

Unity Lodge No. 146

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Front Royal, Virginia



1870 - 1970

Centennial Observance

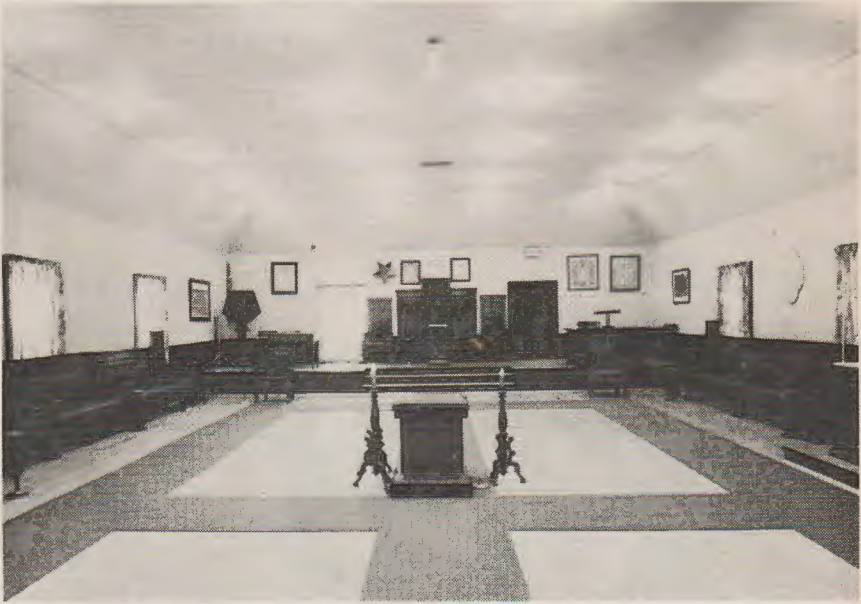
December 5, 1970

Unity Lodge No. 146, A.F. & A.M.

Front Royal, Virginia



The Lodge Building on East Main Street



Our Lodge Room facing the East

The home of all Front Royal Masonic Activities

UNITY LODGE NO. 146, A. F. & A. M.

Second Friday, 7:30 P.M.

HIRAM CHAPTER NO. 45, R. A. M.

Third Friday, 7:30 P.M.

FRONT ROYAL CHAPTER NO. 6, O. E. S.

Fourth Friday, 7:30 P.M.

Officers

Grand Lodge, A. F. & A.M. of Virginia

1970 - 1971

WILLIAM T. WATKINS	Grand Master
CHARLES F. SHULER	Deputy Grand Master
WILMER T. TREVILLIAN	Grand Senior Warden
WILLIAM C. VAUGHAN	Grand Junior Warden
A. DOUGLAS SMITH, JR.	Grand Treasurer
RICHARD R. RAILEY	Deputy Grand Treasurer
ARCHER B. GAY	Grand Secretary
STEWART W. MINER	Grand Senior Deacon
SEYMOUR J. LEVY	Grand Junior Deacon
B. GLENN SHUTT, JR.	Grand Chaplain
LEIGHTON E. HARRELL	Assoc. Grand Chaplain
QUENTINE M. TOMLINSON	Assoc. Grand Chaplain
MARVIN B. BEARD	Assoc. Grand Chaplain
W. BAXTER BURGESS	Assoc. Grand Chaplain
HORACE E. EARLY	Grand Senior Steward
C. JACK CLEMENT	Grand Junior Steward
GUY J. MYERS	Grand Marshal
JAMES K. PAULETTE	Grand Pursuivant
JAMES M. TOLER	Grand Purveyor
RUSSELL F. WILSON	Grand Tiler
WILLIAM E. NORMAN	Grand Organist
CHARLES A. SINCLAIR, JR.	Grand Lecturer

Centennial Banquet

Unity Lodge No. 146 A. F. & A. M.

and Invited Guests

Beef Cattle Research Station, Front Royal, Va.

December 5, 1970

5:30 P.M.

INVOCATION ----- Right Worshipful Rice W. Levi

INTRODUCTION OF GRAND

LODGE OFFICERS ----- Worshipful Master Carroll W. Seal
Master Unity Lodge No. 146

Dinner Menu

TOSSED SALAD

T-BONE STEAK

BAKED POTATO

GREEN BEANS

APPLE PIE WITH ICE CREAM

COFFEE, TEA OR MILK

ENTERTAINMENT FOR LADIES ----- Following Banquet

SOCIAL HOUR ----- Following Lodge Meeting

Unity Lodge No. 146

Special Communication

Saturday, December 5, 1970

7:30 P.M.

HONORED GUESTS ----- Most Worshipful William T. Watkins
Grand Master of Masons in Virginia
and Grand Lodge Officers

UNVEILING OF CENTENNIAL PLAQUE ----- Blackwell Cary
and A. B. Honts

REMARKS BY
GRAND MASTER ----- Most Worshipful William T. Watkins

Meeting Message

It is a great honor and privilege tonight to say welcome Brethren one and all. Tonight marks the 100th Anniversary of Unity Lodge #146, A.F. & A.M. We have Brethren from far and near, who by their presence proves their main interest is brotherly love and friendship.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Virginia, Brother William Thomas Watkins, along with Grand Officers of Virginia, have honored us tonight with their presence. I am sure the Grand Master, before the evening is over, will have a most inspiring message.

CARROLL W. SEAL, Worshipful Master



Left to right, front row, S. Moody Laing, Carroll W. Seal and Bob M. Priode; second row, C. Warren Turner, Joe F. Turner, Virgil G. Moon, Darryl E. Windham; third row, James W. Burn, Edwin H. Stewart, Harry E. Reed, Jr., and James M. Coverstone, Jr.

Present Officers

CARROLL W. SEAL	Worshipful Master
S. MOODY LAING	Senior Warden
BOB M. PRIODE	Junior Warden
JAMES W. BURN	Treasurer
JAMES M. COVERSTONE, JR.	Secretary
C. WARREN TURNER	Senior Deacon
V. G. MOON	Junior Deacon
JOE F. TURNER	Chaplain
EDWIN H. STEWART	Tiler
DARRYL E. WINDHAM	Senior Steward
HARRY E. REED, JR.	Junior Steward
ROLAND F. BEAN	Trustee
J. M. COVERSTONE, JR.	Trustee
WILLIAM N. WOOD	Trustee

Past Masters – 1870-1970

1870-71-72	Thomas N. Ashby	1928	L. C. Willey
1873-74	Thaddeus Haynie	1929	E. Barr Samsell
1875	Thomas N. Petty	1930	W. G. Dearing
1876	S. S. Turner	1931	O. W. Borden
1877	T. L. Kirby	1932	Z. J. Compton
1878	W. O. Rust	1933	Thos. W. Downing
1879	S. S. Turner	1934	S. M. Boyd, Jr.
1880-1885	No record	1935	R. J. Turner
1886-1888	G. W. Forsyth	1936	W. C. Deming
1880	C. W. Johnson	1937	E. Barr Samsell
1890	*L. R. Steele	1938	J. T. Stephenson
1891	C. E. Batthis	1939	A. B. Scott
1892	C. W. Johnson	1940	P. M. Shirey
1893	D. W. Harrison	1941	A. N. Carroll
1894	W. R. Buck	1942	M. W. Renalds
1895	G. W. Forsyth	1943	E. O. Kirby
1896	C. W. Johnson	1944	Henry Crewdson, Jr.
1897-98	G. W. Forsyth	1945	A. B. Honts
1899	C. W. Thenary	1946	W. W. Messick
1900	Oder Harrell	1947	T. W. Downing
1901-02	G. W. Forsyth	1948-49	G. A. Nethers
1903-04	W. F. Locke	1950	B. Ney Scheuer
1905	G. W. Forsyth	1951	H. S. Griffith
1906	H. E. Naylor	1952	Albert E. Warrick
1907-08	A. G. Weaver	1953	Stewart Parsons
1909	C. A. Kidd	1954	Russell F. Wilson
1910	G. W. Forsyth	1955	M. L. Batton
1911	S. D. Fox	1956	Roland F. Bean
1912	B. J. Hillidge	1957	James B. McClure
1913	M. B. Turner	1958	Donald F. Smith
1914	W. W. Pettitt	1959	James W. Burn
1915	W. M. Angelo	1960	Lester H. Carroll
1916-17-18	P. M. Shirey	1961	William H. Ritter
1919	Geo. N. Buck	1962	James M. Coverstone, Jr.
1920	H. C. Coe	1963	William N. Wood
1921	J. L. Borden	1964	Russell F. Wilson
1922	I. G. Bierer	1965	John H. Thomas, Jr.
1923	L. B. Cary	1966	Millard G. Williams
1924	J. P. Borden	1967	Walker M. Keener
1925	A. N. Carroll	1968	Ward E. Myers, Jr.
1926	Thomas MacNamara	1969	Joe F. Turner
1927	Jas. H. Shiner		

