



The Ashlar



September, 2003

Kempsville Lodge # 196 A.F. & A.M.

Volume 3



From the East:

**FREEMASONRY IS ALIVE AND WELL
AT KEMPSVILLE**

JOIN IN THE EXCITEMENT

Yes my brethren, these are indeed exciting times for all who call Kempsville Lodge their home. I am pleased to report that we have been very busy "working in the quarries". We have labored hard, sometimes working two candidates in one evening. The Supreme Architect of the Universe has been pleased to bless this lodge with an abundance of candidates this year. At the last Stated Communication we had five petitions for degrees, two brethren who made application for affiliation, and one application for reinstatement. Way to go guys! I'm proud of you and our lodge. Keep up the good work. Make our Grand Master's theme come alive; i.e. "Freemasonry - Pass it on". With this issue of the Ashlar we welcome many new Masons. Sincere thanks to the dedicated officers, past masters and members who have taken part in the degree work. Also, thanks to those of you who have labored in silence in support of our lodge. So many of you have served the lodge, without asking for recognition, contented to know that you have contributed toward Kempsville being one of the finest lodges in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the words of our venerable Secretary, you guys are an "air tight bunch of country boys".

FAMILY PICNIC

Yes, that's right, I said Family Picnic, as opposed to lodge picnic. There is a very good reason. The Eastern Star, Jobies and Demolay are invited to attend the picnic this year. They are, after all, part of our Masonic family. Please extend a hearty welcome to all and help to make this a time to remember for all who attend. Although it is important for us to support the appendant bodies, and in particular our youth, a gift or money may be soon forgotten. A happy memory, on the other hand, will last a lifetime. Come out in support of your lodge and give someone a gift that will last for the rest of their life.

Parents and Grandparents, bring your children and grandchildren. We plan on having special entertainment for

the children. I guess I should say children of all ages. We may be blessed with music by the Hillbillies. You will never know unless you come out and find out for yourself. Plan on attending and having a hand clapping, toe tapping, knee slapping Gooooood time. Y'all come!

FELLOWSHIP

Every Saturday morning we have coffee, donuts, fellowship, and an opportunity for candidates to converse with well informed brethren, who will always be ready to give instruction. Many lifelong friendships have been formed through this weekend fellowship. Some brethren just like to meet with their fellow Masons and chat about current events; such as sporting events, or who can grow the biggest tomatoes. Rest assured that the conversation, sooner or later, turns to Freemasonry. Come on out and join the fun. If you would like to coach, this is an ideal opportunity for you to help with the Masonic education of our new Masons.

Area Masonic School

The James Henry Parkerson, Jr. area Masonic School was held at Bayside Lodge August 18 - 21, 2003. Thanks to those of you who faithfully attended the school. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend, you would have been so proud of the members of our lodge who participated in putting on the degrees. Brother Prentice Tuck, Brother Buddy Pate and Brother Shawn Garfield did a great job. You guys made those of us in attendance proud to be a member of Kempsville lodge. Congratulations on a job well done.

GRAND MASTER'S VISIT

Most Worshipful Frederick G. Martin, III will visit Kempsville Lodge #196, A.F. & A.M. on October 14, 2003. We will be celebrating Founder's day, and the Grand Master will be our speaker. Also, this will be Junior Warden night. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and Lodge will open at 7:00 p.m. Come and help us make the Grand Master's visit a great success, and help in celebrating the 225th year of Masonry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

KEMPSVILLE TRIVIA

Did you know that Lord Dunmore's headquarters was on Princess Anne Road, in beautiful downtown Kempsville, during the Revolutionary war? That's right, it was 1775, and the Revolution had begun. The Americans had chased Dunmore from the seat of colonial government in Williamsburg. Dunmore made his headquarters for the coming battle of Great Bridge at the home of George Logan, a Tory. That same home is still standing, and is known as Pleasant Hall. Lord Dunmore described the home as one of the best in the colonies. Dunmore stated that "I ... have never seen better in Virginia."

