

TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENT

Robert B. Beam, P.C., Editor
200 Tower Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37912
beamerkt@yahoo.com



Clarence Loyd Crump
Grand Commander



Per Grand Master Nelson's Order, Grand Commandery will not meet during the upcoming Grand Chapter and Grand Council Sessions on August 1.

ANSWERS TO INDEPENDENCE DAY QUIZ – MASONS OF THE REVOLUTION

1. Richard Henry Lee, who introduced the resolution calling for Independence, has been listed as being a Mason; however, evidence is anecdotal and inconclusive. He served in the First and Second Continental Congresses, and as a US Senator from Virginia 1789-1792.
2. Bro. John Dickenson served as a delegate to the Continental Congress from both Pennsylvania and Delaware at separate times. As a delegate from Delaware he voted against the Declaration of Independence. When those voting against independence were not permitted to remain in Congress, he resigned and along with Thomas McKean took up arms in the cause of independence despite his vote. Bro. Dickenson was a member of Lodge No. 18 in Dover, Delaware, but ceased to attend after 1780.
3. Bro. and Gen. Baron Friedrich von Steuben had served in the army of Frederick the Great before emigrating to America. Upon his arrival at Valley Forge he began to drill and train the American Army and wrote their first manual which was used until 1812. It has been said that American victory in the Revolutionary War would not have been possible without him. He was made a Mason in Prussia and once in America was active in Lodges, being listed as a Past Master.
4. St. Andrew's Lodge in Boston met at the Green Dragon Tavern, which was the site of much Revolutionary activity. The local Sons of Liberty met at the tavern and a number of men were members of both groups. There is no credible evidence that the Lodge actively participated in the Boston Tea Party, but a Lodge meeting that same evening had only five in attendance and may have provided an alibi for those participating. It is possible that the Lodge was complicit in the Tea Party by allowing Sons of Liberty to use the Lodge Hall to organize and execute the plan.
5. Bro. John Paul Jones was commissioned an officer in the fledging American Navy in 1775 and began to distinguish himself. He was the first to hoist the

American Flag over a ship of war and engaged in many successful naval engagements. He was initiated into Kilwinning Lodge No. 122 (Scotland) at age 23 and later frequently attended Lodges in New Hampshire and Paris.

6. Bro. Henry Knox was a Boston bookseller with no formal military training. Using knowledge gained through study of military texts at his disposal, he eventually became commander of artillery during the Revolutionary War. He was appointed Secretary of War in Pres. Washington's Cabinet. Although there is no record of when he became a Mason, numerous records exist of his Lodge attendance and other Masonic activity. Knox County and the City of Knoxville are named for him.
7. Dr. Hugh Mercer was born and educated in Scotland and emigrated to Pennsylvania around 1746, where he resumed his medical practice. He served in the French and Indian War and later in the Continental Army, and was killed at Princeton a few days following the Crossing of the Delaware. Dr. Mercer was a member and Past Master of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 in Virginia.
8. American Union Lodge No. 1 was organized in Massachusetts as a military Lodge attached to the Continental Army by soldiers of the Connecticut Line. It traveled with the Army, meeting where and when it could, until it became permanently located in what is today Marietta, Ohio in 1790. The Lodge continues to operate under its same name and number. American Union Lodge No. 1 is thus one of the oldest continually functioning Lodges in the nation.
9. Bro. Paul Revere was a silversmith and printer who propagandized the Boston Massacre and rode to warn Patriots in Lexington and Concord of the advancing British Army. He was a member of Boston's St. Andrew's Lodge as well as the Royal Arch Chapter there. Revere was the second man to be made a Knight Templar in North America and likely second overall. He served as Grand Master of Massachusetts in the 1790s.
10. Bro. Benjamin Franklin is one of the most famous Masons in our history and his Masonic activity is well documented both in America and France. He used his Masonic connections while serving as Minister to France to gain French aid during the Revolution. He served as Grand Master of Pennsylvania (Moderns); he was appointed and later deposed as Provincial Grand Master, and is listed as such by the Grand Lodge of England. He is revered today as one of the founders of the American nation.

References:

- Bassler, Capt. R. E., USN Ret., Ed., *National Sojourners Military Masonic Hall of Fame, 1975, First One Hundred*, National Sojourners, Alexandria, Virginia, 1976.
Heaton, Ronald E., *Masonic Membership of the Founding Fathers*, Masonic Service Association, Silver Spring, Maryland, 1965.
Ridley, Jasper, *The Freemasons*, Arcade Publishing, New York, 1999.
www.Hmdb.Org, www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=20669. Accessed 1 June 2020.