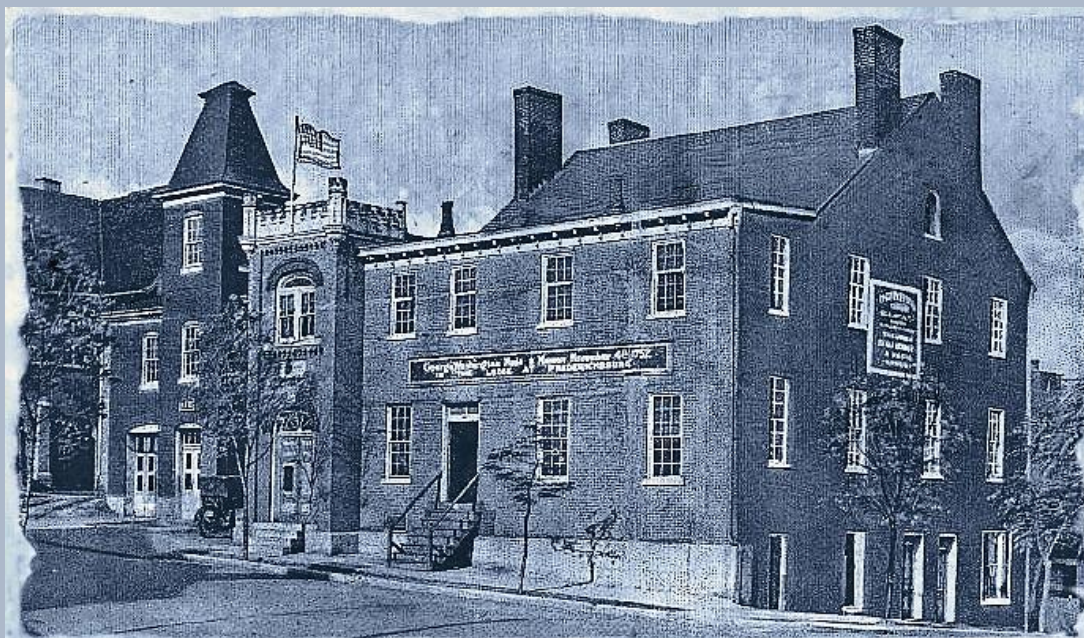


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



TRESTLE BOARD

FIRST RECORDED MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1, 1752

SCOTTISH CHARTER - JULY 21, 1758

VIRGINIA CHARTER - JANUARY 30, 1787

MOTHER LODGE OF ILL.: BRO.: GEORGE WASHINGTON

803 Princess Anne St.
Fredericksburg,
VA 22401

Masoniclodge4.org

INITIATED NOVEMBER 4, 1752

PASSED MARCH 3, 1753

RAISED AUGUST 4, 1753

'GUARDIANS OF THE CRAFT,
BUILDERS OF TOMORROW'

APRIL 2025

Stated Meeting
Second Fridays
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

Degree Work
Wednesdays 7pm
(check calendar)

APRIL 2025 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Pancake Breakfast, 8 am
6	7	8 Community Meal 4 pm	9 Lodge Clean Up & Ritual School 7 pm	10	11 Stated Comm. Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30	12 Masonic Roundtable 8 am
13	14	15	16 Exam and FC Degree 7 pm	17	18	19
20	21	22 District Ritual School 7pm	23 Degree or Ritual School 7 pm	24	25	26 Masonic Roundtable 8 am
27	28	29	30 Degree or Ritual School 7 pm			

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

Highlights from Last Month:

- Walking Program 'On Yonder Hill' by R.W. Lokie Voight
- Order of the Eastern Star Open Installation
- John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 Centennial Celebration

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for April

Bro. Thomas M. Schuler, Jr.	70 yrs.	Bro. William Morris, Jr.	15
M.W. George Harry Chapin	56	Bro. Scot A. Cooler	14
Bro. Lester E. Wood	50	Bro. Ross D. Upchurch	14
Bro. Joseph L. Ilk	47	Bro. Antonio F. Cox-Gutierrez	11
Bro. George R. Walker	42	Bro. Robert L. Waslov	7
R.W. Richard D. Dey, Sr.	34	Bro. William R. Clark, Jr.	3
Wor. Stephen M. Gallahan	34	Bro. Thomas W. Baker	2

