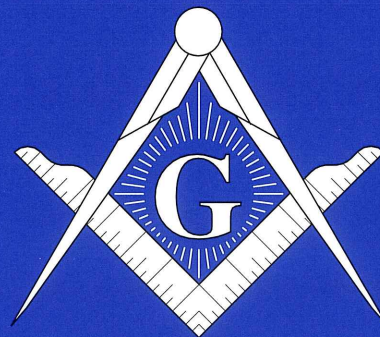


Freestate Freemason



Spring 2000

From the Grand Master

THE POWER OF CHANGE

Brethren of the Maryland Jurisdiction:

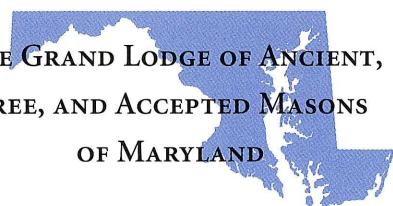
Maryland Masonry has seen eighteen exciting months. We have begun a process of change that affects many of the fundamental ways we have done business in our jurisdiction. Our budget has been made known—in detail—to every Lodge in the state. Grand Lodge finances have been put on solid footing with the transfer of funds from the Masonic Homes endowment. Informative biographies of candidates for Grand Lodge office have been published in the *Freestate Freemason*. Lodges now hold raffles to raise much-needed funds for their operations and charities. (The Grand Lodge just made \$13,000 in raffling a Lincoln Town Car.) We have held two very successful one-day classes that brought in about 500 new Masons. And there are more things that have happened and will happen.

And every time a new idea has been proposed, we have heard the Last Seven Words of a Dying Organization: We've never done it that way before!

Change is not always comfortable, and it's not guaranteed to always work, but it is essential to progress. And it is a powerfully invigorating activity. Freemasonry has a long tradition of changing to meet the times and the needs of its members—but our changes have usually been gradual, slow, and steady. We are continuing the process as we move into the 21st century. I am reminded of the admonition about the turtle: He only makes progress when he sticks his neck out!

See CHANGE on p. 3, col. 1

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 and objectives of the Masonic fraternity.

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Deadlines for submitting articles & information for possible 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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Send articles to the editor, address changes to the Grand Lodge.

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Good Communications

One year ago the *Freestate Freemason* was reborn. It was through the clear vision of Grand Master Francis E. Larrimore that this important communications vehicle came back to life. Our ritual is important and beautiful; our moral precepts are our foundation; and our brotherhood is priceless. However, the *Freestate Freemason* is the only thing the Grand Lodge does that reaches 100% of Maryland Masons. Good communications are essential to the success of this or any other organization.

Take a look at your lodge newsletter. What does it communicate to your members? Exciting, vibrant programs? Entertaining outings for family and friends? Refreshments that make you lick your lips? Does your newsletter convey the idea that your lodge is an important part of your community? If not, then someone needs to reconsider your lodge's communications.

The *Freestate Freemason* tries to share news of Masonry in Maryland and elsewhere, but we need your help. What special program is your lodge holding? What's the plan for your Ladies Night? Have you done something in the community lately? Have you tried something different that other lodges should know about? Please share this information with your Brethren by submitting an article and photographs for publication in the *Freestate Freemason*.

This quarter's issue has some great stories. Laurel Wreath Lodge is to be commended for their innovative idea of holding a meeting during the day and downstairs to accommodate their Brethren who don't drive at night and who cannot easily navigate stairs. Washington Lodge had a fabulous evening when they brought together some of the priceless Masonic memorabilia associated with Bro. George Washington. And then there's the parade float of Oakland Lodge and the heart-warming picnic sponsored by Sincerity Lodge. These activities should be inspirations to every Mason in Maryland.

Masons are active and involved in their communities, but we need to communicate that message. This is where you come in: you need to share the good stories about your lodge with the rest of the state. Ensure that all the hard work of planning and organizing a special event doesn't start to fade after everything is over. Let other lodges know what you have done so they can follow you. Also be sure to let your own members know what's happening in your lodge.

Good communications goes well beyond your newsletter and the *Freestate Freemason*. The telephone is still a great instrument for connecting with your members. Several calls before a meeting will do wonders for attendance, and make the contacted members feel special and missed. For the most up-to-date technology, get your lodge on the world-wide web. The internet is providing us with the most amazing advances in communications, and there is nothing in Masonic history or tradition that prevents us from taking advantage of this medium. Be sure to communicate the excitement of Masonry!

S. Brent Morris, Editor



Town Car Winner at G.L. Bull & Oyster Roast

Grand Master Francis Larrimore is shown at right presenting the keys to the 2000 Lincoln Town Car to raffle winner Bro. Larry J. Wilson, P.M. of Prince Frederick Lodge No. 142. The winning ticket was sold by Bro. John Hall, P.M. of the same lodge. The raffle was a great success, raising \$13,000 for the John Coats Memorial Fund. The presentation was made at the Grand Lodge Bull and Oyster Roast on Saturday, April 15, 2000.

The Bull and Oyster Roast was itself a great success. Two hundred seventy tickets were sold in advance, and the Grand Lodge prognosticators ordered food for 400.



The planners' best estimations were put to shame when more than 280 tickets were sold at the door for a total attendance of over 550! The caterers, Nick's Inner Harbor Seafood, scrambled to provide food for 35% more guests than hoped for. Throughout it all, good will, good

weather, and good spirits prevailed. It was a most successful afternoon for Bro. Wilson, the John Coats Memorial Fund, and the many satisfied diners.

Plans are underway to repeat this great event next year. Details will be given in the *Freestate Freemason*.

CHANGE from p. 1

Every member of the Grand Lodge of Maryland wants to see Masonry prosper and grow in our state. It is my sincere belief that for this to happen we must carefully reconsider many of our traditional ways of "doing business." Our principles are solid, unshakable, but our methods of applying them need regular review.

