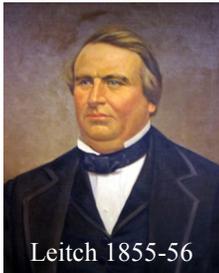
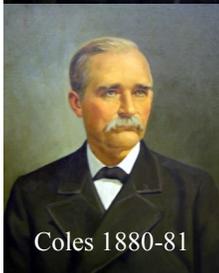


*Grand Master's
From
Widow's Sons'
No. 60*



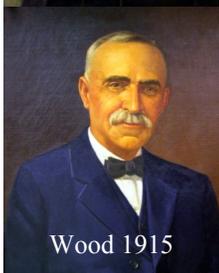
Leitch 1855-56



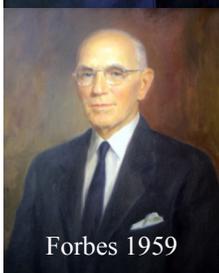
Coles 1880-81



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 July 16, 2012

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

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



Dear Brethren,

Each month different brothers have been stepping forward to provide leadership in our lodge. It's this effort of many that keeps our lodge active and vibrant. This past month was no different.

First let me start by recognizing Brother's TC Dickerson, Jim Dickerson and Kent Schlüssel for their work on our Eagle Scout committee. We recognized three deserving scouts prior to our June Stated. I believe our continued support of America's youth is important. We are making a difference in the lives of young people.

I also want to recognize the "Winding Staircase" discussion group. These men regularly meet to share more light and insight into Masonry. Last year Brother Mark Chapman encouraged me to use this group to help improve our Masonic education, and he was right. Brother Hans-Ulrich Steiner (a Winding Staircase member) presented a wonderful program during our June Stated titled "Brothers." The "Winding Staircase" men are making a difference in the life of our lodge.

And finally, I want to recognize our Junior Warden, RW William (Uncle Billy) Bond. Brother Bill and his wife, Tracy, did a magnificent job organizing our annual Table Lodge this year. It was fun, festive and very lively. I bet the "roar" of our toasts are still echoing throughout the dining room. We also heard a great program from Worshipful Shelby Chandler, Past Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, discussing Saint John the Baptist and Masonry. Brother Bill and Tracy are truly making a difference in Masonry.

And PS – Worshipful Timothy Edwards drove 10 hours from Alabama to attend Table Lodge. He said he felt like a "locust," returning to lodge every seven years -- Great to see you Bro. Tim.

In closing, I want to remind all we'll be in "Summer Attire" for July, August and September. To me that means short sleeves and no tie.

Wear your lodge golf shirt if you have one.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me or our Secretary, Brother Mark Chapman if you need assistance: MGriffin@TGBlaw.com (434-981-5428) and agw123@earthlink.net (434-971-1332.)

Fraternally, Brother Mike Griffin, WM



The WM recognizes those with a Masonic Birthday in June. L-R: Mike Griffin; Bill Bond, 37 years; Gene Carpenter, 61 years.



Pictured L-R: MW Jeff Hodges; Wor. Shelby Chandler, Table Lodge Speaker; and RW Mike Griffin

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

- L. Mark Ascoli, July 27, 1988
- Peter J. Baber, July 10, 2002
- Charles R. Boyer, July 24, 2006
- Walter R. Carpenter, Jr., July 23, 1984
- Mark A. Chandeysson, July 17, 2008
- Larry W. Claytor, July 15, 1986
- Robert A. Clore, July 24, 1971
- Andrew F. Conely, July 29, 2006
- Vestal Greer, July 29, 2006
- Garrett W. Kirksey, July 16, 1968
- David C. Merchant, July 28, 2004
- Richard K. Powley, July 24, 1967
- Carl D. Proffitt, Jr., July 16, 1957
- James L. Reinhold, July 28, 1999
- R. Lee Richards, July 19, 1991
- William Roberson, Jr., July 24, 1961
- Benjamin R. Robey, July 29, 2006
- James R. Ruhland, III, July 9, 2003
- David S. Scott, July 6, 1962
- James D. Stoneburner, July 13, 2005
- R. Eric Thompson, July 24, 2006
- Peter R. Thorsen, July 21, 1978
- Ronald L. Webster, July 23, 1984

Below L-R: Wor. Eugene Whiting, WM of Jefferson No. 20; RW Mike Griffin, WM of Widow's Sons' No. 60; and Wor. David Simmons, Past Master of Jefferson No. 20.