* Died after installation
as Master

Members 1970

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date Raised</i>	
Adams, Harvey T.	7/15/32	Derflinger, Allen W. ... 3/ 2/68
Addington, H. W., Jr. ...	4/11/47	Donahoe, James E. 3/ 4/49
Albert, Donald E.	3/ 8/46	Dove, Richard E. 7/ 6/66
Allen, Wilbur L.	11/12/65	Downing, Thomas W. ... 7/19/28
Almarode, Raymond D. ...	1/ 8/43	Eastham, Edwin M. 8/13/27
Atkins, Paul C.	7/12/63	Eldridge, Archie H. 7/21/21
Baer, Lewis C.	11/23/65	Elsea, Carey G. 6/21/50
Baldwin, John E.	10/10/47	Erfttenbeck, Glenn A. ... 11/ 8/46
Bangle, Walter G.	10/12/44	Ewell, John F. 4/17/57
Barrett, Richard J.	12/10/65	Fogle, Darrell M. 9/14/60
Bean, Roland F.	2/23/49	Frazier, Cletus D. 3/24/56
Bennett, David	4/14/39	Frazier, Gilbert R. 10/11/46
Bierer, William R.	5/14/37	Geaslon, Harry C. 10/14/48
Board, William H.	11/20/14	George, John T. 7/19/58
Boger, Lionel H.	5/31/65	Gilliam, Jack M. 11/15/29
Boyd, Charles T.	3/10/38	Gilliam, Ronald S. 3/17/65
Bradshaw, James W. ...	4/14/44	Grannis, Louis C. 6/14/28
Bridges, William M. ...	7/17/57	Gregory, Clarence F. ... 7/12/57
Brooks, Stanley W.	7/23/45	Griffith, Haywood S. ... 7/29/46
Brough, Charles G.	2/ 9/51	Griffith, James R. 8/ 7/65
Bull, George A.	10/24/56	Grubbs, Ernest L. 10/25/07
Bull, Mervin E.	3/ 9/56	Hall, Nelson L., Jr. 2/ 9/40
Bunch, Walter C., Jr. ...	11/20/46	Hamer, Marshall S. 11/23/49
Burke, Bernard B.	5/10/46	Harper, Edwin H. 11/ 7/47
Burke, Donald A.	11/ 8/46	Harris, James B.
Burke, Wilbur E.	12/ 6/46	Harris, Byron S. 7/ 8/55
Burn, James W.	3/ 9/41	Hogshead, Thomas F. ... 8/26/64
Butler, Charles R.	10/ 8/48	Honts, Anderson B. 5/25/21
Carlson, Earl E.	1/15/58	Hooten, Charles E. 4/ 9/54
Carroll, Lester H.	9/ 9/44	Houston, Ryland W. ... 1/10/36
Carson, Herman P., Jr. ...	4/17/57	Hughes, Ed. W., Jr. ... 3/23/66
Carter, Randolph C. ...	9/14/45	Hutchings, Edward G. ... 1/15/69
Cary, Lillian B.	8/ 3/17	Isner, Isaac, Jr. 2/23/49
Case, John A.	5/13/66	James, Alto W. 4/26/61
Cline, Alvin A. ...	3/11/66	Jennings, Harvey L. ... 2/ 3/37
Coffman, William J. ...	9/13/57	Johns, Ray S. 7/10/59
Coverstone, J. M., Jr. ...	10/ 8/54	Johnson, Harry R. 4/22/49
Coverstone, J. M., III ...	9/ 8/67	Jones, George L. 12/ 7/62
Crowdson, Henry, Jr. ...	12/12/38	Keener, Walker M. 8/23/56
Crim, James M.	6/15/65	Kesler, William F. 11/20/39
Currence, Ford	6/ 6/51	Kirby, Edmund O. 7/ 8/38
Daugherty, Delisle C. ...	1/13/56	Kirkby, Harold 5/ 7/37
Davis, William S. ...	3/26/37	Knowles, Arthur S. ... 3/18/47
Deklewa, John, Jr.	12/27/45	Kolb, Heyward G., Jr. ... 4/22/59

Laing, Robert E.	8/26/64	Robinson, James A. ...	9/13/29
Laing, Silas M.	6/17/64	Robinson, John H.	6/ 1/23
Langfitt, Silas W.	8/23/56	Rodgers, Robert M.	10/15/58
Lieberman, L. L.	3/21/47	Salisbury, Thomas L. ...	11/26/69
Lieberman, Lionel M. ...	9/10/48	Salzenberg, Chas. G. ...	7/13/28
Lieberman, Morris H. ...	10/11/40	Sargent, Homer G.	7/ 2/58
Lillard, Wm. A., Jr. ...	4/ 9/48	Scheuer, B. Ney	5/16/46
Lloyd, Samuel E.	4/ /42	Seal, Carroll W.	9/17/57
Lucas, Gilmore L.	3/13/45	Sealock, Dorsey L.	11/ 4/70
Maddox, Charles R., Jr. ...	8/10/56	Sealock, Wm. E., Jr. ...	12/19/56
Martin, Mortimer M. ...	8/20/26	Shiflett, Lawrence M. ...	1/15/60
Mathews, Edward H. ...	4/11/47	Shiner, Hubert H.	9/25/24
Medley, Harold C.	3/24/56	Shultz, Horace A.	1/ 9/45
Miller, Carl B.	2/13/48	Simoniz, John P., Jr. ...	3/11/55
Miller, Roy W.	8/14/59	Slaughter, Albert J. ...	5/ 2/41
Mitchell, Ray D.	4/14/50	Smeltzer, Walter V. ...	1/14/38
Monn, Virgil G.	3/ 2/68	Sonner, Russell T.	10/10/30
Moore, Charles F.	11/14/47	Spangler, Robt. C., Jr. ...	6/22/49
Moran, Floyd B.	7/ 3/57	Spory, John W.	6/21/58
Myers, Ward E., Jr. ...	8/ 2/60	Squires, Stephen F.	8/13/69
McAnally, Wm. J., Jr. ...	7/ 1/64	Staggs, James C.	7/13/45
McCarty, Dennis P. ...	11/21/56	Stewart, Edwin H.	6/ 8/34
McCauley, H. F., Jr. ...	9/23/66	Stickley, William R. ...	3/ 8/57
McCauley Wm. E., Jr. ...	11/27/57	Stoneburner, Oliver H. ...	3/24/56
McClure, James B.	9/ 8/50	Stossel, Howard B.	1/21/24
McCormick, Hugh D. ...	4/ 1/27	Stout, Frank S.	10/10/41
McManus, Ronald G. ...	11/13/64	Sutton, George W.	7/30/49
Nethers, George A.	6/11/43	Thomas, John H., Jr. ...	4/ 5/57
Nethers, Robert C.	7/13/60	Thomason, Robert C. ...	1/ 5/17
Nichols, Kermit W.	7/21/65	Triplett, Raymon E. ...	3/29/34
Nicholson, Weller E. ...	12/28/14	Tuck, Mormon N.	11/11/55
Norton, Oswald A.	2/10/42	Turner, Calvin W.	11/11/66
Patterson, Ellis L.	6/24/70	Turner, Joe F.	4/26/61
Parson, Robert L.	4/ 9/58	Unterzuber, Ernest ...	
Parson, Stewart	7/ 9/46	Vaughan, M. S., Jr. ...	10/14/40
Partlow, Jack D.	9/27/68	Warrick, Albert E.	3/26/47
Payne, Garth H.	12/12/58	Wetzel, Glenn J., Jr. ...	7/11/69
Payne, Stewart C.	12/ 7/23	Wetzel, James S.	10/12/45
Priode, Bob M.	11/28/36	Wicks, Benton M.	9/10/48
Purdy, John H.	5/20/59	Wicks, Moulton M.	11/ 9/51
Pruett, Frank R.	3/ 4/49	Windham, Darryl E. ...	10/23/68
Rappaport, David	6/12/36	Wilder, Robert P.	11/12/48
Rappaport, Stephin I. ...	2/ 9/68	Williams, Millard G. ...	5/ 8/59
Reed, Harry E., Jr. ...	5/ 9/69	Wilson, Russell F.	2/23/49
Renalds, Marvin W.	1/16/19	Wood, William N.	10/12/56
Rhodes, David E.	9/14/45	Wooding, N. H., Jr. ...	11/20/46
Richardson, Frank J. ...	11/24/24	Woodside, Joseph R. ...	9/25/58
Ritter, William H.	11/12/54	Yates, Walter W.	9/ 9/55

