



HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 • A.F. & A.M. • VIRGINIA

TRESTLEBOARD

FEBRUARY 2021

February 2, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite, Small Lodge Room

masks required, social distancing required

February 9, 2021, 7:30 p.m. meeting

Stated Communication

Officer's Only in-person, all others on Zoom

Alexandria Scottish Rite

February 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite

masks required, social distancing required

February 23, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Lodge Ritual School

Alexandria Scottish Rite

masks required, social distancing required

Public Health Warning:

For the immediate future, all ritual schools and State Communications are limited to 10 participants in-person. No one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to COVID-19 case(s) in the prior 14 days, is permitted to enter the Lodge building. Public gatherings are not without some risk. The safety of our membership is our number one concern. If, for any reason, you feel you are unable to follow the requirement to wear a face covering, DO NOT ATTEND LODGE.



A MESSAGED FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

Another month has come and gone in nothing shy of a blink of an eye, letting us know just how valuable time is and just how fast it slips away from us. As I write this I can't help but think of that oh so familiar saying from Bro. Benjamin Franklin, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today," reminding us all to do as much as we can in the time we have. It could be something as simple as a text, call, report, e-mail, or finishing that odd job around the house. We should strive to accomplish as much as we can and keep progressing in all phases of our lives.

As of now there has been little change in the Northern Virginia restrictions. I am hopeful we will be able to go back to our larger and normal gatherings in the next few months. The vaccine has started to become available and has been distributed to over 10 million people. This is a big step in the right direction. We will continue to move forward as mentioned previously.

February is normally a busy month. We celebrate Black History; the birth of four presidents (Presidents Day) including our Brother George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, William H. Harrison, and Ronald Raegan; as well as Valentine's Day; and let's not forget Ground Hog Day. I'm guessing we will have six more weeks of winter.

I hope everyone can join us for our Virtual Stated Communication on the 9th. Also if anyone needs anything please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Be Safe, Stay Healthy.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Timothy J. Fisher
Worshipful Master
tfisher2000@gmail.com
410-610-8981



Prince Hall Freemasonry

A Black History Month celebration of our Brothers



The Prince Hall Masons are the oldest and largest group of Masons of African origin in the world. Today there are forty Grand Lodges of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the United States, Canada, the Bahamas, and Liberia. These Grand Lodges preside over more than 5,000 lodges. All of them claim descent from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which is traced back to the African Lodge No. 459.

Prince Hall, a native of Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies, was freeborn on September 12, 1748, the son of Thomas Prince Hall, an Englishman, and a free dark skin woman of French heritage. In 1765, at the age of 17, Hall worked for his passage on a ship to Boston where he became a leatherworker. Eight years later, he had acquired property and was eligible to vote.

On March 6, 1775, Hall, who was a minister with a Methodist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, joined fourteen other free blacks of Boston who all became Masons at British Army Lodge, No. 58, then attached to one of General Thomas Gage's regiments stationed in Boston. Hall and the other newly initiated Masons were granted the authority to meet as a separate lodge, to march in pa-

rades, and to bury their dead. They were not granted permission to confer degrees or perform any other Masonic work.

Nine years later March 2, 1784, Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, asking for a warrant for a charter that they had been denied by the white Masons of Massachusetts. The warrant was approved, and Hall established the first lodge of African American Masons in North America known as African Lodge No. 459. Brother Prince Hall was interested in the Masonic fraternity because Freemasonry was founded upon ideals of liberty, equality, and peace

The black Masons had limited power; they could meet as a lodge, take part in the Masonic procession on St. John's Day, and bury their dead with Masonic rites but could not confer Masonic degrees or perform any other essential functions of a fully operating Lodge.] Unable to create a charter, they applied to the Grand Lodge of England. The grand master of the Mother Grand Lodge of England, H. R. H. The Duke of Cumberland, issued a charter for the African Lodge No. 1 later renamed African Lodge No. 459 September 29, 1784. The lodge was the country's first African Masonic lodge. Due to the African Lodge's popularity and Prince Hall's leadership, the Grand Lodge of England made Hall a Provincial Grand Master on January 27, 1791. His responsibilities included reporting on the condition of lodges in the Boston area. Six years later, on March 22, 1797 Prince Hall organized a lodge in Philadelphia, called African Lodge #459, under Prince Hall's Charter. They later received their own charter. On June 25, 1797 he organized African Lodge (later known as Hiram Lodge #3) at Providence, Rhode Island.

