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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS, NEWS
AND EVENTS TO PUBLISH IN THE
NEXT ISSUE OF THE MESSENGER!
DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1ST

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

BY TOMMY MORROW, MW GRAND MASTER

While typing this article for our newsletter, I muttered, "Do you see a peak or ray of sun light?" My wife, who was walking through the room, replied, "Of course not silly, it's raining outside." What she didn't understand, I was trying to see, and I do see, that small ray of sunlight in our battle with COVID-19. With the vaccine becoming more widely available and our continuing efforts to be safe, hopefully, by late spring, early summer things will be much improved. In the meantime, let us all be cautious, careful, and safe as we can be. Be respectable to all.

On another note, I want to share an idea, certainly not mine as I have never had an original thought in my mind. MWPGM Greg Durr approached me with an idea to organize disaster relief teams. The obvious desire of this plan is to assist our distressed brothers and their communities in their time of need when Mother Nature overwhelms us.

Details will be short coming as Brother Greg puts his idea into a written plan of how to organize and then implement it. In the meantime, I ask you to consider being a volunteer in this worthy project to help others.

We do know that for this to be successful, we will need volunteers. Yes, that's you. Volunteer work will include preparing and serving food, removal and clean up of tree limbs and debris, mitigation of property damage, etc. just basic labor. We do know that items such as chainsaws, trailers, tractors, or any type of equipment to move heavy stuff around will be helpful in addition to your labor.

Each lodge will be notified shortly to update you on what you can do to help with this worthy project as we move forward. Again, please consider this worthy project.

I salute each of you that work in making our fraternity better. You really make the lyrics of the song, "Others," come alive.

NEW MASONIC TAGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!!!
Show your Masonic pride and purchase a tag at your next renewal date.



GRAND LODGE OF F. & A. M. OF ALABAMA
P.O. Box 1070
MILLBROOK, AL 36054
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Grand Lodge offers a number of Charitable Programs designed to provide financial assistance for Lodges and persons who apply and meet the qualifications as outlined by the requirements of the specific program. A basic description of the Programs available this year, is provided below. **Some programs have specific requirements that must be met for the applicants to be considered.** This information along with the all forms necessary to apply for these programs, can be found on the Grand Lodge website "Charitable Outreach Programs" page at www.alafreemasonry.org/committees/coprog/

MASONIC SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose for the Alabama Masonic Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to university, college, or technical school students. Preference will be given, but not limited, to applicants who have a father, stepfather, brother, uncle, grandfather, or step-grandfather who is, or was at the time of his death, a Master Mason in good standing in an Alabama Masonic Lodge.

Awards scholarships to eligible applicants for up to \$1000. The same individual cannot receive this grant in conjunction with Scholarship Matching Fund plan.

SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING FUND PLAN

The purpose for this part of the Charitable Outreach Program is to provide supplemental financial assistance to Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to encourage them to award a scholarship to a deserving student in their community. Local Lodges can apply for up to \$500 in matching funds on a first-come first-funded basis. Grants will not be approved to anyone receiving a COC Scholarship that year.

Matching Scholarship grants to a lodge will be for up to maximum of \$1,000 for the year. The maximum amount of money paid out per application cannot exceed \$500 and is subject to the availability of funds.

MATCHING RELIEF FUND

The purpose for the Matching Relief Funds Plan is to provide supplemental financial support to Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge who undertakes to render monetary assistance to worthy, specifically named individuals, families, or group of people who reside within the jurisdiction of the Lodge submitting an application.

Lodge may make more than one application for Matching Relief Funds but cannot receive more than \$1,000 from this plan each Masonic year

YOUTH SPORTS MATCHING SPONSORSHIP PLAN

The purpose for the Youth Sports Matching Sponsorship Plan is to provide supplemental financial assistance to Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to encourage them to support community youth programs such as baseball, soccer, football, etc. Grants can be used for sponsorship of the team, team tournaments, or playoffs and for sponsor's signs.

Local Lodges can apply for one half of the sponsorship and tournament fee not to exceed \$500 in matching funds on a first-come, first-funded basis. Lodges can apply for one grant per year subject to the availability of funds.

GRAND MASTER'S EMERGENCY FUND

The Emergency Fund is expended under the direction of the Grand Master for the relief of distressed worthy Master Masons, their wives, widows, children and other dependent relatives who reside in their households. The Mason upon whose membership the claim is based **must** be or have been at the time of death and for four years prior thereto, a member in good standing in a subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge.

