



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

news @ morelight . org

July, 2008
Investigations

http://news.morelight.org



DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

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DCMA This Month



Join us at Clarkston Lodge on Tuesday, 22 July; 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Clarkston's membership includes Senior Grand Warden Leonard Buffington and Past Grand Master Al Garner.

Less than one mile outside of I-285, Clarkston Lodge meets at 4162 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Clarkston, Georgia 30021. Their website is <http://clarkston492.com>
This month's program has not yet been announced.

DCMA Next Month

Next month's meeting will be hosted by Panthersville 543 on Tuesday, 19 August; 6:30 meal and 7:30 meeting. *Next month's program has not yet been announced.* Located at 3605 Union Church Road, Stockbridge, Panthersville Lodge is just little bit north of Stockbridge Highway.

DCMA Last Month

If you missed our last meeting... so did I. The DCMA met at Grand Park 604, but I had a conflict, and resigned myself to the torture of boating, swimming, and giggering for crab and sheephead in Homosassa, Florida.

DCMA This Year

President: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
mikew @ morelight . org or 770 482 3338

1st VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Internet 9659, EC
davidh @ morelight . org or 404 310 8541

2nd VP: Ray Skiles, Glenwood Hills 703
rays @ morelight . org or 678 313 0802

Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
bille @ morelight.org or 770 922 5412

*The DCMA... Determined to Cover Masonry in Atlanta!
We'd like for your lodge to join us - ask one of us how.*

Directions & Maps

Brethren: directions, maps and meeting information for all DCMA member lodges can be found from the DCMA website at <http://dcma.morelight.org>

Davo Digresses: Investigations?

David Herman, PM, Chamblee-Sardis 444
District Deputy to the Grand Master

You may have noticed that I have elected to include two Old Tyler Talks this month. I believe that guarding our Inner Door is a very important subject, and as I was torn between which OTT to reprint... I took the easy way out, and decided to include both of them.

I would also urge you not only to read the information on page 5, but to actually obtain copies of the complete original booklet from the Grand Lodge Office, and share them with those who do investigations for your lodge.

Look for Richard's and my regular features to return next month. Hopefully, they will have been worth the wait.

National BBQ Competition Results!

On 21 June, the 16th Annual National Capitol Barbecue Battle brought 40 competition BBQ teams from all over the country to Washington, DC. The top slot of Grand Champion went to a perennial favorite, Jack's Old South.

When the smoke cleared, so to speak, Team Bobby-Q, led by Chamblee-Sardis 444's Bobby Cresap (grandson of Clint Morris, PGC-KT) walked away with the following National Honors:

- Reserve Grand Champion (2nd Place Overall)
- 1st Place in Brisket and the title "Best Beef in America"
- 1st Place in Chicken
- 7th Place in Ribs
- 17th Place in Pork

Congratulations, Brother!



Standard Disclaimer

This publication is created to inform the brethren. Any views or opinions that manage to sneak in are solely those of the editor, who does **NOT** speak for any organization whatsoever. Really.

Where's YOUR News?

We'd be honored to support the community by publishing *your* news and events - all you have to do is let us know by emailing news @ morelight . org with all the information you'd like listed.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

Keepers of The Door

"Darn the luck! I am assigned on a petition again and I am going fishing tomorrow!"

The New Brother looked dolefully at his notification slip.

"Why not see the applicant the next day?" asked the Old Tiler.

"Because he is going out of town. I got to see him tomorrow or else. And I want to go fishing. This committee stuff makes me tired, anyway. Say, if I get the Master to change my name to yours, will you do it for me?"

"Why, of course," answered the Old Tiler. "I am always proud to be one of the Keepers of the Door."

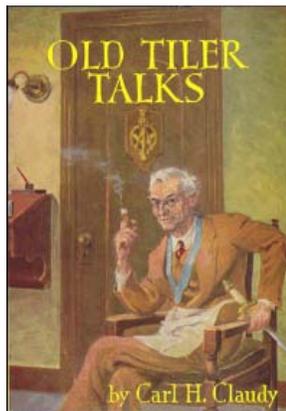
"Now that," said the New Brother, "sounds both interesting and dangerous. It's interesting, because I don't understand it, and experience has taught me that when I come at you below the belt, as it were, I usually get kicked pronto and unexpectedly. Please explain the door which you like to keep, where the honor is, what me and my committee work have to do with it, and remember that I am a poor orphan child alone in the wild anteroom with a raging Old Tiler, and not to be too hard on me?"

