

# Masonic Messenger



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

February 2015



Grand Masters attend the  
Grave Marker Dedication for  
PGM Rex D. Chilton (1992)

See page 5 for Names

**Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475**  
 Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201-6779 on your lodge secretary's monthly report. The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

**Grand Lodge Officers**

- Grand Master** Douglas W. McDonald (141)  
 P. O. Box 396 Cornelia, GA 30531  
 E-mail: dmcdsr@hemc.net 706-778-7178
- Deputy Grand Master** F. A. "Drew" Lane, Jr. (182)  
 P. O. Box 1534 Dallas, GA 30132  
 E-mail: drewlane1995@gmail.com 770-317-0010
- Senior Grand Warden** Gary H. Leazer (99, 262, 744)  
 3318 Mansfield Ln. Snellville, GA 30039  
 E-mail: garyleazer44@gmail.com 770-851-0997
- Junior Grand Warden** Larry W. Nichols (59)  
 5500 Interstate Pkwy, Ste. 415 Atlanta, GA 30328  
 E-mail: lnichols@lwncpa.com 404-735-3544
- Grand Treasurer** Bobby B. Simmons (111, 756)  
 203 Williams Drive Bonaire, GA 31005  
 Email: bnsimmons81@bellsouth.net 813-391-9616
- Grand Secretary** Joseph "Joe" W. Watson (298)  
 811 Mulberry Street Macon, GA 31201-6779  
 E-mail: fam2@bellsouth.net Office: 478-742-1475
- Grand Chaplain** Thomas E. "Eddie" Gurley (182)  
 P. O. Box 278 Dallas, GA 30132  
 egurley1997@gmail.com 770-480-9937
- Grand Marshal** Mark A. Bradley (36)  
 811 Jacob Drive Hoschton, GA 34540  
 marktireman@windstream.net 706-983-9216
- Grand Orator** B. Palmer Mills, PGM (40)  
 706-663-2971
- Senior Grand Deacon** Michael H. Wilson (6, 84)  
 3655 Jensen Ct. Loganville, GA 30052  
 E-Mail: mike.wilson@wilsonroofingcompany.com 678-410-0833
- Junior Grand Deacon** Johnnie M. Garmon (114)  
 P. O. Box 1921 Blairsville, GA 30514  
 jmgarmon2015@outlook.com 706-781-9565
- First Grand Steward** Jan M. Giddens (33)  
 2897 Huntcliff Drive Marietta, GA 30066  
 giddensj@comcast.com 678-232-4115
- Second Grand Steward** Donald C. Combs (46)  
 1262 Meadow Lane SE Darien, GA 31305  
 don\_combs@juno.com 478-235-3750
- Third Grand Steward** Mike Kessler (216)  
 3592 Woodstream Circle NE Atlanta, GA 30319  
 kessler1@bellsouth.net 678-947-1001
- Grand Tyler** David C. Wall (325)  
 P. O. Box 1108 Clarkesville, GA 30523  
 David.wall@gsccca.org 706-968-9735
- Grand Treasurer Emeritus** Samuel R. Whitfield (323)  
 171 Concord Road, S.E. Smyrna, GA 30082-3909
- Grand Treasurer Emeritus** Merrill L. Clark, Sr. (200)  
 P. O. Box 129 Shady Dale, GA 31085
- Grand Secretary Emeritus** James E. Underwood, PGM (367)  
 150 Spring Creek Road Canton, GA 30115
- Grand Secretary Emeritus** Donald I. DeKalb (111)  
 P. O. Box 6068 Warner Robbins, GA 31095

**Dr. Gary Leazer, Editor (99, 262, 744)**  
 3318 Mansfield Lane Snellville, GA 30039-4631  
 Cell: 770/851-0997  
 E-mail: garyleazer44@gmail.com

Dr. F. Lamar Pearson, Editor Emeritus  
**Publications Committee**

Ross Laver, Chairman Home: 770-489-1864  
 E-mail: rosslaver@masonicmessenger.com  
 Paul E. Wells Lawrence Anderson David L. Canaday

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— Grand Master Douglas W. McDonald

Exciting times! Yes, we are living in exciting times. Never before have times been so exciting in Freemasonry. There has never been a better time for good men to seek our fraternity, to make themselves better men.

A goal for our 2014-2015 Grand Lodge is to emphasize a return to Patriotism. In this regard, our efforts to celebrate Gilbert du Motier de Lafayette, the Marquis de Lafayette, a great Mason and although a Frenchman, a great American Revolutionary Patriot, are well under way.

**George Washington Birthday Gala Celebration**

My current plans are to represent you at the George Washington Birthday Gala Celebration in Alexandria, Virginia on February 21. For more patriotic events to come, watch our Grand Lodge Website, for future announcements.

**All Scottish Rite Valleys' Statewide Class**

On May 30, all Scottish Rite Valleys in the Orient of Georgia will combine to hold a statewide class in Macon, named in honor of Lafayette. I appreciate the efforts of the Scottish Rite to support my program in this regard. If you are not already a member, I urge you to honor Lafayette by taking this opportunity to join Scottish Rite. If you already belong to Scottish Rite, you can still honor Lafayette by bringing new candidates to this class. At the Macon Forum, on February 7, I announced that I would be willing to be the first line signer of anyone's petition to join the Scottish Rite Lafayette Class.

**190th Anniversary of Lafayette's Milledgeville Visit**

Another exciting occasion will be Friday, March 27, 2015, when Georgia Military College, along with Georgia College and State University and the Citizens of Milledgeville will host a celebration of the 190th Anniversary of



General Lafayette's 1825 visit to Milledgeville.

The celebration will include a parade, a welcome ceremony, a community picnic on the grounds of the former Milledgeville State Capitol, exhibits and lectures to be held at Georgia's Old Capital Museum, a sunset gathering at the old "Governor's Mansion" and an evening concert to be held on the campus of Georgia College and State University at Milledgeville. This event will focus on the best of everything American and the principles exemplified by General Lafayette's service to our nation during the American Revolution. All of the above is open to the public. It is anticipated that Grand Lodge Officers and Masons from all across the State, will march in the parade with a banner. Come, join in and be excited that you are a Freemason.

**Blue Lodge Appreciation Event**

All Master Masons are also urged to attend the Blue Lodge Appreciation event to be held at the Macon Scottish Rite Temple on February 28. This occasion will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to enjoy. The event has reached its maximum seating capacity; you may contact your Valley secretary to determine if someone has decided not to attend and you can have their seat.

### **MWB Michael Halleran at Andersonville Prison**

On March 13-14, MWB Michael Halleran, the sitting Kansas Grand Master, will be speaking at Andersonville Prison, 760 POW Road, Andersonville, Georgia, located approximately 12 miles north of Americus, Georgia. MWB Halleran is a Civil War Historian whose speech will undoubtedly be most interesting. Andersonville Prison, now a national historic site, was a Confederate Prisoner-of-War Camp during the Civil War and will be highlighted in 2014-2015, its 150th anniversary. This event is a must-attend meeting which emphasizes the ravages of war. During the 14 months the prison existed, more than 45,000 enemy soldiers were confined there, with almost 13,000 dying in the prison.

### **Dedication and Consecration of P.G.M.'s Grave Marker**

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18. On January 31, a Grand Lodge Masonic Dedication and Consecration of Grave Marker was held for MWB Rex Douglas Chilton, PGM, deceased. The service was such a blessing to me and all those in attendance. I am so proud of the Grand Lodge Line Officers and others who assisted in the memorial service. It was well attended and I know the family was very appreciative and will never forget it.

### **Our Forums**

Our Forums began January 3 and finished on February 7. They are now history. Attendance was exceptional and great interest was shown in the breakout sessions, which emphasized education, education, education. Seven Forums were held throughout the State, in Savannah, Atlanta, Tifton, Columbus, Augusta, Kennesaw, and Macon. The Forums have been a great opportunity for Brethren to learn of Grand Lodge programs for the year and to share thoughts and ideas, as well as discuss the Brethren's concerns. The consensus of opinion was that there should be more such meetings during the year. Continually, after educational meetings, the question is repeated, "When can we do this again?" I want to thank all the Grand Lodge Officers for being faithful at these Forums. Please remember your Grand Lodge Officers in prayer when on bended knee.

### **Masonic Blood Drive**

Another exciting milestone I want to mention is that of our Masonic Blood Drive achievements. Blood Drive Chairman WB M. Steven Fishman, PM, reported that as of February 2, our Fraternity has now surpassed a huge milestone by donating 20,037 units for the five-year duration of the blood drive. These donations have potentially saved over 60,000 lives. Thanks to Wor. Bro. Fishman for the fine job

he is doing in promoting this worthy project and kudos to all the Brethren who have given the gift of life.

### **Children's Garden**

Our beautiful Children's Garden at the Masonic Home is coming along well. I am excited to report sales of 1001 bricks and just over \$140,000.00 in receipts from the project thus far. Now is the time for you to purchase a brick if you have not already done so. These bricks make great honorary gifts as well as memorial tributes. Engraving has resumed and is progressing rapidly. Your donations will support a very worthy cause.

