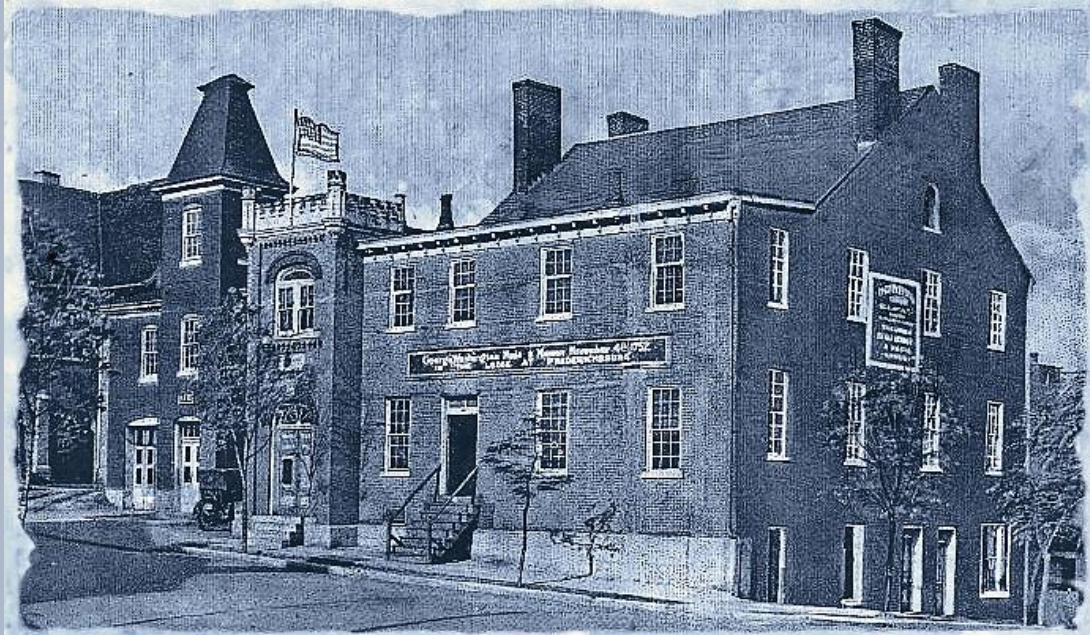


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



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'
FEBRUARY 2025**

Stated Meeting
Second Fridays
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

Degree Work
Wednesdays 7pm
(check calendar)

FEBRUARY 2025 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Pancake Breakfast, 8 am
2	3	4	5 Ritual School or Degree Work	6	7 Manassas DLC	8
9	10	11 Community Meal 4 pm	12 Lodge Clean Up & Ritual School	13	14 Stated Communication Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30	15
16	17	18	19 Ritual School or Degree Work	20	21	22 Wreath Laying Mt. Vernon
23	24	25 District Ritual School 7pm	26 Ritual School or Degree Work	27	28	

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for February

Bro. William S. Middleton, Jr.	64 yrs.	Bro. Jason C. Williams	18
Bro. James M. Wilhour	58	Bro. Henry J. Frank	18
Wor. Henry W. Baker	55	Wor. Jeffrey L. Mitchell, Jr.	17
Bro. Walter K. Wigglesworth	55	Bro. Christopher M. Wilsey	16
Bro. Everett B. Jones, Jr.	53	Bro. James P. Hammons	14
Bro. Michael P. Riabouchinsky	44	Bro. Walter E. Quattlebaum III	13
Bro. Joseph W. Taylor	43	Bro. William H. Griffin	12
Bro. Clark E. Thomas	32	Bro. Jeffrey A. Mikulas	12
Bro. Michael W. Hayden	29	Bro. Howard M. Perry	11
Bro. Stephen C. Combs	25	Bro. Robert M. Pinkard	11
Bro. Kevin D. Lawrence	18	Bro. Bernard N. Tumanjong	5

Exciting Times at Lodge #4: Fellowship, Progress, and Looking Ahead!

As January gives way to February, many of us might wish we could task the Junior Deacon with closing the door against the chill, but there's too much warmth and activity inside Lodge #4 to miss! The winter weather can't dampen the spirit of fellowship and progress that's been keeping us all busy. Let's take a moment to reflect on some of what we've achieved together and get excited for the opportunities ahead.

