

# Third Masonic District

Third Masonic District Website



## The Declaration and the Constitution

### Our Two Greatest State Papers

By Bro. Gilbert Patten Brown

*(This is an article that appeared in The Builder Magazine dated July 1924)*



In all-time properly founded nations and institutions have had constituted authority for their existence. Never in the history of man has there been a greater or more unique document drawn as a governing charter for the guidance of the children of men than the Declaration of Independence. The next greatest document in human history for man's

welfare is the United States Constitution. These two great state papers have at last found a resting place for all time to come. To quite an extent they are outcomes of the Mayflower compact of 1620, in that the Pilgrim Fathers were forerunners of our great system of free government.

The Continental Congress of 1776, when the Declaration was written and signed, was presided over by a Massachusetts Mason, John Hancock, who had been a member of the Craft sixteen years. Several other veterans of the Fraternity there assembled were the following: Dr. Matthew Thornton, had been a member of the Craft thirty-one years; Benjamin Franklin, had been a Mason forty-six years; and William Whipple, had worn the lambskin for twenty-four years. So, we might go on enumerating the Masonic status of many of the signers. The Constitutional Convention of 1789 was presided over by a Virginia Mason, George Washington, who had been a member of the Craft thirty-six years. Many well-known Masons also took part in the framing of the Constitution, including

## Event Announcements

August 23  
District School of Instruction Funeral Service/Examination of a Visitor  
Carlisle Lodge No. 260

September 29  
District Three Low Vale

September 27  
District School of Instruction Entered Apprentice  
Orrstown Lodge No. 262

October 25  
District School of Instruction Master Mason Degree  
George Washington Lodge No. 143

November 22  
District School of Instruction Election/Installation of Officers  
Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302

December 20  
District School of Instruction Fellowcraft Mason Degree  
Big Spring Lodge No. 361

Rufus King, Roger Sherman, Alexander Hamilton, David Brearley, Benjamin Franklin, and George Clymer.



The Constitution has not been much of a rambler, but the Declaration of Independence has been quite a wanderer. It has moved about in five different states, visiting ten different towns and cities. Early in the spring of 1777 it was brought back to Philadelphia from York, Pa., where it had been hidden for fear the British might destroy it. During the War of 1812, the then Secretary of State, James Monroe, ordered it taken from the city and Mrs. James Madison eared for it herself. Monroe at the time had been a Mason thirty-eight years. On Feb. 28 last, the Shrine in the Library of Congress was officially dedicated as a fitting place for these two great state papers, the Declaration of Independence, and

the Constitution. One year ago, Congress appropriated \$12,000 to make a safe place to preserve the Declaration of Independence. Here between two pillars on the second floor of this beautiful building there is a niche cut in the wall about 6 ft. x 4 ft., where behind glass rest these documents. Mr. Herbert Putnam, the Librarian, of that old New England family which gave to the Revolution two distinguished Masons, Generals Israel and Rufus Putnam, had the matter in charge. Here the tourists may see at any season in the year the Declaration and the Constitution of these United States of America.



*Currently, the museum wing of the United States National Archives, is the home of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights <https://museum.archives.gov/>.*

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



Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

June has come and gone. The month was filled with many Masonic events throughout the Third Masonic District. The strawberry nights were well attended at all of the Lodges. The Brethren of the District showed their eagerness to get back to Freemasonry as things return to normal from the pandemic. If you have not attended a meeting of your Lodge recently, do it in September. Renew your fraternal relationship with your Brethren. Your Worshipful Master has planned several more excellent programs for the fall as your Lodge returns to Labor after the summer break.

The Ritualistic Excellence program is running well. The last testing was on the Masonic Funeral service. Several Brethren took part and did very well. The Masonic Funeral service is one of the most important pieces of Masonic Ritual. It is presented in full view of the public. It must be done from memory! When done well it demonstrates our respect to our departed Brother and gives a clue to the values of Freemasonry! Every Brother deserves a Funeral service and should receive one if requested by the family. If you have not served as a member of a funeral team, please take part in the near future.

With your Lodge called off from Labor till September please take time to relax and have a good time but return to your Lodge in September refreshed for the work to come. We all need to be the best Mason that we can be. I hope to see you on the Masonic trail soon.

