

# The Ashlar



April 2006

Kempsville Lodge #196, AF&AM

Volume 5-2006

#### From The East



We are having fun at your lodge and the fellowship is at its best. Come and visit your lodge and join in on the fun. Speaking of fun we are having a lot of fun and fellowship at the monthly

breakfast and while speaking of the monthly breakfast May 27th for the monthly breakfast we will be donating all proceeds to the Project Lifesavers Program, and with your help, we can make it a big success.

My Brethren the Bull Roast is almost upon us, June 10th is the magical day. I hope to see you there as usual as I will be taking the day off to in on the festivities.

June 27th, we will be having our 3rd Annual Navy Night and the regular officers will be abandoning ship to turn over the helm to a group of active duty sailors, which will be raising a Master Mason in full uniform. All active military are encouraged to attend in uniform as it promises to be a special night.

Just to let you know that I've changed jobs and I'm working a lot more hours than I used to managing a local shop. I will still uphold my duties as Worshipful Master presiding in the East. If you need anything do not hesitate to call me 589-5660 my cell is always on and if you get my voice mail leave a message, I will call you back, my phone is always on.

Thank you brethren for your time, hope to see you at the next meeting.

Brother Shawn Garfield, WM

# **From The West**



What is this Masonry all about? A question often asked by my bride around the dinner table, and answered maybe not to her satisfaction.

The other day, while in the hospital for a little O&R work, I witnessed Brotherly Love and Affection at its finest. Soon after we were in the pre-op area, this sweet little older lady, wearing the pink jacket of a volunteer, stuck her head in and asked if I wanted some company. I asked who it was and she replied that it was my brother. I told her to admit him. This fine brother spent the rest of the day and into the evening keeping me and my wife company and making sure I was OK. When they released me to go home, he followed along and helped her get me into the house and made sure I had everything that I needed.

After this Brother departed, my wife was talking about the day. She didn't quite understand why this friend would spend the day keeping her company. I replied that she had often asked what Masonry was all about and that this was a shining example of what Masonry is. She answered she understood now and that she had also learned a lot about baseball today.

Thank you, my brother.

Brother Roger Cort, SW

#### From The South



As the year progresses, I constantly reflect on things in my life and at our lodge. One of the things that keeps happening is friends and acquaintances asking me why I

became a Mason. I think about the people that influenced me. My maternal grandfather was a Mason and Shriner, but we never discussed it. He did influence my life in a lot of ways, but Freemasonry was never discussed. My first civilian friend in Virginia joined Kempsville Lodge a few years ago. We talked about it, but he never said anything to influence my decision one way or another. I did, however, have him sign my petition when the time came and he was the Master when I was raised. I found out after I started my Masonic journey that a Great Uncle of mine was a Mason and his ring provided my mother with some sense of relief and comfort when she was first introduced to my father's family. But I didn't know Uncle Eddie when I was an adult, so he had nothing to do with my choice.

The one man who had the most influence on my decision never spoke to me about Masonry. He took great personal pride in being a Mason, but he never said one way or another about my becoming one. He lived it daily. He gave of himself constantly. Even while on his deathbed, he maintained a level of decorum that you rarely see. I know now it was because of his Masonic journey. I loved this man dearly until the day he passed to the Celestial Lodge above. I love him still to this day and I know that he is sitting next to the Great Architect of the Universe (probably teaching him how to make the best darned hard cider in heaven and on earth), watching my every move. Sometimes reminding me, in his own way, of my errors and pointing me in the right direction. I am sure that every time I take a seat in the Lodge, be it in the South, East or on the sidelines, he is there with me. And I thank him every night for that. I only hope I can make him proud and honor his memory. I love you, Skip Kiffer. Thank you for being my friend, mentor, father, and now, my brother.

THE BULL ROAST IS COMING! THE BULL ROAST IS COMING! Come out and enjoy June 10th. I look forward to seeing you and your families there.

Grand Lodge is coming up in November as well. I am handling the planning for Kempsville this year. The dates are 8-11 November. Please let me know if you plan on attending. I know it seems early, but I would like to have everything ready to send to the hotel as soon as possible. If you are thinking about going, but not sure, let me know and I will have you on the list anyway.

Brother Adam Green, JW

## Masonic Recognition Day

Don't forget, Brethren, Masonic Recognition Day is the first day of each month. Wear your Masonic paraphernalia proudly!

