



The Ashlar



December 2013

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

Volume 60-12

From The East



Momma taught me when I received a gift, it was proper and good manners to give thanks. I have received many gifts this year, they are not the kind that come in packages and require unwrapping, but the are the intangible kind that are given from the heart and from the labor of ones hand. My articles have not thanked anyone for the many gifts I have received, for the fear of failing to include all who made my year in the East most enjoyable. I will now attempt to give it a try. Please, please, please understand that if your name is omitted, it is because my memory has failed, your assistance to me did not.

First and foremost, I want to thank my wife. She has kept my calendar, and kept me, and has reminded me numerous times of things I would have forgotten. Her help has been immeasurable. I would have been lost without her. Secondly, I want to thank my officers who always at the ready when work schedules and family obligations did not call them away. You guys were great! I want to give special thanks to Brother John Preddy for the daily, and sometimes hourly, phone calls in which we discussed everything from Lodge happenings to the secrets of successful hunting and fishing. And to Worshipful Bob Stanek, you are the best secretary in these here parts of the world.

To the kitchen crew, to Todd, Bud, Jack, Dennis and Hank. You guys are unmatched. You filled lots of hungry bellies and kept everyone happy. To the servers, you guys heavy'd their plates and kept them coming back again. To the many keepers of the sink and our new Entered Apprentices who experienced kitchen fellowship, thank you. To Chris and Right Worshipful Don for the Bull Roast, I am still hearing compliments on it, and to Scott and John for the picnic; I can't wait for next year's.

To the many participates of the Degree teams, your improvement in Masonry and in ritual was phenomenal. Kind of like the Chinese palm tree, you have to water it every day for three years and nothing happens, then finally, after many months of constant care, it blossoms into something

beautiful. Special thanks to Right Worshipful Tom for providing the water and congratulations to Joe, Roger, Scott, Greg, Chris and Cliff for blooming. Also, to Tom, Steve, Bill N. and Bill R., Patrick Blankenship and Dickie Cooper for outstanding lectures and charges.

To Worshipful Jimmie Wilder for his LEO minutes and profound words of wisdom that he so graciously shared and to our many most able and interesting speakers that manned the podium during our Stated Communications and to Bob Johns, Todd and Roger for the White Leather Apron.

To Right Worshipful Buddy for putting together this newsletter that you are now enjoying and to those who gave unselfishly of their time to coach those who were seeking more light in Masonry, to our Eastern Star and youth groups who were always there and on a moment's notice to give assistance, and to the Brethren who gave calling and cheer to our Masonic sweethearts, and to our distinguished Past Masters who gave me counsel and encouragement throughout the year and seemed to know exactly when I needed it the most, I thank you.

And finally, to all and anyone, who sat on the sidelines, at anytime during the past twelve months, my sincere thanks. It was my extreme pleasure serving you.

Brother Jerry Hallal, Worshipful Master

From The West



You know, a winter's eve is no time to be sitting at home alone, lost in your own thoughts or watching some re-run of "I Love Lucy" or some so called reality TV show. Even though it's dark and cold outside, there is a place, full of light and warmth. It isn't all that far away, just a few minutes travel time for most of us. A place where, bright smiles, warm hugs and friendly greetings await each of us; where a hardy handshake, a hot meal and genuine fellowship are just the things to chase those winter blues away. You all know the place,

yep, it's our Masonic Lodge! SO COME ON, JOIN US! We are here waiting for you. We need you and we miss all of you! How Good And How Pleasant It Is For Brethren To Dwell Together In Unity.

Worshipful Steve Ridgeway, Senior Warden

From The South



One final article from the South (from me that is) for this year. A lot has occurred this year in our lodge, mostly positive, some mediocre and fortunately very little negative.

Sounds like a few previous years. One change I've noticed is me. The Junior Warden station is relatively easy, or the cause for a good strong beverage, depending on the number of last minute cancellations that are requested.

I've learned much, about Freemasonry, people in general, and myself. Freemasonry has taught me quite a lot. Being very frank Brethren, I personally don't get overly concerned with titles, awards, positions, etc. Freemasonry is about people. All of our ritual, reputation, and aura sometimes tend to emphasize a good and positive image of a lodge, which is fine, but our core emphasis is people (good people). We always need good people. I've seen numerous individuals, from different backgrounds walk through our door. Many were as different in their personalities as are their fingerprints. One thing I've learned is to look for is something positive in everyone. This is a rock solid moral my father always emphasized to me. Everyone has strengths and weakness, and if we make the effort, we can aid and strengthen a weakness or benefit from their strength.

