

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

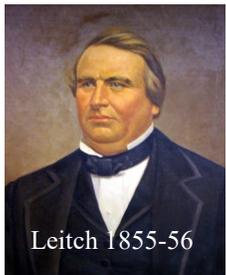
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

HIRAM'S JOURNAL

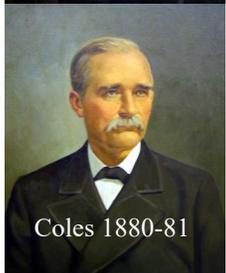
Stated Communications December 16th, 2024

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

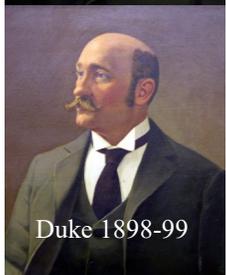
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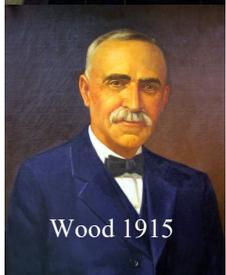
Leitch 1855-56



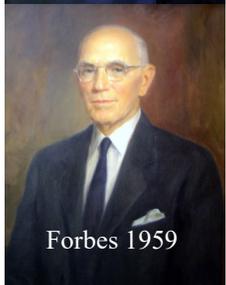
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Welcome to December Brothers,

This will be my last message as your Worshipful Master. It has been a wonderful two year term. I would not have been able to serve this lodge without the help of all the officers and mentors. Without their support, we would not have had such an amazing time these last two years. I do look forward to being an officer under RW Greg Hosaflook. He has some great ideas and plans for his year!

This month we were pleased to give out a three lodge awards. Brother Randy Arnold received the Peyton S. Coles Ritual Award; Bro. Al Pola received the Laurence A. Brunton Community Service Award; and the Mike D. Griffin Good Idea Award was presented to the memory of Bro. Christian Dwight M. Owens. Thank you to these Brothers for all your support in the lodge and the community.

RW Philip Nelson has again organized the Christmas poinsettias and they will be dropped off at Tucker Griffin Barnes law firm in early December. Let's get them picked up and delivered within the first few days.

Thank you to all.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Jason A. Pattison
2024 Worshipful Master





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

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Master Mason Degree:</u>
Stephen R. Baird	12/06/1993
William L. Bickley	12/06/1955 (69 Yrs)
Stephen R. Christianson	12/08/2010
T.C. Dickerson, III	12/06/1966 (58 Yrs)
Michael A. Hayden	12/05/1972 (52 Yrs)
Charles C. Lim, Jr.	12/29/2001
Jason P. Lynch	12/07/2006
Robert A. Murray	12/10/1999
William R. Nay	12/17/1992
James W. North, Sr.	12/05/1963 (61 Yrs)
Jason M. Parham	12/11/2014
Steven E. Price	12/07/2006
Daniel P. Price	12/12/2012
Jonathan M. Shelton	12/07/2006
Charles A. Via	12/06/1966 (58 Yrs)
Brian S. Weidman	12/04/2007

UPCOMING EVENTS



Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Events:

Dec. 3rd, 5:30 PM—WSL60 Officers Meeting at WSL60

Dec. 16th, 7:00 PM— WSL60 Stated Meeting, Meal at 6:00 PM (ELECTION & INSTALLATION NIGHT)

Dec. 19th, 6:00 PM—Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 Meeting in Red Room, Meal between meetings.

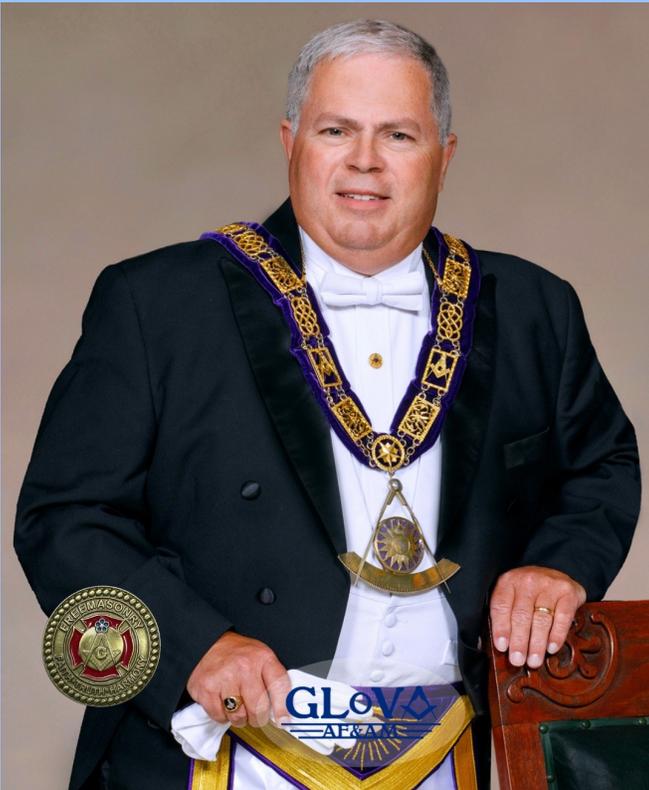
Dec. 19th, 7:00 PM—Keystone Chapter No. 59 Meeting in Red Room

