



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

Volume 5, Issue 10

October 11, 2016

Happenings at the October stated

27 of us fellowshipped at this stated. We had five visitors. Only 15%(20) of our MM *regular* membership were present!

For Masonic education, Brother Dan Johnson read the poem, "Remember You're a Mason", citing a recent situation that he had witnessed in his recent "travels" that indicated many could stand to be reminded of what is encouraged in the poem.

We had half—all that we could afford at this time—of our roof repaired and re-covered last month, draining another \$5000 from our Contingencies Fund. Speaking of which, a very generous Brother anonymously donated \$1500 to the fund! What a great surprise. Remember that any donation helps, and it does not have to be

"\$1500". Give what you can afford, but please consider giving something. We have another half of our roof to get repaired!

A team of BBQ enthusiasts—Brothers D. Johnson, D. Grooms, D. Nash, & J. Nash—with a donation of the entry fee by WB Larry Robbins, participated in the MHC Homecoming BBQ cookoff and came away with a First Place in the chicken category, and Second Place in the pork category! Not bad at all for their first attempt! **CONTRATULATIONS!**

We considered the suspension of 5 members for NPD! Information received after the meeting from one of those considered will likely drop that number down to 4.

Upcoming events of interest

November 14th—Stated Communication. Supper at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:30pm. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

FOR 2017.

Masonic Education. *HENRY CLAY A PROUD AMERICAN AND A PROUD MASON AND It is Great To Be A Freemason By Danny Thomas, 33rd Degree*

*HENRY CLAY
A PROUD AMERICAN AND A PROUD MASON
By Brother Christopher L. Murphy
from VIRGINIA MASONIC HERALD, April 1989*

This article is a tribute to Henry Clay, one of the most outstanding leaders in the middle period of American History. Upon visiting "Ashland," Clay's famous estate in Lexington, Kentucky during September, 1988 the Executive Director of the estate, Bettie Kerr, showed me Henry Clay's Masonic Apron, which had never been placed on display. It had just been donated to the Memorial Foundation and is in a plain picture frame with ordinary glass in the front. Above the apron, there are two notations embroidered in cloth.

These notations read: "This Apron lay upon Henry Clay's coffin, 1852 when the Grand Lodge of Kentucky performed their highest Masonic Ceremonies in honour of the illustrious dead."

And This apron was worn by General Lafayette when assisting in the Masonic Ceremonies at laying the cornerstone of Bunker Hill Monument and presented by him to Henry Clay.

THE EARLY YEARS

*As the year 1777 marked the birth of the "Stars and Stripes", so did it herald in another great American symbol, Henry
(Continued on p2)*

October Birthdays (by age)

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

91 10/24/1925 BYRON H. BEATTY

78 10/09/1938 JIMMIE BARBEE

73 10/20/1943 KENNETH W.
HARTSELL SR

71 10/02/1945 THOMAS M. LITTLE

70 10/16/1946 JOHN G. HATH-
COCK68 10/24/1948 WILLIAM O.
BLACK JR

59 10/11/1957 DON A. LAMBERT

56 10/26/1960 ROBERT C.
MCEACHERN54 10/14/1962 JEFFREY L. AB-
SHER51 10/05/1965 AUGUSTUS N.
JAMES

25 10/30/1991 DAVID G. NASH

November Birthdays (by age)

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

66 11/21/1950 VINCENT J.
D'ANDREA64 11/06/1952 RONNIE J. MOR-
GAN

62 11/05/1954 DENNIS R. KIKER

60 11/27/1956 DAVID E.
FLOYD

23 11/16/1993 JOHN R. NASH

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Clay. It was also the year that the Marquis de Lafayette arrived in America. And as the Marquis huddled at Valley Forge with George Washington and his ragged army, the infant Henry slept in his mother's arms, unaware of the struggles taking place to effect yet another birth - the United States of America.

It was this country that Henry Clay was destined to serve with a passion and ambition which has had few equals. He took up the study of law at an early age and shortly after his twentieth birthday was admitted to the bar in Virginia.

