

LIGHT

*of the George Washington
Masonic Memorial*



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA · VOLUME 17 · NUMBER 1 · 2011

2011 Annual Meeting

New President, Officers and Board Members Elected Per Member Campaign Participants Recognized

Roger A. Simmons was elected President of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association at the Association's Annual Meeting held February 20, 2011 in Denver, Colorado. He will preside over the 22-member Board of Directors from across the nation. He has been a member of the Board since 2002 and a member of the Executive Committee since 2003.

A life long resident of Alabama, Simmons began his Masonic career in Newton Masonic Lodge No. 224. He received his Master Mason Degree in 1963. He served as Worshipful Master in 1981–1984 and again in 1992–1994. He was elected Grand Master of Masons in Alabama in 2001, having previously served the Grand Lodge and other Alabama Masonic Bodies in various offices and positions.

Continued on page 2

Ambassador Seminar Held at Memorial

The inaugural seminar for Ambassadors to the Memorial was held here on April 15 and 16. Ambassadors from around the country attended, including Past Memorial Presidents Anthony P. Wordlow of California and Edgar N. Peppler of New Jersey. New Memorial President Roger A. Simmons also attended and welcomed the group. The evening prior to the seminar, Ambassadors attended the Stated Communication at Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. The next morning, prior to the start of the seminar, Ambassadors,

Continued on page 2

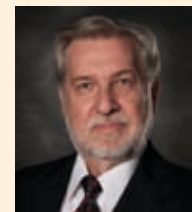


Ambassadors to the Memorial attended a seminar to discuss ways to improve communications, expand educational programs and increase support to maintain the Memorial.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Achievable Goals

by Roger A. Simmons



It is a great honor to have been elected President of the George Washington

Masonic Memorial Association. The duties and responsibilities of this exalted office will be a very challenging experience, but it is one that I welcome. Thank you for your confidence in me. The goals the Memorial Board has set are high, but are obtainable through the assistance and effort of every Mason.

At present, we have one third of our Grand Lodges (through resolutions) contributing one dollar per member each year to help finance and support the upkeep and operation of the Memorial. Our goal is for every Mason in the United States to contribute one dollar each year through his Grand Lodge to support this great cause. Will you help us reach this goal?

Why do we need 100% participation? Because it is the duty and responsibility of every Mason in our country to maintain this grand edifice as a Lighthouse of knowledge—not only to America, but to the world. With everyone's support we will be able to meet our goal to

Continued on page 2

President's Message, continued from page 1

promote the life and character of a great man, a person who exemplified Masonry throughout his life, and a patriot who led the campaign for Democracy and laid the foundation of our Constitution and of the great Nation in which we live, Brother George Washington.

We were pleased to have our first seminar for Ambassadors this spring. (See article, page 1.) It was very informative and successful. We thank the Grand Lodges for their support of this program. The Ambassadors are very enthused about getting the Memorial up to standard. Several good ideas came out of the breakout sessions. One that was most favored was the 20/2 Program. The 20/2 goal is to replenish the Endowment Fund by raising 20 million dollars in two years. While this may seem challenging, it is actually a very simple and achievable plan. There are well over one million Masons in the United States. If each Mason would contribute \$20 (or more if he desires) directly to the Memorial, we will easily reach that goal. One hundred percent participation from the Ambassadors at the meeting got the program off to an auspicious start.

We greatly appreciate those who have freely given their time and financial support. We need this support to continue to keep the memory and legacy of George Washington alive.



2011 Annual Meeting, continued from page 1

Simmons retired from a 43-year career in the Quality Control Department of Fort Rucker in 1999. Active in his community, he has served as a member of the Board of Directors and as Vice President of the Newton Ruritan Club, and as a member of the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Lay Leadership Director, Training Superintendent and Secretary of the Newton Baptist Church. He and his wife Sally have been married for more than 50 years.

New officers elected at the Annual Meeting are: Roger A. Simmons, President, Alabama; Donald G. Hicks, Jr., First Vice President, Massachusetts; Ridgely H. Gilmour, Second Vice President, Utah; Robert P. Conley, Third Vice President, Michigan; and George D. Seghers, Executive Director. These officers were appointed to the Executive Committee along with Andrew U. Hammer, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 Representative.

The following were elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors: John R. Cline, Alaska; L. Todd Eastham, Kentucky; Gale H. Kenney, Washington; Barry A. Rickman, South Carolina; Rafael B. Acosta Rosario, Puerto Rico; and Thomas K. Sturgeon, Pennsylvania.

