

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

Issued Every Three Months By

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging, through its

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC CULTURE—William E. Yeager, Past Grand Master, Chairman; William E. Montgomery, G. Edward Elwell, Jr., Frank R. Leech, William A. Carpenter, Charles A. Young and Ashby B. Paul.

APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE PRINTED BY

RALPH M. LEHR

Right Worshipful Grand Master

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Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

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Lodge No. 22 Celebrates One Hundred Seventy-five Years

An unusually attractive and informative Souvenir Program was published in connection with the One Hundred Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Lodge No. 22 of Sunbury, Pennsylvania. Brother George P. Druckemiller, who was Worshipful Master of this Lodge in 1922 and a former District Deputy Grand Master, produced this beautiful brochure which includes a concise and most interesting Historical Sketch of this Lodge, one of the oldest in Pennsylvania. The following excerpts were taken from this history:

"With so many Masons who were probably members of Army or travelling Lodges being stationed from time to time during the Revolutionary War at Fort Augusta, which was located just north of the present town of Sunbury, it was natural to have the urge to form a new Lodge here.

Lodge Warranted in 1779

"Sunbury was laid out in 1772 and seven years later Lodge No. 22 came into being. In 1779 nine Brethren, supposedly all members of Army Lodges, applied to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a Warrant, which was granted at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on October 4, 1779, and its first Stated Meeting was held on the following St. John's Day.

"It is interesting to note that the initiation fee in 1780 was set at One Hundred Fifty Dollars; a sizable amount in those days, and the dues were eight dollars per meeting, probably largely to cover the expenses of the necessary refreshments. The stated meeting night was fixed on the night of the full moon (except when it occurred on Sunday) and the Lodge to this Day meets by the moon.

"Many early meetings had to be postponed due to the ravages of the Indians who frequented that area, many citizens in the Valley having lost their lives in the Indian raids of 1781.

"In the early days of this Lodge, officers were elected twice each Masonic year, and they were installed on St. John, the Baptist's Day, June 24, as well as on St. John, the Evangelist's Day, December 27. This practice continued until 1818, when annual elections were started. All business in the early era (until 1843), was transacted in the Entered Apprentice Masons Lodge so that all the Brethren could be present. An Entered Apprentice had a vote on all questions and petitions and could hold any office except that of Master. It was sometimes years before some of the Brethren were made Master Masons.

New Warrant in 1787

"In 1787 the newly established Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, which had severed its ties with England, granted a new Warrant to Lodge No. 22. This Warrant is still preserved under glass.

"The early meetings of this Lodge were held at the homes of the members or in taverns, either in Sunbury or near-by Northumberland. Since 1809 its meeting place has been in Sunbury. As many of the meetings were held in taverns, drinking was often as immoderate as the feasting, and the Lodge decorum was probably far different from that of to-day. It was not until 1906 that liquor was banned at Lodge banquets and Masonic Temples in this jurisdiction.

"The work of the three degrees has also undergone many changes in these 175 years, the so called "charts or Masters carpets" having been removed from Blue Lodge rooms by edict in 1890.

"Lodge No. 22 survived the Anti-Masonic period of 1826-1838, and while records indicate only nine of its stated meetings were omitted in these troublesome times the attendance was often very meagre. In 1837 this was the only Lodge at Labor in Northumberland County.

New Temple in 1908

"This Lodge throughout the years had many meeting places prior to the completion in 1908 of the present Masonic Temple on Market Street facing the Public Square. The Temple suffered a destructive fire in 1922, but fortunately the Lodge Room was able to be used uninterruptedly.

"Thirty-nine members of the Lodge served in the Armed forces during World War I and happily all thirty-nine returned home after the war without any casualties. Like many other Lodges, Lodge No. 22 had a large increase in membership after the end of the War, the five year growth being one hundred new Members.

"On March 18 and 19, 1936, Sunbury suffered a severe flood when the Susquehanna River overflowed its banks. Although there was 20 inches of water on the sidewalk in front of the Masonic Temple, no serious damage resulted. The banquet hall of the Temple was occupied for some time after the flood by the Red Cross for the relief of flood victims.

"Thirty-three Members of the Lodge served in World War II and providentially every Member returned home safely as in the first World War. In the five years after this War, Lodge No. 22 took in 91 Members.