He thereupon moved to Lexington, Kentucky and swiftly rose to become the best criminal lawyer in the state. It was Clay who later successfully defended Aaron Burr in a grand jury investigation, and many other notable clients in both criminal and civil cases.

POLITICAL LIFE

Clay's political life began shortly after he arrived in Lexington. An excellent speaker, and man of dynamic action, he won the confidence of the Republic voters and in 1803 was elected to the Kentucky legislature. Then his appointment to serve an unexpired term in the U.S. Senate in 1806 provided national exposure for his political genius. From this point on, he exerted a tremendous influence in the direction of his country.

In all, Clay served as the U.S. Senator from Kentucky for nearly fifteen years. In addition, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives for thirteen years and was speaker of the House. He was one of the negotiators of the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the war of 1812, and served as Secretary of State under President John Quincy Adams.

Clay's remarkable skill in effecting a compromise between differing political factions earned him the reputation as "The Great Compromiser." Indeed, largely through his efforts, the Civil War was delayed for a decade. In his connection, historians have reasoned that had the war broken out ten years earlier, it is probable that the South would have won. This is because the strength of the North was far less at that time.

Clay's distinguished political career established him three times as a candidate for the presidency of the United States. Much to his disappointment, however, the scales never tipped in his favor. True to his character, he consoled himself with his now famous statement, "I would rather be right than be President."

In his personal life, Henry Clay was a man of considerable wealth and social position. He and his wife, Lucretia had eleven children (six daughters and five sons). Of these, only four sons outlived him. His direct line ended in 1887 with the death of his son, John M Clay. Henry loved his home, "Ashland," a stately mansion on some 600 acres of beautiful Kentucky countryside.

He was fond of cards, horse racing, and appreciated fine liquor. A stroll through the old "Ashland" house also reveals exquisite taste in furnishings and decorations. An unusual "conversion seat" [editor comment, "conversation seat"] (a couch shaped like a backward "S:) in the master bedroom echoes the intimacy he shared with his wife, Lucretia.

Of his home, Clay once wrote to a friend: "I am in one respect better off than Moses. He died in sight of, and without reaching the Promised Land. I occupy as good a farm as any he would have found had he reached it, and "Ashland" has been acquired not by hereditary descent but by my own labours."

The Clays used their home to entertain many prominent people of the time. Such include the Marquis de Lafayette, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, Martin Van Buren, and Abraham Lincoln. A young girl, Mary Todd, who lived in the area and frequently visited the Ashland estate, became Lincoln's wife.

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MASONIC LIFE

Remarkably, Henry Clay found time to be very active in the Masonic Order. His membership, however, is not unusual as many prominent people of that period were Freemasons. Clay received his Masonic Degrees in Lexington Lodge No. 1, Lexington, Kentucky sometime between 1798 and 1801. He served as the Master of this Lodge and was the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1806, 1807, and 1809. Later (1820) he became the Grand Master of Kentucky. He was an active member of a Masonic conference held in the senate chambers, Washington, D.C., on March 9, 1822 - the only Masonic meeting on record ever held in that room. Also, records indicate that he was present at the Grand Lodge sessions in 1829 and that he was made an honorary member of Saint John's Lodge No. 1, New York City, New York.

Henry Clay valued his association with the Masonic Order and gave it a very high priority in his life. Although, ironically, he supported and became secretary of state for John Quincy Adams, a noted Anti-Mason, Clay never deviated in his belief of the principles of Freemasonry.

When questioned on his view relative to Freemasonry he said:

"I would not denounce and formally renounce it (Freemasonry) to be made President of the United States." Knowing Henry Clay's passion, dedication, and complete personal commitment to that goal, what he said is probably one of the greatest compliments ever paid to the Masonic Order.

