

## **Chapter VII**

# **Programs for Open Meetings**



## THE DEWITT CLINTON MASONIC AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The DeWitt Clinton Award is the first and only award of its kind to be presented by The Grand Lodge of the State of New York since its formation in 1781. The Award recognizes distinguished or outstanding community service by non-Masonic organizations or individuals whose actions exemplify a shared concern for the well-being of Mankind and a belief in the worldwide brotherhood of Man.

Each presentation of this Award in public ceremonies throughout communities of this State demonstrates Freemasonry's historic concern and fraternal high esteem for voluntary services and individual involvement through contributions of time, skill and financial support given freely toward truly significant endeavors in the public interest.

### Historical Interest of Freemasonry in the Community

Freemasons, whether as a Grand Lodge, as a Masonic District, as a Masonic Lodge, as any of its several Masonic-related organizations, or as individual members of the Fraternity, have traditionally demonstrated this concern within their communities.

Perhaps one of the earliest records of such action within New York State is the support engendered by the fraternity in developing public education. The beginning of public schools in this State, and perhaps the nation, is credited to the active role played by Masons. In the early 1800's the Fraternity laid the groundwork for the establishment of a Free School for poor children who did not qualify for private or parochial schools at that time. In 1809, the first school building was opened with impressive services at which DeWitt Clinton, then Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, delivered an eloquent address.<sup>1</sup>

Much of what Masons do or have done in their communities goes unheralded, yet for the past two centuries their contributions have

been numerous, and continue to be encouraged by the Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge annually recognizes local Lodges and Districts for their community service with the presentation of the **Masonic Award for Community Service "...with Heart and Hands."**

The national sum total of the Fraternity's support for such things as scholarships, medical research, hospitals for crippled children, direct and indirect aid through research to treat those who have suffered severe burns, speech disorders, loss of eye sight, or mental illness, and a myriad of other charitable and voluntary activities in communities across the nation is estimated at well in excess of a million dollars a day.

The members of this Grand Lodge support the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, NY, which is devoted to scientific and biomedical contributions of benefit to all Mankind. The areas of research include aging, heart, cancer, hypertension, and blood.

### Significance of DeWitt Clinton as the name for this Award<sup>1</sup>

DeWitt Clinton's name and the meaning of the words "public service" are said to be synonymous. His dedication and devotion to service in the public interest, both as a member of the Fraternity and a citizen of the State and Nation, evoke that comparison.

He was a resourceful and energetic leader and an enthusiastic Mason. The most convincing testimony of his acknowledged zeal for the Fraternity is that he presided over vast affairs of the Grand Lodge as Grand Master for fourteen successive terms from 1806 to June 1820 when he declined re-election. Under his leadership, the fraternity became a power for good in civil life.

The son of James Clinton, Brigadier General in the patriot army of the Revolution,

DeWitt entered upon public service soon after graduation from Columbia College. He held legislative offices in the State, served as United States Senator, was Mayor of the City of New York, and later elected Governor of the State.

DeWitt Clinton was a constructive statesman of remarkable ability and phenomenal popularity in his time. He was instrumental in establishing the foundation of the great public education system of the State, and almost single-handedly carried through the opening of the Erie Canal. These two achievements alone mark him as one of the master builders among the statesmen of his time.

His life was one of service to mankind. Honorable in all his dealings, wholly devoted to the advancement of the welfare of his fellowmen, he will ever be remembered by the Fraternity as a true exemplar of Freemasonry.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from "NEW YORK FREEMASONRY...A Bicentennial History," H.T. Singer and O. Lang, 1981.

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## DeWitt Clinton Masonic Community Service Award Presentation Program

1. Select a worthy recipient -- a non-Masonic organization or individual \*
2. Advise the recipient and arrange a mutually convenient date for a presentation ceremony.
3. Prepare a press release, describing the Award and identifying it as a Masonic activity, and describing the recipient and the reasons for selection.
4. Send the release to local newspapers, radio and television stations. (Who, When, What, Where, Why, & How?)
5. Address the release to News Editors -- by name if possible. (It may be the case that a Lodge member has a personal relationship with someone at the

newspaper or broadcast medium.) Invite the press to attend in person. If there's a dinner, press should be invited to attend at your expense, not theirs.

6. Make careful arrangements for an appropriate presentation ceremony.
7. Invite other organizations. Invite recipient's family and friends. Invite local clergy, civic government and leaders.
8. Assign a reliable committee to arrange for refreshments and other physical needs.
9. Plan and rehearse an appropriate presentation ceremony.
10. Include in ceremony an explanation of the Award, why it is named DeWitt Clinton and why the Masons present it.
11. If possible, show the Grand Lodge 15 minute slide/sound presentation before the Award presentation. Distribute copies of the Grand Lodge Question & Answer folder.
12. Arrange for photographs to be made of ceremony. Often a local newspaper will assign its own photographer, but if this is not known for certain, the Lodge should arrange for pictures. Also, many times a television station will use a still photo in a news dispatch.
13. Have an up-dated release ready for the press at the ceremony, and provide any details that may be requested.

*\* Presenting this award is a nice gesture -- but it is much nicer (and makes a better dress response) if a check accompanies the Certificate and is made payable to the organization or the recipient's favorite charity. That's the frosting on your news story! At least \$100.00 (Lack funds? -- Get ten members to kick in 10 BUCKS.) This small investment can reap Big "Press-Print" Dividends.*

*Prepared by the Committee on  
Community Service*

**DE WITT CLINTON MASONIC AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Award Nominee Certification Questionnaire**

**Allow 4-6 Weeks For Processing And Mailing**      **Planned presentation date:** \_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_

**Recipient Information:**                      **(Please TYPE or BLOCK PRINT CLEARLY)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person or organization -- full name as it will appear on certificate

\_\_\_\_\_  
If organization -- Name of contact and title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town /State /Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
(      )

\_\_\_\_\_  
(      )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

**BRIEFLY explain the reasons for this award (why, what, where, when, who & how details) but DO NOT include biographical details which may be attached on separate sheets:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Use space on back if necessary)

**Lodge Name and Number:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date - Seal**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Master's Signature**

**Certificate Options: (Select One)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary's Name

Name and Date **typewritten**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Name and Date **hand-lettered** for which I have enclosed a **\$4.00 check made payable to Lodge Sales**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town / State / Zip code

Please send **blank certificate**. I will have it hand-lettered locally.

**(Over)**



## THANKSGIVING DAY IN THE LODGE

Although Thanksgiving Day is not, in itself, a Masonic festival, many of the Lodges, especially in the smaller communities, where good, old customs are the longest lived, have often taken advantage of the opportunity it offers to have a social night, after the fashion of a family reunion, when friends, neighbors, and the families of Lodge members are invited in to enjoy the hospitality of the Lodge. The program elements here offered, with accompanying materials and suggestions, presuppose such an occasion. That occasion also, it may be added, is an exceptionally fitting time for the Lodge to do honor to its patriarchs, its oldest Past Masters and its veteran members. Such brethren feel all the more rewarded by the good-will of their brethren if their friends, neighbors, and relatives can share the evening.

### History Of The Day

Although Thanksgiving Day has been a National holiday since 1863, and a festival generally observed by colonies and states since the early seventeenth century, it is not by any means peculiar to America. The custom of setting aside special days for Thanksgiving, praise and rejoicing is as old as the world, and it has almost always and everywhere been associated with the time of harvest.

The ancient Hebrews observed their Feast of Tabernacles when everyone lived in temporary booths or tents in remembrance of the time when they were unsettled people with no home of their own. With solemn rites they gave thanks to God, and with feasting they expressed their joy in their own land.

The early Saxons, forebears of the English, were originators of the old holiday so long and fondly known as Harvest Home.

