



The Ashlar



3rd Quarter, 2024

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
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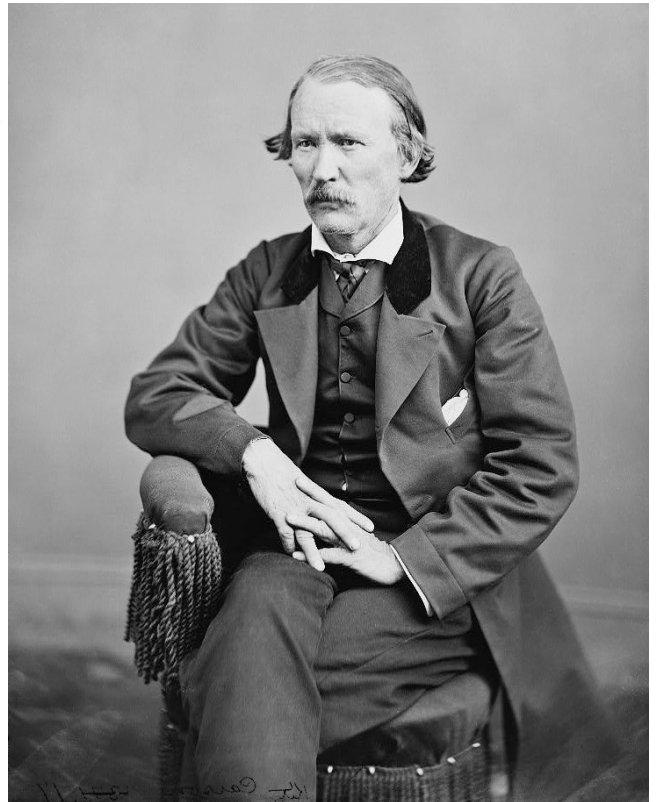
Kit Carson, Adventurer and Freemason

Kit Carson, born in 1809 in Madison County, Kentucky, became one of the most famous frontiersmen in American history. Raised on the Missouri frontier, he left home at the age of 16 to pursue a life of adventure in the uncharted wilderness of the West. Carson's skills as a trapper, scout, and guide made him an indispensable figure during the expansion of the United States, particularly in the exploration of the western territories. His service as a guide to John C. Frémont's expeditions in the 1840s brought him national fame, and his daring exploits as a mountain man, Indian agent, and military leader secured his place in the annals of the American frontier. In addition to all of these feats Carson was also a Freemason.

Freemasonry was a widespread fraternal order in the 19th century, and many prominent figures of the time were members to include Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton, the visionary that pushed westward expansion and was John C. Frémont's father-in-law. Kit Carson's association with Freemasonry likely began during his time in New Mexico, where the fraternity had a growing presence. Though specific records of his initiation remain unclear, it is widely believed that Carson was initiated into Freemasonry in a lodge in Taos, New Mexico, where he settled with his family later in life. Freemasonry, with our ideals of brotherhood, loyalty, and service, would have appealed to someone like Carson, who was known for his strong moral compass and sense of duty.

As a Freemason, Carson would have been part of a network that extended beyond the isolated life of the frontier, connecting him with men of influence and authority across the nation. The fraternity's structured system of degrees, symbols, and rituals was designed to promote personal development, ethical behavior, and philanthropy. Freemasonry fosters bonds of trust and mutual support, values that were critical in the uncertain and often dangerous world of the American West. Carson, who was known for his leadership and his ability to navigate complex and often perilous situations, likely found comfort and guidance in the fraternity's teachings.

In many ways, Carson's life exemplified the values upheld by Freemasonry. He was a man of action and honor, qualities deeply respected by our Masonic brotherhood. His work as an Indian agent, where he often acted as a mediator between the U.S. government and Native American tribes, required fairness, patience, and a strong moral foundation—traits that resonate with our Masonic principles of justice and harmony. Even though his role in military campaigns, particularly against the Navajo, remains controversial, his efforts to maintain peace and uphold the law were aligned with the fraternity's goal of promoting societal stability and order.



Continued on page 3

From The East



As this Ashlar reaches you this quarter I will be attending Bannack Lodge in Montana. This trip is only possible due to the strong line of officers I have backing me up everyday at the lodge.

