

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

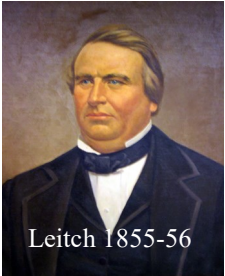
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60  
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.  
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

# HIRAM'S JOURNAL

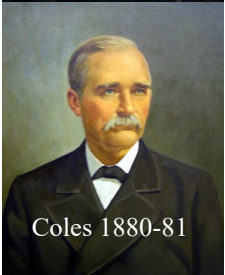
Stated Communications July 15th, 2019

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

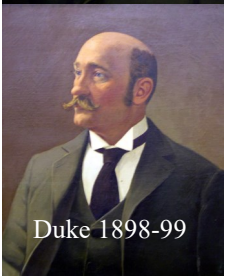
[Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Facebook Page](#)



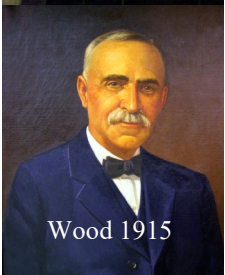
Leitch 1855-56



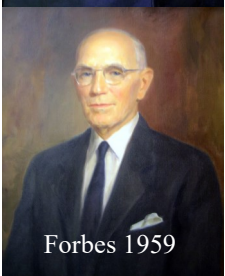
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009



## MESSAGE FROM THE EAST:

Greetings Brethren,

What a busy month we had in June. Not only did we initiate a candidate into the Fraternity, but we also had a great Table Lodge full of good fellowship and merriment. We had some great speakers, including the Grand Senior Warden, and we had some great food. It was a great time of Brotherhood to be had as we had not only our own lodge members, but members from around the area, even an Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft. I would like to thank all the brothers who helped to get this event setup and going without many problems. It takes work, dedication and practice to help make a Table Lodge work well.

We are now halfway through the year and going strong. As we reach this milestone, I look back and see all the great things that has happened within our Lodge and community so far and look towards the future to see what awaits us. As it gets to be high time in summer, I would like to remind the brethren that we will be dressing more casually for the July and August meetings.

I am excited for the upcoming stated meeting, as we will have a great presentation lined up. We are still holding ritual classes for the Lodge for any brother who would like to learn more ritual and take some active parts in degree work. See more in notes within the journal.

Hope to see you all at our next stated meeting for fellowship and brotherhood.

Respectfully,

Worshipful Jason Parham



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

Name:	Master Mason Degree:
L. Mark Ascoli	7/27/1988
Peter J. Baber	7/10/2002
Pascal Bussiere	7/25/1998
Mark A. Chandeysson	7/17/2008
Larry W. Claytor	7/15/1986
Robert A. Clore	7/24/1971
Andrew F. Conely	7/29/2006
Vestal Greer	7/29/2006
Jeffrey A. Kennedy	7/01/2009
David C. Merchant	7/28/2004
Richard K. Powley	7/24/1967 (52 Yrs)
James L. Reinhold	7/28/1999
R. Lee Richards	7/19/1991
William Roberson, Jr.	7/24/1961 (58 Yrs)
Barty L. Sorrells	7/22/2006
James D. Stoneburner	7/13/2005
Peter R. Thorsen	7/21/1978
Paul Vereshchetin	7/29/2013
Ronald L. Webster	7/23/1984

**LODGE RITUAL CLASS**

Brothers, the Lodge will be hosting Ritual Classes to learn ritual, floor work, catechisms, etc.

This months' classes will be on July 10th and 24th (Wednesdays) at 6:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Wor. Nick Bragg.  
 Email: [nick22882@gmail.com](mailto:nick22882@gmail.com)

**LODGE DRESS CODE**

**FOR SUMMER!!!**

Announcement from

Worshipful Master Jason Parham:



Dress code for July and August Stated Communications will be casual.

