

Fall 2000

Former Curator Returns to The Memorial

The George Washington Museum on the fourth floor of The Memorial is the area where the history of General Washington's extraordinary life is explored. The earliest architectural plans called for a museum on this level, but the funds were not available until the mid-1960s to create the museum. The astounding gift of a large number of Washington family objects, books and manuscripts from descendants of Washington's nephew and heir made it possible to create a large exhibition at that time.

Plans are now afoot to revise and update the exhibit which puts George Washington's life, including his Masonic career, into focus. Toward that end, The Memorial Association has invited former museum curator Stephen Patrick to join the staff as an advisory curator. Brother Patrick has a long career both with museums and with historic Masonic collections. A graduate of the University of Delaware with a bachelor's in American Studies and a second major in Russian language, Stephen traveled next to the College of William and Mary and worked with Colonial Williamsburg while gaining a master's in history museum studies.



Following a museum internship with The National Park Service at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Stephen became the assistant curator for the Masonic Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. His work with Masonic history and objects led him to the position of curator at The George Washington Masonic Memorial in 1989. He published a number of articles, and was able to identify a previously unknown Masonic jewel that belonged to George Washington and is in the collection of a historic house in Virginia.

Stephen now serves as the director of the City of Bowie Museums, a series of five municipally operated history sites in suburban Maryland. He reports that working as a consulting curator for the Memorial is exciting, and he's delighted to have the opportunity to work with this great collection and fascinating structure.

The Memorial is fortunate to have Stephen back on staff. His education, background and expertise are a perfect match for us and we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

Memorial Hosts Grand Master's Official Visit

The Memorial is honored and pleased to host the official visit of the Grand Master of Masons of Virginia to Masonic Districts 1-A, 1-B and 54 on Saturday, January 27, 2001. Lodge will be held in the Auditorium and Tours of the Memorial will be provided for ladies and guests.

Grand Lodge of North Dakota Contributes to the Renovation of Memorial Flag Poles

Prior to the Dedication of The Memorial in 1932, The Grand Lodge of North Dakota funded the purchase of one of the flag poles in front of the Memorial and both the original flags. This year the Grand Lodge of North Dakota has sponsored the refurbishment of both flag poles in front of the Memorial. The United States Flag and the State or Commonwealth Flag of the Grand Lodge being honored by the Memorial "Grand Lodge Month" Program are proudly flown daily. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to The Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota for their interest in and support of the Memorial.

From The President

MW Paul E. Ellis



MW Paul E. Ellis recently received a letter and contribution from a brother in response to our Key I.D. fund raiser. In his letter, the brother deplored "this system of raising money" and noted that about every Masonic organization was using similar methods. He stated, "If funds are needed - just ask for them!"

The officers and the Board of The Memorial Association also deplore this system of raising funds and are not happy to be doing it. But we need money and we have no other feasible alternative if the Memorial is going to be maintained and kept open to the public as a memorial and tribute to our foremost Mason, George Washington.

Our source of funds is from contributions from Grand Lodges, lodges, appendant bodies and individuals; income from the Endowment Fund; and now fund raisers. In the founding days of the Association, our brethren agreed to a contribution of one dollar per initiate to support and maintain the Memorial. For a number of years, the one dollar contribution per initiate was more than sufficient for the needs of the Memorial. A surplus was generated which was placed in a Maintenance Reserve Fund and an Endowment Fund. With the decline in membership, many Grand Lodges increased the contribution to five dollars per initiate. This increase helped, but was not sufficient.

In the 1980's the Association was confronted with a financial crisis. The structure was 50 years old and like all buildings of that age, extensive repairs were needed. Repairs cost money. The Maintenance Reserve Fund was soon depleted and still much more work was required. The financial condition of the Association was so severe that the Executive Committee at one meeting authorized the Secretary to obtain a bank loan using anticipated contributions and income from the Endowment Fund as collateral. Fortunately, we did not have to obtain a loan. Our financial position slowly improved. This was a direct result of some Grand Lodges adopting a per capita assessment per member and the introduction of fund raisers. The Association commenced fund raisers in 1992 with the advent of address labels, grandfather clocks, holiday ornaments, watches, belt buckles, etc. The income realized has made a difference and has kept the Memorial going. The income has enabled the Memorial to replace the electrical service equipment and boilers; air-condition the various rooms; paint and refurbish much of the interior; install disability ramps; repave the road ways and parking lots; remove asbestos; landscape; repair and overhaul the two elevators; and many more projects too numerous to mention. Unfortunately, much more remains to be done.

While selling grandfather clocks, address labels, belt buckles and the like is not the best way to raise money to maintain and support the Memorial, it has brought much needed results and has been a sustaining force so that we can continue to hail the Memorial as the Pride of All Freemasons!



