

*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

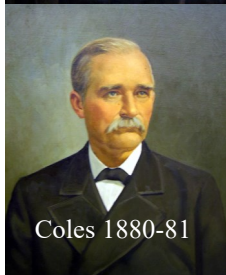
Stated Communications Dec 19th, 2022

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

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



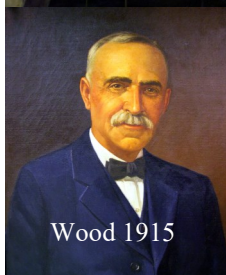
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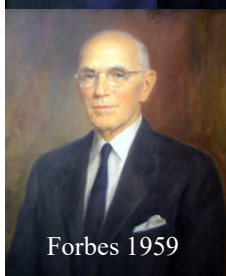
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

It has been an honor for me to be your Worshipful Master during the year 2022. I want to thank RW Bill Hughes for his presentation on American veterans over the years. The program for December will be an election of officers for the year 2023.

As we rapidly approach the season of Christmas and Hanukkah we all are thinking about the giving of gifts. This lodge has been giving me gifts of love and appreciation all year. There were times I had a serious illness and I was blessed by help getting in and out of vehicles. My officers have acted with exceptional means. They pitched in when I was not able to function. One of these officers who has acted in the true spirit of Freemasonry is our Senior Warden Jason Pattison. He has truly acted in every aspect of Freemasonry. He has performed many masonic duties without being asked to do so.

As Christians we celebrate Christmas and we must not forget the Jewish people that celebrate Hanukkah. I hope you can realize the love that I have had for each of you during this past year. May the Great Architect of the Universe be with each of you in the coming years.



Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Eddie O. Creasy

2022 Worshipful Master



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

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Master Mason Degree:</u>
Stephen R. Baird	12/06/1993
William L. Bickley	12/06/1955 (67 Yrs)
Stephen R. Christianson	12/08/2010
T. C. Dickerson, III	12/06/1966 (56 Yrs)
Michael A. Hayden	12/05/1972 (50 Yrs)
Jason P. Lynch	12/07/2006
Robert A. Murray	12/10/1999
William R. Nay	12/17/1992
James W. North, Sr.	12/05/1963 (59 Yrs)
Jason M. Parham	12/11/2014
Steven E. Price	12/07/2006
Daniel E. Price	12/12/2012
Jonathan M. Shelton	12/07/2006
Charles A. Via	12/06/1966 (56 Yrs)
Brian S. Weidman	12/04/2007

UPCOMING EVENTS



Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Events:

Dec 5th, 6:00 PM—WSL60 Officers Meeting at WSL

Dec 19th, 7:00 PM— WSL60 Stated Meeting
 6 pm Meal in 2nd Floor Dining Room
ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION NIGHT

Dec 27th, 7:00 PM—Keystone RA Chapter #58 Meet-
 ing, See Chapter Newsletter and Email

Jan 13th, 6:00 PM— 10th District Grand Master Offi-
 cial Visit, see more below

10th Masonic District Lodge Stated Meetings:

Day Lodge No. 58 Stated—1st Thursday 7:00 PM

Murray Lodge No. 175 Stated—2nd Tuesday 7:30 PM

Waddell Lodge No. 228 Stated—2nd Monday 7:30 PM

Mineral Lodge No. 311 Stated—3rd Thursday 7:30 PM

Cabell Lodge No. 328 Stated—1st Wednesday 7:30 PM

10th District Official Visit of the Grand Master



Friday, January 13th, 2023, 6:00 PM

Location: Louisa United Methodist Church

100 E Main St, Louisa, VA

Cost is \$20 Please contact Lodge Secretary for tickets

RSVP by January 6th. Email: agw123@earthlink.net; Phone: 434.227.6702

IS FATHER CHRISTMAS A MASON?

BY: BRO. DAVID DOWNIE, ST. TRINIANS LODGE NO. 2050

I have a very serious question to put to you all. I would like to raise it with you, and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to answering it. It could be one of the most important questions, that I am sure you have often asked yourself. It relates our Craft to the society in which we live and concerns several major issues of this season. This very serious question is: "Is Father Christmas a Freemason?"

Let us consider the facts of this case: Of whom does this remind you?

A worthy gentleman, who is getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight, who wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities, who provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship, who is surrounded by secrecy and mystery, dispenses goodwill and the charity of gifts all over the world (avoiding ostentatious public display while doing so), and is there doing it year after year!

Well, fellow detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is all merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof! Let us start with his movements on the eve of December 25th. All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the East to open and enliven the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore, Father Christmas must begin his journey at the north-east corner of the world.

Similarly, you would assume he would finish heading for home, which would place him in the north-west corner at the end of his work, to give his salute to the world and leave. Convincing proof, you must agree! But think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most brethren provide the gift of their charity to the Lodge! And the secrecy, the mystery? Those of you who are parents, remember. What was the worst crime that an older child could commit at this time of the year? To tell the younger ones the secret of Santa, to break the faith that they should have kept. I am sure your punishment of them pointed out that they were void of all moral worth and totally unfit to be received into the dinner table but be sent to their room for destroying something that was so good, so worthwhile and so innocent.

