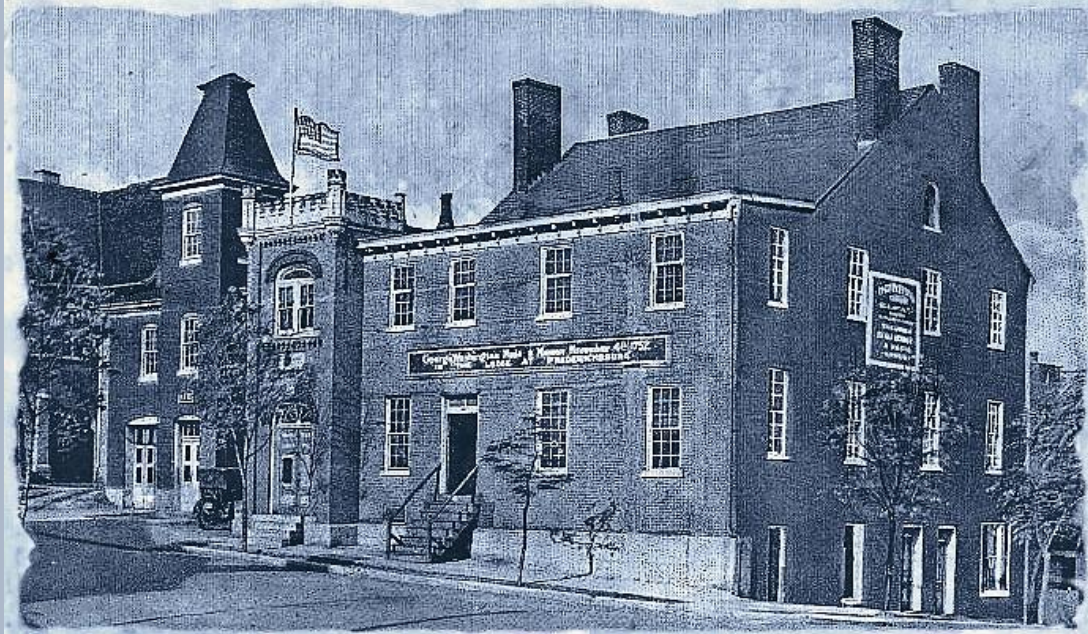


# FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



## 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](http://Masoniclodge4.org)

INITIATED NOVEMBER 4, 1752

PASSED MARCH 3, 1753

RAISED AUGUST 4, 1753

‘GUARDIANS OF THE CRAFT,

BUILDERS OF TOMORROW’

MAY 2025

Stated Meeting  
Second Fridays  
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:30 pm  
Meeting 7:30 pm

Degree Work  
Wednesdays 7pm  
(check calendar)

## MAY 2025 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Pancake Breakfast, 8 am
4	5	6	7 Lodge Clean Up & Ritual School 7 pm	8	9 Stated Comm. Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30	10 Masonic Roundtable 8 am
11	12	13 Community Meal 4 pm	14 Degree or Ritual School 7 pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Degree or Ritual School 7 pm	22	23	24 Masonic Roundtable 8 am
25	26 Memorial Day Program 9am	27 District Ritual School 7pm	28 Degree or Ritual School 7 pm	29	30	31

*Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.*

### Highlights from Last Month:

- Visit to Prince Hall Lodge No. 61 - Master Mason's Degree
- Passed three Brethren to the Degree of Fellowcraft
- Beginning of Baseball Concessions fundraiser

## ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

### Masonic Anniversaries for May

R.W. Lokie L. Voight	65 yrs.	Bro. Brian F. Supples	17
Bro. Richard P. Miller	62	Bro. Brian R. Hesler	15
Bro. George H. Edwards	59	Bro. Gregory A. Baxter-Hey	15
Wor. Rudolph E. Griffith	57	Bro. William F. McGrath	15
Bro. Henry E. Rees	41	M.W. Jeffery P. VanCuren	15
Bro. Denny W. Kelly, Sr.	28	Bro. Stephen T. Cahill	14
Wor. Charles L. Cooper	27	Bro. Mikeal C. Stojic	13
Bro. Gregory P. Balzer	25	Bro. Scott W. Walker, Sr.	11
Bro. Nasseem A. Sleem	21	Bro. Ronald F. Reuschling	11

Wor. Stephen M. Draper, Sr.	21	Bro. John J. Lapke, Jr.	10
Bro. Michael A. Hunnel	20	Bro. Trevor B. Taylor	10
Wor. Christopher J. Decker	19	Bro. Michael P. Hansberry	9
Bro. Charles W. Horton, Jr.	19	Wor. Joseph K. Gilkerson	8
Bro. David G. Black	19	Bro. Nicholas T. Gilchrist	7
Bro. Todd P. Kee	19	Bro. Thomas T. Morgan	3
Bro. Roger W. Baughan	18	Bro. Gavin J. Petersen	2
Bro. Gary S. Smith	17		

**Forging the past into the present**  
*Strengthening the bond between Lodge No. 4 and the Fredericksburg Area  
Museum*

Over the past few months, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 has been fortunate to strengthen its ties with one of the city’s most vital historical institutions, the Fredericksburg Area Museum (FAM). What began as occasional conversations has evolved into a growing partnership built on mutual respect, shared goals of historical preservation, and a common love for Fredericksburg’s rich heritage.

