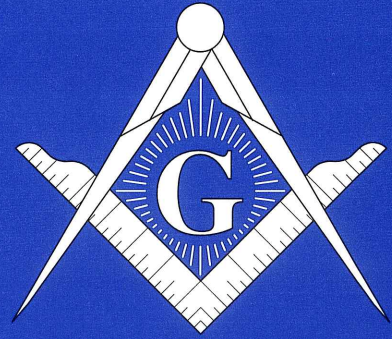


Freestate Freemason



Fall 2002

From the Grand Master—

MASONRY FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Brethren:

In just a few short days my tenure as Grand Master will come to a close. As I look back on my fifty-seven years in our fraternity, I can observe many positive things. Of course there are also those events that we wish had not occurred. The most important single facet of Freemasonry is the fellowship that I have enjoyed. Even those individuals who may have had different ideas, or acted in ways that I didn't approve or understand, provided many moments of fine fellowship. I have served in some Masonic office for fifty consecutive years and I have enjoyed every minute of it. It is never too late to get involved and your involvement will enhance your enjoyment.

Our primary objective as Freemasons is to promote fraternalism. Fellowship has to always be our number one goal. If we are not happy as Freemasons, we will not want to participate. We do however have a unique opportunity as members of this fraternity. We not only can enjoy great fellowship, but we can also teach moral and spiritual values while doing this. We believe in One God, but do not teach religion. We encourage our members to be active members of their own particular religious group without ridicule or argument. I, as an individual, believe that my particular relationship with God is correct and would have all join me in that belief. At the same time I respect my Brother Masons who believe differently and will afford to them all of the courtesies that I can.

We teach by symbols and allegories and use tools and stories to express our teachings. I think that the September Eleventh events in 2001 can best express what I have been trying to say in the preceding paragraph. When those planes destroyed the World Trade Center in New York, all Americans had a special place in their hearts and attitude for New York. We were (*cont. on page 3*)

**The Grand Lodge of Ancient,
Free, and Accepted Masons
of Maryland**



Issued quarterly by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, & Accepted Masons of Maryland, U.S.A. This publication serves as a medium for informing the Craft of pertinent activities of the Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges and for sharing with the media, community, family, and friends those events, activities, and personalities which exemplify the purposes & objectives of the Masonic fraternity.

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Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Freestate Freemason*:

Winter Issue – January 1
Spring Issue – April 1
Summer Issue – July 1
Fall Issue – October 1

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Editorial

The Oxford dictionary defines FreeMasonry as:

A member of the fraternity called more fully, Free and Accepted Masons. Early in the 17th century, the societies of freemasons began to admit honorary members, not connected with the building trades, but supposed to be eminent for architectural or antiquarian learning. These were called accepted masons, though the term free masons was often loosely applied to them; and they were admitted to a knowledge of the secret signs, and instructed in the legendary history of the craft, which had already begun to be developed. The distinction of being an 'accepted mason' became a fashionable object of ambition, and before the end of the 17th century the object of the societies of freemasons seems to have been chiefly social and convivial. In 1717 four of these societies or 'lodges' in London united to form a 'Grand Lodge', with a new constitution and ritual, and a system of secret signs; the object of the society as reconstituted being mutual help and the promotion of brotherly feeling among its members. The London 'grand lodge' became the parent of other 'lodges' in Great Britain and abroad, and there are now powerful bodies of 'freemasons', more or less recognizing each other, in most free countries of the world.

There is much discussion in "Masonic Research Societies" regarding the origin of our fraternity. There have been thousands of books written on this subject.

Why am I telling you this? I for one think that my membership in the Masonic fraternity is the second best thing I ever did and hope that it is around for at least another century or more.

In order for this to come about, we each must play a vital part. We exist today because our forefathers were involved in their communities. Men of good character in these communities saw and approved of the activities of the local Lodge. Interest was stirred and inquiries were made on how they could become members of this group. In some parts of our state this continues today. The downside is that it doesn't occur everywhere. In order for us to grow, our communities must be made aware of our worth and value. As our Deputy Grand Master will tell you, "We must get our light out in the open in order to survive." This will be his theme for his term in office. The important question is, what will you do to help him? Every two years we elect good men to guide and govern our gentle craft. Their leadership and vision can do only so much. When we come right down to it brethren, our fate is more in your hands than in theirs.

Think about this brethren, and about what you can do to help to make the vital difference.

John R. Biggs, *Editor*



(*cont. from page 1*) greatly affected by the loss of life in the planes and the buildings. It was a great international tragedy. Many of us love baseball and other sporting events. As an example, we become so enamored by the activities of a certain team that we yell, boo, and cry kill the umpire. At the same time we respect the ability of the players on the other team. I might in one breath condemn the "Damn Yankees" and on the other hand remember Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, and many others as giving us many hours of entertainment. What I am trying to say is that I have much compassion for New York, the Pentagon, and those who perished in the airplanes on that day, but reserve the right to bash the Yankees or Giants when it comes to athletic contest. We learn to appreciate and even show brotherly love for those who do not believe or worship as we do, but will defend to the death their right to do so.

Freemasonry has afforded me this great opportunity to know and show brotherly affection to many men who are different than I seem to be. I have learned and continue to learn that even though I believe I act in the best interest of all concerned, there will be those who differ in opinions and beliefs. Because we do not perceive every situation in exactly the same light, yet we

can be Masonic Brothers and continue to work for the good of all mankind.

I wish to thank every Master Mason and his family for allowing me the opportunity to serve our great fraternity as the Grand Master of Masons in Maryland. I wish to my successor all of the best as he plans for the next two years, and pledge my support to continue to make Freemasonry in Maryland a place of Brotherly Love and Affection. I have learned much and will continue to the best of my ability to make this knowledge available to all who can benefit.

