

Third Masonic District

<https://www.glpad3.org/>

Uniqueness of Pennsylvania Freemasonry in the United States

By Brother J. Wheeler Hammontree, WM
Big Spring Lodge No.361



I was recently challenged on being a 'legit' Freemason after commenting that "We don't do it that way in PA." Pennsylvania is the only US Grand Jurisdiction that does not use a variation of the Preston-Webb ritual. Most of Pennsylvania's ritual pre-dates Br. William Preston's

lectures which were popularized by Br. Thomas Smith Webb in the US. Some of Webb's writings have crept in, however, e.g. the Charges. There are a few individual Lodges in the United States that use the 'Ancient' ritual similar to Pennsylvania, but we are the only one to use it exclusively. This difference in ritual means that Pa. Freemasons will not recognize references that to most US Freemasons "every real Mason knows." Complete ignorance of these references can result in a Pennsylvania Mason being labeled a Cowan, or worse – clandestine, by those not realizing just how different our work is.

The Preston-Webb ritual has been leaked many times over and it is easy to find a copy, especially with the advent of the Internet. Morgan's "Illustrations of Freemasonry" is the most infamous of these and can be found in many libraries as well as online. "Duncan's Ritual & Monitor" is another popular version widely available; I picked up a copy off a grocery store magazine rack.

As a Pa. Mason, we can view Preston's lectures as his interpretation of the meaning of the symbols of Freemasonry, and come to our own conclusions about them. Be aware, however, that the Preston lectures are doctrine in the minds of most US Masons.

A few of items, in my opinion, every Freemason should at least be aware of:

- Knowing where you were first prepared to be made a Mason. This is alluded to in our ritual, but is not explicit. This is one of first test questions in many jurisdictions both in the US and the rest of English-speaking Freemasonry.

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

Acacia Lodge No. 586
October 3, 2020

- The name given a new Mason. We do not have this in Pa., nor does it appear in some other US jurisdictions, but is common enough that most US Masons know it.
- Knowing that you should conceal something, and specifically what those somethings are. This forms part of the examination in many jurisdictions.
- The request to deposit an item as a memorial of being made a Mason. This part does not appear in Pa. but occurs nearly everywhere else.
- Being a “traveling man” and knowing from “whence came you” and “whither are you traveling?” This doesn’t appear in all US jurisdictions, but is common enough that we should be familiar with it.
- Where you were placed in the Lodge as an Entered Apprentice. We do this in Pa., but do not call attention to it as other jurisdictions do.
- The symbolic form of the Lodge, its supports, furniture, ornaments, and jewels, both movable and immovable. Only the briefest mention is made in Pa.
- The point with the circle. This one is important because per most US jurisdictions, “every regular and well-governed Lodge” has it, yet it does not appear in Pa.
- The Holy Sts. John. Note the plurality. Pa. only has one St. John.
- How you may be known to be a Mason. This is another one used in examination. A Pa. Mason could stumble through most of it, but a key portion doesn’t exist here.
- How EAs serve their time. Doesn’t appear in Pa. at all.
- The significance of 3, 5, and 7 to the Fellow Craft. This is part of the ‘Staircase’ in most jurisdictions. The Pa. lecture only covers a small part of it.
- The jewels of a Fellow Craft. They do not appear at all in Pa.

You Are Time

By Brother William Britton
Cumberland Valley Lodge No 315

Enjoy yourself. It's later than you think. – Socrates



We wake up every day, turn off the alarm clock, and start our day. Most of us spend our days in a constant state of work; day after day, month after month, year after year, never taking a minute off and too busy to find the time to enjoy life’s many pleasures. Then, before we know it, we wonder where the time has gone.

