



SCOTTISH RITE

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Church Service—April 15, 2012—2:00 PM—Masonic Home
Business Meeting—April 19, 2012—Masonic Home
20th, 31st & 32nd Degree Reunion – April 21, 2012 - 9:30 AM— “Baby Grand”

ANOTHER GALA AT THE BABY GRAND

Here is the tentative agenda for the day (times are subject to change):

- 8:00 AM—Doors open (use Baby Grand entrance) FREE PARKING at the 8th & Orange Ground Level Parking Lot
- 8:15 AM—Munchies and Coffee for the early birds
- 8:30 AM—Candidates report to the Baby Grand—OTHERS CHECK IN AT THE BABY GRAND UNTIL 9:20 AM
- 9:30 AM—Ceremonial of the 20th Degree and short business meeting will be held in the Blue Room on the 3rd Floor
- 10:30 AM—Break—Reassemble at the Baby Grand—Ceremonial of the 31st & 32nd Degree will be on-stage at the Baby Grand and should start by 10:45 AM or so
- 12:30 PM—Lunch on the 4th Floor of 818 Market Street (catered by Jimmy’s Grille)

Here is what you get:

- Munchies and coffee for the early birds
- Reunions of the 20th, 31st and 32nd Degrees
- Lunch by Jimmy’s Grille
- Free parking if you park in the 8th and Orange Streets parking lot
- Guard service to/from parking lot



Further information on our website at www.srvalleyofwilmde.com or by calling the office at 302-998-6475.

Inside this Issue you will find :

- Golf outing information (pg 2) and flyer (insert)
- Information on the religious service at our Masonic Home (pg 2)
- Service Awards information (pg 2)
- Description of the Battle of Fort McHenry or Biography of Major George Armistead (pg 3)
- Prayer list (pg 4)
- Deceased Brothers reported since the last SR Newsletter (pg 4)



5th Annual Charity Golf Outing

Equity Council and the Wilmington Council Princes of Jerusalem have joined forces with the Valley of Lower Delaware to again host the 5th Annual Charity Golf Outing.

Here is the information:

LOCATION: Eagle Creek Golf Course (Dover AFB)
DATE: Friday, May 18, 2012
REGISTRATION: Begins 9:00 AM
TEE TIME: Shotgun start at 11:00 AM
RECEPTION/DINNER: Approximately 5:00 PM

Our charity this year is the same as last year, the Dover AFB Services, Combat Support & Community Services, Support Unit for Children's Activities and Families of our Military.

FORE!!

Last year was a great time with fine food, great prizes and plenty of fun. Using "Best Ball" format, prizes include closest to the pin (last year Hole 12—Bob Myers and Hole 14—Rob MacLennan), closest to the line (Hole 10—Jack Hendricks) and longest drive (Hole 18—Frank Harless). We will also award to some foursome, the Grand Master's Trophy (last year's winners were Mark Cuomo, Steve Mills, Greg Pine, and Rob MacLennan representing Ionic Lodge #31).



Top Three Teams were:

- 1st Mark Cuomo, Steve Mills, Greg Pine & Rob MacLennan
- 2nd Ed Miles, Doug Clark & Frank Harless (on a tie breaker)
- 3rd Frank Forshey, Doug Watson, Mike Holden & Jim Honaker

We are limited to 100 golfers, so get your reservations in early. (Due to government regulations, no reservations will be taken after May 12, 2012.) Flyers are available in this Newsletter.

Religious Services

Why not put a smile on your face by attending the Religious Services at the Masonic Home. Your entire family is invited. The Services will be held on April 15, 2012 beginning at 2:00 PM. The Service is sponsored by the Delaware Consistory. Light Refreshments will follow the service and ALL are welcome to attend.

Church Attire is appropriate.

The Reverence James R. Herrington will officiate.

