

# Third Masonic District

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## The USA and France: Wartime Allies and Peacetime Friends

By Brother Daniel K. Confer, PM, Carlisle Lodge 260



Much of my attention lately has been on the daily news about COVID-19, arranging childcare for the summer, and preparing for my family's summer vacation. Speaking for myself, it's nice to turn on the TV or go online and see something that's not about COVID-19, or the 2020 Presidential Election, or incidents of civil unrest that are dominating the news cycle. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, when the segment in the nightly news came on about D-Day, I had a moment where I thought "oh wow, today is the D-Day anniversary". For those of you keeping track, this year marked the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

After watching the tribute to this momentous day, I checked my email and saw that I had a message from the DDGM

waiting for me. Some of you, especially current WM's, are probably thinking to yourselves "Dan, I get a million emails a day from Jeff...only one a day is a cake walk". Brother WM's, I ask you the following question: you think you get a lot of emails from Jeff? I was his Junior Warden the year he was in the East...enough said. Bro. Jeff asked me if I would contribute an article for this newsletter on the topic of Freemasonry and World War II, which I gladly agreed to do. I thank Bro. Jeffrey R. Miller, DDGM for this opportunity and Brother William L. Britton, PM for helping me develop my thoughts for this article.

France was instrumental in our independence from Britain during the American Revolution; we returned the favor by liberating France from German occupation and oppression during World War II. As early as June 1775, France began sending supplies (in secret) to the Continental Army. A more formal Treaty of Alliance between France and the Colonies was signed in February 1778, which included greater financial and material assistance. Some scholars believe that France offered such generous assistance to the Colonies because

### Event Announcements

#### 3rd Masonic District Family Picnic

August 22, 2020

#### Monthly School of Instruction Examination of a Visitor/Funeral Service/Guiding

Carlisle Lodge No. 260  
August 24, 2020

#### District Three Low Vale

September 23, 2020

#### Ladies Night Banquets

Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302  
September 19, 2020

Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443  
October 10, 2020

Acacia Lodge No. 586  
October 3, 2020

## The USA and France: Wartime Allies and Peacetime Friends (continued)

Founding Fathers (and Freemasons) such as Benjamin Franklin followed the cultural influence of the Enlightenment. Principles of the Enlightenment are interwoven in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. Some of these principles which should be familiar to Freemasons are the sovereignty of reason, toleration, fraternity, constitutional government, and the separation of church and state. British actions such as taxation without representation, oppressive taxes, and The Quartering Acts (which required colonists to provide British soldiers lodging and food in the colonists' private homes) are completely contrary to these Enlightenment principles.

Much like the hardships endured during British Colonial rule, France endured hardships under German occupation. The harsh reality of daily life in France during these years (approximately May 1940 to December 1944) included perpetual shortages of basic needs such as food and fuel, as well as onerous regulations regarding censorship and the constant barrage of Nazi propaganda. Moreover, Germany instituted a program of forced labor which transferred hundreds of thousands of French workers to Germany – against their will – for the German war effort. German persecution of Jews extended to France as well, where approximately 49 concentration camps were in use, Jews were required to wear the “Yellow Badge” (a yellow Star of David) and were restricted to traveling in the last cars of the Paris Metro.

The liberation of Western Europe from German occupation was a massive undertaking, to say the least. Nearly 160,000 Allied troops participated in D-Day; by August 1944, approximately 2,000,000 Allied troops were in Western Europe. The battle to liberate Paris began on August 19, 1944 and ended with the German surrender on August 25, 1944. Once Paris had been liberated, the Allies began their march to the Rhine River and the ultimate prize - Berlin. The Battle of Berlin took place between April 16, 1945 and May 2, 1945. Adolf Hitler committed suicide in his bunker on April 30, 1945. The German Army surrendered to the American Ninth Army on the morning of May 7, 1945, ultimately ending World War II in Europe.

