

History of the Scottish Rite Valley of

The Bodies of the (AASR) of Freemasonry, Valley of Newport News, Orient of Virginia, acknowledge and bear allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, Mother Council of the world.

Illustrious Brother John F. Mayer, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) in Virginia, issued Letters Temporary to the Brethren who constituted the officers and members of Veritas Lodge of Perfection No 9 located at Newport News, Virginia on November 13, 1912. On the Letters Temporary, Brother William R. Rogers, 32° was listed as Venerable Master and Brother Solomon Miller, 32°, listed as Secretary. Seven of the officers were 32° Scottish Rite Masons, and five officers were 14° Scottish Rite Masons. Three other 32° members were listed for a total membership of fourteen.

Ill. Brother Mayer installed the officers in a ceremony at the Masonic Hall, 2702-04 Washington Avenue, in Newport News. This became the regular meeting place for many years. At this ceremony, seventeen petitions were read in and all were elected to receive the degrees from the fourth through the fourteenth. Those who desired to go to Richmond to receive the degrees were permitted to do so, a motion having been made and passed that the Libertus Lodge No. 5 in Richmond be requested to confer the degrees. On December 7, 1912 six petitions were received, voted on, and all were elected and the degrees from the fourth to the thirteenth inclusive were communicated to them. The regular meeting night was established as the second Wednesday of the month. Annual dues were set at two dollars per year and

initiation fees were set at twenty-two dollars. On June 22, 1913, the Lodge voted to change its meeting night to the fourth Wednesday of each month. It still meets on that day.

A permanent Charter for Veritas Lodge of Perfection No. 9 was received from the Supreme Council dated October 21, 1913.

The Lodge grew slowly during the intervening years until 1917 when the United States went to war in April and things were not normal. In 1918 a letter was received from Illustrious Robert S. Crump, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in Virginia that said "No doubt you are having strenuous times, but hold the fort, and all will be well: success to you in your efforts." He also responded to a question asked of him earlier, "Yes, a Brother in Newport News and a citizen of Virginia can apply for the degrees in the Norfolk Bodies, if he so desires."

During these war years and again in the early 1940's during World War II, the Lodge did not hold some of their stated meetings because of absence of officers or not enough members to form a quorum. Also during the summer, some meetings were not held because of the heat. Also during these war years, many members were suspended for non-payment of dues. During this time the degrees were conferred on groups of candidates when needed, rather than at a "reunion".

At the February 1921 meeting, a letter from Illustrious Brother Robert S. Crump, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in Virginia, was read to the Lodge as follows: "I am today in receipt from Bro. Alderson, Secy. (sic) of your Lodge of the returns for last year. I have been considering the situation in Newport News for sometime past, and owing to the fact that

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the Lodge in your city does not appear to be in a prosperous condition, I have concluded that it would be best for you to surrender the charter, and have therefore instructed Brother Earnest L. Cunningham, 32°, KCCH, to secure the rituals, charter, books, money, and all property and send same in to me. It is highly important that a correct list of all your members in good standing be furnished, so that they can unite with Lodges of Perfection elsewhere. I am sorry to be compelled to take this action, but think it is for the best interest of Scottish Rite Masons.”

To which the following response was made:

“At a meeting of Veritas Lodge of Perfection No. 9, A. A. S. R., held at Newport News, Va., on February 23rd, 1921, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas – This Lodge has been informed that the Inspector General for Virginia desires to recall the charter of the Lodge, advising that it is not working to his satisfaction, therefore he is to be informed of the following resolutions:

Resolved – that this Lodge has received this information with astonishment, and desires to earnestly protest against such action as being based upon an imperfect knowledge of the situation.

Resolved second – That this Lodge has a membership of ninety, has added twelve to the roll during the last year, has money in the treasury, and owes nothing.

Resolved third – That the practice of communicating the degrees has been due to unavoida-

ble circumstances, and this practice will gradually disappear.

Resolved fourth – That the Lodge is at harmony, has elected a new Venerable Master and Secretary, has several petitions for the degrees, and prospects are better for the future.

Resolved fifth – That these resolutions be forwarded to Illustrious Brother Crump, calling his attention to the state of affairs mentioned above (of which he is doubtless unaware) and fraternally request him to recede from his position referred to.

