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2009-2010 Grand Masters on the Steps of the
George Washington Masonic Memorial during the
Grand Masters of North America
Conference in February 2010

THE VIRGINIA MASONIC HERALD

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Mission and Vision Statements of The Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia

The mission of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to teach and perpetuate a way of life that promotes the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God and to assist its Lodges to grow and prosper.

The vision of the Grand Lodge of Virginia is to be the premier organization composed of men of integrity and character, who are honest, true to their word, believe in God, are devoted to family, charitable in their community, and courteous and helpful to each other. ✦

Grand Master's Message

Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, and Brethren All,

As a Freemason, each of you is a Masonic light for our world. You asked to be a part of a Fraternity known for selecting only good men. Men, who have the potential to be even better men. Not better than other men, but better men than you were before.

You are the leaders of your faith, lay leaders, deacons, maintenance men, volunteers, organizers of church events, members of councils and committees, and are in general active membership of the faith community. You let your Masonic light show through your faith.

You support the ideals of your country, work to help preserve what is right, standing by the views and standards established by our forefathers, many of whom were also Masons. You contact your representatives to express your concerns when necessary and vote your conscience accordingly. Serving your country in times of need and being patriots in every sense of the word, you are men who indeed show your Masonic light for your country.

You are the preservers of family, protectors, providers, caretakers, husbands, sons, and fathers. You are the example setters for those little feet that follow in your footsteps and who mock your every action. By the way you present yourself as a family man, you show your Masonic light.

Each of you are or have been active members of your community. Participants in Meals on Wheels, soup kitchens, Boy Scout leadership, have built homes for humanity, sponsored little league sports teams, supported our Masonic youth groups, contributed to food banks, carried children to burned or crippled children's hospitals, contributed to Masonic child identification programs, worked for speech and hearing clinics or other philanthropies, and have been active in all major community events.



GRAND MASTER
M.: W.: William E. Rorer, Jr.

You have not forgotten your neighbors in times of need. You have been the giver of charity and have never forgotten to follow the golden rule when dealing with others.

Each of you is an example of how men are supposed to meet, act, and show the way for others. We are taught to do good unto all, meet on the level, act by the plumb, part on the square, and practice charity towards all mankind. You would be surprised how opening doors, being courteous automobile drivers, and being non-aggressive in stores give Freemasons a better reputation than the general public. To our neighbors and in our communities, we show our Masonic light.

Being highly publicized in the current media has given Freemasonry recognition. We must turn the interest in Freemasonry to our advantage by publicizing the good works that we do. Also, there is a need to make it easier for everyone to know who the Masons are and who the Masons are not. We need to do a better job of communicating with those who want

to know us better, and we need to use modern technology to show better our Masonic light.

Each of you takes time each day to look after yourself. You need to take time from the rigors of life to reflect, exercise, and learn something new. Make time to be thankful and reflective and increase in knowledge of things in general and in Masonry. Looking after ourselves daily is also a reflection of our Masonic light.

You live the obligations you took before God and your Brothers at the Altar of your Lodge. You Forget – Not – The - Duties that you hear so frequently in your Lodges, and which are so heartily recommended by our gentle Craft. Your lives as Masons are based forever on Brotherly love, relief, and truth, which you practice within the framework of faith, hope, and charity under the fatherhood of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. You are a moral temple of living stones. You keep a Brother's welfare as your own and always preserve the Brotherly love and friendship with a Brother even when it is necessary to agree to disagree. You take the extra effort required to keep up with the Brothers on the rosters of your Lodges wheresoever dispersed, as you would like other Brothers to look after you should you not be able, any longer, to attend your Lodge. You follow Masonic guidelines of life as they are revealed in the Book of Constitutions, mentor your Brethren, and when necessary admonish them of any error in judgment that goes against the way a Mason should conduct himself in action, word, or deed. You take seriously the thorough investigation of an initiate and guard the west gate by casting the blackball, if the person could bring harm to the Fraternity by doing things to intemperance or excess, is immoral, or conducts himself in any way that would be deemed an un-Masonic offense in our midst. You never blackball a Mason in good standing or an initiate with the

Grand Master's Message (continued)

proper qualifications to become a good Mason, because you personally just do not want him in your Lodge or for any other reason. Instead, have the Master of the Lodge withdraw the petition which preserves sanctity, the prestige, and the character of our Order.

You strive to learn the Masonic ritual to the best of your abilities, and you strongly encourage all new Masons to learn and recite the catechisms for all three degrees at the Altar of their Lodge. You follow the Masonic laws you have obligated yourselves to uphold and follow, and should you violate these, you expect to receive the consequences as you would in a civil situation. You, by exemplifying these things, are the Masonic light of our gentle Craft.

We are the Masons. Men who do what is right, who practice the golden rule, and who strive for excellence in all we say, act, and do.

We are the Masons, who set the moral, ethical, psychological, and physical standards

of life for others to follow.

We are labeled by the way we let our Masonic light shine each day. Let your Masonic light shine before your God and all of mankind.

I will leave you with a most profound thought given me by one of my earliest Masonic mentors, Most Worshipful George Eldridge Kidd, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1966.

“When you look in the mirror when you return home this evening, honestly ask yourself, if I were tried in a court of law today, would there be enough evidence for a jury to find me guilty of being a Freemason?” ✦

Fraternally,



Grand Master



“Forget Not The Duties”

Grand Master's Calendar

JUNE

- 1 Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296
- 4 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 7 & 10
- 5 DeMolay Grand Masters Class, Luray
- 6 15th District Memorial Service, Forest Lawn Cemetery
- 7 Westhampton Lodge No. 302
- 9 MAHOVA Board Meeting
- 10 Official Visit, Masonic District 43
- 11 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 47 & 49
- 12 MAHOVA Ambassadors Conference, Southwest Virginia
Official Visit, Masonic District 17
- 14 Melrose Lodge No. 139
- 17 Bremond Lodge No. 241
- 18 Official Visit, Masonic District 29
- 19 Manassas Lodge No. 182
- 21 Marion Lodge No. 31, 150th Anniversary Celebration
- 24 St. John's Day, Williamsburg Lodge No. 6
Wreath Laying, John Blair & Peyton Randolph, Bruton
Parish Church
- 26 Khedive Spring Ceremonial
- 26-28 Grand Assembly, Rainbow for Girls, Richmond

JULY

- 1 Grand Lodge of Canada, Province of Ontario
- 3-8 Imperial Shrine of North America, Toronto, Ontario
- 8 Annual Session, Job's Daughters, Ferrum College
- 9 Ocean View Lodge No. 335 & Norview Lodge No. 113,
Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team
- 13 Portsmouth Lodge No. 100
- 14 MAHOVA Board Meeting
Strategic Planning and Implementation Meeting
- 15 Official Visit, Masonic District 22
- 16 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 48 & 50
- 17 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 40 & 41
- 19 Manchester Lodge No. 14
- 23-24 Northeast Conference of Grand Masters
- 30 Masonic Home of Virginia Gala, Richmond
- 31 Annual Conclave, DeMolay, Radford University

AUGUST

- 1 Annual Conclave, DeMolay, Radford University
- 1-4 Reid James Simmons Academy of Masonic Leadership
- 2 National Boy Scout Jamboree Fort A. P. Hill
- 6 Official Visit, Masonic District 45
- 7 Official Visit, Masonic District 28
- 10 James Stanley Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament,
Buena Vista
- 11 MAHOVA Board Meeting
- 12 Owens Lodge No. 164
- 13 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 44 & 46
- 14 Official Visit, Masonic District 26
- 16 Pleasants Lodge No. 63
- 17 James Stanley Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament,
Buena Vista (Rain Date)
- 19 Official Visit, Masonic Districts 20 & 23
- 20 Official Visit, Masonic District 42
- 21 Official Visit, Masonic District 39
- 26 Official Visit, Masonic District 38
- 27 Official Visit, District 24
- 28 Masonic Home of Virginia Outreach Program Gala,
Abingdon
- 31 Official Visit, Masonic District 3

Membership Committee Update

By Rt. Wor. William E. Hershey, Committee Chairman

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Warwick Lodge No. 336
- 3 Official Visit District 19
- 4 Hiram Club Ball, Virginia Beach
- 8 MAHOVA Board Meeting
Strategic Planning and Implementation Meeting
- 8-11 Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association, Virginia Beach
- 10 Ocean View Lodge No. 335
- 11 Grand Lodge of Virginia / Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Joint Cornerstone Laying, Northern Neck
- 13 Ashlar Lodge No. 125
- 14 Reynold Judson "Dick" Mathews Memorial Tennis Tournament
- 17-19 Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Richmond
- 20 Campbell Lodge No. 316
- 23-24 Grand Lodge of North Carolina
- 24-26 Scottish Rite Conference, Lynchburg



Grand Lodge has three major fundraisers coming shortly!!!

Please check out the information for them on Pages 9, 16, and 18.

Page 9 has an article on the 2010 MAHOVA Gala featuring Illustrious and Brother Roy Clark, Country Music entertainer.

Page 16 has a flyer on the James Stanley Johnson Golf Tournament.

Page 18 has an article on the Most Worshipful John Robert "Bob" Dean Gala for the Southwest MAHOVA Outreach program.

It gives me great deal of pleasure to write you and share some of the positive events taking place across the state with regards to actions by Lodges to attract and retain members. I am not insinuating that what works for one Lodge will necessarily work for another, but I am encouraged by the spirit of cooperation I see to promote, attract, and retain members.

The Committee got a very positive endorsement at the Grand Annual Communication this past November, when the delegates voted to establish the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership as a Standing Committee; thus granting official recognition in our Methodical Digest. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful William E. Rorer, Jr., made mention of membership in his installation address and has also identified attracting and retaining members as a primary goal in his plans for the Craft during his tenure. The District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGMs) are being asked to comment on plans of the Lodges with regards to hosting a "Bring A Friend Events". So it gives me cause to think, we are on our way to being able to address the decline in membership we have been experiencing over the past several years.

Along those lines, the Craft has responded in a most positive manner. As of this writing, 50 of the 57 Masonic Districts which comprise the Grand Lodge of Virginia have identified a Brother from their District to serve as District Membership Coordinator (DMC) and the Grand Master has issued a "Letter of Appointment" to these Brethren. I am personally aware of efforts on the part of the DMCs and DDGMs to host "District-wide Bring A Friend Events".

Last year Masonic Districts 14-A & 14-B worked together to host a combined "District-wide Bring a Friend Night." The Masters and Wardens Association of Masonic District 54 asked for and received a presentation on what the Committee on Membership could do to promote, attract, and retain members. In February, Poquoson Lodge No. 49 (Poquoson) hosted a very successful "Bring A Friend Event," on May 8, Masonic District 10 hosted a "District-wide Bring A Friend Event," Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 is planning three "Bring A Friend Events" this year, and Right Worshipful James Donald Baker is pursuing ways for the Masonic family to work together to promote membership and retention in Masonic Districts 46, 47, 48, 49, & 50. These events name just a few of things that have already taken place or are in process. They are coupled with work on the part of the Committee when a "Bring A Friend Workshop" was hosted at the Newport News Scottish Rite on May 1, 2010. They all point to things we can do together.

The point I want to make is, the momentum is growing across the state to address membership. If you want to take a part in this movement, but are perhaps uncertain how to get started, your DMC or the Committee on Membership is just a phone call away. Likewise if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 540.972.1692 or send an e-mail to wehershey@comcast.net. All assistance is offered at no cost and is of course confidential. 📧

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

An Edict – 2010 REVISED

WHEREAS, the success of our Fraternity is dependent on the ability of our members to labor together in peace and harmony, and further,
WHEREAS, our Masonic obligations prohibit our Brethren from documenting the exact nature of Masonic conduct as outlined in the various obligations of Freemasonry; and,

WHEREAS, a strict review of our Methodical Digest discloses that the definition of a Masonic offense could be more appropriately defined; and,
WHEREAS, the process of a Masonic trial may take many months and during such time, the Fraternity could be harmed further during the process; and,

WHEREAS, as Grand Master, I must be prepared and able to act in the best interests of the Fraternity;

THEREFORE, I, William Earle Rorer, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Virginia do by this Edict amend Section 4.01 of the Methodical Digest to more effectively define what constitutes a Masonic offense and I also insert a new Section 4.02(a) entitled "Suspension Pending Trial." The new Section 4.01 as amended by this Edict is included below, with the new wording underlined. The new Section 4.02(a) Suspension Pending Trial is also included below.

This Edict and the amended Sections of the Digest shall be in full force and binding upon every member of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and each of its subordinate Lodges as of the date of this letter and shall remain so until voted upon by the delegates at the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and if approved by them, shall constitute an amendment to the Methodical Digest.

Sec. 4.01. What Constitutes a Masonic Offense. – Masons owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, and sojourning Masons while in the state of Virginia, must obey the civil laws, support the establishment of government, keep inviolable the mysteries of the Order, preserve and obey the laws and resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, observe the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry and discharge their duties and obligations to their families, to each other and to mankind in general.

In addition to the requirements related to Masonic conduct outlined in this Section, in the Decisions related to this Section, and elsewhere in the Methodical Digest, including those offenses and charges set forth in Chapter I, Section III and Chapter II, Section IV of The Constitution of Masonry, a Masonic Offense shall be defined to include: slander or defamation of character by one Mason against another; behavior or actions by one Mason resulting in physical or substantial emotional harm to another Mason; and oral, verbal, written or electronic communication by any Mason which brings dishonor to the Fraternity or any of its members or creates disharmony or discord in the Fraternity or among its members.

Willful failure to comply with any of these requirements shall constitute a Masonic offense and subject the offender to Masonic trial, and, if found guilty, to discipline.

The determination of whether a Mason may be guilty of a Masonic offense shall be determined solely through the process of a Masonic trial, except where exceptions have been made in Masonic law granting the Grand Master the authority to act in specific circumstances. The definition of any conduct required and the definition of any term, phrase or word outlined herein shall be determined in the sole discretion of the trial commission or the Grand Master.

Sec. 4.02 (a) Suspension Pending a Trial – From time to time, the Grand Master may become aware of acts by a Mason that may in his belief constitute a Masonic offense as outlined in Section 4.01 and present of clear and present danger to the continued operation of a Lodge or Lodges. This may be the result of personal observation, information provided by other Masons under oath, or by the communication of charges as outlined in Section 4.07. In any event, the Grand Master may determine that it is in the best interest of the Fraternity or its members to act, pending final determination by a Trial Commission. Therefore, in addition to the expulsion of felons, as outlined in Edict E-5-1989, the Grand Master may, in his sole discretion, suspend any member from the rights and benefits of Freemasonry until such time as a trial commission may be impaneled to make a final determination in the matter. If the Grand Master thus suspends a Mason, a trial commission shall be assembled as soon as reasonable and a timely Masonic trial shall proceed as outlined elsewhere in the Methodical Digest. Should circumstances warrant, prior to the conclusion of the Masonic trial, the Grand Master, or any successor, may remove the suspension and restore the man to membership.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the City of Richmond this 15th day of January, A.L. 6010, A.D. 2010 and in the Two Hundred and Thirty-second year of our Grand Lodge. ✦



Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan W. Adkins".

Alan W. Adkins
Grand Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Rorer, Jr.".

William E. Rorer, Jr.
Grand Master

John Robert Dean

1935-2010

John Robert Dean was born on November 26, 1935, in Wythe County, Virginia, the oldest son of Donald H. and Josie Lawson Dean. He was educated in the public schools of Wythe County and Giles County. He served in the U.S. Army Paratroopers where he was a Master Parachutist and Master Rigger. He spent several tours in Europe and retired with the rank of First Sergeant (E-8). He continued his education at the New River Policy Academy and graduated with certificates in basic law enforcement and courthouse security. He was employed by the Wythe County Police Department as a Deputy Sheriff and retired from that position.

