

FREDERICKSBURG LODGE No. 4  
A. F. & A. M.

Washington's  
MOTHER LODGE

**HISTORICAL SKETCH**  
OF  
**FREDERICKSBURG LODGE No. 4**  
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA



HOME OF FREDERICKSBURG LODGE No. 4, SINCE 1815

**MOTHER LODGE**  
OF  
**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

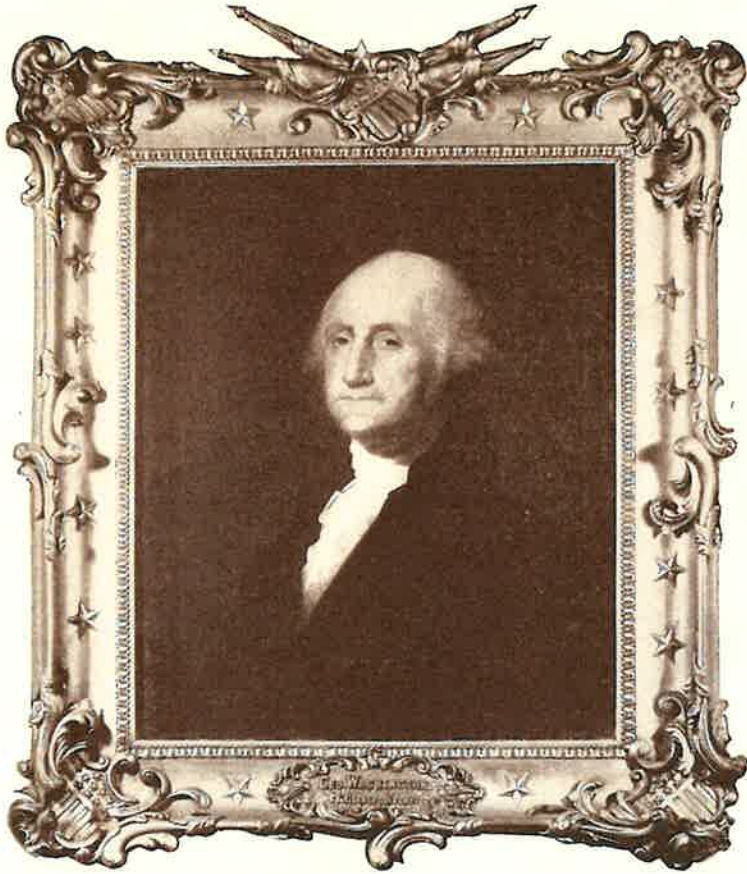
By JAMES HENRY HERON

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**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Original Portrait by Gilbert Stuart, now hanging in the Lodge Room at  
Fredericksburg, Virginia

"Reverence is the noblest activity of the human mind."  
As we gaze upon his noble features, let our reverence  
and our affection be rekindled, and as we review the  
many acts that made him a Man-Invincible-Among-Men,  
let us resolve to dare to do the right—to love Truth—to  
serve our country and the Supreme Architect, as did our  
world-renowned Brother, GEORGE WASHINGTON.



## History of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4



ESIDES having the proud distinction of being the Mother Lodge of "The Father of His Country," the Lodge at Fredericksburg is one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in America.

Anyone perusing the Lodge records would readily find it was a functioning Lodge before November 4th, 1752. The officers had already been installed and a large membership listed. Extensive research has been conducted by J. Shriver Woods, P. D. D. G. M. and others, and though no certified date of its origin has been found, it is the consensus of opinion among those who have assisted in the researches that the Lodge was organized certainly before 1752, possibly as early as 1725. As the records have been lost or destroyed, it is impossible to ascertain under what authority the Lodge operated prior to 1758, when it obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, but the existing records of the Lodge prove that the Lodge at Fredericksburg exercised some of the powers of a Grand Lodge, the Master being designated G. M., and two other lodges were instituted by the Lodge at Fredericksburg.

A statement by Robert Reid Howison, LL. D. in his book "Fredericksburg, Past, Present and Future," says; "The Lodge at Fredericksburg was supposed to have been organized as early as 1735, though the records of that date have perished". He also states that, "Freemasonry was introduced into Virginia as early as 1725." If that is so, Fredericksburg being one of the chief centers of Colonial activity must have had Masonry established here somewhere around 1735. Quoting from "Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia, 1777 to 1823," by John Dove: "Had the records of all the lodges been kept with accuracy of detail and beauty of style which was due the fraternity, as were the records of Botetout Lodge, we would be able to present a volume, priceless in value, especially as relating to the history of the Lodge at Fredericksburg, which conferred the honors and privileges of Masonry on the youth in 1752, who was in after life to become, 'First in War! First in Peace! First in the Hearts of His Countrymen!'"





Further evidence is, that the Grand Lodge of Scotland warranted Lodges with power to confer all degrees from E. A. to Royal Arch, so that those desiring higher degrees than E. A., that being the degree in those days in which all business was transacted, would not be required to go to the Grand Lodge to receive them. The Lodge at Fredericksburg conferred the Royal Arch degree in 1753, which is the oldest extant record of the conferring of this degree in the world.



#### ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

A photostatic copy of the oldest record of the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree. The ceremony took place in the Lodge Room at Fredericksburg. Oldest English Record is 1762.

Before the Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia was established in 1778, the Lodge at Fredericksburg issued warrants for instituting at least two other lodges. Botetout Lodge was instituted in 1757 by warrant issued by the Lodge at Fredericksburg, and it is still in existence, but, now, working under a Charter issued by the Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Virginia. A Lodge formerly existing at Falmouth was also chartered by Fredericksburg Lodge.

