



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

Volume 2, Issue 12

December 15, 2013

Happenings at the December stated

29 of us fellowshipped at this stated.

Presented Grand Lodge-provided certificates to our military veterans who were present—D. Cline, C. Dixon, T. Evans, D. Hill, R. Little, T. Little, R. Long, D. Martin, R. McEachern, D. Montague, H. Mullis, and D. Warwick. Others not present will be having their certificates delivered by volunteers: Brothers J. Barbee, V. Giangrant, D.

Grooms, O. Harward, J. Jeffers, D. Montague, A. Morgan, A. Price, J. Roberts, and F. Waltmyer.

Elected WB William B. Safrit to Honorary Membership.

Approved \$1000 in donations to the MHCO children for Christmas presents, and to five local families that need assistance.

Upcoming events of interest

December 14th—Installation of Officers for 2014.

January 13th—Stated Communication.

Supper at 6:30, meeting at 7:30.

Schools on 2nd and 4th Sundays suspended, to resume January 11th.

Masonic Education. **THEY LIED ON THEIR KNEES** (Part 2 of 2)

THEY LIED ON THEIR KNEES By William A. Carpenter, R. W. Grand Master of Pennsylvania

This is part two of Short Talk Bulletin that was adapted from an article appearing in the August, 1984 issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason. It has been republished as a Short Talk Bulletin because of the many readers who recommended its use.

...
Too often, we have witnessed shocking examples of the irresponsibilities of men in high places as well as in low places. As a man thinketh, so is he.

The good name of Freemasonry is not the result of what we do not do, it is the result of practicing outside the Lodge those great moral lessons we are taught within the Lodge. At no time in the history of our Nation has there been a greater need to exercise the principles and moral teachings of Freemasonry than now.

Freemasonry is one of the great moral forces remaining in the world today. But if Freemasonry is to achieve its honorable purpose—that of building a better world—it must first build better men to work at the task.

No man has any right to claim to be a Freemason unless he has endeavored to put into practice the lessons received when he was Entered, Crafted and Raised. A Mason should never entertain the thought that he must go to a Lodge Room to practice his

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December Birthdays (by age)

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

86 12/05/1927 ELLIS P. AUSTIN

80 12/15/1933 CLADWELL P.
HATLEY

80 12/31/1933 ATLAS J. RUSHING

77 12/03/1936 BILLY M. SLOOP

76 12/04/1937 BROOKS R. MULLIS

72 12/21/1941 THOMAS R. ACKLAM

71 12/06/1942 WILLIAM B. RITCHIE

68 12/17/1945 HERIOT L. MULLIS

67 12/01/1946 CHARLES C. LUDWIG

65 12/03/1948 RICHARD D. SIMPSON

63 12/03/1950 DARRELL E. CLINE

60 12/01/1953 WILLIAM A.
BROOKS JR

56 12/27/1957 MARK B. DOUGLAS

54 12/06/1959 BILLY M. MORGAN

39 12/14/1974 DAVID A. BULLOCK

21 12/28/1992 JOSHUA A. PEA-
COCK

January Birthdays (by age)

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

94 01/02/1920 JAMES B. ROBERTS
JR78 01/03/1936 CHARLES E. MOR-
RIS JR

76 01/09/1938 JAMES F. MORGAN

72 01/01/1942 GERALD L. GRESHAM

70 01/15/1944 ROGER D. RICE

68 01/19/1946 JACKIE H. HARTSELL

67 01/01/1947 COY D. BLACKMAN

64 01/03/1950 KENNETH W. FLOYD

61 01/19/1953 SAMUEL B. KEENEY

56 01/16/1958 JIMMY W. BROOKS

53 01/18/1961 JOSEPH A. ABBA-
TIELLO

47 01/22/1967 MICHAEL W. HATLEY

40 01/18/1974 BILLY D. MCKENZIE
JR

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Masonry. Masonry must be practiced in daily life where human kindness and helpfulness and honesty are so much needed. The surest way to make Freemasonry useful is to make use of Freemasonry. Every Mason is charged with the responsibility of keeping the reputation of the Fraternity unsullied.

Masonry cannot condone the continued membership of those who bring disgrace, dishonor, and discredit to our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity. Hence, my Brethren, if and when you learn of a case or cases whereby the behavior of any Mason or Masons borders on or actually results in a felony or another form of un-Masonic conduct, please make such a case or cases known to the Grand Master through proper and expeditious channels.

Today, we hear it said from time to time that our own Lodges are winking at violations of our Masonic law. I ask the question: Are we growing that lax in the enforcement of our penal code? If such be the case, then it is time serious concern and consideration be given to this matter—this unfortunate circumstance within our Craft. And, for the record, be it known that this Grand Master plans to give the matter top priority in an effort to rid our rolls of any undesirables.

Our priority emphasis will at all times cover the three types of Masonic offenses: (1) violations of moral law; (2) violations of the laws of Freemasonry; and (3) violations of the laws of the land including moral turpitude.

