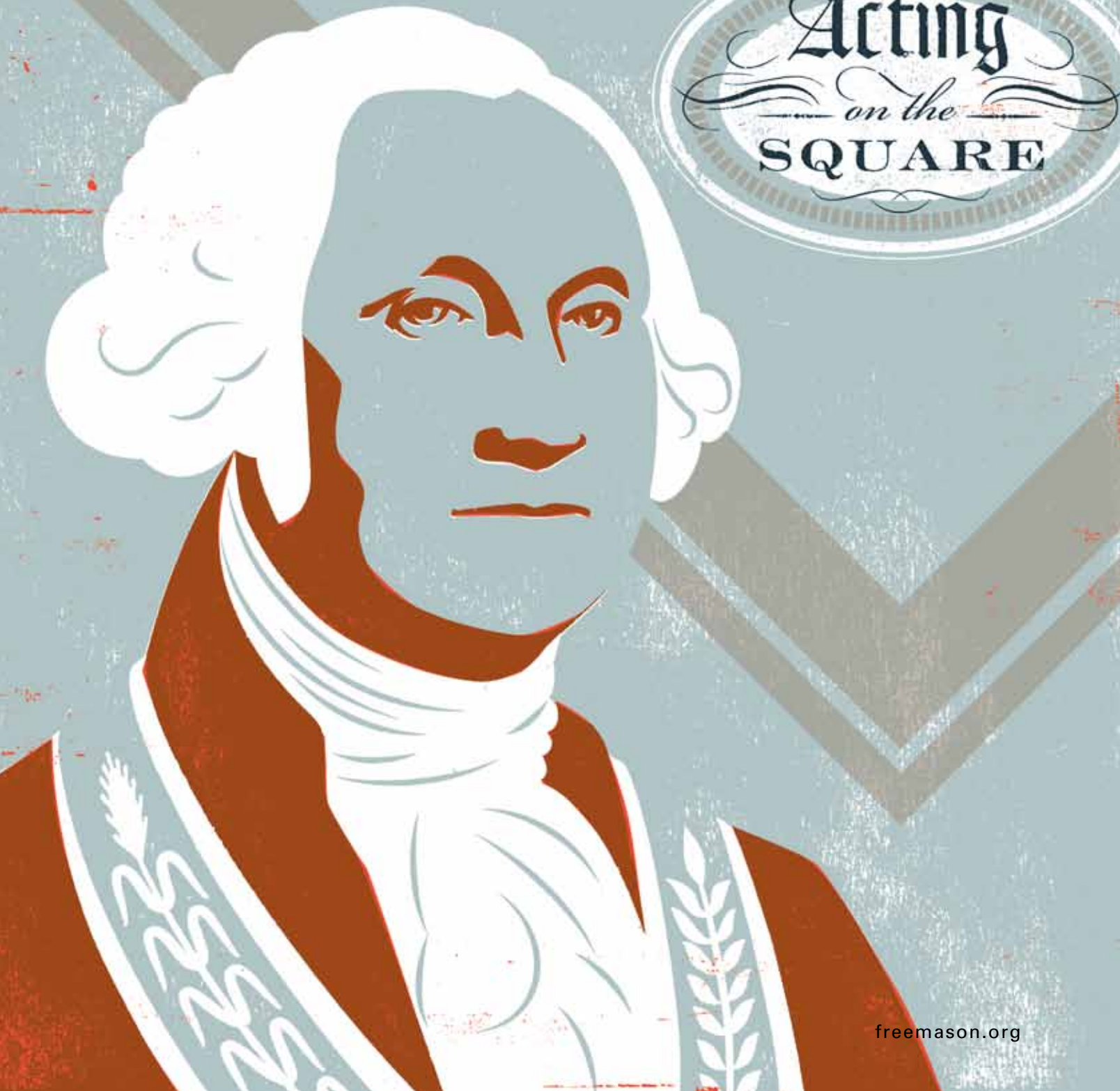


CALIFORNIA ♦

FREEMASON

Feb/Mar 2010





facebook.

How do *you* connect with your fraternity?

On the road

Masonic Traveler for iPhone and iPod Touch

Locate and visit more than 10,000 Masonic lodges throughout the U.S. with a single touch. Masonic Traveler – the first mobile Masonic lodge locator software of its kind, available worldwide for download via the iTunes App Store – will soon be offered FREE to California Masons. Look for details in the next issue of California Freemason.

On the Web

Facebook

The official Facebook page for the Masons of California is intended as a fun, informal place for members and friends of the fraternity to interact with each other and Grand Lodge. Look for videos, photos, and the latest buzz about the fraternity. We hope you'll become a fan, and be an active part of the online community.

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Acting on the Square

Perhaps more than any other American, George Washington incorporated Masonic virtues into every aspect of his life – as farmer, commander, and founding father. From refusing kingship to establishing a free school for orphans, he made remarkable choices that reflected the fraternity's teachings. All in all, history reveals Washington as a paragon of Masonic principles, and a "square of virtue" by which modern Masons should test their actions.



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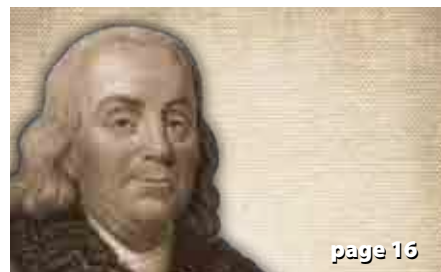
History The Enlightenment swept through North America in the 18th century, spurring revolution and offering one reason so many prominent revolutionaries were also Masons.

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Around the World A century ago, United States Masons successfully mustered the resources and manpower to build a lasting monument to George Washington in Alexandria, Va.

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Masonic Education Washington faced a difficult choice: loyalty to the king – mandated by the fraternity's "Constitution" – or loyalty to his new homeland. John Cooper explains the fine print that justified Revolution.



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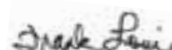
Masonic Homes Lodges first formed to care for 17th-century stonemasons and their families. Today, California lodges that partner with the Homes help Masonic assistance reach all corners of the state.



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FRANK LOUI,
Senior Grand Warden



Lessons From George Washington

When I set out to write this message, the first thing that came to mind was the story of George Washington and the cherry tree.

Everyone knows the story: Washington, maybe just six or seven years old, is playing around with a hatchet, and takes a chunk out of his father's prized cherry tree. The tree dies. His father is furious. Washington doesn't hesitate – he immediately comes clean with that famous line: "I cannot tell a lie."

