Washington's Masonic Correspondence

Julius F. Sachse



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American Freemasons



The Masonic portrait of Brother General George Washington. Original pastel portrait from life by William Williams, Philadelphia, September 1794, painted at the request of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, A. Y. M., warranted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, February 3, 1783, now the Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, A. F. & A. M. of Virginia.

Washington's Masonic Correspondence

As Found among the Washington Papers in the Library of Congress

Julius F. Sachse

With an introduction by
John V. Piccone

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American Freemasons

Washington's Masonic Correspondence: As Found among the Washington Papers in the Library of Congress
Julius F. Sachse

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Editor's Introduction

In 1915 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania published, in an edition of one thousand numbered copies, the Masonic letters of George Washington that its librarian, Julius F. Sachse, had found among the Washington Papers in the Library of Congress. Washington had kept the addresses that lodges and grand lodges sent him and his answers to them, most of them copied on facing pages of his letter-books. Sachse gathered these papers, added the letters that survived in the archives of the lodges themselves, and set them in order from the first, written from the army's camp at Newburgh in August 1782, to the last, of November 1798, a year before Washington's death.

The book prints each address and each reply in full and in the spelling of the manuscripts. Where Sachse had a draft and a fair copy he printed both, line for line, with Washington's deletions and insertions, so that the reader can watch him revise a sentence. Around the letters he set what he could learn of the lodges, the men who signed for them, and the occasions that called the letters forth: Washington's honorary membership in Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, in 1784; his Southern tour of 1791; the addresses of the Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts at the beginning and end of his presidency; and, in his last year, the exchange with the Reverend G. W. Snyder of Frederick-Town, Maryland, who had sent him John Robison's book on the Illuminati. Sachse also reproduced the documents themselves, with portraits of the men who wrote to Washington and views of the places where the letters were written and read. Those facsimiles are the heart of this edition as they were of his.

The reader should keep three things in mind. First, Sachse wrote as the librarian of the Grand Lodge that published him, and his annotations celebrate the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and its part in Washington's Masonic life; his facts are drawn from its records and are generally careful, but his emphasis is theirs. Second, the book was written partly to answer the Anti-Masonic writers of the 1830s, who had used a handful of these letters to argue that Washington cared little for the Craft; Sachse prints every letter he could find so that Washington might be judged by the whole. Third, a few of his statements reflect the opinion of 1915 rather than the evidence available today. The Notes at the back of this edition explain them, among them his count of fourteen Masonic presidents and the identification of Washington's two Masonic aprons.

This edition gives Sachse's complete text, newly typeset and read against a scan of the 1915 printing, with forty-nine of his plates reproduced from that printing. The letter of the Grand Master that approved the book now follows Sachse's text. At the back are a summary and analysis, a chronology of Washington's Masonic life and of Sachse's, a note on this edition, notes, suggestions for further reading, and an index keyed to these pages. The book is published in print and as an ebook that carries the page numbers of the printed edition, and it may be read free of charge in the American Freemasons Library at americanfreemasons.org/library.

JOHN V. PICCONE
GENERAL EDITOR, THE AMERICAN FREEMASONS LIBRARY

Sources for the introduction. Julius F. Sachse, *Washington's Masonic Correspondence as Found among the Washington Papers in the Library of Congress* (Philadelphia, 1915), title page and verso, Foreword, and text; G. W. Snyder to George Washington, August 22, 1798, *The Papers of George Washington*, Retirement Series, vol. 2, Founders Online (founders.archives.gov), with its editorial note; George Washington Masonic Memorial, "A Brief History" (gwmemorial.org).

Foreword

Washington's Masonic correspondence as found among the Washington papers in the Manuscript department of the Library of Congress, affords an insight of the great esteem in which Washington held the Masonic Fraternity, of which since his early days he had been an honored member.

This is further shown by his great courtesy to the Brethren, in his replies to their addresses, no matter whether they were from a Grand or Subordinate Lodge. In this collection, were also found some of the original drafts of Washington's replies, together with copies of the various masonic addresses and letters to him, and in the case of Dominie Snyder, press copies of his answers.

In the present work an attempt has been made to group this matter together in chronological order, also to show some of the surroundings and conditions under which this correspondence was made, and of the Brethren who were prominent in the presentation of these Eleven Addresses, which came to him from Seven of the Thirteen Colonies.

A complete set of photostatic fac-similes of these documents in the Library of Congress, has been secured for the Museum of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Efforts were also made to obtain photographic copies of such of the Washington Masonic letters as were still in existence, which were successful except in two instances as noted in the text.

It will be noted that on April 30, 1789, Washington, while Master of his Lodge, was inaugurated President of the United States; this is the only instance where one of the fourteen Presidents, who were Members of our Fraternity was a Master of a Lodge during their term as President.

The esteem in which WASHINGTON held the Masonic Fraternity, is shown by the fact, that in almost every case he had both the address and his reply, copied upon opposite pages of one of his folio letter-books, now in the Library of Congress. These copies are respectively in the handwriting of WASHINGTON's private secretaries, viz:—Major William Jackson: Tobias Lear: Bartholomew Dandridge and G. W. Craik.

In addition to the above copies we have WASHINGTON's original drafts of his letters to Watson and Cassoul, to the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Maryland, to Paul Revere, and as before stated press copies of his answers to Mr. Snyder.

A perusal of these original documents, as here presented, affords an excellent illustration of the *entente cordiale*, which existed between WASHINGTON and his Masonic Brethren.

Upon the other hand, how the Masonic Fraternity, during WASHINGTON's lifetime, venerated their august Brother, is shown by the addresses of this correspondence as retained by WASHINGTON.

Also by the various Masonic Memorial services held, after WASHINGTON's death, the chief of which was in Philadelphia, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Masonic services held in every State of the Union, the many Eulogies and Sermons delivered and printed are matters of history.

How this veneration of the great WASHINGTON continued during the past years, is shown by the fact that there are no less than 53 Masonic Lodges in the United States, named after the illustrious Brother. This is independent of the numerous Royal Arch Chapters, Commanderies, and other Masonic bodies, that bear the name "WASHINGTON."

Washington Lodges are found in thirty-eight of the forty-eight States of the American Union.

The other ten States, which thus far have no "Washington Lodge" within their Jurisdiction, are Mississippi and Texas, together with the newer western States lately admitted into the American Union, viz:—Nevada, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

In addition to the fifty-three Washington Lodges, there is also one each in Canada, the Island of Cuba and the District of Columbia.

In the Masonic Fraternity throughout the world, the name of Washington is ever kept in remembrance, as one of the brightest luminaries in the Masonic constellation, one of the most prominent examples, being his full length oil portrait in Masonic clothing in the Hall of the Grand Lodge of England at London.

Acknowledgments are due to the Hon. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, for placing these documents at the disposal of the writer, and giving permission to have photostat copies made of same; also to J. Henry Williams, Esq., R. W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging, for suggestions and encouragement in the preparation of this work.

Julius F. Sachse.

Philadelphia, February 22, A.D. 1915—A.L. 5915.

The Masonic Correspondence of Washington

Much has been written pro and con about Washington and his connection with the Masonic Fraternity. Thus far no complete set of his Masonic writings have been compiled or published. Such portions as have been printed were fragmentary, and issued for what may be called local purposes.

How careful Washington was of his Masonic correspondence is shown by the fact that he had copies made, in his private letter books, of most all letters sent him by the various Masonic Grand and Subordinate bodies, and his answers thereto, usually upon opposite pages. He thus had both the addresses and his reply at hand for easy reference. This fact shows the esteem in which Washington held his Brethren of the Masonic Fraternity, as well as his own opinion of Freemasonry.

These letter-books are now in the Library of Congress, and photostat copies of such as relate to Freemasonry have been made for the Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

As to the authenticity of the Washington Letter Books, and how they came into the possession of the United States Government is explained by the following statement by Mr. Galliard Hunt, chief Manuscript division, Library of Congress:[1]

"They are a part of the Washington papers in
"the Government's possession, purchased from the
"Washington family, one lot in 1834 and the re-
"mainder in 1849, and deposited in the Department
"of State until 1903, when, by the President's order,

[1] Letter to Julius F. Sachse from Manuscript Division, December 19, 1914—in Library of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

"they were sent to this Library. They range in date
"from 1754 to 1799. Some of them are partly
"or wholly in Washington's hand-writing, and others
"in the writing of his secretaries and their clerks.
"There are no volumes of press copies, but there are
"some press copies among the papers."

WASHINGTON in writing his answer to the various greetings, in most cases would first make a rough copy of his reply, then digest, alter, correct or change such parts or sentences as he thought proper. Then after deliberate consideration, a fair copy would be made either by WASHINGTON or one of his Secretaries and signed by him, and sent to the Masonic bodies for which they were intended.

Fortunately some of the original drafts of these Masonic letters have come down to us; thus far five autographic copies have been found among the Washington papers in the Library of Congress at Washington. 1. Draft of letter written at Newburg, New York, August 19, 1782, to Watson and Cassoul of Nantes, France, thanking them for the Masonic Apron, embroidered by the nuns at Nantes, and which is now in possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, at Alexandria, Virginia. 2. To the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. 3. To the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. 4. To the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. 5. To the Grand Lodge of Maryland; this draft is a two-page letter written upon a letter sheet and shows many changes and corrections; it is dated 1798.

In addition to the above original drafts there were found several addresses and the accompanying answers, which thus far have never been published, in fact no mention of them has ever appeared in print, viz:— 1. An address from the Grand Lodge of Georgia, together with WASHINGTON's reply.

2. A letter to Paul Revere, Grand Master of Massachusetts and his Grand Officers.
3. An address from the Brethren of Prince George's Lodge, No. 16, Georgetown, South Carolina, presented to President WASHINGTON during his visit to South Carolina, April 30, 1791, also his reply to same.
4. An address from the Brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 2, of Newbern, North Carolina, and the reply to same.

Photostat copies of the above have also been obtained which make the most complete collection of the Masonic Correspondence of Washington which has thus far been compiled.

A careful study of this correspondence so carefully cherished by Washington puts an entirely new phase upon Washington's connection with the Masonic Fraternity, and his esteem of Freemasonry.

These papers absolutely thrust aside all of the statements, arguments and libels, brought forth by our misguided enemies at the time of the Anti-Masonic craze during the last century, and in a small way kept alive even down to the present day by some people who are blinded by their ignorance or malice.

Referring to some of their published statements that Washington never belonged to the Masonic Fraternity, and that there were no authentic Masonic letters nor copies thereof among his records so frequently made during the political Anti-Masonic craze, which swept over New England and the Middle States about eighty-five years ago, the following quotations from the Masonic literature of the period will prove interesting examples.

One of the chief statements made by these people, and brought before all their conventions and heralded in the public prints was: "That though General Washington caused to be carefully copied in books kept for that purpose, all his letters on every subject, no trace whatever of any of the five letters under consideration,[2] nor any letters to any other Lodge or Masonic body whatever, are to be found among the records of his correspondence."[3]

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[2] The letters referred to by the Anti-Masons were the one to King David's Lodge at Newport, two to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and one to Charleston, S. C., and to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The above five Masonic Letters were all that were known to the Anti-Masons at that time.

[3] "Vindication | of | General Washington | from the stigma | of adherence to | Secret Societies | by | Joseph Ritner | Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, | communicated | by | request of the House of Representatives, to that body,| on the 8th of March, 1837."

This address during the Anti-Masonic period was regarded as an important state paper.

The chief authority upon whom the leaders of the Anti-Masonic movement at that time depended in their defamation of WASHINGTON, was Jared Sparks of Boston, who at the time was engaged writing a life of WASHINGTON, and then had access to all the Washington letter-books and papers, and from his connection with the Washington correspondence, was supposed to be the best qualified to pass upon their authenticity.

Another of the charges made by the Anti-Masonic bigots whose chief object was to controvert facts was:

> "That although WASHINGTON was *extremely scrupulous* in preserving his correspondence with all public or private bodies, there is not a line of his *relating to Freemasonry*, to be found among all his papers, except the correspondence with Mr. Snyder![4] It is also a fact, that WASHINGTON was equally scrupulous in dating his letters, and it is believed that not one can be found, which is without a date."[5]

It appears that the chairman of a committee of citizens of Boston called upon the officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to submit their two Washington letters to Jared Sparks for his inspection. This the Grand Officers refused to do.

In return Sparks sent the following letter to the Chairman:

"Boston, February 18, 1833.

"*Sir*,—I received this morning your letter of the 15th instant, in which you inquire:

"Whether I have yet seen or had in my possession any original letter or letters, in the hand writing of General Washington, addressed to any body of men denominating themselves Freemasons.

"In reply, I can only state that I have seen no letters from General Washington of the kind described in yours, nor received any communication on the subject, either verbal or written.[6]

---

[4] Letter press copies of the Snyder letters were retained by WASHINGTON. Photostat copies of same are in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

[5] "Proceedings of the Third State Anti-masonic Convention, of Massachusetts, Worcester, 1832," p. 27.

[6] Vindication of Washington before quoted, p. 13.

"I am, Sir,
"Very respectfully,
"Your ob't servant,
"Jared Sparks."

How Sparks could have overlooked the numerous entries in the letter books whose numbers and folios are here quoted, also the drafts of replies in Washington's hand-writing and signed by him (copies of which are here given in this work), can only be accounted for by the fact that he must have been carried away by the political excitement of the day.

Washington's connection with the Masonic Fraternity has been exhaustively traced by Brother James M. Lamberton, Past Master of Perseverance Lodge, No. 21, in his address "Washington as a Freemason," from the day of his entrance into Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, of Virginia, September 1, 1752, until the day of his death, December 14, 1799, before the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, at its celebration of the Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of the Initiation of Brother George Washington into the Fraternity of Freemasons,[7] held in the Masonic Temple, in the city of Philadelphia on Wednesday, November 5, 1902.

It must also be remembered that Washington made a public profession of his membership in Philadelphia, Monday, December 28, 1778, when he walked in procession with his brethren of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, from the College at Fourth and Arch Streets to Christ Church on Second Street above Market Street, Philadelphia, where, after a prayer by Rev. William White, a sermon was preached for the "[Benefit of the POOR] by appointment of and before | The General Communication | of | Free and Accepted | MASONS | of the | State of PENNSYLVANIA, | on Monday, December 28, 1788, | Celebrated, agreeable to their Constitution, | as the Anniversary of | ST. JOHN the Evangelist, | by William Smith, D.D., | Provost of the College and Academy of Philadelphia." |

[7] The Ancient Minute Book and Ledger of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, in Virginia, of which we have a photostat, is still in possession of the Lodge, showing that "George Washington was entered November 4, 1752, and on November 6, paid for his entrance £2. 3. 0, March 3, 1753, George Washington was passed to Fellow-Craft; August 4, 1753, George Washington was raised Master Mason."

This Sermon was printed and dedicated to Brother WASHINGTON and a copy sent to him, which was bound with other pamphlets in a volume lettered "Masonic Sermons," and is so mentioned in the inventory of his estate and now in the Boston Athenæum.[8] At this service over four hundred pounds were collected for the relief of the poor.

Rev. Brother William Smith, D.D., preached a number of Masonic Sermons in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland; three of which delivered at the request of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania were printed, viz.:

Sermon 1.—On Brotherly Love, &c. Preached on the Anniversary of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 1755,

Sermon 2.—Preached on Monday, December 28, 1778, celebrated as the Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist. With an Appendix on the Character of Lucius Quintius Cincinnatus,

Sermon 3.—Preached before the Grand Lodge of Communication, on St. John the Baptist's day, June 24, 1795.

Original copies of the above are in the Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Rev. Brother Smith reprinted the above in a Volume of Sermons with the following note:[9]

> "N. B. The above three Sermons were preached at the request of the Grand Lodge of Communication, for Pennsylvania, and contains in substance all that the Author thinks it necessary to bequeath to the Brotherhood, by way of Sermons, preached at different times and in sundry of the neighboring States, during 48 Years past."

By referring to the following letters and Documents it is shown that WASHINGTON's interest in Freemasonry and the Fraternity continued until the time of his death.

These documents cover the period from 1782 to 1798.

---

[8] Catalogue of Washington Collection in Boston Athenæum, Boston, 1897, p. 185.

[9] Cf. "Works of William Smith, D.D.," Philadelphia, 1803, Vol. II, pp. 27-88, also "Life and Correspondence of Rev. William Smith, D.D.," Philadelphia, 1880, Vol. II, p. 9. *Et seq.*

As these copies in our possession are photostat fac-similes of the original documents in the Library of Congress, there can never be any question of correctness or of their authenticity.

The finding and collating of this material will settle for all time to come the question of Washington's connection with the Ancient Fraternity, and his opinion and esteem of Freemasonry.

The earliest record we have of any Masonic Body proposing a masonic address to General Washington, was the resolution offered in King David's Lodge, No. 1, at Newport, Rhode Island, during Washington's visit to Newport in March, 1781, while the French Army under Rochambeau was quartered there. Washington arrived in Newport on the sixth of March and remained there until the thirteenth, when he left for Providence by way of Bristol.

It was in anticipation of this visit that the Brethren of King David's Lodge, of which Brother Moses Michael Hays[10] was Worshipful Master, that a masonic greeting to General Washington was proposed. The following entry from the old Minute Book of the Lodge will explain why the project failed to materialize.

Extract from the Records of King David's Lodge.

> "Regular Lodge night, held at the house of Mr. James Tew, Wednesday evening, the 7th February, 1781. 5781.
>
> "A motion being made that as our worthy brother, his Excellency General Washington, was daily expected amongst us, a committee should be appointed to prepare an address in behalf of the Lodge, to present him. Voted, That the Right Worshipful Master (Moses Michael Hays) together with brothers Seixas, Peleg Clark, John Handy, and Robert Elliot, be a committee for that purpose, and that they present the same to this Lodge at their next meeting for their approbation."
>
> "At a Lodge held by request of the Right Worshipful Master, Feb. 14th, 1781. 5781,
>
> "The committee appointed to draught an address to our worthy brother, His Excellency General Washington,

[10] For an exhaustive sketch of Brother Moses Michael Hays, see *The American Freemason*, Vol. V, p. 576.



Moses M. Hays

Moses Michael Hays, Worshipful Master of King David's Lodge, No. 1, Newport, Rhode Island, 1780–1781; Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, 1788–1793.

> report, that on inquiry they find General Washington not to be a Grand Master of North America; as was supposed, nor even Master of any particular Lodge. They are, therefore, of opinion that this Lodge would not choose to address him as a private brother at the same time, think it would not be agreeable to our worthy brother to be addressed as such.
>
> "Voted, That the report of the committee be received, and that the address be entirely laid aside for the present."[11]

Now as to the cause for this uncertainty how to address Brother Washington, it will be recalled that just at that time, the proposition sent out by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania nominating General Washington as Grand Master of all the Colonies, was then before the various grand bodies, but did not find favor in New England, in fact the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was the chief objector, and finally defeated the scheme to elect Washington the Grand Master General.[12]

The means of intercourse between the different Masonic Bodies at that early day were so limited and uncertain that it offers a clear explanation for the uncertainty under which the brethren of King David's Lodge, No. 1, at Newport labored at that time.

During the Anti-Masonic craze in the last century, the above minute was extensively used by the political leaders of the Anti-Masonic party to strengthen their claim that Washington had never presided over any Masonic Lodge.

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[11] | "Newport, ss. Newport, August 18th, A.D. 1832. I certify that the extracts taken from the records of King David's Lodge, Newport, contained in the above and three foregoing pages, have been by me compared with the minutes contained in two books purporting and appearing to be the original records of said Lodge, and found to be true and accurate copies of the same. | "Quid attestor, "Geo. C. Mason. | *"Jus. Peace and Pub. Not'y."*

Cf. "Anti-masonic Republican Convention of Massachusetts held at Worcester, September 5-6, 1832," p. 23.

[12] For a full account of this episode, see "Freemasonry in Pennsylvania," Barratt and Sachse, Philadelphia, 1908, Vol. 1, Chapter XII; "Washington as General Grand Master," p. 393 *et seq.*

Following is a complete list of the Washington Masonic Correspondence, thus far found among the Washington papers in the Library of Congress.

Draft of Letter to Watson and Cassoul, Nantes, France, August 10, 1782.

Letter to Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, Virginia, December 28, 1783.

Address from King David's Lodge, No. 1, Rhode Island, August 17, 1790, and WASHINGTON's Reply.

Address from St. John's Lodge, No. 2, Newbern, North Carolina, April 20, 1791, and his reply.

Address from Prince George's Lodge (Moderns) Georgetown, South Carolina, April 30, 1791, and his reply.

Draft of reply to Grand Lodge of South Carolina, May 5, 1791.

Address from Grand Lodge of Georgia, May 14, 1791, and his reply.

Address from Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, March, 1792, and his reply.

Address of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, December 27, 1792, and his reply.

Address from Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, December 27, 1796, and his reply.

Address from Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, Virginia, April 4, 1797, and his reply.

Letter to Paul Revere and Grand Officers, April 24, 1797.

Draft of Letter to Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in reply to an address, April 1797.

Draft of a reply to an address from the Grand Lodge of Maryland, November 8, 1798.

Letter from G. W. Snyder to WASHINGTON, August 22, 1798.

WASHINGTON's Reply to Snyder, September 25, 1798.

WASHINGTON's Reply to Snyder's letter of October 17, 1798.

NOTE:—The Masonic Apron presented by Watson & Cassoul to General Washington, August 1782, is now in possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, at Alexandria, Virginia. No sketch or photograph of same could be obtained for use in this work.



Elkanah Watson (born Plymouth, Massachusetts, January 22, 1758; died Port Kent, New York, December 5, 1842), who with his partner Cassoul presented to Washington a Masonic apron made by the nuns at Nantes, France, now in the possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, Virginia.

CHAPTER I

Correspondence with Watson & Cassoul, Nantes, France, August, 1782

The earliest letter of General George Washington of Masonic Import known is the one written while in camp at Newburgh in New York, dated State of New York, August 10, 1782, to the firm of Watson and Cassoul in Nantes, France, in which his friend, Brother Elkanah Watson was the chief partner, thanking the firm for the Masonic Apron and ornaments sent him from Nantes, France.

This apron is now in the possession of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, at Alexandria, Virginia.

Elkanah Watson in his Memoirs states:[13]

> "Wishing to pay some mark of respect to our beloved Washington, I employed, in conjunction with my friend M. Cossoul, nuns in one of the convents at Nantes to prepare some elegant Masonic ornaments, and gave them a plan for combining the American and French Flags on the apron designed for this use. They were executed in a superior and expensive style. We transmitted them to America, accompanied by an appropriate address."

By the above extract is shown beyond all doubt the error in the statement so repeatedly made, that the apron at Alexandria is the one made by the Marquise de Lafayette, and presented to Washington by General Lafayette, during his visit to Mount Vernon in 1784,

[13] "Men and Times of the Revolution, or Memoirs of Elkanah Watson," New York, 1856, pp. 135, 136.

and the one in the Museum of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, that of Watson and Cassoul.[14]

Following letter was sent to WASHINGTON, together with the Masonic Apron and "Ornaments," by Messrs. Watson and Cassoul, from France under date "east of Nantes," 23d 1st Month, 5782.[15]

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY, GENERAL WASHINGTON, AMERICA.

"*Most Illustrious and Respected Brother:*

"In the moment when all Europe admire and feel the effects of your glorious efforts in support of American liberty, we hasten to offer for your acceptance a small pledge of our homage. Zealous lovers of liberty and its institutions, we have experienced the most refined joy in seeing our chief and brother stand forth in its defence, and in defence of a newborn nation of Republicans.

"Your glorious career will not be confined to the protection of American liberty, but its ultimate effect will extend to the whole human family, since Providence has evidently selected you as an instrument in his hands, to fulfill his eternal decrees.

"It is to you, therefore, the glorious orb of America, we presume to offer Masonic ornaments, as an emblem of your virtues. May the Grand Architect of the Universe be the Guardian of your precious days, for the glory of the Western Hemisphere and the entire universe. Such are the vows of those who have the favor to be by all the known numbers."

"Your affectionate brothers,

"WATSON & CASSOUL."

"East of Nantes, 23^{d} 1st Month, 5782."

Owing to the uncertain intercourse between the two countries, it was almost seven months before Brother WASHINGTON received the Masonic apron, ornaments and letter from France. He at that time was in camp with the army at Newburg on the Hudson.[16]

In reply WASHINGTON sent the following autograph letter to the donors in Nantes, viz.:

---

[14] Cf. "Proceedings Grand Lodge of New York," 1867, p. 28.

[15] "Memoirs of Elkanah Watson," p. 135.

[16] Cf. "Itinerary of General WASHINGTON from June 15, 1775, to December 23, 1783," by William S. Baker, Philadelphia, 1892, p. 271.

"State of New York
"Augt 10th 1782.
"Gent$^{n.}$

"The Masonick Ornam^{ts}
"which accompanied your Bro-
"therly Address of the 23^{d} of
"Jany last, tho' elegant in
"themselves, were rendered
"more valuable by the flattering
"sentiments, and affectionate
"manner, in which they were
"presented.—

"If my endeavours to
"avert the evil, with which this
"Country was threatned by a
"deliberate plan of Tyranny,
"should be crowned with the suc
"cess that is wished—The praise
"is due to the *Grand Architect*
"of the Universe; who did not see
"fit to suffer his superstructures
"and justice, to be subjected to the
"Ambition of the Princes of this
"World, or to the rod of oppression,
"in the hands of any power upon
"Earth.—

"For your affectionate
"Vows, permit me to be grateful;
"—and offer mine for true Brothers
"in all parts of the world; and
"to assure you of the sincerity
"with which I am
Y^{rs}
Go. Washington

"Messrs
"Watson & Cosson[17]
"East of Nantes"

This autograph letter from WASHINGTON to Messrs. Watson and Cassoul is now in the possession of the Grand Lodge of New York, who purchased it from a member of the Watson family in the year 1866 or 1867 at a cost of approximately $1,000, and is now framed and secured between two sheets of glass in the collection of the Committee of Antiquities of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of New York.[18]

It is written upon two pages of an ordinary letter sheet, and was a copy of one written by WASHINGTON, with which he was not entirely satisfied, as shown by the changes made in the text before it was sent to France. The first copy WASHINGTON retained, and is now in the Library of Congress, and is here given for comparison, viz:

"STATE OF NEW YORK,
"Augt 10th 1782.

"*Gentn.*,

"The Masonick Orna-
"ments which accompanied your
"Brotherly Address of the 23d.
"of the first month, tho' elegant
"in themselves, were rendered
"more valuable by the flattering
"sentiments, and affectionate
"manner, in which they were
"offered.—

"If my endeavours to
"avert the evil, with which
"this Country was threatned, by
"a deliberate plan of Tyranny,
"should be crowned with the

[17] It will be noted that on both the draft and letter, WASHINGTON spells the name Cassoul—"Cosson."

[18] Catalogue of Antiquities and Curios, Grand Lodge F. & A. M., New York, Class J, No. 1, New York, 1905.

"success that is wished—the
"praise is due to the *Grand*
"*Architect* of the Universe; who
see fit to
"did not ∧ suffer his superstruc
"tures & justice, to be subjected
ambition of the Princes of this world—or
"to the ∧ rod of oppression, in the
"hands of any power upon Earth.

"For your affectionate
"vows, permit me to be grateful;
"and offer mine for true Brothers
"in all parts of the world; and
"to assure you of the sincerity
"with which I am,
Y^rs.
Go. Washington
Endorsed
to
"Messrs. Watson &
"Cosson—Nantes
"10th Augt 1782."

