



The Ashlar



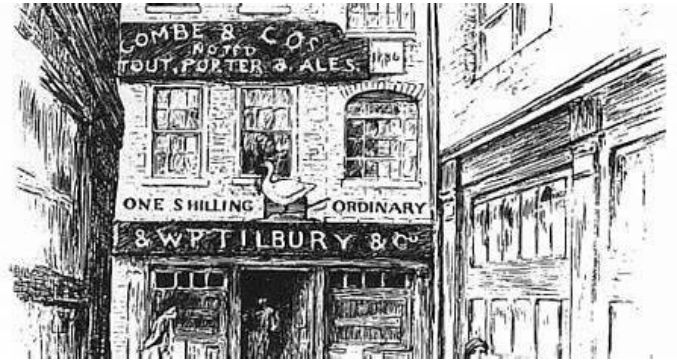
January 2020

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

Volume 67-01

The Tavern Lodges

As it is the beginning of a new Masonic year, it seemed appropriate to speak about the place where modern Masonry under the Grand Lodge system began – in taverns and alehouses. The first meeting to discuss the creation of the Grand Lodge of England was held in the Apple Tree Tavern in London in 1717, while the meeting held to organize it was subsequently held in the better-known Goose and Gridiron alehouse. It is not surprising that the alehouses were the chosen meeting location for Masonic Lodges in the early eighteenth century, as they had become the primary location for members of the London trade guilds to seek and find employment. The Masonic Lodges had a general appeal to the craftsmen of this period.



Taverns had a very different reputation in the 1700s than similar establishments have today. They were already established as commercial centers for merchants and traders, and were economic centers for overland transport and communications. They were also pillars of social activity for the affluent and well-to-do as well as laborers, and also acted as chief meeting places for country gentlemen. They were substantial institutions that provided ample space for those requiring assembly and privacy.

By the 1800s, changes in social customs saw the replacement of the taverns by coffee houses in major cities. Most of the Masonic Lodges established their own buildings during this period. Leisure activities became “privatized”, with various organizations owning their own real property as opposed to meeting in alehouses or taverns.

Although taverns and alehouses were relatively short-lived as hosts for the Masonic institution, they facilitated the transition from operative to speculative lodges and effectively served as the birthplace of Masonry before and during the Grand Lodge era as well as during the beginnings of Freemasonry in the colonies. Many, if not most Lodges in England and the colonies during the 1700s reached their adulthood without ever seeing the walls of a temple, meeting house, or other place looked upon today as a place of dignity and respect.

2020 Installation of Officers



Left to Right:

- Chris Anders – Treasurer
- Keith Ingraham - Chaplain
- Roger Taylor - Tiler
- Mike Denning - Senior Warden
- John Gabor - Junior Steward
- Bill Oliveira - Senior Steward
- Dave Trzeciakiewicz - Worshipful Master
- Pat Blankenship - Senior Deacon
- Dickie Cooper - Marshall
- John Settle, III - Junior Warden
- Doug Dunn - Junior Deacon
- Bob Stanek - Secretary

From The East



This year Kempsville Masonic Lodge celebrates its 65th anniversary. Dispensation for the Lodge to meet was granted on June 28th, 1954, and the first stated meeting was held on

July 13th of that year at the old Davis Corner Fire Station on Davis Street off of Virginia Beach Boulevard. At that time the Lodge had 28 members and met under the leadership of our legendary first Worshipful Master (and later 50-year Secretary), Worshipful William Hollowell Pierce. The Lodge would subsequently receive its charter on February 9th, 1955. We will celebrate this milestone at our February 2020 stated meeting.

Today, 65 years later, Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196 continues to thrive with almost 400 members, making it one of the largest Lodges in Virginia. We also continue to be one of the most active Lodges in the district and state, and we are very proud of our extensive involvement with our both our community and local charities. We love to tell our story through social media, in our newsletter The Ashlar, and in our visits to other Lodges.

As the 66th Worshipful Master of Kempsville, I stand on the shoulders of giants – those Worshipful Masters who have served before me and have helped make our Lodge what it is today. I am greatly honored by the trust and confidence that has been placed in me by my Brothers, and I assure you all that I will devote myself in 2020 to continuing our tradition of excellence in all that we do.

The future of our Lodge depends on our ability to continue to attract and keep new members who share our Masonic ideas of friendship, morality, and brotherly love. We will do this by continuing to make Kempsville a welcoming place that is enjoyable and rewarding and where Masonic education is integrated into all that we do.

My thanks to all of you who attended the installation of Officers on December 14th. My special thanks to Brother Doug Dunn who prepared the delicious food for the reception, and Brother Bill Oliveira who professionally created the truly amazing Bible cake that was greatly enjoyed by all!

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Worshipful Master

From The West



A new Masonic year begins and with it endless possibilities. I am excited for the year and the future of Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196. We will immediately kick off the year with

degree work, DDGM visits, and an early Grand Master visit. Worshipful Dave (T-Rex) has a number of great ideas for the Lodge to advertise all the great things Kempsville does, a plan to reinvigorate participation of all our Brothers in all we do, and a presence throughout all the Lodges in the 56th district.

Our Annual Stated was a huge success with a packed house as only Kempsville can do. A personal thank you to Worshipful Roger in 2019 for his leadership and mentoring. He made sure his officers were informed of Lodge operations and provided the opportunity for all of us to practice and hone our ritual. We are all better prepared to fulfill the new roles we have assumed for this coming year.

Thank you Worshipful Roger for a fantastic 2019. Worshipful Dave, we look forward to supporting your efforts in 2020 and continuing the Kempsville legacy.

