friendships as well as meet new friends.

In keeping with tradition, the District Deputies to the Grand Master are working with their district lodges to host the Tuesday evening Grand Lodge Family Cookout. The cookout and entertainment will begin at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday. Dress is casual and all Masons and their families are invited for great food and entertainment.

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

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

The Hospitality Room at the Marriott Macon Center Hotel will be supplied with homemade goodies and open Monday through Wednesday at designated hours for everyone to enjoy.

227th Annual Communication

Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons

Grand Lodge Banquet

Marriott Hotel
Monday - October 21
6:00 P.M.

(Coat & Tie or Sunday
Dress required)

Tickets: \$25

Limited to 200 people

Number of tickets _____

(NO tickets sold at the
door.)

Honors Breakfast

Marriott Hotel
Tuesday - October 22
6:30 A.M.

Tickets: \$15.00

Number of tickets _____

Ladies Luncheon

Marriott Hotel
Tuesday - October 22
11:30 A.M.

Tickets: \$25.00

Number of tickets _____

Family Night Cookout

Farmers' Market
Tuesday - October 22
6:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$5.00

Number of tickets _____

Veterans' Luncheon: Information concerning the Veterans' Luncheon was not available at press time. Please check the Grand Lodge Website for information on the Veterans' Luncheon. Go to www.glofga.org or call the Grand Secretary's office at 478-742-1475.

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

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

Member of either of these Honor Groups: Red Cross ___ K.Y.C.H. ___ 32° K.C.C.H ___ 33° ___

Guests ___

Make Checks Payable to: **Grand Lodge of Georgia** — Deadline: October 11

Send all orders to:

Grand Secretary
P.O. Box 4665
Macon, GA 31208-4665

7th District Feemasons Hold 116th District Convention

(The editor wishes to thank the 7th District Secretary, Wor. Bro. Hugh Watson, for the use of his minutes)

District Master, Right Worshipful Bro. F. A. Drew Lane, and his officers opened the Convention at Cherokee Lodge No. 66 on May 10.

After the opening the pledge was given to the flag of our country, the invocation was given by Wor. Bro. John Entrekin, District Chaplain

The Grand Master, E. Ray Knittel (64) was found in waiting and was received by a committee of Wor. Bros. Bob Bryant DDGM Dist. Chairman, Harry Worthington DDGM, James Newsome Jr. DDGM, David Kilgore DDGM, Cary Hall DDGM He was welcomed by F.A. Drew Lane Jr., District Master, then presented to the East and given private grand honors.

The Grand Master then introduced the Grand Lodge Officers as follows:

Right Worshipful Bro. Edgar M. Land, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful Bro. Douglas W. McDonald; Right Worshipful Bro. F.A. Drew Lane Jr.; Most Worshipful Bro. Bobby B. Simmons, PGM, Grand Treasurer; Wor. Bro. Howard Touchstone, Grand Chaplain; Wor. Bro. Charles E. Long, Grand Marshal; Most Worshipful Bro. J. Edward Jennings, Jr., PGM; Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Jan M. Giddens, Third Grand Steward; Wor. Bro. Leon S. Lewis, Grand Tyler; and Right Worshipful Bro. Sam R. Whitfield, Grand Treasurer Emeritus.

The Grand Master introduced the Past Grand Masters present. They were Most Worshipful Brothers:

A. Ray Earwood	1988
Rex D. Chilton	1992
Joseph P. Suttles	1995
Gary D. Lemmons	2001
Bobby B. Simmons	2003
Thomas Blanton	2004
J. Edward Jennings Jr.	2009
B. Palmer Mills	2011
Jerry D. Moss	2012

After speaking briefly, the Grand Master returned the gavel to the District Master. The welcoming address was given by the Master of Cherokee Lodge No. 66, Wor. Bro. Alfred Leon Baker; Wor. Bro. Charles E. Long, District Deputy Master, gave the response.

The Brethren dispensed with the reading of the minutes.

The Secretary then called the roll of the lodges; 53 of the 64 lodges were present. A total of 160 Brethren were

present for the Friday convention. The oldest Brother present was 87 years of age; the youngest was 22 years. The youngest and oldest Worshipful Masters present were 40 and 81 years of age. One secretary present had served in that office for 30 years. Each were presented with a Masonic pocket knife.

Deputy Master Long then recognized the sixteen 50 year Masons present. He then recognized the Veterans present; they were given a standing ovation. Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Past 7th District Master, then recognized the nineteen Past Masters of the district convention present. At this time the District Master called the lodge at ease and had donations for the Masonic Home received with a total of \$652 collected. The Secretary made a motion that the collection be raised to \$700; the motion passed.

Wor. Bro. Jan M. Giddens, Third Grand Steward, then introduced the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bro. E. Ray Knittel, who gave an excellent and detailed talk of his program this year. He spoke of the GACHIP Program and its success over the years, the Blood Drive, and how we needed to get more funds for the Masonic Home of Ga. He spoke about how each District could raise funds to give scholarships awards each year. He then had a question and answer session, with a lot of participation.

After lunch, reports from the various committees were received.

District Master Lane called the Lodge at ease for families to come in and with the assistance of the Grand Master E. Ray Knittel presented the Sub-District Masons of the Year framed certificates to the following:

- A - James Lamar Brown (491)
- B - Jack Lovon Brown (728)
- C - Raymond David Butler (153)
- D - Jack Roland (702)
- E - Earnest Brown Holt (513)
- F - Phillip Fisher (751)
- G - James Alfred Childress (537)
- H - John Owens (319)

The Grand Master presented Wor. Bro. Phillip Fisher of Seven Hills Daylight Lodge No. 751 the Master Mason of the Year plaque for the 7th District. Brother Fisher thanked everyone and spoke of love for Masonry. He was given a standing ovation by all present.

Right Worshipful Bro. Lane then presented a \$1000 scholarship to Ashley Parris from the 7th Dist. Convention,

she thanked everyone and we gave her a standing ovation.

Wor. Bro. Giddens, Chairman of the Memorial Committee then gave the Memorial report and noted that last year this district had lost 219 Brethren by death. A silent prayer was offered on behalf of their families and friends. A very inspiring sermonette was then given by Matthew Webb the District Chaplain which was appreciated by all. The District Master then called the convention at ease until Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.

At 7:30 p.m., the Brethren, Masonic Widows, Families and friends were invited to our annual memorial service at Cherokee Lodge. The service was emceed by Gary D. Lemons, PGM, who was assisted by the Grand Master E. Ray Knittel. The DDGMs placed a rose on the Alter for the deceased Brothers from their sub-District. The Grand Master and the District Master gave the widows in attendance a small gift. After the service Etowah OES No. 30 had a reception of wonderful goodies and food for all to enjoy. We were honored to have 25 widows along with their family members.

The Brethren were called back to order at 9:00 on Saturday morning.

The Traveling Gavel Awards were given to the lodges that were able to go and get it the most times in their Sub-District.

- A - Rossville No. 397
- B - Cherokee No. 66
- C - Battle Hill No. 523
- D - Pleasant Grove No. 702
- E - Beulah No. 698
- F - Seven Hills Daylight No. 751
- G - John W. Akins No. 537
- H - Plainville No. 364

Wor. Bro. Watson, District Secretary, gave his annual report, noting that several lodges had a gain in membership this past year.

District Master Lane then gave out several Certificates of Appreciation to Faithful Brethren and Officers who he felt worked faithfully for Masonry and the Seventh District and to the lodges that made donations to the Youth Scholarship Fund.

District Master Lane then thanked the District for its support this year and called the lodge at ease to bring in the Ladies for the installation. He then asked the Grand Master to assume the East to install the new officers.

The installation of officers followed, and was conducted by E. Ray Knittel Grand Master as Installing Officer, James B. Phillips, Installing Marshal, and Howard Touchstone, Grand Chaplain, as installing Chaplain. All



Incoming District Master Wor. Bro. Charles Long

officers named on the nomination report were installed in their stations including the appointed officers in a very impressive ceremony.

After the installation, Wor. Bro. Charles Long - the new District Master, thanked his installing officers and everyone then spoke briefly of things he hoped to do this year. He and the Grand Master then told of the pins and coins that we need to sell this year to fund the Youth Committee scholarships for next year. All other officers then pledged their support for the coming year.

Wor. Bro. Long then presented F.A. Drew Lane, the Jr. Past Master of the convention, his Past Master's apron. Drew thanked everyone again. The Grand Master then called the lodge back to order

The Grand Master then closed Cherokee Lodge No. 66 and the 7th District Masonic Convention in ample form without signs or ceremony with the Ladies present. Prayer and blessing the food was given by Howard Touchstone Grand Chaplain.

Everyone was then dismissed to the dining room where everyone enjoyed good BBQ and fellowship before returning home.

Are you a Perpetual Member? If not, and you'd like to be or want more information, contact the Grand Secretary's office.

BOOKS FOR KIDS

At every meeting or reunion of the Scottish Rite Valley of Atlanta a group of brothers can be seen scurrying around the dining room setting tables, serving dinner, and cleaning up. Sometimes they even cook. These are the Hospitalers and they are easily identified by their red aprons. Out of view the Hospitalers still serve the craft and the community in other ways.



The Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, Inc. sponsors RiteCare Clinics for the treatment of children's speech and language disorders through the Orient of Georgia. The busiest RiteCare Clinic in the country, based on the number of patient visits, is located on the Scottish Rite Hospital campus of Children's Health Care of Atlanta. In 2010 that RiteCare clinic made it known to the



Valley of Atlanta that they were in need of new children's books, and lots of them, to use as a part of the children's therapy. Scottish Rite, Blue Lodge Masons, and the Hospitalers responded and continue to respond.

The Child Welfare Fund of Fulton Lodge No. 216, F.&A.M. has been supporting children since 1950 providing hot school lunches, shoes and socks, and medical equipment over the years. Fulton Lodge quickly took up the cause of books for the kids at RiteCare. In 2011 the Hospitalers began collecting aluminum cans and money

for the purpose of buying children's books. Fulton Lodge and the Hospitalers have partnered in this project.

