

Masonic Messenger



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

June 2015

**WOR. BRO.
ALEXANDER LOO**

**From a Humble
Beginning
to International
Recognition**

**Feature Story
on pages
14 and 15**



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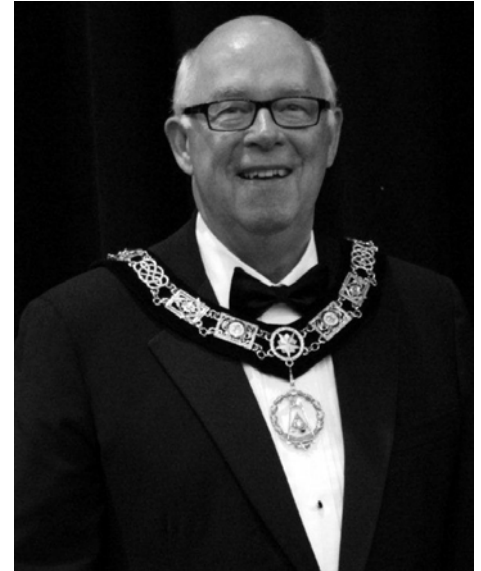
ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION -- CIRCULATION 38,000

— Grand Master Douglas W. McDonald, Sr.

Well, we have made it to June, and summer has arrived. Schools are out and the family vacation season is underway. I hope each of you can spend some quality time with family during these Summer months. The month of June brings with it Father's Day which will be observed this year on June 21st. I pray that as you celebrate Father's Day with your own families, you will stop and remember our children at the Masonic Home who are dependent upon us Masons to provide for all their needs. Soon, you will be receiving a request for a Father's Day donation to the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. Please prepare your hearts through prayer and plan to send a donation. Our children deserve our best efforts and what better time than Father's Day, to remember them through a gift to the Endowment Fund.

Another opportunity to give to the Home is through your Last Will and Testament, by gifting a part of your Estate at death to the Masonic Home of Georgia, the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc., or both. A simple provision to include such a gift in your Will, can be found in a separate announcement in this issue of the *Masonic Messenger*. (See page 17.) A perfect example of how your gift can help is reflected in the Endowment Fund's recent sale of Rabun County real estate which was gifted in a Masonic Brother's Will, to the Masonic Home. You may view an additional article regarding that sale in this issue of the Messenger. (See page 6.)

The month of June also brings Flag Day which falls on June 14. I recently spoke to approximately 85 Fourth (4th) Graders at an Elementary School. I was



allowed to give each of them a small flag, as well as a copy of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. In my preparations to speak to these children, I did some deep thinking about our Country's Flag and what it means. The Flag of the United States of America is a symbol of the principles upon which our Country was founded. Our Flag should be treated with as much patriotism, dignity and respect as we can possibly give it. I hope you will raise 'Old Glory' proudly in your homes and at your Lodges on Flag Day and at every other opportunity possible. The eagerness to learn in these children was a joy to behold. I encourage you to search for more Light by advancing to another Masonic Degree to learn more about Freemasonry. Be a mentor to another Mason. That advancement will bring you much joy and reinforce our Grand Lodge theme of Education, Education, Education.

Since my April Message to you, First Lady Carol and I were blessed to participate in the Grand Commandery of Georgia Easter Sunrise Excursion to Alexandria, Virginia. This trip, which

coincided with the Grand Lodge theme of the year, Return to Patriotism and our Roots, will undoubtedly go down in our memories as one of the more important events of the year. Approximately 80 of us visited historical sites as we traveled on a bus tour to the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland area. It was my great honor and privilege to be allowed to raise and lower a United States Fifteen Star Flag over Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland and to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Sunrise Service at Alexandria reminded us of the supreme sacrifice that Christ gave for all mankind, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

While there were many patriotic events during the tour, the wreath laying ceremony was one of the most moving and emotional military experiences of my life. God Jehovah's Holy Word teaches us "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13, and that is exactly what the Unknown Soldier did for us. Grand Marshall, Wor. Bro. Mark Bradley and wife Gay planned the trip and it was obvious to us that they put in countless hours in planning and coordinating such a well-organized and smooth whirlwind excursion. All attending will forever be grateful to The Grand York Rite of Georgia for the memories made during this wonderful tour.

Regarding the Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette saga, a French built, multi-million dollar replica of Lafayette's original French ship, named Hermione, has sailed from France to our American shores. For information about the Hermione replica ship and its complete itinerary, refer to the website www.hermione2015.com. Continuing with the Grand Lodge Patriotism theme a One-Day State-Wide Marquis de Lafayette Scottish Rite Reunion and Class was held on May 30 at the Macon Scottish Rite Temple.

On April 22-23, First Lady Carol and I attended the South Carolina Grand Lodge held in Charleston. The session was first class and we both really enjoyed it. On another note, the Georgia/South Carolina Exchange meeting was held on May 22, at the Scottish Rite Temple in Augusta, Georgia. The meeting was well attended. The food and fellowship was delightful. We should never forget the importance of the Brotherhood and fellowship, as we have an excellent relationship with our South Carolina Brothers.

On May 14, between meetings at Resaca Daylight Lodge No. 724 and Meyerhardt Lodge No. 314, I paid respects to the soldiers buried at the Resaca Civil War Confederate Cemetery, located in Resaca, Georgia. According to

information posted at the site, the cemetery was the first Confederate Cemetery in Georgia to have been established for the burial of unknown Confederate Soldiers who were killed in the Civil war. During the remainder of my Georgia travels this year, I plan to visit and report on other Georgia historical and patriotic sites.

On May 23, the Fourth Annual Outdoor Cove Waterfall Degree was performed in Jasper, Georgia, and resulted in three Brothers being raised to the Degree of Master Mason. Remember the Outdoor Rock Quarry meeting on August 22 (See announcement elsewhere in this issue.).

The First Lady's Project to remodel the Lobby of the Masonic Home is nearing completion. What a blessed endeavor it turned out to be. Thanks be to all of you who have contributed. Since the project has not yet been totally funded, please continue to contribute toward this most worthy project.

District Conventions held thus far have been well attended. The food, fun and fellowship have been superb. Don't miss out on the remaining District Conventions. The schedule for future District Conventions will be held as follows:

- 10th District Convention will be held on June 13;
- 4th District Convention will be held on August 15;
- 5th District Convention will be held on September 12;
- 11th District Convention will be held on September 19;
- and the 9th District Convention will be held on September 26.

The Barn Degree at Charlie Long's barn will be held in the afternoon after the 9th District Convention.

I pray God will continue to cause his face to shine upon America. May we all pray that He will never turn His face away from us, for history has taught us that when He does, Nations fall. Although America is making bad decisions today, God continues to bless us because of His love, mercy and grace.

May God help us to choose right over wrong, and know the difference. May we never lose hope in His promises. God Bless.

Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., Grand Master
The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons
for the State of Georgia

"If there is no wind, row." — Latin Proverb

Eagle Scout Awards



Wor. Bro. Dexter Harrison, DDGM, presents a Masonic Award to Eagle Scout Matthew King in honor of his high achievement in scouting.



Wor. Bro. Jim Huffman, DDGM 6E, stands with Eagle Scout Daniel Sanchez after presenting his Masonic Award upon becoming an Eagle Scout.



Grayson Lodge sponsors a Boy Scout Troop, Troop No. 499, of which one of its Past Masters (WB Jack Wade) was the Assistant Scout Master for the first two years and the Scout Master for the next 20 years. The Troop is now 50+ years old.

On the 29th of March, Brother Carter Wood, of Snellville No. 99, and the NE Georgia Council Commissioner for the Boy Scouts opened a Boy Scout Court of Honor and presented his grandson, Jacob Poston, with his Boy Scout Eagle award. Jacobs Uncle, also an Eagle, is serving presently in Afghanistan. His Uncle called in over satellite and gave Jacob his Eagle Oath.

Grayson Lodge Master, WB Barry Wood welcomed all to the Lodge and turned ceremony over to Boy Scout NE Ga. Commissioner, Carter Wood, who opened a Eagle Court of Honor with WB Rick Conn, serving as the Eagle Chaplain. WB Jack Wade gave a brief history of the troop and the sponsorship of the Lodge to it for over 50 years. After this WB Dan Dacus, DDGM for the 9th Masonic District, presented Jacob, and two other Boy Scouts, (Andrew Davis and Richard Murray) who had obtained the rank of Eagle in the past few months, their Grand Lodge Eagle Awards.

Snellville OES No. 513 Makes Donations to Children

The Snellville Chapter of the Eastern Star has again donated items for the children at the Masonic Home for the fourth year in a row. The chapter checks with the Home to learn what the children need for the summer activities. This year the chapter donated beach towels, beach balls, flip flops, sun screen, and other items for each child.

Bro. Dren Baker, his Lady Karen and son Ryan, and Bro. Kevin Weinz and his Lady Pat delivered the donations to the Home and enjoyed lunch with the children.



The Eastern Star has supported the Masonic Home since 1905.

First Lady's Project Nearing Completion



Mrs. Jane Wilson reports the First Lady's Project is nearing completion with only a few more items to be purchased. She has expressed her deepest appreciation to the many individuals and lodges which have donated items or made financial donations to the lobby refurbishment.

The ladies want to replace the chandelier hanging on the front porch. It looks terrible and is barely hanging. They also would like to place black rockers on the front porch if they can find additional funds. They would like to hang some inexpensive, but cheerful, pictures in the dining room. A Masonic widow is donating new lighting for the dining room. The ladies are almost out of money and are asking for some donations to complete their project. Who will step up?



The Ladies will place a picture over the fireplace.



Brunswick Lodge makes Large Donation to Masonic Home



Brunswick Lodge No. 717 presented the Grand Master three checks totaling \$43,105.00 for the Masonic Home. Pictured with Most Worshipful Brother Douglas McDonald are Brad Cooper, Worshipful Master; Bryon Seals, Senior Warden; Robby Strayer, Senior Deacon; Tony Botita, Secretary; Skip Kretchman, Past Master; Jimmie Stephens, Chaplain/Past Master; Charles Taylor, Past Master; Shaun Culpepper, Past Master; and Josh Rowell.

Georgia/South Carolina Exchange Night Held at Augusta Scottish Rite Center

The Annual Georgia/South Carolina Exchange Night was held at the Augusta Scottish Rite Center on May 22. After a delicious dinner, the Brethren from the two Grand Jurisdictions met together for the normal introductions of Grand Lodge officers. The annual event was started by the late Past Grand Master Earl D. Harris in 1989. Next year's event will be held in Greenville, South Carolina.

In South Carolina, District Deputies are called "Right Worshipful" and the number of Grand Lodge officers from our Sister State showed up in force.



(Left) Most Worshipful Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. presides at the GA/SC Exchange.

(Below) Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain, gave a superb presentation of the scales of Freemasonry and spoke about how each of us as Freemasons have

an important part, including regular attendance at lodge meetings and keeping the lessons taught in the Master Mason degree, in balancing the scales.

A portion of a portrait of Bro. and U. S. President George Washington, a gift from Most Worshipful Brother William B. Rogers, Grand Master of South Carolina, to Grand Master Douglas McDonald can be seen behind Wor. Bro. Gurley.



Most Worshipful Bro. McDonald presented a large marble desk set to his counterpart from South Carolina.