I would like to close with this message: that for Freemasonry to flourish, always keep our focus on "making good men better," not a cliché, but a constant Masonic practice. Looking over my shoulder for the past years, clearly nothing is guaranteed for tomorrow. Our best bet for a Masonic future is to truly practice Masonic principles today. We've all been given the tools of an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. Use 'em.

Brother John Preddy, Junior Warden

Welcome to Kempsville!

Congratulations and welcome to Brother Peder Kristian Wennberg, III, our newest Master Mason, raised on November 19th.

To Our Masonic "Sweethearts"

Happy Birthday to our special lady in December:

Louis Slagle

December 15th

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.

Can You Spot the Mason?



One of the men in this photo is a member of our Lodge. Can you find him? I'll give you a hint: he's on the left and has served as our Worshipful Master. You'll find the answer on page 4.

Masonic Veterans for 2013

December Ejnar Olaf Jorgenson 60 Years

Masonic Birthdays for December

Timothy R. Berkhimer '02	Jessie Robert Ritchie '92
A. Lincoln Figuereo '01	Roger James Rowe, Jr. '92
Ejnar Olaf Jorgensen '53	Robert M. Shelburne '61
Rubin Kravitz '60	James Reginald Smith '94
Michael Lombardo '48	David Howard Weast '87
Timothy Miles Maguire '01	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 352 years in Masonry!

Thoughts and Prayers

Please continue to keep the following Brethren in your thoughts and prayers:

Worshipful Jimmie Wilder
Right Worshipful Bill Knowles
Worshipful Bill Nolan
Brother Richard Naujoks

as well as all our military personnel who are deployed on the ground, on the seas, in the seas, in the air, or anyplace where harm or danger may be nearby.

Trestleboard

December 10 Annual Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
December 14 Open Installation of Officers, 1PM
December 16 District Blood Drive
2PM-7PM, Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220
January 1 DDGM Official Visit
Princess Anne Lodge No. 25, 6PM
January 8 DDGM's Official Visit
Virginia Beach Lodge No. 274, 6PM
January 11 Division Leadership Conference
Granby Street Temple, 9AM
January 14 Stated Communication
DDGM's Official Visit
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at
www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Our New Grand Master



Congratulations to Most Worshipful Wayne Sawyer Flora, the 169th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

And congratulations to Right Worshipful Roger Cort on being appointed as Grand Tiler and Right Worshipful Emmett "Buddy" Pate on being appointed Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Masonic Blood Program

This is the last Ashlar blood donation article that I will write before passing on Lodge Blood Coordinator responsibilities to Brother Pat Blankenship. Noting that, I wish to extend a most

sincere "Thank You" to all of the Brethren, families, and to my girlfriend, Teresa, for your support of 56th Masonic District blood donation efforts during 2013. Your dedicated support of the Greater Hampton Roads Community has been a life giving team effort that should bring each of you pride and satisfaction.

Please do not forget our final effort, which will be held at Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220 on December 16th from 2 to 7PM. I wish you each a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Brother Greg Muir, Lodge Blood Coordinator

Freemasonry: By The Numbers

Virginia has 309 lodges and 36,753 members. There are 5,081 fifty year or higher Masonic Veterans in Virginia.

Texas has the most number of lodges with 866. Pennsylvania has the most members with 113,279.

The United States has 11,417 lodges with 1.36 million Brethren.

There are 33,368 lodges in the world with 2.4 million members.

Around the Lodge

Congratulations to Brother Dickie Cooper on his hole-in-one on the 138-yard 17th at Cypress Point Golf Club.

Congratulations to Eric Hallal, son of Worshipful Master Jerry and Kathy, who will graduate with a MS in Elementary Education from VCU on December 14th and will begin teaching Kindergarten in the Richmond City Public Schools.

On This Day...

December 15, 1926: J. Edgar Hoover became a charter member of Justine Lodge No. 40 in Washington, DC and Charles A. Lindbergh was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Keystone Lodge No. 243 in Missouri.

