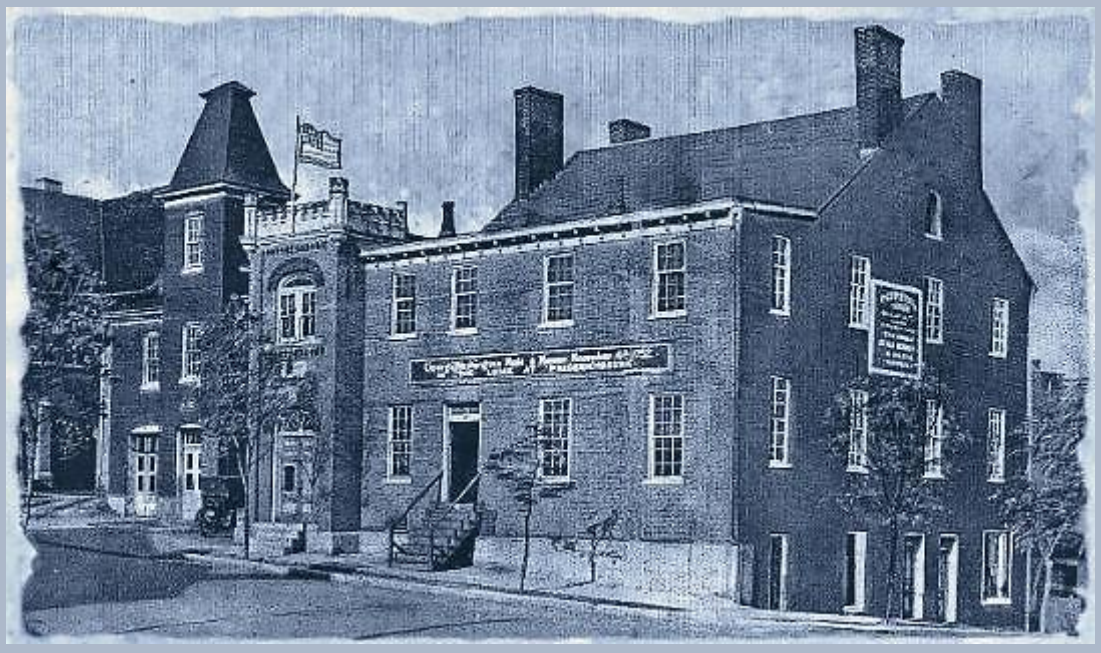
FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



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'
DECEMBER 2025

Stated Meeting
Second Fridays
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

Degree Work
Wednesdays 7pm
(check calendar)

DECEMBER 2025 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Ritual School 7 pm	4	5	6 Pancake Breakfast 8 am Christmas Parade 5:30 pm
7	8	9	10 Degree or Ritual School 7 pm	11	12 Stated Comm. Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30	13
14	15	16	17 Practice for Installation 7 pm	18	19	20 Open Installation 12:00 pm
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

Highlights from Last Month:

- Grand Master's Official Visit & Commemoration of Bro. Georeg Washington's Initiation
- Master's Banquet at Fredericksburg Area Museum
- Raised three Brethren to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason
- Initiated one other Brother into the Mysteries of Freemasonry

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for December

Bro. Theodore R. Wallace, Sr.	54 yrs.	Bro. Christopher J. Kabana	20
Bro. Brian L. Smith	28	Bro. Edwin H. Josey	19
Bro. Gary T. Shank	22	Bro. Thomas E. Kivlehan, Jr.	16
Bro. Jeffrey A. Goodman	21	Bro. Allen J. Hicks	12
Bro. Krikor E. Kolandjian	21		

From the East: A Farewell from the Master's Chair

Right Worshipfuls, Worshipful Brothers, Brethren all and Friends of Lodge 4,

Last December 2024, in the pages of this *Trestle Board*, I wrote of my intentions, "*If I should be elected by the Brethren*", to serve as Worshipful Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4.

At that time, I envisioned a year marked by renewed energy and inclusivity. My focus was to foster an environment where every Brother feels valued and empowered. Drawing from my experiences in counseling, mentorship, and strategic planning, I hoped to inspire collaboration, create opportunities for growth within the Lodge, and deepen our connection to the community we serve. I promised to serve with dedication, compassion, and an unwavering love for Freemasonry.

Those were my words as I entered the election, and my compass throughout 2025.

A year to remember

Now, as we approach the close of 2025, I find myself reflecting, not just on what was accomplished, but on the incredible men and women who made it possible. It has truly been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as Worshipful Master of this historic Lodge. To stand in the East of George Washington's Mother Lodge is an honor that words can scarcely express.

To my officers, mentors, committees, our Builders Community Award recipients, and every Brother, on the sidelines or at the forefront, thank you. The success of this year belongs to all of you.

Securing, strengthening, and rebranding Lodge No. 4

Our first order of business was ensuring the security of our sacred space. With the installation of a new alarm and surveillance system, spearheaded alongside Brother Miller, Lodge No. 4 now stands more protected than ever. That investment has already proven itself, deterring multiple attempted entries and safeguarding our home.

Equally vital was the rebranding of Lodge No. 4. We didn't just modernize our look, we revived our spirit. With the creation of our new logo, media presence,

and an expanded online platform, we've truly made Lodge 4 a name and symbol recognized far beyond our city.

Our Media Coordinator, Brother Ethan, elevated our communications, while Brother Dennis David has been the ever-reliable steward of our website and uploads of our *Trestle Board*. Thanks to Wor. Jamie, we even launched a new online store, offering everything from shirts to custom Lodge 4 cufflinks.

The Trestle Board becomes a chronicle

Speaking of our *Trestle Board*, it became, in every sense, a full-fledged magazine. The response has been humbling. Brethren across Virginia (and even from other jurisdictions) have reached out to say our articles inspired research, study, and renewed interest in Masonic history.

Our feature series, "*Guardians of Memory: Preserving the Legacy of the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery,*" has been especially well received, a reminder that our pen can be as mighty a tool of Masonry as our trowel. Our external articles has also been appreciated by our readers, and for those, we are as well grateful to have received!

Service and community

In February, Lodge No.4 once again took part in *The Coldest Night of the Year* walk, our third consecutive year. Under the leadership of Ms. Emma Richards, we raised over $3,000, finishing 13th out of 83 teams. The sight of so many Brethren walking shoulder-to-shoulder for our community was, to me, a true reflection of our Masonic principles in motion.

We also partnered with Brother Josh Miller's paranormal investigation team, exploring our Lodge's history in new and unexpected ways. Those late-night sessions, filled with curiosity and respect, not only deepened our appreciation for the building, they brought new faces and new stories into our circle.

Speaking of service, an honorable mention is well deserved to Bro Kyle Olesevich, for his leadership as my steward. Our success during our events, are for sure owed to them all.

Preservation, history, and legacy

This was a year of preservation, both of our building and our heritage. Working alongside Brother Charles McDaniel and the FMMA, our cemetery remained beautifully maintained. Together we removed the great black-walnut tree that had long stood sentinel there, its wood now destined to live on in commemorative projects for 2026.

The FMMA's support has been invaluable, aiding in preservation and upkeep, and strengthening our partnership. Moore Archive and Preservation has also been instrumental, in restoring some of our artifacts, and been a pleasure to work with.

We also restored and preserved the *Revival Bible*, alongside numerous artifacts from our archives. A new digital archival system, complete with lending contracts, tracking databases, and insurance safeguards, now ensures that every historical item remains accounted for and secure.

Part of my mantra, "*Guardians of the Craft*", became not just a phrase, but a principle in practice.

And none of this would have been possible without the tireless help of our dear friends at the Fredericksburg Area Museum, Ms. Kylie Thomson and Ms. Clarissa Sanders. Their expertise, generosity, and countless volunteer hours have made them honorary members of our Lodge extended family.

Growth, education, and fellowship

2025 was a year full of memorable moments. Here are just a few of them:

- We made Right Worshipful Lokie Leo Voight an honorary member after his unforgettable presentation in March.
- We celebrated the funding of *The McConnell Bridge to the Future Scholarship*, set to take flight in 2026.
- We paid off our Lodge's debt to the FMMA in full, a milestone that will bless our successors.

- We hosted yet another successful baseball concession-stand fundraiser.

- Brother Jeff Adams brought Red Cross blood drives back to our building, while Brother Rand earned recognition for his extraordinary record of donations.

Memorial Day

That solemn procession, orchestrated together with our Marshal, Brother Bob Breitenbach was one of the most moving moments of the year. The colors were borne with pride by Cadet Major Quinn Roderick, as the solemn, resonant tones of Brother John McDowall's bagpipes filled the air. The ceremony reached its height with the stirring address delivered by Most Worshipful Jack K. Lewis, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. His words, personal, poignant, and inspiring, reminded us that our duty is not merely to remember the fallen, but to live our lives in accordance with the virtues they defended: service, sacrifice, and brotherly love.

Worshipful Jamie and Brother Troy adorned the Lodge room with patriotic quilts and art, which drew high praise from visitors, while our faithful Stewards, Brothers Kyle and Miller, ensured refreshments were ready and welcoming. We also thank our sisters in the OES for their gracious support on that day. Memorial Day will remain one of the most meaningful events of my year in the East.

Moments of the heart

There are moments that stand out as deeply personal to me. When Brother Charles G. McDaniel set foot in his Lodge for the first time in fifty years to receive his 50-Year Masonic Veteran pin. When Worshipful Charles Lee Cooper was surprised with a Certificate of Appreciation from both the Grand Lodge and Lodge No. 4. When we pinned Brother Rife, our newest 50-year Mason, and welcomed him as a Brother who truly lives the Craft.

We rekindled bonds of Brotherhood far and wide this year. Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 had the pleasure of hosting Right Worshipful Lee Phillips, Past Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, together with Right Worshipful Jim Kraut, Past District Deputy Grand Master of Hay Market Lodge No. 313, during their visit to

our Lodge. They were accompanied by their families, and it was a true joy to share with them our ongoing archival and preservation work, a project that resonated deeply with their own passions for Masonic heritage.

