

# THE LAMP POST



PROCTORVILLE



MASONIC LODGE  
NO. 550





# The Lamp Post:



WM John Anson (L)

Congratulates our newest Master Mason Robert McFarland.

The Masonic District Office conducted their Annual Inspection of our Master Mason Degree Program and accompanying Fellowcraft Team. The inspection was deemed successful. The Lodge members, officers and District Officers are pictured above with our newest Master Mason, Brother McFarland (above right picture). Congratulations to all of the participants and we thank all visiting brothers from the District and Tri-State area.

## **A grand evening to remember at Proctorville Lodge #550** By Daniel Preece, SS

This evening was not just an inspection; it was a monumental showcase of unity, dedication, and the brotherhood that defines us here at Proctorville Lodge #550. We are beyond proud to announce that the evening was a resounding success, and it was all made possible by the collective effort of our wonderful brothers.

A heartfelt thank you to each and everyone who attended practices relentlessly, to the pillars of support waiting for us at home –our families—your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. Your patience and understanding allow us to dedicate ourselves to the craft and the brotherhood, making nights like these not only possible but also incredibly fulfilling. The camaraderie and support shown by everyone involved is what makes our Lodge not just a place of assembly, but a true home. Let's continue to support one another, grow together, and uphold the values that make us proud to be part of Proctorville #550.

To all the brothers who came together to make this evening what it was, we see you, we appreciate you, and we thank you. Here's to many more successful gatherings and to the unbreakable bond that ties us all.

Also, a special thank you to the OES Teresa Chapter No. 257 for their contributions and support

With gratitude and brotherly love,

Proctorville Lodge #550



## **In Memoriam Our Departed Brothers**

**RICHARD J. McMASTER, 79, Feb. 12, 2024**

Raised: Feb. 18, 1971 and Years of Service:  
52+

**JAMES RAY HARVEY, 77, Mar. 24, 2024**

Raised: Oct. 30, 1975 and Years of Service:  
48+

**DONALD EUGENE NICHOLS, 53, May 5, 2024**

Raised: June 22, 1995 and Years of Service:  
18

**LEE WHITLEY 79, May 23, 2024**

Initiated: January 13, 1977 and Years of Service:  
47

**MICHAEL E. RILEY 75, October 13, 2024**

Initiated: March 9, 1972 and Years of Service:  
51+

## **Tornado Damage: Roof Replacement & Interior Repairs**

On April 2, 2024, our roof and interior structure was badly damaged during a tornado that also hit numerous surrounding structures in the Proctorville-Rome area. As a result, we were able to receive approval from our insurance company to have the roof completely replaced. Fortunately, our Trustees were able to solicit bids from area businesses very timely and were able to sign a contract for replacement of the roof this last week. It is estimated that work will begin in the next three to four weeks and take only four days to complete. Preliminary work on making emergency repairs to the roof took place within about three days after the storm, most likely, saving our building from sustaining further damage in the event of further storms occurring. Our total costs for this entire project will be approximately \$1,500.00. The repair of interior walls & painting will commence in the near future. In many respects, we were very fortunate in the way things turned out. It could have been much worse.

### **NEW CAMERA SYSTEM**

The Lodge has decided that there is a need to install a security system in our building as a result of the huge growth of activities within the building and grounds in the recent years. Although growth is a positive thing with respect to the many functions that both our Lodge and the Eastern Star conducts throughout the year, we have come to the conclusion that there is a need to provide reasonable security for the day and night time as well. As a result, we are in the process of installing cameras in the interior and exterior areas of the building grounds and entrance areas in particular. There is also discussion about locking the building entrances during our stated meetings to provide added protection of all members and said property. If this "lock-down" is implemented, then there will be a monitoring system to ensure that late-coming members are permitted to enter the Lodge. We wish to thank Brothers Nathan White (JW) and Daniel Preece (SS) for installing the system and for their expertise in the selection of this system.



