



The Ashlar



January 2018

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

Volume 65-01

Portrait of a Mason

If I were to paint a portrait of a Mason, I would start with a canvas woven of threads from around the world to show the universality of Masonry. The warp and woof would be tight, because Masons are united tightly by the ties of brotherhood. The material would be of the highest quality to ensure survival into eternity, for as Masonic principles have endured since time immemorial, they will persist into time inconceivable.

The canvas would be pure white, unspotted by the world, because it represents the lambskin or white leather apron, an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason, its pure and spotless surface being symbolic of purity of life and conduct. As white is the reflection of every color in the rainbow, so the white canvas should reflect the individuality of each Mason within the brotherhood of men.

Although many colors will be added, its white surface must be a reminder that Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honors and that the internal – not the external – qualifications of a man should render him worthy to be made a Mason.

If I were to paint a portrait of a Mason, I would start with the color gold, representing deity, because every Mason is taught that no man should enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessings of deity. I would use many shades of reds and blacks and whites and yellows and browns, representing all the races of the world, because Masons are taught that the whole human species is one family – the high and low, the rich and poor, created by one Almighty Parent – and inhabitants of the same planet.

But I would especially use lots of blue, because blue is symbolic of beliefs, and beliefs are what distinguish a Mason. My Masonic figure would be painted with a belief in the Ancient Landmarks: monotheism; immortality; the Book of the Sacred Law; plus additional beliefs and obligations which contain nothing which conflicts with his duties to God, his country, his neighbors, or himself.

Because Masonry values the integrity of each individual, my Masonic portrait would look like no other Mason. Yet it would resemble all men who chart their travels by the Sacred Volume in pursuit of further light.

I would paint him as a temple builder, because Master Masons endeavor to fit themselves as a dwelling place for the Supreme Architect according to the grand design of the Celestial Trestleboard above. He would be facing East, for as the sun rises in the East to light the day, so rise the Inspiration and Light in the East to guide all his endeavors.

If I were to paint a portrait of a Mason, I would enclose it in a frame fashioned with all the working tools of Masonry indiscriminately, because Masons are admonished to apply their working tools of life for the noble and glorious purpose of framing their actions with the frame of rectitude. The construction would be guided by the square and compass, for should all Masons square their actions and circumscribe their passions.

The four sides of the frame would be composed of the Cardinal Virtues of a Mason, for should all Masons be bounded by Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice.



(continued on page 3)

From The East



Happy New Year! I want to thank the Brethren of Kempsville Lodge No. 196 for placing their trust and confidence in me by electing me Worshipful Master for 2018. It is my humble desire to serve with each of you in brotherly love and harmony.

In my preparation for the East, I found myself reflecting on the working tools and the lessons they teach us. While pondering them all, I found myself spending the lion's share of my time on the trowel. I'd like to share some things I read, learned, and discovered about how the trowel fits in our lives.

As speculative Masons we are taught to regard the trowel as the principal tool of a Master Workman. Its symbolical use is to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection and it is no mere coincidence that the principal working tool of a Master Mason is linked to the central purpose which Freemasonry has always proclaimed.

"The trowel is an instrument used by . . ." we have all heard those words spoken but, what are they trying to tell us? Perhaps it's to help us realize that the greatest need of our time is for men to understand friendship, morality, and brotherly love. But how do we do that?

Just as Operative masons use specialized trowels for particular situations; Speculative Masons must learn to use specialized trowels for spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection. They must learn to use the specialized trowels of appreciation, admiration, compliment, and congratulation to spread the mortar of mutual esteem to foster harmony. They must learn to use the specialized trowels of forbearance and conciliation to spread the cement of mutual respect and confidence. And, they must learn to use the specialized trowels of reverence for truth and for the dignity of every individual to promote personal freedom and integrity.

Together Brethren, let us make 2018 a year to build on the fellowship and brotherhood that makes our lodge a great place to be a part of. Let us continue to do the things that warms the heart and strengthens the fraternal tie. Let us take care of each other and live up to our obligations. Lastly, let us treat each other with fraternal love and affection, in peace and harmony, by always remembering to employ the trowel. See you in Lodge!

Brother Chris Anders, Worshipful Master

From The West



I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends and were able to take a few minutes to remember the beginnings of this special holiday. Donna and I are blessed to spend Christmas and New Years Day with our daughter and her young family in Guam. We were able to coax our son to join us as well. This is the first year our children, and grandchildren have celebrated Christmas someplace other than home, the home that Donna and I built. It has been a terrific experience and one filled with memories for all. I must thank my daughter and son-in-law for inviting us into their home to share in the celebration of Christmas and beginning 2018.

Looking ahead at our new Masonic year I also owe a debt of gratitude to the current and previous Masters who saw it fit to nominate me for a lodge office and to the brethren who elected me and my compadres to office. Many Thanks! I am encouraged by the brothers that are following me in line and expect there will continue to be great things happening at Kempsville Lodge No. 196. The Worshipful Master has put forth a plan that will continue a fiscally conservative approach to spending, an aggressive approach to lodge ritual training and a visitation schedule that will get the lodge engaged across the district and elsewhere in the state.

As your Senior Warden I have vowed to assist the Worshipful Master in carrying out his plan for the year in addition other duties required by the Methodical Digest. I am not foolish enough to believe I can do that alone and like years past will call upon the brethren to aid and assist me carrying out the will and pleasure of our Worshipful Master. Rest assured your assistance will be called on with the expectation that each brother will answer the call as liberally as he can.