South Carolina Grand Lodge Officers



Georgia Grand Lodge Officers

Rabun County Property Sold



Pictured above, is Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Georgia, delivering to Eileen A. Westemann of Lakemont, Georgia, a Deed to real estate located in Rabun County, Georgia, owned by the Masonic Home. The sale netted the Masonic Home Endowment Fund \$84,506.00. The Masonic Home

acquired the property on the 8th day of January, 2008, from the Estate of Thomas Kenneth Morrow, after our Masonic Brother Mr. Morrow died leaving a Will, specifying that the Rabun County property would, at his death, be conveyed to the Masonic Home.

Ms. Westemann is an interior decorator and designer, as well as a landscape designer. Being a historical preservationist interested in rehabbing old buildings, she believes in the "tiny house" theme and believes the existing cottages are "good bones with which to begin." Ms. Westemann owns a gallery, selling women's clothing and artwork in the Lakemont, Georgia area. She further believes the development will cater to artist colonies, as well as weekend rentals. This Old House of TV and magazine fame will be following the rehab project, as they have done so with Ms. Westemann in the past.

Ms. Westemann's brother is a Mason in Illinois. Her grandfather was a Mason in Florida, where her grandmother was a member of Eastern Star. The Grand Lodge Properties and Investments Committee, along with the Masonic Home Board of Trustees, approved selling the property. This is a nice conclusion, reflecting Masons helping Masons.

Lizella Lodge No. 663 Hosts 109th Annual Convocation of the 6th Masonic District Convention

Wor. Bro. Emmett R. Johns, Master of the 6th Masonic District Convention, and his officers opened the 109th Annual Convocation of the 6th Masonic District Convention held at the Riverside Masonic Temple in Macon at 9.00 on May 2. All of the District officers were present.

After he called the convention to order, Most Worshipful Bro. Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., Grand Master, was found in waiting and was duly received by four DDGMs and the Grand Mashall. The Grand Master was given Private Grand Honors by the Brethren. The Grand Master in turn introduced his officers who were present.

Eight 50-year and 60-year Masons were present.

Two attendance awards were made. Lizella Lodge No. 633 was presented the attendance award for a lodge with fewer than 100 members. Hampton Lodge No. 70 won the attendance award for larger lodges with over 100 members. Awards are presented based on percentage of lodge members present. There are 37 lodges in the 6th District.

The John S. Perry Award was presented to Mason of the Year Thomas Bennett Jones of Mickey Fuller Lodge No. 720.

The Georgia York Rite College Achievement Gold Honor Award was presented to John A. Mennich.

The Sixth District presented a \$500 check for the Grand Lodge Ladies' project to refurbish the lobby at the Masonic Home. Wor. Bro. Richard Bailey presented a check for \$800 to the Grand Lodge Ladies' project from the sale of Masonic items from Ms. Sharon Bailey's table of Masonic items.

The Brethren made a contribution of \$423.50 to the

Madison Lodge Read to Ride Program

Madison Lodge No. 376 had its annual Joe Ward Read to Ride Program bicycle give away to the children who read the most minutes during the year. This program takes place at the Morgan County Primary School in Madison, Georgia. Attendees from the Lodge included: Bob Nesbitt, Grant Catterton, Aubrey Moon, Jim Briscoe, Bob Wilbanks, Erik Ekstrom and L. A. Hensley (not pictured). Recipients include: 1st grade - Cardin Tran and Cydney Burke; 2nd grade - Crayman Burke and Elisabeth Thompson. Most Improved readers were Emma McNeil and Jacoby Simmons .



Masonic Home's Endowment Fund. Emeritus members no longer pay the \$10 per year assessment to the operation and maintenance of the Home.

The Georgia Masonic Charities, Inc. was presented a check for \$1,700 from the sale of the Square and Compasses, i. e., the Children's Garden.

There were no trials in the 6th Masonic District during the previous year. Brethren in the 6th District held 26 GACHIP events during the preceding 12 months and ID'd 894 children.

Wor. Bro. Carlton Ethridge, Sixth District Trustee for the Masonic Home, reported that there are 29 children and youth, 18 girls and 11 boys, at the Home. A young man and a young woman will be admitted after school is out. Three of the youth attend higher education at Macon State College.

Wor. Bro Ethridge reported a new telephone system and new LED lighting have been installed. The new lighting will save several thousand dollars per year on utilities.

He said all Masons are encouraged to visit the Home and get to know the children. Brothers can arrange special visits by contacting the Home.

There will be a Family Day at the Home on Saturday, September 5, from 10.00-2.00. This is not a work day.

Wor. Bro. Paul Buchner was elected Master of the District for the ensuing year.

Most Worshipful Bro. McDonald installed the officers.

Harlem Lodge Presents Bikes to Top Readers

Harlem Lodge No. 276 presented bikes to Mike McGaha and Alexa Alvarado for reading more books than any other 5th graders at North Harlem Elementary.

Top picture l-r WB Rich Lanoue, Pete Coffield, and Bill Speer.

Bottom picture l-r Mike McGaha, WB Lanoue, and Alexa Alvarado.





**GRAND
CHAPTER**
J. Terry Farmer
M. E. G. H. P.



**GRAND
COUNCIL**
Floyd E. Edmondson
M. I. G. M.



**GRAND
COMMANDERY**
Lloyd J. Leinbaugh
R. E. G. C.

THE YORK RITE IN GEORGIA

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<http://www.yorkriteofga.org>



J. Terry Farmer
M. E. G. H. P.



Floyd E. Edmondson
M. I. G. M.



Lloyd J. Leinbaugh
R. E. G. C.

The Grand York Rite Session was held during the first week of May and a new slate of officers was elected.

J. Terry Farmer was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Georgia,

Floyd E. Edmondson Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Georgia
and Lloyd J. Leinbaugh Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

James W. Tate was elected as Excellent Grand Master of 2nd Veil, Grand Chapter of Georgia.
Michael H. Sampsell was elected as Excellent Grand Master of 1st Veil, Grand Chapter of Georgia.

James W. Bard was elected as Illustrious Grand Steward of the Grand Council of Georgia.
Carl J. Gamel was elected as Eminent Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of Georgia.

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

2015 Greater Atlanta York Rite Festival

WHEN: August 8th and 15th, 2015 Registration @ 8:00am, degrees begin @ 9:00am

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

COST: The cost for each day is \$10.00 for meal and refreshments. Pay that day.

The Chapter and Council Degrees will be conferred on Saturday, August 8, 2015.

The Orders of the Commandery will be conferred on Saturday, August 15, 2015.

Come early each Saturday for coffee and refreshments.

Run all petitions/candidate fees through your local York Rite body prior to the Festival.

NO VOTING WILL BE ALLOWED AT THE FESTIVAL

CONTACT: Majd Saboura, President, email: msaboura@gmail.com Phone: 404-435-7289

<p>PETITION FOR YORK RITE BODIES http://www.yorkriteofga.org/bpfiles/combpet.pdf</p>	<p>FIND YOUR CLOSEST YORK RITE:</p> <p>GEORGIA YORK RITE WEBSITE www.yorkriteofga.org</p>	<p>http://www.yorkriteofga.org/yorkrite-by-city.html</p>
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118th Annual Communication of the 7th District Masonic Convention Held at Cherokee Lodge

Wor. Bro. Greer Henderson, District Master, and his officers opened the 118th annual communication of the Seventh District Masonic Convention before a full house at Cherokee Lodge No. 66 on May 8.

The Seventh District Convention has met at Cherokee Lodge every year since it was organized in 1898 when six hundred Freemasons attended. A Master Mason degree was conferred by Cherokee Lodge with Wor. Master Max Meyerhardt presiding.

The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., was found in waiting and was introduced into the lodge room by seven of his District Deputies.



The Traveling Men escorted the Grand Master to Cherokee Lodge.

The Grand Master introduced his Grand Lodge officers who were present: RWB Drew Lane, Deputy Grand Master; RWB Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Warden; Wor. Bro. Mike Wilson, Senior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens, Junior Grand Deacon; Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain; Wor. Bro. Don Combs, Second Grand Steward; Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler, Third Grand Steward; and Wor. Bro. Ross Laver, Grand Photographer.

He also introduced the Past Grand Masters present: MWBs Dr. Gary D. Lemmons (2001), Thomas L. Blanton (2004), J. Edward Jennings (2009), E. Ray Knittel (2013), and Edgar M. Land (2014).

Nineteen District Past Masters were in attendance, as well as two Honorary Past Masters. Howard Touchstone, at age 89, was recognized as the oldest Master Mason present. Wor. Bro. W. D. Aktins was recognized for his 43 years of service as a lodge secretary. Twelve seated Masters from the 7th District were present.

Lindale Lodge No. 455 presented Wor. Bro. John Snipes with a check for \$200 for the Masonic Home; \$500 was received from the Brethren for the Home. The 7th District purchased a \$500 Paver for the Children's Garden.

Wor. Bro. John Snipes reported that \$3,688 had been donated by Georgia Masons to purchase computers for college-bound graduates of the Masonic Home.

The Seventh District recognizes Sub-District Masons of the Year. This year's Sub-district Masons of the Year are Steven B. Henderson, Doyle L. Cagle, William J. Cavendar, Robert E. Davenport, Mike Lee and Terrell Hartman.

Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, District Custodian, reported he gave our 390 white cards, 375 blue cards, 56 green cards, and 67 orange cards during the previous 12 months.



Wor. Bro. Danny O'Neal was named District Mason of the Year. To his left is his son, Jason. On the left in the photo is District Master Greer Henderson and Grand Master Doug McDonald.



Sheriff and Bro. Tim Burkhalter of Floyd County welcomed everyone to Floyd County.



Some of the beautiful artwork on the walls in Cherokee Lodge No. 66 is visible on the wall behind the Grand Lodge officers.

Is There Interest in Formal Masonic Studies in Georgia?

Several Grand Lodges sponsor Academies of Masonic Knowledge (by various names), including the Grand Lodge of California and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. In California, it is called the California Institute of Masonic Studies. The purpose of this article is to determine if there is sufficient interest among Georgia Freemasons for such an Academy or Symposium.

The Academy of Masonic Knowledge in Pennsylvania is held on a Saturday. This year the spring date was March 21, in the Deike Auditorium of the Freemasons Cultural Center on the campus of the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown. Registration opened at 8:30 AM with the program beginning at 9:30 AM. A lunch (requested contribution of \$10) was served at noon and the program was completed by 3:00 p.m. All Masons were welcome to attend. Dress was coat and tie.

Speakers are invited with specialties in areas of interest to Freemasons. Speakers at the 2015 spring academy were:

Professor Kenneth Loiselle's lecture was entitled: From Enlightenment to Revolution: Masonic Friendship in Eighteenth-Century France. Kenneth Loiselle, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of history and international studies at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

Brother George O. Braatz, PGM, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America is a Past Grand Master of Ohio and Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The Masonic Service Association of North America, was formed in 1919 and now headquartered in Burtonsville, Maryland, provides educational material, statistical reports, Disaster Relief and administers a V. A. Hospital Visitation Program across North America. Bro. Braatz, has served for many years on the steering committee of the MSA's Masonic Information Center and is now chairman of the Masonic Information Center, and also as a member of the board of directors of the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Academy is held twice a year. Last fall's speakers were:

Professor David G. Hackett spoke on topics from his recently published book: *That Religion in Which All Men Agree: Freemasonry in American Culture*.

David G. Hackett is an Associate Professor of Religion at the University of Florida, having received his Ph.D. from Emory University in 1986. He has published numerous books and articles and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Louisville Institute for the Study of American Protestantism in American Culture. In addition, Professor Hackett has been a resident scholar at Princeton's Center for Theological Inquiry and the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research.

