



# The Ashlar



2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2024

**Kempsville Lodge No. 196, A.F.&A.M.**  
**[www.kempsvillelodge.org](http://www.kempsvillelodge.org)**

Volume 69-03

## **Bannack Lodge and the Montana Vigilantes**

Action by Masonic bodies have a long history in America. It is known that the Masonic lodge in Boston was unable to meet the night of the Boston Tea Party due to a lack of officers present. No one is sure where they went, but its an easy answer to imagine. Another place this call to action occurred was in the now ghost town of Bannack Montana.

On July 28, 1862, gold was discovered along Grasshopper Creek, leading to the establishment of the town of Bannack. With the miners came those that prey on them.

It is estimated that 100 people were killed in "road agent" robberies in the fall of 1863. These road agents where able to avoid legal repercussions for their actions because their leader was the local Sherrif Henry Plummer. Plummer had done time for murder of a Marshal and others before coming to Bannack from California. Once in Bannack he helped to drive the current Sherrif away and took the job for himself. Once in office he appointed several of his associates, and fellow road agents, from California as deputies. This official capacity gave them insight into the movement of people and more importantly gold in the local area. They referred to themselves as the Innocents.

In response, The Vigilance Committee of Alder Gulch was organized in December 1863. They captured at least 20 road agents of the infamous Sheriff Plummer gang in the first six weeks of 1864 including the secretary of the group who, after providing a membership list, was hanged by the organization.

One of the primary agents in this event was Nathan P. Langford who wrote firsthand accounts of his time as a vigilante. He was the one who requested a dispensation to form a lodge in Bannack but by the time it arrived from Nebraska, the first charter having been stolen by road agents, everyone had moved on to Virginia City.

The numerical symbol 3-7-77 has long been associated with Montana vigilantes. When the numbers 3-7-77 were painted on a tent or cabin, it was a warning that the occupants could face vigilantism if they did not leave the area. Its meaning is unclear though many theories have been put forward trying to explain what it symbolized. 3-7-77 is so ingrained in Montana lore it appears on Montana State troopers' patches.

It is said that not all vigilantes where Masons, but all Masons were vigilantes. The shared Masonic affiliation created a bond among the miners that formed the Vigilance committee, contributing to the cohesion and organization of their efforts. The Masonic lodges provided a framework for trust, secrecy, and a shared commitment to a sense of justice that transcended the official legal system.

It is essential to recognize that the connection between Freemasonry and the Vigilantes does not imply a universal endorsement of vigilantism within the Masonic community. Freemasonry, as an organization, has always emphasized the importance of adhering to the rule of law and working within established societal frameworks. The connection between Freemasonry and the Vigilantes in Montana's history is a historical curiosity, illustrating the complex interplay of individuals, values, and the unique circumstances of a particular time.

Bannack Lodge gave a safe space for discussion of the murders and robberies. Plummers gang had used other local community spaces, Bars, Stables, Stores, and official complaints to keep tabs on the local miners and to quell any calls for action. The only place they were not was in the local Lodge. Plummer

*Continued on page 3*

## From The East



Is this year really half over?

The theme of my year has been stated as "Facta, Non Verba" which is Latin for "Deeds, Not words". I am always attracted to the positive change that our fraternity can create in our community and in ourselves. As Edmund Burke said ""When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle."

One example of this action is the headline of this ashlar, the example of how Masons acting in unison brought positive change to the west. This, by far, is not the only example. Masons have always been at the for front of adventure in this great country.

To that end I plan to follow in their footsteps in the coming year. I am putting together a trip for our lodge, the 56th District, and any Virginia Mason who wishes to come. The purpose of this trip is to attend Bannack lodge in Montana which is always the 2nd weekend in September. In addition to that event my cousin will be seated in the east at his lodge in Kalispell Montana, Kalispell Lodge no. 42. There is a weeks time where I will be traveling to both events and I invite anyone who wishes to go to travel with me.