If you have a Lodge Polo Shirt, please try to wear it.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Widow's Sons' Lodge Events:**

- WSL Stated Communication: July 15th, 7:00 pm**
- WSL Ritual Class: July 10th and 24th, 6:00 pm (see notes below)**
- WSL Officer Meeting: July 1st—6:00 pm**

**10th District Masonic 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, 1st Wednesday at 7:30 PM**

**GRAND LODGE EVENTS:**

**Reid J. Simmons Academy of Masonic Ritual—August 16th—17th in Roanoke, VA. See note below**

**APPENDANT BODY MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

**Eastern Star—Queen Esther Chapter No. 14:**  
 July 13th at 10:00am

**Knights Templar Commandery No. 3:**  
 July 23rd at 6:00 pm  
 July 21st and 28th at 3:30 pm—Practice for GCOV Visit  
**Keystone Royal Arch Chapter 58:**  
 July 23rd at 7:30pm

**Shriners Piedmont Club:**  
 July 28th (Sunday) from 12:30 PM to 9 PM, Grace Estate Winery, 5273 Juliet Farm, Crozet, VA (RSVP to Bill Bond)

**Order of Amaranth—Blue Ridge Court No. 8:**  
 Dark in July



**Reid J. Simmons Academy of Masonic Ritual**

Brothers, the Simmons Academy of Masonic Ritual is happening this year on August 16th and 17th at the Scottish Rite Temple in Roanoke, VA. Widow's Sons' has paid for the enrollment cost, so any Brother is able to go for free. Just need to pay for room and board.

<https://rjsacademy.org/>

# Freemasonry and the American Revolution

*Brother Robert A. Pruett from North Carolina prepared this talk for his Sons of the American Revolution chapter.*

Over the last two centuries, various Masonic writers have often attempted to inflate the involvement of members of the Masonic Fraternity in the events leading up to and resulting from the signing of the Declaration of Independence. These claims have been made to bolster the theory that the events of the American Revolution and the formation of the American colonies into an independent republic were carried out according to some Masonic plan and by universal Masonic principles.

It is always best that such claims be tempered by the light of responsible and accurate historical research, not to discount the patriotic nature of our early American Masonic forbearers, but rather to understand the role that Freemasons did play in the formation of this great nation. Probably the best accounting of Masonic membership among the signers of the Declaration of Independence is provided in the book *Masonic Membership of the Founding Fathers*, by Ronald E. Heaton, published by the Masonic Service Association.

According to this well-researched and documented work, positive proof of Masonic membership can be found for only eight of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence. They are: Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Joseph Hewes, William Hooper, Robert Treat Payne, Richard Stockton, George Walton and William Whipple. Additionally, another five or six signers have from time to time been identified as members of the Fraternity based on inconclusive or unsubstantiated evidence.

As for the Masonic membership among Washington's generals, it is true that many were members of the Fraternity, but many were not. The recognized modern authority on the subject is former Grand Historian James R. Case of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, who published his findings in the 1955 booklet *Fifty American Military Freemasons*.

When examining the participation of Freemasons in the American Revolution, we should first remember the Ancient Charges of a Freemason and especially that charge concerning "the Civil Magistrates, Supreme, and Subordinate." This charge enjoins the Mason to be "a peaceable subject to the Civil Powers" and "never to be (concern'd) or involved in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation." This charge was listed as the second of those contained in the Constitutions adopted by the Premier Grand Lodge of England in 1723, long before the American Revolution. How then can we justify the participation of American Freemasons in their rebellion against the King?

The answer can be given in two parts. First, the Masonic Fraternity in the American colonies took no part in the Revolution, following Masonic tradition by taking no official stance. However, the fraternity's official neutrality may have owed as much to the divided loyalties of its leadership as it did to Masonic tradition. Many Masons were Loyalists. And Second, rebellion against the state, whether justified or unjustified, is not a Masonic offense. The Old Charges state clearly "if a Brother should be a Rebel against the State ... if convicted or no other crime ... they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his Relation to it remains indefeasible." Simply put, in the case of the American Revolution, many brethren, feeling that the actions of the Crown warranted revolution and independence, were justified in following their consciences without fear of violating their Masonic obligations or any Masonic law.

As the charge concerning the Civil Magistrates reminds us, "Masonry hath been always injured by War, Bloodshed, and Confusion." The Fraternity was indeed injured by the war. General Joseph Warren, Grand Master of the Ancient's Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, lost his life at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775 and his body was thrown into an unmarked grave. While he had led the American troops during the battle, his lodge brother Dr. John Jeffries, assisted the British troops. Nearly a year later, his body was exhumed and identified by another lodge brother, Paul Revere.

