

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

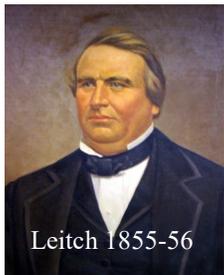
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WIDOW'S SONS' LODGE NO. 60  
A. F. & A. M., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, U.S.A.  
CHARTERED DECEMBER 10TH, AD 1799, AL 5799

# HIRAM'S JOURNAL

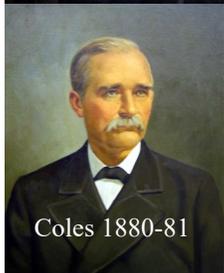
Stated Communications June 21st, 2021

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

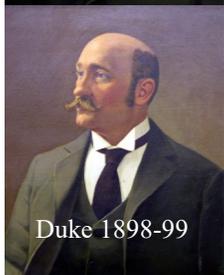
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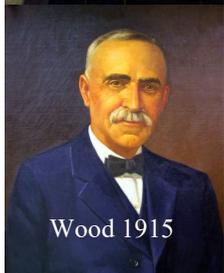
Leitch 1855-56



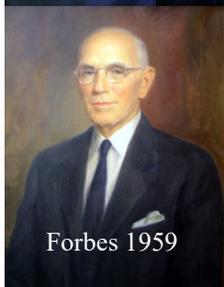
Coles 1880-81



Duke 1898-99



Wood 1915



Forbes 1959



Hodges 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

After a long time of waiting caused by the pandemic we raised a Master Mason in May!! Brother Chris Owens was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on May 10th. Congratulations Brother Chris on being the newest member of Widow's Sons' #60. I know you will be a major asset to our Lodge and Freemasonry. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Degree. The Degree team did an outstanding job!!

Also in May we welcomed our District Deputy Grand Master RW Jason Pattison in his official visit to our Lodge. RW Jason brought greetings from the Grand Master and his remarks were well received. With all the challenges we have had because of the virus RW Jason has really kept us aware of Grand Lodge protocols and mandates.

Because we are still emerging from all the COVID restrictions we are not having Table Lodge this year and we will feature a presentation on Saint John the Baptist by RW Bill Baskerville at our June Stated.

Our June Stated will be casual dress. July, August, and September will also be casual. We are not having a meal before our June Stated, but we plan on starting meals back in July!! Won't that be a treat?

Also in June we will award 4 scholarships to local students. The students and their parents will not be present as in normal years. I hope that next year we can have them join us for recognition.

We plan to initiate an Entered Apprentice in June. It's been a while since we have done that, too!!

Brethren, stay safe. We are getting back to normal. Continue to check on our widows and brothers with health challenges. We need to keep them in our prayers.

Finally brethren, call or text me 434-960-6776 or email me at [hlw@comcast.net](mailto:hlw@comcast.net) if I can help you in any way.



Fraternally Yours,

Harry Walker

2021 Worshipful Master

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



<u>Name:</u>	<u>Master Mason Degree:</u>
Duane A. Adams	06/12/1989
James S. Boggs	06/25/1990
William R. Bond, III	06/24/1975
Harry J. Brown, Jr.	06/27/1966 (55 Yrs)
James A. Christenson	06/12/2002
Randall R. Dorsey	06/06/1972
William B. Downer	06/06/1961 (60 Yrs)
David N. Goodwin	06/15/1996
John E. Grinnalds	06/08/1999
Harvey J. Hague	06/30/2008
Gerald W. Hogan	06/29/1970 (51 Yrs)
Ivan E. Letner, Jr.	06/15/1996
Joseph L. Marchi	06/15/1996
Forrest R. Marshall, Jr.	06/15/1996
Oran O. Oakey	06/23/1959 (62 Yrs)
Gerald F. Reimers	06/25/2003
Jeffery K. Robbins	06/29/2015
Robert N. Romanac	06/08/1994
W. Edgar Spigle	06/15/1996
Julian H. Taliferro, Jr.	06/08/1994
Bobby W. Thompson	06/04/1997
Thomas L. Varner, Jr.	06/07/1983
Randy J. Whitlow	06/15/1996
John F. Williamson, Jr.	06/22/1996

