



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



Formerly the DCMA Crier

November, 2007
Masonic Education

<http://morelight.org>

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

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DCMA This Month



13 November will be our annual meeting, with election and installation of officers, at E A Minor 603. Please come out and show your support by helping to determine the direction of the DCMA going forward. And brethren are invited to stay for E A Minor's regular, tyled communication afterwards.

Grand Lodge Results!

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia for 2007, Right Worshipful Brother Ted C. Collins, Deputy Grand Master, was elected and installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia. I'm sure everyone joins me is wishing the MWGM a successful year.

I thought that I'd be reporting the rest of our GL Leadership here, but I have been unable to obtain that information.

However, I have every bit of confidence that the listing on the Grand Lodge website, <http://glofga.org> will be updated soonest.

DCMA Last Month

On Saturday, 13 October, we hosted our Annual Outing for the Children's Home residents and staff. The program started with lunch at Stone Mountain Lodge, followed by admission to Stone Mountain Park with ride passes and spending money. Stone Mountain Mayor Pro Tem Nan Nash joined us for supper at one of the park pavilions, after which she led the Children's Home contingent to the Southern Ghosts Tour, admission for which was provided by Stone Mountain's ART Station.

5th District Officers

It seems I neglected to report the 5th District Officers for 2007-2008 last month: Warren B. Collinsworth, District Master and DDGM; Frank J. Vexler, Deputy Master and DDGM; William R. Kayma, Jr. Senior Warden; Charles R. Beasley, Junior Warden; Ross M. Laver, Secretary-Treasurer. The entire listing, including Grand Lodge appointments, is available on the 5th District website, at <http://5dist.morelight.org>

DCMA Next Month

As is our custom, the DCMA does not meet in December - please enjoy a happy holiday season! We will have a planning meeting for all officers and Lodge Representatives in early January - see <http://dcma.morelight.org> for details. Then, on 18 January, we will meet at Glenwood Hills 703, which is presently meeting at the temple of E A Minor 603 in Lithonia.

Attention: Masters and Wardens

Now is the time to make plans for your officers and members to attend the 5th District School of Instruction. Sessions will start at 7:00 pm sharp on the 2nd - 5th Wednesdays (9, 16, 23, 30) of January, 2008, in the Scottish Rite Auditorium of the Atlanta Masonic Center.

While every lodge has its own traditions, there is only one way to do the Georgia Uniform Work - come and have your questions answered by knowledgeable brethren!

DCMA This Year

- 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 & Internet 9659, EC
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... Determined to Cover Masonry in Atlanta!
We'd like for your lodge to join us - ask one of us how.

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.

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.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

New-Cut Trails

"Old Tiler, I have made up my mind that there is a fundamentalism and a modernism in Masonry, as well as in the church. And I am a Masonic Fundamentalist," began the New Brother.

"That's a fine mouthful of an expression," commented the Old Tiler. "Masonic fundamentalist.' If I just knew what it meant, now, I'd go spring it on someone."

"Don't make fun. This is serious!" protested the New Brother.

"Then be serious and tell me what kind of an animal, if any, a Masonic fundamentalist is," begged the Old Tiler.

"Why, he is one who finds the ritual all-sufficient as a source of Masonic light; one who doesn't hold with the higher criticism of Masonic documents and the old charges and constitutions; one who believes in the exact truth of the Masonic legends; one who can bridge the gap between written history since Grand Lodges and the time of King Solomon without a mental effort; in other words, one who has faith without proof in the reality of the continuance of Masonry as a system of morality and philosophy right down from Solomon's time to now!"

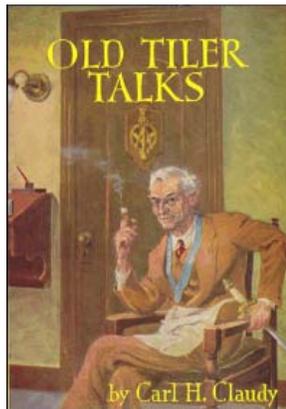
"Guess I can't use the expression after all," answered the Old Tiler. "Too much of a mouthful."

"Don't you agree that a Masonic fundamentalist is the happier and better Mason than the modernist Mason?"

