

Third Masonic District

Third Masonic District Website



Christmas Truce of 1914



Participants: Soldiers from the United Kingdom, the French Republic, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the German Empire, and the Russian Empire

The Christmas Truce occurred on and around Christmas Day 1914, when the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front during World War I in favor of holiday celebrations. During the unofficial ceasefire, soldiers on both sides of the conflict emerged from the trenches and shared gestures of goodwill.

Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops fighting in World War I sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. Some Germans lit Christmas trees around their trenches, and there was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

German Lieutenant Kurt Zehmisch recalled: "How marvelously wonderful, yet how strange it was. The English officers felt the same way about it. Thus Christmas, the celebration of Love, managed to bring mortal enemies together as friends for a time."

Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more somber task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines.

Event Announcements

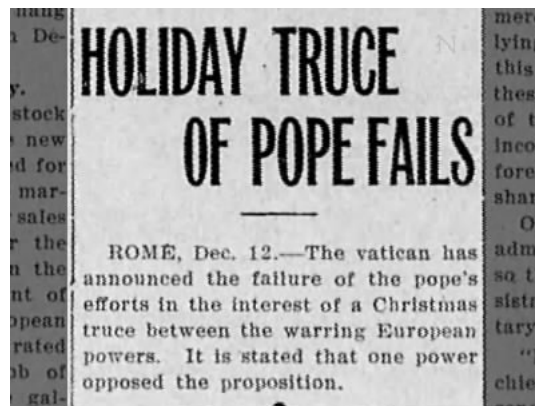
December 20
District School of Instruction
Business of the Lodge
2022 Incoming Lodge Officers

December 27
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
December Quarterly Communication
Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown

The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers’ threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers’ essential humanity endured.

During World War I, the soldiers on the Western Front did not expect to celebrate on the battlefield, but even a world war could not destroy the Christmas spirit.

Source: *Christmas Truce of 1914*, <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/christmas-truce-of-1914>, A&E Television Networks, December 2020



Did you know? On December 7, 1914, Pope Benedict XV suggested a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas. The warring countries refused to create any official cease-fire, but on Christmas the soldiers in the trenches declared their own unofficial truce.



***“Be at war with your vices, at peace with you neighbors,
and let every New Year find you a better man.”***

Brother Benjamin Franklin

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



*Brother Jeffrey R. Miller
District Deputy Grand Master*

Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

December is an exciting time for the incoming Worshipful Masters. The incoming Worshipful Masters have heard that the installation ceremony is very “interesting”. They have no idea what lays ahead for them but cannot wait till that time comes to be installed as the Master of their Lodge. They have done their planning are now ready to step to the East and lead their Lodge. They have earned the respect of the Lodge by demonstrating that they are willing to do the work that is required of them as the Past Masters have before them! I congratulate each of the incoming Worshipful Masters. May their year in the East be a rewarding time in their Masonic careers.

Brother William Britton, PM, has been chosen as the District 3 Mason of the year for 2021. The presentation will be at Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 at the January stated meeting on January 6, 2022. Brother Britton has demonstrated his willingness to do anything and everything that is ask of him. He is the Lodge instructor and has mentored many men on their

Masonic journey.

Eureka West Shore Lodge No. 302 has won the District Deputy Grand Master’s Lodge Award for 2021. Worshipful Master Kenneth Robinson provided excellent leadership in attaining this award. The Lodge did many activities throughout the year. The presentation will be done the Lodge’s January stated meeting on January 3, 2022. Come out and show your support for this accomplishment.

I wish each Brother a happy holiday season. Be safe as you travel to your different Lodge and personal activities. I will see you in the New Year. May it be better than the last.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!!

Brother Jeffrey R. Miller, DDGM
3rd Masonic District



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



*Brother Kenneth W. Womack
Principal District 3
School of Masonic Instruction*

Brethren all,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and that you are looking forward to the remainder of the holiday season. It is a fun and wonderful time of the year, and some of the things that make it so are the Masonic events, to include electing and installing new officers, and hopefully a Lodge holiday event, to include family members.

I hope many of you were able to attend the November SOI and get up to speed on the election and installation of officers. Please be advised that our principals are ready to attend your December rehearsal if you want additional instruction or clarification on installation and elections, either open or closed. Please don't hesitate to contact me or one of them if you would like for us to attend.

Last month I reminded you, and I want to reinforce it here, that on Monday, December 20th, we will not do the Fellow Craft degree as scheduled but will instead conduct a session on the Business of the Lodge. The work will be done by incoming officers for 2022. The principals will designate the specific incoming officers to initially fill the chairs, and we may rotate other incoming officers for those chairs to give everyone a chance to participate. This is a low-threat environment, and the intent of this session is to review BOL in detail and to make sure incoming officers get a good refresher on BOL and have a chance to ask questions and get clarifications on things they might have forgotten since certification. I will be in touch with incoming WMs with more information on this SOI in the next few days.

