



Wheaton Lodge 269

Serving DuPage County Since 1858

Memorial Day Edition (May/June 2007)

Civil War Memories – Part 1:
Service in the Civil War

The Greatest of These:
Understanding the
Corinthians Verse
Wheaton Lodge Web
Site: Rejected!



not have died in vain - that this nation,
under God, shall have a new birth of free-
dom - and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not per-
ish from the earth.

November 19, 1863.

Abraham Lincoln.

Civil War Memories: Part 1

Value of Brevity

President Lincoln was not the main speaker at the Gettysburg Soldiers' National Cemetery. Lincoln gave his speech after the two-hour, 13,607 word oration by the Honorable Edward Everett that was intended to be the Gettysburg Address. Lincoln's famous dedication was just 272 words, lasting only two minutes.

Reflecting on this past Memorial Day, Brother Randy Nickell offered a two-part article about his family's contributions to the Civil War. The second part will be published in the July/August 2007 issue of the Trestleboard.

Few subjects attract the interest of history buffs like the U.S. Civil War (or, depending upon your perspective, the War of Northern Aggression). The Civil War inflicted hardship and suffering on tens of thousands of families on both sides of the Conflict.

I am proud to claim three direct ancestors who served with the Union Army during the Civil War: John Ogan (1836-1915), Edward Culver (1832-1892), and Andrew Jackson Nickell (1828-1863).

Andrew Jackson Nickell is the father of my Masonic heritage and my great-great grandfather. During the Civil War, Andrew proudly served with the 114th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company E. During his service, Andrew

participated in the Vicksburg Campaign and the Siege of Vicksburg. Andrew died aboard the Federal hospital ship U.S.S. January on June 16, 1863 just eighteen days before Vicksburg's surrender on July 4, 1863.

Andrew left behind his wife, Isabel Ramey Nickell and three (soon to be four) young children. Isabel "Belle" saved roughly thirty letters written by Andrew during his service and tenure as a Federal soldier. For over 140 years, the Nickell family has carefully preserved Andrew's letters that are now in my custodianship. These priceless letters represent a Federal soldier's first person account or Civil War Journal. All of Andrew's letters are posted to the Internet at the website at the end of this article.

We do not know if Andrew was raised a Mason. However, Andrew's son "Doc", my grandfather, Lloyd, my father, Tom and myself have all belonged to the Fraternity and the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

With Memorial Day recently behind us, many of us have—as Citizens and as Masons—reflected upon more recent contributions and sacrifices by the men and women in our military. I hope each of you will make a trip to Andrew Jackson's Civil War website to read some of his letters. In doing so, I believe his first person letters will provide a better understanding of his commitment to preserve the Union, and some of the personal hardships he endured towards that goal.

Fraternally, Brother Randy Nickell

Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/il/thecivilwarjournal>

If you would like to share the story of your family, email Brother David Kinney at trebleboard@wheatonlodge269.org.



About Vicksburg

In late 1862, the fortress city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, dominated the last Confederate-controlled section of the Mississippi River. The Vicksburg Campaign was a series of battles directed against Vicksburg between December 26, 1862, and July 4, 1863.



Charity's Etymology

Originally in Latin the word *caritas* meant preciousness, dearness, high price. From this, in Christian theology, *caritas* became the standard Latin translation for the Greek word *agape*, meaning a kindness to all others, such as the love of God. This much wider concept is the meaning of the word charity in the Christian triplet “faith, hope, charity.”



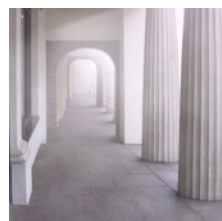
The Greatest of These

This last month I had the pleasure of sitting in the Chaplain’s chair for a second degree. Along with this pleasure was the task of learning the Fellowcraft prayer. Not a tough one by any means, but a very relevant one. It derives from Corinthians Chapter 13. In our ceremony the passage is cut short, and even though the passages’ meaning stays the same, the bits that are left out are equally important.

