

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

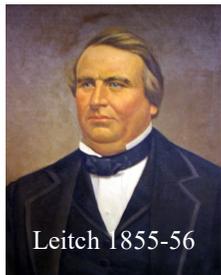
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60
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HIRAM'S JOURNAL

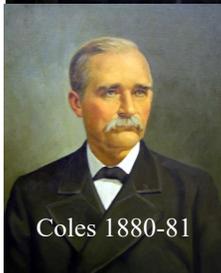
Stated Communication January 18, 2016

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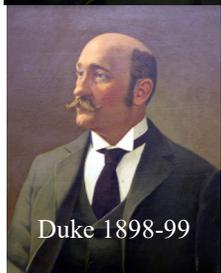
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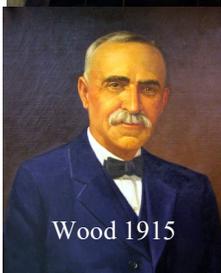
Leitch 1855-56



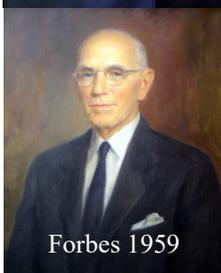
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009



My Brethren,

What a joy to greet a new year in the life of Widow's Sons' Lodge. I know you will join me in expressing our thanks for a good job in 2015 to Worshipful Jason Pattison and the officers who served with him. I see the involvement of a lot of talent in our members, and Jason's officers will prove to be that dedicated base of Masons we can depend upon for our future leadership. We look forward to our DDGM, R W Bill Reinhold, presenting the plans and desires of our Grand Master, M W James Litton, for 2016. I want to thank R W Jim Dickerson and the crew of stew makers for a wonderful oyster stew. We have two gallons, from the 5 we bought, in the freezer, so I hope we can make another oyster stew for the February refreshments.

Brethren, we need to focus on a different approach to Masonry this year. Dig deep into those hidden talents and personality traits to spend your time looking for the good each of us does, not the errors of judgement so prone to happen by God's imperfect Children live their lives. I begin this year with the hope of making my efforts be judged at the conclusion of the year as "he really made me feel like I was welcome in this Lodge." I have for years tried to present the message to all of my officers: "make someone feel important." How much good can we do if every member of Widow's Sons' Lodge puts their passions and prejudices aside and works for the common good, as we Masons are supposed to do. We obligated ourselves to that very task at the altar, remember.

Here are my goals for 2016:

- 1) Develop an officer line that will continue to prosper the Lodge for at least seven years;
- 2) Increase attendance by 25% at the stated and called communications because the Brethren want to share in the experience;
- 3) Underwrite the Child Identification program in this Lodge and DISTRICT;
- 4) Hold an outdoor Lodge in October as the stated communication of the Lodge;
- 5) Raise at least 10 Master Masons;

I would give you a few more of my goals, but I don't want to overwhelm you so early in the year. Stay tuned because we are going places.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Jeffery E Hodges, PGM

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



Lee W. Bullwinkel,	January 19, 1973
James G. Carpenter,	January 25, 1993
Halbert E. Davis,	January 31, 1983
W. B. Downer, III,	January 4, 1979
Paul H. Drinard,	January 27, 1969
James D. Dunbar, Jr.,	January 30, 1984
Rolling E. Fields,	January 19, 1973
Kurt M. Gloeckner,	January 31, 1972
Jimmy G. Houser,	January 5, 1976
C. Parker Leake,	January 12, 1977
Jimmy W. Marshall,	January 13, 1973
T. A. Patrick, III,	January 30, 1984
E. Mack Powell,	January 31, 1961

Important Dates



- **WSL Officer's Meeting**, January 4th, 6:30 PM. (All Officers and Committee Heads should attend)
- **Division Leadership Conference**, Waynesboro: Friday, January 8, 2016 Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church 30 Tinkling Spring Drive, Fishersville, VA 22939 6:00 P.M. Registration 6:30 P.M. DLC begins 8:45 P.M. DLC ends
- **Alberene Lodge No. 277 Stated Communication**, January 11th, 7:30 PM.
- **King Solomon's Lodge No. 194 Stated Communication**, January 12, 7:30 PM.
- **WSL Stated Communication**, January 18th, 7:00 PM. **Robert Burns Night**, 2nd Floor Dining Room, Please contact the secretary for reservations
- **Piedmont Stella Lodge No. 50 Stated Communication**, January 20th, 7:30 PM. **Please note; New Location**, 72 Lambs Lane Stanardsville, VA



The Worshipful Master presented Wor. Jason Pattison with his Past Master's ring and certificate for his year in the East.