Service Awards Presented

In a brief ceremony at our Reunion on March 17, 2012, Illustrious James T. Elliott, Jr., Deputy for Delaware awarded Certificates of Service to the following members who were able to join us:

50 Years

John E. Bednash
Carl V. Dreisbach, Jr.
Robert C. O'Dell

60 Years

John H. Brandenberger
Benjamin E. Jones

The following members were not able to join us. We will be sending their Certificates of Service to them as follows:

John B. Clinch—70 Years

John H. Collins—65 Years
Ralph L. Holloway—65 Years
William F. Nutter—65 Years

W. Nelson Hall—60 Years
John T. Hopkins—60 Years
Edwin M. Newth—60 Years
Conrad Rechsteiner—60 Years
William A. Siegmund—60 Years
J. Randall Ward, Jr.—60 Years
Walter E. Woodford, Jr.—60 Years

Merwyn W. Deverell—50 Years
Robert G. Griffin—50 Years
M. Leon Hart—50 Years
William G. Lloyd—50 Years
Robert R. Loyd—50 Years
Albert R. Morris—50 Years
Norris L. Niblett—50 Years
Lawrence V. Persinger—50 Years
Donald E. Schaffer—50 Years
Charles R. Schnably—50 Years
Carl R. Soderlind—50 Years
Marvil A. Tice—50 Years

Over 1500 years of Scottish Rite Masonry. If you know any of these Brothers, please congratulate them on their fantastic achievement.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR

- Calendar of events, office hours, event information, etc.
- Interesting articles
- Links to other websites
- Officer information, contacts, etc.
- Pictures of people, places and things connected to our Scottish Rite
- Advanced copy of Newsletters (it is in color on the website)
- Areas of Special interests and more

The Battle of Fort McHenry

Following the successful campaign against Washington DC, British forces under Vice Adm. Sir Alexander Cochrane and Maj. Gen. Robert Ross advanced up the Chesapeake Bay to attack Baltimore, MD. Baltimore was believed by the British to be the base of many of the American privateers that were preying on British shipping. To take the city, Ross and Cochrane planned a two-pronged attack with Ross landing at North Point and advancing overland, while Cochrane attacked Fort McHenry and the harbor defenses by water.

On September 12, 1814, Ross landed with 4,500 men on the tip of North Point and began advancing northwest towards Baltimore. His men soon encountered American forces under Brig. Gen. John Stricker. Dispatched by Maj. Gen. Samuel Smith, Stricker was under orders to delay the British as much as possible, while the fortifications around the city were completed. In the resulting battle, Ross was killed, his command took heavy losses and his command devolved to Col. Arthur Brooke who elected to remain on the field suffering through a rainy night.

At the same time, Cochrane began moving his fleet up the Patapsco River toward the city's harbor defenses. These were anchored on the star-shaped Fort McHenry. Situated on Locust Point, the fort guarded the approaches to the Northwest Branch of the Patapsco which led to the city as well as the Middle Branch of the river. Fort McHenry was supported across the Northwest Branch by a battery at Lazaretto and by Forts Covington and Babcock to the west. At Fort McHenry, the garrison commander, Maj. George Armistead, had a composite force of around 1,000 men.

Early on September 13, Brooke began advancing towards the city along the Philadelphia Road. In the Patapsco, Cochrane was hampered by shallow waters which precluded sending forward his heaviest ships. As a result, his attack force consisted of five bomb ketches, 10 smaller warships, and the rocket vessel HMS *Erebus*. By 6:30 AM, they were in position and opened fire on Fort McHenry. Remaining out of range of Armistead's guns, the British ships struck the fort with heavy mortar shells (bombs) and Congreve rockets (pictured to the left) from *Erebus*.

Advancing ashore, Brooke, who believed they had defeated city's defenders the day before, was stunned when his men found 12,000 Americans behind substantial earthworks east of the city. Under orders not to attack unless with a high chance of success, he began probing Smith's lines, but was unable to find a weakness. As a result, he was forced to hold his position and await the outcome of Cochrane's assault on the harbor. Early in the afternoon, Rear Adm. George Cockburn, thinking the fort had been badly damaged, moved the bombardment force closer to increase the effectiveness of their fire.

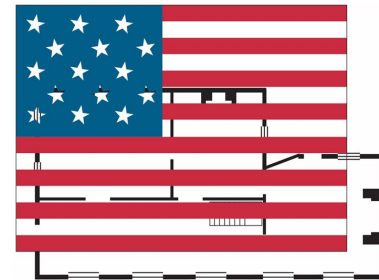
As the ships closed, they came under intense fire from Armistead's guns, which forced them to withdraw to their original positions. In effort to break the stalemate, the British attempted to move around the fort after dark. Embarking 1,200 men in small boats, they rowed up the Middle Branch. Mistakenly thinking they were safe, this assault force fired signal rockets which gave away their position. As a result, they quickly came under an intense crossfire from Forts Covington and Babcock. Taking heavy losses, the British withdrew.