On several occasions, Lodge No. 4 has had the pleasure of welcoming members of the FAM team into our historic lodge building. Notably, *Kylie Thomson*, Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator, and *Clarissa Sanders*, Manager of Operations and Events, have been instrumental in nurturing this relationship.

Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and deep knowledge of local history have helped shine a new light on our Lodge's extensive historical footprint.

Recently, the tables turned as FAM extended their hospitality, inviting the Brethren of Lodge No. 4 for a private tour of the museum, a rare behind-the-scenes glimpse into their archives, collections, and ongoing projects. The experience was both informative and inspiring.



Among the many treasures we were shown were a selection of Prince Hall and Royal Arch artifacts, original Masonic jewels, and historic correspondence, including a letter signed by our very own Most Worshipful S. J. Quinn.

The letter pertained to a specific brick, which we believe still rests within our own upstairs museum collection. Seeing that signature beside the artifact it referenced was an affirming moment that connected the past with the present in a powerful way.

.....VALUABLE.....

## MASONIC RELIC

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According to the records, the Masonic Lodge at Fredericksburg gave George Washington three degrees in Masonry. The 1st degree, November 4, 1752; the 2nd degree, March 3, 1753, and the 3rd degree, August 4, 1753. The Lodge was held in a room over the Market House, where it continued to hold its meetings until 1813, when the house was taken down. In this room also the Historical Mary Washington Peace Ball was held in 1783. The bricks of which this Lodge room was built were sold when the house was demolished and placed in another building, which has stood for 87 years.

I have recently purchased this building and intend taking it down to erect a larger and more modern one. Therefore, I propose to send to any Mason or Masonic body one of these **BRICKS**, by express, (well packed) on the receipt of **ONE DOLLAR**. If any Mason or Masonic body to whom this circular is sent, or who may chance to see it, wants one of these relics, they must order at once, or they will be used in the new building. No bricks will be sent unless the order is accompanied by the price.

**S. SYDNEY BRADFORD.**

Fredericksburg, Va., March 1, 1900.

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., February, 1900.

I certify that the records of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, now in possession of the Lodge, show that General George Washington was Initiated, Passed and Raised to the sublime degree of **MASTER MASON** in this Lodge, on the dates given above by Mr. Bradford; and I further certify that the bricks, of which he speaks, came from the building where the Lodge was held at the time the degrees were conferred, and that this information was furnished me 25 years ago by a man of undoubted veracity, who assisted in demolishing the old market building, when an apprentice boy and who worked on the building now to be torn down by Mr. Bradford.

**S. J. QUINN,**

Secretary and Historian of Lodge No. 4 A. F. & A. M.

The highlight for many, however, was a newly acquired piece: an original musket manufactured at the Fredericksburg Armory in 1776. This musket, made under the direction of Bro. Fielding Lewis and Bro Charles Dick, was modeled after the British Brown Bess. Its lock is boldly engraved with



"Fredg 1776," making it an incredibly rare survivor of the Revolutionary War era. Despite some light post-war modifications, the musket remains largely intact, and thanks to FAM, we had the great honor of holding this extraordinary piece of local and national history.

But this collaboration is not merely about viewing artifacts. It is about creating meaningful partnerships between civic institutions. FAM has graciously assisted Lodge No. 4 in examining several of our own historical items and has offered their expertise as we continue to catalog and preserve our archives. Even more generously, FAM has offered to loan us display

cases and logistical support and setup for when our Lodge hosts public events, open houses, or educational tours.



One of the items that has drawn great interest from both Lodge and museum is what the current Worshipful Master affectionately refers to as our "Revival Bible."

Currently undergoing restoration at Moore's Archives and Preservations, this sacred volume offers a tangible link to the city's post-war rebuilding efforts. It tells a deeper story of how the Lodge and the city of Fredericksburg stood together, not only through times of war but also through healing, community service, and civic duty. FAM has also already found a place for our bible to be on exhibit, should we wish for this.

Indeed, the Lodge must once have served as more than just a Masonic temple. It was, in many ways, almost like a civic center, a place where the city's moral and communal fabric was strengthened, where leaders gathered, and where vision was forged. The artifacts and stories that fill our building speak not just to military valor or fraternal ceremonies, but to the everyday life and enduring spirit of Fredericksburg. As Lodge No. 4 continues its efforts to carefully open and examine our archives with care and historical responsibility, we remain committed to working hand-in-hand with preservation professionals. Making sure our items are ready to be shared and getting its time, telling its own story.

Our relationship with FAM and Moore archives is a testament to what can be achieved when passionate people come together to honor the past and illuminate the path forward.

With passionate Brethren in our Lodge, there is no telling how much great exposure we could be creating for Lodge No. 4, telling our living history the right way, and rekindling our connection on a deeper level with the city, just as we once had. The story of Fredericksburg is, in many ways, the story of Lodge No. 4 and together, we carry that legacy forward.