### **The First Lady's Project is well underway.**

First Lady Carol and the other Grand Lodge Officer's wives are very excited about it. We thank you for the donations you are making to this effort. The work in the lobby of the Masonic Home will make our home more appealing and will provide a comfortable area that everyone will enjoy while visiting the Home. The Masonic Home belongs to all of us, and if you have never visited it I would encourage you to do so. I am proud of the work that goes on at the Home and I believe you will leave it with a better understanding of the awesome task we are undertaking in supporting these children to adulthood.

### **ALERT – ALERT – ALERT County Ad Valorem Tax Bills**

All Secretaries and Worshipful Masters need to be especially alert to county Tax Assessors and Boards of Equalization authorities across the State, assessing Masonic Lodge land and buildings for ad valorem tax purposes. There are deadlines and other limitations affecting the filing for exemption from taxation, as well as appealing tax assessments. You must be vigilant or else your Lodge will wind up having to pay county ad valorem tax bills. If you have questions regarding these issues, contact the Grand Secretary's office.

### **District Conventions**

Now that Forums have concluded, our twelve District Conventions will begin across the State, on March 21, 2015, with the 3rd District Convention being held in Cordele, Georgia. Consult the Grand Lodge Website for more convention dates and locations.

### **Brethren and Families in Distress**

There are so many of our Brethren and families in distress. We must never forget those in need and those who are less fortunate. Send a card. Make a phone call. Visit the hospitals and nursing homes. Let's demonstrate our faithfulness toward God and people. No one is insignificant.

*Grand Master's Column is continued on page 5*

## Veterans' Luncheon at Grand Lodge has become a Favorite Event for Veterans and Non-Veterans Alike



Brethren arrive at the Macon Scottish Rite Center for lunch.



Grand Master Edgar Land welcomes everyone.



PGM and SGIG Leonard Buffington welcomes everyone to lunch.



Lunch was delicious — certainly a whole lot better than C rations, which were not well liked by U.S. Army or Marine forces in World War II and Korea who found the C rations monotonous. The quality was sometimes not very high. Production of C rations was discontinued in 1958, but Vietnam era military were sometimes issued C rations as late as 1968 to use the remaining stock.



Visiting with the Brethren was also a high point at lunch. Here PGM Joseph P. "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" Suttles speaks to Brethren at a table.



Part of the crowd at the second of the six Grand Master's Forums

### Grand Master's Forums

Pictured are photos from one of the seven Grand Master's Forums held this year. A number of excellent speakers will share

news of importance to all the Craft. Breakout sessions followed for lodge officers.



Grand Master Douglas W. McDonald, Sr.



Wor. Bro. Wiley Q. Forrester, State Director of MELD



Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler, 3rd Grand Steward



Wor. Bro. John Snipes, Superintendent of the Masonic Home



Wor. Bro. M. Steven Fishman, Blood Drive Chairman

## Past Grand Master Thomas L. Reece Receives 50 Year Award

(Right) Past Grand Master Thomas L. Reece (2000) received his 50-Year-Award at his home in Milledgeville on January 20 from Past Grand Master Clyde Griffin and our current Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. MWB Reece is shown, as MWB Griffin recites a poem about our 50 Year Masons, holding his daily devotional Bible given to him many years ago.



### Grand Master's Column — Continued from page 3

cant in your Lodge. Let your Brothers know that what happens to them, matters to you.

Don't continue on your way to a life filled with regrets. Our lives are much shorter than we realize. We begin to die when we are born, so make the most of the life you've been given and always remember John 3:16 and Micah 6:8.

I encourage you all to be excited about Freemasonry. It is such a wonderful Fraternity and so many worthwhile things are being accomplished. Your passion and enthusiasm will make others curious about what you are up to, and could even spur membership toward positive growth.

Leading means serving. In Ezekiel 34:2, it is written, "Thus sayeth the Lord God unto the Shepherds, woe be to the Shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the Shepherds feed the flocks?" I began my journey last October, with that thought at the forefront of my mind.

We will all agree that serving is not always easy, but when God calls us to accomplish something for Him, He empowers us. We are equal to the job, not because of our own ability, but because of God's strength. I hope that each of you will keep these thoughts in your hearts as well, and continue to lead others by serving them. Your service will not go unnoticed and it will make you all the better for it.

Since October 29, 2014, I have traveled more than 10,000 miles serving you as your Grand Master. Thank God for his traveling mercies. I have visited with many Brothers at many different Lodges and events, but regardless of where I have ended up, the hospitality has been phenomenal. Carol and I thank you all for the kindness you have shown us, and we earnestly request that you continue to pray for us and for the other Grand Lodge Officers as we continue on this exciting journey.

### Past Grand Master Ray Knittel Recognized

Good afternoon MWB Ray.

No good deed should ever go unnoticed or fail to be acknowledged. I understand that you have been instrumental in saving the Masonic Home large amounts of money on the purchase and installation of our new Telephone System at the Home. I understand you devoted a lot of personal time and money out of your own pocket, toward this project. While you have not requested it, I would like your permission to place in the February issue of the Masonic Messenger, about the good deed that you have performed. I also intend to make it known during our Forums, of your continued dedication to our Fraternity and the children we hold so dear to our hearts.

I continue to be reminded of the scripture of Matthew 10:42 which states "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

I know you didn't do it for the publicity but if it is your preference that no mention be made in the *Messenger*, please let me know. God Bless.

Douglas W. McDonald, Sr.

### Cover Story:

#### Grand Masters attend the Grave Marker Dedication for PGM Rex D. Chilton (1992)

PGM Rex D Chilton's family and many friends and Brethren, along with eight Grand Masters attended the Grave Marker Dedication for PGM Rex D. Chilton who served our Craft as Grand Master in 1992.

Grand Masters attending (from left in the cover photo with the year they served as Grand Master) were Most Worshipful Brothers E. Ray Knittel (2013), Dr. Gary D. Lemmons (2001), Clyde E. Griffin (1996), Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. (seated Grand Master), A. Ray Earwood (1988), Bobby B. Simmons (2003), J. Edward Jennings, Jr. (2009), Jerry D. Moss (2012) and Edgar M. Land (2014).



## **“Attention!”**

### **“Seeking all Wardens and Senior Deacons”**

So you want to be the Worshipful Master of your Lodge someday! You think you’re ready. You’ve worked your way thru the chairs, learned your lines and know where to stand. You’ve got the mechanics down pat. You’ve taken ALL 9 of the “M.E.L.D.” Courses and passed. Now you’re ready for the East.

**ALMOST!**

We have one more eye opening experience for you.

### **“The Second Annual Masonic Leadership Conference”**

This year the Conference will be held at *The Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia* on **June 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**. We have a limited number of **200** spaces available, so **sign up early**. The Conference is reserved for the Wardens of the Lodge and if room is available the Senior Deacon.

We will cover the following important topics during the Conference:

**Strategic Planning**

**Lodge Finances**

**Lodge Renewal**

**Leadership/Management**

Each topic will have a breakout session with an instructor to assist in the development of Action Plans by each attendee to take back to their respective Lodges for implementation. These topics are for the business side of the operation of the Lodge and if carried out properly should insure the continued longevity of the Lodge.

An Information & Registration form can be obtained by going to the Grand Lodge of Georgia Web-site at [www.glofga.org](http://www.glofga.org) follow these steps and print.

- Mouse over “Grand Lodge of Georgia” Dropdown should appear.
- Click on “2015 Georgia Masonic Leadership Conference” at bottom.
- Click on highlighted “Click here for Registration Form” near the bottom of page on right side.
- PRINT Form

Send completed form with Lodge check to:

Grand Lodge of Georgia  
811 Mulberry St  
Macon Georgia 31201-6779

**A Lodge Check MUST** be made out to **Grand Lodge of Georgia**, with LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE in the memo line.  
Again do not delay, space is limited!

**Deadline is APRIL 10, 2015.**

If you have any questions contact:

The District Director of Masonic Education / Leadership Development in your area.

## Madison Lodge No. 376 Continues to Support the Morgan County Primary School's Read to Ride Program



Nyomi Alvarez-Guerrero read 1,137 minutes and Rishi Patel read 844 minutes for the Read to Ride program at Morgan County Primary School. Having read the most minutes, each received a new bicycle from Madison Lodge No. 376.

Lodge members present were Erik Ekstrom, Harold Moss, Aubrey Moon, Jim Briscoe and Bob Wilbanks (not pictured).

## Past Master's Apron Presented at Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279



In a presentation at Eugene Smith Lodge No. 279, the 2015 Worshipful Master Henry Hill P.M. presented Wor. Brother T.R. Fountain his Past Masters apron at the Feb 5th meeting. P.M. Fountain served as Master for approx. half of 2013 after the illness and death of the then current Master. T.R. was then elected and served as Master for the year 2014.

## Doerun Lodge hosts Colquitt County Installation



Doerun Masonic Lodge No. 151 hosted the tenth annual installation of officers for the Masonic Lodges of Colquitt County. The event was attended by Masons from around the state and the installation was performed by the Grand Master of Masons in Georgia, Most Worshipful Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. Lodge officers from Moultrie Lodge No. 381 were also installed. Due to scheduling conflicts, Berlin No. 465 did not participate in this year's combined installation.

