



PENNSYLVANIA ODD FELLOW AND REBEKAH MAGAZINE



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No. 4

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AMERICA250PA PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial AMERICA250PA was established by legislature and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and

Whereas, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has joined with the Pennsylvania Grange to be a sponsor at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation for the last two years to support this event and

Whereas, the purpose of this event is to encourage all IOOF lodges in the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania to hold an event at their lodge, reach out to their community and neighboring communities to participate in celebrating the founding of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence and

Whereas, all Odd Fellow Lodges share an integral role in this event;

Now, therefore, I, Paul E. Lautenschlager, Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim the year of 2026 to promote Odd Fellowship throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by giving our full support to this Semiquincentennial celebration and celebrations in your specific area.

I also request all Lodges who are holding an event to contact the Grand Lodge or myself for recognition.

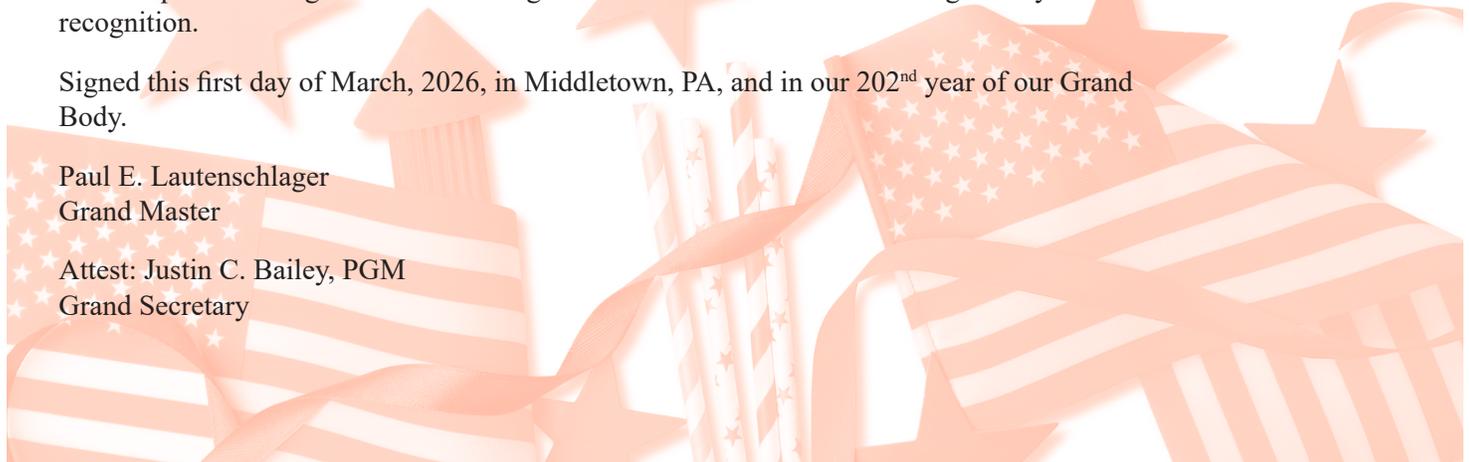
Signed this first day of March, 2026, in Middletown, PA, and in our 202nd year of our Grand Body.

Paul E. Lautenschlager
Grand Master

Attest: Justin C. Bailey, PGM
Grand Secretary



@IOOFPA



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In an effort to save money for the magazine, if you would like to receive this magazine via email instead of hard copy, please email the Grand Lodge at ioofpaglsecty@verizon.net with your name and Lodge and this will be done accordingly.