We are grateful to FAM, Moores archives, our dedicated Brethren, for their continued support, and we look forward to many more collaborative projects and chances to share our history. From one historic institution to another, Thank you for walking this path with us. Here's to many more moments of discovery, education, and fellowship.

*Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4*  
Michael Dove

## OBEDIENCE

Obedience in modern vernacular is often perceived as synonymous with submission as a form of servitude or capitulation. As we see from Webster's 1828 dictionary though, and as we as Freemasons should understand in our use of the term [our ancient linguistic style], it is very much a term of a voluntary nature and one of discipline:

*Compliance with a command, prohibition or known law and rule of duty prescribed; the performance of what is required or enjoined by authority, or the abstaining from what is prohibited, in compliance with the command or prohibition. To constitute obedience the act or forbearance to act must be in submission to authority; the command must be known to the person, and his compliance must be in consequence of it, or it is not obedience obedience is not synonymous with obsequiousness; the latter often implying meanness or servility, and obedience being merely a proper submission to authority. That which duty requires implies dignity of conduct rather than servility. obedience may be voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary obedience alone can be acceptable to God. Webster's Dictionary, 1828.*

Freemasonry has always valued obedience as a foundational principle. It involves conscious decisions to uphold the principles of the fraternity rather than blind subservience. It is this dignified conduct, based on free will, which sets the Craft apart. Modern examples outside of the fraternity provide context: Soldiers who voluntarily enlist understand that obedience to lawful orders is not about servility but about upholding honor, courage and commitment. In the corporate world, employees adhere to ethical guidelines and policies, understanding their compliance contributes to the overall success of the company and a good product for its customers.

Obedience in Freemasonry is about voluntary compliance with rules of duty, authority and prohibitions, not merely servitude or submission, emphasizing discipline and duty of conduct. The voluntary nature of obedience is an act of free will and personal choice; it must be established in reason and rationality. We Freemasons should examine our obligations and in the several parts where obedience to brotherly love, relief and truth are addressed. As Aristotle said, "wicked men obey from fear; good men, from Love."



When obedience is rooted in dignity and free will, it leads to harmony in the Lodge and reflects in every Brother a commitment to higher principles and values outside of the Lodge.

Do good unto all-  
Bro.∴ Seth Roderick

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It has not been my fortune to know very much of Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons and have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruit. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meetings in the presence of the open Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and nation. - *Calvin Coolidge*

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### **Secretary's Corner**

Brethren,

This month, rather than bore you with the usual exhortation to pay your dues, etc., etc., let me doff my grumpy Secretary's hat and don my education one. Everything in Masonry has a symbolic meaning, often many meanings. Ours is a Craft 'veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.' Symbols have a power to transcend the barriers of language and culture, coming to us from what Jung called the collective unconscious. Hence they are instantly recognizable to all, with the power to unite men of every country, sect, and opinion who would otherwise remain at a perpetual distance. They encapsulate the most abstract ideas in a brief image, and can make a deep and lasting impression on our unconscious minds where mere words cannot.

Similarly, everything in our mundane world, even the most lowly, has a symbolic meaning if we attune ourselves to perceive it. This is because in Masonry, we view the universe as a vast machine and part of the Great Architect's design. Everything flows from the same Eternal source, the mind of God. Consider, for example, the mundane act of lighting a pipe. Those familiar with pipe smoking know that this little ritual – truly a ritual with a small 'r' – has two distinct stages. First is what's called the 'false light,' where one simply toasts the top of the tobacco. This merely engages the surface layer and quickly goes out. Then comes the 'true light' where the tobacco is tamped down and relit till it generates sufficient heat in the bowl to

keep the fire going. This reminds me of the pot of incense, glowing with fervent heat as a symbol of the fervent gratitude with which our hearts should continually glow, the smoke ascending as incense on the Altar of our hearts to our Creator.

When you became a Mason, did you first experience the false light? Maybe you were motivated by the allure of fellowship, the desire to serve the community, or perhaps more crass motives of networking and career advancement? Was it the tinge of mystery surrounding the Craft in books or movies? Was it the desire to feed your own ego? For me, what drew me to the Craft was my family connection, the desire to follow in my grandfathers' and uncles' footsteps and be part of a great tradition. Many join a Lodge with different ideas in mind. Many times I have seen new Brethren join the Lodge and throw themselves into it with great enthusiasm, only to flame out quickly and fall away. Sometimes they stop coming around because they commit to too much too quickly and burn out. Sometimes they become disillusioned with bad behavior and drama, forgetting that we are all but imperfect Ashlars. More often, they find the reality did not match the expectations of what they thought Masonry had in store. But hopefully, after the false light went out, you experienced the True Light of Masonry. Through study, reflection, and exposure to good and wise Masonic Brethren, you relit your commitment and found the deeper meaning of our Craft – not as a mere social Fraternity, not as a mere philanthropy, important as that is, but as a noble calling and a way of life. Have you found the True Light? Have you discovered what this Light is that you say you so earnestly desire? Have you burned off the dross of any impure motives you came in with? Ironically, you cannot fully enjoy the *fruit* of Masonry without the *root* of Masonry. Although I joined the Lodge as a young man, only later did I truly become a Mason. Learning to find a deeper significance after having burned off whatever drew you to the Lodge in the first place is a slow process – the True Light is a slow burn, and only keeps burning when it engages the deepest parts of you. Then, and then only, when you're grounded in its *root*, can you experience its *fruit*. The truth is, Masonry *will* advance you in your worldly pursuits, but not in the way you may have thought when you joined a Lodge. Not by making you a favored member of some inside 'club' and bringing you business opportunities, but by slowly perfecting your character, inculcating virtues, and teaching you the value of industry, patience, and perseverance. I hope you have found the True Light of Masonry.

