



The Ashlar



April 2017

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

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What is a Cabletow?

The word "cable" is a maritime term referring to a ship's hawser. It is also a measure of length, being 100 fathoms (600 feet). A hawser being often used for towing, evidently coined the phrase "cabletow."

Assuming that Freemasonry started in Britain, it would also be convenient to assume that traditions of that time had an affect on the development of the Craft. Naval tradition which made Britain a major power from the time of Elizabeth I, would have been paramount. In fact, the concepts of cable, the cabletow, and the burial in our first degree penalty come directly from that naval tradition.

Life in the British Navy from the time of Elizabeth I to this century has been governed by the Articles of War. In earlier times, each Sunday the Articles were read to the men so that they were constantly reminded of their duty and of the penalties for shirking it. Included in these articles is the penalty for treason. A man found guilty of treason would be hanged from the yardarm and, after being left there for a suitable period of time, would be taken down and buried. To ensure there is no honor to the traitor, the Articles of War specified that burial would be a cable's length or 600 feet from shore. Burial on the tidal flats is neither an honorable burial at sea nor on land. This is where the garbage of both land and sea were thrown together to rot. So when burying a traitor, the Royal Navy looked for a large tidal flat and dumped the body a cable's length from shore.



The point is that the terms we use in Masonry today have their basis in real terms and in real penalties. That gives them both a strength and a sense of purpose to anyone who comes to understand their origins.

A District Fraternal Visit

Under the leadership of the District Deputy Grand Master for the 56th Masonic District, Right Worshipful Steve Allen Ridgeway, twenty-six brethren traveled to Poquoson Lodge No. 49 on Monday, March 13, 2017. Representing five of the six lodges in the district [Princess Anne No. 25; Kempsville No. 196; Bayside No. 218; Lynnhaven No. 220 and Willis V. Fentress No. 296], and lead by those five Worshipful Masters [Worshipful Jon Kellam; Worshipful Greg Muir; Worshipful Ed Blair; Worshipful Bob Rathbun; and Worshipful David Rush], the brethren battled rush hour traffic to get to Masonic District 14A to enjoy fellowship, dinner and the Stated Meeting with Worshipful Christopher Ryan Robertson presiding in the East. Poquoson Lodge returned the favor the following night with a visit to Kempsville Lodge No. 196. Since the two lodges normally meet on the same night, this was made possible by a special dispensation and Poquoson Lodge meeting a night early. The brethren from the 56th District were warmly received and visitors almost outnumbered the members present.

From The East



Does everyone remember the TV show Cheers? Cheers as described in its theme song, was a place that everyone knew your name. Cheers was a place where people went to take a timeout from the rigors of life, to share life with other people of a common bond. The main characters of the story went to Cheers as part of an established group, other people went to Cheers periodically with groups known to them, some people went alone knowing no one. But everyone went for a piece of the comfort of Cheers. Just like we go to our comfort zone, Kempsville Lodge.

That feeling really sunk in for me when I attended the Job's Daughters chicken dinner during March. I was on my way to pick up my fiancée Teresa so we could go watch the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) event over in Hampton. I stopped in to get something to eat and I saw a community center with people I knew and people I didn't know sharing life. Some people knew my name and others didn't, the people who knew my name talked to me, the ones who didn't still smiled and were very welcoming.

I wore my Kempsville bull rider t-shirt to the PBR and Masons acknowledged it. One Brother from a Missouri Lodge even stopped to exchange pleasantries with me, and that made me feel great. He didn't know my name but he knew something about me and I knew something about him. The Brother was a soldier from Missouri who was stationed at Fort Eustis, he was a member of a hometown Lodge and hadn't been in his Lodge for a while, but he was very proud of being a Mason none the less and he really liked our t-shirt. I wish he was the same body size as me, because I would have bought a PBR t-shirt and given him my Kempsville t-shirt on the spot. But I was very proud to invite him to Kempsville, and he said that he planned to join us sometime.