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GRAND MASTER'S CORNER

Happy spring Brothers and Sisters,

There is an old saying, "April showers bring May flowers", but at the time of writing this article, I would say snow, snow, sleet, sleet, rain, rain go away. We need a break. Some sunshine would be great. Now that spring has arrived, we turned our clocks forward to enjoy the early sunshine. I know that as humans we are never satisfied with our weather, but we must look on the bright side, it always could be worse. In Odd Fellowship we learn how to cope with the problems of the world in our daily lives. In previous articles, I referred to the first two links in Odd Fellows, the first being Friendship, and the second Love. Now, the third link, Truth. Wikipedia defines Truth as "the propriety of being in accord with fact, reality or actuality." The third degree or Degree of Truth, follows after Friendship and Love. Truth is the imperial virtue of Odd Fellows. In our Ritual, the Third Degree part of the Past Grand's charge, it states: The People of truth are the best and strongest people; their souls, like a spring of clear water, reflect the light of heaven and are full of life. Their speech and actions are always just--they win involuntary respect--they bless and purify all around them. They are a solid landmark

amid the waves of faction, the storms or passion, and the conflicts of error. Truth goes deeper than words and actions. It is an inner faith in mankind. We learn that Truth also speaks through emblems and symbols, which show duty, love, morality and our destiny in life. These symbols are a universal language, an admonition to us all, to speak and act the Truth, and live a righteous life. The lessons we learn will guide our hands to do the work of Odd Fellowship, to help our fellow man and to guide our hearts and our speech in a sincere and upright way. Friendship, Love and Truth come from within our hearts.

Saturday, April 11, 2026 Grand Lodge and all of our hard working members will be holding our annual Spring Rally at Aluta Lodge No. 488 1068 Bushkill Center Road, Nazareth, PA.

Bring all your new candidates, and enjoy a great day of Odd Fellowship. This is the perfect place to have your members receive their Degrees. I look forward to seeing everyone at the rally.

BE THE ANCHOR

Fraternally,
Paul E. Lautenschlager
Grand Master

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

The Board of Grand Lodge Officers congratulates the following on achieving milestone years in Odd Fellowship this month.

35 YEARS

Donald P. Smith, #201
Ronald W. Smith, #201

40 YEARS

David R. Cliggett, #8

45 YEARS

Brian W. Beeghly, #438
Joseph E. DeLancey, #438

60 YEARS

Raymond L. Smith, Jr., #1004

65 YEARS

Donald H. Leiby, #141

70 YEARS

John R. Grumling, #523

135 YEARS

Hampton Lodge No. 1004, Allison Park

140 YEARS

Askam Lodge No. 899, Sugar Notch

COME VISIT THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Master Lautenschlager has scheduled the following visits for April. I am sure he would appreciate seeing you there.

6 - Askam #899 OV - 6:30PM

7 - Victory #658 OV - 8:00PM

11 - Spring IOOF Rally @ #488 - 9:30AM

21 - Metropolitan #150 OV - 7:30PM

23 - Hopkins #87 OV - 6:00PM

26 - Unified Session Committee,
Harrisburg - 1:00PM

THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Fred R. Korman Lodge No. 55, Fallentimber

Terry Collins, Sr. - initiated February 23rd
Addam L. Dimmick
Brian M. Maul

Brady Lodge No. 116, Muncy

Michael W. Klinger - initiated January 21st
Robert E. Saul

Mackinaw Lodge No. 380, Landisburg

Kim Fitzpatrick - initiated February 26th
Damon M. Hartman
Becky L. Smiley

VICTORY LODGE NO. 658



Brother Stephen Nathan, of Victory Lodge No. 658, Sellersville, who third from left with brown jacket. He participated in a walk for the Coldest Night of the Year, in Doylestown for the homeless. They had about 250 walkers.



FREEDOM LODGE MEAT TRAY RAFFLE

Two happy winners of our meat tray raffle. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket to support our Lodge. It's things like this that allow us to give back to the community.



WAY TO GO PENNSYLVANIA!!!