The Hospitalers collect and sell aluminum cans to raise money. They also accept donations. All money raised by the Hospitalers goes into the J. Aubrey Lewis, 33° Fund. Ill. Bro. Lewis was a longtime supporter of the hospital and at the time of his death in 2012 was the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Valley of Atlanta and the Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. The last two years the Hospitalers have used the money to buy books for the kids at RiteCare.

On February 18, 2013 the Hospitalers delivered 2544 children's books to the RiteCare Clinic in Atlanta purchased with money raised in the prior year. Fulton Lodge assisted in that those books were bought through the efforts of David Reed, the sitting Worshipful Master of Fulton, who has and continues to maximize the effort by buying books at steep discounts on the internet. The Hospitalers' books represented a retail value of about \$6,200.00. This is in addition to 1,200 books, with a retail value of over \$10,000.00, donated to RiteCare Clinics during 2012, including recordable learn to read books donated by a brother and his son. Since beginning the program in 2010 the Hospitalers and Fulton Lodge have donated more than 6,000 books to RiteCare Clinics across Georgia. Every book included a sticker stating that it was donated by the Scottish Rite and the Freemasons of Georgia as well as the Hospitalers and Fulton Lodge.

DeMolay International Releases New Ritual

On August 7, DeMolay International issued the 15th edition of the ritual! The ritual features a couple of more user-friendly changes like a table of contents, an very expanded and improved pronouncing glossary, improved floor diagrams, and including the popular public ceremonies.

The ritual has seen some changes in policy. These include prohibiting the use of blindfolds or hoodwinks, eliminating the pledge of secrecy, and how the Bible marker should be used.

Some changes may take people by surprise. There is no longer a second part to the DeMolay Degree Sign and the Sign of Distress is now eliminated. Other parts of the ritual have been updated for the passing of time such as the number of centuries that have passed and the number of young men who have perished in war. One thing that may strike people as strange is the removal of Guy Auvergne.

— From the Grand Secretary

To all Lodge Secretaries,

Over the last several years there has been an ongoing issue with missing monthly reports and discrepancies over charges to Lodges; mainly during the time when Annual Statements are sent out. The Grand Lodge Office can not accomplish sending out Annual Statements in a timely manner due to late monthly reports. Because of this ongoing problem I, as Grand Secretary, must address this problem in the best way possible to avoid future conflicts.

First, let me say I understand completely the duties of a Lodge Secretary and how difficult it can be at times to keep up with monthly reports when most Lodge Secretaries are volunteering their time. However, in order for each Subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge to function properly, we must all work together on following procedure. In saying that, I encourage each Lodge Secretary to never feel they cannot contact the Grand Lodge Office at any time when there is a question, have any concerns, or need guidance on any issue.

Masonic Code Section 26-109 states that, "All monthly reports must be submitted by the tenth day of the succeeding month." It also goes on to state that

"reports not received by the 20th day of the proceeding month will be charged \$3.00 per day beginning on the 20th day of the month the reports are due and will continue to be charged until the day that such report or reports are received by the Grand Secretary." The Grand Lodge Office has been lenient on this section of the Masonic Code. Due to the increase in late reports, starting this year the Grand Lodge Office will adhere to Masonic Code Section 26-109. There will be no warning letters sent of missing monthly reports. Masonic Code Section 26-109 is the first and only warning.

This must be done for several reasons. New Masons are not being reported; therefore they are not receiving their issue of the *Masonic Messenger*. Affiliated Masons are not being reported and Journal Vouchers have to be done in order for Lodges to properly be charged. Demitted Masons are not being reported; therefore Lodges are being charged Per Capita on them, etc.

As Grand Secretary it is my goal to ensure all Subordinate Lodges and the Grand Lodge Office maintain a courteous relationship.

Joseph W. Watson
Grand Secretary

MELD Awards Presented



Bro. Johnny Davis of Hinesville Lodge 271 was presented 5 Meld Certificates for successfully completing all of the MELD courses by Joseph Oliver, MELD director for the 1st District. Brother Davis was Master (Pro Tem) and conferring the Fellow craft degree, Brother is the Senior Warden.

Pictured (L-R) are Bro. Joseph Oliver and Bro. Johnny Davis.

Brethren,

The following lodges were not represented at the Grand Lodge Communications of 2011 or 2012 and will lose their Charter if not represented at the 2013 Grand Communication to be held on **October 22-23**. Reference is Masonic Code, Section 2-102.

Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38 – 9th District
Chestatee Lodge No. 102 – 9th District
Howard Lodge No. 138 – 8th District
Cross Lodge No. 173 – 3rd District
Morven Lodge No. 254 – 11th District
Coosawatee Lodge No. 306 – 7th District
Sand Hill Lodge No. 350 – 4th District
Reuben Jones Lodge No. 388 – 2nd District
Tyrone Lodge No. 644 – 6th District
Grove Love No. 652 – 8th District
Chattooga Lodge No. 704 – 7th District
Amity Lodge No. 731 – 8th District

Brethren, take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Coosa Lodge No. 622 Hosts 22nd Annual Quad-State Meeting

Coosa Lodge No. 622 hosted the 22nd Annual James Sanford Payne Quad-State Meeting with Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana participating. Originally called the Tri-State Meeting, the name unofficially changed to the Quad-State Meeting when a fourth Grand Lodge began participating in the two-day event. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi has been participating but Mississippi changed their Grand Lodge dates which conflicted with the Coosa event. This was Louisiana's first time at the Coosa event, but they will be back. The event is an educational and fun time as each Grand Lodge confers a degree. Parts of the ritual in each Grand Jurisdiction are a little different from the other Grand Jurisdictions.

Grand Lodge officers from Georgia present were: Most Worshipful E. Ray Knittel, Grand Master; Right Worshipful Edgar Land, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful Douglas McDonald, Senior Grand Warden; Right Worshipful F. A. Drew Lane, Jr., Junior Grand Warden; Most Worshipful J. Edward Jennings, Jr., Grand Orator; Wor. Bro. Howard Touchstone, Grand Chaplain; Wor. Bro. Charles Long, Grand Marshal; and Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer, Grand Senior Deacon.



Grand Master Knittel is received at Coosa Lodge

Wor. Bro. James Sanford Payne began the Tri-State Meeting in 1992; it has been held every year since. Due to his age and health, Wor. Bro. Payne has enlisted the help of Most Worshipful K. I. Wright, Past Grand Master of Tennessee, who now serves as a Worshipful Grand Lecturer in Tennessee. Wor. Bro. Payne paints a portrait of the sitting Grand Master of Georgia each year, and at this meeting, he presented Most Worshipful Bro. Knittel his portrait.

The youngest Brother present was a 19-year-old Master Mason from Tennessee; Tennessee is one of 35 Grand Jurisdictions that allow men to petition for the degrees of

Freemasonry at age 18. Five states allow men to petition for the degrees at age 19, and eleven, including Georgia, require the candidate to be 21 years of age. The oldest Master Mason present was 88 years of age. Freemasons, including Most Worshipful Bro. Wright and Wor. Bro. Payne, along with several of the cooks were recognized for having attended all 22 events. Approximately 80-90 Freemasons were present on Saturday morning.

Tennessee conferred the Master Mason degree on Friday evening.

Alabama conferred the Entered Apprentice degree on Saturday morning. Unlike Georgia, Alabama Freemasons may open on a lower degree when conferring that degree. The Grand Lodge of Alabama voted in 1998 to allow business to be conducted on any degree. Eighteen Grand Lodges permit lodges to conduct business on any degree, including the Entered Apprentice degree. (See www.bessel.org)

Georgia conferred the Fellowcraft degree on Saturday morning with Most Worshipful Bro. Knittel sitting in the East as Worshipful Master and Right Worshipful Bro. Lane as Senior Deacon. Both of these Brothers, as well as the others on the degree team, did marvelous work.

After lunch, Germania Masonic Lodge No. 46 in New Orleans, Louisiana, conferred the Scottish Rite Entered Apprentice degree. The ritual is very different from the work done in Georgia although the degree concluded with the initiation of the candidate.

From the Germania Masonic Lodge website (www.germania46.org), we read,

Germania Lodge No. 46, Free & Accepted Masons, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana on April 18, 1844. Although Germania Lodge is currently comprised of approximately 100 men from a broad range of heritages and backgrounds, it was founded by German-



Most Worshipful K. I. Wright and Wor. Bro. James Sanford Payne. Several of Bro. Payne's portraits can be seen behind the Brothers.

(Continued on next page)

Warning! Obamacare Scammers and Fraudsters are on the Prowl

Scammers and fraudsters are poised to take advantage of widespread confusion over the Affordable Care Act – better known as Obamacare – to steal credit card and Social Security numbers, bank routing numbers and other personal information, according to a front page article in a recent issue of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. According to writer Lindsay Wise, “If a stranger claiming to be from the government calls to offer you an ‘Obamacare card’ or threatens to throw you in jail unless you buy insurance, hang up the phone. It’s a scam.” The Federal Trade Commission received more than 1,100 complaints about such calls in May alone.

The FTC said some scammers will exploit the government’s efforts to better educate consumers by pretending to be certified “navigators” who can help consumers sign up for benefits in the insurance exchanges.

The legitimate navigators are not allowed to ask for up-front fees to help consumers sign up for Obamacare; the help is free.

The closer we get to the October date to begin signing up with the Obamacare insurance exchanges, the odds are that more scammers and fraudsters are going to be looking for more ways to separate you from your money.

James Quiggle, a spokesman for the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, said, “Simply close the door, or hang up the phone the moment someone starts probing for your sensitive financial information. Do not allow them to try to sweet talk you and engage you because some of these people are very trained and very good at slowly easing you into giving up your information.

