

## **It Came To Pass**

*A two act play with narrations on the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia*

By

Rt. Wor. William A. Brown

**Presented to A. Douglas Smith, Jr. Lodge of Research, #1949**

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*The opinions presented in this paper are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Master and Wardens of the A. Douglas Smith Jr., Lodge of Research #1949 or the official views of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Virginia.*



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This is a two-act play, with narrations on the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The historical facts from which this play was written, we give credit and appreciation to:

*The Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Virginia - 1777 to 1823 Vol. 1*  
*The minutes of Williamsburg Lodge* by George Kidd, P.G.M.  
*Freemasonry in Virginia* by William M. Brown  
*The Bi-Centennial Life of Washington, G.P.O.*

By way of an explanation to the way the lodges were conducted at that time, and the reason for so few masons taking part in the establishment of our Grand Lodge. May I remind you that the Webb Ritual did not exist at that time, and most all meetings were held in the First Degree, and the only time the Third Degree was opened, was for formal business of masonry; thus the formation of a Grand Lodge fell to those who were Master Masons. Thus explains the small attendance. Also, at that time, the Master sat in the East with the Senior Warden on his right and the Junior Warden on his left.

The play opens on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1777 in the lodge room of Williamsburg Lodge. Those present were:

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Duncan Rose     | of Blandford Lodge              |
| John Rowsay     | of Williamsburg Lodge           |
| John Crawford   | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| William Simmons | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| John Stewart    | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |

Introduction to two- act play - Williamsburg Lodge Room 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 1778

Play opens on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 1777 in the Lodge room of Williamsburg Lodge.

## ACT 1

(Those present are talking.)

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Duncan Rose     | of Blandford Lodge              |
| John Rowsay     | of Williamsburg Lodge           |
| John Crawford   | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| William Simmons | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| John Stewart    | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |

**William Simmons** - (*must be speaking when curtain opens*)

“War; War. When will it cease? I go to market to talk business and everyone is talking WAR, no one appears interested in the price of crops or shipping news.”

**John Crawford** -

“Shipping news? (*laugh*) What shipping news? Not a ship has reached our coastal ports, river traffic is only local; how can one be interested in shipping news when there is none?”

**Duncan Rose** -

“I believe we had better look to our livestock and fill our barns, this war is bound to go one of two ways, either prices will rise and thus prosperity or the British will burn us out.”

**William Simmons** -

“We feel for our brothers in the north and when we are able we should send food and arms”

**Duncan Rose** -

“John Turner is heading up a supply train in which I have an interest and at this time should be two days out of Fredericksburg. May the Good Lord grant him a smooth and safe journey.”

**All Together**-

“Here! Here!”

**William Simmons** -

“All is not well for our brothers in the north; I feel we should do more to help them. (*pause*) Yet I doubt if the war will come this far south, Washington is said to be somewhere near a place called Germantown.”

**John Stewart** -

“Are they fighting there?”

**William Simmons** -

“I really could not say.”

**John Rowsay** -

“Germantown! I was told this morning he was at a place called Brandywine.”

**John Stewart** -

“I understand they fought a battle at Brandywine. Wherever that is. But no one appears to know who won.”

**John Crawford** -

“News is ragged, it is hard to come by, or know what to believe.”

**William Simmons** -

“I still say, and believe, by reliable source, Washington and his troops are at Germantown.”

**Duncan Rose-**

“Just where is Germantown?”

**William Simmons -**

“Somewhere near Philadelphia, I believe.”

**John Stewart -**

“It is like Will said, the war is in the north, we have nothing to fear this far south.”

**Duncan Rose -**

“I still say we must send food and supplies to Washington, wherever he is, George is one of our boys and needs our help and support, Congress won’t help, they spend too much time fighting each other.”

**John Crawford -**

“I agree with Duncan, we must do everything we can for George; after all he sure gave the British hell at Trenton last year. *(laugh)* had them running around with their pants down.” *(laugh)*

*(William Waddill of Williamsburg Lodge and James Kemp of Port Royal Kilwinning both enter at this time.)*

**William Waddill -**

“Gentlemen, Gentlemen, I should say Brothers *(pause)* we make no excuse, only ask your pardon for keeping you waiting. Brother Kemp and I awaited on Brother Matthew Phripp, our President, but word was sent that Matt had not returned from Yorktown. He delivered 30 head of beef to be shipped to Washington and his troops in the north.”