One of the more interesting items in the Sovereign Grand Lodge IOOF Newsletter is to watch the new members list throughout the SGL's jurisdiction. All states and Canadian provinces are listed. The "final" count is out! I put final in quotations, because as of me writing this, March 6th, I'm just finding out about Lodges initiating members in November or December. PLEASE when you initiate a new member, let the Grand Lodge office know! Remember, a member doesn't count and cannot attend meetings until they are initiated. If you have prospects waiting to be initiated, let your DDGM or Grand Lodge know and we will get them initiated. On to the numbers:

Odd Fellows - NUMBER ONE! 644 members were reported initiated in 2025. We had 79 members initiated in 2025. The next closest to us was Oregon with 68 Members.

Rebekahs - We had 7 Rebekahs initiated in 2025. 97 Rebekahs were reported initiated in 2025. That's the 5th most in the SGL, after Alabama, North Carolina, Oregon and Massachusetts. The highest was a tie between Alabama and North Carolina with 14 each.

Encampment - NUMBER ONE! 37 Odd Fellows were made Patriarchs in 2025. 8 of them were from Pennsylvania. Next highest was Colorado and North Carolina with 6 Patriarchs each.

Canton - We had 5 Chevaliers mustered in 2025. There was a total of 24 throughout the SGL. We were SECOND, after North Carolina, who had 6, and tied with Hawaii.

Great job Pennsylvania! Keep up the good work and let's keep growing together!

Places to Go... People to See

+ denotes details to follow

APRIL

11 / Spring Rally, Nazareth, PA

MAY

1 - 3 / Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, VA

JUNE

5-7 / Canadian War Memorial, Ottawa
20 - 24 / Unified Session, Harrisburg (pg #)

JULY

25 / IOOF Fun Day, Knoebel's, Elysburg+

AUGUST

14 - 20 / SGL/GMC/IARA Session, Frisco, TX+

SEPTEMBER

19 / PGM Lautenschlager Testimonial, Dunmore+

All Lodges are reminded when planning an activity, if you would like your state officer's support please contact the Grand Lodge at ioofpaglssecty@verizon.net or 717-944-7419

TREASURER'S TALES - APRIL 2026

We have been following Barney's exploits on a month by month basis and we are now at April 1931. The big thing in April 1931 was Easter on Sunday, April 5. The weather in April is warming up and Easter Sunday was a beautiful spring day, I hope it will be for you in 2026.

April 1931 marked a number of noteworthy events, on the 2nd a 17 year old girl struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game in Chattanooga. On April 6, the film Connecticut Yankee is released, starring Will Rogers. On April 6, Linus Pauling published his book "The Nature of Chemical Bonds." On April 12, Joe McCarthy became manager of the New York Yankees. On April 23, "The Public Enemy" was released, starring James Cagney and Jean Harlow.

There were several important births in April 1931. On April 6, actor Ivan Dixon was born, he appeared on Hogan's Heroes. On April 7, military analyst Daniel Ellsberg was born, he was prominent in the Watergate crisis. Several deaths also took place. April 4, Andre Michelin, tire manufacturer died. On April 10, poet Khalil Gibran died.

Every year we discuss the Easter Egg hunt and Barney's involvement therein. This year we will try to do a mythical takeoff on the old legend. The legend of the Easter Bunny began in Germany some time around 1678. It has spread around the world and changed over time.

The Easter Bunny needed a break. The economy wasn't good in 1931 and he wanted to take a break. He could continue management of his candy factory, but the distribution of many baskets and eggs was too tiring for him. He recruited Melchizedek to take his place as the Easter raccoon. Melchizedek was starting to feel his age, so he accepted the job on the condition that his nephew, Saul, could help. The deal was made and sealed with a wine glass filled with jelly beans.

There is a magical factory in an undisclosed location where the Easter Bunny employs a large army of candy makers and basket weavers. He also employs thousands of trained chickens. The chickens have been trained to lay colored eggs. A few Ukrainians paint designs on some of the eggs, reserved for special baskets.

