

AW22 Lodge Anecdotes
by
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Internet Edition
July 28, AL 6000 AD 2000

Past Masters' Portraits

As with most modern Masonic lodges, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 honors their former leaders with a photographic portrait displayed in the anteroom of the lodge. Until the mid 1980's, these portraits were mounted in the Tiler's area and took up space on three sides of the room. There were two types of frames used for the portraits: black and gold. A black frame indicated that the former Master was deceased, and a gold frame indicated he was living. This system was begun many years ago when the lodge met at Alexandria City Hall. In fact, more than half of the portraits displayed were transferred from city hall to the memorial when the lodge moved into its new quarters in the mid 1940's. As years passed, it was realized that space was running out in the Tiler's room, and the lodge had to find another area for future portraits. As with so many other issues, nothing was done to resolve this foreseeable problem, and the lodge found itself with no place to hang past master portraits.

At that time, Worshipful O. Lloyd Onion was Chairman of the Archives Committee / Lodge Representative to the GWMNMA, and Worshipful Harold R. Cumbee Lodge Archivist. It was these two devoted men that explained to me about the portraits and their history.

After I became Lodge Archivist in 1988, Worshipful Onion told me he had pressed the GWMNM Association for several years to have a secure display case made so the past masters' jewels could be placed on public exhibit. This was long overdue, as the lodge's leadership had promised the past masters' families if they returned their jewels, they would go on display. He explained that in accordance with the 1942 agreement (more about this important document and the PM Jewels of AW22 in future anecdotes), the memorial was clearly responsible for furnishing the materials needed to construct a secure display case. He said the lodge had never paid for any furnishings it used in the memorial, and he therefore could not set a precedent where the lodge would start absorbing costs in such matters. With the arrival of a situation where there was no space left for additional portraits, he then had to confront this two-fold problem with the GWMNM Association.

It was Worshipful Edward J. Gondella, Past Master of AW22 and Executive Secretary of the GWMNM Association who explained the delay in furnishing an area and materials was based strictly on a lack of finances. The age-old reason he explained was high maintenance costs of the memorial. He said his predecessor had indeed helped increase the GWMNM Endowment Fund with his economies, but the memorial now found itself in disrepair and new projects such as a past masters' room had to be delayed. He told me it was he, when funding was made available, who helped pass a project where the old cloakroom situated off the anteroom of the lodge, would be transformed into a past masters' area where both jewels and portraits could be exhibited.

As a result, and with approval of the project by the lodge, we now display these past masters' portraits in a special room called *The Past Masters' Gallery*. We all know this gallery is located off the anteroom of the lodge room, but how many of you have recently stopped in for a moment to look at the portraits of our former leaders?

During my training period as archivist, Worshipful Harold Cumbee stated that in the old days, the Tiler of the lodge was responsible for the portraits. When a past master died, it was the Tiler that had to go out and buy a black frame to replace the gold one. But after moving to the memorial, the archivist took on more and more "handyman" responsibilities. Worshipful Cumbee also said there was a problem regarding the two different colored frames when he started

transferring portraits into the new room. The way the mountings were designed, one would have to unscrew an end and then slide out as many as thirteen portraits to remove and change a frame from gold to black. It was therefore decided that instead of two colors, only black would be used and gold foil stars would be attached to the portraits of living past masters. Harold said this was not the best solution, but when a former Master passed away, all he had to do was remove the stars from his portrait avoiding the difficulty of demounting a row of frames.

After the transfer, Worshipful Gondella told me that with the amount of spotlights needed to brighten all four walls of the room, the temperature became intolerable. He therefore had to install a ceiling fan to help with the heat generated from the lights. If one visits the room, you will notice there are no wooden or paper objects on display. This is because of the hot and dry environment, which can't be avoided. Consequently, I changed all the objects in the room to those that could not be damaged by low humidity and high temperatures.