Most Worshipful Brother Dean was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 1, 1973, in Ivanhoe Lodge No. 235 where he was a Life Member in Perpetuity, an honorary member, and served as its Worshipful Master in 1977. He was a member of Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1978. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 42 in 1979 and as Grand Senior Steward in 1986. He was the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, near Virginia. He served as a member of the Committee on Masonic Education, the Committee on Youth, and the Masonic Home Board of Governors. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the Grand Lodge Library, Museum and Historical Foundation and served as its President from 2005 to 2008. He was elected Grand Junior Deacon in February 1987 and served as Grand Master of Masons in 1992.

Brother Dean was a member of A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Research Lodge No. 1949 and held honorary membership in York Lodge No. 12, Cherrydale Lodge No. 42, Abingdon Lodge No. 48, Pleasants Lodge No. 63, Old Town Lodge No. 68, Norview Lodge No. 113, Melrose Lodge No. 139, Piedmont Lodge No. 152, Manassah Lodge No. 182, Lakeland Lodge No. 190, Hillsville Lodge No. 193, Rocky Mount Lodge No. 201, Midlothian Lodge No. 211, Mt. Airy Lodge No. 226, Great Bridge Lodge No. 257, Mountain Home Lodge No. 263, Intermont Lodge No. 269 and Richlands Lodge No. 318.

Brother Dean was a member of the Valley



of Roanoke, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite where he was invested Knight Commander Court of Honor in 1991, coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary, in 1999, and served as Venerable Master in 2000. He was a Past High Priest of Wythe Royal Arch Chapter No. 51; Past Commander of Lynn Commandery No. 9; Past Sovereign Master of Wilmer Thomas Trevillian Council No. 190, Allied Masonic Degrees; and Past Puissant Sovereign of Saint Thomas Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine. He was a member of Commonwealth York Rite College No. 50, Wilderness Road York Rite College No. 94, Fort Andrew Lewis Council No. 81, Knight Masons, Royal Order of Scotland and the Philaethes Society. He was made a Tall Cedar at sight in Temple Forest No. 136, Tall Cedars of Lebanon. He was a member of Kazim Shrine Center and a Life Member in Acca, Kena and Khedive Shrine Centers. He was the recipient of the Honorary Legion of Honor and Honorary Past State Master Councilor from International Order of DeMolay; Order of the Purple Cross from the York Rite Sovereign College; Knight Commander of the Temple from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, honorary membership in the International Order of Rainbow for Girls; honorary membership in the Grand

Guardian Council, International Order of Job's Daughters and Kentucky Colonel, Governor of Kentucky.

In the community Brother Dean was a Past President of the Virginia Highway Safety Commission, the Lead Mines Ruritan Club, the Fort Chiswell PTO, the Fort Chiswell Band Boosters and the Fort Chiswell Athletic Boosters. Brother Dean was an avid golfer and enjoyed boating, fishing, hunting and restoring classic cars and trucks. He was an active member of Bethany United Methodist Church, where he served as Treasurer and Trustee.

He is survived by wife of fifty-four years, the former Kathryn B. White; two sons, John R. "Bobby" Dean, Jr. and his wife, Kathy, Donald E. "Donny" Dean and his wife, Vickie; a daughter, Melissa D. "Missy" Corvin and her husband, Greg; five grandchildren, Amanda, Nevada, Morgan, Madison and Tyler; three sisters, Jackie Lawrence, Becky Perry and her husband, C.G., and Patty Lee and her husband, Patrick, all of Manassas, Virginia; three brothers, Don Dean of Fort Chiswell, Virginia, Cecil Dean of Manassas, Virginia and Ronny H. Dean and his wife, Sandy, of Fort Chiswell, Virginia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Most Worshipful Brother Dean was called to the Celestial Lodge above on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at Max Meadows, Virginia, where he resided. Funeral services were held on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at Bethany United Methodist Church with interment in the Bethany Church Cemetery. Grover King Post No. 115, Veterans of Foreign Wars, conducted graveside military rites. The Officers of the Grand Lodge of Virginia performed a Masonic Graveside Service. 🕊



*Freemasonry,
A Touch of Class*

Ancient Symbolic Penalties

By Mt. Wor. K.W. Aldridge, PGM, Quebec

We want to thank Most Worshipful Brother Aldridge, PGM/Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, for this provocative Short Talk Bulletin. The ancient penalties in our obligations have been the source of much of the criticism leveled at Freemasonry. Most Worshipful Brother Aldridge deals with this criticism in a stimulating way.

The United Grand Lodge of England being in many respects the well-spring of modern day Masonry is a valuable source of inspiration, education and philosophy concerning what has come to be regarded as Regular Freemasonry. The recent decision by the United Grand Lodge of England, followed by a number of American Grand Lodges, to eliminate the Ancient Penalties from the obligation of each degree has caused much discussion within the Masonic Fraternity.

The purpose of this article is to discuss an alternative approach to the actual elimination of these Ancient Penalties.

Before proceeding further in this dissertation concerning the Ancient Penalties it needs to be pointed out that these penalties were not the brainchild of some distant Masonic ritualist. These or very similar variations of them were in use in England among the oaths taken by mariners during the 15th century and were also used in oaths assumed by those being admitted to the bar in London, England during the 16th century.

If Freemasonry has erred in the choice of these penalties it was in the reference to them as "Ancient Penalties" rather than what they really were "Ancient Symbolic Penalties". As Shakespeare's Hamlet said, "...ah there's the rub". These penalties were never included for the purpose of having an enforceable violent penalty. They were included simply as a symbolic representation of how seriously a postulant should view his oath.

Some would say if these are simply sym-

bolic then remove them since they no longer mean anything. That is somewhat misleading because so much of what we have around us and which we hold so dear in this troublesome world is recorded in symbols of all kinds. Symbolism is part of life and cannot be cast aside. Mathematicians, geologists, in fact anyone whose discipline relies on the use of numbers or numeric expressions, relies on symbols as an everyday experience. The simple act, though not always simple, of driving a car depends on the use of symbols to arrive safely at the intended destination. The numbers on the speedometer are symbols, various designs on highway signs are symbols, the little knobs on the dashboard all have different symbols. They are there to ensure understanding regardless of the language of the operator. So it may be concluded that symbols are an effective means of communication to ensure accurate understanding regardless of language, education or intellect. In fact your ability to read this paper is based on your understanding of the symbols or letters used to express my thoughts.

"Oh yes," some may say, "...but these are all symbols lacking any violent origin." That may not be entirely accurate either. Many symbols in use today depict a violent beginning and their design is intended to remind us of that hazard. So it may be concluded violent symbols are effective communication links to save us from harm. The simplest being the skull and crossbones as a symbol of life threatening danger and of course the modern nuclear era has spawned untold violent symbols especially designed to protect us from violent hazards.

Even the flags of many nations which certainly are revered and honored by their nationals, and displayed in their places of worship, use red as a symbol of the spilled blood which caused their nations to be born. The red poppy worn so reverently in memory of our soldiers who died in battles to defend our country is a

symbol of the blood spilled in battle on Flanders Fields during World War One. The buttons on the sleeve of a man's jacket and the little slit under the buttons are symbols of the time a man's jacket unbuttoned all the way to the shoulder so that he might have easy use of his sword. The vent at the back of a man's jacket is a symbol of the time soldiers rode horseback. The vent allowed their jackets to fall on either side of the riders' legs and so keep his powder dry to more effectively kill his adversary. Quite a nice little symbol to carry around with us when dressed in our Sunday best.

Now to get back to our Ancient Symbolic Penalties. Why on earth should we even consider relocating or removing them in the first place? "Oh because they are offensive to some religious leaders." That begs the question as to which religious leaders? Some of the greatest clergymen I have ever met, both the pragmatic and the scholarly, have been members of the Masonic Order. Not a single one of those extremely worldly wise reverend brothers ever dreamed of any part of the ceremony being offensive in any manner whatever, including the penalties. Obviously no clergy outside of the craft should cause us any concern because they really don't understand the context of the ceremony or the part the penalties play in it. Now what does that leave us to contemplate? I believe it points out in the clearest possible terms that the Masonic Order is a true microcosm of the real world in which we live.

We have our own fair share of iconoclasts whose aim is to tear down rather than to build constructively.

However, their arguments are not too compelling if analyzed. They suggest that violence is an offense to God. Yet both Moses and Jesus had recourse to violence in defending what they believed was an affront to God. Notwithstanding that argument or counter-argument there is no violence in Masonry provided the penalties are

Ancient Symbolic Penalties (continued)

described as Ancient Symbolic Penalties. Anything less than that description is an offense to God and Masonry. It is not good enough to describe them as Ancient Penalties since that implies that they are exigible and therein we could be faulted from within and without this noble craft.

At a time when the Scandinavian Churches are seeing in Masonry no conflict with their profession of faith, where leading clerics of the Church of Rome are finding no incompatibility between Regular Freemasonry and their belief of Christianity and those who malign us the most are being found to be guilty of criminal and moral law breaking, we must be sure we stand by what we teach. We must continue to conduct the affairs of Masonry in a manner well beyond reproach.

We must not allow indiscriminate changes to be made. Once the start is made where do we stop? Would we consider dropping the investigations of potential candidates, would we discontinue the trial procedures, would we allow avowed atheists to become part of our fraternity, would we allow and tolerate plots or conspiracies of any kind? Certainly we would not do any of those things.

We are assembled to unify, in a God fearing brotherhood, wherein we can unite in spirit to treat all of God's children as family. We cannot do that effectively by allowing schisms to develop. We must be unified for the benefit, not solely for our Order, but to better serve mankind in whatever manner God leads us as individuals who have learned to recognize our duty to him and our Brother. There will always be room for change in administrative practices but we should not change that which has worked so well heretofore and for which there is no substantive reason to consider change! ✦

So Mote It Be

(Reprinted from Masonic Service Association of the United States, Vol. 66, August 1988, No. 8)

2010 Masonic Home Gala Featuring Illustrious Brother Roy Clark, GC

Our Grand Master has planned a 2010 Gala for the benefit of the Masonic Home of Virginia. The festivities will include a catered dinner, entertainment provided by Illustrious Brother Roy Clark, and sponsorships of this event in a souvenir journal distributed to attendees and sponsors. The dinner will be held on Friday evening, July 30, 2010 in the dining hall at the Scottish Rite Temple for the Valley of Richmond, beginning at 7:00 PM. Only 400 tickets to the dinner will be available. Each ticket will cost \$50; at this point, it appears that half the ticket price should qualify as a charitable contribution eligible for deduction on your 2010 federal income tax return. The Masonic Home will notify each ticket purchaser on the exact sum eligible for deduction. Sale of dinner tickets will be on a strict "first-come-first-served" basis. Each table will seat 10 people.

After post-dinner brevities, the dinner party will assemble in the Temple's theater to be entertained by Brother Roy Clark. Due to the larger seating capacity of the theater over the dining hall, the Grand Master's Gala Committee will have an additional 250 tickets available for sale, at \$25; the sale of the tickets will be on a strict "first-come-first-served" basis as are the dinner tickets. At this point, it appears that half the ticket price should qualify as a charitable contribution eligible for deduction on your federal income tax return. The Masonic Home will notify each ticket purchaser on the exact sum eligible for deduction. All tickets must be purchased through your District Deputy to help avoid confusion.

The final segment of our Grand Master's 2010 Gala is publication of a commemorative journal. This Journal will provide an opportunity for special sponsorship and support of our Grand Master's efforts to benefit



Roy Clark performing at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville on May 17, 2009.

(Photo courtesy of Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Photo by Ed Rode.)

the Masonic Home of Virginia. Sponsorships are available to many different supporters of our Masonic Home.

The sponsorships of the Grand Master's 2010 Gala will be available at four levels:

- Gold Page -- \$300
- Silver Page -- \$200
- White Page -- \$100
- Half White Page -- \$65 ✦

Memories of Grand Masters Past

By Rt. Wor. Stormy Thorson

The Civil War yields many memories of Virginia's Past Grand Masters. Most Worshipful Robert T. Craighill (1889-1890) was seriously wounded during the war when he was only 20 years old. At the Battle of the Wilderness, Most Worshipful Sylvanus J. Quinn (1907) was shot in the chest. The bullet would have reached his heart except that it lost momentum when it struck a small dictionary in a pocket of his uniform. He did receive a painful bruise and a memento, that he kept throughout the war. Brother Quinn was later captured at the Battle of Sailor's Creek.

Most Worshipful William Henry Harman (1864-1865) was one of several Grand Masters to govern the Craft during the War between the States. He attained the rank of Colonel and was commanding Confederate reserve forces near Waynesboro when taken prisoner. Like all good POWs he tried to escape. During his attempt, he was shot and killed on March 2, 1865, making him the first and only Grand Master to be killed while in office.

Some stories of Past Grand Masters revolve around their ritual proficiency. Most Worshipful Lynwood Polk "LP" Harrell (1936) was a known ritualist and around the Committee

on Work, he was known as "Letter Perfect" Harrell. Most Worshipful Thomas N. Davis (1904-1905) was called "King Solomon" as a tribute to his proficiency. Most Worshipful Thomas W. Hooper's knowledge was so recognized that he was elected Worshipful Master, from the floor, without ever serving in line.

Regarding being Worshipful Master, many of our Past Grand Masters have served their Lodge, in the East multiple times, such as Most Worshipful James A. Leitch (1855-1856) who was Worshipful Master eight times. That pales in comparison to Most Worshipful John Robin McDaniel, who was Worshipful Master of Marshall Lodge No. 39 from 1847-1872, taking off only 1860-61 to be our Grand Master.

Many of Virginia's Past Grand Masters have held several offices at the same time. Most Worshipful George Farley (1990) was Worshipful Master, District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Junior Deacon simultaneously. A few of our Past Grand Masters have also served as Grand High Priest and Grand Commander, but only Most Worshipful Peyton S. Coles (1880-1881) held all three offices at the same time, in 1881. ✦

"The Rock Bottom Lodge"

By Wor. Ernie Irby, Jr.

The Rock Bottom Lodge had lost its last fight. Times were changing and they did not adjust. Nothing was left, but to turn out the light.

Years had erased the last called meeting night When a new Brother stood upright and just. The Rock Bottom Lodge had lost its last fight.

Three generations got sick at the sight Of the Holy Bible covered in dust. Nothing was left, but to turn out the light.

Proper to be polished, shining, and bright, The Square and Compasses were seized in rust.

The Rock Bottom Lodge had lost its last fight.

Though a neighbor Lodge suffered the same plight, Pride kept a merger from being discussed. Nothing was left, but to turn out the light.

So, the Lodge, once blue, passed to a pale white, Forgot its duties, neglected its trust.

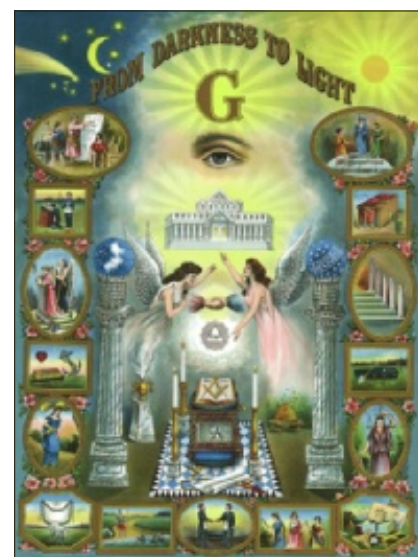
The Rock Bottom Lodge had lost its last fight. Nothing was left, but to turn out the light. ✦

After Lodge is Closed

Masonry teaches us how to live, how to die, and our duty towards our fellowmen. Do we realize the significance of the word "fellowmen"? It means more than fellow-Masons. We naturally have a tendency to safeguard our Brethren of the Mystic Tie, but actually our duty lies beyond the fold as well. In these difficult times when the kindly courtesies of bygone days seem to be fading away in the struggle for existence, the Mason often finds himself presented with opportunities for rendering kindly help.

