Masonic Culture Workshops Scheduled In Four Areas To Assist Lodge Officers

The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture has divided the jurisdiction into four areas, one more than was previously announced.

Masonic Culture Seminars are being conducted in these areas to assist Lodge Officers to prepare interesting Lodge meetings.

The agenda for the Seminars covers introduction materials and services provided by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture.

A "Packet" of informative papers, pamphlets and other helpful guides is being distributed to those attending the Seminars.

Area "A". Area Chairman Members of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture, are responsible for the following Masonic Districts:

- New Lodge Members: 55.
- The statistics for 1974 show:
- Income: $5,554.
- Reinstated in 1974: 735.
- Deaths in 1974: 5,689.
- Decrease: 8,013.

This reflects a net decrease in membership of 2,459.

Additional information on membership in 1974 will be printed in the Proceedings.

Bro. Shaffer Appointed New Grand Chaplain

Bro. Jay F. Shaffer, Past Master of New Bethlehem Lodge No. 522, New Bethlehem, has been appointed as a Grand Lodge Chaplain by the Grand Master.

Bro. Shaffer is pastor of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant, Pa.

Rededication Month

Grand Master Calls Craft to Labor

October has been designated "Rededication to Freemasonry" Month by the Grand Master.

In making the announcement, Bro. Chester R. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, said:

"It is a month to reaffirm our dedication to Freemasonry as a prelude to 1976—our Nation's bicentennial year."

He announced that Master Masons who attend the Stated Meeting of their own Lodge in October will be given a special privilege—an outstanding opportunity.

The Worshipful Master of every Lodge in this jurisdiction will have an adequate supply of specially designed 1976 Masonic lapel emblems available at the October Stated Meeting.

Those attending their Lodge can purchase one of these 1976 lapel emblems for $2.00.

Visitors will not be permitted to obtain the emblem. They must attend the October Stated Meeting of their "mother" Lodge.

There is no other way for Masons to obtain this emblem in 1975. It can only be obtained at October Stated Meetings.

President Ford Declared:

"Masonic Precepts Can Help America"

When entering the Memorial's auditorium, the President of the United States received a "thundering" applause.


The President contested the unwilling of a Galliano modulation that will take place in the auditorium with those of the thirteen other Masonic Presidents.

Bro. Ellis presented the President to the huge gathering of Masonic leaders.
President Ford Addresses Washington Memorial Assn.

(Continued from Page 1)

Including Grand Lodge Officers from Jurisdictions throughout the world. In his remarks, Bro. Ford said:

"The dedication of this medallion gives me a great personal pleasure and, of course, is an honor that I will always cherish."

In a letter in 1976, to the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Washington used some words which are now especially appropriate.

"Washington told the order that he 'conceived it to be the indispensable duty of every American to come forward in support of the government of his choice and to give all the aid in his power towards maintaining that independence, which we have so dearly purchased.'

Such involvement by every American is as essential today as it was in George Washington's day."

"I express to all of you my deepest thanks for this tribute and I ask that we resolve to together honor George Washington and America by perpetuating the national heritage he engendered through the principles which guide our order — friendship, morality and brotherly love."

"I thank you very, very much."

Bro. Burgess Appointed As District Deputy Grand Master

Bro. Thomas H. Burgess, Past Master of Azubas Lodge No. 867, Hazleton, was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 45th Masonic District. Bro. Walter S. Metzger resigned.

Bro. Burgess served Grand Lodge at Junior Grand Deacon in 1971, ’72, and ’73. He was appointed to the Committee on Masonic Culture in 1974 and served as a member of this Committee until his appointment as a District Deputy. President Ford Addresses Washington Memorial Assn.

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The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania handed down a decision which vitally affects Grand Lodge inquests as bequests and devises for the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown are concerned.

The Wills Act of 1947 had provided that any bequests or devises or a charitable purpose included in a will takes effect if the will codicil executed within thirty days of the death of the testator was invalid unless all those individuals who would benefit by its validity agreed that it should be valid.

This section of the Wills Act has now been held unconstitutional on the grounds that it denies charitable beneficiaries equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The Court, on December 5, 1974, in its Opinion by Justice Roberts, stated:

"The statute strikes down the charitable gifts of one in the best of health at the time of the execution of his will as regards age, regardless of age or chance to die in an accident twenty or thirty days later. This leaves uncontrolled the charitable bequest of another, aged and suffering from a terminal disease, who made the execution of his will by thirty-one days. Such a combination of results can only be characterized as arbitrary."
Pennsylvania Masons Helped "Build" A Nation

Bro. George Washington wearing the Lafayette Masonic Apron. This rare print shows marks of age.

In 1776, Pennsylvania Masons played a vital role in "building" a new Nation. On the eve of the Bicentennial Year — 1776 — Pennsylvania Beehives are prepared to pay tribute to those "Giants" among men.

Bro. George Washington

Bro. George Washington was a Pennsylvania Mason. Following the end of the American Revolution, while attending a dinner party held on his honor by Alexandria Lodge No. 39 on St. John the Baptist's Eve, 24th June, 1784, Bro. Washington received a new one from the Grand Lodge held in his honor by Alexandria Lodge No. 39 on St. John the Baptist's Eve, 24th June, 1784.

