

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

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

Address: 512 Johnson Avenue, Graham, NC, 27253

Websites: [www.thomasmholt492.org](http://www.thomasmholt492.org) or [492-nc.ourlodgepage.com](http://492-nc.ourlodgepage.com)



## Upcoming Events

### January 1

Happy New Year - 2019  
"May the Year Ahead Bring You Good Luck, Good Health, Good Fortune, Great Success, and Lots of Brotherly Love."

### January 3

Dinner @ 6:30 PM  
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

### January 17

Dinner @ 6:30 PM  
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

### February 7

Dinner @ 6:30 PM  
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

### February 21

Dinner @ 6:30 PM  
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

### March 7

DDGM Daryl Crowder Official Visit  
Dinner @ 6:30 PM  
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

### March 14

District Meeting with GM Dwight Sigmon  
Bingham 272, Mebane, NC  
Dinner @ 6:00 PM  
Meeting @ 7:00 PM

### March 21

Dinner @ 6:30 PM  
Stated Meeting @ 7:30 PM

## Important Announcement

### 2019 Lodge Dues are now Due !!!

Please make sure you pay your Lodge Membership Dues for the 2019 Calendar Year, so you can receive your Masonic Dues Card.

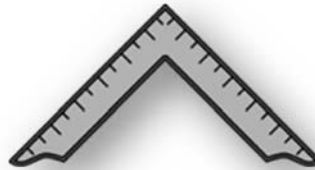
Todd Smith - Secretary

## The Holler Log – Winter 2019 Edition

### Messages from the East:

Brethren,

As the sun rises in the East to open and govern the day, so shall the sun rise on all of us, as we kick off the new year !! So Happy New Year, Thomas M. Holt Lodge # 492 !!



First off, I would like to thank the Brethren of Thomas M Holt Lodge, thank you for your confidence and trust in me to lead this lodge, by electing me and giving me this opportunity to serve as your Worshipful Master for the next year. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to serve you in this capacity and one I will not take for granted.

Second, I would like to thank and congratulate all of our 2019 officers, and thank them for volunteering their time to serve with me, and accepting the responsibilities that your individual chair requires. Installation was held on Sunday, December 16, with Worshipful Brother Alvin Billings presiding and it fills my heart with joy to see some many Masons, their Families, and Friends in attendance.

We had a very successful last year in our charitable works, fundraisers, and community outreach programs. Through the Lodge's hard work we were able to receive the Lion and Pillar award from the Grand Lodge for the second consecutive year, and as Master I look forward to carrying those successes into the New Year.

Speaking of the Lion and Pillar, as back to back Award winners, can we make it a 3-peat ?? They have added more requirements to it to make it more challenging to receive in 2019, and even a Platinum Level to obtain, but I strongly believe that if we formulate a plan and execute it, the brethren of Thomas M. Holt can do anything they set their minds to, and it shows year after year. Let's once again show the other Lodges in this state, what Thomas M. Holt Lodge can accomplish and keep receiving this award year after year !!

In closing, I have a feeling that 2019, is going to be a great year, So let's get this year started off right ... They say there is no such thing as a "free meal" these days !!! I say that is not true ... because nestled in the very pages of this Holler Log is a coupon that you can bring to a Lodge night meeting (Non-degree Night) and receive a "free meal" on me. Those of you reading this newsletter electronically, don't worry you too will receive a

coupon. So If you haven't been to the Lodge lately I encourage you to come on down, share one of our excellent meals, and also share some fellowship, Dinner time is an excellent time to reconnect with your brothers and see some of the faces you haven't seen in a awhile.

*"The fruits of your hard work, will make the rewards taste even sweeter ..."*

Let's Rollup Our Sleeves and Get Down to Work !!!