#### **Bull Roast**



Enclosed with this Ashlar, all active members of the Lodge will find four (4) tickets to our annual Bull Roast. Each of our Widows will find one ticket enclosed. For our Widows, these tickets are

complimentary. You are all invited as our guests. Everyone please try to come out and enjoy the best meal in town. We will have the same excellent menu we have had each year. Delicious Roast of Beef, cooked outside on the grill until perfect, the old family recipe baked beans and potato salad from Worshipful Don Meyer. Cole Slaw, rolls, and various cakes and pies. All you can eat for just \$8.50, \$5.00 for children under 12 or for a take out meal. If you cannot come out, support your Lodge and buy the tickets anyway. Give them to a friend and/or neighbor. The proceeds from this endeavor go to support the Masonic Home and Kempsville Lodge's Scholarship Program. Please help us make this a banner year for our Bull Roast.

Right Worshipful Tom McGowan Chairman

#### **Trestle Board**

April 22	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10:30AM
April 29	OES Country Fried Steak Dinner
May 9	Stated Communication
May 15	District Blood Drive
	Kempsville Lodge, 3-7:30PM
May 26	Grand Master's Official District Visit
	Bayside Lodge, 7PM (Open Meeting)
May 27	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10:30AM
June 10	The Bull Roast
	Stated Communication
	Senior Warden Night
June 24	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10:30ÅM
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Navy Night

#### **Masonic Veterans**

April	Bro. William E. Spruill, Sr	25 Years
May	Bro. James O. Burton	25 Years
	Bro. Steve T. Miller	25 Years
June	Bro. Floyd M. Gilbert	50 Years
	Bro. Carl N. Barber	25 Years

#### **Past Master's Corner**



Scattered throughout the western plains of the United States, from Wyoming's Bighorn mountains northward and into Saskatchewan, Canada, are huge, elaborate patterns traced out in stone.

Some were built  $5{,}000$  years ago – when the Egyptian pyramids were under construction – and others were laid out as recently as  $1{,}700$  years ago.

Their origin and use were long a mystery. Of such is the substance of legends-- some of which even attributed these stone patters to pre-Columbian members of the Masonic lodge.

Evidence now suggests that these "medicine wheels" – as they came to be known – were a primitive but accurate means for marking the summer solstice: the longest day.

Yet, in the recorded history of the American Indian, in this century and the last, there is no mention of astronomical uses ever having been made of the skies.

From the time of Coronado to that of Lewis and

Clark, Indian history is devoid of an explanation for these stone formations. But they assuredly exist. They predate recorded history and we know how they were used.

These rock formations are all relics of an Indian culture and heritage long eclipsed and forgotten because, quite simply, there is no written language.

This, perhaps, is a forceful reminder that learning, without the benefit of written words, is indeed a precarious, fragile and fleeting thing. In a few hundred years, knowledge without the written word can be forever lost.

There is a more contemporary parallel to this phenomenon, and it is found in the early days of Freemasonry.

Worshipful Brother Harry Carr, of the Grand Lodge of England, in his eloquent essay "Six Hundred Years of Craft Ritual" outlines the futility of tracing the early history of Freemasonry without adequate written records.

Brother Carr readily admits to the single flaw in his lecture: namely, that he lacks the corroborating exhibit to seal his conclusions – the verifiable, indelible written word.

He is 99 percent certain as to Masonic origin but – like a lawyer going into court – he is armed with circumstantial evidence. He does not have that scrap of paper which would seal his case. Thus, early Masonic learning, not preserved by the written word, has – like the Master's word – been forever lost.

And this brings us to the task at hand for those who profess interest in Masonic education.

Our nation at this very moment is precariously close to becoming a nation of functional illiterates: people who have completed the educational requirements of our society but who cannot read or write well enough to function efficiently. This not only strikes at the very heart of our democracy, but it poses a mind-boggling problem for those involved in education, be it public education or – for our purposes – Masonic education.

How do we impart our traditions, and history – and yes, our ritual – to men who can see but cannot understand, who perhaps can write but cannot comprehend?

The Short Talk Bulletin, 1978 Submitted by Right Worshipful Tom McGowan

### **Lodge Officers**

Worshipful Master	Shawn P. Garfield	589-5660
Senior Warden	Roger Cort	467-5349
Junior Warden	Adam M. Green	615-1659
Treasurer	RW George J. Wallace	420-2507
Secretary	RW William H. Pierce	497-5160
Senior Deacon	Ronald S. Jacobson	343-3460
Junior Deacon	Jonathon Jones	535-1241
Chaplain	William H. Rawson	495-4867
Senior Steward	Mark Wegesin	567-5020
Junior Steward	Michael D. Johnstone	334-3013
Marshal	Robert I. Lee	499-6526
Musician	Robert S. Foxwell	490-2797
Tiler	Wor. Chris Jaeger	893-9253
Instructor of Work	Wor. "Buddy" Pate	404-8594
Education Officer	Wor. Bill Nolan	467-2252
Blood Coordinator	Gary K. Krause	297-6842