



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



david @ morelight . org

May 2009
Tolerance

http://news.morelight.org

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The DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

DCMA This Month

As no clear consensus was reached, we have no official meeting this month. After Lithonia 84 withdrew from the association, we had several options - meeting with the Gwinnett County Masonic Association at Grayson 549 (on the 10th), attending the GM's visit to Masters 295 (19th), and attending a social hosted by EA Minor 603 and Glenwood Hills 703 (28th). Please feel free to attend any (or all) of these programs.

DCMA Next Month

WBro. Robert Young, DDGM, has assured us that Grant Park 604 will have a program in June good enough to make up for April (see below). Please join us there on Thursday, 11 June.

DCMA Last Month

Our April meeting was hosted in fine style by WBro. Richard Sims and the officers and brethren of Masters 295 in Decatur. Unfortunately we found ourselves both without a program and without printed newsletters to distribute. I apologize and take responsibility for both. We did collect \$100.34 for our charities; the Banner was won by Tucker 42 and the Gavel by Clarkston 492.

DCMA This Year

- Pres: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Gate City 2
david @ morelight .org, 404 421 5279
- 1st VP: James Tyroff, Philologia 178 & Metro Daylight 743
jtyroff @ hotmail .com or 770 378 9531
- 2nd VP: Jim Cline, Clarkston 492 (*Jim needs a second lodge!*)
jclinejdcpa @ mindspring . com
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703 & EA Minor 603
billjoane256 @ aol .com 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.*

Pillars of Freemasonry Pass

The dread messenger, Death, came to call for several prominent Atlanta area Masons.

WBro. Sheldon Little, a Master Mason for 33 years, was a brother with a past - Past Master of Fulton 216, Past Master of the 5th Masonic District Convention, Past District Deputy to the Grand Master, and Webmaster Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. Sheldon was well known both in metro Atlanta and in the distant corners of the state as a top-notch ritualist, and was renowned far and wide for his over 300 deliveries of the Senior Deacon's (or "Staircase") Lecture of the Fellow Craft Degree. Sheldon was also quite active in the Scottish Rite, where his labors were also legendary. His departure on April 7th leaves a vacancy which will probably never be filled by one man.

RWBro. Oliver Grantham went to his final rest on April 24th. Oliver was truly a lover of the Fraternity, having served many years as a Grand Line Officer. A member of Grant Park 604, Clarkston 492 and Metro Daylight 543, he was also Stage Crew Director for the Scottish Rite for many years. He, too, will be sorely missed.



Special thanks to Bill Marsh for proofreading this mess!

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.

Directions & Maps

Brethren: directions, maps and meeting information for all DCMA member lodges can be found from the DCMA website at <http://dcma.morelight.org>

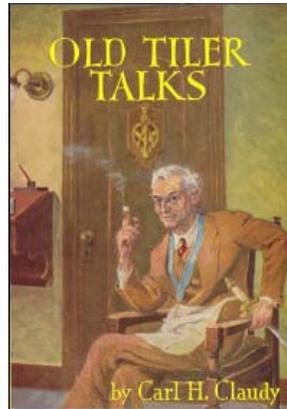
Where's YOUR News?

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 david @ morelight . org with all the information you'd like listed.

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia
Mostly written in the 1920s

Old Tiler Talks

The Disliked Petitioner



"I am much disturbed!" announced the New Brother to the Old Tiler.

"Tell me about it. I have oil for troubled waters. If your water on the brain is disturbed, maybe I can soothe it!"

"I doubt it! I heard the name of Bedford Jones-Smith read out in lodge tonight as a petitioner. I don't want Bedford here!"

"That's nothing to be disturbed about," answered the Old Tiler. "You have a vote, haven't you? If you don't want to wait until he comes up for ballot, go tell the committee what's the matter with him." The Old Tiler leaned back in his chair as if the question was settled.

