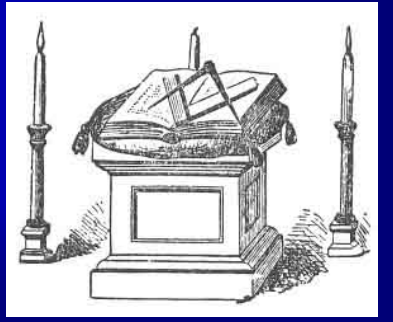




On Yonder Book



From The East: State of the Lodge

Fort Valley Lodge # 110 is strong and healthy. We have always been blessed with Brethren that move out and perform great labor in our lodge's name.

Fort Valley Lodge is rapidly becoming known throughout the state as a "true working Lodge" that is not opposed to trying new things and is strongly entrenched in our local community.

Visits to our sister lodges give us a great opportunity to crosstalk and experience this Brotherhood at its finest.

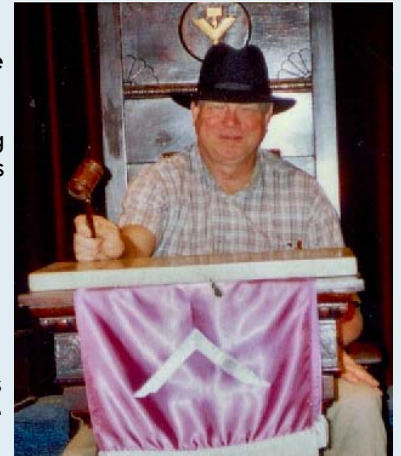
Our ritual programs (including Code Book and

Etiquette testing is moving along well). Practices are crisp and well organized.

New members are coming based upon our programs and enthusiasm.

Members in arrears on their dues are catching up.

In general, our Lodge is very healthy. Truly, this is our Lodge and the "Peace and Harmony" that prevails is wonderful.



Above: WM Phil Wyatt sits under the hat for the first time.

Below: Items purchased and donated as part of the Fort Valley #110 Secret Bunny Project.

Phil

Quotes heard:

- "We are an awesome Lodge."
- "Build a quality program and they will come."
- "I always enjoy Lodge meetings and am never disappointed."
- "Your Lodge (Ft, Valley # 110) is a working Lodge in the truest sense of the term."

Coming Events:

- 4 July 06—Independence Day
- 11 July 06—Regular Communication (always 2nd and 4th Tuesday)
- 18 July—Lodge Practice w/Brother Tommy Gaines, PM (always 3rd Tue)
- 12 Sep 06—Past Master's Night
- 23-25 Oct 06—Grand Lodge
- 10-11 Nov 06—Peach Regional Rodeo
- 14 Nov 06—Annual Anniversary Dinner

Fort Valley Lodge # 110 Secret Bunny Project was a wonderful success

Through the pastor at First United Methodist Church in Warner Robins, the First Lady was able to identify a needy family and make their Easter much more joyful.

I am told that the "gifts" included a canned ham, other food items, baskets specifically tailored to the children, a riding scooter and other items.

The First Lady and her secret helpers did a fantastic job for which we should all be thankful.

It was stressed to the Pastor that this project had to remain anonymous to fulfill our pledge.

Brothers— take pride in your Easter contribution. To all those who contributed funds through specific donations to the Secret Bunny fund (enclosed with their dues) and the Brethren that *contributed* during the Valentine's Day dinner, your Lodge thanks you.

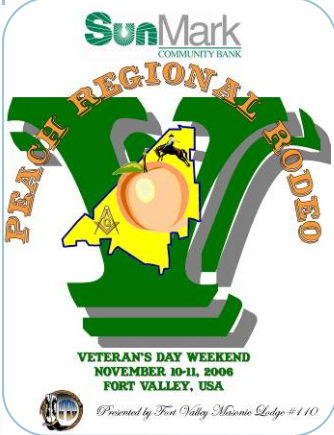
Remember our "Secret Santa Project" in December.

Todd Lavender

Editor



Preparations for 5th Annual Peach Regional Rodeo Underway



Official Program Cover for the 5th Annual Peach Regional Rodeo

Preparations for the 5th Annual Peach Regional Rodeo are in full swing.

Many of our major sponsors are again pledging their support for this worthwhile event for our regional community.