Brethren, take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Warning! Scammers Lurk Behind Area Code 876

Scammers are constantly looking for new ways to separate you from your money. According to States Attorneys General and AARP, one such crime is calls from area code 876. This is not a toll-free number. It is an area code for Jamaica. If you receive a call from area code 876 and do not have friends, relatives, or business associates in Jamaica, there is probably a scammer on the other end of the line.

Victims may be congratulated for winning the Jamaican lottery or a new car and then be directed to send a fee of up

to \$4,000 to process the lottery winnings. Victims are told that once the fee is received, money will be wired to their bank account (of course they need your bank information) or the car will be delivered to their home. They may even use Google Maps and mention landmarks close to your home.

I don’t think there is any need to mention emails from Nigeria telling me some stranger wants my help in getting millions of dollars out of the country. Why would anyone who doesn’t know me from Adam’s house cat want my help?

(Continued from previous page)

speaking gentlemen to provide an opportunity for conducting Masonic work in their native German tongue. The lodge worked in the German language for one hundred years. In April 1944 it was opened in German and closed in English and has worked in English since.

Germania meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. The lodge works in the Scottish Rite Symbolic ritual – one of “only ten lodges under the



jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana which work in this historic ritual. The ten Scottish Rite lodges comprise the 16th District of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.”

Among the several noticeable differences in the Scottish Rite Symbolic ritual were: no Stewards were used in the ritual, the Junior Warden attended at the altar; the Junior Deacon is called the Inner Guard; the Senior Deacon is called the Master Expert. The Master Expert does the same work as a Senior Deacon in a Georgia lodge, except at the altar. During the Louisiana Entered Apprentice degree, five very loud noise makers were used, as well as spray bottles of water and five-foot high flames of fire. There were many other differences which I do not have space to mention. The Louisiana degree team said they will try to return in 2014 and confer the Master Mason degree.

The weekend concluded with the conferral of the honorary Yellow Dog Degree by Most Worshipful Bro. K. I. Wright of Tennessee.

Large Number Attends Georgia-South Carolina Exchange Night

The annual Georgia-South Carolina Exchange Night continues to attract larger numbers of Brethren each year as it did for the June 2013 gathering, hosted by the Valley of Augusta. A good-natured rivalry exists between the two Grand Jurisdictions as to who can attract the most Brethren. This year the count was too close to call a “winner.”

After a fine meal prepared by the Valley Chef, the Brethren gathered for more fellowship in the auditorium. Most Worshipful Brother David J DeChant, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, and Most Worshipful Brother E. Ray Knittel of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, welcomed all present and introduced Grand Lodge officers who were present.

Each Grand Master spoke to the Brethren on a light topic as the meeting was for fellowship and fun, not for Masonic business. In 2014, South Carolina will host the evening.



Grand Masters DeChant (left) and Knittel speak to the Brethren.



Solomon's No. 1 Featured in MIC Focus

Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in Savannah was featured in the June 2013 Masonic Information Center's *Focus* newsletter. Chartered by the Grand Lodge of England in 1735 as “The Lodge at Savannah in ye Province of Georgia, the lodge is 51 years older than the Grand Lodge of Georgia, F.&A.M. which was created in 1786, according to the article. The lodge meets in the old Cotton Exchange along the river front.

Grand Master Knittel Visits Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6

Grand Master E. Ray Knittel made an official visit to Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6 on June 25. An overflow crowd of at least 100 Freemasons, family and guests welcomed him with a wonderful feast before moving into the lodge room where the Grand Master presented five 60-year aprons. Their photos are on page 22.

In addition, the Grand Master, assisted by Mrs. Debbie Goodman, presented the Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. Ed Coley, a Perpetual Membership in his lodge. Mrs. Goodman, who placed the pin on Bro. Coley's lapel, is one of the most active ladies around the lodge and is much loved by all the Brothers.

Before closing the meeting, Most Worshipful Bro. Knittel gave an informative and interesting speech.

In February, Wor. Bro. Mike Wilson, First Grand Steward, presented Bro. Keith Studdard a Perpetual Membership in Golden Fleece Lodge.

According to the Grand Lodge there are 1,297 living Perpetual Members in the Grand Lodge. Approximately 59 are deceased, but their lodges continue to receive dues each year from Grand Lodge because they were Perpetual Members before their deaths.



Ducktown Lodge No. 572 Awards Scholarships



Each year, the brethren of Ducktown Lodge No. 572 in Cumming award two \$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving students from the high schools in our area. This year these two young ladies, Katelyn Ezell and Savannah Chapman, stood out above all other applicants and were selected to receive our \$1,000.00 scholarships.

Valley of Macon Presents Scholarships



We do not often recognize the Scottish Rite Valleys in Georgia who give many scholarships each year, but these young scholars are happy that Scottish Rite Masons are so giving.

Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia which provides Scholarships for our brightest men and women across the state of Georgia awarded 98 Scholarships this year. The application process is undergoing a complete revision which will make it possible for students to apply for and complete the Scholarship process on line. Those wishing to apply for scholarships for the 2014 – 2015 academic year should visit www.gascottishrite.org and register. Once registered the applicant will be notified via email when the application period is opened. As the new web portal is currently under construction, it may be necessary to visit several times until the registration process is available.

The Foundation also provides financial support to the Rite Care Centers for Speech and Language disorders

Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279 Awards Scholarships

Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279 gave scholarships to Taranisha Wright and Thomas Knight at its meeting held June 22. The scholarships were the first of what the lodge hopes to be an annual award given to deserving students of Dodge County. Information about the scholarship is available at Dodge County High School and Eugene Smith Lodge. Pictured left to right are Thomas Knight, Eugene Smith Lodge Scholarship Chairman T R Fountain, and Taranisha Wright (Below).



across the state. The work of the Rite Care Clinics provides children who might have remained educationally behind for a lifetime, the ability to talk, read, and lead productive lives. If you wish to donate, please make your check payable to Scottish Rite Foundation of Ga. and show "Rite Care" on the checks Memo.

Mail to:

**Scottish Rite Foundation
Rite Care
1690 Peachtree St. NW
Atlanta, Ga. 30309**

Great Day at Flint Hill Lodge No. 371



Saturday, July 13, was a great day for Georgia Freemasonry and the Glover Family.

The day started with the raising of 21-year-old Dillon Ross Glover (center above). His father, Darin Ross Glover, PM, conferred the Master Mason's Degree at Flint Hill Lodge No. 371. Bro. Darin currently serves as Secretary of the lodge. Dillon was raised by his Grandfather, Darwin R. Glover. To make this story even more significant, the events moved to Campbelton Lodge No. 76 which was hosting a visitation of Grand Master E. Ray Knittel that evening. After an outstanding meal featuring some of the juiciest ribs ever close to 100 people crowded into the small lodge room where Granddad Darwin received his 50 year apron and pin from the Grand Master.

The public meeting allowed friends and family to enjoy an outstanding event proving that Freemasonry is alive and well in Georgia.

Wor. Bro. Darin Ross Glover was the craftsman who made the gavel and sounding block that Most Worshipful Bro. E. Knittel presented to Most Worshipful Bro. David J. DeChant, Grand Master of South Carolina at the GA/SC Exchange Night in Augusta.



The Grand Master poses with his officers and the officers of Campbelton Lodge No. 76.

Horns on the Altar

In the photo to the left, you will notice two "Horns" on the altar at Flint Hill Lodge. Horns on the two other corners of the altar are not visible in the photo. The altar at Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6 also has four horns on its altar; other Georgia lodges may also have them.

Altars are mentioned often in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Christian Old Testament. In Genesis 8:20, we read, "And Noah built an altar to the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar." This was, indeed, a sacrificial altar.

In Genesis 22 we read that Abraham bound his son Isaac on the altar and was ready to slay Isaac as a offering — when he was stopped by the Lord. Most often the altar is the place where the animal that has been slaughtered and dressed is actually either burned to ashes or parts of its carcass are burned while the rest is cooked for a meal for the priests, the Levites and the person who made the offering. It is interesting to note and important to keep in mind that an altar, in the Hebrew tradition, was not strictly the place of the slaughter or the burning of the sacrifice animal (or its parts), but could also be a "table" where grain, wine, and bread offerings could be placed before God. The altar also had non-sacrificial functions.

Some altars had no fixed shape or size. We read in Exodus that altars were built in various sizes with specific measurements, according to the intended uses.

The custom of fleeing to specially sacred places to obtain the protection of a deity is found all over the world. In ancient Israel we find sacred places in two forms — the altar and the House of God to which persons in danger fled for protection (1 Kings 1:50; 2:28).

These altars used for protection had horns on each of the four corners. It is believed the High Priest grabbed the horns of a bull to be sacrificed to transfer his sins to the animal. By doing so, the High Priest believed he would be free of sin to enter the Holy of Holies. Grabbing a horn also was believed to protect someone who had committed a crime from an avenger until trial. The sacrificed animal could also be tied to them (Ps 118:27). On the Day of Atonement, the blood of animals was smeared on the horns as an atonement for the forgiveness of sins committed by the whole congregation of Israel.

The Psalmist wrote, "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the **horn of my salvation**, my stronghold." (Psalm 18:2)

The presence of an altar in a Masonic lodge is difficult to account for. William Preston, in his *Lectures* in about 1772, described all of the furniture in a lodge room, but mentioned no altar. — Editor

Golden Fleece Donates Bikes to Students



Golden Fleece No. 6 continues the bike giveaway to support reading programs in Elementary schools. Eight bikes were given at two schools. The photo shows Wor. Bro. John Wages (right) and Wor. Bro. Johnny Freeman presenting bikes to Van Nipper and Ame Morgan during Mansfield Elementary Awards and Recognition program.