Brother Mike Denning, Senior Warden

From The South



Welcome to a new year and new opportunities with Kempsville Masonic Lodge! 2020 promises to be an eventful and productive year with many new faces. As our Lodge officers progress through the chairs

on their journeys to the East, we are presented with new openings for your participation. Ritual school is held every Monday from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Beginning at 6:30 PM, there will be a thirty minute, detailed review of a specific Masonic topic that provides depth and insight to our degree work. The 7 PM ritual school is the walkthrough or rehearsal of the degree work itself. Collectively, the two sessions provide both new and seasoned Masons with a well-rounded tutorial of the ritual for any Virginia Lodge.

How will you participate this year? Your introduction to the mechanics of Masonry can be initiated with the simple effort of viewing and listening. Everyone needs a place to start, and this is a healthy way to broaden your Masonic cable

tow. Like a masonry foundation for a building or structure, Masons are built one unit at a time. Is it time for you to start laying your first course? Come out and join the process! Be a part of the stellar leadership that continues to distinguish Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196.

Brother John Settle, Junior Warden

Trestleboard

January 4 Past Masters' Breakfast, 8:30AM
 January 4 DDGM Official Visit to Victory Daylight Lodge No 1178, 9AM
 January 7 DDGM Official Visit to Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296, 7:30PM
 January 9 DDGM Official Visit to Lynnhaven Lodge No. 220, 7PM
 January 14 Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
 January 21 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
 January 25 Monthly Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
 January 28 Master Mason Degree, 7PM
 February 1 Grand Master's Official Visit
 February 4 Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
 February 6 DDGM Official Visit to Bayside Lodge No. 218, 7PM
 February 11 Stated Communicate Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

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

Meet the Junior Deacon/Officer of the Year

Kempsville's new Junior Deacon and Officer of the Year for 2019 is Brother Doug Dunn. Brother Doug, an accomplished professional musician/singer and CMA member, is moving up from the Junior Steward position.



His tireless efforts in the kitchen have made Kempsville the place to be for breakfast, stated meetings, and degree work nights with his delicious and innovative meals. Doug can also be found working in every other aspect of Lodge operations including degree work, coaching candidates, and just about everything else the Lodge does. His drive and creativity have had a significant impact of the quality of our Lodge, and we look forward to many good things from him as he starts his journey to the East.

Masonic Birthdays for January

L. Douglas Dunn '17	Matthew D. Pilgrim '11
Onrubio L. Florendo, Jr. '10	David W. Poirier '18
Henry L. Foiles, Jr. '59	John R. Preddy, III '07
Lucian A. Gunter, III '58	Bill Rensko '96
Gerald T. Hallal '08	William B. Ross '03
Robert A. Hughes '18	Marvin L. Spruill '57
Ronald S. Melton, Jr. '04	Richard B. Temple, Sr. '55
Francis G. Mielkey, II '98	Scott C. Vaughn '15
James E. Pearsall, Jr. '79	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 410 years in Masonry!

Mason of the Year

It is with great pleasure that we announce the selection of Brother Bob Hughes as Kempsville's Mason of the year for 2019. Brother Bob is truly a "Mason's Mason", and he has gone above and beyond in supporting his Lodge throughout the year. He personally started and led the Lodge's highly successful food bank and Angel Tree programs, he has coached a number of candidates in the alternative method, he is one of the Lodge's leads on our candidate investigation committee, and he is a regular participant in degree work every week. His kindness, generosity, and moral character set the standard for others to emulate. Well done, Brother Bob!



Community Service

Kempsville Area Food Bank (Bro. Bob Hughes) Kempsville Masonic Lodge continues to collect food items for a local church food pantry and cash donations that go to eliminate Virginia Beach Schools Student Lunch Debt.

You may drop off donations at the Lodge anytime the building is open. Keep the contributions coming, it's making a difference. As a Lodge we collected over \$1000 for the school lunch program and hundreds of pounds of food for the food bank in 2019. Let's see if we can exceed that in 2020!

Blood Program

The American Red Cross is currently facing a Blood Emergency! Donors are desperately needed now. Our next scheduled Blood Drive is on

February 17th from 2-7 PM at the new Princess Anne lodge. Please help spread the word.

Brother Mike Blankenship
District/Lodge Blood Coordinator

From the Secretary

Our "Virginia Methodical Digest" states: Lodge dues are payable by January of one year to be current for that same year. Please look at your Lodge dues card. If the expiration date is not "2020" (as below), it is expired. If you have not yet done so, please remit 2020 dues to the Secretary now. Thank you for prompt attention to this important matter. Below is a sample of a valid dues card:



Remember, you may pay your Lodge dues by credit card on our web site:

<https://kempsvill lodge.org/payment/>

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Kempsville Youth

Our Bethel 42 Jobs Daughters will be holding a BBQ fund raising dinner on Saturday, January 11th from 3-7 PM. Please come out to support these hard working young ladies and, if you have the chance, attend one of their meetings held at the

Lodge on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month starting at 2 PM. You will have a good time while supporting our Jobies!

To Our Masonic Widows

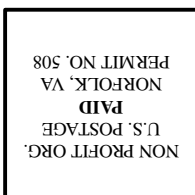
Happy Birthday to our special ladies in January:

Donna Andrews	January 14 th
Ruth Hodges Fraser	January 15 th
Barbara Cole	January 16 th
Carol Barber	January 20 th
Wanda Webb	January 22 nd
Bonnie Jordan	January 27 th
Doris Flannigan	January 28 th
Dorothy Sykes	January 28 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.

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Senior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Junior Warden	John Settle, III	675-9695
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Junior Deacon	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Senior Steward	Bill Oliveira	748-3206
Junior Steward	John Gabor	408-1541
Chaplain	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Roger Taylor	478-5498
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
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Virginia Beach, VA 23462

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