



The Ashlar



March 2014

Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.
www.kempsvillelodge.org

Volume 61-3

From The East



All through the degrees of Masonry we are told that its teachings are allegorical, but what is an allegory? An allegory is a "narrative description of a subject under guise of another suggestively similar" (Concise Oxford Dictionary). That is, it is a story in which the characters are symbols. An allegory may be sustained for quite a while. At first, an unwary reader may believe that he is beginning a novel. As he proceeds, it gradually dawns on him that he is reading about something quite different from what he thought.

Allegory always strives to combine entertainment with instruction. As a teaching method, it is sanctioned by long usage. The older and briefer specimens are known by other names. Aesop's fables, with their moral lessons, are nothing but allegories. The greatest teacher of all time taught by allegories, but he called them parables; everyone will recall, for example, the Prodigal Son.

In Masonry, the sequence of the three degrees is itself allegorical and represents the course of human existence. In like manner, the building of the Temple prefigures the erection of our moral edifice. Of cardinal importance is the Traditional History of the Third Degree. Because it is an allegory its truth does not reside in its factual narrative. The literal minded can always find flaws in it. For example, how came "those secrets" to be lost at the death of our Grand Master? There were, after all, two other Grand Masters who presumably knew them. The truth of the story is rather to be sought in the moral lesson it intends to teach.

The words "veiled in allegory" imply that some of the truths of Masonry are concealed from the uninitiated, but that they can be discovered by one who is privileged to join. It takes practice to learn how to recognize and appreciate symbol and allegory. Only through sincere, intelligent and sustained effort, reinforced by imaginative and emotional sensitivity, can we reap the reward.

Worshipful Steve Ridgeway, Worshipful Master

From The West



One of the many things I like about being active in the lodge is the ritual work. Often, that word, "work," carries a derogatory connotation. However, we open lodges for "work and instruction" and our lodge has always been a busy lodge. We get ready for this work at "school."

"School" is another word with derogatory connotations. We celebrate snow days [except when we have to make them up on Saturdays], Spring breaks, and summer vacations from school. Yet, we have fond memories of our time spent in school. Early in my Masonic career, I had many misconceptions or misunderstandings about Freemasonry. One such feeling was staying away from "school" on Monday evenings. However, it has become one of my favorite nights. I encourage you to come out on Monday evenings and experience some of the fun of "learning" the ritual and participating in the work.

Two outstanding examples of brothers who come out on Mondays because of their interest and enjoyment of the "work" are Joe Salt and Joe Bloise. Both have sat in most of the seats and are a tremendous resource for the lodge, especially when replacements are needed. It would be wonderful to have more brothers emulate these two remarkable men.

See you at school,

Brother Scott Foxwell, Senior Warden

From The South



After discussing this month's Ashlar article, Brother Scott Foxwell and I agreed to focus our March articles on the Lodge Ritual School. Personally I have been attending our ritual school since December 2010 (2 months after I was raised). It was during the December 2010 ritual school that my coach and mentor Worshipful Bob Stanek

encouraged me to take on the position of Lodge Marshal for 2011. His counsel to me was that I could learn the floor work as Marshal wherein I would primarily be an observer and not have an active speaking part in the work. His recommendation sounded pretty good to me. Little did I know that during my year as Marshal I would sit in every chair in the lodge except the East, Treasurer, and Secretary. During 2011 I learned quite a bit of the work as an active participant and not an observer; this was excellent advice that I am very lucky to have followed.

Early on I merely tried to learn the words of the work from memory. Not being a great memory student I quickly shifted to learning the story of the various works through the officer seats and by participating in other degree positions. I focused on the lessons that the degree stories taught. I had a great time doing this, not to mention developing some great friendships with the other school participants.

Most recently I sat in the East for a Fellowcraft Degree including Receiving in the East. To date, learning the story behind Receiving in the East has been the most enlightening lesson of my Masonic journey. I encourage each of you to read the Fellowcraft lecture in the presentation manual and focus on the story it tells. Moreover I would like to encourage you to come out and join us for the weekly Ritual School on Monday nights at our lodge and the combined Ritual School which is held between our lodge and Bayside Lodge. The combined school alternates between Kempsville and Bayside on the third Monday of each month; the schedule can be found in the Ashlar and on the Lodge website.

Brethren, we are Freemasonry and our ritual school is the driving force that facilitates Freemasonry continuing. The attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue and the mysteries of Freemasonry are safely lodged in the repository of faithful breasts. Come on out and join us for a great time!

Brother Greg Muir, Junior Warden

Welcome to Kempsville

A big "Welcome Back!" to Brother Johnny D. Whitley – back in Lodge after having been demitted for 30 years!

