The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, as one appropriate means of celebrating the 200th anniversary of its independence from the Grand Lodge of England, will publish a two-volume, comprehensive history written by historian Wayne A. Huss, Ph.D.

The first volume of the history, titled The Master Builders: A History of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, is now available through the Library and Museum at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia (see coupon below). The second volume is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1987. A third volume consisting of portraits and biographies of Grand Masters is expected to be published in 1988.

Dr. Huss graduated from Ursinus College in 1971 and earned a Master's degree at Villanova University in 1973. He attended the University of Virginia before enrolling at Temple University in 1978 where he studied Early American, French, English and intellectual history. He was awarded a Ph.D. in January of 1985.

The title of his doctoral dissertation was Pennsylvania Freemasonry: An Intellectual and Social Analysis, 1727-1826. It proved to be a complimentary view of the fraternity, proving that Pennsylvania Freemasonry accepted as members men from all occupations, all social classes, and at most levels of wealth. Freemasonry truly advocated brotherhood, equality, religious toleration and civic responsibility.

The fraternity adhered to a scientific, rational view of the world and its ethics were composed of the middle-class virtues of sobriety, thrift and industry.

Volume I of The Master Builders presents a comprehensive narrative which places the development of the Masonic fraternity within the context of the broader society. It is an approach that had not been followed in earlier works dealing with Pennsylvania Freemasonry.

The fact that Dr. Huss is not a member of the fraternity lends a great deal of credibility and objectivity to his study. The Master Builders is filled with numerous interesting insights and contains many heretofore unknown details pertaining to the fraternity's past. The narrative is augmented by many illustrative charts, tables, graphs and photographs.

Sources of information for the history include more than 55 hundred pages of closely-printed Grand Lodge minutes and dozens of non-Masonic works. By tediously combing through well-preserved manuscript records, Dr. Huss has been able to compile comprehensive membership statistics, including occupation backgrounds, on over 90,000 individuals.

Volume I deals with the period from the origin of the Grand Lodge to the dedication, in 1873, of the Masonic Temple on Broad Street in Philadelphia. Volume II will cover the period from 1874 to 1986.

Volume I will be on sale in the Library and Museum of the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia beginning on Friday, September 26, the day of the 200th anniversary celebration. The coupon that accompanies this article can be used to order the History by mail.

Pennsylvania Celebrates Masonic Bicentennial

Two hundred years ago, on September 26, 1786, 13 individual lodges met in Philadelphia to, according to the minutes of that meeting, "... establish themselves as a Grand Lodge independent of Great Britain or any other Authority." The previous day, at the September Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge on September 25, 1786, the question of Masonic independence had been resolved. A motion to sever ties with the Grand Lodge of England "... except those of Brotherly Love and Affection, which they will always be happy to cultivate and preserve with all Lodges throughout the Globe" was unanimously adopted.

The minutes of the meeting close with the statement: "This Lodge, acting by Virtue of a Warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, was closed forever."

No Grand Lodge operated in Pennsylvania for a period of less than 24 hours, until the Grand Convention of the 13 lodges on the 26th when it was resolved, again unanimously, "... that the lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, lately held under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, will, and now do form themselves into a Grand Lodge, to be called the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and Masonic Jurisdiction therunto belonging." continued to page 3.
Pennsylvania Celebrates Masonic Bicentennial

A number of distinguished Masonic leaders will visit Pennsylvania to participate in the anniversary celebration. Among them will be Bro. J. M. Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet, Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and Bro. Michael W. Walker, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Two special communications of the Grand Lodge have been planned for September 26. Both will be held at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. The first is a public ceremony that begins at 3:00 p.m. when items from the cornerstone of the temple, originally deposited on June 24, 1868, will be redeposited in a special vault built into the floor of the Grand Foyer off the main entrance to the headquarters building. Items from the 1868 cornerstone box that have been on display in the Library and Museum in the Masonic Temple for the past six months will be placed in a new keystone-shaped box with Masonic materials of today. The vault will be covered with the white marble capstone that was also recovered from the 1868 cornerstone. The damage to the capstone (see photo below) that occurred as it was being removed from the top of the cornerstone chamber has been repaired. It will serve the same function by capping the vault for the new depository for the old and new Masonic materials. The public ceremony will be an adaptation of the cornerstone ceremony conducted in 1868. Because of limited space in the Grand Foyer where the ceremony will take place, the proceedings will be relayed by closed circuit, color television to Corinthian and Renaissance Halls on the second floor. Masons not directly involved in the ceremony, their ladies and other family members, and the general public will be seated in either hall beginning at about 2:30 p.m.

No ticket or identification is required. Guides will assist visitors to the seating areas. About 2,000 persons can be accommodated in the lodge rooms.

The 7:00 p.m. Special Communication of the Grand Lodge is a private meeting open only to Master Masons.
The renovation of Grand Lodge Hall has provided the opportunity for construction of two new facilities—an ice cream parlor for the use of the Homes’ guests and visitors, and a museum in which many objects of great significance to the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown will be displayed.