Financing for the Easter Bunny was a problem until the Easter Bunny enlisted a group of dolphins and porpoises to recover lost treasure

from the Caribbean. They have brought millions of gold into the treasury. As the treasure at the bottom of the Caribbean ran out, the Easter Bunny came up with an approval system, similar to Good Housekeeping. Many candy products are marketed with the "E. B. Approved" stamp on them. The royalties from these endorsements supply the money to operate the great "hutch" where the Easter Bunny lives.

A great deal of sugar is needed, as well as chocolate. Manufacturing isn't the problem, but distribution is the reason the Easter Bunny called on Melchizedek. The Easter Bunny and his seasoned assistants produce millions of pounds of candy, billions of jelly beans and millions of colored eggs. The world-wide distribution is simpler than the problem Santa faces. The Easter Bunny doesn't have to go in houses, just grassy spaces around the house.

Melchizedek and Saul used fairy dust to allow them to fly. The basket weavers were pressed into service. Melchizedek sprinkled them all with fairy dust. He led half the crew east and Saul led half the crew west. They took off early and met at the prime meridian in London around 6:00 am. It should be noted that a large field, north of London, was seen to have a number of elves and two raccoons, drinking tea and discussing the weather patterns around the globe.

For his services to the Easter Bunny, Melchizedek was awarded a 100 pound dark chocolate egg, filled with peanut butter. He shared it with Saul. Having returned to Grovers Mill, all the raccoons met at the park, where Melchizedek carved the egg, like a huge water melon and shared it with the raccoons in the area. As Barney drove to church, he noticed a large gathering of raccoons. It surprised him because there had been little pilferage of the eggs left for the local children and he wondered what had preoccupied the local raccoons.

Comments and questions are always welcomed by the Grand Treasurer and Past Sovereign Grand Master. You can contact him by email at jcupp275@gmail.com or conventional mail at P.O. Box 275, Hopewood PA 15445.

ODD FELLOWS & REBEKAHS ASSOC. OF W. PA 2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Spring has once again arrived and with it comes the news that the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Association of Western Pennsylvania will once again begin accepting applications for consideration in the awarding of a maximum of six (6) \$4,000 scholarships. This will mark the 21st consecutive year the Association has offered these Awards and has awarded an undergraduate total of \$252,000 since its inception in 2006. The application deadline for the 2026 Scholarship Awards will be Saturday, June 27, 2026. A copy of the "Rules," along with an "Application," was sent to all the lodges representing the Western District on April 1, 2026. All areas of concentration will be considered. An important reminder regarding three of the requirements for the Awards: 1) The applicant or a living family relative must be a member of the I.O.O.F or Rebekahs of Western Pennsylvania (formerly know as the Western District), 2) The applicant must have completed at least one year at an accredited college/university or technical/trade school, and 3) The applicant must be a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited college/university or technical/trade school.

If interested in obtaining a copy of the "Rules" and an "Application," this can be done by: 1) contacting your Lodge secretary, 2) emailing Scholarship Chairman Robert Grant at "robagg@comcast.net," or 3) downloading from our website: "www.glpaioof.org" beginning April 1, 2026. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 27, 2026.

NEWBURG LODGE NO. 562



On February 14 we took our wives out for a night of fellowship for Valentine's Day
~ NG Ed Chamberlin



FREEDOM LODGE NO. 88

During their meeting at Freedom Lodge #88 on February 18th, Grand Master Paul Lautenschlager and District Deputy Grand Master Andrew Kilmer presented Past Grand jewels to Past Grand Bert Terysen and Past Grand Doug Buchinski. Photo by Jessica Kilmer.



ODD FELLOWS HELPING AT THE BOOTH AT THE PA. STATE FARM



SHOW. PICTURES TAKEN BY GM PAUL

MT. VERNON ENCAMPMENT



In the photo are attending members of Mt. Vernon Encampment No. 14 and our honored guests from our adopted charities.
~ Jonathan Paules

On Sunday, February 1st, 2026, Mt. Vernon Encampment No. 14 celebrated its 181st anniversary with their annual dinner. In conjunction with the dinner Mt. Vernon Encampment No. 14 distributed their annual donations to local charities which they have adopted.

