

ATLANTA-PEACHTREE LODGE # 59, F. & A. M. NEWSLETTER - February, 2010

Master's Message

I find myself Worshipful Master of the lodge again – the prior times being in 2001 and 2002. As I was then, I am excited about the many possibilities of what the lodge might accomplish in a year. Yet, this year begins with a note of sadness as I learned that WB Paul Meadows was recently called to the Celestial Lodge. Brother Paul had sent me several communications when I first became master several years ago. He had nothing but praise and encouragement to offer and I had hoped he would be able to enjoy the growth of the lodge this year. Many others have contributed to my growth, but Brother Paul created a special effort to extend encouragement though he lived over a thousand miles away. Brother Paul Meadows' inspiration will be missed.

I have been working with the lodge's active members to pursue updates in relevance, communication, and topical programs. Some changes we hope to include are; contacting every member of the lodge within our region this year, bringing the website current (and keeping it current), providing a regular newsletter on the website, participating in one or more local charities regularly and exhibiting a renewed vigor in exemplifying our Masonic precepts. Please feel welcome to pass along any suggestions or ideas to me, so that they can be presented to the lodge.

My request to all members is to 'Be Inspiring'. We each represent freemasonry every day of our lives. When we are known to be a member of the fraternity, we are watched by many to understand what that means. We joined for various reasons, but we all should share pride in our fraternity and be an example others can find inspiring. I encourage each of you, my fellow brethren, to consider ways to 'Be Inspiring' with every day that God gives you.

Earl E. Sabot, W. M.

PRINCE HALL

On Saturday, February 7, 2010, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana failed to 'accept' a Prince Hall recognition resolution for debate and vote. Because of the mode and timing of submission of the resolution, a two-thirds majority vote was required, which it failed to get. Currently, in the U. S., ten 'mainstream' Grand Lodges have not recognized (their state) Prince Hall Grand Lodges: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia.

BROTHER ARTHUR KAPLAN

Freemasonry in Georgia has lost one of its great men. On Friday, January 1, 2010, BROTHER and JUDGE ARTHUR KAPLAN went to the Celestial Lodge, after a prolonged illness. Judge Kaplan was born January 5, 1925 in Covington, Georgia, the son of Nathan Kaplan and Lena Mischelevich Kaplan. Judge Kaplan grew up in Atlanta and attended Boy's High School.

Brother Kaplan a Naval veteran of World War II, participating in five invasions in the Pacific theater. In 1945, he was awarded the Naval Commendation for Meritorious Service for actions in caring for wounded Naval personnel during the Battle of Okinawa after his ship was hit 16 times by enemy shore batteries. After the war, he completed his college education at the Atlanta Division of the University of Georgia, (now Georgia State University), graduated from John Marshall School of Law, and practiced in Atlanta. In 1973, Mayor Sam Massell appointed Brother Kaplan to the Atlanta Municipal Court.

While going to law school, Brother Kaplan trained as a medic at Grady Memorial Hospital, which led to decades as a volunteer paramedic. Judge Kaplan taught emergency medi-

cal care at the Atlanta Police Academy for over 30 years. He also taught members of the GBI, FBI, U.S. Secret Service, Atlanta Fire Rescue and the nursing students at Grady Memorial Hospital. It is estimated that during his career he taught over 15,000 people in emergency medical care and rendered emergency first aid to over 30,000. His passion was for helping people, particularly in medical emergencies.

Brother Kaplan appeared on the television shows 'To Tell the Truth' and 'This Is Your Life' and Newsweek Magazine included him on its list 100 "unsung heroes" of America in 1986.

In 2003, Judge Kaplan received the U.S. Secret Service Director's Award -- the agency's highest honor -- for voluntarily training agents for 35 years.

Judge Kaplan is survived by his wife of 63 years, Frances; a son, Dr. Ron Kaplan; two daughters, Turner and Shelley Wisely; their spouses and eight grandchildren.

Judge Kaplan was also a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine.

Below is an inspirational article found somewhere on the "World Wide Web":

Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. 'Guess what, Mom,' he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me....'I've been chosen to clap and cheer.'
We can't all (always) have a starring role in the plays of life, but we can be active participants, applauding and encouraging others along life's journey.

GUTZON BORGLUM – PAINTER, SCULPTURER AND FREEMASON

John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum (March 25, 1867 – March 6, 1941) was an American artist and sculptor famous for creating the monumental presidents' heads at Mount Rushmore, South Dakota.

