



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

david @ morelight . org

July 2009
Living as a Freemason

http://news.morelight.org



In This Issue

- 1- Area News & DCMA Report
- 2- Old Tiler Talks: *Masonry's Failure*
- 3- List of Special Events
- 4- Ritual Competition & GA Code Excerpt
- 5- Masonic Voices & DDGM Resignation
- 6- The West Gate & Poetry: *What is a Freemason?*

The DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

DCMA This Month

Tuesday, July 28th should find us at Clarkston 492, on East Ponce, just across the tracks from the Clarkston PD. I haven't heard what WBro. Knowlton's program will be, but Clarkston is always a great meeting, and past programs have included Scottish Culture with Haggis and Tatties an' Neeps as well as a program on Georgia Troops in combat. Please come out and join us; our meetings are not tyled, and are open to the public.



DCMA Next Month

August means Panthersville, so we'll trek on out to Union Church Road and Highway 138 on Tuesday, 18 August. Come see what WBro. Langford has in store for us.

DCMA Last Month

Thursday, June 11th found us at Grant Park 604, where Mr. James P. McLaughlin and Mike Haynes gave a great presentation on the North Metro Miracle League, with an overview of what they do for special needs children and some very heartwarming stories.

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 Elephant in the Room

At a recent multi-lodge meeting, I asked if we were going to discuss "that letter" from Crawfish Springs Lodge. I was told that we certainly were not.

I was unable to attend the following meeting of the same organization this past week, but I have been told that the "Gate City Issue" was not discussed.

I understand that many Masons don't keep up with what's going on in the Fraternity across the country or around the world, but let me assure you that many do. If you would like an idea of what Masons across the street and around the country and world are saying about the situation here in Georgia, below are shortened web addresses to a few of the most active postings online.

I imagine that someone will be upset that I'm publishing these addresses, even though a simple web search will bring each of them up. So be it. I think you need to know.

Masonic Bigotry and Georgia

The Freemasons for Dummies Blog, where the story was first posted:

<http://tinyurl.com/npf7jd>

My brother's keeper. Open Racism in Georgia Freemasonry.

The Masonic Traveler Blog, with copies of the documents:

<http://tinyurl.com/mtbda5>

Georgia: Not Such A Peachy Masonic State

The Bee Hive Blog

<http://tinyurl.com/ms4vsl>

Georgia on my Mind: Masonry's Chance to Become Relevant

The Euphrates Blog

<http://tinyurl.com/mmmdcr>

Please pray, as I do, for a resolution we can be proud of.

Special thanks to Bill Marsh for proofreading this mess!

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

Old Tiler Talks

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

Masonry's Failure

"Why does Masonry fail so much?" puzzled the New Brother, dropping into a chair beside the Old Tiler in the anteroom.

"I didn't know it did," commented the Old Tiler. "But then, I'm an old man and my my eyes are not very good. Maybe I don't see clearly any more. Tell me about it."

"Oh, you see well enough! You just don't want to admit that the order to the service of which you have devoted so much time and thought is just a failure!"

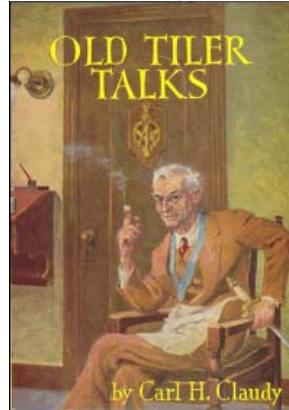
"Is that so!" The Old Tiler seemed surprised. "You interest me! But pity my foibles and tell me your side of it!"

"Masonry fails because it doesn't interest men sufficiently to make them practice what they preach. I was at Jones' house tonight. Went to bring him to lodge in the car. After we had left he said: 'Of course you know I'm not really going to lodge! Got a hen on! Nice fat lil' poker game. Want to sit in?' I told him I didn't. But I took him to his 'nice fat lil' game!' Now, there is a man who tells his family he is going to lodge, and then plays poker. I say Masonry has failed with him. It hasn't even taught him to tell the truth!"

