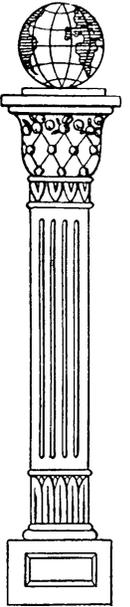


THE COLUMNS

PLEASANTS LODGE #63 AF & AM

Located at 622 W. Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24018
Mailing address: P.O. Box 12067, Roanoke, VA 24022
Stated Meeting, Third Monday of each Month, 7:30 PM
Phone: 540-632-2163 Email: contact@pleasants63.org
www.pleasants63.org



November 2013

Worshipful Master - Fred Marion Burns

Senior Warden	Duffy Jerome Ferguson	Junior Warden	Stuart Matthew Bain
Secretary	Sidney Warren Bush, Sr.	Treasurer	David Eugene Campbell, II
Senior Deacon	Michael Lynn Johnson	Junior Deacon	Timothy Morris Shepherd
Chaplain	Charles Henry Stowe	Tiler	Kenneth Ray Robinette
Senior Steward	Glen Wayne Hall	Junior Steward	David Reed Hamblin

Brethren,

Where has the year gone? We've been so busy that I'm just now realizing that there is only one and half more Stated Communications to my year in the East. And my last Master's Message as the next one will be done by the new, actually recycled, Master, Wor. Duffy Ferguson. In case I forget I want to take this opportunity to thank all those brothers and their ladies for their support this year. It would not have been as successful without your continued support.

At our October Stated, Wor. Haydn Dudley gave the members of the lodge a report on the status of our funds that he has invested for us. We are in great shape thanks to his tutelage.

As has been reported, Pleasants Lodge is very active in the Child ID program which has been under the capable hands of Wor. Ferguson for several years. At last count we have provided over 3200 kits to families in the Roanoke area. That is just outstanding! All those kits require not only manpower to assemble and to have ready for use but also funds to purchase the required materials. To assist in this the lodge held a fund raiser this month that raised almost \$500 for that purpose. This was possible through the donations of the members and especially their ladies in providing the food for the event. Thank you.

Just a few nights ago we initiated a new brother, Joel Scott Wyatt, into the fraternity. Once again the brethren in the District helped to put this degree on with the lecture given by Wor. Fred Knapp of Vinton Lodge.

November is the time for the Grand Annual Communication in Richmond. MW Kerry Campbell will be presiding over his last meeting as Grand Master and will pass the baton on to his Deputy Grand Master. Several members of the lodge will be in attendance at the event.

After Grand Lodge our own Stated Communication will be November 18 which will be a Ladies night for us. Come on out and enjoy some great food and fellowship. We will also be making several awards that night.

As always, should you need a ride to lodge please call me and I will make arrangements for you to get to lodge and return home. My number is 540-525-4782.

Thank you and God bless.

Fred Burns
Worshipful Master

From the West Gate

Would whoever stole the middle half of the year please return it, how did it get to be November already?!?! It's hard to believe we are drawing to the close of another year, but here we are, Grand Lodge is next week and Bill Seymour is already nagging me about my program for installation and there are Christmas decorations up in the stores already. To partially answer my own question, it has been a relatively busy year, the Child Id program continues to grow as we receive invitations and create partnerships with groups that we have been hoping for over the last couple of years. To date, 3,245 child id kits have been provided to families in the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas as a result of the hard work and dedication of so many friends and brothers both in Pleasants, Vinton and several of the lodges in our combined districts. This could not have been accomplished without your hard work and I am so very thankful and grateful for your service. I look forward to watching the program continue to grow under the leadership of Michael Johnson as he takes over the reigns as District Coordinator. I am not disappearing, just taking a step back as I resume the East next year as a retreaded Master of the Lodge, unless Wor. Fred wants another year, (silence).

As we continue to grow this program and our other works in the community, I feel that we need to really look at growing from within. Death, relocations and other issues have taken a number of brothers from not only our lodge but a lot of our sister lodges in the district. How to retain, and increase our numbers as well as get our members active has been a question asked by masters since before I served in the East in 2009. No one person has all the answers, but it is my hope that together as a family we can figure this out together. That is my hope for next year. In the mean time, I have had a schedule change at work and now am on daylight. Trust me after 14 and a half years on night shift, both me and my family at home are still trying to figure this one out, but thankfully Jamie has not tried to kill me after having me home every night for 2 months. This means I am more accessible in the evenings, with less time available during the daylight hours as they actually expect me to be working while the sun is up now. If there is anything the lodge, our officers or myself can do to help, please ask.