I remember hearing that story as a boy, when I was first learning about George Washington. And it has always stuck with me.

Come to find out, the story may not be true – more about that on page 14 – but if it was made up, it was to demonstrate a point. It shows this superhuman figure, one of history's greatest leaders, in a very human moment. He made mistakes, too. But even at a young age, in the face of a father's scolding, he maintained great character.

Washington's legendary strength of character made him a natural leader – arguably the most significant leader in the founding of the United States of America.

In Masonry, we put a lot of time and hard work into building our own leadership skills. It's only natural that we take a few lessons from Washington. What can we learn from him?

Washington had courage, ambition, and vision. Qualities that were larger-than-life, awe-inspiring, and that he used to define a republic. Qualities we should each imitate to the best of our abilities, even just a little.

But he had some very humble qualities, too. He was a man of patience, determination, and great charisma. In moments when we feel intimidated by the demands of leadership, it's important to remember that these qualities were just as powerful as Washington's military brilliance. They made him easy to relate to, and instilled a sense of trust and affection. I think Washington's more humble qualities helped him harness the power of fellowship.

A final lesson I think we should take from Washington is the way he worked tirelessly to better himself. He sought out role models in his family and friends, and British generals Braddock and Forbes, to name a few. Their influence helped shape him into a leader who would change the course of history.

In summary: Be principled, be consistent, be sincere. Be honest. Seek out role models. These are important lessons, as we sort out how to be leaders in the 21st century.

Being a leader within Masonry requires knowledge of where the fraternity is, and a vision for where it's going. It requires having the humility and the good sense to lean on other leaders. Don't try to do it all yourself. Get your fellow lodge leaders involved. Look to past grand masters for inspiration, and to other Masonic organizations to broaden your ideas. Take a page from Washington's book, and harness the power of fellowship.

Keep in mind, one doesn't need to lead a revolution or even an officer line to embody these qualities. Our inner leader makes himself known in the day-to-day: how we treat our brothers and our families, what responsibilities we embrace in our communities, how we show our character. I think Washington would agree. ♦



by Richard Berman

THE FIGHT FOR ENLIGHTENMENT

The link between Masonry and the American Revolution

From pioneers to presidents, men who wore the apron helped transform a fledgling coalition of rebel British colonies into a vibrant and powerful nation in only a few decades.

Continued on next page

The fact that so many Masons were prominent revolutionaries begs the question: What was the connection between the ideals advanced by the fraternity and the ideals of the American Revolution?

“In the 18th century the influence of organized religion was in decline, and Freemasonry provided a framework for personal morality. At that moment in history, that was absolutely critical.”

REVOLUTION!

In the late 1600s a small, influential group of philosophers, scholars, and writers started a cultural movement to apply the principles of scientific reason to the understanding of mankind as an individual and in society.

The Enlightenment swept Europe and North America in the 18th century, rejecting traditional social, religious, and political ideas, and in their place promoting

liberty, tolerance, sociability, and above all, the use of reason. The ideals it introduced to the masses were a major catalyst for the American Revolution.

Those ideals, by slightly different names – truth, brotherly love, self-improvement – had been championed by Masonry for centuries. (For a summary, see the sidebar on page 7.) And Freemasons naturally gravitated to the Enlightenment – and the revolution it was spurring.

FRAMEWORK FOR MORALITY

A popular myth is that the fraternity masterminded the American Revolution. The truth is that Masonry wasn't responsible for the Revolution – the ideals its members embraced were.

Ph.D. student Matthew Crow currently teaches a class entitled “Freemasonry, Civil Society, and American Democracy” at the University of California, Los Angeles, funded through the 2008-9 Grand Master's Project to Advance the Study and Understanding of Freemasonry. He cautions overstating the connection between Masonry and the American Revolution. But

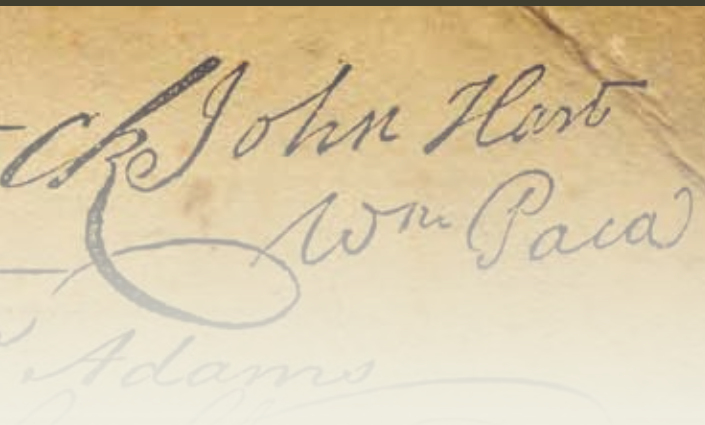
the fraternity did advance ideas and moral codes that played into the Revolution.

“Freemasonry was, in many ways, an alternative community that provided a forum for men to associate with gentlemen of a certain level of social and political achievement,” Crow says. “In the 18th century the influence of organized religion was in decline, and Freemasonry provided a framework for personal morality. At that moment in history, that was absolutely critical, and it influenced men like George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.”

In fact, Masonry may have influenced the whole Enlightenment movement. Masonry and the Enlightenment reached America at roughly the same time, and the timing is no coincidence: Some academics maintain that Freemasonry was one of the main channels by which the values of the Enlightenment were transmitted from Britain to France, the Netherlands – and America.

BUILDING UTOPIA

Author and historian Mark Tabbert, who serves as director of collections at the George Washington



Masonic National Memorial Association in Virginia, argues that Masonry informed the bigger worldview of the man who led the political and military revolution against England: George Washington.

According to Tabbert, Washington set out to create a utopia based on egalitarian principles and the values of the Enlightenment. Masonic principles defined how he went about doing it.

“The fact that Washington stepped down after two terms as president says volumes about him. He could have easily become president-for-life or even a king, but he retired after eight years,”

Tabbert says. “This is really his living embodiment of Masonic principles and values.” ♦

Freemason, politician, and Revolutionary leader John Hancock attended Harvard University, which played an important role in teaching and spreading Enlightenment ideas.



IDEALS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Look familiar?

One of the strongest connections between Masonry and the American Revolution was a common commitment to the Enlightenment's core ideals – most of which had been championed by Freemasons for centuries.

Human autonomy

Individuals should seek knowledge and be free to reason for themselves, not be told what to think by a church or government.

