



The Ashlar



October 2019

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
www.kempsvillelodge.org

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Observations of Masonry in Spain

Worshipful Roger asked my wife Daphne and me to put an Ashlar article together about all things Masonic that we saw, that we didn't see, and that were provided to us by local experts while we were in Ireland and Spain enjoying our honeymoon earlier this summer.

Our first stop, albeit an unplanned stop due to a late departure from Philadelphia was in Dublin, Ireland. We were only there for one day and we were able to visit Saint Audoen's Church, which is part of the Church of England. The church was built between 1181 and 1212 by stonemasons during the Gothic Age. We noticed some Freemason symbols in the church so we inquired of the curator regarding their origin. This person told us that stonemason guilds were active in Ireland long before the building of the church and that local Freemason Lodges have been documented in Ireland long before 1717. He said probably as early as the 1200s. I don't know this to be fact and I have not researched it, but it is what the man told us.



After leaving Ireland we went on to Spain, which was in line with our plans. Many thanks to Aer Lingus for putting us up and for all the free food we ate while we were in Ireland. In Spain we visited many towns and sites: Madrid, Avila, Segovia, Toledo, Granada, Barcelona, and Montserrat. We didn't really see much about Freemasonry (we actually didn't really look to be honest) until we reached Barcelona and took the guided tour titled Masonic Barcelona. Spain being a predominantly Catholic country, we did see many Knights Templar churches which had symbols that a person may regard as Masonic. I'll let you research the Templar - Freemason connection for yourselves, a good start if you are interested would be the book titled *The Temple and the Lodge*.

The Masonic Barcelona Tour lasted about 4 hours and was largely in the Gothic Quarter of the city. Our tour guide was a historian and a Catholic from Germany who has lived in Barcelona for about 40 years, he is not a Freemason and has no intention of becoming one. He took us to at least a dozen sites and showed us many valid Freemason symbols that were placed on various buildings by Freemasons; I will add that in my opinion not everything he showed us was a valid Freemason symbol. He said that Freemasonry in Spain could be documented to the early 1700s but it became most prominent in Barcelona in 1808 when the French were in power, but it disappeared with the overthrow of the French around 1813. He did add that Freemasonry never truly left Spain, he said that it just went underground as a true secret society until the 6 years of liberalism (1868 - 1874). He said that Freemasonry continued to be a part of Spanish society from that time until 1936 when Francisco Franco came to power. He said that Franco aspired to become a Freemason but was never admitted into the Lodge because of his heavy-handed rule of the Spanish people. Because of not being admitted, Franco persecuted the Masonic Lodge in a similar manner that Hitler persecuted German Freemason Lodges during the same time. He said that between 1936 and 1979 Freemasonry again went underground and again was a true secret society until after the death of Franco and Freemasonry later being officially legalized.

Today Freemasonry is alive and well in Spain. Our guide did inform us that Freemasonry in Spain is very liberal and is not aligned with traditional Freemasonry in other parts of the world (e.g. women and atheists are allowed membership in the Lodge). Daphne and I greatly enjoyed the tour, and our time in Ireland and Spain. I'm not so sure that I would recommend taking the Masonic Barcelona Tour, but I would definitely recommend taking your wife on vacation to Spain. The two of us are around the Lodge quite a bit, and would welcome a conversation with anyone who would like to visit the country.

Special thanks to Worshipful Greg Muir for his thoughtful contribution to this month's Ashlar.

From The East



As we enter that last quarter of the Masonic year there are still a lot of items on the agenda. We continue to work on the advancement of multiple candidates and have several potential candidates looking for a Mother Lodge. The need for coaches and degree team participants is still very pressing. It still looks like we will be working as often as possible right up until to the Annual Stated. It is very possible that every Tuesday right up to December 10th will be a work night.



On September 19th we visited Reedville Lodge No. 321 in Reedville, VA to support our Brother Hank Foiles as he presented an interesting and engaging program on his years as a professional baseball player. Reedville Lodge welcomed our brothers, extended warm and cheerful hospitality and were very appreciative and entertained by the program. I am glad Kempsville and Bro. Hank are able to shine more light in masonry.

The October Stated Communication will have a very limited program schedule so that I can present some very specific details on the Elevator Project. We are at a crossroads and need to make a decision on the direction to take with the project. Like every project there are plans and pitfalls that must be considered in order to make it a success.

Several weeks ago I asked the brethren to assist in deferring the cost of the lodge room light replacement project by purchasing a fixture. The brethren responded and we will be replacing those lights in the near future without any output from the building or general fund. Kempsville Chapter OES also contributed to the project. I am genuinely thankful for the response from all who gave.

Kempsville is exceptional because of your participation and support. Thank you!

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

From The West



September was a very busy and exciting month at Kempsville. The September Stated was Senior Warden's night, and all of our Officers moved up a chair and did an outstanding job during the meeting. Our guest speaker was Worshipful Joe Pescador, Worshipful Master of Botetourt Lodge No. 7 in Gloucester. Worshipful Joe, a professional magician, gave a talk on Masonic magicians such as Harry Houdini. He also performed a very entertaining and comedic magic show for the Brothers – Kempsville's first ever! We received many compliments on the evening from members and visitors alike. As always, all enjoyed the dinner (fish and chips) served by our talented kitchen crew.



Several days following the Stated, we held our annual Lodge picnic. All of our members and families had a great time. A particular favorite was Worshipful Roger Taylor's delicious and tender brisket.

The kids had a lot of fun in the bounce house we rented for the event, and they greatly enjoyed the many dinosaur-themed actives and treats we had for them, including a T-Rex piñata.

The Lodge T-Rex also made his annual inflated appearance and tried to take a bite out of Worshipful Jerry Hallal's head, mistaking it for a honeydew melon.



Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

This year, we are getting the word out early and hoping our brethren will take advantage of this offer. October 1st through December 1st we will be taking pre-orders for take-home collards. Orders will stay at the same price as last year, \$5 a pound. Pre-order forms are located in the kitchen or can be picked up from the Stewards. Take a form, fill it out and return it along with payment of \$5.00 per pound. Forms and payment may be returned to our Stewards, Worshipful Roger or Brother Dave T-Rex.

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in October:

Debbie Collins	October 2 nd
Dorothy Foxwell	October 4 th
Joyce Dunn	October 10 th
Millie Maddox	October 11 th
Sandy Howard	October 17 th
Fran Caldwell-Krause	October 29 th

If any of our ladies are in need of assistance from the Lodge, please don't hesitate to contact Right Worshipful Bill Knowles or the Secretary.

Kempsville Youth

Job's Daughters Fundraiser - Our Bethel 42 Jobs Daughters are currently conducting a fundraiser in partnership with Yankee Candle. Please help support their efforts by going to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter Group Number 999992994 in the "Start Shopping Box". You can then purchase any of the Yankee Candle products and the Jobies get 40% of the profits. It's never too early to start buying gifts for Christmas, birthdays, or anniversaries!

2nd Annual Fall Lodge Sale!

Saturday, October 12th, 8AM – 3PM

Please donate your gently used items at the Lodge during the following times:

Saturday, Oct 5 th	8-10AM
Sunday, Oct 6 th	2-4PM
Monday, Oct 7 th	5-8PM
Tuesday, Oct 8 th	5-8PM
Wednesday, Oct 9 th	5-8PM
Friday, Oct 11 th	3-7PM

Limited pickup for our older members is available – Contact Brother Dave "T-Rex" Trzeciakiewicz at 620-8311 to schedule pickup.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ben Jamal	553-2635
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	Eddie Foley	581-8144



Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM
4869 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

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