



2005 No. 9 ~ SEPTEMBER 2005

OFFICERS FOR 2005

Worshipful Master	Joseph W. Brooks, PM	Senior Deacon	Douglas Hrabe
Senior Warden	Marc B. Bohn, PM	Junior Deacon	Michael Paller
Junior Warden	W. H. "Beaux" Pettys	Senior Steward	Walter R. Bishop
Secretary	Thomas E. Lawrence, PM	Junior Steward	Matthew Paller
Treasurer	C. David Johnston, PM	Tyler	Donald E. Sawyer
Chaplain	A. Harold Cox, PM	Director of Work	Jeff W. Hodges, PM

GATE CITY MEMBER

DESCENDANT OF PAST GRAND MASTER

After the August meeting Bro. **Richard Turner** called WM Joe Brooks out into the Hall of Past Grand Masters, and asked, "Want to see my great great-grandfather?" Bro. Turner turned to the portrait of PGM James M. Mobley (Grand Master in 1878 and again in 1893) and said he'd heard that his grandmother's father had been Grand Master, but that he was quite surprised to find his picture in the hallway adjacent to the place where he, Richard, and his brother Britt attend Lodge.

Bros. **Richard** and **Britt** have a Masonic heritage, their grandfather Joel Williams having belonged to Hamilton Lodge No. 16, Hamilton, Georgia. Their uncle Brit Williams had told them about their great-grandfather having been Grand Master.

Bro. Richard has a old copy of the book "Jewels of Masonic Oratory" with his great-grandfather's name written in pencil, and he also has some of GM Mobley's jewels and robes in his attic. He will try to retrieve them and display them at our Lodge.

It should be noted that WB Mobley's second term as Grand Master placed him between John S. Davidson and John P. Shannon, both significant figures in the history of Gate City Lodge. It was WB Davidson who signed the dispensation for the formation of our Lodge, and it was John Shannon, not yet Grand Master, who was Chairman of the Grand Lodge committee that made it possible for us to secure the number "2".

Young Men, Fresh Ideas, New Leaders

Gate City Lodge in 2005!

DEGREE WORK SCHEDULED

We are pleased to report that we expect to confer the Master Mason degree at the first meeting in September, on the 13th, and then have two Entered Apprentices passed to the degree of Fellowcraft at the meeting on the 27th.

Another of our Entered Apprentices is still involved in intensive military training, and he will receive the Fellowcraft degree, probably at a called meeting, as soon as his schedule will permit.

GATE CITY MEN BEAUTIFY
MASONIC CENTER

WB **Evan Richmond** and JD **Mike Paller** have taken the lead in moving to beautify the grounds around the Masonic Center. They got out on a hot day recently and made a large number of decorative plantings. They ran out of things to plant! The overall effort is being coordinated by SS **Walter Bishop**. We understand that it looks great – many thanks, Brothers!

It seems to your Editor that Gate City is the Lodge where things are happening. Our Worshipful Master has emphasized "young men, fresh ideas, and new leaders" – and under his guidance the young(-ish) men of the Lodge are coming up with lots of fresh ideas, and new leaders are emerging.

Meeting Notice

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on September 13, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on September 27, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

BROTHERS' BAND TO PLAY IN NASHVILLE

The Band of Gate City members **Britt and Richard Turner**, Blackberry Smoke, is working on new material they will showcase in Nashville this month. They are working with two well-known Nashville song writers. Locally, they will be playing September 8th at the Highlander on Monroe Drive, and at Peachtree Tavern on the 5th of October. Their tour schedule will take them to Florida, Ohio, Texas, California, Wisconsin, Arizona, Kentucky, and Nevada over the next couple of months. Check out their website, www.blackberrysmoke.com, for further details.

GATE CITY MAN IN "M.I.B."

WB **Richard S. Sagar** has had yet another contribution published in *The Masonic Messenger*. The August 2005 issue features his article about a Masonic Club on the island of Bougainville, formed by American and British Commonwealth forces in 1944. Bougainville is the largest of the Solomon Island, and saw very heavy fighting in 1943 and '44. The club, "Masons In Bougainville" or "M.I.B.", had a peak membership of about 1400, including at least 12 Georgians.