Once again SunMark Community Bank has stepped forward to be the Major Corporate sponsor for this year's rodeo.

All brethren are encouraged to become part of this annual event by lending whatever

talents our Creator has given you to our cause. Please call any member of our Rodeo Executive Committee to join in. This event is suitable for your entire family to take part.

Our brother Alex Haynes has developed a tremendous website to promote the rodeo and an additional website to promote the many Masonic organizations of Peach County, Georgia. The rodeo website is: www.peachregionalrodeo.com and the Peach County Masonic page is: www.peachcountymasons.org.

Please visit these site and register in the forum and roll your sleeves up for a successful rodeo.

We will order shirts and jackets for any member that would like to order them, contact Todd Lavender @478-319-3001.

Todd Lavender
Chairman,
2006 Peach Regional Rodeo
Executive Committee

Are you a Master Mason?

"I have been a Mason for a year now," remarked the Young Brother to the Old Past Master. "While I find a great deal in Masonry to enjoy and like the fellows and all that, I am more or less in the dark as to what good Masonry really is in the world. I don't mean I can't appreciate its charity or its fellowship, but it seems to me that I don't get much out of it. I can't really see why it has any function outside of the relationship we enjoy in the Lodge and the charitable acts we do."

"I think I could win an argument about you," smiled the Past Master.

"An argument about me?"

"Yes. You say you have been a Master Mason for a year. I think I could prove to the satisfaction of a jury of your peers, who would not need to be Master Masons, that while you are a Lodge member in good standing, you are not a Master Mason."

"I don't think I quite understand," puzzled the Young Mason. "I was quite surely initiated, passed, and raised. I have my certificate and my good standing card. I attend Lodge regularly. I do what work I am assigned. If that isn't being a Master Mason, what is?"

"You have the body but not the spirit," retorted the Old Past Master. "You eat the husks and disregard the kernel. You know the ritual and fail to understand its meaning. You carry the documents, but for you they attest but an empty form. You do not understand the first underlying principle, which makes Masonry the great force she is. And yet, in spite of it, you enjoy her blessings, which is one of her miracles. A man may love and profit by what he does not comprehend."

"I just don't understand you at all. I am sure I am a good Mason."

"No man is a good Mason who thinks the Fraternity has no function beyond pleasant association in the Lodge and charity. There are thousands of Masons who seldom see the inside of a Lodge and, therefore, miss the fellowship. There are thousands who never need or support her charity and so never come in contact with one of its many features. Yet these may take freely and largely from the treasure house which is Masonry.

"Masonry, my young friend, is an opportunity. It gives a man a chance to do and to be, among the world of men, something he otherwise could not attain. No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises again the

same man. At the altar something is taken from him never to return, his feelings of living for himself alone. Be he ever so selfish, ever so self-centered, ever so much an individualist, at the altar he leaves behind him some of the dross of his purely profane make-up.

"No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises the same man because, in the place where the dross and selfish were, is put a little of the most Divine spark which men may see. Where was the self-interest is put an interest in others. Where was the egotism is put love for one's fellow man. You say that the 'Fraternity has no function.' Man, the Fraternity performs the greatest function of any institution at work among men in that it provides a common meeting ground where all of us be our creed, our social position, our wealth, our ideas, our station in life what they may, may meet and understand one another.

"What caused the Civil War? Failure of one people to understand another and an inequality of men which this country could not endure. What caused the Great War? Class hatred. What is the greatest leveler of class in the world? Masonry. Where is the only place in which a capitalist and laborer, socialist and democrat, fundamentalist and modernist, Jew and Gentile, sophisticated and simple alike meet and forget their differences? In a Masonic Lodge, through the influence of Masonry. "Masonry, which opens her portals to men because they are men, not because they are wealthy or wise or foolish or great or small but because they seek the brotherhood which only she can give.

"Masonry has no function? Why, son, the function of charity, great as it is, is the least of the things Masonry does. The fellowship in the Lodge, beautiful as it is, is at best not much more than one can get in any good club, association, or organization. These are the beauties of Masonry, but they are also beauties of other organizations. The great fundamental beauty of Masonry is all her own. She, and only she, stretches a kindly and loving hand around the world, uniting millions in a bond too strong for breaking. Time has demonstrated that Masonry is too strong for war, too strong for hate, too strong for jealousy and fear. The worst of men

Anonymous

have used the strongest of means and have but pushed Masonry to one side for the moment; not all their efforts have broken her, or ever will!