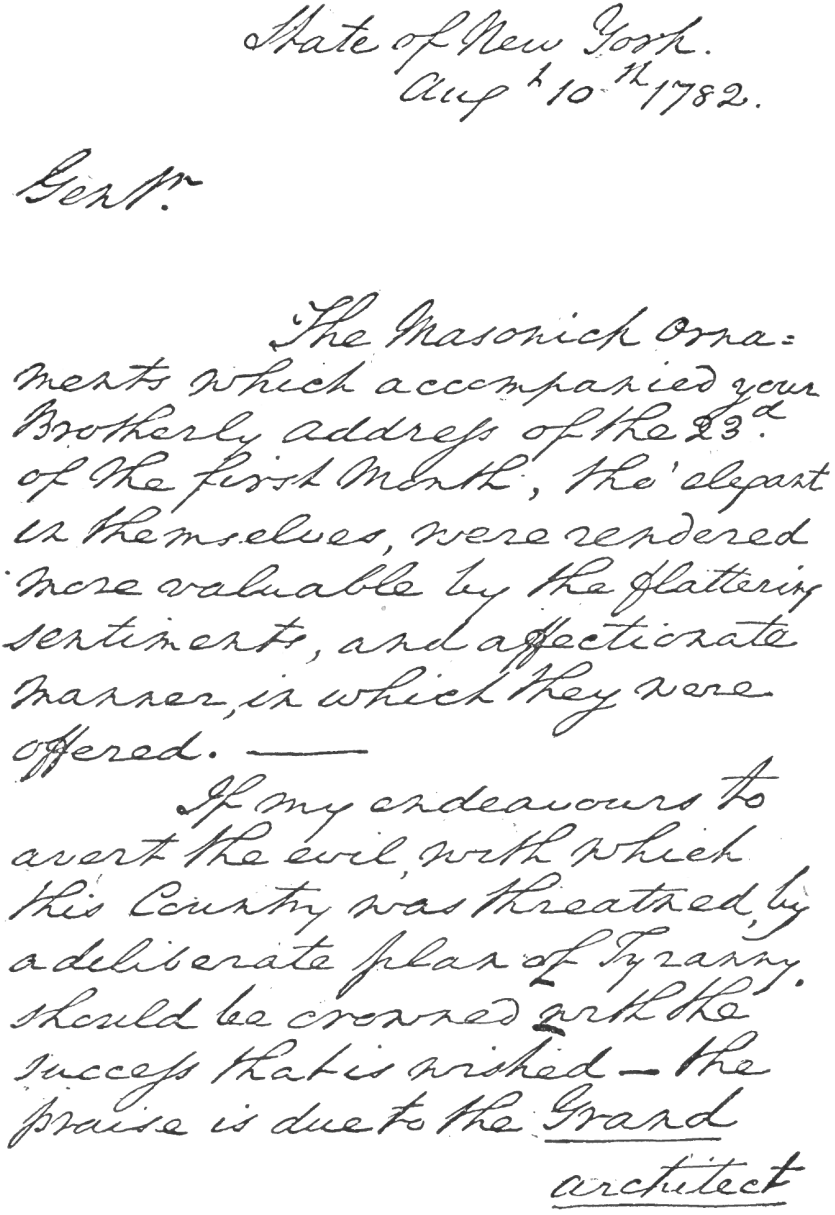
A photographic fac-simile of the letter now in New York, and a photostat of the original copy retained by WASHINGTON are in the collection of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The firm of Watson and Cassoul of Nantes, France, acted as confidential agents of the American Government during the Revolutionary period, as is shown by their correspondence with Benjamin Franklin in the Franklin Mss. collection of the American Philosophical Society.[19] Elkanah Watson was also a bearer of despatches to Dr. Franklin.

[19] Cf. "Calendar of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin in the Library of the American Philosophical Society," edited by I. Minis Hays, Volume V, p. 312.



Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, where the Watson and Cassoul letter was written, August, 1782.



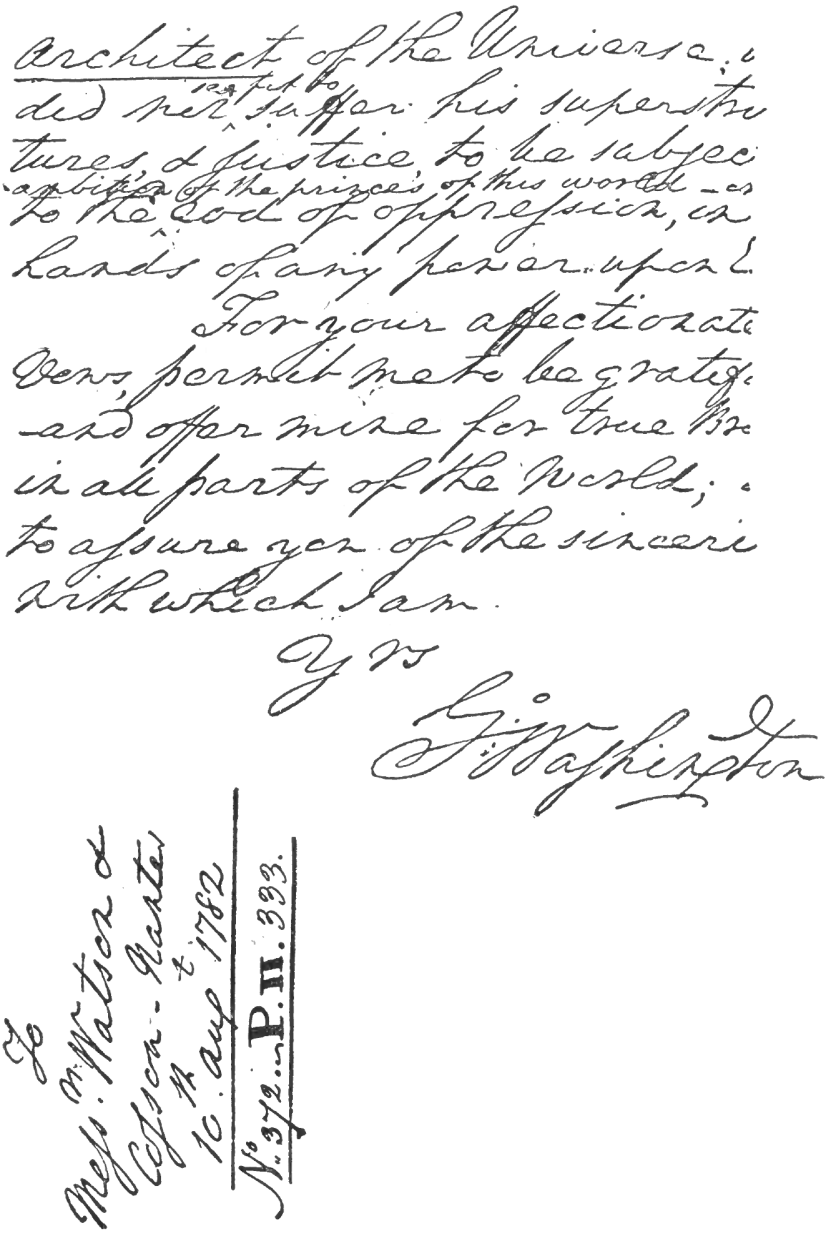
State of New York.
Augt 10th 1782.

Genl Sir

The Masonick Orna-
ments which accompanied your
Brotherly address of the 23^{d}
of the first Month, tho' elegant
in themselves, were rendered
more valuable by the flattering
sentiments, and affectionate
manner, in which they were
offered. ——

If my endeavours to
avert the evil, with which
this Country was threatned, by
a deliberate plan of Tyranny,
should be crowned with the
success that is wished — the
praise is due to the Grand
architect

Fac-simile of the original draft of Washington's letter to Watson and Cassoul, New York, August 10, 1782. First page.


architect of the Universe, &
did not suffer his superstru
tures & Justice to be subjec
to the arbitrary of the princes of this world — or
to the God of oppression, or
hands of any person upon e
For your affectionate
Devs, permit me to be gratef
and offer mine for true Br
in all parts of the World; &
to assure you of the sincere
with which I am.
Y Vs
G. Washington
To
Messrs. Watson &
Cossoul - Merchts
10. Augt 1782
No 372. P. II. 393.

Fac-simile of the original draft of Washington's letter to Watson and Cassoul, New York, August 10, 1782. Second page.

CHAPTER II

Correspondence with Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, Virginia, December, 1783

The next Masonic Letter of Brother Washington of which we have any knowledge is the one written in answer to a letter sent him, upon his return to civil life by the Brethren of Lodge No. 39, on the register of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, which met at Alexandria, Virginia.

December 23, 1783, General Washington presented himself to "The United States in Congress Assembled," at Annapolis, Maryland, and resigned his Commission that he had received on June 17, 1775, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States.

Upon Christmas Eve he returned to Mount Vernon, whereupon the Brethren at Alexandria, who, it must be remembered, were working under a Pennsylvania Warrant, at once sent the following Address signed by the Officers of Lodge No. 39, to Brother Washington at Mount Vernon,[20] viz.:

"*Sir*: Whilst all denominations of people bless the happy occasion of your excellency's return to enjoy private and domestic felicity, permit us, sir, the members of Lodge No. 39, lately established in Alexandria, to assure your excellency, that we, as a mystical body, rejoice in having a brother so near us, whose preeminent benevolence has secured the happiness of millions; and that we shall esteem ourselves highly honored at all times your excellency shall be pleased to join us in the needful business."

[20] Cf. "Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania—Moderns and Ancients," Julius F. Sachse, Philadelphia, 1913, Vol. II, p. 157. Also *Vide* "Washington the Man and the Mason," by Charles H. Callahan, published under the auspices of the "Memorial Temple Committee of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association," Washington, D. C., 1913.

"We have the honor to be, in the name and behalf of No. 39, your excellency's

"Devoted friends and brothers,

"ROBERT ADAM, M.

"E. C. DICK, S. W.

"J. ALLISON, J. W.

"WM. RAMSAY, *Treas.*"

"His Excellency General Washington."

Two days later Brother WASHINGTON sent following reply,[21] viz.:

"MOUNT VERNON 28th Decr. 1783.

"*Gentlemen*:

"With pleasing sensibility
"I received your favor of the 26th, and
"beg leave to offer you my sincere thanks
"for the favorable sentiments with
"which it abounds.—

"I shall always feel pleasure
"when it may be in my power to ren-
"der service to Lodge N° 39, and in
"every act of brotherly kindness to the
"Members of it; being with great truth.

"Your affecte Brother
"and Obedt Servant

Go. Washington

"Robt Adam Esqr Master,
"& the Wardens & Treasr
"of Lodge N° 39."

No copy of either address nor reply of this correspondence has thus far been found among the Washington papers in the Library of Congress, by the present writer.

[21] Original among Washington relics in Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia. Fac-simile in Washington collection of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Brother Robert Adam, the Master of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, was a Son of the Rev. John Adam, D.D., and Janet Campbell, of Kelbride, Scotland, was born May 4, 1731; he emigrated to America in 1753, and, after a short residence at Annapolis, Md., established himself at a pleasant country residence in Fairfax County, Virginia, about four miles from Alexandria. He was a gentleman of refined taste, cultivation and wealth, and interested himself in everything that could promote the prosperity of his adopted home.

It appears that during his residence at Annapolis, he was made a Mason in a clandestine or irregular Lodge, and in the year 1783 applied for a dispensation from the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, to apply to Lodge No. 2, for initiation and membership.

Brother Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, Senior Warden of Lodge No. 39, was a native of Pennsylvania, born near Marcus Hook, in Delaware County, about 1753, and died at Alexandria, Va., September 22, 1825. He was a son of Archibald Dick, a member of Lodge No. 2 at Philadelphia, and joined the same Lodge, September 15, 1779.[22] Brother Elisha C. Dick was a graduate of the old Pequea Academy, and of the College of Pennsylvania. He began the study of medicine under Drs. William Shippen and Benjamin Rush. After graduating he settled in Alexandria, Va., and at once became active in Masonic circles in that city, and was instrumental in having the petition presented to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a warrant, which was granted under the name and number "Alexandria Lodge No. 39."

Upon the records of the Lodge, Brother Dick appears as both predecessor and successor of Brother Washington as Master. Brother Dick was the first consulting physician in Washington's last illness, and also conducted the Masonic services at Washington's funeral on December 18, 1799. A biography of Dr. Dick is in the Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Brother John Allison, the Junior Warden of Lodge No. 39, had served as Major in the 1st Virginia State Regiment, and later as Lieutenant Colonel.

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[22] Elisha C. Dick's petition was presented in Lodge No. 2, September 14, 1779, approved and entered by virtue of a dispensation from the Grand Master, September 15; passed and raised, September 23. "Freemasonry in Pennsylvania," Vol. I, pp. 352, 353.

Mount Vernon 28th Dec.r 1783

Gentlemen

With a pleasing sensibility I received your favor of the 26th, and beg leave to offer you my sincere thanks for the favorable sentiments with which it abounds. —

I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render service to Lodge N.o 39, and in every act of brotherly kindness to the Members of it; being with great truth

Your affect.e Brother
and Obed.t Servant
G.o Washington

Rob.t Adam Esq.r Master, &
the Wardens & Fellows
of Lodge N.o 39

Washington's reply to Alexandria Lodge, No. 39. Original in Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia.

Brother William Ramsay, Treasurer of Lodge No. 39, was an old personal friend of Washington.

For a history of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, warranted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, February 3, 1783, which was constituted on the second floor of a large three-story frame building, known as the "Lamb Tavern," on the twenty-fifth of February, 1783, the Masonic student is referred to "Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania," Philadelphia, 1913, Chapter XLVI, pp. 153-168.

This tavern was situated on the west side of Union Street, between Prince and Duke Streets, Alexandria, the site of which is now known as No. 55 South Union Street.[23]

[23] Cf. "The Lodge of Washington," by F. L. Brocket, Alexandria, Va., 1876.

CHAPTER III

Correspondence with Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, Virginia, June, 1784

The next Washington letter of Masonic import in chronological order is his reply to an invitation to join the brethren of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, in the celebration of St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24, 1784, to which Washington sent the following reply, accepting the fraternal invitation.

"Mount Vernon, June 19, 1784.[24]

"*Dear Sir*: With pleasure, I received the invitation of the master and members of Lodge No. 39, to dine with them on the approaching anniversary of St. John the Baptist. If nothing unforeseen at present interferes, I will have the honor of doing it. For the polite and flattering terms in which you have expressed their wishes, you will please accept my thanks."

"With esteem and respect,

"I am, dear sir,

"Your most Ob't serv't

Go. Washington

"Wm. Herbert, Esquire."

No copy of this invitation nor acceptance, has thus far been found among the Washington papers.

The original of this letter is also said to be among the relics of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22. As no fac-simile copy was obtainable, an engrossed copy for same was substituted in the collection of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

[24] "Washington and his Masonic Compeers," by Sidney Hayden, New York, 1866, p. 104.

This banquet was held at Wise's tavern[25] and was participated in by WASHINGTON, who upon this festive occasion was elected an honorary Member of Lodge No. 39, upon the Pennsylvania register, and thus became a Pennsylvania Freemason, and his name is duly recorded as such upon the minutes of Lodge No. 39.

This fact further contradicts the Anti-Masonic arguments based upon the Snyder letter so extensively used during the years 1826-1833, that WASHINGTON never belonged to any Masonic Lodge, after his initiation in the Fredericksburg Lodge in 1752.

The above note as recorded upon the Minutes of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, shows that WASHINGTON was in complete harmony with the Masonic Fraternity; further, that by his acceptance of membership, WASHINGTON became a Pennsylvania Mason.

Among the cherished relics in the Alexandria Lodge, there is none more valuable than the Masonic portrait of Brother WASHINGTON, which forms the frontispiece of this volume. This was painted from life in pastel, by William Williams, at Philadelphia in 1794.

In the year 1910 a fac-simile of this portrait was made in oil by Miss Fanny M. Burke, an artist of repute, and a great-granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson. This replica made for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is the only one ever made of this portrait and shows Brother WASHINGTON as a man and Mason, neither heroized nor idealized.[26]

[25] John Wise's tavern, in which the above Masonic Banquet was held, is a large three-story brick building still standing on high ground at the northeast corner of Cameron and Fairfax Streets, Alexandria. At that time it had an unobstructed view of the Potomac.

[26] *Vide* "Abstract of Proceedings of the Proceedings Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, During the Year 1910," pp. 110-117.



Place of meeting of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, on the Pennsylvania register, Alexandria, Virginia, where General Washington accepted honorary membership, June 24, 1784.



Washington. Portrait by Jean Antoine Houdon, 1785.

CHAPTER IV

Correspondence with King David's Lodge, No. 1, Rhode Island, August, 1790

The next correspondence in chronological order is the letter, sent in reply to the Address delivered by the Brethren of King David's Lodge, No. 1, at Newport, Rhode Island, to President Washington, August 17, 1790, during his visit to New England.

By referring to the Minutes of this old Lodge following entry is found:

> "At a Lodge, called by request of several Brethren on Tuesday evening, August 17, 5790, an Entered Apprentice Lodge being opened in due form proceeded to business, when it was proposed to address the President of the United States. The R. W. Master (Moses Seixas) Henry Sherburne, and the Secretary, [William Littlefield] were appointed a committee for that purpose, after which the Lodge closed."[27]

Following address was prepared and according to local tradition was publicly presented, by the Committee to President Washington, in the Venerable Sanctuary of the Jewish Congregation at Newport; the Brethren of King David's Lodge being present:

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[27] A copy of the Extracts from the Records of King David's Lodge, No. 1, as made by Ara Hildreth, Esq., is in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Mss. Volume Q, R.I. 7.

Cf. also a verified copy of the Minute in "Proceedings of the Anti-masonic Republican Convention of Massachusetts, Boston, 1832," p. 22.

Cf. also a verified copy of the Minute in "Proceedings of the Anti-Masonic Republican Convention of Massachusetts, Boston, 1832," p. 22.

"TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, *President of the United States of America.*

"We the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of
"King David's Lodge in New Port Rhode Island
"with joyful hearts embrace this opportunity to
"greet you as a Brother, and to hail you welcome
"to Rhode Island. We exult in the thought that
"as Masonry has always been patronised by the
"wise, the good, and the great, so that it stood
"and ever will stand, as its fixtures are on the
"immutable pillars of faith, hope, and charity.

"With unspeakable pleasure we gratulate
"you as filling the presidential chair with the
"applause of a numerous and enlightened people
"Whilst at the same time we felicitate ourselves
"in the honor done the brotherhood by your many
"exemplary virtues and emanations of goodness
"proceeding from a heart worthy of possessing
"the ancient mysteries of our craft; being persuaded
"that the wisdom and grace with which heaven
"has endowed you, will square all your thoughts,
"words, and actions by the eternal laws of honor,
"equity, and truth, so as to promote the advancement
"of all good works, your own happiness, and that
"of mankind.

"Permit us then, illustrious Brother,
"cordially to salute you with three times three
"and to add our fervent supplications that the
"sovereign architect of the universe may always
"encompass you with his holy protection.

"MOSES SEIXAS[28] *Master*
"New Port Augt 17, 1790.*Committee*.
"H^{Y} SHERBURNE

[28] *Vide* "The Jews and Masonry in the United States," by Samuel Oppenheim, New York, 1810, p. 22 *et seq.*

"By order

"Wm Littlefield, *Secy*."

Brother Moses Seixas was born in New York, March 28, 1744; died in New York City, November 29, 1809. He was a merchant in Newport, Rhode Island, and one of the founders of the Newport Bank of Rhode Island, of which he was cashier until his death. He succeeded Brother Moses M. Hays as Worshipful Master of King David's Lodge at Newport. He was also the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. It was Moses Seixas who addressed a letter of welcome in the name of the Jewish congregation to George Washington when the latter visited Newport, and it was to him that Washington's answer was addressed.

The Town Hall at Newport being out of repair at that time the ancient Jewish Synagogue on the main street was used, upon that and several other public occasions. It is an interesting fact that this sacred edifice is still preserved in the same condition as it was during the Colonial period.

So far as known this address was the first of Masonic import made to Washington as President. Unfortunately, the exact date of presentation and receipt of his answer is not known to a certainty, as there does not appear to be any date upon either the original documents or the copies in Washington's letter book.

The original address and Washington's reply to the Master, Wardens and Brethren of King David's Lodge in Newport, the latter signed in autograph by Washington, are in the Athenæum collection at Boston, Massachusetts.[29]

Following copy of the President's answer is taken from his letter book.[30] Both address and answer in the letter book are in the handwriting of Major William Jackson, secretary to the President.

A photostat of the original entry is in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It will be noted that there is neither place nor date given.

President Washington arrived at Newport, R.I., at eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, August 17, 1790. On the next day, Wednesday,

[29] Cf. "Catalogue of the Washington Collection in the Boston Athenæum," Boston, 1897, p. 331.

[30] Letterbook II, p. 29.

To the master, Wardens, and Brethren of
King Davids Lodge in Newport Rhode Island.

Gentlemen

I receive the welcome which you give me to Rhode-Island with pleasure, and I acknowledge my obligations for the flattering expressions of regard, contained in your address, with grateful sincerity.

Being perswaded that a just application of the principles, on which the masonic fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother.

My best wishes, Gentlemen, are offered for your individual happiness.

G. Washington

Fac-simile of reply to King David's Lodge, No. 1, Newport, R. I. Letter Book II, Folio 29.

the President and his suite left on the Packet "Hancock" at nine o'clock in the morning for Providence.

His company consisted of Governor Clinton of New York, Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, Senator Theodore Foster, Judge Blair, Mr. Smith of South Carolina and Mr. Gorman of New Hampshire; members of Congress.[31]

Washington left Providence, Saturday, August 21, and arrived in New York upon the following day, Sunday, August 22, 1790,[32] and sent the following reply to the Newport Brethren:

"To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of
"King Davids Lodge in Newport Rhode Island."

"*Gentlemen*,

"I receive the welcome which you
"give me to Rhode Island with pleasure, and I
"acknowledge my obligations for the flattering
"expressions of regard, contained in your address,
"with grateful sincerity.

"Being persuaded that a just
"application of the principles, on which the Masonic
"Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of
"private virtue and public prosperity, I shall
"always be happy to advance the interests of
"the Society, and to be considered by them as
"a deserving brother.

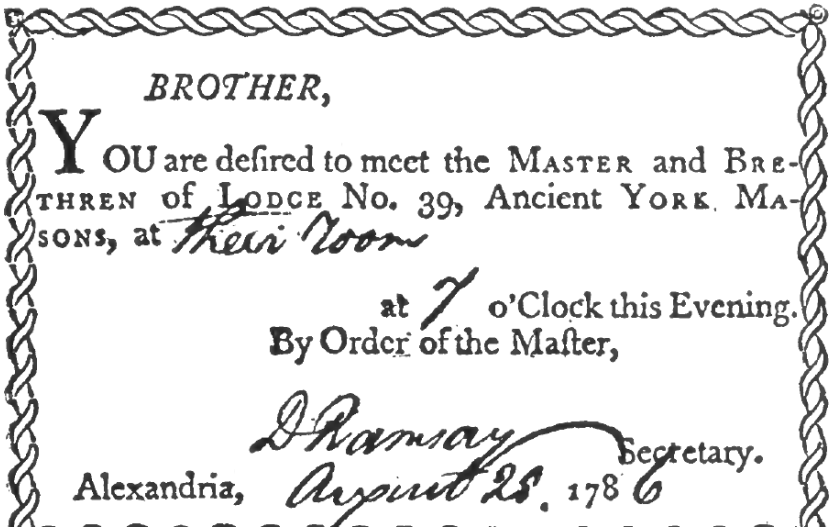
"My best wishes, Gentlemen,
"are offered for your individual happiness."[33]

Go. Washington

[31] Cf. "Washington after the Revolution," W. S. Baker, Philadelphia, 1898, p. 192.

[32] Cf. *Pennsylvania Packet*, August 30-31 1790.

[33] Copy of Address in Letter Book II, pp. 27-28, Photostat of same in Archives of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.



BROTHER,

YOU are desired to meet the MASTER and BRETHREN of LODGE No. 39, Ancient YORK MASONS, at their Room

at 7 o'Clock this Evening.
By Order of the Master,

D Ramsay Secretary.

Alexandria, August 28. 1786

Fac-simile of notice sent to Brother Washington at Mount Vernon to attend his Lodge. Treasured by the wife of President Madison until her death. Original in Archives of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Mss. Vol. A, Folio 81.

CHAPTER V

Correspondence with St. John's Lodge, No. 2 at Newbern, N. C., April, 1791

The next Masonic letter of President Washington was written, in answer to an address by the brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 2, at Newbern, North Carolina, during his southern tour in 1791.

April 7, 1791, Washington started on a tour through the Southern States, by way of Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Petersburg, Virginia; Halifax, Tarborough, Newbern, and Wilmington, North Carolina; Georgetown, and Charleston, South Carolina; and Savannah, Georgia.

When advice of this proposed presidential visit reached Newbern, the brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 2,[34] at the stated meeting held on April 1, 1791, passed the following resolution. "*Resolved*, that an address shall be presented to Brother George Washington, in behalf of this Lodge, on his arriving in this town."[35]

Upon his arrival at Newbern, N. C., April 20, following address was presented to the President,[36] which, together with the reply, has thus far never been in print or noted:

"To the President of the United States of America.

"The Address of St Johns Lodge No. 2 of Newbern.

"*Right Worshipful Sir*,

---

[34] In the latter part of the eighteenth century, St. John's Lodge, No. 2, at Newbern, was very active, at which time it built a two-story theatre and Masonic Hall, and took part in a number of local matters.

[35] Extract from Minutes by Brother J. F. Rhem, M.D., Newbern, N. C.

[36] Letter Book 2, pp. 47-48 in Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.; photostat in Archives of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

"We the Master, Officers, and Members of St.
"Johns Lodge No 2, of Newbern, beg leave to hail
"you welcome with three times three.

"We approach you not with the language of
"adulation, but sincere fraternal affection—your
"works having proved you to be the true and faith-
"ful brother, the skilful and expert Craftsman, the
"just and upright man, But the powers of elo-
"quence are too feeble to express with sufficient
"energy the cordial warmth with which our bosoms
"glow toward you.

"We therefore most ardently wish, most fervently
"and devoutly pray, That the Providence of the
"most high may strengthen, establish, and protect
"you, in your walk through this life; and when you
"shall be called off from your terrestrial labours by
"command of our divine grand master, and your
"operations sealed with the mark of his approbation,
"may your soul be eternally refreshed with the
"streams of living water which flow at the right
"hand of God, and when the supreme architect of
"all worlds shall collect his most precious jewels as
"ornaments of the celestial Jerusalem, may you
"everlastingly shine among those of the brightest
"lustre.

"We are in our own behalf, and that of the
"Members of this Lodge,
"Right worshipful Sir;
"St Johns Lodge No. 2.
"Your true and faithful brethren
"April 20th 5791.
"ISAAC GUION *Master*.
"SAMUEL CHAPMAN *Senior Warden*.
"WILLIAM JOHNSTON, *Junior Warden*.

"Solomon Halling, Edw. Pasteur, Ja^s Carney, F. Lowthrop.
"*Members of the Committee*."

Brothers: Isaac Guion, Worshipful Master, Samuel Chapman, Senior Warden, William Johnston, Junior Warden, and Solomon Halling, signers to above petition had all seen service in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Brother Guion served as Surgeon and Paymaster; Brother Chapman, Captain in 8th North Carolina, serving until the close of the War; Brother Johnston, Captain in North Carolina Militia and present at Kings Mountain.

Brother Halling was Surgeon of the 4th Carolina Regiment and served until the close of the War.

