

**March 2021**

**438 Skyline Vista Drive  
Front Royal, VA 22630**

**www.Unity146.org**

# Unity Lodge No. 146

Chartered March 1870

## Trestleboard



*Behold how good and pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity!*  
- Psalms 133.1 -

### UPCOMING DATES

**03/03** – Unity 146 Stated Communication @ 730p. **NO MEAL WILL BE SERVED**

**03/04** – Thermal Shelter Dinner provided/served by Unity 146 @ 7p.

Presentation of Community Builder's Award @ 630p

**03/10, 03/24 and 03/31** – Blue Lodge Ritual Practice @ 630p

**03/27** – Unity Lodge Breakfast @ 8a – **CANCELED**

**03/02** – Luray Commandery #19 – @ 730p **Virtual Meeting**

**03/05** – Order of the Eastern Star #6 @ 7p

**03/19** – RAC Hiram #45 @ 730p **Virtual Meeting**

**03/09 & 03/23** – Shenandoah Valley DeMolay @ 630p – **TBD**

**03/27** – Sojourners Meeting @ 8a – **TBD**

### TRAVELING MAN

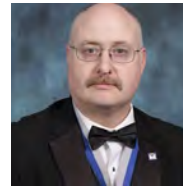
**No Official Visits**

**Per the Governor of Virginia, no meetings may have more than 10 attendees.**

**Blue Lodge Meetings may be cancelled if no required business must be conducted. We may not ballot until this restriction is lifted.**

## George Washington's Revolutionary St. Patrick's Day

By: Christopher Klein



The Continental Army that encamped in Morristown, New Jersey, shivered through the brutal winter of 1779-1780. It was hard for them to believe that conditions could be any harsher than they had been at Valley Forge two years prior, but these were truly the cruellest days of the American Revolution. Twenty-eight separate snowstorms struck the encampment, burying it under as much as 6 feet of snow, between November 1779 and April 1, 1780. Through the coldest winter in recorded history, patriot foot soldiers slept on straw and huddled together for warmth in rudimentary log huts. The weather made it difficult to obtain supplies, and men went days without food. Some even resorted to eating the bark off twigs for nourishment.

Needless to say, frivolity was at a severe premium. George Washington knew he needed to buoy the spirits of his forces, so

he did what a good boss would do: he gave them a day off. The general granted his troops just a single holiday that winter in Morristown, and it wasn't Christmas. It was a holiday rarely observed in America—St. Patrick's Day.

The Irish represented the largest immigrant group to arrive in the colonies in the 1700s. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in Colonial America dated back to 1737 in Boston, but commemorations of the feast day of Ireland's patron saint were limited by the time of the American Revolution. The Irish who had immigrated to Colonial America were mainly Presbyterians from the northern province of Ulster. (Irish Catholics would not begin to arrive in large numbers until the Great Famine of the 1840s.) These "Scotch-Irish," driven from Ireland by British oppression in the first place, were predisposed to support the rebellion against

the crown. Estimates are that one-quarter or more of the Continental Army was Irish by birth or ancestry, and regiments from Pennsylvania and Maryland were nearly half-Irish. Generals born in Ireland or who had Irish parents commanded seven of the eleven brigades wintering in Morristown.

Continued...

Please join us on at the Old 15th Street Middle School as Unity Lodge No. 146 presents Michelle Smeltzer with our 2021 Community Builder's Award for her direction of the Thermal Shelter for Warren County and her work with Social Services in the community.

465 W 15 ST  
Front Royal, VA 22630

March 4th @ 630p



Hiram Royal Arch Chapter

No. 45



Order of the Eastern Star

No. 6



Unity Lodge No. 146  
AF & AM

Shenandoah Valley Chapter  
of the DeMolay



Luray Commandery

No. 19



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*Trestleboard*



Back in Ireland—which, like America, was striving for independence from the yoke of the British Empire—the populace was naturally sympathetic to the patriot cause during the American Revolution. The Irish in Ulster were so open in their support that the lord lieutenant of Ireland complained to London that the Irish Presbyterians were “in their hearts” Americans who were “talking in all companies in such a way that if they are not rebels, it is hard to find a name for them.”