Trestleboard

March 6	Visit Bayside Lodge, 6:30PM
March 8	DeMolay Installation, 7PM
March 10	Master Mason Examination, 7PM
March 10	Ritual School, 7:30PM
March 11	Stated Communication
	Speaker: Worshipful Sam Welty, 6PM
March 13	Visit Lake Drummond Lodge, 6PM
March 15	Job's Daughters Chili Cook Off
	3PM-7PM
March 17 . .	Ritual School with Bayside Lodge, 7PM
March 22	Eastern Star Installation, 2PM
March 24	Ritual School, 7PM
March 25	Spring Past Masters Night, 6PM
March 29	Monthly Breakfast, 8AM
March 31	Ritual School, 7PM
April 7	Ritual School, 7PM
April 8	Stated Communication
	Speaker: Most Worshipful Wayne Sawyer Flora,
	Grand Master, 6PM

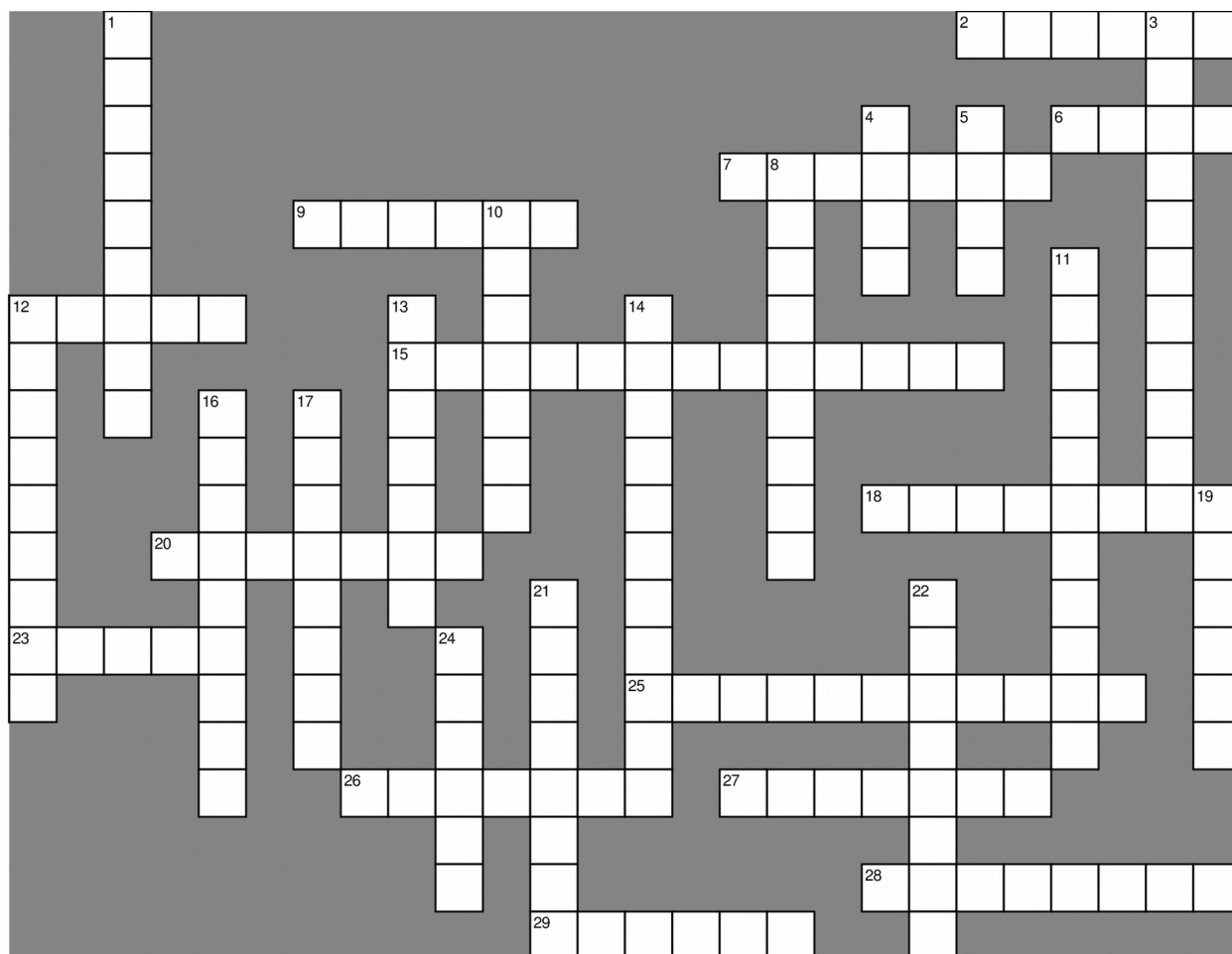
For the latest, up-to-date schedule, check our web site at www.kempsvillelodge.org.

