

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

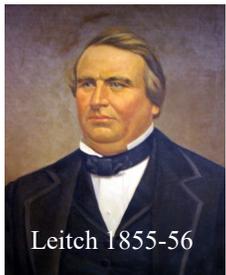
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60  
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.  
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

# HIRAM'S JOURNAL

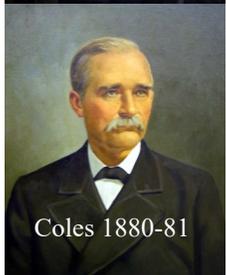
Stated Communications February 16th, 2026

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

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



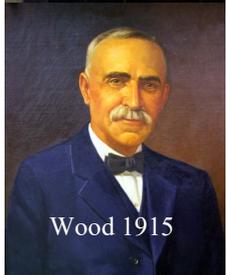
Leitch 1855-56



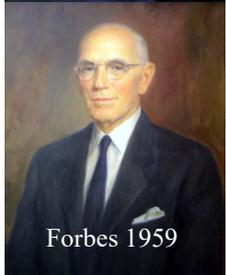
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

My Brethren,

Warm fraternal greetings to all!

Our recent Burns Night Dinner was a tremendous success and a true testament to the fellowship and joy of our Craft. The evening was filled with great food and wonderful company. From the traditional haggis presentation to the laughter shared around the tables, it was clear that everyone enjoyed the spirit of Robert Burns and the camaraderie of Brothers and guests alike.

A sincere thank-you goes out to the Brothers and families who helped organize the event, prepare the meal, and ensure everything ran smoothly. Events like this remind us that Masonry is not only about ritual and instruction, but also about friendship, culture, and shared experience.

February we are honored to announce that the District Deputy Grand Master will be visiting our Lodge. This is always an important occasion and an opportunity for us to demonstrate the excellence, dignity, and hospitality of our Lodge.

All Brothers are strongly encouraged to attend, arrive early, and wear proper attire. Let us fill the Lodge room and show our support for our Grand Lodge leadership.

Looking ahead to March, we are excited to host a special Cleopatra's Needle presentation. This fascinating program will explore the history, symbolism, and Masonic connections of the famous ancient Egyptian obelisk and its journey to the modern world.

This promises to be both educational and engaging, and is an excellent opportunity to invite interested friends or potential candidates to experience the educational side of Freemasonry.

As we move into the coming months, let us continue to support our Lodge through attendance, participation, and fellowship. Every event, every meeting, and every act of service strengthens our bonds as Brothers and our presence in the community.



Sincerely and Fraternally,  
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>
Samuel D. Caughron	02/24/1992
Michael T. Dean	02/26/2025
Michael A. Haas	02/12/1979
George G. Hocker	02/03/1999
Lewis A. Martin, III	02/21/1979
William F. Reinhold	02/23/1973 (53Yrs)
Edgar S. Robb	02/08/1966 (60Yrs)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



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

**Feb. 7th, 1:00 PM— Social at Foothills Distillery in Barboursville. Spouse and Friends Invited.**

**Feb. 16th, 7:00 PM— WSL60 Stated Meeting, DDGM's Official Visit**

**Feb. 24th, 6:00 PM—Charlottesville Commandery No. 3 Meeting in Red Room, Meal between meetings.**

**Feb. 24th, 7:00 PM—Keystone Chapter No. 59 Meeting in Red Room**

**Feb. 26th, 6:00 PM—Fellow Craft Degree**

**Feb. 27th, Noon—Men's Lunch at El Puerto**

**Mar. 2nd, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM-Blood Drive**

**Mar. 7th, 8:30 AM-DELC in Waynesboro**

**INVITATION TO ATTEND A WSL60—WINDING STAIRCASE DISCUSSION GROUP**

Why: For Brothers to have fellowship, discuss and exchange ideas of the esoteric side of Freemasonry not time constrained by time or Lodge agenda.

When: March 21st, 2026 (Saturday) at 10:00 AM.