Live according to reason

Individuals should conduct themselves according to reason, rather than superstition and blind obedience. Reason leads to truth.

Enlightenment is universal

All individuals are capable of becoming enlightened, which means that everyone is equal. Humanity is part of a “universal community,” and the shared experience within that community is more important than any differences between individuals.

Progress

Human history is the story of progress and improvement, moving from immaturity, superstition, and slavery toward maturity, reason, and freedom.

Secularism

Religion and politics should be separate. There should be no official religion, and one's method of worship should be a private matter.

Economics is central to politics

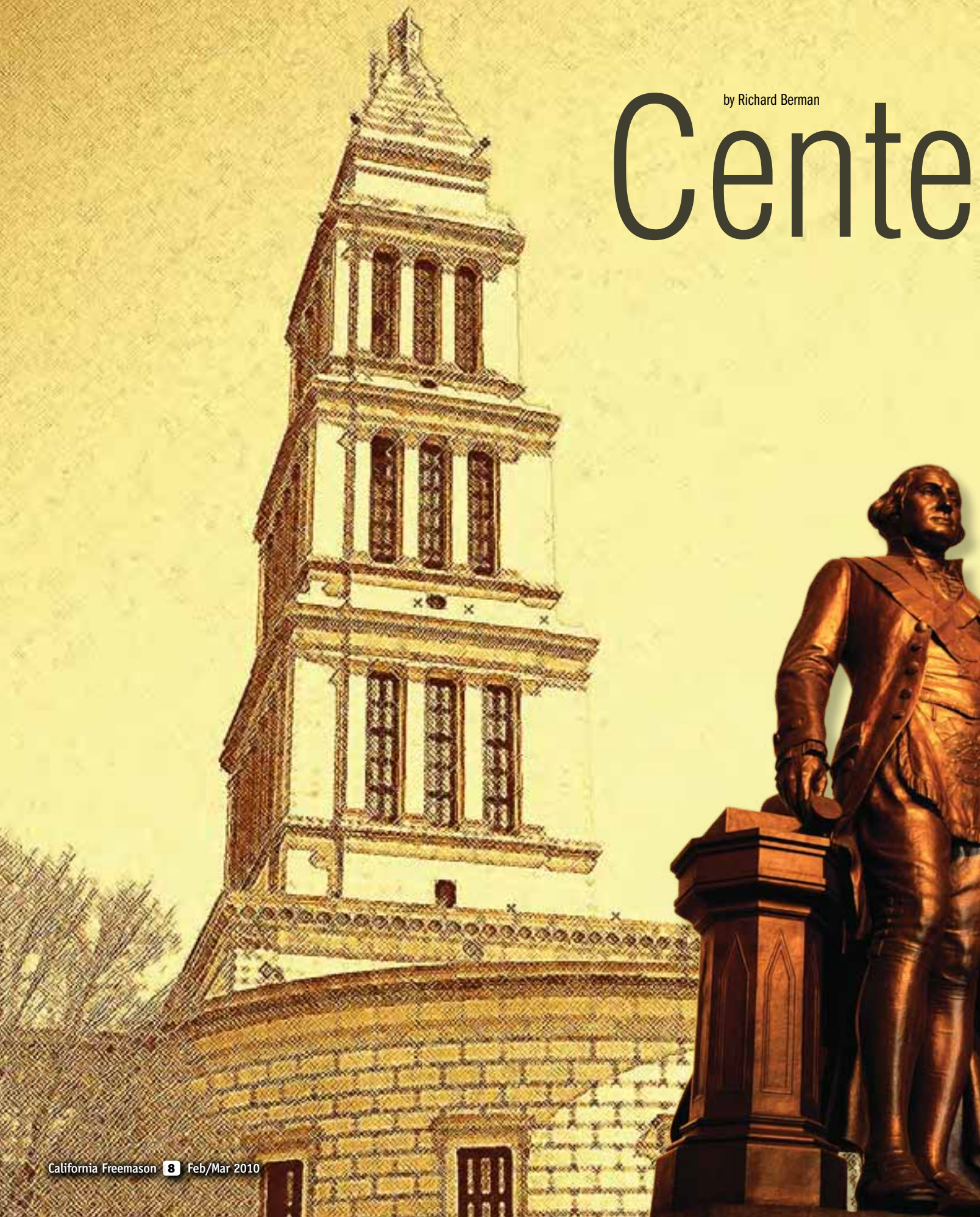
A society's well-being depends on how its economy is structured.

Popular government

People are capable of ruling themselves and should play a part in politics, regardless of class.

Center

by Richard Berman



nnial

Masonry's ultimate
tribute to Washington
hits milestone month

Celebration

Few Americans have been honored as often, or in as many ways, as George Washington. This is hardly a surprise: he was a key figure in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War, led the successful military campaign against British rule, and served as the first president of the United States.

To commemorate his singular role in founding the country, everything from cities to states to mountains have been named in Washington's honor, his likeness appears on stamps and money, and his birthday became the first federal holiday to honor an American citizen.

And 100 years ago this February, a group of U.S. Freemasons met to add another honor to that list: a national Masonic memorial.

BEST-LAID PLAN

Washington, who was publicly identified with Masonry during and after his presidency, has always been respected by brothers in the craft, and throughout the 19th century there were several attempts to create a Masonic memorial in his honor, including a plan to build a monument in Fredericksburg, Va., where Washington was raised as a Master Mason in 1753. Most of these ideas were well-intentioned, but few got past the initial planning stages.

"Most of the efforts to build a memorial to Washington were local, rather than national,"

says Mark Tabbert, director of collections at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. "They just didn't have the resources or the manpower to build a monument. It wasn't until the early 20th century that Freemasons could muster the resources they needed – and even then, it took more than 20 years to make the building a reality."

One critical factor that made it possible to build the memorial was the rapid expansion of Masonry. George Seghers, executive director of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, points out that "in 1900 there were about a million Masons in the

United States, but 10 years later there were more than 2 million. There was a massive growth in the middle class in this country during that time, and Masonry became the quintessential middle-class organization."

With this growth of Masonry, and the 1899 centennial of George Washington's death renewing attention on the "Father of His Country," the stage was set for creating a national Masonic memorial to George Washington. On Feb. 10, 1910 a group of prominent Masons from across the U.S. met to create a monument in the port city of Alexandria, Va., six miles downriver from the nation's capital.

Continued on next page



Photo by Ben Schumlin

The memorial may be located in Virginia, but it's always had strong ties to the Golden State. In the early 1900s, California Past Grand Master George Lawler was instrumental in raising money for construction. Today, Past Grand Master Anthony Wordlow is president of the Memorial Association.