History 1870 - 1970

Unity Lodge No. 146

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Prepared by BRO. ARCHIE H. ELDRIDGE

Past Master of Oriona Lodge No. 229, Fillmore, N. Y.

Member of Unity Lodge No. 146, Front Royal, Va.

*Member Scottish Rite Masonry, Corning Consistory, Corning, N. Y.
December 1970*

A History of a Masonic Lodge can be a source of information regarding many items of value to persons or organizations of vary-



MR. ELDRIDGE

ing interests. To the Community Historian, for its references to events of community interest; to the genealogist, for its record of individuals in regard to birth and death dates with location of each, the name of the father and mother including her maiden name; marital status with the names of dependents; to the Master Mason as an indication of the growth of his Lodge, the names of the men who have labored on the symbolic Temple, and of their achievements. It should serve as an incentive, spurring him on to even greater things, not with the thought of excelling his Brethren of earlier years, but that Masonry might continue to grow and make light to shine in dark places through the Divine guidance of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

A record of the activities of a Masonic Order should be kept in detail. It should be a running account of those events not elsewhere recorded. Deletions should not be permitted. In the records searched in

preparing this brief summary, I found instances where whole pages had been removed, I found blank pages apparently left for the recording of meetings which were never entered. One minute book could not be found. Events scheduled for the next succeeding meeting, but not entered; did they take place or not? We do not know.

I would like to suggest that at each annual meeting, a Lodge Historian be appointed by the Wor. Master, whose duty it would be to supplement the minutes of the Secretary with a running ac-

count of items of interest to Masons, many of which are not a normal part of the regular minutes of the Secretary. That he make report in December of each year to the Craft and that such report become another chapter in the History Of Unity Lodge.

May the following be of as much interest to you here assembled as it has been to me in preparing it.

The first Masonic Lodge of record in this area was known as Chester No. 61. According to Grand Lodge records it convened at Front Royal, County of Fauquier, and was chartered an petition to the Grand Lodge of Virginia on December 11, 1799. How Front Royal came to be mentioned as being of Fauquier County, we do not know. It is possible that this lodge may have been located in the Chester Gap area with Front Royal as a Post Office address.

It's charter members were:

John Hickman	-----	Worshipful Master
William Reynolds	-----	Senior Warden
Moses Payne	-----	Junior Warden

In 1804, Chester No. 61 made it's last return to Grand Lodge.

Samuel Turner	-----	Worshipful Master
John Latham	-----	Senior Warden
John Tuttle	-----	Junior Warden
Charles R. Mastin	-----	Secretary
John Hickman	-----	Treasurer
George Cooper	-----	Senior Deacon
Francis T. Mastin	-----	Junior Deacon
John Hickman	-----	Steward
Hugh McMellon	-----	Tyler

Past Masters: John Hickman, Strauther G. Settle, Mason Pilcher, William Ash, Vincent Haynes, Sam'l Shackleford, Robt Hereford, Robt Simpson.

Master Masons: Wm. Monroe, Wm. Wroe, Andrew Turner, John Jacobs, John Hamston, Isaac Henry, Daniel White.

Fellowcrafts: Robert Jones

Entered Apprentices: Wm. Moreland

This Lodge made no other returns to Grand Lodge. It was declared extinct and the number 61 reassigned on December 12, 1848.

Thus passed into oblivion, the first Masonic Lodge in this area of the Blue Ridge and of the Shenandoah Valley. In all probability, the members scattered and perhaps became affiliated with Lodges in other areas as their names do not appear on the records of later Lodges in this area.

However, as time passed, new interest in Masonry awakened; good and able men of the area who perhaps had affiliated with other Lodges in other towns which necessitated longer distances to travel, especially at night, conceived the idea of reestablishing a Masonic Lodge in Front Royal, and again we refer to the Grand Lodge Records in Richmond, Virginia. Here we learn that on the 14th of February 1816, a dispensation was granted to Front Royal Lodge #102, A. F. & A. M., with Cyrus D. Baldwin as Worshipful Master; William Robertson as Senior Warden, and William D.

Browne as Junior Warden. This Lodge was Chartered December 10, 1816, at which time it claimed twenty-four members on its rolls.

RETURN of the FRONT ROYAL LODGE No. 102, to the
Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of
Virginia, to be held in the city of Richmond on
the second Monday A.L. 5821 A.L. 1821

A list of the Officers and Members.

The Worshipful William Brown, Master

Newton Headley, Sr. W.

Wilford G. Settle, Jr. W.

Samuel Simpson, Sec'y.

Pohn Jacobs, Treas.

Francis C. Brown, Sr. D.

Samuel Anderson, Jr. D.

Thomas Thatcher, Steward.

William Wood, Tyler

Past Masters,

Wm. M. Robertson

Apprentices

Supervisors

Henry Vanmeter

Cyrus Baldwin

Expulsions

Deaths

Master Masons

John Newman

James Brown

William Baker

Buckner Ashby

Edmund Shackelford

Alex. R. Newman

Washington Grubbs

Peter Schosney

John Latham

William Withers

George Mowray

John Eastham

Bennet Maddox

Absolam Hand

James

Annistead Thompson

Bird Eastham

William Carson

Removals

William Nickel

James B. Rice

Minor Gibson — Jany 12th, 1822

Rejections

There are thirty members belong to the Front Royal Lodge No. 102.

The fee for initiation in Lodge No. 102 is twelve Dollars, for passing , for raising .

The Lodge No. 102, meets at Front Royal, on the 2nd Saturday of every month

The above is taken from a Zerox copy of the original return made to the Grand Lodge at the date and place named above. (Information received through the courtesy of P.G.M. Archer B. Gay, Grand Secretary, 29 April 1970.)

