

## 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. Montgomery, Chairman, G. Edward Elwell, Jr., Charles A. Young, W. Irvine Wiest and Ashby B. Paul, Grand Secretary.

APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE PRINTED BY

MAX F. BALCOM

Right Worshipful Grand Master

Mailing Address:

MASONIC TEMPLE

BROAD AND FILBERT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA 7, PENNA.

WILLIAM A. CARPENTER, Editor

Notify Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets in case of Change of Address—Your Lodge number must be included.

Vol. VIII November, 1961 No. 4

### Valley Forge and Freemasonry

(Continued from page 4)

and that they served their country as men and soldiers."

The Moses Sproule jewel, which we are tempted to call the Valley Forge jewel, is a small oval bearing on the obverse side a mosaic pavement on which stand three candlesticks flanked by two pillars surmounted by globes; above the candles are a square and compasses, and above all a trowel and an open book, an all-seeing eye, a blazing sun, a quarter moon, and stars; at the left a temple, gauge, and gavel, a blazing star, a letter G, and a burning bush; at the right a mallet, a key, a level, a sharp instrument, and a hand holding a plumb line; below, a coffin, a sprig of acacia, and a representation of the 47th Problem of Euclid; inscription at the bottom: AMOR HONOR & JUSTITIA. The reverse side bears the name, Moses Sproule, with No. 8 above and an arch and compasses below, flanked by the date in two parts: 57 and 78; inscription around rim: INDEPENDANT ROYAL ARCH LODGE.

All of us as Masons should remember with deep gratitude and thanksgiving our Brethren of former years, who played such an important part in the founding of our Country. To George Washington, outstanding patriot, statesman, and military leader, and our Fraternity's most revered Masonic Brother, and to all those other Freemasons, many whose names are not now known to us, we owe much.

One hundred and eight-three years ago, on the 19th of December, 1777, Washington and his army of 11,000 patriots, marched into Valley Forge, to face the sternest test of the American Colonies up to that time. They did not fail, but met the test, and went on to glorious victory at Yorktown four years later. We dare not fail today. These patriots bought for us a priceless heritage. We can do no less today than to keep alive the torch of freedom, and pass it on to future generations, until time shall be no more.

## Secretary of Phoenix Lodge Has Outstanding Lodge Attendance Record

Brother Thomas Holland Paist, 86, of Cheltenham, Philadelphia, became a Mason in May, 1902 and fifty-nine years later boasts of a Lodge attendance record that is most outstanding.

In those fifty-nine years, Brother Paist has never missed a stated meeting or a funeral service of his Lodge, Phoenix Lodge, No. 130, Free and Accepted Masons. He estimates that during the 59-year period his perfect attendance record represented attendance at 1,180 meetings.

Born on a farm near Paoli, Pa., on June 12, 1875, Mr. Paist graduated from Temple University. Nine years ago he retired from the Underwood Typewriter Company.

In 1908, Brother Paist served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge. He was elected Secretary of his Lodge in 1914 and has served in that capacity since his election.

His other Masonic affiliations include Past High Priest of the Philadelphia Royal Arch Chapter; Life Member of Benjamin Franklin Consistory; and Past Commander of Kadosh Commandery No. 29.

Brother Paist is a member of the Cheltenham Methodist Church and a life member of the Patriotic Sons of America.

On June 2, 1909, Mr. Paist was married to Grace C. Rohrman. They have two children, Mrs. Grace E. Wagner, a music teacher at Elkins Park Junior High School, and Thomas Holland Paist, Jr., a music teacher at Upper Moreland High School. They also have two grandchildren.

In disclosing his attendance record, Brother Paist said he has only missed two meetings of his Royal Arch Chapter. He said he missed one meeting to go on his wedding trip, and one when he was sick.

He also remembers slipping out of a sales

### Did You Remember Your Guests?

With the approach of the Holiday Season, don't forget your Guests at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

Don't put this off, as it is easy to forget.

Put your check in the self-addressed envelope that was provided in your September Lodge Notice. If you don't have the envelope, send your check to the Superintendent at the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa.

Remember, all gifts to the Masonic Homes are deductible for income tax purposes.

conference at the Underwood Typewriter Company to attend a Masonic meeting and returning to the conference before it was discovered he was missing.

Brother Paist is known to a host of Masons in Philadelphia. He spends at least two days a week in the Masonic Temple, working on his Lodge records.

He has preserved copies of his Lodge Notice since he was elected Secretary. Most of the Notices are in bound books.

