



# Lodge Bulletin

May 2025



[www.AW22.org](http://www.AW22.org)

# Master's Message

Brethren,

April was an eventful time at AW22! Last month, continuing our pursuit for ritual excellence, in addition to our twice-weekly catechism and ritual practices, we participated in the William Hiram Woods Ritual School alongside our brethren from sister lodges in District 1A. A few days later, we initiated our newest brother into the mysteries of Freemasonry with an Entered Apprentice degree. Our philanthropic efforts included an incredible morning at the ALIVE! food distribution event where we were honored to greet and serve more than 200 families in our community.

The momentum continues into May, with multiple candidates and brethren preparing themselves to be initiated, passed and raised, so keep an eye out for details pertaining to upcoming degrees and opportunities to contribute towards unforgettable experiences for our new brethren. Also this month, we will visit our friends at Dale City Lodge No. 319 for the concluding session of the William Hiram Woods Ritual School, focusing on the Master Mason Degree.

As your cable tow allows, I invite and encourage you to join me on fraternal visits in the coming months. Being a traveling man is one of the greatest privileges bestowed upon a Master Mason, and an excellent opportunity for fellowship with our friends and brethren. The summer season also brings theme months to many lodges, with special menus, dress codes and programs to enjoy, so now is an excellent opportunity to advance our goal to visit to every lodge in our district.

On the education front, read on for an excellent article by Bro. Ron Craft about one of the earliest speculative Masons, initiated into the Craft 384 years ago this month, and be sure to RSVP for an enlightening discussion at the May 20 virtual meeting of the Esoteric Corner, led by Right Worshipful Don McAndrews.

With lots of opportunities to get involved, I hope to see you in lodge this month!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Phillip Adam Smartt  
Worshipful Master  
Master@AW22.org





# May 2025

*May 3*

**10 AM | Master Mason Degree  
GWMNM**

*May 8*

**6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner  
7:30 PM | Stated Communication  
GWMNM**

*May 10*

**8 AM | William Hiram Woods Ritual School  
Dale City Lodge No. 319**

*May 13*

**6:30 PM | Fraternal Visit  
Henry Knox Field-John Blair Lodge No. 349**

*May 20*

**7:30 PM | Esoteric Corner  
*Rewriting Egyptian, Jewish and Christian Histories*  
Virtual**

*May 22*

**7:30 PM | Called Communication  
Entered Apprentice Degree  
GWMNM**

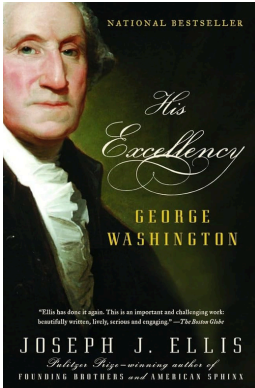
- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night (except on Stated or Called Communication nights) at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule. Please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.

# Ex Libris

## His Excellency: George Washington

Joseph J. Ellis

*Review by Wor. Adam Smartt*



“Washington's task was to transform the improbable into the inevitable.”

- Joseph Ellis

In a world that suffers from no scarcity of biographies of the man rightly lauded across the globe by freedom-loving democracies forged in the model he helped create, it is perhaps appropriate that one of the best was authored by a fellow son of Virginia.

During a field trip in his youth to the National Mall, Joseph Ellis recalls the striking difference in how our early leaders are memorialized. Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln hold court in marble temples, human faces casting a watchful gaze over our capital city, surrounded by inscriptions of lofty rhetoric offering visitors a glimpse into their hearts and mindsets and making them seem as knowable today as to their contemporaries.

The massive obelisk that anchors this American Elysium, while appropriately dominant in size and scale, offers no such glimpse into the heart and mind of Washington. Soaring, stoic and silent, Ellis suggests that this is much like our Illustrious Brother is often perceived. He is, as the author extends the analogy, like the Man in the Moon: prominent, illuminated and highly visible to all, but personally unknowable and perpetually out of grasp.

In *His Excellency*, Ellis masterfully abstains from forcing an incredibly complex character into a one dimensional mold.

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# Ex Libris

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In a page-turning narrative that documents a life - and a nation - in constant evolution, we see Washington much like the treasured portrait by William Williams: as he was, for better or for worse, and in constant pursuit of growth and truth.

The brilliant tactician and conquering hero of the American Revolution, for example, was once an ambitious young Major whose actions in the Ohio Valley arguably sparked - or at least fanned the smoldering embers of - a brewing war. The physically awkward and tremendously shy teenager later blossomed into a towering, graceful physique who was equally renowned as a superior horseman as he was a highly sought after dance partner. The emotional, eloquent orator whose impassioned plea to mutinous officers on the verge of a ruinous coup concealed a lifelong, and largely successful, struggle to marshal tempestuous emotions and furies. Perhaps most importantly, is the lifelong civic and spiritual evolution of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginia plantation owner who was born into the deeply embedded, tragic reality of slavery but who, often through the counsel of his Masonic brethren, began to realize that the moral arc of the universe must bend toward justice.

