

MASONIC TEMPLE
225 NORTH CHARLES ST.
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201



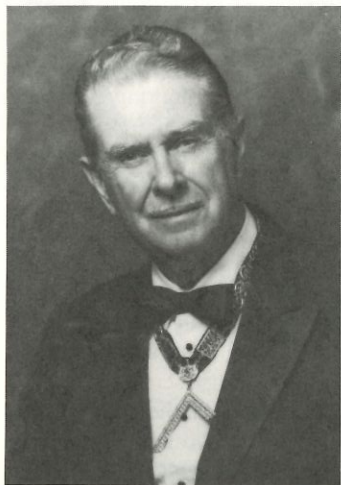
The FREESTATE FREEMASON

Volume 10, No. 3

Summer 1987



TO MY BRETHREN:



It has been the custom—from time immemorial—for men to gather together for a common purpose. This gave rise to the family—the tribe—the clan—the House of Worship—and the Lodge. We, as Masons, are assembled here in Grand Lodge for a common purpose and that purpose is to reaffirm our belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man; and to maintain the great and fundamental Truths

and Teachings of our Time Honored Fraternity.

We cannot, nor do we envision, adding to the luster of the noble name of Mason. We are told, "...this Fraternity has been formed and perfected in...unanimity and concord." In this we greatly rejoice and pray that it will long continue to embellish the lives of all mankind.

Like Rome, this Grand Lodge was not built in a day. The things we have and enjoy as Masons are the products of not a decade, not a generation, but two centuries of devotion to the Craft by others who have borne the burden and heat of many days. Their trust in us will not be violated. It is our determination to promulgate that which started two centuries ago—that the fruits of Masonry may be, and will be, cultivated and continued in our fair land.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Joseph C. Bryan III
Grand Master

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Bro. & Gov. William Donald Schaefer wrote to express his pride as a fellow Mason in support provided by the Masonic Charities of MD, Inc. for the Student Assistance Training Program in providing grants to 169 graduating students in all of the senior high schools.

IMPORTANT DATES

- July 7, 8, 9—August Scene, Salisbury.
8—Grand Line (G.L.) confers MM° at Prince Frederick #142.
19-20—GM, DGM and GS Conference, Warwick, RI.
Aug. 19—Alaskan Cruise.
Sep. 2—GL visits Seat Pleasant #218, District Heights. D.C. Night.
13—Welsh Masonic Choir (See details pg. 2.)
Bonnie Blink, 11 a.m.
15—GM attends Mt. Moriah #116, Towson. 200th Anniversary.
17—Sugar Loaf Mountain, MM Degree. Sponsor—Wheaton #228.
19—GM at G.L. of D.C.
26-27—GL visits Cumberland Area Lodges; Sunday Church Service.
Oct. 1—GM visits Wheaton #228. GM of D.C. speaks.
2—MM Night Bethel #16, Glen Burnie.
6—GM visits Collington #230, Bowie.
8—GM visits Door-to-Virtue #46.
13—GM visits Warren #51.
17—Harvest Home Day, Bonnie Blink.
19—GL confers MM° at Cambridge #66.
26—GM visits Lafayette #111.
Nov. 7—GM visits Warren #51. 125th Anniversary.
15—Grand Lodge Religious Services, Bonnie Blink.
16—Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

GRAND MASTER MEETS WITH LODGE PROGRAM LEADERS

Lodges have been advised of meetings this Summer with brothers appointed by Worshipful Masters to chair the Lodges' Solomon II, Blood Donor and Widows Programs. Meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the following places and dates:

Baltimore,	July 7	Centennial #174,	July 23
Hagerstown,	July 9	Denton,	Aug. 20
Salisbury,	July 16	Baltimore,	Aug. 18

Emphasis on these programs is linked in part to membership trends which tend to decline each year. In a five year period losses have been twice our gains. The average age of our membership is 61.

HARVEST HOME DAY Saturday, October 17

Plans are underway for another outstanding event at Bonnie Blink with an opportunity to note the many new features and improvements at the Homes.