Unlike earlier efforts, their plan succeeded. Over the next several decades the group raised \$3 million (nearly 10 times that amount in today's dollars) to build the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, which was completed in 1932. Today it's one of the most recognizable Masonic buildings in America.

THE CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

While the effort to build the memorial was national in scope, the influence of George Lawler, past grand master of the Grand Lodge of California, was critical in turning the dream into a reality.

"Lawler was in Washington lobbying for funds to rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake, and he felt strongly that there needed to be a fireproof facility to protect priceless Masonic items, including those associated with Brother George Washington," Seghers says.

Lawler had seen the destruction in San Francisco first-hand, and knew that many of the state's Masonic treasures had been lost when the Grand Lodge building was destroyed. He wanted to safeguard the items that had been used by Washington.

Adding to his sense of urgency was the fact that Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 had lost several valuable artifacts and relics from Washington in a series of fires (the first in 1781). There was a consensus that there needed to be a fireproof building to house the items and preserve them for future generations.

Looking at the formidable George Washington Masonic National Memorial, it's easy to see that the Masonic treasures inside are in good hands. The building is constructed of granite, and has very little in the way of flammable materials. "If there was a fire here, the only thing that would burn is the doors," Seghers says.

And a century after Lawler helped conceive the memorial, another California past grand master has a leading role in its operations: Anthony P. Wordlow, grand master of California in 1998, oversees memorial business as current president of the Memorial Association.

MORE THAN A MEMORIAL

Because the founding brothers wanted to build the memorial without incurring any debt, it took more than a decade to raise enough money to buy the 36-acre site and begin

construction. During this time, the concept of the facility evolved from being a simple repository for Masonic relics into a colossal "lighthouse" towering over the city of Alexandria.

Today, the memorial is home to a collection of Washington memorabilia, a replica of the original lodge room as it existed in Washington's day, two lodge rooms currently used by Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 and Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120, a large auditorium, and a number of rooms highlighting various allied organizations of the fraternity. Among these are galleries highlighting the charitable work of the Shrine and the Grotto, both of which contributed significantly to the construction of the memorial.

"After World War II the focus changed from building the memorial to working on the inside," says Tabbert. "Masonic groups that made significant contributions were given permanent spaces to showcase their work and let the public know what they were doing in their communities."

The result is that the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is more than a colossal memorial and museum: It's a tourist attraction and destination; research center and library; community center; performing arts center and concert hall; banquet and celebration site; and meeting site for local and countless visiting Masonic lodges and organizations.

"However," says Seghers, "first and foremost, it is a memorial to honor and perpetuate the memory, character, and virtues of the man who best exemplifies what Freemasons are and ought to be, Brother George Washington." ♦

Dedicated to California



The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is the only Masonic building that is supported by all of the grand lodges in the United States – in California, each degree applicant contributes \$15 for its Endowment Fund – and every month the Memorial hosts a “Grand Lodge Month” focusing on a particular state. This May, California will be featured, and the Grand Lodge is highlighting Masonry in the Golden State in several ways.


For starters, the memorial will display an exhibit focused on the history of the craft in California.

Originally created for the 2009 meeting of the Grand Masters of Masons in North America, “Builders of Dreams: The California Masonic Experience 1850-Present” highlights the role of Freemasonry in California from the Gold Rush to the modern era, and features objects that illustrate innovation and invention, art, and material culture influenced by Masons. In addition, the exhibit also includes a video highlighting artifacts, historical events, and prominent California Masons such as Thomas Starr-King, Leland Stanford, and Earl Warren.

In May, the grand master and other California Masons will see the exhibit in person when they travel to the memorial in Alexandria, Va. for California month.

During the visit, Liberty Lodge No. 299, based in Santa Clara, will confer degrees in the memorial building. The grand master will also dedicate a special grove of trees, established through the generosity of California Masons and friends of Masonry.

To help restore memorial grounds to their original splendor, the grand master’s wife, Kathy Nagel, is currently gathering donations to plant a California Grove of 40-50 trees at the memorial. Donations in any amount are appreciated. For a contribution of \$500, a tree will be planted with a special plaque designating donor and honoree. For more information, contact 415/292-9117 or davila@freemason.org.



In initial planning, the memorial was intended simply as a place to house Masonic relics. The finished building houses a concert hall, library, community center, and banquet accommodations, too.

Acting *on the* SQU

by Cason Lane

GEORGE WASHINGTON *Exemplar of Masonic virtues*

In Freemasonry, the ubiquitous square represents the morality and ethical conduct that form the basis of a Mason's every action. Just as builders use a square to test right angles, a Mason constantly tests his behavior by the "square of virtue."

And by those standards, George Washington was a really square guy. In fact, some say that Washington was a paragon of Masonic virtues, incorporating them in everything he did and always squaring his actions. As a farmer, commander, and founding father, Washington never veered from the virtues that attracted him to Freemasonry and guided his every decision.

The way some see it, Washington was the "perfect ashlar," a measure by which Masons today can gauge their own behavior.

"More than any other American, he exemplified what every Freemason ought to labor to be: a virtuous man," says Mark Tabbert, director of collections for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

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TEMPERANCE

One of Washington's most prominent virtues was temperance, which he came to understand at an early age. Washington was born 1732 into a society of Virginia tobacco planters. And, Tabbert explains, whereas many of his classmates fell into gambling, drinking, and debt, Washington studied writings on philosophy and self-improvement, such as "Seneca's Morals" and the "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation."

This penchant for principle may have been one factor that led Washington, at age 20, to join the Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia in 1752. According to the Library of

Congress, Washington joined the Masons as a rite of passage – an expression of civic responsibility, high moral standards, and charity. In addition to befitting Washington's personal values, Masonic membership was expected from a young man of his social status in colonial Virginia.

Washington's temperance would go on to serve him many years later in the American Revolutionary War. Tabbert notes that Washington, as commander of the Continental Army, never retreated to the pleasures of Mount Vernon while leaving his soldiers cold and hungry. And he was never seduced by military glory or political power. Indeed, Washington reportedly was offered a kingship three times,

and three times he refused.

"Perhaps George Washington's greatest achievement was that, almost alone among the revolutionaries of the modern era, he returned his power to the people," says George D. Seghers, executive director of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. "He had the will and the charisma to win a war and found a state, with the moral and ideological guidance that held him to his proper role."

