



8th Masonic District

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125,
Doylestown Lodge No. 245, W.K. Bray Lodge No. 410,
Newtown Lodge No. 427, Fairless Hills Lodge No. 776, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

www.pa8thmasonic.com

Richard H. Bradbury, Sr. – District Deputy Grand Master

October 2015

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Frey Masonic Center
850 Norristown Road, Warminster, PA

Meets Monthly at 7:30 pm
1st Monday and 3rd Friday (Except July and August)

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 05 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 08 Horsham Square Club Meeting
- 09 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Past Master Night
- 12 RWGM Golf Outing, LuLu CC
- 14 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting
- 14 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
*Rescheduled Program: Hypnosis and
Freemasonry – Bro. Warren Errington*
- 16 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 19 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.
*Program: Masonic Truth and Anti-Masonry &
Religion – Rev. Thomas Clifton*
- 20 Fairless Hills Lodge Stated Meeting
- 21 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Past Master Recognition
- 24 Bristol Lodge October Stated Meeting
*Program: Veteran Recognition/Scary
Stories – Joe Tolen, P.M.*
- 31 Additional Leadership Seminar**
- 31 Valley of Allentown Fall Reunion-Day 1

HARRY HOUDINI (1874-1926)

Harry Houdini, an American magician, was the son of Jewish parents. His father was a very learned Rabbi. Houdini was born on April 6, 1874 in Appleton, Wisconsin. His real name was Erich Weiss, but he took the name of Houdini after the French magician, Houdin. When he was nine in 1882, he started out to earn his living as a contortionist and trapeze performer in a 5-tent circus, located in his hometown. His mother disliked his occupation, or at least thought he might improve upon it, and much to his regret took him to a locksmith. It was an inspiration on the good lady's part, for it is owing to his knowledge of locks and keys that Houdini climbed into fame and later became world famous.

The youthful Houdini ran away from home and traveled with a show as a sleight-of-hand artist, a clown and a Punch and Judy performer, and became world famous for his feats of magic. Eventually, he sought to rival the Davenport Brothers in their rope-tying feats and was very successful.

In 1895, looking for something different from other entertainers, he thought of a challenge to local police stations on his ability to escape from their handcuffs and jail cells. By 1899, his reputation began to spread, better bookings followed and things began to look up. Subsequently, he showed astounding ability in extricating himself from handcuffs, ropes, locked trunks, jail breaking, and bonds of any sort. At one time, he had himself roped and locked in a packing case, which was bound with steel tape and dropped into the harbor off the battery in New York City. He appeared on the surface of the water in 59 seconds.

His success allowed him to be generous and thoughtful of retired or destitute magicians, often paying their rent or providing other assistance. He also gave benefit performances at charity hospitals and orphanages. These acts of kindness were often kept from the public, but they were many.

Houdini, being a Freemason was not alone among Masonic magicians who included the likes of Harry Kelly, Howard Thurston and Harry Blackstone. He was Initiated in St. Cecile Lodge, N.Y. on July 17, 1923 and Raised on August 21st. He was also a member of Scottish Rite and just weeks before his death, became a Shriner in New York. Being proud of his Masonic affiliation, he gave a benefit performance for the Valley of New York, raising thousands of dollars for needy Masons.

On October 22, 1926, during an engagement in Montreal, a college student asked permission to test Houdini's abdominal muscle control and strike the magician. This was often part of the act, but the student struck before Houdini could tense the necessary muscles, a critical requirement for success. Houdini ignored the later stomach pains and the next day he was diagnosed with acute appendicitis. A ruptured gangrenous appendix was later removed; but peritonitis had set it. Despite predictions of imminent death, he lasted for almost a week. On October 31, 1926, at the age of 52, he finally succumbed. Halloween was perhaps a symbolically magical date for his final curtain.

THE LARGEST & THE SMALLEST MASONS

At the time he was raised in Highland Park Lodge No. 382 in Los Angeles, California, John Aasen was eight and a half feet tall and weighed 536 pounds. Twelve craftsmen were required for certain parts of the ceremony. There were 1500 Masons present to observe the ceremony.

