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Published Monthly At The State Capital
By Virginia Publishers Wing, Inc.

EDITORIAL OFFICES:
303 West Main Street
Phones 7-2722—7-6717

CLIFFORD DOWDEY Editor
DONNA Y. LAURINO Business Editor
JULIA GWIN AULT Associate Editor
FRANCES GORDON Managing Editor

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Please address all mail to:

VIRGINIA RECORD, P. O. Drawer 2-Y, Richmond 5, Va.

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VOLUME LXVIII

DECEMBER 1956

NUMBER TWELVE

The Man Behind the Statue

IN THE LEAD article in this issue of the VIRGINIA RECORD, there is a mention of George Washington having been proposed as first Grand Master of the Masons in Virginia, though his duties in the Revolution made it impossible for him to accept the honor. This great Virginian has been accorded so many "firsts" that he has unfortunately come across to us as lifeless as a figure in a pageant. "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen"—this is enough to dehumanize anybody.

Actually, he was by no means the first in war. As the richest planter in Virginia and strongly attached to England, the ambitious man was a most reluctant rebel. Once he assumed the responsibilities, he wrote a friend that, if he had known the conditions of the Revolutionary movement, nothing on earth would have induced him to accept the command. Nor was he a great military leader. George Washington was great in the character that was produced by his class in Colonial Virginia, and it was by this character that he carried the half-hearted and ineptly operated revolution on his back. In so doing, he grew with every responsibility shouldered and every crisis met until, at the end of the five-year struggle, he had become the greatest man on the continent.

The point of this heroic-sized Virginian is that his whole life was growth, and, quite the opposite from the impression of a figure as perfected and unapproachable as a statue, the man

Washington was self-conscious about his lacks and deeply self-aware in his determination to improve. Much that seemed stern and even forbidding in that imposing facade, which he learned to present to the world was protective coloration for his shyness and the loneliness of a generous, warm-hearted person who hungered for friendships. But even his capacity for inspiring the most binding affection in a few has been distorted by cliches so that the most fruitful friendship in American history—his and Lafayette—reaches us with none of the warmth and moving qualities that characterized the relationship between the middle-aged Colonial planter and the young French nobleman.

Indeed, even the impetuous Marquis de la Fayette is himself seen as some abstraction of the "Patriot" dedicated selflessly to "liberty and equality." Nothing could be further from the truth. When Lafayette impulsively came to America, he was a good-looking and gallant eighteen-year-old darling of fashionable Paris society. Knowing nothing of the assertion of rights made by some distant American colonies, and caring less, the romantic-minded boulevardier was intrigued by an offer of commanding troops in a foreign war against hated England. Lafayette acted on such impulse that he left behind a pregnant wife, and took boat with a hastily gathered group of other young French aristocrats who were to compose his "staff."

(Continued on page 19)

DECEMBER 1956



(Aufenger Studios)

As Christmas nears, it is a particularly appropriate time to pay tribute to Virginia's Masons who play Santa Claus 365 days a year. Men of humility, temperance and purposeful generosity, they overtly care for the aged and the orphaned children of their fraternity, but no one can know the comfort and joy they bring to the community in thousands of unsung ways. The gentleman above is the present Grand Master of Virginia Masonry. He is Judge Willis V. Fentress of Norfolk. Stories by Fletcher Cox and Dr. James N. Hillman, Grand Secretary, tell the purposes and the long history of Masonry in the Old Dominion.

The cover photo by Frank Dementi, Colonial Studios, shows St. John's Church, Richmond, which like Masonry has a history inextricably bound with the history of our state and country.

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CHRISTMAS



by
Virginia
Waller
Davis

"Genuine
Import,
Handle
with Care"

THE TINSEL-WRAPPED bundle delivered once each year for use on December 25th should be marked "*Genuine Imports, Fragile, Handle With Care.*"

Inside are all the traditions and gifts imported from strange lands and far away places that together make up the magic that is CHRISTMAS . . . Yule Logs and fragrant Evergreens, Carols and Candles, Sparkling trees and Santa Claus, Holly and the Holiest of days . . . fact, fiction and fantasy from Rome and Egypt, England and France, Ireland and Italy, Scandinavia and Switzerland, Germany and Greece, Holland and, from the little Town of Bethlehem in Judea, the greatest gift of all, on a starlit night many centuries ago.

They must be handled with care for some of these are very, very old and easily shattered. Some can only be seen with the shining eyes of children, and all require handling by understanding hearts that none of their elusive qualities (known as "the Christmas spirit") be lost and that the whole picture of Christmas falls into place: . . . the stillness and beauty of Christmas Eve . . . candle-lit churches, fragrant with evergreens, echoing to "Silent Night, Holy Night" . . . children tiptoeing through the grayness of early dawn to find, with indescribable joy, the lumpy stockings "hung by the chimney with care" . . . Christmas trees coming alive from tip to toe with a magic all their own . . . mysterious packages beneath the tree and mounting piles of ribbons and tissue paper . . . kisses under the Mistletoe . . . Holly-wreathed doors swinging wide in welcome . . . turkey and plum pudding on the festive board . . . Yule logs on the fire . . . lights in the windows and joy in the hearts for "Everywhere, everywhere, it's Christmas tonight."

All this is the Christmas picture today because of the one gift that belongs to all Mankind . . . the infant Jesus . . . born in a Manger, while the Wise men saw his Star in the East and angels above sang the first Christmas carol "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, Peace, Goodwill towards men."

The date, *December 25th*, is very, very old . . . but unbreakable. It came from Rome . . . established in the 4th century by the early Christians to replace, for Christians, the pagan festivities customarily held at the same time around the winter solstice or Saturnalia. Before this time Christians observed January 6th, (Jesus's baptism) but since about 400 a.d. nearly the whole Christian world has observed the birth of Christ on December 25th.

The word "Christmas" isn't breakable either, but, after all, it is much newer than *the date* . . . just 918 years old! It comes from England . . . *Cristes Maesse* or *Christ Mass* and was first used about 1038 a.d., based on the same pattern as the old names for other feast days such as Michaelmas (feast of the Archangel Michael) on September 29th or Candlemas, observed on February 2nd, the Purification of the Virgin Mary.

From France comes the lilting, joyous-sounding word "Noel," from the words meaning news, and birthday.

"Yuletide" is as old as the hills but still very strong. It was the time of feasting in early Pagan days and comes from the ancient Goths and Anglo Saxons. "Yule," from the Gallic word *Giul*, or wheel . . . the turn of the year and the coming of winter and the Anglo Saxon word *Geol*, meaning feast. In the north countries of Europe the early winter period was called "Yule" almost as far back as history goes. After the harvest they counted the (*Continued on page 17*)

VIRGINIA MASONRY:

A Segment of the Universal Circle Of "Friendship And Love"

by

DR. JAMES N. HILLMAN

Grand Secretary



(Dementi Studio)

Dr. Hillman

ALL MASONS who were privileged to read the "Pictorial Essay on U. S. Masons" which appeared in the October 8th issue of *Life* were impressed, I am sure, with the "reader-appeal" and the elaborate pictorial display. The Masonic accuracy of the writer's explanations, while displaying great skill and a wealth of Masonic information, is not all that could be desired in a portrayal of the whole picture. However, the essay is well done, and with the accompanying pictures, gives to the world a graphic story of the mother fraternal organization of the world.

This article will deal with Virginia Masonry as one segment of the universal circle of "friendship and brotherly love."

Speculative Masonry as distinguished from the Operative Crafts, or builder's guilds, while stemming from those guilds, had its beginning in the City of London in the year 1717. Members of the Royal family, and representatives of the Arts and Sciences affiliated with the organization almost from the beginning. "A system of morality based on symbols and allegories" made an immediate appeal to men of high character and of official position.

IT WAS QUITE natural that the tenets of Masonry should establish an early foothold in the New World. Norfolk, which was a well established sea-port and trading center in the early colonial days, was quite naturally an ideal

location for the establishment of a Masonic Lodge. By the early 1730's, a sufficient number of Masons resided in Norfolk to create a desire for that fellowship to which they had been accustomed in the Old World. Consequently, "Royal Exchange Lodge" was reported as being in operation in 1733. There are no available records of this Lodge, but there is documentary evidence that it did exist, and from that day to the present, Norfolk and vicinity have been a fertile Masonic field. Nowhere, probably, in Virginia is Masonry more active than in Norfolk and vicinity.

Early Masonry laid much stress on at least two factors, namely, benevolence or charity, particularly to members of the Craft, and the opportunity for social fellowship among men. While the Fraternity has always opposed "intemperance or excess," there was yet a spirit of conviviality among the members of the early Lodges. After the business of the lodge had been conducted, the members would assemble, probably in an adjoining room, or tavern, and join in songs of mirth and fellowship, oftentimes inspired by the drinking of toasts to each other and to the various personages of the realm. This opportunity for a social outlet was limited in many instances to the meetings and the fellowship of the Masonic Lodge. There were no civic clubs, no organizations for the fellowship of men, and as a result, the Masonic Lodge was a social center as well as a ritualistic organization.

FREEMASONRY is not only the oldest fraternal order in America, but it is also the largest. It is claimed that the total membership today exceeds four millions. This means that one out of 12 American men over 21 years of age is a Mason. The membership in the United States is increasing at the rate of about 100,000 per year. Some of the best men in every community where there is a Masonic Lodge are found among its membership. This is as true of Masonry as it is of the Church.

The increase in membership in Virginia has been approximately 50% in the last 10 years. That is to say that some 20,000 in net membership have been added in 10 years. The number of newly-made Master Masons during that time will greatly exceed 20,000, because the net increase after deducting losses from death and other causes is still approximately 20,000. This means that Masonry is alive and on the march in the Old Dominion.

While Masonry does not accept members because of their worldly wealth or honors, but because of what is believed to be the internal qualifications of character and integrity, the leaders in civic and professional life are among its members. The first Grand Master was a distinguished member of Virginia's highest Court, and also a member of the first Supreme Court of the United States. He was John Blair, a close friend of George Washington, who was himself Master of Alexandria Lodge,

(Continued on page 25)

by FLETCHER COX

THE YEAR WAS 1733, in the Colony of Virginia. Where metropolitan Richmond of some 375,000 persons sprawls now, there stood a little more than a meager outpost—Captain William Byrd's warehouse on creek in what is now Shockoe Valley.

On September 17 of that year the captain's son, Colonel William Byrd, noted in his journal:

"... We laid the foundation of two large cities, one at the Shacco's, to be called Richmond, and the other at the falls of the Appomattox River, to be named Petersburg. . . . Thus we did not build castles only, but also cities, in the air."

Similarly, where a great body of Masonry with some 67,000 members exists in Virginia today, there was only a tenuous beginning by a few Masons in 1733.

Since that year, these earnest, dedicated fraternity members with their system of morality illustrated by symbols of stonemasonry's tools, these Masons, have brought their own well-ordered government out of near chaos and survived the crashing impact of battles of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. They have cared for their orphans, and now they care for their elderly brothers and their wives. Old Dominion Masonry has contributed to the state's system of caring for tuberculars.

Hidden from any public view is their charity work.

