

Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492 A.F. & A.M.

Regular Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:30pm

Address: 512 Johnson Avenue, Graham, NC, 27253

Website: www.thomasmholt492.org



Upcoming Events

January 1

Happy New Year - 2017

"May the Year Ahead Bring You Good Luck, Good Health, Good Fortune, Great Success, and Lots of Love."

January 5

Past Masters Third Degree

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

January 19

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

February 2

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

February 16

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

March 2

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

March 16

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

March 22

District Visits for the Grand Master of NC

District 23 @ Corinthian 542

426 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC

The Holler Log – Winter 2017 Edition

Messages from the East:

Brethren,

Greetings from the East!

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Master of our lodge in the year of 2017. We have some good momentum coming out of 2016, and I hope to build upon that momentum for continued success this year. So, how might we know if we are successful? There are many areas where we might look, and while we might find success in these many areas, for me there are two areas that stand out: charity and participation. These two stand out to me since charity is one of the basic tenants of our craft, and yet for our lodge to continue to thrive and be successful in our charitable endeavors, we need participation. We have been fortunate to have good participation in our lodge, and yet we need to always be seeking ways to increase it.

There are four fundraisers in the works for 2017. I plan to start off the year with a winter gun raffle. A pancake breakfast will follow in early spring. The golf tournament will be in early fall, and we will wrap up the year with the pink pancake fundraiser in the fall.

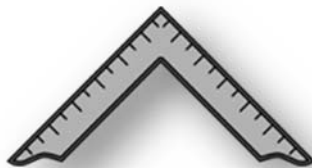
We have some degree work on the horizon, which is great to see. We will continue to present "The Lodge System of Masonic Education", which is provided by the Grand Lodge, to our new members. Any member of the lodge interested in hearing these presentations are welcome to attend as well.

If you haven't been to the lodge recently, please come back and attend a meeting. Join us for a great meal and fellowship with your brothers.

Fraternally Yours,

Chip McFalls, Worshipful Master

chip.mcfalls@gmail.com



Important Announcement

2017 Lodge Dues are now Due !!!

Please make sure you pay your Lodge Membership Dues for the 2017 Calendar Year, so you can receive your Masonic Dues Card.

- Gene Hunter - Secretary

Lodge News:

- ❖ The Grand Lodge of North Carolina has released their upcoming schedule for District Visits for our new Grand Master A. Gene Cobb, Jr. It appears that there will not be a visit to District 22 planned. The closest visit will be in District 23 on March 22 @ Corinthian 542 - 426 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. If you are planning on attending, please let WM Chip McFalls know, so that he can let the host lodge know how many are coming.
- ❖ The Lodge members of Thomas M. Holt would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Brother Ken Qualls, who was Treasurer of our lodge for 23 years, Brother Qualls was honored with a plaque that is placed on the wall behind the Treasurer's desk on December 1, 2016.
- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Robert Drumwright on receiving his 25-year service award.
- ❖ Congratulations to Brother Richard Honeycutt for passing off his Fellowcraft Catechism.
- ❖ Congratulations and Welcome to our newest Entered Apprentices Brother David Putman, Brother Matthew Pruitt, and Brother Dennis Bullis, initiated in December 2016.

Masonic Trivia:

- ❖ In 1872, the Commissioner of Patents, ruled that no one will be able to hold a trademark or trade name on the square and compass symbol for commercial purposes. This holds true today, and allows all of the different companies to make Masonic apparel.
- ❖ The term "on the level", used to describe someone who is truthful and honest, was actually derived from Freemasonry, where the level symbolizes being straightforward and truthful.
- ❖ During the American civil war, enemy soldiers who recognized each other as Freemasons helped each other and saved each other's lives. Even during war, these Freemasons' loyalty to the craft did not fade away.
- ❖ The third degree did not exist at the beginning of Freemasonry. In fact, it only started in the 1720s, and it took quite some time to spread through Masonic lodges.

Thomas M. Holt # 492 Lodge Officers for 2017:

Chip McFalls – Worshipful Master
Jason Simons – Senior Warden
Jeff Lightcap – Junior Warden
Kevin Dean – Senior Deacon
Steven Craven – Junior Deacon
Charles Moser – Senior Steward
Steven Walker – Junior Steward
Gene Hunter – Secretary
Al Layton – Treasurer
Marcus Orr – Chaplin
Mike Rogers – Tyler



Upcoming Birthdays

January 2016

03 – Gene James
07 – John Isley
09 – David Maness II
11 – Gene Nolf
12 – Reid Myrick
14 – Donald Ray
17 – Stephen West
20 – Jerry Shields
31 – Robert Drumwright

February 2016

10 – Todd Smith
11 – James Overman
13 – Jack Pickard
14 – Tim Collins
15 – Joseph Sykes Jr.
17 – Gary Moser
21 – David Quigley Jr.
23 – Roger Jefferson

March 2016

02 – Derrick Campbell
11 – Clinton Howard
13 – Thomas Pickard
14 – Alvin Isley
17 – Donald Holt
20 – Williams McDade
24 – Ishamell Mills Jr.
31 – Jesse May Jr.
31 – Ken Qualls



The Brothers of Thomas M. Holt
Lodge would like to wish you all a
Very Happy Birthday !!!