2015 Officers: (1st row from left) Treasurer of Doerun No. 151 Gordon McDowell, Jr.; Chap. of No. 381 Shelly Cook; Wor. Master of Moultrie No. 381 James Hamner; MWB Douglas McDonald; Wor. Master of Doerun No. 151 Raymond Harrell; Chap. of No. 151 Michael Tyson; 2nd row from left: Junior Warden of No. 381 Matthew Cavin; Senior Deacon of No. 381 Brant Fletcher; Junior Warden of No. 151 Thomas Proctor; Secretary of No. 151 Gregory P McGhee II; Senior Warden of No. 151 James R Masburn II.

Not pictured: Doerun No. 151 officers: Senior Deacon Michael Blair; Junior Deacon Lawrence Hornsby; Senior Steward Joshua Mashburn; Junior Steward Brandon Newton; Tyler Keith Mashburn. Moultrie No. 381 officers: Treasurer Fred Lasseter; Secretary Bobby Owens; Junior Deacon Johnny Kilgore; Senior Steward Ronald Benson, Jr.; Junior Steward Richard Boyd; and Tyler Wayne Smith.



# Christmas at the Masonic Home



The youth begin to assemble for a worship service in the chapel led by the Grand Chaplain.



The kitchen crew prepared a delicious meal.



Grand Master Douglas McDonald speaks to the gathering.



The Grand Lodge family led in the singing of Christmas carols.

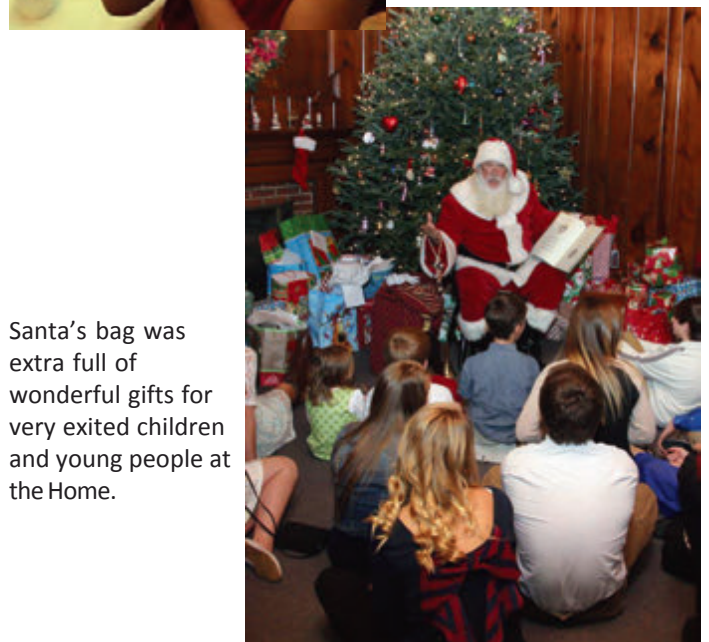
Masonic Home trustees helped serve the meal.



The brethren of Fulton Lodge No. 216 (above) have presented gifts to the children every year for years.



This year the gift was a tablet for every child.



Santa's bag was extra full of wonderful gifts for very excited children and young people at the Home.





**GRAND  
CHAPTER**  
Michael H. Wilson  
M. E. G. H. P.



**GRAND  
COUNCIL**  
Charles E. Taylor  
M. I. G. M.



**GRAND  
COMMANDERY**  
Terry L. Hensley  
R. E. G. C.

## ***THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA***

**Editor: Benjamin W. Polston, II, KYCH, KCCH, Email:  
[http://www.yorkrite of ga.org](http://www.yorkriteofga.org)**

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

# **SEVENTH ANNUAL YORK RITE FESTIVAL MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER'S CLASS APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

**Location-Grand Chapter Building  
811 Mulberry Street, Macon Ga. 31201  
CLASS IN HONOR OF 4 PRESIDING OFFICERS  
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER  
MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST  
MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER  
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER  
ALL DEGREES AND ORDERS OF YORK RITE WILL BE CONFERRED  
REGISTRATION FEE: \$10.00 FOR ALL  
REGISTRATION 7AM TO 7:45 AM-WORK BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 8 AM  
CANDIDATES MUST HAVE PROPER PAPER WORK  
CONTACT: J. TERRY FARMER  
E-MAIL [uncheel57@gmail.com](mailto:uncheel57@gmail.com)  
CELL: 678-773-4864**

## 'Stirring Things Up' Good Masonic Practice

A Lodge in Wisconsin began renting a large room in a church building as its meeting place. A public Grand Lodge dedication service was planned, with the Masonic members and families, plus members of the church, in attendance.

According to an account written by Wisconsin Grand Chaplain David Ritchie in his column in the Wisconsin Masonic Journal, after the traditional dedication ceremony, with corn, wine and oil, the practice of a few speeches ensued. Finally, the pastor of the church was asked if she would make a few remarks.

She told how pleased she was at the ceremony and how closely it followed ancient traditions. She spoke on how she thought the Masons meeting in that place was a good fit.

Then, according to Chaplain Ritchie, "she said something that I wished every Mason could hear. She said that, when the first man approached her about using the space, she knew nothing about Masonry, but she knew this man and that he was someone who 'stirred up good.'"

Then, Brother Ritchie wrote, the pastor told how when looking at the men in the congregation who were Masons, that these men, too, were men who "stirred up good." If these were the qualities of men throughout the fraternity, she thought, she would be glad to work with them.

The pastor based her judgment initially on just one man. She saw someone who "stirred up good." She did what we all do. We use what we know to judge others.

Chaplain Ritchie asked, "Do people see you, as a Mason, as someone who 'stirs up good' at work, as a neighbor, in your place of worship, in the VFW or Legion, as Little League coach, in your sportsmen's club, or elsewhere?"

When you are the person who the public sees as the example of Freemasonry, will your reputation be for "stirring up good?"

## Panthersville Lodge No. 543 Makes Donation to Masonic Home



Panthersville Masonic Lodge NO. 543 donated 30 bicycles to the Masonic Children's Home on December 22, 2014. A check for \$500 was also presented to Chris Babcock, representative for the Masonic Home.

The \$500 donation will be used to help finance special trips for the children. The most recent trip was to North Georgia where they camped at Cloudland Canyon /State Park.

Pictured from left to right are Wor. Bro. Lee Bailey; Bro. Martin McDonald; Wor. Bro. L. O. Cox, Jr.; Wor. Bro. Jerry Moore; Chris Babcock; and Wor. Bro. John Thornburg.

## Bible Publishing Error Causing Problems

A Bible publishing error has created some issues among anti-Masons. Gunnar Carlson, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, in the Grand Lodge's magazine, has written this explanation:

A Masonic Bible differs from an ordinary Bible only in that it contains special sections. These sections have remained unchanged throughout the years, that I can find, until the 1995 edition published by Heirloom Publishers of Wichita, Kansas, and copyrighted in 1991 by DeVore & Sons.

The Biblical Index in this edition contains a new term not seen in earlier editions. This term is:

**NORTH SIDE:** In Masonic symbolism the North Side of the Lodge represents God's exalted throne.

Isaiah: 14 12-23 is given as a Biblical authority for this definition.

Lucifer is described in Isaiah as an angel, fallen from Heaven to hell, where he sits in "The sides of the North." Since Masons allegedly put God's exalted throne in the North (according to the 1995 Bible), and Lucifer sits in the North, it is clear to anti-Masons that Masons believe Lucifer is God!

This "error" has become worse since some Masonic Lodges have published the "Index to the Holy Bible concerning the work of Freemasonry," extracted verbatim from the 1995 Bible, on their web sites to include the new term "North Side."

To be correct, this definition should read:

**NORTH SIDE:** In Masonic symbolism the North Side of the Lodge represents a place of darkness.

This is because King Solomon's temple was so far north of the ecliptic that neither the sun nor moon ever illuminated its North side. Masons therefore put no candle on the North side of the triangle of candles at our altars since we consider the North side of the Lodge a place of darkness, not the location of God's exalted throne!

Of further interest is the fact that in translations of the Bible newer than the King James version, the word, "Lucifer," is replaced by "The King of Babylon" and Lucifer appears nowhere else in the Bible.

I can find no Masonic ritual, lecture, practice, symbolism, or suggestions that Freemasons consider God's exalted throne to be the North Side of the Lodge. This error, however, has become a cornerstone of the 30-page anti-Masonic package that has been fastened to Lodge doors in at least three states.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Bill Childers of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, has spoken to the Chief Financial Officer of Heirloom Publishers (a Mason), Brother Mark Brosz, who was unaware of this error and said the error would be corrected in the next printing. He will include the above information in their next newsletter that goes out to Lodges across the country.

— Masonic Information Center *Focus*



Bro. James McIntire received the Mason of the Year for 2014 in LaFayette Lodge No. 44 F&AM

## Cap and Ring Ceremony held at Hudson Lodge



Hudson Lodge held a ring and cap ceremony for members who received the 32° in the Scottish Rite.



On the same evening, Hudson Lodge honored a deputy sheriff and a police officer, an annual event at the lodge.