Virginia's Masons with their fraternal brothers in the nation have weathered a minor storm of adverse public opinion,

nurtured by a Virginian's actions and spearheaded by another man who, at one time, belonged to a Richmond lodge.

And they have watched Masons take leading roles in public affairs from George Washington's time through the present day.

As Virginia Masonry stands today, there are 335 Blue Lodges—the basic unit of the Masonic organization. These lodges confer the first three degrees of Masonry and these lodges are governed by the Grand Lodge. Masons may go higher in their fraternity, but each must retain his Blue Lodge membership. These Blue Lodges reach from Accomack County on the Eastern Shore to Lee County, Virginia's westernmost tip, and from Loudoun County in the north to the North Carolina line.



Edmund Randolph, Most Worshipful Grand Master, October 27, 1786.

Rising above the Blue Lodges, like the tines of a tuning fork, are York Rite, with its Royal Arch Chapters and Knights Templar Commanderies at the top, and Scottish Rite, with its Consistories, offering at the top the thirty-second degree. By climbing through either rite, the Mason at the top may join the shrine, which has 13,077 members in Virginia, or the Mystic Order of the Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, with 1,045 Virginia members.

Moreover, there are in this state some 31,000 persons in the Masonic-related orders of DeMolay, Eastern Star, Amaranth and Job's Daughters.

The locale of Virginia Masonry's recorded beginning in 1733 was Norfolk, then a town of perhaps a thousand people living inland from a line of

MASONRY TH

low-lying warehouses. Small as it was, Norfolk was an important tobacco and naval supply port for the growing colony, huddling close to the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay.

Among the businessmen in Norfolk were Masons, so far away from lodge meetings in England or Scotland that they could, by rules established back home, hold Masonic meetings and initiate new members. A lodge was formed, the Royal Exchange Lodge, and it comes into twentieth-century view only in vague outline, like a ship gliding through one break in a fog.

The glimpse is provided in *The Freemason's Pocket Companion*, published in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1765, and carrying a list of "regular English lodges, according to their seniority and constitution." Appearing is this reference:

"No. 172. The Royal Exchange, in the Borough of Norfolk in Virginia; 1st Thursday; Dec. 1733."

That is accepted as the beginning; and, in the following years, a handful of lodges was established as other parts of the colony grew larger.

As Americans would learn later in the eighteenth century under their Articles of Confederation, the new states would require a central governing agency. They formed the federal government. Just before that discovery, the Masons themselves decided that their expanding fraternity required a central governing agency in Virginia.

In the 44 years that followed Royal Exchange Lodge's known appearance, Virginia Masons looked to no less than five individuals who held authority over one or more lodges. These persons were the Grand Masters of England, Scotland, Ireland, Pennsylvania and America, the last of whom was in North Carolina.

One of those early lodges was in Williamsburg. Masons there held a charter which had been issued in 1773 by the Grand Lodge of England even as the old ties between mother country and colony were being broken off. Near the Williamsburg lodge hall stood the



John Blair, First Grand Master of Masons of Virginia.

COMMONWEALTH

Capitol of the colony where, in 1765, Patrick Henry had been accused of treason after telling the House of Burgesses that England's Stamp Act was a final indignity upon her colonies. In that same community, in 1775, the colonial Governor, Lord Dunmore, twice earlier had dissolved the House of Burgesses because of its pro-colonial stands. More recently he had taken the colony's gunpower from the magazine on Duke of Gloucester Street and placed it aboard a man-of-war—and then had taken refuge aboard ship himself because of threats on his life.

And there, in Williamsburg, on May 15, 1776, Virginians had resolved to instruct their delegates in the Continental Congress to declare the United Colonies "free and independent States."

That, then, was the community's atmosphere—freedom from England.

While the Revolutionary War guns roared, Williamsburg Masons decided in 1777 that there should be a sovereign Grand Master for Virginia, and a call went out to Virginia lodges to send delegates to a convention there on May 6, 1777. Attending were Matthew Phripp, a deputy from the new Norfolk Lodge which had succeeded the dormant Royal Exchange; James Kemp, a deputy from Kilwinning Port Royal Crosse Lodge; Duncan Rose from the Blandford Lodge where Petersburg is now; William Waddill and John Rowsey from the host lodge and John Crawford, William Simmons and John Stewart from Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge in Prince George County.

In addition letters were received from Fredericksburg Lodge and from Boteourt Lodge at Gloucester.

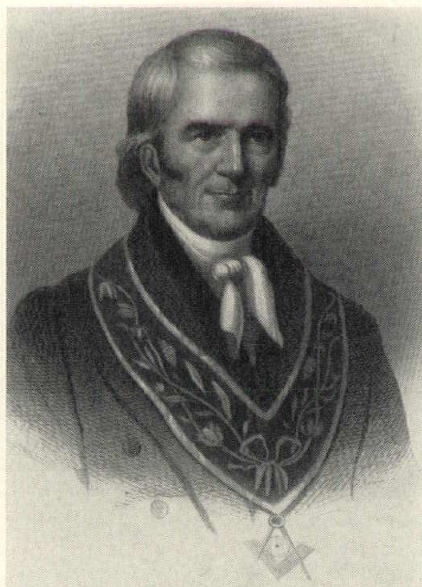
Delegates unanimously agreed that a Grand Master should be chosen to preside over Virginia Masonry and a committee report a week later bolstered that view by citing the prevailing confusion of the five Grand Masters, the lack of a central authority to provide any needed discipline, and the lack of benefit from foreign appointment of Grand Masters in America. This report was circulated to the lodges, which

to tell the Virginia Story

proposed that George Washington be chosen Grand Master. Washington, a member of Fredricksburg Lodge, was eligible under terms laid down by the convention. However, hard pressed upon the battlefields to wrest a victory from British troops, Washington refused.

Who, then, would be the first Grand Master of the first Grand Lodge in America elected under customs of York Masonry? Delegates from Petersburg, Williamsburg, Gloucester and Port Royal, in a convention held October 13, 1778, in the little frame lodge room that stood in Williamsburg into the present century, turned to a 46-year-old past master of the host lodge.

A native of Williamsburg and active in the political and judicial life of Vir-



John Marshall, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, October 1793.

ginia during the Revolution, he would later, with James Madison, Jr., sign the United States Constitution and become an associate justice of the Supreme Court. He was John Blair, elected unanimously and installed October 30, 1778. Among those present were Blair's son-in-law, Robert Andrews, a professor at the College of William and Mary and master of the Williamsburg Lodge; James Taylor, senior warden, a Norfolk doctor prominent in Masonry there; John Crawford, junior warden; James Galt and his half-brother, Dr. John Minson Galt, a prominent Williamsburg resident; Duncan Rose; and Peter Pelham, of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg.

There were, all told, 49 Masons present for that first installation.

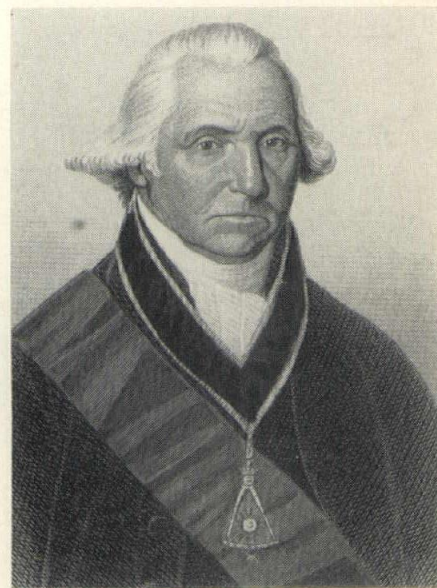
Grand Lodge officers would be elected later in Masonic history. Blair named his officers—Robert Andrews, Deputy Grand Master; Dr. James Taylor, Sr., Grand Warden; James M. Fontaine, Junior Grand Warden; Dr. Galt, Grand Treasurer; Rose, Grand Secretary; the Rev. James Madison, president of the College of William and Mary and a bishop in the Church of England, Grand Chaplain; Matthew Anderson, Grand Sword Bearer, and William Urie, Grand Tiler.

Blair was to hold his office through eventful years until 1784. It was during his term—when the Grand Lodge met in Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg on December 28, 1780—that Richmond petitioned for a lodge. The request was passed unanimously, making Richmond Lodge Number 10 the first chartered by Virginia's new sovereign authority. At the same time, the Grand Lodge decided it would meet April 10, 1781, in Richmond.

Natural enough, that decision.

The General Assembly had, in May, 1779, moved the Capitol to Richmond by an act that contained such clauses as "whereas great numbers of the inhabitants of this commonwealth must frequently and of necessity resort to the seat of government . . ." and ". . . the equal rights of all said inhabitants require that such seat of government should be as nearly central to all as may be. . ."

What held true for the seat of Virginia government also held true for the seat of Masonic government. There were now 10 lodges under the Grand



George Washington. Engraved from the portrait painted from life by Williams for Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, 1794.

Lodge jurisdiction. Some of the men in the government were Masons. And, with portents of growth on all sides, it was natural to assume that Masonry would follow the frontier.

To Richmond, then—a community of 1,800 residents, half of them Negro slaves; a community composed largely of small tenements, seemingly given some permanence by several imposing homes at the top of the “principal hill.”

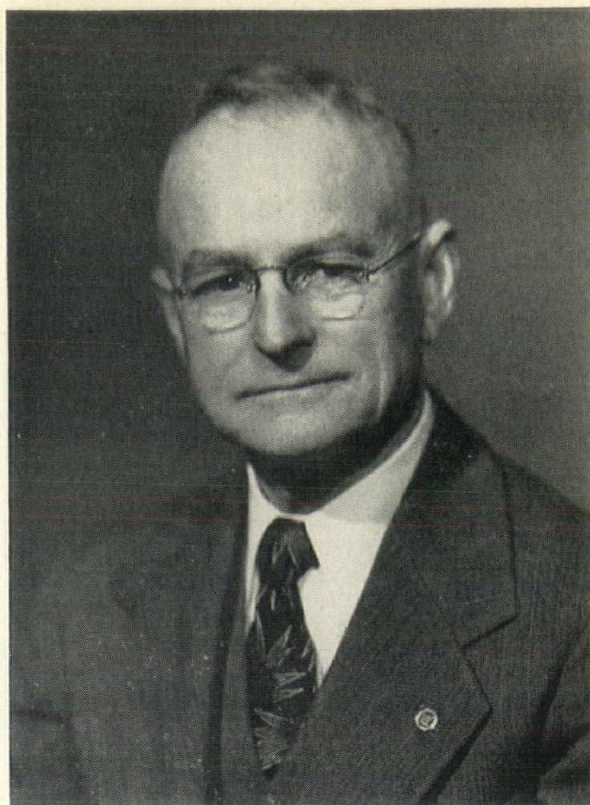
To the Grand Lodge here could come, via the James River, delegates from Norfolk, Blandford, Hampton St. Tammany's, Cabin Point Royal Arch and Williamsburg. Botetourt and York Lodge delegates could take the same route if they first crossed the York River and then the Williamsburg peninsula. Overland journeys for the Port Royals and Fredericksburg delegates would be considerably shorter.

However, a group of men on a far different mission arrived in Richmond before the Grand Lodge convened its first session. On January 5, 1781, Benedict Arnold led an 800-man British expedition into Richmond and, during a 24-hour stay, set fire to much of the little settlement.

