

THE
SCOTTISH
RITE
GUARD

THE OLD GUARD

1923-1941

By Franklin Adair Tyler

FOREWORD By A. Douglas Smith, Jr. 33^o

Past Grand Master of Masons, Virginia

Part II

ACTIVITIES OF THE SCOTTISH RITE GUARD

1941 - 1962

By Arthur Carlson K C C H

Secretary Scottish Rite Guard

FOREWORD

The story of the Scottish Rite Guard of the Valley of Richmond in the Orient of Virginia should be written. Few of its members would be better qualified to record its contribution locally, statewide or nationally than Dr. Franklin Adair Tyler, who has been a part of it during most of the years of its life.

Dr. Tyler has had the unique experience of having been a member of Dalcho Consistory, Greenville, S.C., participated in the active work of Albert Pike Consistory, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia.

He served as Venerable Master of Libertas (now Richmond) Lodge of Perfection and as President of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Virginia. His tenure was during the trying days after the death of Ill. Robert D. Ford 33°, thru the interim appointment of Ill. Bro. Jos. A. Ricketts 33° and until the selection of Ill. Clyde C. Shankle 33° who was also a member of the Masonic Home Board.

He has served as President of the Richmond Dental Society, and Civitan Club. He was Commander of Richmond Post #1, American Legion, President of the State Dental Veterans of Virginia, member of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Federal Civil Defense Administration and a member of the Board of Stewards of Centenary Methodist Church.

He was also a member of the Committee of Thirty-Three, of National Sojourners.

Dr. Tyler was included in Who's Who of 1959 and is the author of 24 articles in national publications and other periodicals.

Thru the pages that follow, he has in a most intimate and interesting manner, brought to life many of our Guardsmen who have answered "Taps" and called to memory others who are yet among us, battling the cause of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in its camps which have been dedicated to freedom and justice.

In all, he has done a great service to all of us, who value our association with the Richmond Bodies of the Ancient and accepted Scottish Rite, and more especially, those of us who have marched a while with the members of its Guard.

A. Douglas Smith, Jr., 33°

The Scottish Rite Guard is deserving of a more comprehensive record than one we are able to supply. My attempt is prompted by a sincere desire to see in print some of the accomplishments of a devoted band of Masons; the ir activities in times good and bad. Qui naturally this should be dedicated to Raleigh W. Hicks and Joe T. Mizell, Jr., both having served in every position from Private to Commander.

This article will deal with the period of re-organization in 1923 to World War II.

The genesis of the Guard is interesting and given to complete the overall picture. We know that Dan. P. Sigourney 33^o and Alvin Hutzler visited Atlanta; Ga., in 1918 for the purpose of observing the unit there. When their report was submitted at the December meeting they recommended and secured approval for the formation of a similar or ganization here. James A. Richardson 33^o and Chas. A. Nesbitt* 33^o affected it; March 1919 the critical date.

The f first Guard was composed of 33 Degree Masons and the K C C Hs were ex-officio members. The limited active membership voted on the acceptance of new members, zeal and ability being the criteria. In the 1923 roster we find: B. C. Lewis 33^o Commander, Mann A. Sycle 33^o Lt. Commander, and C. H. Rudd 33^o Past Commander. Guardsmen who were carried on the same list and joined the second unit were: C. R. Moore, Captain; Henry T. Taylor, Adjutant; John W. Kessler, Quartermaster. Also George Oliver, Past Captain, and Chas. Lee, Robt. H. Pierce, Hardin K. Bache, Robert E. Bell, Herbert Northington, Ferruccio Legnaioli**, George T. King, Jr., R. H. Puckett, and Arthur S. Bell. Chas. F. Krug was on the waiting list.***

* Nesbitt-Grand Cross - Only S. R. member to have a class named for him while living.

** Ferruccio Legnaioli, noted sculptor.

*** Krug - later Wise Master R. Croix.

**** H. T. Taylor - one time drummer in National Guard.

The reorganized Guard, as envisioned by Mann A. Sycle, 33rd, came into being when he requested and received permission to appoint a Captain

and utilize a group of younger members who would be willing to work along the lines which he,* as Commander, had in mind. He builded better than he knew. His choice of Arthur S. Bell (Captain Infantry Reserve) as Captain was an excellent one and resulted in recruiting such ex-service men as John Wood, Fred Kuchemann, George T. King, Jr., S. L. Kendler, Howard Mackay, Roy G. Ashworth, Clyde Shankie, R. E. Bell, A. B. Cosby, Oscar Thacker, H. T. Taylor, and W. M. Engard. National Guard and Army Reserve: Wm. R. Weisiger, M. M. Wallace, Warren R. Crump, C. R. Moore, Frank Hook, Raleigh Hicks, Howard Donald, F. A. Tyler; Richard M. Bidgood later. The officers were: M. A. Sycle 33 Commander; Arthur S. Bell, Captain; John Wood, 1st Lieutenant; Raleigh Hicks, 2nd. Lieut; and Henry T. Taylor, Adjutant. Others completing the roster: John W. Hall, Jr. R. H. Puckett, Chas. Krug, Emmett Palmore, Clyde Pugh, J. E. Ozment, George Oliver, Harry Lane, Herbert Northington, Thos. Davis, Robert H. Pierce, and F. Legnaioli; - L. Pugh, Chas. Stoler, Wm. White, and Roy Wright joining subsequently.

They should be remembered as gentlemen all, and as having furnished a fine record of service to both the Unit and the Rite.

It was evident from the start that this was to be a dedicated outfit and Commander Sycle and his officers made it plain that discipline, even if voluntary, should be maintained for the good of the Order.

It would hardly seem possible that compulsory attendance, weekly drill, and extra rehearsals would contribute to an exceptional esprit-de-corps, even if these were expected to assure a smooth working unit. But such was the case. It should be recalled that Past Masters, Masters, and Officers of many Blue Lodges who joined the new organization were men who had already made fine contributions by their work in the Fraternity and so honored for it. That they were willing to make further sacrifices was shown by consistent attendance, many hours of drill in "The School of The Soldier-Dismounted", and the "Manual Of The Sabre"....If it was boring to the service men it was not apparent.

* Lt. Commander -- Commander 1926-1936.

It was initially feared that assisting in the conferral of many Degrees might result in impairing the usefulness of the Guard but it proved otherwise. True, one important function was active participation in the degree work of all Reunions in this Valley as well as visits to other Bodies. Few Degrees were conferred unless some member or members acted as extras, substitutes, or in the background personnel. Such duties required knowledge of the Degree being conferred lest they prove a hindrance rather than a help. There too, many occupied Officer positions in the various Bodies and Degree teams which necessitated proficiency in the Rituals. Exceptional assistance was furnished by those assigned to the Staging team and in handling the lights and curtain as well. Herbert Northington must be credited with systematizing the staging procedures; Frank Hook in simplifying the music cues; while Chas. Stoler was Organist for years. One remembers the fine voice of Roy Wright, Soloist. The Scottish Rite News carried an item stating that the wonderful lighting effects were due to the efforts of Anderson B. (Mac) Cosby, Jr. who had overhauled the switchboard and lighting equipment. His accuracy on cues was described as exceptional and probably due to faithful attendance at rehearsals. C. L. Jackson assisted.

Candidly stated, acceptance of the New Guard by the General membership was not immediately forthcoming, but an esprit-de-corps seldom equalled was developing in the unit. So, with the increased efficiency it became evident that Mann A. Sycle's group occupied an important place in the scheme of things and toleration was replaced by a near enthusiasm, and comments in praise of the Guard were frequently heard. The jealousy of the Commander for the good name of his group was noticeable, and perhaps his attitude and regard must have been reflected in the standard of excellence later attributed to it.

