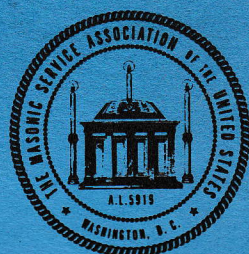


# George Washington, Master Mason



**THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION  
700 TENTH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001**

September 15, 1952  
Revised, September, 1965

Property of Morris W. Israel  
821 Lakeside Ave.  
Seattle 98144



*His Excellency, George Washington, Esq., President of the  
United States. Aged 64. Williams Pinxit, Ad Virum in  
Philadelphia. Sept. 18, 1794.*

This portfolio, designed to help lodges and other Masonic Bodies easily to conduct a meeting commemorative of George Washington's becoming an Entered Apprentice, November 4, 1752, contains:

A suggested lodge program;

An address to be given during that program;

Facts about George Washington as a Mason for those who prefer to write their own addresses;

Description of twenty-one pictures;

One picture in color, twenty in black and white.

In a small gathering the pictures may be passed from hand to hand. For larger groups, they may be pinned up in the anteroom, or hung from a stretched cord in the lodge room.

Celebrations of the anniversary of Washington's becoming a Mason may be held at any convenient date, preferably near November 4. The material herein contained is also applicable to celebrations of Washington's birthday, February 22, 1732.

## SUGGESTED PROGRAM

1. Introduction of Master of Ceremonies by the Master.
2. Choral Singing. (One or two verses of "My Country," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "America the Beautiful," or other familiar patriotic songs, under a song leader.)
3. Invocation by the Chaplain.
4. Medley of Patriotic Airs. (By piano, orchestra, drum corps, band or phonograph.)
5. The American's Creed by everybody present. (This may be printed on the program as follows):

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; Whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; A democracy in a republic, a Sovereign Nation of Many States; A perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of Freedom, Equality, Justice and Humanity, for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its Flag, and to defend it against all enemies."
6. Song. "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men," Kipling's "Recessional," or something similar. (Solo or quartette.)
7. Introduction of Speaker by Master of Ceremonies.
8. Address; "George Washington, Master Mason."
9. Song. The Star-Spangled Banner. (By all present.)
10. Benediction, by the Chaplain.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON, MASTER MASON

*(An address for delivery in lodges)*

Two hundred <sup>and 15</sup> years ago, November 4, 1752, a comparatively unknown young man, not yet twenty-one years of age, was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in what was then a new lodge — "The Lodge at Fredericksburgh", Virginia.

In 1752 there was no Grand Lodge in Virginia. "The Lodge at Fredericksburgh" had no charter. It was either a "time immemorial" lodge, in which Masons of a town decided to join themselves into a lodge, or (doubtful) it was organized under the authority of Thomas Oxnard, Provincial Grand Master at Boston. No documentary evidence attests either of these suggested origins of the lodge.

Freemasonry in the American Colonies was far different in 1752 from what it is today. Transportation of either goods or persons was difficult; the roads were few, narrow, poor. The only motor power was in men (the Sedan chair, for short distances) or the coach and four or more horses for longer travels. The plantation which was eight miles from a town was a day's journey from supplies. Mail and newspapers were infrequent and often much delayed.

As a consequence, communities were largely self-centered. People lived within themselves and their local interests far more than the world at large. Lodges partook of the character of their communities. The lodge was literally a "center of union" and was usually small, exclusive, secret, and necessary in the social lives of thoughtful men whose closely-knit lives were so dependent, each upon the other, for enlightenment, interest, and unity of thought.

It is important to realize this if understanding is to be had of why Washington, a sober, serious and ambitious young man, was so eager to become a member of the Ancient Craft that he applied before he was fully come to man's estate; it is doubly necessary to have some perspective on the lives of gentlemen of the Colonies if we are to understand the significance which the Fraternity had in the eyes of Washington and his brethren.

Lodges in those days kept but the scantiest of minutes. Those of "The Lodge at Fredericksburgh" which are so priceless to the Masonic world today, read as follows:

4th Novbr. (1752) Charles Lewis

George Washington

3rd March (1753) George Washington pass'd fellow Craft.

4th August 5753 Which Day the Lodge being Assembled present R. Wpl. Daniel Campbell, I. Neilson, S.W., Rot. Halkerston, J.W., George Washington, James Strakan, (Sic) Alex'r Wodrow, Secretary Pro Temp. Thomas Robertson, William McWilliams, Treasr. Transactions of the Evening are: George Washington rais'd Master Mason; Thomas James Entd, an Apprentice.

(The date, "5753", is "1753" according to the Masonic chronology which adds four thousand years to the Christian era.)

At the times he was initiated and, later, raised, George Washington was old for his years, a responsible officer (Major), a surveyor trusted by those who employed him, with family connections of influence in Virginia. Whether the lodge overlooked the fact that he lacked three months and more of being twenty-one; whether "legal age" was then not as important as now; whether the change in calendar of Old Style to New Style had confused those in authority, who shall say? But none will now question the authority and the authenticity of "The Lodge at Fredericksburgh" which had no charter until six years after Washington was raised; nor its right to make an Entered Apprentice of a man less than twenty-one years of age. It was the custom in the early days in this country for lodges to congregate themselves and Washington's Mother Lodge became Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 on the roster of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, when that body came into being, and has had an honored life from its birth.

How much Washington thought of his Masonry is a matter of record. How much extra personal value he put upon it, which he never stated in words, must be read between the lines of

his many communications regarding the Fraternity. Colonial times were formal. Men wrote with dignity and restraint. Manners, the graces of drawing room and society, were considered essential. If to us Washington's stilted and formal phrases seem less than wholly enthusiastic, remember the times. His words were written by the young country's most prominent, most revered and most able general, statesman, President. Behind their formality breathes an evident spirit of reverence, love, respect and admiration for Freemasonry.

Washington wrote many letters to lodges, Grand Lodges and brethren. They cannot here be quoted in full, but a few sentences will give an idea of their general feeling and his sincere appreciation of the Ancient Craft.

To Brothers Watson and Cassoul, on receipt of the apron they sent him from France, he said, August 10, 1782: "Praise is due the Great Architect of the Universe who did not see fit to suffer his superstructures and justice to be subjected to the Ambition of the Princes of this World or to the rod of oppression, in the hands of any power on earth!"

December 28, 1783, writing to Alexandria Lodge, he stated: "I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render service to Lodge No. 39 and in every act of brotherly kindness to the members of it."

An undated letter, (probably written in August, 1790) to King David Lodge in Newport, Rhode Island, contained this sentiment. "Being persuaded that a just application of the principles on which the Masonic fraternity is founded must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society and to be considered by them as a deserving brother."

A letter to St. John's Lodge, No. 2, Newbern, North Carolina, contains the phrase: "It is peculiarly pleasing to find my conduct so affectionately approved by a fraternity whose association is founded in justice and benevolence."

Writing to the brethren of Prince George's Lodge, No. 16, Georgetown, South Carolina, Washington said: "I shall always be ambitious of being considered a deserving Brother."

Washington demonstrated his regard for Freemasonry not only in his letters but in his acts. Of his many visits to lodges and attendance at other functions in which Masons were chiefly or wholly concerned, three are generally regarded as most momentous in Washington's Masonic life.