Election of Officers

On December 21, 2015, Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 held their Installation of Officers for 2016 those elected are Front Row, from Left to Right: Jason M. Parham, SD; Mark S. Chapman, SW; MW Jeffery E. Hodges, WM; C. Nicholas Bragg, JW; William R. Bond III, Sec.; Philip H. Nelson, Chaplain; Bobby Cameron, Tyler. Back row from Left to Right: Devan E. McPherson, JS; Jeffery K. Robbins, SS; William F. Baskerville, Treas., Harry L. Walker, JD & T.C. Dickerson, Marshal.

Charlottesville Food Pantry

Brethren please remember the Food Pantry barrel located in the Lodge hallway near the elevator. Your canned food donations help the young and old stretch their monthly low income. Any amount of food is welcome.





The Worshipful Master presented RW William R. Bond, III the 2015 Master Workman Award.



The Worshipful Master recognized those celebrating Masonic Birthdays in December. Those present were Bro. Jason Parham (1), RW William Bickley(60), RW Charles Via(49) and Bro. T. C. Dickerson(49)



Oysters & Briskett

After the meeting the Brethren were treated to a delicious oyster stew and brisket dinner. Shown to the left are our excellent chefs, stewards and provider of the brisket. From Left to Right are: Bro. Devan McPherson, JS; Bro. Jeffery Robbins, SS; Bro. Rob Harrison, Brisket Provider, Bro. Bob Romanac, RW Jim Dickerson and Bro. Jamie Stafford, Chefs for the evening.



RW Harlan E. Phelps approached the east and presented a 60 year veterans emblem to RW William L. Bickley. RW Brother Bickley was made a Master Mason on December 6, 1955 and served our lodge as Worshipful Master in 1985. RW Brother Peter R. Thorsen and RW Brother Charles A. Via, Bro. Kenneth Fields served as a committee.



The Worshipful Master presented Brother Mark Chapman the 2015 Peyton S. Coles Ritual Award for his excellence in Lodge ritual.

ROBERT BURNS' MASONIC HISTORY

by World Burns Club Member
Todd J. Wilkinson



Robert Burns was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Lodge St. David, Tarbolton on 4 July (ironic date) 1781, at the age of 23. His initiation fee was 12s 6d, and paid on the same date. Like many other times in his life, Burns came into the lodge amidst a controversy. Originally, there had been only one lodge in Tarbolton, chartered in 1771 from the Kilwinning Lodge, which is said to be the oldest lodges in the world (again, another story worth telling, yet for another time).

In 1773, a group broke away from the lodge, forming Lodge St. David No. 174, and the original lodge became St. James Tarbolton Kilwinning No. 178, only to be reunited in 1781, 9 days before Burns's first degree. However, while St. James was clearly the older of the two lodges, St. David's name was used, and the seeds were sown for further dissension. Burns in the meantime was passed to the degree of fellowcraft, and raised to the degree of Master Mason on 1st October 1781. The Lodge record book, according to James Mackay's "Burns" reads as follows:

Robert Burns in Lochly was passed and raised, Henry Cowan (ironic name!) being Master, James Humphrey Senr. Warden, and Alexr. Smith Junr. Do., Robt. Woodrow Secy. and James Manson Treasurer, and John Tannock Taylor and others of the brethren being present"(119).

Manson and Woodrow would later take the regalia of St. James's lodge from the charter chest (containing the minute-books, archives and other belongings) stored at John Richard's Inn (Richard was a Steward of Lodge St. David) after tricking Richard into a false errand with a couple of "gills" of punch. While originally ordered to return the regalia and other items by the Grand Lodge, it was eventually ruled that since the union of the 2 lodges were voluntary, then the separation was as well. The St. James lodge met again as a separate body on 17 June 1782. (Mackay, 119-120).

Burns went with Lodge St. James, and on 27 July 1784, he was elected "Depute Master" of the lodge at the ripe young age of 25. Sir John Witefoord was the Worshipful Master of the lodge, but it was somewhat of an honorary position, and the Depute Master in reality was in charge. Burns was faithful to the lodge, attending regularly and 3 minutes were in his handwriting; 29 minutes were signed by him and also show when he changed his name; originally, his father spelled the last name "Burness"; before 1786, Robert spelled it the same way. On 1 March 1786, Robert's brother Gilbert received his 2nd and 3rd degrees; both Gilbert and Robert signed their last names as "Burns"(Mackay, p.121).