Bennie G. Owens
Grand Master

Membership Promoted "Dad to Dad"

All fraternal organizations are struggling with membership and our youth orders are no exception. Members, who devote many hours to our organizations and find them fulfilling, are often at a loss to formulate membership-boosting campaigns to increase their local Lodges, Chapters, Bethels and Assemblies. Here in Maryland one of our fraternal groups is using formulae that may be helpful to others in their quest to increase membership.

About a year and a half ago, one of the fathers of a Rainbow Grand Officer approached the Rainbow Supreme Deputy, Mary Adeline Bradford, with a

perplexing and somewhat challenging question. He had just finished attending a Rainbow Grand Assembly session and was overcome with pride and amazement as he watched his daughter perform her Rainbow work. He knew that he had just witnessed his daughter in a moment of transition from childhood to adulthood and that her Rainbow experiences had assisted with this transformation. His question to Ms. Bradford centered on the thought that he knew that other fathers, if given the opportunity that he had just had, would want their daughters to have the same experiences that his daughter had encountered through her Rainbow affiliation. So he asked her how he could help other fathers share Rainbow with their daughters. Visiting Maryland's Grand Assembly was a familiar lady to Maryland Rainbow, Mom Higgins, from Maine, the then Supreme Worthy Associate Advisor. She spoke with this Rainbow father and was touched by his need to spread Rainbow to other fathers. And so together they began to envision a "Dad to Dad" program.

As Mom Higgins and this father, Barry Witt, explored the specifics of this program they reviewed a book and compact Disk (CD) written by Lee Ann Womack entitled "I Hope You Dance." Lee Ann's hit song tells the story of what (*cont. on page 4*)



(cont. from page 3) parents hope for their children. How they want them to have "faith, humility and wonder." Mom Higgins knew Rainbow creates, through its programming, an environment of hope supported by faith and charity. Through this fraternal organization young women learn to cope with the challenges of life by working towards independence and decision-making thus enabling them to become productive adults. Mr. Witt knew that Rainbow was helping his daughter become a young woman who could face the possibilities or opportunities that life would bring. Rainbow was helping her develop into a young woman who would "give faith a fighting chance. And when she would get the choice to sit it out or dance" - he knew she would dance.

The "Dad to Dad" program grew from a creative conversation to a multifaceted program. It encompasses a promotional program for use at Grand Assembly, a program spoken to new initiates concerning their Dad's role in their Rainbow lives used at the conclusion of initiation, a brochure to share with other Dads or significant male role models and a lapel pin for Dads to display proudly. Mom Higgins was so impressed with the complete package that she was going to use it as her membership program during her two years as Supreme Worthy Advisor. Unfortunately, her untimely death prevented that

from occurring. However, several Grand Jurisdictions have already begun to use the program or are beginning this year with the assistance of the Maryland Grand Assembly. During the "Dad to Dad" promotional Mr. Witt says:

"Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along. Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder.

Could I have given my daughter or someone else's daughter the opportunity to dance?

On my lapel this evening I wear a special pin. Its purpose is to cause other dads, colleagues or associates to ask me why I wear it. When they do I can share with them this "Dad to Dad" conversation. I can encourage them to seek Rainbow membership for their daughter or other young women in their lives. I can encourage them to share Rainbow with those women. Can I encourage you tonight? Help me splash other young women with this Rainbow. Help me to help them learn how to dance!

Since this program began, at least one father of another Rainbow Grand Officer has petitioned for membership in his local Masonic Lodge because he was so impressed with a father's heart-felt plea to other dads.

As fraternal organizations grow in Maryland, we all grow. Help us share our message "Dad to Dad." Our youth can be a large part of our future if you help and support them.

Reenactment

On Saturday evening the 14th of September in the center of the Fox's Gap Battlefield at the 140th Antietam Reenactment site near Hagerstown, Maryland, a group of 120 plus Masons met to pay homage to their fallen Brethren from both North and South.

This was the first time that Blue Lodges from Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia convened as a single Lodge through special dispensations. The West Virginia Lodges opened and the Maryland Lodges held a special degree, "THE EMPTY CHAIR." This Degree was developed in the Dakota Territories in the 1860's to honor those Brothers killed in action. Masons in the U.S. Army came from many Grand Lodge jurisdictions and countries and therefore the ritual was never the same; thus the need for a special degree. Lodge was closed by the Brothers from Virginia.

The Traveling Lodge was funded by sponsoring Blue Lodges from around the world. The world cities of London, Hong Kong, Vienna and Fuerth, Germany, were among the sponsors. These sponsoring Lodges had their names appear in the program and on the special souvenir aprons that were presented to the Brothers in attendance.

Brothers Lawrence, 1st Rhode Island Artillery and Gibson, 48th Georgia Infantry were our Brothers of (cont. on page 5)



(cont. from page 4) Remembrance. They gave their last full measure of devotion for their ideals of service at the Battle of Antietam and were raised to higher Lodge with the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

The three Masters of the Traveling Lodge were Bro. Mike Kenney, Triluminar Lodge No. 117, West Virginia, Bro. J. Thomas Stouffer, Antietam Lodge No. 197, Maryland and Bro. Charles Sanders, Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120, Virginia.

The co-chairs for this event were Bro. Ed Miller, Medairy Lodge No. 140 and Bro. J. Thomas Stouffer, P.M. and W.M. of Antietam Lodge No. 197. They received invaluable assistance from Mr. Frank Artz, the owner of the property where the reenactment was held.

Scotland/England Trip Part Two

Here is the balance of the trip as enjoyed by Ed and Jack.