**James Kemp -**

*(on entering takes his place at desk or table and lays out some papers, he remains silent until Waddill mentions troops in the north, then speaks)*

“Brother Phripp our President requested, in his absence, if it so please the convention that Brother Rose assume the chair. *(pause)* What is your pleasure?”

**John Rowsay and John Stewart - (together)**

“Brother Duncan to be sure.”

**John Kemp -**

“Does anyone object? *(pause)* Then I would ask Brother Rose to assume the chair.”

**Duncan Rose - (Moves to chair beside Kemp)**

“It is indeed an honor to preside over this convention, yet your judgment I hope will improve when we arrive at the more important articles of consideration. It is also to my advantage to have so competent a secretary as Brother Kemp. *(pause)* Before we proceed I would ask Brother Simmons to invoke the blessing of our Father in Heaven upon this assembly, Brother Simmons.”

*(All Stand)*

**William Simmons -**

“May the favor of Heaven be upon this happy meeting, may it be begun, carried on, and ended in order, harmony and brotherly love, A-men.”

*(All are Seated)*

**Duncan Rose -**

I believe everybody is acquainted from our meeting of May 6th, yet I would like to call your names and Lodge, and ask you to stand, that our Secretary may record your presence for the record.”

*(As name is called, each stands and then sits)*

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| “William Waddill | of Williamsburg Lodge           |
| John Rowsay      | of Williamsburg Lodge           |
| John Crawford    | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| William Simmons  | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| John Stewart     | of Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| James Kemp       | of Port Royal Kilwinning Cross  |

And of course, your servant, Duncan Rose of Blandford.”

*(After short pause)*

“At the adjournment of our convention on May 6th, a committee was appointed for which I was named chairman. However, before we attempt to proceed, I would ask your indulgence while our secretary reviews what has transpired.”

**James Kemp (reads)**

I have set forth the events leading to and transpiring in our convention to date.” *(pause as he arranges papers)*

“As the death of our Grand Master Peyton Randolph created a vacancy, and the reason for this convention, I would read from the minutes of Williamsburg Lodge, so that all may know of the events of his passing.

‘Peyton Randolph - 1721 -1775’

Acknowledged and referred to as Grand Master in the Treasurer’s book of the lodge held in Crown Point Tavern in 1762, Peyton was the first Master of Crown Point Tavern Lodge under the new English Charter of 1773 (Minutes of 1774- referred to Peyton as Provincial Grand Master of Virginia).

At the death of our Provincial Grand Master Peyton Randolph October 22, 1775 while attending the Continental Congress held in Philadelphia, the office of Grand Master became vacant.

Due to strong feelings of resentment against the crown, no Provincial Grand Master was requested.

The body of Peyton Randolph was returned to Williamsburg, where on November 26, 1776 Williamsburg Lodge met and agreed on the form of procession, then repaired to the College Chapel

where the body of Worthy Brother Peyton Randolph was interred. The brothers returned to the Lodge and adjourned.”

“From the minutes of Williamsburg Lodge, December 3, 1776, William Waddill, W.M. presiding.

On a motion made; Resolved that the master of this Lodge directed to write to all regular lodges in the state, requesting their attendance by their deputies at this Lodge in order to form a convention to choose a Grand Master for the State of Virginia, on the first day of next assembly, William Waddill, W.M.”

‘Letters written to:

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Norfolk (Royal Exchange) | Norfolk                   |
| Port Royal               | Caroline City             |
| Blandford                | Petersburg                |
| Fredericksburg           | Fredericksburg            |
| St Tammany               | Hampton                   |
| Botetourt                | Gloster Court House       |
| Cabin Point Royal Arch   | Prince George Court House |
| Yorktown                 | Yorktown                  |

requesting they send deputies to a convention to be held in Williamsburg Lodge on Tuesday the 6th day of May 1777.