The first of these was Washington's being proposed as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia on June 23, 1777. He declined. He was thrice proposed as General Grand Master of Masons in the United States, first by American Union (Military) Lodge, at Morristown, New Jersey, December 15, 1779; next by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, on December 20, 1779; and again by the same body on January 13, 1780.

He declined to become Grand Master of Virginia because at that time he was not a Past Master and because of military responsibilities. That he refused to become General Grand Master of Masons of a General Grand Lodge must have come from his conviction that the success of the new country depended on weaving the several States into a national fabric. For this, State sovereignty — and therefore State Grand Lodge sovereignty — was vital.

How well Washington reasoned! Our forty-nine Grand Lodges live in peace and harmony together, each respectful of the laws and the customs of the others. But Masonry, while essentially the same the world over, in details yields to geography, to climate, to history and to peoples. Each Grand Lodge wisely determines its own government. This was what Washington envisioned for a nation of sovereign States; he could not think otherwise about his Masonry.

But if Washington would not become either a General Grand Master or Grand Master of Virginia, he did become Worshipful Master, and this second decisive act, the document attesting it, and the aura of romance which surrounds it, make it vivid with color.

The lodge at Alexandria was chartered in 1783 and met for the first time on February 25, when four of the petitioners and two members of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree, read the charter giving them life and the number 39, and proceeded to exercise jurisdiction "in the borough of Alexandria or within four miles of the same."

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania dissolved and re-formed as a sovereign and independent Grand Lodge in 1786. Rather than turn in its old charter to obtain a new one from Pennsylvania, Alexandria Lodge petitioned its own newly formed Grand Lodge of Virginia.

This act was to have a far-reaching effect upon the Fraternity. Desiring to honor the man and brother Mason who had delivered the nation from bondage and become the foremost citizen of the new country, the brethren of Alexandria asked Washington's consent to name him as their first Worshipful Master under the new charter.

On April 28, 1788, Edmund Randolph, "Governor of the Commonwealth aforesaid and Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Freemasons within the same, by and with the consent of the Grand Lodge of Virginia," issued a charter to the petitioning brethren, constituting them a lodge of Freemasons "by the name, title and designation of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22". George Washington was named first in the Charter and thus became Worshipful Master. He was unanimously re-elected Worshipful Master to succeed himself December 20, 1788, serving in all about twenty months. He was inaugurated as President on April 30, 1789, first and so far the only Brother to be President of the United States and Master of his lodge at the same time.

After Washington's death, the brethren desired to change the name to Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22. The Grand Lodge of Virginia consented.

The third Masonic event which intimately weaves Washington into the life of the nation was his laying the cornerstone of the United States Capitol, September 18, 1793.

This ceremony, so important historically and so dear to the hearts of Freemasons, was conducted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland (the District of Columbia had no Grand Lodge until 1811) which august body invited Worshipful Brother George Washington to lay the cornerstone of the national Capitol.

The ceremonies incident to this event were reported at length in the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* of September 23, 1793.

During this observance, a large silver plate was handed to Washington, who deposited it upon the cornerstone, together with the corn, wine and oil of the ceremony. The inscription on the plate reads:

*"This southeast corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States of America in the city of Washington, was laid on the 18th day of September, 1793, in the thirteenth year of American Independence, in the first year of the second term of the presidency of George Washington, whose virtues in the civil administration of his country have been as conspicuous and beneficial as his military valor and prudence have been useful in establishing her liberties, and in the year of Masonry 5793, by the President of the United States, in concert with the Grand Lodge of Maryland, several Lodges under its jurisdiction, and Lodge No. 22, from Alexandria, Virginia. Thomas Johnson, David Stewart and Daniel Carroll, Commissioners. Joseph Clark, R.W.G.M. protem, and James Hoban and Stephen Hallate, Architects. Colin Williamson, Master Mason."*

Two historic Masonic aprons presented to Washington are priceless possessions. one of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and one of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.

Pennsylvania cherishes the apron embroidered for Washington by Madame LaFayette. It displays the checkered pavement, four pillars, the All Seeing Eye, the sun and moon and various other Masonic emblems, but is particularly interesting because of an emblem on the flap which apparently is that of the Mark Degree. No authentic record exists of Washington being made a Royal Arch Mason, but it seems reasonable that Madame LaFayette would not have woven any emblem upon the apron without consulting her husband, and it seems equally unthinkable that he would have suggested a Mark emblem had Washington not been entitled to wear it.

The apron cherished by Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 was presented to Washington by Brothers Watson and Cassoul of Nantes, France (confidential agents of the American govern-

ment during the Revolution). It had been embroidered for them by some Roman Catholic nuns in a convent in Nantes.

The apron has a device in the center representing a beehive and above it are the American and French flags. A cabletow in loops and a gavel surmount the whole.

Any number of aprons are said to have been presented to Washington and other aprons are certainly upon pictures of Washington as a Mason and as a Master, but none of these is documented and most, if not all, are probably only legendary.

That Washington was a deeply religious man is known not only by his attendance at church — Pohick and Christ Churches, the latter in Alexandria — but also from his writings and the conduct of his life. So it is with an added reverence that Freemasonry associates two historic Bibles with Washington and his love for the Ancient Craft.

The first of these, of course, is that on which Washington took his obligations — the greatest Masonic relic of Washington which has survived the inroads of time. It is the priceless possession of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4.

Of hardly less importance and veneration is the Bible belonging to St. John's Lodge, New York, on which Washington took his oath of office as President of the United States. On the fly leaf of this cherished Great Light is recorded the story of Washington taking the oath of office, administered by Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, then Grand Master of Masons in New York.

No short address can do more than touch the highlights of Washington's Masonic life. His visits to lodges, his honorary memberships, the books Masonically dedicated to him, the myths and legends which grew up about his Masonic career, the Masonic incidents in his life, his death and Masonic burial, the great monuments erected to his memory, the statues carved, the medals struck, all of a Masonic significance, make a story the telling of which would take hours where here but minutes are available.

But the brightest light which shines from the memory of Washington to illuminate the Masonic heart can be compressed into a single paragraph.

Washington was reverent before his God. Washington loved his Freemasonry. Washington drew inspiration from the Ancient Craft and in return gave to it of his influence, his talents and his reputation.

The unbreakable bond between Washington, soldier, statesman, patriot, first President and his country is known to all. There was an equally strong bond between Washington the man, the husband, the citizen, the churchman, the Master Mason and Master of his lodge, and the Masonry he cherished. Once, indeed, this was visualized in a ceremony never to be forgotten of men and Masons.

On November 4, 1920, the Bible of "The Lodge at Fredericksburgh" on which Washington took his obligations, and the Bible of St. John's Lodge, on which he took the oath of office as President of the United States, lay side by side in the Grand Lodge of New York, a mute but ringing testimony that Washington was the greater that he bowed his head and knelt to the Great Architect of the Universe, and, before the Altar of Freemasonry, learned to meet upon the level and part upon the square.