January Highlights: A Month to Remember

From paranormal investigations to fixing leaks and shoveling snow, January was packed with meaningful events that showcased the vibrancy of our lodge.

- **January 4th:** We hosted Brother Miller's Paranormal Group for an intriguing evening of curiosity and discovery. A big thank you to Bro. Josh and his team for their professionalism and for opening their investigation to us. The experience was so memorable that we've documented it in a dedicated article.
- **January 6th:** Lodge #4 was honored to host Spotsylvania Lodge's open installation ceremony for their incoming Worshipful Master, Jeremy Utt, and his officers. It was a wonderful tribute to fraternity and brotherly love, congratulations to all!
- **January 10th:** The ribbon-cutting ceremony and naming of Fredericksburg's new Visitor Center took place on January 10th. As a significant contributor to the city's celebration of General Lafayette's monumental Bicentennial Farewell tour, Lodge #4 played a key role in strengthening community ties. Brother Seth suggested our presence at the event to emphasize our historical importance to Fredericksburg. The celebration saw over 250 attendees, and our participation was met with warm gratitude. This event was a fantastic opportunity to promote Freemasonry and highlight our enduring legacy in the community.

- **January 11th:** Most Worshipful Gary Dwight Huffman, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, visited District 8, with Lodge #4 playing a small supporting role in the event's success! The kitchen at our lodge served as the command center for the hardworking cooking-team from Ashland, who tirelessly prepared, cooked, and delivered food throughout the day. From the morning hours leading up to the evening event, their dedication ensured everything ran smoothly. The fellowship at Bowman Distillery was further enriched by the good food and the company of those gathered, making it a great evening and event.
- **January 13th & 14th:** Our fraternal visits to Kilwinning-Crosse Lodge #2-237 and Hudson-Morris Lodge #80 were filled with camaraderie, laughter, and meaningful exchanges. We also came bearing gifts to Kilwinning-Crosse; the masters coin and the traveling gavel was presented to R.W. Huey Allen. One of those things was appreciated! Special moments from Hudson-Morris included Wor. Tripp served as Senior Warden and Wor. Mike stepped in as Junior Deacon at Hudson-Morris Lodge, proof that fellowship always finds a way to shine!
- **January 18th:** The Division Leadership Conference in Richmond brought together brethren from across the state. Our LEO and officers attended, taking advantage of this invaluable opportunity to learn, network, and share ideas. Meanwhile, other officers attended the conferral of the Knight Templar Orders with Fredericksburg Commandery No. 1. Congratulations to the new Sir Knights!
- **January 19th:** Bethel 16 Job's Daughters held their officer installation, which was beautifully executed, it was evident that a lot of work had gone into this. Supporting our youth groups is essential, and we encourage all brethren to attend such events when possible. Congratulations to the new Honored Queen and her officers!
- **January 23rd:** We had a fraternal visit to Ashland Lodge #168 and enjoyed dinner, fellowship, and a great stated meeting. Thank you to our brethren at Ashland Lodge for the warm hospitality.

- **January 29th:** We had the honor of welcoming Bro. Raul into our fraternity. Congratulations to him on being the newest Entered Apprentice at Lodge #4. His journey in Freemasonry is just beginning, and we look forward to supporting him every step of the way.

Looking Ahead: February's Full Slate of Activities

February promises to be just as busy and rewarding. From fraternal visits to community projects, there's always something happening at Lodge #4. We encourage you to come out and participate, your presence makes all the difference.

A Sincere Thank You

None of these events would be possible without the dedication of our brethren, family and other Masonic organisations. Whether you planned, participated, invited, or simply supported, your efforts are deeply appreciated. Together, we're not just maintaining traditions but actively building the future of Freemasonry. So let's keep the momentum going! February awaits, and with it comes new opportunities for fellowship, growth, and making a difference. See you at your lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Mike

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

As mentioned last month, there has been a delay in printing this year's dues cards. Many of you have reached out to me, and I'm now pleased to report they have been printed and have been picked up from the Grand Lodge office. For those who have paid, 2025 dues cards will be going out in the mail shortly. For others, we will be sending out reminders through Grand View, which we're now using as our default membership and dues payment portal. Please take a moment to sign

up and/or make sure your contact information in Grand View is correct. Please note that you may also continue to pay through the store on the Lodge's website (by PayPal), by check or money order to our P.O. Box, or in person at our stated meeting. Note that both Grand View and PayPal charge a convenience fee. If you are having financial difficulties paying your dues, please reach out to discuss. And of course, feel free to reach out with any other membership needs you may have.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Chris Tripp, Secretary

ACCOUNTABILITY

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, Accountability is defined as willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions; it also means Obligation.