A Message from the Executive Secretary-Treasurer

George D. Seghers

2000 has been an extremely busy year at the Memorial. We have completed several large projects and are planning several more. One of the most costly renovations we are commencing this year is the upgrading of the elevator operating systems. Our elevators are unique and were designed specifically for the Memorial. This project will cost the Memorial almost \$300,000 and take nearly a year to complete. We are replacing the electric- mechanical operating system with a computerized electronic system. The entire operating system will be replaced or upgraded. This is a project that cannot be delayed any longer. Of course, our first concern is the safety of our staff and visitors. After the many years of continuous use, the elevators have reached a point where constant maintenance and service are needed. We will gladly accept any donations to help defray the cost of this project.



Another ongoing major project that we are working on is the restoration of the Memorial grounds. With the construction of the Square and Compasses on the front terrace we began the process of restoring the grounds to the design and splendor of the original landscape architectural plan. This has involved the removal of more than twenty dying or diseased trees, replacing more than one hundred shrubs and flowering plants, seeding, feeding and restoring the lawn areas and repairing the retaining walls. In conjunction with this project in 2001 the Memorial will institute a Memorial Tree Program. We will plant much needed replacement and new trees on the grounds of the Memorial and dedicate them to Masonic organizations and individuals. We are looking forward to the participation and support of our members for this costly, but much needed, program. The details of this program will be in the next issue of our Newsletter.

On behalf of the Memorial, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the tremendous support we have received for the Square and Compasses and the other ongoing projects here at the Memorial. The George Washington Masonic Memorial was erected and is maintained through the combined efforts of America's Freemasons as an everlasting tribute to the memory of George Washington. Your continued support enables us to maintain the Memorial in a manner that reflects honor and dignity on Brother Washington and on the Fraternity.

Projects in Progress

The following projects are scheduled for completion in 2000-2001. If you are interested in sponsoring or contributing toward one or more of the following, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer.

Curb & Gutter and Asphalt Replacement - South Driveway	\$45,000
Upgrade Computer System	\$14,000
Install Handicap Ramp in Auditorium	\$13,080
Re-tube Boiler in Heating Plant	\$11,978
Upgrade Elevator Operating System	\$275,967
Re-point Stonework - King St. & Callahan Dr.	\$11,800

"Grand Lodge Month" Program Ongoing at Memorial

January 2000 marked the beginning of the "Grand Lodge Month" program at the Memorial. Grand Lodges recognized this year are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York and North Carolina.

Each month a different Grand Lodge is featured and honored. The State or Commonwealth Flag of the Grand Jurisdiction is flown at the Memorial for the entire month and then is presented to the Grand Lodge. A display is set up in Assembly Hall featuring the Grand Lodge History, Officers, programs, charities and so forth.

The Grand Lodges to be recognized in 2001 are:

January Rhode Island
February District of Columbia
March Vermont
April Kentucky
May Tennessee
June Ohio
July Louisiana
August Indiana
September Mississippi
October Illinois
November Alabama
December Maine



Charles H. Callahan... A Man of Vision, A Man of Action

by John P. Riddell

Charles Hillard Callahan is pictured on the right.



Charles H. Callahan was the most prominent leader in the planning, financing and erection of The George Washington Masonic Memorial. It was May 14, 1908 when Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 voted to build their new fireproof lodge hall and museum. It was Charles Callahan, then Senior Warden of the Lodge, who made the choice of the site for what has become The George Washington Masonic Memorial. Charles Callahan was a founding member of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association under whose auspices the Memorial was erected. Callahan, representing the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, laid the cornerstone of the Memorial in 1923.

Because of a fire in 1871, which destroyed many priceless relics associated with the memory of George Washington, Callahan was insistent that the Alexandria-Washington Lodge provide a fireproof environment for the remaining portraits and relics still in their possession. On February 13, 1908, under the unyielding influence of Charles Callahan, the Lodge appointed a "Memorial Temple Committee" to ascertain the feasibility and cost of erecting a Memorial to our Illustrious Past Master, George Washington. On March 26, 1908, the committee reported that the plan was both feasible and possible.

Charles H. Callahan was a man of action; he was a leader. His fervent zeal became contagious to everyone around him. Callahan's ardent convictions concerning a proposed Memorial to Washington the Mason prompted the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Most Worshipful Joseph W. Eggleston, to extend invitations to other Grand Masters throughout the United States to organize an association which would assume full responsibility for erecting the Memorial. The association was formed and officers elected in February 1911.