## FACTS ABOUT GEORGE WASHINGTON AS A MASTER MASON

*For the use of speakers who will prepare and deliver addresses on the  
Father of his Country, on the anniversary of his initiation, or his birth.*

- In "The Lodge at Fredericksburgh" (now No. 4), Fredericksburg, Virginia, Washington was:
- Initiated, November 4, 1752.
  - Passed, March 3, 1753.
  - Raised, August 4, 1753.
  - Remained a member until the time of his death.
- Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia was:*
- First chartered as Alexandria Lodge No. 39, under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
  - Became Alexandria Lodge No. 22, under the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1788.
  - After Washington's death was renamed Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, in 1805.
  - Washington was made an Honorary Member of this lodge, June 24, 1784.
  - Became Worshipful Master of this lodge when Charter was issued to it by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, April 28, 1788.
- Holland Lodge, No. 8, New York City, New York, Elected Washington an Honorary Member, 1789.*
- 1753, September 1. Washington visited his "Lodge at Fredericksburgh" shortly before leaving for the Western country.
- 1755, January 4. Again visited his lodge.
- 1777, June 23. Proposed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.
- 1778, December 28. Marched in procession in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the Masonic celebration in honor of St. John the Evangelist.
- 1779, June 24. Celebrated with American Union (Military) Lodge the festival of St. John the Baptist at West Point, New York.
- 1779, October 6. Washington (Military) Lodge was instituted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Washington visited this lodge.
- 1779, December 15. Proposed by American Union (Military) Lodge, at Morristown, New Jersey, as General Grand Master of the United States.
- 1779, December 20. Proposed by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as General Grand Master of the United States.
- 1779, December 27. Celebrated with American Union (Military) Lodge the festival of St. John the Evangelist at Morristown, New Jersey.
- 1780, January 13. Again proposed by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as General Grand Master of the United States.
- 1781, October. Said to have visited with General LaFayette Lodge No. 9 at Yorktown, Virginia, after the surrender of Cornwallis there.
- 1782, Presented a Masonic apron and other Masonic regalia, by Brothers Watson and Cassoul, of Nantes, France. Acknowledged the gifts August 10, 1782.
- 1782, June 24. Celebrated with American Union (Military) Lodge the festival of St. John the Baptist at West Point, New York.
- 1782, December 27. Solomon's Lodge, No. 1, Poughkeepsie, New York, records: "Visitors, Bro. George Washington, Comdr. in Chief." Celebrated with them on this date the festival of St. John the Evangelist.
- 1784, June 24. Celebrated with Alexandria Lodge, Alexandria, Virginia, the festival of St. John the Baptist.
- 1784, August. Was presented by General LaFayette with a Masonic apron made by Madame LaFayette.
- 1785, February 12. Walked in the Masonic procession at the funeral of Brother William Ramsey at Alexandria, Virginia.

- 1789, April 30. Inaugurated as President of the United States. Took the oath of office on the Bible belonging to St. John's Lodge, No. 1, New York City, New York.
- 1791, April 15. Visited Newbern, North Carolina, and was welcomed by the Freemasons of St. John's Lodge, No. 2, "with the mystic numbers," and attended a ball in the evening.
- 1791, May. While on a visit to Charleston, South Carolina, was greeted by General Mordecai Gist, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, who extended the greetings of that Grand Lodge.
- 1793, September 18. Assisted by the Grand Master *pro tem.* of Maryland and the Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, Virginia, laid the cornerstone of the United States Capitol in Washington, D. C.
- 1794, Late in this year Alexandria Lodge received and accepted the Masonic portrait of Washington, painted by Williams on order of the lodge. Washington sat for this portrait while in the city some time in the latter part of 1793 or early part of 1794.
- 1797, March 28. Received a delegation from Alexandria Lodge and accepted an invitation to be present in Alexandria, April 1st.
- 1797, April 1. Attended Alexandria Lodge, and at the banquet proposed the toast, "The Lodge of Alexandria and all Masons throughout the world."
- Buried Masonically at Mt. Vernon, December 18, 1799, by Alexandria Lodge, No. 22.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FREDERICKSBURGH LODGE. (ADOPTED 1769)

1. That the meetings in course be the first Friday of every month, from March to September at 6 o'clock in the evening, and from September to March at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.
2. Every member of the Lodge shall pay three Shillings Quarterly for expenses thereof. Vist, at last day, Midsummer, Michaelmas and Christmas — Extra Expenses to be defrayed

by such members as are present on these Occasions.

3. Every new made Brother shall pay the Fee of three Pistoles for being admitted to the first degree, The Fee of one Pistole for being passed to the Second and the same sum on being raised to the third. These Fees must be received the night of his admission, passing, or raising, or the Brothers who recommend to be responsible for them.

4. Any Brother not made in this Lodge, Petitioning to become a member thereof, shall upon his being received as such (after due examination) pay the Fee of one Pistole. But Brethren made here may become members without further Fee than that of their admission.

5. No visiting Brother is to be admitted without due Examination, unless vouched for by a Brother present; nor more than once without paying One Shilling and Three Pence.

6. No person to be admitted to become a Mason in this Lodge under the age of Twenty One Years on any account whatever, being Contrary to the Constitutions of Masonry, nor without the unanimous Consent of the Lodge by Ballot.

7. All Fees and Quarterages to be paid to the Treasurer for the time being. His Acc't to be Annually examined and Balanced on the Night his office expires.

THE CHARTER GIVEN TO ALEXANDRIA LODGE  
BY THE GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA,  
DATED APRIL 28, 1788.

*Edm. Randolph: G. M.*

TO ALL AND EVERY to whose knowledge these presents shall come. Greeting:

WHEREAS, It has been duly represented to us, that in the County of Fairfax, and Borough of Alexandria, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, there reside a number of brethren of the Society of Freemasons, who have assembled as a Lodge agreeably to the regulations of Masonry by the title of the Alexandria Lodge, and it appearing to be for the good and increase of the Fraternity that the said brethren should be encouraged to proceed and work, as-heretofore they have done in a Regular Lodge.

KNOW YET, That we, EDMUND RANDOLPH, ESQ., Governor of the Commonwealth aforesaid, and Grand Master of the

Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Freemasons, within the same, by and with the consent of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, do hereby constitute and appoint our illustrious and well-beloved brother, GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQ., late General and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the United States of America, and our worthy brethren, Robert McCrea, William Hunter, Jr., and John Allison, Esq., together with all such other brethren as may be admitted to associate with them, to be a just, true, and regular Lodge of Freemasons, by the name, title, and designation of the Alexandria Lodge, No. 22.

And further do hereby appoint and ordain, all regular Lodges to hold and acknowledge, and respect them, as such; hereby granting and committing to them, and their successors full power and authority to assemble and convene as a regular Lodge, to enter and receive Apprentices, pass Fellow-Crafts, and raise Master Masons, according to the known and established customs of Ancient Masonry, and No otherwise, and also to elect and choose Masters, Wardens, and other officers, annually, at such time or times as to them shall seem meet and convenient; and to exact from their members such compensation as they shall judge necessary for the support of their Lodge, the relief of their brethren in distress, and contribution towards the Grand Charity, and agreeably to the Book of Constitutions and the laws of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, and recommending to the brethren aforesaid, to receive and obey their Superiors in all things lawful and honest as becomes the honor and harmony of Masons, and to record in their books this present charter with their own regulations and by-laws, and their whole acts and proceedings, from time to time, as they occur, and by no means to desert their said Lodge hereby constituted, or form themselves into separate meetings, without the consent and approbation of their Master and Wardens for the time being. All which, by acceptance hereof, they are holden and engaged to observe; and the brethren aforesaid are to acknowledge and recognize the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Virginia as their Superiors, and shall pay due regard and obedience to all such instructions as they have

received or hereafter shall receive from thence. And, lastly, they are requested to correspond with the Grand Lodge, and to attend the meetings thereof, by their Master and Wardens, or their proxies being Master Masons and members of their said Lodge.