Not necessarily the giving of alms, that of help to a mother with young children on an escalator, the call at a neighbor's when serious illness has occurred, and other small acts of the Mason from others. Let thought for others be the motive in daily life, and then the Mason reflects the teachings and tenets of his Craft. ✦

(Reprinted from *Blair's Bits of Booklore, Volume I, Collected articles, quotations, etc. of Right Worshipful Blair Via.*)



The Value of a Masonic Title

By Mt. Wor. Archer Bailey Gay (1957)

The titles of Freemasonry are many and all of them are high-sounding as they are spoken in our Lodges and the other Masonic bodies to which we may belong. They are bestowed as a means of recognizing the fact that, by the suffrage of his Brethren, one has been given the privilege of occupying a Masonic office of dignity. Every such office is one which should be worn with dignity and with the consciousness that with the title goes certain obligations to carry out responsibilities which the office imposes upon the Brother selected to occupy it for the time being.

Those of our Brethren who have been chosen Grand Masters of Masons in Virginia have learned that the Brethren may not always agree with every act; that their policies are not always fully accepted, but they learn that the office they hold is one that is held in highest esteem by the Brethren of all of our Lodges. Each of those who have worn the purple of the Fraternity in this office has endeavored to govern himself according to the principles of this great Institution. Each has endeavored to conduct himself with dignity and decorum; each has tried to serve in humility, looking behind him at the long line of illustrious men who have worn that office and determining that his own conduct and his own work in that office shall in no wise dim the luster which has been bestowed upon it in the past.

In like manner, each Brother who has been elected Worshipful Master of his Lodge must realize that, for weal or for woe, the Brethren have entrusted him with the honor, the reputation, and the usefulness of that particular Masonic body. The Lodge may have a long and honorable history, or it may have been chartered just last year, but it is an outpost

of Freemasonry in a profane world and the Master has been entrusted with its history for twelve months. He must grasp the torch from the hand of his predecessor, hold it high that all the world around may feel the warmth of its brotherhood and be lighted with its brotherly love. At the end of his term that torch must be burning just as brightly as it was when he received it and he must, with joy, pass it on to his successor.

In like manner, each man who comes into the Lodge has a title given him. He is a Master Mason and his possession of that proud title must qualify him to enlighten the world as to the aims and the objectives of Freemasonry by what they see of these reflected in his own individual life. Each is a builder; each must earn his right to erect his part of the edifice of brotherhood which we call Masonry, for it is by the individual life that our society is governed.

On the other hand, if we accept a Masonic title and do nothing to earn the right to wear it, it becomes as a tinkling brass or a sounding cymbal, which clamors loudly for attention, but soon fades out upon the air and has produced nothing to be remembered by men. Let us remember our obligation to preserve unsullied the reputation of this great Fraternity by earning every title which is given us by the hands of our Brethren.

(Reprinted from The Virginia Masonic Herald, September – October 1972 issue. The following is provided as a “side note”... Editor)

In polite society, a person does not usually use his Title when referring to himself orally or when writing a letter. It is not appropriate for an individual to refer to himself in a lofty manner. For example, we've never heard

a Past and Master refer to himself (or sign his letters) as “Most Worshipful” - He simply appends, his rank (PGM). It also follows that the Complimentary Close of a letter signed by a PDDGM who was elected Secretary of his Craft Lodge should read:

Sam C. Strainer, PDDGM
Secretary

The same philosophy is applied to the Master's Office. His “Earned Title” is Worshipful Master - but, he'd probably feel quite uncomfortable calling himself “Worshipful.” Therefore, the Complimentary Close of a letter or a Lodge bulletin signed by the Worshipful Master could read:

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Hiram O'Tyre
Master - 2001

These preceding comments come from the District Educational Manual, pages 6-7.



The George Washington Masonic Memorial

The Freemasons' White House Stones Exhibit

By Wor. Mark A. Tabbert



The George Washington Masonic Memorial opened a new exhibit in February featuring 45 historic White House stones. Each stone is marked by a Scottish stonemason who helped build the White House. The stones are reassembled for the first time since President Harry S. Truman sent one to every U.S. Masonic Grand Lodge in 1952. Complementing the stones is a Minute Book from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Scotland. It lists members of the lodge, who in 1794, immigrated to help build the White House. Accompanying the Minute Book is the Lodge's Mark Book, showing each stonemason's trade mark. By comparing these marks to the marks on the stones, visitors may identify the men who helped to build the President's House. The exhibit opened in conjunction with the Memorial Association's 100th Anniversary and will run through May 2011.

In 1789, first president George Washington and the U.S. Congress were determined to build a great capital city. By 1792, the site was

chosen, designer Pierre L'Enfant's street plan was adapted, and work began. At the city's center would be the U.S. Capitol, the "People's House." The President's House would be located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Washington reviewed the site and personally selected architect James Hoban's design. The mansion's cornerstone was laid with a small civic and Masonic ceremony on October 13, 1792.

Although foundation work then began in earnest, the government soon discovered the young nation had an abundance of craftsmen, but few master stonemasons. What's more, those it did have were working on the U.S. Capitol. After a thorough search in America and Europe, agent George Walker traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland. By spring 1794, he had recruited at least eight stonemasons from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8.

With the arrival of the eight Scots stonemasons, the White House walls rose to completion in 1798. During construction, the stonemasons, being Freemasons, joined the

local Lodge. Federal Lodge No.15 had been chartered September 12, 1793 by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. James Hoban was its first Worshipful Master. Federal Lodge became the first Lodge when the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was constituted in 1811. The exhibit also includes Federal Lodge's first Account Book listing the Scots stonemasons and White House architect James Hoban as its first Master. Additional materials include a letter from President Truman, historic photographs and other items.

The White House stones were discovered soon after Truman became president in 1945. With major plaster cracks appearing and a piano dropping nearly through the floor, it was obvious that the executive mansion needed a complete overhaul. The First Family relocated to Blair House as work began. By 1950, only the White House facade and some of the original foundation stones remained. President Truman inspected the work often and during one tour he noticed a large number of stones engraved with mason's marks. Recognizing that they were made by Scottish stonemasons, he contacted the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and had more than 100 of them



The George Washington Masonic Memorial

The Freemasons' White House Stones Exhibit (continued)



of the District of Columbia. It is also made possible by the cooperation and support of many U.S. Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia, and the White House Historical Association.

Photos: The single stone pictures are of the stone given to the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia by President and Mt. Wor. Harry S Truman. The open book is the list of craftsmen and their "marks". (The picture of the book is by permission of the George Washington Masonic Memorial and cannot be reprinted without their permission.)

delivered to the Grand Lodge headquarters on New York Avenue—just three blocks away.

In 1952, President Truman asked the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to send one of the marked stones to each U.S. Grand Lodge. Each stone had a small White House brass plaque affixed to it accompanied by a letter, framed of recycled White House wood, to the Grand Master. Additional stones were distributed to Canadian Grand Lodges, several Order of Eastern Star state grand chapters, a few local lodges, DeMolay International, the two U.S. Scottish Rite Supreme Councils, the Grand Lodge of Israel, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Many were hand delivered by Truman or by Carl Claudy, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association. In 2004, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia presented stones to the recently independent Grand Lodge of Alaska and Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

This unique exhibit of American and Scottish Masonic history is sponsored by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, and by the Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M.,



The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is a private, non-profit educational organization. Its membership is comprised of 52 Grand Lodges (50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), representing nearly two million Freemasons in the United States. The Memorial Association was created on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1910. Between 1922 and 1932, it built the George Washington Masonic Memorial through volunteer donations from American Freemasons. The Association's mission is: "To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country." ❖

Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



George Washington Masonic Memorial

By Mt. Wor. John R. Quinley (2005)

Brethren, as the Virginia Ambassador to your Memorial, I am pleased to acknowledge your generous contributions. In the past I have tried to individually acknowledge the support of our Brethren and friends. The good news is contributions have increased to the point it has taxed my ability to respond. I am grateful to our Grand Master, Most Worshipful William Earle Rorer, Jr., for permitting me space in *The Virginia Masonic Herald* to acknowledge these kindnesses. My hope is that all Virginia Freemasons will emulate your actions and our contributions will thereby continue to sustain this outstanding monument to our gentle Craft. I wish to extend a special thanks to Right Worshipful George D. Seghers, Executive Director, for providing me with the names of our contributors, his enthusiasm and energy is infectious.

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 (Alexandria) has announced a total pledge of \$100,000 over the next five years and Andrew

Jackson Lodge No 120 (Alexandria) donated \$7,500. A memorial tree will be planted on the grounds to also acknowledge the generous Memorial Contributions of:

Holly C. Ames, in memory of Fred M. Kinder;
The Janet Goolsby family, in memory of Charles E. Bruce;
Damon L. Riddell, in memory of Alvin L. Riddell;
Most Worshipful James M. Searce, Jr. (2004) in memory of Judy H. Searce;
Charles S. Yates and Randall F. Singhas, in memory of Gordon F. Singhas.

Lodges and Brethren making individual contributions are, by category:

Platinum Presidential Members

Albert G. Opp
Mountain City Lodge No. 67.

Gold Master Members

W. Kirk MacNulty

Charles S. Oakey
Mark A. Tabbert
Eureka Lodge No. 195

Silver Craftsman Members

Robert Bartlett
Julian H. Buncutter
Jimmie K. Crowder
Robert A. Harrison
Gregory C. Howard
Jerry D. McEntire
Edward S. Milligan
Harlan E. Phelps, Jr.
William C. Robinson
Robert G. and Larissa P. Watkins
Henry Lodge No. 57
Herndon Lodge No. 264

Thank you for your charitable acts and for showing that you,

*“Forget Not
The Duties”*

Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344 Past Masters Night



At a recent stated communication of Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344 (Mechanicsville), 17 Past Masters of the Lodge were in attendance for Past Masters Night. Right Worshipful Elwood Floyd Yates, an 85-year mason (sitting in the center of the picture) was Worshipful Master in 1931. The Past Masters are truly the “Backbone of Masonry.”

Lodge Solvency and Viability Analysis

The Grand Lodge Committee on Lodge Services was chartered to assist the Grand Lodge in providing mentoring and “in Lodge” service to Lodge officers who request help with their Lodge operations and planning. While the Committee is prepared to provide assistance on nearly any aspect of Lodge operations and planning, the principal focus has been on the classic problem areas that impact Lodge solvency and viability, including but not limited to, finance, membership, attendance, growth, programs, etc. In essence, the Committee provides the Master and officers of every Lodge with a personal consultant and “911” resource to assist in analyzing and addressing specific issues, or concerns. It is important to note that the Committee provides its support in the form of recommendations. It will never attempt to usurp the Master’s prerogative to rule and govern. In addition, all support by the Committee is provided on a confidential basis. A key resource used by the Committee is the Solvency and Viability Review (SVR) Tool.

At the direction of the Grand Master and in an effort to assist Lodges in assessing their overall health and solvency, the Committee performed an analysis of every constituent Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Virginia using the SVR Tool. The results of that analysis have been disseminated by the Grand Secretary to each Lodge during the recent District Leadership Conferences. If by chance your Lodge did not receive a copy of their report, the Master or Secretary may request a copy from the Grand Secretary.

The SVR Analysis report is intended to furnish Lodge Leaders with a snapshot of their Lodge’s solvency and viability in terms of membership and financial trends. It is the

hope of the Grand Master that Lodge Leaders will work to understand these trends and seek the assistance of the Grand Lodge Committees on Membership and Lodge Services for further assistance as may be required. Most importantly, services are available to help a Lodge to develop and implement a plan of action to reverse negative trends a Lodge may be facing. The overriding theory is that if the business of running the Lodge is in order, then, Lodge officers can focus their time and energy on the Masonic goal of “making good men better.”

It is recognized that the SVR Analysis Reports are based on many high level assumptions and does not consider the detailed circumstances of each Lodge. Consequently, it is easy to dismiss the results as not relevant or not worthy of further consideration. The key underlying purpose of this effort, however, was to simply provide a stimulus or starting point for Lodge officers to hold meaningful strategic discussions about where they are and where they want to go in terms of their solvency and viability as determined by their membership and buying power trends.

If your Lodge requires assistance in interpreting or better understanding your SVR Analysis Report, desires assistance in performing amore detailed custom SVR analysis, or simply wants help in conducting a strategic review and discussion of Lodge solvency and viability, we invite you to contact the Grand Lodge Committee on Lodge Services Deputy Chairman, Right Worshipful Bill Luthie (PH: 434-591-0237 or e-mail: boputtz@aol.com). The services offered by the Committee are confidential and free of charge to the Lodge. Let us know if we can help. ✦

By Their Works

Freemasonry is more than a Fraternity of men. It is more than an organization. It is more than Lodges of Masons working together with objectives which are charitable and humanitarian. And it is more than a quest for Brotherhood.

Freemasonry is a way of life.

It is a pattern for living which challenges each individual Mason to walk, act, and live in such a manner that he will always be in search of becoming a better man—not better than someone else but better than himself. This is the essence of Masonry, with its emphasis not upon the group but upon the total and complete responsibility of each individual Brother.

Based upon this premise, and organization, an association, a society, a Lodge, as such is nothingness unless each individual member is devoted, dedicated, and consecrated to the principle that as he himself lives, so will the Lodge live. No great symphony of music was composed by an organization. Not one of the fine works of art was painted by an association or a committee. Thus Masonry’s appeal is to the responsibility of each individual man to make the Fraternity an effective force for good by the manner in which he thinks and conducts himself, not only in the Lodge but, more importantly, in his everyday actions with all people.

If Freemasonry is, indeed, a way of life that challenges each Brother to give of his best, to live up to his responsibilities, think of the power and action for the good of mankind that can be generated by the sum total of all.

“By their works ye shall know them.”
What a challenge! ✦

(Reprinted from *Blair’s Bits of Booklore, Volume I, Collected articles, quotations, etc. of Right Worshipful Blair Via.*)



The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
of Virginia presents the

3RD ANNUAL

James Stanley Johnson
Memorial Golf Tournament
August 10, 2010



Benefitting the Masonic Home of Virginia

LOCATION

Vista Links Golf Course
100 Vista Links Drive
Buena Vista, Virginia

TEE TIME

August 10, 2010
Check in @ 12:00 Noon
Shotgun Start @ 1:00 PM
(Rain Date:
Wednesday, August 17, 2010)

ENTRY FEE

\$65 per player
or \$260 per team
(\$17 per person is TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

FORMAT

**4 man Florida Best Ball,
(Captain's Choice)**

Includes: 18 holes with cart,
gift bag, picnic & awards
presentation

Awards:

**1st, 2nd, 3rd Place in
flights, door prizes, closest to
the hole & long drive prizes**

**PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE
Masonic Home
of Virginia**

HOLE SPONSORS

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE
(In Full or Part)**

Platinum \$1,000
(Includes fees for 4 Golfers)

Gold \$500

Silver \$250

Bronze \$100

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Captain: _____ **Player 3:** _____

Player 2: _____ **Player 4:** _____

For Further Information Contact:

John Dester
540.570.0505
Jdester3@Ntelos.net

Make checks payable to:
MASONIC HOME of VIRGINIA

Retiring Secretaries For the Masonic Year 2009

By Mt. Wor. Alan W. Adkins (1997), Grand Secretary

This year we welcome thirty-three new Lodge Secretaries. We say “thank you” to those secretaries who have either retired or asked to be replaced. In the subordinate Lodge one of the most important offices is that of Secretary. This is true because the member who serves in this office usually continues from year to year and strives to bring continuity to the affairs of the Lodge. We have been fortunate to have Brethren to serve faithfully for many years in their respective Lodge(s).

