



In the Quarries



The Batesburg-Leesville Masonic Lodge Newsletter

February 2005

Volume 7, Issue 1

From the East

Greetings! It's 2005 and a new year has begun. The holidays are now behind us, and life is now somewhat back to normal. This is a new year full of challenges, and some of them we have never faced. Masons, men of strong character and willful thinking, have always faced challenges head-on. As at home, our Lodge will also face challenges, and I have no doubt that by working together, there is no challenge we can't meet.

I have the privilege this year of serving as Master of your Lodge. I also have the privilege of having seven Past Masters in chairs supporting me. But brethren, even with such a strong and well-versed supporting staff, I still need your help, and *your lodge* needs your help. All I ask of you is the bare minimum - attend a regular monthly meeting. It is still held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., and I guarantee that you will enjoy the supper...and the meeting shouldn't be bad either. Don't worry if it has been a while and you're a little rusty. If you can't remember some of the things, it's not a problem - we can refresh your memory. Just like lubricating a rusty door hinge, we'll have you slick as a new one.

I hope this little push will entice you to attend. We all took an oath, we are all brothers, and the officers and I would like to see you. We have a good many candidates and a good many petitions out, so we are starting the year off strong. Come visit!

Ronnie Seigler, Worshipful Master

From the Secretary's Desk:

Our webmaster (Brother Seth) is currently in the process of putting together a B-L Lodge email list. The list will be used to notify brethren of upcoming events - meetings, degrees, funerals, etc. Please get your email address on the list - just send an email to BandLLodge@pbtcomm.net letting us know to include you. Once we receive your message, you will get a response from the webmaster that your email address has been added. Then we can start notifying you of news via email. Thanks!

Fraternally, Gregg Long, PM

Grand Master Visits B-L #138

In the Fall of 2004, when we received approval from the Grand Master for our website, we also received a notice that he was looking forward to attending our Regular Communication in December. And true to his word, on December 14, the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Jack A. Marler, as well as members of his Grand Lodge party, paid an official visit to our lodge. The Grand Master also did us the great service of installing our new chaplain, Brother Dave Lantz as well as Brother Daniel "Buddy" Harmon, chaplain at Pelion's Elmore Lodge for 2005. With over 35 brethren present, it was quite an evening for everyone involved!

New Officers Elected to the Line

Aside from the visit by MW Brother Jack Marler at our December Communication, we also had elections for lodge officers for 2005. The following officers are here to serve you this year:

Worshipful Master:	Ronnie Seigler
Senior Warden:	Ronald Norris
Junior Warden:	Al Niver
Secretary:	Gregg Long
Treasurer:	Walter Smith
Senior Deacon:	Seth Bickley
Junior Deacon:	Tony Smith
Chaplain:	Dave Lantz
Tyler:	Billy Boatwright
Stewards:	Carlton Clary & Zane Corley

Please lend them a hand in performing their duties for our lodge this year.

Four Brothers Raised in December

In 2005, B-L 138 saw five new Master Masons join our ranks, four of which took place in December. On



a cold Saturday morning, December 11, Brothers Josh Koon, Tim Koon Jr., Brandon Long, and Jimmy Lucas all were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. A wonderful

breakfast was served that morning including eggs, grits, sausage, and biscuits. Then everyone went upstairs for the degree which was put on by B-L Past Masters and was attended by over 30 brethren. Among the visiting brethren was the 8th District Deputy Grand Master RW Brother O.B. Baker, as well as a contingent of visitors from Sinclair Lodge (who captured our flag).

The Trestleboard

- Feb 27 Education and Practice for FC
- March 1 .. FC Degree, 4 candidates, 7:30 p.m.
- March 8 .. Regular Communication
- March 27 . Easter Sunday
- April 12 .. Regular Communication
- May 20.... Carolina Children's Home "Save the Pig" &
- May 21.... Carolina Children's Home Barbecue Festival

GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF GOLF

The 2nd Annual B-L Masonic Lodge Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2005 at the Ponderosa Country Club. If you would like more information or would like to help out, please contact Walter Smith at 532-4954 or Gregg Long at 532-2795

This info is current, as of February 22nd. For the most up-to-date info and dates, see the website

at www.mastermason.com/BL138.