Third Oldest Lodge

"Lodge No. 22 claims to be the third oldest Masonic Lodge in Pennsylvania in point of continuous existence, the oldest Lodge No. 3 in Philadelphia and the second oldest, Perseverance No. 21 of Harrisburg, which was warranted on the same day as Lodge No. 22. Lodge No. 22 further claims that the other Lodges which were organized prior to it subsequently surrendered their warrants, and several of the older numbers, 2, 9 and 19, were used in warranting later Lodges.

"Lodge No. 22 still has in its possession many of its old documents and furniture, including the warrant issued by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and all of the minutes beginning with St. John's Day, 1779.

"Lodge No. 22 with close to 500 Members continues to be one of the most flourishing Masonic bodies in this section of the Commonwealth."

Deputy Grand Master Visits Grand Lodge of Cuba

(Continued from page 2)

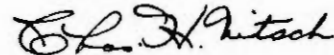
of the various Grand Lodges were invited to the porch on the first floor of the Temple, where we witnessed the dedication ceremonies. As the dedication ceremonies finished, a large Cuban flag, covering the full width of the Temple, and reaching from the roof to the second floor, was unfurled, and out of it flew several hundred white doves and at the same time, the lights of the Temple were thrown on, and the wife of the Grand Master cut the silken cord officially opening the Temple.

It was my good fortune to have detailed to act as my guide, Brother Luis M. Rojas, a young Cuban lawyer, and for the next three hours we were taken to every floor of the Temple, and it was not until nine o'clock Sunday evening that we had fully inspected this magnificent structure. I could not help but note that every Mason, and I conversed with many, was proud of his membership and was more concerned with what he could do for Freemasonry than what Freemasonry could do for him.

The Lodge rooms carry the pattern as we know it in Philadelphia, with their Corinthian Hall, Ionic Hall, Gothic Hall, and others, all patterned after classic architectural themes.

It was interesting further to note that all members of the Lodges in Cuba pay monthly dues of \$2.50.

I can only say again that I feel I was greatly honored in being permitted to represent our Grand Lodge at this inspiring ceremony and I was asked to bring back from Brother and Dr. Carlos M. Pineiro y del Cueto, Most Worshipful Grand Master, the fraternal greetings of the Masons of Cuba to the Masons of Pennsylvania.



CHARLES H. NITSCH
R. W. Deputy Grand Master

The FREEMASON

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A Message from Our Grand Master

DURING MY VISITATIONS to Subordinate Lodges, and other Grand Jurisdictions, many Masons asked me how we operate and maintain the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

The Masonic Homes is an Administrative Department of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, controlled by the Committee on Masonic Homes. This committee is composed of the four elective Grand Lodge Line Officers and seven other members of Grand Lodge. These members are elected each year at the December Quarterly Communication. Three members of the committee of seven are selected as the Executive Committee. The General Committee of eleven men meet the Fourth Friday of each month; the Executive Committee meets every Thursday.

In 1902 a dream flashed across the minds of a few Grand Lodge Officers to build a home for destitute Master Masons, their wives, widows or mothers. This dream grew into serious thinking and on March 4, 1903 a resolution was adopted and a committee appointed to make a survey to determine if there was such a need. June 3, 1903 this committee reported they had received returns from 324 Lodges, of which 281 were in favor of establishing such a home. December 2, 1903 a Committee on Masonic Homes was appointed. At the Annual Grand Communication of Grand Lodge December 27, 1904, this Committee submitted an amendment to the Ahiman Rezon providing for the election and duties of a Masonic Homes Committee, which was adopted in December 1906.

December 2, 1908 the Committee on Masonic Homes was authorized and empowered to purchase real estate, employ architects and a Superintendent, and adopt plans and specifications as well as make contracts, etc., for the erection of a Masonic Home and other buildings. The resolution called for the location of the Homes to be near a main line railroad, central location with an abundance of good water, and located in the country. After consideration and inspection of a number of favorable properties, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania was selected. The tract at that time contained 967 acres costing \$135,297. Title was taken on April 1, 1910. Grand Lodge Hall cornerstone was laid in 1911 and the building dedicated in 1913.

