



Greetings from the Senior Deacon

Brethren,
It is with great pleasure that I write to you this month. Your lodge has had a very busy first half of the year. We have Initiated Entered Apprentices, Passed Fellow Crafts, and Raised Master Masons. Very exciting work.... We have raised money for our charities, and talked on the radio about who we are and what we do. In many ways I count the Blessings that God

provides us in our lodge. As many of you know, I travel extensively throughout the world on business and I have had the pleasure of sitting in lodges in various States. Many lodges have a tough time having enough participation to open a lodge, let alone perform degree work.

Within our Lodge there is a place for every member to be active and participate. Bring your ideas and thoughts for how to help someone, our community, or humanity at large. The more you put in, the more you get out of it. Ma-

sonry is always willing to share its gifts with us, as long we are receptive to them.

These are great times to be a Master Mason. The world is in great need of the Tenants of our Craft and the moral fabric that Masonry provides. Let's go out into our community and let the world see us, thus illuminating the pathway to our doors for those who truly seek Light!

I look forward to seeing you all at lodge soon.

Lee

Library

The renovations to our "old" coaching room are almost completed. The Isenhour family is now accepting donations of books and other Masonic collectables to put in the library. If you have a donation that you would like to make, please contact Carl and Sandra Isenhour.

money he raises through CD sales and concerts is used for Masonic Charity.

We have Howie's CD entitled "Hiram's Call" for sale through our lodge for \$20 each. \$5 of each sale will go directly to our lodge for our use in charity. Anyone wanting a CD, please contact Brother Lee Spach, rather than buying it off Howie's website. This way our lodge gets some of the proceeds for our own use.

You can sample Howie's music from the link on our lodge website at www.hickorymasoniccenter.org

On December 12, 2008 at 7:00pm Brother Howie will be in concert in Raleigh at the York Rite Christmas Observance. Tickets are \$25 per couple and can be purchased through Brother Lee Spach. This is a public event so all are welcome to attend. You don't want to miss hearing this man's music!!! We already have a group of Brethren heading to Raleigh for this event, Please join us.

Brother Howie Damron

Many of you may know this name from various jurisdiction Grand Lodge newspapers etc... plus he has been discussed in our lodge. This Brother from Ohio who is a Country and Western / Folk / Blue Grass artist is quickly becoming the first 100% Masonic entertainer.

His music is truly inspirational and he is "spreading the cement of Brotherly love and affection", through his music and concerts. The majority of the

Note from the WM

We will be discussing the proposed Code Amendments and Resolutions at our July and August Stated Meetings to prepare for GL in September. Any brother who wishes to have a voice in the Lodge's position on these matters should plan to attend.

Special Events 2008 July through December

- July 20**—3pm OSW training class
- August 1**—2pm—6pm Blood Drive
- August 9**, 11am—2pm Family Day
- September 19 & 20**—GL Annual Communication—Winston Salem
- Oct 18**—7am—Fall School of Instruction (Lovelady Lodge #670)
- Oct 24, 25** - Scottish Rite Reunion (Charlotte)
- Nov 7—8**—Shrine Fall Ceremony (Asheville)
- Nov 20**—Awards Night
- Dec 1**—Officer Elections

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	<i>Chairman</i> 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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Name	Date	Name	Date	Name	Date
Kevin Johnson	7/2/1961	David Foster	7/10/1932	Jacob Ramsour, Jr.	7/23/1926
Danny Waters	7/3/1945	Cordell Harris	7/20/1933	Gary Holbrook	7/23/1938
Michael Benfield	7/6/1957	Robert Throneburg	7/10/1941	Donald Hudson	7/26/1939
Jerry Moore	7/8/1948	John Micol	7/12/1938	Wesley Byerly, Jr.	7/28/1926
Frank Collins	7/9/1930	David Parker	7/13/1962	Hank Guess	7/30/1959
Robert Cansler	7/10/1929	Timothy Pennell	7/18/1959	Chris Powell	7/30/1982
Garland Kiser	7/10/1930	Timothy Lingerfelt	7/19/1960	Kenneth Anderson	7/31/1948

Caring Report: Don Hudson, Carl Isenhour, John Harden's wife, Jack Lingerfelt, Bill Deitz, David Duncan, Darrell Chapman, Gregg Conley, Herbert Chilton Jr., Bob Gregg, Click Truitt, Charles Meadows, Richard Rozzelle's son, A.W. Morris, Kimberly Austin, Rufus Smith, Charles Lookadoo, Todd Cline, August Masche, David Early, Joe Vaught, Clyde Price, and Bruce Pope all need our prayers and attention.

Our sincere sympathies to the families of our dearly departed brothers:

Brother Garland Ray Shell who was born October 30, 1934 and died June 9, 2008. Brother Shell was Initiated on June 27, 1975, Passed on August 22, 1975, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on September 8, 1975.

Brother Robert Prater, a Master Mason from Georgia, died June 12, 2008. Brother Prater was Initiated on October 23, 1956, Passed on November 13, 1956, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 27, 1956.

Brother James William Rader who was born on July 4, 1916 and died on June 14, 2008. Brother Rader was Initiated on March 24, 1949, Passed on April 21, 1949, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 19, 1949

Master Mason Apron Why do Freemasons Wear a Lambskin Apron?

<http://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/master-mason-apron.html>

The lambskin Master Mason apron derives from the working apron of the ancient stone masons. It is an Emblem of Innocence and the badge of a Freemason.