Washington's Reply[37] to the Brethren of St. John's Lodge.

"To the Master, Wardens, and Members of S^t
John's Lodge No. 2 of Newbern.

"*Gentlemen*,

"I receive the cordial welcome which you
"are pleased to give me with sincere gratitude.

"My best ambition having ever aimed at
"the unbiassed approbation of my fellow-citizens,
"it is peculiarly pleasing to find my conduct
"so affectionately approved by a fraternity whose as-
"sociation is founded in justice and benevolence.

"In reciprocating the wishes contained
"in your address, be persuaded that I offer a sincere
"prayer for your present and future happiness.

Go. Washington

"At the following Meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 2, April 29, 1791, the Master laid before the Lodge the answer of Brother George Washington ordered that it be read, which being done, Resolved that it be entered on Minutes of this Lodge."[38] "The Address to Brother Washington and his answer are both on the

[37] *Ibid.*, p. 49; photostat in Archives of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
[38] Extract from Minutes by Brother J. F. Rhem, M.D., Newbern, N. C.

To the President of the United States of America

The address of St. Johns. Lodge N.° 2. of Newbern

Right worshipful Sir.

We the Master, Officers, and members of St Johns Lodge N.° 2. of Newbern, beg leave to bail you welcome with three times three.

We approach you not with the language of adulation, but sincere fraternal affection. your works having proved you to be the true and faithful brother - the skilful and expert Craftsman - the just and upright man. — But the powers of eloquence are too feeble to express with sufficient energy the cordial warmth with which our bosoms glow towards you We therefore most ardently wish - most fervently and devoutly pray - That the Providence of the most high may strengthen, establish, and protect you, in your walk through this life; and when you shall be called off

Fac-simile of address from St. John's Lodge, No. 2, Newbern, N. C. Letter Book II, Folio 47–48. First page.

from your terrestrial labours by command of our divine grand master, and your operations sealed with the mark of his approbation - may your soul be eternally refreshed with the streams of living water which flow at the right hand of God — and when the supreme architect of all worlds shall collect his most precious jewels as as Ornaments of the celestial Jerusalem - may you everlastingly shine among those of the brightest lustre

We are in our own behalf, and that of the members of this Lodge,

right worshipful Sir,

your true and faithful brethren

St. John's Lodge N.º 2.
April 29th 5791

Isaac Guion master
Samuel Chapman Senior Warden
William Johnston junior Warden
Solomon Hallens, Edw. Patteur, Jas. Barnes, F. Lowthorpe
Members of the Committee.

Fac-simile of address from St. John's Lodge, No. 2, Newbern, N. C. Letter Book II, Folio 47–48. Second page.

Minutes of the Lodge. The original letter may have been lost during the late unpleasantness, as the Lodge lost nearly everything it possessed."[39]

[39] Brother J. F. Rhem, Newbern, N. C., in letter to Brother A. B. Andrews, Jr., December 14, 1914.

CHAPTER VI

Correspondence with Prince George's Lodge, No. 16, Georgetown, S. C., April, 1791

Washington left Newbern, North Carolina, under an escort of horse, April 22, 1791, and arrived at Georgetown, South Carolina, by way of Wilmington, N. C., Saturday, April 30, where he was received with a salute of cannon, and by a company of infantry, and during the afternoon was presented with the following address, by a Committee of Prince George's Lodge, No. 16 (Moderns), of Georgetown, South Carolina.

This Lodge was one of the original six Lodges, which had been warranted prior to 1756 in South Carolina, under the Jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and through it, the Grand Lodge of England. It is the only instance where a Lodge of the "Moderns" addressed Brother Washington:

"To Our illustrious Brother George Washington.

"*President of the United States.*

"At a time when all men are emulous to approach
"you to express the lively sensations you inspire as
"the Father of our country. Permit us the Brethren
"of Prince George's Lodge No. 16 to have our share
"in the general happiness in welcoming you to
"Georgetown, and the pleasure of reflecting that we
"behold in you the liberator of our country. the
"distributor of its equal laws, and a Brother of our
"most ancient and most honorable Order.

"At the same time indulge us in congratulating

"you on the truly honorable and happy situation in
"which you now stand, as the Grand Conductor of
"the political interests of these United States.

"Having by your manly efforts caused the beau-
"teous light of liberty to beam on this western hemi-
"sphere, and by the wisdom Heaven has graciously
"endowed you with established the liberties of
"America on the justest and firmest basis that was
"ever yet recorded in the annuals of history, you
"now enjoy the supremest of all earthly happiness
"that of diffusing peace, liberty, and safety to mil-
"lions of your fellow-citizens.

"As a true reward for your patriotic, noble and
"exalted services we fervently pray the Grand Archi-
"tect of the universe long to bless you with health,
"stability, and power to continue you the Grand
"Pillar of the arch of liberty in this vast empire,
"which you have been so eminently distinguished in
"raising to this pitch of perfection at which we now
"behold it.

"May the residue of your life be spent in ease
"content and happiness, and as the Great Parent of
"these United States may you long live to see your
"children flourish under your happy auspices and
"may you be finally rewarded with eternal happiness.

"We conclude our present address with a fervent
"wish that you will continue as you have hitherto
"been, the friend of our ancient and honorable
"Order, and of all worthy Masons.

I. WHITE
R. GRANT *Committee from*
A^{B}. COHEN *Prince George's Lodge.*
JOS. BLYTH.
J. CARSON.

"George Town 30th April 1791."

Of the above signers, three of the brethren had served in the War for Independence, viz.: Brother Isaac White, Lieutenant in North Carolina Militia at Kings Mountain; Brother Reuben Grant, Ensign in the 6th North Carolina Infantry, and Brother Joseph Blythe, Surgeon in 1st North Carolina Regiment, taken prisoner at Charleston, May 12th, 1780; exchanged June 14, 1781; in 4th North Carolina in February, 1782, and served to close of war.

The following reply unfortunately bears no date. Both address and reply were entered in Washington Letter Book, No. II, folio 60-61. It is not known what has became of the originals. No notice or copies of either of the above documents have thus far been published.

Washington's Reply.

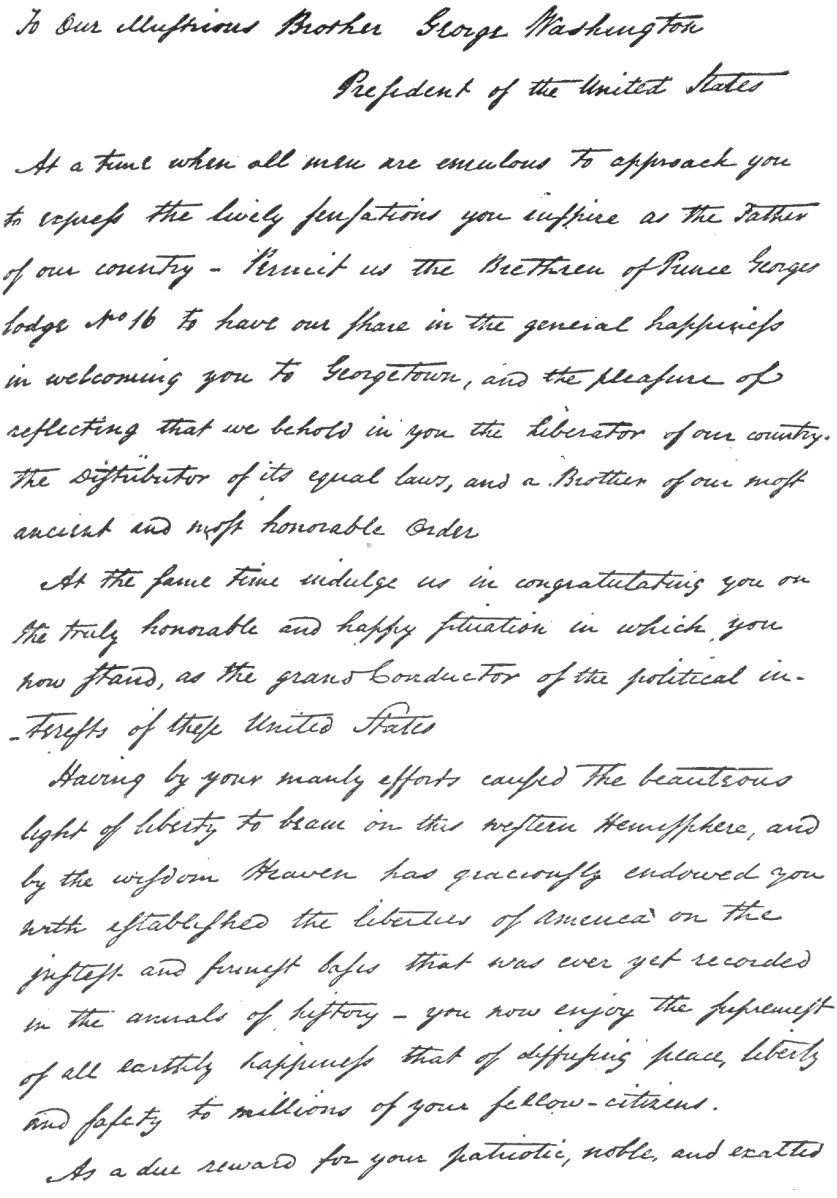
"To the Brethren of Prince George's Lodge,
No. 16.

"*Gentlemen*:

"The cordial welcome which you give me
"to George Town, and the congratulations, you are
"pleased to offer on my election to the chief
"magistracy receive my grateful thanks.

"I am much obliged by your good wishes
"and reciprocate them with sincerity, assuring the
"fraternity of my esteem, I request them to believe
"that I shall always be ambitious of being considered
"a deserving Brother.

Go. Washington



To Our illustrious Brother George Washington
President of the United States

At a time when all men are emulous to approach you to express the lively sensations you inspire as the Father of our country - permit us the Brethren of Prince George lodge No 16 to have our share in the general happiness in welcoming you to Georgetown, and the pleasure of reflecting that we behold in you the Liberator of our country. the distributor of its equal laws, and a Brother of our most ancient and most honorable Order

At the same time indulge us in congratulating you on the truly honorable and happy situation in which you now stand, as the grand Conductor of the political interests of these United States

Having by your manly efforts caused the beauteous light of liberty to beam on this western Hemisphere, and by the wisdom Heaven has graciously endowed you with established the liberties of America on the justest and firmest basis that was ever yet recorded in the annals of history - you now enjoy the supremest of all earthly happiness that of diffusing peace, liberty and safety to millions of your fellow-citizens.

As a due reward for your patriotic, noble, and exalted

Fac-simile of address from the Brethren of Prince George's Lodge, No. 16, Georgetown, South Carolina, April, 1791. Letter Book II, 59–60. First page.

services we fervently pray the grand Architect of the universe long to bless you with health, stability, and power to continue you the grand Pillar of of the rock of liberty in this vast empire, which you have been so eminently distinguished in raising to this pitch of perfection at which we now behold it.

May the residue of your life be spent in ease content and happiness — and as the Great Parent of these United States may you long live to see your children flourish under your happy auspices and may you be finally rewarded with eternal happiness.

We conclude our present address with a fervent wish that you will continue as you have hitherto been, the friend of our ancient and honorable Order — and of all worthy Masons

J. White
R. Grant
M Cohen
Jos Blyth
J. Carson

} Committee from Prince George's Lodge

George Town 30th April 1791.

Fac-simile of address from the Brethren of Prince George's Lodge, No. 16, Georgetown, South Carolina, April, 1791. Letter Book II, 59–60. Second page.





General Mordecai Gist (born Baltimore, Maryland, 1743; died Charleston, South Carolina, 1792), who as Grand Master of South Carolina signed the address to Brother Washington.

CHAPTER VII

Correspondence with Grand Lodge of South Carolina, May, 1791

President Washington left Georgetown at six o'clock in the evening, May 1, 1791, reaching Charleston, South Carolina, Monday, May 2, in a twelve-oared barge rowed by twelve American captains of ships accompanied by a great number of boats with gentlemen and ladies in them, and two boats with music.[40] Brother Washington remained in Charleston until May 9.

Wednesday, May 4, 1791, General Mordecai Gist, an old companion in arms of Washington, and formerly Master of the Military Lodge in the Maryland line (No. 27 upon the register of Pennsylvania),[41] but now Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of South Carolina, attended by the other present and past grand officers,[42] waited on their beloved brother, the president of the United States, and presented the following address:[43]

"*Sir*—Induced by a respect for your public and private character, as well as the relation in which you stand with the brethren of this society, we the Grand Lodge of the State of South Carolina, Ancient York Masons, beg leave to offer our sincere congratulations on your arrival in this state.

[40] Washington's Diary.

[41] Cf. "Old Masonic Lodges in Pennsylvania," Philadelphia, 1913, Vol. 2, p. 53 *et seq.*

[42] Brother William Drayton, Past Grand Master; Brother Mordecai Gist, Grand Master; Brother Thomas B. Bowen, Deputy Grand Master; Brother George Miller, Senior Grand Warden; Brother John Mitchell, Junior Grand Warden; Brother Thomas Gates, Grand Chaplain; Brother Robert Knox, Grand Treasurer; Brother Alexandrer Alexander, Grand Secretary; Brother Israel Meyers, Grand Tiler.

[43] *City Gazette*, Friday, May 6, 1791, p. 2, column 4.

"We felicitate you on the establishment and exercise of a permanent government, whose foundation was laid under your auspices by military achievements, upon which have been progressively reared the pillars of the free republic over which you preside, supported by wisdom, strength, and beauty unrivalled among the nations of the world.

"The fabric thus raised and committed to your superintendence, we earnestly wish may continue to produce order and harmony to succeeding ages, and be the asylum of virtue to the oppressed of all parts of the universe.

"When we contemplate the distresses of war, the instances of humanity displayed by the Craft afford some relief to the feeling mind; and it gives us the most pleasing sensation to recollect, that amidst the difficulties attendant on your late military stations, you still associated with, and patronized the Ancient Fraternity.

"Distinguished always by your virtues, more than the exalted stations in which you have moved, we exult in the opportunity you now give us of hailing you brother of our Order, and trust from your knowledge of our institution, to merit your countenance and support.

"With fervent zeal for your happiness, we pray that a life so dear to the bosom of this society, and to society in general, may be long, very long preserved; and when you leave the temporal symbolic lodges of this world, may you be received into the celestial lodge of light and perfection, where the Grand Master Architect of the Universe presides.

"Done in behalf of the Grand Lodge.

"M. GIST, G. M."[44]

"Charleston, 2d May, 1791."

To this address WASHINGTON returned the following reply.[45]

"*Gentlemen*:—I am much obliged by the respect which you are so good as to declare for my public and private character. I recognize with pleasure my relation to the brethren of your Society, and I

[44] For full account of Lodge 27 and Brother Gist, *vide* "Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania," before quoted, Vol. II, pp. 53-63.

[45] Cf. Hayden, "Washington and his Masonic Compeers," p. 135.

accept with gratitude your congratulations on my arrival in South Carolina.

"Your sentiments, on the establishment and exercise of our equal government, are worthy of an association, whose principles lead to purity of morals, and are beneficial of action.

"The fabric of our freedom is placed on the enduring basis of public virtue, and will, I fondly hope, long continue to protect the prosperity of the architects who raised it. I shall be happy, on every occasion, to evince my regard for the Fraternity. For your prosperity individually, I offer my best wishes."

Go. Washington

This letter was probably destroyed with other Grand Lodge property when Columbia, South Carolina, was burned by Sherman's Army during the war between the States.[46]

Fortunately, the original draft of Washington's reply, was found among the Washington papers now in the Library of Congress. This is written upon two pages of a letter sheet: the first page shows a paragraph which was suppressed and did not appear upon the clear copy sent to the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of South Carolina.

A photostat of this draft is in the collection of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, viz.:

"To the Grand Lodge of the State of South
"Carolina Ancient York Masons.

"*Gentlemen*,

"I am much obliged by the respect
"which you are so good as to declare for my
"public and private character. I recognise
"with pleasure my relation to the Brethren
"of your Society—and I accept with gratitude
"your congratulations on my arrival in
"South Carolina.

"*Your felicitations It is peculiarly*
general
"*pleasing to observe the ∧ satisfaction expressed*

[46] William C. Mazyck, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, G. L. of South Carolina.

"*on the establishment and exercise of the*
"*federal government*—
"Your sentiments on the establishment
"and exercise of our equal government are
"worthy of an association, whose principles
"lead to purity of morals, and beneficence
"of action—The fabric of our freedom
"is placed on the enduring basis of
"public virtue, and will long continue
"to protect the Posterity of the architects
"who raised it.

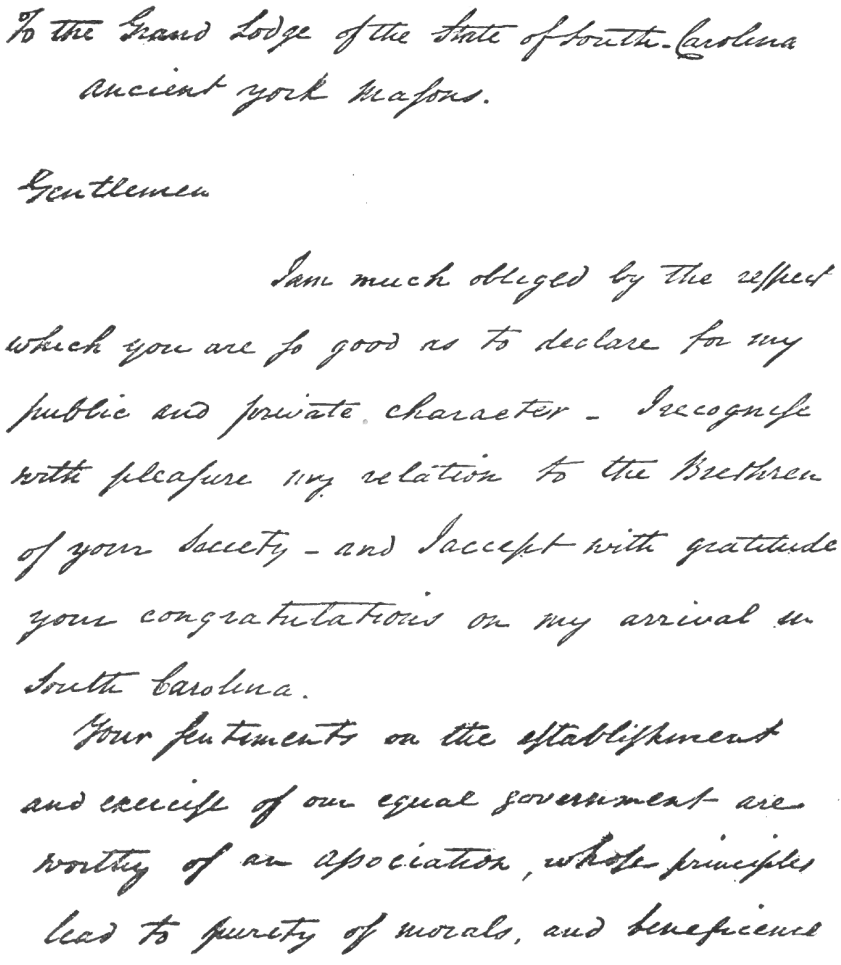
"I shall be happy on every
regard
"occasion to evince my respect for the
"Fraternity, for whose happiness individually
"I offer my best wishes.
Go. Washington

Upon the first page the four lines commencing with "Your felicitations" and ending with "federal government" were crossed out, and as above stated, were not in the reply sent to R. W. Grand Master Gist and his officers.

In the third line from the bottom the word "regard" is substituted for "respect."

Brother Gist was the original Warrant Master of the Regimental Lodge in the Maryland line, No. 27, on the Roster of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. After the war, Brother Gist settled in Charleston, South Carolina, retaining his old Military Warrant, and, in 1786, applied to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, to renew this warrant, for a Lodge to be located at Charleston under the same number. This request was granted, and Brother Gist was again named as Warrant Master.

At the formation of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina Ancient York Masons in 1787, Brother Gist was elected Deputy Grand Master and served as such during the years 1787-88-89, and as Grand Master, 1790-1791.



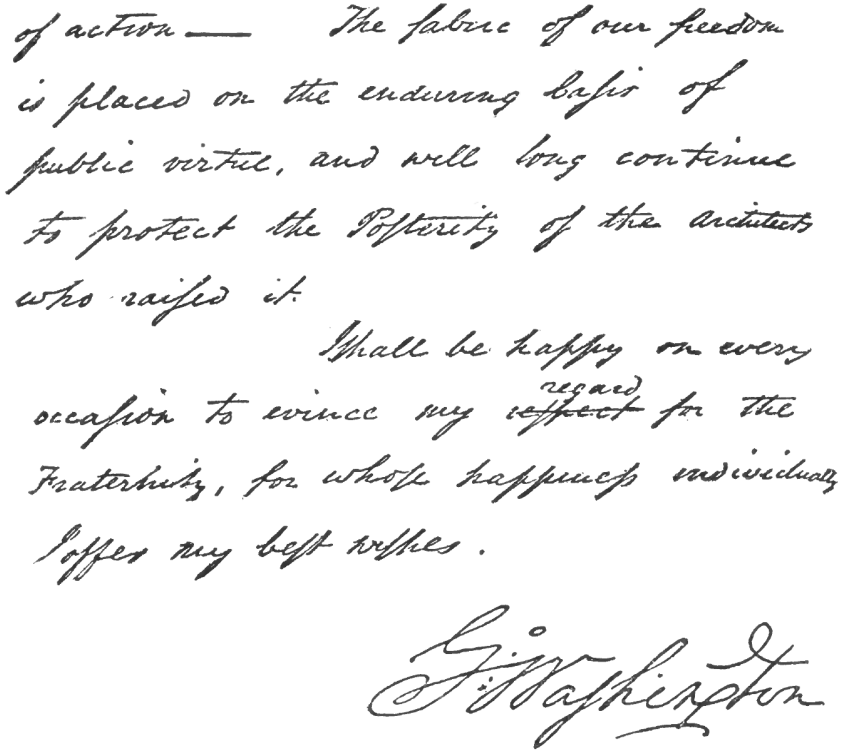
To the Grand Lodge of the State of South-Carolina
ancient york Masons.

Gentlemen

I am much obliged by the respect which you are so good as to declare for my public and private character - I recognise with pleasure my relation to the Brethren of your Society - and I accept with gratitude your congratulations on my arrival in South Carolina.

Your sentiments on the establishment and exercise of our equal government are worthy of an association, whose principles lead to purity of morals, and beneficence

Fac-simile of draft of Washington's reply to address from Grand Lodge of South Carolina, May, 1791, in the handwriting of Major William Jackson. First page.


of action — The fabric of our freedom
is placed on the enduring basis of
public virtue, and will long continue
to protect the Posterity of the architects
who raised it.

I shall be happy on every
occasion to evince my ~~respect~~ regard for the
Fraternity, for whose happiness individually
I offer my best wishes.

G. Washington

Fac-simile of draft of Washington's reply to address from Grand Lodge of South Carolina, May, 1791, in the handwriting of Major William Jackson. Second page.

chapter VIII

Correspondence with Grand Lodge of Georgia, May, 1791

On the way from Charleston, South Carolina, to Savannah, Georgia, Washington called on Mrs. Greene, the widow of late Brother General Nathaniel Greene, at her plantation called Mulberry Grove, reaching Savannah, Georgia, on the evening of Thursday, May 12, 1791.

Saturday, May 14, Washington was waited on by Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Georgia and presented with the following address:[47]

"To the President of the United States.

"*Sir, and Brother*,

"The Grand Master, Officers and Members of the
"Grand Lodge of Georgia, beg leave to congratulate
"you on your arrival in this city. Whilst your ex-
"alted character claims the respect and deference of
"all men, they from the benevolence of masonic prin-
"ciples approach you with the familiar declaration
"of fraternal affection.

"Happy indeed that Society, renowned for its
"antiquity, and pervading influence over the en-
"lightened world, which having ranked a Frederick
"at its head, can now boast of a Washington as a
"Brother. A Brother who it justly hailed the Re-
"deemer of his country, raised it to glory, and by his

[47] Washington Letter Book, II, folio 77. Photostat in Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

"conduct in public and private life has evinced to
"Monarchs that true majesty consists not in splendid
"royalty, but in intrinsic worth.

"With these sentiments they rejoice at your pres-
"ence in this State, and in common with their fellow-
"citizens, greet you, thrice welcome, flattering them-
"selves that your stay will be made agreeable.

"May the great Architect of the Universe pre-
"serve you whilst engaged in the work allotted you
"on earth, and long continue you the brightest pil-
"lar of our Temple, and when the supreme fiat shall
"summon you hence, they pray the might I AM
"may take you into his holy keeping,

"Grand Lodge in Savannah
May 14th 5791.
GEO: HOUSTON,
Grand Master."

Upon the next day, Sunday, May 15, after attending the morning church service, WASHINGTON left Savannah and set out for Augusta, Georgia, halting for dinner at Mulberry Grove, the seat of Mrs. Nathaniel Greene. The following reply to the Masonic address was sent to the Grand Lodge of Georgia,[48] both address and reply now first published:

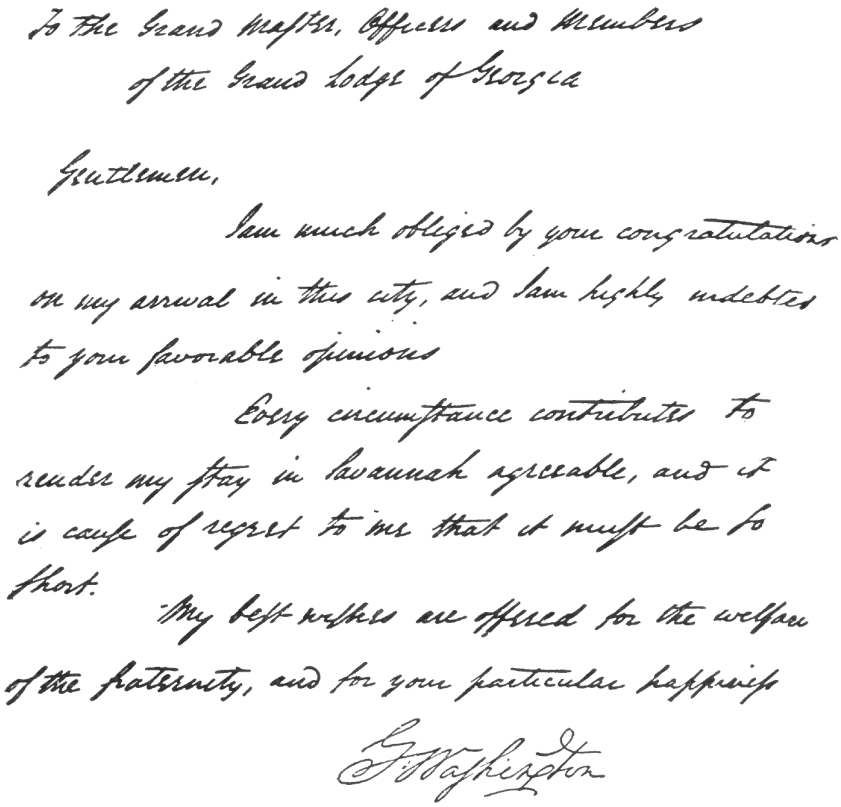
"TO THE GRAND MASTER, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
"OF THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA.

"*Gentlemen*,

"I am much obliged by your congratulations
"on my arrival in this city, and I am highly indebted
"to your favorable opinions.

"Every circumstance contributes to
"render my stay in Savannah agreeable, and it
"is cause of regret to me that it must be so
"short.

[48] Address and Reply, Letter Book II, folio 77-78.