GIVEN under the Seal of the Grand Lodge at Richmond, in the State of Virginia, the 28th day of April, A. L. 5788. A. D. 1788.

By the Grand Master's Command.

WILLIAM WADDELL,

*Grand Sec'y.*

COLUMBIAN MIRROR AND ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE  
OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1793.

GEORGE-TOWN, *September 21, 1793.*

On Wednesday, one of the grandest Masonic processions took place, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States, which, perhaps, was ever exhibited on the like important occasion. About ten o'clock, Lodge No. 9 was visited by that congregation so graceful to the craft, Lodge No. 22, of Virginia, with all their officers and regalia; and directly afterwards appeared on the southern banks of the grand river Potomac, one of the finest companies of Volunteer Artillery that has been lately seen, parading to receive the President of the United States, who shortly came in sight with his suite, to whom the artillery paid their military honors, and his Excellency and suite crossed the river and was received in Maryland by the officers and brethren of No. 22, Virginia, and No. 9, Maryland, whom the President headed; preceded by a band of music; the rear brought up by the Alexandria Volunteer Artillery, with grand solemnity of march, proceeded to the President's Square, in the city of Washington, where they were met and saluted by No. 15, of the city of Washington, in all their elegant badges and clothing, headed by Brother Joseph Clark, Rt. Wor. G. M. p. t., and conducted to a large lodge prepared for the purpose of their reception. After a short space of time, by the vigilance of Brother Clotworthy Stephenson, Grand Marshal p. t., the brotherhood and other bodies were disposed in a second

order of procession, which took place amidst a brilliant crowd of spectators of both sexes, according to the following arrangement, viz.:

- The Surveying Department of the city of Washington.
- Mayor and Corporation of Georgetown.
- Virginia Artillery.
- Commissioners of the city of Washington, and their attendants.
- Stone-cutters — Mechanics.
- Masons of the first degree.
- Bible, etc., on grand cushions.
- Deacons, with staffs of office.
- Masons of the second degree.
- Stewards, with wands.
- Masons of the third degree.
- Wardens, with truncheons.
- Secretaries, with tools of office.
- Past Masters, with their regalia.
- Treasurers, with their jewels.
- Band of music.
- Lodge No. 22, Virginia, disposed in their own order.
- Corn, wine, and oil.
- Grand Master P.T.; George Washington; W.M. No. 22, of Virginia.
- Grand Sword Bearer.

The procession marched two abreast, in the greatest solemn dignity, with music playing, drums beating, colors flying, and spectators rejoicing, from the President's Square to the Capitol, in the city of Washington, where the Grand Marshal ordered a halt, and directed each file in the procession to incline two steps, one to the right and one to the left, and face each other, which formed a hollow oblong square, through which the Grand Sword-Bearer led the van; followed by the Grand Master *pro tem.* on the left, the President of the United States in the center, and the Worshipful Master of No. 22, Virginia, on the right; all of the other orders that composed the procession advanced in the reverse of their order of march from the President's Square to the southeast corner of the Capitol, and the

artillery filed out to a destined ground to display their maneuvers and discharge their cannon. The President of the United States, the Grand Master *pro tem.*, and the Worshipful Master of No. 22, taking their stand to the east of a large stone, and all the Craft forming a circle westward, stood a short time in solemn order.

The artillery discharged a volley. The Grand Marshal delivered the commissioners a large silver plate, with an inscription thereon, which the Commissioners ordered to be read, and was as follows:

"This southeast corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States of America in the city of Washington, was laid on the 18th day of September, 1793, in the thirteenth year of American Independence, in the first year of the second term of the presidency of George Washington, whose virtues in the civil administration of his country have been as conspicuous and beneficial as his military valor and prudence have been useful in establishing her liberties, and in the year of Masonry 5793, by the President of the United States, in concert with the Grand Lodge of Maryland, several Lodges under its jurisdiction, and Lodge No. 22, from Alexandria, Virginia, Thomas Johnson, David Steuart and Daniel Carroll, Commissioners. Joseph Clark, R. W. G. M. *pro tem.*, James Hoban and Stephen Hallate, Architects. Colin Williamson, Master Mason."

The artillery discharged a volley. The plate was then delivered to the President, who attended by the Grand Master *pro tem.* and three Most Worshipful Masters, descended to the cavazion trench and deposited the plate, and laid it on the corner-stone of the Capitol of the United States of America, on which were deposited corn, wine and oil, when the whole congregation joined in reverential prayer, which was succeeded by Masonic chanting honors, and a volley from the artillery.

The President of the United States, and his attendant brethren, ascended from the cavazion to the east of the corner-stone, and there the Grand Master *pro tem.*, elevated on a triple rostrum, delivered an oration fitting the occasion, which was received with brotherly love

and commendation. At intervals during the delivery of the oration several volleys were discharged by the artillery. The ceremony ended in prayer, Masonic chanting honors, and a 15-volley from the artillery.

The whole company retired to an extensive booth, where an ox of five hundred pounds weight was barbecued, of which the company generally partook, with every abundance of other recreation. The festival concluded with fifteen successive volleys from the artillery, whose military discipline and maneuvers merit every commendation. Before dark the whole company departed with joyful hopes of the production of their labor.

SOME QUOTATIONS FROM WASHINGTON'S  
MASONIC LETTERS.

*December 28, 1783, to Alexandria Lodge  
No. 39:*

I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render service to Lodge No. 39, and in every act of brotherly kindness to the Members of it.

*June 19, 1784, to the same:*

With pleasure, I received the invitation of the Master and members of Lodge No. 39, to dine with them on the approaching anniversary of St. John the Baptist. If nothing unforeseen at present interferes, I shall have the honor of doing it.

*August 22, 1790, to King David's Lodge,  
Newport, Rhode Island:*

Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother.

*1791, To St. John's Lodge, Newbern, N. C.:*

My best ambition having ever aimed at the unbiased approbation of my fellow citizens, it is peculiarly pleasing to find my conduct so affectionately approved by a fraternity whose association is founded in justice and benevolence.

*1791, To Prince George's Lodge No. 16,  
Georgetown, South Carolina:*

I am much obliged by your good wishes and reciprocating them with sincerity, assuring the fraternity of my esteem, I request them to believe that I shall always be ambitious of being considered a deserving Brother.

*Response to an address of Charleston,  
South Carolina, Masons:*

The fabric of our freedom is placed on the enduring basis of public virtue, and will, I fondly hope, long continue to protect the prosperity of the architects who raised it. I shall be happy on every occasion, to evince my regard for the Fraternity.

*1792. To the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania:*

At the same time I request that you will be assured of my best wishes and earnest prayers for your happiness while you remain in this terrestrial Mansion, and that we may thereafter meet as brethren in the Eternal Temple of the Supreme Architect.