R.W. Phillips' sister, Mrs. Cheryl Atwell, herself a museum curator and former Director of the Halifax Historical Museum in Daytona Beach, spent time touring our archives and later connected with the Fredericksburg Area Museum to exchange ideas on preservation and education. That visit was a wonderful reminder that Masonic Light extends beyond ritual; it shines through history, art, and fellowship.

Our renewed friendship with the Brethren of Hay Market Lodge No. 313 continued later in the year when we traveled to return the courtesy. The evening was filled with genuine fellowship, shared learning, and laughter, proof that when Lodges exchange visits, the distance between them disappears. We were also blessed later to see R.W. Kraut and several Brethren from Hay Market, along with one of their wives, return to Fredericksburg to join us at the Master's Banquet in November.

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 likewise attended the monumental centennial celebration honoring 100 Years of Masonic Brotherhood at John A. Lejeune Lodge No. 350 in Quantico, a reminder that our fraternity's strength lies in its shared legacy and mutual respect across time and jurisdiction.

And who could forget our *Appendant Bodies Night*, a triumphant evening of unity, education, and surprise honors, when we presented the *Community Builder Award* to Ms. Kylie Thomson and Ms. Clarissa Sanders for their extraordinary service to the Craft and the community.

Lastly, I must pay tribute to Brother William "Troy" Blanchard, our steadfast Senior Deacon, who has now relocated to Florida. His spirit and friendship remain with us. He even flew back for the Grand Master's visit, a testament to his heart for Lodge 4.

The first Master's banquet

Of all the events this year, one stands as one of the crowning jewels, the very first Master's Banquet ever held by Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. Hosted in the grand

and historic halls of our old Town Hall, now the Fredericksburg Area Museum, it was an evening that united Brethren, families, and friends in an atmosphere of fellowship and celebration worthy of the ages.

The room, steeped in history, came alive once more as Masons filled the same space where generations before us had debated, built, and served. The event brought together Lodges from across the region and the ladies of our Brethren, all gathered for one purpose, to celebrate our Craft, our heritage, and each other.

The evening featured a tour of the museum and we were treated with seeing some artifacts normally not seen, the reveal of our newly crafted Bible case, along with a presentation of new research into the Revival Bible, a work of deep historical importance to our Lodge to Virginia and to Masonry as a whole. The dinner was exquisite, the fellowship unmatched, and the laughter genuine. We had a great guest speaker, who gave us a great presentation on masonry and Fredericksburg.

And of course, true to the tradition, we "shot the cannons" raising our glasses for heartfelt and meaningful toasts that echoed through those storied walls. It was a night of epic proportions, filled with laughter, gratitude, and pride!

When the evening drew to a close, all were in agreement: this should become a Lodge tradition for years to come. The Master went home with a heart full of gratitude, pride, and an unshakable sense that the light of Masonry had shone brilliantly that night in Fredericksburg.

Reflections from the East

Looking back, I can say this year was not merely busy, it was *transformative.* None of which were possible, without my line behind me. So, thank you to all the officers, for their attention, support and work for our lodge, the craft and myself.

To lead this Lodge is to carry a sacred trust. It demands time, patience, and heart, but every hour spent comes back tenfold in fellowship and gratitude. I hope that in my time as Worshipful Master, I have left our Lodge a little stronger, a little brighter, and a little more united than when I began.

No Lodge is lead without the seeking good counsel from time to time, and I am proud of my Secretary Wor. Chris Tripp, and the amount of work he has done for

the Lodge, the appendant bodies, and other lodges with courtesy work and assistance. Our Lodge is very fortunate to have Wor. Tripp with us. Thank you for your dedication and assistance this year.

When asked recently, "*How many days until you're out of the East*?" I replied truthfully, "I don't know, but it's not enough." Because there is still so much I wish to do.

I've seen Brethren rediscover joy in attending Lodge again. I've heard them say they feel at home. That alone makes the journey worth every effort.

A new chapter begins

As I lay down the gavel and prepare to take my station in the South, I do so with gratitude and hope. The work continues, new hands will take up the tools, new hearts will find purpose in the Craft. Working together with my Sr. Warden Bro Seth Roderick this year, has been in many ways invaluable, for the future of our Lodge. I'm looking very much forward to the continued work and the many nights of late calls, talking about the Lodge and projects with stewardship and Freemasonry at heart. I am also grateful for the chance to continue the work we have begun and assist on new projects for the year 2026, if the brethren elect so.

The foundations we have strengthened this year are only the beginning. For we are, and must always remain, *Guardians of the Craft, Stewards of Knowledge, and Builders of Tomorrow. Never may we forget the shoulders of the giants upon which we stand.*

Thank you everyone for your dedication, your support, your counsel, and your efforts this year to work in the quarry with me. I shall remain forever grateful and proud of what we have accomplished together.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Michael Dove, soon to be a PM.
Worshipful Master, 2025
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

Yeoman

Among the many figures who populated our early landscape, few stand more prominently in the imagination of the Founding generation than that of the yeoman farmer. He was the small landholder who worked with his own hands, governed his own household, and lived with a spirit of self-reliance that made him the natural guardian of liberty. To understand him is to understand the soil from which the Commonwealth first sprang. It is also to discover a figure whose character bears a close kinship to the Freemason of today.

The yeoman's strength is not measured in wealth or splendor; it is measured in steadiness. He tilled his own fields, managed his own affairs, and stood prepared to defend his community when necessity called. Importantly, his independence did not sever him from his neighbors. On the contrary, his independence strengthened the bonds of fellowship because he met others as equals, without servility or arrogance. In this manner, he carried within his daily labor the seeds of civic virtue and the character of a Brother.

The modern Freemason, though bound by different circumstances, inhabits a station with similar expectations. He is taught to stand upright, to govern his passions, and to serve the good of his Lodge and his community with a willing heart. He may not work a plow, but he cultivates habits of the mind and temperaments of the soul that resemble those of the yeoman farmer. His labor focuses on the cultivation of character. The fruits of his efforts emerge in the quiet shaping of conduct and the steady refinement of moral purpose.

The yeoman's claim to respect rested upon a duty well performed. He stewarded his small acreage with care as he knew that neglect of one's own ground leads quickly to disorder. When he tended his fences, he kept more than livestock and brush in line. He maintained the order necessary for the prosperity of all around him. In a similar spirit, the Freemason guards the welfare of his Lodge. He serves on committees, supports the sick, and reinforces great work by quiet constancy. In both figures, stewardship becomes a mark of honor. Each is responsible for something that must be preserved.

Then there is the shared devotion to community. The yeoman was often the first to lend a hand when a roof failed or a neighbor fell ill. His contribution was measured in willingness instead of public praise. Freemasons pursue the same

character. Our charitable labors in the Lodge, whether tending to our widows or supporting education, reflect the virtue once found in those early yeoman homesteads. Generosity that springs from conviction, not compulsion, is what forms the link between the Freemason and the yeoman.

The yeoman's world was plainly visible whereas the Mason's work is quite diligence Yet they are not so far apart. The farmer's careful laying of a straight line, his setting of a post square and true, connect with the Mason's attention to the level, the plumb, and the square. Both understand that order in small things prepares the mind for order in great things. The tools differ, but the purpose to build lives fit for the service of others brings them into alignment.

There is a convergence between the yeoman and the Freemason. Both cherish independence joined to duty. Both cultivate virtue through regular labor. Both serve their communities through steady acts rather than noisy declarations. They become, in their respective ages, the quiet bearers of noble character.

For the Brothers of the Lodge, there are several considerations to chart. We must ask whether our own affairs are kept in such good order that we may serve as examples to others. We must think about how our charitable works might resemble the neighborly generosity of old, given freely and without vanity. As we approach the celebration of our 250th year of independence as a Commonwealth, we must consider how the habits we form within these walls might strengthen the civic health of our community, just as the yeoman's virtues sustained the early Republic.

If we do these things, we may find that the old yeoman who once stewarded the ground we live on still has lessons to instruct us in the Lodge today. The work of building worthy men never passes out of season.

Bro. Seth Roderick
Sr. Warden

Secretary's Corner

Just a quick reminder this month that dues will come due for 2026 on January 1st. The dues this year will be $225 again. Although the expenses of operating your Lodge continue to increase, we are not applying the cost of living adjustment (COLA) and will keep dues the same as for this year. Please note that at the Grand

Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge voted to increase the assessment by $15 starting in 2027, so we expect a dues increase will become necessary at that time.

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, if you are local and your schedule permits, why not? What are you getting for your dues money? There are many ways you can become involved. As LIW, I believe one of the most rewarding ways to get involved is to learn a part in our Ritual and help with our Degrees. We're here most every Wednesday night and always need Brethren to learn—whether it's the duties of a chair, a steward preparing candidates, a coach teaching Catechism, or learning a prayer, a charge, or even a Lecture, we need your help. Even if that's not your forte, you can help just by being on the sidelines to show support for our candidates and our Degree team. Cheer them on and show them what they mean to our Lodge. Congratulate them afterwards. Rest assured they're remember it for years to come. Having a full Lodge to welcome candidates speaks volumes. So does an empty room. So come join us; we'd love to have you. To all those who are traveling, travel safely, and we hope you have a very Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah, and a blessed and prosperous New Year.

A season of light at Fredericksburg lodge No. 4

Honoring the beautiful work of Fredericksburg OES #29

By WM. Mike Dove

As the winter season settles over our beloved city, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 has once again been transformed into a place of warmth, beauty, and quiet reflection, thanks to the generosity, dedication, and community spirit of our OES No. 29 Chapter.

This year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fredericksburg Chapter No. 29, Order of the Eastern Star, for spearheading the Christmas decorations throughout our Lodge. Their thoughtful work, crafted with care and placed with love, has filled our historic building with the spirit of the season. From elegant accents to festive touches that brighten every corner, their efforts have made the Lodge feel alive with holiday cheer.

These decorations do more than simply add color, they honor the heritage of Washington's Lodge and welcome every Brother, friend, and visitor into an atmosphere of warmth and unity. At a time when the world moves quickly, the Eastern Star has given us the gift of peaceful beauty.

