

Making a Mason at Sight: A Pennsylvania Tradition

continued from page 1.

the wrong character would be chosen for this honor, and there is no record of this ever happening in Pennsylvania.

The custom of making a Mason at sight in Pennsylvania was first officially authorized by the 1825 edition of the *Abiman Rezon*, which listed as one of the Grand Master's powers: "To cause masons to be made in his presence, at any time and at any place, a lodge being opened by him for that purpose."

Unofficially, however, making Masons at sight had been done for a long time already. In the eighteenth century for example, Grand Masters routinely allowed candidates to take all three degrees in one night, provided of course that they had met the other requirements. Most often, the types of individuals who were allowed to proceed in this fashion were those who held occupations that did not permit them to remain in one place for too long, such as a merchant with overseas connections, a seaman or sailor, or a soldier on leave. Probably several hundred men became Masons in this way. In this period the initiative to become

a Mason came from the candidate himself, who had to petition for a dispensation from a Grand Master. In later practice, however, it became an unrequested honor conferred by a Grand Master upon a candidate, who had previously expressed interest in joining the Fraternity.

Since 1855 sixty-two men have been honored by being made Masons at sight in Pennsylvania, as many as in all other American Masonic jurisdictions combined. All were men of high character who already had, or were about to make, outstanding contributions to society.

One of the most prominent individuals to become a Mason by this method was Richard Vaux, later mayor of Philadelphia and United States congressman, who was made a Mason by Grand Master Joseph R. Chandler in 1842. Vaux then petitioned and was accepted by Lodge No. 3, Philadelphia, and he quickly rose up the ranks of Freemasonry to become Grand Master himself in 1868. For many years Vaux was the outspoken Chairman of the Grand

Lodge's Committee on Correspondence.

Another case was that of well-known Philadelphia department store entrepreneur, John Wanamaker, made a Mason at sight by Grand Master William J. Kelly in 1898. Wanamaker later became a member of Lodge No. 400, Jenkintown, and was active on the Grand Lodge Committee on Library. Other prominent Pennsylvanians to be made Masons at sight included future governor of Pennsylvania, Samuel W. Pennypacker, in 1897 and Andrew W. Mellon, secretary of the Treasury, in 1928.

The record of making Masons at sight in Pennsylvania is held by Grand Master Benjamin Page (in office 1932-1933) who made nine. He is followed by William A. Carpenter (1984-1985) with seven. William J. Kelley (1897-1898) and J. Willison Smith (1928-1929) each made five. There is no pattern or rule regarding the frequency of making Masons at sight; each Grand Master decides this matter for himself. Altogether, only twenty-four Grand Masters of Pennsylvania have exercised this prerogative.

Throughout American Masonic history, Pennsylvania's firmly-established custom of making a Mason at sight has been the source of much controversy. In various periods some other Masonic jurisdictions have questioned the practice while others have accepted it. Critics argued that it violated the unchangeable Landmarks of the Fraternity; defenders said it was an unquestioned prerogative of an absolute Grand Master. Twenty-six American jurisdictions have never had this right exercised by their Grand Masters and five of them have expressly forbidden it. On the other hand, twenty-three jurisdictions have had Masons made at sight, but only eighteen of them within the last century.

Perhaps the most notable case of making a Mason at sight in another jurisdiction was the Grand Lodge of Ohio's conferring this honor upon President-elect William Howard Taft in February 1909, several weeks before his inauguration.

The PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

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September Communications to Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Constitutional Convention and the Making of a Mason-at-Sight

The R.W. Grand Master, Bro. Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., has called an Extra Communication of the Grand Lodge for Friday, September 11, 1987, to be held in Philadel-

phia for the purpose of making a Mason-at-Sight. The meeting will take place in the Masonic Temple and will include visiting dignitaries and officers of the military who will be in attendance to honor a Lieutenant General of the Air Force, who will be made a Mason-at-Sight. He is an alumni of the former Thomas R. Patton School for Boys at Elizabethtown. The making of a Mason-at-Sight is the unique prerogative of a Grand Master.

The following day, Saturday, September 12, 1987, a Special Communication will be held in place of the regular September Quarterly Communication commemorating the convening of the Constitutional Convention which was held in the city of Philadelphia 200 years ago.

