

**Valley of Huntsville
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite**

Meets on the 1st Monday at Solar Lodge #914
3008 9th Avenue, Huntsville, 35805
Refreshments at 6:00 PM, Meeting at 7:00 PM
(256) 539-1300



*"BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND
HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR
BRETHERN TO DWELL
TOGETHER IN UNITY"
PSALM 133:1*

"THE ROSE"

NEWSLETTER OF THE VALLEY OF HUNTSVILLE SCOTTISH RITE 1st Quarter 2019



The Chartering Officers of Endeavor Day Lodge #934

Valley of Huntsville Personal Representative
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite ORIENT OF ALABAMA
Sovereign Grand Commander
Honorable David Lakin 32° KCCH



Brothers,

I feel like we've had a slow start to this year with all the rain we've been besieged with so far. And I know many have been sequestered at home with flu and strep and all sorts of Winter illnesses. But Spring is coming, and many lodges are emerging from their Winter hibernation. Many events are being scheduled around the Valley including the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade in Huntsville. I'm particularly excited for that one as we have invited the entire Masonic Community to come out and march together as one big family. I hope you will make an effort to join us and celebrate all Masonry has to offer North Alabama.

I attended the chartering of Endeavor Day Lodge #934. We had a full room at the event including members of all local masonic organizations. It was quite a gathering and I hope to see many more coming. The idea that Masonry is dying apparently didn't make it to those in attendance. We had a completely full parking lot and had to seek overflow parking.

We're looking towards the Spring reunion with great anticipation. Reunion time is always a fun opportunity to get together with brothers we don't see often enough. If you know of anyone who has expressed some interest in the Scottish Rite or you know of a Master Mason who would appreciate the exposure to further Light, invite them to submit a petition.

We're always looking for people to man a degree team, take on a volunteer role on VMAP, help hand out awards for JROTC, cook for fund raisers or just get in the line in the lodge. Whatever your interest is, we can likely find a good spot for you. The first thing is to come out and meet your Brothers, 1st Monday of every month, 3008 9th Avenue, Huntsville at 6:00 PM.

THE VOICE OF REASON FROM THE SECRETARIES

Office Hours: T-TH 0830-14:30, Phone: 256-539-1300



SECRETARY
ILLUSTRIOUS. EDDIE E. BROWN 33°
eebrown5@knology.net



ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ILL. WM "JERRY" BURFITT 33° G.C.
aasrhsv@gmail.com

I Hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas season.

By now the new officers have been elected and installed. Congratulations to each of you! The year 2019 brings us many opportunities for improvement. Together we can make the Scottish Rite and masonry in this area something the Masonic Fraternity can be very proud of. Let's do it!

Please join me in welcoming the following brothers to the Valley: Brother Joseph Woodbury who is now a dual member of the Valley of Huntsville and Androscoggin Maine. Brother Danny Coley transferred from Youngstown Ohio and Brother Wesley Hyde transferred from the Valley of Miami. Take a minute and welcome our new Brothers!

Don't forget to go to your portal (<https://my.scottishrite.org>) and update your information.

Now about dues: your dues are necessary to keep us in business. Check your card and if doesn't have 2019 on it please take the necessary steps to get and stay current. If you need assistance, contact the Personal Representative or the Secretary. You are important to us and we do not want to lose you.

Thanks, Jerry Burfitt



Click here to visit

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Orient of Alabama

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WORK



DIRECTOR

Ill. William J. "Doug" Burfitt, JR. 33°

Degree Master Team

4th Degree:
14th Degree:
18th Degree: Roger Mullins
30th Degree: John Meyers
32nd Degree: Mike Morgan



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Brother Kevin H. Burns, 32°

What a wonderful time it is to be a Scottish Rite Mason! We will be afforded a lot of opportunities in the coming year to serve our Valley. I am in need of several people to fill positions in the Ducks. They are responsible for maintaining the degree equipment and setting up the lodge during the Reunion and other Ceremonies. I need one or two Audio Visual (A/V) team members too. The A/V persons will control the computer displays, music, and occasionally read different parts from the script if needed during the Reunions and other Ceremonies, as well. Both positions will work with the Degree Masters during set-up, to ensure the degrees are meaningful to the candidates. If you would like to volunteer please contact me, Kevin Burns, David Lakin, or the Secretary.

Only good things can happen with our new leadership, the addition of our Deputy Director of Work and the new Degree Masters. This year we will be busy, going through the degree equipment and prepping for the two reunions. I am excited to see what unfolds this year for our Valley. I want you to grab a corner and pull to help us unfold and shape the Valley for the ensuing year and beyond.

SCOTTISH RITE RESEARCH SOCIETY

The tangible benefits of membership in the SRRS include:



- * access to some of the most thought-provoking ideas in contemporary Masonic research
- * a 10% discount on Society books and certain items bought at the House of the Temple or via the on-line **Store**
- * the annual hardback volume of *Heredom*®, the preeminent publication of scholarly Masonic research
- * the Society's quarterly research journal, *The Plumblin*®
- * early notice for upcoming conferences and meetings on issues of Masonic importance
- * your SRRS membership card and lapel pin



THE LODGE OF PERFECTION

Virtus Junxit Mors Non Separabit - Fides Servanda Est

VENERABLE MASTER
Brother Larry Fouse, 32°



I am Lawrence E. Fouse (Larry), your new Lodge of Perfection Venerable Master, Valley of Huntsville. I have been a Master Mason since 1989, Past Master Arab Lodge 663 2008. A PEM Scottish Rite Mason since 2008. I served as the Commander of Huntsville Council of Kadosh last year. I am serving in all three Bodies of the Florence York Rite and am the National Sojourners National President Area Respective for Tennessee and North Alabama. I am also, a member of CAHABA Shrine. I wish to congratulate and welcome all incoming Officers both elected and appointed. I just wanted to thank everyone for their support for the past year and ask you're your continued support in the coming year. We are going to have a lot of work in the Lodge of Perfection, which should be fun. Finally, I look forward to working everyone.