To the Grand Master, Officers and Members
of the Grand Lodge of Georgia

Gentlemen,

I am much obliged by your congratulations on my arrival in this city, and I am highly indebted to your favorable opinions

Every circumstance contributes to render my stay in Savannah agreeable, and it is cause of regret to me that it must be so short.

My best wishes are offered for the welfare of the fraternity, and for your particular happiness

G. Washington

Bro. Washington's reply to address from the Grand Lodge of Georgia, May, 1791. Letter Book II, Folio 78.

"My best wishes are offered for the welfare
"of the fraternity, and for your particular happiness.
Go. Washington



President Washington's residence in Philadelphia, 1790–1797, where the Masonic addresses of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania were delivered. From a contemporary water-color painting belonging to the Library Company of Philadelphia; the figures are those of Washington and Robert Morris.

CHAPTER IX

Correspondence with Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, January 3, 1792

During the Presidential term of Brother Washington, the President, when in Philadelphia, lived in a large double three-story brick mansion, on the south side of Market Street, sixty feet east of Sixth Street, the site of which is now occupied by three stores, viz.: Nos. 526, 528, 530.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania then held its meetings in the upper floor of the Meeting house of the Free Quakers, still standing, at the southwest corner of Arch and Fifth Streets; this was but a short distance from the presidential mansion. Brother Washington was undoubtedly personally acquainted with many of its members, especially such as had been officers during the Revolution, and were fellow members of the Cincinnati.

On St. John's Day, December 27, 1791, a Grand Lodge was opened in ample form,[49] and the Minutes of the last Grand Communication were read, as far as concerns the election of Grand Officers.

The Grand Officers upon this occasion were:
Brother Jonathan Bayard Smith, *R. W. Grand Master*.
Brother Joseph Few, *Deputy Grand Master*.
Brother Thomas Procter, *Senior Grand Warden*.
Brother Gavin Hamilton, *Junior Grand Warden*.
Brother Peter Le Barbier Duplessis, *Grand Secretary*.
Brother Benjamin Mason, *Grand Treasurer*.

[49] Reprint of Minutes of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Vol. I, p. 178.

The Rev. Brother Dr. William Smith then addressed the Brethren in an oration suitable to the Grand Day, and the thanks of the Lodge were given to said Brother William Smith for the same.

After which, on motion and seconded, the Rev. Brother Dr. Smith and the Right Worshipful Grand Officers were appointed a Committee to prepare an address to our Illustrious Brother GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States; and this Lodge was adjourned to the second day of January next to receive the report of said Committee.

> "PHILADELPHIA, January 2^{d}, 1792.
>
> "*Grand Lodge, By Adjournment*,[50]
>
> "A Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, and the Minutes of St. John's Day being read as far as relates to the appointment of a Committee to prepare an Address to our illustrious Brother George Washington, The Rev^{d}. Bro. D^{r}. W^{m}. Smith, one of the said Committee, presented the Draft of one which was read, Whereupon, on Motion and Seconded, the same was unanimously approved of, and Resolved, That the R^{t}. W^{t}. Grand Master, Dep^{y}. G. Master, and Grand Officers, with the Revd Bro. Smith, be a Committee to present the said Address in behalf of this R^{t}. W^{t}. Grand Lodge, signed by the Right Worshipful Grand Master, and Countersigned by the Grand Secretary.
>
> "Lodge closed at half past 9 o'clock in Harmony."

Following is the address presented to Brother WASHINGTON. Both the original draft in the handwriting of Brother William Smith, showing minor alterations, as well as a fair copy, are in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.[51]

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

"*Sir and Brother*:

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[50] *Ibid.*, p. 180.

[51] Mss. Volume A, folio 17, 19, 21.

"The Ancient *York Masons* of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, for the first time assembled in General *Communication* to celebrate the Feast of S^{t}. John the Evangelist, since your Election to the *Chair* of Government in the United States, beg leave to approach you with Congratulations from the East, and in the pride of Fraternal affection to hail you as the *Great Master Builder* (under the Supreme Architect) by whose labours the *Temple of Liberty* hath been reared in the West, exhibiting to the Nations of the Earth a *Model* of *Beauty*, *Order* and *Harmony* worthy of their Imitation and Praise.

"Your Knowledge of the Origin and Objects of our Institution; its Tendency to promote the Social Affections and harmonize the Heart, give us a sure pledge that this tribute of our Veneration, this Effusion of our Love will not be ungrateful to you; nor will Heaven reject our *Prayer* that you may be long continued to adorn the bright list of Master workmen which our Fraternity in the *terrestrial Lodge*; and that you may be late removed to that *Celestial Lodge* where love and Harmony reign transcendent and Divine; where the great Architect more immediately presides, and where *Cherubim* and *Seraphim*, wafting our Congratulations from *Earth to Heaven*, shall hail you *Brother*.

"By order and in behalf of the Grand
(Seal) "Lodge of Pennsylvania in general Com-
"munication assembled in ample form.

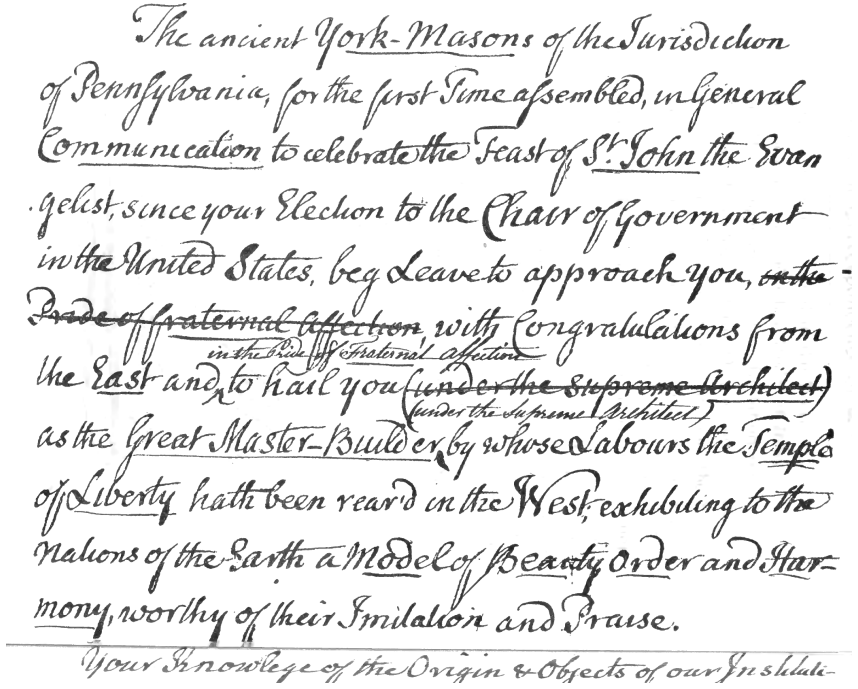
(Signed) *J. B. Smith*, G. M.

"Attest: *P. Le Barbier Duplessis*, G^{d}. Secry.

On January 3, 1792, Jonathan Bayard Smith, the Right Worshipful Grand Master, together with the Grand Officers and Rev. Brother William Smith called on the President and delivered the above address.

The deputation was received in the dining room of the presidential mansion. This was a room about thirty feet long, and where Washington was accustomed to receive delegations.

At the Quarterly Communication held March 5, 1792, the Right Worshipful Grand Master Jonathan B. Smith informed the Brethren that, in conformity to the resolve of this Grand Lodge, he had, in company with the Grand Officers and the Rev. Brother D^{r}. Smith,


The ancient York-Masons of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, for the first Time assembled, in General Communication to celebrate the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, since your Election to the Chair of Government in the United States, beg Leave to approach you, ~~on the Pride of fraternal Affection~~ in the Pride of Fraternal Affection, with Congratulations from the East and to hail you ~~under the Supreme Architect~~ (under the Supreme Architect) as the great Master-Builder, by whose Labours the Temple of Liberty hath been rear'd in the West, exhibiting to the Nations of the Earth a Model of Beauty Order and Harmony, worthy of their Imitation and Praise.

Your Knowlege of the Origin & Objects of our Institu-

Fac-simile of the original address read before President Washington by Rev. Bro. William Smith, D.D., January 3, 1792. Original in Archives of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Mss. Volume A, Folio 21. First page.

presented the address to our illustrious Brother George Washington and had received an answer, which was read.

"To the ancient YORK MASONS of the
"Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania.

"*Gentlemen and Brothers*,

"I receive your kind Congratulations
"with the purest sensations of fraternal affection:—and
"from a heart deeply impressed with your generous
"wishes for my present and future happiness, I beg
"you to accept my thanks.

"At the same time I request you will
"be assured of my best wishes and earnest prayers
"for your happiness while you remain in this terres-
"tial Mansion, and that we may thereafter meet
"as brethren in the Eternal Temple of the
"Supreme Architect.

Go. Washington

Whereupon, on motion and seconded, Resolved, unanimously, that the said address and the answer thereto, shall be entered on the minutes.

This answer, in possession of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, is in the handwriting of Tobias Lear, who was the private secretary of the President, and for years attended to the details of Washington's domestic affairs, and was liberally remembered by him in his will.

The letter was signed by Washington, who had both the address and answer copied verbatim in one of his letter books[52] by Bartholomew Dandridge, secretary to the President. A photostat copy of above, together with the original answer by Washington is in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

This address was read by Rev. Brother William Smith, one of the most noted Episcopal preachers in Philadelphia, and the first Provost of the College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania. Brother William Smith, D.D., had been an active member of the Masonic Fraternity in Pennsylvania for forty years; he was

[52] Letter Book II, pp. 104-105.

the Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Moderns for almost a quarter of a century. In winter of 1778 he joined the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons, and for some time served as Grand Secretary.[53]

Jonathan Bayard Smith, the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, was one of Philadelphia's prominent citizens. During the Revolutionary period he was an ardent patriot; he was among the earliest of those who espoused the cause of independence. In 1775 he was chosen secretary of the Committee of Safety, and in February, 1777, he was elected by the assembly a delegate to the Continental Congress. He was a second time chosen to this post, serving in the congresses of 1777-8. From April 4, 1777, till Nov. 13, 1778, he was prothonotary of the court of Common Pleas.

On December 1, 1777, he presided at the public meeting, in Philadelphia, of "Real Whigs," by whom it was resolved "That it be recommended to the council of safety that in this great emergency ... every person between the age of sixteen and fifty years be ordered out under arms." During this year he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of a battalion of "Associators."

In 1778 he was appointed a justice of the court of Common Pleas, Quarter Sessions, and Orphans' Court, which post he held for many years. He was appointed in 1781, one of the auditors of the accounts of Pennsylvania troops in the service of the United States. In 1792, and subsequently, he was chosen an alderman of the city, which was an office of great dignity in his day, and in 1794 he was elected auditor-general of Pennsylvania.

Brother Jonathan B. Smith was an active member of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He was the Senior Grand Warden in 1786, at the time when the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania: "*Resolved*, that the Grand Lodge is, and ought to be perfectly independent and free of any such foreign jurisdiction."[54]

In the two following years he was appointed Deputy Grand Master by Right Worshipful Grand Master William Adcock; he was elected Right Worshipful Grand Master in 1789 and served in that capacity for six years (1789-1794). In the year 1798 he was again elected to that honorable office, serving five more consecutive years

[53] Cf. "Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania," Vol. I, p. 201.

[54] Cf. Reprint of Minutes of Grand Lodge, Vol. I, p. 96 *et seq.*

(1798 to 1802), when he declined reëlection. The following action was taken by the Grand Lodge:[55]

> "On Motion made and Seconded the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania impressed with a grateful sense of the long assiduous and highly useful labours of their late R. W. Grand Master, Bro^{r} Jonathan Bayard Smith, Esqr, previous to and during his service in the high Station which he has left, Resolved Unanimously, That the most respectful Thanks of the said G. Lodge be presented to their said Brother Jonathan Bayard Smith for the eminent services he has rendered to the Craft generally and more especially for the able, diligent and impartial manner in which he has discharged the Duties of the Chair and while they deplore the necessity of his now retiring from the Official Station amongst them which he has so Honourably filled, they hope for a continuance of his Brotherly Love, Aid and information and finally that he be requested to receive the best wishes of the Grand Lodge for a prolongation of his useful life, a commensurate enjoyment of his Health and his final Happiness in the Mansion of Everlasting Rest."

Brother Joseph Few, Deputy Grand Master, was also a Revolutionary Soldier, having served as Regimental Quarter Master with the 4th Continental Artillery.

Brother Thomas Procter, Senior Grand Warden, formerly Colonel of the Pennsylvania Artillery, and Warrant Master of the Military Lodge, No. 19, upon the Roster of Pennsylvania was prominent in both civil and political affairs during Washington's administration. A full account of Brother Thomas Procter and this Military Lodge will be found in the History of the Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania, published by the Grand Lodge in 1913.[56]

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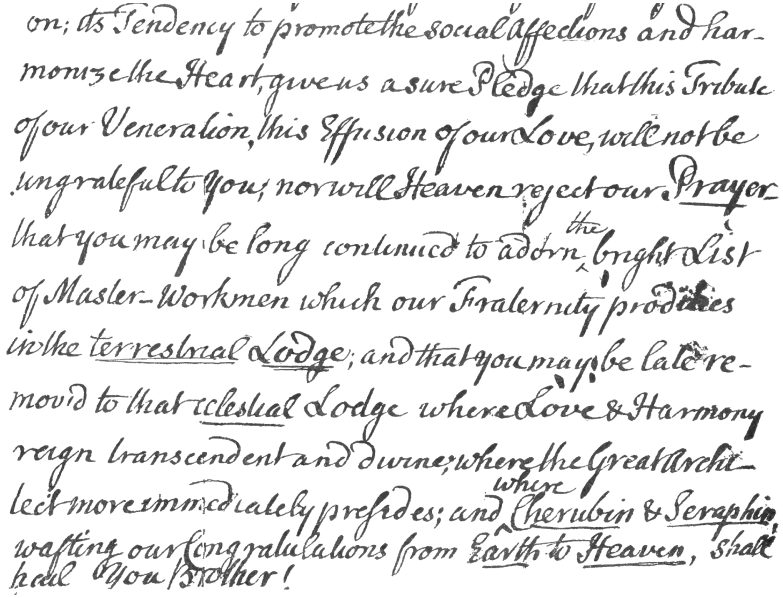
[55] *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 68.

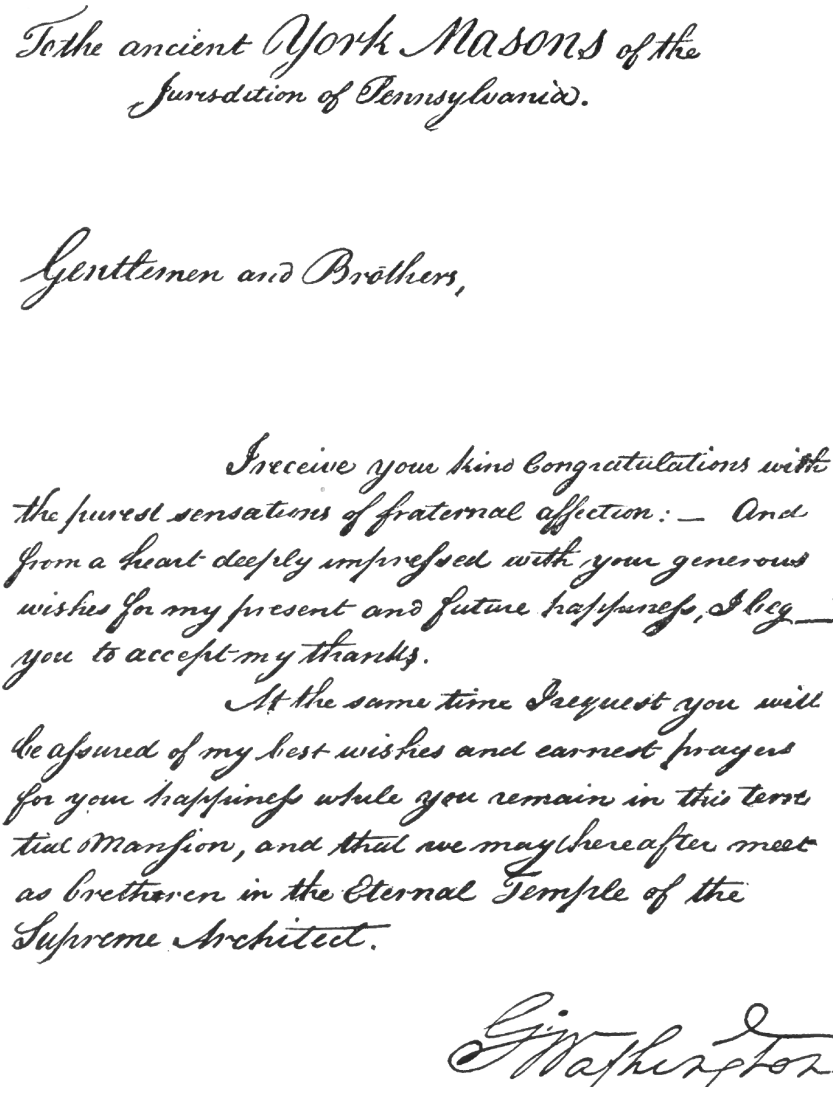
[56] Volume II, Chapter XXVI, pp. 1-36. Cf. also "Freemasonry in Pennsylvania," Vol. I and II, for various references to Col. Procter.

For a sketch of Brother Peter Le Barbier Duplessis, the reader is referred to the same volume.[57]

[57] Cf. "Old Lodges," Vol. II, pp. 256 *et seq.*


on; its Tendency to promote the social Affections and harmonize the Heart, gives us a sure Pledge that this Tribute of our Veneration, this Effusion of our Love, will not be ungrateful to You; nor will Heaven reject our Prayer that you may be long continued to adorn the bright List of Master-Workmen which our Fraternity produces in the terrestrial Lodge; and that you may be late removed to that celestial Lodge where Love & Harmony reign transcendent and divine; where the Great Architect more immediately presides; and where Cherubin & Seraphim wafting our congratulations from Earth to Heaven, shall hail You Brother!

Fac-simile of the original address read before President Washington by Rev. Bro. William Smith, D.D., January 3, 1792. Second page.


To the ancient York Masons of the
Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania.

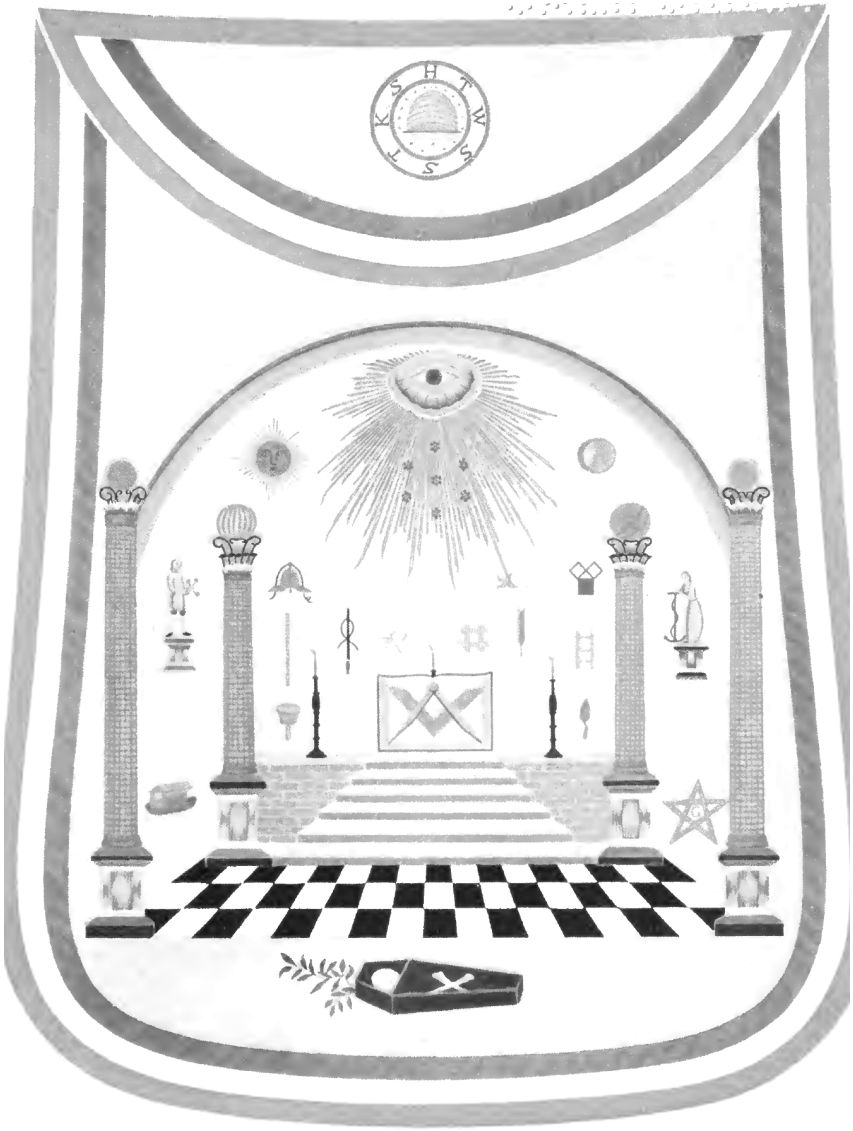
Gentlemen and Brothers,

I receive your kind Congratulations with the purest sensations of fraternal affection: — And from a heart deeply impressed with your generous wishes for my present and future happiness, I beg — you to accept my thanks.

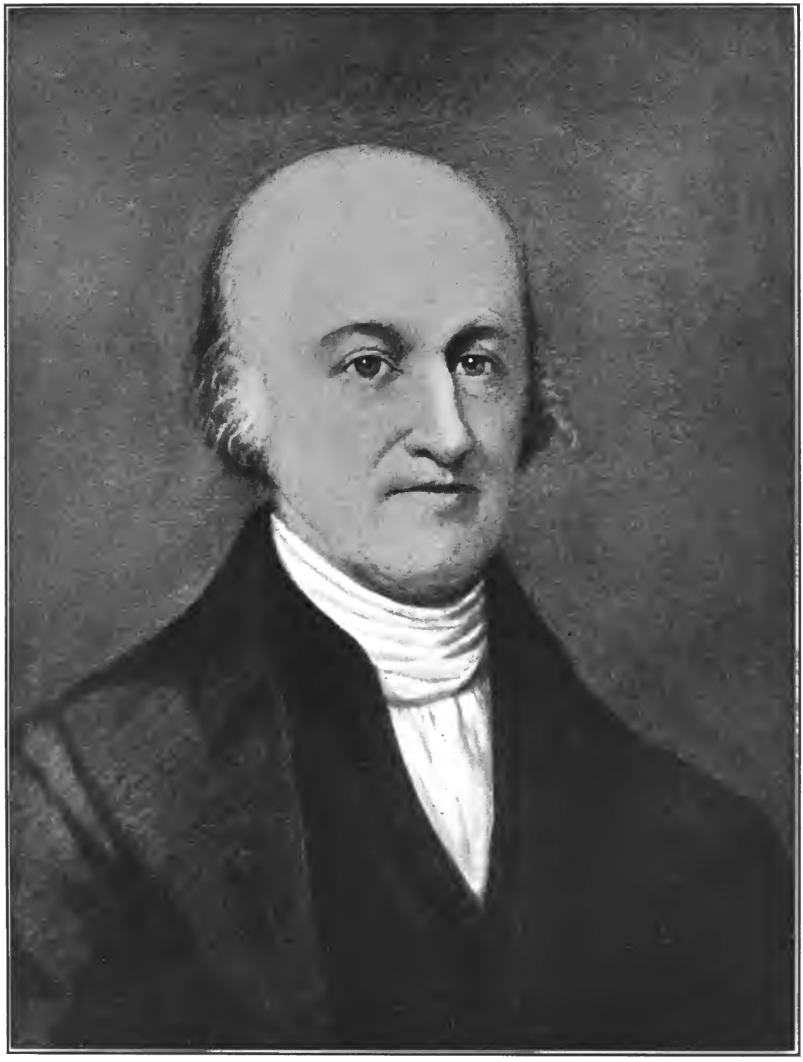
At the same time I request you will be assured of my best wishes and earnest prayers for your happiness while you remain in this terrestial Mansion, and that we may hereafter meet as Brethren in the Eternal Temple of the Supreme Architect.

Go. Washington

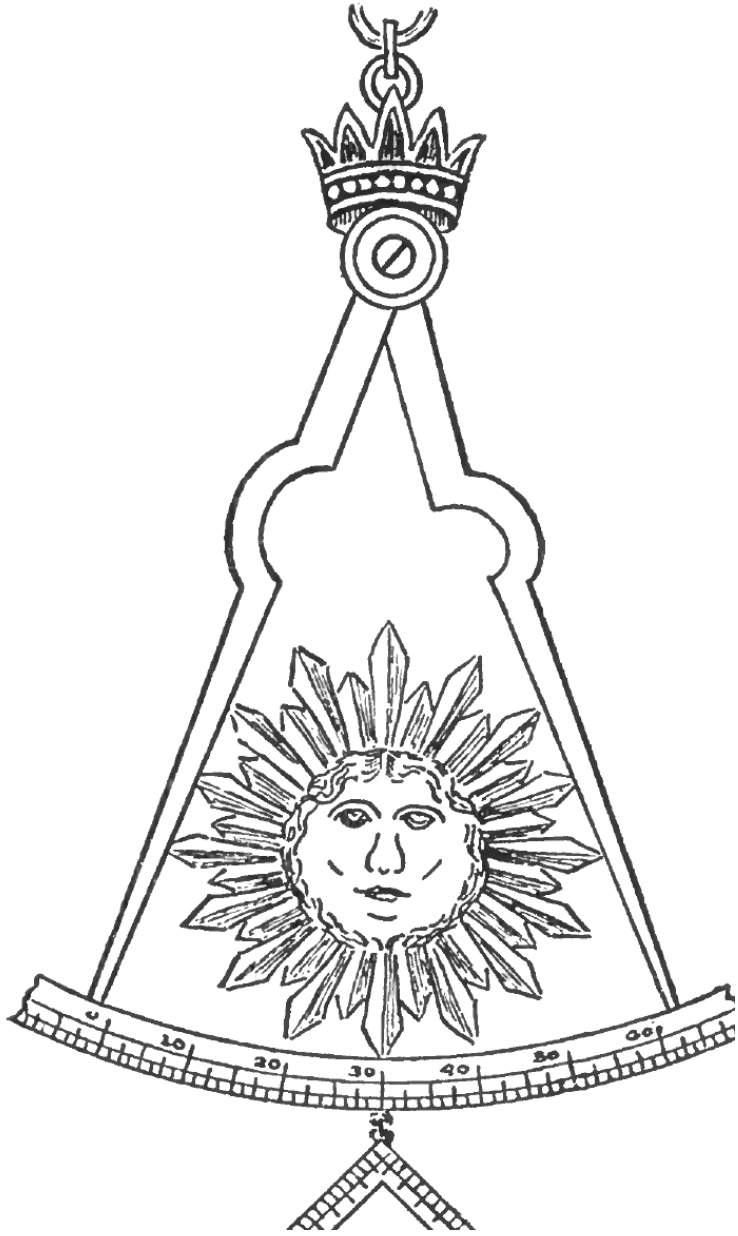
Fac-simile of Washington's reply to Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, January, 1792. Original in Archives of the Grand Lodge.