If one will look closely at the portraits from the 1920's to the 1960's, they tell in part, the history of photography. These portraits are works of art, made with pure silver in their development and have a life of three to five hundred years plus. After the 1960's one can notice the quality of the portraits decrease dramatically. This was the period of the new Polaroid camera and high-skilled portrait making seemed to decrease in popularity. These photos have a life expectancy of only one hundred to two hundred years because of the paper and chemicals used in the "fast processing" techniques. Those of the 1950's and before are especially important. The classic approach of focusing closely in on the eyes make the subjects seem to look right at you. Additionally, lighting emanating from behind the head in certain portraits give a sacred and almost religious aspect to the subject.

It was with Brother Arthur Pierson, our now famous lodge photographer, who explained many of the above facts. I asked him if we could return to the quality of photography produced in the 1950's. He was pleased to hear that someone was interested in quality photography and replied that he could not only reproduce what was done in the 1950's, but could imitate the tight focusing techniques. I asked if there was pure silver used in his processing, and he told me that indeed there was, and he likewise would use only the best materials available. Consequently, I informed the then Worshipful Master Jack Canard, if he would like this standard of quality. He and I both agreed that it was important these portraits be of the highest quality possible, as they will be on display as long as the memorial stands. Accordingly, with the Canard portrait, the lodge returned to the high standard of portrait making found in the 1950's. It was also confirmed that the lodge pay for the portrait to be displayed in the gallery, but any other additional prints were at the expense of the individual Master. One should note there are only two portraits that have non-glare glass: Worshipful William A. Jones and Worshipful Granville C. Canard, Jr. who paid the additional cost for this added element. All portraits remain in black and white not only to retain uniformity, but also because pigments in color photography fade over time.

As Lodge Archivist, one of my many duties was to complete the gallery by locating missing past masters' portraits. I admit I failed in this endeavor, because I was overwhelmed in transforming the Archives Storage Room into a secure, acid-free and humidity-controlled environment (Did I fail here too?). In any case, Harold explained to me I should not forget this duty. He said he had found several paintings locally, (Civil War period) which were indeed former Masters of our lodge. As a result, they were reproduced and placed in the gallery.

In concluding, I would like to list all the Past Master's of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, (new corrections have been made) with an indication of those who have no portrait on display. We need assistance in locating images of these men, and I would like to request all the members to assist in this endeavor. All these absent men have descendents, and even though most missing are from the nineteenth century, they too have a right to have their likeness on display within the nation's only national Masonic memorial---our lodge's home.

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Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22
Past Masters' Gallery
Portrait Listing
July, AL 6000 AD 2000

Lodge No. 39
Alexandria, Virginia

Warranted by
The Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
under
The "Ancient" Grand Lodge of London, Great Britain
February 3, 1783

1. Robert Adam	1783 – 1786	No portrait
2. Robert McCrea	1787	No portrait
3. Elisha Cullen Dick	1788	Portrait displayed

Alexandria Lodge, No. 22

Chartered by
The Grand Lodge of Virginia
April 28, 1788

1. George Washington	1788 – 1789	Portrait displayed
2. Elisha Cullen Dick	1789 – 1795 & 1797 – 1799	Portrait displayed
3. James Gillis	1795 – 1797	No portrait
4. George Deneale	1799 – 1805	No portrait

Alexandria Washington Lodge, No. 22

Resolution adopted by
The Grand Lodge of Virginia
December 9, 1805

1. George Deneale, PDDGM	1805 – 1812, 1817	No portrait
2. Thomas Sanford	1813	No portrait
3. William Paton, Jr.	1814 – 1815	No portrait
4. Thomas Semmes	1816, 1818 – 1820, 1824 – 1825, 1830 & 1832 – 1833	No portrait
5. Samuel Snowden	1821	No portrait
6. William A. Williams	1823	No portrait
7. Charles Chapin	1826 – 1827	No portrait
8. Joseph Eaches	1828 – 1829	Portrait displayed
9. James Cloud	1831	No portrait
10. John Adam	1834	No portrait

