



8th Masonic District

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Lodge No. 9, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125,
Houseman Lodge No. 211, Doylestown Lodge No. 245,
W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge No. 410, Newtown Lodge No. 427, Pilgrim Lodge No. 712

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

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

February 2023

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Lower Bucks Masonic Hall
Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067

Stated Monthly Meeting - 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm
Extra Meeting – If Needed, called with due and timely notice.
(No Stated Meetings in July and August)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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| 2 | Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
<i>Program: Degree Work</i> |
| 3 | Lodge 9 Stated Meeting
<i>Program: Rainbow for Girls</i> |
| 4 | Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
<i>Program: The Cable Tow in the Symbolic Degrees</i> |
| 8 | Hermann-Humboldt Stated Meeting
<i>Program: TBD</i> |
| 8 | Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
<i>Program: Cardiovascular Disease & Lower
Makefield EMS Defibrillator Training</i> |
| 9 | Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
<i>Program: Annual Memorial Service/Exam of Visitor</i> |
| 10 | Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
<i>Program: Fossil Bluff: An Instagram Artificer</i> |
| 12 | Constitution of Elizabethtown Day Lodge No. 816 |
| 15 | W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated
<i>Program: Grand Lodge of England/Masonic Funeral
Service</i> |
| 20 | George Washington National Masonic Memorial
Parade & Cornerstone Rededication, Alexandria, VA |
| 20 | 8th Masonic District School of Instruction |

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MASONIC MEMORIAL PARADE AND CORNERSTONE REDEDICATION

Be part of the events on Monday, February 20th. All Grand Lodges, Lodges, Masonic groups and Freemasons in amity with the Grand Lodge of Virginia may participate in the Parade from historic Old Town Alexandria up to the Memorial. The parade starts at 1:30 pm.

The rededication ceremony takes place at 3:30 pm. All Brothers attending the events should register on the website, <https://gwmemorial.org>. Additional details and hotel information, if needed, can also be found on the site.

CHANGES COMING TO THE 8TH MASONIC DISTRICT THIS YEAR

The Board of Governors Meeting of the 8th Masonic District was held on January 9, 2023. (For those not familiar, the Board of Governors consists of the Worshipful Masters of the District and the District Deputy Grand Master.) At that meeting plans and initiatives for the coming year are discussed and decided on.

We welcomed Lodge No. 9, Houseman Lodge No. 211 and Pilgrim Lodge No. 712 into the District. We look forward to working with the members of those lodges to provide new ideas and programs to benefit our District brethren.

The School of Instruction officers were elected for this new Masonic Year:

President: Brother Luke Judy, W.K. Bray-Southampton
Lodge

1st Vice President: Brother Mark Vandzura, P.M. Lodge
No. 9

2nd Vice President: Brother Zachary Peiffer, Bristol Lodge

Treasurer: Brother Timothy Cagle, Newtown Lodge

Secretary: Brother Edward M. Schiesser, P.M., W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge

Principal: Brother Kirk W. Borowski, P.M., Doylestown
Lodge

During the meeting a discussion was had on moving the School of Instruction. Considerations included; being at our current location over 15 years, to better accommodate members of the lodges residing in Lower Bucks, Philadelphia and New Jersey and to provide more versatility for education and fellowship. Therefore, **starting in February the District School of Instruction will be held at the Lower Bucks Masonic Hall (Newtown Lodge), Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067.** This will be a trial move for the first part of the year to allow time to evaluate if the School should remain there permanently. Brothers are encouraged to attend the School of Instruction for ritual and Masonic education as well as getting to know other members of the District and the exchange of ideas.

Mentoring is now to be provided at the School of Instruction to all Mentees as they progress through to each degree. A more formalized program has been created to ensure they get the most out of the Mentoring Program. ALL Mentees are expected to attend the school to start this process.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

February 3, 1943

Four chaplains of different faiths gave their life jackets to soldiers off Greenland from torpedoed troop ship "Dorchester" and, in so doing, knowingly sacrificed their own lives. One of the four was Lt. and Bro. George Landring Fox of Moose River Lodge 82, Concord, Vt. (The others were Alexander Cook, Clark Poling and John Washington.)