Brother W. Stephen Burkle spoke on the topic *Early Adoption of Paracelsus' Alchemical Catechism by the Craft*.

William Stephen "Steve" Burkle is a metallurgist by profession and works in the oil and gas industry. He has

traveled widely throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East teaching, lecturing, and consulting. He is an ordained Deacon in the Presbyterian Church. Bro. Steve's academic interests include Masonic symbolism, Alchemy, and esoteric Freemasonry, upon which he has published numerous articles. He recently completed his Master of Arts, and is currently a Doctoral Candidate, in Religious Studies.

Your editor lectured at the Academy in March 2001. He has also given the Henry Wilson Coil Lecture at the California Masonic Symposium, one of the annual meetings of the California Institute for Masonic Studies.

In addition to attending the Academy lectures, independent study is available and encouraged.

A recommended reading list is provided. Resources not on the list are allowed with permission.

- History and Philosophy of Freemasonry
- Historical or Masonic Theories
- Working of the Lodges
- Fiction
- Freemasonry and Religion

The following items are included by the Academy because they may be helpful to Masonic Students in Research and Additional Reading.

- Magazines and Journals
- Masonic Reference
- Resources for Purchase

The Academy of Masonic Knowledge has established three Certification levels:

- Level One Masonic Scholar Certification
- Level Two Masonic Scholar Certification
- Level Three Masonic Scholar Certification: Master Masonic Scholar

MEU's (Masonic Education Units) are used as the standard measurement for recording achievement.

Each level contains basic and core information as its anchor. However, the requirements are formulated to allow you some flexibility to pursue individual interests. Avenues are provided for earning certification in a variety of ways. Seeking certification is not essential but is strongly encouraged.

If you are interested in participating in a Georgia Academy of Masonic Knowledge (or a similar name), please contact Dr. Gary Leazer, editor of the *Masonic Messenger*. His contact information can be found on page 2 of this magazine.

Grand Master visits Cornelia No. 92



On April 13, Most Worshipful Brother Douglas W. McDonald, Grand Master, made an official visit to Cornelia Masonic Lodge No. 92. Most Worshipful McDonald gave a very informative and inspirational address to Cornelia Lodge.

Pictured is the Grand Master McDonald with the officers of Cornelia Lodge.



Brother David Slepoy (left) and Brother J.D. Farmer (right) presented to Grand Master McDonald a cane that displays the Grand Master's coins and a clock. Both were crafted by Bro. Farmer. Bro. Slepoy completed the cane by mounting the coins.

Large Crowd Attends Sand Hill Lodge



Eighty Brothers from 23 lodges attended a special night at Sand Hill Lodge No. 350 in the 4th District on April 16. Goshen Lodge No. 71 had the second largest number present. One Brother was from a lodge in Tennessee. Eight 50-year Masons and two 60-year Masons were present.

After a delicious dinner and lots of great fellowship, the Brethren moved upstairs to the lodge room. So many Brothers were present that the Senior Deacon had difficulty getting between the altar and the Brethren on the sidelines. Wor. Bro. David Sullivan, DDGM 4E, promoted the meeting throughout his sub-district and his hard work showed in the attendance. Wor. Bro. Sullivan opened lodge.

Right Worshipful Bro. Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Warden, presented Wor. Bro. Johnny Broome, a much loved Brother in the 4th District and throughout that part of our great State, his 50-year award. Many Brothers spoke about how much Bro. Broome has meant to them in their Masonic

journeys. Bro. Carl Bayton, Senior Warden of Goshen Lodge, closed the lodge.

Sand Hill Lodge was chartered in 1891 and has met in the same hall since then. A school met on the first floor until the early 1950s.

Wor. Bro. Ross Laver, Grand Photographer, was present and took photos of the evening.

Did you know?

You can receive the *Masonic Messenger* up to a week sooner than it will arrive in your mailbox. Go to the www.glofga.org website, scroll down a little way and click on *Masonic Messenger* button on the right side of the page. If you like reading the *Messenger* online, click on the button just below that button to receive the *Masonic Messenger* by email. It will be automatically sent to your computer a week before your Brothers receive it in the mail. You can be "in the know" before your Brothers!

News from the Masonic Home

Brethren,

I hope everyone had the opportunity to read the April *Masonic Messenger*, which contained articles by our graduating seniors. I have spoken many times about our home and the services that we provide, but my words simply cannot express how these young people feel about their home. What they said should make every brother in the State very proud.

In April we had employees from eleven different Publix stores come to our campus for a workday. Materials that were used that day were also provided by Publix. Not only did they do a terrific job, they also provided our children and staff with a wonderful meal. I extend a special thank you to Wes York, the district manager, and all the employees who were involved in this project.

The Masonic Home Alumni met at the home on May 17th. We had a wonderful turnout and a lot of fun. Our oldest Alumni here that day came to the live at the home in 1935 and left after graduating from the University of Georgia in Veterinary Medicine. The Alumni always meet the third Sunday in May, so put it on your calendars for next year and come spend the day with us.

Our summer camp session will begin June 2nd. If any lodges are interested in setting up a function with the children during this time please give us a call and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

In closing I would like to extend many thanks to all the lodges, brothers and their wives for their support of the First Lady Project.

Fraternally,
John J. Snipes



Alumni Day

Publix Serves

Publix was founded on the philosophy of service. Always looking for ways to give back to our community. Our 1st official "Publix Serves" day was April 17th. Each district with Publix (125 districts) was given the opportunity to give back to a selected organization of their choice. Ours happened to be the Masonic Home of Georgia. Atlanta district

02 manager Wes York and his team of volunteers was able to lend a hand with some yard work and clean up. There were 45 volunteers who came that day, a nice rainy day at that, but that didn't stop them. They were there giving back to our community like our founder instilled in all of us.

Publix celebrates the 85th anniversary this year of a phenomenal company that our founder George Jenkins started in 1930. He was a great philanthropist and an entrepreneur. He was extremely involved in numerous organizations both nationally and locally. He was also a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, Shriner, and a Jester. His legacy and culture has been passed

down throughout the years to his family and associates. Publix Super Market Charities was founded in 1966 to help improve communities through youth sports programs, feeding the hungry and many others. The corporation supports five national campaigns: Special Olympics, March of Dimes, Children's Miracle Network, United Way and Food For All.



Publix Volunteers

"Mr. George" as he was known by many was once asked, "if you hadn't given away so much, how much do you think you would be worth today?" Without hesitation, he replied, "Probably nothing."

Discover your Place in Freemasonry

Is Freemasonry worth your best effort? Only you can answer that question. I can't. The brother in your lodge can't. Only you can.

But what I can do and what the brothers in your lodge can do is walk with you as you discover your place in Freemasonry, to be a mentor, to encourage you, to lift you up, to offer suggestions how to do it and to help you up when you stumble, as all of us do from time to time.

Will you be the one who offers his hand and his heart to the brother trying to discover his place in Freemasonry? — Editor

New Video Highlights MSA Hospital Visitation Program

A new video, "Are Ye Able?" has been produced, which provides a contemporary view of MSA's Hospital Visitation Program.

The goal of the video is to inform the Masonic world, as well as non-Masonic audiences, about the tremendous work of Masonic volunteers as they provide assistance for our Military Veterans at more than 150 VA Medical Centers and other Veterans' homes around the country. It is also intended to serve as a method to recruit new volunteers.

Copies of the video on a DVD are available at no charge by contacting the MSA office for use in Masonic districts or regions, where it can be shown multiple times to a variety of groups. **The actual filming of the video was done at the VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, and many of the spokespersons are Georgia Masons.** But the content is generic and appropriate for any state or Grand Lodge.

Grand Master McDonald Makes Official Visit at Chamblee-Sardis Lodge No 444



MSA is also thankful of the assistance received from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and for a grant from Minnesota Masonic Charities that made the production possible.

Wor. Bro. Rick Conn is State Chair for VA Hospital Visitation for the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

To order : Masonic Service Association, 3905 National Drive, Suite 280, Burtonsville, MD 20866. Email: msaoffice@msana.com; Te1: (301) 476-7330; Toll-free: (855) 476-4010.



"People who fly into a rage always have a bad landing." — Bro. Will Rogers.

Lodge of Research No. 8 Meets in Cairo

Lodge of Research No. 8, met at its regular quarterly meeting on Saturday morning May 30. Wor. Bro. Ron Marcinski, Master of the Research Lodge, opened the meeting at 9.00.

The speaker was Wor. Bro. Jerry E. Lang, age 83, who was raised in a Masonic Lodge in Massachusetts and is now a member of Cairo No. 299. Wor. Bro. Lang is a member of the Oak Hill Muskogee Tribe, whom he said whites call the Creek Tribe because they placed their villages along creeks. He said there are 548 tribes in the United States and that his Indian name means "Leader of Bears." He told us Indians gave us tobacco but that it was meant only for ceremonial use. His most interesting topic was Freemasonry among early American Indians.

Lodge of Research No. 8 meets at 9.00, usually at Thomasville Lodge No. 369, on the fifth Saturday of the month. The next meeting will be held at the Thomasville Lodge on Saturday, August 29. Wor. Bro Joe Bolin, a Masonic Home Trustee, will be the speaker. The Annual Communication will be held on Saturday, October 31. at Thomasville Lodge. Right Wor. Bro. Gary Leazer will be the speaker. His

topic will be "The Impact on Freemasonry in Europe and the Japanese-occupied Countries in the 1930s and 1940s."



Wor. Bro. Ron Marcinski, Master of Research Lodge No. 8, thanks Wor. Bro. Jerry E. Lang, "Leader of Bears," for his presentation on Freemasonry among early American Indians.

Wor. Bro. Alexander Loo: From a Humble Beginning to International Recognition

Richard Williamson, Sr.

2014-2015 Worshipful Master of Webb Lodge No. 166.

Do you know a Brother who was the head of an International Masonic Appendant Organization? Well, if you know Wor. Bro. Alexander Loo, Past Master of Social Lodge No. 1 in Augusta, you do. WB Alex Loo is a world traveler and has been known around the country as well as parts of the world since he was Supreme Royal Patron of the



Wor. Bro. Alexander Loo

International Order of the Amaranth. He is active in his Blue Lodge, York Rite, and Scottish Rite and has been honored by the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, and several other of our Appendant Orders. What is interesting is that he is 89 years old.

Alexander was born June 2, 1927 in San Francisco California. In 1928, he and his family traveled to Augusta to seek

employment. Interestingly, the total cost of train transportation for the entire family was \$35. His father and mother found work with the Works Progress Administration which was a government program created to provide jobs and to kick-start the economy. Alex's father's job was planting pine trees and his mother's job involved sewing.

Alexander's father was employed as a janitor at the historic Ezekiel Harris House in Augusta where during the Revolutionary War several colonial "rebels" were hung at the top of the spiral staircase. When Alex was about ten years old he went with his father to "assist" with the cleaning and his job was to sweep the top of that staircase. Alexander received training in a WPA program which taught auto mechanics and he received valuable training to start him on a long career as a mechanic.

At the outbreak of World War II Alexander was drafted into the Army having lied about his age; he was seventeen and a half instead of the required eighteen years of age. He served in the Army and Marine Corps for nineteen years. Ten of the nineteen years were served in the Marine Corps. He was stationed mainly in the US in posts including Ft Crowder, Ft Stewart, and Ft Gordon where he was with the 250th Anti-Artillery Battalion of a Mechanized Division.