The Memorial extends its appreciation to Immediate Past President Anthony P. "Tony" Wordlow, California, who served two years as President and 12 years on the Board. His leadership has moved the Memorial Association forward in implementing and achieving our mission. The Memorial would also like to thank the following Board Members who completed their terms of service: Neal I. Bidnick, New York; James G. Kelley, Nevada; John S. Ryan, New Jersey; Claire V. Tusch, Maine; and J. B. Van Hollen, Wisconsin. The Memorial is grateful for their commitment of time, enthusiasm and hard work. We are confident they will continue to represent and promote the Memorial in their jurisdictions.

Also at the Annual Meeting 15 Grand Lodges that participate in the \$1 Per Member Campaign were recognized and presented with a plaque adorned with a sculpted and hand-painted Memorial Crest. The Grand Lodges that received plaques are: Alaska, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Our goal is 100% participation of all Grand Lodges to contribute \$1 for every member in their state. The Memorial would also like to recognize and thank the Grand Lodge of Oregon, which recently became the latest jurisdiction to participate in the campaign. Oregon and other jurisdictions that participate this year will be recognized and receive a plaque at next year's Annual Meeting.

Ambassador Seminar, continued from page 1

Memorial Staff and President Simmons laid a wreath at Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. The rest of the day was spent at the Memorial where Robert P. Conley, Past Grand Master of Michigan, facilitated the seminar.

During the sessions, Ambassadors discussed and refined several methods to promote the Memorial within local and Grand Lodges. Long-serving Michigan Ambassador James A. Schad presented an excellent variety of successful talks and programs he has given throughout his state. In breakout sessions, Ambassadors developed a long list of new and innovative ways to improve communications, expand educational programs and increase support to maintain the Memorial. Ambassadors also discussed plans to encourage local lodge and community celebrations of Washington's birthday that would be linked to and support the annual birthday celebration that has been held in Alexandria since Washington's lifetime. A further suggestion was that the Memorial host an event to celebrate Washington being raised to the third degree on August 4, 1753 in Fredericksburg Lodge. A second seminar will be held in August in conjunction with the Association's Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting.

MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA

Preserving our Legacy

by George D. Seghers



The George Washington Masonic Memorial contributes to the improvement and benefit of mankind. We strive to promote the character and the greatness of George Washington now and to future generations—to inspire, motivate and improve them as human beings and as citizens of this nation, which Washington was so instrumental in forming.

Washington's strength of character, courage, perseverance and his belief in Divine Providence were instrumental in the creation of our nation—the only truly free society of citizens that the world had seen at that time. Today we take our liberty for granted. We have forgotten at times that our freedom and our security were gifts to us from the founders of our nation. Without George Washington and our Founding Fathers, we would not have a United States of America.

It is imperative that we not forget the sacrifices, great deeds and heroic example set by Washington. We must not allow his name, his reputation, and his legacy to fade. We must keep him as our role model of what a citizen and a Freemason should be. The George Washington Masonic Memorial was created for that purpose. In the century since the Memorial Association was founded, the awareness of this purpose has diminished. As a fraternity and as a nation we have allowed to slip toward obscurity the one man who did

more and who gave more for the creation of our country. We must not allow this to continue. We must increase our knowledge of Washington which will strengthen our admiration and reverence for him. That is the reason for the vision and mission of the George Washington Masonic Memorial: *"To inspire humanity through education, to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country."*

Washington's attributes of direction, focus and perseverance can light our path to success, and be our guiding principles in the operation of the Memorial. The greatest challenges we face today are two-fold. We must increase operating revenue immediately to provide the necessary maintenance for the Memorial building; at the same time we must provide information and inspiration to the members. And in the near future we must secure several million dollars to restore and conserve the Memorial. Just as we cannot allow the memory of Washington to dim, we cannot allow the Memorial to deteriorate.

On July 13, 1796, Washington wrote to the Secretary of War, *"In all important matters, to deliberate maturely, but to execute promptly and vigorously. And not to put things off until the Morrow which can be done, and require to be done today."* Following his example, we must be strong and decisive. With your commitment to protect, promote and preserve Washington's legacy, we can successfully endow the Memorial and ensure that it will remain a perpetual inspiration.

