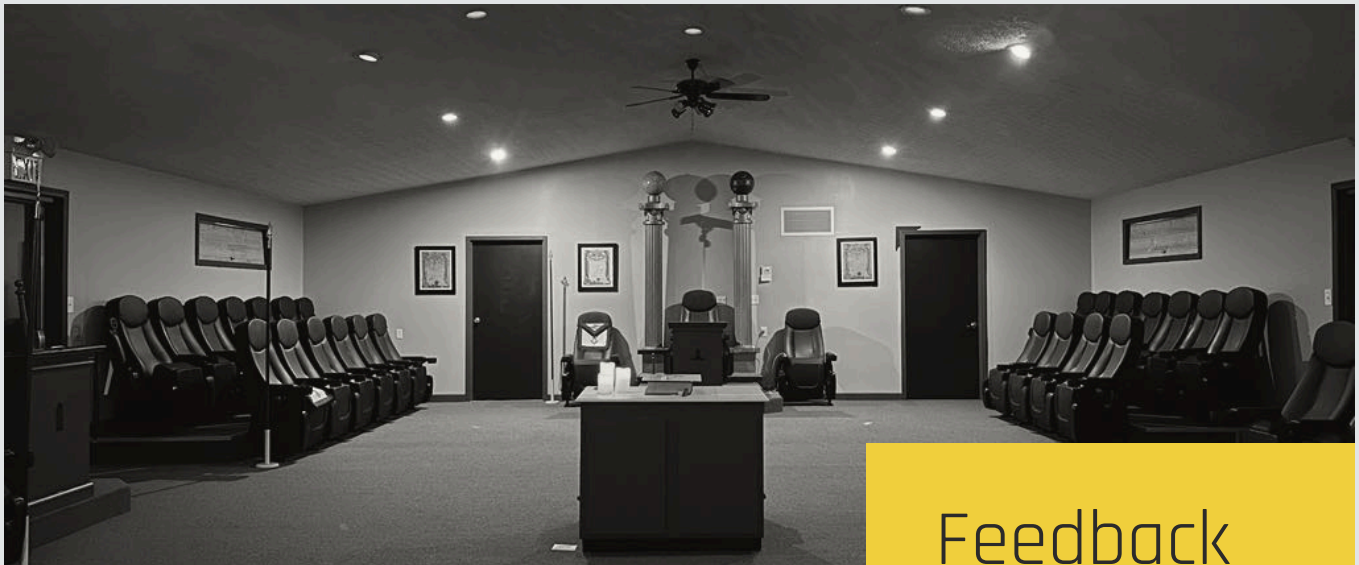


# Look To The West



## One Thing

In a recent conversation with another brother, he said, "I wish I could point out just one thing that is leading to Freemasonry's decline, something we could all clearly see as the reason for the struggle." I have thought about that statement ever since hearing it. I too, wish we could point out just one cause, it would make things easier if there were just one reason.

But the fact is, there isn't just one thing. We face the hard task of identifying several contributing factors. I will point out a few that, in my humble opinion, are continuing the decline of Masonry. These are of course my personal views, not demonstrable facts. And therein lies one of the very issues at the heart of our decline.

## Feedback

We want to hear from you! Feedback is always welcome. Want to write a piece? We're digital, we will give room to your voice!



Events, lodge information, interviews, all are welcome.



## Masonic Spotlight!

Brother Clarence Lawson



Clarence Lawson began his journey in in Masonry, in 1978 at Pyramid 869 in Vilseck Germany while stationed there during his time in the US Army. After being raised June of 78, he was elected to serve as Senior Warden in September of that same year, and became the acting master in 1979. Upon retirement and returning to the States, he joined St. Andrews Lodge 18 in Cynthiana in 2009. He was elected Master there in 2012, and has served as Treasurer since 2017. In 2019 he was elected to Master at Amity 40, and again in 2013. He is the current Senior Deacon at Amity currently as well!

## One Thing

We seem to struggle with addressing important issues collectively, considering all viewpoints and working together to reach a solution. The beauty of Freemasonry is, and should always be, men of differing backgrounds working together in harmony.

Another challenge is remembering our obligations. All too often, they are forgotten, or perhaps never truly considered. A recent example involves comments, made by a man who claims to be a Mason, that were directed to the Wife of another Mason. I contend he is not a Mason for no true Mason would make the comments he did, to anyone, most especially the wife of another Mason.

Upon further investigation, it was revealed that this man is the product of a one-day class in a neighboring jurisdiction. He has never, to my knowledge, attended his lodge, nor returned any kind of proficiency. He went straight into an appendant body and has since misrepresented Freemasonry in a foolish manner. HE took an obligation, one he neither learned nor adhered to. We must remember our obligations.

We also live in a perpetual state of hurry. There is a constant rush to bring in more members simply to pay the bills. In another recent incident, a lodge that prides itself on bringing in many members for financial reasons, is now facing the cost of that mindset.

