The Masonic Relief Association of The United States and Canada

From time immemorial the Lodge has taken care of its own. The earliest records of the Craft speak of a Box of Fraternal Assistance. Into this box the Members contributed and from it the Worshipful Master dispensed relief and charity. Not charity of the dole, but that of loving kindness and assistance.

Bro. John Kittelman, M.E. Grand Secretary, Retired in September

The retirement, because of inability of Bro. John C. F. Kittelman, Most Excellent Grand Secretary of The Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, effective as of September 5, 1966, was announced at the June Quarterly Communication of Grand Chapter, held in Lancaster on June 10.

Bro. Kittelman will succeed in the office by Bro. Albert H. Connolly, of Keystone Royal Arch Chapter, No. 175, Philadelphia.

A feature of the June Communication was an address by Bro. William A. Carpenter, Librarian and Curator of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum and Secretary to the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture, who stressed the need for leadership and initiative in these days of declining membership in Masonic bodies.

Bro. W. Irving West, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, announced that the September Quarterly Communication of Grand Chapter would be held in Meadcooper on September 10.

The Masonic Relief Association of The United States and Canada

Masonry crossed the seas and became established in the new countries of the United States and Canada. The assistance was then a mainstay for all Masons, and this assistance has continued to this day.

By 1800 the Lodges had organized themselves into fourteen Grand Jurisdictions along the east coast. By 1830 this number had increased to twenty-five.

The restless population pushed westward. A more comprehensive system of living developed with a more comprehensive system of assistance needed. It soon became evident that a more comprehensible system of assistance was needed, one that could be expanded to meet the needs of the people and be adequate. The need for an organization to act as a clearinghouse for all Masonic bodies was apparent.

In 1838 and 1886 the Masonic Relief Association of The United States was brought into being by representatives of Grand Jurisdictions and Grand Lodges of Masonic Bodies in Canada, and from Nebraska to Massachusetts. Today that association is known as the Masonic Relief Association of The United States and Canada.

Nine New District Chairman Appointed

Of recent months, nine new District Chairmen for the Masonic Relief Association have been appointed by Bro. Robert E. Deyoe, R. W. Grand Master.

These appointments were announced at the Grand Lodge Committee in their respective Districts. Each District Chairman has been appointed to assure that the Masonic Relief Association continues to provide assistance to those in need.

The Masonic Relief Association has expanded its services to include not only the provision of financial assistance, but also the provision of education and training for those in need. The Association has also established a scholarship program to help students finance their higher education.

Grand Master Appeals to All Pennsylvania Masons to Support "Guest Fund" for Homes

The Grand Master has appointed to every Pennsylvania Mason to make a special effort to contribute to the Guest Fund of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

He deeply appreciates the $2,650,000 contributed by approximately 50,000 Masons last year. This represents a 20 per cent participation.

Bro. Robert E. Deyoe, R. W. Grand Master, has urged 50,000 who gave an average of $5.00 each to continue their donations. He added:

"If you make a new request, I urge you to provide at least $50,000 in support of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

In an effort to show the need for the money, the Grand Master listed two of the possible requirements:

- Provide a $1,000 monthly spending money for every Guest, including the cost of the Masonic Homes.
- Provide $5,000 for Christmas programs, activities, and gifts for every Guest. This represents an expenditure of approximately $50 per Guest.
- Provide $3,000 for a special therapeutic program. A report on this program in another story in this edition.

- Provide $2,500 for repair of televisions, radios, and organs.
- Provide $2,500 for repair of hearing aids and provide batteries.
- Provide $2,000 to provide $1,000 each to two Masonic Homes' children who have no place to visit during the summer.
- Provide $500 for the annual program at Patton Masonic School.
- Provide $10,000 (approximately) for repairs and improvements to the Masonic Homes' facilities, including the payment of taxes, insurance, and repairs.
- Provide $10,000 for the Masonic Homes' children's entertainment throughout the year, not at Christmas.

The Grand Master has also called for contributions to the Masonic Homes' Guest Fund.

"Surely many of the Masonic Homes' children do not have a college education. There are many who have an insurmountable economic barrier which prevents them from entering higher education. Many have been disabled, either physically or mentally, and cannot enter our higher education institutions."
Many Masons Have Contributed to Bro. Washington at Prayer Statue
Fund-Raising Campaign Now Closed

Approximately $60,000 has been contributed by Pennsylvania Masons and Masonic Lodges toward the nine-foot, bronze statue of Bro. George Washington at Prayer.

The statue will be erected at Freedom's Foundation, Valley Forge, in the fall of 1967. The exact date has not been set by the Grand Master. Bro. Robert E. Deyoe, R. W. Grand Master, said: "We are deeply appreciative of the dedicated effort of the Masons in Pennsylvania with the full support of 29 Lodges while those of 2 Lodges were not approved.

