

Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219

A.F. & A.M.

P.O. Box 74

Mount Vernon, VA 22121

May 2018 Trestleboard

If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of the Trestleboard, you must contact the Lodge Secretary before September 2018. The Trestleboard will continue to be emailed, and posted to the Lodge website; however, starting in October hard copies will only be mailed to those brethren who request to receive hard copies.

From the East

Brethren, April was a big month for our Lodge. We completed 3 fraternal visits, held a fantastic Ladies Night event at the Mount Vernon Inn, provided support to the District 1B Child ID event, made 2 scholarship award decisions, and received the Grand Master at our stated communication. As we move in to the late spring and summer months our activities shift to family friendly and community oriented events (picnics, flea markets, yard sale, etc). I hope everyone receiving this communication is enjoying the arrival of spring, and in good health.

On the topic of the arrival of spring, congratulations are in order for WB Gary Liebo and his lovely wife Melanie on the arrival of their new daughter, Helen Marie Liebo. Both mother and daughter are doing great. The gift of new life lifts all our spirits!!

Brethren, I was recently reminded by WB John Killian's wonderful bride about the power of prayer to heal. I would ask all to keep WB John Killian and Bro Mark Neil in your prayers. Both are recovering in the hospital from major surgeries. We pray for healing and a speedy recovery for both!

In keeping with the historical theme this year, I thought you might find the following of interest:

**Freemasonry's Old Charges - 1390
through 1714**

There are 19 major and many minor Old Charges (or old records) that have been discovered. It is believed that the Old Charges were used in making a Mason in the old, operative stonemason days. They are called by many names: "Antient" (archaic word for "Ancient") Manuscripts, Old Masonic Manuscripts, Ancient (or Antient) Constitutions, Old Constitutions, Legends of the Craft, Gothic Manuscripts and Old Records. The Old Charges are ancient documents that have come down to us from the 14th century and their legends, rules and regulations are now incorporated within our traditional history. The physical makeup of these documents are found in the form of handwritten paper and parchment rolls as well as in printed books. Some of these Old Manuscripts have been incorporated into the Minute Books of lodges. They range in date from 1390 until 1714. Most of them are in the safekeeping of the British Museum and the Masonic Library of West Yorkshire, England. These Old Constitutions are all very similar in content and historians presume they are copies of some earlier documents which were, apparently, lost through wars, holocaust, required book-burnings and the chaos and destruction through the ages.

These Old Charges form the basis of modern Masonic Constitutions, and therefore, each Grand Lodge's jurisprudence. They establish the continuity of the Masonic Institution through a period of more than six centuries, and it is believed to be much longer. They prove the great antiquity of Masonry by written documents, which is a thing no other Craft in existence can do.

The Halliwell Manuscript is believed to be the oldest Masonic document in existence at approximately 600 years old. It is also known as the Regius Manuscript, as it was found within a group of other documents and renamed at a later date. The Halliwell Manuscript is written in poetic meter and has 794 lines of rhymed verse. At over 600 years old, it is believed to be the oldest Masonic document among the Old Records in existence.

Sincerely & Fraternaly
Al Glaeser, Worshipful Master

Masonic Education

Do you ever stop and think about some of the words we use in Freemasonry....and try to find out the derivation and/or meaning? Let's take the words "cowans" and "eavesdroppers."

"Cowan" is believed to be an old Scottish word. The term "cowan" used by the Scots meant "A Mason without the word; the apprentice who tries to masquerade as a Master." A little more modern usage is defined as "an ignorant Mason who places or lays stones together without mortar, or piles them together into a wall without working them square and true."

The "eavesdropper" in ancient times was a would-be thief of secrets who listened under the eaves of houses through the walls (there he received the droppings from the roof if it rained - hence, eavesdropper). In modern times, he is the man who forges a good-standing dues card, or finds one and masquerades as its owner; the man who has read a so-called "expose'" of Freemasonry and tries to get into a lodge. He is probably very rare, and few Tilers today have ever met him! The "cowan," however, is the Fellowcraft or Entered Apprentice stopped for cause, or the one-time member in good standing who is now dropped for one cause or another. (Reference: Carl Claudy's *Introduction to Freemasonry* and *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*)

Sincerely & Fraternally
RWB Grayson Koogle, PDDGM, LEO

Did You Know?