This year's charities and guests included:

- Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors
- Salvation Army of York
- First Capital EMS
- Cornerstone Youth Home
- WYCA of York
- Bell Socialization Services of York
- Human Life Services
- Project Manna of the York JCC
- September House Senior Center
- Northeastern Senior Center

DISTRICT 1 GROWS

On Friday evening, Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge #201 hosted a joint initiation ceremony together with our neighbors Vincent Lodge #762, of Spring City, and Paoli Lodge #290, of Downingtown. Members once again put on traditional robes and performed the initiation ritual.

Malvern-Pocahontas Lodge was proud to welcome one new member, Brother Steven, while our neighbors welcomed three additional new members.

Strengthened by this evening of fellowship, we look forward with renewed confidence to upcoming fraternal gatherings and community events.



WARREN LODGE SUPPORTS THE YOUTH

This year, as in past years, the Warren Lodge 339 is helping the Cornplanter Scout Council with the Pinewood Derby. During the months of January and February the Lodge becomes quite active almost every evening with Cub Scouts and their parents getting help building their Pinewood Racers. The dining room is turned into a design studio and assembly shop. One of the other rooms at the Lodge is a complete wood working shop with band saws, jig saws, drill presses, turning lathes, sanding booths and paint booths. In that time period will normally assist around 100 Cub

Scouts in building their cars. Along with the Cub Scouts we also do the same for the local Girl Scout troops.

The committee has secured the social hall of a local church in Russell for holding the races. The first Saturday of races runs all day with all the Packs running and determining their winners. The second weekend is the Council Races where the top 3 winners from each pack compete for the Council championships. This is also the day that the Girl Scouts race and we also hold the adult modified races.

MARCH OBITUARIES

Due to publication time, we regret we cannot accept Obituaries older than three months.



Clair W. Hawkins
Waterfall Lodge No. 773
Genesis Encampment No. 15
February 18, 2026

Brother Clair W. Hawkins, 87, of Harrisonville, PA, was initiated into Harrisonville Lodge #710 on June 1, 1967, where he became a Past Grand on October 20, 1969 and received his Grand Lodge Degree on December 10, 1994. He became a member of Waterfall Lodge #773, New Grenada, PA, through consolidation on April 27, 2013. At the time of his death, he was the Lodge's Noble Grand, a position he held for several years, and many years at Harrisonville Lodge #710 until their consolidation. He was a charter member of Genesis Encampment No. 15, Cassville, when they instituted June 18, 2005 and became a Past Chief Patriarch.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran.

Burial was held in Fairview Cemetery, Harrisonville, PA.



G. Lynn Golden
York Springs Lodge No. 211
February 28, 2026

Brother G. Lynn Golden, 89, of York Springs, PA, was initiated into York Springs Lodge #211 on October 15, 2020. He came from a long line of Odd Fellows.

He was a U. S. Army Veteran and a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, York Springs.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra Kratzer. Surviving is one son, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and his sister, Yolanda Howe, PG of York Springs Lodge.



John R. Grumling
Past District Deputy Grand Patriarch
Alma Lodge No. 523
William F. Packer Encampment No. 127
March 9, 2026

Brother John R. Grumling, 88, of Johnstown, PA, was initiated into Alma Lodge #523, Johnstown, PA, on April 25, 1956, where he became a Past Grand on October 5, 1990 and received his Grand Lodge Degree June 21, 2001. He became a Patriarch of William F. Packer Encampment #127, Johnstown, on February 4, 1958 where he served several years as District Deputy Grand Patriarch.

He was a member of the Franklin Street Methodist Church.

Surviving is his wife, the former Mary Jo Hatcher, also of Alma Lodge and William Packer Encampment, one son, one daughter and two grandsons.

