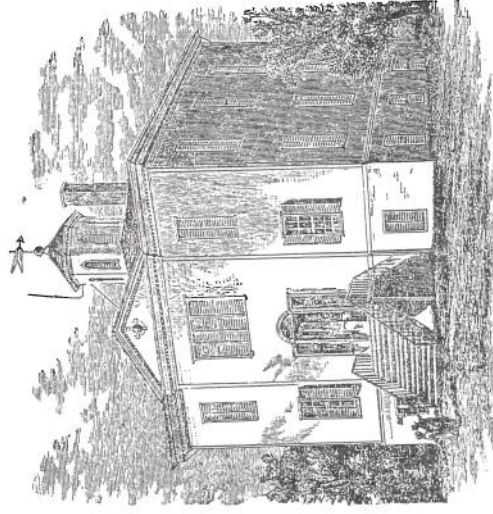


Masons' Hall, Richmond, Va.



First Building Erected in America for Masonic  
Purposes, 1785

THE LIFETIME HOME OF

Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19

A. F. & A. M.

RICHMOND, VA.

CHARTERED OCTOBER 29, 1787

GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA  
AF & AM LIBRARY  
Richmond, Virginia

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

THE MASONS' HALL

The First House Erected for and Dedicated  
to Masonic Use in America (1785)

AND OF

RICHMOND RANDOLPH LODGE, No. 19,

A. F. & A. M.

ITS OWNER AND OCCUPANT

Chartered October 29, 1787

RICHMOND, VA.

STATED COMMUNICATIONS:

Third Tuesday in Each Calendar Month  
Masons' Hall, Franklin between 18th and 19th Streets  
The Fraternity Cordially Invited



Nov 26  
1899  
H. 19  
M. 10  
P. 13

[Copy of Original Application for Charter of Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M.]

To his Excellency the Right Worshipful Edmond Randolph, Esq., Governour of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free Masons in Grand Lodge Opened, the Humble petition of David Lambert, William Waddill and John Dixon for themselves, and John McCall and the other officers of the Richmond Lodge, No. 10, for and in behalf of the aforesaid David Lambert and others humbly show

That your petitioners being Masons are desirous of forming a New Lodge, have desired the concurrence and assistance of the Richmond Lodge, No. 10, to that end, which they have been so obliging Grant, beg that you would be Graciously pleased to congregate them by Charter into a Regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons agreeable to the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge, by the title of the Richmond Randolph Lodge, and your petitioners as in duty bound, must ever pray.

W. WADDILL,  
JOHN MCCALL.

*Richmond, 29 Oct., 1787.*

The original is now framed and hangs on the walls of the Lodge room.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

BY THE COMMITTEE

As Condensed from the History of the Lodge  
Written by

Wor. CHARLES P. RADY

Historian of the Lodge  
and with Contributions by

Rt. Wor. DAVID C. RICHARDSON

1887

## Historical Sketch of Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., and the Masons' Hall

This old building, which has the distinction of being the first house erected for Masonic purposes in America, has revived an interest in and stimulated inquiry as to its origin and history. Erected by Richmond Lodge, No. 10, in 1785 (then No. 13), Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19, had jointly occupied the building with No. 10 for nearly one hundred years—up to 1878, when Richmond Lodge, No. 10, changed its place of meeting to St. Albans Hall. (No. 19, up to the present time, has met regularly in the hall for one hundred and forty years.)

The old Hall was held by the Trustees of these two Lodges, but the title to the ground on which it stood was clouded, and for a long time there was a tradition that the land had been donated, and that it would revert to the heirs of the original owners should it no longer be used for the purpose intended. Lodge No. 10, in 1883, sold to No. 19 all its interest in the property; and in order to perfect the sale, an investigation of the title has brought to light some facts which will be of interest to all Masons.

The first Grand Lodge in Virginia was assembled in Williamsburg, Va., Tuesday, the 6th day of May, 1777.

The first Lodge in Richmond was chartered December 28, 1780. Assembled at the Raleigh Tavern, and known as Richmond Lodge, No. 13 (now No. 10).

The Grand Lodge assembled in Richmond November 14, 1784. This meeting was held at the



"Lodge-room" in the city of Richmond, and Edmund Randolph appeared as the Representative of Richmond Lodge, No. 13. Where this "Lodge-room" was we can only conjecture. It may have been over some store, but it was most probably in McGuire's school-house, then next to the present site of the Masons' Hall.