The annual St. John the Baptist Day Celebration, with the lodges of the 21st and 22nd Masonic Districts of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia was held on June 10, 2012 at the Mt. Zion African Baptist Church in Charlottesville..

First Picture above, L-R: RW Jim Dickerson, Wor. Eugene Whiting, Bro. Mark Chapman, RW Mike Griffin, RW Harry Holtz, and Wor. David Simmons.

Lower picture, L-R: RW Mike Griffin, Bro. Pascal Bussiere, Bro. Hans Steiner, and RW Edward Mock.



Widow's Sons' Table Lodge 2012

“Brothers” by Hans-Ulrich Steiner, June 18, 2012

When I joined the boy scouts I had read stories about them and felt attracted by their comradeship and by their exciting and instructive activities. I did not join them to sell cookies, and, fortunately our scouts never did sell them. On the other hand I had the vague feeling that their laws which we learned by heart and were supposed to obey were quite meaningful. I'll read them to you quickly as I translate them from a list published by the Swiss Masonic Lodge Libertas et Fraternitas i.O. Zurich: A Boy Scout speaks the truth, he is loyal, he helps wherever he can, he is a good comrade, he is polite and courteous, he protects animals and plants, he obeys willingly, he is brave and overcomes his bad mood, he is industrious and undemanding, he preserves a purity of thought, of speech and of action.

Only today do I clearly see that these so called laws stated what I had automatically learned as the expected good manners during my upbringing, and that we were now old enough to consciously apply in our life as part of building our character. Only today is it clear that we were in this way trained to become thoughtful and respectful citizens. Only today do I fully realize that our expected behavior is the very one that makes us get along with each other in harmony, and that its purpose is all about avoiding hurting or offending others, about avoiding provocation and strife.

When I joined our Masonic brotherhood not too long ago, I was looking for something more meaningful in my life. I don't remember having read anything in particular about it. I had however known a member or two who had impressed me with their interest in higher values beyond those governing our daily lives. I contacted the nearest Lodge and was invited to read some books and appear for a total of three interviews with some five established Master Masons. They quizzed me on my personal history, on my interests and life philosophy, discussing with me freely what they found of particular value in Freemasonry. What became immediately clear to me was that they and I had one basic thing in common: We were all human beings who didn't feel infallible and beyond reproach. None of us seemed completely satisfied with himself. None of us felt we had accomplished our goal in life. We all felt there was something else worth looking for. Clearly none of us could fully put into words what exactly that was, but there seemed a particular direction to look in our search to more clearly grasp what it was. We were all "Seeking the Light". And I immediately had the wonderfully gratifying feeling that admitting the limitation of our knowledge of what we were seeking and our determination to keep on looking gave us a sense of comradeship, a sense of being like brothers who were all eager to help each other in finding answers to vague questions. In this new and somewhat secretive brotherhood I would no longer feel alone.