The September Stated has been scheduled as Junior Warden night since the beginning and I have no doubt that our Junior Warder, Howard Draper, will knock it out of the park.

It is this same line that made our Bull Roast such a success this year with the lodge collecting over \$8,500 in proceeds to enable us to fund our scholarships, donate to MAHOVA, and make running the lodge during the year possible. This is in addition to their other duties and functions in the lodge that make our meetings possible, and our work to continue.

This is not to diminish the brethren's contributions. Far from it! It's the brethren that make a lodge a lodge. Recent changes and events have made us send out for calls of assistance. These calls have all been answered, often to the point we are overflowing with help and support! At a recent breakfast, for example, the call had us overflowing with new and old faces. A great thing to see and experience.

As I enter the glide slope to the end of my term as worshipful, I am on a hard charge to finish a lot of my vision. I have projects I still want to bringing to fruition. With my surgery my ability to get them done was been very limited unfortunately. In the near future you may receive calls for assistance to help finish these projects. I hope to once again see the levels of support we have in the past.

Finally, we can be safe in knowing our Senior Warden is good to go in his year. Whatever I cannot complete I am sure he will be more than able to make happen. He will have his own goals of course, but some goals are universal. So please be open to help if he reaches out, we are working on improving our lodge everyday and cherish the help we receive.

My motto for the year has been Deed, not Words, and I think we have shown that. Through our work with the youth and the community, our help to our widows, and our help to each other we have shown that Kempsville Lodge is alive and well in our district and growing. I, for one, am excited to see where we go next.

Brother Michael Turner, Worshipful Master

From The West



As I contemplated masons in history, the first one to come to mind is President Harry S. Truman. He was raised in Belton Lodge No. 450 in Belton, Missouri in 1909. In 1911, he

led the efforts to organize Grandview Lodge No. 618 and served as its first Master, followed by several years as Secretary and another term as Master in 1916. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master and Lecturer in 1925 and spent about five years giving courses of instruction throughout the district. He served as Grand Master of Masons in Missouri in 1940. He was elected as Vice President for FDR's fourth term and 82 days later he became President when FDR passed away.

I can only imagine that his long history with the craft was instrumental in his decision making. He is most often referred to as the President that dropped the atomic bomb on Japan, a decision that I'm sure he did not take lightly and came to only after determining that it would save more lives in the long run than would be lost from using it.

What is perhaps less well known is his drive to "render to every man his just due without distinction." He was quoted as saying "Freemasonry, is a system of morals which makes it easier to live with your fellow man, whether he understands it or not." He lived up to this time and again, breaking from the popular norms of the day. In 1948, he tried to pass the first ever civil rights legislation. He did not have the votes and it was defeated. He then desegregated the military by executive order. He also was the first world leader to recognize the newly formed state of Israel that same year 11 minutes after its founding.

I believe that few have ever pursued the meaning of the level so powerfully. I hope to live up to his example.

Brother Justin Gray, Senior Warden

From The South



As a former tour guide at Historic Halifax State Historic Site in Halifax, NC, when thinking of the history of freemasonry, I cannot help but think of Joseph Montfort. Montfort's gravestone reads "The highest masonic official ever reigning on this continent... the first, the last, the only Grand Master of America." Being an active freemason from the early 1760's, Montfort helped create one of the older masonic lodges in North Carolina, Royal



White Hart Lodge 2 in Halifax. Montfort did much to gain the lodge prestige, securing a charter from the Grand Lodge of England in 1768, replacing the original warrant of constitution four years earlier. Later, Montfort began correspondence with the Grand Lodge of England from which he subsequently received

"a deputation as provincial grand master on 14 Jan. 1771. The deputation was worded as "Provincial Grand Master of and for America." However, the minutes of the Grand Lodge of England for February 6, 1771, record his deputation as "Provincial G. M. for North Carolina." The wording on his deputation, however, led to a years-long debate in masonry. Today, the Royal White Hart Lodge 2 is still an active lodge meeting in the building that was built in 1823. Montfort is buried in the front yard of the lodge with the writing of his gravestone reading "The highest masonic official ever reigning on this continent...the first, the last, the only Grand Master of America." In addition, the Montfort Archaeological Exhibit, constructed over the excavated remains of Montfort's home is open for viewing.