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Events:**

**June 10th, 7:00 PM—EA Degree at Day Lodge No. 58, Louisa, VA. We will have an WSL60 candidate there.**

**June 21st, 7:00 PM— WSL60 Stated Meeting  
 Presentation by RW Bill Baskerville—St. John the Baptist**

**June 24th, 6:00 PM—Officers Meeting via Zoom**

**Sept 17th—Official Visit of the Grand Master of Virginia to  
 District 10 at Louisa Methodist Church  
 More information to follow**

**October 9th, 2021—Masonic Family Day at Masonic Home  
 of Virginia, Richmond, VA**

**WINNER OF SILENT AUCTION!!!!**

**The Winner of the Silent Auction to benefit Shriners  
 Hospital in memory of Bro. Gene Carpenter was**

**RW Goldie Tomlin, Jr.  
 With a donation of \$150.**

**SMILE ON THE MASONIC HOME OF VIRGINIA  
 DONATIONS THROUGH AMAZON**



***You can give donations to the Masonic Home of Virginia through Amazon and this process doesn't add any cost to your order!!! See below on how to add MAHOVA as your charity choice on Smile through Amazon.***

- 1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>**
- 2. Log into your Amazon account**
- 3. Click on "Your Account"**
- 4. Select "Change your Charity" from the drop-down window**
- 5. Type in the blank, Masonic Home of Virginia**
- 6. Click the "Search" button**
- 7. Make sure you choose Masonic Home of Virginia by clicking the correct "Select" button**
- 8. Verify your choice by looking at the "Supporting" field.**
- 9. REMEMBER, you must always log into <https://smile.amazon.com> in order for the MAHOVA Charity to receive funds.**

# LEARNING AND MEMORIZING RITUAL

BY: BRO. MARK WAKS—PAST MASTER HAMMATT OCEAN LODGE, SAUGUS, MA

One of the problems that most often plagues Masonry is poor ritual. By this, I don't just mean getting the words wrong - - I mean ritual that is drab and uninspiring, which fails to actually teach a candidate. Ritual is often mediocre, and it doesn't have to be; anyone can do ritual well, provided he knows a little about acting. It isn't hard, actually; it's mostly a matter of knowing how to do it, plus a lot of practice. This article is intended to impart some guidelines on how to do Good Ritual. It doesn't demand a lot of time, or any particular talent, just a little drive to do well. Read it and play with it. With some practice, you should be able to use these techniques to good effect in your Lodge. The course is specifically aimed at dealing with the longer speeches, but much of it is also relevant to shorter pieces; I commend it to your junior officers. This is adapted from a lecture that I worked up for my own lodge; having done that, I figured I should try to spread these tips around for the common wealth of the Craft. (Caveat: I do assume that you have some kind of cipher book, with encoded ritual. If your jurisdiction doesn't use this, you'll have to adapt these lessons.)

## 1: Figure out the Words

The first step of learning any ritual is to know what you're saying! This should be obvious, but is often overlooked, because brethren are afraid to admit that they don't really know the right words. Don't be afraid to admit your own limits - I've never met anyone who gets every single word right every time. Start out by listening to someone say the speech, preferably several times. Listen carefully, and make sure you understand what's being said and ask questions if you don't. (After lodge, of course.) Next, go through your cipher or code book carefully, and see how much you can read. Mark words that you can't figure out, or that you're unsure of - this is the point to catch any mistakes you may be making. Then call or get together with a Ritualist or a reliable Brother, and talk through it, reading out of the book slowly. Have him correct any mistakes, and fill in the words you don't know. Take notes (preferably somewhere other than in the book), because you will forget the corrections as soon as you're on your own.

