



Guiding Light

July 2014

GREENEVILLE LODGE NO. 3 F. & A. M.

IN THIS ISSUE: THE TILER'S DUTY

Worshipful Master's Message

by Joe Byrd (Worshipful Master)

Brethren and Friends,

As we get into the month of July and celebrate our country's 238th birthday, I can think of no better time to highlight the impact Freemasons had on the founding of this great nation. I don't think it's an overstatement to say that without Masonry, the very ideals and core values of the United States would not be what they are.

Democratically electing leaders, education, freedom from oppression, selecting one's own religious path, equal justice for all, freedom of assembly, freedom to speak one's mind without fear of reprisal ... those are all principal tenants of our great fraternity. Thanks to the Masonic connections of our Founding Fathers, those same principal tenants are guaranteed rights of all American citizens.

No fewer than 14 American presidents have been Masons. All three Presidents of the United States elected from Tennessee were Masons. One – Andrew Johnson – was a member of Greenville Lodge, and another – Andrew Jackson – we know for a fact visited our Lodge. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, John Hancock, and

many other famous names among those who helped forge our nation were Masons. Nine signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. There were 13 Masons who signed the U.S. Constitution. Nearly half of all the generals in the Continental Army were known to be brother Masons. Although there is no proof of Masonic organization of the Boston Tea Party, more than likely Masons were involved.

Some people try to say this proves a vast Masonic conspiracy whereby Masons were, and still are, trying to create a new world order. That's nothing more than fuel for Hollywood movies, radio talk show hosts, and people trying to sell books. I, on the other hand, contend that it is proof of exactly what Freemasonry stands for: liberty and the freedom to choose one's own path in life while upholding the utmost standards of integrity.

Many of these same conspiracy theorists claim Masonic influence on the back of the U.S. \$1 bill. This has been proven inaccurate time and time again. What is factual is that many Masons – Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Jackson, Franklin, and Franklin D. Roosevelt – have earned their

rightful places on the *front* of U.S. currency thanks to their contributions to our nation.

Masonic contribution to our nation didn't end with the Founding Fathers. Many of the leaders on both sides of the Civil War were Freemasons. During World War II, Presidents Roosevelt and Harry Truman were both Masons, along with generals Douglas MacArthur, Omar Bradley, and George Marshall. Buzz Aldrin, one of the men who planted the first U.S. flag on the surface of the moon, is a Mason.

The list doesn't end with these few names I have mentioned here. The list of Masons who have been influential in building our nation, or even our community, is endless. They didn't do it in search of fame or glory. They did it out of a sense of obligation and duty. I believe it is incumbent on each of us to carry on that tradition, that legacy, of making this the greatest country on the face of God's creation. I pledge to do my part, and I hope you do, too.

The Tiler's Duty

by John Sayne (Senior Deacon / Webmaster)

To keep off cowans and eavesdroppers are the main duties assigned to the Tiler, but what happens when the Tiler fails to accomplish his sworn duty? What if there is in fact an eavesdropper present at a Masonic meeting? I received a story from one of our masonic Brothers that I would like to share with you.

This is a story about a lady by the name of Elizabeth Ard. She was born in 1835 and was raised on a farm in Virginia with four brothers. As Elizabeth became older, she noticed her father, brothers, and some of her neighbors gathering in the barn. It occurred about the same time each month. Being curious, she began to question her father about what was going on in the barn and asked if she could attend. Her father's answer was an obvious NO!

That was certainly not the answer that she was looking for and was determined to find out what was going on. Elizabeth kept track of the meeting times and planned to sneak into the meeting. Early one afternoon she carefully climbed into the rafters of the barn



and waited on the men to arrive.

What Elizabeth witnessed that night was the conferring of a Masonic degree. Fearful of what her father might do if he learned of her presence, Elizabeth kept her secret to herself. This went on for several years. She quickly began to fall in love with the degree work and the lessons that were being impressed upon the minds of each candidate. She quickly began to become quite knowledgeable in the degree work and dedicated much of it to memory.

On one particular occasion, Elizabeth was carefully and quietly climbing down out of the rafters after a meeting when one of her brothers returned to the barn. He was shocked to see his sister climbing from the rafters. He immediately called for his father and brothers. Stunned to see his daughter standing in the barn, Elizabeth's father began questioning the young lady on what she was doing and what she had witnessed. To their surprise, she began telling them of the years she had spent watching from the rafters and how much she had learned. They were amazed by her ability to recall all aspects of degree work and just how much she had committed to memory.

Unsure of how to handle the situation, the men of the Masonic Lodge contacted the highest ranking officers in the area at the time in order to figure out what to do. The decision was made to obligate Elizabeth so that she would not reveal any Masonic secrets. Elizabeth continued to learn about the Fraternity she was now a member of and shared her love of Masonry for many years.