### Important Announcement from Hudson No. 294

Our Blood Drive Committee and Georgia CHIP Committee have worked together and scheduled a combination event. Mark your calendars for Saturday March 28 from 1:00 - 5:00. The Blood Mobile will be setup outside and the Child Identification Program equipment will be setup in the lodge. We hope this will make it easier for parents to donate blood while we complete the child ID packets for their children. There is no age limit to participate in the CHIP program and it is strongly encouraged for children and elderly. You must be 18 to donate blood or be 16 with parental consent.

12 /February 2015

## State Wide Blue Lodge Appreciation Event

February 28 — 10:00 AM

Macon Scottish Rite Auditorium

1985 Vineville Avenue

Presented by the Six Valleys of the Ancient & Accepted  
Scottish Rite, Orient of Georgia  
Leonard Buffington, 33°, PGM, SGIG

**Special Guest: Illustrious Robert Davis, 33°, GC,  
of Guthrie, Oklahoma**

Who will lead a discussion of questions about Freemasonry.

### Degree Conferral by the "Red" Lodge, Germania Lodge No. 46, of Louisiana.

This Louisiana Entered Apprentice Degree with loud noise makers, spray bottles of water and five-foot high flames of fire will be nothing like you will ever see in Georgia. No

Stewards are used in this degree; the Junior Warden attends at the altar; the Junior Deacon is called the Inner Guard and the Senior Deacon is called the Master Expert.

Germania Lodge, No. 46, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana on April 18th, 1844.

Although Germania Lodge is currently comprised of approximately 100 men from a broad range of heritages and backgrounds, it was founded by German-speaking gentlemen to provide an opportunity for conducting Masonic work in their native German tongue. The lodge worked in the German language for one hundred years. In April 1944 the lodge was opened in German and closed in English and has worked in English since. Germania Lodge works in the Scottish Rite Symbolic ritual - one of only ten lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana which work in this historic ritual.

You will experience **EARTH, WIND & FIRE!**

**A Free Lunch will be provided** to all Master Masons who pre-register. This is a Tyled event; current dues cards will be checked.

Contact your nearest Scottish Rite Valley office.

**A candle loses nothing  
by lighting another candle.**

## Lodge Installations



2015 officers of **Tyrone Lodge No. 644**: (in no particular order): Worshipful Master, Bobby Cochran; Senior Warden, Sosimo Aparis; Junior Warden, Josh Hogg; Treasurer, Al Smith; Secretary, Kevin Edwards; Senior Deacon, Alan Robinson; Junior Deacon, Tommy Redd; Senior Steward, Dale Frederick; Chaplain, Jarrott Johnson;



Officers of **Fleming Lodge No. 718** for 2015 (in no particular order): LeRoy buckmore, Worshipful Master; Daniel Smith, Senior Warden; Paul Muckenfuss, Junior Warden; William Garrett, Treasurer; Harold Hitchcock, Chaplain; James Reid, Senior Deacon; Billy Childress, Junior Deacon; Dale Hollins, Junior Steward; and Winthro Chambers, Tyler. Installing Master: PGM E. Ray Knittell; Installing Marshall: Wor. Bro. Art Dickerson, DDGM; and Installing Chaplain: RWB Gary Leazer.



**Jonesboro Lodge No. 87** officers for 2015. (front row): Bros. Barry King; Andy Rainer; Worshipful Master Charles Kelley; Jeff Salter P.M.; and Wes Harway. (back row): Bros. Gene Blount P.M.; Chris Hall; Bill McCall; Butch Joyner; and Chris Chapman.



Past Grand Master E. Ray Knittell congratulates Junior Past Worshipful Master Michael Childress of **Fleming Lodge No. 718** for a successful year.



(Left) **2015 Officers for Hickory Flat Lodge No. 205**

Front row from left: Bro Larry Bennett-Marshal, Perry Fowler-Senior Warden, Dennis Davidson-Worshipful Master, PGM James Underwood-Installing Master, Tim Arp-Junior Warden, ,

Back row from left: Dawson Caldwell-Junior Steward, Kirby Grier-Senior Deacon, Jim Prichard-Chaplain, Jim Harris-Tyler, Jerry Hicks-Treasurer, Bob Blum-Secretary.

## Lodge Installations



The officers of **Webb Lodge No. 166** for 2015: First Row from left: Gary Leazer, SGW, installing chaplain; Frank Valentine, PM, SW; Richard Williamson, Worshipful Master; E Ray Knittel, PGM, installing master; Jack Goldenberg, PM, JW and Dir of Ed; Cal Simon, SS; Charles Long, PM, PG Marshal and installing marshal;

Second Row from left: Terry Dewitt, PM, Chaplain; Richard Pacheco, PM, Treas; Robert Elliott Tyler; Jack Bradford, JD; Brian Coffey, PM, 10th Dist MELD Dir.(10-c)

Not Pictured: Greg Oblak, PM, Sec; Jim Huggins, PM, Dir of Work; Jason Butler, SD; Sam Arazie, JS; M. Steven Fishman, PM, Chair-GA Masonic Blood Drive and Asst. State Dir of GACHIP.



The 2015 officers of **Harmony Lodge No. 405** were installed on January 6.

L to R front row: Will Rivers, Senior Deacon; Jeff Kight, Junior Warden; Dan McCranie, Treasurer; Homer Rivers, Worshipful Master; Richard Ware, Senior Warden; and Mitchel Meeks, Junior Deacon.

L to R Back row: Joel Moring, Junior Steward; Fred Barber, Tyler; Donald Meeks, Senior Steward; and Jack Born, Secretary.



On December 8, **Cornelia Lodge No. 92**, Free and Accepted Masons, elected officers for 2015. These officers will be responsible for the operations of the Lodge throughout the year.

Pictured, from left to right are: Andy Eller, Tyler; Mark McCoy, Junior Deacon; Shane Brooksher, Senior Deacon; Pete Raper, Senior Warden; Richard McCoy, Treasurer; Charles Warren, Worshipful Master; Marcus Tench, Secretary; Chad Tench, Junior Warden; Larry Warren, Chaplin; David Slepoy, Senior Steward; and Andy Tench, Junior Steward.



**Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26** announces its 2015 officers. They are (Front row from left): Junior Steward - James L. Goolsby; Junior Deacon - John Taylor; Senior Warden - Joey Martin; Worshipful Master - Tony Martin; Junior Warden - Matt Thomas; Senior Deacon - Raak Patel; Tyler - Kevin Drum. Back row from left: Director of Work / Trustee - David M. White, PM; Senior Steward - Brandon M. Stone; Treasurer - Sam Stacy. Not Pictured: Chaplain / Trustee - Randy Warr, PM; Secretary - Tom Holt, PM; Trustee - Paul H. Carter, PM; Third Steward - Chris Chisholm.

The annual James Sanford Payne Tri-State Meeting, will be June 26-27 at Coosa Lodge No. 622. It is an event you will not want to miss.

## Lodge Installations



2015 Officers for **Forest Park Lodge No. 399** are Worshipful Master - Jack Kinman; Senior Warden - Toney Greene; Junior Warden - Tom Hubbard; Treasurer - Mike Lanasa; Secretary - John Loyd; Senior Deacon - Gene Adams; and Junior Deacon - Stephen Morris.



Public Installation of Officers at **Norcross Lodge No. 228** at Norcross was held on January 11. Installation was conducted by Most Worshipful Brother Jerry Moss, PGM. Worshipful Brother Earl Tolliver served as Marshal. Officers include: WM: W/B Dan Carey; SW: J. P. Maier; JW: Toby Herring (Not Pictured); Secretary: W/B Tommy Rollins; Treasurer: W/B Joe Allen; Chaplain: Stephen A. Dubberly; Sr. Deacon: Scott Webb; Jr. Deacon: Joe Brown; Sr. Steward: Allen Bass (not pictured); Jr. Steward: Hoyt Hutcheson; and Tyler: Scott Hughes.



(Above) Bro. Carl David Morrow Jr. kneels at the altar to be installed as Worshipful Master of Dawson Lodge No. 68. Standing behind him is his father, Wor. Bro. Carl David Morrow Sr. Secretary of Dawson No. 68 and Past Master of Campton No. 566 and his grandfather who is 91 years young and is Tyler of Campton Lodge.



Most Worshipful Brother Douglas McDonald, Sr. stands next to Wor. Bro. Marion Nesmith, age 93, who the Grand Master installed as Worshipful Master of **Gwinnett Daylight Lodge No. 744** for the ensuing year. Wor. Bro. Nesmith is a World War II Veteran having landed at Normandy about a month after D-Day.

(Right) Brother Chuck Youngblood is the newly elected Worshipful Master of Coosa Lodge No. 622



## Grand Lodge lays Cornerstone at Carnesville Lodge



Grand Master Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. and the Grand Lodge officers dedicated the cornerstone at Carnesville Lodge No. 186 on a beautiful November day with a good crowd in attendance. The lodge built a new building after losing the lease on their prior facility.

### White Star Chapter No. 367, OES, Initiates Three



White Star Chapter No. 367, OES, had a momentous occasion on December 2, initiating 3 generations at one time. Sisters Pearl Stanley (grandmother), Amanda Scarboro (center), mother, and C. Jade Scarboro (left), daughter. Family members from Henry Clay Chapter No. 398 in Lexington, Kentucky attended the occasion. The White Star Chapter meets at Thunderbolt Lodge No. 693.

