



Greetings from your Secretary,

What a joy it is to be able to send greetings to you on such a happy occasion. My sincere gratitude goes out to all who have supported our annual pancake breakfast. From the responses we have received so far, we may have a

record setting year. It is because of your efforts that this is possible. Thank you again for that support.

On the same note; we are still looking for volunteers. Cooks, dish-washers, greeters and clean up crews are always needed and welcomed. If you would like to help at the event, contact Dan Rolon or me.

Remember, May 3rd is the Pan-

cake Breakfast. Bring your family, friends, and prospective Masonic Members. It's open to the public so bring them all.

The officers look forward to seeing everyone there, so till next time, may God bless you and your families,

Kevin Johnson

Making Lodge Meetings

By Lee Spach

Last week I was at the lodge during the day and I sat down in the lobby and began perusing the various correspondences compiled in a notebook from the first 25 years of our lodge (1874—1900).

While thumbing through the various handwritten notes and letters, I came across a couple that made me really think about how our ancient brethren must have viewed Masonry, our Lodge, and it's works. One of the letters was from a brother who completed his degrees and then through a chain of events ended up in Peru for employment. This brother desperately wanted to attend lodge but did not have any form of a "dues card" to show "good standing" so that he could gain entrance. There are several requests from him attempting to obtain a letter from our lodge. I did not find anything indicating whether he was ever able to

obtain the information or not. But it obviously meant a lot to him to try repeatedly from such a distance away.

Another note was from a brother who lived in Connelly Springs writing to indicate that he had tried to make it to the lodge for a meeting, but had to turn back because of his ill health and because of extremely poor road conditions due to bad weather. He was very apologetic for not being in attendance.

After reading these, and others, I began to think about the hardships our forefathers endured in life and in Masonry. I especially thought about the difficult time they had trying to get to lodge for meetings and the hardships of having a lodge building. Gathering together obviously meant a great deal to them, as it should to us.

Today we take our lodge membership and our building for granted. We know that it is there for us should we ever need it, yet are we

there for it? Imagine riding a horse in blowing snow or driving rain many miles across muddy trails to attend lodge meetings... Yet many of us find it too hard to get into our car and drive across town for gathering together for a meal and fellowship.

Masonry is still the same today as it was when we were granted our Charter 134 years ago and it has the same great gifts to offer each of us as long as we are willing to do our part by participating. Remember what our members did to ensure that Masonry was passed on to us and let us emulate those actions so that we may pass it on to our sons and grandsons.

I know the next time I do not feel like leaving my comfy living room and driving across town in my comfy car, I will definitely conjure up visions of men persisting through much greater adversity just to make it to a lodge meeting. I know it will motivate me to get to lodge. Will it also motivate you??

Annual Pancake Breakfast for Charity!

ALL proceeds going to our Charities

Saturday — May 3, 2008 7:00am—10:00am

Hickory Masonic Center— \$5.00 per person
Menu: pancakes, sausage, coffee, orange juice, and tea
Children 12 and under eat free.
Open to Public

For take out orders call the lodge at 322-8016
FREE Delivery for orders greater than 10
Contact Brother Dan Rolon dkrolon@juno.com or 493-3543



OFFICERS 2008

Worshipful Master	J. David Abernethy	323-8349
Senior Warden	Richard L. Rozzelle	294-3013
Junior Warden	Daniel J. Rolon	493-3543
Treasurer	W.J. "Buz" Hunley	ul256-7633
Secretary	Kevin D. Johnson	465-5619
Senior Deacon	G. Lee Spach	446-1924
Junior Deacon	James L. Johnson	328-1679
Senior Steward	Eddie Elliott	244-3162
Junior Steward	** Anyone interested contact the WM **	
Chaplain	James Hope ul	465-0063
Tyler	Robert B. Bickel	294-6619
Trustees Chairman	Lawton H. Hatley	294-0910
	David L. Brandon	294-2124
	W. Grimes Byerly	324-8678

LIVING PAST MASTERS

J.N. Cagle	1973	J.P. Hilton	1994
J.L. Johnson	1974	D.L. Reep	1995
E.W. Beckom	1978	P.C. Ray	1996
J.F. Taylor	1979	L.D. Huffman	1997
J.H. Elmore	1981	W.G. Byerly	1998
T.L. Hartman	1984		2007
E.C. Cline	1986	D.J. Wallace	1999
J.E. Vaught	1987	H.W. Walker	2000
J.H. Elmore	1988	J.W. Davidson	2001
C.E. Isenhour	1989	M.D. Hale	2002
E.W. Masche	1991	W.J. Hunley	2003
J.D. Crawley	1993	J.P. Kuykendall	2004
		D.L. Brandon	2006

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Name	Date	Name	Date
Marc Davis	5/1/1948	Willard Pittman	5/11/1959	Pennington Wray	5/23/1938
James Smith	5/2/1926	Robert Hoard	5/11/1966	Alfred Swofford	5/24/1939
Robert Hall	5/2/1935	James Taylor	5/14/1931	David Abernethy	5/24/1954
Dewey Keller	5/2/1947	Dan Beacham	5/14/1940	Frank Johnson	5/25/1924
David Bowman	5/3/1951	Creed Shortt, Jr.	5/16/1930	Marcus Cline	5/26/1945
Henry Truitt	5/4/1915	Johnnie White	5/19/1935	Donald Childress	5/26/1962
Keith Campbell	5/4/1968	Robert Tucker	5/21/1938	Walter Kisby	5/27/1962
Harry Whitener	5/8/1927	Robert Drum	5/22/1939	Horace Teague	5/28/1947
John McDaniel	5/9/1943	Ernest Masche	5/23/1927	Nelson Teague	5/28/1947