With the formal reorganization of the Guard, liaison with Blue Lodges became a fact. Craftsmen were informed of Scottish Rite objectives. For a long time the Guard furnished an excellent Degree Team and conferred the M M Degree in various Blue Lodges in the city, suburban areas and towns. One of the most enjoyable trips was the visit to Old Kilwinning Cross Lodge of Bowling Green. By special permission of the Masters of the Rite, colorful robes and necessary paraphernalia were used effectively. Special drills

and rehearsals which stressed precision and timing added much to each performance and their efforts were always well received. The excellence of this group may be judged by a report of the District Dept. Gr. Master who checked it at a suburban lodge appearance and reported only two minor errors in the entire ritual. The team: C. Krug, J. Hall, Jr., C. Shankle, R. Ashworth, H. Taylor, W. R. Weisiger, W. M. Engard, J. Kessler, R. Puckett, and R. Pierce.* Any mention of the Rite was scrupulously avoided; however, a non-Rite Mason sent a protest to the Grand Master of Masons (Virginia) charging publicity which resulted in disbanding the team forthwith.

In addition to Blue Lodge visitations the Guard had opportunity to enjoy visits to other Bodies in the State. In Danville, Newport News, Roanoke, the 18th and 29th Degrees were conferred in fine style. In Newport News one of our members (B W) walked into a strange Doctor's office and said: "Doctor, there is not a --- thing wrong with me; but I sure would like a couple of Rx's." He got the, too.** When the Alexandria Consistory held its first Reunion in the New Temple we were asked to confer the 29th Degree. The Guard received high praise from ranking Marine Corps High-ups and Supreme Council Officers as well.

Another Alexandria trip was the participation in the dedication of the George Washington National Memorial Masonic Temple and the Guard marched in the parade. Unfortunately a cloudburst hit just before we reached the reviewing stand and the new dress uniforms, caps and capes, became heavier by the second. General John A. LeJeune, Mason and ranking Marine, told us later that it was indeed remarkable what good formation and excellent alignment was maintained until the reviewing stand was passed. Captain Bell was complimented no end.

Another Contribution of the Guard in the 20s was the introduction of the 29th Degree. The writer, who came to the Guard by way of Dalcho Consistory, S.C and Albert Pike Consistory of D.C., had witnessed this Degree in Asheville, N.C.*** in 1921 and had been impressed

* Bell, Wallace, Kendler, Tyler had minor parts.

** This was in the day of Andrew Volstead.

*** Was in company with Harkness 33^o Later Gr.Commander S.R. Also a visitor from Kansas City (his name escapes me) who described an Order for boys and named for Jacques DeMolai, then going strong in the west.

by the Canton N.C. team* which conferred it. We secured a ritual from the N.C. brothers which did not include the DeMolay Scene, this not being in print. It was then necessary for us (the writer) to record that part of the Ritual from memory. It must reasonably conform to the original as a S.R. visitor from North Carolina commented on its accuracy. Secretary Robert D. Ford 33^o, always a staunch supporter, gave permission for a tryout of the Degree, which is essentially military in character and most suited for Guard presentation. It was well received, accepted as an important addition, and has been conferred ever since.

Years later the writer, (Ven Master, L P) who had known Grand Commander John Cowles in both S.R. and Sojourner circles, was asked by the Grand Commander where he had gotten the 29th Ritual. We told him, North Carolina. He then asked: "Where did you get that D M Scene?" We replied: "Canton, North Carolina," and breathed a sigh of relief when he said no more. Some day we'd like to visit an Asheville Reunion again and compare the ritualistic work of the 29th

1928---

That the Guard had come of age, indeed far in four years, is seen in the quotation from the Scottish Rite Reunion Bulletin:

"The Guard is a working organization, and its value has been proved by its works. Its members not only take part in many of the degrees and are always prepared to fill in where a vacancy may occur at the eleventh hour, but it has been an inspiration to others in obtaining petitions for the Reunion Classes. Under the leadership of Commander Mann A. Sycle and Capt. Arthur S. Bell, it has developed into an organization of which the rite is justly proud, for it is always dependable, always on the job, and always places the welfare, the harmony and prosperity of the Rite first, even at the sacrifice of time and labor. To this splendid organization and its devoted loyalty may be traced many of the things that have brought happiness and well being to the Rite."

An affair that stands out in memory was at the Mosque and many Masonic organizations marched in the big parade.** Jeter Jones, one

* Twenty-nine men in uniform composed Canton Team.

** Probably a Dedication - Was in the '20s.

of the older 33s, reminded us that this was the first outdoor appearance he could recall and complimented the Unit highly for the formation it maintained. When the Mosque was reached we moved into Company Front and presented sabres. Just then another unit, which always claimed a military background, marched up in what we regarded as a ragged step and went into a wavy line between our unit and the stand. Their backs were to our line of Sabres-at-Salute. Some of the Guardsmen were miffed but most of them had wide grins. As we got the expected commands* the "Skipper" quickly said: "The first man that opens his mouth - I'll shoot him at sunrise." It was amusing to see the red faces and get the lame explanations of the trained members of the other unit. So we shone by comparison too.

We had a satisfactory part in the Golden Jubilee Reunion of November 1928. There was a special ceremony of "Burning The Mortgage of the Temple", and the fine hand of Secretary R. D. Ford 33^o was seen in the impressive ritual of the occasion. Jos. Ricketts, George Wright, Horace Shepperson, and Hardin Bache (all Masters) had leading parts. Moving addresses were given by Robert S. Crump 33^o S G I G; by C. A. Nesbitt 33 Gr.Cross**; and Grand Commander John Cowles.

The real satisfaction, however, was our awareness of the circumstances leading up to this great event. Some time before, the Guard had really stuck its collective neck out; committed itself. Since the means of handling the building indebtedness of the Rite was not forthcoming and the monied people might force a showdown, a special meeting was called. Remember, this was in the time of the great recession and petitions were hard to come by. Classes were small and threatened to become smaller. At this meeting the Guard made a pledge to match petitions with the general membership of the Rite and somehow managed to live up to this rash promise. A concerted, well planned drive paid off and resulted in securing the largest class in many moons*** (Frank

* "Return, Sabres"---"At Ease"---"Fall Out".

** C. A. Nesbitt's address was read by Secretary Ford and included a favorite poem: "A wonderful River is the River of Time,
As it runs through the realm of tears,
With a faultless rythm, and a musical rhyme,
And a broader sweep, and a surge sublime--
As it blends with the ocean of Years."

*** Northington - believed to have been on 19 petitions.

M. Dobson, (Pres ?). So it was with more than usual interest that we viewed the burning of the mortgage and it was unnecessary for the M C to relate how instrumental we had been in the fulfilment of a dream. In the picture of the 1928 Guard are seen: Captain A. S. Bell, 1st Lt. John Wood,* 2nd. Lt. Raleigh Hicks, and Adjutant H. T. Taylor. The members shown: Fred. Kuchemann, John Hall, Jr., Emmett Palmore, George King, Jr. W. M. Engard, Chas. Krug, Franklin Tyler, S. L. Nick Kendler, Clyde Pugh, Howard Donald, Herbert Hord, Buck Chewing, Harry Lane, W. R. Weisiger, R. M. Bidgood, Chas. Lee, Wm. White, Thos. Davis, R. H. Puckett. Also: Chas. Stoler, W. R. Crump, M. M. Wallace, Roy G. Ashworth, Howard Mackay, Earl Biddle, Clyde Shankle, Worthie Childress, and Jas. Ozment. New dress uniforms set the group off nicely; a ribbon and medalian furnished a valued souvenir.

"The work of the officers and members of the various Degree Teams was brilliant and the Scottish Rite Guard in its new uniforms was a shining example of how good such an organization can be." This was also copied from a S. R. Bulletin of the period.

