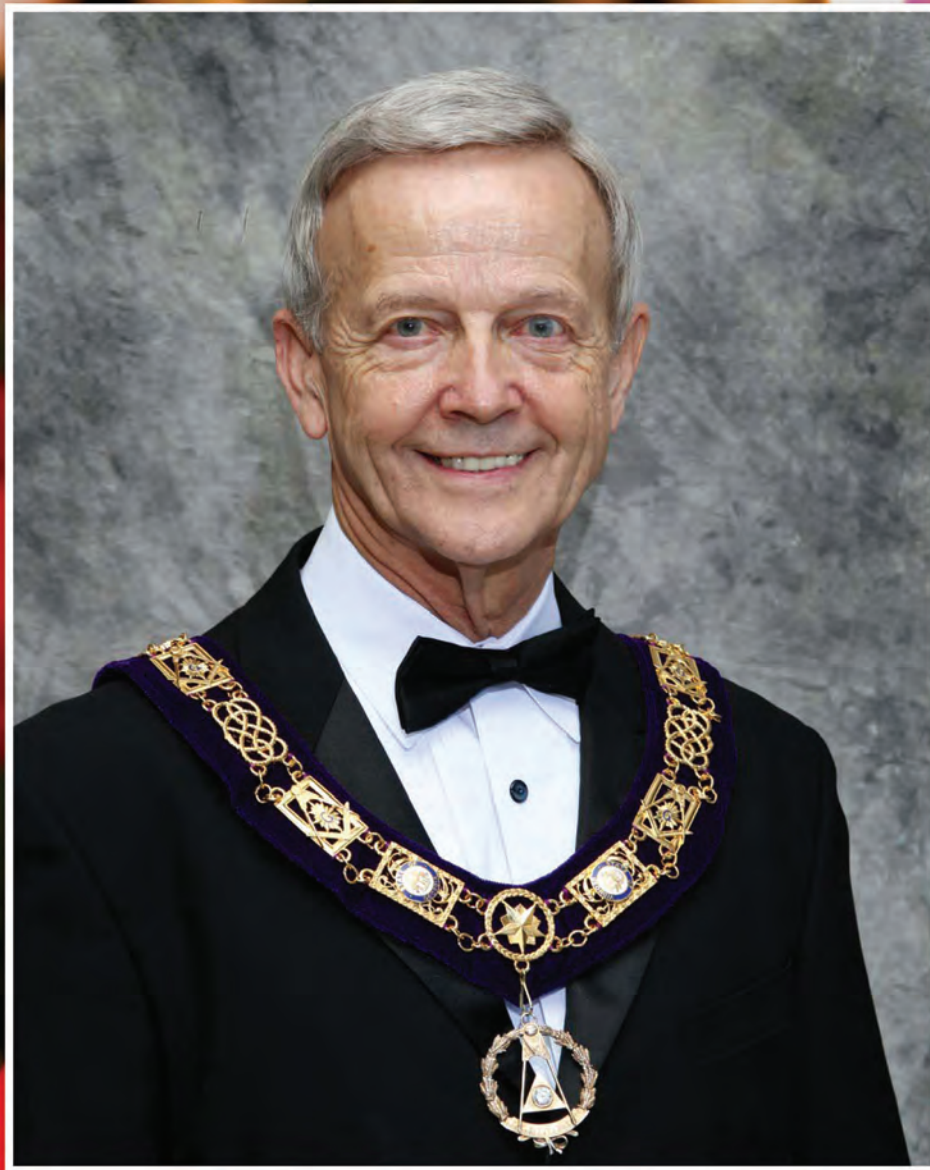


Masonic Messenger



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

December 2013



Grand Master Edgar M. Land
wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Published bi-monthly at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201. The Messenger goes to all Masons holding membership in Georgia Lodges.
Subscription \$10.00 domestic, \$16.00 foreign per year
 ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION
 CIRCULATION 50,000

— FROM GRAND MASTER EDGAR M. LAND

Brethren:

First I wish to sincerely thank each of you for electing me to serve as your Grand Master. I stated in my acceptance speech at Grand Lodge that I felt like King Solomon did in I Kings 3:7&9, "...I am but a little child, I know not how to go out or come in. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" I feel unworthy but with the help of Almighty God I will do my best to be the very best Grand Master I can possibly be. I learned in the EA degree to not enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the aid of Almighty God. I try to practice that continually in my life and earnestly ask each of you to constantly remember me in your prayers.

I promised at Grand Lodge I would outline my program in the December messenger. It is my desire to continue the team building effort that our previous Grand Masters have so diligently begun. After asking many of you about your VISION for our future, I have incorporated many of your ideas in our program for this year. First I have asked WB Harold Culpepper to take charge of the GaChip program. Our brethren have worked extremely hard in the past and have identified over 85,000 children to date. With our new software, additional hardware and the endorsement of several Georgia State officials, I believe the time has come for us to expand the program and plan to identify over 50,000 children this masonic year! We should have zero problems in our Pre-School and Kindergarten programs in getting into the schools to identify them.

Next, under the leadership of Wor. Bro. David Wellman, we plan to solicit donations for at least 5000 brick pavers



this year for The Children's Garden at the Masonic Home. This fund raiser has the potential to raise a few million dollars over the next few years. Our plan is for you to shortly be able to go on the Grand Lodge website to print the form with which to make your donation and specify what you desire on your paver. The forms will be available at the Forums in January. If you are unable to get one as soon as you want it, ask any District Deputy or Grand Line Officer. Next, Wor. Bro. M. Steven Fishman is again in charge of the Blood Drive this year and we have set a minimum goal of 500 units of blood per district (or per month). By mid-November over 600 units of blood had been obtained since Grand Lodge. I have no doubt that enthusiastic Steven will far surpass his goal this year. Next, Wor. Bro. Wiley Forrester is the State Director for Masonic Education and Leadership Development this year and plans to conduct a minimum of 50 Education classes throughout the state. He is also putting together a Leadership Training Seminar later in the year to better train our Junior and Senior Wardens. Be

looking for this as I have no doubt that it will be an astounding success. Wor. Bro. Ross Laver is our Resource Development Chairman and my goal for him, with everyone else's help, is to secure 5 Major Donors for our charities during the year. Each of our approximately 40,000 Georgia Masons is a resource and with all of us working together, this goal can also be achieved. Someone told me that our overall goals were very aggressive to which I agreed. But with the thousands of hard working Freemasons throughout the state and with us working under the TEAM concept (Together Everyone Achieves More), I have no doubt each of these goals will be met. When you add to these teams the TEAM of our District Deputies to the Grand Master under the leadership of WB Mark Bradley, we have no choice but to have another super great year!

If anyone reading this has a passion about any part of our program (or all of it) and you have not been asked to help, please call me at once at 706-273-0665 and I will be delighted to ask you and encourage you to GET INVOLVED!

We are continuing the Grand Master's Lodge of the Year Program that was begun last year by MWB E. Ray Knittel. Only a few changes have been made. Even though I am asking each Lodge to solicit at least \$1000 in donations for brick pavers, if your lodge is able to raise \$500, they will receive 100 points toward the Lodge of the Year. Also if your lodge sponsors a GaChip program, your lodge will receive 100 points as well as 50 points for each Blood Drive with a maximum of 100 points.

BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDATION is our slogan for the year. While our beloved Masonic Home is very important and our fund raisers are necessary, let us not forget

the main purpose of Freemasonry is to take good men and make them better. There are many ways to do this. I think we need to really emphasize doing all we can to be better dads, husbands, sons, brothers, and citizens to be better able to improve our communities and hence our state and nation. We all know that an educated populace is a much happier, more productive people. Likewise, the more we educate the brethren of our great fraternity, the better we all will be able to serve our fellowman!

Even though we still have the Grand Master's Penny, we are handling it differently this year. Each one who comes to work at the Masonic Home on workday will receive their "pay" in the form of the Grand Master's penny as well as many other workers throughout the state during the year. However, others who want a Grand Master's penny, I am asking for a donation of \$10 to assist our youth programs – namely Demolay, Rainbow and Boy Scouts.

Profits from the Grand Master's knife fund raiser will be used to benefit the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc. This will include our GaChip program as well as our youth programs. The knives can be ordered from the Grand Secretary's office for a donation for \$30 each plus \$1 for shipping. (When ordering, please specify if you want your knife box autographed.)

Brethren, be safe and have a wonderful holiday season. But most of all, remember the real reason for the season, be grateful to Almighty God and do your best to stay in His will!

Cordially and fraternally,
Edgar M. Land
Grand Master

Clinton Masonic Lodge No. 54 Contributes to the Masonic Home Paver Program

The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Edgar M. Land, accepts one of two checks from Wor. Bro. Wayne Conner, Worshipful Master of Clinton Lodge No. 54. Each check was in the amount of \$500 and were given to the Masonic Home Paver Program, instituted this year by Grand Master Land.

Pictured from left are Wor. Bro. Keith Hales, Grand Tyler; Wor. Bro. Tim Ingram, Grand Marshal; Most Worshipful Brother Edgar Land; Wor. Bro. Wayne Conner, Worshipful Master of Clinton Lodge; Wor. Bro. Mike Nichols, Secretary of Clinton Lodge; Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain; Right Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer, Junior Grand Warden; and Wor. Bro. Donald Combs, Third Grand Steward.

The officers of Clinton Lodge No. 54 are excited about



the upcoming year and have many plans on their trestle board. Clinton Lodge meets in the Scottish Rite Center in Savannah.

2014 Grand Lodge Officers and their Ladies



Standing from left: Donald Combs, 3rd Grand Steward; Johnie Garmon, 2nd Grand Steward; Larry Nichols, Senior Grand Deacon; Tim Ingram, Grand Marshall; Barbara Land, a rose among the thorns; Floyd Edmondson, Grand Orator; Michael Wilson, Junior Grand Deacon; Jan Giddens, 1st Grand Steward; and Keith Hales, Grand Tyler.

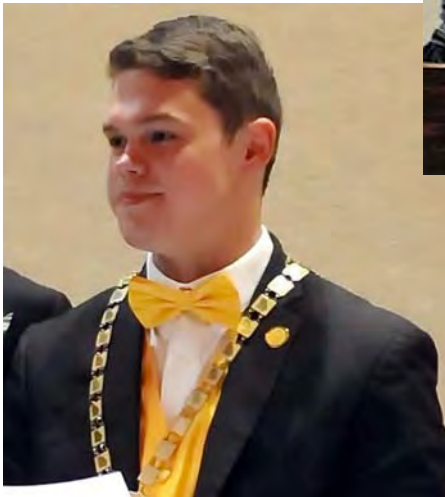
Seated from left: Joseph Watson, Grand Secretary; Gary Leazer, Junior Grand Warden; Douglas McDonald, Deputy Grand Master; Edgar Land, Grand Master; Drew Lane, Senior Grand Warden; Bobby Simmons, Grand Treasurer; and Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain.



Standing from left: Mrs. Diane Hales; Mrs. Margo Giddens; Mrs. Jane Wilson; Edgar Land, Grand Master and a thorn among the roses; Mrs. Ruth Leazer; Mrs. Eva Garmon; and Mrs. Susan Combs.

Seated from left: Mrs. Linda Watson; Mrs. Carol McDonald; Mrs. Barbara Land; Mrs. Nancy Simmons; and Mrs. Sheila Ingram. Not pictured are Mrs. Margie Lane and Mrs. Judy Nichols.

