

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

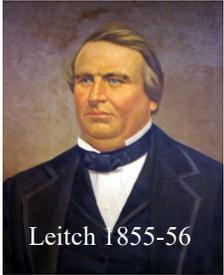
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

HIRAM'S JOURNAL

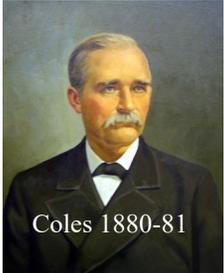
Stated Communications January 19th, 2026

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

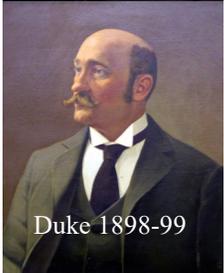
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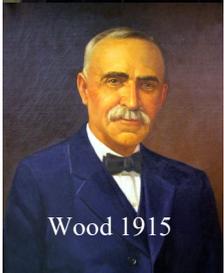
Leitch 1855-56



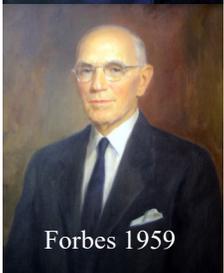
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

My Brethren,

I'm both honored and excited to be the Worshipful Master again! I would like to thank RW Greg Hosaflook for all of his hard work last year that not only benefited the lodge, but was a considerable help to me as well. Thank you brother!

This year, since I have a passion for history, we will be concentrating on the history of our organization. Most of our programs this year will be taking us from different theoretical origins of Masonry all the way up to the present. Some of these programs will blow your mind if you've never heard them before. So I hope as many brothers as possible will join me on this journey through history.

We will be starting the year with our annual Burns Night dinner. Please come and enjoy some haggis and meat pies with us. You can't forget the excellent whiskey gravy either! Hope as many of you can make it as possible.



Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Christopher N. Bragg
2026 Worshipful Master



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

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Master Mason Degree:</u>
Randall L. Arnold	01/07/2012
Lee W. Bullwinkel	01/19/1973 (53 Yrs)
James G. Carpenter	01/25/1993
Halbert E. Davis	01/31/1983
James D. Dunbar, Jr.	01/30/1984
Rolling E. Fields	01/19/1973 (53 Yrs)
Kurt M. Gloeckner	01/31/1972 (54 Yrs)
Curtis Parker Leake	01/12/1977
James W. Marshall	01/13/1973 (53 Yrs)
Thomas A. Patrick, III	01/30/1984
Brandon M. Quintin	01/20/2020
George A. Shadman, Jr.	01/14/2004

UPCOMING EVENTS



Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Events:

Jan. 19th, 7:00 PM— WSL60 Stated Meeting, Robert Burns Dinner at 6:00 PM and Stated Communication to follow (Dinner Reservations Required)

Jan. 23rd, Noon—Men's Lunch at Kanak Indian Kitch-n

Jan. 27th, 6:00 PM—Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 Meeting in Red Room, Meal between meetings.

Jan. 27th, 7:00 PM—Keystone Chapter No. 59 Meeting in Red Room

Jan 29th, 6:00 PM - Entered Apprentice Degree

Jan 31st, 8:00 AM—District Leadership Conference, Waynesboro (Coat and Tie)

Feb. 16th, 7:00 PM—DDGM's Official Visit



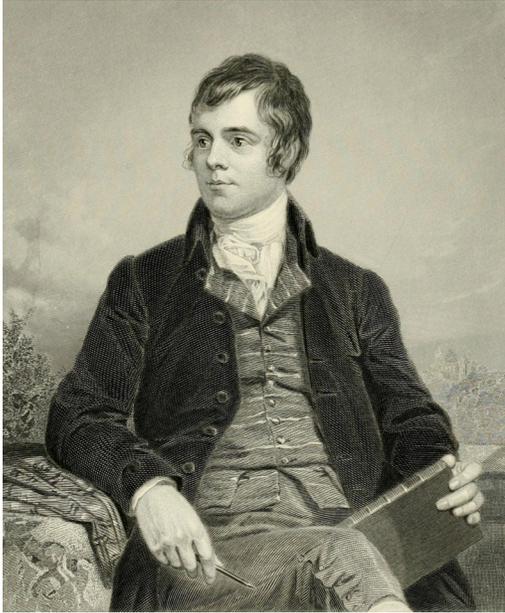
180TH GRAND MASTER OF MASONRY IN VIRGINIA