"Masonry gives us all a chance to do and to be; to do a little, however humble the part, in making the world better; to be a little larger, a little fuller in our lives, a little nearer to the G.A.O.T.U. And unless a man understands this, believes it, takes it to his heart, and lives it in his daily life, and strives to show it forth to others in his every act unless he live and love and labor in his Masonry. I say he is no Master Mason; aye, though he belong to all Rites and carry all cards, though he be hung as a Christmas tree with jewels and pins, though he be an officer in all Bodies. But the man who has it in his heart and sees in Masonry the chance to be in reality what he has sworn he would be, a brother to his fellow Masons, is a Master Mason though he be raised but tonight, belongs to no body but his Blue Lodge, and be too poor to buy and wear a single pin."

The Young Brother, looking down, unfastened the emblem from his coat lapel and handed it to the Old Past Master. "Of course, you are right," he said, lowly. "Here is my pin. Don't give it back to me until you think I am worthy to wear it." The Old Past Master smiled. "I think you would better put it back now," he answered gently. "None are more fit to wear the Square and Compasses than those who know themselves unworthy, for they are those who strive to be real Masons.

Valentine's Day Dinner Full of Hearts

On 14 February 2006, the regular communication of Fort Valley Lodge # 110 was swiftly concluded by the Worshipful Master, The Senior Warden and the Junior Warden. This expedited meeting was necessary so we could join our wives and girlfriends that we gathering at Tapita-tioes Mexican Restaurant (a proud rodeo sponsor).

This social event was designed to honor our ladies on this special Valentine's Day.

To keep with the theme of having some fun and truly letting the women know how much the lodge has grown to depend upon them for lots of things, the officers declared

that: "For this evening, any discussion of Masonic activity would require a fine of \$1."

This added some fun to the evening and actually cost some enthusiastic Brethren a few bucks—like the WM.

All was well as the First Lady collected the "donated funds" and used them for the Secret Bunny project.

This was planned to be just the first of several family oriented events. Check your calendar.

Evvie Wyatt
2006 First Lady

The Compasses

As I contemplate some of the major symbols used in Freemasonry, it occurs to me that there exist a lot of writing about the Holy Scriptures and the Square with less attention to the Compasses--which deserve our attention also.

As a recently raised Master Mason pointed out to me--the idea of the compasses to "circumscribe our passions and keep them within due bounds" contains some deep and sometimes subtle principles.

While we all readily recognize this as applying to excessive commitment to work, hobbies, etc. sometimes we may not realize it equally applies to our association with the numerous Masonic organizations. I would suggest that we need to be constantly aware of the working tools lecture in the EA degree wherein we were

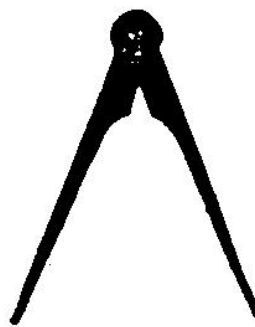
taught to subdivide our days and keep items in balance.

I see constant examples of Brothers who forget this unique lesson and allow Freemasonry to steal time that should be devoted to other priorities--like family, work, religion, etc. I do not mean this article to suggest that Brethren should do any less for Masonry, not dampen their zeal for the institution; but rather, to remind us all of the total commitments we have in our lives--to which Masonry is only one.

In Brotherly Love,

Phil

Phil Wyatt
2006 Worshipful Master
Fort Valley Lodge # 110



(Left) The room overflows at Valentine's Night as Fort Valley Lodge members, wives/girlfriends and guests enjoy the hospitality and fun.

2B1ASK 1

We see this slogan many times, but what does it really mean to us? It should be a constant reminder that Masons are easily identifiable and our outward actions are most important to the Craft.

Anonymous

The symbolism of the First and Second degrees centers around the art of architecture. Its purpose is to teach you, in the First, to be a builder of yourself; in the Second, a builder of society. In the Third Degree, this symbolism takes another form.

Although its background continues to be architecture and its action takes place in and about the Temple, it is a spiritual symbolism of life and death.





