

# Blackmer Buzz

## Special Events:

- April 5<sup>th</sup> – W. Brother Bryant Webster, Junior Grand Deacon, will be presenting "What's New at WhiteStone"
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – W. Brother Ashley Cooke will be presenting "The Apron - What is the Significance".
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> – W. Brother Mike Daniels of Bush Hill Lodge No. 732 will be presenting "Architect of Dreams, A journey to the Center of Jules Verne".
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Blackmer Lodge will host the Masonic Xtreme Challenge with the help of W. Brother Kevin Combs of Statesville Lodge No. 27.

## Individual Highlights:

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January - March 2011

Volume 8, Issue 1

## From the Master's Desk

As our first quarter draws to an end, I find myself wondering where the time went. It is like that when you are busy, and this is a busy Lodge.

Thanks to the efforts of the Education Committee, we have had a Masonic Education program at every stated communication this year. That trend looks to continue, with excellent programs scheduled at every stated in the foreseeable future. Lodge is so much more enjoyable when we do something other than open and close. This has been a focus of ours for the last several years, and it has paid in spades. If you are member who has not attended in several years, I urge you to return, and join in the productive environment we are fostering.

We have two Lodge trips planned for the near future. April 28-30, we will travel to Richmond Virginia for a special service to honor WB Major Edmund Christian. He was the Worshipful Master of Blackmer Lodge in 1859. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the CSA, and rose to the rank of Major, before being killed in a gallant action at the battle of Seven Pines, near Richmond Virginia. He was laid to rest in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. The Blackmer

delegation will travel to Richmond for a historical tour, with a focus on WB Christian. We will have a graveside briefing of his last days, followed by a short memorial. The next trip is May 21<sup>st</sup>, when we will travel to the state fairgrounds in Raleigh for the annual Pig Jig. This is a Masonic pig cooking contest and fund raiser, sponsored by Raleigh 500. For \$10 you get a plate and fork, and then try BBQ from as many of the contestants as you can hold! You can check it out at [www.carolinapigjig.com](http://www.carolinapigjig.com)

Both of these events are family oriented, and we invite all brethren, their families, and widows to join us. If you are interested, please contact me, or any of the officers.

On the business side, we are nearing completion of a top to bottom review of the by-laws. A special commission was formed for this task. They have had several committee meetings and two open meetings so that no brothers opinion goes unheard. I am very proud of them for the dedication they have shown in plowing through this laborious process. We have officially appointed Steve Campbell as lodge historian for this year, and he has been given a long list of duties to ensure that

our rich 161 year history is preserved.

Although we are busy, we are not to lose focus on our duties and obligations. By-law reviews and field trips are the workings that make for a happy lodge. Service to our fellow man, and more especially the brethren (their widows and orphans) in Masonry, is what we about. I dare say we are doing a poor job in this respect. Perhaps there are no widows who need a helping hand. Maybe there are no brethren who are not invalid, and would like someone to talk to. Hopefully, there are no brothers who are in need, but afraid to ask. I hope this is the case, but I'm afraid, brothers, that we are simply ignoring these situations that are in our own back yard. The corn, wine and oil we receive in wages *are not* to nourish, refresh, and bring joy to ourselves. They are not noble ideas to be jealously guarded, and kept within the confines of the lodge room. Recently, I heard one of my favorite speakers reminding a group of young Masons of their duties by recounting a few lines from A *CHRISTMAS CAROL*.

See "*Brother and General*" on Page 3.

### Change for the Children's Home

As a result of the generosity of our members and guests to Blackmer, "the jar" generated \$101.00 for the first quarter of 2011..... Thank you!

### Member Contact Information Needed!

Our Secretary is in the process of updating our member contact information and we could use your help.

We would love to have your current contact information (address, phone number and email address) - more especially your email address if you have one.

You can contact Stimpson McRae by phone at: (910-439-6281 or by email at: mcraewoodtreating@embarq mail.com.

### 2011 Dues

Please note that our 2011 membership dues are due in January!

