



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

Formerly the DCMA Crier



<http://morelight.org>

May, 2007

In This Issue

- Page One - Area News & DCMA Report
- Page Two - Old Tyler Talks: *What is Masonry*
- Page Three - List of Special Events
- Page Four - Calendar of Regular Communications
- Page Five - Masonic Education & Georgia Code
- Page Six - Spotlight: *Georgia Lodge of Research*

Where's YOUR News?

We'd be honored to support the community by publishing *your* news and events - all you have to do is let us know by emailing news@morelight.org with all the information you'd like listed.

This publication focuses on items of interest to Masons in and around Metro Atlanta and DeKalb County, and we hope it will be of some value to the brethren further out as well. Please let us know if your lodge should be included.

We reserve the right to edit or omit submissions, but we haven't turned one down yet, so don't be shy!

Glenwood Hills 703 Moves!

The members of Glenwood Hills 703 have decided to sell their property, and will be meeting at EA Minor 603 (5310 Rocksprings Road, Lithonia, 30038-2332) until further notice. Meeting nights for each remain unchanged: 703 on 3rd Fridays, EA Minor on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.

Congratulations also to these two lodges on the five candidates they are working together. Brotherhood in action in East DeKalb!

Last Minute News

WBro. Greg Foster, 5th District Custodian, will be the guest speaker at the Past Masters Club of Chamblee on 30 April. The club meets at 444 on the 5th Mondays, supper at 6:00, meeting at 7:00. All Sitting and Past Masters are welcome.

Corrections (or: what I got wrong last time)

Grant Park 604 is actually No. 604, and they will be hosting the DCMA on Thursday, 14 June. Gerald Whited, DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club President, can be emailed at dmmc.pres@morelight.org

Standard Disclaimer

This publication is created to inform the brethren. Any views or opinions that manage to sneak in are solely those of the editor, who does **NOT** speak for any organization whatsoever. Really.

DCMA This Month



The May meeting will be held at Lithonia 84 (7282 Conyers Street, Lithonia, 30058-4423) on Thursday the 24th, where Rev. Kenneth Hugh of Lithonia's Macidinia Baptist Church will be our guest speaker. Supper at 6:30, meeting follows.

DCMA Last Month

The April meeting was held at Masters 295 in Decatur, where we were treated to BBQ, rice, vegetables, rolls, tea, coffee, and an assortment of desserts. JW Bro. Richard Sims and his crew really put on a great feed, and we're sorry for anyone who was not with us.

After the meal we went upstairs, where WBro. Dennis Gueth, Director of Leadership Development for the 8th District, gave a very informative program about building Community Partnerships.

Clarkston 492 won the Banner with 17 present; Tucker 42 won the Gavel with 9 present. We had 64 total present, including ten 50-Year Masons, and \$82 was collected for distribution among our three charities. Those of us who stayed for the tyled meeting were privileged to see Masters gain a new member by way of affiliation. *Go Masters!*

DCMA Next Month

The June meeting will be held at Grant Park 604 in Thursday, the 114th, where the First Grand Steward, WBro. Jerry Moss of Mountain Park 729 (Gwinnett Co., Dist. 9) will be our guest speaker.

DCMA This Year

2007 DeKalb County Masonic Association Officers

- President: Bobby Jones, Clarkston 492
dcma.pres@morelight.org or 404-966-8050
- 1st VP: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
dcma.1vp@morelight.org or 770-482-3338
- 2nd VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444
dcma.2vp@morelight.org or 404-310-8541
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
dcma.sec@morelight.org or 770-922-5412

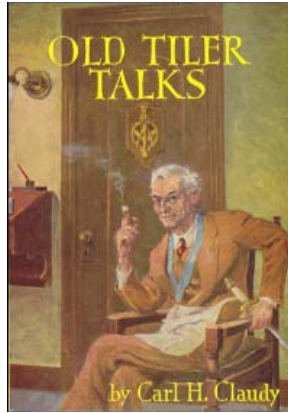
The DCMA... it's not just for DeKalb County anymore!