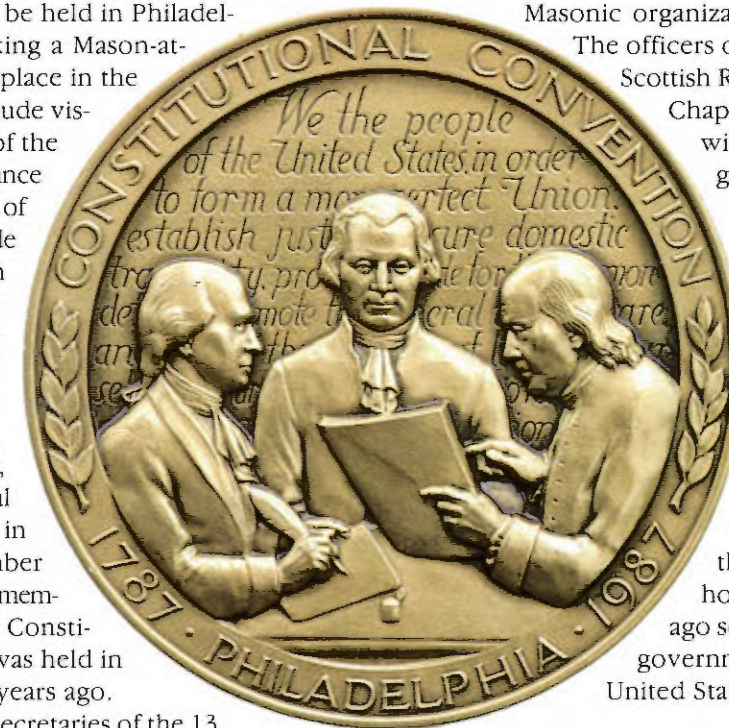
Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of the 13

original colonies have been invited by the Grand Master to participate in the celebration along with dignitaries from Masonic organizations throughout the country.

The officers of the Shrine, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Grand Commandery, Grand Chapter and the youth organizations will also number in the invited guests along with the military dignitaries. It is fitting that this historical city be the background for the meeting since the history of our country is so important to us as Freemasons.

The Grand Lodge will convene at 1:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple. An interesting part of the communication will be the number of visiting Masons dressed in the regalia of their office coming together to honor those men who centuries ago set down the principles of a new government, the Constitution of the United States.

Continued to page 10.



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Making a Mason at Sight: A Pennsylvania Tradition

by Dr. Wayne A. Huss

At a special Grand Lodge Communication to be held on September 11, 1987, to commemorate the bicentennial of the United States Constitution, R.W. Grand Master Carl W. Stenberg, Jr. will make a Mason at sight. In doing so, he carries forward a tradition of long standing in Pennsylvania Freemasonry.

According to this procedure, the

Grand Master on the authority of his position as Pennsylvania's chief Masonic official may elect to make a man a Mason without having him go through the usual process of petitioning a lodge, submitting to an investigation into his background, or await the outcome of a vote of lodge members. In addition, the chosen individual does

not have to wait a month between Masonic degrees as is normally required, but receives all three degrees in one day. Keeping in mind the high requirements of Masonic membership and considering a Grand Master's long experience as a member of the Craft, there is little likelihood that a man of

Continued to page 12.

Grand Lodge of Connecticut Honors Grand Master Stenberg

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut has presented its highest award for distinguished Masonic service to the R.W. Grand Master, Bro. Carl W. Stenberg, Jr. The presentation was made by the Most Worshipful Bro. Dennis L. Elkins, Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut during the 209th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut on March 31 and April 1.

A four-page resolution detailing Grand Master Stenberg's accomplishments was made part of the presentation ceremony and cited the Grand



Master for being instrumental in presenting, at the Grand Master's Conference, held in Arlington, Virginia, February 16, 1986, a resolution approving the establishment of a National Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children.

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut continued by attributing Grand Master Stenberg as being "a prime supporter in starting this vital Program, realizing the Challenge to Freemasonry, and to each of us as Masons, thoroughly recognizing the impact of drugs and alcohol in our society; and that our children are being victimized."

