



The Ashlar



June 2022

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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Brother Donald MacKay Fraser, VIII



In keeping with “The Lifesavers” theme for 2022, the Worshipful Master has requested each issue of The Ashlar to feature an article honoring a deceased member of our Lodge who has preserved life in addition to being a distinguished community member. “Distinguished” could mean anything from notable military service, an esteemed political career, or virtually any other qualifying instance elevating that member to recognition on a local, statewide, and/or national scale. For this month’s article, we feature Bro. Donald MacKay Fraser, VIII.

Fraser was born in 1917 to Scottish immigrants Donald & Isabell Fraser in Georgetown, Washington, DC. As a child, he worked for a Washington newspaper as a paperboy, delivering daily to the White House. During the Depression, his family moved to Newport, RI, where he graduated from Rogers High School in 1934. He later studied at Brown University, earning a mechanical engineering degree by 1937.

Fraser enlisted in the Navy after graduating, and was deployed to the Pacific at the onset of WWII. Wounded as a result of a Japanese kamikaze strike, he was redeployed to the Atlantic after his recovery, where he was wounded again during a German bombardment. This event afflicted him with flash blindness that left him legally blind for most of his life. After his second recovery, he worked at the Pentagon until the end of his active duty service in 1951. He concluded his naval career as a reservist in 1957, retiring as a Captain.

While off-duty, and after his military service, Fraser divided his time as a realtor and engineering consultant. In his consulting career, the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Yugoslav government were among his clients. At one point, he was even called to live and work in Iran for 3 years. His business caused him to move from Washington to the Ghent area of Norfolk, VA in the 1960s.

Fraser’s Norfolk residency revived his maritime spirit and reunited him with his brother Archibald. The brothers founded Fraser Marine Surveying in 1969, and surveyed in numerous states for the next 40 years. During this time, Fraser would meet and marry Byllee Jacque Mather in 1975. Afterwards, the couple would start Byllee Jacque’s Catering, culminating in their opening of a café within the Chrysler Museum.

Between his home in Ghent and his second business in the museum, Fraser was a fixture in the historic preservation scene. This role inspired him and others to oppose Norfolk’s plans to raze old buildings in Ghent. This opposition peaked in 1994 when he single-handedly lobbied the General Assembly to adopt spot blight abatement legislation (see VA Code § 36-49.1:1), preserving historic Ghent and earning him the title “Mayor of Ghent.”

Fraser and his wife relocated to the Thalia area of VA Beach in 1998. There they continued historic preservation advocacy, lobbying the City to spare Willis Wayside from destruction. Fraser played a critical role in the preservation of the Francis Land House, and served as first Chairman of its Board. As his wife’s health declined, he put aside all of duties and obligations to care for her until she passed away in 2001.

Grief didn’t preclude Fraser—in the early 2000s, he co-founded the Scottish Society of Tidewater, as well

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From The East



The square and compasses are unequivocally the most iconic symbol of our Craft. Its use has become so prolific and associable with the positive undertakings of our

Fraternity that even those who are unfamiliar with Freemasonry are able to identify it. Commonly illustrated by a prominent letter "G" surrounded by a set of compasses above the span of an upturned oblong square, our ancient emblem abbreviates through symbolism some of the most cherished tenets of our Brotherhood.

Those in the practice of craftsmanship would identify the square as the template upon which most of their handiwork is derived. Freemasons, on the other hand, see the square as a ceaseless reminder of model conduct. At every Lodge meeting, the square's role is re-instilled as the form through which all of our undertakings must pass. Before any action or communication occurs, we must first square our thoughts thereof to guarantee the fruitfulness of the same.

The compasses, although utilized operatively to draw perfect circles and to measure the distance between two points, are emblematic of self-restraint. As our sacred ritual reminds us, the compasses are to be used for the allegorical purpose of forming a perimeter around our passions. By doing so, we are divested of the burdens of superfluity and better suited to direct our attention to more productive and pressing matters.

