

**THE DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES
WILL DEDICATE HISTORICAL MARKER AT
HIRAM LODGE NO. 25
IN NEWARK
JULY 29, 2006 11:30 A.M.**

On Saturday, July 29, 2006, a dedication ceremony will be held for the unveiling of a Delaware State Historical Marker which documents the history of the Hiram Lodge No. 25, Grand Lodge of Delaware, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons - located at 201 E. Delaware Avenue in Newark, Delaware. The dedication is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Senator James Vaughn is the legislative sponsor for this historic marker. The public is invited to this event.

Hiram Lodge No. 25 is one of four lodges that met in Wilmington in 1806 to form the Grand Lodge of Delaware. Originally warranted as Lodge No. 3, it was renamed Lodge No. 24 in 1870 after a brief period of inactivity. The teachings of Freemasonry are based on ethical principals that are acceptable to all good men. Freemasonry teaches understanding and charity for all mankind. It proudly proclaims that it consists of men obligated to extend brotherly love and dictates to no man as to his beliefs, either religious or secular. Religion nor politics may be discussed in the Lodge room.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the ceremony celebrating the rich history of this organization. For further information contact Karen Donovan, Delaware Public Archives at 302-744-5048.

HIRAM LODGE NO. 3
Grand Lodge of Delaware A. F. & A.M

First constituted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 96 in December, 1802. This was one of four Lodges whose representatives gathered in Wilmington on June 6 and 7, 1806, to form the Grand Lodge of Delaware. At this historic meeting the Lodge was formally reconstituted as Hiram Lodge No. 3. In 1827 it ceased operation but in 1869 Masonry was again restored in Newark with the establishment of Hiram Lodge Number 25. It held its meetings in the Odd Fellows Hall until 1890 when the group moved to the Wilson Building. The Lodge relocated in 1926 to a larger facility in the Academy Building, later restored as the Opera House on Main Street. Hiram Lodge moved in 1950 into its present location on Delaware Avenue on a site donated by a member of the Lodge, Norris N. Wright.

Delaware Public Archives – 2006

NC 159

- **According to Bob Benson 7-13-06**

- 1- **Originally named 96 under PA Lodge**
- 2- **Renamed Lodge 3 at Grand Lodge meeting in 1806**
- 3- **1826 – the anti mason movement started as a result of the Morgan Affair so the lodge went ‘dark’ (didn’t surrender charter) and stopped meeting**
- 4- **1867 it was rechartered as Lodge 25 which is what it is today**
- 5- **The charter master and charter senior warden of Solomon 36 were members of Hiram but all references to Solomon can be left off marker due to the fact it is the history of Hiram not Solomon (although they still meet there today)**

REFLECTIONS
on
DELAWARE'S
MASONIC LODGES



James H. Hutchins

**DELAWARE'S
PAST GRAND MASTERS HONORARI**

**Marie Jean Paul Roch Yves Gilbert-Mottier,
Marquis de Lafayette - July 25, 1825**

**Josiah W. Ewan - October 3, 1918
Past Grand Master of New Jersey**

**Frank C. Sayrs - October 6, 1926
Past Grand Master of New Jersey**

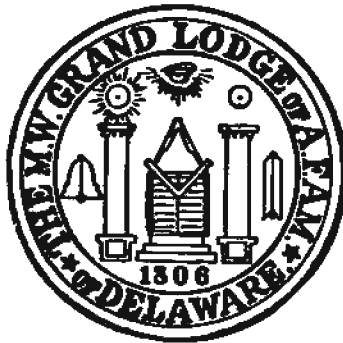
**Charles H. Callahan - October 5, 1927
Past Grand Master of Virginia**

**Carl H. Claudy - October 5, 1949
Past Grand Master of District of Columbia
Executive Secretary of Masonic Service Association**

REFLECTIONS
on
DELAWARE'S
MASONIC LODGES

by
James H. Hutchins, P.G.M.
Grand Historian

Authorized by the
Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Delaware
in Conjunction with the
History and Library Committee
Assisted by the
Delaware Lodge of Research



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Denton, Maryland
1981



PREFACE

This volume, prepared by our Grand Historian, James H. Hutchins, provides reflections on the heritage of Freemasonry in Delaware. Rather uniquely, Past Grand Master Hutchins provides this insight by examining each of the Lodges within this jurisdiction, thus providing a rarely found, individually distinctive contemplation of our ancestry. The result is an extremely readable volume for everyone who will avail themselves of it. All who read it will find additional light and further understanding as to why Delaware Freemasons are justly proud of their heritage. Hopefully, all the Brethren who read it, wheresoever dispersed, will be justly inspired to carry forth in ever glorious brilliance the honor which has been bestowed upon us by those who have preceded us.

