



# 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, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

Website: [www.pa8thmasonic.com](http://www.pa8thmasonic.com); Facebook: PA 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District

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

December 2018

### 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Frey Masonic Center at Masonic Village-Warminster  
850 Norristown Road, Warminster, PA

Meets Monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7:30 pm  
Extra Meeting on the 3rd Friday – If Needed/Called with due  
and timely notice.  
(No Meetings in July and August)

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 01 Bristol Lodge Annual Banquet
- 03 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 08 **Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication -**  
Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square, Lancaster, PA
- 12 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 12 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 14 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 17 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 19 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 22 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*

### **W.K. BRAY – GRAND MARSHAL IN HATBORO PARADE**

W. K. Bray Lodge was the “Grand Marshal” of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Hatboro Holiday Parade in recognition on 150 years of Freemasonry in the borough. Congratulations to the Lodge on this honor. This year’s theme was “Reindeer Games”

District Deputy Grand Master Richard Bradbury accompanied the members of W. K. Bray Lodge on the parade route. The parade included more than 100 units including floats, marching bands and string bands, military units and community groups. The Phillie Phanatic was also on hand for this great family event.

This was a great way to welcome the Holiday Season!

### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The feast of St. John the Evangelist is celebrated annually on December 27th and marks the mid-winter.

St. John the Evangelist, along with St. John the Baptist are the two St. John's referred to in Masonic ritual. John the Evangelist lived from approximately 15 A.D. to 100 A.D.

The term Evangelist comes from a Greek word which means "writer of the gospel", it is also in reference to the Latin word evangelium. In most Christian traditions, the Apostle John is John the Evangelist.

John the Evangelist as a historical figure was one of the "pillars" of the Jerusalem Church after Jesus' death. He is believed to be the only one of the Apostles to survive until old age. The other apostles all having been put to death for their faith.

Some believe that John, around 95 A.D. was exiled to the island of Patmos. There it is believed that he wrote Revelations. This is a matter for debate though. Many scholars believe that John of Patmos was not John the Evangelist. Beyond the Gospel of John, there are many works that are attributed to John the Evangelist, most, including the Gospel of John are still debated whether John the Evangelist actually wrote them. There are some scholars that believe that the Gospel of John was not written by anyone named John. This debate has raged since 200 A.D.

For Freemasonry, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist was utilized by many of the early Grand Lodges in England and Scotland as well as individual lodges. The Lodge of Edinburgh was associated with the aisle of St. John the Evangelist in St. Giles Cathedral as far back as the 15th century. The Grand Lodge of All England, which was a masonic body located primarily in the city of York, as well as its predecessor the Ancient Society of Freemasons in the City of York, elected its President and, starting in 1725, it's Grand Master on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. The Antient Grand Lodge of England also elected its Grand Master on that day. When the Antients and the Moderns merged in 1813 to become the United Grand Lodge of England it occurred on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

This article provided by Today in Masonic History  
at <http://www.masonrytoday.com>

*Wishing you and yours a Happy Holiday Season.*

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

**December 27, 1927**

Tired of the shallow entertainment provided by the Broadway musical theatre of the time, composer Bro. Jerome Kern and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II opened their more serious musical on Broadway. It was "Show Boat", based on a novel by Edna Ferber about life on the Mississippi River. Treating such serious social issues as racial prejudice, mixed marriage, and illegitimacy, "Show Boat" was also the first Broadway musical to weave songs into a complex plot. Among the most influential musicals of the century, "Show Boat" ran for 572 performances at Ziegfeld Theatre. There have been numerous revivals and film versions as well. Among the memorable songs: "Only Make Believe"; "Old Man River"; "Bill"; "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man..."

**December 24, 1809**

Christopher "Kit" Carson, frontiersman, soldier, trapper, guide and Indian agent, was born at Madison County, KY. Because he was familiar with Indian languages he was largely instrumental in bringing about many of the treaties between the Indian tribes and the US government. He entered the Craft in Montezuma Lodge 109 at Taos, New Mexico. Bro. Carson died at Fort Lyon, CO May 23, 1868.

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### STAY AWAY FROM ROPE TRICKS

Undoubtedly all of you have seen or heard of the Hindu fakir's rope trick. The fakir takes a long rope and whirls it around in the air in much the same manner that a cowboy whirls a lariat. Higher and higher the rope goes until at length it stands in the air straight and rigid as a pole. Then comes the second half of the trick. A little boy climbs the rope and keeps climbing until he disappears in the air, after which the rope falls loosely to the ground. Nothing more is seen of the boy.

There are some who believe the ladder of Masonry is to be climbed in much the same manner. In fact, some climb to the top, after which we see no more of them. Freemasonry is a progressive science, all right, but Masons should stay away from these rope tricks or they may find their support dropping from beneath them, leaving them suspended in the atmosphere.

*3-5-7 Minute Talks on Freemasonry, Elbert Bede*

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### SQUARE

An old brass square was found under the foundation stone of an old bridge in Limerick, Ireland in 1930. The inscription upon the square was dated 1517:

"I will strive to live,  
With love and care,  
Upon the level  
By the square."

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### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

He that is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

Brother Benjamin Franklin, St. John's Lodge, Phila.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### What are the "Old Charges?"

The first book of Freemasonry, printed in 1723, is known as *Anderson's Constitutions*. In it appear six "Old Charges" which are a statement of the old laws of operative Freemasonry concerning a Mason and his conduct. These six Old Charges are titled: Of God and Religion; Of the Civil Magistrate Supreme and Subordinate; Of Lodges; Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices; Of the Management of the Craft in Working; Of Behavior. The last, sixth Old Charge is concerned with behavior: "in the Lodge while constituted; after Lodge is over and the Brethren not gone; when Brethren meet without Strangers, but not in a Lodge; in presence of Strangers not Masons; at Home and in the Neighborhood; towards a strange Brother.

(Source: MSA Digest, *One Hundred and One Questions About Freemasonry*)

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### 'NOT YOUR FATHER'S FREEMASONRY'

The fact that "times are changing" was noted by Ronald A. Seale, Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, as he made an appeal for Masons to understand that new candidates approach our Fraternity with a different perspective than in the past.

In his "Grand Commander's Message" in a recent The Scottish Rite Journal, Brother Seale, while addressing Scottish Rite membership, made some comments which may apply to all of Freemasonry. Here are a few excerpts:

*Younger, "upwardly mobile" men with families and resulting obligations as to time and finance will no longer join or remain with an organization that does not meet some need in their lives. And they definitely will not affiliate with us content to be sidelines with no role to fill or challenge to meet.*

*Those days are gone.*

*Thus, it is imperative that we treat each new . . . Mason . . . not as a member whose name is written in stone but as a good man who is trying us out – giving us a chance so to speak. Will he like what he sees? Will he find a welcoming group of Masons eager to involve . . . hear his opinions, and use his talents? Will he be given a chance to exercise real leadership and to be proud to bring his friends and acquaintances? . . . Will we remember not to patronize him with worn out slogans such as "you only get out of it what you put into it" but ask him to do a specific job and praise him for his performance?*

*This isn't rocket science, folks. It's easy. It's the right thing to do, and what we promised to do as Masons. If we don't reach out and engage our members, they will be gone and another chair will be empty at the next meeting . . .*

*Emessay Notes, December 2013*