



Mount Hermon Lodge 118

A.F & A.M

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

The newsletter

AUGUST 2007

Faith and Freemasonry

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Some time ago I was asked whether, as a Christian, I found any conflict between my faith and my membership of Freemasonry. I pointed out that only those who professed a belief in a Supreme Being could become Masons. I must admit that sometimes I have been tempted to ask prospective candidates what difference such confession made to their lives. One day I will! I also explained how Lodge meetings begin and end in a prayer, and how central to Masonic ritual is the book Masons call the Volume of the Sacred Law – that book which is sacred to each member, of whatever faith. When Masons refer to it as “directing our steps in the paths of happiness” and add that it “will lead you to all truth”, that is exactly what it will do – but only if we read it for ourselves! An unopened book will teach us nothing, and that volume only becomes holy as we use it to teach us the way to God. If you remove all religious references from the rituals, there is virtually nothing left. Although Masons are enjoined to refrain from topics of religious discussion, that does not preclude religious contemplation. Masons state that Freemasonry is not a religion – nor is it. But it should be a society of religious men who, at each stage of their progress through the three Degrees, through Installation and through the other Degrees in Freemasonry, are commended to the care and guidance of that Supreme Being, whose faith we have professed. Seeking the right way to exercise Masonry in the Lodge and in the community, Freemasons should be guided by faith and commitment to the One who sees all, and knows all. If we succeed, then non-Masons may cease to query whether our faith stands in the way of our Freemasonry.



I have sometimes pointed out to other Masons that, in the First Degree, we are called upon to exercise nearly all the virtues which should mark us out as men of very high caliber. In the prayer we ask that the candidate “may so dedicate and devote his life to Thy (God’s) service as to become a true and faithful brother.” We seek “divine wisdom” upon Him that He may “be enabled to unfold the beauties of true godliness.” The candidate’s Obligation is taken with his hand on the Volume of

the Sacred Law, and he finishes it with the words: “So help me God” and is told that “the sacred writings are to govern our faith.” The candidate is told to “practice... every moral and social virtue”. Most crucially, and alas, all too often unsuccessfully, he is recommended to a “most serious contemplation (of) the Volume of the Sacred Law” In which he will discover the duties he owes to God, to his neighbor and himself. He is called upon to be a law-abiding subject, and to the practice of “every domestic as well as public virtue”, Prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice should also be marks of his good character. Secrecy, fidelity and obedience are three more such marks. I would contend that all these traits are the qualities which should be ours because of our faith in the one true and living God – by whatever name we call Him. Faith and Freemasonry march hand-in-hand, and should inspire what we are, and what we do in the name of the Supreme Being, whose faith we professed at our initial interview to become a Mason. Anonymous UGLE

Mnt Hermon Lodge 118 : The Officers

Brother Fred K Morris Worshipful Master

Brother Mark Bloomfield Senior Warden

Brother Emmanuel Dumigron Junior Warden

Brother Lance Grunge Secretary

Brother JR Yarnell Treasurer

Brother Ron Lambe Senior Deacon

Brother Phil Presley Junior Deacon

MW Norburn Hyatt Chaplin

Mount Hermon Lodge 118
80 Broadway . Asheville
NC 28801

WWW.MASONIC118.COM

STATED MEETING:

1st THURSDAY OF EVERY
MONTH

FOR FURTHER INFO OR
EVENTS CHECK WITH OUR
ONLINE CALENDER

SEE MORE ONLINE

FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East,

Again we have good things to report to you. Things at Mt. Hermon are happening. We have two Brothers learning the catechism for the First Degree. And as of this week end we have received two more petitions. So if all goes well we will have the honor of doing the First Degree again. These are young men who are ready and anxious to get in Masonry. And how grateful I am for these blessings.

Please do not forget our special day August 18, named as Alms Day. Bro. Ron Lambe has done a lot of hard work for this day and it promises to be a good day and should raise a lot of money for our Charities. If you can attend please do. If not we would be happy to hear from you with a contribution for the charities. I will be appreciated. 'Till next time, I remain,

Fraternally. Fred K. Morris, Master

FROM THE WEST

I am proud of all the activity at the lodge in recent weeks, and it looks as if we may continue this trend for sometime. Mt. Hermon has two candidates for the second degree and petitions for two more. The York Rite will be starting the Chapter degrees in August, and the Scottish Rite is preparing for their degrees in October. The Temple board has started to make some of the repairs that the building needs, and is planning a work day for August 11th. We should all take a moment and reflect on how blessed we truly are to have such a wonderful fraternity, with so many talented and giving brothers. The appendent bodies are a great way to continue Masonic education and further the fellowship that many hold as one of the most rewarding of the master's wages.

"If the community doesn't know about you, they can't say anything about you, and ignorance breeds misconceptions."

FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

This will be my last Stated with Mount Hermon as Junior Warden for this year . As some of you all ready know, I am moving to Pennsylvania to support my wife. The Newsletter will continue under its current format , and I will continue as the editor for our little publication . Some changes will take place in the Newsletter: I will no longer write as the Junior Warden , but I will continue to write under the article titled, *The Traveling Warden*. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ron Lambe will become the active Junior Warden for Mount Hermon for the rest of the year. I am sure he will do an outstanding job in this very important position. I am so proud of all of you who support Mount Hermon , the Officers, the Members, and our distinguished guests. We have two new members and two more to follow. The degree team is in place and I have no doubt that we will see a 3rd Degree ceremony at the Lodge before year's end. Blessing be onto you all and thank you for being my Brothers.

Sincerely Emmanuel Y Dumigron JW

P.S If you have any comments ,articles , or thoughts please feel free to contact me dumigron@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN CONER : MASONS DURING THE CIVIL WAR WRITTEN BY JOHN HOWEY

One of the first acts of Masonic Charity to occur in the American Civil War occurred at the First Battle of Manassas or Bull Run on July 21st, 1861. This act was reported in the Boston Masonic Monthly which started publishing in November, 1863, and was edited by Edward L. Mitchell. Colonel W.H. Raynor of the 1st Ohio left his command and in the company of two sergeants went to fetch water at a nearby creek. Suddenly, as they neared the stream, they heard the yell that eventually became known as the Rebel Yell and the thundering hoofs of hundreds of horses. Colonel Raynor instinctively raised his pistol just as a buckshot from a pistol hit the instep of his foot and numbed it. Finding a large tree nearby he dropped upon his knees behind it and watched the battle rage around him. A horseman fired his pistol at Raynor

SECRETARY'S DESK

The July Stated was truly a wonderful event! We were privileged to have many visitors join us in the presentations of Honorary Memberships to MW Wallace Berry Rigdon of Sonoma Lodge #472, WB Wilson Todd Lancaster of Biltmore Lodge #446 and Bro. Charles Erick Cox of Nichols/West Asheville #650.

Brother Brian Scarborough was initiated on July 16th. We all look forward to his continuation in the degrees and he will be a great asset to us all.

Plan your calendars for August 18th. There will be a combined charity fund raising event with a miniature golf tournament in the afternoon followed by dinner, speakers and auction. Please contact Brother Ron Lambe or myself at (828)273-1052 if you have any items that could be auctioned. I will gladly provide a Contribution Statement for anyone who needs one. Contact any of us if you need a ride!

Finally, there are a number of brothers who have not paid their dues for this year nor have they contacted us about it. My cell phone number is listed above and I can also be contacted through our web site at masonic118.com

HISTORIAN CORNER: CIVIL WAR CONTINUED

and missed and then as he passed by struck Raynor with his saber. Lights flashed through Raynor's brain and he fell to the ground senseless looking almost dead. After a period of time Raynor, slightly becoming conscious, realized that someone was tugging at his clothes. Bewildered he leaned upon one elbow and realized that a Rebel soldier was stripping the dead. He had already taken Raynor's pistol, sword, canteen, and cap and was trying to take his coat. The robber, being startled at the resurrection of the man he was trying to rob, jumped on his horse and rode off. Later coming completely to his senses, Raynor realized he was surrounded by the Confederate cavalry. Two cavalymen seeing him standing there grabbed him between their horses and dragged him off a considerable distance. Finally one lifted him and placed him in front of him on his horse. They rode till they came to a group of Rebel wounded. There he was placed upon the ground and a group gathered around him cursing him and calling him names. Being weak from the loss of blood and in considerable pain, he just laid back and ignored them. His being quiet caused even more of a commotion to the point that one angry wounded Confederate fired his pistol at Raynor but missed. Then the Southerners argued over this cowardly act. By this time, Raynor had almost wished that the ball had pierced his brain. Raynor was soon lifted behind a Rebel cavalymen and carried to the junction about four miles away. Here fresh Confederate troops were unloading and heading to the battle. Raynor was again met by verbal abuse. It was now early evening and the Southern wounded from the front were being treated at the junction in a stable. Raynor was taken first to a surgeon who refused to treat him because he was a Yankee and who said that he had enough others to take care of from his own army. Finally another more compassionate surgeon was found and his wounds were taken care of. He was made as comfortable as possible. His guard, J.H. Lemon of Radford's Cavalry truly acted the part of the good Samaritan. Lemon somewhere found some ice and put it on the pounding head of Raynor and inquired if Raynor needed any money. In response to Raynor's expressions of gratitude, pointing to the Masonic pin on Raynor's shirt, Lemon replied, "I can only hope to get the same treatment from your men if I ever fall into their hands. If you will relieve the distresses of a suffering Brother Mason when in your power, I shall be well paid." Lemon then mounted his horse and rode away. The next morning Raynor was removed to a barn that contained 20 other Union officers, and he learned the full extent of the Confederate victory. An example from a unit which also belongs to our famed Iron Brigade of which we belong. Colonel Henry A. Morrow commanded the 24th Michigan of the 1st Brigade (Iron Brigade) of the 1st Corps. Wounded during the fighting on the first day at Gettysburg, he was captured by the Confederates. As the Confederates prepared to retreat after the disastrous Pickett's Charge, a Confederate (also a Mason) surgeon decided that Morrow's scalp wound was "too serious" for him to be taken along as a prisoner. He also figured that he would get better care in the North. The surgeon probably saved his life due to the hardships of prison life. Another example: L.J. Williams of Harvard, New York, enlisted in the 114th New York Volunteers at the beginning of the Civil War. He received the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees in Downsville Lodge No. 464 prior to his leaving home. Later during the war he was captured and imprisoned near Savannah, Georgia. While in the prison, he communicated with his friends in the North.