The last return to Grand Lodge was made in 1822, at which

time it reported William Brown as Worshipful Master, Wilford G. Settle as Senior Warden, and Francis C. Brown as Junior Warden; Past Masters — John Latham and William Robertson. Grand Lodge Records declared Front Royal Lodge #102 extinct in 1825, and has no further knowledge of its existence until December 15, 1840 when it was revived or re-chartered, shortly after which we learn from an old Minute Book which was presented to Unity Lodge #146 by one of its older members, that Front Royal Lodge #102, of a meeting that was held in its lodge rooms with the minutes recorded as follows:

At a meeting of Front Royal Lodge #102, held in the Lodge Room on Tuesday evening, the 30th of March, A.L. 5841; A.D. 1841, a Past Master's Lodge was opened in due form.

Present —

R.W. W. G. Singleton, D. D. G. M. of District #14.

William R. Ashby

William H. Triplett

Isaac Overall

W. G. Settle

The degree of Past Master was regularly conferred in due and ancient form up William V. Henry, Senior Warden and Morgan Johnston, Junior Warden, and thereupon the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

A Master Mason's Lodge was then opened in due form.

Present —

R.W. W. G. Singleton, D. D. G. M., Dist. #14, presiding.

William R. Ashby ----- Worshipful Master

William V. Henry ----- Senior Warden

Morgan Johnston ----- Junior Warden

Wilford G. Settle ----- Senior Deacon

Ewell Baker ----- Junior Deacon

John M. Blakemore ----- Treasurer

Samuel Simpson ----- Secretary

Isaac Overall, William H. Triplett, William Carson

Visiting Brethren: Newton Headley, R. M. Heterick

The Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and Deacons were regularly installed. On motion, it was unanimously resolved that the by-laws of Cassia Lodge, #142, be adopted for the regulation of this Lodge until others are adopted, provided, however, that the regular meetings of this Lodge shall be on the evening of the fourth Thursday of each month.

On motion, brothers, Wm. Henry, Wm. Carson and Morgan Johnston were appointed a committee to draft a Code of By-Laws for the governing of this Lodge and report the same at the regular communication in May next.

On motion, brothers, Henry, Johnston, Blakemore and Simpson were appointed a committee to procure suitable furniture for the Lodge room.

The petition of Alexander Newcomer for initiation was re-

ceived, recommended by Bro. Henry, avouched for by Bro. Richards.

Brothers Triplett, Blakemore, and Carson were appointed a committee to report upon the same at the next regular meeting.

There being no other business before the Lodge, it was closed in due form.

Teste

Samuel Simpson, Sec'y

W. R. Ashby, Master.

This was apparently the first meeting after being revived or re-chartered in the preceding December. It is interesting to note that the Lodge received an application for initiation at its first meeting. The old minute book covers a period from the above date until the 16th day of June 1851, during which time we find on the Roll of Front Royal Lodge #102 the following names, some of which have disappeared but many of which are well known today even though they have passed on to that journey from which no traveler returns. These were received and became Master Masons during these years:

John F. Fauntleroy	Israel Hatterly	Buckner Ashby
Richard Henry	Dr. Oliver R. Funston	by demit
Ch. Mem.	Bailey Shumate	T. I. Wilson
Alexander Newcomer	Alexander Sangster	R. B. Bayley
Elisha M. Andrews	Thomas N. Ashby	Walker Y. Page
Nathaniel B. Page	James Cross	Alexander Baker
Gibson Roy	Marcus B. Buck	James R. Petty
Dr. William Robinson	Robert M. Hetrick	Elisha Roles
Andrew Chum	Lewis F. Carpenter	William Stribling
Richard W. Varden	Sanford W. Gilpin	Richard Proctor
John N. Buck	Samuel R. Millar	Newman M. Jacobs
Baalis Davis	Giles Cook	Lewis Tracy
Charles H. Green	John Churchill	James Points
Col. Robert Turner	Dr. Robert E. Wall	Francis B. Meade
Joseph Weaver	William Cook	John S. Gallagher
B. Wharton, Jr.	Andrew Brown	Charles B. Fristoe
William P. Brown	Anderton Brown	James F. Landis
I. Worthington Smith	John B. Wolfe	Thomas W. Kiger
Julius Bear	T. M. Randolph	J. W. Massie

The place of the re-organization meeting is only mentioned as being in the Lodge room, however, at the meeting of August 26th, 1841, a Committee consisting of William V. Henry, Morgan Johnston, John M. Blakemore, and Samuel Simpson reported that a room over the store of William M. Buck was available at \$25.00 per annum, and the committee was thereupon instructed to fit up the room and acquire appropriate furniture.

The minutes of these early meetings are oft-times very meager. Members present were omitted in many instances; only four meetings are shown as having been held during 1845; five in 1846; none being shown from September 21, 1846 until November 15th, 1847. At the end of this period of members appear as such who were not accounted for in the minutes of prior meetings of the Lodge. A

Vigilance Committee was appointed annually by the Master, whose duty it was to "inquire into the standing of the Brethren, and if chargeable with any un-Masonic conduct, reporting the same at the first regular meeting, at least quarterly, and monthly if necessary".

In many instances candidates were passed and raised in the same evening, a custom which we would frown upon today, and declare not in conformity with the accepted Masonic procedure and law. In 1843, the Lodge was apparently moved from its rooms in the Court House to the Odd Fellows Hall where they were still meeting June 16th, 1851, the last meeting date recorded in the minute book.

Here, again, Grand Lodge informs us that Front Royal Lodge #102, was declared extinct in 1857. The question has often been raised as to the attitude of Masonry during the period of the Civil War but no answer has been forth coming. Whether or not dissension among members; difference of opinion, etc., had any influence on the dissolution of Front Royal Lodge #102, is not known. At any rate, there was no Masonic Lodge actively functioning during the period between 1857 and the formation of Unity Lodge #146.

After a period of nearly fifteen years, during which Masonry as such did not exist as a working Lodge, we find this information in the original minute book:

At a meeting of the Craft, held on the upper floor of the Academy in Front Royal, Warren County, Virginia, on Friday evening, March 25, A.D. 1870; A.L. 5870, the following Master Masons were present, to wit:

Brother James H. Williams

Brother William Balthus, formerly of Front Royal Lodge #102

Brother Thomas N. Ashby, formerly of Front Royal Lodge #102

Brother James T. Hope, formerly of Front Royal Lodge #102

Brother Thaddeus Haynie, formerly of Hiram Lodge #107, of Md.

Brother Charles W. Fish, formerly of Washington Lodge #78

Brother Geo. W. McConnie, formerly of Triluminar Lodge #117

Brother Thomas Roy, demitted from Greenway Court Lodge #94

Brother George Petty, formerly from Lafayette Lodge #137

A sufficient number of Brethren being convened, a Dispensation was presented from our Grand Master, Brother F. F. Owens attested by Brother John Dove, Grand Secretary, bearing the Seal of the Grand Lodge of the State of Virginia, under date of March 14, 1870; appointing Brothers Thomas N. Ashby as Master, Charles W. Fish as Senior Warden, and Thaddeus Haynie as Junior Warden, with such other true and lawful Brethren as may be permitted to associate with them, to assemble and work as a regular Lodge in the Town of Front Royal, designated as "Unity Lodge", and there to enter Apprentices, pass Fellowcrafts, and raise Master Masons agreeably to the customs and usages of Free and Accepted Masons.

Whereupon, Brother Thomas N. Ashby was conducted to the East; Brother Charles W. Fish was conducted to the West, and Brother Thaddeus Haynie was conducted to the South. Brother

Thomas Roy was appointed Secretary pro tem; James T. Hope was appointed Treasurer pro tem; George W. McConnie, was appointed Senior Deacon; George Petty was appointed Junior Deacon pro tem, and William Balthus was appointed Tyler pro tem.