The following Brethren served **ten or more** years as Secretary:

J. Bruce Hagadorn, Taylor No. 23	11 years	Fred L. Bussey, Rocky Mount No. 201
Wayne E. Price, Spurmont No. 98	13 years	Douglas G. Wann, Treadwell No. 213
Brown G. Howard, III, Floyd No. 329	11 years	Robert M. Brest, Mariner No. 215

Robert H. Graham, Wynn No. 221
James S. Presgraves, Mt. Airy No. 226

The following Brethren served from **one to nine** years as Secretary:

Paul W. Pennybacker, Norfolk No. 1
Edward C. Sanders, Petersburg No. 15
Charles S. Sarbaugh, Richmond Randolph No. 19
Jerry L. Sargent, Alexandria-Washington No. 22
Jason L. Payne, Suffolk No. 30

Robert W. Mann, Chilhowie No. 250
Dennis A. Wilt, Clover Hill No. 253
William C. Peed, Jr., Churchland No. 276
Harvey C. Latta, Chickahominy No. 286
Paul G. Neal, Sr., Central No. 300
Paul D. Sleeper, Catawba No. 342

Donald R. Traser, St. John's No. 36
Brett P. Doe, Fairfax No. 43
Jay S. Burton, Doric No. 44
Ennis A. Viereck, Jr., Elmer Timberman No. 54
Eugene R. Bane, Day No. 58
Brian W. Galusha, Arlington Centennial-Glebe No. 81*
Roger D. Cottrill, Valley No. 93
Thomas R. Stanley, Coeburn No. 97
Hensil F. Engleman, II, Barboursville No. 112
Russell TJ Comer, Jr., Ashlar No. 125
David H. Blank, Mt. Carmel No. 133
Dixie J. Grinnalds, Chesapeake No. 158
William W. Childs, Sr., Chesterfield No. 161
Vernon A. Melton, Sr., Virginia No. 177
Justin G. Janeway, Martin's Station No. 188

As you can see from above, the length of service varies from one to thirteen years. Whenever you meet one of these Brethren, take the opportunity to express your appreciation for their service to the Craft.

*Deceased



“Help Masons and Their Families Get Care Where They Live”

Most Worshipful John Robert “Bob” Dean Gala A Benefit for the Masonic Home Outreach Program In Southwest Virginia

There will be a benefit dinner with entertainment honoring Most Worshipful John Robert “Bob” Dean held in Abingdon, VA on August 28, 2010. The proceeds of this charitable event will help assist qualified Brethren, their wives, and widows to be able to continue living in their homes when this would not be otherwise possible.

The Masonic Home Outreach Program was originally formed to assist Masons living in the six Masonic Districts in the far outreaches of Southwest Virginia. The program now encompasses the entire Commonwealth and provides assistance for those that do not wish to relocate to the Masonic Home in Richmond.

The Outreach Program responds to medical and health needs of the Masonic Family, age 65 and older, who cannot otherwise afford such assistance and who wish to stay in their own homes.

The program provides services similar to those enjoyed by the residents of the Masonic Home such as the following:

- In many cases, candidates may simply need assistance in gaining access to and an understanding of services already available in his/her locality;
- Where possible, the Program will leverage the use of existing programs in the candidate’s local community, such as

those provided by governmental and non-profit organizations;

- Basic medical, healthcare or respite needs, possibly to include services provided by home health care providers from the candidate’s community.

The cost of this event will be \$50.00 per person, with dinner provided and entertainment by Brother Randy Kilgore’s band “Copper Ridge”.

For further information, contact:

Worshipful Mark Mills, Grand Junior Steward at jmarkmills32@gmail.com or Worshipful Garrett Jackson, PM at wgarrettjackson@gmail.com.

**Abingdon, Virginia, Saturday, August 28, 2010
7:30 pm until?**

TICKETS AVAILABLE!

\$50.00 per person

Dinner will be provided and we will be entertained by Brother Randy Kilgore’s “Copper Ridge Band”

For more information contact:

Worshipful Mark Mills, Grand Junior Steward at jmarkmills32@gmail.com

or

Worshipful Garrett Jackson at wgarrettjackson@gmail.com

Mailing address for donations or ticket purchases is:

Masonic Home Outreach Gala
P.O. Box 206
Nickelsville, VA 24271



Dinner Provided, Dancing at your own risk!

The Better Angels of Our Nature by Michael A. Halleran

(University of Alabama Press 2010)

Reviewed by Rt. Wor. William A. Parks, Jr., DEO, Masonic District 23

Pop Quiz: Who Spoke the words “The Better Angels of Our nature,” where, and on what occasion?

Here we have a collection of true stories of brethren, Yank and Rebel, exemplifying the theme of this year’s Grand Master: “Forget Not the Duties.”

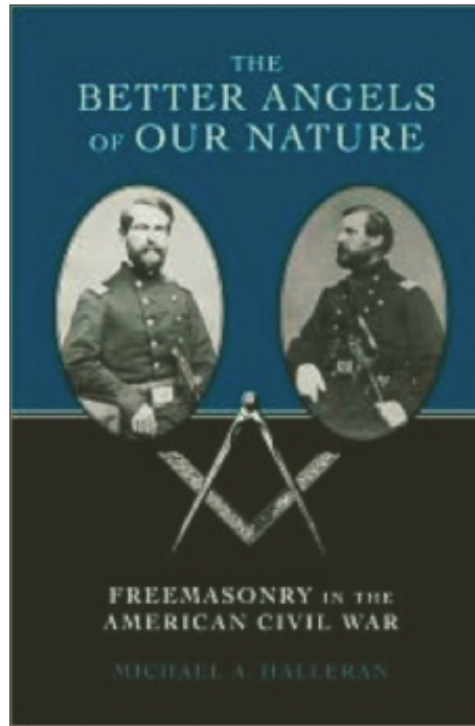
Brother Halleran, a Kansas lawyer and lecturer at Emporia State University, depicts rigorously researched episodes of brotherly love extended to enemy Masonic brethren during the Civil War.

Relying almost exclusively on primary sources, such as contemporary correspondence and newspaper accounts, he relates dozens of incidents of Masonic compassion and mercy extended from brother to brother without regard to the recipients’ loyalties. At the same time he shoots down those Masonic “legends” he deems absent of sufficient evidentiary support.

The results of Brother Halleran’s scholarly and extensive research amply supports the old saw that “truth is stranger [some would say better] than fiction.” A couple of examples should whet the appetite of any Craftsman regardless of the intensity of his interest in Civil War history.

Lt. Colonel Homer Sprague, 13th Connecticut Volunteers was taken prisoner by Confederates at the third battle of Winchester on September 19 1864. Following a long march with his fellow captives, Sprague collapsed in a roadside ditch. Taking pity on him, a rebel officer let him ride in an ambulance.

In Sprague’s own words, “Into the ambulance I climbed with some difficulty, and immediately began my free-masonry [sig] on the driver. He responded to the signs....He gave me some nice milk and some fine wheat bread. ‘As a Mason,’ said he, ‘ I’ll feed you; share the last crumb with you; but as a Confederate soldier, I’ll fight you to the last drop of blood and the last ditch.’”



An unknown doctor in Cheraw, South Carolina, found his wife and himself subject to General William T. Sherman’s Special Field Order 120, which provided that no supply train should follow the Union Army and that it should “forage liberally on the country during [Sherman’s March to the Sea].”

A Union Lieutenant followed by a large baggage wagon appeared at the front door of the doctor’s mansion. Soon soldiers arrived to stack all the provisions in the household in the front room, and events had reached the point of the Yankees removing the first load.

But, as related by the doctor, “I commenced, therefore, in the mute but expressive language of our institution, to inquire if Lieut. - - - was a brother of the mystic tie. To my first signals he promptly responded and in a few minutes I was convinced he was a Master Mason.”

The good doctor, upon further exchange of signs, discovers that the lieutenant is also a Royal Arch Mason. Soon finding himself and

his wife alone with the lieutenant, because the Union soldiers had left with the first load of provisions, the doctor delves further.

“I availed myself of the opportunity afforded by their absence, and by the fact that my wife was intently looking at the floor in a pensive attitude, to move back a step and to make that signal to which no true mason can, without perjury, refuse to respond.” As a most conscientious brother, the doctor ensures that his wife will not observe him giving the sign, even though he is facing the loss of a year’s provisions and supplies.

When the soldiers return for their next load, the Lieutenant “in a gruff voice exclaimed: ‘Men, put those things down. You can go.’” The doctor concludes, “The mystic sign had prevailed.”

Halleran groups such tales by categories designated by chapter headings such as “Saving the Life of the Enemy” and “More Decent Interment.” Brethren cross enemy lines to attend Lodge communications and to bury fraternal enemies with Masonic honors. Prison guards cadge food for starving brethren held as prisoners of war.

More intriguingly, profanes witnessing such acts of brotherly love and kindness vow to join the Craft following the war and do. One such witness writes, “If that is Masonry, I will take some of it myself.”

No expertise in Civil War history is required to thoroughly enjoy this outstanding collection of inspirational yet true stories. While it is a must-read for Brethren steeped in the lore of that terrible time, it also provides extraordinary examples of Brethren fulfilling their most solemn obligations.

This fine book will also supply Lodge programs far into the future.

The title quotes the final words of President Lincoln’s first inaugural address given March 4, 1861 on the East Portico of the U.S. Capitol. ✦

Our Grand Master is Coming!

By Rt. Wor. David A. Burkus

How many Worshipful Masters through the years have told their membership these exact words? How many of them though really realized the honor being bestowed on them by the Grand Master with his visit to their Lodge? I do not believe that many do or, if they do, do not have a sense of the proper Masonic protocol and courtesies required when he visits.

Currently there are 313 Lodges in the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia. Grand Masters on the average visit about 25 Lodges during their year. The Grand Master's schedule is a very busy and complex thing to coordinate; hence, the use of an Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master to help coordinate his schedule. He has many required functions he is required to attend yearly throughout the Commonwealth and United States. Then when you throw in the required Official Visits to each Masonic District, you can see that his schedule can become pretty busy. So for him to schedule a visit to your Lodge is indeed an honor.

Every year at the Division Leadership Conferences, as the Grand Master progressed up the line, he informed his counterparts if they would like for him to attend their Lodges for a special event or something, to please submit it as soon as possible. Some do and get their requests honored, while some don't. But for those lucky few, planning, Masonic protocol, and courtesies are three items which must go hand-in-hand for his visit.

In the planning for their meeting, I am sure they wanted to let everybody know he's coming, make sure they had a great dinner planned for the night, have awards ready for him to present if there are any, and they had a meeting of Officers and Past Masters (yes, I did say Past Masters) to make sure all bases were

covered for the Grand Master's visit. But there are some items which fit into Masonic protocol and courtesy that many have forgotten:

- Ensure they planned on providing the Grand Master and his travelling party a complimentary meal (and possibly any Grand Lodge Officers or Past Grand Masters who might attend) and provide the Grand Master with money to help refuel his car, right?
- Ensure they planned on minimizing most of the Lodge's business and have a very quick meeting, so it is evident to all that our Grand Master is the main event for the night, right?
- Ensure they contacted all candidates who were going to be voted upon that evening and informed them the vote would be delayed for a month, right?
- Ensure they definitely wouldn't have elections for a District Deputy Grand Master nominee during the Grand Master's Official Visit, right?
- Changes to bylaws, building modifications, or any other major discussions, if they were planned to be discussed, should be surely delayed to the following meeting, right?

These are courtesies and are unwritten Masonic protocols (at least I can't find out where they are actually written) which one should follow. The preceding recommendations should be followed when the Grand Master makes his Official Visit to your Lodge, but should also be done for his personal representative, the District Deputy Grand Master, when he makes his Official Visit to your Lodge as well.

Just food for thought... ✨

Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

Alan W. Adkins, PGM, Grand Secretary

The Grand Lodge of Virginia was this year's host for the conference held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington on February 21-23, 2010.

Prior to the conference commencing on Sunday, February 21, a pre-conference Williamsburg Experience was available for those guests who wanted to arrive early and experience Colonial Williamsburg. Worshipful George A. Hollingsworth, III and the Brethren of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6 were instrumental in making the trip memorable for the several attendees.

On Saturday evening, the Grand Lodge of Virginia hosted a reception and gala banquet – "An Evening with George and Martha Washington." Brother Dean Malissa, a Pennsylvania Mason, and Mary Wiseman, a Historical Interpreter, provided entertainment with stories and commentaries of their lives.

The theme for this year's conference was, *Inspired By Our History Embracing Our Future*. The conference officially opened on Sunday morning following a Religious Service conducted by the Reverend Doctor J. Blaine Blubaugh, a member of Lafayette Lodge No. 137 (Luray). During the opening ceremonies, the Presentation of the Colors was provided by the Kena Shrine Center's Legion of Honor under the command of Right Worshipful and Noble Granville C. Canard, Jr. and accompanied by the Temple's Highlanders Unit. The welcome was given by Most Worshipful William E. Rorer, Jr., the Host Grand Master and a member of the 2010 Conference Committee. The morning and afternoon sessions dealt with reports from the Conference Planning committee, the Executive Secretary/Treasurer, the Nominating committee, the National Masonic Foundation for Children, the Masonic Renewal committee, the Masonic Service Association, and MasonicChip International, Inc.

On Monday morning, the conference reconvened with breakout sessions in four groups – National Masonic Foundation for Children, Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, Masonic History Preservation, and Youth. The setting for the afternoon session was the George Washington Masonic Memorial that was observing George Washington's birthday and its 100th anniversary. To celebrate this momentous event, a photograph of the Grand Masters attending the conference was taken on the steps of the Memorial (see front cover). While the annual meeting of the Memorial was being conducted, a Ladies program was offered with a reception given for all attendees featuring Toasts to George Washington, refreshments, and musical entertainment. Later in the evening, the Grand Secretaries banquet was held at the hotel with entertainment provided by the Strolling Silver Strings, composed of students from five High Schools in the City of Norfolk.

The Imperial Shrine of North America hosted their annual Shrine DeMolay breakfast on Tuesday morn-

Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America (continued)

ing. Several more breakout sessions were conducted during the morning session, namely: Public Relations, Membership, Information Technology, and Lodge Issues. The Grand Masters heard reports from the Commission on Information for Recognition and the Time and Place committee. The introduction of the 2010 Officers of the Conference of Grand Secretaries took place along with a presentation by the Grand Lodge of Colorado, the 2011 host jurisdiction. During the day, the Ladies enjoyed a tour of the beautiful and historical Mount Vernon, home of George and Martha Washington. The conference ended with a banquet on Tuesday evening. The entertainment was provided by Tripplett Productions, who perform frequently at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, with a program entitled Washington Musical Landscape.

