

THE HISTORY OF CHICKAHOMINY LODGE #286
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
FROM 1904 to 1989
TOANO, VIRGINIA

Compiled by Wor. Master William E. Duer in 1988-89
Made by the Brothers and Fellows of the Chickahominy Lodge

The first officers of the Lodge were W.M. Parke Jones, S.W. W.W. Rich, J.W. R.M. Turner (also Treasurer), Secretary R.A. Folkes, S.D. Rob Fox (also Tyler Pro Tem), J.D. R.L. Jenkins.

In 1905 W.W. Rich was installed as the Second Worshipful Master.

The Lodge met in Lanexa, Virginia for about five years. The meetings were held on Thursday night on or before the Full Moon as this would give extra light for traveling at night. The Charles City Brethren had to cross the Chickahominy River by boat, the Toano Brethren used the extra light to travel by hand car down the C&O Railroad, and the other Brethren traveled by wagon down the country roads. This meeting time continued as long as Brother Tom Buck and Brother W. Nevedeck from Charles City attended the Lodge. Since then the meetings have been held on the second Tuesday of the month.

On October 27, 1908 the Lodge laid the cornerstone for the Barhamsville High School. In 1909 Mann Page Lodge moved from Charles City to Providence Forge.

It was in 1910 that the Lodge voted to move to Toano, Virginia. A space was rented over Wor. Brother W. C. Martin's store. The first meeting and Lodge dedication in Toano was held on July 21, 1910.

During 1911 Bro. W.R. Mason of Richmond presented the two Ashlars (the rough and smooth stones in the East) to the Lodge, and Bro. Whitaker's two orphan sons were assisted by the Lodges in the district, enabling them to be placed in the Masonic Home.

In 1914 the Lodge laid the cornerstone for the Mount Vernon Church in Toano. The procession was led by 150 Toano High School students. In the cornerstone were placed; the history of Mount Vernon Church, list of officers, organization of Bible classes, the pencil that drew the sketch of the building, a copy of Lodge by-laws for Chickahominy and Williamsburg Lodges, list of Lodge members attending, copy of the Williamsburg Gazette April 30, 1914, and various other documents.

In 1914 a motion was made that Ministers who were members of the Lodge did not have to pay the Lodge dues but did have to pay the Grand Lodge dues.

1915 holds the record for having the highest number of relatives serving as officers in the Lodge. C.P. Marston was the Senior Warden, D.W. was the Secretary, G.A. was Treasurer, H.B. was Tiler, and T.N. Marston was on the Committee for Relief. The Marstons' continued to serve the Lodge with C.P. being Master in 1916. It was during 1916 that the tradition of displaying a framed picture of the Past Master began. This tradition continues today. It was during this year that a picnic was held at the original Lodge site in Lanexa, 110 visitors and members were in attendance.

In 1916 the Lodge donated a \$30.00 Christmas tree to the community.

In 1917 the Grand Lodge suspended the dues of all its Military members for "as long as this war lasts".

In 1920 the picture of George Washington, currently hanging in the Lodge was purchased. On May 5, 1920 four brothers were raised at the same time Bros. Edwin T. Chapman, W. Gregory Chapman, Marion D. Chapman, and Robert M. Chapman.

In 1923 Bro. W.W. Ware described the Laying of the cornerstone for the George Washington Masonic Memorial at Alexandria, Va. The huge Masonic parade and ceremony was held on November 1, 1923.

On June 13, 1928 the Lodge laid the cornerstone of the Liberty Baptist Church, located at Diascund Bridge.

It was in 1929 that the first record of the annual Lodge Watermelon Feast was held. It was attended by 70 Brethren and their Ladies and held at the Toano High School.

On April 25, 1930 Mann Page Lodge laid the cornerstone of the New Kent High School. Shortly after on May 9, 1930 Chickahominy Lodge laid the cornerstone for the Toano Womens Club. This cornerstone contains: a roster of members of the lodge, a copy of the Toano High School Paper called the Pow-Wow, a copy of the Va. Masonic Herald, one half dollar 1893, one Buffalo Nickel 1920, one Army Navy Cent 1865, one Large Cent, and one other five cent piece, a copy of the Womens Club Bylaws, Constitution, and a brief history of the club with a list of members and officers. Last there is a clipping from the Daily Press of Newport News dated May 23, 1930.