Where: 22 Pine Crest Drive, Troy, VA 22974

Host: Brother Mark S. Chapman



Details: This is the third time a Winding Staircase Discussion Group has been conducted by WSL60 members. The first was organized by Bro. Kirk Crady in January 1996 and the second by Bro. Mark in February 2008. The WS Discussion Group is characterized by the following:

- A. We meet whenever a member is doing and has done research on a Masonic topic that he wants to share his knowledge to obtain more light in Masonry from his brothers.
- B. The WS Group usually met in the home of a senior Lodge member because of his mobility issues. Hence, we meet when the host and speaker are available. Q&A is encouraged.
- C. The discussion usually extends during lunch time which some of the spouses of the WS members prepare.
- D. Our meetings are informal (no coat or tie); WS participants are encouraged to contribute in the discussion. The WS group is not intended to replace discussion in the Lodge Stated Communications, other Lodge business or Masonic Appendant Bodies (e.g. Allied Masonic Degrees)
- E. The speaker at the WS Discussion group is usually a WSL60 member and he may present slides, a written document, a demo, or a video for discussion. A one or two paragraph summary of his remarks for publishing in the WSL60 newsletter Hiram's Journal is requested.

## THE FIRST INAUGURATION—PATRIOTIC AND MASONIC

**BY: CAPTAIN KENNETH R. FORCE, USMS**

Right Worshipful Brother Force is a Past Master of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 ("The Lodge of the Arts") and Nassau Lodge No. 1016, both of New York. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Fourth Manhattan District. For many years, he has been Director of Music at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y. and regularly conducts the Academy's Regimental Band in concerts and at patriotic events. The following is partly excerpted from the Program Notes he prepared for a booklet of music and comment, both related to the period of George Washington's first inauguration as President of the United States.

"Sir: I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the information of your unanimous election to the office of President of the United States of America. Suffer me, Sir, to indulge the hope that so auspicious a mark of public confidence will meet your approbation, and be considered as a sure pledge of the affection and support you are to expect from a free and enlightened people"—Letter to President elect Washington from John Langdon, Temporary President of the U.S. Senate.

The above congratulatory note was delivered to General George Washington\* at Mount Vernon on April 14th, 1789. Thus, from this humble beginning began the American Presidency—an office that one day would become the most powerful and responsible position in the entire world.

Two days later, on April 16th, General Washington left his beloved Virginia home, accompanied by his personal secretary, Colonel David Humphreys\*, and by Mr. Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress and the individual chosen to deliver the congratulatory message.

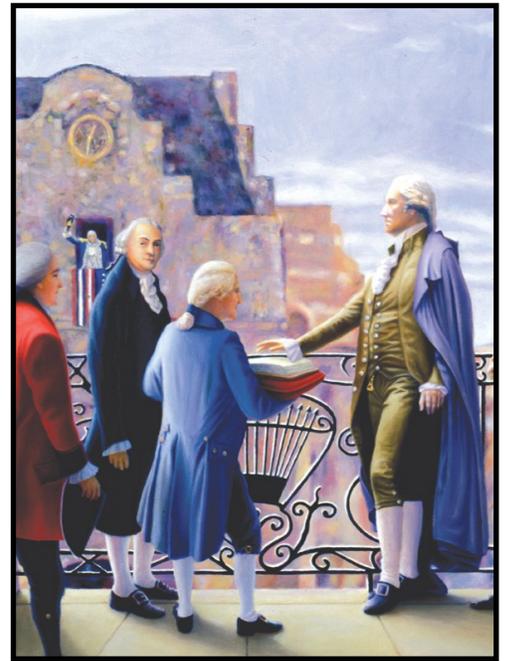
The General, dressed in his familiar buff and blue uniform, looked resplendent upon his horse. All along the route to New York City, the party was greeted by a tumultuous outpouring of public adulation and enthusiasm. Each tiny village and town displayed its finest decorations; even the General was overwhelmed by the receptions that greeted him every place he passed through.

