

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

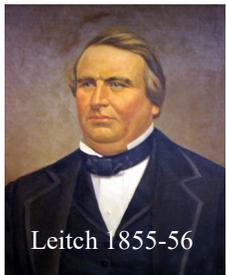
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60  
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.  
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

# HIRAM'S JOURNAL

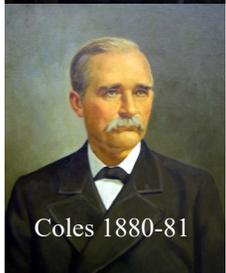
Stated Communications October 20th, 2025

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

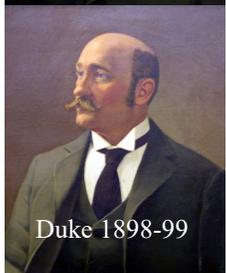
[Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Facebook Page](#)



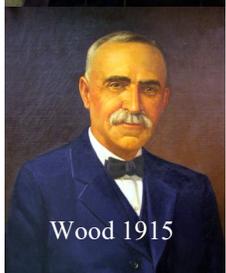
Leitch 1855-56



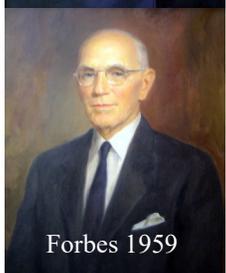
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

My Brethren,

“Are we having fun yet?” This phrase is usually associated with dark humor and intimates the opposite of its literal meaning. So far this year I see this statement in a positive light and know that the Lodge members are indeed having fun. For instance, in the month of September our Lodge met for a wonderful Ladies Night dinner, attended a Men’s Luncheon, and had a custom-prepared Caribbean style meal at the Stated Communication. We received new petitions, presented Community Builder’s Awards, visited other Lodges and attended a Charlottesville Little League baseball game. Two of our line officers earned their Warden’s Certificates and we submitted our application to receive the James Noah Hillman Award.

The next Stated Communication of Widow’s Sons’ Lodge No. 60 is on Monday, October 20, 2025. At 5:45 PM we will present RW Bob Simpson with his Sixty Year Masonic Veterans’ Emblem. A shepherd’s pie dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. The Stated meeting begins at 7:00 PM and is in conjunction with a Table Lodge. RW Roy Michael McKenney, Grand Junior Warden, is the featured program speaker.

I look forward to seeing you at our Table Lodge. Come on our and enjoy the fun!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Greg D. Hosaflook  
2025 Worshipful Master





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

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Master Mason Degree:</u>
Christopher N. Bragg	10/24/2013
Thomas M. Castellanos	10/25/2021
Mark S. Chapman	10/01/2007
Donald P. Cochran	10/19/2021
Jay L. Cotner	10/04/1989
Mike D. Griffin	10/30/1996
John M. Hutchens	10/08/2015
Charles E. Reinhold	10/28/1998
Robert E. Simpson	10/15/1965 (60 Yr)
Clyde D. Snoddy, Jr.	10/19/1996
Russel G. Snodgrass	10/25/1976
Timothy Lea Soyars	10/19/2011
Joseph Seth Spivey, III	10/28/1985
Zia A. F. Tompkins	10/29/2013
Harry L. Walker, Jr.	10/03/2002
John D. Zero	10/28/1991

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



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

**Oct 5th, 8:00 AM—Annual Family Day at MAHOVA**

**Oct 7th, 5:30 PM—Fellow Craft Examination (Coat and Tie) Short Officer's Meeting to follow.**

**Oct 20th:**

**5:45 PM - Presentation of 60-Year Service Award to RW Bob Simpson in the Red Room with dinner to follow.**

**7:00 PM - Stated Meeting and Table Lodge in the Dining Room (EA's and FCs' welcome to attend Table Lodge)**

**Oct 24th, 12:00 PM—Men's Lunch at the Mill Room (Boar's Head) (Contact Bro. Jim Dickerson for information)**

**Oct 28th, 6:00 PM—Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 Meeting in Red Room, Meal between meetings.**

**Oct 28th, 7:00 PM—Keystone Chapter No. 59 Meeting in Red Room**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE'S WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S**

Brothers, we are looking for members to join the Freemason Team for the Walk to End Alzheimer's being held in Charlottesville on October 26th.