By dawn, with the rain subsiding, the British had fired between 1,500 and 1,800 rounds at the fort with little impact. The greatest moment

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of danger had come when a shell struck the fort's unprotected magazine, but had failed to explode. Realizing the potential for disaster, Armistead had the fort's gunpowder supply distributed to safer locations. As the sun began to rise, he ordered the fort's small storm flag lowered and replaced with the standard garrison flag measuring 42 feet by 30 feet. Sewn by local seamstress Mary Pickersgill (the flag was actually as big as her own house—see picture with floor plan), the flag was clearly visible to all of the ships in the river.



The sight of the flag and the ineffectiveness of the 25-hour bombardment convinced Cochrane that the harbor could not be breached. Ashore, Brooke, with no support from the navy, decided against a costly attempt on the American lines and began retreating towards North Point where his troops re-embarked.

The attack on Fort McHenry cost Armistead's garrison 4 killed and 24 wounded. British losses were around 330 killed, wounded, and captured, most of which occurred during the ill-fated attempt to move up the Middle Branch. The successful defense of Baltimore coupled with victory at the Battle of Plattsburgh aided in restoring American pride after the burning of Washington DC and bolstered the nation's bargaining position at the Ghent peace talks.

The battle is best remembered for inspiring Francis Scott Key to write *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Detained aboard the ship *Minden*, Key had gone to meet with the British to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes who had been arrested during the attack on Washington. Having overheard the British attack plans, Key was forced to remain with the fleet for the duration of the battle. Moved to write during the fort's heroic defense, he composed the words to an old drinking song entitled *To Anacreon in Heaven*. Initially published after the battle as the *Defense of Fort McHenry*, it eventually became known as the *Star-Spangled Banner* and was made the National Anthem of the United States.



A VIEW of the BOMBARDMENT of Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, by the British fleet, taken from the Observatory since the entrance of Admiral Cochrane's fleet on the morning of the 13th of Sept. 1814, which lasted 24 hours & threw from 1200 to 1800 shells on the fort, which was defended with great gall.

DEATHS REPORTED SINCE LAST BULLETIN

Date Born	Brothers Name	Date Died
03/19/1919	Oliver W. Cropper	10/06/2011
07/10/1912	George T. Vincent	01/28/2012
08/13/1917	John H. Bing	02/05/2012
08/29/1943	Ronald L. Wiant	02/24/2012
10/23/1931	Eugene S. Thompson, Jr.	02/27/2012
07/02/1925	Gilbert S. Scarborough, Jr.	03/01/2012
04/13/1934	Walter R. McGuckin	03/02/2012
03/06/1935	Fred C. Eichelberger	03/09/2012
06/20/1920	William J. Downs	03/16/2012

April—May 2012 Events:

The following events are called to your attention:

April 15, 2012—Church Service @ Masonic Home at 2:00 PM

April 19, 2012—Business Meeting @ Masonic Home at 7:30 PM

April 21, 2012—20th, 31st & 32nd Degrees Reunion @ “The Baby Grand” at 9:30 AM

April 25, 2012—Council of Deliberation @ New Castle Masonic Hall at 700 PM

May 18, 2012—5th Annual Charity Golf Outing (see flyer)

Information to the family: Should the Scottish Rite Mason whose name appears on the mailing label be admitted into the Hospital, Nursing Home, or is incapacitated in any way, **Please notify the Secretary of the Scottish Rite.**

(302) 998-6475

or

valleyofwilm098@verizon.net

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Do you know?

By the time the British bombarded Fort McHenry, there were 18 States in our Union. Who were the five States added to the original 13?

(Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IN YOUR MASONIC PRAYERS

- Brother Winfield W. Lane, MSA
- Brother Wayne T. Slack, MSA
- Brother William S. Downing
- Brother Donald D. Mitchell
- Brother Eugene R. Hazzard
- Brother John S. Hanna, Jr.
- Brother John D. Walters
- Brother Harold G. Snyder
- Brother Ira G. White
- Brother Edwin M. Newth
- Brother Bennie L. Bell
- Illustrious Brother William F. Huxtable
- Brother Frank H. Furr, III
- Brother Earl V. Nichols, Sr.
- Brother Lyman L. Krimmel
- Illustrious Brother James M. Brittingham



If you know of anyone who is in need of prayers, please contact the Secretary as indicated.

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818 MARKET ST—3RD FLOOR
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