



The Ashlar



1st Quarter, 2024

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

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The Visiting Brother

Mackey's Fourteenth Landmark reads as follows:

"The right of every Masons to visit and sit in every regular Lodge is an unquestionable Landmark of the Order. This is called the 'right of visitation.' This right of visitation has always been recognized as an inherent right, which inures to every Masons as he travels through the world. And this is because Lodges are just considered as only divisions for convenience of the universal Masonic Family. "

It is common knowledge that the wages of a Master Mason are often paid when visiting other lodges, and that this freedom of movement is the cornerstone of our fraternity. A Mason in good standing who desires to visit a lodge other than his own makes his wishes known to the Tiler, who communicates with the Master that a would-be visitor desires admission.

Whether a would-be visitor is in good standing is a question easily answered if he possesses a current dues or good standing card. The majority of American Grand Jurisdictions give such a card on payment of dues and demand its presentation to the committee at the time of examination. The committee may, and often does depend upon a careful examination of a "List of Regular Lodges" to satisfy itself that the visitor is from a "just and legally constituted lodge."

A great and important duty involves upon the examination committee to which is entrusted the task of ascertaining if a would-be visitor is a regular Mason and entitled (under the Master's pleasure) to visit with his brethren. Committee members are, for the time being, Tilers; their examination should be so conducted that in the event the would-be visitor is a cowan, nothing has been said or done which would give him any information. On the other hand brotherly courtesy dictates that it be not necessarily long.

A good committee seeks for the spirit rather than the form. There is no uniformity in ritual through this nation or the world. It is not important that the would-be visitor know the exact words of the ritual of the Jurisdiction in which he would visit; it is important that he know the substance of the work as taught in his own Jurisdiction. In all recognized Jurisdictions the world over the essentials are the same; only words and minor details differ. Thus, Aprons are worn "as a Master Mason" in different ways in several Jurisdictions in the United States, "but in all Jurisdictions a Master Mason wears an Apron!"

Generally the visitor gets a greater reward for the time he has spent than the lodge he visits. Masons who visit many lodges, especially if in other than their own Jurisdiction, receive a new idea of the breadth of the Order, a new feeling for the underlying principles of the ancient Craft. If he can express his pleasure in his visit, bring a message from his home lodge to those brethren he visits, they also may gain from the occasion. In any event the lodge visited has been paid a compliment; the visitor has received trust and faith, regardless of the character of the welcome.

A Mason who has the opportunity to visit in other lodges may well recall the words of the Great Light upon the Altar, no less true for him that they were said in olden time; "Let us go again and visit our Brethren in every city" (acts 15:36). Brethren of that lodge which has the privilege of acting as host to him who comes to the Tiler's door a stranger and enters the lodge as a brother may rejoice in the words: "Let Brotherly Love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 14:1, 2.)

From The East



As a Master Mason, I have traveled a lot to other lodges, both inside and outside of this country. It is one of the best aspects of masonry in my humble opinion. It can be a bit daunting

however if you do not know what will happen. Below is a guide on how to enter a lodge you do not know.

Any Mason in good standing may visit any recognized lodge in the United States or abroad, subject at all times to regulations of his own and the visited jurisdiction. Visiting a lodge where you know someone is always easy, such as other lodges in the 56th District, but what about out of state where you do not know anyone?

First of all, be certain you have something to identify you, a dues card or document under seal from our Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of VA can issue specific travel documents for your use, and if you are traveling outside of the country, make contact with a foreign Grand Lodge to provide you access.

Let us take the procedure step by step, beginning with the outer vestibule. These are typical for all the lodges I have visited, but can change at a whim so this is not an absolute list.

- (a) You have previously determined that the lodge is regular and recognized by the Grand Lodge of VA. You approach the tyler and advise him of your desire to visit, introducing yourself. He will make the necessary arrangements.
- (b) Two or more members of the lodge will appear, introduce themselves, and chat with you a short time. These brethren are entrusted with the task of satisfying themselves that you are a Master Mason.
- (c) You are requested to exhibit the documentary evidence to which we have referred. The committee will check the directory of lodges to ascertain the regularity of your lodge.
- (d) Having satisfied themselves, the committee will retire with you to a convenient place while the examination is being conducted .
- (e) You and the others hold the Volume of the Sacred Law while swearing to your eligibility to visit, and at the conclusion of

this portion of the ceremony the examination proceeds at the discretion and in the judgment of the committee, who may at this point vouch for you without further discussion.

- (f) After the committee have reported their findings to the Master, you will be properly clothed and conducted into the lodge by the appropriate officer. Here you will be introduced to the members present and led to a convenient seat next to brethren, if possible, so that you may be made to feel at ease quickly.

