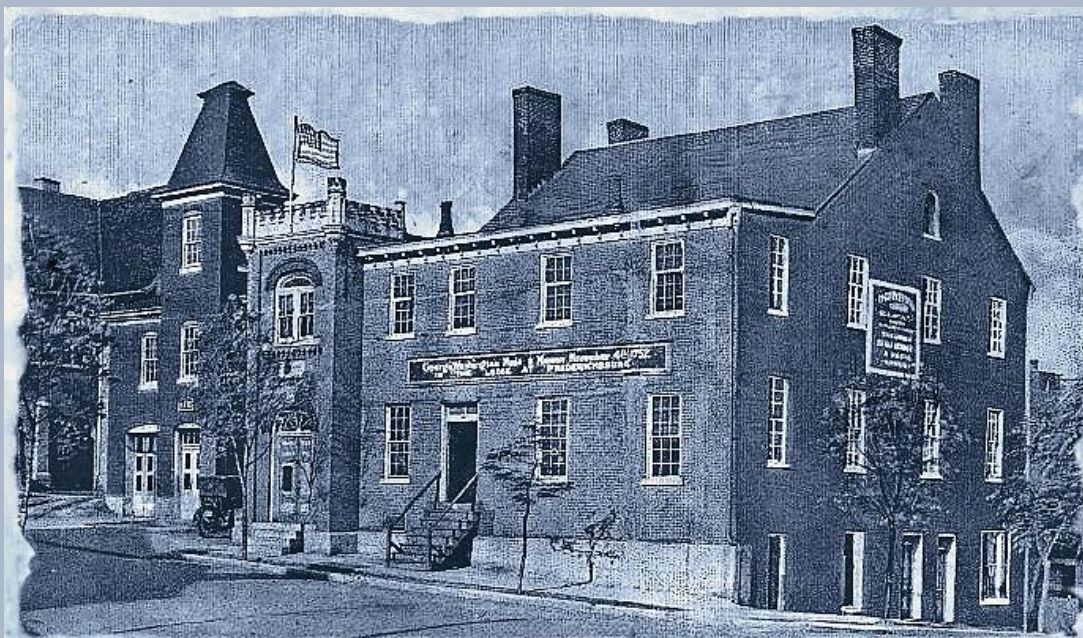


FREDERICKSBURG LODGE NO. 4, A.F. & A.M.



TRESTLE BOARD

FIRST RECORDED MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1, 1752

SCOTTISH CHARTER - JULY 21, 1758

VIRGINIA CHARTER - JANUARY 30, 1787

MOTHER LODGE OF ILL.: BRO.: GEORGE WASHINGTON

803 Princess Anne St.
Fredericksburg,
VA 22401

Masoniclodge4.org

INITIATED NOVEMBER 4, 1752

PASSED MARCH 3, 1753

RAISED AUGUST 4, 1753

Stated Meeting
Second Fridays
(except Nov. 4)

Dinner 6:30 pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

**'GUARDIANS OF THE CRAFT,
BUILDERS OF TOMORROW'**

JUNE 2025

Degree Work
Wednesdays 7pm
(check calendar)

JUNE 2025 EVENTS

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

Consult calendar on website for event details and updates.

Highlights from Last Month:

- Ceremony at Mary Washington Monument
- Lodge No. 4 Annual Memorial Day Observance

ANNIVERSARIES & MILESTONES

Masonic Anniversaries for June

Bro. Robert D. Samuels	54 yrs.	Bro. Philip H. Walden, Jr.	21
Bro. Charles G. McDaniel	53	Bro. Derek J. Honyoust	21
Bro. Carlos J. Munoz	52	Bro. Martin T. Smith II	19
Bro. Bobby D. Merritt	52	Wor. Christopher R. Wilson	18
Bro. Edwin R. Sompayrac	46	Bro. Erik E. Cobham	18
Bro. James L. Vance	44	Bro. James W. Haley, Jr.	17
Wor. Thomas C. Shelton	42	Bro. Christopher B. O'Donnell	15
Bro. Mark A. Jones	42	Bro. Jason M. Lesko	12
Wor. William J. White	41	Bro. David A. Palacios	9
Bro. Donald L. Brooks	32	Bro. Jerry B. Howle, Jr.	9
Wor. Anthony L. Rudder	25	Wor. Patrick F. McConnell	8
Bro. Dennis R. Hooks	24	Bro. Kyle S. Olesevich	1
Wor. Larry L. Adams II	22		

Honoring the Fallen: Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Hosts Memorial Day Observance and Open House

By Worshipful Master Michael Dove

On the morning of May 26th, 2025, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 held its solemn Memorial Day Observance, followed by a heartfelt Open House. This day, marked by reverence and reflection, served as a moving tribute to those who gave their lives in defense of our nation, and to the legacy of Masons who helped build the foundations of our country.

A Humbling Dawn

The day began in quiet dignity at 7:15 a.m., as Brother Dennis David and I met at the Fredericksburg Masonic Cemetery. Together, we placed flags at the gravesites of our departed brethren, those who had served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and conflicts that have shaped our freedoms. There is something profoundly humbling about walking among those stones, reading the names of the giants upon whose shoulders we now stand. Thank you to Brother Dennis for

his enduring care of the cemetery and his dedication to preserving the memory of our fallen.