Last year the Grand Lodge returned to Lodges the authority to meet on any degree the Master chooses. Our moral lessons have not changed, our degree work is just as meaningful, but our Masters can now streamline their meetings by eliminating unneeded openings

and closings and moving between degrees. Our lodges can now hold Bull & Oyster Roasts. (Is there a more natural activity for any Maryland organization?) These are the types of changes that we must be looking for and that we must be prepared to make.

Are there other changes we should be considering? Of course there are. I know some of them, but you know more. The collective wisdom of our members is an untapped resource, and we must take advantage of it. Change is a powerful force when properly applied and when we have the wisdom to do it right—if we take the time to work through it together. That's the secret

to effective change—working together as Brethren. If you have ideas to improve our wonderful fraternity, please share them with me or with other Grand Lodge officers.

Not all change is progress, but there is no progress without change. It may be that not all of our changes, no matter how carefully thought out, are successful. But that's the way life is. And if I'm going to fail, I'd rather fail because I tried than because I did nothing.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Francis E. Larrimore
Grand Master



Fourth of July Celebration

Hot on the heels of a very successful Bull and Oyster Roast and automobile raffle, the Grand Lodge Millennium Committee is sponsoring the second annual Grand Lodge Independence Day Celebration on Tuesday, July 4, 2000. The event will be held on the grounds of the Grand Lodge at Cockeysville beginning at 6:00 PM and is open to all Master Masons, members of Collateral Masonic Bodies, their families and guests.

We are offering an outstanding menu for this event:

- ¼ lb hamburgers & cheeseburgers
 - ¼ lb all-beef hot dogs
 - Maryland crab cakes
 - fresh cut french fries
- cold beer • soda • bottled water
- fresh-made lemonade
- ice cream

As you can see, there will be plenty of food for sale, but feel free to bring your favorite picnic fare and supplement it with our offerings.

Entertainment for the day will include the bagpipe unit, "The Highlanders," from Boumi Temple, a country-western/gospel trio, and the Masonic "Flag Builders" from Delaware. For kids of all ages there will be clowns, volleyball, horseshoes, croquet, badminton, and other favorite games.

After dark we can all find a comfortable seat on the hill (you might want to bring along a lawn chair or a blanket) and enjoy the spectacular fireworks display from the park

below, compliments of Baltimore County. Please remember that all attendees must use the main gate. The back gate will be closed to both vehicular and foot traffic.

You can't afford to miss this one, brethren, because admission is free. See you there!

New Year's Eve Gala

Brethren, plan now to join the Grand Master and his lady at the New Year's Eve Gala on December 31, 2000 in the Grand Lodge Ballroom at Cockeysville. This first annual New Year's Eve Extravaganza will be a black tie affair with dinner, bar facilities, dancing to an excellent band, holiday hats and horns, champagne toasts at midnight, and Masonic fellowship from 8:00 PM until (?). What better way could there be to start the new year? Group reservations by table will be accepted.

Call your friends and plan to attend. This elegant event will be open to Master Masons and their guests. Look for additional details from the Grand Lodge in the near future.

The White Leather Apron

Wilber F. Loveitt, J.G.W., Maine

At our initiation into Masonry, we are presented a Lambskin or White Leather Apron. That presentation is known as the "Rite of Investiture" or the "Rite of Purification" which means that at that time we are starting our Masonic life as pure and as spotless as this Lambskin Apron, for

the Lamb has in all ages been considered an emblem of innocence and purity.

The apron is the first Masonic symbol that we receive and it goes with us to the grave. Its square corners inculcate truth and honesty, the great lessons of morality. The flap is a triangle whose three sides refer to the three attributes of God, Omniscience (all knowing), Omnipotence (all powerful), Omnipresence (all present).

The four equal sides of the apron are to remind us that in innocence we are to practice the four cardinal virtues, Temperance in word and act, Fortitude in a noble cause, Prudence in judgement, and Justice to one and all.

The total number of sides on the apron and flap constitute the sacred number seven and alludes to the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy, and are the basis on which Freemasonry is founded.

The two strings remind us that reverence for the practice of every Masonic virtue should be bound to our heart and conscience by the double ties to God and Man.

We wear a white apron at every Masonic meeting, and we are taught that each time we put on our Masonic apron and each time that we look upon it, we are to continually reminded of that purity of life and rectitude of conduct which is so essentially necessary to our gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above where the Supreme Architect of the Universe will forever preside.



Masonic Square Bears

Masonic Square Bears, what are they? They are 13-inch cinnamon-colored teddy bears wearing yellow T-shirts with a blue masonic emblem and the words *Masons Care* on them. What are they for? The bears are given to calm young children that are involved in accidents, child abuse, hospital experiences, being lost, or any number of stressful situations. Lodges and their members can purchase these bears and distribute them to police and fire departments, ambulance teams, hospitals, child abuse centers or any number of relief organizations in your local communities. We do care, and we need to show we are willing to give something back to our communities. Can you think of a better way to place Masonry before the public than through that of parents or family whose child is the recipient of a bear? Think about it brethren. For more information contact Glen Clary, 2532 Cheval Dr., Davidsonville, MD 21035 or by e-mail gbcac@ccconline.net.

Still A Great Idea— “The 365 Club”

Every now and then you hear about an idea that is so good you know it is going to work—and you wish you had thought of it yourself.

Our Grand Secretary, Bro. Jack R. Frazier, had one of those strokes of genius: *The 365 Club*. Membership is open to any Mason who thinks our great fraternity is worth a penny a

day or \$3.65 a year.

Money received for The 365 Club will be put in the endowment fund of the John Coats Memorial Lodge No. 1787. This is the Lodge named for Maryland's first Most Worshipful Grand Master. Only the earnings from the endowment fund are touched; the principal remains to provide much-needed income. This income is used to support the day-to-day operations of your Grand Lodge.

If each of the 23,000 Masons in Maryland thought the Craft was worth a penny a day to them, the John Coats endowment fund would grow by more than \$83,000 a year! What is our great fraternity worth to you?

Please send your checks made payable to the Grand Lodge, John Coats Memorial Fund:

\$3.65 for one year's membership
or
\$36.50 for ten years' membership

Mail your check to:

The Grand Secretary's Office
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

Your check ensures that your name goes on the Grand Lodge roster as a member of The 365 Club and that your contribution is working to maintain the future of Masonry.