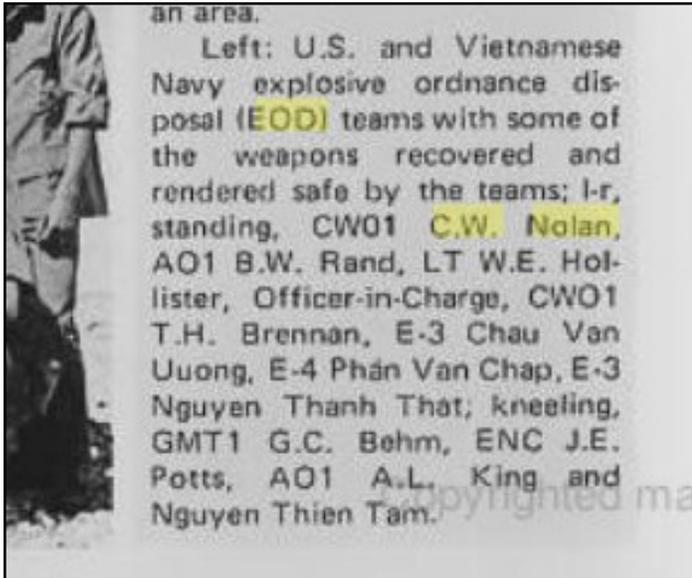
The Legend of Hiram

In all my research and study, in all my close analysis of the masterpieces of Shakespeare, in my earnest determination to make those plays appear real on the mimic stage, I have never and nowhere, met tragedy so real, so sublime, so magnificent as the legend of Hiram. It is substance without shadow—the manifest destiny of life which requires no pictures and scarcely no word to make

a lasting impression upon all who can understand. To be a Worshipful Master, and to throw my whole soul into that work, with the candidate for my audience and the lodge for my stage, would be a greater personal distinction than to receive the plaudits of people in the theaters of the world.

Edwin Booth, Actor and loyal Mason
Submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Mystery Mason (from page 2)



an area.
Left: U.S. and Vietnamese Navy explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams with some of the weapons recovered and rendered safe by the teams; l-r, standing, CW01 C.W. Nolan, AO1 B.W. Rand, LT W.E. Hollister, Officer-in-Charge, CW01 T.H. Brennan, E-3 Chau Van Uong, E-4 Phan Van Chap, E-3 Nguyen Thanh That; kneeling, GMT1 G.C. Behm, ENC J.E. Potts, AO1 A.L. King and Nguyen Thien Tam.

Youth Corner

With the holidays upon us, the Kempsville youth continue their dynamic activities. Let me start off by congratulating the new Honored Queen Elected, Miss Samantha "Sammy Sam" White. Her and her new Officers will have their installation ceremony

Saturday December 7th with Dinner starting at 5:30PM and would like to see you all there. Bethel 42 supported Honored Queen Tori Sorensen and Past Honored Queen Caitlyn Gray during the 2013/14 annual Miss JOB's Daughters pageant in Williamsburg during the Black Friday weekend.

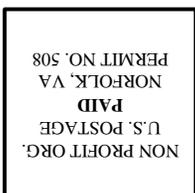
The Kempsville DeMolay continue to grow by initiating 2 new members in November and still have several petitions in the process. The young men will be visiting several of the District 56 and 35B lodges for their annual stated meetings. Please keep in mind that the DeMolay are looking for other young men to join their organization and invite all Masons to visit during any of their stated meetings.

Brother Ray Baez, Youth Advisor

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Jerry Hallal	472-1200
Senior Warden	Steve A. Ridgeway	270-7338
Junior Warden	John R. Preddy	495-0771
Treasurer	Wor. Bill Nelligar	456-0034
Secretary	Wor. Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	R. Scott Foxwell	490-2797
Junior Deacon	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Senior Steward	Todd DeFord	362-4062
Chaplain	Chris Anders	635-7617
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Terry Bledsoe	589-8210
Instructor of Work	RW Tom McGowan	646-5878
Education Officer	Wor. Jimmie Wilder	467-1336
MAHOVA Ambassador	Wor. Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Youth Advisor	Ray Baez	

Articles for the next Ashlar should be submitted by the 20th of each month to Right Worshipful Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or Worshipful Bob Stanek (bob.stanek@gmail.com)



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