

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

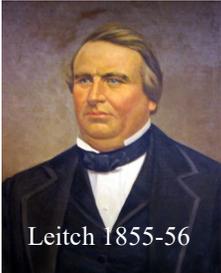
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60  
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.  
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

# HIRAM'S JOURNAL

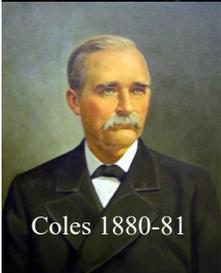
Stated Communications November 18th, 2019

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

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



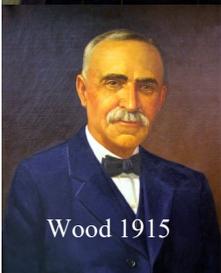
Leitch 1855-56



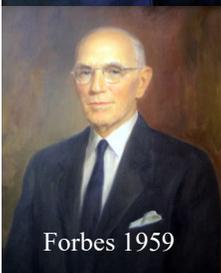
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009



## MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

Widow's Sons No. 60 has had an excellent October! Our ritual training on the second and fourth Wednesday has been a huge help in conducting degree work and making our monthly Stated run more smoothly.

I want to thank those brethren who have come out for ritual training and those who participated in and helped with our recent Fellowcraft Degree. Starting in November our ritual training will be on the second Wednesday only because of the busy holiday season.

At our October Stated RW Bob Simpson presented an interesting program featuring some little known history of Freemasonry and what Freemasonry means to him. Also this month we elected a new candidate to receive the Degrees in Freemasonry.

In November I look forward to attending the 241st Grand Annual Communication on the 8th and 9th. Also, our meal for the December Stated will be catered by JP Catering. Owner John Faulknier was our guest during mealtime in October. He wanted to get a better idea of what we want for our Stated meals. He also is interested in our Lodge and Freemasonry. Cost of the meal will be \$10 per person. If any brother needs transportation to the Stated let us know and it will be taken care of. We will also be recognizing a 60 Year Veteran.

I look forward to seeing you at the November Stated.

Respectfully,

Worshipful Jason Parham



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

Name:	Master Mason Degree:
Thomas V. Anderson	11/04/1974
C. Victor Armstrong	11/10/1971
Henry Booth	11/23/1959 (60 Yrs)
Mark A. Chamberlain	11/21/1995
Gregory H. Faust	11/12/1973
Wayne W. Ferguson	11/17/1978
George D. Hale, Jr.	11/28/1966 (53 Yrs)
John M. Lane	11/29/1976
Harry A. McCauley	11/27/1967 (52 Yrs)
Devan E. McPherson	11/30/2015
M. Shane Parsons	11/21/1994
William T. Randolph	11/28/2001
Ashish Singh	11/30/2015
John P. Sylva	11/20/2003
Brian Q. Truong	11/01/2018

**LODGE RITUAL CLASS**

Brothers, the Lodge will be hosting Ritual Classes to learn ritual, floor work, catechisms, etc. These classes will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

This months' class will be on November 13th (Wednesday) at 6:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Wor. Nick Bragg.  
 Email: [nick22882@gmail.com](mailto:nick22882@gmail.com)  
 Cell: (434) 882-2743

**Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 History CD - Second Edition**

Brothers, a second edition CD on the history of the Lodge is available for those who are interested.

Please see the Lodge Secretary, Wor. Mark Chapman or the Lodge Historian, Rt. Wor. Bob Simpson if you would like one.

