



# Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

July 1, 2023

Volume 5 Issue 6

## Tidings from the East by way of the West



### Brother James Garfield: A Brilliant Life Interrupted

When Brother James Abram Garfield's name is associated with Freemasonry it is most often under a banner of "Famous Masons", attributed to his service as the twentieth President of the United States. Assuredly, his "rags to riches" life of accomplishments is one all men can admire. Being elected to the highest public office is no small feat but only scratches the surface of this remarkable Mason. I doubt very much that schools of this era spend any time discussing this remarkable man, except in reference to that thankfully tiny club of assassinated Presidents. He is the first and only President to have been elected directly from the House of Representatives.

By way of background, Bro. James was born into extreme poverty; the last President to be born in a log cabin. His father died early in his life and his older brother and sister sacrificed much to ensure James had a good education. It is written that his 13-year-old sister Mehitabel would carry a young James on her back through the snow to school. His mother would later donate a tract of their meager farm to build a local schoolhouse.

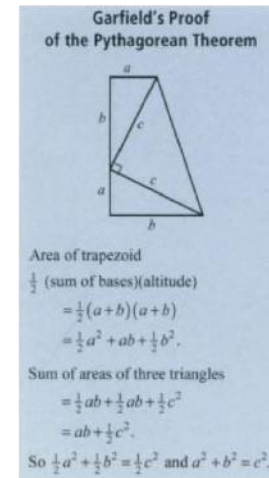
By most accounts Bro. James was an unusually gifted and accomplished student, especially in higher mathematics in which he was mostly self-taught until college. He was fluent in Latin and Greek as well as being ambidextrous. In fact, he would entertain friends by writing a statement simultaneously with one hand in Greek and the other in Latin. He studied the law as well and was admitted to the Bar in 1861 before receiving a commission as a Colonel in the Union Army. He used his aptitude in geometry to fashion representations of troops, companies, and other assets to teach the principles of tactics and maneuvers to fellow officers. A staunch Abolitionist, Bro. James would ultimately attain the rank of Brigadier General. Soon after the war, the "inexperienced" lawyer argued his very first case before the United States Supreme Court and won! *Ex parte Milligan* (1866) is still considered a landmark decision in regarding individual due process rights.

At a young age he worked as a carpenter and showed a deftness at angles and mechanical fittings. In 1851, while attending a college preparatory school he fell in love with Geometry and wrote to the President of Williams college, Mark Hopkins, expressing an interest in attending. For his part Hopkins was very interested in admitting "sincere yet rustic" young men from the West to combat what he described as "signs of effeteness" in his normal students.<sup>1</sup> Bro. James spoke fondly of the kindness of Hopkins in this pivotal moment of his life which was described by his classmate and fellow Brother John James Ingalls who said "The ideal college is Mark Hopkins on one end of a log with a student on the other." Bro. James would go on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa and named class Salutatorian.

<sup>1</sup> Victor E. Hill, President Garfield and the Pythagorean Theorem, *Math Horizons*, February 2002, Vol. 9, No. 3 (February 2002), pp. 9-11, 15



Bro. James' love of Geometry no doubt shared a symbiotic invigoration with his study of Masonry. Proof of this came in 1876 when Bro. James (then a member of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress) gave a speech at the Dartmouth College Chapel and arranged a private meeting afterwards with Professors Parker and Quimby of the mathematics department. In that meeting Bro. James produced an original mathematical proof of the Pythagorean Theorem he developed. The professors were so impressed with the proof that they helped get it published in the New England Journal of Education. Bro. James realized that if you construct a right triangle, and then flip it and rotate to make another congruent to it; you discover the mystery angle between the two is found to be 90 degrees! If you form a trapezoid from the two triangles and measure the area you get the Pythagorean Theorem ( $a^2+b^2=c^2$ )! Quite an accomplishment for a mostly self-taught mathematician!



Interestingly, Garfield's clever proof was likely created the same year that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. Alexander Graham Bell has a similar story of impressive accomplishments in Life. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1847 he showed a keen interest in the arts and sciences. At the age of 12 he invented a simple de-husking machine for a local mill. Little did either man know that their worldly pursuits had them destined to meet under the most unfavorable circumstances.

