



HENRY KNOX FIELD JOHN BLAIR LODGE

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

TRESTLEBOARD

JULY 2023

Tuesday, July 10

Stated Communication
CASUAL LODGE NIGHT
Wear your Lodge Polo!
1830 Dinner
1930 Opening of Lodge

Sunday, July 16

1530 Degree / Ritual School
Please come to support the
Entered Apprentice Degree on
July 18.

Tuesday, July 18

1500 Degree
Entered Apprentice Degree for
two worthy men.

Friday, July 21

1400 District Darts and Pool
*Masonic District 1A invites its
Lodges, their families, friends,
and prospects to a fun-filled
evening of pool, darts, and
fellowship! The District will
cover appetizers and game
fees. Wear your Lodge polo
and join the fun!*
*Revolution Billiards 9687
Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA
22030*
RSVP with Wor. Froggett

Tuesday, July 25

6:30 District 1A
Masters & Wardens Meeting
Concord Lodge, Vienna

A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

What a great thing it is to have the turning of the seasons, the birth of a new crop, and the joy of those who have come before us. As we get solidly into summer, vacations, and family, I wanted to take a few minutes of your time and postulate on the similarities of this with our Masonic Fraternity. As a group of men seeking to make good men better, it is with our organization too that we are perpetually in a turning of the seasons. We seek good men to initiate into the roles of Freemasonry, we strive to make them better men in the receipt of light and the running of our lodges, and inevitably we see these good men pass to the celestial lodge of our great architect.

It is in this turning of the seasons that we see the growth and enlightenment of Freemasonry, our influence among our personal and professional circles, and the furtherment of the fraternity. As part of our obligations, we seek to embody the principles of Freemasonry, to share the light with worthy and well qualified candidates, and to reflect upon the ages of men that have come before us in the application of our practices. As with all things, there are ebbs and flows, good seasons and poor crops, as well as growth and death.

As our Grand Master has noted, Freemasonry in Virginia, and the world over, is in a state of diminishing roles. He has charged us with working to find more good men for our lodges, to reinvigorate those amongst our lodge roles that have strayed from our light, and to make sure we are engaging with our Brothers as they enter their later stages of life and to offer our assistance where needed.

Akin to the farmer tending his crops and herds, we are charge to feed the minds and spirits of our brothers, their widows, and orphans, and to help them (and the fraternity) to grow. So, I ask you, if our crops and flock are in lean times, what can we do to strengthen the fraternity? How can we bring those



amongst us that are further from the light back to our lodge (s)? What can we, your brothers, do for you to bring you back to lodge and active engagement in our Fraternity?

Much to that same line of thought, many of you know I'm currently away to attend to some family matters with my aging mother, and won't be able to attend our stated meeting this month. However, I am happy to see the progress of our Senior Warden, Brother J.D. Summers, as he progresses toward attaining his Wardens Certificate and will get some practice in the East. Please support him as he diligently works to improve on his application of ritual and his preparations for his time in the east.

Finally, on to our Giant of the month! For this month, I have chosen Most Worshipful John Blair. Not only was Brother Blair a Giant in his professional life, and a pillar in the birth of our nation, but he was a true Giant of Virginia Freemasonry as the first Grand Master of Freemasons in Virginia under the newly organized Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1778.

Thank you all for your support this year, and I look forward to seeing you in lodge soon.



Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Mark A. Boughner
Worshipful Master (Elect)
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703-489-2530



Most Worshipful John Blair Jr.



"John Blair: The Man, The Mason, The Giant" is an engaging and enlightening program that explores the life and contributions of John Blair, Jr., a remarkable figure in American history. This program offers a comprehensive overview of Blair's journey, highlighting his role as a Founding Father, Freemason, and influential jurist.

Born in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1731, Blair hailed from a distinguished family. His father's prominent positions as the acting Royal Governor and Virginia Councillor shaped Blair's early exposure to public service. He became the Mayor of Williamsburg in 1751, showcasing his leadership capabilities from an early age.

Blair's involvement in Freemasonry became a significant aspect of his life. He was appointed as the 1st Grand Master of Freemasons in Virginia in 1778, symbolizing his commitment to the principles of brotherhood and enlightenment.

Educated at the College of William and Mary, Blair obtained a degree in Arts in 1754. He furthered his studies in law in London and returned to Virginia to embark on a legal career. However, his true passion for public service led him to enter the

House of Burgesses, where he served as a clerk of the Royal Governor's Council between 1770 and 1775.

While Blair possessed considerable legal expertise, he preferred working behind the scenes rather than engaging in state politics. His attendance at the Constitutional Convention demonstrated his commitment to the idea of a permanent union of the states. However, his most significant contributions came later as a Virginia Court of Appeal Judge and a U.S. Supreme Court Judge. Through these esteemed positions, Blair played a pivotal role in shaping the interpretation of the Constitution through influential decisions, thanks to his ability to dissect legal matters with precision.

Blair's political views evolved over time. Initially aligning with the moderate wing supporting the Patriot cause, he later changed his thinking during the dissolution of the House of Burgesses by Parliament. He collaborated with Booker T. Washington to draft non-importation agreements, aiming to cease the import of British goods until oppressive taxes were repealed. Blair also expressed solidarity with the residents of Boston and supported the call for the Continental Congress.



During the Revolutionary era, Blair's involvement in state politics intensified. He played a vital role in drafting Virginia's constitution, serving on committees responsible for shaping the government and Declaration of Rights. Additionally, he served on the Privy Council, advised Governor Patrick Henry, and held positions as a Judge in the general court and Chief Justice. Blair's deep commitment to Freemasonry was recognized when he became the Grand Master of Freemasons in Virginia in 1778.

Blair's exceptional legal scholarship earned him recognition from his peers. The Virginia Legislature appointed him to revise the state's laws, and he was later nominated by President George Washington to the United States Supreme Court. Blair served on the Supreme Court for six years before resigning, leaving behind a lasting legacy of profound influence.

"John Blair: The Man, The Mason, The Giant" provides a captivating glimpse into the life and contributions of John Blair, Jr. It highlights his dedication to public service, commitment to the principles of Freemasonry, and his influential role as a jurist. Through this month's program, I hope you will gain a deeper understanding of Blair's impact on shaping the American legal system and his unwavering commitment to justice and the betterment of society.