Grand Lodge Snapshots by Wor. Bro. Richard Williamson



Charters and By-Laws List (2013)

The following is a list of the By-Laws/Amendments that were approved by the Charter and By-Laws Committee

Benevolent Lodge No. 3
 Generous Warren Lodge No. 20
 LaFayette Lodge No. 23
 Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38
 Tucker Lodge No. 42
 Clinton Lodge No. 54
 Cartersville Lodge No. 63
 Cherokee Lodge No. 66
 Magnolia Lodge No. 86
 Pinta Lodge No. 88
 Fort Valley Lodge No. 110
 Jesup Lodge No. 112
 Oostanula Lodge No. 113
 Oothcaloga Lodge No. 154
 Rockwell Lodge No. 191
 Worth Lodge No. 194

Millwood Lodge No. 198
 Pickens Star Lodge No. 220
 Cassia Lodge No. 224
 Anderson Lodge No. 243
 Woodstock Lodge No. 246
 Tennille Lodge No. 256
 Hudson Lodge No. 294
 Indian Springs Lodge No. 307
 Nelms Lodge No. 323
 Woodbine Lodge No. 326
 Lyerly Lodge No. 338
 Hahira Lodge No. 346
 Washington Lodge No. 359
 Moultrie Lodge No. 381
 Lakeland Lodge No. 434
 Helena Lodge No. 536

Pace Lodge No. 558
 Young Cane Lodge No. 597
 E. A. Minor Lodge No. 603
 Statham Lodge No. 634
 Thunderbolt Lodge No. 693
 Walnut Grove Lodge No. 703
 Moody Lodge No. 719
 Emerson Lodge No. 738
 William G. England Daylight No. 747
 Seven Hills Daylight Lodge No. 751
 William A. Davis Daylight Lodge No. 753
 Chamblee-Sardis Lodge No. 444

Non-Lodge By-Laws/Amendments

Non-Lodge By-Laws/Amendments approved by the Charters and By-Laws Committee

Cove Waterfall Assoc. 8th District Convention
 Cobb County Masonic Conv. 7th District Convention
 Bartow County Masonic Convention

Non-Lodge By-Laws Amendments

Non-Lodge By-Laws/Amendments rejected by the Charters and By-Laws Committee

Masonic Motorcycle Club of Georgia

Hinesville Lodge Named Lodge of the Year



Hinesville Lodge No. 271 in the First Masonic District was selected Lodge of the Year at Grand Lodge. Pictured above are Bro. Johnny Davis, Senior Warden; Wor. Bro. Brian Coffey, Wor. Bro. Coster Livingston, DDGM, 1st District Chairman; Most Worshipful Bro. E. Ray Knittel, Grand Master; Wor. Master Brian Tiner; Wor. Bro. Wayne Barnes, DDGM, 1st District; Wor. Bro. Paul Hawkins, Treasurer; Bro. Charles Rogers, Chaplain; Bro. James Arnold, Junior Deacon; and Wor. Bro. Eric Johanson, Secretary.

Veterans' Luncheon at Scottish Rite Center



The second annual Veterans' luncheon, hosted by the Scottish Rite Valley of Macon on Tuesday during Grand Lodge, was well-attended. Transportation was provided to and from the Center for all Veterans and out-of-state guests at no cost to the Brethren or Grand Lodge. We thank the Valley

of Macon for the gift of delicious chow and fellowship.

Code Bills Result List

Code Bill No. 01-2013-DEFEATED
 Code Bill No. 02-2013-DEFEATED
 Code Bill No. 03-2013-WITHDRAWN
 Code Bill No. 04-2013-PASSED
 Code Bill No. 05-2013-PASSED
 Code Bill No. 06-2013-PASSED
 Code Bill No. 07-2013-AMENDED and PASSED
 Code Bill No. 08-2013-PASSED
 Code Bill No. 09-2013-DEFEATED
 Code Bill No. 10-2013-PASSED
 Code Bill No. 11-2013-RULED OUT OF ORDER
 Code Bill No. 12-2013-RULED OUT OF ORDER
 Code Bill No. 13-2013-PASSED
 Code Bill No. 14-2013-DEFEATED
 Code Bill No. 15-2013-AMENDED and PASSED
 Code Bill No. 16-2013-PASSED
 Code Bill No. 17-2013-AMENDED and PASSED...Not to exceed 5 years
 Code Bill No. 18-2013-AMENDED and PASSED

James Timothy (Tim) Ingram Appointed Grand Marshal

Worshipful Brother James Timothy (Tim) Ingram was born May 5, 1955 in Tate, Georgia. Tim was the fifth of five children, and the only son, of the late James Everrett Ingram and Mary Frances Haithcock Ingram.

After the death of Tim's mother in 1963, the family moved to the Grandview area. At the young age of 8, Tim's older sisters provided him guidance and support. He graduated from Pickens High School in Jasper, Georgia in 1973. He attended Pickens Technical School and received certificates in various electrical and mechanical fields.

Tim began his career at Jasper Rubber Company in 1974; where later he became plant electrician and then Maintenance Supervisor. After 16 years of employment there, he decided to take a position with Piolax Corporation in Canton, Georgia. He has been employed there for 20 years and is currently in the position of Maintenance Supervisor.

Tim was saved and joined Four Mile Baptist Church in 1974. In 2013 he moved his church membership to Sharp Mountain Baptist Church in Ball Ground.

Tim was married in 1976. He was blessed with two daughters, Sally Elizabeth and Jennifer Lynn Ingram. In 1983, Tim divorced and remained single for 25 years. Tim currently has one granddaughter, Cortni Elizabeth Jacobs.

On April 11, 2009, Tim married the love of his life, Shelia Dianne Watkins. They currently reside in Jasper.

MASONIC RECORD

Tim was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Pickens Star Lodge No. 220 of Jasper in August 1977. He served as Worshipful Master in 1985. He also served as District Deputy to the Grand Master in 1994-1996, and served on the ninth district endowment from 2005-2010.

Wor. Bro. Ingram was exalted in Pickens Chapter No. 28 in Jasper in October 1977. He served as High Priest in 1982 and as High Priest of the Ninth District Convention in 2004. He received the Order of High Priesthood in 1982, and served as High Priest over the Order of High Priesthood in 2009. He was elected as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia in May 2010.

Tim was greeted in Pickens Council No. 55 in Jasper in 1978 and served as Illustrious Master in 1983. He served as Illustrious Master of the Northeast Georgia Council Convention in 1993-1994. He received the Order of the Silver Trowel in 1983. Tim was also presented the Cryptic Mason of the Year award in 2001 from the Grand Council of Georgia.

He received the Commandery Orders in April 1979 in Amicalola Commandery No. 41 in Jasper and served as

Eminent Commander in 1993-1994. He received the Knight Commander of the Cross in 2003 and the Knight Commander of the Temple award in 2004.

Tim joined Jasper Chapter No. 479 Order of the Eastern Star in 1979 and served as Worthy Patron in 1990.



He joined the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite at the Freedom Class in Macon in 1992. His membership is in the Valley of Atlanta, where he currently serves as Venerable Master over the Lodge of Perfection.

Tim joined Rufus R White Council No. 301 Allied Masonic Degrees in Dalton in 1998. He served as Sovereign Master in 2007 and received the Red Branch of Eri in 2003.

Tim joined Carl F Lester Council in Atlanta in 1998.

He joined Fidelitas Tabernacle LXXVII in 2002 in Atlanta and currently serves as Sixth Pillar.

Tim joined Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56 Knights of the York Cross of Honor in Atlanta in 1993 and served as Prior in 2011.

Wor. Bro. Ingram joined Luther G Palmer No. 123 College in Atlanta in 1992 and currently serves as Governor. He received the Order of the Purple Cross in 2004.

Bro. Tim joined Rufus R White Conclave Red Cross of Constantine in Dalton in 1997. He served as Puissant Sovereign in 2009-2010.

We welcome Tim and Shelia to the Grand Lodge Officers' family.



Wor. Bro. Neil Swartz (center) presents Grand Master Knittel a framed souvenir of the Grand Master's coins and other important articles from his year in the Grand East. Wor. Bro. Charles Long, Grand Marshal, holds one plaque.

WOR. BRO. DONALD C. COMBS APPOINTED THIRD GRAND STEWARD

It seems like only yesterday but four years ago I stood in front of you to accept an appointment as your Third Grand Steward from then Right Worshipful Brother E. Ray Knittel.

Today, it is my duty to name a Third Grand Steward to the Grand Lodge line. From the very beginning, it has been my desire to seek someone from south of the gnat line so for the past four years I have traveled through the towns and cities, the woods and swamps of South Georgia to find the best brother to fill this important position.

I was pleased to find many great Masons in South Georgia. The difficult part of the search was narrowing down the list to a number I could more closely consider. Several brothers were seriously considered.

I want to share with you the brother I believe is the best of the best, not only south of the gnat line, but in all of Georgia, to begin the journey as the newest Grand Lodge officer.

Since 1994, this brother has lived in the first, third, and eleventh districts.

He is a veteran of the U. S. Army, serving at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and in Germany and Hawaii.

He received a bachelor of science in professional aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University where he graduated *cum laude* in 1991; a master of aeronautical science in aerospace management from the same university in 1992, and in 2005, he received a Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

After his university education he worked at Lockheed-Martin Aerospace and Gulfstream Aerospace, both in Savannah. He has served as pastor of churches in Ellabell, Unadilla and Pinehurst (where he was Grand Master Ted C. Collin's pastor), and since June 2010 has served as pastor of Lakeside United Methodist Church in Brunswick.

He has been married to the former Susan Irene Turco for thirty years. They have three children: a son Sean, and twin daughters Melanie and Heather.

He was raised in Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46 in Garden City in 1994, served as Master of that lodge in 2001, and has served as Treasurer since 2007.

He served as Master of the First Masonic District Convention in 2010 and 2011, Chaplain of the Third Masonic District, First District Director for Masonic Education, Third District Director for Masonic Education, Assistant State Director for the Grand Lodge MELD Committee for Districts 3 & 12, the Grand Lodge Youth Committee and since 2007 has served on the Grand Lodge Charter and By-Laws Committee and since 2011 on the Grand Lodge Endowment Committee member for the First District.

He is Grand Representative for the Grand Lodge of Georgia to Costa Rica and since 1997 has been Secretary of the Lodge of Research No. 1 of Savannah. He was Master of the Lodge of Research No. 1 from 1995 to 1997.



He has been a member of the Valley of Savannah since 1994 and was coroneted an Inspector General Honorary 33 in 2005. He has served as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection and is a Past Commander of the Council of Kadosh.

He is a Companion of Georgia Chapter #3, Royal Arch Masons in Savannah and served as Excellent High Priest in 2002; the

same year he received the Order of the High Priesthood. He has served as Excellent High Priest of the First Royal Arch District Convention and as District Grand Deputy to the M.E. Grand High Priest from 2003 to 2007. He is serving as Excellent Grand Chaplain for Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia under MEGHP Clyde E. Griffin.

He was greeted a Companion in Georgia Council #2, Royal and Select Masters and served as Illustrious Master of that Council in 2001. He received the Order of the Silver Trowel in 2001 and served as Illustrious Grand Chaplain for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia under MIGM Jack I. Hepner in 2003 and 2004. He was appointed as the Grand Representative of the Grand Council of Georgia to the Grand Council of Wyoming in 2004.

He was dubbed Sir Knight in Palestine Commandery #7 Knights Templar and served as Eminent Commander of that Commandery. He received the Grand Commander's award for excellence and outstanding service to the Order in 2002 and was awarded the Knight Crusader of the Cross in 2004. Since 2012, he has served as Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. He was received into the Knight York Cross of Honor (KYCH) Georgia Priory #39 in 2003.

He is a member of the Savannah Council #328 of the Allied Masonic Degrees and has served as its Sovereign Master. He has received the Red Branch of Eri and is a charter member of the Herman E. Freeman York Rite College #186 and has served as Governor of the College. He has received the Order of the Purple Cross and has been installed and knighted a Cousin in the degrees of
(Continued on next page)

WOR. BRO. THOMAS E. "EDDIE" GURLEY

GRAND CHAPLAIN OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA

Most Worshipful Brother Edgar M. Land has appointed Worshipful Brother Thomas E. "Eddie" Gurley Grand Chaplain for the ensuing year.

Worshipful Brother Gurley was born March 30, 1961, in Fulton County, Georgia, to Lee and Ann Gurley and grew up in Paulding County, Georgia, where he still lives today. He graduated from Paulding County High School in 1979 and for many years has owned and operated his own landscaping business.

For all his life, church activity has been central to Worshipful Brother Eddie. For 41 years, he has been a member of Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church just west of Dallas, Georgia, where he has served as Church Clerk for approximately 28 years, Deacon for 21, and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Deacons. He has taught a variety of adult ages of Sunday School for 30 years. Wor. Bro. Eddie continues to take an active part in the life and work of his church.

In the community, Wor. Bro. Gurley coached recreational youth baseball in Paulding County for about 13 years and was a member of the Board of Directors of the New Hope Athletic Association. He was also a Charter Member of the Mt. Olivet Area Community Club.

Worshipful Brother Gurley is blessed with two sons: Matt, who currently serves as Worshipful Master of Dallas Lodge No. 182 and represents the third generation of

(Continued from previous page)

Knight Masonry in Carl F. Lester Council #65, Atlanta, a Knight in Oglethorpe Conclave Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. He is currently serving as the Viceroy and has been received into the Holy Royal Arch Knight Tempar Priest Tabernacle xlv.

He has been inducted into Bethlehem Shrine #4 Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem and has been received the Order of the Corks, Order of the Bath, Order of Saint Patrick, and the Demolay Legion of Honor

He has been a Dad Advisor for Cecil Cheves Chapter Order of Demolay since 1996 and was elected as Chairman of the Advisory Board for Cecil Cheves in 2012.

He is a member of Quatuor Coronati Research Lodge #2076, Georgia Lodge of Research, Southern California Research Lodge, Scottish Rite Research Society, and the Philaethes Society.

Lastly, he served as Grand Chaplain under Most Worshipful Brother Eli Stafford.

