

A Brief History of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No 22, A. F. & A. M.;
Of its first Worshipful Master, General George Washington;
Of its priceless heirlooms contained in its Museum, and a guide thereto.

HISTORY.

George Washington was initiated into Masonry in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M., of Fredericksburg, VA., November 4, 1752, receiving his Second Degree, March 3, 1753, and his Third Degree, August 4, 1753, and upon the institution of a Masonic Lodge in Alexandria, VA, in 1783, he was elected to honorary membership in old Alexandria Lodge No. 39, (now Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22) on June 24, 1784.

It was not until September 2, 1782, that the first steps were taken to organize a Masonic Lodge in the City of Alexandria by Robert Adam, Esq., Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, and others, by presenting a petition to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a charter. The charter was granted February 3, 1783, and on February 25, 1783, was held the first communication of the first Masonic Lodge in this City. It was known as Alexandria Lodge No. 39, under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

In 1788 the Brethren desired to change their fealty from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to that of Virginia (the latter Grand Lodge having been organized during the Revolutionary War), and as a result, George Washington became its First or Charter Worshipful Master when the Lodge was re-organized and instituted under the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The Virginia Charter, signed by Edmund Randolph, who was Governor of the Commonwealth and Grand Master of Masons at the same time, is still our badge of authority. It is dated the 28th day of April, 1788, and after the preamble, reads in part as follows: "KNOW YE, That We, Edmund Randolph, Esq., Governor of the Commonwealth aforesaid, and Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Freemasons, within the same, by and with the consent of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, do hereby constitute and appoint our illustrious and well-beloved brother, George Washington, Esq., late General and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the United States of America, etc."

GUIDE TO CONTENTS OF MUSEUM:

1. Photostat copy of resolution petitioning the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for Charter (Original now in the Museum of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia).
2. Charter granted by Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, bearing date February 3, 1783. Lodge then known as Alexandria Lodge No. 39. This Charter is surrounded by a number of original silhouettes of the first members of Alexandria Lodge No. 39, and among others, there is one of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, one of the organizers, and its first Secretary.
3. Painting of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, first Secretary under Pennsylvania Charter. Dr. Dick succeeded General Washington as Master of Lodge No. 22. Laid corner-stone of the District of Columbia with Masonic Honors in 1791. One of the physicians at Washington's bedside when he died, and gave Washington Masonic burial in 1799.
4. This case contains all that remains of a 2,500 piece banquet set which came from England in 1815 as a present to the Lodge from an unknown English Mason and admirer. In center of case is General Washington's bedchamber clock, the hands of which were stopped by Dr. Dick, Master of the Lodge, and one of the attending physicians, the moment of General Washington's death. The clock has never run since. Presented by Mrs. Washington. The three candle sticks are the original Lesser Lights of the Lodge, and were used at the corner-stone laying of the District of Columbia in 1791, the National Capitol in 1793, the Smithsonian Institute in 1847, the Washington National Monument in 1848. Were also used at Washington's funeral.
5. This case contains Washington's personal relics. In the center are his Masonic Apron, together with sash and jewel of his office, worn when Master. On either side of the Apron are his wedding gloves. The case also contains his farm spurs, black glove worn while mourning for his Mother, pearl-handled penknife, a present from his Mother, and carried by him throughout his life, his pocket compass and sun dial, cupping and bleeding instruments with which he was bled during his last illness, boot straps or garters worn at Braddock's defeat, piece of sealing wax taken from his desk after death, and last used by Washington, button cut from his coat at first inauguration, and piece of canvas cut from tent used at Yorktown in 1781, the handwriting on which is that of his adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis. These relics were presented to the Lodge by Lawrence Lewis and Captain George Steptoe Washington, nephews of the General, and two of the Executors of his will.
6. Painting of Lawrence Washington, last male member of the Washington family to be born at Mount Vernon Mansion, and at the time of his death in 1920 was an officer in this Lodge.
7. Certificate of membership in the Society of Cincinnati, dated 24th of October, 1785, and personally signed by its first President, George Washington.
8. Resolution of Grand Lodge of Virginia bearing date December 9, 1805, granting permission to this Lodge to add the name of Washington to its Charter Name, and since that date the Lodge has been officially known as Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.
9. Williams' picture of Washington, painted from life in 1794 by William Williams of Philadelphia while Washington was President upon request of the Lodge. Washington approved the likeness, as did the Committee appointed by the Lodge. It is a flesh-colored pastel, and has been pronounced by some of the foremost art critics as being of superior quality.

