

# LIGHT

*of the George Washington  
Masonic National Memorial*



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA • VOLUME 20 • NUMBER 2 • 2014 • *This issue of LIGHT is sponsored by the Royal Order of Scotland*

## Board of Directors Holds Semi-Annual Meeting

On August 1–2, 2014, The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association's Board of Directors met in Alexandria for a Semi-Annual Meeting. As the Annual Meeting of the Board convenes at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, meeting midyear at the Memorial allows the Board members an opportunity to visit the Memorial personally. This also allows the Board's members to observe the work being performed daily to educate and inspire the public through greater understanding of our foremost Freemason, Brother George Washington.

The Board considered progress reports on many activities at the Memorial, including building repairs and restoration work, facilities utilization, exhibits, events, communications and fundraising work. The Board discussed the Memorial's operating fund and investment portfolio, and the need to generate more income to complete needed projects in alignment with our strategic plan. A breakout session about the Memorial's work was planned for the 2015 Conference of Grand Masters. In addition, the Memorial's many benefits to the Craft were detailed, including providing a fraternal connection to George Washington, offering accurate information about Freemasonry, highlighting a Grand Lodge of the Month, serving as a research center, and providing public education through tours, exhibits, the website and social media.



*The Memorial at sunset, as seen from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge that spans the Potomac.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Our Member Lodges*

*by Donald G. Hicks, Jr.*



One of the most striking aspects in the rich history of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

is that, throughout its conceptualization, its early construction, its completion, and its maintenance, American Freemasons have been the source of its support. That continues today. Twenty-six of our Grand Lodges are participating in our \$1 Per Member Per Year campaign. And many of you give personally as Friends of the Memorial. For this support, we are truly grateful.

Between the individual and the Grand Lodge, there is another option for support: the lodge itself. The symbolic lodge is the foundation of the Craft. Recognizing this, we recently created the Society of Washington Lodges. The Society is designed for individual lodges to join, allowing an opportunity for any regular Craft lodge to support the Memorial financially while celebrating the enduring connection between the Memorial's great mission and the Craft itself.

Each Lodge that becomes a member of the Society of Washington Lodges will receive a high-quality

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

print of our Centennial Portrait of George Washington. Printed on canvas, these portraits are perfect for framing. We believe that every American Masonic lodge should feature a representation of our nation's foremost Freemason.

Member lodges will also receive a special Patent, hand-printed and finished with the Memorial Association's seal, equally suitable for framing and proud display. In addition, the brethren of participating lodges are eligible to wear a unique pin available only to them. Finally, the name of each of these lodges is displayed on a plaque near the entrance of the Memorial for all who visit to see.

The Society of Washington Lodges has experienced a 33% growth in the last year. Will your lodge be the next to become a member? As President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, I invite you to consider it. Learn more about this important program on page 15 in this issue of *LIGHT*.

I am very proud of the work that is being done at the Memorial every day to further our great mission to inspire the world through the virtues of Washington. We are very grateful for your ongoing support and participation in making that vision a reality.

#### OUR MISSION

*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.*

## The Association Welcomes New Board Members

At our Annual Meeting in Baltimore earlier this year, seven members were elected to the Association's Board of Directors. Six of them are new members. These distinguished Brethren will serve until February 22, 2017.



Jarrod D. Adkisson  
*Past Grand Master*  
Arkansas



Tracy L. Bloom  
*Past Grand Master*  
Kansas



Charles H. "Chuck" Gilson  
*Past Grand Master*  
South Dakota



Ridgely H. Gilmour,  
re-elected  
*Past Grand Master, Utah*



Dale I. Goehrig  
*Past Grand Master*  
Florida



Simon R. LaPlace  
*Past Grand Master*  
Connecticut



Kenneth G. Nagel  
*Past Grand Master*  
California

## Thank You to the Royal Order of Scotland

The Memorial gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Sir James E. Winzenreid, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, USA, for sponsoring this issue of *LIGHT* and for his continuing support of the Memorial. The Royal Order of Scotland is an invitational Masonic Order that preserves and confers two beautiful degrees. To learn more, visit their website at <http://www.yorkrite.com/roos/>.



## MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA

### *We are Builders and Restorers*

by George D. Seghers

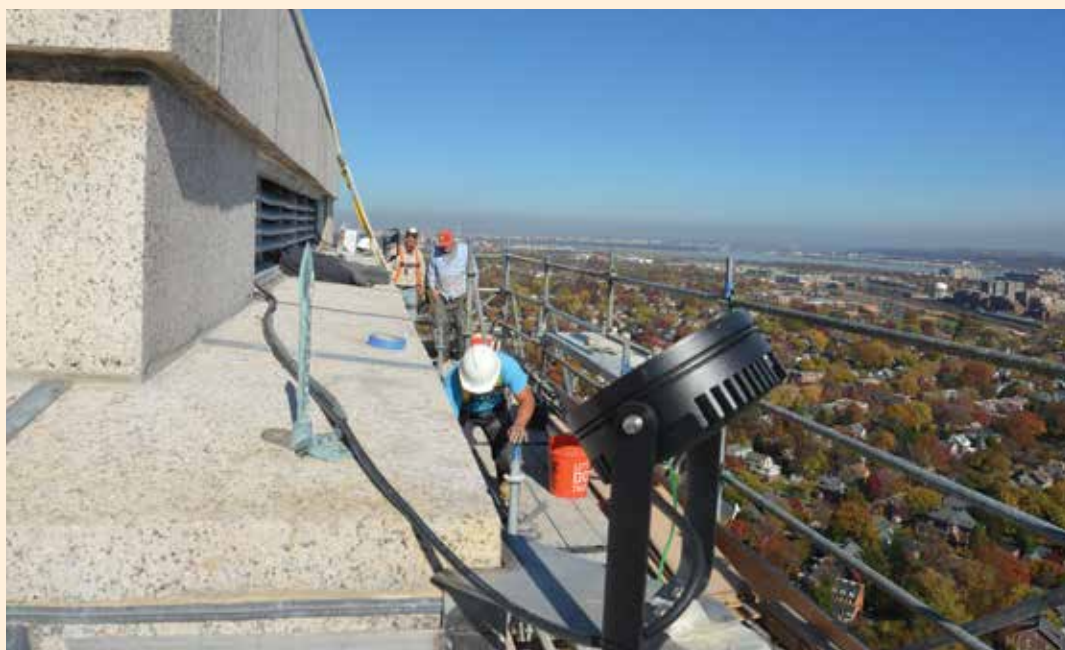


From the Observation Deck to the nine-stepped pyramid above it, the top of the Memorial has been encased in scaffolding for nearly four months. I can't help but think that this is the way the Memorial looked in the late 1920s and early 1930s when the workmen were doing their best to complete the Memorial prior to Washington's Bicentennial Birthday in 1932. The immense scale of the pyramid at the top of the Memorial is not fully evident until compared to the men doing the restoration work. Each granite block is taller than a man and on the lower tiers some twenty feet long. Setting these stones was a truly herculean task as was the construction of the entire Memorial.

Just as the Operative Stonemasons who built this magnificent Memorial are builders, placing stone on top of stone to reach ever higher and finally reach the pinnacle of the Memorial, Freemasons are builders, builders of character, enabling our members to strengthen and support their families and their communities and to rise to their highest potential. The Memorial was conceived and constructed as a physical representation of the admiration and respect that Freemasons hold for the man in whose honor and memory it was erected, our First President and surely our Foremost Freemason, Brother George Washington. Washington's life was a journey of not only self improvement, but also a journey of improving and uplifting the lives of the citizens of our newly formed country, the United

States of America. It is fitting and proper that our Masonic Forefathers created this magnificent Memorial. Now it is up to us to restore the Memorial to its original splendor and beauty. As the work of restoring this Temple goes on, it is a continuing reminder for me to work on my Temple, to keep in mind and adhere to the teachings of Freemasonry, to strive to improve myself daily and to live by the tenants of our Craft.

The restoration of this Memorial Temple to George Washington began with the commissioning of a complete assessment of the entire structure in 2009. The resulting report enlightened the Board of Directors, not only of the many years of delayed maintenance, but also of the fact that several aspects and procedures of the original plans were never completed to adequately and properly protect and indeed to complete the structure. Since 2009 the Board of Directors has authorized the expenditure of nearly 4 million dollars in repairs, restoration and upgrades to the Memorial. Some of the most expensive and intense restoration has been completed, but we have at least three more years of work, to not only restore the Memorial to its original grandeur, but also to fully complete it according to the original designs and plans. We have been truly blessed to have Memorial Association Officers and Board Members with the vision, the strength and the courage to undertake the immense task of restoring the Memorial and the grounds to their original splendor. We have also been blessed to have the support of the Freemasons of the United States and the Friends of the Memorial, without their support none of the work were are doing would be possible. Thank you for your continuing support and remember that this Memorial belongs to you. Please come and visit your Memorial.



*Workers on the scaffolding at the Memorial's Pyramid level installed a new LED-based lighting system, re-mortared all of the joints between the stones, and installed a weather-cap to preserve the new mortar. They also cleaned the surface of the granite, restoring it to its original appearance.*



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## Celebrate George Washington's 283<sup>rd</sup> Birthday at the Memorial in 2015

Each year, Freemasons, their friends and families gather at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial to honor the life of Brother Washington on the anniversary of his birth. The program for the 2015 celebration is as follows:

### *Saturday, February 21*

- *Called Communication Honoring Brother George Washington*, Alexandria-Washington Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 22, 7:30 p.m.

### *Sunday, February 22*

- *Wreath Laying at the Tomb of Brother Washington*, Alexandria-Washington Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 22 at Mount Vernon, 8:00 a.m.
- *George Washington Symposium* — North Lodge Room, 1:00 p.m. (see story below for details)
- *Reception* — Memorial Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- *Concert* — Memorial Theater, 7:00 p.m.
- *Banquet* — Grand Masonic Hall, 7:45 p.m.
- *Presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award* — Grand Masonic Hall, 9:00 p.m.

Tickets for the Sunday evening black-tie events are \$125, and may be purchased on our website, <http://gwmemorial.org>. Limited seating is available. For more information, contact Shawn Eyer, Director of Communications, via e-mail at [seyer@gwmemorial.org](mailto:seyer@gwmemorial.org).



