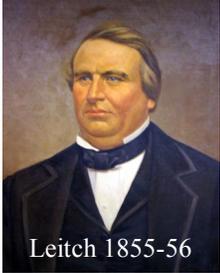
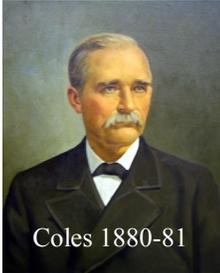


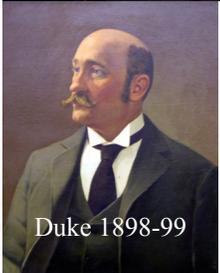
*Grand Master's  
From  
Widow's Sons'  
No. 60*



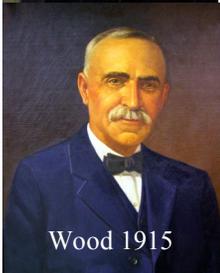
Leitch 1855-56



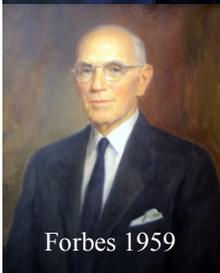
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60  
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.  
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

# HIRAM'S JOURNAL

Stated Communication December 17, 2018

[Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Website](#)

[Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Facebook Page](#)



Brethren, Our November stated had one of the finest meals we have ever had. I thought everyone who prepared a dish did an excellent job! Brother Jeff Robbins gave an interesting presentation on the Ziggurat in ancient Mesopotamia. He talked about the similarities between the brick makers and masons. He also had pictures that he personally took while over seas that showed some of the marks that the brick builders used to differentiate their work. I found it to be a fascinating presentation and I'm glad he was able to join us and share his information. Thank you brother Robbins. We also voted brother Anthony Shien Shang to become a member of our lodge. Congratulations Brother Shien Shang!

As I look back on my year as Worshipful Master, I am very thankful to my officers and every brother that have helped me out along the way. I couldn't have made it without all of you. I believe that we have provided quality meals for every meeting and have enjoyed some fantastic presentations. It was my hope that my year would be filled with good food and good fellowship. I feel like we accomplished both. I also got the chance to initiate several new brothers throughout the year. I have really enjoyed this opportunity. I'm very proud to be a member of Widow's Son's Lodge #60! I look forward to continuing my support of this lodge in many other ways moving forward. Thank you all for your support!

December 17<sup>th</sup> will be officer elections with Oyster stew prepared by Right Worshipful

Jim Dickerson. There will be a second option for those that do not like oyster stew.

Sincerely  
Worshipful Christopher N. Bragg



The WM recognizes Brother Jeffery Robbins who presented a program on the Ziggurats Temples in ancient Mesopotamia.



**December Masonic Birthdays!**  
**Wish a Brother Happy Masonic Birthday.**

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Loves and Fishes, Tuesday December 4th 6:00—8:00 PM  
 Stated Meeting, Monday December 17th, 7:00 PM

**10th District Lodges**

Day Lodge No. 58 Stated, 1st Thursday at 7:30 PM  
 Widow's Sons' No. 60 Stated, 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM  
 Murray No. 175 Stated, 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM  
 Waddell No. 228 Stated, 2nd Monday at 7:30 PM  
 Mineral No. 311 Stated, 3rd Thursday at 7:30 PM  
 Cabell No. 328 Stated, 1st Wednesday at 7:30 PM

**Appendant Bodies**

OES Queen Esther Chapter No. 14, 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM  
 Keystone Royal Arch Chapter No. 58, 4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM  
 Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, 4th Tuesday at 6:00 PM

**Grand Lodge**



Brethren, the 2019 dues in Widow's Sons' Lodge are due and payable on January 1, 2019. If you have not paid your dues for 2019, please do so now. Make your check (\$127.00) payable to Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60, and mail them to P. O. Box 6262, Charlottesville, VA 22906

**NEW MEMBER**



The right hand of fellowship is extended to **BROTHER ANTHONY**

**CURTIS SCHIENSCHANG** who affiliated with Widow's Sons' Lodge. His mother lodge is Hancock Lodge No. 311, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Welcome to the Lodge of the Widow's Son.



A Freemason should be like a good watch—An open face, busy hands, pure gold, well regulated and filled with good works.

**The Secrets of Masonry**....The secrets of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, live it! It cannot be uttered, it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no man can know it alone.

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton

## **The Order of the Golden Fleece is an order of chivalry.**

In Masonic ritual we speak of the Golden Fleece. It gets compared to the badge of a Mason, our white leather aprons and we are told that our aprons are more ancient than the Golden Fleece. This can cause confusion since there is more than one Golden Fleece.

The first Golden Fleece we will discuss comes to us from Greek Mythology. In the story of Jason and the Argonauts, the crew of the Argos, travel to find the Golden Fleece to help put Jason on the throne. Some historians date this story to the time of Homer around the eight century B.C. The idea that this is the Golden Fleece actually tracks historically since Solomon's Temple is believed by some estimates to have been created in the 10th century B.C. Making the white leather apron, assuming that our ancient brothers were wearing white leather aprons, older by potentially a few hundred years.

The other Golden Fleece is the Order of the Golden Fleece and is more likely the Golden Fleece spoken of in our ritual. The Order of the Golden Fleece was created in 1430 by Philip III, Duke of Burgundy, who is also known as Philip the Good. The order is a Roman Catholic order of chivalry. The order still exists today, although it's history compared to Masonic history is what we are concerned with.

Since the order had its beginnings in 1430, it means that it was created some 40 years after the Regius Poem, also known as the Halliwell Manuscript. In the poem, which is believed to have been written by monk in 1390, it details the events in the court of Athelstan the first King of England. In the poem the rules and regulations are laid out for the behavior of a Mason and the manner in which a Master should run his lodge and his job site. Remember at that time Freemasons were all, as far as we know, operative Masons. Even if the Regius poem is a fictitious account of events that were happening around 900 A.D. in the court of Athelstan, based on the content of the Regius Poem, Freemasonry was more than likely already around in 1390. Making the white leather apron older than the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Regardless of which Golden Fleece we are talking about the idea of our ritual is to remind ourselves and teach our new brothers the importance of the item that has been placed in their care. It should remind us every time we enter a lodge to ask ourselves have we treated, by our actions, that ancient emblem with the respect and care it deserves.



### **CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER BRIAN TRUONG!!!**

Brother Truong was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 1, 2018.

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

1799—2018  
The 219th Year of Service to the  
Charlottesville Community and beyond.  
"Freemasonry, a way of life"



Happy Hanukkah



### Hiram's Journal



Pictured attending Grand Annual Communication, L-R: Mark Chapman, Jeff Hodges, Nick Bragg, and Jason Pattison. Not pictured but also attending were Jim Dickerson, Bud Hogan, Greg Hosaflook, Tom Varner and Bob Simpson.