Rebuilding Europe after the defeat of Nazi Germany was both physical and cultural; the process was referred to as “denazification”. Part of this process was intended to re-establish societal institutions in former German territories that experienced the hardships mentioned earlier in this article. Freemasonry was initially severely restricted in German-occupied territories and was eventually banned completely. The Nazis blamed “high-ranking Freemasons” for Germany’s defeat in World War I and asserted that Freemasons were conspiring with Jews to create a “New World Order”. Germany’s Parliament passed a series of Acts that ordered the dissolution of Masonic Lodges, the confiscation of Lodge property (both physical and monetary) and prohibited any Freemason from holding office in the Nazi Party. Masonic concentration camp inmates were graded as political prisoners and wore a red triangle symbol on their prison uniform. The first meeting of a Lodge of Freemasons in Germany after World War II occurred in May 1948 at *Lodge Libanon zu den 3 Zedern* in Erlangen. This roughly translates to “The Lodge of Three Cedars of Lebanon”.

US-French relations after World War II were generally warm, according to some scholars. Part of the Marshall Plan included generous loans to France with no repayment requirements. French political and industrial leaders toured the US extensively to learn information about rebuilding government and business. The US-French relationship continues to be important to both countries to the present day, as both the US and France figure prominently in international affairs. Perhaps this relationship was summed up best when then-President François Hollande made an official state visit to the US in February 2014. Hollande toured Monticello (the home of Thomas Jefferson) and remarked, “We were allies in the time of Jefferson and Lafayette. We are still allies today. We were friends at the time of Jefferson and Lafayette and will remain friends forever”.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This quote is taken from ["Obama, France's Hollande Make Pilgrimage to Monticello"](#). *voanews.com*. February 10, 2014.

## The USA and France: Wartime Allies and Peacetime Friends (continued)

### Sources

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### From the Desk of Brother Jeffrey R. Miller District Deputy Grand Master, Third Masonic District



Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

July is an exciting month because several Lodges of District 3 will be holding stated and extra meetings. Eureka West Shore will be holding their stated meeting July 6th, 2020 under the guidelines set forth by our Right Worshipful Grand Master. Orrstown No. 262 and Carlisle Lodge No. 260 will be having stated meetings in July also. Several Lodges in the District will be holding extra meetings in July and August if you are hungry for some degree work. Please come out and support your Lodge as Freemasonry comes back to Labor. Contact your Worshipful Master with any questions.

It has been quite a while since we last meet under the Square and Compasses and I have not received much communication concerning needs of our Brethren in the District. Brethren reach out to a Brother and have some conversation with him. You may not know him personally but he is your Brother in Freemasonry! What man would not want to hear from his Brother. Extend a helping hand if he needs one but if the task is too large for you to handle contact your Worshipful Master. He will be able to come up with the proper Brethren to handle the situation. Your Worshipful Master has taken an oath to care for his Lodge. I'm sure he would like to have an evening out of the house helping a Brother.

District 3 School of Instruction resumes August 22nd at 7:30 pm. Make sure to mark your calendars accordingly. The School of Instruction is a valuable tool in your Masonic journey!!! The Principle and his Assistants love Freemasonry. They donate their time and resources traveling the District doing certifications on a regular basis. They will also come to your Lodge rehearsal nights if requested to ensure that you have the instruction you need. Get in touch with them. They are a wealth of information.

Be safe as we return to our Lodge meetings. Our Right Worshipful Grand Master Brother Thomas Gamon IV has led the Fraternity through this pandemic. He has now given us the permission to engage in our Craft again but we need to follow the guidelines set for the by our Government officials and the Grand Master.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!!

**From the Desk of Brother Kenneth W. Womack, PM  
Principal, Third Masonic District School of Instruction**



Brethren all,

I hope this month’s newsletter finds you all well and safe. This has certainly been a different year for us in Freemasonry, as well as almost everyone else. I am confident we will weather this health crisis, and even if things will be “different,” we will continue to practice the lessons of the craft and remember that, “Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. So that we enjoin it upon you, do good unto all, while we recommend it more especially to those who are of the household of the faithful.”