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



Brother Kenneth W. Womack  
Principal District 3 SOI

Brethren all,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and that you and your families are enjoying the summer so far. In District 3, we are accustomed to “going dark” for the summer months and not having regular meetings. I wanted to take this opportunity to share some thoughts about staying involved in Freemasonry during this quieter period in the summer.

I recently received an email from the DDGM about the incoming WM’s paperwork for 2022. Whether or not you are a Lodge Instructor or Mentor, if you have a relationship with the Brother who is coming in as WM in your Lodge in 2022, I’m sure he would appreciate if you reached out to him to ask how he’s doing. Speaking from experience, I appreciated when Brethren in my Lodge reached out to me when I was planning my year in the East. Ask him if he has his programs set up; ask him if he has his committees set up; ask him about his goals for his year in the East. I encourage you to ask him how you can help him meet his goals for the year.

For those of you who are PM’s, you have truly valuable insight to offer to an incoming WM, especially if he’s a first-time WM. We have some less busy time this summer, so consider inviting your Lodge’s incoming WM to meet with you somewhere you can relax and talk about things. Maybe that’s a favorite local bar or restaurant; maybe that’s on the golf course; maybe that’s at your home or his. Think back to when you were planning for your first year in the East, and think about what it would have meant to you for someone to ask how you’re doing and show a genuine interest in your success.

Summer is a great time to work on the ritual. Maybe it has been several months (or years) since you conferred a degree in your Lodge. Maybe you’re working your way through certifications as you progress through the chairs. If we’re being honest with ourselves, we could always use practice with the ritual. It pains me to say it, but we’re still going to have to do funeral services over the summer. The Ritualistic Excellence Program held in June certified several Brethren in the Funeral Service. Maybe there are additional Brethren in your Lodge who want to learn this ritual and can help out.

I hope that you enjoy the summer and look forward to seeing you at the August School of Instruction.



## Academy of Masonic Knowledge

<https://pamasonicacademy.org/>

The Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic Knowledge strives to create an environment that encourages Masons to seek a greater understanding of the nature and purposes of Freemasonry in all its many aspects – past, present, and future – and to share that understanding with others.

To this end, the Academy offers learning opportunities in which Masons may participate in dialogues with similarly inclined brethren, witness prominent Masonic scholars discussing various aspects of Freemasonry, and pursue home study at their own pace and in their own areas of interest, through publications on Masonic subjects recommended by the Academy.

In addition to providing a learning experience for Freemasons, the Academy is a vehicle affording recognition to Masons who share their knowledge of Freemasonry with fellow Masons or the public by the written or spoken word. All Pennsylvania Masons are eligible to participate in the Academy's Certification Process, culminating with the designation as a Master Masonic Scholar. External studies programs are currently the fastest growing of all educational methods and the most diverse. The Committee of the Academy of Masonic Knowledge will attempt to provide to you the basic tools and principles for your study. How well you use these tools in your pursuit of Masonic knowledge will be analyzed and determined through your Evaluation Reports. It is important to your success that you not only know the subject, but that you demonstrate an ability to identify and apply the Masonic principles you have learned. The best ideas are those that work and the best scholars are leaders who set the pace for putting their thoughts and knowledge into action.

### [Masonic Scholar Program Enrollment](#)

Upcoming Academy Dates  
Saturday, October 23, 2021  
Saturday, March 19, 2022

### The Masonic Nugget



The Liberty Bell was ordered from London by the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1751 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of William Penn's Charter of Privileges insuring freedom to the citizens of his province. The original Bell cracked on its first ringing and was recast by Pass and Stow in 1753. It was rung on July 8, 1776, by Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, to summon the citizens to the State House yard to hear the Declaration of In-dependence read by Brother and Colonel John Nixon. The bell suffered a major break when it was rung to announce the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, Past Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, and in 1846 the crack expanded to its present size while used to mark Washington's birthday. The Liberty Bell bears a timeless message:

"Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof"

## Around the District

### COVID 19 Restrictions and Guidelines

As a reminder whenever attending a Masonic meeting or function relaxed COVID 19 restrictions are still in place The Right Worshipful Grand Master has lifted the requirement for the COVID waiver to be signed. He has also removed the mask mandate for any member that has received his vaccination. He asks that anyone not vaccinated or doesn't feel comfortable being around other people to continue to wear a mask.