Wor. Sheridan G. Harrod	28	Bro. William M. Bowser	2
Bro. Ralph N. Terry	27	Bro. Robert G. McGee	2
R.W. Peyton F. Carter, III	24	Bro. Barry L. Surles	2
Bro. Marcus E. Simes, Jr.	23	Bro. James A. Wachter	2
M.W. Ali Bongo-Ondimba	21	Bro. David Smith	1
Bro. George E. Brookman	17		

A Night to Remember at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

Freemasonry has long been a beacon of enlightenment, fellowship, and the pursuit of knowledge. On the evening of March 14, 2025, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 experienced an extraordinary gathering that truly embodied these ideals. It was a night where inspiration flowed, bonds were strengthened, and the light of Freemasonry shined brightly. Indeed, it seemed as though the very stars above our historic Lodge had aligned, blessing us with an evening of profound significance.

One of the night's highlights was a captivating presentation by our esteemed Lodge Education Officer, Bro. Bob Melvin. His intriguingly titled program, "*Entitled Stinky Sock*," immediately piqued curiosity, ensuring the Brethren were fully engaged even before he uttered his first words. As with many of Bro. Bob's teachings, the presentation took us on an unexpected journey, one filled with humor, anticipation, and ultimately, deep reflection. Just when we were wondering about the direction of his message, he masterfully pivoted, revealing a lesson that will remain with us for years to come.

The metaphor of a *stinky sock*, a seemingly insignificant detail in the grand scheme of things, became an emblem of the unseen impact of our actions. A simple phrase, a fleeting moment, or a small act of kindness may carry weight far beyond our comprehension, shaping the lives of others in ways we may never fully realize. Bro. Bob's message was a kind reminder of our duty as Masons to be ever mindful of the ripples we create in the lives of those around us.

We extend our deepest gratitude to him for sharing such a profound insight in his uniquely engaging manner.

The evening's blessings did not end there!

We were honored to welcome R.W. Bro. Lokie, accompanied by two distinguished Brethren from Winchester-Hiram Lodge No. 21. R.W. Lokie Leo Voight delivered his *Walking Light* presentation, an inspiring discourse that resonated deeply with all in attendance.

The passion with which he spoke, coupled with the profound truths he conveyed, elevated the evening to something truly extraordinary. Thoughtfully enhanced by the use of light and carefully chosen props, his presentation left an indelible impression, earning him a well-deserved standing ovation.

In recognition of his dedication to the Craft and the wisdom he imparted, R.W. Lokie was made an honorary member of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. To commemorate this honor, he was presented with a beautifully crafted certificate, bearing an elegant wax seal and signatures inscribed in everlasting ink, a testament to the deep respect and admiration we hold for him. This remarkable keepsake was masterfully created by our Senior Warden, Bro. Seth.

The spirit of fraternity was further enriched by the presence of visiting Brethren from out of state and the return of familiar faces who had been absent for some time.

The turnout was outstanding, the conversations were filled with warmth, and the meal shared among us was met with widespread acclaim. Indeed, the Lodge was abuzz with the joyous camaraderie that defines our Brotherhood. My Brethren, words alone cannot fully capture the magnificence of the evening.

From the great work of our rituals, special recognition to our own Worshipful Christoffer Tripp, to the high caliber of our educational programs, from the embrace of brotherly love to the reaffirmation of our shared values, it was a night that will be fondly remembered by all who attended.

As I reflect on the evening, my heart is filled with gratitude. I am deeply honored to stand alongside my officers and committee members, each of whom played an

essential role in making this gathering a reality. Without their dedication and commitment, none of this would have been possible.

To all who contributed to this unforgettable night, Thank you. Your efforts have enriched our Lodge, and your light continues to shine brightly within our Fraternity.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Michael J Dove
Worshipful Master
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4



March 12, 2025

MINDFULNESS

The practice of maintaining a nonjudgmental state of heightened or complete awareness of one's thoughts, emotions, or experiences on a moment-to-moment basis.

Rooted in Buddhist traditions, the intentional practice of mindfulness aims to cultivate awareness of oneself in the present moment to engage with reality more deeply. Often a complementary practice found today in meditation and yoga; in Freemasonry it is complementary to the ancient Greek school of Stoic philosophy, which focuses on self-control and fortitude. Both the practice of mindfulness and stoicism aim to teach us how to master our thoughts and emotions using logic and awareness.

