

CIVIL WAR LODGE OF RESEARCH #1865 A.F.&A.M.



Chartered
November 14th, 1995

9638 Park Street, Manassas, VA 20110 | (571) 271-2730 | www.cwlr.org | Email: hart.bennett@gmail.com

"Living Our Obligations"

(An Explanation of the Incoming Grand Master
Mathew Todd Szramonski's Theme)

250th Anniversary of the Birth of the United States



Many Masonic leaders today feel that our greatest challenges are membership and finances. I used to be one who felt that way. As I have both worked professionally in the Masonic world as well as been a participant, I grew to realize these were symptoms, not the disease. Our greatest issue is ensuring every lodge provides the lessons, fraternalism, organization and quality that makes it worth the brethren who are members to sacrifice the time to be engaged. Time is perhaps the most valuable commodity in today's world, if we are not compelling enough to keep our members engaged, they will go elsewhere, and the profane will not be interested in knocking at our door.

Living our obligations to our brethren –
Living our obligations to our brethren's families
Living our obligations to the community

When Virginia Freemasonry was at its height, it was because our brethren lived their daily lives at home, work, church, community as Master Masons. Lodges provided value in attending that made the sacrifice of time worth it. We can only grow the fraternity if we make our lodge activities must attend events. We can best strengthen our image in the community not by helping once a year with a special event, which may have merit, but by serving on a board all year long, volunteering once a quarter to assist with a charity. Ongoing, continual efforts produce the best results.

Freemasonry thrives when the membership and community see it as "Masons" doing things. You often hear the comment "all the important people were Masons then – the city council member, the deacon at church, the little league coach. We will prosper because of what we do to live our obligations, not by what we say. By setting the example, men of good moral character will ask, seek and knock at our door.

In order to "Live our Obligations", we must "Fulfill our Obligations".

Trestleboard

Our next Stated Communication will be
Saturday, October 11th 2025 at 10 AM meeting will be at:
Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19
1807 East Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23223
Coffee and Donuts will be served prior at 9 am
Itinerary is TBD

There will be a service for Past Master RW Mickey Moats as
part of the Spurmont's Stated at:

Spurmont Lodge No 98
135 John Marshall Highway
Strasburg, VA 22657

This will take place:
Monday, October 6, 2025

Dinner at 6:15 Meeting at 7:30

We will pass on a notebook of your notes to his wife Patty.

Upcoming Schedule:

December 6th, 2025 – Highland Springs, VA (30 YR,
Annual Meeting at Babcock Lodge No. 322 – our Home
Lodge! Visit Cold Harbor if time.)

April 11th, 2026– New Market Battlefield, VA
Magnetic Lodge 184, Stanley, VA

July 18th, 2026 – Monterey Pass, PA
Acacia Lodge 586, Waynesboro, PA

October 10th, 2026 – Fort Monroe, VA
(Lodge TBD)

December 5th, 2026 – TBD
(Lodge TBD)

Grand Master's Wreath Laying (One per Month)
November 22nd, 2025 – Williamsburg, VA 11am
Bruton Parish Church

December 13th, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA 10am
Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery

2026 Grand Master's Research District Official Visit
Haymarket Lodge #313
6713 Jefferson Street
Haymarket, VA 20169

This event is a BBQ and will take place:
Saturday, August 29, 2026
From 1 – 3 pm

2025 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master-	Creighton Lee Lovelace, PM
Senior Warden-	William Chester Hare, Jr
Junior Warden-	Cliton C. White. PM, PD/PDDGM
Treasurer-	Mark Stephen Lentz
Secretary-	Bennett Richard Hart PM
Assistant Secretary-	Creighton Lee Lovelace, PM
Assistant Secretary-	Freddie Edward Pearson II, PM/PDDGM
Senior Deacon-	Christopher Edward Chapman, PM
Junior Deacon-	John August Anderson, PM
Chaplain-	Wayne Eugene Price PM / PDDGM
Tyler-	Gary Lloyd Laing PM
Marshal-	Richard Wayne Burkman PM
Senior Steward	Alan James Hawk
Junior Steward	David Edward Simcox
Ritual-	Wayne Eugene Price PM/PDDGM
Editor/Trestleboard	Andrew Martinez PM/PGI

District Deputy Grand Master Justin Curtis "Jake" Trenary



**MOST WORSHIPFUL
GARY DWIGHT HUFFMAN
GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN VIRGINIA**

Called to the Celestial Lodge Above

Raymond "Mickey" Moats



Call for Officers!

Brethren, if you are interested in serving as a Line Officer for our Civil War Research Lodge for 2026, please drop Brother Secretary (hart.bennett@gmail.com) a note. We will happily get you involved!