Resolved sixth – That it is the opinion of the members of this Lodge that if the charter is withdrawn that Scottish Rite Masonry in Newport News will receive a blow from which it will not recover for years to come, if at all.”

In March a letter was read from Illustrious Brother Robert S. Crump, 33°, Deputy in Virginia, withdrawing his request for the surrender of the Charter. He also approved the new by-laws.

At the October 1921 meeting it was announced that Brother William R. Rogers had been elected as a KCCH at the last meeting of the Supreme Council. This was a first for the Lodge.

In 1922 the Lodge agreed that the 14th degree ring would be given to each candidate by the Lodge at a cost, to the Lodge, of \$3.75. In April the Lodge purchased two shares of stock in the Independent Publishing Co. at a cost of two hundred dollars. In June the purchase of five hundred dollars worth of bonds in the Masonic Temple Corporation was approved. The fourteenth degree was conferred in May with many distinguished visitors pre-

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sent, including Illustrious Robert S. Crump 33° the SGIG in Virginia. At the conclusion of the degree, the Valley was invited to confer the fourteenth degree at the Norfolk fall reunion. This was done in October. There were twenty-three members of the Newport News Lodge present in addition to the Illustrious John H. Coles, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander (SGC), and Illustrious Robert S. Crump, 33°, the SGIG in Virginia.

In November 1922 it was resolved that the Lodge move to the new Masonic temple at thirty-third and Washington Avenue, on or about February 1, 1923. This was completed.

On January 4, 1923, Illustrious Brother Robert S. Crump, 33°, SGIG in Virginia issued letters temporary for the formation of a Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix. Brother William R. Rogers, KCCH was listed as Wise Master and Brother Edward N. Eubank, 32°, was listed as Recorder. There were a total of twenty-seven 32° Masons listed as members. In March 1923 the Veritas Lodge of Perfection received an invitation to attend the Maundy Thursday Service of the Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix. The first mention of a meeting of the Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix is dated October 24, 1923, but the minutes refer to the minutes of the last meeting, but these cannot be found. In September the Lodge received a bill from the Supreme Council for the Charter of the Chapter of Rose Croix for thirty dollars. The effective date of the Charter was October 16, 1923. In November, the first conferral of the degrees from the fifteenth to the eighteenth inclusive was held. There were a total of seven candidates for the degrees.

The Supreme Council honored two

members of the Newport News Valley in 1925. Illustrious Brother William Robert Rogers was coroneted a 33°, Inspector General Honorary, and Brother Charley Ellis Alderson was invested as a KCCH. Regular meetings continued to be held by the Lodge of Perfection and the Chapter Rose Croix. In December 1926, the first reunion was held for the Lodge of Perfection and the Chapter Rose Croix.

At the May 1927 stated meeting, a Captain of the Scottish Rite Guard was appointed. He was to form a guard that was to be at all reunions as guards, guides, ushers, etc. This is the first mention of an ancillary organization to assist in managing the functions of the Lodges.

At the July 1928 meeting, a motion was made encouraging the Scottish Rite Council of Virginia to start a scholarship at the George Washington University. In November of that year, the Lodge agreed to sponsor a DeMolay Chapter in Newport News.

In 1929 the Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix held six meetings with the annual meeting, election, and installation of Officers taking place in March, and the reunions in May and November, and the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday service in March. Minutes from the end of 1928 until February 1938 could not be found at the time of this effort to record the history of Newport News Scottish Rite. Similarly, minutes could not be found for the Chapter of Rose Croix from 1929 until 1938.

The minutes show that the Maundy Thursday and the Easter Sunday Observance were held each year starting in 1923 through 1928. These services were resumed in 1939, and have continued according to tradition.

The minutes for 1937 and 1938 indi-

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cate that the Lodges were active during the period of the missing minutes. We find that at the end of 1936 there were 223 members on the roll, and during 1937 three members were added by initiation and there were thirteen losses, making a total membership on December 31, 1937 of 213.

