

Bicentennial Of Founding Of Masonry In America

Two hundred years ago Freemasonry was formally and permanently settled in Pennsylvania, and now all over the state are heralded expressions in commemoration of the event. All the various phases of progressive business life have their periodic checking up, and it is highly proper and commendable that the same system prevail in social life.

And this may be done intelligently and understandingly it is well to take a casual glance at the conditions and standing of the Fraternity prior to and at the time of its institution here.

In all periods and ages of man's existence he appears to have had an uncontrollable desire or ambition to build—seen in the Pyramids of Egypt,

the ruins of Pompeii and the great mass of ancient architectural productions.

Thornburgh says "In all ages of the world, and especially since the building of King Solomon's temple, there have been skilled artisans distinguished from the ordinary workmen. Among the most noted of them were the workers in stone, called masons. The word Mason come from the Latin "maconatus," meaning a builder.

Skilled operative masons plied their trade in England, France and Italy during the Middle Ages and were famed for the character of their work. They were not only builders, but were architects as well. They stamped their individuality on every building. They

had so far advanced as skilled Masons as to be a privileged class, free to travel wherever they pleased, and to plan and erect buildings exempt from taxes and limitations imposed on the less skilled workers.

Being free as to territory and taxes and free as to the character of their work they were called Free Masons.

In those days they traveled much from place to place in the world of the Craft. Writing was not much practiced and certificates of character not known. So that to have confidence in each other and to prove to the Craft that he had been regularly taught the trade, had served the requisite apprenticeship, a system of signs and passwords were adopted.

They naturally formed the custom of meeting in lodges where ritualistic methods were adopted. Operative Masonry was a religion and a trade.

In the year 926 of the Christian era the Operative Masons were granted a charter for a regular organization empowering them to meet annually at York, where the first Grand Lodge was organized at which Edwin, the brother of King Athelstan, presided as Grand Master.

Here the germ of Speculative or Symbolic Masonry was planted.

It has been described as "a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." Its underlying principles being the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

This is the manner of its institution: Early in the eighteenth century the Operative Masons began to admit into their lodges gentlemen who were distinguished in the professions and who the Operatives desired to honor. They were Accepted Masons. This accounts for the words Free and Accepted. Free meant Free Operative Masons, and Accepted meant not an Operative, but one honored as having been accepted among the Operatives as a distinction.

The custom of accepting selected gentlemen and admitting them to membership in the Operative Lodges became quite common. These Accepted Masons were admitted to the degrees of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft, but not of Master.

In the year of 1710 the Rev. James Anderson, D. D., a Scotch Presbyterian minister, who was an Accepted Mason, was made Chaplain of an Operative Lodge in London. By this time many other men who were not Operatives were admitted into the Lodges. Among these Accepted Masons a spirit of dissatisfaction grew up because they realized that they were not admitted to all the degrees and they chafed under this discrimination. They also concluded that Operative Masonry was too narrow in its teachings for men who were not actual Operatives, and they conceived the idea and undertook the work of broadening the teachings and elevating the morals of the fraternity.

Their numbers grew until they were able, in 1717, to influence the majority of the members of four lodges to unite in the organization of a Grand Lodge and to adopt a new system which would abrogate the Operative requirements.

This movement, under the lead of Dr. Anderson, resulted in the organization of Speculative Freemasonry, or rather the transformation of the Operative into the Symbolic.

Speculative or Symbolic Freemasonry was fully launched by the organization of this Grand Lodge. Dr. Anderson was elected the first Grand Secretary. To him was entrusted the work of modifying the ceremonies and regulations.

He took the Operative Ritual and made such changes in it as would make it suitable for those who were Accepted and not Operative Masons. He gave the Operative tools and implements symbolic meaning, by which beautiful moral lessons are taught. The fact that in Operative Lodges only able-bodied men who were capable of doing Operative work were admitted, accounts for the physical perfection required in the Speculative Masonry.

In the Operative system the idea was for the Master to observe the sun at its rising and therefore was in the West. The Junior Warden should face the sun at high meridian and was therefore placed in the north. The Senior Warden, to face the setting sun was placed in the East.

Dr. Anderson changed this to the system as now worked.

In the Operative Ritual the lodge was not opened in the first and then in the second and third degrees, but was opened in the seventh degree which is the Master's degree. * * * As he (Dr. Anderson) and the others who joined with him from the Operatives had only received the first and second degrees, they had to begin at the bottom and work up the new system, and as they had not received the Master's degrees, they had no form of the opening or ceremonies of that degree. Dr. Anderson, not knowing the ceremony of the Operative

Master's degree, invented the legend of the Speculative third degree, in which he portrays the loss of the secrets of a Master Mason by the death of Hiram Abif.

