

Third Masonic District

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

Our Most Violated Duty?

*By Bro. J. Wheeler Hammontree, WM
Big Spring Lodge No. 361, Newville, Pa.*



The stipulation of ‘three miles’ as relates to our duties to respond is sometimes taken as purely symbolic. The number three appears often in Masonic ritual, so it is easy to assume that its use in this instance is merely a reflection of the various other triples that appear: the Lights – both Greater and Lesser, the principal officers, the three degrees.

But three miles to our ancient brethren, and even up into the last century, was a very practical and literal limitation on the bonds we owe. Three miles is the distance a man can reasonably walk in one hour. It was expected that a man could travel an hour, one way, to attend the meetings of his Lodge. If we were to convert this mileage based on modern transportation ‘inflation’, we could easily make it 30-60 miles.

What we today call ‘Notices’ were once referred to as ‘Summonses’. Now the term ‘Summons’ is normally reserved for specific types of meetings such as Masonic trials. Today our notices are sent via the government’s postal service or through email. Previously, each summons was delivered by hand. The Tyler was usually given the responsibility of delivering the notices. This is one of the reasons for our continued tradition of the Tyler being a paid position.

I have never heard of a Mason in modern times ever being charged for failure to respond to a meeting notice. I did receive a message from a Brother military veteran telling me a Lodge in Texas has a voluntary fine of \$1 assessed for each meeting the member fails to attend Lodge. The voluntary fine is payable at the Brother’s next attended meeting. This makes for a light-hearted tangible reminder a Brother’s Masonic duty to attend Lodge, however it may deter long time neglectors of lodge meetings from ever returning.

In the end, everything we do in Freemasonry has some symbolic meaning, but that meaning is easier to interpret if we understand the full significance.



Event Announcements

Monthly School of Instruction
The Entered Apprentice Degree
September 28, 2020

District Three Low Vale
September 23, 2020

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



Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

September will include Lodge stated meetings all throughout District 3. The Worshipful Masters have put together excellent programs for the meetings. Make sure that you attend your stated meeting this month. Contact your Worshipful Master for details concerning the protocols that are in place for social distancing and face masks. One stated meeting that I would like to draw your attention to is Orrstown Lodge No. 262 on September 10th, 2020. They will be holding their stated meeting under the stars at the Maple Lane Farm in Newville. It will start as usual at 7:30 PM.

Please bring your lawn chairs. A full meeting will be conducted. We will resume the conferral of Degrees in September also. The Grand Master has given his authorization that we can start these important meetings in September. There are a couple of small changes during the Degrees so the social distancing guidelines can be observed. Come out and support the officers and new Brothers as we resume the Degree conferrals. The School of Instruction will be held in September as planned. It is important that you attend as there will be a lot of items covered there, including information on the several changes for our extra meetings.

I will be attending several meetings in September. We as Freemasons need to get out and start attending Lodge. The Brethren that have attended Lodge during July and August enjoyed their time with their Brothers in a small group setting. Activities are starting again in District 3. Read your notices and if you have any questions please contact your Worshipful Master.

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 we all hit the 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



Brethren All,

You have heard the adage that you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

So, as the WM you open the stated meeting, and when the SW gets to his part of the dialog for opening, he says, "...strictly prohibiting all impropriety of speech and conduct that may prove ...". After the meeting, a 20-year past master comes up to you and tells the SW it should be, "...all impropriety of speech or conduct..." This PM probably couldn't begin give the whole dialog himself (okay, there may be an occasional exception to this, but it would be rare), but he knows one word was wrong!

I point this out because there are key parts of our ritual, both for Lodge meetings and for conferring degrees, which resonate with the Brethren because they are significant parts of the ritual that we are used to hearing. And if we get those key parts wrong, a lot of people recognize it, even though they don't

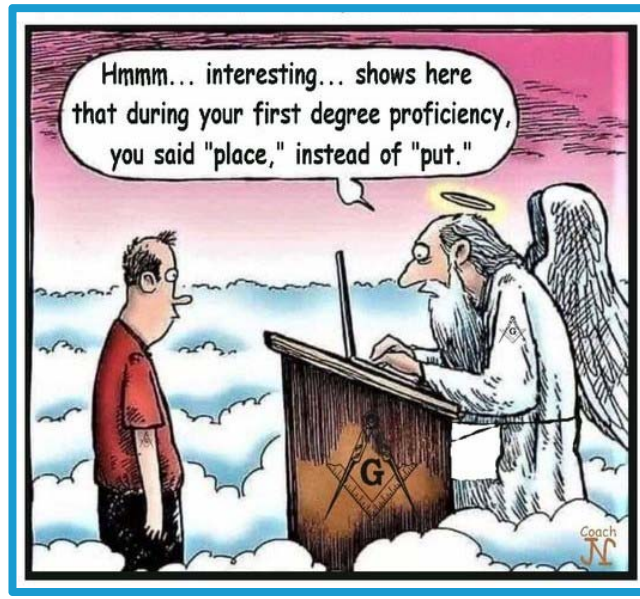
actually know the work.