It was in 1930 that the alter lights became electric, prior to this they were candles.

In 1930 Wore Bro. J.G. Carlton presented the Lodge with a History of Williamsburg Lodge #6 and a picture of the same which now hangs on the wall downstairs.

In 1932 Bro. C.C. Hoar and Bro. R.T. Hoar presented the Lodge a Picture Frame for George Washington's picture. It hangs in the Lodge room today.

Rev. Petty was the Worshipful Master when he passed away in 1933. He was Master for only one meeting, the January 5th stated. The Grand Lodge issued a dispensation to allow the Lodge to elect a new Master but in respect for Rev. Petty the Senior Warden R.T. Hoar filled in as acting Master for the remainder of 1933.

The 1930's were very tough years for the Lodge with dues being hard to come by. The Financial status of the Lodge in 1933 was \$22.18. In 1935 the Lodge had to borrow money to pay the Grand Lodge dues.

Slaters Store came up for sale on Feb. 23, 1935. The Lodge commissioned Rt. Wore D. W. Marston, Rt. Wore A. B. Smith and Bro. R. M. Hazelwood to try and buy the store but not to exceed \$600.00. No other notes in the Lodge minutes for 1935 explain what happened in the attempt to purchase.

J.G. Carlton Speaking in honor of Wore H.T. Thornton of Dave Lodge #51 displayed in the Lodge the two working tools made from Arcasia wood, that Wore Thornton had secured when in Palestine and gave to the Lodge, on July 21, 1910.

In 1936 Right Worshipful J.G. Carlton passed away and Masonic Services were held at Hickory Neck Church. He had been the Lodge Secretary for 19 years, the Master in 1918, and the District Deputy Grand Master for the 57th Masonic District in 1931.

It was in 1939 that the meeting date changed to the second Tuesday of each month. In 1943-44 a new flag with staff and stand were purchased, this flag and staff are resting downstairs in the lodge. Donations were made in 1944 to the James City County War Fund by the Lodge and servicemen were exempted from Lodge dues during WWII.

In 1945 the Lodge Sponsored the Scouting Program for the Toano area and received the Charter from Mr. Robert Meyers the Scout Executive.

It was also in 1945 that the Lodge collected \$1270 cash and \$700 in pledges to buy the then current Lodge Building from Bro. W.C. Martin for \$2700. Bro. L.L. Armstrong was Master at the time. The first Trustees were H. Griffith, E. Olson, and R.M. Hazelwood. Bro. R.T. Hoar made a new Level for the new Lodge.

From the minutes of the Lodge the first mention of a Ladies Night where the widows were invited is in 1948. Prior to this there were picnics, Watermelon feast and Thanksgiving meals but no mention of Ladies Night.

1949 was a busy year with discussions about using a part of the Lodge to house the Toano Fire Truck. Bro. E.S. Meanly was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge, the downstairs was used by the Ladies of Hickory Neck Church for rummage sales, and the venetian blinds were purchased for the upstairs windows.

It was in 1950 that Wore Bro. George E. Kidd presented the picture of Wore Bro. Parke Jones to the Lodge, it now hangs over the Masters Chair in the East. Parke Jones was the first Master of our Lodge. Wore Bro. George E. Kidd was the District Deputy Grand Master of the 57th Masonic District the following year. (1951)

In 1954 Right Wore Bro. C. Jennings and Bro. J.N. Hillman presented the Lodge a summary of its history up to 1954. This summary was later made a part of the 1961 published history. It was this year that the Lodge sponsored the Explorer Scouts of the Boy Scouts of America led by Bro. R.T. Hoar. They used the Lodge as a meeting place.

In 1957 the dues went from \$0.75 / month to \$1.00 / month and the Youth Center was given permission to use the downstairs store room for meetings. Bro. H. Walters offered a haircut and shave to any Brother who due to illness could not get to the Barber Shop. A new furnace had been installed the previous year and the old wood stove was sold for \$20.00.

In 1960 a joint communications was held with all four Lodges in the District to celebrate St. John The Baptist Festival, Right War. Bro. George E. Kidd was the guest speaker.

1961 was the year that the History of the Lodge was published covering 1905 to 1961 by Right Wore Bro. Clarence Jennings and Right Wore Bro. Frank E. Smith. Bro. Madison edited the history prior to publication.