Over seven hundred Masons and their wives attended the conference this year. In addition to the participants from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, attendees included the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite – Canada, the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite – Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite – Southern Jurisdiction, Grand Encampment Knights Templar, Grottoes of North America, High Twelve International, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, International Order of Job's Daughters, Masonic Service Association, National Masonic Foundation for Children, National Sojourners, Inc., Shriners International, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, DeMolay International, and several visiting Grand Lodges, which were the Grand Lodge of Armenia, Grand Lodge of Azembajian, United Grand Lodge of England, Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia, Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile, Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, Gran Logia de Espana, Grand Lodge of Cyprus, Gran Logia Simbolica del Paraguay, Rio Grande do Sul Brazil, Grande Loja Legal de Portugal, and the Grand Lodge of Russia.

It takes many individuals, who spend a tremendous amount of time, to put together this conference. Special appreciation is extended to Most Worshipful G. H. Jones, III (2006), Chairman of the Host Committee. He was assisted by his wife, Emily, Worshipful George B. Phillips and his wife, Jessie, Right Worshipful George D. Seghers and his wife, Louise, Right Worshipful Howard M. Sobel and the Grand Lodge Office staff. The Grand Lodge Officers attending the conference were Most Worshipful William E. Rorer, Jr., Grand Master, and his wife, Judith; Right Worshipful John M. Chambliss, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, and his wife, Judy; Right Worshipful Louis K. Campbell, Grand Junior Warden; Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins, Grand Secretary, and his wife, Gerri; and Right Worshipful Paul D. Sleeper, Grand Senior Deacon.

Historical note: The Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America began in 1925 in Chicago, Illinois and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1927 and continued to meet there annually until 1963. In 1946, representatives from the Grand Lodges of Canada and Mexico were invited to participate. The Conference of Grand Secretaries was first held in 1928. The site of the conference now rotates annually between east and west of the Mississippi River. ✦

Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?

By Arturo de Hoyas and S. Brent Morris

Reviewed by Rt. Wor. William A. Parks, Jr.

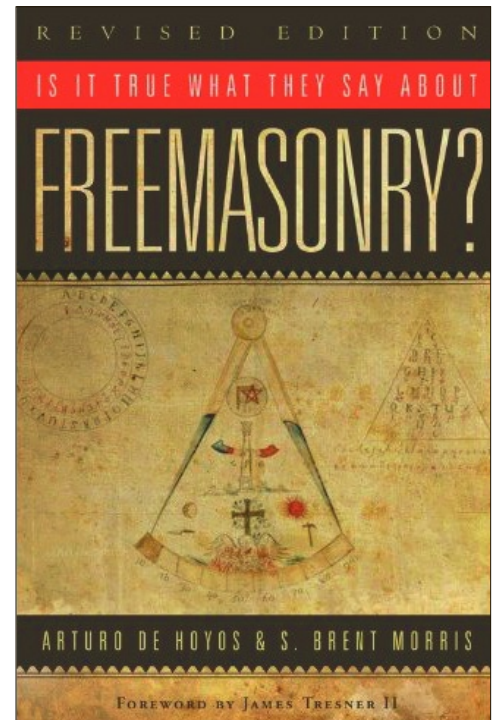
This title has been a favorite of Freemasons who like fine examples of the science of logic and the art of rhetoric. Also available in several more editions` on line, authors Morris and de Hoyas have nearly doubled the content of their original polemic against false and misleading claims against the Craft, beginning with Leo Traxil and Jim Shaw (1994 ed.), adding John Ankerberg and John Weldon (1997 ed.), and topping of the latest “revised” edition with the full text of Traxil’s confession (2010).

Previous editions moved some text around, re-arranged some pictures, and shredded several fundamentalist attacks on Freemasonry. The authors also included the epistolary jousting match between Brother Morris and Jim Shaw, who clings to his notion that Masonry is a religion that teaches devil worship.

The second edition added the notorious episode of the destruction of a Kempsville, Virginia, church memorial garden created in memory of a deceased Mason by his widow in 1979. Seventeen years later, ten members of the church “tore up every plant, removed every cobblestone, ... burned the wooden cross, and broke the stone on which the garden’s memorial plaque was mounted.” Why? Because of the presence of a rose cross, an “occult symbol” of Freemasonry.

The latest “revised second edition,” like its predecessors, includes the Luciferian hoax perpetrated by Leo Traxil in the 1890’s. Traxil “translated” a French translation of a passage from Albert Pike’s work back into English, thus bowdlerizing an innocent comment into the appearance of devil worship. This misrepresentation of Pike’s beliefs bedevils the Craft to this day and is still perpetuated by the likes of Pat Robertson. This hoax now provides the basis for the Hamas belief in a Jewish-Masonic conspiracy.

Indeed, Hamas lumps Rotary and Lions clubs with the Freemasons among the “sabo-



tage groups” and “cells of subversion” promoting “Zionist interests.”

But the new edition of *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry?* adds yet another aspect of Traxil’s hoax, the complete reliance by Roman Catholic officials on Traxil’s allegations of Masonic devil worship to “ramp up” that Church’s condemnations of the Craft.

Traxil’s confession fills 30 pages of this new edition and it is a masterpiece of the practical joker’s art. Incredibly, despite this confession, the hoax itself survives as “truth” among those determined to find evil in the Masonic fraternity. De Hoyas and Morris include Traxil’s confession to demonstrate the flimsiness of the foundations of anti-Masonry.

Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry? deserves its place near the top of any list of essential Masonic books. The inclusion of the Traxil confession and expansion of other material makes this revised second edition even more compelling. ✦

New Job's Daughter Bethel Started

Greetings from the Grand Guardian Council, and most especially the Job's Daughters of Virginia! The 74th Grand Guardian Council is winding down from a very busy year, and we have much to be thankful for this year.

As we have traveled around the Commonwealth of Virginia, we have met so many great and wonderful supporters of the future of Freemasonry. It was heartwarming to interact with a group of people dedicated to sustaining the Masonic Family. Both Most Worshipful Jeffery Eugene Hodges (2009), and Most Worshipful William Earle Rorer Jr., as well as more Grand Lodge Officers, Right Worshipful District Deputies, Worshipful Masters, Worthy Patrons and Matrons, Brethren, and more friends than we can count let alone thank properly have our eternal gratitude! The friendships we made throughout our Fraternal family have assured us that the tradition of support of the youth organizations will continue.

Job's Daughters made a "splash" in the Oceanview St. Patrick's Day Parade this year in our annual walk for our philanthropic endeavor Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment (HIKE). Daughters from all over Virginia braved a weather challenged day to bring smiles and hearing to kids across the United States. To date, we have raised over \$10,000 with more still in the works!! Way to go Virginia Jobies!!

Job's Daughters of Virginia celebrated a landmark event this year in that Bethel 36 in Lynchburg was re-instituted as Bethel UnderDispensation(UD)! With over 100 members, friends, and family in attendance, it was a very moving and wonderful event



This was not just a Virginia celebratory event with Miss Virginia Job's Daughter KC Conrad PHQ No. 52, Miss Virginia Congeniality Jessyca Bradshaw PHQ No. 42, but a regional one as we had representatives from nearby Job's Daughters jurisdictions, as well as the Supreme Guide, Mom Bobbie Hoglund.

They are working hard to fulfill the necessary steps to earn their Charter and be officially known as Bethel 36 once more. They have been traveling (when they weren't snowed in!) and learning all about their new Masonic family, and are an energetic and wonderful group! So if you happen to be in the Lynchburg area stop by Lemon Drive and say hi and welcome to Honored Queen Brittany Hillsman and the Daughters of Bethel UD!

It has been an outstanding year, and we cannot express how much we appreciate the support the Grand Lodge of Virginia as well

as the Lodges, Chapters, Shrine Temples, and all members of the Masonic Families have showered on the Daughters of Virginia. Truly, Virginia is committed to reaping the benefits of sowing the seeds of Masonry in our youth organizations. ✦

Melanie Schoonmaker, Grand Guardian,
PHQ No. 22, DRP
Bill Tanous, Associate Grand Guardian, No. 3



It May Be A Tall Tale, but Somebody Needs To Tell It!

“Forget not the duties” has taken on a life of its own here at your Library & Museum. I am continually shocked and surprised at the enthusiasm generated by our Brethren as it relates to Masonic History. I want to relate two recent examples.

I was contacted recently by Brother William James Baumbach, II regarding a lapel pin he is selling. The Oscar Scott Woody pin is cast in memory of our Brother. Brother Woody was one of five postal clerks serving on the Titanic. He was raised in Acacia Lodge No. 16 and died April 5, 1912 on the Titanic. His water stained dues card had finally made its way back to Virginia through the courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. It is now on perpetual loan to the Grand Lodge and is housed in our Museum. The sale proceeds from this pin will be donated to the Library and Museum. The Board enthusiastically supports this effort and is grateful to our Grand Master for his approval. Check out Brother Baumbach’s web at: <http://Baumbach.com/Titanic>.

Worshipful David Alan Carl, Worshipful Master of Independent Orange Lodge No. 138,

shared his enthusiasm for the revived interest his Lodge is showing for its founder, Most Worshipful Lewis Burwell Williams, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1862-63. The Lodge has located Brother Williams’ grave and the information they are learning about him will be of benefit to them and to the Library and Museum.

One of the current projects of the Library and Museum is to find images of nineteen Past Grand Masters whose portraits are lacking in the museum collections. If a Lodge or Lodges in a district would like to sponsor a Past Grand Master portrait please contact the Grand Lodge Librarian, Marie Barnett. The following portraits are missing from the Eighteenth Century: Alexander Montgomery – 1790 (Richmond Lodge No. 10); James Mercer 1784-1785 (Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4); and Thomas Matthews 1790-1792 (Norfolk Lodge No. 1).

On Masonic Family Day this year the Library and Museum will feature the 400th Anniversary of the settling of Henrico County and the role Masonic Lodges and Freemasonry played in its history.

It is with sadness I report the passing of Most Worshipful John Robert “Bob” Dean, the immediate Past President of the Board of Directors. Most Worshipful Brother Dean served as President from 2005-2008. He was instrumental in producing a video tour of the Library and Museum, and in publicizing the Library and Museum to Masons throughout the Commonwealth. He leaves the Library and Museum with a legacy of achievements.

Brethren, sometimes important things can be rediscovered simply from casual conversations held between two brethren. There is a lot of history out there that needs to be recorded and on file for the perpetual use of us all. The Library and Museum wants to partner with you in the archiving and telling of the tales, because we are living Freemasonry daily. ✦

John R. Quinley, PGM
President

DeMolay Northern Regional Initiatory Degree

Representatives of all the Northern Regional DeMolay Chapters: Occoquan, Edwin A. Mroz, Alexandria-Washington, Herndon, and Fredericksburg attended Prince William Chapter on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 and performed the DeMolay Initiatory Degree. Twenty seven DeMolay were present along with their Chapter Dads, advisors, and parents of the initiates. Honorary guests were Ron Heald, Northern Regional Deputy, Evan Haskel, Northern Regional Master Councilor, and Worshipful Master Adam Elliot of Manassah Lodge No. 182, Manassas, the guest lodge. Other than State Association events, this was the largest turnout of DeMolay in a Northern Regional event in a long time. Special thanks to Dad Stallings and Brett Hurm for arranging the event. The photo depicts the seventy seven DeMolay who attended. The three kneeling in the front of the photo are the three initiates, David Baisas of Occoquan and Kevin Nidell and Richard Lutz of Prince William. ✦





In this space we usually ‘travel’ to another Lodge and discover a little of the flavor of a Virginia Lodge. Distance and other inconveniences are set aside for your enjoyment, however this time our journey is into the great outdoors – ‘for we claim these vast expanses...’

Table Lodges are not new to Masonry, although it is interesting to hear how few of our Brethren have partaken of the delights of a Table Lodges and its many benefits, not least of all its fellowship. Reading about a Table Lodge in the Presentation Volume is good way to prepare yourself for such an experience, but it lacks the breadth of being a part of an event in its finest meaning.

When looking back upon the history of Freemasonry certain terms are routinely present; festive board, feasting, and as expected a Table Lodge. Sadly some are dismissive of these occurrences as unimportant and even frivolous, but historically breaking bread with a Brother was, and I believe should continue to be, upheld with some esteem.

Table Lodges also return us, if only for short while, to a time when Masons spoke of things higher than the day-to-day occurrences, of matters that should be dwelt upon with some seriousness, and on concerns that need our assistance. A tradition of Table Lodges is a series of eight toasts. The toasts are scripted, for the most part, but the responses are not. If you attend a Table Lodge for no other reason one of the most interesting portions is the responses. Some are short and sweet, others are thought provoking, others are witty and clever, but most of all they are not mundane or boring.

For those who have read and heard of how ancient Lodges operated, this is not far a field of those early Lodge meetings. Could they be boisterous? Doubtless they ran the gamut of loud and perhaps long, yet fraternally, they also were the ‘voices’ or rhetoric of our Craft. Silence and circumspection are ever great characteristics but voicing our thoughts is a right and duty of every Mason. To the best of my recollection, no Mason has taken an obligation to be dull and boring.

Another item that is often considered unusual at Table Lodges is who can attend, who indeed. Table Lodges are open to all Masons: Entered Apprentices, Fellowcraft, and Master Masons. There are several considerations but these are minor and dealt with very clearly in the *Presentation Volume*.

Having compared notes at several Table Lodges, an unofficial survey has it that Entered Apprentices, Fellowcraft, and Master Masons all (everyone) enjoy Table Lodges and it encourages everyone to continue their catechisms, even Master Masons. Degree work is a wondrous thing to see and join in, but to break bread with an Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft Masons who are experiencing Freemasonry at a Table Lodge for the first time is an opportunity to lift the heart. Fellowship with all of the Brethren has long been a benefit yet has been too infrequently put into action.

Find a few minutes in your busy day, a copy of the Manual of Ceremonies or the Presentation Volume and turn to The Table Lodge section. Next read both ‘The Table Lodge Its History’ and ‘The Table Lodge—Its Mechanics’. When you finish reading these sections you will probably come away with a due admixture of curiosity and interest in this strange thing called a Table Lodge. After this quick read it should be just as clear that a Table Lodge does not just happen. In fact, for many of us that is precisely the attraction, it is something unique to Masonry, an event.

Worshipful Ray Soltis of Seaboard Lodge No. 56 (Portsmouth) decided a year ago ahead to have a Table Lodge, but not a standard Table Lodge, something different. Using some contacts in his Lodge’s area, he wangled the use of Hoffer Creek Park for the afternoon and evening of the Table Lodge he scheduled for April 27, 2010. Yep, it was going to be held outdoors. As I was reminded it was not a TEAM effort (50% of team is ME), it was however an outstanding Masonic effort of organization and implementation. Preparation included weather – it rained most of the morning tapering off in the afternoon. Thankfully, Worshipful Ray and his crew had everything setup under the protection of the park’s pavilion. Even the cooking group brought tents and awnings, nothing was going to slow or stop this event from being on-time or on-the-mark.

Worshipful Ray’s preparation had begun a year ahead by requesting our Most Worshipful William E. Rorer, Jr. Even this seemed to go askew on the day of the Table Lodge-Hampton Roads traffic-enough said.

Yet neither rain nor traffic could hold down this Table Lodge nor those who had committed to its success by way of their attendance. While guests

and participants straggled in, they all arrived and took their respective places.

With the opening of the Table Lodge and the serving of a fine Southern meal, the pavilion and the surrounding woods rang with laughter and conversation. Random outbreaks of fellowship and good cheer could not be suppressed. Somehow everyone was in their place at the head table, officer stations, dignitaries, honored guests, and guest.

The pavilion being situated true east and west, the sun’s course fell behind the Senior Warden (Worshipful John Clark of Tidal Wave) reflecting off of the waters of Hampton Roads. This light illuminated the east, behind which read “Wall of Honor to our Veterans.” At a Table Lodge there is usually a head table, but as the evening wares wears on it seems that every table takes its turn being the head table, as toast and responses are offered.