We'd like for your lodge to join us, too; ask one of us how.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy, PGM, DC

"The Old Tiler" first appeared in print in August, 1921 when the first of four hundred and fourteen "Old Tiler Talks" were printed in the Fellowship Forum, a fraternal newspaper which was published in Washington, D.C.



What is Masonry?

"I've been a Mason six months now and I ought to know something about Masonry. But there are more secrets in the fraternity I don't know than those I have been told!"

The New Brother was puzzled. The Old Tiler laid down his sword, picked up a half-smoked cigar and lit it, and settled back in his chair.

"Get it out of your system," he invited.

"Is Masonry a religion," continued the New Brother, "or a system of philosophy, or a childish getting together of men who like to play politics and wear titles? I have heard it called all three. Sometimes I think it's one and sometimes the other. What do you think?"

"It isn't a childish getting together for the love of titles and honors," answered the Old Tiler. "Men would soon invent a much better organization for the satisfaction of such purposes. In fact, he has invented better ones. Men who want to play politics and be called the Grand High Cockalorum of the Exalted Central Chamber of the Secret Sanctorum can join these. If Masonry were nothing but play, it wouldn't live, and living, grow.

"Masonry isn't a religion. A religion, as I see it, is a belief in deity and a means of expressing worship. Masonry recognizes Deity, and proceeds only after asking divine guidance. But it does not specify any particular deity. You can worship any God you please and be a Mason. That is not true of any religion. If you are a Buddhist, you worship Buddha. If a Christian, Christ is your Deity. If you are a Mohammedan you are a worshipper of Allah. In Masonry you will find Christian, Jew, Mohammedan and Buddhist side by side.

"Masonry has been called a system of philosophy, but that is a confining definition. I don't think Masonry has ever been truly defined."

"Or God," put in the New Brother.

"Exactly. A witty Frenchman, asked if he believed in God, replied, 'Before I answer, you must tell me your definition of God. And when you tell me, I will answer you, no, because a God defined is a God limited, and a limited God

is no God.' Masonry is something like that; it is brotherhood, unlimited, and when you limit it by defining it you make it something it isn't."

"Deep stuff!" commented the New Brother.

"Masonry is 'deep stuff,'" answered the Old Tiler. "It's so deep no man has ever found the bottom. Perhaps that is its greatest charm; you can go as far as you like and still not see the limit. The fascination of astronomy is the limitlessness of the field. No telescope has seen the edge of the universe. The fascination of Masonry is that it has no limits. The human heart has no limit in depth and that which appeals most to the human heart cannot have a limit."

"But that makes it so hard to understand!" sighed the New Brother.

"Isn't it the better for being difficult of comprehension?" asked the Old Tiler. "A few days ago I heard an eminent divine and Mason make an inspiring talk. I hear a lot of talks; nine-tenths are empty words with a pale tallow-tip gleam of a faint idea somewhere in them. So when a real talker lets the full radiance of a whole idea shine on an audience, he is something to be remembered. This speaker quoted a wonderful poem, by William Herbert Carruth. I asked him to send it to me, and he did; please note, this busy man, president of a university, and with a thousand things to do, didn't forget the request of a brother he never saw before!"

The Old Tiler put his hand in his pocket and took out a much-thumbed piece of paper. "Listen you," he said, "till I read you just one verse of it:

*"A picket frozen on duty; A mother, starved for her brood;
Socrates drinking the hemlock, and Jesus on the rood;*

*And millions who, humble and nameless, The straight hard
pathway plod;*

Some call it consecration, And others call it God.'

The New Brother said nothing, held silent by the beauty of the lines.

"I am no poet," continued the Old Tiler, "and I know this isn't very fitting, but I wrote something to go with those verses, just to read to brothers like you." Shyly the Old Tiler continued:

*"Many men banded together, Standing where Hiram stood;
Hand to back of the falling, Helping in brotherhood.*

Wise man, doctor, lawyer, Poor man, man of the hod,

Many call it Masonry, And others call it God."