George D. Seghers is the Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Grand Lodge of the Month Program

Many Grand Lodge Officers, including those from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have visited the Memorial this year during their appointed month to unveil their exhibits and to hold Grand Lodge Sessions. For the first time in its 125-year history, the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico opened a communication outside of their jurisdiction. Accompanying Grand Master Rafael B. Acosta Rosario to the Memorial were 19 brethren who held an Emergent Communication, which was followed by a reception. During each Grand Lodge Month, the appropriate state flag is flown on the grounds of the Memorial, a display featuring the Grand Lodge is included in *The Form and Function of American Freemasonry* exhibit and Grand Lodge literature is distributed. The program directly involves the Grand Lodges with the Memorial and provides exposure to and information about them to the many thousands of visitors to the Memorial.

The schedule for 2011 is: January—Hawaii, February—District of Columbia, March—Puerto Rico, April—Delaware, May—Pennsylvania,

June—New Jersey, July—Georgia, August—New Hampshire, September—Massachusetts, October—Maryland, November—South Carolina and December—Connecticut.



Surrounded by the brethren from Puerto Rico are, beginning second from left: Mark A. Tabbert, Director of Collections; John P. Olson, Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22; John M. Chambliss, Jr., Grand Master of Virginia; Rafael B. Acosta Rosario, Grand Master of Puerto Rico; and George D. Seghers, Executive Director.

The Architectural and Masonic Symbols of the Memorial

by George D. Seghers

The immense physical structure of the George Washington Masonic Memorial and the beauty of its interior and exterior are grand. But we must remember that the Memorial is symbolic of the character and greatness of the man it memorializes. That was the reason for its creation. It was what first inspired our founders to envision such an endeavor more than 100 years ago and is what impels us to celebrate and maintain the Memorial today.

Built of granite, the Memorial is a symbol of the strength, perseverance and courage of George Washington. Designed to express the ideals that inspired classical Greek and Roman architecture,

it is symbolic of the democratic principles upon which our country was founded. Standing tall and pointing to the heavens, it symbolizes the Divine Guidance that Washington firmly believed was shepherding the creation of the new nation.

The three classical orders of architecture—Doric, Ionic and Corinthian—are featured throughout the Memorial. The Doric order, with its solid and unadorned style, is also a symbol of strength. The Doric traditionally has no base; it is fluted and crowned with an unadorned capital. The Memorial's magnificent Portico entrance, which was inspired by the Athenian Parthenon, is Doric, as are the marble columns in the Memorial Theater. Doric pilasters are also used on the exterior of the first level of the Memorial Tower. In Masonry, the Doric column is associated with the Senior Warden.

The Ionic column has a base and is surmounted with a volute, or scroll-like, capital. Ionic columns were used in the Erechtheum,

Built of granite, the Memorial is a symbol of the strength, perseverance and courage of George Washington. Designed to express the ideals that inspired classical Greek and Roman architecture, it is symbolic of the democratic principles upon which our country was founded.



The three classical orders of architecture—Doric, Ionic and Corinthian—are featured on the exterior pilasters of the first, second and third levels of the Tower.



The magnificent portico entrance, featuring Doric columns, was inspired by the Athenian Parthenon.

which is a temple to Athena Polias, Poseidon and Erechtheus on the Acropolis in Athens. Ionic pilasters are used on the exterior of the second level of the Memorial Tower. The Ionic column is symbolic of knowledge and wisdom and is associated with the Master.

The Corinthian order is the most ornamental of the three. A Corinthian column is fluted, has a base and a capital richly adorned with leaves of acanthus, olives or other such decoration. Corinthian columns were used in the monument of Lysicrates and in the Temple of Zeus in Athens. Corinthian pilasters are used on the exterior of the third level of the Memorial Tower. In Masonic terms, the Corinthian column is symbolic of beauty and is associated with the Junior Warden.

Two other orders of architecture are used in the Memorial: Tuscan and Composite. Eight massive Tuscan columns in Grand Masonic Hall support the entire Tower. Tuscan is the simplest order; the

columns are not fluted and do not have a base. The Composite order, a combination of Corinthian and Ionic, can be seen in the more than 40-foot tall columns in Memorial Hall.

The Memorial Tower is capped with an Egyptian pyramid and surmounted with a stylized flame-like finial as a reference to ancient lighthouses, particularly the Lighthouse of Alexandria, Egypt, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Freemasonry was a guiding light to Washington as he was the guiding light of the American Revolution and the formation of our country. The Memorial is a Lighthouse, spreading the light and knowledge of Freemasonry to the world.

George D. Seghers is the Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



Massive Tuscan columns in Grand Masonic Hall support the entire Tower.



The intricate detail of the capitals in Memorial Hall reflects the Composite order of architecture.