THE FINAL TRIUMPH

Henry Clay passed on to the Grand Lodge above on June 29, 1852. He was in the National Hotel, Washington D.C., at the time and the cause of death was attributed to tuberculosis. He was buried in Lexington with Masonic honors. His monument was Masonically dedicated on July 4, 1858. In the year 1900, he was elected to the U. S. Hall of Fame. There were 234 nominees. Clay was one of the 29 selected for this honor.

IT IS GREAT TO BE A FREEMASON

BY DANNY THOMAS, 33RD DEGREE

(FROM THE OCTOBER 1990 FRESNO SCOTTISH RITE

BULLETIN WITH CREDIT TO KANSAS MASONIC BULLETIN)

The years found me an admirer of the great work the Masonic Order has been doing in making this world a better place for all of us to live. I have, for a long time, desired to be one of you and rejoice that now I can proudly boast of my membership in one of the world's greatest fraternal associations. I am grateful for those individuals who have in quiet ways motivated me in my work on behalf of unfortunate children. I am grateful for the high moment in my life when the doors of Freemasonry were opened to me. Since then I have had many pleasant times of fraternal fellowship and even opportunities for service in the work of many branches of Freemasonry.

Our Order, for now I can say, "our order," teaches, "the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of Cod" and this is great! The world needs so desperately to discover the value of this great truth in human relationships and world affairs. It is also a truth that will motivate men and women to continue to explore avenues of service and areas of common concerns in order to restore a measure of sanity to the madness of our day and to enrich the quality of life for all peoples everywhere. Now I join hands and heart with you in all your endeavors of philanthropy and say we must not slacken our efforts "to do good to all," especially those with needs that will not be met if we fail in our common task of service to humanity.

On stage, screen, platform, and in private life I have always sought to bring a smile to the face of others and put a little joy in their lives. I am grateful now for the larger opportunity which is mine to adopt the tenets of Freemasonry as my own and hopefully be able to have a small part in spreading Masonry's message of love and caring to a larger audience, for wherever I go, I will be proud to tell others of my work and concern in behalf of all that you are doing, unselfishly, for others.

Someone once asked me why did I want to be a Mason and my reply was: "Because Masons care for those who cannot care for themselves." The Shriners have always been a favorite of mine because of their work for crippled and burned children. Also I am excited about efforts proposed at the recent Conference of Grand Masters in regard to drug abuse among young people.

It is great to be a Freemason! I am proud of what we are doing I shall assist in every way I can our work of mercy, and it doesn't hurt to be a Brother with a "big mouth and lots of television cameras" to help get the message across. Masons are people of goodwill who want to "keep our kids alive" and we are doing this throughout the world. Our purpose is noble and humanitarian. Our labors will be crowned with success, for as Freemasons we will bring to our mission the best we have, regardless of what it demands from us in the way of sacrifice and service. We will make sure that in the tomorrows, life will be better for those who suffer today.

I was a Freemason in my heart long before I was accepted as a member in this great Fraternity. I was an outsider but now I am one of you, and the remaining years of my life will be spent in seeking in some small way to say to all: "Thank you for making me a Freemason." I want always to make you laugh but I trust that I will also make you

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care and that now, together, we will put melody in the heart of the world that will sing of a better life for all people. The task challenges us to larger efforts and higher goals that will demand from all of us the best we have to make a better life for others. My promise to Freemasons everywhere is that I will give the task my best!

OFFICERS—2016

First Row left to right: Tyler, Thomas M. Little, PM; Junior Warden, John R. Nash; Master, Thomas L. Nash, Jr.; Senior Warden, David G. Nash; Senior Steward, Nicholas M. Stancil; Junior Steward, David F. Barbee.

Second Row left to right: Treasurer, Robert L. Little; Senior Deacon, Daniel B. Johnson; Chaplain, Douglas E. Martin, PM; Secretary, R. Darrell Long, PM; Junior Deacon, Dustin S. Grooms.



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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

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Secretary of Union Lodge #618**

Send any constructive criticisms or comments to
rdarrell@earthlink.net

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