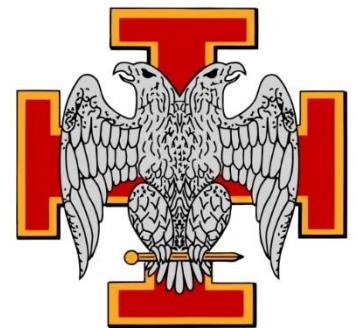
Thanks - Larry

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Arche, Logos, Phos, Pneuma - Haikal Kadosh



WISE MASTER
Honorable Joseph F. Zito, 32° KCCH



My Brothers all:

I would like to start this article by announcing the passing of Brother Daniel L. W. Taylor. He was born on February 14, 1937. He was a very active Mason--a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, Royal Order of Scotland, Royal Arch, York Rite College, 33° Scottish Rite, Tall Cedars, Grand Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill, Order of the Eastern Star, Amaranth holding high honors in many of these organizations. He laid down his working tools on November 19, 2018. He is survived by his daughter Ms. Tina Bunch. Bro. Dan will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, along with his wife Mary Lou's ashes, on a date to be determined later. A memorial service in Ardmore, TN is planned in the spring, 2019. Contributions may be made to the National Sojourners Endowment Fund or the Spirit of America Education Fund at 7942 R Cluny Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153-2810.

That being said, I would like to thank you all for electing me as Commander of the Huntsville Council of Kadosh for the ensuing year. We have selected an outstanding group of individuals to staff the Council. I am looking forward to a productive year and welcome any offers of assistance.

Yours in the faith!

Joe Zito

THE CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX



*Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudæorum - Ormuzd--Ainsoph--
Demiurgos*

WISE MASTER
ILL. EMORY J. "SMOKEY" FERGUSON, 33°



Having been a Scottish Rite member for 46 years this past May I have seen a slow decline in membership. This decline is not only in our Valley but spreading across the entire body of the Scottish Rite Masonry worldwide. To say that we are experiencing a slow decline may be treating the problem lightly.

When I received my degrees May 1, 1971 I was about a month before being elected Master of Helion Lodge No. 1. At the time I received the degrees the Valley of Huntsville was alive and vibrant. The Brethren taking great pride in reciting the degree work from memory and the "Ducks," a separate group of Brethren, were dedicated to setting up the degree stages and preparing the costumes for the cast each of the degrees. The Brethren also took pride in sponsoring new candidates and were usually in attendance at the reunions to support their candidate and the attendance at the Stated Meetings was something that we can only dream about now.

My class I think, had 63 members and I was honored to have been chosen to represent the Class as President. We had most of the Degrees conferred over two weekends, which included two Thursday and two Friday evenings and two all day Saturday sessions. Can you imagine how many volunteers of Ritualist, Ducks setting up and tearing down the lodge room, cooks preparing meals, members getting the classes lined up and in order, measuring them for their rings, giving them their name badges and making sure that all information was correct for their Patents? Then there were those Brethren who just came to attend the Reunion to sit on the sides just to witness the beautiful work which was being performed. Will we ever experience that kind of devotion to the Rite again? Do you have it in you to dedicate yourself to bring back some of those days of yesteryear? If you have then this will be a new beginning for the Valley of Huntsville.



CONSISTORY

Arche, Logos, Phos, Pneuma - Haikal Kadosh

MASTER OF KADOSH
Brother John "J.D." Morrow, 32°



I would like start by saying, thank you Brothers. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Master of Kadosh of the Consistory for the coming year. I would also like to thank the Brothers, who accepted positions in the Consistory. I know that that many of you are filling positions in other bodies as well. I know that each of you have other responsibilities; work, family, school and such. The PR and the Valley have made it clear the expectations for the incoming officers and I feel that we are up to the task.

For the Brothers who may not know me, my name is John Morrow. I belong to two lodges, Helion #1 and Somerville # 721. I was first introduced to Masonry when I joined DeMolay. My dad, Joe D. Morrow was a Mason, Shriner and a member of this Valley. He is the reason I joined the Scottish Rite.

As we start the new year, I am filled with excitement and hope for the future of our fraternity. I think the Installation of Officers was a good sign of things to come. I am proud of the turn out and I think we had a good showing of visitors from other Masonic Bodies. I hope we can build on this and expect higher attendance at our next event.

As Master of Kadosh and a trustee of the Temple Corp I hope to accomplish several things in the coming year. I am committed in our efforts to acquire the Solar Lodge Property. I believe this is in our best interest and the best option not only for us but the other Masonic Bodies that use the building. It will give us a home and free the Brothers of Solar Lodge from a financial burden they can no longer afford. I hope that with repairs and some renovation we will have a Masonic Center that everyone can be proud of.

I hope that along with the officers of the Consistory, we will take responsibility for all meetings, tasks and obligations assigned to us. I hope to have at least one fund raising and one social event during the next year. I also hope that the Consistory will take the lead and encourage everyone to complete the First Master Craftsman course.