If I get enough traveling companions, I will be hosting a meet and greet between the Virginia Mason and the Montana Masons of the Glacier district on my family's 1000 Acre Farm. There is potential to open a provisional Virginia Lodge on the farm that day to demonstrate Virginia ritual. This would happen the Thursday before the Saturday Bannack meeting.

This means you could travel to Kalispell, visit Glacier park, Sit in two lodges, travel through Montana, sit in lodges in two different ghost towns, and then visit Yellowstone National park all in one weeks time. Traveling Companions would be well entertained also as Montana is full of interesting places to visit.

The best part is its all free. None of these visitations cost anything. Travel costs are your own, but sitting in lodge is based on normal visitation which costs nothing. What is even better is that I have sat in all these lodges, and I can vouch for any traveling companions!

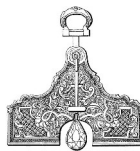
This is my planned big event for our lodge this year. I will not book your travel, but I can help advise and suggest. I can coordinate and provide

unique opportunities if you wish to come along. This is Masonry in action, traveling together and watching over each other, just like Lewis and Clark.

I have a suggested plan with important dates and suggested itinerary. If you are interested shoot me an email at [cagliostro@cox.net](mailto:cagliostro@cox.net) and I can get the info out to you.

Brother Michael Turner, Worshipful Master

## From The West



When contemplating on the theme of Freemasonry in Action, I kept trying to recall some grand event where a member of the fraternity made some grand gesture the embodied all that we hold up as good. However, the longer I thought on the matter the more I believe that Freemasonry is about all the small things the brethren do for each other time and time again that represent the best things about our craft. Things such as the crew that cooks breakfast without hesitation every month, ensuring that we have an enduring event that families mark on their calendars and look forward to. It is the heartfelt updates we get during the stated concerning the health and welfare of our lodge members and their families. It is the general willingness to lend a hand when the need arises.

An example that always comes to mind for me personally happened about 15 years ago when I was attending Job's Daughters Grand Session in Ferrum, Virginia about five hours from Virginia Beach. We had taken a charter bus with Bethel 42 to the event and received a call from my then teenaged son that my father-in-law, Bob Jones, was not making sense and having difficulty walking. I immediately reached out to brother Masons W. Bruce Cook, W. Rick Cazenave and W. Jim Doubikin who rushed over to the house to check on him and remain with him until the ambulance arrived. Then another brother Hank Sadler, whom I barely knew at the time, handed me the keys to his brand-new Cadillac and told me to take Marta and drive home and he would take the charter bus back. In that moment, these small acts made all the difference in the world.

Years later Bob was diagnosed with terminal cancer. My son Jeran had decided to petition the lodge and Bob's wish was to see Jeran raised prior to his passing. Jeran lived in northern Virginia and members of Herndon Lodge No. 264 and our own

W. Rob Worthington worked on coaching Jeran on his catechisms when he was not in Virginia Beach. As a result of all those efforts, Jeran was raised in just five weeks from his initiation. Bob was in attendance and so very proud. He passed away a couple of weeks later. This is indelibly etched on me as what is best about Masonry.

When I received orders to Washington D.C. in 2021, I needed to put my house on the market. We had it inspected, created a punch list of all the issues requiring repair and asked for help over the weekend. People turned out in force including Worshipfuls Mike Deming, Ken Chord, Bruce Cook and T-Rex, Right Worshipful Joe Daigle, and Brother Leandro Herculano. With their assistance and others, we were able to correct all discrepancies and sell the house within 24 hours of putting it on the market. This would not have been possible without the help of these Brothers.

Finally, in May, Brother Michael Johnson of Corinthian Lodge No. 266 had a heart attack. Wendy Graefe happened to be passing by, jumped the fence and administered CPR until paramedics arrived about 10 minutes later, unquestionably saving his life. W. Bruce Cook requested and received a Grand Lodge of Virginia Award of Excellence for Wendy and arranged for her to meet Michael at their annual lodge picnic. Channel 3 news was there to cover it. Bruce's actions served to highlight to the community that good things happen and gave a small token of appreciation to a hero for her selfless actions.

