Get Acquainted with The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys

To better acquaint you with the many features and opportunities afforded the boys who attend The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys, a Masonic Master, to interested in behalf of some worthy boy, the following sketch of the school is provided for your information.

The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys was established in 1925. It was made possible by the will of Thomas Ranken Patton who directed, that as a memorial to his only son, Thomas Graham Patton, a portion of his estate be set aside for the establishment of a Masonic institution. Boys seeking admission must be of good character and intellectual ability, and physically capable of working at a trade. Each candidate for admission must submit a certificate from his former school or schools, showing the cumulative grade and character of the work performed, the evidence of honorable dismissal or good standing, and a statement of marks earned. Each applicant must truthfully pass the required physical examination and necessary test and attend operations made for the purpose of selecting the most suitable boys. The membership fees must be paid in full, and the student must be in good repair by the student.

Students are admitted in September of each year. Application blanks may be secured by writing to the Superintendent. Applicants must have completed the ninth grade and be between fifteen and eighteen years of age at the time of application.

The school is located on a part of Lancaster County's large farms, containing 116 acres, which is owned by the school. The school and farm buildings, as far as possible, are kept in repair by the students, who provide them with practical experience and training. A variety of trees and shrubs grace the campus while a hill of evergreens forms a fitting background to the school. Across the valley from the school grounds are the beautiful Gothic buildings and landscaped grounds of The Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The school is one mile from the Elizabethtown station of the Pennsylvania Railroad and midway between Harrisburg and Lancaster. Visitors are always welcome.

All given adequate emphasis. Each boy following his admission designates the religious denomination of his choice and it is thereafter expected to attend services regularly at the nearby church during his entire stay at the school. The Patton's will state that all boys must be regular and faithfully attend the required services of the Bible.

The school is run on a basis of what is considered to be the best to serve the ends for which it is conducted. The school and farm buildings, as far as possible, are kept in repair by the students, who provide them with practical experience and training. A variety of trees and shrubs grace the campus while a hill of evergreens forms a fitting background to the school. Across the valley from the school grounds are the beautiful Gothic buildings and landscaped grounds of The Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The school is one mile from the Elizabethtown station of the Pennsylvania Railroad and midway between Harrisburg and Lancaster. Visitors are always welcome.

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If you know of a deserving orphan (at least one parent deceased) the son of a Master Mason is given preference to boys who have completed the ninth grade, talk with him and must certainly be interested in such an opportunity. You may also write or have your Lodge Secretary write to: The Superintendent of The Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

Masonic Law in Pennsylvania

By George A. Avery

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

HOW TO REAFFILIATE

A member of a Lodge in Pennsylvania, who has been suspended for non-payment of dues and desires to re-affiliate with the Lodge in which he stands suspended, may, if he can show, to the satisfaction of the Lodge, that he has paid, within twelve months of the date of his suspension, the annual dues to the University, in addition to the dues paid to the Lodge itself, in which he was a member at the stated meeting at which action was had, he may be re-affiliated with the Lodge.

Such Restoration to Membership must be made by vote of the Lodge within one Masonic year of the date of suspension. In such cases as the motion to restore must be laid over for one month before an affirmative vote of the Lodge may be required. In such cases as the motion made within twelve months of the date of suspension, the motion must be made within one month of the date of suspension.

A suspended member who has not been restored to Membership within one year, but desires to re-affiliate, must first pay the delinquent dues owed at the time of his suspension, upon which he may be restored to Good Masonic Standing by a majority vote of the Lodge. He may then present a petition for membership to the Lodge from which he was suspended, or to any other Lodge of his choice, for an ballot in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. A unanimous ballot is necessary for his election to be considered as having been made in good standing.

New District Superintendent

Seven new District Superintendents were installed by your Grand Master.

March 30—John H. Kepner, No. 748, Harrisburg.

April 5—Richard E. Aebker, in Philadelphia.

April 20—Paul G. Fissinger, in Gettysburg.

May 4—Minister M. Davis, in Philadelphia.

May 11—J. Watson Harris, in Philadelphia.

July 11—Raymond H. Grimm, in Pittsburgh.


New Lodge

February 9—Constituted Lowther Masonic Lodge No. 781 of Camp Hill (Constituted and opened September 25, 1956, in that city).

Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

February 18, 20, 21, 22 in Washington, D.C.

(Continued on page 2)
Masonic Temple Renovated

The appearance of the Masonic Temple at Broad and Fellstreet Streets in Philadelphia has undergone an impressive change in the last few months. This Temple, generally regarded as one of the finest Masonic structures in the world, was exclusively devoted to Masonic purposes, was constructed back in 1866 with greywacke stone, and its ornamentation had been darker and darker through an accumulation of soot and dirt.

Last spring, Brother William J. Wallace and the Committee on Temple was authorized to renovate the exterior of the Temple. This work has been steam cleaned, repainted where necessary and all ledges and trim were treated with a kid repellant. The exterior frames and doors have been repanelled in a gray color to harmonize with the greywacke stone.

The appearance of the exterior now emphasizes the beauty of the stone masonry and the dignity of this perfect example of Norman architecture. A suggestion has been made that the present windows in the Broad and Fellstreet elevations be replaced with stained glass windows. A sample window is expected to be available for inspection at the September Quarterly Communication.

For the first time in the history of the Temple a first-aid room has been set up on the second floor, adjacent to the Luther Temple Chapel. This room, which has been completely redecorated, will be used for any necessary refreshments such as hospital beds, oxygen tank, wheelchair, chair, medical supplies, etc.

Brother Dr. Harry L. Farrell was kind enough to set up these refreshments and will see that the medical stuff in addition to a first-aid staff.

The rooms in the basement, the corridor and stairway to the third floor have also been renovated.

The complete report on Temple welcomes your inspection of this much needed renovation project.

Extension to Hospital at the Masonic Homes Dedicated

The extension to the Philadelphia Freemason's Memorial Hospital at the Masonic Homes Dedication Day was held on May 25 with appropriate Masonic ceremonies. This was building project which had been in contemplation in October, 1948. In addition 305 beds and associated facilities to permit the Hospital to keep pace with the increasing medical needs of approximately 600 patients.

Many of the guests who were patients in the Hospital were present to witness these remarkable events from the windows of their rooms.

The Philadelphia Freemason's Memorial Hospital was dedicated in 1925, but the actual construction work started in 1921. The actual ground breaking for the first unit of 40 beds did not take place until August, 1918.

The first unit was opened for service on October 14, 1916.

Ground was broken for the West Wing and Administration Building in September, 1929, and two years later the Second and Third Story of the Administration Building were formally opened on October 21, 1922.

In 1951 further expansion provided an additional 55 beds.

Then on October 12, 1948, the first meeting was held to make plans for the new unit of 100 beds and needed addition. Ground was broken in January, 1953 and the cornerstone was laid in the presence of the Master of Ceremonies. Not only has a new unit been added but the existing buildings were extensively modernized before the dedication last May.

Throughout the years the generous gifts of the Philadelphia Freemasons have made possible the most important part of our Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. The Officers of the Extension Fund Committee, headed this magnificent undertaking, included Brothers John H. Doberty, Past D.D.G.M., Chair, William H. Betz, Treasurer; Morris Rubens, Secretary; and Gerald F. Wilson, Sr., Cdr.

The Trustees included Brothers William M. Moorey, Chairman; James W. Alexander, James L. Fawley, George C. Flannigan, and Ern. Schwartz.

Brothers Charles H. Nix, R.W. Grand Master, and the other Grand Lodge officers laid the cornerstone for this new north-eastern Everett Lodge No. 254, Masonic Temple on a spacious corner plot in the center of Everett.

Next May when this Temple will be dedicated, Brother Frank H. Clement's desire for facilities for his Lodge will have been fulfilled.

FREEMASONRY-A Way of Life

Every individual is by nature endowed with certain traits of character which form the basis for living and the conduct of life. As matters of fact, these traits or tendencies are either manifested aggressively or passively--by acts of speech, thought, and action. If, by self-analysis, we consider and discern the traits which we do not like in ourselves, we may then be in a position to look for ways in higher achievement, then we have started to gain insight into one of the greatest principles of Masonry.

