

A Brief History of the Formation of A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge Of Research No. 1949

by
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The Lodge was formed in 1982, by a number of brethren distinguished in Masonry and Masonic learning. Fifty Masons signed the Request for a Dispensation and more than 100 signed the Petition for the Charter. Prominent among them were: Most Worshipful Stewart W. Miner, PGM, Right Worshipful Werner H. (Bill) Morlock, then the District Deputy Grand Master for the District in which the Lodge was formed, Worshipful William A. Meyer, a Past Master of Springfield Lodge No. 217, Right Worshipful Clarence Arthur Dains, PDDGM, a Past Master of John Blair Lodge No. 187, and Worshipful Arthur R. Wise, Sr., a Past Master of Columbia Lodge No. 285.

The Organizational Meeting of the Lodge was held at Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219, Alexandria, Virginia, on December 4, 1982. The Lodge was Instituted, on December 18, 1982, by Most Worshipful Lloyd U. Jefferson, the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, at Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia. Following a favorable action by the Grand Lodge on the Petition for a Charter in February 1983, the Ceremony of Consecrating, Dedicating, and Constituting the Lodge was conducted on 30 April 1983, by a team led by Most Worshipful Lloyd U. Jefferson, then the Immediate Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, at the request of Most Worshipful William M. Johnson, the Grand Master. Most Worshipful Lloyd U. Jefferson, subsequently, in 1987, served as the Master of the Lodge.

The founders' intent was to establish a Lodge in Northern Virginia to foster research; promote the serious study among the brethren of the different aspects of Masonry and the subjects and issues related thereto; encourage the preparation and presentation of papers on Masonic subjects and their discussion in the Lodge; associate with or collaborate with Masonic scholars in other jurisdictions; gather and preserve Masonic information; maintain a library; supply papers or speakers at the request of other Lodges when

convenient; and conduct a program of general service to the Craft in the field of Masonic education and information.

The Lodge was named for Most Worshipful Alfred Douglas Smith, Jr., a very active and highly esteemed Mason, who served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia in 1949 — and hence the number of the Lodge. Most Worshipful Brother Doug was in constant attendance at the Lodge until his death in 1986 and conducted each Installation of its officers in his own unique style — unchallenged by the Committee on Work! He was a constant inspiration to all with whom he came in contact.

Of the founders, Most Worshipful Stewart Miner remains as an Honorary Member and one of the Lodge's three Trustees; Right Worshipful Werner Morlock became the Charter Senior Warden of, the Lodge, its second Master, and progressed through the Grand Line to become the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia; Worshipful William Meyer was the first Master of the Lodge; and Worshipful Arthur Wise labored for the first six years of the Lodge's existence as its able Secretary.

The Lodge meets on selected fifth Saturdays of the year and on the third Saturday in December in the North Room of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial located on Shooter's Hill, Alexandria Virginia.

