



# 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pa8thmasonic.com); Facebook: PA 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District

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

November 2024

### 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

**Lower Bucks Masonic Hall (Newtown Lodge)**

Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067

**Stated Monthly Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:30 pm**

Extra Meeting – If Needed, called with due and timely notice.  
(No Stated Meetings in July and August)

### NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting  
*Program: Veterans/Communist Living Program*
- 7 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Veteran's Month/Help for the Heroes*
- 8 **Doylestown Lodge-DDGM Visitation**  
*Program: Masonic Symbolism*
- 9 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Trinity of Selfhood*
- 13 **Hermann-Humboldt Lodge-DDGM Visitation**  
*TBD*
- 13 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Recognition of Veterans/Natl Sojourners & VFW*
- 14 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Freemasonry and Leadership*
- 18 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 20 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated Mtg.  
*Program: Veteran's Night/Member Appreciation*

### **SAVE THE DATE – DDGM PRESENTATION**

As reported last month, Brother John P. Sellani, P.M. has been appointed to and will assume the role of District Deputy Grand Master of the 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District on December 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm.

January 18, 2025, 2:00 pm, at Newtown Lodge, will be his District Deputy Grand Master Presentation with the R.W. Grand Master Larry A. Derr and the other R.W. Officers participating. At that time he will be officially presented as DDGM, take his obligation and be invested with his collar and apron. This is an Open Presentation so all Masons and their families/friends are welcome to attend. Further details on the event will be provided as they become available.

*Wishing all of our Brothers and their families a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving*

### **THE MASON WHO MARKED THANKSGIVING DAY**

Taking time to recognize one's blessings – an autumn day is as American as ... pumpkin pie! In New England, the tradition of a day of Thanksgiving dates back to 1621 when the Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest. The members of the Continental Congress declared in 1777 after the victory of the Continental Army at Saratoga, that all peoples of the colonies give thanks for this new nation.

Among the many accomplishments, renowned Mason and Founding Father, George Washington, is noted for issuing a proclamation, following a recommendation by the Federal Congress in 1789, that all Americans should celebrate Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> as a "Day of Public Thanksgiving".

Many Presidents in the coming years would continue the tradition of asking our citizens to set aside a day to be thankful for God's blessing on America. However, the dates and even the month of "Thanksgiving Day" varied from one presidential administration to another in the decades to come.

It was not until 1939 when another Freemason, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, issued a proclamation calling for the "second to last Thursday in November" to be recognized as an official national holiday. This produced a lot of "gobbling" from politicians and created considerable partisan discourse.

Many historians believe that Roosevelt was trying to gain political capital by choosing a date for the Thanksgiving holiday. It was felt by many at the time that FDR was trying to ensure that the date of "Turkey Day" not be pushed to the very end of the month in order to provide consumers with an extra week to shop for Christmas presents – thus giving a boost to President Roosevelt's economic recovery plan in the midst of the Depression.

Roosevelt's decision was not without controversy in Washington and around the USA. Only 23 out of the then 48 states adhered to FDR's presidential proclamation and celebrated Thanksgiving on the third week of November. The remaining legislatures and governors balked at Roosevelt's order and maintained that their residents would celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday a week later on the last Thursday of the month as it had traditionally been done since the era of Abraham Lincoln.

Two years later, with Roosevelt still in the White House, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution naming the last Thursday in each November to be officially recognized as Thanksgiving. The Senators, however, amended the resolution to read that the fourth Thursday of November should be recognized as America's official Thanksgiving Day. The House of Representatives finally agreed and FDR signed the resolution into law on the day after Christmas, December 26, 1941.

