

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 MAY 2011



MASTERS MESSAGE

Greetings Brethren,

Brethren, May is here and it's hard to believe how fast the year has gone. First let me begin by apologizing for the lateness of this month's letter. My technical support team had to go out of town on business at the last minute shutting down my computer till her return.

That being said I would like to congratulate Bros. Terry Hecker and Robert Gill on the completion of the Grand Lodge TELL program. This is a program that is conducted every year by the Grand Lodge to assist members with leadership training skills and takes 4 weekends to complete starting in January. Jefferson Lodge is very proud of Bros. Gill and Hacker's hard work. I also wish to welcome Jefferson Lodges' newest member Brother David Curl who was initiated on the 25th of April and will receive his F.C. Degree on the 16th of this month.

On the 30th of April Jefferson Lodge hosted a dinner to raise money for Ohio Special Olympics. I would like to thank all of those who attended and those who helped cook and clean up .The Lodge was able to raise \$400.00 making our total contribution to this worthwhile cause \$600.00.

This May we will have an Entered Apprentice Degree for Mr. Aubrey Allen on the 9th followed by a Fellow Craft Degree on the 16th.

Saturday May 21st, The VA Mobile Clinic will once again be at the Middletown Masonic Temple. They will be set up from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm., please come out and see them if you have any questions or wish to register with the VA. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors as it is open to the community.

May 30th Jefferson Lodge will participate in the Middletown Memorial Day Parade. If you wish to join us we will meet at Smith Park @ 8:30 am.

June 6th will be our next stated meeting followed on the 13th of June with our annual Craft Picnic where we will enjoy N.Y. steaks and fellowship before we adjourn for the summer.

There is also a chance that we will need to call on brothers to assist with a M.M. Degree on the 20th for Bro. David Curl, we are trying very hard to help him achieve this milestone before he goes to serve his country in the U.S. ARMY in August.

Fraternally yours,

WM Richard Duckson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 9.....EA DEGREE, DINNER 6:00 PM, DEGREE 7:00 PM
 MAY 16.....FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE, DINNER 6:00 PM, DEGREE 7:00 PM
 MAY 21.....VA MOBILE CLINIC, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
 MAY 30.....MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, SMITH PARK, 8:30 AM
 JUNE 6.....STATED MEETING, DINNER 6:30 PM, MEETING 7:30 PM
 JUNE 13.....ANNUAL CRAFT PICNIC
 JUNE 20.....POSSIBLE MM DEGREE, DINNER 6:00 PM, DEGREE 7:00 PM

**Jefferson Lodge No 90
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FREEMASONRY IN THE CIVIL WAR

- continued from last month....

An interesting story of Masonic unity in the face of political conflict occurred in Denver Lodge No. 5. The members appeared to be evenly divided in their affinity for the opposing sides in the war. This appeared to be a problem that couldn't be overcome, so the Lodge recommended to the Grand Lodge of Colorado that a charter be granted for the formation of Union Lodge. It was granted. But not a single member of Denver Lodge demitted to affiliate with the new one! They had learned it is not necessary for all Freemasons to think alike to remain friends and Brothers.

When Richmond, Virginia, fell to the Union soldiers in April 1865, mobs burned warehouses, blew up ships, and generally set fire to the property along the James River. Masons' Hall, built in 1785 was close to this area. The Federal Provost Marshal, A. H. Stevens, a member of Putnam Lodge in Massachusetts, placed a guard around the building, plus the homes of several members of the Lodge. Shortly thereafter, Federal and Confederate members of the Craft met in harmony in the same building.

Finally, an instance of true friendship extending beyond the barriers of war is that of General Lewis A. Armistead, of Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 and Colonel (later General) Henry H. Bingham. General Armistead was among the Confederate generals leading the ill-fated Pickett's Charge storming the hills in the Battle of Gettysburg. General Armistead was mortally wounded when he reached the top of the ridge. Colonel Bingham was sent by General Hancock to assist their Masonic Brother. A monument commissioned and dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1993 at the National Cemetery Annex at Gettysburg commemorates this selfless act of Brotherly Love. The monument is inscribed simply:

"Friend to Friend – A Brotherhood Undivided."

When the shooting war ended, the division between the North and South remained. If anything, the antagonism was more bitter than ever. But it was Freemasonry that was most directly responsible for easing the pangs of hatred. Kindness shown by former foes who were Masons became the links in the chain of unity.

These lessons of the past are most important for us to remember. Our Brethren of the Civil War could have been forgiven if they had turned their backs on those in distress –but they did not! They helped the Mason and non-Mason whenever and wherever they could– and were better men and Freemasons for it, and our Fraternity and the world are better because of them.

Unfortunately the past is far too often forgotten. Countless people consider freemasonry's First Tenet, Brotherly Love, as just so much sentimentality. Group is fighting group, section is antagonizing section, and competing ideologies and political opinions are running rampant.

I will leave you with this challenge: Would you as Masons today act as our Civil War brethren, and put aside political and personal differences for the sake of another Brother known only to you as a Mason?