

Greetings

to a
Mason's Lady



The Grand Lodge of
Free and Accepted Masons
of Ohio

To the lady of the new Entered Apprentice Mason:

A man in your family has now received his First Degree in the Masonic Fraternity. This will undoubtedly raise some questions in your mind and we hope the following will be helpful in answering those questions.

Sincerely,

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Lodge No. _____

The Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Ohio
P. O. Box 629 - 634 High St.
Worthington, Ohio 43085

Forward

You are now a Mason's lady and we take this opportunity to extend our first official greeting to you.

While you personally have not joined our organization there are certain things that may be helpful for you to know in the future. This little booklet will explain some of those things.

At the same time there are matters of general interest about your Mason and his new organization we think you would also like to know.

Save this booklet as it is very unlikely that the information contained herein will materially change in the years to come.

When and Where Did It Begin?

The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. It has its roots in antiquity and is directly descended from associations of "operative masons," the cathedral builders of the Middle Ages who traveled through Europe employing the secrets and skills of their crafts. The organization as we know it today began in 1717 in England when cathedral building was on the decline and the "operative masons" or

"free masons," as they were known, started to accept as members those who were not members of the masons' craft, calling them "speculative masons" or "accepted masons."

Freemasonry was brought to the United States by our early settlers and Benjamin Franklin, in an early newspaper published by him, referred to a Lodge of Freemasons as being in existence in Philadelphia in 1730. We now have in Ohio nearly 680 Lodges with a membership totaling almost 250,000. Throughout the world, there are approximately six million Masons, with over four million of them being in the United States as Members of Lodges under the Jurisdiction of forty-nine Grand Lodges.

Masonry is not, contrary to common belief, a secret society, but rather a "society with secrets." If it were a secret society Masons would not wear Masonic jewelry or publicly mark their many Temples.

Masonry has many traditions and customs which, of course, are known only to its members.

What Does Freemasonry Mean To A Member?

It would be difficult to summarize in a brief space all that a Mason learns through his mem-

bership, but, briefly, Freemasonry encourages a Member to apply to his daily living broad general principles of morality. Membership is limited to adult males who can meet the recognized qualifications and standards of character and reputation. Freemasonry does not interfere with duties that a man owes to his God, his country, his neighbor, his family, or himself, but rather by learning to understand, to live and to practice the fundamental precepts of the organization, he has an opportunity for self-improvement. It helps a good man become a better man — a better father, husband, brother, or son.

The Apron

Of primary importance and one of the main reasons for this booklet is an explanation of a Mason's white leather apron, its significance and importance.

The apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. It has, in all ages, been cherished by the rich, the poor, the high, the low.

It is his for life. He will never receive another one and has, therefore, been cautioned to take it home and store it in a flat position and protected from the light.

It is not necessary for him to bring it to

Lodge as linen aprons are provided for meetings.

Its sole function now, is to be placed upon him at his death if his nearest living relative chooses. Its moral application is explained to a Mason during its presentation. Its physical usage is now revealed to you.

Masonic Funeral

Every Mason in good standing with his lodge at the time of his death is entitled to Masonic services — even a Masonic burial. The latter is a service that begins at the funeral home and concludes at graveside. It is seldom used today but is available just the same.

The services consist of ceremonial rites only and do not allude to the bearing of any funeral expenses by the Lodge.

When a Mason is summoned to the final reward, Masonic services will be rendered only upon request. The Lodge will not solicit a request for Masonic services, but upon hearing of the death of one of its members will make the proper gestures by dispatching its condolences and then wait to hear if it can be of any service to you.

Let Us Know!

Contacting the Lodge is not a difficult matter. A Mason's dues card bears the Lodge's name and a quick check in the telephone book will reveal the rest.

If this fails contact the Grand Secretary, 634 High St., Worthington, Ohio 43085; telephone 614-885-5318.

Illness

In the event our member becomes ill we want to know. Again, the same method of notifying us can be used as explained above. In the past, members have fallen ill without our knowing it and their loved ones have been displeased with us for a seeming act of disregard when in fact we have been unaware of the problem. Please feel free to call or write us and keep us informed.

Meetings

Lodges meet in regular monthly sessions and on such other days as are necessary to conduct its business and ritualistic work.

While every Mason's attendance is earnestly

solicited, yet it is not intended that a Lodge should interfere with one's regular vocation or duty to family, God or Country.

Your Mason has invested time and money in joining our order and for years to come will be paying annual dues. He can best receive all that is his by frequently participating in its deliberations and events.

We hope that you will approve and encourage him to attend regularly and we hope that you will join us whenever proper.

Title

In the years to come it is reasonable to assume that some time while you are accompanying your Mason someone will address him as "Brother."

"Brother" is neither a sentimental nor a familiar form of address, but is a title — a distinction and an honor — indicating that he has been recognized by another as a Mason.

Brother is a title dating back to ancient times and is used in place of Mister or a similar title to which one is entitled by virtue of his station in life.

In Masonry all men are equal as no man is regarded for his worldly wealth or honor, and all distinctions are cast away.

Are There Masonic-Oriented Organizations Which Members of the Family May Join?

There are several groups to which ladies related to Master Masons may apply for membership if they desire, but this is entirely optional. If there are children in the family, they may find interests in Masonic-oriented youth groups whose teaching of patriotism and love of family will, we are sure, be pleasing to you.

Masonic Home

Ohio Masons maintain a beautiful Masonic Home in Springfield, Ohio, for use by its elderly members, their widows and orphans. However, the lodging of children at the Springfield facility has been discontinued and other arrangements are made when the need arises.

Members of the Lodge and their families are encouraged to visit the Home.

A portion of every Mason's initiation fee and his annual dues is donated to the Home.

If, in the future, need of the Home arises, contact the Lodge secretary.

Masonic Assistance

Across the nation is a network of Masonic Service Association offices. If, while traveling, dire need of aid should arise, consult the telephone directory of a major city for the number. If none is listed, a local Lodge will be able to make connections for you.

Conclusion

We hope you have found this booklet helpful and informative and will assist you in better understanding your Mason's role in life.

Again, we urge you to save it and refer to it when questions arise.