*Response to the dedication in the Constitution  
Book of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts:*

It is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as the publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the great object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

SOME MASONIC DEDICATIONS TO WASHINGTON.

*The Pennsylvania Ahiman Rezon of 1783:*

To His Excellency, GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq., General and Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States of America: In *Testimony*, as well of his exalted Services to his Country, as of that noble Philanthropy which distinguishes Him among Masons, the following Constitutions of the most ancient and honourable Fraternity of *Free and Accepted Masons*, by Order and in Behalf of the Grand Lodge of *Pennsylvania*, &c. is dedicated, By his Excellency's Most humble Servant, and faithful Brother, William Smith, G. Secretary.

*The Constitutions of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York: Collected and digested by Order of the Grand Lodge of said State (printed in 1789).*

To His Excellency, GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq. In testimony, as well as of his exalted Services to his Country, as of his distinguished Character as a MASON, the following BOOK of CONSTITUTIONS of the most antient and honourable Fraternity of *Free and Accepted Masons*, by order and in behalf of the GRAND LODGE of the State of New-York, is dedicated, By his most Humble Servant, JAMES GILES, G. Secretary, A. L. 5785.

*Virginia New Ahiman Rezon of 1791:*

To George Washington, Esq. President of the United States of America. The Following Work is Most Respectfully Dedicated by His Obedient, and Devoted Servant, THE EDITOR.

*The Massachusetts "Book of Constitutions," (printed in 1792 and 1798):*

In Testimony of His Exalted Merit, And of Our inalienable Regard, THIS WORK IS *Inscribed and Dedicated* To our Illustrious BROTHER GEORGE WASHINGTON: The Friend of *Masonry*, Of his COUNTRY, and Of *Man*.

## THE PICTURES

In color and unnumbered, first among these pictures of Washington as a Mason is the famous Williams portrait, priceless possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, of which George Washington was first named in the Charter of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, thus becoming its first Worshipful Master. It is the only portrait of Washington as a Mason painted from life.

Gustafus A. Eisen in 1932 published an authoritative work entitled *Portraits of Washington*. In this he states:

*"Williams was a member of Masonic Lodge, No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia. He is supposed to have been a painter by profession, although some believe he was a clergyman. He applied for a sitting with Washington but was refused, notwithstanding a letter of recommendation by Gov. Lee of Virginia. Later Washington granted a sitting at the request of the lodge, and when the portrait was finished and delivered, the council of the lodge promptly voted payment and thanks.*

*THE MASONIC PORTRAIT. Crayon, pastel, half-length. Size 28 by 22 inches. Face three-quarters to right, aged and unhappy. The paraphernalia, costume and Masonic emblems and insignia are said to be faithfully and correctly rendered. A skillfully made, though not pleasing portrait, bearing on its reverse 'His Excellency George Washington, Esq. President of the United States, aged 64. Williams pinxit, ad virum in Philadelphia. Sept. 18th 1794,' divided on three and a half lines."*

Portraits of Washington are almost without number; busts, statues, medals, coins, postage stamps all show his likeness.

Masonic portraits are sufficiently numerous to form a larger collection than this. But these are representative, even if more remarkable for their evident reverence for Washington the Freemason than, in most cases, historical accuracy.

The critical will note that in many there is a suggestion of marble halls, enormous columns, a letter "G" so bright it appears electrical. Washington stands beneath archways; he holds a gavel, a trowel, a document, a book. He wears the LaFayette Apron in some, in another the Watson and Cassoul Apron, in other pictures aprons of which no authentic record exists. In some his hands are raised in benediction. The general tenor of these lithographs, greatly popular in the Craft during the period 1850 to 1900, is to idealize Washington, to place him in such Masonic settings as his admirers could imagine, to show him as those who loved him thought of him.

The Williams portrait is accepted as authentic. The Burdette portrait is a sincere painting, meticulously correct in details. Of this, Eisen said:

*"Present day artist in Washington, D. C. Miss Hattie E. Burdette composed a Masonic portrait of Washington, excellent in likeness and style. The apron, regalia, gavel, chair, pedestal, etc., were copied from the originals in the Washington Lodge, Alexandria, Virginia."*

This is the picture which the late Brother Sol Bloom, as Chairman of the 1932 Bicentennial Commission of the United States, put in every lodge room in the nation. The original hangs above the stage in the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Burdette portrait shows Washington wearing the Watson and Cassoul Apron, precious possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.

Many liberties were taken by the artists and lithographers who offered the old lithographs to the public. But none were otherwise than complimentary. However inaccurate as to details any of them may be, they were all honest attempts to show Washington as the interested, dignified and important Freemason that he was.

The pictures in this collection have come from many sources. The George Washington Masonic Bicentennial Commission of the Grand Lodge of Virginia most courteously printed for this publication the beautiful copies of the Williams portrait, and to Past Grand Master J. N. Hillman, Chairman, and the Commission as a whole this Association offers grateful thanks.

The Hattie Burdette picture which closes this collection, painted for the United States Bicentennial Commission, 1932, was photographed for us by courtesy of Frederick L. Schondau, former Secretary of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, to whom this collection is also indebted for the picture of the Watson and Cassoul apron.

Other portraits have been supplied by courtesy of William J. Paterson, formerly Librarian and Curator, Grand Lodge Library and Museum, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; the late Ray Baker Harris, Librarian, A. & A.S.R., Southern Jurisdiction, House of the Temple, Washington, D. C. and the Print Division of the Library of Congress. All were most cooperative and helpful in providing these portraits and pictures, and our appreciation and thanks are here expressed.

For the historical material in the prepared address, and the detailed facts about Washington as a Freemason, so many sources were consulted that a list would be prohibitive, but space may be found to give credit to "*Washington, the Man and Mason*" by the late, great Charles E. Callahan, Past Grand Master of Virginia; the late Jacob Hugo Tatsch, noted Masonic historian, whose books, "*The Facts About George Washington as a Freemason*" and "*Freemasonry in the Thirteen Colonies*," are standard Masonic reference works; "*Washington's Home and Fraternal Life*," published by the Bicentennial Commission of 1932, written by the late Carl H. Claudy, former Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association; "*Masonic Presidents, Vice Presidents and Signers*" by the late William L. Boyden, then Librarian, A. & A.S.R. (Southern Jurisdiction.) Past Grand Master William Mosely Brown (Virginia), noted Masonic historian, kindly approved the historical details in the prepared address.