Freemasonry-of-old often employed a Chamber of Reflection as a space for the Entered Apprentice candidate to enter a state of mind conducive to the intellectual journey [logic and awareness] he was about to undertake. Like many common mindfulness exercises in present day, the candidate was provided a space to reflect upon his existence and the moment, fully, without distraction. Although Chambers of Reflection are seldom used in most Grand Jurisdictions now, modern Freemasons may be well served to explore other avenues to practice mindfulness as part of their Masonic journey. According to an article in *Square Magazine* from October 2023, some early American Freemasons, went so far as to set up Chambers of Reflection in their own homes to practice a contemplative state, outside of the Lodge. This emphasizes how just important the practice was for our ancestral Brothers.

Practicing mindfulness can be an important tool used to prepare us to be fully present in our ritual and degree work; to be more presently aware of the words and symbolism, beyond mere repetition, and to reflect more deeply on what they teach. Combining mindfulness and stoicism can help Brothers underscore life in accordance with the laws of nature, cultivating virtuous character traits and achieving inner peace through self-control and reason.

Admittedly, there is probably a *new-age healing crystals* factor in discussing the practice of mindfulness, to the modern Brother's ear. We don't exactly roll out the

yoga mat on the Lodge room floor, while sun salutations or seated meditation poses are a strong Nope after a big Stated dinner and, quite frankly, seeing a room full of Brothers in yoga apparel may cause lasting psychological harm. Putting aside the *new-age* factor for a less contemporary interpretation of mindfulness and stoicism though, I encourage Brothers to find a space and a moment from time to time to reflect on your Masonic journey and ritual. Mine happens to be a few solitary minutes in the Old Lodge Room. If you are practicing ritual moving through the line or for degree work or rusty nail work, take a moment in a quiet space in our old house on Hanover street for reflection, and discuss with your ritual instructor the meaning and application of the words and symbols, beyond just memorization.

A Brother may find that reflecting on his obligations and ritual by combining mindfulness and stoicism may lead to enriched personal growth, balance and greater resilience within the Lodge, and most importantly, without. Stated differently, Peas and Hominy.

Do good unto all-
Bro. : Seth Roderick

"Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe. And to the same Divine Author of every good and perfect gift we are indebted for all those privileges and advantages, religious as well as civil, which are so richly enjoyed in this favored land." ~ James Monroe

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

We're now well into a new year, and as noted in previous months, we've now made the transition to using Grand View for tracking your memberships and for dues collection. This process has not been without a few hiccups, as might be expected. We have several ways to pay your dues – directly through Grand View, through the Lodge website, and by check by mail, or in cash (the latter will only

be accepted at stated meetings), and notification for those paying by PayPal through the Lodge website had not been getting to me since we transitioned from QuickBooks to Grand View. This problem has been fixed and those impacted can expect their dues cards shortly. That's all for this month—just want to remind you to keep your contact information up-to-date and reach out to us if you're having trouble paying your dues. Hope everyone has a safe and blessed month.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Chris Tripp, Secretary

P.S. Well, what have we here? A nearly blank page...which I abhor nearly as much as Nature herself abhors a vacuum. I suppose I should find some way to fill it.

Ahem...so let's talk a little about appendant and concordant bodies. You have probably seen the online memes that appendant bodies are "for those who didn't understand the first three Degrees." We can laugh because, after all, we Masons should have a sense of humility, which comes from knowing we're part of something much greater than ourselves. Some take pride in just being a member of their Blue Lodge. Others find great meaning in our appendant bodies. Everyone's Masonic journey is different. But is it really true that "there's no higher Degree than Master Mason?" Well, yes...and no. In terms of rights and privileges in the Fraternity, that's true. But in terms of our teachings and philosophy, the Degrees of the various Rites can deepen and extend our understanding of the Craft and help us to be better men and Masons. The first three Degrees contain the basic blueprint of our Masonic profession, while the so-called "High Degrees" provide more advanced instruction in Masonry and further illumine what you've already learned. A "rite" by the way is a cohesive system of progressive degrees, such as the York Rite (referred to overseas as the "American Rite") and the "Scottish Rite," the only two practiced widely in the United States. A rite can also refer to a distinct part of a Degree. Technically, the first three Degrees are part of the Ancient York Ritual which is the only working that is to be used in Virginia Masonry (MD Sect. 2.07)... although they are also claimed by the Scottish Rite (see how complicated it gets?). A little research shows there's no universally accepted definition of an "appendant" vs. "concordant" body, though many consider those with Rites that continue the Craft (aka Symbolic) Degrees "concordant" (e.g., Royal Arch) and those that do not (e.g., the Shrine) as "appendant." Both require you be a Mason.



