

PREFACE

Welcome to this the first Volume of the Transactions of A. Douglas Smith, Jr., Lodge of Research No. 1949!

Formed in 1982 for the purpose of conducting, and presenting the results of, Masonic research in the Northern Virginia area, the Lodge has prospered in its relatively short life.

While many Masons participated in the formation of the Lodge (some 50 Masons signed the Request for a Dispensation, and over 100 signed the Petition for a Charter), prime among these were: M/W Stewart W. Miner, PGM, now an Honorary Member of the Lodge and one of its Trustees; R/W Werner H. (Bill) Morlock, then the District Deputy Grand Master for the District in which the Lodge was formed, its Senior Warden when the Charter was issued, second Master of the Lodge, and now the Grand Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Virginia; Wor. William A. Meyer, a Past Master of Springfield Lodge No. 217 and first Master of the Lodge, who, regrettably, was called to his Supreme Grand Master shortly into his term; R/W Clarence Arthur Dains, PDDGM, a Past Master of John Blair Lodge No. 187, who was instrumental in drawing up the By-Laws, preparing the Prayer for Dispensation and other work; and Wor Arthur R. Wise, Sr., a Past Master of Columbia Lodge No. 285 and Secretary of the Lodge during its first six years.

The Organization Meeting of the Lodge was held at Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219 on 4 December 1982; it was Instituted by M/W Lloyd U. Jefferson, then the Grand Master, later Master of this Lodge, at Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 on 18 December 1982; and it was constituted on 30 April 1983, again by M/W Lloyd U. Jefferson, then a Past Grand Master, at the request of M/W William M. Johnson, then the Grand Master, after favorable action by the Grand Lodge in February, 1983. The speed with which all this was done attests to the skill and knowledge of those who were involved.

The Lodge now meets in the North Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial on the fifth Saturdays of the year.

The Lodge was named for M/W Alfred Douglas Smith, Jr., a very active and highly esteemed Mason, who served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1949 — and hence the number of the Lodge. M/W Brother Doug was in constant attendance at the Lodge until his death in 1986 and conducted each Installation of its officers in his own unique style — unchallenged by the Committee on Work! He was a constant inspiration to all with whom he came in contact.

This volume contains papers which were presented to the Lodge from 1982 through 1987. Because M/W Brother Doug was so important to the Lodge, this Volume commences with the Memorial adopted by the Lodge on the occasion of his death, and is immediately followed by Allen E. Roberts' paper on the life and times of Doug Smith — the first paper presented in the Lodge, and actually delivered by M/W Stew Miner in the absence of Allen — at the first Communication of the Lodge under the Dispensation.

The remaining papers are presented generally in the order in which presented to the Lodge. These papers cover many and varied subjects ranging from historical perspectives of the development of Masonry locally, to esoteric matters of the Fraternity, some of its early adherents, and coming up to comments on the most recent attacks on the Craft which have surfaced during the current decade. They represent an excellent cross-section of matters of current interest to the Brotherhood and are as varied as the speakers themselves. In this regard, the Lodge has fulfilled to an unusual degree the original intent of its founders.

It is regrettable that some presentations actually made are not included. This situation arises for various reasons. First and foremost, we probably should have published earlier, but that

situation cannot be helped now. Secondly, some speakers did not leave copies of their work, and in this instance the Lodge has been perhaps negligent in not being more resolute in asserting the absolute need for the speaker to file with the Secretary a copy of his presentation. Thirdly, by the time we did get under way, our Secretary was taken ill and we have not been able to adequately review what files he may have had which well may contain some of the missing papers. Finally, in one instance at least, the presenter has since died and again we have been unable to locate a copy of his remarks.

I feel certain that future volumes will include these early papers, should they come to light, and certainly there has been no intention by the Lodge to purposely exclude anyone.

One of the purposes of a Research Lodge, it seems to me, is not only to publish material which is of interest to its members, and the Fraternity at large, for their own edification and perhaps as a stimulus to further research on various points, but also to provide other Lodges with material which they may wish to present in their own Lodges, either independently, using this Volume as a basis, or perhaps by the author of one of the papers. One of the great voids in our Lodges is the very real absence of meaningful programs which can be expected to whet the interest of the membership, improve attendance, increase membership, and enhance the reputation of the Craft in the world at large.

For these reasons, this Volume is purposely not copyrighted. It is the earnest hope of the Lodge that liberal use will be made of its work in any manner deemed appropriate to promote the welfare of the Craft.

I wish to acknowledge the work of two people, who, in obvious addition to the authors themselves, have been instrumental in bringing this Volume to fruition. They are Wor G. William Miller, a Past Master of Arlington Centennial Lodge No. 81, currently our Senior Warden, who has undertaken the task of editing, and more importantly printing, this Volume; and

Kara Grindle, daughter of the Grand Lecturer, and wife of a member of Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54, who undertook the majority of the typing.

For parts of this work that fall short of your expectations, your Master accepts full responsibility, and for those parts which fulfill your hopes and needs, the various authors deserve, far and away, the credit and your praise.

Good reading!

RICHARD B. BALDWIN
Worshipful Master

14 June 1988
Burke, VA