## 2: Understand the Speech

This step gets overlooked even more than the previous one. Read through the ritual a couple of times, and make sure you really grasp it. Don't just know the words - know what it's talking about. Find out who the characters being talked about are. Again, ask questions. Now, start trying to understand the speech structurally. And ritual is made up of components, separate pieces that are linked together. For example, a section may be talking about symbols, with three paragraphs per symbol: concrete meaning, abstract meaning, and purpose. Figure out what these pieces are - you'll use them later. The next step is especially useful for long speeches - visualize the speech. Any speech can be thought of in terms of movements, places, rooms, stuff like that. The canonical example is the Middle Chamber Lecture, which walks through King Solomon's Temple. That's no accident - that path is easily visualized, and makes a good example of how to learn ritual, which is probably why it is the first major speech an officer learns. This is why we use symbols in the first place: because they are easy to learn and internalize. Use them.

## 3a: Small-scale Memorization

This is never anyone's favorite part, anyone can do it, but no one finds it simple. It's considerably easier if you do it right though. Start out by reading the speech over and over. Don't move on to your next step until you can read it from the cipher quickly, without breaks or hesitation. Read it out loud when you get the chance. This step is particularly important, and skipped more often than any other. Don't skip it - this is how you get your brain and mouth trained to the words. It may sound silly, but it really matters - the mental pathways used to talk are distinct from those used to read. Now, start trying to learn sentences. Just sentences. Read the first word or two of the sentence, then try to fill in the remainder from memory. Don't fret if you can't do it immediately; it will probably take at least 5 or 10 times through before you're getting most of the sentences. You'll find some that are hard - hammer out these over and over (but don't totally neglect the rest while you do so). Again, get to the point where you're doing reasonably well on this, before going on to the next step.

## 3b: Large-scale Memorization

Once you've got most of the sentence, try to move on to paragraphs. Again, some will be easy and some hard. Try to understand exactly why this sentence follows that one - in most cases, the ritual does make sense. An individual paragraph is almost always trying to express a single coherent thought, in pieces; figure out what that thought is, and why all the pieces are necessary. Keep at this until you're able to get most paragraphs by glancing at the first word or two, or by thinking, "Okay, this is the description of truth," or something like that. Finally, start putting it all together. This is where the structured analysis in Step 2 gets important. You visualized the speech, and figured out how it hooks together; use that visualization to connect the paragraphs. Make sure you have some clue why each paragraph follows the one before. In almost every case, the next paragraph is either a) continuing this thought, or b) moving on to a related thought. In both cases, you can make memorization much easier by understanding why it flows like that. Convince yourself that this paragraph obviously has to follow that one, and you'll never forget the order.

The Human brain  
is an amazing  
organ. It  
functions  
24 hours a day  
from the day we  
are born and only  
stops when we  
are performing  
ritual



# LEARNING AND MEMORIZING RITUAL

~ CONTINUED

## 4: Smoothing It Out

You're now at the point where you've got pretty much all the sentences down, and most of the paragraphs, and you're able to get through the whole thing only looking at the book a few times. Now, start saying it. When you're driving in the car; when you're alone at home; pretty much any time you have some privacy, try saying it all out loud, at full voice. Trust me, it sounds very different when you actually say it aloud. You'll find that you stumble more, and in different places. Some words turn out to be more difficult to pronounce than you expected. Try it a few times. Start out by trying to do this frequently - once, even twice every day. It'll be hard at first (and it's a real pain to pull out the cipher book while you're driving), but it'll gradually get easier. When you're starting to feel comfortable, slow down, but don't stop. Practice it every couple of days, then every week. Don't slow down below once a week. If you feel up to it, see if you can speed up your recitation. (But do not ever speed talk the ritual in open Lodge - that's for memorization and rehearsal only.)

## 5a: Mindset

Last part. You're now at the point where you pretty much have the ritual memorized. Now, the trick is learning how to perform it well. Very nearly everyone has some amount of stage fright; we acting types often have it even worse than most. The trick to overcoming it is control of the nerves.

Now that you're reciting the ritual, observe how you do it. By now, you're not thinking about it so much; your mouth is doing almost all the work, with the conscious mind simply making a few connections between paragraphs. That is the right state to be in. Think about how that feels, and learn it. Before you go in to "perform", do some basic acting exercises. Take a few deep breaths; concentrate on not thinking. I think the ideal is a little light meditation, but it takes a fair bit of practice to be able to drop into that state on demand; for now, just worry about being calm. Being calm is far more important than anything else. If you're calm, you're unlikely to screw up too badly; if you're tense, you're far more likely to. Some people like to exercise the body a bit, to relax the mind; you should do what works for you.