I would like to end by sharing a quote from Winston Churchill. "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." I encourage everyone to get involved this coming year. Come to more meetings, take time to speak to a Brother you don't know, volunteer for a degree or committee but most importantly remember why you joined in the first place. Have fun and enjoy the fellowship of Brothers.

KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREWS

Arche, Logos, Phos, Pneuma - Haikal Kadosh

KNIGHT COMMANDER,
Brother Samuel Curatola, 32°

Please visit our website:

<https://www.aasrhsv.org/knights-of-st-andrew>

Need gear? <https://knightsofstandrew.org/>



The KSA has flourished this year with 11 new Knights. We look forward to – working closely with the Secretaries and the Kitchen Committee serving the Brethern in accordance with our Bylaws. We are the Service Organization of the Rite and we are here to make a difference into the coming year. The KSA will continue present the 18th Degree for the Reunions and assist the Secretaries per our Charter. I look forward to working with the Degree Master, and having the new Knights taking a roll, so we can get down to business and be ready for the next Reunion. The tasks for 2019 is to Conquer and Excel. Draw your swords and let us move forward! Brother Sam

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During the Third Reich, along with the Jews, Hitler imprisoned many Freemasons. They were forced to wear a red Triangle as political dissidents. The Forget-Me-Nots are a symbol worn by Freemasons during the war years to be able to secretly identify each other.

<https://masonicfind.com/freemasonry-in-nazi-germany>



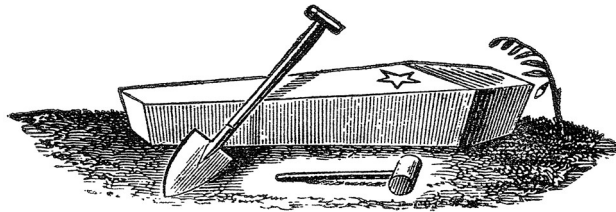
Saved from
masonicfind.com

Visit

Those who have been called Home

David Jack Moore 32°	April 21, 2018 (not previously reported)
Marvin Lee Roberts 32°	November 4, 2018
Charles Richard MacCrone, 32°	November 24, 2018
Mack Columbus Mills, 32°	December 9, 2018
Robert Joseph Swaim, 32°	December 12, 2018
Efrain Gilberto Medina, 32°	December 20, 2018
Jimmy Bruce Haywood, 33°	December 21, 2018
Thomas Andrew Paul, 33°	January 22, 2019

AND HIS LORD SAID UNTO HIM, WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT (Matthew 25:21)



Maundy-Thursday

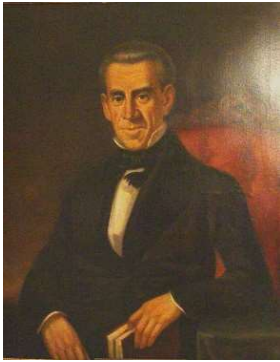
Maundy-Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. *Maundy* is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* (meaning *commandment*), the first word of a religious chant sung by pilgrims on that day at the time of the washing of feet. It also refers to Christ's words after he had washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper (John 13:34), "A new commandment I give unto you." Maundy-Thursday is sometimes called *Shear Thursday*, alluding evidently to the shearing of beards and heads in preparation for Easter. Foot washing before Easter was part of the rites of the Roman Catholic Church from about the fourth century, and the act itself was performed by Pope, prelates, priests and nobles. Doles or alms were then given the poor and these gifts were called *maunds*. This page is adapted from the Glossary at Phoenixmasonry. Additional information with regard to a comparison of the remembrance day for the Last Supper can be found in Greg Stewart's Blog article "Lux in Tenebris-Maundy Thursday," dated March 13, 2016, where he provides the following link to the canonical gospels (<http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/gospels/block11.htm>).



The Last Supper – Champaigne,
Philippe de (1602-1674)



Clement Comer Clay



Brother Clement Comer Clay was born on December 17th, 1789 in Halifax County, Virginia. He graduated from East Tennessee College in 1807. Brother Clay passed the bar in 1809, moved to Huntsville and opened a private practice in the Alabama territory.

Brother Clay married Susannah Claiborne Withers in 1815. The couple had three sons, the most notable of the three was Clement Claiborne Clay whose image was on the Confederate \$1 note and the Governor of the Confederate Alabama State.

Brother Clay was a member of Alabama Lodge No. 21 in Huntsville, Alabama, which was organized under dispensation issued by the Grand Master of Kentucky, August 29, 1811.

He began his political career in the Alabama Territorial Legislature serving from 1817 to 1818. After Alabama was admitted to the Union in 1819, Clay served as a State Court Judge and in the Alabama House of Representatives.

In 1828 Clay was elected to the United States House of Representatives where he served from 1829 until 1835. As Governor he signed a legislative act which chartered Spring Hill College in Mobile, the third oldest Jesuit school in the US. In 1836, Clay's term was dominated by the Creek War. This was caused by resistance to Indian removal which had taken place in the Southeast during most of the 1830's. Clay's administration and the United States Army removed Creek Indians and moved them to what would become Oklahoma. In Alabama, there were constant clashes between Creek Indians and white settlers. During the Panic of 1837, while Clay was still Governor, there was a run on the Bank of the State of Alabama.

His term as Governor was cut short in 1837 when he was appointed by the Alabama State Legislature as a United States Senator, Senators were not elected until the 17th Amendment of the Constitution was passed in 1912 and ratified in 1913. He served in the United States Senate until 1841 when he resigned. Clay passed away on September 7th, 1866, the year after the American Civil War ended. He is buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, Huntsville, Alabama.



