

Jefferson Lodge No. 90  
 F. & A.M.  
 Charter Granted  
 January 15, 1828  
 Middletown Masonic Temple  
 P. O. Box 348  
 1301 South Marshall Road  
 Middletown, OH 45044

# TRESTLE BOARD

JEFFERSON LODGE #90 APRIL 2011



## MASTERS MESSAGE

Greetings Brethren,

Well it looks like spring has finally arrived and it won't be long before we have to start cutting our lawns twice a week, but I'll gladly make that sacrifice if it means winter is over. With the warmer weather it makes travelling to the other lodges for inspections that much nicer. There are still plenty of Inspections left and I would like to see the officers go to as many as they can. This will help in observing how other lodges put on the degrees as each lodge has different ways in which they do things plus you meet Brothers from other Lodges.

In April we will have an Practice for the Entered Apprentice Degree on the 11th from 6:00 to 8:00 and the Entered Apprentice Degree for Mr. David Curl will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Dinner as always will be at 6 pm followed by the degree work for Mr. Curl. There will also be a representative from Summerville Studios. They are trying to finish up pictures for the Lodge Directory. If you would like to have your picture taken they will be at the lodge from 12pm to 6pm April 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>. They offer other packets if you so desire but if you just want a picture to go into the directory the cost is \$18.00 or if you already have a picture bring that and the cost will be \$7.00.

There will be no meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April as this is Holy Week. Then on April 30<sup>th</sup> there will be an Italian Night Dinner from 5pm to 7pm to raise money for Special Olympics. The cost will be \$10.00.

I hope all will have a nice Easter holiday and please remember those service men and women who are unable to be with their families during this time and keep them in your prayers.

Fraternally yours,

WM Richard Duckson

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

In memory of our departed brethren called to the glorious and Celestial Lodge Above, we thank them for their service to our Lodge and Freemasonry: James Lawrence, died 3/10/2011, 87 years old, a 60 year Mason, and Leonard Rockwell, died 4/3/2011, 93 years old, a 19 year Mason.

Fraternally, Matthew B. Hudson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APRIL 9.....MIDDLETOWN RAINBOW'S BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY - 9 AM - 11 AM, DONATION 7.00/ADULT - 3.00/CHILDREN UNDER 12
- APRIL 9 & 16.....SCOTTISH RITE SPRING REUNION
- APRIL 11 & 12.....SUMMERVILLE STUDIOS PHOTOGRAPHER NOON - 6:00 PM
- APRIL 11.....EA PRACTICE, PIZZA AT 6:00
- APRIL 18.....NO MEETING - HOLY WEEK
- APRIL 25.....EA DEGREE, DINNER 6:00 PM, DEGREE 7:00 PM
- APRIL 30.....JEFFERSON LODGE NIGHT IN ITALY FUNDRAISER 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- MAY 2.....STATED MEETING, DINNER 6:30 PM, MEETING 7:30 PM

Jefferson Lodge  
No 90

**Officers**

**Worshipful Master**

Richard Duckson II  
937-654-0348  
duck-  
sonrd2@yahoo.com

**Senior Warden**

E. Duane Wooton  
PM  
513-420-9000

**Junior Warden**

Robert Gill  
513-887-7722

**Senior Deacon**

Ryan Barrett  
513- 267-1007

**Junior Deacon**

Richard Pinsky  
937-438-8798

**Chaplain**

T. Clay Lehmann  
513-404-2057

**Senior Steward**

Mark Meredith  
937-510-8754

**Junior Steward**

Terry Hecker  
513-292-1570

**Tyler**

George Develen  
513-423-9602

**Secretary**

Matthew B. Hudson  
513-422-1423  
mashu@cinci.rr.com

**Treasurer**

Joseph E. Newlin PM  
513-424-1120  
jnew-  
lin1@cinci.rr.com

**Lodge Education  
Officer**

Chad Hudson PM  
513-602-0140

## FREEMASONRY IN THE CIVIL WAR

*In the years leading up to the Civil War, the United States was divided along political, economic and social lines, far more than we are even today. The slavery question cast its shadow over all the other issues: regional rivalries, trade, development of the country's natural resources, and settling the West. Important institutions split over the slavery question. For example, the Democratic Party split along regional lines, and the Southern Baptist Church and the Southern Methodist Church were founded.*