We cannot deny that there are men on our membership rolls whose lives, conduct, and character reflect no real credit on Freemasonry, whose ears seem to turn from its beautiful lessons of morality, duty and honor, whose hearts seem untouched by its soothing, manly influences of fraternal kindness, and whose hands are not opened to aid in living deeds and charity. We express our grief as we acknowledge this truth.

These men, though in our Temples, are not of our Temples in the true sense of the word. They are among us, but they are not with us. They belong to our household but they are not of our faith. We have sought to teach them, but they have failed to heed the instruction; seeing, they have not perceived; hearing, they have not understood, or prefer not to benefit by the symbolic language in which our fraternal lessons of wisdom are communicated.

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The fault is not with Freemasonry or with us, that we have not given, but with them that they have not perceived or received. And, in-deed, hard and unjust would it be to censure the Masonic Fraternity because, partaking of the infirmity or weakness of human wisdom and human means, it has been unable to achieve the perfection desired for all who come within its environs. The denial of a Peter, the doubting of a Thomas, or the betrayal of a Judas, should cast no reproach on so grand, so long-established and honorable a fraternity as that of Freemasonry. But misconduct and misdeeds do hurt our Craft and bring grief to all worthy Freemasons.

Freemasonry prescribes no principles that are opposed to the sacred teachings of the Divine Lawgiver, and sanctions no acts that are not consistent with the sternest morality and the most faithful obedience to government and the laws. And, while this continues to be its character, it cannot, without the most atrocious injustice, be held responsible for the acts of un-worthy members.

The fact is, it is no secret that the moral fiber of the people of our great nation has broken down. It has been noticeable since the late 1940s. We often hear of white collar crime, embezzlement, fraud, collusion in some of our largest corporate board rooms, with guilty fines running in hundreds of thousands of dollars, with our peers only seeing the wrong if the culprit got caught.

These are not the lessons we are taught at the Altar of Freemasonry. Perhaps it would be difficult to convince many Masons that we have Brethren guilty of the quick fix and fast buck. But we have had them, we may still have them, and with immediate and proper Masonic disciplinary action, we shall go to the nth degree to eliminate such a curse from Freemasonry.

The young people of our Masonic affiliated youth organizations are always watching us closely. These young people have a new sophistication and awareness of what is right and what is wrong. They have their Masonic advisors whom they naturally emulate, but to them, all Masons are the same and supposed to possess honesty and integrity. These young people are the future of our communities and also our Fraternity. We cannot afford to let them down, my Brethren.

What can Masons do to remedy this situation? We must begin at the first step of recommending a petitioner. The mere possession of sufficient money to pay the necessary fee does not qualify a man to be made a Mason. Before a member signs his name to any petition for the degrees of Freemasonry, he must assure himself beyond any question of doubt that the petitioner he recommends is, in a sense, already a Mason in his heart, and that, if he is accepted, the member will never have cause to regret his endorsement. That is the most important duty and responsibility which a member owes to the Masonic fraternity, his "Blue Lodge," and himself.

And, my Brethren, thorough investigation of each and every petitioner to our respective Lodges is not only the proper time but also the only time for Freemasonry to safeguard against accepting anyone who could very well bring disgrace, dishonor, or discredit to the Craft.

Oh, perhaps the galleries are full of critics relative to points covered by this article. Those who criticize plan no ball. They fight no fights. They make no mistakes because they attempt nothing. The real "doers" are down in the arena. The man who makes no mistakes lacks boldness and the spirit of adventure. He is the one who never tries anything. He is the brake on the wheel of progress. And yet, it cannot be truly said that he makes no mistakes, because the biggest mistake he makes is the very fact that he tries nothing, does nothing, has absolutely no positive input into the cause of Freemasonry and just seems to be his happy, useless self in criticizing those who are making an attempt to do certain things.

We have learned to tolerate our critics. But when you have faith in your plans, designs and convictions, you govern yourself accordingly.

Methinks it was Shakespeare who wrote:

"Sweet are the uses of adversity." It has also been proven that "Adversity causes some to break, others to break records." And, in the words of Burke: "He who wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill."

My Brethren, it was once stated that the real purpose of Freemasonry is the pursuit of excellence. I like that statement.

Every lesson in every degree of Freemasonry reiterates the idea that the individual is committed to self-improvement, to the acceptance of responsibility, to deeper sympathy and benevolence, to greater truth, to genuine love of fellowmen.

So Mote It Always Be!



OFFICERS—2014

First Row left to right: Senior Steward, John Robert Nash; Senior Deacon, Thomas Lathan Nash, Jr.; Junior Warden, Vincent Joseph D’Andrea; Master, Thomas Michael Little; Tyler, David Lee Warwick; Junior Deacon, David Gordon Nash. Second Row left to right: Junior Steward, Perry Lee Sams; Treasurer, Robert Lee Little; Secretary, Roger Darrell Long; Senior Warden, Mitchell Allen Elliott; Chaplain, Douglas Eugene Martin.

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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