Dyslexia Committee

Chairman ILL. Wm "Jerry" Burfitt 33° G.C

Although we in the Scottish Rite have chosen to support the Alabama children with dyslexia, we firmly support the children this article is about.

When you have a "regular" child, you feel reasonably assured that class participation and decent study habits will result in good grades. These kids have close friends. They get invited to participate in social things like dances and weekend gatherings. They make the teams, auditioned organizations and clubs.

But when you have a child with certain differences, this is often not the case. Learning may take longer, both academically and socially. Despite their tremendous efforts, results are often a fraction of their peers and social acceptance is fleeting, setting them up for painful comparisons and bitter frustration. Instead of a fun and fulfilling experience, school can become a breeding ground for depression and anxiety, and assignments a battle ground at home. It is exhausting for parent and child alike.

For all the children who struggle every day to succeed in a world that does not recognize their gifts and talents, and for those who are walking beside them, please let this be a gentle reminder to be kind and accepting of ALL people. Recognize that the "playing field" is not always a level surface. Children who learn differently are not weird. They are merely gifted in ways that our society does not value. Yet they want what everyone else wants: To be accepted.

Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP)

Brother John C. Meyers 32°

I would like to start off by thanking all the Brethren of the Huntsville Valley for coming together and working in one common cause to grow Masonry in Northern Alabama! We can only do it together in unity and harmony. The Membership Committee has requested again this year to participate in VMAP and we will continue to build upon the foundation we have been working on over the passing years. The Committee and I have submitted the 2018 VMAP packet to the Valley PRAC for review and comment.

We have 36 Lodges in our Scottish Rite footprint and we need a representative in every Lodge reporting on our activities and successes! Exposing Scottish Rite Masonry to our Blue Lodge Brethren telling them what we have accomplished along the way, putting positive LIGHT on our affairs. These Brothers would. Also, invite Master Mason who show sufficient proficiency in the Master Mason Degree to join the us and all to attend our open events and experience the Scottish Rite. So far, we have only a few good Men who have volunteered to represent us at their Lodges: Apollo, Boaz, Helion, Northern, Renaissance. I look forward to working with the team to continue to introduce and support the good of the order.

These are some of the activities the VMAP Team will be working on:

- **Committee/VMAP Team** – (Ill Wm “Jerry” Burfitt, Jr. 33° & Br. John C. Meyers 32°)
- Committee Meetings:
 - Membership Call – (Ill. Wm “Jerry” Burfitt, Sr. 33° GC)
 - Brother to Brother – (Br. John C. Meyers 32°)
 - Ambassador Program – (Br. Dave Lakin KCCH 32°)
- Promote stated meetings - any speaker – **Committees /and VMAP Team**
- Plan and inform the members about other committee meetings and activities – **Valley Leadership and VMAP Team**
- As often as newsletters, etc. is produced - include Supreme Council services information. - **Valley VMAP Team**
- **Invite Sojourners to Valley stated meetings**

We need your help – Please feel free to jump in and help!



The Tyler's Place is a collection of stories, lessons and interviews by Masons, for Masons and about Masons. Hosted by Bro. Maynard Edwards, 32° (pictured right), each episode offers a variety of topics on Masonry; like interviews with interesting and inspiring people, historical facts and insights, and tips, tricks and life-hacks for the modern Mason.

The official podcast of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council, 33°, S.J. USA.

Our Charitable Endeavors

The Valley of Huntsville continues to support the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation.

TEACHER AWARD

The Valley of Huntsville continues to support the wonderful Teachers of our State. There are two awards: The Alabama Teacher of the Year and The Teacher Hall of Fame.

DYSLEXIA TESTING

The Valley provides the space for local testing and people such as Board Members and volunteers to support and serve the Foundation, which provides for free Testing of Alabama children between first and eighth grades.

Child must be at least 7 years old and half way through the first grade.

www.alsrlcenter.org



National Sojourners Chapter 353 Committee

Chairman: Illustrious Tom Craig 33°

If you are a Veteran, we need your help, we are simply “Soldiering On” at this point and we need your support. Masonry as a whole is on the decline, but we are really feeling the adverse effects. In addition to the promotion of Masonry some of our primary tenets are to:

- a. Supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry,
- b. Developing true Patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation,
- c. Bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military need of National Defense



Need assistance with support of 50-50 drawing in order to raise money for various programs primarily the ROTC medals and scholarships to send Youth to the Annual Leadership Conference. Columbia High School has already scheduled with us for award presentations which will be 13 March. Sparkman High normally presents their awards in January or early February, so we will need assistance with award presentations

Several members attended the 6 December Military Night at Community Ballet’s Nutcracker performance and had a wonderful time! The Huntsville Ballet honored all Veterans, but more especially our World War II veterans.

Valley DeMolay/Rainbow Committee

Brother Wesley Hyde 32°



Our local Masonic Youth has been very busy lately with their own projects and trying to be visible and relevant in the community.

White Light Assembly #66 of Rainbow had a busy weekend earlier in December. While many of us were enjoying what may have been the best week of college football this fall (the conference championships), the girls and their advisors were going to Mobile for a statewide ritual school of instruction. In addition to their Ritual work, they enjoyed great hospitality and a Christmas party.

This November the DeMolays from Huntsville, in the Twickenham Milford Chapter, traveled to the Zamora Shrine Park just outside of Birmingham to have a statewide observance day for Dad Land Day. Dad Frank Land was the Scottish Rite Mason who founded DeMolay in 1919 as an answer to the number of boys whose fathers were lost to WWI. The boys enjoyed some outdoor sports, great food, fellowship, and it was also, time for remembrance of Dad Land and his legacy.