"There isn't anything the matter with him!" cried the New Brother. "If I could explain to the committee that Bedford was a rascal, or beat his wife or stole money, or had been in jail or something, it wouldn't be a problem. But so far as I know Bedford Jones-Smith is correct to the point of perfection. He is a thoroughly respectable man. I dislike him extremely. He rubs me the wrong way. I despise his unctuous manner; he shakes hands like a fish. I think he wears corsets, and he is the most perfect lady I know, but there isn't a thing against him legally, mentally, morally! The committee will find him 100 per cent Simon pure, and this lodge will receive the original nincompoop, the pluperfect essence of idiocy, and the superheterodyne of jackasses, as a member!"

"Anything to stop you voting against him?" asked the Old Tiler. "It's your privilege to cast your little black cube in secrecy against any man you don't like."

"That's where the problem comes in! I know I can do it. I know that I don't have to let Bedford Jones-Smith into my Masonic home if I don't want him, any more than I have to let him into my everyday life. It's just because I can keep him out that I am troubled. If I do, I'll feel that I did a mean act. Yet I don't want that double-distilled ass in this lodge!"

"Suppose you dig a little deeper" suggested the Old Tiler. "Just why don't you want him?"

"Because I don't like him!"

"And just why don't you like him?"

"Because he stands for everything, that I despise; he never plays games, he never works, he never does anything except wear fashionable clothes, go to parties, and is an irreproachable escort for dumb Doras. He's not a man, he's a wearer of trousers!"

"Sounds harmless" said the Old Tiler. "He can't pink tea here, can he? He certainly can't bring any dumb Doras to this lodge. We don't need any games played here, and we have so many men in lodge who never work at it that one more won't hurt."

"But it will make me uncomfortable to have him around."

"Then keep him out!"

"Oh, you exasperate me! I come for help, and you laugh at me. What shall I do?"

"Really want to know?" asked the Old Tiler, the smile fading from his face.

"I really do!"

"Then I'll tell you. Snap out of your conceited, selfish attitude. Get rid of the idea that your comfort, your feelings, your happiness are so important. Get hold of the thought that Masonry is so much bigger than you and Mr. Jones-Smith rolled up into one that together you are not a fly speck on its map, and separately you can't be seen! Try to imagine yourself a part of a great institution which works wonders with men and forget that you are so important!"

"By your own showing, nothing is the matter with this gentleman except that you don't like his ways and manner. Doubtless he doesn't like yours. To him you are probably a rough-neck, a golf-playing, poker-playing, automobile-driving, hard-working, laboring man. He might not want to join the lodge if he knew you were in it! He has different standards. That they are not yours, or mine, doesn't make him poor material for Masonry. The fact that he wants to be a Mason shows he has admirable qualities. That he is moral, and respectable, shows he has manhood. That his manners don't please you is no reason for keeping him out. To keep a man who wants them from the blessings of Masonry because of personal dislike is a crime against those teachings of toleration which Masonry offers you. Let him in. Try to help him. Try to show him there is something else in life beyond fripperies and foolishness. Maybe you can make a regular Mason out of him. But don't vote for him unless you are really prepared to take his hand and call him brother."

"Better let your conscience hurt you for being a snob than to have it hurt for being false to your obligation of brotherhood. Better realize you are a selfish and opinionated person than that you are a bad Mason, a forsworn member of the fraternity, a traitor to its principles, a . . ."

"For the love o' Mike, let up on me! I'll vote for the simp -- for the man, I mean -- and try my best. Old Tiler, Masonry has such a lot to do to make me a regular man, I'm afraid I'll never learn!"

"You are getting there, son," observed the Old Tiler, smiling with satisfaction. "Not every young Mason will admit he is an idiot even when it's proved!"



List of Special Events - May & June, 2009

The Grand Master's Calendar

19 May, Tue - Official Visitation
at Masters 295, Decatur - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

23 May, Sat - Official Visitation
at Nelms 323, Smyrna - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

28 May, Thu - Official Visitation & 50 Year Award
at Palestine 486, Atlanta - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

8-9 May, Fri-Sat - 7th District Convention
Cherokee 66, Rome - 9:00 start both days.