My brothers all, may I introduce the newest Third Grand Steward: Worshipful Brother Donald Charles Combs.

— Right Worshipful Bro. Gary Leazer,
Junior Grand Wardem

Gurleys to have done so; and Garrett, who was initiated, passed and raised this year at age 21. Wor. Bro. Eddie was honored to confer all three Blue Lodge degrees on both Matt and Garrett, and each is very active in all aspects of lodge activity, including coaching candidates. Needless to say, Worshipful Brother Eddie is very proud of both of his "brother" sons.



Worshipful Brother Gurley was initiated, passed and raised in Dallas Lodge No. 182 in 1982. In 1989, he served as Worshipful Master, when Dallas Lodge was named Lodge of the Year for the Seventh Masonic District. In 1991, his Dallas brethren named him Master Mason of the Year, and in 2010, he

received that same honor from the Seventh District. Gurley is a Charter Member of William G. England Daylight Lodge No. 747 in Rockmart. He was Master of the Paulding County Masonic Convention for 1995-96. A particular highlight of his Masonic career was his service as Worshipful Master of the Seventh District Masonic Convention in 1997, when that body celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

In 1989, he was appointed District Deputy to the Grand Master for Sub-District 7-E and served in that capacity for two years. Wor. Bro. Eddie has served on the Trial Commission of the Seventh Masonic District for several years, including currently, and was Trial Commission Chairman from 1996 to 2001. He also serves as Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Norway. In addition, he is a member of Georgia Lodge of Research No. 4 in Atlanta and an Honorary Member of Pleasant Grove Lodge No. 702 in Dalton.

In the York Rite of Freemasonry, Companion Gurley is a member of Dallas Chapter No. 142, Royal Arch Masons, Western Council No. 29, Royal and Select Masters, and Douglasville Commandery No. 40, Knights Templar.

Worshipful Brother Gurley is particularly active in Blue Lodge ritual work, having served as Director of Work for Dallas Lodge for several years. In 2008, he was very instrumental in the formation of the Dallas Fellowcraft Club, of which he has been President since its inception and which has dramatized the Master's Degree by invitation all over the State of Georgia, as well as in Alabama and Tennessee.

We welcome Worshipful Brother Eddie Gurley to the Grand Lodge Family this year.

Wor. Bro. Keith Hales Appointed to serve as Grand Tyler

Most Worshipful Brother Edgar M. Land has appointed Worshipful Brother F. Keith Hales to serve as the Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Georgia for 2013-14. Worshipful Brother Hales was born January 6, 1959 in Cherokee County. He graduated from Pickens High School in 1977. He also attended Appalachian Technical College where he received his Microcomputer Diploma.

On July 23, 1983 Wor. Bro. Hales married his wife Diane Garland Hales and they have been married 30 years. They have one daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and A. J. Proudfoot.

Brother Hales worked in a family owned business from the time of graduating from high school in 1977 until 1988 when he went to work at the Pickens County Sheriff's Department. In June of 1990 he went to work for the Georgia Department of Public Safety as a Driver's License Examiner and in 1993 he joined the ranks as a Georgia State Trooper. During his career he worked several assignments with the State Patrol until his retirement on January 1, 2010.

Worshipful Brother Hales began his Masonic career on September 23 1980, when he received his Entered Apprentice in Pickens Star Lodge No. 220. He was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on October 14, 1980 and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 31, 1980. In 1988 Brother Hales served as Master of Pickens

Star Lodge No. 220 and he currently holds the position of Secretary. He holds a white and blue card and is an active member of the Lodge Fellow Craft Club.

Wor. Bro. Hales is also active in Pickens Chapter No.



28 Royal Arch Masons and in Pickens Council No. 55. He is a member of Amicalola Commandery No. 41 and also a member of Valley of Atlanta Scottish Rite in which he currently is working on the stage crew. He is a member of the Appalachian Scottish Rite Association. Worshipful Brother Hales is also serving as the Associate Patron in Jasper Chapter No. 479

Order of the Eastern Star

Worshipful Brother Hales is honored to have been appointed Grand Tyler by Most Worshipful Brother Land.

Keith and Diane are honored to become part of the Grand Lodge Family and look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year.

Wor. Bro. Floyd Edmondson Appointed Grand Orator

At the 227th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Most Worshipful Brother Edgar Land appointed Brother Floyd Edmondson as Grand Orator. Floyd is the son of the late Morris and Dorothy Lowman Edmondson and has lived most of his life in Ellijay.

He is married to the former Barbara Findley and they have two wonderful daughters, Amy and Lori. He has one sister, Martha West of Ellijay. Floyd graduated from Gilmer High School and he and both of his daughters are graduates of the University of Georgia.

Floyd, his wife and both daughters are members of Clear Creek Baptist Church where he is an ordained Deacon and is currently the assistant Sunday School Superintendent.

Bro. Floyd was raised a Master Mason in Oak Bowery Lodge No. 81 in 1975 and was elected Worshipful Master in 1983. He has served as the Master of the Funeral Service for a number of years and is currently the Masonic Home Ambassador for his Lodge and sub-district 9B.

In the York Rite bodies of Freemasonry, he has served as High Priest of Ellijay Chapter No. 150, Royal Arch Masons, as past District Deputy to the Grand High Priest for the 9th District and is currently serving as Scribe in the 9th District Royal Arch Convention line. He is a past Illustrious Master of Summit Council No. 19, Royal and Select Masters, currently

serving as Sentinel of the Northeast Georgia Council Convention line and is the Right Illustrious Grand Principle Conductor of the Work for the Grand Council of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters. Floyd is a past Commander of Blue Ridge Mountain Commandery No. 37 in McCaysville where he is currently serving as Recorder. He is also serving as the Grand Custodian of the North for the Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Georgia and is Chairman of the Tactics and Ritual Committee of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar.

In the Scottish Rite bodies of Freemasonry, he has served as President of the Northwest Georgia and Appalachian Mountain Scottish Rite Associations, is a member of the Atlanta Lodge of Perfection and is a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Atlanta 3rd Degree team.

Wor. Bro. Edmondson is humbled and honored to be a member of the following Masonic bodies of Freemasonry: Cherokee Council, Allied Masonic Degrees; Carl F. Lester, Jr. Council, Knight Masons; Luther G. Palmer York Rite College; Cherokee Rose Priory, KYCH; and the Rufus R. White Council, Red Cross of Constantine.

Bro. Floyd is honored to serve our Grand Master and the Masonic Fraternity and looks forward to seeing you in his travels.

Vegetable Beef Soup

Floyd Edmondson, Grand Orator

I'm a plain old country boy who grew up and still lives in the hilly countryside of Ellijay. When I was growing up, a lot of people raised most of the food they ate and sometimes at harvest time they would gather at someone's home to help shell peas, kill hogs or calves, make kraut, can green beans; and among other things, they helped make some homemade vegetable beef soup. They did it without the hope of fee or reward. They did it because it was the right thing to do.

I can't remember all of the ingredients for the soup, but it consisted of whole kernel corn, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, ground beef, lima beans, okra, carrots, and probably some other things, with some seasonings I guess, and just the right amount of salt. It took long hours of hard work to prepare the soup, but boy, it sure was good when Mama fixed some homemade soup and cornbread for us on a cold winter's day. I thought that was the best tasting stuff and every year I always looked forward to getting some good old homemade soup. My wife still makes some for us when she has time and feels like it. It is just as good as my Mama's. I guess some things just don't change.

You know, it takes a great variety of ingredients to make up that soup, any one of which is good in its own way. But when you combine them together with the right amount of seasoning and salt, it is much better. Homemade vegetable beef soup and our Masonic fraternity share similar characteristics. Just like the soup is made up of a variety of ingredients, our fraternity is composed of men from many different educational, economic, cultural and social backgrounds. Likewise, each man possesses a talent. Some have great musical skills, some are good speakers, some have good leadership skills, some are good ritualists, cooks, organizers, electricians, firemen, members of the veterinary field, carpenters, educators, law enforcement and military personnel, members of the medical profession, farmers, truck drivers, accountants, painters, plumbers, and the list goes on and on. Each of these men possess good qualities of their own; but when you bring them together in the Masonic fraternity and mix in the moral teachings and principles of Freemasonry, combined with peace and harmony and season them with Brotherly Love, the result is much better—a group of men whose capacity for producing good results has no end. Masonry does not teach the bitterness, division and confusion with which the profane world abounds; but rather, it teaches unity, Brotherly Love, Morality and Relief, and encourages good dispositions among men among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation of who can best work and best agree. Masons are men of charitable dispositions who are always

ready to help in a just cause.

I encourage you to find out what our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Edgar Land, has for his program this year and let's support it wholeheartedly. His theme is "Building on our Foundation." Early in our Masonic journey, we are



informed that no institution was ever raised on a better principle or more solid foundation than that of the Masonic fraternity. Our great Nation was founded upon the teachings, beliefs and principles we as Masons hold dear. But she has changed. Her foundation is weakened. She has lost some of her greatness. She is suffering from moral decay; many of our young people—the future of our

Nation—are in despair because they have no jobs or even the hope of getting a job. Many of them have turned to a life of crime and drugs or vice-versa. When I was growing up, not everyone had good jobs or money, but we did not revert to crime or drugs. We simply learned to live without a lot of things and made do with what we had. We still had respect for life and the property of another.

In addition to our Grand Master's program and with his permission, I ask you to go above and beyond the call of duty. Brethren, the time is at hand—America needs the help of men who believe in the teachings and principles of Freemasonry—those teachings and principles which have not changed. Masons helped shape this nation and I believe it will take Masons to perform the maintenance work needed to keep her strong. Our Nation has some age on her and as is the case with other structures with age, it requires some maintenance to keep it in good shape. I encourage you to get involved in your community. Let's find ways to help our neighbors, our young people, the widows, elderly, disabled and those in need who are trying to do the right things. I encourage you to help direct our young people who are unemployed away from the life of hopelessness they may be living and encourage them to use their time and talents for deeds of more exalted usefulness and thereby make a positive contribution to society with their talents and abilities. Encourage them to attend Church, where they can find spiritual strength to help them on their journey. Their way of helping may be to encourage others to remain drug free or if they are involved, to leave the life of crime and drugs, to be a volunteer for a worthwhile community project to help a

(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.yorkrite of ga.org>**

<p><u>Chapter Degrees</u></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><u>Council Degrees</u></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><u>Commandery or Christian Orders</u></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><u>Website</u> www.yorkriteofga.org</p>	<p><u>PETITION FOR YORK RITE</u> www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf</p>	<p><u>FIND THE CLOSEST YORK RITE</u> http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/bycity.pdf Or Call: (478) 742-2557</p>

(Continued from previous page)

disabled Veteran; to help with chores for the elderly, provide firewood, blankets, coats, or other means of heat for those who are not physically able to get their own or cannot afford to buy it, etc. Last year, one of the ladies at our Church asked for free donations of new or slightly used clothing, coats and toys. She held a give-away day and with the help of others gave away over three hundred large grocery bags of clothes, coats and toys to the needy in our community. She is doing it again this year. Taking part in such activities would not only help keep our young people from being a part of our Nation's problems, but would give them a sense of self-esteem and might even encourage them to come up with ways to make our society a better place in which to live. After all, the future belongs to them. Let's do our part to help them. With the combined efforts of the varied talents of our members, guided by the teachings of the Great Light, the potential is enormous to help our people and to bring our Nation back to greatness, if it is God's will. Let us labor diligently, without the hope of fee or reward; because it is the right thing to do. It will take a lot of hard work, but the results will be worth the effort.

When it comes time for the Grim Reaper to harvest our souls, may the record of our lives entitle us to hear those welcome words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." May God Bless.

Soup, anyone?!

Let's Rekindle that "CAN DO" Attitude!

What is putting something off until tomorrow costing Freemasonry? Procrastination almost always costs the fraternity. We need dreamers in the Masonic fraternity! Men who ask "Why not?" Men who dream and plan for the future! If we don't make plans for the future, we'll never accomplish very much. If we do nothing but dream and plan, we will never succeed. Masonry is not a coffee break. Although great dreams and plans may be hatched over a cup of coffee, nothing will happen if we don't get up from the coffee table and put those dreams and plans into action.

Putting our dreams into action may cost us something, but not putting them into action will cost us more. The desire for soft living and inaction will lead to failure.

I am convinced that the 40,000 Georgia Freemasons have dreams they would like to see fulfilled in our fraternity and that working together, we can find the skills to make those dreams a reality. Let's not let the future be a failure. Let's rekindle that "CAN DO" attitude! — Editor

Are You a Perpetual Member?

Talk to your lodge secretary or call the Grand Secretary to learn how you can help yourself and your lodge by becoming a perpetual member.



