

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

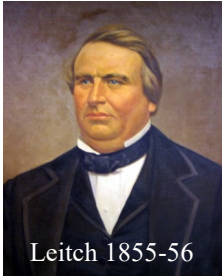
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

HIRAM'S JOURNAL

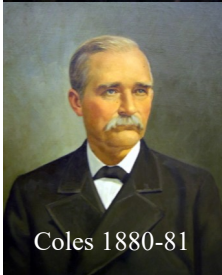
Stated Communication November 19, 2018

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

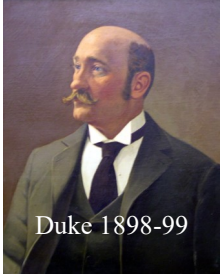
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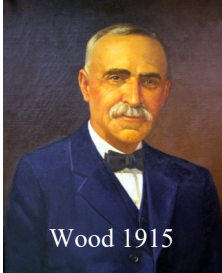
Leitch 1855-56



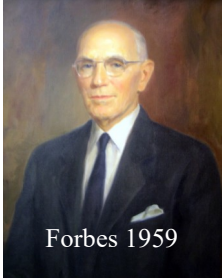
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

Brethren,

I hope everyone enjoyed our outdoor stated meeting last month. We couldn't have asked for a better day to have it. Beautiful weather and a very pleasant temperature. A big thank you to our Senior Warden Jason Parham for doing all the grilling for us. I know both of my burgers were cooked perfectly. While enjoying our outdoor venue, we were entertained by Right Worshipful Jim Dickerson's interactive founders day program. Jim, as always, did an excellent job both presenting us with information and keeping everyone involved in the discussion. Overall, I thought it was a very nice evening and I hope we can continue providing an outdoor lodge into the future.

I would also like to thank everyone who has been involved with the several degrees we have put on lately. I have asked everyone to be at practice after practice. I know its been hard but I really appreciate all of the hard work. I would like to take the opportunity to give a big thank you to Right Worshipful Mike Griffin. He has been at every practice I've put on this year to make sure we have the ritual down. Mike, I hope you know how much we all appreciate your assistance.

November 19th we will have a big thanksgiving style dinner. And the program will be provided by brother Jeff Robbins. He will be talking about his experiences overseas and sharing pictures he took.

December 17th we will enjoy Jim Dickerson's famous oyster stew for dinner, and the election of officers.

Sincerely
Worshipful Christopher N. Bragg

Everything we do matters!

Veterans Day Ceremony

James Monroe
Ashland Highland
November 12th, 1-2 PM
The speaker will be
Colonel and Brother
James O'Kelley



The WM welcomed the October speaker, RW James F. Dickerson, whose message was on Founder's Day and the lodges of the 10th Masonic District. At the conclusion of the grand annual communication, Widow's Sons' Lodge will be joining the 10th Masonic District



November Masonic Birthdays!
Wish a Brother Happy Masonic Birthday.

Thomas V. Anderson	11/04/1974
C. Victor Armstrong	11/10/1971
Henry Booth	11/23/1959
Mark H. Bryant	11/19/1996
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
John M. Lane	11/29/1976
Harry A. McCauley	11/27/1967
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

UPCOMING EVENTS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Loves and Fishes, Tuesday November 6th 6:00—8:00 PM
 Stated Meeting, Monday November 19, 2018,

10th District 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, 2nd Thursday at 7:30 PM

Appendant Bodies

OES Queen Esther Chapter No. 14, 2nd Saturday at 10:00 AM
 Keystone Royal Arch Chapter No. 58, 4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM
 Charlottesville Commandery No. 3, 4th Tuesday at 6:00 PM

Grand Lodge

Grand Annual Communication, November 9th, 10th.
 Committee on Work Sessions, November 7th at 7:30 PM, and November 8th at 9:00 AM



The WM recognizes those with Masonic birthdays in October. Pictured L-R: Mike Griffin, 22 years; Richard Hull, 1 year; Earl Jorgensen, 5 years; Nick Bragg, 5 years; Russ Snodgrass, 42 years; Harry Walker, 16 years; and Mark Chapman, 11 years.



Wor. Mark Chapman would like to thank all the Brethren and Companions that supported the Mason Team in the Charlottesville WALK to End Alzheimer's. He stated that about \$1,500.00 was raised and the Charlottesville WALK will meet their goal of over \$250,000.

Cowans and Eavesdroppers are two common names used in Freemasonry.

We cannot have a Masonic meeting without the words Cowans and Eavesdroppers being used. As Freemasons we are reminded on a regular basis to be on guard for both. But what are they really? The etymology of both words are lost to time, so let's look at them one at a time.

First let's talk about Eavesdroppers. The origin of the word is believed to refer to the water that drips from a roof, or eaves drippings. If you have ever seen a house or building that that doesn't have gutters on it, there is a line around the structure where the water running off the roof has eroded the ground. The idea of an eavesdropper came from someone who would stand so close to the structure that they would be on or inside that line and able to hear what was going on inside the house or structure. Another definition of eavesdropper, possibly due to Henry VIII, were people who would hide up in the beams of the house by the eaves.

Henry VIII had wooden figures carved and placed in the beams of his palace. The idea was to make all in his court feel like that they were being listened to and the information was being reported back to the King. This may have something to do with the fact that in old lodges, the Deacons were charged with checking the rafters of the meeting room with their staff. Making sure that no one was listening to the meeting and unlawfully obtaining the secrets of masonry.

Ironically a Cowan could very well be a successful Eavesdropper. The origin of the word Cowan is believed to be old Scottish. A Cowan was a person, often someone who worked as an operative mason, who was not part of a lodge and not formally trained. Extending from the fact that operative lodges were trade guilds (unions), a Cowan in modern terms would be a "scab", someone who either refused to join a union or in some way went against a union. A Cowan would be any individual who would present themselves as a Freemason, having never joined the Fraternity. In a real sense a Cowan is a clandestine Mason. A Cowan may have all of the right answers to be able to get in to the door of a lodge room, although never became a Freemason.

Albert Mackey stated in *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* that Cowan was a word that was uniquely Masonic in its origin.

Regardless of the origins of the words, Cowans and Eavesdroppers for Freemasons might as well be one word. It reminds us of our obligations to the fraternity and to remind us that we should be careful of who we let into our lodge room, and by extension those that we let into our life.

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

1799—2018
The 219th Year of Service to the
Charlottesville Community and beyond.
"Freemasonry, a way of life"



Happy
Thanksgiving

Hiram's Journal



University of Virginia undergraduate class studying Freemasonry. Pictured L-R: Mike Griffin; Earl Jorgensen; Mark Phillips; Professor Abdelkarim, Bob Simpson, who delivered the lecture on Freemasonry to a class of about 20 students; Ross Morland; David Simpson; and Mike Loker. Also present but not pictured was Brother Brian Truong, an EA of Widow's Sons' No. 60. Brother Phillips is a graduate student at UVA, and Brother Truong is an undergraduate student.