Wreaths of remembrance and respect

We also extend our sincere thanks to the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. (HFFI) for the donation of two beautiful wreaths placed in our historic cemetery. These wreaths stand as symbols of remembrance, honoring the Brethren and families who rest there, and reminding each passerby of the enduring legacy preserved within those gates.

Throughout the season, countless visitors stroll through our cemetery and past our Lodge. Many pause, reflect, and take in the peaceful scene before them. The wreaths, placed with great care, elevate the sacredness of this space and offer a heartfelt tribute to those who helped build the community we cherish today.

A gift to the city

Our Lodge stands at the heart of Fredericksburg, architecturally, historically, and spiritually. With the Eastern Star's decorations glowing inside and HFFI's wreaths adorning our grounds, our Lodge and cemetery now radiates with a holiday charm that enriches the city around us.

For those walking through the historic district, the Lodge becomes a warm and welcoming landmark, a reminder that the spirit of charity, remembrance, and fellowship is alive and well. And for the many visitors we receive, tourists, families, and those exploring our cemetery's rich stories, these decorations reflect the pride, respect, and love our community holds for this sacred place. This season, our Lodge is not only decorated, it is *adorned with kindness*.

With deep appreciation

To Fredericksburg OES #29:

Your dedication brings joy and beauty to our Lodge year after year. Your work strengthens our shared Masonic family and reminds us of the profound harmony we build together.

To the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc:

Your generosity ensures that our history is never forgotten, especially during the season of reflection and gratitude. Your support honors the past while inspiring the future.

May the light of the season shine upon all who pass through our doors

From the Brethren of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, thank you for helping us bring the spirit of Christmas to our Lodge, our cemetery, and our community. Your kindness illuminates our home, and our hearts, with the true holiday warmth.

Wishing all a joyful and Merry Christmas

As the lights glow softly within our Lodge and the wreaths stand proudly in our cemetery, we are reminded of the true spirit of this season, gratitude, fellowship, and hope. To all our members, families, friends, partners, and every visitor who walks past our historic doors:

May your hearts be full, your homes warm, and your days blessed with peace and joy.

From Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, we wish everyone a joyful and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely and with gratitude,
Fredericksburg Lodge #4

A Visit Rooted in History and Hope: Welcoming Historic Port Royal to Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 and the Fredericksburg Area Museum

In late November, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 and the Fredericksburg Area Museum had the distinct honor of welcoming distinguished guests from Historic Port Royal. The delegation was led by Ms. Kerri Holland, President of Historic Port Royal, whose passion for Caroline County's heritage has been instrumental in preserving its most treasured landmarks. We were equally blessed by the presence of Ms. Cleopatra "Cleo" Coleman, founder of Historic Port Royal Inc. A legend in her own right, and a name spoken with respect across Caroline County and beyond.

Ms. Cleo carries with her a belief that has become something of a guiding star in preservation circles: "A building is never beyond preservation or restoration." Her conviction is not mere sentiment, it is proven through her extraordinary work. Most notably, she spearheaded the resurrection of the historic Port Royal School, transforming it into a vibrant living museum that now stands as a testament to both endurance and vision.

Reconnecting Two Historic Communities

This gathering was more than a meeting, it was a reconnection of two historic regions, Fredericksburg and Caroline County, whose stories have long intertwined. The common purpose that brought us together was a powerful one: the desire to support the restoration of Old Masonic Lodge No. 2, built in 1854 and

later serving as the town hall and lyceum of Port Royal. Its history is rich, its walls storied, and its potential immense.

After seeing the brief broadcast in which Ms. Cleo spoke so passionately about the mission ahead, both Lodge 4 and the Fredericksburg Area Museum, whose care and stewardship extend into Caroline County, felt called to action. Inspired and moved, we reached out with a simple message: *How can we help?*

Thanks to the coordination of President Kerri Holland, a joint meeting soon took shape, bringing together representatives from Historic Port Royal, the Fredericksburg Area Museum, and Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4.

A Meeting Filled with Purpose

The discussions were warm, productive, and filled with excitement. Ideas were shared, histories exchanged, and common ground quickly uncovered. What stood out most was the shared belief that preservation is not merely about saving a structure, it is about uplifting a community, honoring those who came before us, and providing something meaningful for those who will follow. Everyone present felt it: This is the beginning of something important.

We are already preparing for a follow-up visit in December, and the enthusiasm on all sides is unmistakable. The road ahead is filled with opportunity, and

together we stand committed to assisting in whatever ways we can, whether through research, archival support, historical interpretation, or hands-on collaboration.

A Message of Gratitude

On behalf of the Fredericksburg Area Museum and Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Holland, Ms. Coleman, and the entire Historic Port Royal board for visiting us. Your time, insight, and spirit of cooperation made for a truly memorable day.

It was a pleasure welcoming you to our Lodge and Museum. We sincerely hope you enjoyed the tours, the conversations, and the shared sense of purpose as much as we did. Your visit brought with it a genuine spirit of fellowship and collaboration, one we deeply value and eagerly look forward to strengthening.

Together, we have the opportunity to honor the past, serve the present, and build something meaningful for generations yet to come.

We are excited for what lies ahead, and grateful to be walking this path with you.

Sincerely,
Mike Dove

BETHEL 16 JOB'S DAUGHTERS
A BRIGHT LIGHT WITHIN OUR MASONIC FAMILY

Left to right: Freya K, Anna B, Kathryn N, Kerry N, Ayden S.

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 is proud to be home to Bethel 16, Job's Daughters International, one of the most active and uplifting youth organizations in our Masonic family. Meeting on the second and fourth Friday of every month at our historic Lodge building at 803 Princess Anne Street, these young ladies continue to exemplify the finest virtues of character, leadership, and community service.

Who they are

Job's Daughters is a dynamic organization for young women ages 10-20, dedicated to fostering leadership, integrity, respect, and sisterhood. Through service projects, public speaking, ritual work, and social activities, the members grow

spiritually, mentally, and emotionally, building confidence and forging friendships with their peers that last a lifetime.

The Bethel's activities range from charitable outreach to competitions, to fun fellowship events such as their Ice Cream Socials, which bring families and community members together in a warm, welcoming setting.

Celebrating excellence - Honoring Queen Kathryn

This year, Bethel 16 has enjoyed an especially proud moment as their Honored Queen, Kathryn, traveled to represent Virginia at the Supreme Session in Glendale, Arizona.

Her accomplishments were nothing short of outstanding!:

- 1st Place - Second Messenger, Ritual Competition
- 1st Place - Ballet Performance
- 3rd Place - Contemporary Dance
- Participation in the Royal Parade at Formal Opening
- Featured performer in the Showcase prior to the Miss International Pageant

From ritual excellence to artistic talent, Kathryn stood as a shining ambassador for both Bethel 16 and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

From Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4:

"*Kathryn, we could not be prouder of you. Your dedication, poise, and hard work reflect the very best of what youth leadership looks like in our Masonic family. You have represented Bethel 16 and Fredericksburg with grace, talent, and unmistakable excellence. "Well done!*"

A growing chapter in a historic lodge

Bethel 16 brings life, joy, and purpose to our Lodge. Their presence reminds us that the future of Masonry is not only in our hands, but in the bright and capable hands of the young people we support. Whether participating in community service, perfecting ritual, or sharing a simple ice cream social with friends and families, they continue to embody the values we cherish as Masons.

We encourage all Brethren and families to support these remarkable young ladies, attend their events, and celebrate their accomplishments. Bethel 16 is truly one of the jewels of our Masonic community.

Meetings:

Second & Fourth Sundays
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
803 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Job's Daughters - Building leaders, strengthening families, and shaping tomorrow.

A Night to Remember: The Grand Master's Visit to Fredericsksburg Lodge No. 4

On the first day of November, A.L. 6025, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, was honored by the visit of M.W. Gary Dwight Huffman, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. The evening was one that blended reverence for our heritage with the living strength of our present-day Brotherhood.

M:.W:. Gary Dwight Huffman, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia and Worshipful Master Michael Dove, Fredericksburg Lodge #4

Though our beloved 1816 building was constructed after Brother George Washington walked among us, this Lodge remains the place where he was initiated, passed, and raised. Yet Bro Washington stands among a long line of remarkable men whose names, sacrifices, and achievements helped shape our Lodge, our Commonwealth, and our nation. Within these walls have gathered soldiers, statesmen, surgeons, merchants, craftsmen, ministers, patriots, and Brothers of every walk of life, each contributing to the unbroken chain of light we preserve today.

It was with that spirit of continuity and gratitude that we welcomed the Grand Master.

A Feast Worthy of the Occasion

Before the meeting, our stewards and Brethren rendered the Baker Room unrecognizable, in the best way possible! Through teamwork, pride, and quiet

dedication, they created a banquet hall fit for the evening's distinguished company! Thank you everyone!

The dinner was a hearty seasonal feast, consisting of:

- Sliced Spiral Ham
- Carved Roasted Turkey with Cranberry Sauce
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Kernel Corn
- Cornbread Dressing
- Fresh Salad with Spinach, Romaine, Dried Cranberries, Feta & Almonds
  Parker House Rolls

Every guest left satisfied, and the comments echoed from table to table: "*One of the best meals we've had in years.*" and even one response was, "*The best meal of the year*". Coming from the GloVA, I say we can be proud of our caterer!

A meeting conducted With dignity and harmony

When the Brethren assembled upstairs, the meeting that followed proceeded with precision, decorum, and warmth. Officers fulfilled their duties with poise, and the work of the evening moved in harmony, so much so that several visitors remarked that the Lodge "*ran like clockwork*."

And then, a moment none present will soon forget:

In an unexpected but deeply meaningful gesture, the Grand Master personally asked the Worshipful Master to close his own Lodge. For the record, and with a smile, this was entirely by the will and pleasure of the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. I promise, no errors were made. No protocols were missed! It was simply a tribute of confidence, respect, and fraternal affection.