CDs are available for mail delivery, but will have an additional cost for postage (\$4 fee).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Events:**

**WSL60 Stated Communication: November 18th, 7:00 pm**  
**WSL60 Ritual Class: November 13th, 6:00 pm (see notes below)**  
**WSL60 Officer Meeting: November 4th, 6:00 pm**

**10th District Masonic 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**

**GRAND LODGE EVENTS:**

**241st ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION**  
**November 8th—9th**  
**Hilton Richmond Hotel, Richmond, VA**  
**See note on page 4**

**53rd Annual Miss Virginia Job's Daughter Pageant—Nov 30th, at 7pm. Doubletree Hotel, Williamsburg, VA.**

**APPENDANT BODY MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

**Eastern Star—Queen Esther Chapter No. 14:**  
 November 9th at 10:00 am

**100th Year Celebration of Queen Esther Chapter #14, O.E.S—December 14th, 12:30 pm. All Masons and Families are invited to attend.**  
**See note below**

**Knights Templar Commandery No. 3:**  
 November 26th at 6:00 pm

**A meal is served between Commandery and Chapter Meetings**

**Keystone Royal Arch Chapter 58:**  
 November 26th at 7:30pm

**212th GRAND ANNUAL CONVOCATION:**  
 Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia will hold the 212th Grand Annual Convocation at the Double Tree Hotel in Williamsburg, VA on Nov. 21-23rd. See more information on reservations and schedule at the following website:  
[virginiaroyalarch.org/grandconvocation](http://virginiaroyalarch.org/grandconvocation)

**Shriners Piedmont Club:**  
 No meeting scheduled

**Order of Amaranth—Blue Ridge Court No. 8:**  
 November 1st at 6:00 pm

# Death and Spiritual Transformation in Masonic Tracing Boards by All Leathers



Figure 1

Consistent with the writings of Esteemed Brothers W.L. Wilmschurst, W. Kirk MacNulty, and George H. Steinmetz, there exists profound esoteric substance within each of our Blue Lodge degrees. The key to the esoteric nature of Freemasonry is understanding that the Lodge, its officers, rituals, degrees, and charges are all about you, the individual Freemason. Specifically, the Blue Lodge degrees facilitate the individual's journey and transformation from the material and psychical worlds to that of a spiritual realm that sparks deeper understanding and closer connection to Deity. Death, a motif which plays a central role in Freemasonry's transformative ritual, figures prominently in Master Mason tracing boards from their introduction in the 18th Century.

Illustrious Brother Albert Mackey describes the tracing board as a "framework of board or canvas, on which the emblems of any Masonic degree are inscribed, for the assistance of the Master in giving a lecture." Prior to the common use of floor-cloths it was customary to inscribe these designs on the floor of the Lodge room (most often a tavern) in chalk, which was subsequently wiped away when the Lodge was closed. Eventually similar designs appeared in drawings or paintings known as tracing boards. The terms "tracing board" and "floor-cloth" became intermingled with each serving the same purpose—Masonic instruction. In Continental Freemasonry, it was also common to refer to these devices for instruction as the "Lodge Board."

Upon examination of the floor-cloth in Figure 1, we can see the teardrops and shroud of the slain Grand Master along with the skull and crossbones symbolizing physical death. Esoterically, note that the square and compasses are detached from one another. The square, representing the material and psychological worlds, stands alone with death. The compasses, representing the spiritual world, are open—at the opposite end of the floor cloth. Very few floor-cloths, or tracing boards, dating before 1800 have survived the test of time. Most that did, however, reflect a familiar uniformity as Freemasonry strove for consistency in its efforts to enlighten the Brethren.

The square, compasses, and apron all symbolize the same thing: transformation from the material and psychical worlds to that of the spiritual. Allegorically, we must suffer death of the lower self (ego) in order to achieve spiritual transformation to our higher, true self. It is only when we rule over our egos that our true self is in the proper state to receive light and advance in the Craft.

The artist John Cole (see Figure 2) established some of the earliest designs for tracing boards as noted in his work *Illustrations of Masonry* in 1801. The Master Mason Tracing Board, with its macabre coffin design and skull and crossbones, has changed very little over time. Although the Grand Master would have most certainly been buried in a shroud, the coffin is used most often in third degree tracing boards given its powerful symbolism of death. With Brother Cole's tracing board, we see that the positioning of the square and compasses are at opposite ends of the diagram, as they are in the 1745 floor-cloth illustration. Additionally, working tools, cardinal points of direction (grave site orientation), a rectangular nameplate, the number 5 (thrice) and a visible entrance to the inner sanctum are present—all consistent with the legend of the third degree. Over the coffin is a sprig of acacia, a Masonic symbol of rebirth and hope.

