



# 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 2021

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday – If Needed/Called with due  
and timely notice.  
(No Stated Meetings in July and August)

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 06 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 08 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation/Blazing Star*
- 08 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 10 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 15 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 18 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation for  
2022/Difference F.&A.M. and A.F.&A.M.*
- 20 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 27 **Grand Lodge Annual Communication/  
Installation of Grand Lodge Officers. Pittsburgh**

### LULU SHRINE ANNUAL MASONIC BREAKFAST

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual breakfast honoring the R.W. Grand Master, Bro. Jeffrey M. Wonderling will be held on January 22, 2021 at 10:00 am. The 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District will have a table of 10 for the event. Seats will be on a first come, first reserved basis. If you are interested, the cost is \$15.00/pp. Contact DDGM Bradbury to reserve your seat at the table.

### THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENS

“Masonry is about brothers – and it’s about the lodge room. It’s what you do there that counts the most. Research Lodges, Grand Lodges and other bodies are here to help. But the future of Masonry is actually in your hands – the hands that welcome each candidate, touch the altar and raise the Master Mason. This is where it happens.”

Sanford Holst, Editor, *Southern California Research Lodge  
Fraternal Review*, December, 2014

### 1<sup>ST</sup> “LIBERTY TREE” DEDICATED

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and America 250 PA have partnered on The Liberty Tree Project. "Liberty Trees" were gathering places for the Sons of Liberty throughout all 13 colonies where the seeds of the American Revolution were planted.

Tulip Poplar trees, grown from seeds of a certified "Liberty Tree" once on the campus of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, will be planted in each of the 67 counties in the Commonwealth through 2026. The first "Liberty Tree" sapling was dedicated at Pennypacker Mill Park, Schwenksville on Saturday, October 30, 2021 in honor of Thomas Gamon IV, R.W. Grand Master. The park was the estate of former PA Governor and Freemason, Samuel W. Pennypacker.

### WHERE CAN I FIND MY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER?

With the rolling out of the new Grand View Membership program, brothers may need to know their membership number. Also, those brothers who are pursuing the Grand Lodge education awards (Master Builder, Master Craftsman, Master Pillar) will need to log in with their membership number. So, where can you find it?

If you look on the “mailing label” on The Pennsylvania Freemason that was mailed to you, you will find it above your name. Or, if you cannot locate your current issue of the magazine...you can contact your Lodge Secretary. Please realize that since this is a busy time for Secretaries, please try to locate it yourself before contacting him for it.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

George Washington, January 1793

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### December 15, 1954

In 1954 Walt Disney premiered TV's first mini-series of five segments on his Disneyland show. The show starred Fess Parker as American western hero Bro. Davy Crockett and was immensely popular. The show spawned Crockett paraphernalia including the famous coonskin cap. He gained immortality when he fell at the Alamo during the Texan struggle for Independence. Disney himself had been a senior DeMolay who did not enter the Craft.

### December 20, 1881

In Lucasville, OH was born Bro. Wesley Branch Rickey, Baseball Hall of Fame player, manager and executive. Bro. Rickey was baseball's most innovative general manager. He invented the farm system, instituted unique training and teaching methods and, most prominently, signed Jackie Robinson to play major league baseball with the then Brooklyn Dodgers. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1967 and died at Columbia, MO December 9, 1965. Bro. Rickey was initiated into Tuscan Lodge 360, St. Louis, MO.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Clara Barton Influenced by Masonic Father

Clara Barton, known as the "Angel of the Battlefield" during the Civil War, was a nurse, teacher and humanitarian, and today is honored as the "Founder of the American Red Cross."

Much of the inspiration for her life of service came from her father, Captain Stephen Barton, a Master Mason, who impressed her with the tenets of Freemasonry.

Captain Barton, a native of Oxford, Massachusetts, enlisted at age 19 to fight in the Indian Wars in the west under General Anthony Wayne. After his return to Oxford, he married, and later moved to the farm where Clara was born. He was chosen as Captain of the militia and served as moderator of town meetings, selectman and a member of the legislature.

Two months after his marriage, he became a Mason in Olive Branch Lodge. Brother Barton combined a military spirit, gentle disposition, and spirit of philanthropy—characteristics inherited by his daughter.

After his death, Clara said, "As the daughter of an accepted Mason, he bade me seek and comfort the afflicted everywhere." Before his death he presented his daughter a gold Masonic emblem to wear in his memory for luck and protection, Clara Barton wore that emblem throughout the Civil War.

Later in life, Clara became a member of the Order of Eastern Star, and was initiated by Rob Morris, the founder of the Order.

Just after her Eastern Star initiation, she said, "My father was a Mason; to him it was a religion, and for the love and honor I bear him, I am glad to be connected with anything like this."

*Royal Arch Mason Magazine, Summer 2013, George L. Marshall Jr*

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*May you and your family enjoy a Happy  
and Safe Holiday Season!*

## FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTMAS

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people.

On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns.

On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial.

They've been saying it for years - it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon A Charlie Brown Christmas which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.

Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies.

The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes

*"to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do until you."*

In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount. Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in our different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear

*"How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator."*

Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be. Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board.

But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft-faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at this time of the Year.

R.W. Bro Jim Bennie, Southern Cross Lodge No. 44, Vancouver B.C. (Canada); *The Educator*, theeducator.ca