We said good bye to our friends in Scotland and arrived in London in the early afternoon on Sunday, and met a friend who drove us in a cab to Portsmouth.

Monday, December 11, 2000:

We spent the day sightseeing around Portsmouth and ended up at lunchtime in a quaint little town on the edge of the water. This town had a lot of unique shops and one other distinction. At high tide the water came up into some of the streets of the

town. On the first street, away from the water, each house is built with a small wall around the front yard with a block, about a foot or so high which you must step over to get into the yard. This keeps the water out of the house. On the other side of the street there are no front yards. The front doors to the house are built up above the water line and you must step up and over the door step to get into the house. If anyone parks their car on the street by the edge of the water, when the tide is out, and forgets it, the tide will cover the car when it comes in. Even with ample warning signs, there are pictures in the pub of cars under water.

That evening, we attended United Brothers Lodge No. 1069 in old Portsmouth for a Fellowcraft Degree.

Some of the wording of the Degree was similar to ours. The Middle Chamber lecture was given that evening by the Director of Ceremonies (DC) and was done in the center of the Lodge around the tracing board of the Fellowcraft Degree. This Lodge was very old and very beautiful. The Lodge room, as are many Lodge rooms in England, was shared by many Lodges to help pay their expenses. The membership of Lodges in England is small in number. They average from 40 to 95 members in each Lodge so they join together and share expenses.

The furnishings in this Lodge

room were in line with our Commandery rooms. There were many shields hanging from the upper edges of the walls, and in the East the Master's chair was raised high above the floor with tapestry-type drapes around the chair making it look almost like a throne. The chandelier hanging in the center of the Lodge was very ornate. All in all a very beautiful room.

Following Lodge we went to "the bountiful board." On the way to the banquet hall the DC told us that the Worshipful Master had requested that I respond to the toast for the visitors and would I do so. I assured him I would be happy to. At this Lodge they used "Masonic Fire" with their toasts. They were very friendly and the interplay among the brethren was very funny. They told jokes on each other and the atmosphere was very jovial. I unfortunately could not keep up with the Masonic Fire so they laughed and applauded when I messed up. I used this in my response and told them I could not drive on the left side of the street and I also couldn't keep up with their Masonic Fire. In England the toasts usually begin with the toast "to the Queen and to the Craft" and usually end with "to the visitors." Another thing which is common is that they sing "God save the Queen" at the close of Lodge. They did not do this in Scotland.

(cont. on page 6)



(cont. from page 5)

Tuesday, December 12, 2000:

We attended Caer Peris Lodge No. 8437 in Fareham, a suburb of Portsmouth. The Worshipful Master had previously contacted Jack Biggs by email and asked him to speak on Freemasonry in Maryland. Jack had done this at another Lodge on a previous visit, and spoke on the differences between our two systems for about 30 minutes. We then exemplified the first half of the catechism of the E.A. Degree. This amazed the brethren because they have very little to learn in the UK. After Lodge several brethren told me that if they had had to learn all of that catechism, there would be few Masons in England.

Following the close of Lodge, we retired to the banquet hall for the bountiful board. This was the night that the Lodge invites wives and family to celebrate the holidays. (This is not done too much in the UK.) We had a very nice meal, once again, with the usual toasts. Mervyn and Pam and Don and Helen (friends from a previous visit) presented Jack and me each with a Masonic firing glass inscribed to us and with the square and compasses on it along with the name of the Lodge.

This was a very enjoyable evening and another one that will stay in our memories for a long time. As usual, we were received as if we were royalty.

In England we found that:

The Grand Master is the Duke

of Kent - a lifetime job.

Each province has its own Provincial Grand Officers just as our states do. However, they are all subservient to the United Grand Lodge of England.

A Provincial Grand Master serves until he reaches a certain age, and then is replaced on the following July 1st.

Their aprons, collars and cuffs signify their Lodge and Grand Lodge rank. It is complicated but they strictly abide by it.

A Past Master can expect to be made a Past Provincial Grand Lodge Officer approximately five years after leaving the office of W.M. This is an honorary title. However, in special cases a Past Master may be awarded the rank of Assistant Grand Steward earlier than the five years.

Whenever you are on your feet in a Blue Lodge you hold the sign of the Degree you are working in, similar to Virginia.

All work is done in the E.A. Degree except when conferring higher Degrees.

The Degree work is much different from ours but covers the same precepts. It is also less complicated than ours.

Officers do not necessarily progress through the line of officers. You can be elected straight into the east. However that is not very common.

The Director of Ceremonies is a very important officer in the line, he serves as sort of a Marshal, Sr. Deacon, and Ritualist of the Lodge. He seems to be the

Worshipful Master's right hand man. It seems to be his duty to see that the wishes of the Worshipful Master are carried out both in and out of the Lodge.

The Immediate Past Master is also an installed member of the line of officers.

Several rituals are used throughout England. In the Lodges I have visited, the "emulation ritual" seems most prevalent.

Wednesday, December 13, 2000:

We left for London with Ian and Jack in a limo driven by a friend of Ian's. It took us four hours because of the heavy traffic and several accidents on the expressway. In London the traffic was horrendous and our going was very slow. At one point, near Waterloo Station, it took us a half hour to go two blocks. We checked our luggage in at the hotel and immediately caught the underground to the Grand Lodge. We were greeted at the front desk, after we showed our sojourner's letters, and immediately conducted to a robing room. The Grand Director of Ceremonies directed us to a small Lodge room where we were introduced to the other visiting dignitaries from foreign jurisdictions. There were two, the Grand Master of Spain (M.W. Bro. T. Sarobe and also a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Victoria in Australia.) This Lodge room was the personal Lodge room of the Grand Master's Lodge. After meeting the other two visitors we got into our aprons (cont. on page 7)



(*cont. from page 6*) and were conducted to the front doors of the Grand Lodge room. (these are carved brass doors that weigh over a ton apiece and are balanced so well they can be opened with one finger.)