On July 2, 1881 Brother James was traveling to a 25<sup>th</sup> class reunion at Williams College from Washington D.C. when an evil and cowardly assassin drew a revolver and fired two shots into the back of the President of the United States. The motive arose in the fog of mental illness, a heart filled with darkness from a weak mind. The assassin believed he was owed a government appointment from the President for some meager campaigning. Bro. James was steadfast in his opposition to party patronage and corruption that had plagued the government for decades. This Post-Reconstruction period would not be marred by that stain of nepotism if Bro. James had anything to say about it. Men would rise upon their merit. A lesson no doubt validated by his time in lodge.



That day however, the demon sought his pound of flesh. The first bullet grazed Bro. James' right arm to which he reportedly shouted "My God! What is this?". The second bullet entered his lower back and felled him to the station floor. The assassin was quickly apprehended while Bro. James bled profusely on the floor. Over the next hour no less than ten physicians attended to the wounded President, probing unsuccessfully with their unsterilized fingers in a vain attempt to locate the bullet. It had lodged close to his pancreas and while it would be a survivable wound

today, the inability to extract it would eventually prove fatal.



Bro. James was rushed to the White House where the prodding and poking continued. The repeated probing caused severe inflammation and hemorrhaging. While Pasteur's "germ theory" was catching on in Europe, doctors in the United States were still largely unaware of the necessity for sterile instruments and fingers. Bro. James ultimately spent two bed-ridden months fighting off numerous infections as his strength continued to fade.

The news of the assassination attempt riled the nation and, particularly, the interest of Alexander Graham Bell. Newspapers had lamented the fact that the bullet could not be located and thus removed. Time was running out for the brilliant and honorable Mason. Bell began to work on the problem and developed the first ever metal detector, called induction balance. He experimented on sheep that he'd shot and found great success. Bell excitedly rushed to the White House with his new invention and a reputation of a brilliant inventor. Sadly, he experienced a number of unexplainable failures. Add to which, doctors only allowed him to search the right side of the President's body, mistakenly thinking the bullet must be there.

Mr. Bell tried and tried but his new invention experienced some kind of interference he couldn't explain. He could not have possibly know the reason behind the failure of his new invention. Historians have surmised that the President had been laying on another impressive invention...the spring-coiled mattress. The metal springs no doubt overwhelmed the sensitivity of the new detector with background noise and effectively hid the bullet from detection.

Bro. James Garfield spent only 200 days in Office when he finally passed in September. A brilliant life cut short by jealousy and vengeance. Looking back at his accomplishments, one has to wonder what could have been achieved from a life uninterrupted? A man of principle, a man of intellect. A statesman when others around him viewed government service as a means of enrichment. Such a man undoubtedly had much more to contribute. Could his Masonic heart and mathematical mind design a solution to the mess of Reconstruction? Sadly, we will never know. As Masons we know that there is much work to be done. That work takes men of discipline and honor. Progress does not dwell in the shadows of "what if", it is found in the fitting of stones. The work is before us, not behind. Bro. James may have said it best on thinking back to President Lincoln's assassination; he said "Assassination can no more be guarded against than death by lightning; and it is not best to worry about either." The best way to honor great men is to carry on with the work.

Bro. James Garfield; 1864, Columbus Lodge No. 30, Columbus, Ohio, 1864, Charter member of Pentalpha Lodge No. 23, Washington, DC, 1869

By Brother Thomas W. Adair, Douglas Lodge No. 153



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## Calendar of Grand Lodge Events

To help your lodge plan your Official Visits please note that activities may change due to various issues that may arise.

**Fri Jun 30,- Tue Jul 4, 2023**

**Colorado Masonic Band Camp**

**Mon Jul 3, 2023**

**Colorado Masonic Band Camp Concert**

**Sat Jul 8, 2023**

**8am Angel in the Forest**

**Where:** Rye, CO 81069, USA

**Description:** Knights Templar

**10am Outdoor Meeting at Trotter Ranch**

**Where:** 11157 Gypsum Creek Rd, Gypsum, CO 81637, USA

**Description:** Glenwood Lodge No. 65 is hosting the 2023 Outdoor Lodge. We will be performing a first degree ceremony. Families of Masons are encouraged to come enjoy some BBQ after Lodge. A small donation is requested to cover the cost of catering. See you there!