Josiah Bowring, one of the most notable Freemason artists in the early nineteenth century, created several Master Mason tracing boards. Figure 3 portrays a coffin partially opened to reveal the murdered corpse of the Grand Master, the wound on his forehead clearly visible. Figure 4 portrays a closed coffin. Both coffins depict the door to the Inner Sanctum as closed; however, one reveals the Holy Priest at the entrance. The inner chamber is accessible only by way of the mosaic pavement, a path we must all take in our daily lives. Figure 4 includes a circumpunct (point within a circle) and a Vitruvian pentacle below a setting maul gavel with a square at the foot. Also note the acacia, wand, gold chalice or vessel, and Holy Tablets of Law.



## Death and Spiritual Transformation in Masonic Tracing Boards Continued

Brother John Harris, initiated into Freemasonry in 1818, was a painter of miniatures, an architectural draftsman, and an accomplished facsimilist. He began producing engravings for miniature sets of Tracing Boards (9x5 inches) around 1820. Brother Harris produced another set of engravings in 1823 specifically for the Corinthian Lodge Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex. Although this was apparently done without the Duke's permission, it appears to have given Brother Harris artistic credibility and, as a result, his tracing boards became very popular and widely adopted by the Craft. Figure 5 illustrates continued refinement and clarity of the Master Mason tracing board and includes the cardinal points of direction for the Grand Master's grave; the coffin; sprig of acacia; skirret, compasses, pencil, gavel, level, and plumb working tools; Anno Lucis date; skull and crossbones; three 5s; and an entry way to the Inner Sanctum of the Temple. Note that with this tracing board, the curtain has been pulled back to reveal the Ark of the Covenant.

In 1845 Brother Harris's designs were selected by a special committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement and by 1849 he had produced another set of tracing board designs that set the standard on which commercial designs were based. His third degree tracing boards continued with the coffin designs of Cole and Bowring but provided a major innovation that included a nameplate first in English, then Hebrew, with inscribed Masonic cyphers.

The central theme throughout these tracing board examples is death of the ego and resulting emergence of the true higher self. The journey of that ascent begins on the ground floor of the Entered Apprentice where you must confront yourself in the material, or physical, world. From there the Fellow Craft labors to increase knowledge and skills in order to ascend the spiral staircase and experience a tangential glimpse of the spiritual. Finally, the Master Mason transforms knowledge into wisdom and experiences an allegorical death and resurrection to facilitate awakening of the dormant aspect of himself. This awakening exists as the divine point within the circle of his individuality and serves as his personal philosopher's stone.

Obtained from Southern California Research Lodge Fraternal Review Newsletter, October 2019, Vol. 60, Number 9, pg 6-7.

## 241st GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

NOVEMBER 8th to 9th

Held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa

12042 West Broad Street

Richmond, VA

Exemplification of Degrees will be held on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:30 pm

and will end on Thursday, November 7th at 3:00 pm.

See schedule and reservation info at the following website:  
[grandlodgeofvirginia.org/grand-annual-communication/](http://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/grand-annual-communication/)



## QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER No. 14 100th Anniversary Celebration

December 14th, 2019 at 12:30 PM.

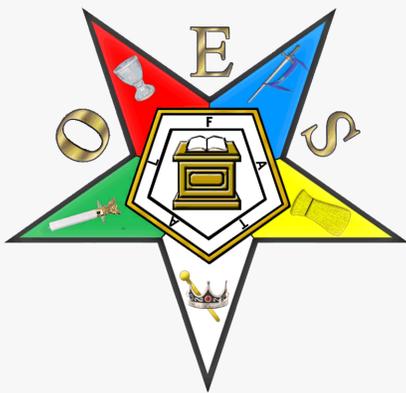
Stated Meeting for OES members will begin at 10:00 am

Refreshments will follow 12:30 program.