Stability rose from the ashes of the town. The following October 19, Lord Cornwallis surrendered his British army to Washington, Rochambeau and Lafayette at Yorktown, ending the American Revolution. Richmond, in May, 1782, was chartered as a city. So, on November 4, 1784, the Grand Lodge held its much-delayed convention in Richmond, and accepted the resignation of John Blair.

To succeed Blair as Grand Master,

(Aufenger Studios)
Judge Willis V. Fentress of Norfolk, Grand Master of Virginia Masonry.



the Masons turned to James Mercer of Fredericksburg, a close friend of Washington and a former member of the House of Burgesses. Mercer, who was president of the first Supreme Court of Appeals in Virginia, officiated at the laying of two historic cornerstones while he was Grand Master: the Virginia State Capitol on August 18, 1785, and Mason's Hall in Richmond the following October 29.

As his deputy, Mercer appointed another well-known Virginian — Ed-

mund Randolph, another native of Williamsburg, former aide-de-camp to Washington during the Revolution, destined to become the first Attorney General of the United States and the sixth Governor of Virginia as an independent commonwealth.

Randolph succeeded Mercer in 1786 and, as his Deputy Grand Master, he appointed John Marshall, a rising star of the new nation. At the time, Marshall represented Richmond Lodge at the Grand Lodge convention. Later to become Grand Master himself, Marshall in 14 years was the nation's Secretary of State (as Randolph had been before him) and, a year later, began his career as the most famous of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court.

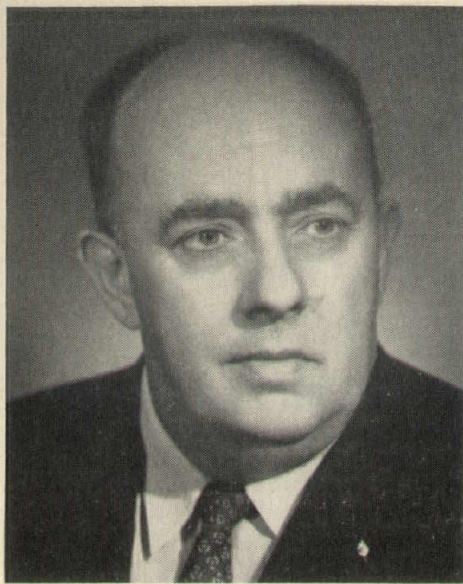
It was also at this convention that the first official standing of lodges under the sovereign Grand Lodge of Virginia was written into the convention's minutes. Those lodges, with their numbers and dates of charter, were listed as follows:

No. 1, Norfolk, June 1, 1741; No. 2, Port Royal Kilwinning Crosse, December 1, 1755; No. 3, Blandford, September 9, 1757; No. 4, Fredericksburg, July 21, 1758; No. 5, Hampton St. Tammany's, February 26, 1759; No. 6, Williamsburg, November 6, 1773; No. 7, Botetourt, November 6, 1773; No. 8, Cabin Point Royal Arch, April 13, 1775; No. 9, York, February 22, 1780; No. 10, Richmond, December 28, 1780; No. 11, Northampton, July 8, 1785;



(Richmond Newspapers, Inc.)

Masonic Home of Virginia on Nine Mile Road, Richmond.



(Colonial Studios)

Fred W. Troy, Executive Director of the Masonic Home.

Washington as the lodge's Worshipful Master. Following Washington's death, the unit changed its name to Alexandria-Washington.

Virginia Masonry, expanding constantly, entered the nineteenth century and proceeded headlong into two struggles. One struggle was a storm of national sentiment which solidified into the Anti-Masonic Party.

Secrecy of the Masonic order always has bred some suspicion and the first third of the nineteenth century—later, too, for that matter—was a time when native-born Americans were suspicious of the immigrant element in their new land. It would be more than a century before citizens of the nation would stop seeing strong traits of foreign peoples burlesqued. Onto this stage—or rather off of it—came William Morgan, a native of Virginia, who disappeared in the western part of New York State.

Morgan had, it was reported in 1826, written a book purporting to reveal secrets of the fraternity. When Morgan disappeared, Masons were accused—without proof—of having murdered him; and in many localities that accusation manifested itself in groups pledged not to support any Mason seeking election to public office.

Although anti-Masonic feeling spread from New York to other states, wielding some influence in local elections, the sentiment had little effect in Virginia. The Anti-Masonic Party held its first convention in Baltimore in 1831, and to whom did they turn for their presidential nominee? To another man who had Virginia associations.

He was William Wirt, who had re-



(Dementi Studio)

J. G. Seelinger, Grand Treasurer.

ceived a Fellow Craft degree in a Richmond lodge and had later withdrawn from the order. Wirt and the party he led failed in 1832 as Andrew Jackson, a past Grand Master of Tennessee, was elected president.

It was not long before the Anti-Masons passed from view, helping in 1834 to form the Whig Party.

The other struggle encountered by the fraternity was not an exclusive one—it was shared by all Americans in one form or another. This was the Civil War, which sent brothers against their blood brothers and against their Masonic brothers. The bitter fighting left

(Continued on page 23)

No. 12, Kempsville, October 5, 1785; No. 13, Staunton, February 6, 1786; No. 14, Manchester, in what is now South Richmond, February 28, 1786; No. 15, Petersburg, May 6, 1786; No. 16, Portsmouth Wisdom, June 15, 1786, and No. 17, Charlotte, July 6, 1786.

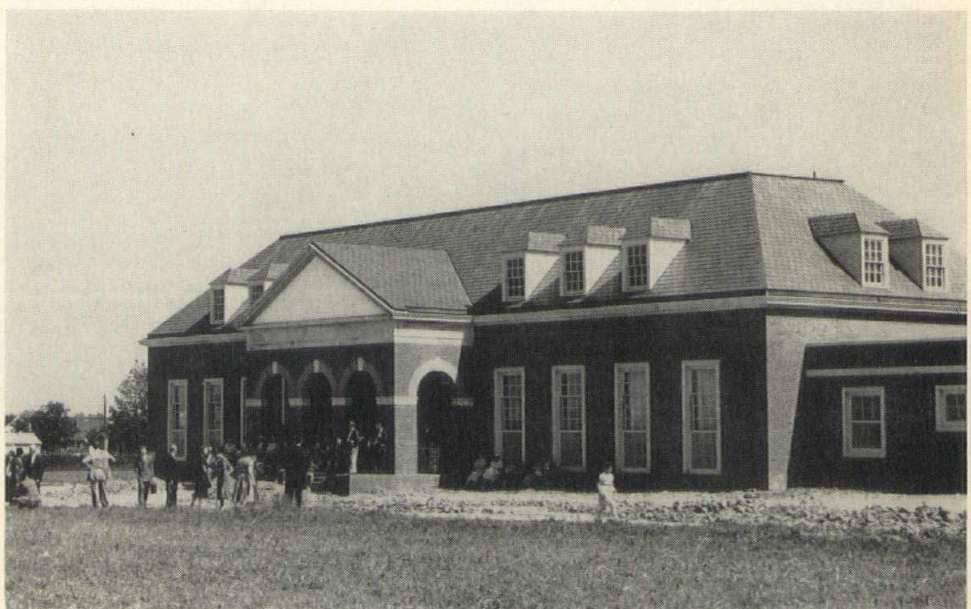
Rounding out the first 20 lodges in the Old Dominion under the new Grand Lodge were No. 18, Smithfield Union; No. 19, Richmond Randolph; and No. 20, Scottsville, then in Powhatan County.

Four other lodges are known to have existed during these early years—yet they do not appear in the first listing. One of these was a lodge at Falmouth, chartered by its neighbor across the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg and then chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1775. Falmouth Lodge, however, had a short existence, apparently.

Another lodge—almost as much a mystery as Royal Exchange—was at Hobb's Hole, some 50 miles east of Fredericksburg and just west of the present site of Tappahannock. This group of Masons also appears very briefly, and that appearance is in the Grand Lodge convention when John Blair appointed three men, members of Tappahannock Lodge, to the Steward's Lodge. The third lodge was St. John's of Norfolk, of which no record exists today in the Grand Lodge.

Still another lodge was in Alexandria, chartered in 1783 by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, which within a span of several years was dissolved. Governor Randolph, Grand Master at the time, issued the Alexandrians a charter as Alexandria Lodge No. 22, listing George

to tell the Virginia Story



(Richmond Newspapers, Inc.)

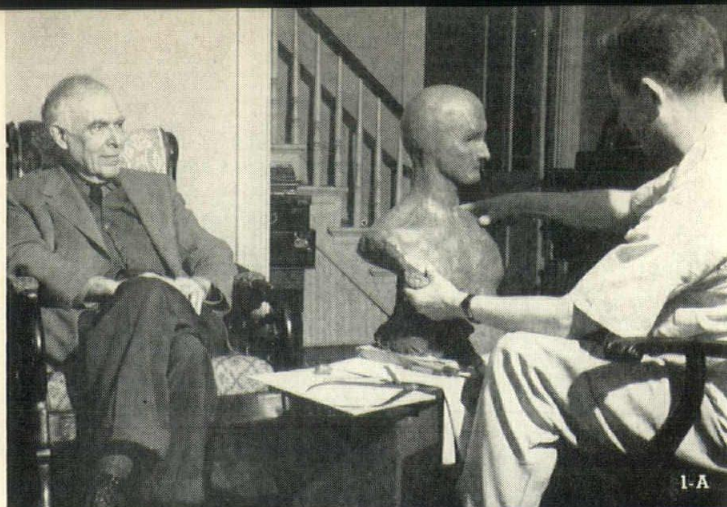
Dedication Service, Masonic Home for the Aged.

TOM GARVIN

a sculptor with an outstanding talent and a consuming ambition

by

G. WATSON JAMES, JR.



"WON'T YOU COME UP and see what I am doing?" The invitation came from a well-built man who looked more like a boxer than what I later discovered was his vocation.

He was standing on a little porch which jutted out from a studio which I had occupied for some 18 years in the rear of my home and where I, alas, had committed many "assaults" on innocent pieces of canvas.

Since last December the man on the little second-story porch had been somewhat of a mystery to me. The noise of much hammering and sawing emanated from my erstwhile studio, but it was no business of mine.

Then early in the summer I was voiced the invitation. I accepted, climbed the stairs, entered a room bare except for several busts reposing in a corner, and a rudely made table. But on that table was an exquisitely modeled plaster head of a little girl, and beside it a block of marble already half chiseled from the plastered head, which I later learned was that of Miss Frances Cone, daughter of Dr. Herbert Cone, my neighbor to the right.

That is how I met Tom Garvin, a sculptor with a well

*Initial pencil sketch
done by Garvin during
the first sitting
by John Powell.*



Left, top to bottom: (1-a) Shaping plasticum model of Mr. John Powell. This represents the work done at the first sitting. (1-b) Adjusting position of the head. (1-c) Measuring width between temporal arches. (1-d) Transferring temporal measurement to model.



determined ambition and an outstanding talent. Soon Tom Garvin and the writer were talking each other's language, and it developed that his major artistic objective was to sculpture in marble or bronze the busts of Virginia's famous educators, musicians and statesmen whose contributions to the Old Dominion were of lasting value. He had already completed a commission for a bust of the late Dr. Samuel P. Duke, longtime president of Madison College, and was effecting arrangements to cast it in bronze.