In addition to his Lodge duties, Brother Paist has served for many years as a Trustee of the Thomas R. Patton Memorial Charity Fund for the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.

To be a Worshipful Master and to throw my whole soul into the Work, with candidate for my audience and the Lodge for my stage, would be a greater distinction than to receive the plaudits of the people in all the theaters of the world.—EDWIN BOOTH.

### INFORMATIVE AND POPULAR LITERATURE STILL AVAILABLE

The following informative booklet, pamphlets, brochure and albums are still available and may be ordered in single copies or in quantity:

**Popular Questions and Answers** booklet of pocket size and containing 124 questions and answers on Freemasonry at 10 cents per copy.

**Sets of the Eight Masonic Culture Program Pamphlets** at \$1.00 per set.

**Color Brochure on Masonic Homes and Patton School for Boys** at Elizabethtown at 50 cents per copy plus 10 cents for postage.

**Colorful 40-page Souvenir Album** describing history and features of the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, headquarters of Grand Lodge, at \$1.00 for soft-bound copy and \$1.50 for hard-bound copy. Add 10 cents for postage.

Any or all of the above mentioned items may be obtained by writing to:

WILLIAM A. CARPENTER, Librarian and Curator,  
Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania



AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF PENNSYLVANIA

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## A Message from Our Grand Master

Brethren, the privilege I have had of serving you as Grand Master is almost past.

During my term as Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, which started December 28, 1959, I have received fraternal consideration and affection everywhere. For this great honor I personally thank every Mason in Pennsylvania.

It has been a great experience. Although my term is rapidly coming to an end, I shall cherish forever the many kindnesses and honors you have made it possible for me to receive.

The most remarkable cooperation has been given me by all the Grand Lodge officers, Past Grand Masters, appointed officers and committees. I especially thank the District Deputy Grand Masters for real Masonic devotion.

When I became Grand Master, I urged every Mason in Pennsylvania to embark upon an Eight-Point Program. The results of this program have been very encouraging.

During my term of office, seven new Masonic Lodges have been Constituted. The eighth Lodge will be Constituted at Easton on December 9.

Many Lodges have materially improved, or replaced, their meeting rooms.

Many Lodges, through dedicated work of Worshipful Masters, have improved their attendance.

When the final results of Masonry in Pennsylvania in 1960 and 1961 are fully known, I believe we will all be proud of our accomplishments.

When I became Grand Master, I proudly announced that Pennsylvania Masons can complete most anything they cooperatively agree to accomplish.

My faith in your devotion was fully proved when Masons in Pennsylvania contributed approximately \$300,000 to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

With this contribution, you have set the pace for every Grand Lodge in the United States. You have proved that Masons everywhere would be willing to assist this great Masonic structure if given the opportunity—and if the need were fully explained.

While you generously supported the Memorial, you did not forget about your less fortunate Brothers, their wives and children at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. Your generous support for this most worthy cause is deeply appreciated.

We are now in the midst of another appeal for the Christmas and Entertainment Fund at the Masonic Homes at Elizabeth-

town. I have urged every Pennsylvania Mason to give something to this most important project.

Let me explain. I am not attempting to set a dollar mark on your contribution. I am merely pointing out that every Mason should give something, regardless of the amount.

I know it is very gratifying to Pennsylvania Masons to know how vital and direct a part each has in providing the finest kind of human service for approximately 700 youngsters and senior citizens.

Every Mason in Pennsylvania has received an envelope in the September Lodge notice, addressed to the Masonic Homes.

This envelope is an easy way to make a yearly contribution. Your gift goes to the Christmas and Entertainment Fund, and is used all through the year. It not only provides a happy Christmas for the Guests, but entertainment during the entire year, many small personal items and "pocket money" each month.

Brethren, this is important money. It is this money that helps to make your Masonic Homes a Home, and not just another institution.

When making out your check for this yearly contribution, keep in mind that all gifts to the Masonic Homes are deductible for income tax purposes.

If you have lost your self-addressed envelope, send your contribution to the Superintendent, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa.

As we approach the holiday season, let our prayers be for the less fortunate. Let us pray that the Great Architect of the Universe will guide our lives.

Let us rededicate ourselves to the tenets of Freemasonry.

Let us stand to be counted as men and Masons who believe in world peace—the Brotherhood of Man.