These events are what Freemasonry in Action mean to me. If we take these small actions every day we can improve the world for those within our sphere of influence. If every Mason were to do so, our craft would surely change the world.

Brother Justin Gray, Senior Warden

## From The South



Each and every day, we see Masons in action displaying the three tenets of Freemasonry. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. As Masons we are taught to devote and care for each other and our community. We are taught to

selflessly give to those in distress.

During my time as a Mason, and even before, I have witnessed Masons in action on the various mission trips that I have been proud to have been a part of. On two trips to Guyana in South America, I

witnessed Masons helping to build a youth center behind the Methodist Church in Victoria, so the youth of the village would have a place to congregate. In Pascagoula, Mississippi, I witnessed Masons helping to rebuild people's homes that had been damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. There were Masons in Joplin, Missouri who helped rebuild homes after a powerful and devastating tornado had ripped through the town. In a small town in southwestern Virginia, I watched as Masons helped rebuild a home and put a ramp for a lady whose home needed many repairs. Each and every day, we see Masons in action, displaying those tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Brother Howard Draper, Junior Warden

## Bannack Lodge and the Montana Vigilantes *(cont'd from page 1)*

attempted to join, but was rejected. This effective guarding of the west gate allowed for planning and discussion to happen, and when the vigilantes sprung into action, caught the Road Agents totally by surprise.

Bannack Lodge still exists today. The Bannack Historic Lodge 3-7-77, is still active and its members help with preserving Bannack buildings. What makes it even greater is that this event still provides us with Friendship and comradery to this day. They have a yearly stated, open to all Masons of good standing, on the second weekend in September.

## Trestle Board

June 29 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
July 9 .....	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
July 23 .....	Past Masters Night, 7PM
July 27 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
August 13 .....	Stated Communication Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
August 19 .....	District Blood Drive, 1-6PM
August 31 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM
September 10 .....	Stated Communication Junior Warden Night Dinner 6PM, Lodge 7PM
September 28 .....	Lodge Breakfast, 8-10AM

## Traveling Gavels

Kempsville Lodge was lucky during the June states to win not only the District Traveling Gavel, but the State Traveling Gavel Sponsored by Berkley Lodge No. 167. Worshipful Turner was at Willis V. Fentress Lodge No. 296 to promote the Bull Roast and the Montana trip when he spotted the gavels hanging out. Luckily, a quick poll of the in-attendance Masons showed that five other members of Kempsville were also in attendance. Worshipful John Farr, who had to accept the gavels in behalf of the lodge as Worshipful Turner had limited mobility due to recent surgery.



Additionally, Worshipful Frank Beard, Right Worshipful Michael Scott, Right Worshipful Jun Voces, and Brother Leandro Herculano rounded out the crew to give us the five plus the sitting Worshipful Master we needed to qualify to take them with us. Promises were made that we would only have them a short time, and it was understood by all that was a good thing. Visitation is the lifeblood of camaraderie, so anything that makes more happen is good.



Just goes to show you that any night can be more than just "a visit", something special might happen!

## On This Day...

Masonry should make, and must make, each man who conscientiously and understandingly takes its obligations, a fine type of American citizen, because Masonry teaches him his obligations to his fellows in a practical fashion.

Theodore Roosevelt

(Brother Theodore Roosevelt received his third degree in Matinecock Lodge, at Oyster Bay, New York on April 27, 1901)

Today, as never before, our county needs the support and loyalty of all its citizens, and I am sure that as long as there are three million Freemasons

in the country, all good men and true, who believe in a system of morals, and the Constitution of the United States, we can safely face the future, no matter what it may bring forth.