**Sun Jul 9, 2023**

**7 AM - 1 PM Annual Nevadaville Pancake Breakfast:**

**Where:** 1043 Nevadaville Road, Nevadaville, CO

**Description:** Breakfast, building tours, live music, gunfights, and more!

**Thu Jul 13, 2023**

**1pm Cornerstone Nucla West End Public Schools RE-2**

**Where:** 225 W 4th Ave, Nucla, CO 81424, USA

**Description:** The cornerstone starts at 1:00pm and lunch will be served after the ceremony. Hosted by Telluride Lodge No. 56

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## Calendar of Grand Lodge Events (Continued)

**Fri Jul 21,—Sat Jul 22, 2023**

**All day 2023 Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference**

**Where:** Las Vegas, NV, USA

**Sat Jul 22, 2023**

**11:30am Colorado Masons Benevolent Fund Scholarship Luncheon**

**Where:** 1370 Grant St, Denver, CO 80203, USA

**Sat Jul 29, 2023**

**7:30am Douglas County Fair Parade Douglas Lodge No. 153**

**Where:** 300 Wilcox St, Castle Rock, CO 80104, USA

**Description:** Douglas Lodge No. 153 invites all Colorado Masons to join. Prince Hall Grand Lodge will be in attendance.

**Sat Aug 5, 2023**

**7am Anniversary "Budget" Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado**

**Where:** 1150 Panorama Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80904, USA

**Description:** Registration starts at 7:00am Lodge Opens at 9:00am

**Sat, Aug 12, 2023**

**THE LODGE OVER SIMPKINS STORE at Fairplay.**

**Where:** Over Simpkins store in Fairplay, CO

**Description:** Details coming in the August newsletter.

**Sun Aug 13-, 2023**

**All day 147th Annual Communication of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Colorado & Jurs.**

**Where:** Courtyard by Marriott Pueblo Downtown, 110. W. 1st Street, W CityCenter Dr, Pueblo, CO 81003, USA

## Calendar of Grand Lodge Events (Continued)

**Sat Aug 26, 2023**

**9:30am Cornerstone Douglas County Library**

**Where:** 100 S Wilcox St, Castle Rock, CO 80104, USA

**Description:** Douglas Lodge No. 153 host Lodge.

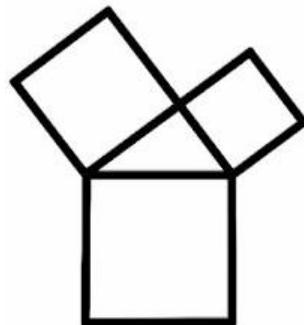
**10:45am Cornerstone for Douglas Lodge No. 153**

**Where:** 300 Wilcox St, Castle Rock, CO 80104, USA

**Description:** Cornerstone for Douglas Lodge No. 153 Lunch will follow at Douglas Lodge No. 153

**1:30pm Cornerstone Littleton School**

**Description:** Sponsored by Weston Lodge No. 22



### Submission Deadline

Articles and events that you want included in the newsletter are due to the Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, by the 25th of the month prior to the publication month.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Colorado Masonic Family Historical Donations Committee is looking for volunteers to do research. This research is to determine the amount of hours we've donated, the amount of money we've donated, and the number of people we've helped as a Masonic family since our inception in Colorado in 1861. This applies to every branch of the Masonic family. The goal of this research is to shed light on what we've contributed as an organization to our communities. This information will be utilized to educate both to our organizations internally and to the residents of the State of Colorado. This is a daunting task and we are looking for help. If you're interested in working on this project please contact WB Mike Brewer at [mike.brewer@allurdata.com](mailto:mike.brewer@allurdata.com).

Colorado Masons, were you in DeMolay, from any state?

Please use the following link address from DeMolay International, and let us know where you are and what you are doing in your Masonic life:

<https://beademolay.org/update-info/>

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Saturday , August 12, 2023, THE LODGE OVER SIMPKINS STORE at Fairplay. Details coming in the August newsletter.

# Traveling Gavels

In an effort to promote visitations among lodges in the state of Colorado we are going to attempt to provide information in each newsletter about where the travelling gavels are located

There are two gavels that travel around the state. One we are going to call the **Regular Gavel** and one the **Western Slope Gavel**. Check the requirements for claiming the gavel including the number of brethren required to attend the visit.

