



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, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

Website: www.pa8thmasonic.com; Facebook: PA 8th Masonic District

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

December 2019

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

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

Meets Monthly on the 1st 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

- 02 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 04 Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication,**
Marriott Center City, Philadelphia, PA
- 07 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation for 2020
- 11 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation
- 11 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation
- 13 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation
- 16 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.
Program: Elections and Installation
- 18 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation
- 27 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge-
Installation of Grand Lodge Officers/Banquet**
Marriott Center City, Philadelphia, PA

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION DECEMBER 27TH

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication is scheduled for December 27, 2019, 10:00 am., when the new R.W. Grand Master will be installed. This will be an open installation, so friends and ladies are invited to attend.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Open Communication
- 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Special Meeting of Lodge 595
- 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM Reception
- 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Inaugural Banquet

Please note that there will not be a luncheon this year due to the banquet time being moved up to 4:30 PM. Banquet tickets are \$100.00 per person and are to be purchased DDGM Richard Bradbury at 215-852-3532.

HELP FOR OUR HEROES NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Help for Our Heroes program through the years has been extremely successful in providing phone cards and baby showers to our active military families. In recent years, the Grand Lodge expanded the mission of the Help for Our Heroes Program to include assisting the families of active service personnel if an emergency occurred such as roof, plumbing and/or heating problems. We were able to assist some families with those issues but it left the funds for our Masonic baby showers reduced.

I have attended Masonic baby showers and have seen firsthand the positive impact that they have on the military families. To witness the surprise on the faces of the mothers-to-be for the generosity provided by the Fraternity and sponsors as well as the overwhelming gratitude they show is extremely satisfying. These are military families living away from their family and friends back home in other states. They often have no family in the area to throw them a shower and they feel alone; we fill that void.

This being the season of giving and a time to be thankful for what you have, I would ask that you consider giving generously to the Help for Our Heroes Program at your December meetings. It is a worthwhile charity with all donations going directly to the program, not administrative costs. This provides a connection with the profane and one that serves a need and says thank you to those in service of our country. Please take the opportunity to open your hearts and wallets during your December stated meetings to fill the collection hats and containers for Help for Our Heroes. If you cannot make the meeting, please send a check earmarked for Help for Our Heroes. On behalf of the program...thank you for your support.

CALLING ALL VETERANS

Last month one of our lodges attempted to identify which members were veterans in order to recognize them in honor of Veteran's Day. Upon running a report on the Grand Lodge database, only a handful of names were found. If you are a veteran, please contact your lodge secretary so he can add the information into the system so you will not be missed. Thank you.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

December 2, 1901

American Bro. King Camp Gillette, inventor and manufacturer, patented the first razor with disposable blades. Until that time men shaved with straight edged razors which they sharpened on a leather strap which served the dual purpose of spanking naughty boys. For 30 years Bro. Gillette was president of the Gillette Safety Razor Company.

December 14, 1929

The Tom Thumb golf course, named after Bro. Tom Thumb of circus fame, opened in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Various forms of miniature golf enjoyed considerable popularity in the U.S. from early in the 20th century. For the most part, people improvised their own courses with homemade obstacles. Standardized, patented, and franchised, Bro. Tom Thumb miniature golf courses rapidly spread across the country. Within two years, three thousand Tom Thumb courses were purchased for an original investment of \$4,500 each. This "Miniature Golf Gold Rush" occurred at the height of the Great Depression. Bro. Tom Thumb measured 40 in. and weighed 70 pounds which some thought made him the smallest Mason ever. But he was not - that distinction fell to Bro. Vance Smith who was only 26 in. tall and weighed but 34 pounds when he was raised at Pythagoras Lodge 355 in New Albany, IN on March 3, 1943.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"This is true in everyday life as it is in battle: we are given one life and the decision is ours whether to wait for circumstances to make up our mind, or whether to act, and in acting, to live."

-- Brother and General Omar Bradley

BLIND MASONS

Chaplain Couden of the House of Representatives of the United States for a long period of years was blind, and yet was a Mason. W. W. Drake, Kileen, Texas, became blind during his Mastership; he was re-elected for a second term. Charles F. Forshaw, Doncaster, England, who died in 1800, was for a number of years widely known as a Masonic musician. In his *Notes on the Ceremony of Installation*, page 52, Henry Sadler gives a sketch of the most famous of blind Masons, George Aarons, Master of Joppa Lodge, No. 1827, and of Lodge of Israel. He was a ritualist taught by Peter Gilkes, and for nearly twenty years was Lecture Master in the leading Lodges of Instruction. More remarkable still is Lux in Tenebris Lodge, on Shatsbury Avenue, London, which is a Lodge for blind Masons. The Craft in England has always acted on the principle that when the Craft was transformed from Operative to Speculative the Physical Qualifications were transformed with it.

Encyclopedia of Freemasonry Part 3, Albert G. Mackey and H. L. Haywood

DID YOU KNOW?

Early Chinese Philosophy

In China the implements of architecture were used in a system of moral philosophy at a very early date. Mencius, who wrote about 300 B.C., said: "A master Mason, in teaching his apprentices, makes use of the compasses and the square. Ye who are engaged in the pursuit of Wisdom, must also make use of the compasses and the square." In a book called *Great Learning*, 500 B.C., we find that "A man should abstain from doing unto others what he would not they should do unto him; and this is called the principle of acting on the square."

ROY CLAXTON ACUFF

Roy Acuff, "The King of Country Music," was born Sept. 15, 1903, in Maynardsville, TN. At one time he played semi-pro baseball. Later, when he went into show business, he formed a group known as the Smoky Mountain Boys. Soon they were being broadcast over WNOX radio and making records. Roy cut 316 sides and sold more than thirty million records. During the 1940's he became a star of the Grand Ole Opry where he appeared for more than fifty years. He acted in eight movies. In 1962 he was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame. On Nov. 23, 1992, he died leaving behind a rich legacy of well-loved music.

Bro. Acuff was raised on Feb. 21, 1944, in East Nashville Lodge No. 560. He belonged to the York Rite: Edward G. Corbitt Chapter No. 147, R.A.M., Nashville Council No. 1, R. & S.M., and Nashville Commandery No. 1, K.T. He was a 33rd degree AASR, Southern Jurisdiction and a member of Al Menah Shrine AAONMS.

(Source: *The Philatelic Freemason*, Nov-Dec 2003)

A PACK OF LIES!

As usual there was much hanging about, and all the Brethren were doing their difficult best to be patient. The Old Mason was standing next to a Young Brother, and, pulling a well-worn pack of cards out of his pocket, said to him, "Did you know that you can learn a great deal about Freemasonry from these?" "No indeed," said the Young Brother, "What can they teach me?"

"They are useful for improving your memory." Said the Old Mason. "Look here, now. Here's the Ace. That reminds you that there is but one Great Architect of the Universe. The deuce points out that there were two Great Pillars at the Porchway or Entrance to King Solomon's Temple. The three - well never forget that Three Rule a Lodge. Then there is the four - that reminds you of the four Cardinal Virtues., handed down since Classical times." And so he went on until he got to the Queen of Sheba and to King Solomon himself.

I am most grateful," said the Young Brother. "I will never forget all that you have said. But, tell me, there are two cards which you haven't yet explained." "Oh, those" said the Old Mason. "Those are the two Jokers who Proposed and Seconded you after telling you that it would take no more than one evening a month!"

The Freeman's Bedside Book, John Mandleberg