After leaving the military Alexander opened a neighborhood grocery store in South Augusta. In 1970 during the race riots in Augusta his store along with several other Chinese businesses were burned to the ground. A prominent Mason, a member of Martinez Lodge No. 710 and member of the Valley of Augusta, approached Alexander and Belinda

and offered to pay their house payments until they could get back on their feet. This example of generosity and Charity and Relief which is one of the most important tenants of Freemasonry had a tremendous impact on Alexander and began a history for himself of giving back. Just this year he donated a new piano to Martinez Lodge No 710. Piano playing is a hobby of his having learned to play the piano and organ after he retired.

Shortly after the destruction of his business he began working for the Richmond County Board of Education's Department of Transportation on heavy vehicles. He taught auto mechanics for many years. He was instrumental in bringing Augusta's school buses up to meet federal standards.

Alexander married to his wife Belinda sixty-three years ago. They met when Alexander was vacationing in New Jersey just after his father passed away. He was introduced to Belinda through a friend. Alexander returned to Augusta and he and Belinda carried on a letter-writing and brief visit courtship for about five years after which time Alexander "kidnapped" Belinda (her words) and brought her to Augusta where they have lived together since. They have two children a boy and a girl both retired from the US Navy. Alexander's son was an aviator and a Blue Angel. He lives in the Augusta area. Alexander's daughter is employed in a field related to her military career and lives in Maryland.

Alexander is a member of the First Baptist Church of Augusta and currently serves the congregation by driving senior citizens to and from services.

Alexander served as Grand Royal Patron of Georgia International Order of the Amaranth in 1985-86, and in 1988, he was contacted by Bret Toland of Arkansas who at that time was progressing into the Supreme Officers line of the International Order of the Amaranth. She asked him to travel together with her on the path that would lead to his being elected Supreme Royal Patron. This would be a four year journey and would require significant financial resources. As Supreme head of the organization they traveled to every state in the United States that had Amaranth Courts. They also visited England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Philippines, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. While in London, being a York Rite Mason, he was invited to tour the York Rite Building which was open only to members. During his four year journey to the top the Amaranth raised five million dollars toward Diabetes Research. A grant from funds raised during that time was given to the doctor that invented the Insulin Pump.

Alexander has served as the National Treasurer of the Sons of the Spanish American War Veterans Association and as its National President in 1996 and 1997 was instrumental in getting the Commemorative Stamp "Remember the Maine"

100th Anniversary
32¢ Stamp issued
by the US Postal
Service.
Alexander's uncle
served in that war
and was a recipient
of the Medal of
Honor.



Alexander and Belinda have continued to travel after his Amaranth journey. They visited Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, France and Germany in 2010. In 2012 they went to China where they were conducted on a tour of unusual places, including the Museum of Antiquities in Shanghai, along with visiting Beijing to see the pointed mountains and the Great Wall. In 2013 he and Belinda went to Canada and Spain where they were able to tour the magnificent cathedral currently being built in Mejordada del Campo. Construction began in 1961 and currently is about 75% complete.

Alexander's grandfather was a Freemason in China, but his father was not. His Masonic resume is lengthy:

Blue Lodge: Wor. Bro. Loo was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Social Lodge No. 1 in Augusta on April 30, 1966. He served his Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1990. In 1996 he served as the Worshipful Master of the 10th Masonic District. In 2005 He received the E. Alton Rogers Award (10th District Mason of the year). From 1997 thru 2007 he served as a Trustee for the Masonic Hall of Augusta. He is also a Charter member of the Georgia Lodge of Research and is a member of the South Carolina Lodge of Research where he presented a paper in 1992 entitled "Masonry in China."

Scottish Rite: Wor. Bro. Loo served the Augusta Scottish Rite Bodies as Venerable Master for two years (1989 and 1990). He received the Ralph N. Studdard Award (Augusta Scottish Rite Mason of the Year) in 1996. He served as a Trustee for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia from 2001 to 2012, and served as President of the Foundation in 2007 and 2008. For many years he has served on the Executive Committee of the Augusta Scottish Rite Bodies. He received the J.P. McMichael Award in 1988 and 1998. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society. He 1985 he was invested with the rank and dignity of Knight Commander Court of Honour (K.C.C.H.), and was Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary (33°) in 1993.

York Rite: Wor. Bro. Loo is an active member of Augusta Chapter No. 1 and served as its High Priest in 1984. He was Illustrious Master of Adoniram Council No. 1 in 1984 and Eminent Commander of the Augusta Commandery in 1984. In 1986 he was 10th District High Priest. He was the Prior of Georgia Priory No. 39 in 1996. He is a Charter member of Luther Palmer York Rite College. From 1999 to 2009 Wor. Bro. Loo was the Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye

Foundation – Augusta. He was created Knight Commander of the Temple in 2000. He received awards from the Georgia Grand Commander in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. He received the Knight Crusader of the Cross in 2003 and was the recipient of the Cryptic Mason of the Year Award in 2008. He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

Red Cross of Constantine: In 2002 he was Sovereign of Alexander Conclave in Augusta and received the Athelstan Nobility Jewel in 2007 and in 2012 he received the Red Branch of Erie. He is also a member of New Covenant Conclave in Macon. Alexander Conclave, named for Bro. Alexander Loo, is the only one named for a living member of the Order.

Order of the Amaranth, International: Wor. Bro. Loo is a member of Unity Court No. 21 of Augusta and was their Royal Patron for five years. He was elected Grand Royal Patron of Georgia in 1984 and was elected Supreme Royal Patron of the Supreme Council in 1992. He served as a Supreme Trustee of the Supreme Council from 1993 to 2001. He served as a Director of the Georgia Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetic Research Foundation (JDRF) from 2004 to 2008.

Shrine: Wor. Bro. Loo has been a member of ALEE Shrine since 1966. In 1968 he was the Adjutant of the Augusta Shrine and was one of ALEE's Ambassadors in 1970. He has been a Charter member of ALEE Legion of Honor Unit (Military Veterans) since 1969 and received the LOH Merit Award in 1974.

National Sojourners: He is a member of Clarence Cohen Chapter in Augusta and has served as its President five times (1997-1999, and 2000).

Member of and Honors of other organizations: He is a member of Khorassen Grotto, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, White Shrine of Jerusalem and served as Deputy Supreme Watchman of Shepherds in 2004 and 2005, Allied Masonic Degrees-Georgia College of Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (SRICF), Knight Masons of Georgia and Knight Masons of South Carolina.

Rainbow and DeMolay: He is a recipient of the International Order of Rainbow's highest Honor – the 'Grand Cross of Color.' He served on the Executive Committee of the Augusta DeMolay Chapter for five years and is also a recipient of the International Order of DeMolay's highest Honor the 'Honorary Legion of Honor.'

Since his humble beginnings, Wor. Bro. Alexander has been known for his generosity and humility. He has a history of active service to our Fraternity, his church and community, sharing his time, energy and monetary resources; all without the slightest expectation of recognition or reward. He is an inspiration to all that know him.

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."

- Benjamin Franklin

100th Anniversary: An Open Letter to Georgia's Freemasons

Eugene A. Hayes, III, 33°
Chief Development Officer
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

In 1915, a tradition in healthcare just for kids began in two rented bungalows at 321 West Hill Street in Decatur, Ga. The original 20 beds gave indigent, crippled children a place to recover after orthopaedic surgery at no charge to their families. As a Scottish Rite Mason, I couldn't be prouder that this group helped make the vision of a community pediatric hospital a reality all those years ago.



Old Scottish Rite Hospital in Decatur, Georgia
at 321 West Hill Street

Originally inspired by the work of Michael Hoke, M.D., Mrs. William C. "Bertie" Wardlaw led the two-year effort to open a free hospital for crippled children in the early part of the 20th century. With the help of Wardlaw's close friend and financier Mr. Forrest Adair and the Scottish Rite Masons, Scottish Rite Convalescent Home for Crippled Children opened Sept. 15, 1915. Previously, Dr. Hoke had been providing free orthopaedic care for children at the Wesley Memorial Hospital on Auburn Avenue and Courtland Street. However, only two beds were available for patients, and space was extremely limited.

Since the beginning, this community pediatric hospital has been blessed with Masonic support. With two weeks left prior to the grand opening, the hospital was running out of funds, despite numerous fundraising efforts and generous contributions made that year.

The Masons sat down for a two-hour business meeting that resulted in members donating an additional \$ 95,300.

Within four years, an additional 30 beds were added to meet the community's growing needs. The 50-bed orthopaedic surgical facility was renamed Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children to recognize its expanding medical services. While the building no longer operates as a children's hospital, the original property is listed on the U.S. National Register as Atlanta's population expanded north of

the city, the hospital's location in Decatur became less accessible. By 1969, the original Scottish Rite building had been in operation for 50 years, and the facilities were in need of expansion and updates.

In 1976, the hospital moved from Decatur, Ga. and opened as Scottish Rite Children's Hospital in North Atlanta thanks to a donation of land from Wilbur Glenn, a Mason, and his family. The new 50-bed facility came with additional services such as a four-bed Further expansion occurred in 1983 with the addition of 96 beds and a clinical outpatient building. On Sept. 15, 1989, the hospital was renamed again to the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Hospital for Children in honor of the couple who originally donated the land in north Atlanta, while the holding company became the Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center.

In 1998, Scottish Rite and Henrietta Egleston Memorial Hospital merged to form Children's RiteCare[®] Speech-Language Clinic. In 2009, the Scottish Rite Masons generously pledged funds to create an endowment in support of the RiteCare[®] Speech-Language Clinic at Scottish Rite.

Children like Lucy Kirkland depend on the RiteCare[®] Clinic for a variety of pediatric specialty services. Two years ago, Lucy was adopted by the Kirkland family from an orphanage on the outskirts of a small town in China. Hers was a silent world, until her new family brought her to home to Atlanta and then to Children's where Lucy received a life-changing cochlear implant. In January 2014, her journey to sound and speech began with activation of the implant, and today, five-year-old Lucy is thriving! You watch her story online at <https://vimeo.com/album/2682829>.

Throughout our hospital, your gifts bring happiness to countless patients and their families year round. The Atlanta Hospitaliers recycle bottles and cans and use the proceeds to purchase iPads for the RiteCare[®] Speech-Language Clinic for therapy sessions. The Appalachian Mountain Association fulfills a Christmas "wish list" for the third and fourth floors. The Cobb County Association provides a costume to every patient, so they can still celebrate Halloween, despite being hospitalized. Also, an effort is underway to have at least 100 Masons donate \$100 to march in the annual Children's Christmas parade (Contact Ross Laver at the Valley of Atlanta 404-873-3659 to participate). Whatever gift or service you provide, you are making a difference.

A hundred years later, the Scottish Rite Masons' continued support has helped grow a once small "cottage" hospital into a nationally recognized pediatric healthcare system for the children of Georgia. Today, Children's includes three hospitals, 25 neighborhood locations and Marcus Autism Center. Children's serves kids from all 159 counties in Georgia and handles more than 877,000 patient visits each year.



Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia, today

Beloved brethren, you should be proud of the impact you have had on Georgia's kids for the past 100 years. Our origins began with you, and we would not be able to provide high quality care to sick and injured children today, regardless of ability to pay, without your support. Dr. Hoke is quoted as saying, "This little institution fills a long-needed want. I believe it will amount to a big thing eventually." Indeed something "big" has come from our inspired beginning with Masonic support. And what more can we can do for children with your continued generosity!