"You ask me if I think the ignorant Mason is happier than the educated one!" returned the Old Tiler, vigorously. "If a cow is happier than a philosopher, I'll agree. But what is happiness? If it makes you happy not to use your mind, to believe legends and fairy tales, I suppose Masonic fundamentalism is your proper meat. I am not built that way. I have found the real story of Freemasonry, as it has been patiently unfolded from the mists of the dim past by earnest students, a great deal more fascinating than the legendary history. I have loved the legends more as I have been able to distinguish between legend and fact. Santa Claus and Hans Andersen's fairies are much more real to me now than they were when I was a little boy.

"Instead of being a Masonic fundamentalist, I like to think of myself as a Masonic adventurer. And that reminds me of something I cut out of a magazine; maybe you'd like to read it." The Old Tiler produced a well-worn pocket-book, from which he extracted a clipping. "Listen to this and see if it doesn't fit- almost." He read softly Marie LeNar's beautiful verse, "The Adventurer."

"God, in the name of Jesus' blood and tears, / Loose us from slavish bondage to dead years, / To dogmas that, encrusted in mould / Of age, no virtue have, save to be old. / Lo! A new era has been ushered in. / Lo! Now the new wine bursts the ancient skin. / Then



Lord, dispel our coward's fears, / Give us the daring hearts of pioneers. / What though in quest of truth we sometimes stray? / Better to seek fresh morsels day by day / Than feed, like swine, on husks before us thrown / From which the inward nourishment has gone. / Better to stray and struggle back again- / If we far surpass our mortal ken- / Old paths for sheep but new-cut trails for men!

"Old paths for sheep, but new-cut trails for men," repeated the New Brother, softly, as the Old Tiler finished. "That's rather fine, isn't it?"

"It seems fine to me, whether we speak of religion, or Masonry, or science, or knowledge, or politics, or government. That which is good and also old, is not good because it is old, but because it is good. If it isn't good in itself, we ought to throw it overboard, regardless of its age. To persecute those who think differently from constituted authority is an old doctrine. It was old when the Inquisition made it new. But it wasn't good, was it, just because it was old? Slavish obedience to a king, regardless of right and justice, was an old idea when the Magna Carta was signed; it was older when the Liberty Bell first rang in this country, but it wasn't good just because it was old.

"Brotherly love was known long before King Solomon; it is as good today as it was then, but not because of its age, but because of its goodness.

"Old paths for sheep.' I am no sheep! As best I can, I keep my feet upon new-cut trails. But I hold fast to the staff of the Ancient Landmarks, and all that is good in our order; I try to cast overboard the superstition and the slavish adherence to doctrine. I do not, for instance, believe that certain consequences which we agree shall follow failure to keep our obligations are to be taken literally. If William Morgan was slain by Freemasonry, in 1826 (*which he was not!*) I don't believe it was right, even though it was deserved. Neither did the Freemasons of that age believe it was right. But a Masonic fundamentalist must take such things literally. I do not believe that Solomon established the Grand Lodge, and met, as Grand Master, with two other Hiram's, also Grand Masters. Yet I believe in the essential truths contained in the Solomon legend, and in the essential truth and beauty contained in the Hiram's legend.

"What difference does it make whether George Washington did, or did not, cut down a cherry tree, and refuse to tell a lie about it? Washington is an ideal, an embodiment of truth. If that ideal can be taught to children with a story, then the story is true, whether it ever happened or not. If men are taught fidelity and loyalty and bravery and honor and honesty by the Hiram's legend, it is true, whether it ever happened or not. Santa Claus is true, whether the children's saint be an actual fat old man living in a toy shop at the North Pole, or just a happiness in men's hearts.

"To my mind the more of the truth we know, the more we value the legends. Therefore, I try to be a student of the real history of Masonry, that I may love its stories, its myths and its symbols the more. No sheep, the new-cut trail is under my feet and will be, while these old eyes can follow it- ." The Old Tiler's voice trailed off into silence.

"New-cut trails for men!" cheered the New Brother.