Freemasonry is A Family Affair



Bro. Ross J. Prosen, Junior Deacon at Woodbine Lodge No. 326, reports Freemasonry and tradition is alive and well in Woodbine. His father, Bro. Joseph Prosen is a member of Olive Lodge No. 557 in Tionesta, Pennsylvania. Bro. Joseph's grandson Christopher Prosen is the current senior deacon and grandson Joshua Prosen is the current senior steward at Woodbine Lodge.

The editor had the pleasure of visiting Woodbine Lodge in November 2006 where he was warmly received by the Brethren in the historic lodge. Founded in 1895, Woodbine Lodge meets in its original building, although the building was moved over one lot in 1898. That was the same year a hurricane destroyed much of Woodbine. The lodge building was the only two-story building standing in the town after the hurricane had passed. It still leans a little, noticeable when one walks up the stairs, a silent testimony to the

Traveling Men Donate "Jesus" Dollars



Traveling Men, Chapter 19, Steel Goat Riders presented 100 "Jesus" dollars to Taylor Allen at the annual Kevin Sumner Memorial Ride on June 1st. Brother Sonny Drum, Vice President, explained to those in attendance the significance of the "Jesus" dollar before presenting them. Taylor is 18 years old and has been diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome for which there is no known cure.

"Jesus" dollars or Federal Reserve Notes are printed by the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, one of 12 such banks in the United States. Each Federal Reserve Bank uses a different letter. "J" is the letter for the Kansas City bank and is found at the beginning of the bill's two serial numbers and in the center of the Federal Reserve Seal at the left of Washington's likeness. The Federal Reserve District number is also found in two places on the front of the bill; Kansas City's number is 12. "Jesus" dollars refer to the letter "J" on the bill.

Atlanta's letter is "F" and the district number is 6.

strength of the hurricane of 1898.

Something not quite so silent are the alleged ghosts in the lodge. The lodge once rented the lower floor to a grocer; some believe the ghosts are related to that tenant. Members have reported the smell of pipe tobacco in the building, although no member smokes a pipe. Lights have mysteriously come on in the lodge.

As we sat around a table talking before the meeting, a large ceiling tile suddenly crashed to the floor. Maybe the ghosts were letting us know they were listening to our conversations as we talked about them.

Woodbine Lodge was once a full moon lodge. The lodge met on the Saturday nearest the full moon so the Brethren could see to go home after lodge.

James Clayton Perry, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 1948, was a member of Woodbine Lodge.



The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

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

Web Site: GaScottishRite.org

The **Valley of Augusta** Scottish Rite Lodge of Perfection meets on the first Thursday of each month, Dinner begins at 7:00 P.M. with the communication at 8:00 P.M. We held our awards night at the August communication. Five 50-year awards were presented. The Ralph Studdard Award for the Scottish Rite Mason of the year was presented. Twelve scholarships were awarded; Patents, Rings, Caps & Cases, Dues Cards, and Photo CD's were given to our 10 newest Scottish Rite Masons; 53 Double Eagle Awards were presented, two Knights of Saint Andrew brothers were recognized and of course there were those "Special Awards." (Mostly comedic in nature).

An Educational Breakfast is scheduled for September 21, beginning at 8:00 A.M. Our Fall Reunion will be held September 27 and 28. Dr. Gary Leazer will be our guest speaker on September 5. We will celebrate the Feast of Tishri on October 3.

We will also receive our Charter from PGM Gary Lemmons for the Augusta Lodge of Research which has been established and will meet quarterly at the Scottish Rite Center.

The Valley of Augusta will again host the Statewide KCCCH Investiture for our new honor men Saturday, October 5.

Come visit us if you are in the area.

Greetings from the **Valley of Columbus!** Ill. Bro. A. Charles Knowles welcomed everyone to the Valley of Columbus for our Flag Day celebration. Flag Day was celebrated across the Country on June 14, as it was June 14, 1777; a resolution was passed by the Continental Congress adopting the Official Flag of our Country.

We have all seen a Flag Day presentation at one time or another. The Ceremonies are very inspiring and colorful but this year was special because our National Colors were posted by our local Cub Scout Pack No. 177. They post other flags during the ceremony.

You know a little over two hundred years ago, the founding fathers of this Great Nation had an idea. That idea was America.

We invite all Blue Lodge brethren to visit us on any 3rd Friday at 6:30 P.M. and enjoy a fine dinner before our monthly meetings. Please visit our web site at scottishritecolsga.com for more information.

After a rather short summer we look ahead to lots of events coming up in **Valley of Savannah:** Family Night August 6; Altamaha SR Association August 26; Back to Business Regular Meeting September 3; Feast of Tishri October 1; Combined Association Meeting October 8; RiteCare Golf Classic October 12. See <http://www.savannahscottishrite.org> for complete details.

The **Valley of Macon** has been busy during the summer months; our annual forth-of-July indoor picnic was a great success. Today's youth are in good hands judging from the twelve Scottish Rite Foundation scholarships awarded. The picnic July 27 was very well attended with the Americanism and Patriotism program as the Eighth Regiment Band presented a standing ovation program. On August 31, our RiteCare "Speech Path" partners will hold a 5K race in Perry. If you would like to run or walk check our link on our web page at maconscottishrite.com. On August 2 we will be honoring a very important group, "The Order of the Eastern Star." Our Guest Speaker will be Betsy Nibeck, Past Worthy Grand Matron; we eat at 6:30 and will meet at 7:30.

Dove season is just around the corner, and the Valley of Macon will have a Dove Shoot with proceeds going to our RiteCare.

Our Fall Reunion will be October 12. If you are interested in becoming a Scottish Rite Mason please ask a brother in your Lodge for a petition, or download one online on our web page.

The Scottish Rite **Valley of Atlanta** continues to have meetings that are informative and open to the public. In recent months we have honored our ladies, presenting those present with a Blue Slipper and providing an explanation of its relationship to the Book Ruth and the story of Naomi. The same was done for our Sweethearts (widows). We enjoyed a presentation addressing the Masonic Connection to many of the Presidents of our great country. The meeting in August honored our scholarship recipients, along with a presentation by Brother and Dr. Rahib Bechara, 32° about Cancer and its treatments. The September meeting will feature a presentation regarding a growing relationship between the

(Continued on next page)



GRAND CHAPTER
Clyde E. Griffin
M. E. G. H. P.



GRAND COUNCIL
F. A. "Drew" Lane
M. I. G. M.



GRAND COMMANDERY
C. Danny Wofford
R. E. G. C.

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

Editor: Benjamin W. Polston, II, KYCH, KCCH, Email:
<http://www.yorkriteofga.org>

<p>Chapter Degrees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn the value of your "Mark"! 2. Learn value of Humility in the Past Master Degree! 3. The Temple is Completed in the Most Excellent Master Degree! 4. Learn the Long Lost Master's Word in the Royal Arch! 	<p>Council Degrees</p> <p>Fill in the Gaps of the Blue Lodge Degrees!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn the True Chronological Order of the Degrees as a Royal Master! 2. As a Select Master you will learn how the True Word was Hidden in the Royal Arch Degree and Value of Duty! 	<p>Commandery or Christian Orders</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the Illus. Order of the Red Cross learn which is stronger, Wine, Women or Truth? 2. In the Order of Malta or Knight or as a Knight of St. Paul learn power of Faith! 3. You will become a KNIGHTS TEMPLAR with the Completion of the Order of the Temple.
<p>Website www.yorkriteofga.org</p>	<p>PETITION FOR YORK RITE www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf</p>	<p>FIND THE CLOSEST YORK RITE http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/bycity.pdf Or Call: (478) 742-2557</p>

(Continued from previous page)

Boy Scouts of America and DeMolay. In addition to that we will honor our 50 year Scottish Rite members with a luncheon.

Our next Reunion in November will honor Ill. Br. Sheldon Little, 33° and Ill. Br. Horace F. Miller, 33°. The Valley of Atlanta and Yaarab Shrine AEAONMS are joining together to give brother a "Chance to Advance". This two day class will give brothers who are not members of either the opportunity to join both for one fee. Members of one may join the other for half the normal fee. Visit www.atlantascottishrite.org and click on "Fall Reunion" for more information.

The **Valley of Albany** conferred the 30° Apartment 3 and 4 August 13. It was conferred in full costume. We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30.PM, Please come and bring your lady for a covered dish supper after the meeting.



Brother Jarrod Coffey of Martinez Lodge 710 conferred his first EA Degree with over 50 Members and visitors present. Brother Coffey opened the lodge and conferred the Degree in great form. Brother Coffey is a dual member of Hinesville Lodge No. 271 and Martinez No. 710 and currently serves as Senior Steward of Martinez Lodge. He received praise from a number of Past Masters and DDGMs present for a job well done. Also present were his father, Wor. Bro. Brian Coffey, a Past Master of Hinesville No. 271, a dual member of Martinez No. 710 and the MELD director of District 10C, and his grandfather Wor. Bro. Wayne Barnes, DDGM 1A.

Pictured (L-R) are Bros. Wayne Barnes, DDGM 1A, Jarrod Coffey, Brian Coffey, MELD Director 10C.

8th Masonic District Convention Meets at at John H. Jones Lodge No. 348 in Danielsville

The editor became ill enroute to the 8th Masonic District Convention and had to return home. He wishes to thank Wor. Bro. Joe Colvard, District Secretary and Chm. DDGM, 8th District, for the use of his minutes. The editor apologizes that no photos are available.

The annual communication of the 8th Masonic District Convention was called to order by Wor. Master Terry Robertson at 10:00 AM on May 18 at John H. Johns No. 348 in Danielsville.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Jerald Cleghorne. Wor. Master Robertson asked all to pledge allegiance to the flag of our country. This was followed by the singing of the hymn "Amazing Grace."

Grand Master E. Ray Knittel was found in waiting and was presented by the District Deputies of the 8th District and Grand Marshal Charlie Long. The Grand Master was welcomed into the east and introduced his officers in the Grand Line who were present. Other distinguished brothers and visitors were recognized.

