

Fall 1999.

Mount Vernon and Masonic Fraternity to Commemorate the Death of Washington



On December 14, 1799, this nation and indeed the world lost the man who was more instrumental in forming and shaping the direction and destiny of our young democracy than any other person. At 10:20 p.m., George Washington breathed his last breath and left this world with the same dignity, courage and strength of character that had exemplified his life.

To commemorate this historic event George Washington's Mount Vernon in partnership with the Masonic Fraternity and other organizations will hold a re-enactment of George Washington's Funeral on December 18, 1999, exactly 200 years after the actual event. Mount Vernon will open at 9:00 a.m.. Visitors will have the opportunity to file through the large dining room of the mansion, and silently note the replica coffin that will be laid out in this room. The lead-lined, mahogany coffin is being specially reproduced for this event. There will be a Musical Prelude at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Eulogy on the Bowling Green at 11:00a.m. AT 11:30 a.m. the funeral will procession will proceed to the old family tomb. The procession will include reenactors in imitation of those that attended Washington's funeral, including military, clergy, Freemasons, family members and guests. The members of Alexandria-Washington Lodge will conduct the Masonic funeral service just as they did 200 years ago.

This event culminates a year-long program by Mount Vernon commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of our First President and Foremost Freemason.



DeMolay Holds Honors Investiture Ceremonies



On August 29, 1999 at The George Washington Masonic Memorial, The Legion of Honor, The Degree of Chevalier and The Cross of Honor were conferred. These honors were awarded by unanimous vote of the International Supreme Council, DeMolay International at the annual session held in Kansas City, Missouri.

and Brother Royce A. Watson.

The Legion of Honor is for outstanding leadership and meritorious service on behalf of DeMolay. Recipients were Most Woshipful George H. Chapin, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Brother Stephen L. Brundage, Brother Lauris M. Eek

The Degree of Chevalier is the highest honor that an active DeMolay can receive. Recipients were Jonathon E. Brazil, Robert F. Feldman, III and Scott D. Solomon.

The Cross of Honor is awarded to a member of a DeMolay Advisory Council or Personal Representative of the jurisdictional Executive Officer for meritorious service. The recipient was Worshipful Brother Ronald E. Heald, Northern Region Deputy, Virginia State DeMolay.



York Rite Sovereign College Installs Exhibit



The York Rite Sovereign College of North America installed an exhibit in the south hallway on the first floor of the Memorial. The exhibit presents the aims and purposes of the College and explains the charities of York Rite Masonry. The exhibit also gives a concise history of the York Legend, 926 A.D., the Premier Grand Lodge, 1717 A.D. and the York Rite today. It also presents the honors and awards conferred by the College. This well designed and constructed exhibit is a great addition to the Memorial and we look forward to many years of cooperation with the York Rite Sovereign College.



From The President

You And The George Washington Masonic Memorial



The beautiful George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, belongs to each one of us as a Master Mason. Masons and Masonic organizations from across this great country of ours formed the association, and by voluntary contributions through the years built this beautiful Memorial and have continued to give of their time, efforts and finances to maintain and make it better.

We have just passed a milestone in the history of our magnificent building and association on June 26th when we commemorated the 200th anniversary of Brother George Washington's death and dedicated the beautiful Masonic Emblem on the grounds of the Memorial. One of our primary functions as Masons is to build character and be a prime mover in improving the avenue of public relations to those outside the fraternity as well as those within. We must continue to shine as the ray of light for our Masonic Fraternity by what we say and do.

The cost of maintaining a building which speaks so well for our beloved Fraternity of Freemasonry is great. As a builder, we know that every building requires a good foundation and our Memorial Association has a good foundation. But it takes the efforts of all of us to keep the future of the Memorial alive, so the foundation will not crumble.