## Apple Butter Equipment Revamped

By (WB's) John Anson & David Perry

This past number of months our Lodge has spent an extraordinary amount of time and effort to upgrade our Apple Butter equipment for the ensuing fall season. We are committed, with the Eastern Star, to once again participate in The Milton Pumpkin Festival, Bob Evans Festival, Proctorville Festival and the Chesapeake Oktoberfest. This does not even include the huge number of sales that we derive from selling our product from the Lodge itself. It is imperative that we not only maintain and upgrade our existing and aging equipment but we must also look to find more effective/efficient ways to process our product with the limited manpower that we have. In effort to get ahead of the curve, so to speak, The Lodge, (with the Eastern Star) has purchased two "Apple slicing units" to replace the outdated and cumbersome machine that we currently use. It requires anywhere from 4-6 persons to operate effectively and to provide the product timely for each day's production operation. The new units will allow us to reduce the needed manpower by half, and even more importantly, we can accelerate this process of coring apples 2-3 times quicker. This means that we could essentially complete the entire process in one workday vs. three days. The equipment is made of washable surfaces (vs. wood) which will allow us to easily clean and sanitize the machine for use as well. Additionally, Worshipful Brothers Jimmy Perry and Larry Thompson are currently building and upgrading a stirring machine replacement for our existing unit. New processing techniques are being developed that continue to reduce not only the required manpower to process our apple butter in less time but also maintain the quality of our product that we are known for in the area. Thanks to the brothers of the Lodge, Eastern Star and community for your overwhelming support in the past... as well as the future.

# 2024 APPLE BUTTER SEASON





# 2024 APPLE BUTTER SEASON

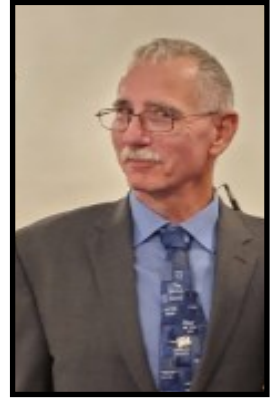




# PROCTORVILLE AWARDS NIGHT



Award Recipients with Presenters



Proctorville '550  
Member of the  
Year, Worshipful  
Brother, Jimmy  
Perry (PM)

**PROCTORVILLE** – The 2024 Awards Ceremony for Proctorville Lodge #550 F&AM was held at the Lodge on Saturday, April 22. After a spaghetti dinner, ceremonies began with prayer at 7:30 PM.

Festivities ended with prayer at approximately 8:20 PM.



**Proctorville Scholarship Award** - \$750 to Miss Melanie Pine, daughter of Brother Jayson Pine and granddaughter of Brother James Pine. WM John Anson presenting the award. (R)

## OUR LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2024

John Anson, WM; Jamie Akers, Senior Warden; Nathan White, Junior Warden; PM David Perry, Senior Deacon; Ray Newby, Junior Deacon; Daniel Preece, Senior Steward; Jon Allen, Junior Steward; James Pine, Tyler; PDDGM James Mann, Secretary; PM Larry Thompson, Treasurer & Asst. Secretary; DDGM Tyler Perry, Chaplin; PM Jimmy Perry, L.E.O.  
Mike Riley, Glenn Galloway & Bill Wood—Trustees

# PROCTORVILLE AWARDS NIGHT



**Community Service Award –**  
Brother Thornton Thomas (L), Chief of the Proctorville Fire Department for over 20 years



**Certificates of Appreciation –**  
Trustees Brother Bill Wood (L) Brother Mike Riley (C), and Worshipful Brother Glen Galloway (R)



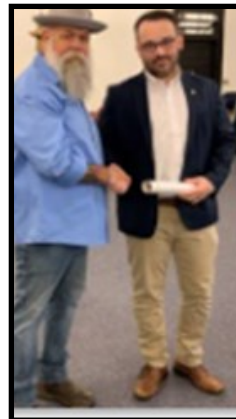
**Service Award –** PDGM, Brother Dale Burcham, 75 years. Presented by PDDGM, Wilson Shoe-maker.



