



The Ashlar



April 2020

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

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DeMolay International

In the April 2019 edition of the Ashlar, Worshipful Roger Taylor celebrated the 100th anniversary of DeMolay International with a front page article that focused on the history of its namesake Jacques DeMolay, the last Grand Master of The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, or Knights Templar. This month, on their 101st anniversary, I have decided to revisit this topic with a short history of DeMolay International itself, which is open for membership to young men between the ages of 12 to 21 of good character who acknowledge a higher spiritual power.

The Order of DeMolay was started in 1919 by "Dad" Frank Sherman Land. Land at the time was only 29 years old himself, had already started several businesses and was very active in the local masonic community in Kansas City, Missouri. Land was approached by Louis G. Lower who was looking for employment. Lower was 17 and had lost his father the year before due to an accidental fall. Lower's father was a member of Land's lodge and Lower's mother sent him to see if the local masonic community could help him find employment.

Land saw an opportunity to help Lower and other young men in the community. He asked Lower to come to his house for dinner and to bring other young men he knew. Louis thought the idea had possibilities and on February 19, 1919 he showed up with eight other boys. In a short time there was a small group of young men meeting on a regular basis at the local Masonic lodge. After hearing stories of Jacques DeMolay (as told by Land), the group decided to name itself for this historical figure who was supposedly connected with Masonry.

Frank Land never imagined that DeMolay would spread as fast as it did. In March of 1922, DeMolay had been established in 39 of what were then the 48 United States, as well as in the District of Columbia. It was then that Dad Land had the thought to spread DeMolay to other countries. Today, DeMolay is an international organization on 5 continents and in more than 25 countries worldwide with about 15,000 active members. Each chapter must be sponsored by a local masonic body or some other group composed exclusively of masons. The sponsoring body is responsible for providing the chapter with adult advisors and a place to meet.

A local DeMolay body is known as a Chapter and is headed by the Master Councilor, who is elected by members of his Chapter and is usually among the older members of the group. Senior DeMolays (former members now 21 or older), Masons, or other adult mentors supervise the Chapter and are referred to as "Dad." One of the founding members thought of Frank Land as a father figure and called him "Dad Land".

DeMolay International's most notable symbol, the crown, is symbolic of the Crown of Youth and constantly reminds a DeMolay of his obligations and the seven precepts of this Order: Filial love, reverence for sacred things, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness and patriotism. The ten precious rubies of the crown honor Dad Land and the nine original boys. Each now red ruby represents the passing of one of the original members of DeMolay. Prior to their passing all of the "rubies" were white.



From The East



Much of the last month has been overshadowed by the arrival of the COVID-19 virus (also known as the Coronavirus) in the United States, as well as the measures that are being taken to minimize its spread here. Based on guidance from the Grand Lodge and our DDGM, on March 12th I directed that all Masonic work and ritual at our Lodge be suspended until further notice. The other Lodges in our District (and around the country) have taken similar measures.

The Officers of the Lodge and I have met to review our Lodge calendar and we will, as far as possible, reschedule any events that are impacted by the shutdown. Our top priority is the health of our members and helping our community and nation minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We will remain in close contact with all of you to ensure that you are kept up-to-date with what is occurring in your Lodge. Please feel free to contact me or any of my Officers if you need assistance or have any questions.

In happier news, the last month has been a busy and productive one at Kempsville Masonic Lodge No. 196. We have continued to conduct schools and degree conferrals each week and we to continue our focus on getting out to the other Lodges in our District for their monthly Stated meetings. Our breakfast on February 29th was very well attended by over 150 of our brothers, their friends, and family. This was a large increase from January, when poor weather and illness kept our numbers down. Even with the reduced attendance in January, the fellowship was wonderful. Many people stayed the whole time!

All of your Line Officers and I (and a number of other Kempsville Brothers) attended the District Leadership Conference held at the Norfolk Masonic Temple on Granby Street on the evening of January 28th (it always seems to be the night before the breakfast!) Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones, is an outstanding speaker, and he gave an excellent talk about the need for us to actively work to get more (but fully deserving) members into our ranks to ensure the health of our Lodges and the future of Freemasonry.

I would ask that all of you all stay safe in the upcoming weeks and continue to provide brotherly love and assistance to each other. As always, let us be the light that guides our fellow man!

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Worshipful Master

From The West



As we often ponder and discuss Masonry membership one must ask, "Why would a man want to become a Mason today?" There were very good reasons to become a Mason 40 years ago. Being a Mason brought a man prestige in the community. It set you apart, and put you in touch with the right people. In many communities, the Masonic Lodge was the key to rubbing shoulders with the decision-makers, the movers and shakers. Being a Mason gave you a network in the community. That's how your business grew and prospered. In other words, there were power incentives for a man to become a Mason. Masonry conferred upon its members status, prestige and influence.

In spite of the dramatic and far-reaching change in Masonry's status in American society, there is no reason for despair. Masonry still fits the times. As much as in any other period, Freemasonry has a powerful role to play. Masonry sets forth the values that make life worthwhile. There appears to be a return to the bedrock beliefs that made this country great—the family, loyalty, hard work, honor and integrity.

Masonry gives a man a positive picture of what it means to be a man. In a time when numbers are more important than a man's name, this is a message that makes sense!

