



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



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

April 2010

Dear Brethren,

Another winter has past and spring is upon us, it's time for some spring cleaning. I will be looking for volunteers to help on a weekend, Saturday Lodge cleaning inside and out ! I will set a date/time at this Month's Stated Meeting.

Our Grand Master MW William Earle Rorer, Jr. will make his official visit to Masonic Districts 1A & 1B Saturday Evening April 3rd., starting at 6 pm at the "Collingwood Library/Museum". If you would like to attend, please call me as I have some tickets left.

By the time you read this we should have raised Brothers Justin Ratley & Mark Eggerstorfer to the degree of Master Mason (March 30, 2010 @ 7:30 pm). We will also have early this month an EA degree (date/time will be announce at this stated meeting). Brethren, we have 7 candidates for Fellowcraft in the pipe line and I am looking forward to raising as many as possible (hopefully all) before the end of my year. We do need help at our Monday evening practices prepping these candidates for advancement, so if you have the time please come out and help, it is rewarding experience.

I'm working on a "Lodge Family Picnic" at the Lodge in July. I will be bringing the subject up in the next two months at our stated meetings and I am looking for the best date (Saturday) to have it. I am also working on a "Rib Diner Social" to be held in Late September.

I do have a speaker coming this month from the Grand Lodge giving a talk on Masonry, so I hope to see all in Lodge. Along with some good company, conversation and as always good food . . . come out and get away from that TV. Last month attendance was great but I'm looking for better.

Remember Brother Masons are fellow travelers on the road of life. We learn, change, share and grow with each other thru each other's experiences & lessons. See you in Lodge.

For all who have as yet not purchased a "LMIP", the store is OPEN. Please see WB Charles Hinkle, WB Grayson Koogle and/or myself for the paper work. Support your Lodge in Perpetuity.

Last but by no means least, remember the Lodge is Opened, Tiled and Tested . . . and the sound of the gavel in the East calls the Craft from Refreshment to Labor.

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

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

Brethren,

I'll Bet You Didn't Know! Some interesting facts from Masonic Trivia and Facts by Allen E. Roberts.

What is a cowan? Early on, a cowan was termed a man who learned to build walls without mortar. This was done without the benefit of an apprenticeship to the trade and he was not admitted to a lodge. He was called in some circles a “dry-diker.” He is defined as a ‘mason without the word.’ McLeod, quoting from *Early Masonic Catechism* of 1730 asks: “If a cowan (or listener) is caught, how is he to be punished?” Answer: “to be placed under the caves of the houses (in rainy weather) till the water runs in at his shoulders and out at his shoes.”

Why do Freemasons recite “blood curdling” penalties? There are many different opinions. First, it must be emphasized: **These penalties have never been carried out.** It must be remembered that few men could read and write. They had to depend on clerics and other learned men for information. They learned by “mouth to ear.” This is one reason the early Masonic catechisms contained so many doublets and triplets such as: duly and truly; worthy and well qualified; conceal and hele (to cover) and never to reveal . . . and so on. The breaking of vows was considered morally foul. Reciting the medieval torture would imprint wise and serious concern on one’s mind. Today, and as far as can be determined, the only penalties suffered by Freemasons are expulsion, suspension or reprimand from the fraternity.

When did Freemasonry begin in Virginia? No one *really* knows! Factually, the first lodge to receive a warrant from any Grand Lodge was “The Royal Exchange in the Borough of Norfolk in Virginia – First Thursd. – Dec. 22, 1733.” This entry, published in the 1764 engraved list of Lodges as published by Cole in England, has caused no end of problems. The entry appears after a Lodge with the date of Dec. 20 1753 and before an entry of Jan. 31, 1754. Those historians claim the “1733” must be a misprint and this appears to be correct. The United Grand Lodge of England, Grand Lodge 1717-1967, states that this warrant was issued 20 December 1753. Therefore, it is impossible to believe that Freemasonry in a port town as large as Norfolk wasn’t known prior to the reception of the charter.

What is the Society of Cincinnati? The Society was formed in 1783 with George Washington as its first President. General (and Brother) Henry Knox was its secretary. Many of its members were Freemasons. Its purpose was to provide aid for widows and orphans of those officers who had died during the war. Its membership was restricted to the officers of the Continental Forces and their dependents. It is still in existence today.

And finally... have you ever wondered what “So Mote It Be” means? This is the oldest phrase still used by Freemasons, and is found in the Regius Poem of about 1390. It is usually used to close a prayer, and means “So may it be” or Amen. It may also be used to close a serious Masonic work, such as this article... So Mote it Be!

And now you know! Hope to see more brethren in Lodge at our stated meetings as well as our ritual practices.

Go check it out on the web!!!

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 !!