Lodge must submit, as their portion of the grant, a check for one third of the amount requested from the Grand Lodge but not more than \$250. The Grand Master may contribute up to three times the amount provided by the Lodge but not more than \$750.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The purpose of this plan is to assist our aging members and/or their dependents. It will allow local Lodges to identify and apply for grant (non-matching) funds to assist in providing devices or structures to allow beneficiaries to remain in their homes. This plan also assists our aging members and/or their dependents with monetary needs such as medical, prescription, utility bills, or other needs that have placed our members in financial straits.

Grant funds will be written for the amount requested by the Lodge but not exceeding \$1,500 total per Lodge on a first-come, first-funded basis. No one individual may receive Grants totaling more than \$1,500 maximum from the Social Services Plan per Grand Lodge year.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

ZACH HOLMES, STEVE RUSK, & WAYNE E. SIRMON, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS: KEN CARPENTER, MICHAEL BREWER

Committee members have been working on plans for our Grand Lodge's upcoming Bicentennial Celebration in June. The Grand Lodge of Alabama was established on June 11, 1821 by representatives from nine lodges, at a meeting held in our state's capital. On the following day, the first officers of the Grand Lodge were elected.

Under the direction of our Grand Lodge's corporate officers, this committee made the following recommendations and began to take steps to recognize this important milestone in our Grand Lodge's history.

1. The state-wide celebration will be held Friday-Saturday, June 11-12, 2021. A formal banquet will be held on Friday evening in Montgomery. Saturday's events will occur at the site of our founding – Old Cahawba. Grand Lodges who established lodges in Alabama prior to June 1821 as well as other Grand Lodges with close ties to Alabama have been invited as our guests to join in this celebration.
2. In cooperation with the Director of the Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, the committee has created a draft of a full color descriptive panel to be erected near the location of Halo Lodge where the convention to create the Grand Lodge of Alabama was held. This marker will be unveiled on June 12, 2021.
3. We will travel to the locations of two of the lodges established by our Grand Lodge outside our state borders. We originally planned to

PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE VII

Brethren, all proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama are presented at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in November. If it is approved during that Grand Lodge session, it is sent to the Subordinate Lodges to be voted on during their Annual Communication in June. This results in a period of seven months between the presentation of the proposal and the next opportunity for any discussion and action taken by the subordinate lodges. This is a long duration between the vote at Grand Lodge in November and the presentation of the proposition at the Annual Communications in June. This timeline and process does not afford the opportunity to collect the reasons, facts, and supporting documentation for the proposed amendment to be adequately presented to the Brethren.

This proposition to amend will NOT alter, change, or effect the vote of any lodge in any way; it simply changes the location where the

conduct the first trip in 2020, however travel restrictions required us to adjust our timetable. One trip will be to Andrew Jackson Lodge, in Tallahassee, Florida and the other will be to Mt. Horeb Lodge in Washington, Arkansas. Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 23 (1825) was a founding member of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Mt. Horeb Lodge (UD, 1838) was one of the original lodges responsible for establishing the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, being named Mt. Horeb No. 4. While this lodge forfeited its charter in the late 1800s, its meeting place, along with other buildings are now part of the Historic Washington State Park. These opportunities are now planned for spring 2021. Our suggestion to confer Master Mason degrees on Alabama Masons was well received by the Worshipful Master of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 1 in Tallahassee and the District Deputy Grand Master of Washington, Arkansas.

4. The committee designed a distinctive logo for the bicentennial which was used to produce event items such as lapel pins, coins, breast medals and a special apron, which are currently available for purchase. In addition, a bicentennial necktie was commissioned, which should be available in the near future. These items have been produced with the assistance of The Masonic Revival. All of the profit from these and other sales will be used to support upcoming bicentennial events. Our current projection is that these items will raise \$19,000 to support next year's celebrations.

vote will take place. It is the responsibility of each Subordinate Lodge to be represented at the Grand Lodge session, so each Lodge will have fair and equitable opportunity to vote on the proposed amendments.