Maryland Masonic Homes “Wish List”

By popular request, the following list has been created to share the needs of the Maryland Masonic

Homes with the Masonic family. This list consists of equipment or capital enhancements that are proposed for the next year. If you or your Lodge are interested in knowing more about helping meet one or more of these needs of our Masonic Homes, please contact the Grand Master. Our guests at Bonnie Blink will thank you for your generosity.

CAPITAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Interior Enhancements (carpet, wall coverings, window dressings, etc.) \$250,000
2. Re-leading of stained glass windows \$100,000
3. Roof repair \$50,000
4. Telephone replacement \$50,000
5. Grounds enhancements \$35,000
6. Computer upgrade 30,000
7. Lawn furniture \$30,000

EQUIPMENT

1. Food transport carts (8) \$20,000
2. Convection ovens (2) \$16,600
3. Golf carts (3) \$9,000
4. Range (1) \$7,500
5. High-risk mattresses (15) \$3,750
6. Low beds (2) \$3,500
7. Electric beds (2) \$3,000
8. Lap Top computer (1) \$1,800
9. Wheel chair scale (1) \$1,800
10. Deep fryer (1) \$1,500
11. Specialty mattresses (2) \$1,500
12. Video recorder (1) \$1,200
13. Examination table (1) \$1,100
14. Pulse oximetry unit (1) \$700
15. Clinic desk & chair (1) \$700
16. Bread machines (4) \$320
17. Digital camera (skin) (1) \$300
18. Sewing machine (1) \$250
19. Classic film library (1) \$150
20. 35 mm Camera (1) \$150



A Little Sand in the Gears

Jim Tresner, Ph.D., P.M.

This article is reprinted with the permission of the Scottish Rite Journal.

"Sand," resistance, may be a saving factor when applied to the smooth working "gears" of any organization, including Freemasonry.

"Remember, son, dying organizations love rules. Groups that are living and vital and growing don't have time to make rules—they're too busy doing things. That's my greatest fear for Masonry."

My father, Jack N. Tresner, Sr., 33°, loved Masonry with a passion and was especially active in the Scottish Rite. He was, among other things, Chairman of the Advisory Conference, Wise Master of Rose Croix, Director of the 33° Conferral Team where he took the role of Grand Commander. The welfare of Masonry was much on his mind in his final days. He had been very active in business as the president of an insurance company and in the church where he served on the International Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church, but his family and Masonry were his two great loves.

Not long before his death, we had the last of many conversations about Masonry. He was deeply worried about the future of the fraternity. He had watched it decline from the most active, energetic, positive organization in the community, attracting so many good men each year that it was difficult to find time

to perform the Degrees, to an organization which, each year, lost so many men that it had only half its former membership. I had learned long ago that he was a man of extraordinary insight and wisdom, and I listened carefully to what he had to say.

"Why does that happen?" I asked.

"Dying organizations turn inward," he said.

"When I joined Masonry, our rules, our *Constitution and Code*, filled a little booklet, about 3" x 5" and about 20 pages long. Now the pages are 8.5" x 11", and they fill a three-ring binder. And there are so many new rules each year that it takes a three-ring binder to keep current. Other states are the same way."

"When I joined Masonry in 1941, I was really impressed by how the leadership kept finding new things for Masons to do. I watched that change."

"Why?" I asked. "What happened?"

"Old men," he answered. "I don't mean age. Some men are old and crotchety at 20, some are young and vital at 80. You want to watch that, by the way. You can tend a little to the crotchety side yourself if you're not careful. But the fraternity fell into the hands of these old men, of whatever age. All they wanted to do was control others—tell others what they had to do and what they could not do. There's something they didn't like, so they made another rule. They're the moss-backs, like the old turtles that hide under the

logs in the stream and snap at everything that goes by. I've spent the last 20 years trying to scrape a little moss and carry a little sand."

That last allusion escaped me.

"That was one of your grandfather's expressions. When an organization, any organization, is alive and vital, its leaders judge their success by how much gets done. When an organization is dying, they judge their success by how smoothly things go. I actually heard the Worshipful Master of our Lodge say that he had a good year—nothing happened.

"Jim, the only smooth ride in the world is the ride down when you fall off a cliff. It's as smooth and easy as anyone could want, until you get to the bottom. Then it's fatal. It's natural for leaders to want a smooth ride—and the cruelest thing you can do is give it to them. Every now and then you need to spread a little sand in the gears. I know you always wondered why I appointed"—he named an individual—"to the company Board of Directors.

"I certainly have wondered!" I said. "He does nothing but challenge you.

"That's why! I don't dare let the ride get too smooth, even for me. He is my sandman. I've tried to do the same for Masonry but I can't do it any longer. If you love Masonry as much as I think you do, you've got to sprinkle the sand—now.

"You don't have to cause problems. I don't mean that. Sometimes the most effective sand you can use is just to ask, 'WHY?'

"Why do we have that rule? Why



do we do something? Why does it have to be that way? We promise to whisper good counsel in the ear of an erring Brother—why do we try to find a way to throw him out of the fraternity? We say that Masonry has some of the greatest lessons the world has ever known—why don't our people even take the trouble to learn the meanings of the words of the ritual so they know what those lessons really are? We say that Masonry is important—why won't we set the dues high enough to really support the Lodge and its activities?

"I'm not asking for a promise, because there's a price. The moss-backs won't love you. You won't win

any popularity contests. But maybe Masonry will wake up and decide to live again."

And even though he did not ask for a promise, I promised.

All this went through my mind again during the recent Scottish Rite Leadership Conferences. I listened to many younger Scottish Rite Masons, especially the Scottish Rite Fellows, talk about changes—some fair amount of sand was tossed around. Some of the ideas bothered me a little. (Dad was right; I do tend toward the crotchety.) But that's all right. They were thinking; they raised questions and addressed issues; they challenged us. God bless them all!