Callahan and the committee had obviously determined that the proposed site for the Memorial Temple should be Shooters Hill just west of old town Alexandria. On October 5, 1915, Callahan, along with James Duncan and David Pitts, trustees of the Lodge, purchased 10 lots on the top of this hill, a majestic plot once selected by Thomas Jefferson for the site of the United States Capitol Building. The cost of these lots? One thousand dollars. Alexandria-Washington Lodge presented these lots to The George Washington Masonic Memorial Association. At the request of the Brethren of Alexandria, a recess was declared to enable the representatives to visit the site. The visit was made in automobiles provided by the Alexandria Masons; the Brethren were escorted over the site and listened to an explanation of its historical significance by Charles H. Callahan. Later, the Association directed Callahan and John H. Cowles, Treasurer of the Association, to purchase 36 additional acres which took up most of Shooters Hill.

Of all of Callahan's numerous contributions to the Memorial, the one most significant, most conspicuous during the planning and construction stages was money. This was generated through the sales of his book *Washington the Man and the Mason* published in 1913. At a meeting in 1915, the Association acknowledged with grateful appreciation the sum of \$3,000 presented to the Association by Charles Callahan. This represented profit from the sales of his book, and became an annual contribution for many years. *Washington the Man and the Mason* was one of the most intimate and touching books ever published on the life of George Washington. It moves chronologically from John Washington, the immigrant (George

Washington's Great Grandfather) through the succeeding periods of his life: the French and Indian War, the Braddock Campaign, the Revolution, brief periods of civilian life at his beloved Mount Vernon, his years as President, and those final hours preceding his death December 14, 1799. This treasured volume has been out of print for many years, and those who own a copy are truly fortunate.

Charles Hillard Callahan was born August 22, 1858 and died July 31, 1944. He served as Commissioner of Revenue for the City of Alexandria, Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 in 1910-1911 and Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 1924-1926. A strip of property just east and adjacent to the Memorial was purchased by the City on September 20, 1923. On this property, the City built a street which they named Callahan Drive to commemorate his distinguished service to the community and his untiring efforts in erecting The George Washington Masonic Memorial.



Memorial Windows Available For Dedication

To dedicate a window in honor of an individual or an organization requires a donation of \$7,500. The Memorial will install a dedicatory plaque at, or near, the designated window stating for whom the window is dedicated and by whom it was presented. This is an excellent way to support the Memorial and perpetuate the memory of an individual or organization.



Assistant Librarian Completes Research on the Founding of the Memorial Library

Brother Harry B. Lyon, Assistant Librarian at the Memorial, has recently completed a short book titled Rae John Lemert Master Mason, The Man and His Library The Story of a Man and His Library, and the Founding of The Library in The George Washington Masonic Memorial at Alexandria Virginia. This long overdue book provides information on a fascinating Mason whose personal library was donated to the Memorial as the nucleus for a collection that now numbers more than 20,000 volumes. This informative and thought-provoking book is available through the Memorial Gift Shop at 703-549-9234.

Association Officers

Elected February 21, 2000:

Paul E. Ellis President
Warren D. Lichty First Vice President
W. Scott Stoner Second Vice President
Michael D. Brumback Third Vice President
George D. Seghers Exec. Sec.-Treasurer
Marvin E. Fowler Sec.-Treas. Emeritus
Donald M. Robey Sec.-Treas. Emeritus

Board of Directors

***Members of Executive Committee**

Term expires February 22, 2001:

O.C. Boyd Jonesboro, AR
Michael D. Brumback* Anderson, IN
Arthur K. Cronin Reno, NV
Frank R. Dunaway, Jr.* Alexandria, VA
Thomas C. Ehlers Spokane, WA
Edgar N. Pepler* Bordentown, NJ
Anthony P. Wordlow Sacramento, CA
Term expires February 22, 2002:
W.M. (Mike) Gower McAllen, TX
Thomas W. Gregory Statesville, NC
Warren D. Lichty* Lincoln, NE
Brian A. Paradis Harrison, ME
Larry C. Schafer Phoenix, AZ
Stanley S. Sheldon , Jr. Pomfret Center, CT
Walter E. Winger Church Hill, TN
Term expires February 22, 2003:
Paul E. Ellis* (Chairman) Seaford, DE
David H. Flucke Ann Arbor, MI
Aaron W. Harvey Portland, OR
Billy B. Millhollin Forsyth, MT
Charles H. Penn, III Keithville, LA
Joe Edd Wiggs Lake Village, AR
W. Scott Stoner* Lancaster, PA

Planned Giving Program

If you are interested in contributing to the future of The George Washington Masonic Memorial, an estate gift would be greatly appreciated.
For Planned Giving Information, write to:

W. Scott Stoner, Chairman
Planned Giving Committee
998 Nissley Road, Lancaster, PA 17601
or call 717-898-2185 (Fax: 717-898-8956)

Memorial Introduces Collector's Edition for 2000



Each ornament is crafted in America and comes with a beautiful 24kt. gold finish. A booklet with historical and education information is enclosed in each gift box. The ornament is available through the Memorial Gift Shop at 703-549-9234.