At the March Stated we received the Budget Committee report, which I consider to be a preface to us discussing our long-term plan to continue building our Temple, our Lodge, and our Legacy that has been established by those who preceded us. I plan to kick some ideas around with you at future Stated Communications, to see how we can continue to shape our future and grow our wonderful place of life sharing for the generations that follow us. I sincerely request your involvement and input during those conversations.

Come on out and share life with the Brothers, and lets talk a little. I hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Brother Greg Muir, Worshipful Master

From The West



At the March Stated Communication the Worshipful Master talked about the future of our lodge. He mentioned three things, building our Temple, our Lodge, and our Legacy. I certainly appreciate and support his vision. Brethren, the world we live in is changing rapidly and our lodge is not insulated from the effects change will bring. Change is all around us, some good and some bad. Nothing can or does remain static. Change can be chaotic, or it can be smooth. Proper planning makes the difference. Planning is a necessity not a luxury. Planning becomes a tool and when properly implemented should produce a desired result. It takes us from the present into the future in an orderly manner.

The plans we make today will affect the future of our lodge immeasurably. But, planning is difficult. Planning involves things that we don't like to do. We have to think; we have to collaborate; we have to do paper work; we have to follow orderly procedures. All difficult and oftentimes painful things to do, but unquestionably necessary. We want our planning to produce improvements in the things we do and to stimulate the growth of our lodge and each individual member. We want our lodge to become more efficient in meeting our needs. Proper planning will also build morale and give us a feeling of security and confidence in our leadership.

A good first step has been taken. The budget committee, appointed by the Worshipful Master, presented the results of their analysis of the financial condition of the lodge. The next step is to take this information and apply it to the planning process as we work toward building our Temple, our Lodge, and our Legacy. My ask is that you get involved, offer up your time, talent, and treasure, be a part of the solution, and keep an open mind. Together we can accomplish great things for each other and for Kempsville Lodge No. 196. See you in lodge.

Brother Chris Anders, Senior Warden

From The South



Recently the Worshipful Master, lodge officers and other brothers attended the District Leadership Conference at the Granby Street Temple in Norfolk. The topic of the evening was centered on improving membership and lodge and Grand Lodge finances. It is no secret that membership in our fraternity has waned over the past few years and is less than half what it was in 1970. One takeaway from the evening was that lodges must do more to improve membership. From the Finance Committee perspective each lodge must raise an average of 4 new Masons each year in order to maintain membership at a level that supports the current and anticipated financial needs of the Grand Lodge. Since membership and finances are so directly related it shouldn't be a surprise that there was also discussion of increasing the Grand Lodge assessment and the Life Member in Perpetuity contribution. I am certain the Grand Lodge will distribute more information on the plan for the assessment and LMIP in the coming months.

I found the presentation from the budget committee extremely relevant and timely. It was obvious that many lodges should embark on the same exercise to determine where their lodge finances stand. I'm not sure if Worshipful Greg is that perceptive or if his instruction was just a coincidence.

Brother Roger Taylor Junior Warden

Bull Roast - June 3rd

The 34th Annual Bull Roast is fast approaching. Consider this your official Save the Date notice. In addition to all the fun and fellowship this event is our biggest fund raiser and greatly supports our lodge. Brethren your time and talent is also needed. It takes on average about 60 hard-working Masons to pull off this event. I have begun the task of filling out the Bull Roast roster. If you are interested in helping please let me know in person, by phone at 635-7617, or e-mail at chrisanders1@gmail.com. Whether you've helped in the past or you'll be a first timer we will put you to work! Let's make our biggest fundraiser a success!

