

METROPOLITAN LODGE NO. 11, A.F.&A.M.

Henry C. Payne, Secretary
4013 Old Creek Rd
Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387

Address Service Requested

NOVEMBER 2023 BULLETIN

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!



Metropolitan
Lodge No. 11
A. F. & A. M.
Chartered December 11, 1860



Meets in the Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia 23231
on the Third Thursday of each month

ANNUAL DUES: 2023 – \$165.00

MAIL REMITTANCES TO SECRETARY

Brother Henry C. Payne, 4013 Old Creek Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387

Any case of Illness or Distress of any member that may come to your attention should be promptly reported to the
Junior Warden, Secretary or other Officer of the Lodge.

Number Eleven Class – Meets with Varina Lodge No. 272 class on each Monday at 7:00 PM
at the Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia 23231

R. Lewis Gibbs Masonic Class – **(Dark in December)** Saturday Mornings – Tuckahoe Masonic Temple
5500 Bethlehem Road, Richmond, Virginia 23230

FROM THE EAST

October 26, 2023

Brethren,

Brethren,

If you missed our October meeting, you missed an interesting talk by Brother John Reid about some of his travels and adventures around the world. November will be Past Master's Night, come out to see Worshipful Bob Pagani shake off the dust and return to the east!

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and I hope we are all remembering to give thanks each day of our lives. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new". To those of you I have known long enough to call you "old" friend, and to the new friends that we will make along the way, thank you for being part of the greatest fraternity in the world!

Our November stated meeting will be on Thursday the 16th, dress for this meeting is coat and tie for officers and brethren. If possible, please bring a can of soup, beans, or vegetables, or even a can of tuna fish or jar of peanut butter, for donation to a local food pantry.

Until then, as they say on one of my favorite podcasts, "take care of yourself, and if you can, someone else too".

Sincerely and Fraternaly
Bro. Ashley Thomas
Worshipful Master

FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Brethren,

There are several who have not paid their 2023 dues. Please take care of this so that you don't run into the danger of being suspended for non-payment of dues.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Brother Hank Payne, Secretary

STATED COMMUNICATION – THURSDAY, November 16, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

PAST MASTERS' NIGHT

OFFICERS, MEMBERS & GUESTS: Coat and Tie

ASSEMBLE: Varina Masonic Temple, 1600 Burning Tree Road, Henrico, Virginia at 5:45 PM

DINNER: 6:00 PM

OPEN LODGE – 7:00 PM

Regular Business

PROGRAM:

Conclude Business

CLOSE LODGE

CALLED COMMUNICATIONS:

None Scheduled at this time

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, November 4, 2023 – Rainbow Girls Grand Visitation, Newport News Transportation Lodge, 12pm - 3pm

Friday - Saturday, November 10th and 11th – Grand Annual Communication at Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa
Short Pump, VA

Thursday, November 16, 2023 – Metropolitan Lodge No. 11 Past Masters' Night

Saturday, November 18, 2023 – Masters and Wardens Association, Tuckahoe Masonic Temple
5500 Bethlehem Road - Breakfast at 08:00 AM Meeting at 08:45 AM

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 – Rainbow Assembly #10 meeting at Varina Masonic Temple at 7:30 PM
Saturday, October 21, 2023 – Masters and Wardens Association, Tuckahoe

Friday, December 15, 2023 – Metropolitan 11 hosts the MAHOVA Christmas party

PAST MASTER HONOR ROLL – OCTOBER 2023 STATED

Heath W. Mayes, Donnie R. Carter, Claude A. "Buddy" Bass, Jr., Robert E. Pagani, John Q. Sheppard
John W. Edelin III, Linwood G. Bennett, Jr., George H. Cooke III, Robert E. Cook, Albert A. Dranoff
Daulton L. Carter, Lothar A. Bernhard

ATTENDANCE – OCTOBER 2023 STATED

Past Masters – 12 Members – 10 Visitors – 2 Total – 24

Yearly Averages:

2005 – 76, 2006 – 77, 2007 – 74, 2008 – 72, 2009 – 69, 2010 – 60, 2011 – 61, 2012 – 49
2013 – 48, 2014 – 47, 2015 – 53, 2016 – 49, 2017 – 46, 2018 – 47, 2019 – 38, 2020 – 37
2021 – 33, 2022 – 34, 2023 – 32