**A Joyous Occasion:
The 2025-2026 Installation of Eastern Star Officers at Lodge #4**
By The Worshipful Master of Fredericksburg Lodge #4



On Saturday, March 22nd, 2025, Fredericksburg Lodge #4 had the distinct honor of hosting the Order of the Eastern Star's Installation Ceremony for their 2025-2026 officers. It was a radiant spring feeling day, one of those rare moments where nature itself seems to join in celebration. Under a mostly clear blue sky with sun and surrounded by the fellowship of both Brothers and Sisters, the afternoon unfolded with reverence, warmth, and grace.



As guests arrived in great numbers, it was quickly evident that this was not merely a routine event, it was a cherished tradition coming to life. The ceremony itself was both inspiring and beautifully orchestrated, true to the spirit of the Order. For those who have never witnessed an Eastern Star installation, it is a truly uplifting experience: the combination of symbolic ritual, heartfelt expressions, and the shared commitment to service and virtue creates something genuinely memorable.

This year, Sister Melissa Allen was installed as Worthy Matron. Her theme, "Shining Bright, Serving with Joy," reflects a mission centered on optimism, dedication, and purposeful service. The lodge room was adorned in her chosen colors, green and yellow, which for me represented renewal, hope, and cheerfulness. The yellow rose, her flower of choice, echoed these sentiments perfectly. Her selected symbols, a broken column, a tractor, and dog paws, offered

us a beautiful blend of strength through adversity, rootedness in the land, and steadfast loyalty.

The ceremony was followed by a reception in the lodge's "banquet hall", and if any guests went away hungry, it was by their own choosing. The hospitality was generous and the setting was thoughtfully designed, with coordinated table arrangements, floral accents, and framed photographs that extended the spirit of celebration into every corner of the room.



The transition from ritual to fellowship was seamless, clearly the result of careful planning and a desire to make the day as meaningful as it was joyful.

The Brethren of Lodge #4 would like to extend our heartfelt Thanks to the Sisters of the Eastern Star for including us in such a special occasion. It was truly an honor to witness the installation of your new leadership and to share in the celebration that followed. We were inspired by your unity, uplifted by your ceremony, and grateful to be part of your extended Masonic family.



On behalf of all your Brothers, we extend our warmest congratulations to Worthy Matron Melissa Allen, Worthy Patron Danaus Ford PP, and the full slate of installed and re-installed officers. May this upcoming year be filled with light, service, and the shared joy that defines your beautiful Order.

Fraternally,
Your Brothers at Lodge #4

Lodge #4 Attends a monumental celebration honoring 100 Years of Masonic Brotherhood at John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 Quantico

On Saturday, March 29th, members of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, several masters and a distinguished PM, journeyed to Quantico, to take part in a historic event, the 100-year charter anniversary of John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350.

Held from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on base, the centennial celebration was nothing

short of remarkable. Brothers, families, and guests from across Virginia and beyond came together in a true testament to the enduring strength and unity of our Craft.

A Century of Brotherhood

John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350, named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps and a distinguished Freemason, has stood for a full century as a beacon of Masonic light within the Marine Corps community. The 100-year milestone was marked with reverence, pride, and a deep sense of gratitude for those who have carried the torch of Freemasonry through generations.



Distinguished Guests and Powerful Words

The event featured an impressive lineup of guest speakers. The keynote address was delivered by *Brother Sergeant Major Harold "Gene" Overstreet*, the 12th Sergeant

Major of the Marine Corps (1991-1995), whose words reflected the core values of discipline, leadership, and Masonic brotherhood.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies was Brother Colonel William "Bill" Smith, whose warm demeanor and command presence added a sense of ceremony, lightheartedness and respect to the occasion.

In addition, attendees received special remarks from our very own Most Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, who emphasized the vital role of lodges like John A. Lejeune No. 350 in preserving the traditions of Freemasonry while paying tribute to the namesake of the lodge.