There was a waiting list of five in 1929, the same year L. N. Schilling and Wm. J. Jones became Regulars. The latter began a career which stamped him as a fine ritualist, served as Ven. Master L. P., and was recognized by the Supreme Council. Other significant changes occurred in the officer personnel when Captain Bell was advanced to Lt. Commander and Raleigh Hicks succeeded him as Captain. R. M. Bidgood** was made a 2nd.Lt; John Wood continued as 1st.Lt; and H. T. Taylor was Adjutant for the twelfth year.

Members were Earl Biddle, W. Crump, W. Childress, T. Davis, H. Donald, M. Engard, J. Hall, Jr., H. Hord, R. Hord, C. Jackson, W. Jones, N. Kendler, F. Kuchemann, C. Krug, C. Lee, H. Lane, H. Lewis***, G. Oliver, J. Ozment, R. H. Puckett, E. Palmore, C. Pugh, C. Shankle, C. Stoler, Franklin Shepperson, F. Tyler, O. Thacker, M. Wallace, D. Wellington. - On the waiting list: Harry Morissette

* John T. Wood - one of the best - served as 1st.Lt. 1923-1937 - continued as Private.

** R. Bidgood - Lt. Colonel Army Res.

*** Hugh Lewis - One of the finest..Attended regularly-attempted little ritualistic work; splendid Class Custodian.

and A. R. Pilcher.

In 1931 O. D. Garton joined up, beginning a thirty year career which ended in his acquiring a White Cap. A recital of some of the Degree casts indicates the versatility of the Guard members of this period. Clyde Pugh had active part in the P M; W. J. Wellington in the Sixth*. In the Eight - M. Engard, C. Shankle, W. R. Weisiger, R. Bidgood, H. Hord, N. Kendler, Wm. Jones had active parts. The Ninth was served by H. Donald, R. Puckett, H. Taylor, A. Bell, E. Palmore, W. Childress, J. Ozment, N. Kendler, R. Hicks and W. R. Weisiger. The Lodge of Strict Observance 207 Team had charge of the Tenth (E F), C. Shankle, H. Lane, W. Wellington carrying the load. A near all-Guard team conferred the Eleventh, with W. Crump, J. Ozment, H. Donald, and H. Lane outstanding. In the Degrees of the Lodge of Perfection the Director of Work was M. M. Wallace.** Officers: R. Ashworth, V M, C. Shankle, F. Tyler, F. Shepperson, R. Hord, W. Jones M. Engard, A. B. Cosby. In the next three years C. Shankle and F. Tyler succeeded R. G. Ashworth as Ven. Master.

In the Chapter of Rose Croix we were represented by Chas. Krug, John Hall, Frank Hook, F. Tyler, M. Wallace and Mac Cosby in that order. From the Fifteenth through the Eighteenth were W. Crump, M. Engard, Geo. King, A. S. Bell, Frank Hook,*** C. Krug, J. Hall, Jr. and F. Tyler. The leading Military positions were held by Warren Crump, Milton Engard, Geo. T. King, Jr., along with John Wood and Arthur Bell in the Fifteenth. Many recall the super-fine acting of John Wood and his cohorts in the Bridge Scene; very good indeed and improved no end by the experienced support.

In the Officer personnel of the Council were: H. T. Taylor, R. Hicks, W. Wellington, C. Stoler, M. Engard, R. Puckett. Many members were listed in the degrees from the Twentieth to the Twenty-ninth (K S A S), namely, H. Taylor, R. Hord, R. Hicks, N. Kendler, R. Puckett, Emmett Palmore, C. Pugh, W. Weisiger, R. Bidgood and R. H. Pierce. H. Taylor, Chas. Stoler, and Raleigh Hicks helped carry the Twenty-sixth and in the cast of the Kn. Commander of the Temple.

* Seventh - P J - formerly all-Guard now has no Guardsman.

** Wallace - Later Wise Master Rose Croix.

*** Frank Hook - fine Guard member - good ritualist --
Moved to Carolina before attaining Master position.

(Metropolitan No.11 Cast) were R. Hicks, H. Taylor, S. L. Kendler, R. H. Puckett, E. C. Palmore, C. R. Pugh, R. M. Bidgood, and Robert H. Pierce. In the Kadosh R. H. Puckett, M. M. Wallace, H. T. Taylor, A. S. Bell, R. W. Hicks, carried the KK Degree, while H. T. Taylor was Director of Work for St.Omar Council.

Dalcho Consistory then listed R. H. Pierce, H. Taylor, R. W. Hicks, and A. S. Bell as Officers. In the Thirty-first (I I) H. Taylor and R. Pierce were outstanding in the Hall of Equity section; repeating the good work in the P R S Degree. Incidentally, Robt. Pierce may be highly complimented on his work in the 32nd Degree, the section depicting the symbolism of the teachings of the Rite. His approach was good and invariably he gave a notable performance. He had fine assistance from the Guard, who under Captain A. Bell had many rehearsals in order to support him creditably.

Changes were made in the Guard in 1932 -- Henry Taylor was made Secretary of the enlarged unit and W. M. Engard moved up to Adjutant. In addition to O. D. Garton, the Mayo Brothers, along with C. Kidd and Joe Mizell, Jr. had joined. Ex-Guardsman C. R. Moore was Master of Wardrobe; Herbert Northington - Staging; Raleigh Hicks - Class Guardian. Roy Ashworth (KCCH), Chas. Krug, and H. T. Taylor (KCCH) were now Masters and A. S. Bell Chairman Membership, Richmond Valley. F. Tyler was Junior Warden of both the Lodge of Perfection and Rose Croix Chapter. W. M. Engard, later Wise Master Rose Croix, was M C in each of the two Bodies. Since 1931 Wm. Jones, Warren Crump, Clyde Shankle, and Howard Donald had moved up in the 29th cast and offered noteworthy performances. Likewise M. Engard in the DeMolay scene; a real veteran now.

1933 marked the elevation of Lt.Commander A. S. Bell to the 33^o R. H. Puckett, Chancellor Kadosh, to K C C H; and M. Engard, Junior Warden Rose Croix, to K C C H. The Guard was represented by C. Shankle, John Hall, Jr., and H. T. Taylor as Masters. W. Luck, A. Hawkes, T. Fleming were seen as important gains in this 34-35 period, and the Reserves numbered Arthur Carlson*, F. Fields, R. Gayle, O. Kennedy, John Kessler (original Guard) and W. F. Witt...F. Tyler had, with J. Hall, Jr., joined the Masters group. L. Heflin, later a Ven.

* Regarded as exceptional recruits; years of fine service confirming that estimate.

Master, and C. V. Rogers added to the Reserves. Ex-Guardsman Weisiger had received the 33⁰ and C. Shankle advanced to K C C H.

Three occasions when members of the Old Guard rendered timely and material help should be recorded here. It was Nick Kendler in the thirties who repaired the crumbling parapet wall (roof) of the Temple and replaced the walls and ceiling of the dining room. Also covered the pillars. This operation (basement) stopped the accumulation of moisture and the resulting unsightly plaster deterioration. The metal walls which he installed were specially treated and are still holding nicely. The important fact was, that in meeting a pressing need* his bill was just half of the amount quoted in all bids received; totaling less than a thousand dollars for both roof and dining room.

In another emergency Worthie L. Childress, Heating Engineer, replaced a worn out heating system of the Temple for less than two-thousand dollars. He held to an estimate that would have justified a much higher figure since he had to furnish so many required extras. Lem Fear, Temple Supt. and former contractor, stated that the Childress bill was ridiculously low.

John T. Wood leveled the old sloping church floor of the Class Room with attractive results. He hired members of the Rite who were unemployed by reason of the recession, accomplishing this objective at about a third of the nineteen-hundred-fifty dollar bids offered us, and we paid the insurance as well. The membership was informed that Diogenes might now stop his search.

