

**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**

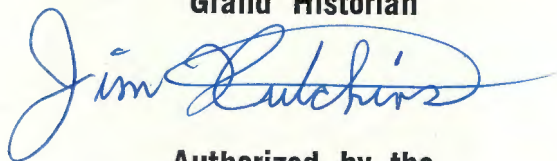
**Charles H. Callahan - October 5, 1927  
Past Grand Master of Virginia**

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

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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**



## 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*



## “THE GRAND LODGE OF DELAWARE”

Although the Grand Lodge of Delaware did not become a reality until June 6-7, 1806, the light of Freemasonry was ignited in Delaware by the chartering of Lodge No. 5 by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania at Cantwell's Bridge (Odessa) on June 24, 1765. This lodge holds the distinction of not only being the first lodge chartered in Delaware, but also being the first one to be chartered by the Provincial Grand Lodge of A.Y.M. of Pennsylvania outside their jurisdiction. Before the onset of the American Revolution, they were to charter their second lodge, No. 14 at Christiana Ferry (Wilmington), in the winter of 1769.

During our War for Independence, the Provincial Grand Lodge, A.Y.M., of Pennsylvania, was to charter two more lodges within the State of Delaware. They were No. 18 at Dover, chartered in the fall of 1775, followed in the spring of 1780 by No. 33 at New Castle. After the cessation of the hostilities with England, a fifth lodge, No. 44, was chartered in the summer of 1785 at Duck Creek Crossroads (Smyrna). This was to be the last lodge chartered by the Provincial Grand Lodge, A.Y.M., of Pennsylvania, as the next year, 1786, they formed their independent and current Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.

This period, 1786-87, also marked the first attempt of Delaware's five lodges of A.Y.M., chartered by the Provincial Grand Lodge, A.Y.M., of Pennsylvania, to form a Grand Lodge of Delaware. This initial effort by the brethren of Delaware failed, resulting in the re-chartering of Delaware's Lodges No. 5 at Odessa,

No. 14 at Wilmington and No. 33 at New Castle by the newly instituted Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania between 1787 and 1790. During this same period Lodge No. 18 at Dover and Lodge No. 44 at Smyrna both became dormant, vacating their charters.

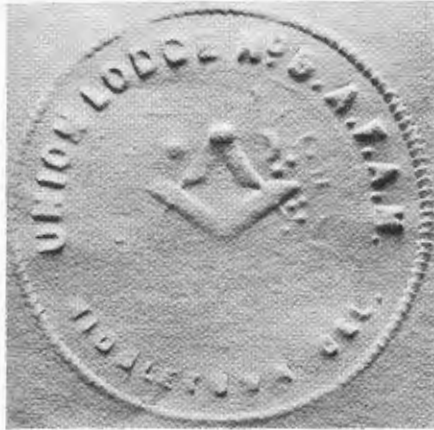
Delaware, with three active lodges surviving, next turned to Maryland in their quest for additional Masonic light. Following the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1787, it was not until the fall of 1792 that Maryland was to charter their first lodge outside their jurisdiction. This Delaware Lodge, No. 10 at Georgetown, was later to be designated by Maryland as St. John's Lodge No. 10.

Of the five lodges which had been chartered by the former Provincial Grand Lodge of A.Y.M. of Pennsylvania, only three remained viable. Delaware next petitioned the newly independent Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania which resulted in the chartering of Lodge No. 63 at Lewistown (Lewes) in the spring of 1794.

The year 1794 also marked the second attempt by the Delaware brethren to form a Grand Lodge of Delaware composed of the four lodges chartered by Pennsylvania and the one lodge by Maryland. Although they again failed and, undaunted by Lodge No. 10 at Georgetown becoming dormant about 1796, they made a third try in 1797 to form a Grand Lodge. This attempt, like the previous two, also failed with Lodge No. 63 at Lewes becoming dormant at the same time.

Delaware was again to turn to the Grand Lodge of Maryland for the second time when some of the brethren of Sussex County endeavored to have St. John's Lodge No. 10 reinstated at Georgetown, which had been dormant for four years. Even though their request was denied, they were successful in the chartering of Hope Lodge No. 31 at Laureltown (Laurel) in the summer of 1800. Finally, after the chartering of Lodge No. 96 at New Ark (Newark) in the winter of 1802 by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the stage was at last set for the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

At a meeting held at the Town Hall in the Borough of Wilmington on June 6, 1806, a Grand Lodge of Masons for Delaware was constituted under the leadership of Past Master Jesse Green of Concord. Nine brethren representing a majority of the lodges of Ancient York Masons established in the State of Delaware were in attendance. The four lodges which they represented were No. 14, No. 33 and No. 96 under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and No. 31 chartered by the Grand Lodge of Maryland.



