

Subject: Questions about Anecdote 1

"What is the correct name of our lodge?"

Date: Fri, 25 Aug 2000 22:02:35 +0700

From: "Claude Harris" <charris@ksc15.th.com>

To: "AW22 Members' List" <aw22@aw22.com>

Dear Brethren,

There have been several emails and other questions brought to my attention concerning the exact name of our lodge. Let me simplify matters by giving points of reference as follows:

1. The charter that is now on regular display for lodge meetings of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 is not the original charter and has no official position as regards the name of our lodge. The Grand Lodge of Virginia issued this document at the turn of the century (sorry but I don't have the exact date or name of the Grand Master that issued this copy), as a result of a request from the lodge. During this period, our lodge was open to the public during the day. In fact, our lodge room at City Hall had become the city museum visited by thousands per year. One day without notice, a visitor (some say a candidate that was rejected for membership) jumped onto the Washington chair and taking out a large pocketknife, began slashing the chair and everything in site! To the horror of those present, and before the attendants could control this wild man, he had cut the chair in a dozen or more places from top to bottom! So much was the lodge troubled by this incident that after the restoration of the chair, they purchased a thick and heavy glass covering for the chair and placed the original charter in a steel vault. The man in question was also prosecuted. Shortly thereafter, the lodge requested that the Grand Lodge of Virginia issue a replica charter so the original could be locked up for safekeeping. The results are the existence of the replica charter that is now used by the lodge. If you will read it carefully, there is an additional message in the lower right-hand corner acknowledging this fact and the purpose of the replica. Since this charter was copied from the original, which only has the name "Alexandria Lodge, No. 22", the person that copied the document must have placed the additional hyphen when writing in Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 in this duplicated charter. This replica is used so we don't have to physically have the original charter in the

room when opening lodge meetings as required by the Virginia Methodical Digest.

2. Please reference "The Lodge of Washington" by F.L. Brockett, edition 1876. On page 23 you will find the text of the original grand lodge resolution. As referenced in my anecdote, there is no hyphen between the words Alexandria and Washington.

3. In the "Proceedings of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of the State of Virginia" Volume one, page 323 and 341 you will find the exact text of the adopted resolution. Here again, there is no hyphen used.

4. Finally, if one will reference the original resolution that was issued in 1805, you will not find a hyphen.

Brethren, please understand that I am not trying to solicit the change of our lodge name. As far as I am concerned, we should continue to use the title of "Alexandria-Washington Lodge No.22" no questions asked. My former anecdote was just a clarification for those interested in the history of the lodge's name. Please again reference lodge anecdote number one for further information.

Truly yours,

RW Claude Harris, PM of the lodge
Email: charris@ksc15.th.com