The proposition to amend below will provide the opportunity for the Brethren to have all of the information presented and debated by both sides of an issue prior to the vote on the proposed amendment in June. This will ensure that the best decision will be made by the Brethren for the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

ARTICLE VIII, PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND, CURRENTLY READS:

Every proposition to revise, alter, or amend this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the

MASONIC LIFE

5. A tentative budget has been prepared and submitted to the Finance Committee for review. It is expected that our expenses will be covered by the sale of commemorative items.
6. A resolution commemorating the 200th session of the Grand Lodge was prepared. This resolution was issued with the assistance of the office of Alabama Representative, Victor Gaston, Speaker of the House Pro Tempore. The groundwork has been laid for additional resolutions to be prepared in honor of our upcoming bicentennial.
7. We are asking every lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction to plan for a special event to celebrate our bicentennial. This event may be either public or private and should occur in 2021. While many lodges will organize stand-alone programs, lodges should also consider cooperating with other lodges in their Masonic Districts which may result in events that have greater visibility and impact. The committee is preparing an "idea bank," as well as developing a method of tracking these events throughout the state and recognizing lodges who host outstanding events.

Despite the limitations placed on our efforts by COVID-19, we are well on our way to a bicentennial celebration worthy of our Grand Lodge and hundreds of thousands of upright men who have received Masonic enlightenment through their membership in Alabama's lodges of Free and Accepted Masons.

Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication. It shall then be distinctly read and if approved by one third of the members of the Grand Lodge present, shall be entered upon the minutes and be thereafter submitted to the several chartered subordinate Lodges for their approval or rejection; and if two thirds of the chartered subordinate Lodges that have sent in their returns to the Grand Secretary as required in Edict 8.18, approve thereof by certificate over their respective seals, to the next succeeding Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall so declare it, and from thenceforth it shall be considered a part and parcel of this Constitution.

No other proposition to alter, revise, or amend this Constitution shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the foregoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may, by two thirds vote of the

SEE "ARTICLE VIII" ON PAGE 5

HELION LODGE

BICENTENNIAL EVENT

BY KENNETH A. CARPENTER, HELION PM, V. HISTORIAN, HELION № 1

SESQUICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE

On Saturday, 17 Oct., 2020, officers of the Grand Lodge of Alabama and officers and members of Helion Lodge, and Eunomia Chapter No. 5, along with DeMolay and Rainbow Girls representatives and numerous guests gathered at Helion Lodge No. 1, to open the Grand Lodge Sesquicentennial time capsule deposited in the North wall of Helion Lodge in 1970. Grand Lodge officers present were: MW Grand Master Jon Micheal Taylor (now PGM), RW Deputy GM Shelby Thomas Morrow, Jr. (now MWGM), RW Junior Grand Warden Richard Carl Beck, Grand Secretary Teddy Roosevelt Grogan, Jr., PGM, Grand Tiler Gary Pervie Wates, Grand Marshal Richard Allen Schultz, Grand Historian Steve Wayne Rusk, Junior Grand Deacon Luther G. Johnson, Jr., and Senior Grand Steward Jerry Franklin Goodwin.

Following the opening of the Grand Lodge, WMGM Taylor led a procession of the Grand Lodge officers, Helion officers, and other assembled Brothers from the Lodge room, through the front door around to the north wall. WM John Pennington opened the ceremony with welcoming remarks, after which Bro. Carpenter introduced the Grand Lodge officers and made a special recognition remarks concerning PM Richard Knox (Evergreen Lodge No. 0170, Freeport, Ill.), a memorial stone mason of Sparkman Stone Works,



who created and donated the 2020 memorial stone which will replace the 1970 stone. The Grand Master, and the Grand Historian gave appropriate remarks. Following an invocation by the Grand Marshal, Bro. Carpenter removed the 1970 memorial stone.

MWGM Taylor received the stainless steel capsule box, the contents of which he opened in the fellowship / dinning hall, and read many of the capsule Grand Lodge documents, Helion

documents, and a letter from then Gov. George Wallace. About eighty Brothers, DeMolay and Rainbow members, and guests were in attendance. PM Dean Lilja presented MW Grand Master Taylor and PM Knox with Helion commemorative writing pens made from surplus wood taken from Helion's 1917 Temple.

Two persons of special interest were Helion PM Emory "Smokey" Ferguson and Mr. Robert Blocker. Both were present at the 1970 Sesquicentennial capsule ceremony. PM Ferguson was the Senior Warden of Helion, and Mr. Blocker was member of the DeMolay on that occasion. A COVID-19 safe pre-packaged dinner prepared by SS Chad Thrasher, Bro. Jarred Webster and Bro. Kenny Paone, was served to the large crowd in attendance by DeMolay members.