Secretary Sez'



Please watch for information on the 250th celebration of our Nation's Birthday ! There is quite a bit going on and I hope you can take advantage of it. Especially as it involved our Fraternity !
Semiquincentennial

PAST MASTERS

(* – deceased)

1995 – Allen E. Roberts * (VA)
1996 – Keith A. Hinerman (VA)
1997 & 1998 – Paul M. Bessel (DC)
1999 – David J. Roberts (VA)
2000 – Robert E. Schindler, Sr. (VA)*
2001 – Michael E. McCabe (NJ)
2002 – Charles R. Joseph (MD)*
2003 – John Shroeder (VA)*
2004 – Lauris M. Eek, III * (VA)
2005 – Gary L. Laing, (DE)
2006 – Stephen M. Whitaker (SC)
2007 – Michael E. McCabe (NJ)*
2008 – J. Sherrell Hurley (NC)
2009 – Wayne E. Price (VA)
2010 – M Phillip Brown (NY & DE)
2011 – Raymond "Micky" Moats (VA)
2012 & 2013 – Gary L. Laing (DE)
2014 – Wayne E. Price (VA)
2015 – Peter S. Jensen (VA)
2016 – Christopher R. Chrzanowski (VA)
2017 & 2018 – Bennett R, Hart (VA)
2019 – Richard W. Burkman (MD)
2020 & 2021 – G. Andrew Martinez (MD)
2022 – Gordon A. Munholland (MD)
2023 – Andrew N. Wilson (MD)
2024 – John H. Butler (VA)

HONORARY MEMBERS

MW William F. Perdue-VA
MW Thomas F. May- VA*
John P. Westervelt - VA
PPGM James L. Jack - Scotland
PM Paul M. Bessel – MD*
PM Allen E. Roberts - VA
MW Kenneth D. Fuller- DC*
MW Jules Saul Temper - DC
MW Gregory A. Riley, Sr. - WV
MW Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.-MD
MW Herbert Richard Hoffman-DE
MW George Bernard Dungan, Jr.-VA
MW James Edward Litten-VA
MW William Talbott Ellison, Jr.-VA*
MW Thomas Warren Gregory-NC*
MW Vernon Stuart Cook-VA
MW Steven Edward Smith – RI
MW James Winfield Golladay, Jr.-VA
MW Louis Richard Youngblood-WV
Richard Constantino Radi- VA*
MW Alan Wayne Adkins – VA
RW Wayne Eugene Price - VA
RW Raymond "Mickey" Moats - VA
MW Jack Kayle Lewis – VA
RW Lokie Leo Voight -VA

Secretary Sez' Continued

We are still in the process of reaching out to all of our members, especially our senior statesmen !! We want to make sure all are getting our communications. Thanks to the Assistant Secretaries, we are trying to make contact with all !! In addition, Please be sure to use the new petitions now !!

The Battle of Ball's Bluff

The Battle of Ball's Bluff, fought on October 21, 1861, was a disastrous Union defeat caused by poor leadership, false intelligence, and tactical errors. Although small in scale, the battle had severe political repercussions, fueling discontent in Washington, D.C., and leading to a congressional investigation.

The operation began after Union forces under General George B. McClellan were ordered to make a minor reconnaissance near Leesburg, Virginia. On the evening of October 20, a Union patrol crossed the Potomac River and mistakenly identified a line of trees on a bluff overlooking the river as an unguarded Confederate camp. Acting on this faulty report, Brigadier General Charles P. Stone ordered a raid for the next morning.

Union troops, including men from the 15th and 20th Massachusetts regiments, began to cross the river in a handful of small boats, a slow and cumbersome process. Colonel Edward D. Baker, a sitting U.S. Senator and close friend of President Abraham Lincoln, was ordered to the crossing point to assess the situation and, at his discretion, send more troops. Rather than pulling back the initial force, Baker chose to reinforce it. His lack of military experience and failure to understand the tactical disadvantage of the location proved fatal.

As the morning progressed, the Union troops discovered their mistake—there was no camp. A skirmish soon began with a small Confederate force under Colonel Nathan "Shanks" Evans, but Union reinforcements arrived slowly due to the lack of transport boats. By midday, the Union soldiers were trapped in a clearing at the top of a 100-foot bluff, with a sheer drop behind them and a line of Confederate soldiers gathering in the woods ahead.

Confederate counterattacks pushed the Union troops toward the bluff, and around 4:30 p.m., Colonel Baker was killed. With their commander down and their line breaking, the Union retreat devolved into a panicked rout. Hundreds of Union soldiers were driven over the bluff or drowned while attempting to cross the river in overloaded boats.