A Few Masonic Chuckles:

- ❖ At the monthly Lodge Building Maintenance meeting much discussion raged about the problem of mice in the Lodge building. Of course, several suggestions on how to be rid of them were offered. Mouse traps. mouse poison. Buy a cat. Call an exterminator. The building manager took all this advice under consideration and it was agreed that at the next meeting he would make a report on his progress. Sure enough at the next meeting he was questioned. Did you use my idea of a cat? Did you use mine of traps? Finally, he said, "All the mice are gone." All wanted to know how he had accomplished such a feat.

"Well...I swore all the mice in as Master Masons and have not seen them since!"

- ❖ A small Lodge had had a string of bad luck. It was preparing to initiate a candidate on a steamy evening in June and it's air conditioner had stopped working. After sweating their way through part of the work, the Master had asked the candidate what he most desired. The candidate replied "**a beer**". At this juncture, the Senior Deacon whispered "light" to the candidate. "OK", the candidate replied, "**a lite beer**".

Famous Masons: JOSEPH WARREN - Martyr of the Battle of Bunker Hill

On a quiet summer afternoon about 230 years ago, some Harvard College students shut themselves in an upper dormitory room to arrange some affairs pertaining to their class. Another class member desired to be with them - knowing they intended to thwart some fondly cherished purpose of his own. They refused to admit him; the door was closed, and he could not gain admittance without violence, which he chose to avoid.

Surveying the premises, he discovered that one of the windows in the room was open and he noticed a nearby waterspout that extended from the roof to the ground. He climbed to the top of the house and slid down the eaves, then laid hold of the spout and descended until he was opposite the open window. With a prodigious physical effort, he thrust himself through the window and landed in the room! Simultaneously, the waterspout crashed to the ground; had it fallen a moment sooner he would have been thrown to the pavement below and, undoubtedly, seriously injured. He coolly remarked to himself, "It served its purpose!"

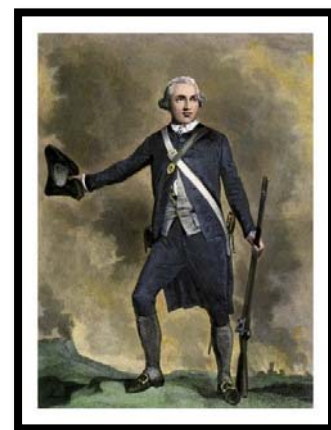
That Harvard boy was Joseph Warren, later known as Doctor Warren and General Warren, the martyr of Bunker Hill and the Grand Master of Masons (Massachusetts Provincial Grand Lodge) in North America.

The boy had already given promise of the man in whatever he undertook. The fearless act of getting to that room was the swelling bud which opened and blossomed and bore fruit in his adult life.

In December 1769 Warren received a commission from the Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, appointing him Provincial Grand Master of Masons in Boston and within 100 miles of the same. The commission was dated May 30, 1769. When the Earl of Dumfries succeeded Dalhousie as Grand Master he issued another appointment to Warren, dated March 7, 1772, constituting him "Grand Master of Masons for the Continent of America," extending his original limits. He was indefatigable in the discharge of his Masonic duties and, coupled with his extensive medical practice, the care of his motherless children, together with his patriotic devotion to his country, won for him the highest regard of the public and the Craft. His name is indelibly engraved on the mystic temple of Freemasonry, just as it is on the pages of American history.

Somewhat impetuous in his nature, but brave to a fault, Bro. Warren craved the task of doing what others dared not do – the same courage imbued in Paul Revere and other patriots. On the anniversary of the Boston Massacre (March 3, 1770) Warren was the orator. While it was a duty which won him distinction, it was also one of peril. English military officers usually attended in order to heckle Warren and it required a brave man to stand up in Old South Church, in the face of those officers, to boldly proclaim their bloody deeds. It required a cool head and steady nerves, and Grand Master Warren had both. The crowd at the church was immense; the aisles, the pulpit stairs, and the pulpit itself were filled with officers and soldiers of the garrison, always there to intimidate the speaker. Warren was equal to the task but entered the church through a pulpit window in the rear, knowing he might have been barred from entering through the front door. In the midst of his most impassioned speech, an English officer seated on the pulpit stairs and in full view of Warren, held several pistol bullets in his open hand. The act was significant; while the moment was one of peril and required the exercise of both courage and prudence, to falter and allow a single nerve or muscle to tremble would have meant failure – even ruin to Warren and others.

Everybody knew the intent of the officer and a man of less courage than Warren might have flinched, but the future hero, his eyes having caught the act of the officer and without the least discomposure or pause in his discourse, simply approached the officer and dropped a white handkerchief into the officer's hand! The act was so adroitly and courteously performed that the Breton was compelled to acknowledge it by permitting the orator to continue in peace.



