A Real Family Affair, Ten Brothers of the Craft

At an Extra Meeting of Thomas R. Patton Lodge, No. 659, held in Egyptian Hall, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Friday evening, December 18, 1959, Brother Thomas R. Yeager, F. Richter, Jr., assisted by his father, Horace F. Richter and his seven brothers. The father and six of the seven brothers, all Members of Thomas R. Patton Lodge, and the seventh brother, a Member of a New Jersey Lodge, arrived in Philadelphia and within a few hours had oversaw the installation of WM. Paths in the lodge. The Lodge is made up largely of Masons from the State of Pennsylvania and has a large membership from outside of that State.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial on Shooters Hill, Alexandria, Virginia, was dedicated November 11, 1925, by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. It is a “living” tribute to the high ideals of Freemasonry.

It stands as “A Lamp to the world of men”—an inspiring reminder of the wisdom, strength and beauty given this country by Brother George Washington.

Today, it represents Freemasonry’s faith in the principles of civil and religious liberty—the very message of Freemasonry.

The Memorial is practically completed. However, this doesn’t solve the problem. The immediate need is for a $4,000,000 Endowment Fund to assure that the Memorial will be opened to visitors in its entirety. It now has almost $1,000,000 in the Endowment Fund. The need is $4,000,000 more. When this goal is reached, the Memorial will be opened in a manner befitting the high traditions of the Craft.

Brother Sanford M. Chisolm, when Grand Master, proposed a plan to raise the needed money. His plan, now called the “Pennsylvania Plan,” was adopted at a meeting of Grand Masters at the Memorial on February 22, 1960.

The plan is simple—every Lodge raise a sum equal to at least $1.00 a member and $10.00 from the Lodge itself.

I am confident that Masons in Pennsylvania will more than meet this challenge when they fully understand the need.

The Endowment Plan is a one-time program. Once your Lodge has fulfilled its obligation, it will not be asked for a repeat contribution. The only exception is the $1.00 contribution from each new initiate.

It will be continued. It now gives the member a personal share in the Memorial.

All contributions to the Memorial are tax exempt. This could mean an important tax deduction.

I have asked every Lodge in Pennsylvania to accept this challenge and reach the 100 per cent participation mark.

Encourage your members to participate. Everyone should accept this challenge and help the Lodge reach this goal. In this way you will have a direct interest in this wonderful structure.

Lodges that raise their quota, and those purchasing $100.00 Life Membership Certificates, will have the George Washington Masonic National Memorial on Shooters Hill, Alexandria, Virginia, named after your Lodge. The 146 Lodges and 39 Life Members, with payments received before May 1, 1960, are recognized in this issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason. Lodges completing their quotas and additional Life Members received after May 1, will be recognized in the next issue.

I hope the list is much greater in the next issue. I’m sure we will see if we all assume a personal responsibility and make sure we contribute. Many Lodges which have reached the quota did so by having the Lodge advance the required money. They plan a campaign to replenish the treasury.

I personally thank Brother for doing everything possible to help your Lodge reach the 100 per cent participation goal. I’m sure you will do your best to visit this wonderful Memorial when it is opened in its entirety.

Since the beginning of construction, in 1929, Memorial expenditures included: Building construction, $4,953,722.28; grounds construction, $239,379.49; purchase of land, $73,313.89; general furnishings and promotion, $525,390.61; maintenance and operation of the building, $601,673.04; and maintenance of grounds, $317,738.86. This is an expenditure of $6,665,928.12.

The great aim in this worthy undertaking is that set forth by the Association at the time construction was started more than thirty years ago.

“We could not hope to increase the fame of Brother George Washington nor add to the enduring honor of his name. Our purpose was, and is, to hand down to coming generations a testament of love for our Fraternity for him who was the glory of his country and an ornament to Freemasonry.”

“We could not fail to create the wish of our new planet to shed its splendor among the stars. We could not set to move the countless millions of the sea to carry the message of our appreciation to every shore throughout the coming years. We could not fail to move the light wherever it could be posted, we opened the granite hills of New Hampshire to take their strength and make it attest our everlasting admiration for him to whom it is dedicated. Erected of enduring materials, we trust it will last as long as man shall live, and for the age to come.”

I hope your Lodge has organized a plan similar to the one described above. Brother Grand Master, have a prearranged plan in connection with your Lodge correspondence.

