



# The Ashlar

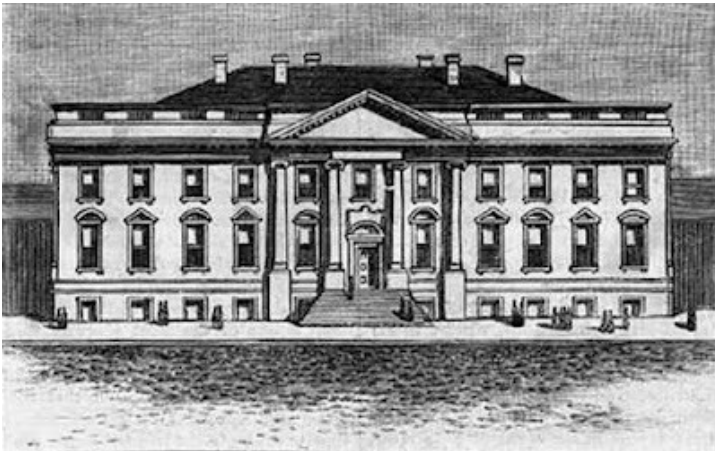


October 2021

**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)

Volume 68-10

## White House Cornerstone Anniversary



October is the 229<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cornerstone ceremony for the White House, known originally as the President's House in 1792. The Masonic connection between the White House, its Irish inspiration and the Freemasons is a curious one.

On Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1792, a procession of Masons formed at the Fountain Inn in Georgetown and marched through the woods to the site of the excavated foundation of the new President's House in the Federal City. It was 485 years to the day that King Phillip IV had the Knights Templar arrested simultaneously all over France, marking the beginning of the excommunication and dissolving of the Templar order.

The barest outlines of roads were still being cleared through the dense forest when the Freemasons laid the cornerstone of the first federal building in town without much public fanfare. The mansion's architect, James Hoban himself was an Irish Catholic and a member of Georgetown Lodge No. 9. He took part in the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone, and became the founding Master of Federal Lodge No. 15 the following year.

The traditional Masonic ceremony was used, and it was presided over by Maryland Lodge No. 9's Master, Peter Casanave. A brass plate was placed under the stone, which read,

"This first stone of the President's House was laid the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 1792, and in the 17<sup>th</sup> Year of the Independence of the United States of America."

George Washington, President; Thomas Johnson; Doctor Stewart; Daniel Carroll; Commissioners James Hoban, Architect; Collen Williamson, Master Mason Vivat Republica.

The only newspaper account of the day's doings is from the Charlestown Gazette from November 15, 1792, concentrating mostly on the various toasts given by the assembled men afterwards back at the tavern.

James Hoban would work in the Federal City for another forty years. When the British burned the President's House in 1814, he assisted in its reconstruction.

In spite of what has been claimed elsewhere, Washington himself was not present at the cornerstone ceremony, nor did he ever live in the house. John and Abigail Adams were the first "First Couple" to inhabit the President's House. They lived there for only four months before Thomas Jefferson took office.

The White House has seen many other additions and remodelings over the last two centuries. When Thomas Jefferson moved in, he was still jealous over his own design being snubbed by the original committee, so he sent Hoban packing to another office across town, and brought in his own favored architect, Freemason Benjamin Latrobe, to make changes. Latrobe altered the interior (including the

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## From The East



As time continues eternal, it seems to accelerate every day. This fact hit home as I look at the calendar to prepare for upcoming events. Here it is October already. We have been blessed to see the Lodge reopen and become active once again.

The year started with another COVID shutdown. Then the opening was quite slow. We were allowed to meet but with only 10 people present. Meals were not allowed and no degree work was authorized. This kept our functions virtual via Zoom. We are so thankful to Worshipful Dave T-Rex for getting Zoom started. Zoom provides the needed avenue for continued fellowship, Masonic education, and a semblance of monthly Stated Communications.

Gradually restrictions were lifted. We began monthly breakfast events as soon as allowed. The attendance and participation was overwhelming. Our fear of low turnout proved to be unfounded as this event has turned out over 100+ people every month. Stated dinners resumed as well. A big thank you to the Stewards and the "kitchen crew" for turning out the well known gourmet meals.

Membership is strong and growing. We started the year with zero candidates in waiting. Kempsville was fortunate to get all our candidates in waiting into the one day conferral late last year. Our reputation, love for the craft, and visibility in the community; continues to bring in new members. We have six candidates at various stages of degree work and two newly elected members to receive the degrees. Your Lodge has reached the point again where we are conducting degree work every Tuesday night. To highlight this success, we will have raised our first Master Mason in over a year and a half on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> with a second not far behind. Please come and join us on Tuesdays.

Looking to the future, your Lodge does not rest. In addition to the weekly degree work we still have a number of charitable and recognition activities in the works. We will be recognizing an Eagle Scout at October Stated Dinner. Please join us in recognizing this prestigious accomplishment and all the hard work this young man put into the effort. Grand Lodge meets November 5<sup>th</sup>. Kempsville Lodge will be supporting those less fortunate in our area this Thanksgiving. We will once again be teaming up with our local schools and taking donations in order to provide

Thanksgiving meals for families with children that would not otherwise get to enjoy a grand meal during the holiday. Our poinsettia delivery to our local widows will take place the first Saturday in December. Then for Christmas, we are teaming with the Salvation Army for Angel Tree donations. This charity provides a Christmas for local youth that may not otherwise get to experience the joy of the holiday.

You should all be proud of all your Lodge does and provides. I know I am.

Brother Mike Denning  
Worshipful Master

## From The West



### THE TROWEL OF MANY

Nearly every Masonic lecture, ritual, and prayer is gilded with an overarching theme of teamwork and collective dedication to our families, our Lodge Brothers, our countries, and/or our fellow man. This past weekend, the Brethren of Kempsville Lodge No. 196 exemplified their conviction to this theme in undertaking one of the most successful annual Bull Roast to-date!

