



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

May 2020

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)

MAY CALENDAR

**Due to the ongoing concerns about the Coronavirus, the
RW Grand Master has canceled/suspended ALL
Masonic activities until further notice.**

While the Grand Lodge is not aware of any cases of the
Coronavirus at any of the Masonic Villages, all public
events are suspended until further notice and activities are
limited at all the campuses. Visitors to the health care
facilities will be screened.

During this time of isolation and concern, please reach out
to our Brothers and widows. It is our Masonic
responsibility to help them any way we can. Take a couple
minutes to let someone know you care and are here if
needed.

You are urged to follow all precautions that are put out by
the Center for Disease Control to safeguard you and your
loved ones during this time.

SUSPENSION OF MASONIC ACTIVITIES EXTENDED BY GRAND MASTER

On April 2, 2020, R.W. Grand Master Thomas Gamon IV
extended the suspension of all Masonic activities until June
1, 2020. A copy of the letter can be found on the District
website. Depending on the status of the pandemic, it may
be extended again once June is upon us.

As an interesting aside, Bristol Lodge No. 25 is a Moon
Lodge which meets the Saturday on or before a full moon.
In May, there were to have been stated meetings on May
2nd and 30th due to full moons on May 7th and June 5th
respectively. Therefore, there is no meeting scheduled in
June. Presuming they call off from labor in the summer
months, they will not reconvene until at least September.

EXPLORE MASONIC BLOGGING AND PODCASTS

While you are spending more time at home, try exploring
the Masonic blog and podcast offerings that you can find
online or on a phone app. Here are some sites you can
start with:

Masonic Lite Podcast
masoniclite.com

Freemasons for Dummies Blogspot
freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com

Midnight Freemasons
midnightfreemasons.org

The Magpie Mason
themagpiemason.blogspot.com

The Short Talk Bulletin Podcasts
shorttalkbulletin.com

While we are called off from labor during this time, this
is a great way to receive Masonic Education, hear other
brothers' views or just keep abreast of what is going on
in the Fraternity.

AN EXCELLENT TIME TO CHECK OUT THE GRAND LODGE ON-LINE EDUCATION

The Grand Lodge offers a learning opportunity through
the online education page of the PA Grand Lodge
website. It allows brothers to learn about Masonic
History, Masonic Law, Mentor Program, About
Concordant and Appendant Masonic Bodies and/or The
Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation, Its History and
Programs. This is a great time to jump start working on
requirements for a "builder awards" offered by the Grand
Lodge while waiting for lodges to open up again.

To get started, log on to the Grand Lodge education portal
at <https://education.pagrandlodge.org> and create an
account if you don't have one already. You'll need your
member ID number to create an account – if you don't
know it, just reach out to your Lodge Secretary. Take the
time to complete your profile and review the education
materials that are present on the portal.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

May 14, 1796

Bro. Edward Jenner, a physician in rural England, successfully found a cure for smallpox. Bro. Jenner had spent two decades studying reports of dairy farmers who seemed to become immune to smallpox because of exposure to cowpox, a related but milder disease. Bro. Jenner injected cowpox in a healthy 8-year-old boy who subsequently developed cowpox. Six weeks later, Bro. Jenner injected the boy with Smallpox. He remained healthy. Bro. Jenner called this new procedure vaccination, from vaccine, another term for cowpox. Within 18 months, 12,000 people in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds. Jenner's development of a vaccine eventually led to the complete eradication of smallpox worldwide. Bro. Jenner was a member of Royal Faith and Friendship Lodge No. 2780, Berkeley, England, in which he served a term as Master (1811-13). He died in 1822.

THE SYMOBLISM OF THE PINECONE

During a recent video presentation on Masonic Esoterica hosted by the Castle Valley Lodge No. 190, Manitoba, Canada, the presenter, Bro. Jaime Paul Lamb, referenced the pinecone as a symbol once used in Freemasonry.