Fraternally Yours,

**Jeff Lightcap**

Worshipful Master

Email: [Worshipful\\_Master@thomasmholt492.org](mailto:Worshipful_Master@thomasmholt492.org)

## **Thomas M. Holt # 492 Lodge Officers for 2019:**

**Jeff Lightcap** – Worshipful Master

**Kevin Dean** – Senior Warden

**Steve Craven** – Junior Warden

**Steve Walker** – Senior Deacon

**Chuck Moser** – Junior Deacon

**Jim Paige** – Senior Steward

**Rudy Cartassi** – Junior Steward

**Todd Smith, PM** – Secretary

**Al Layton** – Treasurer

**Aaron Slyter** – Chaplin

**Daniel Bellingham** – Tyler



## **Lodge and District 22 News:**

- ❖ The Grand Lodge of North Carolina has released their upcoming schedule for District Visits for our new **Grand Master Dwight M. "Mack" Sigmon**. It appears this year that there is a visit to District 22 planned. The District 22 visit will take place on **March 14, 2019** at **Bingham 272** – 307 East Center Street, Mebane, NC. If you are planning on attending please let **WM Jeff Lightcap** know, so that he can let the host lodge know how many are coming.
- ❖ Congratulations to Worshipful Brother **Darryl Crowder** of **Dan River 129** who will be our new District 22 District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) for the 2019 Calendar Year.
- ❖ Congratulations to Worshipful Brother **Matt Cockman** of **Bula 409** who will be returning as our District 22 District Deputy Grand Lecturer (DDGL) for the 2019 Calendar Year.

## **Masonic History: Masons At The Battle Of Gettysburg**

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought in the hot, sticky days of July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863. Confederate General Robert E. Lee had brought his 70,000 soldiers northward for food and supplies; to relieve Virginia from the ravages of war; to influence the powerful northern Peace Party to stop the war, and to gain Confederate recognition and support from Britain and France. Lee also was looking for an opportunity to defeat the Union Army away from its base in Washington, D.C.

Twenty-seven months before the Battle of Gettysburg, the first shots of the war between the states were fired between Masons. Confederate Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard fired on Union Major Robert Anderson, defending Fort

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

### **January 2019**

03 – Gene James

07 – John Isley

09 – John Maness II

11 – Gene Nolf

14 – Donald Ray

17 – Stephen West

19 – Steve Walker, Sr.

20 – Jerry Shields

31 – Robert Drumwright, Jr.

### **February 2019**

04 – Rudy Cartassi, Jr.

07 – John Harrington

10 – Todd Smith

14 – Timothy Collins, Jr.

15 – Joseph Sykes, Jr.

17 – Andrew Williams

20 – David Talbert

21 – David Quigley, Jr.

23 – Roger Jefferson

### **March 2019**

02 – Derrick Campbell

07 – Gregory Holt

12 – Raymond Manely, Jr.

17 – Donald Holt

23 – Gary Overbey

24 – Ishamell Mills, Jr.

25 – Aaron Slyter

26 – Mike Rogers

29 – Matthew Pruitt

29 – Stuart Robertson

31 – Jessie May, Jr.

31 – Ken Qualls



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

Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. Beauregard was a Mason and Knight Templar from New Orleans, Louisiana. Anderson was a Mason from Trenton, New Jersey.

As the war began with shots fired between Masonic brothers, so did the greatest battle of the war. It was in the morning hours of July 1, 1863, when Lieutenant Marcellus Jones fired the first shot that began the Battle of Gettysburg. Jones, a carpenter and a Mason from Wheaton, Illinois, used a Sharps 52-caliber breech-loading rifle, invented and manufactured by Christian Sharps, a Mason from Philadelphia. The shot that Jones fired was directed at Confederate troops led by Brigadier General Henry Heth, a Mason from Rocky Mountain Lodge in the Utah Territory.



In mentioning the Rocky Mountain Lodge, you will find it interesting to know that while it surrendered its charter due to the war, over two hundred Masonic Lodges were created during the war. An even more unusual circumstance unfolds when we learn that John C. Robinson, a Union Brigadier General and immediate Past Master of the Rocky Mountain Lodge, was heavily involved in the first days fighting at Gettysburg. The desperate fighting that day also involved Confederate Major General Henry Heth. Henry Heth had been John Robinson's Senior Warden in the Rocky Mountain Lodge.

Later that morning, Union Brigadier General Solomon Meredith, a Mason from Indiana, and Colonel Lucius Fairchild, a Mason from Wisconsin, met and held the Confederates on the bloodied fields and woods between Herr's Ridge and the Seminary for over 8 hours. Among those attacking Meredith's legendary Iron Brigade and Fairchild's hard fighting 2nd Wisconsin Infantry regiment was Confederate Colonel James Connor, a Past Master of Landmark Lodge in Charleston, South Carolina. Colonel Henry Morrow of the 24th Michigan was with Meredith's Iron Brigade. During the furious fighting, Morrow was struck in the head by a Confederate bullet. Later, a Confederate surgeon, identifying himself as a Mason, decided that Morrow's scalp wound was "too serious" for him to be marched away as a prisoner of war. This act of Masonic compassion probably saved Morrow's life.

