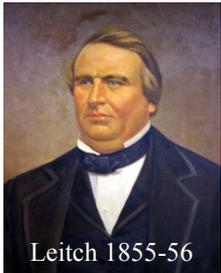
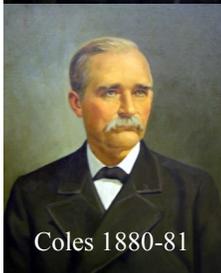


*Grand Master's  
From  
Widow's Sons'  
No. 60*



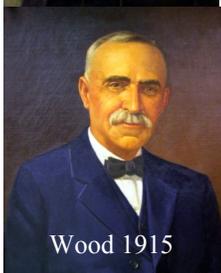
Leitch 1855-56



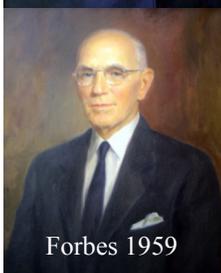
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60  
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.  
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

# HIRAM'S JOURNAL

Stated Communication December 19, 2011



## Message From The East...

At the Stated this month we will be electing the officers for 2012 and also conducting the installation. Your Officers for the 2012 year are

looking forward to serving you and having another good year with your support.

I would like to thank the Brethren for allowing me to serve in the East for 2011 and this being my second time as Master it was a very enjoyable experience.

I would like to wish all the Brethren and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous Holiday Season.

Please remember to bring food for the Blue Ridge Food Barrels located next to the elevator on the first floor. With the Christmas season upon us they are in great need of food for the many families that they serve in our community. They will also take checks made out to Blue Ridge Food Bank.

The Grand Master, MW William Talbott Ellison, Jr. will make his Official visit to the 18<sup>th</sup> Masonic District on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and will be held at our Lodge with refreshment at 6:30 and the Stated to start at 7:30.

Please attend to the dues notice that you received recently and also to the letter about the Charities. Would like to have

these taken care of by the December 19<sup>th</sup> Stated.

Yours in Masonry,

Andy Keller, Worshipful Master  
434-293-9973 home or 540-290-4845 cell  
Andyk41@embarqmail.com



The Lodge was saddened at the death of Brother Everett S. Boggs who died in the 90<sup>th</sup> year of his life. Brother Boggs was a Mason for 65 years. He will be missed by his family, friends and community.

**December Masonic Birthdays!  
Call a Brother and wish him a  
Happy Masonic Birthday.**

Stephen R. Baird, 12/6/1993  
 William L. Bickley, 12/6/1955  
 Stephen r. Christianson, 12/8/2010  
 W. Kirk Crady, 12/14/1994  
 T. C. Dickerson, III, 12/6/1966  
 Charles B. Goddin, 12/6/1960  
 Michael A. Hayden, 12/5/1972  
 David M. Kashmer, 12/12/2005  
 Jason P. Lynch, 12/7/2006  
 Virgil H. Marshall, 12/1/1952  
 Walter D. Marshall, 12/27/1963  
 Peter W. Martin, Jr., 12/17/1970  
 Douglas R. Mays, 12/7/1964  
 Robert A. Murray, 12/10/1999  
 William R. Nay, 12/17/1992  
 James W. North, Sr., 12/5/1963  
 James E. Patterson, III, 12/4/2007  
 Steven E. Price, 12/7/2006  
 Jonathan M. Shelton, 12/7/2006  
 Charles A. Via, 12/6/1966  
 Brian S. Weidman, 12/4/2007

**Important Dates**

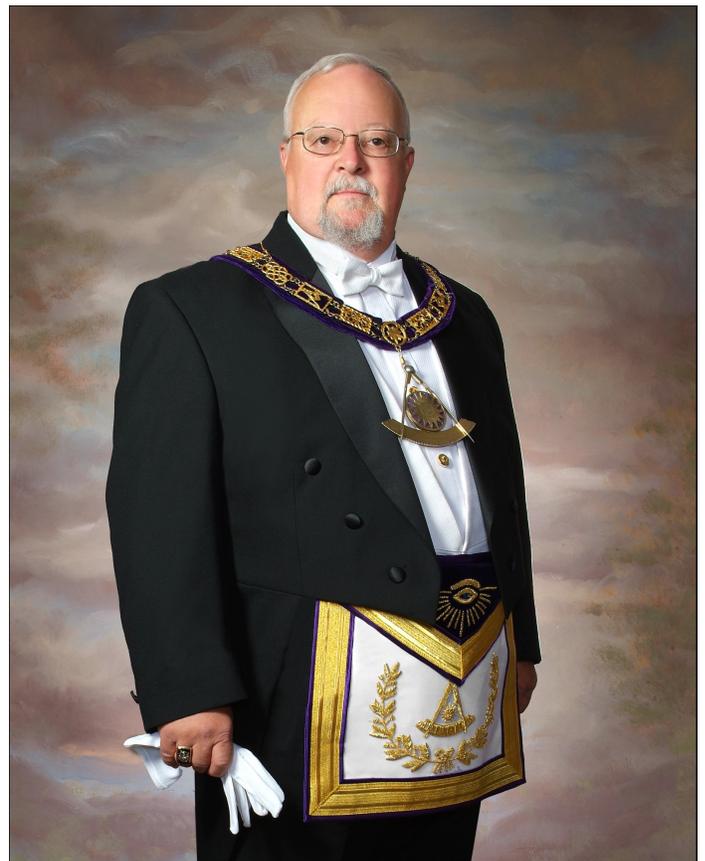


March 12, 2012, DLC, Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church. Registration 6:30 p.m.