1 STATUE IN THE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, UNVEILED 1950.



*Done from an Original, Drawn from the Life by Alex. Campbell, of Williamsburgh in Virginia.*

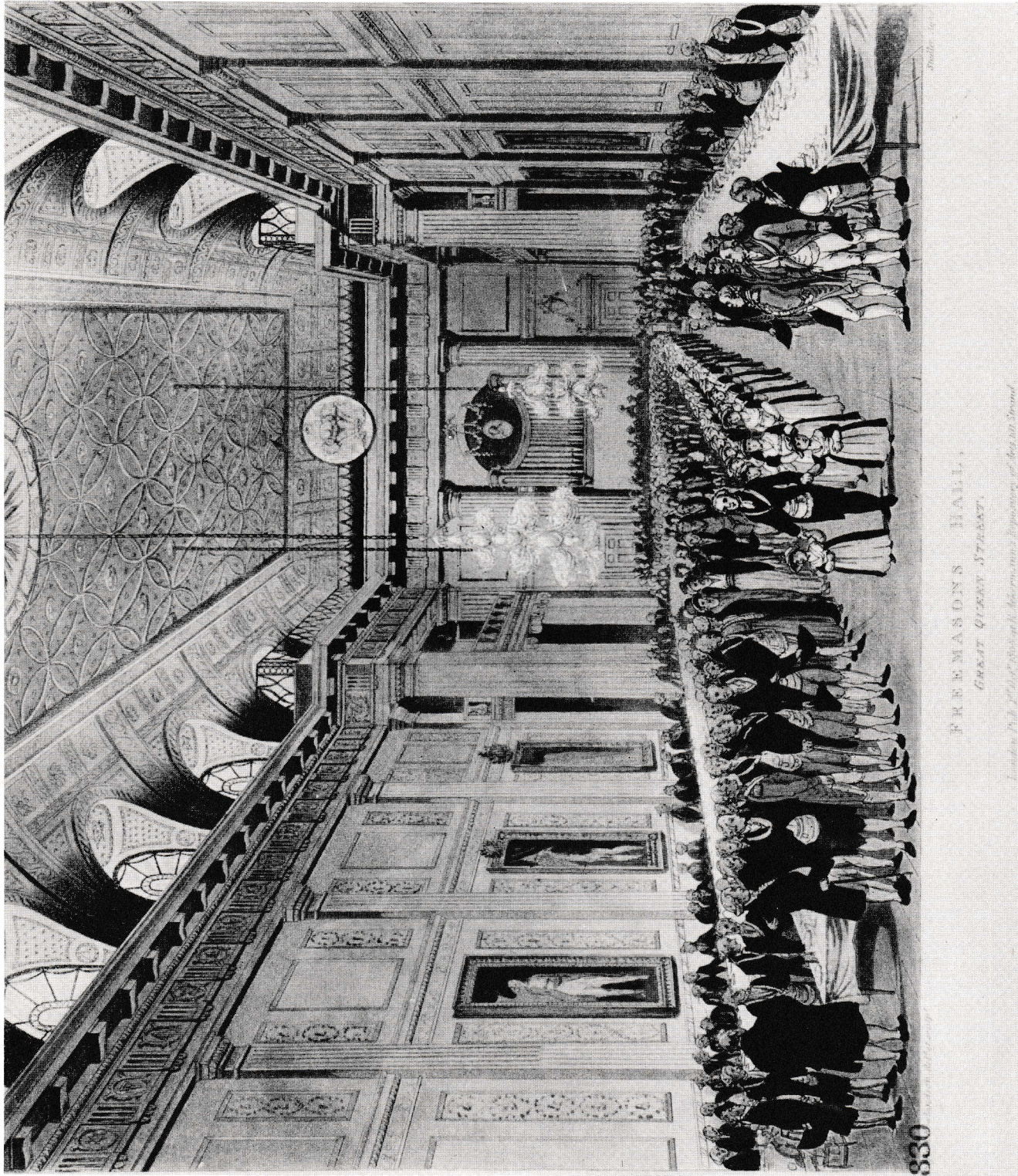
(S) GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq. (S)

GENERAL and COMMANDER in CHIEF of the CONTINENTAL ARMY in AMERICA.

*Published as the first Sheet in Sept. 1775 by C. Shephard.*



*This scene representing the Grand Lodges of the Unpeopled Squares  
the distinguishing characteristic of Masonry, Charity bestowed on proper objects  
is respectfully dedicated*



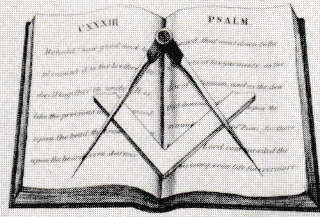
FREEMASONS' HALL,  
GREAT QUEEN STREET.

4. THESE IMITATIONS (PICTURES 3 AND 4) OF THE STOTHARD-BARTOLOZZI PICTURE OF 1802 SHOW WASHINGTON REPLACING THE CHEVALIER BARTHOLEMEW RUSPINI, GRAND SWORD BEARER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND, LEADING A PROCESSION OF ORPHANS. THE IMITATIONS WERE PUBLISHED IN 1810 AT "RACKERMAN'S REPOSITORY OF ARTS" BY F. KEARNEY & N. HOWE. BOTH ORIGINAL AND IMITATIONS ARE PURELY FANCIFUL.



MADE A MASON 1782. COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN ARMY, 1775. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1789.

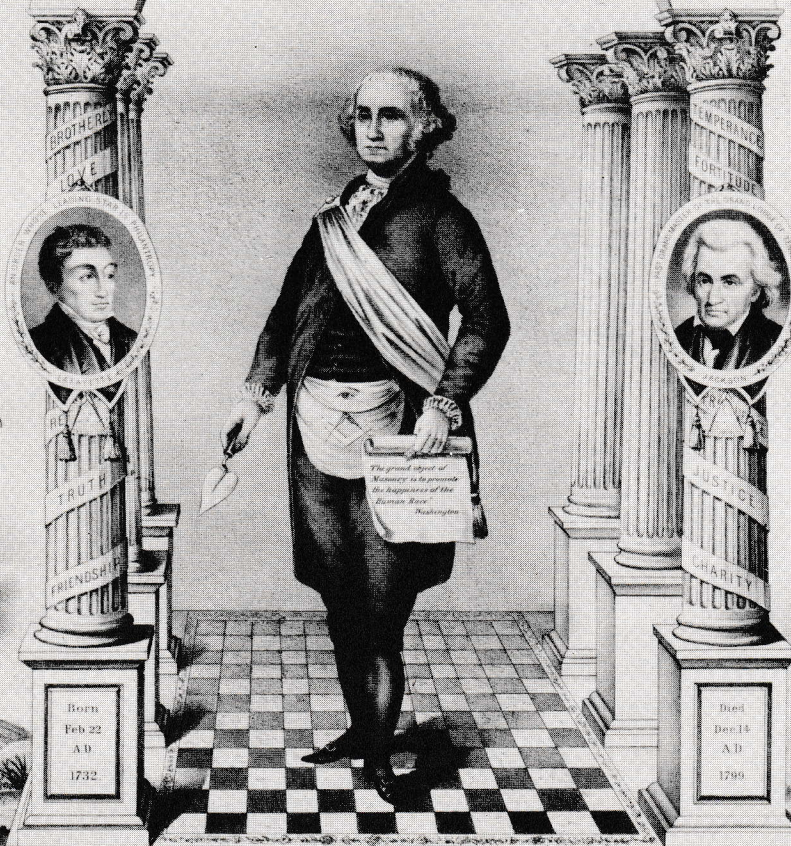
5. MIDDLETON, WALLACE & CO. CINCINNATI, OHIO, 1857. ALSO PUBLISHED BY H. M. RULISON, CINCINNATI AND BY D. RULISON OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



# WASHINGTON AS A FREEMASON

WASHINGTON'S APPEARANCE IN A MASONIC PROCESSION IN PHILADELPHIA DEC. 29, 1776 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE ORDER THIS YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS BRO. GEO. WASHINGTON ESQ. ACCOMPANIED BY THE GR. MASTER & HIS DEPUTY.