• Officers of Dr. John Coats Memorial Lodge No. 1787 will be manning a booth at which commemorative coins and other Masonic gift items will be available for sale. CHARTER MEMBER PETITIONS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE BOOTH. There will be a gift for everyone signing a charter petition.

THE FREESTATE FREEMASON

Issued By

The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland, U.S.A. through its Committee on Public Relations, Seymour H. Lipshitz, Chairman B. Hope Harrison, William C. Herchenrother, and Harold G. Taylor.

It serves as a medium of keeping the Craft informed of pertinent activities of Grand Lodge and subordinate Lodges. It also serves as a vehicle for encouraging and guiding subordinate Lodges to share with the press, community, family and friends those events, activities and personalities which exemplify the purposes and objectives of Masonry.

News items, suggestions, questions are welcome. Mail to:
Editor, THE FREESTATE FREEMASON

522 Nelson Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Do You Have Us On Your Bulletin Mailing List?

HIGHLIGHTS — GRAND LODGE SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION May 20, 1987

Preceding the communication, traditional Religious Services were conducted on Sunday, May 19, 3 p.m. at Bonnie Blink. W. Bro. Thomas E. Weir, W. Grand Chaplain conducted the service; music by the Grand Organist, Bro. Frederick H. Folger, Jr.

AMENDMENTS TO GRAND LODGE CONSTITUTION

- The following amendments were defeated:
 - Article XVI, Sec. 7—Purpose: To provide for concurrent jurisdiction between the District of Columbia and Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, Maryland.
 - Article V, Sec. 4—Purpose: To remove requirement that the Grand Secretary publish names of all members in proceedings every five years. Reason: To save printing costs.
- Passed was an amendment to the By-Laws of the John Coats Memorial Lodge—Purpose: To extend time limit within which charter membership applications may be received.
- Proposed were the following Amendments (Details to be forwarded to Lodges for consideration and balloting at the November Grand Lodge Annual Communication):
 - Article X, Sec. 1—Purpose: To raise semi-annual assessments from \$3.00 to \$6.00.
 - Article X, Sec. 2—Purpose: To provide for reallocation of certain revenue received by the Grand Lodge for the Dr. John Coats Memorial Fund (which is an endowment fund to the operating fund).

IN MEMORIAM

Since November, 1986, 406 Masons passed away. Lost also in April 1987, was Evelyn Poyner, wife of PGM Ernest R. Poyner.

APPOINTMENTS

Grand Representatives—

Joseph C. Bryan IV, #88—Prince Edward Island
Thomas E. Weir, #149—Oklahoma

GRAND MASTER'S EDICT

"It being the sole responsibility and prerogative of the Grand Master, pursuant to Article V, Sec. 1. E., to appoint Grand Representatives to the various Grand Jurisdictions, members of the Craft are hereby prohibited from representing either the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge of Maryland in other jurisdictions without the express prior approval of the Grand Master."

RECOGNITION

Bro. John F. Monath, Jr. received a certificate of appreciation from the Masonic Service Association for his services in their Hospital Visitation Program.

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP— BOARD OF MANAGERS/ BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It was noted that Master Masons desiring to be considered for nomination to these boards should submit resumés without delay. Particulars are provided in the Grand Lodge Constitution.

* * * * *

WELSH MASONIC CHOIR COMING TO BALTIMORE

For centuries, Wales has been known as the "Land of Song". Now, for the first time, the highly acclaimed fifty member Masonic Choir of North Wales will present a limited number of concerts in the United States.

On Sunday, Sep. 13, at 11 a.m., all are invited to hear the choir sing several hymns in the Memorial Garden at Bonnie Blink. At 7:30 p.m. they will participate in the 173rd Defenders' Day ceremony at Fort McHenry and sing The Star Spangled Banner.

Concerts will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sep. 12th and 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sep. 13th at Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles Street, Baltimore. At the Sunday concert, both Grand Master Bryan and Potentate Robert F. Wilson of Boumi Temple, plan to attend and present the choir with a Masonic remembrance item. This special event during the year of our observance of the Bicentennial of Masonry in Maryland, is in furtherance of the Solomon II Program and provides a good opportunity for fellowship among the Craft, their families and friends.