#### Purchase of Lot for Hall

A building which would serve as a suitable Lodge-room, and also as a permanent location for the Grand Lodge, soon became necessary, and accordingly, on the 12th of August, 1785, Gabriel Galt sold to "George Anderson, Alexander Nelson, Foster Webb, Jr., Alexander McRobert, Patrick Wright, Samuel Scherer, and John Grooves, a committee from Lodge No. 13, a lot of ground fronting 80 feet on the back street, opposite Mrs. Warlocks," and he engaged, "under a penalty of \$500, to convey the above ground in fee simple and make a deed for the same whenever required to do so."

Steps were then taken to erect a hall upon this lot. The cornerstone was laid by Most Worshipful James Mercer, Grand Master, assisted by the officers and members of Richmond Lodge, No. 13, October 12, 1785.

#### Raising Money by Lottery

On December 27, 1785, the Legislature passed an act authorizing "the Society of Free Masons of the City of Richmond to raise, under the direction of the Common Hall [now the Common Council] of said city, a sum of money not exceeding £1,500, by way of lottery, for the purpose of erecting and completing a Free Masons' Hall in said city." The Common Hall, at a meeting held January 2, 1786, appointed a committee, consisting of John Marshall, Recorder; Gabriel Galt, Foster Webb, Jr., David Lambert, and John Beckley, to form a

scheme of lottery agreeably to the above act. The committee reported, January 9th, a scheme which was adopted, and Messrs. James Buchanan, Turner Southall, David Lambert, Edmund Randolph, Gabriel Galt, Robert Mitchell, and Foster Webb were appointed managers. This scheme for raising money did not seem to meet with much success, and at the expiration of one year the managers reported that but few tickets had been sold. To inspire confidence and guarantee the payments of prizes in *hard money*, the Common Hall, at a meeting held October 14, 1786, required the managers to give bond in the sum of \$20,000, and ordered that the money should be paid "in specie, and not in indents."

#### New Lottery Scheme

About this time the Common Hall, it appears, had abandoned the hope of raising money by the lottery scheme. There was much complaint on the part of those who had purchased tickets and the managers desired to be relieved.

At a meeting held April 13, 1787, it was

*Resolved*, That the Society of Free Masons be requested to nominate a committee to call upon the lottery managers to render an account and to receive the money for tickets sold; that they be required to give security in the sum of \$5,000, and that they (the committee from the Lodge) be appointed managers of said lottery, according to the following, which was only one-third of the original scheme."

This scheme provided for the raising of \$500 instead of \$1,500, as was at first proposed. It is probable that the building had not been raised above the first story at this time; that it was roofed over, and served as a Lodge-room and a hall for public meetings of citizens.

This first story is built of brick, and it was the

original design to erect a building of that material, but after the abandonment of the most ambitious scheme of raising \$1,500, the plan was changed; the remaining stories were constructed of wood, and the Hall, as it now stands, was fully completed December 10, 1787. And now the members of the Lodge were sorely perplexed as to how the money should be raised to pay the debt incurred. The lottery scheme appeared a failure.

The difficulty of raising money at this time is easily accounted for when we remember that, on the 9th of January, 1787, a most disastrous fire had destroyed between thirty and forty houses in Richmond, and swept away property of the value of more than \$130,000. But there were some members of the Lodge who had determined the enterprise should succeed. John Marshall came to the front to awaken enthusiasm and restore harmony. Lodge No. 13 was, in 1786, renumbered as Richmond Lodge, No. 10.

#### Richmond Randolph Lodge Organized

On the 29th of October, 1787, Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19, was chartered, with William Waddill as Master, John Dixon, Senior Warden, and David Lambert, Junior Warden. The members of the two Lodges then went earnestly to work; the remainder of the tickets in the lottery were sold, and the drawing took place in the Hall June 10, 1788, when over \$400 was realized. This amount served to satisfy the clamors of the workmen for a time, but there was still a large sum due on the building. May 28, 1791, William Booker, the contractor, filed his bill in the County Court of Henrico, praying a sale of the building for the payment to him of the balance of \$247, 18s., 2d. This sum was, however, advanced to the Lodges by Joseph Darmstadt and the suit dismissed. The Hall was now completed and the Lodges were receiving numerous accessions to their membership,

and among them were many of the most influential citizens of Richmond.