11. George H. Smoot	1835	Portrait displayed
12. Joseph Nevett *	1836	No portrait
13. Robert T. Ramsey	1837	No portrait
14. James Irwin	1837 – 1843	No portrait
15. W. Reuben Johnson	1844 & 1848	No portrait
16. Horatio N. Steel, PDDGM	1845 – 1847	Portrait displayed
17. William Page, PDDGM	1849 & 1850	Portrait displayed
18. John B. Hancock	1849	No portrait
19. David Boyd Smith	1851	No portrait
20. Lawrence B. Taylor	1851	No portrait
21. Samuel J. McCormick	1852	No portrait
22. Franklin L. Brockett, PDDGM	1853 – 1854	No portrait
23. Charles R. Suttle	1855 – 1856	No portrait
24. J. Conway Broun, PDDGM	1856 – 1858	No portrait
25. John A. Milburn	1858 – 1860	No portrait
26. William H. Lambert, PGM	1860 – 1866	Portrait displayed
27. Edward S. Hough	1866 – 1867	No portrait
28. George E. French	1867 – 1869	No portrait
29. George R. Shinn	1869 – 1871	No portrait
30. William A. Moore, Sr., PDDGM	1871 – 1873	Portrait displayed
31. William D. Stewart	1873 – 1876 & 1894 – 1896	No portrait
32. John B. Smoot	1876 – 1877	Portrait displayed
33. J. Thomas Beckham	1877 – 1879	No portrait
34. Alfred G. Uhler, PDDGM	1879 – 1881	Portrait displayed
35. Charles E. Stuart, Jr.	1881 – 1883	No portrait
36. Frank E. Corbett	1883 – 1885	No portrait
37. Anthony W. Armstrong, PDDGM	1885 – 1888	Portrait displayed
38. Kosciusko Kemper, PGM	1888 – 1890	Portrait displayed
39. Leonard Marbury	1890 – 1891	Portrait displayed
40. John R. Chapman	1891 – 1893	No portrait
41. William M. Smith	1893 – 1894	Portrait displayed
42. William R. Purvis	1896 – 1998	No portrait
43. John T. Callahan	1889 – 1899	Portrait displayed
44. Benjamin M. Aitcheson *	1899 – 1900	Portrait displayed
45. August H. Oehlert	1900 – 1902	Portrait displayed
46. J. Fred. Birrell	1902 – 1903	Portrait displayed
47. Robert W. Arnold, PDDGM	1903 – 1904	No portrait
48. William A. Moore, Jr.	1905	Portrait displayed
49. Leopold Reuben	1906	Portrait displayed
50. Thomas B. Cochran	1907	Portrait displayed
51. J. Edward Shinn	1908	Portrait displayed
52. Robert W. Fuller	1909	Portrait displayed
53. Charles H. Callahan, PGM	1910 – 1911	Portrait displayed
54. Edward H. Kemper	1912	Portrait displayed
55. Samuel W. Pitts	1913	Portrait displayed
56. Charles B. Swan	1914	Portrait displayed
57. Charles E. Tenneson *	1915	Portrait displayed
58. C. Page Waller, Jr., PDDGM	1916	Portrait displayed
59. William H. Charles	1917	No portrait
60. Claude W. Fletcher	1918	Portrait displayed
61. William B. Davis	1919	Portrait displayed
62. Robert A. Zachary	1920	Portrait displayed
63. Percy E. Clift, PDDGM	1921 – 1922	Portrait displayed
64. Alfred C. Moss	1923	Portrait displayed
65. C. Philip Heishley, PDDGM	1924	Portrait displayed
66. Reuben J. Schooley	1925	Portrait displayed
67. T. Wilfred Robinson, Jr.	1926	Portrait displayed
68. John T. Ashton	1927	Portrait displayed
69. W. Seldon Washington	1928	Portrait displayed
70. Charles A. Callahan	1929	Portrait displayed