Nothing great is ever accomplished without proper planning. Let us each plan now to make sure our George Washington Masonic Memorial is something future generations will be proud of. Our planned giving program is something which is very important to our future. We are asking that you may think of us and consider the future of the Memorial when you are reviewing your will and estate planning. It is a great way to continue to spread the light of Freemasonry and to all work together in the coming millennium for The George Washington Masonic Memorial. Thank you and may God bless you and yours.

Fraternally Yours,

Edgar N. Pepler, PGM

President GWMMA



From the Executive Secretary-Treasurer

On June 26, 1999 The George Washington Masonic Memorial commemorated the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington. The focal point of the event was the dedication of the Square and Compasses on the grounds of the Memorial. The success of the event was due mainly to the support and participation of the Grand Lodges and Appendant Bodies. Plans are now proceeding to erect a black marble marker at the foot of the Square and Compasses recognizing those Grand Lodges, Lodges, Appendant Bodies and individuals who contributed to the event. The cost of the Commemoration Day activities was \$499,434.00 The Memorial has received contributions totaling \$85,358.31 from the following Grand Lodges and Appendant Bodies: Grand Lodge of Arizona, Grand Lodge of Colorado, Grand Lodge of Delaware, Grand Lodge of Idaho, Grand Lodge of Illinois,, Grand Lodge of Indiana, Grand Lodge of Kansas, Grand Lodge of Kentucky, Grand Lodge of Maine, Grand Lodge of Maryland, Grand Lodge of Minnesota, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Grand Lodge of Ohio, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Grand Lodge of Virginia. Supreme Council AASR -NMJ, Supreme Council AASR - SJ, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and Supreme Council, M.O.V.P.E.R. The total received for the event from fund raising and contributions to date is \$203,110.00.



The Memorial is accepting donations for the event until December 31, 1999 and all significant donations received by the end of year will be recognized. We had hoped to receive \$5,000.00 from each Grand Lodges and Appendant Bodies. Some exceeded this goal and some did not. This great Memorial to George Washington the Mason was constructed and is maintained by the generous support of all the Grand Lodges and indeed all branches of the Masonic Fraternity. It would be wonderful to have every Grand Lodge and Appendant Body carved on the marble marker to publicly show their support for the commemoration event and for the Memorial.

Capstone Productions, Inc. produced a television documentary of the event titled "200 Years of George Washington's Masonic Heritage." Appearances of "General George Washington" as portrayed by 'William A. Sommerfield were recorded to allow the "General" to observe and reflect on the commemoration and Freemasonry. The video will be available this fall. To order a copy contact the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association at 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia, 22301, 703-683-2007, and at www.gwmemorial.org.



Knights Templar Place Ceramic Loving Cup in Chapel

On June 11, 1999 Right Eminent Honorary Past Department Commander Charles A. Garnes. presented a 101 year old Ceramic Loving Cup for display in the Knights Templar Chapel in the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The Loving Cup was made for and presented to the Grand Encampment at the 27th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, which was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in October of 1898.



Right Eminent Honorary Past Department Commander Charles A. Garnes, George D. Seghers, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, GWMM and Right Eminent Robert V. Hines, Chairman of the Knights Templar Chapel.



Pennsylvania Lodge Visits The Memorial



Humboldt Lodge No. 359, Free and Accepted Masons, visited the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Saturday, June 5, 1999. Humboldt Lodge is a German speaking Lodge working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Lodge presented a generous donation to the George Washington Masonic Memorial following the Lodge meeting held in the Alexandria-Washington Lodge Room.

The Officers of Humboldt Lodge No. 359, Free and Accepted Masons, Hatboro, Pennsylvania in Memorial Hall.



The North Lodge Room



On viewing this stately room for the first time, many visitors are seized with a sense of reverence and awe; they seem particularly impressed with the architectural dignity, reminiscent of a Cathedral of the Middle Ages.