Visit www.choa.org/100years to learn more about our last century, and please share your story of how you have been a part of our history.

4th Annual Cove Waterfall Degree Held Three Candidates Raised

The 4th annual Cove Waterfall Outdoor Degree near Jasper was held on May 23. Wor. Bro. Neil Henry Southern and his officers from Ball Ground Lodge No. 261 opened lodge in perfect form at 4 p.m. Past Masters of Ball Ground Lodge led in the Master Mason degree with Wor. Bro. Carl T. Popdon serving as Worshipful Master.

The three candidates were Brian Charles Shield and William D. Cochran, candidates from Marble Hill No. 207, and Bryan Goodwin, a candidate from Ball Ground Lodge.

Rockwell Lodge No. 191 won the Traveling Gavel for having come the farthest. Ninety-nine Master Masons

registered for the event. Thirty-six Past Masters were present as were 24 Veterans.

Grand Lodge officers present were Most Worshipful Douglas W. McDonald, Grand Master; Right Worshipful Drew Lane, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Warden; Most Worshipful PGM Bobby B. Simmons, Grand Treasurer; Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain; Wor. Bro. Mark Bradley, Grand Marshal; Wor. Bro. Mike Wilson, Senior Grand Deacon; and Wor. Bro. Jan Giddens, First Grand Steward.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR CHILDREN IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

Either or both of the following provisions can be added to your will or trust to make a bequest to your Masonic charities.

To provide for the endowment of the Children's Home:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Masonic Home of Georgia located at Macon, Georgia, _____ dollars to be placed in the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund as established by the Masonic Code of Georgia, Section, Section 6-102.

To support the GACHIP program, Eagle Scout Awards, DeMolay, Rainbow and other youth programs as well as other Masonic Charities:

I give, devise and bequeath to Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc., a Georgia corporation, located at Macon, Georgia, _____ dollars.

Please provide a copy of the foregoing provisions you wish to use to the attorney who prepares your will or trust.

Dallas Lodge No. 182 Holds Family Night

Thursday night, May 7, was a special night at Dallas Lodge No. 182 as a large crowd gathered for the annual family night, including the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Douglas McDonald, Sr. and seven of his Grand Lodge officers.

Wor. Bro. Eddie Gurley, Grand Chaplain, and his two sons, Wor. Bro. Matt Gurley and Bro. Garrett Gurley, escorted the Grand Master into the lodge.

Also present was Past Grand Master Edgar Land and his Lady Barbara and Wor. Bro. John Snipes, Superintendent of the Masonic Home, as well as three wives of Grand Lodge officers.



After a wonderful meal with more delicious desserts than we could eat, we moved to the lodge room for several awards and presentations, where Wor. Bro. Ricky A. Watson formally welcomed all to the family night.

Grand Master McDonald presented four brothers their 50-year awards. (Their photos and names can be found on page 22.)

(Left) Wor. Bro. John Snipes presented a special award to the Rev. D. G. Fowler, who sent techs to the Masonic Home and donated the new lighting in the lobby, an important part of the project by the First Lady and her Ladies.

Dallas Fellowcraft Club at Nelms Lodge No. 323



The Dallas Fellowcraft Club assisted Nelms Lodge No. 323 on a Master Mason degree on May 30.

The officers of Nelms Lodge did the first section of the degree with excellent form while the Dallas Fellowcraft Club performed the dramatization of the Hiram Legend in the second section of the degree. Brother Salvatore Esposito was Nelms' Candidate.

Past Grand Master A. Ray Earwood (1988) played the part of King Solomon in the dramatization and did a charge in the degree. He is a member of Nelms Lodge.

18 / June 2015



(Above) Wor. Bro. Phil Jones Pearce, Jr., webmaster for Dallas Lodge No. 182 and an all-around hard worker in the lodge, was named the 2015 Mason of the Year at Dallas Lodge. Tanya Pearce looks on.

The apron and photo of Wor. Bro. David Brown, a much loved lodge treasurer was unveiled to hang behind the treasurer's station in the lodge room.

Bro. Mike Cason, city councilman, presented a certificate on behalf of the mayor naming May 7 Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. Day in Dallas.

Grand Master McDonald spoke briefly and thanked the lodge for their warm reception and gracious hospitality.

Franklin Lodge No. 11 Holds Family Night

Franklin Lodge No. 11 held a family night on May 14 at Miss Jane's Restaurant in Warrenton. Twenty-one were present with the Ladies outnumbering the Brothers. Right Worshipful Brother Gary Leazer, Senior Grand Warden, and his Lady Ruth were special guests. He spoke briefly and presented a plaque to Wor. Bro. William Larry Johnson who was named Mason of the Year at Franklin Lodge.



"He that riseth late must trot all day." — Bro. Benjamin Franklin.

50 Year Awards



Theodore Chester Lisenby with RWB Joseph Watson
Macon No. 5



Otis Eugene Ammons with
PGM E. Ray Knittell
Marion No. 14



Douglas Alton Anderson
Philomatheia No. 25



Carl Lawson Yeargin
Philomatheia No. 25



George Waldon Garriss, Jr.
Kennessaw No. 33



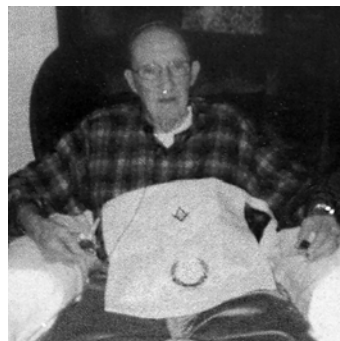
James Allen Hill, Sr.
Clinton No. 54



Ernest Edward Clark
Oothcaloga No. 154



Lanier Cobb
with PGM Danny Reed
Snellville No. 99



James Hollis Abernathy
Adairsville No. 168



On April 12, Cornelia Masonic Lodge No. 92 had the pleasure of honoring Brother Larry Warren and Brother Mack Baird for 50 years of service to Freemasonry. Many family members were there with Brothers Warren and Baird to help them celebrate.

MWB Douglas W. McDonald, Grand Master, conducted the ceremony which included the gift of a Masonic apron, a document commemorating their 50 years and a pin. Pictured are from left: Charles Warren, Wor. Master; Brother Warren; Brother Baird; and Most Worshipful McDonald.



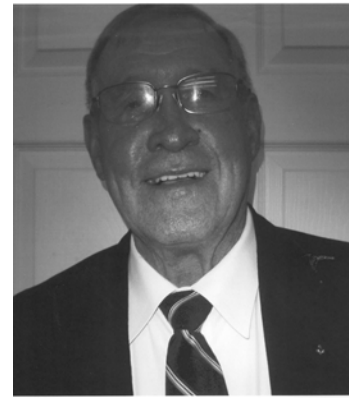
Frankie Morris Christian
Dallas No. 182



Georgia Franklin McGuire
Dallas No. 182



Jerry Delano Shelton
Dallas No. 182



Robert Bearden
Tunnel Hill No. 202



Howell Rogers Strickland
Dallas No. 182



Paul Edward Quick with son Ronnie
& MWB McDonald at Gordon No. 240



Ronald Henry Swanson
Tennille No. 254



William (Sonny)
Icalia Dixon III,
left, and
Raymond Dou-
glas Grimes of
Gordon No. 240 -
PGM Bobby B.
Simmons pre-
sented the
awards.



John Robert Freeman
John H. Jones No. 348



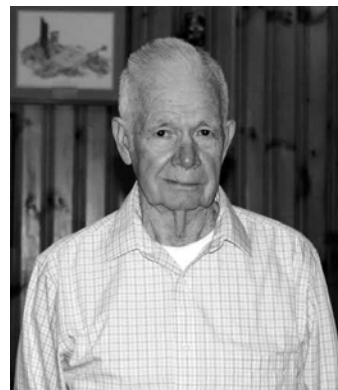
Johnny Broome
Sand Hill No. 350



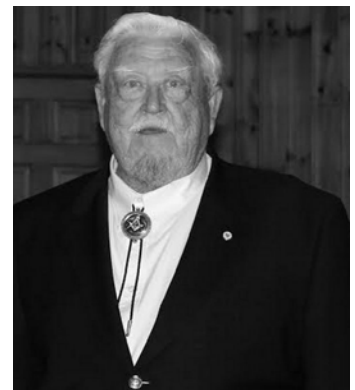
Wyman Autry
Plainview No. 364



William Eugene Fields
Forest Park No. 399



Bruce Holden Payne
Forest Park No. 399



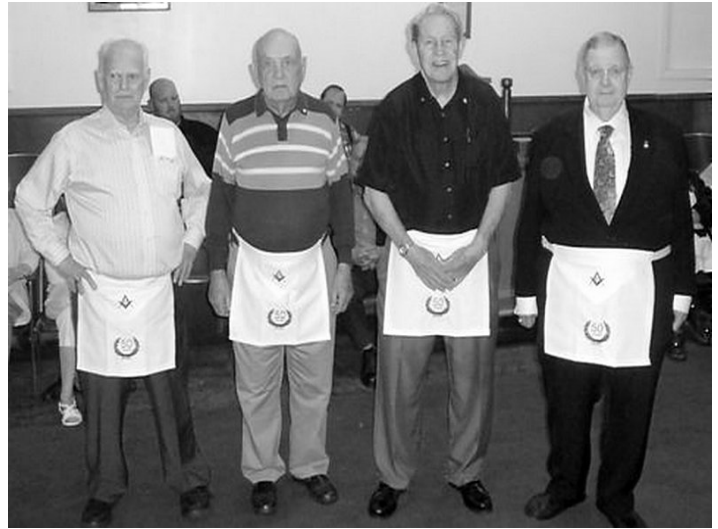
Johnny Ellis Self
Forest Park No. 399



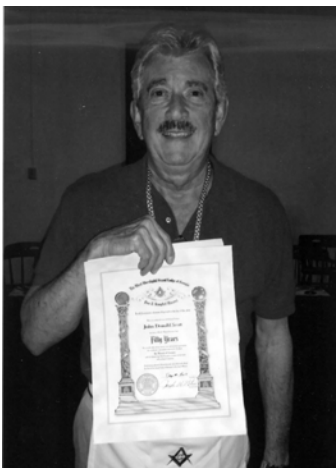
Bud "Lige" Cook
Lakeland No. 434



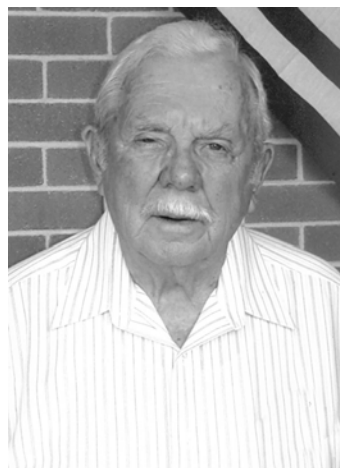
Billy Stewart
Pembroke No. 469



James Radean Blanton, Claude Edward Hart, J.D.Dawson,
George Cheatham Lawrence P.M.
Hapeville No. 590



Jack Donald Scott
Newington No. 503



Russell Pierce Harp
Battle Hill No. 523



W. G. "Skeet" Dumas
Ben Hill No. 674



George Ronald Hill
Ben Hill No. 674

Most Worshipful Brother Joseph P. Suttles, PGM, a member of Ben Hill Lodge, presented these two Brothers their 50-year awards.



