

**A CENTURY OF FREEMASONRY
BEING THE HISTORY OF LEBANON LODGE, No. 7,
F. A. A. M., OF WASHINGTON, D. C.,
FROM
OCTOBER 8, 1811, TO OCTOBER 8, 1911**

**COMPILED BY
REV. TITUS ELWOOD DAVIS, Chaplain
BLAIR MCKENZIE, Worshipful Master
WALTER WELLS LUDLOW, Secretary**

CITY OF WASHINGTON

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Origins of Lebanon Lodge No. 7:

On Tuesday night, September 10, 1811, 10 men, 9 of them Master Masons and one an Entered Apprentice, at an informal gathering, agreed to meet at Davis's Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, near Sixth Street, on Saturday night, September 14, for the purpose of drafting a petition to the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia asking for a warrant for a new lodge of Masons in the City of Washington. **The 10 men who came together according to arrangement were Brothers Charles Glover, William Hewitt, John Weightman, James Hewitt, Pontius D. Stelle, John Peltz, Thomas B. Briscoe, Rev. Andrew T. McCormick, C. Willis Wever, and Entered Apprentice John Davis, all of Federal Lodge, No. 1.** Seven of these persons met according to appointment at Davis's Hotel on Saturday, September 14, 6 of them being Master Masons, Brothers Rev. Andrew T. McCormick, James Hewitt, and Thomas B. Briscoe not appearing. Brother C. Willis Wever was selected as chairman and Brother William Hewitt as secretary. After a statement by the chairman as to the object of the meeting, it was unanimously—

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, after due deliberation, it is expedient to establish another lodge in the District of Columbia. Resolved, That this meeting now proceed to the election by ballot of three brethren to be recommended as officers of the contemplated lodge.

The ballot resulted in Brother Rev. Andrew Thomas McCormick, who was then rector of Christ Episcopal Church in the city, being elected Worshipful Master; Brother Charles Glover, Senior Warden, and Brother C. Willis Wever, Junior Warden. A committee of three, consisting of Brothers Glover, Hewitt, and Weightman, were then appointed by the committee to wait on Brother McCormick and notify him of his election as Worshipful Master, and to make such other arrangements as may seem advisable."

On Saturday, September 21, 7 brethren, James Hewitt being present instead of John Davis, met at Davis's Hotel, having been called by the committee of three appointed at the last meeting. It was then stated that the committee had waited on Brother McCormick, and while he expressed much satisfaction in having been elected Worshipful Master and thanked the brethren for the honor shown him, he regretted that his church work would prevent him from accepting the office. Brother Wever acknowledged with pleasure his election as Junior Warden, but was extremely sorry that his office as secretary of Federal Lodge, No. 1, would prevent him from serving. The brethren then elected, by ballot. Brother Charles Glover, Worshipful Master; Brother James Hewitt, Senior Warden, and Brother John Weightman, Junior Warden.

A committee of three, consisting of Brothers Glover, Peltz, and Weightman, were appointed to prepare a petition to the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, praying that a warrant be granted to Brothers Charles Glover, as Worshipful Master, James Hewitt, as Senior Warden, and John Weightman, as Junior Warden, authorizing them to hold a lodge in the City of Washington to be known as Lebanon Lodge ;and the said committee was further instructed to prepare a memorial to Federal Lodge, No. 1, respectfully stating the reasons that influenced them to take action looking toward the formation of a new lodge, and requesting a recommendation from them to the Grand Lodge for that object. This memorial was presented to Federal Lodge, No. 1, at its regular meeting on Monday, October 7, 1811, and was as follows:

To the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of Federal Lodge, No. 1: The subscribers respectfully represent that they have it in contemplation to petition the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia for a warrant or charter in the names of Charles Glover, Worshipful Master ; James Hewitt, Senior Warden, and John Weightman, Junior Warden, to be called and known by the name of Lebanon Lodge.

We therefore conceive it to be our duty, not only in conformity to the custom hitherto pursued, but as members of your lodge, freely to communicate the motives by which we are actuated, in doing which we feel considerable diffidence. Being all of us, either young or inexperienced members, doubts may exist of our possessing sufficient experience to enable us to proceed in so important an undertaking with credit to ourselves and advantage to our Great Grand Master. But we embark with a zealous determination of acquiring a knowledge of, and conforming to, the ancient usages and customs of the craft.

Masonry in this District, having progressed rapidly, and a Grand Lodge having been organized, every effort ought to be exerted consistent with the principles of the fraternity, to strengthen and fix that Grand Lodge on a firm and sure foundation; and having no other object in view, but under all circumstances of advancing the interest of the craft and extending, beneficially, the empire of Masonry, having induced us to solicit your parental attention and recommendation, should you think a step of the kind advisable, and that so important a trust can be safely and prudently confided to those recommended.

Should the object we now have in view be sanctioned by the Grand Lodge at their next meeting, you will consider this as due notice of the resignation of those whose names are herewith sent, agreeably to the constitution of our lodge.