**Myth:** The oldest Masonic building in the United States is that of Royal White Hart Lodge in North Carolina.

**Fact:** Not true. It's Masons Hall in Richmond, Virginia, the home of Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19 and Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3. The building owned by Royal White Hart Lodge wasn't built until 1821. Masons Hall was built in 1785. It was originally the home of Richmond Lodge No. 10, the first wholly new Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia. It was also the first permanent home of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

On January 12, Bro. John Moncrief was installed as Worshipful Master of **Lakeland Lodge No. 434**, by Worshipful Brother Don Combs, Second Grand Stewart. On hand to witness the installation was 96-year-old Ms. Ethell Moncrief mother of 66-year-old John Moncrief. This impressive event was enjoyed by many brethren, friends and family members of Lakeland Lodge.



## Grand Lodge lays Grayson Clock Tower Cornerstone



Past Grand Master Edgar Land, Grand Master Douglas McDonald and the Grand Lodge officers laid a cornerstone at the Grayson Clock Tower at the request of the City of Grayson and Grayson Masonic Lodge No. 549.

### Quarry Project

The Quarry Project, a symposium planned jointly by the Masonic Information Center of Burtonsville, MD, the Masonic Society and the Masonic Museum and Library Association, will take place on September 18-20, 2015, in Indianapolis.

The seminar will have three "tracks" — preserving museum and library artifacts, writing and publishing research papers, and public relations, with a heavy emphasis on social media.

For more information, contact George O. Braatz, PGM, at 301-476-7330 or email at [gbraatz@msana.com](mailto:gbraatz@msana.com), or watch future issues of the *Masonic Messenger*.



## Kennesaw Lodge No. 33 to host Wor. Bro. S. Brent Morris, 33, G. C.

Dr. Morris, will speak at a special meeting of Kennesaw Masonic Lodge No. 33 on Tuesday, May 19. His subject will be "The Curious Incident of the Exposure that Wasn't."

In 1723, the first Grand Lodge in the world, the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster, was just six-years old. That year saw the first official Masonic book, James Anderson's *Constitutions of the Free-Masons* published in February. This was followed in April by the first published exposure of the Freemasons' secrets in *The Flying Post* and then in December by the second exposure in *The Post-Boy*.



Wor. Bro. S. Brent Morris

It was not a good year for the Grand Lodge! However, all copies of the *Post-Boy* exposure disappeared until a copy was found in 1998. This one copy resides in the House of the Temple Library in Washington, D.C.

This talk will show that the *Post-Boy* is more than it seems to be, and that the disappearance of nearly all copies was part of a clever "denial and deception" campaign.

Dr. and Bro. Morris is Managing Editor of the *Scottish*

*Rite Journal*, the largest circulation Masonic magazine in the world. He retired after 25 years as a mathematician with the federal government and has taught at Duke, Johns Hopkins, and George Washington Universities. He is twice Past Master of Patmos Lodge No. 70, Ellicott City, Maryland, (1979 & 2000), and Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London, (2008), a 33° Inspector General Honorary and recipient of the Grand Cross of the Court of Honour in the Scottish Rite, a life member and Mackey Scholar of the Scottish Rite Research Society, a Fellow of the Philalethes Society, recipient of the Philalethes Society Certificate of Literature, an honorary Fellow of the Phylaxis Society, founding Editor of *Heredom*, the transactions of the Scottish Rite Research Society, Grand Abbot of the Society of Blue Friars, and Chief Adept, IX°, of Maryland College SRICF.

He is author of many articles on Freemasonry and books, including *Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry*, *Masonic Philanthropies*, and *A Radical in the East*. He and Arturo de Hoyos co-authored *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?* and several other books. He has been interviewed about Freemasonry on ABC's Good Morning America, CBS's Sunday Morning, the History Channel, the National Geographic Channel, NPR's All Things Considered, and other shows. He is also a member of the Shrine, York Rite, the Red Cross of Constantine, the Royal Order of Scotland, and the Allied Masonic Degrees.

## Caledonia Lodge No 121 Supports its Community



Caledonia Masonic Lodge No. 121 of Cedartown recently visited Our House to make a Christmas donation. Our House serves Polk County as the battered women's and children's shelter. Pictured in the center is Our House Director Connie Purser, on the left is Worshipful Master of Caledonia Lodge Jason O'Neal and on the right is Secretary of Caledonia Lodge Danny O'Neal. Caledonia Lodge thanks it's members and the community for supporting our causes. Without such support, donations like these would not be possible.



Caledonia Masonic Lodge No. 121 of Cedartown recently visited The Samaritan House to make a Christmas donation. The Samaritan House serves Polk County as the area food pantry for the elderly, homeless, and families in temporary need. Pictured in the center is Director of The Samaritan House Peggy Reed, on the left is Worshipful Master of Caledonia Lodge Jason O'Neal, and on the right is Secretary of Caledonia Lodge Danny O'Neal.

## I'm The Guy

Grand Lodge of California Mentor Program

I'm the guy who asked to join your organization. I'm the guy who paid his dues to join. I'm the guy who stood up in front of all of you and promised to be faithful and loyal. I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to. I tried several times to be friendly to some of the fellows, but they all had their own buddies they talked to and sat next to.

I sat down several times but no one paid any attention to me. I hoped very much that somebody would have asked me to take part in a fund raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.

I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much to the others whether I was there or not.

The next meeting I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I was when the last meeting was held.

You might say I'm a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his community, and his country.

You know who else I am? I'm the guy who never came back!

It amuses me when I think back on how the heads of the organization and the members were discussing why the organization was losing members. It amuses me now to think that they spent so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted and welcome!

Author Unknown

## Grand Master's Forum

7 Forums Totals

	2015	2014
Savannah	135	110
Atlanta	135	154
Tifton	58	61
Columbus	66	83
Augusta	85	69
Kennesaw	105	124
Macon	93	128
Total	648	729
DDGM	67	55

## Busy December for E. W. Hightower Lodge #679

Ralph O. Dennis, PM

December was a busy month for the brethren and officers of E. W. Hightower Lodge #679 in Nelson. The first activity of the month was to attend the City Council meeting of the City of Nelson. The purpose of the officers attending this meeting was to publicly recognize the Lodge's first ever Public Servant of the Year.

The brethren of the Lodge had chosen Joey Smith the city's maintenance man. Joey was recognized at the meeting and was presented a plaque, proclamation and a small monetary gift. Joey is responsible for overseeing and doing the total maintenance of the buildings, parks, roadways and other areas in the city. Congratulations go to Joey.

The second event of the month was the annual communication and election of officers. Brother Alex Ball was elected to serve as Worshipful Master, Brother Paul Samples to be Sr. Warden and Brother Josh Tippens to be Jr. Warden. These three have the full confidence of the brethren. An open installation was held on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Worshipful Brother Edward Barclay was the installing officer and was extremely pleased to install his sons in law as Master and Sr. Warden. A good group of friends and family came to see the officers installed and to enjoy a great dinner of fried turkey and all kinds of side dishes.

Between the election of officers and the open installation, one brother represented the Lodge at the placing of wreaths at Wreaths Across America at the GA National Cemetery. This is the third year the lodge has sponsored wreaths.



E. W. Hightower Officers

December 20<sup>th</sup> was the last event of the busy month. Santa Claus came to Nelson and made a stop at E. W. Hightower Lodge. He arrived via police escort riding in the Nelson Police Department's HUMVEE disaster preparedness unit after a ride through town. He was able to hear last minute requests from the children. Each child received a candy cane and there was coffee and hot chocolate for every-one. There were also coloring pages for the children to color while waiting to see Santa. So ended a very busy month.



Santa Stops at E. W. Hightower

# Historic Lafayette Square in Savannah

Laid out along Abercorn Street in 1837, Lafayette Square and Lafayette Ward were named for the Marquis de Lafayette, who served as Washington's Aide de Camp during the American Revolution. Lafayette visited Savannah in 1825 and was highly regarded by the local citizens. He later dedicated the monument to Nathanael Greene in Johnson Square.



Lafayette Square in Savannah

There are no monuments in Lafayette Square, but the National Society of Colonial Dames of America installed a fountain in 1983 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Georgia colony.

There are several historically and architecturally significant buildings on Lafayette Square.

On the Northwest corner of Abercorn and Charlton Streets is the elegant Andrew Low House built in 1849.

## Dallas Fellowcraft Club to Dramatize the Hiramic Legend on Hiram's Island

Come Brothers, come to the Eastern Sea.

Come view, with due humility

The Oft Told Story of the three, who built so well,  
Fraternally, the Temple to our Deity.

King Solomon; Hiram, King of Tyre; and the Widow's  
Son from Naphthali.

Ocean Lodge No. 2145 will be our host, and they are keen to welcome Brethren from ocean's side to shore of ancient rivers wide, the Hootch and Flint and the Gulf Shore's Tide.

Come sit thee, Brethren, side by side; come view, and you with love will see the oft told story of the three, who built so well, fraternally, the Temple to their Deity.