Special Programs

26 May, Tue - Gate City Religion & Culture Series (open)
Topic: The Catholic Church & Freemasonry - Catholic Deacon John J. McManus (presentation approved by the Archbishop)
Topics to include: age old rifts, Papal Bulls and the Catholic Church's current stance on Freemasonry. At the Atlanta Masonic Temple. 6:30 meal, 7:30 program. RSVP to rsvp@gatecity2.org to ensure ample food.

29 May, Fri - Georgia Lodge of Research (open)
at the Atlanta Masonic Temple. WBro. Gary Leazer presents "How the Ineffable Name was Lost". 7:30 start.

27 Jun, Sat - Tri-State Festival with Alabama & Tennessee
at Coosa 622, west of Rome. A team from each state, with their own ritual, opens a called communication and confers one of the three degrees on actual candidates. If you've never seen this, rest assured that it is worth the trip. Breakfast and lunch served. (typed)

25/50 Year Awards, PM Nights

28 May, Thu - GM to Present 50 Year Award to John Holt
at Palestine 486, Atlanta - 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.



Associations, Clubs, Instruction

06 May, Wed - DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club (open)
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 2:00 start.

09 May, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association (open)
at Grayson 549, Grayson. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

27 May, Wed - Southside Mem. Assn. & Lodge of Inst. (typed)
Tyrone 644, Tyrone. 6:30 Mem. Assn., 7:30 L/ Inst., 9:00 meal.

30 May, Sat - Masonic Home Workday for Dist. 1/4/9/12
all districts & visitors welcome. 8:00 start. (open)

11 Jun, Thu - DeKalb County Masonic Association (open)
at Grant Park 604, Decatur. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

13 Jun, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association (open)
at Norcross 228, Norcross. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

Fundraisers

09 May, Sat - BBQ Fundraiser
at Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. (hours not listed).

18 May, Mon - Golf Fundraiser (Stone Mountain 449)
at Cedar Lake Golf Club, Loganville. Registration ends May 5;
more info from info@smlodge449.org.

06 Jun, Sat - Breakfast Fundraiser
at Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:00-9:30 am.

06 Jun, Sat - Chicken Fry Fundraiser
at Mountain Park 729, Stone Mountain. (hours not listed).

Degree Conferrals

Conferral schedules are TENTATIVE; confirm with host lodge.

06 May, Wed - Fellow Craft Conferral
at Fulton 216, Atlanta. 6:00 meal, 7:00 meeting.

09 May, Sat - Master Mason Conferral
by Douglasville 289 at the Lott Property, 8223 Conners Rd.,
Villa Rica. 11:00 start, BBQ available during Refreshment.

On the Horizon...
Fellow Craft conferrals anticipated at Clarkston 492 and
Masters 295 in July - no firm dates yet.

Appendant Body Activities

03-06 May, Sun-Wed - Grand York Rite Session, Macon.

06 Jun, Sat - Scottish Rite Family Day Picnic
at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Shelter 1, Lithia Springs. 11-4

11-14 Jun, Thu-Sun - Grand Eastern Star Session, Columbus.

GACHIP Programs

09-10 May, Sat-Sun - Roswell 165, Sponsors
at Arts Day, Roswell 10:00 - 5:00.

16 May, Sat - Fulton 216, Sponsors
at GBI Child Safety Day, Decatur 11:00 - 4:00.



What is Tolerance?

David Herman, DDGM, PM: Chamblee-Sardis 444, Member: Gate City 2

Tolerance. Let's start with the first definition from dictionary.com:

a fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality, etc., differ from one's own; freedom from bigotry.

So, tolerance does not mean endorsing, adopting, or practicing that thing or those things which differ from our personal situation; it merely means allowing others to be themselves - as they allow us to be ourselves.

In Masonry, we are taught to be tolerant of many things. We learn to take in men of good character, regardless of how they might differ from each of us individually.