## The 2015 George Washington Symposium: *Liberty's Alliance: Washington, Lafayette and Europeans' Support of American Independence*

Each year, leading scholars of the life and era of George Washington are invited to the Memorial to share their insights. The theme of next year's George Washington Symposium is "Liberty's Alliance: Washington, Lafayette and Europeans' Support of American Independence."

Three speakers are scheduled for the 2015 Symposium.

Stuart Leibiger is professor and chair of the History Department at La Salle University in Philadelphia. He received his B.A. from the University of Virginia and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His book, *Founding Friendship: George Washington, James Madison and the Creation of the American Republic*, was published by the University of Virginia Press in 1999. He has written numerous articles on the Founders for historical magazines and journals, and has been a historical consultant for television documentaries and museums. He has worked on the editorial staffs of the *Papers of George Washington* and the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. He will present "Washington and Lafayette: Father and Son of the Revolution."

Benjamin Huggins received his doctorate in History from George Mason University in 2008. He is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Editor at the Papers of George Washington project at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He has written several articles for the online *Journal of the American Revolution*. He will speak on "General George Washington and the French Commanders."

Julia Osman earned her doctorate in Early-Modern French History, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 2010. She is an Assistant Professor of History at Mississippi State University. She specializes in the seventeenth and eighteenth-century French army. Her presentation is titled "Soldiers of Liberty and Glory: European Officers in the Continental Army."

The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's Birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Mark A. Tabbert, the Memorial's Director of Collections, serves as the Symposium's Master of Ceremonies. Admission is free.

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# Securing the Men and Materials: President Louis Watres at Labor, 1918–1921

by Mark A. Tabbert

After the sudden death of Thomas Shryock in February 1918, the Memorial Association elected Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania Louis Watres as its new President. Although born in 1851, the same year as Shryock, Watres had the vision and energy of the new century. While Shryock had been Grand Master of Maryland for over thirty years and held nearly every state-level Masonic office, Watres had a broader knowledge of American industry. Watres possessed an acute skill to organize men, money and resources into great enterprises.

In the first year of his tenure, Watres transformed the Memorial Association. He suspended all fund-raising activities. He established a Ways and Means Committee to coordinate all Association information and resources. Next, he proposed dividing the nation into ten regions to communicate information and support within a region's grand jurisdictions. Added to the ten was an eleventh "flying squadron" of Past Grand Masters who would support the Memorial Association at any US Grand Lodge meeting.

Calling upon many affluent and influential brethren in the Craft, he established an Advisory Board. Chaired by John Wanamaker, it included the Vice President of the United States, Senators and Congressmen, an Army general and a Navy admiral.

Presiding at his first annual meeting in 1919, Watres' welcoming address included a review the Association's past accomplishments and the proposed reorganization. But he closed his remarks with eyes on the greater vision:

*"Were our Memorial to him [Washington] as enduring as the pyramids, it could not exceed the esteem in which we hold him in our hearts as one whose name has glorified our land for all time."*

The 1919 meeting was a great success, yet Grand Masters from several Grand Lodges had not attended. To remedy this – and to

affirm that the Memorial's mission spanned the whole nation – Watres went west. In August, he and most of the officers held a meeting in Denver. The several Grand Lodge representatives approved the distribution of brochures and booklets to lodges as the first step toward securing the minimum donation of \$1 per capita. Later that year, some 15,000 booklets were sent to every American lodge. Acting as "Chief of Staff" for this operation

was Past Grand Master of Iowa, George Schoonover.

As Watres transformed the Association, American society was also evolving. A new age began on November 11, 1918, with the armistice of First World War. In 1919, as civil wars and revolutions ravaged many nations in Europe and elsewhere, American steel workers and coal miners held national strikes. Chicago suffered major race riots, the U.S. Army invaded Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa, and Federal agents arrested thousands of alleged communists and anarchists as the "Red Scare" gripped America. Topping it off, on January 17, 1920, prohibition of alcohol became the law of the land.

American Freemasonry felt the impact of this new age. Between 1917 and 1920 membership increased by more than 500,000, or over 25%, and surpassed 2.4 million. While encouraging to the

Memorial's prospects, these young Freemasons presented a great challenge. The Association had to attract their support for the planned Memorial.

At its tenth annual meeting, the Association received progress reports from the several new coordinating and regional committees. While each reported successful recruitment and promotion, total contributions were just \$34,410. Watres reminded the brethren that \$123,955 was far shy of the \$500,000 required to break ground. He then focused on local issues. The Association revised its constitutions and created a five-man Board of Trustees, three of whom would be members of Alexandria-Washington Lodge





*Most Worshipful Brother George L. Schoonover (1880–1961), Grand Master of Iowa in 1918–1919, led the Memorial Association’s outreach to Masonic lodges.*

Nº 22, to hold the title to the land. It also established a committee to define Association membership.

Lastly, the Association approved a resolution to “secure tentative plans for the construction of a Memorial at a cost of not less than one million dollars.” The plans were to be submitted in 1921 and must be “in keeping with the character of and achievements of George Washington.” They were also to provide quarters for Alexandria-Washington Lodge Nº 22, a fireproof repository for the Washington relics, “suitable quarters for a great Masonic library,” an auditorium to seat 1,500 persons and administrative offices for the Association.