The 1939 report of the Secretary, Brother William H. Colonna, showed a total of 188 members in the Newport News Lodge of Perfection and 132 for the Newport News Chapter of Rose Croix. At this time it was permissible for members to join the Lodge of Perfection (4th thru 14th Degree) and not join the Chapter of Rose Croix (15th thru 18th Degree) at the same time, thus the difference in membership numbers of the two bodies. The biggest losses were because of non-payment of dues. This was a time of great stress due to the depression for the past ten years, and for many it was not possible to pay dues, not only to the Scottish Rite, but to other organizations as well.

The Lodges continued to function in 1940, with a special meeting in December where Illustrious Robert S. Crump, 33° SGIG in Virginia, visited with a group of Brethren from the Richmond Bodies to try to arouse more interest in the Scottish Rite, and increase membership. At the stated meeting in December, the Lodge voted to make a \$25 donation toward an ambulance to be sent to England by the Scottish Rite Masons of Virginia. However, in February of 1941, the Lodge was informed that the ambulance had not been sent to England because of lack of cargo space, but instead it had been sent to China.

Meetings were held according to the by-laws for the next seven years with

regular business being transacted. In 1948, three resolutions were presented and passed as follows:

A building fund is to be established and funds deposited in a bank account that draws interest.

The Lodge is to purchase \$2,000 worth of series 'G' government Bonds for the building fund and any interest received from these bonds is to be deposited in the building fund account.

A building fund committee is to be formed by the Venerable Master and Wise Master with the agreement of their officers. The committee is to handle all matters concerning the fund.

The spring reunion was held on March 31 and April 1, 2 and 7. Illustrious Robert S. Crump, 33°, SGIG in Virginia, and Illustrious John H. Coles, 33° SGC, were both present on April 7. In response to a request from the Scottish Rite Council of Virginia, the Lodge of Perfection voted to contribute seventeen cents per member for furnishings at the chapel of the Masonic Home. As was the custom over the years, other small charitable contributions were made.

In April 1949 the Chapter Rose Croix voted to accept the ballot of the Lodge of Perfection on petitions as their own ballot. A letter was received from Illustrious John H. Coles, 33°, SGC, informing the Lodge that Illustrious Brother Robert S. Barrett 33° is appointed Deputy of the Supreme Council in Virginia as of December 1, 1949.

In the fall of 1951, the Secretary read Letters Temporary, which established the Newport News Council of Kadosh and Consistory. These two Bodies held their first meetings on October 1, 1952. At that meeting the Council of Kadosh and Con-

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sistory voted to authorize the Lodge of Perfection to handle their funds and agreed to accept the ballot on petitions of the Lodge of Perfection.

Also in November 1951 the Secretary read a letter from Illustrious C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council, informing the Lodge that a new regulation requiring a petitioner to answer questions about their loyalty to the United States was to become effective on January 1, 1952, and must be made a part of the petition for membership.

1952 saw the first report of the Cinosam Guard Association Incorporated given to the Lodge of Perfection. This corporation had been formed for the purpose of managing the Scottish Rite Retreat consisting of real estate on Saunders Road with a small building used for social functions by the Bodies and managed by the Scottish Rite Guard. The Corporation had purchased 4.4 acres of land between the building and the reservoir for future use. The minutes mention funds being provided to the "Guard" or for the maintenance of the "Retreat" on several occasions. In one instance the facility had been vandalized and a motion was made to demolish the building. However, in typical Masonic fashion, an amendment was made to the motion that a committee be formed to evaluate the site and report to the Lodge of Perfection. Their report noted that the damage was not as extensive as was thought, that several small repairs had been made and the main problem was the quality of the doors and the locks on the doors. The Lodge of Perfection voted to put a "cosmetic" effort on the "Retreat" and maintain the new look. The Lodge of Perfection voted to proceed with the re-

pairs to include new gutters, painting, repair the doors and locks, and install four "watch" lights, at a cost of six hundred dollars.

In March 1952 all four Bodies voted that the Lodge of Perfection should act for, manage and control funds for all four Bodies, and in 1953 the Lodge voted to purchase red or white caps for anyone so honored by the Supreme Council in the future.