The Composite order, a combination of Corinthian and Ionic, can be seen in the more than 40-foot tall columns in Memorial Hall.

Contributors

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 Thomas W. Jackson PA
 James E. Dillon Lodge No. 466 MI
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Tree Dedications

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 by John Argo
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 Russell R. Bessom* VA
 by the Bessom Family
 Marcella Brower* NJ
 by Ann E. & Chester H. Clark
 Everett A. Clark* NJ
 by Ann E. & Chester H. Clark
 William D. Clark* NJ
 by Ann E. & Chester H. Clark
 Frank & Madeleine Corsun* VA
 by Andrew Corsun
 Howard Lee Dunn* TX
 by John R. Dunn
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 Ross Nathan & Grant Lucas WV
 Goodman**
 by Mark Leslie Goodman
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 by John & Patricia Rutherford
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 by his loving Family and Brethren
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 Lodge Odesos 021
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 Lodge Provaton 046
 Lodge Serdica 003
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 Lodge Svetlina 002
 Lodge Tan Nak Ra 010
 Lodge Trimontium 039
 Lodge Vernite Priyateli 033
 Lodge Zaria 004
 Lodge Zora 001
 THE GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA
Beautification Project of Kathy Nagel, First Lady for 2010
 206th Masonic District Officers Association
 Jack L. Abrams*
 by Estella Abrams
 All Masons Worldwide**
 by Burlingame, CA Scottish Rite
 Andy Angel*
 by Napa Valley Lodge No. 93
 Carey & Jeannie Atwood**
 by Johansson-Atwood Family
 Eddie Banta*
 by James & Jennifer Banta
 Bay Cities Lodge No. 337
 Stanley W. Beatty*
 by Allan L. Casalou
 Edna L. Bermudez*
 by her loving son John
 Jack & Susan Bezner*
 by Rosemead Lodge No. 457
 S. Steven Blank*
 by Dr. Lawrence W. Blank and Jonathan C. Blank
 Steve Brandenburg**
 by Gary Brandenburg

*In Memory of **In Honor of

Conejo Valley Lodge No. 807
 Mary K. Dunwell*
 by the Grand Lodge of California
 East Belt-Toulumne No. 8 and
 Placerville Lodge No. 26
 Steven L. Eberhardt**
 by Grand Court of California,
 Order of the Amaranth
 George & Mabel Fisher*
 by Richard, Mary & Carolyn Fisher
 Friendship Lodge No. 210
 Gen. Douglas MacArthur No. 8 and
 Yolo Lodge No. 195
 Grand Master's Tour of 2010**
 by Star & Compass Travel
 Grand Lodge of California Staff
 2009-2010**
 by Kenneth & Kathy Nagel

*In Memory of **In Honor of

Judy L. Harrison**
 by Grand Court of California,
 Order of the Amaranth
 Charles L. and David P. Henderson
 Lee & Viola Hertzberg*
 by Michael & Linda Hertzberg
 Wilma Austin Hooper*
 by Gregory F. Hooper
 Huntington Beach Lodge No. 380
 Imperial Lodge No. 390 and Temescal
 Palms Lodge No. 314
 Ionic Composite Lodge No. 5
 and South Pasadena Lodge No. 290
 R. A. Johansson*
 by Elecia A. Johansson
 Elecia Johansson**
 by Johansson-Atwood Family
 Ray & Audrey Johansson**
 by Johansson-Atwood Family
 Continued on page 8

SHINING LIGHTS

What the Memorial Means to Me



Prominence. Mystery. American Greatness. These were my first three impressions of the George Washington Masonic Memorial 20 years ago. Prominence, reflecting not merely impressive size, but denoting vitality, importance and centrality; Mystery, in every great sense of the word, reflecting the very essence of the Masonic path of seeking Light; and American Greatness, being embodied in the hero deemed the "Indispensable Man" in the founding of the American Republic, whose life epitomized the most excellent virtues the Masonic Order inculcates.

These first impressions hold to this day, but also now coalesce in my opinion that the Memorial represents our grandest Masonic temple, museum and memorial. There are those that are older and more ornate, but none greater. As Freemasonry in America reaches its fourth century, and our Memorial its second, it is as vital as ever that we continue active financial support in preserving its Prominence, grand Mystery, and the distinctive ethos of American Greatness personified by Brother Washington.

Kerry D. Kirk
 Henry Lodge No. 57, Fairfax, Virginia
 New Century Member

We look forward to spotlighting more Members and Friends in future issues. Thank you to all the "Lights" that shine on behalf of the Memorial.