The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

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

Web Site: GaScottishRite.org

Greetings from the **Valley of Columbus**. We are in the middle of repairs to our Temple and it's looking wonderful. At our monthly meeting held on Friday, September 15, the Columbus Lodge of Perfection had the pleasure to observe the Feast of Tishri and receive our guest speaker, Brother and Most Worshipful Grand Master Edgar M. Land. Accompanying him were the Grand Junior Warden and the Grand Chaplain. Everyone enjoyed a fine meal and our evening program, the Feast of Tishri. Ill A. Charles Knowles 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG, thanked all for their attendance especially our guests and Ladies who made this significant and important meeting a great success.

The **Valley of Augusta** Scottish Rite Lodge of Perfection meets on the first Thursday of each month. Dinner begins at 7:00 pm with the communication at 8:00 pm. November LOP meeting consisted of a Low Country Boil and our guest speaker was the Command Sergeant Major from Fort Gordon. December's meeting started with a Holiday Turkey Feast with all the trimmings, followed by a Musical Program of Patriotic and Holiday music performed by the Camellia Brass Ensemble. Upcoming events will include the first meeting of the Augusta Lodge of Research No. 6, on December 14 at the Scottish Rite Center, breakfast at 8:00 am and the meeting at 9:00 am., elections in the month of February and our Spring Reunion has been scheduled for May 16-17. If you are in the area please stop by and visit our beautiful facility.

The **Valley of Albany**, Orient of Georgia had their elections November 12 for 2014 and Ronnie Keel 33° was elected Venerable Master. We had our annual family night on December 10 and honored those that have served in 2013 and those who will be serving in 2014. The officers were sworn in on December 10. We had a Turkey Breast and Boston Butt sale for Thanksgiving and it went well.

The Albany Valley meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm with the Executive meeting at 6:30 pm. Please come and remember to bring your lady because the Ladies meet also at 7:30 pm with light refreshments served afterwards.

The **Valley of Macon** just closed out 2013 with a great meeting; capping our newest Fall Reunion members. Congratulations to each of you! And as all good Masons we started with a covered dish Christmas meal, and ended the night with a Christmas Musical program provided by "Sweet Georgia Sound."

Year 2014 will start with the installation of officers, our February meeting will be our annual Blue Lodge appreciation

night, and Grand Master Edgar Land will be in attendance. Brothers get ready for a great year, mark your calendars now, the first Friday of each month for a great family night. Be sure to visit us at our web page, www.scottishritemacon.com for more information. From the Valley of Macon to each of you, have a very Merry Christmas, and we will see you next year.

The **Valley of Savannah** will host Grand Master's workshop on January 4, 2014. Spaghetti fundraiser is planned for February 14, 2014 and the second annual Tournament of Champions Ritual Competition will be held at the SRC on March 15, 2014.

Valley of Atlanta: It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our dear membership secretary, Mary Douglas. Mary cared for "her men" for 42 years and worked in our office up to the week that Grand Master of the Universe called her home. We are confident that Mary is now caring for "her men" in the Valley of Heaven.

The Valley of Atlanta and Yaarab Shrine collaborated on a combined class bringing to Scottish Rite 78 new Masters of the Royal Secret. The "CHANCE to ADVANCE" included the 229th of Atlanta Honoring Ill. Br. Sheldon Little, 33° and Horace F. Miller, 33° along with a Shrine Ceremonial honoring Ill. Gene Bracewell 33° Imperial Potentate 1984-1985. This event required close cooperation on the part of both organizations. Beginning Friday, November 1st midday Saturday. At the close of the reunion, activities moved to the Shrine Temple for a luncheon; orientation for the Ladies; the Shrine Ceremonial for the New Nobles and finally a beautiful reception.

As is the custom of the Valley of Atlanta, the November Stated Meeting honored those have served in the Armed Forces. Showing our strong support for youth, we were honored to have the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets – Warrior Division present the colors and then assist with the presentation of the standard for each branch of Military service. Also that evening we welcomed Ill. Frank Condello, 33° Grand Master of Masons in Hawaii.

With the holiday season in full swing we are in the midst of collecting toys for the Children being treated at Scottish Rite Hospital, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. It looks like we will be delivering several loads of new toys making huge smiles on small faces. While displaying large number of toys at December meeting the highlight was the presentation of rings and caps to the recent class.

Looking to the New Year, we anticipate a good turnout for the 230th Reunion of the Valley, Saturday April 12th. Petitions can be downloaded at <http://atlantascottishrite.org>.

Marion Lodge No. 14 Celebrates its 175th Anniversary

Grand Master Edgar M. Land, Right Worshipful Brother Gary Leazer, Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley and Wor. Bro. Tim Ingram visited three lodges celebrating their anniversaries on November 7: Ft. Benning Lodge No. 579 in Columbus celebrated its 89th anniversary with a fine lunch; Marion Lodge No. 14 in Tazewell celebrated its 175th anniversary and M. B. Council Lodge No. 13 in Americus also celebrated its 175th anniversary.

In 1838 when Brothers from Tazewell requested to be chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia they were offered the next available charter number which was 13. Apparently they asked if they could have a different number. They were then issued a charter on November 7, 1838 in the name of Marion Lodge No. 14. The very next day, November 8, 1838, a charter was issued in the name of Americus Lodge No. 13.

Marion's lodge building, the old Marion County Courthouse, was purchased by Marion Lodge No. 14 from Marion County in 1850. It is the only wooden county



courthouse in the State of Georgia still standing on its original foundation and being used on a regular basis (per the Georgia Historical Society in Atlanta). Marion Lodge has met in this building continuously for over 165 years. Marion County, established in 1827 east south-east of Columbus, was named for the Revolutionary War hero General Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion (1732-1795) of South Carolina.

Tazewell was designated the county seat in 1838; a new courthouse was built the following year. This wooden structure burned in 1845, and a new courthouse was built in 1848 at a cost of \$1,637. Tazewell was named after Henry Tazewell (1753-1799), who represented Virginia in the U.S. Senate until his death. In 1849 or 1850, Pea Ridge was designated the new county seat. When citizens decided Pea Ridge was not a good name for the county seat, the name



Most Worshipful Edgar Land is received at Marion Lodge No. 14. Most Worshipful Bobby B. Simmons, Grand Treasurer, who arranged the visit, can be seen in the background.

was changed to Buena Vista. Local residents initially designated it as Taylor (after Gen. Zachary Taylor). However, there was already a Taylor, Georgia, so they decided to recognize Gen. Taylor's February 1847 victory over Gen. Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War.

At one point in the early history of Marion County, there were three Masonic lodges in Marion County. In addition to Marion Lodge, Few Lodge No. 79 was chartered in Buena Vista in 1849 (forfeited its charter in 1882) and Pineville Lodge No. 157 in Pineville was chartered in 1859 (forfeited its charter in 1882). Few Lodge in Buena Vista was re-chartered in 1890 as Few Lodge No. 329. In 1974 Few Lodge No. 329 gave up its charter and consolidated with Marion Lodge No. 14.

According to the *History of Marion County* by Nettie Powell (Columbus, Ga.: Historical Publishing Company, 1931), several of the charter members of Marion Lodge were very instrumental in the establishment of the first schools in the Tazewell area. One of these schools was referred to as the Tazewell Academy (chartered December 1837) and the other



Grand Master Edgar Land discusses a point with Worshipful Master George R. McGlaun, Jr.

(Continued next page)

Georgia State University Students Raise Money for Masonic Home in Class Project

On November 18, I was given the distinct pleasure of representing the Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Masonic Children's Home at Georgia State University. Eight young students, very enterprising young adults, while working on a class project for "managing people in organizations," decided to undertake a fundraising project for the Georgia Masonic Children's home.



To say it was invigorating would be an understatement! This project consisted of choosing a Charity project, organizing and setting up a complete functioning "company." Holding board meeting, project directions, designing a work environment that would inspire all eight participants to put personal feelings aside and achieve a common goal.

(Continued from previous page)

school referred to as simply a "field school."

In 1997 the good people of Tazewell established a Tazewell Historical Society. The main purpose of this group was to raise funds to help with the restoration of the "Old Marion County Court House" (our lodge building). An application for a grant was filed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division on behalf of Marion Lodge. A 60/40 grant in the amount of \$7,500 was received in September 1997. Over the next six months, the people of this community worked tirelessly to raise our portion of the grant.



In 1885, a fine merchant and water gin was owned by W. T. Stewart at the junction of Shoal and Bridge creeks which form Buck Creek. Tazewell had three stores, a blacksmith shop, two churches, a good school, and a Masonic Hall. Dr. M. R. Edwards, who served as lodge secretary for ten years, and Dr. S. A. Murray were Tazewell's physicians. The Owens House was a well-kept hotel. Prof. O. B. Harris had charge of the school. (From the *History of Marion County*).

In the lodge's 175 year history 54 different brothers have served at least one year as Worshipful Master of the lodge. Wor. Bro. B. F. Montgomery served the most years with 15 years in the East. During the same time period 35 different brothers have served as secretary of the lodge. Bro. Jesse W. Smith served as secretary for over 49 years. The current Worshipful Master is George R. McGlaun, Jr. (2013)

On the first floor of the two-story building remnants of a Post Office and a general store can be seen. There is even a dentist's chair in one corner of the first floor.

The Brethren of Marion Lodge No. 14 are proud of their lodge building and take good care of it.

After lodge was closed by the Grand Master, the Brethren walked over to the Methodist Church where light refreshments were served. Two brothers were presented awards for their years of service by the Grand Master.

In this group was a newly initiated member of Clermont Lodge No. 512, Brother Bruce Cambio, who learned the details of our Masonic Home during coaching, offered his knowledge of the home to his partners and upon educating the group, they chose our home as their project. After much investigation the group decided on a person to person sales effort.

The group designed an arm band and then sought out donations to pay for the arm bands upfront. They also sold the arm bands to anyone who would listen to their "sales pitch," all of this while continuing their educational requirements. This process spanned a period of several weeks and had the final result of raising \$700.00 for the endowment fund of our children's home.

Congratulations to these young students. Their hard work and dedication on this project has laid a firm foundation for a productive life ahead of them.

Dan Dacus
DDGM 9E

How many Freemasons were aboard the RMS Titanic when it sank on April 15, 1912? According to the Spring 2012 issue of the *Ohio Beacon*, 19 Freemasons have been identified. At least 8 were members of American lodges; one of them was Elmer Zebley Taylor, who invented the paper cup. Bro. Taylor survived the sinking and died in 1949. Another 8 Brothers belonged to a lodge with the United Grand Lodge of England. One was a member of a South African lodge; lodge memberships of two are unknown.

Eight hundred thirty-two passengers and six hundred eighty-five crew members perished when the "unsinkable" Titanic sank.

Grand Master Edgar Land installs Officers at Solomon's Lodge No. 1

An annual trip that the Grand Master and his officers look forward to with great anticipation is the trip to install the officers of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 in Savannah on the first Monday in December. Grand Master Edgar Land was joined this year by several of his Grand Lodge officers: Wor. Bro. Keith Hales, Grand Tyler; Wor. Bro. Tim Ingram, Grand Marshal; Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain; Wor. Bro. Donald Combs, Third Grand Steward; and Right Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer, Junior Grand Warden. Also present was Most Worshipful Bro. Clyde E. Griffin, a Past Master of Solomon's Lodge.

Savannah is the most beautiful and historic city in Georgia and several Grand Lodge wives took advantage of the trip to get in some much needed shopping and sight-seeing.

The old Savannah Cotton Exchange, home of Solomon's Lodge No. 1, stands as a grand reminder of cotton's influence on Savannah. Built in 1886 by Boston architect William G. Preston, the cotton exchange was one of the first major buildings to be constructed entirely over a public street. Built of red brick with a terra cotta façade, iron window lintels and copper finials and copings, the building is one of the best surviving examples of the Romantic Revival period.

By 1872 export revenue from cotton was \$40 million annually when Georgia was the leading cotton producer in the country, and Savannah was one of the major cotton seaports on the Atlantic. By the 1880s the area was known as the "Wall Street of the South." Ironically the current building was constructed when cotton was only selling for as little as ten cents a pound. But it was a little insect, the boll weevil, which finally rendered the building obsolete by 1920.

Solomon's Lodge acquired a 100-year lease on the Cotton Exchange in 1974.

A spectacular Labor Day 2008 wreck caused by a drunk driver damaged the entry way and destroyed the iconic winged lion in the fountain at Bay and Drayton streets. By the end of the following April, leaders at Solomon's Lodge No. 1 said they had spent about \$35,000 in repairs from the car accident. A replica of the lion has replaced the original.

The lodge spent \$80,000 on hurricane-proof windows to protect an original stained-glass window overlooking the Savannah River and have repainted and refurbished every room inside the historic building. It is truly a beautiful building, inside and out.