Tickets for the concerts at the Grace United Methodist Church are \$10 each. Please make checks payable to the "Masonic Choir of North Wales" and send your order specifying which concert you wish to attend with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Office of the Grand Secretary, Masonic Temple, 225 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201.

Further notice of these events will be forwarded to all Lodges.

EIGHTH ANNUAL AUGUST SCENE

Will be held at Cambridge, MD, Aug. 7, 8, 9. Informal weekend. Master Masons, families and guests invited. Programs for brothers and ladies. Theme: "Masonry on the Move." Sponsored by Grand Bodies of York Rite of Freemasonry in Maryland. See Recorder of your Chapter/Council/Commandery for details.

LODGE OF LOW VALE

Listen to this deal. . . a 14 oz. barbecued Delmonico steak, baked potato, fresh garden salad, ranch rolls, corn on the cob (if available), peach half, hot coffee or soda served with fraternal fellowship climaxed by a MM Degree conferred outdoors by the light of candles and lanterns. All this for \$8.50 at the "Lodge of Low Vale" on Friday, Sep. 11 sponsored again by Hagerstown Lodge No. 217. Only 500 meals will be available. Reservations are required before Aug. 15 through Bro. Jesse H. Wyant (301) 733-9037. Walk-ins may be accommodated if any tickets are left.

Festivities will be held at the Elks Picnic grounds located about 1½ miles North of the intersection of US 40 and MD Route 63. Enjoy!

MARYLAND MASONIC RESEARCH SOCIETY

Meetings are scheduled for Sep. 1 at Amos #226 and on Oct. 30 at Howard #101. All Master Masons are invited to submit original papers on any aspect of Masonry, past or present: The Cyril H. York Memorial Award is presented annually for the best article. Interested in joining? Contact Paul C. Falk, Secretary, 1732 Winans Ave., Baltimore, MD 21227.

A MOST DISTINGUISHED MASONIC GATHERING

As a unique sidelight of the Bicentennial Year, on the morning of Sep. 19, the Grand Masters of the 13 original colonies will gather for ceremonies at the Archives Building in Washington, D.C. Tickets for this event are limited and controlled by the G.M. of D.C. A brunch will follow in the afternoon at the Washington Navy Yard Officers' Club which may be attended by interested brothers. Cost of the brunch is not known at this time.

FREE CONCERT

Bro. Jerome R. Hensby, W.M. of Mt. Moriah #116, and Dr. John Coats Memorial Lodge No. 1787 tells us that on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 3 p.m., a free concert will be held at the Lochraven Senior High School in the 1,200 seat auditorium in honor of the 200th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of MD. Located at Cromwell Bridge Rd., 695 Beltway exit 29. Dr. William Sebastian Hart, Founder and Musical Director will conduct the Gettysburg Symphony Orchestra.

A subscription dinner sponsored by 50 Holding Company, Inc. will be served after the concert. For details, contact Bro. William E. Champness, 507 W. Chesapeake Ave., Towson, MD 21204 or call 301-668-1010 (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)



**MISS TIFFANI
STAR CROPP**

Miss Cropp was installed Grand Worthy Advisor for the State of Maryland, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, at the recent annual state convention in Cockeysville. She is a member of Cumberland Assembly No. 6 serving as Worthy Advisor and other positions at the local and state levels. Miss Cropp is a former Chapter sweetheart for the Cumberland Chapter, Order Of DeMolay. The pride of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence E. Cropp, she was a member of the National Honor Society and distinguished herself at school and church. She is a freshman at the University of Maryland in the Radio/TV Communications program. Many thanks to Bro. William Courtney, Secretary of East Gate #216 for this item and the following photo.