Overall, the strength of Ellis' work is in viewing Washington's life not only in so many ways as a cultural pioneer without past precedent to rely on, but through the dual lens of modern sensibilities as well as the realities, social mores and cultural expectations of a soldier, commander and citizen navigating the infancy of our nation.

# Perspectives of the Craft

## **Sir Robert Moray and His Influence on the Craft**

Brother Ron Craft

Junior Warden, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No.22

384 years ago this month, Sir Robert Moray was initiated into Freemasonry, making him one of the earliest known speculative Freemasons. Moray's life was remarkable and complex: he was a Scottish aristocrat, military officer, spy, prisoner of war, scientist, engineer, and a Rosicrucian with deep interests in alchemy and esoteric philosophy. Moray was also a founding member of the Royal Society which promoted science, inquiry, and intellectual merit regardless of class or background. The society emphasized tolerance, truth, and a devotion to knowledge. Moray served as the Society's first President when it held its inaugural meeting in November of 1660. In honor of his leadership, the Royal Society still convenes annually on Saint Andrew's Day—November 30th.

On May 20, 1641, Sir Robert Moray was initiated into Freemasonry by members of the Lodge of Edinburgh. At the time, Moray was serving in the Scottish Army as Quartermaster General during the Bishops' Wars, a series of conflicts that formed part of the larger British Civil War and ultimately led to the temporary overthrow of the monarchy. Remarkably, Moray's initiation took place on English soil, while the Scottish army occupied the city of Newcastle in northern England. This initiation was significant for several reasons. The Lodge of Edinburgh was an operative stonemason's lodge whereas Moray was nobility and a high-ranking officer. The Masons of Edinburgh lodge were attached to the Scottish army and performed construction and engineering duties comparable to the duties performed by today's US Navy Seabees or Army Corp of Engineers. The exact reason for Moray's initiation remains unknown, but educated speculation

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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suggests that the lodge's esoteric focus may have appealed to him. Governed by the Shaw Statutes of 1598 and 1599, Scottish lodges were not trade unions or relief societies; rather, they often functioned as secretive groups with philosophical and Hermetic interests. Given Moray's fascination with symbolism and mystical thinking, such a lodge would have been a natural fit.



As part of his initiation, Moray received the Mark Master degree; a common practice in Scotland at the time and still observed today by York Rite Masons. What sets Moray apart is the depth of thought he invested in creating his personal Mark or sigil. Moray's mark was a pentacle drawn with interwoven lines that passed over and under one another with no discernible beginning or end. This, he explained in a letter to a friend, was meant to symbolize infinity, akin to the circle or the ouroboros.

Encircling the pentacle were the Greek letters spelling "Agapa," a reference to "Brotherly Love." Moray was so proud of this mark that he used it to sign nearly all of his correspondence throughout his life. Though he did not frequently attend lodge meetings, Moray remained committed to the values of Freemasonry and often spoke of its importance. His pride in being a Freemason was personal, philosophical, and enduring.

After a period of exile on continental Europe, possibly related to espionage work, Moray returned to England following the restoration of the monarchy.

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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Welcomed back by King Charles II, with whom he was personally acquainted, Moray was appointed head of the Palace of Whitehall laboratory in Westminster. Among the many experiments Moray oversaw or conducted, two stand out. First, he attempted to develop a cure for the Black Plague, which ravaged London in 1665. Second, he undertook an alchemical experiment to extract lead from ore and convert it into silver. He reported partial success and shared his findings with the Royal Society, blending the mystical and the empirical in ways that were typical of the time.

While information about Moray varies, the most authoritative source can be found in *The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century 1590–1710* by David Stevenson. Another excellent resource is a YouTube presentation by Brother Robert Cooper titled *Sir Robert Moray and the Royal Society: The First Speculative Freemason in England*. As one of the earliest known speculative Freemasons and a renaissance man in the newly emerging Enlightenment Period, Sir Robert Moray's influence cannot be overstated. He was a man of profound vision at the intersection of mysticism and science, secrecy and scholarship. Moray was proud of being a Freemason, telling nearly every one he knew of its values. His devotion to the ideals of Freemasonry—particularly Brotherly Love, Infinity, and the pursuit of Truth—continues to resonate centuries later.



