



The Ashlar



May 2019

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

Volume 66-05

Cleopatra's Needle is the popular name for each of three Ancient Egyptian obelisks re-erected in London, Paris, and New York City during the nineteenth century. The obelisks in London and New York are a pair; the one in Paris is also part of a pair originally from a different site in Luxor, where its twin remains. Although all three needles are genuine Ancient Egyptian obelisks, their shared nickname is a misnomer, as they have no connection with the Ptolemaic Queen Cleopatra VII of Egypt and were already over a thousand years old in her lifetime. An earlier reference states Queen Cleopatra bought the London obelisk from Heliopolis to Alexandria shortly before the time of Christ for the purpose of decorating a new temple but it was never erected and lay buried in sand on the shore until given to the British in 1820. The London and New York needles were originally made during the reign of the 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Thutmose III. The Paris needle dates to the reign of the 19th Dynasty Pharaoh Ramesses II, and was the first to be moved and re-erected. The New York needle was the first to acquire the French nickname, "L'aiguille de Cléopâtre", when it stood in Alexandria.



The London needle is in the City of Westminster, on the Victoria Embankment near the Golden Jubilee Bridges. It was originally erected in the Egyptian city of Heliopolis on the orders of Thutmose III, around 1450 BC. In 1819, Muhammad Ali Pasha gave Britain the obelisk as a gift. However, Britain's prime minister at the time, Robert Jenkinson, hesitated on having it brought to the country due to shipping expenses. It remained in Alexandria until October 1877 when its transport to London was funded by William James Erasmus Wilson.

The New York City needle was erected in Central Park, just west of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on February 22, 1881. It was secured in May 1877 by judge Elbert E. Farman, the then-United States Consul General at Cairo, as a gift from the Khedive, Muhammad Ali Pasha, for the United States remaining a friendly neutral as the European powers – France and Britain – maneuvered to secure political control of the Egyptian Government.

The Paris needle is in the Place de la Concorde. The center of the Place is occupied by the giant Egyptian obelisk decorated with hieroglyphs exalting the reign of the pharaoh Ramesses II. Along with its twin, it once marked the entrance to the Luxor Temple. The ruler of Egypt and Sudan, Muhammad Ali, presented the New York needle to France in 1828, but it was exchanged in 1830 with the 3,300-year-old Luxor Obelisk. King Louis-Philippe had it placed in the center of Place de la Concorde in 1833 near the spot where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette had been guillotined in 1793. Given the technical limitations of the day, transporting it was difficult – on the pedestal are diagrams explaining the machinery used for its transportation. The red granite column rises 23 meters high, including the base, and weighs over 250 tons. Missing its original cap, believed stolen in the 6th century BC, in 1998 the government of France added a gold-leafed pyramid cap to the top of the obelisk. The obelisk is flanked by two fountains constructed at the time of its erection on the Place. The Paris obelisk was sometimes mistakenly described as "l'Aiguille de Cléopâtre", but the London and New York obelisks pair was referred to as Cleopatra's Needles as early as 1821, suggesting the nickname came from the pair located in Alexandria. However, the Paris obelisk is more often referred to as "the Luxor Obelisk".

There are many intriguing carvings, etchings and anomalies that make a debatable connection between Freemasonry and ancient Egyptian architects and builders. The May Stated Communication (Saturday May 18th, 2019 at 11AM) will host a program that investigates some of these mysterious connections between the craft and the obelisk builders.

From The East



This may be hard to believe but there are people that don't know a single thing about Masonry. On several occasions recently I found myself explaining Masonry and the many aspects of the fraternity to associates, friends and acquaintances. I mention this because I took it for granted that everyone knew about Freemasonry, that couldn't be more wrong. I don't know if these interactions will lead to increased membership or not but I do know that these men and women parted with a new understanding of Freemasons and the goodness of our organization. I ask each of you to proudly wear your Square and Compass whenever you feel it's appropriate, not just to a Masonic event.

Recently the world witnessed a devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral that nearly destroyed a beautiful and iconic landmark from antiquity. Recall in our teachings that the lapse of time, the devastations of war and the ruthless hand of ignorance have destroyed monuments on which the utmost human genius were employed. Freemasonry has and will prevail. This should serve as a reminder that physical and material monuments are always subject to decay, deterioration and destruction by natural and intentional means. The most excellent tenants of our institution will survive provided we learn our craft, practice its virtues and transmit them to worthy men seeking light.

These past few weeks Kempsville has been exceptionally busy with ritual work, visitations, District School, Grand Master's Visit, and a very entertaining Past Masters' Night. I have to extend a huge Thank You to the officers and brethren that participated in each of the many events. Your involvement in these events and the many activities coming up is truly appreciated.