(Homework assignment – go through this article and find all allusions to Masonic Ritual.)

## What is the Masonic Widows Program?

*By the Worshipful Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4*

After conversing with a few Brethren on this important topic, I felt compelled to share a few words. It is my hope to offer some insight into what our Widows Program is, why we uphold some of it quietly, and why some things we do as Masons are not done for praise or recognition. Not all is charity, some deeds are simply promises kept.

So, what *is* a Widows Program?

At its heart, the Masonic Widows Program is the living fulfillment of a sacred promise, to care for the family of a Brother who has "*laid down his working tools.*" It affirms that while a Mason may have passed on, the bonds of brotherhood remain unbroken.

His widow, by virtue of his obligation and ours, is forever part of our Masonic family.

Lodge No. 4 is one of the few Lodges in Virginia that actively maintains a functioning Widows Program. While that fact is a bittersweet reminder of changing times, it also underscores why we must preserve and promote our own program, and encourage others to follow suit.

### **The Purpose of the Widows Program**

The goals of the program are as simple as they are meaningful. Here are a few:

- **Honor and Remember**  
To recognize the contributions and memory of a Masonic Brother through continued care and attention to his spouse.
- **Support and Outreach**  
To provide emotional, social, and sometimes material support, particularly around holidays and difficult times.

- **Inclusion and Connection**

To ensure widows are never forgotten, by including them (when appropriate) in Lodge events, reaching out through visits or cards, and recognizing them publicly as part of our extended Masonic family.

This is more than a “fraternal courtesy”, it is symbolically embedded in our ritual. Many will recall the solemn reference to aiding the “widow and orphan.” Even our central legendary figure, Hiram Abiff, is publicly known as *a widow’s son*.

### **Is the Program Outdated?**

Not at all. In fact, In my optic, it is more vital than ever. In a modern world that often forgets people after loss, our Widows Program stands as a unique emblem of Freemasonry’s living tradition, where care does not end at the grave. Where Brotherhood means family, and remembrance is not occasional, but perpetual!

My Brethren, this is not charity, it is Brotherhood fulfilled.

Besides flowers and outreach events, we often offer help when we can, but we do not speak about this publicly. These efforts are not made for recognition, but in quiet fulfillment of our promise. *Some of the best deeds are those kept in the dark.* (I should coin that phrase!)

Twice a year, we formally remind our Lodge Widows that they are never alone, and that they may always reach out to their Masonic family in times of need.

### **Recent Improvements**

This year, we expanded and improved our Widows Program thanks to the tireless work of our Lodge Almoner and Marshal, Brother Robert “Bob” John Breitenbach. His commitment has been exemplary, and I am honored to recognize his efforts. Some of the program upgrades include:

- Monthly contact with our Lodge widows.
- Collection of emergency contact information for each widow.

- Establishment of a secure database to ensure outreach remains consistent and up to date.
- Confirmed contact prior to flower deliveries, helping prevent delivery issues.
- Exploring alternative gathering options, accommodating varied needs and comfort levels.

An honorary mention must also be made of Mrs. Deborah Breitenbach, who crafted our beautiful Easter cards this year. They added a thoughtful and loving touch to our seasonal outreach. On behalf of the Lodge, Thank you!

### **Closing Thoughts**

It is our belief that every Brother should be familiar with the Widows Program, not only for what it represents, but for what it reminds us to be: faithful, caring, and mindful of those who stood beside our Brethren during their earthly journeys. I will leave you with this year's Easter message, which was delivered along with flowers to our Widows, and a photo of Brother Bob from this year's delivery effort. To the Brethren and their families who helped make this possible, you have my deepest gratitude.

Fraternally and sincerely,  
Michael Jean Dove

### Easter Message 2025:

*Easter Blessings from Lodge No. 4*

*To the Honored Widow of Our Beloved Brother,  
As the warmth of spring returns and Easter draws near, I bring you heartfelt greetings  
on behalf of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4.*

*This season of renewal reminds us of hope, light, and everlasting love. Though our  
beloved Brother has laid down his working tools, his memory lives ever bright within our*

*hearts and within the walls of our Lodge.*

*We want you to know: You are not forgotten.*

*You are part of our Masonic family, now and always.*

*If ever there is a need, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your Lodge stands ready with open arms and willing hands. We thank you for the strength, grace, and support you have shown through the years. May this Easter bless you with peace, warmth, and the comfort of knowing you are surrounded by Brothers who care. With deepest gratitude and affection,*

*Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Easter.  
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4*



## Lodge No. 4 Hosting a successful blood drive, the first in many years!

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 recently opened its doors to the American Red Cross for the first blood drive held at the Lodge in many years, and what a tremendous success it turned out to be!