The final component of our symbol is the one that encourages the most inquiry- the capitalized letter "G." Although the surface upon which the square and compasses are placed at all Lodge meetings gives ample credence to the suggestion that it stands for God, this is an ancillary meaning. In reality, and as we are all lectured, "G" is an abbreviation for Geometry. Geometry is the foundation of our Craft, as it names the mathematical dogma that enables the working tools prescribed within. An infallible fund of formulas, Geometry is understood in all conversations, countries, and cultures, making it the only true universal language. As such, its centrality in our insignia between two symbolic and sentimental tools, when viewed through its revealed meaning, serves as an interminable reminder that our Fraternity is an amiable society of friends of Brothers, brimming with virtuous

intentions, committed to their fellow man, and affable to all.

Brother John Settle, III, Worshipful Master

From The West



The teachings of our institution tells us that charity is the brightest gem that can adorn our Masonic profession. Happy is the man who has sowed in his breast the seeds of

benevolence; the produce there of is love and peace. On the other hand, Selfishness is evil and immoral in that it prevents the person afflicted with this dread disease from reaching spiritual perfection. He does not set worthwhile goals, and strives to keep others from reaching theirs. As Masons we must remember that selfishness is in direct violation of the teachings of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. To Relieve the Distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly the Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. A selfish Mason, prefers to be self-centered, petty and small. He forgets that it is by the square that we learn morality, by the level equality and by the plum rectitude of life and conduct. He lets wrath, loss of reason and fair play govern his actions.

My brothers, we must forever guard ourselves against selfishness through the practice of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the principal tenets of our profession. The person with only self-interest is doomed, since self-interest makes him less than what he really can be and leads to atrophy of the mind, spirit, and body. However, the use of selflessness to understand our needs and the needs of others allows us to obtain that goodness of heart, that fair fame that purity of intention and love of virtue of which, is the possession of every good Mason.

Remember brothers, we should forever use our trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, use the compasses to circumscribe our words and actions. It is through the proper use of our Masonic implements, that we shall protect ourselves from those selfish thoughts and actions which will block our path to the kingdom of God.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Senior Warden

From The South



While planning articles to write from the South this year, I choose to call an audible this month. My father, Louis P Dunn III was initiated an EA here in 1977. He valued his years in masonry greatly and I remember as a boy and young man, dad would see somebody he knew and afterwards when explaining who they were, he would say "he's a past master". To dad there was no higher honor a man could have than to have served his lodge in the chairs and ultimately has sat in that Oriental Chair in service to his lodge and brethren. I remember this so well.

On April 8th my father departed and traveled on to that celestial lodge. It was very unexpected and I am still just trying to come to grips with it all however I felt a need to share with you how the final honors we give a brother impacted our entire family. On April 18th. Worshipful Settle called his Lodge of Sorrow and Labor and WB Dave T-Rex, along with 24 other brethren gave my father the Masonic rites. I was so moved at the sheer number of brethren, from our lodge and others, including 3 of the districts Worshipful Masters, The District Deputy Grand Master, the Most Illustrious Potentate of the Shrine, numerous Past Masters and brethren.

I was also deeply honored to Don my Apron and Jewel of office and participate in my fathers Masonic rites. Dad and I had talked many times about masonry and the funeral rites. Never did either of us imagine so many would be present to both pat tribute to dad but also to offer support to myself. Many people in my extended family who were present commented to me how deeply moving the rites were and how touching. Deep inside of me there was such a joy for my father yet such a deeply profound pain and sorrow for my loss. The last ten years, since my mother passed, dad and I lived together and took care of each other. He is greatly missed. But in closing, thank you to all for your love and support and please join me in trying to participate in every funeral your schedule will permit. It is truly a blessing we can give the family of a Departed brother.