Washington's Masonic apron. Embroidered by Madam Lafayette; presented August, 1784, by Bro. Gen. Lafayette to Bro. Gen. Washington; presented October 26, 1816, by the legatees of Bro. Washington to the Washington Benevolent Society of Pennsylvania; presented July 3, 1829, by the Washington Benevolent Society to the R. W. Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania. Original apron in Museum of the Grand Lodge.



Jonathan Bayard Smith (*born February 21, 1742; died June 16, 1812*), *Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, 1789–1794.*



Washington's Past Master's jewel. Replica in the Museum of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

CHAPTER X

Correspondence with Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, December, 1792

"At Grand Lodge held at Concert Hall, Boston, 10th of December, 5792, being a Quarterly Communication it was

> "*Resolved*, That the Grand Master, with the Grand Wardens, present to our Most Beloved Brother
>
> George Washington,
>
> the new Book of Constitutions, with a suitable address."

At the next Quarterly Communication we find that,

> "Agreeably to a resolve at the last Quarterly Communication, the Grand Master, with his Wardens, reported:
>
> "That they had written to our beloved President and Brother, George Washington, and presented him with a Book of Constitutions, to which letter he had been pleased to make answer. The letter and answer were read, and Voted to be inserted in the records of the Grand Lodge."

This address was evidently sent to President Washington at Philadelphia, and was answered from the presidential office in that city. No date nor place appears upon either the original so far as known, nor the copy in the letter book, both address and reply therein being in the handwriting of Bartholomew Dandridge, Secretary to the President.

The following copy of both address and reply are taken from Letter Book II, folio 106-108.

"An Address of the Grand Lodge of Free &
"Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth
"of Massachusetts, To their honored and
"Illustrious Brother.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"Whilst the Historian is describing the
"career of your glory, and the inhabitants
"of an extensive Empire are made happy
"in your unexampled exertions:—whilst some
"celebrate the Hero so distinguished in li-
"berating United America; and others the Patriot
"who presides over her Councils, a Band of bro-
"thers, having always joined the acclamations
"of their countrymen, now testify their res-
"pect for those milder virtues which have
"ever graced the man.

"Taught by the precepts of our Society;
"that all its members *stand upon a level*, we
"venture to assume this station & to approach
"you with that freedom which diminishes
"our diffidence without lessening our respect.

"Desirous to enlarge the boundaries of
"social happiness, and to vindicate the cere-
"monies of their institution, this Grand Lodge
"have published a"Book of Constitutions," (and
"a copy for your acceptance accompanies
"this) which by discovering the principles that
"actuate will speak the Eulogy of the Society;
"though they fervently wish the conduct of its;
"Members may prove its higher commendation.

"Convinced of his attachment to its

"cause, and readiness to encourage its bene-
"volent designs; they have taken the liberty to
"dedicate this work to one, the qualities of
"whose heart and the actions of whose life
"have contributed to improve personal virtue,
"and extend throughout the world, the most endear-
"ing cordialities; and they humbly hope he will
"pardon this freedom, and accept the tribute of
"their esteem & homage.

"May the supreme architect of the uni-
"verse protect & bless you, give you length of
"days & increase of Felicity in this world, and then
"receive you to the harmonious & exalted So-
"ciety in Heaven.—

"John Cutler, *Grand Master*
"Josiah Bartlett
"Mungo Machey, *Gr^d Wardens*.

"Boston
"Decem. 27, A.D. 1792."

The following reply was sent by President Washington from Philadelphia to the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. It will be noticed that there was no date or place mentioned upon the copy in the Letter Book, nor on the original letter, which at present is believed to be in the Library of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Washington's Reply

"To the Grand Lodge of Free & accepted Ma-
"sons, For the Commonwealth of Massachu-
"setts.

"Flattering as it may be to the human
"mind, & truly honorable as it is to receive
"from our fellow citizens testimonies of appro-
"bation for exertions to promote the public wel-
"fare, it is not less pleasing to know, that the
"milder virtues of the heart are highly respected
"by a Society whose liberal principles must be
"founded in the immutable laws of truth and

"justice.—

"To enlarge the sphere of social happi-
"ness is worthy the benevolent design of a ma-
"sonic institution; and it is most fervently to
"be wished, that the conduct of every member
"of the fraternity, as well as those publications
"that discover the principles which actuate them;
"may tend to convince mankind that the grand
"object of Masonry is to promote the happiness
"of the human race.

"While I beg your acceptance of
"my thanks for the"Book of Constitutions" which
"you have sent me, & the honor you have done
"me in the dedication, permit me to assure you
"that I feel all those emotions of gratitude
"which your affectionate address & cordial
"wishes are calculated to inspire; and I
"sincerely pray that the Great Architect
"of the Universe may bless you here, and
"receive you hereafter into his immortal Temple.
Go. Washington

No fac-simile copy of the original letter was obtainable for the Collection of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

To the Grand Lodge of Free & accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Flattering as it may be to the human mind, & truly honorable as it is to receive from our fellow Citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know, that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a Society whose liberal principles must be founded on the immutable laws of truth and justice.—

To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy the benevolent design of a masonic Institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

While I beg your acceptance of my thanks for the "Book of Constitutions" which you have sent me, & the honor you have done me in the dedication, permit me to assure you, that I feel all those emotions of gratitude which your affectionate address & cordial wishes are calculated to inspire: and I sincerely pray, that the Great Architect of the Universe may bless you here, and receive you hereafter into his immortal Temple.

G. Washington

Washington's reply to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Letter Book II, Folio 108.

CHAPTER XI

Correspondence with Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, December, 1796

September 18, 1796, President Washington issued his farewell address. His second term was drawing to a close; the term had been a more or less exciting one: The passing of the Neutrality Act; Genet's appeal from the executive to the people; the Fugitive Slave Act; the whiskey insurrection in western Pennsylvania; the adoption of the Eleventh amendment; the purchase of peace from Algiers, Tripoli and Tunis; the troubles with Great Britain about the non-delivery of the military posts and later the Jay Treaty, all came within President Washington's second and last term.[58]

During these troublous times Washington had no stauncher supporters than his Masonic Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Further, that Washington kept more or less in touch with his Masonic Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is shown by the fact that he attended the services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, on Third Street below Walnut, on St. John's Day, December 27, 1793, where a charity sermon was preached by Rev. Brother Samuel Magaw, D.D., Vice-Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, before the Grand and Subordinate Lodges for the purpose of increasing the relief fund, for the widows and orphans of the yellow fever epidemic which ravaged the capital city during the past summer.[59]

When the Brethren found that Washington positively declined reëlection in 1796, and that John Adams was elected to succeed him

[58] Cf. The Religious and Social Conditions of Philadelphia, under the Federal Constitution, 1790-1800. Julius F. Sachse, Philadelphia, 1900.

[59] Cf. "Freemasonry in Pennsylvania," before quoted, Vol. II, pp. 190-197; original copy in archives of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

on the fourth of March following, the Brethren of the Grand Lodge at their Quarterly Communication, December 5, 1796, determined that it would be right and proper to present him with an address before his retirement from office, whereupon, it was resolved: "On Motion and seconded, that a Committee be appointed to frame an Address to be presented on the ensuing Feast of St John, Decem^{r} 27th, to the Great Master Workman, our Illustrious Br. Washington, on the occasion of his intended retirement from Public Labor, to be also laid before the said Grand Lodge on St John's Day, and the R^{t} W. Grand Master, Deputy G. M. B^{rs} Sadler, Milnor and Williams, were accordingly appointed."

At a Grand Lodge held on St. John's Day, Philadelphia, December 27, 5796, "The Committee appointed to prepare an Address to our Brother George Washington, President of the United States, presented an Address by them drawn up, which was ordered to be read, and was in the words following, to wit:

"To GEORGE WASHINGTON PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

"The Address of the Grand Lodge of Pennsyl-
"vania.

"*Most Respected Sir and Brother*,

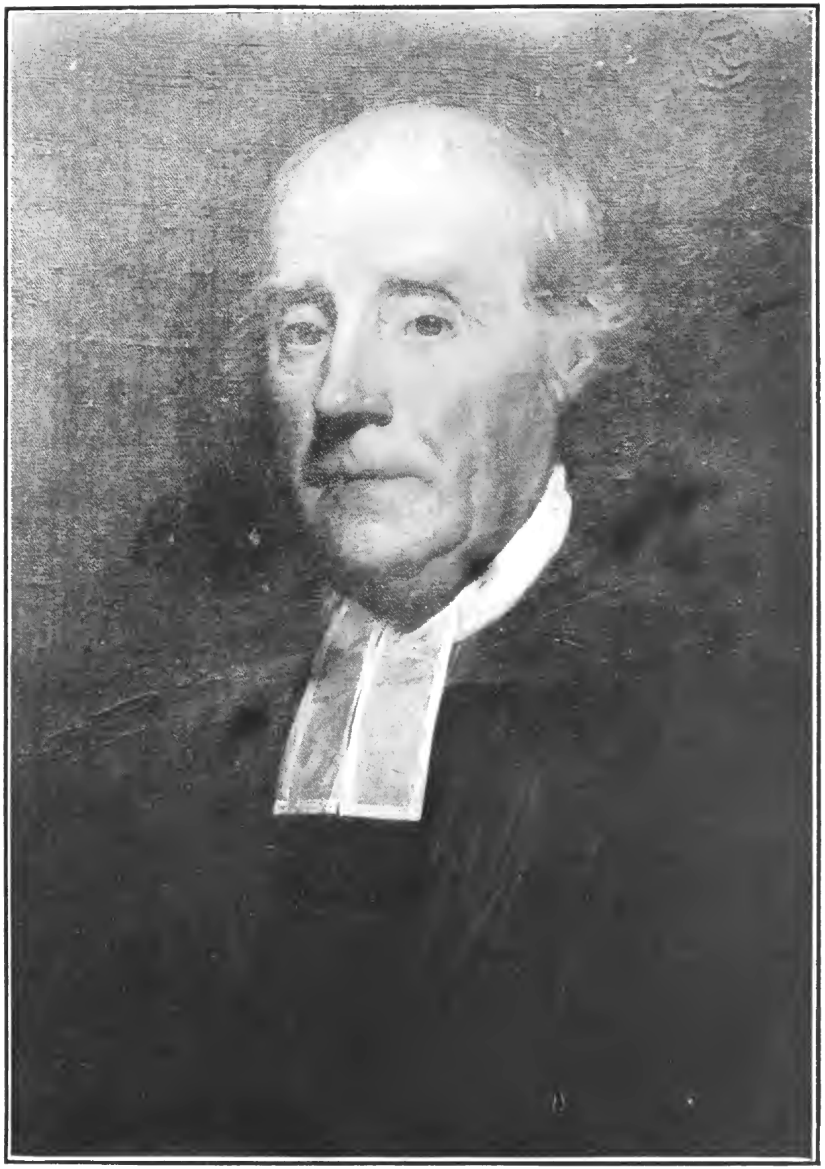
"Having announced your intention to retire from
"*Public Labour* to that *Refreshment* to which your
"preëminent Services for near Half a Century have
"so justly entitled you. Permit the Grand Lodge
"of Pennsylvania at this last Feast of our Evangelic
"Master St. John, on which we can hope for an im-
"mediate Communication with you to join the grate-
"ful Voice of our Country in Acknowledging that
"you have carried forth the Principles of the Lodge
"into every Walk of your Life, by your constant
"Labours for the Prosperity of that Country, by
"your unremitting Endeavours to promote Order,
"Union and Brotherly Affection amongst us, and
"lastly by the Vows of your Farewell Address to
"your Brethren and Fellow Citizens. An Address
"which we trust Our Children and Our Childrens
"Children will ever look upon as a most invaluable
"Legacy from a *Friend* a *Benefactor* and a *Father*.

"To these our grateful Acknowledgments (leav-
"ing to the impartial Pen of History to record the
"important Events in which you have borne so illus-
"trious a part) permit us to add our most fervent
"prayers, that after enjoying to the utmost of
"Human Life, every Felicity which the Terrestial
"Lodge can afford, you may be received by the
"great Master Builder of this World and of Worlds
"unnumbered, into the Ample Felicity of that *Celes-*
"*tial Lodge* in which alone distinguished Virtues and
"distinguished Labours can be eternally rewarded.

"By unanimous order of the Grand Lodge of
"Pennsylvania at their communication held the 27th
"Day of December Anno Domini 5796.
Wm Moore Smith

It was then moved and seconded that the same be adopted. Upon the question being taken it appeared that it was approved of. On motion and seconded, it was agreed that a committee be appointed to wait on Brother Washington to acquaint him that it is the intention of this Grand Lodge to present an address to him, and to know what time he shall be pleased to appoint to receive it. The committee appointed to perform this duty were Brothers William Smith, Peter Le Barbier Duplessis and Thomas Procter, who, after having waited on him, reported that he had appointed to-morrow, December 28, 1796, at twelve o'clock to receive it. Said committee, to wit, Brothers W. Smith, Duplessis and Procter, together with Right Worshipful Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Junior Wardens, Grand Secretary and the Masters of the different Lodges in the City, were then appointed a Deputation to present the said Address.

This deputation consisted of Right Worshipful Grand Master William Moore Smith, Gavin Hamilton, Deputy Grand Master, Thomas Town, Senior Grand Warden, Thomas Armstrong, Esqr., Junior Grand Warden, George A. Baker, Grand Secretary, John McElwee, Grand Treasurer, and the following Masters of the Philadelphia Lodges, viz.: David Irwin, No. 2, Israel Israel, No. 3,



Rev. Bro. William Smith, D.D. (born Aberdeen, Scotland, 1727; died Philadelphia, May 14, 1803). Grand Chaplain ("Moderns"), 1755; Grand Secretary ("Ancients"), 1779–1784; who presented the Pennsylvania addresses to Bro. Washington, 1792–1796.

Andrew Nilson No. 9, Eleaser Oswald, No. 19, Cadawalder Griffith, No. 52, Richard E. Cusack, No. 59, Thomas Bradley, No. 67, William Nelson, No. 71; together with the appointed Committee, Brothers William Smith D.D., Le Barbier Duplessis and Thomas Procter.

President Washington received the august deputation of the Brethren at the appointed time; the address was read before him by the Rev. Brother William Smith, D.D., whereupon he returned them a reply. This document, still in the Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, is entirely in the handwriting of Washington and signed by him, viz.:

"Fellow-citizens and Brothers,
"of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

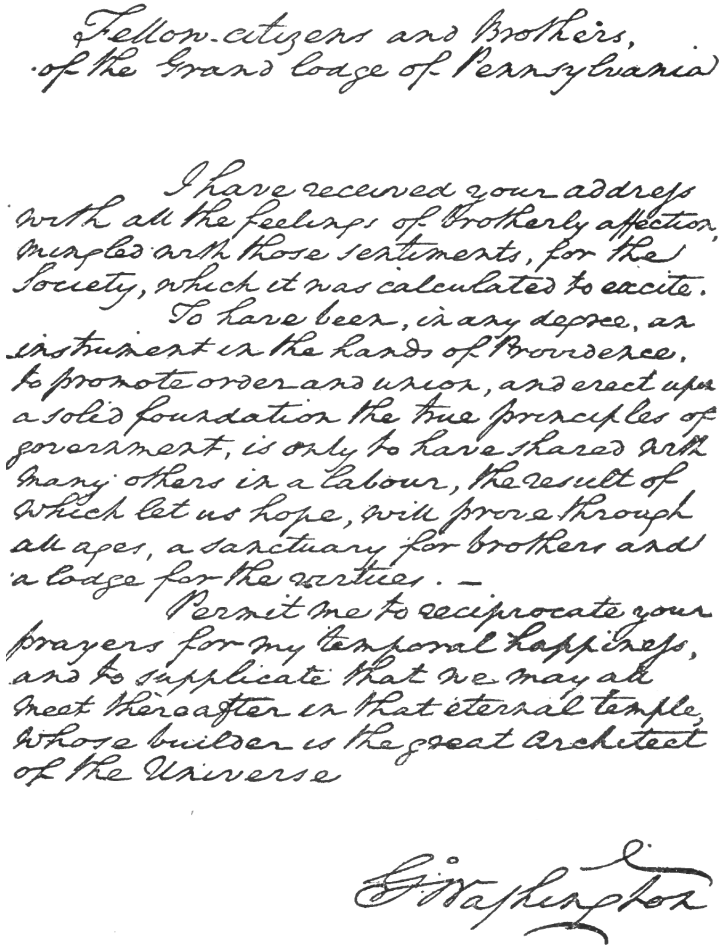
"I have received your address
"with all the feelings of brotherly affection,
"mingled with those sentiments, for the
"Society, which it was calculated to excite.

"To have been, in any degree, an
"instrument in the hands of Providence,
"to promote order and union, and erect upon
"a solid foundation the true principles of
"government, is only to have shared with
"many others in a labour, the result of
"which let us hope, will prove through
"all ages, a sanctuary for brothers and
"a lodge for the virtues,—

"Permit me to reciprocate your
"prayers for my temporal happiness,
"and to supplicate that we may all
"meet thereafter in that eternal temple,
"whose builder is the great architect
"of the Universe.

Go. Washington

Brother William Moore Smith, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania, whose first official act as Grand Master was to head the committee to call on the President, was a son of the


Fellow-citizens and Brothers,
of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

I have received your address with all the feelings of brotherly affection, mingled with those sentiments, for the Society, which it was calculated to excite.

To have been, in any degree, an instrument in the hands of Providence, to promote order and union, and erect upon a solid foundation the true principles of government, is only to have shared with many others in a labour, the result of which let us hope, will prove through all ages, a sanctuary for brothers and a lodge for the virtues. —

Permit me to reciprocate your prayers for my temporal happiness, and to supplicate that we may all meet hereafter in that eternal temple, whose builder is the great architect of the Universe

G. Washington

Fac-simile of Washington's reply to Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, December, 1796. Original in Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Rev. William Smith, D.D., born in Philadelphia, June 1, 1759. He was a lawyer by profession and served as Deputy Grand Master for the year 1795 under the Venerable William Ball, and as Right Worshipful Grand Master for the years 1796-1797. He was appointed by the President as agent for the settlement of claims that were provided for in the Sixth Article of John Jay's Treaty, and visited England in 1803 to close the commission. He died at the Smith Homestead at Falls of Schuylkill, March 12, 1821.

Both the address and reply were copied in Washington's Letter Book III, pp. 244-245, in the handwriting of one of his secretaries, G. W. Craik, a son of Dr. James Craik, Washington's "compatriot in arms, and old and intimate friend," who attended him during his last illness.

Photostat copies of above are in the Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, also the original draft of the address, presented to the President (Mss. Volume A, folio 23).

This autograph Masonic letter from Washington to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has been reproduced in fac-simile, published and circulated (in most cases without the knowledge or consent of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania) more widely than any other known letter of Washington. Some of these copies are treasured by their owners under the impression that they have the original letter. Several cases of this kind have of late come under the notice of the writer. In one case where one of these reproductions was offered for sale, hundreds of dollars were asked for the reproduction, and it was with great difficulty that the owner could be convinced of its character.

Another use made of this letter by unprincipled persons was to make a photo-lithographic copy of the letter, and substitute the name of another state for that of Pennsylvania, and then palm it off upon the authorities of that state as an original letter to their Grand Lodge. The latest case of this kind known to the writer is that of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, who were thus imposed upon.

Then again the letter has been extensively used for advertising purposes by publishing houses of Masonic literature.

The letter has also been printed in most all books bearing upon Masonic history during the revolutionary period.

It was also frequently quoted and criticised during the Anti-Masonic craze which swept over the country some eighty-odd years ago, it being the chief Masonic letter of the five known to the leaders of those misguided persons. The main point of their argument was that it bore no date and therefore was not authentic.



Mount Vernon during Washington's occupancy, 1783–1799.

CHAPTER XII

CORRESPONDENCE WITH ALEXANDRIA LODGE, NO. 22, VIRGINIA

Upon pages 244 and 245 of WASHINGTON's folio Letter Book No. III in the Library of Congress are recorded a letter and address to WASHINGTON from the Master of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, of Virginia, together with WASHINGTON's reply.

WASHINGTON and his family had left Philadelphia, Thursday, March 9, 1797, for Mount Vernon, and arrived at Baltimore, Sunday, March 12, and at Mount Vernon, March 15, where he again settled down to the life of a private gentleman, free from the cares and concerns of public life.

March 28, 1797, he was waited on at Mount Vernon by Brothers Dennis Ramsay and Phillip G. Marsteller, and presented with the following letter and address from James Gillies, the Master of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, of Virginia, viz.:

"ALEX^{A} March 28th, 5797.

"*Most respected Brother*,

"Brother Ramsay & Marsteller wait upon you
"with a copy of an address which has been prepared
"by the unanimous desire of the Ancient York Ma-
"sons of Lodge No. 22. It is their earnest request
"that you will partake of a Dinner with them and
"that you will please appoint the time most conve-
"nient for you to attend.—

"I am most beloved Brother,

"Your Mo. Ob^{t} H^{ble} Servt

"JAMES GILLIES, *M.*

"Genl Geo Washington."

The letter was an invitation to dine with the Lodge. This WASHINGTON accepted.

"*Most respected Brother*,

"The ancient York Masons of Lodge No. 22 offer you
"their warmest congratulations on your retire-
"ment from your useful labors. Under the su-
"preme architect of the Universe you have been the
"Master Workman in erecting the Temple of Lib-
"erty in the west, on the broad basis of equal rights.
"In your wise administration of the government of
"the United States for the space of eight years, you
"have kept within the compass of our happy Consti-
"tution and acted on the square with foreign Na-
"tions and thereby preserved your country in peace
"and promoted the prosperity and happiness of your
"fellow Citizens, and now that you have retired from
"the labours of public life to the refreshment of
"domestic tranquility, they ardently pray that you
"may long enjoy all the happiness which the Terres-
"tial Lodge can afford and finally be removed to that
"celestial Lodge where Love, Peace and Harmony
"for ever reign and where cherubims and seraphims
"shall hail you Brother.—

"By the unanimous desire of Lodge
"No. 22
"JAMES GILLIES, *Master*."

"Gen Geo Washington."

WASHINGTON attended the meeting of his Lodge at Alexandria, on Saturday, April 1, 1797, when his reply to Brother Gillies' address was read in open Lodge, viz.:

"BROTHERS OF THE ANCIENT YORK MASONS OF
LODGE NO. 22.

"While my heart acknowledges with Brotherly
"Love, your affectionate congratulations on my re-
"tirement from the arduous toils of past years, my
"gratitude is no less excited by your kind wishes for
"my future happiness.—

"If it has pleased the supreme architect of the
"universe to make me an humble instrument to pro-
"mote the welfare and happiness of my fellow men,
"my exertions have been abundantly recompensed
"by the kind partiality with which they have been
"received; and the assurance you give me of your
"belief that I have acted upon the square in my
"public capacity, will be among my principles en-
"joyments in this Terrestial Lodge.

Go. Washington

After which the Brethren went in procession from their room to Abert's Tavern,[60] where they partook of an "elegant" dinner, following which a number of toasts were offered. The tenth toast was by Brother Washington, "The Lodge at Alexandria, and all Masons throughout the World," after which he returned to Mount Vernon under an escort of mounted troops of the town.[61]

The copies of the letter, address and reply in Washington's Letter Book are in the handwriting of his secretary, Tobias Lear. Photostats of all are in the collection of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. No direct photograph of the original in possession of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, was obtainable.

[60] Abert's Tavern, formerly "John Wise's." *Vide* p. 35 *supra*.

[61] Cf. "Washington after the Revolution," W. S. Baker, p. 347.

Alex.a March 28; 1797

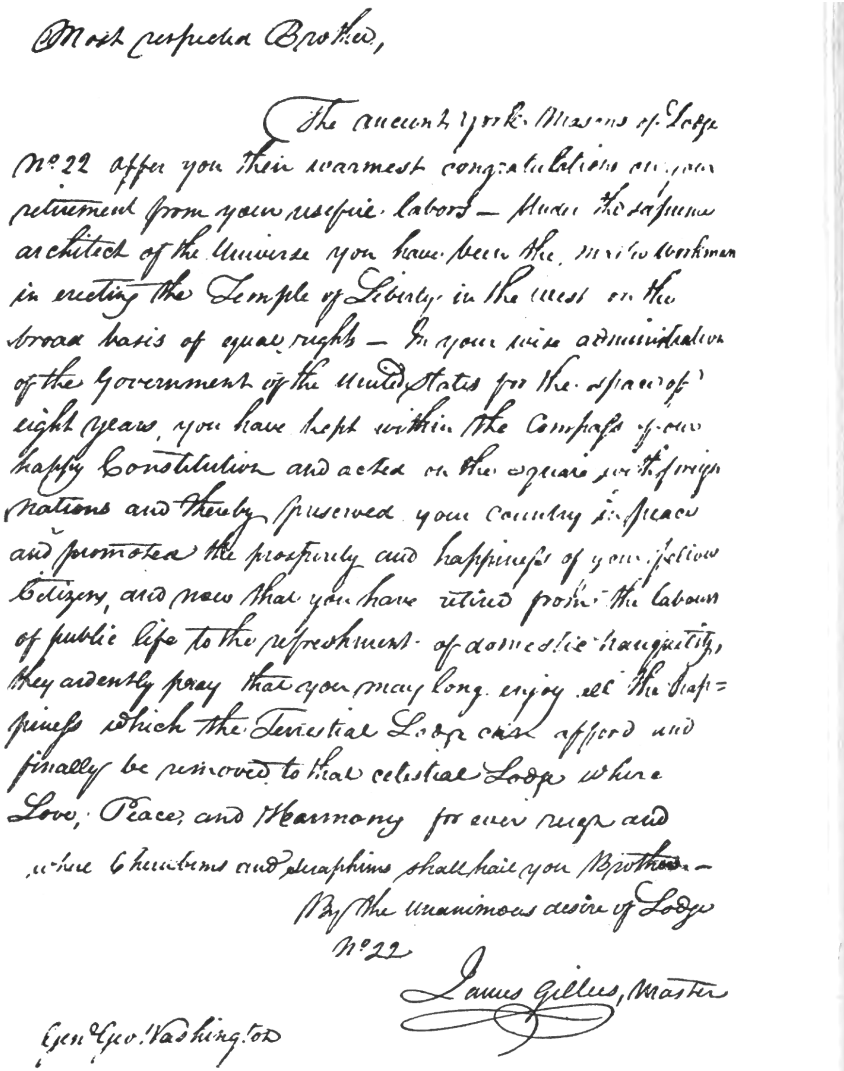
Most respected Brother,

Brother Ramsay & Mr Miller wait upon you with a Copy of an address which has been prepared by the unanimous desire of the ancient York Masons of Lodge No. 22. It is their earnest request that you will partake of a Dinner with them, and that you will please to appoint the time most convenient for you to attend. —

I am most Hond Brother
Your Affec. & Obd. Serv.t
James Gillis, M.

Genl Geo.e Washington

Fac-simile of letter from W. M. of Alexandria Lodge to Bro. Washington, March, 1797. Letter Book II, Folio 294.