March 7, 14, 15, C. A. Whitted Area Ritual School, Scottsville Lodge No. 45

March 24, Richard E. Loving Area Ritual School, Culpeper, 9:00 am

April 13, 14, R. R. Kennedy Area Ritual School, Lee Lodge No. 209, Waynesboro



The Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Most Worshipful William Talbott Ellison, Jr. will be making his official visit to the Lodges of the 18th Masonic District on January 17th at the Charlottesville Masonic Temple. Refreshments will be served in the dining room at 6:30 p.m. and a tiled meeting will be held in the 3rd floor lodge room at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Ellison is a past master of Lee Lodge No. 209 in Waynesboro.



Brother Jeffery B. Spence, the Development Officer of the Masonic Home of Virginia was the guest speaker. The Wm presents him with a contribution to the Masonic Home at the conclusion of his remarks.

**Masons preserve historical records**  
**Allison Brophy Champion**  
**Culpeper Star Exponent**  
**October 5, 2011**

The oldest local records of one of the most mysterious global organizations are voluntarily going public. The Library of Virginia is under-taking a project to microfilm volumes of minute books belonging to the Fairfax Masons Lodge No. 43 of Culpeper. The work will begin with the most ancient of the records, a minutes book documenting meetings from 1794, when the group got its charter, through 1801.

Culpeper native Fred Soutter, Worshipful Master of Fairfax Lodge No, 43, prompted the initiative in an effort to preserve for perpetuity the 217-year-old, handwritten account of the local Masons' gatherings. "There's no secret in this book, or I wouldn't have brought it in here," he said on a recent afternoon at the Culpeper Library, where he carried the aged volume. Wearing white cotton gloves, Soutter flipped carefully through the remarkably well-preserved book, stopping to read Old English-sounding excerpts written in ornamental cursive likely done by secretary Archibald Hamilton.

One section noted the purchase of 16 aprons, costing 1 pound, 10 shillings. In another, a more significant happening. "What you will see here is the actual charter giving us the ability to meet as Masons signed by John Marshall, Supreme Court Justice for the United States," Soutter said. In fact, Marshall, born 1755 in Fauquier County, signed the book twice, he pointed out. That's because at the time Marshall was Grand Master of the Virginia Masons.

It takes three Masons to form a lodge; the original three who petitioned for the Culpeper charter were Philip Rootes Thompson, Birket Davenport and Philip Lightfoot. Thompson was subsequently named Worshipful Master, Davenport senior warden and Lightfoot junior warden. The charter was granted 29 November 1794, designating the lodge as Fairfax, the town of Culpeper's original name. It also takes three Masons to hold a meeting, Soutter said. So what is the significance of the number three? "I can't really say," replied Soutter, "except that it's always been written that there shall be three stationed officers present at all times. Where we derive all of our acts from is the building of King Solomon's Temple: three stationed officers to guard the three doors to the temple."

Turning back to the charter, he pointed out requirements to hold annual elections of officers - every December - submit local records yearly to the Virginia Lodge and develop a local set of private bylaws. The Fairfax Masons No. 43 originally met at the home of Benjamin Shackelford, in town, reportedly on Main Street. The new lodge and the members proceeded to the courthouse where a sermon was preached by the rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

It wasn't until 1797 that the Masons started meeting in their own hall. The minutes book recorded the change in meeting place July 7, 1797, though the address of the meeting place was not recorded; neither was the address of Shackelford's house. Soutter said there would have been nothing secret about the situation of the Masonic Hall. "In fact, it probably would have been a highly decorated building," he said, referring to the same at the current lodge on East Davis Street.

As for the minutes book, its past is as storied. Soutter said it was stolen during the Civil War. "The records of the lodge were looted as well as the courthouse burned. These records were thrown in a box and carted off," he said. Amazingly, they turned up decades later in Philadelphia, discovered by William Jenks, a fellow Mason. In a handwritten note attached inside the book, the northern Masons waxed ceremoniously about the return gift to their Southern brothers in Culpeper - "with most fraternal salutations and congratulations that so important a portion of records ... has been preserved from destruction." "Jenks found this in a box that was about to be destroyed," Soutter said. "He took charge of it and knew what he had when he took it to the Grand Lodge in Pennsylvania and it found its way back to us."

Recently, Soutter noticed the same book sitting in a box in a closet in the current lodge. Concerned with preserving it, and other volumes, he contacted Susan Keller, Culpeper County Librarian, who contacted the Library of Virginia for help. Lyndon Hart, director of the LOV Descriptions Services Branch, is heading up the microfilm project. He said it would take a couple months to film each volume, send the film for duplication and do quality control. The original volumes will then be returned to the Masons, and copies of the volumes, on microfilm, maintained by the Library of Virginia as well as the Culpeper County Library and Fairfax Lodge No. 43. Hart said the preservation work is made possible in part through donations. "Providing research access is our goal," he said.

Keller said the local Masonic records are part of Virginia history. "They are irreplaceable," she said. "For us in Culpeper, this is a who's who of Culpeper from that time period, so how exciting to track that kind of thing back to the beginning." For the Fairfax Lodge No. 43, the records are priceless, Soutter said. "There is no value you could put on it," he said. "This is our history right here in my hands."

Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60  
A.F.&A.M.  
P. O. Box 6262  
Charlottesville, VA 22906

1799—2011  
The 211th Year of Service to the  
Charlottesville Community and beyond.  
"Freemasonry, a way of life"

Non Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 5  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Return Service Requested

LINKS

[Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Website](#)  
[Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Facebook Page](#)



**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE PROCESS**

#### Hiram's Journal



The investiture of the new DDGM, Rt. Wor. Mike Hollar took place at the November 21st stated communication. Pictured with Bro. Hollar is Oakley Straley and Bill Baskerville.



The DDGM of the 10th district visits Widow's Sons' Lodge. Pictured, L-R: Andy Keller and RW James L. Starcher