In case of such an event, the warmest sensibility of our feelings will be excited by the reflection, that although separated as members of No. 1, we shall be united as brothers working under the same parent lodge, and being governed by the same principles and views, we will be stimulated by a spirit of emulation in the work that may tend most to the honor, respectability, and advancement of the principles of the craft. Your advice and instruction we will freely request when circumstances may render it necessary. And we hope you will accept the assurance of our earnest solicitude for the continuance of the prosperity that has heretofore attended No. 1, and be assured of the respect and attachment of your friends and brothers.

*CHARLES GLOVER.
JOHN WEIGHTMAN.
JOHN PELTZ.
WILLIAM HEWITT.
JAMES HEWITT.
PONTIUS D. STELLE.
THOMAS B. BRISCOE.
JOHN DAVIS.
ANDREW T. McCoRMICK.*

WASHINGTON CITY, October 7, 1811.

It has been reported, and is also a matter of historic record, that it was owing to internal dissensions in Federal Lodge, No. 1, that caused these 9 brethren and another who joined them

at the first meeting of Lebanon Lodge to leave their parent lodge and petition the Grand Lodge for a charter to form a new lodge. But surely in this communication, written in the kind and fraternal spirit that breathes through every line, with the expressions of attachment and the assurances of continued union as Masonic brethren, there is no evidence that these brethren carried with them the remembrance of any grievance or any ill will to the lodge from which they were about to separate. Nor is there any symptom of ill feeling on the part of Federal Lodge, No. 1, for when the request was presented on the same date as signed, the following action was taken :

On motion made and seconded it was unanimously Resolved, That the prayer of said petitioners is reasonable and ought to be granted, and that therefore this lodge do recommend to the Grand Lodge, that they grant to the said petitioners, a warrant as prayed for.

*ROBERT ELUOTT, Worshipful Master, pro tern.
JAMES HEWITT, Secretary, pro tern.*

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia met in the Union Lodge room on October 8, 1811. The petition for a warrant was received from the 8 Master Masons who had made the request for a recommendation from Federal Lodge, No. 1. (It will be remembered that John Davis, who signed that request, was an Entered Apprentice.) The petition to the Grand Lodge was as follows:

To the Right Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia:

The subscribers beg leave to represent that they are Master Masons, and are now members of Federal Lodge, No. 1, working under your jurisdiction, that they have the highest veneration for the principles of the craft, and are desirous of diffusing those principles according to the ancient usage and custom of the fraternity.

They therefore humbly petition your Right Worshipful Grand Lodge to grant them a warrant or charter by the name of Lebanon Lodge, No. —, authorizing and empowering them to work as a lodge of Masons, according to the most ancient and honorable principles of the craft, within the City of Washington.

Should this petition be granted, they promise to conform to all the orders and regulations that have, or may hereafter be made by your Right Worshipful Grand Lodge. And in order to carry into effect the object of their petition, they beg leave to recommend Charles Glover as Worshipful Master, James Hewitt as Senior Warden, and John Weightman as Junior Warden of the said Lodge.

*CHARLES GLOVER.
JOHN WEIGHTMAN.
JOHN PELTZ.
PONTIUS D. STELLE.
JAMES HEWITT.
WILLIAM HEWITT.
THOMAS B. BRISCOE.
ANDREW T. McCORMICK.*

WASHINGTON CITY, October 8, 1811.

This petition was read at the Grand Lodge with the recommendation from Federal Lodge, No. 1,

that the request be granted. The Grand Lodge then, on motion, unanimously

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioners is reasonable and that the same be granted, and that the Grand Secretary prepare a warrant as prayed for, and on the brethren named in the said petition, obtaining a discharge from Federal Lodge, No. 1, agreeable to the laws of said lodge, and paying to the treasurer of this Lodge the sum required by the constitution, the Grand Secretary is hereby ordered to deliver the warrant prayed for to the officers therein named.

Resolved, That Brethren Alexander McCormick and Charles Jones, or either of them, be and they are hereby authorized to install the officers of Lebanon Lodge No. —, to whom a warrant is this day granted by the foregoing resolution.

VALENTINE REINTZEL, Worshipful Grand Master.

JAMES HEWITT, Deputy Grand Secretary.

WASHINGTON CITY, October 8, 1811.

While the charter bears date of October 8, 1811, yet the conditions therein stated not having been complied with, no meeting of Lebanon Lodge was held until November 14, 1811.

At the stated meeting of Federal Lodge, No. 1, held on November 4, 1811, it was ordered that the 9 brethren who had signed the petition for the formation of Lebanon Lodge, should receive a regular discharge. As a further expression of the fraternal feeling of Federal Lodge, the use of their lodge room was granted to Lebanon for their regular meetings and also the use of their jewels. For over 30 years Federal and Lebanon Lodges held their meetings in the same buildings, and the spirit of true Masonic friendship seemed to hold them close.