The present estimated value of the Homes and Farms is approximately \$15,000,000. Today we own and use 1400 acres of land and the Homes cover an area of more than two square miles containing 83 buildings. At the present time we have 651 guests (16 girls, 34 boys, and 601 adults). There are 270 regular employees in the Homes, Engineering and Farm Departments. In the agricultural season this number reaches approximately 330.

The maintenance budget for 1955 is \$1,008,000. Only \$50,000 is spent for the purchase of food which includes citrus fruits, cereal, sugar, coffee, tea, etc. More than 95% of all food consumed at the Homes is the product of our farms.

Over 200 of our guests are in the hospital, which is staffed with 55 attendants and 4 registered nurses, all under the supervision of Dr. Paul R. Evans, resident physician and a supervising nurse. The Allegheny Rest Home has 65 infirmed adult guests. This Home is staffed with 3 attendants around the clock.

The meals for Grand Lodge Hall, Hospital, Girls and Boys Units and the Allegheny Rest Home, are prepared in a central kitchen in Grand Lodge Hall and distributed by heat controlled tanks and trucks. More than 2700 meals are served daily.

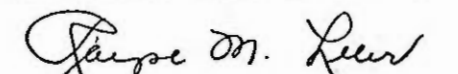
The fuel and power cost is over \$60,000 a year. Springs and artesian wells provide our water supply which is held in our reservoir with a capacity of 1,300,000 gallons.

The Farm Department milks 110 cows daily, providing all the milk and cream for use at the Homes; churns 20,000 pounds of butter yearly and makes all the ice cream. The dairy herd totals 220 head. They raise 10,000 chickens yearly, which produce 45,000 dozens eggs and 40,000 pounds of dressed poultry. This department also produces 23,960 bushels of vegetables and fruit and 27,415 quarts of cherries and berries. Of this amount 20,977 gallons are canned and 7,880 gallons frozen. They also make 204 gallons of jelly.

The Abattoir dressed 55 steers, 68 sheep, 498 hogs, 19 cows and heifers, 56 veal calves and 3 bulls during the past year.

Each year the Grand Master appeals to the Masons of this Commonwealth for a free will contribution for the Guest Christmas and Entertainment Fund. The money the Homes receives from Pennsylvania Masons all over the world, is spent for magazines, Pennsylvania newspapers, two weekly movies, orchestras, stage shows, concerts, picnics, holiday dances, bus trips, religious and chaplain services, tobacco and pipes, parties, music lessons and supplies, all Public School activities at Elizabethtown, class rings, school dues, graduation necessities, girls and boys playgrounds and equipment, swimming pool, Red Cross instruction (each child is taught to swim), ice and roller skating, piano, radio and television maintenance, watch repairs, Christian activities for all adult guests, girls and boys at the Homes and boys at the Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution. Last but not least, each Guest receives a monthly allowance of \$5.00 and a \$10.00 gift at Christmas time. This monthly allowance alone costs over \$39,000 a year. The Christmas Season cost is over \$20,000 and the full year of activities cost is in excess of \$25,000, all of which is paid from your magnanimous contributions through your Lodge.

The above is a thumb nail sketch of Your Masonic Homes. VISIT THE HOMES AND SEE FOR YOURSELF—YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.



RALPH M. LEHR, Grand Master

Deputy Grand Master Visits Grand Lodge of Cuba

A rare and greatly appreciated privilege was accorded me when our Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, asked me to represent him at the dedication ceremonies of the new Masonic Temple of the Grand Lodge of Cuba in Havana, on Saturday, February 26th, and Sunday, February 27th, 1955. The occasion is one I shall long remember.

The dedication was timed to take place immediately after the 1955 Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, held in Washington, D. C., February 21st to February 24th, and, as a result, a number of Grand Lodges were represented in Havana. There were present representatives from the Grand Lodges of Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Florida, Michigan, Iowa, Colorado, Maryland, California, Missouri, Washington, and the District of Columbia. A number of Central American Grand Lodges were represented as well as the Grand Lodge of Argentina, Chile, Germany and some Provinces of Canada. All the representatives from the United States and Canada flew from Miami on Friday, February 25th at 3:15 P. M., and arrived at the Havana Airport at 4:15 P. M. The Grand Master of Cuba, Brother Carlos M. Pineiro y del Cueto, was on the same flight, he having also attended the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington.