King Solomon; Hiram, King of Tyre; and the Widow's son from Naphthali.

After Andrew's death, his widow, Juliette Gordon Low, founded the Girl Scouts of America on March 12, 1912, and she left the carriage house to the Savannah Girl Scouts. The carriage house at 330 Drayton Street, now houses a collection of Girl Scout memorabilia. This home is owned and preserved by the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia. For more history on the Andrew Low House, [click here](#).

On the south side of Charlton Street is an unusual West Indies-style home designed to have the main house entered from the piazza. Built in 1852, by Andrew Low's partner in the cotton business, William Battersby, this type of architecture is unique in Savannah, but often seen in Charleston.

The three-bay sidehall townhouse in the Greek revival style at 207 East Charlton was the childhood home of prize-winning author Flannery O'Connor.

The Hamilton-Turner House at 330 Abercorn, now a beautifully restored bed and breakfast, is one of the most beautiful homes in Savannah. Built in 1873 for Samuel Hamilton, the home reflects Second Empire baroque as well as Italianate architectural influences. For more history on the Hamilton-Turner House, [click here](#).

The Cathedral of St. John Baptist located at Abercorn and Harris is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Georgia. Rebuilt from the original design following a tragic fire in 1898, the church's Gothic revival spires can be seen throughout the city. The church is the starting point for Savannah's annual St. Patrick's Day parade.

Ocean Lodge No. 214, Brunswick, is hosting an event on March 28 on Hiram's Island, near Brunswick. They have invited, and the invitation most humbly accepted, the Dallas Fellowcraft Club to dramatize and confer the Master Mason Degree on that date.

### From I-95 driving South:

- Take Exit 36A off of I-95
- Take a right onto Hwy 17/25 — go 1.7 miles
- Turn right on GA-303 —go 2.8 miles
- Turn right on Blythe Island Drive — go 0.2 miles and curve to the right
- Continue on Blythe Island Drive until dead ends at Hiram's Island.

For more information, call Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley at 770-480-9937.

50 Year Awards



Herb Britt  
Fraternal No. 37



Leroy Everett Harvey  
Clinton No. 54



George Hugh Brown, Jr.  
Coweta No. 60



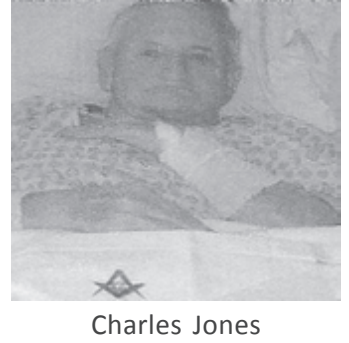
Charles Leonard Harvey  
Bartlett No. 139



Max Gay  
Doerun No. 151



Hubert Colquit  
Lexington No. 158



Charles Jones  
Adairsville No. 168  
(Pictures scanned to paper  
and sent to editor do not  
make good images in the  
*Messenger.*)



Terry Gene Tow  
Adairsville No. 168



Burt Toney  
Philologia No. 178



Right Worshipful Bro. Drew  
Lane presented a 50-year  
award to Bro. Jimmy Arnold  
Upchurch at Dallas No. 182



Carl F. Arthurs  
Rockwell No. 191  
Present on behalf  
of the Grand Lodge  
of Pennsylvania



William H. Shelton  
Pickens Star No. 220



Thomas L. Wilkie  
Pickens Star No. 220



Otis Mixon Felton  
Gordon No. 240



Dr. Cyler Duggan Garner  
Gordon No. 240



Bob Adams  
East Point No. 288



James Earl Adams  
East Point No. 288



Alvin Asher Jones  
East Point No. 288



Norred Avary Weldon  
East Point No. 288



Rudolph Brooks Womble  
Ezel No. 335



Robert Clayton Burnam  
Rutland Lodge No. 298



Carl Ellis Jones  
Pine Level No. 353



George Hinston Mosley  
Screven No. 368



Fred Joel Bennett, Jr.  
Rossville No. 397



James Emory Walden  
Sylvan No. 429



William Edward Thornton  
Sincerity No. 430



Jack Hardin  
Dacula No. 433



Clyde Joiner  
Helena No. 536



Quinton Mullis  
Helena No. 536



Tommy Edwin Dillard  
Campton No. 566



Elmer Kenneth Murray  
Campton No. 566



William A. Weaver & MWB  
Clyde E. Griffin, PGM  
Thunderbolt No. 693



Willie Allen Holsonbake  
Fleming No. 718

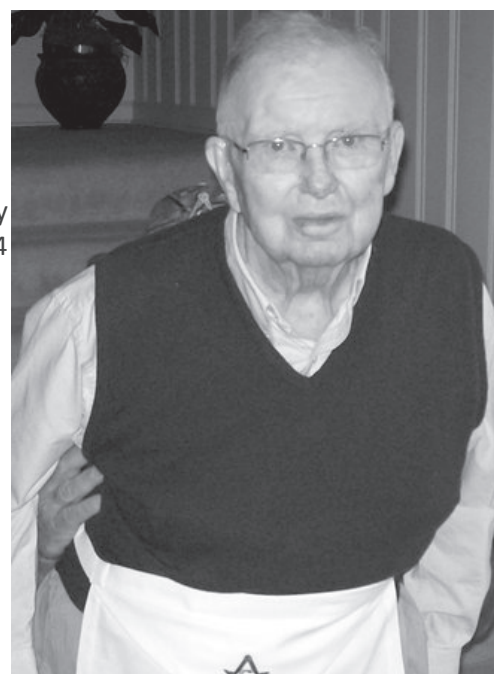


Wayne Wasden  
Grovetown No. 730

## 65 Years



Edward Larry Long  
Coweta No. 60



George Holloway  
Ridgeway No. 104



L. A. Hensley  
Madison No. 376



Dale Byrum  
Nancy Hart No. 690

## 55 Years

On January 30, James C. Huffman III, DDGM6-E presented Bro. William Edward Vinson, Sr., a member of Strict Observance Lodge No. 18, his 55 Year Award at Forsyth Nursing Home. Also present was his wife, PM James R. Pritchett, PM; Robert C. Jones, PM; Ira H. Watts, WM; and Brothers Virgil R. Allen, Albert C. Jones, C.L. Jeffries, Secretary.



## 60 Years



Clarence Edmund Jett, Jr. was 100 years old on August 28, 2014 and preached at Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church in East Point on his birthday where he was the former pastor. He lives at the Baptist Retirement Community in Palmetto but still drives his car.



Dennis Edward Palmer  
Lafayette No. 23



Roberet Harold Collins  
Mickey Fuller No. 720



# The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

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

Web Site:  
GaScottish Rite.org

Greetings from the **Valley of Columbus** Scottish Rite Freemasonry is alive and well in the River City. We congratulate all the new officers on being elected to serve as the leaders of our valley for the ensuing year. Installed to Key Leadership rolls for the Columbus Valley Bodies: Columbus Lodge of Perfection; Danny Dawson, 32°, KCCH Columbus Chapter Knights Rose Croix; James W. Tate, 32° KCCH, Columbus Council of Kadosh; Sidney Cooley Sr., 32° KCCH, Columbus Consistory; Isiah Hardin, 32° KCCH.

We congratulate all the officers that were recognized for their leadership roles in 2014 and continuing service to Scottish Rite and pledge our support the new officers in making this a great year.

We invite our Blue Lodge brethren to visit us on any 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 6:30pm and enjoy a free dinner (as a first-time visitor), before each our monthly meetings. Our Lodge of Perfection meeting will start at 7:30 and Our Ladies Auxiliary will meet in the library at 7:30. Please visit our web site at [scottishritecolsga.com](http://scottishritecolsga.com) for more information.

The **Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite** meets on the first Thursday of each month. Dinner is served at 7:00 pm with the program beginning at 8:00 pm. Our new year started off with Second Grand Steward, Donald Combs, presenting a program at our January 2015 LOP meeting. Our Scottish Rite Center hosted Grand Master Doug McDonald's Workshop for this area on January 24. The Valley of Augusta held their elections for all four bodies and the Executive Committee during the LOP meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. Following the elections we had our ring and capping ceremony for our 2014 Fall Class. We will have a program in the month of March outlining the history of the family who established the "**Fisher House**," which is temporary lodging facilities for families at major military medical centers. The Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite is dark in the month of April for our major fundraiser, "Master's Parking and Hospitality." May's program will include a presentation by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and will concentrate on boating safety. The Valley of Augusta continues our renovation program with the replacement of all our 40 year old curtains in the auditorium and the upgrade of our conference table in the Executive Committee Board Room.

**Upcoming events:** 1. Blue Lodge Appreciation Day, Saturday, February 28 to be held at the Macon Scottish Rite and hosted by all 6 Valleys in the Orient of Georgia. Call your valley secretary for reservations. 2. Statewide One

Day Reunion (again hosted by all 6 valleys) will be held at the Macon Scottish Rite on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Get your petitions in asap if you are interested in becoming a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. 3. The Valley of Augusta has been selected as the site for the Statewide 2015 KCCH Investiture. This will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 33° Coronation will be held in the Valley of Atlanta two weeks later on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

The **Valley of Savannah** is off to a very promising start for 2015 with our large spaghetti fundraiser in February, election of new officers in March and installation of new officers in April. Our Remembrance & Renewal Ceremony will also be held on April 7 with guest speaker Worshipful Brother Jan Giddens, First Grand Steward of Grand Lodge of GA. A Tournament of Champions event will also be held on April 18. For further details, see our webpage at [savannahscotishrite.org](http://savannahscotishrite.org).

