



# 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pa8thmasonic.com)

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

March 2016

### 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Frey Masonic Center  
850 Norristown Road, Warminster, PA

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

### MARCH CALENDAR

- 06 Friendship-Bray Chapter of DeMolay Meeting,  
Jenkintown Temple
- 07 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 09 **Official Visitation - Newtown Lodge**  
*Program: Examination of Visitor/Funeral Service,  
RWPGM, PDDGM, Prince Hall Rep.*
- 09 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Masonic Education*
- 11 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Birds, Gail Hill, Peace Valley Nature*
- 15 Fairless Hills Lodge Stated Meeting
- 16 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Masonic Education & Importance of  
Degree Work, Bro. Luis Lasa, PM*
- 18 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 19 **Official Visitation – Bristol Lodge**  
*Program: Ceremony of Order of Rainbow Girls,  
Morrisville Assembly*
- 19 Newtown Lodge Grand Lodge Bus Trip
- 19 The Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic  
Knowledge Mtg., Elizabethtown
- 21 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.  
*Program: Examination of Visitor & Training our  
Apprentices, Bro. Tom Labaugh, PM*

### MASTER BUILDER AWARD EXPANDED

The RW Grand Master has initiated two new Masonic Builder programs for all Master Masons while continuing the Master Builder Award for newly made Master Masons.

The Master Craftsman Award – Complete *all* the Master Builder requirements including *all* of the optional offerings.

The Master Pillar Award – Complete the Master Craftsman Award requirements, serve as a JW, SW and WM of the Lodge and must again confer all three degrees in their entirety and be proficient in the Business of the Lodge.

Details will be available in the near future.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Texas Freemason* published by the Grand Lodge of Texas, in our opinion, is one of the finest Masonic publications. In the July 1967 issue under a heading, “A Member’s Speak Special,” we found this poignant letter.

Dear TTF:

In 1929 and ’30, I was a patient in William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso. I belonged to an Illinois Lodge, but I had not paid my dues for some time. While in the hospital, I received a letter from the lodge. It said the lodge was building a new building; dues were being doubled; I would be dropped from the rolls if I did not pay my dues.

A Masonic Brother, Ben Harrison of Athens, Texas, lay in the bed next to mine. I read him the letter and commented, “I’m not going to pay those dues. Masonry hasn’t done me any good an I don’t have the money.”

Ben replied, “Oh, I’d pay them if I were you.” Then he told me a story.

Ben had been wounded in France and described what happened when he awoke in a hospital. “A doctor was bending over me,” Ben related, “and I heard him say, ‘He can’t stand it now, but if he is still alive in the morning, we’ll amputate the leg.’ Well, the next morning I was alive and awake. When the doctor came, I took a chance and identified myself as a Mason. I pleaded with him to save my leg. ‘Brother,’ he said, ‘I will do everthing in my poswer to save it, and if it is ever cut off, someone else will do it.’”

Ben the turned back the sheet and raised his scarred leg. “I still have my leg, thanks to Masonry! It’s not as good as it used to be, but it is better than a wooden one!”

I paid my dues.

Edwin S. Burtis  
Fraternity Lodge 111, El Paso

(Tied to Masonic Apron Strings, Stewart M.L. Pollard)

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Have you paid your dues for 2016? Most Lodges of the 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District have extended the deadline for paying your dues to the April Stated Meeting. Freemasonry has a lot to offer to its members...please be sure your dues are paid and avoid suspensions.

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 18, 1963

The US Supreme Court issued its ruling, written by Bro. Hugo Black, in the *Gideon v. Wainwright* case. The decision was unanimous in reversing the conviction of Clarence Gideon. Ruling that the due process clause of the 14th Amendment extended to state as well as federal cases, the Court allowed Gideon to be retried, this time with the aid of a lawyer. At his second trial, Gideon was found innocent of the charges. The *Gideon v. Wainwright* ruling was a landmark decision. It clearly established that all persons charged with serious crimes must be provided with an attorney. Based on that decision, states are required to appoint attorneys for all defendants who cannot afford to hire their own.