This was eye opening for me. Even though the passage was meaningful, I wanted to know more about charity. This led me to look up the definition in my Webster’s Dictionary. Here is what old Webster had to say:

charity: love for one’s fellow man

So that’s it. Charity is not just giving up money or property to help people, it’s showing love and respect to others. That is an important meaning — especially in these days with “charity” groups popping up all over the place



asking strictly for money and monetary things. These groups ask for the wrong thing! Instead of asking for your money, they should be asking for your love, support, and hard work. Yes, we should feed the poor—not to get something in return, but for *the love of humanity*.

Knowing the meaning of charity, I was curious what Webster had to say about faith and hope. The definition of faith is “confidence; loyalty...” and hope is “the belief that one’s desires may be attained”.

So that foundational phrase for our Fraternity—“faith, hope, charity”—can also be understood as “confidence, desire, and love for fellow mankind”. We need confidence and desire to improve ourselves—but you can lose confidence easily and desire can fade with the will of men. That is why the greatest of these is charity: charity *is* love—and it will not go away.

Fraternally, Brother Nick Tinsley

1 Corinthians: 13

1 Corinthians gives us an understanding of the early church seeking to define itself in terms of doctrine and allegiance to spiritual leaders such as Peter, Paul, Apollos, and Jesus. A major theme of 1 Corinthians is defining who is a “real Christian”. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul tells his audience that they may have all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but unless they first have love, these gifts mean nothing.

Wheaton Lodge Website: Rejected!

Memorial Day

It is happy coincidence that this Trestleboard issue relates Memorial Day to the Civil War, since Memorial Day began during the Civil War to honor Union soldiers. After World War I, it expanded to include those who died in any war or military action.

Web Site Traffic

During 2006 when Grand Lodge was linking to the Wheaton Lodge Web site, they accounted for just 13% of the total visitors and 21% of the new visitors. Clearly, most people are finding our Lodge site through other means. In fact, one-third of new visitors find us through Web search engines. Of those using Web search engines, 55% used Google, 23% used Yahoo!, and 16% used MSN.)



Another year, another set of Web site requirements from Grand Lodge. Each year, Grand Lodge updates its criteria for Blue Lodge sites to be linked from Grand Lodge's master list of Illinois Lodges.

For the first time, Grand Lodge is restricting our ability to provide visitors with links to very useful Web sites related to our Fraternity. *As enforced*, these requirements forbid Wheaton Lodge from (1) linking to our own message board, because it is hosted by Yahoo! Groups; (2) linking to Google Maps to provide visitors maps and directions to our Lodge; (3) linking to the Grand Lodge of England or other Masonic sites that have particularly good introductory material about our Fraternity for potential candidates; and (4) linking to non-commercial sites such as Wikipedia to provide further information about Freemasonry.

Our Lodge eliminated all of the prohibited links except the link to our Yahoo! Group. Unfortunately, Grand Lodge was not willing to approve us with that link. We determined that the value of a Grand Lodge link to our Web site is less than the value of serving our members by providing an easy link to our member forum (sidebar "Web Site Traffic", left), so *we have decided to forego Grand Lodge approval this year*.

To compensate for the lack of traffic from Grand Lodge, I have enhanced our visibility to potential candidates and visitors using by improving our Google keyword advertisement link placement. Searching for "wheaton masonic" or "dupage freemasonry" now provides a link to our Web site on the right side of the page. Additionally, if you use Google Maps to search for Masonicly-related terms near Wheaton, our Lodge has a nice icon and link to our Web site. I am donating this service by covering the expenses of the advertising and link placement.

Read Grand Lodge's "Guidelines for Masonic Websites" at <http://www.ilmason.org/forms/ILGLwebguidelines.pdf>

Fraternally, Brother David L Kinney

Google PageRank

One of the Grand Lodge requirements for approval of a Blue Lodge Web site is that the site's main page link to Grand Lodge. To understand this requirement, you have to understand how Google ranks search results. PageRank is Google's system for ranking Web pages. A site with a higher PageRank is deemed more important and is more likely to be listed above a page with a lower PageRank.

Google considers over a hundred factors in computing a site's PageRank, but one of the most important is *the number of other Web sites linking to that site*. Thus, Grand Lodge makes Blue Lodges link to them to improve their PageRank score.

Wheaton Lodge No. 269
120 West Wesley Street
Wheaton, IL 60187



PLACE
STAMP
HERE