"Remember Roberts? He was arrested last week for forgery. He has been a member for several years. Yet Masonry couldn't teach him to be honest. There was Williamson, who tried to kill his doctor; and Burton who has been defending an ugly divorce suit... they are lodge members, but Masonry didn't teach them to be what they ought to be. And say... did you hear about Larson? Well..." the New Brother lowered his voice. "It's being whispered about that..." He leaned over to talk in the Old Tiler's ear. "Now, that isn't Masonry... it's a violation of all his obligations. So I say Masonry has failed with him. What do you say?"

"Yes, Masonry failed to make an impression on these men to suit you, even as Masonry has failed to make an impression on you to suit me!" snapped the Old Tiler. "That last remark you made was an unadulterated scandal! Does Masonry teach you to talk scandal? But never mind that! Let me dig a few weeds out of the scrubby, ill-tended, and unwatered garden you miscall your mind and see if we can't get it ready to grow one straight thought!"

"I know Jones. He is a member of the city club, the country club, Dr. Parkin's church, and a luncheon club. Neither church nor luncheon club teach deception



or foster lies. Both instruct in morality, one by precept, the other by practice. By what right do you blame Masonry for Jones' failure to tell the truth, any more than the church or the luncheon club? Is Jones' mother to blame because she didn't teach her boy never to tell a lie? How about his Sunday School teacher and his wife? Are they to blame? If not, why is Masonry to blame?

"Roberts has been accused of forgery. I don't know whether he is guilty or not. Williamson seems to have had some real justification for feeling enmity toward his doctor, although nothing justifies murder, of course. Burton may be a sinner or sinned against... I don't know. As for Larson, it will take more than your whispers of scandal to make me believe ill of a brother until I know something.

"But let us suppose Roberts a forger, Williamson a murderer, Burton a Don Juan. All these men grew up, went to school, got out in the world, joined clubs, societies, orders, became Masons, members of a church... Why pick on Masonry as the failure when these men go wrong? Is it just? If the church of God can't keep a man straight how can Masonry be expected to?"

"It is rankly unjust to blame Christ for the failures of those who profess to follow Him. Was it Christ's fault that Peter denied Him and Judas betrayed Him? Was it the fault of the religion they professed? Or was it the fault of the man, the character, the up-bringing, the times?"

"Men fail, and fall, and rise and try again... or fall and stay in the mud. To those who rise Masonry has a helping hand to extend. To those who fail and stay fallen, she has charity. Not hers the fault that humanity is frail. She hold the torch; if they close their eyes to its radiance and refuse to see the narrow path that the torch illumines, will you blame the torch?"

"Masonry does not fail men. Men fail Masonry. Masonry has the teachings, the thought, the ennobling influence, the example to set, the vision to show those who have eyes to see. If they close their hearts to the ennobling influence, will not profit by the example and shut their eyes to the vision, is that the fault of Masonry?"

"You, my brother, have just talked scandal without proof; a whispered slander against the good name of a Mason. Has Masonry failed with you that it has not taught you tolerance, brotherly love, reticence, charity of thought? Or is the failure in you as it may be within these men you mention?"

"The Old Tiler waited. The New Brother hung his head. At last he spoke.

"I am most properly rebuked. How shall I make amends?"

"A great teacher said to you and all like you and to me and all like me; 'Go, and sin no more!'" answered the Old Tiler reverently.



List of Special Events - July & August, 2009

The Grand Master's Calendar

- 25 Jul, Sat - GA/AL/FL Festival** - see below
- 01 Aug, Sat - Children's Home Workday, Dist. 5/8/10/11**
at the Home, Macon. 8:00 start, lunch at noon.
- 15 Aug, Sat - 4th District Convention**
at Long Cane 424, LaGrange - 9:00 registration, 10:00 start.