This being my last message in THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON as Grand Master, I personally thank you for all your sincere efforts to continue Freemasonry as a dominating force in this troubled world. God give us the courage to meet our everyday problems as Masons—as men dedicated to noble principles.

Cordially and fraternally,

Max F. Balcom

MAX F. BALCOM, R. W. Grand Master



## Glenshaw Lodge, No. 793 and Whitehall Lodge, No. 794 Constituted

Two Masonic Lodges were constituted in the suburban districts of Pittsburgh by Brother Max F. Balcom, R. W. Grand Master, on Saturday, October 14, bringing the total of Masonic Lodges in Pennsylvania to 601.

Glenshaw Lodge, No. 793 was constituted in the afternoon in Masonic Temple, Pittsburgh, at a Special Communication of Grand Lodge. There were 172 Warrant Members.

The new Lodge will meet in a remodeled church in Allison Park, at the Butler interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The Stated Meeting is on the Second Wednesday.

The elected Warrant Officers are:

THOMAS G. GREIG, JR.

*Worshipful Master*

PAUL KANONCHOFF.....*Senior Warden*  
LEROY C. PERRY.....*Junior Warden*  
JOHN K. KRUMPE.....*Treasurer*  
EDWARD D. ODEBAUGH.....*Secretary*  
WILLIAM L. CRAWFORD.....*Trustee*  
FRANK E. THACKERAY.....*Trustee*  
ARTHUR J. GROSS.....*Trustee*

Whitehall Lodge, No. 794 was constituted in the evening of October 14 in Masonic Temple, Pittsburgh, at a Special Communica-

tion of Grand Lodge. There were 161 Warrant Members.

Whitehall Lodge will meet in a new Masonic Hall at Grace Street and Route 51, Baldwin Borough. Its Stated Meeting will be on the Second Tuesday.

The elected Warrant Officers are:

HARRY A. VINTON, JR.

*Worshipful Master*

J. MELVIN BLIMLINE.....*Senior Warden*  
JOHN E. BUSH.....*Junior Warden*  
WILLIAM M. LEECH.....*Treasurer*  
GEORGE R. HORNER.....*Secretary*  
HENRY J. YOST.....*Trustee*  
DAVID F. YOUNG.....*Trustee*  
JOSEPH W. HOMER, JR.....*Trustee*

Brother John W. Rawson, District Deputy Grand Master, 47th Masonic District, was active in the formation and constitution of Glenshaw Lodge, No. 793.

Brother Benjamin S. Barbour, District Deputy Grand Master, 48th Masonic District, was instrumental in the formation and constitution of Whitehall Lodge, No. 794.

A joint constitution banquet was held in Masonic Temple, Pittsburgh, at 6 p.m., before the constitution of Whitehall Lodge, No. 794.

## Cornerstone Laying Ceremony Conducted at Springfield, Delaware County

The cornerstone of a new Masonic Hall for Springfield Lodge, No. 779, Springfield, Delaware County, was laid in Masonic custom by officers of the Grand Lodge on September 30.

The public ceremony attracted a large crowd.

Brother Max F. Balcom, R. W. Grand Master, headed a long list of Masonic leaders who took part in the program.

Following the ceremony, the nearly completed Masonic Hall was opened for public inspection.

## Member's Annual Gift Grows at Rate of \$1 Per Year

Brother Abraham Pearlstine, a Member of Athelstan Lodge, No. 482, has a unique way of celebrating his Masonic anniversaries.

Each Fall, for many years, when Brother Pearlstine has reached another anniversary in Athelstan Lodge, he sends a check to Grand Lodge amounting to one dollar for each year of Masonic service.

Brother Pearlstine was made a Mason on October 3, 1905 and he celebrated his 56th anniversary by donating \$56 to Grand Lodge, which will be used for the Hospital at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

## Quotas from Three Lodges Needed for Our 100% Participa- tion in "Pennsylvania Plan"

Only three Masonic Lodges in Pennsylvania have not completed the program for The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, as of November 15, 1961.

The following six Lodges completed their obligation in the project since the last issue of THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON:

LA FAYETTE LODGE, No. 71, Philadelphia  
HIRAM LODGE, No. 261, Scranton  
APOLLO LODGE, No. 386, Philadelphia  
PALESTINE LODGE, No. 470, Philadelphia  
SWATARA LODGE, No. 267, Tremont  
FELLOWSHIP LODGE, No. 679, Pittsburgh

Sixty-six Masonic Districts now have 100 per cent participation in the Memorial program. The remaining three Districts are looking forward to completion before the end of the year.