Our records show that 80 percent of the Lodges in this Jurisdiction responded to the request. "As you know, our goal was $80,000. We are short $20,000. However, I would appreciate it if the Lodges would send in the money they now have on hand so that we have the funds for the project." The Grand Master said he would notify all Masons in a future story in The Pennsylvania Freemason, just as soon as the date has been set. He added: "I would like to see 50,000 Masons at the dedication. "This is an important event in the history of Pennsylvania Masonery. I hope that all Masonic Lodges and all Masonic Temples, Halls and associated quarters be open for all the Masonic Temples, Halls and associated quarters be open for all.

The report of the Committee on Masonic Culture pointed out that some Lodge Secretaries are not furnishing up to date mailing lists and as a result some of our Members are not receiving The Pennsylvania Freemason. Masons who are not sending in the money they now have on hand, are urged to send in the money they now have on hand, as soon as the date has been set. He added: "I would like to see 50,000 Masons at the dedication. "This is an important event in the history of Pennsylvania Masonery. I hope that all Masonic Lodges and all Masonic Temples, Halls and associated quarters be open for all.

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Vivian F. Holmes and her husband, Vivian Jr., are members of Ashlar Lodge, No. 70, Lykens, and have taken an active role in Freemasonry. Mrs. Holmes, 94 years old, of Philadelphia, has spent approximately 70 years in the Craft and is a member of the Allegheny Cottage, a Masonic Home for Women. She said: "The only thing is now I'm afraid I won't live long enough to enjoy the Masonic Homes' grounds.

The youngster in the program at the Homes was making ceramic trays to give to friends. The youngster in the program at the Allegheny Cottage is 71 years old. The youngster in the program at the Masonic Homes for seven years, said: "Before Masons started this program, I just sat around, waiting to die."

The Holmes also publish a monthly newspaper for the Masonic Homes, with Guests contributing the editorial content. And, in the summer months, Guests, both men and women, participate in various projects such as pottery work, weaving and crafting.

The Grand Master invites those visiting the Homes to inquire about the Annual Guest Fund appeal. This money must come from the Guest and from the Masonic Homes. There must be something good and positive in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its Members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its Members, and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study it.

Freemasonry is a story of life; with all its joys, its heartaches, its failures and its final triumph over all earthly things. Anyone can read of it, in countless books. Its teachings, its symbols, and its ambitions, are open for general observation. They are practiced in the light, and held up for all the world to see.

No other fraternity offers such profound lessons in its Ritual or Work as does Freemasonry. Each word and each act in the ceremonies of the Lodge carries a true lesson to each of us, if we will but open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to accept.

We can study Freemasonry for years and never exhaust its secrets. We attend its meetings, and each time we stop to think on the things said and done, we get a new meaning and inspiration from them. There is a never-ending source of pleasure in the various shades of meaning that can be read into each line of our work. Each new meaning and interpretation that we put upon some word or act will make that particular word or act live for us and we will begin to see Freemasonry for what it is intended.

Freemasonry has been talked of and written about by countless men in every country of the world. Its members have been persecuted in all lands at one time or the other, but it still grows and flourishes as no other fraternity on earth today.

There must be something good and positive in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its Members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its Members, and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study it.

Freemasonry forms an advertising its good deeds, preferring to let those who benefit from them reflect its goodness, that others might have hope and desire the better things of life. Freemasonry offers comfort to those who sorrow, hope for those who despair, courage in the face of fear, and the joys and contentment of life to all.
Seventeen Boys Receive Diplomas
At Patton School Commencement

Seventeen students at Patton Masonic School, Elizabethtown, were given diplomas and certificates at the commencement program held June 4 in the auditorium of the Masonic Homes.

The 17 graduates and the sponsoring Lodges are:
   Richard Bailey, Lodge No. 386; Edward Bittler, Lodge No. 340; James Carl, Lodge No. 797; Donald Detwiler, Lodge No. 433; William Humes, Lodge No. 576; Michael Lubich, Lodge No. 792; James McClelland, Lodge No. 600; Peter McIntire, Lodge No. 134; Frederick Mercer, Lodge No. 370; Thomas Mayhew, Lodge No. 21; Washington, D. C.; Gary Ritter, Lodge No. 302; Richard Rosen, Lodge No. 246; Donald Schlegel, Lodge No. 324; Charles Smith, Lodge No. 655; George Smith, Lodge No. 655; and Gregory Stacey, Lodge No. 71.

The commencement program and the lunch for friends and families were held for the first time in the new auditorium and recreation building at the Masonic Homes.

There are still vacancies in all four high school grades for the next school term, which starts in September.