A roll call of district officers and lodge brothers present was taken. Past District Masters, sitting Masters, 50-year Masons and veterans were recognized.

Right Worshipful Brother Joe Watson, Grand Secretary, praised the office staff at Grand Lodge and announced that Right Worshipful Brother Donald I. Dekalb had retired again.

Wor. Bro. Joe Clark remarked that it had been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Children's Home for the past nine years. At this time, there are 26 children at the home. He said that they were ordering new furniture for the girls' rooms and cost to outfit one room is \$1,150.00. Thanks was given to Roberta Chapter, OES, for outfitting one of the boys' rooms.

A collection for the Endowment Fund was taken and totaled \$238.00. (That amount was later raised to \$247.00.)

Wor. Bro. Bob Nesbitt, PM Madison No. 376, was awarded Past Master of the Year for the 8th District.

The District Deputies reported all was going well within the district. They discussed the support for the MELD program and positive growth in the district. Wor. Bro. Tony Dickerson presented a MELD certificate to Wor. Bro. Joe Colvard.

Wor. Bro. Marcus Hall, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the budget for the upcoming year (the budget was printed in the program, as were all committee reports) be adopted. He also urged that the incoming Master review the budget during the upcoming year. We are taking in less monies than called for in the budget.

Wor. Bro. Dennis Helmerich gave the by-laws report as follow:

First reading for change to by-laws increasing the annual per capital dues by \$0.25 was made. This money is to go to any brother in the Grand Line to assist him with the travel expense during his year as Grand Master. Currently, Wor. Bro. Mike Wilson is in the line as Senior Grand Steward.

Second reading to amend the by-laws to reflect the current practice of collecting \$0.50 per capita dues annually was made. Motion passed.

Wor. Bro. Dennis Helmerich gave the trial commission report. He reported that there had been one trial, the trial, the accused was found guilty and given a two-year suspension.

Wor. Bro. Ross Laver gave a report on the status of the GACHIP program state-wide.

Wor. Bro. Tony Dickerson made the resolution presentations to the Grand Master, John H. Jones Lodge and Wor. Master Terry Robertson.

At this time, Wor. Master Terry Robertson presented his officers with a pocket knife as a gift thanking them for their service this past year. He also awarded a plaque to the 15 lodges that had contributed 100% to his Master's program for the children's home. He presented a check to the Grand Master for \$5,317.00 raised from his program for the Children's Home. Madison Lodge No. 376 also presented a \$1,220.00 check for the Home.

Wor. Bro. Joe Colvard then presented Grand Master Knittel with a black granite desk set with his name engraved along with Grand Master 2012-2013 and the square and compasses.

Wor. Bro. Nathan Heaton gave the attendance report: 75 brothers with 24 lodges represented, and 9 visitors, along with the Grand Lodge officers.

Wro. Bro. Michael Zahn was elected worshipful master for the upcoming year and WB Mark Stone was elected as third steward.

Wor. Master Robertson gave his outgoing remarks thanking everyone for their assistance this past year and for supporting his programs which were so successful.

Grand Master E. Ray Knittel then installed the new officers.

Newly elected Worshipful Master Michael Zahn gave his incoming address and laid out his program for the upcoming year.

Amity Lodge No. 731 in Watkinsville will host the 2014 Annual Communication May 17.

*From
Beneath
the
Editor's
Desk . . .*



Brethren, I have a Heavy Heart!

It's 3:15 a.m. I've been awake for an hour tossing and turning trying to go back to sleep. I can't, so I have gotten up to put my thoughts on paper. Brethren, I have a heavy heart!

Yesterday when I returned from Coosa Lodge, Ruth had put my mail on the dining room table. As usual, most of it was junk mail, but there was a large envelope from Wor. Bro. Tim Grimes, secretary of Marshall A. Weir Masonic Lodge No. 448 in Macon. The envelope contained photos of three 25-year Brothers, four 50-year Brothers, and two 60-year Brothers. Bro. Grimes had penned these words: "These are the last Brothers honored before closing the lodge. Marshall A. Weir Lodge No. 448. October 1920 – May 16, 2013."

I visited the lodge on March 21 and penned these words in my journal which I have kept for 40 years: "I drove to Macon to attend a meeting of the Marshall A. Weir Masonic Lodge No. 448 which has voted to close in May. They just do not have enough members attending to continue operating. I sat as Senior Deacon. The stations of Stewards, Chaplain and Tyler were vacant."

In Past Grand Master Earl D. Harris' book on *Outstanding Georgia Masonry*, we read that Marshall A. Weir died in 1918. Bro. Harris had written, "at the time of his death, [Bro. Weir] had the reputation as 'the most prominent member of the (Masonic) order in Middle Georgia,' . . . his funeral was a Scottish Rite Kadosh ceremony held at midnight, said to have been the first of its kind in the history of Macon Masonry."

I know the death of a person – or of an institution – is a part of life. As a minister, I know people go through a grief process when they lose someone or something special to them. It hit me at 2:15 this morning that the Brothers of Marshall A. Weir Lodge are still grieving at the closing of their lodge. I grieve for them.

Many of the Brothers passed away. Some moved away. Others just got tired and quit going to lodge. I suppose that's natural. I get tired and sometimes I am too tired to go to another lodge meeting, but I drag myself out of my

(Continued next column)

Correction

The editor apologizes for his error in the June issue of the *Masonic Messenger*. Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler, a member of Fulton Lodge No. 216, notified the editor of his error.

The picture in the June issue (page 11) of the *Masonic Messenger* is the Atlanta Masonic Temple dedicated on June 16, 1860. Atlanta Lodge 59 (now Atlanta Peachtree 59) and Fulton 216 met there and other lodges may have met there also. The picture is of the area that is now Decatur Street near Pryor Street.

We know it was taken sometime between June of 1860 and November 14, 1864 because you can see the Trout House Hotel standing next to the Masonic Temple and that hotel was burned by Sherman's troops on November 14, 1864 partly because Jefferson Davis gave a speech from the balcony to a crowd of about 5,000 on February 16, 1861 although he did not spend the night. Sherman's troops did not burn the Masonic Temple, and probably protected it, but it burned accidentally 2 years later, May 1, 1866.

The picture in the *Messenger* was most likely taken during the Union occupation which began on September 2, 1864, as there appear to be Union soldiers on the front stoup of the Masonic Temple.

— Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler



easy chair and go anyway – and I am always glad I do.

At Coosa Lodge this weekend (July 26-27), I watched four candidates take their obligations at the Holy Altar. I thought back to my obligations. In our obligations, we were reminded of our obligations to God, our families, our occupations, and our lodges. Each of us must decide how much time we will give to each, but to each we must give some of our time. If we ignore some essential part of our lives, that part will suffer and eventually die. That's just how life is.

Brethren, let's recall our obligations and examine our lives. How do we measure up to our obligations?

50 Year Awards



Bill Meeks
Macon No. 5



Lawrence Gordon
LaFayette No. 44



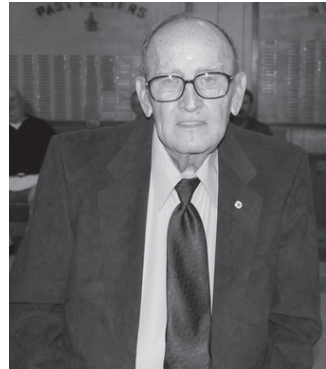
Willie Chester (W. C.) Daniel
Hamilton No. 58



Billie Gordon Davis
Mackey No. 120



Harold Lee House
Mackey No. 120



Jerry Sapp
Live Oak No. 137



Alford Thomas
Lexington No. 158



Hubert Oliver Sperin
Redwine No. 174



Lynn Malcolm Britt
Worth No. 194



Elmer Gene Cyree
Worth No. 194



Bob Hall, Sr.
Tunnell Hill No. 202



(Left) Bro. Gerald "Pop" Tait joined Freemasonry in 1963 in south Florida. Bro. Tait honorably served our country in the United States Navy, retiring in Folkston with his family. He has nobly served the Masonic Lodge for 50 years and has been recognized for that achievement. Bro. Tait has enjoyed the respect of his peers at Folkston Lodge No. 196. He currently serves as Chaplain and is always willing to lend a hand with a big smile on his face!

Pictured with Bro. Tait are his two grandsons, Victor (Current Worshipful Master) and Austin Kirton



Bobby Lee Cook
Nelms No. 323



Ed Fitzgerald, Jr.
Nelms No. 323



Wilburn Scott
Plainville No. 364



Edward Starr Thurmond
Madison No. 376



Ernest Roger Mixon
Weir No. 448



John Thomas Tyson
Weir No. 448



Ed David Dees
Pace No. 558



Charles Marvin Hardin
Ducktown No. 572

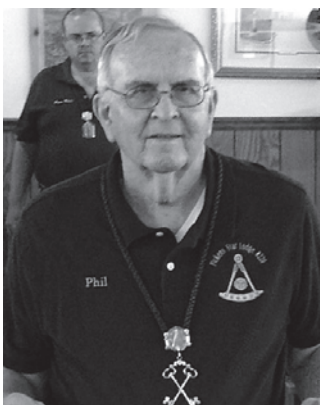


John Henry Watson
Ducktown No. 572



Ray Teasley Jordan
Nancy Hart No. 690

55 Years



Philip Thomason
Pickens Star Lodge No.
220

60 Years



Hugh Gilbert Adams
Nelms Masonic Lodge No.
323



Louie Frank Holmes
Marshall A. Weir Lodge
No. 448

60 Years



Robert M. Scoggins
Lindale Masonic Lodge
No. 455

60 Years



James Oliver Byrd
and his Lady Rosalee
Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6



Thomas Chiles Crenshaw, Jr.
and his Lady Charlen
Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6



William Ralph Durden and his Lady
Virginia "Jenny" — Married 66 Years
Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6



Albert Sam Mask
and his Lady Betty
Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6