On June 14, 1775, three days before the Battle of Bunker Hill (actually Breed's Hill), Dr. Warren was elected Major General by the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. Without military education or experience, he was placed in the presence of the whole British army. Against the protests of Gen. Artemus Ward, Gen. Israel Putnam and others, Warren chose to shoulder a musket and join the fighting men behind the barricades on the hill. He felt a premonition of his death and declared to Betsy Palmer (whose husband joined the Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington), "Come, my little girl, drink a glass of wine with me for the last time, for I shall go to the hill tomorrow and I shall never come off."

The shooting lasted less than one hour but only because the Patriots ran out of ammunition. Warren had been shot in the back of the head and thrown to the ground. His body was thrown in a ditch by a British officer and buried with the others. It was discovered months later and identified by Paul Revere who recognized a false tooth he had made for Warren. He was next buried in the Granary burial ground (Tremont St., Boston) where he was laid after Masonic ceremonies in King's Chapel and, thirdly, in the Warren Tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral, Boston. Finally, on August 3, 1855, "The precious ashes were carefully deposited in an imperishable urn and placed in the family vault at Forest Hill Cemetery where they now repose." (G.L. Proc. 1855-69 p. 511.) On April 8, 1777 Congress ordered a monument to be erected over the grave of Gen. Warren in the Town of Boston, but like many other things Congress resolves, it was never accomplished. In 1794 King Solomon's Lodge of Charleston (now meeting in Somerville) erected a monument on Bunker Hill on land donated by Bro. Benjamin Russell for that purpose. It was "A Tuscan pillar, 18 feet in height placed on a platform 8 feet high, 8 feet square, and fences around."

The Bunker Hill Monument Association was formed in 1823 for the "purpose of erecting on Bunker Hill a more fitting and enduring monument to the memory of the brave men who fell there in the cause of human liberty." King Solomon's Lodge (1783) then gave the Association the ground which it owned, together with the monument it had erected to the memory of Bro. Warren, on condition "that some trace of its former existence" might be preserved in the monument to be erected.

On June 17, 1825, Grand Lodge opened at 8 a. m. and a procession was formed on the Common which marched to Bunker Hill in Charleston. There, in the presence of Bro. Lafayette (the apron he wore is in the Grand Lodge archives), representatives from every New England state except Rhode Island, along with the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Grand Master John Abbot, and Senior Past Grand Master Isaiah Thomas, assisted in laying the cornerstone and Lafayette and Bro. Daniel Webster addressed the great gathering. The monument was completed and dedicated June 17, 1843, but without the presence of the Grand Lodge. It was during the anti-Masonic era and a resolution to attend was defeated.

Inside the present obelisk is a model of the first monument that had been erected by King Solomon's Lodge. It is made of the finest Italian marble and, including the granite pedestal on which it stands, is about nine feet in height and bears substantially the same inscription as the former one. The memorial is now under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (1976) and anybody can climb the 294 steps to the top without charge. From windows, you can view Boston and, in particular, Charleston Navy Yard where the U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) is berthed.

(Source: Cornelius Moore in the Voice of Masonry, published in The Freemasons Repository, Nov. 1881, Vol. 11.)

Please help the Lodge reduce costs: If you'd like to receive future editions of the Holler Log via email instead of paper copy, please email Chip McFalls at: chip.mcfalls@gmail.com

Please refer to the Lodge's Website for updated Lodge Information and Schedules in between issues of the Holler Log: www.thomasmholt492.org

Lastly, Brothers, we hope you are continuing to enjoy this new format of the Holler Log and once again found it informative. If you have any comments, or have any items that you would like to see, or share in future Editions of the Holler Log please send an email to: hollerlog@thomasmholt492.org

Masonic Anniversaries

(The number indicates years of service)

January

01 – Steven Craven
01 – Charles Moser
01 – Steven Walker
06 – Chip McFalls, Jr.
27 – Charles May, Jr.
38 – Vic Euliss
46 – Jerry Perdue
49 – Landon Goad
49 – Alvin Isley
59 – Alton Myrick

February

02 – Otis Perkins
05 – Timothy Brooks
09 – Dennis Brown
09 – David Snyder
09 – David Vitkus
13 – William Dickten
18 – Robert Barnes, Sr.
18 – Doug Foley
30 – William McDade
30 – Drew Sharpe
40 – Joe Caldwell
56 – John Fricks, Jr.

March

13 – Dewey Brown, Jr.
16 – Bradley Mills
16 – Junior Mills
23 – Jimmy Eller
27 – Mike Buckner
31 – Gene James
31 – Douglas Wilson
35 – Robert Drumwright
41 – Robert Campbell
49 – James Overman

The Brothers of Thomas M. Holt Lodge would like to Thank You for your years of service and support of our Lodge !!!