The most noteworthy greeting was at Trenton, New Jersey, where a magnificent arch was erected at the Trenton bridge displaying the motto, "The Defender of the Mothers will also protect the Daughters." As Washington passed under the arch, a choir of white-robed mothers and daughters sang Alexander Reinagle's chorus, "Welcome Mighty Chief, Once More." This work is dedicated to the President's wife, Martha.

For weeks, elaborate preparations had been underway in New York for the arrival of the nation's war hero and leading example of the country's unity and pride. By the time of the inauguration, Washington had become a unifying symbol to the people and his popularity took on cult-like dimensions. He was revered with an almost religious fervor, clearly reflected in the lyrics contained in the music of that period.

On April 23rd, he arrived at Elizabethport, New Jersey. He was met by a committee from Congress and several other notable dignitaries, including Chancellor Robert Livingston\*. (Livingston would administer the oath of office a few days later.)

At the shore lay waiting a magnificent forty-five-foot-long barge, commanded by Commodore James Nicholson\*, which had been constructed at great expense for the occasion. On its deck was a red-curtained enclosure beautifully decorated with festoons and symbols of the new Republic. Rowing the barge were thirteen river pilots dressed in white, who had been especially selected to transport the stately General Washington to Manhattan. Other barges accompanied the Presidential vessel filled with leading politicians and future Cabinet members.



## THE FIRST INAUGURATION—PATRIOTIC AND MASONIC ~ CONTINUED

As the Presidential barge proceeded down the Hudson River, a Chorus rose up from a sloop anchored in the harbor singing an "ode" to the General. This "ode" is described in eloquent terms by the New York Packet:

The voices of the ladies were as much superior to the flutes that played with the stroke of the oars in Cleopatra's silken corded barge, as the very superior and glorious water scenes of New York Bay exceeds Cyndus in all its pride. We could with rapture dwell upon this interesting subject, and wander into the fields of fancy for expressions to paint the various and delightful appearances that vied with each other at the same time to welcome the great and illustrious man to our now happy city.

Another description of the "singing" has been preserved in the writings of Congressman Elias Boudinot of New Jersey, who was part of the Presidential party that day:

Before we got to Bedlars Island (now Liberty Island, site of the Statue of Liberty) a large sloop came, with full sail on the Starboard Bow, when about 20 Gentn & Ladies rose up, and with excellent & melodius voices sung an Eloquent Ode appropriate to the occasion, & set to the music of "God Save the King," welcoming their Great Chief to the Seat of Government. At the conclusion we gave them our Hats, and then they with the surrounding Boats, gave three Hurra's which made the neighborhood shores rebound with Joyful acclamation. (Spelling and punctuation unaltered from the original.)

When the Presidential barge passed the Spanish sloop-of-war Galveston, the men of the ship fired a thirteen-gun salute and immediately displayed the flags of "all foreign nations." Another thirteen-gun salute was fired as the barge rounded the Battery and finally at Murray's Wharf, at the foot of Wall Street, a final salute of thirteen-guns was fired as the Presidential barge landed.

General Washington climbed the carpeted stairs to the pier where he was greeted by the Governor and Mayor along with city and state officials. From the wharf, a grand procession was formed which accompanied the General to his new residence, the house of Samuel Osgood, at Cherry Street and Franklin Square. As the procession progressed through the streets of the city, a tumultuous outpouring of public adulation greeted him, and the General was visibly and emotionally moved.

Homes and business establishments were decorated with signs, flags, and every festive decoration imaginable. At night, candles were displayed in windows as the city continued to celebrate.

The United States Gazette reported:

Many persons who were in the crowd on Thursday were heard to say that they should now die contented—nothing being wanted to complete their happiness, previous to this auspicious period but the sight of the Savior of his Country.

Inauguration Day, April 30, 1789, is unique in American history. Not only did it mark the taking of the oath of office by America's first president—it was the only inauguration of an American President in New York City, the capital moving to Philadelphia for Washington's second inauguration and those of his successor, John Adams. Thomas Jefferson was the first President to be inaugurated in the new capital city of Washington on the Potomac.