Brother Max F. Balcom, R. W. Grand Master, has announced that the program must be brought to a conclusion this year. He said he will conclude the project before the Annual Communication.

Since the last issue of THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON, Brother William F. Etchberger, P. M., Mt. Olivet Lodge, No. 704, Lebanon; Brother Thomas P. Trimble, Jr., Fellowship Lodge, No. 679, Pittsburgh, and Brother Trimble for his son, Thomas P. Trimble, III, Mill Valley Lodge, No. 356, Mill Valley, Cal., contributed \$100 to the Memorial Association and have received Life Membership Certificates.

## In Memoriam

BROTHER ROBERT RATHBUN LEWIS  
Right Worshipful Past Grand Master

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania lost another of its dedicated and gifted Members in the sudden death on September 12, 1961, of Brother Robert R. Lewis, R. W. Past Grand Master, at the age of 81.

Born at Duke Center, McKean County, August 1, 1880, he received his early education in the public schools of Coudersport, Potter County. He later attended and was graduated from Wilbraham Prep School at Wilbraham, Mass. and then Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn., where he studied law. He then entered the law office of his father. He was admitted to the Bar on June 12, 1906, and thereafter engaged in the practice of law in Coudersport, Pa., with the firm of Jones and Lewis.

He took a most active part in many worthwhile activities of his community. A member of Park Methodist Church of Coudersport, he served many years on its official board. He was a past president of Coudersport Rotary Club and Potter County Chapter of the American Red Cross. A most active member of Central Grange, he was influential in the organization of the Potter County Farm Bureau. Interested in the Boy Scout movement, he donated a tract of land making possible a Summer camping site for the local Scout Council. He was also active in the Potter County Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

For fifty years Brother Lewis served as director and solicitor of the Citizens Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Coudersport and for many years as solicitor and secretary of Coudersport Borough Council. In May, 1929, he was commissioned Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He resigned from this office a year later to accept appointment as President Judge of the Fifty-fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania in which capacity he served continuously for twenty-one years.

He petitioned Eulalia Lodge, No. 342, of Coudersport at the age of twenty-one and was made a Mason December 24, 1902. He served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge in 1910 and was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the 44th Masonic District in 1925, serving in that capacity until 1931 when he was elected R. W. Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. During his term as R. W. Grand Master in 1938 and 1939, the present Grand Lodge Standard or Banner was adopted.

He was most active in the Scottish Rite Bodies of Coudersport and served as Commander-in-Chief of the Coudersport Consistory from 1918 through 1930. He was crowned Honorary Thirty-third Degree at Cleveland in 1922. He was a Past High Priest of Coudersport Royal Arch Chapter, No. 263; Thrice Illustrious Master of Galeton Council, No. 58, Royal and Select Masters in 1926; Eminent Commander of Potter Commandery, No. 69 of Coudersport in 1916; a Member of Knights of York Cross of Honour, Harrisburg, and Jaffa Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Altoona.

## Brother Edward Hand Physician—Soldier—Statesmen

By JAMES R. CASE

*Historian of Grand Lodge of Connecticut*

Less than two decades after the King of France had sent an expeditionary force to aid in the struggle for American independence, the Directory of the Third Republic interfered with American shipping, refused to receive the American minister to France, and threatened war. The Adams administration was so alarmed that national defense measures were initiated. George Washington was named as commander of American military forces and in turn designated as his Adjutant General, Edward Hand of Pennsylvania.

The appointment was well deserved since, during the Revolution, Hand earned a reputation for energetic action, leadership, planning ability, good discipline and zeal in the performance of his duties. To the admiration of his soldiers was added the respect of his fellow officers, and the esteem and confidence of George Washington.

Born in Ireland on the last day of 1744, our subject attended Trinity College at Dublin. His medical training qualified him for appointment as Surgeon's Mate in the 18th Royal Irish Regiment of Foot, which, no doubt, he knew was coming to America, where they arrived in 1767. When his army contract expired, Hand established his medical practice in Lancaster, Pa., married and settled down for a few years before he was back in uniform. Not in a red coat, however, but in a hunting jacket, as he was commissioned lieutenant colonel in one of the famous Pennsylvania regiments of riflemen and hurried off to the siege of Boston. During the next year and a half he led his troops into battle on Long Island, at White Plains, at Trenton and Princeton, having been promoted to colonel in March 1776, and becoming a Continental brigadier general a year or so later.