David Gartell Lemacks
Riverdale No. 709



Ottis R. Everette
Moody No. 719

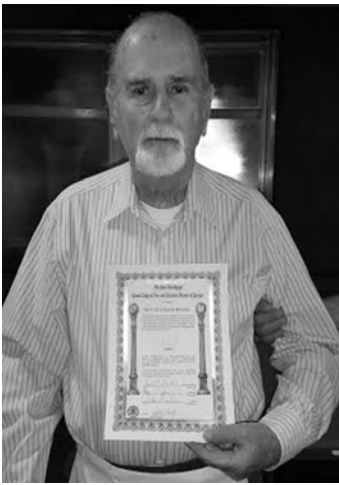


Ralph S. Hitchcock
Moody No. 719



James Kenneth Jenkins
Mountain Park No. 729

60 Years



Billy Sylvester Brown
Mornin Star No. 27



Harvel Vinson Estes
Morning Star No. 27



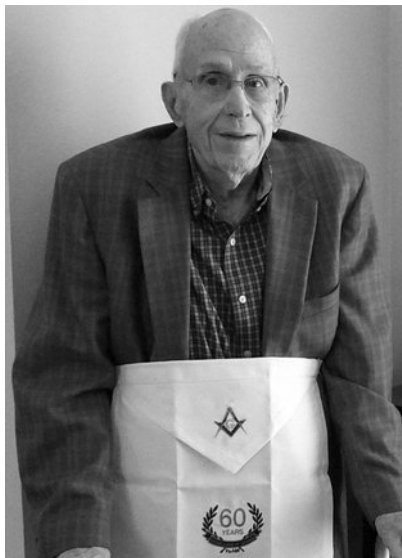
Willie Calvin Smith
Morning Star No. 27



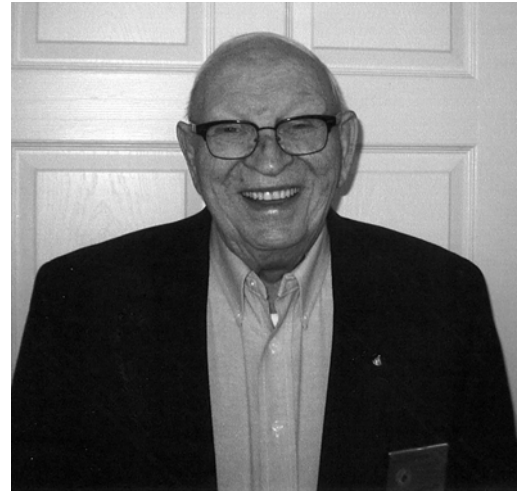
Jack Johnston
Kennesaw No. 33



William E. Stripling
ChIPLEY No. 40
with Past Grand Tyler
Franklin Davenport



Carl Sammy Williams
Laurens No. 75



John H. Sponberger
Tunnel Hill No. 202



Jimmie Charles Hill
Hapeville No. 590



Roy Benjamin Drummond
Lindale No. 455



Clyde Bryant
Zingara No. 519

60 Years



Carl "Sammy" Williams
Laurens No. 75

with Wor. Bro. Ken Snyder, DDGM, and family



Shelly Cook
Moultrie No. 381

Toombs DeMolay Chapter Holds Historic Meeting at Vidalia Lodge No. 330

-- by Larry Griggers, Chairman, Youth Council, Grand Lodge of Georgia

Toombs DeMolay Chapter, newly formed in 2014, made history on June 8 when they opened, conducted their business and closed their meeting during the "Work & Lectures" segment of Vidalia Lodge No. 330's regular meeting.

The brethren at Vidalia Lodge wanted to show their support for the young Chapter by making a donation, but the Chapter, which is sponsored by nearby Lyons Lodge No. 49, meets on the same night as Vidalia Lodge. The Master came up with a unique solution and invited the young DeMolays to hold their meeting "within" the Vidalia Lodge meeting.

DeMolay Master Councilor Denny Garner immediately agreed. "We welcome the support off all the lodges in the Toombs County area," he said. But the pressure was on. Never before had anyone ever heard of having a DeMolay Chapter meeting inside a Masonic Lodge meeting.

For the meeting, the regular officers stepped up a chair and the Senior Warden, Bro. Keegan Spell, sat in the East, which was a special treat for him since he also serves on the Toombs Chapter Adult Advisory Council but had not been able to attend the DeMolay meetings in the past due to the conflict in the lodge and chapter meeting time.

For weeks leading up to the meeting the young men met and practiced, wanting to put their best foot forward for this historical opportunity. In my capacity as the Chapter Dad, I was there to introduce them, and I told the brethren that some of the young men were filling in for the regular officers and might have to refer to their ritual manuals (unlike Blue Lodges, the DeMolay's rituals are written down). But to my surprise, the young men opened and closed their Chapter completely from memory and without skipping a beat!

"I am so proud of these young men," I was led to tell those



assembled. "A year ago they did not know who Jacques DeMolay was or what being a DeMolay meant, and here they are acting like veteran DeMolays with many years of experience!"

"These guys are really good at their work and so well disciplined," remarked one of the Masons from Vidalia Lodge after seeing the young men take care of business.

"Many of my members came up to me after the meeting and said they were really impressed with how DeMolay helps to bring out the best in these young men," the Master told me after their meeting.

DeMolay is open to young men 12 to 21 and it is okay for the members or anyone to recruit young men to join a DeMolay Chapter. Both DeMolay and Rainbow are officially sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Georgia and the Youth Council is Grand Lodge's liaison to these youth groups. If your Lodge is interested in sponsoring a DeMolay Chapter for young men or a Rainbow Assembly for young ladies, feel free to contact me (lgriggers@gmail.com / 770-853-5014) or your Youth Council District Representative.

65 Years



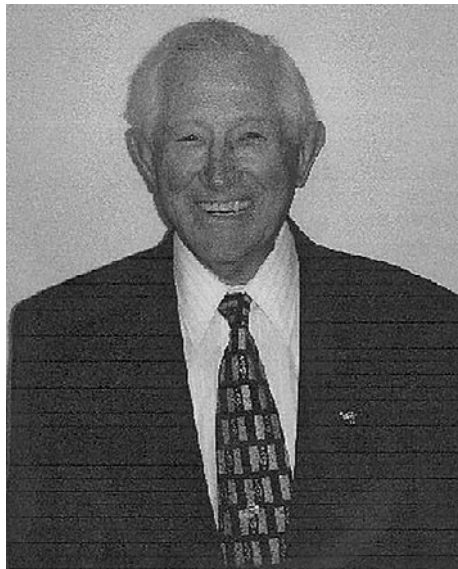
Russ Mathuss
Kennesaw No. 33



William L. Duvall
San Marino No. 34



Cecil Cribbs
Pembroke No. 469



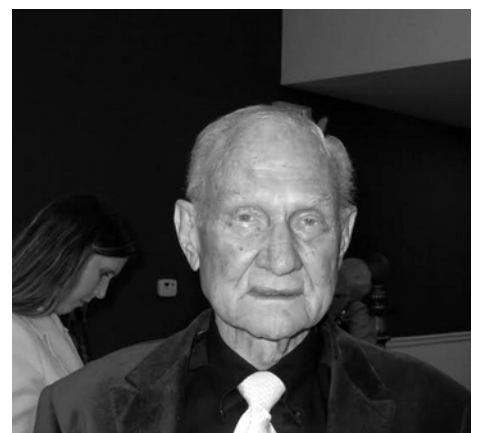
Don Lee Barker
Wolihin No. 390



Henry Doyle Nash Jr.
Bremen No. 456



Travis Leon Boles, Sr.
Duluth No. 480

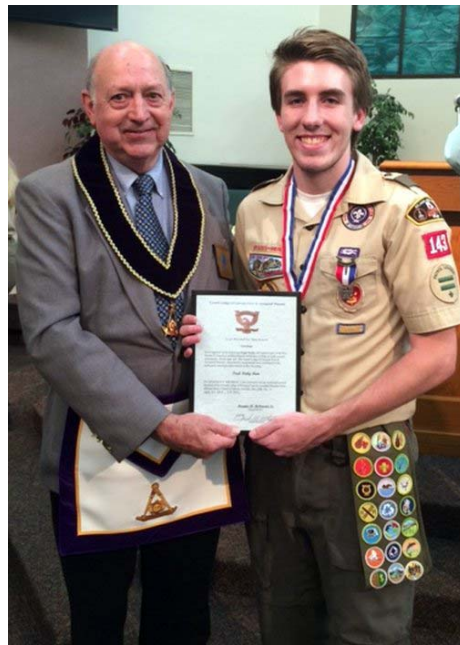


Eugene Albert Brown
Duluth No. 480

Eagle Scouts Received Masonic Recognition



Wor. Bro. Dexter Harrison, DDGM, presents Trevor Toms a Grand Lodge Award for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout



Wor. Bro. Dexter Harrison, DDGM, presents Paul Kirby Bain a Grand Lodge Award for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout

“It ain’t no disgrace to lose out, but to fall down and lie there and grunt is.”
 – John Billings, quoted in the *Masonic Home Messenger*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (January 1924).

Georgia/South Carolina Lodges Hold Exchange

Under special dispensation from both Grand Lodges, Hudson Lodge No. 294 in Commerce and Recovery Lodge No. 31 AFAM in Greenville, SC are holding a dual State Degree Swap. Recovery Lodge No. 31 traveled to Hudson Lodge No. 294 on Saturday, May 30, and conferred the Ancient Master's Degree on two of their candidates. In exchange, Hudson Lodge No. 294 will travel to Recovery Lodge No. 31 on Saturday, June 20, to confer the Georgia Uniform Master's Degree on two of our candidates.

When Recovery Lodge No. 31 traveled to Hudson Lodge No. 294 there were 58 Master Masons in attendance representing 25 lodge from four states. States represented were Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida. Grand Lodge representatives included RWB Scott A. Matheny DDGM 18th District of the GLOFSC, RWB Mark A. Bennett Grand Steward of the GLOFSC, and Wor. Bro. Larry Boozer, DDGM 9G of the GLOFGA.



Lawrenceville No. 131 and Gwinnett Daylight No. 744 Join Forces to Hold GaCHIP Event

The two lodges joined forces to hold a successful GaCHIP event during a city-wide event at a local park. Fifty-five children were ID'd on a beautiful Saturday in May. GaCHIP events are a great way to advertise who Masons are.



“HE PLUCKED OFF HIS SHOE...”

Masonic Service Association of North America

<http://www.calodges.org>

In the Master’s Lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree, we learn that in ancient Israel it was customary for a man to “pluck off his shoe and give it to his neighbor” in order “to confirm all things.” We further learn that as Masons we have adopted this custom, to demonstrate the “sincerity of our intentions in the business in which we are engaged.”

Why would plucking off of one’s shoe be a confirmation of anything? We do it all the time. Many of us have even given shoes to an unfortunate child, or given shoes to charitable organizations to help the destitute. There is nothing really uncommon in the act of plucking off our shoes and giving them away. Or is there? To us today, perhaps not. But it should.

The Book of Ruth in the Holy Bible is a thought-provoking story. Among the many lessons it contains is the story of Boaz and Ruth. Boaz wanted to marry Ruth, the widow of Mahlon. Boaz wanted to purchase a piece of land in order that he might wed Ruth. To confirm the land purchase, Boaz “plucked off his shoe.” Boaz then told the elders that they were witnesses to this purchase.