Services were conducted by the members of his Lodge and Encampment.

THE ANTEROOM KID

Heart In Hand Institute
110 W Sale Street
Tuscola, IL 61953

Contact: Michael Greenzeiger
greenzeiger@heartinhandinstitute.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2026

Children's Book About Fraternalism Now Available

The Anteroom Kid presents fraternalism for children

TUSCOLA, Illinois — Lodge members have a great love and appreciation for their membership in the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, with a strong desire to pass that love of fraternalism on to the young people in their lives but don't always know how. A new book by Brother Garrett Hite of Oklahoma presents an ideal opportunity to share that love. *The Anteroom Kid* tells the story of Russell, a young boy who attends lodge with his father, waiting in the anteroom during lodge meetings and dreaming up elaborate scenarios of what must be going on behind the closed door. It's a charming and heart-warming tale that depicts the sense of wonder and awe Russell has for his father and the lodge's activities.

The book is aimed directly at young readers, with bright illustrations throughout and a story that is readable by most elementary readers. Children will find a very relatable protagonist in Russell, who loves spending time with his father, especially in the lodge hall with its "platters of roast chicken, rolls, and an abundance of green beans." The real magic happens when the door to the lodge is closed and Russell is left to his own imagination, which conjures up all kinds of fanciful stories of knights, pirates, wizards, explorers, and a treasure map. Most importantly, the book imparts a sense of admiration about the lodge, exemplified by the line, "He didn't know what really happened in the lodge, but he knew one thing for sure: Whatever it was, it was something good."

The Anteroom Kid is available directly from publisher Heart In Hand Institute through their website at <https://www.heartinhandinstitute.com> and also through major online book sellers. Copies will be available for sale at the upcoming Sovereign Grand Lodge session in Texas.

Their first children's book, *The Anteroom Kid*, furthers the mission of the Heart In Hand Institute of providing quality literature for Odd Fellows, of both an instructional and entertaining nature. Their previous title, *The Odd Fellows Chaplain: History And Manual*, provided a much-needed history and guide for the role of Chaplain across all branches of the Order. Their joke book, *Three Links Hijinks*, filled a long-standing need for a collection of jokes appropriate for Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. *Emblems of Odd Fellowship* reintroduced modern Odd Fellows to our rich tradition of symbols used to teach our lessons. *The District Deputy's Guide* bolstered the field of member training by providing a comprehensive guide for District Deputies for the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. Their first title, *The Odd Fellows' Primer*, has become the de facto book for educating new members about the history and traditions of Odd Fellowship, selling more than three thousand copies to date.

The Anteroom Kid



Written and Illustrated by
Garrett Hite

MACKINAW CONTINUES TO GROW

Mackinaw Lodge #380, of Landisburg, initiated 3 new members at their meeting. 13 members were in attendance. Members had some great food and fellowship time before the meeting. We are excited to see another Lodge grow. On behalf of all the York Springs members who are also associates at Mackinaw, we are proud to see all the work happening in Perry County.



PGM Paul E. Lautenschlager Testimonial Dinner

To be held on September 19,2026 at the Holiday Inn in Dunmore 200Tigue St. Dunmore, Pa 18512. Reservations can be made at link below: or call 1 570 866 2365
https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=S CRED&checkInDate=19&checkInMonthYear=082026&checkOutDate=20&checkOutMonthYear=082026&_PMID=99801505&GPC=OOF&cn=no&adjustMonth=false&showApp=true&monthIndex=00

Room rates are: King \$129.00 / 2 Queen \$149.00

DEADLINE for REGISTRATION is August 22,2026

After that date you will not be offered the Hotel room rate.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing address: _____ Email: _____

