

Winter 1999.

World's Largest Masonic Emblem Completed On Memorial Grounds



The world's largest Masonic Emblem has been constructed in front of The George Washington Masonic Memorial. The emblem is 60 feet wide and 70 feet long, rests at a 33-degree angle, and is visible from the streets of Alexandria and from the air. The Emblem clearly identifies The Memorial as a Masonic Building. A dedication plaque will be mounted at the base of the Emblem with lists of individuals who contributed \$1,000 or more and Grand Lodges that contributed significantly to its construction. Construction has been completed and landscaping is in progress around the Emblem and the entire Memorial grounds in preparation for Commemoration Day, June 26, 1999.

The Emblem will be dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Virginia as the focal point of the activities planned to honor the memory of George Washington on the 200th anniversary of his death. Following the dedication ceremonies a concert by the US Army Band will be held on the grounds of the Memorial. A picnic-style dinner will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. The day will conclude with a fireworks display in front of the Memorial. Please join us for this historic event.



From The President:

A Day In History



The George Washington Masonic Memorial is the "Pride of All Freemasons." Many important dates have been observed at the Memorial in Alexandria. In 1923, the cornerstone was laid, and in 1932, this beautiful edifice was dedicated with great ceremony. Another important historical date is on the horizon: June 26, 1999. That is when the largest Masonic Emblem in the world will be dedicated on the front terrace of the Memorial. This project has had the vocal support of the Grand Lodges since they asked us to formulate a commemoration of the anniversary of Brother George Washington's death. Now we want to involve every one of you in making this commemoration great and meaningful.

As Most Worshipful Brother Kent Gould, Grand Master of Masons in Colorado, said at our Association's annual meeting, "I think it is about time we let the world know that George Washington was a Master Mason and that The George Washington Masonic Memorial is a Masonic building by having a Masonic Emblem there." He added, "We should also look at this as an opportunity to promote Freemasonry. With the Masonic Emblem on the grounds of the Memorial that can be seen when flying into Ronald Reagan National Airport, one will begin to ask questions about the Masonic Fraternity and about George Washington and his association with Freemasonry."

The Masonic Emblem is now complete. This Memorial belongs to the 51 Masonic jurisdictions within the United States and Puerto Rico and we want every one to be a part of the erecting of this Masonic Emblem and of this historic day. We do need funds to finance this great undertaking. Some Grand Lodges already have made their commitments. However, if your Grand Lodge has not, please take any opportunity and use the influence you may have to be a part of this day in the history of our Masonic Fraternity. The estimated costs for the Emblem and Commemoration Day are: Construction, \$150,000; landscaping, \$75,000; transportation, \$10,000; Mt. Vernon Program, \$5,000; fireworks, \$5,000, and printing, \$5,000.

By now you have received information on the activities for the day and we trust you are making plans to be a part of this commemoration. We cannot totally support this event by using funds of the Memorial Association. We ask that you do your part, either by making a financial commitment, and/or by appealing to the Lodges and Brethren in your jurisdiction to contribute toward making this 200th Anniversary Commemoration of the death of our most famous member, Brother George Washington, one that will be remembered for generations to come.

Fraternally Yours,
Edgar N. Pepler, PGM



A Dedicated Brother and Friend, Retires

From the Executive Secretary-Treasurer

By George D. Seghers

Donald M. Robey, PGM, Virginia, retired January 1, 1999 after serving the Memorial Association for ten years.

George D. Seghers, PM, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No.22 is the new Executive Secretary -Treasurer, and JoAnn Guthrie has been promoted to Executive Administrator. They will share the duties of the operation of the Memorial.



Don served ten years on the Executive Committee and six years as Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Under his capable and energetic leadership, the restoration and modernization of the Memorial has been almost completed. He has been a tireless promoter of the Memorial as a representative to Grand Lodges, Lodges and the local community. He worked closely with the various Grand Jurisdictions to renew and reestablish the relationship between the Grand Lodges and their Memorial. He understood and very ably explained the necessity of this relationship in order for the Memorial to survive. He has been instrumental in the various fund-raising efforts that returned the Memorial Association to a positive fiscal position. Don spent countless hours researching the construction and history of the Memorial Building and entered the dimensions and plans of the structure in a computer CAD system which will be a priceless asset to the operation of the Memorial for future generations.