Special Programs

- 07 Jul, Tue - PGM Joe Suttles, Guest Speaker**
at WG England 747, Rockmart. 10:00 opening, lunch afterward. (tyled)
- 25 Jul, Sat - Tri-State Festival with Alabama & Florida**
at Tyrian 111, Warner Robbins. Never having been, I can't really say what goes on. Since it starts at 9:00 am, I imagine lunch will be available. (tyled)
- 31 Jul, Fri - Georgia Lodge of Research**
at the Atlanta Masonic Center. Craig Curtis will present "The Geocentric World View and its relationship to Freemasonry." 7:30 start. (open)
- 15 Aug, Sat - Tournament of Champions**
at the Atlanta Masonic Center; hosted by the Valley of Atlanta, A&ASR. More info on page 4, or <http://krollings.com/toc/>
- 22 Aug, Sat - Rock Quarry Degree**
at the Rock Quarry, Morganton; hosted by Blue Ridge 67. Starts around dusk. (tyled)

Appendant Body Activities

- 11 Jul, Sat - Motorcycle Ride**
from all locations to Al Sihah Shrine, Macon. Food, music, awards; donations go to the GA Child ID Program. (open)
- 01 Aug, Sat - York Rite Grand Master's Class**
at the Grand York Rite building in Macon. 8:00 registration.

25/50 Year Awards, PM Nights

- 09 Jul, Thu - 25- & 50-Year Awards**
at Douglasville 289, Douglasville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start. (tyled?)
- 13 Aug, Thu - Past Masters Night**
at Mt. Vernon 22, Athens. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start. (tyled)

GACHIP Programs

None listed for the Metro area at press time.

Associations, Clubs, Instruction

- 28 Jul, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association** (open)
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.
- 29 Jul, Wed - Southside Mem. Assn. & Lodge of Inst.** (tyled)
(Jul Location?). 6:30 Mem. Assn., 7:30 L/ Inst., 9:00 meal.
- 31 Jul, Sat - Georgia Lodge of Research** (open)
The Geocentric World View and its Relationship to Freemasonry will be the topic presented by Craig Curits at the Atlanta Masonic Center. 7:30 start.
- 01 Aug, Sat - Masonic Home Workday for Dists. 5/8/10/11**
all districts & visitors welcome. 8:00 start. (open)

Shooting Events

- 11 Jul, Sat - Sporting Clays**
at The Meadows National Gun Club, Forsyth. \$100 entry fee, includes lunch. \$1500 in prizes. 10:00 start.

Fundraisers

- 04 Jul, Sat - Breakfast**
at Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:00-10:00.
- 04 Jul, Sat - BBQ**
at Jonesboro 4, Jonesboro. Hours not listed.
- 18 Jul, Sat - Car Show**
at Lawrenceville Auto Parts (Lawrenceville 131, sponsor). 10:00-3:00.
- 25 Jul, Sat - BBQ Sale**
at Mt. Vernon 22, Athens; pre-sold BBQ Pork only, \$7.50 per pound, wrapped to go. Contact the lodge for more info.
- Firewood (Oak)**
by Al Sihah Shrine, Macon. \$50 per pickup load (full sized pickups hold 1/3 to 1/2 cord). Contact Bobby Simmons for details.
- Picnic Tables**
by Shannon Lodge 404, Comer. 6' tables, \$150.00. Contact the WM for details.

Degree Conferrals

Conferral schedules are TENTATIVE; confirm with host lodge.

- 09 Jul, Thu - Master Mason Conferral**
at Rockmart 97, Rockmart. 6:00 meal, 7:00 meeting.
- 25 Jul, Sat - Entered Apprentice Conferral**
at Mt. Vernon 22, Athens. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 22 Aug, Sat - Master Mason Conferral**
at the Rock Quarry, Morganton. Starts around dusk.



6th Annual Blue Lodge Tournament of Champions

Sponsored by the Valley of Atlanta, A&ASR, and held at the Atlanta Masonic Center

Why Ritual Competition?

Brethren, the annual Tournament not only provides an opportunity to compare performances of the lodge opening ritual and the catechisms, but also brings excellent lecturers from far and wide, each with his own version of the various lectures. This is a great opportunity not only for those who compete or judge, but also for those who come to watch, to get a feel for how other lodges do the lectures, and possibly to customize their own versions.