**Be an active member!**



### 3rd Masonic District School of Instruction

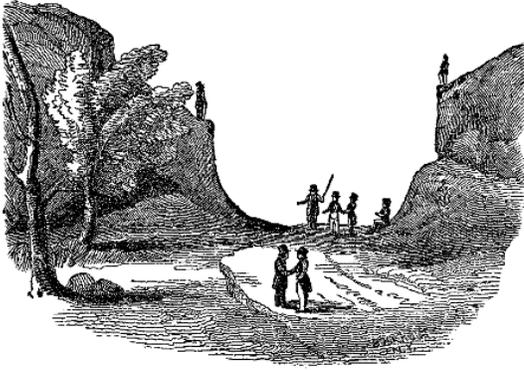


The 3rd Masonic District School of Instruction is scheduled to be held on the fourth Monday of each month (with exception to June and July) at 7:30 p.m. at Big Spring Lodge located at 131 Centerville Rd, Newville, PA, 17241.

The next meeting of the 3rd Masonic District School of Instruction will be on August 23, 2021. The work of the evening will be the Masonic Funeral Service and Examination of a Visitor. The work will be exemplified by Carlisle Lodge No. 260.

Please contact your Worshipful Master or a Lodge Officer prior to attending. All Master Masons are welcome to attend.

## Third Masonic District Low Vale



Brethren, mark your calendar. On September 29, 2021 Carlisle Lodge No. 260 and Orrstown Lodge No. 262 will be co-hosting the District 3 2021 Low Vale. More details to follow concerning the location, time, and ticketing of the event.

What is a Low Vale? According to Mackey's Masonic encyclopedia a vale or valley was introduced at an early period into the symbolism of Masonry; Mackey states that "the Lodge stands upon holy ground, or "the highest hill or lowest vale, or in the vale of Jehoshaphat, or any other secret place. The Lodge, therefore, is

said to be placed in a valley because, the valley being the symbol of secrecy, it is intended to indicate the secrecy in which the acts of the Lodge should be concealed.

The Low Vale is an excellent opportunity for all the lodges within our district to meet together, under the whole canopy of heaven, laboring together in harmony for the express purpose of raising a good men to the sublime degree in Masonry.

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

74 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Michael S. Essis

Worshipful Master

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

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

From the desk of the Secretary,

As we will be Called-Off-From-Labor for the months of July and August, I want to wish the Members and their Families a safe and enjoyable summer. As the Covid-19 situation is improving, George Washington Lodge No. 143 is hoping to be Business-As-Usual when we return to labor in September.

Again, enjoy your summer. Take Care Brothers!

Dennis R. McClanahan, PM.

Lodge Secretary

## Carlisle Lodge 260

1236 Holly Pike, Carlisle, PA, 17013  
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Brother Donald C. Palesky  
Worshipful Master

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

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

Ladies Night Banquet September 11, 2021

Greetings from the East,

### Community Activity Spotlight!



## CARLISLE ELKS LODGE #578

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

Elks Care - Elks Share



On June 6th, some of the brothers from Carlisle Lodge No.260 assisted Carlisle Elks Lodge #578 in their annual chicken barbeque dinner fundraiser. The brothers along with members from the Elks Lodge sold over 240 dinners during the event! All of the proceeds went to benefit the SPY program. The SPY program is an 8-week summer program for local area youth that provides them with an opportunity over the summer to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. It also includes two healthy meals while attending the camp. I want to thank all the brothers that not only assisted in the event but who purchased dinners to help support this worthy cause.

### Lodge Events



#### **100 Birthday Celebration and Presentation of 50-Year Service Emblem Award**

On Saturday June 26th, I had the distinct honor and privilege to present Brother Harold Lesher with his 50-Year Pennsylvania Grand Lodge Award. In addition to presenting Brother Lesher with his special award, Brothers David McKibben, PM, David Rohrer, Marty Schuji, and myself had the pleasure of celebrating Brother Lesher's 100th birthday! I also presented Brother Lesher with a certificate and birthday card recognizing this incredibly special milestone. I want to wish Brother Lesher many more wonderful and fulfilling birthdays and years ahead!