The very first regimental volley of the battle was fired by the men of the 56th Pennsylvania Volunteers, led by Colonel John W. Hofmann, a Mason from Norristown, Pennsylvania. Before the first day's battle ended, Hofmann's bloodied regiment would be forced from the fields north of the Chambersburg Road by a gallant charge led by Major William Cox, commander of the 2nd North Carolina infantry. **William Cox was a Mason from Raleigh, North Carolina. He was wounded eleven times during the war and would later become a Brigadier General. Cox also became a Congressman and served as the Grand Master of North Carolina for four years.**

Early in the evening of the 2nd day's battle, on the ridge north of Devil's Den, Union Major General Winfield Hancock told Colonel Edward Cross, "Today you'll earn your star" meaning that Cross would win his promotion to Brigadier General for his brilliant service over the past two years. Colonel Cross, a Mason from New Hampshire, had received twelve wounds during his heroic service, however his thirteenth wound would be fatal and he was killed leading his brigade against the attacking Confederates led by Brigadier General George Thomas Anderson, a Mason from Atlanta, Georgia.

According to Lieutenant General James Longstreet, Commander of the Confederate First Corps, the most gallant charge of the entire war was led by Brigadier General William Barksdale, a Mason from Jackson, Mississippi. When Longstreet ordered him forward, Barksdale was on the frontline. It was in that position, after forcing the Union lines to collapse and retreat, that he was shot—mortally wounded—wearing a clean white linen shirt fastened with Masonic studs.

Barksdale's courageous charge was directed at the bloody Peach Orchard, defended in part by the men of the 2nd New Hampshire regiment (Co. B) led by Captain Thomas Hubbard, a Mason from Concord, New Hampshire. Hubbard was killed on the battlefield and was buried by Confederate Masons.

Consider the significance of this act, when soldiers in the midst of a major battle, take the time and care to bury an enemy soldier! Unusual in every sense of the word, but not so unusual when you consider that it happened between Masons.

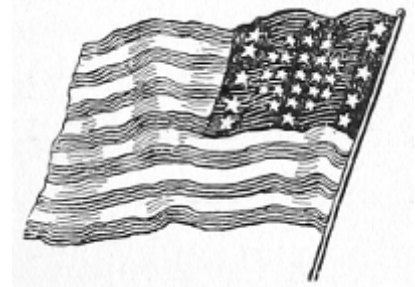


While the entire southern end of the battlefield erupted with savage fighting at the Peach Orchard, the Wheatfield, and Devil's Den, a hero was born on the rocky, wooded southern slope of Little Round Top. Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, formerly a language professor at Bowdoin College in Maine, was in command of the 20th Maine Infantry defending the critical Union left flank. The determined Confederates launched attack after attack against Chamberlain's shattered line. The gallant defenders held their position heroically despite their fearful losses. Running out of ammunition, and without reinforcements, Chamberlain knew that the next Confederate attack would destroy his line and cause the loss of the Federal Armies strong defensive position. It was then that Chamberlain, a man schooled in religion and language, ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge the attacking Confederates in a swinging barn door like maneuver. His unorthodox attack shocked the Rebels, causing them to scatter in hurried retreat. Chamberlain was a Mason, a member of United Lodge in Brunswick, Maine. He would receive a Congressional Medal of Honor in recognition of his courage and heroism at Gettysburg.