Regardless of whether you are a WM, SW, JW, Chaplain, or just giving the charges for the evening, make sure you have the ritual down cold, to include every word, especially in those key parts. If you don't, the Brethren notice. Well done Lodge openings set the tone for a good Lodge meeting, and a poorly done Lodge closing can detract from what was otherwise a very good Lodge meeting. WMs should know the charges cold. Wardens should know their dialog perfectly. This doesn't happen if you don't rehearse it, both as Lodge and as individuals. Just because you did it well last month doesn't mean you are going to do it well this month. Like many other PMs, I learned this the hard way! Use Lodge rehearsals to go over openings and closings. As individuals, spend some time going over your part or parts before you get to the Lodge

The same is true of conferring degrees. While there are very few who consistently get every "which" and "that" in the degree ritual correctly, there are key parts that most Brethren recognize when they are not done correctly. The obligations are an extremely important part of the degrees, and they should be delivered perfectly. Other significant parts of the degree are also important, such as "...but that copious dewes watered the earth by night..." and "...he was known as ..." to mention just a couple of examples. That is not to say you won't draw a "blank" on occasion and need help, but when you know it cold, that is less likely to happen.

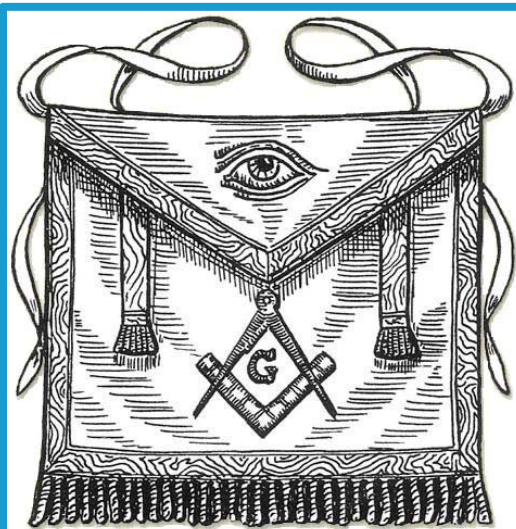
This attention to detail demonstrates to Lodge members and visitors alike that your Lodge takes pride in its ritual and it does honor to the Craft.

Masonic Humor



The Masonic Information Corner

The Orders of the Star and Garter, Roman Eagle, and Golden Fleece



The reference in the ritual to "The Star and Garter," "The Golden Fleece," and "The Roman Eagle" continues to be a puzzle in the archeology of words.

There is much disagreement as to what the founders of our Speculative Craft meant when they selected these three orders to represent the qualities of Ancient and Honorable.

It must be remembered that the Masonic Apron as it is displayed and presented in the Modern Speculative Craft has only existed since 1723. Prior to that year there is no written record of the Apron being a Masonic symbol of any kind.

As a matter of record, the Apron, or Abnet, had always been the symbol of the Priesthood and was reserved for those of religious authority in all nations.

The Golden Fleece referred to in the ritual has created a difference of opinion among Masonic authorities. Some claim it is in

reference to the ancient Golden Fleece of Mythology or Jason's Golden Fleece. While others, such as Mackey (one of the best known Masonic authorities) state that the Golden Fleece did not refer to Jason's Golden Fleece in mythology, but to the Woolsack of Parliament. It was a commercial venture to build up the public interest in the wool trade. This so-called order of the Golden Fleece was begun by Charles of England in 1629 and gradually spread throughout the world. There was no real great honor involved; it was highly commercial.

The Roman Eagle is another questionable badge or symbol. You will find disagreement due to a difference in ritual in the several jurisdictions. In most jurisdictions it is referred to only as Ancient, while others refer to it as both Ancient and Honorable. Among Masonic authorities there are very few who will venture a guess as to its origin or selection in the Masonic ritual.

The original Roman Eagle or standard of Rome, which carried all over the known world by the Roman legion, was a badge of honor to which only the Romans held an allegiance. The only way in which Masonry might be interested in it as a symbol, or to look upon it with Masonic pride, might be the great loyalty with which the Romans all looked upon it. So great was their pride in the standard that they willingly gave their lives to protect it from disgrace.

It may well be that our Apron should instill in us a pride as great or even greater; however, this is only my supposition and must be judged by each one in his own heart.