Charles S. Stratton, a midget, was made famous by P.T. Barnum as "General Tom Thumb". He was first presented to the public in 1842; as the time he was two feet high and weighed 16 pounds. In 1844 he married Lavinia Warren, also a midget. He settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut and was raised in St. John's Lodge No. 3 on October 3, 1862.

www.themasonictrowel.com

Note: The Doylestown Beneficial Society was organized in 1832 and met in the building which is now the home of Doylestown Lodge. "The society was a benefit to Doylestown in several ways, and, in a short time, the town was astonished it had done so long without it. Meetings of various kinds were held in the hall; it was a place for lectures and exhibitions, and there "Tom Thumb" made his first appearance before a Doylestown audience, May 4, 1849."

HISTORY OF DOYLESTOWN OLD AND NEW
From Its Settlement To The Close Of The 19th Century 1745–1900

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

October 17, 1901

Bro. Theodore Roosevelt signed an executive order changing the name of the "Executive Mansion" to the "White House."

October 1, 1908

Bro. Henry Ford introduced His Model T for \$850. While Bro. Ford introduced his "Model; T" for \$850, by 1924 he was selling them for as little as \$260. Between 1908 and 1927, Bro. Ford sold just over 15-million "Model Ts" in the U.S. Bro. Ford was raised in Palestine Lodge 357, Detroit, MI, in 1894.

DID YOU KNOW?

The author of "Bambi" and other immortal stories for children was Brother Felix Salten (1869-1945), a member of the Lodge "Zur Wahrheit" in Vienna, Austria.

CONGRATULATIONS

Bro. Edward O. Weissner, RWPGM, was presented with the RW Grand Lodge of PA Century Club Recognition for having conferred One Hundred Masonic Degrees. The certificate and pin were presented to him at the September stated meeting of Newtown Lodge No. 427 by DDGM Bradbury on behalf of the Grand Lodge.

Who Were The Most Influential Masons Ever?

One Internet source decided to make a list of 17 of the most influential Masons ever – influential in society, not necessarily within the Fraternity.

Business Insider, in its online edition on March 21, 2014, decided to create a list of important Masons. The authors do not say exactly what qualifications they used for the list, although they did comment that Masonic members believe in "truth, tolerance, respect, and freedom."

So, this list of "17 of the Most Influential Freemasons Ever," includes:

1. Benjamin Franklin
2. George Washington
3. Paul Revere
4. Francois-Marie Arouet (Voltaire)
5. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
6. Simon Bolivar
7. John Brown (involved in the disappearance of William Morgan)
8. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)
9. Winston Churchill
10. Harry Truman
11. Alexander Fleming
12. Earl Warren
13. J. Edgar Hoover
14. Douglas MacArthur
15. John Glenn
16. Steve Wozniak (co-founder of Apple)
17. Jesse Jackson

The writers added a few "honorable mentions" under the headline, "Other Big Names Include:" John Jacob Astor, Andrew Jackson, William "Bud" Abbott, Salvador Allende, Nat King Cole, Samuel Colt, Duke Ellington, all seven Ringling brothers, Shaquille O'Neal, Oscar Wilde, and John Wayne, "just to name a few," it concluded.

Emessay Notes, May 2014

Quote of the Month

"Indifference never wrote great works, nor thought out striking inventions, nor reared the solemn architecture that awes the soul, nor breathed sublime music, nor painted glorious pictures, nor undertook heroic philanthropies. All these grandeurs are born of enthusiasm, and are done heartily."

Anonymous

A LITTLE MASONIC HUMOR

A young Entered Apprentice was being mentored on his proficiency. After going over the signs and passwords, he looked at his mentor and asked, "I noticed several of the older members sticking their fingers in their ears and whistling. What does that sign mean?"

"That's not a sign," his mentor said, "Those are Past Masters adjusting their hearing aids."