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MASONIC EDUCATION

Three, five, and seven

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Dear Masonic Student,

Due to numerous requests for information and talks about our Worshipful Brother George Washington, this issue of T.F.S. is being sent early in the hope that some of it will be of use to Masons in their efforts to provide talks and information for Washington's Birthday events.

The following is an undated letter from Brother Washington to an unknown friend: This was sent to me by Worshipful Brother Ken Roberts.[i]

"Dear Friend,

My first desire to become a Mason was due to the fact that many of Virginia's noblest sons were Members of the Fraternity.

Therefore, it was not without forethought, that on Saturday evening, November 4, 1752, in the village of Fredericksburg, I was made an Entered Apprentice Mason.

The Masonic lessons I learned on my admission to Masonry and my contact and conversations with prominent Masons thereafter were of greatest encouragement in after years when I encountered and underwent severe trials, especially those at the commencement of the Revolution.

It was at this time that friendly council reached my ears to the effect that some of the men regarded me as a slave owner and an aristocrat and that they abhorred my Episcopacy.

I declared at once to dispel such thoughts from my comrades' minds, and, on one occasion, sat in a Masonic Lodge at Cambridge of which an Orderly Sergeant was Master. I made it a point to meet upon the level and part upon the square, with all my comrades, regardless of rank or position, and my reward was the loyalty and friendship of all, far beyond my expectations.

There is no doubt in my mind that Masonry and its lessons were helpful throughout the Revolution, both upon the Battlefield and in the Legislative Assembly.

G. Washington."