Author and historian James Sidbury said, "Prince Hall and those who joined him to found Boston's African Masonic Lodge built a fundamentally new 'African' movement on a preexisting institutional foundation. Within that movement they asserted emotional, mythical, and genealogical links to the continent of Africa and its peoples."

After the death of Prince Hall, on December 4, 1807, the brethren organized the African Grand Lodge on June 24, 1808, including the Philadelphia, Providence and Boston lodges. African Grand Lodge declared its independence from the United Grand Lodge of



England and all other lodges in 1827. In 1847, they renamed to Prince Hall Grand Lodge in honor of their founder.

Hall was considered the "Father of African Freemasonry." Prince Hall said of civic activities:

My brethren let us pay all due respect to all who God had put in places of honor over us: do justly and be faithful to them that hire you and treat them with the respect they may



Happy Birthday

Brother Richard Walter Harper - February 6, 1962 - 59 years
Brother Rodney Gerald Bourassa - February 24, 1965 - 56 years
Brother Murray Cameron - February 3, 1970 - 51 years
Brother Richard David Wright - February 16, 1972 - 49 years
Brother Dennis Earl Brown - February 4, 1975 - 46 years
Brother James Arthur Bland - February 1, 1983 - 38 years
Brother Charles Karl Baker - February 7, 1990 - 31 years
Brother Lowell Aloyous Griffith - February 20, 1990 - 31 years
Right Worshipful David Benjamin Browning, Jr. - February 8, 2005 - 16 years
Brother Clayton Jennings Mitchell - February 20, 2016 - 5 years
Worshipful Timothy John Fisher - February 20, 2016 - 5 years



In Memoriam

Brother Antonio Damiani
6/12/1938 to 1/14/2021
Initiated: February 1, 1972
Passed: May 2, 1972
Raised: June 13, 1972

henry knox field

HKF

A.F. & A.M.



JBL
NO. 349

john blair lodge

2021 OFFICERS

Timothy J. Fisher, Worshipful Master	Ronald E. Markiewicz, Chaplain
Clayton J. Mitchell, Senior Warden	Xavier Mariscal, Senior Steward
Mark A. Boughner, Junior Warden	Joseph Dergham, Junior
Wor. Kenneth R. Reynolds,	Steward
Treasurer	Nelson Sanchez, Jr., Marshal
Wor. Daniel E. Froggett, Secretary	Arnold McNeal, Musician
Jonathan Summers, Senior Deacon	Wor. Jaime H. Flores, Tiler
Steven Aguilar, Junior Deacon	Wor. Erik N. Schultz, Education
	Officer



LODGE HISTORY

Henry Knox Field Lodge, No. 349, A.F. & A. M., was chartered in the Town of Potomac, Virginia, on February 12, 1925. It was named in honor of Henry Knox Field, a local businessman and community leader from Alexandria, Virginia, who served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, in 1917. Most Worshipful Field was raised to the degree of Master Mason on February 20, 1890, at Andrew Jackson Lodge, No. 120, A.F. & A.M. On June 24, 1893, he was installed Worshipful Master of that Lodge. Most Worshipful Field was born on April 20, 1860 and passed away on August 1, 1917, while serving as Grand Master.

John Blair Lodge No. 187, A.F. & A.M., was instituted on July 31, 1970, and chartered at Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349 on February 10, 1971. The lodge was named in honor of Virginia's first Grand Master and inaugural United States Supreme Court Justice John Blair, Jr. Jewels, aprons, the bible, and tiler's sword were given by Worshipful Raymond L. Colins. The speakers podium for the Lodge was constructed and donated by Right Worshipful Clarence A. Dains. The brazen pillars were constructed and donated by the Charter Treasurer, John Newton Crawford, and the altar cover was later donated by Most Worshipful Werner Herman Morlock, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1993, who died in office on Saturday, March 5, 1994.

The lodges initiated the consolidation process in February 2017, with the Resolution on Consolidation being adopted in June of the same year. Henry Knox Field—John Blair Lodge, No. 349, A.F. & A.M., officially began work January 1, 2018.

HENRY KNOX FIELD—JOHN BLAIR LODGE, No. 349, AF&AM
1430 WEST BRADDOCK ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302
WWW.FIELDBLAIRLODGE349.ORG

Stated Communication:

Second Tuesday 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m.