Until comparatively recent times this season of half solemn, half rollicking humor was religiously observed throughout England; even now in the less changeable parts of the Island it is kept, and echoes of its old customs are found everywhere.

The Dutch kept October 3, the anniversary of their deliverance from Spain. On that day they worshipped and feasted, and held commemorative ceremonies.

Inasmuch as the Pilgrims lived for some years in Holland before setting out in the *Mayflower*, it may be that their first Thanksgiving Day was suggested to them by their memories of the customs of the people of Holland. Be that as it may, we know that the year 1620 was a bitter one for the gallant little band who had come perilously across the seas in a tiny boat to find a free home on the fringes of the western wilderness. After landing at Plymouth Rock, December 21, 1620 -- the same year in which the Huguenots had their uprising in France in a stroke for religious liberty - the Pilgrims continued living in the *Mayflower*, the men coming ashore each day to work. The winter was bitter, even for that climate; at one time all but six or seven were ill, and before spring softened their rigors, forty-six of their one hundred and one had died.

Finding some Indian corn in an abandoned Indian hut the Pilgrims, with the help of friendly Indians, planted some acres with it. This yielded so plentiful a harvest when autumn came they knew they would not be again compelled to endure a "winter of starvation." Their joy knew no limit. Governor Bradford called for three days of celebrating, inviting in their Indian friends.

In 1623 they had another festival. In 1630 the Boston Bay Colony did likewise, and again in 1631, and so the custom started, always in those early days predominantly religious in character, but at the same time an occasion for family reunions and great dinners. The Boston Thanksgiving Day in 1631 was held on February 22; it is the first of which any written record remains. It, like its predecessors in Plymouth, was local; but in 1632 Boston and Plymouth joined in their celebrations. The first Thanksgiving Proclamation was made in Massachusetts in 1677. As the years passed, one Colony or another took up the custom and after the Revolution it passed on from State to State, the governors issuing the Proclamations. The first of such Proclamations by a Governor of New York occurred in about 1830. In 1863 Thanksgiving Day was made national, and has remained so ever since.

### Two Memorable Thanksgivings

The winter of 1777 found General Washington's army at Valley Forge, so poorly clad

their feet bled into the snow, so un-supplied they came near to starving. Nevertheless, on December 17, Brother Washington proclaimed the following day to be one of Thanksgiving in honor of their victory over Burgoyne and directed the chaplains to "perform divine service with their several corps and brigades". It was a sad day, filled with apprehensions.

But in the following Spring, word came that France was joining the cause of the Colonists. This put more heart into every soldier, to whom the news was like the burst of spring. Washington again proclaimed a Thanksgiving Day, May 7, "for gratefully acknowledging the Divine Goodness." Lafayette was present; he like all others was in highest spirits. These two days marked the extremes of fortune in the revolution, the former its ebb, the latter its turning toward the flood.

Again, in 1789, it was Washington who, upon request of both Houses of Congress, issued a Proclamation for a day of National Thanksgiving. It was the first Thanksgiving Proclamation ever issued by a President of the United States.

#### **A Masonic Thanksgiving Day**

It is interesting to know that Grand Lodge itself once took cognizance of a Thanksgiving Day in the Masonic life. In June 1892, the then Grand Master, M.:W.: John W. Vrooman, made a recommendation to that effect, which was embodied in two resolutions submitted by a special committee. Although the recommendation was not adopted, perhaps for fear lest the Craft's special days be unduly multiplied, the spirit and intent of the recommendation was approved. The resolution read: "That the festival of St. John the Baptist, 24th of June, or when it shall occur on a Sunday, then the day preceding or following, be and is hereby designated as Masonic Thanksgiving Day. That the Grand Master for the time being be charged with the duty of issuing an annual proclamation to the Lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction, calling attention to the observance of the day and to such matters connected therewith as he may deem proper."

#### **Old Minutes**

If a tribute to the patriarchs and veterans of the Lodge is included in the program, its interest will be heightened and a suitable atmosphere created, if the Lodge is old enough to admit of it,

by a reading of excerpts from the Lodge Minutes of twenty-five, fifty, or more years before. It should prove a keener interest to present-day members than one might expect, especially if care be taken to select items full of human appeal.

#### **Suggestions to Program Committee**

A great variety of programs may be devised, depending much on the general nature of the occasion decided on by the Lodge. Below are given a number of suggested elements from which the Committee can make a choice, arranging them in such number and order as the circumstances call for.

1. Group Singing. (In charge of a song leader - Familiar hymns, patriotic songs, or familiar sentimental songs).

2. Invocation. (Lodge Chaplain or invited Minister).

3. Instrumental Music. (Piano, band or orchestra).

4. Vocal Music. (Solo, quartet, glee-club, etc.)

5. Children. (If the children are given a place on the program, they may present a brief play, a tableau, or a series of recitations).

6. Veterans. (If the occasion is used to honor the old-timers of the Lodge, they should be given a seat on the platform or called to the front. The M.:W.: or invited speaker can give brief address on "The Patriarchs," or similarly appropriate theme).

7. Excerpts from Old Minutes. (These should be carefully chosen, and checked in advance for reading time).

8. Address. (If an address of the evening is given, the subject may be on "Thanksgiving and Masonry," "Masonry in Early Days," etc. The speaker should be experienced in addressing such occasions, and he should have ample notice in advance).

9. Offering. (Such a program, if other circumstances made it fitting, would furnish a splendid opportunity for a free-will offering to some Lodge Charity).

10. Closing. (The program may be concluded by group singing, or by a vocal or instrumental solo.)

11. Benediction.

## THE LODGE AND THE COMMUNITY

### MAKE YOUR LODGE VISIBLE TO THE COMMUNITY

*Formerly Civic Program Service Letter*

Community programs may be conducted on any special occasion set aside by the Lodge to acknowledge or signalize its obligations to the community in which it is located. The presentation may take many forms, a special communication, a speech, a social affair, or participation in programs conducted by other civic organizations. The purpose of this letter is to suggest a variety of ideas, and to seek to encourage Lodges in a more heartfelt recognition of their community.

A Lodge stands under an inescapable obligation to perform services in its community. No Lodge exists on air nor resides in a vacuum. It is composed of men, occupies a material building on some actual street; it uses money and goods out of the public circulation. The community is its home and is also a field for Masonic work. The community places at the disposal of the Lodge the use of all its institutions, gives it fire and police protection, and in one way or another supplies the greater part of the material and machinery by which the Lodge operates.

Speculative Freemasonry builds no community buildings. What does it contribute? What can it contribute? What does it give to mankind in return for the almost incalculable amount of effort, time and money that mankind gives to it? Manifestly it ought to give all the service it can to the public in such ways as its Masonic constitutions permit.

Not to offer an exhaustive list of all the possible ways in which a Lodge may, as such, give service to its community, but rather to express the point of the above paragraphs in more concrete form, a number of fields is suggested.

1) Public Schools. Our Craft has ever felt a keen interest in the system of education "for all the children of all the people." It sees in the schools the greatest hope for the realization of its own motto, "LET THERE BE LIGHT".

Suggestions:

- A) Organize a committee to work with the PTA
  - B) Organize a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program
  - C) Work with your local D.A.R.E. Program and sponsor a graduation party.
  - D) Adopt an Elementary School Class
- 2) Public Libraries. These institutions, like public schools, are a visible embodiment of the Fraternity's own great motto. Encourage members to make gifts of books, or perhaps the library could

make suggestions of books that a Lodge could purchase and donate.

3) Hospitals. Hospitals offer fields for work that are genuinely Masonic. If a Lodge is able, it may help sustain a hospital or perhaps a bed or ward. It may help pay for care, medicine, or surgery in certain indigent cases. At the very least, it can take pains to help in some way to care for any Brother Masons or their dependents who may be hospitalized.