As such he was sent to command the outpost of Pittsburgh on the frontier, in charge of defenses against Indians and Tories in the sector. In October 1778 he was posted to command of the important training and supply facilities at Albany and vicinity.

After participation in a punitive expedition against the Indians in the upper Susquehanna Valley, under General Sullivan, Hand's brigade went into winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey and he was detached to the crack Light Infantry Corps, later commanded by Lafayette. He was one of the court martial who tried and condemned the British spy, Andre.

When the Continental army was reorganized in 1781, Hand became Adjutant General, a mark of approbation and trust by Washington. As such he was at the siege of Yorktown, and participated in the final routine of reduc-

tion and demobilization of the army. He was brevetted Major General in September 1783.

While the record does not show where Edward Hand was made a Mason, we know that he served as Worshipful Master of Military Lodge, No. 19, chartered in the Continental Line by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Quite possibly he was made a Mason in a British Regimental Lodge even before he came to America.

After the war, he attempted to settle down to a resumption of his medical practice, but domestic matters and public affairs probably somewhat restricted Hand's services to the sick. But he served the public interest in the Continental Congress during 1784-5 and was often in the Pennsylvania assembly. He was among those who formulated the new state constitution of 1790. He held the appointment of Collector of Internal Revenue for the district, 1791-1801. A year later, however, he died an early death.

On his extensive land holdings near Lancaster, Pa., Edward Hand had built a mansion called Rock Ford, now in process of restoration. This will serve as a memorial to one of the Craft whose services in founding the Commonwealth and Republic should not be forgotten.

## New Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Elected at the Homes

The Committee on Masonic Homes has elected a career employee and a hotel executive to the top staff positions at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

Brother Paul S. Shank, an employee of the Homes since he was 13 years old, was elected superintendent.

Brother Stuart C. Kines, a former executive of the American Hotels Corporation, was elected assistant superintendent.

Brother Shank started to work in the vegetable gardens of the Homes when a boy. In 1927 he was appointed Steward, a position he held until his elevation to superintendent.

He is a member of Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown; Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Harrisburg, and Zembo Shrine Temple, Harrisburg.

He also is a member of the Reformed Church of Elizabethtown. Brother Shank and his wife have a son, who also lives in Elizabethtown.

Brother Kines, a former resident of Harrisburg, was manager of The Coronado Inn, Pampa, Texas, when he was elected to the position at the Homes.

A graduate of Penn State University, Brother Kines served as a captain in the Marine Corps during World War II. His hotel

experience includes: Manager of The Allenberry Hotel, Boiling Springs, Pa.; executive assistant manager, The Harrisburgher Hotel, Harrisburg; opened and managed four hotels for the American Hotels Corporation and served as manager of Hotel Pontiac, Oswego, N. Y.

Brother Kines' civic activities include: past president of Penn State Hotel and Restaurant Association, past president of Pennsylvania Hotel Greeters of America; past president of Oswego Y.M.C.A., past president of Oswego Community Chest and past treasurer and vice president of the Oswego Rotary Club.

He has been active in the Methodist Church, and served on Methodist Church boards in Oswego, N. Y., Harrisburg and Pampa, Texas.

He is a Member of Robert Burns Lodge No. 464, Harrisburg; Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Harrisburg; St. John's Commandery No. 8, Knights Templar, Carlisle; and Zembo Shrine Temple, Harrisburg.

Brother Kines and his wife have four children.

## New Lodge Room Dedicated at Mount Joy

A Special Communication of Grand Lodge was held on Saturday, September 9, to dedicate a new Masonic Lodge meeting room for Casiphia Lodge, No. 551, Mount Joy.

Brother Max F. Balcom, R. W. Grand Master, headed a long list of Masonic leaders who took part in the dedication. A banquet was held in Hostetter Banquet Hall, Mount Joy.

Casiphia Lodge purchased a Methodist Church building and remodeled it into an outstanding, small Masonic Hall.

## New Lodge to be Constituted at Easton

A Masonic Lodge will be constituted at Easton at 2.30 p.m., Saturday, December 9, 1961.

It will be the General Marquis de Lafayette Lodge, No. 795, and will meet in the Easton Masonic Hall.

This will be the third Masonic Lodge in Easton.

The constitution will be held in the Wilson High School Gymnasium, Wilson Borough, a suburb of Easton.

Following the constitution, the three Masonic Lodges in Easton will hold a combined banquet in the Eagles Home, Route 115, Stockertown.

