



# HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

NO. 349 - A.F. & A.M. - VIRGINIA

## TRESTLEBOARD

## APRIL 2022

April 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
Lodge Ritual School: MM Degree,  
Receiving the DDGM  
Alexandria Scottish Rite, Small  
Lodge Room

April 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m.  
Lodge Breakfast:  
Royal Restaurant  
All invited.

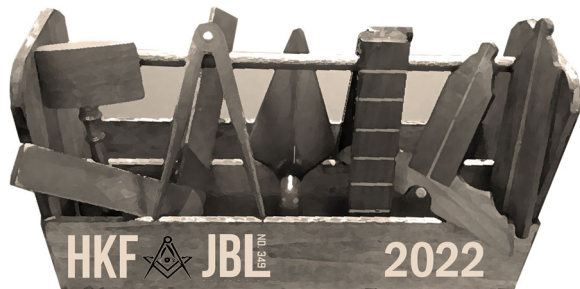
April 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting  
**Stated Communication**  
MW John Blair Past Master's  
Night and Community Builders  
Award Presentation

April 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
Lodge Ritual School: MM Degree  
ASR, Lodge Room

April 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m.  
wreath laying, dinner following  
**Henry Knox Field's  
Birthday**  
Wreath laying, dinner, and  
Community Builders Award  
Presentation see *mailed invite*

April 26, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
Masters and Wardens  
Association Meeting  
Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge, No.  
42, Langston Blvd. Arlington  
*All MMs welcome.*

*All COVID-19 restrictions have  
been lifted. Members are  
encouraged to continue to  
adhere to safety practices that  
make them and their families  
feel comfortable and protected.*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

April is upon us and time is moving swiftly. April is an important month to our lodge as both namesakes for our lodge were born in April. We will be holding two events this month one will be on the evening of our stated communication where we will have the pleasure of giving Councilwoman Gaskins a community builders award. This will be during the dinner before our stated which also will be past master's night. I truly hope to see you out this evening to celebrate the award as well as for support of your past masters.

The other event, a little different from the past, will be an evening wreath laying at the grave site of Most Worshipful Henry Knox Field. We will lay our flower at the Female Stranger's grave and then proceed onto dinner. At dinner we will give out our second community builders award. This one goes to Pastor Thomas G. James who serves his community as well as congregation at Washington Street UMC—the same church that Field attended.

I'd like to thank all who were able to make out to our March fraternal visit with Andrew Jackson Lodge. It was indeed a good time and a well-received table lodge. We also had a good turnout for our first friends and family event on the 29th. Our next friends and family event will be the Tuesday after memorial day, with a presentation from the national sojourners.

As March ushers in Spring, we look forward to the days ahead of sunshine and warm weather. Take time to reflect on all we have and take a moment to send a word of encouragement to another brother or friend. Kindness in all forms is something we all need in these times. Check on that brother you haven't heard from in a while. Look forward to seeing everyone as the year continues. Lots of good stuff coming up for the rest of the year.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,



Clayton J. Mitchell  
Worshipful Master  
Clayton.Mitchell78@yahoo.com  
703-577-1495

## ABOUT PAST MASTERS

Douglas Messimer, PM,  
Tuckahoe Lodge, No. 347

Definition of A PAST MASTER: One who has held the office of Worshipful Master in a lodge of Freemasons, or an alternate spelling, passed master; one who is expert, or adept. A second definition is that of a degree in Masonry instituted to try the qualifications of a Master Mason before becoming the Worshipful Master of a Lodge, and no Mason can constitutionally preside over a Lodge of Master Masons unless he has been admitted to this Degree. In many jurisdictions in the U.S. it is required that a candidate for the office of Junior Warden shall have received the Past Master's degree. In such a case it is usually done by Royal Arch Masons, acting by order of a Grand Master, or conferred by a degree team of Past Master's in a Blue Lodge. The phrase "Past Master" was believed first used around the 1720's to designate the Past Masons' Degree - that is - part of the Hiramic Legend. Not until late into the 1700's did the inner workings of the installation ceremony possibly take place.



