



The Ashlar



June 2019

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

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The Masonic Cable Tow

Every Mason learns very early in his masonic education that there is such a thing as a “cable tow” that has an influence on his actions. It more than a length of rope or a measure of distance, it is that figurative bond between a mason and his lodge; the length of which is as unique as the mason himself. The old writers define the length of a cable tow to be three miles for an Entered Apprentice. But the expression is really symbolic, and as it was defined by the Baltimore Convention in 1842, means the scope of a man's reasonable ability. [Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry].



In nautical terms a cable is a length of heavy rope approximately 1/10th of a nautical mile, somewhere between 600 and 720 feet. The act of towing uses a long heavy rope or cable to haul a vessel unable to maneuver on its own power. Taken together, a tow cable is that long length of heavy rope used to move a vessel requiring another vessel's mode of force. The act of towing is in itself a hazardous undertaking. The risks are multiplied between the two vessels and a great deal of thought and guidance must be put into action to ensure the safety of both vessels. Not entirely unlike a brother and his lodge.

In American Masonry the cable tow is used as part of all three degrees while in English Masonry and other jurisdictions it is only used in the Entered Apprentice's degree. I'm not certain if its use was added to the ritual in one or removed from the ritual in the other. In either case the use is similar, impart the importance of the events the candidate is about to undergo and imprint a specific element of the obligation. The application of the cable tow in our ritual symbolizes the progressive bond and obligation to the craft. In one the cable tow is an identifier of distance away from the lodge while in the others it is a “distance” to the lodge. A minor distinction I know but important when you describe how far something is or how close something is to the subject.

The term cable tow isn't used in any other situation except masonry, at least from what I have found. There are however numerous references to ropes and cables to bind and lead figures generally to something undesirable or to their demise. The cable tow in masonry isn't meant to bind or restrain a brother but to serve as a reminder to his early masonic education and the importance of his involvement. All of us promised to submit to the rules, regulations and edicts of the order or be led out of it. We also promised to respond to calls from the lodge if within our ability. Within our ability is understated for a tow cable isn't a thread or string but a heavy rope meant to influence a body that wouldn't otherwise move in the desired direction. A sign or summon from the lodge is a true call for the brethren to assemble for a purpose that cannot be undertaken by a single brother.

As summer approaches and our time becomes increasingly more obligated and our cable tow shorter and shorter please consider your lodge. There are events occurring at Kempsville Lodge that warrant your attention and in some cases attendance. Don't believe that your individual attendance is insignificant and won't be noticed. It is important and will be noticed by someone, perhaps a brother visiting from out of state that has long been away from his mother lodge and desired to visit with his brethren. Every mason measures his own cable tow using his individual scale. Instead of miles and feet it is measured in desire and willingness to make Masonry an active part of his life. Every situation is different and some Masons have more time to dedicate to the lodge than others but I have to believe that every Mason has some time to give the lodge.

From The East



May has been another exceptionally busy month at Kempsville Lodge. We were active in degree work, practices, meetings, lodge clean-up and visits to other lodges. Some of these events were attended well while others had a rather meager turnout by any standards. Kempsville Lodge is successful because of the hard work and dedication of its officers and members. I applaud them all for participating in lodge events either laboring or reaping the rewards.

The degree teams that Bro. Mike Denning has assembled include brothers filling new roles as well as brothers that have been out of roles for a while. He is doing a great job ensuring that the teams maintain their proficiency as well as allowing brothers to gain experience in upcoming positions as they advance through the line. This month we were able to work in the Entered Apprentice and the Fellowcraft degrees at least once. The feedback I received from the brethren present and the candidates was very positive and encouraging.

Our Monday practice sessions are still exceptionally well attended and conducted. The focused training before school is unique and far exceeds the typical floor work training that generally the norm. There is always room for more attendees and I am certain there will be roles and parts open to all comers.

The special convening of our May Stated Communication on Saturday was not as well received as I had anticipated. A lot of work and planning went into making that particular meeting happen. I must say that the brethren from Springfield Lodge did an outstanding job with Cleopatra's Needle program. Very well done. I must also commend the Stewards for their hard work and ingenuity preparing the meal before and after the meeting; Great Job!

The visit to Mann Page Lodge No. 157 to experience the exemplification of the Master Mason's Degree in English form was very educational and entertaining. The hospitality and greeting from Mann Page Lodge was outstanding and reminiscent of our own.

I would like to remember our recently departed brother, Dennis Eaton. He will be remembered as a good man and mason that truly cared about the lodge and his brothers. He will be missed.

Brother Roger Taylor, Worshipful Master

From The West



I recently heard from Brother Nate Cook, who was the first candidate that I coached in the degrees in Freemasonry back in 2017. Brother Nate is a builder in the Seabees (Navy Construction Battalions) and was transferred last year to Gulfport Mississippi, the home of Navy Seabees on the Atlantic Coast. Nate is currently deployed with 18 other Seabees to one of the 500 islands of the nation of Palau, an archipelago located in the western Pacific Ocean with a population of just under 22,000 people. He and the other Seabees are involved with community construction, and Nate has been working with and teaching two local apprentices. Their projects have included building a desk for the Red Cross (see photo at the end of this newsletter), construction for an anti-human trafficking office, and renovating a room for the Palauan visitor's office. Upcoming projects include the construction of playgrounds for local schools.