The Director of Ceremonies told us just how we would be received and then had the doors opened. He stepped inside and announced "the Grand Lodge of England will be upstanding to receive the visitors from foreign jurisdictions." At that point he motioned for us to follow and we processed into the Grand Lodge room, which was nearly full, (maybe 2000 men) and advanced to the east. He asked us to come up into the east and directed us to our seats of honor. (Jack was seated to the left of the Grand Master and could have reached over and touched him) I was to Jack's left and the P.S.G.W. from Victoria was to my left. The Grand Master of Spain sat immediately behind us.

Once we were seated, the Grand Lodge officers were announced and processed into the room, followed by the "Pro. Grand Master, the Honorable Lord Farnam". (the Grand Master, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent, as a rule, attends Grand Lodge, only at the Semi-Annual and Annual Communications). Lord Farnam was in poor health and was brought into the Lodge room in a wheel chair. When he reached the steps into the east, his four escorts turned the chair to face the west

and picked it up and gently carried it up into the east. When he had reached the steps up into the Grand East, he was helped up the steps and took his place there. (this was done with great dignity) He then proceeded to conduct the session of Grand Lodge, which took about two and a half hours. During the meeting he introduced each of the visiting dignitaries and asked us each to stand. At the conclusion of the session, the Grand Master was escorted from the east and the Grand Lodge Officers followed in procession. We were included in the procession of the Grand Officers, following the Junior Grand Warden. We then got out of our aprons and were escorted by the Director of Ceremonies to a hall where the Grand Lodge officers were having drinks. This was very informal; however the Director of Ceremonies asked us what we would like to drink and saw to it that it was given to us without our having to go to the bar. While we were in the room, a man approximately 45 to 50 approached me and asked if I was the brother from Maryland. When I told him I was, he introduced himself to me and said he was Lord (I did not catch the name) and we had something in common. He was from the city of Cardiff, Wales. I remembered that Cardiff is our sister city in the UK. He told me he had been in Baltimore many times and did I perhaps know William Donald Schaefer? I told him I had met him

several times at Grand Lodge functions but he surely would not remember me. He asked me to give his greetings to the governor if I ever saw him again. They were both very involved in the sister-city arrangement.

We were then escorted to the banquet hall in the adjoining hotel where we were seated for the banquet. We were escorted to assigned seats and Jack and I were seated across the table from each other. The Director of Ceremonies came into the room and announced "the President of the Mess, the honorable Lord Cornwallis." Everyone applauded and he came to our table and took his place beside Jack. He asked Jack "where was the other brother from Maryland?" He then looked at me and said, pointing to the chair beside him, "you are to be seated beside me". So Jack and I had the honor of sitting on either side of the President of the Mess. This I was to find out later was quite a high honor. Lord Cornwallis was a Past Provincial Grand Master, as were several others at the table. There were at least two Lords at the table. I did think Lord Cornwallis was most gracious and friendly as was everyone else we met. He made sure we understood all the little British things that happened, such as some of the specialties we were served. We were certainly hobnobbing with the upper crust of English Freemasonry. We again toasted the Queen and the (*cont. On page 8*)



(cont. from page 7) Craft and had several of the usual toasts throughout the dinner. The end of the dinner came with the procession of the "Christmas pudding" which was carried in on the shoulders of four waiters and the top was aflame. After we each had had our piece of pudding, Lord Cornwallis "begged our leave" so he could catch a train back to his home.

During the dinner the Lord called the Grand Secretary, Bro. Daniels, to the table so Jack could present him a crystal Grand Lodge platter with the Maryland blue crab engraved on it from our Grand Secretary.

Following the Corwallis' departure the gathering gradually broke up and we left to meet Ian Shaw at a nearby pub, where he had been waiting for us. When we had told him earlier that we had been invited to the Mess, he told us he would not be permitted to attend. We told him we would decline and he would have none of it. He said "when you are honored with an invitation to the Grand Officers Mess, you do not turn it down!"

We returned to our hotel, and met in the pub for a final pint together, as Ian would be leaving early in the morning for Portsmouth, and we would be heading for a day of sightseeing in London and a flight home the following day to bring to an end a wonderful trip.

Edward Kraft, G.L.

Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc.

Maryland Public Schools

Scholarship Program

Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. is proud to announce its scholarship program for 2002 to 2003. A total of forty-eight \$1,000.00 scholarships will be given out this year to high school scholars, two scholarships per county and Baltimore City. Each public High School is assigned to a Maryland Masonic Lodge, which in turn gives applications to the school and explains the program to the principal. These grants may be used for any normal school expense, such as tuition, room, board, books, or school supplies. The only limitation on the post-secondary school is that it must be an accredited institution, such as a university, college, trade school, or nursing school. It is the intention that this program help encourage our youth to prepare as future leaders for society.

The criteria for selection, in order of importance, are:

1. Public service and extra-curricular activities.
2. Student's own resume.
3. Scholastic achievement.
4. Recommendation from the high school.
5. Need for financial assistance.

Each school accepts applications from its students and returns the applications to the sponsoring Masonic Lodge. The Lodge reviews the applications and forwards the top three to the Masonic Charities of Maryland for final selection. The recipients are presented their checks either at the public school awards ceremony or at one arranged by the Lodge. For more information on this exciting program, contact Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, 410 666-0077, Richard P. Naegle, 410-668-2370 or write to Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc., Mercantile Bank Building, Suite 900, 409 Washington Avenue, Towson, MD 21204.