To ensure the success of this ceremony, MWGM Taylor visited Helion on October 8 to view the contents of the capsule. The 1970 memorial stone had been previously removed by opened by the Helion Time Capsule Committee. Tres. Steve Chapman labored three

hours to remove the cemented stone prior to October 8th, and replaced the cement with putty to provide a quick access for the October 8th opening. Committee Bros.

Carpenter (Vice Historian) and Storey (Historian) scanned over twenty Grand Lodge and Helion documents in the capsule for their respective archives. Bro. Carpenter submitted the scanned copies to the Grand Lodge for its archives.

The 2020 – 2021 Bicentennial Time Capsule will be placed back in the opening in the north wall in the near future, once the Grand Lodge and the Helion Capsule Committee gather the appropriate documents. The memorial stone is inscribed: 200th Year Memorial Grand Lodge F&A.M. of Alabama, Deposited June 1970, Viewed 2020, For View 2070.

The Helion Capsule Committee members are: PM Emory "Smokey" Ferguson, Chairman, PM. Ken Carpenter, WM John Pennington, Tres. Steve Chapman, Historian Rick Storey, and EHP Lee Gibson.

THE TENETS OF OUR ORDER

BY BRO. BRUCE L. PATTERSON, PM, SECRETARY, BROOKLIN #704

BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH

On January 25th, a tornado ripped through the Fultondale and New Castle Communities in northern Jefferson County, barely missing the Gardendale Lodge, but causing massive destruction to the neighboring communities and taking the life of a 14-year-old boy. It is disasters like these when we, as Masons, can exercise these tenets in our community.



Brother Nick Chieffo of Brooklin Lodge #704 visited with Brother Paul Thomas of Gardendale Lodge #907, and together, with the help of Brother Melvin Cochran of Sam Thompson Lodge #456, organized an effort to raise funds and supplies for those affected. Brother Chieffo, and another member of Brooklin Lodge, Brother Bryant Fortenberry, operate a food cart in addition to their usual vocations.

After contacting as many of Brooklin's members as possible in a short time, they brought their food cart to an emergency staging area in Fultondale. Although several of their brothers from Brooklin were able to attend, they were quickly overrun with demand. Brother Chieffo said he was amazed by the number of brothers who were there already or who came after a quick phone call. They jumped in to help man the cart, purchase additional cart supplies and help in any way they could.

Before long the brothers from Gardendale, Sam Thompson and Brooklin were joined by masons from Acacia #670, Maryland #783, Milton H. Fies #722, Brookside #552, Hewitt-North Birmingham #519, Georgiana #285 and Huffman #633 Lodges, as well as brothers from the GAOTU Tribe of the Widow's Sons. Brother Andy McCaleb of Milton H. Fies, brought his bobcat and helped clear debris.

In a matter of hours, the food cart raised \$3,000 from sales, and other contributions - from masons and community members alike - totaled just over \$3,000, generating in excess of \$6,000 that was immediately donated to the relief efforts. This truly is Freemasonry at it's best!

ELBA No 170 COMMEMORATES 169 YRS

Four years of planning, dedication, and hard work paid off on February 13, 2021 when Elba Lodge No. 170 dedicated a historical marker in downtown Elba.

Elba Lodge No. 170 is the oldest continuously operating lodge in Coffee County. On December 17, 1851, the Grand Lodge of Alabama issued a Dispensation to form a lodge in Bentonville, Alabama, now known as Elba, to be named Elba Lodge No. 170. The Lodge held its first meeting with the election and installation of officers on February 13, 1852. It raised its first Mater Mason on April 24, 1852. The Grand Lodge of Alabama issued Elba Lodge No. 170 its Charter in 1853, as there was some delay due to defects in the paper work.

The original lodge building was a two-story building built near the levee in Elba. The local school system used the bottom floor as a classroom for many years. The lodge, of course, met on the upper floor. Years later, the lodge collaborated with the City of Elba to build a new building approximately 300 yards north of the original building on Claxton Avenue. The lodge owned the upper floor, and the city owned the ground floor. This worked well for many years until a rift developed between the two. The lodge sold the city its interest in the building and later built and occupied its present building.

Coincidentally, the historical marker, located at the intersection of Davis Street and Claxton Avenue, sits almost exactly halfway between the location of the first lodge building and the second building built by the lodge and the city.