The Old Tiler did not smile. "I would laugh," he confessed, "only it's Masonry you are jesting about and it's not a jest. Yes, I will tell you about the door. I wish I could speak the word in capital letter."

"Masonry is a structure of brotherly love, relief and truth, cemented with affection, erected on a square to God, and towering miles high above puny humanity, its foibles and its failings. Masonry is a structure of which we, its humble builders, are proud, because we know that we have built better than we knew. We have so built, partly because we have had help from so many men of so many past ages, and partly because we have had help we could neither see nor understand."

"Some look at our temple of Masonry and wonder. Some look, shrug shoulders and pass by. Some look at our temple of Masonry and see it not; others gaze on it and seek to enter."

"In this country there are nearly 16,000 doors to our temple of Masonry, through one of which a man must pass who would see it from the inside."



There are so many doors in order that any man who desires, and who is fit, may find the door which is easy for him to enter. It is not true that it is 'hard to be as Mason.'

"We only ask that an applicant be free-born, of age, a man, and of good character. He may be high or low, rich or poor, great or obscure, famous or unknown. If he is a good man we want him to see our temple from the inside as soon as he expresses a desire to do so."

"So we have 16,000 lodges -doors- to our temple of Masonry, that no man can say he came not in because he could not find a way."

"Certain things a man must do, inside our temple, and in a certain way he must live. If he lives the life, the temple is stronger. If he does not live the life, the temple is weakened."

"Hence, Keepers of the Door. Like any other symbol in Masonry, they are three; three brethren to keep each door safe, sacred and undefiled from the footsteps of evil men, self-seekers, the wicked, the blasphemous, the immoral. Those three who keep each door are not assigned to it for any length of time."

"Not theirs a service which may become onerous from time-taking and effort. The Master appoints three Keepers of the Door for every man who tries to enter. Today there is you and John and Jim. Tomorrow it will be George and Jack and Will. The next day another three will keep the door, if any man raps upon it."

"With due humility, but infinite pride, I am the Guardian of the Locked Door. As Tiler I suffer none to pass within who have not the right. But the open door no one man may guard; it takes three."

"You were appointed tonight as one of those three. Some one has rapped at the door and now it stands ajar. To you it has been said, 'Keep thou the door; keep thou the faith; keep thou this thy temple pure and undefiled.'"

"You do not want to labor. You want to go fishing. You ask me if I will do your work for you and I answer you, gladly, if so the Master shall find me worthy of the honor."

"I shan't ask him," he answered low. "I am ashamed. I didn't understand. I am not, I know, worthy of the honor, but as well as I know how, I will keep the door.."

"I thought you might," smiled the Old Tiler. "After all, no one will catch all the fish; there will be some left for you some other time."

"Not if it interferes with being Keeper of the Door," answered the New Brother vigorously.



List of Special Events - July, 2008

- 2 Jul, Wed - Patriotic Meeting - Fulton 216, Atlanta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meet. PGM Joe Suttles, National Sojourners.
- 4 Jul, Fri - Jonesboro Parade and BBQ - Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro. 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
- 5 Jul, Sat - Pancake Breakfast - Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:30 to 10:30 am.
- 6 Jul, Sun - BBQ Lunch - Lithonia 84, Lithonia. 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- 15 Jul, Tue - MWGM Visitation - Kennesaw 33, Marietta, to present awards. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.
- 17 Jul, Thu - Golf Tournament - West Pines Golf Course, Douglasville. Proceeds to benefit Douglasville 289's Scholarship Program. 7:30 - 8:30 registration, 9:00 start. Details at <http://douglasvilleglodge.org>
- 19 Jul, Sat - Annual Car Show - Lawrenceville 131, Lawrenceville. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- 19 Jul, Sat - Statewide AMD - Tyrian 111, Warner Robbins. 9:00 am start.
- 22 Jul, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association - Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Open meeting.
- 23 Jul, Wed - Southside Memorial Assn. & Instruction - Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro. 6:30 Memorial Assn., 7:30 Lodge of Instruction, 9:00 meal.
- 26 Jul, Sat - Degree Conferral - York Rite degrees by Albany York Rite Bodies, Albany Masonic Temple. 7:00 am breakfast, 8:00 am degrees.
- 2 Aug, Sat - Pancake Breakfast - Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:30 to 10:30 am.
- 3 Aug, Sun - BBQ Lunch - Lithonia 84, Lithonia. 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- 9 Aug, Sat - Workday at the Children's Home - Districts 1, 4, 9 and 12. 7:00 am registration, 8:00 am work, noon lunch.
- 9 Aug, Sat - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - Gwinnett Daylight 744, noon lunch, meeting follows.
- 16 Aug, Sat - 4th Masonic District Convention - Hosted by Carroll 69, Carrollton. 10:00 am start.
- 23 Aug, Sat - Rock Quarry Degree - Morganton, GA; hosted by Mineral Bluff 483. Noon BBQ "at the spring".
- 24 Aug, Sun - 5th District Family Picnic - Wills Park, Alpharetta, GA; hosted by Alpharetta 235. Starts at noon.
- 19 Aug, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association - Panthersville 543, Stockbridge. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. Open meeting.
- 13 Sep, Sat - 5th Masonic District Convention - Hosted by Palmetto Daylight 755. 10:00 am start.