4) Houses of Worship. A Lodge will not single out any one House of Worship to support, but will support them all and will take pains especially to encourage every individual member to attend and support the House of Worship of his own choice and conviction.

5) Charities. Brotherly Love should not confine itself to Lodges and Houses of Worship. Relief, all forms of help, aid, and assistance to the distressed, is a Masonic principle. In contributions to Community Chests, in donations to various organized charities, in time or work given, in baskets distributed to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Freemasonry walks out of its own Lodge room to work for all, regardless of race or creed.

6) The Brotherhood Fund. Whatever a Lodge and its members may do charitably in their own community, they will want to extend their civic contributions to wider fields through participation in the Grand Lodge charities: The Masonic Home in Utica, the relief of distressed Masons and their Families, and the great work for all mankind through the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory on the grounds of the Masonic Home in Utica.

7) The DeWitt Clinton Award -- for recognition of non-Masonic organizations or individuals for outstanding Community Service. "Each presentation of this Award, in public ceremonies throughout communities of this State, demonstrates Freemasonry's historic concern and fraternal high esteem for voluntary services and individual involvement... toward truly significant endeavors in the public interest." (See "The DeWitt Clinton Masonic Award For Community Service," page 261)

By being visible in the community through community service, the Lodge promotes itself and its members. A by-product of this approach is membership applications.

## OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS

### **PART I: Father and Son Program**

The idea of a group observance embodying the Father and Son relationship is not a new one. Churches, Civic Associations, and Boy Scout organizations for a number of years have given such affairs an important place. There is something inspiring in such a program, something that emphasizes the value of any organization that can enlist and maintain the loyalty and support of one generation after another.

When planning a Father and Son Program there are two courses open -- a program held behind tiled doors when both Father and Son are Masons, or an open program when one is not a Mason. The advantage of the Open Program is that a larger group can be expected.

Assuming that Masons only are to be present, the program will naturally take on a Craft atmosphere that could not be maintained otherwise. Such a program has for its principle purpose the honoring of two or more generations of Masons in the same family. A special program may consist of Team Degree work where the Fathers and Sons share the work, or you may plan an evening where Fathers and Sons will discuss subjects of interest.

If it is decided to hold an Open Meeting, including boys of adolescent age, the program will admit of considerable latitude. For such a group, with ages running from very young to very old, the Masonic atmosphere will be somewhat lessened, but this will be offset by the wider possibilities in the matter of program entertainment. A special program may consist of a magic show or some other form of entertainment. You may wish to plan your Father and Son Program for a weekend when you can go to a Ball Game or other Sporting Event.

Whether you plan a tiled or open meeting, a Dinner should be the central point around which your program is built.

Provisions should be made for the attendance of a substitute when either half of the

Father and Son pair is prevented from attending. Also a proxy should be encouraged when either a Father or Son, whether Mason or not, has passed away. Some may prefer not to attend under such circumstances, but the invitation, if tactfully extended, will be appreciated.

### **PART II: Father and Daughter Program**

The idea of Family Oriented Activities is nothing new to Freemasonry. There are "Ladies Nights" programs and "Father -- Son" programs, but one important element of Family Life seems to have been ignored.

The relationship between a Father and Daughter is special and deserves a Special Program.

A Dinner or Light Luncheon should be the central point around which your program is built. If a guest speaker is used, the talk should be based on how "Dad is always there". Very often a Daughter feels she cannot communicate with her Father, and vice-versa. A short talk on the subject of "Love" and "Understanding", can help bring both sides a little closer together.

Some light entertainment would be a nice touch, perhaps some musical entertainment or a small Fashion Show. Quite often, local Fashion and Clothing stores will be glad to show off their new seasonal line of attire.

The possibilities for this type of program are limitless and yet very simple. Sometimes the smallest of gestures have the greatest amount of meaning.

Provisions should be made for the attendance of a substitute when either half of the Father and Daughter pair is unable to attend. Also a proxy should be encouraged when either a Father or Daughter has passed away. Some may prefer not to attend under such circumstances, but the invitation, if tactfully extended, will be appreciated.

*For other ideas of programs for the "Ladies" see the October 1991 issue of the MSA Short Talk Bulletin, Vol. 69, No. 10, Titled "Ladies at the Table."*

## MOTHER'S DAY

The idea of a tribute to Mother as a program in the Lodge may be surprising to some of us. At first thought it might seem somewhat of a paradox for a Masonic lodge to dedicate an evening to one who is not and cannot become a member of the Craft. But when that one is Mother, and when, moreover, we reflect soberly upon the teachings of our institution, we must agree that such a program is not only noble in purpose but is also of definite constructive value to our Fraternity.

**MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAMS.** Obviously there are two types of program possible:

(1) a lodge meeting at which only Masons are present; and (2) an open night, with a group of Mothers present as guests of honor. The question of the type of program can be decided only by the Master. He should have or acquire a knowledge of any special conditions to be considered. One such condition to be taken into consideration would be the number of mothers of members now living, and how many of them live near enough to the lodge to be able to attend. Another condition to be taken into consideration would be the facilities available to the lodge for the entertainment of a group of ladies. After giving due thought to these matters, and others which may be peculiar to individual lodges, the Master will determine which type of program should be used: (1) the *Tiled Lodge Program*; or (2) the *Open Night Program*. Notes on both are included in this Service Letter.

**COMMITTEES.** The average sized lodge should have four committees for an *Open Night Program*: Attendance, Welcoming, Program, and Refreshment. For a *Tiled Lodge Program*, the Refreshment and Welcoming Committees may not be needed. In a very small lodge, perhaps one committee could do the whole job, for either type of program. Suggestions for all four committees are included in this Service Letter.

**ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.** The work of this group is to get out the crowd, and its duties will include arrangements for transportation when needed. The work will also include invitations, and the prior determination (with the approval of the Master) of who should be invited. For an *Open Night Program*, this Committee should see that every member whose mother is living in the neighborhood brings her, and also his father, if living, regardless of whether he is a Mason or not.

Also all members' wives are invited, whether they have children or not. The angle of Masonic relationship should be extended to embrace all the members of a Masonic family, including children. Honor is to be paid to Mother in particular, and to womanhood in general.

It will be seen, then, that this Committee should be in touch with every member of the Lodge and get the name of the lady in each family to whom the invitation should be sent. In each case, the letter should be sent to the lady, and should read, "You and the members of your family are invited," etc.

Careful provision should be made for transportation to and from the affair for any who are aged and are not otherwise provided for. An example is an aged widow or couple whose son, a Mason, is living elsewhere. The same need would exist if the son has passed on. There are similar instances that will come to mind in any lodge.

The whole question of who is eligible to be invited, and the providing of transportation, should be thought out carefully in advance, in order that no case of Masonic family relationship shall be overlooked. A thorough check of the membership, beginning back about fifty years, is probably the surest method.

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE.** While this duty really devolves upon every member, it is best to centralize the responsibility in a

committee of three or more in the case of an **Open Night Program**. Their duties begin the moment the guests arrive at the door of the lodge and last practically throughout the evening. The visitors should not only be greeted cordially upon their arrival, but everything possible should be done by way of introduction to other visitors and lodge members, finding seats, caring for wraps, and contributing to their comfort in every way possible. When the hour of departure arrives, this Committee will see to it that all possible courtesies are extended to the guests as they take their leave.

It is customary at an **Open Night Program** to provide those attending with a boutonniere, a white one for those whose mothers have passed on, and a red one for those whose mothers are living. There is a sentimental value here which will include all present, as of course everyone is in one class or the other. The boutonnieres may consist of either fresh or artificial flowers, and should be chosen by the committee with the approval of the Master. It would seem that those who are mothers of Masons, whether the sons are present or not, should have an additional mark of identification. This can be done by handing out a bit of white ribbon at the same time the flowers are distributed, or by making the boutonniere larger for the mothers. This badge is important at the time of the tribute to the mothers. Whether they are assembled for the speaker's remarks, or rise individually at his request, from wherever seated, the badges serve to emphasize the significance of his tribute to them.

**REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE.** For a **Tiled Lodge Program**, refreshments may or may not be served, but in an **Open Night Program** they are practically a necessity. Almost every Lodge has done something of this kind on previous occasions; therefore, this Committee will simply organize itself with a sufficient number of Brethren to insure the orderly and thorough handling of this part of the work.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE.** To these Brethren falls the work of determining what the program shall be, how it shall be arranged, selecting those who are to participate, and seeing that all concerned are on hand promptly. They will receive from the Master the decision whether they are to produce an **Open Night Program** or a **Tiled Lodge Program**, but from that point on everything is and should be in their hands. In other words, all details of the program are handled by this Committee, both before and during the affair. It is assumed, as before noted, that the Master will preside, but that is all he should have to do.

The actual make-up of the program will vary not only with the arrangement of the lodge, whether tiled or open, but also with the amount of other business or social activity planned for the same evening. If the affair is planned in connection with a regular lodge communication, either as an actual part of the communication or after an early closing, the program should not be too lengthy. If held on another night, it may be desired to devote the whole evening to the program itself, in which case it can be longer and more formal.

#### **TILED LODGE PROGRAM**

- Remarks by the Master and introduction of the Program Chairman.
- Invocation: by the Chaplain.
- Music.
- Short talk on Mother's Day.
- Music.
- Short address: a eulogy to mothers who have passed on.
- Ceremony: laying of a floral wreath against the altar.
- Prayer.
- Music.
- Address: on the subject of mothers.
- Music.
- Closing remarks: by the Senior Warden.
- Music.
- Benediction: by the Chaplain.

**OPEN NIGHT PROGRAM**

- Welcome by a Committee Chairman and introduction of the Master.
- Invocation: by the Chaplain.
- Music.
- Short talk on Mother's Day.
- Music.
- Short address: a tribute to the mothers present.
- Music.
- Short address: a eulogy to mothers who have passed on.
- Ceremony: laying of a floral wreath against the altar.
- Prayer.
- Music.
- Interlude: recitation by a school child.
- Address: on the subject of mothers.
- Music.
- Response: by one of the mothers present.
- Closing remarks: by the Master.
- Music.
- Benediction: by the Chaplain.

In spite of the many possible variations, every program of each type will have a somewhat similar pattern. The following outlines, in convenient form for comparison, show suggested patterns. Either of these outlines, if filled in completely, will result in a program running more than an hour. But, a much shorter program can be developed in either case by filling in the outline in part only.

In both programs, the short talk on Mother's Day should be really short: just a brief introduction to the occasion after the general introduction or welcome by the Master. The principal address on the subject of Mothers may be long or short, depending on the length of the program as a whole and the preference of the speaker, who may very well be a guest speaker and not a member of the particular lodge which is giving the program. In the *Tiled Lodge Program*, since it will be strictly Masonic, certain aspects of the ritual and its teachings may be included. For example, reference could be made by the Master or the guest speaker to a certain

portion of one of the obligations; also to a sentence or two in the Master Mason Degree Charge. In the *Open Night Program*, mothers and children can be given parts, as indicated, provided they are invited long enough in advance to allow them time to prepare.

**ADVANCE PLANNING.** The Program Committee, as well as the other committees, should begin work early in the year and complete the main outline of their plans many weeks before the actual date of the program. Too much emphasis cannot be given to the importance of inviting speakers and other participants early.

**MUSIC.** Organ music, piano music, recorded music, or even a school band or orchestra would be appropriate, depending on local circumstances. A soloist would be fine, or favorite songs could be chosen and rendered by group singing. Some good songs would be the following:

- "Star Spangled Banner" ..... "Mother"
- "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" ..... "America"
- "Home, Sweet Home" ..... "I Want a Girl"

A combination of solo and group singing would be especially good.

**EXTRAS.** With either of these programs, the matter of special decorations and special lighting effects is worth considering, if at all feasible. Potted plants may be rented at nominal cost, and some draping and festooning of red, white, and blue will not be expensive, -- in fact, material and labor will often be donated if the opportunity is presented. Reception and retiring of the National Colors is in good taste on a Mother's Day program, as it is on any Masonic occasion.

**REFERENCES.** The Worshipful Master, the Committees, or the speakers may upon request procure from the Grand Lodge Library and Museum the loan of many kinds of reference material: books, clippings, leaflets, -- or talks already prepared and used for Mother's Day programs in the past.

## WASHINGTON MASONIC PROGRAMS

George Washington, whom we all revere as the Father of our Country, has an added claim to honor by our Fraternity. He was a faithful Mason for forty-seven years, a member of two lodges, and was serving as Worshipful Master at the time he was first inaugurated President of the United States. Therefore, Washington programs are appropriate in Masonic lodges at any time, and at several different periods of the year (including, of course, February) they can be given as anniversary celebrations, if desired. For example, the following are dates of important events in Washington's life which may well be celebrated Masonically:

- Jan. 13.** Proposed by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as General Grand Master of Masons in the United States, 1780. This proposal, which never led to actual election, was also made in American Union (Military) Lodge, 27 December 1779.
- Feb. 22.** Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1732.
- Mar. 3.** Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft, 1753.
- Apr. 28.** Became Charter Master, Alexandria Lodge, Virginia, 1788.
- Apr. 30.** Inaugurated first President of the United States, taking the oath on the Bible of St. John's Lodge 1, New York, 1789.
- Jun. 23.** Proposed as Grand Master of Virginia, 1777, but did not accept.
- Jun. 24.** Celebrated St. John the Baptist's Day with American Union Lodge at Nelson's Point in 1779 and West Point in 1782; and with Alexandria Lodge, Virginia, in 1784.
- Aug. 4.** Raised a Master Mason, 1753.
- Sep. 18.** Laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol, acting as Grand Master, 1793.
- Nov. 4.** Initiated an Entered Apprentice, 1752.
- Dec. 14.** Died at Mount Vernon, 1799; he was buried with Masonic ceremonies, 18 December.
- Dec. 27.** Celebrated St. John the Evangelist's Day with American Union Lodge at Morristown, New Jersey, 1779; and with Solomon's Lodge at Poughkeepsie, New York 1782.

Programs may take many forms, from a simple observance as part of a regular lodge communication, to a full afternoon or evening with all citizens of the community invited. Following is an outline for an extended program, which can be abbreviated or otherwise modified as desired:

**Opening music:** organ, piano, band or orchestra, choral singing, solo, group singing, or any combination of two or more of these types of music. If high-fidelity equipment is available, recorded music would be satisfactory.

**Invocation:** by a lodge chaplain, a grand chaplain, or an invited minister.

**Anthem:** "The Star Spangled Banner."

**Recitative:** Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

**Music.**

**Welcome:** by the Master or such other person as may be designated to preside; he in turn should be introduced by the Program Chairman.

**Music.**

**Short talk:** "The Day We Celebrate."

**Music.**

**Address:** "George Washington."

**Music.**

**Movie:** "The George Washington Masonic National Memorial."

**Closing remarks:** by the Master or presiding officer.

**Anthem:** "America."

**Benediction.**

Only if the program is to be a very long one, perhaps an afternoon community program, will it be likely that both a movie and a major address will be scheduled. Ordinarily, one or the other alone will be enough. If a motion picture is used, it need not be the one suggested but can be some other, with a patriotic theme not necessarily related directly to Washington or Masonry.

**BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS.** The life of George Washington has been studied and publicized in great detail for almost 200 years, and every American knows something about it. For the convenience of speakers and program planners, a very few of the outstanding events in that great life, including all known Masonic events, are outlined here in chronological order:

- 
- 1732, Feb. 22** (Old Style calendar: February 11.) Born about 10 o'clock in the morning.
- 1742,** Went to Mount Vernon to live with his half-brother, Lawrence Washington.
- 1748,** Appointed surveyor for Lord Fairfax.
- 1752, Nov. 4** Initiated in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- 1753, Mar. 3** Received the Second Degree in Fredericksburg.
- Aug. 4** Raised to the Third Degree in the same Lodge.
- Sept. 1** Visited the Lodge.
- Oct. 31** Departed for the journey across the Alleghenies to the Ohio Valley, with a message from the Governor of Virginia to the commander of the French forces.
- 1755, Jan. 4** Visited the Lodge at Fredericksburg.
- Jul. 9** With General Braddock at his defeat at Fort Dusquesne.
- 1756,** Traveled on a military mission to New York and Boston. 1759, Jan. 6 Was married to Mrs. Martha Custis, and settled at Mount Vernon.
- 1759,** Became a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia.
- 1764,** Suffered a severe attack of smallpox.
- 1774,** Represented Virginia at the first Continental Congress.
- 1775,** Also at the second Continental Congress.
- 1775, Jun. 15.** Elected Commander-in-Chief of the Continental forces. He assumed command of the army besieging Boston, July 3.
- 1776, Aug. 27.** Defeated by the British at the Battle of Long Island.
- Dec. 25.** Crossed the Delaware and won the Battle of Trenton.
- 1777, Jun. 23.** Declined to serve as Grand Master of Virginia.
- 1777-78,** Winter encamped with his army at Valley Forge.
- 1778, Jun. 28.** Won the battle of Monmouth.
- Dec. 28.** Celebrated St. John the Evangelist's Day with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- 1779, Jun. 24.** Celebrated St. John the Baptist's Day with American Union Lodge at Nelson's Point.
- Dec. 20.** Proposed as Grand Master of the United States, by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- Dec. 27.** Celebrated St. John the Evangelist's Day with American Union Lodge at Morristown, New Jersey.
- 1780, Jan. 13.** Proposed again by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- Sept.** Discovered General Arnold's treason.
- Oct. 7.** Court martial and execution of Major Andre.
- 1781, Oct. 17.** Surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown.
- 1782, Jun. 24.** Celebrated St. John the Baptist's Day with American Union Lodge at West Point.
- 1782, Aug. 10.** Acknowledged a gift of Masonic regalia.
- Dec. 27.** Celebrated St. John the Evangelist's Day with Solomon's Lodge in Poughkeepsie.
- 1783, Nov. 25.** Entered New York City in triumph as the British formally evacuated.
- Dec. 4.** Bade farewell to his military staff officers, at Frahnces Tavern on the corner of Broad and Pearl Streets.
- Dec. 28.** Replied to an invitation to visit Alexandria Lodge, recently warranted in Virginia by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.
- 1784, Jun. 24.** Celebrated St. John the Baptist's Day with Alexandria Lodge; elected an honorary member.
- 1784 Aug.** Received from General Lafayette a Masonic apron made for him by Madame Lafayette.
- 1785, Feb. 12.** Walked in the Masonic procession at the funeral of William Ramsay at Alexandria, Virginia.
- Jun.** Named in the dedication of the first book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of New York.
- 1787, May 25 - Sept. 27.** Presided over the United States Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia.
- 1788, Apr. 28.** Designated Worshipful Master in the new warrant issued to Alexandria Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

- 1788 Jun. 21.** The Constitution of the United States became effective on the ratification by the ninth state, New Hampshire.
- Dec. 20.** Reelected Master of Alexandria Lodge.
- 1789, Feb.** Elected President of the United States.
- Mar. 7.** Elected an honorary member of Holland Lodge 8, New York City.
- Apr. 30.** Inaugurated as first President of the United States, taking his oath of office on a Bible borrowed from St. John's Lodge 1, New York City. Jacob Morton, Master of St. John's Lodge, was a Marshal of the inauguration parade. Robert R. Livingston, Grand Master, was also Chancellor of the State of New York and as such administered the oath of office.
- 1790, Aug. 22.** Replied to an address by King David's Lodge, Newport, Rhode Island.
- 1791, Apr.** Replied to a fraternal address from St. John's Lodge 2, Newbern, North Carolina.
- May** Replied to fraternal greetings from the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, received through its Grand Master, General Mordecai Gist.
- 1791, May** Replied to fraternal greetings received from Prince George's Lodge 16, Georgetown, S. C.
- May 12.** Replied to fraternal greetings from the Grand Lodge of Georgia. Named in the dedication of the first Ahiman Rezon (Book of Constitutions) of the Grand Lodge of Virginia.
- 1792,** Acknowledged dedication of the first book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.
- 1793, Sept. 18.** Laid the cornerstone of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. acting as Grand Master pro tem. Sat for the Williams portrait, in Masonic regalia.
- 1794,** Williams portrait completed and delivered to Alexandria Lodge.
- 1794, Mar. 4.** Succeeded as President of the United States by John Adams.
- Mar. 21.** Was the subject of a testimonial from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, signed by Paul Revere, Grand Master.
- Mar. 28.** Received a delegation from Alexandria Lodge, with an invitation to a dinner meeting.
- Apr. 1** Attended Alexandria Lodge's dinner meeting and proposed a toast to: "The Lodge of Alexandria and all Masons throughout the world."
- 1798, Sept. 25.** Defended American Masonry in two letters to a Dr. Snyder.
- Oct. 24.**
- 1799, Dec. 14.** Died at Mount Vernon after a short illness.
- Dec. 18.** Buried with Masonic services.
- 

Washington was greatly honored during his lifetime, and even more after his death Masonically, hundreds of lodges have been named for him. The Grand Lodge of New York maintains one of his headquarters (in Tappan) as a historical shrine, and the Geo. Washington Masonic National Memorial Association has built a great monument to him at Alexandria, Virginia. Present New York lodges named in honor of Washington are the following: Mt. Vernon 3, Albany; Washington 21, 1st Manhattan; Washington 85, Albany; George Washington 285, 3rd Manhattan and Washington 240, Buffalo.

**REFERENCES.** Washington literature is voluminous, and a considerable amount of it is available in the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. A very useful Masonic book on Washington is a small one published in 1932: *The Facts About George Washington As A Freemason*, by

J. Hugo Tatsch. Another good one is *George Washington, Freemason*, by William Moseley Brown, published by the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1952. The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has also issued two useful publications, both by George C. Nuesse: *Washington's Birthday Anniversary Program Outlines*, and *George Washington And Masonry*. These books, and others, and also speeches and short articles, can be borrowed on request.

It should be remembered also that Washington, in addition to his activities in the military forces and as our first President, had many other interests. As surveyor, farmer, stock-raiser, and inventor he was one of the leaders of his day. His personal diary, a copy of which is on the Library and Museum shelves, reveals intimately the many-sidedness of his interests and pursuits. Moreover, he was so closely identified with all

national problems that his name is prominent in countless volumes dealing with all phases of our early colonization and government. The supply of source material for programs, Masonic, civic, and patriotic, is almost unlimited.

**MUSIC.** Patriotic music of all kinds is appropriate for a Washington program. Some standard quartet selections, and a few orchestrations, are available in the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. So are collections of some of the music which was actually known and heard during George Washington's lifetime: *Album Of Military Marches* (Music from the Days of George Washington); *A Collection Of Patriotic And Military Tunes, Piano And Dance Music, Songs And Operatic Airs* (Geo. Washington Bicentennial Commission); *The Music That Washington Knew* (Oliver Ditson Co., 1931); *A Program Of Early American Piano Music...edited...by John Tasker Howard* (J. Fischer, 1931); *Suite Of Marches*, arranged by Adolf Schmid (Schirmer); *A Washington Garland: Seven Songs By Francis Hopkinson*, edited...by Harold Y. Milligan (Arthur P. Schmidt Co.).