Metropolitan's
Masonic Birthdays
For
November 2023

| Member Name | Masonic Birthday | Years |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Belton, Ronald Roy | 11/26/1970 | 53 |
| Bernhard, Lothar Arthur, Jr | 11/17/1981 | 42 |
| Bernhard, Lothar Arthur, III | 11/18/2010 | 13 |
| Bradshaw, Clifton Barton | 11/19/1990 | 33 |
| Carter, Donnie Ralph | 11/29/1988 | 35 |
| Childrey, William Earl | 11/13/1981 | 42 |
| Evans, Wade Vestel, III | 11/26/1986 | 37 |
| Fleenor, Harold Wayne | 11/17/1976 | 47 |
| Gandel, William Frederick | 11/21/1991 | 32 |
| Metz, John Richard | 11/22/1963 | 60 |
| Jones, Thomas Allen | 11/29/1988 | 35 |
| Nelson, Ralph Emerson | 11/18/2010 | 13 |
| Nochisaki, Richard Charles | 11/19/1981 | 42 |
| Richardson, William Samuel Jared | 11/16/2017 | 6 |
| Surette, John Lynwood | 11/18/1996 | 27 |
| Syracuse, David Jamison | 11/28/2005 | 18 |
| Weakley, Thomas Rhys, Jr | 11/18/1981 | 42 |
| | | |
| | Masonic Years | 577 |
| | | |

Freemasons at Gettysburg

"Trust in God and Fear Nothing"

-- Br. and General Lewis A. Armistead, CSA

Washington, D.C., was in a panic as 70,000 Confederate troops were just sixty miles away near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The furious battle had lasted three days (July 1 to 3, 1863).

As General Lee found his ammunition running low, he ordered General & Br. George Pickett to make a direct attack.

Br. George Pickett was a member of Dove Lodge No. 51. In the summer of 1860 a group of 24 Masons from Dove Lodge No. 51 met with the idea of forming a Lodge in a section of the city more convenient to their residences. The meeting was held at the Armory of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues and the Lodge would eventually be known as Metropolitan No. 11, Richmond, Virginia)



After an hour of murderous fire and bloody hand-to-hand combat, the Confederates were pushed back and the Battle of Gettysburg ended July 3, 1863, with over 50,000 casualties.

President Abraham Lincoln (see note below about Lincoln's Masonic connection) confided to a general wounded in the battle:

"When everyone seemed panic-stricken ... I went to my room ... and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed."

Days later, July 15, 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer:

"It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father and the power of His hand equally in these triumphs and in these sorrows ... I invite the people of the United States to ... render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things He has done in the nation's behalf and invoke the influence of His Holy Spirit to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion."

The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial

The Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial is a monument located in the annex of the Gettysburg National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Built by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it commemorates Confederate Brigadier General & Br. Lewis Addison Armistead (Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia) entrusting Union Captain & Br. Henry H. Bingham (Chartiers Lodge, No. 297, Canonsburg, PA, later transferred his membership to Union Lake Lodge, No. 121, in the Masonic Temple, in Philadelphia) with his personal effects, most notably a pocket watch, on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, during Pickett's Charge.

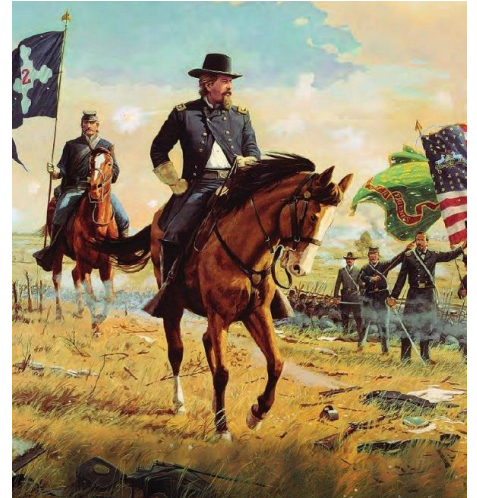
Br. Pickett's Charge was an assault upon the Union Army center on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. The charge, the high tide of the Confederate States of America, was repulsed. Confederate General Br. Armistead, under Br. George Pickett's command, personally led his Virginians up the hill to the Union position. Br. Armistead was shot twice.

Severely wounded, and fearing that his personal effects would be stolen by Union soldiers, he "gave a Masonic sign asking for assistance". Union Captain & Br. Bingham, an aide to Major General & Br. Winfield Scott Hancock (Charity Lodge No. 190, Norristown, Pennsylvania, Royal Arch Mason, No. 90, and Hutchison Commandery, Knights Templar No. 22), who was named for a freemason and a hero of the War of 1812, Br. Winfield Scott (Dinwiddie Union Lodge No. 23, now extinct).