We do not treat a man differently because of where he was born; in our lodges can be found men from other states, up north, out west, even men from other countries and continents; Freemasonry welcomes men from all locations into her lodges.

We do not treat a man differently because of his financial situation; in our lodges can be found men from all walks of life, from hourly laborers to self-made millionaires, from independent businessmen to men on disability, from careers ranging from trucking to computing to landscaping to construction to finance to law to law enforcement to teaching; Freemasonry welcomes men from all walks of life into her lodges.

We do not treat a man differently because of his religion; in our lodges can be found men of a variety of faiths, including Christian, Jewish, Islamic (including numerous approaches to those religions), as well as those who find God through personal prayer, study, meditation or other practice; Freemasonry welcomes men from all spiritual backgrounds into her lodges.

We do not treat a man differently because of his physical appearance; in our lodges can be found men with a wide range of heights, weights, hair color and skin color; men of European, Asian, African, Pacific and Native American ancestry; Freemasonry welcomes men from all ethnicities into her lodges.

Tolerance for and empathy towards those who differ from us is probably one of the most important lessons that the Fraternity has to offer. There is even tolerance of variety among lodges. Some lodges allow smoking, while it is forbidden in others. Dress code varies among lodges, from slacks and shirt to coat and tie to tuxedo; look to the East, and you will find top hats, cowboy hats, fedoras, and more. Fund raisers range from pancake breakfasts to fish fries to golf tournaments to shooting competitions to turkey sales to rodeos. Some lodges have family meals; some eat before the meeting; some afterwards; and some have no meals at all. Some lodges regularly meet for three or more hours, others rarely exceed one hour.

We have a great diversity of style from lodge to lodge in Georgia. Activities and practices which fit the flavor and tradition of one lodge will not necessarily fit the flavor and tradition of the next - but therein lies our strength! The lodge lives and the traditions accumulate (or fall away) based on how the teachings of the Fraternity speak to each of us, both individually and as lodges. It is precisely this variation in customs which gives each lodge its own flavor, its own feel, its own egregore. One of the attractions of visiting lodges is to see what they do differently. I've been to lodges with large meeting rooms and tiny ones, with doors in unusual places or other situations requiring adjustments, where the flag is presented for the pledge,

If each lodge was essentially a clone of every other lodge, what purpose would that serve? With today's cars and roads, we would need no more than one lodge per county.

Of course, while we may each be on a path of self improvement, we are not clones or automatons. We each have our likes and dislikes, our beliefs and our practices, our hobbies and habits. We learn what serves us well and what does not serve us at all. We adopt that which works and we discard that which does not work - or that which no longer works. We learn and grow as we experience life.

Freemasonry teaches me to be tolerant of the views of others, even when radically different from my own - and especially when held by my fellow Masons. It is sometimes a hard lesson, but always worthwhile. Always.

"Brother, being passed to the second degree of Freemasonry, we congratulate you on your preferment. The internal, and not the external, qualifications of a man are what Freemasonry regards."

- from the Charge at Passing, Masonic Manual, Grand Lodge of Georgia.



The Tenets of Freemasonry

Excerpted from "The Lodge System of Masonic Education" (Lectures for the Second Meeting, Subject 2) by the Grand Lodge of Georgia

The principal tenets of Freemasonry are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It is necessary not to overlook the word "principal" for it signifies that, while our Fraternity lays the greatest emphasis on these three teachings, yet there are others of almost equal importance which must not be lost sight of.

By a "tenet" is meant some teaching so obviously true, so universally accepted, that we believe it without question. Examples lie everywhere about us: good health is better than illness; a truthful man is more dependable than a liar; it is better to save money than to waste it; an industrious man is more useful than an idle one; education is to be preferred to ignorance; these are but a few of the countless examples of teachings that no intelligent man can possibly question. Everybody takes them for granted. They are tenets.