Setting the Stage for Remembrance

By 9:00 a.m., preparations were well underway at the Lodge. One of the day's most meaningful exhibits was the George Washington Bible, reverently displayed in a case on loan from the Fredericksburg Area Museum. The case, beautifully situated thanks to the efforts of Brother Rand Sompayrac and our Senior Warden Brother Seth, became a symbolic centerpiece of the day, representing both our Lodge's history and its continued relevance.

I must express my personal gratitude to our Worshipful Secretary Tripp, whose steady hand and tireless help guided every communication-detail leading up to this day. Without him, this observance could not have come together as it did!

On the day before Memorial Day, Worshipful Jamie and Brother Troy enhanced the beauty of our Lodge room, adorning the walls with patriotic quilts and carefully placed artwork. Their work was widely praised by all who entered, setting a tone of quiet reverence.

A Lodge in Action

Downstairs in the Baker Room, our faithful Stewards, Brother Kyle and Brother Miller, made sure refreshments were ready and welcoming. Their efforts kept the day running smoothly from start to finish.

The Order of the Eastern Star, always gracious and generous, provided a stunning table of light fare that truly elevated the hospitality of the day. We are deeply thankful to our Sisters in the OES for their continued support and presence.

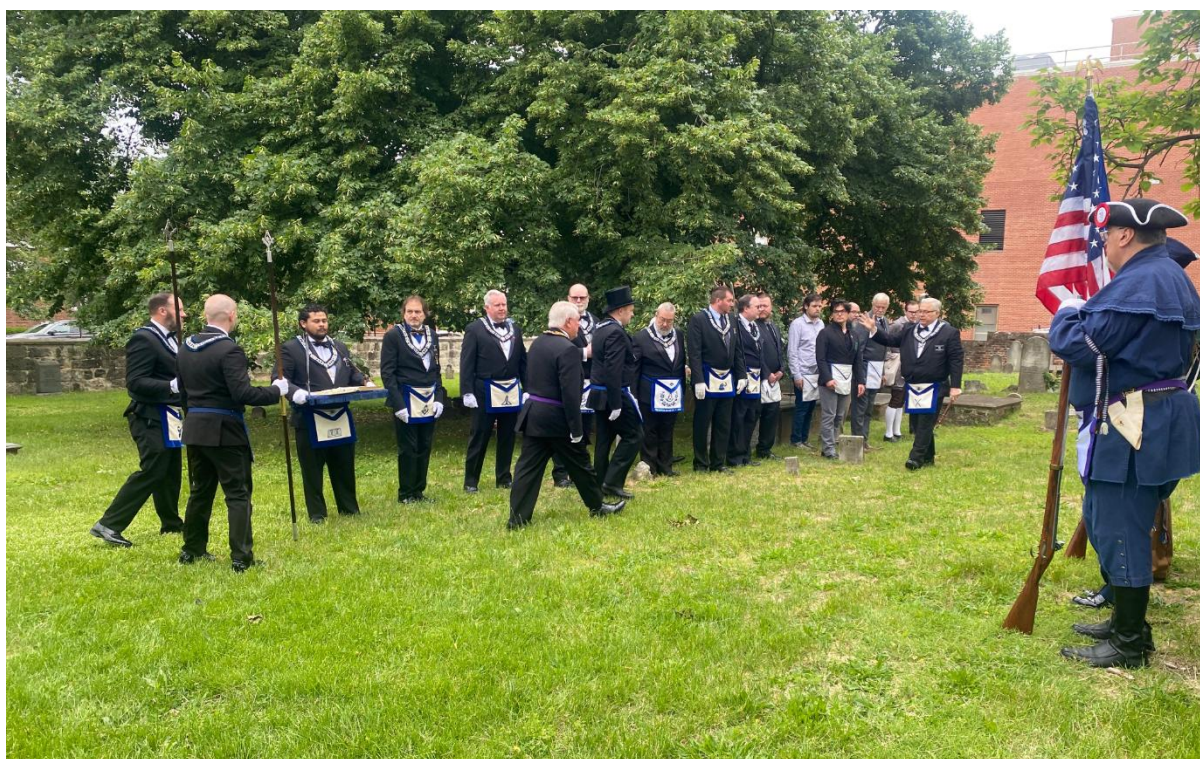
Brother Ethan Burgess, leading our Docent Team, not only engaged and educated visitors but did so dressed in full colonial garb, bringing history to life. He also

crafted a beautiful printed program for the event, adding polish and professionalism to the day's offerings.

A Procession of Honor

Our formal Masonic Procession to the cemetery began at 10:00 a.m., with Brother Robert Breitenbach solemnly guiding the way as Marshal. With quiet dignity and military precision, Heroes of 76' R.W. Shelby Chandler and Worshipful Sandy Mackey rifle-escorted Cadet Major Quinn Roderick Jrotc, who carried the Colors proudly before us. The mournful, resonant tones of Brother and Noble John McDowall's bagpipes elevated the moment to something near the divine.

R.W. Shelby Chandler later presented a presentation, reminding all present of the sacred duty we hold to both country and craft. Thank you.



Words That Echo Beyond the Day

At 10:20 a.m., we were honored by our keynote speaker, Most Worshipful Jack K. Lewis, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. His remarks, both personal, poignant and inspiring, reminded us that our duty is not merely to remember the fallen, but to live our lives in accordance with the virtues they defended: service, sacrifice, and brotherly love.



Opening the Doors to the Public

The Lodge's Open House began at 11:00 a.m., and throughout the next two hours, we welcomed visitors from near and far. Guests included local neighbors, Brothers from Prince Hall in Richmond, and visitors from out of state, all drawn by a shared reverence for the day and a curiosity for our Lodge's living history.