Pleasant Hall was built circa 1769. The structure now belongs to Kempsville Baptist Church and is used for receptions, Sunday school classes and special occasions. The home, located at 5184 Princess Anne Road, is on the National Historic Register, the Virginia State Landmarks Register and the Virginia Beach Historic Register. Can you name the three other structures on the Virginia Beach Historic Register that are churches? If you said Old Donation Episcopal Church, 4449 N. Witchduck Road; Tabernacle United Methodist, 1265 Sandbridge Road; and St. John's Baptist, 2300 Holland Road, you know your history. Now you know a lot about Historic properties in our City, but you will have to read the next Ashlar to find out what happened to George Logan, the Tory, and to learn the next bit of Kempsville Trivia.

LIGHT

Be productive Brethren, rededicate yourselves, and make a commitment to attend lodge meetings regularly. Please do whatever you can to make certain the light of Freemasonry continues to shine, and may it never be extinguished. Let your light shine brethren. A candle loses nothing by igniting another wick. Have you shared the light lately? Keep our Grand Master's theme in mind; i.e.

"FREEMASONRY — PASS IT ON".

Fraternally,

Wor. G. Wilson "Bill" Nelligar

From the West:



Why are we "MASONS" ? I suppose there are many individual reasons that one wants to be a Mason. Family, heritage, curiosity, to follow in the footsteps of a friend or relative. There are as many reasons as one can imagine, and all are good and have their own merits.

Why, do we strive to become better Masons, to learn the catechisms and rituals as proficiently as we do and with such conviction? Why do we attend the Lodge

on a regular basis and take a part in the degree work of our newest Masons. Why do we get in line to pursue our journey Eastward, and learn our various jobs and duties?

As Master Masons', we are only required to learn the first and second degree catechisms and we are strongly encouraged to return the third, then, we are Masons. We pay our dues, visit the lodge when WE want to and become a part of the largest and most respected fraternity in the world.

Then WHY, would one attend the lodge every time the door is open, visit on Saturday mornings to converse with their friends and Brothers, attend the practice for degree work, attend the rituals of our new Masons, attend our STATED meetings and take part in the work. Why does one volunteer for projects, offer their talents and financing to help the LODGE, why does one go above and beyond the call to further Learn the LECTURES of the three degrees, the LECTURES of Installation, anniversary lectures and BIBLE presentations and other prayers and lectures.

I'll tell you my Friends and Brothers.... It's called brotherly love, and the love of Masonry.

Prentice G. Tuck, Jr.

From The South...



Labor Day may mark the end of Summer, but it seems to kick off the busy season for Kempsville Lodge. The Family Picnic, Past Masters' Night, an official visit by the Grand Master on Junior Warden's Night, Grand Lodge, and our Annual Stated - plus a plethora of candidates progressing through the degrees. I think it's pretty safe to say that we'll be working every Tuesday (and probably a few Mondays) for the next several months!

September 14th is Kempsville's Family Picnic. Music by the Khedive Hillbilly Band, Clowns for the kids, and fine outdoor cuisine prepared by Brother Hank Foiles and his crew. It promises to be a great time - so bring your family and friends.

The Grand Master will be making an official visit to Kempsville's October Stated in honor of Founder's Day. Somehow, this also turned out to be Junior Warden Night. I'm still trying to figure out how that happened! Come on out and watch your Junior Warden squirm as he takes the "Hot Seat" for this special evening. And please, keep the heckling to a minimum!

And don't forget the main reason we're here - the candidates. We've got over a dozen candidates making good progress through the degrees with some more soon to be initiated - so it's likely to get real busy in the coming months. We're always looking for coaches and people to participate in the degrees so join us on Monday nights

for Ritual School and take a more active role in your Lodge. Help us introduce these new Brethren to Kempsville's special brand of "Friendship & Brotherly Love" and show them that they made the right choice when they knocked on the door of Freemasonry.

Fraternally, Brother Buddy Pate
Junior Warden

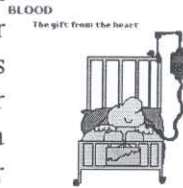
From the Senior Deacon



Greetings from your Senior Deacon.

There is a lot of activity going on in the Lodge. We have many candidates who are working on the various degrees; and more to ballot on at the Stated. Hope to see you in Lodge soon.

As the Lodge Blood Coordinator, I would like to inform you that September is the start of a new year. Last year was very successful. We cannot rest on our laurels. In this day and age there are a lot of bad things that are happening in our area. It doesn't matter if you are young, old, rich, poor, good or bad. There is one thing you can count on happening. Giving blood saves lives. Please help; GIVE BLOOD!