Rules and Regulations of the Lodge at  
Fredericksburg as Adopted 1769

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1. That the meetings in course be the first Friday of every month, from March to September at 6 o'clock in the evening, and from September to March at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.
2. Every member of the Lodge shall pay three Shillings Quarterly, for expenses thereof, Viz., at Lady Day, Midsummer, Michaelmas and Christmas—Extra Expenses to be defrayed by such members as are present on these occasions.
3. Every new Brother shall pay the Fee of three Pistoles\* for being admitted to the First degree, the Fee of one Pistole for being passed to the Second, and the same sum on being raised to the Third. These Fees must be received the night of his admission, passing or raising, or the Brothers who recommended to be responsible for them.
4. Any Brother not made in this Lodge, Petitioning to become a member thereof, shall upon his being received as such (after due examination) pay the Fee of one Pistole. But Brethern made here may become members without further Fee than that of their admission.
5. No visiting Brother is to be admitted without due Examination, unless vouched for by a Brother present; nor more than once without paying one Shilling and Three Pence.
6. No person to be admitted to become a Mason in this Lodge under the age of twenty-one years on any account whatever, being contrary to the Constitution of Masonry, nor without unanimous consent of the Lodge by Ballot.
7. All Fees and Quarterages to be paid to the Treasurer for the time being. His Acc't to be Annually examined and balanced on the night his office expires.

\*A Pistole was the equivalent of about \$4.00 in gold.



Holy Bible on which George Washington took his Masonic obligations. This Bible was printed by John Field, Cambridge, England, Printer to the University, in the year 1668. It is protected by a covering of strong glass, and always reclines in a fire-proof vault, within the Lodge Room at Fredericksburg, Virginia. On a few very exceptional occasions it has been taken to Masonic gatherings to grace the proceedings. Whenever it is taken from the Lodge it travels under guard.

The following prayer is quaintly written on the fly leaf of the Bible.

“O, God, Divine Architect of the Universe,  
We bow with gratitude to thy Omnipotence.  
We acknowledge Thee as the Creator and  
Preserver of all things. We thank Thee  
For Thy daily blessings conferred on us  
In all our undertakings. More particularly,  
O, God, we crave Thy Presence at this meeting.  
Do Thou preside over us in the spirit of  
Peace, Love and Charity, and to Thy Holy  
Name be Power and Dominion, forever,  
Amen.”



### Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. Survived Three Wars

The War of the Revolution-the War of 1812-and the Civil War. The War of the Revolution drew so heavily upon the membership that meetings were abandoned until after the war was over. The War of 1812 did not draw heavily upon the membership, consequently the meetings were continued during that period.

"The lapse of time, the devastations of war, and the ruthless hand of ignorance have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity." This can truly be said of the condition of the Lodge Room of No. 4 after the "War between the States." The city of Fredericksburg is surrounded by high hills on all sides and during the period of the Civil War this city was fought over several times. The heaviest artillery duel took place here in December, 1862, when the city was literally blown up. The destruction was full and complete. The streets were filled with broken plunder, dripping with the blood of the populace. Most of the priceless records and furnishings of the Lodge were either broken, destroyed or carried off.

Fortunately for the Lodge, and for the Masonic Fraternity, the old Bible on which Washington took his Masonic Obligations, the Minute Book, and the old Scotch and Virginia Charters were in the vault of the Virginia Bank under the care of Brother William Ware, and when the war proved too hot for him he got out and took these valuable Masonic treasures with him to Danville and thus saved them for posterity.

### A Masonic Magazine

In the year 1837, the Lodge published a semi-monthly magazine, which went forth under the imposing but peaceful title of "The Olive Branch, and Literary Port Folio." The Editors were James D. McCabe and John M. Ball, who declared in their first issue that "the primary object of the Journal will be to afford a vehicle of intelligence to the great Masonic family of our country, and believing that we are responsible to God for what we write and what we select, no pains will be spared to render the OLIVE BRANCH a useful and interesting visitor." The Masonic Journal lasted for some years, and no doubt was very interesting to the Brethren it served.



#### HOUDON BUST

At the time that HOUDON, the famous French Sculptor, made a life size Statue of Washington, he took a life mask of Washington's head and shoulders. From this mask was made this Bust, of French China, by an artist in Sevres, France, for Washington's best loved friend in France, LaFayette. In 1824, LaFayette brought the Bust to America, and presented it to a friend in New Orleans. Eventually, it fell into the hands of Mr. Charles Lee Frank, of Glen Echo, Md., who presented it to Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. It is now on exhibit in the Lodge Room.

### Fredericksburg's Memorial to Washington

In 1852, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, conceived the idea of erecting a Washington Masonic Memorial, but it was not definitely decided what the monument was to be. S. J. Quinn, P. G. M., states in his Historical Sketch of Fredericksburg Lodge, written in 1890, "the supposition is that it was to be a Masonic Temple, with a statue of Washington in the vestibule. For the purpose of carrying out the plans, a committee was appointed with Bro. John James Young, chairman."

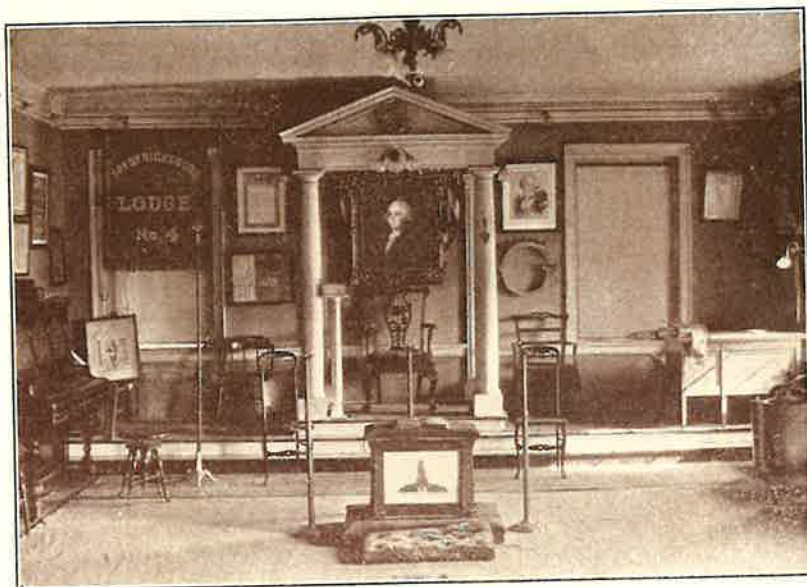
The Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia strongly indorsing the movement, made a liberal contribution, and appointed a committee consisting of five Past Grand Masters, to urge the Subordinate Lodges in the State to aid in the effort. This committee also communicated with other Grand and Subordinate Lodges in other States.