The Cotton Exchange is Solomon's Lodge's fourth location.



Freemasons Hall in Savannah, Home of Solomon's Lodge No. 1

**A Brief History of
Solomon's Lodge No. 1,
F&AM, Savannah,
Georgia. Organized
February 21, 1734
Prepared by Wor. Bro.
Robert Shig Porter, II
Deputy-Historian and
Curator, Freemason's
Hall. 2006**

Freemasonry has existed in this State, and still exists on an ancient establishment since the year 1733/4, and is coeval with the settlement of the British Colony of Georgia. The first Masonic

Lodge instituted in this State, now known as *Solomon's Lodge No. 1, F. & A. M.* at Savannah, was established on February 21, 1734 and was entered upon the official engraved lists of the *Grand Lodge of England* as Lodge "No. 139 Savannah in Ye Province of Georgia" and was constituted in 1735. *Solomon's Lodge No. 1 F. & A. M.* at Savannah is the "Oldest Continuously Operating English Constituted Lodge of Freemasons in the Western Hemisphere."

On February 21, 1734 a small band of British-Georgia Freemasons gathered in the mystic tie beneath the extensive branches of a magnificent oak-tree, then flourishing on a sea coast bluff, in the area now known as Sunbury, Liberty County, Georgia. For centuries Masonic history has recalled that it was there beneath the "Sunbury Oak" that the gentle and kind founder of Georgia, Brother James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785) instituted the first Lodge of Freemasons in this State. Fired by their zeal for the institution those early Brethren gathered despite the freezing winds that blew then and blow now over the bluffs of Sunbury in the winter. From that small gathering of Masons at the first meeting over 270 years ago come the 50,000 Freemasons laboring in Georgia today.

Savannah Masonic history relates that the earliest meetings of *Solomon's Lodge*, following the first meeting at Sunbury, were held in Savannah in a building which stood on the present site of the Custom House near what is now the intersection of Bull and Bay Streets. At that time the only public building in the area was the "Tabernacle-Courthouse" which was used as a meeting house for Church, Court, and general purposes. The earliest recorded Masonic initiations in Georgia took place during the first three



months of 1734 when Noble Jones, Daniel Nunes, John Farmus, Moses Nunes, and Charles Pryce entered the first Lodge. Of these initiates Brothers Moses Nunes and Daniel Nunes were the first Jews made Freemasons in America.

Among the relics of Solomon's Lodge there still remains a 1733 John Baskett Bible, long venerated as the "Oglethorpe Bible," which was "Presented by Genl. Oglethorpe 1733 tempus fugit." There is also a gavel made from a piece of the Sunbury Oak presented by Perla Sheftall Solomons on February 10, 1859. The gavel is now known as the "Sunbury Gavel." The original Sunbury Oak stood near the site upon which grew the great oaks that furnished timbers used to build the U. S. S. Constitution, known as "Old Ironsides." Perla Sheftall Solomons (18112-1897) was the niece of Bro. Sheftall Sheftall (1762-1847) who is recorded as a member of *Solomon's Lodge* in 1795.

The "Sunbury Gavel" presentation letter from Perla Sheftall Solomons to *Solomon's Lodge* records the following: ". . . General James Oglethorpe opened the first Lodge of Masons in the State of Georgia. I think there can be no mistake about this being so, the late Sheftall Sheftall, Esq., (my uncle) has often told me this, he having heard it from his father Mr. Mordecai Sheftall." Bro. Mordecai Sheftall (1736-1797) was a member of *Solomon's Lodge* as early as 1764 and his father Benjamin Sheftall was Worshipful Master in 1758. Bro. Benjamin Sheftall's original white leather apron is preserved in the archives of the Lodge, and Bro. Sheftall Sheftall's autographed 1818 Masonic Handbook is preserved in the archives of the *AASR, Orient of Georgia, Valley of Savannah* at 341 Bull Street in Savannah.

The rolls of *Solomon's Lodge* contain the names of many members notable in the history of this State and Nation. Bro. James Oglethorpe was the founder of the Georgia Colony, Bro. Archibald Bulloch was the first Revolutionary President of Georgia, Bro. John Adam Treutlen was the first Constitutional Governor of Georgia, Bro. George Walton was one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Gen. James Jackson received the surrender of the British at Savannah during the Revolutionary War, Gen. Josiah Tattnall served under "Mad" Anthony Wayne, Gen. Samuel Elbert was thrice hailed as the "Father of Independent Masonry" in Georgia, and Bro. William Stephens was the first Grand Master of the first Independent Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Bro. Oliver Bowen was first Admiral of the American Navy, Bro. Joseph Habersham was appointed by Bro. Washington as first Postmaster General of the United States, Bro. Samuel Hammond was the first Territorial Governor of Missouri, Bro. James Paris was the first public educator and school teacher in Georgia, Bro. John Berrien was the "Cicero" of the American congress, Gen. Narisco Lopez the Venezuelan patriot who died in defense of Cuban liberation, Gen. Lafayette McLaws the warrior of the peach

orchards at Gettysburg, and Bro. John Holbrook Estill the builder of the *Savannah Morning News* who was called the greatest man in Georgia during the 19th century.

On the 200th Anniversary of Solomon's Lodge held on February 21, 1934 Bro. Lafayette McLaws, P. M. of Solomon's Lodge spoke of the progress her sons have made in human history when he stated that

"We celebrate the birth of Georgia's oldest institution, the 200th Anniversary of *Solomon's Lodge*. Age itself does not call for veneration; antiquity alone does not merit adoration; the passage of time is not the test of fame; a million years does not give glory to a worthless cause, nor sanctify an unholy name. It is the use of time, the purpose of origin, the beauty woven in the design, the service written in the plan that builds monuments and creates hallowed shrines. I revere Solomon's not for its age, but for its progress, for the service that it has rendered mankind, for its uplifting influence in civic affairs; for two hundred years of adherence to the Ancient Landmarks; its stabilizing influence in political upheavals; for two centuries of activity in the interest of free speech, free thought, and free conscience; for the continuity of its opposition to mental tyranny; its championship of human liberty. I commemorate the founding of Solomon's Lodge because it gave to the new Colony of Georgia, the institution of Masonry.



Grand Master Land poses with newly installed officers of Solomon's Lodge No. 1. In no particular order are Wor. Bro. Bill Overstreet, Worshipful Master; Bro. Gary Hart II, Senior Warden; Bro. Jeremy Norton, Junior Warden; Wor. Bro. Paul Troxler, Treasurer; Wor. Bro. Elvis R. Willis, Secretary; Wor. Bro. James Soden, Chaplain; Bro. Matthew Mikell, Senior Deacon; Bro. Scott Eisenhart, Junior Deacon; Bro. Stephen Clark, Senior Steward; Bro. Brandon Messer, Junior Steward; and Bro. Edward Martin, Third Steward.

During the evening, Wor. Bro. Paul D. Troxler, treasurer and a member for 25 years, received the Julius K. Moody Award, after being named Mason of the Year.

National Sojourners

Rick Conn, State Chairman, Grand Lodge Veterans Committee

Brothers all, have you heard of an organization called the National Sojourners? Do you know what they do, or where they are located? In this issue I want to talk about them as they hold importance, in my opinion to all Masonic Veterans.

The National Sojourners is an organization of Masonic Veterans that came out early in 1900, after the North Dakota Regiment departed the Philippines with its Field Lodge dispensation, a group of Masons organized an informal club and named it "Sojourners." In 1901, these Sojourners provided the impetus, funds and paraphernalia to charter Manila Lodge under the Grand Lodge of California. One of the original Sojourners, Surgeon Captain Harry Eugene Stafford, 33°, Chartering Master of Manila Lodge, in 1913 became the first Grand Master of the newly created Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands.

The Philippine "Sojourners Club" resurfaced in 1907, open to Masons who were not members of local Lodges; within a year it had nearly 200 members from every state and territory and eight foreign countries. Most of the Philippine Sojourners eventually became scattered throughout the United States. A group of these Masonic military officers sojourning in Chicago in 1917 formally organized the "Chicago Sojourners Club." Additional clubs were quickly formed at Army posts and Naval bases under the name "National Sojourners Club." In 1927, the word "Club" was dropped and we became "National Sojourners, Incorporated" in 1931.

The "Purposes of National Sojourners" is to affirm our responsibilities to our Brothers, our Fraternity and our Nation. In the absence of local Blue Lodges, Sojourner chapters have in effect, replaced the military Lodges of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Sojourner actions, similar to those in the Philippines, have been directly responsible for chartering numerous Blue Lodges and other Masonic bodies worldwide. Whenever regular Masonic Lodges are present, active duty Sojourners routinely affiliate and energetically participate. Sojourners traditionally sponsor the majority of military personnel petitioning for Masonic membership and stimulate our military Brothers, past and present, to reestablish and strengthen their Masonic ties

Sojourner efforts are directed toward Americanism and Masonic activities. Patriotic activities include speeches, flag ceremonies, presentations and other actions intended to promote national security and true love of country, with special emphasis on youth. Our service to the Craft through our Bridge of Light Program strengthens Masonry by involving Sojourners in all Masonic activities, especially in the Blue Lodges. You may be familiar with two of these: "Build

the Flag" and "Toast to the Flag" that is done at many Masonic meetings including Scottish Rite Patriotic themed meetings.

There are five operative National Sojourners Chapters in Georgia. Fort Benning in Columbus meets on the 1st Friday of each month at 1830, Fort McPherson in Atlanta meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1830, Warner Robins in Warner Robins meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 1830, Clarence Cohen in Augusta meets on the 4th Thursday at 1800, and Hunter in Savannah meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 1900. Sojourners have a rich history and tradition within the Military and Masonic worlds. I encourage all Masonic Veteran to check out the closest Chapter to you and become a member. You will not regret it.

Our Chapters give out numerous ROTC medals for Students in both the High School Jr ROTC and College ROTC programs. As a Sojourner you can have the opportunity to attend the Dress Mess and present one of these medals to the student for the National Sojourners. This is always a very rewarding experience. There is a side degree within the National Sojourners called "The Heroes of '76". It is a very rewarding degree and of important Historical value. It can only be conferred upon a National Sojourner within a National Sojourner Chapter. Masonic Tiled meeting only. Our own PGM, Most Worshipful Bro Jerry D. Moss, is presently serving as the Commander of James Jackson Camp, Heroes of '76 in Atlanta.

We have another ceremony that we can present to Lodges upon request. It is our National "Lodge of Military Tribute" ceremony. It is always done in a Masonic Lodge, open meeting without form or ceremony and is a great Ceremony for showing respect to our National Colors (Old Glory) our Beloved Stars and Stripes. Open to the public, you can invite your friends to come and maybe spark some interest in our Great Fraternity.

Anyone interested please contact your nearest Chapter and attend a meeting. You do not have to be a member to attend a meeting, just a veteran. If you like what you see, request an application and I am sure they will have one ready for you. Thank you and I hope our Masonic Veterans check out this important part of our Fraternity.

In Georgia you may contact the following:

FORT BENNING CHAPTER No. 8
Secretary: SFC James W. Tate
3607 Oberlin Drive
Columbus, GA 31909-3132 , 706-569-9719
Email: ftbenningnschapter8@hotmail.com

(Continued on next page)

President: MSG James A. Earhart
1133 Rosewood Drive
Columbus, GA 31907, 706-562-9806

FORT MCPHERSON CHAPTER No. 60
Secretary: Col Phillip N. Walker
1782 Rockdale Circle, S.W.
Snellville, GA 30078-3404 , 770-978-2771
Email: pwalker@mindspring.com
President: Mr. Christopher E. Chapman
1561 Aiken Chafin Ln
Mcdonough, GA 30252-4002 , 404-782-4821
Email: chap1993@gmail.com

CLARENCE H. COHEN CHAPTER No. 162
Secretary: CSM James L. Huggins Sr
2301 Amberley Pass
Evans, GA 30809 , 706-855-1480
Email: jhugg12934@comcast.net
President: CW3 Brian Craig Coffey
134 Lenox Parkway
Martinez, GA 30907 , 706-210-2637
Email: coffeybr@hotmail.com

Trial Commissioners Workshop Attracts Large Crowd

The Trial Commissioners Workshop held at the Macon Scottish Rite Center on November 23 attracted a much larger than normal crowd. Wor. Bro. George L. Williams, Jr., chairman of the Twelfth District Trial Commissioners, did a superb job explaining the Blue Lodge work, especially the responsibilities of lodge secretaries, when charges are brought against a Brother in the lodge. His workshop attracted 100 Brothers. Wor. Bro. Johnie Garmon, Second Grand Steward and formerly chairman of the Ninth Masonic District Trial Commissioners, led a workshop for Trial Commissioners, who had been elected by their respective districts. His excellent workshop attracted 25 Commissioners.