1920 brought more changes. American voters — including women for the first time — elected Warren G. Harding as President of the United States. An Ohio brother of Marion Lodge Nº 70, President-elect Harding promised the country “a return to normalcy.” The year also witnessed the first profits of Watres’ reorganization.

The Memorial Association’s 1921 meeting was almost singular in its accomplishments. It marked the moment when Callahan’s dream became reality. The Ways and Means committee presented, without cost, a tentative plan for the Memorial.

The meeting also sealed a formal trust between the Memorial Association and Alexandria-Washington Lodge Nº 22. Among the most notable of its fourteen points were: the Memorial would provide rooms for the Lodge free of charge, the Lodge would maintain a “replica lodge room” where its relics would be dis-

played “in perpetuity,” the Lodge would have the right to run a “souvenir stand,” and should the Lodge ever go dark or leave the Memorial, its artifacts would remain in the Memorial on display.

The Association next approved the purchase of an additional 22 acres on Shutters Hill. At a cost of \$8,500, all the land needed for the great Memorial was secured.

Next, newly-appointed Secretary-Treasurer Claude Keiper, a Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia, made his report. Total receipts between February 22, 1920, and February 16, 1921, equaled \$124,496.73 — an amount greater than all funds raised in the prior ten years combined. The five largest contributors were the Grand Lodges of Michigan (\$21,881), Illinois (\$21,600), Pennsylvania (\$20,519), Oklahoma (\$15,181), and Kentucky (\$14,825). Adjusted for inflation, today the total 1920 contributions would equal nearly \$1.5 million.

Finally, the Association agreed to overhaul its constitution and bylaws. It limited membership to U.S. Grand Lodges. It created a five-member Board of Trustees to administer the land and funds, and a nine-member Board of Directors to oversee the entire mission. Grand Lodge Members elected the Trustees, the Directors and the Association’s officers. Three of the five Trustees had to be Alexandria-Washington Lodge Nº 22 members, while only the President was a member of the Board of Directors. With the election completed, President Watres established the Executive Committee, comprising all the officers, to run non-construction activities, while the Ways and Means Committee focused on the Memorial’s construction.

### *A Transformed Association*

Three years after assuming office, Watres had all the working tools he needed. From top to bottom, as President, he led the Executive Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, the ten regional divisions, the state chairmen and Grand Lodge representatives who could reach over 14,000 lodges and 2.4 million Freemasons. The Association had an equitable agreement with Alexandria-Washington Lodge, more than enough land on which to build, and had more than doubled its assets within a single year.

At 3:10 p.m. — an hour after closing the 1921 annual meeting — Watres gaveled open the first Board of Directors meeting. Its first action was to elect the Executive Committee and authorize its members to consult the Schools of Architecture at Harvard, Penn, Cornell and New York University. Recommendations would be submitted to Watres no later than May 1, 1921.

Charles Callahan and Thomas Shryock had the wisdom to conceive a great memorial to George Washington. Louis Watres had provided the strength to support it. Now, at long last, the time had come to call the master builder.

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*Mark A. Tabbert is the Director of Library & Museum Collections of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.*





## Tree Program Revitalized with New Website

by Shawn Eyer

The Dedicatory Tree Program, established in 2003, is one of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial's most favored options for donors. By making a modest contribution, a donor may have a tree on the Memorial's grounds dedicated to an individual or organization. Each tree is marked with a granite stone indicating the honoree and the donor. And every tree is maintained in perpetuity. Our tree service prunes the trees periodically, and unhealthy trees are treated or replaced without additional cost to the donor.

Even before I came to work at the Memorial, I was aware of the tree program through the promotional efforts of Mrs. Kathy Nagel, wife of Most Worshipful Brother Kenneth G. Nagel, California's Grand Master in 2010 and current member of the Memorial Association's Board of Directors. Together, they successfully encouraged dozens of California lodges and brethren to sponsor trees, raising over \$50,000 and significantly raising awareness of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in the Golden State.

While highly effective as a way to promote awareness of the Memorial and its work, the tree program has many additional

benefits to note. For many years, Shutters Hill — the site of the Memorial — was relatively bare. But in the drawings that were prepared in the 1920s by the original architects of the Memorial, this majestic hill was depicted with a large number of trees. It was visualized as a verdant garden that would prepare the stage for the Memorial itself, framing its grandiose architecture within a natural setting of impressive beauty. Due to unexpected economic pressures such as the Great Depression and the Second World War, the portion of the landscape design dealing with vegetation was not acted upon during the original building era. Today, it is an opportunity for us to restore and fulfill the original vision of those great Freemasons who planned and designed our Memorial.

Another benefit is environmental. Trees are not only beautiful, but they produce oxygen. More than that, studies have shown that they are physically helpful because they remove pollutants from the air and psychologically therapeutic because their presence is stress-relieving. Masonically, we know that beauty must adorn anything truly great. Our tree program fulfills that for the Memorial's grounds, just as the architectural grandeur of the Memorial fulfills that for the temple itself.