Most respected Brother,

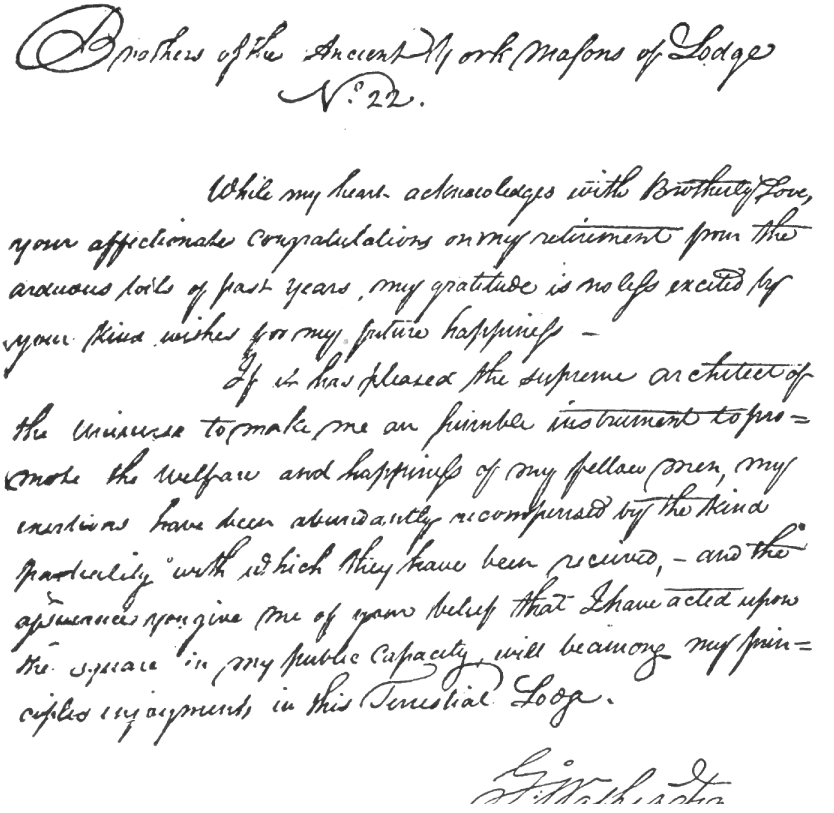
The ancient York Masons of Lodge No. 22 offer you their warmest congratulations on your retirement from your respective labors — Under the supreme architect of the Universe you have been the most conspicuous instrument in erecting the Temple of Liberty in the West on the broad basis of equal rights — In your late administration of the Government of the United States for the space of eight years, you have kept within the Compass of our happy Constitution and acted on the square with foreign nations and thereby preserved your country in peace and promoted the prosperity and happiness of your fellow Citizens, and now that you have retired from the labours of public life to the refreshment of domestic tranquility, they ardently pray that you may long enjoy all the happiness which the Terrestrial Lodge can afford and finally be removed to that celestial Lodge where Love, Peace and Harmony for ever reign and where Cherubims and Seraphims shall hail you Brother —

By the Unanimous desire of Lodge No. 22

James Gillies, Master

Genl. Geo. Washington

Fac-simile of address from Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, to Washington, March, 1797. Letter Book II, Folio 294–295.



Brothers of the Ancient York Masons of Lodge
No. 22.

While my heart acknowledges with Brotherly Love, your affectionate Congratulations on my retirement from the arduous toils of past years, my gratitude is no less excited by your kind wishes for my future happiness –

If it has pleased the supreme architect of the Universe to make me an humble instrument to promote the welfare and happiness of my fellow men, my exertions have been abundantly recompensed by the kind manner in which they have been received, – and the assurances you give me of your belief that I have acted upon the square in my public Capacity, will be among my principles in my arguments in this Terrestial Lodge.

Go: Washington

Fac-simile of Washington's reply to Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, Virginia, March, 1797.

chapter XIII

Correspondence with Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, March, 1797

At a Grand Lodge in Quarterly Communication, held at Concert Hall, Boston, on the evening of March 18, A.L. 5797.

> "On motion it was Voted, That a committee be appointed to draft an Address, to be presented to our Illustrious Brother, George Washington, Esq'r, when the M.W. Paul Revere, Grand Master, R.W. John Warren, Rev. Bro. Thaddeus M. Harris, R.W. Josiah Bartlett, Bro. Thomas Edwards, were appointed a committee for that purpose."

In response to above resolution the following address was sent to Brother Washington at Mount Vernon dated Boston, March 21, 5797, viz.:

"*The East, the West and the South, of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

To Their Most Worthy George Washington."

"Wishing ever to be foremost in testimonials of respect and admiration for those virtues and services with which you have so long adorned and benefited our common country; and not the last nor least, to regret the cessation of them, in the public councils of the Union; your Brethren of the Grand Lodge embrace the earliest opportunity of greeting you in the calm retirement you have contemplated to yourself. Though as citizens they lose you in the active labors of political life, they hope, as Masons, to find you in the pleasing sphere of Fraternal engagement.

"From the cares of state and the fatigues of public business our institution opens a recess affording all the relief of tranquility, the

harmony of peace and the refreshment of pleasure. Of these may you partake in all their purity and satisfaction; and we will assure ourselves that your attachment to this social plan will increase; and that under the auspices of your encouragement, assistance and patronage, the Craft will attain its highest ornament, perfection and praise. And it is our ardent prayer, that when your light shall be no more visible in this earthly temple, you may be raised to the All Perfect Lodge above; be seated on the right of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, and there receive the refreshment your labors merited.

"In behalf of the Grand Lodge, we subscribe ourselves with the highest esteem,

"Your affectionate Brethren,

"PAUL REVERE, *Grand Master*.

"ISAIAH THOMAS, *S. Grand Warden.*

"JOSEPH LAUGHTON, *J. Grand Warden*.

"Daniel Oliver, Grand Secretary,

"Boston, 21st March, 5797."

For some unaccountable reason the delivery of the address was delayed and not received at Mount Vernon until late in April. The original draft of WASHINGTON's reply to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in his own handwriting and signature as well as an autograph note of apology for the seeming delay to Grand Master Paul Revere and his officers dated Mount Vernon, April 24, 1797, are in the Manuscript Department in the Library of Congress, viz.:

"To PAUL REVERE Grand Master, ISAIAH

"THOMAS Senior Grand Warden and

"JOSEPH LAUGHTON JUN^{R} Grand Warden.

"*Brothers*,

"I am sorry that the en-

"closed answer to the affectionate address

"of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and

"Accepted Masons, of the Commonwealth

"of Massachusetts transmitted under your

"signatures, should appear so much out

from

"of season; but ∧ the lapse of time between

"the date & reception of the address (from

"what cause I know not) it was not to be
"avoided, and is offered as an apology, for
"the delay. With brotherly affection
"I am always yours,
Go. Washington

"Mount Vernon,
24th April 1797."

Following is a copy of Washington's original draft of his reply to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. It is written upon two pages of a letter sheet entirely in his handwriting and signed by him.

"To the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free &
"Accepted Masons, of the Commonwealth
"of Massachusetts.
"*Brothers*,
"It was not until within
"these few days that I have been favoured by
"the receipt of your affectionate Address
"dated in Boston the 21st of March

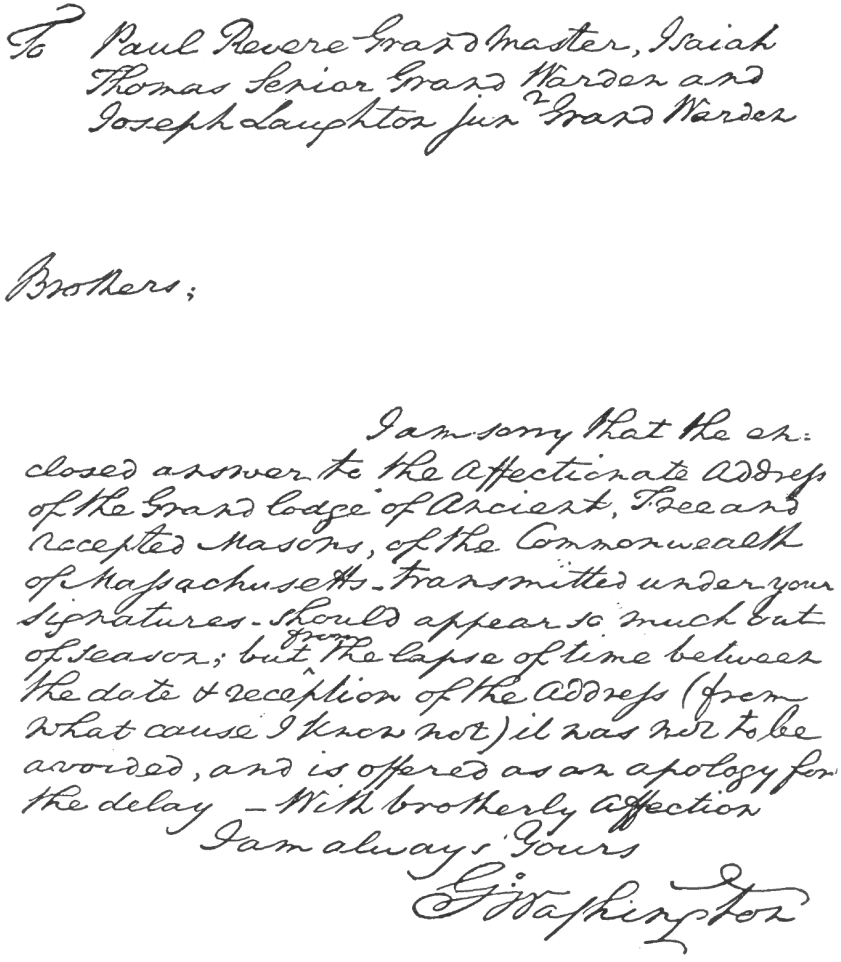
"For the favourable sentiments
"you have been pleased to express on the
"occasion of my past services, and for the
"regrets with which they are accompani-
"ed for the cessation of my public functions,
"I pray you to accept my best acknowledg-
"ments and gratitude.—

"No pleasure, except that wch
"results from a consciousness of having, to
"the utmost of my abilities, discharged,
"the trusts which have been reposed in
"me by my Country, can equal the satis
"faction I feel from the unequivocal proofs
"I continually receive of its approbation
"of my public conduct, and I beg you to be
"assured that the evidence thereof which
"is exhibited by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts



Paul Revere

Paul Revere (1735–1818), Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, 1797.


To Paul Revere Grand Master, Isaiah Thomas Senior Grand Warden and Joseph Laughton Junr Grand Warden

Brothers;

I am sorry that the enclosed answer to the affectionate Address of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - transmitted under your signatures - should appear so much out of season; but from the lapse of time between the date & reception of the Address (from what cause I know not) it was not to be avoided, and is offered as an apology for the delay - With brotherly affection I am always Yours

G. Washington

Mount Vernon
24th April 1797.

Fac-simile of autograph letter from Washington to Paul Revere and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, April 24, 1797.

April 1797

To - the Grand Lodge of ancient, Free & accepted Masons, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Brothers,

It was not until within these few days that I have been favoured by the receipt of your affectionate address. dated in Boston the 21st of March

For the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express on the occasion of my past services, and for the regrets with which they are accompanied for the cessation of my public functions, I pray you to accept my best acknowledgments and gratitude. -

No pleasure, except that which results from a consciousness of having, to the utmost of my abilities, discharged the trusts which have been reposed in me by my Country, can equal the satisfaction I feel from the unequivocal proofs I continually receive of its approbation of my public conduct, and I beg you to be assured that the evidence thereof which is

Fac-simile of original draft of Washington's reply to the address from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in the Library of Congress. First page.

exhibited
is ~~given~~ by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
is not among the least pleasing, or grateful to my feelings. –

In that retirement which declining years induced me to seek, and which repose to a mind long employed in public concerns rendered necessary, my wish is that bounteous Providence will continue to bless & preserve our country in Peace, & in the prosperity it has enjoyed; & be warm & sincere; – And my attachment to the Society of which we are members will dispose me always, to contribute my best endeavours to promote the honor & interest of the Craft. –

For the Prayer you offer in my behalf I entreat you to accept the thanks of a grateful heart, with the assurance of fraternal regard and best wishes for the honor, happiness & prosperity of all the members of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. –

G. Washington

Fac-simile of original draft of Washington's reply to the address from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in the Library of Congress. Second page.

"is not among the least pleasing, or grate
"ful to my feelings.—

"In that retirement which decli-
"ning years induced me to seek, and which
"repose, to a mind long employed in pub-
"lic concerns, rendered necessary, my wish
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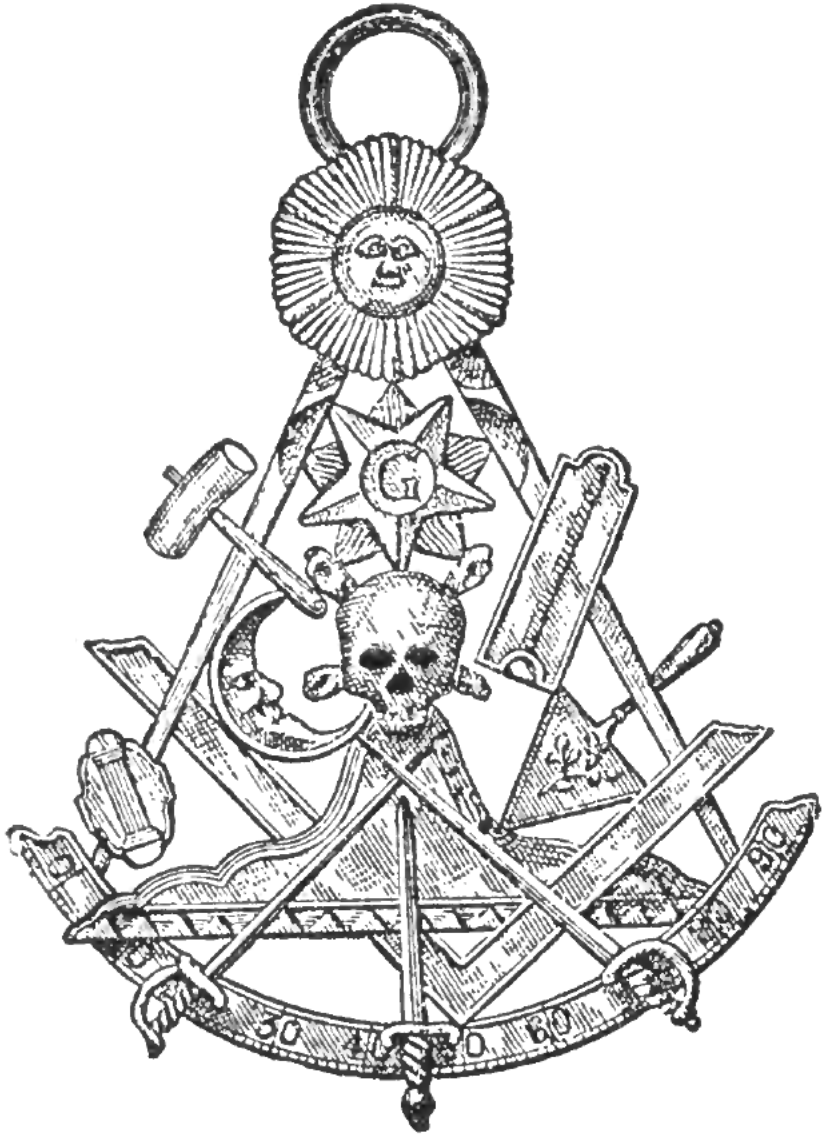
"Peace & in the prosperity it has enjoyed, will
"be warm & sincere; and my attachment
"to the Society of which we are members
"will dispose me always, to contribute my best
"endeavours to promote the honor &
"interest of the *Craft*.—

"For the prayer you offer in
"my behalf I entreat you to accept the
"thanks of a grateful heart; with the as-
"surance of fraternal regard and best
"wishes for the honor, happiness & prospe-
"rity of all the members of the Grand Lodge
"of Massachusetts.

Go. Washington

The original letter is said to be in possession of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. No photographic fac-simile of the document, however, could be obtained.



Ancient jewel of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

CHAPTER XIV

Correspondence with Grand Lodge of Maryland, November, 1798

In the year 1798, the danger of a war with France had become so imminent, on account of the aggressions of that government towards the United States, that Congress ordered a provisional army to be raised, the command of which was tendered to Washington, with the rank of Lieutenant-General, an honor which was reluctantly accepted by Washington. During the summer a scourge of yellow fever had again visited Philadelphia, which caused Congress to adjourn, July 16, and the public offices to be removed for the time being to Trenton, N. J. All danger of the fever being over, Washington, on November 5, started for Trenton. He arrived at Baltimore, November 7, and was waited on at his quarters by William Belton, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, his Deputy and other Brethren and presented with a copy of the New Ahiman Rezon and the following address,[62] viz.:

"To George Washington, Esq.,
Lieutenant General and Commander-in-chief of the Armies of the United States.

"*Sir and Brother:*

"The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free Masons for the State of Maryland, wishing to testify the respect in which the whole fraternity in this State hold the man who is at once the ornament of the Society and of his country, vote a copy of the Constitution of Masonry, lately printed under its authority, to be presented to you.

[62] Cf. "Freemasonry in Maryland," by Edw. J. Schultz, Baltimore, 1884, Vol. I, pp. 265-266.

"Accept, Sir and Brother, from our hands this small token of the veneration of men who consider it as the greatest boast of their Society, that a WASHINGTON openly avows himself a member of it, and thinks it worthy of his approbation. With it accept also our warmest congratulations in the name of the body which we represent, on your reappointment to that elevated station in which you formerly wrought the salvation of your country; and on your restoration to the inestimable blessing of health which, that the Almighty disposer of events may continue to accord to you uninterruptedly, is the most earnest prayer of your most respectfully affectionate Brethren and most humble servants.

"Signed, WM. BELTON, R.. W..G..M..

"Peter Little, Grand Secretary,

"Baltimore, November 5th, 1798."

To this address WASHINGTON sent a reply, the original draft of which is in the Library of Congress, written upon two pages of a letter sheet, and differs somewhat from the final copy sent to the Grand Lodge from Elkton, where WASHINGTON spent the next day. It will be recalled that but two weeks had elapsed since he wrote his last letter to Dominie Snyder of Fredericktown, and this fact was evidently in his mind when he wrote this letter to the Maryland Brethren.

Upon second thought he eliminated the lines bearing upon the insinuations in Snyder's letter. Following is a copy of the letter as originally written, viz.:

"TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE

"MASONS FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

"*Gentlemen & Brothers*,

"Your obliging & affectionate

"letter, together with a copy of the Constitutions of

"Masonry has been put into my hands by

"your Grand Master; for which I pray you to

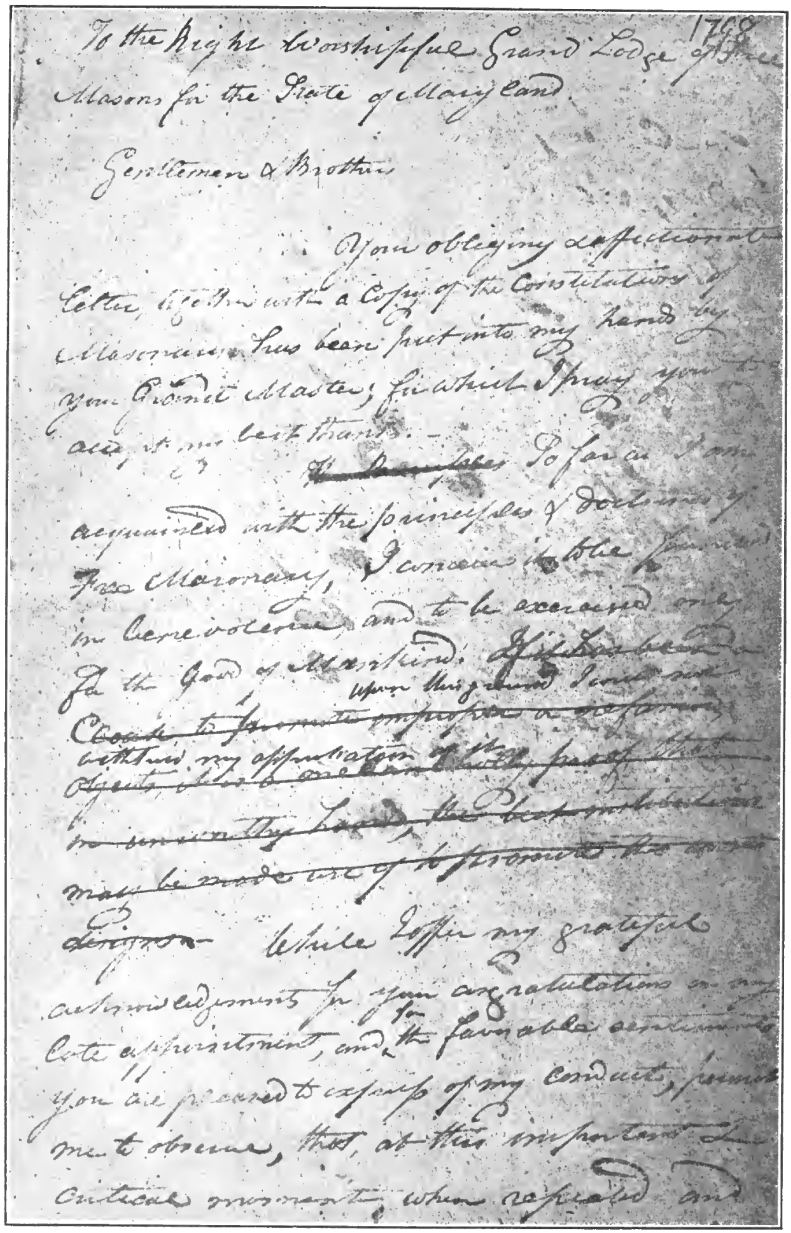
"accept my best thanks.—

"So far as I am

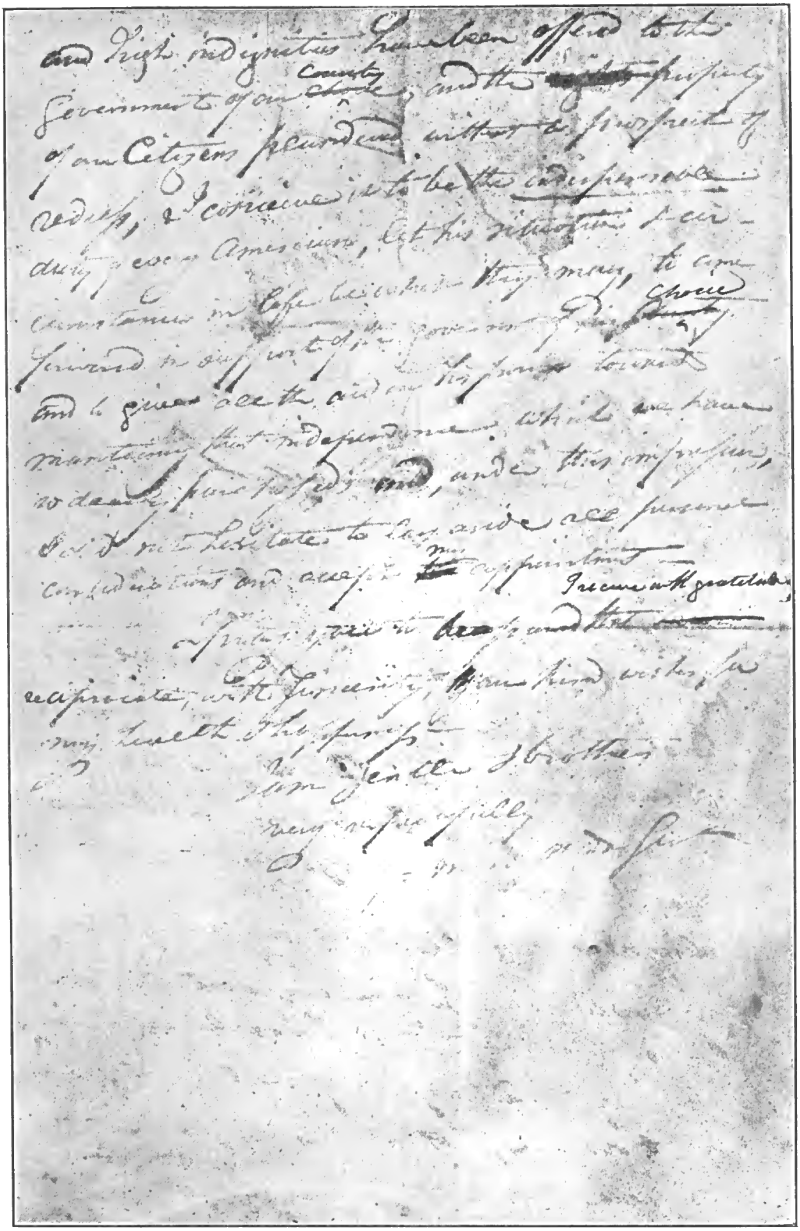
"acquainted with the principles & Doctrines of

"Free Masonry, I conceive it to be founded

"in benevolence and to be exercised only



Fac-simile (reduced) of the original draft of Washington's letter to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Elkton, Md., November 8, 1798. First page.



Fac-simile (reduced) of the original draft of Washington's letter to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Elkton, Md., November 8, 1798. Second page.

"for the good of mankind. *If it has been a*
"*Cloak to promote improper or nefarious*
"*objects, it is a melancholly proof that*
"*in unworthy hands, the best institutions*
"*may be made use of to promote the worst*
"*designs.—*

"While I offer my grateful
"acknowledgements for your congratulations on my
"late appointments, and for the favorable sentiments
"you are pleased to express of my conduct, permit
"me to observe, that at this important &
"critical moment, when repeated and
"high indignities have been offered to this
"government your country and the rights & property
"of our Citizens plundered without a prospect of
"redress, I conceive it to be the *indispensable*
"duty of every American, let his situation & cir
"cumstances in life be what they may, to come
"forward in support of the government of his country
"and to give all the aid in his power toward
"maintaining that independence which we have
"so dearly purchased; and under this impression,
"I did not hesitate to lay aside all personal
"considerations and accept my appointment.

"I pray you to be assured that I ap-
"preciate, with sincerity your kind wishes for
"my health & happiness.
"I am Gentl^{n} & brothers
"very respectfully
"Yr most ob^{t} serv^{t}."
Go. Washington

Before this letter was sent, the five words on the tenth line and the whole of next five lines were eliminated; there was also a slight change made in the last paragraph on the second page.

Following is a copy of the letter as received by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The original letter was in the possession of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, as late as 1833, but it has since disappeared.[63]

"TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE MASONS FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

"*Gentlemen and Brothers:*

"Your obliging and affectionate letter, together with a copy of the Constitution of Masonry, has been put into my hands by your Grand Master, for which I pray you to accept my best thanks. So far as I am acquainted with the principles and doctrines of Freemasonry, I conceive them to be founded on benevolence, and to be exercised for the good of mankind; I cannot, therefore, upon this ground withdraw my approbation from it.

"While I offer my grateful acknowledgements for your congratulations on my late appointment, and for the favorable sentiments you are pleased to express of my conduct, permit me to observe, that, at this important and critical moment, when high and repeated indignities have been offered to the Government of our country, and when the property of our citizens is plundered without a prospect of redress, I conceive it to be the indispensable duty of every American, let his station and circumstances in life be what they may, to come forward in support of the Government of his choice and to give all the aid in his power towards maintaining that independence which we have so dearly purchased; and under this impression, I did not hesitate to lay aside all personal considerations and accept my appointment. I pray you to be assured that I receive with gratitude your kind wishes for my health and happiness and reciprocate them with sincerity.

"I am, Gentlemen and Brothers,

"Very Respectfully,

"Your most Ob't Servant,

Go. Washington

"Elkton, November 8th, 1798."

[63] *Ibid.*, p. 266.



Washington. Portrait by Charles Balthazar Févret de Saint-Mémin; the last portrait of Washington from life, taken in Philadelphia, November, 1798.