Join the GWMM Today!

Yes! Count on me to support our Memorial. Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

- ☐ **\$100 Silver Craftsman:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- ☐ **\$250 Gold Master:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- ☐ **\$500 Platinum Presidential:** Your gift will be acknowledged and you will receive a Membership Certificate.
- ☐ **\$1000 New Century:** Your gift will be acknowledged, you will receive a Membership Certificate and your name will be cast in bronze and displayed in the main entrance to Memorial Hall.

Patrons

- ☐ **\$5,000 Millennium Architect**
- ☐ **\$10,000 Millennium Master Architect**
- ☐ **\$25,000 Millennium Builder**
- ☐ **\$50,000 Millennium Master Builder**
- ☐ **\$100,000 Millennium Grand Master Builder**

In addition to the above benefits, all Patrons will receive a Membership Plaque and your name will be permanently displayed on a Patrons Wall of Honor recognizing major benefactors prominently located in the Memorial.

Already a Supporter? Great! Since Membership is cumulative, an additional contribution may upgrade your status to the next category.

- ☐ Other amount enclosed: \$_____
- ☐ Check enclosed made payable to GWMM

Please charge my:

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Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. All Memberships are gratefully acknowledged, published in the newsletter and permanently displayed in the Memorial.

Mail to GWMM Membership, 101 Callahan Drive,
 Alexandria, VA 22301-2751 or fax to 703.519.9270

Memorial Hosts ICHF Conference

The third International Conference on the History of Freemasonry (ICHF) was held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on May 27–29. Memorial President Roger A. Simmons opened the conference along with Right Worshipful Thomas W. Jackson, Executive Secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges, and Edward H. Fowler, Jr., Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, U.S.A., and Conference sponsor. A highlight of the opening ceremony was the unveiling of the rediscovered George Washington Masonic apron owned by Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 91 of Shepherdstown, West Virginia. (See article, page 9.)

More than 200 Freemasons and scholars from around the world attended the Conference, at which more than 70 individual papers were presented. Six plenary speakers headlined the Conference: Professor Steven C. Bullock, who spoke on Freemasonry in the Washington, D.C. area, ca. 1791; Arturo de Hoyos, Grand Archivist and Historian of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, who spoke on the battle to control high grade Freemasonry in the United States; Professor Chernoh Sesay, Jr., who spoke on the social and political origins of Prince Hall Freemasonry; Professor Andrew Prescott, whose lecture was titled “Freemasonry and the Meditation of Scottish Identity;” Robert L. D. Cooper, Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, who spoke on early Masonic rituals; and Professor Andreas Önnersfors, who examined how both academics and Freemasons research Freemasonry.

Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia sponsored a pre-opening reception Thursday evening, which included a banquet and concert by the IBIS Chamber Music Society. Saturday’s gala dinner included a concert by classical guitarist Joel Sharbaugh.

The ICHF concluded Sunday with the announcement of the fourth Conference, to be held in northern England in 2013, and the fifth Conference in 2015 in Toronto, Canada.



Conference attendees enjoy the pre-opening reception in Memorial Hall.



Brent Morris, editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, conducts a session on American Masonic membership trends in the South Lodge Room.

The Royal Order of Scotland

The Memorial gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Sir Edward H. Fowler, Jr., Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, U.S.A., for sponsoring the International Conference on the History of Freemasonry held at the Memorial May 27–30, 2011. For information on the Royal Order of Scotland, visit www.yorkrite.com/roos/.

THE GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA, *continued from page 7*

Vernon Clyde Jordan*
by Robert Ernest Jordan
King David’s Lodge No. 209
Roy Kirk*
by Roy G. Kirk and James G. Kirk
Edward & Ann Kolka*
by Johansson-Atwood Family
Albert F. Koula*
by Burlingame, CA Scottish Rite
Calvin G. Lessing*
by Marjorie Lessing
Liberty Lodge No. 299
Henry M. Lillehoff*
by his Family

Chester R. Mac Phee*
by Warren J. Blomseth
Masonic Lodges of Orange County
Masons of California **
by Star & Compass Travel
Nagel Grand Family 2009-2010**
by Kenneth & Kathy Nagel
Kathy Nagel**
by Peninsula Team ‘95, OES
Kathy Nagel**
by Star & Compass Travel
Kenneth Nagel**
by Star & Compass Travel
Kenneth & Kathy Nagel**
by Tony & Marilyn Wordlow
Napa Valley Lodge No. 93