Favorite Links: Dekalb County Masonic Web Page

Fort Valley Masonic Lodge #110 F&AM

47 Berkshire Drive
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

Phone: 478-827-0103
Fax: 478-827-0103
E-mail: joshchadwick@mindspring.com



VISIT THE LODGE WEB PAGE!
WWW.PEACHCOUNTYMASONS.ORG

FREEMASONRY: SOME INTERESTING FACTS

The Aims of Freemasonry

Whilst Freemasonry is to be enjoyed, its objectives are serious and its members are ordinary individuals who share the following aims:

- ◇ To practice universal charity
- ◇ To foster high moral standards
- ◇ To build friendships
- ◇ To serve the community
- ◇ To develop values such as integrity, respect, self-discipline, discretion, virtue and responsibility.

Membership

Freemasonry is open to men of all walks of life, whatever race or religion who believe in the Supreme Being, i.e. God, by whatever name he is known to them.

Men wishing to become Freemasons must, with few exceptions, be at least 21 years of age. They need a proposer and seconder before an application may be submitted to a Lodge.

The proposal form requires a candidate for Freemasonry not to expect, anticipate or seek any preferment or financial benefit as a consequence of becoming a member. There should be no conflict between a candidate's family, business or professional interests and membership. A candidate must not have a criminal record and there is a process for expulsion for members who commit a criminal act.

Every member has the opportunity to take office in his Lodge and eventually to become its Master.

There are about 330,000 Freemasons in Eng-

land who belong to one or more of 8000 Lodges.

Charity

An important aspect of Freemasonry is its support for charities - both Masonic and non-Masonic. The annual sum raised is about £20M. Charitable giving emanates from three levels in Freemasonry: from individual Lodges, at Provincial level where a special Fund has been established to support local charities and at national level operated by the Grand Lodge (UGLE), which supports many national non-Masonic charities.

A defining factor in Masonic charitable donations is that all funds are generated by Masons alone, from their own pockets. Freemasonry does not raise money by public appeal you will never see a mason rattling a collection box for the benefit of a Masonic Charity.

What is Freemasonry

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest, secular fraternal societies. Its members develop moral and spiritual values by a series of ritual dramas, which follow ancient forms and use stonemason's tools and practices as symbolic and allegorical guides. Its members believe that these values represent a way of enabling Freemasons to make a better contribution to the ethics and welfare of the community.

Freemasonry, therefore, offers intellectual and social challenges. It brings together and creates lasting friendships among those who might otherwise have remained apart. Its key focus is charity, which enables it to care for its own as well as the wider community.

Freemasonry demands a respect for the laws of any country in which its members live and work.

Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It has no theological doctrine,

Brethren from Fort Valley Lodge # 110 gather at the gazebo in downtown Fort Valley on 10 January 2006 to present checks to the Fort Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Most Worship Grand Master of all Masons in Georgia.

The money represents proceeds from the 2005 SunMark Peach Regional Rodeo. As you can tell, "If you build it, they will come."



offers no sacraments and forbids religious discussion at its meetings. It expects each member to follow his own faith. The discussion of politics is also forbidden at Lodge meetings.

Freemasonry is not closed, nor is it a secret society since all members are free to acknowledge their membership and, indeed, are encouraged so to do. Its constitutions, rules and ritual are in the public domain and there is no secret about its aims and principles.

English Freemasonry dates back to the 17th century. The first Grand Lodge in the world was formed in London in 1717. In 1813 the union of the two Grand Lodges of England, existing at that time, formed the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

Miscellaneous Facts

Freemasonry extends across the World. A Mason can be a member of more than one Lodge, and even a member of Lodges abroad.

Lodges generally meet twice a month, some more, some less. Most meet on a weekday evening, but there are now some which meet during the day catering for the older Brethren. A Lodge meeting is usually followed by a formal meal.

At meetings, members of the fraternity call each other 'Brother' and the title 'Worshipful Brother' denotes that a member has been Master of a Lodge. The title 'Grand' denotes an officer of Grand Lodge.

A great number of notable and famous people have been Freemasons including George Washington, Winston Churchill, Mozart, Sibelius, Rudyard Kipling, Arthur Conan Doyle. In fact there are many web sites dedicated to famous Freemasons.

In ordinary conversation there is very little about Freemasonry which may not be discussed.