We were of necessity operating on a low budget in this period, and each man who favored us knew it.**

May, 1936, marked the Statewide Reunion in Richmond. This followed the proposal of the President of the Educational Council of the S.R. of Virginia (Guardman) which was supported by J. O. D. Copenhaver 33⁰ of Roanoke. In this fine affair Richmond was given the privilege of conferring the Fifth, Eighth, Ninth, Thirteenth, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-second Degrees. F. Tyler had been re-elected

* Hosts to a Statewide meeting and dining room in very poor shape.

** Needed work recommended to Building Committee who promptly approved.

Venerable Master*. M. M. Wallace after eight years in the Rose Croix was now Wise Master.** Changes in the Guard: Raleigh Hicks, Lt. Commander; Warren Crump, Captain; S. L. (Nick) Kendler, 2nd Lt. Oscar Kennedy and John Kessler, two real wheels, had been added. Arthur Bell had been picked up in the Armed Forces program and was out of the state.

Referring to the notes of the Venerable Master (FAT) the Unit rendered particularly fine service in this Reunion. They acted as an unofficial reception committee, extending many courtesies to visiting Representatives and S.R. Leaders. They assisted and took part in many of the degrees as well as conferring the Twenty-ninth. We thought they were great in the Thirty-second, sustained applause evidencing this fact; communications later received from the Statewide Committee confirmed this. J. O. D. Copenhagen 33^o (Roanoke) visited at subsequent Reunions and always had praise for the Unit. Walter Reed, 33^o, Secretary General of the Supreme Council, was in attendance and commended the Guard also. We thought their assistance was the greatest single factor in the success of this, the only Statewide Reunion.

In 1936 the Masters were: F. Tyler, M. Engard, R. Puckett, and R. Pierce. The latter had succeeded Raymond Straus, who had been Master Kadosh six years.

In the passing of Mann A. Sycle 33^o in 1936 the Guard and the Rite suffered a grievous loss.*** We might have known a better Mason but cannot remember where. His was a dedicated service and he was a Commander par excellence. When a plaque (likeness and scroll) was unveiled in the Guard Room in the presence of Guard members and the Sycle family, Raleigh Hicks read the memorial tribute. We always regarded Raleigh Hicks as typifying the spirit of the Unit and as one who always had four-feet-on-the-ground, and he proved it as he read the prepared memorial with obvious emotion, but without faltering once. (Now hanging in the Guardroom is a likeness (and scroll) of Henry T. Taylor, memorializing his passing in 1942. It was signed

* Initially declining election, second year.

** Selected to attend Army Advanced Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla. part of year.

*** Sycle - Seldom spoke on Lodge Floor. Made exceptional effort in 1935 in defeating a measure to reduce dues.

by Guard members. Both men left their mark.)*

Further changes occurred in the Guard. Raleigh Hicks (KCCH) was Commander, Joe T. Mizell, Jr,** Captain; N. Kendler, 1st.Lt., and H. T. Taylor had assumed the position as Secretary. W. M. Engard was 2nd.Lt. Thos. Cheatham, Bob Gayle, and Oscar Kennedy had become regulars. In the Temple appearances which we observed, the Old Guard seemed to have reached a point of efficiency which made them seem indispensable in the work of the Rite. Many shared our view.

Another program deserves mention. It was not entirely a Guard effort but many participants were our members. The play, "John Brent", was put on by Masons and furnished good entertainment. From our viewpoint R. H. Puckett gave a superb performance, along with W. J. Jones. While lacking any training in legal procedure Puckett acted the part of a Defense Counsel (opposing a real life lawyer) in such a manner as to prompt inquiries as to possible legal experience. Laudatory comments were heard wherever the production was given. W. R. Weisiger, George Wright, Joe Mizell, Jr. and others had prominent parts.

1937 marked the elevation of Robert Pierce and H. Taylor to the 33°; honors well deserved.

A recognized and enjoyable duty of the Guard was assisting in the Maundy Thursday observances; ritualistic work on Thursday and Easter Sunday. The program in 1938 under Wise Master Engard stands out in our recollections. J. M. Clift 33° Grand Cross; Robert S. Crump 33° S G I G; W. R. Weisiger 33°; A. D. Smith, Jr., Grand Master Masons Va.; and Walker Cottrell, Sr. 32° had prominent parts. Dr. J. N. Hillman of the Grand Lodge of Va. gave the address. The Unit has never appeared to better advantage, adding immeasurably to the program of sacred observances, and in a manner reflecting well on the new officers.

The Old Guard has rightly claimed three Guardrooms. The first was the locker room of the Temple. The second was Mann A. Sycle's summer home in Butylo and the third is the large and nicely appoin-

* Sycle, Hicks, Taylor - identified with the first Guard 1919.

** Later Commander and 33°.

ted den in the "Skipper's" present home Creekside, Pauls Cross Roads, Virginia. It is here that we enjoy reunions yearly, with Col. A. S. Bell (Infantry Rtd.) as host.* (It was from Butylo that the writer received those sassy telegrams while on a wedding trip to Cleveland, Ohio.)

Arthur S. Bell 33^o has an attractive personality and further possesses the enviable faculty of thinking quickly on his feet. He was seldom bested...We recall the visit of some Mason High-Ups and Army Brass and they were shown the Temple Guard room No. 1 where they viewed the pictures and plaques. As we neared the likeness of a large fierce bull, multicolored and with fire coming out of his nostrils, (illustrative of ancient mythology?) we saw the "Skipper" coming up for an introduction. Pointing to the Bull we told the visitors that we thought so much of our Captain that we had his picture on the wall. Without changing expression Arthur stepped up and, pointing to the likeness of a smaller bull at the end of the gallery, said: "That's me when I was eighteen."

Associations meant much to the Old Guard. Assuredly, work in a cuase in which one sincerely believes and with congenial Craftsmen, is itself rewarding. Yet we can relive with genuine pleasure our experiences in lighter moments.

We can recall weekends at Butylo; at George Oliver's Providence Forge Club; Gus Sytle's Rappahannock home; and many others. Oyster Roasts at Fritz Kuchemann's R R Club; in nearby parks; all bring pleasant memories. One member entertained for a few years at Christmas time at his mother's Chesterfield home. Secretary Robert D. Ford 33^o was a gracious host, along with others, and it was at his River home on one occasion that the Guard proceeded to let down its collective hair in a manner that might be described as celebrating. Why? Probably to prove that they could shine in lighter moments as well. And they shone. Some of the incidents that enlivened the visit come to mind. The Skipper would order a salute for a newly elected Wise Master of the Rose Croix in the following manner: "Turn him up,

* Lovely home. Walls of den have mementos of S Pacific, W W II. evidence of participation in many Army invasions. Also interesting records; personally inscribed photos from Australian and U.S. Brass, both Masonic and Military.

Boys, and we'll salute the Wild Master accordingly." This he would proceed to do--with a plank. A few such salutes prompted him to sit sideways at the breakfast table. Still talked about is the startling and almost incredible feat of one of the old members. He walked the length of a high rotten wharf which had many planks missing, then down a rickety ladder to the boat*. All this in the dark of the moon, nine oclock at night, carrying an armful of crabs; and never dropped one.

In the S. R. News of 1938 we note a continuance of the annual Buckroe Beach excursions. Clyde Shankle probably initiated these trips, for the general membership of the Rite and their families, and they were enjoyable. We can recall using a special fund for entertainment en route. The arrangements Committee was all-Guard and certainly merited the thanks of all. These affairs were only discontinued when it became necessary for R Rs to conserve rolling stock. Such activities are only mentioned to record the part the-Guard had in the accomplishment of yet another objective.