M:.W:. Gary Dwight Huffman, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia with the Grand Line officers and WM Michael Dove, Fredericksburg Lodge #4

Honoring our past, living our present, building Our Future

The day's success was due to the effort of many, our stewards, officers, and Brethren whose hard work ensured a flawless evening. Their dedication is a living continuation of the tradition built by the countless Masons, patriots, and citizens who have passed through our Lodge since 1752.

Every name in our archives, every signature in our minutes, every Brother whose footsteps have crossed our threshold contributes to the legacy that makes our Lodge a place unlike any other!

The Grand Master's visit was not only an honor, it was a reminder that the light of the Craft still shines brightly here, strengthened by the memory of those who came before and carried forward by the brothers laboring here today.

M:.W:. Gary Dwight Huffman presented with the Fredericksburg Lantern, made by Wor. Tony Rudder.

We leave this evening with gratitude in our hearts, pride in our Lodge, and renewed commitment to the work before us.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Mike Dove

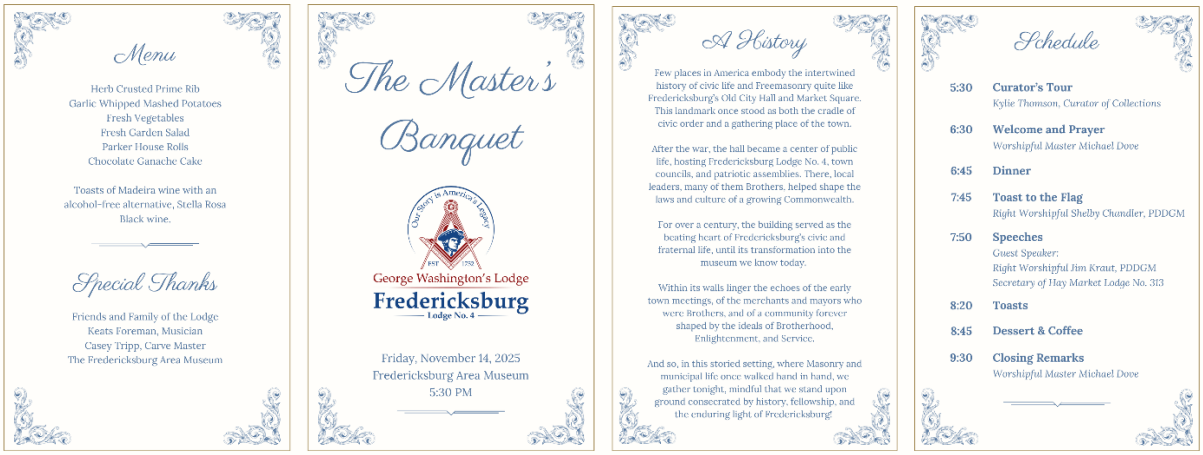
The Master's Banquet
November 14, 2025
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 and the Fredericksburg Area Museum

by Kylie Thomson, FAM

It is a long-standing Masonic tradition that each year a Table Lodge is held. Unlike the usual meetings and dinners that are based on business and ritual, these occasions are marked by toasts, invited guests, and music. All of which intend to create a ceremony of celebration and fellowship. For many years, the Table Lodges of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 had been held within the familiar walls of their own Baker Room. Yet the work undertaken within the Lodge in 2025 opened the door to a new possibility, one rooted in history itself.

Proud of their heritage and the Lodge's deep connection to Fredericksburg's rich past, Worshipful Master Michael Dove and his officers resolved that the time had come to share their story more broadly. The doors of the Lodge were opened, and Brothers and guests alike entered with curiosity and reverence. The archives of the Lodge were also unlocked, revealing the photographs, documents, paintings, and other relics that bore witness to centuries of local Masonic history. Determined to preserve and disseminate this legacy, the Lodge undertook a serious effort to catalog and digitize the collection, partnering with the Fredericksburg Area Museum to ensure that these stories might be brought to light.

As the year drew to its close, it was decided that the venue for the Table Lodge should reflect the labor and discoveries of the months prior. Thus, the Fredericksburg Area Museum was chosen to host the event. The gathering took place in the historic Council Chambers on the third floor, a space where generations of civic leaders had met, debated, and served. It was fitting, then, that the Brothers of the present should dine and celebrate where so many of their predecessors had once stood. That year, the historic room now stood as a gallery for the "*Lafayette's World*" exhibit, commemorating the Marquis de Lafayette and his visit to Fredericksburg in 1824. An event that the Lodge itself was familiar with as it played a pivotal role welcoming the General, who was not only a revered figure of the Revolutionary War but also an honorary Brother, during his visit.



Menu

Herb Crusted Prime Rib
Garlic Whipped Mashed Potatoes
Fresh Vegetables
Fresh Garden Salad
Parker House Rolls
Chocolate Ganache Cake

Toasts of Madeira wine with an alcohol-free alternative, Stella Rosa Black wine.

Special Thanks

Friends and Family of the Lodge
Keats Foreman, Musician
Casey Tripp, Carve Master
The Fredericksburg Area Museum

The Master's Banquet

Our Story is America's Legacy

George Washington's Lodge
Fredericksburg
Lodge No. 4

Friday, November 14, 2025
Fredericksburg Area Museum
5:30 PM

A History

Few places in America embody the intertwined history of civic life and Freemasonry quite like Fredericksburg's Old City Hall and Market Square. This landmark once stood as both the cradle of civic order and a gathering place of the town.

After the war, the hall became a center of public life, hosting Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, town councils, and patriotic assemblies. There, local leaders, many of them Brothers, helped shape the laws and culture of a growing Commonwealth.

For over a century, the building served as the beating heart of Fredericksburg's civic and fraternal life, until its transformation into the museum we know today.

Within its walls linger the echoes of the early town meetings, of the merchants and mayors who were Brothers, and of a community forever shaped by the ideals of Brotherhood, Enlightenment, and Service.

And so, in this storied setting, where Masonry and municipal life once walked hand in hand, we gather tonight, mindful that we stand upon ground consecrated by history, fellowship, and the enduring light of Fredericksburg!

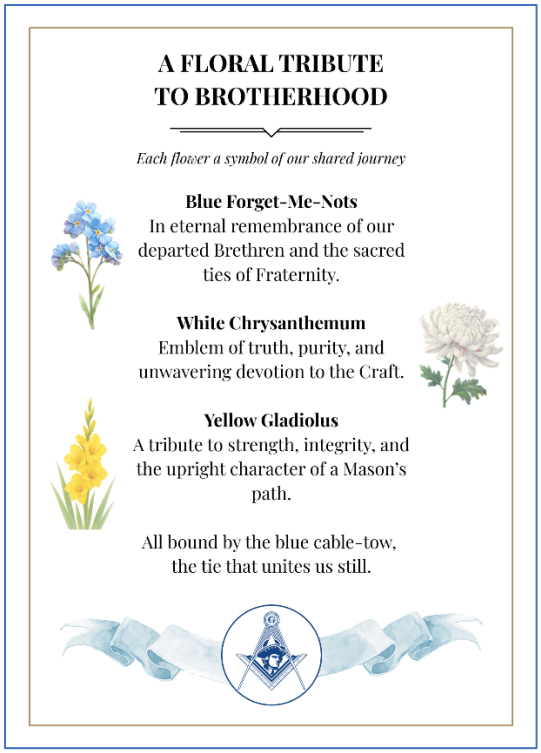
Schedule

5:30	**Curator's Tour**	*Kylie Thomson, Curator of Collections*
6:30	**Welcome and Prayer**	*Worshipful Master Michael Dove*
6:45	**Dinner**	
7:45	**Toast to the Flag**	*Right Worshipful Shelby Chandler, PDDGM*
7:50	**Speeches**	*Guest Speaker:* *Right Worshipful Jim Kraut, PDDGM* *Secretary of Hay Market Lodge No. 313*
8:20	**Toasts**	
8:45	**Dessert & Coffee**	
9:30	**Closing Remarks**	*Worshipful Master Michael Dove*

Program from the event

The tables were arranged with the familiar blue and gold of Freemasonry, blue tablecloths adorned with gold candles and floral arrangements curated to represent the ideals of the Craft. At each place setting, firing glasses waited in readiness, awaiting the toasts to come.

Decorated tables in the gallery.



The floral tribute to brotherhood represented by the centerpieces of floral arrangements.

Guests arrived in their regalia and evening attire, prepared for a night of history and ceremony. Before dinner, they were led on a tour of the museum by the Curator of Collections, Kylie Thomson, where the influence of Masonic men and ideals through the centuries were brought into view. The stories shared ranged from the halls of historic institutions to the lives of the wives and daughters of notable Masons, and even to the batteaux that once carried Fredericksburg's entrepreneurial spirit along the river. A highlight of the tour was the exhibition preview for America's upcoming Semiquincentennial, featuring a Fredericksburg Gunnery musket marked "Fredg 1776," produced at the gunnery owned by Fielding Lewis and Charles Dick.

The tour concluded with a surprise presented by the Worshipful Master. The George Washington Masonic Bible, long displayed in a modest case, was revealed anew in a handsome acrylic cradle, lined with blue fabric and angled to present the book with reverence. In its new setting, the Bible carried an almost sacred presence, symbolizing the Lodge's commitment to preserving both the artifact and the ideals it represents.

The George Washington Bible in its new cradle.

From there, the guests ascended to the Council Chambers for the main event. Worshipful Master Dove welcomed the assembled Brothers, guests, and the ladies in attendance, and offered warm acknowledgment to those unable to be present. As dinner commenced, the sound of a violin, played by local musician Keats Foreman, filled the chamber with Baroque sonatas. Conversation swelled into laughter and good fellowship. A speech was delivered by guest speaker Right Worshipful Jim Kraut of Hay Market Masonic Lodge No. 313, who recounted the lives of notable figures in both local and Masonic history. Right Worshipful Kraut was presented a set of custom-made Lodge 4 cufflinks bearing the face of George Washington.

[Left:] Right Worshipful Jim Kraut, PDDGM during his speech.

[Right]: Worshipful Master Michael Dove presenting custom Lodge 4. cufflinks to Right Worshipful Jim Kraut.

