

Questions and Answers



The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge
of the Most Ancient and Honorable
Fraternity of Free and Accepted
Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic
Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging.

This pamphlet was authorized and
approved by
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

Prepared by
WILLIAM E. MONTGOMERY

and issued by
COMMITTEE ON
MASONIC CULTURE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MASONRY PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF GRAND LODGES

1. When and where did Masonry originate?

Ans. No one can answer this question. It is not the work of any single man or group of men. Its beginning is not recorded, although something is known of certain old organizations from which Masonry has borrowed extensively through the centuries in its evolutionary progress.

2. What was the earliest secret organization in primitive society?

Ans. The Men's House.

3. What are the Old Charges or Old Constitutions?

Ans. Ancient manuscript documents which outline the supposed history of Freemasonry and present the rules and laws governing the conduct of the early operative Masons.

4. What is the Regius Poem?

Ans. The oldest of the so called Old Constitutions dating from approximately

1395. It is written in a sort of verse, whereas all other copies of the Old Charges are in prose.

5. What other Old Charges are there?

Ans. Slightly more than 100 of these old documents have been discovered. Almost all of them are in Great Britain, but three have been brought to this country. Two are in Boston and one in the Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

6. What were the Guilds?

Ans. Organizations composed of workers engaged in the same line of endeavor, such as tailors, dyers, builders, potters.

7. Of what interest are Guilds to Masons?

Ans. Eventually Guilds of the building fraternity developed into Lodges of operative Masons from which in time present-day Freemasonry evolved.

8. Who were Masons prior to 1600?

Ans. Those who made their living by working at one of the building trades.

9. How did Operative Masonry develop into Speculative Masonry?

Ans. Beginning about 1600, men of prominence in other lines of work who were not particularly interested in architecture and building, became members of some of the lodges of operative Masons and finally assumed leadership therein. They used the tools, language and principles of operative Masonry to teach the rules of Life.

ENGLISH GRAND LODGE HISTORY

10. When and where was the first Grand Lodge established?

Ans. In London on June 24, 1717.

11. How was it formed?

Ans. By action of four existing lodges.

12. Of what lodges was it composed?

Ans. Lodges which were accustomed to meet at (a) the Goose and Gridiron Ale-house in St. Paul's Church-yard; (b) Crown Ale-house in Parker's Lane near Drury's Lane; (c) the Apple Tree Tavern in Charles Street, Covent Garden; (d) Rummer and Grapes Tavern in Channel Row, Westminster.

13. When were other early Grand Lodges formed?

Ans. Grand Lodge of Ireland, 1725;
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, 1731;
Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, 1733;
Grand Lodge of Scotland, 1736, in ad-
dition to several formed in England
which were of short duration.

14. What other Grand Lodge was organized in England in 1751?

Ans. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England according to the Old Constitutions.

15. What names were given to these two groups, and why?

Ans. The members of the Grand Lodge of 1751 referred to themselves as "Antient Masons" in accordance with their contention that their Grand Lodge adhered to the ancient customs and usages. They called the members of the Grand Lodge of 1717 "Modern Masons", reflecting the claim that the original Grand Lodge had departed from the old landmarks. In spite of the inaccuracies in these claims, the names persisted and came into common use.

16. What was the principal difference between them?

Ans. The Antients used an additional degree (or an additional part of the Third

Degree) which eventually developed into our present Royal Arch Degree.

17. How was their rivalry ended?

Ans. By their merger in 1813 to form The United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

18. How were their differences composed?

Ans. By compromise through the recommendations of a Lodge of Reconciliation.

19. Who were the leaders in the union of 1813?

Ans. The Duke of Sussex and the Duke of Kent (sons of King George III), the Grand Masters of the Moderns and the Antients, respectively.

20. Is the Ale-house called the Goose and Gridiron still standing?

Ans. It was torn down several years ago.