Your generous support of this program in helping our young people become future leaders within our society is greatly appreciated. All donations are tax deductible.

The Grand Master in Cartoons

Thomas Jacob Shryock served as Grand master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland for 33 years. Elected in 1885 at the age of 35, Grand Master Shryock was to serve until February 1918 when he passed to that Supreme Grand Lodge at his home at Madison Street and

Lafayette Avenue in Baltimore.

Shryock was a noted figure in Baltimore and Maryland. He was appointed a Brigadier General in the Maryland Militia by Governor Lowdes and was head of the Republican Party in Maryland. He served as Police Commissioner of Baltimore, was a member of the Sewage Commission, (cont. on page 9)

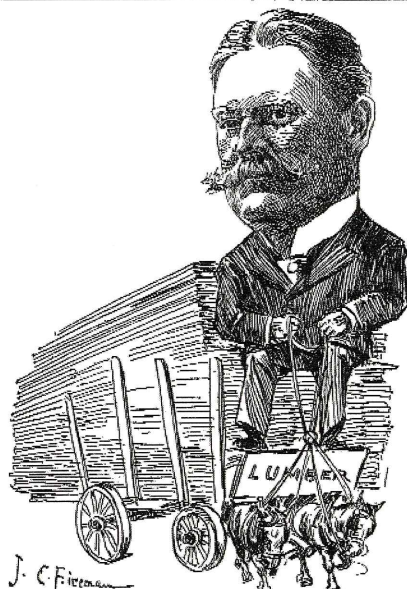


(cont. from page 8) served as Treasurer of the State of Maryland, and was an unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Senator.

With his older brother, William Henry Shryock, he operated a lumber business in Baltimore and Washington, which was successful through-

BALTIMORE EVENING

Marylanders in Cartoon



Thomas J. Shryock

Mr. Shryock's chief interest has been in the interest of the Masonic fraternity of

out the eastern seaboard.

In his fraternal, business, civic and military careers, he was most successful, and therefore, often of newspaper interest. We have included cartoons, which celebrated Shryock, the man, in Baltimore Newspapers of the early 1900s. Arguably, masonry in Maryland has never provided a more celebrated Grand Master than General Thomas Shryock.

Steven J. Ponzillo, III
Grand Historian

Youth Groups

On August 10th, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland sponsored an all expense paid trip for the Maryland Youth Groups - Jobs Daughters, Rainbow Girls, and the DeMolay - to Hershey Park in nearby Pennsylvania.

The Trip consisted of round trip transportation by bus, admission to Hershey Park and a coupon for lunch at any one of the various concession facilities throughout the grounds.

The trip was attended by 35 members of our youth, along with seven chaperones.

The day began at our Grand Lodge facility with juice, muffins and donuts, furnished by the Grand Commander, prior to our 8:00 A.M. departure.

We arrived at Hershey Park at 10:00 A.M. and enjoyed a sunny, fun filled day of rides, shows and food. Our tired youth and weary chaperones returned home by 10:00 P.M., many enjoying a short nap along the way.

We were thanked numerous times throughout the day for sponsoring this trip and were encouraged to continue this program in the future.

Talks have already begun for next year's trip, with the hopes of including the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and maybe even the Grand Lodge as co-sponsors.

Remember, no human condition is ever permanent. Then you will not be overjoyed in good fortune nor too scornful in misfortune. -Socrates

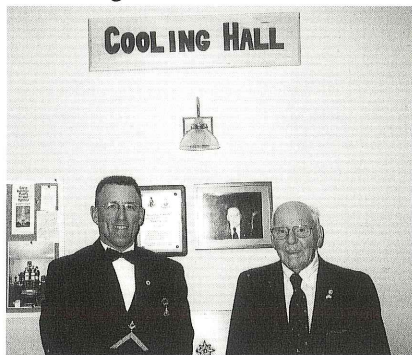


Pictured in the above photo are the R.E. Grand Commander, Keith Brown and Lady Pat (kneeling, front row, right side) and R.E.P.G.C. Richard P. Naegele (standing at far right), along with the participants in this years Yourth Group activity program.



"Cooling Hall"

On June 11, 2002 the officers and members of Cecil Lodge No. 125 honored Past Master Walter F. Cooling by dedicating their banquet hall and naming it "Cooling Hall."



R. Gary Pierce, W.M. - Bro. Cooling, P.M.

Bro. Cooling was raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1937 and subsequently became Master of Cecil Lodge in 1942. In order to honor his 65 years as a Freemason and 60 years as a Past Master, the officers and brethren bestowed this honor upon him.

Brother Cooling has been an exceptional member. Even at the age of 91 he is still a very active member. Cecil Lodge is located in the Canal town of Chesapeake City in Cecil County where Bro. Walter has resided since birth in 1911. Congratulations, Walter!

Cowan

We have all heard of Cowans and eavesdroppers in our ritual, but do you know what a Cowan actually is? While not found in the English dictionary, it is in the Scots Chambers Dictionary

and is defined as:

1. A builder of dry-stone dykes (Dry) (Late 16th Century). Disparaging one not properly apprenticed and trained as a Mason (19th century).

2. Freemasonry - one outside the brotherhood, especially one seeking to know the secrets (late 18th century - early 20th century).

3. An unskilled uninitiated person, an amateur (19th century - early 20th century).

Bro. Hugh McLeod Gordon who has visited Scotland on many occasions and knows far more about it than most, said "a dry stone dyker chose their stones most carefully but never dressed them in any way so they did not square their stones. They had no use for the common gavel, the chisel, the square and compasses nor did they use the skirrit for string lines to ensure the wall was straight. It was done by simple sighting along the line of the wall. These people were of no use to the operative mason as they did not use his tools and never dressed stone except perhaps in the roughest manner and certainly never used plans.