Dec. 27th, 12:00 PM – Monthly Men's Lunch at El Puerto Mexican Griff, Barracks Rd.



179TH GRAND MASTER OF
MASONS IN VIRGINIA

MOST WORSHIPFUL
GARY DWIGHT HUFFMAN



MOTTO: FAITH, TRUTH, HARMONY

IS FATHER CHRISTMAS A MASON?

BY: BRO. DAVID DOWNIE, ST. TRINIANS LODGE NO. 2050

I have a very serious question to put to you all. I would like to raise it with you, and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to answering it. It could be one of the most important questions, that I am sure you have often asked yourself. It relates our Craft to the society in which we live and concerns several major issues of this season. This very serious question is: "Is Father Christmas a Freemason?"

Let us consider the facts of this case: Of whom does this remind you?

A worthy gentleman, who is getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight, who wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities, who provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship, who is surrounded by secrecy and mystery, dispenses goodwill and the charity of gifts all over the world (avoiding ostentatious public display while doing so), and is there doing it year after year!

Well, fellow detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is all merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof! Let us start with his movements on the eve of December 25th. All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the East to open and enliven the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore, Father Christmas must begin his journey at the north-east corner of the world.

Similarly, you would assume he would finish heading for home, which would place him in the north-west corner at the end of his work, to give his salute to the world and leave. Convincing proof, you must agree! But think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most brethren provide the gift of their charity to the Lodge! And the secrecy, the mystery? Those of you who are parents, remember. What was the worst crime that an older child could commit at this time of the year? To tell the younger ones the secret of Santa, to break the faith that they should have kept. I am sure your punishment of them pointed out that they were void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into the dinner table but be sent to their room for destroying something that was so good, so worthwhile and so innocent.

All evidence thus far shows us beyond doubt that perhaps Father Christmas is a Freemason! He practices Brotherly Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him and enjoy the Christmas holiday season, and sorry to part. All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male.

On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other. For instance, where did the figure we call Father Christmas come from originally? What is his background? Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the great Christian story of God's wonderful gift to the world.

By the eighteenth and nineteenth century these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritualistic activities and sayings. This all sounds very Masonic. The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into the uniform, the work and rituals that we use today.



IS FATHER CHRISTMAS A FREEMASON ~ CONTINUED

St. Nicholas was actually a 4th century Turkish bishop who had originally been a rich nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his 3 daughters. St. Nicholas climbed onto the roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after. He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since.

The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands, where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St. Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6th (St. Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to enquire about their behavior the previous year. Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave out a pair of shoes or clogs, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning there would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore which begins "Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house..." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today. Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sleigh, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem; but, Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia. They have stuck and become a single story. You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies.

While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come from many different sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter. It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves, all the happiness it creates, just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry.

Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness, and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into more loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other. We look to a New Year where things can be better.



We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity; or the Jewish Hannukah with its lights and gifts and story of peace; or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys. And why are we freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future, and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other. We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic Masons, to help build that future.

So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is in fact a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men!

Reprinted from the Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 Trestleboard December A.L. 6015
<http://www.hillsborough25.org/>



THE · GEORGE · WASHINGTON MASONIC · NATIONAL · MEMORIAL

Dear Friend of the Memorial,

We are thrilled to invite you to the 2025 George Washington Birthday Fundraising Gala & Silent Auction, an elegant evening celebrating George Washington's enduring legacy while supporting the preservation and mission of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301

Attire: White Tie for Gentlemen and Cocktail Dress for Ladies

Ticket Information:

\$250 per person

\$2,500 per table (seats ten)

Reservation deadline: **Friday, January 31, 2025**

To purchase your Gala ticket online, <https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/news/2025-gala>

To register for the 75th Anniversary Rededication of George Washington Statue,

<https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/news/2025-gala>

Events Schedule for the Weekend:

Friday, February 21, 2025

6:00 PM: George Washington Memorial Society Reception (Members Only)
Memorial Hall

Not a member of the George Washington Memorial Society? To join the Society, <https://gwmemorial.org/>