The debt which had embarrassed them was gradually reduced and several years of prosperity followed.

All the business of the Lodge was then transacted in a Lodge on the First Degree of Masonry, and a Lodge on the Fourth Degree was opened whenever it became necessary, for the purpose of raising a Master-elect to the degree of Past Master. The Steward's Committee were the almoners of the Lodge, and made regular reports at every meeting.

The annual festivals of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist were occasions of much interest, and the following extract will show how they were celebrated:

[From the *Richmond Gazette*, January 4, 1788.]

"Thursday last (December 27th) being the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the ancient and honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of Lodges in this city went in procession from their Hall, with a band of music, to the church, where their Chaplain delivered a very suitable discourse, after which they returned, in the same order; and in the evening they concluded with a grand ball."

At this time the Masons' Hall was the most popular place in the city; with the exception of the courthouse (Main and Twenty-second streets), it was the only building east of Shockoe Creek in which public meetings could be held. The large room on the ground floor was in frequent use as a place of amusement, for public and political meetings, and for religious worship. Three times a week Monsieur Capers instructed the "youth of both sexes in the most approved court dances and the latest and most popular figures and steps." Here the citizens assembled to instruct their delegates to the Convention; on the absorbing topic of



the adoption or rejection of the Federal Constitution. Here grand balls were given on the Fourth of July and also "on the 22d of February, the anniversary of the birth of the illustrious General George Washington, whose exertions, under the smile of heaven, have been productive of freedom, happiness and glory to a grateful people." Here the Hustings Court of the city was held when the General Court was sitting in the courthouse, and John Marshall as recorder was having his first judicial experience; and here, on Sunday afternoon, "dissenting ministers" proclaimed the new era of religious freedom and preached the gospel of Christ.

In 1792 the question of title to the property was agitated. Gabriel Galt had died in 1788, without having made a deed to the property, and the original trustees, with two exceptions, had died or removed from the city. At the August, 1792, term of the County Court of Henrico, the surviving trustees filed their bill in chancery against the widow and heirs at law of Gabriel Galt, praying that they might be required specifically to perform the contract of said Galt with them, and make a deed conveying the property. The cause remained on the docket until the August, 1794, term, when a decree was rendered requiring the defendants, "within thirty days, to execute a deed conveying the property to John Marshall, Joseph Darmstadt, John Moody, Alexander Yuille, Thomas Nicholson, Julius B. Dandridge, Jacob L. Cohen, Jacob Ege, John Steward, William H. Fitzwhylson, John K. Reed, John Crawford, John Dixon, and Samuel McCraw in trust for the sole use and benefit of the Richmond Lodges, No. 10 and No. 19, and their legal representatives and successors forever."

The original deed was doubtless executed, but it is no longer in existence. At that time there was much doubt as to the proper office in which deeds to property in the city of Richmond should be re-

corded. Some were recorded in the County Court of Henrico, some in the Hustings Court of the city, others in District Court, and many in the office of the General Court. It is presumed from a recital in a deed to another lot on the same square, that the deed to this property was recorded in the General Court, the records of which have all been destroyed. The record in the suit above referred to is, however, sufficient to show that Lodges 10 and 19 have an indefeasible title to the property.

This history of the old Hall and Lodge No. 19 is indeed full of interest. Patriots, warriors, statesmen and philanthropists, whose fame was not confined to one hemisphere, have been seated around its Lodge altar. From the Grand Lodge, assembled within its walls, have emanated the charters of nearly all the Lodges in the State. While it is true that the Grand Lodge had its birth elsewhere, yet here it was nourished to vigor and manhood, and the "Masons' Hall" on Franklin Street, between 18th and 19th streets, Richmond, Virginia, may justly be regarded as the cradle of Virginia Masonry.

Worshipful William Waddill was the first Master of No. 19 and commenced his administration with four members—three besides himself, viz.: David Lambert, John Dixon, Sr., and John V. Kautzman. David Lambert was appointed Secretary, and John V. Kautzman, Tiler. The remaining subordinate officers were appointed as membership was received. Wor. William Waddill's administration extended over a period of two years and was very prosperous, having held one stated meeting and ten occasional meetings during the month of December, 1787, and a total of forty-nine meetings during the two years. Twelve brothers joined the Lodge; twenty-two persons were regularly initiated, eleven were passed to the Degree

of Fellow Craft, and ten raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. During this period there were no deaths, no withdrawals, and only two persons recommended whose characters were not good and were consequently rejected.