Our initial goal was to collect 22 units of blood, thanks to the dedication of our members and the generosity of the community, we ended up with an impressive total of 29 units.

The Red Cross praised both the suitability of our Lodge as a location and the strong turnout, which included both scheduled appointments and walk-ins.

They deemed the event a clear success, and we are thrilled to announce that we have already scheduled our next blood drive at the Lodge for August 14th, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Throughout the day, several Brethren could be spotted bravely sacrificing a pint on the donation beds. As we like to joke, Lodge No. 4 knows how to *truly* bleed for a good cause!



Amongst those who rolled up their sleeves were Worshipful Tripp, Brother Rand, Brother Don, Brother Lapke, Brother Jeff, and even the Worshipful Master himself joined in to make his contribution to this life-saving effort.

A few special thanks are certainly in order:

- Brother Jeff, our steadfast Blood-Drive Coordinator, deserves some praise. Thanks to his tireless efforts over the years, we always meet, and exceed, our goals. His organizational skills, communication, and enthusiasm keep the Lodge's blood drives running smoothly. Thanks to his hard work, we have already achieved our 2025 target, but the need for blood never ends, and we look forward to continuing this vital work!
- Brother Don went the extra mile, or should we say, the extra *gallon*? He made a "Power Red" donation! While not all of us fully understand the technicalities (something about extracting *twice* the red cells while returning plasma and platelets, thx google!) We do know it involved a special machine, a longer process, and a cool badge on his shirt that read "Power Red." Brother Don came out a little paler than the rest of us, but with a heart full of service. We salute you, Brother Don, and some of us may be brave enough to try Power Red next time!





*Miss Grace, Bro Don, WM Mike, Bro Lapke, Bro Jeff*

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Miss Grace, Brother Don's daughter, who volunteered her time at the check-in desk. Her cheerful demeanor and sharp organizational skills kept things flowing smoothly. At times, it seemed she was working harder than the rest of us combined! Thank you, Miss Grace, for helping make the day such a success! It's always a pleasure to see you at the Lodge! It's certainly not the first time Miss Grace has gone above and beyond to assist with projects at Lodge 4.

The atmosphere at the Lodge was lively and welcoming. Upbeat music kept spirits high, and the Red Cross team expressed their gratitude for the Lodge's hospitality and for the wonderful turnout. It was truly inspiring to see our Lodge not only as a center of Masonic fellowship but also as a hub of service to our greater community!

From all of us at Lodge No. 4: Thank you for donating your time, your blood, and your time to help save lives.

We hope to see you, and your veins again on August 14th!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

**Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EESC) at the University of  
Mary Washington's Visit to Our Masonic Cemetery**

Reflection on Cemetery Weathering Lab

This spring, our hallowed grounds of the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery once again became a classroom for discovery, as students from the University of Mary Washington's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EESC) visited for a hands-on lab in physical geology. This unique collaboration, grounded in mutual respect and shared reverence for history, brought the dynamic intersection of science and heritage into full view.



Led by Dr. Jodie Hayob-Matzke and faculty from the EESC program, students in the “*Our Dynamic Earth*” (EESC 111) course embarked on a geological journey -investigating the weathering processes affecting headstones and cemetery walls composed of marble, sandstone, shale, granite, and conglomerate.

The cemetery’s accessibility, just a 20-minute walk from the university, offers an unparalleled educational opportunity. In a region with limited natural rock outcrops, the Masonic Cemetery serves as a rare geological archive, where time and nature leave visible, measurable traces on historic materials.

Students were tasked with analyzing both mechanical and chemical weathering processes across the site. Marble headstones showed pitted surfaces from dissolution. Sandstone monuments displayed signs of hydration, evident in yellow-brown discoloration, while their backs revealed further decay from water interaction. Shale stones, fragile and layered, bore deep fissures formed by frost wedging and delamination. Granite, as expected, remained largely unweathered, a testament to its durability. Even the cemetery’s wall, made of conglomerate blocks, illustrated environmental forces at work: larger clasts breaking free and matrix hydration discoloring the surface.

This real-world laboratory did more than fulfill course requirements; it sparked deeper reflection. Students observed, documented, and interpreted data, but they also engaged with the past. Every headstone became a geological sample, yes, but also a marker of memory, of a life once lived, now gradually returning to the earth.

The Fredericksburg Masons' generosity in granting continued access to these sacred grounds was not lost on the students or faculty. *"The ability to walk students into a place where geology meets community history is invaluable,"* said Dr. Hayob-Matzke. *"There is no other site quite like this."*



*Weathered SANDSTONE headstones back side; shows yellow brown hydration*

As noted in the lab's final reflections, the impact of Virginia's climate plays a pivotal role in the rate of weathering. On average, it takes roughly 200 years for marble headstones to lose legibility under regional conditions. Students also compared these effects to northern climates, where colder temperatures may reduce chemical weathering but increase frost-induced damage.