“Moreover,” he told the elders, “Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place.”

Boaz then plucked off his shoe. This was a simple but significant act, because for a man to give up his shoes in ancient Israel meant that he had to walk barefoot over hot, rough and rocky ground. It meant that he was giving up an important portion of his creature comforts. To regain his shoe, he had to fulfill his pledge. In plucking off his shoe, Boaz was pledging his honor, just as until recent times a business deal could be confirmed by a handshake. Some decades ago the extending of the right hand proved that a man came in peace. So the extending and joining of right hands became a friendly gesture.

Every man who enters Freemasonry plucks off his shoe. In doing so, you made a solemn pledge to keep all the obligations you assumed as you advanced in the Craft, one degree at a time. Have you kept this pledge? Of course you haven’t. Nor have I. No human being can. But the important thing we have to ask ourselves is: “Have I tried? Have I plucked off my shoe since I was initiated?”

Let’s look at some men who did pluck off their shoes as they worked as servants of Freemasonry. President Harry S. Truman plucked off his shoe on many occasions for the Craft. Although his biographers rarely mention his connection with the Craft, Truman often let the world know he was proud to be a Freemason. He was prouder of his election to the office of Grand Master of Masons in Missouri than he was of any elective political office he attained.

During World War II, the Masonic Service Association of the United States was raising funds from the various Grand Lodges in order to support and assist servicemen and women at home and overseas. Harry S. Truman, while Senator, Vice President, and later President of the United States, plucked off his shoe numerous times in fund-raising efforts for the programs of the MSA. Twice President Truman used his influence to permit a committee to travel overseas to help Freemasons in war torn countries. He often endorsed and praised the work of the Masonic Service Association in its Hospital Visitation Program to Veterans Hospitals, and in its relief of distressed Masons in Europe.

Another man who plucked off his shoe was the Reverend George Taft, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. During the anti-Masonic craze in the 1820’s and 1830’s, he stood by the Craft in its darkest hour. He openly avowed his connection with the institution and traveled long distances to attend and read the funeral service for deceased Masons. He built respect for the Craft, and at the time of his death the entire town was in mourning. He had proven that a man who stands by his principles is the man who eventually will be honored and respected. The man who plucks off his shoe and gives it to his neighbor is the man who learns and puts into practice the tenets of Freemasonry.

A brief story will illustrate what we mean here. In a small town in mid-19th century America a young man said to his wife, “Mary, you have a shawl you never use. May I have it?” She was puzzled for a few moments, but got the shawl. He thanked her and left the house. She was also suspicious, because several evenings during the past few months he had left after dinner without any explanation. He was never gone long, and when he returned he seemed to have an inner peace about him. He said nothing, and neither did she.

About a week later, Mary was shopping in the village when she saw her shawl again. She was shocked. It was on the shoulders of a beautiful young lady. Angrily Mary followed the girl to a shabby shack. Mary knocked on the door. The girl opened it and smiled when she saw the visitor. She held the door open and Mary stomped in. As Mary looked around she saw an elderly lady propped up on a cot.

The lady smiled and said: “How nice of you to visit us.” Mary was stunned. She did not really know what to say. The girl asked if she could fix her a cup of tea. Mary nodded and the girl turned to put a kettle on the stove. While the water was heating, Mary said, “I do not know exactly what to say, so I will tell you the truth. I saw my shawl on your daughter and I was furious. Last week my husband asked me for it, but didn’t tell me why. I still don’t understand how you have it.”

The mother said “We have no idea who left it. We have

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

no idea who has been doing some nice things for us for the past several months. It started soon after my husband died. We had no money and I am unable to work.

And Nancy couldn't find a job. We were desperate. We had no food and no fuel. Then one morning when Nancy opened the door she found several packages of food, clothing and coal on the doorstep. You have no idea what that meant to us.

"A short time later, along with more packages, Nancy found a note telling her to see Mr. Tompkins, the lawyer, if she would like a job. She did and Mr. Tompkins hired her. Someone sent a doctor to see me; he has been coming regularly ever since. And he won't take any money. And we still find packages, but have no idea where they come from." They drank their tea and chatted pleasantly for some time. The mysterious packages were mentioned from time to time. Suddenly Mary asked: "Was your husband a Mason?" "Yes, he was," said the lady. "He loved his Lodge. I don't think he ever missed a meeting." A short time later Mary left, promising to visit often.

After dinner that evening, Mary worked on a quilt she was making while her husband read. She looked up from her work and said "I think I learned the great secret of Masonry today." Her husband looked at her with alarm and asked, "And what is it?" Mary answered, "To do good and not say anything about it."

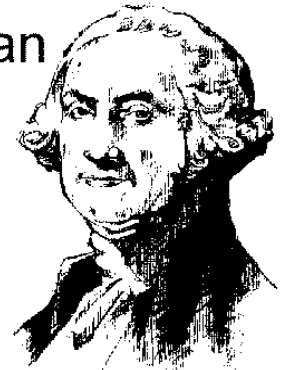
The Masons of that small town had plucked off their

shoes to help those in need. SHOULD WE DO ANYTHING LESS? Millions of great men have been and are members of the Craft. Many have become truly Master Masons. But more have not. Actually, only a few Freemasons over the years literally plucked off a shoe and worked for the Fraternity. Imagine what a wonderful difference it would make throughout the world if only those millions who have received the Degrees would fulfill their obligations.

Will you ask yourself: "Have I sincerely plucked off my shoe in testimony of my fidelity to Freemasonry?" If your answer is "No," will you consider plucking off your shoe? Will you work for your fellowman through Freemasonry? If you will, you'll make a difference for the better in today's uncertain world.

George Washington

Great American
Great Mason



The Educational and Historical Commission

Brian C. Coffey

Shortly before the 2014 Grand Lodge session, I was contacted by Most Worshipful Brother Gary D. Lemmons who asked me if I would accept appointment to the Educational and Historical Commission. While I felt that I was not of the caliber of the members of this Commission, I readily accepted. After the Grand Lodge session, I mentioned to some of the Brethren of my Lodge and other Lodges around Augusta that I had been honored with this appointment, several of them asked, "What is the Educational and Historical Commission? I will try to answer that question here.

The Educational and Historical Commission (E&H) is described in Section 2-209 of the Masonic Code of Georgia. It consists of nine members and "The purpose of the commission shall be to stimulate Masonic education in its symbols, philosophy, and history by publications, programs or otherwise." The Commission is charged with developing plans for Masonic Education and providing all necessary materials for this training. All materials used by the Masonic Education and Leadership Development (MELD) Commission are vetted and approved by the E&H Commission as are all publications. The E&H Commission is also responsible for approving any special Aprons and buttons, such as the 25 and 50

year awards, Committee Aprons (i.e. GACHIP, Trustees, etc.) and other requests to use Masonic emblems to advertise Fund Raisers, etc.

The E&H Commission is, "...vested with the authority to encourage, foster and charter local Lodges of Research and to prepare and publish programs for the education and advancement of the craft and all other prerogatives necessary for the achievement of Masonic Light."

Currently, the E&H Commission is working on several projects, in addition to vetting requests for review of materials from throughout the Jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge of Georgia 1786 – 1980 is being reviewed and digitized for use on eReaders and computers. A Volume Two of The Grand Lodge of Georgia History is being researched and written to bring us from 1980 to the Present. Another project is the Indexing of all past issues of the Masonic Messenger to aid in research for Lodges of Research and individual Brethren. The Commission is also working to gather Lodge Histories of all Lodges in the Jurisdiction. This is just a portion of the duties and responsibilities of the Educational and Historical Commission. I hope that the Brethren now have a better understanding of the role of this important Commission.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Greetings from the **Valley of Columbus**. Scottish Rite Freemasonry is alive and well in the River City. The Valley of Columbus conferred the 14° Degree at the Grand Masters Class held on May the 30th 2015 in Macon. We congratulate our new Masters of the Royal Secret, Brothers: Johnathon Adam Hall, 32°, Richard James Swain, 32°, James Hall Davis Jr., 32° Nathan Cole Brocksmith, 32°.

We congratulate Illustrious Bro. Bob Poydasheff 33° for his dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America. The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is an honor due to members of the Masonic Lodge who act as role models and provide dedicated service to the young men in the BSA. The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award not only supports the Masonic relationship through the man who brought Scouting to America, but proclaims the integrity of the recipient who is honored by receiving the award.

We invite our Blue Lodge brethren to visit us on any 3rd Friday at 6:30pm and enjoy a free dinner (as a first-time visitor), before each our monthly meetings. Lodge of Perfection 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 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 statewide Reunion have increased the number of Scottish Rite Masons statewide by 81 with Augusta gaining 10 new members. There is not a LOP meeting in the month of July. August is our Awards Night to include, 50 year awards, Scottish Rite Mason of the Year, Double Eagle Awards, Ring and Capping Ceremony for our 2015 Spring Class, Master Craftsman Awards, Scholarships and Educator of the Year Awards will all be presented that evening.

Each year the Valley of Augusta's main fundraiser is Parking and Hospitality during the Master's Golf Tournament, (first full week in April). We have had the same Hospitality Company for the past nine years. This was their last year to use our facility. The **Valley of Augusta** is looking to replace this company beginning April of 2016. If anyone knows of a Company or group who might be interested in leasing our building for that week please contact General Secretary, Gregory Oblak, 33°, at the Scottish Rite Center, 2553 Washington Road, Augusta, Georgia 30904. Email is: scottishrite2553@comast.net. Office telephone is 706-733-5387, Cell telephone is 706-829-1665, Fax is: 706-733-5354, Website is : www.augustascottishrite.org. You may take a virtual tour of the facility on the website. Photos will be updated in the next week or so.

The **Valley of Atlanta** welcomed 47 new Masters of Royal Secret who enjoyed the recent Statewide Class in Macon honoring the Marquis de Lafayette. This successful event welcomed 84 new Scottish Rite Freemasons to the Orient of Georgia. The brothers to travel furthest were from Venezuela which shows the universality of our craft.

To continue in our drive to raise funds for the RiteCare Clinic, the Valley of Atlanta enjoyed a night with the Atlanta Braves. Over 500 tickets were sold with \$6 of each \$12 ticket going to the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia and earmarked for the RiteCare Clin-

ics at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Those who attended walked the field before the game which is significant because the opportunity to do that will soon vanish as the Braves build a new stadium in Cobb (Congested) County. Oh, and thank Braves for the 5 - 4 victory over Dana & Pat Schwarz' Pathetic Pirates.

The next Executive Committee Meeting of the Valley of Atlanta will be Monday June 29th 5pm at the Atlanta Masonic Center. All Scottish Rite Masons are welcome to Attend

The July 2nd Stated meeting will "Celebrate the Patriots". Members of the Council of Kadosh will participate in this event reminding us of those who helped make America what it is and what we enjoy. Dinner will be served at 6:15. The Program will start at 7pm. Please bring family and friends and be sure to make reservations prior to Monday June 29th. Call 404-873-3659. We need to know how many to expect for our annual Hot Dog and Hamburger feast.

On July 4th the Valley of Atlanta will join with Fulton Lodge No. 216 on Peachtree Street with a Hydration Station (water table) for the Peachtree Road Race. It's a fun and rewarding experience to hear runners yelling "Thank You Masons" as they grab a cup of water. Be there by 6am and get front row seat.