Our guests explored our rooms, learned of our heritage, and witnessed firsthand the spirit of Masonry alive and well in Fredericksburg. Thanks to our brethren, docents, and volunteers, our Lodge shone brightly on this day of remembrance.

A Grateful Reflection

As the day came to a close and we tidied our sacred space, my heart was full. I am truly proud of the Brethren, friends, and partners who made this Memorial Day observance a reality. It was a day of purpose and dignity, one that honored the past, elevated the present, and inspired the future.

To all who joined us, served with us, and supported us, thank you.
Your presence made this day not only possible but deeply meaningful!

Fraternally and with highest respect,
Michael Dove

No

The secret word of a Master Mason is.....No.

Active participation in Lodge is essential for Masonic growth and strengthening our fraternal bonds. It fosters a sense of belonging and achievement, motivating the individual toward unity of purpose for the whole. Being present with the Lodge can be a recharging station for each Brother before going back out to the world, in their armorial coat of *honestas et officium*. Participating in Lodge meetings, rituals, and other Lodge events allows Brothers to contribute to the collective virtues of Freemasonry and build strong relationships with fellow Masons at home and abroad. Participation makes for industry and a healthy Lodge. Think of the beehive.

However crucial participation is though, it's also crucial to recognize the risks of overextension. Overcommitting can lead to stress and fatigue, negatively impacting personal relationships and throwing your 24-inch gauge completely out of balance. A Brother who takes on too many responsibilities within the Lodge may find it difficult to balance their other vital commitments, resulting in burnout and decreased effectiveness in their family and professional roles. This message is particularly vital to our newest Brothers. It is normal and quite exciting to follow every rabbit hole as a new Mason when there is so much discovery to be had; when every thirst for more knowledge is quenched in every lesson, and in every discussion with other Masons. Recalling one of Lewis Carroll's great works; "I almost wish I hadn't gone down that rabbit-hole – and yet – and yet – it's rather curious, you know, this sort of life."

Learning to say "No" and heeding the lesson of the 24-inch gauge is vital for maintaining balance. Declining additional responsibilities allows Brothers to prioritize existing commitments and protect their well-being. Freemasonry is a marathon, as they say, not a race. Learning to say "No" fosters authenticity and self-awareness, ensuring contributions remain meaningful and effective in the Lodge and without. For instance, a Brother might respectfully decline an invitation to lead a committee if they are already heavily involved in other Lodge or Appendant Body activities. Every Brother should assess their commitments, communicating clearly with the Master and officers of the Lodge when accepting or declining commitments. This is not a call to bow out, but a call to step forward with grace and humility and practicality.

Active participation is essential, but it must be balanced with the ability to say "no" to prevent burnout. This balance enables meaningful contributions while

preserving each Brother's ability to grow in Masonry, in family, professionally and as a just and upright man.

Do good unto all-

Bro.∴ Seth Roderick

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If you and I exchange a dollar, each of us would still have a dollar - BUT - if you and I exchange an idea, each of us would have two ideas.

-Author Unknown

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Secretary's Corner

Nothing specific this month, Brethren. As we enter the summer doldrums, this is the time of year we often see attendance drop off a bit. We hope you travel safe if you're taking off some time for family vacations or other pursuits. As you go from labor to refreshment, I'd encourage you to take a small fraction of the time to visit a Lodge elsewhere in Virginia or in another jurisdiction, and/or catch up on your Masonic reading. Traveling abroad (as all Lodges outside Virginia are considered 'foreign' in our unique parlance) is a great way to expand your horizons and your experience of Masonry Universal. Even visiting other Lodges in Virginia is a good way to get some fresh ideas and see how things are done elsewhere. Seldom have I visited a new Lodge that I haven't learned something or found a new – and sometimes better – way of running a meeting, coaching candidates, involving the Brethren, serving the community, and so forth. Masonry also has a vast literature despite our reputation for secrecy, and is a great way to expand your perspective. Most importantly, when you resume your normal routine in the fall or whenever, resume the habit of coming back to Lodge and bring those ideas and experiences with you. It's too easy to get stuck in the rut of thinking the way we do things is the only way. Whether you've been traveling or just haven't been able to get to Lodge in a while, we hope to see you soon.

The Forget Me Not

Okay—show of hands—how many knew that last month marked the 80th anniversary of Germany surrendering during World War II? If your hand isn't up, that's my point exactly. How soon we forget!

One day, while attending Lodge, I decided to wear a lapel pin I hadn't worn in a long time. This particular lapel pin was gifted to me upon getting raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason eleven years ago, on March 5th, 2014. I distinctly remember the beguiling smile on Brother James Ragsdale's face when he gifted it to me. It was a beautiful moment to behold that I will treasure as long as I have a memory that serves me.

Later on that evening, I went to the bar across the street, J. Brian's, as I oftentimes would, and my girlfriend, Cheryl, whom many of you have met, inquired of it. Now, we all know that when a girl likes you, you could burp and she'd giggle with giddy delight. She kept mentioning how cool she thought I was and all those wonderful things, but I felt I had to set the record straight on this one.