Just after Thanksgiving the DeMolays drove to the Princeton community in Jackson County for some degree work and to install the first ever group of officers for the new Malvert A Putman Chapter. This is the first new Chapter in Alabama to be instituted in several years. The ritual work they performed was exemplary, even if the number of active boys was quite few. More recently the boys substituted a called Chapter meeting for a work day at a local elderly Masonic brother’s house who needed some help out in the yard.

This coming Sunday, December 16, the Rainbow and DeMolay will be enjoying an Ugly Sweater Get-Together at the Cahaba Shrine building. It will be a joint social event, prospect party, and Dirty Santa gift exchange. This will be the first joint event these groups have had together in years. Hopefully, it is a sign of more similar things to come.



Grand Lodge of Alabama F&AM, District Lecturer – Group II, District II

Illustrious David Whittaker, 33°



Brethren,

I, as District Lecturer of District 2 and Grand Marshall, was asked to make a contribution to our Valley's Newsletter. District II in the last couple years has had two new Lodges Chartered, Renaissance #933 in 2017 and Endeavor #934 this year. I have traveled to many Lodges since becoming Lecturer, attending Degrees and Conferences, and am really enjoying seeing, sitting in Lodge and working with all my brethren. District II will hold their Spring Conference March 2nd 1:00 pm at Northern #278. District II members don't forget to inquire about the proficiency award, or to schedule a School of Instruction for your Lodge. Please visit the Grand Lodge of Alabama website for the 2019 Conference schedule, and I encourage you to attend, and help preserve the work.

Great things are happening throughout the State in Masonry. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama recently held its Annual Grand Lodge session. Our newly installed Grand Master from Group II the Most Worshipful Brother Van Kevin Tidwell and his Elected and Appointed Officers didn't waste any time getting straight to work. On Saturday, December the 1st the Grand Lodge conducted a Corner Stone Laying and Lodge Dedication ceremonies at Gurley Lodge #521. February 2nd the Grand Lodge is going to perform the "Constitute a New Lodge" Ceremony. This will be for Endeavor Lodge #934, so mark your calendar and we'll see you there.

Don't forget to check on the Events page on the Grand Lodge website for work going on and get out, visit and support your Blue Lodges. This is the heart and soul of Masonry. Also, keep an eye on the Conference schedule and attend all you can, the work is an always ongoing educational search for light and honing of skills. The work is what sets us apart from other organizations and it's a common tie, which unites us all. If I can ever be of assistance brethren don't hesitate to let me know.

The Scottish Rite has a great slate of Officers for the upcoming year, with a full schedule of events, get involved, see what's going on in the Valley of Huntsville. There's always a place for you to get active and enjoy the fellowship and brotherhood.

Spot Light on a Brother

by Brother Michael Brewer 32°

Brethren, on November 27th, at my home lodge (Falkville #396), we had the fortunate occasion to celebrate a Brother's birthday. While this is nothing out of the ordinary for most lodges, this birthday was of particular interest to us because Brother Thomas "Bud" Hill turned 101 years old. Bud also happens to be my great-great uncle and is a 63 year Mason. He still travels regularly and has sat in over 150 lodges in Alabama, and is also still an active deacon at his church. I have included a link to an interview I did with Uncle Bud earlier this year that includes him talking about his life during the early days and also his time as a U.S. Merchant Marine during WWII and his experiences at the D-Day invasion.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7qsOT8oTOI&feature=youtu.be>

Gädieke says that, "according to the ancient laws of Freemasonry, every brother must attend his Lodge if he is within the length of his cable tow." The old writers define the length of a cable tow, which they sometimes called a cable's length, to be three miles for an Entered Apprentice. But the expression is really symbolic, and as it was defined by the Baltimore Convention in 1842, means the scope of a man's reasonable ability.



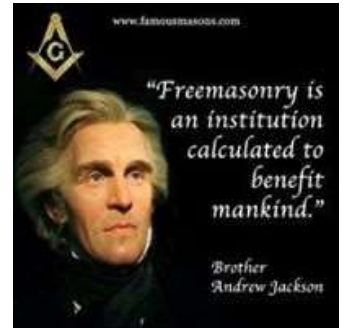
- Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry

<http://www.masonicdictionary.com/cabletow.html>



The emblem of the 33° is a crowned double-headed eagle holding a sword in its talons. Although many renditions of the emblem show the sword as straight-bladed, historically it should have a wavy blade. Why is this?

We read in the Bible, (Genesis 3:24), After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.



MORALS AND DOGMA OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

1871

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/mas/md/md30.htm>



XXIX. GRAND SCOTTISH KNIGHT OF ST. ANDREW

A MIRACULOUS tradition, something like that connected with the labarum of Constantine, hallows the Ancient Cross of St. Andrew. Hungus (Oengus), who in the ninth century reigned over the Picts in Scotland, is said to have seen in a vision, on the night before a battle, the Apostle Saint Andrew, who promised him the

victory; and for an assured token thereof, he told him that there should appear over the Pictish host, in the air, such a fashioned cross as he had suffered upon. Hungus, awakened, looking up at the sky, saw the promised cross, as did all of both armies; and Hungus and the Picts, after rendering thanks to the Apostle for their victory, and making their offerings with humble devotion, vowed that from thenceforth, as well they as their posterity, in time of war, would wear a cross of St. Andrew for their badge and cognizance.



Every cross of Knighthood is a symbol of the nine qualities of a Knight of St. Andrew of Scotland; for every order of chivalry required of its votaries the same virtues and the same excellencies. Humility, Patience, and Self-denial are the three essential qualities of a Knight of St. Andrew of Scotland.