10. Painting of Dr. James Craik, born in Scotland in 1730, and said to be the most intimate friend of Washington. Was with Washington in every battle he fought, from Great Meadows to Yorktown, and was with both General Washington and his wife Martha when they breathed their last at Mount Vernon. Was Surgeon-General of the Continental Army, and Director of the Hospital at Yorktown. Died in 1814.
11. This old Chippendale was General Washington's library chair, and presented and used by him while Worshipful Master. Is now used only on very important occasions.
12. Masonic truncheon, or staff, presented to the Lodge in 1811 by Dr. Charles De Valengen, who stated that it had been in his family for centuries, which makes this old staff 300 years old, possibly 400. The head is that of John the Baptist, and one side contains Masonic emblems and the other Hebrew characters.
13. Original charter of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, dated April 28, 1788, bearing General George Washington's name as Charter Master, and under the seal of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Signed by Edmund Randolph, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia and Governor of the Commonwealth at the same time.
 The little silver trowel with ivory handle in this case was used by General Washington, while President, in laying the corner-stone of the National Capitol, September 18, 1793. It was also used in laying the corner-stone of the Smithsonian Institute and the Washington National Monument. President Roosevelt used it when laying the corner-stone of the new Masonic Temple on 13th Street, Washington, D.C. It was also used to lay the corner-stone of the Scottish Rite House of the Temple on 16th Street, Washington, and President Coolidge used it when he assisted in laying the corner-stone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in this city. President Coolidge assisted in that ceremony by virtue of his office as President of the United States.
 In this same case are also the original plumb, square and level used at the corner-stone laying ceremonies of the National Capitol. Also the old wax impression seal of the Lodge, used until a more modern device was procured. You will also notice the old charter case, in which the Charter was kept from 1788 to 1895, when it was removed and placed in the frame as you now see it.
14. Painting of Edmund Randolph, born at Williamsburg in 1753, died 1813, and before becoming of age was disinherited by his Father for espousing the cause of the Colonies. At age of 22 was Aide to General Washington. Governor of Virginia in 1786 and 1788. Member of Convention that framed the Constitution of the United States, Attorney-General and Secretary of State in Washington's Cabinets, and as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1788 signed the charter of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 constituting General George Washington as its first Worshipful Master.
15. Among other relics in this case, the most interesting are front door key of the French Bastile, presented to the Lodge by General Lafayette in person on February 21, 1825, at which time he was presented with a certificate of honorary membership in the Lodge. Blue sash running through the handle was worn by General Lafayette on this occasion. Gavel and box in lower left hand corner made from wood from the Washington Elm, at Cambridge, under which Washington stood when he took command of the Continental Army. Resting on top of this box is a piece of the Plymouth Rock.
 In upper right hand corner is a large square, used in squaring the cap-stone of the Washington National Monument, and in the lower left hand corner of the case, is a piece of the cap-stone.
 Immediately beneath the square is Dr. Dick's Masonic Apron, worn while Master of the Lodge, also when he officiated in laying the corner-stone of the District of Columbia, and at Washington's funeral.

