



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

Volume I, Issue 10

October 10, 2012

Happenings at the October stated

We enjoyed the fellowship of a gathering of 28 brothers.

We still have a leak over our stove in the kitchen, and the roofing contractor is addressing the problem under warranty, having had to return seven times so far. Very frustrating for both the contractor and ourselves.

We lost two brothers in September—Brother Coy L. McManus died on the 14th, and WB James T.(JT) Nance, Jr. died on the 28th.

The OES covered the materials cost of the new hand rails on the steps in the East, planned and installed (beautiful job) by donated labor from WB Bill Moss, assisted by Brother David Barbee.

Three members were suspended for NPD.

Received one Application for Affiliation.

Brother Ron Harkey turned in proceeds of \$3,050 from the recent charities golf tournament, with a few hundred dollars yet to be collected. A big thanks to Ron and all who participated.

Brothers David and John Nash were examined on their proficiencies in the catechism of the MM Degree by their father, Brother Tommy Nash.

Brother Tommy Nash presented a Masonic Education item, contrasting one's attitude during prayer in the Lodge to that of the closing charge.

Upcoming events of interest

October 20th—Cabarrus Lodge Chicken & Dumplings Dinner, 4-8.

November 4th—OES Country Buffet 11-2.

November 12th—Stated Communication. Election of officers for 2013.

December 1st—Installation of newly elected Grand Master Dewey R. Preslar Jr., of Andrew Jackson 576, and the other Grand Lodge officers. 10:00 a.m. in the Norvell Theater in Salisbury. You are all invited.

Of Masonic Interest (Freemasonry During Wartime)

[Excerpted from an article by Bro. Richard E. Shields, Jr., at www.masonsoftexas.com]

MASONIC BURIAL BY THE ENEMY

On June 11, 1863, the Federal gunboat Albatross, with Lt. Commander J.E. Hart of St. George's Lodge #6 in New York in command, was anchored on the Mississippi River opposite the town of Bayou Sara (some accounts say St. Francisville) (continued on p2)

October Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age) Age Birth Date Name

86 10/24/1925 BYRON H. BEAT-
TY

77 10/12/1934 LEROY
MCMANUS

74 10/09/1938 JIMMIE BARBEE

68 10/20/1943 KENNETH W.
HARTSELL SR

67 10/02/1945 THOMAS M. LITTLE

65 10/16/1946 JOHN G. HATH-
COCK

63 10/24/1948 WILLIAM O.
BLACK JR

54 10/11/1957 DON A. LAMBERT

51 10/26/1960 ROBERT C.
MCEACHERN

47 10/05/1965 AUGUSTUS N.
JAMES

37 10/21/1974 WALTER A. BUNT
JR

November Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age) Age Birth Date Name

81 11/09/1930 DAVID L. WAR-
WICK

73 11/18/1938 RONALD A.
HARKEY

67 11/27/1944 WALKER A.
HARKEY

61 11/21/1950 VINCENT J.
D'ANDREA

59 11/06/1952 RONNIE J. MOR-
GAN

57 11/05/1954 DENNIS R.
KIKER

55 11/01/1956 CARL B. MOORE
III

55 11/27/1956 DAVID E.
FLOYD

54 11/02/1957 PERRY L. SAMS

23 11/06/1988 JAMES C.
GREENE

18 11/16/1993 JOHN R. NASH

Of Masonic Interest (Freemasonry During Wartime)

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which was 15 miles above the Rebel fortification Port Hudson. The gunboat was part of the ships laying siege to Port Hudson, Louisiana. Commander Hart had been in a delirium for many days and was confined to quarters. A shot rang out and the ship's executive officer Theodore E. Dubois and the doctor found the commander dead. The officers of the ship, not wanting to bury their commander in the river, sent a flag of truce ashore to discover if there was a local Masonic Lodge. William W. Leake, the acting Master of the lodge in Bayou Sara was approached by Captain Samuel White, who lived near the river, to hold a Masonic funeral for Commander Hart. Brother Leake replied, "As a soldier of the Confederate Army, I think it is my duty. As a Mason, I know it is my duty." On June 13th, a few members of the local lodge in Masonic regalia gathered and met the procession of 50 men from the Albatross under a flag of truce at the top of a hill. Brothers Benjamin F. and Samuel F. White of Bayou Sara, the surgeon and the two officers of the gunboat who were Masons were in the procession along with a squad of marines at "trail arms." Leake and the local Brothers marched in

