



# The Ashlar



January 2023

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

Volume 68-01

## The Cable-Tow



In American lodges the cable-tow is used in all three degrees, and has almost too many meanings. Some of our American teachers — Pike among them — see no meaning in the cable-tow beyond its obvious use in leading an initiate into the lodge, and the possible use of withdrawing him from it should he be unwilling or unworthy to advance.

To some of us this non-symbolical idea and use of the cable-tow is very strange, in view of what Masonry is in general, and particularly in its ceremonies of initiation. For Masonry is a chamber of imagery. The whole Lodge is a symbol. Every object, every act is symbolical.

The whole fits together into a system of symbolism by which Masonry veils, and yet reveals, the truth it seeks to teach to such as have eyes to see and are ready to receive it.

As far back as we can go in the history of initiation, we find the cable-tow, or something like it, used very much as it is used in a Masonic Lodge today. No matter what the origin and form of the word as we employ it may be — whether from the Hebrew "Khabel," or the Dutch "cabel," both meaning a rope.

In the meaning, so far as we can make it out, seems to have been some kind of pledge — a vow in which a man pledged his life. Even outside initiatory rites we find it employed, as, for example, in a striking scene recorded in the Bible (I Kings 20:31,32), the description of which is almost Masonic. The King of Syria, Ben-hada, had been defeated in battle by the King of Israel and his servants are making a plea for his life. They approach the King of Israel "with ropes upon their heads," and speak of his "Brother, Ben-hadad."

Why did they wear ropes, or nooses, on their heads? Evidently to symbolize a pledge of some sort, given in a Lodge or otherwise, between the two Kings, of which they wished to remind the King of Israel.

The cable-tow, then, is the outward and visible symbol of a vow in which a man has pledged his life, or has pledged himself to save another life at the risk of his own. Its length and strength are measured by the ability of the man to fulfill his obligation and his sense of the moral sanctity of his obligation — a test, that is, both of his capacity and of his character.

If a lodge is a symbol of the world, and initiation is our birth into the world of Masonry, the cable-tow is not unlike the cord which unites a child to its mother at birth; and so it is usually interpreted. Just as the physical cord, when cut, is replaced by a tie of love and obligation between mother and child, so, in one of the most impressive moments of initiation, the cable-tow is removed, because the brother, by his oath at the Altar of Obligation, is bound by a tie stronger than any physical cable. What before was an outward physical restraint has become an inward moral constraint. That is to say, force is replaced by love — outer authority by inner obligation — and that is the secret of security and the only basis of brotherhood.

The cable-tow is the sign of the pledge of the life of a man. As in his oath he agrees to forfeit his life if his vow is violated, so, positively, he pledges his life to the service of the Craft. He agrees to go to the aid of a Brother, using all his power in his behalf, "if within the length of his cable-tow," which means, if within the reach of his power. How strange that any one should fail to see symbolical meaning in the cable-tow. It is, indeed, the great symbol of the mystic tie which Masonry spins and weaves between men, making them Brothers and helpers one of another.

*Continued on page 3*

## From The East



Thank you all for the well-attended installation of your officers for 2023. The kitchen crew did another exceptional job in presenting a fine meal that is the exceptional tradition of Kempsville Masonic Lodge. Our meal was accompanied by the cheerful service of the women of Eastern Star and the young ladies of Job's Daughters. Their support was invaluable in allowing the Brethren to enjoy the meal in a timely manner and get back at work in the lodge.

I am looking forward to a successful year for Kempsville with a few celebrations like a Table Lodge and moving our Bull Roast to cooler weather. We are starting out the year with many candidates in the works which will require your dedication to the lodge to step forward and coach and mentor. Bind anew to the lodge, work on a service project, help with a meal, coach and mentor a candidate, and get involved with a community project that reflects well on Masonry and Kempsville Lodge.

Service to our youth programs is very important. Please make time to support their efforts and support our youth leaders in whatever they need to educate these young men and women on good morals and Masonic values. We will renew our support of the ladies of the Eastern Star, our widows where we can, scholarship programs, Thanksgiving Dinners, poinsettias, football programs, park clean up, and blood drives. I have a full year planned to improve the membership, Relationships with our satellite programs, the public appearance of the lodge, working relationships with 56<sup>th</sup> District lodges, and a effective training program that is fun and efficient.