The legend of the third degree was doubtless taken by Dr. Anderson from the Ancient Egyptian Mysteries.

Egypt, once the land of science and philosophy, and now the keeper of stately tombs and historical monuments, was the birthplace of many of the mysteries adopted by succeeding people.

As before stated in 1717, four lodges in the south of England united and made up the Premier Grand Lodge. In 1725 the lodges of York formed a Grand Lodge of their own calling it the Grand Lodge of York. These two Grand Lodges worked together in unison until in 1735 the Grand Master of England constituted two lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of York; therefore all intercourse between them ceased.

In 1738 a lot of the Brothers, being aggrieved of what they termed innovations of the Landmarks, seceded from the Grand Lodge of England and seeing the breach between the two Grand Lodges formed a third Grand Lodge in London in 1739 and took the name of Ancient York Masons, claiming that they alone adhered to the ancient landmarks, and called the Grand Lodge England, "Modern."

These three Grand Lodges operated independently until 1813, when they were united under the name of the United Grand Lodge of England.

There is little or no record evidence of the Fraternity in the very early years of this country.

New Jersey claims the distinction of having the first permanent resident Mason in the person of John Skene, who landed there in 1682 and settled at Burlington, N. J., Massachusetts claims to have the first born American citizen to be made a Mason in the country in the person of Jonathan Belcher, who went to New Jersey and finally became Governor of the Province.

Prior to the establishing and regular lodge here, no doubt that among the early emigrants were Masons who often convened together and possibly did some masonic work.

In 1780, Daniel Cox, armed with a deputation from the Grand Lodge of England, (the first authority ever given for the assembling of Free Masons in America in Lodges,) and established in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., St. John's Lodge. In this lodge Benjamin Franklin was made a Mason, and was Master of it in 1734.

In 1773 a second St. John's Lodge was established in Boston, Mass.

In 1758 the Ancient York Lodge established a Lodge of Ancient Master Masons in Philadelphia.

As near as can be determined, during the Revolutionary period the "Moderns" sided with the Britons, and the "Ancients" with the Americans, but all loyal to their fraternal vows.

In 1780, inspired by the spirit of Independence several of the lodges united and formed an independent Grand Lodge and unanimously chose Brother George Washington, Master, but it seems that it never functioned.

St. John's Lodge, No. 1, of 1730, vacated long ago, and the present St. John's Lodge, No. 115, is a different body.

The first meeting place of Masonic lodges in Pennsylvania was the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

In 1755 the first Masonic lodge house was dedicated in Philadelphia by the Ancient York Masons, with impressive ceremonies.

In 1786 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania withdrew its allegiance to the Grand Lodge in America to take such action. The most important step ever taken by a Grand Lodge. It was decisive declaration that it alone had absolute Masonic jurisdiction of the state and all territory thereunto belonging.

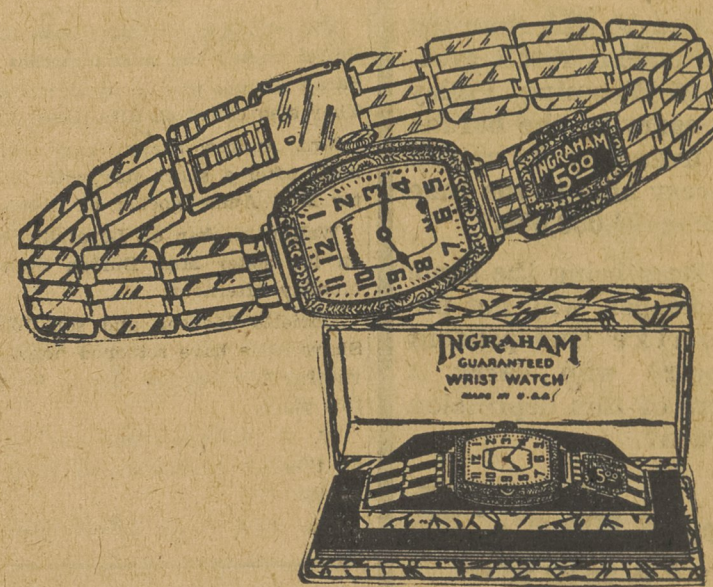
"Up to 1843 all business of the lodges in Pennsylvania was transacted in the first degree. At that time it was ordered that all business of the lodge and the opening and closing must be in the Master's degree."

