

# Plinth

Issue 12-02

August 2012

*Special points of interest:*

- Blazing Star election
- Grand Lodge Session
- New members!
- 40th Anniversary
- Trip to England
- **Queen's Day**
- Obituary Jeremy Labadie

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## James C. Goggans elected Worshipful Master



Blazing Star Lodge 26 held its annual election on the 17th of September 2011 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands

The results of the Election are as follows:

- Worshipful Master ..... James Goggans  
 Senior Warden ..... Rene Meeuwessen  
 Junior Warden ..... Denston Lyte  
 Treasurer ..... Charles Beane  
 Secretary ..... Dennis Griffin

**GIVE  
THEM YOUR SUPPORT!!!!**

The new officers were all elected unopposed and indicates the level of harmony that exists in the Lodge at this time. DDGM Beane presided over the elections and charged the newly elected officers to live up to the challenge that has been presented to them in a manner worthy of Blazing Star Lodge #26. He reminded them that we are going into our 40th Anniversary year and that we should make it a special one.

Worshipful Master Goggans has served in the past four years as Senior Deacon, twice as Junior Warden, and last year as Senior Warden. He is known to be a dedicated and hard worker for the Lodge and is constantly in search of knowledge.



Deputy Grand Master  
Bro. Compton Jones



Most Worshipful Grand Master  
Bro. Frederick B. Summers



Senior Grand Warden  
Bro. Reuben Meade



Junior Grand Warden  
Bro. Yves R. Maignan



Grand Secretary  
Bro. James Marshall



Grand Treasurer  
Bro. Timothy Downs

## 220th Annual Grand Lodge Session

The 220th Annual Grand Lodge Session of the MWPB Grand Lodge was held in Boston, MA on 09-10-11-December 2011. Blazing Star Lodge #26 and the 7th Masonic District were represented by RW Bro. Charles Beane, Worshipful Bro. James Goggans, and Past Worshipful Bro. Dennis Griffin.

DDGM Beane, WM Goggans, and PM Griffin stayed at the home of RW Thomas C. Allen (Grand Lecturer - Emeritus) in Cambridge, MA. They continued to enjoy the love and hospitality extended by Bro. Allen and Barbara and went to see the Prince Hall Memorial which was dedicated in 2010 in Cambridge, MA.

Most Worshipful Bro. Frederick B. Summers presided over the 220th Grand Lodge Session. The 220th Annual Session was as harmonious and fruitful as the many sessions that have gone before it.

The reports of District Deputy Grand Master Beane and Worshipful Master Goggans are now available on the Lodge website, [www.blazingstar26.org](http://www.blazingstar26.org).



## **WILL THE REAL DENNIS GRIFFIN STAND UP!!!!!!!!!!**

**By Past Master Charles Wright**

When the Worshipful Master of Blazing Star Lodge chose Dennis Griffin as man of the hour and asked me to write an article on who the real Past Master Griffin is, I felt honored to do so. Past Master Griffin (Griff as he is regularly known) is one of my best friends, one I can count on in good and bad times, he is a brother that his Lodge and Lodge brother can always count on to be on hand for any project, committee, social or Masonic event. He is always ready with his vast knowledge of Masonry and experience to share with his brothers. Brother Griffin was born, bred and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina USA and presently reside in Almere the Netherlands, He is the father of two daughters, Windy and Denise. He is a retired Noncommissioned Officer of the United States Airforce. and works as An equipment specialist for the Organization for Prohibition of Chemicals better known as OPCW under the flag of the United Nation. Past Master Griffin entered the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons in 1978 and raised to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason Sept. 1, 1978 in the Wiley Wright Military Lodge No. 705 at Homestead AFB. Florida. Masonry was not new to brother Griffin, he had come from a long family line of Masons which included his father, grandfather, cousins and aunts (on the Eastern Star side of Masonry). Brother Griffin has held all positions in the Blue House, and presently holds the position of Secretary. A position that he has been elected to for the past five or six years. A position in which he has been an asset to all who has set in the East during his term of secretarial duties. Many of his accomplishments and contributions to Blazing Star Lodge has gone unnoticed because he is