Freemasonry considers Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth to be teachings of this kind, true in a sense that no man can question them; they are obvious, self-proving, axiomatic. It is not uncommon for men to consider Brotherly Love, while highly desirable, as not practicable, and therefore just a vision to be dreamed but never possessed. It is challenging for Freemasonry to call these "tenets", thus stating that they are plainly and obviously and necessarily true. Unless you grasp this and see that the teachings of Freemasonry are self-evident realities, not visionary ideals, you will never understand Masonic teachings. For Freemasonry does not tell us that Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth ought to be true, that it would be better or us all if they were true - she tells us that they are true. They are tremendous realities in human life, and it is as impossible to question their existence as to question the ground under our feet, or the sun over our heads. Our question is not whether to believe in them or not, for we cannot help but believe them; our question is, what are we going to do with them?

Love places the highest possible valuation on another person. A man's mother or father, his wife or sweetheart, his children, his intimate friends, he values not for advantages he may gain from them, not for their usefulness, but each one in his own person and for his own sake. We work for such persons, we make sacrifices for them, we delight to be with them; that, in detail and practice is what is meant by love.

What, then, is Brotherly Love? Manifestly, it means that we place on another man the highest possible valuation as a friend, a companion, an associate, a neighbor. Merely to be with him, to spend hours in his company, to work at his side is a privilege. We do not ask that from our relationship we shall make money, or further our business interests, or achieve any selfish gain. Our relationship with a brother is its own excuse for being, its own justification, its own reward. Brotherly Love is one of the supreme goods without which life is lonely, unhappy, ugly. This is not a hope or a dream, but a fact - as real as day and night or the law of gravity. Freemasonry builds on that fact, takes it for granted, provides opportunities for us to have such fellowship, encourages us to understand and to practice it, and to make it one of the laws of our existence, one of our Principal Tenets.

Relief is one of the forms of Charity. We think of charity as relief from pauperism. To care for a man crippled or chronically ill, or a victim of unemployment, or addicted to drink or gambling, so that his dependents are left in want, is deemed usually a responsibility resting on the public. As a rule the public discharges that responsibility through some form of organized charity financed by general subscriptions or out of the public funds.

The Masonic conception of Relief is different. While now and then some Brother, through misfortune and no fault of his own, becomes more or less permanently unable to support himself and family and is cared for by outside relief or by his Lodge in cooperation with the Relief Committee of Grand Lodge, such cases are the exception rather than the rule. The qualifications demanded of a petitioner exclude the men who, through indolence or vice, may be expected to lapse into chronic poverty.

Masonic Relief takes it for granted that any man, no matter how industrious and frugal he may be, through sudden misfortune or other conditions over which he has no control, may be in temporary need of a helping hand. To extend it is not what is generally described as charity, but is one of the natural and inevitable acts of Brotherhood. Any conception of Brotherhood must include this willingness to give help, aid and assistance. Therefore Relief, Masonically understood, is a Tenet.

By Truth, the last of the Principal Tenets, is meant something more than the search for truths in the intellectual sense, though that is included. Freemasonry's motto is, "Let there be light." In any permanent brotherhood members must be truthful in character and habit, dependable, men of honor as well as of honesty, men on whom we can rely to be faithful fellows and loyal friends. Thus understood, Truth is a necessity, required if a Brotherhood is to exist; therefore, we take it for granted as beyond question.

Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are the Principal Tenets of Masonry. There are other Tenets; teachings so obvious that argument is never necessary to sustain them. With this in mind we urge you to ponder the teachings of the Craft as you progress from Degree to Degree. You may not find them novel. Novelty, however, while it may have its own interest, is not to be compared in value with the knowledge that the truths on which Freemasonry is founded are eternal. They are never new, neither are they ever old; time cannot wither nor custom stale their infinite variety; the freshness of immortality is on them because they never die; in them is a ceaseless inspiration and an inexhaustible appeal. They are tenets of Freemasonry because always and everywhere they have been tenets of successful human life.