21. What lodges of 1717 are in existence?

Ans. The lodge at the Goose and Gridiron, now called Antiquity No. 2; the lodge at the Rummer and Grapes, now called Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4; the lodge at the Apple Tree Tavern now called Lodge

of Fortitude and Old Cumberland No. 12.

22. Why are their numbers different?

Ans. When the Moderns and Antients were merged in 1813, it was agreed that the two first lodges under each Grand Lodge should draw lots for priority, the loser to be No. 2, and all the other lodges to follow alternately from the two lists. The Antients won, and their Grand Masters Lodge (founded in 1759) became No. 1 on the new combined list. Then the Lodge of Antiquity (first on the Modern list) was designated as No. 2, while the second on the Antient list, Lodge of Fidelity, became No. 3. Royal Somerset House and Inverness (another of the original four of 1717) followed as No. 4.

23. Why were the Antients sometimes called Atholl Masons?

Ans. This was due to the fact that the Dukes of Atholl so long presided over them as Grand Masters.

24. What effect did the existence of two competing Grand Lodges in England have upon Freemasonry in the United States?

Ans. Inasmuch as numerous lodges had been constituted in America by the Moderns while others had come into existence under Antient auspices, quite naturally much of the ritualistic difference (and also the intense rivalry) occurred here. This was complicated somewhat by the fact that there were also lodges in America of Irish and Scottish origins. The settlement of differences in England in 1813 was followed by similar action in America within a few years.

25. Does the answer to the previous Question apply to Pennsylvania?

Ans. Not entirely, because few of the Modern lodges survived the Revolutionary War and consequently Pennsylvania Masonry was substantially Antient subsequent to 1785, thus requiring no "Reconciliation".

26. What was the original code of laws in English Masonry?

Ans. The Constitutions of 1723 compiled by James Anderson. This was followed by a revised edition in 1738.

27. What was the Ahiman Rezon?

Ans. The Constitution of the Antient Grand Lodge as compiled by Laurence

Dermott. Grand Secretary. The name is Hebraic in origin, but has no true and concise English equivalent, although it was supposed to mean "A Help to a Brother". It is the name for the Book of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN MASONIC HISTORY

28. Who was the first Provincial Grand Master in America?

Ans. Daniel Coxe who was appointed in 1730 for New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.

29. What was the first Grand Lodge in America?

Ans. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

30. By what authority was it formed?

Ans. It was the voluntary association of several lodges for the mutual advantages to be derived from such a union — the same process followed by the two previous Grand Lodges (England and Ireland).

31. What was the second Grand Lodge in America?

Ans. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

32. What Presidents of the United States were Freemasons?

Ans. George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman. Some authorities also include Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, but documentary evidence is lacking.

33. Who were some famous Americans during the Revolution that were Freemasons?

Ans. Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Paul Revere, John Marshall, Joseph Warren, John Paul Jones.

34. Have there been attempts to form a General Grand Lodge of the United States?

Ans. In 1779-1780 under the leadership of American Union Lodge, a number of military lodges advocated the formation of a General Grand Lodge. Later proposals of a similar nature were also not approved.

35. What Presidents were Grand Masters?

Ans. Andrew Jackson of Tennessee and Harry S. Truman of Missouri.

36. Who was the first native-born American to become a Mason?

Ans. Governor Jonathan Belcher in London in 1704.

37. When and under what circumstances was the cornerstone of the National Capitol laid?

Ans. On September 18, 1793 by George Washington with Masonic ceremony.

38. Who owns the gavel used at that time?

Ans. Potomac No. 5 of the District of Columbia, formerly Columbia Lodge No. 19 of Maryland.

39. Where has it been used in Pennsylvania?

Ans. In the laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple at Philadelphia and afterwards of the 1898 State Capitol in Harrisburg.

40. Who gave George Washington a beautiful Masonic apron which he wore while laying the cornerstone of the National Capitol?

Ans. Marquis de Lafayette.