Date of initiation in the IOOF _____

_____ () check here for Dietary needs
Vegetarian / Gluten

Cocktail hour 4:30-5:30 Cash Bar

Dinner 5:45 - 6:45

Guest Speakers 6:50- 7:30

Dance the night away with the Longo Brothers band - 7:30-10:30

Dinner Buffet to consist of: Rolls with butter, Caesar Salad, Sliced roast beef with gravy, Chicken Scampi, baked cod with lemon slices, Roasted potatoes, Chef's choice vegetable, Coffee, Tea, nonalcoholic soft drinks, water, Iced tea

cost of dinner is \$50.00

Testimonial ad Booklet full page \$30.00 half page \$ 20.00 quarter page \$15.00

boosters 1.00 no titles send ads to Thomas McHugh tmchugh@epix.com with payment
288 Church Road, Mountain Top, PA 18707

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CANAWACTA LODGE # 207
and mail to Andrew Kilmer
940 Spring Hill Rd
Sterling PA 18463

FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER... HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL NEVIN W. ADAMS, PDC

After the February storms I was finally able to make a visit to beautiful Berks County Memorial Gardens to honor our twentieth Department Commander, Brigadier General Nevin Adams and his wife Myra



Adams - Odd Fellows that are very special to our Jurisdiction. Brigadier General Adams led the Pennsylvania Patriarchs Militant from 2001 to 2004.

Nevin William Adams was born 1935 in Maiden Creek, Berks County to Paul and Florence Adams. The family moved to Ontelaunee and then Bern. He was an outstanding baseball player at Schuylkill Valley High School in Leesport. Nevin was a standout pitcher and even had realistic professional aspirations. He worked at Ontelaunee Orchards during High School and then entered the US Air Force. In 1960 Nevin married Myra Taldo and they moved to Shoemakersville. He spent much of his career as a branch manager at Roland and Roland, a building materials company in Bethlehem. The Adams' were members of St. John's Church in Ontelaunee.

Brother Adams joined Leesport Lodge #141 in 1970. He went on to serve in more Jurisdictional Committees and Offices than can be listed here. He was a Director for both the Orphans and Middletown Homes, Chairman of two Unified Sessions and was active with the Arthritis Committee. He was Grand Representative for three years and Grand Chaplain for two Grand Masters. Brother Adams was elected Grand Master for two terms (1999-2001). He served in many Encampment Offices and went on to become Grand Patriarch (2005-2006). He also served as Grand Encampment Treasurer for 8 years.

Brigadier General Adams was a Chevalier of Canton Leesport #14. He rose through the Patriarchs Militant ranks, serving in various Department Council Offices, until 2002 when he was promoted to Brigadier General and assumed the office of Department Commander of Pennsylvania, Patriarchs Militant - our twentieth Commander. He served until 2005. Note that this was an unusual three years in office. After his two year term he stayed in for one more year, then turned the Department Commander office over to Brigadier General Stamm, who after one year was elected into his regular two year term, thus also serving three years. It is unclear why this had to be done, but whatever the reason, this arrangement allowed for continuity in our chain of leadership.

We also took time to honor the contributions of Lady Myra Adams who dedicated many years

to our Order with much distinction. She joined Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge #182 in 1973 and was an active LEA member. She dedicated generously of her time to the Orphans and Middletown Homes, the Arthritis Committee and countless other responsibilities. She was very active in the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant. Originally a member of Leesport LAPM #2, she was elected Pennsylvania Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant President (2003-2005) and served on various International Association LAPM Committees. We respect the many years that Lady Adams dedicated to our Order and the assistance that she gave to Brigadier General Adams in carrying out his duties. She and Brigadier General Adams were one of the great Odd Fellows couples that have been synonymous with Pennsylvania Odd Fellowship for generations.

A number of things stand out as extraordinary aspects of Brigadier General and President Adams' time as leaders. Nevin Adams was one of the few in our history who held all three top offices - Grand Master, Grand Patriarch and Department Commander. The Adams' were a rare couple that served as the leaders of their branches simultaneously (PM and LAPM). Some of their greatest contributions were involvement with the various Homes and the Arthritis Program where together they were very active. Youth was also important to them. They sponsored exchange students and gave generously through working extensively with youth. They faithfully and diligently carried out our IOOF principles, doing what Odd Fellows should do and we strive to follow their example.