Please make your checks payable to Blackmer Lodge No. 127 and mail them to the Secretary at PO Box 265, Mt. Gilead, NC 27306. Thanks!

## From the Master's Desk *continued from Page 1*

Old Ebenezer Scrooge is talking to the ghost of Jacob Marley. Scrooge tells Marley that he was always good in business. Marley presses home with veracity the point with "Business!? Business!?" *Mankind* was my business. And *Mankind* is your business too". I challenge every member of this lodge to re-evaluate where they are on this issue. If you are member or widow in need of help, or friendship, or visitation, or assistance, or advice, or any of the many needs we encounter as we travel through this life, please do not hesitate to let the lodge know. My number is listed in the book.

Of the programs we have

scheduled in the near future, I would like to draw everyone's attention to one in particular. WB Bryant Webster will be here April the 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss Whitestone. This is our retirement home, formerly known as Masonic and Eastern Star Home. This will be an open meeting, and I encourage every member and every widow to attend. This is in no way a recruitment speech. WB Bryant will inform us of the radical changes which have taken place in the last few years, but more importantly, he will tell us about the new programs they have which can help local lodges. These include lending of medical equipment, assistance in

navigating the river of paperwork when dealing with the government assistance programs, and plans for more off-site assistance than ever before.

Our meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of every month. Dinner is always served by Mrs. Sylvia Blake at 6:30. It is always a delicious home cooked meal. Plates are \$5 for members and guests. I will personally pay for any widows who attend. Lodge follows at 7:30. Nothing would make me happier that for us to fill the dining room and lodge room every meeting.

- Ben Wallace, Master

## Remembering Montgomery

In 1779 our forefathers were in their third year of war for independence against Great Britain. That year the North Carolina Legislature created several new counties throughout its borders. Montgomery County was carved from the old English County of Anson. Why was a county named for a man who never set foot within its bounds? It was in honor of Major General Richard Montgomery. He was born on December 2, 1736, on his father's estate in County Donegal, Ireland. Educated at Trinity College in Dublin, he purchased his commission as a British officer when he was 18. Combat duties found him in North America and the West Indies during the French & Indian War (1754 - 1763). He developed a fondness for the "new world." While convalescing

in New York, he met his future wife, Janet Livingston. Upon Britain's victory he returned to England where he socialized with many liberals in Parliament (who would later favor American independence). Unhappy with his lack of progress in the British Army, he resigned his commission and in 1772 immigrated to Westchester County, New York, where he bought a small 160 acre farm. In 1773 he married Janet and they lived on her estate near Rhinebeck, NY. When New York sent delegates to the first Provincial Congress in Philadelphia, he was among their ranks. Noted for his military service, bearing, tact, honor and bravery, he was named one of our nation's first eight Brigadier Generals.

Initially the Continental Congress envisioned Canada joining the struggle against

the "Mother Country." To "bring them into the fold" a small American army was ordered to invade our northern neighbor. When the expedition's commander, Gen. Schyluer, fell ill, Montgomery assumed command of the 300 man force. Though marching hundreds of miles through wilderness, coupled with supply shortages, he was able to capture the towns of St. John's, Chambly, and Montreal - two-thirds of settled Canada. However, the key to total victory would require the capture of Quebec. Fortunately, a 600-man reinforcement force arrived under the then "rising star" Colonel Benedict Arnold.

See "*Remembering Montgomery*" on Page 3.

## Remembering Montgomery *continued from page 2*

The combined force forged ahead and, despite the harsh winter weather, lack of food, shelter and clothing, along with an outbreak of smallpox and the near end of troop enlistments, arrived at the gates of Quebec. While a siege may have proven wiser, the Americans were in no condition to conduct one, thus it was decided to storm the strongest British bastion in Canada. On December 31, 1775, twenty-two days after his promotion for Major General, Montgomery and Arnold led a pre-dawn attack in a driving snowstorm. Upon the first discharge of British artillery, Montgomery and his two aides were instantly killed. With the General's death and Arnold's wounding, the American attack faulted and those not captured in house-

to-house fighting retreated. A young Aaron Burr tried in vain to retrieve Montgomery's body.