I have never met a lodge that did not quickly warm up to me. Once they know you are a Mason you become a long lost brother and often you will have far more acceptance than you could have ever imagined! Some of my most cherished Masonic memories have happened in visitation to other lodges. So do not let unfamiliarity stop you. Come early, chat with the brethren, and you will find that there is no barrier to your entry to other lodges.

Brother Michael Turner, Worshipful Master

From The West



Serving in the Navy, I often found myself away from home. However, in every clime a Mason may be found so I was never without Brothers. Some of my fondest masonic memories stem from visiting other lodges jurisdictions. I had the pleasure of sitting in lodge with my father-in-law, Worshipful Bob Jones in his home lodge, Copestone Ophir No. 108 in Carney, New Jersey, his lodge in Orlando, Florida, Winter Park No. 239 and right here at Kempsville No. 196. All opened and closed slightly differently but the same brotherly love was present and provided a fraternal bond that Bob and I could share wherever he happened to be living at the time.

Attending a stated is interesting but if you ever have the chance, attend a degree in another jurisdiction. I was fortunate enough to watch several candidates be passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft in Manchester Lodge No. 12, Rhode Island. The degree work was similar but different. In many ways it better illustrated some points in the degree and fell short in others in my opinion. However, it was educational and caused me to really learn more about the Virginia ritual to reconcile the differences. I happened to attend this degree when the Grand Lodge of Virginia had

recently rolled out the passport program and asked the Manchester lodge secretary to sign and stamp it. The Grand Senior Warden for Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations happened to be in attendance and really liked the idea of the passport and told me he was going to introduce it during his term as Grand Master. Thus, through visitation, a great idea was transferred from one Grand Lodge to another through me.

I urge every brother to take the opportunity to visit another lodge. The connections you make and the ideas that will be inspired, will last a lifetime.

Brother Justin Gray, Senior Warden

From The South



Being originally from North Carolina and never having visited another lodge outside of North Carolina, it was somewhat imposing when I moved to Virginia Beach and I had to find a new lodge with which to join. With

everything going on with a new family, new job, new city, new state, and eventually another new job, visiting new lodges fell on the back burner for a long period of time. Only when I began to get the urge to “get back into masonry” and begin visiting other lodges in Virginia Beach did I really begin to get my footing back. I was fortunate at the time to know two members of Virginia Beach Lodge No. 274 from my church, I was welcomed without hesitation by all members of the lodge. A little more than ten years later, I have found visiting other lodges to be one of the best things in masonry. It was through the many visits I made to Kempsville Lodge that I found this to be a good home when Virginia Beach Lodge closed. Though I have not had an opportunity to visit many lodges outside of the 56th District, I have found that I have found many more friends than I would otherwise by simply staying in my home lodge. I encourage you to visit other lodges.

Brother Howard Draper, Junior Warden

Resources for Masonic Education

As Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Information Technology, I'd like to take this opportunity to point out some excellent resources that are available for your Masonic education. First, the Committee on Masonic Education has

rolled out a new website called the Virginia Masonic Academy that can be found at

vma.grandlodgeofvirginia.org

On this site you'll find hundreds of Masonic Resources for your use as well as information about the newly revamped Correspondence Courses.

Secondly, your Grand View “My Portal” page now has the Masonic Service Organization's “Short Talk Bulletins” in addition to other resources such as Events, Member Search, Grand Lodge Recognition, Meeting Finder, and more.

Emmett “Buddy” Pate

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in January, February, and March:

Donna Andrews	January 14
Carol Barber	January 20
Barbara Cole	January 16
Doris Flannigan	January 28
Deborah Foxwell	January 31
Mary Hawker	March 25
Ruth Hodges-Fraser	January 15
Bonnie Jordan	January 22
Carol Leszczynski	March 27
Elizabeth McBride	March 30
Mary Nickerson	March 22
Sharon Nolan	March 29
Kaye Peters	March 18
Shirley Salt	January 6
Teresa Spruill	January 29
Edna St. John	March 1
Dorothy Sykes	January 28
Carol Wicks	March 24

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.

40th Annual Bull Roast – June 22nd

Brethren, mark your calendars for the 40th Annual Bull Roast. This is our biggest fund raiser and supports the Masonic Home of Virginia, the Kempsville Lodge Scholarship program, and our building fund. Your time and talents are greatly needed as we prepare for this event. With your help it will be a huge success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me either in person, by e-mail at roger.w.taylor@cox.net, or by

Meet Your New Officers

Brother Leandro Herculano, your new Junior Deacon, was born in Rio de Janeiro Brazil and works in the construction trade. Married in 2006 to Raquel, they have 2 daughters - Manuela and Melissa. Manuela is a Senior Princess of our Job's Daughter Bethel 42. He spends his free time adding more Dues Cards of Masonic organizations or fishing. Brother Leandro was Kempsville's Mason of the Year in 2021.