## Rolling Up Our Sleeves

While the Dedicatory Tree Program has been successful “on the ground,” it needed more publicity. So, working with feedback from our donors from Executive Director George D. Seghers, I designed a plan for a website application that would make the tree program more interactive and better communicate its value.

The first step in the process was to take a comprehensive inventory of every tree already on the grounds, recording its GPS coordinates, and photographing it and the dedication stone associated with it. I began this work to determine workflow, and then enlisted the help of Ricky Gomez, one of our tour guides, and Amanda Murphy, a student worker (see page 9). Amanda’s help was particularly essential. She performed a comprehensive GPS survey of all 600 dedicatory trees on the Memorial’s grounds, photographing each tree and dedication stone.

Meanwhile, I was writing the computer program that would be the heart of the new tree website. While Amanda ran her collected data through quality assurance, I was finishing and debugging the application code. Finally, the data and the application were connected, and the new site was launched in August.

The new system *generates a unique web page* for every dedicatory tree. The page contains the dedication information, recent photos of every tree, a photo of the stone marker, a plain-text description of the tree’s location and a precise GPS-based map that pinpoints the tree on an aerial photo of the Memorial’s grounds. This allows anyone — the honoree, the donor, their loved ones and associates — to easily find the tree when visiting us. Also, social media share buttons allow instantaneous promotion of a specific tree through Facebook and Twitter feeds.

If you have already sponsored a dedicatory tree, please visit the website and look up your dedication. Share the link with your lodge and your loved ones. And let us know what you think of the new website.

If reading about this has inspired you to consider sponsoring a tree, we would welcome your participation in the program. Your generous contribution of \$750 will allow us to plant a tree and maintain it in perpetuity on the Memorial’s grounds. The donation is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law, and you will receive a certificate documenting your gift. Together, we can restore the Memorial to the inspired plan of its original architects.

We are very grateful to all who participate in this program that beautifies the Memorial’s grounds while it honors so many worthy individuals and groups. As you can see from the photograph at the top of page 7, our Dedicatory Tree Program represents a striking contribution to the profound visual impression of our Memorial to George Washington. As always, thank you for your support.

*Shawn Eyer is the Director of Communications of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.*



## The Garden Club of Virginia Sponsors Research Fellowship

Earlier this year, the Garden Club of Virginia awarded its 2014 William D. Rieley Fellowship to Mr. James Carroll, a Master of Landscape Architecture candidate at the City College of New York. James graduated from the State University of New York with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and holds a Certificate in Sustainable Landscape Design & Maintenance from the Queens Botanical Garden/LaGuardia Community College.

James spent nearly three months conducting the most extensive study that has ever been done on the landscape of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Director of Communications Shawn Eyer served as the Memorial Association's point of contact for the research. During his research, James visited the archives of the Olmstead Brothers architectural firm in Brookline, Massachusetts, and consulted nearly 1,500 pieces of project correspondence, dated 1921-1950, housed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He also made extensive use of the Memorial's own archives and files.

At the conclusion of his research, James gave a public presentation about his findings in the Memorial's conference room, with over forty in attendance. His research has greatly enhanced our understanding of the Memorial's landscaping and will inform future activity of the Dedicatory Tree Program.

## Student Workers Support Key Memorial Projects

During the summer months, two student workers joined us at the Memorial. Tyler Vanice (*top right*) is a senior at Daemen College in Amherst, New York, majoring in History. Working under Executive Director George D. Seghers, and Director of Collections Mark Tabbert, Tyler digitized the Grand Lodge of Connecticut's proceedings, inventoried the Masonic Service Association collection, accessioned new artifacts into the collection, accessioned many objects that have been in backlog into the collection, performed data entry to bring the collection's database up to date, completed an inventory of all objects in the Memorial's collection, and re-organized the Memorial's file room. This was Tyler's second summer working at the Memorial.

Amanda Murphy (*bottom right*), a Computer Science major at Canisius College, joined us for the summer as an Information Technology Assistant. Working under Director of Communications Shawn Eyer, Amanda assisted with improvements being made to the Dedicatory Tree Program (see pages 7 & 8).

The Memorial staff are grateful to these excellent summer workers for their work in support of our many projects.



*William D. Rieley, the landscape architect for the Garden Club of Virginia (left), 2014 Rieley Fellow James Carroll (center), and Mary Ann Johnson, Chairman of the GCV Research Fellowship Committee (right), visiting the Memorial's grounds for the final presentation of the summer's research, August 18, 2014.*

The Garden Club of Virginia's mission is to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage. The Memorial Association is grateful to the Garden Club of Virginia for sponsoring this valuable research.



