Historical Marker Placed Near the Masonic Temple at Chambersburg

On July 30, 1964, an impressive and inspiring ceremony marked the unveiling of an historical marker placed in front of the Masonic Temple, Chambersburg, Pa. The marker was placed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and carried the following inscription:

Masonic Temple
Built 1823-1824. Oldest Pennsylvania building erected solely for Masonic use and now used exclusively for that purpose. Spared when Confederates burned town on July 30, 1864.

The Masonic Bodies that meet in this historic building include: George Washington Lodge, No. 143; General James Chambers Lodge, No. 801; George Washington Chapter, No. 176; George Washington Council, No. 66; Royal and Select Masters, and Continental Commandery, No. 56, Knights Templum.

Bro. Paul G. Penasinger, District Deputy Grand Master of the 4th Masonic District, expressed his gratitude to the Washington Lodge, No. 143; General Continental Commandery, No. 56, Knights Templum, the Masonic Bodies that meet in the Masonic Temple, and the Community, stating, "It stands as a symbol of the community."

Being persuaded that a just application of the principles on which the Masonic fraternity is founded, must be promotive of pure virtue and public prosperity, I shall be happy to advance the interests of the society, and to be considered by them as a deserving Brother.

--GEORGE WASHINGTON

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Fraternally yours,

R. W. Grand Master

Factual View of Freemasonry

The Pennsylvania Freemason has afforded me a unique opportunity to discuss Freemasonry in Pennsylvania with an Eastern brethren in this Jurisdiction.

I have appreciated this opportunity to give you my ideas and to request your full cooperation on various Grand Lodge projects.

For instance, I urged Masons in Pennsylvania to contribute more than $2,500,000 to the Fund at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. This I am now assured will become a reality. I deeply appreciate your generosity. I will give a more detailed report in the next issue.

In this issue, I am foregoing my usual column in order that Pennsylvania Brethren will have the unusual opportunity of being the first to read an outstanding article, "A Factual View of Freemasonry," by Bro. Fred Pierce Corson, a Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Bishop of the Methodist Church, the Philadelphia area, and President of the World Methodist Council.

As President of the World Methodist Council, Bro. Corson has attained the summit of global Methodism and is the titular head of 50,000,000 Methodists throughout the world.

Bro. Corson was a delegate to the Vatican Council in Rome.

Last year he was decorated by the King of Norway with the medal of the Order of St. Olav, and was the recipient of the Georgia Medal, the highest honor of the Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

In 1963 he received the World Outlook Award, "Methodist of the Year," and was the first Protestant Clergyman to receive an honorary degree from St. Joseph's College.

Bro. Corson is not a swivel chair leader; he has logged hundreds of thousands of miles representing Freemasonry in the world-wide Fraternity of Freemasonry.

Questions: What is the total number of Masonic Lodges in the United States?

Answer: There are a total of approximately 18,000 Masonic Lodges in the United States. A Grand Lodge Jurisdiction governs these Lodges.

Questions: What is the title of the Lodge?

Answer: The title of the Lodge is "Master Mason." It is the highest degree in Freemasonry.

Questions: What is the highest degree in Freemasonry?

Answer: The highest degree in Freemasonry is "Master Mason." It is the highest degree in Masonry and is conferred on the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the United States. The Grand Master is the titular head of the Grand Lodge and is elected by the Grand Lodge to serve as the head of the Grand Lodge.

Questions: Who is the head of the Grand Lodge?

Answer: The head of the Grand Lodge is the Grand Master. The Grand Master is elected by the Grand Lodge to serve as the head of the Grand Lodge and is responsible for the administration of the lodge.

Questions: Who is the head of the United States Grand Lodge?

Answer: The head of the United States Grand Lodge is the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the United States. The Grand Master is elected by the Grand Lodge to serve as the head of the Grand Lodge and is responsible for the administration of the lodge.

Questions: Who is the head of the Masonic Bodies that meet in the Masonic Temple, Chambersburg, Pa.?

Answer: The head of the Masonic Bodies that meet in the Masonic Temple, Chambersburg, Pa. is the District Deputy Grand Master of the 4th Masonic District. The District Deputy Grand Master is elected by the Grand Lodge to serve as the head of the district.