Davo Digresses: Masonic Marksmanship

David Herman, DDGM; PM: Chamblee-Sardis 444; Member: Gate City 2;
...and NRA member!

So, about two Thanksgivings ago, I heard that the Shrine was having a pistol shoot as a fund raiser. I got Hector and Tim from my lodge to come with me, but I got the date wrong - so we spent the day shooting at a range. This past year, I got the date right, and Hector and I participated and bought shirts and stuff - all to benefit the charity. When I mentioned it at another meeting, I found out that a lodge was having a turkey shoot on the same day. Recently, I got word of a pistol shoot in April and a silver dollar (aka turkey) shoot in May. My steadfast brother Hector and I each brought along a friend, and the four of us went to the pistol shoot.

Now, I love to visit with brethren, and I enjoy shooting (even if I don't practice enough to shoot as well as some folks), so I knew I was in for a great day. Logan came to my house, and Hector brought Soji and picked us up, and the four of us headed out the 40 miles or so to Monroe. When we arrived at the range, we were made very welcome by brethren of Generous Warren Lodge No. 20, who organized the event to raise money for the needy families of Walton County. Since this was more of a fund raiser than a competition, they had decided to split the results up into thirds, and give awards to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place shooters in each of the three divisions - A, B and C. I personally shot a 245 out of 300 (I don't think I hit the paper from the furthest mark), Soji shot in the 280s, Logan was one of a number of 290s, and Hector was high scorer (as expected) with 295. We all congratulated Hector and fellowshipped a bit until 3:00, at which time they started sorting the scores - ties broken by the number of holes in the X ring.

As they started to announce the winners, I was caught off guard - apparently my 245 made me the winner for Division C; Logan's name was called as the winner for Division B; and naturally, Hector was overall Top Gun. And that's how two boys from Chamblee-Sardis Lodge and their two buddies took home three first place awards from a single pistol shoot!

As funny as that was (and I'll be displaying my award at lodge next meeting, believe me), it crystallized an idea I'd been having. I'd like to see every lodge that has some sort of marksmanship competition fundraiser work together - after all, these events are all marketing to largely the same group of people. I think that if we publicize all of the events at each event, we'll have better turnout overall. Some lodges have established events, others are just starting new ones; let's all work together to make them a success.

So please, in addition to my normal plea for information to publish, I'm adding this one: please let me know of your pistol, rifle, shotgun, dart, slingshot - whatever type of marksmanship competition your lodge is holding as a fundraiser - and I'll try to get word out to the craft in general as well as the organizers of the other events. I think this is a great opportunity for growth, fellowship and charity that we should capitalize on starting right now!

Masonic Code Excerpts

CHAPTER 39-1. CANDIDATES

39-106. General Requirements. A candidate should be able to perform all the duties of Masonry, whether intellectual or physical. He should be capable of learning the art of Freemasonry.

39-108. Physical Qualifications. Every candidate for initiation should be upright in body, not deformed or dismembered at the time of making, but of hale and entire limbs, organs and members, as a man ought to be. If the petitioner, however, be physically defective by reason of deformity or of being maimed and still be able to earn a livelihood and honestly acquire a means of subsistence and can conform substantially to the forms and ceremonies of Masonry and be instructed in its mysteries, eligibility shall be first determined by the Lodge to which the candidate shall have applied. Until this action, if favorable, shall have been submitted to and approved by the Grand Master in writing the petitioner shall not be eligible to receive the Masonic degrees. See Secs. 47-104, 24-102.

39-111. Illegitimate. An illegitimate is not disqualified because of illegitimacy.

39-112. Indian. An Indian, being necessarily free by birth, is eligible as an applicant, if otherwise qualified.

39-113. Citizenship Unnecessary. It is not necessary that an applicant for initiation be an American citizen. Masonry is universal.

39-114. Character. It is the duty of the whole Lodge to examine into the character of a candidate. Any member may report against him, and it is his duty to do so if he knows anything rendering him unworthy; but a specific committee must be appointed in every case.