Erection of Master's Chair in the Hall, September 7, 1791. The Lodge having agreed to the proposition for the erection of a Master's Chair and other accommodations in the Lodge room, the Master appointed Brother Crawford, Senior Warden, to inform No. 10 that the Lodge desired concurrence in the same. Lodge No. 10 concurred, and at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, October 29, 1791, the Grand Lodge resolved to pay one-third of expenses, not exceeding fifty pounds. (The chair thus erected in the Lodge is now in good condition, and used regularly by the Master of No. 19, and was purchased in England. The Grand Tiler's sword, used by the Grand Tiler of the Grand Lodge at this time was presented to No. 19 by Worshipful Brother John Dove, is now suspended over the same chair.)

At this time all the business of the Lodge was transacted in the First Degree.

September 5, 1792, the Lodge purchased ten tickets in the Richmond Lottery, gotten up to build a bridge over Shockoe Creek. They drew blanks.

On October 3, 1793, the Worshipful Master of No. 19 received a letter under seal of the Grand Lodge from Right Worshipful Thomas Matthews, Grand Master appointing Bro. William Waddill "Inspector-General of Lodges."

The first penitentiary house in Virginia was built in Richmond and the cornerstone laid on the 12th day of August, 1797 and of American Independence the XXII, by Richmond Randolph Lodge 19, assisted by the other Lodges of the city and Manchester.

The following is a copy from the Lodge Records, October 6, 1824, at a stated meeting of No. 19, held this evening at Masons' Hall, a communication was received from Richmond Lodge, No. 10, through Worshipful Brother John Dove, concerning suitable arrangements for the reception of Illustrious Worshipful Brother Lafayette. A preamble unanimously adopted appointing a committee to confer with committees of sister Lodges, and to carry into effect such measures as may be deemed by them proper for paying due respect to our illustrious brother, General Lafayette, when he shall have arrived in this city and directed the Tiler to draw upon the Treasurer for any expenses attending the illumination of Masons' Hall.

Reception, &c., to Worshipful General Lafayette Saturday, October 30, 1824. At a called meeting of Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19, held at Masons' Hall, in the city of Richmond, the Lodge was opened in the First Degree of Masonry in due form. On motion of Wor. Bro. Cabell, seconded by Bro. Ives, Worshipful Brother Lafayette was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of this Lodge. On motion of Bro. Ives, Brother George Washington Lafayette (a nephew of Genl. Lafayette) was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of this Lodge. On motion of Bro. Anderson, Brother LaVasseur was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of this Lodge. The Lodge was then called from labor to refreshments.

The Lodge, after having joined in a procession, proceeded to the Union Hotel (corner Main and Nineteenth streets) to partake of a dinner provided in compliment to Brother General Lafayette. The Lodge then escorted that brother to his lodgings at the "Eagle Hotel" (cor. Fifteenth and Main streets) and returned to the Masons' Hall and resumed labors. Wor. Bro. R. A. Carrington was Master at this time.

The signatures of all the foregoing Honorary



Members appear on the recorded By-Laws of No. 19 preceding the record of this meeting and reception (and have been inspected by thousands of Masons from all parts of the world.)

At the November 3, 1824, meeting it was resolved that the Master and Wardens of No. 19 procure appropriate certificates of membership, written on parchment, and present them to the brethren recently elected Honorary Members.

Wor. Bro. Genl. Lafayette died on 20th of May, 1834, and this Lodge held suitable memorial exercises to pay the last sad tribute of respect to our deceased brother, June 23, 1834.

The Lodge was called Thursday, July 9, 1835, to pay the last sad tribute of respect to our deceased brother, Worthy Bro. John Marshall, Chief Justice and late Most Worshipful Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The procession formed and moved to the county court-house, where they met the body, and thence proceeded to the house of the deceased, on the corner of Ninth and Marshall streets, where a suitable discourse was delivered, thence to Shockoe burial ground, where the body was interred with the usual Masonic honors. Judge Marshall was a member of No. 10. Why No. 19 buried him is not known. There is no record that No. 10 participated.

We will close this historical sketch with an impressive scene in No. 19, December 17, 1872.