Eventually the money was subscribed, and a life-size marble statue of Washington in Masonic regalia, ordered from Mr. Powers, a Virginia Artist, then residing in Rome. This statue when completed, reached Fredericksburg by the last steamer that came up the Rappahannock river before it was closed to navigation by the Federal authorities at the beginning of the War between the States. It was placed on public exhibition, and judges pronounced it one of the finest pieces of statuary in the country. During the war it was placed in the stone house on Water St., near the free bridge, and remained there until the summer of 1863, when it was taken to Richmond for safe keeping. This proved unsafe, for it perished in the terrible fire that followed the evacuation of that city by the Confederate forces on the 3rd of April, 1865. It is more than likely, that, had not the war come on, which stopped all efforts in the movement, the temple would have been erected, and would have proved the pride of the Masonic fraternity of this country.

### Notable Occasions

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, has had many distinguished visitors to enter her portals, and none more so than the famous Frenchman, LaFayette, who was made an honorary member in our present Lodge Room. It was in 1824 that LaFayette paid a visit to this country and was received with enthusiasm every-





### To The Masonic Lodge At Fredericksburg

“Ere manhood marked his youthful brow  
He sought your altar and made his vow.  
On your tessellated floor he trod,  
Bended his knee and placed his trust in GOD;  
Throughout his great and glorious life he stood  
A true, warm-hearted brother, ever doing good.  
His ready word his testimony bore,  
Ennobling e’er the apron that he wore,  
And when he died, amid a nation’s gloom  
His mourning brethren bore him to the tomb.  
Well may we bless the tie that binds  
His name to all Masonic minds—  
Well may we feel he stands among us stil,  
His Heaven-born virtues naught can ever kill—  
The name of Washington shall never die  
‘Til the last trump dissolves the mystic tie.”  
—Anonymous

where. Previous to his reception in the Lodge room, he was elected unanimously an honorary member of the Lodge, and when his presence was announced, Col. Wm. F. Gray, W.M., descended from his chair and welcomed him, thus; "Brother LaFayette, in the name of my assembled Brothers, I bid you welcome to our Lodge, welcome to our homes, welcome to our hearts. We thank you, my brother, heartily thank you for this visit. We are proud of this opportunity of standing on the level with one whose noble expressions in the cause of humanity have filled the world with his name. I have the pleasure of informing you that this Lodge has today elected you an honorary member, and I am instructed to express to you our united, earnest request, that you will inscribe your name upon our list of members. It already bears the names of Washington, Mercer, Woodford, Weedon, and many others distinguished for their virtues and whose names live in our country's history."

LaFayette replied as follows:

"My dear Sir and Brothers, the pleasure I feel in our fraternal meetings cannot but be enhanced on this occasion by the consideration that in this city the first lessons of childhood, and in this lodge, the first lessons in Masonry were conferred upon the man who was first in all our hearts. In Masonry he was our Brother, in matters of State he was our Father. I shall be happy, sir, to see my name united with these respected names most dear to my heart, that you have just mentioned. And I beg you all, my Brethren, to accept my affectionate thanks for the favor you have conferred upon me, and which you, sir, have been pleased so kindly to announce."

"It should be noted that on Friday, September 19th, 1783, the Lodge fixed at the Market House in Fredericksburg, a 'Grand Keystone and plate of Silver' inscribed in testimony of the revival of Masonry and our intention to fix our covenant there."

This was just after the War of Independence, during which the Lodge ceased her meetings because her membership was in the Continental Army following their Illustrious Brother, General Washington. Major-General George Weedon, Master of the Lodge was in charge of the ceremonies, rejoicing over the close of the war and the revival of the Lodge at the old quarters, in the Market House.



#### A STATUE OF THE GREAT LAFAYETTE

Which he himself had made and presented to President James Monroe when he visited America in 1824. LaFayette, an honorary member of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, was made a Mason in the American Union Lodge, which was at that time a traveling Lodge attached to a regiment in the Continental Army stationed in Morristown, N. J. This same Lodge is now located at Marietta, Ohio. In a speech, LaFayette stated that he did not receive the full confidence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army until he became a Mason. Then he was put in charge of a regiment.



In May, 1833, the Lodge assisted by Lodge No. 63, laid the corner stone of the monument to MARY, MOTHER OF WASHINGTON, at Meditation Rocks, in Fredericksburg. Brother Samuel Howison was Master of the Lodge and presided. President Andrew Jackson made the address on this occasion.

July 4th, 1848, the Lodge by special invitation, was present and took part in the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the Washington Monument in the city of Washington.

February 22nd, 1850, by special invitation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, No. 4, was present and took part in the laying of the corner stone of the Equestrian Statue of Washington in the city of Richmond, Va. Again the Lodge was present at the dedication ceremonies, February 22nd, 1858.

June 4th, 1874, the Lodge was called upon by the Ladies Memorial Association of Fredericksburg, to lay the corner stone of the Monument erected in memory of the Confederate dead buried at Fredericksburg.

October 19th, 1881, the Lodge took part in the anniversary ceremonies at Yorktown, Virginia, of the centenary of the Surrender of Cornwallis and the British Forces under him, and the laying of the corner stone of the monument at Yorktown.

February 22nd, 1885, the Lodge took part in the dedication ceremonies of the Washington Monument at Washington City.

January 31st, 1887, the Lodge celebrated its centennial birthday under the charter of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Virginia.

July 4th, 1911, it laid corner stone of State Teachers College, Fredericksburg, Va.

At the laying of the corner stone of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, at Alexandria, Nov. 1st, 1923, Fredericksburg Lodge being the Mother Lodge of Washington was given the honor position and led the parade.

Again, at the dedication ceremonies of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial at Alexandria, May 12th, 1932, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 was honored by leading the parade. On both of these occasions the Bible on which Washington was made a Mason was carried by a guard of honor.

## Fredericksburg--The Washington Family Home Town



GEORGE WASHINGTON was born at Wakefield, Westmoreland County, Virginia, about one hundred miles down the Potomac River from Washington City, and about thirty-nine miles East of Fredericksburg, on February 22nd, 1732.