Some of the songs which Washington knew are still popular today, and we hear them frequently without necessarily associating them with the time in which Washington lived. For example:

- ❖ Hail, Columbia
- ❖ Sally In Our Alley
- ❖ Yankee Doodle
- ❖ Old King Cole
- ❖ The Girl I Left Behind Me

**WASHINGTON'S OWN WORDS.** President Washington's Farewell address as President, his inaugural addresses, and many of his other speeches and letters are rich sources of quotations for patriotic speakers today. His Masonic letters, though few in number, also contain words which Masons may well remember. Some of them are quoted here:

From his response to the address of King David Lodge, Newport, Rhode Island, in 1790: "Being persuaded that a just application of the principles on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be con-

sidered by them as a deserving brother."

From his response to the address of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, presented in connection with the dedication of its book of constitutions in 1792: "To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race."

From his response to the address of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina in 1791: "Your sentiments, on the establishment and exercise of our equal government, are worthy of an association whose principles lead to purity of morals, and are beneficial of action... I shall be happy, on every occasion, to evince my regard for the Fraternity."

From his response to the address of St. John's Lodge 2, Newbern, North Carolina, in 1791: "My best ambition having ever aimed at the unbiased approbation of my fellow-citizens, it is peculiarly pleasing to find my conduct so affectionately approved by a Fraternity whose association is founded in justice and benevolence."

From his letter to Brothers Watson and Cas-soul, thanking them for a gift of Masonic regalia, August 10, 1782 (this letter was preserved by Brother Watson and his family, and is now one of the most prized treasures of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum): "The Masonick ornaments which accompanied your Brotherly Address of the 23d of January, last, tho' elegant in themselves, were rendered more valuable by the flattering sentiments, and affectionate manner, in which they were presented. If my endeavors to avert the evil, with which this Country was threatened by a deliberate plan of Tyranny, should be crowned with the success that it is wished -- the praise is due to the Grand Architect of the Universe; who did not see fit to suffer his superstructures and justice, to be subjected to the Ambition of the Princes of this World, or to the rod of oppression, in the hands of any power upon Earth. -- For your affectionate Vows, permit me to be grateful; -- and offer mine for true Brothers in all parts of the world, and to assure you of the sincerity with which I am Yours, G. Washington."

## LAFAYETTE MASONIC PROGRAM

Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de la Fayette, a marshal of France and one of its first citizens under five governments, was an American as well as a Frenchman. He was also a Mason. He was a Major General in the American Revolutionary army at the age of nineteen, and an honorary citizen of the United States when he died at the age of seventy-six. He was a member of many Lodges, Grand Lodges and other Masonic organizations both in the United States and in his native France. Many Masonic organizations have been named in his honor. No other citizen of another country has ever become so dear to our own as Lafayette; no other public hero except Washington has made a greater impression on Masonry.

Masonic programs in honor of Lafayette are appropriate in any Lodge at any time. The entire evening may be devoted to his memory, or it may be a combined Lafayette and patriotic program or a Lafayette and Washington program. It may be for Masonic members only, or it may be a ladies' night, a family night, or a community program. Whatever the plan, it can be entertaining and informative, and it can be inspiring.

**LAFAYETTE'S LIFE.** Many biographies of Lafayette have been published, and every Master and Program Chairman should take time out to read one if possible. Meanwhile, here is a very brief outline of the story of his life, taken partly from the Dictionary of American Biography, partly from the Columbia Encyclopedia, and partly from the Transactions of The American Lodge of Research.

**1757** Born September 6 (one authority suggests September 16) in the province of Auvergne, France.

**1759** His father, a colonel of grenadiers, was killed fighting the British and Germans at the Battle of Minden.

**1768** Entered school in Paris, where he studied four years.

**1770** His mother died April 3, and his grandfather soon afterward, leaving him one of the largest fortunes in France.

**1771-1774** Entered the army and was promoted through the commissioned ranks to Captain; stationed at Metz.

**1774** Married, April 11, to Marie Adrienne Francoise de Noailles, whose family was even more distinguished than his own.

**1775** Attended a dinner at Metz, August 8, at which the revolutionary activities of the British

American colonies were discussed. It has been stated, though not confirmed, that he attended a Masonic meeting in Paris in December 1775. His daughter, Henrietta, was born December 15, 1775.

**1776** Withdrew from active service in the French army, June 11. Signed a contract with Silas Deane, American commissioner in Paris, "to serve the said states with all possible zeal, with no allowance nor private salary." He then proceeded to purchase and outfit a ship at his own expense, which he named LA VICTOIRE, and in which he sailed the following spring from Spain to South Carolina, without official French permission.

**1777** Landed near Georgetown, South Carolina, June 13, and was entertained by Major Benjamin Huger. Traveled to Philadelphia and on July 31 received a commission as a Major General in the Continental Army, but without a specific command. On August 1 he met Washington, who befriended him at once. He took part in the battle of Brandywine, September 11, was wounded there, and served at Valley Forge after he recovered. It has been stated by some who do not believe he was made a Mason before he left France that he may have been initiated in a military lodge at Valley Forge, but no record of such an event has survived. December 1, Congress voted him a separate command, that of a division of Virginia light troops.

**1778** Named in a plan, which did not materialize, to attack Canada; rejoiced at the news, May 1, of the French alliance with the United States (signed February 6); distinguished himself in the battle of Barren Hill, May 18, the battle of Monmouth, June 28, and the campaign in Rhode Island in the fall. In October, Congress granted him leave to return to France, presented him a sword, and praised him to the King, Louis XVI.

**1779** Sailed January 11; was welcomed as a hero in France, and proposed many plans for French action under the alliance; agreed to a French expeditionary force with Rochambeau as commander. George Washington Lafayette, the General's son, was born December 24.

**1780** Sailed from France in March, and arrived in Boston April 28. He was given a triumphal welcome at the home of John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts and afterward Grand Master. Rejoined the army at Morristown, New Jersey, and resumed his former divisional command of Virginia troops.

**1781** Distinguished himself in the campaign which ended in the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Oct. 19. Sailed for France, Dec. 23.

**1782** Again welcomed as a hero and consulted as an authority on American affairs. Affiliated June 24 with Social Contract Lodge in Paris. His daughter, Virginia, was born in September.

**1784** Sailed for New York, July 1; arrived Aug. 4 and was given a tremendously enthusiastic welcome. Visited throughout the eastern states and sailed from New York for France Dec. 21.

**1785-1789** Took part in social and political activities which led to the French Revolution; made a member of the Assembly of Notables, 1787. Probably affiliated with Union Lodge, Paris.

**1789** Made an honorary member of Sully Lodge, Auvergne. Became vice president of the National Assembly in Paris, and (after the fall of the Bastille, July 14) commander of the National Guard; created the French tricolor flag by combining the royal white with the red and blue of Paris; saved the King and Queen from the Parisian mob, Oct. 5.

**1790** Most popular man in France.

**1791** Accepted an army command in the French war against Austria.

**1792** Returned to Paris in June and vainly attempted to save the monarchy by his personal influence. Returned to the front, but fled across the border when the extreme revolutionists seized power in Paris, and was captured and imprisoned by the Austrians.

**1794** Voted \$24,424 by Congress as his pay as a Brigadier General, in lieu of an estimated \$200,000 he spent for the American cause during the Revolution and never requested reimbursement.

**1797** Freed from prison by Napoleon.

**1799-1824** Returned to France and lived in retirement at La Grange, near Paris, throughout the First Empire and the Bourbon Restoration.