At one time, the ceremony of putting a master into the Master's Chair in a lodge was of the barest kind. Prior to the 1750's there is no evidence of any type of 'ceremony' tied to the occasion. It was around this time when the "Antients" are believed to have introduced the Ceremony of Installation for a new Worshipful Master. The Ceremony of the "Modern" Lodges was believed to have been restricted to just advice, some hearty congratulations, and the reading of the Old Charges to the Master. So, while the ceremony of giving the Old Charges to the incoming Master goes back an unknown period of time, the 'ceremony' of the installation is only about two centuries old. The writer Hamilton, suggests the Installed Master's Degree is believed to have originated in England in 1768 and was at that time considered to be a 'scandalous subterfuge' to pass the chair in an attempt to meet the qualifications for advancement to the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

According to Macoy, the Past Master degree in the Royal Arch is out of place as it really belongs to the 'Blue' Lodge. He was also of the opinion the Installed Master receives the Degree of a Past Master. And here's more research to 'chew on'... the Past Master of a Chapter of the Royal Arch is said to be only a "Quasi" or "Seeming" Past Master, and the "True and Legitimate" Past Master is one who has presided over Symbolic Lodges.

Anyone who has served in the East of any Masonic body, but more especially in the East of a symbolic lodge, has a special feeling of satisfaction

and pride in his accomplishments in that office. It is only natural that he will also have a feeling of regret that he was not able to accomplish everything he had hoped during his term. He will also have second thoughts on how he handled some situations. Most of all, he has a deep and abiding concern for his lodge.

But, what about "life after service in the East?" What happens then? The answer will depend a great deal upon the individual and his attitude. There are some who relinquish the gavel with great reluctance . . . and there are some who never seem to give it up. And, yes, there are a few (fortunately a very few) who walk away from the job and never appear to look back and seldom come back. Fortunately, the vast majority of Past presiding officers take on a status of "senior advisors" who greatly assist their successors in the government of the Craft.

Many lodges take full advantage of the talents of these experienced leaders. They are used on "executive councils", as Trustees, Committee Chairs, coaches, and as pro-tem officers. So long as they are used to good advantage and are made to continue to feel needed and useful, they will continue to be great assets to the lodge. It is when they are ignored and "cast off" that they look around for other outlets for their talents.

That special kinship which Past Masters have with one another is evident in many ways. In many lodges it is customary for the Past Masters to sit together (frequently in the Southeast corner) where they have been likened to "buzzards sitting on a fence." It seems they want to be near the Secretary so that they can see and hear everything that is going on, and, of course they are ready, willing, and able to assist, prompt, or correct the Master if they see the need. If you were to eavesdrop on them, you might hear frequent comments such as, "During my year, we did such and so; 'or, "Remember when such and such happened?" And there is usually a good amount of reminiscing done. But, it is part of that special fellowship which Past Masters enjoy.

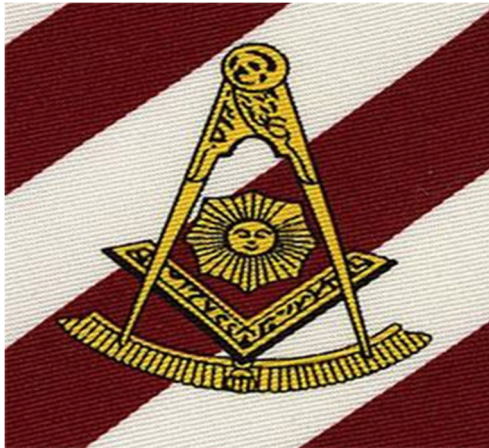
We frequently hear Past Masters referred to as the "backbone of the lodge." That just might be a gross understatement of fact. I could envision Past Masters may be described as the backbone of the entire fraternity. After all, ALL Grand Lodge officers are, first, Past Masters. It is their knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and interest which make any Grand Lodge "tick". Almost without exception, Past Masters are men of vision, who are continuously working for the good of the Craft, steering the course for its future. O.K., enough pats on the back!

The final paragraph of the January 1931 Short Talk Bulletin, "The Past Master," reads: "The honorable station of Past Master cannot be honored by the brethren if it is not honored by its possessor." Fortunately, almost all who have earned the title of Past Master continue to serve their lodges with distinction. It is a title which has been earned by their total involvement in lodge activities and by their personal sacrifices. As with all honors

and titles, Past Masters find that there are new rights and privileges which go with the title. There are also additional duties and responsibilities...and new challenges.