In 1873 the New Masonic Temple at Philadelphia was dedicated. Writing in 1914, Thornburgh says of it: "The Masonic Temple at Philadelphia is the largest and finest Masonic building in the world devoted exclusively to Freemasonry. One of its halls, the Egyptian Hall, is said to be the finest specimen of Egyptian decoration outside of Egypt."

November 4th, 1752, Brother George Washington was initiated into the Masonic Fraternity by the lodge in Fredericksburg, Va.

On the 150th anniversary of that event, our Grand Lodge put on a grand celebration at which the President of the United States, Brother Theodore Roosevelt, was present and delivered an address on "Freemasonry and Citizenship." This address is preserved in full by Grand Lodge.

1824, (October 2nd, in the afternoon) Brother (General) Lafayette was the



Boys' and Girls' '5 Guaranteed American Made Wrist Watches

\$2.95

Non-Breakable Crystal

For men, women, students and children! Chromium plated case, Silver Dial, Gold Numerals, Popular "Aviation" shape. Latest adjustable link wrist bands.

JEWELRY SECTION-MAIN FLOOR

LAZARUS

S. Main-thru to Northampton St.
WILKES-BARRE, PA.

AMERICAN STORES CO.

AMERICAN

Making New Friends Daily

Plain Black or Mixed 1/4-lb pkg **10c** : 1/2-lb pkg **19c**
Mild blends of Formosa Oolong to suit varying tastes.

Orange Pekoe or India Ceylon 1/4-lb pkg **17c** : 1/2-lb pkg **33c**
Two popular, skillfully blended Teas of rich, full-flavor leaves.

Pride of Killarney TEA 1/4-lb pkg **19c** : 1/2-lb tin **75c**
100 per cent India Orange Peko. Makes more cups per pound.

Strawberry, Pineapple and other varieties
ASCO Pure Preserves 16-oz jar **19c**

Hom-de-lite Finest Mayonnaise Reg. 15c jar **10c**

Farmdale Brand Evaporated Milk 4 tall cans **25c**

Finest California
Large Dried Lima Beans
2 lbs **15c**

Choice Crushed
Delicious Tender Sweet Corn
4 cans **25c**

ASCO Pearl Tapioca 1 lb pkg **14c**
Gold Medal Cake Flour big pkg **29c**
ASCO Breakfast Farina 3 pkgs **25c**
Campbell's Pork and Beans can **7c**
ASCO Pure Honey jar **15c**
Farmdale Cut String Beans 2 cans **25c**
Imported Pure Olive Oil 1/2-pt can **23c**
N. B. C. Cookie Jar lb **19c**

Serve The Bread famous for its Quality Goodness
DOUBLE FAMILY LOAF double pan wrapped loaf **10c**

Special For This Week Only!
Victor Raisin Bread loaf **8c**

Our Own Bakery Cakes

Cocoanut Round Layer each **23c**
Marble Bar Cake each **25c**
ASCO Gem Cakes each **10c**

Special Week-End Butter and Egg Prices!
GOLD SEAL SELECTED

Eggs Strictly Fresh dozen **33c** The Pick of the Nests
Eggs dozen **23c** Every Egg Guaranteed

LOUELLA Butter 2 lbs. **63c** The Finest Butter in America
RICHLAND Butter 2 lbs. **61c** Creamery Prints of Merit

Derrydale Butter 2 lbs **57c**

Fancy California Muir Evaporated Peaches lb **12 1/2c**
Finest Solid Pack ASCO Tomatoes 2 med med **19c**
Delicious ASCO Quick Made Tapioca 3 pkgs **20c**
ASCO Ready-to-Use Pancake Flour 3 pkgs **23c**
ASCO Fancy Sweet Tender Peas 2 cans **29c**

Aunt Jemima Pancake Flour pkg **11c**
Vermont Maid Blended Syrup jug **23c**
Diplomat Boned Chicken can **47c**
Beech-Nut Tomato Juice Cocktail bot **18c**
ASCO Ground Black Pepper 1/4-lb can **10c**
Floor Mops each **29c**-Mop Handles each **15c**

Ivory Soap 4 med cakes **25c**; 6 guest size **25c**

You owe it to yourself to save time and money by enjoying the convenience of shopping in the ASCO Stores.