1962 was a busy year for the Lodge. The Master L.R. Talley had new tile laid on the first floor, and the theater seats were given to the Lodge by the James City-Bruton Vol. Fire Department. Bro. Fred Pierce and his wife began publishing the "Chickahominy News" for the Lodge.

The present 40 cup percolator was purchased in 1963 along with a stove and refrigerator for the kitchen.

It was in 1964 while Wore Bro. Richard P. Thrall was the Master. That Bro. Etchberger presented to the Lodge a winding stair carpet that was made by Bro. H.L. Jones. Bro. R.T. Hoar presented the current Alter to the Lodge. It was built by himself, Bro. T.N. Etchberger and Bro. R.W. Hoar. The wood for the Alter came from the estate of Bro. C.C. Hoar and was furnished by Bro. P.A. Hoar. Bro. Etchberger presented the current covers for the Alter and the station officer pedestals which were made by Bro. Hinton L. Jones.

Thirty of the metal chairs we currently have were purchased in 1965 for \$4.00 each. The Lodge borrowed \$6000.00 to refurbish and repair the building. Dues were raised from \$12.00 to \$24.00 per year.

In 1966 the chairs located on each side of the Masters chair were presented to the Lodge. Bros. R.T. Hoar, T.N. Etchberger, and F.E. Smith built these chairs and Bro. R.T. Hoar did the presentation. The outside of the building was bricked by Wore Bro. Waverly S. Davis for a cost of \$1300.00. While serving as The Grand Master of Masons in Virginia Most Wor. George E. Kidd was made and Honorary Member of this Lodge.

The State paid the Lodge \$162.00 for the land taken for Route 60, the Lodge donated an additional two feet for the sidewalk. Also in 1967 the Chaplain's Apron was purchased.

Bro. Clyde Kinder presented the Lodge with the Masonic Lamp in 1968. This Lamp is the same one that illuminates the entrance to the Lodge. The driveway next to the Lodge was installed during 1968.

In 1969 Bro. E. Martin of Warwick Lodge #336 presented the Lodge with the pictures of the first Jr. and Sr. Wardens, these currently hang above the respective stations. Twenty-five dollars was sent to the Grand Lodge for flood relief.

The current electric heat was installed in 1970 and Most Wore Bro. Kidd gave the Lodge an AT&T bond worth \$100.00. Bro. Pete Matson presented a Masonic Bible to the Lodge and in 1971, the smaller Bible on the Alter was retired and Bro. Matson's Bible was displayed on the Alter. It is the same one you see today.

In 1971 while Wore Bro. Vernon Kelly was Master name plates were ordered for the Lodge members, as mentioned earlier the Bible was retired, a new flag was given to the Lodge by Garrison Funeral Home, and The Grand Master of Masons in Virginia Most Wore Charles F. Shuler visited the Lodge.

Wor. Bro. John V. Flannagan was Master in 1972 and this is when the work on the Lodge was completed with new rear steps, brick sills, grading of the parking lot and the air conditioners donated by the Yorktown Lodge were installed. Bro. D. Crisman of Sandston Lodge #216 presented the Jewels for the Jr. and Sr. Stewards to the Lodge in Honor of Wor. Bros. Fowler and Jones. Aprons for the Tyler, Jr. and Sr. Deacons, Secretary, and Treasurer were purchased by the Lodge. Mrs. Pierce donated 12 new white aprons to the Lodge. Bro. A. Huffman requested the use of the Lodge for a new church called the Faith Church, they met on the first floor until July of 1973. Bros. Pierce and Davis installed the gutters on the Lodge for \$112.00.

In 1973 Wor. Bro. G. E. Feidt of Brooklyn Lodge #454 (raised in 1942) located in Cleveland, Ohio was elected to membership in the Chickahominy Lodge.

While Right Wor. Bro. David Waltrip was Master the ceiling and panneling upstairs was completed by Right Wor. Bro. Waverly Davis with the help of several brethren. Also in 1974 material was donated by S.L. Tooley to cover the theater chairs. Wor. Bro. Fred Pierce installed the material on the chairs just as you see them today. \$100.00 was donated to the Fire Dept. for a cardiac machine.

In 1975 the red carpet was installed upstairs and on the stairs. It cost \$1334.00. Donations covered all but \$1100.00 which Wor. Bro. Fred Pierce loaned the Lodge. Bro. W.G. Chapman passed away. He was raised in 1920 with three other Chapmans who were his brothers.