Our Senior Steward is Brother Jim Reyes. Originally from Austin, Texas, he joined the US Navy immediately after graduating high school and completed 25 years of service before retiring from active duty in 2022. Jim was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in Kempsville Lodge in the fall of 2022 and raised in spring of 2023. He and his wife, Kimberly, are parents to four teenagers, Emma, Chris, Zachary, and Sophia. Jim looks forward to serving the members and family of Kempsville Lodge and is especially excited for the fellowship of working alongside Brothers in the kitchen.



Brother Jay Keplinger, our new Tiler, is a Virginia Beach native, after high school, he began work in the construction industry doing utility work and road construction. He is now a construction inspector for the city of Chesapeake. He married in 2004 to Sheree, and has a 15 year old daughter, Natalie, who is a competitive dancer. He spends his free time either golfing, fishing, or working backstage at his daughter's dance competitions. He is a third generation Mason. He joined Kempsville Lodge in 2022, and was raised the same year.



On This Day...

It is possible for each of us to go out into the world trying to apply in his dealings with his fellows the lessons of Masonry as they are taught in the Lodge, and as they are applied I the brotherhood.

Theodore Roosevelt

(Brother Theodore Roosevelt departed this life on January 6, 1919)

Farewell to the Brethren

Adieu! A heart-warm, fond adieu!
Dear Brothers of the Mystic tie!
Ye favoured, ye enlightened few,
Companions of my social joy!
Tho I to foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing Fortune's slidd'ry ba',
With melting heart, and brimful eye,
I'll mind you still, tho' far awa'.

Oft have I met your social band
And spent the cheerful, festive night:
Oft honoured with supreme command,
Presided o'er the Sons of Light;
And by the Hieroglyphic Bright,
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw!
Strong Mem'ry on my heart shall write
Those happy scenes, when far awa'.

May Freedom, Harmony, and Love,
Unite you in the Grand Design,
Beneath the Omniscient Eye above-
The glorious Architect Divine-
That you keep th' Unerring Line,
Still rising by the Plummet's Law,
Till ORDER bright completely shine,
Shall be my pray'r when far awa'.

And you FAREWELL! whose merits claim
Justly the Highest Badge to wear!
Heav'n bless your honour'd noble NAME
To Masonry and Scotia dear.
A last request permit me here,
When yearly ye assemble a',
One round, I ask it with a tear
To him, the Bard that's far awa'.

Robert Burn

(On this March 1, 1787, Brother Robert Burns was crowned the Poet Laureate of Freemasonry by Lodge Cannongate-Kilwinning No. 2, at Edinburgh, Scotland.)

Visitation and our Youth Groups

As many of you may know Kempsville Lodge is blessed by having several very active youth organizations attached to it. We have both the Kempsville Demolay chapter, and a Job's Daughters Chapter, Bethel 42. Both are open to any appropriate aged youth who wishes to join.

Both Chapters are also open for any Master Mason to visit and the Masons are warmly welcomed. There is no restriction on attendance, a simple obligation the first time will cover you. It's a great chance to see ritual work performed by engaged and enthusiastic members who are truly interested and dedicated to what they are doing.

At the recent Installation of the new Master Councilor of Kempsville DeMolay there where so many people and Masons in attendance that an extra row of chairs had to be set out. This was helped by the fact that the Masters Councilor's sister is sitting as Honored Queen of the Jobies. Each group works closely with the other to present respectful, appropriate, and fun events for all involved.

If you want to know where the love and respect of the craft has gone it lives with our Youth Groups. You cannot help but feel invigorated by just visiting these groups and you will come away with a new appreciation of our own ritual. Truly a worthy outcome.

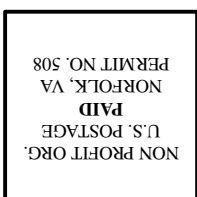
60 Year Veteran's Presentation



Worshipful Micheal Johnstone presents his father, Duane Johnstone, with his 60 Year Veterans Award at the March Stated Communication

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Michael Turner	581-4239
Senior Warden	Justin Gray	338-7218
Junior Warden	Howard Draper	515-3540
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Emmett Pate	404-8594
Senior Deacon	Chris Kammerer	348-9822
Junior Deacon	Leandro Herculano	267-678-9978
Senior Steward	Jim Reyes	469-0717
Chaplain	Karl Wessler	439-1858
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Jay Keplinger	615-9240
Instructor of Work	Rob Lockwood	617-2166
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	John Donahue	685-5686



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