I conclude with a quote, "Be silent, if you choose. But when it is necessary, speak and speak in such a way that people will remember it." Brother Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Wor. Duffy Ferguson, Senior Warden

Secretary Sez

Please join the officers in extending congratulations to our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Joel Scott Wyatt. Brother Wyatt was initiated Oct. 28.

My brothers, while many of us are advancing in age don't let that be an excuse to not come to lodge either to Stated Communications, Called Communications for Degree Work or the usual Monday Ritual School at the Lodge. This is YOUR lodge, won't you come and support the officers as they continue their work? If you are uncomfortable with driving at night, we would be more than happy to provide transportation to and from the lodge and who knows, you might just rekindle a friendship that has been dormant for awhile.

There will be a Ladies Night Monday November 18 and several special awards to be presented to MW Chambliss, MW Campbell and Dr. Andrew Slemp.

Wor. Sid Bush, Secretary

Birthdays

Thomas Edward Purves	Nov. 3	Roger Eugene Thomas, Jr.	Dec. 2	Christopher Scott St. Clair	Jan. 3
Eric Roland Spencer	Nov. 6	John Dickerson Nunn	Dec. 11	James Luther Craft	Jan. 7
Alfred Kyle Tuck, Jr.	Nov. 6	David Andrew Cummings	Dec. 11	Joshua Adam Wickline	Jan. 8
Kenneth Ray Robinette	Nov. 10	Paul Thomas Smith, Jr.	Dec. 12	Charles Dunmore Fox, IV	Jan. 12
Hubert Ralph Lane	Nov. 12	Francis John Nardi	Dec. 14	Michael Lynn Johnson	Jan. 13
Carl Allen Balderson	Nov. 14	Jeffrey Roy Wendell	Dec. 16	Timothy Arnold Fitzgerald	Jan. 17
Charles Wesley Hale	Nov. 16	Max Cameron Johnson	Dec. 24	Mike Fries	Jan. 17
Gerald Allan Pope	Nov. 17	Edward Lee Jewell, Jr.	Dec. 27	Jeffrey Lynn Butler	Jan. 19
Robert Tasker Carter, II	Nov. 20	Kerford Aldin Key	Dec. 29	Daniel Gilbert Oakey	Jan. 21
Adam McCulloch Williams	Nov. 20			Brian Noland Stroop	Jan. 23
William Holcomb Jennings	Nov. 21			Arthur Douglas St. Clair	Jan. 26
Taha Hasayn Bullock	Nov. 22			Harry Robert Deaton, Jr.	Jan. 29
Sidney Warren Bush, Sr.	Nov. 24				

A man whose conscience never bothers him, must have it well trained!

THE REBELLION OF THE SOUTH

On April 17, 1861, the Commonwealth of Virginia adopted the Ordinance of Secession and joined the Confederate States of America. The war between the states had begun, and would last for four years (1861–1865).

The Roanoke Guards were formed in July, 1861. It numbered 110 men and entered the Confederate Army as Co. K, 54th Regt., Virginia Volunteers. In addition to the Roanoke Guards, there were 556 soldiers from Roanoke (which included Salem). There was also the Roanoke Greys, the Dixie Greys and the Salem Flying Artillery.

Raymond P. Barnes reminds us that, "It should be stressed that of all who went to war, comparatively few came of slave-holding families. As Virginians they loved and were loyal to their state and flew to arms to defend her sovereignty.

The War Between the States was waged not to free the slaves, as so many text books would have this generation to believe, but to determine the legality of whether individual states could secede from the Union. Virginia, the last of the southern states to announce her secession, did so reluctantly and was well aware that the fiercest battles would be waged on her soil.

As everyone knows the Confederacy lost to overwhelming odds, but the personnel of her armies were far from defeat.

Although there was no 'lend-lease,' 'Marshall Plan' or other financial aid to the stricken South, and Northern fanatics tried hard to grind her deeper under a conqueror's heel, the men of the South and their descendants fought circumstances just as determinedly as they waged war and at long last the South, financially at least, is coming into her rightful heritage.

"Here, too, in the South there still slumbers the doctrine of states rights, although continuing efforts are being made to break down this last principle on which so many of our vaunted rights for the individual man are based. While it may be a good thing that the Confederacy lost and the Union was saved, the creeping inroads upon state sovereignty by a central federal government acting through different agencies has never in the

history of our nation presented such a grave threat to the liberty of the individual."