HONORS

- PGM Ernest L. Poyner, #13, was designated by GM Bryan as representative to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.
- PGM C. David Haacke was presented the Philip T. Tucker Medal for outstanding Masonic service from the Grand Lodge of Vermont.
- At annual session of York Rite bodies, Bro. Bennie G. Owens, #89 was installed at R.E.G.C., G.C., G.C. of K.T. of the State of Maryland; Bro. Thomas C. Morris, Jr., #198, as M.I.G.M., G.C. R&SM of MD; and Bro. James M. Gardner as M.E.G.H.P., G.C., R.A.M. of MD.
- Bro. Seymour H. Lipshitz, #224, installed as President, Walter Reed Chapter No. 303, National Sojourners.

JOHN H. HESSEY IV: After a brief illness, Bro. John H. Hessey IV passed away on June 12 and was laid to rest on June 15. Bro. Hessey was serving as a member of the Grand Lodge Board of Managers and as Counsel for the Board of Trustees. He was a Past Master of Doric Lodge No. 124 in Baltimore and a member of the Scottish Rite, Bourni Temple and Royal Order of Jesters.

He earned degrees in Electrical Engineering, Law and Taxation. He taught at the Baltimore Law School for 18 years. He was an active member of many professional, community, religious, charitable and athletic societies and groups.

Bro. Hessey saw active duty during WWII and retired from the Naval Reserve in the rank of Captain.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, five children and 12 grandchildren. His father, John H. Hessey served as Grand Master of Maryland in 1938 and 1939. His brother, Mahlon W. Hessey is a Past Master, and son, Hurst is Junior Warden of Doric No. 124.

WE'VE BEEN NOTICED!

Recent issues of Masonic Service Association publication "Emessay Notes" have included favorable comment on Maryland Masonry regarding audio-visual slides being used in Solomon II program; award of third prize in float competition at Cherry Blossom Parade shared between Grand Lodges of Maryland, D.C. and Virginia; and special section included in the trestleboard of Cornerstone #224 devoted to activities of members living in Florida. The M.S.A. publication is distributed to Grand Jurisdictions and others.

MEDIA NOTES

The Eastern Shore newspaper "Star-Democrat" in its announcement of St. Michaels High School awards included Miss Carrie Hill as recipient of the "Masonic Grand Lodge Scholarship". It also mentioned Mr. Jay Andrew as a recipient of the Guy M. Rieser Scholar/Athlete Award.

FAMOUS ODDITIES

Did you know that the brother shown on the right in the photo below has a birthday on the same day each year? He is none other than John (Jack) T. Middleton of Wicomico #91. Oh yes... the other brother is his father, PGM J. Thomas Middleton, #165.



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INDEPENDENT LIVING AT BONNIE BLINK

In the rolling country north of Baltimore on a 200 acre estate is located the Maryland Masonic Homes (Bonnie Blink). A complete renovation of the original gothic structure dedicated in 1932 will be completed in the early Fall of this year. Within the remodeled area are 46 modern independent living apartments with full kitchen units. Also, there are expanded administration and recreational facilities including wood, metal and ceramic shops; handicraft, exercise and game rooms; barber shop, beauty shop, post office, library, meeting rooms, putting green, gardens and hiking paths.

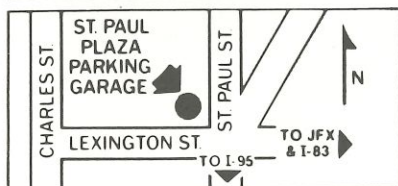
Every apartment has its own private assigned parking space a short walk from the main entrance. Scheduled transportation is available to nearby shopping centers and special events. Main meals are served in an attractive dining room and cafeteria service is also available. There is weekly maid service and laundry service for linens and towels. The acclaimed MMH Comprehensive Health Care Center is adjacent to the residential building for easy access for resident optional health care and medical programs. Plus many more features.

Apartment entrance fees range from a modest \$35,000 to \$62,000. The current monthly maintenance fee is \$800 based on single occupancy and \$1,200 for double occupancy. Applications are being accepted now and processed in order of receipt. For those interested, we strongly recommend you visit Bonnie Blink and see the two model furnished apartments now open. Call 1-666-2222 for an appointment so that a personal tour can be scheduled for your convenience. For descriptive information write the Office of the Grand Secretary, Masonic Temple, 225 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201. You will receive literature, a Question and Answer Sheet and price list. There is also a short seven minute film presentation available for group showings. Contact your Grand Inspector to schedule a showing.