April 1, 1777 - On a Motion; Resolved that the present officers are requested to meet the deputed from the other lodges.”

“May 6, 1777 - William Waddill P.M. and John Rowsay SW. of Williamsburg Lodge received:

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Matthew Phripp  | of Norfolk Lodge           |
| James Kemp      | of Kilwinning Cross Lodge  |
| Duncan Rose     | of Blandford Lodge         |
| John Crawford   | of Blandford Lodge         |
| William Simmons | of Blandford Lodge         |
| John Stewart    | of Cabin Point Royal Arch’ |

“Brother Waddill laid the following letters before the convention, which were directed to Williamsburg Lodge, a letter from Fredericksburg Lodge, enclosed and order from that lodge, a letter from Botetourt Lodge, also a letter from Brother James Taylor, Master of Norfolk Lodge which were severally read.”

“The letter from Botetourt Lodge dated April 30, 1777 was re-read and discussed, where in its doubts were expressed in the name of the lodge as to the necessity of electing a Grand Master and severing all the ties which bound them to the Parent Grand Lodge. As for Local Authority, Fredericksburg Lodge is a warranted or chartering lodge and has power of deputation; in case any number of Masons desire to form a lodge.”

“Following the reading of the letters a general discussion followed. Discussing pros and cons beneficial to the Craft.”

“A motion being made and it being the unanimous opinion of this convention that a Grand Master ought to preside over the Craft in this Commonwealth.”

“Resolved, that a committee be appointed for drawing up reasons why, a Grand Master should be chosen, consisting of Duncan Rose, William Waddill, James Kemp and John Crawford; and that their proceedings be laid before this convention on Tuesday, the 13th day of May next at 6 O’clock p.m.”

“Resolved, That this convention be adjourned till Tuesday the 13th day of May next.”

*(This ends the reading of the record and minutes)*

#### **Duncan Rose -**

“You have now heard the history of and the proceedings of our first assembly. As the next order of business I would ask Brother Waddill to deliver to the convention the efforts of their appointed committee on the reasons why a Grand Master should be chosen, as ordered at our last meeting.”

#### **William Waddill - (rises and reads)**

“To the right Worshipful Master, Wardens and Worthy Brothers of all lodges.

In consequence of a proposition of the Williamsburg Lodge inviting all regular lodges in Virginia to attend at their Lodge on the 5th day of May, 1777, for the purpose of electing a Grand Master of Free Masons for the said Commonwealth of Virginia, five regular lodges appeared by deputation on the 7th instance, viz; Norfolk, Kilwinning, Port Royal Cross, Blandford, Williamsburg and Cabin Point Royal Arch. And thence by adjournment to the 13th instance, when taking the subject of meeting into consideration, are unanimously of opinion that a Grand Master is requisite in this state for the following reasons, founded on the principles, of necessity, convenience and right, to-wit;

First - We find that the lodges in this State to hold their charters under five distinct and separate authorities, viz; The Grand Master of England, Scotland, Ireland, Pennsylvania and America,(the last second hand). Of course all have equal right to appoint their deputy, who can claim no Authority over those not holding of his principals. Therefore any difference arising between Lodges holding differently, cannot be settled for want of a common tribunal. For the same reason the Craft can never set in annual communication, manifesting that brotherly love and brotherly affection, the distinguishing characteristics of Masonry from the beginning. Such divided and sub-divided authority can never be productive of any real good to the Craft.

Secondly - We cannot discover, upon strict enquiry, that Masonry has ever derived any benefit from the foreign appointment of a Grand Master in this Country, They being little known, and as little acknowledged.

Thirdly - Being at this time without a supreme and as circumstance has rendered it impossible to have recourse to the Grand Lodge beyond the sea, should any abuse creep into the lodges or should any body of the Brotherhood be desirous of forming a new lodge, there is no settled authority to apply to. In this case we are of the opinion that a Grand Lodge is a matter of necessity.

Fourthly - And lastly, we find upon record that the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland, founded their original right of election upon their sole authority, by mutual consent, distinct and



separate from all foreign power whatever. We therefore conclude that we have and ought to hold the same rights and privileges that Masons in all time heretofore have confessedly enjoyed.