Fellowship and Festivity

Following the formal program, Brethren and guests gathered for a barbecue lunch catered by Mission BBQ, a fitting tribute to the patriotic spirit of the day. The camaraderie shared over hearty food and fond memories reminded all in attendance of the bonds that unite Masons across time and distance.

As Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 stood in support of this once-in-a-century celebration, we were reminded that while our lodges may be separated by geography, our principles unite us eternally. Here's to another hundred years of Brotherhood, service, and Light.

From the Brethren of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, we extend our warmest congratulations to Worshipful Barry Mensh and his officers. We commend you on hosting a truly memorable celebration and applaud you on the occasion of your 100-year anniversary. It was an honor to stand beside you in recognition of this remarkable milestone!



Why Do We Wear Tuxedos and White Gloves in Lodge ?

By Wor.: Michael Dove,

As some of the Brethren have no doubt noticed, the officers in Lodge have begun wearing white gloves. “*What is this now?*” you may be thinking. A fair question! And one that deserves more than a passing answer!

Among the many topics that spark lively conversation, especially when the weather turns warm, is our Masonic attire. Quite a few Brothers are fond of our Lodge polos, and some have even suggested wearing them during stated communications. After all, we gather in the spirit of Brotherhood, not fashion. So why do we dress up at all? Why the tuxedos? Why the gloves? Is it just for show?

A mark of elitism? Or is there something more behind it?

Let us take a moment to reflect, not only on what we wear, but why we wear it.

Dressing with Purpose

A Mason's attire is not about status, it is about **respect**. Respect for the Craft. Respect for the Lodge. And most importantly, respect for one another. In many European jurisdictions, black tuxedos or formal black suits with white tux-shirt and dark ties/white bowtie are the standard. These garments carry deep meaning. They symbolize *sobriety, dignity, and uniformity*, qualities that align with the gravity of our rituals and the solemnity of our gatherings. Uniformity as in we are an order, this is our uniform.

The color black, often associated with mourning, also serves as a visual echo of one of Masonry's most profound teachings: transformation. It represents the symbolic "death" of the profane self, making way for the rebirth of the inner, enlightened Mason.

Our attire reminds us that we are engaged in serious and sacred work, work that aims not to impress the world, but to improve the self.

The tuxedo itself, though a relatively modern creation from the 19th century, was quickly adopted as formal evening-wear across society. Freemasonry, ever adaptable yet steeped in timeless symbolism, embraced the tuxedo as a dignified, unifying form of dress for its members.

The White Gloves: A Symbol in Plain Sight

And now, to the gloves. Why white ? Why gloves at all ?

White gloves carry powerful symbolic weight.

First and foremost, they represent **purity** of action, the idea that a Mason's hands, and by extension his deeds, should be clean, upright, and without reproach. To put on the gloves is to commit to a life of integrity. They serve as a visible, tangible reminder that what we do matters just as much as what we say.

But there is something even more beautiful at play here: **equality**.

Historically, gloves were presented to both the initiate and his Brethren, affirming that all Masons meet *on the level*. In centuries past, society was sharply divided, between those who worked with their hands and those who labored with their minds.

But in the Lodge, gloves concealed the marks of class, status, or profession. Whether your palms were calloused from the fields or smooth from the quill, in Lodge, you stood as equals.

In some 18th-century European Lodges, initiates received two pairs of gloves, one for themselves and one for their wife or beloved, symbolizing beautifully the importance of extending virtue beyond the Lodge walls and into the world.

A Living Allegory

So the next time you button up your jacket and adjust your tie, don't think of it as a burden, think of it as a nod to our history, a salute to the generations of men who stood where you now stand. And when you see a Brother wearing white gloves, remember the lesson of equality: *that Masonry is a place where the station falls away, where all meet as friends and Brothers, united in purpose and principle.*

We dress not to set ourselves apart, but to remind ourselves who we are and what we strive to be, better men.

