



The Ashlar



June 2018

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

Volume 65-06

The Ruffians in Our Lives

Masonic degree work, from beginning to end, is full of symbolism, allegory and just good old common sense. As Masons, we are familiar with the characters in the Master Mason's degree referred to as the three ruffians. Their target was a secret held by the master architect, a secret they believed would enrich them. Rather than obtain it by the required process of time and hard work, they sought to take it illicitly. They carried with them the tools which were intended for good and for their advancement in their craft. Rather than use these tools for the good, they used them to accost and murder the master architect in an effort to take that which was not theirs. This is an allegory. An allegory is a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

The ruffians of our Master Mason's degree were human of course, but ruffians can come to us in many forms. Symbolically, a ruffian could be anyone or anything. It could be an alcohol or drug addiction, sexual impropriety, greed, laziness or anything else that would debase our faculties and take from us that which is esteemed above all else, character and integrity.



But Freemasonry did not leave us without support to combat these problems. Symbolic teachings associated with the working tools were presented to us as Entered Apprentices and as Fellowcrafts so as to prepare us for the days ahead. This is why we are taught to use the common gavel to chip away at the vices and superfluities of life. We learn to square our actions by the square of virtue, meet upon the level with our brothers, and walk uprightly with all by use of the plumb. We are instructed in the four cardinal virtues admonishing us to avoid things that might lead us into a path of an immoral and debased character.

The symbols and allegories found throughout the three degrees are valuable teaching tools and not just a throwback to antiquity, but rather are lessons that should be experienced and pondered. The next time you take a walk, instead of worrying about something you have no control over, think about the reasons behind the design our ritual.

Think about how you can apply the four cardinal virtues to your life. Picture the common gavel chipping away at the impurities of your character. Ponder the possible ruffians in your life and how you rid yourself of them by use of the teachings of our craft. We are today a technically advanced society, yet these valuable lessons on how to build a better character and live an honorable life were given to us by men centuries ago, and they are still viable today.

From The East



We are now at the half-way point in the year. The officers and I have been working very hard on the organizational elements of the lodge.

These things are mostly behind the scenes and may go unnoticed, but the processes and systems we've put in place will benefit for years to come. I am very proud of the progress we've made and want to thank the officers for all their hard work.

I am happy to say that we've had standing room only at our Stated Communications. I can't thank you enough for your support and attendance. Hopefully you have found the meetings informative and enjoyable. The meals have been outstanding too! The turnout for degree nights have been equally awesome. I want to thank the brethren who have come out in support of our candidates. I cannot express the immense joy these men feel when they see so many brothers on the sidelines, sharing in their experience.

It is well known that the Junior Warden represents the beauty and glory of the day but, the true beauty of a Masonic lodge is something else, something more. The true beauty of a lodge is its members. No amount of checkered tile, marble, or ornament could amount to the beauty of when men from all walks of life sit and work in lodge together. One of the truest Masonic beauties reveals itself when a brother walks through the lodge door and feels the warm embrace of his fellow brother, sees a friendly smile, hears a hello, and gets a firm handshake.

My message is simple: come be a part of what makes Masonry beautiful and what makes Kempsville Lodge a great place to be. If you haven't been in lodge for a while, come by for a smile, a hello, a handshake, and to the embrace of your brethren.

This month we celebrate Father's Day, D-Day, and Flag Day. It is a great time to reflect on those who shaped our lives, those who put fear aside to protect our way of life, and the emblem we hold dear and wave proudly. It is going to be a great month in Kempsville Lodge. We have the Bull Roast on the 9th. Come and enjoy great food and Masonic fellowship. Our June stated will be Hawaiian shirt night. This is always a fun night. I wonder if Worshipful Jimmie Wilder will win best shirt for the

fourth year in a row! Remember, there's no better place to be on a Tuesday night than Kempsville Lodge.

Brother Chris Anders, Worshipful Master

From The West



We all voluntarily take on certain obligations when we become Master Masons. We promise to help, aid and assist a Brother Mason, and we promise to be attentive to summonses from our Lodge and the Grand Lodge. But despite the uniformity of our obligations we are expected to go only to the length of our cable tow. And one of the beauties of Freemasonry is that it recognizes that this is a subjective measure with each member free to determine the length of his own cable tow.

We say that Freemasonry seeks to make good men better. It does that by recognizing that each of us has different needs and then showing them how the Fraternity can meet those needs and help us grow as individuals so that we are a credit to ourselves and our Lodge.

As a brother and mentor our job is to give new Brethren the proper choices and show them the proper roads to follow, but we must take care not to force them down our individual path. Each of us must develop his own personal philosophy through a process of self-examination and education. We can use our study of Masonic history and philosophy to hone our understanding of Masonic principles. Then within the common set of guiding tenets that makes us Masons we can correctly determine the length of own cable tow and determine how we will operationalize the obligations we took at the sacred altar in the midst of our Lodge.

It is important that the Master and Wardens, and each of us act as mentors to our Brethren, especially the new Brethren. This will do more than anything else to keep our Brethren active and maintain peace and harmony in the Lodge.