This year's events include the following:

Solo Competition:

Entered Apprentice:

- The Entered Apprentice Prayer
- The Bible Lecture
- The Apron Lecture
- The Working Tools
- The Northeast Corner Lecture
- The Entered Apprentice Charge

Fellow Craft:

- The Working Tools
- The Staircase (or Senior Deacon's) Lecture
- The Letter G Lecture
- The Fellow Craft Charge

Master Mason:

- The Working Tools
- The Bible Presentation
- The Master Mason Charge

Two-man Competition:

- Entered Apprentice Catechism
- Fellow Craft Catechism
- Master Mason Catechism

Team Competition: Lodge Opening

- Team may be assembled from multiple lodges
- No Charge at Opening
- No Balloting
- No Purging
- No GM Reception

So plan to join us at the Atlanta Masonic Center on Saturday, 15 August.

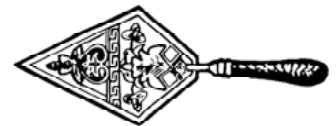
Judging of Lodge Openings, Catechisms and Charges will begin at 10:00 am.

Judging of solo lectures will begin at 1:00 pm.

Visit <http://krollings.com/toc/> for more details, including submission requirements and contact information.



Georgia Masonic Code Excerpt



CHAPTER 83-4. TRIAL OF WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

83-401. Trial of Masters. - If the Master of a Lodge be charged with immoral or un-Masonic conduct by a majority of the Lodge over which he presides, or by the Master of any other Lodge, the accusers or accuser shall present a written accusation to the Grand Master, or, in his absence, to the Deputy Grand Master, who shall summon a Lodge of Masters or Past Masters of not less than three nor more than thirteen, designating one of them to preside as Master. They shall proceed to try the case and pronounce such sentence as they deem just; but the same shall not take effect until approved by the officer summoning such Lodge. The accused shall have the right of appeal as provided by law. See Sec. 27-104.

83-402. May Be Tried as a Private Member. - A Mason who is elected Worshipful Master while under charges, shall be tried in the same manner as any other member. See Sec. 25-106, 83-401.

83-403. Vote Necessary. - The defendant having pleaded guilty or having been found guilty, only a majority vote is necessary to fix the punishment.



Masonic Voices

I've received a lot of communications, directly and indirectly, in regard to "The Gate City Issue", and have elected to share a sampling.

*This note comes from WBro. D. Michael Roberts,
Worshipful Master of Ocean Lodge 214 in Brunswick, Georgia.*

Brethren,

I am the Current Master of Ocean Lodge #214 F & A.M. of Brunswick Georgia.

I have just left our regular communication. At this communication this topic was discussed. A motion was made, a ballot was taken and passed to send a resolution to The Grand Lodge of Georgia demanding that Grand Lodge discharge and dismiss the charges against the Worshipful Master of Gate City Lodge # 2.

The Brother was found to be of good moral character following Masonic investigation and met each and every challenge placed before him, and was rightfully elected by Gate City Lodge #2 to receive the degrees. Being that all criteria were met under the Grand Lodge of Georgia the work should and must stand.

The days of ignorance and prejudice have not passed in the profane world. However, they have no place in Freemasonry of Georgia as they are unsupported by any of the tenets taught by our fraternity.

Fraternally Yours,

D. Michael Roberts, WM
OceanLodge.org

*This note comes from WBro. Ralph E. Desmond,
Worshipful Master of King Hiram's Lodge in Provincetown, Mass.*

Worshipful Master and Brothers of Gate City Lodge #2:

I was forwarded some information about your current "situation" and found it so incredible that I checked your website.

Please know that "all regular Masons" should stand with you in opposing any attempt to limit or hinder the membership in our Fraternity of "men of age, professing a belief in God, who are of good report and well recommended".

As the 93rd Presiding Master of King Hiram's Lodge, AF & AM, Chartered 12 Dec 1795 by MW Paul Revere, himself!. I express my outrage at the treatment surrounding of your Bro. SS Victor Marshall. I congratulate him on appointment as an officer; may he serve with equal pleasure to himself and honor to the Fraternity.

In Fraternal Affection.