The walk will start at 1:30 PM at the

Martha Jefferson Hospital at:

500 Martha Jefferson Drive, Charlottesville, VA

Freemason Team Captain is Bro. Mark S. Chapman

Ph# 434.227.6702,

Email: [agw123@earthlink.net](mailto:agw123@earthlink.net)



You can also offer financial support at the following

Registration Link:

[https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2024/VA-CentralandWesternVirginia?team\\_id=855708&pg=team&fr\\_id=17977](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2024/VA-CentralandWesternVirginia?team_id=855708&pg=team&fr_id=17977)

# HIRAM AND HALLOWEEN

BY: ANONYMOUS

Halloween is only a few days away and our shops and streets are already overflowing with pumpkins, skulls, skeletons and all manner of ghoulish and morbid displays, often inspired by films, TV series and video games. Why should Freemasons be concerned about these sometimes grotesque and tasteless displays? Perhaps because of the symbols of death, particularly skulls, which they are accustomed to seeing in many of their rituals and on many of their symbolic objects, and which will inevitably remind them of the figure of Hiram. Is there a connection between Halloween and Hiram? Is Freemasonry just a perpetual Halloween centered on the figure of Hiram? That's what we're trying to find out here.



## The origins of Halloween

As we all know, Halloween is a syncretic festival born out of the encounter between Christianity and ancient European traditions, especially Celtic ones. It has its origins in the Celtic festival known as Samain in Gaelic and Samonios in Gallic. Celebrated at the beginning of November, it marked the end of the year and was, among other things, a harvest festival. This aspect of Samain is linked to the harvest festivals of the Germanic world, which eventually centered around St Martin's Day (10 November). But Samain also had a mythological dimension: it represented a kind of inter-time, a suspension of time between the year that was ending and the year that was beginning, and this kind of temporal fissure created a porosity between the world of the living and the Other World, called Sidh in Irish. The Sidh is not really comparable to a simple realm of the dead, but rather a parallel reality populated by gods, mysterious beings and, incidentally, the dead. During the festival of Samain, a moment of suspended time, the inhabitants of the Sidh could mingle with humans and, on rare occasions, certain mortals could enter the Other World.

The Christianization of Samain, transformed into All Hallows Eve (which later became Halloween) and followed by the Feast of the Dead (1 and 2 November respectively), came about only under the pontificate of Pope Gregory IV, who reigned from 827 to 844. Prior to this, there had been a general feast of the martyrs, which had been celebrated on 13 May since 613, to cover the Roman feast of Lemuria. In fact, the Roman religion dedicated the days from 9 to 14 May to the Lemurs, the damned souls: fava beans were offered to them to appease them and prevent them from returning to haunt the world of the living. The same approach led to the choice of 1 November, this time to neutralize the feast of Samain. November 1 thus became the feast of all the saints, not just the martyrs, and November 2 was dedicated to all the dead, from whom it was to be feared that they would return to haunt the world of the living, since the saints, supposedly at rest in God, posed no threat.

Popular traditions, especially in Ireland, Scotland and Wales, retained elements of the original festival in disguise. In the 19th century, the custom arose of (originally poor) children going from house to house to receive cakes in exchange for prayers. This practice was a reminder that Samain was a celebration of a bountiful harvest, but also that food offerings could ward off evil spirits. Halloween then spread to America, largely thanks to the massive Irish immigration that followed the Great Famine of 1845. The current form of Halloween, which is essentially commercial, only really developed from the 1930s onwards, and the search for candy became the playful 'trick or treat', while the reference to the other world was reduced to a parade of vampires, werewolves, skeletons, zombies and other frightening figures drawn more from the world of cinema than from Celtic mythology or ancient European beliefs.

And it wasn't until the 1990s that Halloween made its way to continental Europe and into the supermarkets. While this move was driven primarily by commercial imperatives, it also corresponded with the spread of the American culture we all know from films and TV series. At a deeper level, the movement may have responded to a widespread need for the miraculous in a decidedly secular world that has largely abandoned any reference to an 'other world'.

# HIRAM AND HALLOWEEN ~ CONTINUED

## The meaning of Halloween

A composite festival born of the meeting of different cultures and absorbed by consumer society, Halloween cannot be described in simple terms. Historically, it is the Christianization of a pagan festival. Originally a celebration of the end of the year and the harvest, with an opening onto the other world, the emphasis is now on the dead: officially, we pray for the dead, but the old idea that we should make offerings to them so that they don't come back to haunt us certainly persists. A mixture of official Christian doctrine and superstitious practices, the last vestiges of a forgotten paganism, Halloween has become a form of popular religiosity and folklore in the British Isles. It's a difficult festival to pin down, because it brings together two completely different worldviews: a cyclical and naturalistic vision, of pagan origin, which simply describes the seasonal rhythm of the year and evokes the other world as a parallel reality that is not intended to frighten or engender guilt ; and a historical vision, of Judeo-Christian origin, which describes the afterlife as a place to which all humans inexorably tend, and often as a place of punishment, and above all suggests that the darkest souls still haunt this world.

