



*It is, as you have well observed,  
too incident to humanity that the best Institutions  
are not exempt from imperfections  
and that, too frequently degenerating  
from their original purity,  
they have become perverted to the worst purposes.*

*Mistaken notions of convivial mirth  
have sometimes turned Masons into  
shameful scenes of revelry,  
and induced a consequent belief among the ignorant,  
if the object of the Institution would not be laudable.*

*I hope we shall purpose a different conduct  
and exert ourselves to make it be considered  
by our fellow citizens not only as  
the sacred asylum of Temperance, order and decorum,  
but the rigid school of social virtue.*



ROBERT ADAM

*Founding Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge N° 22*

*[then Lodge 39]*

JULY 1783

ROBERT ADAM [1731-1789] was the founding Master of what is now Alexandria-Washington Lodge N° 22, founded in 1783 as Lodge N° 39 under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He would serve as Master from 1783 to 1786, and George Washington would be made a member of the Lodge in 1784 during his tenure. This simple statement, written in response to a laudatory letter from his brethren just a few days earlier, holds great significance not only for our Lodge, but for the concept of observant Masonry.

Brother Adam, in taking note of the same difficulties in the Craft of his time that were commented upon by William Preston, demonstrates that he believes Masonry to be an institution which is not only sacred in its comportment, but demands that education in virtue be provided in an attitude of order and decorum.

His words leave no doubt that this was his intention when he founded our Lodge, and thus it reveals that the observance of Masonry in this manner was not only present when our Lodge was created, but indeed was intended to guide its conduct from its inception until now.