The son of Danish immigrants, Gutzon Borglum was born in St. Charles, Idaho (Territory). At the age of seven, the family moved to Fremont, Nebraska; Educated in Fremont and Omaha, Borglum showed an early aptitude for sketching. He later attended St. Mary's College in Kansas. Borglum returned to the West and established a studio in California. Borglum's early painting "Staging in California" was declared a masterpiece during an 1890 art show in Omaha. George W. Linger, an merchant and art patron, recognized young Borglum's talent and sent him to Europe, where he studied at the Academie Julien in Paris and the Ecole des Beaux Arts also in Paris. He was honored with membership in the Society of Beaux Arts and the Royal Society of British Artists.

Borglum moved to New York City where he sculpted saints and apostles for the new Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in 1901 and got a sculpture accepted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art — the first sculpture by a living American the museum had ever purchased.

In 1908, Borglum won a competition for a statue of the Civil War General Philip Sheridan to be placed in Sheridan Circle in Washington, D.C. A second version was erected in Chicago, Illinois in 1923.

In 1915, Borglum was approached by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) with a project for sculpting a 20-foot high bust of General Robert E. Lee on the face of Stone Mountain. Carving officially began on

June 23, 1923. Lee's head was unveiled on Lee's birthday January 19, 1924, to a large crowd, but soon thereafter Borglum was increasingly at odds with the officials of the UDC. His perfectionist and authoritarian manner brought tensions to such a point that in March 1925 Borglum smashed his clay and plaster models and left Georgia permanently. His tenure at Stone Mountain was over. None of his work remains, as it was all cleared from the mountain's face for the work of Augustus Lukeman, Borglum's replacement, but in his abortive attempt, Borglum had developed necessary techniques for sculpting on a gigantic scale that made Mount Rushmore possible.

His Mount Rushmore project (1927-1941) was the brainchild of South Dakota state historian Doane Robinson. His first attempt with one of the faces was blown up after two years. Dynamite was also used to remove large areas of rock from under Washington's brow. The initial pair of presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln was soon joined by Thomas Jefferson, for this monument sited in the sacred Native American heartland of the Louisiana Purchase, and to make the theme of Manifest

When Borglum died in Chicago, following complications after surgery, his son, Lincoln finished another season at Rushmore, but left the monument largely in the state of completion it had reached under his father's direction.

Borglum's work is on display throughout the United States. In 1908, Borglum completed the statue of John William Mackay (1831-1902), a Comstock Lode silver baron. The statue is located at the University of Nevada, Reno.

One of Borglum's more unusual pieces is the "Aviator", completed in 1919 as a memorial for James R. McConnell, who was killed in World War I while flying for the Lafayette Escadrille. It is located on the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Another impressive Borglum design is the North Carolina state monument on Seminary Ridge at the Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania. The cast bronze sculpture depicts a wounded Confederate officer encouraging his men to push forward during Pickett's Charge.

His fascination with gigantic scale and themes of heroic nationalism mirrored his extroverted personality. His head of Abraham Lincoln, carved from a six-ton block of marble, can be found in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C.

Borglum was an active member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, being raised in Howard Lodge #35, New York City, on June 10, 1904, and serving as its Worshipful Master, 1910-11. He received his Scottish Rite Degrees in the New York City Consistory on October 25, 1907.

While Borglum denied that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan, sources indicate that he may have been a member. He had close ties to Sam Venable, owner of Stone Mountain and a well-known member of the Klan. Borglum also is alleged to have had some connection to Klan Grand Dragon D. C. Stephenson.

Borglum is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendale in the Memorial Court of Honor. His second wife, Mary Montgomery Williams Borglum, 1874–1955 (they were married May 20, 1909) is interred alongside him.

Article in The Atlanta-Journal and Constitution Newspaper on June 4, 1988

Former Sheriff Stynchcombe is dead at 80: Longtime Fulton lawman built strong political base

Byline: By Tom Bennett, Staff Writer(also contributions by Staff Writer Monique Logan)

LeRoy N. Stynchcombe of Stone Mountain, former longtime Fulton County sheriff, died of lung cancer Friday at DeKalb General Hospital. He was 80.

Eight months before he died, he had fallen and broken a hip. He was living with a daughter while he recuperated. Three weeks before he died, the former sheriff learned he had cancer.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Spring Hill with burial at Arlington Memorial Park.

Stynchcombe was Fulton sheriff for 16 years, from 1968 to 1984, and a department employee for 42 years. He rose from a \$175-a-month deputy to chief deputy to sheriff, gaining appointment to the top post in 1968.

In September of that year, he ran for a full four-year term and won in a runoff. He was re-elected in 1972, 1976 and 1980 before losing in a 1984 runoff to Richard B. Lankford, a former captain in Stynchcombe's department who became Fulton County's first black sheriff.