Washington also chose to let others shine in Masonic leadership. According to Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, Washington in 1777 declined the opportunity to be grand master of Virginia.

JUSTICE, CHARITY, AND LIBERTY

In other words, Washington gave every man his due. As commander, Washington awarded his army with promotions or Purple Hearts for courage, Tabbert explains. As president, Washington supported benevolent and educational institutions, advancing liberty and equality while shunning divisive sects and political parties.

As a Virginia planter, Washington owned many slaves. However, according to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, Washington's attitude toward slavery changed as he grew older and especially as he fought for liberty in the American Revolution. In his will, he freed his slaves and ensured they had the support they needed to make their way in the world. In fact, of the early presidents who owned slaves, George Washington was the only one who freed them all.

Did You Know?

INTERESTING FACTS & FALSEHOODS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON

- ★ George Washington did not have wooden teeth. Washington had false teeth, but they were not wooden. They fit poorly and distorted the shape of his mouth.
- ★ He probably didn't cut down a cherry tree. Since so little is known about Washington's childhood, a biographer invented this and other anecdotes to illustrate Washington's heroic qualities.
- ★ He did not throw a silver dollar across the Potomac River. Not only is the Potomac over a mile wide, but there were no silver dollars when Washington was a young man. Again, this story was invented to illustrate Washington's strength.
- ★ He did not wear a wig. Though wigs were fashionable, Washington kept his own hair, tied back in a ponytail. He did, however, powder his hair as was customary at the time.
- ★ He did not attend college. However, he believed strongly in formal education. In his will, he left money and stocks to support educational institutions.
- ★ He is the only U.S. president who did not live in the White House, which was not completed until after his death. Washington did, however, oversee the building's design.



A JUST AND UPRIGHT MASON

Add it up, and Washington's achievements – indeed, his very way of life – reflect his character, a character that was influenced by the craft. While some question Washington's active participation in lodge meetings and other Masonic activities, history shows that Washington took care to learn and understand the

Masonic virtues, drawing upon them throughout his life.

“Washington was a great Freemason because he lived the principles of Freemasonry,” Tabbert says. “He exemplified more than any other man who's ever lived, in my opinion, what a Freemason ought to be. He was a little busy being the father of the country to necessarily attend lodge.”

Throughout his adult life, Washington was surrounded by Freemasonry. Many of his friends and officers were Freemasons, including General Marquis de La Fayette and, of course, fellow founding fathers Benjamin Franklin and John Hancock. In letters to his Masonic brothers, Washington demonstrated an admiration for the fraternity. In a 1797 letter to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, for example, Washington wrote, “My attachment to the society of which we are members will dispose me always to contribute my best endeavors to promote the honor and prosperity of the craft.”

Today, it's no wonder many Masons see Washington as the epitome of a “just and upright Mason,” one whose life's fabric is threaded with virtue, one who always squared his actions. ♦

Author Chris Hodapp notes that the provisions in Washington's will were remarkable for a man of this period. In addition to freeing his slaves, Washington designated pieces of property for family, friends, and servants. He also left money to start a “free school” for orphans, and he bequeathed funds to help establish his namesake university.

PRUDENCE AND FORTITUDE

As a tobacco farmer, young Washington learned the virtues of prudence and fortitude, assessing obstacles and overcoming adversity. In fact, Tabbert explains, by the time of the Revolution, Washington had become one of the few solvent planters in Virginia, due to his wise diversification of crops, breeding of new livestock, and development of new industries at Mount Vernon.

At war, he again drew on these virtues as he prepared the Continental Army for battles and, ultimately, helped soldiers maintain their courage and win the War for Independence. As the first president of the United States, likewise, Washington understood that his actions in the present would determine the nation's happiness in the future.

Timeline of George Washington's Masonic activities

1752. Washington, 20, joined Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia. The Bible he took his obligations on is still in the possession of the lodge.

1753. Washington was raised to Master Mason.

1775-1785. Throughout the American Revolutionary War and after independence was secured, Washington supported the military lodges that formed in army regiments, and he participated in various Masonic activities, including celebrations of the feast of St. John and charitable events to raise money for the poor.

1777. The Convention of Virginia Lodges nominated Washington as grand master of the commonwealth. He declined.

1780. Lodges suggested the establishment of a Grand Lodge of the U.S. to be helmed by Washington as grand master. The idea for such a national body was later dropped.

1788. Washington was named charter master of a new lodge in Alexandria, Va., upon issue of a new charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia. That lodge is now known as Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.

1789. Washington was inaugurated as president of the U.S., using the Bible from St. John's Lodge No. 1 in New York, N.Y.

1793. Washington laid the cornerstone for the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

1794. Washington sat in Masonic regalia for a portraitist, at the request of Alexandria Lodge.

1799. Washington was buried at Mount Vernon with Masonic rites. Five of the six pallbearers were Freemasons.

by John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

Of the Civil Magistrate Supreme and Subordinate

When George Washington was only two years old, the first Masonic book published in America came off the press of a young printer in Philadelphia named Benjamin Franklin, himself just 26 years old at the time. The book he printed was “The Constitutions of the Free-Masons,” a book that had originally been published in 1723, only 11 years earlier, by the Grand Lodge of England.

One of the most important documents in the history of Freemasonry, these “Constitutions” were the foundation of modern Speculative Freemasonry.

CHARGED WITH LOYALTY

A year after Franklin printed “The Constitutions of the Free-Masons” he himself sought membership in the fraternity, and not long after, was provincial grand master of Pennsylvania. The book was widely available to Freemasons in North America, and it is likely that another young Mason, George Washington, was familiar with the contents of this important work after he became an Entered Apprentice Mason in Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia, in November 1752. It is very likely that he had heard “The Charges of a Free-Mason” from this book read many times, because in those days it was customary to read these charges at the making of a Mason.

Today few Masons have read these charges because they are no longer a part of our ritual. But in 1752 Masons were very familiar with these words* from the second charge, entitled “Of the Civil Magistrate Supreme and Subordinate”:

"A Mason is a peaceable subject to the civil powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutiful to inferior magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by war, bloodshed, and confusion, so ancient kings and princes have been much disposed to encourage the craftsmen, because of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby they practically answered the cavils of their adversaries, and promoted the honor of the fraternity, whoever flourished in times of peace. So that if a brother should be a rebel against the state, he is not to be countenanced in his rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy man; and if convicted of no other crime, though the loyal brotherhood must and ought to disown his rebellion, and give no umbrage or ground of political jealousy to the government for the time being; they cannot expel him from the lodge, and his relations to it remains indefeasible."