The evening's revelations continued with the presentation of an artifact that was only recently discovered by the Worshipful Master himself. Labeled the "Revival Bible," and presented to the Lodge by the Presbyterian Church for safekeeping in 1928. This Bible was carried during the Great Revival that swept Fredericksburg in 1863. Worshipful Master Dove recounted the tale of suffering, redemption, and peace intertwined with the Bible's history, drawing connections between the Reverend who bore it and the ideals of Masonry.

Worshipful Master Michael Dove presents the Revival Bible, held by Kylie Thomson.


This Bible is presented to Lodge No. 4 by the Session of the Presbyterian Church, knowing it will be carefully preserved on the sacred altar and will ever be a reminder to be watchful and guarded in word and deed ~

This Bible was used in the Presbyterian Church prior to and after the shelling of Fredericksburg also during the great revival conducted by the Methodist Minister, Rev. William Owens in 1863

Apr. 6. 1928 R. V. Lancaster minister

The Revival Bible (left) and the inscription inside the cover (right).

After the speeches, the traditional toasts began. The firing glasses struck the tables in sharp, rhythmic blows, echoing the cannon fire that had shaped so many of the region's historical events. Toasts were offered to Lodges, to friends, to leaders, and

to the honored dead. Seven shots were fired, followed by additional tributes from those in attendance.

A toast and a cannon fire!

The night drew to a close with a moving address from the Worshipful Master, a reflection on the Lodge's past, present, and future. He reminded his guests that while much work remains ahead, the past must continue to be preserved, honored, and remembered.

Worshipful Master Michael Dove addresses the room.

A reunion of Brotherhood: Via Veritas Lodge No. 487 Visits Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

Few moments in Masonry shine brighter than the ones in which distance, culture, and language fall away, leaving only Brotherhood. This year, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 had the honor of welcoming our Romanian Brethren of Via Veritas Lodge No. 487, together with their partners, during their visit to the United States. Their journey marked not only a renewal of friendship but a celebration of unity, tradition, and the universal light we all seek.

This visit was especially meaningful, as it came two years after their last visit at Lodge 4, where many lasting bonds were first formed. Seeing those familiar faces again, warm smiles, firm handshakes, and the joyful greetings shared between Brethren, felt less like a return visit and more like a family reunion.

A historic moment: The twinning ceremony

A central highlight of their trip was the upcoming historic event between Williamsburg Lodge No. 6 and Via Veritas Lodge No. 487 of the National Grand Lodge of Romania. These two Lodges will be officially "TWINNED,"

strengthening a cross-continental bond rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and the timeless principles of Freemasonry.

This twinning stands as a testament to our Craft's ability to bring the world closer, one handshake, one conversation, and one act of fellowship at a time. It symbolizes a commitment to continued collaboration, cultural exchange, and enduring friendship between American and Romanian Masons.

A visit to Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4: George Washington's Lodge

We were honored to host our Romanian Brethren at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. Though our current building dates from 1816, its stones, symbols, and artifacts carry the weight of centuries of Masonic history.

Our guests toured the Lodge room, viewed our historic collection, and heard the stories preserved within our walls, stories of patriots, past Masters, and generations of Brothers who shaped not only our Lodge but the nation itself. Their

reverence for our heritage was heartfelt and genuine, a reminder that Masonic history speaks one universal language.

Walking Through Memory: A Visit to the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery

No visit to our Lodge is complete without paying respects to our forebears. Together we walked the grounds of the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery.

The Romanian Brethren and their partners took great interest in the stories of the Brothers buried there, artisans, soldiers, merchants, mayors, and community builders. Standing among those weathered stones, there was a quiet but powerful sense of shared purpose: That all Masons, wherever they are born, labor in the same long chain of Brotherhood stretching across generations.

Rekindling Friendship Across Continents

This year's visit was more than a tour, it was a renewal of Brotherly affection forged last time, two years ago and strengthened again today. Our guests brought not only their warmth and enthusiasm but also their partners, who added grace and joy to the gathering. The conversations were lively, the laughter genuine, and the hospitality freely exchanged.

It is our sincere hope that these visits continue, growing into a tradition that future Brethren will cherish long after our own time in the Craft has passed.

United in Light

As we parted ways, the feeling was unmistakable, our Lodges may be an ocean apart, but our hearts are close. The twinning of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6 and Via Veritas Lodge No. 487 will serve as a shining example of what Freemasonry at its best can be, a global Brotherhood committed to friendship, knowledge, and the betterment of mankind.

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 extends its deepest gratitude to our Romanian Brethren and their partners. Until we meet again, Fraternally, in Light, Friendship, and Unity!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Michael Dove
Worshipful Master
Fredericksburg Lodge 4

From Ball to Bullet: A Masonic duel in Alum Spring.

By *Kylie Thomson*, Curator of Collections
Fredericksburg Area Museum

Today, a short one-mile trail offers casual hikers, walkers, and runners an escape from the city's pavement. It's also a favorite spot for picnics and play. Yet few know that this peaceful area holds a unique and thrilling history that sounds straight out of a novel.

This is Alum Spring Park, a wooded haven located at the end of Greenbrier Drive in Fredericksburg. The park's famous "Alum Spring Rock," a small cliff often featured in photographs, stands as its defining landmark. The park takes its name from the alum salts that crystallize along the rock face.

In the 1800s, locals were well acquainted with this site. Robert Reid Howison (1820–1906), a local historian who lived at Braehead Manor, noted that residents favored the area for ice skating. He wrote that the spring "furnished also the very hardest and best ice, which was eagerly gathered into the icehouses, private and public, in Fredericksburg." Locals also appreciated its secluded trails and quiet atmosphere away from town. In other words, the perfect place for a duel.

It is important to note that this story is based on accounts passed through the descendants of those involved. While these oral traditions preserve valuable perspectives and provide otherwise lost information, their details cannot be fully verified.

Around 1790, Lodge No. 4 held a grand ball, attended not only by Fredericksburg's elite but also by guests from surrounding areas. Among those in attendance was William Glassell, a Scottish merchant who had found success in Fredericksburg. He was a respected citizen, a veteran of a cavalry company, and well known in town. His guest of honor that evening was a young woman, an orphan under his care and living in his household. Also attending the ball was Robert Ritchie, a merchant from Essex County.

At some point during the evening, Ritchie, possibly under the influence, insulted the young woman accompanying Glassell. Though the exact words of the insult were not recorded, Glassell confronted Ritchie and demanded an apology. Ritchie refused, insisting he had done nothing wrong. The two men parted ways, but the matter was far from settled.

When the ball ended without an apology, Glassell issued a formal challenge to a duel. Ritchie accepted and chose pistols as the weapons.

As the time for the duel grew nearer, Glassell sent a mutual friend to persuade Ritchie to apologize, offering to withdraw the challenge if he did. The friend reminded Ritchie that Glassell was an expert marksman, trained in Scotland. Still, Ritchie refused to apologize.

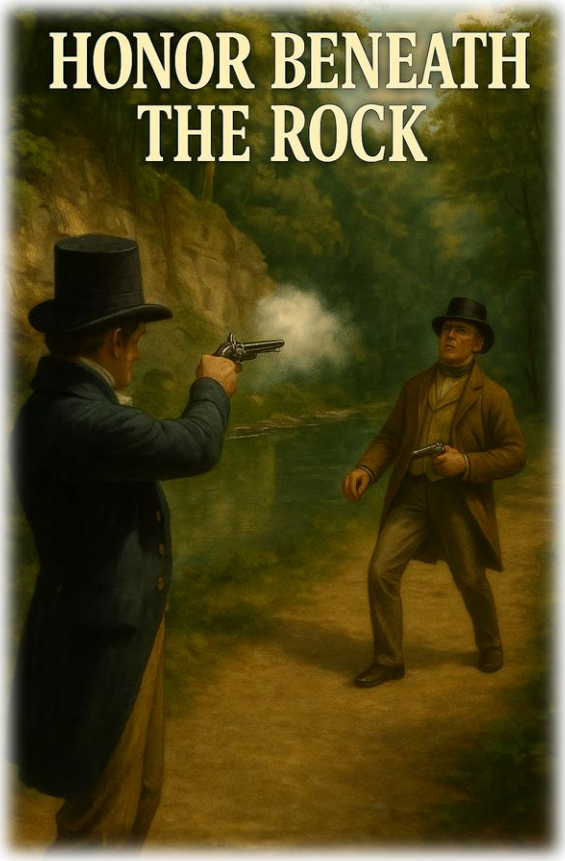
The men met at Alum Spring, where the duel took place on the walkway beside the Alum Spring Rock, overlooking the clear lake. The duel commenced under the strict "code of honor" that was common at the time. This "code" dictated how gentlemen should respond to these challenges. These procedures were intended to demonstrate fairness, courage, and uphold personal integrity rather than vengeance.

As soon as the first shot rang out, Ritchie fell to the ground. Glassell rushed to his side and asked for forgiveness, but Ritchie again refused. A short time later, he succumbed to his injuries.

Despite the secluded nature of the site, word of the duel spread quickly through Fredericksburg and nearby towns. A warrant was issued, and Glassell was arrested for murder. He was brought before the Spotsylvania tribunal and, after presenting his evidence, was acquitted, likely based on the previously mentioned traditional "code of honor" governing duels of the era.

Afterward, Glassell's uncle implored him to repent for his actions, but Glassell refused, insisting that he bore no guilt in the matter. His aunt defended him, agreeing that he had acted without malice. Such incidents were rarely well-documented, often intentionally concealed by those involved and their families. It is likely that Glassell spoke little of the duel in later years.

William Glassell remained in Fredericksburg for the rest of his life and was interred in the Masonic Cemetery upon his death.



Resources:

Howison, Robert Reid. "Duelling in Virginia." William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Papers, ser. 2, vol. 4, 1924, p. 217.

"Henry Lee to James Madison, 3 April 1790," Founders Online, National Archives, https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-13-02-0099. [Original source: The Papers of James Madison, vol. 13, 20 January 1790–31 March 1791, ed. Charles F. Hobson and Robert A. Rutland. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1981, pp. 136–138.]