Brother Howard Draper, Junior Warden

Trestle Board

September 22 Lodge Picnic, 11AM-2PM
September 28 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
October 8 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
October 21 District Blood Drive
Bayside Lodge No. 218, 1-6PM
October 26 Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
November 8-9 Grand Annual Communication
Richmond, VA
November 12 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

Kit Carson, Adventurer and Freemason (*cont'd from page 1*)

Carson's military career, particularly his role in the Union Army during the Civil War, also highlighted his dedication to service, another core tenet of Freemasonry. During the war, he led campaigns in the New Mexico Territory and played a key role in defending it from Confederate forces. His leadership during this period reflected the Masonic ideal of standing firm in the face of adversity, protecting the freedoms and rights of others. Though he was a man of few words, Carson's actions spoke volumes, embodying the Masonic belief that men should strive to lead virtuous lives through deeds rather than words.

In his later years, Kit Carson continued to live by the values that Freemasonry cherished. He remained in New Mexico, where he helped establish law and order in the region as a respected leader. His involvement in the Masonic fraternity provided him with a sense of brotherhood and purpose, even as the wild frontier around him gave way to the encroaching modern world. Carson's legacy as a frontiersman, explorer, and soldier is well-known, but his connection to Freemasonry adds a deeper dimension to his life—revealing a man who, amid the challenges of the West, sought not only adventure but a sense of community and moral direction.

Masonic Birthdays for September, October and November

Christopher Adkins, 09/99	James Hare, 11/73
Warren Aleck, 11/66	Donald Hawkins, 11/97
Ronnie Anglin, 10/71	Leandro Herculano, 09/21
Nico Barbosa, 10/21	Robert Huff, 10/20
Christopher Bardin, 09/07	Michael Jacob, 11/14
Patrick Barnes, 09/95	Ronald Jacobson, 11/03
Robert Barton, 10/90	Philip Jennings, 11/94
James Beighley, 09/08	Michael Johnstone, 11/05
James Bennett, 10/22	Jay Keplinger, 10/22
Michael Blankenship, 10/17	Anson Knowles, 10/76
Patrick Blankenship, 11/12	Jerry Ledbetter, 11/83
Joseph Bloise, 10/03	Andrew Levy, 10/99
Albert Bonney, 11/63	George Lewis, 10/70
David Borntreger, 09/87	John Long, 11/01
Earl Bray, 09/83	Andrew Mahrenholz, 11/07
Fred Brewer, 09/68	Larry Maples, 09/82
David Broadway, 10/91	Ian Marks, 10/96
George Bunch, 10/80	Shepherd McClenny, 09/92
Jonathan Bunch, 10/14	Richard McCollum, 11/95
Harold Campbell, 11/10	Jimmy McDaries, 10/15
Ronald Clark, 09/16	Connor McMillan, 10/20
Daniel Connor, 10/85	Thomas Melling, 11/16
Patrick Cooney, 10/20	Blake Miller, 09/14
Richard Cooper, 10/12	Matthew Millott, 11/15
Brian Cox, 11/77	Charles Mills, 11/79
Thomas Cutchins, 10/87	Thomas Monahan, 10/96
Jean Damus, 10/20	Henley Morgan, 10/87
W Lawrence Daniels, 10/20	River Morris, 11/11
Kody Davis, 10/20	Gregory Muir, 10/10
Richard Davis, 09/75	George O'Neal, 10/01
Harold Dickerson, 10/90	Robert Oliver, 11/08
David Dodson, 10/76	Edward Parton, 11/05
Lewis Dodson, 11/77	Paul Pennybacker, 11/68
Thomas Doering, 10/92	James Perry, 11/79
John Donahue, 10/10	Philip Poffenbarger, 11/80
Robert Eisenberg, 09/88	Joseph Porter, 10/95
Michael Elliott, 11/65	Marc Povondra, 10/83
Matthew Esper, 11/14	William Rawson, 11/04
Michael Fitzgerald, 11/92	William Rice, 11/83
David Foxwell, 10/07	Steve Ridgeway, 11/77
Jason Fuller, 10/11	Larry Rummel, 09/95
Tracy Gilbert, 10/96	Charles Ryan, 11/07
Justin Glasgow, 11/78	Clyde Sheely, 10/69
Joshua Gooch, 11/13	Jerry Silla, 11/99
Cecil Goodwin, 11/71	Cecil Smithson, 11/98
Justin Gray, 11/06	Robert Stanek, 10/77
Rodney Griffin, 10/16	William Swanner, 11/74
Arthur Guarino, 11/92	Charlie Taylor, 11/81
George Habib, 10/80	Robert Teller, 11/88
Zahi Habre, 10/19	John Tewalt, 09/92
Raymond Hall, 11/76	

