



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

Volume 2, Issue 9

September 10, 2013

Happenings at the September stated

29 of us fellowshipped at this stated.

Brother DC Heilman, General Secretary for the Valley of Charlotte, presented a Masonic Education item about the Scottish Rite.

Received one Application for Restoration and one Petition for the Degrees.

Discussed the recent theft of one of our air conditioners, and approved an estimate for repair—\$6400—which includes replacement of both the inside and outside parts, since

the old unit was R12, and the new must be R14.

Brother Daniel Bruce Johnson stood proficiency on the MM Degree catechism. Congratulations to Brother Dan!

Discussed participation in a potential Habitat for Humanity project being championed by the GM, and decided that the participation by our Lodge would not be feasible for several reasons.

Upcoming events of interest

September 21st—Lodge property work day—assemble at 8:00am with tools.

September 27th—Golf Tournament!

8:30am, Green Oaks Golf Course. Looking for donations of prizes and refreshments. Also volunteers to help out the day of the tournament.

September 28th—Ladies Night Banquet with entertainment by the Rowan Big Band All-Stars. Tickets available. \$12 per person. **Family and friends invited. Get your tickets! Mark your calendars!**

October 6, 20, & 27—Officers Practice for

the FC Degree. 5:00pm

October 14th—Stated Communication. Supper at 6:30, meeting at 7:30.

October 28th—FC Degree. 6:30 supper, 7:30 work.

Second and Fourth Sundays at 5:00pm each month will be Lodge Schools of Instruction.

September Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date)

91 09/22/1922 ARTHUR R.
MORGAN

87 09/04/1926 JAMES H.
WEATHERS SR

85 09/29/1928 JACOB V.
NANCE

82 09/25/1931 MCCAMIE D. HILL

74 09/01/1939 DAVID O. MONTA-
GUE SR

71 09/14/1942 JULIAN W. PAGE

57 09/21/1956 JOHN B. BROOKS
JR

53 09/11/1960 RONALD G. THOM-
AS

47 09/21/1966 DARREN R.
HARTSELL

44 09/01/1969 RYAN B. KNIGHT

41 09/05/1972 RODNEY B. SEHEN

35 09/26/1978 JASON R. RUSHING

23 09/28/1990 JEFFREY B. JONES

October Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date)

88 10/24/1925 BYRON H.
BEATTY

75 10/09/1938 JIMMIE BAR-
BEE

70 10/20/1943 KENNETH W.
HARTSELL SR

68 10/02/1945 THOMAS M. LIT-
TLE

67 10/16/1946 JOHN G. HATH-
COCK

65 10/24/1948 WILLIAM O.
BLACK JR

56 10/11/1957 DON A. LAM-

BERT

53 10/26/1960 ROBERT C.
MCEACHERN

48 10/05/1965 AUGUSTUS N.
JAMES

22 10/30/1991 DAVID G.
NASH

Masonic Education. Brother Richard J. Gatling

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

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.

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.

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

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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.

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

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**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