One of the suggestions was that the *Scottish Rite Journal* publish some controversial articles—articles which raise issues and eyebrows. And the leadership agreed! It is almost certain that there will be articles which will annoy me, and possibly you. But (not indulging in the temptation to point out it is only the irritated oyster which produces a pearl!) that annoyance is good for us. Brethren, those articles do a service by making us think, by sprinkling a little sand in our mental gears.

The fall off the cliff, while smooth, really isn't comfortable. And a few bumps on the way are a lot better than that sudden stop.

Sincerity Lodge Hosts St. Vincent's Center Picnic

For the past eight years Sincerity Lodge No. 181 has held a picnic for the children of St. Vincent's Center in the hopes of bringing some sunshine into their lives.

The children of St. Vincent's range in age from 3 to 12, come from all nationalities, and have been rescued from negligent or abusive homes in the hopes of finding them new homes with loving parents to adopt them.

This year's annual picnic—the ninth hosted by Sincerity Lodge—will be held on August 26, 2000 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the grounds of St. Vincent's Center, 2600 Pot Springs Rd., Timonium. As in past years the day will be filled



Participants at Sincerity Lodge's 1999 St. Vincent's Center Picnic, from left to right: Francis E. Larrimore, M.W.G.M., William H. Collins, P.M. (deceased), George F. Hall Sr., P.M., "Doozie the Clown."

with as much fun and entertainment as possible. This year will be especially entertaining with a 75' inflatable "Dragon Maze," sack races, and pool games, just to men-

tion a few of the activities to be on hand. If you like to eat good food, get wet, and bring a smile to the faces of children, plan on joining Sincerity on August 26, 2000.



Treasures of the Grand Lodge Museum & Library

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, Assistant Librarian and Museum Curator

The history, tradition and relics of Freemasonry in Maryland can be found in the Grand Lodge Museum housed on the second floor of Freemasons Hall in Cockeysville. For those who remember the former Museum on the third floor of the Masonic Temple at 225 N. Charles Street, a visit to the new location will be an exercise in things remembered. It will also feature some surprises as items never before on display are featured.

In the Museum are displays of regalia of the family of Masonry: Blue Lodge, Grand Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Grotto, Tall Cedars, Eastern Star, Amaranth, DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rainbow, and many more. Also on display are the treasures of collecting and travel of P.G.M. Thomas J. Shryock. Gen. Shryock's Roman glass collection, Crusader's Relics, and personal Masonic awards are displayed.

Also on display are chairs dating from the 1790s, originally belonging to Federal Lodge and ornamented with Masonic emblems. A grandfather clock dating from the nineteenth century is on display as well as portraits of every Past Grand Master of the twentieth century and most of the nineteenth century. A 13-star United States flag carried by the Maryland Line at the Battle of Cowpens during the American

Revolution may also be seen.

Also find the Library of the Grand Lodge of Maryland is located adjacent to the museum on the second floor of Freemasons Hall. This facility is filled with books on the philosophical, historical, and legal past and present of Freemasonry. Included in the collection are all of the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge from 1787-1999. The proceedings and certain volumes are not available for check-out; however, the rest of the collection may be borrowed by members. The Library has a large reading table and comfortable chairs in a climate-controlled environment. It is a good place for reading and research. The Library and Museum are open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Special tours may be arranged by calling the Office of the Grand Secretary at 410-527-0600.

One of the most treasured items is the desk upon which George Washington laid his resignation as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. At that time, Congress was meeting in the old Senate Chamber of the State House in Annapolis, Maryland.

On December 23, 1783, at the close of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress met there to receive from Gen. George Washington the surrender of his Commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

At that time, this old mahogany desk stood in the Senate Chamber where it had served for many years as the desk for the presiding officer,

the Secretary, and the Clerk of the State Senate.

When the Continental Congress met in this Chamber on December 23, 1783, General Mifflin was President of the Continental Congress and Charles Thomson, who resided in Annapolis and who was a close friend of both Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, was Secretary. These two gentlemen sat behind this desk while George Washington stood in front of it, made his address, and then laid his Commission on the desk for General Mifflin to accept.

In 1817, when the Senate House was first refurnished, the desk was discarded as obsolete. Charles Thomson took it home with him and preserved it. John S. Selby, a close friend of Thomson, also lived in Annapolis at that time. Thomson gave the desk to Selby who later moved to Baltimore and became the Actuary of the Maryland Institute and Art School located in Baltimore. Selby placed the desk in the office of the President of the Institute, where it remained in service as the President's desk until about 1896.

The Masonic Veterans Association of Maryland was organized in 1892 by George L. McCahan who became its first president, serving in that capacity for several years. He also became Actuary of the Maryland Institute where this desk was still in service. John M. Carter, Past Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, became President of the Board of the Institute about the same time.



In 1896, these two gentlemen presented the desk to the Masonic Veterans Association where it served as the Secretary's desk for fifty years. It was most fortunate for us that this was done, because in 1904, when the great Baltimore Fire occurred, the building in which the Maryland Institute conducted its school was burned. Had this desk been allowed to remain in that building it would have been destroyed.

In 1945 a new desk was procured for the Secretary of the Masonic Veterans Association and the old historic desk was placed in the Masonic Museum where it now occupies a prominent place behind a brass railing.

News From Bonnie Blink

Joe Edmonds

Have you ever wondered what the residents of Bonnie Blink are doing with all that spare time on their hands? Here is a short summary of events that occur on a regular basis: weekly discussion groups on various subjects; Bible study group; Friday afternoon Happy Hour; Ladies Social; Friday evening BINGO (always well attended); shopping trips to different stores and malls; monthly luncheon at various eateries. The latest is a trip to the Masonic Museum and Library in the Grand Lodge Building. Recently there was an evening trip to the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall to enjoy the U.S. Marine Band. This short list by no means covers every-

thing but it is a fair example of our many activities.

Stop by the Homes craft room any Saturday Morning and you will find a cluster of busy hands producing and finishing a variety of hand-crafted items. We are now getting ready for Harvest Home Day, September 16, 2000. You say "What—already?" Yes now is the time to prepare. Some items start in the wood shop under the direction of Bro. Edmonds and are painted/finished by the ladies, under the direction of Sisters Ethel Edmonds and Daisy Gue. On Saturday mornings, they are also making artificial flower arrangements.