A Grand Master’s Award certificate will be presented to Masonic Lodges that reach their quota. I would like to see one of those certificates in every Lodge in Pennsylvania.
Thirty Pennsylvania Masons Have Purchased Life Membership in Memorial Association

Since February 22, 1958, thirty Pennsylvania Masons have contributed $100 each to become Life Members in The George Washington National Memorial Association.

They will receive "Masonic Life Membership Certificates from the Memorial Association."

The $100 contributions will go to the endowment fund of the Memorial. All the names of those contributing $100 will be printed in The Masonic National Memorial Association.

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79 Years of Age, Brother Morris Rankle Enjoying His Masonry

On March 25, 1910, Morris Rankle was made a Mason in Saybrook Lodge No. 128 in Orwigsburg. Now 79 years later Brother Rankle is still in good health and an enthusiastic Mason.

A few days prior to Brother Rankle’s 75th Anniversary, brothers W. LeRoy McKee, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Ashby B. Paul, R.W. Grand Secretary; and Norman A. Yeager, Past Master of Pulaski Lodge No. 216, visited Brother Rankle in his home at 21 Waccow Street in Pottsville, where he has resided for many years.

Brother Rankle, who is 97, is able to walk about his apartment and is reasonably well for his age. He is still interested in Masonic affairs although unable to attend meetings of the Lodge.

Are there any other living Pennsylvania Masons who have been members for 75 years or more?—A.B.P.

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Brother F. William Miller Receives Appointment as District Deputy Grand Master

Brother F. William Miller, R.W. Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Pennsylvania, has been appointed the new District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 16, to succeed Brother Francis H. Mills, who has been appointed as Special Deputy Grand Master of the Thirty-ninth District.

Brother Miller is a resident of York, Pennsylvania, and has been a member of the Committee on Masonic Homes since 1954. He is currently serving as the Committee's chairman.

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An Expression of Gratitude to The Homes

February 3, 1960

Superintendent of Masonic Homes

Dear Mr. Eisen,

I write to express our sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the staff at the Masonic Homes. Your efforts have been crucial in ensuring the well-being of our residents and I want to extend my gratitude to you and your team.

Thank you for your commitment to providing a safe and comfortable environment for our residents. Your leadership and expertise have been invaluable in shaping the future of the Masonic Homes.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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Thirty-ninth and Fourth District Masons Set in Place Support of “Pennsylvania Plan”

The Thirty-ninth and Fourth Masonic Districts have set in place support of the “Pennsylvania Plan” for the Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Brother Hugh M. Bell is District Deputy Grand Master of the Thirty-ninth District.

The Committee on Masonic Grand Lodge of General Lafayette therefore appeals to each Masonic Lodge to contribute a portion of the proceeds from the Annual Masonic Home Benefit to The Masonic Homes at York, Pennsylvania.

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Data on Aide to Committee on Masonic Homes

It is most important that each Lodge have a committee of three Masonic Homes. It is also important that the name, address, and Lodge number of each person who is to be consulted be furnished to the Secretary of the Lodge.

The Committee on Masonic Grand Lodge of General Lafayette therefore appeals to each Masonic Lodge to contribute a portion of the proceeds from the Annual Masonic Home Benefit to The Masonic Homes at York, Pennsylvania.

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The Thirty-ninth Masonic District was the first in which all seven Lodges reached the 100 per cent participation in the “Pennsylvania Plan” in support of The Masonic Homes at York, Pennsylvania.

Many Brothers generously contributed to this worthy cause, and the results were truly impressive.

May the Blessing of God remain with you and your staff as you continue to brighten the twilight of life for our veterans.

Sincerely yours,

[Your Name]

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Lillian Liccis

745-118th Avenue, Prospect Park, Pa.
**Grand Master's Award Earned by 146 Lodges for 100 percent Participation in “Pennsylvania Plan”**

The Grand Master's Award has been earned by 146 Lodges for participating in the Pennsylvania Plan, which requires each Lodge to maintain a $5,000 endowed fund, as of May 1, 1960. The award is given annually by the Grand Master and requires participation by the Masonic Lodges for 12 months of the calendar year. Lodges were notified of their eligibility for the award in January 1959, and the program was approved by the Masonic Board of Trustees in February of that year.

Lodges that achieved the award include those listed above, along with other notable lodges across the state. The recognition serves as a testament to the dedication and commitment of Masons to their craft and community. The award highlights the importance of financial stability and stewardship within the Masonic community, ensuring the longevity and strength of Masonic organizations for future generations.