### UNION LODGE NO. 5

Union Lodge No. 5 of Middletown was originally chartered as Lodge No. 5, Ancient York Masons, in Cantwell's Bridge (Odessa) by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on June 24, 1765, naming William Bradford - Worshipful Master, Peter Wyatt - Senior Warden, and Duncan Beard - Junior Warden. In addition to being the first regular Masonic lodge in Delaware, it was also the first to be chartered by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Pennsylvania outside the bounds of their Providence.

Lodge No. 5 met on the last Thursday of the month at 2 p.m., and during the period 1765-1779 initiated ninety Masons, fifty-seven of whom saw service in the American Revolution, two listed as Colonels, nine as Captains, and seven as Lieutenants. During these early days, the elections were held in December, the Worshipful Master being the only one installed. He in turn appointed the other officers and if any declined to serve, they were fined two dollars.

In August 1775 three visitors from Dover presented themselves at Lodge No. 5, and upon examination were found to be Ancient York Masons, but "clandestinely made". Upon their request, they were made regular by receiving the three degrees of Masonry and the same evening requested certificates of withdrawal in order that they might petition the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a warrant for a new lodge. By October 1775 Lodge No. 18 was constituted in Dover with the same three "Masonic visitors" serving as the charter officers of this new lodge.

In the minutes of September 1777, we find that Lodge No. 5 was prevented from meeting the previous month due to the confusion they were thrown into by the British Army landing at Elk. This, of course, was just prior to the Battles of Cooch's Bridge and the Brandywine. The minutes of Lodge No. 5 also reveal their part in the establishment of Lodge No. 33 in New Castle in 1780, as well as their participation with the other Delaware Lodges in several attempts to establish a Grand Lodge of Delaware prior to the year 1806.

Lodge No. 5 maintained its fealty to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania when the Grand Lodge of Delaware was finally constituted in 1806. Eventually, it became Union Lodge No. 5 under the Grand Lodge of Delaware in 1816, assuming their rightful place which had been reserved for them ten years earlier. Since moving their location to Middletown in 1822, Union Lodge No. 5 has contributed the leadership of five of their Past Masters to serve our craft as Grand Masters of Masons in Delaware: Arnold Naudain, 1825-1827; John C. McCabe, 1870-1872; William W. Black, 1899; and Francis W. Hukill, 1953.

In 1977 Elton P. Holland became the fifth Past Master of Union Lodge No. 5 to be elected Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Delaware. Under his leadership, the Masons of Delaware were challenged to share the responsibility of projecting their Masonic Image. Thus, Grand Master Holland continued the example set by his lodge, Union No. 5, the Mother Lodge of Freemasonry in Delaware, during the past two centuries of her existence.

In closing, let us ever remember the Latin motto selected by "Ole" Lodge No. 5, Ancient York Masons, in 1765: "Amor Honora et Justicia" - Love, Honor and Equal Justice. These continue to be the basic tenets of our Fraternity, even today, so mote it be.

These brethren, joined by four others, met the following day, June 7, 1806, again in Wilmington's Town Hall, resulting in the four lodges becoming Washington Lodge No. 1 at Wilmington, St. John's Lodge No. 2 at New Castle, Hiram Lodge No. 3 at Newark, and Hope Lodge No. 4 at Laurel. Thus, the Grand Lodge of Delaware finally became a reality with the election of Gunning Bedford, Jr., of Wilmington, as their first Grand Master.

Even though the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Delaware became a reality on June 6-7, 1806, after three previous unsuccessful attempts, the lack of unanimity among the Delaware brethren was still evident. A point of contention arose among the members of the first lodge to be chartered within the state, forty-one years earlier, as Lodge No. 5 in Odessa. They chose not to join with their four sister Delaware lodges at that time, fearing reprisals from their mother Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. So ten more years would elapse before they were destined to affiliate with the Grand Lodge of Delaware as Union Lodge No. 5, occupying the vacancy which had been reserved for them since the beginning in 1806.