Brother Pat Blankenship, Worshipful Master

## From The West



The 56<sup>th</sup> Masonic District has a rich history. The number of lodges has fluctuated throughout the years. We are all too aware of the toll the transient nature of our city's population has taken on our lodges. As good men who serve our country and lodge get transferred away often our lodges feel the loss. We have also seen many brothers lay down their working tools and move on to the celestial lodge. These impact our lodge rosters and unfortunately lodges have come and gone. We lost Va Beach Lodge however

we were very fortunate to have Victory Daylight Lodge join our Masonic district. We now have six lodges again in our district and Right Worshipful Bob Stanek did an awesome job last year getting the lodges working more together. Visitations as well as supporting each other's endeavors. The strength of each of our lodges individually is great but combined as a district is truly impressive. It's not unusual to find brethren from one lodge sitting in chairs for a degree night at another lodge in our district. I hope we continue traveling while supporting each others lodges. I believe Worshipful Pat plans to continue to do just that. Pat truly defines the term Traveling Man!

Brother Doug Dunn, Senior Warden

## From The South



Allow me to introduce myself as your latest Junior Warden for Kempsville No. 196. It is a distinct pleasure to be allowed to serve you in this capacity and I am looking forward to a great year in lodge! I hope to provide an example of excellence in this position and have already turned my eye to my main duty, refreshment!

I am a bit of a traveling man. I have attended lodge in 30+ lodges, 5 states, and two countries and one of the things that makes Kempsville No. 196 stand out is our refreshment! We put on a dinner before our stated that I have not seen anyone even come close to matching. They are works of culinary art.

I want to pass along at this time, that while your Junior Warden might have changed, your steady hand of the Senior Steward has not. Brother Todd Moissette remains our artist in residence for dinners, assisted by the able hands of the Junior Steward Brother Scott Sherman. They work together as a team to produce the finest dishes, hands down, seen in any lodge in North America. I can say this with authority, actually having personally collected this data!

So, I know just as you don't tug on Superman's cape, you don't jog the elbow of the master as he creates. To that end, Todd once again will be bring you dish excellence in the kitchen with little interference by me. As he told me in our first meeting, my job is to stand around and look pretty while he makes me look smart, and I plan to do that to the best of my ability!

Brother Mike Turner, Junior Warden

## Trestle Board

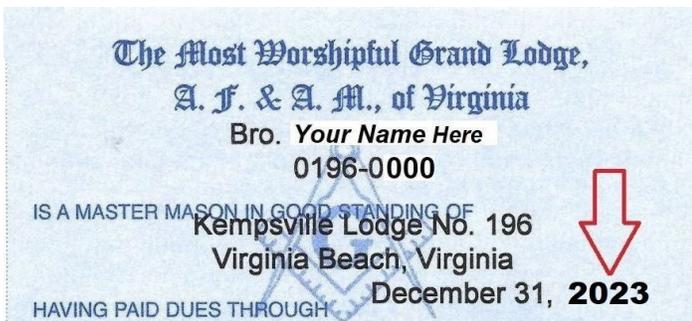
January 4 .....	District Deputy's Official Visit Princess Anne No. 25, 6:30PM
January 5 .....	District Deputy's Official Visit Bayside No. 218, 6PM
January 7 .....	District Deputy's Official Visit Victory Daylight No. 1778, 9AM
January 10 .....	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
January 17 .....	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
January 24 .....	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
January 28 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
January 31 .....	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM

## Masonic Birthdays for January

L. Douglas Dunn '17	Francis G. Mielkey, II '98
Onrubio L. Florendo, Jr. '10	James E. Pearsall, Jr. '79
Henry L. Foiles, Jr. '59	Matthew D. Pilgrim '11
Lucian A. Gunter, III '58	David W. Poirier '18
Eric J. Hallal '17	John R. Preddy, III '07
Gerald T. Hallal '08	Bill Rensko '96
Robert A. Hughes '18	Richard B. Temple, Sr. '55
Christopher Kammerer '22	Scott C. Vaughn '15
Ronald S. Melton, Jr. '04	Yancy M. Woodard '20

## From the Secretary

January is here, and annual lodge dues are now payable. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so at your earliest convenience. You may pay electronically on the Grand Lodge website, or send your dues to the Secretary. Your dues card should look like the one below, with a 2023 expiration date. Thank you for prompt consideration of this matter – the lodge relies on dues to operate.



