

AW22 Lodge Anecdotes

By
RW Claude Harris, PM of the lodge
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My dear Brethren of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22:

I am writing you from Bangkok, Thailand---a country exactly half way around the world from Virginia. Presently I have my own business in television production here in Bangkok. We are doing various cultural projects for the Thai government and the private sector.

As some of you know, I have remained quite active in Freemasonry and its development here in Asia especially through the French National Grand Lodge (GLNF). Although I might be this far away, as a past master of AW22, my heart is still with you and those officers devoted to the most important symbolic lodge in our country and perhaps the world.

We now have the technology to better communicate and spread Masonic light and knowledge to each other over the entire face of the globe. I have felt like I have somewhat abandoned some of my responsibilities as a past master since my residency abroad. I therefore have requested permission from our Worshipful Master to address all of you---especially the officers of the lodge---concerning the history, traditions and customs of AW22 in periodical anecdotes. This will help me to stay in contact with the members and give I hope, some Masonic inspiration to the up-and-coming leaders of our most historic lodge.

I do not pretend to be a witness to history such as RW Godfrey or MW Don Robey, but with my work in the archives over the years, I have acquired some privileged knowledge concerning the lodge and other Masonic matters that should be of interest to all AW22 members. I also do not pretend to be the ultimate authority on any of the subjects discussed. All topics will be directly related to AW22 or it's interests.

There are endless subjects one could write about that might give insight to our members. Here are some of the topics we will be covering over the next few months---they are not in any specific order:

- What is the correct name of our lodge and how did it change over the past?
- Where are the missing past master portraits?
- What is our special relationship with AJ120?
- Aprons inside or outside the jacket in AW22?
- What is the 1942 agreement between the lodge and the memorial?
- What should an officer know about the lodge's history?
- What should an officer understand about the lodge's archives?
- What is our responsibility and relationship with the city government of Alexandria?
- Did Washington truly preside over Alexandria Lodge?
- Can the memorial close its doors to the lodge for an important reason?
- Does the lodge have access to its quarters 24 hours a day?
- Can the lodge collect money from the public when touring its rooms?
- Does the lodge have funds to buy Washington related artefacts on the open market?
- Why does AW22 use Warden Columns?
- Did President Truman wear the Washington apron?
- Is the count of the PM's of AW22 correct?
- Could the lodge move out of the memorial if it so chooses?
- Who is supposed to have access to the lodge office?

- What keys are issued to what officers?
- Does the lodge own anything stored under the front steps of the memorial?
- How many cannons does the lodge own?
- Does the lodge own the large marker at the foot of the hill with the bronze silhouette of Washington?
- Can the lodge march in the Alexandria GW parade?
- Does the lodge own the large Persian rug and why was it removed from our lodge room?
- Are there any areas of the lodge that the WM is restricted from accessing?
- Are there any areas of the lodge that the memorial is restricted from accessing?
- Which is the most valuable artefact of the lodge?
- Could a lodge relic be sold for money?
- Did the lodge ever publish a book of its history?
- Was the lodge seized during the Civil War?
- Did we always charge for the GW BD Dinner?
- Was there ever a year that the lodge did not have a GW BD dinner?
- Can the lodge be charged rent for using the Memorial Auditorium?
- Can the lodge refuse another Masonic body from using its rooms?
- What do the flags represent behind the SW?
- Does the lodge own any of the furniture in the blue lodge room?
- Is the Grand Master the "key-note" speaker at the GW BD dinner?
- Why is only one painting hanging in the lodge's blue lodge room?
- Is AW22 the only VA lodge that still issues a solid gold PM's jewel to the outgoing Master?
- Who has the PA Warrant that was returned when the VA charter was issued?
- Should the lodge minutes and records be placed in public archives and libraries for historical reference?
- Can the Master sit in the original GW chair at Charter Night if he so orders?
- Was the founding Master of the lodge, Robert Adam, a clandestine Mason?
- Why is AW22 the only lodge of the country to have free quarters in the national memorial?

Now that I have giving out some of our topics, I trust these and other anecdotes stir an interest and rekindle an enthusiasm about our beloved and historic lodge.

Neither the Worshipful Master nor I want to create a debating forum about the topics address, but if you have a valid point or correction that all the brethren should know about a subject, by all means, I am open to valid commentary. Any personal questions or comments should be addressed directly to me at charris@ksc15.th.com

Again I would like to thank the Worshipful Master and other supportive past masters of AW22 for their endorsement and blessing.

Fraternally yours,



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