The final paragraph of the resolution states, "For his outstanding achievements as a man and a Mason, and in recognition of his interest in young people and the welfare of his Community, and in recognition of his unselfish and dedicated service to the Masonic Fraternity where so ever disbursed, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut takes great pride in recognition of all his Masonic accomplishments, by awarding Right Worshipful Brother Carl W. Stenberg,

Jr., Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging, The Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze for distinguished Masonic service."

The Pierpont Edwards Medal was conceived in 1939 as a Medal of Honor for Masonic Service and was first conferred upon ten outstanding Masons at the 150th Anniversary observance of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F.&A.M. of Connecticut.

This Medal of Honor derives its name from the distinguished citizen, patriot and Mason who was the first Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut, Pierpont Edwards.



Grand Master's Itinerary
AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER

- AUGUST**
- 15 Masonic Picnic, Valley of Philadelphia, A.A.S.R.
 - 21 Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown
- SEPTEMBER**
- 11 Extra Communication of Grand Lodge for the Purpose of Making a Mason at Sight, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
 - 12 Special Communication of Grand Lodge. 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Constitutional Convention, Corinthian Hall, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
 - 18-19 200th Anniversary of the Signing of the Constitution, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia
 - 25 Committee on Masonic Homes Meeting, Elizabethtown
 - 26- Supreme Council, Boston
- OCTOBER**
- 1 Supreme Council, Boston

- OCTOBER**
- 3 Special Communication of the Grand Lodge. Dedication of Lodge Hall. Liberty Lodge No. 505, Port Allegheny
 - 10 100th Anniversary, Ashlar Lodge No. 570, Lykens
 - 16 Dormont Lodge No. 651, Dormont
 - 17 Special Communication of Grand Lodge. Dedication of Lodge Room. Homestead-Amity Lodge No. 582 and Wilson Lodge No. 714, Homestead
 - 19 80th Anniversary, Laurel Lodge No. 651, Uniontown
 - 21 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
 - 21 75th Anniversary, Peter A. B. Widener Lodge No. 671, Philadelphia
 - 22 Royal Order of Scotland, Washington, D.C.
 - 23 Committee on Masonic Homes Meeting, Elizabethtown

- OCTOBER**
- 23 Special Communication of Grand Lodge. Cornerstone Laying and Dedication of the Samuel M. Goodyear Building, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown. 1:30 p.m.
 - 24 Masonic Congress Committee Meeting, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown
- NOVEMBER**
- 5 200th Anniversary, Montgomery Lodge No. 19, Philadelphia
 - 7 Special Communication of Grand Lodge. Laying the Datestone, Perry-Ionic Lodge No. 796, Wexford
 - 10 Trinity Lodge No. 736, Pittsburgh
 - 14 Annual Fall Reunion, Valley of Williamsport, A.A.S.R.
 - 20 Fall Reunion, Caldwell Consistory, A.A.S.R., Valley of Bloomsburg
 - 21 Fall Reunion Pennsylvania Consistory, A.A.S.R. Valley of Pittsburgh

In Memoriam

Bro. William G. Rusch, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, died April 22, 1987.

After service in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II he received degrees from Washington and Jefferson College, Western Theological Seminary and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Bro. Rusch was active in his pastorates in Tarentum, Pittsburgh and Washington, all in Pennsylvania. Also, he was very active in various committees of the Synod of Pennsylvania of the United Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A.

He was a member of, and Past



Rev. William G. Rusch

Master of Washington Lodge No. 164, the Pennsylvania Scottish Rite Consistory, Pittsburgh; York Rite bodies; Perseverance Royal Arch Chapter No. 21; Harrisburg Council No. 7; Pilgrim Commandery No. 11 of Knights Templar; Gorgas Lodge of Perfection; Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem; Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix; and Syria Shrine Temple, Pittsburgh. He was Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania.

Rev. Dr. Donald G. Lester, Bro. Rusch's pastor, said: "He was deeply committed to his church and his Lord. He lived his faith right to the very last moment of his life."

