

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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LOOK TO THE EAST

Virginia IS for Lovers

Several summers ago, my OOLW (One and Only Loving Wife) and I took a trip to Virginia to wrap ourselves up in a part of the country we hadn't spent much time in, and to see if it is true what they say in their state motto, "Virginia is for Lovers". We can both attest to their claim – Virginia is truly for lovers of many things. Whether you are a lover of American history, wine tasting, scenery, great food, patriotism – you will find plenty to love in this beautiful state.

We stayed in several communities during our trip, from the Blue Ridge Mountains, to Colonial Williamsburg, and eventually ended up in Alexandria. Along the way we toured wineries, visited Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, visited the Norfolk Naval station, and stretched our legs on the streets of historic Alexandria and Williamsburg as well. Being new to our Craft, I kept my eyes peeled for Masonic Lodges or clues to Masonic secrets; I did find an active Lodge in Colonial Williamsburg and saw a couple of other Lodge buildings on our drive, but the one destination I had was the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA. For all that we did and saw, this was the highlight of my Masonic quest that trip.

You see the edifice from miles away. The Memorial stands on a hilltop at the west-end of Alexandria. Getting to it is really tricky, but once you get there you can truly say "I have arrived" for many reasons. The towering structure looks a lot like a cemetery memorial from the outside, not terribly inviting, but enticing you to see what it is all about. The 20 foot (+/-) brass doors open with a touch of your finger, without aid of mechanical power. The spaces within the Memorial are truly grand, the finish materials of the floors, walls, ceilings and columns are splendid and the artwork throughout the place

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FROM THE WEST

WHAT'S WITH THOSE SAINTS JOHN?

The holy Saints John are renowned as being the patron saints of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry, and, as such, every lodge is dedicated to Saint John. In Minnesota, lodges are dedicated to only one of the two Saints John. The specific Saint John each lodge is dedicated to is determined by the proximity of its charter date to the two Saint John Days. Whichever feast of Saint John is closest to the lodge's charter date is the one that lodge is dedicated to.

The feast of Saint John the Evangelist, also known as John the Apostle, occurs on December 27th, and the feast of Saint John the Baptist occurs on June 24th. Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5, having been chartered on January 3rd (I happen to be writing this on our lodge's Charterversary), is, thereby, dedicated to Saint John the Evangelist.

In the lecture of the First Degree, it is explained how the two Saints John came to be the patron saints of Freemasonry. With our spring degrees starting up again next month, each of you will have a fresh opportunity to come down and hear this lecture once again. Perhaps this time you will learn something new about the Saints John and their place as the patron saints of Masonry.

Keith Reiersen
Senior Warden



Due (s) Notice

Did your due's notice get shifted to the bottom of the pile?

If you have yet to send them in please take a moment now and write your check to the lodge for \$49.00

If you are in need of relief, do not be afraid to ask.



FROM THE SOUTH

OUR USUAL AVOCATIONS

In case most of you haven't noticed, I haven't won many Pulitzer Prizes lately for my writing skills. That's not to say that I can't write, or don't enjoy writing, but typically the kind of writing I do involves arcane legal matters or making a "to-do" list of some sort. Not exactly riveting stuff but the type of life I lead invariably dictates the kind of writing I do. While specialization isn't necessarily a bad thing, when we specialize, we tend to neglect other areas. And after four years of law school and a busy family life, that's certainly been the case with my writing. So when I began thinking about what to say in this first article of mine, I was a bit uncomfortable at having to organize my thoughts in a much different way from that I've been used to. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that writing this article would force me to become a better communicator, and hence a better man. And this is, after all, exactly what Masonry is supposed to do.

When a new Brother is initiated, he hears the same thing over and over again: you'll get out of Masonry what you put into it. I heard the same thing when I was initiated, and at the time I didn't give it much thought because it seemed like such a common thing to tell someone. Of course I'll get out of something what I put into it.

