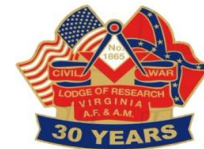


CIVIL WAR LODGE OF RESEARCH #1865 A.F.&A.M.



Chartered
November 14th, 1995

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

Master's Message

Brethren,

Our first meeting of the year has come and gone. All Present enjoyed the day, although it was an unusual meeting. Our host lodges for the day were Magnetic Lodge #184 in Stanley Virginia and Mount Jackson Lodge #103 in Mount Jackson Virginia. We opened lodge and conducted our business at Magnetic then called off from labor to refreshment and proceeded to go to lunch, then traveled to Mount Jackson lodge and called on from refreshment to labor. We had two impromptu talks one about the tragedy after Appomattox and one on espionage and Maryland spies. Lodge was closed and the Brethren traveled on.

We now look forward to our next meeting which will be at Acacia Lodge #586 F&AM, 33 West Main Street Waynesboro Pa. 17268 in the Masonic Building. Please note the following, the lodge is on the third floor and has no handicap access stairs only. When approaching the lodge going west on Main Street you must go past the lodge to the next street turning right on North Potomac Street, next turn right on Schiers way (alley) go past North Mulberry Street and turn right into parking lot behind & beside lodge building. Some parking may be open out on Main Street.

After three days of battle at Gettysburg both sides had suffered large losses. Lee's 50,000 remaining troops needed to withdraw from Meade's 80,000 troops where did they go? Monterey Pass is where, 20 miles of the 60 miles of the total wagon trains went. This battle would determine if Lee would be able to retreat to fight another day. In the night of July 4th 1863, five thousand Union troops including George Armstrong Custer attacked the retreating wagon train in the middle of the night in a raging thunder storm causing great confusion from cannon, gun fire, and thunder claps.

Monterey Pass Battlefield Museum is open Saturdays 10-4pm, there is a walking tour and driving tour maps at the museum. A six-person golf cart is available to take those to the summit observation point, please contact museum for availability. Lunch TBD Saturday. Friday and Saturday fellowship dinners will be at the Cashtown Inn at 6pm. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Fraternally,
William C Hare Jr.
Worshipful Master

Trestleboard

Our next Stated Communication will be
Saturday, July 18th 2026

Lodging:

Dealer's Choice – Book to your needs

Friday Dinner (Friday, July 17th 2026)

Cashtown Inn
1325 Old Rte 30
Orrtanna, PA 17353
6:00 pm

Saturday Meeting (July 17th 2026):

Acacia Lodge #586 F&AM
33 West Main Street
Waynesboro PA 17268

Lunch is TBD

Saturday Dinner:

Cashtown Inn
1325 Old Rte 30
Orrtanna, PA 17353
6:00 pm

2026 Grand Master's Research Lodge 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
(Attire is polo and khakis)

2026 Schedule:

July 18th, 2026 – Monterey Pass, PA
October 10th, 2026 – Fort Monroe, VA
December 5th, 2026 – TBD

2026 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master-	William Chester Hare, Jr
Senior Warden-	Cliton Carter White. PM/PDDGM
Junior Warden-	Alan James Hawk
Treasurer-	Mark Stephen Lentz
Secretary-	Bennett Richard Hart, PM/PDDGM
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-	Creighton Lee Lovelace, PM
Tyler-	Gary Lloyd Laing PM
Marshal-	Richard Wayne Burkman PM
Senior Steward	Tommy Ryan Owens
Junior Steward	Michael Erwin Joyner, PM
Ritual/LIW-	John Howard Butler PM/PDDGM
Editor/Trestleboard	George Andrew Martinez PM/PGI
District Deputy Grand Master	Fred Baerenz, PM



**MOST WORSHIPFUL
MATTHEW TODD SZRAMOSKI
GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN VIRGINIA**

Passed to the Celestial Lodge Above

Robert Brunner Williams
Evan Morgan Jewell



Call for Officers!

Brethren, if you are interested in serving as a Line Officer for our Civil War Research Lodge for 2027, please drop Brother Secretary (hart.bennett@gmail.com) a note. We will happily get you involved!

Cashtown History

The-Battle of Monterey Pass driving tour takes approximately 2.5 hours to do.pdf <https://share.google/NSbB8fNd7FF6VBACE>
The Story of the Battle – Monterey Pass Battlefield Park & Museum <https://share.google/qGgAduGrCoxCfVYRb>
The Park & Museum – Monterey Pass Battlefield Park & Museum <https://share.google/HnKzjuTBDFpe0P17Y>
History – Cashtown Inn <https://share.google/Q6a9ZKdoLoqf6imnP>

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)
- 2025- Creighton Lee Lovelace (NC)

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 T. 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
- GL-RW Doyle Lee Miller – VA
- MW Gary Dwight Huffman - VA
- MW Matthew Todd Szramoski – VA

Secretary Sez'

Remember – dues is due! Thanks to all for their thoughts and prayers !! They are working ! I'm doing better each day. I plan on making it in July. Hope to see you then !!!

Bennett

The Battle of Mobile Bay

Fought on August 5, 1864, the Battle of Mobile Bay was a pivotal Civil War naval engagement in Alabama. Union Rear Admiral David Farragut led a fleet past heavy Confederate forts and a dangerous minefield, defeating a Confederate ironclad to successfully close the South's last major Gulf port.

By the summer of 1864, the Confederacy had only two major ports remaining on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts: Wilmington, North Carolina, and Mobile, Alabama. Mobile was heavily defended and absolutely vital for Southern blockade runners bringing in desperately needed supplies. Capturing Mobile Bay was a major objective for the Union to enforce a total economic blockade and sever the Confederacy's lifelines.