CARING REPORT: The Jerry Johnson Family in the loss of their daughter, The Poats Family, Joe Vaught, David London Family in the loss of his mother-in-law, Johnny Davidson's wife and David Bowman's wife in the loss of their mother, Charles Lookadoo, Todd Cline, August Mache, David Early, Joe Vaught, Ted Rhyne, Carl Isenhour, John Harden's wife, Clyde Price, Bill Deitz, David Duncan, Darrell Chapman, Jack Lingerfelt, Gregg Conley, Herbert Chilton Jr., Bob Gregg, Click Truitt, Charles Meadows, Jim Rader, Richard Rozzelle's son, A.W. Morris, Kimberly Austin, Rufus Smith, and Bruce Pope all need our prayers and attention.

SYMPATHIES: Our sincere sympathies to the families of our dearly departed brothers: Brother Phillip Poats who was born June 17, 1918 and died March 22, 2008. Brother Poats was Initiated on August 15, 1966, Passed on September 12, 1966, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 24, 1966. He was inducted into the three York Rite bodies on June 27, 1967.

CKS William Ray Lackey was born December 20, 1925 and died February 23, 2008. He was inducted into the Catawba Chapter #60 of the Hickory York Rite on November 5, 1952.

A short history of Masonry in North Carolina—taken from More Light in Masonry published by the GL of NC in 2007.

Continued from the April newsletter

The first grand masters were Samuel Johnston, Richard Caswell, and William R. Davie. Davie envisioned a public university for North Carolina, and as grand master he laid the cornerstone of UNC's Old East building in 1793. This Masonic ceremony marks the birth of public higher education in the United States.

Freemasons built the first state university and designed its early curriculum, which included grammar, logic, arithmetic, geometry and astronomy. The ar-

rangement of Old East, Old West and South buildings, with the Old Well in the center and open space to the north, duplicates the layout of lodge rooms. And the motto of UNC, displayed on its seal, is Lux Libertas, or Light and Liberty.

Over the next 200 years Masons played prominent roles in building and shaping the state, with governors, senators, members of Congress, business leaders and philanthropists claiming allegiance to the craft. In the 19th and 20th centuries N.C. Masons created two other well-known institutions:

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, opened in 1873 to shelter, feed and clothe indigent orphans, and the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greens-

boro, which opened in 1913 to give dignity and comfort to aging brothers and sisters. These are the two main charities supported by our lodges today.

For more information see:

- *Launching the Craft: The First Half Century of Freemasonry in North Carolina* by Thomas C. Parramore (1975), published by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Out of print but available from used book dealers, or on the Web at www.grandlodge-nc.org
- Historical table of lodges in North Carolina www.grandlodge-nc.org
- The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford www.mhc-oxford.org
- The Masonic and Eastern Star Home www.meshhome.org/

Freemasonry's Old Charges - 1390 through 1714

from: <http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com>

These Old Charges (or Old Masonic Manuscripts) form the basis of modern Masonic Constitutions, and therefore, each Grand Lodge's jurisprudence. They establish the continuity of the Masonic Institution through a period of more than six centuries, and it is believed to be much longer. They prove the great antiquity of Masonry by written documents, which is a thing no other Craft in existence is able to do.

These Old Charges are traditional and legendary in format and are not normally read by the amateur or layman due to their arcane Olde Englishe wording. Also, many of the words written 600 years ago mean something quite different in our language of today, so,...even in your excitement to read more about their Masonic antiquity, after reading a couple pages, you would soon tire of

trying to understand the archaic meaning of many of their words, unless you were a true language historian. Happily, for us, after discovering the Old Manuscripts, our Masonic historians through the years have studied them and written much about them in laymen's language that we can understand.

Historians have carefully and critically studied them and there is evidence that these old Legends of the Craft were used in making a Mason during the old Operative days. Some even served as the constitution of lodges during that time. There are 19 major and many minor Old Charges or old records and approximately 100 in total, which have come down to us through the centuries. Those not housed in the British Museum are housed in well known, reputable and old libraries, in the archives of Masonic Lodges and have been published by those who discovered them.

These Old Constitutions are

all very similar in content and historians presume that they are copies of some earlier documents which were, apparently, lost through wars, holocaust, required book-burnings and the chaos and destruction through the ages' so it is truly amazing that any of them are still available to us!

The Halliwell Manuscript has 794 lines of rhymed verse and is believed to be the oldest Masonic document in existence at approximately 600 years old. It is also known as the Regius Manuscript, as it was found within a group of other documents and renamed at a later date.

Of special note is the fact that each of these Old Constitutions begin with an invocation to the "Mighty Father of Heaven". The Halliwell Manuscript is written in poetic meter and has 794 lines of rhymed verse. At over 600 years old, it is believed to be the oldest Masonic document among the Old Records in existence.

AD 1874

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34th NC Masonic District

HICKORY LODGE NO. 343

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
P.O. Box 451
Hickory, NC 28601
828-322-8016

www.hickorymasoniccenter.org
secretary@hickorymasoniccenter.org

Lodge Events Calendar

MAY 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7am—10am
4	5 6:30pm—Meal 7:30pm—Stated	6 7:30pm—OES	7	8	9	10
11 Mothers Day	12	13	14 6:30pm MW Cash, 34th District Meeting, Catawba Valley Lodge #217 (Morganton)	15	16	17
18 3pm—5pm Rites and Ritual Training Class Hickory Lodge	19 6:30pm—Meal 7:30pm—Stated	20 7:30pm—OES	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31