



The Ashlar



November 2016

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

Volume 63-11

George M. Cohan

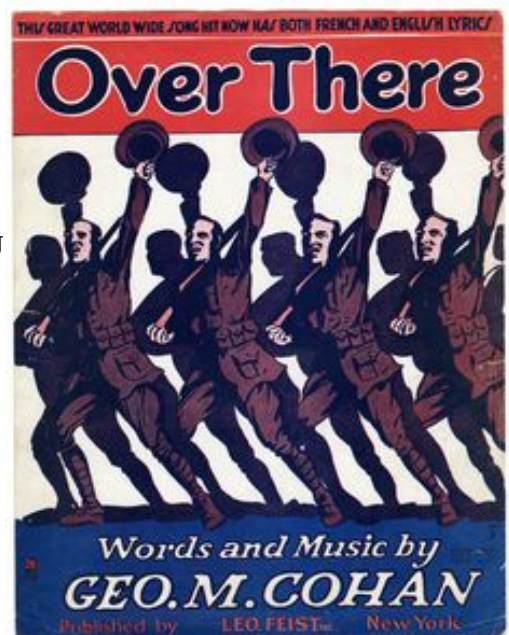
Our Masonic Brother George M. Cohan was born on July 3, 1878 and died on November 5, 1942. He began acting with his family at the age of 8 and went on to become the great song and dance man, perhaps the greatest in Broadway history. George M. Cohan called himself "just a song-and-dance man," but at the height of his career he was unquestionably the first man in the American theatre. Songwriter, dancer, actor, playwright, producer, theatre owner—he was the most versatile person in show business.



His Masonic career was also in the New York City area. A life member of Pacific Lodge No. 233, New York City, he was raised on November 16, 1905. On February 3, 1906 he received his 32nd degree A.A.S.R. (NJ) and was a life member. He was also a member of Mecca Shrine Temple, New York City. As Masons, we are proud of what the New York Times stated in his obituary, "Mr. Cohan became a very rich man from his theatrical and songwriting enterprises. As he lived simply, this gave him an opportunity to play still another role, which was unknown to the general public but was very well known, indeed, along Broadway. He was probably the most generous man of his day in a profession noted not only for its ups and downs but for the generosity of those of its members who are "in the money" to those who are not." How true this rings to Masons used to hearing the closing charge at the altar! The Times went on to say, "On the other hand, his reputation as "a soft touch" was widespread. "Okay, kid," was his favorite response to any approach. He had a long list of "retainers" and "pensioners" to whom he made regular allowances—people who had acted with him, had worked for him, or had merely known his father and mother in show business. In at least one

case, when a former partner was caught in the 1929 stock market crash, Mr. Cohan advanced several hundred thousand dollars to save him. In private life also he was modest and soft-spoken, a far different person from the Broadway "smart-aleck" he often appeared to be on the stage." We say, "Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all."

George M. Cohan was internationally famous for his song "Over There!"—the most inspirational and popular American patriotic song of the period. For this and for another patriotic piece, "It's a Grand Old Flag," which he wrote in 1905, he received a gold medal under a special act of Congress dated June 29, 1936. His song, "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy" was almost autobiographical, he being born the day before the Fourth of July. Waving the American flag as a sure-fire finale to bring down the house with applause was established as authentic "theatre" in Cohan shows. This is a good month to remember our Masonic brother, resurrect his patriotic spirit and emulate his generous example.



From The East



We have come to the final month of my time in the East. This is a very full month, both Masonic and Civic. Our lodge will continue to be busy with degree work on the 1st, 15th, and possibly the 22nd and 29th. Worshipful Samuel Grant Welty will reprise his talk from a few years back with his power point presentation on the 8th. It is a perfect summary of my theme this year. If you saw it before, you will want to see it again. If you missed it, this is your chance! We have a good group going to the Grand Annual Communication in Richmond from the 9th to the 12th.

You may have heard there is an election this month. Please do your civic duty and vote. Let us all practice our charge to “be kind to one another, be of one mind and live in peace.” When we consider how sharp our political divisions have become, it will be difficult to come together again as “one nation under God.” We also celebrate our Veterans on the 11th and give thanks for our many blessings on the 24th.

