



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

## Comments

**SECRETARY:** First notices of 2013 dues delinquency were mailed out the 20th of February, and there has been only slight response to this reminder of this obligation of our members. Our Lodge is very dependent on our members paying their dues, and hopefully in a timely manner. These payments are

due on January 1 of each year, and at present we have 27 members—**19% of our membership!**—who have not met their obligation this year. The Lodge greatly appreciates the commitment of all of our Brothers who are current on their dues.

## Happenings at the March stated

We enjoyed the fellowship of a gathering of 39 brothers, including a visit from our Grand Master, MW Dewey R. Preslar, Jr. Other Grand Lodge representatives in attendance were the Grand Tyler, WB Steve Schenk, and our DDGM, WB Bill Safrit.

We learned last month that Brother Jerry Waits Pittman, died November 13, 2012.

Brother Jacob Vaughn Nance was elected to

membership, and one candidate was elected to receive the degrees. We also received one Petition for the Degrees.

Masonic Service Awards presentations were scheduled for the April stated. Eight 25-years awards and two sixty-years awards.

Established September 28th for our Ladies Night Banquet.

## Upcoming events of interest

**March 14th—Officers Practice.** EA Degree. 7:00pm.

**March 21st—EA Degree.** 6:30 supper, 7:30 degree work.

**March 23rd—Pancake Breakfast!** 7:00am—10:30am. Please support this **charities fund raiser** by attending and bringing some friends and family. Donation of \$6—or more—per meal

appreciated.

**March 25th—FC Degree.** 6:30 supper, 7:30 degree work.

**April 8th—Stated Communication.** 6:30 supper, 7:30 meeting. (Expecting a couple of special visitors.)

**April 20th—School of Instruction** is being co-hosted by Union and Cabarrus Lodges.

## March Birthdays (by age)

### AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT

(sorted by age)

Age Birth Date Name

86 03/29/1926 FRANKLIN R.  
WALTMYER

84 03/01/1929 BAYNE W.  
LEFLER JR

81 03/20/1931 JAMES H. JEF-  
FERS

79 03/17/1933 CHARLES W.  
FURR

68 03/31/1944 JOSEPH G. CUTH-  
BERTSON

61 03/20/1951 BUFORD E. FAN-  
NON

60 03/30/1952 THOMAS M.  
BLYTHE

52 03/09/1960 EARL E. SNEED

## April Birthdays (by age)

### AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT

(sorted by age)