A Master Mason's Lodge was then opened in due and ancient form. The blessings of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, having been invoked upon the members of this and all other just and legally constituted Lodges, the Worshipful Master declared the Lodge open and ready for work.

The following petitions were then presented and ordered to be disposed of agreeably to the Constitution Masonry.

1. Thomas W. Petty; recommended by Bro. T. Haynie; vouched for by Bro. G. W. McConnie.
2. Charles A. Brown, ditto.
3. John W. Boone; recommended by Bro. T. Haynie; vouched for by Bro. T. N. Ashby.
4. George W. Leache, recommended by Bro. T. Haynie; vouched for by Bro. G. W. McConnie.
5. T. A. Hoffman, recommended by Bro. G. W. McConnie; vouched for by Bro. T. Haynie.
6. Jacquelin M. Buck, recommended by Bro. T. N. Ashby; vouched for by Bro. T. Haynie.
7. William B. Turner, recommended by Bro. T. Haynie; vouched for by Bro. J. T. Hope.

It was ordered that the "Code of By-Laws" as laid down in the Virginia Text Book be and are hereby adopted for our Government, till changed or substituted by others.

It was ordered that Bro. Thaddeus Haynie, George W. McConnie, and Chas. W. Fish be appointed to procure a suitable (room) for a Lodge meeting place, and to make report thereof at our next meeting.

Master Mason's Lodge dispensed with and a Lodge opened on the first degree of Masonry in due and ancient form, declared ready to proceed, to receive instructions, whereupon a Lecture on that degree was given by Bro. Thomas N. Ashby.

The Lodge was then closed on the first degree of Masonry in due form. Master Mason's Lodge resumed. Ordered that this Lodge, having nothing before it, now close to meet hereon Tuesday night next, the 24th inst. Master Mason's Lodge closed in due and ancient form.

Teste;

Thomas N. Ashby, W.M.

The preceding record were the minutes of the first meeting of Unity Lodge No. 146.

At the next meeting, the committee appointed to make arrangements for a suitable room in which to hold Lodge meetings, reported that the room presently occupied, belonging to Gibson E. Roy, could be had and it was so arranged at a rental of \$50.00 per year. These rooms were used until March 1874, when a room was

rented off M. T. Fristoe for \$75.00 per Annum. In 1875, the Odd Fellows entered into a joint agreement with Unity Lodge for the use of this room, sharing the rental thereof.

It is interesting to note that Unity Lodge held forty-four meetings in the year 1870, from March 25th to the end of the year, during which time seventeen applicants were raised to the degree of Master Mason and secured an additional fifteen by affiliation. In the following year, thirty meetings were held, eleven members were raised and four gained by affiliation, making a grand total of forty-seven in a twenty-one month period.

Unity Lodge No. 146 A.F.&A.M. operated under a dispensation from Grand Lodge until the third of December, 1870, when Most Worshipful Brother T. T. Owens, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Virginia, signed the Charter of Unity Lodge, which was presented to the membership, December 24th, 1870 by Brother Smith S. Turner.

A Warrant issued by Grand Master T. T. Owens, bearing the date of January 3, 1871, under the seal of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and addressed to Right Worshipful Richard Parker, D.D.G.M., of District No. 18, directing him to install and set to work the Worshipful Master and Wardens of Unity Lodge No. 146, agreeably to the customs and usages of Ancient York Masonry.

At a Special Communication held in Front Royal, Virginia, on Wednesday evening, January 18th, 1871, the first officers of Unity Lodge No. 146, were elected and installed as follows:

Thomas N. Ashby	Worshipful Master
Charles W. Fish	Senior Warden
Thaddeus Haynie	Junior Warden
Charles A. Brown	Senior Deacon
Thomas Almond Ashby	Junior Deacon
G. B. Samuel	Secretary
George W. Leache	Treasurer
David W. Jones	Tyler

Charter members were:

Thomas N. Ashby	John N. Buck	Gibson E. Roy
Charles W. Fish	Thomas W. Petty	Walter S. Roy
Thaddeus Haynie	Charles A. Brown	Alvin D. Buck
George W. McConnie	John W. Boone	Smith T. Turner
James T. Hope	George W. Leache	Green B. Samuels
William Balthus	Thomas A. Hoffman	Thomas A. Ashby
Ewell Baker	Jaquilin Buck	Thomas A. Blakemore
Thomas Roy	Thomas W. Buck	
A. E. Senseney	David A. Jones	

The first Masonic funeral of record by Unity Lodge was conducted the 8th of March 1871, when the remains of Brother Charles W. Fish were deposited in mother earth with proper Masonic observance.

The Lodge meetings varied from one to two stated communications each month as the by-laws were changed from one to the other, the first meeting in each month being held on the first Friday

or Saturday preceding the full moon or if the full moon came on the designated evening, then the meeting was held on that night. If two meetings a month were held, a two week interval elapsed between them. The time of meeting being held was at early candle lighting.

During these years, the election of officers was held in the month of June of each year, and Grand Lodge convened in December. Unity Lodge invariably arranged to have at least one delegate to the Annual Grand Lodge Session.

In 1874 and 1875, we find in the minutes of the Lodge such items as — collected for a Charity Fund, 16¢, 14¢, 12¢; sold spittoon for 25¢; charges against a Brother Mason who was expelled after due trial; fee remitted to Brother J. H. Dulaney for the Fellowcraft Degree. The Warren Sentinel was being published at this time as we find an order for the Treasurer to pay the bill of that office for printing "demits, petitions, and citations to Brethren delinquent in their dues and contributions" amounting to \$5.00. Unity accepted in invitation from Spurmont Lodge No. 98, to assist in the laying of the cornerstone of the Methodist Church South in Strasburg, the 14th of September 1876.

In 1876, a contract was made with C. A. Macatee who was then erecting a school building, whereby with the consent of the School Trustees, he would add a third story to the building then under construction, for the use of the Masonic and Odd Fellow Orders, at a cost of \$1000.00. before completion, the Redmen and the Friends of Temperance were included in the joint project. As near as can be determined, this lodge hall was occupied first on the 22nd day of February 1878, and apparently more or less satisfactorily until about 1907.

At a stated communication of Unity Lodge held Saturday evening, the 24th of January, 1880, a committee was appointed consisting of Brothers J. O. Brown, T. L. Kirby and George H. Bowman, "to name a time and place, to procure by means of subscription or otherwise, and to make all necessary arrangements for an oyster supper for the members of the Lodge and their families". Brother Kirby moved that each member may invite as many friends as he sees fit. This must have been quite an occasion as there was no meeting recorded from the above date until the 20th of the following March.

The minutes covering the period from the 29th of April 1880 until the 10th of June 1886 have apparently been mislaid or lost. Diligent search has been made in about the several apartments of the Temple and they cannot be found. Succeeding generations have been unable to discern even a small sprig of acacia which could have marked their location. Many important events may have transpired during that interval of time, events of vital interest to the Craft of that period as well as worthy of being placed in the archives of the Lodge where they might be studied by future generations endeavoring to prepare a Lodge History such as we are doing at this time. In searching the available records, we find many instances where others have sought historical information, also

recommendations that such data when gathered, be placed in safe keeping.

These were difficult days for the early Masonic Lodges in this area of Virginia. Transportation was difficult for those who lived at a distance, money was not too plentiful, even though the dues were only \$2.00 per year until January 1st 1915 when they were raised \$3.00. Many meetings were held when more than half of the stations were filled by pro tems, some of whom were visiting brethren from other Lodges scattered about the area, Masonry was of much importance to the early members of the Craft and for the most part was highly prized as was evidenced by their willingness to travel long distances, that they might meet and fellowship with their brethren.