Wor. Bro. James I. Holt was Master in 1976 when the Fire Escape Ladder was purchased for the Lodge. The Cherrydale Players from Cherrydale Lodge #42 Arlington, Va. performed a special program -- A Rose Upon the Alterll. A Certificate of Merit was presented to Wor. Bro. John V. Flannagan for his services to the Lodge.

The average attendance for the Lodge around this time was 13.95 members and 7.6 Visitors per meeting.

It was in 1978 that the Lodge established the George E. Kidd Memorial Fund. The fund was started with the AT&T Bond (\$106.94) that Geo. E. Kidd had given the Lodge back in 1970 and \$93.06 from the Lodge Charity Fund. The use of this fund was to be established later. Wor. Bro Fred Pierce demitted and a resolution in appreciation for his past services was sent to him.

During Wor. Master O. Lacy Allen's tenure second as master (1979) he was distinguished as th oldest member of the Lodge to ever serve as its Master. He had been raised in Chickahominy Lodge on September 20, 1935. (45 years a Mason) Mrs. Youngman donated a desk to the Lodge and Most Worshipful Mathew Lyle Lacy II the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia was received in the Lodge.

In 1980 Owens Ill. Glass Co. was given permission to use the first floor at the discretion of Wor. Bro. R.M. Hazelwood. Certificates of Merit were given to Right Wor. Bro. Waverly Davis of Chickahominy Lodge and Right Wor. James Sparrow of Yorktown #205. The Lodge was painted during this year.

In 1982 Bro. Charles N. Campbell was raised at the Alexandria Washington Lodge by Chickahominy Lodge, 49 members were present. The Cherrydale Players were again at the Lodge presenting their play.

In 1983 while Wore Bro. Gerald E. Feidt was Master the George E. Kidd Memorial Fund became the George E. Kidd Scholarship Fund. The Lodge dues increased to \$42.00 per year and the fees for the degrees were revised to; \$50.00 with the petition and E.A. degree; \$50.00 for Fellowcraft; and \$50.00 for the Masters Degree. Liability insurance was also obtained for the Lodge. Most Worshipful William Mumford Johnson the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia was received in the Lodge.

War. Bro. Bennie E. Newman as Master in 1984 established the Charity Fund at \$100.00 with all monies over that amount going to the George E. Kidd Scholarship Fund. This fund was now in excess of \$1000.00 and a certificate was purchased in order to draw more interest. War. Bro. Wayne Brady donated the portable AC unit for the Tylers Room.

1985 Wor. Bro Donald C. Hahn was the Master. During this time the carpet was purchased and installed on the first floor. Bro. W. Duer was able to purchase it from BASF at a very low cost. Wore Bros. J. Flannagan and D. Hahn each donated \$100.00 to the cost of the carpet all other donations were about \$25.00. A Certificate of Achievement was presented to Right Wore James I. Holt by Right Wor. Bro. L. K. Halverson. The first Friends and Fellowship Night was held. Two were held this year. War. Bro. John V. Flannagan was recognized by Most Wore Bro. George E. Kidd for his work in Masonry and the Lodge passed a resolution approving the Award of a Certificate to Br. Flannagan. Wore Bro. Donald Hahn was to serve as Master in 1986 and Dist. Deputy Grand Master in 1987. Bro. Bennie Newman donated and installed the cabinets that are currently in the kitchen. A new refrigerator was purchased during this year. War. Bro. Donald Hahn donated several Masonic pictures that now decorate the walls of the Lodge.

In 1987 Wor. Bro. Harvey C. Latta helped the Lodge by serving a second term as its Master.

In 1988 Wore Bro, William E. Duer was to become the Master and during 1988 and 1989 researched and compiled the History of the Lodge from 1904 to 1989. In 1988 the Lodge traveled again to the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Va. and took part in the raising of a Master Mason in the Alexandria Lodge located next to the Memorial. During 1989 lights and fence were installed in the rear parking lot by Wore Bro. R.M. Hazelwood, which has greatly improved the parking for the Brethren. The Lodge held an indoor picnic in 1988 served by the Boy Scout Troop #144 of Toano.

Interesting Notes

During the War silver tags were given to the Lodge members in the Military. The minutes do not describe the tags, but one can guess that they had a Masonic symbol and could be used to recognize a Brother.