## Regular Gavel

**Location:** Grand Junction #173 , 2400 Consistory Court, Grand Junction, CO 80501

**Meeting Dates:** Meets 2nd Friday at 7:30 p.m., dark until September

**Master:** Craig A. Miller

## Western Slope Gavel

**Location:** Lakewood Lodge #170 , 2460 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215

**Meeting Dates:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

**Master:** Justin H. Kirkland



## Outdoor Lodge Meeting & Weekend Camping!

Friday, July 28, 2023 - 6:00pm to Sunday, July 30, 2023 - 9:30am

### Description

You must RSVP via email to Kevin Townley at [ktownley8@gmail.com](mailto:ktownley8@gmail.com) by July 19 if you plan to attend the Saturday Evening Dinner and/or Sunday Morning Breakfast. *No RSVPs are required for camping, fellowship, or the Outdoor Lodge Meeting.*

### Event info:

- **Free tent camping Friday and Saturday nights.**
  - Camping begins at 6:00pm Friday afternoon and we need to be all packed up by 9:30am Sunday morning (going over to Lupton Lodge precincts, 1.6mi away, for breakfast at 10:00am.)
  - Campers provide their own camping gear, food, and drinks.
- **Fellowship and fun with Brethren, family, & friends ALL DAY Saturday.**
  - **Don't forget chairs, drinks, and snacks!**
  - Feel free to bring yard games!
  - Well-behaved pets are allowed. Owners must pick up after their pets.
- **Outdoor Lodge Meeting at 5:00pm Saturday with dinner provided afterward** (RSVP by July 19. Suggested donation: \$20).
- **Breakfast provided by Boulder Lodge #14 at Fort Lupton Masonic Lodge Sunday morning at 10:00am** (RSVP by July 19. Suggested donation: \$15)

*Camping, fun, & fellowship are open to the public. Please feel free to bring your family and friends.*

*Outdoor Lodge Meeting is open to all Freemasons recognized within this jurisdiction. EAs & FCs must have a MM to vouch for them.*

### Location and Parking info:

#### Camping & Fellowship parking:

South Platte Valley Historical Society Rendezvous Area

170 Weld County Road 14, 5

Fort Lupton, CO 80621

#### Outdoor Lodge Meeting parking:

Lancaster Lupton's Trade Fort - South Platte Valley Historical Society

2001 Historic Pkwy

Fort Lupton, CO 80621

#### Sunday Morning Breakfast location:

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5/31/23, 11:20 AM

Boulder Lodge #14 A.F. & A.M.

Fort Lupton Masonic Lodge

130 Denver Ave

Fort Lupton, CO 80621

Location



([https://maps.google.com/maps?](https://maps.google.com/maps?q=170+Weld+County+Road+14%2C+5%2C+Fort+Lupton%2C+CO+80621+%28South+Platte+Valley+Historical+Society+Rendezvous+Area%29&z=15)

[q=170+Weld+County+Road+14%2C+5%2C+Fort+Lupton%2C+CO+80621+%28South+Platte+Valley+Historical+Society+Rendezvous+Area%29&z=15](https://maps.google.com/maps?q=170+Weld+County+Road+14%2C+5%2C+Fort+Lupton%2C+CO+80621+%28South+Platte+Valley+Historical+Society+Rendezvous+Area%29&z=15),  
170 Weld County Road 14, 5, Fort Lupton, CO 80621 (South Platte Valley Historical Society Rendezvous Area)



## Calling all Masons!!

Douglas Lodge No. 153 invites ALL Colorado Masons to join us Saturday July 29th, 2023 in Castle Rock Colorado for the Douglas County Fair Parade! This is a great opportunity to represent the values of Masonry in our communities!

Please contact WM C. Dave Tuck in OLP for further details

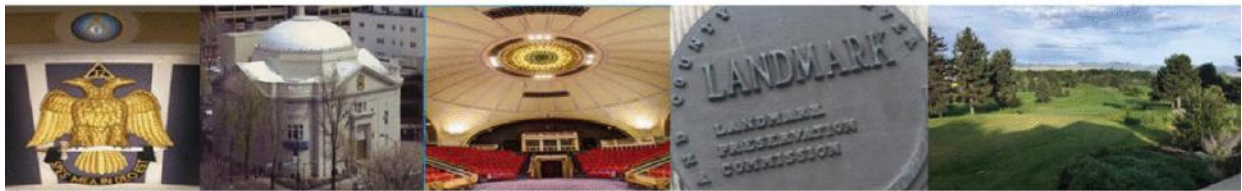




# Scottish Rite Golf Classic

August 18, 2023 - Willis Case Golf Course, Denver, CO

Denver Scottish Rite is hosting the second annual Scottish Rite Golf Classic to Support the Scottish RiteCare Foundation of Colorado and the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.