Meetings were held according to the by-laws for the next seven years with regular business being transacted. In 1959 the name of the Lodge of Perfection was changed from Veritas Lodge of Perfection No. 9 to Newport News Lodge of Perfection. In 1960 the Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia was incorporated and the valley Secretary, Illustrious William H. Colonna, IGH, was elected a Director for a one-year term. In 1962 the financial assets of the Lodge reached \$100,000, with approximately seventy percent in U. S. Government bonds. 1968 saw the Lodge take over control of the "Retreat" on Saunders Road and dissolve the Cinosam Corporation, with all the land being transferred to the Lodge of Perfection. The Lodge sponsored a trip over the Skyline Drive and to Luray Caverns for the children of the Masonic Home, and sponsored a dance for the DeMolay and Jobs daughters.

In 1972, the first presentation was made of preliminary plans for the Scottish Rite Temple. The first Feast of Tishri of the Newport News Lodge of Perfection was held in September 1975 with Most Worshipful and Doctor Seymour J. Levy, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, as the speaker. The Lodge of Perfection voted on April 28, 1976, to change the location of their meetings to St. Tammany Lodge No. 5, effective in July 1976. At

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the same meeting the Lodge voted to establish a permanent building committee to serve until dissolved by vote of the Lodge. These actions to change the location of the meeting place were prompted by the deterioration of the facility on 33rd street and Washington Avenue, and the changing demographics of the downtown Newport News location.

Work continued on a steady pace to improve the status of the Bodies, and finally enough funds were made available for work to start on our new home, the Scottish Rite Masonic Center at 65 Saunders Road, Newport News. On July 27, 1983 the Lodge of Perfection voted to proceed with construction of the new building consisting of a shell with two Lodge rooms at a cost of \$735,000. This included all facilities required by the City. This had been the site of the original Scottish Rite Retreat. Groundbreaking took place on November 30, 1985. Most Worshipful Oscar W. Tate, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, and the Grand Lodge Officers laid the cornerstone on January 10, 1987. The first meeting in the new facility was held on Wednesday, April 22, 1987.

A large symbolic representation of the 14° ring was constructed for use in a "ring ceremony" for the reunion held in 1983. This is a unique ceremony with each new 14° Scottish Rite Mason being presented his ring by someone whom he selects and they walk through the "symbolic ring." The chapter of Knights of St. Andrew is currently in charge of this ceremony.

In general, regular meetings were held monthly during the years. Joint elections and installation of officers have been held in February since 1981. The Feast of Tishri has been held during the

September stated every year since 1978 with many notable guest speakers including Grand Lodge officers and a Governor of Virginia. Reunions were held when candidates were waiting for degrees.

All four bodies approved, in March of 1982, a change in the by-laws that authorized elections in all four bodies to occur in February of each year beginning in 1983.

Highlights of the 1989 Bi-annual Session of the Supreme Council impacting Orients and Valleys included the option to add an Orient Personal Representative and a change in the title of the Chairman of the Advisory Conference to Personal Representative for each Valley. The name of the Scottish Rite magazine was changed from "The New Age" to "The Scottish Rite Journal." Also the Orient SGIG, or Deputy, to the Supreme Council is to appoint the Valley Secretary.

A utility shed was constructed behind the building to house the hospital equipment distributed by the community Relations Committee. Previous to this, the hospital equipment was housed in the new auditorium while it was still an open area without any improvements. The Valley had formed the community relations committee to lend hospital equipment about a year after the facility on Saunders Road was open.

On November 14, 1987 the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 65 Saunders Road, Newport News, Virginia, was Dedicated-Consecrated with proper ceremonies, as prescribed by the Practice and Procedure of the Scottish Rite. Illustrious Doctor David Kruger, 33°, SGIG in Virginia, served as master of ceremonies. Distinguished guests included Most Worshipful Donald Maynard Robey, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, Illustrious C. Fred Kleinknecht, Jr. 33°, Sovereign Grand Com-

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mander (SGC) Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (AASR), Southern Jurisdiction, Most Worshipful Lloyd U. Jefferson, Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful William M. Johnson, Past Grand Master, and Right Worshipful William F. Perdue, Grand Senior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Illustrious Brother Kleinknecht presented the Valley with his SGC's Scottish Rite Cap and Illustrious Brother Kruger presented them his SGIG's Cap.