Another evaluation. Leadership was never stressed but was furnished in no small measure by individual members. As recalled, Hardin K. Bache was the first of the Reorganized Group to receive recognition of the Supreme Council. Other resulting 33s were: John Kessler, Robt. Pierce, Henry T. Taylor, W. R. Weisiger**, S. L. Kendler, Wm. J. Jones, Roy G. Ashworth, W. M. Engard, Clyde Shankle, A. S. Bell, R. H. Puckett, Joe T. Mizell, Jr. From the group of the 30s: O. D. Garton, A. Douglas Smith, Jr.*** and Walter Jewell.

In other branches of the Craft we remember C. Ridgeway Moore heading the Commandry at both the State and local level; John Hall and Montrose Wallace in top positions in the K T way back when--; H. K. Bache, Sr. also. In the socalled "allied" Masonic Orders others made their marks. Clyde Shankle, W. Milton Engard, S. L. Kendler, Joe T. Mizell, Jr., and Hardin K. Bache were hailed as Potentates of Acca Temple A A O N M S...Others occupied key positions in various Shrine units. W. R. Weisiger was high man in the

* Enroute with others to Gus Sycle's place for the night.

** Weisiger - Gr.Master Masons, Va.

*** A. D. Smith, Jr. - Gr.Master Masons, Va.

E. S. Frank Hook, Arthur Bell, Raleigh Hicks were active in the old DeMolay Chapter.

Chapter 72, National Sojourners, enjoyed its finest days under Arthur S. Bell and other Presidents were R. M. Bidgood, W. R. Weisiger, F. A. Tyler, while N. M. Wallace, George T. King, Jr., and Howard Donald were recognized as stalwarts. J. T. Mizell was also in later years. Richmond-Fort Lee Chapter 72 (National Sojourners) was admirably represented by Col. A. S. Bell in the S. Pacific Theatre of Operations. F. Tyler was Regional Representative for Virginia and served two terms on the Committee of 33, National governing Body. The Scottish Rite News, Masonic Herald, and the New Age (twice) publicised our Sojourner meetings at Carlisle, Pa; Fredericksburg, Va; Fort Monroe, Va., and other places; the Herald having an illustrated article on the Old Jamestown Church affair in 1935, when Major William Moseley Brown and Captain Thomas Hooper (both Grand Masters) were initiated. Our members furnished lecturer and degree team.

The period of 1938-40 was an important one. Oldtimers who still formed the backbone of the organization were: John Kessler, N. Kendler, M. Engard, H. Taylor, R. Hicks, Chas. Lee, J. Ozment, F. Kuchemann, E. Palmore, R. Hord, Howard Donald, John Wood, R. Puckett, W. Childress, W. Luck, W. Crump, C. Stoler, H. Hord, W. J. Jones.- Joe Mizell, Jr., and O. D. Garton had reached the veteran stage and others approaching it were: Arthur Carlson,* R. Gayle, T. Fleming, A. Hawkes, and Oscar Kennedy. There was a reserve of seven. R. E. Henderson was now a member.

Guardsmen occupied all four Master positions in 1939-40: W. J. Jones, W. Crump, R. H. Puckett, and Robert Pierce. Roy Ashworth and Clyde Shankle had received the well earned 33^o, while J. Mizell, Jr., Warren Crump, Wm. J. Jones the K C C H.

New men in the persons of J. Chew, O. F. Knight, M. Meyer, J. Watlington, A. D. Smith, Jr., and Walter Jewell were now enrolled. A. Douglas Smith, Jr., (Gr. Master Masons Va.) served with distinction in the Consistory and was one of the abler ritualists. (Incidentally he is remembered in the Grand Lodge as possessing initiative, imagination, and good hard sense.) Walter Jewell began a career

* Carlson - Later Secy. Guard -- Fine service to date.

which established him as a fine ritualist, continuing to the present. He is now recognized as one of the most efficient Secretaries ever to serve in this Valley. He and A. D. Smith, Jr. were recipients of the 33^o. R (Buck) Smith was also admitted to membership.

In 1940 the influence of the Bell-Hicks-Mizell dynasty continued to pay off and fortunately too. Raleigh Hicks had become Commander, J. Mizell, Captain; Nick Kendler was both 1st. Lt. and Treasurer, and H. T. Taylor was to hold the position of Secretary until his lamented passing in 1942. The Reserve list carried the names of Atkinson, Bradley, Sawyer, and Woody; regulars later.

In 1941, before Pearl Harbor, A. S. Bell,* J. T. Mizell, Jr.** W. R. Crump, M. M. Wallace,*** and F. A. Tyler were in the Armed Forces. Tyler and Mizell while at Fort Lee were actively identified with Richmond-Fort Lee Chapter, National Sojourners. Mizell was already on his way up the Shrine ladder, becoming a Potentate while on active duty. He made a fine record as Judge Advocate and earned Eagles. While at Fort Meade, Md. in 1943 the writer, who had never failed in twenty-one years to participate in a Reunion of the Rite, attempted to send greetings by telegram to the Reunion then in progress, but was prevented by reason of restrictions on non-official communications. Finally a phone message was put through from the Office of the Chief to Secretary Clyde Shankle and we hope it was read in the assembly. Membership in the Guard furnished a bond that prompted other members to communicate with us at various times. Among other communications received Colonel Arthur Bell's letters from the South Pacific (with Masonic news too) were enjoyed and passed on.*****

There were two members of the Old Guard who possessed a keen sense of humor, and the witty observations of R. M. Bidgood and R.

- * Colonel Infantry ** Camp Judge Advocate-Colonel J A G.
- *** Colonel Field Artillery. Retired 1962 Commanding General 80th. Division; Major General Res.
- **** Wallace and Tyler together short time Fort Meade 1942. Both members Third Corps Area Team taking the "Defense Against Atomic Warfare Course", Fort Meade, Md. late 1940s.
- ***** A. A. Hawkes, L. T. Fleming, C. L. Woody, H. A. Mayo, Jr. other Guardsmen who served so well in W W II.

H. Puckett are still repeated. Then again such names as "Sir Cyd", "Boots", "Jack Demolly", "Raskob", refer to amusing incidents and phases through which we passed at various times. Who has forgotten Warren Crump's furniture polish; the favorite song of the "Skipper" about the hen with an artificial limb? R. Harrison Puckett's happy land where Sloe Gin Rickeys are in orbit? How about the intention, expressed in song, to take in the fair with the Elphunt and Kick-kan-gru? All fondly remembered along with the Old "Skipper's" Night Stick Story.

It is difficult to write objectively of a group so highly regarded by us. My membership in the Old Gang is valued no end. A certain nostalgia is understandable. In retrospect we may still wonder what prompts the type of service rendered by the Old Guard and still furnished by the present Unit. As related, many had made their mark in Masonry and their duties at times were exacting. Perhaps the currents of the philosophic teachings of the Rite ran deep. Maybe the "Shoulder-To-The-Wheel" advocated continuously by "Skipper" Bell, plus the ideal of Mann A. Sycle that "The Guard Must Be Best", furnished the right format. These were probably responsible for the fine esprit-de-corps always in evidence. Then, too, Guardsmen may take pride in the knowledge of a job well done in furthering the objectives of a worthwhile Fraternity; and the writer is duly appreciative of the privilege of associating with a company of grand fellows indeed.

To repeat, nostalgic memories are vivid and stimulating. One remembers the Seventh D (P J), the first presented by a Guard cast; the exciting duels of the Frank Hook-Mac Cosby-Arthur Bell-George King-team in the Twenty-ninth; and the super-realistic acting of John Wood in the Fifteenth (Br.Scene). How about Billy Jones in the Thirtieth, Milton Engard in the Twenty-ninth? Remember the un-failing smoothness of Roy Ashworth in his Fourteenth D. lecture, and the impressive manner and faultless diction of A. D. Smith, Jr.* in the Consistory? Not forgotten are the Indispensables, Pierce - Puckett - Taylor in both the Kadosh and the Consistory; likewise the chief Frankjudge, John Kessler, and the Bell who never voted in the affirmative. Pleasant reflections indeed.