Freemason and Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Scottish philosopher John Locke emphasized the concept of civic duty and the social contract in their writings, wherein, citizens agree to certain obligations in exchange for the benefits of living in a free society. Civic duty is one of the load bearing columns, or pilasters, of republican societies. The health and strength of a community within such society is predicated on individual participation in civic life for the common good. The core tenets of Freemasonry: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are our foundations for which we support these all-important columns.

Man enjoys natural rights, which are those rights inherent to our mere existence. Citizens enjoy given-rights, which are those rights agreed upon by a social contract. In both instances, Accountability is required for their full enjoyment. We as Ancient Free and Accepted Masons are obliged to recognize and promote both. The pursuit of knowledge and reason is our *raison d'être*; as such we must be active promoters of knowledge and reason in all our public deeds. Likewise, ethical living and civil discourse are important pursuits for the health of a community and we must be steadfast adherents in all our interactions. We are Accountable through our many obligations never to shirk these principles in our Lodge. We must be Accountable to each other never to shy away from these

principles in public. Our individual interests, and common interests within the body of the Lodge, should always align for our community's well-being.

What does participation in a Wednesday meal or pancake breakfast or libation in the tavern have to do with any of this? Nothing. These are fine and important activities for promoting fraternity within the Lodge but it is our interactions without the Lodge which define our noble purpose.

Civic duty has become an exceptional concept today, when in the past, it was the rule for a gentleman. As we prepare for the America 250 celebration, each of us must look to our esteemed roll of Brothers in the pages of our archives and their portraits on the walls, who, through their various deeds without the Lodge, left an indelible mark on their place and time. Look to our current roll, those, whom although many, will remain unnamed here, actively participate in civic endeavors outside the Lodge. You will be humbled, as I am, realizing the shoulders of giants we stand on and the awesome responsibility we all inherit.

This year I propose to my Brothers, gentlemen all, to engage in public discourse and community participation, not by merely donating to a cause or spending a few hours a month at a charitable event organized by others, but by actively participating in and leading those endeavors. This may mean serving on the vestry of your house of worship, recording books for the blind, serving on your local school board, serving on the board of your homeowner's association, library board or some other local office. This can also mean going out of the Lodge and joining other civic organizations, boards or committees. Whatever your capacity for time and talent is, be an active and responsible citizen. The tools we have been given were not just meant for labor in the quarry on Princess Anne Street.

Do good unto all-
Bro.: Seth Roderick

The Masters Coin 2025

We will now embark on a journey, a journey this time not through ancient temples or hallowed lodges, but rather into the intricate thoughts of the design of the Worshipful Master's Coin.

You see, a coin is more than just a piece of metal; it is a microcosm of meaning, a talisman of tradition, and occasionally, a pocket-sized conversation starter that may lead to stories or presentations longer than our opening ritual.

Let us begin with the front of this numismatic masterpiece. At its heart lies the Square and Compasses with the iconic "G," a symbol so profound that even non-Masons recognize its weight. This emblem reminds us of geometry, the Great Architect, and for us who knows about North Carolina, a 2-hour attempt to actually remove the G from our Masonic emblem. Thank God that plot foiled fast.

Behind this symbol radiates a glorious sunburst, representing enlightenment. For those unacquainted with enlightenment, it's akin to that moment of clarity when a Brother realizes that the point within the circle, framed by those two perpendicular parallel lines, isn't just a safeguard to keep the circle from rolling away, but rather, a profound representation of our Patron Saints.