This will be the sixth Masonic Lodge constituted in Pennsylvania this year, and the eighth Lodge constituted by Brother Max F. Balcom, R. W. Grand Master.



## From Our Grand Secretary's Office

### September Quarterly Communication

One hundred and fifty-two Lodges were represented at the Quarterly Communication held on September 6. The following summary outlines briefly the items of general interest.

The Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo, Brazil, has expressed its deep appreciation for the fraternal recognition which was recently extended by our Grand Lodge.

Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws of 10 Lodges were received and referred to the Committee on By-Laws. Upon the recommendation of this Committee, the By-Laws of one Lodge, the proposed Amendments of seven Lodges and the proposed Amendments of two Lodges as amended in the copy were approved by Grand Lodge.

### Committee on Finance

The Committee on Finance reported receipts of \$739,600.00 during the quarter ending August 15, 1961, and expenditures of \$948,850.00 during the same period.

Two Resolutions presented by this Committee were adopted. The first Resolution provided for the installation of an auxiliary welded-steel steam main at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown with the necessary converters and associated equipment at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.

The other Resolution covered miscellaneous alterations in the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

### Four-Year Course at Patton School

The Committee on Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys, in a brief report, announced that the School now has a four-year course available for the first time. The Fall Term opened on September 5 with 49 students enrolled.

## Why Not Make Use of Your Circulating Library?

The best informed Master Mason is the Master Mason who reads and studies. Consequently, if we want Freemasonry to be of practical usefulness and cultural attainment, we, as Freemasons, must not neglect our Masonic reading, our Masonic studying and our search for more Masonic Light.

Yours is a privilege and opportunity that is most precious and priceless—that of being eligible for membership in Our Circulating Library with its wealth of Masonic literature. There is no charge for the use of the books other than the return postage to our Library. The lending period is three weeks.

In addition to the interesting books on Freemasonry listed in the previous issues of THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON, we list the following—just a few more of nearly 180 different

### New Committee Most Active

The Committee on Masonic Temples, Masonic Halls and Masonic Lodge Rooms has been assisting over 25 Lodges throughout the State in their efforts to obtain new or improved Masonic Halls or Lodge Rooms. Any Lodge contemplating new or improved quarters should consult Brother Earl F. Herold, R. W. Senior Grand Warden, who is Chairman of the above Committee, before any action is taken. This Committee is also having typical Lodge floor plans and associated working drawings and specifications prepared. They should be available for use by the Lodges in the near future.

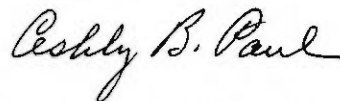
The Committee on Temple reported expenditures of \$45,000 for the Quarter; also that a new organ has been installed in Norman Hall in the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia as a gift by Lodge No. 9.

The R. W. Grand Master, Brother Max F. Balcom, announced that \$2,500 has been forwarded for the relief of Cuban Brothers in exile and their families.

The Dedication of the new Masonic Hall of Casiphia Lodge, No. 551 in Mount Joy and the Constitution of Glenshaw Lodge, No. 793 and Whitehall Lodge, No. 794 at Special Communications of Grand Lodge are covered by other articles in this issue.

The R. W. Grand Master also announced that General Marquis de Lafayette Lodge, No. 795 will be constituted in Easton on December 9.

Sincerely and fraternally,



ASHBY B. PAUL, R. W. Grand Secretary

Masonic books that are available for your reading pleasure:

THE HOLY BIBLE, *Masonic Edition*  
HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF FREEMASONRY. *Darrah*  
THE MASTER MASON'S HANDBOOK. . . . . *Ward*  
MANUAL OF THE CHAPTER. . . . . *Sheville-Gould*  
HISTORY OF THE CRYPTIC RITE. . . . . *Hinman*  
MASONRY AND CITIZENSHIP. . . . . *Lanier*  
UNTRODDEN PATHS OF MASONIC RESEARCH. *Daynes*  
WELL SPRINGS OF FREEMASONRY. . . . . *Haywood*  
AFTER THE LODGE IS CLOSED. . . . . *A Bro. P. M.*  
WHAT TO SAY. . . . . *Macoy*

### Additional List of Books Is Available

Should you desire to borrow books from the Circulating Library or make further inquiry, relative to books available, etc., write to:

LIBRARIAN AND CURATOR  
Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

The Library staff will be most pleased to serve you.