Harry S. Truman

(Brother Harry S. Truman was born on May 8, 1884.)

Sometimes there are false impressions about fraternal organizations. No man ever took the oaths and subscribed to the obligations with greater watchfulness and care than I exercised in receiving the various rites of Masonry, and I say it with deliberation and without fear of breaking faith. I have never encountered a lesson, never witnessed an example, never heard an obligation uttered which could not be openly proclaimed to the world. More, if the lessons taught were heeded, the obligations read were assumed, if the relationship urged were adopted, men would be infinitely better in their human relationships, and better citizens of this country.

Warren G. Harding

(Brother Harding spoke the above words on June 5, 1923, before the Imperial Council of the Shrine meeting in Washington that day.)

## Scholarship Presentations

Once again Kempsville Lodge No. 196 has awarded two \$500 scholarships to worthy students at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education center. With the help of Robert Marlin, School Counseling Department Chair, two candidates were selected based on their dedication to their field of study and their academic performance.

The first was Corinne Lerche a nursing student in their practical Nursing Program. She holds a 3.43 GPA, and is very passionate about nursing. Part of her submission to the school stated "I had medical issues growing up, I have been able to experience the care of wonderful nurses, which drove me to learn more about the field of nursing. My passion in nursing was cemented after having an in depth conversation with an educator at Sentara's College of Nursing. During the care I received, I have taken the opportunity to chat with various CHKD Nurses and



the Director of Pharmacy. Their insight and feedback have given me a desire to secure my LPN. After securing my LPN through the Tech Center, my goal is to obtain a nursing position at Sentara.”

The second was Darius Stanford, Darius is the highest achieving student academically at the Tech



Center. He is a 2nd year Welding student holding a 4.14 GPA. Darius has plans on joining the Newport News Shipbuilding upon graduation. Darius not only holds this grade at the center but also at Kempsville High School which he also attends.

So the work we put into the Bull Roast is never wasted. These are the bright young minds that we are enabling with our time and energy, helping to build a better tomorrow for us all.

## To Our Masonic Widows

Happy Birthday to our special lady in April, May, and June:

Cheryl Farrer	Apr 2
Patricia Quintin	Apr 4
Teresa Boogades	Apr 5
Judith Naprstek	Apr 7
Denise Bement	Apr 20
Paige Mason	Apr 29
Willie Salih	May 5
Bonnie Fitzgerald	May 9
Lorrissa (Sissy) Ambrose	May 19
Deborah Smith	May 22
Barbara Marchman	May 24
Barbara Waller	May 28
Grace Jones	May 29
Jessica Squires	Jun 3
Patricia Willis	Jun 8
Shirley White	Jun 9
Bobbi Feller	Jun 11
Diana Rawles	Jun 17
Sylvia Massey	Jun 18
Betty Burton	Jun 24

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.