The DDGM anticipates that the SOI will begin meeting on our regularly scheduled meeting night, Monday, August 24th. We will continue to comply with the guidance from the RWGM and his direction for meetings, and we will keep you informed of those as the August meeting approaches. For now, please plan on meeting in August.

We have five months of school remaining this year. To some extent, we covered the funeral service and examination of a visitor very briefly in previous submissions to the District 3 Newsletter. It is important that we

do Election and Installation of Officers in November, and Business of the Lodge in December. Along with these, we need to cover the FC and MM degrees, which leaves us one month to work with. I would like to cover the other work we were not able to fully accomplish (Examination of a Visitor/Funeral Service/Guiding), if not in detail, enough to cover the key points and answer your questions.

The DDGM has approved the revised schedule of work for the remainder of the year:

Aug 24 Examination of a Visitor/Funeral Service/Guiding* . . . . .	No. 260
Sep 28 Fellowcraft. . . . .	No. 361
Oct 26 Master Mason. . . . .	No. 302
Nov 23 Election and Installation of Officers. . . . .	No. 586
Dec 21 Business of the Lodge . . . . .	2021 Incoming Officers

\*Principals will be responsible for instruction on guiding

Brethren, I look forward to seeing you in August. Please let me know if you have any questions about SOI issues. Please be safe. Hopefully you are working on some of your Ritual.





The Principle of Third Masonic District School of Instruction is aided by two Assistant Principles. Over the course of the next few months we will introduce them to you. We continue our introductions with Brother Daniel K. Confer

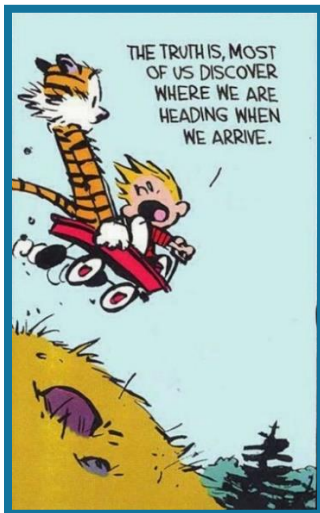
Brother Confer was raised in St. John's Lodge No. 260 in 2013. He began his journey to the East in 2014 and became the Worshipful Master of Carlisle Lodge No. 260 in 2019, the first Worshipful Master to serve a full year as Master of the newly merged Lodge by Cumberland Star Lodge No. 197 and St. John's Lodge No. 260. He is a member of the Valley of Harrisburg Scottish Rite where he sings in the choir and participates in degrees presented during Scottish Rite reunions. He is also a member of the Zembo Shrine. He is a certified adult volunteer in Job's Daughters Bethel #19 in Mechanicsburg, where his daughter is a member. In addition to being a Past Master in his Blue Lodge, he served on the Audit and By-Laws committees and participates in many other Lodge activities.

Brother Dan is employed by Providence Engineering where he serves as the Director of Business Development.

Brother Dan lives in Carlisle with wife Aimee and two children, James and Emma. They are members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Carlisle where Brother Dan sings in the Men and Youth choir with his children.

### Masonic Education

By Brother William Britton, PM  
Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315



Masonic education is all around us. It is not only found in books, scholarly papers, Research Lodges, or Masonic Academies, but can be found in some of the most unlikely places, such as, a friendly discussion, a sign, a song, or even a comic strip. Being a fan of the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip, I read Calvin's remark to Hobbes "The truth is, most of us discover where we are headed when we arrive". Reading that reminded me of the day I knocked upon the portal of Freemasonry. I passed through the symbolic degrees, and found myself on the third step of the Northeast corner. After being seated with the brethren the question I ask myself was where should I start? Well he answer depended on where I wanted to go. The truth was I already started and just need to continue the walk. I know no matter where the walk takes me I will eventually arrive to book passage to that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler has ever yet returned. What I do between now and then is most important to me. That is to do good unto all, but more especially to those who are of the household of the faithful.