At this meeting a most impressive scene was witnessed—that of initiating the grandson of our esteemed Worthy and ever useful Worshipful Grand Secretary, John Dove; (Wm. B. Isaacs, Jr., son of Wm. B. Isaacs, Sr., Past Master of No. 19). This occasion called forth feeling remarks to the time (1817) when No. 36 Lodge was amalgamated with Lodge No. 19, and some twenty or more members of No. 36 were nominated and elected members of No. 19, and returning their charter to the

Grand Lodge of Virginia. Shortly thereafter (June 24, 1820) Brother John Dove became Master of No. 19, continuing, he said: "In 1842 the father of this candidate (Wm. B. Isaacs, Sr.) became a member of No. 19, and has continued a member to this evening." Turning to the Worshipful Master, he said: "Thus, Worshipful Sir, you see what very rarely occurs, if it ever occurred in Virginia, or elsewhere, three generations in good standing, and present members of our respected Lodge, No. 19, over which a John Marshall and Edmund Randolph presided."

Then turning to his grandson (the candidate); Brother Dove explained to him the importance of keeping well in mind the impressive ceremonies he had just gone through; and, concluding, he said: "The infidel may scoff, the unbeliever sneer, the renegade denounce; yet will we strive to emulate her noble teachings, and bound by the ties of brotherly love and affection, continue on until the last setting sun sheds its golden rays upon the shaken dome of Free Masonry. But the crowning commentary on this word 'brother' and the inestimable value of its relations to society is to be found in the august words of Him who spake as never man spake, when He said, 'Ye have heard it said of them of olden time, thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill, shall be in danger of the judgment; but I say unto you, whosoever is angry with his brother, without a cause, shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother Raca, shall be in danger of hell fire.' Thus, my brother, may we always appreciate our noble institution."

The Lodge was one hundred years old October 29, 1887, and celebrated its centennial October 31, 1887, at 8 o'clock, Worshipful Master Judson Cunningham, Master. The Lodge history was read by Wor. Charles P. Rady (now deceased), Historian of the Lodge, and many stirring addresses made,

some of the speakers being Grand Master Drinkard, Judge B. R. Wellford, Col. Thomas J. Evans, Senator William Lovenstein, and Right Wor. William B. Isaacs, Grand Secretary, and others. And thus could we proceed with the ancient history of the ancient Lodge, No. 19, until volumes would be consumed.

Fac-simile signatures of Worshipful Brothers Lafayette, G. W. Lafayette, and Levasseur as taken from record book of the Lodge, dated Saturday, October 30th, 1824.

*Lafayette*

*G. W. Lafayette*

*Levasseur*

## RELICS AND PRESENTS

In January, 1904, Bro. W. A. Clarke, Jr., while rummaging about the hall for any relics of the past of historical value, found in the bottom of a closet three heavy brass candlesticks, or columns, each 21 inches high and of Doric, Ionic and Corinthian styles of architecture, an old Bible, and an old ballot box. The candlesticks were green with canker, and were turned over to Bro. W. A. Beard, of this Lodge (now dead), who had them cleaned and polished. He gave the opinion of expert brass moulders, who had examined them, that they were very old—at least one hundred years old (opinion given 1904), as they were probably made before the art of core-making was discovered, being cast in two lengthwise sections and brazed. The Lodge ordered them to be mounted on suitable pedestals and to be used as the burning tapers about the altar. They are fine specimens of brass work and have been much admired by the brethren. What they were used for in the past is not known, but they now serve a very appropriate purpose.

The old wooden columns or candlesticks of Doric, Ionic and Corinthian styles of architecture, originally used about the altar, are kept in the cloak room of the Lodge, though not now used. They are probably as old as the building, and from the best information obtainable were in use until 1838, when the "appropriate chandelier" over the altar, given to the Lodge by St. James Episcopal Church, replaced them.

The old Bible is in a fairly good state of preservation. The fly-leaf contains the following inscription in ink: "Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19,



August, A. L. 5795" (or 1795). This Bible was printed in "Cambridge, England, 1773, by John Archdeacon, printer to the University," and no doubt adorned the altar of old 19 for a long time in its early years.

The ballot box is rather a small one, and appears to be very old. On its sides is painted: "Richmond Lodge, No. 10, and Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19." It contained a quantity of white and black peas, which were probably used for the ballots.