I continue to give thanks for the officers of this lodge, for the many brethren who come out for our meetings, for the financial support of those who contributed to our depleted building fund, and to all for the kind words about these good days at Kempsville Lodge

Brother Scott Foxwell, Worshipful Master

From The West



We are in the home stretch of another fantastic year of Kempsville Masonry. Going forward we have two more stated communications, some more degree work to complete, the Annual meeting up in Richmond, and some collards to eat. I invite everyone out to enjoy some more fun during these final events of the year before we finish 2016 on a positive note.

Additionally, I invite you to consider the Worshipful Master's recent letter to each of you. He has asked for your financial support to beef up our coffers in case another unforeseen expense catches us in a rough spot. You never know when something will pop up, and it's in all of our best interests that our Lodge is prepared to meet the challenges.

The bottom line to it all is that Kempsville 196 is a Lodge of fantastic fellowship, we continually bring in high quality new brothers, we do our community service, we raise money for very good causes, and overall we represent the Craft in a very positive and enjoyable way to our community. Let's keep this up and keep the Light shining bright. I hope to see you in Lodge soon.

Brother Greg Muir, Senior Warden

From The South



As the year comes to a close I want to thank every Brother who participated in degree work. We have been very busy this year and my job of putting degree teams together has quite frankly been an easy one. This is because we have the good fortune of having an outstanding Lodge Instructor of Work and an abundance of proficient ritualists. Equally impressive are the many new Masons who have come to our Lodge School eager to learn and have taken on roles in degree work. I am very proud of the quality of our degree work and want to thank everyone for their time, energy, and hard work. In my estimation we are in great shape for the foreseeable future. While it is wonderful to be able to deliver “Air-Tight” ritual it is equally important to remind ourselves that the most important participant in degree work is the candidate. We are charged with imparting valuable lessons to the candidate about Masonry's system of morality and truths expressed through the symbolism of our ritual. When we accept a candidate into Masonry we hope to find an earnest student who seeks to learn what we have to teach. We must always remember that Masonry is for those who are prepared to receive it. The teachers of Masonry must speak to attentive ears and responsive hearts. When these things all come together we have a strong probability of perpetuating the underlying truths of our Craft and securing Masonry's future. That being said, I want to thank everyone not only for what you do for our lodge and our candidates but for what you do for our future.

Brother Chris Anders, Junior Warden

Trestleboard

November 1 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 November 8 Stated Communication
 Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
 November 11-12 Grand Annual Communication
 November 15 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 December 13 Annual Stated Communication
 December 17 .. Open Installation of Officers, 11AM
 December 19 District Blood Drive
 Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220, 2-7PM

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

Masonic Blood Program

Kempsville Lodge is off to a great start for the 2017 Masonic blood year after our first drive. Thanks to outside donations and brothers who donated at the last drive, our lodge is just 2 percentage points short of qualifying for the Seymour Levy award already!

Our next drive has been adjusted a couple of times because of scheduling conflicts with the Eastern Star and The American Red Cross. The drive will be at Lynnhaven Lodge from 3-7PM on December 19th. I hope to see a good showing from my Kempsville brothers.

Patrick Blankenship, Lodge Blood Coordinator

Welcome to Kempsville!

Brother Benjamin D. Stair and Brother George E. Habib, Jr. - both affiliated at our October Stated Communication and Brother Rodney K. Griffin, raised on October 18th. Welcome, Brethren!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in November:

Ruth Simpkins	November 1 st
Irma Porter	November 2 nd
Ruth Litchfield	November 2 nd
Merelene Ballance	November 3 rd
Mary Lou Monahan	November 20 th
Barbara McGregor	November 24 th
Iris Midgett	November 25 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.