Three Brothers Called to Eternal Lodge

Over the last several months we have lost the following brethren who have gone on to that eternal lodge not made by hand:

Brother Junnie Darr Eargle, was raised on January 4, 1947. He passed away on November 17, 2004. Services were held at Mount Horeb United Methodist Church and Cemetery.

Brother Robert Lewis Sheppard was raised February 15, 1977. He died on January 6, 2005. Brother Sheppard was buried at Batesburg Cemetery.

Brother Walter Paul Keisler was raised October 10, 1949. He died on January 18, 2005 and was entombed at Christ the Good Shepherd Mausoleum at Ridge Crest Memorial Park.

Remember the families of our departed brethren.

Annual Christmas Baskets Program



On Friday evening, December 17, a group calling themselves the B-L Santa Claus Club gathered at the lodge. The group, which consisted of Masons and non-Masons alike, were there to assemble fruit baskets to be delivered to the elderly and shut-ins during the Christmas season. Each basket



held apples, oranges, pears, tangerines, raisins, and peppermint candies. In all, over 225 baskets were put together by the group. These baskets were then delivered in the community over the next few days. The highlight of

the evening had to be when the Man in Red himself (Santa Claus) stopped in to check on everyone.

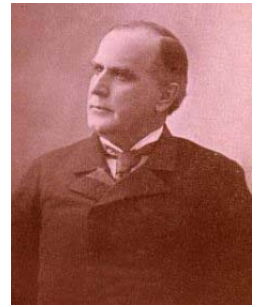
Instructionals Held in January

Saturday, January 22 was a great gathering of Lodge officers from the 8th and 10th Masonic districts for the purpose of education. The educational was held at the Scottish Rite Center on Garner's Ferry Road, and was attended by six officers from B-L #138. The day started with the installation of officers for the Square and Compass Club of the Midlands. This was followed by a meal and some fellowship, and then everyone was separated into groups by office.

Then on Saturday, January 29, a Master's workshop was also held, also at the Scottish Rite Center. Brother Ronnie Seigler braved the icy conditions to meet with other masters from around the state for instruction.

William McKinley on Becoming a Mason

When General Horatio King asked President William McKinley how he happened to become a Mason he explained:



"After the Battle of Opequam [Civil War], I went with the surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 Confederate prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed the doctor shook hands with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them. Boy-like, I looked on in wonderment; I didn't know what it all meant. On the way back from camp I asked him:

"Did you know these men or ever see them before?"

"No," replied the doctor, "I never saw them before."

"But," I persisted, "You gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?"

"Well," said the doctor, "If they are able to pay me back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty."

"I said to myself, *If that is Freemasonry I will take some of it for myself.*"

What is the Masonic Service Association?



The Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) was formed in 1919 to provide services to its member Grand Lodges that they would find difficult to provide for themselves. The MSA's national voice is dedicated to service to the Masonic community. The MSANA's primary functions are:

Disaster Relief - the MSA collects and forwards funds for disaster relief around the world.

Publications - the MSA has a free catalog of publications, bulletins and other materials available.

Masonic Information Center - the MSA provides information on Freemasonry to Masons and non-Masons alike and responds to critics of Freemasonry.

Hospital Visitation Program - the MSA provides assistance and service to sick or wounded veterans.

The MSANA is a servant of Freemasonry, formed of and supported by the Grand Lodges. It is a voice that they can move to action, that the great heart of the Fraternity be made manifest and that the will of a united Craft be done.

The Slate

Worshipful Master	Ronnie Seigler	532-2547
Senior Warden.....	Ronald Norris	532-7825
Junior Warden.....	Al Niver	359-2137
Secretary.....	Gregg Long	532-2793
Treasurer.....	Walter Smith.....	532-4954
Senior Deacon	Seth Bickley.....	892-6174
Junior Deacon	Tony Smith	