*spelling modernized

CHOOSING SIDES

Brother George Washington, and every Mason who fought for the freedom of the colonies from Great Britain, knew this charge, and had to reconcile its mandate with what was manifestly a rebellion against the government to which he ostensibly owed his allegiance.

As such, it is important for us to remember that the decision to side with the colonists against the mother country, especially for

Masons, was a serious one. Not only was there the danger that if the rebellion were lost their lives would have been in jeopardy, but as Masons they also had to come to grips with the fundamental Masonic teaching that a brother "is not to be countenanced in his rebellion." In other words, the fraternity should not, and would not, encourage him to place himself in this unenviable position.

So how and why did Masons in the American Revolution come to the conclusion that they must foreswear the allegiance due to their king, and accept a new allegiance?

How did a man of sterling character such as George Washington reconcile the teachings of Freemasonry, which were so important to him, with the decision to lead the rebellion?

There were undoubtedly opportunists in the colonists' cause, but certainly George Washington and his fellow Masons were not among them. It was not opportunity that motivated them, but loyalty itself, as strange as that might seem. It was loyalty to their country – to their homeland – which caused them to choose the difficult and dangerous course of rebellion. For America had become their country – their homeland – and not Great Britain. It surely was the realization that the time had arrived in the course of history that a new nation should be born.

A GREATER ALLEGIANCE

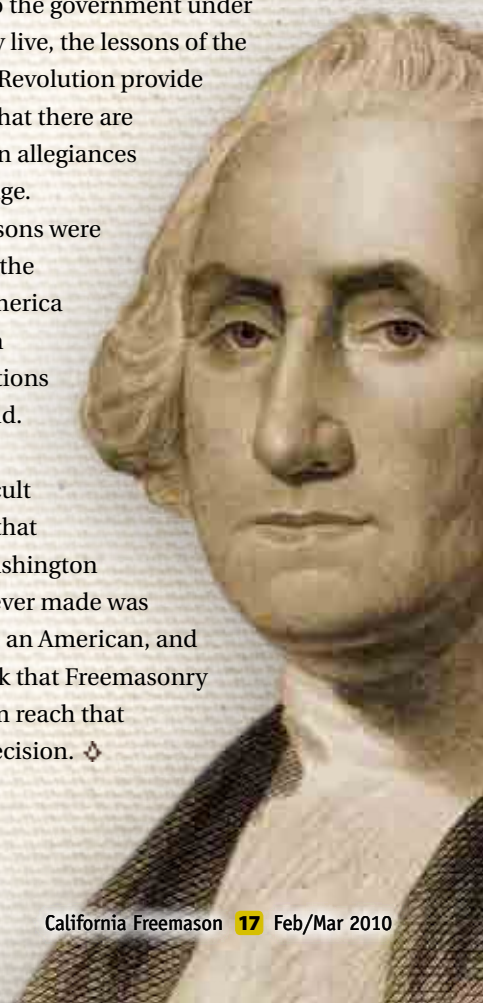
And for Masons, the second charge of 1723 provided the means of transferring their loyalty from the king to the people of America. For

this curious charge explained that regardless of how painful such a decision would be, *a Mason would not be expelled from Freemasonry if he chose to take this road to the future.*

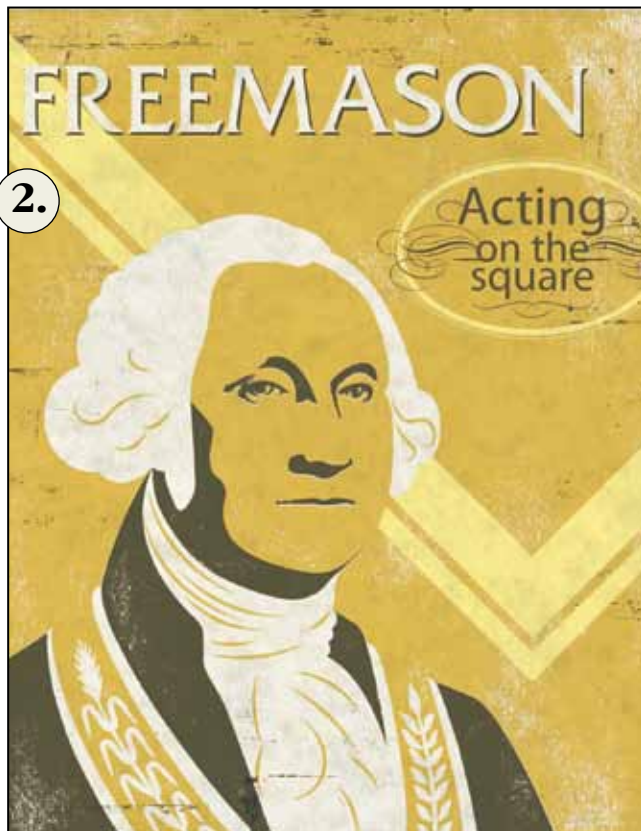
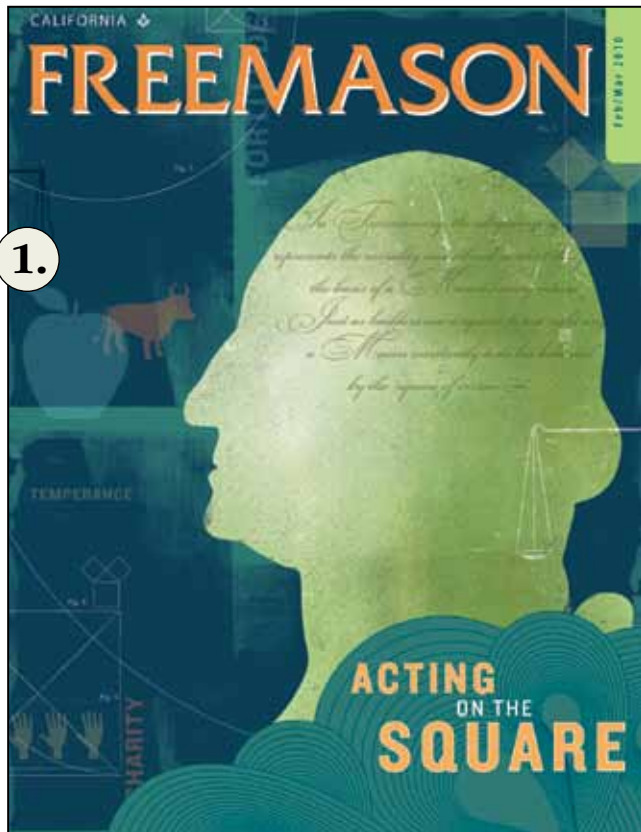
That is the real teaching of the second charge. While loyalty to one's obligations, including loyalty to the existing political arrangement, is important, there are sometimes things that are *more* important. In the case of the founding fathers who were Freemasons, it was the realization that their country was now America – and that the Freemasonry they loved would support them in this decision.