As we discussed his lifelong ambition he kept voicing the hope that he could do "Mr. Powell." Finally it dawned on the writer he meant John Powell, Virginia's internationally-known pianist and composer, a lifelong friend of the writer, and his wife to whom he had dedicated his violin "Sonata Virginiaesque."

Tom Garvin was told that that could be arranged easily. Then followed a few phone calls and a visit to John's winter home on Plum Street in Richmond. It is characteristic of the great pianist to try to do at all times for a friend what seems impossible and in this instance John was in the midst of leaving for his summer home. Two sittings were arranged and the results of Sculptor Garvin's preliminary work may be seen in this article. The bust is now nearing completion following Mr. Powell's return to Richmond this fall. But Tom Garvin, through sketches and particularly his mental impressions of the subject (a sculptor's birthright, if he is worthy of his salt—and Garvin is) was able to progress with the bust during the summer months. So the likeness of another great Virginian is fashioned for posterity. Will it be in marble or bronze? That is in the future.

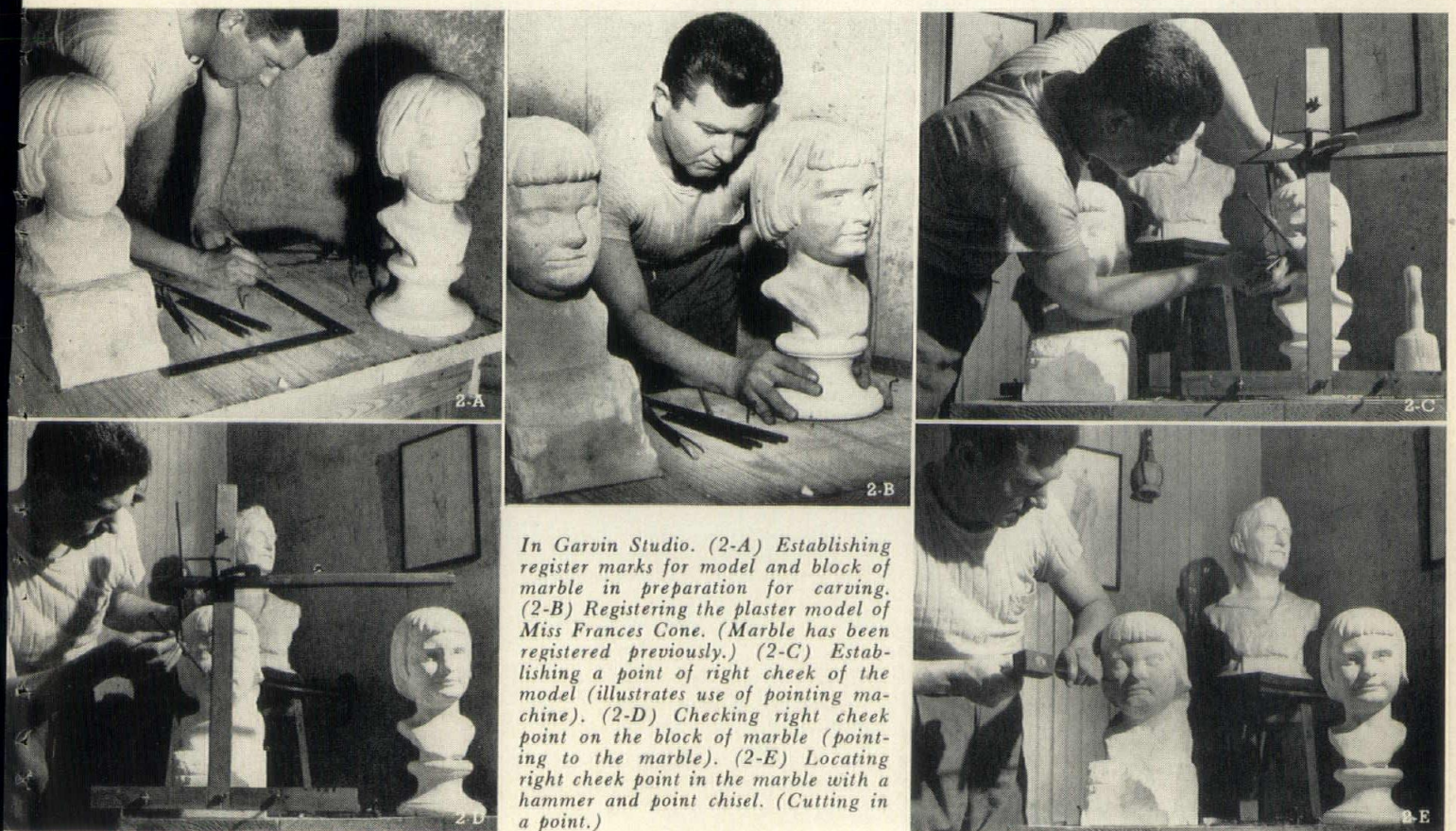
As to the art of sculpture, its techniques are for the most part a mystery to the layman, who not only is not aware that a sculptor, besides molding the clay, chiseling

the marble block, and being a consummate draftsman, must be a mathematician, working sometimes with his calipers to the thousands of an inch—one miscalculation in "pointing" the marble block for chiseling the image might mean disaster.

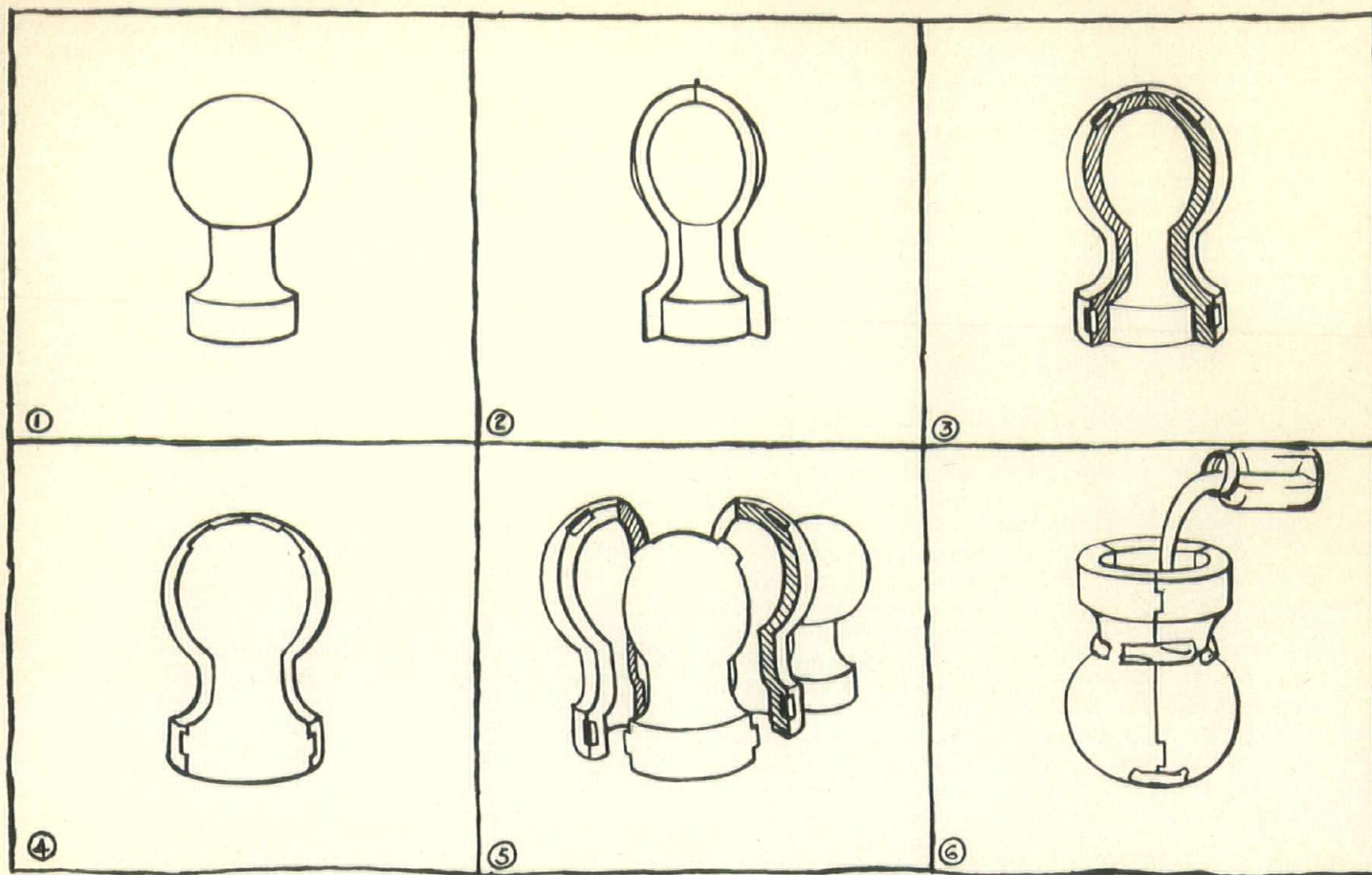
Perhaps the best approach to how the sculptor works will be accomplished by examining the photographs and charts included with this article.

Take for example photo (1-a) which shows the young sculptor at work during the first sitting by Mr. Powell. In this instance, Garvin is shaping the plasticum model of the sitter, having previously designed the armature to hold the plasticum as it is being shaped; (1-b) reveals him adjusting the position of the head; (1-c) measuring the width between the temporal arches and (1-d) transferring the temporal measurement to the clay model.

Pictures in Garvin's studio also show the sculptor, photo (2-A), establishing register marks on the clay model of Miss Frances Cone, and block of marble in preparation for carving. (2-B) he is registering the plaster model of the little lady; the marble block having been registered previously. In (2-C) Garvin is establishing a point on the right cheek of the model which illustrates the use of the pointing machine, as well as the minute accuracy necessary to transfer the likeness from the plaster portrait to the marble. (2-D) reveals the sculptor checking the right cheek "point" on the block of marble or "pointing to the marble" as it is technically designated. In (2-E) Garvin is locating the right cheek "point" in the marble with a hammer and a point chisel or "cutting in a point." Meanwhile the sculptor's bust of his beloved teacher, Ferruccio Legnaioli, dominates the scene and seems to smile in approval of his one-time



In Garvin Studio. (2-A) Establishing register marks for model and block of marble in preparation for carving. (2-B) Registering the plaster model of Miss Frances Cone. (Marble has been registered previously.) (2-C) Establishing a point of right cheek of the model (illustrates use of pointing machine). (2-D) Checking right cheek point on the block of marble (pointing to the marble). (2-E) Locating right cheek point in the marble with a hammer and point chisel. (Cutting in a point.)



MECHANICS IN PREPARING A SIMPLE INFLEXIBLE MOLD FOR CASTING AN OBJECT

1. Object to caste. 2. Process of fencing or dividing the mold into sections. Fences are removed as each section is completed. 3. Two sections of mold in place. Edges of these sections act as fence for last section. 4. Completed mold with object inside. 5. Mold wedged apart and object removed. 6. Mold fitted and tied back in place for charging with casting material. Note: When casting material has set or hardened mold is again wedged apart as shown and caste removed.

student apprentice.

