



Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219
A. F. & A. M.
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121



View From The East – Worshipful Ronald G. Elliott, Sr.

February 2010

Dear Brethren,

Our first Stated Meeting of the year went very well. I did miss a few faces but I'm sure I will see them at our next Stated Meeting in February for our official visit with our new "DDGM" Right Worshipful Larry Alexander. I'm looking for a full house so if you need a ride please call me and I will make arrangements.

There will be an EA degree (one maybe two candidates) this month for our latest Petitioners. I have not set the date yet but it will be announced at our February Stated Meeting. I will need help conferring these degrees. Also, we need help on Monday evenings helping all these candidates advance to Master Masons, so please come out and lend a helping hand. If all goes as planned, we will be conferring the Master Mason degree in the month of April on one to three of our advancing Brothers.

For those who did not make our last Meeting, our cell tower project is not going well (after 9 years). We have received approvals from everyone (Planning Commission and Home Owners associations) except our local County Supervisor Gerald Hyland and our neighbors behind our property. At the last minute before the board meeting, Supervisor Hyland pulled his support for the tower, stating he could not support our request due to the negative response from some of the local residents. We're now on a hold status and working on a new plan.

Our first Social Event will be 27 February. Our annual "Chili Dinner and Cake Walk" at Mount Vernon Lodge starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends when we've eaten all the Chili and given away all the Cakes. Tickets for this event can be picked up from Worshipful Charles Hinkle at his shop or from me at our Stated Meeting (I will be pushing tickets at February Meeting). Also, I will need verbal commitments from all who plan on bringing Chili and Cakes that evening at our February Stated Meeting.

For all who have as yet not purchased a "LMIP" the store is *OPEN*, see Worshipful Charles Hinkle, Worshipful Grayson Koogler, and/or Myself for the paper work. Support your Lodge in Perpetuity!

And remember . . . last but by no means least . . . The Lodge is opened, tiled and tested and the sound of the gavel in the East calls the Craft from Refreshment to Labor. See you in Lodge!

Fraternally,
Ronald (Ron) G. Elliott Sr. Worshipful Master

Notes from the West – Brother John T. Tillery, Senior Warden

Brethren,

One of the beauties of Masonry is that there is so much to learn. A great precept of Masonry is to learn, to teach, and to learn. In other words, the duty of a Mason is to learn, expand your knowledge, and then to teach others. In fact, all three degrees in the symbolic (blue) lodge emphasizes or stresses that **duty**. We teach moral lessons throughout each meeting and each degree; even in the closing charge the Worshipful Master tells us, “Forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated and so forcibly recommended in the lodge.” Are these words just to be memorized, or are they something we should take to heart and practice in our daily lives?

For the past year or so I have been taking you on a writing tour of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. There is a lot of Masonry and history in that building; I hope I have conveyed that to you. I tried to expand your knowledge of Masonry and George Washington. The edifice is a landmark of our heritage as Masons. People from all over the U.S. and the world come to visit, and it is right in our back yard. And, it is dedicated to the man whose property our lodge hall is fortunate to be residing. Nothing could be more illuminating to the open mind.

But now it is time for me to move on to other topics in future trestleboards. With the exception of an announcement of some special event or display at the Memorial, this will probably be my last article about the building and what is available for you to learn from visiting there. I hope you all have enjoyed the tour and I sincerely hope that you take some time out and actually visit the Memorial some time soon. So let’s walk down stairs and see the first floor.

Around the halls are hanging pictures of Masonic buildings from all over the United States. Within the past year, three new murals have been painted, depicting George Washington at various locations. Grand Hall or Assembly Hall has been enclosed with glass, and the giant Oriental rug was sold. On the North side of the building are still the Kena Shrine rooms with the miniature parade. A new display was just put in on the south side, *Form and Function of American Freemasonry*. It gives a brief history of Masonry in America starting with George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. The Memorial has recently been trying to collect many of the bricks that were taken from the White House during its renovation during Truman’s presidency. They all should be here in February for the 100th birthday of the founding of the association that built the memorial. Plus, there will be a big celebration this year commemorating this event. I recommend you attend. There will be many speakers on George Washington and the history of the building. I hope to see you there.

NOTE-----Our Web Site Address Has Changed -----Go Check it Out !!!!

Go to <http://mtvernon219.org>..and check out the site and the electronic version of the Trestleboard.....and give the web site address to family and friends so they know what we are doing !!