Br. Hancock was a personal friend of Br. Armistead. General Hancock, was a "valued friend" of Br. Armistead's from before the war, when they served together in the Federal army.

Br. Bingham then came to his aid as he lay wounded. After ensuring Br. Armistead that his personal effects (i.e., spurs, watch chain, seal and pocketbook) would be sent to his family, particularly his pocket watch, Br. Bingham took Br. Armistead to a field hospital, where Br. Armistead died two days later on the George Spangler farm.

After learning that Br. Bingham was on the staff of Br. Hancock, Br. Armistead asked Bingham to pass along the items with a message to Hancock. The message was "Tell General Hancock for me that I have done him and you all an injury which I shall regret the longest day I live." Having been wounded at about the same time, Br. Hancock would not see Br. Armistead before he died.



The monument's sculptor was Br. Ron Tunison of Cairo, New York, who was himself a Freemason. The sculpture is made of polychrome bronze.

The statue was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on August 21, 1993.

The 1993 film Gettysburg dramatized the meeting.

Books About Freemasons and Gettysburg

Freemasons at Gettysburg, by Sheldon A. Munn, published 1993 by Thomas Publications, PO Box 3031, Gettysburg PA 17325, ISBN 0-939631-68-3

House Undivided: The Story of Freemasonry and the Civil War, by Allen E. Roberts, published 1961 (reprinted 1964 and 1976) by Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co., Richmond, Virginia, ISBN-0-88053-056-1

Befriend and Relieve Every Brother: Freemasonry During Wartime, by Richard Eugene Shields, Jr., published 1994 by The Carolina Trader, Monroe, North Carolina

Witness to the Young Republic: A Yankee's Journal, 1828-1870, by Benjamin Brown French, editors: Donald B. Cole and John J. McDonough, published 1989 by University Press of New England, Hanover and London

"My Enemy, My Brother: An Incident at Gettysburg", by William D. Robertson, published in The Philaethes, June 1993, page 61.

President Abraham Lincoln and Freemasonry

Although not a Freemason, he did apply for membership in Tyrian Lodge, Springfield, Ill., shortly after his nomination for the presidency in 1860 but withdrew the application because he felt that his applying for membership at that time might be construed as a political ruse to obtain votes. He advised the lodge that he would resubmit his application again when he returned from the presidency.

Lincoln never returned. On the death of the president, Tyrian Lodge adopted, on April 17, 1865, a resolution to say "that the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honours of Freemasonry, lest his motives be misconstrued, is the highest degree honorable to his memory."

Freemasons Who Played Key Roles at the Battle of Gettysburg

Winfield Scott Hancock - Born February 14, 1824 in Montgomery Square near Norristown, Pennsylvania. West Point class of 1840, graduated 18th out of 25, at age 20. Served in Mexican and Seminole Wars and Utah (Mormon) Expedition. Chief Quartermaster in Los Angeles, California. Civil War Brigadier (1 star) and Major (2 star) General. Wounded severely at the Battle of Gettysburg. Considered one of the best Union generals. After the Civil War served in the U.S. Army, later Democratic candidate for President of the U.S. in 1880. Died February 9, 1886, at Governor's Island, New York. Buried in Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, Pennsylvania. Member of Charity Lodge No. 190, Norristown, Pennsylvania, Royal Arch Mason, No. 90, and Hutchison Commandery, Knights Templar No. 22.

Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain - Born September 8, 1828 in Brewer, Maine. College Professor at Bowdoin College, Maine; spoke 7 languages. Lieutenant Colonel and later Colonel of the 20th Maine Regiment, later Brigadier (1 star) and Major (2 star) General. Wounded 6 times during the Civil War. Hero of Little Round Top, for which he received the Medal of Honor. At Appomattox he was the General who received the formal surrender of the Confederate Army, from Major General John B. Gordon, a fellow Freemason. After the War, Chamberlain was elected Governor of Maine 3 times, later President of Bowdoin College, a businessman and author. Died February 24, 1914. Buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Brunswick, Maine. There is a museum about him in Brunswick. Member of United Lodge No. 8 in Brunswick, Maine.

Lewis Addison Armistead - Born February 18, 1817, in New Bern, North Carolina. Came from a military family; his uncle commanded Fort McHenry during the British bombardment in the War of 1812 which inspired the Star Spangled Banner. Attended West Point 1833, 1834-1836, but resigned. Served in the Mexican War where he was twice awarded for bravery. He was serving in California with Winfield Scott Hancock when the Civil War began, and he resigned to travel cross country to join the Confederate forces. Colonel and later Brigadier (1 star) General. Died July 5, 1863, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Member of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 in Virginia. Charter member of Union Lodge 37 in Fort Riley, Kansas.

