

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND RECOGNITION

The formation of the Grand Lodge of Delaware on June 6, 1806 from Lodges chartered in Pennsylvania and Maryland was not initially favorably received by either of those two Grand Lodges. Worshipful Brother Charles Green notes in his history of the Grand Lodge of Delaware (1), that on December 16, 1811 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania 'Resolved, that the R W Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania do recognize the Grand Lodge of Delaware and do agree to open a mutual and friendly intercourse with the said Grand Lodge, and to preserve and strengthen the same by every Act of Good Offices and Brotherly Love.'

Worshipful Brother Green then infers that by such action: 'Recognition of the Grand Lodge of Delaware by all duly constituted Grand Lodges in the world was realized'. The perplexing issue that has challenged many Masonic scholars of late was – when did the Grand Lodge of

Maryland formally recognize the Grand Lodge of Delaware? Although the two Grand Lodges have long enjoyed exceptional fraternal relations, examination of the records of both Grand Lodges has failed to reveal any such formal recognition although there is a tantalizing suggestion in the records of 1811 which mention a dialog with Jesse Green regarding official recognition. As this Bicentennial year approached, the absence of any formal recognition resulted in a friendly topic of mutual dialog between members of the two Grand Lodges.

On November 19, 2005, Most Worshipful Ronald W. Conaway, accompanied by the majority of his Grand Staff, several Past Grand Masters and a host of presiding and sitting Worshipful Masters, 27 in all, presented themselves at the 219th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland requesting admission. Most Worshipful Ronald G. Be'langer, Grand

Master of Masons in Maryland, noting the significance of the request, afforded the Grand Master of Delaware and his representatives, the courtesy to be received last in his Grand Lodge (whilst he prepared those already in Grand Lodge of his planned events for this special occasion). Upon admission into the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and the proper introduction, Grand Master Be'langer noted to those assembled that a still further Delaware Mason was present. He then recognized from the rear of the Grand Lodge one identified, and costumed, as 'Right Worshipful Jesse Green, Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and Delaware's second Grand Master. Upon this auspicious occasion 'Most Worshipful Brother Green' joined with Most Worshipful Brother Be'langer in presenting to Grand Master Conaway, the following resolution over the Seal of the Grand Lodge of Maryland:

The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Maryland

(seal of the Grand Lodge of Maryland)

RESOLUTION

Be it known to all that We the members of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland do hereby Recognize and Congratulate the
The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Delaware For
Two Hundred Years of dedicated service to this our "Gentle Craft"

The entire membership extends best wishes and support for the continued success of our Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

Given under my hand and seal this 19th Day of November 2005

Ronald G. Belanger, Grand Master, Herbert Y. Holcomb, III, Grand Sec.

Thus the mystery of 200 years has been resolved and the harmonious friendship of these two magnificent Grand Lodges officially sealed by mutual love and affection.

1. 'History of the Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of Delaware' by Charles E. Green published by William N. Cann, Wilmington, Delaware, 1956