MOST WORSHIPFUL MATTHEW TODD SZRAMOSKI

MOTTO: LIVING OUR OBLIGATIONS

ROBERT “RABBIE” BURNS—POET LAUREATE, ACTIVIST, FREEMASON

BY: WB TODD M. PATEREK, BLAZING STAR LODGE #694, F&AM



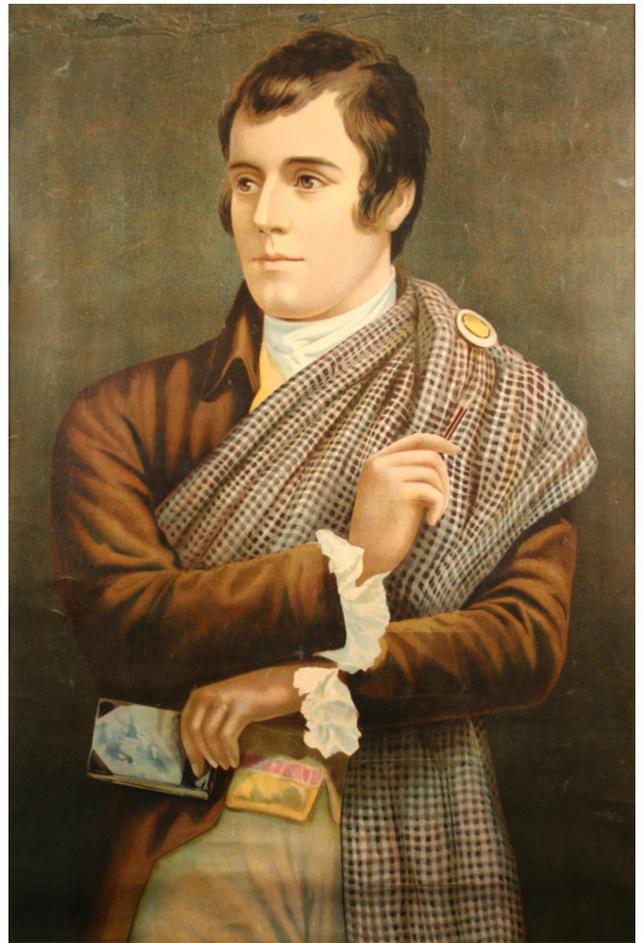
Robert Burns, celebrated Scottish poet, is considered a seminal figure in 18th century literature. Born in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland on January 25, 1759. Robert was born the eldest of seven children born to William and Agnes Burns. Robert’s father as a tenant farmer struggled to support his family. Because of this, Burns had to work on the family farm from a young age. However, at the age of fifteen, while working the harvest season with his field partner, Helen Kilpatrick, Burns felt his first love which sparked his passion for love and poetry, and he soon wrote his first poem; “Handsome Nell”.

Burns began to pursue poetry (and Love) with fervency and zeal. The traditional folk songs and ballads of Scotland, as well as the works of contemporary poets such as Allan Ramsay and Robert Fergusson heavily influenced his early poems. His early works focused on nature’s beauty, the simplicity of rural

life, and the struggles of the working class.

In 1777, at the age of eighteen, Burns left the family farm to find work and support his family. He worked as a flax-dresser, ploughman and tutor, but continued to write poetry in his free time. At the age of twenty-one, in 1781, Brother Burns joined the Lodge of St. David, Tarbolton, Scotland, a significant step as Freemasonry was an influential and respected organization in 18th century Scotland. The Fraternity provided Brother Burns with a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and an opportunity for self-improvement and personal growth. This likely led to the publication of his first collection of poetry, “Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect,” in 1786 which was well-received by critics and the public and established our Brother as a significant literary figure in Scotland.

Robert Burns is famous for writing poetry to charm and impress women. However, he had a special interest in Jean Armour and courted her for several years before they married on July 4, 1788. Together they had twelve children. Even with his marriage, Burns continued to have extramarital affairs which resulted in more children with other women. Jean, the daughter of a local operative stonemason, remained devoted to Burns throughout their marriage.



ROBERT “RABBIE” BURNS—POET LAUREATE, ACTIVIST, FREEMASON

~ CONTINUED



In 1788, Burns began to collaborate with James Johnson in compiling an anthology titled “The Scots Musical Museum”. During the last decade of his life, Burns devoted himself to editing and revising traditional folk songs for this volume and for the “Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs.” These publications played a crucial role in preserving elements of Scotland’s cultural heritage, featuring renowned songs such as “My Luvie is Like a Red Red Rose” and “Auld Land Syne.”