Petitions for membership were numerous and the membership grew steadily. Charges and counter charges called for Masonic trials, all of which were concluded by applying the principles of Free Masonry as symbolized by the working tools of the Craft. Requests for financial assistance in furnishing and in securing improved meeting places were not uncommon, the response was in most instances willingly given though small due to slender budgets. Charity was an integral part of the early Mason's obligation and was practiced in a material way to the needy as well as to the poor and distressed Masonic Brethren and their families.

At a Special Meeting held Thursday evening, the 24th of February 1887, a committee which had been appointed to arrange entertainment for Most Worshipful Peyton S. Coles, Grand Lecturer, reported that John R. Strickler, proprietor of the Strickler House which was located on the corner of East Main and High Streets, had offered to furnish a supper for the sum of one Dollar to each person partaking of the same, and to make no charge for board and room for the Grand Lecturer while here. The offer was accepted and the menu included oyster stew, oysters fried, catsup sauce, etc.; chicken Salad, beef tongue, sirloin roast, cole slaw, mashed potatoes, fried turkey; assorted cakes, cheese, tea, coffee, and wine. No wonder we speak of the good old days.

On April 20th 1888, a committee was authorized to purchase at a cost of \$75.00, a monument to be erected to the memory of Brother M. M. Baley. George W. Forsyth was recommended to Grand Lodge for appointment as District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 14, on November 29th 1888, and on the 19th of March 1891, Brother J. H. O. Kemp was appointed a committee to procure a "cable toe" for the use of the Lodge, this he did and reported a cost of \$2.25.

In the autumn of 1892, electric lights were installed in the Lodge Room, electricity being supplied by the Royal Heat, Light and Power Company at a cost of \$1.25 per quarter.

At the installation of the regularly elected officers of Unity Lodge No. 146, held on the evening of June 24th, 1898, permission having been given by the Grand Master, Brother S. K. Cox acting as installing officer, caused Brother George W. Forsyth to be seated

as Worshipful Master. The public having been invited to the installation, they were at its completion, conducted to the Davis Hall where refreshments were served.

April 7th 1899, the Master was requested to write the Grand Secretary, and get from him all the information possible bearing upon the organization of the Masonic Lodge in 1899. Even then Masons were beginning to look back to the time and place from whence they came. This being the Centennial Year since the founding of Chester Lodge No. 61, and dispensation having been granted by the Grand Master, Unity Lodge No. 146, after having conferred the Master Mason degree on Brother P. T. Shotts, closed in ancient form and harmony. The Lodge doors were then opened to the public who were the guests of the Lodge on this occasion. Brother F. P. Berkley gave a very interesting address which was followed by the unveiling of the marble tablet which is now mounted on the wall of the Lodge Room, and which reads, "Chester Lodge, John Hickman, W.M. Chartered December 11th, 1799. This tablet is erected to commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the establishment of Free Masonry in Front Royal. George W. Forsyth, W.M. Unity Lodge No. 146, June 23rd, 1899."

In this same year, Grand Lodge was held in Alexandria, Va., the 13-14-15 of November; Brothers, E. W. Trenary, Oder Harrell, D. C. O'Flaherty, J. F. Forsyth and E. C. Balthus attending.

Open house was held the evening of June 24th, 1902, at which time the recently purchased stereoptican slides depicting the emblems and symbols of Free Masonry were shown, the significance of which was explained by Brothers W. F. Lock and George W. Forsyth. Brother S. K. Cox gave a short address on Masonry. Refreshments were served to members and guests in Davis Hall.

An invitation was extended to the proposed organization of a Royal Arch Mason Chapter, to share in the privileges of the Lodge rooms, at the regular meeting in October 1904. We learn later that this offer was accepted.

Brother George H. Bowman presented the Lodge with a Bible for the Altar at the meeting held the 17th of February 1905, which was received with the grateful thanks of the Lodge. At the next meeting, Brother A. J. Montague, Governor of the State of Virginia was a welcome guest of this Lodge, and after being accorded Public Grand Honors, he addressed the members in his usual eloquent style which was very entertaining and instructive.

On August 2nd 1905, Grand Master, T. N. Davis, assisted by the members of Unity Lodge No. 146, and visiting brethren from several Masonic Lodges about the State of Virginia, laid the cornerstone of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in accordance with the ancient usages and traditions of Masonry. The sealed metallic box placed in the cornerstone contained the following items — Warren Sentinel, Baltimore South Methodist, names of the trustees of the Corporation of Front Royal, a list of the officers and teachers of Front Royal Graded School. the Church Hymnal. Book of Discipline, the names of the subscribers to the building fund, the name of the Church, names of the Pastor, Trustees, Building and Finance

Committees, and a program for the Cornerstone Laying by Unity Lodge No. 146, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Also the name of the Grand Master, the names of the Officers and Members of Unity Lodge, a ticket to the dinner for visiting Brethren, 50, 25, and 10 cent coins, one penny, same being the wages of a Worthy Craftsman. This event must have been very impressive since at its next meeting the Lodge received an invitation from Cassia Lodge No. 142 to assist in laying the cornerstone for another Methodist Church. This invitation was accepted. This, in turn, was followed by a like invitation from Spurmont Lodge No. 98 which was also approved.

At the final meeting in December 1905, Brother S. F. Rhodes was appointed as a committee of one to gather together all the important Books and Papers of the Lodge, and to place them in a Bank vault for safe keeping.

In May 1907, the fee for the three degrees of Masonry were raised from \$20.00 to \$25.00. By motion, \$10.00 of each such fee was to be placed in a sinking fund. This was at a later meeting ordered to be placed in a fund created for the purpose of purchasing or erecting a building to be used as a Masonic Temple.

Beginning in 1904, the election of Officers was first held in December instead of in June as had been the custom up until that time. The last prior election having been held in June of 1903, those so elected continued in office for eighteen months instead of the usual twelve or one year.

In 1909, Brother George W. Forsyth was ordered to purchase a bolt of corset jean and tape for aprons. During this year, two men were made Master Masons who in the course of their Masonic lives have had a lasting influence on the development of the Craft in Front Royal and its environs. No one who has been privileged to know either Worshipful Brother Arthur N. Carroll or Worshipful Brother P. H. Shirey, can be unaware of the manner in which each has exemplified the principles of Free Masonry.

About 1908, the Lodge became interested in real estate. On June 17th of that year, it purchased the Boyd property, a lot located on the north side of East Main Street across from the old Murphy Theatre, and an architect was employed to draw plans for a Masonic Temple. Soon after this, the school building together with the rooms on the third floor occupied by the four secret societies was sold at public auction, the Odd Fellows becoming the new owner. They now refused to rent to Unity Lodge and arrangements were made with R. B. Murphy for the use of a room in the Murphy Block, and the Masonic Lodge immediately moved into its new quarters, holding its first meeting there on the 16th of September 1910. The Front Royal Masonic Temple Corporation was formed in December 1909, to handle the real property and proposed building operations of the Lodge. The Boyd property was now offered for sale and the Cass Rust lot on Royal Avenue between the Baptist Church as it was at that time and the present Town Hall and Fire Department, was bought, but apparently all thought of soon building a Temple was shelved.

In the interval between the 10th and the 17th of April 1914, a disastrous fire destroyed much of the furnishings of the Lodge room in the Murphy Building. The Charter which now hangs on the wall of Unity Lodge #146, and the Bible which was salvaged from the debris, bear mute testimony of the destructive work of this disaster. The Odd Fellows graciously invited the Craft to use their rooms until such time as Brother R. B. Murphy would be able to restore the building for use by Unity Lodge. This kind offer was accepted for the period ending the 20th of November, when Unity Lodge No. 146 returned to their own lodge rooms.