Anticipating the upcoming bicentennial celebration of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, Brother Eddie Kelley, now Worshipful Master of Elba 170, envisioned dedicating a historical marker commemorating 169 years of existence as Elba Lodge No. 170. He began work on the project four years ago and became the driving force behind it. Working with the Alabama Historical Association, he got the marker design approved and ordered and then obtained approval from the City of Elba for the location of the marker. The Grand Lodge assisted in ascertaining the correct dates and names of men involved in the original lodge. He worked with the members of Elba Lodge No. 170 to get the post for the marker set, the marker mounted and ready for unveiling, and for the logistics of the events set for February 13, 2021.

The morning began with a photo shoot of the Grand Lodge Officers, every one of which was

present for the occasion. At 10:00 am, Most Worshipful Grand Master Tommy Morrow opened the Grand Lodge of Alabama for his first time. He announced the itinerary for the day and called the Grand Lodge to refreshment. A luncheon and time of fellowship was then held in the dining hall, where the ladies of Elba No. 170 helped prepare and serve the food to those attending.

At 1:00 pm, the Grand Lodge Officers and Masons present assembled at the northeast corner of the Elba Courthouse for a march around the block to the location of the festivities. Incidentally, Elba Lodge No. 170 laid the cornerstone for the Elba Courthouse on August 22, 1903. The Masons marched about one and one-half blocks to the Education Building of the First United Methodist Church of Elba, which was gracious enough to lend the lodge the use of the facility due to the possible of inclement weather.

Worshipful Master Eddie Kelley opened the day's ceremonies, followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Right Worship and Reverend Grand Chaplain Gene Nelson. Ms. Francine Jones led the group in singing our national anthem. Grand Historian Andrew Barnett gave a short history of Freemasonry in Alabama.

The keynote speaker, Brother John Frank Hudson, Past Master of Elba Lodge 170 and local educator and historian, presented an

interesting and detailed history of the Elba Lodge. Following his presentation, large photographs of the marker's two sides were unveiled inside the facility. The Mayor of Elba, Tom Maddox, then accepted the marker on behalf of the City of Elba.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Tommy Morrow delivered the closing remarks. The rain had ceased by this time, and nearly everyone went outside to the actual marker for the unveiling. Grand Master Tommy Morrow and Worshipful Master Eddie Kelley did the honors of unveiling the marker where it now stands for our posterity.

Overall, February 13, 2021 was a day filled with fun, food, and fellowship. It was a time we will all remember for some time. Elba Lodge No. 170 would like to thank and acknowledge the following groups and individuals for their contributions for this meaningful project: [The Alabama Grand Lodge Bicentennial Committee](#), [the Grand Lodge Officers](#), [the ladies of Elba Lodge No. 170](#), [the Alabama Historical Assoc.](#), [the City of Elba, Alabama](#), [the Elba Chamber of Commerce and Historical Committee](#), [Ms. Nell Grimmer for the custom made cover for the marker](#), and [the First United Methodist Church of Elba for the use of its Education Building](#).

In addition to those listed above, the lodge also thanks everyone who assisted in making this project come to fruition and for attending the festivities and making it a special day for us. May God continue to bless our country, state, county, city, lodge, and all of our members wherever dispersed.

ARTICLE VIII CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

members present, agree to waive the requirements of previous notice to the Grand Secretary and the Lodges.

ARTICLE VIII, PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND, PROPOSED REVISION READ:

Every proposition to revise, alter, or amend this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication. It shall then be distinctly read and if approved by one third

of the members of the Grand Lodge present, shall be entered upon the minutes and be thereafter submitted to the several chartered subordinate Lodges for a reading in open lodge at the Annual Communication. The proposition will then be presented at the next Grand Lodge session for action and if two thirds of the subordinate Lodges present approve, it will be considered a part and parcel of this Constitution.

No other proposition to alter, revise, or amend this Constitution shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the foregoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may by two thirds vote of the members present agree to waive the requirements of previous notice to the Grand Secretary and the Lodges.

BRIGANDS & BROTHERS PART 1

This study refers to the consequences and effects of the Union forces on six of the twenty-four Lodges which existed in North Alabama counties (Colbert, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan) during the Civil War: Helion No. 1 of Huntsville, Florence No. 14, Rising Sun No. 29 of Decatur, Bolivar No. 127 of Stevenson, Rogersville No. 147, and Northern No. 278 of Vienna / New Hope. Upon visiting some of these Lodges and inquiring of their history, I learned something of their involvement in the War Between the States. Unfortunately, documentation supporting the conclusion as to the consequences of the effects of the war on some of these Lodges is unavailable at this writing due to the loss of Lodge records, as well as the inability to access government archives.

