



Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F. & A.M.

Comments

Special points of interest:

- Comments
- Facilities and Maintenance Activity
- Upcoming Events of Interest

From the Secretary:
There are still twelve members who have not paid their 2012 dues. The good side is that the dues of the remaining 136 mem-

bers are paid, and the Lodge has really needed the funds due to the considerable building operation and maintenance expenses this year. If your dues card

does not show 2012, please pay your 2012 dues. The final notices of dues delinquency will be sent out in August.

Facilities and Maintenance Activity

Inside this issue:

- July Birthdays* 2
- Happenings At The June Stated* 2
- August Birthdays* 2
- Of Masonic Interest* 2

The flashing and sealing has been repaired around the cooking hood vent on the roof at a cost of \$570. One pane of a double-pane front window was discovered broken, and the window had to be replaced at a cost of \$381.98. The fan motor for the hood vent also had to be

replaced at a cost of \$50, plus the donated labor of WBs Bobby Burgess and Bill Moss. Much thanks is due to those participating in our Contingencies Fund Program! So far this year we have had to spend \$2,651 on repairs to the building.

Upcoming events of interest

August 6—MM Degree. 6:30 supper, 7:30 degree work. Please participate. At the July 28th MM Degree we had barely enough brothers for the work!

Degree work practices—7/23 and 7/30 at 7:30pm, **8/5** at 5:00pm

August 13—Stated Communication

School of Instruction—August 29th and 30th

Charities Golf Tournament—Date not yet established(late September or early October)

Ladies Night Banquet—**October 6th.** Only 120 tickets will be sold. \$10 each. Dinner and entertainment. All sales in advance.

July Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)

Age Birth Date Name

74 07/29/1937 ROBERT F. SHINN

71 07/24/1940 NEIL C. DUNN

69 07/19/1942 STEPHEN A. WHITE

67 07/07/1945 BERNIE L. PENCE

61 07/19/1950 DONALD T. HILL

53 07/09/1959 JAMES K. HODGE

51 07/05/1961 JEFFREY M. BRADLEY

49 07/17/1962 STANLEY W. DRYE

48 07/22/1963 CHARLES K. FURR

48 07/06/1964 KENNETH J. KIKER

47 07/28/1964 JOHN E. MILLS

45 07/08/1967 BRIAN K. KNOX

44 07/08/1968 ANTHONY W. WILLIAMS

Happenings at the July stated

We enjoyed the fellowship of a gathering of 33 brothers, and a wonderful country supper.

Announced the deaths of two brothers—Hardis Wayne Hatley on June 24th, and Carl

Brown Moore, Jr., on July 7th.

Discussed the installation of handrails for the steps in the East and West.

Worked on planning for the

Charities Golf Tournament, and the Ladies Night Banquet.

Brother Tommy Nash presented a Masonic education talk on the sprig of acacia and its significance in Freemasonry.

August Birthdays

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)

Age Birth Date Name

86 08/24/1925 PHILAS J. HARTSELL

81 08/15/1930 ANDERSON B. JONES

76 08/26/1935 J. B. SMITH

75 08/21/1936 LEWIS M. FLOYD

74 08/12/1937 HAROLD D. TUCKER SR

72 08/29/1939 CHARLES K. DIXON

68 08/27/1943 BARNIE F. WHITLEY JR

63 08/06/1948 TOMMY D. MULLIS

61 08/05/1950 WILLIAM H. MOSS JR

60 08/05/1951 THOMAS O. EVANS

59 08/03/1952 RUSSELL W. HELMS

57 08/19/1954 RODNEY D. PHILLIPS

54 08/30/1957 ALEXANDER W.

BORGEMEISTER

53 08/01/1958 TERRY G. RIDDLE

52 08/18/1959 STEVEN L. BROOKS

45 08/08/1966 BERNARD W. BARNETT IV

45 08/18/1966 JEFFREY D. JONES

43 08/17/1968 TERRY W. HARVELL

41 08/07/1970 DUANE D. BURRY

Of Masonic Interest [Brother Richard J. Gatling]

From a very young age he seemed to develop a special talent for invention and improvement. As a young boy he always looked forward to assisting his father, Jordan Gatling, who was also a gifted inventor, and invented several interesting machines.

While he was still in his teen years he helped his father, invent two very important machines of the day. One was for sowing cotton, and the other was for thinning young cotton plants. The word invention in the Gatling family was indeed an every day word, and as the young boy grew to manhood his father constantly taught him how to think creatively.