In total, over 1,000 Union soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured. The defeat, and especially the death of Senator Baker, stunned Washington. In December 1861, Congress created the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, a politically motivated body that investigated Union losses throughout the conflict. The investigation ruined the career of General Stone, who was arrested and imprisoned without charge for over six months, as he became the public scapegoat for the humiliation.

250th U.S.A. Anniversary Commemorative Medallion **All sales will be a donation to the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. Library,** **Museum and Historical Preservation Trust, Inc.**

This medallion celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America and the surrender of General Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. There will be a limited number of these medallions, and a stand will be provided so it can be displayed properly and something that every Brother can be proud of. The proceeds from the sale of these medallions will be a \$150 donation to the Grand Lodge of Virginia Library, Museum and Historical Preservation Trust, Inc., a 501©3 entity. All proceeds from the sale of these commemorative medallions will go directly to the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Virginia Library, Museum and Historical Preservation Trust, Inc. The medallions will sell for \$150 each. Each DDGM will get a certain number of them.

The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Virginia Library, Museum and Historical Preservation Trust, Inc.

This year one of my special programs is The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Virginia Library, Museum and Historical Preservation Trust, Inc., a 501©3 entity. The Foundation's current campaign goal is to raise \$10,000,000 dollars to protect, restore, and properly care for our priceless and important historical artifacts. During my year as Grand Master, and in support of this campaign, my special project is the raffling off a Henry Golden Boy Freemasons Tribute Edition, Model H004MAS, rifle with lever action. The rifle is engraved with "America's 250th Anniversary 1776 – 2026, Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M." and a Liberty Bell. All proceeds will go directly to the Foundation. Raffle tickets will be made available for \$50 each. The goal is to sell 800 tickets. Each DDGM will get a packet of raffle tickets.

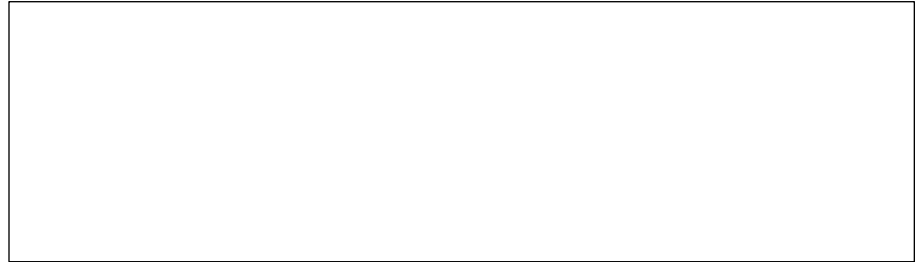
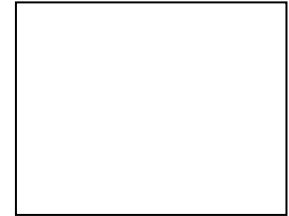
Virginia Masonic Herald

There is no better way to share the good news of Masonry in the 250th year of our country, and specifically the Research Lodges, than the Virginia Masonic Herald. The Herald educates, informs and celebrates all things Masonic. The publication finds its way into the waiting area at doctors' offices, various businesses and just about any other place you can imagine. We all enjoy reading the latest edition of the Herald, but it is particularly important for the shut-in Brothers. It keeps them connected with their beloved Craft—and because it is read by Masons and non-Masons alike—the Herald keeps our families and communities informed and may even generate interest and curiosity for the good man who has yet to ask the right question. We should strive to get at least one in every issue.



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This Year !



The C.S.A. Invades... Vermont?

The only "Confederate invasion" of Vermont was known as the "St. Albans Raid", a guerrilla attack that occurred on October 19, 1864, which was also the northernmost land action of the Civil War. During the raid, approximately 21 Confederate agents, who had been operating out of Canada, stealthily infiltrated the town of St. Albans. Their objectives were to steal money for the Confederacy, create panic in the North, and potentially draw Union troops away from the southern battlefield.

The raiders simultaneously robbed three banks, stealing over \$200,000. They herded citizens into the town square and attempted to burn the town using "Greek Fire" incendiary bottles, though most failed to ignite. One civilian was killed during the ensuing chaos and confrontation with armed residents. The Confederates then fled back to Canada on stolen horses, pursued by a local posse.

While many of the raiders were captured by Canadian authorities, a Canadian court ruled that the attack was an act of war, not a criminal offense, and refused to extradite them. The decision caused outrage in the United States and strained US-Canadian relations. Although a financial success for the Confederates, the raid failed to significantly impact the war's outcome, as it did not divert any substantial Union forces.