



The Ashlar



January 2006

Kempsville Lodge #196, AF&AM

Volume 4-2006

From The East



Brethren, thank you for letting me serve as your Worshipful Master. As usual, the first couple of months are going to be very busy, as you will see from our Trestle Board.

I would also like to congratulate Worshipful Buddy Pate on a fantastic year. I am looking forward to a very good year myself. There are a couple of issues we have to deal with such as the sewer and hopefully installing a bathroom downstairs. It will all work out.

Brother Shawn Garfield, WM

From The West



Now that the holiday season is winding down, things can get back to normal. Our annual stated was a huge success. Worshipful Don Meyer produced another one of his famous "collard" dinners. Our amazing secretary, Right Worshipful Bill "The Handsome One" Pierce, is off on a milestone fifty years in that office. Congratulations Right Worshipful Bill.

Worshipful Shawn has plans for another great year at Kempsville. I know the side-liners are encouraged to join in where ever they can. Help out be bringing a friend or encourage some of our "stay at home" Masons to attend lodge. Our side-liners are what impress the new young Masons as the travel through their degrees.

God Bless and have a great new year.

Brother Roger Cort, SW

From The South



Brethren, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your trust and confidence in electing me as your Junior Warden. I will strive to live up to your expectations. I look forward to working with all of you, in concert with Worshipful Shawn and Brother Roger, to make 2006 another highly successful year at Kempsville Lodge.

Along those lines, we can always use assistance with degree teams. I would like to see as many of our newer Master Masons participating and learning our rituals. The most fulfilling aspect of my first year as a Master Mason was participating on degree teams whenever possible. Older Brethren and Past Masters are always welcome to participate. Come to our Monday evening schoolhouse sessions and find out what it is all about.

Lodge Breakfasts will be as scheduled in Worshipful Shawn's Trestle Board. As always, Brother Hank is always looking for more Chef Apprentices. Contact our Senior Steward, Brother Mark Wegesin, and let him know when you are available and willing. I am sure he will find a suitable time and place to employ your much needed services. Kitchen Fellowship is a mainstay at Kempsville.

Brother Adam Green, JW

Trestle Board

January 10.....Stated Communication
DDGM Official Visit

January 16.....District Blood Drive, 3-7:30PM,
Lynnhaven Lodge

January 28.....Lodge Breakfast, 8-10:30AM

February 7.....Dark to visit Willis V. Fentress and
DDGM Official Visit

February 14.....Stated Communication
Bring a Sweetheart Night

February 25.....Lodge Breakfast, 8-10:30AM

March 4.....Area Leadership Conference

March 14.....Stated Communication
Grand Master's Official Visit
RW Bill Pierce 60th Veterans Presentation

March 20.....District Blood Drive
3-7:30PM, Bayside Lodge

March 25.....Lodge Breakfast, 8-10:30AM

March 28.....Past Masters' Night

March 29.....Order of the Eastern Star Open
Installation, 7:30PM

Masonic Veterans

February	Bro. Vance W. Apple	50 Years
	Bro. Ronald L. Stukey	25 Years
March	Bro. Marion W. Maddox	50 Years
	RW William H. Pierce	60 Years!

Masonic Recognition Day

Don't forget, Brethren, Masonic Recognition Day is the first day of each month. Wear your Masonic paraphernalia proudly!

From the Secretary

Forget the hasty, unkind word;
Forget the slander you have heard;
Forget the quarrel and the cause;
Forget the whole affair, because,
Forgetting is the only way.
Forget the storm of yesterday.
Forget the knocker, and the squeak;
Forget the bad day of the week.
Forget you're not a millionaire;
Forget the gray streaks in your hair;
Forget to even get the blues -
But don't forget *To Pay your Dues!*