Brother Mike Denning, Senior Warden

From The South



In a Masonic Lodge, the Junior Warden is third in command and responsible for the Brethren while the Lodge is at refreshment. The plumb, the emblem and jewel of the Junior Warden, represents the sun at midday, oriented vertically overhead as a reminder to all Masons to remain upright and true to the Craft. The Junior Warden ensures that the Brethren do not over indulge to intemperance or excess, which could tarnish the reputation of the Lodge or its Master.

We should all walk and act as the plum demonstrates- to maintain stability for the Lodge and its Brethren. The plum symbolizes the precise

point of solidity necessary to ensure the virtues of our Order.

In our journeys to the East, each station instills the teachings exemplified by our working tools, guiding us to our final destination, the spiritual building not made with hands. The knowledge achieved through each step of this journey amplifies the positive impact Masonic Light provides, and spares us from darkness and strife. Through the teachings offered by our working tools, we are better enabled to avoid the vices and superfluties of life, and capable of focusing wholeheartedly on our journeys to the East.

Brother John Settle, Junior Warden

Kempsville Area Food Bank

Kempsville Masonic Lodge and Brother Bob Hughes continue to collect food items for a local church food pantry and cash donations that go to eliminate Virginia Beach Schools student lunch debt. In February we collected \$98 and 86 lbs. of food for a total of \$383 and 329 lbs. for 2020. I have asked Scott Bottenfield, the lead for Feed Kempsville at St. Andrews Methodist Church, to be my speaker at the August Stated meeting to tell us about the program and everything it does for our community.

March Beehive Award

The winner of the March Beehive Award was not able to attend the February Stated meeting. In order to not spoil the surprise, we will announce the winners for March and April in the next edition of the Ashlar.



Trestleboard

May 12 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

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

Masonic Birthdays for April

Eugene M. Ambrose '90	Terrence P. McNally '78
Charles R. Bateman, Jr. '14	Todd C. Moissett '11
David E. Boyd '88	Michael R. Moseler '72
Allen K. Chandler '87	Thomas A. Niedermeier '80
S. Ray Connard '91	Brian E. Parton '01
Louis P. Dunn '77	Emmett R. Reynolds '11
Aaron J. Dyer '12	G. Frank Roberts, Jr. '64
Thomas C. England '11	Alaric J. Roche, Jr. '64
Justin C. Faucette '16	Cristian C. Rodriguez '04
Christopher M. Favata '10	John R. Settle, III '12
Justin A. Flowers '12	W. Earle Spruill, Sr. '67
L. David Foxwell '75	Charlie B. Taylor, Sr. '59
John A. Gabor '92	Robert J. Tidwell '77
George L. Gunter '69	David M. Trzeciakiewicz '15
James K. Ingraham '19	Thomas G. Webber, Sr. '63
Warren C. Massey '50	Sean R. Wills '16

The Brethren shown above have a total of 933 years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in April:

Cheryl Farrer	April 2 nd
Patricia Quinton	April 4 th
Teresa Boogades	April 5 th
Judith Naprsteh	April 7 th
Sheryl Vancampen	April 7 th
Denise Bement	April 20 th
Paige Mason	April 29 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.

Bull Roast Preparations

This year's Bull Roast will be held on Saturday, June 6th. As most of you are aware, this is our largest and most important fundraiser for the Lodge each year. The proceeds fund donations to the Masonic home and our annual youth scholarships and augments our Lodge operations budget.

The planning process has already started. I have reached out to some of you to head various portions of the event. I ask that any Brother with some time to spare to contact myself and/or our Junior Warden; John Settle, to offer assistance on the day of the event. Saturday the 6th is a full day requiring many hands for success. Even a couple of hours of your time will help immensely.

Next month, in the May Ashlar, you will receive four tickets for the Bull Roast. We ask that you help sell (or buy) these tickets and attend if you

are able (invitations are free for our widows). More tickets are available if you need them. This year we are going to be offering sponsorships for the event as well. More details on this to follow, but the idea will be for individuals or organizations to sponsor some portion of the Bull Roast. You can sponsor the potato salad, beans, or some of the roast. If your company would like be a general sponsor for some name recognition, we would love that as well!

Brother Mike Denning, Bull Roast Chairman

Meet the Chaplain

Kemsville's new Chaplain for 2020 is Brother Keith Ingraham.

Brother Keith hails from upstate New York and eventually moved to southern Louisiana, where he worked as a certified Harley-Davidson mechanic. He met his wife Kate and joined the Navy in 2000, and he is currently a Senior Chief Electronics Technician (ETCS). He has two very talented daughters, Calla and Laelia. His hobbies include motorcycling, ham radio, and spending time with his family. Keith is also an active member of his church and a member of VFW Post No. 392.



Keith was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 2019 and has been doing an outstanding job as Chaplain for Kempsville, quickly learning all

the prayers and ceremonies. Although he is very busy with his family and the Navy, he can be found helping out at all of our Lodge events. It's great to have you on our team Keith!

70 Masonic Veteran

Congratulations to Brother Warren C. Massey, who celebrates 70-years as a Master Mason in April. Brother Massey is the oldest Masonic Veteran on the rolls of Kempsville Masonic Lodge and we honor his life and dedication to the Craft. He was Raised in Muncy Lodge No. 299, Muncy, Pennsylvania, on April 10, 1950.

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



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