The Forget Me Not flower does not have a happy connotation. During the Holocaust of the late 1930s under Adolf Hitler's rise to power, a very large contingency of people were ousted. This wasn't just Jews, but other minorities such as the Roma (or Gypsies, as many might know them), homosexuals, the disabled both physically and mentally, and various organizations such as the Martinists, and yes, even our fellow Brother Masons. Of the millions reported, the number of brethren who were sent to the camps is unknown specifically regarding their affiliation with the fraternity. When the Germans would occupy a new town or region, they would ransack the lodge for its plunders and rummage through the records, trying to find information about its membership. Suddenly, the meticulous scribblings of our Brother Secretaries became the very best weapon used against us.

This sentiment is not new. In 1826, a man by the name of William Morgan declared he would publish an exposé on the secret works of Freemasonry. He was allegedly kidnapped in Batavia, New York and disappeared completely. Nobody knows if this was a conspired effort on behalf of the brethren in the region, or just a consequence of mere serendipity. Nevertheless, it sparked outrage and gave birth to the Anti-Masonry movement right here in the United States. It was the very first third party in American politics, in fact. This was so aptly named *The Morgan Affair*. Adding to this, in the 1890s, was an act of defamation and nothing less, by a man named Marie Joseph Gabriel Antoine Jogand-Pagés, otherwise known as Léo Taxil. He was rejected for membership owing to his lack of integrity...go figure. How can you hate from outside the club when you can't even get in? By calling sour grapes and saying it wasn't cool anyway. He went to the papacy under Pious IX in 1884 and provided them with a great deal of libelous mistruths of defamation against the fraternity, particularly misquoting Albert Pike in *Morals and Dogma*, which is an 861-page tome of a book-and I'm sure we've all seen it-claiming that we were luciferians hell-bent on world domination and other unbecoming, unseemly things we're all too tired of dispelling today. Oddly enough, the papacy bought it and further strengthened the papal bull against the fraternity. Even after he recanted his infamous *Taxil Hoax*, the damage had already been done, and has been used as ammunition against the fraternity, even to this day.

Fast forward to World War II, during the German invasion of The Netherlands in May of 1940, German officers were ordered to obtain the records of Masonic institutions, round up Masons, and seize their assets. Most Worshipful Hermannus Von Tongaren organized "coffee clubs" to meet in plain sight, unassumingly in public eye. Ultimately, these "coffee clubs" were discovered, and Brother Von Tongaren died in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, but not before liquidating a large deal of their assets and spiriting away valuable treasures, safely ensuring they did not fall into Nazi hands.

Speaking of concentration camps, Liberté Chérie Lodge was an irregular lodge founded in 1943 by Belgian Resistance Fighters in Esterwegen Concentration Camp. Irregular, simply because it didn't have a charter or warrant from some grand lodge empowering them to work; but think of the hope it instilled in those suffering and dying each day under such afflictions. A Catholic Priest stood as Tiler, in fact.

In Germany, many Freemasons hid among the ranks of the army, donning the Forget Me Not as a secret badge of the fraternity. Many brothers would quietly establish one another as fellow members of the craft and ensured each other's welfare, oftentimes by apprising him, that he having timely warning, may make his escape.

In France, many of the members of the French Resistance were purported to have been Masons. A network of some 211 French lodges all shared in acting as the core of The Resistance. One such Mason was our very own Brother Michel Bellon. He had lived a storied and adventured life before even stepping foot on American soil, much less joining Lodge 4. Many of us still remember him, in fact. He blew up a nazi depot, scouted for The Resistance, and even translated for three OSS operatives who were training in the region. He guided those three Americans safely from France to the Spanish border upon receiving warning of imminent threat to their safety. His father died in Auschwitz, and his stepfather, Roger, survived Buchenwald, being liberated by Allied forces under General Patton. He recounted of a story of a Brother Levant, who was captured and interrogated by a German officer who asked repeatedly of his "birthdates." It was quickly established that they were both Brothers, and Brother Levant was permitted to escape. Brother Bellon came to America in 1951, only to learn that his paperwork had already been processed, and those same three OSS operatives were present for his Naturalization Oath. Brother Bellon served as our Tiler from 2004-2008, and our MAHOVA Ambassador from 2004-2010.

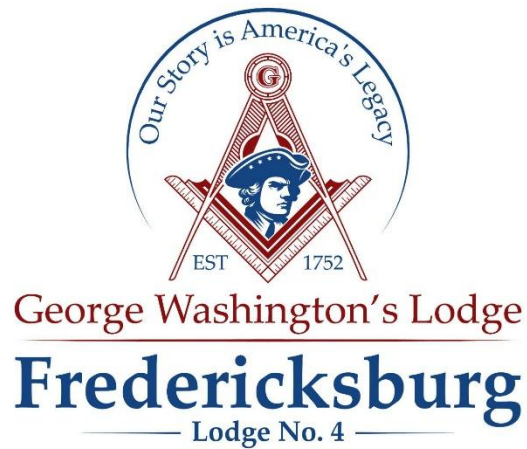
On Memorial Day in 2015, a few brethren gathered together to inter his ashes in the Masonic Cemetery. I was one of them. I did not know him, but he was a Brother nonetheless. Now, ten years later, the whisperings of Brother Michel still haunt me, even as I write this.

We are never too far removed from the past, and we are never too far removed from the dreadful calamities which might have befallen those who came before us. Never too far from being called upon to face adversity, risk our lives, or face our deaths. I turned to Cheryl in that booth, fighting back tears, saying I live an idyllic life. One where I can be playful and get fat, never having to ruminate over fear and terror which still darkens the doors of many people the world over today. If I am great, it is because I stand on either on the shoulders of giants, or the graves of those who sacrificed so I could.