John Wayne was a Master Mason. Born Marion Morrison 26 May 1907, "the Duke" appeared or starred in over 200 films in his fifty-year career, winning an Oscar for "True Grit," in 1969. Remembered for his definition of the American individualist of a mythical wild west, he came to represent America to several generations of movie-goers. He was a member of Glendale DeMolay Chapter during his high school days, and received his Craft degrees in 1970 in Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56, Tucson, Arizona. A Senior DeMolay, he was also awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor in 1970. He once stated that the lodge was the only place he could go and feel normal. A Past Master of his lodge stated the Duke was proficient in his ritual and worked diligently in the lodge.

May Calendar

12 May 8:00 AM WHW Academy, Springfield Lodge
Brief officers meeting at end of the academy
14 May 6:30 PM Frat. Visit Occoquan Lodge
19 May 3:00 PM Lodge Picnic
20 May 4:00 PM Woodlawn Demolay Visit
21 May 6:30 PM Dinner/Stated, 'Bro James Monroe'
23 May 6:30 PM District School, Springfield Lodge
26 May 8:00 AM Flea Market

From Labor to Refreshment

We have some exciting events going on in the Lodge now that the weather is improving. For those of you in the area, please support our Flea Market which begins April 28th and reoccurs on the 4th Saturday of every month for the next 6 months. It is a great way to connect with the community around the Lodge and teach people about Freemasonry. You can contact our Senior Deacon, Christian Glad, for more information or to volunteer.

On May 19th, we have our first Lodge family picnic. My wife, Lisa, and I are providing wild boar Italian sausages as a main course and it will be a pot luck. For the less adventurous, we will also have hotdogs and hamburgers. Details will be available via the Google group in early May.

Finally, some of our Brethren have recently undergone surgery. I cannot stress enough that if you are able to donate blood, you should. I am constantly getting notices from the Red Cross and Inova Blood Donor Services that they are in need of blood. Blood is not just needed in cases of emergencies. It is also needed to help those, like our Brethren, who have other medical issues that require surgery. I hope to have an event in June where Brethren can meet at the Lodge and go give blood together, and then go out for some refreshments.

Sincerely & Fraternally
Brother Michael W. Zarlenga, Junior Warden

From the Secretary

Brethren, We recently lost two members, Donald Lee Cottle and Stuart Franklin Kober. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Brother Mark Neil has had major cancer surgery and is unable to speak or eat at this time. In addition, WB John Killian underwent major back surgery and will be going through extensive physical therapy. Please keep these brethren in your prayers as well.

Please let me know if you or your family are suffering from sickness or distress. The lodge wishes to help when we can, keep you in our prayers and be there in your time of need.

Sincerely & Fraternaly

Matt Szramoski, PDDGM, Lodge Secretary

Building and Grounds

We anticipate all building and grounds renovations needed over the long term to exceed \$300,000. More information will follow as we complete our long-range strategic plan. However, donations can be made now. Simply indicate that your check is for the "Lodge Permanent Fund." All gifts, large and small, are very much appreciated.

Send all payments and donations to the Lodge Secretary at the PO Box address.

May Masonic Birthdays

Homer R. Aikin	5/27/1964
Charles James Allen	3/14/1973
Robert Lee Burnett, III	5/23/1973
Kenneth Michael Dague	5/22/1985
Arturo DeHoyos	5/16/1988
James Elmer Jewell	5/26/1982
Thomas Nelson Johnson	5/19/1961
John Vincent Lucas, Jr.	5/10/1969
Dennis Albert Miller	5/23/1973
Michael Stephen Scotto	5/9/2016
Gary Lee Short	5/1/2000
Lee Jackson Sloppy	5/19/1976
David Earl Stout, Jr.	5/19/2004
Bruce Lee Summer	5/20/1980

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master- Al Glaeser

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Secretary- Matt Szramoski, PDDGM

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Please see the Lodge web site for a complete list of officers and other information for our Lodge:

<https://mountvernonlodge219.wordpress.com/>