*Freemasonry was the one institution that did not suffer a split. The principles of the Craft outweighed all other considerations in the hearts and minds of its members. This story is best told through a selection of vignettes originally written by the great American Masonic student, Allen Roberts.*

*Joseph Fort Newton, D.D., was a leading Masonic writer and teacher, and the author of The Builders. In his autobiography he wrote the following about his introduction to Freemasonry:*

*"My father had been a soldier in the Southern army... He was made a Mason in a military Lodge... Taken prisoner at Arkansas Post, he was carried up the Mississippi river to Rock Island, Illinois... My father become desperately ill, and made himself known as a Mason to an officer of the camp. The officer took him to his own home and nursed him back to life. When the war ended, he loaned Father money to pay his way back to his Texas home and gave him a pearl-handled pistol to protect himself... This experience of my father, when I learned about it, had a very great influence upon my life; the fact that such a fraternity of men could exist, mitigating the harshness of war, and remain unbroken when states and churches were torn in two, became a wonder; and it is not strange that I tried for years to repay my debt to it." Dr. Newton became a Master Mason at the age of 21 in Friendship Lodge No. 7, Dixon, Illinois.*

*John W. Geary was made a Mason at Sight on January 4, 1847 in Pennsylvania, just before he left with his troops to fight in the Mexican War. When in California, he was stationed in San Francisco, and served as one its first Mayors. He caused the land that became Union Square to be set-aside as a park. Geary Street is named for him. During the Civil War, he was the commanding Union general at the fall of Savannah, Georgia. He placed Federal troops about the quarters of Solomon's Lodge No. 1 to save it from looting and damage. Later, while Geary was governor of Pennsylvania, the Lodge sent him a resolution of thanks. He answered by claiming it was the principles and tenets of Freemasonry that helped Reconstruction to be as successful as it finally turned out to be. In this reply, he said: "...I feel again justified in referring to our beloved institution, by saying that to Freemasonry the people of the country are indebted for many mitigations of the suffering caused by the direful passions of war."*

*The Battle of Antietam was the single bloodiest day of fighting ever during the bitter Civil War. Over 23,000 men were killed or wounded. During this horrible and bloody battle, numerous instances occurred that showed the enduring nature of Brotherly Love and Relief in times of trouble. On the morning following the battle, Confederate sharpshooters fired at anything that moved. A wounded Confederate handed a Union sentry a piece of cloth on which the Square and Compass was crudely drawn in blood. The sentry carried it to a captain who recognized the Masonic emblem. The captain told the Colonel that a wounded Confederate needed help. The Colonel asked for volunteers and several Masons offered to help. At the risk of their lives they went to and carried the fallen Lieutenant of the Alabama Volunteers to the 5th New Hampshire field hospital. The Lieutenant told them about another Mason lying wounded in the cornfield. Back they went and carried him to join the other enemy soldier. Both men received the same treatment, as did the Federal wounded from the camp surgeon, a Freemason, Dr. William Child. These were men who truly remembered their obligation to never hesitate to go out of their way to raise a fallen Brother.*

*Confederate Masons no less than their Union counterparts remembered the obligations of the Craft in the midst of war. The Federal gunboat USS Albatross, under the command of John Hart hurled shell after shell into the village of St. Francisville, Louisiana. Later, the crew sent a small boat under a flag of truce to the shore. The executive officer asked for a Mason. The Senior Warden of Felician Lodge No. 31, W. W. Leake, answered the call. When informed that Captain Hart, who was a Freemason, was dead, Brother Leake immediately offered to open his Lodge and bury Hart with Masonic rites.*

*Over the years the United Daughters of the Confederacy kept his grave fresh and green. In 1972 the Grand Lodge of Louisiana replaced the simple headstone with a monument that covered Hart's entire grave. The monument was engraved: "This monument is dedicated in loving tribute to the universality of Freemasonry."  
- continued next month....*