The all new independent apartments provide freedom from home upkeep, gracious living in a Masonic retirement community with freedom to enjoy a lifestyle of your own choosing.

JAMES BUCKLER WENT FOR THE GOLD

South Baltimore General Hospital presented flowers and a cake to Bro. Buckler, Composite #212 for donating 50 life-saving pints of blood during past 11 years. As Bro. Buckler puts it — "So many of the old men at the Lodge can't give blood, so I figure I should make up for them". Bro. Buckler is 61.



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ALASKAN CRUISE

The Alaskan Cruise announced in our last issue is now fully subscribed. Watch for an announcement of another Grand Lodge sponsored trip.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- A DeMolay Chapter is well on its way to becoming a reality at Boumi Temple under the guidance of Bro. Arthur Wilson, III. Potentate.
- GM Bryan is delighted with the assistance and participation of the Job's Daughters, Rainbows and DeMolays at celebrations of our 200th Anniversary. This was demonstrated in the photo below of youth in attendance at Rededication Ceremonies at Grand Lodge Temple. In the foreground is Jeanette Lynn Fauntleroy who was Honored Queen of Bethel #16, I.O.J.D. at the time.



THE LAMBSKIN APRON

Bro. Abraham M. Baker of Aberdeen #187 passes along a touching bit of verse he wrote which was distributed to members on the first Lambskin Night. Its message enjoins the brothers to enjoy the apron while living and to acquaint the families and themselves where the apron was kept. He writes: "Know where your treasures are! Your personal lambskin apron, your badge of honor. Wear that apron proudly through the years and not only while traveling through this veil of tears. Come to the meetings and wear lambskin apron with pride. Don't put your lambskin apron away to be forgotten. You possess this treasure to enjoy while you live and not only for when you die."

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JOHN COATS: THE MAN

by

Our Late Bro. Ebe H. Pope, P.M., Coats Lodge No. 102, Easton, Maryland
(Revised by Thomas E. Weir, Ph.D., Laurel Wreath Lodge No. 149)

(The story of Dr. John P. Coats contains more secrets than the third degree. Ebe Pope spent three years of concentrated labor looking principally in Maryland and Pennsylvania, for evidence with which to paint a portrait of John Coats, the man. His efforts are reflected here and indicate how sparse the surviving information is. The difference between the philosophies of John Coats and the third degree is that the latter was conceived for the benefit of posterity, a drama destined to become a tradition, while the former lived a life for the benefit of the people around him. His efforts were spent in service, not in record keeping.)

Brother John Coats was born in Philadelphia, July 11, 1751, when Brother Benjamin Franklin was at the pinnacle of his fame as a scientist. Philadelphia was then the center of English speaking North America. His parents were well-to-do merchants, and he received an excellent education, something quite rare in his day, capped by graduation from the Shippen School of Medicine. On June 22, 1779, he married Susannah Murray, daughter of an established Maryland family.

A contemporary described him as short and heavy set, "portly in habit," sedate and deliberate. He usually walked with his head down and his hands clasped behind his back.

During the American Revolution, he served in the force led by Colonel Benedict Arnold across the northwest frontier to attack Quebec, the key to Canada. He apparently served this ill-fated expedition as a doctor, perhaps civilian rather than military. In any event, he left the army service without known recorded formalities. Shortly thereafter, on September 30, 1776, he joined the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment as Captain of a line company, rather than as a doctor. On April 20, 1777, he was wounded near Piscataway, New Jersey and left the Army on September 7, 1777. In testimony of his honorable service, he was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, an order of officers of the Continental Army, perpetuated today by their descendants.

Our First Grand Master lived twice in Maryland, first in the early 1770's, ending when he returned to Philadelphia. In early 1780, he moved permanently to Maryland again, and resided on the Eastern Shore for the balance of his life. He chose the town of Talbot Court House for his home, and was one of those who met March 12, 1782 to change the name of the town to Easton.