The day began with a cannon salute fired from the Battery at sunrise. (An early wake-up call!) At nine o'clock, all the churches in the city held special religious services. At noon, Congress assembled at Federal Hall on Wall Street and a procession of dignitaries, politicians and militia proceeded to the Presidential mansion on Cherry Street (the present sight of the Brooklyn Bridge tower) to accompany the President back to Federal Hall where Congress was meeting. The building had served as City hall, but was remodeled by the architect, L'Enfant. It stood on Wall Street at the head of Broad.

## THE FIRST INAUGURATION—PATRIOTIC AND MASONIC ~ CONTINUED

With the President-elect that morning as he wended his way to the Hall were John Langdon of New Hampshire, Charles Carroll of Maryland, and William Samuel Johnson of Connecticut. They were escorted by selected military units commanded by General William Malcom\*, with Morgan Lewis\*, (later Grand Master of New York) serving as Marshal and Jacob Morton\* and Leonard Bleecker\* as aides. So great was the press of spectators in Broad Street that Washington and his immediate party were obliged to dismount and walk the last hundred yards. Behind them, the crowds broke through the ranks of the military. The windows were jammed wherever they provided any view of the spectacle, and even the housetops along Broad Street were taken ad-vantage of for a bird's-eye view of the stirring scene taking place below.

At Federal Hall, Washington entered the Senate chamber where he was received by the Vice President, John Adams, and the assembled congressmen and senators. Adams spoke as follows:

"Sir! The Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States are ready to attend you to take the oath required by the Constitution, which will be administered by the Chancellor of the State of New York." The reply was a dignified "I am ready to proceed."

The Oath was administered in the outer gallery, so that it would be done in the most public manner. According to Washington Irving, who at the age of seven was an eyewitness, there was a table in the center upon which lay a superbly bound Bible on a crimson velvet cushion. In other accounts, the Bible was missing, and Jacob Morton, who was then both Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York and Master of St. John's Lodge No. 1 (later Grand Master of New York), went to the Lodge room nearby to borrow the alter Bible. Either way, there is no doubt that the Bible (published in 1767) was the property of St. John's Lodge (constituted in 1757), and it remains a treasured possession to this day. (Elected officers of the Grand Lodge today take their obligation on this Bible, and it has been present at several Presidential inaugurations. It will be on display at the White House from January through March 1989, and it will be part of the Bicentennial celebration of the first inauguration, on April 30, 1989.)

Washington made his appearance clad in a dark brown suit of American manufacture (woven in Samuel Hinsdale's\* mill in Hartford), with a steel-hilted sword. He advanced to the front of the balcony, laid his hand upon his breast, bowed solemnly several times, and then returned to an arm chair near the table. After the cheering subsided, he arose and again stepped forward. Vice President John Adams stood on his right; at his left was Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, Grand Master of Masons in New York, who administered the oath; nearby were Generals Richard Henry Lee\*, Henry Knox\*, Arthur St. Clair\*, Baron Von Steuben\*, House Speaker Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg\*, and New York Governor George Clinton\*, (ironically, leader of the Anti-Federalists at the New York Ratification Convention in Poughkeepsie, two years earlier!).

After the Constitutional oath was given, concluded with the words "So help me God!", Samuel Allyne Otis, Secretary of the Senate, who held the Bible, would have raised it to Washington's lips, but the President bent down reverently and kissed the Holy book (open to Genesis, Chapter 49). Stepping to the railing, Chancellor Livingston announced to the crowd below, "It is done! Long live George Washington, President of the United States!" At that moment, the flag was raised on the cupola of Federal Hall, which signaled the artillery at the Battery to render a salute. The bells of the City rang forth and the populace screamed forth shouts of joy.

After the balcony ceremony, President Washington entered the Senate chamber and delivered his inauguration address to the assembled Congress. Then, in another procession, he left Federal Hall and proceeded with the Vice President to nearby St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church for religious services. (A practice followed to this day by New York Masons, who have reenacted the oath-taking ceremony for many years.) That evening, the city was beautifully illuminated as parties and balls were held in celebration of the momentous event.