Other Freemasons who played significant roles at the Battle of Gettysburg:

Captain Henry H. Bingham, Chartiers Lodge No. 297, Cannonsburg PA, Life Member of Union Lodge No. 121 in Philadelphia. Received the Medal of Honor. Elected to Congress in 1878, where he served 33 years and was one of the leaders of Congress. Died March 24, 1912, in Philadelphia, aged 70. Buried in North Laurel Hills Cemetery, Philadelphia.

Major General Henry Heth, Senior Warden of Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 205 in Utah Territory. Very close friend of Robert E. Lee. Military career, severely wounded at Gettysburg but survived. After the War he started an insurance business in Richmond. Died in 1899, age 73. Buried in Hollywood Cemetery.

Brigadier General Solomon Meredith. Commander of the "Iron Brigade," also called the "Black Hat Brigade." Born May 29, 1810 in Guilford County, Virginia. Had 3 sons in the Union Army, 2 of whom were killed. After the War he was surveyor general of the Montana Territory. Member of Cambridge Lodge No. 105, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Brigadier General Alfred Iverson. Columbian Lodge No. 108, Columbus, Georgia. His father was a U.S. Senator from Georgia before the War. After the War he was a businessman in Georgia and later an orange grower in Kissimmee, Florida. Died in 1911, age 82.

Major General Carl Schurz. Born March 2, 1828, in Cologne, Prussia. Very well educated, but left Europe after he supported failed revolutions. Prominent politician in the U.S., supported Lincoln's election in 1860, and a leader of the German-American community. Given a Generalship to command the large number of Germans in the Union Army. Did not have a distinguished career in the Civil War. After the War we supported equal rights for Blacks, Ambassador to Spain, U.S. Senator from Missouri, and Secretary of the Interior. Died in 1906 in New York City, where a park is named for him. Member of Herman Lodge No. 125 in Philadelphia.

Brigadier General John B. Gordon. Born February 6, 1832 in Upson County, Georgia. Attended University of Georgia and trained in law. At the Battle of Antietam he was wounded so severely in the head that only a bullet hole in his hat prevented him from drowning in his own blood. Wounded 8 times. After the War he was elected U.S. Senator from Georgia 3 times, later Governor of Georgia. Member of Gate City Lodge No. 2 in Atlanta.

Brigadier General George T. "Tige" Anderson. Left college in Georgia to enter the Mexican War. Severely wounded in Gettysburg. After the War he was a railroad freight agent and then police chief in Anniston, Georgia. He was a Freemason, but details are not known.

Brigadier General John H.H. Ward. Born in New York City in 1823. Fought in many Civil War battles, but removed from the Army in 1864 for misbehavior and intoxication in the face of the enemy. This was disputed for 30 years, and never settled.

After the War he served as clerk of courts in New York. In 1903 while vacationing in Monroe, New York, he was run over by a train and killed. Became a Mason in Metropolitan Lodge No. 273, New York City, f1855. Royal Arch Mason, Commandery, Shriner, Active 33rd degree in the AASR, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Brigadier General Rufus Ingalls - Williamette Lodge No. 2, Oregon

Brigadier General Joseph B. Kershaw - Kershaw Lodge No. 29, South Carolina

Brigadier General Alfred T.A. Torbert - Temple Chapter No. 2, Delaware

Brigadier General William Barksdale - Columbus Lodge No. 5, Columbus, Mississippi

Major General David B. Birney - Franklin Lodge No. 134, Pennsylvania

Brigadier General Harry T. Hays - Louisiana Lodge No. 102, Louisiana

Major General Daniel Butterfield - Metropolitan Lodge No. 273, New York

Brigadier General John W. Geary - Philanthropy Lodge No. 255, Pennsylvania

Major General Alfred Pleasonton - Franklin Lodge No. 134, Pennsylvania

Brigadier General George J. Stannard - Franklin Lodge No. 4, Vermont

Brigadier General James L. Kemper - Linn Banks Lodge No. 126 (PM), Virginia

Major General George E. Pickett - Dove Lodge No. 51, Virginia

Brigadier General John D. Imboden - Staunton Lodge No. 13, Virginia

This article was compiled, edited, and written, by Worshipful Brother Martin Myers, Past Master of Metropolitan Lodge No. 11, drawing upon numerous source materials.