Johnny Hugh Steele
Golden Fleece Masonic Lodge No. 6



Harold Todd
Hogansville Masonic Lodge No. 93



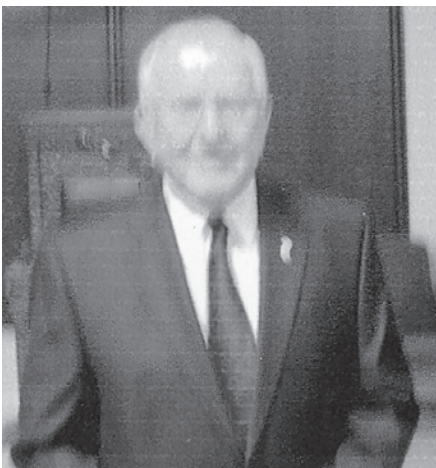
Ed Helton
Murrayville Lodge No. 30



G. R. Farr
Palmetto Lodge No. 74



Robert Standfield
Pickens Star Lodge No. 220



Harold Wesley Carlisle
Marshall A. Weir Lodge No. 448

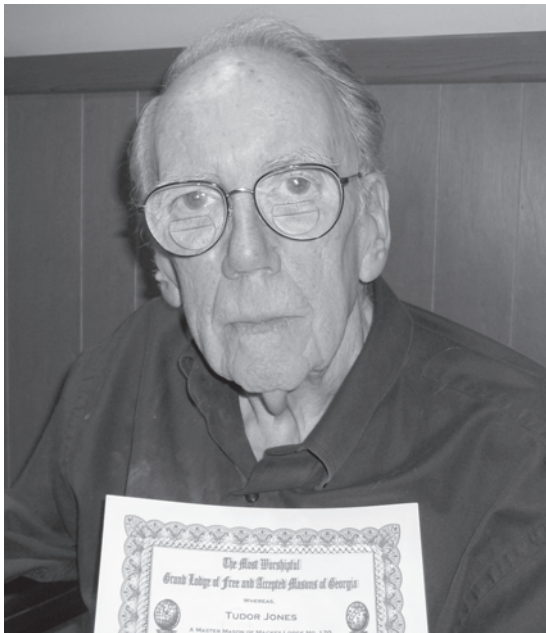


Leonard Carl Grace
Marshall A. Weir Lodge No. 448

65 Years



On behalf of Most Worshipful Brother Danny Griffith, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida, and Most Worshipful Brother E. Ray Knittel, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, Wor. Bro. Mark Bradley, State Chairman of the District Deputies to the Grand Master of Georgia, presents a 65-Year Award from the Grand Lodge of Florida to Brother Donald Curtis of Acacia Lodge No 163 located in Stuart, Florida.



Tudor Jones, Jr., at age 94, is a 66-year Freemason and the oldest member of Mackey Lodge No. 110.

75 Years



Editor: This photo was taken from a newspaper article.

Pictured from left to right, seated, are Brother A.S. Poppell, Jr. and Brother Gus Patelidas. Standing are the Grand, Most Worshipful Bro. E. Ray Knittel; Bro. Kevin Knight; Bro. Adam Poppell; Bro. Frank Wallace; Wor. Bro. Ty Poppell; Wor. Bro. David Idleman; Bro. Tommy Frost; and Bro. Ed Cox.

It was with great pride that on March 22, the Brothers of Live Oak Lodge No. 137 in Darien were able to honor its oldest member by celebrating his 75th year as a member of this great Masonic Fraternity.

Brother Gus Patelidas, age 98, was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Live Oak Lodge No. 137 in 1938, and has been serving the Fraternity with dignity and honor ever since. Grand Master E. Ray Knittel, presented a short program and then presented Brother Patelidas with his 75 year apron and a plaque recognizing Brother Patelidas for this prestigious milestone.

Also present from the Grand Lodge was Right Worshipful Brother Joe Watson, Grand Secretary; Most Worshipful Brother Bobby Simmons, Grand Treasurer; Worshipful Brother Charles Long, Grand Marshal and four generation of the Patelidas family.

The Patelidas family welcomed the members of Live Oak Lodge and the Grand Lodge with open arms and great fellowship was had with Brother Patelidas and his family.

One Brother's Opinion

Brethren,

The February 2013 issue of the *Masonic Messenger* has an article, commencing on page 6, entitled "Socrates' 'Apology' and Freemasonry." I earnestly hope that you read it and found it appealing, as it speaks to all of us when we become aware of two extremely un-Masonic actions; one is speaking evil of a Brother behind his back and the other is spreading slander on nothing more than hearsay. And to do this without giving the accused the benefit of trial is just as immoral as the accusations being so willfully spread. As in the secular world, Masons believe a man to be innocent until proven guilty by means of a fair and honest trial. The editor of the *Masonic Messenger* has studied Socrates for more than 40 years and is himself, a very learned man. He, as with so many other Freemasons in Georgia, has been witness to such abhorrent actions, rumors, and false accusations that have been leveled against our Masonic Brothers in Georgia, other states, and other countries.

It is truly sad to realize that our fraternity has members who are willing to destroy a Brother Mason by means of pillorying, defaming, slandering, or any other means available to besmirch him and annihilate his good reputation. Having no thought or concern regarding the validity of the same or the damage that is being done, not only to the Brother, but also to his family, and all members of the Fraternity

"What you do speaks so loud that I cannot bear what you say."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Judging a person does not define who they "are" it defines who you "are." — Author Unknown

Unfortunately, we still have a few Brothers who feign to be true, faithful, and trustworthy in front of another and then go behind his back and spread evil about him. Somehow, they relish the act of taking a little bit of truth, distorting it into lies, rumors, innuendos, and misinformation. How painful and lonely their lives must be; and, I ask the Good Lord to help me find the good in them and to forgive their reprehensible deeds.

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find

the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

It is, has been, and always will be, my prayer that the Good Lord will help me look for the good in others to build them up, rather than the bad that would tear them down. For surely, we all have both good and bad within us.

I firmly believe that to become party to such narcissistic and hateful behavior that will destroy a man's character, reputation, and standing within his community and family, makes me far less a man and Mason. Knowing that such actions are against all teachings of morality and the rules and guides found in our Holy Bible, I have committed an even greater sin than those who are ignorant of such teachings. I would much rather spend whatever time and energy is needed to verify or refute the validity of such vial accusations.

A little bit of truth gets easily distorted into lies, rumors, innuendos, and misinformation. If I allow myself to get caught up in the acts of behavior that spreads lies, unfounded rumors, innuendos, and misinformation, then what kind of a man and Mason am I? And, by the same binding obligations, how would you answer the same questions when standing before the Great Geometrician and Grand Architect of the Universe?

I hope you found the article, "Socrates' 'Apology' and Freemasonry," as absorbing as I did. It certainly gives one cause to ponder, reassess, and change directions, even if it means having to perform a critical self assessment. Self assessments can easily require the forgiveness of one's self, as well as seeking the forgiveness of the victim and Grand Architect of the Universe.

You can find articles of great interest and moral values by reading the monthly additions of the *Masonic Messenger*; easily found in your mail box or on the web.

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. — Matthew 25:40

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
David G. Robinson, P.M.
Atlanta Peachtree Lodge No. 59

Jonesboro Lodge No. 87 is Older than Clayton County

Clayton County was created in 1858 from Fayette and Henry counties. It was named in honor of Judge Augustine Smith Clayton, a native of Virginia but who lived most of his life in Athens, Ga. He was a distinguished statesman and jurist of his time. Jonesboro, the county seat, was named for Capt. Samuel G. Jones, civil engineer who surveyed the railroad through the settlement. Clayton County is now in the metro area of Atlanta.

At the time Jonesboro Lodge No. 87 was chartered, the Grand Master of Masons in Georgia was William C. Dawson, beloved of the Craft, U. S. Senator from Georgia; George Washington Towns was Governor and Zachary Taylor was President of the United States.

Jonesboro Lodge No. 87 was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia on October 31, 1849 and is older than Clayton County itself. Originally, the lodge was in Fayette County. The building which it now occupies was the first Clayton County Courthouse built in the late 1850s or early 1860s. The first Master served from 1849 to 1857 and again as Master in 1860. The lodge was opened with 16 charter members. Today, the lodge has about 350 members.

Jonesboro and Clayton County were directly in the path of clashing Armies during the War for Southern Independence and the area was important in the strategy of both Yankee and Confederate forces during the Battle of Atlanta in 1864. During 1863 and 1864, 38 members of Jonesboro Lodge, including one Entered Apprentice and one Fellowcraft, were enlisted under the banner of the Southern Confederacy. According to Grand Lodge records no lodge returns were made for the year of 1864. The brethren were busy fighting in a war to repel invasion of the State and City by Northerners.

It was in 1864 that Worshipful Master S. D. Mann, cognizant of the grave situation threatening the community, *called the Lodge from labor to refreshment for the duration of the War*. Vandals in the Union Army desecrated the Lodge. Yet, strong tradition tells that there were occasions when Yankees and Confederates, Freemasons, did hold Masonic meetings together on occasion. Fraticide

by day and Brotherhood by night!

Permanent labor was resumed by Jonesboro Lodge following the War. The lodge progressed as best it could under the misnamed "Reconstruction Era" and it had its financial ups and downs through the long and hard years which followed. On numerous occasions the Worshipful Masters had to resort to borrowing money personally in order to pay the Grand Lodge per capita tax.

In 1903, Jonesboro Lodge No. 87 and the Jonesboro Presbyterian Church pooled their resources and bought the old Clayton County Courthouse, the church having six-tenth interest and the lodge four-tenth. In 1945, the lodge bought out the church's interest. Jonesboro Lodge No. 87 sponsored the first Boy Scout Troop in Clayton County.



The lodge is located in the most historic area of Jonesboro, 142 McDonough Street, in the heart of the city near the old Central of

Georgia Railroad depot. Where the lodge now stands was once a training ground for Confederate recruits.