Our reception at the Airport in Havana was most inspiring. As soon as all had disembarked from the planes, we were asked to stand by, and then onto the field marched the Cuban Marine Corps Band, which saluted us by playing the National Anthems of Canada, the United States, and finally the Cuban National Anthem. We were then, by pre-arrangement, quickly sent through Customs and taken by special bus to the headquarters hotel, the Sevilla-Biltmore.

That evening we were the guests at a dinner given by the Grand Master of Cuba at the fabulous "Tropicana," where we enjoyed a sumptuous dinner and were entertained by an outstanding floor show.

On Saturday evening an official reception of the visiting Grand Lodge representatives was held at the Auditorium Theater. In addition to the officers of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, the various representatives were conducted to places on the stage. We first were entertained with a concert by the Marine Band, and then listened to addresses by the Grand Master of Cuba and other officers of that Grand Lodge. All these addresses were delivered in Spanish, followed by an English translation for our benefit. The speaker for the American Grand Lodges was Brother Charles Mantz, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Colorado.

Some months prior to the dedication of the new Temple, the Grand Lodge of Cuba wrote to our Grand Lodge, requesting that our Grand Lodge present to them for their Museum, the original warrant of Lodge "Templo de las Virtudes Teologales, No. 103." This Lodge was warranted by our Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on December 17, 1804. On June 4, 1821, a communication was received from Brother Jose Maria Canalejo concerning the establishment of the Grand Lodge at Savannah and the warrant of Lodge No. 103 was returned to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania where it was filed with the archives as a matter of history.

When the Grand Lodge of Cuba requested

that we present to them the original warrant of Lodge No. 103, they were given no assurance that their request would meet with favor, as it has been the custom of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania never to part with any original documents, and so the matter rested when I made the trip to Havana. But our Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, decided that it would be a nice gesture, in the interest of International Freemasonry, to give this warrant to the Grand Lodge of Cuba, and it was my good fortune to be asked to carry this historical document to Cuba and surprise them at an opportune time by presenting it to them.

On the evening of the official reception I therefore arranged to have myself put on the program and, at the proper time, made the presentation of the Warrant to the Grand Master. I am certain all Pennsylvania Masons would have been thrilled had they been present, to see with what enthusiasm and pleasure this fraternal gesture was greeted. The proceedings were interrupted so that photographs could be taken of the Grand Master of Cuba and myself holding the Warrant between us. I was very fortunate in having the Assistant Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Cuba act as my interpreter and, instead of making my entire address in English without interruption, then have it translated in Spanish, he stood by me at the microphone and interrupted me at such intervals of time as he felt he could properly translate my remarks and, in this way, it was possible for him to present the full impact of what I was saying, rather than wait for the end of the speech. On Sunday morning, February 27th, we were taken on a sight-seeing tour to Morro Castle. That afternoon was the day of the dedication of the Temple. The Temple is a magnificent structure, ten stories high, built as a hollow square, so that there is full ventilation in all the Lodge rooms and offices. Two of the floors of the Temple are used as offices other than for Masonic purposes. The Grand Master of Cuba himself is a lawyer, and he has his professional offices on one floor, and it is only necessary for him to walk up one flight of stairs, and then he can walk into his office as Grand Master.

The cost of the Temple was approximately \$4,000,000, and when we realize there are but 31,700 Masons in Cuba, we can fully realize what a magnificent undertaking was brought to completion. It was my good fortune to be seated in the reviewing stand with Brother and Reverend E. G. Morgudo, Secretary of the Cuba Conference of the Methodist Church and Executive Secretary of the Cuban Council of Churches. He explained many of the details to me as the parade went by. I learned from Rev. Morgudo that the Grand Lodge of Cuba finances a number of schools for boys and girls, has a Masonic Home for orphans, and a Masonic Home for adult guests patterned after the fashion of our own Grand Lodge Homes at Elizabethtown.