We would never invite a stranger into our personal lives or families without knowing whether they are truly worthy. So why do it in a lodge? A place where we trust these men to be our brothers, too keep us accountable, and upon whom we rely in times of darkness.. Being a Freemason is and should always be a privilege and honor, not just a means to cover expenses



## Join us as we visit:

Amity 40  
Millersburg Kentucky



Just a little way North East of Paris Kentucky, sits the quaint town of Millersburg. A town once known for its Military Academy, and Bruce Lee costar Jim Kelly.

Located at 102 E 7th street, you will find Amity Lodge 40, where they still have meetings every third Saturday at 7pm EST.

Chartered in 1817 and again in 1909, the current lodge also merged with Orient 500 in 2012 to create the current Amity 40.

Take a drive out in Central Kentucky's rolling pasture land, and stop on in and give these guys a visit, you will be glad you did!

## One Thing

It is easy to find negativity in anything, and Freemasonry is no exception. But let us focus on the positive. Freemasonry offers a powerful example of how the world can work together through both the highs and lows of life. It should always be a refuge from the profane world we live in.

Unlike most things in this world, if we choose, we can extinguish the negative by working together to improve ourselves and the world around us. We do not always have to agree, but we should respect one another, be there for each other, and hold each other accountable. Freemasonry is perfect, it is we who are trying to perfect ourselves, and we cannot do it alone.

While we may not be able to identify one reason for Freemasonry's decline, we can easily identify what will restore it, effort, just try. It really is that simple. Try to do the best you're capable of, and support others in their efforts to do the same.

Robby Ratliff CDR 694



## Wish to learn? From The Quarries



Wish to know more about Freemasonry, and many topics that surround it? Don't have the time or concentration for long dry books? Want things laid out in an easily digestible fashion? Then check out, From the Quarries. WB David Hartland Taylor found fascination in some old books and documents in his lodge, after realizing they hadn't been used in decades, he sat out to read them. As a result of this his fascination grew and now he publishes content on YouTube, as well as his own website.

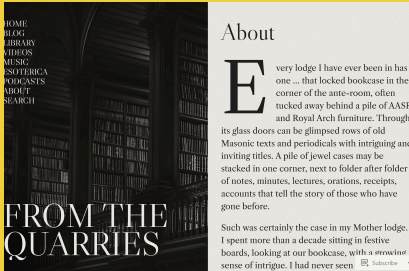
His website has grown to a collection of writings, videos, music, podcasts, and other media, dedicated to Freemasonry.

## Purposely left blank

We had extra space to highlight From The Quarries last month, and want to further highlight them this month. Our message, as presented by Bro. Ratliff didn't require this page, so the body is left blank for this month.

Want to learn?

## From The Quarries



Most videos will generously show you a length, so if your time is limited, you may pick one that fits.

Brother Taylor has spent a lot of time and effort making this media and curating this collection.

So go check him out!

[www.fromthequarries.com](http://www.fromthequarries.com)

## Lecture Slideshows

Remember the slides you were shown on your way through the various degrees? At CDR we do too, and decided to modernize and upscale the images. After some expense and a great investment in time, we present them to you. Best part, the cost is every Freemason's favorite, free! We just ask that you make a donation to Masons Helping Masons. We will help you engage your candidates and brothers, and you get to help our greatest outreach program for Masons in need. You get great looking slides, and recognition for donating, and we get the satisfaction of helping our fraternity. Just go to [cdr694.com](http://cdr694.com), look for the tab that says giving back, and download them.



Slides presented on the website are without notes, and are just the pictures themselves. If you need the notes version, we have that too, but to get that version reach out as it has the lectures built in.

As well if you see some of us out and about and we will be happy to help you then as well. [Click Here](#)





## Mark Your Calendars:

### Milford Lodge 158



Milford Lodge 158 will be hosting a Free Fishing tournament for kids 15 and younger.

It will be held Saturday, September 27th at Stucker Farm  
1194 Buck Creek Rd  
Campbellsburg Ky. 40011

Starts at 8:00 am and goes until 11:00am.

If you have a kid that would like to participate, or you would like to volunteer to help, please feel free to reach out to the Lodge Secretary for details!

## Interviews

CDR has embarked on a project, and we need your help. We have been filming interviews of Masons. We all have our own unique story, and we want yours to be heard. Brother Ratliff has been saving our fraternity's history, one story at a time. He has invested heavily on this project, and all he needs you to do is schedule a time and talk. Let's face it, Freemasonry has been terrible at explaining to the world how it changes people's lives. For years we have let others speak on what the fraternity is, and most of what they say is false and unpleasant. Share your story, so the next generation can relate to you and this organization.



All you have to do is reach out to Brother Ratliff, and schedule a meeting. Even better, get a few brothers from your lodge together, and he will gladly come to you. It costs nothing, and who knows, maybe your story will inspire the next generation of Masons.

You may contact Robby through our lodge or via the email this newsletter is sent under.

Watch the interviews [HERE](#).



# Events far and wide



## Upcoming Events

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| CDR694 Regular Stated Meeting    | September 13th 9am        |
| Milford Free Kids Fishing day    | September 27th 8am        |
| C.D. Ward Annual Cave Degree     | October 11th 11am 9am reg |
| CDR694 Entered Apprentice Degree | October 11th 9am          |

## Notices



Just send us an email to the address you receive this newsletter from. We will do our best to get them added. Need 2 months lead time.