Credit for this story goes to Billy Gardner of Horry Lodge No. 381 Conway, SC. "Has There Ever Been A Female Mason?"

A Message From The West

by Dewey Cox (Senior Warden)

"Brethren do not put down your working tools".



Greeneville Scottish Rite Club



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Year to Date Report

LODGE OF SORROW

Brother Howard White
Brother Bob King

PRAYER REQUESTS

Brethren, please keep Bro. Karl Sabey in your prayers. Bro. Sabey (EA) lost his home to a house fire.

Brethren, please continue to keep Bro. Carl Bird and his family in your prayers.

AAA

by Joe Byrd (Excellent High Priest)

At the very outset of our Masonic careers, we were all taught that if we should encounter a poor, distressed human being, pity should flow from our hearts and money from our purse. All Masonic charities are important and worthwhile, but perhaps none directly benefit the future of Tennessee more than the Grand Chapter's Autism, Assistance, and Aid Program.

As an educator, on a daily basis I see the impact autism and its related afflictions have on youngsters in our state. According to information released by the state to the U.S. Department of Education, more than 6,000



**Royal Arch
Masons Making
a Difference for
Tennessee
Children**

school-age children in Tennessee have been diagnosed with autism. There is no known cure for autism.

The mission statement of AAA is "to provide financial assistance to individuals, families, and support agencies who suffer from or provide aid to those afflicted with autism in its various forms within the State of Tennessee."

A definitive cause for autism has not been discovered, but researchers do know that early detection of the disease can help limit its impact. Studies suggest approximately 1 in 68 8-year-olds is autistic, more than double what it was in the year 2000. The symptoms of autism are generally noticed when a child is age 2-3, almost always by age 4. The characteristics include demonstrated difficulty with common social behaviors, difficulty with communication, and repetitive behaviors. Boys are five times more likely to be autistic than girls.

Statistically, every grade in every elementary school across the country has an autistic child.

That's where the Grand Chapter's Autism, Assistance, and Aid Program tries to help. In 2011, the United States spent an estimated \$9 billion on caring for children with autism. It is estimated that a family with an autistic child will spend \$60,000 a year caring for that child.

Through the Autism, Assistance, and Aid Program, any Royal Arch Mason in the state of Tennessee can make a request to get aid for an autistic child. Once the request is submitted, the AAA committee will validate the child's need for assistance, and then options of ways in which AAA can help will be determined.

The AAA program is funded annually by various means. One form of funding is the Samuel Pelmons AAA Challenge Award. The award is named in honor of the son of Royal Arch Mason Terry Plemons. The challenge measures giving based on dollar amount per member of an individual Chapter in the state. For example, if a Chapter with 100 members donates \$200, then that Chapter would be credited with a \$2 per member donation. The Chapter with the highest donation per member is honored each year during Grand Lodge week in Nashville.

Another method of funding the AAA program is through the Grand Chapter's certificate program. For each year of giving, an individual or Chapter will receive validation of their donation to hang on the wall of your home or meeting place. If an individual begins a donation plan, he will be presented with a lapel pin in the shape of a Royal Arch banner that signifies his donation level. Bronze is earned at \$100, silver at \$500, and gold at \$1,000. The pins are unique and can only be earned through the program by individuals who contribute to AAA.

Remember, donations to the Grand Chapter's Autism, Assistance, and Aid Program directly benefit and assist students and their families right here in the state of Tennessee. This is our state's future. This is our future. To make a donation for yourself or your Chapter, contact your Secretary or Excellent High Priest. You can also download a donation form (http://www.tngrandyorkrite.org/Files/AAA_Donation_Form.pdf) and send your contribution directly to state chairman Ronald Scott.

A Message From The South

by Josh Cox (Junior Warden)

"Brethren, let us strive each day to be the light in a world so covered in darkness".



Announcements

Greenville Chapter No. 135 R. A. M. will be hosting the York Rite Picnic Group Meeting on Saturday, July 12th. This is a casual event. Family and friends are welcome to attend.



Greenville Scottish Rite Club will be hosting the annual Car Show on July, 12th at Big Lots.



Greenville Lodge No. 3 F. & A. M. will be having an official visit on Tuesday, July 15th.

Mountain Top Degree will be held on Saturday, July 19th. The degree will be conferred by North Carolina.



Please feel free to submit articles, pictures, news, ect. This applies to all Bodies that meet at Greeneville Lodge No. 3 F. & A. M. Submissions can be emailed to greenevillelodgeno3@gmail.com. All submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Worshipful Master before publishing. Having a steady flow of content is crucial to the success of this newsletter.

John Sayne (Editor)

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Issue 4



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