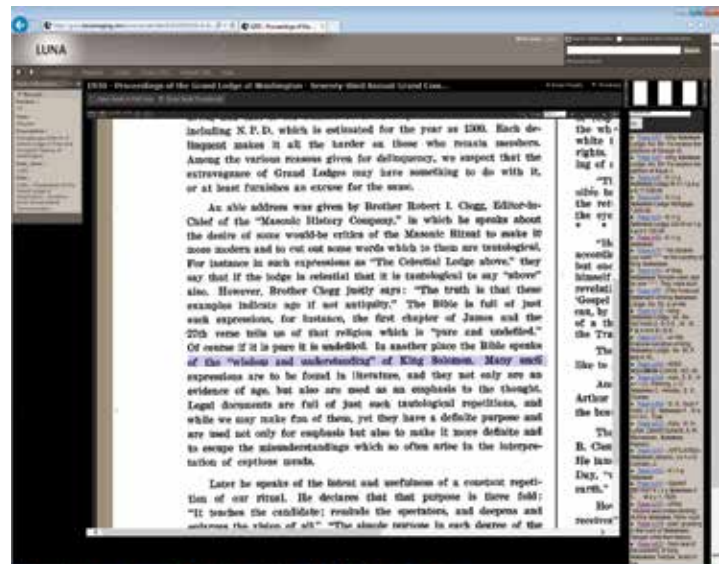
## Masonic Digital Archives Upgraded

For several years, our Masonic Digital Archives project has been growing, and recently a need to make improvements in the way the system works inspired a major upgrade to the software underlying the system. Shawn Eyer, our Director of Communications, reviewed available options and selected Luna Imaging as our new service provider. In 2013 and 2014, all collections were ported to the new system.

The new interface has several benefits. First, it is significantly faster in terms of page and object display. It also allows for a more natural, two-page “book view,” which makes online books much easier to peruse. It also includes a powerful and fast search feature, which highlights search results on each page (*top right*). Users may access the new system directly from our home page by selecting the Digital Archives link.

The concept behind the Masonic Digital Archives project is to make the facts and figures, reports and activities found in the proceedings of Masonic Grand Lodges and affiliated organizations available in a searchable database. Members, researchers, and educators will be able to search every page and word of our history back to 1733. As more information enters the system, the results will be all the more comprehensive.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is digitizing the proceedings of participating grand lodges to make them available online. Other media types, such as photographs, maps,



*A highlighted keyword search result screen in the Memorial's new and improved Masonic Digital Archives project.*

and ephemera, may be included as well to turn your unique historical collections into fully searchable online resources, available from any Web browser.

If you would like to join the Archives, please contact George Seghers, Executive Director at George Washington Masonic National Memorial. He can provide a price estimate and other details. To schedule a presentation on the Masonic Digital Archives, contact Mark Tabbert, our Director of Collections, at [mtabbert@gwmemorial.org](mailto:mtabbert@gwmemorial.org).

## Michigan Masons Host Second Annual Festive Board in Honor of George Washington

Michigan Masons held a festive board in honor of George Washington on September 13, 2014, in Doig Chapel on the Masonic Pathways Campus in Alma, Michigan. Proceeds from the event were dedicated to supporting the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

The Master of Ceremonies was Michigan Past Grand Master David R. Bedwell. The Memorial Association's Executive Director, George D. Seghers, was the featured speaker of the evening. "It's a fact that the important participation that Michigan's Masons have had in the creation and maintenance of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial has been essential to our origins," Brother Seghers said. "It is just as important to our work in the future."

Special thanks to the Grand Lodge of Michigan and its George Washington Masonic National Memorial Committee members: William Finkel (Senior Grand Warden), Norman Gidcumb, Eugene Abbaticchio, Lyman Robertson, and Marty Levine.



*George D. Seghers, Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, addresses the brethren at the festive board.*



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# Three Great Masonic Organizations: The Question of a Connection

by W. Kirk MacNulty

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association (GWMNMA), the Masonic Service Association (MSA), and the Conference of Grand Masters of North America (CGMNA) are three notable Masonic organizations founded early in the twentieth century. They were all established at around the same time, with some of the same individuals involved in all three organizations. While the GWMNMA, the MSA, and the CGMNA are and have always been considered separate organizations, could they originally have been connected in some way? This article explores their history in order to answer that question.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION. Freemasons from around the country gathered in Alexandria, Virginia, on February 22, 1910, to discuss plans for organizing an Association whose purpose would be to construct a memorial temple. Bro. Thomas J. Shryock, Grand Master of Maryland, was elected President of the new GWMNMA. Bro. Charles Callahan organized the first meeting of the GWMNMA in 1910, and the two of them, working together, made the building of the Memorial possible. The first step was the purchase of Shutters Hill in Alexandria, the property on which the Memorial was later built. Today, the GWMNMA continues to support the Memorial and guide its vital work.

THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF NORTH AMERICA. The Conference of Grand Masters held its first conference in Philadelphia in 1909. Generally, the purpose of the CGMNA is open. It enables Grand Masters to become acquainted with each other and to understand and to appreciate the sort of situations and complexities with which Grand Lodges deal, such as issues of recognition. At times they have indicated interest in Masonic education and leadership. It must be stressed that the Grand Masters do not vote in their conference, except for electing certain offices or to establish internal rules. Each Grand Lodge is sovereign in its own Jurisdiction, and the conference of Grand Masters does not undertake to change that. No proposal that limits or directs the activities of any Grand Jurisdiction is considered by the CGMNA.

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION. The Resolution for the Masonic Service Association's foundation came into being in 1918 at the Conference of Grand Masters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The *Proceedings* from this Conference are fascinating. They explain that, from the time of America's entry into the First World War, Masonic organizations in the United States desired to provide assistance to military personnel in Europe. Masons who had seen the European situation first hand made a strong case in favor of the need for organized assistance and relief. For various reasons — including General Pershing's unwillingness to deal with

large numbers of civilian organizations in general — the Federal Government decided that it could not deal with 49 separate Grand Lodges performing the same tasks with soldiers.