The **Valley of Macon** started the new year with our capping ceremony, 26 new Scottish Rite Masons received their Black Hats. Our February meeting was the Traitor, with the Grand Master in attendance. We also honored our Valentines.

Brothers this year the Valley of Macon will participate in the Supreme Council's Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) you will be hearing much more about this exciting program over the next few months. We will be planning projects to help our RiteCare Children with several fundraisers including our annual Dove Shoot. Please come out, and join your Valley and assist us with one of the most exciting years we have every had!

The **Valley of Albany** had their election in December 2014 for the year 2015 and all have been installed by SGIG Rep. This year is going to be a promising year for the Valley of Albany with a good slate of officers and a lots of planned activities and degree work. Our spring reunion is March 7, 2015 and will start at 9:00am and we will do the 4° thru the 18° and should be out by lunch. We are expecting a large group for the reunion. Please come and support your Valley for this reunion. We meet 2nd Tuesday of each month with dinner at 7:00pm. Ladies always invited.

**Scottish Rite New continued on page 27.**



# Veterans Corner

Rick Conn, GL Veterans Committee, State Chairman

This is your invitation to the 38th Annual Airborne Awards Festival to be held 1-5 April 2015 at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. Our theme for this year's event will be recognizing our Korean War troopers. Please feel free to forward this invitation to any and all members of your organization or paratroopers, past and present, that you may know! We also ask that you share this letter on your organizations website.

As you will see in the letter, we are excited to have General (Retired) Charles C. "Hondo" Campbell as our Guest of Honor and Guest Speaker at the Awards Banquet. General Campbell is a Paratrooper, Special Forces, and decorated Viet Nam Veteran. He commanded at every level, culminating in his command of Forces Command, the Army Force Provider to Iraq and Afghanistan during the height of those conflicts. He also commanded all US Army Forces in Korea as a 3-Star, and is intimately familiar with the Korean Conflict as well as the current situation on the peninsula. He is an



101st Airborne



Navy Seals

outstanding person, both professionally and personally. We are extremely honored to have him as our Guest of Honor.

This year, we added a trip to our schedule. In addition to the Benning trip that we take every year, we will be offering a day trip hosted by the Atlanta History Center, with lunch at Mary Mac's Tea Room in Atlanta. Both the Benning trip and Atlanta History Center trip will be Thursday, April 2nd.

In addition to our updates from the 82nd and 101st, both on Friday, we will receive a briefing from Colonel (Retired) Ben S. Malcom on the White Tigers of the Korean War. We are honored to have Colonel Malcom join us, and we are all looking forward to his briefing.

We also have the 18-member Sentimental Journey Orchestra, a modern big band instrumental group, returning again this year to entertain you during and after the Awards Banquet on Saturday night. They also have arrangements that feature a male and female vocalist. We will have a dance floor in place, so practice your "moves"!

We would ask that you forward this e-mail and attachment to your organization's members and any troopers that you may know anywhere in the world to maximize our reach, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to attend this year's festival. This one promises to be one of the best ever!

Please remember that this is for ALL Airborne Troopers and their families past and present, from every Airborne unit, as well as Rangers, Special Forces, Special Operations, Navy Seals, etc. All we ask is that you are or were Airborne Qualified or a family or friend.

For a copy of the registration package, any questions, comments, or input, please contact me or Annette Purcell, email: [grandma1423@att.net](mailto:grandma1423@att.net)

We look forward to having you in Atlanta this coming April! Airborne!

Troy E. "Gil" Gilleland Colonel (Retired),  
Senior Executive Service (Retired)  
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## Crossed Quill Pens

Bro. Steven Emilius, Acworth Lodge No. 176

The jewel that Blue Lodge Secretaries wear is the Crossed Quill Pens, which is symbolic of their skill in the art of writing. In addition to requiring a high degree of lodge experience and diplomacy, the Secretary's duties include above all else possessing detailed writing and recording skills. The art of writing is very important to the Secretary in that his duties require him to handle voluminous correspondence addressed to the lodge and its' members, as well as administering the minutes and submitted petitions. Drafting communications to other lodges as well as the Grand Lodge are the responsibility of the Secretary. The Secretary at Acworth Lodge No. 176, Wor. Bro. Charles McEntire, III, performs these responsibilities in an exemplary manner. But Brethren, writing should not be exclusive to the Secretary. Writing about Freemasonry in your life should be encouraged. The writings of Masonic activities and personal accounts strengthen our Fraternity.

I understand this can be a challenge for Masons in their daily busy lives. We find ourselves communicating in day to day operations at the speed of light. Utilizing various forms of technology in our daily communications, our messages seem to always take the form of bullet points or short pithy messages sent at high-speed and real-time. Our communications have evolved from thoughtful written words to a short messaging service with the use of various instant messaging services via the web. The internet has set this transformation in its due course. To be sure, this technologically advanced work order has brought many advantages to individuals. The convergence of technology has brought speed and efficiency to our daily lives and to our work product. That is good, but the advancement of high-speed communications also has a cost.

The rules and passion of writing have been abandoned by many since the inception of instant messaging, text messaging and social networking sites. Our linguistic patterns have become two sentence e-mails with emoticons and instant messaging codes. Albeit that technology accelerates our communications it has also created a degeneration of our writing skills. However, Masons who decide to practice the lost art of good writing can reap the rewards.

I would encourage Masons to rediscover the enjoyment and benefits to long-form writing. This can be tricky when writing on Freemasonry subject matter in that it may require intensive research and study. Good writing however, still contains a certain aesthetic that is lacking in many media based communications. Therefore, just like anything else you want to improve in, you need to practice.

"Let us dare to read, think, speak & write." — John Adams

One form of systematic writing that can be quite



enjoyable and which is similar to one of the duties of the Secretary, is the keeping of a journal. While practicing your writing within a journal, you are also recording the history of your life experiences. Many of our world leaders kept journals, which became the foundation to historical record. Masons have the benefit of having unforgettable experiences throughout their career and it is these experiences that can serve as the backdrop to your journal. Writing in journals can be the vehicle of your values and ideas that can take you from being only a participant, to a leader within a Lodge.

Masons can also practice their writing skills through article submissions. There are many Masons that have extraordinary ideas, but they are unnoticed. Take the time to collect your thoughts, write them in an article and submit it for publication. These articles could also support various historical commissions throughout the Fraternity. This will transform the smart Mason to an actual thought provoking lodge leader.

Now, step away from your smartphone! Start to write down some of your ideas. Masons encounter issues every day that challenge their moral compass which requires deep analysis and thought. Therefore, these issues deserve written responses that contain organized analysis and not a response that is on impulse. Resist this thoughtless impulse and take the time in structuring your analysis in writing *when responding to these issues. So my fellow Brethren, where is your quill pen?*

(Right) On a rainy Saturday morning in July, the members of Pickens Star Lodge 220 and Jasper Chapter 479, Order of the Eastern Star held their 18th Annual 5K Hot Biscuit Road Race and Fun Run in Jasper. The proceeds each year helps the needy in Pickens County. This year the two orders were able to assist six families with gifts and food for Christmas. In addition, the lodge assisted four additional families with gifts and food. This act of caring resulted in 24 children receiving gifts on Christmas morning. The 19th Annual 5K Hot Biscuit Road Race and Fun Run will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2015. For information or entry forms you can e-mail [psl220@ellijay.com](mailto:psl220@ellijay.com).

Pictured at the right are Wor. Bro. Keith Hales, Worthy Patron, Phyllis Stewart, Worthy Matron and Wor. Bro. Ronald Matthews, Worshipful Master.



**General Lafayette Statue in LaGrange, Georgia**

**Scottish Rite News Continued from page 24.**

The **Scottish Rite Valley of Atlanta** is doing very exciting things together with the other Valleys.

- Our renowned Cast of the Traitor performed recently at the Valley of Macon.
- On February 28 the State Wide Blue Lodge Appreciation Event will feature Illustrious Robert Davis, 33° G.C. as the speaker and a presentation of the Entered Apprentice Degree in Red Lodge Form by a team from New Orleans. Reservations, statewide have exceeded 365. This will be a great day of Education and Fellowship
- The Blue Lodge Appreciation Event will help create excitement for the Statewide Reunion and Class May 30<sup>th</sup>. Every one of us can help make this year a growth year as we honor a hero of the Revolution, The Marquis De Lafayette.
- Our Third Degree Team continues to give brothers throughout the Valley an opportunity to take Scottish Rite to the Blue Lodge by conferring the Degree of Master Mason.
- This year, the Hospital that bears our name, Scottish Rite Hospital will celebrate 100 years. Celebrating 100 years, we will have an opportunity this year to wear our caps in the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Parade December 5<sup>th</sup>. Participants will donate \$100 for the privilege. Our goal is to have 100 Scottish Rite brothers participate each donating \$100 for a total of \$10,000. The first person to pledge his support was Ill. C.E. Buster Horne, 33° who said that he would ride a bicycle.