OFFICERS FOR 2023

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| C. Ashley Thomas | (C) 380-0621 | (E) ashtomasjr@gmail.com | Worshipful Master |
| | 5958 Dugout Ter, Mechanicsville, VA 23111-4570 | | |
| W. S. Jared Richardson | (C) 840-9523 | (E) wsjr1@hotmail.com | Senior Warden |
| | 9030 Brigadier Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116 | | |
| Keith G. Femina, PM | (C) 559-1719 | (E) keith.lafemina@arc3gases.com | Junior Warden |
| | 8540 Meadowsweet Dr, Mechanicsville, VA 23116-2828 | | |
| John G. Koedel, III | (C) 338-1158 | (E) jgkoedel@yahoo.com | Treasurer |
| | 2444 Gold Leaf Cir, Henrico, VA 23233 | | |
| Henry C. Payne | (C) 229-1967 | (E) hcp.93@verizon.net | Secretary |
| | 4013 Old Creek Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832-8387 | | |
| Charles S. Sarbaugh, PDDGM (H) | 276-9677 | (E) cssarbaugh@cs.com | Secretary Emeritus |
| | 1330 Traway Dr, North Chesterfield, VA 23835-5559 | | |
| Randal L. Clouse | (C) 370-6527 | (E) RClouse1216@gmail.com | Senior Deacon |
| | 2758 Maple Grove Ln, East Powhatan, VA 23139-5043 | | |
| John J. Reid, II | (C) (703) 472-9794 | (E) JohnReidOnline@gmail.com | Junior Deacon |
| | 2742 Spinnaker Ct, Henrico, VA 23233-349 | | |
| | | | |
| Robert E. Pagani, PM | (C) 512-2808 | (E) 1fisherbob@gmail.com | Chaplain |
| Dieter T. Henss | (C) 502-1918 | (E) dhenss@email.com | Marshal |
| Richard C. Wadkins | (C) 540-335-1142 | (E) rhwadkins@gmail.com | Senior Steward |
| Michael L. Bryant | (C) 370-7910 | (E) campbryant@hotmail.com | Junior Steward |
| James F. Hardee, PM | (C) 640-8953 | (E) varinajim53@gmail.com | Tiler |

LIVING PAST MASTERS

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Brown, Platon A. | 1968 | Carter, Donnie R., PDDGM | 1996 | Jason D. Clemmer | 2019 |
| Hines, Elbert Richard | 1968 | Bass, Jr., Claude A. PDDGM | 1999 | Linwood G. Bennett, Jr. | 2020-2021 |
| Olphin, Jr., Walter L. | 1970 | Pagani, Robert E. | 2000 | | |
| Kontopanos, John A., Jr. | 1971 | Fitchett, Wayne E. | 2002 | AFFILIATE PAST MASTERS | |
| Plotkin, Leonard | 1972 | Sheppard, John Q. PDDGM | 2003 | | |
| McLaughlin, Billy B. PDDGM | 1975 | Absher, Barrye L. PDDGM | 2005 | Bernhard, Lothar Arthur | (#19) |
| Hiner, Henry L. | 1978 | Jones, Douglas V., PGM | 2007 | Carter, Daulton L. | (#317) |
| Whitlock, K. Wayne | 1981 | Sykes, C. Thomas, PDDGM | 2008 | Dranoff, Albert Abe PDDGM | (#53) |
| Olphin, III, Walter L. | 1984 | Cook, V. Stuart, PGM | 2009 | Hart, John H. PDDGM | (#302) |
| Sarbaugh, Charles S. PDDGM | 1985 | Wadkins, III, J. Thomas, PDDGM | 2010-2011 | Holmes, Ray W. | (#317) |
| Dixon, Johnnie L. PDDGM | 1986 & 1996 | Loftus, Christopher E. | 2012 | Kidd, Richard C., PDDGM | (#9) |
| Mayes, Heath W. | 1986 | W. Martin Myers | 2013 | LaRochelle, Omer E. Jr., PDDGM | (#244) |
| Bennett, Jr., George L. | 1991 | John W. Edelin, III | 2014 | Martin, Frederick Garrison III, PGM | (#344) |
| Childrey, William E. | 1992 | Wade V. Evans, III | 2015-2016 | Rose, Daniel Lee PDDGM | (#161) |
| Deligan, Lambros G. PDDGM | 1992 | Robert E. Cook | 2017 & 2022 | Sanford, Steven Weldon PDDGM | (#4) |
| Cooke, III, George H. | 1993 & 2021 | Rick C. Kidd, PDDGM | 2018 | Taylor, Robert Wright | (#317) |
| LaFemina, Keith G. | 1995 | | | | |