These Prices Effective in Our Stores in Dallas and Vicinity.

guest of the Grand Lodge at an extra communication held in Philadelphia. In the address of welcome he was notified that he had been made a member of the Grand Lodge. In reply he said: "I thank you for the honor you have just conferred on me, and assure you that I shall never forget this mark of your kind distinction by which I am made a member of a body of which Franklin was the father and Washington was the associate."

1831, (Dec. 26th,) occurred the death of Brother Stephen Girard, who by his will bequeathed to the Grand Lodge \$20,000. This legacy is now known as the "Stephen Girard Charity Fund" and now amounts to more than \$100,000—the first large bequest to the Grand Lodge.

In the year 1706 occurred the birth of our most distinguished Brother, Benjamin Franklin, a former Grand Master of Masons.

1903, (March 4th the Grand Lodge promulgated the idea of a Masonic Home.

1913, June 5th) the Grand Lodge Hall, at Elizabethtown, Pa., was dedicated. It was the greatest of the accomplishments of the Grand Lodge. Of it Past Grand Master, Brother J. Henry Williams, said: "The Crowning Glory of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania."

In 1903 the membership of the Fraternity in Pennsylvania was 214,660.

January 1930, the number of guests at the Masonic Home was 510.

George Lamoreaux. Lunch was served to Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Kleiner, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. George Lamoreaux, Mrs. Lee Earl, Mrs. O. L. Harvey, Mrs. A. J. Hadsall, Mrs. H. A. Randall, Charles Nuss, B. Frank Bulford, Elizabeth Breckenridge, Elsie Earl, Helen Splitt, Ruth May Hazel, Harold B. Elston, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Elston.

-Shavertown-

Shavertown Auxiliary

Shavertown branch, Nesbitt West Side hospital auxiliary held a covered dish luncheon and card party on Friday afternoon at the shop of J. A. Girvan, Claude street, Dallas. Mrs. Sherman Warden, Mrs. Mitchell Jenkins, Mrs. E. L. Jeness and Mrs. Hayden D. Williams were hostesses.

Following the luncheon, small Christmas gifts were exchanged by the members. Tables of bridge and other card games were formed and prizes were awarded at each table. Guests numbered 56 and were: Mrs. Clarence Elston, Miss Beatrice Belles, Harold B. Elston, Mrs. Z. R. Howell, Mrs. Hayden D. Williams, Mrs. A. G. Eddinger, Mrs. O. L. Harvey, Ruth May Hazel, Mrs. E. A. Adelmay, Mrs. Clifford J. Ide, Mrs. Zel Garinger, Mrs. Ray Shiber, Mrs. R. L. Brickel, Mrs. C. S. Behee, Mrs. S. P. Frantz, Mrs. G. A. Learn, Mrs. William Laidler, Mrs. J. A. Hildebrand, Mrs. John A. Girvan, Mrs. E. D. Parrish, Mrs. D. F. Westover, Mrs. J. H. Frantz, Mrs. George McLuckie, Mrs. James E. Hildebrand, Mrs. G. A. Frantz, Miss Marguerite Frantz, Mrs. H. L. Titman, Mrs. A. C. Kelly, Mrs. C. W. Fisher, Mrs. J. N. Whipp.

Mrs. Sherman Warden, Mrs. J. H. Smith, Mrs. D. P. Honeywell, Mrs. F. M. Gordon, Mrs. G. Hoffmeister, Mrs. Frank G. Mathels, Mrs. C. F. Lewis, Mrs. H. Lohman, Jane Keener, Mrs. G. Evans, Mrs. C. S. Morris, Mrs. G. L. Howell, Mrs. J. Roland Crompton, Mrs. Edward D. Griffith, Mrs. Welton Batey, Mrs. George Metz, Mrs. Corey J. Major, Mrs. Arthur Ide, Mrs. Frances Lewis, Mrs. E. L. Jeness, Mrs. Mitchell Jenkins and Mrs. Hayden Williams. The next meeting will be held Friday, February 5th, at the home of Mrs. Ray Shiber of Dallas.

-Huntsville-

Ladies' Aid Society will meet in the M. E. Church next Thursday. Dinner will be served at noon by Mrs. A. J. Hadsall, Mrs. Frank H. Johnson, Mrs. M. E. Keeler. Every one will be welcome.

Mrs. W. S. Kleiner spent Tuesday with relatives in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Edwards and son Harry Jr., spent a few days with Mrs. Edwards sister in New York City.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Elston entertained the Adult Bible Class of the M. E. Sunday School on Tuesday evening. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. H. A. Randall, Vice President, Fred Weaver, Secretary, Mrs. Lee Earl, Treasurer, Mrs.