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A Factual View of Freemasonry

(Continued from Page 3)

Good Masons make good churchmen. Every clergyman should belong to a Masonic Lodge. The Masonic Lodge is not a place of worship in the religious sense. It is a lodge of brotherly love, truth and reconciliation. Its teaching is that the service of man is eternal; that if a man dies righteously, his reward of a pious and virtuous life is the service of man to his fellow men. The Masonic Lodge is a place of brotherly love and friendship, where members may come together to promote their mutual welfare and the welfare of their community. The Masonic Lodge is a place of worship in the religious sense, where members may come together to promote their mutual welfare and the welfare of their community. The Masonic Lodge is a place of worship in the religious sense, where members may come together to promote their mutual welfare and the welfare of their community.
Eight District Deputy Grand Masters Named

Eight new District Deputy Grand Masters have been appointed by Bro. Earl F. Herold, R. W. Grand Master. They include:


Questions & Answers

Booklet Is Still Available

The 36-page pocket size Questions and Answers booklet is still available for purchase. This booklet, containing 124 answers to questions frequently asked about Freemasonry, may be purchased at a single copy rate of $1.00, or in quantities of ten cents each by writing to the Grand Lodge Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19107.

Many Masonic Books Are Available

In Grand Lodge Circulating Library

Our new 30-page Circulating Library brochure, containing the rules, regulations and listings of over 250 Masonic books now available for Masons of Pennsylvania Lodges to borrow, is still available for distribution in quantities to Lodges.

The Masonic books available include books in several series and a brief description of each book is given to assist the borrower in locating the particular Masonic books of his choice.

Members of Pennsylvania Lodges may borrow such books from the Circulating Library of the Grand Lodge either in person or by mail. Two books are permitted at a time and may be held for a three-week period of time, except for the return postage, if needed.

The following is another partial listing of the many available and highly recommended books for Freemasons to read:

- The Story of the Craft

- The Newly-Made Mason

- Haywood Builder

- The Speculative Mason

- Macfarlane English Speaking Mason

- Robbins Masonic History

- The Masonic Builders

- South Pennsylvania

- The Gnome of Freemasonry

- Macoy

- The Maxim of Freemasonry

- Joseph

- The Constitution of Freemasonry

- W. B. Lewis

- The Story of the Grand Lodge

- The Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19107.

Charity Above All

 Freemasonry is no means a finished product. Its history is still un-written. It is the process of growth and development and, so it must ever continue until charity shall blossom, support aid, and charity possess the earth.

Masonic Cultures Workshops Held In Shenandoah and Danville Areas

Masonic Culture Workshops recently conducted in Shenandoah and Danville were well attended and, from all reports, have been most successful.

In accordance with the R. W. Grand Master’s pleasure that Workshops be held on a District level, Bro. Thomas F. Becker, District Chairman for the Grand Lodge Committees on Masonic Culture in the 58th Masonic District, arranged for a Masonic Culture Workshop held in the Masonic Hall, Shenandoah, Pa. Over 70 of the Brethren, including Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Secretaries and Committees on Masonic Culture of the eight Lodges in the 58th Masonic District attended.

The Masonic Culture Workshop conducted in Danville on January 25, 1965, was a joint effort of two Masonic Districts. Bro. W. Jack Lewis, District Chairman for the 35th Masonic District, and Bro. Charles F. Snyder, District Chairman for the 46th Masonic District, arranged for this particular Workshop. Over 85 of the Lodge Officers and Members of the Lodge Committees on Masonic Culture of the seven Lodges in the 35th Masonic District attended this Workshop.

These Masonic Culture Workshops are now being conducted on a weekly evening and take approximately three hours. The sessions afford an excellent opportunity to discuss the Masonic Culture program, exchange ideas and experiences and distribute materials used in this program.

Similar Masonic Culture Workshops are soon to be conducted in the 42nd Masonic District in March. Plans are being made for Workshops in the Harrisburg and Hazleton areas, Allenstown, Delaware County and Chester County. It is the desire and hope that other Districts will give consideration to this activity and arrange similar Workshops. The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture will cooperate and participate in every way possible.

Past Master 63 Years

Bro. Earl H. Beshlin, 94 years of age and still active as an attorney at law, has the distinction of being a Past Master for 63 years.