During the week, several ladies are busy with needle craft, under the direction of Sister Elizabeth Bair in their rooms or in a group. They also meet on Saturday mornings, producing all kinds of beautiful and useful items for your home. The residents now have a corner in the Gift Shop and a flower cart just outside of the Gift Shop—you must stop by and see for yourself what they are producing. The Gift Shop is open daily. This is a must stop on your next trip to the Homes or to the Grand Lodge.

Last year the woodshop produced commemorative desk and pen sets. They were a great success, and we thank all the brothers who are now the proud owners of these beautiful mementos. (If you missed your chance to purchase a set, there are a few left—just let us know and we will be glad to get one to you.) Again, thank you. This year we are producing a Square and Compass

Desk Clock, pattern compliments of Bro. Warner. We are also producing a beautiful pen and pencil holder for your desk or that of a special friend.

The next big event on the calendar at Bonnie Blink is the Annual Family Picnic Day, June 10th. Again some of the ladies, under the direction of Sister Gue, are busy gathering books and collecting and sorting jewelry and an assortment of other Flea Market items. If you do the Flea Market thing—"Come see; you will save!" Last year was a great success, and with your help 2000 will top them all. There has been an extensive renovation program going on here at the Maryland Masonic Homes and you really must visit to see the results.

Knife & Fork Degree

Author unknown

I do not attend the meetings for
I've not the time to spare.
But every time they have a feast
You'll surely find me there.

I cannot help with the degrees for I
do not know the work.
But I can applaud the speaker and
handle the knife and fork.

I am so rusty in the ritual that it
seems like Greek to me.
But practice makes me perfect in
the knife and fork degree.

From the Masonic Poetry Preservation Project of Smithfield Lodge No. 455, Texas, www.star-telegram.com/np/smithfield455/Poems.html/.



Why Hasn't the Grand Master Visited Your Lodge?

Bennie G. Owens, D.G.M.

HE MUST BE INVITED! If he comes uninvited it will probably be because of a complaint or for disciplinary action. With well over 100 active lodges in the state, it would be impossible for him to visit each one. The Grand Master and/or The Grand Lodge Line will visit subordinate Lodges when invited.

Invitations will be accepted whenever possible. If you wish to invite the Grand Line or the Grand Master, please do so at least 60 days in advance or as early as possible. The sooner that dates are placed on the Grand Master's calendar the easier it is to complete and distribute schedules to the Grand Officers. If possible give alternate dates to allow for more efficient scheduling. It is impossible to avoid conflicts, so please include telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for personal communications. Sometimes it is possible for the Grand Master to be in one place and to be represented by another Grand Officer in some other place.

There are several reasons for inviting the Grand Master to your lodge or to social functions. Some of those reasons are:

- **FRATERNAL VISITS**—Just to be present and enjoy the fellowship with your lodge.
- **DEGREE CONFERRAL**—The Grand Line will confer the Third Degree

when invited. The Grand Line always confers in *tails*, so be specific in your invitation.

- **PRESENTATIONS**—50, 60, 70 year service awards or any other special award that you might wish the Grand Master to make.
- **LADIES NIGHTS**—Anniversary parties or any other special occasion. Ground breakings, cornerstone layings, community programs, parades, etc.
- **INSTALLATIONS**—Witness your installation or if asked, the Grand Line can and will install officers at open or closed installations.
- **OPEN FORUM DISCUSSIONS**—ANY subject can be requested, and meetings can be open or closed.

If you invite the Grand Line, remember that they must travel from various parts of the state. Many of them are still employed and need time to plan and to travel. If you invite the Grand Master and the Grand Line for dinner, it must be at the expense of your lodge. It is perfectly acceptable to invite only the Grand Master or particular individuals to a specific dinner, but so state in your correspondence. It is also perfectly acceptable to invite them and only provide light refreshments after the meeting. Here, again, bear in mind that long meetings that are not well planned or entertaining are very difficult for the Grand Officers. If you expect speeches from the Grand Master or the Grand Officers, please discuss this with them well in advance so that proper planning can be made.

I hope that this will help our officers as they plan their schedule and the Grand Officers look forward to visiting with you in your lodge or at your social functions.

Grand Lodge Legislation

The Grand Lodge of Maryland will consider one amendment at its Semi-Annual communication on May 15, 2000. The proposed amendment would combine the Board of Managers (Grand Lodge building and property) and Board of Trustees (Bonnie Blink) into one "Board of Directors." A copy of the full amendment has been distributed to all Maryland lodges.

Grand Master Larrimore has had the two boards meeting jointly this year as an experiment. This plan was announced at Grand Lodge, and its effectiveness will be discussed before the vote.

Grand Lodge Prayer Breakfast, June 16

On Friday, June 16, 2000, from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM, the Grand Lodge of Maryland will sponsor a Prayer Breakfast in the Grand Lodge Ballroom. This is an open event, and Master Masons are encouraged to bring family, friends, business acquaintances, and clergy. The speaker will be the Grand Chaplain, Dr. Leslie G. Metcalf, Sr. A free will offering will be taken to defray the cost of the breakfast. Reservations are required and can be made with the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600.



Masonic Charities Making a Difference for Kids

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III

Masonic Charities of Maryland sponsors significant programs in the public schools of the state. One is the Student Assistance Program. This endeavor trains teachers and school staffs in identifying behaviors which may indicate a potentiality for substance abuse. The goal of the program is intervention which provides counseling to students and their families. The Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP) provides teachers yearly updates in their training at an annual statewide conference held at Turf Valley Conference Center. Representatives from Masonic Charities, usually P.G.M. Haacke, and representatives from the Grand Lodge, usually the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, attend this statewide conference. At the conference, Maryland Freemasons are recognized and Masonic Charities' contribution is celebrated. Over 700 teachers, counselors, and administrators hear that the Masons of Maryland provided the original "seed" money for, and continue to contribute to the Maryland Student Assistance Program.