## Masonic Birthdays for April, May, and June

James Amburn, 06/65	Jonathan Jones, 06/05
Alton Anders, 05/11	William Kemp, 06/07
Brandon Angel, 05/07	Robert Lockwood, 06/73
Gerald Barham, 06/62	Thomas McGowan, 06/66
Theodore Barton, 06/66	Ross McLeod, 05/06
Charles Bateman, 04/14	Richard Mears, 06/62
David Boyd, 04/88	Joseph Miechle, 05/09
Sean Bray, 06/18	Kyle Mielkey, 04/23
George Bunch, 05/82	Leslie Miller, 05/72
John Caole, 06/03	Steve Miller, 05/71
Allen Chandler, 04/87	Owen Mills, 06/67
Kenneth Chord, 06/06	Todd Moissett, 04/11
S. Connard, 04/91	Larry Montgomery, 05/97
Jonathan Cook, 06/18	Michael Moseler, 04/72
Kevin Cotter, 05/11	Stanley Moss, 05/96
Robert Davis, 06/82	Frederick Natoli, 06/21
Wayne DeFord, 05/93	Thomas Niedermeier, 04/80
Christopher Dillman, 04/23	Brian Parton, 04/01
Thomas England, 04/11	Emmett Pate, 06/00
Roger Farr, 06/74	John Phillips, 05/18
Frederick Farrer, 06/94	Fletcher Porter, 06/91
John Farrer, 06/94	Norman Powers, 06/95
Christopher Favata, 04/10	Emmett Reynolds, 04/11
Frank Filippone, 05/15	George Roberts, 04/64
John Flavin, 04/23	Chris Robertson, 05/13
Jason Fletchall-Silva, 04/14	Alaric Roche, 04/64
Justin Flowers, 04/12	Cristian Rodriguez, 04/04
Adam Ford, 06/06	Simone Scigliano, 06/11
James Freeman, 05/74	John Settle, 06/12
James Freihofer, 05/15	John Settle, 04/15
John Gabor, 04/92	Jimmy Shehan, 05/97
Joshua Gooch, 04/23	Clifton Smith, 06/89
Billy Gordon, 05/03	Larry Strait, 05/12
Jeran Gray, 06/16	Charlie Taylor, 04/59
Joseph Hall, 04/23	Mason Tinch, 06/23
Jerry Hase, 06/88	Russell Tjepkema, 05/85
Adam Hernandez, 05/07	Robert Wadsworth, 06/99
Lloyd Holbrook, 06/98	Thomas Webber, 04/63
Monte Howell, 05/70	George Winn, 06/09
Keith Ingraham, 04/19	William Wyndham, 05/83

## From the Secretary

Brethren, we still have over 30 members that have not yet paid their 2024 dues as well as 6 others that still owe for 2023. Remember, your dues are payable by January in order to be considered “current” for the year (Section Sec 2.147).

If you need assistance or have questions about paying your dues, don't hesitate to reach out to me or the Worshipful Master.

Emmett “Buddy” Pate  
Secretary



## Bull Roast 2024 Recap

The Bull Roast for 2024 was a smashing success by all accounts. This year a committee was formed of Worshipful Taylor, Wor Anders, and the Senior Warden Justin Gray to provide a depth of knowledge and experience. This led to some key, and pivotal changes, such as switching from roast beef to brisket, returning to homemade potato Salad, and regular shifts for everyone to work.



Work began two days before the event with the pit crew starting to smoke 450 pounds of brisket on Thursday. A team came together to help with prepping the massive weight of potatoes and other items ahead of time to make sure there would be plenty on the big day. Cakes were delivered from many sources all day long filling RW McGowans desert cave. Someone was at the lodge working the Bull Roast items for 72 hours straight in some fashion!

This led to a day of peace and harmony as all toiled together in brotherly love. The food received rave reviews and the event was very well attended. The local fire department was treated to a meal and gave their approval. Jobbies and Demolay were well represented and of massive help all day long. Candidates and Family pitched in also. Old friends were spotted, and old acquaintances renewed.

Its too soon to call for sure, but I think its safe to say that our Bull Roast has returned to its former Pre-covid Glory at this time.



## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Michael Turner	581-4239
Senior Warden	Justin Gray	338-7218
Junior Warden	Howard Draper	515-3540
Treasurer	Chris Anders	635-7617
Secretary	Emmett Pate	404-8594
Senior Deacon	Chris Kammerer	348-9822
Junior Deacon	Leandro Herculano	267-678-9978
Senior Steward	Jim Reyes	469-0717
Chaplain	Karl Wessler	439-1858
Musician	R. Scott Foxwell	536-1659
Marshal	Dickie Cooper	971-7347
Tiler	Jay Keplinger	615-9240
Instructor of Work	Rob Lockwood	617-2166
Education Officer	William Rawson	724-4867
MAHOVA Ambassador	Ray Connard	630-5797
Blood Coordinator	Michael Blankenship	438-2862
Youth Advisor	John Donahue	685-5686

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