We want to thank both of these Brothers for their excellent leadership and Most Worshipful Bro. Ted C. Collins and Wor. Bro. Rick Smalley for the use of the Scottish Rite Center.

The good attendance was due to several reasons:

Widespread publicity. Wor. Bro. Harry Bruno and other Brothers reminded the Craft of this workshop regularly. I sometimes believe we mention a workshop or a meeting one time and assume the Brothers will come. We need to keep upcoming events in front of the Craft so they will know their attendance is important.

Excellent leadership: We need to find the very best leaders available for workshops. Not only will they attract more Brothers but the Brothers will share their good experience with other Brothers who may come to future workshops. Brothers will come

HUNTER CHAPTER No. 502
Secretary: CSM Charles Vernon Deloe
12449 Northwood Road
Savannah, GA 31419 , 912-925-5545
Email: deloecdeleau@aol.com
President: CPO Joseph Donald Westbrook
190 Roxanne Street
Brunswick, GA 31523-1130 , 912-265-3547
Email: cgchief717@yahoo.com

WARNER ROBINS CHAPTER No. 526
Secretary: CMSGT Donald Larry Parrott
206 Forest Mill Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31088 , 478-922-6106
Email: parrottd1@cox.net
President: SGT George Luther Williams Jr
180 Sandbed Road
Kathleen, GA 31047 , 478-987-9573
Email: georgellwilliams@yahoo.com

Rossville Lodge Raises Three Master Masons



Rossville Lodge No. 397 is proud to announce it has raised three Master Masons. Pictured are William Wilbanks, Worshipful Master; Craig Leonard; Gregg Sisson; and Adam Stephens.

if they consider the conference beneficial.

Date change of workshop: The Code states the Trial Commissioners Workshop must be held prior to February 1, but meetings begin to pile up after January 1 and we simply cannot make all of them. November may be a better month to hold workshops as fewer meetings are held then. — Editor

**Retention
It's Not a Goal
It's the Result of a
Great Masonic Experience**

50 Year Awards



Ray Cook
Marion No. 14



Howard M. Davis
Tucker No. 42



John L. Griffin
Tucker No. 42



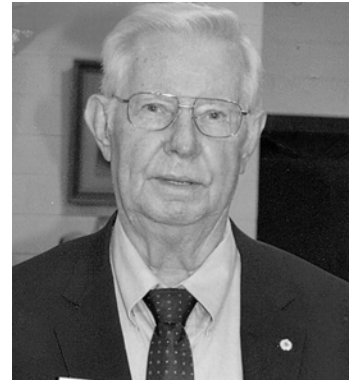
H. Victor Hanners
Tucker No. 42



John Franklin Brooke
Waleska No. 57



Bobby Bolton Cleghorn
Waleska No. 57



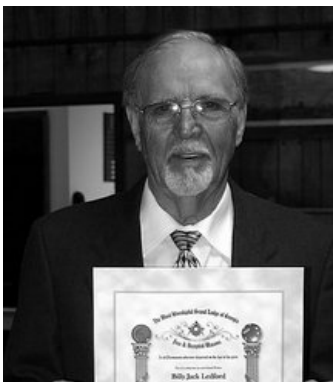
Eugene Jackson Craven
Cowetta No. 60



James D. Holmes
Tyrian No. 111



Robert L. Head, Jr.
Allegheny No. 114



Billy Jack Ledford
Allegheny No. 114



Ed L. Barrett
Caledonia No. 121



Everette Ledbetter
Caledonia No. 121



Hershel Wright
Caledonia No. 121



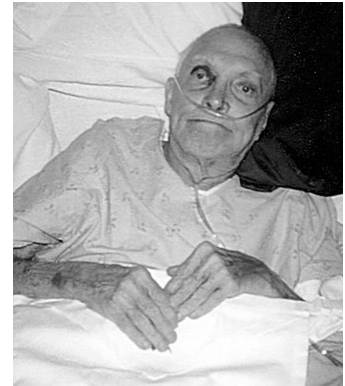
David H. Pettit
Trion No. 160



Royal William Hall, Sr.
Tunnel Hill No. 202



Roy Franklin Bartlett
Flowery Branch No. 212



James Rush Harris Jr.
Leroy Duncan No. 262



John Peter Knox, Sr.
Harlem No. 276



Wilbur Clayton Reed
Adel No. 310



Cecil L. "Buddy" Brinkley
Pelham No. 312



Ernest Nations
Clarkesville No. 325



William Howard Martin
Forest Park No. 399



Mardre Powell Jones
Springfield No. 440



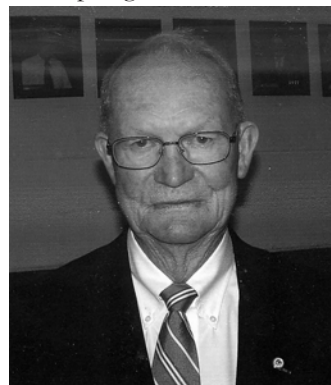
Harry Turpin
Lakewood No. 443



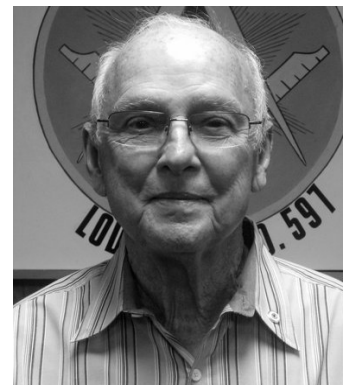
Billy Stewart
Pembroke No. 469



John Pryor Thornburg
Panthersburg No. 543



George Marion Andrews
Elm City No. 544



Edward Ronald Hoefs
Young Cane No. 597



Steve Kimsey
Young Cane No. 597



Woodrow "Woody" Wilson
Ducktown No. 572 —
courtesy for Grand Lodge
of Louisiana



Kenneth Shadrix
Buck Creek No. 639



James Clinton May
Samuel L. Lawrence No. 721

60 Years (below)



William T. Coggins
Marion Lodge No. 14



Waymen Everett Adams
Rucker Lodge No. 42



C. Erby Dodson
Tucker Lodge No. 42

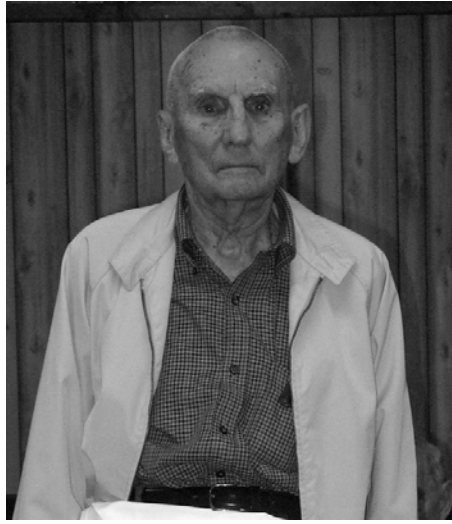


Harry L. Thurmond, Sr.
Tucker Lodge No. 42

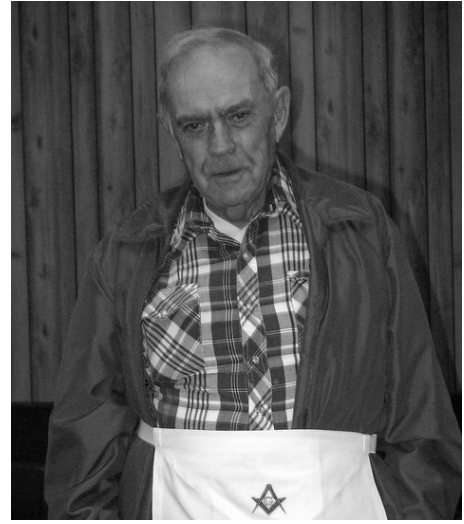
60 Years



James Levi Cline, Sr.
Waleska Lodge No. 57



Paul Ardell Cline
Waleska Lodge No. 57



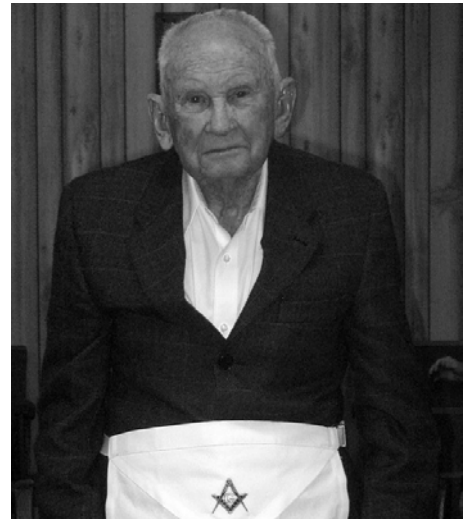
Forest Lamar Sawyer
Waleska Lodge No. 57



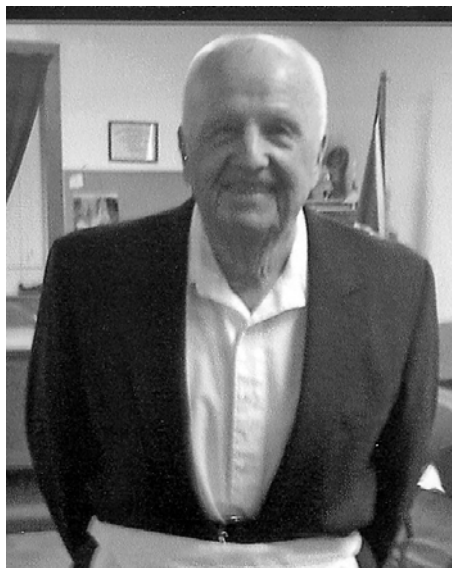
Left:
William "Bill" Luther Cline
Waleska Lodge No. 57

James, Paul and Bill Cline went through their degree work together within a period of two months.

Right:
Jack Harry Smith
Waleska Lodge No. 57



Brother Paul Perry Burgess received his 60 year apron on April 23, 2013 from Most Worshipful Brother E.Ray Knittel at Morning Star Lodge No. 349, F & A.M. Brother Burgess has been a member of Morning Star Lodge for his full 60 years of Masonic service.



Charles Edward Ray
Blaine Lodge No. 534



Osborn Williams
Blaine Lodge No. 534

Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 Celebrates 170 Years

Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens, Second Grand Steward

In 1843 Cobb County and the city of Marietta were barely 10 years old, still a frontier town with few permanent structures. In that same year Masons, working under dispensation, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Georgia and was awarded a charter to formally organize a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. On November 9, 1843, Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 began its long history with about 25 Masons, but frequent fires and a Civil War have left the Lodge with few records from the early years. “Why Kennesaw Lodge,” you may ask? Well, it was 45 years before the city of Marietta was founded and 123 years before the “Big Chicken” became a local landmark; Kennesaw Mountain was the predominant landmark and thus the name.

As Marietta grew so did the Lodge, they moved into the 3rd floor of a building on the south side of the square in 1850’s until that building was sold in 1910. When General Sherman occupied Marietta in 1864, the building was spared the torch because of its Masonic connection. The Lodge was however looted of all property, leaving precious little from the early years. In 1977 a book was received from Michigan with a note stating that the book was taken by their ancestor during the war and they felt it should be returned to its owner. The book is vol. 5 of The Universal Masonic Library by Rob Morris, the founder of the Order of the Eastern Star. What makes this book so special is that it is “Fraternally Dedicated” to Samuel Lawrence, a member of Kennesaw No. 33.

Samuel Lawrence, from the 1850’s until his death in 1890, was not only a prominent citizen of Marietta but the editor of “Masonic Signet and Journal”(adopted by Grand Lodge as the official organ), compiled Masonic Allegory and Masonic Lecture, also published several other books on Freemasonry and was considered the highest authority in the United States on Masonic jurisprudence. MWB Lawrence served as Worshipful Master of Kennesaw 33 in 1855-56, 1861 and 1866-1868, Grand Master of Masons in Georgia from 1869-1872, and Grand Secretary in 1873. His leadership carried the Grand Lodge through the very difficult years following the Civil War.

The years following the Civil War were difficult for Georgia and the lodge suffered accordingly. The 20th Century brought renewed hope and with it dramatic growth for Marietta and Kennesaw Lodge. Many of the movers and shakers in business and politics became Masons; lodge

membership grew from 183 in 1914 to 400 in 1927 with men from all walks of life, helping to make the lodge the



Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens

place to be on the first and third Friday nights. Most of the prominent family names in the city and county appear on the membership rolls of the Lodge, one name many of you may recognize is Steadman Vincent Sanford. Brother Sanford served as secretary of the lodge as well superintendent of the Marietta City School System before going to Athens to become the President

of the University of Georgia and later Chancellor of the University System of Georgia. It was under the leadership of Dr. Sanford that sports became such a tradition at UGA; he also was a big part of the formation of the SEC. So next time you are “between the hedges” at Sanford Stadium you can thank a Lodge Brother from Kennesaw No. 33 for the pride you feel for the home team and that great Saturday fall football tradition.