Curving along the top edge is inscribed "Fredericksburg Lodge 4," a name that evokes a deep sense of pride, reverence for our shared history and dare I say, just a sprinkle of competitive superiority. Along the bottom edge, the words "George Washington's Mother Lodge" remind us of the legacy we are entrusted with. I'd like to think that if our Ill. Brother George was here today, he would appreciate the design and feel that it honors the spirit and values of the lodge he once knew. Flanking the central image are two symbols that, like the lodge's stew after a good presentation by Bro Bob Melvin, are rich with meaning. To the left, an open book representing faith and knowledge, also a gentle nudge for those of us who may need to open our ritual books more frequently. To the right, a trowel, reminding us of the mortar that binds us together, as brothers, and to never stop working on that inner temple of ours.

Now, let's flip the coin. On the reverse side, we find a pillar, strong, stable, and reminiscent of the ones that stood at the entrance of King Solomon's Temple. This pillar is surrounded by this year's lodge's mantra: "*Guardians of the Craft*" on top and "*Builders of Tomorrow*" below. Together, these phrases remind us that our role is both to preserve tradition and to shape the future, all ofc while ensuring our lodge dinners remain under budget.

To the left of the pillar, we see a plumb line, symbolizing rectitude and uprightness, a quality most appreciated when drafting the lodge budget.

To the right, a level, representing equality and balance. It's the level that ensures every brother's voice is heard equally, though some voices, admittedly, are heard more equally than others.

The background of this side features a checkered pattern, a subtle nod to the Masonic tiled floor. It serves as a reminder of life's duality: light and dark, joy and sorrow, and those moments when you realize you've left your apron at home, but thought you had it with you for a fraternal visit.

Encasing the coin is a raised edge, meticulously engraved with Masonic tools: These tools remind us that precision is key, whether it's crafting a perfect ashlar or or holding yourself to a Masonic standard in the profane world, we can never forget our tools.

Finally, the coin's finish, a resplendent gold plating symbolizes excellence and leadership we should strive towards. Blue enamel for the text represents wisdom, while the white enamel signifies purity. It's a combination that says, "*We're serious about our craft, but also, we clean up nicely when we meet.*"

In conclusion, Brethren, this coin or any coin is more than just a design; it is a reflection of our values, our history, and, perhaps, our sense of humor. It reminds us that Freemasonry is not just about learning symbols but living by them. May it serve as a beacon of inspiration, a token of unity, and, most importantly, a shiny object to distract us, during lengthy presentations.



By Michael Dove
January 2025



Phantoms, Fellowship, and Flashlights: A Paranormal Night at Lodge 4

Ah, Brethren, let me take you on a journey into the mysterious, where the mundane meets the unexplainable, and where grown people crouch in the dark debating the metaphysical implications of a flashlight turning itself on. Yes, Lodge #4 recently hosted a paranormal investigation, led by none other than our own Bro. Josh and his enthusiastic team.

Now, as the writer of this piece, I must confess: my own belief in the paranormal is akin to my faith in my golf swing, not wholly absent, but requiring significant proof to validate its existence! That said, the night proved to be an unexpected blend of camaraderie, discovery, and just a smidgen of the uncanny.

Setting the Stage

Lodge #4, a site already steeped in history and whispers of things that go bump in the night, provided the perfect backdrop for the event. Bro. Josh's team came equipped with an array of gadgets that looked straight out of a sci-fi movie: voice boxes, sensor-triggered lights, thermometers, and yes, the ubiquitous flashlight. The meticulous setup, testing for false readings and politely addressing the unseen, demonstrated a level of professionalism and respect that would make even the sternest of Worshipful Masters nod in approval.

The Investigation

Joining me on this spectral safari was Bro. Seth who had previously experienced curious occurrences during lodge tours. While I remained skeptical perched on the edge of my chair (and occasionally startled when the chair next to me creaked), it was fascinating to see the methods employed by the team.

The voice box occasionally produced uncannily relevant responses to questions asked by the investigators. When Bro. Josh inquired, "Is anyone here with us tonight?" the box emitted a clear "yes." Naturally, my logical brain attributed this

to coincidence, until a light simultaneously flickered in acknowledgment, when the unseen were asked to engage with it. It was enough to make even this skeptical Mason shift uncomfortably in his seat.

And then there were the temperature drops, icy, sharp, and immediate. Measured with a thermometer-gun, these fluctuations had me reconsidering whether I should have brought my winter coat or on a singular occasion, if I should leave this to the professionals and withdraw back into my office, but I decided I was in it to win it!