After these "mechanics," so to speak, come the talent, inspiration, and the delicate technique of the sculptor—something that cannot be realized except through his finished work.

To round out this very sketchy discussion of the sculptor's technique, Garvin drew for the writer a chart of six steps illustrating the "mechanics" in preparing a simple inflexible mold for casting an object. The reader is referred to this chart with its explanatory legends.

Now, the natural question is what circumstances influenced this young man (he's still young in spite of five years in the service of his country) to become a sculptor?

The story began when he was six years old when he attempted, as a first-grader, to illustrate a "masterpiece" depicting "wind blown snow on red paper," but the crayon was too waxy to cover the paper. It was then that he learned of that dictum *Ars longa — vita brevis*.

Then his next step on the road to

artistic achievement came when a sculptor showed up in his home town in North Carolina and "turned on the inspiration." Tom and a young friend decided then and there to be Rodins or Michaelangelos. First, clay was the all important material, so they repaired to the "Old Swimming Hole" where a generous supply of mud-clay was available.

Prior to this, however, Tom inveigled his parents to let him use an old barn for a studio. Permission granted, then came the arduous task of cleaning out debris which somehow barns manage to accumulate with time, and to add to the difficulty, there was no skylight and rats were a great hazard.

A dry cell was used by Tom for an armature which sculptors use as a base upon which to shape the clay. Tom and his boy friend were then ready for competitive sculpture. The friend choose Woodrow Wilson, and Tom, none other than George Washington.

The busts of these notables finished, Tom relates that people recognized his portrait of the "Father of his Country,"

but his friend's tribute to the World War I's famous president lacked "adequate ears." Tom admits he avoided this technical difficulty by covering George's ears with a wig.

The days that followed brought about strained relations between the two "Rodins," and so they parted.

"My bust," Tom commented during our first conversation, "was soon lost to posterity as the clay dried, cracked, and fell apart due to an imperfect armature."

At fifteen came his first success. He had made a statue, and as he expressed it, "an honest to goodness sculptor appraised his work"—none other than the great sculptor, Edward V. Valentine, who offered to teach gratis the teen-age artist. Mr. Valentine, incidentally, remarked that Tom's "Captain John Smith" was "too skinny." "Smith was a big man," he said. Then bitter despair was followed by new hope as the result of Mr. Valentine's offer.

Later came an apprenticeship under Ferruccio Legnaioli, the beloved and

(Continued on page 21)

VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW

By WILLIAM BIEN

Business Editor, *The Richmond News Leader*

THE AREA's largest shopping center—Willow Lawn—drew an estimated crowd of 250,000 to its opening last month. They thronged across the 40-acre cluster of stores for prizes, bargains and the sights of such celebrities as the Cisco Kid, Captain Kangaroo and WRVA's own Sunshine Sue.

* * *

A gas well recently completed by United Fuel Gas Co. in the Plains District of Rockingham County has proved successful. John H. Kime, superintendent of production and storage, says the well is the fourth productive one of the six drilled in the area. United Fuel is affiliated with Atlantic Seaboard Corporation, which supplies gas to Commonwealth Natural Gas Corporation for a wide section of tide-water Virginia.

* * *

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Burford La Touche, Jr. formerly purchasing agent, has been named plant superintendent for Robert Gair Co. in Richmond. . .

* * *

Three Virginia industrialists have been named to a committee planning the Third International Conference of Manufacturers in New York this month. They are Earl Bunting of Winchester, a director of the O'Sullivan Rubber Corp.; N. W. Kelley of Roanoke, president and treasurer of the Southern Varnish Corp., and J. B. Woodward, Jr., of Norfolk, board chairman of Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Corp. . . .

* * *

Harris Mitchell of Richmond, secretary of the Virginia Building Material Association, has been made an honorary member of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Chapter of Sigma Lambda Chi, national honorary fraternity of light construction engineers. . . Mitchell also took on an additional duty last month—as executive secretary of the Association of Mutual Insurance Agents. . . .

* * *

Two Virginia tile dealers have won top prizes in a nationwide contest on local promotions sponsored by the Tile Council of America. They are Dudley L. Marsteller, Jr. of Roanoke, and Joseph K. Hite of Collinsville. . . .

* * *

J. P. Fitzgerald, formerly manager of the Cary-Carolina Co. at Rocky Mount, N. C., has been named a vice-president of Gary Steel Products Corp. at Lynchburg. . .

* * *



(Copic, Inc.)

Mr. Fritz Otto Lorje is shown as he sailed for Germany, aboard the Super Liner United States. Mr. Lorje, an official of the Universal Tobacco Co. of Richmond, is returning to his home office in Bremen.

Milton Glaser, A.I.D., has changed the name of his firm in Richmond from Contemporary Design Associates to Milton Glaser Associates and has moved to larger quarters at 210 East Franklin St. . . .

* * *

Samuel L. "Bill" Taliaferro of Norfolk is the new president of the Virginia Food Dealers Association, succeeding John R. Powers of Pulaski. Other new officers named at the annual convention in Roanoke last month are Malcolm J. Reid of Staunton, first vice-president; Elbert L. Pugh, Petersburg, second vice-president; Frank E. Booker, Halifax, treasurer. New directors are T. B. Hines of South Hill, T. L. Overton of Norfolk and Thad Scott of Wakefield.

* * *

The Seaboard Air Line Railroad has announced an order for 2,400 freight cars costing about \$20,000,000. John

W. Smith, president, said "We are certain every car in this record-breaking purchase will be needed as the Seaboard's territory continues its rapid and sustained development."

* * *

The Virginian Railway has on order an 1,800 horsepower tugboat to be used at the company's coal piers at Norfolk. Docking operations presently are handled by McAllister Brothers, Inc. on a contract basis.

* * *

Michael Mora, general manager of the Norfolk Port Authority, reports import increases there in jute fiber and tea. He said tea imports were spurred by stepped-up operations at the new Lipton tea plant in Suffolk.

* * *

Sperry Piedmont Co. has broken ground for a 100,000 square foot addition to its recently completed plant at Charlottesville. The Ivy Construction Co. of Charlottesville was the successful bidder on the project, scheduled for completion next September.

* * *

Two of Norfolk and Western Railway's top mechanical men retired last month—Bernard Cook, superintendent of shops in Roanoke, and Walter Budwell, master mechanic of the Norfolk Division in Crewe.

* * *

William Wilson, 40, former executive vice-president of Standard Fruit and Steamship Co., took over as president of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation last month.

* * *

Ralph F. Bagwell, vice-president and savings director of the Bank of Virginia, has been appointed to a fifth consecutive term on the American Bankers Association committee on savings and mortgage development.

* * *

The Virginia Electric and Power Company has honored three linemen who saved the life of a fellow worker when he'd been hit by a 4,000 volt shock last June. The honored workers are Charles W. Sheets, 29, of Staunton; Samuel Rodger McCann, 27, of Charlottesville, and Donald C. Huffman, 25, of Bridgewater. The rescued man is Harry B. Craun, 56, of Staunton.

* * *

Brady V. Tunnell, a native Texan, has been named assistant manager of American Oil Company's new Yorktown refinery.

* * *

George J. Kranitzky of Richmond was named district manager for the Life Insurance Company of Georgia in Charlottesville last month.

* * *

The one-millionth telephone in Virginia was presented to Governor Stanley in appropriate ceremonies at the State Capitol last month. Taking part were J. Rhodes Mitchell, vice-president of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. of Virginia, and Dennis B. Draper, president of the Virginia Independent Telephone Association, representing 61 independent telephone companies in the state.

* * *

Robert H. C. Seaton has been named acting president of B. T. Crump Company and R. Garnett Hall acting executive vice-president. The actions by the board of directors followed the death of L. McCarthy Downs, who had been named president of the seat cover and hassock manufacturing concern last year.

* * *

John W. Busch of Jersey City, N. J., formerly with the Royal Liverpool and Pearl American Insurance Groups, has been named motor truck cargo manager for American Fidelity and Casualty Company in Richmond.

* * *

Richard Earle Smith, 30, an attorney and former claim manager in Virginia for Employers Mutuals of Wausau, was named executive secretary of the Virginia Association of Insurance Agents last month.

* * *

James P. Gunter, sales manager for David M. Lea & Company in Richmond, has been elected first vice-president of the Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association.

* * *

Thomas A. Sheehan, district sales and traffic manager at Richmond for Eastern Air Lines since 1948, was elected an assistant vice-president of State-Planters Bank of Commerce and Trusts last month, to direct planning of business development and head PRAM, the public relations, advertising and merchandising committee.

* * *

Robert C. Baker, executive vice-president and director of American Security & Trust Co. in Washington,

has been elected a director of First Colony Life Insurance Company of Lynchburg.

* * *

Public relations committeemen for the Virginia Highway Users Association, named last month, are W. E. Bristow, chairman, W. H. Bingham, S. C. Bowman, Jr., S. P. Bralley, C. Fair Brooks, R. Les Brown, J. H. Cochrane, Henry Mitchell, C. G. Pembroke, John H. Smith, M. W. Strother and Reed I. West, all of Richmond; R. B. Hardy, of Blackstone; C. R. Leitch and C. B. McDaniel of Fredericksburg; L. W. Parker, of South Hill, and C. M. Thach, of Charlottesville.

Highway courtesy and safety committeemen: J. D. Lawrence, Jr., W. H. Bingham, C. Fair Brooks, J. H. Cochrane, Earl E. Congdon, Robey W. Estes, H. A. Patterson, C. M. Robinson, Reed I. West and M. G. Runge, all of Richmond; V. V. Gordon, of Farmville, and C. E. Houff, of Weyers Cave.

On the membership committee are E. L. Barnes, R. Les Brown, Van Kelly, W. O. Malbone, W. B. Rawlings and Harry Schneider of Richmond; Carl R. Bowman and Dwight Hartman of Harrisonburg; Carl T. Hester of Danville, and S. E. Hubbard of South Hill.

* * *

Palmer K. St. Clair, manager of the Virginia State Employment Service office in Roanoke, says employment has climbed to a new peak. About 2,500 more persons in the area have jobs now than ever before.

* * *

Mary R. Thompson has been named manager of the Reservation Office of Colonial Williamsburg, according to James A. Hewitt, manager of Hotel Services.

Mrs. Thompson assumed her new post on November 1, succeeding Miss Frances A. Burns, who retired from Colonial Williamsburg on October 31. Mrs. Thompson, who has been an employee of Colonial Williamsburg for over 17 years, became assistant manager of the Reservation Office in April 1946.

As manager, she will have charge of all advance reservations for Williamsburg Inn and Lodge, Market Square Tavern, Brick House Tavern, and Colonial Guest houses operated by Williamsburg Restoration, Inc.



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or Elsewhere in U.S.A.*

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RICHMOND, VA.

MRS. THOMAS JEFFERSON

by MARY CLARK LITTELL

Mistress of Monticello

1772-1782

THOMAS JEFFERSON recorded the following one year after his wife's death in 1782:

"I lost the cherished companion of my life in whose affections unabated on both sides I had lived the past ten years in unchequered happiness."