Past Grand Master Hutchins' theme during his term as Grand Master was "FIAT LUX" — Let There Be Light — So Mote It Be.

DAVID B. CRAIG, JR.
Grand Master of Masons in Delaware

INTRODUCTION

During the Grand Lodge Masonic year of 1977, the then Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master and now Most Worshipful Past Grand Master James H. Hutchins presented a brief historical talk on each of the constituted Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction. These talks were presented as part of the ceremonies associated with the official visitation of the Grand Master and his staff at each of the constituted Lodges of this jurisdiction.

The Delaware Lodge of Research, in conjunction with the History and Library Committee of the Grand Lodge of Delaware, realizing the great value provided to the Craft by Past Grand Master Hutchins' labors and studies, undertook the task of making them available to the Brethren in this publication. Several minor changes were made, to reflect the current state of Masonry in Delaware and provide a brief reflection of the Grand Lodge of Delaware itself. In addition, the seal of each of the constituted Lodges has been incorporated as part of the papers. These seal reproductions were obtained photographically from seal impressions provided by each of the Lodges. The quality of the reproductions reflect the outstanding talent of the photographer in dealing with impressions from very old and often used seals. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that seals have been so presented. They provide the opportunity for great enlightenment and further study by the Brethren.

On behalf of all the Brethren who will enjoy this diminutive volume, the History and Library Committee of the Grand Lodge of Delaware would like to express their deepest thanks to the following: To Most Worshipful James H. Hutchins, Past Grand Master, for providing the basis of the work contained herein. Without his dedication to Masonic enlightenment, none of this would have been possible. To all the Secretaries of the Constituted Lodges, for their patience and assistance in providing the seal impressions; Mr. G. D. Burch for the photographic reproduction of the seals; The Delaware Lodge of Research for their assistance and support of this work; Most Worshipful David B. Craig, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Delaware, for his assistance to and strong support of the activities of this Grand Lodge Committee. Last, but not least, all the Brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction whose labors in the quarries of Freemasonry in years past and today, have provided us with a heritage worth recording.

DONALD D. THOMAS, *Chairman*
History and Library Committee

FOREWORD

Although over three decades have elapsed, I am still haunted by those echoes of the past charging me that as a Master Mason I am entitled to all its rights and privileges, as well as those of Ancient Craft Masonry, wheresoever dispersed. This admonition I accepted as a token, permitting me to pass through the unlimited annals of history, legend and symbolism of Freemasonry. I was thereby able to ascertain that truly the greatest and best of men, in all ages, have been encouragers and promoters of the art. I also realized that the history of each lodge was, in reality, our true Masonic heritage. Once this legacy is established, it becomes incumbent upon us to endeavor to project our Masonic image in our daily lives and actions. I welcomed the opportunity afforded me during my term as Deputy Grand Master to share these "reflections" with the brethren at the official visitation to each of our constituent lodges. To say the least, I was both honored and humbled when permission was requested by my peers to make this collection of essays available to the entire Craft.

I would be remiss in not acknowledging those brethren who made this publication possible. First, to Past Master Donald D. Thomas who conceived the idea and so ably coordinated the efforts of all those involved in bringing such an undertaking to fruition. Next, for the authorization of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware, through their History and Library Committee and with the assistance of the Delaware Lodge of Research. Also to my wife, Betty, without whose typing and assistance in editing the manuscript, the preparation of this edition would have been a task rather than a labor of love. Finally, it should be emphasized that these "reflections" should in no way be interpreted as a history of the Grand Lodge of Delaware. Past Master Charles E. Green, Grand Historian Emeritus, in his book published in 1956 entitled "History of the Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of Delaware", magnificently accomplished that task in a manner which can never be surpassed. All of Brother Green's writings, talks, conversations, and even the mere pleasure of being within his presence have been the inspirational light behind these "reflections". Recognizing the invaluable contributions that he has personally made to all the brethren, as well as being my Masonic mentor, this publication is proudly dedicated to him, affectionately known as "Seey Gee", with our bountiful thanks.

"FIAT LUX"

JAMES H. HUTCHINS, P.G.M.
Grand Historian

In 1894 the fourth member of Jackson Lodge to serve the Grand Lodge was George W. Green, who was elected Junior Grand Warden. He participated in the dedication of new halls for Hope Lodge No. 4, Laurel; Jefferson Lodge No. 15, Lewes; and Endeavor Lodge No. 17, Milton.