Traveling Trophy Roundup

4 th District SW of Atlanta	Carroll 69 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton Bowdon 206 Traveling Gavel : Temple 322, Temple Buck Creek 639 Traveling Gavel : Buck Creek 639, Carrollton Tyus 671 Traveling Gavel : Tyus 671, Tyus
5 th District Includes Atlanta	5 th District Traveling Gavel : Gate City 2, Atlanta Clarkston 492 Traveling Gavel : Gate City 2, Atlanta Roswell 165 Traveling Gavel: Roswell 165, Roswell
6 th District South of Atlanta	Jonesboro 87 Traveling Gavel : Meridian Sun 26, Griffin Rex 251 Traveling Gavel : Rex 251, Ellenwood East Point 288 Traveling Gavel : Mickey Fuller 720, Bryon Lakewood 443 Traveling Hat : Hapeville 590, Hapeville
9 th District NE of Atlanta	Gwinnett County Donkey : Mountain Park 729, Stone Mtn.

5th District Gavel rules at <http://5dist.morelight.org/>
Clarkston 492 Gavel rules at <http://www.clarkston492.com/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Schedule of Regular Communications for Lodges meeting within about 10 miles of I-285 and/or in DeKalb Co.</i></p> <p><i>All meetings start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted.</i></p>		<p>Latham 12 Kennesaw 33 Palmetto 74 Norcross 228 Masters 295 Panthersville 543 Capitol City 642 North DeKalb 714 Metro Daylight 743, 10:30 am</p>	<p>1 Fulton 216 DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club at Clarkston 492, 2 pm Gwinnett Daylight 742, noon</p>	<p>2 Roswell 165 Mountain Park 729</p>		<p>3 4 5 Samuel S. Lawrence 721</p>
	<p>6 Snellville 99 Stone Mountain 449 Union City 600</p>	<p>7 Sandy Springs 124 Springville 153 Fairburn 180, 7:00 pm Alpharetta 235 Clarkston 492 E. A. Minor 603 Ben Hill 674</p>	<p>8 James E. Sledge Daylight 742, 11:00 am</p>	<p>9 Atlanta-Peachtree 59 Lithonia 84 Mableton 171 Douglasville 289 Bolton 416 Sweetwater 421 Chamblee-Sardis 444 Zingara 519 Palestine 486, 7:00 pm Grant Park 604 Capitol View 640</p>	<p>10 Rex 251 Leroy Duncan 262 Glenwood Hills 703</p>	<p>11 12 Campbellton 76, 8:00 pm Nelms 323 Palmetto Daylight 755, 8:00 am</p>
	<p>13 Tucker 42 Philologia 178 Flint Hill 371 Piedmont 447 College Park 454 Hapeville 590</p>	<p>14 Latham 12 Kennesaw 33 Palmetto 74 Georgia 96 Norcross 228 Masters 295 Forest Park 399 Panthersville 543 Capitol City 642</p>	<p>15 16 Pythagoras 41 Roswell 165 Mountain Park 729 Charity Daylight 754, 10:30 am</p>	<p>17 18 19 Samuel S. Lawrence 721 GACHIP at GBI</p>		
	<p>20 Snellville 99 Stone Mountain 449 Union City 600</p>	<p>21 Gate City 2 Sandy Springs 124 Springville 153 Fairburn 180, 7:00 pm Alpharetta 235 Clarkston 492 - DeKalb CMA E. A. Minor 603 Ben Hill 674</p>	<p>22 Southside Memorial Assn. (location varies), 6:30 pm</p>	<p>23 Lithonia 84 Mableton 171 Douglasville 289 Bolton 416 Sweetwater 421 Chamblee-Sardis 444 Zingara 519 Palestine 486, 7:00 pm Capitol View 640</p>	<p>24 25 26 Campbellton 76, 8:00 pm Nelms 323 Palmetto Daylight 755, 8:00 am</p>	
	<p>27 Tucker 42 Philologia 178 Flint Hill 371 Piedmont 447 College Park 454 Hapeville 590</p>	<p>28 29 30 31 Fifth District Lodges DeKalb County Masonic Association Lodges (part of the Fifth District) Nearby Lodges of the Sixth, Seventh and Ninth Districts</p>				