In 1915, the Boyd property was sold to Brother Murphy for \$5,000.00, the Lodge still retaining the Cass Rust lot on North Royal Avenue. In May of 1917, the Lodge purchased five \$100.00 Liberty Bonds, and one more at a later date. In September of the same year, it was voted that all members of Unity Lodge serving in the armed forces be exempt from dues for the period of their service in the War then being fought. On their return from service, these Veterans were welcomed with a banquet in their honor which was attended by a majority of the members of this Lodge and by ninety-seven visiting brethren.

Apparently the auditors report as of January 1st, 1918, aroused the slumbering urge for a Masonic Temple, since at the meeting held the 22nd of February, it was moved that the initiation fee be increased to \$30.00 and that a committee be appointed to "inquire and report relative to the purchase of a lot for the Lodge". From that time on, this project seemed to be of first importance; various sites were considered; committees were appointed and discharged; the Lodge moved to drop the project and they moved to implement it until February 1921. A canvass of the members present at this meeting pledged themselves to contribute \$2275.00 to be put with the little over \$6,000.00 on hand in cash and in bonds, toward the acquiring of a Temple.

A lot on Main Street was purchased from W. W. Sonner for \$5,000.00 upon which it was proposed to construct a Temple at a cost of \$20,000.00. The Bonds held by the Lodge were sold and the Sonner lot paid for. Nothing came of this, however, until December 1924 when it was moved that a new committee be set up having complete authority to buy, build, finance, construct, or do whatever it deemed necessary to furnish the Lodge with a suitable Temple, the said committee not being to report progress to the Lodge. Brothers, James H. Shiner, H. R. Millar, J. N. Major, S. F. Rhodes and C. A. Stokes were named to this committee appointed by Brother A. N. Carroll who was Worshipful Master at this time. Brothers S. F. Rhodes and C. A. Stokes soon after resigned and Brothers C. O. Maddox and Thomas W. McNamara were appointed in their stead.

The Sonner property was sold for \$6,000.00, and having obtained an option, the committee purchased the property now occupied by Unity Lodge from R. E. Purdum for \$10,500.00. The initial cost of the new Temple was estimated at \$12,500.00 and arrange-

ments were made to borrow up to \$15,000.00 as needed for construction. During the period intervening until the new Temple was ready for occupancy, the Lodge by rental agreement, held its meetings in the Odd Fellow Hall. In May 1926, a cornerstone was ordered for the new building and on the 29th of July of that year, the building was dedicated with Most Worshipful Charles H. Callahan, Past Grand Master, representing Most Worshipful Ben W. Beach, Grand Master, giving the Dedicatory Address. From the list of members of Unity Lodge, the visiting dignitaries and Master Masons from other Lodges, it must have seemed like a convocation of Grand Lodge to the people of Front Royal.

On June 22nd preceding the dedication, occurred the death of Brother George H. Bowman who had served the Lodge faithfully as Secretary for seventeen years. Following these events, the Lodge either officiated or assisted in the laying of the cornerstones of several structures in Virginia among which were the Memorial Gateway to the Randolph-Macon Academy, the Tubercular Pavilion at Charlottesville, the Randolph-Macon Academy, the Front Royal Municipal Building, and the Warren County Court House.

Dues were raised to \$5.00 per year and the initiation fee was increased to \$50.00. This together with the rentals from the offices on the first floor of the building furnished only enough income for operating expenses. The membership of the various committees and Board of Managers were at different times composed of the active and interested members, new ones being named by each succeeding Master, but with very little difference in results.

From the short history of Unity Lodge prepared by Worshipful Brother Henry Crewdson, Jr., I am indebted for the following information. The first bond of indebtedness was paid off to Mrs. J. B. Harnsberger, Sept. 23rd 1936, and the loan of \$14,000.00 was refinanced at 5% instead of 6% during that year. The Lodge continued to retire a \$1,000.00 bond each year thereafter. Through the sale of various portions of the Temple real estate, culminating in the sale of the lot on Jackson Street in 1946 for \$8,000.00, the indebtedness was paid in full.

On May 14th 1937, Brother I. G. Bierer enjoyed the rare privilege of raising his son, William R. Bierer, to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. On Sept. 5th, 1944, Worshipful Brother Arthur N. Carroll enjoyed the same privilege when he raised his son, Lester H. Carroll, and June 14, 1944, Worshipful Brother A. B. Honts raised his son, A. B. Honts, Jr. This is something that every Master Mason who has a son hopes to do when the boy becomes of age of manhood. Then the father enjoys some of the finest experiences that can come to a Master Mason.

December 10th 1943, it was ordered that the 1944 Membership cards be mailed to those of Unity Lodge who were serving in the armed forces of the present war.

October 8th 1948, George A. Nethers, Worshipful Master, through his proxy, Rt. Worshipful A. B. Honts, Sr., presented 25 year emblems to the following members of Unity Lodge: — A. W.

Berryman, J. L. Borden, O. W. Borden, H. H. Bowman, George W. Buck, A. N. Carroll, A. D. Cone, L. B. Cary, H. C. Coe, S. Bryne Downing, Dr. E. L. Grubbs, A. B. Honts, Sr., Jacob Kaplan, J. L. Mathews, C. Oma Maddox, W. W. Messick, R. W. Payne, M. W. Renalds, J. H. Robinson, F. A. Rogers, E. C. Stewart, J. T. Stephenson, James H. Shiner, T. C. Straton, R. C. Thomason, and H. M. Thrush. On April 8th, 1949, Brother A. B. Scott also received his 25 year emblem. May 14th 1949, Worshipful Brother James H. Shiner was duly elected an Honorary Member of this Lodge.

September 9th 1949, Brother James Burford, Pastor of the Warren-Riverton Methodist Charge, presented on behalf of Mrs. Aubrey Weaver, a stove-pipe hat which was gratefully received. This was followed by a report on December 9th of the Master's Hat Committee stating that it had purchased three hats at a cost of \$60.01, which should make this one of the best dressed Masonic Lodges in the area.

December 1st 1949, nearly one hundred Master Masons and their ladies and guests attended the Ladies Night Banquet at the Afton Inn. The next year, 125 were present for Ladies Night, at the First Baptist Church. This established a custom which has been followed since that time.

In 1953, the two rooms now used as lounge and kitchen were altered and redecorated; modern kitchen equipment was purchased and installed; two new lavatories fitted on this floor and one on the first floor; air conditioning equipment for the Lodge room was purchased and put into operation; new lighting fixtures were installed and a complete redecorating program was carried out; all at a cost of \$5,100.00. Brothers Albert E. Warrick, chairman, W. C. Brown and Russell F. Wilson, were the committee appointed to perform this work, all of which was done by members of Unity Lodge.

Again I quote from Brother Crewdson: — "At the meeting of September 14th, 1956, the Lodge authorized the Trustees to erect an extension to the front of the present Temple and install offices on the first and second floors of the new addition. This extended eighteen feet to the set-back line of Main Street and eliminated the old front porch providing a new modern entrance. Tentative plans were also discussed and approved for the building of a banquet hall at the rear of the present building at some future date. A deep debt of gratitude is owed to Brothers P. M. Shirey, George N. Buck, I. G. Bierer and many others who have served as trustees for their loyalty and perseverance in bringing this Lodge out of almost certain foreclosure in 1935, to a debt-free building in 1946, and for the new addition to the front with the necessary funds to pay for it."

Since the construction was completed, permission could not be obtained from Most Worshipful Archer B. Gay, then Grand Master of Masons in Virginia for the use of Masonic ceremonies in the laying of the cornerstone, it was done without ritual and with but very few members present.