Brethren, please have a wonderful holiday, and I look forward to seeing you on Monday, December 20th and to the new Masonic Year beginning on St. John's day next.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Brother Kenneth W. Womack
Principal District 3 SOI



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. [Click here](#) to enroll. 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.

Upcoming Academy Dates

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Saturday, October 22, 2022

The Masonic Nugget



Anno Lucis is Latin for "Year of Light." You will also see it abbreviated as "A.L." It is used as a calendar system within Freemasonry. Year of Light refers to the biblical account of the creation of the universe wherein God spoke and said:

"Let there be light...and there was light." (Genesis 1:3)

You will often see the abbreviation "A.L." on Masonic certificates, plaques and building cornerstones. This calendar system is not exclusive to Freemasonry. It was designed as a simplification of the Anno Mundi calendar by an Irish cleric, James Ussher (1581-1656) nearly a century before the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1717. Ussher established the year 4004 B.C. (approximately 6013 years ago) as the date of the biblical creation of the Earth.

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 December 20, 2021. The work of the evening will be the Business of the Lodge. The work will be exemplified by 2022 incoming officers.

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



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,

A Stated Meeting of George Washington Lodge No. 143 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 74 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA, on Friday December 10, 2021, 7:30 p.m. The program for the evening will be the Election and Installation of Officers for 2022. Per the WM, a meal will be served at 6:30 pm prior to the meeting. Cost of the meal is by donation. This is an important meeting not only for George Washington Lodge No. 143, but for all Lodges during the month of December. I encourage all members, if able, to attend your respective meeting to not only support the incoming officers, but to thank the outgoing officers for their service during the difficult years they have served. As we return to more normal times, many of the activities we have not been able to enjoy, will be returning. I hope that all will be able to take part in these activities and, again, enjoy “Our Great Fraternity”.

On Thursday, December 16, 2021 we will have an Extra Meeting when a Master Mason Degree and an Entered Apprentice Mason Degree will be conferred. The Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, be safe, and enjoy the blessings of the Holiday Season.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Dennis R. McClanahan, PM.
Lodge Secretary



“Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.”

Brother George Washington

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>

Greetings from the East,

Lodge Activities



At Carlisle Lodge's November's stated meeting, the lodge recognized the men and women who have served and continue serve our communities in both our armed forces and has first responders. The lodge was fortunate to welcome over 130 individuals for this special night. As a lodge and fraternity we will always stand with and support these individuals and families. We thank them for their service.

Upcoming Activities



On Saturday's December 4th and December 11th, Carlisle Lodge will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army! Members and their family will be ringing those bells and sometimes even quietly singing Christmas songs in front the Wine and Spirt Store off of Walnut Bottom Road in Carlisle from 9am-9pm. I encourage the brothers to come out, say hello and help spread some holiday cheer this season by donating some of that loose change and dollars.

On Friday December 17, 2021, starting at 6:30pm, Carlisle Lodge will be having an extra meeting. Brother Richard A Auchey, PM will be conferring the Master Mason's degree. I would encourage all brothers to come out and enjoy some great ritual and help raise brother to sublime degree of Master Mason. This is a special moment for any man and is especially special when a lot of his brothers come out and show their support!

A Stated Meeting of Carlisle Lodge No. 260 will be held on Tuesday December 21, 2021, 7:30 p.m. . The program for the evening will be the Election and Installation of Officers for 2022.

Thank You



A Worshipful Master is not successful on his own, but it takes a lodge and group of lodges, composed of great men and their families coming together for a common purpose to be successful. As my time comes to a close as a Worshipful Master of Carlisle Lodge No. 260, I want to take a moment to say thank you to brothers from across the district. When I started Masonic journey, I never expected to achieve this great honor. It only came to pass by the assistance of you my brothers, and I will be forever grateful. When we started this journey, we were strangers, now, I am not only fortunate to call you my brothers but my friends. My brothers, I thank you all and your families for your support of Carlisle Lodge and me during this year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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 December 9, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. The program for the evening will Election and Installation of officers

Sincerely and fraternally,

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>

Greetings from the East,

Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302 held a stated meeting on November 1, 2021 proceeded by a wonderful turkey dinner prepared by our Stewards. Just after dinner we had an informative presentation on the Order of Eastern Star. The meeting included recognition of our armed services veterans and also our first responders, as well as a short presentation on the history of Thanksgiving and its ties to Freemasonry. We were also pleased to have a group of visitors from Carlisle Lodge No. 260 accompanying our District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Jeffery R. Miller, who spoke about a new sign initiative from the Grand Lodge.

On November 3, 2021, Brother Daniel Kiem was raised to the degree of a Master Mason. Brother William A. Northey presided as Master for the degree.