Kennesaw No. 33 has recommended that charters be issued to constitute new lodges where needed; one such Lodge was Pythagoras Lodge No. 41 in 1844 in the city of Decatur. They were also instrumental in forming the Cobb County Masonic Convention which continues to meet annually. The Cobb Convention was first to furnish a room at the Masonic Home in Macon. Its members have also answered the call to service in every conflict of this country since the War with Mexico and have members serving today in the military. Service to community and craft have long been the trademark of Kennesaw No. 33. Our members have served as mayors, pastors, local and state politicians, business men and almost every sheriff including the current sheriff of Cobb County, Neil Warren. Kennesaw Lodge has provided Freemasonry in Georgia a long list of men who have served in leadership positions at all levels of the craft, from the men who saw to the financial and long term security of the Lodge through the formation of Marietta Masonic Temple Company Inc. to a Grand Master, York Rite, Scottish Rite and every appendant body in the state.

(Continued on next page)

65 Years



Cecil Cribbs
Pembroke Lodge No. 469

70 Years



Charles Grady Harding
Latham Lodge No. 12

Lodges of Research

In addition to several lodges of research that have been in existence for many years, the Educational and Historical Commission has approved other lodges of research in the past year. In future issues of the *Masonic Messenger*, notices will be posted of upcoming meetings and speakers at the various lodges of research in Georgia. Several of them have enlisted special speakers in the coming months. One lodge of research has enlisted a sitting Grand Master from the Great Plains to speak at their summer meeting.

The Georgia Lodge of Research, which meets every 5th Friday at the Atlanta Masonic Center at 7:30 p.m. has scheduled Wor. Bro. John Nagy to speak on "Masonic Cement: Cultivating Brotherly Love & Affection" on January 31.

(Continued from previous page)

When the building on the square was sold in 1910 the lodge met on the 3rd floor of Marietta City Hall until the current building was constructed in 1952 and dedicated in 1953. These years saw an incredible growth in the lodge, a population shift to the area, Lockheed brought men from all over the country and Post-War desire for that commandery helped to swell the membership to over 1200 men. It was during this period that night shift workers, mostly from Lockheed, formed Samuel S. Lawrence No. 721 that met on Saturday night so they could attend lodge. Order of the Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls, DeMolay and the York Rite Bodies have all been sponsored or hosted by the lodge; all continue to meet in the lodge and are doing well.

On November 9, 2013 Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 celebrated its 170th anniversary with an open house to the public. With over 100 people attending the event which included a Historical display, a proclamation read by the Hon. Tom Lee

of the County Commissioners Office, a tour of the lodge that was set up for a meeting, speeches delivered by several of the Past Masters, a Q&A session with refreshments provided by Marietta Chapter No. 208 of the Eastern Star, even a descendant of Samuel Lawrence saw the article in the newspaper and wanted to come. The response of the public was very positive. Many had no idea of all that we do in the community and the major part we hold in its history. With all the TV shows and movies about Freemasonry we had to assure the visitors that the only treasure we have is what we have to offer to the men who join our fraternity and we can put no intrinsic value on that.

We are proud of our long history at Kennesaw No. 33; each generation of Masons in the lodge has celebrated their part of that longevity and commitment to the Craft. We have young men knocking on the inner door who desire to learn what we have to teach and they will carry on our tradition and heritage as we did for those who came before us. We invite you to join us on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights and become part of our history.



Worshipful Master Jack Johnson stands in front of one of the displays at Kennesaw Lodge. The large photo to the right is of Most Worshipful Bro. Samuel Lawrence, the only Grand Master from Kennesaw Lodge.

— Right Worshipful Brother Gary Leazer

From
Beneath
the
Editor's
Desk . . .



Is the Craft an “Altruistic” Society?

This is a question asked by Bro. Peter Lowndes, Provincial Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) in an article in a recent issue of *Freemasonry Today*, the official publication of the UGLE. He wrote that we sometimes hear the word used in a sentence or even use it ourselves without being completely certain of its meaning.

A dictionary meaning of “altruistic” or “altruism” is “regard for others as a principle of action.” Bro. Lowndes finds this term “a rather good description for a lot of what Freemasonry is about.”

Although the term is not used, we were admonished to be altruistic as Freemasons in the Entered Apprentice degree. You may read that admonition on page 49 of our *Masonic Manual*, Vol. 1 (2011). It reads:

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To sooth the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to have compassion for their miseries and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great end we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.

We recently returned from the 227th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. The Grand Secretary reported the membership statistics in his report published in the *Grand Master's Address* booklet provided to all who attended. The Grand Secretary reported the number of Freemasons in the Grand Lodge of Georgia had dropped to 39,713 as of June 30th of this year. That was a net loss of 1,354 Brothers.

But, let's look at those figures more closely. We saw that 1,380 Brothers were called from labor to their heavenly reward. However, our greatest losses were from Brothers who dimitted (512) or who were suspended for non-payment of dues (954). Those two figures added together total 1,466. We lost more Brothers from dimits and suspensions than from deaths.

We cannot do anything about the number of deaths. The Great Architect of the Universe calls home those who He

will, but we can do something about dimits and suspensions.

Even with the number of Brothers who passed away during the past twelve months, without the dimits and suspensions, we would have had a positive growth in membership. Brothers raised during the past twelve months totaled 826; 499 Brothers affiliated and 167 were reinstated for a total of 1,492. If we had not had any dimits or suspensions, our membership would have grown by 112 Brothers, even when we factor in deaths. Brethren, this should not be. Most of our losses fall on our shoulders.

Brethren, I am a minister by vocation and so spend a lot of time looking at church growth – or church declines as has been more often seen in the past decade or two. One pastor said he hears from members who have given up on church, “My problem's not with God or faith. My problem is with the structures holding them up.”

I believe if we asked those who dimit or are suspended, the vast majority of them would tell us they have not given up on the great tenets of Freemasonry, brotherly love, relief and truth. They hear us using those words, but they don't see us putting those words into action “as a principle of action.”

A lodge hall should be like a school house. It should be a place where we learn how to be better men, better Masons. Then, when the Worshipful Master dismisses us and we take off our aprons, we should go out into the world to put into practice those great tenets of Freemasonry that can reduce or eliminate dimits and suspensions. Albert Pike wrote in *Morals and Dogma* (p. 35), “He who *does* right is better than he who *thinks* right.” In other words, if we learn what is right, but never use our knowledge of the right, what good does it do us?

So, let's roll up our sleeves and do what needs to be done. May I suggest a good place to start that work? It is with those Brothers who no longer or seldom attend lodge meetings. I am not talking about another lodge meeting, but a time when lodge Brothers get together for a meal at a local restaurant (not in a lodge hall). The Sixth Masonic District Convention sponsors a meal each quarter at a local restaurant which is attended by a large number of Masons and their wives. Many small towns have fairs or outdoor music programs. Attend a high school football game together. Go to a local museum together. Visit Tybee Island or a state park. There are hundreds of places and events where Masons can enjoy one another's company and grow closer together than that which happens by attending lodge once or twice a month – or less often. And when you go to one of these events, don't go alone. Invite a Brother to go with you, especially one who you have not seen in lodge in a long time. You both will become better Masons and will enjoy Freemasonry as it should be enjoyed.

Doing something to make another's life happier is why Freemasonry is an altruistic society -- and it might just reduce or even eliminate our losses due to demits and suspensions.

— Gary Leazer, Editor
Junior Grand Warden

Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46 Officers



Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46 officers for the ensuing year are: Front Row L to R: Wor. Bro. Charlie Rice, Director Of Work; Bro. Jamie Corselius, Senior Deacon; Bro. Paul Craig, Junior Warden; Wor. Bro. Tony Brannen, Worshipful Master; Bro. Robert Lamb, Senior Warden; Wor. Bro. Donald Combs, Treasurer, Installing Officer, and Third Grand Steward.

Back Row L to R: Bro. Thomas Hurst, Junior Steward; Bro. Jamie Kirkland, Senior Steward; Wor. Bro. Eathen Davis, Secretary, and Bro. Jimmy Crosby, Tyler. Bro. Matt Butler, Junior Deacon, is not in the photo.

Wor. Bro. Marcell Harrison Installed as Master

Wor. Bro. Marcell Harrison was just installed as Master of Wm. A. Davis Daylight Lodge No 753 in Macon. Bro. Marcell is 93 years old. He was also a Master of Macon No. 5 in 1973 and 1997.



Air Guard Volunteers at Masonic Home



The Masonic Home thanks the men and women of the Georgia Air National Guard for volunteering all day at the Home on December 6. They promised to return to work again.

Grand Master Installs Duluth No. 480 Officers



Duluth Lodge No. 480 officers (in no particular order): Wayne Peavy, Worshipful Master; Larry Rich, Senior Warden and Mason of the Year; Ron Jordan, Junior Warden; Randy Taylor, Treasurer; Clinton Thompson, Secretary; Bobby Coker, Chaplain; Tom Ward, Senior Deacon; Chris Stines, Junior Deacon; Mike Begotner, Senior Steward; Gary L. Smith, Junior Steward; and Harvey Chambers, Tyler.

Middle Georgia Daylight No. 756 Installs Officers



Middle Georgia Daylight Lodge No. 756 held its annual communication Monday, December 2 in their Lodge in Bonaire. The Third Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Donald C. Combs, served as the Grand Installing Officer assisted by Past Grand Master Ted Collins as Installing Marshal and Past Grand Master Bobby Simmons as Installing Chaplain.

Front Row – Chap. Steve Alligood, PGM Ted Collins, SW Jeff Adams, WM James Piper, JW Pat Starnes, Third Grand Steward Don Combs, PGM and Sec Bobby Simmons

Back Row – Tres Alan Shaw, SS Art Sim, JD John Lindsey, JS Guy Crowe, Home Ambassador Doc Bowman, SD Dave Holly, Tyler Buddy McDowell

Other elected officers: Board of Trustees:
Class of 2014 – Johnnie McGuire & Pat Starnes (One Year)
Class of 2015 – Bobby Simmons & Jeff Adams (One Year)
Class of 2016 Buddy McDowell & Art Sim.

“The Children’s Garden” at the Masonic Home



The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Edgar M. Land, has announced plans for the largest Square and Compasses in the world, to be visible from outer space on Google to be placed in the large circle in front of the Masonic Home.

The Square and Compasses will consist of red or ivory pavers (bricks) on which donors may may inscribe a 3-line message with a maximum of seventeen (17) characters, numbers, characters and spaces per line. All letters will be capitalized.


Cost for a red paver to be placed in a red circle is \$50 minimum donation per paver. Cost for an ivory paver to be placed in the Square & Compasses is \$100 minimum donation per paver. Cost for an ivory paver to be placed in the Letter G is \$500 minimum donation per paver.

For more information and to download a donation form with complete instructions, please go to www.glofga.org and click on the button in the upper middle of the home page.

Your check should be made out to the George Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization under the

Internal Revenue Code and donations are tax deductible.

Examples are:

E. RAY KNITTEL GRAND MASTER 2012-2013	IN MEMORY OF DONALD B. MULLIN 1939-2011
CAROL POWELL, WGM DEAN WALLACE, WGP 2013-2014	WOODSTOCK LODGE 

Return completed donation form found at www.glofga.org and payment to:

The Grand lodge of Georgia
ATTN: The Children’s Garden
188 Mulberry Street
Macon, GA 31201

Lodges and Brethren donated over \$14,000 to the Masonic Home at the Masonic Home Appreciation Day on December 7. Thank you.

Help Needed at Masonic Home of Georgia!



There are many skilled craftsmen in the State of Georgia. The Masonic Home of Georgia would like to establish a list of tradesmen who would be willing to occasionally perform specific tasks at the Masonic Home!

If you have needed skills and are able to assist the Home in maintaining, or improving the facilities, please contact the Home with pertinent information including name, lodge number, your special expertise and contact information (phone, address or web address). Now would be a good time to contact the Home while it is on your mind. We promise not to abuse your generosity!

In addition, the following list of projects are needing to be accomplished at the Masonic Home. The Building and Grounds Committee solicits your help and advice to accomplish these and other tasks. It is hoped these projects can be adopted by lodges and/or individuals. Many of these projects cannot be accomplished on a regular workday, so please select a task that fits your talents and abilities and adopt a project! All tasks require funding, so if you are unable to perform required tasks, any monetary support will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Wor. Bro. John Snipes or one of the other Brothers listed below for information and scheduling.