41. Where is it now?

Ans. In the Museum of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

42. What were military lodges?

Ans. Duly constituted lodges which had no permanent place of meeting but traveled with regiments or other military organizations to which they were attached.

43. What was a well-known military lodge?

Ans. American Union Lodge.

44. In the early 1700's how were lodges formed?

Ans. Under "the time immemorial usage," a number of Masons (usually five or six) were permitted to meet, form a lodge and practice the rites of Masonry.

45. When and where was George Washington made a Mason?

Ans. On November 4, 1752 in the lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

46. Who was Warrant Master of Alexandria Lodge when it ceased to be No. 39 of

Pennsylvania and became No. 22 of Virginia?

Ans. George Washington.

47. What is its present name?

Ans. Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.

48. Upon what Bible was General Washington obligated as President of the United States and by whom was the oath administered?

Ans. The Bible which belonged to St. John's Lodge No. 1 of New York City. The obligation was administered by Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State, who at the time was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York.

49. What well-known Mason and patriot was killed on Bunker Hill?

Ans. Dr. Joseph Warren, Grand Master of Massachusetts.

PENNSYLVANIA MASONIC HISTORY

50. Who was the first Mason reporting informal Masonic meetings in America?

Ans. In 1715 John Moore, Collector of

the Port of Philadelphia wrote in a letter that he had "spent a few evenings of Masonic festivity with my Masonic brethren."

51. What was the first printed reference to Masonic Lodges in Pennsylvania?

Ans. In the issue of The Pennsylvania Gazette dated December 8, 1730, its editor, Benjamin Franklin (not then a Mason) refers to "several Lodges of Freemasons" having been "Erected in this Province."

52. What is the oldest Masonic document in this Jurisdiction?

Ans. The Carmick Manuscript of 1727 owned by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. It is one of three copies of "The Old Charges" of "Gothic Constitutions" now located in America. The other two are in Boston.

53. Of what does the Manuscript consist?

Ans. Twelve sheets of paper folded in the middle and stitched through, thus making a booklet of twenty-four pages, each six by eight inches. There is at each end a fly-leaf of very rough paper. The whole is bound in a flexible leather cover with a triangular flap extending

from the back cover and folding over the front.

54. Who was Thomas Carmick, the author of this document?

Ans. His identity is unknown and there is nothing to associate him with Pennsylvania.

55. What is the oldest Masonic Lodge record in America?

Ans. The account book (from 1731 to 1738) of St. John's Lodge of Philadelphia, owned by the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

56. Who was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania?

Ans. William Allen in 1731 (possibly slightly earlier).

57. Who were some of William Allen's successors?

Ans. Humphrey Murray, Benjamin Franklin, James Hamilton, Thomas Hopkinson, William Plumsted, Joseph Shippen, Philip Syng.

58. Where was the first Masonic Hall in America?

Ans. Freemason's Lodge built in 1755 in Philadelphia on the south side of Norris (or Lodge) Alley which extends west from Second Street and is parallel to and north of Walnut Street.

59. Where were other early Masonic meeting places in Philadelphia?

Ans. Tun Tavern on the east side of what was known as King Street, between Chestnut and Walnut Streets (1730); Indian King Tavern (1735); Royal Standard Tavern, High Street, near Second Street (1749).

60. What was the first Masonic Book printed in America?

Ans. The "Constitutions of the Free-Masons" (a reprint of Anderson's Constitutions of 1723) printed by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in 1734 "for the Use of the Brethren in North America."

61. What Pennsylvania Past Master and Past District Deputy Grand Master became President of the United States?

Ans. James Buchanan of Lodge No. 43, Lancaster.

RITUALISM AND SYMBOLISM

62. When was King Solomon's Temple erected?

Ans. It was started about 972 B. C.

63. How old was Solomon at that time?

Ans. About 25 years of age.