The Lighter Side of the Paranormal

Humor was not absent from the proceedings. On many occasions humor was a big part of the time spend together, my favorite moment were when Bro. Josh asked a few questions, sitting the dark speaking loud and the voicebox told him first to lower his voice and right after to actually, just be quiet, Such moments kept the night lively and balanced the weight of the unexplainable with good-natured fun. Of course, not every sound was paranormal. The occasional car passing by, the muffled hum of a Saturday night in town, and even the errant pop of a chair were quickly dismissed by the team. However, some phenomena, like the sound of tapping right beside me on a frame, with no discernible source, eluded explanation.

Try as I might to rationalize it, my logical faculties were forced to file it under "curious events I cannot explain." and that file folder now has a few pages, after the night concluded.

Wrapping Up

As the clock struck a bit past midnight, the investigation came to a close. The team, diligent in their mission, had gathered a trove of raw data to analyze. Their commitment to skepticism and rigor, refusing to present anything that couldn't withstand scrutiny, was inspiring.

For those of us privileged to participate, the night was one of learning and intrigue. Whether we entered as skeptics or believers, we all left with stories to share and a newfound respect for the complexities of paranormal investigation.

Final Thoughts

Do I believe? Well, Brethren, let's just say this: While my rational mind remains firmly planted in the realm of science and reason, there are moments from that night that still lingers. Moments that defy any explanation and invite wonder. A heartfelt thanks to Bro. Josh and his team "Miller Paranormal" for their expertise, patience, and willingness to entertain our many questions. And to my fellow brethren, thank you for embracing the night with open minds and good humor. Until next time, may the spirits be kind and the flashlights obedient.

Sincerely Curious,
Michael Dove

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Once again, I find myself preparing to lace up my walking shoes and take on the challenge of walking 5 K and a bit more. But I am not doing this alone, together with my Brethren of Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #4, we are stepping forward as a united Lodge to support a cause that is close to our hearts!

Each year, we are reminded of the struggles faced by those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. It is through initiatives like the Coldest Night of the Year that we can extend not only our hands but also our hearts to those in need, offering them warmth, comfort, and hope during their most challenging times.

As Masons, we are taught the values of charity and compassion. In this spirit, Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge #4, in partnership with Micah Ministries, has been proud to support this cause year after year. Thanks to your generosity, we have

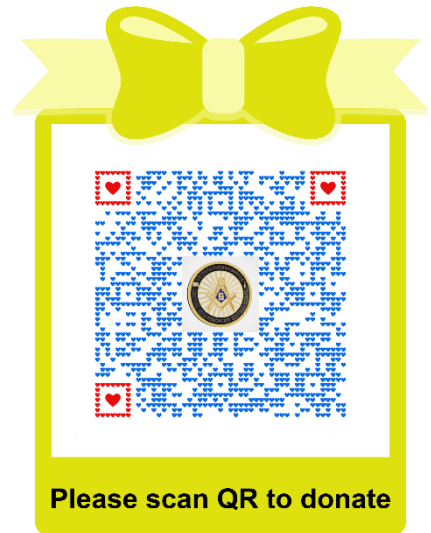
been able to make a meaningful impact on the lives of many, and we are deeply grateful for your past support.

This year, we once again humbly invite you to join us both in walking and or in making a difference. Your contributions, no matter the size, will go a long way in helping us reach our fundraising goal and, most importantly, in bringing hope and light to the most vulnerable in our community.

As the cold season settles in, let us come together to ensure that no one is left out in the cold. Your kindness and support truly matter! Thank you for standing with us in this important mission. Together, we can continue to create a brighter, more compassionate world.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Michael Dove
Worshipful Master
Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge



cnoy.w-ith.me/MikeDove

Guardians of memory: *Preserving the Legacy of Fredericksburg Masonic cemetery*

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 proudly upholds a sacred duty, the care and preservation of the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery, the oldest Masonic Cemetery in the Western Hemisphere. Founded in 1784, this historic resting place is situated at the corner of Charles and George Streets in Old Town Fredericksburg, adjacent to the James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library. The Lodge acquired this hallowed ground from James Somerville for the sum of £40, a testament to the fraternity's foresight and dedication.