Unlike some Table Lodges this one seemed to have gone from labor to refreshment and then directly to fellowship. The Master did a wise thing, in my mind, he let the benefits of the fellowship play out before heading into the requisite toasts. In not rushing the fellowship, conviviality took hold and relaxed the Brethren was obvious to all present.

Some portions of such events can be, a bit over formal, not so this night. They were well received with comments and applause, punctuated with rapping of the tables for good effect. Worshipful Ray had timed it so that the last rays of the sun’s would close the Lodge. He would have made it had not been for the overcast skies to the west. As the light of day gave way to the dark of night we hoped for more light, as small flashlights were passed out. All was well prepared and congratulations goes to every Brother who engineer this successful Table Lodge.

So what are the benefits of a Table Lodge? You meet and mix with the best sort of people, your Brothers, you break bread with your fellows, you listen to good men say good and uplifting things, you (even if only for a brief time) leave the labors of the world beyond the ‘walls’ of the Lodge, and you come away refreshed knowing that you have participated in a Masonic tradition at its finest.

Grab your Masonic Passports, your Lodge Directory, and take a look at the Grand Lodge calendar, it is the season of Table Lodges. GLF

Masonic Veterans

December 2009 through April 2010

Editor's note: This is a listing of all Brethren in the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia who have received their 50-year plus Veteran's Awards from December 2009 through April 2010. Due to not being able to get as many pictures in as we would like, the Board has decided to honor all Masonic Veterans in this manner.

SEVENTY-YEAR VETERANS

Bro. Daniel Webster White Ruth Lodge No. 89
Bro. Herbert Myron Kauffman Westhampton Lodge No. 302
Bro. Pleasant Coleman Shields Carter Lodge No. 323

SIXTY-YEAR VETERANS

Bro. Irvin Paul Miller Norfolk Lodge No. 1
Bro. Floyd Bradd, Jr. St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
Wor. Charles Bentley Johnson Richmond Lodge No. 10
Bro. Thomas Edmund Rodgers, Jr. Richmond Lodge No. 10
Bro. Joseph Turner Layne, Jr. Manchester Lodge No. 14
Bro. Randolph Lee Wood, Jr. Elizabeth Lodge No. 34
Bro. James Clinton Turk Virginia May Lodge No. 38
Bro. Melburn Sherrell Williams Virginia May Lodge No. 38
Bro. Joseph Isley Ganitt Marshall Lodge No. 39
Bro. Rosser Nash Flippen, Jr. Farmville Lodge No. 41
Bro. George H. Gumm Abingdon Lodge No. 48
Bro. Murray Harrell Lowenstein Fraternal Lodge No. 53
RW Bernard Arnold Newcombe Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
Bro. James Earl Vance Clintwood Lodge No. 66
Bro. Robert George Prudhon Mountain City Lodge No. 67
Wor. Joseph Paul Kilgore Clinton Lodge No. 73
Bro. William C. Dennis Washington Lodge No. 78
Bro. Edward Jefferson Davis, Sr. Lancaster Union Lodge No. 88
Wor. Alfred Melton Wingfield Snow Creek Lodge No. 90
Bro. Roscoe Conklin Hambaugh, Jr. Portsmouth Lodge No. 100
Bro. Joseph Alexander Walker Portsmouth Lodge No. 100
Bro. Ralph Carlisle Joynes Capeville Lodge No. 107
Bro. Royal S. Tucker, Jr. Roman Eagle Lodge No. 122
Bro. William Cleveland Harris Independence Lodge No. 129
Bro. William Edward Cook Chesterfield Lodge No. 161
Wor. Emmett Drexel Odle Fidelity Lodge No. 173
Bro. John H. Rayfield Washington-Lafayette Lodge No. 176
Bro. Roy Allen Muddiman, Jr. Manassah Lodge No. 182
Bro. Charles Wilmer Loving Hill City Lodge No. 183
Bro. Richard Z. Samuels Hill City Lodge No. 183
Bro. William Stephenson Erekson Kempsville Lodge No. 196
Bro. Alton Larkin McKeithan Kempsville Lodge No. 196
Bro. Phillip Routten Monitor Lodge No. 197
Bro. Gordon Edward Jones Colonial Beach Lodge No. 199
Bro. Benjamin Battaile Morris Colonial Beach Lodge No. 199
Bro. Fred Pennington Bland Lodge No. 206
Bro. Joseph Samuel Moyer Lee Lodge No. 209
Wor. Earl T. Hedrick Wynn Lodge No. 221
Wor. Daniel J. Scott Wynn Lodge No. 221
Wor. Harry Barranger, Jr. Charles T. Morton Lodge No. 232
Bro. Olden Leroy Moore Bremond Lodge No. 241
Bro. Eugene Zepkin Bremond Lodge No. 241
Bro. Robert Reynolds Hurdle Accomack Lodge No. 243
Bro. William A. Thomas Lebanon Lodge No. 251
Bro. Tommie Wilbur Edwards Anderson Lodge No. 258
Bro. Lester Kyle Lawson Clinchport Lodge No. 267
Bro. Ernest J. Rhoton Clinchport Lodge No. 267
Bro. Forrest Tayloe Tolson Intermont Lodge No. 269
Bro. George William Simpson Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273
Bro. Joseph Hinton Wright South Hill Lodge No. 297
Bro. William Greer Matthews, Jr. Central Lodge No. 300
Bro. John Tyler Hanna Westhampton Lodge No. 302
Bro. Nathan Anderson Roane, Jr. Army and Navy Lodge No. 306
Bro. Frank McCall Hay Market Lodge No. 313
RW Henry Sims Pittard Campbell Lodge No. 316

FIFTY-YEAR VETERANS

Bro. Michael Harris Galumbeck Norfolk Lodge No. 1
Bro. Norman Hecht Norfolk Lodge No. 1
Bro. William John McCaddin Norfolk Lodge No. 1
Bro. Michael Christopher Savvides Norfolk Lodge No. 1
Bro. James Albert Tatem, Jr. Norfolk Lodge No. 1
Bro. Frederick Worth Brown Atlantic Lodge No. 2
Bro. William Davis Ponton Atlantic Lodge No. 2
Bro. Robert William Costner Blandford Lodge No. 3
Bro. Rene August Berglund St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
Bro. Floyd Thomas Clark, Jr. St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
Bro. Robert James Sandidge Williamsburg Lodge No. 6
Bro. Robert Ray Adkins Hoge Lodge No. 8
Bro. Leland Benjamin Williams Hoge Lodge No. 8
Bro. Charles Lowry Borum, Sr. Richmond Lodge No. 10
Bro. Stanley Gordon Shepherd Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
Bro. Richard Clark Tutwiler, Jr. Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
Bro. George Wesley Tutwiler Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
Wor. Howard Zeb Shortt York Lodge No. 12
Bro. Howard Alan Beiseigel Staunton Lodge No. 13
Bro. David Watts Martin Manchester Lodge No. 14
Bro. Arthur James Sanders Acacia Lodge No. 16
Bro. George Edward Wyatt Smithfield Union Lodge No. 18
Bro. Russell Mason Pugh Oriental Lodge No. 20
Wor. Franklin Jay Pepper Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22
Bro. Roy Leonard Eckleberry Princess Anne Lodge No. 25
Bro. Clark Robert Whitehurst Princess Anne Lodge No. 25
Bro. Ronald Lee Filer Elizabeth Lodge No. 34
Bro. Luther Jennings Hoy, Jr. Elizabeth Lodge No. 34
Bro. Herbert George Anderson St. John's Lodge No. 36
Wor. Max Omer Ivey St. John's Lodge No. 36
Bro. Jesse Mack Newton St. John's Lodge No. 36
Bro. Galelma Julian Butcher, Jr. Virginia May Lodge No. 38
Bro. Robert Wesley Elium Marshall Lodge No. 39
Bro. Edgar Farrington Pierce Marshall Lodge No. 39
Bro. Carlton Eugene Walker Marshall Lodge No. 39
Bro. Clement Lee Woodward Joppa Lodge No. 40
Bro. Arthur Jennings Walker, Jr. Farmville Lodge No. 41
Bro. Arthur Burl Jenkins Cherrydale Lodge No. 42
Bro. Frank Calvin Marcey, Jr. Cherrydale Lodge No. 42
Bro. Howard E. Morrell Abingdon Lodge No. 48
Bro. Albert Sidney Katz Fraternal Lodge No. 53
Bro. Connie Edward Walls Henry Lodge No. 57
Wor. Thomas Marshall Burruss Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
Bro. Claude Lee Easton, Jr. Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
Bro. Earl Lee Scruggs Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
Bro. Bland McLaughlin Wade Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
Bro. Charles Fred Sisco, Jr. Tazewell Lodge No. 62
Bro. Robert Raymond Robertson Pleasants Lodge No. 63
Bro. Charles L. Brown, Jr. Broadwater Lodge No. 71
RW John Allen Daughtrey, Sr. Broadwater Lodge No. 71
Bro. Charles Jackson Clapp Clinton Lodge No. 73
Bro. Richard Thomas Brown Elkton Lodge No. 74
Bro. Ottis McKeithan Nansemond Lodge No. 77
Wor. Walter Crooker Sterling, Jr. Hudson-Morris Lodge No. 80
Bro. Edward A. Foshay Naomi Lodge No. 87
Bro. Avalon Lanier Fansler, MD Ruth Lodge No. 89
Bro. Frederick Richard Bryant Fleetwood Harmony Lodge No. 92
Bro. Joseph Thomas Dowdy Fleetwood Harmony Lodge No. 92
Bro. Arthur Darrol Bond Valley Lodge No. 93
Bro. Bruce H. Russell McPherson Lodge No. 99

Bro. Max White, Sr. Portsmouth Lodge No. 100
Bro. Steve Murray Hill Arlington Lodge No. 102
Bro. Richard Gordon Tibbets Mt. Jackson Lodge No. 103
Bro. Joe S. Downes, Sr. Capeville Lodge No. 107
Wor. Warren Carter Lowery Heathsville Lodge No. 109
Bro. Cecil Thomas Kirby Norview Lodge No. 113
Bro. William Bryson Mull, Jr. Norview Lodge No. 113
Bro. Noah Edman Young Norview Lodge No. 113
Wor. Herbert Marshall Shelton Powhatan Starke Lodge No. 124
Bro. Edward Lee Nichol Linn Banks Lodge No. 126
Bro. John W. Underwood Linn Banks Lodge No. 126
Bro. Earl Herman Biel, Jr. Fork Union Lodge No. 127
Bro. Clarence Monroe Whitlow Fork Union Lodge No. 127
Bro. Gerald Brewster Sexton Independence Lodge No. 129
Bro. Harold Collins Wingate Independence Lodge No. 129
Bro. Konie Deaoula Barnes, Sr. Henrico Union Lodge No. 130
Bro. Raymond Leslie Carlton, Jr. Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
Wor. Carney Mathew Owen Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
Bro. James Keith Housden Lafayette Lodge No. 137
Bro. Harry Franklin Bowen, Jr. Unity Lodge No. 146
Bro. James Louis Rutherford Unity Lodge No. 146
Bro. Lawrence M. Shiflett Unity Lodge No. 146
Bro. Edward Aubrey Yates Unity Lodge No. 146
Bro. Charles Lowry Borum, Sr. Burke Lodge No. 147
Bro. Franklin Roosevelt Blythe Franklin Lodge No. 151
Bro. George Bryan Lupton Franklin Lodge No. 151
Wor. Watt Robert Foster Staunton River Lodge No. 155
Wor. Edward Oeland Smith, Jr. Staunton River Lodge No. 155
Bro. Phillip Franklin Stargardt Chesterfield Lodge No. 161
Wor. Landon Shipman Birsch, Jr. Owens Lodge No. 164
Wor. Luther Edward Jones Miles Lodge No. 165
Bro. Harold George Kirk Miles Lodge No. 165
Bro. Henry Wintz Mosley Miles Lodge No. 165
Bro. Luther Leonard Buskey, Jr. Berkley Lodge No. 167
Bro. Daniel Gordon Berkley Lodge No. 167
Bro. Newbrie Benjiman Rogerson, Sr. Berkley Lodge No. 167
Bro. Lowell H. Broadwater Fidelity Lodge No. 173
Bro. Henry Lee Robinson Fidelity Lodge No. 173
Bro. Barnabas William Baker Washington-Lafayette Lodge No. 176
Bro. Frederick Neil Mills Washington-Lafayette Lodge No. 176
RW William Robert Simmons Manassah Lodge No. 182
Bro. Charlie A. Crumley Martin's Station Lodge No. 188
Bro. Thomas McGinn Western Branch Lodge No. 189
Bro. William Jesse Smith, Jr. Western Branch Lodge No. 189
Bro. Paul Moomhan Howell Lakeland Lodge No. 190
Bro. Robert Charles Williams Lakeland Lodge No. 190
RW Jack Kendal Adams Yorktown Lodge No. 205
Wor. Fred Elbert Davis Lee Lodge No. 209
Bro. George Dallas McCourry Lee Lodge No. 209
Bro. Wayne Allen Switzer Lee Lodge No. 209
Bro. Gene Milton Williams Lee Lodge No. 209
Bro. Thomas Cread Edwards, Jr. Mariner Lodge No. 215
Bro. Joseph Junior Hogge Mariner Lodge No. 215
Bro. Josephus Daniel Smith Bayside Lodge No. 218
Bro. Claude Alton Norton, Jr. Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220
Bro. Richard William Winkler Mouth of Wilson Lodge No. 223
Bro. Robert R. Orbin Stuart Lodge No. 224
Bro. James Calvin Rivenbark William King Lodge No. 227
Bro. Monte Joel Looney Cave Spring Lodge No. 230
Wor. Orbin Vance Glovier Castlewood Lodge No. 231
Bro. Wallace Dean White Ivanhoe Lodge No. 235
Bro. William C. Yates Pythagoras Lodge No. 239

Masonic Veterans

December 2009 through April 2010 (continued)

Bro. Carroll Ellett Allen, Jr.	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Bro. Junius Winston Camp, Jr.	Ivor Lodge No. 291	Bro. Robert Stuart Glascock	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
Bro. William Glenmore Balderson	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Bro. Lindbergh Roosevelt Moss	Northside Lodge No. 292	Bro. Robert Lee Hundley	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
Bro. Thomas Elroy Kersey	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Bro. Julian Lee Scarborough	South Hill Lodge No. 297	Bro. Allie Brook Stevens, Jr.	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
Bro. Glenn William Nelson, Jr.	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Bro. Stuart Warren Feitig	Westhampton Lodge No. 302	Wor. William Eddie Willard	Woodland Heights Lodge No. 345
Bro. Marvin Francis Sherrill	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Wor. Leon Desmond Compton	Kent Lodge No. 305	Wor. Russell Alton Wright	Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347
Bro. Bennie Henry Smith	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Wor. James Ira Smith	Army and Navy Lodge No. 306	Wor. Otis Winsley Hamlette, Jr.	Thomas Jay Traylor Lodge No. 348
Wor. Guy Randolph Warthan	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Bro. Edward Franklin Laine, Jr.	Edwards Lodge No. 308	Bro. Eli Leonard Adler	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349
Wor. James Edward Williams, Jr.	Bremond Lodge No. 241	Wor. John Porter Griffin	Dillwyn Lodge No. 315	Bro. Frank William Bishop, Jr.	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349
Wor. S. Tanner McReynolds	Lebanon Lodge No. 251	Bro. William Seddon Canfield	Babcock Lodge No. 322	Bro. Leroy Clary	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349
Bro. Earl S. Hess	Pruner Lodge No. 254	Bro. Robert Louis Mulligan	Babcock Lodge No. 322	Wor. Robert Nelson Hartman	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349
Bro. Robert Paul Cassell	Clinchfield Lodge No. 256	Bro. Emmet Morton Williams	Babcock Lodge No. 322	Bro. George Michael Kavros	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349
Bro. Arlen Gladstone Hudson	Edward N. Eubank Lodge No. 262	Bro. James Lewis Winston	Babcock Lodge No. 322	Bro. George Amick White	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349
Bro. Elbert Riley Spillman	Edward N. Eubank Lodge No. 262	Wor. Ryland James Hall, Jr.	Carter Lodge No. 323	Bro. Ronald Kay Dunn	Edward H. Cann Daylight Lodge No. 1752
Bro. Alton Wayne Stoots	Edward N. Eubank Lodge No. 262	Bro. George Napoleon Ivey	Cabell Lodge No. 328		
Wor. Herbert Charles Hollander	Hemdon Lodge No. 264	Bro. Ralph Newman Revere	Warsaw-Bauman Lodge No. 332	Bro. Victor A. Adegbite	A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Research Lodge No. 1949
Bro. Freddie Purvis Martin	Hemdon Lodge No. 264	Bro. James Carroll Childers	Warwick Lodge No. 336	Bro. Thomas Melvin McCracken	Black Heath Daylight Lodge No. 1982
Bro. James Clayton Conley	Intermont Lodge No. 269	Bro. John Aaron Guy	Warwick Lodge No. 336		
Bro. Ervin Arthur Andrews	Meridian Lodge No. 284	Bro. Lloyd Chester Ware	Warwick Lodge No. 336		
Bro. Clyde Lewis Smith	Dupont Lodge No. 289	Bro. Thomas Autrey Couch	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344		

Report of Masonic Home of Virginia's Outreach Program

By Mt.Wor. James D. Cole (2001)
CEO, Masonic Home

Through their gifts to the Masonic Home, every donor has supported the Outreach Program. This means donors have helped Masons and their families who do not reside at the Masonic Home, but have instead been able to stay in their own homes.