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

From The West



April was a particularly busy month, even for the always-active Kempsville Masonic Lodge. We had a fully-packed Stated Communication where many Brothers turned out to see Brother Charlie Taylor receive his 60-year Veteran's Award and later held our always-entertaining Spring Past Masters Night. We attended the Grand Master's official visit and dinner with the 36th and 56th Masonic Districts at the Khedive Shrine Temple,

and our Brothers occupied many of the degree team positions for the 56th Masonic District during degree exemplification presented during the annual Hicks and Parkerson Area Masonic Schools. Our Lodge degree teams have been busy every week with an influx of newly elected candidates, and I had the pleasure of examining the Brother I am currently coaching and seeing him passed the same night to the degree of Fellowcraft. The best is yet to come this year with the upcoming Bull Roast, Lodge picnic, and many other events. Please come out and join us if you have the time! The more you come the better it gets for you and the Lodge.

I would like to take the opportunity to commend the young men from Kempsville DeMolay for the outstanding job they did exemplifying their ritual work for the Brothers at the March Stated Communication. It takes a significant amount of time and dedication to become as proficient as these young men are, and I have heard many compliments from Masons throughout the area who have seen them in action. I would also like to thank all our Masonic youth who helped out during the Grand Master's dinner in April; without their assistance we could not have put on such a successful event for our Grand Master. The future of our country is in good hands with young people of their quality and character, and I ask that you support them whenever you can.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

From The South



As our Senior Warden has already stated, April was a very busy month and May is shaping up to stay the same. We at Kempsville have ample opportunity for comradery and brotherhood to meet everyone's expectations and needs. We all joined Masonry for unique and personal reasons and a Lodge like Kempsville provides access to meet and hopefully exceed what each of us may be looking for. I would like to challenge the Brothers of Kempsville to extend these opportunities to others as a mentor/coach.

The word 'Mentor' is defined in the dictionary as "a wise and faithful advisor, friend, or teacher." Although most see the coach only as a catechism instructor. In our present system we seek to expand and intensify the Masonic instruction imparted by ritual, adding other points which will enlarge the new Brother's understanding of

Freemasonry and its relationship to life in this century.

However, the coach/mentor must understand that the production of a Masonic scholar is not the ultimate objective. The motive as an advisor, friend and teacher is to indoctrinate each new Mason in the ways of Masonry and arouse in his mind a feeling of pride in the Fraternity that brings satisfaction to himself.

We have ample candidates with more in the wings desirous of the Light Freemasonry offers. Please consider being a coach/mentor to a new candidate and sharing all that Masonry offers the individual as well as the opportunities Kempsville Lodge provides.

Brother Mike Denning, Junior Warden

Masonic Birthdays for May

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christopher Anders, Jr. '11 | Leslie H. Miller '72 |
| Brandon R. Angel '07 | Steve T. Miller '71 |
| George R. Bunch, Sr. '82 | Larry Montgomery, Jr. '97 |
| Kevin T. Cotter '11 | Stanley D. Moss '96 |
| Wayne C. DeFord '93 | Joseph R. O'Leary '96 |
| Frank Filippone '15 | Daniel F. Oliver '14 |
| H. Boyd Foxwell '70 | John H. Phillips '18 |
| James O. Freeman '74 | Gregory K. Pruitt '02 |
| J. Timothy Freihofer '15 | Christopher Robertson '13 |
| Billy F. Gordon, Jr. '03 | Joseph T. Salt '62 |
| Herbert T. Gordon '86 | Jimmy B. Shehan '97 |
| Adam Hernandez '07 | Larry L. Strait, Jr. '12 |
| John M. Hewitt '02 | Russell P. Tjepkema '85 |
| Monte P. Howell '70 | William T. Whitmore '73 |
| Ross O. McLeod '06 | William Wyndham, Jr. '83 |
| Joseph W. Miechle '09 | |

The Brethren shown above have a total of 737 years in Masonry!

Trestleboard

- May 7 Fellowcraft Degree, 7PM
- May 14 Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
- May 10,11 Bethel 42 Dinner Theater
Princess Anne Lodge No. 25
- May 18 Stated Communication
Cleopatra's Needle, 11AM
- May 21 Fraternal visit to
Mann Page Lodge No. 157, 5PM
- May 25 Monthly Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
- May 28 Military Appreciation Night
Entered Apprentice Degree, 7PM
- June 8 36th Annual Bull Roast, 11AM-7PM

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 May:

Elizabeth Hutchinson	May 3 rd
Willie Salih	May 5 th
Bonnie Fitzgerald	May 9 th
Jackie Shelburne	May 10 th
Jackie Stephens	May 15 th
Deborah Smith	May 21 st
Sue Wright	May 23 rd
Grace Jones	May 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.