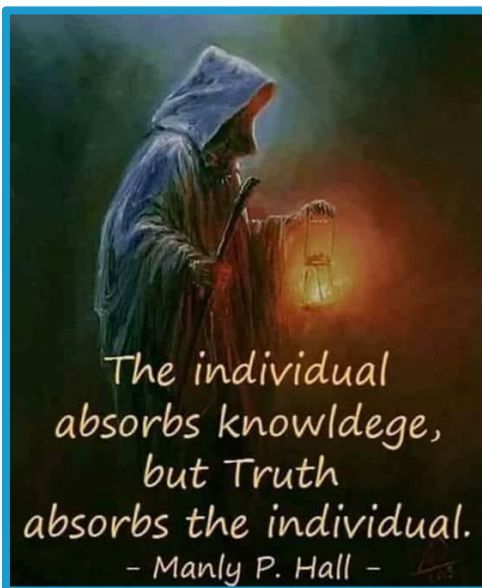
Let’s stop for a minute and take a breath. Rose Kennedy, wife of the late Joseph P. Kennedy said, “Life isn’t a matter of milestones, but of moments.” Brother Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote “Every second is of infinite value.” There is great merit in those thoughts. Mrs. Kennedy reminds us that we should live for the moment, for it is in the present we live. Milestones are just roadside markers on our journey through life. Brother von Goethe points that there is nothing more valuable than time. If we are to spend such a precious commodity, it seems best to spend it where it is of best use, the present.

The Roman philosopher Seneca the Younger wrote, "It is not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste a lot of it." Charles Darwin, the great naturalist, geologist and biologist wrote "A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life." Life is short. When we stop, take a breath, look back at what seemed to be so long ago, we realize it is just a momentary drop in the infinite sea of time. So, to waste time, to let even one moment slip through our fingers, is to lose something so valuable it can never be replaced. That my Brothers is one of the few absolutes in life.

As we delve deeper into Seneca the Younger's writing he reminds us that "Life, if well lived, is long enough." To be a Freemason, to practice Freemasonry, is to live a life of purpose, a life with an emphasis on being a better world citizen. We accomplish this by being better fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons. We do this by placing an emphasis on improving ourselves, on improving our moral and spiritual outlook, hence improving the world around us which in turn makes the world just a little bit better for each of us. In the end my Brothers is that not a life well lived no matter its length?

Brethren, remember time, patience, and perseverance enable each of us to reach that greater goal of attaining the true word, that of divine truth. The light that we all seek. I close with a quote from Marcus Aurelius. Marcus Aurelius was the last of the rulers known as the "Five Good Emperors." He was the last emperor of the Pax Romana, an age of relative peace and stability for the Roman Empire. In his book of *Meditations*, a series of personal writings, he wrote "Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one."

Light



Light was the object, and its attainment the end, of all the ancient mysteries. In the Grecian system of initiation, the hierophant declared that all mankind, except the initiated, were in darkness. In the Persian rites, the Divine Lights were displayed before the aspirant at the moment of illumination, and he was instructed by the Archimagus, that, at the end of the world, the bad should be plunged with Ahriman into a state of perpetual darkness, while the good should ascend with Yazdan, upon a ladder, to a state of eternal light.¹ The Persians consecrated fire, as containing the principle of light, and the Druids worshipped the Sun as its eternal source. Freemasons, too, travel in search of spiritual light, which can be found only in the East, from whence it springs, and having attained its possession, they are thenceforth called "the sons of light." But the light of masonry is pure, as emanating from the source of all purity and perfection; and Masons, remembering that they are brought out of darkness into light, are admonished to let the light which is in them so shine before all men, that their good works may be seen, and the great fountain of that light be glorified.

Source: Mackey, Albert Gallatin. *New and Improved Edition: a Lexicon of Freemasonry Containing a Definition of All Its Communicable Terms, Notices of Its History, Traditions, and Antiquities, and an Account of All the Rites and Mysteries of the Ancient World.* Moss & Co., 418 Market Street, 1869, p. 276.

¹ Oliver, Signs and Symbols, p. 107.

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



Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

July was an exciting month for Freemasonry in District 3. Three District 3 Lodges held stated meetings. The attendance numbers were very encouraging and demonstrates the membership's desire to get back to Labor. The meetings were held in observance of all of the guidelines set forth by Grand Master Thomas Gamon IV. The Grand Master continues to monitor the conditions related to the pandemic throughout the state and will make decisions for the Fraternity that are for the best interest of Freemasonry in general. Unfortunately, all degree work has been postponed till at least September 1st.