Masonic Veterans for 2014

March	John Duane Johnstone	50 Years
	Lester Randall Lefler	25 Years
April	George Frank Roberts, Jr.	50 Years
	Alaric James Roche, Jr	50 Years
May	Robert Eugene Williams	50 Years
June	Clifton Essley Smith	25 Years
July	William Thomas Parks, III	25 Years
September	Jesse Luther Monroe	25 Years
	Archie Richard Nobles	50 Years
October	Robert Halstead DeFord, Jr.	60 Years
November	Joe Emerson Brown	50 Years
	William Keith Cole	25 Years
	Donald Lee McBride	60 Years

Community Service

Kempsville Lodge, as part of the Adopt-A-Spot program, is responsible for maintaining Stratford Chase Recreational Park by performing scheduled liter pick-ups. Worshipful Bill Peterson has graciously agreed to coordinate this effort. Pick-ups are currently scheduled for the even months (February, April, June, August, October and December) at 10AM on the Saturday following our Stated Communications.



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 2 an Orders of Architecture invented by the Romans
- 6 cause to move to and fro
- 7 our first Most Excellent Grand Master
- 9 a hint, to make a somewhat disguised reference about a person, place or thing
- 12 a measure of length employed by the ancients equal to the length of the arm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger
- 15 covering of a Lodge (two words)
- 18 traitors of the Third Degree
- 20 teaches the formation of sentences in accordance with standard rules
- 23 Lodge Tiler
- 25 Masonic title for the Book of Constitutions (two words)
- 26 one who does not believe in the existence of a Supreme Being
- 27 an emblem of industry
- 28 to come up with (an idea, plan, explanation, theory or principle) after a mental effort
- 29 On this principle we form our friendships and establish our connections

DOWN

- 1 not to be spoken or expressed
- 3 an act by which a Lodge receives a Mason among its members
- 4 a Mason and the thirty-eight President of the United States
- 5 ends in fruition
- 8 non-speculative
- 10 an organizational precursor to a boy's Masonic life
- 11 a ceremonial prayer requesting divine protection
- 12 the true and only measure of a Mason's life and conduct
- 13 Worshipful Master 1983
- 14 Second Degree
- 16 instructs in the laws that govern the heavenly bodies
- 17 the root of the mathematics
- 19 Lodge Secretary
- 21 an ornamental finish to the top of a pillar
- 22 Worshipful Master 1993
- 24 pillar of establishment

To Our Masonic "Sweethearts"

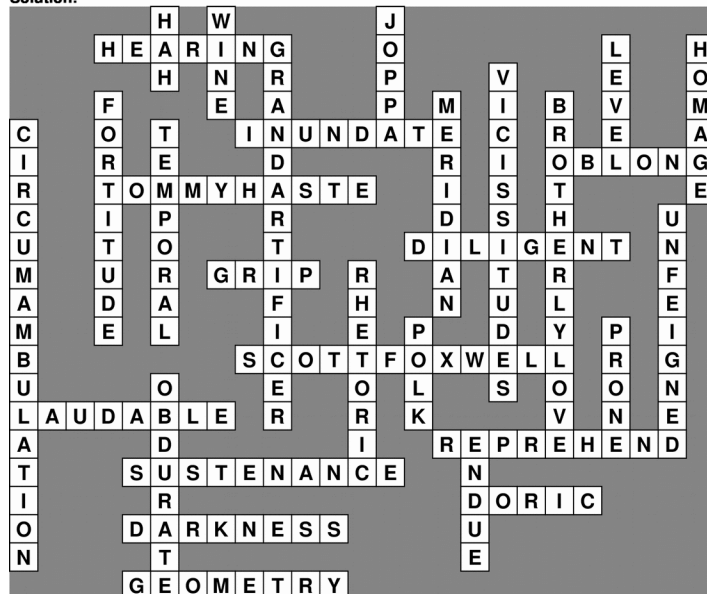
Happy Birthday to our special ladies in March:

Edna St John	March 1 st
Catherine Mote	March 4 th
Vivian Estes	March 17 th
Kaye Peters	March 18 th
Mary Nickerson	March 22 nd
Carol Wicks	March 24 th
Mary Hawker	March 25 th
Leona Cronmiller	March 27 th
Carol Leszczynski	March 27 th
Jean Mordica	March 28 th
Sharon Nolan	March 29 th

If any of our ladies are in need of assistance from the Lodge, please don't hesitate to contact Right Worshipful Bill Knowles or the Secretary.