The first reunion in the new facility was held in 1987. Because the auditorium was not completed, the degrees were conferred in the Lodge room.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Newport News Scottish rite Bodies was held in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 65 Saunders Road, Newport News, Virginia on October 22, 1988. Dinner was served at 6:30 PM. The members and guests retired to the Lodge room after dinner. Illustrious Brother Doctor David Kruger, 33°, SGIG in Virginia, was the guest speaker. Doctor Kruger thanked the Valley for the courtesies extended to him and congratulated them for their many accomplishments, particularly the construction of the Masonic Center. It had been announced that two flagpoles had been installed at the front of the facility and the flags had been donated by Mrs. Fran Braswell, wife of Brother C. W. Braswell, who was serving as the Commander of the Council of Kadosh.

At the December 1996 stated meeting, the Secretary reported that pursuant to a change in the Statues of the Supreme Council, 33°, the statue now allows a member with broken membership service who shows just cause for such broken service to be eligible for fifty-year status with approval of the valley membership.

Brother James Ralph Hood, Jr. was elected to fifty-year membership as a result of his letter to the Lodge concerning his broken membership.

The May 1998 meeting had the first mention of a Life Membership in Perpetuity Plan when Illustrious Edward J. Lowery, IGH, presented a check for \$15,000 from Brother Elwood C. "Cocky" Foster earmarked for a special fund for the Community Relations committee. The proceeds of the fund were to be used to assist in establishing a perpetual membership fund, until such time as the committee should need the funds. It was also stipulated that Brother Foster and Illustrious Brother Lowery were to be the first members to receive perpetual membership. A letter was read from the Illustrious C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, Grand Commander dated January 5, 2001 wherein he had approved the Life Membership in Perpetuity Plan for use in the Valley of Newport News. In conformity with the original proposal of such a plan, Brother Elwood Campbell "Cocky" Foster and Illustrious Edward Jones Lowery, IGH, were presented with the first two life membership certificates. Brother Clarence Ward Braswell received certificate number three, and Illustrious John E. Blair, 33°, received certificate number four. There are now 101 life members within the plan.

The Lodge received correspondence from the Illustrious C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33°, SGC, dated November 1998, restating the position of the Supreme Council on the subject of Prince Hall Masonry, as follows: "Recognizing that within its jurisdiction each Grand Lodge has the ultimate and final authority on questions of fraternal relations with Prince Hall affiliated bodies, the Supreme Council directs that its Subordinate Bodies shall defer to and

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follow the lead of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over it.”

October 1998 saw the first announcement of the sale of bonds to be used to finance the completion of the auditorium. Each bond had a sale price of \$1,000 at a simple interest of 7.5%, with a total of 200 bonds being available. The maximum term of the Bonds was fifteen years. Shorter terms were available on a first come-first serve basis. All of the bonds were sold in a short time.

In June 1999 the Lodge voted to provide a meeting place for the Tidewater Chapter of DeMolay and they still use the facility.

The building committee announced that chairs for the auditorium were available for purchase by the members at a cost of \$200 each. There are four hundred-three chairs. As of July 2013, there are forty chairs that have not been purchased by the members. The city of Newport News approved the auditorium fire alarm system plan in July of 1999. The dedication of the auditorium was held on January 7, 2000.

The first Golf tournament to raise funds for the Childhood Language Center at Old Dominion University was held in 2002 and has been held every year since then. In 2006 the Golf Tournament was named “The Illustrious William M. Johnson Memorial Golf tournament.”

The Masonic Temple in downtown Newport News that had been home of the Scottish Rite for many years was demolished in July of 2003. The “red room” at the Masonic Center that was to be the home of Warwick Lodge No. 336 was ready for use as a Lodge room at the end of February 2004. Warwick Lodge No. 336 held its first meeting in the newly remodeled Lodge room on April 1, 2004.

The reunion held in October 2006 was the first use of a power point program while conferring the degrees in the auditorium. Also 2006 was the first mention of the formation of a chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew. These Sir Knights serve as greeters at Valley functions, provide an Honor Guard at the Reunions and volunteer to help at the Scottish Rite Center as often as needs arise. Sir Knight Jesse Anderson Norman was the person most responsible for the formation of the chapter.