Looking ahead, the EESC department hopes to maintain this partnership and invites the Brethren of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 to visit during future labs.

Observing students as they engage with both stone and story may offer new appreciation for the living lessons present in this historic cemetery.



The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at UMW expresses its sincere gratitude to the Fredericksburg Freemasons. Through this collaborative effort, students not only studied geology, they walked among monuments of memory and became stewards of the stories etched in stone.

Thanks you, Dr. *Jodie Hayob-Matzke* UMW. for providing informative findings and pictures!

Lodge 4 is very much looking forward to any future opportunities to collaborate again!

### **Lodge 4 at the Fredericksburg Perspectives Meet and Greet**

On a recent evening in historic Fredericksburg, members of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, proudly represented our Lodge at the *Fredericksburg Perspectives* Meet and Greet event.

Organized by the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, this gathering brought together various historical societies, local historians, and preservation advocates to foster collaboration and share ongoing projects.



Our Lodge was well-prepared for the evening, thanks to the diligent efforts of Brother Ethan Burgess, who had carefully designed new flyers to promote our Lodge’s mission, history, and upcoming events. Along with printed material, we brought select artifacts from our archives to the event, most notably, our treasured “Revival Bible”, a remarkable piece of history that served as a powerful conversation starter throughout the evening. Its presence alone drew considerable attention and admiration from guests who were fascinated by the Lodge’s enduring role in Fredericksburg’s storied past. The evening began promptly at 6:00 PM with a short presentation by Mike Harvey of Fredericksburg Perspectives Meta-group, after which the event took on a relaxed "science fair meets cocktail party" atmosphere.

Attendees wandered between tables, engaging in lively discussions and exploring the many exhibits on display. Fredericksburg Area Museum (FAM) and other

organizations even provided scanners on site for visitors to digitally share and preserve historic photographs.

Participants in the evening included representatives from:

- Mike Harvey, Fredericksburg Perspectives
- Barbra Anderson, Historic Fredericksburg Foundation
- Roger Lawson, Central Rappahannock Heritage Center
- Kylie Thomson, Fredericksburg Area Museum
- Bro Ethan Burgess and WM Michael Dove, Masonic Lodge No. 4
- Gretchen Pendleton, George Washington Foundation
- Tim Garrett, Local Collector



Being present among such passionate stewards of history provided an excellent opportunity for Lodge 4 to strengthen our community ties and share the living legacy of Freemasonry. It also positioned us well as we prepare for the

Commonwealth's VA250 celebrations next year, commemorating 250 years of American independence.

I cannot begin to count the number of positive connections and inquiries our Lodge has already received as a result of this outreach. I owe sincere thanks to all who have contributed to our growing visibility and success. In particular, I would highlight Brother Seth Roderick, whose tireless work in establishing contacts and keeping us updated on upcoming opportunities has been invaluable. Brother Ethan continues to impress with his leadership in managing our promotional materials, facilitating both scheduled and impromptu tours of the Lodge, enhancing our social media presence, and preserving our archives. Events such as these remind us how vital it is for our Lodge and our Craft as a whole, to remain visible, engaged, and willing to share our history with the broader community.

As Masons, we know that the more we labor openly and honorably in the quarries of public eye, service and historical preservation, the stronger our legacy becomes for generations to come! Some might even say we truly are the *Guardians of the Craft & Builders of Tomorrow*.

We look forward to participating in many more such events and continuing to strengthen the ancient bond between our Lodge and the historic city of Fredericksburg.

*Worshipful Master Michael Dove  
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4*

## **Guardians of memory, presenting Capt. & Bro Mathew Dabney Anderson**

### ***Preserving the Legacy of Fredericksburg Masonic cemetery***

#### ***Capt. and Bro Mathew Dabney Anderson (1794-1854) – War of 1812 Veteran Early Life and Family Background***

Bro. Mathew Dabney Anderson was born in 1794 in Mathews County, Virginia. He was of Scottish ("Scotch") descent, born into a family of colonial Virginia planters. Family tradition holds that his father died shortly before Mathew's birth and his mother passed away

while he was still an infant. As a result, young Mathew and an older brother were raised by an uncle in Mathews County.

(Genealogical research suggests that Bro. Anderson was likely the youngest child of Matthew Anderson (1745–1806) and Mary Elizabeth Dabney, which would explain his middle name “Dabney.”) Despite these hardships, he grew up in a region with a rich maritime heritage, which would strongly influence his later life.

Bro. Anderson married Rosamond Reagan of Caroline County, Virginia, around 1819. The couple eventually settled in neighboring Spotsylvania County, VA, where they would raise a large family.