Months ago, we began preparing for the event by creating and distributing tickets, flyers, and posters, identifying and training cooks, helpers, and other key staff, and gathering and preparing vast quantities of food, supplies, and other essential materials and equipment. By the morning of our thirty-seventh annual Bull Roast, the Lodge was fully staffed and equipped to handle the abundant volume of attendees that arrived in unpredictable masses throughout the day. This was a monumental task, and all of the Brethren who assisted in its undertaking are worthy of ample praise, especially in consideration of the fact that the effectiveness of their efforts was under the perpetual threat of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The actions of our Brethren in preparation for this massive event remind me of the Master Mason's catechism, specifically the lesson affiliated with the trowel. Over the course of the last several months, we were engaged in intricate levels of teamwork with one another to ensure the success of the Bull Roast. Whether or not we were aware of it at the time, we implemented the trowel's symbolic purpose as Free and Accepted Masons by uniting ourselves into one sacred band, a society of friends and Brothers, and excelled in the undertaking of

this event. Once again, but now in a record-setting manner, we have exemplified to our community, our families, and ourselves that our only contention is that noble emulation of who can best work and best agree.

Brother John Settle, Senior Warden

## From The South



As we approach the end of this crazy year, you can see our lodge is very active in working with new candidates and mentoring young Masons. If you have coached before, always wanted to coach, or feel it is your

responsibility to your lodge (you are correct). Learn a part to confer a degree, then learn another. As I am personally finding out, you are not too old to learn a new part. Please let the oncoming Junior Warden or myself know what parts you are now interested in learning. For instance, I want to learn first Fellowcraft and the Entered Apprentice lectures. See, it is not hard to say what you want to learn. Step up and grab that cable tow.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Junior Warden

## Masonic Birthdays for October

Ronnie W. Anglin '71	Rodney K. Griffin '16
Robert H. Barton '90	Geirge E. Habib '80
Michael D. Blankenship '17	Zahi A. Habre '19
Joseph S. Bloise '03	Robert L. Huff '20
David W. Broadway '91	Anson T. Knowles, Sr. '76
G. Ray Bunch, Jr. '80	Andrew L. Levy '99
Jonathan W. Bunch '14	George H. Lewis, III '70
Donald S. Cale '92	Robert W. Lewis, Jr. '71
Daniel E. Connor '85	Ian W. Marks '96
Patrick M. Cooney '20	Jimmy R. McDaries '15
Richard V. Cooper, Jr. '12	Connon J. McMillan '20
Thomas H. Cutchins, III '87	Thomas E. Monahan '96
Jean M. Damus '20	Henley A. Morgan, Jr. '87
W Lawrence Daniels '20	Gregory C. Muir '10
Kody C. Davis '20	George W. O'Neal '01
Robert H. DeFord, Jr. '54	M. Joseph Orman '82
Harold C. Dickerson, Jr. '90	Marc F. Povondra '83
David E. Dodson '76	Clyde S. Sheely '69
Thomas F. Doering, Sr. '92	Robert W. Stanek '77
John A. Donahue '10	Thomas N. Thomas '88
George E. Fausel '82	Michael A. Turner '18
David H. Foxwell '07	David A. White '00
Jason L. Fuller '11	Raymond N. Wilson '20
Tracy L. Gilbert '96	Robert J. Worthington '04

These Brethren have a total of  
1,851 years in Masonry!

## Trestle Board

October 2 ..... Grand Lodge Dedication at  
Princess Anne Lodge No. 25, 2PM  
October 5 ..... Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM  
October 12 ..... Stated Communication, 7PM  
October 19 ..... Master Mason Degree, 7PM  
October 30 ..... Monthly Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM  
November 5-6 ..... Grand Annual Communication  
Richmond Virginia  
November 9 ..... Stated Communication, 7PM

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in October:

Debbie Collins	October 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Dorothy Foxwell	October 4 <sup>th</sup>
Joyce Dunn	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
Millie Maddox	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Sandy Howard	October 17 <sup>th</sup>

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.

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull Roast

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Bull Roast on Saturday Sept 11<sup>th</sup>! We served an amazing 226 to-go orders as well as having a full dining room at lunch and dinner. Many thanks also to the Brothers who generously donated their time all week in preparing for and running the Bull Roast.



The funds raised from this event (initial count of over \$9,000) will be used not only to fund the upkeep of and improvements to the Lodge itself, but also to fund donations to the Masonic Home of Virginia as well as the annual scholarships we provide each year to two deserving students at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center.



The first Bull Roast deliveries heading out the door.



A special Bull Roast delivery to Sentara Leigh ICU nurses. Recognizing all the hard work these front line medical professionals do every day for the community.

## White House Cornerstone

*(continued from page 1)*

addition of a wine cellar) and planned the addition of the north and south porticos. After the building was burned by British troops in 1814, it was James Hoban who supervised its reconstruction, faithful to Jefferson's changes.

And of course there was the most famous alteration of all, when Harry S Truman had the entire interior gutted and rebuilt from the inside to the outer walls starting in 1948. Today, there is not a single interior room older than that project that ended in 1952. During that enormous undertaking, Truman (Past Grand Master of Missouri, 33° Scottish Rite Mason, and the 33<sup>rd</sup> President) sent White House foundation stones discovered with "Mason's marks" to every U.S. Grand Lodge.

## Lodge Activity



Degree work continues in earnest every Tuesday evening. We are so fortunate to have a deep bench of ritual professionals that allows us to

provide opportunity for junior officer advancement, Past Master ritual refresher, and any other Brother that likes to be involved.

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