Gen. Averell of the Union Army Hits Salem

On December 16, 1863, a fair and cold day Gen. William W. Averell, commanding a department of the Federal Army in West Virginia, decided to strike a portion of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad either near Bonsack's or Salem.

General Averell was a shrewd tactician and a tough fighter. He had in his command the second, third and eighth divisions of the West Virginia Mounted Infantry, which made his column four miles long. He came over the mountain to Monterey which is in Highland County, then took a route to Sweet Springs. When he hit the top of the mountain he included in his official report the following:

"A sublime spectacle was presented to us. Seventy miles to the eastward the Peaks of Otter reared their summits above the Blue Ridge, and all of the space between us filled with a billowing ocean of hills and mountains, while behind us the great Alleghanies, coming from the north with the grandeur of unnumerable tints, swept past and faded into the southern horizon."

General Averell stopped within 12 miles of New Castle for rest, and then proceeded on to Hanging Rock. Gen. Sam Jones got word at his headquarters in Dublin of the movement of General Averell, and flashed the word to Jubal Early, and John McCausland, but all was too late to defend Salem, so McCausland thought he would set a trap from Newport to Staunton and catch Averell on his way out. In the meantime Averell, realizing that his position had been spotted, sent his forces out four miles west and six miles east to destroy the rails. This was not without difficulty, since the rails were tough to remove and they resorted to piling ties across the rails and starting fires to produce heat, but it didn't help much. However they were successful in tearing up about 10 miles of the railroad and the depot at Salem was burned, along with all culverts and bridges. In addition to this Averell forces destroyed and carried off the following:

100 wagons
20 bales of cotton
10,000 bushels of shelled corn
100,000 bushels of wheat
2000 lbs of meat
1000 sacks of salt
31 boxes of clothing

Averell's raid was successful for we couldn't afford to lose items of this nature. Averell had hit around 10:00 A.M. and he pulled out at 4:00 P.M. and headed over the mountain towards Catawba. He had a treat in store for heavy rain and sleet began to fall the next day, and many of his soldiers suffered many broken bones in falling on the ice, but he was able to escape and avoid the Confederate trap, after burning bridges at Covington. When he was safe at Beverly, W.Va. Averell summed up his loses as follows: 3 officers, two sergeants, 14 corporals and 119 privates. He marched a column four miles in length 400 miles in eight days. The Virginia & Tennessee railroad was repaired within three or four days and the bridges and culverts replaced. This ended the first Yankee invasion of Roanoke County and Salem.

The Great Ske-daddle

On June 17-18, 1864 General David Hunter lost the battle of Lynchburg and started his line of retreat through Liberty (Bedford) along the line of the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad as far west as Salem.

A Union soldier, named the retreat, "The Great Skedaddle." The Union Army would meet with many hardships. General Hunter's troops were hungry and they ate the gardens clean, like a cow mowing grass, and digging up small potatoes and eating them raw. The folks in the valley of Roanoke drove all of their cattle and other livestock into the mountains away from the touch and destruction of the Yankee forces. The Union forces were driven out of Liberty and they were in a state of confusion. There are many stories about Hunter's retreat through the Valley of Roanoke from Lynchburg. Many of the houses along route 460 were used as hospitals for the soldiers of both sides. Some of those old homes were still standing in the year 1970.

The Big Lick Depot was burned, but thanks be to glory, no homes or farms were burned in Roanoke County. The Yankees didn't have the forces, or time, for it was indeed the "Great Skedaddle."

General John McCausland, of the Confederacy, led his cavalry along the base of Green Ridge, thence

by the Cove Road to fall upon the Yankees in the narrow pass near Hanging Rock. The report states further that four pieces of artillery were captured and six others disabled by the enemy burning the carriages. 10 guns were captured in all.

Raymond P. Barnes reports that, "amongst the cavalry forces of the Confederacy engaged at Hanging Rock. Company A, organized at Rocky Mount on August 4, 1862, was present at the battle. Reuben H. Fishburne, father of our Blair Fishburne, a member of the company, played a leading role in publishing a history of his old outfit after a reunion in 1910."

The battle at Hanging Rock was a mess, with material and horses scattered all over the place. The Yankees had dropped their food, meat, beef & dead chickens. This ended the last contact that our forces of the Roanoke Valley had with the Northern Invasion. The Yankees were not seen again in Roanoke County, and soon the War Between the States would end (ended at Appomattox 4/9/1865) and the effort of reconstruction would begin. There is reason to believe that had it not been for the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad, the Yankees would not have been in these parts in the first place.