Brother Roger Taylor, Senior Warden

From The South



In late April we held the first of our two Past Master's Nights at Kempsville Masonic Lodge. This was a great opportunity for us to pay tribute to our Worshipful Masters from years past and recognize them

for all of the hard work they have done for us. Worshipful Frank Creasy, our Past Master from 1980, did us all proud sitting in the East as Worshipful Master for the first time in a number of years, as did all of the Past Masters sitting in the chairs that night. If you have never had a chance to attend one of these events I highly recommend you come to our next Past Master's Night on October 23rd.

We also continued the tradition we started last year by both gently (or maybe not so gently) roasting our Junior Past Master, Worshipful Greg Muir, and unveiling his Past Master's photo in the Lodge room gallery. Worshipful Greg took all the kidding we gave him with good grace and humor, and we are grateful to him for his leadership in 2017. He put forth significant effort in getting the elevator and bathroom funding project up and running and we look forward to fulfilling his vision for the lodge.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Junior Warden

35th Annual Bull Roast – June 9th

The Bull Roast is right around the corner and that means it is crunch time! The prep work has been done and we are putting the final touches on things as we get ready for a big day at Kempsville Lodge. Come out and enjoy an awesome meal, great fellowship, and more importantly support the Masonic Home of Virginia, our Lodge Scholarship Fund, and the Elevator Project. A huge "Thank You" goes out to everyone who volunteered to help and to those who have sent in their ticket money! A few last minute reminders: If you haven't yet done so, please remit ticket money to either myself or Worshipful Bob Stanek as soon as possible. As a convenience you can purchase your tickets at the door electronically by PayPal, debit, or credit card. If you are baking cakes, please drop them off at the Lodge on Friday June 8th by noon or early Saturday morning. If you have lined up deliveries please give me the details. If you have not yet volunteered to help, please let me know - we can sure use your assistance. What remains now is simply to step up

the effort to get the word out and invite as many people as we can. Remember, this is our biggest fund raiser of the year. We really need a huge turnout to make this a success. Lastly, I hope many of you have accepted my challenge to purchase the 4 tickets included in the May Ashlar. This will be a huge boost to our Elevator Project. If everyone does so we would raise \$19,200. After we pay for the food, the donation to MAHOVA, and the Scholarships we could add roughly \$15,000 to the Elevator Project. Let's make it happen! I am looking forward to seeing everyone on June 9th.

Worshipful Chris Anders
Bull Roast Chairman

Masonic Birthdays for June

James O. Amburn, Jr. '65	Daniel G. Higger '96
Sidney C. Atkinson '82	Lloyd F. Holbrook, III '98
Carl N. Barber '71	Jonathan William Jones '05
Gerald B. Barham '62	William T. Kemp, Jr. '07
Theodore W. Barton, Jr. '66	Robert D. Lockwood '73
John Rayos Caole '03	John Walter Mapes '97
John Erick Corbett '69	Thomas McGowan '66
Frank Leroy Creasy '73	Richard W. Mears, Jr. '62
Robert Arthur Davis '82	Owen Price Mills '67
Roger Newton Farr '74	Emmett M. Pate, Jr. '00
Frederick C. Farrer '94	Fletcher B. Porter, Jr. '91
John Thomas Farrer '94	Norman P. Powers, Jr. '95
Adam Trevor Ford '06	Simone Scigliano '11
Floyd Morris Gilbert '56	John R. Settle, IV '12
Jeran Matthew Gray '16	Clifton E. Smith '89
Robert Lee Gunter '73	Robert B. Wadsworth '99
Richard M. Hanly '74	Michael J. Willis '73
Jerry Samuel Hase '88	G. Robert Winn, Jr. '09

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,150 years in Masonry!

Trestleboard

May 26	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
May 29	Fellowcraft Examination, 7PM
June 5	Master Mason Degree, 7PM
June 9	35 th Annual Bull Roast, 11AM-7PM
June 12	Stated Communications Hawaiian Shirt Night Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
June 18	District Blood Drive Bayside Lodge No. 218, 2-7PM
June 19	Fellowcraft Examination, 7PM
June 26	Master Mason Degree, 7PM
June 30	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM

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

To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special ladies in June:

Jessica Squires	June 3 rd
Shirley White	June 9 th
Mary Noyes	June 10 th
Clara Krell	June 12 th
Catherine Benjaminson	June 13 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.

Masonic Blood Program

The Red Cross says, every 2 seconds someone in the country needs blood and encourages families as they plan their summer vacation to also plan their next donation day.

Brother Mike Blankenship, Blood Coordinator

We now accept electronic payments for annual dues and donations. Accessible on the Lodge Web Site.



The Finer Points

Grand Lodge custom requires that no one except for the Worshipful Master or his prearranged designee, may correct any mistake that may occur during the course of a ceremony, and even he does so only when the error is a serious one.

It is discourteous to point out others' mistakes in front of the Lodge members. If you are in possession of a mind, which allows you to be able to perform each and every degree and ceremony perfectly, please advise the worshipful Master of such that he may take advantage of your services to mentor others.

Mike Denning, Senior Deacon

Final Thoughts

"It is most reverently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race".

George Washington

The Ashlar
Kempsville Lodge #196 AF&AM
4869 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORFOLK, VA
PERMIT NO. 508