**Certificate of Appreciation –** Teresa Chapter #257 Order of the Eastern Star, accepted for the 'Star by Cathy Arrowood



A check, in the amount of \$5,000 was also presented to Brother Thomas, by Brother Ater, on behalf of the Valley of Cincinnati-Scottish Rite. This donation was accepted on behalf of the Proctorville Fire Department to aid in the rebuilding of the fire station that, along with some vehicles and equipment, was largely destroyed during the April 2nd tornado.



**New Master Mason Certificate –** WM John Anson (L) Presenting to Brother Daniel Preece, (R)



**Worshipful Brother Larry Thompson** receives The 1st Stage Royal Schofield Society Award from DEO Danny Will (R)

*"What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us, what we have done for others and the world, remains and is immortal."*

**Masonic Brother Albert Pike**



## Masonic Community Outreach: Youth Sports Program Activities sponsored by Proctorville #550

Proctorville #550 has a longstanding and proud relationship with the Fairland Little League Program, and in recent years, we've increased our commitment to this vital community initiative. Despite challenges at the start of the season, including backwater and flooded fields, the community's resilience prevailed, and the season was a resounding success.

Our sponsored team, the **"Proctorville 550 Yard Goats,"** had an impressive season, finishing second in league play. Additionally, the Fairland All-Star team clinched first place at the Rock Hill Tournament. The league has excelled in maintaining the fields and coordinating events, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. At the time of writing, a few tournaments were still ongoing, further adding to the excitement of the season.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Brothers who stepped up to coach and assist in various ways. Their dedication exemplifies the core Masonic value of community involvement. Supporting the youth is a direct investment in the future, both for our community and our Masonic family.

Expanding our commitment, Proctorville #550 is now proud to sponsor additional youth sports programs, including the **Chesapeake Little League, Buddy League Football, and Basketball Programs.** This broader support reflects our continued dedication to fostering growth, teamwork, and resilience among the next generation.

**See more about our Community Outreach  
activities in our next edition**

Lodge Email:  
**Jhowellmann@gmail.com**  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 483  
Proctorville, OH 45669





## Enhancing Lodge Communication with Remind: A Step Forward

We're excited to introduce a new tool that will revolutionize how we stay connected within our lodge—the **Remind app**. This app is a game-changer in ensuring that every Brother (over 250 members) remains informed and engaged with our activities, events, and essential communications. Best of all, it's completely free to our lodge members making it a cost-effective solution to our communication challenges.

### What is the Remind App?

"Remind" is a communication app originally designed for educational settings but perfectly suited for our lodge's needs. It allows us to send real-time messages directly to your phone, ensuring that crucial information reaches you instantly. Unlike social media posts or website updates that can be easily overlooked, Remind delivers notifications directly to you, cutting through the noise and ensuring you're always in the loop.

### Why the Remind App?

Past communication methods, such as Facebook group chats, have had their drawbacks. Messages often get buried under other notifications, leading to important updates being missed. Additionally, conversations between a few members can clutter the feed, causing frustration and even leading some to leave the group. Remind solves these issues by providing a clear, focused channel for our lodge communications.

Moreover, not every Brother is active on social media, and our website, while informative, requires members to actively check for updates, which isn't always practical. We've also used an auto-dialer service before, but it had limitations—missed calls, undelivered messages, and a lack of flexibility in message scheduling.

### The Benefits of the Remind App

Remind offers several advantages:

1. **Completely Free** : There's no cost to you or the lodge, making this a financially wise choice that maximizes our resources while enhancing communication.



2. **Instant Notifications** : Receive updates in real-time, directly on your phone, without needing to log in to any platform.

3. **User-Friendly** : The app is easy to use, making it accessible for all members, regardless of their comfort with technology.

4. **Privacy** : Unlike social media, Remind keeps your personal information secure. Phone numbers and other details remain private.

5. **Scheduling Flexibility**: We can schedule reminders in advance, ensuring that you receive timely updates when they're most relevant.

6. **Focused Communication** : By using Remind, we keep our lodge discussions separate from personal or other group chats, reducing distractions and helping everyone stay focused on what's important.

### How to Sign Up

Joining Remind is simple:

- Text "@proctory" to 81010 to get started.