Our main focus in life is fixed many times by condition, circumstances, and chance. Consequently, the individual is master of his own destiny only in so far as he can choose and consider. Our main interest must be our own personal achievement. We want our work to mean something to us and it is only in this way to be of value, and to live, and to give value to the world in such a way that we may make our own destiny. Our own personal success, and the direction of our lives, is to be realized by the power of our own choices and by powers and deficiencies within us. Our ability to adapt to our surroundings, the degree of our own ambitions, and the relationship between ourselves and our fellow workers, are the fundamental principles which can be applied to Masonry as individuals and as citizens.

Freemasonry recognizes the inherent failings of the individual man, and endeavours to protect the individual man from the failings of others and to prevent any stage of life from being achieved by a means not in accordance with our own will. It recognizes that Freemasonry provides an organization, an opportunity, a code of ethics, and a philosophy for the guidance of man in life.

In short, the degree of success a man will achieve in any endeavor is to be dependent upon his own grip and endeavor. Every man's success is dependent upon his own effort and the success of others will depend upon their own effort. The progress of man, to be complete, must be made by the will of man and by the power of man. The success of man is dependent upon the success of others, but ultimately success rests in the hands of man, for he is the architect of his own destiny.

Masonic Homes

The Masonic Homes are a group of institutions that provide care and support for men and their families. The homes offer a range of services, including long-term care, assisted living, and residential programs. These facilities are typically governed by Masonic lodges and are supported by charitable donations and membership fees. The homes are designed to meet the needs of individuals of all ages and backgrounds, providing a safe and welcoming environment. The Masonic Homes strive to promote the values of brotherhood, charity, and service, fostering a sense of community and belonging among residents and staff. Through their efforts, the Masonic Homes contribute to the betterment of society and the well-being of those they serve. 
Noteworthy Masonic Meeting Places

III—THE LODGE HALL AT LANCASTER

By William F. Montgomery

In previous articles of this series on Noteworthy Masonic Meeting Places in Pennsylvania, our first trip was to the Free Quaker Meeting House (the oldest lodge hall in the nation), where the cornerstone was laid on July 29, 1824. In the second article, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (which is still in existence) and (2) Independence Hall (the meeting place of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, in use as a Masonic Lodge until 1965), we described the meeting place of a Masonic jurisdiction in the Keystone State. The current article will describe the Lodge Hall at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which was built to serve a specific Masonic purpose in this jurisdiction, and in certain respects, one of the most unique.

Lodge No. 43 at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was constituted on September 14, 1785. In the early 1800s, the lodge had a remarkably active history. At the time of their meetings, the lodge held various activities, including dances, exhibitions, and even a band concert. The lodge was located in a building that was later to become the Masonic Temple at the homes of its members.

In June 1800 the Lodge was asked to rent the lodge-room for the November term of the County Court. This agreement, and for sometime afterwards the Courts were held there. The lodge, however, had not granted the use of the Lodge's facilities, in accordance with the resolution that the Lodge could not be used as a Masonic Lodge, without interfering with the meeting of the Lodge, that it would be held, and honorable, to do so. This was not only a kinder attitude, but double

Pension Plan of Grand Lodge Revised

Appended to the report of the Committee on Finance were two resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

The third resolution recommended for another day, after a year of study and consideration by the Trustees of the Pension Plan, the adoption of a resolution recommending to the Grand Lodge a change of $1 per annum to a pension plan. The resolution was signed by 91 members of the Lodge, and was the subject of a meeting of the Lodge on April 21, 1896. The resolution was adopted, and was then referred to the Grand Lodge for consideration.

The second resolution was signed by 101 members of the Lodge, and was the subject of a meeting of the Lodge on June 3, 1896. The resolution was adopted, and was then referred to the Grand Lodge for consideration.

The Grand Lodge at the time was giving considerable attention to the erection of a Masonic lodge in this jurisdiction. The Lodge Hall was completed in 1896, and was dedicated on September 14, 1896. The dedication was attended by many prominent Masons, and was the occasion of a special address by the Grand Master, who spoke on the importance of the lodge in the history of Masonry in Pennsylvania.

The Lodge Hall at Lancaster, located at 111 South Market Street, and on the west by Union Court (which has been closed and is now owned by the city). The Lodge Hall was dedicated on September 14, 1896, and was the occasion of a special address by the Grand Master, who spoke on the importance of the lodge in the history of Masonry in Pennsylvania.

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