February Crossword Answer

Solution:



Youth Corner

Punxsutawney Phil may have opted for six more weeks of slumber, but Kempsville's Masonic Youth showed no signs of slowing down in February.

Kempsville DeMolay conferred the Initiatory Degree on six young men Thursday, February 20th, and they plan to initiate at least five more members on March 20th. Many thanks to the brethren of Kempsville Lodge for supporting the Chapter's most successful Honest Abe Spaghetti Dinner to date. The DeMolay invite you to join them at their spring Installation of Officers Saturday, March 8th, with dinner at 5PM followed by their public

installation ceremony and a dance. Master Councilor-elect is Gavin Martin.

And while Punxsutawney Phil was busy seeing his shadow, the young ladies of Bethel 42 were busy honoring Masons and Eastern Star at their meeting on February 2nd, where our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Wayne Sawyer Flora, was presented with an engraved turkey call. Congratulations to Bethel 42's own Jessyca Bradshaw, Tasha Cook and Nadia Rossbach, who officially became Majority Members of Bethel 42 in February. Bethel 42 invites you to join them Saturday, March 15th from 3 to 7PM for their Chili Cook Off.

Kempsville's Masonic Youth always appreciate your support and seeing you on the sidelines.

Brother Cliff Williams, Youth Advisor

Masonic Birthdays for March

Robert Craig Belda '00	George W. Messinger '94
Jackson Rollins Bell, Jr. '09	Robert Carl Metz '92
Orlando C. Bitanga '98	Sidney Thomas Moore '69
Donald Ray Blair '77	Gary Burke Nye '06
James Delbert Boone '76	Charlie L. Pallett, III '87
William Edwain Combs '80	Michael S. Polychroni '85
James F. Dombey '11	Charles Joseph Ridgely '09
George M. Harrell, Jr. '70	Donald K. Robinson '93
William Harry Holland '57	Frederick W. Rudiger '03
Christopher J. Jaeger '58	Michael Ryan Sheehan '96
William M. Johnson '93	Fredrick A. Steinmiller '01
John Duane Johnstone '64	Thomas R. Sutherland '77
Thomas William Lang '05	Roger Wayne Taylor '11
Robert Lee Lankford '72	Russell J. Tjepkema '10
Lester Randall Lefler '89	Linwood Ray West '91
Robert D. Leonard, Jr. '05	James Arthur Widener '83
Thomas E. Lindner '83	Clifford Jay Williams '13
Winston E. Marchman '63	

The Brethren shown above have a total of 928 years in Masonry!

In Memoriam

The following Brother has dropped forever the working tools of life and now resides with the Supreme Grand Master. We shall ever hold him in our memories and will truly miss him at our gatherings.

Brother Gunnar Guðjónsson

Born	July 12, 1942
Initiated	May 18, 1999
Passed	March 27, 2000
Raised	April 25, 2000
Eternal Rest	January 31, 2014

Masonic Blood Program

Thank you, Brethren for donating at the District Masonic blood drive at Lynnhaven Lodge last month. I saw some new faces and a few regulars. Thank you for doing your part to stem the national shortage caused by heavy snow conditions. For those of you who did not have the opportunity to give, the next blood drive is in our lodge on April 21st. Let us all try to bring somebody new to the lodge to donate, whether it be a family member or somebody who is curious about becoming a mason. One of the most common reasons that people give for not donating blood is that they've never been asked.

Ask 1 to Give 1!

Brother Patrick Blankenship
Lodge Blood Coordinator

The Morlock Award

The Morlock award (named in memory of Most Worshipful Werner Herman Morlock, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, 1993-94) is presented to Lodges that have shown exemplary participation in giving to the Masonic Home of Virginia. The award is presented to a Lodge in which at least 15% of the members each make gifts of \$5 or more in any one year. This award recognizes the number of active donors, not necessarily the total dollars given. The Masonic Home is convinced that as more Masons learn to give to support the Home, the dollar totals will follow. This is the most significant award which can be presented to a Lodge for their gifts to the Masonic Home of Virginia. Kempsville Lodge will need approximately 75 contributing members in order to qualify for this award in 2014.

Contributors for 2014 are:

Steve Ridgeway	Dennis Eaton
Bill Peterson	Scott Foxwell
Roger Cort	Roger Taylor
Chris Anders	Bob Stanek
Karl Wesseler	tom McGowan

Correction Of Verbal Errors

Grand Lodge custom requires that no one except for the Worshipful Master or his prearranged designee, may correct any mistake that may occur during the course of a ceremony, and even he does so only when the error is a serious one.