While Chamberlain was gallantly defending the southern end of the Union's fish-hook shaped line, another Mason was desperately trying to overrun the Union army on the opposite end of that line on Culp's Hill. John Brown Gordon, a successful businessman and lawyer from Georgia, had fought with brilliance throughout the two years prior to Gettysburg. Gordon had been severely wounded nine months earlier at the Battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862). A bullet hole in his hat had saved him from drowning in his own blood as he lay unconscious on the battle field. Gordon was a man of extraordinary compassion and care, a trait taught at our fraternities' holy altars. During Gordon's attack on the first day, which resulted in the Confederates forcing the Union Army to retreat from their position in the fields north of Gettysburg, Union Brigadier General Francis Barlow was severely wounded. A Confederate bullet paralyzed his arms and legs. When Gordon, in the midst of his attack, saw Barlow, he dismounted, gave Barlow water from his canteen and saw that he was cared for. Another instance where a Mason's compassion and care for his brother transcended the hostility normally found between enemies. The Battle of Gettysburg was culminated in an attack, the likes of which the world had never seen, nor would ever see again. It was on the afternoon of July 3rd, following a two-hour cannonade of volcanic proportions, that three Confederate Generals, all Virginia Masons, led the attack that has become known as "Pickett's Charge". Correctly named Longstreet's Assault, Major General George Pickett, Brigadier General James Kemper and Brigadier General Lewis Armistead led their 12,000 men across the mile-long rolling fields to crash against the center of the Union line near the clump of trees that became the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy."

As the Confederate tide swept closer to the Union line, a sergeant in the 14th Virginia Infantry came upon some Union skirmishers huddled in the tall wheat, who had been cut off from their retreat. The Virginians would have been fully justified in killing the Union soldiers. They were the enemy! But the sergeant recognized a Masonic sign—the sign of distress—thrown by one of the Yankees and ordered his men to pass them by. Wasn't it fortunate that the Virginia Sergeant, Drewry B. Easley, was a Mason, a member of South Boston Lodge, in Halifax County, Virginia.

Brigadier General Lewis Armistead was the only officer to pierce the Union line. As Armistead crossed the low stone wall that formed the front of the Union defense line, he shouted, "Give 'em the cold steel boys!" Holding his black hat on the tip of his sword to guide his men, since all his color bearers had been killed, he led his 150 Virginians amidst the swirling tide of blue coats. Placing his hand on a hot, smoking Union cannon barrel, he claimed it his, in the name of the Old Dominion. Instantly he was struck by two bullets and fell, giving the sign of distress, ". . . as the son of a widow." At the same time, Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, the general commanding the Union troops defending the line at the center of the Confederate attack saw his old friend and Masonic brother fall. Hancock, a member of Charity Lodge in Norristown, Pennsylvania, who was severely wounded at the same time, ordered his chief of staff, Captain Henry Harrison Bingham, a Mason from Philadelphia, to go to Armistead's aid. Bingham had Armistead taken to the 11th Corps field hospital where he received the best medical care possible. When Armistead died, Hancock saw that his personal belongings were handled according to his wishes. The Armistead-Hancock story is most unusual, especially when you consider that they were, in fact, enemies. But it is not unusual when you consider that they were Masons. Again, we witness the power of brotherly love, care and concern ... transcending the most severe hatred and hostility associated with battle.



The Battle of Gettysburg was fought between 70,000 Confederates and 93,000 Union soldiers. Over 50,000 men became casualties in those three terrible days. The Confederate Army would retreat back into Virginia and the war would continue for another eighteen months.

The war began with shots fired between Masonic brothers. The greatest battle of that war was started with shots fired between Masonic brothers. How do you suppose the war ended?

Come with me, to that chilly, damp, Easter Sunday morning on April 9, 1865, in Appomattox, Virginia, when over 112,000 well fed and well-equipped federal soldiers surrounded the 26,765 starving, ragged Confederates, all that remained of the once invincible Army of Northern Virginia. It was a time for the Yankee's to shout and cheer! It was a time to celebrate. It was the end of the war, the bloodiest, in American casualties, that the world had ever seen or would ever see again. 618,000 men became casualties. But the killing years were finally over! No one would have disputed the Yankee's right to scream, shout and cheer. But when Confederate General John Gordon brought his battle hardened Stonewall Brigade on the field to lay down their guns and furl their tattered flags, Union General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain ordered his men to give their former enemies a full military salute. It was an honorable and heartfelt act. It was the first act to heal the wounds of a nation and that greeting was given by a Mason! It was an act that uplifted the spirits of every man present. But then what would you have expected? Remember that both Joshua Chamberlain and John Gordon were Masons, representing a brotherhood that was never divided, now dedicated to a nation indivisible.

Let us take pride from the heritage of dedication and heroism demonstrated by our gallant brothers who advanced the principles of freedom, liberty and justice. And let us share that pride with all Americans to the advancement of our fraternity and the good of America.