Harvey & Ellen Nixon*
by Frances Groat
North Hollywood Lodge No. 542
Frank Ogletree*
by Napa Valley Lodge No. 93
Our Family**
by John & Marylyn Kirk
Our Grandfathers Who Fought
For Our Country**
by Christopher & Molly Nagel
Our Members Since 1923**
by Burlingame, CA Scottish Rite
Our Mothers Inez Ross & Bea Desouza*
by Joseph & Linda Ross
Phoenix Lodge No. 144
Lee T. Porebski**
by Burlingame, CA Scottish Rite

Arthur & Patricia Porter
Allen Price*
by Home Lodge No. 721
Julian M. Quilalang*
by Cris & Helen Q. Salamanca
Fred Rathmann, Sr.*
by William Rathmann
San Francisco Scottish Rite
San Francisco/Burlingame Childhood
Language Center**
by Burlingame, CA Scottish Rite
Upland-Mt. Baldy Lodge No. 419
Vesper Lodge No. 84
Robert O. West*
by Marjorie Jean West and Family
Ralph Weyant*
by James M. Weyant

**In Memory of **In Honor of*

A Washington Apron Rediscovered

by Mark A. Tabbert

A little known Masonic apron believed to have been George Washington's was unveiled at the Memorial in May during the International Conference on the History of Freemasonry. (See article, page 8.) Owned by Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 91, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, the apron was previously on loan to Mount Vernon in commemoration of the Lodge's bicentennial in 2011.

The apron's origins and how it came into Brother Washington's possession are subjects of ongoing research. According to Mt. Nebo Lodge history, the apron was a gift to General Washington from the Grand Lodge of France. The Marquis de Lafayette was said to have conveyed it to Washington in 1784 when he returned to America and visited Mount Vernon. By design, symbolism and construction, the apron is indeed French. The crossed U.S. and French Bourbon flags date the apron after 1776 and before 1789. The apron lacks Washington and French Masonic documentation, but this may be due to revolutions and wars—including the Nazi occupation—over the last 230 years.

The apron's known history begins after George Washington's death in 1799. The inventory of his estate, compiled in early 1800, lists among the contents of his study one japanned box containing a Mason's apron valued at \$40 and a piece of oil cloth containing orders of Masonry valued at \$50. The inventory taken after Martha Washington's death in 1802 does not itemize the study's contents, so no Masonic aprons are listed. However, a record of personal property sold out of the Washington estate after Martha died lists two Masonic aprons: one purchased for \$5 by Burdett Ashton (1747–1814), husband of Washington's niece, Ann (1752–1777), and the second purchased for \$6 by Thomas Hammond (1770–1820), husband to Washington's niece, Mildred (1772–1805). There is no reference in this sales list to any box corresponding to the box listed in George Washington's inventory.

Soon after purchasing Washington's second apron, Thomas Hammond and his wife Mildred moved to the Appalachian foothills of Virginia. In 1811 the Grand Lodge of Virginia granted a Lodge Charter to Freemasons in Shepherdstown. Called Mt. Nebo No. 91, it retained the same name and number when it came under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia in 1872. According to Lodge history, Thomas Hammond became a Freemason in Mt. Nebo in 1815. In appreciation for his initiation, he donated the second apron to the Lodge. Despite the Anti-Masonic Period of the 1830s, the Civil War and countless other dangers, the Lodge kept the apron safe.

The apron purchased by Burdett Ashton is believed to have passed to his wife's cousin, Lawrence Lewis (1767–1839), a nephew of George Washington who had married Martha Washington's granddaughter, Eleanor (Nelly) Parke Custis (1779–1852). On June 3, 1812, Lawrence Lewis donated a Masonic apron, sash and a



The Mt. Nebo apron was believed to have been a gift to Washington from the Grand Lodge of France and was given to him by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1784.

japanned box to Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 in Alexandria, Virginia. It is generally accepted that this embroidered apron is the famous "Watson-Cassoul Apron," which takes its name from the two commercial agents, American Elkanah Watson and Frenchman Francois-Corentin Cassoul, who commissioned it while working in Nantes, France, during the War of Independence. In 1782 they sent the apron, along with a signed letter, to General Washington. Washington received the apron while encamped at Newburgh, New York. His thank you letter, the envelope it was mailed in, and Watson's and Cassoul's initial letter all still exist. It is assumed President Washington wore this apron at the 1793 cornerstone ceremony of the U.S. Capitol. The apron and sash remain in the care of Alexandria-Washington Lodge and are rarely exhibited. The japanned Masonic box may be viewed in the Lodge's Replica Room within the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