And have you checked out the Grand Lodge of Virginia website lately!!! Go to their website at www.grandlodgeofvirginia.org . . .a lot of great information is now available to Masons and the general public.

And Email Us !!!

If you need to contact the Lodge via Email (which is monitored by the Lodge Secretary)---send it to mtvernonlodge219@gmail.com. And if you are not on our email distribution list...and would like to get notices for things like upcoming events, thoughts/prayers for brethren who are not doing very well, and announcements for interesting Masonic events.....send us an email and we will add you to the list.

A Little More History - Countdown to Mount Vernon Lodge 50th Anniversary

Well, no one came forward at the last stated meeting who could tell the Lodge brethren about the very first Lodge family dinner . . . so guess we will tell you in this edition.

The very first Mount Vernon Lodge Family Dinner is recorded to have happened in November 1960 at Thompson's Corner Restaurant on Route 1. There were 96 brethren, wives and children attending and the crowd was reportedly so large that the last few couples could not be seated in the main dining room. Thompson's Corner has been gone from our landscape for a long time but not from the memories of many of us who frequented the store and restaurant as adults or kids looking to buy a soda or some baseball bubble gum.

So how did Mount Vernon Lodge get all the paraphernalia ("stuff") required for a Lodge to start having called and stated meetings every month? Well the record shows that the brethren themselves took care of all that stuff:

- Each of the officers bought their respective officer aprons.
- The altar was presented to the lodge by Brother Benjamin Fleitell
- The officers jewels were presented by Worshipful Brother Ed Buckmaster
- The bible was presented by Brother Howard Wood
- The tilers sword was presented by Brother William Sullivan
- The staffs were presented by Brother Ralph Merrill
- The pedestals were presented by Worshipful Brother John D. Hunt
- The lesser lights were presented by Brother John H. King
- The first set of working tools were presented by Brother William Watson
- The member and visitor aprons were presented by Brothers Thomas Graves, James Witt and Benjamin Fleitell

Next month we will tell you who was first initiated in Mount Vernon Lodge and who was first raised as Master Masons in our Lodge !!

Got any new ideas for celebrating our 50th Anniversary next year? If you do, 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 !!

And Worshipful John Killian still needs more blood !!

Brethren, your blood donation is truly that gift that gives life to others . . . and it really takes very little of your personal time to make this gift happen. So think about it seriously....stop at the local INOVA Hospital...and take some time out of your busy schedule to donate blood. Be sure to tell the facility that you are a Master Mason from Mount Vernon Lodge and they will take good 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 Masonic Birthday to the following Brethren who were raised as Master Masons on the following dates in April:

Ted Emory Amick – 4/23/80
Brock T. Benson-4/11/09
George Harry Chapin – 4/21/69
Charles Thomas Cleveland – 4/19/95
Courtland Eric Divine
Franklin Theodore Doepel Jr. – 4/13/66
Maurice Wayne Downs – 4/12/00
Douglas Mason Dwyer – 4/5/82
Phillip Gary Fuller – 4/25/84
Dennis Dean Keeton – 4/21/93
Ronald Charles Kerstetter- 4/9/08
Richard Herman Lester – 4/30/69
Ralph Ishmael Merrill – 4/10/54
Lloyd Lester Nicely – 4/8/67
Talmadge Nichols Jr. – 4/10/68
Ralph Eugene Simmons – 4/25/79
Sidney Ivan Stark – 4/7/61
Morris Bruce Taylor 4/29/52
Paul Edward Wampler Jr. – 4/10/68

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

Upcoming Calendar Events

<u>Date (Day)</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
3 April	Grand Master Visit @Collingwood	6:00 pm
7 April	April Stated Meeting	7:30 pm
TBD	Called Meeting (Entered Apprentice)	7:30 pm
17 April	Scottish Rite Alexandria -Spring Reunion	All Day
24 April	Scottish Rite Alexandria-Spring Reunion	All Day
1 May	Hiram E Woods Ritual School	8:30 am

Life Membership in Perpetuity (LMIP)/Memorial Life Membership in Perpetuity (MLMIP)

Brethren, there is serious talk about an increase in annual dues and assessment that will come to a vote in November's Grand Lodge Convocation in Richmond . . .and it is a good possibility that the Grand Dues and Assessment will go up in 2011 by \$10.00....AND Mount Vernon Lodge Annual Dues would then go up to \$78.00 next year. Now, if you had an LMIP, you would not have to worry about any dues increases for the rest of your life !! Think about it and come talk to us about either purchasing a LMIP or getting on an easy installment plan to purchase a LMIP. Worshipful Charles Hinkle or Worshipful Grayson Koogler will gladly take some time to talk to you about this wonderful program . . . give them a call and/or come to lodge and talk to them !!



These young DeMolay grew up to be Master Masons in Mount Vernon Lodge.
Do you know who they are? Come to Lodge in April and tell us !!