When I read this declaration of love by Thomas Jefferson for his wife, Martha, I was inspired to examine the records to find out more about this remarkable Virginia lady. Details are conspicuously lacking about her early life, and when she was mistress of Monticello. Out of the bedimmed past Mrs. Jefferson comes to us in retrospection.

MARTHA WAYLES

Martha Wayles was her maiden name. She was born October 19th, 1784. At the age of 18 she was living with her father and family at their plantation, "The Forest," in Charles City County, situated not far from Williamsburg and Westover Church near the James River.

Martha Wayles was admittedly an attractive young lady, possessing great personal charm. She had a graceful full figure of medium height and a wealth of auburn curls framed a clear glowing complexion. Her large hazel eyes expressed gentleness of spirit, combined with a frank warm-hearted disposition.

She was accustomed to wealth and refined surroundings, was also trained in the arts of home and business management, the accounts kept in orderly procedure in her fine handwriting.

She performed with skill on the spinet and harpsichord, and her sweet voice a pleasant accompaniment. She rode her horse well, and danced with grace and ease.

Martha was the oldest of three half-sisters, Elizabeth, Tabithia, and Anne. Her devoted family called her Patsy, and she was regarded with special favor by her father, who was captured by her winning manner.

to tell the Virginia Story



Martha Jefferson. A crayon portrait made for a friend by whose descendants in Mobile it is now owned.

JOHN WAYLES AND MARTHA EPPES

Her father, John Wayles, was born in Lancaster, England, in 1715. He and Richard Bland entered the law profession at the same time in Virginia in 1746. He was made Kings attorney for the Colony in 1756. He was considered by all of his associates to be a liberal, agreeable and honourable gentleman.

He married Martha Eppes, daughter of Col. Francis Eppes in 1746. This lady was Martha's mother. After her early death, Mr. Wayles married Elizabeth Lomax, wealthy widow of Reuben Skelton, son of James Skelton of Essex

County, who contracted to rebuild the Capitol of Williamsburg.

Mr. Wayles was a large landowner, and accumulated great wealth. His plantation home, "The Forest," owned at that time, by a Mr. Tilman, was burned down during the Civil War. His other vast estates consisted of Poplar Forest, in Bedford County, of more than 4,000 acres near Lynchburg, Elk Hill, over-looking Elk Island, Indian Camp, Angola, Guinea, Bridge-water and Liggons. During the great flood of 1771, Mr. Wayles lost hundreds of cattle, and many pieces of property, to the amount of four thousand pounds.

Mr. Wayles liked nothing but the finest. His handsome coach with six thoroughbred horses, attended by liveried servants, attracted respect and attention when he traveled the roads to Williamsburg to attend Court Sessions.

He passed away May 28th, 1773, one year after his daughter's marriage to Thomas Jefferson. In his will dated April 15th, 1760, he left Martha a wealthy estate of some 40,000 acres of land, and 142 slaves. He also left her his valuable private library consisting of 669 volumes. This collection was a fortunate addition to the Monticello library, as Thomas Jefferson lost nearly all of his fine books and papers in a fire at Shadwell a short time before he married Martha. In his diary of 1773 Thomas Jefferson notes he now has 1,256 volumes in his collection.

Mr. Wayles attached a codicil to his will dated February 2, 1773, providing for a special slave girl, 12 or 15 years of age for each of his grandchildren, Richard Eppes, John Wayles Eppes, and little Patsy Jefferson, daughter of Thomas Jefferson, these "slaves to be adjudged in Court as their property." He also provided handsomely for his other three daughters, who married prominent men of the Colony.

MARTHA WAYLES AND BATHURST SKELTON

Martha Wayles married Bathurst Skelton September 20th, 1766. She was 18 and he was 21 years of age. He attended William and Mary College for a short time. His father, James Skelton, was a wealthy Virginia planter, living in St. James Parish, Goochland County. His crest and coat-of-arms was engraved on his magnificent silver and bookplate, which is reproduced here. His library contained one of the finest collections in Virginia, although not the largest. (William Byrd of Westover on the James owned the largest collection of books in Virginia consisting of 3,438 volumes in 1773.)

After their marriage, Martha and Bathurst Skelton lived at Elk Hill overlooking the James river, the estate owned by Mr. Wayles. Their son John was born November 7th, 1767. Mr. Skelton died suddenly two years later.

In his will dated September 30th, 1768, he appointed Mr. Wayles and his wife, Martha, to be the guardian for his son John, leaving all of his estate to his wife and child, also his "fayton and horses." His will was not proved until 1771, the year before Martha's marriage to Thomas Jefferson.

After his death Martha returned to



Skelton bookplate.

her father's home, "The Forest," with her little boy, who died June 10th, 1771. Still young and lovely, her hand was sought by many prominent men of the Colony, but not until Thomas Jefferson won her heart did she marry again.

MARTHA WAYLES SKELTON AND THOMAS JEFFERSON

Martha was 23 and Thomas Jefferson 29 when they married New Years Day, 1772, at her father's home. The happy pair left for Monticello soon after, the bachelor home of Thomas Jefferson on top of little mountain in Albermarle County, 100 miles away. The mansion house was not started, but the ground was in the process of being cleared for its erection.

At this honey-moon cottage, the bride and bride-groom arrived one very cold winter evening after a stormy journey up the mountain in a blinding snow storm, the deepest snow ever to be seen in Albermarle County.

"How lovely, worthy, peerless in my view!

How precious, pleasant hast thou been to me!"

During the ten years of their married life, six children were born, five girls and one boy. Two survived infancy, Martha and Mary. The other children died very young. It is not recorded where they were all born. The birth of the last child, Lucy Elizabeth, at Monticello, was the cause of Mrs. Jefferson's death. She never recovered from the ordeal and, after a period of declining health, passed away September 6th, 1782. The child died two years later.

MARQUIS DE CHASTELLUX

The French nobleman, the Marquis de Chastellux, visited Monticello in the spring of 1782 just before Mrs. Jefferson's death. He describes his visit at this time: "The house for which Mr. Jefferson is architect and often workman, is rather elegant and in the Italian style though not without fault. It consists of one rather large pavilion the entrance of which is by two porticoes ornamented by pillars. The ground floor consists of a very large lofty saloon which is decorated entirely in the antique style. Above it is a library of the same form. Two small wings with only a ground floor and attic story are joined by a pavilion and communicates with the kitchens, offices, etc., which form a kind of basement story, over which runs a terrace. My object in this short description is only to show the difference between this and other houses in this country for we may safely aver that Mr. Jefferson is the first American who has consulted the fine arts to know how he should shelter himself from the weather." He goes on to say, "Mrs. Jefferson was a mild and amiable wife, with charming children."

Monticello stands today in all its beauty surrounded by magnificent trees and gardens, in the grandeur and superb setting of the Blue Ridge mountains, rolling range upon range, down the long wide valley in the distance.

Relics of Mrs. Jefferson are sadly missing, but we will always remember her as the first and only wife of Thomas Jefferson, and the mother of his children.

After all those "days and days that once were fair," Martha Jefferson was laid to rest in the little graveyard enclosure, near the first form of Monticello she and Thomas Jefferson planned together. The mansion house was partially completed just before her death in 1782.

The epitaph cut in the white stone over her grave is inscribed—

*To the memory of
Martha Jefferson
daughter of John Wayles
Born October 19th, 1748. O.S
Intermarried with
Thomas Jefferson
January 1, 1772
Torn from him by death
September 6th, 1782*

**To Start the
New Year Right—
Give Virginia Record**

ONE YEAR—\$4.00
TWO YEARS—\$7.00

Founded 1878 to tell the Virginia Story

Christmas . . . "Handle With Care"

(Continued from page 4)



An ancient woodcut depicting the Adoration of the Magi by the artist Albrecht Durer (1471-1528), now in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. (Use of photograph by courtesy National Gallery of Art.)

cattle and the extent of their supply of grain and if they didn't have enough grain to feed all of the cattle all winter they slaughtered those they could not feed and the period of feasting began . . . "Yuletide" . . . or so the story goes. When Christianity was embraced this feasting coincided with the Saviour's birth and "Yuletide" has remained.

Rolling merrily along from the Middle Ages, via England to us, come the Yule Log, Mince pie and plum pudding, all delightfully usable in spite of the passage of time. Of the legends surrounding the Yule Log, one early one is that when burned it drives away the devil and makes him powerless to do mischief in that house that year . . . and the Christian legend is that it symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world. It must be kept burning throughout the Christmas season, so it is said, and a portion carefully stored away to light the new log in the following year. The Christmas candles are lit from it and as soon as it was brought into the house the head of the household poured wine upon it. There are enough legends to take your pick, but it is said the Ash is the most popular because, an old, old story relates, the infant Jesus was first bathed beside its glowing warmth.

Over 600 years old is the earliest Christmas music . . . begun by St. Francis in sunny Italy in 1223 a.d. and

carried to England the following year by the Franciscan monks, so history relates, and by the early 14th century the English carols sprang up from these. With no radios or television it was left to wandering minstrels to make them popular throughout Europe.

The carol "Silent Night" . . . so much a part of the Christmas story . . . is a youngster compared to many others having been written in 1818 by the Rev. Joseph Mohr as he walked in the hills of Austria beneath the stars of a winter night. The words, he said, "just came to him" and the story of how they were set to music by Franz Gruber is a lovely Christmas story in itself.

The Creche . . . presentation in miniature of the stable at Bethlehem, with Joseph, Mary and the Babe . . . is an Italian import from the days of St. Francis who devised this method of explaining the Nativity to his people.

From Egypt and Rome come the earliest of Christmas cards . . . inscribed tokens of the ancient Egyptians and Romans have been excavated and examples of European woodcuts and copper plate engravings from the 1st century still survive. One, showing the infant Jesus, was engraved in 1466. The Christ child was in all of the earliest and some had scrolls, blessing the new year, while woodcuts of ships were very popular. The first commercial Christmas card, forerunner of the thousands of cards today, was made in England in 1843 and the good people of that day were quite upset because it represented a Victorian family group eating and drinking and it was not what they thought it ought to be. (By 1870 the Christmas card business had become a nation-wide industry.)

THE FIRST GIFTS

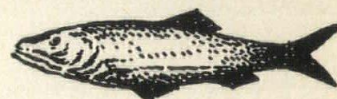
What today throws all mankind into a quandary didn't begin that way at all. Gift giving has been linked throughout history with festival times. Early Romans and Egyptians gave tokens of esteem to friends, often exchanging evergreens for luck . . . but gift giving in the Christian sense was begun by the Wise Men with their offerings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and was adopted as symbolizing that God, in giving his only Son unto the world, gave the greatest of all gifts. (Gold denoted faith triumphant over adversity; Frankincense, consecrated power and Myrrh denoted sorrow, charity and consecrated wealth).

That jolly and indestructible character, "St. Nick," is a Grecian import and via Holland to America. Ageless and wonderful he is said to date his origin back to the 4th century in the

Pounding Mill Quarry Corp.

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VIRGINIA

ORDER *Famous* RAPPAHANNOCK



SALT ROE HERRING SALT NORFOLK SPOT

"A Real Old Style Virginia Breakfast"



Use this card to order your supply of this tasty delicacy today! Just fill in quantity desired and your name and address.