February 24, 1803

In the case of *Marbury vs. Madison*, Bro. John Marshall's U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the final interpreter of constitutional issues is the Supreme Court. This ruling set an important precedent allowing judicial review of the constitutionality of laws. Just as George Washington helped shape the actual form that the executive branch would take, so the third chief justice, Bro. John Marshall, shaped the role that the courts would play. The new chief justice, John Marshall's decision in this case has been hailed as a judicial tour de force. In essence, he declared that the Judiciary Act of 1789 gave the Supreme Court the power to issue writs of mandamus exceeding the authority allotted the Court under Article III of the Constitution, and was therefore null and void. yet would not create a situation in which a court order would be flouted. Bro. Marshall was a member of Richmond Lodge 13, Richmond, VA.

DID YOU KNOW?

President Raises Two Sons on the Same Night

On November 7, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the meeting of Architect Lodge No. 519 in New York and raised two of his sons, James and Franklin D., Jr. An honorary membership certificate was presented to the President by the Lodge.

ALAS POOR HIRAM!

Where the Hiram Legend really came from no one knows. Hiram is mentioned in the Bible in I Kings and II Chronicles, stories written 700 years apart. He was also mentioned in the Cooke Manuscript of 1410. But the Graham Manuscript, discovered in 1936 and dated 1726, and filled with Masonic ritual, tells the legend of Noah, which any Mason should find extremely interesting.

The manuscript story is that a valuable secret died with Noah. His three sons, Shem, Ham, and Jepheth, desirous of finding this secret, which they supposed Noah had carried with him into the grave determined to exhume the body, "agreeing beforehand that if they did not find the very thing itself, the first thing they found was to be to them as a secret. They found nothing in the grave except the dead body; when the finger was gripped it came away, and so with the wrist and the elbow. They then reared up the dead body, support it by setting foot to foot, knee to knee, breast to breast, cheek to cheek and hand to back. One said here is yet marrow in this bone and the second said but a dry bone and the third said it stinketh."

"Masonry's Modern Mystery: The Origin of Its Ritual"
Grand Oration by R.W. Louis L. Williams, Grand Lodge of Illinois – 1967

Tied to Masonic Apron Strings, Steward M.L. Pollard

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

5 Some of you may have read the little poetic gem, "The Bridge Builder," which tells of the old man who walked a lone highway and came at night to a chasm vast and deep and wide. The old man, because of his vast experience had little trouble in crossing the sullen stream but when he was safe on the other side he turned to build a bridge to span the tide. A fellow pilgrim, you will remember, asked the old man why he stopped to build the bridge when his journey would end with the ending day and he would not again pass that way; and the old man replied, "There followed after me today a fair-haired youth. This chasm which has been naught to me, might to him a pitfall be. He, too, must cross in the twilight dim; good friend, I am building this bridge or him."

Isn't there something for Masons, especially Past Masters, in that beautiful little poem, the author of which is unknown? Past Masters may be likened to the old man who built the bridge at eventide for the fair-haired youth who followed along the lone highway. At least, they should play a part that would make it possible to liken them to that old man. They should be building bridges for those who follow. Of course, they should not attempt to run the lodge, but neither should they permit themselves to become useless has-beens. Theirs the duty to set an example by ever remembering a Brother's welfare and by being ever ready to go on foot, along a lone highway, to bring cheer to the sick room; theirs the duty to welcome the opportunity to perform any task the Master may ask them to perform; theirs the duty to be every ready to give to the Master or others who may request it, the good counsel which their experience qualifies them to give; theirs the duty to be fountains of knowledge upon which others may draw; theirs the duty to measure up to what younger Masons expect of duty to measure up to what younger Masons expect of those who have Passed the Chair; theirs the duty to be ever building bridges on the lone highway upon which others may be traveling; theirs the duty to provide safe highways through chasms vast, and deep and wide, in which are concealed the beautiful Lessons and Teachings of Freemasonry; in which are to be found interpretations of the enigmatic and priceless Symbols of Freemasonry.

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I ask of each Mason, of each member, of each brother, that he shall remember ever that there is upon him a peculiar obligation to show himself in every respect a good citizen; for after all, the way he can best do his duty by the ancient order to which he belongs is by reflecting credit upon that order by way in which he performs his duty as a citizen of the United States.

Theodore Roosevelt

THE MASONIC ORGANIZATION

Good Ritualistic work is a beauty to behold. But it can only be good if it is rehearsed many, many times. Hence, many of our brethren stay home to watch television.

Trestleboard Tidbits, Compiled by Alphonse Cerza