The Program was originally developed in 2001 by the Masonic Home as an effort to assist Brethren, their wives, and widows who live in Masonic Districts which are more distantly located from the Home's facility in Richmond. Those eligible for the program must meet the same qualifications, both health and financial, as those who apply to enter the Masonic Home. There is no cost to the recipient for the Outreach Program's in-home services. Rather, this program is part of the overall charitable effort of the Masonic Home, in accordance with its mission.

This program first assists Masons, their wives, and widows, in accessing existing programs that are already available. Quite often, we learn that the people in need simply were

unaware that help was available from local Agencies on Aging. Wherever possible, those existing programs are used first to provide care to those in need. However, the bottom line is, if in-home care is needed, the Home will do its best to pay for such in-home care for Virginia Master Masons, their wives, or widows who have financial needs.

The initial offering of services was made in July 2002, through a mailing to every Mason in Masonic Districts 40 through 50. Subsequently, information has been provided to Lodges, District Deputy Grand Masters, and Masonic Home Ambassadors.

Services available include support of medical and health needs, similar to care that would be provided if the recipient resided at the Masonic Home of Virginia. However, this program recognizes that many people from the far corners of the Commonwealth might not be able to easily move to Richmond and also recognizes that in some cases, care could be provided in the person's own home more

economically than it would cost to move them to Richmond. The Masonic Home has established contacts with local agencies to provide services to eligible Masons, their wives, or widows. Sometimes, by using government-funded programs already available, these services are available at no cost; but if there is a cost, it is paid for by the Masonic Home.

Since its inception, the Outreach Program has improved many lives. Each year, the Home has paid for services for a dozen or so families, while dozens of others have been able to access existing programs, also at no cost to them.

Some specific examples include:

- For 2010, we have already committed to provide in-home services to five families. This means that a respite care worker will visit their homes several times each week and provide care and support for them, in their own home. This will be done at NO COST to the families.
- Also, the Program is providing in-home

Report of Masonic Home of Virginia's Outreach Program

(continued)

services, similar to those listed above, PLUS nutritional supplements, PLUS an electronic Lifeline warning device to another couple, at NO COST to them.

- Additionally, for a widower who is shut in and unable to leave his home, we are providing in-home services, similar to those listed above, PLUS an electronic Lifeline warning device, at NO COST to the Mason.

These people will be served in 2010. These are real lives being changed. The Home expects to spend more than \$75,000 in 2010 providing services in the homes of Masons and their wives and widows.

Privacy laws do not allow release of their names, but we can inform our donors that one couple living in Pound, Virginia has received life-changing assistance since 2002. First, the local Agency on Aging assisted the Masonic Home by performing an in-home evaluation of the couple's needs. Based on the report, it was found that the wife suffered from a muscular disease and must use a walker or wheelchair to get around her home. Her husband, a member of Pound Lodge No. 59, was retired from a coal company and clearly needed help in caring for her. Without assistance, he might well have damaged his own health in trying to help his wife. The Masonic Home arranged, at NO COST to the couple, for a health care aide to come to their home three days a week and also provided for a hot meal to be delivered each day.

Both our Brother and his wife have pro-claimed these services as "a lifesaver," something that made a great difference in their quality of life. Although the Masonic Home is spending several thousand dollars a year to provide this support for them, it would have cost thousands more to care for this couple

if they had to move to the Masonic Home in Richmond, so not only are lives being improved, but money is being saved through this Outreach Program.

This program, like the Home, is available to Virginia Master Masons who are at least age 65, or their eligible wives or widows. Final eligibility and a needs assessment are determined in coordination with a local Agency on Aging. The Masonic Home in Richmond, in business for over a hundred years, has 220 residents located at its facility. The additional families cared for throughout Virginia by way of the Outreach Program, extends the Home's service to the entire Commonwealth.

This Program does not replace nor supplant the basic duties of every Mason and every Masonic Lodge to aid those in their communities who might need their assistance. It does not provide for the payment of personal expenses or bills. But, what this program does is provide the health and medical services of the Masonic Home to those in need in our Commonwealth, regardless of their place of residence.

Masons, through the Masonic Home of Virginia are passing on the essence of our Fraternity, our care for our fellow man, by means of the Outreach Program. Masons, like we have for centuries, are making a difference in the lives of those around us, by remembering Our Duties. ✦



Masonic Home of Virginia
4101 Nine Mile Road
Richmond, VA, 23223-4916
804.222.1694



Residents enjoy the 2010 Valentine's Day Dance



Residents enjoy an outing to Graves Mountain Lodge



Friendships made at the Home last forever



The 2010 St. Patrick's Day Party is another festive celebration

Honorariums and Memorials

Many Lodges and individuals contribute a gift to the Masonic Home to either honor a living person or a Lodge out of respect and appreciation or to generate a legacy of care in honor of one who has passed to the Celestial Lodge above. As these tax-deductible gifts are received by the Home, acknowledgements of the gift, but not the dollar total, are sent to the person honored or to the family of the person memorialized. In grateful recognition of these touching gifts and to recognize those persons so honored, we call attention to the following combined list of memorial and honorarium gifts that were made to the Masonic Home during the period December 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010. Persons HONORED are in **BOLD** on the left, followed by the donor's name on the right.

HONOREE	DONOR	John R. Dean	Donald L. Ratliff	Robert M. Lowe	St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
Richard S. Alexander	Portsmouth Lodge No. 100		David and Lorene Long	Alexander MacRae	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class
Frank F. Anthony	St. Tammany Lodge No. 5		George and Constance Chapin		Garland and Elva Rollins
Carl O. Atkins	Carl O. Atkins, Jr.		Samuel T. Atkinson	Audrey Mann	Powhatan Lodge No. 295
Olive L. Austin	Mary Sue and Bruce Bright		Thomas C. Kaufman	Vernon Mckendree	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
	Charlie and Evelyn Gray		Abingdon Lodge No. 48	Wayland McPherson	St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
	Angela Mitchell		Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82	Irving G. Meadows	Nancy Holder
	Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bright		Sheldon B. Richman		Nancy Holder
	Heidi & Michael Ullrich		Charles R. Akers	David T. Moore	Ft. Hunt-Skidmore Daytime Lodge No. 353
	Susan & Mike O'Connor	Almo Duck	Franklin Lodge No. 151	Edward K. Moore	Johnnie W. Inman
	Gretchen Cawthon & Family	Henry C. Durbin	John T. Durbin	Gerald L. Morgan	Oriental Lodge No. 20
	Cheryl & Tom Freeman	Mrs. Mills R. Edwards	Franklin Lodge No. 151		Urbanna RAC No. 59
	Lynn & Carl Klinger	Robert S. Edwards	Oriental Lodge No. 20	Lorene T. Murdock	Samuel C. Anaya
	Laurel & Jim Anderson	David L. Eken	Rex W. Rockhill	Richard E. Murray	Urbanna Lodge No. 83
	Cecil and Elsie Simpson	Kenneth M. Elliott	Judy G. Burl		Gary E. Adams
	Richard and Linda Gentry		Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Elliott	Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Myers	Thomas K. Daughtrey
	Nedra M. Prillaman		Ronald T. Barter	David P. Norman	Rex W. Rockhill
	Emma Seiderman		Douglas and Patricia Bowman	Clarance M. Nunneley	St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
	Joan M. Brown	Mrs. S. E. Eubanks	Franklin Lodge No. 151	T. A. O'Halloran	Margaret Y. O'Halloran
	Bill and Loretta Ambrose	James A. Ferrell	Thomas C. Kaufman	Thomas G. Oliver	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273
	Jack Burroughs	John L. Fitch	Shirley B. Wright	Einer E. Olsen	Babcock Lodge No. 322
	Priscilla & Roswell Beede		Gayle M. Rose	Robert E. Pagani	Rex W. Rockhill
	Susan B. Flanagan		Charles L. Bray	Carol L. Palmer	Princess Anne Lodge No. 25
	Marian Austin		Craig Wallentine	Richard W. Pannell	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273
	John and Harriet Fisher		Doris M. Tessieri	Lois M. Payne	Patricia P. Kellett
	Floyd E. Waterfield, Jr.		R.P. and Gail Gordon		Harold F. Gladding Jr.
	Charles and Avis Davis		Melvin J. Willis	Dale S. Peele	Franklin Lodge No. 151
	Robert and Jeraldine Tata	Frederick D. Flood	Essie B. Gordon	Dale F. Phelps	Garland and Elva Rollins
	Ronnie and Margaret Boykin	John G. Fox	James R. Fitch		Sandston Lodge No. 216
	William H. Austin, Jr.	June V. France	John W. Woodle		Babcock Lodge No. 322
	Colonial O.E.S. Chapter No. 40	Hallie M. Frye	Lawrence C. Tambellini		Charles T. Foster
	Western Branch Lodge No. 189		Kempsville OES Chapter No. 173	George B. Phillips	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273
	Alan and Gerri Adkins		Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54	William B. Pierce	John and Nora Quade
	Williamson Road Lodge No. 163		St. Tammany Lodge No. 5	Charles B. Quade	Army and Navy Lodge No. 306
	Army and Navy Lodge No. 306	William A. Galloway	Hugh I. Furnage	Harold E. Quillen	Kempsville OES Chapter No. 173
	Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54	Ashley L. Garrett	Michael, Kate, and Jesse Wildman	Oscar J. Quintin	Rex W. Rockhill
	Raymond and June Whitlock		Mrs. Jessie P. Skillman	Donald E. Radeke	Mariner Lodge No. 215
	James E. Shields		Linwood Q. Wiseman	Charles A. Reioridan	David A. Burkus
	G. Thomas Benton		Wakefield Lodge No. 198		Samuel C. Anaya
	Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82		Nancy Holder	Ida K. Reinhard	Charles R. Akers
	Western Branch Lodge No. 189		Nancy Holder	William E. Rorer	Henrico Union Lodge No. 130
	Powhatan Lodge No. 295		Nancy Holder		Richard and Mary Peroe
	Babcock Lodge No. 322	Russel S. Gayle	Franklin Lodge No. 151	Dorothy E. Rowsey	Garland and Elva Rollins
	Franklin Lodge No. 151	Jon R. Geer	Virginia Beach Lodge No. 274		Melba G. George
	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351	Larry J. Hamrick	Franklin Lodge No. 151	Gene E. Runion	Mt. Jackson Lodge No. 103
	Kathy D. Williams	John V. Hanks	Princess Anne Lodge No. 25	William J. Schläffer	Kathryn M. Minga
	Walter and Frances Griggs	Garland S. Hardin	Charles and Norma Klebert		Suffolk Moose Lodge No. 141
	Virginia W. Campbell		Richard and Mary Peroe	Edwin H. Seay	Piedmont Lodge No. 152
	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273		MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	Henry C. Self	Piedmont Lodge No. 152
	Henry Clay Lodge No. 280		Samuel C. Anaya	John B. Smith	Charles and Norma Klebert
	Donna H. Campbell	Wilbur L. Harrell	Garland and Elva Rollins		Richard and Mary Peroe
	Donald L. Ratliff	Clarence E. Harrison	Chester and Margaret Baity		MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class
	St. Tammany Lodge No. 5	James V. Harrison	Ralph R. Hudson		Garland and Elva Rollins
	Donald L. Ratliff	Frank B. Haynes	BPO Elks Lodge 45		Westmoreland Lodge No. 212
	Donald F. Ritenour	Joseph N. Hazel	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273	Michael F. Smith	Samuel C. Anaya
	Richard and Mary Peroe	Douglas E. Hegamyer	Portsmouth Lodge No. 100	David O. Spears	Wytheville Fraternal Lodge No. 82
	Reuben S. Shrader	Francis M. Hendricks	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351	Wallace M. Speight	Linwood R. Spears
	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	Carl M. Hines	Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60	Lewis M. Springer	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273
	Samuel C. Anaya	Thomas M. Holder	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273	Albert M. Steinmeier	Henry Clay Lodge No. 280
	Joseph and Barbara Hogge		Botetourt Lodge No. 7	Lewis R. Sugg	Charles and Norma Klebert
	Garland and Elva Rollins	Charles F. Hollis	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273		Richard and Mary Peroe
	Chester and Margaret Baity	William T. Holloway	Boykins Lodge No. 287		Garland and Elva Rollins
	Teddy Thornhill	Dorothy E. Hook	Nancy Holder	Robert L. Terrell	Charles and Norma Klebert
	Betty and Elmer West	Barbara D. Hylton	Nancy Holder	James H. Vaughan	Sandston Lodge No. 216
	Helen Anderson	Dr. Richard D. Hylton	Varina Lodge No. 272	Phillip D. Vaughn	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class
	Anna Blatt	James G. Isom	Myrina Lodge No. 272	Sylvia "Kip" Volkstadt	Lafayette Lodge No. 137
	Sterling Neblett	James G. Jeffries	Mary H. Holloway	Donald E. Wade	Fork Union OES Chapter No. 111
	Jo Ann Charlesworth	Pleasant W. Jordan	Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349	Earl & Louise Wallace	St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
	Charles and Norma Klebert		Thomas K. Daughtrey	Robert H. Warren	Rex W. Rockhill
	Reuben S. Shrader		Thomas C. Daughtrey	J. Russell West	Franklin Lodge No. 151
	MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class		Old Town Lodge No. 68	Charles E. West	John W. Wallace
	Joseph and Barbara Hogge		Columbia Lodge No. 285	Mrs. Raymond E. Whitehurst	Columbia Lodge No. 285
	Herbert and Mildred Milby		Reuben S. Shrader		Ivor Lodge No. 291
	Garland and Elva Rollins		Richard and Mary Peroe	Edwin W. Wilson	Western Branch Lodge No. 189
	Chester and Margaret Baity		MAHOVA Masonic Ritual Class	Hersie E. Wilson	Powhatan Lodge No. 295
	Snowville Lodge No. 159		Garland and Elva Rollins		
	Powhatan Lodge No. 295	Gilbert H. Kesler	Kim and Howard Overbey		Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220
	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351	Claudene Kluksdahl	Lillie H. Willis		St. Tammany Lodge No. 5
	Lois Stuebinger	C. R. Langford	Taylor Lodge No. 23		Powhatan Lodge No. 295
	Garland and Elva Rollins	Evelyn G. Leggette	Powhatan Lodge No. 295		Nansmond Lodge No. 77
	Elko Union Church	Gladden R. Leonard	Urbanna RAC No. 59		Charles and Norma Klebert
	Garland and Elva Rollins	Violet Lewis	Garland and Elva Rollins		Richard and Mary Peroe
	Black Heath Daylight Lodge No. 1982	Dudley C. Lichliter	George W. Field		Garland and Elva Rollins
	David A. Brown	Doris Lipscomb	James E. Shields		Urbanna RAC No. 59
	Nancy Walker	Donald W. Litewski	Mr. Harold Wingert	Ray E. Wyant	Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273
	Thomas K. Daughtrey		Powhatan Lodge No. 295		Portsmouth Lodge No. 100
	Urbanna Lodge No. 83		Army and Navy Lodge No. 306		
			Army and Navy Lodge No. 306		
			Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351		
		Herbert C. Longest			
William A. Bailey					
Charles O. Barclay					
Edgar L. Barnett					
David E. Bayless					
Frank J. Behnke					
John R. Beninghove					
Samuel G. Bennett					
Thomas W. Benton					
William I. Bondurant					
Charles T. Boyd					
Vera G. Brauer					
George R. Bridgers					
Lloyd E. Brozman					
James E. Brown					
Charlie B. Buchanan					
Max Campbell					
Olen K. Campbell					
Morris L. Carden					
John M. Chambliss					
George H. Chapin					
David H. Charlesworth					
Marvin E. Cheatham					
William Clark					
Louise Clay					
William E. Clingman					
Edmund Cohen					
Anna Collins					
Timothy M. Cornutt					
Joseph W. Crane					
Mr. and Mrs. Lyman C. Daughtrey					
Julian R. Davis					

