

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 SEPTEMBER 2011



MASTERS MESSAGE

Greetings Brethren,

Where has the summer gone? Has it really been 3 months since we last met? The next stated meeting for Jefferson Lodge will be on September 12th at 7:30 pm. Meeting attire will be casual with burgers and hot dogs on the grill at 6:30 pm.

Over the summer Jefferson Lodge participated in a few activities. During the month of June with the assistance of Past Masters from the First District we raised Bro. David Curl to the degree of a Master Mason. The Past Masters that assisted us that night were part of a traveling retired military lodge. Jefferson Lodge received numerous compliments on the work done by the Officers and I wish to thank all of them for their hard work. Brother Curl received a fine degree given by both teams and we were able to raise him as a Master Mason before he left for Basic Training to begin his service in the U.S. Army.

During the month of July Jefferson Lodge marched with our Brothers from High Point Lodge in their Fourth of July Parade in Monroe Ohio. WM Robert Cooper thanked all the Brothers that were able to assist them.

August 6th saw our annual Garbage Stew Picnic which would not have been a success if not for the hard work of Bro. John Butler and his wife Margaret and next door neighbors. The families were able to enjoy fine food and fellowship while Bro. Butler and company cooked over a very warm fire outside on a very hot day. Thank you Brother John.

As I Stated earlier we will meet on Sept. 12th @ 7:30. There was talk that we would participate in an outdoor raising that following Saturday, September 17th. Unfortunately, there were a few difficulties that arose and we moved the raising to the next week, September 24th. We will discuss this at the meeting on the 12th and if all goes well we will have an outdoor raising on the 24th at WB Les Wills place.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and I am looking forward to getting back to working with the Officers as we get closer to November and preparing for next year's inspection. WB Barr, yes it is a wonderful feeling.

Thank you,

WM Richard Duckson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 12.....STATED MEETING, 7:30 PM, COOKOUT 6:30 PM - CASUAL DRESS
SEPTEMBER 17.....JUNIOR/SENIOR WARDEN WORKSHOP, ALPHA LODGE, KETTERING, OH
SEPTEMBER 24.....OUTDOOR RAISING, TENTATIVE - TO BE DETERMINED ON THE 12TH
PLEASE CALL AFTER THAT DATE FOR MORE INFO OR CHECK EMAIL.
OCTOBER 1.....TYPE WRITTEN RITUAL, EASTERN STAR LODGE, FRANKLIN, OH
OCTOBER 3.....STATED MEETING, 7:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM

**Jefferson Lodge No 90
Officers**

Worshipful Master

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FREEMASONRY IN THE CIVIL WAR

From the Spring of 1861 through the early Summer of 1865, approximately 700,000 Americans lost their lives in an American war fought on American soil. Some of the best and bravest Americans ever to draw a breath were cut down in their youth. We shall never know, in this life, exactly what that war truly cost us. How much more advanced, how much stronger might our country be today had some of those, whom we benignly list as "casualties," had lived to realize their full potential? Perhaps the man capable of finding the cure for cancer was struck down by canister at Cold Harbor. Maybe the century's greatest evangelist, teacher or philosopher was bayoneted to death in the cornfield at Sharpsburg. Could it be that a future chemist who would have discovered some new alternative power source died of smallpox in Chimarazo Confederate Hospital? Did the greatest president this nation would ever know drown when his ironclad sank in the dark, muddy flow of the Mississippi?

Many of those men, those "casualties," were Master Masons. More than three million Americans, north and south, fought in the Civil War, approximately 11 % or about 320,000 of whom were Freemasons. This is rather incredible considering in 1861 there were less than 500,000 Masons in America, which means over 60% of America's Masons went to war. Consider too, that many Masons living during that period, obviously had to be older men, or otherwise incapable of going to war, so there is no question that an overwhelmingly high percentage of Masons, able to be soldiers, fought for their country, be it the Union or Confederacy. Over 300 generals in those two armies were Master Masons.

A Gettysburg Masonic encounter involved two relatively famous and remarkably similar, though opposing generals. John Brown Gordon was a Georgia lawyer who entered Confederate service as a private without benefit of any formal military training. Francis Channing Barlow, a New York attorney, became a Union private under much the same circumstances. Both had risen to the rank of general by the time Robert E. Lee marched his troops into Gettysburg, and both were then Freemasons.

As the battle raged on the first day, and General Gordon crossed the bloody ground, he happened upon a grievously wounded General Barlow. The Northerner was still conscious, but his wounds were obviously mortal, and even as the ghastly work of war persisted all around, Gordon stopped to comfort his fallen Masonic Brother. After providing what aid he could and giving the wounded general water, Gordon asked if there was anything else he could do. Barlow asked that Gordon write a letter to his wife, which he dictated, informing her of his impending death and declaring his undying love for her. The Southerner took the time to faithfully record every word of what both men thought would be Barlow's final correspondence and arranged to have it delivered to Mrs. Barlow. He then had his Northern Brother taken to the nearest field hospital and later that day moved back through the Union lines to a Federal Hospital.

General Barlow surprised everyone, and did not die, but with the help of his wife, who received his letter and came to retrieve his body, recovered and lived to fight again. Brothers Barlow and Gordon met in Washington several years after the war, and were both quite shocked, as each thought the other had been killed during the conflict. Their brotherly love and friendship continued for the remainder of their lives.

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: Brother Gerald R. Grob passed away on July 7th 2011 and Brother Donald E. Gephart on August 8th 2011 also a 70 year Mason — Fraternally, Matthew B. Hudson