One of the Peach State members, given as "Rudder, J. M., (Lodge unknown), Atlanta", is undoubtedly Gate City member **James M. ("Jimmy") Rudder**, who served in the U. S. Navy in the Second World War. Bro. Rudder was raised August 10, 1943 (for Gate City Lodge, by Greenfield Lodge #400, as a courtesy). He served as High Priest of Mount Olive Chapter #161, RAM, in 1951. He was made an Emeritus Member of Gate City in 1994 and received his 50 Year Pin the next year. Your Editor believes Bro. Rudder is still a member. [It is a shame that we do not have an address for him so he could see his name in *The Trestle Board*.]

TWO COMPETE IN S.R. TOURNAMENT

Neither of the two Gate City men who competed in the Scottish Rite-sponsored Tournament of Champions on August 2nd came home with a blue ribbon, but Bro. SW **Beaux Pettys** and WB **David Johnston** did outstanding work and upheld the standards we expect in our Lodge. One observer has noted that next year we will go in with a better idea of what the judges are looking for and may well bring home some of the honors.

GATE CITY ON-LINE

Don't forget to check out our beautiful web site at <http://www.gatecity2.com>. Co-web masters **Britt and Richard Turner** have created a wonderful resource for our Lodge and all Masons.

[We continue to seek someone better able than we to do a review and describe the site and its features. – Ed.]

GATE CITY SCENE

We forgot to mention three Brothers who played a part at the fundraiser for the fallen police officer Mark Cross: **Arthur Morrison, Dimitri Masserlos, and Evan Richmond** were prominent at the event ... WB Evan brought in about \$500 in donations.

Gate City is suddenly prolific: WB **Evan Richmond** celebrated the birth of his first-born, Hunter Cole Richmond, on August 2, and Bro. **Richard Turner** welcomed a son, William Jennings Turner.

Brother **Jay Schleusener**, guitar tech extraordinaire, has been on tour with two different bands over the last three months and has not even had time to go to his home in Costa Rica, as we had previously reported.

Brother **Kenny Cresswell** is expanding his business to Chicago and Orlando. We wish him all the best in these pursuits and feel confident in his ability to succeed. If cloning were available, Brother Kenny should consider about nine of himself, just to take the load off!

GATE CITY AND MUSIC

*Several places in this issue we report on the musical activities of Gate City men. It causes your Editor to muse about the rich musical tradition of our Lodge. We think back to the beginnings, about **Alfredo Barili**, the pianist and composer who moved to Atlanta in 1880 and became a Charter Member of our Lodge when he was raised in 1887. He was the founder of Atlanta's Mendelssohn Society, organized the first Atlanta Music Festival (1883), and opened Atlanta's first school of music in 1899.*

*Our thoughts go to Bro. **Perry Bechtel**, "The Man With a 10,000 Fingers", an outstanding banjo player and a member of the National Four-string Banjo Hall of Fame. In 1958, under contract with RCA, he induced Martin Guitar Co. to produce their 14-fret neck "Orchestra Model" guitar. A record he made with Chet Atkins in 1958 was (and perhaps still is) the standard against which all banjo playing was judged. Bro. Bechtel was raised in Gate City in 1928 and died in 1982.*

*Then **Alphus and Urias LeFevre** come to mind. With Urias's wife Eva Mae Whittington, they formed the LeFevre Trio, then later The LeFevres, one of the best-known gospel music groups from the 1920s through the 1970s. With performances, records, publishing, recording studio, and television production facilities, Billboard magazine referred to them as "Jacks of All Gospel Trades". Both Urias and Alphus were Gate City men, from the 1940s until the 1970s.*

There have been many other outstanding Gate City musicians over the years, as well. Most have performed at Lodge meetings, bringing the enjoyment of their talent to the members of Gate City. This is a tradition that

deserves to be continued and we look forward to a "Gate City Music Night" in the near future. -Ed.