At that meeting, he was appointed "Director of Chimney Sweeps of Easton." He also became the town's weigher of tobacco and corder of wood. In contemporary London, super-

vision of chimney sweeps was a duty of the beadle of the parish church and would not have been the source of much legitimate income in the old country. It is unlikely that it would have been much more than an honor in Easton. On the other hand, certification of tobacco weights and cordwood volumes usually involved the payment of fees and would, undoubtedly, have been welcomed as supplementary income by a fledgling doctor in a country town. In 1793, he became a member of the local board of health.

When he moved to Easton in 1780, he leased property on Bay Street, near the courthouse. In 1800, he was able to purchase a lot at the corner of Brewers Lane and Tanners Lane.

With a number of prominent citizens, most of them Masons, John Coats organized the Easton Academy and served as its first president.

In 1772, at the age of 21, Coats was made a Master Mason in Lodge No. 3 in Philadelphia. The next year, on September 16, 1773, he was warranted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to establish a lodge at Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, Maryland. He founded the Lodge, which was chartered as No. 17 of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and served as its first Master. In August 1774, the lodge moved to Chester Mill, between Queenstown and Centerville and now vanished. The following year, Coats returned to Philadelphia.

His advancement in the respect and confidence of the Masons of Pennsylvania was rapid. By December 1778, when General and Brother George Washington celebrated St. John's Day in Philadelphia, John Coats was Grand Secretary Pro tem and, as such, signed the account of Brother Washington's visit.

In December 1779, Brother Coats was appointed Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He was 28 years old. Within two months, he had moved to Maryland and, on February 10, 1780, resigned as Deputy Grand Master, giving as his reason, moving outside the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. Two months later, with the Revolutionary War still raging, he was warranted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to form a lodge at Cambridge. This he did, the lodge being chartered as number 29 of Pennsylvania. Again, on June 24, 1780, only four months after he left office as Deputy Grand Master, he was warranted to hold another lodge, at Talbot Court House. The Lodge was chartered July 2, 1781 as number 34 of Pennsylvania.

(Continued on page 10)

PLAY IT AGAIN SAM

The name isn't Sam but this brother has played quite a few things again and again. The prodigy seated at the organ in the photo below is Bro. Karl V. Petz who's been an organist for 58 years. The photo was taken when John M. Smith, Jr. was installed as W.M. of Adherence #88.



ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR THE DEAN

PGM Charles H. Cover, Dean of the corps of PGMs and Bro. Carl G. Kintop were recently presented 50 year service emblems by GM Bryan assisted by W.M. Irvin R. Hopkins and GI Russell C. Thompson. Present also were PGMs Fogle and Rothman shown in the following photo with GM Bryan and PGM Cover. A picture of PGM Cover painted during his term hangs on the wall above in the G.M.s. apartment.



AMITY AND HARMONY

Four Grand Masters who smile a lot—from l. to r., G.M. Frank A. Battaglia of Delaware; G.M. Joseph C. Bryan of Maryland; G.M. L. Robert Baker of D.C.; and G.M. Robert C. Singer of N.Y. The photo was taken recently at Osiris #26, D.C. where fellowship, humor, and Masonic wisdom prevailed and the stuff that Grand Masters are made was demonstrated. Presiding at this stellar event was W.M. Dan Frederick.



WHERE WERE YOU ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 30?

We can vouch for the brothers in the following photo who were participants at the Eighth Annual Brotherhood Night at Nur Temple, Newcastle, Delaware. Mark March 29, 1988 on your calendar when the Ninth annual event will take place. Shown in the photo are (l. to r.) Bros. John Mattern #107, Cliff Thrift #179, Wilbur Penley #44, Gary Ashby #48, Jesse James #186, Lou Dodson #116 and William Smith #184.



DOOR-TO-VIRTUE OPENS ON OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Officers of Door-to-Virtue #46 celebrated the Grand Lodge's 200th anniversary by appearing in costumes of the Revolutionary War era. Each officer represented a famous Mason of the period.