*Sign Up Today For The Scottish Rite Charity Golf Classic  
Spots For Players and Sponsors Are Going FAST !!!*

Join us for a great day of golf on August 18, 2023 to support the Scottish RiteCare Foundation and the Scottish Rite Masonic Center

Forget the boring, all day long 4-person scramble! This truly unique event will feature:

- Multiple Par 3 holes and hole in one prize opportunities
- Long Drive and Closest to Pin contests
- Putting contest
- \$1,000,000 Shootout following golf
- Delicious meals, beverages
- Team prizes and player gifts

This is an important fundraiser for our organization so your participation and sponsorship will be much appreciated.

Foursome Teams are \$800 each. We expect a full field so register now. Great sponsorships available! Early Bird Registration prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 Teams at \$ 700.



*Learn More and Register TODAY on [ScottishRiteGolf.com](http://ScottishRiteGolf.com)*



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# MEET YOUR GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



W.Bro. Darren R. Klinefelter  
Junior Grand Deacon



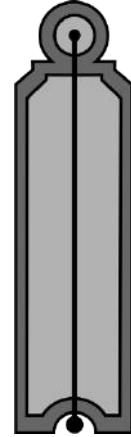
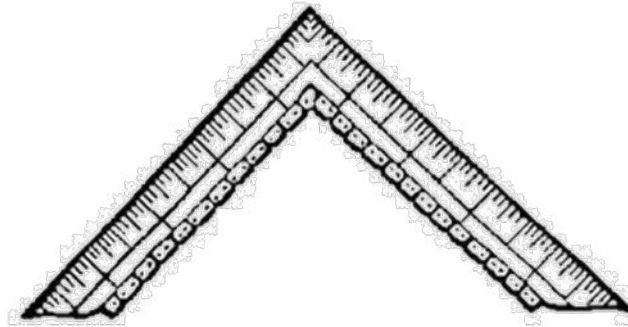
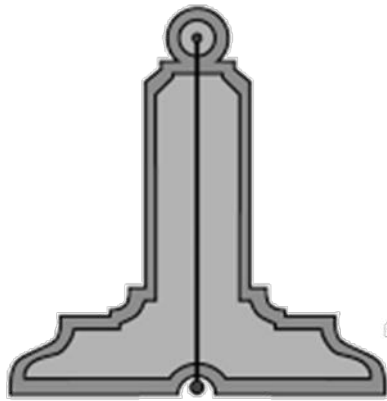
W.Bro. L. Bryant Harris  
Senior Grand Steward



W.Bro. Jeffery A. Noakes  
Junior Grand Steward



W.Bro. Lawrence E. Ott  
Grand Marshal



**If your lodge is having special events or activities please send the information to the Grand Master**  
**([grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org](mailto:grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org))**  
**and the Grand Secretary**  
**([grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org](mailto:grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org))**  
**so that it can be included in the next edition of the newsletter.**

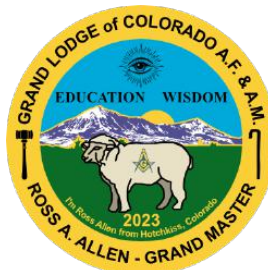
## Contacts

### Grand Lodge of Colorado

1130 Panorama Drive  
 Colorado Springs, Colorado. 80904  
 (719) 471-9587  
 Fax Number: (719) 484-8993  
[gloffice@coloradofreemasons.org](mailto:gloffice@coloradofreemasons.org)

Grand Master  
 M.W. Bro. Ross A Allen, G.M.  
[grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org](mailto:grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org)  
 (719) 623-5345

Grand Secretary  
 R.W.Bro. Scot M. Autry, P.M.  
[grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org](mailto:grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org)  
 (719) 623-5342



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**COLORADO MASONS - SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ABOUT A NEW WEBSITE ABOUT MASONRY: [BEAFREEMASON.ORG](http://BEAFREEMASON.ORG)**

The Grand Lodge Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. All are welcome as long as you are not feeling ill. For the front door please ring the door bell for access.