64. Who was Hiram of Tyre?

Ans. He was King of Tyre, a friend and ally of King David. At Solomon's request he furnished assistance in the construction of the Temple.

65. Who was Hiram Abif?

Ans. He was a son of a widow of the daughters of Dan of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre. He was a cunning workman, skilled in working in metals, wood, stone, and linen and was sent by King Hiram to help in the erection and adornment of King Solomon's Temple.

66. What Masonic penalties are actually enforced?

Ans. Reprimand, suspension, and expulsion. Other penalties mentioned in the

ritual are wholly symbolic. They are not now and never have been enforced.

67. What is lawful Masonic information when vouching for a Brother?

Ans. Lawful information that a person is a brother Mason may be secured (1) by sitting in Lodge with him, (2) by a known Mason vouching for him as such, (3) by his passing an examination by a committee appointed by the Worshipful Master.

68. What is a Masonic Monitor?

Ans. A Manual (published by most Grand Lodges other than Pennsylvania) containing portions of the ritualistic work.

69. What were Golden Fleece, Roman Eagle, Star & Garter?

Ans. The Order of the Golden Fleece was founded by Duke Philip of Burgundy in 1429. The Roman Eagle was the symbol of the power and might of Rome during its heyday two thousand or more years ago. The Order of the Star was founded by King John II of France in the 1300s. The Order of the Garter was created by King Edward III of England about the same time. The use of the apron as a badge is actually older than any of these.

70. What is an oblong square?

Ans. A rectangle with its length greater than its breadth, or, as applied to the shape of a lodge room, the east-west dimension being greater. In ancient times, the world was supposed to be shaped like an oblong square, surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Symbolically this is the form of the lodge room.

71. What do fool, dotage, libertine, profane mean?

Ans. Masonically, they may be defined as follows: (1) a fool is a man of mature age not possessing good common sense; (2) dotage pertains to the period when mental powers have deteriorated; (3) a libertine is a non-conformist who subscribes to no higher authority in his thinking; (4) a profane is merely a person who is not a Mason.

72. What are the Cedars of Lebanon?

Ans. Lebanon, situated at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea and north of Israel, in ancient times had large forests of cedar trees, much prized as excellent building material.

73. Where was Joppa?

Ans. Joppa or Jaffa, also at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, was the seaport with the nearest access to Jerusalem.

74. What does hele mean?

Ans. Hele (pronounced "hail") is derived from the Anglo-Saxon and means cover or conceal.

75. What are High Twelve and Low Twelve?

Ans. Noon and Midnight.

76. Why is Acacia a Masonic symbol?

Ans. Acacia, an evergreen, is hardy and frequently sprouts come from beams and timbers of that species. Hence the Jews planted Acacia on graves as a symbol of life and of the immortality of the soul.

77. What does "So mote it be" mean?

Ans. "Amen" or "So may it be." These are the last words in the so-called Regius Poem.

78. What is the symbolism of Freemasonry?

Ans. The use of the tools and terms of the builder's trade to express invisible

or spiritual ideas and thereby illustrate moral concepts and great basic truths in the life of mankind.

79. Is the Hiramic Legend true?

Ans. From a purely factual sense, it is not true although it does have an historical background as written in the Bible in I Kings and II Chronicles. Yet in portraying the ultimate victory of Good over Evil and in symbolizing a new life after death it does have all the essence of truth.

80. Why are the various Masonic rituals in the United States different?

Ans. The rituals vary in words and details, not in the essential character of the work. This results from the fact that Masonry in the United States has been derived from a number of sources (England, both Antient and Modern, Ireland, Scotland). Likewise in the course of time many Grand Lodges have made changes in their ritualistic work which seemed desirable.

FREEMASONRY - GENERAL

81. What is Freemasonry?

Ans. The most common definition is that Freemasonry is a system of morality concealed in allegory and illustrated by symbols. The great Masonic author, Joseph Fort Newton, thus defines our Order — “Masonry is the activity of closely united men who, employing symbolical forms borrowed principally from the masons’ trade and from architecture, work for the welfare of mankind, striving morally to ennoble themselves and others, and thereby bring about a universal league of mankind, which they aspire to exhibit even now on a smaller scale.”