New Appointment in Philadelphia



Bro. Robert A. Pote

Effective May 15, 1987, Bro. Robert A. Pote, P.D.D.G.M. and D.D.G.M. Liaison Coordinator assumed the position of Assistant to the Grand Master.

Bro. Pote is retired from the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation where he served in the capacity of General Supervisor. He was educated in Philadelphia and attended the University of Hawaii.

Bro. Pote is a member of Woodlawn Lodge No. 672 in Aliquippa. He has been a member for 36 years and served as Worshipful Master in 1962. Bro. Pote is an active member of the 37th Masonic District School of Instruction. His Masonic Affiliations include the Royal Arch Chapter No. 167 and the Valley of New Castle, A.A.S.R. He received the 33° in September 1980. He served as D.D.G.M. of the 37th Masonic District from 1974 to 1985. Bro. and Mrs. Pote have two children and four grandsons.

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Grand Lodge Officers

Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., R.W. Grand Master
Arthur J. Kurtz, R.W. Deputy Grand Master
W. Scott Stoner, R.W. Senior Grand Warden
Edward H. Fowler, R.W. Junior Grand Warden
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June Quarterly

(Clockwise from right) Bro. Norton Neil Hamovitz, a member of Solomon-Oakland-Fraternity Lodge No. 231 in Pittsburgh was awarded a Project Solomon II throat medallion as a Master Builder at the June Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; Grand Master's Dinner; Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Pittsburgh; Entertainment for the Ladies included a luncheon cruise on the Liberty Belle.



The Pennsylvania Franklin Medal Awarded Bro. George N. Holmes

The Pennsylvania Franklin Medal is the most prestigious award of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It is awarded by the consent of the elected line officials to recognize distinguished service to Freemasonry in general and to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in particular. Bro. George N. Holmes received the Pennsylvania Franklin Medal on June 3, 1987 in Pittsburgh.

In 1945 Bro. Holmes petitioned Bellevue Lodge No. 530 and later became a warrant member of Col. Bouquet Lodge No. 787 (which merged with Lodge No. 45). He officiated as Worshipful Master during 1964 and served thereafter as Grand Lodge Representative.

As a past Commander-in-Chief of the Pennsylvania Consistory in the Valley of Pittsburgh, Bro. Holmes currently acts as Director of Work and Trustee. He is a member of Syria Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. In 1968 he was coro-

neted to a Thirty-Third Degree in the A.A.S.R., Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Bro. Holmes's Masonic affiliations include Bellevue Chapter No. 286, Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar; Mt. Moriah Council No. 2 and in 1972 he became a member of United States Premier Conclave, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders, where he filled the position of Puissant Sovereign and Trustee of the conclave.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Bro. John K. Young appointed Bro. Holmes on December 27, 1967, to the office of the Grand Marshal and he continues to hold that appointment.

Bro. Holmes was active in the United States Navy during and after World War II and compiled a total of 37 years of service. He received many combat awards, including the Bronze Star.

His professional life was spent in the employ of Pittsburgh Plate Glass, now

known as PPG Industries. He is married to the former Carol A. Thompson and they have two children and two grandchildren.



Bro. George N. Holmes receives Franklin Medal from R. W. Grand Master, Carl W. Stenberg, Jr.

Masonic Reactions to the Constitution

by Dr. Wayne A. Huss

On September 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was signed by thirty-nine of the fifty-five delegates who had been meeting in Philadelphia throughout the previous summer. Another seven probably would have signed it also, but they were absent at the time of voting. The final document was a masterpiece of compromise among reasonable men who, although differing in some specific ideas, nonetheless shared a common dedication to republican principles.

Slightly more than half the signers—twenty men, either were Masons at the time (thirteen), later joined the Fraternity (one) or had possible, but unproved, Masonic connections (six). Three of the absent men favoring the Constitution were definitely Masons and another one also may have been. Although it would be incorrect to say that the Constitution was a Masonic document, it is clear that many ideas expressed therein were consistent with Masonic principles; otherwise so many Masons could not in good conscience have approved it.

The process of ratification of the Constitution began in the fall of 1787 when special conventions convened in the original thirteen states. By the end of the year three states—Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey—had ratified the document unanimously, and by the following June seven others had followed suit, although some votes had been close. Since only two-thirds majority of the states was necessary for approval, the new government had now been officially established.