If the dating of both the Mt. Nebo apron (1784) and the Alexandria-Washington apron (1782) is correct, then it is not surprising they are similar in shape, style and high craftsmanship. Both display exquisitely embroidered crossed flags, and a knotted and tasseled cable-tow with a suspended gavel on white silk. The central motifs, however, are quite different. Mt. Nebo's apron has a square and compasses with one leg above and one below the square. A sprig of acacia intertwines the square. In the center is a skull with a crossed

Continued on page 10

Historic Books Returned to Edinburgh Lodge

At a special communication of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 on May 30, the Memorial returned the 1707 and 1783 Minute Books and 1790 Mark Book to The Lodge of Journeyman Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Scotland. The Lodge had graciously loaned the historic books for display in *The Freemasons' White House Stones* exhibit that opened in conjunction with the Memorial Association's Centennial Anniversary last February. Alexandria-Washington Worshipful Master John P. Olson welcomed Right Worshipful Master Alistair Redpath, who accepted the return of the books on behalf of Journeyman Masons No. 8. At least eight stonemasons recruited from Lodge No. 8 to help build the White House immigrated to America in the 1790s and later helped form Federal Lodge No. 1 in the District of Columbia. Along with Master Redpath and several other Scottish brethren, brethren from England, Ireland, Iceland, Japan, Canada, and Germany were also present. The special communication coincided with the International Conference on the History of Freemasonry at the Memorial, which the brethren also attended. (See article, page 8.)



The Memorial returned the historic Minute and Mark books to The Lodge of Journeyman Masons No. 8 at a special communication of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. Pictured here are, first row, from left: Mark A. Tabbert, Director of Collections; John P. Olson, Master of Alexandria-Washington No. 22; Alistair Redpath, Master of Journeyman Masons No. 8; George D. Seghers, Executive Director; and the Scottish brethren.

Washington Apron, continued from page 9

bone and dagger. According to European Masonic scholarship, this apron design was not uncommon, with the central symbols referring to the murder of the Master Builder of King Solomon's Temple, while the acacia symbolizes immortality. The apron is trimmed with black silk ribbon and backed with black silk.

The design similarities may be the root cause for confusion between the two aprons. Indeed, the controversy began at least as early as Lafayette's tour of the United States as the nation's guest. According to Lodge history, he visited Alexandria-Washington Lodge in 1825 and, upon seeing the Watson-Cassoul Apron, declared it to be the one he had given to Washington nearly four decades before. At age 82 and a survivor of the French Revolution, Napoleon's regime and two Bourbon restorations, the Marquis may be forgiven if he mistook one apron for another. Yet it remains unclear if it is Mt. Nebo's or Alexandria-Washington's apron that Lafayette conveyed to General Washington.

Since 1844 however, Mt. Nebo's apron has been well documented. According to the Lodge's Minute Books, the first public appearance was May 16, 1844 in what is now Charles Town, West Virginia, where it was displayed at a banquet celebrating the 90th anniversary of a legendary Masonic meeting in a local cave. The minutes state: "... an apron of black silk velvet, presented more than half a century since to Gen. Washington by the Grand Lodge of France, through the person of this early friend, brother and companion in arms, Bro. Gilbert M.D. Lafayette."

In 1847 the apron traveled to the District of Columbia. Mt. Nebo Lodge member S. McElroy wore it at the Masonic cornerstone ceremony of the Smithsonian Institution. Three years later the Grand Master of Virginia, James Points, wore the apron in Richmond at the Virginia Statehouse for the George Washington Monument ceremony, which President Zachary Taylor also attended. The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire's 1867 Proceedings reported the apron, as well as President and Brother Andrew Johnson, were present at the cornerstone ceremony of the Grand Lodge of Maryland's new temple in 1866. Ten years later, the local newspaper, *The Shepherdstown Register*, ran a full story on the apron.

In 1892 Brother Wynkoop Lemen, a dual member of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 91 and Warren Lodge No. 150, Warren, Minnesota, received permission to bring the apron west. It came first to Warren Lodge, then appeared at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota in St. Paul. Before returning to Shepherdstown, the Grand Lodge commissioned a beautiful hand-carved Masonic framed case. The apron then traveled to Chicago, where it appeared at two lodges. The national publication, *Voice of Freemasonry*, ran an illustrated article of the apron and its case.

