



# GEMS OF PURPOSE

David E. Stafford, PM-Sec'y  
550 E. Bledsoe Street, 23-B  
Gallatin, TN 37066

Timothy Roberson, WM  
bethpagelodge521@bellsouth.net  
www.mastermason.com/bethpagelodge521

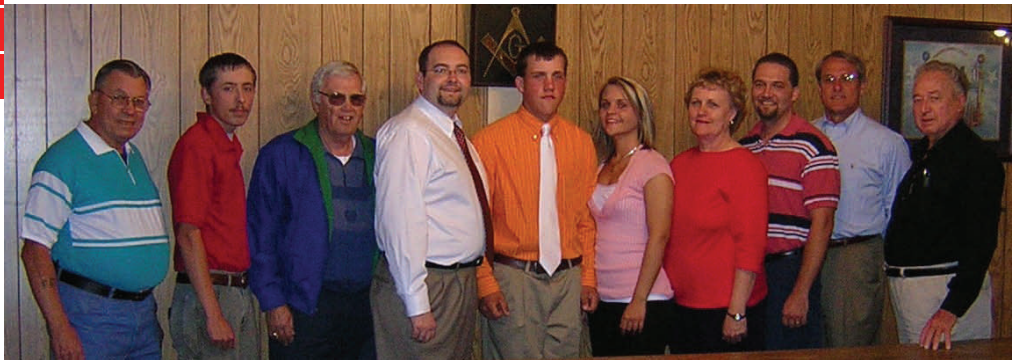
www.grandlodge-tn.org/

## Inside this issue:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Scholarship Report        | 1 |
| Stafford Presents at TLR  | 1 |
| Greek-Letter Fraternities | 2 |
| Franklin On Freemasonry   | 2 |
| Cigar Corner              | 3 |
| So Mote It Be             | 3 |
| TLR Application           | 4 |

## Bethpage Lodge Grants Scholarship to MacFarland

Bethpage Lodge #521, Free and Accepted Masons selected John MacFarland as the 2007 scholarship recipient. He is the son of Donna MacFarland and the late Alfred (Mack) MacFarland. He is a 2007 graduate of Westmoreland High School and plans to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. He will attend Volunteer State Community College in the Fall. The scholarship is for \$500.00 and originates from the funds acquired through the Annual Pancake Breakfast. ∞



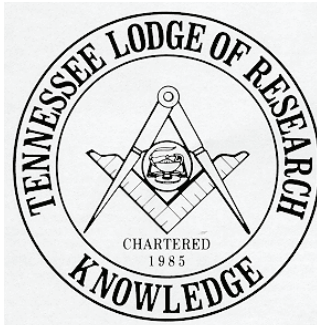
Pictured from left to Right: Ferrell Fuqua, Josh Perry, Lee Roy Grizzle, David Stafford, John MacFarland, Julie Beth MacFarland, Donna MacFarland, Timothy Roberson, Bill Bowen, and David Satterfield.



No people will tamely  
surrender their Liberties,  
nor can any be easily  
subdued, when knowledge  
is diffused and Virtue is  
preserved. On the  
Contrary, when People  
are universally ignorant,  
and debauched in their  
Manners, they will sink  
under their own weight  
without the Aid of foreign  
Invaders.

- Samuel Adams  
In a letter to James Warren.

## Stafford To Present at Lodge of Research



The Tennessee Lodge of Research will meet at Hiram Lodge #7 in Franklin on Saturday, June 9. Lunch will be at noon with a presentation at 1:00 PM. Brother David E. Stafford, PM is the scheduled lecturer. He will be presenting "Freemasonry and the Development of Greek-Letter Fraternities". The paper has been well received and published in both the Scottish Rite Research Society's *The Plumblin* and the Masonic Service Association's *Short Talk*

*Bulletin*. The lecture is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. Following the presentation, all non-Master Masons are asked to retire for the stated meeting of the Lodge of Research. An excerpt from the article may be found on page . ∞

An Excerpt from . . . .

## FREEMASONRY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEK-LETTER FRATERNITIES

By David E. Stafford

Masonic symbolism and philosophy had a strong influence in the early development of many of the so-called "Greek-letter" organizations so commonly seen and accepted on college campuses throughout the United States. In some cases, the influence is little more than an association of ritual and secrecy, but in many cases the relationships between Freemasonry and college fraternal organizations are strong and even enduring.



During the half century before the Revolutionary War, college fraternities had a meager yet building existence. Prior to 1776, Yale College, the College of New Jersey (Princeton University), and the College of William and Mary all had student fraternal organizations. The establishment and development of these fraternities closely mimicked the maturation of the American branch of Freemasonry. These fraternities supported fidelity, scholarship, and the development of speaking skills through debate and literary circles.

The first true Greek-letter origination was Phi Beta Kappa, organized in 1776 at William and Mary college, and it had many aspects that favored Freemasonry. In fact, various original members of the society were Freemasons. The number of Greek letter societies continued to grow throughout the mid- and late-1800's. The new fraternities formed during this time patterned themselves after Phi Beta Kappa's original model. Based upon this fact alone, it could be stated that all American college fraternities owe at least a little of their heritage to Freemasonry.