Washington's father's name was Augustine, and he was, physically, the strongest man of his time in Virginia, yet he is best known for his honesty and gentle ways. Augustine Wash-



MARY WASHINGTON HOUSE

To this house George Washington brought his mother to live during the War of the Revolution. Today the house is kept as a Shrine by loving hands, in much the same condition as it was when Mary, Mother of Washington lived and died in it.

ington married Mary Ball, March 6th, 1730, his second wife. By a previous marriage he had two sons, Lawrence and Augustine, who became great companions to George as he grew to manhood. Mary Ball Washington had been an orphan since she was a young girl under the guardianship of a Mr. George Eskridge, of whom she thought a great deal, so when her first son was born she named him GEORGE after her Guardian.

George was just a little lad when his father moved the family to a farm on the Rappahannock river, opposite Fredericksburg, called Pine Grove Farm. This was later changed to Ferry Farm the name by which it is now known. It was on this farm that George lived when the Cherry Tree incident happened, and all the other incidents of his youth recorded in our Masonic Brother Mason L. Weems's biography of Washington, published in 1880. It was on this farm he lived when he attended school in Fredericksburg—where he learned surveying—where he played at war with his companions and learned the rudiments and technique of war that later helped him in leading the Continental Army to success in winning the War of the Revolution. It was this same farm his father left him when he died, and it was on this farm he was living when he was made a Mason in the Lodge at Fredericksburg.

Mary Washington, George's mother, continued to live on at Ferry Farm until the Revolution, when George bought a home for his mother in the city of Fredericksburg, near Kenmore, the home of Betty Washington Lewis, his only sister, and there she lived, going back and forth to Ferry Farm to manage and direct the farm activities throughout the rest of her eventful life. George had three brothers, Samuel, John and Charles, and all lived in Fredericksburg.



**KENMORE (built 1752)**

Kenmore is one of the best examples of early Colonial Architecture in existence. It was the home of Washington's only sister, Betty Washington Lewis. Col. Fielding Lewis was a member of the Lodge at Fredericksburg, and manufactured guns for the Revolution.



During the trying days of the Revolution, Mary, Mother of Washington, used to go to a rocky point overlooking a peaceful valley, near her home in Fredericksburg, to meditate and pray for the success of the Revolution, and for the safety of her son, George. Today, old-fashioned mothers, who believe in the power of prayer like Mary Washington, come to this hallowed spot to meditate and to pray, as did the mother of the First American. This rocky point is now called "Meditation Rocks." and nearby stands the stately, white, marble monument erected by the mothers of America to Mary, Mother of Washington, marking the spot where she is buried.



#### RISING SUN TAVERN

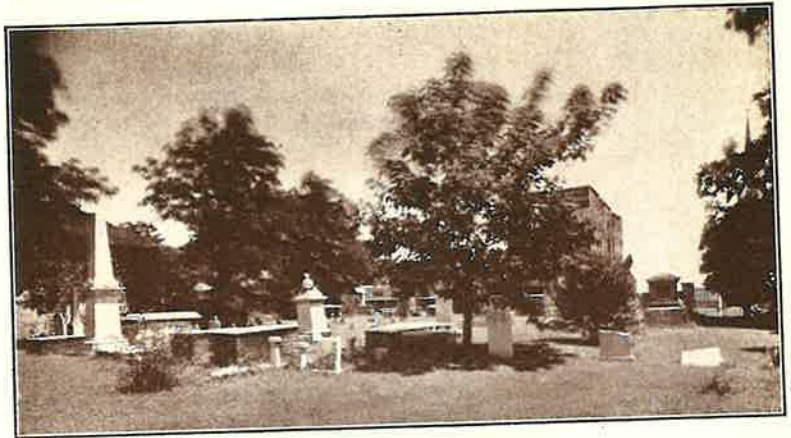
Rising Sun Tavern was built in 1760 by Charles Washington, a younger brother of George. Before and during the Revolution it was a favorite meeting place of the Revolutionists. It was kept by General George Weedon, a member of Fredericksburg Lodge. In the early days the Lodge met here for two years. It is said that Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of The Declaration of Independence in this old Tavern, and his desk is now one of the priceless possessions of the Shrine.

#### Masonic Cemetery

The members of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, deem it a great honor and privilege to have as their peculiar heritage the care and perpetuation of the Oldest Masonic Cemetery in America. A noted author, Dora C. Jett, of Fredericksburg, has written one of the very few books about a Cemetery, and has made it exceedingly interesting under the attractive title of "Minor Sketches of Major Folk." In the foreword she says, "With what keen pleasure would the whole Universe respond to

that genius who could by some inventive process put upon the screen, the true home life, the social and military life of such worthies as rest in the Old Masonic Cemetery at Fredericksburg."

Many celebrities of the early Colonial life rest in this hallowed spot, among them Lewis Littlepage, of whom, Tyler, the historian says, "Perhaps he was the most brilliant genius born in Virginia." He went to Europe, at eighteen, to enter the Diplomatic Service under Ambassador Jay, at the Court of Madrid. His talents soon brought him to the notice of the King of Poland, and he made him his private secretary, with the rank of Chamberlain. It is said of him, that he was the most decorated man of his



MASONIC CEMETERY

time. Others of note buried here are: General John Minor, who distinguished himself in the war of 1812. Major Benjamin Day, who was at one time Grand Master of Virginia, besides serving his country as a soldier. Mrs. Dela Forbes Smith, the grandmother of Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt. Rev. John Woodville. John Stanard, who had charge of the special Guard for Lafayette while he visited here. Mr. Basil Gordon, the first man in America to make a million. Yes, he was Scotch. A nephew of General George Washington, lies buried here, Major Robert Lewis, son of Betty Washington Lewis and Col. Fielding Lewis, who made munitions for the War of the Revolution. Robert Lewis was also the private secretary of George Washington during the war.

## Washington and Freemasonry



WASHINGTON and Freemasonry. When the lips have named the one the mind has embraced the other. George Washington was a Mason through and through. He was a Man's Man!—a Soldier—a Statesman—a Planter—a Diplomat, and a thinker of great and noble thoughts. He had strong feelings for his home—for his mother—for the soil, and for truth and principle in every action. He also had a depth of religious spirit that few could fathom, so it was natural for him to turn to Masonry intensify his spiritual strength.