## 5b: Acting

Now the final nuance, which separates merely competent ritual from the really good stuff. Now that you're able to let your mouth do all the talking, start listening to yourself. Think about the ritual again, but don't think about the words, think about what it means. What are the important bits? Emphasize those. How could you use your body or hands to illustrate a point? Try talking to the person in front of you, not just at them - look them in the eye and make them get the point. You are teaching important lessons here; try to capture a little of the emotional intensity of that importance. Think of your "performance" as a melding of two parts. Your mouth is providing the words, your mind and heart the emotion. Again, nothing beats practice. This is what rehearsal should really be for - taking a dummy candidate in hand, and learning how to really get the point across. Don't fret if you find that you need to change "modes" now and then - here and there you will need to think about the words briefly. That won't throw you, though, so long as you keep track of what you're saying; you've already figured out why each part leads into the next, and that will guide you when you stumble.

You are in the middle of your piece of ritual.  
You pause for effect - and ten Past Masters call out the next word

## Conclusion



Don't expect to get all this down instantly; it takes most people a few years to really get good at it. Just try to advance yourself bit by bit. Learn the transitions and pieces first - if you have that you can get through the ritual. Next time, work on memorizing more thoroughly. The time after that, work on getting it really smooth. After a while, you can build up to the point where you have the luxury to act. And at that point, you will find that you start doing the kind of ritual that Masonry is meant to have - both moving and interesting, enough so that the candidate (who is, remember, the whole point) actually learns what you're saying, and what it actually means. And if you really do it well, you'll find that you come to understand the meaning of the ritual a good deal better yourself.

Reprinted from the Grand Lodge of Iowa Lodge Services website:

<https://grandlodgeofiowa.org/lodge-service/ceremonies-degrees-ritual-memorial-services/>

# MAY STATED PRESENTATIONS



The May Stated Meeting was the Official Visit of DDGM RW Jason Pattison. On the left is his reception within the Lodge, escorted by RW James F. Dickerson and RW Mike D. Griffin. On the right is a picture of the DDGM and Worshipful Harry Walker after the DDGM's delivery on the Grand Master's theme and plan for the masonic year.



RW Bill Reinhold, The Lodge Masonic Home Ambassador, was called to the East to present the Stokes Award to the Lodge for our total contributions to MAHOVA in 2020. To achieve this award, Lodge members must contribute at least \$25 per member to MAHOVA. Our membership is about 200 Masons. On the left is RW Reinhold presenting the award to the Worshipful Master and the right is a close up photo of the award.



The Worshipful Master recognized the brethren having Masonic Birthdays in May.

From left to right: Bro. James W. Stafford (7 years), Worshipful Master Harry Walker, and RW Andrew D. Keller (24 years)

## Elected Officers for 2021

Worshipful Master: Wor. Harry Lee Walker, Jr.  
Senior Warden: R.W. Jason Andrew Pattison  
Junior Warden: Wor. Christopher Nicholas Bragg  
Treasurer: RW Mike Daniel Griffin  
Secretary: Wor. Mark Stephen Chapman

Senior Deacon: Bro. William Heron Reichert  
Junior Deacon: RW Andrew Donald Keller  
Chaplain: RW Philip Harding Nelson, Jr.  
Marshall: Bro. James Thomas O'Kelley, Jr.  
Tyler: Bro. John Coulter Maddox

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

1799—2021  
The 222nd Year of Service to the  
Charlottesville Community and beyond.  
“Freemasonry, a way of life”

Return Service Requested



**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE PROCESS**

Hiram's Journal

## **CASUAL WEAR and MEALS!!!!**



**Brothers, the Worshipful Master has ordered that the stated meetings for the months of JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, and SEPTEMBER will be casual wear. Bring out your Polos!!! See RW Andy Keller to purchase a WSL60 polo shirt.**

**There will be no meal served on the June Stated Meeting, but hopefully there will be in July.**