New York still had not ratified, however, and this state's participation was essential because of its size, geographical location and economic influence. A great political battle ensued between those in favor of the Constitution, called Federalists, and those opposed to it, called Antifederalists. Instrumental to the cause of the former was a series of essays published in the local press written by three men, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, who explained and defended the new system.

New York finally accepted the Constitution by only three votes on July 26, 1788.

It would be helpful to know how many men attending the state ratifying conventions were Masons. If the majority were, this would give additional evidence of the sympathy of interest between supporters of a strong federal government and adherents to Masonic beliefs.

It is suspected that Hamilton, Madison and Jay were Masons at some point in their careers, but evidence to support their memberships is circumstantial. Hamilton was present at a meeting of American Union Lodge in Morristown, N.J., on December 27, 1779; Madison, who may have joined the Fraternity around 1795, was attacked for being a Freemason during the Antimasonic period; and John Jay wrote a letter with Masonic references on April 21, 1779, to George Washington.

A number of prominent Pennsylvania Freemasons also appreciated the value of the United States Constitution. One of these was Charles Smith, a lawyer and Master of Lodge No. 22, Sunbury, Northumberland County, who came from an important Pennsylvania Masonic family. His father was the Rev. Dr. William Smith, provost of the College and Academy of Philadelphia and Grand Secretary of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge (1778-1782), and his brother was William Moore Smith, a future Grand Master of Pennsylvania (1796-1797). On St. John the Evangelist's Day, December 27, 1787, just two weeks after Pennsylvania had ratified the Constitution, Charles Smith delivered an important oration about it to the members of his lodge.

Smith's address was filled with patriotic allusions and praise for the federal system of government. In it he enthusiastically expressed appreciation for the many personal freedoms the Constitution allowed. Looking back over the past dozen years of history, Smith justified the American people's revolt against Great Britain, which in his opinion had been ruled by a tyrant intent

on suppressing his subjects' liberties. Now that a new American government was established, Smith believed that all sorts of benefits would occur, including progress in the arts and industry, the advancement of science and philosophy, commercial prosperity, religious toleration, and, most important, the growth of a free population.

In his oration Smith even predicted that in the not too distant future the blessings of the United States government would extend throughout the whole continent and would provide a civilizing influence "...over those deep forests which are now accustomed only to the tread of the rude savage and the yell of wild beasts." He thought that Freemasonry would be essential in bringing this about: "The glorious virtue of patriotism will grow, with an astonishing luxuriance, upon a soil nobly prepared and cultivated with humanity, benevolence and brotherly love."

Smith's appreciation for the United States Constitution was shared by other Pennsylvania Masonic orators of the period, especially his father who delivered a Masonic sermon in 1795. Another was the Rev. Dr. Samuel Magaw, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia. For example, in a 1793 Masonic sermon he said: "...happy is our estate in this lettered age and in this land of liberty; we profess our sentiments with freedom and without fear." Undoubtedly, there were many other Pennsylvania Freemasons who appreciated the Constitution, but who left no written record of their opinions.

In the late eighteenth century the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania officially took a neutral stand on political issues; it did not support any one faction over another nor did it permit members of the Fraternity to discuss politics within a lodge. The Pennsylvania Masonic constitution, the *Abiman Rezon*, urged Masons to become peaceable citizens and to remain loyal to the enlightened government under which they lived.

Continued to page 8.

Masonic Homes Events



May was named "Older Americans Month" by a proclamation issued by the President of the United States, thereby focusing national attention on the elderly in this nation.

Several activities were held during the month to honor the guests at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown.

On May 4th, a balloon launch was scheduled to commemorate the occasion, but due to rain was rescheduled for May 22nd. The other activities went on as planned.

Special visitors for this event included Arthur Kurtz, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master and the Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Homes, Congressman Robert Walker from the Sixteenth District, Mayor Daniel Mader of Elizabethtown, and students from

the Bainbridge Elementary School.

The guests of the Masonic Homes were asked to write an essay entitled "What the Masonic Homes Means to Me". The winners were Nelson Valentine, Evelyn Shaw and Lavinia Regar.