THE END OF FREEMASONRY AS WE KNOW IT AND I FEEL FINE

By Brother Michael Feld, 33°, KYCH

“Freemasonry is dying” is a quote recently seen from any number of Freemasons on social media, heard in conversation, or even in articles dating back decades. “Freemasonry is dying” may be used to bemoan individuals who are not doing what the person saying “Freemasonry is dying” thinks should be done; or, it is a quote based solely on membership numbers that show a steady decline. Both imply that the death of Freemasonry is something negative. This implication is ironic given the teachings of Freemasonry; yet, if properly understood, it is exactly what every Freemason should always keep in mind. Freemasonry is dying.

“It is better that no workman be added to the roll, than that one unworthy foot be allowed to cross the threshold of the lodge.” – Installation of Officers Oration, Alabama Masonic Ritual Monitor

Freemasonry is dying is sometimes demonstrated by looking at the numbers. The Masonic Service Association of North America has records of reported US membership going back to 1924. In 1924, there were just over 3 million masons. In 1959, membership peaked at just over 4 million. From 1960 forward, membership has declined by 2017 to 1,076,626.¹ The bleakest cynics may say that “in a few years we will be holding lodge in my garage” or “we will not have enough to open Grand Lodge.”

The “death by declining numbers” mason may appeal to Masonry’s historical activities as a reason for the declining numbers. The solution to increasing numbers is to “get out in the community” and volunteer and contribute to the community. By doing this, more good men will see what Masons do and join Masonry. This is an attractive proposal, but it puts the expectation that by doing what we should be doing Masonry will be rewarded with more members. What happens when Masons get out in the community and work diligently and gain no new members? Older masons may be found saying, “we tried that before and it did not attract new members.” This scenario creates two kinds of active Masons-

1. Masons that do good work expecting the reward of increased membership
2. Masons that become jaded and do no work if it fails increase membership

Following the William Morgan Affair in New York in 1826, Freemasonry’s membership dramatically declined as public fear of secret organizations spread across the country. The Grand Lodge of Alabama had no annual communication in 1834 or 1835. By 1837, total membership for the state was 382.² If Alabama Masons are concerned about the membership now, what must the feelings have been in 1837? What strength of character and perseverance existed in those Masons who preserved the traditions we have inherited in our time? Joseph Abram Jackson credits the Committee on Correspondence, the Committee on Work, and the Committee on Jurisprudence for the revival of Freemasonry in Alabama.

These three committees represent three disciplines of Freemasonry:

¹ <http://www.msana.com/msastats.asp>

² Masonry in Alabama, Joseph Abram Jackson

1. Committee on Correspondence: recognition and fraternal relations with foreign Grand Lodges (by foreign” is meant other states as well as countries)
2. Committee on Work: uniformity and discipline in the ritual work which provided
 - a. a common experience for members and created unity among Masons
 - b. harmony among lodges to assist one another in conferring the degrees
3. Committee on Jurisprudence: establishing precedence for Masonic Law within Alabama so that there was uniformity and harmony in executive decisions to avoid disputes and disruptions regarding interpretations of Masonic Law.

From this small number of 382, Freemasonry in Alabama was able to survive by strengthening its core principles and focusing on three critical points (Relationships, Ritual Education, Justice) guided by the lesson “Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry.”

True- because Alabama Freemasonry was reliable. Travelling from one Grand Lodge Jurisdiction to another, Alabama Freemasons could expect to be recognized as Master Masons in foreign jurisdictions. Travelling from Lodge to Lodge within the state, the ritual work and lessons were reliable and familiar among all Alabama Masons. And in every decision by the Grand Lodge, Jurisprudence ensured reliable stability by prudentially reviewing each decision and maintaining the trust of every Mason and every lodge to be treated justly, fairly, and consistently from year to year based on Masonic jurisprudence.

Therefore, with only 382 Masons who are good and true, Freemasonry can survive and thrive. With 10,000 Masons who are adequate and unreliable, Freemasonry is dying. The goal, therefore, is not in the membership numbers of any quantity. The goal is the quality of the membership whatever number it may be.

“Finally, keep sacred and inviolate the mysteries of the Order, as these are to distinguish you from the rest of the community and mark your consequence among Masons.” – Entered Apprentice Charge, Alabama Masonic Ritual Monitor

“Freemasonry is dying because we are not attracting men of quality.” This is statement is usually made with a desire that Masons are well educated, leaders of industry, or of a political stature or fame. In the US, Masons often think of George Washington and his fame as a Revolutionary War general and the first President of the United States of America. It may be forgotten that when Washington became a Mason, he was twenty-one years old in 1753 and his accomplishments both militarily and politically came after his Masonic affiliation.³ The pride of Freemasonry is not that it initiated an accomplished general and the Founding Father of a nation. The pride of Freemasonry is that its fraternal bonds contributed to *creating* an accomplished general and the Founding Father of the United States of America. If Freemasonry was only made up of accomplished men who gained no personal improvement from the teachings of Masonry, then Masonry would be dead. Freemasonry lives as long as it *creates* men of quality.