Washington, and others like him, had become Americans. It just took the Revolutionary War to make them realize it. And while Freemasons are loyal to the government under which they live, the lessons of the American Revolution provide evidence that there are times when allegiances must change.

Freemasons were present at the birth of America as a nation among nations of the world. One of the most difficult decisions that George Washington probably ever made was to become an American, and many think that Freemasonry helped him reach that difficult decision. ✧



Portrait of a Leader



Every issue of California Freemason magazine is filled with design decisions, from fonts to photos. This one presented a unique challenge: depicting one of history's most recognizable figures in a fresh, modern way.

CREATIVE KICKOFF

Chen Design Associates sat down with our editorial team to discuss why George Washington matters to our members, how we planned to convey the George Washington theme throughout the issue, and how we wanted readers to react to the cover portrait. A few priorities emerged:

- Washington's portrait should have a contemporary feel that was still historically accurate
- It needed to include Masonic elements
- It should be unique but timeless enough to become a keepsake

Chen Design Associates came back with two very exciting – and very different – cover concepts.

#1: CONCEPTUAL COLLAGE

This concept combined several illustrative styles in a modern color palette. The collage effect came from designers layering a mixture of scanned papers, then digitally painting over the final image. By incorporating references to farming, higher learning, and the sciences, the cover ties into

the Feature article and piques reader interest. Washington's silhouette, borrowed from the U.S. quarter, is abstract but still recognizable.

#2: SIMPLY HANDMADE

Washington's portrait is less abstract, but the textured background and minimal color palette still achieve a contemporary feel that suggests screen printing and street art. To create texture, colors were separated into "layers," and each layer was printed first in black ink. The designers roughed up printouts by hand, then flattened and scanned them to capture distressed details. Finally, color was applied and the layers were fit together into the composite image.

WE HAVE A WINNER

Concept #2 won us over with its iconic depiction of Washington. We asked the designers to remove some of the flourishes around the title and to dial up the color. With those changes made, we had our cover! We hope it finds a special place in your collection. ♦

Commitment

to Care by Laura Normand

Lodges are critical partners for Masonic assistance

When the first Masonic lodges were formed in the 17th century, a primary purpose was care for families of stonemasons injured in their dangerous work. A lot has changed in the 400 years since, but that commitment to care remains: Lodges are still critical for helping members and their families in need.

Continued on next page

Today the Masonic Homes of California advances that commitment to Masonic assistance with dedicated staff at the two Homes campuses, Masonic Outreach Services (MOS), and the Masonic Family Resource Center. But, when it comes to fraternal relief, lodges are irreplaceable.

"A lot of the time, members are hesitant to inquire about support because they don't realize or don't want to admit that they need help," says Quynh Tran, MOS care manager. "One of the most important things that a lodge can do is refer those in need. That starts with the bond and trust between brothers."

The eyes and ears of outreach

"Lodges are local to our clients, and able to provide extra attention when it's needed, sometimes at a moment's notice," Tran says.

One lodge that goes above and beyond is Palm Springs Lodge No. 693.

"The lodge is a very tight-knit group, and they all look out for their members," Tran says. "They'll make frequent home visits just to say hi, drive clients to lodge meetings or a doctor's visit, and assist with MOS applications. They've even stepped in to help a client move."

Leading the charge is Secretary Jeffrey Bayer. Bayer's involvement began about five years ago, when he received an alarming call about a lodge member from Adult Protective Services. Bayer contacted MOS for assistance.

"That's when I became fully aware of the magnitude and scope of what MOS had to offer," Bayer says. "Here was a brother on a fixed income, who couldn't afford the specialized care he required. MOS stepped in and made sure that his every need was met."

Bayer has been educating members about the Homes and MOS ever since, even helping form a phone committee to call elder members and widows once a month.

"Every time I talk to a widow, I'll ask if she's aware of the support that's available to her. It's amazing how many have no idea."

"At first, it was about my obligation to my brother Masons," Bayer says. "Now, it's knowing that I can and have saved members, their families, and their widows from becoming homeless or having to forego medical care."

Homes-schooling

A strong lodge-Homes partnership is also important for educating members about senior residential services at Covina and Union City.

One example is Live Oak Lodge No. 61 in Oakland. "I am always impressed at how well residents are taken care of at the Homes," says Secretary Byron Flanders, "and I want to make sure that people know about it."

THE ONE QUESTION YOU SHOULD ALWAYS ASK

Every conversation can make a difference

One of Secretary Jeffrey Bayer's most memorable outreach experiences began with a phone call from the niece of a deceased lodge member, who had a question about her uncle's Masonic memorabilia.

Before he got off the phone, Bayer asked about the well-being of the member's widow. The niece said that her aunt was in the first stages of Alzheimer's. Then she shared that she and her husband were running out of money to pay for her care.

"I told her not to worry, that I was going to get her aunt set up with MOS," Bayer says. "She couldn't believe it."

Within two weeks, the aunt was in the care of MOS.

"The niece called me in tears," Bayer says, "thanking me for helping her aunt - as well as her and her husband."


The lodge refers potential Homes applicants, helps answer questions about life at the Homes, and assists members with applications. The lodge also pays frequent visits to members and widows who've moved to the nearby Home at Union City.

Through those visits, Flanders has built a strong working relationship with Homes staff, including Admissions Coordinator Soledad Martinez. "Now, whenever I have a question, I use her as a resource," he says.

The lodge offers hands-on help: Treasurer James Mann often walks members through application paperwork. Live Oak Lodge also includes Homes contact information (see page 22) in every Trestleboard, and makes personal conversations a priority.

"Every time I talk to a widow, I'll ask if she's aware of the support that's available to her. It's amazing how many have no idea," Flanders says.

In fact, Flanders emphasizes educating all members, including younger Masons and their families. "We confer Entered Apprentice degrees at the Home, and have them bring their wives and take a tour," he says. "It's a great way for them to see what's there." ♦



Palm Springs Lodge involves members from the start: the lodge's telephone committee is comprised of some of its newest members. The committee follows a basic script for monthly outreach calls. If they suspect that a brother or widow needs help, they'll check in more frequently.