A large grandstand seating about 1000 people had been erected in the street in front of the Temple. At about three o'clock a parade started which took three hours to pass the reviewing stand. There are 292 lodges in Cuba, and at least 150 of these lodges were in the parade. The parade was led by the Havana Police Band. Then followed what are called "Youth Groups" sponsored by the masonic lodges. These youth groups are

boys ranging in ages from twelve to eighteen years, and are sponsored by the Cuban Lodges. Then followed many ladies groups known as Sisters of Acacia. After them came the subordinate lodges each led by a lodge member carrying the banner of his lodge. It was of interest to learn there is no race discrimination in the Grand Lodge of Cuba. In many cases Negroes carried the Lodge banner. There was a generous sprinkling of Negroes and Chinese parading with their lodges.

It was also interesting to note that many lodges are named for outstanding Americans, such as George Washington, General Leonard Wood, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, and others.

At the end of the parade, the representatives

(Continued on page 4)

Facts and Figures

Your Committee on Masonic Culture is grateful, indeed, for the respect, reception and response afforded the first two issues of "The Pennsylvania Freemason."

With the mailing of this third issue, the circulation throughout our jurisdiction is nearing the 90,000 mark and each day brings more requests to be added to the mailing list.

The committee does regret, however, the fact that so many of the return cards received could not be accepted. It is imperative that your full name, complete address and your Lodge name and Lodge number be known before your name can appear on the mailing list. If you know of any Brethren who have applied for "The Pennsylvania Freemason," and are not receiving it, kindly tell them to put the above information on an ordinary postal card and mail to: Library, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, F. & A. M., Masonic Temple, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

The publication is free to all Pennsylvania Freemasons, save for the two-cent postal card you must mail with the required information.

"The Pennsylvania Freemason" will be published four times a year and will be timed to precede each Quarterly Communication of The Grand Lodge.

You are urged to notify us immediately of any change in your address.

The souvenir album "The Masonic Temple, Philadelphia," and the set of seventeen pamphlets, both mentioned in the previous issues of "The Pennsylvania Freemason," are still available for your purchase. The album sells for \$2.00 and the pamphlets sell for \$2.00 per set of seventeen. They can be purchased from the Library, Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pa. **Please make your check or money order payable to the R. W. Grand Secretary.**

You are again reminded that any Master Mason in Pennsylvania may borrow books from the Circulating Library of Grand Lodge. See the Secretary of your Lodge for a list of the many worthwhile books about Freemasonry available for your reading pleasure. Send your request to: William J. Paterson, Librarian and Curator, Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

From Our Grand Secretary's Office

Visited St. John's Lodge, Wilmington, North Carolina

On April 19th, 20th and 21st, your Grand Master and Grand Secretary represented the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at the One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, at Wilmington, N. C.

A full and elaborate program had been prepared, one which left never a dull moment for the many guests who had gathered from other Grand Jurisdictions. While the space allotted to us does not permit a detailed report of the proceedings, we feel that, of the many outstanding features of the Communication, there was one which deserves special mention: the Two Hundredth Anniversary of St. John's Lodge No. 1, to the observance of which an entire afternoon and evening was devoted.

Two Hundredth Anniversary celebrations by subordinate Lodges in the United States are by no means common occurrences. In keeping with the importance of the occasion, St. John's Lodge No. 1 presented a program of the highest character and inspirational value. In addition to recitals by two well known soloists, of operatic, concert stage, radio and television fame, and a dinner at which Brother Thomas S. Roy, P.G.M. of Massachusetts was the principal speaker, there was a meeting of St. John's Lodge No. 1, at which a History of the Lodge was read.

Among the many fascinating items included in the History was one which bears witness to the recognition by Freemasons in all ages, of their obligation to practice out of the Lodge the high and ennobling principles they are taught within it.

About a century ago, two members of St. John's Lodge No. 1 fought a duel, as a result of which one was killed. The matter would never have found its way into the records of the Lodge, had there not been a committee appointed to investigate the affair. The report of this committee was copied in full in the minutes and was included in the History read at the Anniversary.

After reviewing the circumstances leading to the duel, the report in no uncertain terms places the blame for the affair not upon the participants, but upon the members of St. John's Lodge, who, forgetting their solemn obligations, stood idly by while two Masonic Brethren attempted to destroy each other.

George M. Leader made a Mason at Sight

On Thursday, March 3, at York, Pennsylvania, at a Special Communication of Grand Lodge, called for the purpose by Brother Ralph M. Lehr, R.W. Grand Master, George M. Leader, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was made a Mason at Sight.