On July 13th, 1956, Worshipful Brother Arthur N. Carroll was

elected to Honorary Membership in this Lodge. Four years later, on the 20th of April 1960, he was again recognized with the presentation of a Fifty Year Service pin and Gold Certificate together with a purse of fifty silver dollars in appreciation of his many years of unselfish devotion and service to the Unity Lodge, in many capacities and to its many members. I doubt if Brother Carroll could have told you the number of candidates that he coached during the past years. Visitors from twenty-six Masonic Lodges were present beside the many members of this Lodge. Brother Carroll was elected to receive the degrees of Blue Lodge on the 21st of January 1910; Initiated on the same date; Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft, February 3rd, and raised to the Degree of Master Mason on the 25th of March of the same year. He was Master of this Lodge in 1925 and again in 1941; He was Tyler until the 10th of December 1965 when he was made Tyler Emeritus of Unity Lodge. In 1962, he received a Certificate of Merit from Hiram Royal Arch Chapter; he was a Past Commander of Winchester Commandery No. 112, of Winchester, Virginia. On the 24th of October 1967, Brother Carroll laid aside the working tools of the Craft and passed on to that Supreme Lodge from which no traveler returns. His memory will long remain with us.

Worshipful Brother George R. Smith, Past Master of New Bethlehem Lodge No. 522 of Pennsylvania, presented one of the bronze plaques which can be seen on the front of this building; the other plaque was purchased by the Lodge and shows the time of various meetings held in the Lodge Rooms.

October 13th 1961, Brother Alexander Galloway, a well known and ever welcome visitor of Unity Lodge, was presented in the East and congratulated by our Worshipful Master on having attained fifty years of continuous membership in Progress Lodge No. 967 of Dundee, Scotland. Worshipful Brother Henry Crewdson, Jr., presented him with a letter and a book on the History of Progress Lodge, on behalf of the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of that Lodge.

December 27th 1961, Worshipful Brother Ritter appointed Worshipful Brother A. B. Honts, Sr., as chairman of a telephone committee of twelve members whose duty it was to call by phone the many members of our Lodge in any emergency, such as a Masonic Burial Service. This was worked out very well as is evidenced by the increased number of members present on such occasions, and has been continued up to the present date.

In 1962, Brother Harold Kirkby presented a Masonic Altar Bible and an oil portrait of Worshipful Brother George Washington to Unity Lodge. The painting which hangs in the West was done by Brother Kirkby personally. Both were welcome gifts and are greatly appreciated by the Lodge.

In 1962, nine twenty-five year service pins were presented; Honorary Membership was granted to Brothers, Henry C. Coe, T. C. Stratton, Dr. E. L. Grubbs, George L. Wallihan, Frank A. Rogers, and Walter R. Macatee. A fifty year pin was presented to

Brother Alexander Galloway of Progress Lodge No. 967 of Dundee, Scotland.

In March 1963, it was decided to raise the annual dues to \$10.00 per year; to increase the Membership fee to \$85.00; to decrease the fee for affiliation from \$20.00 to \$10.00. At the meeting of December 13th of that year, Silas Langfitt withdrew from the line and Worshipful Brother Russell F. Wilson was elected to Master for 1964.

Early in 1964, a new ceiling and controlled lighting was installed in the Lodge room, the floor was refinished and new runners put down.

In 1964, the young son of Worshipful Brother Harold E. Smith was placed in the Virginia Masonic Home, but due to family influence, he was not permitted to remain there.

September 22nd 1965, Members of Cherrydale Lodge No. 42, came to Unity Lodge and presented a play entitled "A Rose Upon the Altar" which was very well received. They returned again in 1970 and gave a repeat performance. On the 29th of the same month, Unity Lodge No. 146 was host to Most Worshipful Brother Walter A. Porter, Grand Master of Masons in Virginia on his Official visit. His address was enthusiastically received by the members and visitors from other nearby Lodges.

During the past few years, many of our old and valued members have passed on but their memory lingers with us. We miss the familiar faces and constructive remarks of those who have made their Masonic membership a pattern from which we can all study for direction of our own lives. As of December 28th 1968, it was reported that there were 182 members on the roll of Unity Lodge.

At the November 8th 1968 meeting, Worshipful Brother Russell F. Wilson moved that Unity Lodge No. 146 celebrate its one hundredth anniversary in 1970 and that the Grand Master be invited. This was carried with enthusiasm by the members present and committees were soon appointed.

September 13th 1968, Right Worshipful Brother Charles F. Shuler, Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, was introduced and given Grand Honors. He spoke briefly of the civil and Masonic history of Brother E. L. Grubbs, after which he presented Brother Grubbs with a sixty year emblem and a life membership card from Unity Lodge No. 146.

July 12th 1968, the St. John's day message was brought by Worshipful Brother Archie H. Eldridge, which was well received. This being the first observance of St. John's Day of record in Unity Lodge.

May 30th 1968, Unity Lodge was host to Most Worshipful Brother Jesse A. White, Grand Master of Virginia, who gave a very inspiring message which was well received by the seventy-five Masons present, representing twenty-one Lodges from the surrounding area.

Many members of Unity Lodge attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Spurmont Lodge No. 98, on the evening of December 2nd of this same year. During the year 1969, Unity Lodge attended worship services at four of our area churches, Rivermont Baptist, Riverton United Methodist, Front Royal Presbyterian and Front Royal United Methodist. It was recalled that this Masonic Lodge laid the cornerstone of this United Methodist Church in August, 1905 with Grand Master T. N. Davis presiding.

It is fitting that as 1970 is our Centennial Year, Unity Lodge No. 146 was honored by having one of its members, Right Worshipful Brother Russell F. Wilson appointed Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. A reception was held for Brother Wilson at Unity Lodge, May 8th, at which time Right Worshipful Charles F. Shuler, Deputy Grand Master welcomed Brother Wilson who was saluted with honors due his station. At this meeting there were present: — Right Worshipful Leighton E. Harrell, Associate Grand Chaplain, Right Worshipful James K. Paulette, Grand Pursuivant, Right Worshipful A. B. Honts, Chairman Masonic Home Committee, Right Worshipful Thomas I. Mason and Harry I. Lowers of the C. O. W., and Right Worshipful Taylor F. Simpson of the Masonic Home Committee. Prior to this, Worshipful Brother James M. Coverstone received an appointment as District Education Officer of the 3rd Masonic District, his apron of that appointment being presented by Right Worshipful Blair Via, District Deputy Grand Master of the 19th Masonic District.

In this history of Unity Lodge No. 146, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, prepared for the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary, we have included also the known data of Chester Lodge No. 61, and that of Front Royal Lodge No. 102, thus covering a span of one hundred and seventy-one years of Masonic endeavor in this section of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

The preparing of this account has been a rewarding experience as the successes, the failures, the high moments and the low, present a picture of man's efforts to accomplish, to serve, to teach, to rejoice, to mourn, and to give praise to our Heavenly Father.

Freemasonry is a symbolical term chosen by men who could interpret the tools of the operative mason, not in their everyday use, but as symbols of the character of man as he lives from day to day and as he is guided by the teachings of the Holy Bible.

The word "History" is used in two senses. It may mean either the record of events or the event itself. This review of one hundred and seventy-one years of Masonic growth in Front Royal and its environs, recite the highlights of sincere effort by dedicated men to build, not only in a material way, but to exemplify a way of life for those who follow after. Down through the years, fathers have been followed by sons and grandsons, some receiving high honors and acclaim while others only serve. We will be first when we seek

admission to the Grand Lodge above where the Supreme Architect presides.

To those humble men whose labors are the foundation upon which Unity Lodge No. 146, A.F.&A.M. is built, we humbly dedicate this record of their efforts.