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A vital role to Lodge No. 39 on St. John the Baptist's Eve, 24th June, 1784, and 1749.

In February, 1783, Bro. Procter was sent to Alexandria, Va. by Bro. William Adcock, R. W. Grand Master, to organize a Lodge, under a Pennsylvania Warrant, to be known as Alexandria Lodge No. 39. At the time, Bro. Procter was Senior Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge (Ancient).

In 1791 and 1792, he served in the same capacity in the newly established Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. This hero of the Revolution was buried with military and Masonic honors on March 16, 1806. That he was a valuable and efficient officer is attested by a letter written by General Washington on April 20, 1781, acknowledging receipt of Procter's resignation, in which Washington wrote:

"...I cannot in justice to you permit you to leave the Army without expressing my approbation of your conduct upon every occasion since you joined me in 1776, and wish you success in the line of life which you have now embraced..."

"...Yr. most obt. and hble serv.,

"I am, sir,

"G. Washington"

Bro. Charles Young

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Bro. Haym Solomon

Another unusual hero of the Revolution was Bro. Haym Solomon (Solomon), also a member of Lodge No. 2, Philadelphia. He was born in Lissa, Poland, about 1746.

An astute banker and broker, Bro. Solomon negotiated all Revolutionary War securities from France and Holland on his personal note without loss of a penny to America. When he died in 1784, the United States was indebted to him to the extent of $300,000, a great sum in those days.

Upon his arrival in America, Bro. Solomon allied himself with the cause of Independence by joining the Sons of Liberty, organized during the Stamp Act controversy of 1765. It was a militant, patriotic force.

Arrested As Spy

Because of his activities, he was arrested as a spy and confined in a military prison. His proficiency in the French, Polish, Russian and Italian languages made him useful to the British as an interpreter. It also afforded him an opportunity to assist prisoners and to persuade some Hessians to desert the British and join in the fight for freedom.

After his release from prison, Bro. Solomon resumed his anti-British agitation, and again was arrested as a spy and sentenced to be hanged.

His escape was engineered by the Sons of Liberty. Bro. Solomon was a member of Mishnah Israel Congregation, established in Philadelphia in 1747, in whose graveyard he is buried.

Bro. Robert Morris

Bro. Robert Morris has long been known as the "financier of the Revolution." He was a Philadelphia businessman, a member of the Continental Congress, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

It is interesting that he, like Bro. Solomon, suffered great financial losses in raising money for the American cause. The two Brethren were great friends. Bro. Morris' Masonic Membership is controversial. He was presented with a Masonic Apron by Bro. Washington in 1778, and is said to have worn it on several public Masonic occasions.

Two questions are asked:

Would Washington have presented a Masonic Apron to a non-Mason?

Would the recipient have worn it if he was not a Mason?

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During the American Revolution there continued to be Masonic activity in Pennsylvania, especially in Philadelphia. Lodge No. 3 met on the evening of July 4, 1776.

The minutes of that date, on display in the Museum of the Grand Lodge, contain nothing unusual. It was just another meeting.

On December 5, 1776, however, the minutes show "neglect of some of the Grand Officers in not having in their power to produce Grand Certificates for many of our Worthy Brethren who are obliged to go abroad."

The certificates referred to were "traveling certificates," undoubtedly of great assistance to many Masons in those troubled times.

Shortly after the British occupied Philadelphia, an interesting account appears in the minutes of Lodge No. 3 for October 10, 1777. On that date, members of Lodge No. 3 met with the Brethren of Lodge No. 4 to consider what should be done with the jewels, books, and papers of Lodge No. 2 which had been stolen and fallen into the hands of the British.

Bro. William Cunningham

They had been turned over to Lodge No. 3 by Bro. William Cunningham, a Captain in the British Army. It was unanimously agreed that Lodge No. 3 should hold the items until they could be returned to Lodge No. 2.

Among the two items delivered by Bro. Cunningham were "a Pedi pole, handle broke off, and a few Pieces of Small lace Tickets of the Collars of No. 2 together with a Delft punch bowl."

Earlier in 1777, the jail being full, Freemason's Hall on Lodge Alley, west of Second Street, was used as a place of confinement for a number of people suspected of giving intelligence to the British.

"The Mason's Lodge" and its prisoners were under the command of Colonel Bro. Lewis Nicola.

Articles on Bicentennial Year will be continued in future issues of The Pennsylvania Freemason.
Brethren Masons Have Years of Dedication

Another Trooper.
Bro. Donald G. Yontes, attached to the 17th Connecticut, is Worshipful Master of Aurora Lodge No. 522, Jerseytown.

70 Years' Dedication.
Bro. Howard E. Craig, Past Master of Mount Pisgah Lodge No. 445, Green castle, Franklin County, will be 70 years of age in October, 1975, and 65 years a Past Master. He still attends stated meetings.

Helpful Mason.
Bro. Emilio Rodriguez, Lodge No. 9, Philadelphia, a Warrant Officer with the 249th Army Reserve Command, attached to the 24th Infantry Division, was recently promoted to the rank of Captain. He is a Mason and a member of the Philadelphia Temple Lodge No. 30, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

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