Mobile Bay's entrance was heavily fortified. The channel was guarded by two primary Confederate fortresses: Fort Morgan on the eastern mainland and Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island. Between them lay a narrow navigable channel, making any intruding ship an easy target for artillery crossfire. Furthermore, the Confederates—led by Admiral Franklin Buchanan—had heavily obstructed the main channel with "torpedoes" (the 1860s term for submerged, floating explosive mines), leaving only a narrow gap directly beneath the guns of Fort Morgan. Buchanan's naval force inside the bay included three wooden gunboats and the CSS Tennessee, a formidable, state-of-the-art ironclad.

On the morning of August 5, 1864, Farragut ordered his fleet of 18 warships to enter the bay. To protect the vulnerable wooden steamships from the devastating point-blank fire of Fort Morgan, Farragut lashed them together in pairs, placing his four heavily armored, ironclad "monitors" between the fleet and the fort.

The attack commenced just before 6:00 AM. However, the initial momentum was disrupted when the lead ironclad monitor, the USS Tecumseh, struck a Confederate mine and sank in mere seconds, taking almost 90 sailors to a watery grave. Seeing the Tecumseh go down and spotting the deadly minefield ahead, the captain of the lead wooden ship (USS Brooklyn) hesitated and began to reverse, throwing the entire Union line into chaos directly under the cannons of Fort Morgan.

Recognizing the impending disaster, Farragut ordered his flagship, the USS Hartford, to bypass the stalled ships and take the lead himself. As his ship steamed toward the dangerous minefield, his crew warned him of the heavy concentration of torpedoes. Farragut supposedly shouted his immortal reply: "Damn the torpedoes! Four bells. Captain Drayton, go ahead! Jouett, full speed!" (Through popular retellings, this is universally condensed to "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!") Ignoring the submerged mines, Farragut's ships successfully steamed past the minefield and entered the safety of the upper bay. There, they quickly disabled or forced the surrender of the three smaller Confederate gunboats.

Though Farragut's fleet had penetrated the bay, Admiral Buchanan refused to surrender. Steering the CSS Tennessee toward the entire Union fleet, Buchanan attempted a desperate counterattack. The ironclad was immediately surrounded by Federal vessels, which rammed the Tennessee repeatedly and pounded her with heavy naval gunfire at point-blank range.

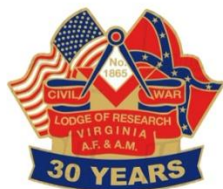
The Tennessee put up a valiant fight, but its smokestack was shot away, its steering chains were severed, and it was left completely dead in the water. Hopelessly crippled and under heavy bombardment, the valiant ironclad raised a white flag. Buchanan was injured in the final moments of the fight, and the fierce battle was officially over by 10:00 AM.

While the Union fleet won the initial naval confrontation, the heavily fortified forts guarding the bay remained in Confederate hands. Union land forces under General Gordon Granger were brought in to conduct siege operations against the forts. Fort Gaines surrendered on August 8, and the garrison at Fort Morgan finally capitulated on August 23, completely shutting down the port to Southern blockade runners.

Although the city of Mobile itself was too well-guarded to capture immediately (falling in April 1865), Farragut's victory permanently sealed off the bay and successfully choked off vital Confederate trade. Coming at a time of war-weariness in the North, the victory at Mobile Bay—coupled with General William T. Sherman's capture of Atlanta—massively boosted Northern morale and played a vital role in securing President Abraham Lincoln's reelection in November 1864.

Masonic notes from Bro. G. Andrew Martinez, PM:

Brother David Farragut (1801-1870) would be promoted from Rear Admiral to Vice Admiral to Admiral of the U.S. Navy in 1866. Born to a Castilian Spanish father who came to the United States as a merchant marine, and an Irish-American mother, Farragut was raised a Master Mason in Knoxville, Tennessee. Farragut would serve in the War of 1812 as well as the Mexican War. He was 60 years old when the Civil War started. A resident of Norfolk, Virginia, he was staunchly loyal to the Union when the war started in 1861. In 1862, Farragut commanded a successful naval expedition to capture New Orleans, which gave the Union full control of the Mississippi River Valley. There is not much information written on Brother Farragut's Masonic career, though he helped found Naval Lodge No. 87 in Vallejo, California across from the Navy Yard at Mare Island in 1855, the oldest Lodge in Vallejo. The lodge's members consisted of officers, enlisted men, and workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Brother Farragut was also a Scottish Rite Freemason.



Civil War Lodge of Research No.1865 A.F. & A.M.
9638 Park Street
Manassas, VA 20110



The Battle of Dranesville

In December 20, 1861, the Battle of Dranesville was a brief battle, but a significant clash in Fairfax County, Virginia, resulting in a much-needed Union victory. Union Brig. Gen. E.O.C. Ord led a brigade of Pennsylvania Rifles and Reserves against a mixed Confederate force commanded by Col. (later Gen.) J.E.B. Stuart. Both forces were operating as winter patrols and foraging parties in Northern Virginia. They stumbled upon each other at the crossroads village of Dranesville along the Georgetown Pike. Their encounter quickly escalated into a sharp, two-hour firefight. Union artillery proved highly effective, ultimately forcing Stuart's men to withdraw so their supply wagons could safely retreat. The Federals sustained around 68 casualties. The Confederates suffered more heavily, with about 204 casualties, partially due to friendly fire from the surrounding woods. Though a relatively small engagement compared to later campaigns, the skirmish provided a tremendous morale boost for the North following the defeats at First Bull Run and Ball's Bluff. The Northern press eagerly celebrated the outcome as the first major Federal victory south of the Potomac River.