Countdown to Mount Vernon Lodge 50th Anniversary

So . . . what kind of events would you like to see at our Lodge in 2011 when we celebrate our 50th Anniversary ! We are open to any and all ideas. The Senior Warden has been working on some really interesting speakers for the Stated Meetings that year . . . and we have been hearing a strong rumor that the Grand Master may pay us a visit. We are planning for some social events including a Table Lodge. And yes . . . what would a 50th Anniversary be without some kind of “logo things” to help us celebrate and remember our 50th !!

If you have any ideas or recommendations, please contact the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Worshipful Covert Williamson or the Lodge Secretary . . . or better yet . . . come to Lodge and tell us in person !!

So . . . how did we get the name . . . Mount Vernon Lodge ? Well, no formal records or notes were kept until the first formal organizational meeting held on April 29, 1960 in a meeting room of the Mount Vernon Volunteer Fire Department. During that meeting, several possible names were suggested including: Mount Vernon, Duke of Wellington and John Blair. The record shows that Brother Louis Finks made a motion that the new Lodge be named Mount Vernon Lodge . . . and the motion passed. The meeting notes indicate that the name Mount Vernon was selected due to the significant ties of Mount Vernon to our departed Illustrious Worshipful Brother General George Washington . . . and the further tie in that the brethren hoped to have the site of their lodge located on the original land tract of George Washington. And oh by the way, that Fire Department and that meeting room . . . is now Mount Vernon Lodge ! More on that story in another trestleboard.

We have found some interesting things over the years . . . this was found on a worn typed card in Past Worshipful Master Harold Sloppy’s personal Masonic files. The author is unknown and Worshipful Harold Sloppy has traveled to the Celestial Lodge . . . but these words are as true today as they were when Worshipful Sloppy was with us and actively working in his Craft.

“Someone must mix the mortar,
Someone must gather the stone,
For neither the man nor the master
Has ever built alone.
In building a roof for the lowly
Or a palace for the king,
It is only by working together
That we will ever accomplish a thing.”

And Talking About the Real Gift of Life !!

Brethren, it is not hard listening to the news recently to realize that all of us need to seriously think about supporting our Masonic Blood Program and giving the real gift of life . . . a blood donation at your local INOVA hospital facility donating blood. Be sure to tell the facility that you are a Master Mason from Mount Vernon Lodge and they will take care of you. AND please call Worshipful John Killian, our Lodge Blood Coordinator at 703-360-3480 and let him know when you donated so he can keep a good record of our Lodge blood donations.

Masonic Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following Brethren who have Masonic Birthdays in February.

Brother William Gaither Collins - raised February 9, 1977
Brother Arthur Clinton Harrold – raised February 3, 1961
Brother Randall Dmytro Ivanciw – raised February 27, 1980
Brother John William Judy – raised February 18, 1974
Brother William Dale Judy – raised February 18, 1974
Brother John Joseph Leeper – raised February 3, 1958
Brother Charles Edward Shepard – raised February 10, 1999
Brother Bushrod Corbin Washington – raised February 1, 1949
Brother John James Watkins – raised February 16, 1962
Brother Rufus Owen Watts – raised February 3, 1961

(And if we missed anyone, please let the Lodge Secretary know.....don't want to miss anyone !)

Calendar Events for February 2010

<u>Date (Day)</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1 February (Mon)	Mount Vernon Lodge Ritual Practice	7:30 pm
3 February (Wed)	Mount Vernon Lodge Stated Meeting	7:30 pm – Official Visit of District Deputy Grand Master
6 February (Sat)	Mount Vernon Chapter 178 OES Spaghetti Dinner and Dance	5:30 pm Dinner - \$8
8 February (Mon)	Mount Vernon Lodge Ritual Practice	7:30 pm
9 February (Tues)	Mount Vernon Chapter 178 OES Stated Meeting	7:30 pm
12 February (Fri)	Scottish Rite Stated Meetings	7:30 pm
15 February (Mon)	Mount Vernon Lodge Ritual Practice	7:30 pm
22 February (Mon)	Mount Vernon Lodge Ritual Practice	7:30 pm
24 February (Wed)	District 1B Ritual School Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219	7:30 pm
27 February (Sat)	Mount Vernon Lodge Chili Cook-off and Cake Walk	6:30 pm