



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

Volume 4, Issue 8

August 11, 2015

## Happenings at the August stated

31 of us fellowshipped at this stated. We had two visitors. 19%(27) of our MM *regular* membership was present.

50-year Masonic Service Awards were presented to Brothers M. D. Hill, R. L. Little, and J. V. Nance. One 50-year award member was absent, as were two 25-year award members.

Brother Nick Stancil stood proficiency on the catechism of the MM degree. (Examined by WB Bobby Burgess)

Brother Vinnie D'Andrea had to submit his resignation as Secretary due to his cancer diagnosis and the treatment schedule, etc., lying ahead for him. WB Darrell Long(Asst Secretary) was approved to perform the duties of Secretary the remainder of the year.

The drawing for the shotgun being raffled off for charity was performed at 7:00pm, the 10th, and the winner

was notified. His name is not being published due to the nature of the prize won. Lodge members will be provided his name if they ask the Secretary.

We elected two candidates for the Degrees in Masonry; and read one application for Restoration.

WB Steve White and Bro. Tommy Nash announced the completion of distribution of small, stuffed bears to area fire departments for giving to children at tragedies to which they respond.

Replacement of one A/C unit and repair of another is to begin 8/12.

Will be providing courtesy work at the request of Clyde #453, Clyde, NC, for a new EA in our area.

Bro. Tommy Nash provided Masonic Education on "The Hat".

## Upcoming events of interest

**August 24th—EA Degree.** Supper at 6:30, Degree at 7:30. Officer practices on 8/16 & 8/23 at 5:00pm.

**September 14th—Stated Communication.** Supper at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:30pm.

**October 2nd—Ron Harkey Memorial Golf Tour-**

**namment for the Masonic charities.** It'll be here before you know it, **PLEASE PARTICIPATE!**

**October 17th—Ladies Night Banquet.** 6:30-9:00. "Back to the 50's" theme. Entertainment by the Backwater Band with Gary Kee. Door prizes. Drive-in fare. \$15 per person.

## Masonic Education. THE CRUSADES AND FREEMASONRY by Bro. Albert S. Hovan, P.D.D.G.M

(83-05-28)

The Crusades have no relation to Freemasonry, even though there are concordant bodies which base their rituals on the Crusades and have taken the name of the original Crusaders, the Knights Templar. Among the historic Crusaders there were in fact two groups, first being The Religious Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, and later the Order of the Knights Templar. In the area of

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## August Birthdays (by age)

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

84 08/03/1931 ROMIE A. MORGAN

79 08/26/1935 J. B. SMITH

77 08/12/1937 HAROLD D. TUCKER SR

75 08/29/1939 CHARLES K. DIXON

71 08/27/1943 BARNIE F. WHITLEY JR

66 08/06/1948 TOMMY D. MULLIS

64 08/05/1950 WILLIAM H. MOSS JR

64 08/05/1951 THOMAS O. EVANS

63 08/03/1952 RUSSELL W. HELMS

60 08/19/1954 RODNEY D. PHILLIPS

57 08/30/1957 ALEXANDER W. BORGEMEISTER

57 08/01/1958 TERRY G. RIDDLE

55 08/18/1959 STEVEN L. BROOKS

48 08/18/1966 JEFFREY D. JONES

44 08/07/1970 DUANE D. BURRY

## September Birthdays (by age)

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

92 09/22/1922 ARTHUR R. MORGAN

88 09/04/1926 JAMES H. WEATHERS SR

86 09/29/1928 JACOB V. NANCE

83 09/25/1931 MCCAMIE D. HILL

75 09/01/1939 DAVID O. MONTAGUE SR

72 09/14/1942 JULIAN W. PAGE

58 09/21/1956 JOHN B. BROOKS JR

54 09/11/1960 RONALD G. THOMAS

48 09/21/1966 DARREN R. HARTSELL

45 09/01/1969 RYAN B. KNIGHT

42 09/05/1972 RODNEY B. SEHEN

30 09/01/1984 NICHOLAS M. STANCIL

24 09/28/1990 JEFFREY B. JONES

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discipline and administration, both orders were military.