CHAPTER XV

Correspondence with G. W. Snyder, 1798

As to the correspondence with one G. W. Snyder (Schneider), who represented himself as a preacher of the Reformed Church of Fredericktown, Maryland, our late Brother James M. Lamberton, in his address before the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, at the celebration of the "Sesqui-centennial Aniversary of the initiation of Brother George Washington into the Fraternity of Freemasons," held in the Masonic Temple, in the City of Philadelphia on Wednesday, November the fifth, A. D. 1902, states:[64]

> "It is well known that during the French Revolution religion was dethroned, and reason installed in the place of Deity. The spreading of such doctrines was by many ascribed to the 'Illuminati,' who were supposed to be Masons. During this period clubs like the Jacobin Clubs in France were formed in this country, and the spread of these doctrines was greatly feared, especially by the clergy, and in 1798 one of them, one G. W. Snyder, of Fredericktown, Maryland, wrote to Washington sending at the same time a book entitled 'Proofs of a Conspiracy,' etc., by John Robison,[65] the conspiracy being 'to overturn all government and all religion'."[66]

[64] "Memorial Volume, Washington Sesqui-centennial Anniversary," Philadelphia, 1902, p. 165.

[65] "PROOFS | of a| CONSPIRACY | against all the | RELIGIONS and GOVERNMENTS | of | EUROPE | carried on | in the secret meetings | of | FREE MASONS, ILLUMINATI, | and | READING SOCIETIES, |" collected from Good Authorities | by | JOHN ROBISON, A. M. |—EDINBURGH, | 1797. |

[66] The original letter of August 22, 1798, is among the Washington papers in the Library of Congress; a photostat of same is in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

This letter, sent to WASHINGTON at Mount Vernon covered no less than six pages; following is a verbatim copy of the original now in the Library of Congress.

"To HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"*Sir*,—You will, I hope, not think it a Pre | sumption in a Stranger, whose Name, | perhaps never reached your Ears, to ad | dress himself to you, the Commanding | General of a great Nation. I am a | German, born and liberally educated | in the city of Heydelberg, in the Pa | latinate of the Rhine. I came to this | Country in 1776, and felt soon after my | arrival, a close Attachment to the | Liberty for which these confederated | States then struggled. The same attachment | still remains not glowing, but burning in | my Breast. At the same Time that I am | exulting in the Measures adopted by our | Government, I feel myself elevated in | the Idea of my adopted Country, I am | attached, both from the Bent of Educa | tion and mature Enquiry and Search | to the simple Doctrines of Christianity, | which I have the Honor to teach in | Public; and I do heartily Despise all the | Cavils of Infidelity. Our present Time | pregnant with the most shocking Events | and Calamities, threatens Ruin to | our Liberty and Government. | The most secret Plans are in Agitation; | Plans calculated to ensnare the Unwary, | to attract the Gay irreligious, and to | entice even the Well-Disposed to combine in | the general Machine for overturning all | Government and all Religion.

"It was some Time since that a Book | fell into my hands, entitled 'Proofs | of a Conspiracy, &c. by John Robison,' which | gives a full Account of a Society of Free | Masons, that distinguishes itself by the | name of 'Illuminati,' whose Plan is to over | throw all Government and all Religion, even | natural; and who endeavor to eradicate | every Idea of a Supreme Being, and distin | guish Man from Beast by his shape only. | A Thought suggested itself to me, that some | of the Lodges in the United States might | have caught the Infection, and might co-oper | ate with the Illuminati or the Jacobin Club | in France. Fauchet is mentioned by Robinson | as a zealous Member; and who can doubt | Genet and Adet? Have not these their con | fidants in this country? They use the same | Expressions, and are generally Men of no | Religion. Upon serious Reflection I was led | to think that it might be within your | Power to prevent the

horrid Plan from | corrupting the Brethren of the English Lodges | over which you preside.

"I send you the 'Proof of a Conspiracy,' &c. | which I doubt not, will give you Satis | faction, and afford you matter for a | Train of ideas, that may operate to our | national Felicity. If, however, you have | already perused the Book, it will not, | I trust, be disagreeable to you that I | have presumed to address you with this | Letter and the Book accompanying it. | It proceeded from the Sincerity of my | Heart, and my ardent Wishes for the | common Good.

"May the Supreme Ruler of all | Things continue You long with us in | these perilous Times: may he endow you | with Strength and Wisdom to save our | Country in the threating Storms and | gathering Clouds of Factions and Com | motions! and after you have completed his | Work, on this terrene Spot, may He | bring you to the full Possession of the | glorious Liberty of the Children of God, | is the hearty and most sincere Wish of

"Your Excellency's | very humble and |
"devoted Servant,
"G. W. Snyder.

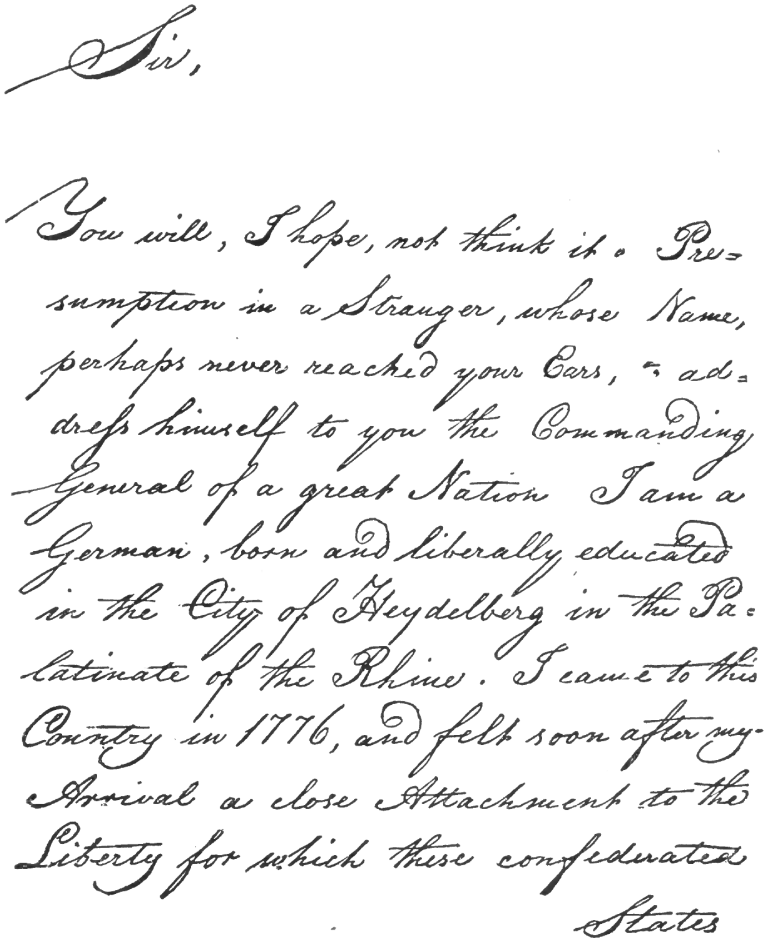
"Fredericktown, (Maryland) Aug. 22, 1798.
"His Excellency General George Washington."

This man Snyder (Schneider) was an agitator and thoroughly irresponsible person, having no ecclesiastical connection with any organized Church Body.

In the year 1787, Schneider came from Albany, New York, to Frederick, ostensibly to collect money to build a Church. He was kindly received and permitted to preach in the Reformed Congregation, where he soon fomented discord and trouble.

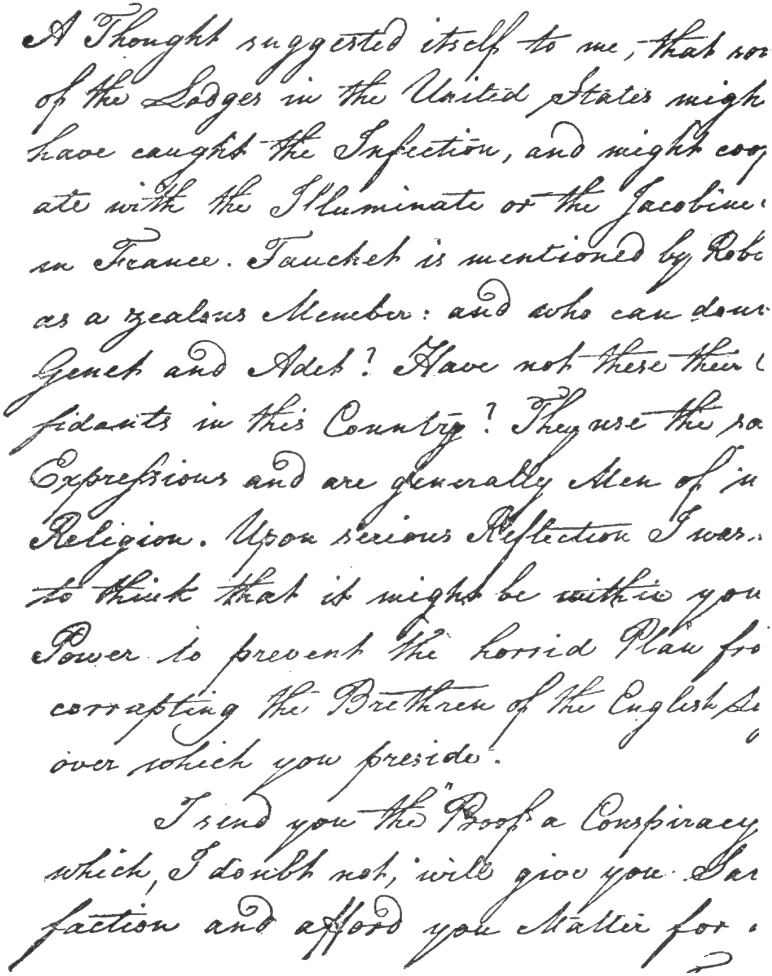
Schneider was soon driven out of Frederick Town, but returned again in 1794, when he renewed the trouble in the Church, which ended in a schism. The matter finally got into the Civil Court, and on February 15, 1800 the case was decided against him, which ended his activity in Frederick Town; soon after which he left for parts unknown.[67]

[67] Cf. Historical sketch of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Frederick, Maryland, 1904, pp. 22-25.


Sir,

You will, I hope, not think it a Pre-
sumption in a Stranger, whose Name,
perhaps never reached your Ears, to ad-
dress himself to you the Commanding
General of a great Nation I am a
German, born and liberally educated
in the City of Heydelberg in the Pa-
latinate of the Rhine. I came to this
Country in 1776, and felt soon after my
Arrival a close Attachment to the
Liberty for which these confederated
States

Fac-simile of first page of letter from G. W. Snyder to Washington, August 22, 1798.


A Thought suggested itself to me, that so
of the Lodges in the United States might
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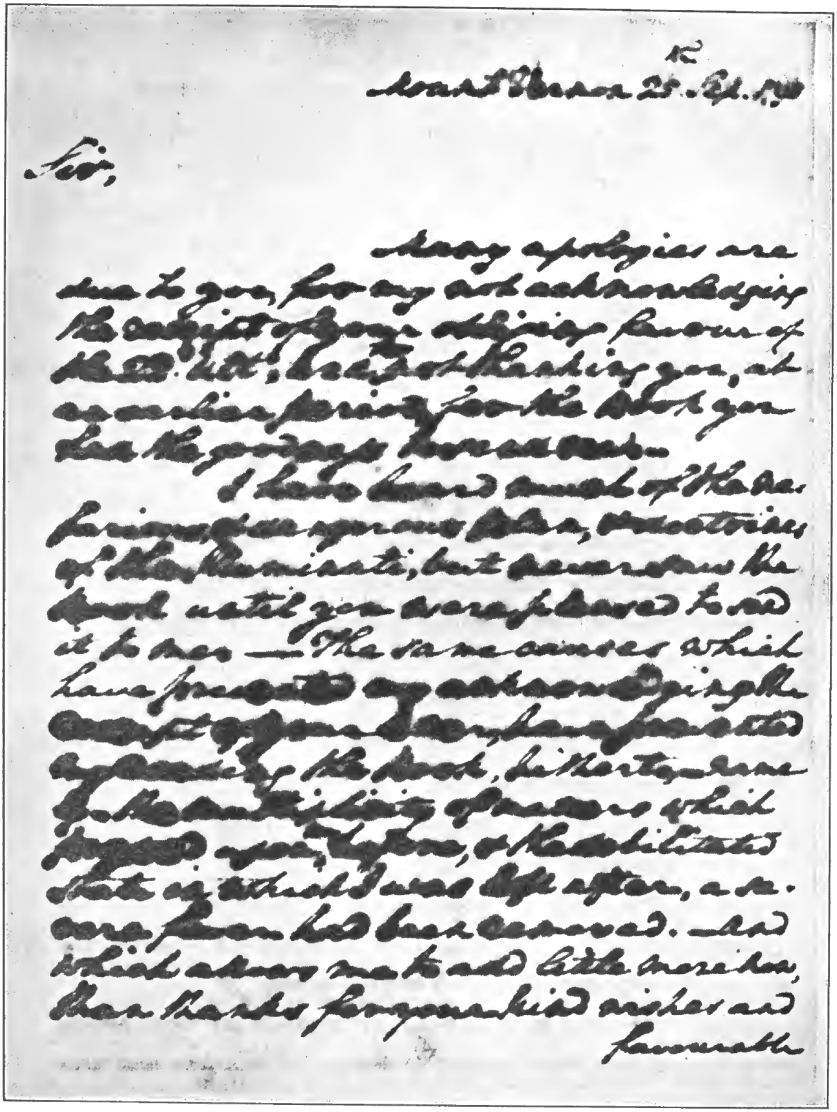
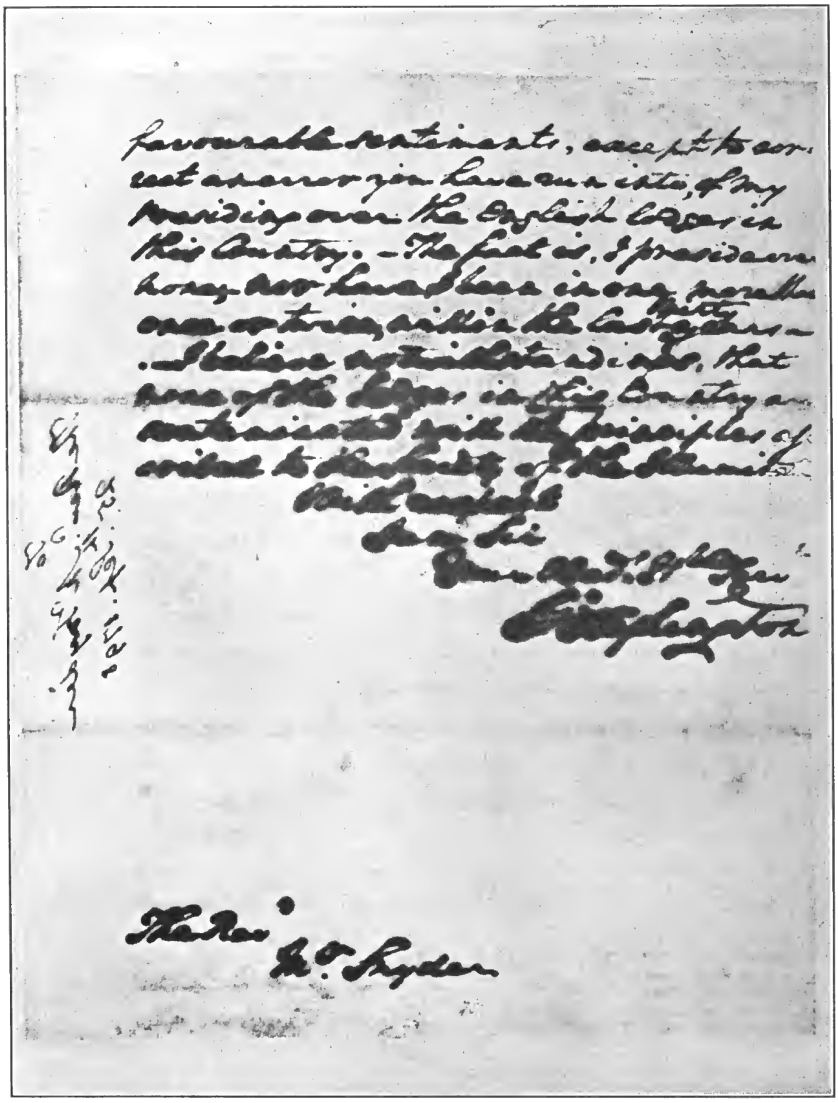
Religion. Upon serious Reflection I was
to think that it might be within you
Power to prevent the horrid Plan fro
corrupting the Brethren of the English Lo
over which you preside.

I send you the "Proof a Conspiracy
which, I doubt not, will give you Sat
faction and afford you Matter for

Fac-simile of fourth page of letter from G. W. Snyder to Washington, August 22, 1798.



Fac-simile of press copy of Washington's answer to Rev. G. W. Snyder, September 25, 1798. First page.



Fac-simile of press copy of Washington's answer to Rev. G. W. Snyder, September 25, 1798. Second page.

Snyder, who was not a native of this country, evidently labored under the impression that WASHINGTON was a Grand Master General, who presided over all of the English (or Symbolic) Masonic Lodges in the United States. Snyder evidently used the term "English" Lodges, to distinguish them from the Masonic bodies working in the so-called higher (Scotch) degrees, as are now known as the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

How important WASHINGTON considered this correspondence is shown by his precaution in taking a press copy of both of his letters to Snyder, who he was led to believe was the regular pastor of the German Reformed Congregation at Fredericktown. These are now in the Library of Congress. It will be noted that in all of his other Masonic correspondence, copies were made in his regular letter books by his clerks, of both address and reply. Brother WASHINGTON evidently surmised that this letter from Snyder was nothing more or less than a scheme to entrap him. It was not until a month had elapsed, and then only after due consideration, that the following reply was sent to Fredericktown, viz.:

"MOUNT VERNON, 25th Sept. 1798.

"*Sir*,

"Many apologies are
"due to you, for my not acknowledging
"the receipt of your obliging favour of
for
"the 22d ult, and ∧ not thanking you, at
"an earlier period for the Book you
"had the goodness to send me.

"I have heard much of the ne-
"farious & dangerous plan, & doctrines
"of the Illuminati, but never saw the
"Book until you were pleased to send
"it to me. The same causes which
"have prevented my acknowledging the
"receipt of your letter, have prevented
"my reading the Book, hitherto, name-
"ly, the multiplicity of matters which
me

"pressed upon before, & the debilitated
"state in which I was left after a se
"vere fever had been removed, and
"which allows me to add little more now,
"than thanks for your kind wishes and
"favourable sentiments, except to cor-
"rect an error you have run into, of my
"presiding over the English Lodges in
"this Country. The fact is, I preside over
"none, nor have I been in one, more than
thirty
"once or twice, within the last years.

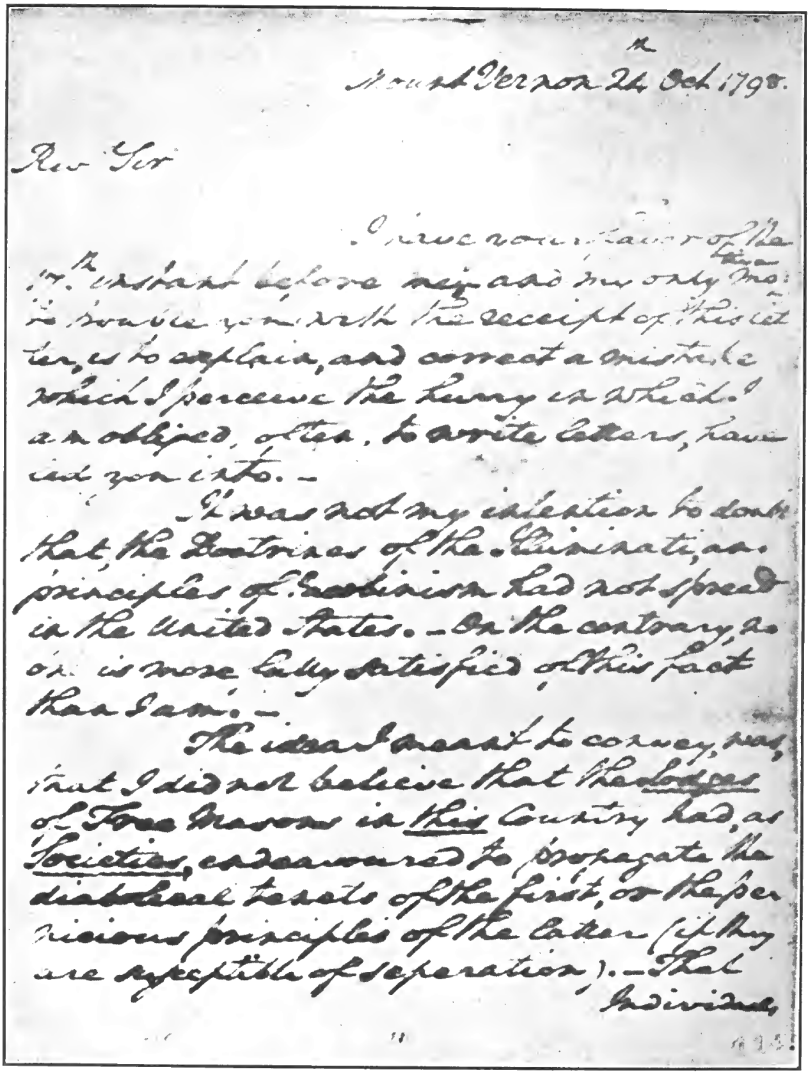
"I believe notwithstanding, that
"none of the Lodges in this Country are
"contaminated with the principles as-
"cribed to the society of the Illuminati."
"With respect
"I am, Sir,
"Your Obed^{t} H^{ble} Servt
Go. Washington
"The Revd Mr Snyder.
Endorsed
to
"The Rev^{d} Mr. Snyder.
"25th Sep. 1798."

In this letter Washington was correct in stating that he had not presided over the "English Lodges in this Country," undoubtedly meaning as Grand Master General.

Where Washington says "*The fact is I preside over none*," he meant that he did not then preside over any individual lodge, as he at that time was a Past Master of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, of Virginia.[68]

Where he says "*Nor have I been in one*, [meaning an individual lodge] *more than once or twice within the last thirty years*," he obviously had in view his occasional visits to the various lodges during

[68] Cf. "Washington, The Man and Mason," p. 288.



Mount Vernon 24 Octr 1798.

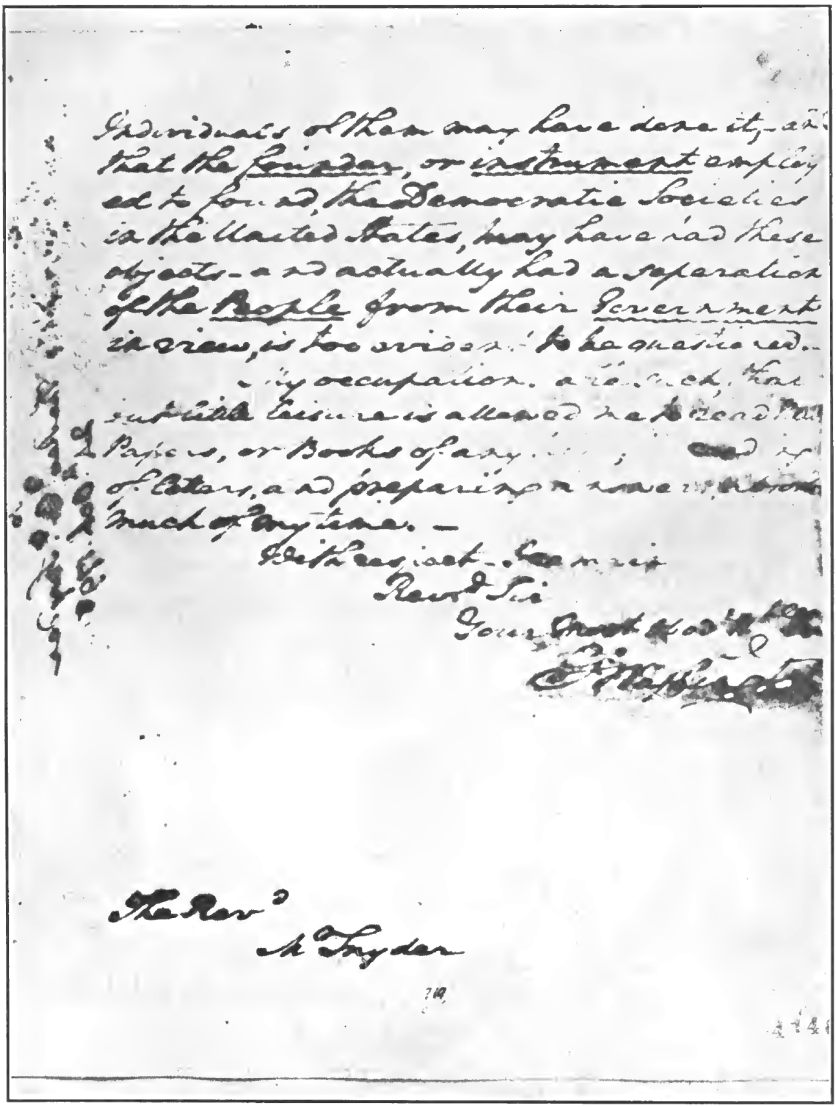
Rev Sir

I have your favor of the 17th instant before me, and am only sorry it is not in my power to furnish you with the receipt of this letter, to explain, and correct a mistake which I perceive the Enemy (a Weekly) as addicted, often, to create Letters, have led you into. —

It was not my intention to doubt that the Doctrines of the Illuminati, and principles of Jacobinism had not spread in the United States. — On the contrary, no one is more fully satisfied of this fact than I am. —

The idea I meant to convey was, that I did not believe that the Lodges of Free Masons in this Country had, as Societies, endeavoured to propagate the diabolical tenets of the first, or the pernicious principles of the latter (if they are capable of separation). — That individuals

Fac-simile of press copy of Washington's second letter to Rev. G. W. Snyder, October 24, 1798. First page.



Fac-simile of press copy of Washington's second letter to Rev. G. W. Snyder, October 24, 1798. Second page.

that period, and that he could not, on account of his official duties and other conditions, attend any lodge regularly.

As a matter of record, WASHINGTON was a member of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, of Pennsylvania,[69] and attended some of its meetings at Alexandria in 1783 and 1784, as is shown by the Minutes of the Lodge, and the records here presented.[70] Further, that when the Brethren of Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, changed their allegiance from Pennsylvania to Virginia, General WASHINGTON was especially named in the warrant, after his consent having been first obtained,[71] and thereby became the Warrant Master of Lodge No. 22, under the Virginia jurisdiction, April 28, 1788, serving as such until December 20 following, when, as the minutes of that date show,[72] he was unanimously elected to succeed himself for the full term, serving in all about twenty months.

The records further show that, in 1778, WASHINGTON occupied the chief position in the procession at the celebration of St. John the Evangelist by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia in 1778, in which more than three hundred Brethren joined.[73]

He also occupied the same position when he laid the corner stone of the present capitol at Washington, September 18, 1793, clothed with the Masonic Apron presented by Lafayette, which is now in the Museum of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Upon both of these occasions, WASHINGTON made a public profession of his membership in the Masonic Fraternity.

Records show that WASHINGTON was present at the meeting of American Union Lodge (a Military Lodge), at Morristown, N. J., December 27, 1779;[74] at American Union Lodge at Nelson's point

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[69] *Vide* "Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of the Initiation of Brother George Washington before quoted," p. 149.

[70] Cf. Chapters II and III *supra*.

[71] Cf. "Washington, The Man and Mason," p. 286.