All evidence thus far shows us beyond doubt that perhaps Father Christmas is a Freemason! He practices Brotherly Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him and enjoy the Christmas holiday season, and sorry to part. All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male.

On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other. For instance, where did the figure we call Father Christmas come from originally? What is his background? Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the great Christian story of God's wonderful gift to the world.

By the eighteenth and nineteenth century these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritualistic activities and sayings. This all sounds very Masonic. The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries



IS FATHER CHRISTMAS A FREEMASON ~ CONTINUED

St. Nicholas was actually a 4th century Turkish bishop who had originally been a rich nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his 3 daughters. St. Nicholas climbed onto the roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after. He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since.

The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands, where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St. Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6th (St. Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to enquire about their behavior the previous year. Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave out a pair of shoes or clogs, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning there would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore which begins "Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house..." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today. Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sleigh, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem; but, Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia. They have stuck and become a single story. You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies.

While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come from many different sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter. It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves, all the happiness it creates, just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry.

Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness, and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into more loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other. We look to a New Year where things can be better.



We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity; or the Jewish Hannukah with its lights and gifts and story of peace; or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys. And why are we freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future, and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other. We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic Masons, to help build that future.

So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is in fact a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men!

Reprinted from the Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 Trestleboard December A.L. 6015
<http://www.hillsborough25.org/>

Most Worshipful Donald Ellis Strehle

Grand Master of Masons of Virginia 2023



"Uniting All Mankind"

Most Worshipful Brother Strehle's theme "Membership Today, Charity Always, and Youth for Tomorrow" will serve as guidance for his year leading our Grand Lodge. Our Grand Master has a goal of ending our decline in membership by raising Master Masons including but not limited to a One Day Conferral on April 8th held in the Districts. In keeping with Charity, 2023 will be known as a year of Community Service. Additionally, Lodges will be including Masonic Youth Organizations in their annual program. A Virginia Masonic Flag program has been established with information and order forms on Grand View. The Virginia Masonic Youth Foundation and The Masonic Home of Virginia are our Master's Charities.

NOVEMBER PRESENTATIONS



RW Bill Hughes, presented a program on Military veterans and Veterans Day; he recognized lodge members with military background. He spoke on how the military has changed over the last 60 years. In closing he read a poem written by his father.

The WM thanked Bro. Hughes for his presentation by giving him a Masonic coffee cup.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY YOUR
DUES**

2023 Lodge Dues

Brethren, it is that time of year again for us. The Lodge Secretary has mailed out the 2023 dues notices to all the members. Below is a link that allows members to pay online through the Grand View Website. If you do not have a profile created, contact the Lodge Secretary for more information.

https://va.grandview.systems/users/sign_in

Elected Officers for 2022

Worshipful Master: Wor. Eddie O'Hare Creasy
Senior Warden: R.W. Jason Andrew Pattison
Junior Warden: R.W. Mike Daniel Griffin
Treasurer: R.W. James Friend Dickerson
Secretary: Wor. Mark Stephen Chapman
Chaplain: R.W. Philip Harding Nelson, Jr.

Senior Deacon: R.W. Gregory Dean Hosaflook
Junior Deacon: Bro. Christian Dwight Manly Owens
Senior Steward: Bro. Thomas Matthew Castellanos
Junior Steward: Vacant
Marshall: Bro. James Thomas O'Kelley, Jr.
Tyler: Bro John Coulter Maddox

GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL

2023 CORNERSTONE RE-DEDICATION EVENT



The original celebration of the cornerstone was a national Masonic event. Over 10,000 Freemasons attended the Memorial's cornerstone laying in 1923. In 2023, Masons will gather again at the Memorial to witness the re-dedication of this cornerstone.



Monday, Feb 20th, 2023

Parade (1:00 PM)

**Cornerstone Rededication
Event (3:00 PM)**

Wednesday, Feb 22nd, 2023

**Annual Washington's Birthday
Gala (5—10 PM)**

For Members who are interested in attending the re-dedication event, please contact R.W. Jason Pattison as soon as possible. The Lodge is chartering a bus to drive up for the event.

Email: jaspatt82@yahoo.com

Phone: 434.989.4109

EVENT WEBPAGE LINK:

<https://gwmemorial.org/pages/cornerstone>

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

1799—2022
The 223rd Year of Service to the
Charlottesville Community and beyond.
"Freemasonry, a way of life"

Return Service Requested



**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE PROCESS**

Hiram's Journal

Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Lodge History



For those interested in securing a copy of the latest issue of the Lodge History, please notify Brother Bob Simpson at (434) 996-0390, or pddgm81@gmail.com

The book is 235 pages printed on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper and punched for a three ring binder. The purchaser will need to purchase his own binder. The cost for printing should be less than \$30.00. When I receive a final count, I will be able to determine the total cost from the printer. When I determine the cost of the printing, I will notify all those interested. The cut off date for reserving a copy is December 31st. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.