The cemetery is more than a plot of land; it is a repository of history, honor, and brotherly love. Here lie many departed brethren and their families, individuals who played pivotal roles in shaping Fredericksburg and the burgeoning American colonies. These men endured the trials of war and contributed profoundly to the foundation of our nation. Among them is General and Right Worshipful Brother George Weedon, whose story we will explore in this month's installment of our *Guardians of Memory* series.

A duty to remember. As Freemasons, we embrace the responsibility to ensure that our brethren are never forgotten. A man can be forgotten twice: once when he dies, and again when no one utters his name. This truth drives our commitment to maintain the cemetery, whether through financial support or physical labor. Each headstone and monument tells a story, and it is our duty to share those stories, keeping the light of their memory alive for future generations.

The brethren interred in the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery contributed not only to the fraternity but also to the greater community. Their legacies are woven into the very fabric of Fredericksburg and resonate far beyond its borders. By preserving their final resting place, we honor their contributions and reaffirm the timeless values of Freemasonry, brotherly love, relief, and truth.

A call to action. Over the next months, we will highlight the lives and deeds of the brethren who rest beneath the trees of the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery. These stories will inspire reflection, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose in our collective effort to honor their memory. This month, we begin with the life of General and Right Worshipful Brother George Weedon, a patriot and Mason

whose service to his country and fraternity exemplifies the highest ideals of our craft.

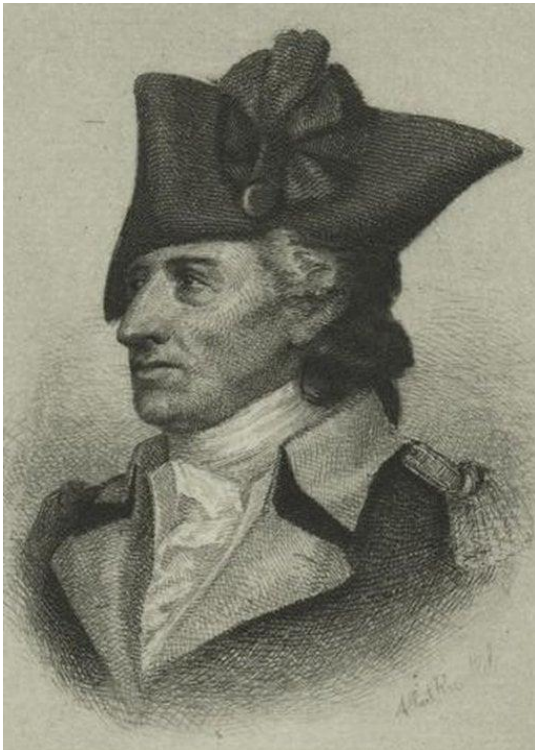
*Beneath the trees where shadows fall,
Our Brethren rest, revered by all.
Their work complete, their journey done,
Their legacy shines like the morning sun.*

*Lodge 4, steadfast, holds the flame,
Honoring each and every name.
With solemn steps, we tread the ground,
Where wisdom and peace eternally abound.*

*Yet not in silence shall they stay,
For history calls us to relay
The truths they taught, the paths they paved,
The bonds they forged, the lives they saved.*

*So let us vow, with heart sincere,
To tend their rest, year upon year.
For Lodge 4 stands, a beacon bright,
A brotherhood bound by love and light.*

-Poem by Wor. Michael Dove '25



General and Right Worshipful Brother George Weedon is a Past Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 and brother-in-law to General and Brother Hugh Mercer. It was at Weedon's tavern that Thomas Jefferson wrote the first statutes of Religious Freedom, which became the basis and framework for the First Amendment.

The September 23, 1781, letter to General George Weedon from General George Washington issues the very first orders for the Siege of Yorktown, which is as follows:

"Your Letter of the 18th inst. came to Hand while I was absent on a Visit to the Count de Grasse at Cape Henry - from whence I am just returned. I am very sensible of your Attention - & am sorry for the

Embarrassments you met with - I hope they will soon be removed.

"The Legion of the Duke Lauzun is ordered to join the Troops now under your Command & you may soon Expect to see them. I wish you to be exceedingly watchful upon the Motions of the Enemy on your Side, & to prevent, as much as possible, without risking too much, the Enemy's gaining Provisions or Supplies from the Country. And you will be

so good as to give me the earliest Information of any important Circumstance that may take place.