[72] *Ibid*., December 20, 1789. His excellency, General WASHINGTON, unanimously elected Master; Robert McCrea, Senior Warden; William Hunter, Jr., Junior Warden; William Hodgson, Treasurer; Joseph Greenway, Secretary; Dr. Frederick Spambergen, Senior Deacon; George Richards, Junior Deacon. Extract from Minutes, p. 288.

[73] *Vide* "Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, 1727-1907," Vol. I, Chapter X, pp. 295 *et seq*.

[74] *Ibid.*, Vol. I, Chapter XII, pp. 399 *et seq*.

Vide "Washington and his Masonic Compeers," Chapter VIII, pp. 149 *et seq*.

on the Hudson June 24, 1782;[75] at King Solomon's Lodge of Poughkeepsie, December 27, 1782, and occasionally at Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, in 1783-1784, and the Virginia Lodge, No. 22, between the years 1788 and 1797.[76]

Washington in the next paragraph of his letter to Snyder makes his meaning absolutely clear, that while he had not attended any Lodge regularly during the past thirty years he plainly states: "I believe notwithstanding, that none of the Lodges in this Country are contaminated with the principles ascribed to the society of the Illuminati."

This belief is further accentuated by the letter to the Grand Lodge of Maryland a few weeks after the above letter was written to Snyder.

In addition to above records, there are numerous traditions of Washington's occasional visits to Masonic Lodges and functions:[77] all of which fall within the thirty years mentioned in the Snyder Letter.[78]

Further, Washington's great interest in Freemasonry is shown by the many addresses received from different Grand and Subordinate Lodges throughout the Union, all of which he acknowledged

[75] *Ibid.*, pp. 86-87. Also records of King Solomon's Lodge, No. 1, Poughkeepsie, New York.

[76] *Ibid.*, pp. 150 *et seq*.

[77] *Ibid.*, pp. 139 *et seq*.

[78] Washington, so far as known, attended the following public Masonic functions:

1. Procession in Philadelphia, Festival of St. John the Evangelist, December 28, 1778.
2. Festival of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 1779, with the American Union Lodge, at the Robinson House on the Hudson, New York.
3. Festival of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1779, with American Union Lodge, at the Morris Hotel, Morristown, New Jersey.
4. Festival of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1782, with King Solomon's Lodge, at Poughkeepsie, New York.
5. Festival of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 1784, with Lodge No. 39, at Alexandria, Virginia.
6. The Masonic funeral of Brother William Ramsay, February 12, 1785, at Alexandria.
7. Laying of the cornerstone of the capitol at the Federal City (Washington, D. C.), September 18, 1793, upon which occasion Washington walked in the procession.

in fraternal terms, also by the various Masonic constitutions and sermons dedicated to him, which he received with thanks and were preserved in his library.

It will be noted that in the fifth line from the bottom, "*Within the last thirty years*," which in all Anti-Masonic publications is printed in italics, the word "*thirty*" was not in the body of the letter as originally written, but was an afterthought and interlined before the press copy was taken.

In the press copy of this letter, it will be noted that the word written over the words "*last years*," is almost indecipherable; in the photostat it is completely so. This has led some investigators to question whether the interlined word is really "*thirty*."

The surmise that the blur in the press copy of WASHINGTON's letter to Snyder, was "thirty" was first promulgated by Jared Sparks, when he furnished the text of the letter to the Anti-Masonic agitators, during the political excitement which swept over the New England States in the second decade of the nineteenth century.

Snyder, upon receipt of this letter, undoubtedly after consultation with persons who were politically opposed to WASHINGTON or antagonistic to the Masonic Fraternity, wrote a second letter and sent it to Mount Vernon under date of October 17, 1798; no copy of this letter has thus far been found among the WASHINGTON papers in the Library of Congress.

WASHINGTON immediately sent the following sharp reply to Snyder, in which he plainly sets forth his belief that the Masonic Lodges in the United States were not interested in the propagation of the tenets of what was then known as Jacobism or the Illuminati. The words as underscored in the original letter by WASHINGTON were to emphasize his meaning upon this subject.

Photostats of both of the above letter press copies are in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

"MOUNT VERNON 24th Oct. 1798.

"*Rev. Sir*,

"I have you favor of the

tive

"17th instant before me and my only mo:
"to trouble you with the receipt of this let
"ter, is to explain, and correct a mistake

"which I perceive the hurry in which I
"am obliged, often to write letters, have
"led you into.—

"It was not my intention to doubt
"that, the doctrines of the Illuminati, and
"principles of Jacobism had not spread
"in the United States. On the contrary, no
"one is more, fully satisfied of this fact
"that I am.

"The idea I meant to convey, was,
"that I did not believe that the *Lodges*
"of Free Masons in *this* Country had, as
"*Societies*, endeavoured to propagate the
"diabolical tenets of the first, or the per-
"nicious principles of the latter, (if they
"are susceptible of separation) That
"individuals of them may have done it, or
"that the *founder*, or *instrument* employ
"ed to found the Democratic Societies
"in the United States, may have had these
"objects, and actually had a separation
"of the *people* from their *Government*
"in view, is too evident to be questioned.

"My occupations are such, that
"but little leisure is allowed me to read News
"Papers, or Books of any kind. The reading
"of letters and preparing answers, absorb
"much of my time.—
"With respect,—I remain,
"Revd Sir,
"Your Most Obed^{t} H^{ble} Servt
Go. Washington
"The Rev^{d}.
"Mr Snyder."
Endorsed

to
"The Revd Mr Snyder,
"24th Oct. 1798."

It is a historical fact that WASHINGTON had always retained the highest respect for the people of Maryland, and especially the citizens of Frederick County. No man ever stood higher in the estimation of the people of Maryland than WASHINGTON, and his death awakened genuine sorrow. On February 22d, 1800, memorial services were observed in the Reformed Church at Fredericktown.[79] It was a solemn day and the whole County was in mourning; at which time Ex-Governor Thomas Johnson pronounced the funeral oration. Snyder took no part in these services.

The two letters to Snyder were chiefly relied upon by the Anti-Masons to support their political claims.

> "That Washington was never in a Lodge but twice, in his life; that he paid no attention to Masonry during the war; that in 1781 he declined being addressed by Masons as a brother Mason, and in 1798 was very particular to insist upon the fact that he had not been in a Lodge, but once or twice in 30 years, and knew nothing of their principles and practices."[80]

How false these statements so frequently made, is shown by the many proofs here presented in fac-simile of the originals, which also absolutely controvert the statement in Governor Ritner's Vindication? viz:—

> "That all the letters said to be written by Washington to Lodges are spurious. This is rendered nearly certain: First, by the non-production of the originals: Second, by the absence of copies among the records of his letters: Third, by their want of dates: Fourth, by the fact that his intimate friend and biographer, Chief Justice Marshall,[81] (himself a Mason in his youth,) says that

[79] Cf. Historical sketch before quoted, p. 24.
[80] Anti-Masonic Republican Convention before quoted, p. 26.
[81] Grand Master of Virginia, 1793-1795.

> he never heard Washington utter a syllable on the subject, a matter nearly impossible, if Washington had for years been engaged in writing laudatory letters to the Grand Lodges of South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts."[82]

The movement to elect General Washington a Grand Master over all the Brethren in the United States originated at a meeting of American Union Lodge, held at the encampment of the American Army at Morristown, New Jersey, December 15, 1779. This Lodge was a Regimental Lodge of the Connecticut Line, originally warranted by the Provincial Grand Master of Massachusetts.

This movement continued to find favor amongst the craft, especially in Pennsylvania, and culminated in a motion to that effect at a General Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, December 20, 1779.

This resulted in a Grand Lodge of Emergency being convened January 13, 1780, when the following action was taken:[83]

> "This Lodge being called by Order of the Grand Master, upon the request of Sundry Brethren, and also in pursuance of a Motion made at the last General Communication, to consider the Propriety as well as the necessity of appointing a Grand Master over all the Grand Lodges formed or to be formed in these United States, as the Correspondence which the Rules of Masonry require cannot now be carried on with the Grand Lodge of London, under whose Jurisdiction the Grand Lodges in these States were originally constituted; The Ballot was put upon the Question: Whether it be for the Benefit of Masonry that 'a Grand Master of Masons thro'out the United States' shall be now nominated on the part of this Grand Lodge; and it was unanimously determined in the affirmative.
>
> "Sundry respectable Brethren being then put in nomination, it was moved that the Ballot be put for them

[82] Vindication of General Washington before quoted, p. 15.
[83] Cf. "Reprint of Minutes of Grand Lodge," Vol. I, p. 19.

> separately, and His Excellency George Washington, Esquire, General and Commander-in-chief of the Armies of the United States being first in nomination, he was ballotted for accordingly as Grand Master, and Elected by the unanimous vote of the whole Lodge.
>
> "Ordered, That the minutes of this Election and appointment be transmitted to the different Grand Lodges in the United States, and their Concurrence therein be requested, in Order that application be made to his Excellency in due form, praying that he will do the Brethren and Craft the honor of accepting their appointment. A Committee was appointed to expedite the Business."

The movement was further advanced at a Convention of representatives of the Army Lodges, held at Morristown, N. J., on February 7, 1780, when, fortified by the pronounced action of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, a committee was chosen of which Brother Mordecai Gist of Maryland was chairman and Brother Otho Williams of Delaware, secretary.[84]

This Committee issued the celebrated address:

> "To the RIGHT WORSHIPFUL, The Grand Masters of the several Lodges in the Respective United States of America.
>
> "UNION——FORCE——LOVE."

This address was signed by representatives of no less than seven states, viz.: Maryland, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Bay, New York and Delaware; in addition to those of the American Union Lodge, Artillery, St. John's Regimental Lodge and the Staff of the American Army.

It was further ordered that the foregoing address with an exact copy of these proceedings signed by the President and Secretary, be sent to the respective Provincial Grand Masters in the United States.[85]

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[84] "Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, 1727-1781," Vol. I, p. 39.

[85] Address in full, *ibid.*, pp. 399-402.

It was not until the middle of October that a reply was received from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to the circular letter sent out by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and then only in response to a letter written by our Grand Secretary, Rev. Brother Dr. William Smith.

This matter led to more or less correspondence between the Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts and was in abeyance, until January, 1781, when the following letter was received from Joseph Webb, Grand Master of Massachusetts.[86]

"Boston, Jany 17, 1781.

"*Revd Sir and

"Respected Brother*

"Last Friday Evening the Grand Lodge met, agreeable to adjournment and after a long debate on the subject, whether it was expedient at present to elect a Grand Master General for the United States, it passed in the negative.

"Inclosed I transmit you the vote from the G. Sec'y.

"Yr Affect^{e} Brother

"& Hble Servt

"Jos: Webb.

"Rev Dr Smith

"Philadelphia."

The belief that Washington was the Grand Master of the United States was widespread, and, as our late Bro. James M. Lamberton said in his address before mentioned,[87] notwithstanding the fact that the project to elevate General Washington fell through, "that the action of the Army Lodges and of our Grand Lodge got abroad, is shown by translations of two letters from a Lodge at Cape Francois,[88] on the island of San Domingo, directed to General Washington as Grand Master of all America, soliciting a charter, which were presented to our Grand Lodge, February 3, 1786. The same thing is shown by a medal struck in 1797, the obverse showing the bust of Washington, with the legend,"G. Washington President.

[86] All of the original correspondence is in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Mss., Vol. A.

[87] "Washington Sesqui-Centennial Celebration, Nov. 5, 1902, Memorial Volume," pp. 135-6.

[88] Cf. "Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania," Vol. II, Chapter LIII, pp. 242-250.

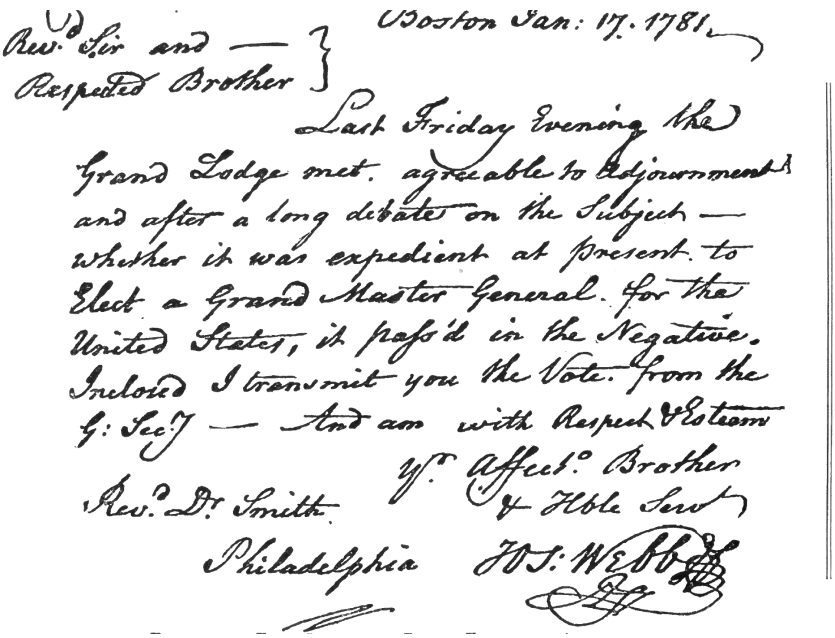
1797," the reverse showing many Masonic emblems,[89] with the legend "Amor. Honor. Et Justica G.W.G.G.M." (*i. e.*, George Washington, General Grand Master).

The writer of the letters to WASHINGTON, Snyder, quoted at the beginning of this chapter, being of foreign birth, and not a member of the Masonic Fraternity, nor even living where a Masonic Lodge existed, evidently labored under the same delusion as the Brethren at Cape Francois.

The Masonic Correspondence of WASHINGTON as represented upon these pages, should settle for all time to come the question, as to the esteem in which WASHINGTON held the Masonic Fraternity, of which he was an honored Member.

It is stated that there are still a large number of Washington papers in the Library of Congress, that are not accessible, as they have thus far not been classified or indexed. Thus it is in the possibilities that there may be still further documentary evidence found of Masonic import, in addition to such as are set forth upon these pages.

[89] Specimen in Museum of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.


Rev.d Sir and —
Respected Brother

Boston Jan: 17. 1781

Last Friday Evening the Grand Lodge met. agreeable to Adjournment and after a long debate on the Subject — whether it was expedient at present to Elect a Grand Master General. for the United States, it pass'd in the Negative. Inclosed I transmit you the Vote. from the G: Sec.y — And am with Respect & Esteem

y.r Affect.e Brother
& Hble Serv.t

Rev.d Dr. Smith

Philadelphia

W.m S: Webb
G.S.

Fac-simile of final letter from Boston, ending the attempt to make Gen. Washington General Grand Master.

A Letter from the Grand Master

Office of the R. W. Grand Master, F. & A. Masons in Pennsylvania, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.

The position of eminence, the great respect and the profound reverence in which the name of Washington is enshrined in the hearts of the American people, and particularly so, with the members of this Fraternity, and of all true lovers of liberty and freedom wheresoever dispersed, is the reason, if any be needed, why everything relating to this great man and worthy brother should be preserved for the future generations, to be used by them as a guide, in the cultivation of those cardinal virtues of Honor and Integrity, that should ever characterize the conduct of a good man and a good Mason.

The collection and reproduction of the letters of Brother Washington, together with the text of this book, have been prepared under my supervision, and its publication is heartily approved.

J. Henry Williams,
Grand Master.

February 22, A.D. 1915—A.L. 5915.



J. Henry Williams, R. W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, 1914–1915.

Summary and Analysis

The Plan of the Book

Sachse's Foreword states his purpose: to bring together in order of date the Masonic addresses sent to Washington and his replies, "eleven addresses" from seven of the original states, and to show the circumstances in which each was written. His opening chapter, "The Masonic Correspondence of Washington," describes the letter-books in which Washington's secretaries copied the correspondence, explains how the books came to the Library of Congress, and recounts how the Anti-Masonic writers of the 1830s used the few letters then known. It ends with a list of the documents that follow.

Fifteen numbered chapters then take the correspondence in order. Each chapter introduces a lodge or grand lodge and its officers, prints the address and Washington's reply, and adds what Sachse could learn of the people and the occasion. The facsimiles stand beside the transcriptions so that the reader can compare them.

From Newburgh to Mount Vernon, 1782–1784

The first chapter prints the letter of Elkanah Watson and his partner Cassoul of Nantes, who sent Washington a Masonic apron embroidered by the nuns of that city, and Washington's reply from Newburgh of August 10, 1782, in the fair copy and in the draft he kept. Chapters II and III follow his relations with Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, warranted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1783: its address on his return to private life in December 1783 and the festival of St. John the Baptist in June 1784, at which he was made an honorary member.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE LODGES, 1790–1797

Chapters IV through VIII follow Washington on his journeys as President. King David's Lodge at Newport, Rhode Island, addressed him in August 1790; St. John's Lodge, No. 2, at Newbern and Prince George's Lodge, No. 16, at Georgetown, South Carolina, welcomed him on his Southern tour in April 1791; and the Grand Lodges of South Carolina and Georgia addressed him at Charleston and Savannah in May. Sachse prints the draft of the South Carolina reply, which shows a paragraph Washington struck out before the letter was sent.

Chapters IX through XIII turn to the grand lodges of the North. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania addressed him in January 1792, at the hands of the Reverend William Smith, and again at the close of his presidency in December 1796; the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts sent him its *Book of Constitutions* in 1792 and addressed him on his retirement in 1797, when he answered Paul Revere and the grand officers. Between them stands his last exchange with the lodge at Alexandria, now No. 22 under the Grand Lodge of Virginia, in March 1797.

THE LAST LETTERS, 1798

Chapter XIV prints Washington's draft reply to the Grand Lodge of Maryland of November 1798, written when he had again been named commander of the army. Chapter XV, the longest, gives the exchange with the Reverend G. W. Snyder, who sent Washington John Robison's *Proofs of a Conspiracy* and warned him that the Illuminati sought to use the lodges to overturn religion and government. In his two replies Washington wrote that he did not believe the lodges of this country were contaminated by those principles, and that he presided over none and had seldom attended one in thirty years. Sachse closes the chapter with the attempt of 1780 to make Washington General Grand Master of the American lodges, and with an account of the public Masonic occasions he is known to have attended.

the book's value today

The letters themselves are now available, with full editorial apparatus, in *The Papers of George Washington* and online at Founders Online, but Sachse's book remains useful for three reasons. It brings the Masonic correspondence together in one place; it prints the drafts beside the fair copies; and it preserves the knowledge and records of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1915, including documents and relics held in its archives. Read with the cautions given in the Notes, it is still the most convenient introduction to what Washington himself wrote about Freemasonry.

Sources: the text of this book; Founders Online, National Archives, for the published edition of Washington's papers.

About the Author

Julius Friedrich Sachse (1842–1919) was born in Philadelphia on November 22, 1842, the son of Frederick Sachse and Julianna Buehler, and was educated in the city's schools and its Lutheran academy. He was a photographer and a writer on photography before he turned to history, and he became the leading historian of the German religious communities of colonial Pennsylvania, above all the Ephrata Cloister. His *German Pietists of Provincial Pennsylvania* (1895) and *German Sectarians of Pennsylvania* (1899–1900) are still cited. Muhlenberg College gave him the degree of Doctor of Letters.

Sachse was a member of Columbia Lodge, No. 91, in Philadelphia, of the Royal Arch, the Knights Templar, and the Scottish Rite. He had written on Benjamin Franklin's Masonic career before the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania made him its Librarian and Curator in 1906, an office he held until his death. In those thirteen years he edited and published much of the Grand Lodge's early record: *Freemasonry in Pennsylvania* with Norris S. Barratt, *Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania*, facsimiles of early documents, and studies of Washington and Lafayette. He died in Philadelphia on November 15, 1919.

Chronology

Washington's Masonic life, from the records Sachse cites, and the life of Julius F. Sachse.

1752 November 4. George Washington is entered an Apprentice in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

1753 March 3, passed Fellow Craft; August 4, raised a Master Mason in the same lodge.

1782 August 10. From Newburgh, New York, Washington thanks Watson and Cassoul of Nantes for a Masonic apron and ornaments.

1783 February 3. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania warrants Alexandria Lodge, No. 39. December: the lodge addresses Washington on his return to Mount Vernon.

1784 June 24. Washington dines with Alexandria Lodge, No. 39, on the festival of St. John the Baptist and accepts honorary membership.

1788 April 28. The Grand Lodge of Virginia charters Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, with Washington as its Master.

1789 April 30. Washington is inaugurated President while Master of his lodge.

1790 August. Address of King David's Lodge, Newport, Rhode Island, and Washington's reply.

1791 April–May. On his Southern tour Washington receives addresses from lodges at Newbern and Georgetown and from the Grand Lodges of South Carolina and Georgia.

1792 January 3. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania presents its first address. December 27: the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts sends its *Book of Constitutions*.

1793 September 18. Washington takes part in the Masonic laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol.

1796 December 27. Second address of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

1797 March–April. Exchanges with Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, and with Paul Revere and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

1798 August–October. Correspondence with the Reverend G. W. Snyder on the Illuminati. November: reply to the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

1799 December 14. Washington dies at Mount Vernon; Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, buries him with Masonic rites on December 18.

1842 November 22. Julius Friedrich Sachse is born in Philadelphia.

1895 Publishes *The German Pietists of Provincial Pennsylvania, 1694–1708.*

1899 *The German Sectarians of Pennsylvania* (two volumes, 1899–1900).

1906 Publishes *Benjamin Franklin as a Free Mason*; becomes Librarian and Curator of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

1908 *Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, 1727–1907*, with Norris S. Barratt.

1912 *Old Masonic Lodges of Pennsylvania* (two volumes, 1912–1913).

1915 February 22. Signs the Foreword of *Washington's Masonic Correspondence*.

1916 Publishes his history of Lafayette's fraternal connections with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

1919 November 15. Sachse dies in Philadelphia.

Sources for About the Author and the Chronology: Mildred F. Fisher, "Julius F. Sachse," *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly* 10, no. 4 (October 1959), pp. 84–86; notice of his appointment as librarian (1906), masonicperiodicals.org; library catalog records of his works.

A Note on This Edition

This edition follows the only printing of *Washington's Masonic Correspondence as Found among the Washington Papers in the Library of Congress*, compiled by Julius F. Sachse under the direction of the Committee on Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, 1915; printed by the New Era Printing Company, Lancaster, Pennsylvania). The text was taken from the transcription of that printing made by Distributed Proofreaders for Project Gutenberg (eBook 29949), and every word of it was compared by machine with a scan of a copy of the 1915 printing (University of California Libraries, digitized for the Internet Archive as masoniccorresponoowashrich). Every difference was checked against the page image.

Sachse's spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are kept, and so is the spelling of the manuscripts he transcribed, with their contractions and raised letters ("Gent^{n}," "Y^{rs}"). Where he printed a letter line for line as Washington wrote it, the lines are kept as he divided them, with the opening quotation mark he set at the head of each line; his caret of insertion is printed ∧, and words written above the line stand where he set them. Four printer's errors, among them "Illumaniti" and "contiuue," have been corrected, and two slips in the Gutenberg transcription, a repeated word and a misread name, have been corrected. Three passages that the transcription omits have been restored from the 1915 pages: the minute of King David's Lodge of August 17, 1790, the second sentence of the note on it, and Sachse's note on the Watson and Cassoul apron. Every change is listed in the edition's record of corrections, available from the American Freemasons Library.

Sachse's plates are reproduced from the scan of the 1915 printing. The portraits, views, and relics are given in full; the facsimiles of

letters are given without the running heads and captions printed with them, and each plate carries his caption, set in sentence case and printed beneath it. Plates that were printed sideways in 1915 are turned upright. Each plate follows the page on which Sachse's text refers to it. His decorative headpieces and tailpieces, the state seals and arms that headed his chapters, and the arms of the Grand Lodge of England that closed his book are omitted, and signatures that he reproduced in facsimile within the text are given in italic type. The frontispiece is his; the portrait of Grand Master J. Henry Williams now stands with the Grand Master's letter after Sachse's text.

Sachse's notes are printed at the foot of the page and numbered straight through the book. He numbered them in the same way but inserted a few later notes with letters (32a and the like); here they take their place in the sequence, so that his note 32a is note 33. His Index is kept entry for entry, in the alphabetical order the Gutenberg transcribers gave it, and keyed to the pages of this edition. The editor's notes that follow are keyed to the page and to the word or phrase they explain; nothing has been added to Sachse's pages. In the ebook the notes link to their passages, the Index entries link to theirs, and the pages of the printed edition are marked.

Notes

Notes are keyed to the page and to the word or phrase they explain.

1 *while Master of his Lodge* The Grand Lodge of Virginia chartered Alexandria Lodge, No. 22, on April 28, 1788, with Washington as its Master. He was inaugurated on April 30, 1789, while holding that office, and served as Master until December 1789 (George Washington Masonic Memorial, "A Brief History").

1 *fourteen Presidents* Sachse's figure reflects claims current in 1915. The presidents whose membership is documented to that date are ten: Washington, Monroe, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and Taft. Jefferson and Madison were often claimed as Masons, but no acceptable evidence of their membership has been found (Masonic Service Association, *Short Talk Bulletin*, July 1933; Harry S. Truman Library, "Masonic Presidents of the United States").

7 *Anti-Masonic* The Anti-Masonic movement arose in western New York after the disappearance of William Morgan in 1826, when he was about to publish an exposure of the ritual. It became a political party that elected Joseph Ritner Governor of Pennsylvania in 1835; Ritner's *Vindication of General Washington* (1837), cited by Sachse, argued from the letters then known that Washington had little regard for the Craft.

8 *Jared Sparks* Jared Sparks (1789–1866), historian and later president of Harvard College, edited *The Writings of George Washington* (12 vols., Boston, 1834–1837).

13 *nominating General Washington as Grand Master* In 1780 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania proposed that the American grand lodges unite under a General Grand Master and nominated Washington. The other grand lodges did not agree, and no general grand lodge of the United States was ever formed; each state has kept its own grand lodge.

14 *"Moderns"* Two rival grand lodges divided English Freemasonry in the eighteenth century: the Grand Lodge formed in London in 1717, whose members were called "Moderns," and the Grand Lodge of the "Ancients," formed in 1751. Both warranted lodges in America. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania that published this book descends from the Ancients' provincial grand lodge; the two English bodies united in 1813 as the United Grand Lodge of England.

17 *the Marquise de Lafayette* Sachse's identification is the one accepted today. The apron owned by Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, is the Watson and Cassoul apron, which Washington is commonly agreed to have worn at the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol in 1793 (George Washington Masonic Memorial, "Washington's Letter to Watson after Receiving a Masonic Apron," 2017). The apron in the museum of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, received in 1829, is the one traditionally said to have been embroidered by Madame de Lafayette.

119 *Illuminati* The Order of the Illuminati was founded in Bavaria in 1776 by Adam Weishaupt, a professor at Ingolstadt, and was suppressed by the Bavarian government in 1784–1785. Robison and the French writer Augustin Barruel blamed it for the French Revolution, and their books set off a scare in New England in 1798.

119 *John Robison* John Robison (1739–1805), professor of natural philosophy at Edinburgh, published *Proofs of a Conspiracy against All the Religions and Governments of Europe* in 1797; an American edition appeared in 1798. The copy Snyder sent was in Washington's library at his death (editorial note to Snyder's letter of August 22, 1798, *The Papers of George Washington*, Retirement Series, vol. 2, Founders Online).

Further Reading

Washington's Papers

The Papers of George Washington, ed. W. W. Abbot, Dorothy Twohig, Philander D. Chase, and others (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1983–); the letters in this book are in the Confederation, Presidential, and Retirement Series.

Founders Online, National Archives (founders.archives.gov): the full text of Washington's papers, searchable by correspondent.

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