"I don't think it makes much difference what we call it, do you?" asked the New Brother.



List of Special Events - May, 2007

- 2 May, Wed - Association** - DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club at Clarkston 492 (Clarkston); starts at 2:00.
- 4 May, Wed - Children's Outing** - Members of Chamblee-Sardis 444 will treat Children and staff from the Georgia Masonic Children's Home to the 7th Annual Braves Game and Picnic Lunch outing.
- 8 May, Tue - Lodge Program** - GM MWBro. Eli Stafford's Official Visit to Lawrenceville 131 (Lawrenceville); dinner at 6:30; lodge opens at 7:30.
- 8 May, Tue - Lodge Program** - DGM RWBro. Ted Collins to present 25- and 50-year awards at Jonesboro 87 (Jonesboro).
- 10 May, Thu - Lodge Program** - Georgia DeMolay will present "The Rose on The Altar" at Chamblee-Sardis 444 (Chamblee); DGM RWBro. Ted Collins to attend; a delegation from Internet Lodge 9659 (England) will also be attending; dinner at 6:30, meeting follows.
- 10 May, Thu - Degree** - MM Conferral at Buford 292 (Buford); lodge opens at 7:30.
- 12 May, Sat - Degree** - MM Conferral at Nelms 323 (Smyrna); starts at 7:00 pm.
- 12 May, Sat - Association** - Gwinnett County Masonic Association at Grayson 549 (Grayson).
- 12 May, Sat - Lodge Program** - GM MWBro. Eli Stafford to present 50- and 60-year awards at Fraternal 37 (McDonough); starts at 5:00.
- 12 May, Sat - Workday** - Masonic Home Workday for Districts 1, 4, 9, and 12; makeup day for any district; starts at 9:00.
- 19 May, Sat - Degree** - MM Conferral and Hiramic Dramatization by The Nights of Mecca at Rockmart 97 (Rockmart). Breakfast served at 8:00 am, degree begins at 9:00 am.
- 19 May, Sat - Golf Fundraiser** - Masonic Home of Georgia Invitational Golf Tournament at Lost Plantation Golf Club (Rincon); 8:30 shotgun start. For information, contact Jay Robbins at 912-965-0704 or PGM Clyde Griffin at 912-345-4175.
- 19 May, Sat - Lodge Program** - Family, friends, and Rusty Mason night at Douglasville 289 (Douglasville); meal at 5:30.
- 23 May, Wed - Association** - Southside Memorial Association (6:30) and Lodge of Instruction (7:30) at Stockbridge 691 (Stockbridge).
- 24 May, Thu - Degree** - FC Conferral at Buford 292 (Buford); lodge opens at 7:30.
- 24 May, Thu - Degree** - MM Conferral at Chamblee-Sardis 444 (Chamblee); dinner at 6:30; lodge opens at 7:30.
- 24 May, Thu - Association** - DeKalb County Masonic Association at Lithonia 84 (Lithonia); dinner at 6:30; meeting follows. Rev. Kenneth Hughs will give a presentation.
- 30 May, Wed - Group Forming** - The National Association of Masonic Scouters is having its inaugural meeting from noon to 2:00 pm at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency (Atlanta), Hanover Room D. The meeting is free; optional lunch is \$35. Contact David Karp, david@karpmediation.com or Rick Conn, rickconn@bellsouth.net for more information.
- 14 Jun, Thu - Association** - DeKalb County Masonic Association at Grand Park 604 (Lithonia); dinner at 6:30; meeting follows. 1GS WBro. Jerry Moss will give a presentation.
- 25 Jun, Mon - Golf Fundraiser** - Grand Masters Golf Tournament, proceeds of which will go directly to our Masonic Children for summer activities and personal needs. The golf tournament for the NW part of the state will be held June 25th at the Pinetree Country Club (Kennesaw). "Shotgun Start" at 9:00 am; the first 120 players now being accepted. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners of each flight. The cost will be \$80.00 per player, and everyone is invited to play. For more information, enquirers may contact Harold Mc Durmon, at hlmmjm2@aol.com or 404-379-2136.
- 29 Jun, Fri - Exchange** - Georgia / South Carolina Exchange Night at Augusta Scottish Rite Center; dinner at 6:00, meeting follows.
- 30 Jun, Sat - Exchange** - Coosa 622 (west of Rome) will host their annual Tri-State communication, with teams from Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia each conferring one of the three degrees. Breakfast at 7:00, lunch after the FC.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Schedule of Regular Communications for Lodges meeting within 10 miles of I-285 and/or in DeKalb County.