Vernon Kelly who was Wore Master in 1971 and raised on October 25, 1966. He has held office in the Lodge 21 out of 22 years, the last 14 years in a row as Tyler.

A committee was formed in 1936 to try and buy the Bank building next door to the present Lodge, however they were not successful.

Many Secretaries have distinguished themselves in service to the Lodge. Wore Bro. Gerald E. Feidt served as Master and as an officer for 15 years, six years as Secretary.

Ralph W. Hoar also served as Secretary for six years.

E.L. Olson served for twelve years.

A.B. Smith served for twelve years.

J.G. Carlton holds the record with nineteen years as Secretary.

No Master has served as Master for more than two years. R.M. Turner came close serving as acting Master for one year in 1905 and Master in 1906 and 1907. But no one has done three in the East.

John Flannagan has served the Lodge starting in 1966 for 19 years as an officer, twelve of those as Steward.

David Waltrip starting in 1968 has served 18 years as an officer and has been the Lodge Chaplain since 1977.

Bro. Peter Matson is oldest living member of the Lodge, he is in his 90's. He resides in California.

The officers for 1989 are as follows:

WM	William E. Duer
SW	Harvey C. Latta
JW	Gerald E. Feidt
Sec.	Donald C. Hahn
Tres.	Shelton M. Adams
SO	Thomas D. Hamlett
JD	Bennie E. Newman
Tiler	Vernon Kelly
Marshall	James I. Holt

PAST MASTERS LIST

1904	Parke Jones	1941	Clarence Jennings
1905	W. M. Rich	1942	Clarence Jennings
1906	R. M. Turner	1943	E. L. Olson
1907	R. M. Turner	1944	E. L. Ol son
1908	T. S. Martin	1945	L. L. Armstrong
1909	T. S. Martin	1946	A. J. New
1910	B. H. Bowmer	1947	A. J. New
1911	G. A. Goddin	1948	C. F. Kimsey
1912	G. A. Marston	1949	C. F. Kimsev
1913	W. C. Martin	1950	F. B. Anderson
1914	D. W. Marston	1951	R. W. Hoar
1915	E. S. Meanley	1952	A. A. Mauney
1916	C. P. Ma r s ton	1953	R. M. Hazelwood Jr.
1917	J. M. Geddy	1954	A. B. Smith Jr.
1918	J. G. Carlton	1955	F. E. Smith
1919	W. H. Cowles	1956	R. R. Amos
1920	W. H. Cowles	1957	F. W. Mayfield (Fred)
1921	W. C. Marti n	1958	L. L. Walker
1922	A. B. Smith Sr.	1959	W. B. McKown Jr.
1923	B. E. Geddy	1960	W. B. McKown Jr.
1924	T. N. Marston	1961	W. E. Sheldon
1925	R. r. Wilkinson	1962	L. R. Talley
1926	C. P. Marston	1963	W. S. Davis (Waverly)
1927	Hugh Griffith	1964	R. P. Thrall
1928	O. B. Dryden	1965	J. A. Ca ll is
1929	K. L. Fitchett	1966	F. L. Pierce (Fred)
1930	B. I. Jenson	1967	O. Lacy Allen
1931	W. E. Stewa rt	1968	J. A. Knepper
1932	Clarence Jennings	1969	S. E. Shelton
1933	P. M. Pettv Rev. (died after 1st. meeting R.T.Hoar served as Protem)	1970	S. M. Adams
1934	R. T. Hoar	1971	Vernon Kelly
1935	W. E. Maxton	1972	J. V. Fl annagan (John
1936	Hugh Griffith	1973	Clayton Avers
1937	R. L. Moody	1974	D. A. Waltrip (David)
1938	E. B. Kilby	1975	A. W. Huffman (Archie)
1939	R. M. Hazelwood Sr.	1976	J. I. Holt (James)
1940	J. B. Richardson	1977	M. T. Rowe (Murry)
		1978	W. S. Davis (Waverly)
		1979	O. Lacy Allen
		1980	T. D. Chapman
		1981	H. C. Latta (Harvey)
		1982	A. W. Brady (Wayne)
		1983	G. E. Feidt (Gerald)
		1984	B. E. Newman (Bennie)
		1985	D. C. Hahn (Donald)
		1986	D. C. Hahn
		1987	H. C. Latta (Harvey)
		1988	W. E. Duer
		1989	W. E. Duer