

MASTER MASON DEGREE CONFERRED

On the evening of September 13, 2005, Gate City Lodge witnessed an outstanding conferral of the Master Mason degree. Our Worshipful Master, Joseph W. Brooks, PM, was in top form as he raised Fellowcraft Mason Christopher William Wilson to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. WB Joe and all who participated in the work are to be congratulated.

Our new Brother is expected to be examined on his proficiency in October.

TWO ENTERED APPRENTICES PASSED

September was the month for degree work, and on the 29th of the month two Entered Apprentices were passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Two of our newer members stepped up to fill in admirably for absent officers and Doug Hrabe did an exceptional job, as usual, in his Senior Deacon's station. The degree was presented in an outstanding manner by Senior Warden pro tem Beaux Pettys.

MORE DEGREE WORK ANTICIPATED

If the schedule at press time holds, it is expected that Gate City will raise two more men at the first meeting in October.

These are exciting times for our Lodge!

Young Men, Fresh Ideas, New Leaders

Gate City Lodge in 2005!

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SENIOR WARDEN VISITS LODGE IN LONDON

SW Beaux Pettys witnessed the conferral of an Entered Apprentice degree at Freemason's Hall, London, England, on September 6. This was Bro. Beaux's third attempt to visit a foreign lodge and he says the people at Freemason's Hall could not have been more accommodating or accepting. He reports that, even though the basic patterns were there and not unfamiliar, much of the wording, work, and signs are different from current use in Georgia. He noted that they conduct all business in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

GATE CITY SCENE

WB Harold "Archie" Cox was a welcome sight at our September 27th meeting and looked good in his traditional Chaplain's chair ... Bro. Jay Schleusener was present and accounted on September 27, after a 3 month absence due to business travel ... he was accompanied by Bro. Mac Carter who had also been missing about three months. Great to see these Brothers back!

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SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

We understand that the wife of WM Joseph Brooks has been under the weather, but we have no details.

Meeting Notice

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on October 11, 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 October 25, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

TYRE – PROMINENT IN MASONIC LEGEND

In the second and third degrees of Freemasonry, a place called Tyre is repeatedly mentioned. Tyre, a powerful, rich city at the time of the erection of Solomon's Temple, is on the coast of present-day Lebanon, about 100 miles northwest of Jerusalem. It is still a thriving city, with some historical monuments intact. It was the city of birth of Hiram, architect of the temple of Jerusalem, and his tomb is four miles southeast of the city.

The city was founded around 3,000 BC as a mainland settlement. In the 10th century BC, Hiram, the king of Tyre, extended the city by reclaiming land from the sea by use of landfill. Tyre's focus became coastal expansion, trade, and colonization of the Mediterranean coastline. Tradesmen from the city founded Carthage, on the coast of Africa, the place where Hannibal was born in the 200's BC; Hannibal went on to challenge the Roman Empire and introduce operative strategy to western warfare.

Cedar, the wood used in the temple of Solomon, was taken from the mountains east of Tyre, legendary for their dense forestation and for providing a great natural barrier, protecting the coast from the rest of Asia Minor. It is well documented that King Solomon called for craftsmen from Tyre to build his temple because the architecture of Tyre was superior to that of any other city in the region.

The Tyrian style of architecture was noted for its circular, semi-circular, and horseshoe-shaped edifices. The wall around the city of Tyre was considered impenetrable by all of the neighboring civilizations, including the Spartans. The stone was fitted together in a type of masonry that mimicked carpentry, using male and female joints (in stone!). They also developed a widely sought-after, incredibly strong, cement mix which withstood the sieges of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, for thirteen years (600's BC), and of Alexander the Great for nine months (332 BC). Alexander finally took the city when he was able to breach the seaward-side walls, built with less care than those to landward; the seaward side had been deemed less important because in those times a naval force capable of a grand siege was unheard of.

Though Tyre was an architectural giant of its time, its real power and wealth was given to it by a snail. The Murex, a marine snail that lives off the Tyrian shores, was the key ingredient to a purple dye whose purest form garnered ten to twenty times its weight in gold. The same dye graced many ancient monarchs, including Roman Emperors, and was surely worn by King Solomon.

- submitted by SW Beaux Pettys

GATE CITY MEMBER VISITS

FIRST NATIONAL PARK

My wife Mary Gene and I have just returned from a great trip to the world's first National Park, Yellowstone National Park. I had been in the Park several times, but Mary Gene had never been, and I was delighted to show her around one of the most wonderful natural areas remaining in our over-developed country.

We flew from Savannah to Billings, Montana, through Charlotte and Denver. We spent that night in Billings after having dined on bison steak.

The next day we drove south to the resort town of Red Lodge, Montana, and then into the Park over the scenic Chief Joseph Highway in Wyoming. Once in the Park, the road led us through the valley of the Lamar River and we began to see bison everywhere - a magnificent sight, these massive beasts roaming free in herds of up to a hundred or more.

We drove that day to Grant Village, in the southern part of the Park, stopping at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and Yellowstone Lake, and to photograph bison and elk in numerous places.

We awoke the next morning (September 12) to snow – quite a change from the weather back in Georgia! It wasn't bad, however, and we went on to see Old Faithful – another magnificent sight – and to wander around the Upper Geyser Basin, the largest concentration of geysers in the world.

On our fourth day we drove through the Park to Roosevelt Lodge, where we participated in 'Roosevelt Rendezvous 2005,' a program run by the Yellowstone Association Institute. The Institute is the educational arm of the Association, an organization

created to help protect and explain the Park. I have belonged to the Association for many years.

Roosevelt Lodge is located near where the President camped when he visited the Park in 1903, and the Rendezvous tries to capture the spirit and enthusiasm of TR in four days of geyser gazing, wildlife observation, and wilderness hiking. We stayed in a small cabin (only a short walk to running water!) and ate good food in the central Lodge. Each day there were small-group tours to specific areas, each led by an expert geologist or naturalist, and each evening there was a presentation by an expert in a given area. I learned more about the Park in those four days than I had in all my earlier visits.

I suppose the best part was viewing the wildlife. We got to see mule deer, black bear, bison, elk, and bighorn sheep up close. Through powerful scopes provided by the Institute we were able to watch mountain goats cavorting on seemingly sheer rock faces and two wolf packs checking their territories.

We spent another night in Billings, then flew home on the ninth day. It was a great adventure.

- submitted by Fred Williams