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in September, October and November:

Nancy DeFord	Sep 1
Kathi Whitehurst	Sep 8
Shirley Lewis	Sep 9
Linda Farris	Sep 14
Judith Moyers	Sep 20
Sheryl Stanworth	Sep 22
Lilo Driscoll	Sep 28
Carolyn McCoy	Sep 30
Dorothy Foxwell	Oct 1
Debby Collins	Oct 2
Joyce Dunn	Oct 10
Millie Maddox	Oct 11
Jackie Fulcher	Oct 13
Sandy Howard	Oct 17
Pamela Gordon	Oct 18
Irma Porter	Nov 2
Merelene Balance	Nov 3
Mary Monahan	Nov 20
Barbara McGregor	Nov 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.

Lost But Not Forgotten Brothers

This last quarter has been a hard one for the lodge. We have lost some well loved pillars of our lodge in the past couple of months. Three in particular stand out and I want to give them one more public Fairwell from myself and all the brethren. While they may have shuffled off this mortal coil we can rest assured that they are part of that house not made with hand, eternal in the heavens, that waits for us all.

Worshipful Gerald Thomas Hallal

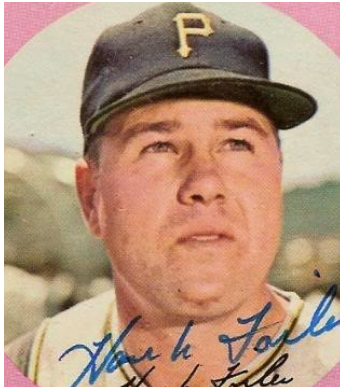
Jerry was a brother of few words and all action. Worshipful Gerald Thomas Hallal passed to the Celestial Lodge on April 17, 2024. Worshipful Hallal joined Kempsville Lodge in 2008, was a Legacy Member in Perpetuity, and served as its Worshipful Master in 2013. While not always on time, his assistance was always timely.



The outpouring of remembrance from so many brothers showed that Jerry was not one to be flashy about helping, he did not want recognition, but he was someone you could always count on. Sometimes you cannot see the shadow someone casts until you are no longer in their shade. Now that Jerry has passed, we can clearly see the impact he had, by the number of people who once again want to be in that shade and cannot.

Brother Henry L. "Hank" Foiles, Jr.

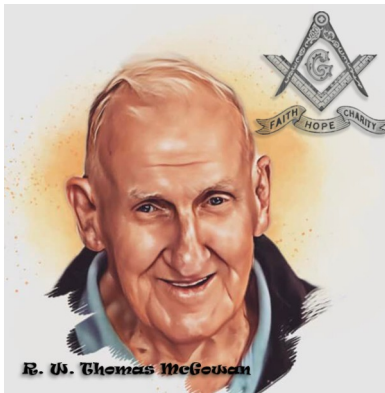
Brother Henry L. "Hank" Foiles, Jr. passed to the Celestial Lodge on May 21, 2024. Brother Hank was raised in Owens Lodge No. 164 in 1958 and joined Kempsville Lodge in 1992, and was elected to Honorary Membership in 2009. Hank was always a fixture at our Saturday coffees.



Hank was generous to a fault. He loved to tell stories about playing baseball in the BC era. The BC stood for "Before Cash" as he would say. He was generous in signing autographs and working with new members on their catechisms. He helped to establish the method of coaching in Kempsville and by that method his contributions will go on assisting the lodge for decades to come.