Connecting With the Homes

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS)

Masonic Outreach Services (MOS), a program of the Masonic Homes of California, provides our fraternal family access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

These services include:

- Information and referrals to community-based senior providers throughout California
- Ongoing care management at no cost
- Financial support

MOS also provides interim financial and care support to those who are on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California. Contact us at **888/466-3642** or **intake@mhcuc.org**.

ACACIA CREEK

To learn more about Acacia Creek, visit acaciacreek.org or contact **888/553-7555** or **dwiley@acaciacreek.org**.

MASONIC FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

If you are in need of support or know of a family in distress, contact **888/466-3642**.

MASONIC HOMES

The Masonic Homes has speakers available to come to your lodge to speak about our range of Masonic assistance services.

To learn more about residential services on our two campuses, arrange a private or group tour of the Home nearest you.

For more information, contact **888/466-3642** or **communications@mhcuc.org**.

Masonic Assistance

Fraternal care based on Masonic values

We support and serve the whole family

- ▶ **Masonic Homes of California**
- ▶ **Masonic Outreach Services**
- ▶ **Masonic Family Resource Center**

CALL

888/466-3642

for information and support



OPERATION GREATEST GIFT

GRAND MASTER'S PROJECT 2009-2010

PROJECT UPDATE

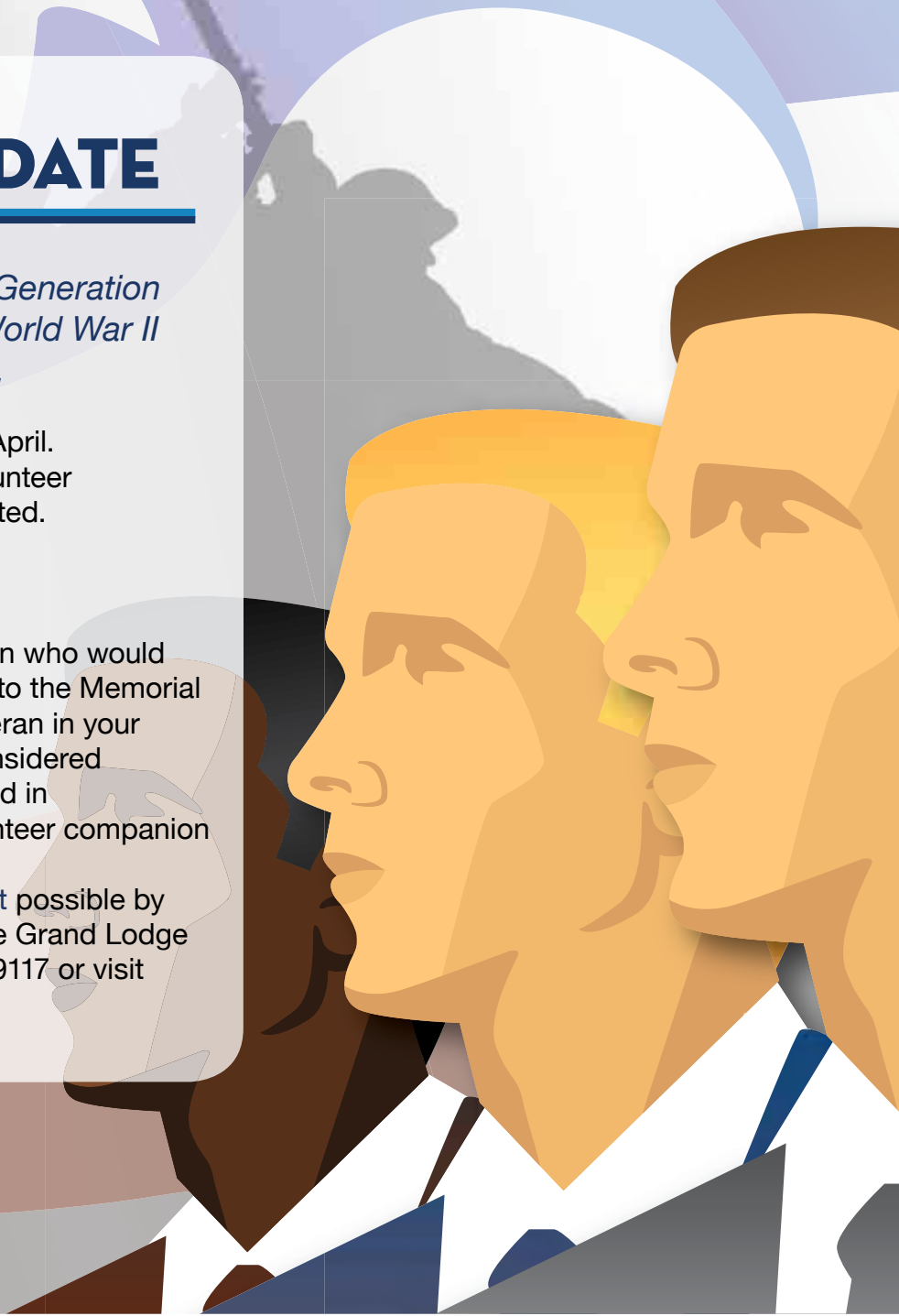
We're honoring our Greatest Generation with the gift of a visit to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The first of several trips is set for April. Reservations for veterans and volunteer companions are now being accepted.

Notify your lodge secretary

- If you are a World War II veteran who would like to be considered for a trip to the Memorial
- If you know a World War II veteran in your lodge who would like to be considered
- If you are over 18 and interested in accompanying a trip as a volunteer companion

Help make **Operation Greatest Gift** possible by making a contribution. Contact the Grand Lodge Office of Philanthropy at 415/292-9117 or visit freemason.org/contribute.





Secretaries' Retreats

Designed to strengthen collective knowledge of the administrative operations of the lodge, and to enhance lodge secretaries' communication with each other and the grand secretary's office.

2010 RETREATS

Northern Retreat

February 5-7, San Ramon

Southern Retreat

February 26-28, Irvine

Wardens' Retreats

Designed to develop the leadership skills of junior and senior wardens in programs tailored to each office, including developing a lodge plan and implementing benchmarks to measure lodge success.

2010 RETREATS

Junior Wardens

March 19-21, San Ramon

April 16-18, Ontario

Senior Wardens

April 30-May 2, Ontario

May 14-16, San Ramon