(So. Calif. Research Society)

Lodge Renewal

Ten Steps to Lodge Renewal!

1. Plan and Prepare

Set lodge goals and agenda for the year. Hold a planning and goal-setting meeting with your officers. Give strong consideration to inviting the ladies to par-

ticipate in planning activities.

2. Attract New Members

Identify men in your community who would meet the qualifications of membership. Look at the "Baby Boomers" you know that may have time on their hands. These are men who now are looking for exactly what Masonry has to offer - a chance to "give back" to their communities, a sense of belonging, fraternal relations, etc.

Don't overlook men who have expressed an interest in the past, even those who may have taken their 1st or 2nd Degree(s). Maybe it simply wasn't the right time or perhaps there were other circumstances that interfered with their membership.

Hold a "Friendship Night" or "Brother Bring a Friend Night".

3. Spice up Lodge Meetings

Summarize - don't read communications verbatim.

Refer to: Worshipful Master's Handbook for running a successful meeting

Add Informational and Educational Programs to every stated communication.

Experiment with meals and refreshments before and/or after meetings.

Experiment with timing of programs; i.e. have your program before dinner, followed by lodge meeting or have the program during the meeting, or afterwards over coffee/refreshments.

Encourage brothers to prepare and present (cont. on page 11)



(cont. from page 10) programs that are interesting.

The program does not have to be Masonic. Have a member come and talk about his profession. Consider using non-members to provide the program.

Don't forget to include wives/families in some of the programs/activities.

Announce the agenda of your meeting in advance through the Lodge newsletter.

Streamline the necessary business portion of the meeting.

Visit another lodge with your officers and members for their regular or special meeting.

4. Family Involvement

Use resources provided by the Masonic Renewal Association, Masonic Service Association, e.g. "150+ Ways to Involve Your Lodge with the Family and in the Community."

5. Community Involvement and Visibility

Take part in parades, community festivals, celebrations, etc.

A lodge Open House could be held in conjunction with a community celebration.

Organize a service function such as lining up snow removal for elderly citizens.

Think what good could come from a photo in the local newspaper of a group of Masons with snow blowers and shovels, scooping out a path for some elderly residents.

The possibilities are limited only by your imagination. Adopt

another Community/Service Organization to partner with in a worthwhile project. Some examples include the Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, or the Jaycees. With their retirement age of 35, the Jaycees might be very beneficial to lodge membership.

6. Initiate a major fundraiser, either for your lodge or a worthy cause in your community.

Don't feel like you have to reinvent the wheel here - keep your eyes open to something that might already be going on in the community and jump on that bandwagon.

Other fundraisers

Some lodges hold a pancake breakfast, e.g. every Saturday morning, or a couple of Saturday mornings per month. The townspeople know that it is going to be held and look forward to it.

Have a large repository for redeemable cans. It is surprising how much money can be raised from simply putting up a large container and publicizing it.

7. Membership Retention and Utilization

Get new members involved right away.

Contact Brethren who haven't attended lodge lately. Let them know they have been missed.

Organize a "Telephone Tree" to make contacting all brothers easier. This can be very useful, too, for special meetings, such as Memorial Services and funerals.

Organize a "Pick-up Service"

for those brothers within a specified radius who may be uncomfortable driving.

Think outside the box, it doesn't have to be related only to Freemasonry. Let the members give you their ideas and listen to them - make them feel they are a real part of the process.

Hold a "Rusty Nail" Degree or a "Re-Obligation Night," of public relations.

External Publicity

Submit press releases to local newspapers. Local newspapers are always looking for things to fill space. (Important: make certain the articles are well written and complete. Don't expect the newspapers to edit and/or correct mistakes. Assistance on what to submit and how to write the articles is available from the Lodge Public Relations Comm.

8. Publicize Your Lodge (Internally and Externally)

Appoint a member to be in charge of Public Relations.

Internal Publicity

Obtain email addresses of lodge members. This will provide one more way to communicate with the membership.

Appoint a member to be in charge of items to be sent to and published by the Grand Lodge Quarterly FFSM.

9. Lodge Appearance

Don't forget that one of a lodge's best sources of publicity and community involvement is the lodge building itself. The appearance of (cont. on page 12)



(cont. from page 11) your lodge says a lot to the uninitiated. Are you sending the right message?

Hold a clean-up, painting party. Make a fun day or night out of it. Make sure the sign on your building is clean and in good shape. Place highway signs at each entrance to your community, along with one stating the day and time of your regularly scheduled meeting.

10. Ritual

Make sure your lodge can and does provide top-notch ritual in your degrees and meetings.

Enter the Ritual contest. It is good experience for you and your officers regardless of your capability. Contact your local DGL to assist. Publicize the event. Invite members of near-by lodges.

Make Sure Your Lodge Is Represented At Grand Lodge!

Additional Reference Material:

Masonic Renewal Committee

at www.masonic-renewal.org

Masonic Service Association

at www.msana.com

Handel Choir

On December 8 at 2 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Handel Choir of Baltimore consisting of the large Chamber Choir, Children's Choir and Orchestra will present a concert performance of Christmas music. A part of this fund-raising activity will benefit the Rite Care Speech and Language Center. For tickets and information contact the Handel Choir, 410 366-6544.

There will also be a limited number of VIP tickets available providing premium seating arrangements, parking permits along with catered food and refreshments in the Whitehurst Lounge. For full details and reservations for this limited supply of VIP tickets please contact Jack Pickett at 410 243-3200.