We the deputies aforesaid, for ourselves and our respective Lodges humbly beseech and desire that you will be pleased to take the foregoing reasons into consideration, and that you will favor us with your attendance by deputation in this State, on the 23rd day of June next, ensuing at 10 O'clock, in the forenoon for the first time, and ever after at such time and place as the Grand Lodge shall determine. We have signified this our desire to all others, our regular and loving brethren in like manner, as we have done to you, hoping to see you on the day appointed, and we have caused these our proceedings to be signed by our Brother Duncan Rose, President and attested to by our Worthy Brother James Kemp, Secretary, this 13th day of May, A.L. 5777, A.D. 1777."

*(Waddill hands the paper to the Secretary and takes his seat, all clap as he moves to his seat)*

**Duncan Rose -**

"Thank you Brother Waddill, the committee report was well read, and I personally find the report well prepared. I now open the floor for discussion and the chair will recognize any brother who may wish to add to or subtract from the report."

*(Everything is quiet, no one moves, each appears in deep meditation, Duncan Rose counts slowly to himself to ten, and raps gavel)*

**John Stewart -** *(Slowly rises to his feet, but just stands, says nothing)*

**Duncan Rose -**

The Chair recognizes Brother Stewart."

**John Stewart -**

"I am well pleased with the report, I feel sure if our brothers at home were here or see this report it would dispel much of their anxiety, and would further unite us in the formation of a Grand Lodge, I therefore move that copies of the report be made and sent to all the different lodges in this State."  
*(Sits)*

**John Rowsay -**

John's point is well to consider, I also would propose the same action."

**Duncan Rose -**

"What is your pleasure Brethren?"

**All Together-**

"Here! Here!"

**Duncan Rose -**

"I take it we are in agreement? *(pause)* Then be it resolved, that copies of the committee report be made and sent to all the different regular lodges in this State." *(another pause)*  
"So ordered by the chair." *(raps gavel)*

**John Crawford -**

“It would appear the business of this convention is near an end, I for one am hot and thirsty, a cold tankard would be my next order of business.” (a slight chuckle)

**Duncan Rose -**

“Your point is well taken, John, and unless someone has further business in this convention.. (pause)... then be it resolved, this convention be adjourned till the 23rd day of June next ensuing, at 10 O’clock, am.’ (brings gavel down.)

*Curtain closes end of first act*

*(In consideration of time and the convenience of the audience, it has been decided that the meeting of June 23, 1777 be narrated, this will also provide time for the cast to change if they wish, and be ready for the second act curtain.)*

## NARRATOR

“They assembled in Williamsburg Lodge Hall on June 23, 1777 with the following officers in attendance.

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Duncan Rose P.M.      | Blandford lodge              |
| James Kemp            | Kilwinning Port Royal Cross  |
| William Finnie M.     | Williamsburg Lodge           |
| William Waddill P.M.  | Williamsburg Lodge           |
| William Simmons M.    | Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| Archibald Campbell    | Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| James Mercer M.       | Fredericksburg Lodge         |
| Benjamin Johnson Sec. | Fredericksburg Lodge         |

The Convention was called to order pursuant to the adjournment of deputies in attendance on May 13th last.

At the opening of this Convention of June 23, 1777, James Mercer, Master of Fredericksburg Lodge was elected to preside as President, James Kemp, was to continue as Secretary. Several letters were placed before the Convention from Lodges and individuals, these were read by the Secretary and discussed, also several charters were read and considered by the Convention; depositions from Masters and Past Masters were also considered.

The Convention was unanimously of the opinion that a Grand Master for this State is essential to the prosperity and dignity of Masonry in general; but there not being a deputation from a majority of the Lodges therein, declined at this time to choose a Grand Master.

The Convention was unanimously in favor of dispatching letters to each of the several Lodges in Virginia requesting each Lodge to consider the name of the proper person to be elected to the office of Grand Master, and in order to dispatch to this business, this Convention begs leave to recommend to their constituents and to the members of all other Lodges in this State, His Excellency General George Washington as the proper person to fill the office of Grand Master of the same, and to whom the charter of appointment afore mentioned be made. But should the Lodges prefer any other person to this office, it is recommended that the respective Lodge do elect some other person and notify the name to the Williamsburg Lodge. But in case such an appointment is not made by the first day of June next, then the

Convention are unanimously of the opinion that the several Lodges of this State should proceed to elect such Grand Master.