As Chair of the Catechism Committee, I make it a point to give each candidate a Forget Me Not pin upon being raised to The Sublime Degree, that should the evils of Anti-Masonry ever rear their ugly heads again, we might yet still have a way to identify one another. Forget *me* not, my Brothers. *Forget me not.*

Bro. Justin C. G. Garrett
Fredericksburg #4, AF&AM
Chaplain & Catechism Chair





Brethren and Friends of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4: Meet Our New Logo

It is with great reverence, excitement, and a deep love for our Craft that we formally unveil the new official logo of Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4, a visual symbol that honors our illustrious past, represents our proud present, and boldly carries us into the future.

This emblem has been long in the making, a project born not only from a need for updated representation but from a deeper calling: to create something that reflects the gravitas of our history, our standing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our place in the history of the United States of America.

After all, we are George Washington's Lodge, chartered in 1752, a Lodge steeped in the soil of revolution, fraternity, and sacred labor. Yet as monumental as that connection is, we are also so much more. We are the brethren of patriots, veterans,

heroes, civic leaders, and visionaries, men who shaped not only a nation but the soul of a community.

As our state prepares to mark VA250 and other momentous historical observances, it is more important than ever that our Lodge stands with clarity, dignity, and pride. Our public work is expanding. Our voice is growing louder. Our duty, ever enduring. And so it is only right that we now bear a logo worthy of the legacy we safeguard and the future we are building. (*Guardians of the Craft, Builders of Tomorrow*)

About the Logo

The new logo is not merely a modern branding mark, it is truly a banner under which we unite, a symbol forged in the light of history and made to shine in the present day. It incorporates the heritage of Fredericksburg, the colonial and revolutionary soul of Virginia, and the unmistakable emblems of our Craft.

It is timeless, elegant, and distinct, designed to be instantly recognizable and to stand proudly beside the great institutions of Freemasonry, both in Virginia and across the world.

With Gratitude

This endeavor would not have been possible without the diligent and heartfelt labor of the Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Branding Committee, whose commitment ensured that this logo would reflect not just a design, but a legacy.

We extend deepest thanks to:

- Wor. Chris Tripp
- Wor. Jamie Snyder
- Bro. Sr. Warden Seth

- Bro. Ethan Burgess
- Wor. Master Michael Dove

And a most sincere and special thank you to our professional designer and branding expert, Mrs. Roux, who brought our vision to life with both creativity and historical sensitivity. Her contribution has been immeasurable.

A special token of appreciation must also be given to Brother Ethan Burgess, our Social Media Coordinator & Archivist, whose tireless behind-the-scenes efforts continue to elevate our public presence and preserve our past with integrity and elegance.

"Stay Connected"

We invite you to explore, share, and celebrate this exciting milestone with us. Follow our journey, and be part of a Lodge that honors its past while shaping the future:

 Facebook: [Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4](#)

 Event Page: [Join Us Here](#)

 Instagram: [@fredericksburglodge4](#)

This is more than a logo.

It is a declaration of identity, a standard of excellence, and a commitment to carry the Light of our Craft forward, for this generation and the many others to come.

Guardians of memory, presenting Dr. and Brother James Carmichael
Preserving the Legacy of Fredericksburg Masonic cemetery



Original painting of Dr, Mayor and Bro Carmichael, courtesy of Fredericksburg Area Museum.

Early Life and Education in Scotland (1771-1791)

James Carmichael was born on November 30, 1771, in Glasgow, Scotland. He grew up under the guidance of an uncle, Dr. George French, who recognized James's aptitude for medicine. Dr. French played a pivotal role in young Carmichael's training, arranging for him to study medicine in Edinburgh, then one of the world's leading medical schools. This formal education in Edinburgh provided Carmichael with a strong foundation in medical science and surgery, which was uncommon on the American frontier at the time. In 1791, following his medical studies, Carmichael emigrated to the United States at his uncle's. Dr. French, who by 1790 had become an influential figure, even serving as mayor of

Fredericksburg, had urged his nephew to pursue a career in the growing Virginia. Trusting his mentor's advice, 20-year-old James Carmichael settled in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1791, bringing with him the benefit of European medical training to a young American community.

Establishing a Medical Practice in Fredericksburg (1791-1803)

Upon arriving in Fredericksburg, Carmichael quickly established himself as a physician of skill and learning. In June 1794, just a few years after settling, he married Elizabeth Hackley, a member of a well-known local family. This marriage rooted him firmly in Virginia society. The couple would go on to have six children. Dr. and Bro. Carmichael opened a medical practice in town, likely benefiting from introductions made by his uncle Dr. French and from the pressing need for trained doctors in the region. By the end of the 18th century, he had become one of Fredericksburg's most trusted doctors, known for treating all manner of ailments.

Growth of a Family Medical Legacy (1803-1831)

Over the next decades, Dr. Carmichael built a thriving medical practice serving Fredericksburg and its surrounding counties. He became renowned for his broad medical knowledge and his practical skill in treating patients of all ages and conditions. Surviving correspondence from 1819-1830 shows that patients (or their family members) often wrote to Carmichael urgently requesting his help, describing symptoms, and even suggesting remedies for him to consider. In these years, Carmichael functioned not only as a physician but also as an apothecary, preparing and dispensing medicines for his patients. He treated a wide range of maladies common in the early 19th century - worms, malaria, dropsy (edema), dysentery, venereal disease, rheumatism, and various "bowel complaints," among others. His expertise was so widely respected that other local doctors would consult him for difficult cases, seeking the benefit of his experience.