Hodge, Robert A., *Alum Spring Park: A History*.

Guardians of memory, presenting Mr. Charles Landon Carter
Preserving the Legacy of Fredericksburg Masonic cemetery

Dr. and Wor. Bro. Charles Landon Carter (1774-1832)
Fredericksburg Physician, Mayor, and Mason.

Portrait of Dr. Robert Wellford by The Virginia Historical Society

Early Life and Family Background

Dr. Charles Landon Carter was born on May 21, 1774, likely in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was born into the prominent Carter family of Virginia. His father was Charles Carter Jr. of Ludlow (1733-1796), a son of Charles Carter of Cleve (a wealthy planter and associate of George Washington), and his mother was Elizabeth Chiswell Carter (d.1804). This lineage placed Charles Landon Carter in a well-connected family, his Carter forebears were part of the dynasty descended from Robert "King" Carter, which meant he grew up with both the expectations

and the struggles of a once-prosperous planter family. In fact, by the 1790s his father had suffered financial setbacks and sought opportunities for his sons through influential friends like Washington and Jefferson.

Charles Landon had several siblings, though details on them are sparse in historical records. It appears he was one of the younger sons of Charles Jr. of Ludlow. Notably, Lucy Landon Carter (1776-1855) was his sister (later Lucy Carter Minor) and an older brother Wormeley Carter (1760-1815) is recorded, both also buried in Fredericksburg's Masonic Cemetery. Growing up in the late colonial and Revolutionary era, young Carter would have been exposed to the social prominence of the Carter family name as well as the upheavals of war and new nationhood. His upbringing in Fredericksburg placed him in a town steeped in history and connected to key figures (George Washington spent formative years nearby). This environment, combined with family connections, set the stage for his education and career.

Medical Education in Philadelphia

Despite the family's lofty lineage, Charles Landon Carter's immediate family faced financial difficulties after the Revolution. Determined to pursue a profession, Charles chose medicine. In 1792, at about 18 years old, he went to Philadelphia, which was then a leading center for medical training in America, and became a student of Dr. James Hutchinson, a prominent physician. Under Dr. Hutchinson's guidance he began learning the medical arts. Unfortunately, Dr. Hutchinson died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1793. This was a setback both academically and financially, Carter's father, already strained, felt unable to continue funding his son's education after Hutchinson's death.

At this critical juncture, Charles Landon Carter received help through high-level connections. Then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson learned of Carter's situation and in December 1793 arranged a position for him as a *clerk in the U.S. State Department*, with a salary of $500 per year. This appointment allowed Carter to support himself in Philadelphia while continuing his medical studies in the evenings. It was an unusual but practical solution: by day he served the government as a clerk, and by night he attended lectures or read medicine. Carter

acknowledged that he pursued his studies "with less energy than before" due to work responsibilities, but it kept his dream alive. The fact that Jefferson and later Secretary Edmund Randolph kept him in this position speaks to Carter's determination and the esteem he earned from influential mentors.

Voyage to Canton and Washington's Assistance

By 1795, Charles Landon Carter had an opportunity to advance his medical career in a rather adventurous way, by serving as a ship's surgeon on a trading voyage to the Far East. He secured an appointment as surgeon on a merchant ship (an East Indiaman) bound for Canton, China. The vessel is identified in family records as the *Indiaman "Pigeon,"* part of the burgeoning U.S. China trades out of Philadelphia. The terms of Carter's engagement were attractive for an ambitious young man: he would earn either a wage of $20 per month with the privilege to invest up to $500 in cargo, *or* forego salary and invest a larger sum (up to $2,000) in the trading venture. Carter opted for the safer arrangement, taking the salary and a $500 trading investment, but even raising the $500 stake was challenging.

At this juncture, President George Washington personally aided the young doctor. Carter wrote to Washington on March 3, 1795, candidly explaining his situation and asking if the President could help him obtain a $600 loan to outfit himself and fund the China trade investment. In this remarkable letter, Carter detailed how he had been left "idle, possessing the desire but totally deprived of the means" to continue medicine until Jefferson's intervention, and now had this chance as a ship's surgeon.

He informed Washington of the China voyage and respectfully requested assistance, knowing he was asking much but trusting Washington's kindness. Washington responded sympathetically, an entry in Washington's accounts on March 11, 1795 records $200 lent to Mr. Chas. L. Carter "to be repaid on his return from the East Indies" (It appears Carter may have secured the rest of the needed funds elsewhere or adjusted his plans to match what he could raise.)

Armed with this support, Dr. Carter embarked on the voyage to Canton. The journey likely lasted over a year as expected, he noted to Washington that "Sixteen months will, in all probability, elapse before a return from such a voyage can be

accomplished". This experience would have iven Carter invaluable practical medical experience tending to crew and passengers on the long Pacific voyage, as well as a taste of international travel and commerce. He also engaged in trade himself with the $500 venture capital, hoping to turn a profit. Indeed, the venture seems to have succeeded: Carter later reported that the sum Washington lent him "has laid the foundation of a pretty fortune" for him.

He returned from China around 1796 and prepared for a second voyage. In 1797, Carter wrote again to President Washington from Fredericksburg, apologizing for a delay in repaying the loan after his *first* China voyage and explaining that he had embarked on a second voyage before he could settle accounts. Due to an agent's mishandling of his funds in Philadelphia, the repayment had been delayed, but Carter assured Washington that he was sending $200 plus interest for the period 1795-1797. Washington replied graciously, declining to accept any interest and expressing satisfaction that the original loan had helped Carter improve his situation. Carter's correspondence with the first President offers a rare glimpse into his character: he comes across as humble, honorable, and deeply grateful. This patronage from Washington and Jefferson early in his career not only enabled Carter's training and voyages but also linked him to the nation's founding generation. By 1797, at about 23 years old, Dr. Charles Landon Carter had completed at least two voyages to Canton as a ship's surgeon and amassed some personal capital, positioning him to return home and establish himself professionally.

Return to Fredericksburg and Marriage

After his adventures at sea, Carter returned to his native town of Fredericksburg to practice medicine. With practical experience and some earnings, he was well-equipped to serve the community as a physician and surgeon. Fredericksburg at the turn of the 19th century was a bustling town on the Rappahannock River, and Carter would have been one of relatively few formally trained doctors in the area. He quickly became part of local society and likely reconnected with family and friends (his widowed mother Elizabeth was still alive until 1804, possibly living in Fredericksburg or nearby).

In Fredericksburg, Dr. Carter married Mary Randolph Thornton, forming a union that connected two noteworthy Virginia families. Mary Randolph Thornton (born October 19, 1780) was about six years younger than Charles. She was the daughter of John Thornton, Esq., of Stafford County and his wife Catherine Yates Thornton. Mary's family background is interesting: her mother Catherine (Yates) was the daughter of Rev. Robert Yates and Mary Randolph Yates, and thus Mary Randolph Thornton likely derived her distinguished middle name from her maternal grandmother. Mary's father John Thornton died around 1780, and her widowed mother Catherine Thornton remarried in 1781 to Dr. Robert Wellford of Fredericksburg. Dr. Robert Wellford was a respected physician (originally an English surgeon who served in the Revolutionary War and settled in Fredericksburg at George Washington's urging). This means that Mary R. Thornton was the stepdaughter of Dr. Wellford, she grew up in Fredericksburg under the care of her mother and stepfather from infancy.

When Charles Landon Carter married Mary (likely in the late 1790s or very early 1800s), he was not only gaining a wife but also allying with the Thornton and Wellford families, both prominent in the region. The exact date of their marriage is not readily found in surviving records, but it was likely by the early 1800s, as Carter had resettled by then. There is no evidence that the couple had any children - genealogical records indicate Mary and Charles "d.s.p." (descessit sine prole), meaning they died without issue. It's possible they may have had children who died young, but no surviving offspring are recorded. Instead, the couple appears to have devoted themselves to community life and extended family (Charles became a fond uncle to his siblings' children, and Mary to her half-siblings in the Wellford family).

Dr. Carter established a medical practice in Fredericksburg, likely attending to everything from everyday illnesses and injuries to surgeries and epidemics. One can imagine him working alongside or in friendly competition with his stepfather-in-law Dr. Wellford, serving patients from the town and surrounding counties. His training in Philadelphia and experience at sea would have given him considerable expertise. An anecdote in the family suggests that around 1808 or thereafter, Carter's health might have faltered - a letter in the Carter family papers hints that Carter contemplated "leaving Fredericksburg" due to poor health in the early

1820s. Whether he actually left for a time is unclear, but for most of his adult life he remained a fixture in Fredericksburg.

Civic Leadership: Mayor of Fredericksburg

Beyond his medical endeavors, Charles Landon Carter became active in civic affairs. He entered local politics and was elected Mayor of Fredericksburg in 1806. At that time, Fredericksburg's city government was led by a mayor and councilmen (the position was likely chosen by the council or by voters annually). Carter's term began in March 1806, and he must have gained the trust of his peers, as he was *re-elected* for the subsequent term in 1807. He served as Mayor for about two and a half years. According to city records compiled later, "Charles L. Carter from March 1806 - until resigned August 11, 1808", indicating that he stepped down before his term ended. Indeed, partway into what would have been his third year as mayor, Carter resigned in August 1808. The reason for this mid-term resignation is not explicitly recorded in the summaries, but it could have been due to personal circumstances, health, or other duties. It is noteworthy that on the very day of his resignation (August 11, 1808), the city council appointed an interim mayor (William Smock) to fill the remainder of the term. This suggests Carter's departure was sudden but orderly. It might coincide with an episode of ill health or a temporary move – given that one family letter later references him leaving town for health reasons, it's plausible that a health concern or family matter prompted the resignation.