Jonesboro Lodge has an interesting history and we are indebted for most of this article to Wor. Bro. William Thomas Fincher, Past Master and Past Secretary, a brother with an eye for history and preservation of documents. As this is written, Brother R. G. Swanson is Worshipful Master. Brother William W. Conkle is in his eighth year as Secretary.

The lodge meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7:30 P.M. All qualified Freemasons are cordially invited to attend the meetings of historic Jonesboro Lodge No. 87.

This article was taken from a newspaper article published nearly 40 years ago. Wor. Bro. Conkle retired last year at age 84 after 45 years as lodge Secretary. He told me he still fills in as needed.

Wor. Bro. John Wesley Akin: There are no “Gentlemen” in the Georgia Senate

The editor wishes to thank Wor. Bro. Clayton J. Harris, Past Master of John W. Akin Lodge No. 537, for this rather humorous, but historic, story about Wor. Bro. John Wesley Akin (1859-1907), a member of Cartersville Lodge No. 63. Bro. Harris served as lodge secretary for 25 years, historian for more than 40 years and since 1997 has been the treasurer.

Bro. Akin was an attorney, having been admitted to the bar in 1878 at age 19 years. He was a judge in Cartersville, a member of the Georgia House of Representatives and was president of the Georgia Senate. He was an unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate in 1905.

According to the *Cartersville News*, Akin's election to the presidency of the Georgia Senate and ex-officio Lieutenant Governor, was attributed by his friends to three things: (1) his well-recognized ability, in which, he was the match of any Georgian; (2) his wonderful energy, being a tireless worker; and (3) his popularity among Georgians, in that he was considered to be a man of the people, whom they believed could be trusted for faithful service.

As President of the Senate, Akin displayed rare parliamentary ability, serving with impartiality, which distinguished him. As a presiding officer, he was gentle and wise, always manifesting graciousness in his rulings. He was serving as Senate President at the time of his death in 1907. (His brother, Paul F. Akin, also a Past Master of Cartersville Lodge No. 63, completed his term in the Senate.

While presiding over the Senate, Brother Akin made a ruling, which lives among the humorous incidents at the Capitol. The ruling was based on the immemorial canons of senatorial etiquette, but stated a fact which, except for its amusing side, was well calculated to shock the members of the Senate. Akin's ruling was called forth by the following circumstances:

Senator I. G. Hardman occupied the floor. His bill to provide for the registration of trained nurses was under fire. Senator J. P. Knight, who was leading the opposition, moved to amend the measure by providing that nothing in the act would prohibit the author of the bill, Doctor Hardman, from having two nurses, either trained or in process of training, to attend him whenever necessity required.

In the debate, which ensued, Senator Knight grew increasingly abrasive. Question after question was put to Doctor Hardman, to all of which he returned fulfilled answers. But Senator Knight, instead of addressing him in the time-honored fashion as “the Senator from the 32nd,” yielding to the force of habit and in language of the Lower House addressed him as “the gentleman,” which ordinarily conveys no offense. However, it was more than the strict

presiding officer could stand; and he brought down the gavel with an ominous rap.

Akin said,

“It is an exceedingly disagreeable duty to call any member of this body to task, but when an open violation of the rules of the Senate is observed, I have no option. For some time past I have noticed with some degree of surprise that Senators appeared to forget themselves and to address Senators in debate as ‘gentlemen.’ The Senator from the 6th is an old offender. Let me state once and for all that there are no ‘gentlemen’ in the Senate of Georgia; for when the commissioners of the people once enter this chamber they cease to be gentlemen and become Senators.”

Though amusingly phrased, it was nevertheless an incontestable law of etiquette of the Georgia Senate, and from which there was no appeal from the decision of the chair. Senator Knight, whose lineage connected him with the old aristocracy, and whose name suggested chivalry, was rather nonplused to have his status defined in such naked terms, but he signified his acquiescence in the President's decision, and, gasping for ozone, he resumed his seat, having no further questions to ask.

Wor. Bro. Akin was a 32 Scottish Rite Mason, a York Rite High Priest, and a Past Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. He also wrote a 345-page edition of the *Georgia Masonic Manual* which Google has digitized. You may download it at http://books.google.com/books/about/Akin_s_lodge_manual_with_the_Georgia_Mas.html. The digitized copy is the fifth edition and was printed in 1911, four years after his death.

In the preface dated February 1, 1895, Wor. Bro. Akin wrote:

Heretofore Georgia has had no Standard. The action of the last Grand Lodge, however, makes this work the Georgia Standard, and thus puts Georgia in line with most of her sisters.

Some manuals contain unwarranted innovations on the ancient exoteric work. A few encroach too far on the esoteric ritual. All accessible have been compared on every point, and no time or pains have been spared to determine and to embrace in this book what is ancient and orthodox. — *Akin's Lodge Manual with the Georgia Masonic Code, the Standard for Georgia: Containing E. A., F. C. and M. M. Degrees* (Foote & Davies Co., 1911), p. v.

Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722 Raises Five



Newly raised Master Masons at Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722 are (from left) Bros. Shawn Blake, Joseph James, Bradley L. Jones, Eric G White Sr. and David A. Clay Wor. Bros. Howard Major, WM, and Jay Robbins, PM, the coach, are standing behind the newly raised Brothers.

Directions to the Rock Quarry

Directions: From Highway 515 in Blue Ridge, go through the first traffic light, cross over the bridge to the second traffic light, turn right and go to the dead end, pick up Highway 76 to Morganton.

At Morganton, proceed 8 miles south on Highway 60 [NOT Highway 80] to the Quarry.

Cover Photo

Mableton Lodge No. 171 hosted an evening with Past Grand Master, which included a fine steak dinner. Past Grand Masters present (pictured on front cover from the left) were Most Worshipful Jerry D. Moss (2012), Most Worshipful Ted C. Collins (2008), Most Worshipful Joseph P. Suttles (1995), Most Worshipful Al Garner, Jr. (2005), Most Worshipful Clyde E. Griffin (1996), Most Worshipful B. Palmer Mills (2011), and Most Worshipful A Ray Earwood (1988). Grand Master E. Ray Knittel (not pictured) was the featured speaker. A good number of Grand Lodge officers were also present.

The Brethren of Mableton Lodge made everyone feel welcomed.

Bro. Wyatt Receives MELD Certificates



At the July Stated Communication of Fleming Lodge No. 718 in Augusta, Worshipful Brother Brian Coffey, 10th Masonic District MELD Director, presented Brother James Zebulon Wyatt with MELD Certificates for *Masonic Etiquette*, *Masonic Code of Georgia*, *Georgia Masonic History*, *Georgia Masonic Manual* and *Rules of Order*.

Philomatheia Lodge Brothers Earn MELD Certificates



Six Brothers from Philomatheia Lodge No. 25 were presented MELD (Masonic Education and Leadership Development) certificates by Wor. Bro. Tony Dickerson, MELD Director, 8A.

Pictured are (front row from left): Wor. Bros. Mack Schlock; Garland Burton; Robert Williams; and Joe Colvard, DDGM-8A.

Back row from left are Bro. Russel Greenway, Senior Deacon; and Bro. Marlow Brown, Junior Deacon.

Congratulation to these Brothers who are now better equipped to be great Freemasons.

Award Presented to James Arnold



The Masonic Eagle Scout Award was presented to James Stanton Arnold by C. Wayne Barnes, DDGM 1A, at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in Midway. James is a member of Troup 461. He has attended six Summer Camps as well as the 2010 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill Va. James has earned 42 Merit Badges as well as seven other Awards.

Pictured (L-R) are James Arnold, father of James S Arnold; Wor. Bro. Wayne Barnes, DDGM 1A; and James Stanton Arnold.

Grand Lodge Officers Discuss the Code



Grand Lodge officers Wor. Bro. Larry Nichols, Junior Grand Deacon; Right Wor. Bro. Edgar Land, Deputy Grand Master and Right Wor. Bro. Doug McDonald, Senior Grand Warden, discuss a point in the Georgia Masonic Code.



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🇺🇸 **Active Duty Military only \$75.00** 🇺🇸




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Georgia NCT Hold Camping Rally



Georgia National Camping Travelers (NCT) and grandchildren, members of the Youth NCT, enjoyed a fun filled week at the International Rally held at C&C Campground near the Talladega, Al Motor Speedway July 14-18. This group of Master Masons and their families invite all campers to join NCT. For information go to: www.gonct.org or call Dean Miller, GA Director at 478-396-3097.

Veterans Corner

by Rick Conn

State Chairman, GL Veterans Committee/State Co-ordinator MSA VAMC HVP

Brothers all, I received some thoughts from a friend that I thought were worthy of sharing with all our Veterans — and for the rest to read and enlighten them about the ones that served, and their own involvement: The percentage who actually have served their Country in the military. Have you ever thought about it? You read about the large number of troops sent on various “Deployments,” but is that a large number? Really?”

Just as in 1776, a MINORITY of Patriots are defending a MAJORITY. Let me give you something to think about.

I remember how hard it was for me to get into the U S Navy Seabees, but at last, the effort I spent was WELL worth it. The rewards were very satisfying and fulfilling. The inward satisfaction of serving my Country is immense and gratifying.

Recently I received the following from a friend and I think is very well done: a must read; information that can only be understood by those who served, probably, but words that all need to hear.

Thanks to the ones who served. May God Bless America and her heroes always!. Without them we would not have lasted for over 230 years. But for their service and sacrifices we are, and can continue to be, the Greatest Nation on Earth.

I remember the day I found out I got into West Point. My mom actually showed up in the hallway of my high school and waited for me to get out of class. She was bawling her eyes out and apologizing that she had opened up my admission letter. She wasn't crying because it had been her dream for me to go there. She was crying because she knew how hard I'd worked to get in, how much I wanted to attend, and how much I wanted to be an infantry officer. I was going to get that opportunity.