Picture below (l to r) are Byron Taylor as John Paul Jones; Bruce Tanner as Robert Morris; Daniel Benton as Paul Revere; center is W.M. John Hopkins as John Marshall; Don Hooper as Benjamin Franklin; Larry Behrendt as Alexander Hamilton; and Charles Spadone as James Hoban.

An added dimension was given to the program by PM and RWPGT Carl Wisner who gave a short history of the Grand Lodge with each officer giving a Masonic history of the person that he represented.



CORNERSTONE CAPERS:

Working from a detailed calendar of events prepared when he was a Warden, W.M. Louis M. Numkin, Cornerstone #224 has featured programs which have won the plaudits of members near and far. The Lodge bulletin has been expanded into a newsletter which carries a section featuring the activities of members living in Florida. A dinner for non-Masons at which PGM Elmer F. Stein of D.C. spoke gained two petitions. A successful square dance was organized bringing together member, their families and guests of Montgomery County Lodges. A Health Night was held and area Masons and families were invited to share in a dinner of nutritious foods followed by talks and consultations with medical doctors, safety and security personnel. A trip to a West Virginia resort provided an opportunity for creating a family atmosphere in relaxed surroundings. A visit by GM Bryan and the Grand Line at the Anniversary (strawberry) night where several brothers were honored, drew many members and their ladies. A Youth Night featured performances by members of Masonically sponsored youth organizations. Guests included the two contenders for the \$500 Educational Grant accompanied by their parents shown in the photo below. From l. to r. are the parents of Jared Gordon, Jared, W.M. Numkin, Melinda Gish and her parents. Masonry is alive and well at Cornerstone Lodge!



HIGHLIGHTS OF 200th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

A photo taken at the Cherry Blossom Parade displays the Masonic Float and some of the Masonic participants including GM Baker of D.C. and GM Bryan; and brothers from MD, VA & D.C. in colonial costumes. Maryland dandies were represented by DGM Hope Harrison, PGMs Rothman and Hopkins, and Bro. Bennie Owen.



W.M. Robert H. Wright, Sr of Temple #128 recognized outstanding entertainer Larry Ferrari at the Scottish Right Temple in Balto. as the man who played the Wurlitzer and arranged the birthday party of his father, Dr. Everett Wright 32 years ago in Greensboro, MD.



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JOHN COATS: THE MAN

(Continued from page 7)

The process of forming a Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland began when delegates of five lodges, Chestertown No. 7, Chester Mill No. 17, Cambridge No. 29, Talbot Court House No. 34, Princess Anne No. 37 (three of them founded by Coats) met at Talbot Court House on June 17, 1783. The principal function of this meeting was to seek permission from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Pennsylvania, a Provincial Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge (Antients) of England. The question was much more complex than that of simple permission. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania worked under a charter issued by an English Grand Lodge. Although the Battle of Yorktown had insured American independence nearly two years earlier, the Treaty of Paris would not be signed until September 3, 1783. The Brethren of Pennsylvania must have wondered if they were morally privileged to grant permission for Maryland to establish a Grand Lodge.

The delegates met again on July 31, 1783 as appointed, with the same lodges represented, plus Georgetown (Kent County) No. 6 and minus Princess Anne No. 37. John Coats was elected Grand Master at age 32. However, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania procrastinated, and the Brethren of Maryland unanimously decided that as a matter of right they should form a Grand Lodge for their state. The meeting adjourned without providing a Grand Lodge for the newly elected Grand Master.

Coats himself wrote a letter to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He argued that the warrant from the Grand Lodge (Antients) of England under which the (Provincial) Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania then worked was limited in jurisdiction to the state of Pennsylvania, and that, therefore, the Maryland lodges were under no legal obligation to their Mother Grand Lodge. He also pointed out that distance made it quite difficult for Maryland lodges to participate in Pennsylvania activities. It is interesting to note that he mentions the need for "another Grand Lodge . . . before we could proceed to the election of a Grand Master for these free United States." This letter was read at the Grand Lodge communication of September 29, 1783 and is still a part of the minutes of that meeting. Three brethren were designated to reply.