Anonymous

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Shawn P. Garfield	589-5660
Senior Warden	Roger Cort	467-5349
Junior Warden	Adam M. Green	615-1659
Treasurer	RW George J. Wallace	420-2507
Secretary	RW William H. Pierce	497-5160
Senior Deacon	Ronald S. Jacobson	343-3460
Junior Deacon	Jonathon Jones	535-1241
Chaplain	William H. Rawson	495-4867
Senior Steward	Mark Wegesin	567-5020
Junior Steward	Michael D. Johnstone	334-3013
Marshal	Robert I. Lee	499-6526
Musician	Robert S. Foxwell	490-2797
Tiler	Wor. Chris Jaeger	893-9253
Instructor of Work	Wor. "Buddy" Pate	404-8594
Education Officer	Wor. Bill Nolan	467-2252
Blood Coordinator	Gary K. Krause	297-6842

Past Master's Corner



Whatever Happened to the Written Word

Scattered throughout the western plains of the United States, from Wyoming's Bighorn mountains northward and into Saskatchewan, Canada, are huge, elaborate patterns traced out in stone. Some were built 5,000 years ago—when the Egyptian pyramids were under construction—and others were laid out as recently as 1,700 years ago. Their origin and use were long a mystery. Of such is the substance of legends—some of which even attributed these stone patterns to pre-Columbian members of the Masonic lodge.

Evidence now suggests that these "medicine wheels"—as they came to be known—were a primitive but accurate means for marking the summer solstice: the longest day. Yet, in the recorded history of the American Indian, in this century and the last, there is no mention of astronomical uses ever having been made of the skies. From the time of Coronado to that of Lewis and Clark, Indian history is devoid of an explanation for these stone formations. But they assuredly exist. They predate recorded history and we know how they were used. These rock formations are all relics of an Indian culture and heritage long eclipsed and forgotten because, quite simply, there is no written language.

This, perhaps, is a forceful reminder that learning, without the benefit of written words, is indeed a precarious, fragile and fleeting thing. In a few hundred years, knowledge without the written word can be forever lost.

There is a more contemporary parallel to this phenomenon, and it is found in the early days of Freemasonry. Worshipful Brother Harry Carr, of the Grand Lodge of England, in his eloquent essay "Six Hundred Years of Craft Ritual," outlines the futility of tracing the early history of Freemasonry without adequate written records. Brother Carr readily admits to the single flaw in his lecture, that he lacks the corroborating exhibit to seal his conclusions—the verifiable, indelible written word. He is 99 percent certain as to Masonic origin but—like a lawyer going into court—he is armed with circumstantial evidence. He does not have that scrap of paper which would seal his case. Thus, early Masonic learning, not preserved by written word, has—like the Masters word—been forever lost.

And this brings us to the task at hand for those who profess interest in Masonic education. Our Nation at this very moment is precariously close to becoming a nation of functional illiterates: people who have completed the educational requirements of our society but who cannot read or write well enough to function efficiently. This is not only strikes at the very heart of our democracy, but it poses a mind-boggling problem for those involved in education, be it public education or—for our purposes—Masonic education.

How do we impart our traditions, and history—and yes, our ritual—to men who can see but cannot understand, who perhaps can write but cannot comprehend?

The Short Talk Bulletin, August, 1978
Submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Junior Past Master's Corner



The PWMDS (Post Worshipful Master Depression Syndrome) is starting to subside so I'll take this opportunity to thank all the Brethren who helped make 2005 such a fantastic year. The year would not have been possible without the support of many brethren and there are far too many to thank by name – I would simply be reprinting our lodge roster and I'd still probably miss someone. I do, however, want to thank all the officers for their support. It was a pleasure working with all of you. A special thanks to Brother Hank and his sidekick, Roger, for all their outstanding culinary contributions. And to all the Brethren who pitched in on our various projects – painting the ceiling, swabbing the deck, serving the meals – I and the Lodge sincerely appreciate your contribution.

It was certainly a pleasure and honor to serve as your Worshipful Master during Kempsville's Golden Anniversary Year (also known as "The Year of the Coin") and one that I will always cherish. Your kind words and encouragement will never be forgotten. Now, however, it's time to return to the ranks of Brethren that possess the greatest honor of them all – one that all us share – that of simply being a Master Mason in Kempsville Lodge. What more could one want?

Brother Emmett "Buddy" Pate, PM

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