## [Around the District](#)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District Family Picnic



**Date:** August 22, 2020

**Location:** 637 Grahams Wood Road, Newville Pa 17241 (Bier's Acres)

**Meal Time:** 5:00 pm (Families for the picnic can arrive any time after noon). In addition to the BBQ Competition meat, hamburgers and hot dogs will also be provided.

**Things to Bring:** A dish to share (hot or cold), whatever beverage you would like to drink, and lawn chairs.

#### **BBQ Competition** Set Up and Start Time – Noon (Judging will take place before meal)

##### Categories

- A. Chicken
- B. Beef
- C. Lamb
- D. Pork

##### Rules

1. All BBQ preparations have to take place on the site of the picnic grounds.
2. Each lodge may enter multiple categories if desired.
3. Judging will be based on the taste, texture and presentation of the meat regardless of the cut of meat used.
4. There will be one 1st place winner for each category.
5. BBQ competition entries must be turned into the judging area no later than at 4:15 pm.
6. Judging will commence at 5:00 pm.

#### **Pie and Cake Competition**

##### Categories

- A. Pies
- B. Cakes

##### Rules

1. This contest is intended for amateur bakers only!
2. Each contestant must bake one pie and/or cake for judges to taste.
3. Pies and/or cakes must not require refrigeration before serving.
4. Each pie and/or cake must be baked in a disposable pie pan.
5. Each pie and/or cake must be made from scratch.
6. Each lodge may enter one pie and/or cake.
7. Pies and/or cakes need to be turned into the judging area no later than 3:00 pm. Judging will commence at 4:00 pm.
8. There will be one 1st place winner for each category.
9. After the judging all pies and cakes will be raffled off with all proceeds going to a Masonic Charity.

## Around the District

### **The 3rd District Masonic Cup**

The Lodge that wins the most categories will receive the 3rd. Masonic District Cup. There will be a brass plate added to the cup with the lodges' name and brethren who were on the winning team. This also comes with bragging rights for one year. At the present time, Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443 has the cup.

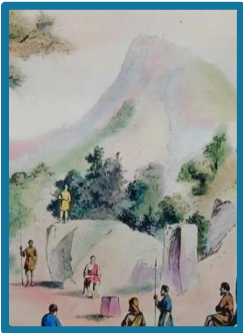
#### Activities

- Areas will be set aside for Horseshoe
- Corn Hole competitions
- After dusk, we will have a bon fire

At the conclusion of the picnic please ensure your areas are cleaned up.

### **District 3 Low Vale 2020**

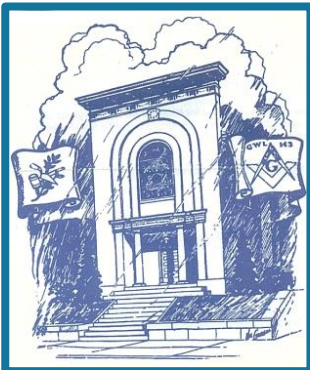
Hosted by Carlisle Lodge No. 260 and Orrstown Lodge No. 262



Brethren are you ready to get out of the house for some Masonic fellowship and good food? This fall, September 23rd, 2020 Carlisle Lodge No. 260 and Orrstown Lodge No. 262 will be hosting the district Low Vale at Maple Lane Farm located in Newville PA. Plan on coming out to see the conferral of the Master Masons degree by the officers of 260 and 262. As always the attire will be casual with officers the only ones in formal. Cigars are permitted and encouraged!!! More details to follow, including times and ticket sales. Please call Brother Jeremy Miller Worshipful Master of Carlisle Lodge 260 with questions at (717)440-7261.

### **George Washington Lodge No. 143**

Brother Michael S. Essis  
Worshipful Master



George Washington Lodge No. 143 is holding a Gun Raffle. See below for details.

Date: December 25, 2020

Ticket Price: \$10.00

Afternoon Drawing – Choice of Gun

Evening Drawing – Remaining Gun

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Brother Michael S. Essis, Worshipful Master, at 717-648-7378.