Bro. Beshlin was Entered in North Star Lodge, No. 241, held at Warren, Pa., and served as Worshipful Master in 1903.

The men of First Presbyterian Church of Warren recently honored Bro. Beshlin with a testimonial dinner. He has been active in the local church since 1892.

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36th Masonic District Has Active Visitation Between Its Lodges

The "Wayfinders" of the 36th Masonic District have a most active and closely-knit organization.

In recent years several of the lodges in and around Delaware County have enjoyed an organization for the purpose of visiting the respective lodges and other fraternal activities.

Meeting at the earliest date possible in the year, the Worshipful Masters of the 36th Masonic District and several neighboring lodges get together and arrange a visitation schedule between their lodges for the balance of the year.

When the visitation schedule is completed, the names and addresses of the Worshipful Masters and Wardens of each lodge and the dates of the respective visitations are listed on the dates of the annual banquet of each lodge with an effort to avoid conflicting dates.

Another highlight in the year’s activity of the "Wayfinders" is an annual noon-time luncheon of the Worshipful Masters of the District and past officers of each lodge on the 25th of December. This luncheon is attended by 100 or more of the Brethren.

Bro. John B. Cottrill, Jr., District Deputy of the 36th Masonic District, is most active in this organization.

Must Be in the Heart

A Freemason’s true Masonic value cannot be determined by the number of degrees he may obtain. Degrees are conferred on men, but unless Freemasonry is instilled in their hearts, no amount of degree work will produce Freemasons.

The great principles of our ancient and acceptance Fraternity may be summed up as a philosophy of life, designed to promote a greater feeling of brotherhood among men.

A Lodge can well be judged a School of Freemasonry. Whether the Fraternity has fulfilled its lofty purposes and ideals depends largely upon the powers of assimilation and respect for the individual who become Members of our Lodges. This must be furthered by the initiatives of our Symbolic Degree must be function in its daily contacts with others. To this end, the Fraternity must achieve its real purpose.
In Memoriam

BRO. ALBERT T. EYLER
Right Worshipful Past Grand Master

Pennsylvania Masonry lost an active and useful Member in the death of Bro. Albert T. Eyler, R.W. Past Grand Master, on January 18, 1965. Bro. Eyler was at his per- petual residence in Lake Worth, Florida, at the time of his death.

Born in Irwin, Westmoreland County, Pa., in 1899, Bro. Eyler was educated in the public schools of Pittsburgh and was a graduate of the American Institute of Banking. He later went into the insurance business for himself, and handled all types of insurance through the Aetna Company.

He had been a resident of the Borough of Dormont, Pittsburgh, Pa., since 1922, and was most active in the public school system of Dormont.

He had been a life-long member of the Methodist Church and had taught a Bible Class in the Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, from 1922 until 1948.

He was one of the original Dads of Temple Chapter, Order of DeMolay, in Pittsburgh, and was a member of the Board of Directors of Mt. Lebanon-Dormont T.C.A., Pittsburgh.

Bro. Eyler was a Member of Home-wood Lodge, No. 635, held at Home-wood, Pittsburgh, Pa. He was Entered on February 12, 1911 and served as Worshipful Master in 1921. He was appointed Assistant District Deputy Grand Master of the 48th Masonic District from 1936 to 1947.


In addition to his active church life, Bro. Eyler found time to affiliate and participate in practically all of the Masonic bodies. A member of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Pittsburgh, he was created a Sovereign Grand Master on December 27, 1951.

Another Pennsylvania Mason with a record of continuous membership exceeding seventy or more years, is Bro. George L. Roberts of Temple Lodge, No. 248.

Bro. Roberts, now living in Tunkhannock, Pa., was born June 16, 1868, in Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pa. He was Entered in Temple Lodge, No. 248, on January 11, 1892.

Bro. Silbaugh, P.M., Belle Vernon Lodge, Nationally Honored

Bro. Lawrence Silbaugh, Past Master of Belle Vernon Lodge, No. 643, held at Belle Vernon, Pa., has distinguished himself as the recipient of the National Safety Council Award and also the Certificate of Merit, the highest award possible from the American National Red Cross.

A veteran West Penn Power Company lineman, Bro. Silbaugh was so honored for saving the life of a 13- month-old child by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in an emergency situation last August while he was working near the child's house.

The baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Kenna fell while playing. She swallowed her tongue and went into convulsion, shutting off her breathing. Her motherpicked her up and ran out-doors where she summoned a neighbor. The neighbor took the child and ran up a hill to where Silbaugh was working. Bro. Silbaugh applied the immediate mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, resulting in the child's convulsion state. Little Terry Jo Kenna was then taken to a hospital and soon was back home playing again.

A reproduction of an etching showing the Old Ten Tavern, situated at Chestnut Street and Ten Mile Lane, Chalfont, Bucks County, Pa. It was also the second floor of this building where the first Lodge of Freemasons was organized in North America.

Gr. Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Penna. Oldest on Continent

At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, held Thursday, December 3, 1965, at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, the following Com- plications were elected and installed:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest
W. Irvine Wright of Shamokin

Most Excellent Grand King
Arthur E. Diamond of Philadelphia

Most Excellent Grand Scribe
James D. Smith of Washington

Most Excellent Grand Treasurer
Charles E. Tull of Philadelphia

Most Excellent Grand Secretary
John C. F. Kittelman of Philadelphia

Royal Arch Masonry, as a separate and independent organization, is of comparatively modern date. The Royal Arch is founded upon and is but a part of the Master's Degree, as the Mark Rite is a by-product of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Pennsylvania. It was established in England, occurred in the fore- part of the eighteenth century, and the act of committee was not completely harmonized there until 1813. The remembrance of it is embedded in the paracolored of our ritual, in the term "Ancient York Mason."

The earliest mention of the Royal Arch as a separate degree is in 1740. It is noticed as one of the results of the schism in England, and a difference between the work of the two opposing bodies. The record of the Grand Lodge of England called themselves "Ancients," and stipulated that the Grand Lodge and its adherents as "Moderns." They organized as the Grand Lodge of All England and cut off the Royal Arch from the Master's Degree.

The first Royal Arch Chapter ever opened in America, of which any account has been published, is that of No. 3, in Philadelphia, known as the Ten Mile Lodge, Warrant, about the year 1758. The Grand Chapter of Virginia records the first documentary evidence of the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree to be found in this world as being in possession of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, at Fredericksburg, Virginia and bears the date of December 22, 1753.

The Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania was the oldest on this continent, having been formed in 1806. Our Grand Lodge on November 23, 1785, with William Ball, then Grand Master, as Grand High Priest. A communication was immedi-ately addressed to the Grand Lodge of All England and a reply from that body was received and read in our Grand Lodge May 30, 1796. The Grand Chapter continued under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge until 1824, when the Grand Chapter was made an independent body, electing its own officers as at present.

YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS IS MOST IMPORTANT

If at any time your mailing address changes, please notify your Lodge Secretary immediately. Your Lodge Secretary has special forms for reporting such changes to the Distribution Office for The Pennsylvania Freemason. Failure to report your correct mailing address can only result in unnecessary handling of your copy of The Pennsylvania Freemason. If in fact, copies of The Pennsylvania Freemason with incorrect addresses are destroyed except for the panel showing your name and address. This portion of your copy is attached to a Postal Return Form and mailed back to our Distribution Office. These Postal Returns cost us ten cents each. One at a time, these Postal Returns do not seem much, but multiplied by 2,000 or more makes them quite expensive.

Your cooperation in making certain your correct mailing address is always listed with your Lodge Secretary will be greatly appreciated. By so doing, you will assure yourself of future copies of The Pennsylvania Freemason.

The new Masonic Hall of Community Lodge, No. 744, located at the West Chester Pike near Broomall, Pa., built on a twenty-five acre plot this Masonic Hall was converted from a two-story type dwelling. Completed and used for the first time on September 12, 1963, the building provides a Lodge Room 66 x 33 feet, a Social Room 29 x 32 feet and the necessary lobbies, kitchen, boiler room, wash rooms, etc. Converged and furnished at a cost of $60,000.00, the unit also provides adequate working facilities adjacent to the building.

The Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral, Scranton, Pa. This Temple was opened in 1958. The cornerstone laying ceremony was accomplished last year. Six Lodges are held here in addition to a Royal Arch Chapter, Council, Commandery and the Scottish Rite Bodies of Valley of Scranton. It is located at 420 North Washington Ave., Scranton, Pa.