By the 1810s, Dr. Carmichael had achieved prominence as one of Fredericksburg's leading physicians. His patients included some of Virginia's most notable families, indicating the esteem in which he was held. Letters in his papers show he was consulted by Governor James Barbour, by Supreme Court Justice Bushrod Washington (nephew of George Washington), by members of the Carter family of Sabine Hall, and by many other distinguished individuals. These prominent figures sought out Carmichael's care from across the region, suggesting his reputation extended well beyond Fredericksburg. At the same time, he also provided medical care for ordinary citizens, enslaved individuals, and laborers - essentially anyone in the community who needed a doctor. This breadth of practice made him a pillar of healthcare in the area.

The house had been built in the 1780s by Charles Yates, a prominent merchant, and it became both the family residence and the center of Carmichael's medical. A few years later, in 1820, he added a small brick office building at 307 Hanover Street, adjacent to the house, to serve as his "*medicine shop*" and consulting space.

Left the house; to the right, the shop



This office allowed patients to enter directly from the house and was outfitted with the tools of an early 19th-century doctor. Over time, the Hanover Street home and office became an enduring fixture of Fredericksburg's landscape - the base of operations for what evolved into a multi-generational medical dynasty. In fact, five Carmichael family doctors across four generations would treat Fredericksburg residents in these very buildings.

Dr. James Carmichael's two eldest sons followed him into the profession: Dr. Edward Carmichael joined his father's practice in 1817, and Dr. George French Carmichael (named for his uncle) joined in. Father and sons worked side by side, ensuring continuity of care for their patients. As one local historian later noted, James Carmichael "*was skillful and highly esteemed in his profession,*" and he was succeeded in practice by two sons and two grandsons who carried on the family name and medical reputation well into the late 19th century.

Day-to-day records from Carmichael's practice give us a vivid picture of early American medicine. A daybook kept by Dr. Carmichael and his son Edward in 1816-1817 survives, recording patient names, treatments, and charges. Moreover, the Carmichael archive contains hundreds of letters from patients between 1819 and 1830. In these letters, we see the voices of early 19th-century Virginians pleading for medical help - "an ill individual, or someone writing on his or her behalf, scrawled a note describing a complaint, requesting medicine, or appealing for a visit from the doctor". From wealthy plantation owners to modest farmers, from free citizens to enslaved people, a broad cross-section of society relied on Dr. Carmichael's care. The University of Virginia has preserved these documents, noting that "The Papers of James Carmichael and Son provide a captivating look into the lives of the early nineteenth-century inhabitants of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and its surrounding rural areas."

Today, these records are recognized as invaluable artifacts of medical and social history - a testament to Carmichael's impact on his community.



Daybook kept by Dr Carmichael and Son, detailed patience visits and medicine they prescribed.

Civic Involvement and Masonry

Beyond his medical practice, Bro and Dr. James Carmichael was deeply involved in the civic and social life of Fredericksburg. He was a man of broad interests who saw community service as part of his calling. In 1810, Carmichael was elected to the Vestry of St. George's Episcopal Church, the historic parish in Fredericksburg. Serving on the vestry (the church's governing board) from 1810 to 1813, he helped oversee the welfare of the church and its charitable. This role reflected his status as a respected citizen, vestrymen were typically leading gentlemen of the town. Church records from Easter Monday 1810 list "*James Carmichael*" alongside other prominent locals chosen for the vestry. His involvement in St. George's Church affairs show his dedication to the spiritual and communal well-being of Fredericksburg's people, not just their physical health.

Dr. Carmichael also moved in the social circles of Freemasonry, which was an important fraternal and charitable network in early Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, was the oldest benevolent society in the town. Like many leading citizens of his era, Dr and Bro Carmichael became an active member of the Masonic fraternity. The lodge provided a venue for fellowship among professionals, merchants, and patriots, and it bound its members to high ideals of morality, mutual aid, and civic betterment.

Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 counted numerous eminent men in its ranks, including soldiers and statesmen of the Revolutionary generation as well as local professionals.

Dr. Carmichael's affiliation with the Masons connected him to this lineage of community leadership. Although detailed lodge records from his time were later lost (many Fredericksburg lodge records were destroyed during the Civil War), secondary accounts indicate he was indeed involved. It is likely that Carmichael participated in Masonic charitable initiatives and social events.

For example, in 1799 a political rift in town led some members of Fredericksburg Lodge (perhaps including Carmichael) to form a short-lived separate lodge, reflecting how engaged the Masons were in civic affairs of the day. This was Fredericksburg American Lodge No. 63.

What is clearly documented is Carmichael's public stance on issues of the time: in the heated politics of the late 1790s, he and many of his Masonic brethren signed a published address supporting President John Adams's foreign policy during the quasi-war crisis with France. His signature "James Carmichael" appears alongside other prominent Fredericksburg names on that 1798 address, demonstrating his willingness to take a public position in the contentious partisan debates of the era. Through the Masonic lodge and other civic forums, Bro Carmichael forged close

friendships with fellow leaders. These connections no doubt broadened his influence and enabled him to help steer community projects. (*The Masons, for instance, were involved in efforts to memorialize Mary Washington, George Washington's mother, in Fredericksburg*). His Masonic affiliation thus complemented his role as a community physician, aligning him with a network dedicated to brotherhood, charity, and the improvement of society.