16. Painting of Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax Baron of Cameron, of Greenway Court, Va., born in England in 1690, and emigrated to Virginia in 1743. In 1749, together with Lawrence Washington, half brother of George, William Fairfax, Gerard Alexander, John Carlyle and others, he founded the city of Alexandria. Painting was executed in London in 1730 by the world renowned artist, Sir Josiah Reynolds, and is the only original portrait of the famous old Baron extant. The British Government secured permission from the Lodge several years ago to have a copy made, which now hangs in the House of Lords. Lord Fairfax died in 1781.
17. Painting of Marquis de Lafayette, executed in 1784 by Charles Wilson Peale, and presented to the Lodge by an English admirer. It shows the Marquis in the uniform of a Continental General Officer at the age of twenty-seven.
18. Painting of Washington by C.P. Polk, said to be a cousin of Charles Wilson Peale, and is considered of great value.
19. Steel engraving of Louis XVI of France, showing the Monarch in his coronation robes, presented by the King to General Washington.
20. Three autograph letters of General Washington, the center one being a reply to a letter of felicitation from the Lodge on his safe return from the war. It is dated "Mount Vernon, 28th December, 1783" and is addressed in the lower left hand corner to "Robt. Adam, Esq., Master, [Wardens] and Treasurer of Lodge No. 39." It reads as [follows:]
 "Gentlemen: with a pleasing sensibility I received your favor of the 26th, and beg leave to offer you my sincere thanks for the favorable sentiments with which it abounds. I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render service to Lodge No. 39, and in every act of brotherly kindness to the members of it, being with great truth. Your affect. Brother and obed. Servant, G. Washington."
21. Painting designated the "Master's Carpet," executed by John G. Chapman, member of this Lodge, and presented to the Lodge by him in 1825. One of Chapman's most celebrated works is the Baptismal scene of Pocahontas in the rotunda of the United States Capitol at Washington.
22. Painting of Charles H. Callahan, Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, an honored member of this Lodge, and author of "Washington the Man and Mason," and other historic works.
23. Dueling pistols of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, presented to the Lodge in 1921 by his Great, Great Grand Niece, Miss Etheline Crisfield of Philadelphia.
24. Painting of Dr. Francis de Valengen, an eminent Mason and Physician of London. Executed in 1740, and presented to the Lodge by his son, Dr. Charles de Valengen of Fairfax County, Va., in 1812.
25. Steel engraving of Washington by Sulley.
26. Chart of Masonic up to and including Royal Arch. Presented to the Lodge in 1807 by John W. Brook.
27. and
28. Paintings of Washington and Lafayette, being copies of the originals which hang on each side of the Speaker's Rostrum in the United States House of Representatives, except that these have the Masonic regalia added. Painted in 1840 by Albion Hurdle, for the Lodge, who was also a member thereof.
29. Flag of General Washington's Life Guard, which was carried throughout the Revolutionary War.
30. In the Tiler's Room, hanging on the wall facing towards the Lodge Room, are two cavalry sabers. These swords were placed on Washington's casket by Bro. John C. Kempf, Tiler of the Lodge, at the time the body was borne from the Mansion to the tomb during the funeral ceremonies.

31. In the Smoking Room, adjacent to the Lodge, is a picture of Eleanor (Nellie) Custis, adopted daughter of Washington, and grand-daughter of his wife Martha. Painting badly damaged by fire in 1871.
32. In the Smoking Room. Painting of Miss Betsy Fauntleroy, boyhood sweetheart of Washington, and spoken of in one of his letters as the "Lowland Beauty." Painting damaged by fire in 1871.
33. In the Smoking Room. This cabinet contains a most valuable and intensely interesting collection of original letters, manuscripts, drawings, plats, etc., and among others, there are two original autograph letters of George Washington, as well as a drawing of his handiwork of some of the farm lands at Mount Vernon.
34. In the Smoking Room. These cases contain a collection of relics, both valuable and interesting, and well worth the necessary time and attention to examine.

There is also quite a lot of original furniture scattered in and around the Lodge Room: The Altar, Pedestals of the three Stationed Officers, and Desks of both the Treasurer and Secretary, are all original furniture, and still used by the Lodge in its work. There are seventeen of the old fan back chairs in the Lodge Room that are original, and the old setteca and straight back chairs were made for the Lodge in 1802, and have been used continuously since that time. The original Bible of the Lodge, published in 1783, is now kept in the small glass case, which rests on top of the Altar.

In conclusion, The Officers and Members of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, A. F. & A. M., Alexandria, Va., trust that your visit to the Lodge [Room] has proven of interest to you, and that you and yours will have a safe [return to] your homes.