On Masonic Investigations

The following recommendations are excerpted or summarized from the booklet "Investigation", by PGM (of Georgia) John A. Dunaway, based "Out of his experience and notes over many years and gleanings from materials published by other Grand Jurisdictions". Space limits a more complete presentation, but the Grand Lodge Office should be able to supply copies of this valuable resource.

STANDING COMMITTEE. We believe the Investigating Committee should be one of the standing committees of the lodge. It should be large enough not to impose all the work on a few.

SEPARATE INVESTIGATION BY EACH MEMBER. The consensus seems to be, and it is our opinion and recommendation, that a separate and independent investigation by each member of the committee produces the best results. It avoids the feeling of being "ganged up" upon by the petitioner, and it allows the members to pool the experiences of their three separate efforts.

COMMITTEE SHOULD BE TRAINED BY THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER. While every committee appointed should be briefed on its duties. No member should be assigned to an investigation without serious study of this guide or some other suitable resource and direction from the Worshipful Master. An occasional meeting of the investigators to share experiences is recommended.

OBJECTIVE - TWO FOLD. While the primary duty of the investigator is to learn all he can about each applicant, he has an opportunity and duty to inform the applicant and his family about Freemasonry and its mission. The applicant should be informed what he is expected to put into his lodge, as well as what he may get in return for his contribution of time and thought.

The following are suggestions for the investigator and things for him to keep in mind, and are not meant to be asked directly of an applicant.

1. Know The Code Requirements. The investigator should possess a copy of our Manual and Code, and should know thoroughly our requirements for membership, as well as the questions asked of a candidate just prior to preparation for Initiation.

2. Know Representations in The Petition. Each member of the investigating committee should read carefully and be familiar with the statements made by the applicant in his petition, see that every question is answered fully before reporting, be sure that the representations are either true or false, be sure that the candidate can read and write, and check both his marital and criminal record.

3. Start with Recommenders. In the Entered Apprentice degree we are charged to be particularly attentive not to recommend a candidate unless we "are convinced he will conform to our rules, that the honor, glory and reputation of the institution may be firmly established and the world at large convinced of its good effects". However, some brethren compromise with this principle; therefore it is logical that the investigation begin by a personal conference with each recommender. How long has he been personally acquainted with the petitioner? How well does he know him? Is there any hesitancy in recommending him for the degrees?

4. Visit Applicant In Home. A visit with the applicant in his home to observe his home life and talk to the members of his family is the only way to find out some things that ought to be known. Three separate visits by the members of the committee should impress a wife and family members that to become a Mason is no frivolous or trivial matter - at least, not to Masons. By the third investigator's visit, it will be found that the applicant and family will ask more questions, and talk more freely.

5. Domestic and Financial. Is his home life happy? What seems to be his attitude toward his wife and children, and their attitudes towards him? If divorced, upon what grounds was the divorce? Does he object to these questions? If there are other children, does he support them as well? How does he spend his leisure time? Will he have time to be of service to the lodge? What is his professional reputation? Does it appear that his income is adequate to his obligations?

6. Disposition. Is he charitable in thought and action toward his fellowman, or bigoted and prejudiced? Is his attitude generally one of cheerful compliance with required regulations?

7. Moral Standards. Is he profane or foul-mouthed in speech? Does he have a criminal record, or has he been known to engage in illegal activity? Does he endeavor to deal with others according to the "Golden Rule"? If a veteran, how was he discharged from service?

8. Belief in God. Does he believe in the sanctity of an oath, and would an oath of secrecy conflict with the teachings of his faith? Does he believe in a Supreme Being, some revelation of His Will, and the immortality of the soul? Freemasonry requires no specific belief about God, but a Mason must acknowledge the sovereignty of God over all life. Does his or his wife's faith have some opposition to Freemasonry?

9. Conception of Masonry. What is his concept of the institution? What is it based on? Why does he think Masons gather, and what does he think they hope to achieve?



Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

Foolish Questions

"Jones is a nut!" remarked the New Brother to the Old Tiler. "I went with him yesterday to look up an applicant for membership. I didn't know much about such things, so I let him do the talking. And the questions that man asked!"

"What did he want to know?"

"First, he wanted to know what kind of job the applicant held, how long he had been there, where he had worked before, was he satisfied, did he like his boss, how much he made and whether he saved any of it or spent it all!"

"Quite right, too," commented the Old Tiler.

"He wanted to know if the applicant was a solid citizen, able to pay his dues and unlikely to become a charge on the lodge. Chap who holds a job today and leaves it tomorrow for another is apt to be an applicant for charity."

"But that's one of the things a lodge is for- charity," said the New Brother.

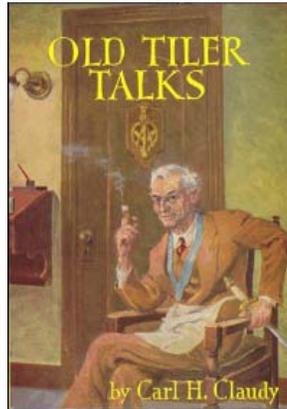
"To its members who are in need, yes," answered the Old Tiler. "But no lodge willingly takes in members who may need charity. Masonry is not a crutch for the indigent. It is a staff for those who go lame in life's journey, but when a man starts out lame he has to get crutches from some other institution."

"He asked, 'Why do you want to become a Mason?' that seemed to me an impertinence. A man's reasons for wanting to join Masonry are no business of ours."

"Is that so!" answered the Old Tiler. "Son, you know so many things that are not so! I have been on the petitions of a great many men and that is always my first question. I have heard many answers. Some men want to join because their fathers were Masons. Some think it will help them in life. Some frankly say they want to make friends so they can be successful. Others think that Masonry will help them in their religion. Still others want to be Masons because they want to belong to a secret society."

"But why is that our business?"

"A man who wants to join a fraternity because his father belonged, is good material," answered the Old Tiler. "He wants to imitate his father. As his father was a Mason it is probable that he was a good man. If the applicant desires to imitate a good man, and thinks we can help him, his motives are worthy. The man who wants to become a Mason to stiffen his religious belief is not a good candidate. Masonry demands no religion of its applicants, merely a belief



In Deity. A man with religious convictions which are slipping and looks for something to prop them up, should go elsewhere than the Masonic Altar. Asking nothing but a belief in God, we have a right to demand that that belief be strong, well-grounded, unshakable, and beyond question.

"The man who says he wants to join the Masonic order because he wants to belong to a secret society doesn't get asked any more questions! He is through right there. Masonry is no haven for curiosity seekers. The chap who thinks Masonry will make him friends who will help him in his business gets nowhere with a good committee. Masonry is not a business club. Imagine a man going to a minister and saying: 'I want to join your church so I can sell lawn mowers to your members.' Would the minister want him? Masonry is not a church, but it is holy to Masons. Masonry is a bright and shining light in a man's heart which must not be sullied by profane motives. To attempt to use Masonry for business is like using the Bible to sit on-diverting from the proper purpose that which should be held sacred.

"The man who answers that question by saying, 'I have always heard of Masons as men who receive help in being good men; I would like to have the privilege of becoming a member,' is approaching the matter in the right spirit. Masonry doesn't hunt the man, the man must hunt the lodge. And he must hunt with a pure motive, or cannot join any good lodge, with a good committee. The motive is vitally important. We want to know if he can afford \$50 for a fee and \$5 a year for dues. If they have to rob their children to join we have no use for them. We want to know if a man stands well with his fellows outside the lodge; if so he is apt to stand well with them inside. If he has few friends and those of doubtful character, the chances are he is not good timber for us. "Masonry is what we make it. Every good man who comes into a lodge helps the fraternity. Every insincere man, every scoffer, every dishonest man who gets into lodge, injures the fraternity. Masonry can accomplish good in the hearts of men only as it is better than they are. When it becomes less good than the average man, the average man will not want to join, and Masonry's power will be gone.

"The price of liberty, so we are told, is eternal vigilance. The price of quality in a lodge is eternal care by the investigation committee. An important job, it should be approached with the idea that the future of the lodge and of Masonry to some extent rests on the man making the investigation.

"Hm. Thanks. See you later.

"You're welcome- but what is your hurry?"

"Got to find Jones and tell him I'm the nut. Then ask the Master to let me go with him again and see if I can't see something else in his questions besides foolishness!" answered the New Brother.

