



# 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*

April 2019

### 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)

#### APRIL CALENDAR

- 01 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 06 Leadership Seminar (\$25.00 Registration Fee)**  
Masonic Village-Lafayette Hill
- 10 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Altmeister Night*
- 10 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Table Lodge (EA)*
- 12 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Masons at Gettysburg & Friend to  
Friend Memorial-*
- 13 Sectional School of Instruction**  
Grand Lodge Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
- 13 Bristol Lodge No. 25  
*Program: Masonic Charges-Hidden Meanings  
& Good Back Health*
- 15 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Benjamin Franklin*
- 17 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Freemasonry Topic*
- 19 8th Masonic District-Extra Meeting (if needed)**
- 27 District Past Master Breakfast (TBA)

#### **SECTIONAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION HAS A NEW FORMAT**

All Elected and Appointed Lodge Officers are expected to attend the Sectional School of Instruction on April 13, 2019 at 8:00 am, registration 7:15am-8:00am at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.

This will take place in the Corinthian Hall. Instead of exemplifying the degrees, presentations will be of the Business of the Lodge and each degree “problem areas”. The Director of Ritualistic Work will be explaining the mechanics in each presentation, especially those areas most often done incorrectly. This should prove most valuable to our Lodges.

### **FREEMASONRY THROUGH THREE CENTURIES**

The Academy of Masonic Knowledge recently hosted Brother Allan L. Casalou, V.W. Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of California who provided an excellent presentation titled, *Freemasonry Through Three Centuries*.

Brother Casalou spoke on, as he refers to it as, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Tavern Freemasonry, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Store Freemasonry and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Cathedral Freemasonry. He then continues to look ahead and provide his view of how 21<sup>st</sup> Century Freemasonry may evolve and why. Would you believe possibly back to tavern type lodges? It was an excellent thought provoking presentation that once heard, is sure to initiate conversation with your brothers.

Thanks to the Academy of Masonic Knowledge, you are able to hear Brother Casalou’s program. The presentation and the question and answer period are available for you to enjoy. A link to the Academy can be found on the Grand Lodge webpage under the “Members” tab. You can also find other recent presentations on the Academy site.

Thank you to the Committee on the Academy of Masonic Knowledge for this opportunity.

### **STAY AWAY FROM ROPE TRICKS**

Undoubtedly all of you have seen or heard of the 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. Apparently they have gone to join the little boy. 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*

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### April 18, 1775

Bro. Paul Revere and Bro. William Dawes began their famous "Midnight ride:" (which started about 10 pm) to warn American patriots between Boston, MA and Concord, MA of the approaching British. The warning worked. The next day nearly 2,000 dispirited and weary British redcoats straggled back into Boston, surprised by the ferocious response of the colonial minutemen in Lexington and Concord earlier in the day. American silversmith and Revolutionary War Patriot, Bro. Revere was also the first to roll sheet copper in America. He designed the first official seal for the colonies, and produced the first banknotes. From 1794 to 1797 he was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

### April 19, 1775

The American Revolution began as fighting broke out at Lexington, MA and the British fired "the shot heard 'round the world." More than Forty Masonic lodges were active at the outbreak... During the Revolution the Craft was divided with prominent Masons on both sides. Support for, or opposition to, the struggle became a matter of individual Masonic conscience. Of the 55 signatories of the Declaration of Independence, only nine were unquestionably Masons, and of the 55 delegates who signed the Constitution of the United States in 1789, only 13 were, or were to become, Masons. On the other hand, many of the most prominent members of the Revolution were members of the Craft — Bro. George Washington; Bro. Benjamin Franklin; Bro. Paul Revere; Bro. John Paul Jones; Bro. John Hancock; Bro. the Marquise of Lafayette and many others.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Masons and the Mayo Clinic

Dr. Charles H. Mayo, one of the founders of the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, was a Mason.

His son, Charles W. Mayo, who also was a Mason and became governor of the Clinic, which began in the Masonic Temple building in Rochester.

The Grand Lodge on Minnesota for years has maintained a representative at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester to assist Masons who are planning to come there and to make their stay pleasant.

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### DUTY

"Every crime against our laws, every sin against decency and morality, every sharp practice against square dealing in business, is a serious reflection on the Masonic Lodge, in the neighborhood in which it is committed.

Masonry should not take the pure principles of morality and preserve them in the walled up seclusion of lodge halls, like as we preserve fruit and vegetables and keep them in dark cellars for our own use; but our lodges and our lives should be as lighthouses, blazing out the truths of right living, to bless the community, state and nation, in which we have our being."

(Milton Winham, P.G.M., Arkansas).

## A MASON

A Mason's hand is a hand that helps,  
That lifts the fallen one,  
That comes, in need, with a kindly deed  
To him whose strength is gone.

A Mason's heart is a heart that loves  
The best that is good and true;  
He stands the friend, his best to lend,  
Under his banner blue.

A Mason's eye is an eye that smiles  
And his a cheering voice;  
He spreads the light, dispels the night  
And makes the world rejoice.

Over the earth in stranger lands,  
Where distant peoples dwell,  
The eye, the grip, the life, the lip,  
Of love unchanging tell.

Carl W. Mason

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### DATING THE ROYSTON CAVE

Dating the carvings in the cave has always been a problem. There is new hope of accurate dating, however, as almost all of the carvings have a Masonic meaning. Freemasonry has an ancient origin, possibly, with practical masons; but by the early 1700's membership had been opened to intellectuals, in so-called Speculative Masonry. The trend to speculative masonry can be traced to King James VI of Scotland/James I of 'Great Britain, France and Ireland.'

In 1583 James commissioned Sir William Schaw to re-organize masonry. One important act was to create a new degree (stage) between Apprentice and Master, and this must have occurred around 1609. The new Fellow Craft degree was intended for intellectuals. A sign for this degree appears in the lower left hand side of panel 4 in the cave in the carving identified as David of the Psalms, referring to psalm 69. Therefore this carving cannot have been made before 1600 and cannot, therefore, be Templar.

It is possible, however, that not all the carvings were made at the same time. Christopher, Matherine, Lawrence and George or Michael are all found in Templar churches and may, therefore, predate the rest of the carvings. When the cave was converted to a Masonic lodge the possibility exists that more carvings were etched between the four saints. It is believed that when James ascended the British throne he brought Freemasonry with him introducing the Craft to England. This was clearly Speculative Masonry, and it is a reasonable supposition that the place where he did this was the Royston cave, only a few yards from his Royston lodgings. At this time, even for the king, Freemasonry was a secret society, hence the difficulty of the original entrance to the cave and the need for secret signs.

(Peter Houldcroft, Curator Royston Cave)

(Note: Royston Cave is a small artificial cave located in Katherine's Yard, Melbourn Street, Royston, England. It is located beneath the crossroads formed by Ermine Street and the Icknield Way. It is protected as both a scheduled ancient monument and Grade I listed building.)