How respected was Montgomery? He was buried by the British in Quebec with "the honors of war." In America, "the City of Philadelphia was in tears, every person seemed to have lost his nearest friend." The Congress proclaimed "their grateful remembrance, respect, and high veneration." His enemy, England's Prime Minister Lord North said "...he was brave, he was able, he was humane, he was generous, though still a traitor to the Crown."

Though at war with Britain, in 1813 an agreement between the Canadian government and New York resulted in Montgomery's remains being removed from

Quebec and laid to rest at St. Paul's Chapel along Broadway in New York City (the same church which witnessed the destruction of the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks).

In honor of his service to his adopted country, there is a town, city or county named Montgomery in each of the original 13 states of the United States.

*Preliminary review suggests that General Richard Montgomery was a Freemason and a member of the Irish traveling lodge Unity Lodge No. 18.*



- Steven Campbell  
Lodge Historian



General Richard Montgomery

## From the Ground Up *a building and grounds report*

With the support of Lodge members, their wives and widows, the "first phase" of the building restoration, repair and improvements was largely achieved last year.

- (1) New dining room lighting installed.
- (2) Pest control inspection found our building in overall good condition - one minor infestation (near the dining room gents, which we intend to replace).
- (3) The Lodge foyer has been completely restored.

Still on our list:

- (1) Exterior drain lines.
- (2) Replacement/repair of east side downstairs exterior windows.
- (3) Additional lighting in the upstairs anteroom and Lodge hall.
- (4) Enclosures for our two exterior a/c units.

Plus, our on-going roof replacement fund is proceeding thanks to the commitment of Brethren looking to the future and preserving our Lodge building.

If any Brother has any ideas, insights or suggestions please contact me at your leisure.

Steven Campbell  
910-439-4994

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*"In honor of his service to his adopted country, there is a town, city or county named Montgomery in each of the original 13 states of the United States."*



*New Lodge Sign*

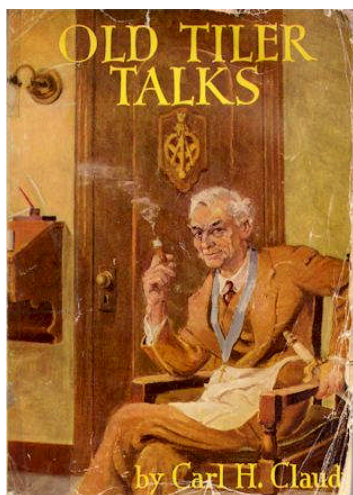
## Carl H. Claudy, Father of the Short Talk



Carl H. Claudy

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*"At the end of World War I, Claudy went overseas as a correspondent for Scientific American."*



Cover of "Old Tiler Talks"

There was a time, an age before television, video rentals, and pro sports, when Freemasons read. An age when sitting before a fire with a book of Masonic lore or history was regarded as an evening well spent. Emerging from that time is the name of an author unparalleled in his contributions to Masonic literature. Anyone who has read just a little of Carl H. Claudy's works cannot help but be charmed by the story told and the manner of expression.

Foreign Countries, Old Tiler Talks, The Old Past Master, A Master's Wages, These Were Brethren, Where Your Treasure Is, The Lion's Paw, and Masonic Harvest, are but a few of his more well known Masonic works.

Carl H. Claudy was born in 1879, and died in 1957. The preceding year he had been named Honorary Passed Grand Master of North Dakota.

An author of 32 books and a galaxy of essays and short stories numbering more than 1,600, his literary life began inauspiciously enough. His formal education concluded after only a year of high school whereupon he found himself in the hardscrabble workaday world of the late 19th century.

At age 19 he headed to the Alaskan gold fields. Finding no gold after six months, he returned to the States and took up employment with an emery wheel manufacturer. After several years he left that job to move back to Washington, DC, where he became the editor of a popular science paper. This was his springboard.

Despite the lack of a formal education Claudy began to read and to write. In fact, the first story he ever wrote appeared in The Washington Post. He freelanced for The New York Herald, eventually joining its staff in 1908 with a special assignment covering the then infant aeronautical industry.