Right Worshipful Thomas McGowan

Right Worshipful Thomas McGowan passed to the Celestial Lodge on July 4, 2024. Brother Tom was raised in Major General Henry Knox Lodge in Boston, Massachusetts in 1966 and affiliated with Kempsville Lodge in 1971. He served as Worshipful Master in 1983 and District Deputy Grand Master in 2002. He is an Honorary member of Bayside Lodge No. 218 and Princess Anne Lodge No. 25.



Tom was key in setting the tone of Kempsville Lodge. Tom made sure that no one ever sat alone. He was the first to greet visitors and help them

navigate our lodge. His outgoing nature and love of the lodge helped to grow the lodge and to keep it running smoothly. Saturday morning coffee was always his domain, and is a legacy we will all enjoy for years to come.

On This Day

To me the ceremonies of Freemasonry in this State of ours, specially these later ones that I have taken part in, make me wish that more Americans, in every part of the land, could become connected with our Fraternity.

Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt

Spoken by President Roosevelt on November 7, 1935, before Architect Lodge No. 519, New York. At that time he attended the meeting in which his two sons, James R. and Franklin D. Jr., received the third degree.

Help Wanted!

Brethren, as we all know from our time in the craft, our beautiful masonic ritual is one of the things that sets us apart from other fraternal organizations. We are all familiar with the lodge officer positions and the ritual that goes along with that. However, no degree is considered complete without the lecture. Kempsville has been blessed with a rich history of Masons who have forgotten more about masonry that I will likely ever know. Time has caught up with us and we have lost many of those members such as Right Worshipful Tom McGowan and Worshipful Frank Creasy that were ever present and willing to teach the several masonic lectures.

We now find ourselves in extremis. Not only are we relying on the same small group of people to give the lectures, those who want to learn often do not know where to turn for instruction. I am appealing to all those who are interested in learning a lecture or can teach one to reach out to me directly via email, text message, phone call or carrier pigeon. I will then propose a time in the coming weeks, likely on one of our ritual school nights, to get together and see if we can't get some mentors and pupils together to learn these insightful lectures.

The same applies to the funeral service. We are very blessed to have Worshipful Bill Rawson who is ever ready and willing to conduct the final Masonic rights. However, we cannot be at a single point of failure should he be unable to be there. I can think of no higher honor than providing the family of a departed brother that beautiful ceremony. It is

something that I am working to learn, and I hope other brothers will do the same.

Brother Justin Gray, Senior Warden

The Just and Upright Mason

In the Fellowcraft Degree, the scripture of Amos refers to the Lord standing upon a wall made by a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. As we know, a plumb line is used to make sure that a wall is straight up and down and not crooked in any way. The wall in this scripture is a symbol of God's law and God was telling the prophet Amos that he was going to judge Israel by its uprightness and adherence to those laws. In our Masonic degrees, we again and again are instructed to be upright. When we learn to advance and when we take each of our obligations, the Senior Warden makes sure we are straight and true in our posture. When the plumb is explained to us, we are told to walk uprightly before God and man. When we return to the northeast corner of the Lodge as an Entered Apprentice, the Worshipful Master tells us that we are a just and upright Mason and that we are to walk and act as such. I am sure that you felt just as strong a thrill as I did when hearing those inspiring words.

What does it mean to be a just and upright Mason? The word upright is generally understood to mean honorable, acting with integrity, and to be respectable within the community. Our Masonic teachings emphasize many times our responsibility to be a good example to others, to treat each other with fairness and brotherly love, and to be just and honest with all people. In Israel's case, they had stopped doing those things, had repeatedly broken

the Commandments, and God told Amos that He would "not pass by them anymore"; a reference to the Passover in Egypt when God spared Israel's firstborn. We know that the Lord is a God of infinite love and grace and mercy, but He is also a God of justice and righteousness. As Masons, we are also called upon to exhibit the same qualities: to do good unto all, to live in peace with others, to care for our widows and orphans, and to give charity to the destitute. And perhaps most difficult of all, in the spirit of justice and righteousness, we are instructed to use our most friendly manner to admonish a fellow brother of his error and aid a reformation. It is not an easy task for us Masons to adhere to that perfectly upright wall made by a plumb line; but when we pray for God's assistance and guidance to walk in His ways, we will be given the strength to do so. May your path be blessed!

Thomas L. Varner Jr.
Grand Chaplain

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 Wesseler	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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