* Smith on the International Supreme Council, Order of De Molay; completing his seventeenth year.

So, in closing, remember: Someone found the Captain's Gloves
and the Banner Is Safe.

A favorite poem of ancient vintage (Byron? ends something
like this:

"Thank God, what e'er comes after -

I've lived and served with Men."

F.A.T.

PART II

FOREWORD

Through the kind cooperation of Arthur (Sparky) Carlson the record of the Guard is brought up to date. His story follows. Carlson may be described as a valiant, a wheel, or even a stalwart. However, it is difficult to imagine the machinery of the Unit functioning without its spark-plug; and such he has been since 1934...As a superfine Secretary he has helped carry the Guard since 1942 ... His worth to the Guard and Rite was recognized long before his selection to the K C C H in 1949 ... We are happy to pay a deserved tribute to a fine Mason.

Franklin Adair Tyler

PART TWO

Scottish Rite Guard 1942-1962.

By Arthur Carlson K C C H Secretary ...

Following up the preceding history of the Scottish Rite Guard by Brother Franklin Tyler, for the period 1923 through 1941; it shall be endeavored to give a resume of the duties, activities and other events of the Guard beginning with the year 1942 and continuing through 1962.

In the year of 1942 our beloved Secretary, Brother Henry T. (Shorty) Taylor, was called to his heavenly home and his position of Secretary of the Guard was passed on to Arthur Carlson.

The duties of the Guard are varied; they assist in many of the degrees during the Reunions, and put on in its entirety the 29th Degree and a great portion of the 32nd and final Degree. They also perform duties requested by the Commander of the Guard and also the Masters of the four Bodies of the Rite; for instance they act as doormen, ushers and in other capacities during services on Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday morning and Thanksgiving Morning. It is also the duty of the Guard to circulate the box of fraternal assistance during each dinner meeting.

During the Christmas Parties the Guard is conspicuous in that they are seen wherever there is assistance needed, such as the handling of the large crowd attending, finding seats and seeing that each and everyone is comfortably situated. Also, in connection with the Christmas Parties, the Guard and their ladies have been called upon to wrap the many presents to be distributed during the party.

Assistance was also required of the Guard during the annual picnic of the Scottish Rite Bodies, which so many years ago was had at Buckroe Beach, Virginia, but in more recent years at one of the nearby parks.

In addition to participating in the work of the Richmond Bodies, the Guard has had the pleasure of conferring the 29th and 32nd Degrees at Newport News, Virginia, and the 29th Degree at Alexandria and Lynchburg, Virginia.

Many honors have been bestowed upon members of the Guard in various branches of Masonry; a goodly number having become Masters of their Blue Lodges, and one former member of the Guard, Brother A. Douglas Smith, Jr., having attained the high office of Grand Master

of Masons in Virginia. Others have been and some are now Masters of one of the Bodies of the Rite, and others are in line to eventually become Masters. Many Guardsmen have been invested "Commander Court of Honor" and a greater portion of those so invested have received the 33rd and final Degree.

During World War II the armed forces called the following into service:

Joe T. Mizell, Jr.
Abner A. Hawkes
L. Thornton Fleming
Carlton L. Woody
Howard A. Mayo, Jr.

Several former members of the Guard were also called, and to name a few, Arthur S. Bell, Franklin A. Tyler, Monty M. Wallace, and no doubt others of whom we have no record having been called into service.

Referring to honors bestowed upon members of the Guard, mention should be made of the fact that we had three members and one former member who reached the highest office in Acca Temple Shrine, that of Potentate - Joe T. Mizell, Jr., W. Milton Engard, William T. Buckner, and Clyde D. Shankle.

Brother William T. Buckner has also held the highest office in the Commandry. And on Brother Paul Welch was conferred the greatest honor in the Order of Demolay.

The annual meeting of the Guard in March is preceded by a dinner, to which the ladies are invited. Following the dinner the Guard retires to the Guardroom for the transaction of business and election of officers. After completion of business the Guardsmen rejoin their ladies for games, dance or a fine travel movie.

In the year 1950 Brother Raleigh Hicks resigned as commander of the Guard, due to poor health and finding it necessary to move to Houston, Texas, to live with his son. Brother Joe T. Mizell, Jr, was elevated to the position of Commander, holding this office in a most creditable manner to the date of this issue.

In the year 1955 Brother Walter Jewell resigned from the Guard because his duties as Secretary of the Scottish Rite Bodies required his undivided attention.

In the year 1960 we suffered the loss of Brother Stafford L. (Nick) Kendler, our First Lieutenant and Treasurer, who had been in ill health for many months; and who, with a strong will to continue on, proceeded with his duties almost to the end.

All has not been work for the Guard as they have found time for pleasure and fellowship. On one occasion we left by chartered bus for Fredericksburg, Alexandria and Washington, where we visited the lodge in Fredericksburg where George Washington was Master, in Alexandria the George Washington Memorial, and in Washington the House of the Temple. We have also had the pleasure of week end parties at the following river homes:

Leroy Redford - on the Potomac River
Andrew Keck - on the Potomac River
George Martin - on the Potomac River
Thomas Bourne - on the Rappahannock River

Also: Annual Steak Dinner and Swimming Party, home of Linn Hendricks.

Then, too, we enjoyed a very nice party at the home of Morton Meyer, while living in Southside Richmond. Also, there was a bus trip to Natural Bridge, Virginia, on which occasion the Guardsmen were accompanied by their ladies. Not to be overlooked - the oyster roast in the yard of Brother John W. Kessler, to which affair the ladies were also invited.

Assistance by Guardsmen and their ladies have been rendered to Job's Daughters during their dance and parties.

We have also had the pleasure of attending the Scottish Rite Council at Old Point, Ocean View and Danville, Virginia.

The presently elected officers of the Guard are

Joe T. Mizell, Jr. - Commander
O. Dewey Garton - Captain

	Leon Norton	-	1st Lieutenant
	Johnson C. Moss	-	2nd Lt. & Treasurer
	Arthur Carlson	-	Secretary
Appointed:	Henry C. Moore	-	Chaplain
	Paul J. Welch	-	Quartermaster

For the past several years Brother Arthur S. Bell has made it an annual affair to invite to his home, "Creekside Farm", near Tappahannock, Virginia, members of the Guard during the years 1925 through 1935, during which period he was Captain of the Guard. A most delightful time is had on these occasions and a lot of reminiscing goes on. Colonel and Mrs. Bell are the perfect hosts.

In closing, the foregoing gives one an idea of the type of men in the Scottish Rite Guard, ready and willing at all times to assist in the great work of promoting Masonry in its several phases.