As Freemasons we must continue to look out for our Brothers well-being as we all start to go back out into the community. Please take the time to contact at least one of your Lodge Brothers this week. As human beings we desire social interaction and we as Brothers should renew our relationships with our Lodge Brothers. Freemasonry currently is slated to be fully functioning on September 1st. Mark your calendars with a big star on the day of your Lodges September stated meeting. Please note that Lodge No. 260 and Lodge No. 262 will be holding stated meetings in the month of August if you need a shot of Freemasonry.

The District School of Instruction resumes on August 22nd at 7:30 pm. The Principal and Assistant Principals are eager to do certifications for any member that will be going into an elected office next year. They will also come to your Lodge rehearsal to help in any manner that may be required to maintain the highest standard of floor work and ritual in your Lodge. Give them a call. I'm sure they would enjoy coming to your Lodge and getting out of the house for an evening.

Be safe as you travel to the different Lodge activities and follow the guidelines set forth by the Grand Master and other Government officials. I will see you soon as I hit Freemasonry trail.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!!
Jeffrey R. Miller DDGM03

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

By Brother Daniel K. Confer, PM, Assistant Principal



One of the Junior Warden's responsibilities at Carlisle Lodge #260 is putting together the Trestle Board for Extra Meetings. This was my responsibility in 2017. After lining up the WM for each of the degrees and his prompter, I always made sure I had the Guide(s) lined up. For the most part, the other chairs can be filled in, but I focused on the degree WM and the Guide. I think many of the Brethren who confer degrees are focused on giving the candidate the best possible degree they can give. This is my approach when I confer degrees. As important as the degree WM's role is in the conferring of a degree, the candidate meets the Guide in the preparing room before he meets the WM in the body of the open Lodge. Let us turn our attention toward the role and importance of the Guide – both in dialogue and mechanics.

As I was waiting in the lobby of the Lodge before I received my EA degree, my Guide met me and gave me a very basic overview of what was going to happen later in the evening. He asked me about my family and my job. He asked me if I had any questions about the education I received to this point and explained his role in the degree I would receive that evening. Then I saw another Brother come out of the Lodge Room, tell my Guide "it's time", and my Guide turned to me and said, "Follow me".

My Guide took me into the preparing room and said it was time to put on my Masonic clothing. I just looked at him. I was wearing a suit...did he mean I needed me to take my clothes off? I asked him, and he said I needed to be properly dressed for the degree which put my mind at ease. As a brief aside, I have used that line about putting on Masonic clothing and it seems to put candidates at ease. Years ago, at School of Instruction, I remember being instructed that the last thing you should say to a candidate is "strip down to your underwear" with no other explanation.

My Guide told me I would be asked three questions in the Lodge room. I should listen carefully, and if I don't hear them or don't understand them that he would repeat them to me. My impression was that my Guide was really looking out for me, and he wanted me to have a good experience. That impression stuck with me for years and continues to be with me when I'm guiding candidates through their degree work.

Once I was in the Lodge room, I was disoriented. I thought to myself "Where am I? How big is this place? Am I going to run into anything or trip over anything?" My Guide didn't let that happen; he took me firmly in his grip and helped me get to where I needed to be. Brethren: that formed a critical impression in my mind. *My Guide was looking out for me; he took me firmly in his grip; he helped me get to where I needed to be; he stayed with me after the degree.* I was impressed – both with the way he helped me and with the way he conducted himself in the Lodge room.

I firmly believe that the Guide's role is equal parts ritual and interpersonal. A Guide can do an excellent job ritualistically and not with the interpersonal aspect of his interaction with the candidate. While the candidate may be impressed with the way his Guide interacts with him, the candidate can tell if his Guide doesn't have him prepared or positioned appropriately. If another Brother must intervene and correct the candidate's position, preparation, or dialogue, the candidate will notice.

Fortunately, we will address this and more at the August 24th School of Instruction. The Principal and Assistant Principals will be instructing on what happens in the preparing room and on the floor of the open Lodge. I anticipate that the agenda will include the following:

- Appropriate dress for a Guide.
- Conversation with the candidate in the preparing room regarding his preparation for the degree.
- Preparation of the candidate’s Masonic clothing and other ritualistic equipment appropriate for each degree.
 - What happens if a candidate is improperly dressed when he comes out of the preparing room into the body of the open Lodge?
 - If a Guide notices that the Lodge’s Masonic clothing and other ritualistic equipment are in disrepair, need to be cleaned, etc., who does he tell?
- Handling multiple candidates (multiple degrees of the same kind) in the same Extra Meeting – who stands where, how the degree WM handles the aprons for each one, etc.
- Positioning candidates appropriately when they approach the East.
- Accommodating a candidate with physical limitations.
- Instructing a candidate on how to appropriately address the WM and the Lodge if he wishes to make any remarks should he be called upon by the WM.