The lodge continues to host to our unofficial ZOOM toast meetings once a month on the third Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. The zoom meeting is purely social and a great time for Brethren to enjoy fraternal time. We invite all brethren to join us. Below is the link to the Zoom meeting. Feel free to join us on December 1, 2021.

[ZOOM MEETING LINK](#)

Our next stated meeting will be December 6, 2021, when we will elect our new slate of officers and hold an open installation. We look forward to seeing all who can join us for this and future meetings. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve our lodge for the past masonic year. I thank the brethren for their confidence in my ability to serve as Master of Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302.

Sincerely & fraternally,

Kenneth B. Robinson
Worshipful Master

“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.”

Brother Norman Vincent Peale

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>



On November 4, 2021 we held our stated meeting. Following our fellowship meal, we opened the lodge and conducted our usual business. After the conclusion of the business portion of our meeting the Worshipful Master honored all the veterans present with a beautiful challenge coin in recognition of their service to God and Country. It was a very nice and well received presentation. The Worshipful Master thanked everyone for attending, after which the lodge was duly closed.



On November 11, 2021 Worshipful Master Jason E. White, Senior Warden Jesse E. Weller, Brother William L. Britton, PM, and Brother Donald O'Brien Brown traveled to Orrstown Lodge No. 262 and captured the District 3 Traveling Gavel. The Gavel may have changed hands, however it did not travel too far, and is still housed in Shippensburg.



On November 18, 2021, we held our Extra Meeting at Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 and conferred the Entered Apprentice Mason's degree upon our newest Brother Mitchell L. Johnston. Congratulations Brother Johnston on your entrance into our ancient and honorable fraternity!

Consider the Lodge Masonic Challenge Coin Fundraiser



Front — Square & Compass with quote “A Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God”

Back — Square & Compass surrounded by the Seven Liberal Arts

See the Worshipful Master or any Lodge Officer for Details. Coins are \$10 each

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, on Thursday December 2, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. The program for the evening will be Election and Installation of officers

Sincerely and fraternally,

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,

A Stated Meeting of Big Spring Lodge No. 361 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 131 Centerville Road, Newville, PA. Thursday December 9, 2021, 7:30 p.m. The program of the evening will be the Election and Installation of Officers.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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>

Greetings from the East,

A Stated Meeting of Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, Third Floor, BB&T Bank, Greencastle, PA. Tuesday December 21, 2021, 7:30 p.m. Program for the evening will be Election and Installation of Officers.

I personally want to thank everyone who has helped me as Worshipful Master, it is greatly appreciated. I could not have done it without all of your help.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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,

Congratulations to Brother Dennis R. McClanahan, PM, a dual member of both George Washington Lodge No. 143 and Acacia Lodge No. 586, and currently is lodge secretary for George Washington Lodge No. 143. Brother McClanahan has presented 100 Masonic Degrees and has been recognized as a member of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania's Masonic Century Club. Brother Denny will be honored at Acacia Lodge No.586's January Stated Meeting on January 21, 2022. Please plan to attend.



A Stated Meeting of Acacia Lodge No. 586 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, Third Floor, 33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA., on Friday December 17, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The Program for the evening will be the Election and Installation of Officers.

Merry Christmas and the Happiest of Holidays to everyone in the District and your Families!!

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>

Dear Brethren,

It has been my privilege and honor and serve as WM of the Lodge of Research for the present Masonic Year. With our last meeting scheduled on December 11, 2021 in Allentown, PA I wanted to leave you with the following thought and mantra of mine: An educated fraternity is a stronger fraternity!!! Our founding fathers have seen the Value of education and made sure that we were left with Grand Educational Institutions that laid the foundation for the development of our nation over the centuries. Freemasonry, like the Ivy League schools, is one of those foundations. It is upon each of us to spread Masonic Light within and without. I wish you and your families a happy Holiday season and send you all the love. Please try to attend our meeting in December, I would be honored to celebrate my last meeting with my Brethren of the Third Masonic District. I want to personally thank Brother William Britton. Bill thank you for your patience with me over this year and for all your hard work on this newsletter.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Yasser Al-Khatib, WM

Meeting Notice

A stated meeting of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the Allentown Masonic Temple, 1524 Linden St., Allentown, PA. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m.

A luncheon will be held following the conclusion of the meeting, at approximately 12:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person, payable to the Secretary the day of the meeting. Cash or check is acceptable. Checks should be made out to the "Pennsylvania Lodge of Research."

A copy of the lodge notice can be downloaded at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SeUvMJUmjcHtjDAMA4GLT9fexUikuJh/view>

“Freemasonry is a science of symbols, in which, by their proper study, a search is instituted after truth, that truth consisting in the knowledge of the divine and human nature of God and the human Soul.”

Brother Albert G. Mackey