A man's character can only be measured by the yard-stick of action, and by the reputation he builds from action. Few men have stopped long enough to set down and make a record of their actions. But, busy as Washington was, he started early in life to record his daily activities, and throughout his eventful life he set down in his diary his actions of each day. Few men have left a richer life story than Washington; 26,000 letters are now in the Library of Congress written in his hand writing, and some historians estimate, that, with the letters we know of and the letters that have been destroyed, or lost, Washington must have written as many as 40,000 letters, long hand. The intimate and personal items he set down are the very man himself. What is in a man's heart can only be judged by the action resulting therefrom.

Masons can readily understand why Masonry made such a strong appeal to the Greatest American, and anyone who will read, even a little of the history of Freemasonry, will also understand why this body of Truth was at once a magnet and a comfort to Washington. He often expressed his love for Masonry and for his Mother Lodge at Fredericksburg. Many of his closest friends and associates, his generals and military aides belonged to the Ancient Craft, and many of that number to his own Lodge at Fredericksburg.

Masonry came to the Colonies just before Washington was born, as an organization demanding no religious tests, except the belief in the Supreme Architect of the Universe. It was about that time the English Grand Lodge struck out from its ritual, "to



be true to God and to Holy Church," and substituted the following: "A Mason is obliged, by his tenure, to obey the moral law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine." George Washington was deeply religious. His life was a demonstration of his belief in the Brotherhood of man, and the Fatherhood of God, which is Masonry, and the precepts and principles upon which he founded the government of the United States.

### Washington's Confidence in Masonry

In these days when Communism is spreading its destructive doctrine throughout the United States, it is interesting to learn that Washington had to face a similar situation near the close of his life. In those days the Red-Poison-Propaganda was called Illuminism and it will be interesting to all Masonic Brethren to learn that Masons were accused of spreading this false doctrine.

Hayden in "Washington and His Masonic Compeers" says "Barruel, a French Jesuit, and Robison, a Scotch Presbyterian, issued works in which they both sought to demonstrate that Masonic Lodges were all schools of Illuminism, in which infidelity and Red-Republicanism were taught. Robison openly asserted that Illuminism was a grade in Masonry, which had already been introduced into the United States; and public agitators in this country sought to identify the infidelity of Germany and the excesses of France with Masonry in this country."

A Rev. G. W. Snyder of Frederick, Md., brought it to the attention of George Washington in a letter, which says: "I was led to think that it might be within your power to prevent the horrid plan from corrupting the brethren of the English Lodges over which you preside. I send you the 'Proofs of Conspiracy,' (Robison's Book) which, I doubt not, will give you satisfaction, and afford you matter for a train of ideas that may operate to our national felicity."

To this letter Washington replied as follows:

Mount Vernon, 25th, Sept., 1798

"The Rev. Mr. Snyder: Sir—Many apologies are due to you for my not acknowledging the receipt of your obliging favor of the 22nd ult., and not thanking you at an earlier period, for the book you had the goodness to send me.

I have heard much of the nefarious and dangerous plan and doctrines of the Illuminati, but never saw the book until you were pleased to send it to me. The same causes which have prevented me from acknowledging the receipt of your letter have prevented my reading the book hitherto—namely, the multiplicity of matters which pressed upon me before, and the state of my health in which I was left after a severe fever had been removed, and which allows me to add but little more than thanks for your kind wishes, except to correct an error you have run into, of my presiding over the English lodges in this country. The fact is, I preside over none, nor have I been in one more than once or twice within the last thirty years. I believe, notwithstanding, that none of the lodges in this country are contaminated with the principles ascribed to the society of the Illuminati.

Yours respect, I am, Sir, Your obedient, humble, servant,

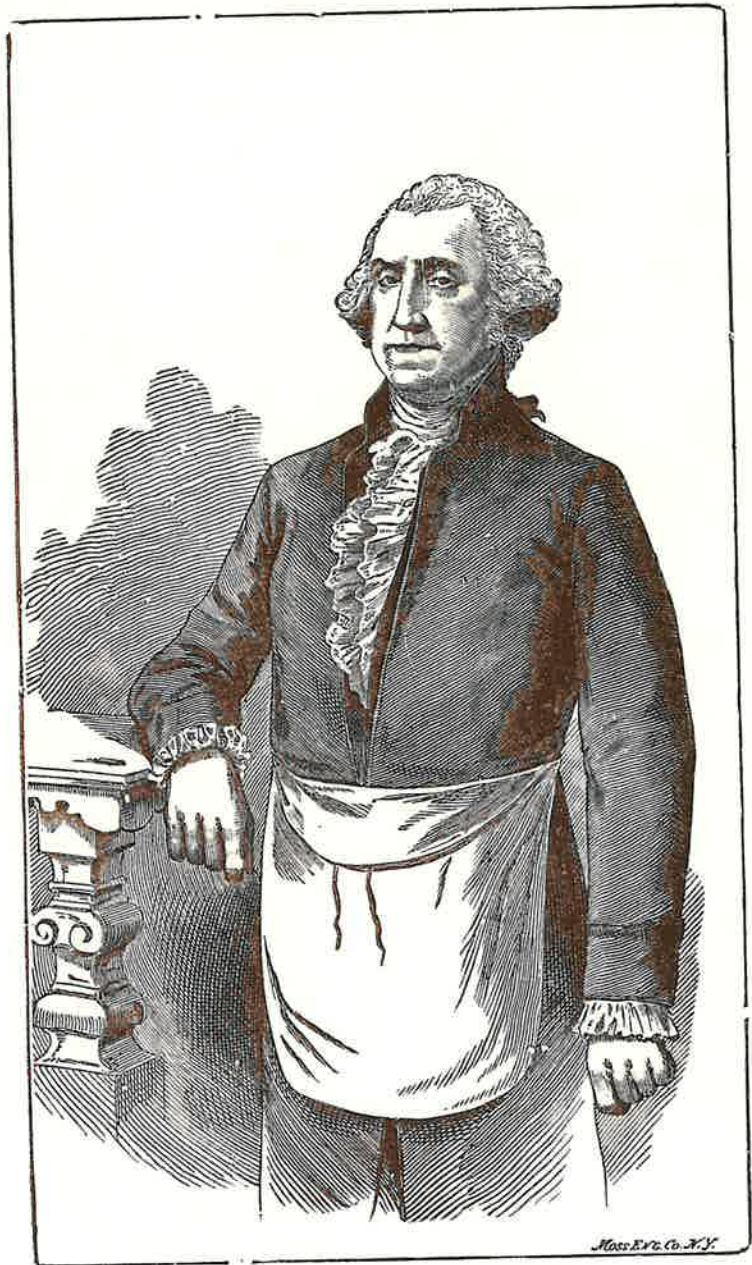
Go. Washington.”