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the type of a brother who believe that what you put in Masonry, you get out of Masonry. Such contributions and accomplishments include: At one point in time the Lodge membership fell so low that he and a couple of other brothers made additional financial contributions to pay the taxes and building rent to keep the Lodge functioning, for the Lodge's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary he took it upon himself to research, design, obtain and purchased T-shirts as memorable for the occasion, At the present he is busy pursuing memorable for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He is always busy, not seeking glory or recognition, but because he loves Masonry and strives toward upholding his obligations which he took on entering the fraternity. In 25 years as a Master Mason and a Past Master, I have met many brothers from different nationalities, countries and Lodges, but I have met very few that is as Masonically knowledgeable, and place as much effort in promoting Masonry as Brother Griffin. He joined the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on January 27, 1983 and was elevated in the Keystone Consistory No. 85, (Northern Jurisdiction) in Soul South Korea, during the same period he joined OBLELISK NO. 187, The Ancient Egyptian Arabic Noble Order Nobles Mystic Shrine (A.E.A.O.N.M.S.) (Northern Jurisdiction) He is a member of SARACENS the creation section of OBELISK. He is presently an active member of Prince Hall Military Consistory No. 304 in Wiesbaden, Germany and was recently elected to the position of 1<sup>st</sup>. Lieutenant. Brother Griffin has a phrase that he often quotes "Get to know your Brother", a phrase we could all learn from. I have known him for 20 years and I know him as well as one man can know another. I am proud to call him a friend and my Brother.

Footnote:

PM Griffin will be elevated to the 33o in October 2012 at the Annual Session of the United Supreme Council in Washington, D.C.

## Eulogy for fallen brother: Brother Jeremy Labadie



Brother Labadie was only a Mason in our Lodge for a short period of time, but he was a Mason in his heart from the first time he stepped through the portals of our Lodge. A Master Mason for just over a year and a Prince for just over 2 days before he made the Journey to the Celestial Lodge above. He was a family man, a Doctor, and a hard working member of Blazing Star. Many of us did not get to know him very well because of his working schedule, he worked in Holland and Sweden similar to “Doctors without Borders”, three weeks working in Sweden and two weeks working in Holland. When called upon to help with a task within the Lodge, you could always count on his presence and support. Brother Klaas Soellaart, Brother Denston Lyte and I were fortunate enough to have spent the last few days of his life together on a three day trip to the Joint Consistory in Germany for his Advancement to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree of Scottish Rites. He was in Great Spirits and looking forward to another great step in Masonry. It was a time that we felt that we really bonded with him. The trip, his joy of being with his brothers in Germany for the weekend, the excitement in his face of the coming event of his Advancement was a joy to see. The time spent with him was truly quality time for all the Brothers as well as for himself. He was overwhelmed with joy and excitement on the return trip home. Our hearts and condolences go out to his family. He will be sorely missed, a light that has gone out in the Lodge, but not in our hearts. A poem that was written by Brother Seymor sums up the feeling in Blazing Star Lodge #26.

God looked around His garden and found an empty space  
He then looked down upon the earth and saw his tired face  
He put His arms around him and lifted him to rest  
God's garden must be beautiful. He only takes the best

Do not stand at **his grave and weep, He is not there, He don't sleep**  
He is a thousand winds that blow, He is the diamond glints on snow  
He is the sunlight on ripened grain, He is the gentle autumn rain  
When he awakes in the morning's hush, He is the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight.  
He is the soft stars that shine at night  
Do not stand at his grave and cry. He is not there - he did not die!

To the Labadie Family and Brothers of Blazing Star Lodge  
I wish you all strength in these dark days and may his soul rest in  
peace.

Fraternally yours,  
Bro. Emile J. Seymor



Charles Wright

PM Blazing Star Lodge #26

# Anglo American Meeting



## AN AMERICAN INITIATION CEREMONY— Not to be MISSED

Performed by the RUSSELL GIDEON LODGE No.78 [A Prince Hall Lodge]



Date: Saturday 24th March 2012

Time: 11.00a.m Prompt

Location:-

Community Centre  
Wisbech St. Mary  
Wisbech PE13 4SS.