The last order of business.

Ordered - That these proceedings be attested by James Kemp, Secretary, and copies transmitted to the several Lodges in this State, who are requested to pay the earliest attention to the same.

## ACT2

### Introduction

Williamsburg Lodge Room - 13th day of October 1778

*As the Officers will be in their stations, it is advisable the stage be set with the East on the left and the West on the right. This places the South in the center and back of the stage. As this was under the old English Ritual there was a closed Bible on the Altar but no Great Lights, nothing is of a secret work.*

### CHARACTERS

Present were:

|                   |               |                              |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Robert Andrews    | Master        | Williamsburg Lodge           |
| James M. Fontane  | Senior Warden | Botetourt Lodge              |
| James Willison    | Junior Warden | Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| Duncan Rose       | Treasurer     | Blandford Lodge              |
| William Waddill   | Secretary     | Williamsburg Lodge           |
| James McClurg     |               | Williamsburg Lodge           |
| John Minson Galt  |               | Williamsburg Lodge           |
| Christopher Pryor |               | Botetourt Lodge              |
| James Bolscher    |               | Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |
| John Crawford     |               | Cabin Point Royal Arch Lodge |

*(As the curtain opens Duncan Rose is speaking)*

**Duncan Rose** - "Question has been raised, are we of sufficient number to constitute a quorum? I have read and reread what Masonic Law is at my disposal, and by the Constitution of 1731 - two members of three Lodges constitutes a quorum, at present our convention consists of ten members of four regular constituted Lodges; I would remind the brethren that the Grand Lodge of England was constituted by only four Lodges in attendance."

**Robert Andrews** - "Thank you Brother Rose. *(pause)* Unless there is further question, I would have recorded, the Convention are of the opinion that there is a sufficient number of Lodges present to proceed to business." *(raps gavel)*

**Christopher Pryor** - "Brother Andrews". *(rises as he speaks)*

**Robert Andrews** - "Yes Brother Pryor".

**Christopher Pryor** - “The Brothers of Botetourt Lodge have raised the question of Brother Harnet, who holds the title of Right Worshipful Grand Master, yet none of us has ever sat in lodge with him and know of none others who have; pray enlighten us as to his authority and participation in Masonry.”

**James Bolscher** - (*rises and addresses the Chair*) “Brother Andrews”.

**Robert Andrews** - “Yes Brother Bolscher”.

**James Bolscher** - “May I answer Brother Pryor (*pauses until Andrew bows his head*) “I have met and had business dealings with Cornelius Harnet; I found him a just man and very pleasant. He is well liked by his neighbors and business acquaintances; I will say he is a Royalist and of course loyal to the Crown for as long as they hold any power in Virginia. However, I feel he is first a Virginian. As to his title of Provincial Grand Master of Masons, to my knowledge he has never taken an active part or fulfilled any of the duties of Provincial Grand Master.”

**Christopher Pryor** - “Then I am to understand, Brother Harnet will raise no objections to our assembly?”

**James Bolscher** - “I hardly feel he is in any position to object. What say you Brother Galt? I am sure you know Cornelius Harnet.”

**James Galt** - “Yes I too know Cornelius Harnet, yet the Brothers of Williamsburg Lodge have never recognized his authority, we have always looked to our late Brother Randolph as the Grand Master.” (*Galt takes seat*)

**Robert Andrews** - “If we are all in agreement as to Cornelius Harnet’s lack of authority over this convention, I would have the Secretary so record. It is the opinion of this convention that the power and authority of Cornelius Harnet does not exist. (*pause*) What is your pleasure?”

**All Together**- “Here, Here”

**Robert Andrews** - “So be it. “(*raps gavel*)

**James McClurg** - (*rises slowly*) “I have a question.”

**Robert Andrews** - “Yes Brother McClurg.”

**James McClurg** - “Shall all the Lodges in Virginia be subject to the Grand Master of our choice?”

**Duncan Rose** - “I can see no reason why any recognized and legally constituted Lodge would not wish to join in a united body of Lodges under one authority.”