Get into the "Holiday Spirit of Christmas" early with the renowned Handel Choir and Orchestra's Concert of Christmas Music.

Scottish Rite

November 6 the 4° and 14° will begin the Fall Class of the Scottish Rite. Petitions can be had by contacting the Scottish Rite office at 410 243-3200 or by contacting your Lodge's Scottish Rite "Diplomat." The 18° will be conferred on November 8 and Reunion Day will commence with the conferral of the 30° and 32°.

Following a break for lunch and class pictures, the Shrine Ceremonial will begin at 2:00 p.m. Become a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shrine Mason in November. The 14° Ring Ceremony will be held on November 24. Dr. Wilhelmsen, 33°, Deputy to the Supreme Council looks forward to greeting you during all of the above listed events.

Maryland's First Lodge

According to Bro. S. Brent Morris, the first Lodge is believed

to have been held in Annapolis in 1750.

Other Lodges then followed in Port Tobacco and Leonardtown. And no, we don't really believe that there is any truth to the rumor that Bro. Eddy Potts, W.S.G.D. was there regardless of what "Catfish" says. However there is some strong speculation that another Ed may have been.

Kemp Lodge No. 154

Worshipful Master Terry Beal advises that Kemp Lodge is a place of high activity these days.

The Shield & Square Club visited the Lodge in early October to confer the Master Mason Degree on a correctional officer.

This young man was very sad that his dad, a Mason from Ohio, couldn't be present that evening. Little did he know that the Lodge had quite a surprise in store for him. His father was in town and arrived at Lodge early to sit in the Lodge room for the entire first section of the Degree. At the appropriate time, he left the Lodge room to return just after the beginning of the second section. When the candidate's blind-fold was later removed, he looked into the face of the man who had just raised him and found it was his father. His expression was priceless. He was heard to utter "Oh my Lord."

What a wonderful surprise the Lodge had given him.

Two weeks later (cont. on page 13)



(cont. from page 12) Bro. Bennie G. Owens, M.W. Grand Master, and his Grand Line visited Kemp Lodge, and feasted on a delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner, followed by numerous choices of cakes and drinks.

The Grand Master and Grand Line then conferred the Master Mason Degree on three more Kemp Lodge brothers. One of them was raised by his father.

W.M. Beal advises that there are six more candidates in the pipeline. And this from a Lodge that has never had more than 100 members.

Following the Degree conferral, Grand Master Owens and Deputy Grand Master John Young were each presented with hand-made plaques by the Worshipful Master and the Lodge. The plaques were made from a 2" section of a local tree and had a number of local artifacts mounted on its flat surface.

Kemp Lodge is situated in a small town just north of Cumberland and is very active in its community. A number of their regular community events have been depicted in this journal in the past.

For years the building, built in 1966, sat along the main street through Mt. Savage with nothing external to indicate what lay within. The travelers along the road had no indication that this was home to a Masonic Lodge. Neither did a large part of the community.

The Lodge has since changed

this and added a large sign beside the road which clearly defines the use of the building for all to see. They commenced a number of projects to involve the community and the Lodge, and to open their doors to anyone wishing to know more about Kemp Lodge and the Masonic fraternity. (Editor)

Masons Invade Nova Scotia

On Sunday Sept. 29th, in the very wee hours of the morning, Grand Master Bennie Owens, and his "first lady" Ruth, met fourteen other brave and daring souls at BWI to begin a trek to Nova Scotia. The group included Bill & Nancy Gulley, John & Alice Hall, Donald & Katherine Jennings, Jim & Pat Morgan, Robert & Helen Pugh, Harry & Shirley Tighe, and Roy & Cynthia White.

Upon our arrival in "New Scotland" we were whisked to our hotel in Halifax where in the evening we met the rest of our tour companions at a welcome dinner. Over the course of the next eight days we traveled around Nova Scotia being led by our excellent tour director, Carol Whitmore.

While in Halifax we visited the 19th century star-shaped fort at Citadel Hill, and the revitalized harbor area. We also learned about the horrible explosion in the harbor just prior to WWI that nearly wiped out the entire town of Halifax. A trip to a former thriving

gold-mining town recalled the boom years of the 1860s.

As we traveled the roads, we saw Acadian villages, parts of Cape Breton Island - one of the earliest European settlements in the New World and parts of Prince Edward Island. Visits to national parks included Cape Breton National Park, Louisbourg National Historic Park, Prince Edward Isle National Park and Grand-Pre National Park. We crossed channels and bays on ferries and bridges. We saw the Bay of Fundy, with its highest tide surge in the world, when the tide was out and later when the tide was in. We visited several museums: Alexander Graham Bell Museum, Hector Ship Museum, and the Fisheries Museum. We saw forts and farmhouses, including the farmhouse "Green Gables" that became the setting for "Anne of Green Gables".

We stayed in towns named Ingonish Beach, Sidney, Charlottetown, Digby, and Pictou (the birthplace of New Scotland), where the first boatload of Scottish Highlanders landed in 1773 from the Hector.

We went whale-watching, and seeing no whales, were satisfied with porpoise, seals, and eagles. We ate wonderful meals of lobster, scallops, mussels, and many kinds of fish: salmon, haddock, halibut and cod.

Sunday evening we were given a wonderful farewell dinner. Monday we (cont. on page 14)



(cont. from page 13) headed back to Halifax and our final day. Some of our new friends continued their journey homeward but we had one more event to attend.

Gulley who served as our travel agent and arranged the trip for us. Thanks Bill!

(Alice and John Hall)



The Nova Scotia invaders standing in front of one of the several Province owned resorts they stayed in during the trip. This one is "The Pines."