If you are already a Scottish Rite member take advantage of these opportunities. If you are Not Yet a member of Scottish Rite, join us May 30<sup>th</sup> at the State Wide Reunion Macon.



From the center of LaGrange, Georgia, a bronze statue of Gen. Marquis de LaFayette graces a glistening fountain. Gen. LaFayette assisted in the American Revolution under Commander George Washington, and was an official guest of Georgia Gov. George Michael Troup in 1825, during which time he is said to have commented to the governor on the similarity between the Creek Indian lands in central west Georgia to his personal estate, called LaGrange, near Paris, France. When Troup County’s official county seat was carved out of the Indian territory three years later, LaGrange was chosen as its name.

# John Sheldon Davidson, PGM

by Richard Williamson, Sr. 2014-2015 Worshipful Master of Webb Lodge No. 166.

Many Freemasons have played prominent roles in the formation of our great country. Numerous Masons are well known for their achievements and accomplishments, some of which lost their families, fortunes, and even their lives in service of our country. In addition to those of notoriety such as our fourteen Masonic Presidents, Founding Fathers, Statesmen, signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are hundreds even perhaps thousands of lesser known Masons who have, over the last two-hundred thirty-eight years made great contributions to the formation of our country.

One such Freemason is John Sheldon Davidson, born in Augusta, Georgia June 17, 1846 and died there March 11, 1894. His mother was a Treat, a lineal descendant of Robert Treat (1624-1710) who was a former Lt. Governor and Governor of Connecticut for twenty-five years and of Robert Treat Paine (1731-1814) who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, first and long time Attorney General, and eventually an Associate Supreme Justice of Massachusetts.



Grand Master John Sheldon Davidson

John Davidson studied law and served the profession well. In 1884 he was unanimously elected to the Georgia State Senate and served as Chairman of its Finance Committee. In 1885 he was elected President Pro-Tem. In 1886 he re-elected to the Senate and was unanimously elected as its President. He was reported to be one of the finest presiding officers who had served that body. His local prominence was equally notable having served as the City Attorney of Augusta for thirteen years and on the Richmond County Board of Education from 1873 until he died. He served as its President from 1878 until his death in 1894.

His Masonic achievements were no less notable. He was Worshipful Master of Webb Lodge No. 166 for seven successive years (1875-1881). He was a York Rite Mason - a member of Georgia Commandry No. 1 in Augusta. In 1888 the Grand Lodge instituted his 1883 recommendation

that a system of District Deputies be established. In 1884 he was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia "from the floor" having never before held a Grand Lodge office. This had only been done once previously in the history of the Grand Lodge. On September 3, 1885 while Grand Master he presided at the laying of the cornerstone at the invitation of the Georgia General Assembly of the new State Capitol Building in Atlanta. That impressive event was attended by thousands of citizens and Masons from all over Georgia (estimates of approximately 10,000). He is also credited with bringing the Grand Lodge Treasury from its "dire circumstances" in 1884 to that of a surplus at his death. He served eleven terms as Grand Master (from 1884 until his death in March of 1894).

It is appropriate that a lodge in Augusta was named in his honor i.e. John S. Davidson Lodge No. 677 chartered on October 27, 1920. He loved children and dedicated most of his adult life to their education and well being. It is also ironically fitting for someone who never married or had children of his own to have one of the finest Magnet Schools in the country named in his honor. John S. Davidson School of Fine Arts which has received numerous awards and recognition including the US Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. The school is listed in USA Today's list of *Top 100 High Schools in the United States*.

His funeral was conducted by the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Georgia on March 11, 1894, reportedly with over 4,000 children from Augusta in the throng of attendees. He is interred in Magnolia Cemetery in downtown Augusta. His grave marker includes these words, "A Man among Men, A Mason among Masons". He was truly a shaper of our State and Nation and in no small measure a shaper of Freemasonry in Georgia as well. In his book *The Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons 1786-1980*, George H. Rosier states, "His wisdom, combined with his devotion to the craft, made Brother



(Continued on the next page, col. 1)

## ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

December 8, 2014 to February 6, 2015

### \$500 OR MORE

Solomons Lodge No. 1  
Lafayette Lodge No. 23  
Mabel Lodge No. 255  
Morrow Lodge No. 734  
Richard S. Bailey, Sr.  
John & Emma Derst Foundation  
Helen McPheeters Estate  
Myrtie A. Black Trust  
J.P. Sanders

### \$1000 OR MORE

Houston Lodge No. 35  
John H. Jones Lodge No. 348  
Riverdale Lodge No. 709  
Fayetteville Lodge No. 711  
Frank Barron  
Weston L. Lipscomb Trust  
Evelyn O. McBride Estate  
Ruskin Family Trust  
Thomas C. Strickland, Jr.  
Purvie B. Watts Foundation Trust

*(Continued from previous page)*

Davidson one of the greatest of the many great Grand Masters.”

A memorial tribute to John S. Davidson is located in the Capitol Building in Atlanta including his apron and jewel which are on loan from Webb Lodge No. 166. In addition, a Masonic Memorial to John S Davidson and the other four Past Grand Masters from Webb Lodge is located in the median at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> and Greene Streets in Augusta. It is a Holy Altar made from Georgia granite with a bronze open Bible and Square and Compass resting upon it. Another marble memorial was erected by order of the Grand Lodge in 1894 and is located on the second floor of the Masonic Hall in Augusta.

I have submitted this article to coincide with the Grand Master’s Theme this year of “Patriotism and Back to Our Roots in Georgia Freemasonry” because of Most Worshipful Brother John Sheldon Davidson’s tremendous contributions to both. I hope it of great inspiration and benefit to all of us. It is a great honor and with a sense of

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LEWIS, HAROLD BARNETT	710
WELCH, HENRY GRADY	710
COUNTRYMAN, RICHARD D	711
SELF, CECIL EUGENE JR	717
LUKE, CHARLES RANDOLPH	719
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BUXTON, MANLY CONRAY	760
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JENKINS, ROBERT GRADY	765

great humility that I preside over a Lodge where men like John S Davidson, our other four Past Grand Masters, and many outstanding Past Masters who have preceded me.

*by Richard Williamson, Sr.*

### *-Bibliography:*

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“John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School”, *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*

“The Georgia State Capitol”, *The New Georgia Encyclopedia*, [www.georgiaencyclopedia.org](http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org)

# In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased  
from December 3, 2014  
to February 6, 2015

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
SMITH, WILBUR DALTON	1SOL	WHITE, WILLIAM GILBERT	091
SMITH, CHARLIE FINLEY	1SOC	HENDERSON, ERNEST EUGENE	097
TANNER, JACK LESTER	002	SPICKNALL, JOHN THOMAS	105
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STUDDARD, RICHARD KEITH	006	BOATWRIGHT, RALPH HOWELL	111
WHALEY, JAMES RONALD	012	GOODMAN, BOBBY GENE	111
DUBBERLY, CHARLES DELBERT	015	BARTON, RUFUS EDMOND	113
EVERHARDT, PHILIP HAMILTON	015	STEWART, THOMAS JEFFERSON	113
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CANTRELL, ROBERT EUGENE	063	GIDDENS, ROBERT LEWIS	196
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DOBBS, BILLY JOE	077	MILLER, ROBERT BUNYAN JR	198
DRUMMOND, LEROY (NMN)	077	ATKINS, FRANK NEWTON	201
PAGE, KENNETH WAYNE SR	077	DILLINGHAM, OLIVER FRANK	201
SOOLEY, RICHARD	077	KIRBY, HOWARD KIETH	201
POWELL, DALE LESTER	081	MCCLAIN, HOWARD RICHARD	201
AYCOCK, JERALD DALE	087	RHODES, LUTHER JAMES	201
SMITH, WILLIAM BARTOW	087	SMITH, HOKE JENNINGS	201
TURNER, ROYCE ALFRED	088	TATE, RUSSELL HOMER JR	201
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## Grand Lodge Ladies Announce Project to Refurbish Masonic Home Lobby

The First Lady of Georgia Masons, Mrs. Carol McDonald, and her Ladies have announced plans to refurbish the lobby of the Masonic Home. All of the furnishings are at least 28 years old. The carpet on which thousands of visitors have walked across has been replaced once in the 28 years. The sofas are thread-bare. The lobby does not present a positive image of the Heart of Georgis Freemasonry when visitors walk into the Masonic Home lobby. First impressions are lasting impressions and the Ladies plan to change those first impressions. Sofas, easy chairs, stands, carpet, window treatments and lighting are among the furnishings to be replaced. A letter was mailed to all of the Georgia lodges in early February requesting donations to help in the project laid out by the Ladies.

Checks may be mailed to the Masonic Home of Georgia, P. O. Box 4183, Macon, Georgia 31208. Please designate on the check's memo line: "First Lady's Fundraiser."



Grand Master Douglas McDonald joins First Lady, Mrs. Carol McDonald (center) and Mrs. Jane Wilson as they announce their plans for the Masonic Home lobby.