“The Duke de Lauzun is a Gentleman of Rank and long Service in the Army of France, a Brigadier at the present Time in the Army under Command of the Count de Rochambeau. You will please to shew him all the Respect and Attention that his Character demands.”

On October 3, 1781, General Cornwallis sent the infamous Colonel Banastre Tarleton across the York River to Gloucester Point in order to open an escape route and foraging zone and sank part of his fleet to block the French fleet's intervention.

Weedon's Virginians and Lauzun's French Cavalry pushed the British back to the water and Banastre Tarleton was forced to return to Yorktown, thus ending his cruel atrocities against Americans and closing off General Cornwallis' only means of escape and with the eventual arrival of George Washington's army, the British are forced to surrender.

(Col. Tavington in the Mel Gibson movie, "The Patriot" is based upon Colonel Banastre Tarleton)

Credits to RW Shelby for providing the above page on General and RW Bro. Weedon

Military Career: French and Indian War: Weedon's military service began in 1755 when he was commissioned as an ensign in George Washington's Virginia Regiment. He was later promoted to lieutenant in 1757 and to captain lieutenant in 1762, primarily performing garrison duties on the Virginia and Pennsylvania frontiers.

American Revolutionary War: In January 1776, Weedon was appointed lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Virginia Regiment. By August 1776, following Hugh Mercer's promotion, Weedon became the regiment's colonel. He led his troops in key battles, including Trenton, Brandywine, and Germantown. In February 1777, he was promoted to brigadier general and commanded a brigade in Nathanael Greene's division at Valley Forge.

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4: Weedon was an active Freemason, associated with Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in Virginia. This lodge was notable for its members, including George Washington and Hugh Mercer, who played significant roles in the Revolutionary War.



Colonel Weedon's Tavern: American Revolution Patriots' Favorite Hangout
From revolutionarywarjournal website By Harry Schenawolf '12. Thanks Bro Seth Roderick for sharing

The Weedon Tavern, Fredericksburg, Virginia, was named for George Weedon, a man who fought in the French and Indian War and was later named a Brigadier General in the American Revolutionary War. He was a friend of George Washington and many of the influential men of the time. He married into the tavern business and ran an inn that became the center of male society for miles around. During the buildup to the Revolutionary War, it became a hub for patriotic discourse.

The tavern occupied lots 25 & 26 in the northwest corner of Caroline and William Street in Fredericksburg. It was first known as Gordon's Ordinary (ordinary being a common period name given to drinking establishments and public houses of entertainment). John Gordon immigrated to Virginia from Scotland in 1721. He later moved to Fredericksburg in 1735 and opened the tavern and post office. He remained its innkeeper until his death in 1749.

Gordon's wife Margaret took over managing the inn, calling it Mrs. Gordon's Tavern. Her daughter Catherine married Captain George Weedon (his title at the

end of the French and Indian War) in 1764. Weedon soon took over the management of the tavern. He did not buy out Mrs. Gordon's share of the tavern until 1773.

Under Weedon's care the tavern expanded its service to the gentry of Spotsylvania County and beyond. Weedon became a prominent member of the Fredericksburg community and a respected churchman. Many influential men of wealth, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were catered to; Washington himself considered Weedon's (as it was called) his second home. Many ledgers in Washington's journals during the early 1770's listed dining with political dignitaries and officers of the militia and later newly formed committee militias. Washington and others ate, drank, and played cards until the sun set. Interestingly, the future first president noted that he always lost at cards because the Fredericksburg fellows were too smart.

In many ways, the tavern was what would now be considered a country club, providing not only good food and drink, but recreation and relaxation for the affluent guests. It was not uncommon to see several post chases waiting outside as slaves whiled away the hours while their masters were entertained with good food, spirits, and games. Dinner was served in the afternoon and supper in the evening. Often guests so enjoyed the exquisite atmosphere at Weedon's that they would begin with Dinner and stay well past supper. Weedon also established what was called a 'dinner and club:' A select group of wealthy gentlemen who often gathered in a private room for gatherings and 'fine spirits.'

Weedon was also manager of the Jocky Club, the brainchild of William Fitzhugh of Chatham. As such, he would board fine pure-breeds in his stables behind the Inn and arrange horse races for the fair. Often he would provide animals for the riding pleasure of his guests. Fees involving board and feed, rental of horses for the day's outing, were added to the guests' bill.