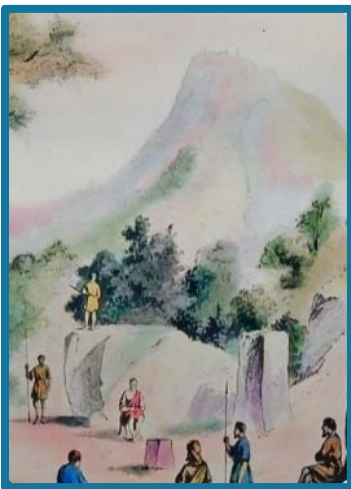
Of the three noble emblems referred to, the Roman Eagle, Golden Fleece and Order of the Garter, only the Order of the Garter had a most noble and chivalrous beginning. At a royal ball held by the King of England for one of his sons, the Queen of England (who was not too popular among the nobles and ladies) was dancing. In the heat of the dancing her garter slipped from around her leg and fell to the floor. Very embarrassed herself, she froze. The assembly stopped dancing and stared at the garter on the floor. A very gallant knight or noble (there is much disagreement on just who it was) stepped forward. With a sweeping bow to the Queen he bent and retrieved the garter and instead of returning it to the Queen, which would have embarrassed her even more, slipped it very gallantly over his left hand and up over his arm above the elbow. Then with another bow to the Queen, he took her hand and, nodding to the orchestra, began to dance. The King was so proud of the gallant gesture, which saved the Queen's face and prevented any further gossip, that after the dance he walked to the gallant noble, requested his sword and bade him kneel. Then, touching him on each shoulder, he proclaimed the Order of the Garter and its first member. The Order of the Garter was conferred only on knights and nobles who exemplified chivalry toward the ladies and women wherever they might meet them. -As time went on the Order was used for other less gallant reasons.

At what period in history the word "Star" was added to "The Order of the Star and Garter" is unknown to the author at this time.

Source: Brown, William Adrian. Facts, Fables, and Fantasies of Freemasonry. Missouri Lodge of Research, 1993, pp. 75-77.

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 L. Miller Worshipful Master of Carlisle Lodge 260 with questions at (717)440-7261.

Around the District

George Washington Lodge No. 143

74 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201

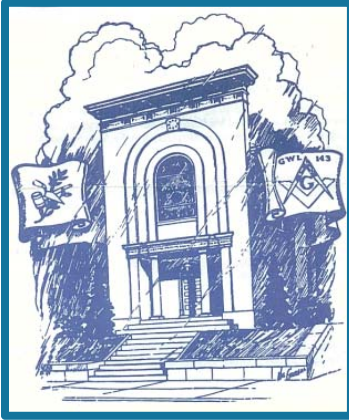
Second Friday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother Michael S. Essis

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://gw143.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/georgewashingtonlodge143>



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.

Carlisle Lodge 260

1236 Holly Pike, Carlisle, PA, 17013

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother Jeremy L. Miller

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://carlisle260.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/St.Johns.260>



Carlisle Lodge 260 is reaching out into the community in the month of September by collecting some urgent and ongoing items for the Community Cares Homeless Shelter located at 50 West Penn Street in Carlisle. A most urgent needed item list for the shelter will be included in the lodge September newsletter and members attending the September Stated Meeting will be asked to bring one of those items to the meeting. Brother David McKibben, PM will deliver the collected items to the shelter.

It is a tradition at Carlisle Lodge 260 to honor the Past Masters of the lodge and this year will be no different as the Past Masters in attendance as well as those who cannot attend will be recognized by the Worshipful Master for their year in the East and the dedication many of them have given the lodge over the years.

Around the District

Orrstown Lodge No. 262

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother Drew S. DeWalt

Worshipful Master

Website: <https://orrstown262.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrrstownLodgeNo262>



A Stated Meeting of Orrstown Lodge 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Maple Lane Farm Corn Maze, 150 Crossroad School Road Newville, PA on Thursday September 10, 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 Masonry. The presenter will be Brother Paul R. Mummert, PM, Robert Burns Lodge No. 464.

An Extra Meeting of Orrstown Lodge No. 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. Monday September 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302

910 South Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

First Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother Kenneth B. Robinson

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://eureka302.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EurekaWestShoreLodge302>



The lodge held a social picnic event on August 3rd where a mock Table Lodge was held. No official ritual was performed but toasts with similar verbiage were presented. Bro. Jeffery R. Miller, DDGM was in attendance along with over 50 brethren and guests. Social distancing was maintained with seating under a large pavilion. Even the weather was cooperative, with the worst of the rain bypassing our location. An excellent pulled pork supper was prepared by our Stewards, led by Bro. Len Rutter and a pig roast prepared by Bro. Eric Joyner, PM.

On August 20th we held another unofficial ZOOM toast meeting at 9:00 pm. It was a pleasure to see the many brethren that had joined us in our nightly ZOOMs again. We will hold another on September 17th.