Or

Simply visit: [www.remind.com/join/proctory](http://www.remind.com/join/proctory)

By signing up, you'll ensure that you never miss an important lodge communication again. Whether it's an upcoming event, an emergency meeting, or any other significant announcement, Remind will keep you informed and connected with your Brothers.

We're confident that the Remind app will enhance our communication and strengthen the bonds within our lodge. Let's embrace this new tool and ensure that every Brother stays informed and involved in our Masonic journey.

# REMIND REWARDS DRAWING

## Join REMIND and Enter to Win!

We believe in the importance, value, and effectiveness of our new **REMIND communication program**, and we want **all Brothers** to enroll! Whether you're an active member, an occasional attendee, or a loyal Mason who simply wants to stay informed about Lodge activities, this program is for you.

To encourage participation, we're excited to announce a **random drawing** for all Brothers who enroll in the REMIND program by **February 15, 2025**. Communication is the cornerstone of any active lodge, and Proctorville Lodge #550 is committed to ensuring every member stays connected.

## How to Enter

Any dues-paying member of Proctorville Lodge #550 who enrolls in the REMIND program by the deadline will be automatically eligible for the drawing.

## The Prize

The winner of the random drawing will receive:

- **One-year paid Lodge membership** (Proctorville Lodge #550).
- **A Proctorville Masonic Lodge #550 polo shirt.**
- **A Masonic baseball cap.**
- **A surprise Masonic accessory.**

The winning entry will be randomly selected, and the winner will be notified no later than **March 1, 2025**.

Don't miss out—enroll in the REMIND program today and stay connected with your Brothers while having the chance to win this fantastic prize!



## Brother Dale Burcham Honored with 70-Year Award

Proctorville Lodge No. 550 recently had the privilege of honoring Brother Dale Burcham with his 70-Year Award, celebrating seven decades of unwavering dedication and service to the principles of Freemasonry.

Brother Burcham's journey in the craft began in 1954 when he first entered the doors of our lodge as an eager young man, ready to embrace the teachings and values of our ancient fraternity. Over the years, he has exemplified the tenets of *Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth*, leaving a legacy that inspires both new and seasoned members alike.

### **A Lifetime of Service**

During his 70 years as a Mason, Brother Burcham has held numerous positions within the lodge, always serving with humility and diligence. His wisdom and guidance have been invaluable to countless Brothers, many of whom credit him as a mentor and role model. Whether it was through his leadership, his participation in lodge events, or his quiet acts of kindness, Brother Burcham has consistently demonstrated what it means to live as a true Mason.

### **A Celebration of Legacy**

The presentation of the 70-Year Award was a heartfelt moment for everyone in attendance. Rite Worshipful Wilson Shoemaker spoke of Brother Burcham's enduring commitment, stating, *"Brother Burcham's life is a testament to the values we hold dear as Masons. His dedication over these 70 years has not only enriched our lodge but has also left a profound impact on our community."*



Brother Burcham, in his humble manner, expressed gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing that Freemasonry has been a guiding light throughout his life. He shared fond memories of the Brothers he has worked alongside over the years, many of whom he continues to hold dear in his heart.

### **A Brother for the Ages**

Brother Dale Burcham's commitment to the craft serves as a reminder to all of us about the importance of steadfast dedication and the bonds we share as Masons. His 70-year milestone is not just an achievement for him but a celebration for the entire lodge, as it reflects the strength and longevity of our fraternity.

We are deeply grateful for Brother Burcham's contributions and look forward to his continued presence in our lodge. May his journey serve as an inspiration for generations of Masons to come.

Congratulations, Brother Burcham, on this remarkable achievement! Your light shines brightly, and your legacy will endure.