The large and handsome triangular shaped brass chandelier now suspended over the altar was presented to No. 19 on May 2, 1838, by the Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church, in appreciation of the "very handsome and spirited manner in which Lodge No. 19 complied with their request to lay the cornerstone of the new church" (corner Fifth and Marshall streets, laid April 22, 1838).

On Tuesday, December 20, 1898, a motion was unanimously adopted instructing the Trustees to place on deposit with the Valentine Museum, corner Twelfth and Clay streets, this city (in trust for the Lodge), the old blue crockery which was in use in the dining-room of Masons' Hall for over one hundred years. The set consists of six large dishes, three cups, two saucers, and fourteen small plates, all that remains of the original set. They are very old and beautiful specimens of old-time blue China. There are three different patterns or designs in the set, the most beautiful being the willow-tree pattern, representing a willow tree, with a bridge in the foreground with three men on it, and is indeed a rare specimen of the old blue ware. The entire set is on exhibition at the Museum, and has been much admired by visitors from all parts of the country.

### Northern Cavalryman's Sabre

At one of the meetings of the Lodge held after the evacuation of Richmond, at the close of the Civil War, and while the city was under military control, a number of Northern soldiers who were Masons visited the Lodge. One of them wore his sabre at his side. Before entering the Lodge he divested himself of his sabre and hung it on a hook in the cloak-room. After the Lodge closed he went away and forgot his sabre, and it is still in the hall, a reminder of those dark days of civil strife. Neither the sabre or belt contains a name or anything to indicate its ownership.

When the city was under military control some of the older members of the Lodge, fearing that some harm might be done the old Hall by disorderly soldiers, waited upon the commandant of troops and asked for its protection. That officer (Gen. Godfrey Weitzel, a Mason) was pleased to grant their request, and a guard was placed at the Hall whenever the sentinels were posted, and no harm was done it. Mr. John W. Fergusson, an old citizen of Richmond (now deceased) informed the writer that he well remembers seeing the sentinels around Masons' Hall in those days.

On January 17, 1888, Brother C. W. Ragland, through the Worshipful Master, Judson Cunningham, presented the Lodge with a handsome set of Wardens' columns, which were received on behalf of the Lodge by Worshipful C. P. Rady.

On Tuesday, June 18, 1889, Brother J. M. Newell, through Wor. C. P. Rady, presented the Lodge with a very handsome set of Deacon's rods, made of walnut and jointed with silver bands, inscribed: "Presented to Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19, by J. M. Newell, 1889." Wor. Judson Cunningham accepted the rods in behalf of the Lodge. On the same evening Bro. A. B. Crowell presented the



Lodge, through Wor. Judson Cunningham, three gavels made of wood from the Libby Prison.

The Mason & Hamlin organ in the Lodge-room was given the Lodge some years ago by Bro. E. H. Fergusson.

During the administration of Wor. Judson Cunningham, Bro. (now Worshipful) Ed. E. Richardson presented the Lodge with a large steel knocker, made by himself, for the Lodge-room door. It consists of the square, compass and letter G, and the knocker is a metal gavel. The whole forms a pretty and useful ornament for the door.

Among the pictures in the Lodge-room is a photograph of His Excellency Most Worshipful Edmund Randolph, after whom the Lodge is named; a photograph of Bro. William J. Riddick, for eighteen years Secretary of No. 19; a photograph of the gavel used by Worshipful Brother George Washington in laying the cornerstone of the Capitol of the United States at Washington, and subsequently used in laying cornerstones of many important buildings in this country; and a picture of the Hon. Mrs. Aldworth, the only woman ever made a Mason. A full history of Mrs. Aldworth's life and initiation into Masonry was published in *The News-Leader*, of this city, on October 8, 1903.

Bro. P. M. Slaughter presented the Lodge with a pretty Masonic emblem, composed of beautiful minerals and metals from the Rocky Mountains, all enclosed in a neat frame.

A history of the old Hall would be incomplete without a reference to the faithful old negro janitor, Joshua Henley, or Uncle Josh, as he is familiarly known. He was over eighty years old when he died, and a genuine old-time Virginia darkey, a type of whom, unfortunately, so few remain. He became janitor in 1867 and remained until February, 1904, when he was relieved by the Trustees of active duties, given a pension by the

Lodge, and a home secured for him, in appreciation of the thirty-seven years of faithful service he rendered in taking such good care of the property entrusted to him. Although not required to do so, he came to the Hall every meeting night as long as he lived. Upon giving up his charge, he turned over to the Trustees eight massive iron keys of ancient design, which he said were given him when he took charge of the building. Most of the big locks which they fitted have been removed and modern locks with small keys substituted. The old keys will be preserved as relics of the past.