Brother Chris Anders
Bull Roast Chairman

Trestleboard

April 4 Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
April 8 C. Frank Hicks Area Ritual School
Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178, 8AM
April 10 James H. Parkerson Area Ritual School
Kempsville Lodge No. 196, 6PM
April 11 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
April 17 District Blood Drive
2-7PM, Kempsville Lodge
April 25 Entered Appentice Degree, 7PM
April 29 Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
May 9 Stated Communication
Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM

For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at
www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Masonic Birthdays for April

Charles R. Bateman, Jr. '14	Todd C. Moissett '11
Stephen D. Bement '81	Michael Roy Moseler '72
David Edward Boyd '88	Richard Earl Neisinger '74
Jaime Cabeza '04	Thomas A. Niedermeier '80
Allen K. Chandler '87	Brian Edward Parton '01
Shirley Ray Connard '91	Emmett R. Reynolds '11
Dennis Lee Driscoll '02	George R. Roberts, Jr. '64
Louis Page Dunn '77	Alaric James Roche, Jr. '64
Aaron Jacob Dyer '12	Cristian C. Rodriguez '04
Thomas C. England '11	Michael Allan Sachs '88
Justin Corey Faucette '16	John Robert Settle, III '12
Christopher M. Favata '10	Michael Lee Smith, Sr. '82
Jason Fletchall-Silva '14	William Earle Spruill, Sr. '67
Justin Allen Flowers '12	John Peyton Stublen, Jr. '76
Lemuel David Foxwell '75	Charlie B. Taylor, Sr. '59
George Louis Gunter '69	Robert James Tidwell '77
Warren Cord Massey '50	David M. Trzeciakiewicz '15
Joseph H. McCoy, Jr. '62	Thomas G. Webber, Sr. '63
Alton L. McKeithan '50	Samuel Grant Welty '05
Terrence P. McNally '78	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,135
years in Masonry!

Blood Coordinator

Daddy, Can I come with you to the blood drive and donate blood too?

How many of you can answer that question? We would be busting with pride that our child wished to follow in our footsteps to help his fellow man, by giving the gift of life. But what really are the criteria? Can the child come by themselves to donate? By law, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, you must be 17 years old to donate without your parent's written permission. A 16 year old may donate with the parent's written permission by either accompanying the adult or have the written permission slip from the ARC website. Height and

weight play a factor in children and adults. A male must be at least 110 pounds at 5' or taller and increased weight if shorter. A female must also be at least 110 pounds at 5'6" tall and increases to 142 pounds at 5' tall. This is necessary because of the volume of blood required for a donation that would not cause harm to the donor. Encourage new donors to donate and save lives. Remember, they learn from you!

Patrick Blankenship
Lodge Blood Coordinator

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in April:

Cheryl Farrer	April 2 nd
Patricia Quinton	April 4 th
Judith Maprerstk	April 7 th
Shelly Vancampen	April 7 th
Rita Kelberg	April 14 th
Virginia Joiner	April 17 th
Mary Lou Cochran	April 20 th
Paighe Mason	April 29 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.

Brotherhood

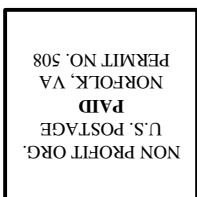
Brotherhood is the foundation of Freemasonry. Consider what an ideal world we should have if every person lived strictly in accordance with the

tenets of Freemasonry. All quarrels and differences between men and nations would be at once eliminated, there would be comfort, peace, and plenty everywhere. The enormous cost of armies and navies would be removed, thousands of men now expensive dependents on the governments of the world would become producers and the new cost of living reduced to a small fraction of its present figure.

Freemasonry as an organization may not take part in settling difference between classes or nations, but Freemasons as individuals can do much for the world by their personal work and influences. The tenets of Freemasonry (brotherly love, relief, and truth) should be illustrated by the lives of each. Their influence should be for right truth, justice and peace. They should feel that all are children of the same Father, all entitled to the same rights, all Brothers, some unfortunate victims of a hurtful environment and many cursed with an ignorance that unfits them for seeing their way to prosperity.

Freemasons should lead humanity in its upward progress. Every man who becomes a Mason should feel that an enlarged responsibility of duty to the world has been assumed. He may not be able to do any great thing to change the order of society, but his influence will help mold a sentiment in favor of human rights and world peace.

Submitted by
Right Worshipful Tom McGowan



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