The room follows the ecclesiastical Gothic style of architecture, and represents a departure from the rest of the building. The exposed dark oak beams of its arched ceiling extend a part of their length downward at the sides giving an impression of great physical strength and spiritual security. The eight 6' high lights suspended from the ceiling are wrought in copper after the Norman manner and, complimented by smaller ones of the same description about the walls, add to the grandeur of the room.

Supplementing the seating on the main floor is a balcony on three sides with an alcove in the rear section containing an organ. There is a stage of ample proportions viewed through a proscenium arch heavily draped in rich velour. The stage completes the appointments of a room notable not only for its exciting beauty, but recognizable as one possessing utilitarian

properties as well.

The room accommodates Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 which was issued a charter by the Grand Lodge of Virginia December 13, 1854. The Lodge rented meeting space in several local buildings, including Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, until shortly after the Civil War when the Lodge erected a new building on South Fairfax Street. The following is a quote from *Brockett's History*.

"One act of this lodge illustrates that principle of brotherly love which ought to actuate the brethren of the 'mystic tie,' and here is recorded."

"On the night of the 17th of May 1871, the hall and rooms of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 were destroyed by fire. At an early hour on the following morning, Frank A. Reed, Esq., the Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 120, called upon the Master of No. 22 and offered the use of his lodge building in which to hold the meetings of No. 22. This prompt and considerate action of Worshipful Master Reed was ratified at the first meeting of his lodge, and until the completion of the Temple in 1874, which had been erected by No. 22, the lodge regularly assembled in the Hall of Andrew Jackson Lodge."

The same generosity and consideration are very much in evidence in Andrew Jackson Lodge today. Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120 held it's first meeting in the North Lodge Room of the Memorial December 15, 1949 with George F. Everly, Master; H.W. Sigafoes, Senior Warden and William E. Thomas, Junior Warden. The Lodge meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Also meeting in the North Lodge Room are: Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 14, Royal Arch Masons; Old Dominion Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar; Martha Washington Chapter No. 42, Order of the Eastern Star; Alexandria Court No. 7, Order of the Amaranth; Temple Forest No. 136, Tall Cedars of Lebanon; Bethel No. 22, International Order of Jobs Daughters; A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research No. 1949; and Alexandria-Washington Chapter, DeMolay International.



The George Washington Penknife



George Washington's half-brother Lawrence, enrolled in the British regular army for an expedition against the Spanish West Indies stronghold of Cartagena. Most of his time was spent aboard Admiral Vernon's Flagship, where he experienced the better side of life at sea, and could think of no finer career for his young brother than the Royal Navy. Lawrence was fourteen years older than George, who was fifteen at the time, and had become a substitute father. Although George was not averse to the prospect of a naval career, both he and Lawrence realized that it was dependent on the will and judgment of his mother, Mary Ball Washington.

Through the influence of Lawrence, George did obtain a commission as midshipman in the English Navy, and all preparations had been made for his departure. However, his Mother's arguments against a mariner's life were firm and decisive. She would not approve of a naval career for her young son. In obedience to his Mother's wishes, George surrendered his commission and returned to his studies.

Among the items of his Mother's next order to England for annual supplies was one for a good penknife. She presented this to George with the injunction, "Always obey your superiors." He carried this token with him throughout his life. This precious relic was presented to Alexandria-Washington Lodge in 1812 by George Steptoe Washington, a nephew of the General, and one of the executors of his will. This historic item is on display in the Replica Lodge Room of the Memorial. A replica of this Penknife is available through the Gift Shop at The George Washington Masonic Memorial.

**Alexandria-Washington Lodge gift shop.
Call 703-549-9234**

J.P. Riddell, Curator

Replica Lodge Room



New Memorial Memberships

21st Century Members

David and Frances Hanisch CA

Donal N. Ziemer CA

In Honor of Richard R. Schanda NH

By Rising Star Lodge No. 47

In Memory of Robert M. McClellan MI

By Morning Star Lodge No. 556

New Life Members

Herman R. Winkler NY

Robert H. Everest CT

J. Robert Stockner IL

Dean DeRose PA