"A warm, friendly and cheerful greeting welcomed me. Instinctively I sensed I would find contentment, happiness and a homey atmosphere," wrote first prize winner, Nelson Valentine. His essay radiates his own satisfaction with the Masonic Homes.

"Frankie Dee" provided music and refreshments were served in the Temple Dining Room.

On May 5th, the guests at the Masonic Health Care Center, who participate in the "Grandparent Program" were joined by the first grade students from

the St. Peter's Parochial School in Elizabethtown. Each student had been asked to write an essay on "My Adopted Grandparent" and the winner was Anthony Grim. Other guests were visited by third grade students from Mill Road Elementary, who participated in the essay contest "My Trip to the Masonic Homes", which resulted from an earlier field trip to the Homes, and the winner was Kirsten Beamenderfer. Other groups who visited the guests that day were first grade students from E. High Elementary, who participate in the "Pen Pal Program" and local Brownie Troops.

There was entertainment and refreshments were served.

A similar event was held on May 6th for Masonic Health Care Guests. Enter-

tainment was provided and refreshments were served outside on the patio.

A "Centurian Club" was organized at the Masonic Homes to honor those guests who have reached their 100th birthday. Seven guests were a century old, or older, and they became charter members of the club.

A special birthday party was held on May 21st in the Grand Lodge Hall Ice Cream Parlor for this select group. The seven charter members were honored: Elizabeth J. Bachman (age 100), now deceased; Emma L. Metcalfe (age 101); Bertha M. Morrett (age 100); Eda P. Rosenheimer (age 106); Jesse T. Taylor (age 101); Lillie H. Seabold (age 100); and, C. Weldy Williams (age 103).

Bro. Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, awarded "Centurian Club Certificates" to each member of this extraordinary club.

Other speakers included Bro. Arthur J. Kurtz, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Daniel Mader, Mayor of Elizabethtown, and Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, Executive Director of the Masonic Homes.

Representative Kenneth E. Brandt, 98th District, presented colorful citations from the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania to each of the Centurians. The Seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was prominent on each.

In the future all guests will be inducted into the "Centurian Club" on

their 100th birthday.

This beautiful party was carefully arranged so that each Centurian sat at a table which bore his or her name, with family and friends. A lavishly decorated three tier cake was iced with "Centurian Club" on it. Flowers from the Masonic Homes Greenhouse were presented to each guest and also decorated the tables.

A player piano sounded throughout the parlor as the company ate cake with ice cream and fresh strawberries.

On May 22nd, the "Balloon Launch" took place from the Grand Lodge Hall Patio. Each balloon contained a note inviting the finder to contact and meet the guest for a tour of the Masonic Homes and a special treat in the Ice Cream Parlor.

Meyersdale Lodge No. 554



Bro. Robert E. Walker, Worshipful Master of Meyersdale Lodge No. 554, announced that the Lodge had provided a float in the Maple Festival Parade.

The theme of the spectacular float was "The American Constitution and the Masons Who Signed It." The United States Constitution was displayed on a huge scroll in the center of the float and on small scrolls beneath the Masonic Emblems were the names of the signers who were Masons.

This float exposed around 2,000 people to the fact that Masons had an important part in the writing and the signing of the United States Constitution.

75 Year Membership Certificate Awarded



Bro. Ernest Otto Henning, Jr., member of Lodge No. 45, was awarded a 75 year Membership Certificate on April 2, 1984. Bro. John P. Fleming, Worshipful Master, and Bro. Malcolm F. Lovejoy, Secretary, of Bethel Lodge No. 761 made the presentation. Bro. Henning lives in Bethel Park and has attended Bethel Lodge No. 761 for many years, so he is looked upon more as a member than as a visitor.

Requests for Information

Director Drew W. Washabau reports the Project SOLOMON II Brochure "What is it Masons Do" has brought over 1500 requests for information. Many people asked about the Masonic Homes and the Education Loan. Each request for information will be answered. Have you sent your request?

Masonic Reaction to Constitution

continued from page 5.