The Reverend gentleman wrote a second letter and Washington's reply was somewhat more emphatic in defense of the Masonic Lodges in this country, and ended his letter as follows, “My occupations are such that little leisure is allowed me to read newspapers and books of any kind. The reading of letters and preparing answers absorbs much of my time.” Go. Washington.

Thus Washington dismissed the matter, showing that he had confidence in Masonry as a Man's Code of Life to clean its own ranks if need be. Some writers claim that Washington's first letter disclaims any connection with Masonry in his later years. That of course is untrue as Washington always remained a member, in good standing, of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4.

### Washington Lived Masonry

George Washington lived his Masonry and demonstrated it in many ways. One of his first acts after being made a Mason, was to take Governor Dinwiddie's message to the French in the Ohio country. He had to have an interpreter, so he returned to Fredericksburg and invited Jacob Van Braam, a Brother Mason, to go with him.



GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE MASON  
Initiated, November 4th, 1752  
Passed Fellow Craft, March 3rd, 1753  
Raised, August 4th, 1753



We find in his Diary: "1753, November 1st, Thursday, Fredericksburg, Virginia,

I arrived at Fredericksburg and engaged Mr. Jacob Van Braam to be my French interpreter, and proceeded with him to Alexandria where we provided necessaries."

In the formative period of this nation, when men held decided views on Government, it was necessary for leaders to surround themselves with men whom they could trust. When an important post was to be filled, or an important message was to be delivered, Washington often selected a man as much for his Masonic affiliations as for his ability, because, living his Masonry, he looked for others to live their Masonry also.

When Benedict Arnold deserted the American cause, Washington's disappointment was made more bitter because Arnold was a Mason. His comment was, "Whom now can we trust?"

On another occasion when Lewis Littlepage returned to his home in Fredericksburg, from the Court of the King of Poland, after being decorated by that monarch, and honored by many of the other courts of Europe, the King of Poland requested President Washington to allow Littlepage to wear his decorations, and retain his titles in this, his own country. In spite of the fact Mr. Lewis Littlepage was one of the greatest Americans of his time, and had done much for the American cause in the courts of Europe, and had been decorated and honored for his services to these European countries, and, besides, was a Brother Mason, belonging to his own Lodge, Washington refused to grant the request, on the grounds, that for an American citizen to wear decorations, and go under a title in this country, would be against the ideals of Democracy and the principles of Masonry.

Still another example is the following message from Washington to a Lodge in Massachusetts: "Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honorable as it is to receive from our fellow-citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by the society, whose liberal principles are founded on the immutable laws of

truth and justice. To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy the benevolent design of a Masonic Institution; and it is most fervently to be wished that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles that actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race."

### Washington's Memorial Service

On the second Sabbath morning after Washington's death, amidst the tolling of bells, which had commenced at sunrise, the Lodge met at 10 o'clock for the solemn service of the occasion. Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Most Worshipful Benjamin Day, a former Master of the Lodge, took the East and made the following address to the members present:

"We are now, Brethren, assembled to pay the last tribute of affection and respect to the eminent virtues and exemplary conduct that adorned the character of our worthy deceased Brother, GEORGE WASHINGTON. He was early initiated in this venerable Lodge, in the mysteries of our ancient and honorable profession; and having held it in the highest and most just veneration, the fraternal attention we now show to his memory is the more incumbent upon us. He is gone forever from our view, but gone to the realms of celestial bliss, where the shafts of malice and detraction cannot penetrate, where all sublunary distinctions cease, and merit is rewarded by the scale of unerring justice. While the tear of sympathy is excited for a loss so generally and deservedly lamented, let us recollect that posterity will not less justly appreciate the talents and virtues he possessed. As a man he was frail, and it would be a compliment to which human nature cannot aspire to suppose him free from peculiarities or exempt from error. But let those who best know him determine the measure to which they extend. In the offices of private life he was most endeared to those who were most in his familiarity and intimacy. In the various important appointments of public confidence, let not the sin of ingratitude sully the historic page by denying him the incense of public applause. Abler panegyrists will attend at the sacred altar and do that justice to his memory to which his merits entitle him; while attendant angels await his immortal spirit in the mansions of eternal peace."

### Another George Washington Initiated

On November 4, 1932, on the Ferry Farm, (George Washington's Boyhood Home) Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, held a Bi-Centennial Celebration in a large circus tent on top of a high hill on which George Washington is supposed to have broken the colt's neck.

As George Washington was initiated by this Lodge on Nov. 4, 1752, the Lodge commemorated this occasion by initiating another George Washington, a direct descendant of one of Washington's uncles.

The same Bible was used, on which Washington took all three of his Masonic obligations.

The initiation took place at ten o'clock in the morning, and at high twelve, the lodge was called "from labor to refreshment", when a noon day meal was served.

### Bi-Centennial of Washington's Initiation

November 4, 1752-1952

As this is written plans are in the making for one of the most outstanding Masonic events ever to be staged in Virginia—the observance of the bi-centennial of the initiation of the greatest American Mason. It will be recalled, that Washington received the E. A. degree on November 4, 1752. For a number of years past (and even prior to the 1932 observance chronicled above) the Lodge has been observing the anniversary of Washington's initiation by appropriate ceremonies each year. In 1952, however, the program will be of an unusual character. The Grand Lodge of Virginia has already signified its intention of taking part in the program and representatives from all other American jurisdictions are expected to be present. It is hoped, that the new temple so long planned by Fredericksburg Lodge, will be dedicated on November 4, 1952 and that it will long serve as a worthy home for Washington's Mother Lodge. Inquiries and contribu-



tions are invited from Masons and all friends of Masonry everywhere. Every contributor's name will be registered in the GOLDEN BOOK of the Lodge and those contributing \$1,000 or more will have their names listed on the bronze tablet to be erected in the foyer of the new temple. Correspondence and contributions should be addressed to,

EDWARD H. CANN, Secretary  
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M.  
Fredericksburg, Virginia.