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### **Orrstown Lodge No. 262** Brother Drew S. DeWalt Worshipful Master



A Stated Meeting of Orrstown Lodge 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. Thursday July 9, 2020 at 7:30 pm. The lodge will be opened in the Fellow Craft Mason Degree. The program for the evening will be on the true meaning of the pass-grip of a Fellow Craft Mason its relationship to the upcoming District 3 Low Vale to be held on September 23, 202. The presenter will be Brother Ronald W. Harshman, PM.

We will be conducting two Extra Lodge Meeting meetings this month. The first will be on Wednesday July 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm. We will conducting two Master Mason Degrees. The second Extra Meeting will be held on July 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm. We will be conducting two Entered Apprentice Degrees.

We will also be conducting Stated and Extra Lodge Meetings in August, and on September 10th we will be holding our Stated Lodge outdoors at Maple Lane Farm. Home of our DDGM.

### **Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302** Brother Kenneth B. Robinson Worshipful Master



Over the past few months, we have kept up our unofficial ZOOM toast meetings each and every night at 9:00 pm. After 79 consecutive nights we ended our meetings with a fond farewell and plans to meet again in the future on ZOOM. We had brethren meet with us from at least 21 different states, 4 different countries, and 2 Canadian provinces!

Our officers have been tasked with reaching out our older brethren to check up on them again due to the extended nature of the COVID shutdown. To date most of our brethren are safe and healthy, although we have had some family issues and we have lost several brethren in the last couple of months. We have had the privilege of presenting several masonic funerals including one for a Past Grand Master of Delaware, Brother James Albert Pletz.

On a happier note, upon reaching the yellow phase the Lodge was able to host our usual June blood drive for the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank on June 8th from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. The lodge social hall was set up to accommodate donation stations and check in stands. Processes were set up to ensure social distancing and minimize the potential for contamination, including cleaning and sanitizing, and donations by appointment only. There were 88 appointments and we were able to collect 70 pints of blood.

Now that we have moved into the green phase in Cumberland County, we are planning to have an unusual stated meeting in July, followed by an extra meeting to progress several of our brethren. We have been



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preparing the lodge room and setting up procedures to have a safe meeting and adhere to the RWGM edicts. It should be an interesting meeting to say the least. We also have plans for August which is very unusual for the lodge.

### **Cumberland Valley No. 315**

Brother Bryan L. Ruth

Worshipful Master

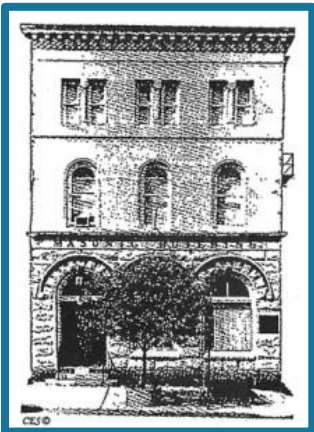


An Extra Meeting of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. Thursday July 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM. The Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred. Please consider attending this important meeting to show your support to our newest candidate and join us for Masonic inspiration and fellowship!

### **Acacia Lodge No. 586**

Brother Zachary L. Wilhide

Worshipful Master



#### **Acacia Lodge No. 586 to begin Monthly Summer BBQ Fund Raising**

Beginning Saturday July 18, 2020 the Lodge will have their first Chicken BBQ for 2020. The BBQ will be in the F & M Trust Bank Parking Lot on East Main St, Waynesboro. The Brethren will begin early Saturday morning and chicken should be available around 10:30 am. Make sure you get there early because we are usually done by 12:30 pm. You can get ½ chicken for \$6.00 and a meal which also includes Cole Slaw, Baked Beans and a roll for \$8.00. The attached pictures were from last year's BBQ.

Additional Dates for the chicken BBQ are August 22nd and September 26th. This is our annual fund raising activity and the lodge uses the money to maintain the Lodge Building.

**Ladies Night Banquet** – October 3, 2020 – 2nd Street Event Center, 42 W 2nd St, Waynesboro, PA 17268 – Tickets - \$25.00.