The new federal system of government established by the United States Constitution clearly proved to be a positive benefit to all Americans generally and to Masons in particular. Unlike some European countries which, because of the arbitrary whims of hostile rulers, followed determined policies of persecution of Freemasons, the American government encouraged the joining of voluntary associations as one means of individual expression. In this atmosphere of personal freedom the Pennsylvania Masonic Fraternity flourished.

Project SOLOMON II Handbook Revised

A revised Directors Handbook for Project SOLOMON II was issued in May 1987 in time for the May Directors Workshop. The new manual will be used by your Lodge Director to assist the Worshipful Master, the Lodge Secretary and the Lodge Officers in meeting the goals of Project SOLOMON II.

The revision of the Handbook was done by Dr. Elvin G. Warfel, a member of Newtown Lodge No. 427 with help from members of the committee. Addi-

tional content will be provided to District Directors and Lodge Directors of Project SOLOMON II throughout the coming year. Suggestions for Lodge programs will be provided on a regular basis.

In his opening letter of the manual, the Right Worshipful Grand Master, Carl W. Stenberg spoke of the task of all Masons.

"Each Master Mason in Pennsylvania has a duty to the Masonic fraternity, to

his own lodge and to himself to preserve our great fraternity united for the future. To sit by idly while the Masonic lodges dwindle and ultimately die, each Master Mason fails in his oath and obligation to bring help to the widow's son."

Do you know your Project SOLOMON II Lodge Director? His name is in the Lodge notice. Will you help him with his important responsibilities in making your lodge grow?

You and SOLOMON II

The first copy of the newsletter *You and SOLOMON II* was issued in June, 1987 and has been well received. Masons from many areas of the state have been showing appreciation for a short publication that celebrates the "good deeds" men of the fraternity are doing.

Your SOLOMON II committee believes there are many good things to be

shared among the brethren. As this message is spread individual Masons should realize they are the strength of the fraternity.

A second issue of *You and SOLOMON II* will be mailed to the Lodge Secretaries early in August. The second newsletter will be included with the September, 1987 lodge notice. A third issue will be prepared for December,

1987 distribution.

Do you have a news brief that could be shared with the Masons of Pennsylvania? Send any news to the following address:

Dr. Elvin G. Warfel, Editor
Box 224
Chalfont, PA 18914

Your input is needed to share the good work of Masonry.

Project SOLOMON II® Master Builders

BRO. D. REED ANDERSON, Friendship Lodge No. 663

BRO. CHARLES R. BEARD, Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 226

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BRO. JOSEPH M. SHANHOLTZ, Rising Star Lodge No. 126

BRO. ROBERT D. SPANGLER, Hermitage Lodge No. 810

BRO. THEODORE G. STOUT, Whitfield Lodge No. 622

BRO. LARRY P. WALTERS, Wm. H. Miller Lodge No. 769

BRO. DANIEL P. WILKINSON, Saucon Lodge No. 469

New Masonic Temple of Tamaqua Lodge No. 238



On May 2, 1987, Bro. Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., R.W. Grand Master with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, laid the cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple of Tamaqua Lodge No. 238 F. & A. M. About seventy District Deputy Grand Masters and other lodge dignitaries accompanied the Grand Lodge Officers. The laying of a cornerstone, or datestone, is one of the few Masonic ceremonies performed in public.

The first meeting of Lodge 238 was held in the rooms of Ringgold Lodge No. 318, I.O. of F., on July 13, 1849. Asa Packer, the famous railroad builder, congressman and philanthropist, attended that meeting and the first three degrees of Masonry were conferred upon him.

In 1983 Lodge 238 considered abandoning the old building and erecting a new one and the present building was begun in 1985 when an artesian well

was drilled and the ground broken. Bro. Irving W. Bachman, D.D.G.M. of the 45th Masonic District which includes Tamaqua, also attended many of the meetings before and during the construction.

Vaal E. Kester, the current Worshipful Master, praised Bro. Bachman for the help he had given the Lodge.

Bro. Russell Dietrich was selected to construct the Temple and Bro. Paul F. Kunkel, P.D.D.G.M., a representative of the Grand Lodge and a member of the Committee on Masonic Temples, Halls and Lodge Rooms, visited the site during the construction to determine that all requirements of the Grand Lodge were being met.

