

*Grand Master's
From
Widow's Sons'
No. 60*

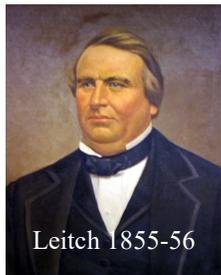
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.
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HIRAM'S JOURNAL

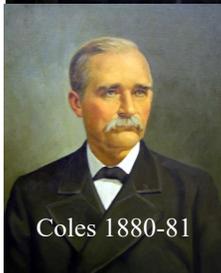
Stated Communication December 21, 2015

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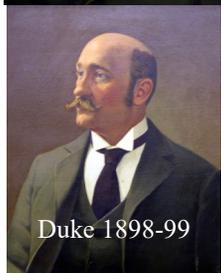
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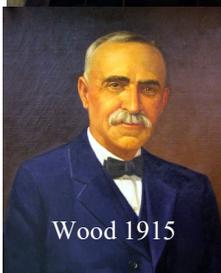
Leitch 1855-56



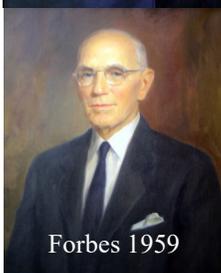
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009



Brethren,

As my year in the East is coming to an end I hope that you have found it a fun and eventful year. MW Jeff Hodges is my SW this year. As always if it is the desire of the Lodge he will sit in the East for 2016. I have heard some of his plans and I am personally looking forward to attending Lodge next year.

I want to thank RW Baskerville for putting on a wonderful program for our November stated. It was a very interesting program honoring Veterans Day. I would also like to thank the James Monroe Chapter of the National Sojourners for the great job they did saluting our flag and representing all branches of our military.

In November the investiture District Deputy Grand Master for the 18th district RW William "Bill" Reinhold was done by MW Jeff Hodges. He was escorted to the East by two of his sons Charles and James Reinhold. What a great honor that was for RW Reinhold. Please support him in his year as he is our liaison to the Grand Master. His official visit to our Lodge will be March 21st at 7pm.

I will be taking over as the 18th District CHIP coordinator. As a district we need to raise \$2600 for this previous to us starting this program. If you are willing to contribute please notify me. Also if you are willing to help in any way please contact me. I will be contacting the Lodges in the district officially and asking for each lodge to have one Brother step up to run this program for their Lodge.

Thanks again for a great year in the East. I will miss being your Worshipful Master but I will also enjoy sitting on the sidelines as I watch our talented officers run our Lodge

Fraternally yours,

Jason Pattison
Worshipful Master, Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 A.F. &A.M.

**December Masonic Birthdays!
Call a Brother and wish him a
Happy Masonic Birthday.**



Stephen R. Baird	12/06/1993
William L. Bickley	12/06/1955
Stephen R. Christianson	12/08/2010
W. Kirk Crady	12/14/1994
T. C. Dickerson, III	12/06/1966
Charles B. Goddin	12/06/1960
Sharif L. Gray	12/06/2012
Michael A. Hayden	12/05/1972
David M. Kashmer	12/12/2005
Jason P. Lynch	12/07/2006
Virgil H. Marshall	12/01/1952
Walter David Marshall	12/27/1963
Russell L. Maugans	12/28/1971
Robert A. Murray	12/10/1999
William R. Nay	12/17/1992
James W. North, Sr.	12/05/1963
Jason M. Parham	12/11/2014
James E. Patterson, III	12/04/2007
Daniel P. Price	12/12/2012
Steven E. Price	12/07/2006
Jonathan M. Shelton	12/07/2006
Charles A. Via	12/06/1966
Brian S. Weidman	12/04/2007



Important Dates

- King Solomon's Lodge No. 194 Stated Communication, December 8th, 7:30 PM.
- Alberene Lodge No. 277 Stated Communication, December 14th, 7:30 PM.
- Piedmont Stella Lodge No. 50 Stated Communication, December 16th, 7:30 PM.
- **WSL Stated Communication, Election and Installation of Officers**, December 21st, 7:00 PM.
- **WSL Officer's Meeting**, January 4th, 6:30PM.