Helion Lodge No. 1, Huntsville, AL A Lodge Divided | Brothers

Huntsville was occupied by Union forces on 11 April, 1862 during the campaign to control the Memphis and Charleston Railroad as noted above. Fighting along the length of this line, in Alabama was constant throughout the war. Huntsville, according to Gen. James A. Garfield (later President of the United States) was one of the most beautiful towns in America. Union forces occupied churches, colleges, and private homes. Fences of elegant antebellum homes and public facilities were burned for firewood by the occupation forces. Grave stones from the Maple Hill cemetery were used for camp fires.

Perhaps from the utility of being bivouacked in such an accommodating place, this city was not intentionally destroyed by the invading force. However, the Methodist church, and one of the female academies were accidentally burned while being used as quarters for the Union soldiers. A large union earthen fort was erected on the crest of Echols' hill, a few hundred yards from Helion Lodge. Although sometimes threatened by Confederate attack, Huntsville, and Helion's Eunomia Hall, remained generally unscathed by the "devastation of war."

The Lodge remained open throughout the "Unpleasantness" maintaining a membership between 1861 and 1865 of 70 to 62 members. As noted above, at the time of the Secession Convention much of the Tennessee Valley was of the anti-secession Cooperationist sentiment, such as Helion Brothers Col. Nicholas Davis Sr. (convention representative and former Pres. of the Ala. Senate), and Joseph Bradley, a wealthy Huntsville merchant. However, with the birth of the Confederacy, and particularly with the Northern invasion of 1862, most Helion Brothers

were loyal to the Confederacy. Bro. Davis's son, Nicholas Davis Jr. was a member of the Confederate Congress.



Pictured Above: Helion Lodge's Eunomia Hall

Of the Helion Union-Men, Brother Wm. Powers, a Northern native, would return North, but would aid Confederate prisoners in northern prison camps. He was held in high esteem upon his return to Huntsville after the war. Bros. Bradley and Davis would remain loyal Union-men throughout the war and "Reconstruction."

Stories remain that "Yankee" soldiers stole

WHY DID YOU BECOME A MASON?

BY: MIKE BOYLES, JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

The most common answer is because my father, grandfather, some family member, or a friend are or were members. All are good answers! But the question still remains, why did you want to be a Mason?

I remember as a teenager seeing car tags on the front of vehicles with F. & A. M. and a number on them. I thought it was a radio station! I searched for hours on end trying to find that station, but to no avail. It wasn't until my 30's I found out it was a building in our town, and the men that were in that building were some of the most respected and finest men that I had ever known. Good men of moral character. Christian men and men that I had looked up to all my life. That's when I started my Masonic journey.

What I've found out is Masonry is bigger than you and I. It's more than a building or structure.

EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM STUDY WRITTEN BY: KENNETH A. CARPENTER, PM, V. HISTORIAN, HELION

jewels from the Lodge, however Lodge minutes make no mention of such. Also, stories maintain that soldiers, perhaps Confederates, were held prisoner in a deep depression behind the Lodge building, however no such information to support this claim has been.

Northern Lodge No. 278, Vienna Brothers

Tradition, by some, suggests that the Lodge name, "Northern" for Northern Lodge No. 278, being chartered in 1862, referred to the location of Vienna as not being under Union occupation in the early years of the War. On 29 May, 1864 the 12th Indiana Cavalry seized the town of Vienna (incorporated 1832) and built a stockade.

After Confederate raids led by men of Helion Brother, Col. Lemuel Mead's, 25th Alabama Partisan Ranger Battalion, under command of Major (later, Lt. Col.) Milus E. "Bushwhacker" Johnson, the Federals, retaliated by burning the town. The only buildings left remaining were the Post Office/Tavern and the Masonic Lodge. The town was rebuilt after the War and was reincorporated in 1883 as New Hope.

It's the men you meet that carry on the work and are trying to move us forward.

I've met people that I never would have known outside of Masonry. Good men which I now call my Brothers.

I have often heard someone say at Degrees, "You'll get out of Masonry what you put in it." That's true, but you get a whole lot more. More than you realize!

Brethren, the time has come for us all to ask ourselves this question: "Why did we really become Masons?" Our membership and attendance are dwindling, and we need to step up and be that example of the men we all remember that may have influenced us to become Masons.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

THE MASONIC MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF ALABAMA

Published Semi-Annually at Millbrook, Alabama

To stay up to date on all the Grand Lodge and District news, please send all changes of address and membership status to your Lodge Secretary and become an E-M@son, just visit: www.alafreemasonry.org/emasons



MASONIC SERVICES AWARDS | DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

OPP N° 605 PRESENTS AWARDS FOR 50 & 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

Opp Lodge No. 605, F. & A. M. of Alabama, recently recognized two of its members for their years of service to the Lodge and to the Fraternity as a whole.