TAPPAHANNOCK LOCKER PLANT
Tappahannock, Virginia

PARCEL POST PREPAID DELIVERED TO YOU

SALT ROE HERRING

	East of Miss.	West of Miss.
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Bucket of 15	4.00	4.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Bucket of 30	7.00	8.00

SALT NORFOLK SPOT

<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Bucket 5 Lbs. Net	5.00	5.75
---	------	------

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

character of Bishop Nicholas of Myra, Greece, who knew of a family of both great poverty and pride, so he climbed upon the roof and dropped gold pieces down the chimney so that no one would know whence they came. The Swiss, it is said, loved the tradition but not the Bishop's robes and clad St. Nick in scarlet with white fur, while the Germans added all the rest including his beloved "rotundity." The Dutch who settled New Amsterdam, N. Y., brought him to America and it was left for Clarence Moore to immortalize him in "The Night Before Christmas."

When "St. Nick's" gold pieces were dropped down the chimney, 'tis said a stocking was hanging by the mantel to dry . . . and there began another tradition, practical and with a moral attached.

There are many aliases for the "man in the red suit" . . . Sinter Klaas to the Dutch, Kris Kringle to the Germans, Father Christmas in England, Santa Claus to us . . . but what matters for he will never be caught . . . but there is a Santa Claus!

HOLLY AND MISTLETOE

From ancient Greece, where Druidism prevailed, we have the custom of decorating homes with evergreens. They decked the halls with all manner of sweet-smelling greens that "the sylvan spirits might repair to them and remain unnnipped by frost and cold winds" until a milder season renews the foliage, and Scandinavia is credited with the earliest use of the Yule Log, Holly, Ivy and other evergreens. Early Romans also decked their houses with greens . . .

a popular Pagan custom and, of course, mistletoe was considered quite sacred by the druids of ancient Britain who considered their pearl-like berries symbols of purity and meaning marriage. To Christians evergreens have always denoted eternal life.

Holly, handled with care, has been passed down from generation to generation. In the early days it was believed to be "hated by witches" and those who had holly in their windows or on their doors would be immune from "spells," but later, the bright red berries and prickly leaves were symbolic that the new babe born in Bethlehem was destined to wear a crown of thorns. Holly has also meant hospitality. The circled wreath, eternity.

That shining symbol of Christmas, *The Tree*, comes from Germany, a splendid, glowing descendant, no doubt of the pageantry of the Middle Ages. Among the many legends about it, all as carefully cherished as the star on top, is that on the night on which Christ was born all the trees in the forest, despite snow and ice, bloomed and bore fruit. This was the story of George Jacob, Arabian geographer of the 10th century, and it quickly spread all over Europe. Another was that on Christmas Eve there came a knock at the door and a child asked for food and shelter. In the morning the child was gone but where he had stood there bloomed a tree, and blossomed annually. Way, way back Virgil made reference to the Roman custom of placing images on evergreens . . . and Arabians bedecked their palms. With the marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, the German's shining tree was introduced into Eng-

land (about 1841) and soon crossed the seas to us.

The Christmas Candles are Irish imports, around which is the lovely legend that they are to light the Christ Child and his Mother in the dark, cold night, and bid them welcome.

FESTIVITIES SUPPRESSED

Between the 12th and 16th centuries, Christmas celebrations reached their peaks, and even passed it, to such an extent that after the Reformation Christmas festivities were suppressed, even to religious celebration and in 1642 there was an ordinance forbidding church services but the people paid little heed. Then the British Parliament, in 1647 ordained that Christmas should no longer be observed, under pain of punishment. Happily this was rescinded in 1660 but in New England it was frowned upon until the second half of the 19th century.

Unroll it as you will, but that tinsel-wrapped bundle delivered once each year for use on December 25th has strange and wonderful fact and fantasy. Its many "imports" can make the barest places glow, and warm the very cockles of the heart. There is *the Gift* for every member of the human race, and, because of this gift, a Christmas message, but one thing is needed before all the magic of Christmas can be spread out, and that is *an understanding heart*. Then, to an ear attuned, there might come the jingle of Santa's sleigh bells and an echo of the angels song "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth Peace, Goodwill toward men."



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MAPS

General Lithography

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The Man Behind the Statue

(Continued from page 3)

Late of a June night, in 1777, the ship's captain, having sailed off his course to avoid the British warships, reached the dark coast of South Carolina and was apprehensive about running in to land through the strange waters. Not at all concerned, the dashing marquis piled his friends in a ship's boat and they were rowed ashore around midnight. They happened to land on the plantation of a great aristocrat, Major Benjamin Huger. Huger's

slaves guided the French party to the darkened plantation-house, where candles were hastily lit, and the South Carolinian came downstairs to greet the unexpected, French-speaking guests.

As if all of this was perfectly natural, Lafayette explained that he was a volunteer on his way to assume command of a division of infantry at Philadelphia and described leaving the ship to arrive at Huger's home in the middle of the night. Major Huger, in turn, accepted all this as if it were indeed in the natural order of events, extended the excited party the hospitality for which his region is famed, and next day directed them on their way.

bafflement and humiliation of the young nobleman, he and his party were left to wander aimlessly alone around the unfriendly streets of Philadelphia.

Only pride kept Lafayette from going home. But, while he waited in his ignominious indecision, a letter arrived from Ben Franklin, in Paris. Explaining that the French government was ruled by a few powerful families, wily Franklin suggested that an "honorary" commission to the young aristocrat would exert favorable influence in France. Eager to be rid of their problem, Congress gave Lafayette a major-general's

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After receiving this gracious welcome to Colonial America, Lafayette and his friends were totally unprepared for the coldness of their reception in Philadelphia. Lafayette had told the truth about his "commission," as far as he knew it, but he had been given a false impression by the American agent in Paris. This agent, over-anxious to arouse the French to some support of a war against their colonial rival, had grandly promised high-sounding commissions to any well-connected young Frenchmen who seemed receptive. For this the agent had not the least authority. The bedevilled Continental Congress in Philadelphia, having not the least intention of giving the command of several thousand troops to an eighteen-year-old French-speaking ornament of Paris society, and having no idea of what to do with the marquis, did nothing. To the

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commission, which technically carried division-command, *but* neglected to explain that the commission was only honorary. Then they dispatched him off to Washington's headquarters, in his delusion that he was to be given troops to command.

By then Lafayette had formed the deepest admiration for George Washington, and he was flattered and pleased to receive the gracious hospitality which was habitual with the Virginian. However, Lafayette tactfully hinted, as time passed, that he was waiting for his troops to command. Not understanding

the situation, Washington wrote his Virginia-planter friend, Benjamin Harrison, in Philadelphia, and asked what he was supposed to do with Lafayette. When informed that the young marquis' commission was only honorary, Washington called on his native consideration and acquired tactfulness to keep Lafayette at headquarters as something of an unofficial staff-officer.

It was during this period that a filial affection developed between the lonely, childless 45-year-old Virginian and the 18-year-old Parisian, and their close friendship formed one of the bright

threads in the rather shoddy events that composed the Revolution. It was out of this friendship, and not glowing ideals of "democracy," that Lafayette returned to France and made his great contributions to bringing help from his fellow-countrymen to the cause of the hard-pressed Colonials.

GETS TROOP COMMAND

When Lafayette returned to America, Washington's trust in the young man had grown to the extent that he did give him troop command and, if no vaulting military genius, the marquis performed more than adequately in Virginia and revealed that he possessed a native instinct for warfare. Perhaps more important to him than the glory were the friends he won in Virginia; and the first great social celebration held in what was then the new and unprepossessing small capital of Richmond occurred after the Revolution, when Lafayette visited George Washington and the two journeyed together among their friends in Virginia.

In those days Washington *was* first in the hearts of his countrymen. But the country changed and the values of the great Virginian were not fashionable in the new-styled, lip-service "democracy and equality" that is now current. Neither he nor his young friend personally represented any of those noble abstractions by which history has pinned them to the wall like dead butterflies. They were both all too human. And it is the accomplishments Washington made out of his simple humanity which give us a heritage we are too inclined to accept, without appreciating what it really was.

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TOM GARVIN

(Continued from page 12)

talented Richmond sculptor, who has guided so many young artists of the clay, marble and bronze medium along the road to success. In Tom Garvin's studio is a bust portrait of Legnaioli by his pupil who remarked with affection, "I owe him a great debt."

Under Mr. Legnaioli, young Garvin worked by day in the sculptor's studio, "a real one," and at night studied under him at the Virginia Mechanic Institute. There he won First Honor and received in consequence his first commission, a bust of his boyhood friend, Dr. Herbert Cohn.

Always with his sights set on further study, and the necessity to earn both bread and further experience, he was given a work scholarship at the Richmond Professional Institute keeping the auditorium in order for lectures, etc.

A break came when RPI staged a sculpture exhibit and Garvin's knowledge of the art stood him well in helping to organize the event. In consequence he was given a free scholarship for two years in the fine arts department. While there, he studied under Marion Junkin and Theresa Pollak. The scholarship ended, Tom looked towards New York as so many young artists have done. So by the skin of his teeth—materially, he moved to the big city, got a job as night cashier in a Child's restaurant, and established himself with two other students in a small flat in Brooklyn on the share-and-share-alike

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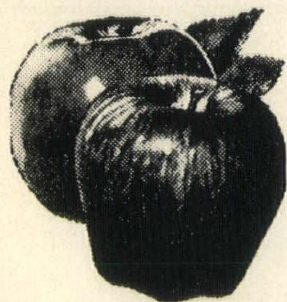
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plan. Fortunately for the other two men, Tom Garvin, through his long association in Boy Scout work, had acquired a not inconsiderable knowledge of catering and food buying. Meanwhile, he enrolled under a scholarship in the Leonardo DaVinci School of Sculpture; his instructor being the famous Attitlio Piccirilli. Garvin took drawing at the National Academy of the Design, and also studied later with Eleanor Pratt, the eminent sculptress, whose fine teaching meant much to him.

Drafted in New York before Pearl Harbor the Army decided that Sculptor Garvin should be a "Quartermaster," and so he was from 1941 to 1945, first serving in Africa with the Eastern Base Section; then onward in the "underbelly" campaigns — Rome and Anno with the Fifth Army; Southern France, Hayneau-Bitche, the Rhineland and Central Europe with the Seventh Army; —all of which won for him five battle stars and the Pre-Pearl Harbor, American Defense, European, Occupation,

Commendation and Victory ribbons.

Practically five years out of his artistic life, Garvin did a right-about face, and took refresher courses at night. From 1946 to 1952, back in Richmond he worked for the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Section of Institutional Engineering, making scale models and field surveys. 1953-1954 he was engaged by the Richmond City Planning Commission to make scale models besides drafting, rendering and land-use work.

Then came the decision to go on his own and follow the urge to sculpt outstanding Virginians, do original works, and memorial statuary, which brings one to his meeting with the writer. That's the struggle so far of Tom Garvin whose hardships have not daunted him. Tom Garvin, in spite of his consuming artistic ambition, hasn't a one-track mind by any means, for his hobbies are photography, athletics, writing, philosophy and metaphysics. In truth a sculptor to be reckoned with in the future.



