

HISTORY MANN PAGE LODGE No. 157

Mann Page Lodge No. 157 held its first meeting under dispensation March 8, 1904 at 1:00 a.m. at Waddill's Store in Charles City Co., VA. George T. Darracott of Brandon No. 192 was elected Worshipful Master, Persse Deverell, Brandon No. 192, was elected Senior Warden, Aston Harwood of Richmond No. 10 was elected Junior Warden, W.L. Wilkinson of Brandon No.192 was elected Secretary, C. W. Inman of Widow's Son No. 160 was elected Treasurer, George Hatch was elected Senior Deacon, W.H. Sommers was elected Junior Deacon, G. G. Hill was elected Tiler and John Cornick was elected Chaplain.

The Jewels for the new Lodge were given by Most Worshipful Brother Mann Page after whom the Lodge was named. Bro. Page was Grand Master of Masons of Virginia in 1893 and a member of Brandon Lodge No. 192.

Mrs. George T. Darracott made aprons and the gavels were given by Bro. W. H. Sommers. The Holy Bible was given by Brother Deverell.

The Lodge received its charter on February 16, 1905.

The dues were 25 cents per month and rent for the room over Waddill's Store was \$2.00 per month. Since meetings were held at midday, it was said that one could look through the cracks in the floor and see customers being served below.

Many of the brethren lived in Surry County and would cross the James River by boat and then travel about seven miles to get to the Lodge.

The first dark cloud in the life of the Lodge was the death of its namesake on May 28, 1904. when at the age of 69 MW Mann Page passed away. It was recorded in his memorial that to know Bro. Page was to love him and that he was frank and open-hearted and, while impulsive and eager to defend what he thought was right, he never willingly inflicted a wound. If he had, he was always ready to make reparation.

He served his own Lodge as Worshipful Master and, while it is not recorded in the Minutes of Mann Page Lodge, he must have had a great deal to do with the organization of the Lodge even though he died before it received its charter. It must have been a great disappointment to the rest of the Brethren that he could not enjoy the fruits of their labors. However, we must believe that he left his mark in the history of our Lodge. For many years flowers were placed on his grave in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond by the Lodge members on Memorial Day.

The Tiler's sword was given to the Lodge by Bro. Page's widow. MW Mann Page's picture which hangs in the Lodge was purchased at a cost of \$4.98.

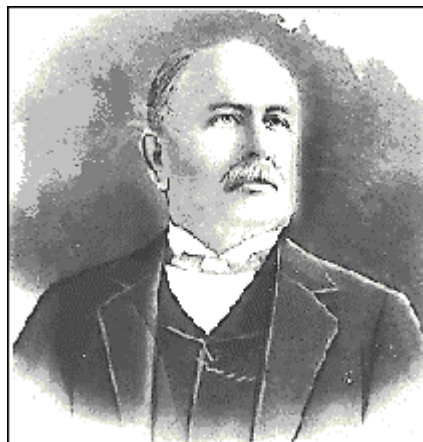
The charge for petitions for degrees was \$5.00. The Entered Apprentice fee was \$10.00 with the Fellowcraft and Master Mason's degree being \$5.00 each.

In December 1908 the Lodge began planning for a new building. Chickahominy Lodge No. 286, having been chartered the same year as Mann Page and also wanting to build, was asked to join with the Lodge in a construction plan but that idea was not accomplished. On August 11, 1909 a committee was appointed to "draw plans, buy lumber and material to build a suitable Lodge at Providence Forge". The committee members were: WM T. W. Hewitt, Brothers L. Haxall, J. R. Parker, E. F. Gill, H. C. Rowan and W.W. Pierce. The first meeting in the new building was held Wednesday, November 10, 1909 and it was noted that Bro. J. R. Parker delivered the Master Mason's lecture, he having been raised in Meridian No. 284 in March of that year.

Bro. H. C. Rowan, having been raised in Meridian No. 284 in May, 1909, was elected Worshipful Master for the year 1910. MW Bro. Joseph W. Eggleston issued the following dispensation: "...to permit Mann Page Lodge to elect Bro. H. C. Rowan as Worshipful Master even though he had not served as Warden". It was reported that Bro. Rowan was the best posted man and also the best ritualist in the Lodge and so zealous that work might be done in the Lodge that on one occasion he worked all day in a sawmill, walked 6 miles, hired a horse and rode 8 miles more, did the Lodge work and returned in time to do a days' work the next day. "I think I was justified.", he said.

Bro. J. Harold Black
January 15, 1993

Most Worshipful Mann Page



Grand Master of Masons of Virginia in 1893