Saturday, February 22, 2025

10:00 AM DeMolay Initiatory and DeMolay Degree Class (Registration required, Masonic affiliation required to attend)

North Lodge Room

11:30 PM DeMolay Luncheon (Registration required)

Alexandria Scottish Rite

2:00 PM 75th Anniversary Rededication of George Washington Statue by the Memorial and DeMolay International (Speaker Brother Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of MW Brother Harry Truman)

Memorial Theater/Memorial Hall

5:00 PM Reception & Silent Auction (Registration Required)

Memorial Hall

6:00 PM Gala Banquet (Registration Required)

Grand Masonic Hall

8:00 PM Entertainment

Memorial Theater

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate Washington's Birthday with people from around the country at the beautiful and historic George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

NOVEMBER PRESENTATIONS



Right: Brother Al Pola was presented the distinguished Laurence A. Brunton Community Service Award recognizing his exceptional dedication to serving his community.



Left: WSL60 posthumously recognize Brother Christian Dwight M. Owens with the Mike D. Griffin Good Idea Award, acknowledging his extraordinary foresight and generosity in leaving a legacy gift for the lodge.



Right: RW Philip Nelson, Jr. was presented a 25 Year Masonic Veteran Award by MW Jeffery E. Hodges.

Left: Brother Randall L. Arnold was presented the esteemed Peyton S. Coles Ritual Award, which celebrates his outstanding commitment and excellence in ritual work over the past year.

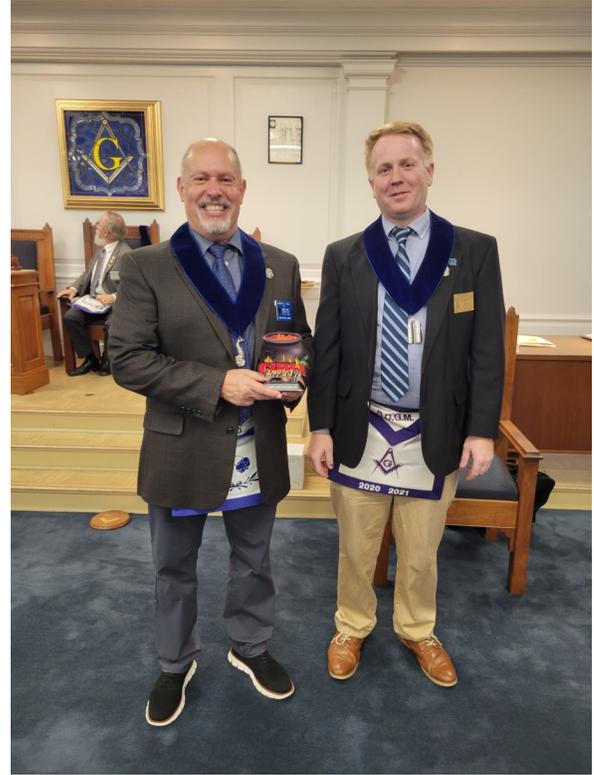


Elected Officers for 2024

Worshipful Master: R.W. Jason Andrew Pattison
Senior Warden: R.W. Gregory Dean Hosaflook
Junior Warden: Wor. Christopher Nicholas Bragg
Treasurer: R.W. James Friend Dickerson
Secretary: R.W. Mike Daniel Griffin
Chaplain: R.W. Philip Harding Nelson, Jr.

Senior Deacon: Bro. Thomas Matthew Castellanos
Junior Deacon: Bro. Randall Lee Arnold
Senior Steward: Bro. David Francis Riddick
Junior Steward: Vacant
Marshall: Bro. Jacobi Keith Leathers
Tyler: Bro. William Chester Olewnik, Jr.

Further November Presentations



Before the Stated Communication, WSL60 held it's annual Chili Cookoff with six different pots of chili to taste, enjoy and vote upon.

Brother Al Pola won the Chili Cookoff contest and was presented with a trophy by RW Jason Pattison.



Left: RW James F. Dickerson, Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master, was received in the East and saluted with Grand Honors.

Right: Brother Grant Routzohn gave a presentation on Early Ritual in Europe and America, and was presented with a WSL60 thermos.



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

1799—2024
The 225th Year of Service to the
Charlottesville Community and beyond.
“Freemasonry, a way of life”

Return Service Requested



Welcome to our newest Honorary Member, RW Harvey Fleshman.

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE PROCESS**

Hiram's Journal

**PRACTICAL TIPS TO IMPROVE OUR LIVES AS
MEN AND MASONS**

Baloney Detection Kit

<https://themindcollection.com/baloney-detection-kit/>

5 Habits of the Master Thinker

<https://themindcollection.com/five-habits-of-the-master-thinker/>