As a poet, Brother Burns possessed exceptional oratory skills and his speeches at Masonic gatherings were highly esteemed. Because of this he earned the title of Lodge’s Poet Laureate. His participation in Freemasonry had a notable impact on his literary works. Many of his poems and songs were written for Masonic events and ceremonies and contain references to Masonic symbols and themes. One of his most famous poems, “A Man’s a Man for A’ That,” is a tribute to the fraternity’s ideals of Brotherhood and equality. Additionally, his poem “The Brotherly Ties of Friendship” is a clear allusion to the principles of Freemasonry. Freemasonry’s emphasis on equality greatly influenced Brother Burns’ beliefs and poetry. As a vocal advocate for the rights of the working class, many of his poems and songs reflect his belief in the importance of equality among all individuals.

Brother Burns’ literary legacy endures despite the hardships and struggles he faced throughout his life. His poems and songs remain celebrated and revered, serving as a testament to his skill as a poet and his dedication to the ideals of Freemasonry earning him the title of National Bard of Scotland.

Reprinted from Craftsmen Online Website: <https://craftsmenonline.com/brother-robert-burns/>

AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to min’?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And days o’ lang syne?

CHORUS

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!

We twa hae run about the braes,
And put’t the gowans fine;
But we’ve wander’d mony a weary foot
Sin’ auld lang syne. (CHORUS)

We twa hae paidlet i’ the burn,
Frae mornin sun till dine:
But seas between us braid hae roar’d
Sin’ auld lang syne. (CHORUS)

And here’s a hand, my trust fiere’
And gie’s a hand o’ thine;
And we’ll tak a right gude willie-waught,
For auld lang syne. (CHORUS)

And surely ye’ll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I’ll be mine;
And we’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne. (CHORUS)

ROBERT BURNS POEMS

ADDRESS TO THE HAGGIS

Fair fa' your honest sonsie face,
Great chieftan o' the puddin' race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe or thairm.
Weel are ye worthy of a grace,
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin would help to mend a mill,
In time o' need,
While through your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic labour dight,
And cut you upwi' ready slight.
Trenching your gushing entrails
bright
Like ony ditch;
And then, oh what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin' rich!

Then, horn for horn they stretch and
strive.
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swalled kytes be-
lieve,
Are bent like drums;
Then auld guidmen, maist like to
rive,
Bethankit hums.

Is there that owere his French rea-
gout,
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew.
Wi' perfect scunner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornful
view
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! See him owere his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash.
His spindle-shank a guid whip-lash
His nieve a nit:
Through bloody flood or field to
dash
Oh, how unfit!

But mark the rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his
tread.
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll mak it whistle;
And legs, and arms, and heads will
sned,
Like taps of thrissle.

Ye powers wha mak mankind your
care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare.
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking
ware,
That jaups in luggies,
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer.
Gie her a haggis!

THE MASON'S SONG

Ye sons of old Killie,
Assembled by Willie
To follow the noble vocation;
Your thrifty old mother has scarce
such another
To sit in that honoured station
I've little to say, but only to pray,
As praying's the ton of your fashion.
A prayer from thee Muse you well
may excuse
'Tis seldom her favourite passion.

Ye powers who preside o'er the
wind, and the tide.
Who marked each element's border;
Who formed this frame with benefi-
cent aim,
Whose sovereign statue is order -
Within this dear mansion,
May wayward Contention
Or withered Envy ne'er enter;
May secrecy round be the mystical
bound,
And brotherly Love be the centre!

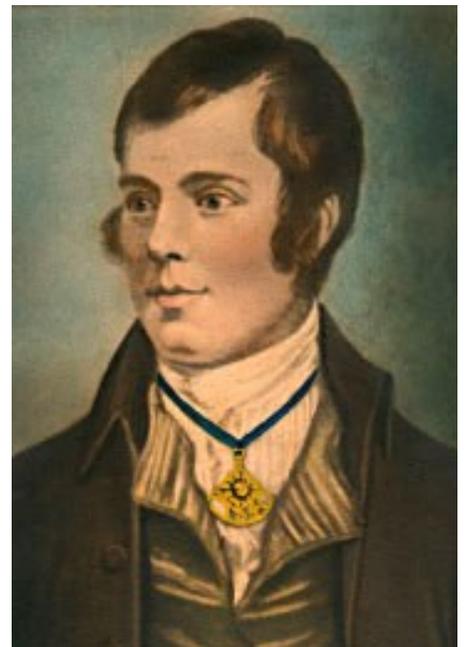
THE MASTER'S APRON

Ther's mony a badge that's unco
braw;
Wi' ribbon, lace and tape on;
Let kings an' princes wear them a'
Gie me the Master's apron!

The honest craftsman's apron,
The jolly Freemason's apron,
Be he at hame, or roam afar,
Before his touch fa's bolt and bar,
The gates of fortune fly ajar,
'Gin he but wears the apron!