6

Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

7

Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
EA Minor 603
Ben Hill 674

8

Cobb County Daylight 742, 10:00 am

9

Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm

10

Leroy Duncan 262

11

Campbellton 76
Nelms 323

12

Grand Chapter - Grand Council - Grand Commandery

7th District Convention

13

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

14

Kennesaw 33
Georgia 96
Norcross 228
Masters 295
Panthersville 543
Capitol City 642
North DeKalb 714

15

Fulton 216

16

Pythagoras 41
Mountain Park 729
Charity Daylight 754, 10:30 am

17

Glenwood Hills 703

18

Samuel S. Lawrence 721

19

8th Dist. Conv.

20

Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

21

Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
EA Minor 603
Ben Hill 674

22

Southside Memorial Assn. (location varies), 6:30 pm

23

Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm
DeKalb County Masonic Assn. at Lithonia 84

24

25

26

D 1/4/9/12 Wkdy

27

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

28

29

5th Dist. Officer Meeting at Chamblee-Sardis 444, 7 pm

30

31

All meetings start at 7:30 pm unless noted otherwise.

Memorial Day



Masonic Education

Cowan: one who lays stones without training; one who is ignorant or untrained; pretender; interloper

Eavesdropper: one who listens (as where water drops from the eaves) secretly to a private conversation

Collectively, "cowans and eavesdroppers" refer to those who might accidentally or intentionally attempt to join in or observe something to which they are not entitled.

Dotage: This first came into existence among the early English, Dutch, German, and Scandinavian peoples, generally in the form *dotten*, *dutten*, meaning to nod with drowsiness, to nap. Since it was old people who most frequently sat nodding in their chairs it became associated with old age. A person "in his dotage" is one who nods or prattles like a sleepy child, and whose faculties have begun to decay through old age. Old age is never a bar to Masonic membership unless it has reached this stage.

Hele: to hide; to cover; to roof. This curious word which is pronounced to rhyme with fail, and which appears to be contradictive of the phrase where it is used, has been used in England from the early Middle Ages, where a *helyer* (or later, a *thatcher*) made and repaired roofs of thatch or straw. "Hele" is old Angle-Saxon; "Conceal" is Norman, and each means to hide or cover up.

Shall vs. Will:

When the Worshipful Master is directing others with the authority of his station, conveying certainty or determination, **shall** is the appropriate term; *you shall escort the candidate to refreshment.*

When the Worshipful Master is merely talking about the future, **will** is the appropriate term; *you will find the sugar in the cabinet.*

Getting Around

From Point A:

Hence: from here; from this place

Thence: from there; from that place

Whence: from where? from what place?

To Point B:

Hither: here; to here; to or towards this place

Thither: there; to there; to or towards that place

Whither: where?; to where?; to or towards what place?

Please note that each of these words already include the preposition to or from, and so "from whence" is never used.



Know Your Georgia Code

Declaration of Principles

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction. It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income insures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind. It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty. It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonies a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law. It is religious in that it teaches monotheism; the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session; reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial, and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological. It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship and of charity. Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightens them as to those things which make for human welfare, and inspires them with the feeling of charity or good will toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action. To that end it teaches and stands for the worship of God; truth and justice; fraternity and philanthropy; enlightenment and orderly liberty, civil, religious and intellectual. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which we owe allegiance and to be obedient to the law of any state in which we may be. Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics or other topics likely to excite personal animosities. It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness and welfare, for Masonic bodies to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of governmental officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties. The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience.