An eventful meeting was held Monday, February 8, 1909, when Wor. Leonard G. Roberts, Master of St. John's Lodge, Boston, Mass. (chartered July 30, 1733), the oldest Lodge in America, visited No. 19, to pay a fraternal visit from the oldest Lodge to this, the oldest Masonic building in America. He was accompanied by Grand Master Joseph W. Eggleston and other Virginia Grand Lodge officers. The officers of No. 19 were all clad in colonial costumes. The address of Brother Roberts was most masterly. No. 19 presented St. John's Lodge a framed picture of the Hall and a set of working tools made of wood taken from the building. The fraternal relations thus established between these two lodges were further cemented when, on October 30, 1922, Rt. Wor. Harry N. Shepherd, Past Master of St. John's Lodge, visited No. 19, and presented it with a large and handsome silver fac-simile of the seal of St. John's Lodge, on the reverse side of which is inscribed: "Presented to Richmond Randolph Lodge, No. 19, A. F. & A. M., Richmond, Virginia, at its 135th anniversary, October 30, 1922, by St. John's Lodge, Boston, Mass."

All of the records of the Lodge, from its institution to the present time, have been preserved and are safely kept in a fireproof vault. From

them and from other sources a much better history can be written, which we will leave for a more competent historian to write.

With the hope that these sketches may be appreciated by the brethren of No. 19 and the Craft in general, we are,

Yours fraternally,

M. J. DEWITT,  
W. A. CLARKE, JR.,  
A. J. CLARKE,  
C. P. ELDRIDGE,  
Committee.

### OFFICERS FOR 1927

Wor. Alan B. Clarke.....	Master
205 N. 23d Street. Phone Mad. 926-J	
Bro. Ernest B. Smith.....	Senior Warden
John S. McGehee.....	Junior Warden
Wor. Alvo K. Vest.....	Treasurer
Seventh and Byrd Streets	
Wor. Charles P. Eldridge.....	Secretary
Bro. Wilbur Applewhite.....	Senior Deacon
Bro. Allen M. Mills.....	Junior Deacon
Most Wor. Jos. W. Eggleston	} Chaplains
Wor. W. Lance Walker	
Wor. Fred. C. Hoenninger	
Bro. James O. Hulsbeck	
Bro. Ernest H. Gernelman.....	Tiler
James H. Bagot } Louis Weinstein }	Stewards
Bro. A. W. Baker.....	Purveyor
Wor. William Newsome, Jr., Rep. Masonic Burial Sections	
Wor. Roland N. Rackett, Rep. Masonic Relief Board	
Bro. Arthur C. Nelsen.....	Rep. Masonic Home
Bro. John W. Waters.....	Rep. Masonic Class
Bro. Ernest H. Gernelman.....	Custodian of Building
Trustees	
Wor. Berkley Goode	Wor. John B. Welsh
Wor. Roland N. Rackett	

## Committees

*Steward's Committee*—Wor. D. Seva Richardson, chairman; Bros. Jos. B. Welsh, W. C. Germelman, H. B. Pitts, Wm. T. White, W. D. Terrell, J. E. Woody, E. L. Pitts, J. V. Tuck, L. H. Blanton, Henry Weinstein, A. H. Lane, H. C. Clarke.

*Committee on Sick*—Wor. A. J. Watkins, Wor. Montie J. DeWitt, Wor. William Newsome, Jr.

*Committee on George Wright Memorial Fund*—Wor. William Newsome, Jr., chairman; Bro. John T. Kernodle, secretary and treasurer.

*Committee on Floor Work*—Wor. D. Seva Richardson, Otey C. Cook, Jas. H. Bagot, J. H. Waters, E. L. Pitts, William Newsome, Jr.

*Reception Committee*—Rt. Wor. Wm. A. Clarke, Jr., Wor. John B. Welsh, Wor. Alvoy K. Vest, Wor. Berkley Goode, Wor. Andrew J. Watkins, Wor. Montie J. DeWitt.