The reply arrived in time for the meeting of delegates of Maryland Lodges on December 18, 1783. By this time, the Treaty of Paris had been signed and the United States of America had taken a legitimate and equal place in the community of nations. The Pennsylvania Brethren stated that authority for establishing a Grand Lodge was uncertain and that dues owed by Maryland Lodges to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania should be paid before the Marylanders proceeded further. The Maryland Masons wholeheartedly agreed. Resolutions were unanimously passed to pay the Pennsylvania dues and to form a Grand Lodge of inherent right if no warrant could be issued for the purpose by Pennsylvania. The inherent right to form a Masonic lodge may seem strange to American ears. The Grand Lodge of Maryland today recognizes within its jurisdiction only those lodges which it has chartered. In contrast, Europe with its longer tradition of operative masonry, is more flexible. The Grand Lodge of Scotland, for example, is composed of lodges chartered by itself or by Mother Kilwinning, lodges that have existed from time immemorial and lodges that were formed by inherent right. All now work under charters from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

They adjourned to meet again on July 17, 1784, but there is no record of a meeting before 1787. In 1786, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania closed as a Provincial Grand Lodge of the English Antients.

On April 17, 1787, delegates from Georgetown Lodge No. 6, Chestertown No. 7, Cambridge No. 29, Talbot Court House No. 34, Princess Anne No. 37 met to form a Grand Lodge. Lodges No. 5 and 18 had observers in attendance. This time, the Brethren were successful. Their intent was firm and their right was clear.

The delegates began by forming a lodge. John Coats was elected Master. He appointed Edward Warrell, Sr., Senior Warden, Edward Warrell, Jr., Jr. Warden, and Nicholas Hammond, Secretary. The lodge was opened in ancient form and harmony. Within the tiled lodge, the Brethren constituted the Grand Lodge of Maryland, unanimously electing Brother John Coats Right Worshipful Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland opened its first stated communication on September 3, 1787 in Easton, with John Coats in the Grand East and twenty-one Brethren present. Coats served as Grand Master from 1787 to 1791 and again in 1793. The following year, the site of semi-annual (April and September) Grand Lodge communications was moved from Easton to Baltimore.

In 1793, Coats refused reelection as Grand Master because his health was poor. By 1795, he described himself as quite ill. His wife and son predeceased him and his beloved Talbot Court House Lodge No. 6 was dark by 1806. Coats himself died in the winter of 1810. *The Republic Star* of December 4, 1810 contained this editorial.

"It would exceed our present limits to say more than he possessed a highly cultivated mind which endeared him to all that knew him, and a heart too noble to be poor, while his generous hand never let distress pass unnoticed. In short, he died without an enemy. He will be buried this day."

Brother John Coats was buried in the Potter's Field he had, in more prosperous days, purchased for the town of Easton. In 1828, his Brethren, led by Coats Lodge No. 76, reburied him with Masonic Ceremonies. A marble monument was placed over his grave, a fitting tribute by our operative Brethren.

In a deeper sense, we should as speculative Masons, remember that the symbolic monument to Dr. John Coats, the man and the Mason, is more than marble, more than Grand Lodge itself, but the good two hundred years of Masonry have done for individuals seeking to improve themselves morally and the enrichment of the general population by the practice of truth, friendship, charity and brotherly love.

WHEATON GAVELS WARDENS

There were more Wardens in Wheaton #228 recently than you shake a stick at. Following a long-standing Lodge tradition, W.M. Alexander A. Boczar hosted Wardens from Maryland and D.C. Lodges in the area. A key figure present was P.M. Harold F. Stoll who fabricated the gavels presented to all Wardens present. PM Stoll is shown in the following photo presenting a special gavel to G.M. Bryan who delivered a talk on "The Power of the Gavel" to an appreciative audience. G.M. of D.C. L. Robert Baker spoke on the liberal exposure Masonry had received at the Cherry Blossom Parade where a Masonic float sponsored by the G.L.s of MD, DC and VA was awarded third place and presented a silver bowl to be rotated among the three Grand Jurisdictions. Some 500,000 watched the parade and considerably more on TV beamed to N.Y., L.A., Miami and other Channel 5 receivers.



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