



# Grand Lodge of Virginia,

BY

*Wellford to Grand Master.*

To all whom these Presents may Concern, Greeting:

**WHEREAS**, it hath been duly represented that in the COUNTY OF FAIRFAX and State of Virginia, there reside a number of the Brethren of the **MOST ANCIENT and HONORABLE SOCIETY of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS**, who are desirous of being formed into a regular Lodge; and it appearing to be for the good increase of our excellent **CRAFT**, that the said Brethren should be encouraged in their laudable endeavors and designs: Therefore,

**KNOW Ye**, That Bererley Randolph Wellford Jr **GRAND MASTER of MASONS**, in the State of Virginia, by and with the consent of our Grand Lodge, do hereby constitute and appoint our trusty and well-beloved Brethren, the Worshipful George P Wright Master; Leander Makely Senior Warden; and Thomas T Burke Junior Warden, together with all such other true and lawful Brethren as may be admitted to associate with them, to assemble and work as a regularly constituted Lodge of **ANCIENT, FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS**, at Clifton, Fairfax County aforesaid; by the designation of Acacia **LODGE, No. 16**, hereby requiring and enjoining all regular Lodges to hold, acknowledge and respect them as such. And we do hereby grant and commit, to the Master, Warden, and Brethren aforesaid, and their successors, full power and authority to receive and enter Apprentices, to pass Fellow Crafts, to raise Masters, and to perform all other works of the **CRAFT**, agreeably to the ancient customs and usages of **FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS**, and the ordinances and regulations of the **GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA**, and not otherwise. And also, to choose a Master and Wardens and other Officers annually; and to exact from their members such fees as they shall judge necessary for the support of their said Lodge, the relief of their Brethren in distress, and the regular payment of their annual contribution towards the **Grand Charity Fund**. And we do hereby require and enjoin the Master, Wardens, and Brethren aforesaid, and their successors, to record in their Books, along with this present Charter, their own regulations and by-laws, and their whole acts and proceedings, from time to time, as they occur; and also to correspond with our Grand Lodge, whenever occasion may require, and to attend the meetings thereof, regularly, by their proper representatives or deputies; and also to pay due respect and obedience to all such ordinances and instructions as they may, from time to time, receive from the Grand Lodge, or from the Grand Master, for the time being. And, lastly, the Master, Wardens, and Brethren aforesaid, in behalf of themselves and their successors, do, by accepting hereof, solemnly engage strictly to conform to all and every of the foregoing requisitions and injunctions, and at all times to acknowledge and recognise the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master of Virginia as their superiors; and to obey them, or either of them, in all things appertaining to the Craft.

Done in the Grand Lodge of Virginia, in the City of Richmond, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 1877 1877

*William P. Isaac* Secy.