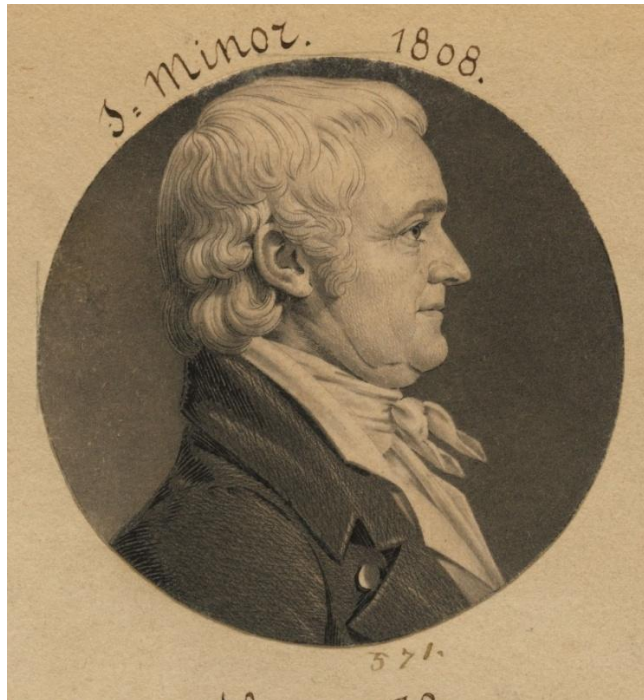
In Masonry, *nothing is without meaning*, and nothing is done by accident. Even the smallest detail, like a pair of white gloves, tells a story. And it is through these rituals, these symbols, and yes, even these garments, that we continue to pass on the living allegory of our Craft. So dress with pride, my Brothers, never out of vanity, but out of reverence. For when we clothe ourselves in dignity and humility, we honor the timeless spirit of Freemasonry.



Guardians of memory, presenting W. Bro. Minor
Preserving the Legacy of Fredericksburg Masonic cemetery.

General and Worshipful Brother. John Minor of Fredericksburg: A Patriot, Jurist, and Masonic Pillar.

Among the distinguished brethren who have passed through the gates of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, few have left as profound a legacy as General and Worshipful Brother John Minor. A man of broad intellect, courage, and moral conviction, Minor exemplified the virtues held dear by Freemasons and citizens alike, duty, justice, charity, and enlightenment.



Early Life and Revolutionary Service

Born on May 13, 1761, at *Topping Castle* in Caroline County, Virginia, W.B John Minor was reared in a culture of service to both God and country. At the tender age of fifteen, he answered the call of liberty, leaving the College of William & Mary to enlist in *Nelson's Light Horse*, serving under the famed "*Lighthorse Harry*" *Lee*. This early act of valor would foreshadow a lifetime of public service.

After the war, Minor returned to William & Mary and studied law under George Wythe, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of the greatest legal minds in the early Republic. Wythe's influence clearly imprinted itself on Minor's conscience, as he would soon emerge not just as a skilled jurist, but as a moral reformer as well.

Source: Wythepedia, William & Mary Law Library

A Legal Luminary and Advocate for Emancipation

Settling in Fredericksburg, W.B. Minor established a law practice that quickly gained prominence. Appointed as the city's first Commonwealth's Attorney, he

was compensated in the common currency of the era -2,000 pounds of tobacco. His legal acumen was matched by his oratorical skill, and he served with distinction in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Notably, in 1782 and again in 1790, Minor introduced legislation advocating for the gradual emancipation of enslaved persons and their colonization abroad. While these proposals were ahead of their time and failed to pass, they speak volumes of Minor's commitment to the Enlightenment ideals espoused by Freemasonry -Liberty, equality, and moral rectitude.

Source: Wythepedia, William & Mary Law Library and R.W. Shelby

Service in the War of 1812 and the Fredericksburg Militia

WB. Minor's military service did not end with the Revolution. In his later years, he served as Colonel of the Spotsylvania County Militia and was eventually appointed Brigadier General during the War of 1812. His command was rooted not in ambition, but in responsibility, a sacred trust to protect his community in a time of national peril.

Source: Historical Marker Database HMD

A Masonic Life of Meaning

General and WB. Minor was a committed and active member of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M. and the Worshipful Master of the lodge. His burial in the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery, founded in 1784, confirms the esteem in which he was held by the Craft.

Dept. of Historic resources

His tomb, a distinguished Gothic-style monument, rests beside other notable figures of Masonic and Revolutionary heritage, including Christiana Campbell, the famed tavern-keeper of Williamsburg, and General George Weedon, a fellow Brother and patriot.