Our Veterans representing each branch of service were recognized as the flag of their respective branch of service was posted to the right of the American flag in the East.

Please Keep these Brethren in Your Thoughts & Prayers
(Give them a call or send a card)

- RW Mike Hollar recovering from back surgery.
- Wor. Goldie Tomlin recovering from surgery.
- Brother Donald Stoneburner recuperating at home.



The flag of our country was presented by the James Monroe Chapter #549, Jack Jouett Camp, National Sojourners in uniform. After which, former members of each branch of service were recognized as the flag of their respective branch of service was posted to the right of the American flag.





RW Bill Baskerville presented the program for the evening on "Veteran's Day."



The Worshipful Master welcomed Brother Robert (Bob) Carlisle as a new member of Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60. Brother Carlisle is also a member of King Solomon's No. 194.



Brother Steve Fetcho presented the Lodge with a Masonic clock.



MW Jeffery E. Hodges conducted the ceremony for the investiture of the District Deputy Grand Master of the 18th Masonic District, RW William Frederick Reinhold. RW Reinhold was presented in the East by his sons, Brother James Reinhold and Brother Charles Reinhold.



Widow's Sons' Lodge welcomes its newest Master Masons, Brothers Ashish Sing and Devan McPherson were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 30th.

The Death of Brother George Washington



December 14th marks the 216th anniversary of the death of Brother George Washington. Below is a brief history of his final days as well as his funeral with Masonic Rites.

On Thursday, December 12, 1799, George Washington rode out to inspect portions of his five farms, as he had nearly every day since the end of his presidency. Unfortunately on this particular day, he was caught in the rain, wind and sleet of a terrible winter storm. When he returned that afternoon, his hair caked with snow, he was quite wet in spite of his woolen greatcoat.

The next day, he went out into three inches of new snow and freezing weather and insisted on marking trees he wanted cut down. His throat was sore, and he became hoarse as the day progressed. By late evening, it was clear that he was having trouble breathing.

On Saturday morning, he had a severe fever and could hardly speak. He asked his personal secretary, Tobias Lear, to send for his family physician, Dr. James Craik, who had served with the general during the French and Indian War and all through the revolution. Washington's wife Martha also sent for Dr. Gustavus Brown, who was living across the river from Mount Vernon in Maryland, in case Craik was otherwise detained.

Washington anticipated that Dr. Craik would prescribe "bleeding" to draw off the "bad blood" that was believed to cause fever and illness, so, he also had Lear send for Albin Rawlins, one of Washington's overseers from his nearby Union Farm, a veterinarian who was also proficient in the practice of bloodletting. The general wanted him to get an early start, even if the doctors hadn't yet arrived. Martha was alarmed over the amount of blood that Rawlins drained from her husband, even though Washington kept encouraging him to draw "More! More!"

Dr. Craik arrived shortly thereafter and concurred that bleeding was the proper treatment, especially since the general couldn't manage to swallow any throat-soothing mixtures that were offered. One attempt to gargle nearly choked him to death. Craik drew more blood, but he desperately wanted another opinion. Since Dr. Brown had not yet arrived, he sent for Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, a resident of Alexandria and Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, where Washington was a member.

Eventually, all three doctors were in attendance and attempted to diagnose Washington's deteriorating condition. Brown and Craik decided it was "quinsy," an inflammation related to tonsillitis. Dr. Dick was considerably younger than the other two physicians, and his education was more recent and better informed in new methods of diagnosis. He believed that Washington's throat membranes had swollen shut. The general was literally choking to death, and he recommended an immediate tracheotomy. Such a radical procedure had never been done in the United States at that time, and Brown and Craik rejected both the diagnosis and Dick's recommendation. The two older doctors continued to bleed him over the protests of both Martha and Dick, eventually drawing nearly five pints of blood from the dying man – almost half his body's blood supply. Unbeknownst to them, his larynx had swollen shut and he was dying of asphyxia aggravated by dehydration and the loss of blood.

A few minutes before ten o'clock on Saturday night, as the helpless doctors looked on, Washington whispered his final words to Lear.