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MASONRY IN THE COMMONWEALTH

(Continued from page 9)

scars that men carried to their graves, scars on minds that men passed on to succeeding generations, scars upon the landscape that Nature has since healed over, and scars even on the Masonic fraternity — Northern and Southern Masons have different names for some of the ranks in their order.

Masonry went with Virginians, via the military lodge, into the mud of battlefields and into the cannon's mouth. Little is known today of the military lodges formed by Masons in their army units, except that the military lodge also was known in Masonry's earlier days. There is a tradition that General Robert E. Lee was a member of such a group, but there is no documentary evidence to support that tradition.

When the hurricane of Civil War fire finally engulfed Richmond and Federal troops occupied the city, some of the older members of Richmond-Randolph Lodge No. 19 asked the commandant of the troops to protect their Mason's Hall on East Franklin Street between Eighteenth and Nineteenth Streets. The commandant, General Godfrey Weitzel, was a Mason himself and he posted the requested sentinels.

Thus, through the bonds of Masonic friendship, Richmond is in the position —perhaps uniquely—of being able to trace its Masonic history in buildings. In the old Mason's Hall, the oldest building erected in America for Masonic purposes, are mementoes today of the 1824 meeting when the lodge made honorary members of General Lafayette and his nephew, George Washington Lafayette.

In addition to Mason's Hall there is, standing at the northeast corner of Third and Main Streets in Richmond, the building to which Masons moved some of their offices in 1869. It is the old St. Alban's Hall, dedicated March 2, 1869.

The present Masonic Temple on Broad and Adams Streets was completed in 1890, on land that residents then said had been used for nothing more substantial than a coal and wood yard.

Well into their second hundred years, Virginia's Masons in the late nineteenth century placed their greatest cornerstone: the Masonic Home of Virginia, outgrowth of a dinner at Reugers Restaurant in Richmond in December, 1889. The two men at the table talked

with animation. One of them, Dr. George Potts, had been trying, heretofore unsuccessfully, to interest the Grand Lodge in establishing an asylum for orphaned children of Masons. The other man was Captain A. G. Babcock, a member of Dove Lodge No. 51. At that dinner Captain Babcock made the offer which led to the home's founding: He would give \$5,000 in cash and 44½ acres on Nine Mile Road, some two miles east of Richmond on the Seven Pines Railroad.

In 1890, the home opened.



Oldest Masonic Lodge, Richmond, at 1805 East Franklin Street.

Fifty years later, *The Richmond News Leader* would say editorially: "the atmosphere created at the home and the education provided should cause deep satisfaction among all members of the order throughout the state. Fifty years is a period long enough to test true values. For the Masonic Home it has been sufficient time for hundreds of young men and young women, reared by this remarkable establishment, to go forth and perform to the fullest extent their tasks of citizenship. . . By their lives and by their prominent records as citizens they will testify to the great work accomplished by the Masons for the benefit of the children of their order and for the benefit of the state."

Today Masons have extended the facilities of their home to include the aged. Thirty elderly persons live in a new wing that was opened May 1, 1955, and 50 children live at the home; all 80 of them come under the direction of Fred W. Troy, the home's executive director.

Most of the funds for the new wing, which came earlier from Virginia Masons, were released at the urging of Charles M. Lankford, Jr., State Commissioner of Fisheries, when he was Grand Master in 1952. Masonic funds also went earlier in this century to build the George W. Wright Pavilion, near Charlottesville, which is now part of the state's hospital system. In naming this facility built for fraternity brothers who became tubercular, the members honored another of their Grand Masters —this man, who held the office in 1899, was one of Virginia's most influential Masons.

All great movements, it seems, must bear the shouts and vigorous destructive efforts of dissidents. Virginia's Masonry has prospered and, if it was touched by reaction to Morgan's disappearance and Wirt's Anti-Masonic campaign, it has been nurtured and dignified by a long line of well-beloved men.

Greatest of these is Washington, remembered today in many ways. In Fredericksburg, where he became a Mason, the lodge has preserved the Bible on which he obligated himself. Still used are the ceremonial furnishings of the master's station that were there more than 200 years ago when Washington was initiated.

And there is, rising higher above sea level than the Washington Monument in the nation's capital, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, conceived early in the present century by Virginia Masons and built south of the Potomac with funds subscribed by the entire fraternity.

Others of those who have dignified the movement during the Grand Lodge's 178-year history include the 16 Grand Secretaries and the 17 Grand Treasurers. Both are offices held for long terms by men devoted to Masonry, by men who provide a continuity to the Grand Lodge as men advanced through the chairs of office to Grand Master.

William Henry Fitzwhylsonn was the first such Grand Secretary. A bookseller, founder of the Musical Society of Richmond, mayor of the city and city magistrate during his life, he was Grand Secretary from 1797 to 1824, and was Grand Master from 1832 to 1834.

Virginia's eleventh Grand Secretary, revered for his service, was Dr. John Dove. Nationally recognized as a Masonic ritualist, administrator, scholar and historian, Dr. Dove was Grand Secretary from 1835 until 1875. He was for many years president of Richmond's Common Council; and he left behind him the first works that students of Freemasonry in this state have been

able to refer to with authority. He compiled discourses and articles on early Masonic history in the Old Dominion and he compiled and edited the reprint of the *Proceeding of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, 1777-1823*, the *Royal Arch Text Book* of 1853, and some editions of the *Methodical Digest*.

Following Dr. Dove as Grand Secretary were William B. Isaacs, George W. Carrington, Charles A. Nesbitt, James M. Clift from 1926 until 1945, and today's "grand old man of Masonry," Dr. James Noah Hillman.

Now 73, Dr. Hillman is a distinguished, white-haired, erect man with clear gaze, ready smile and fund of Masonic lore committed to memory. He became a Mason in 1905 in Coeburn Lodge No. 97, near his birthplace in Wise County. The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg is where he earned three degrees and became a member of Phi Beta Kappa scholastic fraternity.

Before taking his present position, Dr. Hillman was an educator—principal of Williamsburg High School, superintendent of Wise County schools,

assistant State Superintendent of Virginia Public Schools and president of Emory and Henry College.

In Masonry he has served as Grand Master (1938) and has held offices in local lodges and in the Knights Templar. He has been master of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 since it was chartered in 1950, and he has received the other great award the Masons can give their best members, the thirty-third degree, highest in the fraternity.

Also devoted to their work through the years, although farther removed from the public's eyes, have been the Grand Treasurers, from Dr. John Minson Galt to J. G. Seelinger today.

On football teams and in armies, the men who call the plays are the personification of the group, even though their positions are dependent upon a pyramid of co-workers. So it is with Masonry—the Grand Master carries the prestige of the entire order upon his shoulders, representing Virginia Masonry while he occupies the office.

Clothed in the ceremonial garments of that office now is Willis V. Fentress, Civil Justice of Norfolk. Born there April 2, 1892, he practiced law for years before being appointed Civil Justice on April 16, 1937, by appointment of Governor George C. Peery.

Judge Fentress and others who will follow him as Grand Master—traditionally Grand Lodge officers are moved up one office a year, putting Archer B. Gay, of Richmond; Earl S. Wallace, of Tazewell; Samuel Dexter Forbes, of Charlottesville; Charles Malone Flintoff, of Suffolk, and Edmund Carroll Glover, of Victoria, in line in that order—are inheritors of a rich tradition and reputation of office built through generations.

Predecessors of today's Grand Masters, in addition to Blair, Mercer, Randolph and Marshall, Lankford and Wright, include other prominent men: Robert Brooke, one-time Virginia Governor and Attorney General; William Waller Henning, compiler of the 13-volume Statutes at Large of Virginia; Robert G. Scott, who revised the Criminal Code of the state; Alexander McCrae, trustee of Richmond Academy; Dr. John H. Foushee who, with his father, Dr. William Foushee, pioneered in the art of vaccination in Virginia, and William Booth Taliaferro, Major General of Virginia Volunteers and commander at Harper's Ferry during John Brown's disturbances.

There will, Dr. Hillman feels, be more as Virginia Masonry, older than the nation's present government itself, continues to move forward with the nation.

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(Continued from page 5)

No. 22, (now Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22) and by whom Judge Blair was appointed to the highest Court in the land. Judge James Mercer, also a member of Virginia's Highest Court was the second Grand Master of Masons in Virginia. The great Chief Justice, John Marshall, was also a Grand Master. Edmund Randolph was Grand Master at the same time that he was Governor of Virginia. Robert Brooke was also both Governor and Grand Master at one and the same time.

SOMEONE WILL SAY that these are 18th century leaders, and that the leaders of today are less interested. It might be well to recall that the late James H. Price, former Governor of Virginia, was a Past Grand Master. The present Governor, Hon. Thomas B. Stanley, and Senator Harry F. Byrd are members of the Craft. A high percentage of the members of Congress, in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, are members of Masonic Lodges distributed across the length and breadth of America.

Good character is the basis for gaining admission in a Masonic Lodge. The butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker are eligible if they are men of sound moral worth and unquestioned integrity. There is no religious test, but no atheist can be a Mason because all who petition for the Masonic Degrees must subscribe to a belief in God. Masonry excludes no one whose faith is

founded on trust in God whatever may be his church or denominational affiliation.

There are approximately 67,000 Masons in Virginia. They represent a good cross-section of Virginia's citizenship. Certainly they represent all Protestant denominations, and many fine members of the Jewish faith. The Roman Catholics have chosen to exclude themselves.

It is not claimed that all good men are Masons, or that all Masons are good, but it is claimed the average for good citizenship is high, and that some of the best men of almost every community are members of this great Fraternity.



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Letters to the Editor...

Gentlemen:

You are to be congratulated on the fine job you folks did on the Roanoke Issue of the *Virginia Record*. It has been enthusiastically received here and we appreciate your interest in including some of our work.

With kindest regards, we are

Yours sincerely,
John M. Thompson
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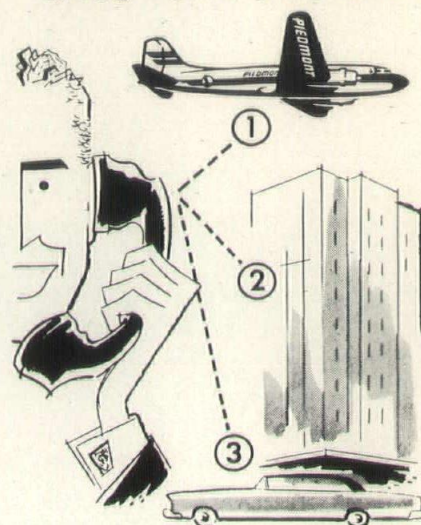
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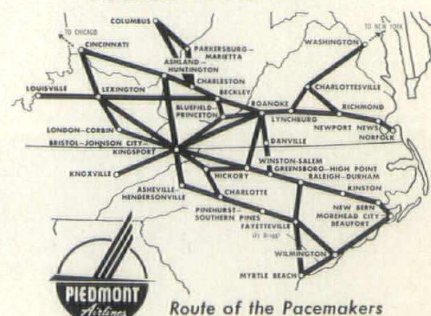
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