Upcoming Events

**My Brother's Table-Carlisle Salvation Army**



On Saturday July 17, Carlisle Lodge will be serving lunch for the “My Brother’s Table” program. This program provides a home cooked meal to anyone who might need one. Carlisle Lodge has strong relationship with our local Salvation Army and has been supporting a few of their programs including this one and kettle ringing for several years.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Donald C. Palesky  
Worshipful Master

**Orrstown Lodge No. 262**

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

Brother Matthew R. Hoch  
Worshipful Master

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

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

Greetings from the East,

A Stated Meeting of Orrstown Lodge No. 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. on Thursday September 9, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. A Masonic Program will be presented by Brother Richard L. Auchey, PM.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Matthew R. Hoch  
Worshipful Master

**Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302**

910 South Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

First Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Kenneth B. Robinson

Worshipful Master

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

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

Ladies Night Banquet: September 25, 2021

Greetings from the East,



On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Brother Harry Woods arranged for another blood drive to be held at the Lodge. It was another successful event. The Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank collected 55 pints of blood.



On June 7<sup>th</sup> the lodge held its Annual Pig Roast and Strawberry Night prior to our stated meeting before the summer break. The pig roast started about 4:30 p.m. Unfortunately, due to excessive heat it could not be held outside. Families and friends joined us for dinner. The dinner included: mac and cheese, corn, and a salad; all topped off with poundcake, strawberries, and Rita's strawberry ice for dessert. The meal was prepared by Brothers Tom Kehler and Rick Kellinger. The program for the evening was *The Middle Chamber of the Second*

*Degree* presented by Brother Rick Kellinger. It was a very informative lecture on the degree's symbolism and its meaning. This is one aspect of masonry that most PA Masons do not study. There was enough information available that could have easily made for a significantly longer presentation. Many thanks to one of our newest brothers for summoning up the courage to give a presentation.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the lodge held an extra meeting conferring the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree raising Brother Omar Dawes to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. He is an excellent Brother who will exemplify Freemasonry as he travels his Masonic path. Bro. Gene McCaleb did an excellent job as conferring Master. We also entered two new Brothers to the degree of an Entered Apprenticed Mason which were conferred by Brothers Gary S. Milbrand and David L. Gerstenlaur, PM. It was a long night of labor but well worth it.



On June 19<sup>th</sup> the lodge traveled to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania building at 1 N. Broad Street in Philadelphia. The day included a bus trip, a tour of the seven lodge rooms in the building, lunch in the city, and a meeting in the Norman Hall. What a beautiful building! With the temporary relocation of our Warrant of Constitution and the presence of Brother Jeffrey R. Miller, DDGM, we were able to confer a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and raise Brother Jeremy Houck to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. It was a special day for the lodge and Freemasonry. Congratulations to Bro. Michael S. Essis and George Washington Lodge No. 143 for capturing the traveling gavel by having slightly more members than Mount Pisgah Lodge No. 443 travel with us for the special day.

The lodge continues to host to our unofficial ZOOM toast meetings once a month on the third Thursday at 9:00 p.m. This month was no exception, though we had a few new brothers join us on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Below is the link to the Zoom, feel free to join us in July!

[CLICK HERE](#)

July 24<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a family picnic at the lodge for some summer enjoyment. The afternoon will include picnic fare brought by the families to share, yard games, cigars, and good fun. We will be inviting the neighborhood and you are free to join us if you like.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Kenneth B. Robinson  
Worshipful Master



**Cumberland Valley No. 315**

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257

First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Jason E. White

Worshipful Master

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

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

Greetings from the East,



An Extra Meeting of was held this past Thursday June 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Our labors were fruitful. Brothers Donald O'Brien Brown and Jan William Bigler were advanced in the mystery of Freemasonry and passed to the degree and made Fellow-craft Masons. It was another fantastic evening of Freemasonry. When you see our newest Brothers please extend them the hand of friendship and Brotherly Love.

A sincere thank you to the lodge officers for their excellent work, and all those who filled in

to make this a very memorable night. This was our last meeting prior to calling off from labor until September. May everyone have a safe and happy summer break.