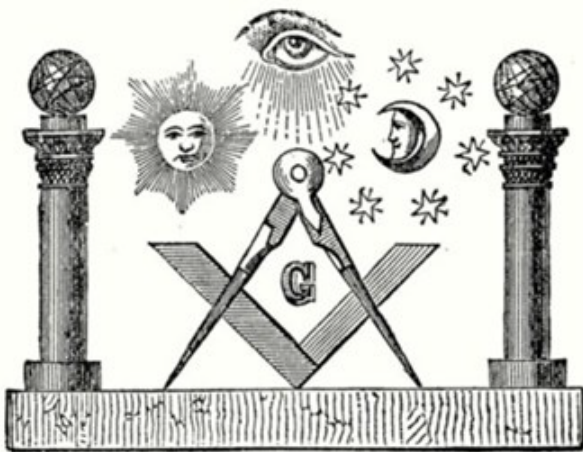
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# Bill of Fare

May 8

## Entrée

Chicken Tacos

Beef Tacos

## Sides

Black Beans

Cilantro Lime Rice

Chips & Salsa

Salad

## Dessert

Assorted Cookies

*Suggested Donation: \$10*

Please RSVP to [reservations@AW22.org](mailto:reservations@AW22.org)

# Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Frank Lee Ballenger, III, May 22, 58 Years

Bro. Donald Smith Kenney, May 22, 58 Years

RW Donald Leo McAndrews, May 22, 55 Years

Bro. Richard Robert McElwee, May 1, 50 Years

Wor. Alton Levern Miller, Jr., May 14, 50 Years

Bro. John Joseph Cornell, Jr., May 17, 49 Years

Bro. Charles Albert Gorton, May 12, 48 Years

Bro. Arthur Vincent Smith, May 12, 46 Years

Bro. A. Vincent May, May 19, 46 Years

Bro. Arthur Willard Pierson, May 1, 44 Years

Bro. Charles Leander Moore, Jr., May 29, 39 Years

Bro. James Robertson Kent, Jr., May 27, 38 Years

Bro. Jaques Jean-claude Bret, May 29, 35 Years

Bro. Philip Grant Graessle, II, May 6, 34 Years

RW Mark Wayne Underwood, May 11, 33 Years

Bro. Chester Claude Cook, May 23, 33 Years

Bro. Conor Torquil Sinclair, May 15, 26 Years

Bro. Wade Stuart Alexander, May 15, 25 Years

Bro. Thomas Lee Ammazzalorso, May 16, 20 Years

Bro. Ferdinand Charles Petito, May 21, 18 Years

# Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. David Scott Shaver, May 21, 18 Years

Bro. Richard Kern Salazar, May 17, 17 Years

Bro. Phillip John Ferraro, May 14, 13 Years

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano, May 16, 12 Years

Bro. Arash Aaron Habibipour, May 21, 6 Years

Bro. Nathan Dean McGillis, May 19, 4 Years

Bro. Haroon Rahimi, May 11, 3 Years



# 2025 Lodge Officers

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Wor. Phillip Adam Smartt - Worshipful Master

*Mobile: 423-505-7704 Email: Master@AW22.org*

Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Senior Warden

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr. - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. David Gabriel Bella, PM - Secretary

*Phone: 757-656-1838 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22301*

Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton "Jack" Canard, Jr, PDDGM - Secretary Emeritus

Bro. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Senior Deacon

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - Junior Deacon

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Chaplain

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Senior Steward

Bro. Brian Mark Williams - Junior Steward

Bro. Jon Edward Wulfekuehler - Marshal

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

## Board of Trustees

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Wor. James Berkley Stone, PM - 2025

Wor. Jesse T. McMahan, V, PM - 2026

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano - 2028

Bro. Paul Edward Konschak - 2029

## Living Past Masters on the Rolls

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1976 - James B. Stone

1991 - Earl C. Million

1992 - Granville C. Canard, Jr. PDDGM

1995 - George D. Seghers, PDDGM

1996,18 - Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM

1997 - Walter L. Margeson, II

1998 - Philip J. Hays

1999,17 - Michael P. Bible, PDDGM

2000 - Terry L. Gigure

2001 - Brent N. Campbell

2002 - Daniel M. Clark, PDDGM

2003 - James M. Stevenson

2004 - Frank S. Skwirut

2005 - Jesse T. McMahan, V

2006 - Thomas G. Little

2009 - Heber C. Willis, III

2011 - John P. Olson

2012 - Michael L. Bailey

2013 - Joshua D. Adler

2014 - Robert T. Weston

2016 - Stephen J. Pezzetti

2019 - Nikola N. Nikolov

2020 - Daniel E. Froggett

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella

2024 - Nelo A. Hamilton, Jr.