The tavern was also a convenience store, offering guests many items both practical and luxurious for wear and consumption. One could buy exquisite wigs, lemons or limes, imported brandy and wines from Europe, gallons of local spirits, or get a cash loan. Other innkeepers and ship captains purchased their meat and produce from the tavern. Weedon formed partnerships with local producers including a butcher business with George Washington's brother Charles, for example. As a

Mason, Weedon's became the center for Masonic activity. Meetings were held on a regular basis, including the annual dinner.

Patrons paid their bills in many ways beside silver. Accounts were credited and paid monthly; goods and services were traded (as was the case with many craftsmen who gladly took their wages in spirits). John Mercer, a frequent patron, paid in cloth from one of the spinning factories on Charles Street.

In the years leading to conflict, the tavern became a favorite meeting place for those spouting passionate opinions towards their poor treatment by the British Government. Steps were discussed to rid the land of tyranny. Those who frequented the tavern were among the most influential men of Virginia who would later help carve a new country. Among the tavern's regulars were Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Patrick Henry, John Marshall, Hugh Mercer, George Mason, Richard Henry Lee & brother 'Lighthouse' Harry Lee, and Gustavus Wallace, to name a few.

As war loomed, Captain Weedon took a more active role in the militia, accepting a Lieutenant Colonel's commission in what became the third Virginia regiment under the leadership of his brother-in-law Colonel Hugh Mercer. He leased the tavern to William Smith in March of 1776 to join the militia full time. Smith planned to continue the inn's service during Weedon's absence. On August 13th, Mercer was promoted to Brigadier General and the regiment became Weedon's, who was promoted to the rank of full Colonel. His regiment was soon ordered to deploy to New York City to join the Continental Army.

Weedon remained with Washington's army and fought in several major battles until a dispute over seniority. He resigned in the spring of 1778 and returned to manage the Tavern. During his absence in 1777, the tavern played host to Thomas Jefferson's Committee as it revised the laws of the new state of Virginia.

When General Benedict Arnold and General William Phillips threatened Virginia in 1781, Weedon put aside his apron and organized a battalion of militia to meet the danger. After the defeat of General Cornwallis's forces at Yorktown, a Great Peace Ball was hosted by Weeden at his tavern. On November 11th, 1781, a veritable who's who of American and French officers, politicians, wealthy planters, and domestic and foreign dignitaries attended. George Washington

attended as did the Marquis de Lafayette as he arrived arm and arm with Washington's mother.

After the war, Weedon remained proprietor of the tavern for a short time, devoting more time to council and as a church vestryman. He retired from inn-keeping to become Mayor of Fredericksburg in 1785. During that period he built a beautiful home he called Sentry Box in lower Fredericksburg that remains standing to this day. The house overlooks the Rappahannock River and was directly opposite 'Ferry Farm,' George Washington's boyhood home.

George Weedon died in 1793 and his wife Catherine in 1797. They are buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Fredericksburg. The inn remained active until 1807 when it was destroyed by fire. Weedon's contributions to both the military and Masonic communities highlight his dedication to the principles of leadership and fraternity during a formative period in American history.

This concludes the first 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.

Fraternaly,
Mike Dove



Please join us before the February stated meeting and DDGM Official Visit or our annual chili cook-off. Show off your culinary skills or just come out to warm your insides from the winter chill!

Contest begins February 14th at 6:30 pm!



Installation of Wor. Jeremy Utt



Ribbon cutting ceremony



Brethren using their "tools"



Fraternal visit to Kilwinning Crosse Lodge

District 8 GM's official visit





Bethel 16's Installation



Welcome to our newest Entered Apprentice! Wor. Michael Dove, Bro. Raul Garcia, Bro. David Smith, and Bro. Ed Kenney



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

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

2025 LODGE OFFICERS

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Jeff Adams, Sr.	jadams@rosendin.com	(571) 643-3962	Junior Warden
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Christopher Tripp, PM	Secretarylodge4va@gmail.com	(540) 424-5767	Secretary
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Michael Scullin	mscullin@gmail.com		Tiler

TRUSTEES

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

PROGRAM OFFICERS

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

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