Thank you again for your trust and vote of confidence. I will do my best to live up to your expectations.

Brother Roger Taylor, Senior Warden

From The South



Happy New Year! My deepest thanks to all of our members for allowing me the honor of serving you from the South in 2018. I am continually impressed and humbled by the dedication and talent of all those who

have and who continue to give so much time, effort, and dedication to Kempsville Lodge No 196.

I would like to especially thank Worshipful Greg Muir for his strong leadership and fellowship in 2017 and for what he has done to build on the successes of our outstanding Past Masters. I look forward to fully supporting Worshipful Chris Anders as he very deservedly takes the East after a seven-year journey through the chairs and much service to Kempsville Lodge No. 196.

Again, I would like to wish all the members of our Masonic family all the best in the New Year!

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Junior Warden

Masonic Birthdays for January

Giuseppe Caragiulo '15	James E. Pearsall, Jr. '79
Louis Douglas Dunn '17	Matthew D. Pilgrim '11
Onrubio Florendo, Jr. '10	John Royal Preddy, III '07
Henry Lee Foiles, Jr. '59	Bill Rensko '96
Lucian A. Gunter, III '58	George F. Roberts, III '96
Gerald Thomas Hallal '08	William Bruce Ross '03
Richard Ivan Kimbrell '93	Marvin Leroy Spruill '57
Ronald S. Melton, Jr. '04	Richard B. Temple, Sr. '55
Francis G. Mielkey, II '98	Scott C. Vaughn '15

The Brethren shown above have a total of 425 years in Masonry!

Portrait of a Mason (continued)

And because the individual Mason gains strength from his lodge, the frame will be painted as an Indented Tessel, representing the beautiful tessellated border or skirting which surrounded the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple, emblematical of those blessings and comforts which surround us and which we hope to obtain by a firm reliance on Divine Providence.

If I were to paint a portrait of a Mason, I would support it on an easel of acacia, that tree which serves to remind us of that imperishable part of man which survives the grave, and bears the nearest affinity to the supreme intelligence which pervades all nature, and which can never, never, never die.

The three legs of the easel would represent the

pillars of Masonry, because there must be Wisdom to contrive, Strength to support, and Beauty to adorn all great and important undertakings. The legs would be painted with the tenets of a Mason's profession. Thus should all Masons support brother Master Masons, their widows and orphans with Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

If I were to paint a portrait of a Mason, I would work with freedom, fervency, and zeal, because that is how all men should serve their Master. I would ask only for the emblematical wages of plenty, health, and peace, because the making of a Mason is a spiritual, not a worldly undertaking.

When my portrait of a Mason was completed, I would display it openly in public, rather than only in a lodge room, so the whole community could appreciate its worth. And I would dedicate it to the glory of the Grand Artist of the Universe, with confidence that He would say that, thus painted, there stands a just and upright Mason, worthy to adorn that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Trestleboard

January 8	Fellowcraft Examination, 7PM
January 9	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
January 16	Master Mason Degree, 7PM
January 23	Master Mason Degree, 7PM
January 27	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
January 30	Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
February 3	Grand Master's Official Visit Khedive Shrine Center, 6PM

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

The Finer Points

From time to time we all need a gentle reminder for what is proper and correct. For instance, how many of us remember on a daily basis that the fork(s) are placed on the left of the place settings with knives on the right? Figuratively, the same applies to our craft as Masonic etiquette.

Entrance during Meetings: Except with the permission of the Worshipful Master, no member of the Lodge or visiting Brother should enter from the preparation room. When entering from the anteroom after Lodge is open; the Brother waits until signaled by the Tiler, steps through the door and advances to the altar in due form, and the Worshipful Master acknowledges the salute either sitting or standing. It is a ceremonious action on the part of both the Lodge and the Brother, and

proper protocol requires that it be correctly performed.

Mike Denning, Senior Deacon

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in January:

Donna Andrews	January 14 th
Ruth Hodges Fraser	January 15 th
Barbara Cole	January 16 th
Carol Barber	January 20 th
Dorothy Sykes	January 28 th
Doris Flannigan	January 28 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.

Masonry Universal - Scotland

For my final column for Masonry Universal, we will briefly examine the history and practice of Masonry in Scotland.

Regulated Freemasonry in Scotland is, arguably, older than that in any other part of the British Isles; the connection between operative and speculative Masonry can actually be traced through written records. Meeting minutes from Lodge of Edinburgh No. 1 date back to 1599, and some Scottish Lodges attribute their operative origins back to the 12th century. The Grand Lodge of Scotland itself was not formed until November 1736. Even then the majority of Scottish Lodges did not see the need for a Grand Lodge as did the English and Irish Lodges.

Because of its lack of popularity, the new Scottish Grand Lodge did not try to standardize Masonic practices and agreed to not interfere with local customs. Scottish Lodges are therefore sovereign bodies in their own right. Even today there is no such thing as a "standard" Scottish ritual, and an assortment of different ritual books are available for purchase on the Grand Lodge of Scotland's website. These rituals have a variety of names including The William Harvey Ritual, the Modern Scottish Ritual, and the MacBride Ritual. In general, they are all variations on the same theme - the three degrees - but with sometimes widely differing elaboration.

David Trzeciakiewicz, Junior Warden

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Chris Anders	635-7617
Senior Warden	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Junior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	Mike Denning	651-0712
Junior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Justin Gray	338-7218
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Tiler	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
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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