From left: Group 4 COW Member, Coley Andress, Brother Harold Martin, and RW Deputy GM, Tommy Morrow

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, Brother Harold W. Martin was presented with the Grand Lodge of Alabama Award of Gold for completing 50 years of service as a Master Mason. Brother Martin grew up near Opp and currently lives in Creola, Alabama. He was raised a Master Mason on June 9, 1970. He is also a Plural Member with Howard E. Blackwell Lodge No. 889 in Satsuma, Alabama. Covington County District Lecturer, Paul J. Adams, presided over the ceremony, and Group 4 Committee on Work Member Coley Andress presented the award. Brother Martin's wife and his only surviving aunt pinned the award on him following the presentation.

Following the ceremony, everyone enjoyed some fun, fellowship, and a delicious meal prepared by Brother Martin's wife, who is a former professional caterer.

On Tuesday, August 11, 2020, Brother T. J. Boothe was presented with the Grand Lodge of Alabama Award of Gold for completing 60, 65, and 70 years of service as a Master Mason. Brother Boothe grew up near Opp and still lives here. He was raised a Master Mason on July 27, 1948. RW Deputy GM, Tommy Morrow, presided over the ceremony, and Covington County District Lecturer Howard Oliver presented the award. A family member pinned the 70 Year Award on him following the presentation. Through an oversight, Brother Boothe's 60 and 65 Year Awards had never been presented to him, so they were presented at this time along with his 70 Year Award.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal along with fun and fellowship following the ceremony.



From left: Covington Co. District Lecturer Howard Oliver, RW Deputy GM Tommy Morrow, and WM Kenneth Wood. Seated center is Brother T. J. Boothe.

Opp Lodge No. 605 is proud to recognize and express its gratitude to these two members for their many years of service and dedication to the Lodge and Masonry and wishes the best for them in the future.

BRO. RABON BAY MINETTE N° 498



From left: WM Brother Ken Rider Jr, Brother James A. Rabon and Brother Tommy Danner

Brother James Alvin Rabon of Bay Minette Lodge #498 was presented his 50 year pin, in honor of his dedication to the Masonic Fraternity. The presentation took place on Saturday July 25, 2020 during the lodge's Installation of Officers. District Lecturer, Brother Tommy Danner presented Brother Rabon with the award.

SANTA FE N° 226



Back: Barney Lowery, Jim Faust, Donald Dorman, Wayne Lathan Front: Billy Jackson, SGW and John Lee Perkins, PM

The Brothers of Santa Fe were honored on July 16, 2020, by having four Brothers of Santa Fe examined on the Master Mason degree. They were taught the Master Mason lesson by Bros. Billy Jackson, SGW, and John Lee Perkins, PM.

On Saturday, July 11th, 2020, members of Scottsboro Masonic Lodge #359 united to show their support for local law enforcement. Brother John Zlater, incoming Worshipful Master for Scottsboro #359, invited members of the Scottsboro Police Department and Jackson County Sheriff's Department to come pose for photos with members and officers of the lodge as an act of solidarity with law enforcement personnel during these turbulent times. The photos were done prior to the lodge's installation of officers. It is in great hope that other lodges in our state and country will follow suit in supporting law enforcement and letting them know that the Freemasons have their six!



DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE AUTUMN ISSUE OF THE MASONIC MESSENGER BY SEPT. 1ST.

If your Lodge has any events or news to share, contact the Grand Lodge or the Editor (jmsfineart@gmail.com) with details. Check out the Grand Lodge Facebook page for more news and events at www.facebook.com/GLOfAL. Get involved today! Submit to the Masonic Messenger and the Grand Lodge Facebook page!!

GRAND YORK RITE

The Grand York Rite of Alabama held their Annual Meeting Feb 26th & 27th at the Birmingham Metro York Rite Center in Birmingham. Everyone in attendance enjoyed an excellent time to renew friendships and make new ones. We were honored this year to have with us our Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W. Bro Tommy Morrow and his Lady Edna along with the Most Puissant Companion Monty Glover, the Most Puissant General Grand Master of Cryptic Masons International.