(cont'd on p3)

(cont'd from p2)

Then in 1839, at the age of 21, he invented a steamboat screw propeller. However, another person quickly filed a patent on it before Brother Gatling could do so. Later that same year, he invented and patented a machine for sowing rice, and when he moved to St. Louis in 1844, adapted it to drilling wheat. This invention made him a wealthy man in the later years of his life. In the 1840's, an outbreak of smallpox left him interested in medicine. He attended Ohio Medical College, and graduated in 1850 but after graduating he soon lost interest in medicine and decided to continue his career in the field of inventing.

For the next few years he continued to invent and improve upon his many already existing inventions, and it was not until 1857 that he invented a steam driven plow. Although he patented the plow, it was not well accepted by farmers, and failed to show much of a profit.

Following the outbreak of the Civil War, he turned his attention to the invention of firearms, and by 1862 he had completed and patented the Gatling Gun, making it his eleventh patent.

He is best known as the inventor of the "Gatling Gun," the world's first practical repeating gun that drastically changed the tactics of warfare throughout the world. He first conceived the idea of his revolving battery gun in 1861, however, the first gun was actually not produced until 1862, when it was introduced at Indianapolis Indiana.

Of that first early model he produced 12 guns, which were used in battle by General Butler on the James River in Virginia. The U.S. Navy had adopted the gun in 1862, and installed several on it's ships in that year.

By 1865, he had changed the gun so that it could fire a metal cartridge, and in 1866 the U.S. Army finally officially adopted it. It rapidly became known around the world and before long it was in demand in Europe. Thereafter it began to be manufactured in Austria and England and was then used by several other European governments.

The first gun fired about 250 rounds per minute, but later improvements including a motor drive raised it to 3,000 rounds per minute. The gun was a rapid fire, hand cranked weapon and solved the enormous problems of rapid loading and rapid firing. He was 44 at the time, and he spent the rest of his life improving and living off the monetary benefits he received from his invention of the Gatling Gun.

Although those who thought he was a pacifist have accused him of being a hypocrite, he really saw the invention of the gun as something, which would save many lives. This proved to actually be true when the Union Army began finding that they could field with many less numbers of troops. In some cases it was said that one gun and 5 soldiers could do the work of 100 soldiers without a Gatling.

In fact, he invented the Gatling gun after he noticed that the majority of dead returning from the American Civil War died of illness, rather than gunshots. In 1877, he wrote: "It occurred to me that if I could invent a machine - a gun - which could by its rapidity of fire, enable one man to do as much battle duty as a hundred, that it would, to a large extent supersede the necessity of large armies, and consequently, exposure to battle and disease [would] be greatly diminished."

He continued working to improve the gun for several years following the Civil War, and many years later the Gatling Gun Company merged with the Colt Patent and Fire Arms Manufacturing Company. It is interesting to note that the Gatling Gun was used in many wars, both domestic and foreign before the gun was declared obsolete in 1911.

The war in which the gun saw it's first truly major action in was the Spanish-American War, where it was used in close support of the American troops. In the interim he continued developing the device, and while

(cont'd on p4)

(cont'd form p3)

experimenting with improving the Gatling gun he developed an electric motor, which thereafter powered the gun. This created the first "Minigun".

Miniguns and electric powered Gatling cannons of various sizes would go on to be used as on airplanes and helicopters starting in the early 1960's . Ground forces used some as well. The United States Army declared the hand-cranked Gatling gun obsolete in 1911.

Much later other arms designers developed the Vulcan Gun, a three barreled machine gun that used most of the basic principles of the Gatling Gun. The Vulcan Gun is also still used on helicopters and planes today, and it is well known that it can destroy heavily armored vehicles like tanks.

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. Government named a new destroyer the USS Gatling, in honor of the service he performed to his country. Brother Gatling died in New York City on February 26, 1903 and was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.

-
Brother Richard J. Gatling was a member of Center Lodge No. 23, Indianapolis, Indiana. Brother Gatling was born on September 12, 1818 on the Gatling family plantation located in the small town of Money's Neck, in Hertford County, North Carolina.
-

Source: Brother Luis J. Orozco, II, PM, FM

**UNION MASONIC LODGE #618,
A.F.&A.M.**

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 497
MIDLAND, NC 28107

MASONIC TEMPLE ADDRESS:
9650 HIGHWAY 601
MIDLAND, NC 28107

Phone: NO PHONE SERVICE AT THE FACILITY
Fax: NO FAX SERVICE AT THE FACILITY
LODGE WEB SITE: unionlodge618.com



MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

**Newsletter Editor: R. Darrell Long, PM
Secretary of Union Lodge #618**

**Send any constructive criticisms or
comments to
rdarrell@earthlink.net**

***Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall
is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile
phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the
reservations. (704) 791-9470***

