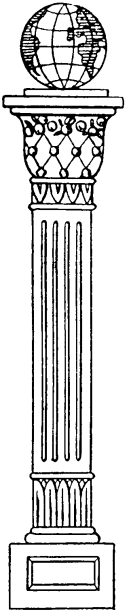


THE COLUMNS

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



September 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

My Brethren,

It's SUMMERTIME and things are a bit slower for a few months but we are gearing up for Fall activities and looking forward to initiating several new men to our fraternity and Lodge. Watch the Blue Bulletin for dates and times for these degree nights. And as always, we would love to have you come out and support our new brethren and perhaps reacquaint yourself with our beloved ritual. Don't be worried if you have forgotten that all important word, we will be happy to assist you. As always, should you need a ride to lodge for Stated Meetings or to any of our functions you need only to call and someone will be glad to provide a ride (540-525-4782).

Coming up September 7 is a cook out honoring our youth organizations, DeMolay and Job's Daughters. Recall that MW Campbell's motto for this year is "Masonry's Youth, Masonry's Future". Come and meet these fine young ladies and men.

As many know we at Pleasants Lodge have been a supporter of the Virginia Child ID program for many years and have been responsible for the identification of hundreds of children, providing printed and visual identification to parents free of charge. This, of course, can get to be expensive, purchasing supplies and obtaining needed upgrades to software and hardware. To that end we are holding a Chili and Spaghetti dinner fund raiser Saturday October 19 in the dining hall at the Scottish Rite building. This is open to everyone so please come and support this worthy event. The cost is \$6 per person.

Thank you and God Bless.

Fred Burns
Worshipful Master

Secretary Sez...

Those of you who have been members of the Lodge for a long time perhaps remember the 100th Anniversary of Pleasants Lodge which was celebrated back in 1989. At that time a committee was formed of Brethren of the Lodge to put together an anthology of the lodge. This was spearheaded by MW William T. Watkins who is listed as the author of the work, "100 Years in the Roanoke Valley". In December 2014 we will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of Pleasants and in the months coming up to that event we will be providing excerpts of material from this volume as well as excerpts from the minutes of past Stated communications. I think that all will find the forthcoming history about our lodge most interesting.

If any of you "veterans" have any stories you would like to share please send them to me so they may be included in upcoming issues of "The columns".

This issue's history is about "Uncle Billy", Most Worshipful William Henry Pleasants (1831-1914). (Please note that many of the articles being presented will be photocopies of lodge records and therefore may not be in the best condition.) Full credit is given to MW Watkins and his committee for all excerpts used from "100 years in the Roanoke Valley" in this and all future issues of *The Columns*.

Sid Bush, Secretary

Officers of Pleasants Lodge - 1889

Worshipful Master - Horace N. Claxton
Senior Warden - John Chalmers
Junior Warden - George C. McCahan
Treasurer - G. G. Anderson
Secretary - H. C. Macklin
Senior Deacon - W. Budwell
Junior Deacon - F. L. Wood
Tiler - W. H. Walthall

Pleasants is the third oldest of the 12 Roanoke Valley lodges. In 1889, it grew out of Lakeland Lodge which was organized in the 1860's. Only Lakeland and Taylor Lodge in Salem have been around longer.*

**From an article by Betsey Biesenbach as it appeared in the Neighbors section of The Times & World News (now known as the Roanoke Times)*

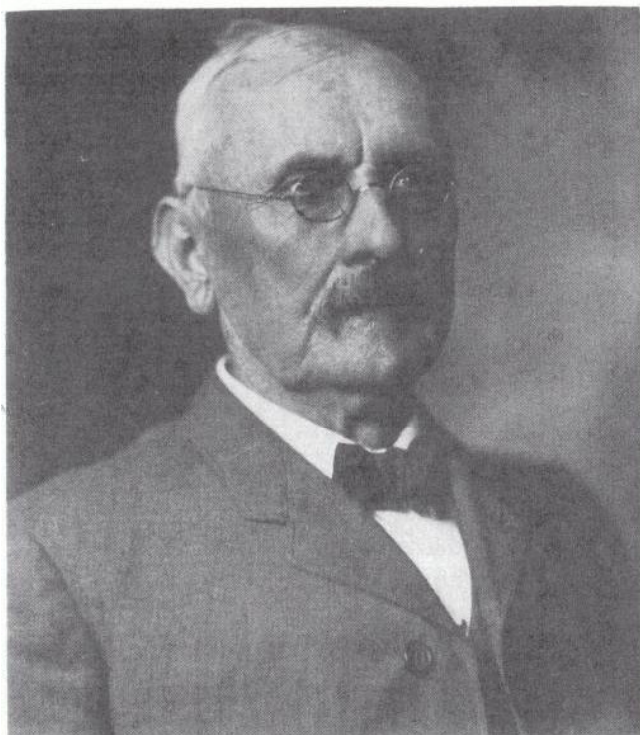
There are now only 10 lodges due to consolidation in the past few years. Also, Lakeland Lodge used to be located downtown before merging with Virginia Heights and moving to Grandin Rd.

