



Cary Lodge No. 198, 1142 East Maynard Road, P.O. Box 8, Cary, NC 27512

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Walking in the Footsteps of Great Americans By Brother Dave Milidonis

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I received no articles from any brethren for publication in this issue of our Trestle Board. So, as your editor, I thought it would be nice to devote the entire issue to the three great events just around the corner from us.

First, on Saturday, June 28, 2003, at Oxford, NC, we will celebrate our Annual St. John's Day festivities. If you have the opportunity to attend this wonderful event, please do so. The parade and entertainment are well worth your trip to the north. This year, the Shrine will not be cooking. Instead, each cottage is preparing the meals for you at a very reasonable price. At our recent stated communication, we had the honor of listening to Brother Allen Hughes, the acting administrator for our Masonic Home for Children. His plea did not fall on deaf ears at Cary Lodge. Our lodge has the unique pleasure of being one of the largest Masonic contributors to the Home and, as such, it is highly thought of among that small community. Our children now number between 80 and 90 and Cary still sponsors three (I believe). Come up and visit with them, let them show you around campus and spend the day simply having fun watching children be children. This is a family affair, so bring everyone with you, your spouse, your children and grandchildren, all our Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts and any prospective candidates you think might enjoy seeing what active, participative Masonic charity is all about.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 12th and add the 10th and 11th too! This is the time for preparation and delivery of the Third Annual District 15 MESH BBQ! Your District 15 Picnic Committee has planned a great day for our residents, guests and, of course, us, at the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, at Greensboro. Along with a great BBQ meal, we will once again have the pleasure of hearing the great arrangements of the Oasis Band, the juggling and magic of our clowns and comedic relief of our "Down East" Brother and honorary member of Cary Lodge 198, Don Bennett. On Thursday the 10th, from about 8 am until the job is down, we will be cooking and preparing our BBQ. Come join us for a day of simple fellowship. On Friday, the 11th, we will be transporting all the meal preparations to MESH, so it will be there waiting for you on Saturday. Again, if you can, come and join us. As with St. John's Day, this is a family event! Bring the whole family and any brothers from this district or any other district that may be interested in seeing what eleven great lodges can do when they collectively put themselves into a once-in-a-lifetime project.

Join Us and Have a Great Time!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- ? June 28, 2003 St. Johns Day
- ? July 12, 2003 MESH District 15 Picnic
- ? Sep 26-27, 2003 GLoNC Annual Communication, Winston-Salem
- ? Nov 7 Fall BBQ
- ? Nov 15 Awards Dinner

July 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 York Rite Independence Day	5
6	7 Cary 198	8	9	10 Scottish Rite	11	12 District 15 MESH Picnic Greensboro
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Cary 198 3rd Degree	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 York Rite	2
3	4 Cary 198	5	6	7 Scottish Rite	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Cary 198	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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Walking in the Footsteps of Great Americans (cont'd)



Here is a small history quiz for you. Of what importance are the numbers 34, 13, 9 and 14? Give up? Give it some more thought and think of July 4th. Still need some help? Okay, here goes.

Over the years, many speakers and writers have unwittingly made some false claims about our Masonic heritage and some of the great men who help found this great nation of ours. Usually, they simply did not do enough research or the research they had was not totally verifiable. In either case, some claims were made about our Masonic forefathers that, with the light shown on recent records in lodges has begun to cut through the circumstantial evidence and hearsay of generations past. In his article, "These Men Were Masons," © 1975, Estel W. Brooks helped us set true and square some of those records. Here are the answers to our little history quiz.

Of the generals who served under George Washington during the War for Independence, 34 were Masons. Lest we puff our chests too much, we might be reminded that Benedict Arnold was one of those generals and a Mason. However, the importance that he and many others after him gave to the promontory on the Hudson River that we call West Point left us another legacy. Of all the colleges and universities that dot our grand union, the "Long Gray Line" of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY (from which your editor graduated in 1974) has produced more Masons in their alumni than any other school in the nation's history.

Thirteen is a wonderful number for any patriot and American Mason. It is the number of original Masonic Congressmen that have signed onto the 2003 Proclamation of Recognition for Freemasonry, introduced into the House earlier this year and awaiting approval. It is also the number of proven Masons who signed the Constitution of the United States. They were General George Washington, and John Blair of Virginia, Gunning Bradford, Jr., John Dickinson and Jacob Brown of Delaware, David Brearly, Jonathon Dayton and William Patterson of New Jersey, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, James McHenry and Daniel Carroll of Maryland, Rufus King of Massachusetts and Nicholas Gilman of New Hampshire.

There are all sorts of claims about the number of Masons who signed the Declaration of Independence, but Brother Brooks narrowed the list down to just "nine indisputables." They were William Ellery of Rhode Island, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, John Hancock and Robert Treat Payne of Massachusetts, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes of North Carolina, Richard Stockton of New Jersey, George Walton of Georgia and William Whipple of New Hampshire.

Having eliminated our first three quiz numbers, we are left with only one more to explore. Has anyone guessed yet? If you were thinking 14 U.S. Presidents, you are correct! They are as follows: George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Knox Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Gerald Ford. One (George Washington served in the 18th Century; seven served in the 19th Century and six served our nation in the 20th Century. Perhaps...just perhaps...we might see six more serve in the 21st Century. We shall see.

Our American Masonic heritage is strong and everlasting. We are truly walking in the footsteps of giants. Each of these men came from a different station of our society and each had differing political and religious views. But, while those differences may have set them at odds on the battlefields of men at war or political parties, each of them also believed and lived according to one set of tenets that they learned while serving as Entered Apprentices. They took those three tenets and worked them into the fabric of our great nation. Our Declaration calls them "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." We call them Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and they are built on the three great pillars of "Wisdom, Strength and Beauty." Give it some more thought. With Life comes Wisdom and that wisdom comes in the form of Brotherly Love. When Strength flows from our very beings, Liberty is realized and we can relieve every soul we meet with the strength of that Liberty, that "indissoluble chain of sincere affection." Truth is the most brilliant Beauty and the one "divine attribute" of all and when the Truth is learned and lived with strength, life itself becomes the Pursuit of Happiness. Our three great pillars and our three wonderful tenets have served to set this great nation as a gem in the world's history.

Take a moment to reflect upon all the works of the Masons who have passed before us and all that we may have at our disposal to pass on after us. Their legacy should never be forgotten, or simply placed on a shelf, just to be dusted off and recounted once a year. Perhaps...just perhaps...we can grow our shoulders as big as theirs were for our descendent brethren. **Happy 4th of July!**