But over the years, this principle has surprised me. Not too long after I joined the Lodge, I became active in learning the ritual. I have a decent enough memory and it was something I could do right away to become active in the lodge. But there was another aspect that I hadn't counted on. To anyone who's ever given a lecture, it's fairly obvious that memorization isn't the only part of doing the ritual; and to anyone who's ever sat through a lecture, it's fairly obvious that memorization

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NEXT STATED MEETING

Thursday February 17th

Dinner 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.
Lodge Educational

Officer

During 2011 it is hoped that two purposes may be met by this column. One, that all of our members may be encouraged to seek further light in Masonry, and as individual brothers, deepen our personal search for light. Several of our brothers have already volunteered to develop papers and to develop a history of our Lodge for the past 157 years. I will be writing on these projects in future columns. If you have a paper or items of interest, please contact me so that it may be included in this column or presented to our Lodge. Secondly, it will highlight the articles that we have in the Lodge that are of historical interest. This month our interest is focused on our membership book. Each of us signed it when we joined the Lodge, either by taking the degrees or by affiliating with the Lodge. It was last bound approximately 60 years ago and has served us for over 100 years. As one can imagine, age has taken its toll, and our secretary, Bro. Doug Kuchera, has replaced it with one that can serve us for many years in the future. He is writing the balance of this column to describe the new membership book and its contents.

Treasures within Our Lodge

Doug Kuchera

I would love to say this was my brilliant idea, to both write this and the subject matter I am sharing, but was not. WB Barnes loved what he saw and knew he

wanted to share it. WB Bruce Sherman and I were chatting about Secretary projects he would like to get done before the reins were turned over to me well over a year ago, and that is where this really all began.



AL 5 Seal From The Membership Book

The restoration of our Lodge's registry and early bylaws became priority for me to complete. I really didn't know where to begin, and it was always in the back of my mind.

Mid-June of this year, I was contacted by a fellow Brother who just happens to do restorations of fine and antique books, and that is where this project came to

L.E.O. continued on page 4

Ancient Landmark #5 Installation of Officers - 2011



Front Row; Junior Warden Joe Amos, Master Drew Bjorklund, Senior Warden Keith Reierson
Second Row; Junior Deacon Jeremy Nienow, L.E.O. WB Barnes Sharitt, Treasurer WB Alan Peterson, Marshal WB Allan Floyd, Senior Deacon Danny Baker, Secretary Doug Kuchera.
Back Row; Chaplin John Watson, Senior Steward Terry Mallberg, Junior Steward Johnnie Timm, Tyler Mickey Cupkie



Newly installed as Master, Drew getting his hat from WB Loren Davis.



Margaret Miller, wife of our newest Past Master Allan Floyd, receiving a bouquet of flowers from WM Drew Bjorklund.

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life. We met, and I shared with him the book and what my expectations were. His passion for the work is best left to his own hand as I quote:

“I was asked to re-bind an antique book of Lodge By-Laws. The earliest dates in this record are in the 1800’s, and,

as such, I was given the grave responsibility of working on this item with the most serious attitude. I didn’t want to fail to impress as well as create a worthy capsule for these important documents.



The book prior to restoration

“I started by un-binding the worn and shabby quarter-bound covers and cutting out threads from the stitching. The last binder to have this book worked on it in the 1940’s. He used binders cloth tape to reinforce all the joints in the most worn areas of the text block, and I chose to leave that work and simply fix paper where necessary. I then re-stitched the binding with linen thread on cords. I used the cords and added a mesh mull to create a strong set of hinges, added head and foot bands, and place marker black ribbon.



The newly restored book

“I choose a black goat for the cover but added spine bands over a hollow spine prior to gluing it on. I then worked gold ruled designs on the covers along with Masonic motifs, hand stamps in the corners, and finally gold on the spine bands. I pared a piece of scarlet goat paper-thin for the title plate.

For the center seal I was originally going to etch a plate and stamp a gold design on the covers. I then decided to etch a disc, enamel it with black, polish off

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There are 5-6 inches of fresh snow on ground as I write this in the final dark days of December and St John’s Day is upon each of us. I wonder about my own quest for light. Maybe that light I am actually searching for is a vacation to some warm beach, or, better yet, becoming a snowbird with a winter address in some tropical climate .That somehow appeals to my inner self. Yet something else was troubling and confusing me beyond my reasoning. I took this question to a fellow Brother, and with it came good counsel but some searching to find my answer. The answer you see was plainly there; understanding it took a bit of Masonic insight.