Arthur Carlson

HONOR ROLL

SCOTTISH RITE GUARD

George V. Oliver
Arthur S. Bell
George T. King, Jr.
Lewis F. Pugh
Warren R. Crump
Robert E. Hord
M. M. Wallace
Herbert C. Hord
Chas. A. Lee
E. B. Atkinson
R. E. Henderson
Chas. S. Stoler
A. Douglas Smith, Jr.
Jas. F. Chew
F. Legnaioli
J. H. Mackay
W. J. Jones
Wm. F. White
W. J. Wellington
Clyde C. Shankle
W. Roy Wright
John T. Wood
F. A. Boisseau
Paul Hickman
Robt. B. Gayle
W. Milton Engard
Chas. F. Krug
J. W. Hall, Jr.
R. E. Bell
Stafford L. Kendler

Jas. E. Watlington
Roy G. Ashworth
H. S. Donald
C. L. Jackson
R. M. Bidgood
Clyde R. Pugh
H. T. Taylor
Jas. E. Ozment
Geo. S. Edwards, Jr.
E. T. Kinsey
Walter F. Witt
Geo. Bradley
Lyston G. Heflin
O. F. Knight
J. C. Smith
Hardin K. Bache, Sr.
H. A. Mayo, Jr.
Earl Biddle
W. L. Childress
Harry Lane
W. R. Weisiger
Mann A. Sycle
R. W. Hicks
H. M. Wilkinson
Thos. B. Davis
C. F. Shepperson
Robert H. Smith
Geo. McDonald
J. Robt. Simms

A. B. Cosby, Jr.
F. Kuchemann
E. C. Palmore
O. C. Thacker
Floyd S. Tinder
R. I. Mahle
H. E. Morrisett
Robert E. Eubank
R. B. Ingham, Jr.
C. U. Rogers
Ernest Mayo
Frank W. Hook
H. D. Northington
Hugh R. Lewis
E. W. Chewning
R. H. Pierce
L. N. Schilling
Wm. R. Ranson, II
W. H. Howard
Laney M. Dennis
W. B. Rowe
C. Eddie Ball
H. A. Mayo, Sr.
Albert M. Atkins
Franklin A. Tyler
Earl C. Traylor
R. Benj. Sweeney
E. L. Jennings
C. F. Sawyer
Walter A. Jewell

THE SCOTTISH RITE GUARD 1962

OFFICERS

Joe T. Mizell, Jr., 33°	Commander
O. Dewey Garton, 33°	Captain
Leon Norton, 32° KCCH	1st Lieutenant
Johnson C. Moss, 32°	2nd Lieut. & Treas.
Arthur Carlson, 32° KCCH	Secretary
Henry C. Moore, 32° KCCH	Chaplain

ACTIVE MEMBERS

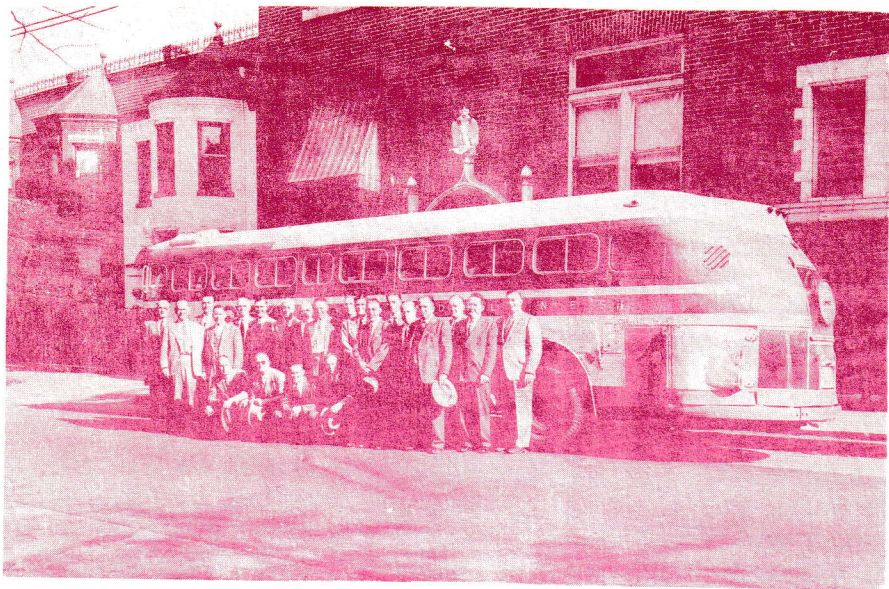
Thomas C. Bourne, 32°	R. Claude Garton, 32°
William T. Buckner, 33°	Samuel D. Hatcher, 32°
Marion M. Causey, 32°	Abner A. Hawkes, 32° KCCH
Raymond E. Claytor, 32°	W. F. Herndon, 32° KCCH
Thomas H. Cheatham, 32°	J. S. Howerton, 32° KCCH
Elvin C. Childrey, 32°	J. G. Johnson, 32°
L. Douglas Delano, 32° KCCH	Oscar W. Kennedy, 32° KCCH
Lynn H. Faber, 32°	John W. Kessler, 33°
L. Thornton Fleming, 32° KCCH	Wm. J. Luck, 32° KCCH
T. Gaylon Layfield, Jr., 32° KCCH	Morton Meyer, 32° KCCH
Perry D. Mowbray, 32°	James C. Myers, 32°
Charles E. Neal, Jr., 32° KCCH	Ray A. Pilkington, 32°
Paul J. Welch, 32° KCCH	R. Harrison Puckett, 33°
Carlton L. Woody, 32°	

RESERVE MEMBERS

James T. Gwaltney, 32° Gerard Gontchegulin, 32° R. W. Taylor, 32°

HONORARY MEMBERS

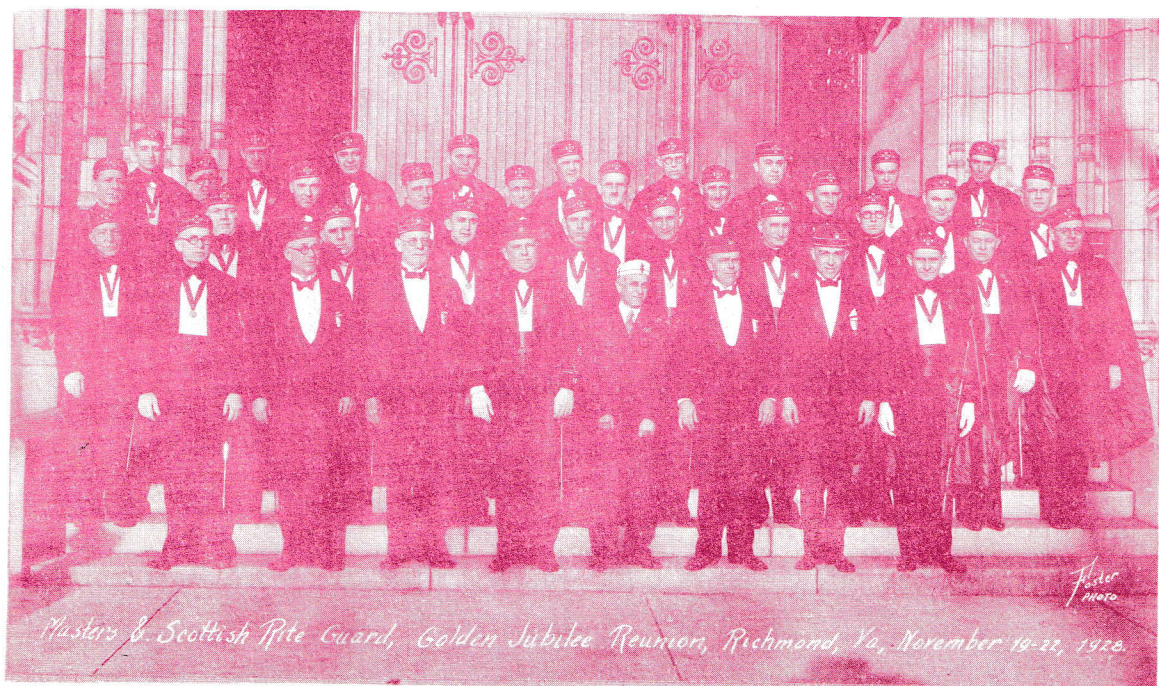
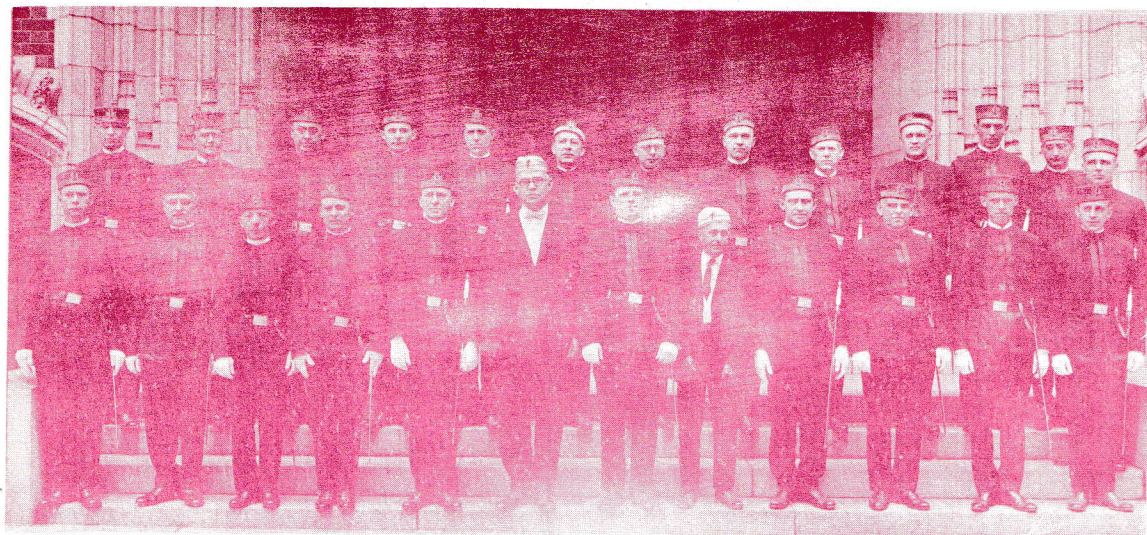
Arthur S. Bell, 33°	W. Milton Engard, 33°
Herbert R. Jackson, 32° KCCH	Walter A. Jewell, 33°