WHO DARES TO SAY EVIL ARTICLES IN THE SOCIAL HALL AFTER BEHOLDING THE CALM HE DIGNIFIED THE LUMINOUS SHEDDERS AND TRULY NOBLE WASHINGTON A MIGHTY LIGHTON ITS PORTALS ARRAYS IN THE MESSONS OF THE ORDER.



Born  
Feb. 22  
A.D.  
1732

Died  
Dec. 14  
A.D.  
1799

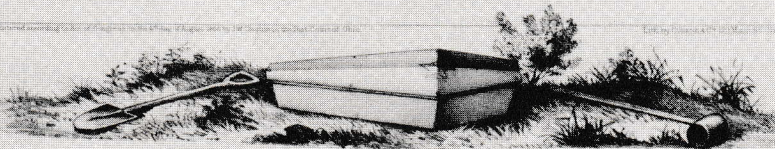
MADE A MASON 1752

COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN ARMY 1775

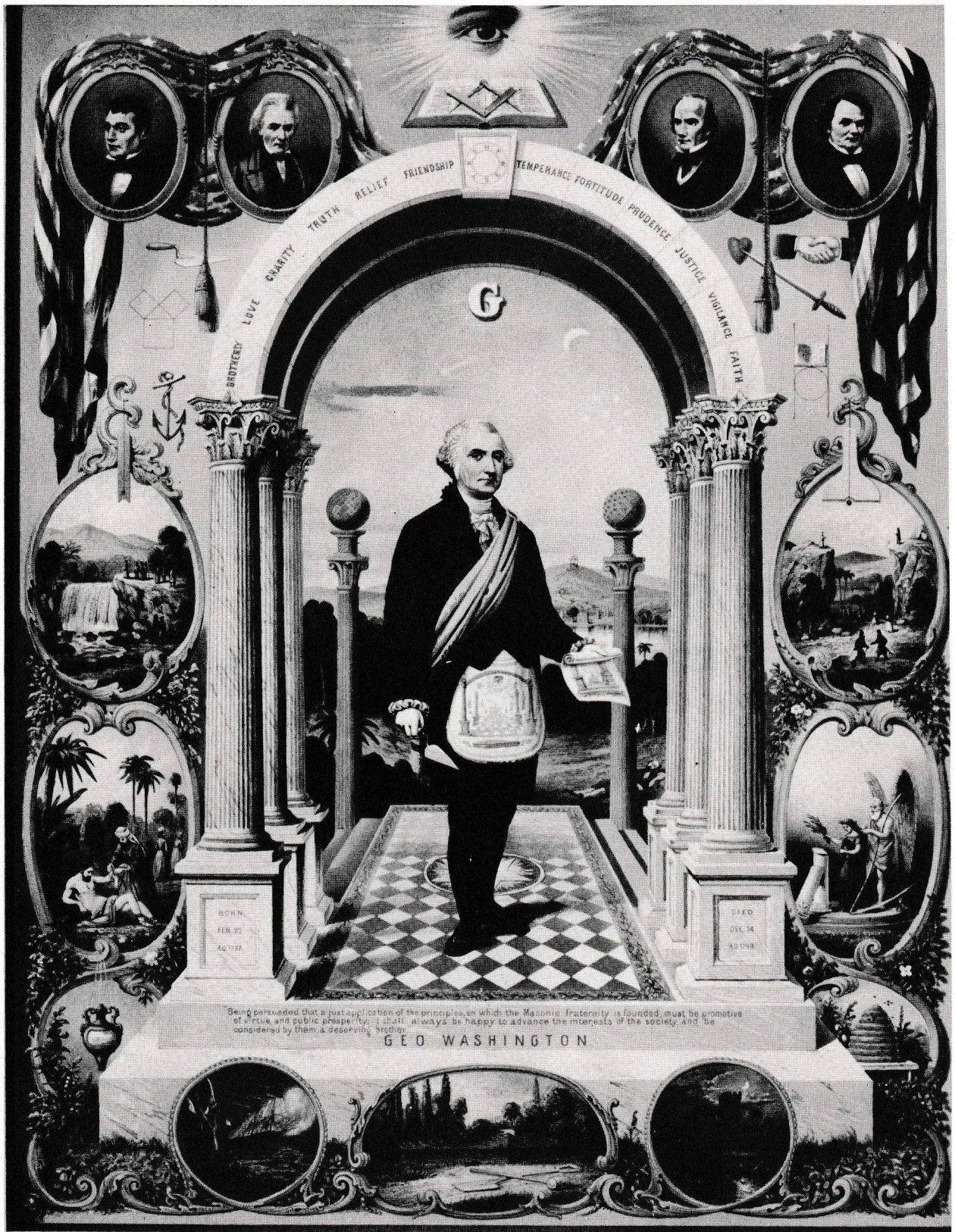
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1789

DISTURB NOT HIS SLEEPERS LET WASHINGTON SLEEP  
NEAR THE BOWGAS OF THE WILLOW THAT OVER HIM WEEP  
HIS ARM IS UNWEARY BUT HIS DEEDS REMAIN BRIGHT  
AS THE STARS IN THE DARK VAULTED HEAVEN AT NIGHT  
WE WOULD NOT THE HERO HIS BATTLES ARE O'ER  
LET HIM REST UNDISTURBED IN FORT MORGAN FAIR SHORE  
ON THE RIVERS' GREEN BORDER SO FLOWERY GREST  
WITH THE HEARTS HE LOVED FONDLY LET WASHINGTON REST

SHAKE NOT HIS BUSINESS TREAD LIGHT BY AROUND  
TO THE GRAVE OF A FREEMAN HIS LIBERTY'S WOUND  
THY NAME IS IMMORTAL FOR FREEDOM YOU WON  
BRAVE SIRE OF COLUMBIA OUR OWN WASHINGTON  
DOTH WAKE NOT THE HERO HIS BATTLES ARE O'ER  
LET HIM REST CALMLY REST IN HIS DEAR NAME SURE  
WHILE THE STARS & THE STRIPES OF OUR COUNTRY SHALL WAVE  
OVER THE LAND THAT CAN BOAST OF A WASHINGTON GRAVE







*Drawn by J. F. Queen. Engraved by J. S. Duval, Son & Co., Philadelphia. Published by P. S. Duval, Son & Co., Philadelphia.*

WASHINGTON as A MASON.





*A scene of a working lodge of Congress, E. 1868, by Currier & Ives, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Southern District of New York.*

# WASHINGTON AS A MASON.

PUBLISHED BY CURRIER & IVES, 152 NASSAU ST. N. Y.