Despite this interruption, Charles Landon Carter's public service was not over. A few years later, during the tumultuous War of 1812 period, he served again as Fredericksburg's mayor. He was elected to a term running from March 1813 to March 1814. The year 1813 was in the middle of the war with Britain, and while Fredericksburg was not a battleground, civic leaders had to maintain order, support any militia mobilization, and contend with wartime economic pressures. Carter's willingness to resume the mayoralty shows his continued commitment to the community. He served through the year and did not continue after March 1814 (Fredericksburg's long-serving mayor George French took over again). During his time in office, Carter would have overseen local governance issues such as maintenance of streets and the town hall, market regulations, and perhaps rebuilding efforts (a significant flood had hit the town in 1805, so early in his first

term recovery would have been on the agenda). We also find his name in council minute books and local court records of the era, indicating he was a respected local leader.

Carter's civic reputation likely benefited from both his esteemed family name and his personal qualities. Contemporary accounts (and later recollections) describe him as a gentleman of education and integrity, devoted to Fredericksburg. Serving as mayor in the early 1800s meant he was at the forefront of implementing new policies as Fredericksburg grew. It is also worth noting that Fredericksburg was an incorporated town with a Common Council, and Carter as mayor presided over the council's meetings and carried out its decisions. His repeated selection as mayor demonstrates the trust placed in him by fellow councilmen and citizens.

A Prominent Freemason in Lodge No. 4

One of the most significant aspects of Dr. Carter's life in Fredericksburg was his deep involvement in Freemasonry, a fraternal order that held great sway in Virginia society. Fredericksburg was home to Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F.&A.M., famous as the lodge where George Washington had been initiated as a young man in 1752. Charles Landon Carter became a member of this lodge, following a tradition of civic-minded gentlemen participating in Masonic brotherhood. His contributions were substantial: he rose through the ranks and was elected Worshipful Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in 1807. Lodge records show "Charles L. Carter – 1807–1808" as the Master of the lodge, meaning he led the lodge for the Masonic year spanning parts of 1807 and 1808. This honor indicates the respect he had among his Masonic brethren, as the Master is essentially the lodge's presiding officer and exemplar. It is intriguing that 1807 overlapped with Carter's civic role as mayor, clearly, he was juggling responsibilities in both civic government and fraternal life.

As Master of the Lodge, Carter would oversee meetings in the historic lodge building on Princess Anne Street, initiate new members, and maintain the traditions and charitable activities of the fraternity. The early 19th century was a vibrant time for Freemasonry in Virginia; lodges were centers of social life, intellectual exchange, and philanthropy. Fredericksburg Lodge in particular had a storied history, and Carter's leadership there placed him in a lineage of notable

Masons including George Weedon, John Minor, and others who were Revolutionary War veterans or community pillars.

Apart from his term as Master, Dr. Carter likely remained active in Masonry throughout his life. He participated in lodge events, degree ceremonies, and the camaraderie of the brethren. Freemasonry also connected him to a wider network beyond Fredericksburg – other Virginia lodges and the Grand Lodge of Virginia (founded in 1778) would have had communication with Lodge No. 4. There is some evidence that Carter may have attended Grand Lodge communications or visited lodges in nearby counties, as was common for prominent Masons. His family and friends noted his dedication to the Masonic principles of charity, brotherly love, and truth**.**

When he died, his Masonic affiliation was honored in a tangible way: Dr. Charles Landon Carter was laid to rest in the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery, an old burial ground established in the 1780s for members of the fraternity. This cemetery, adjacent to the lodge, became the resting place for many of Fredericksburg's distinguished citizens, and Carter's burial there signifies his standing among them. To this day, a marble slab marks his grave in the western corner of the Masonic Cemetery, inscribed with his name and dates. Nearby are the graves of other Carters and related family members, including his sister Lucy Carter Minor and members of the Wellford family, underscoring the interwoven family and fraternal ties of that era.

Later Years and Legacy

In his later years, Dr. Carter continued to serve Fredericksburg as a physician and elder statesman. While he never sought higher political office beyond the town, he was frequently consulted on community matters. The 1820s in Fredericksburg saw the rise of a younger generation, but Carter was still remembered as "*Dr. Charles Carter*," one of the experienced doctors in town alongside figures like Dr. William F. Gray and Dr. Samuel Bassett. If his health permitted, he likely carried on a private practice well into the 1820s. Some letters in the Carter family archives suggest that around 1820 he considered spending time away (perhaps for health or semi-retirement), but he appears to have remained a resident of Fredericksburg.

By 1832, Carter was 58 years old. On September 21, 1832, he passed away, likely at his home in Fredericksburg. The cause of death is not recorded in the brief notices that survive, but given the time period it could have been an illness such as fever or a chronic ailment. His death was noted in local records and surely mourned by the community. After decades of service as a healer, leader, and friend, Dr. Carter left behind a legacy of integrity and public service. His wife Mary Randolph Thornton Carter survived him by almost 19 years; she died on October 1, 1851. Mary was buried alongside Charles in the Masonic Cemetery, their graves together bearing witness to their lifelong partnership. The couple had no children to carry on their name, but they left numerous relatives (nieces, nephews, and cousins among the Carter, Thornton, and Wellford circles) who remembered them.

Local histories compiled later in the 19th century and early 20th century gave Charles Landon Carter his due as part of Fredericksburg's story. Silvanus Quinn's 1908 *History of Fredericksburg* lists him among the city's mayors and notes his mid-term resignation and return to office. Masonic lodge histories proudly include him in the roster of Past Masters, linking his name with the lodge's illustrious heritage. Genealogists of the Carter family highlight his interesting career, educated under Jefferson's wing, aided by Washington, venturing to China, and then contributing back home. In sum, Dr. Charles Landon Carter lived a rich and varied life: he healed the sick, led his town, and practiced the principles of Masonry. From the Far East voyages to Fredericksburg's halls of government, his experiences reflected the opportunities and responsibilities of the early American republic's gentry class. He is a fine example of a Virginia gentleman who adapted to changing times, combining an old family legacy with new frontiers in education and commerce, and who devoted himself to public service at the local level.

Though not as famous as some of his Carter cousins or forebears, Charles Landon Carter's story is preserved in the archives and memories of Fredericksburg. Visitors strolling the old Masonic Cemetery, in the shadow of the lodge where Washington once took his first Masonic vows, can find Dr. Carter's tombstone and reflect on the life of this physician-mayor. His life illustrates how interconnected the threads of family, politics, medicine, and fraternity were in the early 19th century. He straddled these spheres with honor. In Fredericksburg's history, Dr.

Charles L. Carter is remembered as a learned doctor, a dedicated public servant, and a brother Mason whose contributions endured beyond his years.

Reflections by W.M. Mike

If we were to take anything away from this article, it has to be that; Brotherhood is not measured by the titles we earn, but by the burdens we lift. Just like WB and Dr. Charles Landon Carter reminds us that a Mason's true legacy is found in the lives he strengthens, the community he serves, and the light he leaves behind. To remember that In every age, the world is changed not by the wealthy or the powerful, but by those who, like Brother Carter, accept help with humility, give help with gratitude, and return both tenfold in service to others.

Photo from findagrave.com

This concludes the 12th 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,
Mike Dove
Worshipful Master

Sources:

- Founders Online (George Washington Papers) - Contains Carter's letters to George Washington (March 3, 1795 and June 2, 1797) with editorial notes. These reveal Carter's medical study under Dr. Hutchinson, his financial difficulties, Jefferson's help with a clerkship, and Washington's $200 loan for Carter's voyage to China (with Carter later repaying the loan and crediting it for his "pretty fortune").

- Silvanus J. Quinn, *The History of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia* (1908) Provides a chronological list of Fredericksburg's mayors. Confirms Charles L. Carter's tenure as Mayor from March 1806 until his resignation on August 11, 1808, and again from March 1813 to March 1814. This source establishes his civic roles and the dates of his public service.

- Fredericksburg City Council Minutes & Local Records (as summarized by UMW's archives) -While the direct minutes were not quoted above, the mayoral terms and resignation date are corroborated by these records (see Quinn 1908 and related council extracts). They show Carter's election and resignation clearly.

- Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Past Masters List Documented on the lodge's official site, it lists "Charles L. Carter - 1807-1808" among the Worshipful Masters of the lodge. This confirms Carter's Masonic leadership role.

- Central Rappahannock Regional Library – *The Good Doctor Was a Spy: The Lively Times of Robert Wellford* A biographical article about Dr. Robert Wellford. It provides context on Mary R. Thornton's family: noting that Catherine Thornton (née Yates) was John Thornton's widow and married Dr. Wellford in 1781. This establishes that Mary Randolph Thornton was

Catherine's daughter (thus John Thornton's child) and was raised by Dr. Wellford. It's useful for understanding the familial connections in Carter's marriage.

- George H.S. King, *Marriages of Richmond County, Virginia (1668–1853)* - A compiled genealogy source (as referenced on RootsWeb) that lists the children of Col. John Thornton. It specifically notes: "Mary Randolph Thornton (1780-1851), wife of Doctor Charles Landon Carter (1774-1832) of Fredericksburg, d.s.p." and then mentions "Catherine (Yates) Thornton (1760-1831) married (2) on 1 January 1781 Dr. Robert Wellford". This verifies Mary's birth/death dates, her marriage to Carter, the fact they had no surviving progeny, and her mother's identity/remarriage.

- Find A Grave (Memorial #5006019 and #5006020) - User-contributed but detail-rich pages for Dr. Charles Landon Carter and Mary Randolph Thornton Carter. They summarize key points (e.g. "Elected Mayor in 1806, went to Canton on the Indiaman Pigeon as Surgeon, studied medicine in Philadelphia, married Mary Randolph Thornton, daughter of John Thornton") and provided burial information. These entries confirm his birth and death dates (1774-1832), Mary's dates (1780-1851), and both being buried in the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery. *(Note: The information on Find A Grave appears to have been drawn from local histories and family genealogies, aligning with the primary sources above!)*

- Carter Family Genealogical Records - Various compiled genealogies (e.g., Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginia's Northern Neck, and Carter family papers at UVA) were consulted for background. They identify Charles Landon Carter's parentage and siblings, linking him as the son of Charles Carter Jr. of Ludlow (itself the son of Charles Carter of Cleve). These helped confirm his aristocratic lineage and connections to figures like Landon Carter of Sabine Hall and Robert Wormeley Carter. (For instance, a Carter family archive note references a letter of Landon Carter, possibly Charles Landon, in 1820 about leaving Fredericksburg for health, suggesting personal challenges late in life.)