Grand Lodge was opened in ample form at 2 o'clock, 45 minutes P. M., when the Entered

Apprentice Degree was conferred by Brother Charles H. Nitsch, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, followed by the Fellow Craft Degree, which was conferred by Brother George A. Avery, R.W. Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge was called off from labor at 5 o'clock, P. M., and dinner was served to the many guests and members of Grand Lodge who had gathered for the occasion.

Labor was resumed at 7 o'clock, P. M., when the Master Mason's Degree was conferred by Brother John K. Young, District Deputy Grand Master of District A.

After appropriate remarks by Brother Ralph M. Lehr, R.W. Grand Master, Brother Scott S. Leiby, R.W. Past Grand Master, and the newly made Mason, Brother George M. Leader, Grand Lodge was closed at 8 o'clock, 30 minutes, P. M.

We are pleased to report that the Governor has affiliated with White Rose Lodge No. 706, at York, Pa., the Lodge of which his father, Brother Guy A. Leader, for many years has been a member.

District Deputies meet at Elizabethtown

An event unique in the history of Grand Lodge took place on Saturday, April 16, 1955, when, in response to an invitation of the R.W. Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, the District Deputy Grand Masters of our sixty-eight Masonic Districts, met at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. The purpose of the meeting was to give the Deputies a better understanding of the Homes, of the program of the Committee on Masonic Homes, and of what is desired of them when they are called upon to investigate the applications for admission to the Homes which are referred to them by the Lodges of their Districts.

The program of the day began with the Deputies witnessing a typical meeting of the Committee on Masonic Homes, at which a sufficient number of applications for admission were processed to illustrate the most important problems which arise in the course of the Committee's work.

This meeting was followed first by a personally conducted tour of the buildings situated near Grand Lodge Hall, and then by an automobile tour of the entire area of two square miles which constitutes the Homes.

The day ended with a dinner in Grand Lodge Hall, at which the Grand Master introduced the members of the Committee on Masonic Homes, the Superintendent of the Homes, Brother Arthur E. Myers, and the members of his staff, and each District Deputy Grand Master.

Grand Lodge Receives Bequest for the Masonic Homes

On Monday, May 2, the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary appeared as witnesses

before a Probate Judge in West Palm Beach, Florida, in a case involving a Bequest of approximately \$65,000.00.

The Testator, Howard A. Burson, who died March 12, 1954 at West Palm Beach, for more than forty years was a member of Lodge No. 430 of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His will gave his entire estate to "the Pennsylvania Masonic Home, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania." The will was contested on the grounds that no such institution exists.

We are happy to report that the Court awarded the Bequest to the Grand Lodge for the Masonic Homes.

Washington's Masonic Apron

WILLIAM J. PATERSON
Librarian and Curator

Brother General Marie Jean Paul Joseph Roche Yves Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette visited America in the year 1784, arriving at New York August 5th of that year. Remaining but a short time he hastened to visit General Washington at Mount Vernon. One of his chief objects of his visit with General Washington was to present him with a beautiful white satin apron bearing the national colors, red, white and blue and embroidered elaborately with Masonic emblems, the whole being the handiwork of Madam the Marquise de Lafayette.

This apron was enclosed in a handsome rosewood box when presented to Washington, and was worn by him on September 18, 1793 when he laid the corner stone of the Capitol at the Federal City (Washington, D. C.), and is now in the Museum of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania.

After the death of Washington this Masonic relic was presented by the Legatees to the Washington Benevolent Society on October 26, 1816 who in turn presented it July 3, 1829 to the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania and bears the following inscription:

"WASHINGTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,

"The Legatees of GEN. WASHINGTON, impressed with the most profound Sentiments of respect for the institution which they have the honor to address, beg leave to present to them the enclosed relic of the revered & lamented "FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY." They are persuaded that the Apron, which was once possessed by the man, whom the Philadelphians always delighted to honor, will be considered most precious to the Society distinguished by his name, and by the benevolent and grateful feelings to which it owes its foundations. That this perishable memento of a Hero whose fame is "more durable than Brass" may confer as much pleasure upon those to whom it is presented, as is experienced by the Donors.

"October 26th 1816

"Is the sincere wish of the
LEGATEES."