List of Special Events - November, 2007

- 1 Nov, Thu - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - at Mountain Park 729.
- 3 Nov, Sat - Master Mason Conferral - by Knights of Mecca at Lafayette 44, Cumming. Gerald L. Carver, MWGM of SC, to be in attendance.
- 6 Nov, Tue - Fellow Craft Conferral - at Kennesaw 33, Marietta.
- 7 Nov, Wed - Empty Chair Degree - honoring absent veterans; Color Guard by Clayton DeMolay; at Meridian Sun 26, Griffin. James E. Miller, PGM, to be in attendance.
- 10 Nov, Sat - Georgia ChIP - First Georgia Childhood Identification Program session, at Hunt Elementary School Cafeteria, by Fort Valley 110, Fort Valley.
- 10 Nov, Sat - Empty Chair Degree - honoring absent veterans; Color Guard by Clayton DeMolay; at Columbus Scottish Rite Temple, hosted by Meridian Sun 26, Griffin.
- 10 Nov, Sat - Chili Cook Off - bring your own chili to be judged (2 gal min); \$5 admission; at Clarkston 492, Clarkston.
- 12 Nov, Mon - Annual Birthday Night Celebration - Piedmont 447.
- 13 Nov, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association - Annual Communication at EA Minor 603, Lithonia.
- 13 Nov, Tue - Empty Chair Degree - honoring absent veterans, at Helena 536, Helena.
- 15 Nov, Thu - Master Mason Conferral - at a called communication of Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee.
- 20 Nov, Tue - Entered Apprentice Conferral - at Kennesaw 33, Marietta.
- 8 Dec, Tue - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - at Norcross 288, Norcross.



Traveling Trophy Roundup

4 th District SW of Atlanta	Carroll 69 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton Bowdon 206 Traveling Gavel : Sand Hill 350, Sand Hill Buck Creek 639 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton Tyus 671 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton
5 th District Includes Atlanta	5 th District Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker Clarkston 492 Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker
6 th District South of Atlanta	Jonesboro 87 Traveling Gavel : Lakewood 443, Lovejoy Rex 251 Traveling Gavel : Lakewood 443, Lovejoy East Point 288 Traveling Gavel : Lakewood 443, Lovejoy Lakewood 443 Traveling Hat : Lakewood 443, Lovejoy

If you know of any other traveling trophies, or any current trophy locations, or any published trophy acquisition rules, **please let us know.**

Where is the 7th District Gavel?

Where is the Gwinnett County Donkey!?

Please let us know of any other Traveling Trophies!

5th District Gavel rules at <http://5dist.morelight.org/gavel.html>
Clarkston 492 Gavel rules at http://www.clarkston492.com/traveling_gavel.htm



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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

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

4

Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

5

Kennesaw 33
Georgia 96
Norcross 228
East Point 288
Masters 295
Panthersville 543
Capitol City 642
North DeKalb 714
Metro Daylight 743, 10:30 am

6

Fulton 216
DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club at Clarkston 492, 2 pm

7

Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm
Grant Park 604

8

Leroy Duncan 262

9

Campbellton 76
Nelms 323

10

11

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

12

Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
E. A. Minor 603
Ben Hill 674
DCMA at E. A. Minor 603

13

Cobb County Daylight 742, 10:00 am

14

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

15

Glenwood Hills 703

16

Samuel S. Lawrence 721

17

18

Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

19

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

20

Fulton 216

21

Lithonia 84

22

23

24

25

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

26

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

27

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

28

29

30



Sugar Coating Masonic Education

Excerpted from The Masonic Service Association's Short Talk Bulletin of August 1929

HOWEVER improper curiosity may be as a principal motive for applying for the degrees, it is probable that no man ever passed through the West Gate for his initiation as an Entered Apprentice without an eager desire to know "what will happen next?"

Immediately thereafter the candidate usually develops a healthy curiosity as to the "why" of that which "happened next." Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are generally hungry for explanations of reasons for motives behind the words and acts of a degree. Man is incurably curious; his desire to know and to understand is the mainspring of invention, discovery, civilization, progress; it is the driving force which leads men to learn.

Worshipful Masters can -- and many of them do-- make use of this desire to know, to make better Masons of the brethren of their lodges. Masters are charged with the duty of giving the Craft "good and wholesome instruction," or causing the same to be done. But one of the principal methods developed by Masonic educators, the "educational meeting," is a method of instruction more injured than helped by its name! For many brethren had boyish experience with "education" which lead them to associate with that word a process which is dry, dull, uninteresting.