A thin, white-haired former Sunday school superintendent, Stynchcombe once seemed a fixture in the department that provides security for Fulton County civil and criminal courts, serves warrants and operates the Fulton County Jail.

He had a strong political base and used it to deflect criticism of his department. He regularly attended funerals, church breakfasts, service club luncheons and Shrine activities. The sheriff integrated his department and enjoyed the political support of Martin Luther King Jr.

Though frail in appearance, Stynchcombe rebuffed critics who questioned whether he was healthy enough to serve. In 1980 he said he had not been in a hospital since 1955, when he had surgery for a ruptured appendix.

Opponents charged that Stynchcombe was slow to push for additional personnel and equipment and that his son LeRoy Jr., then chief deputy, actually was in charge of day-to-day operations of the jail.

Stynchcombe was a jailer for celebrity criminals. When Wayne Williams was on trial for murder in the Atlanta child killings, reporters from around the world were here. Stynchcombe handled media arrangements for the Williams trial so skillfully that afterward network television reporters hosted a thank-you luncheon for him.

The sheriff also guarded Marcus Wayne Chenault, who shot and killed Alberta Williams King, wife of Martin Luther King Sr., in 1974 as she played the organ during a worship service at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

LeRoy Nelson Stynchcombe was born Dec. 8, 1907, in Greene County, the youngest of 14 children of David Stynchcombe and Mrs. Sally Langston Stynchcombe; his parents were teachers. He attended grammar school in Athens, Commercial High School in Atlanta, and Georgia Tech night school.

The young Stynchcombe was an account executive for Retail Credit, now Equifax, before joining the Fulton County Sheriff's Department in 1942. For 12 years he was a deputy. He was named chief deputy in 1954, and when Sheriff T. Ralph Grimes retired in 1968, Stynchcombe was chosen to complete the term.

His wife, Mrs. Regina Barfield Stynchcombe, died of a heart attack at 57 in 1970. After that, the sheriff later told an interviewer, "this job consumed my life."

Stynchcombe stirred controversy in 1974 when he named his son, LeRoy Jr., his chief deputy. The sheriff defended his action, saying, "There is nothing political about this thing, because LeRoy Jr. is the best-qualified."

He was a past president of the Northeast Atlanta Lions Club and past deputy governor of Georgia Lions. He also belonged to the Georgia Peace Officers Association, Masons and Moose. He was a deacon at Morningside Baptist Church and a former Sunday school superintendent at Inman Park Baptist Church.

Surviving are his son LeRoy Jr. of Chattanooga, Tenn.; a daughter, Mrs. Diane Mitchell of Stone Mountain; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

THE FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF ATLANTA LODGE # 59

BROTHER LEONARD CHRISTOPHER SIMPSON (b: 15 Sep 1821 – d: 16 Sep 1860) was the first Worshipful Master of our Lodge and served as such in 1847 (when the lodge was chartered), 1848, 1850 – 1852 and 1855.

At the age of 18, Simpson studied law under Hon. William Ezzard, a celebrated jurist in Decatur, Georgia. In 1844, Brother Simpson was raised in Pythagoras Lodge #41 in Decatur. Later he served as Senior Warden.

In 1845, Brother Simpson moved to (what was to become) Atlanta and was its first resident lawyer; he practiced law in Atlanta until his death. Simpson was one of the first members of the City Council of Atlanta, serving as such in 1848, 1852 and 1853-1854 and in 1857. He very capably handled the duties of City Attorney for a considerable length of time. In 1851, Simpson was defeated in a race for Mayor of Atlanta by another member of Atlanta Lodge # 59, Jonathan Norcross.

In 1848, Brother Simpson served as Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. In 1853, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Southern Masonic Female College at Covington. In 1858, he served as Deputy Grand Master.

In 1854, Brother Simpson introduced a resolution at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge calling for a revision of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. Brother Simpson was appointed chairman of a committee; and along with Senior Grand Warden W. S. Rockwell (who later became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia), was authorized to prepare an Ahimon Rezon which was to contain all the lectures and other esoteric work of both the Grand and Subordinate Lodges of Georgia. In 1856 the report of this committee was presented and unanimously adopted. In 1858 the committee's work was published in book form by the McCoy Publishing Company of New York.

The printing was authorized by Grand Master W. S. Rockwell, whose name appears on the title page as author and compiler. However, several well-informed Brethren say that, while Grand Master W. S. Rockwell was entitled to mention on the title page, the honor of being author and compiler rightfully belongs to Brother Simpson.