



God Bless America THE DELAWARE FREEMASON



FALL 2005

Message From The Grand Master

M.:W.: Donald D. Thomas



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Absolutely there is a change in the air; the hot, humid days of summer are past. The days are perceptively shorter and there is a briskness and freshness in the air. Off in the distance I can hear the University of Delaware band practicing for this weekend's football game. Trestle boards are appearing in the mail – the Craft has returned from refreshment to labor. Almost, but not quite, there is a brand new set of presiding officers in the Constituted bodies of the Grand Lodge, and they, and their officers, members and Lodges are raring to start work. And a wonderful year it is going to be!

I sincerely hope your summer was rewarding and busy and that you will return to the labors of your Lodge refreshed and exhilarated.

To all the new Worshipful Masters and their officers who now set forth to lead their Constituted Lodge, and thus the Grand Lodge, my heartiest congratulations on your accomplishments so far and my sincerest best wishes for the rest of your term.

The plans that your Bicentennial Committee have been working on for the past several years, and the plans that the individual Lodges themselves have been addressing are now about to become reality.

As we prepare for our year long Bicentennial activities, it is perhaps also a reflective time.

An independent Grand Lodge of Delaware did not come easy. The challenges before those few men who met in old Town Hall in Wilmington in 1806 were very formidable. It was not the first time Brethren in Delaware had endeavored to become an independent Grand Lodge, but this time they were determined, and they were successful. What a daring undertaking. Do we have the same commitment today?

Look at what wonders have evolved since that auspicious occasion almost 200 years ago. The Craft endured the ravages of the Morgan Affair in 1826 when anti-Masonic prejudices contracted our still fledging Grand Lodge to a membership of about 150 and reduced active Lodges from 17 to 7. However the teaching of our beloved fraternity were not to be denied and the fraternity endured this trial and grew. By 1972, membership in our Grand Lodge swelled to slightly over 9200 only to go into a steady, although slowing, decline.

In 1910 our Grand Lodge joined with 17 others to establish and support that wonderful monument on Shooter's Hill in Alexandria, Virginia – the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. In about that same time period our forefathers would establish on a hill, in Christiana Hundred, our own memorial – "Highfield", our Masonic Home.

In almost 200 years we have seen the Family of Freemasonry grow to include the York and Scottish Rite Bodies and their affiliated organizations, the Shrine, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Tall Cedars of Lebanon and the youth organizations of DeMolay and Job's Daughters.

Our heritage is rich, and it is up to us to pass it along endowed by the goodness that each one of us can provide.

Fifty years from now, if you were to go on the internet, using the latest search engine and inquire about Masonry, would the encyclopedia of that day say,

Masonry – *Was* once a respected fraternal organization which practiced the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Once the world's largest and oldest fraternal organization. Masonry became extinct in the year 2030.....or would it say

Masonry – *Is* a respected fraternal organization which practices the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The world's largest and oldest fraternal organization. Masonry has existed for over 700 years.

The decision is yours and mine, my Brethren, by what we practice each and every day of our lives – "Let Your Light So Shine".

This will be my last opportunity to share some thoughts with you as Grand Master through The Delaware Freemason. I am indebted to so many for the richness of many years. My sincere thanks to Worshipful Brother Chuck Simmermon and Sandy for the marvelous job they do for us in editing, publishing and distributing The Delaware Freemason. It is obviously another of Brother Simmermon's labors of love.

To all the Grand Lodge officers,

committee personnel, Worshipful Masters, officers, Appendant and Concordant Bodies, my sincerest and deepest thanks for the hospitalities and courtesies that you have extended to me, not only this year, but for the many past years. It has been an awesome year, a glorious year, a year Pam and I shall long remember.

But I also remember equally well that admonishment of the Apron Lecture of many years ago that goes, "Never again from mortal hands, never again.....can

any honor so distinguished, so emblematic of beauty and perfection, be bestowed upon you than that which we have now conferred".

My brethren, I thank you for that honor and the joy and pleasure of being of service to you this past year. May God Bless you, may God continue to Bless Freemasonry and may God Bless all freedom loving people where so ever dispersed.

So mote it be

The Harrison Award Presented To Christiana Lodge No. 35

The Virginius V. Harrison Award was presented to Christiana Lodge No. 35 on June 11, 2005 at the Grand Lodge Day Picnic in recognition of their attaining the highest percentage of participation in the 2005 annual Appeal in support of Highfield. Their efforts perpetuate the spirit of generosity and concern initiated by Grand Master Virginius V. Harrison in 1895 to provide for the comfort and well-being of their fraternal brethren in their advanced years.

Top Five Lodges		
Lodge	% Participation	Amount
Christiana No. 35	18.13	\$1,565.00
Granite-Corinthian No. 34	17.65	3,195.00
Hiram No. 25	15.02	1,686.00
Brandywine No. 33	14.95	785.00
Hope No. 4	14.81	874.00



Worshipful Master Kennard E. Brown, III (far right) proudly displays award as Grand Master Thomas and PGM Davis look on.

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