**James McClurg** - “Could we not have this placed in our proceedings?”

**Robert Andrews** - “If it so please the Convention, we will have it recorded.... It is the opinion of this Convention that it is agreeable to the constitutions of Masonry that all the regular chartered Lodges within this State should be subject to the Grand Master of this State, - how say you?”

**All Together**- “Here, Here’.

**Robert Andrews** - “So be it”. (*raps gavel - then continues*) “Brothers at the last meeting of the Convention it was agreed that letters be written to all the Lodges in Virginia, requesting them to submit names for the office of Grand Master, none were received. Also it was suggested the name of General George Washington be considered.”

**William Waddill** - (*jumps up*) “Brother Andrews; may I interrupt?” (*pause*) “I have something of importance which should be heard at this time.”

**Robert Andrews** - “Speak freely Brother Will.”

**William Waddill** - “As you may remember, those of you who were at our last meeting, held June 23, 1777, General Washington’s name was submitted for consideration as Grand Master. Following the meeting a committee was appointed to approach the General and offer him the nomination.” (*pauses, picks up paper on table or desk*) “I have the committee’s report.”

**Robert Andrews** - “Please read it Brother Will”.

**William Waddill** - (*reads*)

“Your committee awaited upon General George Washington as directed, and presented the dispatches prepared by the committee, extending the nomination to the office of Grand Master of Virginia.”

“General Washington was most gracious in receiving us into his busy schedule, and expressed pleasant surprise, at being offered so honorable a position.”

“However on reflection, the General felt unable to accept the honor. His first reason being, he felt unqualified for the office as he had never served as Master of a Lodge. His second reason being the pressures and obligations as General of the Continental Army had to take precedence over all other duties, and he would be unable to fulfill the obligations of Grand Master.”

“The General was so sincere and appeared so tired and burdened with the weight of responsibility to the Army and his Country, we were ashamed to press the nomination upon him”

“We can only add to the report, we have lost a most valuable Candidate for Grand Master, yet our Country has the leadership of a most gallant and courageous General.”

(*All is quiet - William Waddill sits down slowly, not a sound is made.*)

**Duncan Rose** - “What a pity, what a pity, (*pause*) may God be with him.”

**All Together**- “Here, Here.”

**Robert Andrews** - “May I have a name in nomination for the Office of Grand Master?”

**Duncan Rose** - "I have received several letters suggesting the names of brothers well qualified to serve in that office. I took it upon myself to investigate further and would be proud to place in nomination the name of Right Worshipful Warner Lewis, Past Master of Botetourt Lodge."

**James Fontane** - (*jumps up speaking*) "Brethren, I would speak for Brother Lewis."

**Robert Andrews** - "Speak on Brother, (*a short laugh*) speak on."

**James Fontane** - "I am a member of Botetourt Lodge, and of Brother Lewis's advocates, but he instructed me as follows." (*reads from letter*)

"Should ye good Brothers nominate me for Grand Master, please to inform them I am most honored but due to my failing health I can not in all honesty accept the office." (*Sits*)

**Robert Andrews** - "Thank you Brother Fontane, but this leaves us without a name. Come, Come Brothers, What is your Pleasure?"

**William Waddill** - (*Stands... looks around the room... then speaks*) "My Brethren."

**Robert Andrews** - "Yes, Brother Will."

**William Waddill** - "May I place the name of Right Worshipful John Blair into nomination? He is a Past Master of Williamsburg Lodge, a most able Brother to serve the Craft." (*sits*)

**Robert Andrews** - "I have the name of Right Worshipful John Blair in nomination for Grand Master; do you wish to add to the name? (*pause*) This is my last call, is there a further name for consideration?" (*long pause — they move around in their chairs, looking at one another in question*)

**Robert Andrews** - "All in agreement to elect John Blair to the office of Grand Master of Masons in Virginia please stand."