Ralph E. Desmond, WM
Presiding Master
King Hiram's Lodge, AF & AM
Provincetown MA
Chartered - 12 Dec 1795 by M. W. Paul Revere
KingHiramsLodge.org

DDGM Resignation

by David Herman

If you haven't heard, I have resigned as District Deputy to the Grand Master after a little more than a year of service.

It has been a rich and rewarding experience, giving me the drive to visit a large number of lodges, many of them for the first time. While the details of the buildings have varied greatly, the thing that never varied is the fellowship I experienced at each lodge I visited.

I joined Gate City Lodge this year. It was not an accident; it was not the lodge that I just happened to wind up in, as usually happens with new Masons. It is a lodge that I had visited; a lodge where I was made to feel welcome, a lodge working on sharp ritual work, solid fellowship, and community outreach with educational programs open to the public.

I joined because I wanted to experience Freemasonry with these brethren.

As DDGM, I represented the Grand Master, and I was not to attempt to interpret the code or offer opinions; however, I found myself unable to remain silent on the sidelines in the face of the charges read against our Worshipful Master, for the actions that we had taken as a lodge.

My resignation should not be interpreted as a criticism of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. I just did not feel that I should express personal beliefs while holding that office.

I thank my fellow District Deputies and brethren all for their sage advice and counsel, and I offer my earnest congratulations and complete cooperation to whomever takes up that position next.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

David Herman
Past Master, Chamblee-Sardis 444
Member, Gate City 2



The West Gate

*Excerpted from "Can we Retain those Ideals and Principles of Freemasonry" by MWBro. E. A. Snell, PGM, GL of Saskatchewan
Originally Published in "The Tracing Board", January, February, March and April, 1978*

I pose the question, "How are we going to retain those ideals and principles of Freemasonry as laid down by our forefathers?"

One way, I submit, is by the thorough investigation of all applicants by the Investigating Committee.

Masonry owes the applicant nothing. If there is any doubt, the Committee should give Masonry and the Lodge the benefit.

The applicant then must pass the following tests in the affirmative without reservation or equivocations of any kind:

Will he strengthen the order and be an asset to the Lodge?

Would I invite him to my home to become a friend of the family?

Would he be invited to the home of other members?

Does he have the support of his family in seeking admittance?

Is he financially able to continue his membership without depriving his family of the essentials of life?

Are his reasons for seeking membership honorable and acceptable in the opinion of the committee?

Is his desire for membership a voluntary one or due to the solicitation of some friend?

Is the petitioner charitable by nature?

Does he contribute to needy causes as his finances permit?

Is he charitable in thought and action toward his fellow man?

Is he prompt in his financial obligations and honorable in his dealings with others?

Does he believe in a Supreme Being?

It must always be kept in mind that "when anyone is said to be a Mason, the world at large may know he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrow and the distressed spirit prefer its suit; whose hand is guided by justice and whose heart is expanded by 'benevolence'. Will the applicant be such a one?

Is he bigoted or prejudiced? A negative answer must be obtained.

When a man's character is in conflict with the universally admitted principles of Freemasonry, it is far better to refuse admittance than it is to consider the person who sponsored him. It is often better to lose a candidate than to gain a member who adds nothing. The main function of Masonry is to "make good men better"; it is not obligated to save sinners.

Membership is too priceless to be shared without 'due consideration'.

Let us look well to the West Gate!!

What is a Freemason?

By WBro. Kevin Noel Olson, PM, Butte Lodge 22, Butte, Montana

When you ask what a Freemason is,
The reply is wide as the sea.
A man who lives to understand,
And tries to improve all that he sees.

The word comes down to us,
From times bygone and yore.
When men worked to understand,
Everything that came before.

He sees beyond the surface.
Men who are good and true.
Worldly yet not of it,
In all good men finds value.

He gives money? Yes.
He gives time all day.
Laboring for mankind to find.
Where we lost our way.

A Freemason looks to rectify,
The grievous errors of our past.
To create a family of man,
In peace with ourselves at last.

That I have failed to answer,
What is a Freemason? I know.
One who is tried on the square,
And parts with all fair,
And betters the world as he goes.

A Freemason is one in his heart,
Outwardly, it can only be seen,
With the sun in the East, South, and West,
And hopefully all in between.