In light of the great need, and after significant debate and discussion, the Conference resolved to organize the MSA, for “the Service of Mankind through education, enlightenment, financial relief and Masonic visitation, particularly in times of disaster and distress.” The Conference established an Executive Commission of the Masonic Service Association to be chaired by Grand Master George Schoonover from Iowa, with six other members: R. Kenworthy, N.Y.; H. McPherson, Michigan; A. Wherry, Utah; C. Homer, Maryland; E. Gross, R.I.; and W. Stockwell, N.D. Although the original impetus for the MSA was to help servicemen overseas, it quickly took on other challenges: to provide relief after natural disasters and to provide Masonic education.

THE QUESTION OF A CONNECTION. Were these three organizations connected in some way? There is no obvious organizational interconnection. However, of the seven members of the MSA's Executive Commission listed above, four — Schoonover, Kenworthy, Homer and Stockwell — were Board Members of the GWMNMA. They were senior members of two organizations and influential in the founding of the third, as were five other members of the 1918 CGMNA: C. Clark, W. Farmer, G. Lusk, T. Scudder and L. Watres. In addition, examination of the minutes of MSA meetings indicated the presence of a number of others who were board members of the GWMNMA: W. Daniels, N.J.; M. Johnson, Mass.; A. Randell, Texas, and O.D. Street, Alabama. And in 1930, the MSA decided to meet one day either before or after the GWMNMA — presumably to accommodate the travel arrangements of those who were members of both organizations.

Between the 1930s and the 1980s, out of convenience and overlapping membership, all three organizations gathered each February in Washington, D.C., and convened in the auditorium George Washington Masonic National Memorial. These meetings inspired the Allied Masonic Degrees and other Masonic bodies to hold their annual meetings in Washington just prior to the “big three.” This created the so-called “Masonic Week.” In 1980, the CGMNA began regularly meeting in various Grand Lodges within the United States and Canada. The GWMNMA and the MSA followed suit and continue to do so.

In conclusion, while since the 1930s the GWMNMA, the CGMNA and the MSA have usually meet in the same place and on the same day each year, they each have separate and unique missions. While formed within a few years of each other, and often by the same men, they are separate Masonic organizations.





*The beautiful Charter Member Patent of the George Washington Memorial Society Membership reveals fine details: precision printing, hand-lettered calligraphy, and a traditional seal pressed in wax.*

## George Washington Memorial Society Membership

At the 2013 annual meeting of the Memorial Association, the Board of Directors voted to approve extending the opportunity to become a Charter Member of the George Washington Memorial Society. The Society comprises a select group of members dedicated to supporting the Memorial and its mission on an ongoing basis, providing key support to our programs and work.

Charter Members are those who donate \$1,000 or more to the Memorial with their original membership application, and \$250 or more per year thereafter. Charter Members receive a lapel pin and a distinctive Medal of the highest quality (*right*).

Members also receive a unique, hand-crafted 12 × 16-inch Patent (*shown above*) signifying their membership in the Society. This beautiful document was personally designed by our Director of Communications in conjunction with numerous artisans, including prominent Masonic artist Ryan J. Flynn of Nashua, New Hampshire. Each one is created using old-fashioned printing plates and a mechanical press. The name of each Charter Member is carefully inscribed by a calligrapher. Finally, the seal of the Memorial Association is then applied, making each Patent a classic document, suitable for framing.

The name of every Charter Member is also displayed on a permanent bronze plaque in the Memorial, and listed on our website. Members are specially invited to a private reception at the gala celebration of George Washington's Birthday at the Memorial each year. A list of the Charter Members to date may be found on page 14 of this edition of *LIGHT*.

Membership is for individuals only. Applications for membership are available on the Memorial's website, [gwmemorial.org](http://gwmemorial.org). For more information about the George Washington Memorial Society, contact the Memorial's Executive Director George D. Seghers at 703-683-2007 or [gseghers@gwmemorial.org](mailto:gseghers@gwmemorial.org).



## MEMORIAL GIFT SHOP FEATURED ITEMS



2015 Masonic Memorial Calendar

Featuring the Memorial and Crest.  
Gold on royal blue. 9¾×19½".  
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### Memorial Crest Cufflinks

These beautiful cufflinks featuring the Memorial's Crest are the perfect way to show your support. ¼" diameter with swivel-bar fasteners. \$45. (Nº 604)



George Washington Cufflinks

These beautiful cufflinks feature George Washington's distinctive profile encircled by a laurel wreath.  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter with swivel-bar fasteners. \$45. (N<sup>o</sup> 431)



### Universal Tartan Tie and Bowtie

The Freemason's Universal Tartan was commissioned by the Grand Lodge of Utah. Woven in Scotland, the tartan pattern represents the family of Freemasonry. Choose from 1) Pre-tied Bowtie (left, N<sup>o</sup> 673, \$48), 2) Necktie (center, N<sup>o</sup> 671, \$48), and 3) Traditional Bowtie (right, N<sup>o</sup> 672, \$48). More Universal Tartan items available online.