During this time he wrote a number of articles on the subject and published a book titled, Beginners Book of Model Airplanes. But he was also a photographer. His photos of early flights were given to Alexander Graham Bell who placed in the Smithsonian where they remain today. At the end of World War I, Claudy went overseas as a correspondent for Scientific American.

An avid athlete and outdoors man, his hobbies included camping, mountaineering, boxing, rowing crew, tennis, and football. His love of the outdoors brought him frequently to Montana and inspired many short stories written for various Boy Scout publications.

Claudy's association with Freemasonry began in 1908, when, at the age of 29, he was raised a Master Mason in Harmony 17 in Washington, DC. He served as its master and eventually served as grand master of Masons in the District of Columbia in 1943.

His Masonic writing career began in earnest when he became associated with the Masonic Service Association in 1923, serving as associate editor of its magazine, The Master Mason until 1931. He became executive secretary of the Masonic Service Association in 1929 — a position held until his death in 1957. Under his single handed leadership the Masonic Service Association was brought to a place of preeminence through his authorship and distribution of the "Short Talk Bulletin" which made his name familiar to virtually every lodge in the country.

Claudy can personally lay claim to authorship of approximately 350 Short Talk Bulletins. In addition to the bulletins themselves he wrote and distributed innumerable digests, special bulletins, and portfolios of historical and factual nature — all designed to promote the Craft. One of his finest works of this nature is the "Little Masonic Library," a collection of 20 pocket size volumes by noted authors. In 1930 he published serially in The Master Mason his delightful novel, The Lion's Paw, shortly followed by several others, including the timeless Master's Book, in which are set out the principles and practices of a successful lodge master. Another classic written during this time, his primer for new Masons entitled Introduction to Freemasonry, enjoyed international popularity. In 1934 he penned the first of his series of 12 Masonic plays while in his Washington office. The succeeding plays were all drafted on the road, so to speak. Nine of them were written in a log cabin in Montana in the sight of Emigrant Peak — a blue lodge in the Gallatins as Claudy called it. The plays have, in the past, had a powerful impact on the fraternity and formerly were performed countless times in nearly every grand lodge jurisdiction.

See "Carl H. Claudy, Father of the Short Talk" on Page 5.

## Carl H. Claudy, Father of the Short Talk *continued from page 4*

In consequence of his long service, Masonic recognition was mighty. He was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, recipient of the Henry Price medal and honorary member of many Grand Lodges and lodges.

- *The Masonic Service Association*

## The Regius Manuscript

The oldest of the known manuscript charges of Freemasonry, written about 1390, is in the old English of Chaucer's time, and is very difficult to read. This old manuscript, which is also known as "The Regius Manuscript" or "A Poem of Moral Duties", contains 15 articles and 15 points.

Each class of Wilkerson College is given a copy of the poem in its old English version which is then explained by Dr. Michael Brantley, a charter instructor of the college. The following is a translated and condensed version of the articles and points found in the original manuscript:

### Articles

- (1) The Master must be a trusty man, an honorable and impartial medium between the lords who hire and the operatives who labor.
- (2) He must be punctual in his attendance at the assemblies.
- (3) He must take no apprentice for a term of less than seven years.
- (4) He must take no apprentices, save the free and well born.
- (5) He must take no mutilated person for an apprentice.
- (6) He must not take Craftsman's wages for apprentices' labor.
- (7) He must take no immoral or depraved person for an apprentice.
- (8) Finding an employee incompetent, he must immediately discharge him.
- (9) He must undertake no work that he cannot finish.
- (10) No master shall supplant another in his business.
- (11) He shall not require his workmen to work by night, except in search of knowledge.
- (12) He shall speak no evil of his fellows' work.
- (13) He must instruct his apprentices in the Masonic science.
- (14) The Master shall take no apprentices for whom he has not sufficient labor.
- (15) He shall not compromise with his fellows in their sins for any profit.