For wealth and honor, pride and
power
Are crumbling stanes to base on;
Fraternity suld rule the hour,
And ilka worthy Mason!
Each Free Accepted Mason,
Each Ancient Crafted Mason.

Then, brithers, let a halesome sang
Arise your friendly ranks along!
Guidwives and bairnies blithely sing
To the ancient badge wi' the apron
string
That is wom by the Master Mason!



DECEMBER PRESENTATIONS



R. W. Hosaflook is presented with his Past Master Ring after another great year serving in the East.



R. W. Bickley was presented with his 70 Year Certificate for his continuing service and efforts in Masonry.



R. W. William C. Wimer, DDGM for the 19th Masonic District was saluted in the East with Honors.



WM Hosaflook recognized Brother Lim's Masonic Birthday



The Widow's Sons' Lodge Culinary Team
The Brethren enjoyed a delicious holiday meal before Stated Communications provided by Bros. Jason Butcher and Mike Hollar, III. Brisket was donated by Bro. Rob Harrison.

Elected Officers for 2026

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

Senior Deacon: Bro. Albert Agustin Pola
Junior Deacon: Bro. David Francis Riddick
Senior Steward: Vacant
Junior Steward: Vacant
Marshall: Bro. Jason R. Butcher
Tyler: Bro. William Chester Olewnik, Jr.

DECEMBER ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION



Robert Burns Night

January 19th, 6:00 PM
7:00 PM Lodge Meeting
Masonic Temple Dining Hall



BROTHERS, PLEASE JOIN WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60 AT OUR ANNUAL ROBERT BURNS NIGHT SUPPER AS WE PIPE AND DRUM IN HAGGIS TO BE SERVED AND AS WE CELEBRATE THE FAMOUS MASONIC SCOTTISH BARD, **ROBERT BURNS.**

HAGGIS PREPARATION

—WOR. NICK BRAGG

ODE TO HAGGIS

—RW BILL BOND

MENU

HAGGIS

WHISKEY GRAVY

MEAT PIES

CHEF GREG'S POTATOES

PEAS

APPLE COBBLER

VANILLA ICE CREAM

Please RSVP by January 14th to
Rt. Wor. Mike Griffin (Secretary)
MGriffin@TGBLAW.com



MASONIC MINUTE

“Mentoring—The Lifeblood of Our Fraternity”

Brethren,

As we welcome new Brothers into Widow’s Sons’ Lodge No. 60, we are reminded of the sacred charge that accompanies every raising—to befriend, to guide, and to mentor those who now join our ranks.

Each of us was once a candidate—perhaps a little unsure of what we were stepping into, but hopeful that we had found a place where friendship, integrity, and purpose truly meant something.

That, my Brothers, is what mentoring is about—keeping that promise.

When we speak of mentoring a new Brother, we mean far more than teaching catechisms or explaining rituals. A true mentor is a trusted guide, a counselor, and above all, a friend. He helps a new Mason not only understand Freemasonry, but live it—day by day, quietly and sincerely.

Many men who known upon the West Gate come seeking something: fellowship, service, perhaps a deeper meaning in their lives. Whether they find it depends largely—on us.

A Brother who feels welcome, needed, and known by name will return again and again. But one who feels forgotten or out of place may drift away before he ever truly belongs.

So mentoring means taking that new Brother by the hand and walking beside him. Sit with him in the Lodge. Call him during the week just to check in. Invite him to lunch or dinner. Meet up for a cup of coffee or a drink. Play a round of golf or attend a ball game together.

It’s in those ordinary, friendly moments that extraordinary bonds are formed. That’s how a new Brother stops being a visitor—and starts being family.

A good mentor also opens doors. Take him to visit another Lodge. Bring him to a District School of Instruction, a community service project, or to meet a shut-in Brother or a Masonic widow. Through those experiences, the new Mason learns that our obligations extend far beyond the tiled door.

Here in Widow’s Sons’ Lodge No. 60, our story stretches back to 1799. For more than two centuries, generations of men have passed through these doors and been shaped by the friendship, the guidance, and the example of those who came before them.

Each time we mentor a new Brother, we add another link to that unbroken chain of brotherhood.

Brethren, if we expect our new members to show a lifelong commitment to Masonry, then we must first show a lifelong commitment to them.

That is the true meaning of mentoring—and it is how we will keep the light of Widow’s Sons’ Lodge NO. 60 shining brightly for generations yet to come.

Thank you.

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

1799—2026
The 227th 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**

Why Everyone Say You're Doing it Wrong

<https://www.sahilbloom.com/newsletter/why-everyone-says-youre-doing-it-wrong>

The Energy-Output Curve

<https://www.sahilbloom.com/newsletter/the-energy-output-curve>