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### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“A pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.”

Brother Winston Churchill

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### MODERN BANKING ORIGINATED BY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR?

Soon after the ancient Knights Templar Order was founded in 1118 A.D., it became known for fighting prowess and for protecting pilgrims going to the Holy Land. Even today, the Templars are best known for their role in the Crusades.

However, they had another role, which made a very important contribution to world civilization—a role, which is little known; the start of modern banking.

Templary flourished for nearly two centuries. It rapidly became one of the wealthiest institutions in Europe. To handle their vast holdings of land, buildings, ships, businesses and treasure, the Templars established what was to become modern banking.

Masonic authors—such as Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh in *The Temple and the Lodge*; Baigent, Leigh, and Henry Lincoln in *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*; and John Robinson in *Born in Blood*—made references to these Templar banking origins in their writings.

The Templars handled much of the available capital in Western Europe. They pioneered the concept of credit for commercial development and expansion. They organized the safe and efficient transfer of money for merchant traders (at modest interest rates). They created safe deposit, trusts and property management, among other concepts.

Capitalism could not have succeeded without a banking system and financial services to handle capital. The Knights Templar provided that.

*Emessay Notes*, March 2013  
Grand Lodge of Connecticut publication, 2000

## DID YOU KNOW?

### CERNEAU RITE OF FREEMASONRY OR CERNEAUISM

Named after Joseph Cerneau (1763–1840/45), “Cerneauism” was a rival and illegitimate form of Scottish Rite Masonry that challenged the Southern Jurisdiction (SJ) and Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) during most of the 1800s. Cerneau, a Frenchman and resident of Havana, Cuba, was a jeweler and Secretary of a Pennsylvania Lodge, La Temple des Virtus Theogalis. In 1806 he was appointed Inspector of the 25-degree Order of the Royal Secret (Rite of Perfection), with authority to create one new 25° Mason each year in Cuba. His patent is in the archives of the Supreme Council, 33°, S.J. In 1807 he moved to New York City with his family and affiliated with Washington Lodge No. 21 in 1810.

Upon his arrival in 1807, he formed a Sovereign Grand Consistory of the 25° which attracted many prominent members, including DeWitt Clinton. After the Mother Supreme Council in Charleston created the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in 1813, Cerneau’s Consistory put forth a Supreme Council of 33 degrees and claimed territory over the “United States of America, its Territories and Dependencies.” At one point it was limited to members of the Schismatic St. John’s Grand Lodge of New York. Later it contracted to only control New York State, encouraging the formation of independent Supreme Councils in each state, and then re-expanded to again cover the entire country. In 1853 it chartered two Blue Lodges in New York City, which may have sealed its fate as forever illegitimate.

Despite its many ups and downs, the Cerneau Supreme Council became a strong rival to the NMJ, and in 1867 merged with the NMJ. In 1881, dissatisfied former members of the Cerneau Supreme Council renounced their vows of fealty, withdrew from the NMJ, and reactivated the Supreme Council for the United States of America, its Territories and Dependencies. Eventually the conflict between the Supreme Councils (primarily in the NMJ) spilled over into Blue Lodges. In the late 1800s Grand Lodges reluctantly stepped in, declared the Cerneauists illegitimate, and threatened expulsion to any Mason who continued membership. The courts ultimately upheld a Grand Lodge’s right to control what Masonic groups its members could belong to, and only then did Cerneauism come to an end.

From the July/August 2009 *Scottish Rite Journal*

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### GLOSSARY: 20,000 MEASURES – 20,000 BATHS

Measurements used by ancient Hebrews. A measure (dry) was equal to approximately one and one-quarter pecks (a peck = 2 dry gallons). A bath was a liquid measure equal to approximately eight and one-quarter gallons.

*The Exemplar*, 1985  
William A. Carpenter, RWPGM