This new Masonic Temple is a single story, brick building with a full basement. The Lodge Room is on the ground level and the basement area contains recreation and dining space. The building is fully air-conditioned and has ample space for entertainment in the recreation and dining areas.

Open house tours of the building were enjoyed by all.

District Directors Workshop at Elizabethtown



A workshop for District Directors of Project SOLOMON II was held at the Patton Campus, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania on May 30, 1987. Seventy men were in attendance. The day began with a worship service in the Wm. A. Carpenter Chapel. Reverend Kenneth E. Buckwalter set the tone for the day through a meaningful talk on working together.

The workshop activities began with an inspirational talk by Bro. Dean Vaughn, author of Project SOLOMON II. The remainder of the morning was spent in regional workshops. District Directors reported on the work of the lodges in membership retention, especially dealing with the number of members suspended.

After sharing lunch in Memorial Hall with members of the High Twelve International the workshop resumed. Each regional director gave a summary of activity in his region. Direct evidence was given of hard work and success in keeping men in the fraternity. Following the regional reports Dr. Elvin G. Warfel, a member of Newtown Lodge No. 427, Editor, presented the revised Directors Handbook. Emphasis is being given to the responsibilities of officers

in Project SOLOMON II and to the procedures used in the project. Dr. Warfel gave attention to a section of the manual dealing with ideas for programs in the lodge. New material will be produced by Project SOLOMON II throughout the year.

Bro. Edward Weisser, P.D.D.G.M., and Region 2A Director, presented the second set of slides about Project SOLOMON II. Brother Weisser prepared the slides and the accompanying narration as one of his contributions to getting the story of Project SOLOMON II to the fraternity. The second set of

slides will be shown to you in October.

Bro. Arthur J. Kurtz, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, spent the entire day in attendance at the workshop. He favored the men with kind remarks at the end of the day stating the workshop was interesting and Project SOLOMON II held promise for the future. Bro. Samuel C. Williamson, R.W. Past Grand Master spent a large portion of the day with the District Directors Workshop.

Director Drew W. Washabau summarized the day's work and reviewed the challenges of the future for Project SOLOMON II.

Celebrating the Constitution

September 1987 is a time for all Masons to celebrate the Constitution of the United States. What is your Lodge doing? Will you be there for the cele-

bration? Project SOLOMON II is preparing a pack of materials on the Constitution to be used along with materials from the Grand Lodge Com-

mittee on Masonic Education in developing Lodge programs for September, 1987. Packets will be sent to your Lodge Director in August.

New District Deputy Grand Master Appointed

The R.W. Grand Master, Bro. Carl W. Stenberg Jr., has appointed Bro. Anthony R. Azzato, Past Master of George G. Wagner Lodge No. 639, St. Marys, PA, District Deputy Grand Master of the 33rd Masonic District, vice Bro. William A. Northey, resigned, effective May 11, 1987.

Bro. Azzato served as Worshipful Master in 1958, chairman of the Building Committee and trustee.

He is married to Daisy Mae Oskorus and has twin daughters and a son. He is presently employed as Plant Manager of Quality Components Inc., St. Marys.



September Communication continued from page 1.

The schedule for Friday, September 11, 1987 follows:

- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge convenes. First and second degrees conferred. Grand Lodge called off from labor.
- 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. Luncheon in the Grand Banquet Hall, Masonic Temple (by ticket only)
- 2:00 p.m. Grand Lodge called on to labor. Third degree conferred.

I Want to Know . . .

We believe that there are many Masons in Pennsylvania who have questions about their Fraternity, but do not know where to find the answers. Some of these questions may be thought-provoking, some may relate to terms, items or procedures used in the Lodge and its ceremonies. There is nothing in Freemasonry that does not have true Masonic signification. What do you want to know?

We are beginning a column in the *Pennsylvania Freemason* to answer your questions.

Send them to:

The Pennsylvania Freemason
Masonic Temple
One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598

A well-informed Mason is an effective Mason.

Special Communication to Make a Mason at Sight

Friday, September 11, 1987

Name	Lodge No.
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Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ copies @ \$22.95 each payable to: R.W. Grand Secretary.

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