39th DISTRICT MEETINGS

Blackmer Lodge # 170

Weaverville, NC

Meets @ **7:30 P.M.** on the
2nd Tuesday

French Broad # 292

Marshall, NC

Meets @ **7:30 P.M.** on the
1st Monday

Vance Lodge # 293

Weaverville, NC

Meets @ **7:30 P.M.** on the
3rd Monday

Biltmore Lodge # 446

Asheville, NC

Meets every Tuesday @ **7:30 P.M.**

Nichols west Asheville # 650

Asheville, NC

Meets @ **7:30 P.M.** on the
3rd Monday

Black Mountain # 663 Black

Mountain, NC

Meets @ **7:30 P.M.** on the
1st Monday

Hominy Lodge # 491

Candler, NC

Meets @ **7:00 P.M.** on the
2nd Tuesday

Swannanoa # 561

Swannanoa, NC

Meets @ **7:30 P.M.** on the
1st & 3rd Thursdays

His lodge in New York through the proper officials got in touch with Zerubbabel Lodge in Savannah and stated that they would consider it a favor if the lodge in Savannah would confer the Third Degree on the Fellowcraft Brother Williams. One night Brother Williams was taken from the prison and conducted to the lodge room in Savannah. He only had his blue tattered uniform to wear, a token of his sympathy with the cause he believed in. The officers of the lodge were all in Confederate gray. Although on opposite sides in the struggle going on on the battlefields of the South, they were all Brethren. He was then and there raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason and acclaimed a full Brother and friend to those who wore the gray. Later that night Brother Williams escaped. When asked about his escape he would "smile peculiarly. You might put it down as an escape, but it wasn't an escape strictly speaking. They put me in a boat and carried me off some distance. Then they deposited me on neutral soil between the lines." From there Williams was able to find his friends. Williams never knew who exactly helped him escape. He considered it as their secret and it was never disclosed. Williams stated: "I know exactly to whom I may attribute my escape, His name is Hiram." An example of how a lodge was saved: After 4 years of war, the weary and almost defeated Confederate Army was retreating and leaving the Confederate capital of Richmond to its own fate. As the army retreated, fires broke out in all sections of the city. Hoodlums, deserters, and criminals, with no law and order, began to pillage the city. Just as the city seemed to be doomed, a Union cavalry unit swung up Franklin Street. The bearded colonel looked warily at the riff raff around him who were about to fire a building which bore a sign "Masonic Hall." Taking command of the moment, he halted his troopers and ordered that an adjutant "have all Masons wheel out of column." Almost half of his force moved out. From this group he ordered a suitable guard to protect the Masonic Temple. The column reformed and resumed its ride. Later General Godfrey Weitzel, a Mason, gave the order, after a request by the Lodge, to continue the guard. The building saved is said to have been the oldest purely Masonic building in America with records dating back to 1787, and the historic building itself was built in 1785 by Richmond Lodge 10. The Grand Lodge assembled here after its formation in Williamsburg until its move in 1869. R.W. Houghton in a report relates a slightly different story to the saving of the lodge in Richmond, or he could be referring to a different building. Emanuel Semon reported that Major A.H. Stevens, the Provost Marshal of Richmond, raised the first Union flags over the city of Richmond and that immediately after doing so went looking for the Masonic Lodge. Brother Semon was one of the first he met there and Semon stated that he had "quartered against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers for the last 25 years." Major Stevens immediately sent Semon a guard and made sure that the officer of the guard was a Mason. He also sent a guard to Semon's home, Semon's daughter's home and to a number of other Masons' homes in the city. A third account exists of the saving of the Masonic Hall. In the history of Lodge Francaise No. 53 A.F. & A.M. published in 1874 their Tyler, Brother Thomas Angel, was commended for saving the temple. Recognizing that his duties as Tyler not only pertained to "guarding the entrance" but also to the general protection and "covering" the lodge from all harm, Brother Angel with "commendable zeal, energy and presence of mind" took action even with the Federal troops bearing down on the city of Richmond. After conversing with Grand Secretary Dove of the Virginia Grand Lodge, he proceeded to collect all the jewels and what clothing he could find from every lodge in the city and deposited them in the Masonic Hall on Franklin Street. Angel then proceeded to dress himself in the "time honored badge of a Mason" and took his place at the door of the Temple. The Northern troops respected the guard placed at the Temple by Major Stevens. The guard under the command of another Mason, Sergeant Gibbs, remained with Brother Angel day and night for three months.

<p>Asheville Masonic Bodies Mount Hermon Lodge #118 80 Broadway Asheville NC 28801</p>	<p>Non-Profit Organization US Postage Paid Asheville NC Permit Number 7</p>
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