#### FERRY FARM

Oh, what a joy it is to find  
A Dad who is so very kind  
That he will always choose a place  
To live, where boys can run and race—  
Where boys can play without alarm,  
And such a place is Ferry Farm.  
Down where the Rappahannock flows—  
Down where the river wider grows,  
Old Fredericksburg lies on the stream  
Where ships unload and boys may dream;  
Here George's father settled down  
Across the river from the town.  
George Washington, the sturdy boy,  
Roamed o'er these hills with keenest joy,  
And played the games that boys now play  
And went to school 'most every day—  
Went on a Ferry without harm,  
That's why they called it, "FERRY FARM!"

### An Outstanding Record

Just as Fredericksburg is sometimes called the "Most Historic City in America" so is Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 sometimes called the Most Historic Lodge in America. Notwithstanding the claims of other lodges as being "First" in America; be that as it may, records of most early Lodges in America are vague and proofs uncertain, but one thing is positive, no other lodge in America has sent forth such a galaxy of Illustrious and noble Brethren, as leaders in National and Masonic affairs, as Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. It furnished the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, and five other generals in the War of the Revolution—General George Weedon—General Hugh Mercer—General Gustavus B. Wallace—General William Woodford—and General Thomas Posey. Two Presidents—The First President, George Washington, and the Fifth President, James Monroe—were furnished by Fredericksburg. At least one Diplomat, Extraordinary, to the courts of Europe, General Lewis Littlepage. The first millionaire in America, Bazil Gordon, claimed No. 4 as his Mother Lodge. Numerous Congressmen, Senators and Governors of the State of Virginia, hailed from No. 4, and, last, but not least, seven Grand Masters of Masons in Virginia, have been furnished by Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. Certainly this is a record to be proud of.

During his lifetime General Washington had many honors conferred on him, and many were offered that he could not accept, especially that of Grand Master and General Grand Master. He did accept honorary membership in other lodges, but did not demit from his Mother Lodge, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4. The reports of the Grand Lodge of Virginia shows that Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, was the only Lodge reporting the death of Brother George Washington.





JAMES MONROE

Fifth President of the United States, perhaps better known as "The Father of the Monroe Doctrine."



LAW OFFICE OF JAMES MONROE

Much of the original furniture used by James Monroe is to be seen in this quaint, old Law Office in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

### All Hail! To The Chief!

---

We gave him a grave as broad as the sweep  
Of the tidal wave's measureless motion;  
We laid him to sleep by the arm of the deep,  
And his heart was as free as the ocean.  
As the sea billows roll from the gulf to the pole  
Let them mourn him in musical dirges—  
Let the tempest bell toll the repose of a soul,  
More sublime than the roar of its surges.  
He has written his name in letters of flame  
O'er the pathway of Liberty's Portal;  
All Hail! to the Chief, who will ever be Chief!  
A man, and a Mason Immortal!

### Some Distinguished Members of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

- George Washington, First President.  
James Monroe, Fifth President.  
General LaFayette, Noted French Statesman and Soldier.  
Jacob Van Braam, Drill-Master of the Continental Army.  
Col. Fielding Lewis, Brother-in-law of George Washington, and  
Manufacturer of Guns for the War of the Revolution.  
Dr. Laurens Brooke, Surgeon, Medical official to the famous John  
Paul Jones, Father of the American Navy.  
Dr. Chas. Mortimer, Physician to Mary, Mother of Washington,  
and First Mayor of Fredericksburg.  
Gen. Hugh Mercer, hero of the War of the Revolution, killed at  
the Battle of Trenton.  
Gen. George Weedon, hero of Battle of Brandywine, and com-  
mander of Virginia troops at Surrender at Yorktown.  
Gen. William Woodford, Commanded 1st Virginia Brigade, taken  
prisoner by British at Charlestown, S. C., died while a priso-  
ner.  
Gen. Gustavus B. Wallace, General in War of the Revolution.  
Gen. Thomas Posey, General in War of the Revolution.  
General Lewis Littlepage, Diplomat to the Courts of Europe.  
Gen. John A. Minor, hero of War of 1812.  
Maj.-Gen. Daniel Ruggles, hero of War with Mexico. Also in-  
ventor of first steamboat propeller.  
Bazil Gordon, First Millionaire in America.  
John A. Elder, Distinguished American Artist—His best known  
work is "The Battle of the Crater."

### Grand Masters of Masons in Virginia Who Were Members of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

- James Mercer, elected Grand Master, Nov. 4th, 1784.  
Robert Brooke, elected Grand Master, Nov. 22nd, 1795.  
Benjamin Day, elected Grand Master, Nov. 27th, 1797.  
Oscar M. Crutchfield, elected Grand Master, Dec. 15th, 1840.  
Beverly R. Wellford, Jr., elected Grand Master, Dec. 11, 1877.  
S. J. Quinn, elected Grand Master, Feb. 13th, 1907.  
Philip K. Bauman, elected Grand Master, Feb. 12th, 1914.



### Partial List of Sacred Masonic Relics

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, the most Historic Lodge in America, is also the most Sacred Masonic Shrine in America, because of the many Masonic Relics on exhibit in the Lodge Room. Masonic visitors, and all non-Masons who are interested, are welcomed.

Holy Bible, printed in 1666 and 1668, on which George Washington was made a Mason. Minute Book, showing record of Washington's three steps in Masonry. World's oldest extant Record of Royal Arch Degree.

Old Scotch Charter of the Lodge at Fredericksburg. Virginia Charter, issued 1787.

One of the three original Gilbert Stuart portraits of Washington, estimated by Museum of Fine Arts, New York, to be valued at \$85,000.00 Bust of Washington, made of French China, originally owned by the great LaFayette.