82. What do A.D. and A.L. mean and why?

Ans. A.D. means “Anno Domini,” in the year of our Lord and is the Christian method of designating the number of years following the birth of Christ. Freemasons’ nomenclature in this respect comes from the old belief (entirely erroneous) that the world was created 4,000 years before Christ and therefore indicates the date as 4,000 years plus the current year, for instance, 1960 A.D. or 5960 A.L. (Anno Lucis—in the year of Light) the present year.

83. What is V.S.L.?

Ans. These initials stand for Volume of Sacred Law, the holy book of the prevailing faith.

84. Which Grand Lodge removed V.S.L. from the altar, and why?

Ans. The Grand Orient of France in 1877 to stress its adherence to the basic principle of universality. Practically all other Grand Lodges withdrew their official recognition of the Grand Orient.

85. Must all Masons be obligated on the Holy Bible?

Ans. The primary requirement of a Freemason is a belief in a Supreme Being, whether He be called God, or Allah or Jehovah or any of the names by which the Supreme Architect of the Universe may be designated. Hence a candidate for Freemasonry should be obligated on that which he accepts as being the Volume of Sacred Law.

86. Who was the first non-operative Masonic member of record?

Ans. John Boswell, Laird of Auchinleck, who was present at a meeting of Mary Chapel Lodge of Edinburgh on June 8, 1600.

87. Why are we called Freemasons?

Ans. The term definitely dates back to the days when Masonry was almost or wholly operative in character. Numer-

ous explanations have been suggested, such as (a) masons worked in free stone (which could be carved) and hence were called "free-stone masons, later shortened to "freemasons"; (b) they were free men, not serfs; (c) they were free to move from place to place as they might desire; (d) they were given the freedom of the towns or localities in which they worked; (e) they were free of the rules and regulations that were usually imposed upon members of guilds.

88. Why is present-day Masonry called "Speculative"?

Ans. Masonic lodges were originally groups of men who were builders, stone masons, architects, designers engaged in constructive work. Eventually other persons not trained nor interested in such work joined the "operative" lodges because they were interested in the back-ground and teachings of the fraternity. They were called theoretic or accepted or speculative Masons. Now all members are of this latter class and the Order itself is described as being speculative.

89. Is Freemasonry a religion or has it a religion?

Ans. Freemasonry is non-sectarian and men of all religious faiths and beliefs can join in its rites and ceremonies. Although it is definitely not a religion, nor does it have a religion, it certainly is religious in character and practice in that it teaches monotheism, the V.S.L. is open on its altars whenever a Lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial, and to its Brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality.

90. Where can I get additional information concerning Freemasonry?

Ans. The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture operates a Circulating Library for this purpose. Write to the Librarian, Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania and ask for the list of books available.

91. Is Freemasonry a charitable organization?

Ans. It is not a charitable organization as such, but it engages in many acts of charity. In Pennsylvania the two outstanding examples of this are The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown and the Thomas Ranken Patton Masonic Institution for Boys. The individual lodges assist needy members, their widows and orphans.

92. What is the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church toward Masonry?

Ans. Beginning with Pope Clement XII in 1738, at least eight Popes have issued Bulls against Freemasonry forbidding membership in the fraternity under penalty of ex-communication.

93. What objections were advanced?

Ans. The Roman Catholic Church has always been opposed to "free associations", that is, societies which men join of their own choice, not being subservient to or controlled by, outside influences. This was the basic objection, although in various Bulls, many accusations have been made by the Church such as the "secrecy" of Freemasonry, its belief in separation of church and state, its allegiance to governmental practices which are opposed to the will and demands of the Roman Catholic Church.