Dr. Carmichael's sense of mischief sometimes extended beyond words. In one famous incident, he and a friend pulled off a prank that has entered Fredericksburg legend. During a fervent Methodist revival meeting in town, the irrepressible doctor decided to have some fun at the expense of the excited congregation. Together with a co-conspirator (a friend named John Crump), Bro Carmichael quietly entered the packed church carrying pockets full of Scotch snuff, a powdered tobacco. At the height of the passionate singing, he slipped up to the gallery or front of the church and sprinkled handfuls of snuff over the assembled worshippers.

For a brief moment, nothing happened, then the snuff took effect. One eyewitness described what followed: "*Tremendous sneezes burst from every part of the house...quickly they united in a prolonged roll of continuous sneezing...that shook the entire space within the church.*" The uproarious scene saw people stumbling out, gasping for air and sneezing uncontrollably. The pranksters attempted to flee amid the chaos, but they were caught by some stout parishioners and promptly handed over to the authorities. Dr. Carmichael spent that night in the town jail for disturbing the peace, and faced the local magistrate the next morning, who (as the story goes) sternly reprimanded him but likely understood the comedic absurdity of the situation.

This "snuff prank" became a part of Fredericksburg's folklore - an example of Carmichael's eccentric humor. Despite these lighthearted antics, Dr Carmichael was universally regarded as a compassionate and conscientious doctor.

A contemporary summed up this balance by saying “*The doctor was eccentric, but skillful, [he] had a large practice, and was very successful.*” He took his medical responsibilities seriously. In fact, townspeople observed that whenever Dr. Carmichael indulged in one of his rare drinking “sprees” - which occurred only infrequently, perhaps once or twice a year - he made a rule never to treat patients while under the influence.

During those interludes, the other physicians in Fredericksburg would cover his calls, and his devoted wife Elizabeth or a loyal family servant would eventually fetch him home to recover. No case of serious neglect was ever attributed to him. Indeed, “everybody believed in him, and trusted him” to do his utmost for their health. Patients knew that beneath his jovial, sometimes unconventional exterior beat the heart of a truly caring healer. Dr Carmichael’s blend of medical skill, dedication, and human touch made him a cherished figure in Fredericksburg.

Impact on Fredericksburg and Legacy

Dr. James Carmichael’s influence on Fredericksburg was profound and lasting. As a physician, he greatly improved the quality of healthcare available in the region during the early 1800s. He introduced advanced medical knowledge from Europe and kept up with medical literature (his correspondence includes orders for books and supplies from Philadelphia, a major medical hub of the time). By heroically confronting epidemics like the 1803 yellow fever outbreak, Dr Carmichael saved lives and helped establish public health measures in the town. Neighbors and planters from surrounding counties came to rely on him, thereby knitting Fredericksburg into a wider network of communities through ties of medical care and trust. In an era with no hospitals in the vicinity, his home and office effectively served as a center of healing for rich and poor alike.

Dr. and Bro. Carmichael’s civic and social engagements also shaped Fredericksburg’s development. His service on the church vestry and his leadership

in Masonic circles contributed to the town's moral and charitable endeavors. The Masons, for instance, were involved in funding educational causes and aiding widows and orphans; as a member, Bro Carmichael would have supported such projects.

He was part of the generation that championed civic improvements and patriotic memorials in Fredericksburg (the 1830s effort to build a monument to Mary Washington involved many of his peers in the lodge and town government). Moreover, Carmichael's stance during the political turmoil of the Adams and Jefferson years indicates that he played a role in the public discourse of Fredericksburg, lending his name and influence to shape local opinion. In short, he was regarded as one of Fredericksburg's responsible citizens whose voice carried weight in community matters.

One of Dr. Carmichael's most tangible legacies is the medical dynasty he founded. By mentoring his sons Edward and George in medicine, he ensured that Fredericksburg's citizens would continue to have skilled doctors in the family for decades after his death. Indeed, the Carmichael family became synonymous with medical care in the town throughout the 19th century. A local history recounts that "two sons and as many grandsons" bore the Carmichael name in medicine, serving the community for nearly a century in total. For example, Dr. George F. Carmichael (1806-1882) carried on his father's practice and reputation, and a grandson, Dr. Spottswood W. Carmichael, practiced into the late 1800s. Through these descendants, James Carmichael's influence on the health and well-being of Fredericksburg's people extended far beyond his own lifetime.

Even the physical presence of Dr. Carmichael remained part of Fredericksburg's fabric. The handsome Hanover Street residence he purchased and the little brick doctor's office he built became local landmarks. Generations of the Carmichael family continued to live in the 309 Hanover Street house, carefully preserving it.

As of the early 20th century, “lineal descendants occupy [the] premises today...with loving care,” tending the same elegant gardens and venerable trees that Dr. Carmichael himself would have known.

The property, with its gracious architecture and lush plantings of oak, walnut, crepe myrtle, and ivy, became one of Fredericksburg’s celebrated historic homes. It stands as a quiet testament to the Carmichael family’s enduring place in the city’s story. Modern Fredericksburgians walking down Hanover Street can still admire the two-century-old “*Carmichael House*” and imagine the good doctor climbing its steps or mixing remedies in the adjacent shop. Such continuity is a reminder of how one individual’s contributions can ripple through time.