The other major endeavor of Masonic Charities of Maryland is the scholarship program. Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per year is earmarked by MCM for the 25 subdivisions in Maryland providing two \$1,000 scholarships for each

county and Baltimore City. Graduating seniors in the public high schools in Maryland compete for these scholarships which are to be used for post-high school education at either a college, a university, or a trade school. The awards are made under the following criteria:

1. Scholarship
2. Leadership (in school and community)
3. Need

These are merit-based awards given without regard to race, gender, color, creed, national origin, or Masonic affiliation.

Like most charitable endeavors, Masonic Charities needs continued contributions to grow the principal of its endowment. Direct contributions may be made to the Masonic Charities of Maryland, 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Another method of contribution is through the United Way. Thus, at work, via payroll deduction, you can contribute to this noble cause. Masonic Charities of Maryland is qualified under Federal Law as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. On the United Way enrollment form, check off "*Other Health & Human Service Agency or Other United Way*." Indicate the annual contribution and list Masonic Charities of Maryland, 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030. In this way, you can help support MCM and its work in a very direct way.

Freemasons in Maryland are builders, making a difference in our state and communities. MCM is one of our most effective endeavors.

Masonic Parrots

A new Entered Apprentice is walking through a shopping mall one day and sees an intriguing sign in a pet shop window: "Talking Masonic Parrots." Unable to restrain his curiosity, he enters and asks for the owner. He explains that he's just become a Mason and would like more information on the parrots.

The owner, a Mason himself, says, "We have several types of Masonic parrots. Come over to the cage and I'll tell you more about them. That one in the plain white apron is an Entered Apprentice parrot and knows every word of the catechism of the First Degree. He's only \$1,000—a real bargain—and will really help you learn your work."

The owner goes on to say, "Of course if you want to learn all of the work of all three degrees, you should consider buying that little fellow there with the embroidered apron bordered with the silk ribbon. He's a Past Master parrot and knows all three catechisms without a mistake. It would be a very wise investment for you. He's only \$3,000."

The visitor to the shop asks, "How much is the parrot with the purple collar around his neck?"

The owner replies, "Oh, he's a Deputy Grand Lecturer parrot and sells for \$25."

"Only \$25? I'd have thought he'd go for much more than that. Doesn't he know all the ritual?"

"Oh he does, but he only stands in the corner, shakes his head, and says, 'Oh no! Oh no! Oh no!'"



The Maryland Travelers Club

The Maryland Travelers Club, Inc. Is a group of people who enjoy camping and fellowship. They start off their fraternal year with a dinner in March when the previous Travel Master is thanked for his year and the gavel is passed to the new Travel Master. They have seven camp-outs each year beginning in April and ending in October. They try to select camp grounds no more than a two-hour's drive for every member. A new Travel Master, elected each year, plans the schedule and activities.

Normally the camp-out is from Friday through Sunday. However, many of the members arrive on Thursday to allow more time to visit. On Friday evenings some go out to eat in local restaurants. Later there is a large campfire. Saturday mornings some visit yard sales. Others go sightseeing, shopping, or exploring followed by lunch together and bingo at 1:00. Saturday

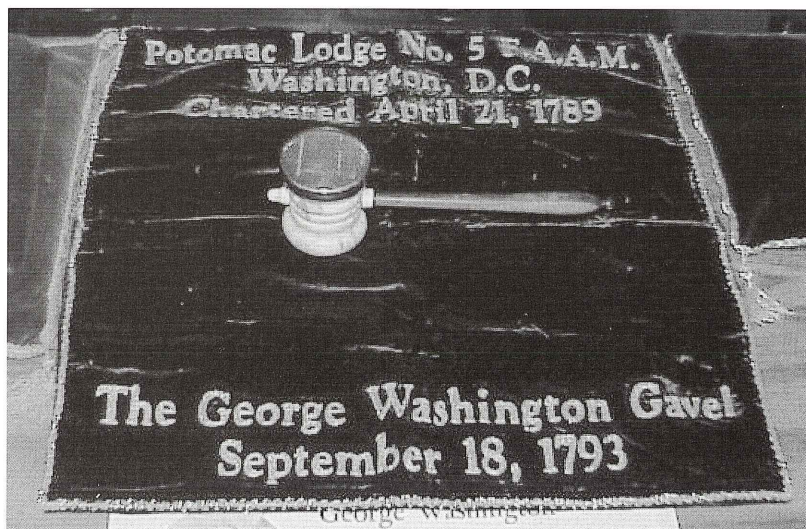
evening is the covered-dish dinner, sometimes followed by wine and cheese, and ending with another campfire. Sunday morning has church services followed by coffee and sweets. Each year there is a trip with home-made ice cream and the ladies sew and raffle off a beautiful quilt.

The Maryland Travelers cover a wide area from Hershey and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in the north, to Winchester, Virginia, in the west, to Dover, Delaware, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the east, to Laplata Maryland, on the Potomac River in the south. In the past, activities have included boat rides, a visit to a winery, a visit to an Air Force museum, a visit to Hershey Park, a horse-and-buggy ride, a visit to a farmers market, and a pig roast. While many enjoy the fellowship of organized activities, others enjoy sightseeing, shopping, or exploring on their own. There is something for everyone, and the fellowship, friendliness, and helpfulness of the group bring many happy memories.

Perhaps you would like to join the Travelers. Presently 15-20 families participate each month. Add camping fun and new friends to your schedule. Come join them! For more information, contact Santo Conigliaro, Master of Travel (410-343-0474) or Phil Short, Asst. Master of Travel (410-374-3911).

100 Years of the Cumberland Scottish Rite Bodies

Birthdays come around every year, but a 100th birthday is something a little more special. The members of the Cumberland Scottish Rite Bodies started their centennial celebration on January 17 with the installation of officers and will continue through their Ring Ceremony this fall. The highlight of the year-long festivities will be a gala 100th Anniversary Banquet to be held on September 23, 2000, at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club. Details will follow in a future issue. For more information, contact Paul Shircliff, 301-777-0498.