## Grand Lodge Officers Lay Cornerstone of New YMCA Building in Clearfield

Brother Max F. Balcom, R. W. Grand Master, and a large corps of Grand Lodge Officers, laid the cornerstone of the new Young Men's Christian Association building in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, on Saturday afternoon, October 28, 1961.

This impressive Masonic ceremony was performed before a large audience in the very heart of this North-central community. The former YMCA building was destroyed by fire in 1959, and the drive for the necessary funds to rebuild the structure was successfully culminated the following year. The new YMCA home is now scheduled for completion later this winter.

The speakers at the cornerstone ceremony included, in addition to Brother Balcom: William France, Jr., President, Board of Directors of the Clearfield Young Men's Christian Association, and Everett M. Gilmore, Associate Secretary, State YMCA, Harrisburg.

## Do You Need Books to Start or Enlarge a Masonic Library?

Could you use a few extra Masonic books?

We ask this question thinking that there may be a Lodge or a Member desirous of enlarging their respective Masonic libraries or possibly starting a new Masonic library.

An inventory of the extra copies of certain editions of Masonic books in the stacks of our Library at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia 7, Pa., prompts us to wonder just how interested the Lodges or Members would be in negotiating for copies of these extra books.

It might be mentioned that although there may be some volumes that would be given free for the asking, there would be a charge placed on many of these books of a very reasonable figure.

A list of the books available for distribution will be provided for those interested. In making your inquiry write to:

LIBRARIAN AND CURATOR  
Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

## Newest Grand Lodge Constituted in New Delhi

The Grand Lodge of India will be consecrated and constituted in New Delhi, India, on Friday, November 24, 1961.

The consecration of this newest Grand Lodge will be performed by the M. W. Grand Master of Scotland, while the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland will constitute the new Grand Lodge. The Deputy Grand Master of England will install M. W. Major-General Dr. Sir Syed Raza Ali Khan, Nawab of Rampur, as the Grand Master of India.

## Valley Forge and Freemasonry

By RONALD E. HEATON, *Treasurer of The Philalethes Society*  
*Member of Charity Lodge, No. 190, Norristown, Pa.*

Most Masonic historians and research workers will readily agree that fact and fiction are closely intermingled in the records they turn up in their work. The story of Freemasons and Freemasonry at Valley Forge, during the period of the encampment of the Continental Army there (December 19, 1777—June 19, 1778) bears this out.

Readers of this short article will recall seeing related the story that Pennsylvania's outstanding General of the Revolutionary War, "Mad" Anthony Wayne (himself not a Mason), entertained the Army Officers who were Masons at a banquet during the Spring of '78, amid the apple blossoms. Or, again, the story that Baron Von Steuben, a Mason in Germany, later a member of Trinity Lodge, No. 10 in New York, and still later on affiliating with Holland Lodge, No. 8 of New York, conferring the 32°, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, on Dr. Matthew Thornton of New Hampshire, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. General Lafayette, too, according to these unverified traditions, was made a Mason at Valley Forge, Washington himself acting as Master of the Lodge on that occasion.

No basis in fact has been found to verify the Wayne story. The other two fall by the wayside when each claim is considered by the careful student of Masonic history.

The Von Steuben-Thornton incident is only wishful thinking, because the 32° had not yet come into existence.

Reading a good biography of General Lafayette and checking dates closely will show that the General was in France on business for the Colonies at the time of the supposed Lodge meeting. No one knows yet where and when Lafayette was a Mason, but on his return trip to the United States in 1824 he was accorded unprecedented Masonic honors, the like of which has not been duplicated for any other Freemason. The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania satisfied itself of Lafayette's Masonic membership, as shown by a report of a Committee appointed by that body on September 6, 1824.

The venerable inn at King of Prussia, Pa., built around 1709, is also mentioned as being the meeting place of an Army Lodge of Masons during the encampment. This may be true, and possibly is, but no documentary evidence has been discovered to prove the point.

In the face of these doubts as to the existence of Freemasonry at Valley Forge, there is ample evidence that Freemasons were there. And where Freemasons gather, Masonic Lodge meetings no doubt follow as a matter of course.

In the Appendix of a Guide Book and Historical Record of Valley Forge State Park,

published by the writer of this article, is a list of 130 General Officers, and Brigade and Regimental Commanders of the troops stationed at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. Fifty-two of these Officers are known to have been Freemasons.