Thus, let us as the Master Masons of today take this opportunity to reaffirm our Masonic principles as we harken the echoes from the preamble of those regulations adopted by our founding brethren one hundred and seventy-five years ago: "Therefore we the members of the majority of the lodges within the State of Delaware, the better to establish and promote order and uniformity, love and charity and to diffuse the general principles of the Craft, do ordain and establish the regulation for the government of the Grand Lodge of Delaware."





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## FIRST MASONIC LODGE IN DELAWARE



At the unveiling ceremony for the state historic marker at Union Lodge #5, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, in Middletown on Saturday (from left), the current lodge Master Glenn Davis was joined by Past Masters Gary Hutton, James Waecker who is also a Past Grand Master of the Masons in Delaware, George Piser, S.R. Smith, J. Fred Robinson, Ken Pyle, Steve Johnson, Larry Biederman, Jay Brackin, Wesley Logullo, and Jay Brackin Jr. at the lodge on West Park Place in Middletown.



Town, county, and state officials congratulated Union Lodge #5 on the lodge's 250th anniversary during the historic marker ceremony on Saturday. Pictured (from left) are Union Lodge #5 Worshipful Master Glenn Davis, Middletown Mayor Ken Branner, State Rep. Quinn Johnson, State Sen. Bethany Hall-Long, New Castle County Councilman Bill Powers, and Past Master Ken Pyle. BEN MACE PHOTOS

# Union Lodge #5, A.F. & A.M. honored with state historic marker on 250th anniversary

By Ben Mace  
ben.mace@doverpost.com

With a history that dates back to before the Revolutionary War, the members of Union Lodge #5 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons in Middletown celebrated the group's 250th anniversary on Saturday with the unveiling of a Delaware historic marker at the lodge on West Park Place.

Now meeting in Middletown, the lodge was the first Masonic lodge in the state, originally formed in the Odessa area.

"This is a very special occasion for Union Lodge #5," said Glenn Davis, the lodge's Worshipful Master as he welcomed lodge members, guests, and town, county, and state elected officials. "I'm truly humbled to be able to be present."

Sarah Denison, historic marker program coordinator, thanked Gary Laing for providing the history of the lodge and remarked about the organization's thorough and precise recordkeeping through the years.

"You made my job very easy," said Denison. "As the first Masonic lodge in Delaware with a history dating back 250 years, this marker is long overdue."

State Rep. Quinn Johnson and State Sen. Bethany Hall-Long sponsored the effort to secure state funds for the marker, and they congratulated the lodge members on their rich history and community service.

New Castle County Councilman Bill Powers presented a county council resolution honoring the special anniversary, and the lodge received a proclamation from County Executive Tom Gordon.

The members were also congratulated by Middletown Mayor Ken Branner, a fellow member who joined the lodge more than 40 years ago. He recalled the work that went into building the current lodge on West Park Place and thanked the state for honoring the lodge with the historic marker.

The lodge's charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on June 24, 1765, when Delaware was known as the lower three counties of Pennsylvania. The lodge was located at Cantwell's Bridge, which would later be called Odessa, where William Cantwell built a toll bridge crossing the Appoquinimink Creek.

The initiation fee in 1765 was seven shillings and six pence, according to "A History of Union Lodge #5 A.F. & A.M." by Gary L. Laing.

"Between 1765 and 1779, ninety Masons were initiated in Lodge #5, with 57 serving in the American Revolution - two as colonels, nine as captains, and seven lieutenants," Laing wrote.

Although Union Lodge #5 was the first Masonic Lodge in Delaware, the group continued under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for many years, in part because of the resistance of the Grand Lodge



The state historic marker recognizing Union Lodge #5, A.F. & A.M. was unveiled on Saturday in Middletown.

of Pennsylvania to recognize the Grand Lodge of Delaware. Union Lodge #5 joined the Grand Lodge of Delaware in 1816.

In 1822, the lodge members voted to move from Cantwell's Bridge to Middletown.

The lodge members met in different locations in Middletown through the years,

including at the old Town Hall and at 18 S. Broad St., but in 1984, two events happened that changed the group's history. Past Master Clarence Pierce died and bequeathed his entire estate to the lodge, and Brother Harry Shagrin donated land on West Park Place for a new lodge which was finished in 1986 and expanded in 1996.