The fifth member of Jackson Lodge to serve the Grand Lodge was Charles W. Pancoast when he was elected Senior Grand Warden in 1900. The 20th Century began with the Grand Lodge mourning the death of Queen Victoria and that of Brother William McKinley, President of the United States, both true patrons of Freemasonry in England and America.

In 1916, H. Morton Price became the sixth member of Jackson Lodge to serve the Grand Lodge when he was elected Senior Grand Warden. This year saw the laying of the cornerstone of the New Century Club building in Middletown and the Grand Lodge adopted the issuing of an identification medal to all of its members serving in the great conflict, World War I.

The year 1935 saw Harris Samonski become the first member of Jackson Lodge to be elected to the office of Grand Master. Most Worshipful Brother Samonski was privileged to attend the meeting in New York when the President of the United States, Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt, assisted in raising two of his sons to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

In 1971 Walter E. Nelson became the second Grand Master to be elected from Jackson Lodge, having previously served as Senior Grand Deacon - 1964, Junior Grand Warden - 1968, and Deputy Grand Master - 1970. Only three years had elapsed when in 1974 the third Grand Master was to emerge from Jackson Lodge in the person of their long-time secretary, Henry E. Snedeker, who had also served as Junior Grand Steward - 1949, Senior Grand Warden - 1956, and Grand Marshal - 1971 to Past Grand Master Nelson.

Thus, Jackson Lodge No. 19 has played an important role in the advancement of Freemasonry since its founding before the Civil War. Let us emulate their example by not shirking our responsibility to take every opportunity to project our Masonic Image.



HIRAM LODGE NO. 25

On June 27, 1870, a charter was granted to Hiram Lodge No. 25 by Grand Master Edwin J. Horner, naming Rev. John France - Worshipful Master, Walter Turner - Senior Warden, and Prof. Edward Porter - Junior Warden. As the fourteen charter members constituted Hiram Lodge No. 25, the records show 967 Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Delaware in the year 1870.

The first lodge to be chartered in Newark was Delaware Hiram Lodge No. 96 by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on December 6, 1802, with George Read - Worshipful Master, John McBeth - Senior Warden, and Samuel Meteer - Junior Warden. This was to be the seventh and last lodge to be chartered in Delaware by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. On June 7, 1806, when the Grand Lodge of Delaware was formed, Hiram No. 96 under Pennsylvania became Hiram No. 3 under Delaware with a membership of about thirty. John McBeth was elected the first Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Delaware. The first evidence of discord is found when brethren of Hiram Lodge No. 3 participated in the chartering of Warren Lodge No. 16 in Glasgow on January 16, 1826. Hiram Lodge No. 3 apparently continued to decline until it finally surrendered its charter on June 27, 1833, with Warren Lodge following on June 27, 1851.

The present Hiram Lodge No. 25 was formally consecrated and its officers installed by Grand Master John McCabe on July 6, 1870. Rev. McCabe holds a record never to be equaled. He affiliated with Union Lodge No. 5 in Middletown in 1870 from Randolph Lodge No. 19 of Richmond, Virginia, where he had been raised in 1836. The same night, he was elected Worshipful Master

and within one month was elected Grand Master serving for three years. He then immediately moved to Pennsylvania in 1873, where he died in 1875.

The first Grand Master elected from Hiram Lodge No. 25 was L. Irving Handy in 1905. He was raised in Harmony Lodge No. 13, Smyrna in 1833, affiliating with Hiram Lodge No. 25 in 1897. Brother Handy was an educator, orator, editor, U.S. Representative and attorney. While Grand Master he, undoubtedly, presided over the most gala Grand Lodge celebration ever held in Delaware with the centennial of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Delaware in 1906.

In 1923 Edward W. Cooch became the second Grand Master elected from Hiram Lodge. Brother Cooch was an attorney, historian and served as Lieutenant Governor of Delaware from 1937-41. During his term as Grand Master, he was accompanied by about 500 Delaware Masons as he participated with other Grand Masters from throughout the U.S. in the cornerstone laying ceremonies of the George Washington Masonic National Monument, Alexandria, Virginia. This was probably one of the largest assemblages of Masons with 25,000-30,000 marching in procession.

In 1941 Clarence A. Short became the third Grand Master elected from Hiram Lodge. Brother Short was an educator, college president and industrial executive. During his term as Grand Master, the U.S. became involved in World War II, and, upon his recommendation, the flag of our country began being presented at our altars in the opening ceremonies of our lodges.

Thus, Hiram Lodge has contributed its chapter to the history of Freemasonry in Delaware.