So in an effort to give his men a badly needed break, to recognize the heritage of many of his soldiers and to express solidarity with the “brave and generous” people of Ireland, Washington issued general orders on March 16, 1780, proclaiming St. Patrick’s Day a holiday for his troops. It was the first day of rest for the Continental Army in more than a year. “The General directs that all fatigue and working parties cease for to-morrow the SEVENTEENTH instant,” read the orders, “a day held in particular regard by the people of [Ireland].”

Washington also told his troops that he expected “that the celebration of the day will not be attended with the least rioting or disorder.” While not all St. Patrick’s Day celebrations are well-behaved affairs, it appears that this one was. Soldiers may not have quaffed green tankards of ale, but the men of the Pennsylvania Division at least enjoyed a hogshead of rum that had been purchased by their commander. In appreciation of his actions, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a relief organization for Irish immigrants, named Washington an honorary member in 1782.

The date of St. Patrick’s Day already held special significance for Washington. Four years prior, on March 17, 1776, the British evacuated Boston, and the general had his first major strategic victory since assuming the command of the Continental Army in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in July 1775. Nearly 9,000 Redcoats and more than 1,000 Loyalists boarded 120 ships in Boston Harbor on that St. Patrick’s Day morning, and the enormous flotilla set sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Legend has it that Washington selected “Boston” as the password for the first troops to re-enter the town that day, and, in honor of Ireland’s patron saint, “St. Patrick” was the proper response.

March 17 is today a civic holiday in Boston, ostensibly to commemorate “Evacuation Day.” But much like Washington’s army holed up in Morristown, most Bostonians spend the day celebrating all things Irish—with or without a hogshead of rum.

<http://www.history.com/news/george-washingtons-revolutionary-st-patricks-day>



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As the seasons begin to change and the weather turns colder, please remember the less fortunate in our community. To this end, Unity Lodge, On Cue and the Virginia Beer Museum will have donation boxes available for coats, sweat clothes and socks. If you find it within your means, please contribute as liberally as you can to this cause.

Unity Lodge has also agreed to provide a monthly meal for the Thermal Shelter beginning on November 5th. If you are able to assist in this endeavor, please contact Bro. Will Bryan to sign up. Our next meal will be provided on January 7th.

<https://royalexaminer.com/masons-step-up-with-other-local-agencies-to-feed-homeless-through-winter-season/>

### Teddy Bear Fund

This year we will attempt to implement a Teddy Bear fund for the First Responders in Warren County. This charitable campaign uses our donations to purchase teddy bears which will be given to children in crisis by our Sheriff Deputies, Police and Fire Fighters within our community. This project has been very successful for Winchester-Hiram Lodge as well as other Lodges in the area, and I know that it will do well here with your generosity. We will have a jar dedicated to the fund in Lodge, or you can send a check to our PO Box made out to Unity Lodge No. 146 with "TEDDYBEAR" written in the memo line.

Unity Lodge No. 146 AF&AM  
P.O. Box 1855  
Front Royal, VA 22630



### 2021 Unity Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master -	Charles William Taggart
Senior Warden -	William Allen Bryan
Junior Warden -	Robert Fred Nickols, Jr.
Treasurer -	Harry Wesley Hammack, Jr.
Secretary -	Kevin Paul Walek
Senior Deacon -	Raymond Christof Nouhra
Junior Deacon -	Alan Scott Truax
Chaplain -	Richard Allen Baker
Marshal -	Junior Franklin Griffith
Tiler -	Edward Neal Powell, Jr.
Senior Steward -	Mark Butler
Junior Steward -	Cole Hasse



Units Collected      % of Membership  
Strength

80

64%