"I am just going; Have me decently buried; and do not let my body be put into the vault in less than three days after I am dead. Do you understand?" Lear promised he would do as Washington asked. The general nodded slightly, and said, "'Tis well".

For a moment, his breathing became less labored, less ragged. A short time later, he felt for his own pulse and then died. The father of the nation, its greatest war hero, its first president, quietly slipped away into history. His friend, his doctor and his Masonic brother, Dr. Elisha Dick, turned away from the scene, knowing that he might very well have saved him had he been allowed to do what he knew was right. Doctor Craik would later admit with great sorrow that Dr. Dick had been correct and that their friend might have survived if they had listened to him.

Brother Dick walked across the general's bedroom to the clock that sat on the fireplace mantel. He reached into his pocket for his folding knife, opened the back of the clock, and sliced through the catgut string that operated its mechanism. The ticking stopped, and the hands froze at 10:20, where they remain to this day in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial's museum.

Washington's body had been placed on a bed in Mount Vernon's front drawing room. So that the cold would preserve him, no fires were lit. On December 17, the lead-lined mahogany casket arrived.

The next day, Wednesday, December 18, the procession began to form outside Mount Vernon's mansion. Servants had cleared the snow between the house and the crypt, and mourners began to gather just before noon. The Virginia Militia was delayed, so the gathering was given a last opportunity to view the body. At 3:00 p.m., the procession at last lined up and made their way to the place of burial. As they went, a schooner anchored out in the Potomac fired its cannon in salute.

Cont. next page

The Freemasons of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 assembled to perform their final duty to their fallen brother, sending him on to the celestial lodge above. His friend and brother, Dr. Elisha Dick, performed the Masonic funeral service, and the Reverend James Muir assisted with the prayers and Bible readings.

The Reverend Thomas Davis read the Episcopal Prayer Book's funeral service and praised Washington's character and virtues in the sermon that followed. Then, as is still the practice today, the Masons stepped forward to conduct the final ceremony due a Master Mason. Worshipful Master Dick stood at the head of the casket and Reverend Muir at its foot, and they recited the service from memory.

"From time immemorial," Dr. Dick intoned, "it has been the custom among the fraternity of free and accepted Masons, at the request of a brother upon his death-bed, to accompany his corpse to its place of interment, and there to deposit his remains with the usual formalities."

He spoke the same words used for all men of the fraternity—dustmen, cobblers, bankers, doctors, blacksmiths and presidents, "whose memory we revere, and whose loss we now deplore." In death as in life, all Masons meet upon the level, act upon the plumb, and part upon the square, and the loss of one brother weakens the chain by which all Masons are united.

Finally, Dr. Dick approached the body of Washington and deposited within the coffin his Masonic apron – an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. It was followed by a sprig of evergreen representing the acacia plant, a Masonic symbol of immortality and rebirth. When they finished, the lead seal was laid in place, then the casket lid. The wooden box was closed, and a black cloth pall was laid over the top.

Washington's remains were carried into the vault, and its door was closed. The artillery and infantry assembled nearby simultaneously fired three volleys, the traditional symbolic military ritual marking the end of the battle of life. The funeral party returned to the mansion, and after some light refreshments, sadly went their separate ways.

Click on the link below or paste in your browser to see the reenactment of the funeral of George Washington on the 200th anniversary of his death.

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?154157-1/reenactment-george-washington-funeral>



December 2015

Masonic Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 7:30 PM King Solomon's Lodge No. 194 Stated	9	10	11	12 10:00 AM Queen Ester Chapyer No. 14, OES
13	14 7:30 PM Alberene Lodge No. 277 Stated	15	16 7:30 PM Piedmont Stella Lodge No. 50 Stated	17	18	19
20	21 7:00 PM Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Stated - Election & Installation of Officers	22 6:00 PM Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 7:00 PM Keystone Royal Arch Chapter No. 58	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60
A.F.&A.M.
P. O. Box 6262
Charlottesville, VA 22906

1799—2015
The 216th Year of Service to the
Charlottesville Community and beyond.
“Freemasonry, a way of life”

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Hiram's Journal

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