That same day two of my teachers took me aside and essentially told me the following: Nick, you're a smart guy. You don't have to join the military. You should go to college, instead.

I could easily write a tome defending West Point and the military as I did that day, explaining that the U.S. Military Academy is an elite institution, that separates them and that it is actually statistically much harder to enlist in the military than it is to get into college; that serving the nation is a challenge that all able-bodied men should at least consider for a host of reasons, but I won't.

What I will say is that when a 16 year-old kid is being told that attending college rather than going into the military is going to be bad for his future then there is a dangerous disconnect in America, and entirely too many Americans have no idea what kind of burdens our military is bearing.

- In World War II, 11.2 percent of the nation served

in four years.

- In Vietnam, 4.3 percent served in 12 years.
- Since 2001, only 0.45 percent of our population has served in the Global War on Terror.

These are unbelievable statistics.

Over time, fewer and fewer people have shouldered more and more of the burden and it is only getting worse.

The average citizen was asked to sacrifice nothing, and has sacrificed nothing unless they have chosen to out of the goodness of their hearts. The only people who have sacrificed are the veterans, all volunteers, and their families.

They have stood there, deployment after deployment and fought on. They've lost relationships, spent years of their lives in extreme conditions, years apart from families you may never get back, and beaten their bodies in a way that even athletes don't understand.

When you get out, you sit in the college classrooms with political science teachers that discount your opinions on Iraq and Afghanistan because YOU WERE THERE and can't understand the macro issues they gathered from books, because of your bias.

You watch TV shows where every vet has PTSD and the violent strain at that. Your Congress is debating your benefits, your retirement, and your pay, while they ask you to do more.

But the amazing thing about you is that you all know this. You know your country will never pay back what you've given up. You know that the populace at large will never truly understand or appreciate what you have done for them.

You know that in some circles, you will be thought as less than normal for having worn the uniform. But you do it anyway. You do what the greatest men and women of this country have done since 1775 - YOU SERVED. Just that decision alone makes you part of an elite group.

“Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few.” – Winston Churchill

Thank you to those heroes who have and continue to serve our Nation.

THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE, may God continue to Bless and keep you always. YOU are the hearts, the blood of this nation and will ever continue to be. No nation can, nor will ever, survive without your service and sacrifice.

From the lowest 'grunt' and seaman apprentice to the highest General and Admiral..... THANKS, you are Americas Heroes One and ALL.

Rick Conn “Can Do”

“Still Serving our Heroes, her Veterans”

In Memorium

*Members Reported Deceased
from June 12, 2013
to August 5, 2013*

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
HAYSMAN, STEVEN (NMN)	1SOL	JORDAN, EDGAR HUGH JR	112
MILLER, JOHN RICHARD	1SOL	STEVENS, LARRY GENE	112
WYATT, STEPHEN MICHAEL	1SOL	LANGSTON, WILLIAM EDGAR	120
SPEAR, BOBBY JORDAN	003	WORSHAM, SAMUEL CROTELL	121
MCMICHAEL, HOPE PHILLIP	004	TAUNTON, BERRY MACK CALVIN	129
WILSON, RALPH ALBERT	004	KING, WAYNE DOUGLAS	131
BONNER, FRANCIS WALBRIDGE	007	NORTON, LESTER GUY	135
SUNDIE, EDDIE LEE	007	TOWNSEND, WESLEY OLIVER SR	137
TEAGUE, CHARLES HUGH	007	CARTER, JOHN BURGESS	139
WILSON, JOE REX	007	CARTER, JOHN EVERETT	148
KING, BILLY LEWAYNE	013	TAYLOR, CLYDE SLOCUMB	151
WILBANKS, WILLIAM ROBERT	013	KITCHENS, CARLTON LEE	160
COLEMAN, MERCER LEON	026	LEE, CHARLES ALVIN	163
LANDRUM, WILLIAM DAVID SR	026	SUMNER, ROBERT BURL	163
COLQUITT, ROBERT WILLIS	027	WIKANDER, DOUGLAS GUNNAR WM	166
EIDSON, HUGH ROGERS	027	GRIZZLE, JOHN IRWIN	171
LEE, JOHN EARL	027	LOGUE, DAVID OWEN	171
HENDRICK, ROBERT HUGH	028	STONE, HOYT MONROE	171
LANHAM, JUDSON CLEMONS JR	028	BARNES, HOWARD LEE	178
PERKINS, WILLIAM RABURN	028	SWEATMAN, CHARLES EUGENE	178
BRATTEN, WALTON FREDERICK	030	MAYFIELD, BRADFORD WATSON	182
POPE, GREGORY HARTWELL	037	OFFICER, LYN RAY	184
BECK, JOSEPH HAYWARD	038	SANDS, BILLY RAYMOND	196
BARR, CHARLES LEROY JR	042	WILSON, RALPH ALBERT	200
WESTBROOK, JAMES LENNIE JR	042	SETSER, CARL EUGENE	201
GOFF, ROY DONALD	045	HARMON, RUDOLPH (NMN)	204
BARNARD, LELAND JACKSON	049	CASEY, HERMAN EDWIN	214
HIGDON, DWIGHT WHEELER	055	WEBER, ADOLPH	216
POOLE, MARSHALL HEYWARD	056	HORTON, JAMES MONROE	217
WILLS, WILLIAM ROSS	056	MOORE, ROBERT EMORY	217
VANDIVER, ARLOND BRUCE JR	059	HOLMES, DAVID WINFIELD	220
STOREY, JOE PENNISTON	060	TIPTON, ROBERT ORLANDO SR.	228
RENFROE, JOHNNIE EPHRIAM	070	TARUFFI, BENITO	231
LEWIS, FRED [NMN]	071	JONES, EUGENE PAUL	235
THOMPSON, HUGH DORSEY JR	073	GAY, LAMAR BATT	248
LUMMUS, JOHN BROUGHTON	081	HOOD, RAY EMORY	251
JORDON, BILLY JOE	086	GOBER, WILLIAM FRANK	255
KING, OSWALD HARRIS JR	086	YOUNGBLOOD, WILLIS OWEN	259
HOOD, JAMES ROBERT	091	WILLIAMS, HAROLD EDWARD	262
WRIGHT, ROBERT MILTON	091	TURK, JAMES EDWARD	272
BRYANT, EDWARD CLIFFORD	093	HANN, JOHN FRANKLIN	288
NORTON, WILLIAM HERALD	099	HOLCOMBE, THOMAS RICHARD	288
DIXON, BUFORD HERMAN	101	SMITH, ELBERT AARON	288
FERGUSON, DEISEL LAVERNE	111	MULLINAX, ATHEN JOHN	292
SELF, ELLIS EUGENE	111	BARNETT, SAMUEL CLARENCE	295
SLOCUM, CARLTON HAROLD	111	BOWMAN, ROY RICHARD	295

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
GIBBS, JOSEPH ROBERT	298	SILLS, WILLIAM RALPH	603
SHOOK, HAL COBURN	300	TANNER, CLAUDE RAY	603
HUFF, CHARLES ESTON JR.	303	TATUM, PAUL FRANK	603
RILEY, VERNON DUANE	304	WEST, JOHN FRANCIS	603
ACREE, WALTER RICHARD	309	ELLIOTT, CUIN LEVERE	663
BURDEN, WALLACE ALLMAN	309	HAMRICK, DONALD JOEY	663
HOWARD, ROY RICHARD	314	MITCHELL, DANNY VIRGIL	663
LANDERS, JAMES LADELLE	322	NOLES, THOMAS JACK	688
PRUITT, CLAYTON RAY	323	ROWELL, RANDY MARK	689
DIXON, JOHN TERRY	326	WEAVER, JAMES HUBERT	690
THOMPSON, LESLIE GENE	330	O'NEAL, BOBBY LEE	693
BENNER, CHRIS EUGENE	334	TAGGART, DAN OLIVER	693
MCWHORTER, CHARLES LEE	353	DYE, HAROLD OTIS	699
PHILLIPS, ARTHUR STANLEY	371	LEWIS, EARL WILLIAM	699
LLOYD, AUSTIN JAMES JR	386	PITTMAN, THARION (NMN)	717
LEE, MYRON DALE	391	ALBRITTON, AMOS DALE	720
PEEPLER, MARVIN NMN	391	DOWLEN, RALPH NICHOLAS	720
RAWLS, HUBERT FOLKS JR	391	PRATER, RICHARD MARTIN	728
WILLIS, KENNETH MONROE	391	IVESTER, ROYCE LLOYD	738
CAMP, LEON EDWARD	397	KING, WAYNE DOUGLAS	744
REVELS, ROBERT PAT	397	MULLINAX, ATHEN JOHN JR	744
BURTON, THERON THOMAS	421	COPELAN, NEWTON BERRY JR	754
SHAFER, ROBERT DAYTON	421	DANIEL, WILLIAM RICHARD	759
BROCK, LARRY DENTON	429	EBERHART, JEFFRY LINDSEY	759
DINGLER, CLIFFORD EDWARD	429	HOOD, JAMES ROBERT	765
BARNES, JOSEPH BERTON SR	430	KITCHENS, CARLTON LEE	765
GUNTER, MAURICE SHIRLEY JR	433		
SUDDETH, HAROLD ADOLPHUS	443		
DAVIS, DEARL KEITH	444		
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June 12, 2013 Thru August 5, 2013	
\$500 OR MORE	
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Ancient York Lodge	No. 127
Rabun Gap Lodge	No. 265
Indian Springs Lodge	No. 307
Plainville Lodge	No. 364
Woodmen of the World Lodge 1245	
Teresa Key	
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Middle Georgia Daylight Lodge	No. 756
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The Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons
Masonic Messenger
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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.

New Address: _____
(Street or P. O. Box) (City) (Zip Code)

**Brethren, it is your responsibility to make certain your address is current.
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.**