Brethren, it will be a pleasure to see you on August 24th at School of Instruction. I hope that you will join us and learn more about the ritualistic and interpersonal aspects of guiding a candidate through his degrees.

[Around the District](#)

3rd 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.

Around the District

- Judging will be based on the taste, texture and presentation of the meat regardless of the cut of meat used.
- There will be one 1st place winner for each category.
- BBQ competition entries must be turned into the judging area no later than at 4:15 pm.
- Judging will commence at 5:00 pm.

Pie and Cake Competition

Categories

- Pies
- Cakes

Rules

- This contest is intended for amateur bakers only!
- Each contestant must bake one pie and/or cake for judges to taste.
- Pies and/or cakes must not require refrigeration before serving.
- Each pie and/or cake must be baked in a disposable pie pan.
- Each pie and/or cake must be made from scratch.
- Each lodge may enter one pie and/or cake.
- 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.
- There will be one 1st place winner for each category.
- After the judging all pies and cakes will be raffled off with all proceeds going to a Masonic Charity.

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

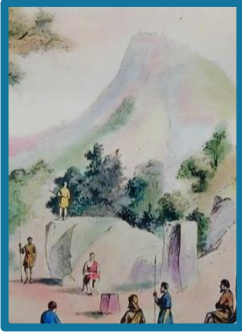
- Areas will be set aside for Horseshoe
- Corn Hole competitions
- After dusk, we will have a bon fire

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

[Around the District](#)

District 3 Low Vale 2020

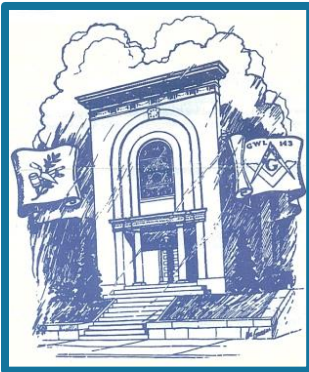
Hosted by Carlisle Lodge No. 260 and Orrstown Lodge No. 262



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



Gun Raffle

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.

From the Desk of the Secretary

With the last Call-Em-All sent by George Washington Lodge No. 143, I receive a report, which all Secretaries receive, with the information of the success of the call. I had 54 invalid numbers. I contacted Call-Em-All or Text-Em-All as they are now called asking some questions and also asking them if they could forward a list of the invalid numbers. They forwarded a list to me which I am currently reviewing and contacting the members on the list where possible. I have begun to receive responses and am updating. Again, Brothers, it is important when you have a change of phone numbers, emails, or your address, to contact your Secretary so that the information can be updated. This information is important, especially now with the situation which we all are witnessing, to be able to communicate with you. Remember, even with updating, you can still opt out of receiving phone messages, and choosing how you receive lodge information, by email or regular mail. As I have mentioned before, emailing gets the information to you faster.

Enjoy your summer and Be Safe.

Around the District



In and Around Carlisle Lodge No. 260

After being put off from labor in March due to the Coronavirus pandemic Carlisle Lodge 260 held its first Stated Meeting on July 21. As the meeting began, the lodge room had a different look, as members were wearing masks, social distancing and three officers in the West were seated 6 feet apart. This could be the new normal look for an undetermined amount of time at lodge meetings. Brother Jeremy B. Miller, WM welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a Masonic Minute talk on the importance of the Almoner's Fund for members and their families during these uncertain times.

Carlisle Lodge will be conducting its first Masonic Funeral Service since March on Saturday August 1st for Past Master Brother Carl L. Raudabaugh. The lodge currently has two other backlogged Masonic Funeral services to conduct in the future.

Some upcoming events for the lodge will be recognizing its Past Masters at the September Stated Meeting, and tentatively co-hosting the District Low Vale with Orrstown Lodge No. 262 on September 23 and conducting a Table Lodge in October.