Washington Gavel at Washington Lodge No. 3

Pictured at left is the marble gavel used by George Washington to lay the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol in 1793. This was displayed as part of a special evening planned by R. Frederick Lunn, W.M. of Washington Lodge No. 3, which also featured the Bibles used by Washington at his initiation and inauguration as President. Bringing these rare artifacts together required coordination with lodges in D.C., Virginia, and New York.



Charity Lodge on the Move

Charity Lodge No. 134 will hold its annual Low Vale on Wednesday, June 14, 2000, at Yarema's Lake. The degree work this year will be conferred by the "Herbert Line"—all members of the same family! The oldest member of the clan will have the privilege of seeing his oldest son as the candidate and his youngest son participating in the degree. The evening will begin with pit beef served at 5:30 PM with the lodge opening at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be decidedly informal, with jeans, suspenders, and "tuxedo shirt" T-shirts for the officers. This annual event is very popular with visitors, and is something to be sure to catch.

W.M. Fred Laser summed up things nicely, "Should be a great evening, you all come on down!!!"

On August 18–20 Charity Lodge No. 134 will travel to the 29th Annual Eblen's Cave Degree to raise a Maryland brother to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. This yearly event is hosted by Union Lodge No. 38, Kingston, Tennessee, and features degree work from around the country—all held underground in Eblen's Cave.

A three-day bus trip that includes motel accommodations and a day trip for ladies to Pigeon Forge is included in the package of \$200 per person, double occupancy.

For information on these events contact Fred Laser, W.M., 410-329-2204. For more on Eblen's Cave see www.gmwp.org/lodges/o38.htm.

Laurel Wreath Daylight Meeting

On April 2, 2000, Laurel Wreath Lodge No. 149 met for a regular communication. There was nothing unusual about this meeting except—it was held on a Sunday afternoon, rather than the more usual Monday evening, and the meeting was held downstairs, rather than in the lodge room.

For years the Brothers of Laurel Wreath Lodge have expressed their concerns about the inability of some members to ascend the two flights of stairs separating the entrance door of the Masonic Temple from the lodge room. In fact, earlier this year the Brothers voted to establish a fund for the purpose of constructing an elevator or chair lift so that all members can attend lodge meetings. Also some members have problems driving after

dark when bright lights of oncoming cars make night-time driving difficult.

In an effort to provide an immediate, if temporary, alleviation to these obstacles to attendance, the Brothers of Laurel Wreath voted to move their regular meeting from 7:30 PM Monday April 3 to 2:15 PM Sunday April 2.

Thirty-three Brothers were in attendance that Sunday afternoon, including five fifty-year members. Bro. Robert Barton joined this select group when he was presented with his fifty-year pin by G.I. Edward L. Hudgins, Jr. Bro. William Mace was recognized for his regular attendance, despite his need to carry a portable breathing device.

After routine business and special presentations the lodge closed, and everyone enjoyed a spaghetti lunch. Another similar special meeting is planned this Fall.



Bro. Robert Barton after the presentation of his 50-year hat is shown with W.M. Neil Kwantinetz and G.I. Edward L. Hudgins, Jr.

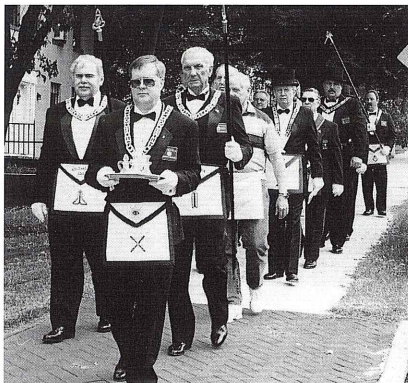


Cornerstone Reenactment by Laurel Wreath

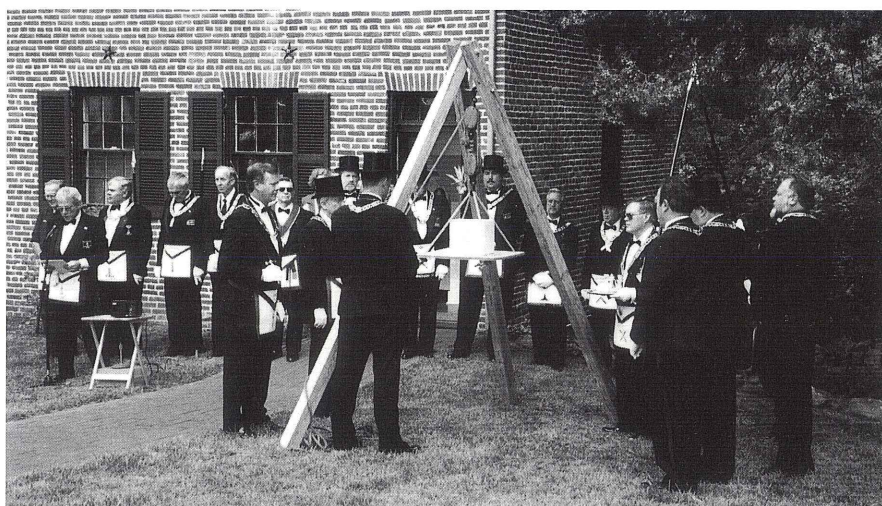
On Saturday, October 9, 1999, Laurel Wreath Lodge No. 149 reenacted the laying of the cornerstone of the Academy of Music. The cornerstone of the original building had been laid with masonic ceremonies conducted by Gen. George Nye, passing through Laurel at that time, and other Masons. The Academy burned down in 1917, but during its 38 years the building was the center of cultural activity for Laurel. Academy Ford of Laurel, named after the ill-fated structure, built on the site of the burned building.

The Laurel Board of Trade held its fourth "Riverfest" on October 9 & 10, and the Laurel Historical Society invited Laurel Wreath Lodge to reenact laying the cornerstone. The historical event was held at the Laurel Museum at Main and Ninth Streets with about 70 spectators watching the ceremonies.