Brigadier General Nevin William Adams, PGM, PCP, PDC died in 2023 at the Middletown Home, following Lady Myra, who had died in 2015. I asked people who knew them well to share some memories. Brother Bob Raffensberger, who served on Brother Adams' staff during his terms as Grand Master, told me that he liked Nevin very much and enjoyed working with him. He said that when Grand Master Adams came in for his second term he insisted on keeping the same Officers and his Officers absolutely wanted to serve again - he was loyal to them and they to him. Brother Bob told me that serving on the staff was one of his greatest honors and that Nevin was as dedicated an Odd Fellow as he ever met. Another Brother told me how Nevin and Myra gave everything they had to our Order, both time and personal resources. Odd Fellowship was central to their lives.

Brigadier General Adams and his beloved wife Myra are now together in Eternal Rest at a spot next to Nevin's parents. I was joined for a solemn graveside service by Chevaliers Miller, Leshner and Blatt of Canton Leesport #14 who placed memorial flags and offered prayer. We visited Nevin and Myra Adams to honor and remember them. We are confident they know that the great fraternal Order that they so selflessly committed much of their lives to will always cherish their memory as they continue to Rest in Peace together. They will not be forgotten.

Lieutenant General William F. Hanby
Department Commander



YORK SPRINGS CONFERS THE DEGREE OF FRIENDSHIP



York Spring Lodge #211 conferred the 1st degree on 5 members from York Springs, Mackinaw, Triune and Mt. Zion Lodges. Members are honored to be able to teach the truth of friendship to our members. Thanks to everyone who either participated in the degree or were there to advance in their Odd Fellows education. York Springs Lodge is going strong.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

The Rebekah Lodges numbered around 1,000. Some of the numbers, you'll also see more than once, as some of these Lodges only lasted a few years.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

- Bridesburg - Hope Rebekah Lodge #207 - defunct 1925
 - Falls of Schuylkill - Hilda Rebekah Lodge #52 - defunct 1873
 - Frankford - Queen of Sheba Rebekah Lodge #192 - defunct 1905
 - Manayunk - Bathshua Rebekah Lodge #48 - defunct 1873
 - Philadelphia - Arminia Rebekah Lodge #111 - defunct 1918
 - Philadelphia - Lady Menorah Rebekah Lodge #132 - consolidated 1963
 - Philadelphia - Ruth Montgomery Rebekah Lodge #135 - consolidated 1971
 - Philadelphia - Theresa Rebekah Lodge #147 - consolidated 1968
 - Philadelphia - Anna M. Ross Rebekah Lodge #151 - consolidated 1950
 - Philadelphia - Mary Johnson Rebekah Lodge #152 - consolidated 1951
 - Philadelphia - Bathsheba Rebekah Lodge #192 - consolidated 1954
 - Philadelphia - Princess Rebekah Lodge #227 - defunct 1911
 - Philadelphia - Virginia L. Phillips Rebekah Lodge #524 - consolidated 1955
- Arminia Rebekah Lodge No. 111 was a German speaking Rebekah Lodge. They were the sister Lodge to Hermann Lodge No. 7. They met in the now gone temple at 3rd & Brown Streets in Philadelphia

13 Rebekah Lodges total - 30 Rebekah Lodges in Philadelphia County

NEXT MONTH - That's all the Rebekah Lodges in Pennsylvania then! Thanks for sticking with me through that. I'm sorry to say no one had sent me any pictures for any of the counties that I put in. Next month I will dip in briefly to the Rebekah Homes that were once in Pennsylvania. If you have any pictures or stories, please share them!

After this - Encampments & Cantons!!!