The unified fraternities that were organized during the last half of the nineteenth-century exhibit strong influences derived from Freemasonry; however, these fraternities held no official ties to it. During this era in American history, men going to college were often of an older age, and it was not unusual for these men to have either been inducted into the Masonic fraternity before enrolling in college or while under the tutelage of professors who were Masons. Three of the fraternities with Masonic similarities that were established during this period are Phi Kappa Sigma, Delta Tau Delta, and Kappa Alpha Order.

The association and connection between Freemasonry and college fraternities is only one example of the great impact the Freemasonry has had upon American society. Although the Masonic fraternity has in many ways lost a great deal of its former influence, there exists an immense need for men to be indoctrinated with the spirit of Freemasonry.

There is no other organization today, either on college campuses or in the world at large, that offers the moral and spiritual lessons of Freemasonry. It has been mimicked and copied many times but never surpassed. Freemasonry has a great deal to offer young men, and old men alike, who have experienced the initiation rites of lesser orders.

William Ellenberger, in his article "The Acacia Fraternity", makes the assertion that the Acacia Fraternity and those like it offer the Masonic fraternity an untapped source of members. In order for Freemasonry to attract men of high quality it must be an organization that lives by the principles it teaches. Freemasons must walk circumspect to the world and truly be bringers of light. We must discover unto the world the happy affect of this ancient and honorable institution. ∞

The paper will be presented in its entirety on June 9 at the  
Tennessee Lodge of Research meeting in Franklin.

*Words From the Quill of*

*W.: Brother Benjamin Franklin*

*On Freemasonry*

“Freemasonry has tenets peculiar to itself. They serve as testimonials of character and qualifications, which are only conferred after due course of instruction and examination. These are of no small value; they speak a universal language, and act as a passport to the attentions and support of the initiated in all parts of the world. They cannot be lost as long as memory retains its power. Let the possessor of them be expatriated, shipwrecked or imprisoned, let him be stripped of everything he has got in the world, still those credentials remain, and are available for use as circumstances require. The good effects they have produced are established by the most incontestable facts of history. They have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer; they have softened the asperities of the tyrant; they have mitigated the horrors of captivity; they have subdued the rancour of malevolence; and broken down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian alienation. On the field of battle, in the solitudes of the uncultivated forest, or in the busy haunts of the crowded city, they have made men of the most hostile feelings, the most distant regions, and diversified conditions, rush to the aid of each other, and feel a special joy and satisfaction that they have been able to afford relief to a Brother Mason.” ∞

([http://www.mastermason.com/brothergene/masonic/franklin\\_on\\_freemasonry.htm](http://www.mastermason.com/brothergene/masonic/franklin_on_freemasonry.htm))



“To listen well is as powerful a means of communication and influence as to talk well.”

- Brother John Marshall

*Symbols*

by J. V. Perry

What are those shining symbols  
 On that open Holy Book?  
 That teaches us of Brotherly Love,  
 And on it, oaths we took.  
 I placed my hands upon this book  
 And pledged by solemn word,  
 My fingers touching shining symbols  
 Repeating the oath I heard.  
 So help me GOD, and keep me steadfast,  
 These words my final plea,  
 And now I'll live my whole life  
 By the tenants of Masonry.  
 We are all Fraternal Brothers  
 By the sacred oath we took,  
 When we placed both hands  
 On that open Holy Book.

(<http://home.midmaine.com/~gleighton/>)



Orville Robert Armstrong was elected the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in the State of Tennessee during the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge. W. Brother Orville is a fine man, and Bethpage Lodge congratulates him on being presented with the finest purple of our fraternity. May God bless and protect him and his family during their many travels across the state this year. ∞



**Cigar Corner**

In Cuban cigar factories, “it was tradition to use a lector to help keep workers mentally stimulated.” “The lector would sit at the front of the gallery and read books, poetry, or newspaper stories to the rollers. At some Cuban factories, the tradition of the lector continues.” In most, radios and CD players have replaced them. (*Cigars*, T. Gage)

*Gems of Purpose—The E-Trestleboard of Bethpage Lodge, #521  
bethpagelodge521@bellsouth.net*

**TENNESSEE LODGE OF RESEARCH**

PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Tennessee Lodge of Research, F.&A.M. of Tennessee:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (FULL NAME, NOT JUST INITIALS), at present a

member in good standing of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, located at

\_\_\_\_\_ in the Grand Jurisdiction of

\_\_\_\_\_ Grand Lodge,

certify that my dues are paid to and that no charges are pending against me, make application for dual/plural membership in your Lodge and, if elected, I promise to conform to all the ancient usages and regulations of the Fraternity. In the event the laws of the responding jurisdiction do not legalize and/or permit dual membership, then this application shall become null and void.

Residence address (include zip):

Residence phone (include area code):

Business phone (include area code):

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGN ALL GIVEN NAMES IN FULL)

Presented (DATE): \_\_\_\_\_ Elected:(DATE) \_\_\_\_\_ Rejected: (DATE) \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: Petition must be completed in full. Send completed petition, a photocopy of your current Blue Lodge dues card, and \$15.00 (\$5.00 for fees. \$10.00 for dues) to:

Bro. George C. Ladd, Sec.  
4521 Turkey Creek Road  
Williamsport, TN 38487