Grace Dee May Museum and Library

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

**November 4, 1879**

Born to part Cherokee Clement Vann Rogers and his Cherokee wife, Mary, in Claremore, OK, the last of the couple's eight children - Will Rogers, named after a prominent Cherokee chief. He was seven years old when he became No. 11384 on the authenticated rolls of the Cherokee Nation. Will grew up learning to ride a horse as he was learning to walk. He learned rope tricks from a ranch hand. He did well in everything he touched except school, rarely lasting more than three months in any but the last - a girl's seminary in Muskogee where he spent most of his time lassoing girls. He drifted for several years and returned home in 1904 to perform at the World's Fair in St. Louis. He petitioned Claremont Lodge 53 and received the degrees on February 18, 1905, March 10 and 13, 1906. On April 16, 1908 he received the Scottish Rite Degrees in the Valley of McAlester. By 1908 he had become a highly paid vaudeville performer with successful tours throughout the United States and Europe. Bro. Will joined Akdar Shrine temple in November 20, 1914, and by 1915 he was a regular in the Ziegfield follies. He next went into the movies, became a writer and philanthropist, giving freely to the Red Cross, the Shrine Children's Hospitals and to orphan homes. He arranged and performed at numerous benefits for victims of natural disasters, made large contributions to the blind and donated his entire salary for his 1933 radio broadcasts to The Salvation Army and The Red Cross. Bro. Will loved to fly. He first flew in 1915. He flew with Bro. Charles Lindbergh and Bro. Eddie Rickenbacker. So when fellow Oklahoman Wiley Post invited Bro. Rogers to accompany the record-setting pilot on a trip to Russia via Alaska, Bro. Will accepted. On August 15, the little plane took off from the river 15 miles north of Point Barrow and almost immediately crashed into the river bank. An Eskimo family saw the crash and reported the death of the two flyers. Bro. Will had written earlier: "When I die the writing on my gravestone is going to say, 'Never met a man I didn't like.' I'm so proud of that I can hardly wait to die so it can be carved." He did and it was.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The 50-star United States flag was designed by Brother Robert G. Heft when he was 17 years old. He designed the flag as a school project in Lancaster, Ohio and got a B- for his project. He made an agreement with his teacher that if the flag was made as the official flag, he would get a better grade. His design was chosen out of more than 500 designs that were given to the U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his teacher raised his grade to an A. Brother Heft was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 57, Lancaster, Ohio.

*The Philatelic Freemason/Emessay Notes, November, 2018*

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### OF ALL KINDS

At a Masonic festivity the speaker divided Freemasons into six classes: Emblem-wearing Masons, dues-paying Masons, knife-and-fork Masons, ritual-reciting Masons, ignorant Masons and living-and-exemplifying Masons. Which one are you?

*Tied to Masonic Apron Strings, Stewart M.L. Pollard*

## TAPPING THE OUTSIDE OF FREEMASONRY

We, as Masons, speak proudly, and justifiably so, of the Great Teachings of our Fraternity. We make loudly applauded speeches (at least, we hope they'll be loudly applauded) about the Sublime and Eternal Truths contained within our Symbols. We sometimes speak of Freemasonry as a liberal education, which it is. We sometimes speak of Freemasonry as a religion, which it isn't. But, despite all the splendid things we say about Freemasonry, and justifiably so, isn't it true that very few of us give any considerable time to a study of the Lessons and Teachings which we vocally hold in such high esteem? Isn't it true that at every exemplification of a degree we see and hear many things which we but partially understand, yet our curiosity is not aroused to such an extent that we make any serious effort to discover the meanings of the things we do not comprehend.

I am reminded of the faithful railway employee, who spent fifty years of his life tapping the wheels of trains that stopped at a certain division point. The superintendent of the road had heard of the faithful employee. One day he got off his special train for the purpose of complimenting the old man. When the superintendent alighted, the old employee already was tapping the wheels. He went down one side and up the other. When the task had been completed, the superintendent stepped up and introduced himself.

"I understand you have been on this job for half a century and have never missed a day."

That's correct."

"It must be a great deal of satisfaction to you to look back upon 50 years of faithful service."

"Yes, sir, it certainly is."

"You must take a great deal of pride in the fact that for half a century, pleasant days and stormy days, in rain or shine, snow and sleet, you have played your part in looking after the safety of the passengers on this great railway."

"Yes, sir, I'm mighty proud of my record."

"Now, my good man, explain to me why you tap those wheels."

"I'll be doggoned if I know."

Isn't our Masonry a great deal like the service of the faithful old railway employee. Don't the greater number of us merely tap the outside, the surface, without having much idea of what it is all about. Aren't the greater number of us so lacking in curiosity that we don't try to find out why we do this, or why we do that, or what this means, or what that means? Let's develop a little curiosity.

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

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## GLOSSARY-TRAMPING MASONS

Unworthy members of the Order, who, using their privileges for interested purposes, traveling from city to city and from Lodge to Lodge, that they may seek relief by tales of fictitious distress, have been called "tramping Masons." The true brother should ever obtain assistance; the trampler should be driven from the door of every Lodge or the house of every Mason where he seeks to intrude his imposture.

*Encyclopedia of Freemasonry Part 2, Albert G. Mackey*