Tickets will be £23.00 each

To facilitate seating arrangements, please enter your name, rank and those of your guests on the form below together with your remittance (make cheques payable to Caldwell Lodge) Under the banner of Caldwell Lodge No.3201 with a bumper Festive Board



Eight (8) members of Blazing Star Lodge #26 made a trip across the pond to the United Kingdom to attend a First Degree performed by Russell Gideon Lodge No. 78 ( MWPJ Jurisdiction of Washington) in an English Lodge of the Provisional Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire. This is probably the first time a Prince Hall Mason has been initiated in an English Lodge. The Provisional Grand Master and his staff as well as more than 200 other brethren were present for the initiation. It was a masterful display by Russell Gideon Lodge #78 was seen as an historic day in the relations between the Grand Lodge of England and Prince Hall Masonry.

# 40th Anniversary—Blazing Star Lodge #26



*Blazing Star Lodge No. 26*  
*F. & A. M.*  
*Amersfoort, The Netherlands*



*40th anniversary celebration of the Prince Hall  
Massachusetts Free-Masons in The Netherlands  
with a Gala ball and dinner at Hotel Breukelen,  
which will be held on the Friday 26 October 2012.  
Proceeds in aid of the Spirit of Faith (Children's orphanage) fund.*

*Blazing Star Lodge # 26 was founded in 1972 at Soesterberg, The Netherlands under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.*

*Place:  
Hotel Breukelen  
Address:  
Stationsweg 91, 3621 LK Breukelen,  
The Netherlands  
Date:  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
Time:  
19:30 pm - 00:30am  
Price pp.: € 55,-*

*This invitation is for a fundraiser and the theme is:  
"Building tomorrow with the children of today."*

*The Blessed Generation, formally Spirit of Faith, is an orphanage consisting of three houses in Kenya. The First of which was opened in 1984, the third in West-Kenya in the wake of the 2008 general elections. Now housing some 100 children of all ages, supplying them with everything from shelter and clothing to an education.*

*Help us in building tomorrow. Give the children the tools necessary to continue building for themselves and others.*

*Please bring this card with you,  
you number maybe the prize winner!*

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Blazing Star Lodge #26 will be celebrating it's 40th Anniversary in December 2012. In honor of this event we will be holding a Gala ball and dinner on Friday, the 26th of October in Breukelen, the Netherlands. The Lodge will be combining this affair with a charity event for "The Blessed Generation", an orphanage consisting of three houses in Kenya. Tickets are available from all brethren and donations would be appreciated.

# Fourth of July Celebration— 2012



The Blazing Star Lodge #26 family celebrated the Fourth of July early on the 30th of June at the home of Mr. Paul Ross (the son of Bro. Tony Ross) near Amersfoort, the Netherlands. It was a sunny day and there were plenty family and friends who participated by coming and providing food and drink for all. It was a wonderful day as usual. Thank you everyone!

# Queen's Day — 2012



Zeist



Soesterberg

Blazing Star Lodge #26 continued its long tradition of selling ribs and hamburgers on Queen's Day (April 30, 2012) in Soesterburg, the Netherlands. We added a second stand in Zeist for the second year in a row. It was a beautiful day and we were once again successful in our fund-raising event of the year.

## Blazing Star Advancements



The search for knowledge led five brethren from Blazing Star Lodge #26 (Wilson Holman, Niclaas Soellaart, Ruud Emanuel, Randall Scott, Renee Meeuwessen) to become advanced to the 32 degree in Kaiserslautern, Germany on the 27th of January 2012. They have become members of Prince Hall Military Consistory #304. Two other brothers (Bro. Jeremy Labadie and Bro. Denston Lyte) followed their example in July and were advanced as well.

# Wive's Appreciation!

Blazing Star Lodge #26

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We are looking for articles and or pictures for our next issue. Please send them to the secretary or e-mail them to the following e-mail address:

*E-mail: [blazstar26@gmail.com](mailto:blazstar26@gmail.com)*

*Web site: [www.blazingstar26.org](http://www.blazingstar26.org)*



We Love You!

Blazing Star Lodge #26 will be holding it's Annual Wives Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, 8 September at Hotel Breukelen starting at 17:45 hours.



Blazing Star Lodge #26  
2011 - 2012