Beautifully carved Masonic Chairs, (Master's and Sr. Warden's) a gift from the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1760. Two old antique Chippendale Chairs, originally owned by Mary, Mother of Washington.

Also, numerous portraits of Illustrious Brethren of the Lodge, old Historic Masonic Aprons—old original letters and documents, and many other valuable and interesting Masonic Relics, such as gavels, books, jewels, etc.

The Lodge Banner can also be said to be a Relic, although it is still in use. After the Lodge Room was devastated during the War between the States, the Banner which was taken from the Lodge Room, was the first thing to be returned. It was picked up in the streets of Fredericksburg by a soldier, and it fell into the hands of German Union Lodge No. 54, New York, and the members of that Lodge sent it back to Fredericksburg. It is one of the most highly prized possessions of the Lodge. On all occasions when the Lodge has gone forth to perform some notable ceremony, the Lodge Banner has always led the way.

Many Relics and Records of the Lodge are still missing. Some of them may still exist, and any information concerning them will be appreciated.

FREDERICKSBURG LODGE No. 4

Chartered July 21st, 1758

District No. 8

Fredericksburg, Virginia

MEETS AT FREDERICKSBURG, SECOND AND FOURTH  
FRIDAYS OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT ONLY  
SECOND FRIDAY IN JULY AND DECEMBER  
AND FOURTH FRIDAY IN AUGUST.

OFFICERS 1950

W. Walter N. Chinn, Jr., Master  
P. O. Box 56

Phones—Business 1414

Residence 2588

Bro. Charles E. McCullen, Sr.  
Senior Warden

Bro. Robert E. Cadow  
Junior Warden

R. W. H. K. Sweetser, Treasurer  
404 Charles St.  
Phones—Bus. 182. Res. 689

R. W. Edward H. Cann, Secretary  
R. F. & P. R. R. Pass. Depot  
Phones—Bus. 263 or 221. Res. 763

Bro. William H. Lamason  
Senior Deacon

Bro. Basil K. Brooks  
Junior Deacon

W. Bro. W. Walter Shelton  
Chaplain

Bro. John W. Smith  
Tiler

Bro. Robert E. Sebastian, Sr.  
Senior Steward

Bro. James N. Carver  
Junior Steward

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R. W. J. Ed. Timberlake      W. Wm. H. MacKenzie      W. John E. Wyatt

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R. W. H. K. Sweetser  
R. W. A. B. Young  
W. Jos. L. Savage  
W. William H. Rice  
R. W. Mason H. Willis  
R. W. Thos. H. Chewning  
W. Karl H. Ulman  
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R. W. Edward H. Cann  
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W. W. Marshall King  
W. Edwin L. Hansen  
W. John E. Wyatt  
W. Raymond F. Donahoe  
W. Hugh M. Deans

ROSTER OF MEMBERSHIP FREDERICKSBURG LODGE No. 4,  
A. F. AND A. M. AS OF JANUARY 1, 1949

Allen, Henry H.	Chamberlin, Richard M.
Allison, Clifton W.	Chauncey, Paul Hassell
Anderson, Edward Dalton	Chewning, Thomas H.
Anderson, Herbert Winfrey	Chinn, Joseph S.
Ashby, James	Chinn, Walter N., Jr.
Atkins, Norman Clay	Clark, Fenton M.
Baker, George Perry	Cloe, Hugh Harvey
Baker, John Milton	Cloe, Walter Henry, Jr.
Ball, George A.	Coe, Kenneth Sewell
Barrack, L. Randall	Coleman, S. Bernard
Bass, Marion Boyd	Coogle, Carl Henry, Jr.
Bauman, Charles F.	Cooper, Glenn J.
Bauman, Kuszner	Covey, Ralph Edmond
Beck, Alva Roy	Covey, Slover E.
Belman, Mageded S.	Covey, Slover Ray
Berry, George Sherman	Cowles, John H.
Bess, Robert P.	Crooks, Harry Eugene
Billingsley, A. Poindexter	Curtis, W. C.
Billingsley, Joseph A.	Deans, Hugh M.
Binns, Charles D.	Dent, George T.
Biscoe, Lafayette Harper	Dew, T. Welch
Bond, John D.	Dickerson, T. Towles
Bonner, Frank	Donahoe, Raymond F.
Boutchyard, Harry J.	Dozier, William Cornelious
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Broaddus, James Bagby	Favill, Avin M.
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Brooks, Otis G.	Ferneyhough, Robert W.
Brown, William Moseley	Ferrell, Herman L.
Bryant, Thomas L.	Flippo, John A.
Buckley, Charles R.	Flippo, James Junior
Buffington, R. R.	Flippo, William J.
Bullis, H. Edmund	Foster, Warrick B.
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Butler, Solomon Vernon	Freeman, John F.
Byram, Gordon Milton	Freeman, Rodney
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Cadow, Robert Ewing	Gallant, Maurice
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Cann, Edward H.	Garrison, Charles Claude
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Caple, Stanley Earl	Gayle, T. Benton
Carmichael, Charles A.	Genobles, William Joseph
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Carneal, Wilbur Odell	Goldsmith, Joseph M.
Cartwright, Floyd	Goodgame Albert Maxwell
Carver, James Norris	Goodman, Peter E.
Cason, Oscar Odell	Goolrick, C. O'Conor



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Greene, Ruben P.  
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Greenlaw, Grafton N.  
Gregory, Jesse Manning  
Gregory, Richeson Todd  
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Haines, Frederick Gates  
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Hallberg, Richard Leander  
Hancock, Dabney Waller  
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Harper, Raymond F.  
Harrell, Clarence G.  
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Klotz, Alex  
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Morrison, Thos. S.  
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Neill, Robert Bruce  
Nolan, Russell Elwood  
Norris, John R.  
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Peyton, E. V.  
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Pressley, Harry L.  
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Pyne, Franklin Lee  
Raines, Sisle Henry

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Additional copies of this brochure may be ordered at the price of \$1.00 each postpaid by addressing

Edward H. Cann, Secretary  
 Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M.  
 Fredericksburg, Virginia

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