## **2024 WILD BOAR DEGREE “OVERWHELMING SUCCESS”**

We had an excellent turnout for our annual WILD BOAR DEGREE. We started early Friday evening as Brothers gathered at the lodge for fun and fellowship. Brother Nathaniel Brewer and WB Jimmy Perry manned the smokers all night long and thus smoked the pig for our annual event and a couple of chickens for our evening meal. Brother Mike Booten, as usual, following in the footsteps of some “Worthy-brothers” Dan Fulks and John Booten. Mike worked his magic on the cast iron pot and boiled up a wonderful pot of pinto beans. Several Brothers also brought desserts and cornbread to the Lodge and supplied the fixings. The food was excellent for our Saturday event!

We were blessed with Brothers in attendance from four different states. Registration started on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. with doughnuts and coffee.

We had over thirty (30) new candidates and a great turnout from fellow “WILD BOAR Degree” Brothers from our Lodge and neighboring Lodges in attendance as well. The auction was a success and the “one-of-a-kind” 2024 WILD BOAR KNIFE went for a great price..

If you weren’t there you missed a very special event. The cast members performed the Ritual in an entertaining but meaningful message to the Brotherhood (see pictures).

If you haven’t been to a Wild Boar degree you should plan on attending next year. The Wild Boar degree is held on the first Saturday of August every year.

I thank extend a special thank you to everyone in attendance and those that were involved in producing the event.





# 2024 WILD BOAR DEGREE



## Welcoming Our New Brothers

Proctorville Lodge No. 550 is honored to welcome the newest members to our Masonic family: **Robert McFarland, Matthew Starcher, Paul Adams, and Hank Luke**. Each of these men brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and unique perspectives to our lodge, enriching our fraternity and strengthening the bonds of Brotherhood.

## A New Chapter Begins

Becoming a part of Proctorville Lodge No. 550 is a commitment to personal growth, service, and embracing the values and teachings that have defined our craft for centuries. While some Brothers are just beginning their Masonic journey, others bring years of experience to share.

## Meet Our New Brothers

- **Robert McFarland:** Brother McFarland is an Emergency Department RN, bringing with him a wealth of knowledge and compassion from his work in healthcare. His commitment to helping others in critical moments reflects the core values of Freemasonry, and we are excited to see his contributions to our lodge.
- **Matthew Starcher:** Brother Starcher exemplifies dedication and perseverance. His strong work ethic and determination are qualities that will undoubtedly enrich our fraternity as he embarks on his Masonic journey.
- **Paul Adams:** Brother Adams is a proud Army veteran who has dedicated his life to serving his country. His discipline, leadership, and sense of duty align perfectly with the principles of Freemasonry, and we are honored to have him among us.
- **Hank Luke:** Brother Luke is a proud Air Force veteran and an established Mason who has joined Proctorville Lodge No. 550 as a new member. His wealth of Masonic experience, combined with his dedication to service and Brotherhood, will undoubtedly enrich our lodge and help guide newer members along their journeys.



WM –John Anson (L)  
Bro. Robbie McFarland (R)

Bro. Paul Adams



Bro. Larry Thompson (L)  
Bro. Matthew Starcher (R)

Bro. Hank Luke

## A Bright Future Together

These Brothers, whether embarking on their Masonic journey or joining us with prior experience, represent the heart of Freemasonry—commitment to self-improvement, fellowship, and service. Let us extend our support and camaraderie to these men as we work together to uphold the values of our craft.

## Welcome to the Brotherhood

To Brothers Robert McFarland, Matthew Starcher, Paul Adams, and Hank Luke: Welcome to Proctorville Lodge No. 550. Your unique experiences and dedication strengthen our lodge, and we look forward to the impact you'll make as we continue our shared Masonic journey.

Let us extend our hand of fellowship and make them feel truly at home in our Brotherhood!



## MEDIA RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO LODGE MEMBERS

If you haven't used our electronic and/or print media, this is your invitation! We have numerous resources for our media platforms.

Please take advantage of one or more of these resources. The media platforms are:

**LODGE WEB SITE:** Our re-designed web site, with a calendar of events is updated regularly. Pictures of the recent events also links to educational opportunities and the Masonic world around us. This site also contains a massive variety of sites to visit regarding our Lodge's history and many on-going activities.