A history of the Newport News Scottish Rite would not be complete without including information about the “Scottish Rite Ladies”. This “club” chartered on February 27, 1980 with the help of the Ladies from the Valley of Portsmouth, consisted of fifty-nine charter members. They were all wives and other female relatives of the members of the Newport News Scottish Rite. Their stated purpose is to support the Newport News Scottish Rite and its members in their fraternal and educational programs and endeavor to promote membership. Over the past thirty-three years they have been very faithful in their support by providing funds when available for purchases of items to improve the facility, such as furniture and kitchen equipment. The Ladies meet once a month (except July and August) while the Scottish Rite members are holding their meetings and they schedule programs of interest to the Ladies. One of their most valuable support efforts has been hosting receptions after a special function at the Center. These include the reception following our ring ceremony that is always a highlight with the members of the Valley. Their faithful and continued support is greatly appreciated by all of the members of the Valley. Ladies, we thank you!!!

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Major rooms in the Center have been dedicated to the honor of specific individuals as follows:

Room	Person	Date
Auditorium	Illustrious William M. Johnson, IGH	January 7, 2000
Social Hall	Illustrious Lonnie Phelps, Jr., IGH	January 7, 2000
Conference Room/Library	Illustrious Harry P. Williams, IGH	January 7, 2000

The Valley has participated in the Master Craftsman course as sponsored by the Supreme Council since the first member completed the course in 2008. As of this writing, thirty-four have completed Course I and two have completed Course II.

There have been five Valley Personal Representatives since the start of the Valley Representative procedure in 1989. They are as follows:

Illustrious Lonnie Phelps, Jr. IGH	1989-1991
Illustrious Harry N. Williams IGH	1991-1995
Illustrious William M. Johnson IGH	1995-2005
Illustrious Clifford A. Parker IGH	2005-2013
Illustrious Jack L. Smith IGH	2013-Present

There have been fifteen Valley Secretaries since 1912. The office of Secretary was very volatile during the early years. Brother Solomon Miller, charter Secretary, resigned on December 7, 1912, one month after having been elected to that office. Brother E. E. Hudson his successor resigned on November 13, 1913. Brother William R. Rogers was elected to fill the office until the next election, at which time he was elected Secretary. He served until May 31, 1916. Brother Samuel A. Mirmelstein succeeded him. Then the office became more stable and in 1972 Illustrious William H. Colonna, IGH, was elected Secretary Emeritus, after thirty-three years. Those who have served in this office are as follows:

Solomon Miller	1912-1912
E. E. Hudson	1912-1913
Illustrious William R. Rogers	1913-1916
Samuel A. Mirmelstein	1916-1920
Charley E. Alderson	1920-1921
Edward N. Eubank	1921-1923
Allen M. Walker, Jr.	1923-1924
Roland B. Anderton	1925-1938
Illustrious William H. Colonna	1939-1972
Illustrious Leslie C. Hicks	1972-1987
Illustrious Arthur F. Packard, Jr.	1988-1991
Michael A. Korb, Jr., KCCH	1992-1995
Illustrious Arthur F. Packard, Jr.	1996-1999
Illustrious Clarence W. Braswell	2000-2004

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Illustrious Adrain L. Eure

2005-Present

Several members of this Valley have served in other Masonic leadership roles as follows:

Edward N. Eubank

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 1902

William J. McMahan

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 1955

William M. Johnson

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 1983

William F. Perdue

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 1991

Clifford A. Parker

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 2001

William E. Rorer, Jr.

Grand Master of Masons in Virginia 2010

Wilbur A. Spain

Grand High Priest Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia 1973

Eugene W. Wiggins

Grand High Priest Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia 1993

Gordon H. Sprigg, Jr.

Grand High Priest Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia 2005

Dale J. Gurney

Grand High Priest Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia 2009

Carl W. Gaborik

National Commander, Heroes of Seventy-Six 2005 - 2006

Valley membership at the end of 2013 was 585.

Prepared by:

Illustrious and Most Worshipful (1991) William F. Perdue, IGH

Some information was taken from a paper prepared by:

Illustrious Joseph S. Tannen, IGH