Judge Walter P. Wells Appointed
To Committee on Masonic Homes

Bro. Walter P. Wells, of Coudersport, Pa., Fast Master of Eulalia Lodge, No. 342, Commander-in-Chief of the Supreme Council of Pittsburgh, Consistory, and President of the 58th Judicial District of the Committee of Masonic Homes, was appointed a member of the committee by the Grand Master.


Admitted to the Potter County Bar in 1902, Bro. Wells was appointed Assistant District Attorney in Potter County in 1913, resigning in 1922 to become Judge.

He has been very active in community projects in Coudersport and Potter County. He is currently director of the Potter County Memorial Hospital and a member of the First National Bank of Coudersport.

Bro. Wells' other Masonic affiliations include:
   Royal Arch, Chapter No. 263, and served as High Priest; Coudersport Council No. 63; Potter Commandery, No. 69, Knights Templar; Trustee of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Coudersport; Past Most Wise Master, Coudersport Chapter No. 63, Masonic Stamp Club of New York; the American Legion Post of Coudersport; Royal Arch Temple of Potter County; Altoona, No. 70; Royal Order of Jesters; and Order of the Scottish Rite.

Masonic Employment Bureaus at Pittsburgh
And Philadelphia

Employers—and those in need of employment—will find an advantage of the Masonic Employment Bureaus located in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Masons, their wives, mothers, daughters, sisters and sons, are eligible for employment. There is no charge to them, or to the Masons who have employed them. The only charge is the fee of five cents for registration.

Any boy who has lost one or both parents, who is in the tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade, and who is a Masonic Lodge member, is eligible for admission.

Masons interested in obtaining further information concerning Brother Jesse or who desire to recommend an applicant please contact the Secretary of the Lodge.

The Masonic Employment Bureaus were held for the first time in the new auditorium and recreation building at the Masonic Homes.

The reaction and results experienced thus far from the several Masonic Culture Workshops conducted at various Masonic Lodges is reason to encourage the continuation of this activity.

Although several of the Lodges have participated in one or more Culture Workshops during the past two years, there are still some Lodges that have not had the benefit of these Workshops.

Your Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture is always available to cooperate and even participate in a Culture Workshop. Packets, containing instructional literature relative to our Grand Lodge Masonic Culture Program, are available for distribution at these Workshops and members of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture will be on hand to explain phases of the program, if requested.

Masonic Employment Bureaus at Pittsburgh
And Philadelphia

The initiative in arranging a Masonic Culture Workshop should begin with the District Deputy Grand Master and his District Chairman.

In sections of the Jurisdiction where traveling districts are too far for the Officers and Members of neighboring Districts, the combined efforts of two or more Districts have proven successful in planning and conducting a Masonic Culture Workshop.

About That Change of Address?
If you have, or are planning, to change your address, please take the time to notify your Lodge Secretary. You will be kept on file and will be notified to the nearest possible time. You will be able to notify us in the general mailing list for the Pennsylvania Freemason. Your prompt and courteous attention in this respect will be appreciated.

Masonic Employment Bureaus in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia

For more information on Masonic Employment Bureaus, contact the Masonic Employment Bureau, 500 8th Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Valley of Pittsburgh Is Host to
Penna. Council of Determination

The Pennsylvania Council of Determination held its Ninety-fifth Convocation in the new Scottish Rite Auditorium, Masonic Temple, on Friday, July 8, 1966.

A record attendance of over 1,200 enjoyed the excellent program arranged by the efficient and hard-working committee on arrangements of the host Valley of Pittsburgh.

A Conference on Ritual and a Secretaries Conference were held the previous day.

Following a luncheon served the Members and guests at the Masonic Temple, the business session of the Council was called to order by Bro. Richard A. Kerr, Fast Grand Master and Deputy of Supreme Council for Pennsylvania.

Bro. Robert E. Deyo, R. W. Grand Master, and other Grand Lodge Officers were officially received at the afternoon session.

Official recognition was also extended to the Presiding Officers of the York Royal Grand Bodies of Pennsylvania and their respective Grand Officers.

Bro. John G. Fleck, Grand Prior of Solo m on's Temple and Washington's Apron

Now available for purchase from the Library, Masonic Temple, Phila delphia, a full color print of the famous Washington Apron and the exact scale model of King Solomon's Temple.

The Washington Apron print in an 8 x 10 Kodachrome is guaranteed. This print comes in a neat frame folder and sells for $7.50 plus 40 cents for postage and special handling.

Either or both of these color prints may be ordered by enclosing check or money order and writing to William A. Carpenter, Librarian and Curator, Mas o n ic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

Color Prints of King Solomon's Temple and Washington's Apron

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