<https://proctorvillelodge550.org/>:

**Instagram:** <https://instagram.com/Proctorvillelodge550>

**Facebook:** (Three (3) pages)

Proctorville Ohio Lodge #550 F&AM

Proctorville's Masonic Scuttlebutt

Proctorville Lodge #550 Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio - Primary Public Page

[Facebook.com/Proctorville550](https://www.facebook.com/Proctorville550)

**REMIND:** Our new message board is used, only, for text reminders regarding any upcoming scheduled meetings or Lodge related activities, emergency notices or events, etc. This is available for Proctorville Lodge 550 members only. You will find more information on how to sign up for the sign-up for this **free** "app" in this newsletter.

**Remind:** [www.remind.com/join/proctorv](http://www.remind.com/join/proctorv) Or Text "@proctorv" to 81010 to get started.

**Robo Call List:** Add your personal phone number to our Robo Call List which is used for Funeral announcements and other special events. Please notify the Lodge if you want added to this list.

**Email:** [info@proctorvillelodge550.org](mailto:info@proctorvillelodge550.org)

**Proctorville #550 F&AM U.S. Mailing address:**

Proctorville #550 F&AM

340 Front Street

P.O. Box 483

Proctorville, OH 45669

**Ohio Grand Lodge: aka "Grandview":** The Grand Lodge web page and member center is an outstanding resource for information around the state. This is available to all Lodge members. In the "Members Portal" section you will find a roster of members of our Lodge with contact information; you are able to review your personal Masonic information and even pay your dues electronically. With the resources on Grandview you will see that the Grand Lodge is constantly working to improve Freemasonry in Ohio.

**<https://www.freemason.com>:** We encourage you to stay informed. We want to make our lodge a beehive of activity for our members, families and our friends, a place we all look forward to attending.

**THE LAMP POST Newsletter:** Although this medium has served as a major effort, by both the Lodge and it's Communication Committee, to serve as a voice to all of our Lodge brothers regarding our events, activities and news (bi-annually) it will be morphing in its appearance, frequency and methods that you will receive in the future.

# 2024- 2025 PROCTORVILLE NO. 550 ELECTION

The 2024-2025 Masonic year elections at Proctorville Lodge No. 550 proceeded smoothly, marking a new chapter for our lodge with a blend of seasoned leadership and fresh faces taking up vital roles.

## Newly Elected Officers:

- **Worshipful Master:** Brother Nathan White was elected to lead the lodge as Worshipful Master.
- **Secretary:** After 16 years of dedicated service as Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Jim Mann has chosen to pass the baton. Right Worshipful Brother Tyler Perry was elected to take on this critical role.
- **Treasurer:** Worshipful Brother Larry Thompson was elected as Treasurer.
- **Senior Warden:** Worshipful Brother John Anson will step into the role of Senior Warden.
- **Junior Warden:** Brother Hank Luke will serve as Junior Warden.
- **Senior Deacon:** Brother Daniel Preece was elected as Senior Deacon.
- **Junior Deacon:** Brother Ray Newbie will serve as Junior Deacon.
- **Tyler:** Brother Eddie Pine was elected to the important role of Tyler.

**Trustee:** Brother Kenneth Ferris was elected as Trustee, filling a vacancy left by the passing of our dear Brother Mike Riley.

## Appointed Officers:

Worshipful Brother Nathan White has appointed Brother Kenneth Ater as Assistant Secretary and Brother Daniel Preece as Assistant Treasurer, Wilson Shoemaker as Chaplain and Arlan Elkins as LEO

## A Moment of Transition

The lodge extends its deepest gratitude to Right Worshipful Brother Jim Mann for his unparalleled dedication as Secretary over the past 16 years. His service has left a lasting impact on Proctorville Lodge, and we are confident Right Worshipful Brother Tyler Perry will honor this legacy with diligence and care.

## Looking Ahead

As we embark on the 2024-2025 Masonic year, we look forward to the leadership of Worshipful Master Nathan White and his team of officers. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of Freemasonry and advance the mission of Proctorville Lodge No. 550.

Let us congratulate our newly elected and appointed officers and offer them our full support as they guide us through a promising year ahead!