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 2, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The Program for the evening will be "Veterans and Service Animals" presented by Brother Thomas P. Kennedy, PM. Prior to our stated meeting our Fellowship meal will be served prior to the Stated Meeting.

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 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The Master Mason Degree will be conferred upon Donald O'Brien Brown and Jan William Bigler. Please com and join us as our newest Brothers are passed to the next degree.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Jason E. White  
Worshipful Master

**Big Spring Lodge No. 361**

131 Centerville Road, Newville, PA 17241  
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Brother Todd L. Johnson, PM  
Worshipful Master

Website: <http://bigspringlodgeno361.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bigspring361>  
Ladies Night Banquet October 9, 2021

Greetings from the East,

We will be holding an extra meeting on Monday, July 12th at 7:00 p.m. to confer a Master Mason's Degree on Gavin James Caruso followed by an Entered Apprentice Mason's Degree to be conferred on Billy Ray Sheppard. We'd love to see plenty of brethren on the sidelines!

Fraternal Greetings,

Todd L. Johnson, PM  
Worshipful Master

**Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443**

Third Floor, BB&T Bank, Greencastle, PA 17225  
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Brother Toby A. Stoner  
Worshipful Master

Website: <https://mtpisgah443.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Pisgah-Lodge-No-443-668433266645074>  
Ladies Night Banquet TBA

Greetings from the East,

A Stated Meeting of Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the above the Tower Bank on the square, Greencastle, PA, Tuesday September 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The program for the evening will be *History of Freemasonry* presented by Brother Larry Miller.

Fraternal Greetings,

Toby A. Stoner  
Worshipful Master

**Acacia Lodge No. 586**

33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA 17268

Third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Henry A. Martin

Worshipful Master

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

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

Ladies Night Banquet October 2, 2021

From the desk of the Secretary,

We had a successful BBQ in June. Our next Chicken BBQ is planned for Saturday July 17, 2021. We will be setting up at the F & M Trust Parking Lot on East Main St, Waynesboro. The BBQ will begin at 6:00 a.m. and run to approximately noon depending on when all the chicken has sold out. Help is always welcome, either by working the BBQ, or buying our excellent chicken. The summer BBQ schedule includes the following dates: August 14 and September 11. Don't miss our September BBQ. We will be recognizing our first responders. Please note these dates on your calendar, you don't miss some of the best BBQ chicken in south central PA.

At our September Stated Meeting we will be celebrating 100 years meeting at 33 West Main Street, Waynesboro. We hope to have a full house with the whole District represented.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Robert W. Nelson, Jr., PM.  
Lodge Secretary



**Pennsylvania Lodge of Research**  
Semi-Annual Meetings at Various Locations  
Brother Yasser Al-Khatib  
Worshipful Master

<https://palodgeofresearch.org/>

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

The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research held a meeting on Saturday June 26, 2021, at Fritz Lodge No. 308 in Conshohocken, PA. The lodge was opened in Ancient Form, after which the officers for the year 2021 were duly elected and installed by Brother Jeffrey R. Miller, DDGM, Third Masonic District. Following lodge business two presentations were given. The first by R.W. Bro. Moises I. Gomez, Grand Historian, Grand Lodge of New Jersey on “Freemasonry in Cuba.” The second was given by Bro. Richard L. Wenner, PM, on “A Masonic Hero.” Following the presentations, the lodge was closed in ancient Form.

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.

## Programs

Information about the Craft in general is shared, and at least two research papers are presented, followed by discussion. Of course, good fellowship is also essential to the success of the Lodge of Research!

The Annual Meeting is held late in the year, at which the election and installation of officers is held. All Master Masons are welcome to attend.

Anyone, by invitation of the Master, may present. Brethren interested in submitting papers for possible presentation at future meetings of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research, or who have Masonic queries they would like answered, should submit them to the Secretary.

## How to Join

Membership in the Lodge of Research is open to all Master Masons who are members of Lodges recognized by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. To become a member, please use this link:

<https://palodgeofresearch.org/membership/>

Questions regarding membership can be emailed to: [Lodge.of.Research@pagrandlodge.org](mailto:Lodge.of.Research@pagrandlodge.org)