1786 was not a happy year for Robert financially or emotionally; Denied his love Jean, Burns had sought comfort with Mary Campbell (the famous "Highland Mary"), who reportedly bore Burns a child and died later that year from Typhus. Burns, in grief over the loss of two women, as well as facing child support payments for Jean's unborn child, decided to

flee to Jamaica to avoid grief and an angry father (and brother!). Tradition says that Burns recited his "Farewell to the Brethren of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton" on the night of 23rd June, at the stated meeting of the lodge, in anticipation of his voyage to the West Indies.

However, Burns decided to stay in Scotland when in July 1786, his Kilmarnock edition of poems was published, by a brother Freemason, and 350 brethren of St. John's Lodge, Kilmarnock, subscribed to a copy. In October he was made an honorary member of Lodge Kilmarnock Kilwinning St. John, and wrote "Masonic Song" in honour of the lodge and its Worshipful Master, Major William Parker (McLeod, p.169).

Burns's rise in popularity for his poems also contributed to his rise in Freemasonry. At a meeting of Lodge St. Andrew in Edinburgh in 1787, at which the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Scotland was present, Burns was toasted by the Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Francis Chateris, with the words "Caledonia and Caledonia's bard, Bro. Robt. Burns", which was met with a terrific response from the brethren. Burns was completely taken aback, and though trembling, returned the toast of the Grand Master, to response of 'Very Well Indeed' from some of the officers of the Grand Line (McLeod, p. 169). In February 1787, Burns was made the Poet Laureate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No. 2, Edinburgh. Wallace McLeod, in his essay "Robert Burns", quotes the minute book, which states:

The Right Worshipful Master, having observed that Brother Burns was present in the lodge, who is well known as a great poetic writer, and for a late publication of his works, which have been universally commended, submitted that he should be assumed a [honorary] member of this lodge, which was unanimously agreed to, and he was assumed accordingly (McLeod, pp.169-171, Mackay, pp. 273-274).

Tradition has it the Burns was installed as Poet Laureate at the March meeting of the lodge (as many paintings show), but lodge records disprove this, although some maintain that faulty records and Robert's modesty are responsible for it being left out of the lodge minutes and Robert's letters; Mackay doubts that Burns would have purposely left out such a high accolade to his work as a poet (McLeod, p.170, Mackay, p.274). When the first Edinburgh Edition of his poems was released in April 1787, and again, many subscribers were members of Canongate, including the publisher, printer and artist who supplied the frontispiece for the edition. Like his Kilmarnock edition, Freemasons assisted their brother and ultimately gave the world the gift of Burns's poetry.

Burns was exalted a companion in the Holy Royal Arch Degree in May 1787 at St. Ebbe's Lodge, Eyemouth. The companions unanimously agreed to admit Burns without paying the necessary fees, as they were greatly honoured to have such a great poet and man like Burns as part of their chapter (Mackay, p.311). When Burns moved to Dumfries, he joined Lodge St. Andrew on St. John's Day, 1788, and once again, showed a great enthusiasm for his lodge. In 1792, he was elected Senior Warden and served a one-year term. This was the last Masonic office he held before his death in 1796. He was 37 years old.

*Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60, A.F. & A. M.
Presents A Celebration of our Scottish Bard
With Food & Drink*

Robert Burns Night

January 18, 2016

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Dining Room

Speaker for the Evening

*RW Wayne Price, Honorary Provincial Grand Senior Warden of the Provincial
Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward under the Grand Lodge of Scotland*

Giving Us:

A Tribute to Brother Robert Burns and his experiences in Scottish Masonry

*Haggis will be piped in by our very
own Senior Warden
Brother Mark Chapman*



*Haggis will be prepared by Chef
Extraordinaire*

RW Jim Dickerson

Menu to include; Black Angus Beef meatloaf from a traditional Highland recipe for those opposed to enjoying Haggis, whisky gravy, turnips, potatoes, peas, and apple cobbler with ice cream.

Meal Charge: \$15.00 to be paid at the door.

Please RSVP by January 18th to:

William R. Bond, III (*Secretary*)
400 Mountainside Drive Stanardsville, VA 22973
WidowsSons60@gmail.com
H (434)985-6171 C (434)960-5162



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

1799—2016
The 217th Year of Service to the
Charlottesville Community and beyond.
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Hiram's Journal

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