We here at Kempsville Masonic Lodge are very proud of Nate; he is a dedicated Sailor, Mason, and American. It is also very satisfying to see a young Master Mason travelling in foreign countries and teaching his own apprentices how to be operative builders as the early Masons did hundreds of years ago. Well done Brother Nate!



Brother Nate Cook and his two Palauan apprentices building a desk for the Red Cross

Brother Dave Trzeciakiewicz, Senior Warden

From The South



May brought another calendar packed month. We initiated 2 more Entered Apprentices into Freemasonry, passed a Fellowcraft, and raised a Master Mason. We continue to fine tune our rock-solid ritual work. We mixed

things up a bit with our monthly Stated on Saturday. It was a huge success with many attending that have not been able late in the evenings. Saturday fellowship coffee and our regular monthly Saturday breakfast continue unabated.

June is shaping up to provide ample opportunity to participate in your Lodge as well. With nine candidates in various stages of degree work, we can expect to continue ritual work almost every Tuesday night. Contact me directly if you are interested in participating. I will be happy to help anyone interested in learning a part.

Our annual Bull Roast was a huge success due to the volunteers who selfishly gave many hours to the event. This is our number one fund raiser for the Lodge to benefit the Masonic Home and our Kempsville Scholarship. As the final numbers are tallied, I'm sure all the effort by the Brothers will be validated for these worthy causes.

Thank you all again for your time and efforts towards the Lodge. We do many great things for our Brethren and the community and only through your generosity is it possible.

Brother Mike Denning, Junior Warden

The Finer Points - My Flag

My flag goes by many names- the Stars and Stripes, the Star-Spangled Banner, the Red, White, and Blue, or even Old Glory. She has thirteen stripes- seven of which are red and representative of hardiness and valor, and six that are white and emblematical of purity and innocence. My flag has fifty stars, one for each of the fifty states, resting on a blue background indicative of vigilance, perseverance, and justice. There are many countries and many more flags, but this flag is mine. For this flag, I would fight and wager my life, climb high mountains, or cross stormy seas- just to keep my flag waving over the land of the free and the home of the brave. My flag has flown for over two hundred years, and been carried to distant enemy shores. Many brave men and women have fought, died, and sacrificed to ensure that my flag remains flying. My flag grieves all of

those who have served Her in the solemn symbolism of a draped casket- the final and most sacred rite rewarded to those who have selflessly given to assure the preservation and prosperity of Her people.

Brother John Settle III, Senior Deacon

Trestleboard

June 8	36 th Annual Bull Roast, 11AM-7PM
June 11	Stated Communication
	Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
June 17	District Blood Drive
	Bayside Lodge No. 218, 2-7PM
June 29	Monthly Breakfast, 8-10AM
June 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 June

James O. Amburn, Jr. '65	Lloyd F. Holbrook, III '98
Sidney C. Atkinson '82	Jonathan W. Jones '05
Gerald B. Barham '62	William T. Kemp, Jr. '07
Theodore W. Barton, Jr. '66	Robert D. Lockwood '73
Sean C. Bray '18	John W. Mapes '97
John R. Caole '03	Thomas McGowan '66
Jonathan R. Cook, III '18	Richard W. Mears, Jr. '62
John E. Corbett '69	Owen P. Mills '67
Frank L. Creasy '73	Emmett M. Pate, Jr. '00
Robert A. Davis '82	Fletcher B. Porter, Jr. '91
Roger N. Farr '74	Norman P. Powers, Jr. '95
Frederick C. Farrer '94	Simone Scigliano '11
John T. Farrer '94	John R. Settle, IV '12
Adam T. Ford '06	Clifton E. Smith '89
Jeran M. Gray '16	Robert B. Wadsworth '99
Richard M. Hanly '74	Michael J. Willis '73
Jerry S. Hase '88	G. Robert Winn, Jr. '09
Daniel G. Higger '96	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 1,031 years in Masonry!

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
Clare Krell	June 12 th
Cathy Benjaminson	June 13 th
Diana Rawls	June 17 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.

Cleopatra's Needle

Brethren from Springfield Lodge No. 217 presenting the "Cleopatra's Needle" program, with Worshipful Roger Taylor, at the May Stated Communication of the Lodge, with their model of the obelisk.



Youth

Bethel 42 has been very busy this Spring. The daughters have competed in state ritual competitions and preparing for their annual dinner theater to raise funds to help them go to Grand Session at Ferrum College in July. Mary Robinson will be representing Virginia on the Supreme Ritual Team going to Supreme Session in Kansas City in August.

Our next installation will be on Saturday June 22nd at 6PM. We would love to have the members of Kempsville Lodge come visit! Thank you so much for your years of continued support of Bethel 42!

Community Service

Kempsville Area Food Bank - Kempsville Masonic Lodge continues to collect 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 Kempsville area schools. You may drop off donations at the Lodge anytime the building is open. For the month of May, we contributed almost 50 pounds of food stuffs and \$101 to the pantry. Keep the contributions coming, it's making a difference.

Stratford Chase Park Cleanup - Kempsville Lodge continues to support our community by picking up trash at Stratford Chase Park. A small contingent of brothers dedicate a few minutes of their time after each breakfast to help beautify the space. The community that uses the park truly appreciates the lodge's efforts. If you have a few minutes after breakfast please meet Bill Peterson and others at the park and do a little to help many.

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



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