What is here called a "sugar coated" Masonic educational meeting is just the reverse; interesting, intriguing, alive, vital, satisfying a great curiosity. Lodges which have tried any of the educational experiments here listed usually repeat them, and almost invariably the repetition is to a packed house."

Here are some suggestions for "sugar coated" educational meetings; all of them have been tried, and all found successful methods of interesting the Craft in various phases of Freemasonry.

1. Breaking Rules to Mend Them

Certain unwritten rules of Masonic conduct, as well as some specified by Grand Lodges, become so much a matter of custom in lodges that many brethren lose sight of the reasons therefore. The Worshipful Master may arrange a program in which a number of brethren, instructed beforehand, deliberately commit or attempt to commit infractions of rules; the Master, or some previously instructed brother, explains the mistake and the reason for it.

2. Dissecting a Degree

Especially recommended for lodges which have little work to do is the dissection and explanation of the first section of any degree. A dummy candidate is initiated, and the ceremony interrupted at each stage by some brother who offers a little explanation of the symbolism of the part of the degree under discussion; entry, circumambulation, rite of destitution, the antiquity of the apron, origin of the Lesser Lights, etc.

3. You Must - You Must Not

The average lodge member knows little about Masonic law. The very term "Jurisprudence" seems repellent. Yet Masonic law is intensely interesting, and may be made to appear so to the lodge by any brother who will devote a little time and attention to developing a talk on those parts of our legal system which most intimately touch the brethren.

4. "Competition Is the Life of -- Education!"

The more brethren take part in an educational meeting, the greater the enjoyment. No scheme for an educational meeting yet developed exceeds the lodge contest in this respect, since it gives every one in the lodge room an opportunity to participate. The educational contest is prepared in advance, the correct answers to which can be given in one or two words, a date, a name. The brethren write and number their answers to the questions, as they are asked. Then they exchange papers, the correct answers are read and discussed. Interest in such a contest is increased by offering prizes. These may be very inexpensive; a good Masonic book, a subscription to a Masonic magazine, a Masonic lapel pin, are all appreciated.

5. "Let's Argue the Matter!"

A lodge debate will draw a crowd and keep it interested for the best part of an hour, with pleasure and profit to all. Debating teams may be composed of two or more brethren on one side; two to a side usually produce a snappier debate than three.

It is not suggested that these "sugar coated" methods of holding Masonic educational meetings should replace the older, tried and true forms, in which some learned brother delivers an address upon a Masonic subject, or presents an illustrated lecture. The speaker and the lecturer we have always with us; illustrated lectures on Masonic subjects will always be of interest to the Craft, as will the well conceived and delivered address. But we tire of anything in too great quantities; quail is considered the best of eating, yet it is tradition that no man can eat a quail a day for a month!

The Masonic educational meeting conducted on new, different lines will largely "take the curse off" the word "educational." Get the lodge membership to thinking "I wonder what new idea the Master will spring on us tonight!" when an educational meeting is announced, and the stewards will have to go to the basement after extra chairs.



Dave Digresses: Candidate Care

Many of us spend a lot of time and energy on Freemasonry; in fact, if you ask our wives, many of us are probably overextended!

Why do we do it? Well, I obviously can't answer for anyone but myself. When I joined the Craft, back in the old 20th century (heh), it was like a new world was opened up to me. There were older, wiser brothers who were just as ready to give instruction as I was to receive it. And this extended beyond merely teaching the catechism or ritual, or explaining the meaning behind it as best they knew.

During those countless hours, coaching catechism and practicing ritual, as I got to know several brothers very well. Brothers I still turn to with questions that might have nothing to do with lodge. I turn to them asking for their opinions, since they have been down roads and trails that I have yet to travel, and I ask for the advice of their experiences. I also seek them out just to fellowship; to sit and talk, or grab a coffee, where we can take pleasure just from being in each other's company.

I guess this is a roundabout way to introduce the information you see on the extra supplement this month. My goal is to perform the same role for men coming into the fraternity today that those older brothers filled for me, and not to overlook any aspect of their Masonic experience. While some of this info will not be directly useful for out-of-state readers, I hope that it will prompt others to create similar checklists for other jurisdictions.

The first one is a **Candidate Care Checklist**. It provides one place for the Mentor to track the candidate's progress, to get in touch with the Coach or Committee to check on status, and to ensure that the candidate understands the history and meaning behind the catechism he is learning, as well as appropriate points of etiquette and decorum.