Continued to page 7.
Rededication Day at Masonic Homes

continued from page 1

Grand Lodge Hall and some of the individual guest quarters in the surrounding residential buildings will be open for inspection from noon to 1:30 p.m. and again from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A number of guests have volunteered their quarters and their services as guides to visitors. One area of particular interest in viewing the renovation work in Grand Lodge Hall will be the museum and the ice cream parlor, new additions that flank the main entrance to the building, constructed in what had been an old theater and storage space. Photographs of the work in progress are shown on pages 4 and 5 and an artist’s conception of the ice cream parlor is shown above. There is no charge for parking, food or beverage.

Rededication Day Schedule

October 18, 1986

Overall 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Food & Beverages 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Processional Formation 10:30 a.m.
Rededication 11:00 a.m. to approx. 12:00 Noon
Parade Formation 12:30 p.m.
Parade 1:30 p.m. to approx. 2:30 p.m.
Open House—Grand Lodge Hall and Residential buildings 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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Project SOLOMON II®

Summer Seminars

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More than 150 lodge officers participated in a series of SOLOMON II Seminars conducted during the summer at the direction of the R.W. Grand Master, Bro. Carl W. Steenberg, Jr. The first of three seminars was held at Jaffa Temple in Altoona on Saturday, July 12. Zembo Temple in Harrisburg was the site of the second session on Saturday, August 9 and the third was held at Lehigh Consistory in the Valley of Allentown on Saturday, August 16.

Invitations were issued to the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Secretary and SOLOMON II Task Force Chairman for each of the 548 lodges in the state. The District Deputy Grand Masters and the Regional and Assistant Overseers for Project SOLOMON II were also in attendance.

All three sessions were conducted by Bro. John R. Graham, a Massachusetts Mason who owns a public relations firm in Boston. Bro. Graham is a talented, dynamic Mason who has created the public relations programs now being conducted by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association and is working with the Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in the development of programs for improving membership.

Each program was designed to build the interest and support of the leadership in the lodges in working for the success of Project SOLOMON II, the Rebuilding of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania.

The Grand Master reaffirmed his support of the project and described SOLOMON II as a top priority in his administration that must also become a matter of top priority in every lodge in the jurisdiction.

The series of photographs that accompany this article were taken at the meeting in Allentown, the last of the seminars, when 512 lodge officers were present.
The Pennsylvania Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children has entered into an agreement with Wendell August Forge of Grove City, Pennsylvania to create a series of awards to recognize those individuals and groups, such as the lodges and other Masonic bodies, who have made substantial contributions to the foundation.

The R.W. Grand Master, Bro. Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., asked the firm that is famous for its artistic, hand-wrought metal work to create a logo, an identifying symbol for the foundation, that would emphasize its slogan that proudly states, "Masons Care About Children."

Grand Master Stenberg asked Wendell August Forge to create a die that would incorporate the Mason and two children (a boy and a girl) that are depicted in the stained glass window above the altar in the new chapel at the Masonic Conference Center, Patton Campus. The window shows an aproned Mason with his right hand on the shoulder of a boy while a girl holds his left hand. Wendell August Forge incorporated that image with the slogan in producing the logo that is now considered to be the symbol for the foundation. Indeed, it is that symbol which is shown in a slightly different context in billboard signs across the state that advertise the work of the foundation.

continued to page 14.
Masons Care
About Children

continued from page 12

The Wendell August Forge-designed award program will be used to specifically recognize those who contribute $1,000, $5,000, $10,000, $25,000 and $50,000 to the Pennsylvania Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children.

The symbol is stamped on a 10-inch diameter aluminum plate as the award for a $1,000 contribution. A gift of $5,000 is recognized by the stamping of a 9 by 12-inch beveled bronze tray.

Donors of at least $10,000 will receive an award in which the symbol is cut from pewter and placed on a 10-inch, round bronze plate. $25,000 contributions earn a pewter cutout that is displayed on a background of black velvet inside a 12-inch square walnut frame.

Contributions of $50,000 or more will be recognized by an award that features a nine-inch sterling silver plate, also displayed on a black velvet background, but in a 15-inch square walnut frame. Both framed awards will also feature a bronze plate on which the name of the contributor will be engraved.

The following is a list of the individuals or organizations who made substantial contributions to the Pennsylvania Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse at the March and June Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge. Awards will be made to these donors at subsequent Grand Lodge communications.

Individuals
Bro. Robert W. Yeats, a member of Alliquippa Lodge No. 575, $1,250
Bro. Walter J. Gerbron, a member of Unity Lodge No. 719, $2,000

Organizations
Association of Masonic Veterans of Western Pennsylvania, $1,000
Masonic Fund Society, County of Allegheny, $1,000
Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1, Knight Templar, $1,000
Syria Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., $2,500

More than $95,000 has been raised in support of the foundation in the first nine months of its existence.

The first awards will be presented at the Special Communication of the Grand Lodge to be held at 7:00 p.m. in Corinthian Hall at the Masonic Temple on Friday, September 26, 1986.