In Freemasonry, we must consider the pinecone's popularity as a motif in religious and secular architecture. The pinecones in Freemason architecture and symbolism has the spiritual significance of the Third Eye which is a mystical and esoteric concept of a speculative invisible eye, usually depicted as located on the forehead. This provides perception beyond ordinary sight or a state of enlightenment. Pinecones regularly appear framed in Freemason Octagons on the ceilings of Masonic Lodges. Pinecones also turn up as sources of "illumination" in the church, such as candleholders and lamps, seemingly symbolic of the spiritual illumination.

Our "Pine"al Gland, shaped like the pinecone, is at the geometric center of our brain and is intimately linked to our body's perception of light. In addition to spiritual consciousness and enlightenment, pinecones have also historically been used as symbols of everlasting or eternal life. In the Third Degree, coniferous trees, such as the Cedar of Lebanon brought from Tyre and used in building King Solomon's Temple. It has long been utilized as a symbol of the immortality of the human soul.

References included: *The Symbolism of the Pinecone*, Jaime Lamb

NEED OF CONTACT

One Candle may light another provided there is contact. One candle will never light another at a distance-only when flame touches wick. One Brother may kindle the fire of another, but not by standing aloof and away—only by intimate contact of mind with mind and heart with heart may the fire pass from man to man. Is the gentle by powerful Light of Masonry shining from you?

PLEASE FOLLOW THE CDC SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING COVID-19...

STAY HOME...STAY SAFE...STAY HEALTHY!

FREEMASONRY AND THE SPANISH FLU

Since the appearance of the Coronavirus-COVID-19, there have been comparisons made to the Spanish Flu pandemic (Jan. 1918-Dec. 1920). As we find ourselves with Masonic activities being cancelled, I was curious about references to Masonic actions taken during that epidemic.

"It should be noted that the influenza outbreak of 1918 devastated the world, killing an estimated 50 million people in contrast to the 16 million who died during World War I (July 1914-November 1918). One-fourth of the American population suffered from the influenza outbreak to some extent. The influenza epidemic struck the Elizabethtown area as severely as other locations. In a grand gesture of service to the community, doctors transferred the Masonic Homes residents without influenza from the Philadelphia Freemason Hospital to the Grand Lodge Hall Infirmary and opened the on-site hospital to community members with influenza. "This became a splendid asylum for the sorely stricken families of the vicinity who had no place else to go," the Committee on Masonic Homes reported. During the several months the hospital took patients from the community, 82 people with no Masonic affiliation received the best treatment possible. As a result of quarantines and precautions, no Masonic Homes residents or guests died from the influenza epidemic." (A Brief History of Masonic Charity, Grand Lodge of PA website)

In many states the local Masonic Temples/Halls were transformed into hospital facilities where there were none or to handle an overflow of patients. "It was not uncommon for several members of a household...to be under treatment simultaneously at the Masonic Temple hospital."

Among a collection of personal narratives, manuscripts and ephemera about the influenza pandemic, housed at UCLA, is a letter from Pvt. E. R. Mather serving in France, during the war, to his mother in Illinois where he describes in some detail "an evening party of Masons from the regiment, and a military funeral with Masonic rites for a regimental officer, a Mason, who had died from the Spanish influenza."

The 200th Anniversary History of Bristol Lodge No. 25, F. & A.M. states, "Owing to the quarantine regulations during the flu epidemic, no Stated Meeting was held in October 1918. Nearly 500,000 people in the United States died from influenza after it struck sometime in September. The Philadelphia area was especially hard hit by the attack."

A WORD OF THANKS

Brethren, because of the COVID-19 pandemic we have stayed at home in the evenings instead of attending lodge as a way of protecting ourselves; but not all of our brothers can do the same. I refer to our brothers and numerous other men and women, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters who have spent tireless hours putting their lives at risk to keep us safe, protect our lives and property and to treat those of us who have fallen prey to this malicious virus. Also for all the "life-sustaining" businesses and their employees who have worked diligently to ensure we have the products and services we need at this time. We cannot thank all of these people enough for their efforts and dedication to duty and service during this trying time. When you see them, give them a well-deserved word of thanks.