The first inauguration . . . one in which the principal, a Freemason, took an oath administered by a Grand Master of Masons, upon the Bible of a Masonic Lodge, and witnessed by other Masonic and public dignitaries. We are all proud of Washington as our first President; we can be equally proud of him as a Freemason!

Reprinted from the Masonic World Website: <https://masonicworld.com/articles/Files/The-First-Inauguration-Patriotic-Masonic.htm>

# JANUARY PRESENTATIONS



WM recognizing the  
Masons present with  
January Masonic  
Birthdays



WM presents our two  
newest Master Masons  
of WSL60.



Bro. Riddick presenting  
the Masonic Minute on  
Brother Burns.



January Men's Lunch at  
Kanak Indian Kitchen



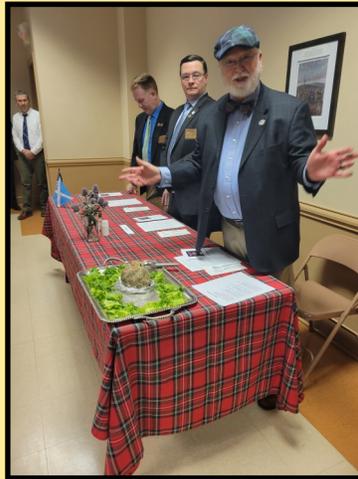
WM recognizing the hand-  
some gentlemen with their  
Kilts and Scottish Aprons.

## Elected Officers for 2026

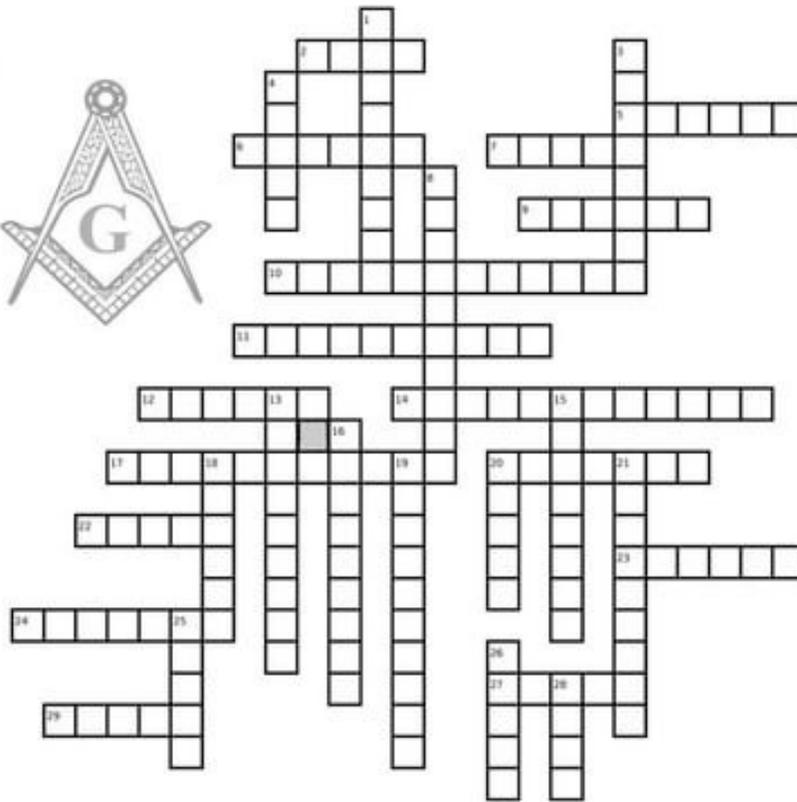
Worshipful Master: Wor. Christopher Nicholas Bragg  
Senior Warden: Bro. Randall Lee Arnold  
Junior Warden: Wor. Harry Lee Walker, Jr.  
Treasurer: R.W. James Friend Dickerson  
Secretary: R.W. Mike Daniel Griffin  
Chaplain: R.W. Jason Andrew Pattison

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.