If men of high position and education are initiated into Freemasonry and remain unchanged, then Freemasonry has no secrets or mysteries; and, because Freemasonry claims to have “mysteries of the Order”, we must ask if we are being honest when we say those words if it is not manifestly true. The

³ <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/washington-becomes-master-mason>

whole purpose of Freemasonry, its very mission statement, is the prayer to Almighty God at initiation “that by the secrets of our art he may be better enabled to display the beauties of holiness to the honor of Thy holy name!” Freemasonry has secrets and mysteries. Those secrets and mysteries are unwritten. “The attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue and the mysteries of Freemasonry are safely lodged in the repository of faithful breasts.” Note, the mysteries are not in the breasts of dues card carrying members. They are in the repository of faithful breasts. There is no book that has been written or can be written that replaces the intimate transmission of life experience from one Freemason to another. If Freemasonry were to become a social society of men of accomplishment who found no method for further self-improvement, then Freemasonry would be a static, dead, organization. The pulse of Freemasonry is Masonic education and the performance of Masonic duty.

“Thus we close the explanation of the emblems upon the solemn thought of death, which, without revelation, is dark and gloomy; but we are suddenly revived by the ever-green and ever-living sprig of faith in the merits of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, which strengthens us with confidence and composure to look forward to a blessed immortality.”- Master Mason Lecture, Alabama Masonic Ritual Monitor

The preceding quote from the Master Mason lecture is not only for the individual; it is for Freemasonry as an institution as well. Freemasonry cannot die. Each Freemason may die and we hope to “receive the grim tyrant death as a kind messenger” because by faith we know that the mysteries of Freemasonry are good and true; and that charity that extends beyond the grave throughout eternity. Every Freemason is dying day by day and with each death some part of Freemasonry dies; yet, Freemasonry lives with each disciplined and sincere opening of lodge; each time you see an instructor teaching a student; each chairman reporting the plans and accomplishments of each committee; each officer taking an obligation of service; each parade, each hospital visitation, each funeral ceremony, each kind word and deed for the widow and orphan and distressed brother.

The lessons for what has been done to preserve Freemasonry may be found in the Royal Arch degree and the Royal and Select Master degrees of the York Rite.

The Order of DeMolay, founded by Brother Land of the Scottish Rite, speaks of the Order of DeMolay in the Ceremony of Light and it applies to Freemasonry as well. As long as those of us that are Masons maintain our light, darkness cannot prevail. Freemasonry cannot die.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry boldly explains its method of preservation in the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor Ceremony, “In the York, or American Rite of Freemasonry, when the subordinate lodges die, the Grand Lodge which governs them dies, but in the Scottish Rite, all its subordinate bodies may die and yet the power of the Supreme Council persists in unabated vigor, and it may create new Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and Consistories.”⁴

“...it is a melancholy truth, that so soon as we begin to live, that moment also we begin to die.” – Funeral Service, Alabama Masonic Ritual Monitor

We see Freemasonry dying because it is alive. As long as Freemasonry lives, it will always be dying. The question we must answer, the lesson we must learn, is not only how should Freemasonry live, but how should Freemasonry die? If Freemasonry died tomorrow, what would its legacy be? If

⁴ Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide, Arturo De Hoyos

Freemasonry died tomorrow with a legacy worthy of God, then surely God would restore it in proper time.

What if Freemasonry increases its numbers to 4 million members tomorrow?

A young Mason says, “we can set up a GoFundMe page tonight and every person that contributes (insert amount of money you deem appropriate) will receive a dues card for membership by email and all of the money will go towards (insert the charity you deem appropriate).”

And you wake up tomorrow and the Masonic Service Association reports there are 4 million Master Masons.

Would Freemasonry be alive? Or would it be buried in rubbish?

Freemasonry is alive as long as “the attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue and the mysteries of Freemasonry are safely lodged in the repository of faithful breasts.”

There may be fees for degrees and dues, but Freemasonry cannot be bought and sold on the internet or otherwise.

“Recommend Masonry to the world by the rectitude of your conduct. To this end make yourselves intimately acquainted with all its principles and obligations and practice in your lives all its duties and requirements.” –Installation of Officers, Oration to The Brethren of the Lodge, Alabama Masonic Ritual Monitor

Each of us is dying because we are alive. Freemasonry is dying because it is alive. Freemasonry is alive with each initiation and apron presentation. Freemasonry is alive with each funeral ceremony and apron laid upon a casket. Freemasonry is alive with each Masonic vow you maintain and each Masonic duty you perform. Freemasonry is alive when you finish this article and know in your heart that you are a Freemason.

Bibliography

Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide. Arturo De Hoyos. Washington, DC. Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction. 2008

Masonry in Alabama. Joseph Abram Jackson. Montgomery, Alabama. Brown Printing Company. 1970

<http://www.msana.com/msastats.asp> accessed 12/9/2018

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/washington-becomes-master-mason> accessed 12/9/2018

Calendar of Events

February

28 Fat Thursday

March

04 6:00 pm Refreshments and Social hour

05 Mardi Gras

06 Ash Wednesday - Lent Season Begins

17 St Patrick' Day

18 6:00 pm **Advisory Conference**

20 3:58 pm Spring Equinox

Our Webpage URL:

<https://www.aasrhsv.org/>

<mailto:aasrhsv@gmail.com>

Our Valley's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/228866337244567/>



Spread the word within you Blue Lodges, we have reserved a spot in the

42nd Annual Allen Mcanelly Memorial 2019 Huntsville St. Patrick's Day Parade

Presented by the Irish Society of North Alabama

Saturday, March 16, 2019

11:30am

Downtown Huntsville

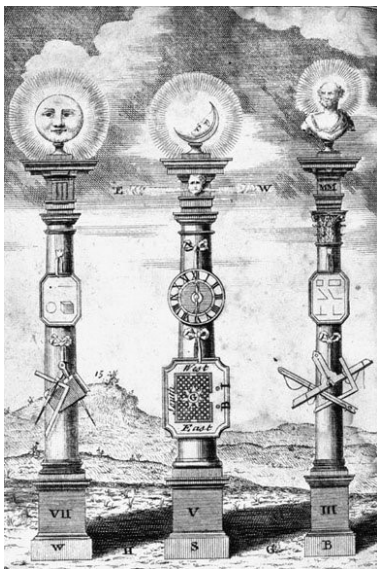


(<http://www.huntsvillestpatricksdays.com/>)

It is our goal to bring together as many of the Masonic Bodies in the Greater Huntsville Area as possible to represent Masonry in general in increase public awareness! If we can regain just one sojourner, one petitioner or plant the seed just think what a couple hours of well spent service time might do?