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front of the corpse to Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery and buried Brother Hart in the Masonic Section with military and Masonic honors with the service of the Episcopal Church read over him. Brother Leake led the Masonic part of the services. The US Surgeon and officers asked the Brothers to join them on the Albatross for dinner but they declined. The surgeon then offered to supply Brother Leake with medicines for his family. Brother Leake declined but later the surgeon sent a few medicines to Leake through Brother Samuel White.

Hart's grave was marked with a wooden head plate for many years, and eventually a permanent marker covering the whole grave was dedicated. The marker states: "This monument is dedicated in loving tribute to the universality of Freemasonry."

HIS PLEASURE TO GIVE THEM RELIEF

Toward the end of the Civil War a number of Confederate prisoners of war were being held in the vicinity of Winchester, Virginia, where they were guarded by a regiment of Ohio troops. One afternoon a young major accompanied the regimental surgeon on his hospital rounds among the prisoners.

The young officer noticed that although the surgeon stopped at each bed, at some he gave tobacco, sometimes some money which he peeled from a large roll in his pocket and to others, advice that had nothing to do with the patient's medical condition. The major's curiosity was raised as to why this surgeon would give aid over and above what was expected to the dirty, ragged prisoners. The surgeon replied that he was a Mason and that since the wounded prisoners were Masons, "it was not only his duty but also his pleasure to relieve their wants to the limit of his ability, regardless of their rank or condition."

The major, touched by these actions, expressed a wish to become a Mason. At that period of time, many lodges ignored jurisdictional lines or length of residence. Later these actions would cause many headaches for the various Grand Lodges but at this point were just part of the war. Thus, Hiram Lodge #21 of Winchester elected him to receive the degrees which he proceeded to do.

The lodge had had a fluctuating membership for the past 4 years since the town was constantly changing hands as the armies moved up and down the Shenandoah Valley. At times, the Federals had a majority in the lodge and at other times the Confederates did. After the final defeat of the Confederate Army at Cedar Creek in October, 1864, things finally settled down, and the lodge looked again to hold meetings while under Northern occupation. In order to do so, Brothers Brent and Legge received a letter of introduction to General Phil Sheridan from the Honorable Montgomery Blair of Baltimore Postmaster General in President Abraham Lincoln's cabinet. With this letter of introduction, they were able to get an audience with General Sheridan. When they met with the general, he was surrounded by his staff and orderlies. After showing their credentials, the Brothers stated their purpose was to ask for permission to reopen the Masonic Lodge. General Sheridan, in view of his known political and religious affiliations, turned them down. At that point, Dr. C.H. Allen, a surgeon on Sheridan's staff and a member of Aurora Lodge #22 Montpelier, Vermont, supported the

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Brothers with the argument that it would be a wise idea to reopen the Lodge since it would give the Northern officers and soldiers something to do while they were encamped around Winchester. This would allow the army to mingle with the townsfolk in a fraternal way and promote goodwill. Dr. Allen stated that he was a Mason and he would personally attend every meeting to see that nothing malicious towards the United States Government occurred at the meetings. Reluctantly, Sheridan gave his permission. The lodge resumed meeting on November 28, 1864. From that point to June 24, 1865, 231 men were raised in the lodge. Almost all of them were from the North.

At the time the Major's petition was acted on, a Confederate Chaplain, J.B.T. Reed was Master, and he conferred the First Degree upon the candidate on the evening of May 1, 1865. The next forenoon he was instructed by the brethren on that degree and that evening he received the Second Degree. On the morning of May 3rd, he was instructed on that degree and raised a Master Mason at 3 o'clock that afternoon.

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

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PM**

Secretary of Union Lodge #618

**Send any constructive criticisms or
comments to
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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