The second one is a **Degree Conferral Checklist**. It provides an easy reference for planning key roles and lectures for each degree, as well as referring to certain pages in the Masonic and Brock's manuals for particular lectures or prayers. I have to admit that I was surfing various GL websites, and happened upon a similar but much more comprehensive set of checklists at the GL of Maine website; this list was inspired by those.

If you would like soft copies of those checklists, they will be available from <http://news.morelight.org> in both excel and pdf format. I hope that they prove to be useful tools in service to those men who come along behind us, seeking Masonic light and brotherhood; after all, they deserve at least as much care and attention as each of us received.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

David Herman



Spotlight: Georgia Masonic Education

The Grand Lodge of Georgia has five self-study courses (soon to be six, we hope) of Masonic Education available online, and are designed to be taken open book, that is to say that reference material may be consulted; alternately, these courses can be taken in a group setting.

Answer sheets can be emailed or otherwise delivered to any of the Masonic Education and Leadership Development (MELD) Committeemen appointed for the brother's Masonic district.

- **Masonic Etiquette** - this 50 question test can easily be taken in well under an hour, and is a great starting point for any Master Mason. It explains what is and is not proper, why that is so, and some of the history behind Masonic etiquette.

- **Masonic Manual Exam** - this 75 question test makes a good follow-up to the Etiquette course, and should take less than an hour to finish. It covers basic points of the three degrees and Masonic Funerals, and every well-informed Mason should make it a point to know the answers to these questions.

- **History of the Grand Lodge of Georgia** - this 100 question test is intended to educate the brethren about the actual facts of Georgia's interesting and nearly 275 year old Masonic history, including information about famous Georgia Masons.

- **Rules of Order** - this 100 question test is intended to help the brethren understand general rules of order and why it is important for lodge discussions to be courteous and mannerly. Every Lodge Officer should be well versed with the rules of order, so that even after the most high-spirited debates, peace and harmony can prevail.

- **Masonic Code Course** - updated annually, this 150 question test is intended to help the brethren in developing skills in finding the various Georgia Masonic laws contained in the Code, and to become familiar with the operation and organization of Grand Lodge subordinate lodges throughout the State. As Master Masons, we should each be well familiar with not only our local bylaws and rules, but with the Grand Lodge's Code as well. It is *especially crucial* that any Mason who is or hopes to become an officer of his lodge knows whether a certain action is required, prohibited, or permitted (neither required nor prohibited).

Passing each course earns a certificate signed by the Grand Master; passing the Code course also earns a lapel pin.

Courses available from <http://glofga.org>

Degree Conferral Checklist				
Section	MM, 1983	Brock's M		
			Entered Apprentice Degree	Date:
			Brother	Contact Information
			Lecture / Position	
1			Conductor	
			Senior Deacon	
			Conferring Master	
	12	11	Preparation Room	
	-	13	Reception at Initiation	
	14	13	Prayer at Initiation	
	15	13	Perambulation	
			Bible	
	17	16	Apron	
	19	18	Working Tools	
20	19	Charity		
20	21	Northeast Corner		
2			Receiving Master	
3	21	23	Symbolism, etc.	
	32	31	Charge at Initiation	
			Fellow Craft Degree	Date:
			Brother	Contact Information
			Lecture / Position	
1			Conductor	
			Senior Deacon	
			Conferring Master	
	-	33	Reception at Passing	
	36	33	Prayer at Passing	
	36	34	Perambulation	
	37	34	Working Tools	
			Receiving Master	
2	38	35	Staircase / SD	
	-	45	Letter G	
3	-	49	Symbolism, etc.	
	61	50	Charge at Passing	
			Master Mason Degree	Date:
			Brother	Contact Information
			Lecture / Position	
1			Conductor	
			Senior Deacon	
			Conferring Master	
	64	51	Perambulation	
	66	52	Working Tools	
		Temple Lecture		
2			Receiving Master	
			Dark Room / SD	
			King Hiram	
			King Solomon	
	68	53	Prayer at Raising	
		Instruction in the West		
		141 Charge with Vows		
3	69	53	Symbolism, etc.	
	74	59	Charge at Raising	