Transplanted to the United States by Irish immigrants, Halloween lost its serene and happy side and retained only its morbid aspect. From then on, Halloween imagery drew exclusively on the macabre and morbid, sometimes with a touch of carnival humor, as if making fun of death made it less frightening. Culturally, Anglo-Saxon literature, with its love of mystery and the supernatural since the Romantic period, helped to shape this imagery, which was then passed on by cinema and the counterculture of the 1970s. So is Halloween just a way of expressing the fear of death in a largely secular Western civilization? Is it just a ridiculous attempt to exorcise fears that we no longer dare to face? We have every right to think so.

## What about Hiram?

Does the legend of Hiram, the central myth of Freemasonry, have anything to do with Halloween? At first glance, we can see that certain images of death are shared between the legend of Hiram and the celebration of Halloween, at least in its current form, as the skull and the color black. The story of Hiram's death would fit in well with the imagery of Halloween, but even more so the story of the discovery and raising of his body: a corpse which, according to the rituals, already stinks, is exhumed, stripped of its shroud and raised by holding it against oneself... Freemasons have become accustomed to the description of this scene, of which they ultimately retain only the symbolic dimension. But if you take the story literally, you'll have to admit that it's quite gruesome, morbid and macabre, in the spirit of today's Halloween.

But these similarities are superficial and, above all, anachronistic. In the eighteenth century, Halloween had not yet taken on its current form, and certainly did not resemble a ghost train. The morbid imagery found in Freemasonry has its roots much further back in Baroque culture's love of Memento Mori, still life paintings with skulls evoking the vanity of all things. Isn't there some other connection between the Masonic Hiram and Halloween, beyond the simple macabre appearance? From an anthropological point of view, the legend of Hiram touches on the central question of death, which has preoccupied mankind since the beginning of time. And it is in myths that all cultures have tried to come to terms with the presence of death and the inevitable anxiety it generates. So is the Masonic legend of Hiram just one of the many avatars of myth that seeks to explain itself through the theme of death? In part, certainly.

But the Hiram myth does not seem to answer the question of death per se. It does not go back to the origins of humanity and is based on a culture (in this case, the Judeo-Christian) that already has a complete myth about death. Freemasonry does not claim to compete with the Christian myth, but it considers the legend of Hiram as an initiatory symbol of a passage to another level of consciousness: in this respect, unlike today's Halloween, the Masonic legend of Hiram is ultimately closer to the original Samain, which also describes, in a way, communication between different levels of reality.

Reprinted from <https://www.nos-colonnes.com/en/blogs/our-items/hiram-and-halloween>

# MASONIC MINUTE

## *9/11 and Our Masonic Values*

Brethren,

When we think back to September 11th, 2001, most of us remember exactly where we were. I was teaching history class at Albemarle high school and we were watching the morning news live on TV. It was a day of shock and sorrow, but also a day that revealed something deeper about who we are.



As Masons, our values give us a way to understand what we saw. On that day, thousands of men and women—firefighters, police officers, first responders, civilians—ran toward danger to save others. That’s **brotherly love** in action: treating strangers as brothers and sisters worth protecting.

We also saw **relief** on a massive scale. People donated blood, opened their homes, and sent help in every way they could. It was charity on a national level, just as we are called to practice in our own lives.

And we were reminded of **truth**. The truth that life is fragile, that freedom matters, and that integrity and unity hold us together when the world feels like it’s falling apart.

So when we pause to remember 9/11, it’s not just about tragedy—it’s about responsibility. We honor the memory of those lost by living our Masonic principles every day: brotherly love, relief, and truth. If we do that, we carry forward the light that no darkness can extinguish.

To the memory of those we lost on September 11th, and to our charge as Masons to honor them by living with brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Thank you,

Bro. Dave (Coach) Riddick

# SEPTEMBER PRESENTATIONS



Left: WM Presents Community Builder Award to Sheri Owen

Right: WM recognizes first time visitors to WSL60.



Left: WM Presents Community Builder Award to Jimmie Straley

Right: WM recognizes Masonic BDs



WM recognizes RW Clore's on his program.



Bro. Jason Butcher receiving his Grand Lodge Certificate



Bro. Dave Riddick presenting his Masonic Minute.