Below are those individuals who were honored at the Annual Meeting:

G.G.C. Bronze Award
G.C. of Royal Arch Masons of Alabama
Rev. & Comp. Richard Losch (Tuscaloosa)

Sweetheart Award
G.G.C. Royal Arch Masons Intl.
Lady Aprille Andress

Cryptic Mason of the Year Award
G.C. of Royal & Select Masters of Alabama
Comp. Nick Barnes (Birmingham)

Lady of the Council Award
G.G.C, Cryptic Masons Intl.
Lady Rhetta Carter

G.G.C. Adult Youth Leadership Award
Lady Donna McGee

Ish Sodi Award
Comp. Mark Stillwell
Knight Templar Cross of Honor
G. Com. of Knight Templar of Alabama
Sir Knight Glenn Wellborn (Birmingham)
Sir Knight Lee Gibson (Huntsville)

York Rite's newly elected leaders are:
Roger "Kim" Harrison,
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
William Carter, Most Illustrious Grand Master
Sir Knight Winston Each,
Right Eminent Grand Commander

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

Brethren, I want to give you an update on our new database. The secretaries that are using the database report that they really like it. However, we still have several Lodges that have not signed on. If the Lodge secretary does not have internet access, then someone in the Lodge who does needs to be appointed as his administrative assistant to keep the database updated. It is also concerning that many of the secretaries that have signed on are not using the system. The best feature of this database is once you log in, you will see your Lodge's records just as we do at Grand Lodge. You will have access to all your members' records. You will be able to update each member's record so it will be accurate. You will be surprised at how many bad addresses you find. You will also be able to reconcile any differences you find in a member's status, print and send dues notices, send Lodge information electronically, post Lodge minutes, and members will be able to pay their dues online. When this database is fully implemented, we should have the most accurate records we have ever had.

In an effort to relieve any worries about this being a difficult database to use, two of our Past Grand Masters, MW Ron Andress and MW Frank Little, who are/were secretaries of their respective Lodges, are willing to conduct a training session in the various groups around the state. Their first session will be scheduled once we feel it is safe. Other meetings around the state will be scheduled later, but they must take place in a building with Wi-Fi. Please notify us if you know of a facility in your area capable of hosting this session.

The Corporate Board voted unanimously that every Lodge in Alabama will use this database. If the Lodge secretary needs an assistant, let me

know who it is as soon as possible, so I can give him his member number and instructions so he can sign on.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) requirement that each lodge file Form 990-N or e-Postcard. Any lodge failing to file for three consecutive years will lose its tax exempt status. Filing electronically is easy. You will need your EIN number. If you do not know what it is, contact us here at Grand Lodge. We have the number for each lodge in the state. Do not get your own. To file, go to the IRS web-site. Click on "Filing," then click "Charities & Non-Profits." Next, click "e-file for Charities and Non-Profits." Find and click on "e-Postcard (Form 990-N)." We also have a link on the Grand Lodge website. If you do not have a password, register as a new user. Once there, you will only need to answer a couple of questions and you will be finished.

You have four and a half months from the end of the fiscal year to file this report. Our fiscal year ends September 30th, so you have until February 15th of the next year to file. There is no penalty for filing late. However, if you lose your tax exempt status, the fee for getting it back is \$400.00 if your net assets are less than \$250,000 which includes your building. If your net assets are more than \$250,000, the fee is \$850.00. We have lodges in the state that have faced this situation, so please keep your e-Postcard current.

The last thing I want to remind you about is that it will soon be time for your lodge's Annual Communication. The Masonic Code states that officers will be elected at the regular communication immediately preceding June 24, and be installed as soon as practicable after the election, but in no case longer than 45 days after the election. Each lodge must file all reports with Grand Lodge no later than August 14. A complete list of the reports may be found in Article 6-Section 21 of the Constitution and report dates in Edict 8.13 of the Alabama Masonic Code. There are five things we will need this year:

- 1) Your Master and Secretary (short form)
- 2) Lodge officers (long form)
- 3) The Annual Report
- 4) Grand Lodge dues
- 5) We have two proposed Constitutional changes to vote on this year.

Please send these reports in on time!

MASTER MASON PIN

Brethren, the Grand Lodge of Alabama has commissioned a lapel pin denoting proficiency in the Master Mason lesson (pictured right). Any Master Mason who returns the Master Mason lesson in open Lodge after November 1, 2020, will be presented the pin for free. Any Master Mason who returned the lesson prior to November 1, 2020 and does not want to do it again may purchase a pin for \$5.00.