The *Voice* article led the apron to be used in a well-known 1896 lithograph, "Washington Closing the Lodge," which was one of a pair produced by the Chicago firm of Kurz & Allen. The other was "Franklin Opening the Lodge." The prints depict Masonic fantasies rather than historical accuracy. Both are modeled after Emanuel Leutz's 1856 portrait, "Washington as Master Mason." The Leutz

Alexandria-Washington Lodge Continues Support of Memorial

In conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of the Memorial Association, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 presented the first installment of a \$100,000 pledge to the Memorial on February 22, 2010. On April 14 of this year, the Lodge presented the second contribution of \$20,000 to Memorial President Roger A. Simmons. This generous pledge reinforces the partnership with the Memorial Association that was created in 1910 at the urging of the Lodge to build a Masonic Memorial to America's greatest citizen and foremost Freemason. The officers, both present and recently past, and the members of the Lodge are to be commended for their dedication and commitment, and for demonstrating the fundamental principles of Freemasonry in their lives. The Memorial extends its heartfelt and sincere thanks to Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.

\$1 Per Member Campaign Grows

The George Washington Masonic Memorial is pleased to announce that six more Grand Lodges have joined the campaign to contribute \$1 per member annually. The Memorial extends its appreciation to C. Wayne Libby and the Brethren of New Hampshire; Joe R. Manning, John Logan and the Brethren of Oklahoma; Rafael Acosta Rosario and the Brethren of Puerto Rico; Ridgely H. Gilmour and the Brethren of Utah; Jim Laird, J. B. Van Hollen and the Brethren of Wisconsin; Ed Bousquet, Dennis Johnson and the Brethren of Oregon; and all the Brethren across the nation that are supporting the Memorial.

This brings the number of Grand Lodges participating in the Memorial's \$1 Per Member Campaign to 16. The other participating Grand Lodges are: District of Columbia, North Dakota, Alaska, Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, Washington, Massachusetts, Nebraska and New Jersey. Every addition to the \$1 Per Member Campaign brings the Memorial closer to its goal of financial security. There are several other Grand Lodges with resolutions pending or awaiting confirmation to participate in the program. We thank our Board Members, the Grand Lodge Officers, our Ambassadors and all the Brethren who have made this campaign a success.

painting, unlike the lithograph, shows Washington wearing the Mt. Nebo apron. Furthermore, Franklin's apron has a similar square, compasses and acacia sprig. These prints were quite popular and hung in numerous lodges and are still available through the Internet.

Perhaps the apron's last major public appearance was at the 100th commemoration of Washington's death on December 14,

1899. Under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, more than 300 Freemasons representing every grand jurisdiction in the country attended a special service at Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. Afterwards, President and Brother William McKinley addressed the brethren from the east lawn. According to the November 1899 Grand Lodge of West Virginia's annual communication, Mt. Nebo Lodge planned to have the apron present at the commemoration.

After 1900 the apron slipped out of Masonic and public awareness. Mt. Nebo kept the apron in the Minnesota frame and hung it on the north lodge wall. On a few special occasions it was brought out for public view and appreciation. Periodically local newspapers and town histories wrote about the apron, but word of it did not spread beyond the mountains. Past Grand Master of Virginia William Mosely Brown, in his excellent book, *George Washington: Freemason* (1952), acknowledged the apron's existence, but did not add further comment.

Until 2009 the apron lived quietly in the Lodge. Now, in celebration of their 200th anniversary, the brethren of Mt. Nebo Lodge have loaned the apron to George Washington's home, with an appearance at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, bringing it back into public awareness for everyone's benefit and delight.



George Alwin (right), Master of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 91, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and Mark Tabbert, Director of Collections, unveil the apron at the opening ceremony of the International Conference on the History of Freemasonry held at the Memorial in May.

Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Collections of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

MEMORIAL TREE PROGRAM

The Memorial Tree Program has been an outstanding success, with more than 500 trees dedicated since its inception. The Memorial's landscape design was originally created by eminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who is best known for the design of Central Park in New York and the United States Capitol grounds. To perpetuate the integrity of the original design, we have enlisted the services of Rhodeside & Hartwell Landscape Architects, which will develop a long-term plan for both the Tree Program and the entire Memorial grounds. The firm is following Olmsted's principles: *to preserve* open spaces and frame them with a cluster of trees; *to group* trees naturally and closer together along the periphery of open spaces and roads; *to place* evergreen trees and shrubs to hold the corners and frame architectural views; and *to drift* flowering trees along masses of canopy trees.

We are in the process of securing a sponsor for this much needed and essential landscape design. If you or your Lodge would be interested in participating, please contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or at gseghers@gwmemorial.org.



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