Several of these 52 Masons at Valley Forge attained higher ranks in the Continental Army before the war ended. Colonels Elias Dayton, Otho H. Williams, Mordecai Gist, Jethro Sumner, and James Hogue all subsequently attained the rank of Brigadier General, and their Masonic membership is treated more fully in a Digest prepared by the writer of this article and published in February, 1960, by The Masonic Service Association entitled: "Masonic Membership of the General Officers of the Continental Army."

This Appendix lists only those officers of the ranks of Lieutenant Colonel and higher. No doubt officers of lower ranks, as well as some men in the rank and file of the Army were Masons as well. One man in particular comes to mind now, since his Lodge recently held a Special Communication at Valley Forge.

This Communication was unique in that it was the only time (so far as can be readily determined now) that a Masonic Lodge of New York State held a Masonic meeting in Pennsylvania. The reason behind this unusual meeting may be of some interest to the Brethren of Pennsylvania.

One Moses Sproule (Sproul) was a Sergeant in the 3rd New Jersey Regiment from November, 1775, to 1781, and served at Valley Forge. He was promoted to Ensign June 21, 1781, and served to November, 1783.

Sproule was a member of Independent Royal Arch Lodge, New York, celebrating its 200th anniversary in 1960. Grand Lodge Library and Museum in New York City has a crudely engraved silver jewel bearing the name of Moses Sproule and a date associating it with his service at Valley Forge, 5778.

Other members of Independent Royal Arch Lodge also served at Valley Forge, as indicated by a Past Master of the Lodge, Brother Edward R. Cusick, in an article in *The Royal Arch Mason*, December, 1943. One was Rowland Cotton, a Sergeant in the Connecticut Regiment of Rangers, who enlisted in 1775, and served throughout the war. Another who was probably there was Jared Bunce, enlisted in 1775 and promoted to Sergeant in 1780. Several other members of this Lodge are known to have been with the army at Newburgh in 1783 and may also have served at Valley Forge.

It was as a memorial to these brethren particularly that Independent Royal Arch Lodge, No. 2, New York, held its Special Communica-

tion in Pennsylvania, May 7, 1960. The Lodge had the approval of the New York Grand Master, Most Worshipful Carl W. Peterson, and permission granted by Brother Max F. Balcom, the Right Worshipful Grand Master in Pennsylvania. Arrangements were made by the writer of this article in cooperation with the 200th Anniversary Chairman of the Lodge, and the Communication was held at five o'clock in the Hall of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, on a hill overlooking General George Washington's headquarters. It was preceded by a tour of Valley Forge State Park under the direction of the Superintendent, Brother E. Clyde Pyle, and a visit to the Washington Memorial Chapel and the Museum of The Valley Forge Historical Society, as guests of the Rector and President, Dr. John Robbins Hart. Ladies were included in this part of the program, and at the dinner which followed at the Valley Forge Hotel, Norristown, Pa.

The Lodge was welcomed to Valley Forge, which is in Pennsylvania Masonic District 40, by Brother Minor M. Dain, District Deputy Grand Master, and in Norristown, District 6, by Brother Gerald H. Woerner, District Deputy Grand Master. The two Lodges in Norristown, Charity, No. 190 and Norristown, No. 620, were represented, respectively, by Brother Edward M. Buckley, Worshipful Master, and Brother Henry F. White, Senior Warden. The brethren and ladies were officially welcomed, both at luncheon and dinner, by Brother Merritt W. Bosler, Burgess of Norristown. At all gatherings the presiding officer was Brother David W. Lammey, Worshipful Master of Independent Royal Arch Lodge.

Remarks at the Lodge Communication included the following: "We are here today . . . to meet as a memorial to those of our members who served here in the Revolutionary War. This memorial to our members is also to the other Masons who served here, and to all men and Masons who have served our Country since . . ."

There was no attempt to establish the fact that there was a meeting of this Lodge at Valley Forge in 1777 or 1778. The Master asked the Junior Warden a question as a part of the memorial ceremony: "Where did Masons of Independent Royal Arch meet in the year 1778?" The Junior Warden responded with a degree of caution which may be recommended to Masonic historians: "Worshipful Master, we do not know. We do know that they met in New York before 1776 and after 1783. We also know that they met in the American Revolutionary Army in 1783; they may have met in the Army at other times between 1776 and 1783. Worshipful Master, in the year 1778 there were Masons of Independent Royal Arch Lodge at Valley Forge, in the Army of General George Washington, and there were Masons of other Lodges, and of course there were men who were not Masons. Whether any of the Masons met as Masons at Valley Forge we do not know; we only know that they were here,

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