*Short Talk by Brother Sheldon A. Munn (Lafayette Lodge #194, Selins Grove, PA)*



Artwork includes "Friend to Friend" Masonic Monument from Gettysburg, PA.

Comments or Suggestions Welcome ... email them to: [hollerlog@thomasmholt492.org](mailto:hollerlog@thomasmholt492.org)

#### Back Page Brain Teaser Answers

**Working Tools Words:** 24 Inch Gauge, Common Gavel, Compasses, Level, Mallet, Pickax, Plumline, Setting Maul, Square, Trowel.

**Riddle Answers:** 1) The letter M, 2) A Glove, 3) Words, 4) Fire, 5) A Snow Flake

## Masonic Anniversaries

(The number indicates years of service)

### January

- 02 – Richard C. Honeycutt
- 03 – Steven Craven
- 03 – Chuck Moser
- 03 – Steve Walker, Sr.
- 08 – Chip McFalls, Jr.
- 48 – Jim Paige, Jr.
- 48 – Jerry Perdue
- 51 – Landon Goad
- 61 – Alton Myrick

### February

- 02 – Rudy Cartassi, Jr.
- 04 – Otis Perkins
- 07 – Timothy Brooks
- 11 – Dennis Brown
- 11 – David Snyder
- 11 – David Vitkus
- 20 – Doug Foley
- 32 – William McDade
- 32 – Dalton Sharpe
- 58 – John F. Fricks, Jr.

### March

- 15 – Dewey Brown, Jr.
- 18 – Bradley Mills
- 18 – Ishamell Mills, Jr.
- 28 – Randy Vanderburg
- 29 – Mike Buckner
- 33 – Gene James
- 33 – Douglas Wilson
- 37 – Robert Drumwright, Jr.
- 43 – Robert Campbell
- 45 – Jimmy Eller

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



# The Holler Log - Winter 2019 Edition



Contact Us via Email at: [HollerLog@thomasholt492.org](mailto:HollerLog@thomasholt492.org)  
Visit us on the Internet at: [www.thomasholt492.org](http://www.thomasholt492.org) or [492-nc-ourlodgedpage.com](http://492-nc-ourlodgedpage.com)

Thomas M. Holt Lodge No. 492  
P.O. Box 892  
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Taking Good Men and Making Them Better Since 1897

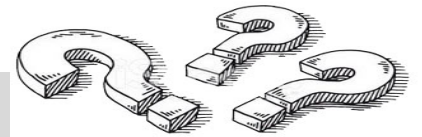
Thomas M. Holt Lodge No. 492 A.F. & A.M.

## The Holler Log Back Page Brain Teasers

Do you know the Working Tools ?? Can you find all ten below ??

V	E	N	I	L	B	M	U	L	P	B	Y	K	T	Y
E	N	G	J	C	Q	A	H	K	V	G	F	A	Z	B
E	J	X	U	X	F	N	J	S	U	G	K	L	B	U
X	D	R	K	A	L	G	C	E	T	C	A	U	M	F
E	P	Q	A	N	G	A	C	T	Q	H	V	G	N	K
U	A	L	S	Z	X	H	D	T	C	K	N	S	I	A
A	A	U	P	X	A	K	C	I	P	N	P	E	B	J
R	G	I	C	O	M	M	O	N	G	A	V	E	L	N
Y	E	F	J	F	E	T	M	G	I	I	J	B	U	D
N	I	L	T	X	V	R	P	M	T	4	M	H	Z	V
G	W	W	Y	R	X	J	A	A	F	A	2	Q	E	Z
E	G	V	Z	M	O	O	S	U	L	E	V	E	L	L
I	H	T	Y	J	P	W	S	L	Q	C	S	Q	S	T
A	O	S	G	M	Q	M	E	O	M	S	G	E	N	N
I	X	U	I	S	A	T	S	L	K	G	J	G	T	O

### Riddles



- 1) What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in a thousand years?
- 2) What has four fingers and one thumb but is not living?
- 3) We hurt without moving, we poison without touching, we bear the truth and the lies. We are not to be judged by our size. What are we ?
- 4) Give me food, and I will live. Give me water and I will die. What am I ?
- 5) What flies when it's born, lies when it's alive, and runs when it's dead ??

See Page 5 of the Holler Log for the Riddle answers and the 10 working tools.