It is discourteous to point out others' mistakes in front of the Lodge members. If you are in

possession of a mind, which allows you to be able to perform each and every degree and ceremony perfectly, please advise the Worshipful Master of such that he may take advantage of your services to mentor others.

Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep these Brethren and family members in your thoughts and prayers.

The wife of **Worshipful Joe Posey** recovering from health issues.

352 W. Chickasaw Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
757-499-8691

Right Worshipful Don Meyer is scheduled for heart surgery.

240 Orchards Orchards Circle
Woodstock, GA 30188
757-406-2002

Brother Goodwin Glassman recovering from auto accident.

8548 Circle Drive
Norfolk, VA 23503
757-583-2567

Brother Robert Lankford recovering from medical procedure.

5278 Vestry Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-499-0115

Brother Alton McKeithan recovering from health issues.

5328 Westover Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-424-2933.

Worshipful Bill Nolan at home following a recent hospital stay.

4363 Hialah Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-467-2252

From the Secretary

Brethren, be reminded that the Grand Lodge assessment portion of our annual dues will increase by \$7 in 2015; therefore, the total annual dues for the Lodge will increase from \$100 to \$107. This increase was approved at the 2012 Grand Lodge session. (Please note that our lodge will not derive any income from this increase.) A breakdown of the 2015 dues is: \$62 for the lodge, \$35 for Grand

Lodge, and \$10 for the Masonic Home of Virginia for a total of \$107.

Some historical information; did you know? From 1954 through 1967, annual lodge dues were only \$12. From 1968 – 1972, dues were \$18. Further: 1973 – 1981: \$24, 1982 – 1984: \$31.50, 1985 – 1991: \$34, 1992: \$35, 1993 – 1996: \$49, 1997: \$52, 1998 – 1999: \$55, 2000 – 2007: \$75, 2008 – 2011: \$84, 2012 – 2014: \$100. Dues increases through the years have mostly been due to Grand Lodge assessment increases. The “lodge portion” of our dues increased most recently in 2000 and 2012, to assist with lodge operational expenses.)

The Grand Lodge encourages the use of the Bureau of Labor Statistics “Consumer Price Index” (CPI) to calculate national average of increases for dues through the years. Using our annual dues of \$12 in 1954, the CPI index value/increase of our dues in 2013 is \$104; thus, our current dues are very close to this calculation.

Now that you know of the history of the lodge dues, I ask you to consider the Grand Lodge Life Membership in Perpetuity (LMIP) plan as a means to both invest and freeze your Lodge dues at the amount for the year you invest in the plan.

LMIP began in 1992. A member who invested in the plan in 1992, when our dues were \$35, paid 16 times \$35, or \$560. That member has never paid annual dues again, or even Grand Lodge increases – he is paid up for life. Today, the LMIP fee is still 16 times our annual dues, or \$1,600, but still you will not be affected by any dues increases in the future, ever. Next year, the LMIP fee will go up to \$1,712 (16 times \$107.). You can save \$112 now if

you invest in the LMIP plan in 2014. More importantly, you will never again pay a dues increase.

Another worthy aspect of the LMIP plan is that it provides income to the Lodge forever. LMIP will pay to the Lodge that amount of annual dues for a deceased LMIP member, for as long as the Lodge holds its charter, so you will provide income to your Lodge forever.

If you may be interested to invest in the LMIP plan, please contact your Lodge Secretary. You may find information related to LMIP, and an application, on the Grand Lodge web site also. Payment plans are offered, as well as credit card payment options.

Worshipful Bob Stanek, Secretary

Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Steve A. Ridgeway	270-7338
Senior Warden	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Junior Warden	Gregory C. Muir	676-3761
Treasurer	Bill Nelligar	536-4100
Secretary	Bob Stanek	619-7646
Senior Deacon	Chris Anders	635-7617
Junior Deacon	Roger Taylor	478-5498
Senior Steward	Michael Johnstone	334-3013
Junior Steward	Jackson Bell	831-0818
Chaplain	Karl Wesseler	439-1858
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Dennis Eaton	671-1187
Instructor of Work	Tom McGowan	497-3881
Education Officer	Bill Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Patrick Blankenship	406-6166
Youth Advisor	Cliff Williams	870-2539

Articles for the next Ashlar should be submitted by the 18th of each month to
Right Worshipful Buddy Pate (emmett@epate.com) or
Worshipful Bob Stanek (bob.stanek@gmail.com)

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