# Robert Burns Night



# MASONIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**Down:**

1. A poor blind \_\_\_\_\_.
3. said.. "There never was a good war nor a bad peace"
4. Where you were first prepared to be made a Mason.
8. Greek Philosopher and Geometrician.
13. Speculative and \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Emblem of innocence and badge of a Mason.
16. Artificer in brass and iron.
18. Queen who visited Solomon.
19. name in handwriting lest it be changed.
20. Architectural style representing the west.
21. Distinguished French officer in the Revolutionary war and also a Mason.
25. Lodge of Entered Apprentices.
26. A line in which is attached a piece of lead.
28. Solar Metal

**Across:**

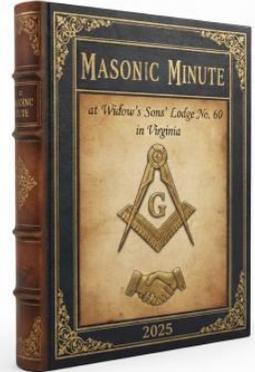
2. Denotes Strength.
5. Symbol of immortality of the soul.
6. Denotes Establishment.
7. Intruder or eavesdropper.
9. Father of Geometry.
10. First Mason to lay down his life for the cause of the American Revolution
11. First Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Strength and Beauty.
14. Where the Master inscribes his designs.
17. Scottish bard.
20. Last Grand Master of the Templars
22. Chips off rough edges.
23. Rough \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Square and \_\_\_\_\_.
27. What you most desired.
29. Great light.

# MASONIC MINUTE

*“Brother Robert Burns”*

Brothers, it’s hard to talk about Robert Burns without talking about Freemasonry. In fact, if you tried, I suspect Burns would come back and correct you.

Burns was initiated in 1781 in Tarbolton, and from then on, he attended every lodge meeting between Tarbolton and Edinburgh. If there was a toast to be given, he gave it. And if there was a song to be sung—well, let’s just say that the Tyler probably had to remind him more than once that the meeting was actually over.



In 1786, Burns was in a tough spot. The farm was failing, his love life was... complicated—and by tricky, I mean worthy of its own miniseries on Netflix, and he accepted a job in Jamaica as a “book-keeper.” That’s 18th-century code for “standing in the sun all day getting eaten by mosquitoes while watching slaves work.” In Southern parlance, Burns was going to be the Overseer on a sugar plantation.

Burns’ love life was an enigma. He was handsome, charming, and charismatic. In fact, Burns may have been the role model for the Saturday Night Live character, “The Ladies Man”, but instead of holding a bottle courvoisier, he was holding a glass of Jamison.

Before leaving for Jamaica, he wrote The Farewell to his brethren at St. James’s Lodge. In it, he gets sentimental—talking about heart-warm adieus, the Sons of Light, and the Great Architect above. It’s a beautiful poem, but you can almost hear him thinking, “You’ll miss me when I’m gone, and by the way, someone keep my seat warm.”

Luckily, Burns never made it to Jamaica. His Masonic brethren rallied behind him, and his book quickly sold out several editions. Suddenly, he was Scotland’s national poet instead of Scotland’s most sunburned expatriate.

So here’s the takeaway: Freemasonry didn’t just shape Burns’ poetry—it quite possibly saved him from an early death, heatstroke, and a lifetime of bad rum. And for that, brothers, I think we all owe the Craft a toast.

*“Here’s to Robert Burns—Freemason, poet, and Bard o’ Scotland—  
May his words ever remind us that though we may be far away,  
We are ever joined by the mystic tie. To Burns!”*

So mote it be.  
Brother Dave Riddick, LEO

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



## WSL60 MASONIC TIES

We now have our very own lodge tie (See attached photo). The cost is \$50. The Secretary will have ties available at the monthly Stated meetings. If you'd like one mailed, please add an additional \$5 for shipping and mail me a check. (Many thanks to the hard work of Bro. Al and the lodge officers.)