Masonic Birthdays for November

Warren Louis Aleck '66	Ronald S. Jacobson '03
Patrick D. Blankenship '12	Philip Russell Jennings '94
Albert Lee Bonney, Jr. '63	Michael D. Johnstone '05
Joe Emerson Brown '64	Jerry Wayne Ledbetter '83
Gordon Curtis Burton '71	John Leonard Long '01
Harold A. Campbell, Jr. '10	Andrew C. Mahrenholz '07
Dario Joseph Canclini '75	Donald Lee McBride '54
Herbert L. Carter '66	Richard D. McCollum '95
William Keith Cole '89	Meade Earl McCubbin '57
Roger Cort '65	Matthew Gene Millott '15
Harry Lee Cummings '71	Charles Clay Mills, Jr. '79
Lewis Alton Dodson '77	River Douglas Morris '11
Michael Ceroy Elliott '65	Robert Jeffrey Oliver '08
Matthew David Esper '14	Edward Franklin Parton '05
Curtis Raeford Eure '59	Paul W. Pennybacker '68
Clarence G. Felts '69	James Stanley Perry '79
Michael P. Fitzgerald '92	Philip Poffenbarger, Jr. '80
Rolfe Martin Fleming '72	William Harold Rawson '04
Douglas Roger Fortier '10	William Lewis Rice '83
Franklin M. Gamage '59	Steve Allen Ridgeway '77
Timothy Dwayne Givan '93	Henry Sargent '69
Justin Lee Glasgow '78	Jerry Silla '99
Cecil Anthony Goodwin '71	Cecil Carroll Smithson '98
Justin Marshall Gray '06	Stephen Edward Spratt '09
Arthur J. Guarino, Jr. '92	Logan Ray Spruill '15
Raymond Elnor Hall, Jr. '76	William J. Swanner, III '74
James Thomas Hare, Jr. '73	Charlie B. Taylor, Jr. '81
William Thomas Haste '61	Robert Ray Teller '88
Donald Orr Hawkins, Jr. '97	Prentice G. Tuck Jr. '98
Russell Lee Houston '85	Ralph Weldon Ward '76
Willie L. Hudson, Jr. '61	Peder K. Wennberg, III '13
Michael Charles Jacob '14	Ronald Hugh Whitehead '67

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,953 years in Masonry!

Past Master's Night



19 Past Masters attended the Fall Past Master's Night on September 27th.

Musical Master Mason Degree



Five musicians from three different lodges joined our Worshipful Master in presenting a Musical Master Mason Degree. Masonic tunes from the 18th century, including one by our Brother Mozart, and hymns and inspirational songs augmented the usual outstanding ritual by our degree team.

The Value of Man

The value of man does not consist in the truth which he possesses, but in the sincere pains that he has taken to find it out. His powers do not augment by possessing truth, but by investigating it. For possession dulls the energies of man and makes him idle and proud.

Masonry rests not on secret forms. It is a life. It is a spirit. It is a character. No one can deprive another of it. No one can unmake a true Mason; for what made him a Mason is not some work he has heard, some scene which he has witnessed; but

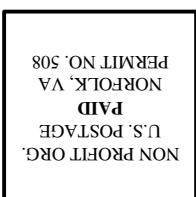
some truth of God which he has made his own; some moral strength which has become the very fiber of his life and soul.

When a man has been initiated, passed and raised and has signed the bylaws, he, in a sense is a Master Mason. He is numbered in the membership, and is entitled to wear the badge. But in reality, he has only been given the right to enter the Temple. Whether he does enter or no, whether he labors on that spiritual building or stands idly within the shadow and shelter of its walls, time alone will tell. But it depends wholly upon himself. He has found the true secret of Masonry, if he has learned that God is his Father and men about him are his brethren; and if that knowledge mellows and purifies his soul, inspires his deeds and radiates a sunny glory from his life.

Submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Senior Warden	Greg Muir	676-3761
Junior Warden	Chris Anders	635-7617
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Junior Deacon	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Senior Steward	Dennis Eaton	499-6720
Junior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Chaplain	Mike Denning	651-0712
Musician	John Settle, III	675-9695
Marshal	John Settle, IV	478-7149
Tiler	Ray Baez, Jr.	285-2611
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Steve Ridgeway	270-7338
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539



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