Resident Birthdays

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
JUNE		
6/1/1916	Ersell Brinser	Manchester Lodge No. 14
6/4/1925	Mildred Ammons	Warwick Lodge No. 336
6/8/1922	Emily Tosh	Temple Lodge No. 9
6/8/1936	Novella McDonough	Kemper-Macon Ware Lodge No. 64
6/11/1926	Juneth Hite	Faulkner Memorial Lodge No. 91
6/11/1928	James Walker	Varina Lodge No. 272
6/11/1935	Gordon Kirby	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
6/13/1938	Carol May	Varina Lodge No. 272
6/14/1917	Irene Baughan	Joppa Lodge No. 40
6/16/1930	Richard Peroe	Northside Lodge No. 292
6/16/1924	Lansing Fulcher	Oriental Lodge No. 20
6/22/1914	Lillian Jones	Manchester Lodge No. 14
6/23/1927	Catherine Murray	Urbanna Lodge No. 83
6/25/1936	Charles Goens	Smithfield Union Lodge No. 18
6/26/1916	Eloise Mosby	Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19
6/27/1911	Carl Torrence	Meridian Lodge No. 284
6/30/1929	Florine Johnson	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344

JULY		
7/1/1921	Margaret Hardin	Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19
7/4/1928	Hoover Lide	Broadwater Lodge No. 71
7/4/1927	Frederick Wright	Babcock Lodge No. 322
7/6/1931	Barbara Hogge	Mariner Lodge No. 215
7/7/1929	Wanda Lucey	Ruth Lodge No. 89
7/7/1929	James Wright	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
7/8/1925	Edward Lanford	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
7/8/1920	Edna Henderson	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
7/10/1928	Dorothy Denton	Skidmore Daylight Lodge No. 237
7/10/1936	Patricia Clark	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
7/10/1939	Sara Wright	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
7/11/1919	Chester Baity	Oriental Lodge No. 20
7/11/1923	Burton Lester	Roman Eagle Lodge No. 122
7/13/1932	John Long	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
7/14/1929	Yvonne Olphin	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
7/17/1924	James Dunn	Arlington Lodge No. 102
7/18/1927	Louise Adams	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
7/18/1945	Jerry Clark	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
7/23/1927	Percy Dugger	Amelia Lodge No. 101
7/24/1923	John Denton	Skidmore Daylight Lodge No. 237
7/25/1921	Janet Sparks	Babcock Lodge No. 322
7/27/1918	Carlisle Tiller	Army and Navy Lodge No. 306
7/30/1925	Paul Lucey	Ruth Lodge No. 89
7/30/1920	William Pierce	Kempsville Lodge No. 196
7/31/1930	Helen Lape	Clover Hill Lodge No. 253

AUGUST		
8/6/1920	Bessie Holmes	Northside Lodge No. 292
8/6/1928	Walter Olphin	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
8/14/1935	Dorothy Barrey	Treadwell Lodge No. 213
8/16/1913	Velma Talley	Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19
8/17/1918	Lois Payne	Central Lodge No. 300
8/19/1931	Irene Slaughter	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
8/19/1917	George Wood	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
8/24/1940	Janey Herring	Richmond Lodge No. 10
8/24/1916	Clinton Kennedy	Clintwood Lodge No. 66
8/24/1920	Virginia Yeatts	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11

SEPTEMBER		
9/1/1922	Mable Paschall	Meridian Lodge No. 284
9/6/1920	Dorothy Roberts	Babcock Lodge No. 322
9/6/1917	John Harrington	Westhampton Lodge No. 302
9/8/1919	Margaret Fainter	Manchester Lodge No. 14
9/8/1923	Stella Paxton	Kempsville Lodge No. 196
9/8/1922	Sarah Cheatham	Manchester Lodge No. 14
9/11/1917	Richard Yearwood	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
9/11/1912	Dorothy Wilson	Chesterfield Lodge No. 161
9/14/1926	Shirley Mucha	Chesterfield Lodge No. 161
9/16/1930	Juanita Ragsdale	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351

9/17/1918	Thelma Sturgis	Capeville Lodge No. 107
9/18/1934	Herbert Milby	West Point Lodge No. 238
9/20/1926	Simeon Phipps	Seaboard Lodge No. 56
9/23/1932	Ruby Childress	Babcock Lodge No. 322
9/25/1930	Thomas Benton	Washington-Lafayette Lodge No. 176
9/26/1925	Helen Duke	Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
9/27/1927	Edith Koss	Central Lodge No. 300
9/28/1931	Helen Melton	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
9/29/1925	Mary Thompson	Colonial Beach Lodge No. 199

Resident Anniversaries

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
JUNE		
6/15/1946	Lewis and Mildred Butler	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
6/17/1950	Charles and Norma Klebert	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
6/2/1951	Richard and Mary Lee Peroe	Northside Lodge No. 292
6/21/1952	James and Luvirda Mitchell	Elbert Munsey Lodge No. 298

JULY		
7/2/1943	Carroll and Dorothy Barton	Arlington Lodge No. 102
7/10/1974	George and Helen Wood	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351

AUGUST		
8/18/1950	Theodore and Edith Koss	Central Lodge No. 300
8/10/1977	John and Dorothy Denton	Skidmore Daylight Lodge No. 237
8/25/1951	Hoover and Betty Lide	Broadwater Lodge No. 71

SEPTEMBER		
9/13/1947	Walter and Jean McCuiston	Thomas N. Davis Lodge No. 351
9/15/1950	James and Ruth Walker	Varina Lodge No. 272

Resident Deaths

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
12/21/2009	Anna Wilson	Manchester Lodge No. 14
1/27/2010	Pleasant Jordan	Chesterfield Lodge No. 161
1/15/2010	Evelyn Leggette	Lee Lodge No. 209
1/23/2010	Alexander Mac Rae	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
2/20/2010	Elwood Cheatham	Manchester Lodge No. 14
2/17/2010	Dorothy Rowsey	Sandston Lodge No. 216
2/14/2010	John Smith	Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
3/2/2010	David Charlesworth	Manchester Lodge No. 14
3/11/2010	Garland Hardin	Richmond Randolph Lodge No. 19
4/2/2010	Rachel Bailey	Kemper Macon Ware Lodge No. 64

New Residents

Date	Resident Name	Lodge Name
12/16/2009	Ethel Hutcherson	Meridian Lodge No. 284
1/25/2010	Duke Grkovic	Joppa Lodge No. 40
2/1/2010	Simeon Phipps	Seaboard Lodge No. 56
2/1/2010	Virginia Phipps	Seaboard Lodge No. 56
2/2/2010	Gordon Kirby	Washington and Henry Lodge No. 344
2/8/2010	Donald Shinn	Varina Lodge No. 272
3/25/2010	Edith Holcomb	Ocean View Lodge No. 335
4/6/2010	Sommerville Wickham	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131
4/6/2010	Elsie Wickham	Glen Allen Lodge No. 131

Veteran's Memorial Dedication Speech

By Mt. Wor. Jeffery E. Hodges (2009)

On behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia and the residents, staff, and employees of the Masonic Home of Virginia, I bid you welcome and thank you for taking the time to commemorate a significant effort in the life of Freemasonry to make a resounding show of support for our Masonic Heroes.

I wish to thank those who contributed their time, talent, monetary resources, and equipment toward making this event possible: to Brother Jay Spruill of C. W. Wright Construction Company for the bucket truck from which we are filming this event, Right Worshipful Robert Llewellyn of C & L Equipment for the crane we needed to set our memorial, to Brother Phillip Roberts of Virginia Tractor for the help in moving the stone to the Masonic Home, to our Masonic Home grounds keeping staff and Mr. Jon Truett for the preparation of the site. A special thanks to our musicians who have added the gift of music to this affair and to so many of you who have so positively contributed to this day, a heartfelt appreciation.

Most especially, I want to thank Right Worshipful Robert Ashby Clore, our Associate Grand Marshal, for his vision in taking what I was expressing in words and removing the rubble to unveil such a magnificent monument. Right Worshipful Sir, you have put in untold hours of physical effort to create something any operative Mason would be proud to call their creation. From the roughest boulder that some may have called refuse, you have given us a symbol of beauty, a monument of strength and, in such an auspicious location, a lasting edifice exhibiting our wisdom in calling attention to those who have labored and sacrificed for our common good as a nation. I personally thank you for being the hands



which brought my dream to fruition, and what a wonderful result it has become.

My Brethren, this stone has many meanings, far more than just an idle billboard of our tribute. It has meaning and purpose as it stands here to welcome the visitor to our grounds, right in the very heart of our Home. I asked that this monument be of a boulder to signify the permanence of our being a nation upon whom the world could rely in all times of struggle, never shirking our responsibility. We are a people “to whom much has been given” and from “whom much is expected.” I asked that this stone be of Virginia, and from the heart of Virginia out of the Old Georgia Stone Quarry in Rapidan, Virginia is where it has come, blue in color and as permanent as the rock of Gibraltar. This stone is a creation of the hand of God, never being touched by human hand until it was unearthed, waiting to be freed to tell its story to mankind. The permanence of this stone is unquestioned, just as the permanence of our ideals, our country and, yes,

the institution of Freemasonry indubitably will continue, now and forever more. A story has for years been credited to Michelangelo as his having stated that the statue of David was inside the mass of marble all along, he merely removed the rubble. I say thank you to Right Worshipful Clore for removing the rubble.

Our stone, representative of our ideals, has numerous aspects which are significant to our Freemasonry. It is, or at one point in its fabrication was, three feet thick at the base, five feet tall in the center, and the delineated face is seven feet across from arch tip to arch tip. Three-five-seven, being important numbers in our assent to knowledge, are well represented in our monument. The angled surface supporting the Masonic emblem is thirty-three degrees from the upright flat surface upon which the message of our intentions is written, symbolic of our support for the three degrees in our Symbolic Lodge by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. At the crest of the arch, the faces are fourteen inches apart across the arch, and

Veteran's Memorial Dedication Speech (continued)

in this way we symbolize perfection as we know it and the dedication of our Masonic Heroes to assist, encourage, and defend their Brethren wheresoever dispersed, to protect the oppressed, relieve the wanting distressful people, and to enlighten the people of the world by their actions. The recessed pill-box is thirty-two inches in length with a height of four inches from which we should reflect upon the concept of duty from our fourth Scottish Rite degree. To a Mason, duty embraces an obligation to take an interest in the problems of his environment, learn the social problems of his community, country, and even the World, and try to contribute solutions to these problems. The veterans we honor and remember understood their duty or purposefully accepted their responsibilities in life. Their valor we celebrate this very day.

The ten marks existing along the sides of the base of this stone indicate the separation of this stone from its earthly mass. They stand as a tribute to our Ancient York Rite as this separation cleaved the very essence of this monument from the excesses nature had enjoined upon it, so should our utilization of the teachings of our York Rite lead us to build that Temple for God in our own hearts. There is an old saying that "there are no atheists in a foxhole." Brother Eugene Cruise said it so well in our tribute video when he quoted Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." As will stand our monument to our Heroes' building a world free to live as an edifice to the Great and benevolent God who created it, forever even until the end.

You will note from a distance, and even more so at night as the lights illuminate the gold Masonic emblem, that the silhouette formed by our stone casts an image much like the rising sun along the horizon in the waking



morn, certainly representative of that sunrise as observed by our veterans on June 6, 1944. But, more especially, cast that image in your mind to visualize the dawning of a new day in your life and the life of our Fraternity as we reflect upon the positive characteristics of the Masons we pay tribute to today. Study the fidelity, dedication to purpose, and moral basis of our Masonic Heroes, and take upon your yoke the burden of such fortitude. In a world more interested in the easy way out or the simplest manner to accomplish any task, a reflection upon a time that sheer determination was the driving force to meet that breaking day stands as a standard to be emulated.

Now, face the sheer vertical surface of our stone and reflect upon the many sheer cliffs our Heroes had to climb. Better yet, let it be a summons for each of us to realize there exists many hurdles upon which we meet resistance. Overcoming these hurdles positively is a true test of character. Many a veteran will tell you that they only did their job. Modesty is a com-

mon characteristic of our Greatest Generation. True, they were doing their job. Truly, we must do ours: stand before mankind, today, a beacon for that which is right, justified by God's Laws and pure of heart.

In his book, *Looking at Life Through the Rearview Mirror*, Worshipful Joseph G. Johnson writes that as a young man he would have proclaimed himself a self-made man, capable of handling what came his way by his own cunning and intelligence. Yet, the school of experience proved a different lesson to him. For in each of the experiences he writes of in the memoirs of his life, he reports there was the presence of the Almighty, evident as the nose on his face, protecting him for that further service which would be required of him. I leave you with that thought: this monument should serve as a reminder of God's hand in delivering us through whatever diversity will come for his means and purpose, not for our own. 🌟

Bless the memory of our Masonic Heroes!

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(Left to right): Mt. Wor. Alan W. Adkins (1997), President of the Masonic Home Board of Governors, Mt. Wor. William E. Rorer, Jr., Grand Master, Mt. Wor. Jeffery E. Hodges, Grand Master (2009), and Mt. Wor. James D. Cole (2001), Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Home at the dedication of the World War II Veteran's Memorial in October 2009 (Article on page 30.)