Among the initial shocks that a new Past Master faces is that his telephone stops its constant ringing, that he now perhaps has time for a personal life and an opportunity to read and study. It is a wise Master who recognizes the talents of the Past Masters and who uses them to good advantage. They can serve as a "sounding board" for the programs and activities a master is considering. He can "pick their brains" for ideas and he can count on the Past Masters to give him the wisdom of their experience. The Master serves as the rudder, steering the course, but it is often the Past Masters who assist him to "keep it on an even keel."

The jewel of a Past Master, in the United States, is a pair of compasses extended to sixty degrees, on the fourth part of a circle, with a sun in the center.



In England, it was formerly the square on a quadrant, but is, by newer regulations, the Master's square, with a silver plate suspended within it, on which is engraved the celebrated forty-seventh problem of Euclid. An exception to the general practice in the United States is that of Pennsylvania whose Past Master's jewel follows the English pattern.



Why are a Past Master's compasses, in his jewel, open at 60 degrees on a quadrant instead 90 on a square? The compasses open sixty degrees are in easy position to construct a square. The Master has worn the square while he presided; now, as Past Master, he is supposed to be in possession of the knowledge necessary to make a square, hence the position of the compasses and the quadrant. There are many geometric methods of erecting a square; the Past Master's jewel hints at one of the simplest and most used methods as best for the Past Master to employ in instructing his successor.



# Happy Birthday

- Brother Robert Reisch Miller - April 18, 1953 - 69 years
- Brother Robert Ewing Goodwin - April 21, 1959 - 63 years
- Worshipful Jack Glenn Henderson - April 15, 1963 - 59 years
- Brother Melton Eugene Donaldson - April 4, 1967 - 55 years
- Worshipful Gerald Davis van Antwerp - April 4, 1972 - 50 years
- Brother John Elwood Church - April 25, 1973 - 49 years
- Brother Billy Ray Estep, Sr. - April 15, 1975 - 47 years
- Brother Carl Herbert Johnson, Jr. - April 6, 1976 - 46 years
- Brother John Hardin King - April 12, 1977 - 45 years
- Right Worshipful Ralph Eugene Simmons - April 25, 1979 - 43 years
- Brother Eddie Seymour Longman - April 19, 1983 - 39 years
- Brother Eric Wells Werner - April 4, 1991 - 31 years
- Brother Billy Joe Sams - April 30, 1991 - 31 years
- Brother William Otis Ray - April 20, 1993 - 29 years
- Brother Anastasios Tasos Grypeos - April 21, 1998 - 24 years
- Brother Matthew Lee Wood - April 24, 2007 - 15 years
- Worshipful Jaime H. Flores - April 22, 2009 - 13 years
- Worshipful William Vanhardin Gilbert - April 5, 2011 - 11 years
- Brother Steven Ray Meek - April 23, 2011 - 11 years
- Brother Edward Robert Wilcox - April 30, 2015 - 7 years

## In Memoriam

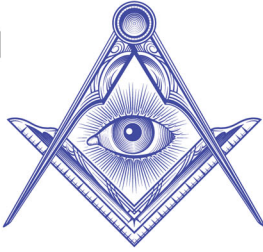
Brother Jimmie Odell Keever  
 July 5, 1928 to April 27, 2013  
 Masonic Veteran 50 years  
 Mother Lodge: VA0349  
 Initiated Date: October 3, 1961  
 Passed Date: January 16, 1962  
 Raised Date: April 24, 1962



henry knox field

**HKF**

**A.F. & A.M.**



**JBL** NO. 349

john blair lodge

## 2022 OFFICERS

Clayton J. Mitchell  
Worshipful Master

Ronald E. Markiewicz  
Chaplain

Mark A. Boughner  
Senior Warden

Joseph Dergham  
Senior Steward

Jonathan Summers  
Junior Warden

Arnold McNeal  
Junior Steward

Wor. Kenneth R. Reynolds  
Treasurer

Bradley J. Watts  
Marshal

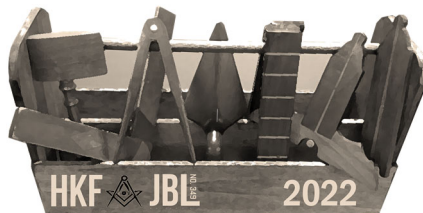
Wor. Daniel E. Froggett  
Secretary

Wor. Jaime H. Flores  
Tiler

Steven Aguilar  
Senior Deacon

Wor. Erik N. Schultz  
Education Officer

Xavier Mariscal  
Junior Deacon



### 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.*