Our next blood drive is at Bayside Lodge on Monday, September 15, 2003 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Fraternally,
Shawn P. Garfield,
Senior Deacon

From the Junior Deacon



Dear Brethren,

Greetings from the Junior Deacon's Chair. Once again, it is time to celebrate Past Master's Night at Kempsville Lodge. You will not see anything about this event in the Master's column. Wor. Bill promised to let me have the credit for informing you about Past Master's Night. Therefore, if I do a good job, give me the credit. If anything goes wrong, we can blame Wor. Bill.

The fine tradition established at Kempsville Lodge continues. We have set aside a special night wherein we might honor our Past Masters and to let them know how grateful we are for their service to the Craft, and Masonry in general. Worshipful Master Bill Nelligar has scheduled September 23, 2003 to celebrate our second Past Master's Night this year. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Wor. Don Meyer and Wor. Ralph Ward, our renowned Chefs, have planned a delicious meal which is guaranteed to

delight your taste buds, if you like fish, shrimp, cole slaw, baked beans and hush puppies. Our able Steward's Committee will assist Chef Meyer and Chef Ward. Lodge will be opened and closed by Past Masters. Please mark your calendars now and plan on being present for this special night. Remember, dinner at 6:00, and lodge opens at 7:00 sharp. We look forward to an exciting evening of friendship and fellowship. I have a very interesting speaker set up for the special occasion. You won't want to miss what this mystery speaker has to say. Solve the mystery by attending. Then you will know the identity of our speaker.

I have had a wonderful year serving as Junior Deacon. I've lost a lot of weight in the past several months. In fact, the doctor stated that I have lost 90 pounds so far. Who knows, I may be able to fit in my thong bathing suit for the upcoming family picnic. (Ha Ha) Seriously, I would like to thank all the brethren and their spouses for the support they have given me. The surgery went well and your love and support are greatly appreciated.

Friendship, morality and brotherly love are practiced at our lodge. That is one of the reasons why Kempsville is such a wonderful place, and why I am so proud to be a member of this lodge.

Fraternally yours,
Paul LaFond, Jr. Deacon

DDGM's Corner



My brethren,

Our annual Bull Roast was an overwhelming success, thanks to the many brethren who gave of their time, talents and resources. Although it rained around 2:00 p.m., that did not dampen the spirits of our members and guests. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the food was delicious. Thanks to your efforts we were once again able to contribute to the Masonic Home. We have given \$1,500.00 to the Masonic Home and funded two \$500.00 scholarships. Also, we were able to deposit a tidy sum to our general fund. I hope that you will continue to support this worthwhile cause.

Rt. Wor. Thomas McGowan

Past Master's Corner



My Brothers,

We are free today not by chance but by choice. Why by choice? Because of those who have stepped forward over the years and have put their lives on the line, many of whom have given the ultimate sacrifice, by those who have dedicated their lives to the protection of this Great Nation. God Bless them all.

I am continually amazed at the way they keep coming and coming and coming forward to answer the call of duty. I am not only talking about the military veterans because there is another group of veterans we tend to forget. It is those veterans who are out there day in and day out, 24 hours a day. Our Law Officers. The State, Local, and Federal Police Officers. The Thin Blue Line. Without them, where would we be? They are our guardians against all the crazy things that take place in the public domain.

Every once in a while I get the urge to go to Washington D.C. and visit the memorials. My favorite two are the Lincoln Memorial and the Arlington Cemetery. Going to the Lincoln Memorial is like going to Church. Everyone enters with reverence and care. And I like to recall the words inscribed in his speeches. In his last are these; *"With malice toward none, with Charity for all, let us strive to finish this work before us.*

To remember those who have Bourne the battle, to care for the widow and the orphan". These words of the Great Emancipator ring just as true today as they did 140 years ago. We always should remember those who gave up so much so we could live in Freedom.

And in Arlington Cemetery, where there are a few of my friends, there is inscribed over one of the graves upon entering, these words:

"Here dead we lie, because we did not choose to live and shame the land from which we sprung; Life, to be sure is nothing much to lose, but young men think it is, and we were young".

Why are we here today? It is because of the Grace of Almighty God and the young men who keep stepping forward to answer the call of duty.

Thank God for each and every one of them.

Amen.

Rt. Wor. Tom McGowan
DDGM 56th District

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