Right Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

## 2022 Food Share Summary

	2021	2022
Money collected	\$1428	\$2733
Food donated	3786 lbs.	2792 lbs.

Brethren, we have had a phenomenal year in 2022 affording much needed relief to those in need. Our

cash donations were up, but our pounds of food were down. Facing the challenges of COVID and inflated food costs, the brethren at Kempsville No. 196 have continued to make a difference in the community. I would particularly like to thank the appendant bodies for their continued support. I look forward to another successful Food Share year and helping keep our community fed. Some of our deliveries can get rather large and heavy after turning the cash into food. If you have time in your day to lend a hand, Food Share is a very rewarding community service that you can assist with that will not consume a great deal of your time.

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in January:

Ethel Ward	January 6 <sup>th</sup>
Shirley Salt	January 6 <sup>th</sup>
Donna Andrews	January 14 <sup>th</sup>
Ruth Hodges Frazer	January 15 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara Cole	January 16 <sup>th</sup>
Carol Barber	January 20 <sup>th</sup>
Bonnie Jordan	January 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Dorothy Sykes	January 28 <sup>th</sup>
Doris Flannigan	January 28 <sup>th</sup>
Teresa Spruill	January 29 <sup>th</sup>
Deborah Foxwell	January 31 <sup>st</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.

## The Cable-Tow (cont'd from page 1)

But, let us remember that a cable-tow has two ends. If it binds a Mason to the Fraternity, by the same fact it binds the Fraternity to each man in it. The one obligation needs to be emphasized as much as the other. Happily, in our day we are beginning to see the other side of the obligation — that the Fraternity is under vows to its members to guide, instruct and train them for the effective service of the Craft and of humanity. Control, obedience, direction or guidance — these are the three meanings of the cable-tow, as it is interpreted by the best insight of the Craft.

Of course, by Control we do not mean that Masonry commands us in the same sense that it uses force. Not at all. Masonry rules men as beauty rules an artist, as love rules a lover. It does not drive; it draws. It controls us, shapes us through its human touch and its moral nobility. By the same method, by the same power it wins obedience and gives guidance and direction to our lives. At the

Altar we take vows to follow and obey its high principles and ideals; and Masonic vows are not empty obligations — they are vows in which a man pledges his life and his sacred honor.

Short Talk Bulletin  
Vol. IV March, 1926 No.3

## Worshipful Tommy Haste



On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Kempsville Lodge No. 196 lost its oldest living Past Master when Worshipful Tommy Haste laid down his Working Tools and entered the Celestial Lodge.

Worshipful Tommy joined Kempsville Lodge in 1961 where he immediately began serving as a Chapter Dad for the Kempsville DeMolay before serving as Worshipful Master of our Lodge in 1970. He continued to support our youth organizations by serving as Associate Bethel Guardian for Bethel 42 and Bethel 71 and later went on to become a very active member of Kempsville Chapter No. 173, Order of the Eastern Star, serving as Worthy Patron numerous times.

Most of us, however, will simply remember Worshipful Tommy as the pillar standing guard over our West Gate as he quietly and faithfully manned his post in the Northwest corner of our Lodge. More importantly, Worshipful Tommy will be forever remembered as a true gentleman and a shining example of the tenets of Freemasonry.

In my Masonic travels throughout the state, I've noticed that most lodges have that single member that you always look forward to seeing. They welcome you with a friendly smile and a firm handshake. They make you feel welcomed. They make you glad you took time out of your day to attend. Worshipful Tommy was that person.

Yes, the chair in the northwest corner may be empty—but Worshipful Tommy's spirit of fellowship, which is an indelible part of our Lodge, can remain. It's up to each of us to fill the void his absence has left. For the last 61 years, Worshipful Tommy has shown us the way.

All it takes is a warm smile and a friendly handshake.

A Fellow Past Master

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Warden	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Junior Warden	Michael Turner	581-4239
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Keith Ingraham	613-5474
Junior Deacon	Howard Draper	515-3540
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	Ricky Natoli	305-924-5945
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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