Brother Doug Dunn, Junior Warden

Trestle Board

June 14 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
June 20 District Blood Drive
2-7PM, Bayside Masonic Lodge
June 25 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
July 12 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

Masonic Birthdays for June

James O. Amburn, Jr. '65	Jonathan W. Jones '05
Sidney C. Atkinson '82	William T. Kemp, Jr. '07
Gerald B. Barham '62	Robert D. Lockwood '73
Theodore W. Barton, Jr. '66	Thomas McGowan '66
Sean C. Bray '18	Richard W. Mears, Jr. '62
John R. Caole '03	Owen P. Mills '67
Jonathan R. Cook, III '18	Emmett M. Pate, Jr. '00
Robert A. Davis '82	Fletcher B. Porter, Jr. '91
Roger N. Farr '74	Norman P. Powers, Jr. '95
Frederick C. Farrer '94	Simone Scigliano '11
John T. Farrer '94	John R. Settle, IV '12
Adam T. Ford '06	Clifton E. Smith '89
Jeran M. Gray '16	Robert B. Wadsworth '99
Jerry S. Hase '88	Michael J. Willis '73
Daniel G. Higger '96	G. Robert Winn, Jr. '09
Lloyd F. Holbrook, III '98	

These Brethren have a total of
961 years in Masonry!

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in June:

Jessica Squires	June 2 nd
Shirley White	June 9 th
Mary Noyas	June 10 th
Bobbi Feller	June 11 th
Clara Krell	June 12 th
Diana Rawls	June 17 th
Sylvia Massey	June 18 th
Betty Burton	June 24 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.

Brother Donald MacKay Fraser, VIII (cont'd from page 1)

as the St. Andrew's Scottish Society. A lover of Scotland, he held whisky tastings at his home, local venues, and even the Smithsonian. Through these organizations and his City service, he met and married Ruth Hodges Smith, who was the VA Beach City Clerk for 40 years and served as Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern

Star, Grand Chapter of VA from 1993 to 1994. Ruth inspired him to petition our Lodge in 2006 at age 89- he was initiated, passed, and raised later that year, and remains the oldest member of our Lodge to receive the degrees herein. His signers were Right Worshipful Charley Orsargos and Worshipful Joseph Posey. A member of our Lodge for 8 years, he died in 2014 at age 97, survived by his wife, brother, half-sister, and several nieces and nephews, including Donald, IX.

Fraser's immutable diligence to engineering, historic preservation, and volunteerism characterize him as a polymath and a staunch devotee to the conservation of heritage. For his entire life, he enacted his intellect and learned abilities with that of his cohorts, countrymen, and fellow volunteers to enrich the integrity of his community. These noble efforts secure Fraser's laudation in this series as an unmistakable lifesaver. If you're aware of a deceased member of our Lodge who may fit "The Lifesaver" criteria, please email johnrs4@vt.edu.

38th Annual Bull Roast Recap

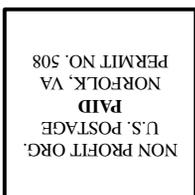
I'm happy to report that this year's Bull Roast was a huge success and was festooned by a new sign provided by Brother Ingram and installed by Brother Herculano. Based on the abilities of your Lodge members who were present and assisting, we could not fail! The quite capable leadership of the kitchen crew led by Brother Moissett and his tireless assistant, Brother Sherman along with the experienced and meticulous slicing of Brother Blankenship, the "Beast burner" Worshipful Roger Taylor, the spotless clean-up of Brother

Kammerer, and swift deliveries of Brother DiMaggio. All were assisted by a plethora of assistants with a special thanks to our DeMolays. We cannot forget every dentists' favorite person handing out sweets, Right Worshipful McGowan, and keeping us all in line Right Worshipful Stanek and Worshipful Anders. A very special thanks to Brother Dunn who worked tirelessly in all areas to ensure everything went smoothly as planned and came running to my aid in times of distress. A very special Thanks to everyone for your efforts in making Kempsville's 38th Annual Bull Roast a huge success this year.

Pat Blankenship
2022 Bull Roast Lead

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	John Settle, III	675-9695
Senior Warden	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Junior Warden	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Michael Turner	581-4239
Junior Deacon	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Chaplain	James Boone	515-0131
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Dennis Dimaggio	582-3320
Instructor of Work	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
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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