Age Birth Date Name

97 04/02/1915 LEVI J. GANN

84 04/24/1928 THOMAS A.  
JOYNER

79 04/21/1933 ROBERT L. LIT-  
TLE

73 04/21/1939 HOWARD L.  
JONES

72 04/03/1940 ARNOLD J. PRICE

72 04/09/1940 LEON E. SNIDER

71 04/26/1941 ROGER D. LONG

65 04/29/1947 GARY D.  
HARTSELL

58 04/09/1954 RICKY L. RUSHING

55 04/04/1957 JOHNNY SMITH

55 04/08/1957 JERRY L. BENNETT

54 04/24/1958 CHARLES T. SMITH

54 04/30/1958 BRADFORD S.  
REITZEL

52 04/04/1960 EDWARD W.  
GREENE

52 04/26/1960 TAB G. MORRISON

51 04/03/1961 RUSSELL N.  
DRAKE

45 04/14/1967 SCOTT M. WHIT-  
LEY

43 04/28/1969 MARTY Y. BEN-  
TON

41 04/26/1971 THOMAS L. NASH  
JR

## Of Masonic Interest (Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. Source: MasonicWorld.com)

### 25 LANDMARKS OF FREEMASONRY(21—23)

#### LANDMARK TWENTY-FIRST

It is a Landmark, that a "BOOK OF THE LAW" shall constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge. I say advisedly, a Book of the Law, because it is not absolutely required that everywhere the Old and New Testaments shall be used. The "Book of the Law" is that volume which, by the religion of the country, is believed to contain the revealed will of the Grand Architect of the Universe. Hence, in all Lodges in Christian countries, the Book of the Law is composed of the Old and New Testaments; in a country where Judaism was the prevailing faith, the Old Testament alone would be sufficient; and in Mohammedan countries, and among Mohammedan Freemasons, the Koran might be substituted. Freemasonry does not attempt to interfere with the peculiar religious faith of its disciples, except so far as relates to the belief in the existence of God, and what necessarily results from that belief. The Book of the Law is to the speculative Freemason his spiritual Trestle-board; without this he cannot labor; whatever he believes to be the revealed will of the Grand Architect constitutes for him this spiritual Trestle-board, and must ever be before him in his hours of speculative labor, to be the rule and guide of his conduct. The Landmark, therefore, requires that a Book of the Law, a religious code of

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some kind, purporting to be an exemplar of the revealed will of God, shall form an essential part of the furniture of every Lodge.

#### LANDMARK TWENTY-SECOND

THE EQUALITY OF ALL MASONS is another Landmark of the Order. This equality has no reference to any subversion of those gradations of rank which have been instituted by the usage of "society." The monarch, the nobleman or the gentleman is entitled to all the influence, and receives all the respect which rightly belong to his exalted position. But the doctrine of Masonic equality implies that, as children of one great Father, we meet in the Lodge upon the level-that on that level we are all traveling to one predestined goal-that in the Lodge genuine merit shall receive more respect than boundless wealth, and that virtue and knowledge alone should be the basis of all Masonic honors, and be rewarded with preferment. When the labors of the Lodge are over, and the brethren have retired from their peaceful retreat, to mingle once more with the world, each will then again resume that social position, and exercise the privileges of that rank, to which the customs of society entitle him.

#### LANDMARK TWENTY-THIRD

THE SECRECY OF THE INSTITUTION is another and a most important Landmark. There is some difficulty in precisely defining what is meant by a secret society. If the term refers, as perhaps, in strictly logical language it should, to those associations whose designs are concealed from the public eye, and whose members are unknown, which produce their results in darkness, and whose operations are carefully hidden from the public gaze-a definition which will be appropriate to many political clubs and revolutionary combinations in despotic countries, where reform, if it is at all to be effected, must be effected by stealth-then clearly Freemasonry is not a secret society. Its design is not only publicly proclaimed, but is vaunted by its disciples as something to be venerated-its disciples are known, for its membership is considered an honor to be coveted-it works for a result of which it boasts-the civilization and refinement of man, the amelioration of his condition, and the reformation of his manners.

But if by a secret society is meant-and this is the most popular understanding of the term-a society in which there is a certain amount of knowledge, whether it be of methods of recognition, or of legendary and traditional learning' which is imparted to those only who have passed through an established form of initiation, the form itself being also concealed or esoteric, then in this sense is Freemasonry undoubtedly a secret society. Now this form of secrecy is a form inherent in it, existing with it from its very foundation, and secured to it by its ancient Landmarks. If divested of its secret character, it would lose its identity, and would cease to be Freemasonry. Whatever objections may, therefore, be made to the Institution, on account of its secrecy, and however much some unskillful brethren have been willing in times of trial, for the sake of expediency, to divest it of its secret character, it will be ever impossible to do so, even were the Landmark not standing before us as an insurmountable obstacle; because such change of its character would be social suicide, and the death of the Order would follow its legalized exposure. Freemasonry, as a secret association, has lived unchanged for centuries-as an open society it would not last for as many years.



**OFFICERS—2013**

**First row** left to right: Junior Steward, John Robert Nash; Tyler, David Lee Warwick; Master, Robert Allen Love, Jr.; Senior Warden, Thomas Michael Little; Senior Steward, David Gordon Nash. **Second row:** Chaplain, Thomas Orlando Evans; Senior Deacon, Vincent Joseph D’Andrea; Junior Warden, Mitchell Allen Elliott; Junior Deacon, Thomas Lathan Nash, Jr.  
 (Not pictured: Treasurer, Thomas Michael Blythe, PM; Secretary, Roger Darrell Long, PM ; both installed at a later date.)

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

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*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.*

**Newsletter Editor: R. Darrell Long,  
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***