94. What is the best resume' of this subject?

Ans. H. L. Haywood's book, "Freemasonry and Roman Catholicism."

95. Who issued the most celebrated and the most provocative of all the Papal Bulls?

Ans. The Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII dated April 20, 1884 and usually called "Humanum Genus."

96. Was an answer made to this Bull?

Ans. Yes, by the great Masonic scholar, Albert Pike, then Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction, under date of August 1, 1884 under the title, "A Reply of Freemasonry in Behalf of Humanity." The Bull of Leo XIII and Albert Pike's reply, both in full, are found in Brother Haywood's book to which reference was made in Question 94 above.

97. Is there any reason why a Roman Catholic cannot be made a Mason?

Ans. There is nothing in the Constitution, rules, regulations, edicts or customs of Freemasonry which would prohibit a Roman Catholic from becoming a member of the Masonic Fraternity.

98. When and where did Negro Freemasonry start in the United States?

Ans. On March 6, 1775, in Boston, when the degrees of Masonry were conferred upon Prince Hall and fourteen other colored men in a military lodge (No.

441 on the Irish Register) in the English Army attached to the 38th Regiment.

99. Who was Prince Hall?

Ans. It is alleged that he was born in Barbadoes, British West Indies. He came to Boston, became the leader of the free negroes of that city, and was an ordained minister.

100. Did these Negro Masons have a lodge of their own?

Ans. On September 29, 1784, the Grand Lodge of England issued a charter for African Lodge No. 459 of Boston. It was instrumental in forming the first Negro Grand Lodge in the United States.

101. What is a recognized Grand Lodge?

Ans. From the standpoint of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, it is one which is considered as being accepted as regular and legitimate. The Grand Lodges of the United States have different ideas on this subject and as a result, some Grand Lodges in other countries are recognized by some Grand Lodges in our country but not so recognized by others in the United States.

102. What lodges may I visit?

Ans. You may visit only lodges which are under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodges which your Grand Lodge recognizes as being legitimate. All the Grand Lodges in the United States recognize each other. If you expect to travel in foreign parts and may want to visit lodges, it will be wise to make inquiries before starting on your trip.

103. How many Grand Lodges are recognized by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania?

Ans. As of August 1960, there were 104 Grand Lodges in the world beyond the boundaries of the United States. Of these, 45 are in Fraternal relations with Pennsylvania.

104. Have I the right to visit any Lodge under a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania?

Ans. You have the right to apply for admission to such a Lodge, and if you can prove yourself a Mason and have a dues card indicating that you are in good standing, you will probably be admitted, as lodges are usually happy to welcome visitors. It is, however, entirely the privilege and prerogative of

the Worshipful Master to determine whether or not visitors will be received.

FREEMASONRY - MISCELLANEOUS

105. What are Fellow Crafts?

Ans. In operative Masonry, when an apprentice showed sufficient proficiency, he became a Fellow of the Craft. In speculative Masonry that designation has been changed to Fellow Craft denoting one who passed the second degree in Freemasonry.

106. What are the "higher degrees" in Freemasonry?

Ans. There are none, although there are other degrees than the three of symbolic Masonry. The degrees of the Scottish and the York Rites are dependent on the three degrees of the Symbolic Lodge and consequently none is "higher" than that of Master Mason.

107. Is it expected that I do business only with a Mason?

Ans. Definitely not. Between two persons giving *equal* service, it would be only natural to choose a fellow Mason.

108. To what extent may I talk about Masonry to those who are not Masons?

Ans. Questions asked in sincerity for the purpose of obtaining reasonable information concerning Freemasonry should be answered in the spirit in which they are asked, provided that the reply does not refer to those things which are secret. Masons need not be reticent in speaking about Freemasonry to those who have an honest desire for knowledge.

109. Is the Masonic fraternity a "secret" society?

Ans. It is not. A secret society is one which does not openly acknowledge its existence, keeps its membership secret and meets in secret. Masonry has some secrets but as an organization is well known to the general public.