The Religious Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem started with the establishment of a small hospital or hospice in Jerusalem, to treat pilgrims visiting the holy city, early in the 6th century A.D. This hospice existed for 400 years until it was destroyed by the Caliph Al Hakim. His method of converting Christians to the Muslim faith was by the sword.

With the help of pious merchants the hospice was rebuilt. The new hospital was served by a body of men who formed themselves into a brotherhood pledged to protect the poor, the infirm and the stricken; this brotherhood was to become known as the Religious Order of the Hospital of Saint John. It had been established only a few years when the Turkomans occupied Jerusalem and barred the pilgrims from the Holy Sepulchre and treated them with great cruelty. This led to the beginning of the Crusades and the recapture of the city on July 12, 1099.

Twenty years after the fall of Jerusalem a small group of knights set themselves the task of defending

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the routes taken by the pilgrims leading from Jaffa to Jerusalem. They formed themselves into a new religious fraternity and, forsaking the world of knightly chivalry ("...of which human favour and not Jesus Christ was the cause"), they bound themselves to the rules of the Benedictines. Initially they were known as the "poor fellow soldiers of Jesus Christ", and in consequence of the service they rendered to Christians, King Baldwin II allocated them part of the Royal Palace south of the Temple of the Lord and the large courtyard between that and the former site of the Temple of King Solomon. Thence forth the Order was known as the "Knighthood of the Temple of King Solomon", or the "Knights Templar".

Hugh de Payens was chosen first Master of the Templars and in 1127 he journeyed to Europe and secured the support of St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, who prepared a code of statutes for the proper government and control of the military and religious activities of the Templar Order. The Order prospered and grew in strength and after confirmation of their statutes by Papal Bull, they developed into a rich and widely known international Order.

It was wealth that brought the end of the Knights Templar. King Phillip of France coveted the riches and land of the Knights Templar, and to obtain them, he conducted a campaign of rumours and accusations against Jacques de Molay who was the Grand Master, and his officers. After a cruel inquisition, those who had survived it so far, along with Jacques de Molay were burnt at the stake and the Order was disbanded by the Pope after an existence of less than 100 years.

The order of Saint John of Jerusalem prospered and grew. The knights moved from Palestine to Cyprus, were chased out of Cyprus and went to Rhodes. They were again beaten by the Turks and were without a home until the Pope used his influence to persuade the German emperor Charles V. to transfer the island of Malta to the Order. There they remained until Malta was overrun by Napoleon.

The Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem was disbanded in England by Henry VIII. 300 years later, Queen Victoria restored it under the name of the "Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem", of which Queen Elizabeth II is the present Sovereign Head. The ideals nurtured by the knights of old are as fresh today as then, for the men and women of St. John's Ambulance Brigade, a foundation of the Order which came into being in 1877, are indeed as dedicated to the care of the sick and injured as were the Hospitallers of former times,

It was in Malta where many knights were initiated into Freemasonry. In an endeavor to stop the spread of Freemasonry in Malta, the Grand Master of the Order banned six knights from the island, but meetings were known to have still taken place. Even though the knights of St. John continued to patronize Masonry, no proof exists that the Order was in any way connected with Freemasonry.

Editor's Note:

No bibliography is available for this paper



**OFFICERS—2015**

First Row left to right: Secretary, Vincent J. D’Andrea; Junior Warden, David G. Nash; Master, Mitchell A.Elliott; Senior Warden, Thomas L. Nash, Jr.; Junior Steward, Perry L. Sams. Second Row left to right: Junior Deacon, Daniel B. Johnson; Treasurer, Robert L. Little; Senior Deacon, John R. Nash; Senior Steward, Dustin S. Grooms; Tyler, Stephen A. White, PM; Chaplain, Douglas E. Martin, PM.

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**2BIASKI**

*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*