They had as many as eight children. Among their offspring were daughters Mary Ann Anderson (later Mary Ann Blake) and Helen Wood Anderson, and sons Mathew Anderson Jr., William Randolph Anderson, and John K. Anderson. (John K. Anderson, born 1836, would himself be called “Captain” in later years.) Bro. Anderson’s wife Rosamond died in mid-1854 at age 56, only months after Mathew’s own death, marking the end of an era for the Anderson family line.

### *Military Service in the War of 1812*

When the War of 1812 broke out, Bro. Mathew D. Anderson was about 18 years old -coming of age just as his country went to war with Britain. He answered the call to service and became involved in Virginia’s defense during the conflict. Family and local records refer to Anderson with the rank of “Captain” in association with his War of 1812 service. It’s not entirely clear if this rank was a field commission in the militia or an honorific title he acquired later (since he was quite young!), but he is remembered as “Capt. Mathew D. Anderson” for his wartime role.

Bro. Anderson’s home region, the Chesapeake Bay tidewater, was a major theater of the war. In 1813–1814 the British Royal Navy blockaded Virginia’s coasts and launched frequent raids on riverside communities. Mathews County itself saw incursions by British forces; for example, a skirmish in March 1814 near Newport News resulted in several local militiamen being captured . During the war, Anderson was captured by British forces and taken prisoner. He, along with other American POWs, was transported to England, where he remained in captivity until 1814.

*(Many American prisoners at that time were held in prisons such as Dartmoor in England, until the war’s end and prisoner exchanges in late 1814.)* Bro. Anderson’s confinement in Britain lasted until sometime that year, meaning he likely returned home as the war drew to a close. Being held overseas made his wartime experience quite distinctive, he was part of the relatively small group of War of 1812 veterans who spent time as prisoners of war in England.



Despite the hardships of imprisonment, Bro. Anderson survived and returned to Virginia after peace was concluded (*the Treaty of Ghent was signed in late 1814*). His service, defending Virginia and enduring captivity, was a significant chapter of his life. It exemplified the sacrifices many young Americans made during what is sometimes called the nation's "Second War of Independence." Family and public records later honored him as a veteran of 1812, noting his status as a Captain and POW.

### *Post-War Maritime Career*

After the War of 1812, Bro. Anderson embarked on a successful maritime career in peacetime. Having grown up in Mathews County, an area known for producing sailors and sea captains, he had the skills and connections to thrive in shipping. He became the captain of a sailing vessel in the years following the war.

According to family accounts, he commanded a schooner or similar ship that plied the waters of the Rappahannock River and the Chesapeake Bay and ventured out into the Atlantic Ocean on long trading voyages. His routes likely connected the inland port of Fredericksburg (on the Rappahannock, near where he eventually lived) with coastal trade hubs. Historical notes indicate that his ship traveled as far as distant ports across the Atlantic trade routes, possibly to the West Indies or other maritime markets. Of newly discovered info, is the name of the ship Bro Anderson co-owned. This information was found in the Fredericksburg Circuit Court Archive, a case record referencing Bro. Anderson as co-owner of schooner *Sarah Ann* (1820s).

As a ship captain in the 1820s-1830s, Anderson would have been responsible for transporting Virginia goods (such as tobacco, timber, or wheat) to larger markets and returning with imports. This role was vital to the economy of post-war Virginia, and Bro Anderson's work with no doubt contributed to re-establishing commerce after the disruptions of war. Bro Anderson's maritime career not only provided for his growing family, but also gained him respect in both the Tidewater and the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania regions, as he bridged the worlds of sea trade and rural Virginia society.

Capt. & Bro Mathew D Anderson's life spanned an era of war and change in early American history. Though not nationally the most famous figure, his story is preserved through family records, local histories, and public memorials.

Genealogical publications and cemetery records have documented his lineage and service. For example, modern genealogies list him and Rosamond with their eight children and note his War of 1812 service. On Find A Grave, a memorial entry for Anderson summarizes his life, highlighting his Scottish descent, War of 1812 service (including his imprisonment in England), and his later career as a sailing vessel captain.

That entry, and others for his family members, provide a concise historical record and connect him to descendants who have researched their heritage.

*B: 1794 D 1854 (59-60 years old)*



Local historical societies and lineage organizations have also recognized Anderson's legacy. Descendants and members of the General Society of the War of 1812 have noted his contribution as a veteran. In Spotsylvania and Mathews County, his name appears in discussions of the War of 1812 veterans from the area.

Although no writings by Mathew D. Anderson himself are known to survive, public records such as war-muster rolls, POW lists, and post-war civic records likely contain references to him (for instance, Virginia militia rosters of 1812 or lists of Americans held prisoner by the British). His Masonic membership meant he was active in fraternal and possibly civic activities that would make sense for that time period, and for that type of character.

Today, our Brother Capt. Mathew Dabney Anderson is remembered as a patriot of the War of 1812 and a prominent local figure in 19th-century Virginia.

His legacy lives on through the accomplishments of his children and the preservation of his story. Notably, his son John K. Anderson served as a Confederate Army captain during the Civil War a generation later (carrying on the military tradition in the family).

The Anderson family's connection to notable Virginia families (such as the Dabneys and Reagans) also situates Bro Mathew D. Anderson within the broader narrative of Virginia's post-Revolutionary society.