71. Charles F. Swetnam	1930		Portrait displayed
72. Elnathan J. Skidmore, PDDGM	1931		Portrait displayed
73. S. Nelson Gray	1932		Portrait displayed
74. Robert S. Barrett, PGM	1933		Portrait displayed
75. Roy M. Reeve	1934		Portrait displayed
76. Clyde C. Lamond, Jr.	1935		Portrait displayed
77. Sydney C. Cross	1936		Portrait displayed
78. A. Slater Lamond	1937		Portrait displayed
79. Dallas G. Wiley	1938		Portrait displayed
80. James T. Sherier, PDDGM	1939		Portrait displayed
81. David E. Bayliss, Jr.	1940		Portrait displayed
82. John S. Biscoe	1941		Portrait displayed
83. Erdmann T. Stulz	1942		Portrait displayed
84. Robert L. Goods, Jr.	1943		Portrait displayed
85. Charles Cecil Wall	1944		Portrait displayed
86. Marvin L. Wilson	1945		Portrait displayed
87. Harry F. Kennedy	1946		Portrait displayed
88. Ivan F. Vannoy *	1947		Portrait displayed
89. Roger C. Sullivan	1948		Portrait displayed
90. Charles A. Cornell, PDDGM	1949		Portrait displayed
91. Godfrey P. Runaldue, PDDGM	1950	(Living)	Portrait displayed
92. Edward Buckmaster	1951		Portrait displayed
93. Charles L. Eisenman	1952		Portrait displayed
94. Herman C. Beasley	1953		Portrait displayed
95. Lewis A. Major	1954		Portrait displayed
96. Raymond L. Strong	1955		Portrait displayed
97. Harry C. Simpson	1956		Portrait displayed
98. Oliver Lloyd Onion	1957	(Living)	Portrait displayed
99. Glen S. Faxon, Sr., PDDGM *	1958		Portrait displayed
100. Odie R. Howell, Jr., PDDGM *	1959		Portrait displayed
101. Earle W. Griffith	1960		Portrait displayed
102. John P. Waller	1961	(Living)	Portrait displayed
103. Gene E. Smith	1962		Portrait displayed
104. Gerald R. Turner	1963		Portrait displayed
105. William H. Booth, Jr.	1964		Portrait displayed
106. William V. Parks	1965	(Living)	Portrait displayed
107. Russell E. McLennan	1966	(Living)	Portrait displayed
108. Ryon E. Pugh	1967		Portrait displayed
109. Harold R. Cumbee	1968		Portrait displayed
110. Edward J. Gondella	1969		Portrait displayed
111. Ross H. Finn, Jr.	1970		Portrait displayed
112. George E. Olifer	1971	(Living)	Portrait displayed
113. Charles B. Swietzer	1972		Portrait displayed
114. Hugh S. Smith	1973		Portrait displayed
115. Robert C. Swiger, PDDGM	1974	(Living)	Portrait displayed
116. Donald M. Robey, PGM	1975	(Living)	Portrait displayed
117. James B. Stone	1976	(Living)	Portrait displayed
118. John R. Ranck, Sr.	1977		Portrait displayed
119. Dennis C. McCraney	1978	(Living)	Portrait displayed
120. Jason W. Snyder	1979	(Living)	Portrait displayed
121. James R. Freeman	1980	(Living)	Portrait displayed
122. Robert J. Booterbaugh, Jr.	1981		Portrait displayed
123. Leo A. Sentiger, Jr.	1982	(Living)	Portrait displayed
124. Lawrence M. Callahan	1983	(Living)	Portrait displayed
125. Archibald W. Lyon	1984		Portrait displayed
126. John M. Nicholson	1985	(Living)	Portrait displayed
127. Wayne L. Gilbert	1986		Portrait displayed
128. Robert N. Pitner	1987		Portrait displayed
129. William A. Jones	1988	(Living)	Portrait displayed
130. Frederic E. Andersen	1989	(Living)	Portrait displayed

131. Wardell H. Thomas	1990	(Living)	Portrait displayed
132. Earl C. Million	1991	(Living)	Portrait displayed
133. Granville C. Canard, Jr.	1992	(Living)	Portrait displayed
134. Claude H. Harris, Jr.	1993	(Living)	Portrait displayed
135. Frank R. Dunaway, Jr.	1994	(Living)	Portrait displayed
136. George D. Seghers	1995	(Living)	Portrait displayed
137. Mark W. Underwood	1996	(Living)	Portrait displayed
138. Walter L. Margeson II	1997	(Living)	Portrait displayed
139. Philip J. Hays	1998	(Living)	Portrait displayed
140. Michael P. Bible	1999	(Living)	Portrait displayed

* Indicates a spelling or other correction made in reference to earlier listings.