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 August 13, 2020 at 7:30 pm. The lodge will be opened in the Entered Apprentice Mason Degree. Please invite your EAs, and FCs to attend. The program for the evening will be on Bro. Benedict Arnold. The presenter will be Brother Ricard L. Auchey, PM.

A Stated Meeting of Orrstown Lodge 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Maple Lane Farm Corn Maze at 7:30pm.. Thursday August 13, 2020 at 7:30 pm. This will be outdoors. A folding chair will be needed. Dress is casual except for officers. The program for the evening will be on the Benefits of the Brotherhood. The presenter will be Brother Paul R. Mummert, PM.

Around the District

Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302

Brother Kenneth B. Robinson
Worshipful Master



The lodge met on July 6th for a highly unusual summertime stated meeting. Being the first lodge in the District to have a meeting after returning to the green phase, we were privileged to have the Bro. Jeffery R. Miller, DDGM in attendance along with 24 brethren. It was good to get together and take care of some much needed business. A brief presentation was given on brethren with significant involvement in the Revolutionary War in recognition of Independence Day. We also got to enjoy some ice cream afterwards thanks to our Stewards. A big thank you to Bro. Gary S. Milbrand for his efforts as Safety Officer in seeing to it that we were well prepared with hand sanitizer and a layout meeting the RWGM requirements for social distancing.

On July 16th we held another unofficial ZOOM toast meeting at 9PM. It was a pleasure to see the many brethren that had joined us in our nightly ZOOMS again. We will hold another in August I am sure. The lodge is holding a picnic on August 3rd in lieu of a stated meeting. The picnic will be held at the Mechanicsburg Club fairgrounds on Wertzville Road in Mechanicsburg. Families are invited to join us and we will be having a mock Table Lodge with unofficial toasts. Dress is casual as it will be warm and we will be at picnic tables. Contact me ASAP if you would like to join us. It is outside seating so it will be much easier to meet the CDC guidelines for gatherings and social distancing.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Kenneth B. Robinson, WM, EWS 302

Cumberland Valley No. 315

Brother Bryan L. Ruth
Worshipful Master



Currently Cumberland Valley Lodge has no events scheduled for the month of August.

A Stated Meeting of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. Thursday September 3, 2020 at 7:30 PM. The program for the evening is *Harry Truman, President and Mason* presented by Brother Glenn Kurzenknabe. Prior to the stated meeting Sliced Peaches, Ice Cream, Peach Cobbler, and Whipped Cream will be served in the Alexander Seward Social Hall at 6:30 PM.

Around the District

Big Spring Lodge No. 361

Brother J. Wheeler Hammontree
Worshipful Master



Ice Cream Social - Brethren, since we didn't get to have a Strawberry Night this year, we will be holding an Ice Cream Social at 7:30 pm on August 13th in the Lodge parking lot. This is a family event. We will provide vanilla ice cream and beverages. Bring your favorite summertime ice cream addition (pie, cookies, cake, berries, etc. - Please bring a serving utensil for these items), lawn chairs, and we'll enjoy each other's company from a safe distance outside. Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor as well. The building will be open for bathroom access only. Please bring masks. Whatever state guidelines are in place at the time of this event will be strictly followed.

Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443

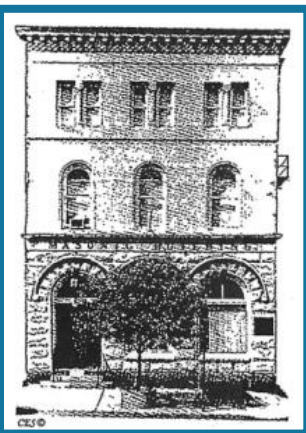
Brother Toby A. Stoner
Worshipful Master



Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443 Ladies Night event has been cancelled.

Acacia Lodge No. 586

Brother Zachary L. Wilhide
Worshipful Master



Acacia Lodge No. 586 Monthly Summer BBQ Fund Raising - Dates for the chicken BBQ are August 22nd and September 26th. 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 a half chicken for \$6.00 and a meal which also includes Cole Slaw, Baked Beans and a roll for \$8.00. 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.