Save The Date – May 18th



The May Stated Communication is being held on Saturday May 18th at 11AM. Kempsville Lodge will host a very special and exceptionally interesting program, Cleopatra's Needle. The Brethren from Springfield Lodge No. 217 will be presenting the program that is sure to educate and entertain. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

The Most Important Step in Masonry

In Masonry, we learn and recite many ritual pledges that convey our commitment to the Craft and to the fellowship of Masonry. With these words, we must perform physical movements that demonstrate the words that we speak. Just as we were told to be a just and upright Mason, we must also walk and act as such. Learning our catechism took concentration, commitment, and dedication, not only to the words that we learn, but to the rules and regulations that accompany these oaths as well.

Participating in Lodge school or ritual work for the Craft, we accept the challenge to demonstrate our knowledge of the catechism from the Books of Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Amos, and Song of Solomon. The degrees of Freemasonry rely on Masonic footwork to lead the candidate and to show our dedication to the Craft with proficiency and assurance. We must step off in our belief that we are on a journey that will lead our Brothers to a

higher degree and to a brighter Light in Masonry. This journey will not only enlighten the candidate-it will also enhance the harmony of fellowship with the Brethren. No step in Masonry will be more important than the next. With each step we take, we receive further Light in Masonry.

Brother John Settle III, Senior Deacon

Additional Community Service

Kempsville Masonic Lodge is collecting food items and cash donations for a local church food pantry. Canned items of all kinds, rice, sugar, peanut butter, and instant milk are always good donations. Any money collected will be used to help pay off student lunch debt for students who cannot afford a meal at school. You may drop off donations at the Lodge anytime the building is open; we will have out a well-marked box to receive food items. For the month of March we contributed almost 75 pounds of food stuffs and \$175 to the pantry. Let's keep the contributions coming.

Brother Bob Hughes, Food Drive Coordinator

36th Annual Bull Roast – June 8th

It's Bull Roast Time! Come out and enjoy an awesome meal and great fellowship as we pull together to support the Masonic Home of Virginia, our Lodge Scholarship Fund, and the elevator project. We will of course be serving our traditional menu of slow-cooked roast beef, homemade potato salad & coleslaw, the old family recipe baked beans, dinner rolls, and delicious deserts. All active members are receiving four tickets in this issue of The Ashlar to either purchase or sell. Tickets are \$12 each, \$8 for children under 12 and for take-outs and deliveries. If you need additional tickets please let me or one of the lodge officers know and we will get you more as soon as possible. Cash and checks made payable to "Kempsville Lodge No. 196" can be given to me or the Secretary, Worshipful Bob Stanek. You may also purchase your tickets electronically by PayPal, debit, or credit card on the lodge website in the Payment Center and will also be available the day of the Bull Roast.

If you know of any businesses interested in having a hot roast beef lunch delivered, please give me their contact name and number by Thursday, June 6th. If you travel to local Lodges please announce our Bull Roast and sell some tickets. This is the biggest fund raiser of the year and in order for it to be a success we really need a big turnout.

For the bakers in the lodge there are boxes of cake mix in the dining hall. It would be greatly appreciated if you take one or two to make for dessert. Please drop them off at the lodge by Friday, June 7th. Lastly, I want to thank all the Brothers who have volunteered to help out. Your willingness to give of your time and energy to support your Lodge is simply incredible. If you haven't yet signed up to help out and are able to do so please let me know either in person, by email at roger.w.taylor1@gmail.com, or by phone at 757-478-5498. We still need volunteers!



Bull Roast tickets can be purchased online using electronic payments.

Go to Kempsville Lodge website at www.kempsvillelodge.org/payment

The Mason's Mark

Three types of mark can generally be found on stones worked by stonemasons in the Middle Ages. Banker marks were made on stones before they were sent to be used by the walling masons. These marks served to identify the banker mason (highly-skilled stonemasons who cut the stone) to their paymaster. This system was employed only when the stone was paid for by measure, rather than by time worked. Two other types of mark included Assembly marks (such as Roman numerals), which were used to ensure the correct installation of important pieces of stonework, and Quarry marks, were used to identify the source of a stone. Marks are still in use today, although they are usually hidden on joint faces.

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Warden	Dave Trzeciakiewicz	620-8311
Junior Warden	Mike Denning	651-0712
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Bob Stanek	255-8336
Senior Deacon	John Settle, III	675-9695
Junior Deacon	Pat Blankenship	406-6166
Senior Steward	Todd Moissett	604-3085
Junior Steward	Doug Dunn	781-389-6557
Chaplain	Scott Sherman	597-1150
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Ben Jamal	553-2635
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