Bro. Mark T. Beall, 1999 Master of



Members of Laurel Wreath Lodge march to the site of the cornerstone ceremony. Bro. Ed Sofianic, Marshall, leads the procession carrying the corn, wine, and oil.



The officers of Laurel Wreath Lodge assembled around the cornerstone before reenacting the 1879 ceremony. W.M. Mark Beall stands behind the stone at the corner of the Laurel Museum.

Laurel Wreath was contacted by the Historical Society and was asked to help them with the event. Bro. Beall immediately recognized the opportunity for positive publicity for the Craft and agreed.

Bro. Beall consulted the minute books of Laurel Wreath Lodge and confirmed their participation 120 years ago. He presided over the day's events which began with a short Masonic procession to the museum. Upon arrival the Masons found the symbolic cornerstone suspended from a tripod by a block and tackle.

Rather than use the cornerstone ceremony prescribed by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Bro. Beall and his officers read a transcript of the 1879 ceremony found in Gen. Nye's diary, now owned by the Laurel Museum. The ceremony was similar to but distinct from that used today.

Assisting W.M. Beall as principal officers that day were Robert Murphy, P.M. as Sr. Warden, Greg Sweitzer, P.M. as Jr. Warden, and Lee Phillips, III, P.M. as Master of

Ceremonies. This historic event represented months of preparation and was a great success for Freemasonry in Maryland.

Laurel Wreath Lodge donated the symbolic cornerstone to the Museum after the ceremony. They also loaned their minute books and working tools for an exhibit which provided further good publicity for Maryland Masonry.



The cornerstone is anointed with oil by Bro. Greg Sweitzer, P.M., Jr. Warden.



MCM Charity Golf Tournament

Masonic Charities of Maryland will sponsor its Eleventh Annual Charity Golf Classic in recognition of G.M. Francis E. Larrimore. The tournament will held on Monday, June 5 at Talbot Country Club, Easton. A lunch will precede the golf from 11:15-12:15 with a shotgun start at 12:30. There will be refreshments from 5:00-6:00, a buffet dinner at 6:00, and awards and prizes at 7:00. The entry fee is \$140 per golfer (\$60 of which is tax deductible) or \$550 per foursome. Dinner reservations from non-golfers will be accepted for \$65 per person. Golfer registrations and fees must be received before June 2, 2000. For more information, call 410-778-2999 or visit masonry.org/maryland/gl/mcm/.

Since its inception Masonic Charities has provided over \$1 million to support two major programs. The Student Assistance Program trains teachers to intervene with students and families who are experiencing difficulties with alcohol and other drugs. The Educational Grant Program provides \$1,000 scholarships in 48 high schools given in the name of Maryland Masons and Lodges.

The golf outings have raised over \$175,000. Please participate in this important (and fun!) activity by playing golf, attending the dinner, or making a contribution to MCM. Warren Lodge No. 151 and Ohr Lodge No. 131 have each provided a foursome for the last three years. Start your tradition this year!



Fifty-year pins were presented on March 7, 2000, to Bros. Henry Adams and Bill Mortimer, P.M. by Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 179, Hyattsville. Pictured above from left to right are P.G.M. Bernard E. Rothman, D.G.M. Bennie G. Owens, John Ramsen, Walter Predeger, Bill Mortimer, P.M., Henry Adams, Harry S. Shipp, P.M., and Stanley Eckard.



This is the award-winning float entered by Oakland Lodge No. 192 in the Oakland Autumn Glory Festival last October. W.M. Charles T. Tressler build the float with the help of his officers and their ladies. It commemorated the 200th anniversary of the death of President and Brother George Washington, and it had a representation of the three principal officers of the Lodges. The float received the Mayor's Award and 2nd Place in the amateur division. The parade lasted 2½ hours and was seen by an estimated crowd of 30,000. The float received an excellent reception from the crowd and is a fine example of how lodges can work in their communities.

Maryland Masonic Calendar



MAY 2000

- 11 Regional Meeting, G.L., 7:30 PM
- 13 Cornerstone, J. W. Bowers Lodge
- 15 Semi-annual Communication, G.L. of Maryland, 7:30 PM
- 20 Cornerstone, Mt. Nebo Lodge

JUNE 2000

- 5 Masonic Charities of Md, 11th Annual Golf Outing
- 10 Family Day Picnic & dedication of Gr. Council Monument, 11:00 AM G.L.

JULY 2000

- 4 G.L. Independence Day Celebration, G.L., 6:00 PM.
- 11 Sum. School, F.C., 7:30 PM, G.L.
- 13 Sum. School, M.M., 7:30 PM, Friendship No. 84

- 15 Shield and Square Club to confer degree in St. Louis.
- 16 Grand Lodge Prayer Breakfast. Reservations: 410-527-0600.
- 18 Sum. School, E.A., 7:30 PM
- 20 •Sum. School, E.A., 7:30 PM, Centennial No. 174
- Sum. School, M.M., 7:30 PM, Wicomico No. 91
- 22 G.M. Ball 6:30 PM. \$40.00 ea.
- 25 Sum. School, M.M., 7:30 PM
- 27 •Sum. School, F.C., 7:30 PM Centennial No. 174
- Sum. School, E.A., 7:30 PM Brunswick No. 191

AUGUST 2000

- 1 Sum. School, *Special*, 7:30 PM
- 3 •Sum. School, M.M., 7:30 PM Centennial No. 174

•Sum. School, #.A., 7:30 PM
Cambridge No. 66

- 8 Sum. School, F.C., 7:30 PM
- 10 Sum. School, *Special*, 7:30 PM Centennial No. 174
- 12 Crab Feast. *Details to follow.*
- 15 Sum. School, F.C., 7:30 PM
- 17 Sum. School, F.C., 7:30 PM Hagerstown No. 217
- 22 Sum. School, M.M., 7:30 PM
- 24 Sum. School, F.C., 7:30 PM, Temple No. 128
- 29 Sum. School, M.M., 7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 2000

- 16 Harvest Home Day
- 23 Cumberland S.R. Banquet

High Twelve Guild Luncheon,
Tuesdays, G.L., 12:00 NOON, \$10

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