Metaphorically speaking, the “Temple” is complete. Yes we are done. When the roll is called at our January meeting and our Lodge of Sorrows closed, so will be the completion of the “Temple” or the year. The Master’s work is finished, and his building is square and true. Its foundation was strong, and his instruction to the workmen was good and well heeded. As I look at the “Temple’s” rubbish, I see little. It was a great project, and now each of us must and should stand back, and proudly admire the beauty of the work we have all done, knowing as builders we must and will move on. As we open the Lodge of Sorrows for 2011, we also begin the construction of a new “Temple” or year, with a new Master. He will set a new cornerstone--North, then East, and true, using the knowledge of the past to begin and guide its construction. The Master’s trestle board of instruction will be quite different, without question. What will the Building look like? How will it be completed? Will it be heavy with adornments or simplistic in its construction? Will it be a strong and true? Our new Master has a plan, and he will unveil it as the work starts, giving us each good and wholesome instruction as we start to help build the “Temple” for our new year.

As Secretary I am also metaphorically wandering around and doing the last inspection, double checking the details, checking the finish work, sweeping out the dust and probably putting out the candles of the completed Temple. I also find myself preparing the new site, arranging the tools, getting ready to call the roll of workmen--in short preparing for the future. Yes, it is all about time.

Doug Kuchera
Secretary

is breath-taking. I would dare say, rulers of ancient Rome would have been impressed with this facility.

Claire and I toured the entire facility, from the basement Lodge rooms all the way to the very top and the several floors in between. Roughly, each floor represents a different Masonic appendant body, with displays of their regalia, art of their craft, charitable activities, and history of their work in Masonry. What became the most defining moment in this experience for me was going into an understated room off the gift shop area, a room set up as a Lodge room. In this space is the furniture of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge, the Lodge that our Brother and former President, George Washington, belonged to. The Master's chair was the one that he sat in as he presided over his Lodge. The chair is as understated as the room is, but to know that Brother George, that PRESIDENT GEORGE Washington sat in that chair was a true Masonic awakening for me. Up until that moment, George Washington has been an historic feature in my life, a person whom I have always regarded as a great leader and patriot. But that summer day in 2006 brought me closer to the person that George Washington was – a true Mason and my Brother.

This month is the month that we as Masons are to pay particular tribute to George Washington. I would urge each member of the Lodge to do a little research on our Brother and bring that knowledge to our stated meeting for discussion at dinner and at Lodge, if time permits.

Fraternally yours,
Drew Bjorklund



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isn't even the most important part. You also have to deliver it. And now it's time to disclose a little secret: I've always had a hard time speaking in front of people. It is way outside my comfort zone.

So when I began learning the ritual, I also had to learn how to deliver it. And this has taken an unbelievable amount of work. I've had to devise certain strategies and set aside time. I have to organize the words, sentences and paragraphs certain ways. I sometimes have to trick myself into doing or saying certain things. I have to practice, practice and practice some more. And most importantly, I actually have to stand up in front of a room of people and give the lecture.

The best result from all of this hasn't been that I can give a better lecture, but has instead been that I am a better person. After a while I began noticing that I was more comfortable speaking in a courtroom in front of other people. I could use the same techniques in learning the ritual to learn other things. I learned that I could push myself out of my comfort zone and be okay.

And here I am again, getting out of my comfort zone by writing this article. Even if I don't win any Pulitzers, I'll still get the benefit of having done it. You don't have to learn ritual or write articles to get the benefits of Masonry, but you do have to do something. And so I encourage my brothers to get involved. You'll be pleasantly surprised you did.

Joe Amos
Junior Warden



the surface enamel, and attach that as an added level of opulence. The fact that the disc is ever so slightly pitted in just a few areas gives it an antiqued appearance.

"The slip case is utilitarian, but I wanted to make something beautiful as well. I lined it with velvet, made a channel for the seal to pass through, and added a pull ribbon. The exterior design was made in "Photoshop" and sealed for durability. The measurements on the case were perfect and thus provide a firm but not hard tug as one uses the ribbon to release the book with an easy sliding motion."

The work and passion of the Brother quoted above has left us with a true preservation for our lodge for another 100 years. Yes, each of you has touched this book somewhere along the line, in that you signed your name to become a member of Ancient Landmark and part of its great history.

LODGE of SORROW 2011



And we shall become immortal by our deeds which will live on after us.

Name

Birth

Initiated

Passed

Raised

Celestial Lodge



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