R.S.V.P. by December 1st, 2019 to

Charlotte Bailey: [cbailey335@ntelos.net](mailto:cbailey335@ntelos.net)

Phone: 434-973-8987



# OCTOBER STATED PRESENTATIONS



WM Jason Parham requested the following brothers to approach the East to recognize their Masonic Birthdays (left to right): Seth Spivey III (34 yrs), Robert Simpson (54 yrs), Harry Walker, Jr. (17 yrs), WM Jason Parham, Richard Cook (45 yrs), Mark Chapman (12 yrs), Russ Snodgrass (43 yrs) and Mike Griffin (23 yrs).



RW Bob Simpson presented an enlightening program on Freemasonry's beginnings. Lodge members thanked him for sharing his thoughts on what Freemasonry means to him. After the presentation, WM Jason Parham presented RW Simpson with a new Lodge Tumbler as a gift for his presentation.



October 26th was Charlottesville's Walk to End Alzheimer's in IX Art Park. The Mason Team raised about \$3,000.00. In the picture on the left are some of the Mason Team brethren and family who were able to attend.

From left to right: Mark Champan, Susan Chapman, Sam Caughron and RW Jay Cotner.

## 2020 LODGE DUES

**Brethern, Lodge dues will be mailed out in November. WSL60 annual dues for 2020 are still \$127 and they are payable on or before January 1, 2020.**

**The Secretary is very thankful for brethren that pay their dues on time so that our Lodge can pay its monthly operating expenses, to included, and not limited to, Grand Lodge assessment, building expenses, philanthropic support, meals and supplies.**

**Lodge Brothers with LMIP or 50 year veteran status may wish to consider a contribution to our Masonic Charity Fund.**

**If you are having any financial hardships and are unable to pay your dues, please contact our Lodge Secretary for assistance. His records indicate that several brethren have not paid their 2019 dues.**

## Elected Officers for 2019

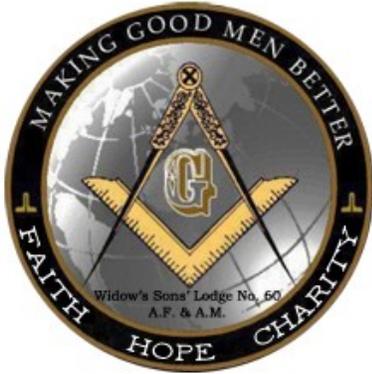
Worshipful Master: Wor. Jason Michael Parham  
Senior Warden: Bro. Harry Lee Walker, Jr.  
Junior Warden: Bro. Eddie O'Hare Creasy  
Treasurer: RW Mike Daniel Griffin  
Secretary: Wor. Mark Stephen Chapman

Senior Deacon: RW. Gerald William "Bud" Hogan  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Adam Lee Buffington  
Chaplain: RW Philip Harding Nelson, Jr.  
Marshall: Bro. Anthony Curtis Schienschang  
Tyler: Bro. Bobby Cameron, Jr.

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

1799—2019  
The 220th Year of Service to the  
Charlottesville Community and beyond.  
"Freemasonry, a way of life"

Return Service Requested



## DATED MATERIAL PLEASE PROCESS

### Hiram's Journal



#### Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Tumblers

Brothers, tumblers for Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 are available for purchase for \$20 each. See picture from October Stated for a view of the Lodge Tumblers.

Contact the Lodge Secretary if you want one or to pick up your order.

#### Membership Directory

Brothers, the Grand Lodge has approved a company to contact Masons under the Grand Lodge of Virginia to provide a Membership Directory to those interested in receiving it.

Letters have been sent out from the Grand Lodge with information regarding the Directory and information on how to take part of the Membership Directory.

Brethren are under NO obligation to purchase a directory (the Lodge Secretary has purchased one for our library). However, a publication containing your contact information and Masonic history may be useful to others