**1803** Voted 11,520 acres by Congress as his due as an American

**1807** His wife died December 24.

**1824 July 13** Sailed from LeHavre for the United States, on an invitation of President Monroe issued at the request of Congress. Arrived in New York harbor Sunday,

**Aug. 15**, and was escorted to Staten Island as the guest of Daniel D. Tompkins, Vice President of the United States and Past Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

**Aug. 16:** received a tremendous welcome from the officials and citizens of the city of New York.

**Aug. 29:** wrote a letter to the Master of St. John's Lodge, Boston, regretting his inability to attend.

**Sept. 11:** visited Jerusalem Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and Morton Encampment, Knights Templar, both in New York City.

**Sept. 15:** received and entertained by a committee of Hiram Lodge in Newburgh, New York.

**Sept. 16:** visited Clermont, the estate of the late M.:W.: Robert F. Livingston, Past Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, and was received by a delegation from Widow's Son Lodge, of Red Hook.

**Sept. 18:** welcomed in Albany by Dewitt Clinton, and in Troy by the "Troy Royal Arch Chapter of Masons" where he was also treated with a collation.

**Sept. 20:** entertained with a dinner for 8,000 given at Washington Hall, New York City, by the "City" Grand Lodge.

**Sept. 23:** received by the Grand Master of New Jersey at Elizabethtown and visited Washington Lodge 41.

**Oct. 2:** visited a special session of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

**Oct. 7:** welcomed in Baltimore by delegations from Lafayette Lodge and other organizations.

**Oct. 8:** attended the Grand Lodge of Maryland and became an honorary member.

**Oct. 12:** dined in Washington with President Monroe.

**Oct.-Dec.:** visited, Masonically and otherwise, in the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland.

**1825 Jan.-June:** visited, Masonically and otherwise, in eastern Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Western Pennsylvania.

**June 11:** attended a reception at Schenectady, in which masons participated.

**June 12:** visited Apollo Lodge in Troy.

**June 17:** assisted the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in laying the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument.

**June 23:** wrote a letter regretting his inability to attend a meeting of Humane Lodge in Rochester, New Hampshire.

**June 25:** welcomed in Portland with an address from the Grand Lodge of Maine.

**July 4:** laid the cornerstone of a mechanics' library in Brooklyn.

**July 25:** accepted honorary membership in the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

**July 28:** entertained at the Masonic Hall in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with a reception and ball.

**Sept. 2:** farewell reception at the home of President Adams; sailed

**Sept. 8;** reached LaGrange

**Oct. 9,** and was given a brilliant reception.

**1829** Visited St. Julien Lodge at Brionde, July 31; wrote a letter to the Lodge of Perfect Silence in Lyons, regarding a contemplated visit, August 13.

**1830** Took part in the "July Revolution" in France as a leader of the moderate party.

**1832** Appointed Grand Representative of an American Scottish Rite supreme council "in and near" the Supreme Council of France, April 14.

**1833** Spoke in favor of the Franco-American treaty signed July 4, 1831.

**1834** Died May 20. Buried in Picpus Cemetery, Paris.

One important date is curiously missing. It is not definitely known when (or where) he was made a Mason.

**MASONIC PROGRAM.** Speech materials, sample programs, and other helps for lodge committees can be obtained from the Grand Lodge Committee on Lodge Service. Some of the ideas which a Program Committee may use are the following:

- ❖ **Opening Music:** organ, piano, band or orchestra, choral singing, solo, or group singing. If high-fidelity equipment is available recorded music would be satisfactory.
- ❖ **Invocation:** by a lodge chaplain, a grand chaplain, or an invited minister.
- ❖ **Anthem:** The Star Spangled Banner.
- ❖ **Recitative:** Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.
- ❖ **Music:** "The Marseillaise"
- ❖ **Welcome:** by the Master or some other brother he may designate to preside.
- ❖ **Music:** Appropriate selection.
- ❖ **Short Talk:** "The Man we Honor."
- ❖ **Music:** Appropriate selection.
- ❖ **Address:** "Lafayette and America."
- ❖ **Music:** Appropriate selection.
- ❖ **Movie:** (from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy)

❖ **Closing Remarks:** by the presiding officer

❖ **Anthem:** "America"

❖ **Benediction:** by a chaplain.

Most programs are shorter than this one. Each Lodge committee will have its own ideas of how much or how little to include.

**MUSIC.** For one Lafayette occasion, Brother Theodore Koster, organist for the American Lodge of Research, suggested the following musical selections, among others:

- ❖ "La Marseillaise"
- ❖ "Sally In Our All"
- ❖ "The Vicar of Bray"
- ❖ "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes"
- ❖ "Adieu, a Heart Warm, Fond Adieu" (Robert Burns)

All these selections were popular in Lafayette's time. So were the following:

- ❖ "Yankee Doodle"
- ❖ "Old King Cole"
- ❖ "The Girl I Left Behind Me"

**SPEECHES.** The two subjects suggested in the above program are not the only ones. Speakers might wish to choose any of the following: Lafayette the Man; Lafayette the Mason; Lafayette and Washington; Lafayette at Yorktown; Lafayette as a Military Leader; Lafayette's Last Visit to America, Lafayette and the French Revolution; Lafayette and Constitutional Government; The Lafayette Family in France; Lafayette in Prison; Memorials to Lafayette; Why Lafayette came to America; The Heroism of Lafayette; Franklin and Lafayette; Lafayette and DeKalb; Lafayette in Literature.

**REFERENCES.** Masonic articles on Lafayette have appeared in many periodicals. The best and most comprehensive is *Lafayette, Citizen And Mason Of Two Countries*, by Harold V. B. Voorhis, in the Transactions of The American Lodge of Research, Volume 2, Numbers 1 and 2. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania issued a small book on their own part of the story, with excellent illustrations: *The History Of Brother General Lafayette's Fraternal Connections With The R\W\ Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., Of Pennsylvania . . .* by Julius F. Sachse, 1916. There are many non-Masonic biographies, including: *La Fayette*, by Henry Dwight Sedgwick, *Lafayette, A Revolutionary Gentleman*, by Michael de la Bedoyere; *Lafayette*, by Joseph Delteil; and the great two-volume work, *La Fayette*, by Brand Whitlock.

# OUR NATION'S FOUNDING

(1775 - 1789)

*Formally the Bicentennial Program.*

It is of great importance that we not lose sight of the fact that this nation's founding did not take place in just one year, but spanned a long period of time, preceding the Declaration of Independence (1776) and extending to the inauguration of our first President, George Washington (1789). During this period many great events occurred which we, as Freemasons, should cherish and observe both within our Lodges and outside in our communities. Of particular note among these significant events is the formation of our GRAND LODGE under the ATHOLL warrant of 1781.

In some Lodges, dates of this period may be more historically significant than others -- particularly Lodges founded in that period; those which bear names related to Masons of that period; or those in any way historically or geographically connected with this period. These Lodges particularly, and ALL Lodges generally, have reason to develop Annual Programs to commemorate our Nation's Founding. The variety of Programs for open or tiled Lodge Programs is as broad as the imagination and inspiration of the leaders in each Lodge.

## HISTORICAL PROGRAMS

(\*) For closed meetings    (\*\*) For open or closed meetings

- 1.)\* The Table Lodge (M.S.A. Short Talk Bulletin 8/51)
- 2.)\*\* Washington Masonic Program (page 272)
- 3.)\*\* Lafayette Masonic Program (page 276)
- 4.)\*\* Washington's Inauguration -- A drama in costume. Program is available from Grand Lodge Library and Museum.
- 5.)\*\* St. Johns' Day Programs (Dating from the 1700's)
  - A) St. John the Evangelist Day (Dec. 27th)
  - B) St. John the Baptist Day (June 24th)
- 6.)\* George Washington Shrine at Tappan (Video)
- 7.)\*\* Drama Titled "New Roof". A 3 act play by Mrs. Gloria Peter. Approx. 50 min.
- 8.)\*\* Historical Roll Call Memorial Program
  - 1) Invocation by Chaplain
  - 2) Pledge of Allegiance
  - 3) Singing of National Anthem
  - 4) Musical Selections (Patriotic music)
  - 5) Roll call of Famous Masons in American History (See Heaton's "Masons in the Revolutionary Period" for authenticated names. Available from Grand Lodge Library.