**All Together**- (*They all rise and extending their arms call out*) "Here, Here."

**Robert Andrews** - "Then so be it." (*raps gavel*) "Brother Waddill, will you please record the action." (*pauses*) "Brother Waddill I would commission you to form a committee to await upon Right Worshipful John Blair and select a date for the convention to meet and at which time we will assemble to install Right Worshipful John Blair as our Grand Master."

**William Waddill** - (*Stands*) "Thank you Brother Bob for the honor, I will hasten to act and endeavor to circulate a letter to all the regular Lodges and inform them of the date of installation."

**Robert Andrews** - "Thank you Brothers for permitting me to preside over this meeting of the convention and I will now ask you all to rise while Brother Crawford offers our prayer."

(*All Rise*)

**John Crawford** - ‘May the blessings of heaven be with us and all those of like countenance. May our Father in Heaven bless, protect and guide us from the pitfalls of life, and direct our footsteps in every moral and social virtue. Amen.’

*(The members continue to stand)*

**Robert Andrews** - ‘The convention is thus adjourned till notified.’ *(brings gavel down)*  
*(curtain closes — end of act 2)*

*(The last act is read in front of the closed curtain)*

‘‘At a convention of the Craft agreeable to adjournment of the Right Worshipful Robert Andrews, Master, held the 13th day of October A.L. 5778, now assembled for the purpose of installing the Right Worshipful John Blair, Past Master of Williamsburg Lodge, into the office of Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Virginia, held in the Lodge room of Williamsburg, the 30th day of October A.L. 5778.

There were present:

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Robert Andrews | Master        |
| James Kemp     | Senior Warden |
| John Crawford  | Junior Warden |
| James Gait     | Treasurer     |
| Duncan Rose    | Secretary     |

The Lodge being opened in due form, the Right Worshipful Master, Robert Andrews, agreeable to the meeting, installed Right Worshipful John Blair, in the office of Grand Master of this Commonwealth. When he was pleased to appoint:

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Right Worshipful and Reverend Robert Andrews | Deputy Grand Master |
| Doctor James Taylor                          | Senior Grand Warden |
| James M. Fontane                             | Junior Grand Warden |
| Doctor John M. Gait                          | Grand Treasurer     |
| Duncan Rose                                  | Grand Secretary     |
| Reverend James Madison                       | Grand Chaplain      |
| Matthew Anderson                             | Grand Sword Bearer  |
| William Urie                                 | Grand Tiler         |

Afterward the Grand Master proceeded to appoint a Stewards Lodge to consist of the following:

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| James Innes          | Master        |
| Humphrey Harwood     | Senior Warden |
| Doctor James McClurg | Junior Warden |

The installation of the Grand Officers followed in course, from Right Worshipful Robert Andrews, Deputy Grand Master, down through the line to Brother Peter Pelham as Grand Organist and Matthew Woody as Grand Clerk.

The business of the Lodge being over, it was closed in ample form by order of Grand Master John Blair.

The next Grand Lodge was held in Williamsburg Lodge room December 22, 1778 with Robert Andrews Deputy Grand Master pro-tem for the Grand Master.

Grand Master John Blair did not preside over the Grand Lodge until June 24th, 1779 when the Grand Lodge assembled in the Lodge room of Williamsburg Lodge for the last time.

*The End*

(INSERT)

*(May be read at the beginning or end of the play, it should add information (often questioned as to where and how Washington received the committee)*

June 21 - The Committee to call upon General Washington was dispatched.

We now look in upon the General, and his problems as recorded in his diary.

June 9 - Washington (*quartered at Middlebrook, N.J.*) received word that Howe was beginning to move toward Philadelphia with 8,000 men.

June 10 - "With beginning of action, I bade good by to Martha and packed her off to Virginia with escort."

June 23 - "Middlebrook, General Orders, The Militia of New Jersey, to assemble and stand by." Also received word by committee I had been proposed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Had to decline the honor due to my obligations to my country in time of war.

Scene - *General Washington's Headquarters at Middlebrook, N.J. Seated at a table covered with maps and papers. His Orderly Sergeant enters and announces, "Three Gentlemen from Virginia desire to see you."*

George Washington - "From Virginia! Just what I need. Let them enter." (Three visitors enter)