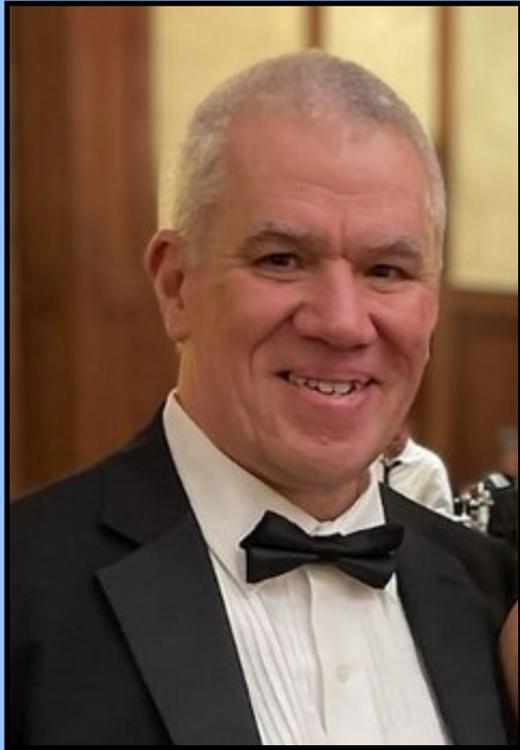
## Elected Officers for 2025

Worshipful Master: R.W. Gregory Dean Hosaflook  
 Senior Warden: Wor. Christopher Nicholas Bragg  
 Junior Warden: Bro. Randall Lee Arnold  
 Treasurer: R.W. James Friend Dickerson  
 Secretary: R.W. Mike Daniel Griffin  
 Chaplain: R.W. R.W. Jason Andrew Pattison

Senior Deacon: Wor. Harry Lee Walker, Jr.  
 Junior Deacon: Bro. Corin Trenton Fox  
 Senior Steward: Bro. David Francis Riddick  
 Junior Steward: Bro. Albert Agustin Pola  
 Marshall: Bro. Jacobi Keith Leathers  
 Tyler: Bro. William Chester Olewnik, Jr.

## **MASON OF THE MONTH**

### **WILLIAM “BILL” CHESTER OLEWNIK, JR.**



William “Bill” Chester Olewnik, Jr. was born on July 18, 1965, in Philadelphia, PA. He grew up in the Philadelphia area and graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School in 1983. Bill was first married in 1988 and had two children, Bill, III and Samantha. He remarried in 2018 and currently lives at Lake Monticello with his wife, Amy.

For forty years Bill has worked in the printing and graphic arts industry. His work included time in Manhattan, NYC, Philadelphia, and Richmond, VA (2008). He currently works in Charlottesville (2020) at UVA Printing Services as an estimator/print coordinator. He looks forward to his retirement in four years.

Playing golf, wine tasting, and attending baseball games occupy much of Bill’s leisure time. His goal is to attend a game at every major league baseball stadium.

Bill was made a Master Mason on July 26, 2018, at Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347 in Richmond, VA. He affiliated with Widow’s Sons’ Lodge No. 60 on January 16, 2023, and is now serving as Tiler.

**Q: What has surprised you the most since becoming a Mason?**

**A: The Masonic Brotherhood is always welcoming. Wherever I go a Brother will notice my ring, a hat, or vehicle insignia and strike up a conversation. The camaraderie is very genuine.**

# W/SL60 LADIES NIGHT





***Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60***  
***St. John Table Lodge***

**DATE: Monday, October 20th at 5:45 PM**

**60-YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION AT  
5:45 PM**

**DINNER AT 6:00 PM**

**TABLE LODGE AT 7:00 PM**

**All Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and  
Master Masons are welcomed!!!**

**DRESS: Coat and Tie**

**NO CHARGE!!!**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Grand Junior Warden RW Roy Michael McKenney**

**RSVP to WSL60 lodge Secretary RW Mike Griffin**

**MGriffin@TGBlaw.com (Cell): 434-981-5428**

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

1799—2025  
The 226th Year of Service to the  
Charlottesville Community and beyond.  
“Freemasonry, a way of life”

Return Service Requested



**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE PROCESS**

**Hiram's Journal**

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

**Leon's Paradox, Charlie's Iron Prescription  
& Marcus' Ultima Ratio**

**[https://www.chrismeyer.blog/p/stories-we-tell-ourselves?utm\\_source=post-email-title&publication\\_id=376942&post\\_id=156490945&utm\\_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=c9tlf&triedRedirect=true&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.chrismeyer.blog/p/stories-we-tell-ourselves?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=376942&post_id=156490945&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=c9tlf&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email)**

**Lessons in What Not to Do**

**<https://fromthegreennotebook.com/2025/05/19/from-the-red-notebook-leadership-lessons-in-what-not-to-do/>**