The District 3 picnic was canceled due to lack of participation by other lodges in the District. Eureka-West Shore lodge and I would like to thank the other lodges in the district for recognizing our superiority in barbeque and pie making. Being ones to always enjoy a good picnic, we met at the Worshipful Masters house on the same date and enjoyed some fellowship and good food.

The lodge will have a stated meeting on September 8th. A fish dinner and presentation will be held outside the lodge building to accommodate a larger number of guests. Bro. Rick Mauro will give a

Around the District

presentation on winemaking and a short stated meeting will follow. We are looking forward to conferring two Fellowcraft degrees on September 16th for Bro. Rick Kellinger and Bro. Freddy Lebron.

Cumberland Valley No. 315

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257

First Thursday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother Bryan L. Ruth

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://lodge315.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cumberland-Valley-Masonic-Lodge-No-315-1386129258366656>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1486480571653567>



A Stated Meeting of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 will be held Thursday September 3, 2020 at 7:30 pm. Program for the Evening “Harry Truman, President and Mason” presented by Bro. Glenn Kurzenknabe. Fellowship meal Peaches & Ice Cream.

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 September 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Bro. S. Eugene Herritt, RWPGM will be the program speaker at our stated meeting October 1, 2020. Please plan to attend.

Consider the Lodge Fundraiser for 2020 a Standard or Custom Designed 20 ounce Masonic Tumbler Includes a sliding splash proof lid with straw stays cold for 24 hours or hot for 8 hours! See any Officer or the Worshipful Master for Details!

Big Spring Lodge No. 361

131 Centerville Road, Newville, PA 17241

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother J. Wheeler Hammontree

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://bigspringlodgeno361.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bigspring361>



Big Spring Lodge held an Ice Cream Social in August. We had a few families show up. It was a nice break and chance to enjoy fellowship.

Big Spring is resuming 'normal' meetings in September. We are tentatively planning for a Chicken BBQ the second Saturday of October. More information to follow.

Around the District

Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443

Third Floor, Tower Bank, Greencastle, PA 17225

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother Toby A. Stoner

Worshipful Master

Website: <https://mtpisgah443.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Pisgah-Lodge-No-443-668433266645074>



No Announcements

Acacia Lodge No. 586

33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA 17268

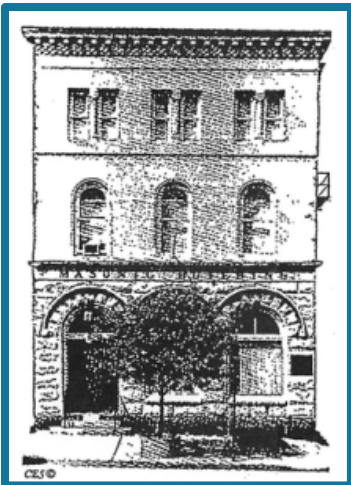
Third Friday of each month at 7:30pm.

Brother Zachary L. Wilhide

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://acacia586.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2580660782177324>



#Acacia Lodge No. 586 Monthly Summer BBQ Fund Raising

Date for the final chicken BBQ for this summer is 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 scheduled for October 3, 2020 has been cancelled.

Acacia Lodge Member Travis Hardman named Head Baseball Coach for Waynesboro Area High School Baseball Team.

Travis has been a member of Acacia Lodge #586 since 2014. Travis is a 1998 Waynesboro Area High School graduate, who excelled as a pitcher in high school, went on to play college baseball at NCAA Division I George Mason and came home and worked his way up the coaching ladder . After spending the

[Around the District](#)

last 12 seasons as the top assistant coach, Hardman took a giant leap forward to become the third head coach in Tribe baseball history. He replaces a man who coached for 33 seasons. Travis is a teacher in the Waynesboro Area School District.

Pennsylvania Lodge of Research

Semi-Annual Meetings at Various Locations

Brother Richard L. Wenner

Worshipful Master

<https://palodgeofresearch.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/92580616988>



The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research is a unique occurrence in the history of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, as this is the first Lodge constituted within our Jurisdiction solely for the purpose of Masonic study.

Meetings

The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research holds only two Stated Meetings each year, with Special Meetings to be held at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. Meetings are held at various Masonic sites throughout the Commonwealth. No Craft Degrees are conferred. The elected Worshipful Master does not receive “the Word of the Chair,” nor does he become a voting member of the Grand Lodge.

Symbolism

The medallion of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research depicts a classical female allegorical figure holding a manuscript in one hand and a square and compasses in the other. The sunburst represents Enlightenment. Its symbolism is obvious in depicting the purposes of the Lodge of Research as sharing Masonic Light with others who are following a planned approach to personal character-building and self-improvement, and to encourage an organized process of formal education of the Craft at large.

Future meetings:

Saturday, December 12, 2020, at 10:00 AM at the Masonic Temple in Sunbury, PA. This date is tentative and subject to change.