Thus, the apron is proudly compared with the noblest decorations of ancient Rome and of both ancient and modern Europe.

The Order of the Golden Fleece was of high repute as an Order of Knighthood. It was established in Flanders, France in 1429 by the Duke of Burgundy, a member of the then royal family, who selected the fleece for its badge because wool was the staple production of the country. Since that time, it has been considered as one of the most illustrious Orders of Europe.

The Roman Eagle was to Romans the ensign of imperial power. Made of silver or bronze, the Roman Eagle was placed atop the pole of the military standards (flags). (circa 104 B.C.)

The Order of the Garter, was and is, still considered the highest decoration that can be bestowed upon a subject by a sovereign of Great Britain. It is an order of chivalry or knighthood originating in medieval England. It is the pinnacle of honor in the United Kingdom to have the Order of the Garter bestowed upon you.

Innocence of Conduct and Purity of Heart

The Master Mason apron teaches the aspiring Mason that none are admitted to that honor but such as were cleansed of all impurities of both body and mind. Purity of life and rectitude of conduct is essential and necessary to gain admittance into that Celestial Lodge on High where the Supreme Architect of the Universe forever presides.

In primitive times, it was an ecclesiastical (religious) decoration more than a civil decoration.

The earliest mention of the apron was when Melchizedek, with Abraham, started the priesthood. (circa 2100 B.C.) Melchizedek was the Most High Priest and the first to wear the apron as the badge of reli-

gious authority. The apron is a high honor and is the symbol of a holy man.

(From Signs and Symbols of Freemasonry, Dr. Oliver, Lecture X, Page 196)

Ancient Badge of Distinction

The apron appears to have been, in ancient times, an honorary badge of distinction. None but the superior orders of the priesthood were permitted to adorn themselves with ornamented girdles made of blue, purple and crimson, decorated with gold upon a background of fine white linen.

Historic Ceremonies of Investiture have been common to all nations of the Earth from the earliest periods.

The Indian, the Persian, the Jewish, the Ethiopian and the Egyptian aprons, though equally superb, all bore a character distinct from each other. Some were plain white. Others were striped with blue, purple and crimson. Some were of wrought gold...others were adorned and decorated with superb tassels and fringes.

Israelites: Historically, among the Israelites, the girdle formed a part of the investiture of the priesthood.

Persia: The candidate was invested with a white apron.

Hindustan: A sash was used called the sacred zennar, which was substituted for the apron.

Essenes: The Jewish sect of the Essenes clothed their novices with a white robe.

Japanese: The Japanese practice certain rites of initiation, invest their candidates with a white apron, bound round the loins with a zone or girdle.

Scandinavia: The military genius of the people caused them to substitute a white shield, but its presentation was accompanied by an emblematic instruction not unlike that which is connected with the Freemason's apron.

Roman Priests: Roman priests wore white garments when they sacrificed.

Druids: The Druids changed the color of the garment presented to their initiates with each degree; white, however was the color appropriated to the last, or degree of perfection. It was, according to their ritual, intended to teach the aspirant that none were admitted to that honor but such as were cleansed from all impurities both of body and mind.

Formation of the Grand Lodge of England

At the time of the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, the Master Mason apron was white - no ornaments at first, and full size, similar in every respect to that of the Operative Mason's apron.

Color of a Master Mason Apron:

Due to the preservation of its symbolic character - its color and its material:

The color of a Master Mason apron should be pure unspotted white, which is esteemed as an emblem of innocence and purity.

Material of a Master Mason Apron:

A Master Mason apron must be made of lambskin. No other substance, such as linen, silk or satin, could be substituted without entirely destroying the emblematic character of the apron, for the material of the Master Mason's apron constitutes one of the most important symbols of his profession. The lamb having always been considered as an appropriate emblem of innocence.

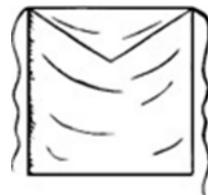
Drill Apron: Your drill apron is symbolic of your lambskin Master Mason apron.

Why, then, do Freemasons wear their lambskin apron with such pride?

Honor: The reason the Master Mason apron is more honorable than the Star and Garter is that all it teaches is exemplified by its wearer.

Spiritual Knighthood: The apron is a reminder to the Master Mason to do no moral evil to any person. It speaks to the charitable forgiveness of his brethren when they purposely or non-purposely do him evil. It is the emblem of his dedication to a spiritual knighthood with which man virtuously rises above the crudeness and the ignorance of men.

Dignity and Virtue: The Master Mason apron should be worn with dignity and honor as it exemplifies man's virtues upon which during his manhood he may wear it both with pleasure to himself while honoring the fraternity.



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34th NC Masonic District

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Lodge Events Calendar

JULY 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 7:30pm—OES	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5
6	7 6:30pm—Meal 7:30pm—Stated	8	9 6:30pm—Meal 7:30pm—York Rite	10	11	12
13	14	15 7:30pm—OES	16	17		18
20 3pm—5pm Rites and Ritual Training Class Hickory Lodge	21 6:30pm—Meal 7:30pm—Stated	22	23	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>2008 HICKORY MASONIC CENTER FAMILY DAY Saturday August 9, 2008 11:00AM—2:00PM Hotdogs, hamburgers, ice cream Games and activities for the kids Bring the family and friends</p> </div>		
27	28	29	30			