- Install urinal in lobby toilet
- Install portico and entrance doors at cross halls
- Repair and paint sheetrock wall in Chapel
- Repair and paint columns on Chapel
- Clean front porch and ceiling on main building
- Repair and paint base of columns on main building
- Install gutters on courtyard canopies
- Paint study hall
- Paint front porch on senior girls and boys halls
- Clean and seal tile in lobby restrooms
- Repair soil erosion and plant sod at senior halls
- Rework grounds in front of senior girls hall
- Glaze gym windows
- Repair ceiling in dining room and kitchen hallway
- Install curtain wall or shrubbery around Chapel air conditioner, paint electric entrance
- Replace carpet in main lobby
- Repair gym entrance doors
- Clean scuff marks from gym floor
- Replace dining room floor
- Install pipeline to pavilions in back of gym

THANKS VERY MUCH!

Masonic Home Building and Grounds Committee

John Snipes 478-743-5154

johnsnipes@masonichomeofgeorgia.com

Carlton Ethridge 770-997-7977; cell 770-337-2022

Bob Whitlow 912-834-6287; cell 912-269-2149

Entrance Sign at Masonic Home Dedicated

The Grand Lodge officers dedicated a new entrance sign at the Masonic Home in December. The sign was a project of the 9th Masonic District with \$3,000 raised by 9th District lodges. Pickens Star No. 220, Hickory Flat No. 205, Woodstock No. 246 and Mt. Zion No. 316 took the leadership in the project. Bro. Paul E. Jones, a new member of Mt. Zion Lodge and an operative mason, did all of the brick work. All of the material used, including the



bricks and granite, came from the 9th District.

Wor. Bro. E. C. Kelley was 9th District Master during the project. Wor. Bro. David Wellman, Sr. (pictured at the far left in the photo) is the 9th District Ambassador to the Masonic Home.

The children and young people at the Masonic Home invite all Freemasons to visit at their earliest convenience.

In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased
from September 27, 2013
to November 30, 2013

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
TARLETON, FRANK BENNETTE	1SOL	WALL, JOE (NMN)	111
PERRY, CLINTON LEROY	1SOC	ELLIOTT, PAUL MARTIN	112
GARNTO, WILLIAM CLYDE	003	JONES, JAMES WADATH	114
WARD, WILLIAM WAYNE	003	PODSKOC, GEORGE STEPHEN	121
WHORTON, MADISON CHEWNING	003	HALL, DAVID WAYNE	127
TOWNSON, DALE WALTER	006	LAWHON, OSCAR WAYNE	127
DRIVER, EUGENE TALMADGE	012	LORD, CECIL (NMN)	131
HOLBROOK, HAROLD JOSEPH	012	SWINDELL, WILLIAM KEITH	137
MIMS, JIMMY ANTHONY	022	HOBBS, JOHN WILLIAM	153
HIGDON, HOYT MARION	023	SIMMONS, DENNIS BERLE	153
GRIMES, CHARLES PHILIP	025	THOMAS, JAMES CULTON	154
SMITH, RAHL TOOMBS JR	026	MERCER, JOHN WILLIS	163
PECK, CLYDE (NMN)	030	MARTIN, RONNIE BRUCE	165
BROCK, LESTER CLYDE	033	TOUCHSTONE, WELDON [NMN]	167
BROWN, CHARLES MONROE	033	DEMPSEY, RODGER NORMAN	168
FITCH, PETER CLARK JR	033	COLLINS, HYMAN PAUL JR	171
HILTON, STEVE L. (IO)	033	FRIZZI, ERNEST RENARD	171
GLENN, DANNY ROBERT	036	LASTER, JOHN THOMAS JR	171
BAILEY, JEFFARES RAY	041	SIMS, JOHN DARRELL	171
CROUCHER, THOMAS BRUCE	042	WILSON, JACK ALVIN	171
POSS, JAMES JOEL	044	CLARKE, RAY ANDERSON	184
CASHMAN, EUGENE KEENEY	046	OVERSTREET, JAMES LAWRENCE	184
CLANTON, WILLIAM JOSEPH JR	048	WARREN, SHELBY DURWOOD	190
SOGNIER, JOHN WOODWARDS	048	DRURY, MILTON JAMES	196
DYER, RAYMOND BURTON	057	BRYSON, CHARLES HUGH	198
COOK, JULIUS LAWRENCE JR	058	COX, DOUGLAS MCARTHUR	201
MILLER, ROBERT HARRIS	059	PATE, DAVID FREDRICK	201
WITTKOWER, LOUIS DAVID JR	059	BALEY, RICHARD FRANK	205
NICHOLS, DAVID AUBREY	061	MCNEAL, DONALD COOPER	212
SMITH, ARTHUR LEE	063	ILER, ROBERT DEWAYNE	213
DANIEL, GEORGE MILAM	069	SMITH, KENNETH (NMN)	213
SWINDELL, WILLIAM KEITH	073	SLAUGHTER, QUINTON LAMAR	214
RADNEY, JOEL EUGENE	075	BARROCAS, SALVADOR (NMN)	216
SPIVEY, CLARENCE WEBSTER	075	GOODWIN, DONALD LLOYD	216
MORRIS, EDWARD LEE	076	HANCOCK, PIERCE JACKSON	219
HOLBROOKE, JOHN TARPLEY JR	077	EASTERWOOD, BENNY ERVIN	220
WEST, JAMES EDWARD	077	FOUST, JOHN BRADLEY SR	220
LONG, THOMAS MYER	082	MCCARTHY, JAMES B. (IO)	228
ROY, WILLIAM FOSTER JR	082	POWERS, THOMAS ALLEN	235
MIDDLETON, WALTER GARLAND	086	VANCE, GENE ADRIAN	240
HOBBS, FOY DRAYTON	087	RAGAN, WILLIAM CHARLES JR	255
GAZAWAY, HAROLD BEECHER	102	KIMSEY, CARL (NMN)	259
LORBERBAUM, LEONARD (NMN)	105	HARRIS, CLAUDE JOHNSON	268
MORRIS, WILLIAM MCADOO	105	SIMS, HANABLE BURRELL	288
BURGESS, SAMUEL DENTON	106	PRICE, W. B. (IO)	289
LANSFORD, FARRIS (NMN)	106	STARRETT, WOODROW CLEVELAND	289
YATES, WILLIAM EUGENE	106	PARSONS, RALPH EUGENE	291
GILES, JAMES MARION	110	ELLEN, JEFFREY STUART	295
JOHNSON, ROBERT ARLEN	110	JAMES, JACK (NMN)	295
BROOME, JAMES RICHARD	111	SWANSON, WALLACE KENNETH JR.	295
DEES, JOHN WILLIAM	111	HATCHER, THOMAS LEE	299
NIXON, JON ALLEN	111	ENLOE, THOMAS LANDRINE	304

Name	Lodge No.
BROWN, JERRY LEE	306
DAUGHTERY, LEWIS DUFFIE	310
RAULERSON, BARNEY HOWELL	330
ILER, ROBERT DEWAYNE	335
KELLAR, DAVID SYKES	348
PORTERFIELD, JAMES RICHARD	348
PUCKETT, ROY THOMPSON	353
DEAN, TILLMAN JAMES	356
GANDY, WILLIAM STANELY	356
WALDROP, DONALD LEE	356
BROWN, BILL LEE	367
GRIFFIN, ROBERT KINDRICK	369
HAYMORE, ORRIN GUYNN	369
PONDER, WILLIAM GRAHAM	376
FOSTER, VALDON JASPER	382
SMITH, EMMETT RAYMOND	390
BRYANT, ROBERT EDWARD SR.	399
HUMPHREY, JAMES GARLON	399
EBERLE, JOHN GRADDON	423
GERMAN, ERNEST ARNIE	423
CATO, WILLIAM FRANK JR	429
O'CONNER, JAMES ANDREW JR	440
AMOS, GEORGE LEWIS	443
HANES, EARL LEE	443
BURNETTE, BOBBY EUGENE	444
CONNER, WILLIAM THERON	452
CHASTAIN, THOMAS JAMES	454
DEAN, STEPHEN CHARLES	454
GILLILAND, JOHN ROBERT JR	454
HALL, LAMAR EDWARD	454
PRICE, JAMES GLADSTONE	454
SIMS, ALBERT (NMN) SR	454
MCDOW, RAYMOND DON	456
PHILLIPS, JAMES ELIC	457
REYNOLDS, DONALD ROBERT	457
LANIER, VERNON JACK	463
ROBINSON, CARL JAMES	466
BOLES, JACKSON HAMILTON	467
FERRELL, ARTHUR LEE	484
GREEN, GEORGE WILLIAM	486
HUDGINS, WILLIAM RANDOLPH	489
WHITED, FRANCIS GERALD	492
WRIGHT, BOBBY LEE	492
CLARK, ROBERT FLOYD	509
SMITH, LOYD HILL	512
COMBS, CHARLES W.	513
DAWSON, RONNIE CHARLES	513
JOHNSON, DARBY (NMN)	543
BAGLEY, LOUIS EUGENE	544
LAWRENCE, JAMES AVERY	544
O'BRYANT, JAMES BROUGHTON	572
DONNELLY, HARRY JAMES	579
FARROW, HAROLD STOHL SR	579
IVEY, WILLARD WAYNE	579
MAPES, HARLEY EUGENE	579
MILLER, SCOTT JUNIOR	579
WINDOM, WILBERN ALFRED	579

Name	Lodge No.
BRADSHAW, BILLY JUNIOR	590
COLE, WALTER ROSS	590
GOSSETT, HIRAM WARNER	590
MITCHELL, SHELTON OTIS	591
THORNTON, HOMER ADAMS	595
BUSSEY, WILLIE CLIFTON	603
CARNES, CHARLIE LEE	604
POWERS, THOMAS ALLEN	604
BUSBY, WILLIAM RODERICKE	622
PAYNE, BOBBY GENE	622
HARWELL, BLEDSOE (NMN)	639
CROKER, JACK ROY	640
EVERETT, JAMES DURWOOD	663
BUTLER, JOE DAVID	664
HILLEY, GEORGE LOERANZO	664
THOMPSON, HENRY EUGENE	674
KING, ROGER MAX	690
GRAVITT, CHARLES LINDBURGH	694
JOHNSON, JOHN EDWARD JR	699
HOWELL, GREGORY GORDON	701
MANNING, BILLY GENE	701
WARREN, AUSTIN (NMN) JR	704
BAILEY, JOE RODDIE	709
GANTT, HAROLD CLIFTON	709
WILLIS, WILLIAM DOUGLAS JR.	709
JONES, ALVIN LEROY	710
SHEPPARD, KENNETH ROGER	718
WATKINS, THOMAS BRACEY JR	718
SHEFFIELD, CHARLES EDMOND JR	721
BAKER, OSCAR DAVID	724
KNIGHT, MATHEL GRANT	734
MASHBURN, EDWARD LEE	743
MOORMAN, GLYNN JULIUS	745
BROWN, ROBERT TIMOTHY	747
SLAUGHTER, QUINTON LAMAR	752
HARBAUGH, NORMAN ROSS	754
HARRIS, JAMES RUSH JR	754
ENLOE, THOMAS LANDRINE	

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

September 27, 2013 Thru November 27, 2013

\$500 OR MORE

Camden Lodge	No. 476
Walnut Grove Lodge	No. 703
Riverdale Lodge	No. 709
Mickey Fuller Lodge	No. 720
Charles C. Harden	

\$1,000 OR MORE

Waycross Lodge No. 305	
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Trust	
Ruskin Family Trust	

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

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FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER

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)

Four Sitting Grand Masters attend Degree at Dallas Lodge No. 182



Four sitting Grand Masters attended a Masters degree at Dallas Lodge No. 182 in November. Pictured are (from the left): Most Worshipful Bro. Kenneth E. Dyer, Mississippi; Most Worshipful Bro. Roy Clinton Etherton, Tennessee; Bro. Ralph Leprone who was raised by his father, Right Worshipful Bro. Dwight Hastings, Senior Grand Warden of Tennessee (standing in the back); Most Worshipful Bro. Edgar M. Land, Georgia; and Most Worshipful Bro. Lane Weatherbee, Alabama. One hundred forty-two Brothers attended the degree.

Worshipful Masters fill Chairs at 10th District Thanksgiving Meeting



A large crowd filled the auditorium of the Augusta Scottish Rite Center for the First Annual 10th District Thanksgiving Meeting. Show here are the sitting Worshipful Masters, standing with their lodge charters, who filled the chairs for the meeting. Right Worshipful Bro. Gary Leazer, Junior Grand Warden, was the speaker.

Educational Videos

Worldwide Exemplification of Freemasonry (WEOFM) has posted 51 videos online at vimeo.com/weofm featuring well-known speakers such as Dr. S. Brent Morris, PM; Stewart W. Miner, PGM Washington, D. C.; and your editor.