On August 6th, the Stated meeting will honor our newest Masters of the Royal Secret with the traditional Ring and Cap Ceremony. In addition, we will honor our Scholarship recipients. The scholarships are the result of the generosity of many brothers and friends who have donated or established trusts naming the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia as beneficiary. Bring Family & Friends and call to make reservations for dinner; 404-873-3659

Will you walk with us to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Scottish Rite Hospital? This year, Scottish Rite Masons will join the CHOA (Children's Healthcare of Atlanta) Parade on Saturday December 5th. Our goal is to have at least 100 brothers, family and friends join us, each donating \$100 to celebrate the 100th year. Meeting that goal means that the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia will donate at least \$10,000 dollars for the RiteCare Clinics which help children with Speech, Language and Hearing Disorders. Please call 404-873-3659 for more details.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Brothers, email is now the primary method of communicating the events and activities of the Valley of Atlanta. If you're not receiving the email we don't have an email address for you or what we have is not correct. At least once a month the Valley sends the VALLEY NEWS via email. If you don't have an email address ask a member of the family if they would be willing to receive email from the Valley for you. Unfortunately, first class mail has become too expensive and unreliable. If you're not getting the VALLEY NEWS via email, please call 404-873-3659.

Join Scottish Rite: If you are Not Yet a member and wish to continue the Learning Journey you started in the Blue Lodge degrees we welcome you. The Valley of Atlanta Fall Reunion will be Nov. 20th & 21st at the Atlanta Masonic Center. Download a petition at www.ATLANTASCOTTISHRITE.org. Look for the link on the left for the Fall Reunion.

The **Scottish Rite of Savannah** looks forward to honoring our new Scottish Rite members from the Statewide LaFayette Class with a Ring Ceremony on July 7. Family Night will be August 4 at the SRC and all Associations will meet during July and August. Have a great Summer!

Veterans Corner

Rick Conn, State Chairman GL Veterans Committee

Brethren, This month I would like to inform you of a service that you may not know about. VVS or Veterans Vocational Services. There is an information session with VVS for Veterans who want to get or keep a job. This program replaces CWT information forum previously held on the 3rd Wednesdays.

These sessions provide info to Veterans interested in Employment, Benefits, Compensated Work Therapy, Training Opportunities, Resume Writing, Job Search, Job Coaching, and much more. Hosted by HCHV, these sessions take place every Tuesday (except weeks with a holiday) from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. at the Building B Reception Desk on the Fort McPherson Campus, 1701 Hardee Avenue. S.E. Atlanta, Ga. 30310. If you have any questions you can call 404-321-6111 ext 7442.

The Entrance to Fort McPherson Campus is from the Main Security Gate located off Lee Street. Veterans Transportation Services (VTS) operates a VA Shuttle to Fort McPherson from the street level bus shed on the west side of the Lakewood/ Fort McPherson MARTA station every 15 minutes starting at 7:00 am. A small Snack Shop with a limited selection is located on the ground floor of Building A. Brother Veterans, if you are looking for a job, help, or training please check out these sessions and see if they can help you.

Another program is the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame. Valor, Achievement, and Service is the motto. Have you heard of this? The objectives of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. (GMVHOF), is a non profit organization [501(c)(3)] that is based and incorporated in Georgia to publicly emphasize the honor brought to our state and nation by the sacrifices of Georgia Military Veterans and their families.

The primary purpose for which the corporation has been organized is exclusively charitable and educational; more specifically, to honor Georgia military veterans and to educate and inform the public of their outstanding accomplishments. Up to fifteen Georgia military veterans will be inducted into the hall of fame each year and awarded the Hall of Fame Medallion (tm) during the annual banquet. Of the fifteen inductees, up to ten will be selected exclusively for their valorous military performance, up to five for their extraordinary achievements, and up to five will be selected for their combined military/civilian service to our community, state, and nation. Up to three of the ten valorous inductees can be Medal of Honor recipients.

The logo visually represents the organization and its relationship to the state of Georgia. The front consists of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame arranged around an image of the state of Georgia. The back consists of the five military services listed in order of founding and surrounding the Veterans' name, USA and Psalms 60:12. ("Through God we shall do valiantly; For He shall tread down our enemies."). The medallion to be presented to the annual Hall of Fame inductees will be in the form of the engraved logo with the inductee's name.

Nomination Criteria is: a) Eligibility: The nominee must have either been born in Georgia, entered military service from Georgia, or lived in Georgia for a minimum of ten straight years. Additionally, he/she must have received an honorable discharge from U.S. Military service, be of good character, and have no felony convictions. Posthumous nominations are encouraged. b) Non-eligibility; To preclude conflict of interest or the appearance thereof, GMVHOF Executive Board members, employees of the GMVHOF including members of GMVHOF special selections committee (SSC), are NOT eligible for consideration to the GMVHOF until three (3) years after they have ceased service.

Nominations: The Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame has established three categories of veterans for entry into the Hall of Fame; Each nomination packet must include \$25.00 for processing expenses. Veterans may be nominated for; a) Category #1; For the valorous actions of a veteran, e.g., receiving any significant awards for valor during an active duty combat tour. b) Category #2; For a significant achievement impacting the military overall. This achievement must have contributed to the improvement of the military in an obvious manner, as confirmed by military recognition to include Certificate of Achievement and or cash awards. c) Category #3: For those who have honorably served in the US Armed Forces, and then contributed exceptionally to community, state and/or nation.

There are over 770,000 military veterans from the great state of Georgia. Many of them contributed greatly to the well being of the United States of America while serving on Active Duty, in the Reserve Forces or the Georgia National Guard. Only a few of those, like the 30 MOH recipients from Georgia, have ever been honored for their VALOR, ACHIEVEMENT or SERVICE. The Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame is dedicated to reviewing and evaluating the Georgia veterans that are nominated by family, friends, or other service members and selecting them for induction. They are our state's finest.

Do you have a Hero that you know that deserves to be in the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame? If you have a family member, Father, Brother, Sister, Aunt, Uncle, etc. neighbor, friend or buddy that you think needs to be recognized, get the nomination packet and send it in. You can get more information either by phone at: 706-302-2220 or online at www.GMVHOF.org.

If you would like to donate to the museum you can do that online as well as by mail to: GMVHOF, PO Box 475 Pine Mountain, Ga. 31822. There are five levels of donations you can give to. 1) Trooper: donations up to \$199 receives a Tax credit and a Thank You letter. 2) Tail Gunner; \$200 and above will receive same as level 1 in addition to a Certificate of Appreciation with the donors name. 3) Patrol Leader: \$500 and above, all of 1 and 2 plus a GMVHOF Challenge Coin with the donors name engraved thereon and one free ticket to that

(Continued next page)

In Memorium

Members Reported Deceased
from April 9, 2015
to May 31, 2015

Name	Lodge No.	Name	Lodge No.
BRADLEY, THOMAS ALEXANDER	1SOL	MCDOWELL, WILLETT EDWIN	086
KYZER, ROY HERMAN	1SOC	SHEFFIELD, JAMES FELTON	086
BROOKS, JOSEPH WILKS	002	SMITH, EMMETT (NMN)	086
HALL, GRAYDON (NMN)	002	MCBROOM, CALVIN PORTER	087
SWEATLAND, CHARLES RUSELL	003	POWELL, THOMAS LEWIS JR	087
HUMPHREYS, CHARLES MICHAEL	006	STEWART, CHOICE MARCELL	087
MADDOX, JAMES WILBURN	007	SHIREY, JASON EDWIN	088
RINER, JOHN WILLIAM	009	KINNEY, CHARLES WILLIAM JR	097
WEINLAND, FLOYD CARLETON	009	LANEY, CLYDE BENJAMIN	097
BIVENS, RALPH LEE	012	FAW, CECIL RAY JR.	105
PHILLIPS, MACK (NMN)	014	TAYLOR, BOBBY WARREN	111
BIEZENBOS, GYSBERTUS HENDRIKUS	015	YOUNG, SETH TAYLOR	111
NELMS, HENRY DREW	015	CASEY, MORRIS MELVIN	113
ROBERTS, RAY OLIVER	015	AMERSON, LARRY LEE	121
WYNN, PAUL WAYNE	015	COILE, ROBERT LANGSTON	121
SOSEBEE, HUGH DORSEY SR	018	CROKER, JAMES BILLY	121
SMITH, CHARLES FORREST	025	HOUSTON, LEE P.	128
YEARGIN, CARL LAWSON	025	MORRELL, RAY WAYNE	129
TINLEY, JACK DILLARD SR	026	SPRATLIN, RALPH LINTON	153
BRASIEL, COLLIS JAMES	027	NILSEN, ARTHUR CHRISTIAN	165
EVANS, BUFORD HAROLD SR	033	DUVALL, DANNY EUGENE	168
GOZA, JAMES ARMOND	042	LUNA, TIMOTHY ALAN	171
DAVIS, NIM JEROLD	043	MASON, HERBERT ANDREW	173
BEASLEY, HORACE ALLEN	044	MILLSAP, TALMADGE ARNOLD	176
BOLTON, TALMADGE WESLEY	044	DEMORE, NATHANIEL CURTIS	182
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HAYES, JOHN [NMN]	055	ADKISON, MARION LESTER	210
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		ROSE, DORAN CARLISLE	216
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year's banquet, plus having your name added to the donors plaque on public display. 4) Commander: \$1,000 and above, all the above but instead of one free ticket to the banquet they will receive 2 Free tickets. 5) Five Star General: \$5,000 and above will receive all the above but instead of receiving two free tickets to the banquet that will receive a ten person table reservation at the banquet. (IRS# 46-2025738).

Brothers, please remember those of our Brothers who are still on active duty, especially those deployed. Keep them and their families in your prayers. May God Bless you and may God Bless America.

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ADAMS, ANDREW DOYLE	289
KIRBY, DANIEL HILL JR	289
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JOHNSON, THOMAS BERRY III	295
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TICE, ALVIN EUGENE SR	304
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ROBINSON, VERLON LOYCE	323
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MASON, EUGENE LAMAR	689
JENKINS, HOMER CURTIS JR	693
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KEY, GRADY [NMN]	702
MARTIN, RICHARD MULKEY	708
ACORD, MICHAEL PAUL	710
EASTERGARD, MICHAEL CHRISTIAN	710
DAY, KERRY SEAWRIGHT	711
KENNEMORE, RUBEN ERNEST JR	711
LANHAM, BERRY P. [IO]	728
HAYES, WILLIAM HENRY	729
LEACH, LAMAR BOYD	729
LITTLEJOHN, PERRY EVERETTE	765

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

April 9, 2015 to May 31, 2015

\$500 OR MORE

Seventh District Convention
Buchanan Lodge No. 78

\$1000 OR MORE

ELCA – Southeastern Synod

Pancake Breakfast at Gwinnett Daylight No. 744



The pancakes were great but the brothers and their families also came for fellowship. Masons always enjoy sitting around the table conversing with their brothers. Lodges can become stronger as brothers enjoy meals together. After all, I have heard that Masons travel on their stomachs.

Before your next fellowship meal, be sure to invite a prospective brother, a new brother or a brother whom you haven't seen in a long time. Ask him to bring his wife.

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)



Wor. Bro. Mike Kessler, Third Grand Steward, and Most Worshipful Douglas W. McDonald, Sr. hold a U.S. flag that has flown over Fort McKinley, the kind of flag Francis Scott Key saw the morning he wrote the poem we now know as "The Star Bangled Banner," our National Anthem. Notice the flag has 15 stars and 15 stripes.