Brethren, we must each strive to be familiar with the Code, for how can we abide by it if we are not familiar with what it contains? For this purpose, I will be including an excerpt in each newsletter.



Masonic Education & Leadership Development

Brethren, this is just a reminder that the Grand Lodge of Georgia has a program of five self-study courses available. These courses are meant to be taken open-book style, and are intended to help make each member become a better mason by becoming a better educated mason. We have courses on:

- The Georgia Masonic Code
- Georgia Masonic Etiquette
- Georgia Masonic History
- The Georgia Masonic Manual, and
- Georgia Masonic Rules of Order

Some of the reference material is available online; the rest can be obtained through the Grand Secretary's Office - get with your lodge Secretary for details.

The actual tests and answer sheets can be found online on the Grand Lodge website at <http://www.glofga.org/meld.html>

If you are not online, you can ask your Lodge Education Officer or Secretary to help you get the tests; please contact your district MELD officers if you need some other arrangements.

Feedback, Please!

So, this was a giant leap from the little newsletter I've been doing. Apologies given in advance for any errors or omissions - there was no intention to slight anyone.

Why *those* lodges? Well, there are a lot of Masons in and around Atlanta, and I felt like a consolidated resource for us was missing. *The Masonic Messenger* does a *GREAT* job covering the entire state, but how often does the average Mason make a trip of two or more hours to visit another lodge? There is so much going on right here in Metro Atlanta that isn't even known by the lodges just 10 or 15 miles away. If there's been a miscalculation, or if your lodge fell just outside the cutoff, let us know - I'm sure there's room to squeeze in another lodge or two.

Finally, I have an idea of what I look for in a Masonic newsletter... but what do *YOU* want to see? Appendant body info? Lecture excerpts? Book reviews?

Well, I'll try to make it happen - but I can't do that if I don't know what you want to see.

Email news@morelight.org and let me know what kind of content you would like to see. I'll do my best to make it happen.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

David Herman

Spotlight: The Georgia Lodge of Research

As Freemasons, from the newest Master Mason to the most senior Past Master, we are told to seek Masonic Light, the Georgia Lodge of Research is there to help.

The Georgia Lodge of Research has continually strived to provide educational and instructional materials that will enable our members to learn about and understand the "beautiful system of morals, veiled in allegory" that Freemasonry teaches its initiates.

Each year the Lodge provides its members with a book on a relevant Masonic topic. These books are designed to challenge your thinking, correct faulty information, and provide invaluable insights as to the origin, legends, myths, catechisms and history of Freemasonry around the world.

Masonic Research Lodges are nothing new in Freemasonry. Many other Masonic jurisdictions have Lodges of Research. All are comprised of Freemasons interested in the study of Freemasonry, and who by their contributions, make it possible to publish and distribute the results of their studies and investigations.

Any Master Mason or Masonic Lodge in good standing may become an Active Member. The Lodge is supported by annual dues from its members. These dues are used for administrative costs, the printing of Masonic literature, purchasing books for our members, and funding grants to Masonic researchers.

Scheduled meetings are held quarterly, on the fifth Friday of the Month. Notification of such meetings is provided to all Lodge of Research members. Meetings are held at the Atlanta Masonic Center, 1690 Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta 30309. Members are not required to attend any meetings.

Every year the membership is sent a hardbound book with a large assortment of submitted papers, and have been up to 200+ pages in length. Most members find these books well worth the modest (\$15) annual dues.

Individual Masonic Lodges have found that being a member of the Georgia Lodge of Research is an excellent way to add to, or begin, their own Masonic Library.

We invite you to take this important step in your Masonic career. You will be pleasantly surprised by what you can learn about Freemasonry, while enjoying the fellowship of some of the most learned Masonic scholars in the world.

Join the Georgia Lodge of Research, Brethren. You will be glad you did!

For more information, contact the Lodge Secretary:

Scott Cleland / 3752 Thornbrooke Place

Duluth, GA 30097 - or glrsec@bellsouth.net