The film "In the Hearts of Men" narrated by Brother Lowell Thomas (Kane Lodge) is very suitable for such a program. It highlights famous Masons who have contributed to the growth and preservation of this nation's heritage.

## **DON'T FORGET THE LADIES**

The Lady of an active Mason is the most important person in his life. It is a fact that most active Masons spend a great deal of time away from their families for one reason or another. This is why the Masonic Fraternity must continue to emphasize that Ladies play an important role in the Masons' way of life. Lodges are now beginning to realize the importance of Educating and Involving our Ladies. Here are two suggestions that your Lodge can implement to improve your ladies knowledge and understanding of the Craft and involve them in our Great Masonic Fraternity.

### **Inform Them.**

When your Education Team invites the candidate in for his first session of "The Lodge System of Masonic Education," invite his lady to sit in on the program. There is nothing in it that she cannot hear. After the presentation of the Educational Program ask both the candidates and their ladies if they have any questions. The Education Team should also invite their wives, so that the candidate's lady will feel comfortable. Perhaps the Education Team Coordinator would hold this program in his home and invite the candidate and his wife to an informal get-together with the whole Team and their Ladies.

### **Involve Them.**

It has been said that, "Beside Every Active Mason, Stands an Exhausted Wife." Your Lady is the one who reminds you that your meeting is this week, not next week, and is there to support you as you go through the chairs. Bear in mind the endless hours she spends alone while you are at Lodge. For these reasons, as well as others, we need to involve her in as many activities as possible. There are many programs available in this booklet that are open to the public and provide a chance for the wives to come to the Lodge Rooms to see Masonry in action. But is this enough? Try to plan a special "Ladies Night" program. The evening should be special, not a potluck at the Lodge, or an event catered by the Ladies of the Eastern Star, but an enjoyable night out when you can loosen your purse strings and really say "Thank You" to Masonry's strongest supporters.

Any man active in the Masonic Fraternity will readily acknowledge the importance of the support of his wife. It takes a special kind of woman to put up with us as we work in the quarries. Their unselfish love is the singular quality that we must not take for granted. Now is the time for us to come forward and educate them, involve them, and show them just how important they are to us and to Masonry.

For other ideas of programs for the "Ladies" see the MSA Short Talk Bulletin "Ladies At The Table" 10/91. Also read "What To Tell Your Wife" 7/39.

The following letter by Donita Papas is well worth reading

**"WOMAN TO WOMAN"**

*Reprinted with permission from the MSA Short Talk Bulletin "Ladies at the Table" October 1991*

Here is a letter which the wife of M.:W.: Robert F. Papas Grand Master of Masons in the State of Minnesota, wrote to all the wives of newly raised Master Masons in that state. Perhaps your Lodge could initiate this into a program for newly raised Brothers.

Dear Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_:

I have been advised that your husband has recently become a member of the Masonic Fraternity. As the wife of the current Grand Master of Minnesota, please allow me to speak to you "woman to woman".

With the ever-changing roles of women in today's society, with our newly found freedoms and opportunities, the place of Masonry can often be misunderstood by many. Male only organizations are often viewed with suspicion. Let me assure you that in the 26 years my husband has been a Mason, I have never had cause to doubt its good effects upon his character. The men with whom he has associated in his "Lodge Work" have been consistently men of honor and good reputation. The organization attracts men of genuine quality. As such, you should feel great personal pride that your husband is now counted among such an association.

Masonry is founded on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. Masons move quietly to remove human suffering. This is evident in their many benevolent and charitable activities. I might also assure you that no organization has ever stood so strongly in support of the family unit and all that it stands for.

Masons often state that their purpose is to take good men and make them better. As such, each individual member's goal is one of self improvement. As a result, the man who gauges his life in accordance with Masonic Moral Law will be a happier man, a better citizen and a more loving and understanding husband and father.

The Masonic organization also offers many opportunities for you and the family to participate: in events of the Blue Lodge, in their sponsorship of outstanding youth organizations and in their many appendage organizations for both men and women. Indeed, the Masonic organization is a family in itself.

In the reality of today's world, there are too many things which can lead an individual astray. During my marriage, I have observed that Masonry is one element which has done only good for my husband, myself and my children. As such, my advice to you would be to not only support your husband in his membership, but also to strongly encourage his active participation so that he may well learn the lessons which are taught.

My best wishes and congratulations to you and your husband. May you both find the joy and happiness that has been ours.

Sincerely, Donita Papas

## Lodge of Remembrance

The Lodge of Remembrance is an excellent way to honor the members of a Lodge who have entered the celestial Lodge above in any given year. It is recommended that this program be used as part of an Annual Meeting but it could be adapted for use in a public widows program as well.

Master: Brother Junior Warden,  
what is the purpose of a Lodge of Remembrance?

JW: To honor the memory of those brethren whom  
death has taken from us this year.

Master: Brother Senior Warden,  
what sentiments should inspire the souls  
of Masons on occasions like the present?

SW: Calm sorrow for the absence of our brethren who  
have gone before us, and firm faith and  
reliance upon the wisdom and goodness  
of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Master: \*\*\* Brethren: Commending these sentiments to  
your earnest consideration, and invoking your  
assistance in the solemn ceremonies about to  
take place, I declare this "Lodge of  
Remembrance" opened. Brother Senior Deacon,  
Brother Chaplain, attend at the altar.

The SD and Chaplain go directly in front of the Senior Warden in the west and face East. The Masters of Ceremony will stand in front of them and escort them to the altar. When they arrive at the altar the lights will be lowered.

The SD will raise the Bible and the Masters of Ceremony will drape the altar. When the SD replaces the Bible he and the Masters of Ceremony will return to their places while the Chaplain remains at the altar.

When the SD returns to his place, the Junior Warden, carrying white flowers will go to the west and join the Senior Warden directly in front of his station. They will then march to the East and escort the Master to the altar.

Master: Brother Chaplain, recall to our memory our  
Departed Brothers.

Chaplain: Reads the name(s) of the deceased. For each  
name, the Master will place a white flower on  
the altar.

Following the reading of the names the Master and Wardens each place a sprig of acacia on the altar. A long moment of silence is called for and the Master may make remarks following this. When completed the Wardens escort the Master back into the East and return to their stations.

Master: Brethren, give your attention to the Chaplain.

Chaplain: (*kneeling at the altar*) "Our Father who art in Heaven, it hath pleased thee to take from among us those who were our Brethren. Let time, as it heals the wounds thus inflicted upon our hearts erase the salutary lessons engraved there; but let those lessons always continuing distinct and legible make us and them wiser and better.

Whatever distress or trouble may hereafter come upon us, may we ever be consoled by the reflection that thy wisdom and thy love are equally infinite, and that our sorrows are not the visitations of thy wrath, but the result of the great law of harmony by which everything is being conducted to a good and perfect issue in the fullness of thy time.

Let the lose of our Brethren increase our affection for those who are yet spared to us, and make us more punctual in the performance of the duties that Friendship, Love and Honor demand.

When it comes to us also to die, may a firm and abiding trust in thy mercy dispel the gloom and dread of dissolution. Be with us now, and sanctify the solemnities of this occasion to our hearts, that we may serve thee in spirit and understanding. And to thy name shall be ascribed the praise forever. ---  
AMEN."

The Chaplain returns to his station.

Master: Brethren, this Lodge of Remembrance is now closed.

Lights are turned up and the meeting continues.

If used as a widows program do a short address to the Ladies.