- Local Tradition and Burial Inscriptions - The USGenWeb Archives transcription for Fredericksburg's Masonic Cemetery includes Dr. Carter's

tombstone inscription and a brief biographical note. It recounts that, *"Returning to his native town, he married Mary Randolph Thornton, daughter of the widow Mrs. John Thornton (later Mrs. Wellford)"* and describes his grave's location under a marble slab. This aligns with and supplements the above sources, illustrating how his story has been remembered on a local level.

Civic Duty as a Virtue in the Year 2026
By Bro. Seth Roderick, Senior Warden

In the coming year, I propose Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 to turn its face outward to the community and its soul inward to the hearts of its Brethren, by the aide of three guiding principles borrowed directly from an epitaph in our venerable cemetery: Magnanimity, Fidelity and Honor. The Lodge plan for 2026 is a measure of continuity and an attempt to live the obligations we have all taken, in ways that can be seen and carried forward by those who come after us.

At the center of this labor stands an outreach effort to our own. The Lodge will renew and regularize its contact with widows, shut-in Brethren, and those who, for any reason, have drifted from regular contact with the Lodge. This will not be left to chance. Brothers will be asked to write, call, and visit, to offer a ride when needed, to assist Brothers, widows and orphans where needed and to carry back to the Lodge a faithful report of any Brother or widow in want of comfort or relief. In such quiet acts the teachings of the Lodge become visible, for charity begins at home and then enlarges itself to the community.

From this foundation of care, I intend for the Lodge to speak more plainly to the public about the connection between Freemasonry and civic life. Our signature event for the year will be held on May fifteenth, Virginia's Independence Day, when we will open the doors of our historic Hall for a family friendly program that honors the Brethren of this Lodge who took part in the Fifth Virginia Convention and the prelude to independence. The purpose of the day will be twofold: to tell the story of those Masons who joined in laying the foundations of self-government, and to show that their spiritual descendants remain committed to the good order and improvement of the community in which we labor. We will continue our tradition of opening our doors to the community as we have done so well in previous years.

This central observance will be supported by a series of periodic educational events discussing the founding generation of Fredericksburg and examine how Masonic ideas shaped their understanding of honor, duty, and public trust. We will invite our Masonic youth and area youth to consider the link between good conduct and civic responsibility, that the next generation may learn early that character and citizenship cannot be separated.

While the Lodge speaks and teaches, it must also work. The plan therefore calls for the deliberate strengthening of our degree work. Regular rehearsals, guided instruction from the Lodge Instructor of Work, and careful attention to symbolism will be used to ensure that our candidates receive degrees that are not only correct in form, but rich in meaning. Our ritual is one of the principal ways by which we transmit lessons of civic and moral virtue from one generation of Masons to the next for as they say, to *make good men better*. To perform it with care is itself an act of fidelity to the past and a gift to those who will follow us. Admittedly, ritual proficiency is not easy. It takes time, practice and good teachers to learn. However, understanding our obligations through periodic reminders, whether you have it memorized to the word or not, in order to live our obligations, should be simple. To these ends, the programs covering the first three months of the Masonic year will be an exemplification of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason catechism returns and the reading of the respective Charges. In this I'm reminded of one of the many maxims of Joe Maddon, manager of the 2016 Chicago Cubs, *do simple better*.

The same spirit of stewardship must govern our care of the building entrusted to us. The Lodge will undertake a thorough assessment of the building, identify the most urgent needs, and place before the Brethren a clear five-year plan for maintenance and improvement, with estimated costs and timelines plainly set forth. Porch repair, painting, kitchen upkeep, Baker Room upgrades, accessibility, and other practical matters will be considered as investments in the preservation of a landmark that has witnessed both the growth of the Craft and the unfolding story of the community. To maintain such a place in good repair is a duty we owe alike to our predecessors and to our successors. Preventative maintenance and upgrades are not a single year achievement. The purpose of a long-term plan is to provide the Lodge with a runbook with achievable outcomes in the years to come. I will be seeking support from Brothers knowledgeable in these areas to help formulate this plan. Priorities may shift with necessity, but objectives should not. Maddon again, *embrace the target*.

In order that these goals may not rest upon the shoulders of a few Brothers, the plan assigns particular fields of labor to each officer and Brother willing and able to support. The Senior Warden will lead the outreach efforts to widows and Brethren, the Junior Warden will take charge of the signature events and social

functions, the Deacons will share responsibility for welcoming visitors, rehearsing ritual, and with laying the foundation for building projects; the Stewards, Chaplain, Marshal, Tyler, and others will have clearly defined roles in support of hospitality, security, instruction and charitable works, while the Treasurer and Secretary continue their efforts as the grounding rods for the Lodge.

Finally, in obedience to the wishes of the Grand Master for setting goals that are both measurable and attainable, the Lodge will keep simple records of its progress. Logs of contact with widows and inactive Brethren, attendance at educational programs, rehearsal schedules, building milestones, and the mentoring of Lodge leaders will all be noted and reported at intervals. In this way good intentions are converted into accountable action, and each Brother may see, in plain figures, how the Lodge is advancing toward the objectives it has set for itself. These are things Fredericksburg #4 has recorded for many years already for the Hillman Award, so we are well equipped to deliver.

With the support and dedication of each Brother, each in a small way laboring in harmony, the year 2026 will find Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 more closely bound to its widows and Brethren, more visible and useful to its neighbors, more proficient in its ritual work, and more secure in the preservation of its venerable Hall. Above all, it will give each of us an opportunity to practice civic duty as a Masonic virtue rather than as an occasional sentiment. Such labor calls for patience and perseverance. Yet it is in just such steady work, undertaken together, that a Lodge proves itself worthy of the legacy passed from one Masonic generation to the next.

“In private life he was charitable, generous and just, and in the various public offices which he filled, he acted with uniform magnanimity, fidelity and honor."

-Epitaph of Brother General Lewis Littlepage, Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery

A Christmas Message

From the Worshipful Master

Brethren, Family, and Dear Friends,

As the lights of the season begin to glow across our beloved city, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable year we have shared together. This Lodge, Washington's Lodge, a home shaped by centuries of service, charity, and brotherhood, has once again proven what it means to be a family united by purpose and bound by the timeless principles of our Craft.

This year has been one of extraordinary labor, discovery, and connection. Together, we preserved our history, strengthened our archives, welcomed visitors from near and far, supported our widows, cared for our heritage, and stood present for our community in ways that honor every Brother who ever called this Lodge home. Every handshake, every hour of work, every act of kindness, large or small, wove itself into a tapestry of genuine Masonic light.

To the Brethren: Thank you.
For your patience, your trust, your counsel, and your steadfast dedication. You have made this year both meaningful and humbling, and I am grateful beyond words for each of you.

To our families and friends: Thank you for lending your support, your encouragement, and your love. Every success within our walls is built upon the sacrifices and understanding of those who stand beside us at home.

To those we do not see as often as we wish: you are always part of this Lodge. You will always have a home here, and you remain in our thoughts this Christmas season.

As we look toward a new year, may it bring each of you peace, health, joy, and renewed purpose. May the bonds of brotherhood grow ever stronger, and may we continue to serve our community with humility, charity, and light.

From my heart to yours, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.
May the Great Architect watch over each of you and all those you love.

With warm fraternal regards,
Michael Dove
Worshipful Master 2025

George Washington's Lodge
Fredericksburg
Lodge No. 4

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: Fredericksburg Area Museum

Join FAM's Curator of Collections, Kylie Thomson, for an evening of discovery as we explore Fredericksburg's Civil War history through the artifacts and stories that remain, as well as those forever lost. A historic artifact from Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 will make an appearance...

Registration is required.
Tickets at **famva.org**

$9 for FAM Members
$13 for Non-Members

George Washington's Lodge
Fredericksburg
Lodge No. 4

FAM
FREDERICKSBURG
AREA MUSEUM

We Need Your Support!

The Coldest Night of the Year is upon us, and for the fourth year in a row, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 is walking to support those in need.

Every dollar we raise helps bring light, shelter, and hope to those facing the cold tonight. No amount is too small, and every gift reflects the principles we stand upon, Charity, Brotherly Love, and Relief.

Let's walk with purpose. Let's give with heart.

WALK WITH US!

Saturday
26 February 2026

Riverfront Park
701 Sophia St.

coldest night OF THE YEAR

Thank you!

SCAN ME

CLICK HERE TO DONATE!

Grand Master's Official Visit - District 8

January 8th, 2026 - 6:00 PM
Aquia Episcopal Church, Stafford, Virginia

Brethren, Family, and Friends,

We are honored to announce the Grand Master's Official Visit to our Masonic District 8, a moment of unity, celebration, and renewed commitment to the Craft. This is an occasion to gather together under one roof with the presiding Grand Master of Masons in Virginia and reaffirm the teachings that bind us as Brothers.

This year marks a particularly meaningful milestone as we approach the 250th Anniversary of American Independence (1776-2026) a reminder of the long and distinguished legacy our fraternity has played in shaping this nation.

Most Worshipful Matthew Todd Szramoski
180th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia
"Living Our Obligations"

Event Details
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Aquia Episcopal Church, Stafford, VA
Cost: $35 per ticket

A fellowship dinner will accompany the program, and seats are expected to fill quickly.

Tickets

Tickets may be purchased directly in the Lodge at any stated or called communication. Please see the Worshipful Master, Secretary, or Sr. Warden to reserve your place.

Purchase a brick through BricksRUs to help maintain our Historic Home!

Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #4 Friends of Fredericksburg Donor Site (bricksrus.com)

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

Lodge Blood Coordinator
Jeff Adams

Lodge Instructor of Work
Christopher Tripp, PM

Lodge Education Officer
Bob Melvin

Masonic Home Ambassador
Joseph Ilk

Lodge Catechism Chair
Justin Garrett

Widows Program Coordinator
Robert Breitenbach

Lodge Scholarship Coordinator
David Smith

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		