Source: Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

Source: Fredericksburg, Virginia 1608-1908, Wikisource

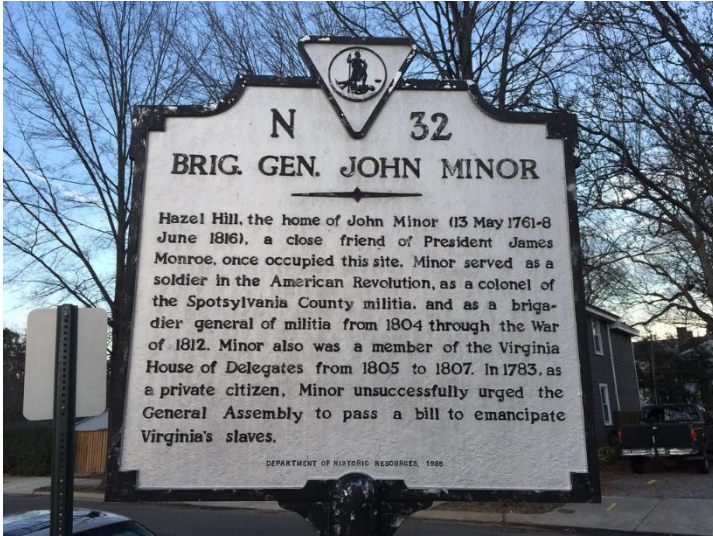


Legacy

General and WB. John Minor's impact on Fredericksburg cannot be overstated. His work as a lawyer, legislator, soldier, and Freemason all converged upon a life steeped in service and virtue. At a time when the young republic was defining its moral and civic character, Minor stood as a beacon of enlightened citizenship.

Minor married twice. In 1790, Minor married Mary Berkeley, who died only a few months after their marriage. In 1793, Minor married his late wife's cousin, Lucy Landon Carter, with whom he had six sons and one daughter. Mary Berkeley Minor, became a very prominent female anti-slavery activist and colonizationist.

For today's Masons, his life serves as a poignant reminder that the tools of the Craft, the plumb, level, and square -are not merely allegorical, but are guides by which great men have measured their lives.



This concludes the third installment of our *Guardians of Memory* series. We hope you have found this journey through history both enriching and inspiring. In the enduring pursuit of further light, we warmly encourage all who are so inclined to explore history's timeless lessons and its profound influence on our shared legacy.

Sincerely,
Michael Dove

On Yonder Book

*Sometimes referred to as the "Candle Light Charge,"
the "Canadian Charge," or "the Oklahoma Charge"*

Courtesy of R.W. Lokie Voight, delivered
March 12, 2025

In Mason's Lodge, with darkened eyes
With cable tow about me,
I swore to hale all mysteries,
That Masons keep, and Masons prize
All brothers' secrets whispered low,
All words they speak, all things they know.
In mystic manner taught me.

Refrain:

*On yonder Book that Oath I took,
And will I break it? Never!
But stand by this, and this, and this,
Forever and forever.**

2.

I swore to answer and obey,
All summons sent me duly,
By brothers' hand or Lodge array,
I swore that I would never stray,
From ancient laws and rules that bound,
Freemasons in days renowned,
But would observe them truly.
(Refrain)

3.

I swore to lead with generous care,
All those in sorrow hidden,
A brother on the darkened square,
The mourners with disheveled hair,
The orphan doomed, alas, to stray,
Upon a rough a rugged way,
While tears gush forth unbidden.
(Refrain)

4.

I swore to deal in honesty,
With each true heart around me,
That Honor...bright should ever be,
Unbroken bonds 'tween him and me,
Nor wrong, nor guile, nor cruel fraud,
Should ever break the sacred cord,
By which my vows have bound me.
(Refrain)

5.

I swore the Portals close to guard,
Of the Masonic Temple,
To rid the quarries of their dross,
To build each mystic wall across,
With body perfect, upright heart,
And mind mature in moral art
In Precept and example.
(Refrain)

6.

I swore the Chastity to guard,
Of Mason's widow, wife, or child,
His mother or his sister, undefiled.
And this is what I render
To them I pledge a brother's love,
By Him who rules the Lodge above,
To be their true defender.
(Refrain)

7.

(Have the Brethren stand)
My Brothers
These are your Vows, Be they your cares.
And may such aid be given,
In answer to your earnest prayer,
That you may ever do and dare,
And may God's grace and love to you be given
So that when the shades of life descend
And your earthly labors end
You may be found in Heaven.
*On yonder Book these Oaths we took
And will we break them? Never:
But stand by this, and this, and this,
Forever and forever.**

*At the end of each refrain, certain modes are given which are known by the Brethren of the various Degrees.