From the left: Roy White; M.W. Tabor Coullier, P.G.M. of Nova Scotia; M.W. Bennie G. Owens; John Hall, and in the rear Harry Tighe; James Morgan; Bill Gulley; Don Jenigs and Robert Pugh.

The men were fortunate to attend St. John Lodge No. 2 in Halifax, where they witnessed a Third Degree presented in the English emulation. They were greeted and welcomed by Nova Scotia Grand Lodge Masons. While the men attended Lodge, Ruth entertained the ladies with a delightful dinner at the hotel.

We had a wonderful trip and are especially grateful to Bill

Dedication & Parade

St. Columba Lodge No. 150 will be marching in the LaPlata "Salute To Veterans" parade on November 10, 2002.

Prior to the parade, we will gather at the Lodge to dedicate our new flagpole, and have a flag raising ceremony. The flag will be one that has flown over our Nation's Capitol Building in

Washington D.C.

The ceremony at the Lodge will begin at 11:00 A.M.

Following this ceremony, the Masons will meet at the parade assembly area (Charles County Courthouse).

The uniform for the ceremony and parade will be:

*Officers - tuxedo, jewels and aprons
Masons - dark suit, tie and white apron*

We invite all brothers to join us in Lodge and as we march on this most important occasion. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please call me at:

Day/work telephone:

(301) 836-8422 or

Evening telephone:

(301) 705-7736

We hope to see you on November 10th!

Fraternally,

Bro. William R. Macpherson
Senior Deacon

Prince Frederick Lodge #142

Recently Prince Frederick Lodge No. 142 had a very memorable occasion. On September 25th, two new brothers were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by their fathers. Douglas Eugene Cooper was raised by his father, Eugene Cooper, PM of Stephenson Lodge No. 135 in Darlington, MD, and Jefferson Radcliff Nelson was raised by his father, Randy Nelson and witnessed by his grandfather, Gerry Radcliff, PM. His father (cont. on page 15)



(cont. from page 14) and grand-father are members of lodges in West Virginia.

Masons at Sight

Evergreen Lodge No. 153 received petitions from three young men, age 18, all hoping to become members of the Masonic Fraternity together.

Unfortunately, they had an unusual situation; two of them were about to leave the state for several years with insufficient time to receive their Degrees. Robert Todd, II had enlisted in the Navy; Jackson Todd had been accepted into VMI; and Jacob had been accepted at the University of Md. Eastern Shore.

These young men have had a distinguished career in the DeMolay, all having served twice as Master Councilor of their DeMolay Chapter. Jacob, at



From left: Worshipful Master Joel J. Todd, Jacob Todd, Robert Todd, Jackson Todd and M.W. Bro. Bennie G. Owens

the age of 13, in company with Robert, Jackson and their father, gave the "Flower Talk" in Grand Lodge in 1998 by request of Grand Master John Naquin.

The family of the brothers

also has a strong Masonic background; their father is Worshipful Master of Evergreen Lodge this year, and is also States Attorney of Worcester County. Their Great Grandfather W. Jackson Todd was Worshipful Master of Pythagoras Lodge No. 123 in 1907.

M.W. Grand Master Bennie G. Owens solved the dilemma they faced by making them "Masons at Sight" in Evergreen Lodge on September 14, 2002. The officers of Evergreen Lodge then conferred the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees upon the Todd Brothers and Grand Master Owens and the Grand Line conferred the Master Mason Degree.

We wish these young men every success as they embark on their careers and educational paths, and know that Evergreen Lodge now has three new Brothers. (Editor)

Service Award

On July 20, 2002 Abner J. Kaplan, P.M., a member of Medairy Lodge No. 140, was presented a 70 year service award and hat.

Bro. Kaplan resides in Baltimore and was unable to attend the annual Strawberry Night Activity when the special recognition was planned.

C. David Harp, G.I. and Morris E. Lay, P.M. of Medairy Lodge No. 140, journeyed to Baltimore to make the presentation on behalf of M.W. Bro.

Bennie Owens, and Delancy Catlett, W.M. of Medairy.

Bro. Kaplan (Born Dec. 26, 1910) was raised on May 27, 1932 by his father Harry G. Kaplan, P.M.

His brother Melvin I. Kaplan, P.M. had also received a 70 year recognition. Melvin was an active member of Medairy Lodge No. 140 until his health failed.



Pictured from left to right: C. David Harp, G.I., Abner J. Kaplan, P.M. and Morris E. Lay, P.M.

York Rite

Bro. Keith A. Brown, Grand Commander - Knights Templar advises that Dr. Hans Wilhelmsen, Deputy to the Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., has petitioned to join the York Rite.

A special two day class is being scheduled for the Chapter and Council Degrees on Saturday, February 15, 2003. The Commandery Orders will be conferred on February 22, 2003.

Plans are being discussed to confer the Order of Malta in full form. Contact Richard Naegele at 410 665-5947. More details to follow in the next issue.

Maryland Masonic Calendar



November 2002

17 Religious Service - Bonnie Blink

18 Grand Lodge of Maryland Annual Communication - Grand Lodge Building - to begin at 2:00 P.M. Break for dinner at 5:00 P.M. Grand Lodge will reconvene following dinner. Reception of visiting dignitaries and election of Grand Lodge Officers for the ensuing term.

19 No-Host Dinner in Grand Lodge Ball Room beginning at 6:00 P.M. Installation of Grand Master and Grand Lodge

Officers - to begin at 7:30 P.M.

Daylight Lodge No. 1

Daylight Lodge No. 1 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 A.M. in the Grand Lodge building. Following the meeting, guests and ladies are welcome to partake in the luncheon. Cost - \$5.00

Freestate Freemason
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