In summary, Bro & Capt. Mathew D. Anderson's life reflects the experiences of many Americans of his era, orphaned early but rising to responsibility, serving bravely in wartime (suffering capture and imprisonment not to forget), and then contributing to commerce and community in peace.

His life's journey from the shores of Mathews County to the prisons of England and back to the farms of Spotsylvania is a compelling tale of resilience.

Through historical and genealogical records, we continue to learn about and honor Anderson's contributions to his family, his state, and his country.

### **In Eternal Honor**

#### **Brother & Captain Mathew Dabney Anderson**

*Veteran of the War of 1812*

*Faithful Member of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M*

### **A Mason Tried and True**

In the annals of our Fraternity, few lives better embody the virtues of our Craft than that of Brother Mathew Dabney Anderson. Orphaned at a fragile and young age, he rose not by fortune but by fortitude, shaped by the plumb line of character and guided by the light of Masonic truth.

A soldier of honor, he stood firm in the face of adversity. Captured and imprisoned during the War of 1812, he bore hardship not with bitterness, but with resolve. Upon returning to American soil, he turned from the sword to the symbolic plow, laboring not only in fields but in fellowship, restoring his land, strengthening his community, and walking uprightly as a Mason and citizen.

His journey, from the shores of Mathews County to the prisons of England, and ultimately to the peaceful farms of Spotsylvania, tells the enduring tale of a man who understood the rough ashlar and embraced the lifelong task of refining it.

### **Let us as Masons Today Reflect and Emulate**

From Brother Anderson, we are taught that greatness is not inherited, but *earned*, through perseverance in adversity, quiet service in peace, and unshakable fidelity to principle.

Let every Mason strive to:

- Uphold duty with the courage of a soldier.
- Serve the community with the heart of a Brother.
- Carry the working tools of life with humility, honor, and grace.

Our Brother has laid down his working tools, but his Light endures as long as we remember it. May we ever follow such a worthy example.

**So mote it be.**

This concludes the fourth installment of our *Guardians of Memory* series.

We hope you have found this journey through history both enriching and inspiring. In the

enduring pursuit of further light, we warmly encourage all who are so inclined to explore history's timeless lessons and its profound influence on our shared legacy.

Sincerely,  
Michael Dove

**Sources:**

Historical family records and genealogies from  
ancestors.familysearch  
War of 1812 veteran memorials  
1812VA Society  
Findagrave multiple entries  
Mathews and Spotsylvania County historical notes

## **A Moment of Reflection at the Masonic Cemetery**

### *Honoring Our Brethren and Patriots*

This Memorial Day, we pause with reverence to remember the brave souls who stood in defense of our fledgling nation during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Among those honored are several patriots now laid to rest in the hallowed grounds of the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery.

Their names, inscribed upon a marker placed by the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia, stand as a testament to their enduring legacy, and remind us of the sacred ties between Freemasonry and the founding of this great country.

#### **Revolutionary War**

Captain Eliezer Callender  
Lieutenant John Chew, Jr.  
Lieutenant Robert B. Chew,  
Sr. Major Benjamin Day  
Patriot William Drummond  
Private Daniel Grinnan, Sr.  
Midshipman David Henderson  
Patriot William Jenkins  
Surgeon John Julian  
Private John Legg  
Private Lewis Littlepage  
Lt. Colonel William McWilliams  
Private John Minor  
Patriot James Somerville  
Patriot James Stevenson  
Patriot William Storke  
Private William Wiatt  
Lt. Colonel Gustavus B. Wallace  
Brig. General George Weedon  
Patriot Charles Yates

#### **War of 1812**

Captain Matthew Anderson  
Captain John Buck  
Surgeon's Mate Charles L. Carter  
Corporal John Chew  
Sergeant Robert S. Chew, Sr.  
Sergeant Major James Dixon  
Sergeant Robert T. Ellis  
Private Basil Gordon  
Private Daniel Grinnan, Jr.  
Private Anthony Kale  
Private William A. Knox  
Brig. General Richard B. Maury  
Private John Metcalfe  
Brig. General John Minor  
Private John Scott  
Private John M. Shepherd  
Lt. Colonel John Stanard  
Lieutenant Alexander Walker  
Private Henry White



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

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



# Memorial Day Masonic Procession



## Monday, May 26

Join Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M. in honoring those brethren who served in the American Revolution and now rest in the oldest Masonic Cemetery in the Western Hemisphere.

**9 am** Meet & Greet at the Lodge

**10 am** Bagpipe Procession to the Masonic Cemetery

- Keynote Address by M.:W.: Jack K. Lewis, P.G.M.

**11 am to 1 pm** Open House Tours at the Lodge

- Welcome from W.:M.: Michael Dove
- History with R.:W.: Shelby L. Chandler III, P.D.D.G.M.

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M.  
803 Princess Anne Street

Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery  
900 Charles Street



[masoniclodge4.org](http://masoniclodge4.org)

## 2025 LODGE OFFICERS

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

### TRUSTEES

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

### PROGRAM OFFICERS

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