The Masonic Emblem, which will stand on the grounds of the Memorial for all time to come, is a fitting tribute to this remarkable man and remarkable Mason. He guided the project from an idea to its completion in an incredibly short time. If it were not for his efforts, this magnificent Emblem and this wonderful Memorial would not be the proud symbols of Freemasonry that they are today. The entire Masonic community owes our Brother and our Friend a true and heartfelt thanks for his many years of service and tireless work. One of our PGM's made the statement, "Let Your Work Be Your Mark." Brother Don, you have left your mark on the hearts and minds of all who have come in contact with you. Those of us at the Memorial hope to benefit from your advice and assistance for years to come and we sincerely thank you and hope that you will remain involved and active with this Memorial that owes you so much.



The Library Corner We Continue to Improve

By Paul M. Bessel, Librarian

We are continuing to improve the Library of The George Washington Masonic Memorial and make it more useful for Masonic Researchers. In the last few months, the Library has acquired several hundred new books, mostly about Freemasonry, but also some about American history and other subjects. The Memorial is most grateful to those who have contributed books and funds to our Library, in particular Harry B. Lyon who has been extremely generous. We are attempting to compile a complete collection of the Proceedings of every U.S. Grand Lodge. These Proceedings will be an invaluable research tool. If your Grand Lodge has not forwarded a set of proceedings, please contact the Memorial's Librarian, Paul M. Bessel. The Memorial's Library book catalog, with more than 17,000 entries, is completely computerized. The website of our Library is one of the most visited Masonic sites on the Internet. It includes our catalog of books and a list of books we would like to have. We are presently working with other Masonic libraries through the Masonic Library and Museum Association to develop a joint catalog of Masonic books. We are working to promote Masonic research and education and welcome all additional help.

In Memoriam

R.W. Clarke H. Wertheim

Right Worshipful Clarke H. Wertheim, Massachusetts Representative to the George Washington Masonic Memorial, passed away November 10, 1998. The George Washington Masonic Memorial was very important to Brother Wertheim. He supported and

promoted this Memorial which makes available to the public a message about patriotism and individual liberty, and about the role of Freemasonry in shaping and guiding this nation. The Masonic Fraternity will miss Brother Wertheim, but he leaves us with a memory of how a single individual can make a difference for the good of mankind. Donations in memory of Brother Wertheim may be made to the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301.

New Life Members

We always need new members, especially Life Members, and more support. The following recently contributed \$250 to become members of this select group and receive copies of the Memorial Proceedings, this Newsletter and other information about the Memorial:

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Robert Ageton, VA
Arthur H. Brotherton, NJ
Paul Bunyon Srine Club, MI
James M. Burns, VA
George H. Chapin,
Grand Master of VA
Davison Lodge No. 236, MI
Giorgio De Leone, Italy
Leo Frey, MI
Donald H. Geesey, VA
Francesco Giannini, FL
Gerald H. Grosskopf, NJ
John H. Hammitt, AZ
M. J. Jennings, GA
Charles Kemp, TX
Donald H. Knode, MD
Paul A. Larsen, NJ
Melvin J. Levy, FL
Joseph Maffee, Jr., PA
Gary E. Mason, CA
Masonic Home Square Club, NJ
Mark E. Megee, NJ
Milledge Murphey, FL
Norman Lodge No. 38, OK
Phoenix Lodge No. 131, TN
Luigi Rastrelli, Italy
Reading Lodge No. 549, PA
Dusty Rhodes, AZ
Ricky J. Setticase, PA
Richard W. Sweet, AZ
Juan C. Torres, PR
Gianpiero Trovalusci, Italy
Frederick I. Waldron, NJ
Richard O. Wright, CA
21st Century
Harold R. Cumbee, VA
Vel John Dimery, OK
Alexander "Sandy" Gaston, HI
Clyde E. Griffin, GA
Warren J. Hook, MD
Marion S. "Stan" Jones, OK
Major General