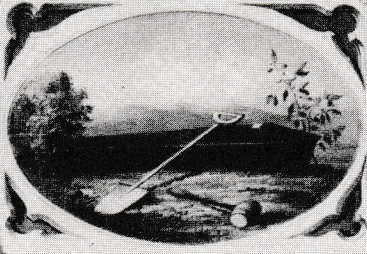


BORN  
 Feb 22  
 A D 1732

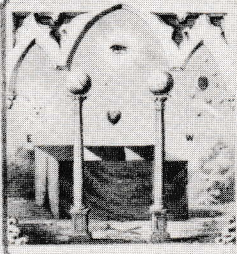
DIED  
 Dec 14  
 A D 1799

**COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN ARMY, 1775. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1789.**  
 INITIATED, NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 1752, IN FREDERICKSBURG, LODGE N<sup>o</sup> 4, VIRGINIA. PASSED, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> 1753 RAISED, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> 1753.

Awake not his Slumbers tread lightly around  
 'Tis the Grave of a Freeman tis Libertys mound,  
 Thy Name is immortal our Freedom you won  
 Brave Sire of Columbia our own Washington.  
 Oh! wake not the Hero his Battles are o'er  
 Let him rest, calmly rest, on his dear native Shore  
 While the Stars & the Swoops of our Country shall wave  
 O'er the Land that can boast of a Washingtons Grave



Disturb not his Slumbers let Washington sleep  
 Neath the Boughs of the Willow that o'er him weep  
 His Arm is unnerved but his Deeds remain bright  
 As the Stars in the dark vaulted Heavens at Night  
 Oh! wake not the Hero his Battles are o'er  
 Let him rest undisturbed on Philomacs fair Shore  
 On the Rivers green Border so flowery & sweet  
 With the hearts he loved fondly let Washington rest.





11 WASHINGTON AS A MASTER MASON. ENTERED 1870 BY DUVAL & HUNTER. INSCRIPTION BENEATH PICTURE READS: "PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE LODGE AT ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA (OF WHICH HE WAS A MEMBER) CONVENED PREPARATORY TO THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF THE NATIONAL CAPITOL BY HIM ON THE 18TH OF SEPTEMBER 1793. THE FURNITURE OF THE LODGE WHICH WITH THE GAVEL AND REGALIA USED BY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CAREFULLY PRESERVED HERE IS REPRESENTED AS THEY APPEARED ON THAT OCCASION. THE APRON WAS EMBROIDERED AND PRESENTED TO WASHINGTON BY THE MARCHIONESS de LaFAYETTE."

(THE STATEMENT ABOUT THE APRON IS INCORRECT: THE APRON IN THIS PICTURE IS AN IDEALIZED AND ELABORATED REPRESENTATION OF THE WATSON AND CASSOUL APRON. SEE PICTURE 19.)



12 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINT. DATED 1902, BUT PROBABLY MUCH EARLIER. MAKER UNSPECIFIED.



WASHINGTON AS A MASON.



14 EVIDENTLY A COPY OF 13. WEARS AN APRON APPARENTLY TAKEN FROM THE CURRIER & IVES PRINT (NO. 9).



STROBRIDGE & CO. LITH. CIN. O.

Born Feb. 22 A.D. 1732

Died Dec. 14 A.D. 1799

WASHINGTON AS A FREEMASON.



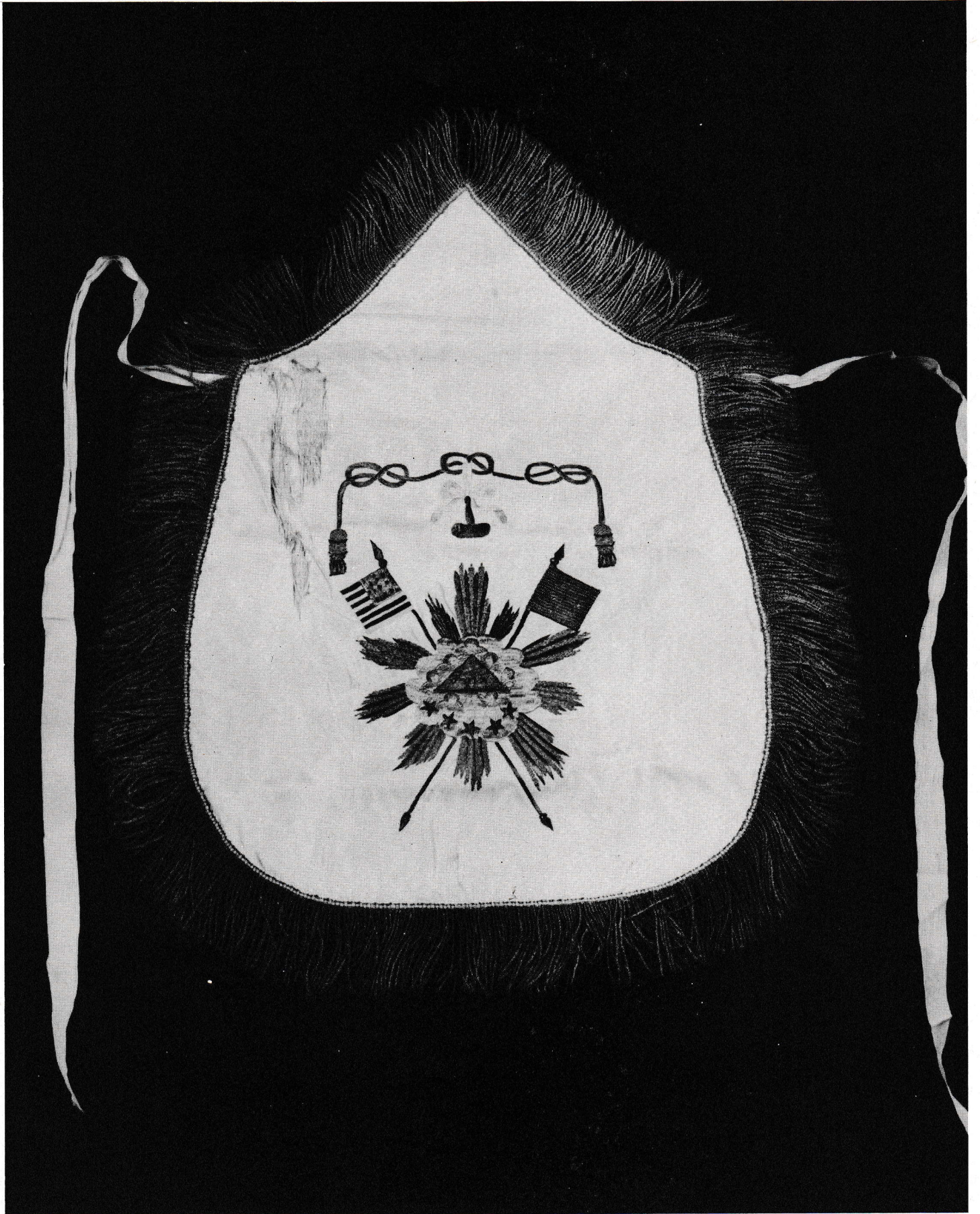




17 J. HALE POWERS & CO. CINCINNATI, OHIO. DESIGNED BY E. D. GRAFTON. PORTRAITS BY DWIGHT BENTON. UNDATED.



18 THE LAFAYETTE APRON (GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA).



19 THE WATSON AND CASSOUL APRON (ALEXANDRIA-WASHINGTON LODGE, NO. 22).



20 THE HATTIE BURDETTE PORTRAIT, PAINTED FOR THE U. S. BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, 1932. THE ORIGINAL NOW HANGS IN THE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.