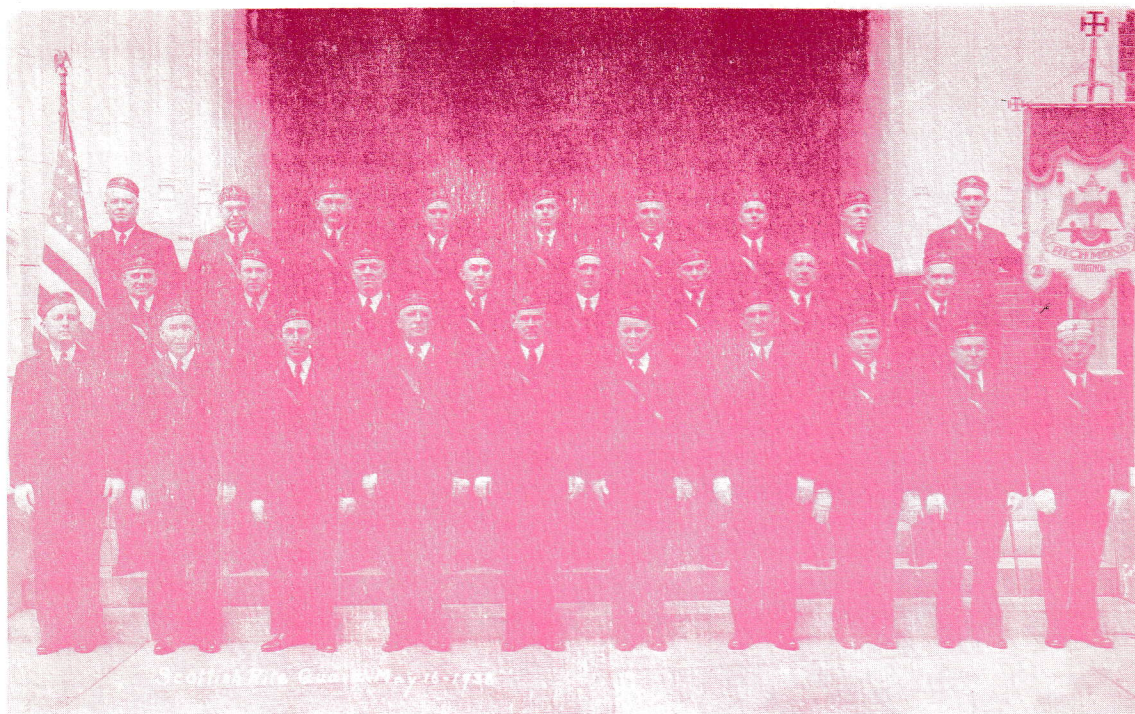
"BUTYLO"



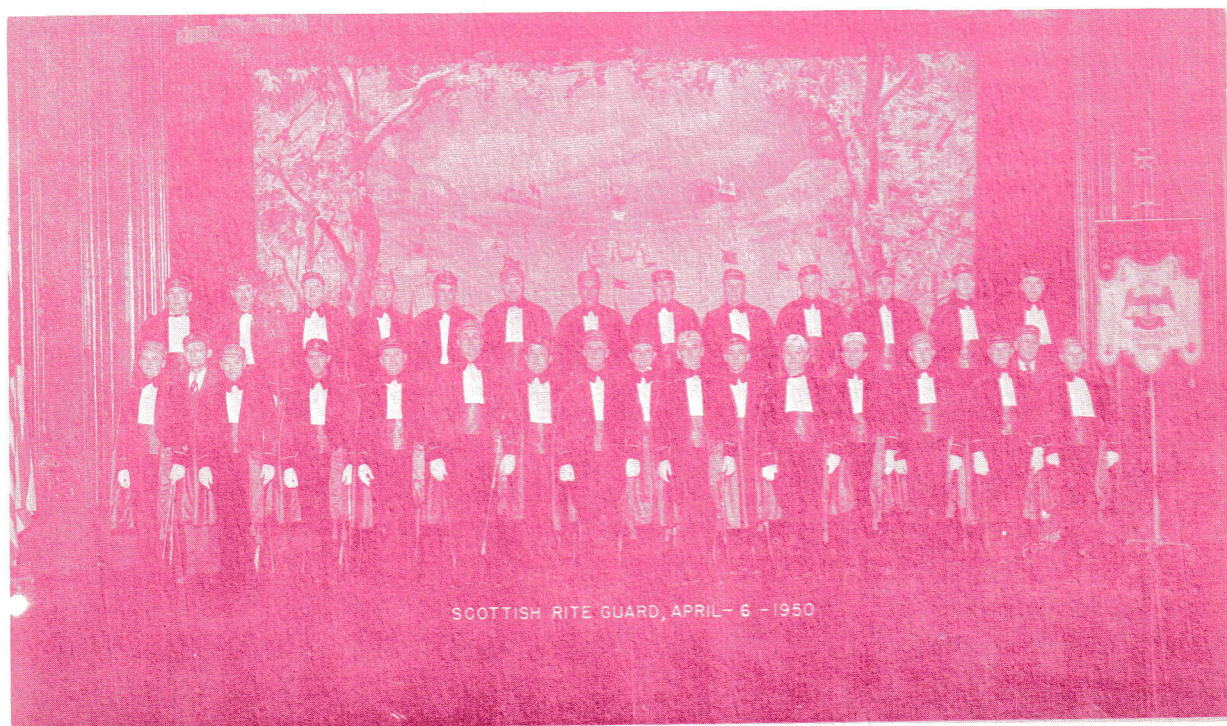
"ALEXANDRIA"



Musters & Scottish Rite Guard, Golden Jubilee Reunion, Richmond, Va., November 19-22, 1928.



SCOTTISH RITE GUARD, APRIL 6, 1948



SCOTTISH RITE GUARD, APRIL 6 - 1950