### Martha Washington Butterfly Pin

Featuring an exact replica of a painting that, according to Washington family tradition, was painted by Martha Washington. 2½" wide. \$20. (Nº 328)

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# Contributors

## Charter Members, The George Washington Memorial Society

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\*In Memory of \*\*In Honor of



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| St. John's Lodge N <sup>o</sup> 36  | VA | by Gene & Janet Crady and                   |       |
| Jacob A. Stoveland                  | ND | by Richard & Sally Mossman                  |       |
| Tharrell Tilgner                    | OR | Martha Washington Chapter N <sup>o</sup> 42 | VA    |
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| Sam L. Turner                       | VA | by Chester H. Clark                         |       |
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| William E. Williamson               | VA |   |       |
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| by Linda & Bill Bray                          |       | W. David Hanisch                       | CA       |
| Ann E. Clark*                                 | NJ    | W. Lee Long                            | NC       |
| by Chester H. Clark                           |       | H. Malvern Marks                       | TX       |
| Dorothea E. & David W. Clark**                | VA    | Stanley A. Raley                       | CA       |
| by Chester H. Clark                           |       | Loren E. Schrock                       | OR       |
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| by Linda Johnston                             |       | Masonic Ancients                       | PA       |
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| by Valerie Gladden                            |       | Anthony & Marilyn Wordlow              | CA       |
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| by Richard W. Aydelotte                       |       | Columbia-Keystone RAC N <sup>o</sup> 3 | PA       |
| Isabella Le*                                  | MD    | Jack Callahan                          | AL       |
| by the USPTO Family                           |       | Richard W. Sweet                       | AZ       |
| Lodge Prof. Asen Zlatarov N <sup>o</sup> 11** | Sofia | Warner B. Connolly                     | MI       |
| by Slavi Andreev                              |       | Ann & Chester Clark                    | NJ       |
| James F. McCallion**                          | CA    | George J. Koca                         | IL       |
| by Megan McCallion                            |       | Tuoc Kim Pham                          | CA       |
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| by Monumental Cmdry N <sup>o</sup> 3          |       | Wm. R. Singleton-Hope-Lebanon          | DC       |
| Richard T. Nation & First Lady                | KY    | Lodge N <sup>o</sup> 7                 |          |
| Karen Nation**                                |       | Thomas W. Jackson                      | PA       |
| by Gene & Janet Crady and                     |       | Grand Lodge of Bulgaria                | Bulgaria |
| by Richard & Sally Mossman                    |       | AASR Valley of Eugene, Oregon          | OR       |
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### Patrons

- ☐ \$5,000
- ☐ \$10,000
- ☐ \$25,000
- ☐ \$50,000
- ☐ \$100,000

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

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- ☐ Other amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_
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*The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law. All Memberships are gratefully acknowledged, published in the newsletter and permanently displayed in the Memorial.*

Mail to GWMNMA, 101 Callahan Drive,  
Alexandria, VA 22301-2751 or fax to 703-519-9270

## The Society of Washington Lodges

The Society of Washington Lodges has been established for regular Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodges of the United States who are committed to supporting the Memorial and who make a one-time donation of \$2,500.00. The Member Lodges of the Society will be listed on the Memorial's website and on a plaque outside the Replica Lodge Room at the Memorial. Each member lodge will also receive a beautiful canvas print of our Centennial Portrait of George Washington.

Are you interested in joining them? Applications are available on the Memorial's website, [gwmemorial.org](http://gwmemorial.org). For more information about the Society of Washington Lodges, contact the Memorial's Executive Director George D. Seghers at 703-683-2007 or [gseghers@gwmemorial.org](mailto:gseghers@gwmemorial.org).

# LIGHT

of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

101 Callahan Drive • Alexandria, Virginia 22301-2751

703-683-2007 • [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org)



## OUR COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENTS

### Celebrate Our Heritage for the Holidays

Each year, The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association creates a special holiday ornament featuring on the themes of George Washington, the Memorial, and the American Masonic experience.

Our 2014 Commemorative Holiday Ornament: *Erected in Strength and Beauty (right)*. In the 1920s, the local Memorial Committee of Alexandria emphasized the relationship of the Memorial's design to classical idealism: *"The Memorial to Washington, in its colossal form would typify the power and strength of Masonry. The graceful outlying and proportions would symbolize the beautiful tenets of the institution and would express the unfeigned loyalty and devotion of the American Mason to the ideals of Washington."*

(Item No 825, \$25).



Ornaments from prior years are also available to complete your collection. For example, our ornament of *The Three Great Lights in Masonry* (left), depicting the Holy Bible which guides our faith, the Square by which we prove our actions, and the Compasses which teach us to circumscribe our behavior. The Letter G and the Pillars of the Temple remind us always of the lessons of the Craft. (Item No 2012, \$25).

Each of these finely-crafted holiday ornaments is finished in 24-karat gold. To order these or other items, call 703-549-9234, visit our website at <http://gwmemorial.org/shopping/>, or use the convenient order form on page 13.

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*Elected February 22, 2013*

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Robert P. Conley, *Second Vice President*  
J. F. "Jeff" Webb, *Third Vice President*  
George D. Seghers, \* *Executive Director*

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