What is the length of your Cabletow?

Brothers it is so very important to the longevity of our Fraternity that we support our roots! Yes, never forget your Blue Lodge and get out and visit other Lodges within your County, your District and our Jurisdiction!! Attend Conferences improve upon your ritual work to preserve it into and through the generations as our elders have for us, we owe it to them! There are camps among us that don't believe we all need to learn the ritual – what say you?



Masonic & Appendant Body activities with our Jurisdiction

No.	Name	City	County	Meetings
<u>1</u>	<u>Helion</u>	Huntsville	Madison	1 & 3 Tues
16	Athens	Athens	Limestone	1 & 3 Mon
116	DeKalb	Lebanon	DeKalb	1 & 3 Thurs
127	Bolivar	Stevenson	Jackson	1 & 3 Thurs
209	Marshall	Guntersville	Marshall	1 & 3 Tues
<u>278</u>	<u>Northern</u>	New Hope	Madison	2 & 4 Mon
320	Union Grove	Union Grove	Marshall	Each Mon
323	Holly Grove	Princeton	Jackson	2 & 4 Sat
359	Scottsboro	Scottsboro	Jackson	1 & 3 Mon
391	North Border	Salem	Limestone	1 & 3 Tues
394	Valley Head	Valley Head	DeKalb	2 & 4 Mon
400	Hanceville	Hanceville	Cullman	1 & 3 Thurs
421	Cullman	Cullman	Cullman	Each Mon
430	Albertville	Albertville	Marshall	Each Mon
437	Fort Payne	Fort Payne	DeKalb	Each Tues
472	Baileyton	Baileyton	Cullman	1 & 3 Thurs
490	Mahan	Henagar	DeKalb	1 & 3 Mon
500	Logan	Logan	Cullman	2 & 4 Tues
<u>521</u>	<u>Gurley</u>	Gurley	Madison	1 & 3 Tues
543	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	Jackson	2 & 4 Thurs
546	Boaz	Boaz	Marshall	Each Tues
565	Section	Section	Jackson	2 & 4 Mon
663	Arab	Arab	Marshall	Each Thurs
673	Sylvania	Sylvania	DeKalb	2 & 4 Tues
677	Ashlar	Ider	DeKalb	1 & 3 Tues
697	Fyffe	Fyffe	DeKalb	1 & 3 Thurs
739	Trimble	Trimble	Cullman	1 & 3 Tues
758	West Point	West Point	Cullman	1 & 3 Mon
838	Geraldine	Geraldine	DeKalb	2 & 4 Tues
854	Simcoe	Simcoe	Cullman	2 & 4 Thurs
869	Martin	New Harmony	DeKalb	1 & 3 Tues
870	Progress	Pisgah	Jackson	2 & 4 Sat
882	Walter R. Bogart	Hollywood	Jackson	2 & 4 Mon
902	Ruhama	Ruhama	DeKalb	1 & 3 Mon
911	Rainsville	Rainsville	DeKalb	2 & 4 Thurs
<u>914</u>	<u>Solar</u>	Huntsville	Madison	2 & 4 Thurs
<u>918</u>	<u>Lunar</u>	Madison	Madison	2 & 4 Weds
920	North Sand Mt	Bryant	Jackson	2 & 4 Tues
<u>921</u>	<u>Apollo</u>	Huntsville	Madison	2 & 4 Weds
<u>933</u>	<u>Renaissance</u>	Huntsville	Madison	2nd Wed
<u>934</u>	<u>Endevor Day Lodge</u>	Huntsville	Madison	1 & 3 Mon
http://www.alafreemasonry.org/bluelodges/				
	Cahaba Shrine	Huntsville	Madison	3rd Fri
	Huntsville York Rite	Huntsville	Madison	2nd Tues
	National Sojourners	Huntsville	Madison	1st Fri

PETITION FOR INITIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Scottish Rite Bodies

3008 9th AVE, Huntsville, AL 35805

256-539-1300



Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Spouse Name: _____ No. of Children _____

Blue Lodge & No.: _____

Blue Lodge Location _____ Date Raised _____

I, the undersigned, I have resided in this jurisdiction _____ years.

Have you ever petitioned for Scottish Rite Degrees before? _____

***"I believe in the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order,
and undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty,
the entire separation of Church and State as set forth in
the Constitution of the United States of America."***

***Wholeheartedly believing in the foregoing, I respectfully petition
to receive the 4th through the 32nd degrees.***

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommended by: _____

**Initiation Fee is \$175.00, to be paid before initiation.
A minimum of \$100.00 must accompany this petition.**

To be completed by Secretary

Received: _____ Read: _____ Paid: _____ Voted: _____

A&A Scottish Rite
PO BOX 18725
Huntsville, AL 35804

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 269
HUNTSVILLE, AL

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