## PAST MASTERS

1. \*William Waddill.....1787 to 1789
2. \*Jacob Ege.....1789 to 1793
3. \*John K. Read.....1793 to 1795
4. \*Jacob Ege.....1795 to 1796
5. \*Meyer M. Cohen.....1795 to 1796
6. \*John Dixon.....1796 to 1797
7. \*William H. Fitzwhylsonn.....1797 to 1799
8. \*Eldridge Harris.....1799 to 1800
9. \*Leighton Wood.....1800 to 1801
10. \*Humphrey Dabney.....1801 to 1802
11. \*William H. Fitzwhylsonn.....1802 to 1804
12. \*Solomon Jacobs.....1804 to 1807
13. \*William D. Wren.....1807 to 1808
14. \*William H. Fitzwhylsonn.....1808 to 1809
15. \*Thomas Diddep.....1809 to 1810
16. \*William D. Wren.....1810 to 1811
17. \*William H. Fitzwhylsonn.....1811 to 1819
18. \*Joseph A. Meyers, Sr.....1819 to 1819
19. \*George Cabell.....1819 to 1820
20. \*John Dove.....1820 to 1821
21. \*George Cabell.....1821 to 1822
22. \*John G. Williams.....1822 to 1823
23. \*Blair Bolling.....1823 to 1824
24. \*Richard A. Carrington.....1824 to 1826
25. \*John G. Williams.....1826 to 1828
26. \*John A. Carrington.....1828 to 1830
27. \*Joseph A. Meyers.....1830 to 1832
28. \*William F. Lee.....1832 to 1834
29. \*John Dove.....1834 to 1836
30. \*Richard O. Haskins.....1836 to 1840



31. *Thomas U. Dudley.....	1840 to 1841
32. *Edward S. Gay.....	1841 to 1841
33. *James Evans.....	1841 to 1844
34. *Thomas Tyrer.....	1844 to 1845
35. *John McConnell.....	1845 to 1847
36. *John Dove.....	1847 to 1848
37. *Richard O. Haskins.....	1848 to 1850
38. *William B. Isaacs.....	1850 to 1853
39. *William C. Tompkins.....	1853 to 1854
40. *John C. Page, Jr.....	1854 to 1856
41. *John Poe, Jr.....	1856 to 1858
42. *John W. Bransford.....	1858 to 1859
43. *William T. Allen.....	1859 to 1862
44. *Robert T. Reynolds.....	1862 to 1864
45. *John Latouche.....	1864 to 1866
46. *Julius A. Hobson.....	1866 to 1868
47. *James R. Dowell.....	1868 to 1871
48. *Norton R. Savage.....	1871 to 1873
49. *William Hall Crew.....	1873 to 1875
50. *George F. Keese.....	1875 to 1877
51. *Charles P. Rady.....	1877 to 1879
52. *R. H. Duesberry.....	1879 to 1881
53. *B. F. Howard.....	1881 to 1883
54. *R. C. Fletcher.....	1883 to 1885
55. *Charles A. West.....	1885 to 1886
56. *James H. Allen.....	1886 to 1887
57. *Judson Cunningham.....	1887 to 1889
58. *John E. Epps.....	1889 to 1891
59. *Edward E. Richardson.....	1891 to 1893
60. *H. F. W. Southern.....	1893 to 1894
61. *Charles W. Ragland.....	1894 to 1895
62. *N. Thomas Mosby.....	1895 to 1897
63. *Berkley Goode.....	1897 to 1899

64. Richard N. Goode.....	1899 to 1901
65. *T. Nelson Durvin.....	1901 to 1903
66. Alvoy K. Vest.....	1903 to 1905
67. William A. Clarke, Jr.....	1905 to 1907
68. John B. Welsh.....	1907 to 1909
69. Charles P. Eldridge.....	1909 to 1911
70. William A. James.....	1911 to 1913
71. D. Seva Richardson.....	1913 to 1915
72. George B. Davis, Jr.....	1915 to 1916
73. Marcus W. Estes.....	1916 to 1917
74. John Taylor.....	1917 to 1919
75. William E. Sullivan.....	1919 to 1920
76. R. N. Rackett.....	1920 to 1921
77. Joseph E. Robinson.....	1921 to 1922
78. Andrew J. Watkins.....	1922 to 1924
79. William Newsome, Jr.....	1924 to 1925
80. Clifton J. Green.....	1925 to 1926
81. Montine J. DeWitt.....	1926 to 1927
82. Alan B. Clarke.....	1927 to —

(present Master)

\*Deceased.