Birthdays

James Richard Meredith	Sept 1	Eddie Franklin Hearp	October 3	Thomas Edward Purves	Nov. 3
Emory Cary Crowder, Jr.	Sept 6	Troy Gardner	October 6	Eric Roland Spencer	Nov. 6
Joseph Edward Reade	Sept 6	Richard Arthur Mowles	October 14	Alfred Kyle Tuck, Jr.	Nov. 6
Paul Brown Caldwell	Sept 11	Raymond Oscar Patsel	October 15	Kenneth Ray Robinette	Nov. 10
Ellard Vincent Youngberg	Sept 14	David Eugene Campbell II	October 15	Hubert Ralph Lane	Nov. 12
Richard Wayne Booth, Sr.	Sept 15	Donn Waldron Branch	October 17	Carl Allen Balderson	Nov. 14
Paul Dale Walrond	Sept 16	Jack Ford Wright, Jr.	October 19	Charles Wesley Hale	Nov. 16
Haden Thurston Dudley, III	Sept 19	David Isaac Bower	October 28	Gerald Allan Pope	Nov. 17
Andrew Martin Yuhas	Sept 20	Carl Lee Cronk	October 30	Robert Tasker Carter, II	Nov. 20
Stuart Matthew Bain	Sept 24	Mark Anthony Gibson	October 30	Adam McCulloch Williams	Nov. 20
John William Hardin	Sept 25	Glen Wayne Hall	October 30	William Holcomb Jennings	Nov. 21
Timothy Morris shepherd	Sept 28			Taha Hasayn Bullock	Nov. 22
Francis Stedman Hylton	Sept 29			Sidney Warren Bush, Sr.	Nov. 24

Dedicated to the Imperishable Memory of a Great Mason

William Henry Pleasants (1831–1914)



Joseph Corbin Pleasants and Susana Burton were married in eastern Virginia and to this marriage were born two children; William Henry and one daughter Minta.

William Henry Pleasants was born in Piquenogue, Virginia near Richmond. He was educated in the local schools there and later graduated as a major in Latin from the University of Virginia. He would later receive his Dr. of Law Degree from Washington & Lee University.

William Henry Pleasants married the sister of Dr. Charles L. Cocke, who took control of the Valley Union Seminary (now Hollins College) in 1846. William Henry Pleasants was the father of two children,

Mary Minta and Harry B. Pleasants.

William Henry came to Hollins in 1852 and in due time became Dean of the College. It was said that as a teacher, William Henry Pleasants, had no superior or rival. He was a man that loved a joke and smoked a pipe. He stated that the human mind is not only a place to store facts, but to train to habits of observation, reflection and correct reasoning.

Brother Pleasants was made a Master Mason in Mazeppa Lodge No. 139 at Botetourt Springs (now Hollins) on March 5, 1870. He served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1874. Mazeppa Lodge met at the home of Mrs. E.B. Dillard. The name of Mazeppa Lodge was changed to Turner Lodge No. 139 on December 10, 1878 in honor of the Lodge secretary and past master, Joseph A. Turner. Joseph A. Turner was business manager of Hollins College.

Brother Pleasants served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 17th Masonic District in 1875, 1879, and 1880. The 17th District comprised lodges in Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke Counties (nine lodges). Travel to inspect lodges was either by train or horseback.

The new Lodge in Roanoke, Virginia, chartered on December 20, 1889, named Pleasants Lodge No. 63, would bear the name of "Pleasants" in honor of this good and great man. As William Henry Pleasants grew into manhood and beyond he was known to his many friends as "Uncle Billy", and he was known and loved by so many people. Everyone loved to go and visit with Uncle Billy at Turner Lodge. Mt. Wor. W.L. Andrews reports that throughout Roanoke, and beyond, the brethren would want to know when the District Deputy would make his official visit to Hollins, and he later was to report that soon it would take a 10 acre field to house the brethren who wished

to be with Uncle Billy.

William Henry Pleasants became Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in the years 1891 and 1892. It was the custom to serve two years in early times.

Brother Pleasants was Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia in 1889. He was the charter High Priest of Murray Royal Arch Chapter from 1885 through 1889. Brother Pleasants was a man of strong understanding, of keen, broad and un-failing interest in all that concerned humanity; lov-able and genial, with great personal magnetism.

Brother William Henry Pleasants left this world in 1914 and was buried with Masonic Honors by Pleasants Lodge No. 63, with graveside services by past Grand Master William L. Andrews of Lakeland Lodge and Pleasants Lodge. His body was laid to rest in the family plot above the hill from Hollins

College. "He Builided better than he knew."

On January 7, 1891, Brother Pleasants ad-dressed the membership of Pleasants Lodge No. 63, and his remarks were so articulate and eloquent that a resolution of thanks was prepared and sent to Brother Pleasants and spread upon the minutes of the Lodge on April 20, 1891 stating that the instruc-tive and edifying lecture on the history of Free-masonry, giving a most graphic account of the glori-ous past of our ancient brotherhood, filled with noblest achievements in enlightening the darkness of ignorance, preserving in their pristine strength and beauty the secrets of Freemasonry, and advanc-ing the civilization of the world and the sacred cause of human brotherhood.

William Henry Pleasants was elected to Honor-ary Membership in Pleasants Lodge on May 18, 1891.