Purchase a brick through [BricksRUs](https://bricksrus.com) to help maintain our Historic Home!

[Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #4 Friends of Fredericksburg Donor Site \(bricksrus.com\)](https://bricksrus.com)

1875



2025

Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1 150th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**A. Smith Bowman Distillery
1 Bowman Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408**

Please join us for an evening of chivalric fellowship and history as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our founding. Social hour followed by dinner, a historical program, and distinguished speakers.



Dinner \$25
Guests Welcome.
Please RSVP to
CELEBRATE150@FXBGKT1.ORG
by September 30.



2025 LODGE OFFICERS

Michael Dove	Michaeldove79@gmail.com	(540) 388-1001	Worshipful Master
Seth Roderick	Sethroderick@protonmail.com	(703) 935-9781	Senior Warden
Jeff Adams, Sr.	jadams@rosendin.com	(571) 643-3962	Junior Warden
James Snyder, PM	jamie-snyder@usa.net	(540) 903-2937	Treasurer
Thomas Baker	Baker8359@gmail.com		Asst. Treasurer
Christopher Tripp, PM	Secretarylodge4va@gmail.com	(540) 424-5767	Secretary
Troy Blanchard	Cajnboy24@gmail.com		Senior Deacon
John Lapke	Lapke.j@gmail.com		Junior Deacon
Kyle Olesevich	Kyle.olesevich@gmail.com		Senior Steward
Joshua Miller	Joshua.miller21@gmail.com		Junior Steward
Justin Garrett	Jaygarrett0214@gmail.com		Chaplain
Robert Breitenbach	Robertjbreitenbach@icloud.com		Marshal
Michael Scullin	mscullin@gmail.com		Tiler

TRUSTEES

Dennis David - 2025	Dennis Berry, PDDGM - 2026	Chris Decker, PM - 2027
Dan Goodwin, PM - 2028	Christopher Tripp, PM - 2029	

PROGRAM OFFICERS

<p>Lodge Blood Coordinator Jeff Adams</p> <p>Masonic Home Ambassador Joseph Ilk</p>	<p>Lodge Instructor of Work Christopher Tripp, PM</p> <p>Lodge Catechism Chair Justin Garrett</p> <p>Lodge Scholarship Coordinator David Smith</p>	<p>Lodge Education Officer Bob Melvin</p> <p>Widows Program Coordinator Robert Breitenbach</p>
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LIVING PAST MASTERS

Wor.: Carter. G. Wells.....	1963	Wor.: Anthony L Rudder.....	2007
Wor.: Rudolph E. Griffith.....	1974	R.: W.: Jeffrey D. St. Onge.....	2009
Wor.: Henry W. Baker.....	1975	Wor.: Shelton S. Mackey.....	2010
Wor.: Edward L. Donalson.....	1983	R.: W.: Shelby L. Chandler.....	2011
R.: W.: Dennis W. Berry.....	1986	Wor.: Christopher J. Decker.....	2012
Wor.: Thomas C Shelton.....	1988	Wor.: Christopher R. Wilson.....	2013
Wor.: William J. White.....	1989	Wor.: Jeffrey L. Mitchell.....	2014
Wor.: James R. Adams.....	1992	M.: W.: Jeffrey P. VanCuren.....	2015
Wor.: Michael J. McCray.....	1995	Wor.: James L. Ragsdale.....	2016
Wor.: Steven M. Gallahan.....	1996	Wor.: Michael T. Moses.....	2017
Wor.: Charles B. Pasto.....	1998	Wor.: Daniel T. Goodwin.....	2018
Wor.: J. Travis Walker.....	2000	Wor.: James M. Snyder.....	2019
R.: W.: Daniel W. Thompson.....	2001	Wor.: Stanley R. Kennedy.....	2020
R.: W.: W. Robert Brammer.....	2002	Wor.: Christopher S. Tripp.....	2021
Wor.: Sheridan G. Harrod.....	2003	Wor.: Joseph K. Gilkerson.....	2023
Wor.: Jene G. Parrotte.....	2004	Wor.: Patrick F. McConnell.....	2024
R.: W.: Steven W. Sanford.....	2005		
Wor.: Richard D. Dey.....	2006		