Henry Knox Lodge, MA
Tommy A. Logston, OH
Lodge of St. Andrew, MA
Massachusetts Lodge, MA
Thomas E. Northrop, VA
Onondaga Masonic Districts
Charities, Inc., NY
Paul H. Ripley, Sr., DC
Semper Paratus
Lodge No. 49, DC
Metro J. Truly, DC
Edward E. Weant, CA
Charles G. White, GA
Anthony P. Wordlow, CA
Memorials
Margaret A. and
Palmer Anaya, NJ



Replica Lodge Room, A Centerpiece of Memorial

By John P. Riddell



Visitors at the George Washington Masonic Memorial invariably express their admiration for the architectural elegance and symmetry of this magnificent edifice. They are particularly impressed with the quiet majesty of Memorial Hall, the nobility of the Washington statue, the murals, the stained glass windows and massive columns supporting the entire structure. The grace and beauty of Memorial Hall provides a grand first impression for visitors entering the building. There are, of course, other elegant exhibit rooms which contribute significantly to the delight and gratification of the visitors. There is one particular room which does not rival the beauty and splendor of the other rooms; yet, it is the true centerpiece of the Memorial. It is the Replica Lodge Room.

The Room is a replica of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge room which was located in "Old Town Alexandria." It contains the original furniture used during the period (1788 - 1789) when George Washington served as Master of the Lodge. In addition to the furniture, there are other relics associated with the memory of this magnificent man. One of these is the William's portrait, considered by many to be the only portrait of the General which depicts him as he actually looked. Washington is said to have admonished the artist to "Paint me as I am." The artist fully complied. The portrait clearly delineates the pock marks resulting from an attack of small pox contracted when he was nineteen years old; there is a small brown mole under his right ear, a scar along his left cheek and the skin coloring was red and harsh. Indeed, there was no flattery.

Also in the Replica Room is George Washington's old leather library chair which he personally donated to the lodge. It was used by the presiding Masters for 118 years. Another special relic is Washington's bed chamber clock. The clock was stopped at 10:20 PM December 14, 1799, the exact moment of his death. Two other relics of much historical significance are Washington's Masonic apron and a silver trowel, both used by Washington at the Cornerstone Ceremony of our United States Capitol Building in 1793.



Everyone is cordially invited to visit the George Washington Masonic Memorial. And, when you visit, make certain you include the Replica Lodge Room in your tour.



Happy Retirement



Chuc Le, who retired after 15 1/2 years of faithful service to the Memorial, received gifts along with well wishes from her coworkers. One of the many duties she performed was the beautiful calligraphy of the Life Membership Certificates.



The Old Is New Again

By JoAnn Guthrie

The Memorial lawn and landscape beds are receiving some much-needed attention. For the past several years, we have worked diligently to renovate the interior of the building. While that continues to be the major focus of the Memorial staff, we are beginning efforts to restore the original landscape beds. Due to lack of irrigation and insufficient funds, the grounds have deteriorated over the past several years.

The picturesque east lawn, which frames the new Masonic Emblem, creates interest anew in the surrounding landscape. The original architectural landscape drawings were uncovered in our archives and will be used as a blueprint to bring the grounds back to their former beauty. Your financial support for this particular project will be most appreciated.



Ties That Bind: George Washington and Alexandria

A symposium about important people, places and events in Washington's life that were associated with Alexandria will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Memorial, sponsored by the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee and the Alexandria 250th Anniversary Commission.

The keynote address, "Washington's Relevance to American Society Today," will be by Richard Brookheiser, Senior Editor, National Review and author of *Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington*. James C. Rees, Resident Director, Historic Mount Vernon, will speak on "The Five Most Important Women in Washington's Life," and Mary Thompson, also of Mount Vernon, will speak on "Washington and Slavery." Scholars from George Washington University and George Mason University will speak on "Washington and the Coming of the American Revolution" and "Potomac Fever: Washington's Dream of American Empire."

Admission is \$25. To register call the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee at 703-838-9350, or Bill Hendrickson at

703-549-7365. For a complete program visit the Historic Alexandria Web page at <http://ci.alexandria.va.us/oha>



Throngs At "First Night"

Thousands of people joined in "First Night Alexandria" the alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration at the Memorial. Organized by the City, events included The Alexandria Children's Theater, Alexandria Chorale, a swing band, clowns and more and concluded with fireworks.