Dr. and Bro. James Carmichael died on June 14, 1831, in Fredericksburg at the age of 59. He was laid to rest in the town he had served for 40 years. His passing was noted in local papers, with notices authorizing the settlement of his medical practice’s accounts and undoubtedly with tributes from those who had known his ministrations. Though departed, he was far from forgotten. Later historians and residents have painted a fond portrait of Carmichael as “*a skillful and highly esteemed*” doctor who was also “*a character*” in the best sense - someone larger than life, full of compassion, learning, humor, and civic spirit.

In summary, Dr. and Bro James Carmichael left an indelible mark on Fredericksburg’s medical practice, civic institutions, and social heritage. He healed the sick across all strata of society, helped guide the community’s church and charitable endeavors, and took part in the fraternal bonds of Freemasonry that underpinned early 19th-century civil society.

Fredericksburg grew from a small colonial town to a thriving antebellum community during his lifetime, and in that growth Carmichael played a key role - as physician, neighbor, and leader. His influence persisted through the family of doctors he founded and the stories that became local lore. Standing at the intersection of medicine, community service, and social camaraderie, Dr. James

Carmichael exemplified the ideal of the 19th-century country doctor-gentleman. Nearly two centuries after his death, his legacy in Fredericksburg is still remembered and cherished.

In Conclusion

For today's Freemasons, the life of Dr. and Brother James Carmichael serves not only as a historical example but as a living reminder of the Craft's highest teachings in action. He did not separate his healing hand from his fraternal heart, rather, he united them in service to all. In his every role, physician, neighbor, churchman, and Mason -he exemplified the working tools of our Order, care in thought, precision in action, and charity in spirit.



As we labor in our own time, let us remember that the true legacy of a Mason is not written in stone but lived in service. Dr. and Bro. Carmichael's life teaches us that the square and compasses do not merely belong in the Lodge, they belong in the community, in our professions, and in our daily walk. May we, like him, build not just better men, but a better world around us. So mote it be.

This concludes the fifth 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
Worshipful Master
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4

Sources:

Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library, UVA *Guide to the Papers of Dr. James Carmichael (1771–1831)*

FAM Fredericksburg Area Museum

St. George's Episcopal Church History - "The Carmichaels' Connection to St. George
Central Rappahannock Regional Library - *Fredericksburg Walking Tour: Hanover Street*

Silvanus J. Quinn, *The History of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia* (1908)

John T. Goolrick, *Historic Fredericksburg: The Story of an Old Town* (1922)

R. R. Howison (reminiscences in *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1894)

Historical Collections and Services at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library

Findagrave.com



Our friends at the FAM are hosting some live Music events, we wanted to share with you all!

Free Live Music Every Friday | Market Square | June 6 – August 29

The Fredericksburg Area Museum's *Sounds of Summer* concert series is back! Join us every Friday evening in June, July, and August in Market Square for an unforgettable season of free live music in the heart of downtown Fredericksburg.

Each week features talented local and regional bands performing a variety of genres – there's something for everyone to enjoy! Bring your friends, pack a blanket or lawn chair, and kick off your weekend with great music and community vibes, all under the summer sky.

Concerts run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm | Free and open to the public

June 20: XPress Band (*Go-Go*)

June 27: The Cassaday Concoction (*Blues / Funk / Rock*)

July 4: Ladia (Pop / Rock / Country & more)

July 11: Jon Tyler Wiley & His Virginia Choir (*Rock / Singer-Songwriter*)

July 18: 1996 (*90s*)

July 25: Shades of Gray Band (*Disco / 70s Dance*)

August 1: Brisk (*90s & Alternative*)

August 8: The Fredericksburg Big Band (*Jazz / Swing / Modern Big Band*)

August 15: Elby Brass (*Heavy Horn Funk*)

August 22: Spanglish Latin American Band (*Latin American*)

August 29: Karen Jonas (*Country Americana*)



George Washington's Lodge
Fredericksburg
Lodge No. 4

On the Thirteenth Day of June, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 shall hold its monthly Stated Communication. Master Masons in the region are invited to join us for a special historical presentation by Bro. Travis Miller, Senior Warden of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120. He will discuss foreign-born Freemasons who served in the Continental Army, including the Marquis de Lafayette, Tadeusz Kościuszko, and Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben.

We are also honored to share that the Lodge shall bestow upon one of its members the Fifty Year Masonic Veterans' Emblem, and pleased to welcome back Wor. Bro. Patrick McConnell for a presentation on Saint John the Baptist. As our Lodge anticipates an assemblage of brethren beyond our usual number, all who intend to partake of the evening's repast are kindly entreated to inform the Worshipful Master at michaeldove79@gmail.com with their attendance and the number in their party. We eagerly await the pleasure of your company as we gather in the spirit of Brotherhood, Enlightenment, and Fellowship.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

W. M.: Michael Dove
Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A.F. & A.M.
michaeldove79@gmail.com



In honor of the Worshipful Master's birthday, the dinner shall consist of sliced angus beef brisket, roasted potato salad, corn on the cob, parker house rolls, and vanilla sheet cake. A contribution of twenty dollars shall be requested for the evening's meal, which we are sure will be suitably adorned and leave all brethren well satisfied.



Purchase a brick through BricksRU.com to help
maintain our Historic Home!

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

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Dan Goodwin, PM - 2028	Christopher Tripp, PM - 2029	

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Masonic Home Ambassador Joseph Ilk	Lodge Catechism Chair Justin Garrett	Widows Program Coordinator Robert Breitenbach
	Lodge Scholarship Coordinator David Smith	

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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		