These beginning interviews already involved discussing the values found espoused by Freemasonry. And every single one of us could glean if not fully understand or define the guidelines we can derive from them, even if we all understood them to be of fundamental importance. Here I will enumerate some as they are listed by the same Lodge in Switzerland I have mentioned above, one of the most ancient ones and the godparent of my mother Lodge Libertas et Concordia i.O. of Chur. And I'll add a brief personal explanation to each:

1. **(The Freemason) is honest with himself and with others.** (Interpersonal communication and relationships are only meaningful to the extent that honesty prevails)
2. **He acts in accordance with his words.** (We can only be trusted to the extent that we truly mean what we say).
3. **He is of help without expecting compensation.** (That means also that we are not looking for or giving each other medals or take photos during public displays of gratitude and praise)
4. **He respects all humans and is loyal to his friends.** (There exists no human being, no terrorist Muslim, no gipsy or beggar who should not be seen as deserving our respect and being treated as our equal)
5. **He is polite and modest.** (We must consciously strive to behave with good manners and humility vis-à-vis all others.)
- 6 **He is brave and decisive.** (I'm not clear about this one, unless it also includes decisively stating if and when we are not ready to take decisions)
7. **He is cheerful and equanimous.** (We need to train ourselves to take things in stride, i.e. not to be carried away by our frustration to become openly angry and judgmental)
8. **He protects animals, plants and his environment.** (This speaks to his resolve to learn to better respect all of creation)
9. **He constantly seeks self improvement.** (This is the most important and all inclusive challenge and includes of course practicing humility)
10. **He is critical and tolerant.** (Critical is meant as "discerning". Discernment is crucial, but we must learn not to attach values of good or bad to everything we see).
11. **He is moderate in his judgment.** (We must trust our personal tastes and values but learn not to condemn those that disagree – this touches on our call for tolerance)
12. **He decides independently and based on the here and now.** (We should not borrow the conclusions and convictions of others, we should naturally avoid adhering to collective opinions as those decided by a party etc. Our decisions should be based on what we individually determine exists and happens presently. So we should not act on what we fear or hope might happen tomorrow).
13. **He knows his own limits.** (We need to constantly remind ourselves that we don't have all the answers – this is a prerequisite for our continued self-improvement).

If we really are bent on an ongoing self-improvement, then each of these and other unmentioned guidelines challenge us with interminable questions worthy of a life time of discussion and reflection. Clearly I can't satisfactorily explain even one of them within the time I have allotted today. Suffice it to give you a quick and limited example: Why and how should we be tolerant? Answer: Knowing our own limits we have reason to assume that we don't know the full truth about anything. Therefore it is nonsensical to believe that one with a different conviction is a priori further from the truth than we are. And to the extent we familiarize ourselves with and accept this insight, we won't feel the need to impose our own convictions on others. And if we abstain from that temptation, we avoid offending those others and provoking their "bad blood" and hostility. As an ultimate outcome, through tolerance we frustrate our own wish to let out our anger at someone, but in the process we avoid provoking a conflict and instead preserve or create a positive relationships from which both parties can draw a personal advantage.

The end effect of our principles and striving seems in many ways reminiscent of our Christian ones, and their purpose identical with that of the Boy Scout laws. All our Masonic guidelines suggest practicing an aspect of thought and behavior which ultimately benefits both our society and us individually. They all led us to become better "brothers" to each other. And being better brothers is what brings us all closer to each other and encourages us to be better citizens. All of them bring us closer to inner and outer peace.

It should be obvious then that one of our guidelines is overlooked in the above list, namely our promise to make one another aware when we act against any of these noble principles, when we do not appear to be honest and open with ourselves or with others, or when we act unjustly or selfishly. As long as we live it is our basic obligation as Freemasons to up to constantly step back and look critically at ourselves and each other and give each other the opportunity to improve our ways. This is why some months ago I tried here, not to chastise, but to discuss the incident where some brothers had black-balled a gesture of courtesy vis-à-vis older members of this Lodge.

To put it in a nut shell: We should not be Freemasons because we seek companionship. And we should not encourage anyone to become one of us unless he shares the ideas above. Rather we should be Freemasons because we want to become more exemplary human beings whose inevitable reward does however include the most valuable type of companionship, one that is based on enjoying mutual trust and affection.

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

1799—2012
The 213th 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



**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE PROCESS**

Hiram's Journal