### Points

- (1) The Mason must love God and his brethren.
- (2) He must work diligently in working hours that he may lawfully refresh himself in the hours of rest.
- (3) He must keep the secrets of the brethren with fidelity.
- (4) He must be true to the Craft.
- (5) He shall receive his wages without murmuring.
- (6) He shall not turn a working day into a holiday.
- (7) He shall not carnally lie with a brother's wife.
- (8) He must be just and true to his Master and brethren in every capacity.
- (9) He shall treat his brethren with equity and in the spirit of brotherly love.
- (10) He must live peacefully and without contention with his brethren.
- (11) Seeing a brother about to err he must admonish him with kindness.
- (12) He must maintain the general regulations of the Craft.
- (13) He shall commit no theft or succor a thief.
- (14) He must be steadfast to these laws and to the laws of his country.
- (15) He shall submit to the lawful penalty for whatever offences he may commit.

### 2011 Lodge Officers

Master - Ben Wallace  
 Sr. Warden - Jim Sharpe  
 Jr. Warden - Jeff Morris  
 Secretary - Stimpson McRae  
 Treasurer - Steven Campbell  
 Sr. Deacon - Riley Beaman  
 Jr. Deacon - Randy Browning  
 Chaplain - Ashley Cooke  
 Tyler - David Wilder

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*"Each class of Wilkerson College is given a copy of the poem in its old English version which is then explained by Dr. Michael Brantley, a charter instructor of the college."*

### Blackmer Roof Fund

We are now entering into our second year of fund-raising for our roof replacement fund and we could use your help.

If you would like to make a donation or an ongoing pledge to help offset the cost of replacing our lodge roof, we would love to hear from you!

Donations can be mailed to the Secretary at PO Box 265, Mount Gilead, NC 27306.

## Blackmer Lodge No. 127



PO Box 265  
Mount Gilead  
North Carolina, 27306

MASTER'S PHONE:  
(910) 572-7678

*If you would like to contribute to a future edition of the "Blackmer Buzz" please contact the Editor at: larry@thompsonenv.com or by phone at: 704-301-4881*

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Meeting

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.blackmerlodge.org](http://www.blackmerlodge.org)

## Order Your Blackmer Lodge Ring Today!

Brother Riley Beaman, Senior Deacon, is taking orders now for a stainless steel Masonic ring that is being created especially for the members of Blackmer Lodge. The cost of the ring

is \$100.00 and can be ordered by contacting

Brother Riley at 910-571-1753.



## Resolution of Respect - W. B. William Frank Haywood

With the passing of Past Master (1963) William Frank ("Billy Frank") Haywood on March 6, 2011, Blackmer Lodge sustained the loss of a respected and valued half-century plus (1957) member. Brother Haywood was 81 years of age. He was a native son of Montgomery County. His life exemplified one of faithfulness and service to his family, community, country and our fraternity. Billy Frank never asked anyone to undertake any task or duty he himself would not. The degree of difficulty in obtaining a goal never deterred him, as displayed by his successful service as a Lodge Certified Lecturer. His lifelong love for his family was without doubt, as was his passion for out-of-doors activities and "putting things in order".

Sorrowing family, friends and Brothers gathered around his grave side where, along with a Christian service, the mortal remains of Brother Haywood were laid to rest with full Masonic Rites administered by Brother K. R. Fritts.

The world is a lesser place without him, however through his deeds, dedication and examples he will not be forgotten.

Be it resolved: That a copy of this resolution will be recorded in and attached to the minutes of Blackmer Lodge and a copy presented to the family of our deceased Brother.

Prepared by Steven Campbell, Lodge Historian

### ***About Our Fraternity...***

"The mission of Freemasonry in North Carolina is to raise the moral, social, intellectual, and spiritual conscience of society by teaching the ancient and enduring philosophical *tenets*

of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, which are expressed outwardly through service to God, family, country, and self under the Fatherhood of God within the Brotherhood of Man." -

*NC Lodge Manual. Freemasonry is the largest and oldest fraternal order in the world. If you would like more information on the fraternity, please contact us!*

Mount Gilead, NC 27306

PO Box 265

Blackmer Lodge No. 127 A. F. & A. M.