## Freemasonry and the American Revolution—Continued

Even before the Declaration of Independence, colonial Masonry suffered from the disruptions of the war and the divisions of loyalties among its members. Many lodges found it difficult to meet regularly, and others ceased to meet at all. Many lodges were disbanded as occupying British forces prohibited private assemblies, and loyal Masons fled the colonies or joined the British forces.

Although the Masonic Fraternity played no part in the Revolutionary War, it can easily be shown that in many ways the revolutionary ideals of equality, freedom, and democracy was espoused by the Masonic Fraternity long before the American colonies began to complain about the injustices of British taxation. The revolutionary ideals expressed in the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the writings of Thomas Paine, were ideals that had come to fruition over a century before in the early Speculative lodges of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, where men sat as equals, governed themselves, and elected their own leaders from their midst. In many ways, the self-governing Masonic lodges of the previous centuries had been learning laboratories for the concept of self-government.

Down through the years we have been free to dream, to explore, to invent. We have been free to work, to achieve, to accumulate. We have been free to venture – and if we failed – to venture again and again. We have been free to spend our money or to save it. We have been free to climb from lowly beginnings to positions of power, honor, and trust. We have been free to rise from rags to riches. But as we enjoy these blessings, we should always remember that freedom can be lost and that it will be lost if we take it for granted. Freedom is a sacred trust – one which we must protect and pass on inviolate, unblemished. It is our children’s birthright – ours to hand to them and their children.

On September 18, 1793, President George Washington, dressed in his Masonic apron, leveled the cornerstone of the United States Capital with the traditional Masonic Ceremony.

At that moment, the occasion of laying of the new Republic’s foundation, Freemasons assumed the mantles “high priests” of that “first temple dedicated to the sovereignty of the people” and they “helped form the symbolic foundations of what the Great Seal called “the new order for the ages.”

In closing, please consider that “A Mason is not necessarily a member of a lodge. In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live the Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect.”

And a quote from a Masonic Brother: “Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be to promote private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother.”

[Signed] George Washington



Obtained from The Masonic Service Association of North America’s “The Short Talk Bulletin”, Volume 97, Number 3, March 2019.

# JUNE STATED PRESENTATIONS



Worshipful Parham recognized the Masonic Birthday of our Senior Deacon RW Gerald W. "Bud" Hogan (49 years)



The June program was presented by RW Bill Baskerville, representing the National Sojourners and appearing in a splendid and dashing colonial uniform. His program talked about the history of the U.S. Flag "Old Glory".



## WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE #60 TABLE LODGE 2019

Brothers, we had an excellent turn out for the Table Lodge this year and enjoyed some great food with fellowship and fun, with our guest speaker being the Grand Senior Warden RW James Winfield Golladay, Jr. and our District Deputy Grand Master of the 10th Masonic District Arleigh Hamilton Rice, Jr. We received many brothers from the lodge and from the surrounding lodges as well, including an Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft.



### Elected Officers for 2019

Worshipful Master: Wor. Jason Michael Parham  
Senior Warden: Bro. Harry Lee Walker, Jr.  
Junior Warden: Bro. Eddie O'Hare Creasy  
Treasurer: RW Mike Daniel Griffin  
Secretary: Wor. Mark Stephen Chapman

Senior Deacon: RW. Gerald William "Bud" Hogan  
Junior Deacon: Bro. Adam Lee Buffington  
Chaplain: RW Philip Harding Nelson, Jr.  
Marshall: Bro. Anthony Curtis Schienschang  
Tyler: Bro. Bobby Cameron, Jr.

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

1799—2019  
The 220th Year of Service to the  
Charlottesville Community and beyond.  
"Freemasonry, a way of life"

Return Service Requested



## DATED MATERIAL PLEASE PROCESS

Hiram's Journal



Bring some cans of food for our Lodge Food Pantry barrel in the Lodge Entrance way the next time you visit the Masonic Temple.

**DONATE  
FOOD  
HERE**

See the following website for more information:  
<http://www.cvilleloaves.org/>



Or contact the Lodge Secretary at  
[WidowsSons60@gmail.com](mailto:WidowsSons60@gmail.com)