110. How is a lodge formed in Pennsylvania?

Ans. Fifteen or more Master Masons, having resigned from the Lodges to which they belonged may petition the Grand Lodge for a Warrant to form a Lodge and practice the rites of Freemasonry. The petition must be signed, not only by the applicants but by three well-known Masons, members of a sub-

ordinate Lodge, and by the District Deputy Grand Master. If the proposed location is within five miles of the place of meeting of another lodge, that lodge must give its consent, unless special circumstances exist. In the petition, the proposed name and location of the lodge must be indicated together with the names of the three principal officers. After the petition has been approved by Grand Lodge, the lodge is duly constituted by the Grand Master or by some one delegated by him to perform that duty.

111. What degrees are included in Ancient Craft Masonry?

Ans. When the Antient and Modern Grand Lodges were merged in 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, the Articles of Union specified that "pure Ancient Craft Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."

112. What is the oldest existing lodge record?

Ans. That of Edinburgh Lodge No. 1 dated July 30, 1599.

113. Are there Women Freemasons?

Ans. Several women (at least two) are definitely known to have been obligated in one or more degrees. That action, however, did not actually make them Freemasons as the entire transaction in each case was unlawful.

114. Why can not a Master's decision be appealed in the Lodge?

Ans. The Master has complete authority in the lodge within the specifications of the by-laws, and his decisions can be appealed only to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge.

115. Why does parliamentary law not apply in a Lodge in Pennsylvania?

Ans. The Worshipful Master is completely responsible for everything which occurs in his lodge. There are certain actions which the by-laws do not permit him to take, but, by and large, the lodge cannot dictate to him. He has full control, and parliamentary law, which might interfere with that control, does not apply.

116. What is a moon lodge?

Ans. In former times when roads were poor, numerous lodges met "on or (so many days or a specific day) before or

after full moon" so that those going to and from lodge meetings might have the light of the moon to make the journey safer and easier. In recent years a number of the former "moon lodges" have changed their meetings to a specific day, and at present there are only 23 of the "moon lodges" in Pennsylvania.

117. What was the origin of the expression "blue lodge"?

Ans. There are several theories of which two have the most adherents. Some believe that operative Masons felt that blue, the color of the sky both by day and by night, was associated in their minds with the purity of Deity, which Masons attempt to emulate. Others refer to the change made by speculative Masons shortly after the establishment of the original Grand Lodge of England when blue was substituted for white as the official Masonic color, presumably because it was the color of the Order of the Garter of which a number of Masonic leaders were members.

118. What are the qualifications of a petitioner for Freemasonry?

Ans. That he believes in the Supreme Architect of the Universe (by whatever

name He may be called); that he applies for initiation and membership of his own free will and accord; that he is recommended by two Master Masons, members of the Lodge to which he desires to apply; that he is of good character. He must, of course, be a man, freeborn, and of mature age.

119. What Pennsylvania Mason became Master of a French Lodge?

Ans. Benjamin Franklin.

120. What famous Frenchman who served with the American forces during the Revolution was a Mason?

Ans. Marquis de Lafayette.

121. How many Grand Lodges have been recognized by one or more Grand Lodges in the United States.

Ans. One hundred and four.

122. What is a dispensation?

Ans. Permission from a Grand Master to do certain things which are otherwise forbidden.

123. What is the meaning of the letters G.A.O.T.U.?

Ans. Grand (sometimes Great) Architect of the Universe.

124. When is a man a Mason?

Ans. Joseph Fort Newton answers this question in the last paragraph of "The Builders", probably the most popular of all Masonic books, in these words:—
"When he can look out over the rivers, the hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage, which is the root of every virtue. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow man. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins — knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds. When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand

seeks his aid without response. When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope. When he has kept faith with himself, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song — glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only real secret of Masonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world.”

