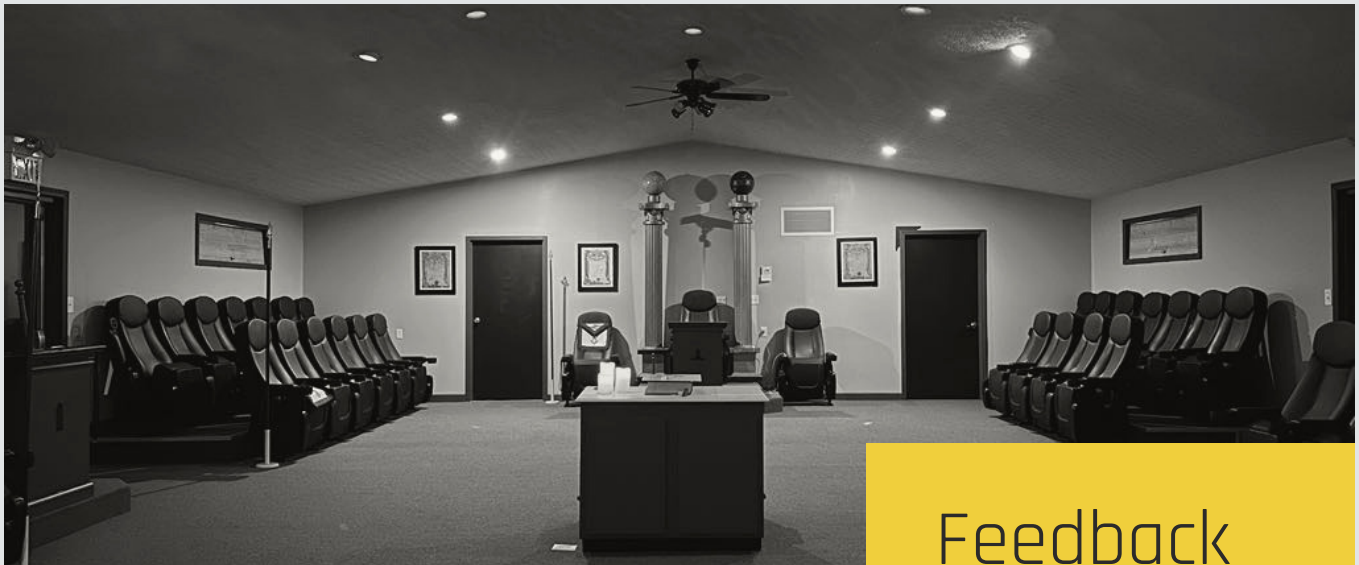


Look To The West



The Empty Lodge

The old man surveys his lodge,
remembering things from long ago.
But something is missing,
Where did all the people go?

In years past there was,
hardly an empty chair.
There was life and excitement,
as voices filled the air.

Now there's only a few,
where once there were many.
A handful attend at best,
a visitor or two, if any.

As he ponders upon ,
his lodges fate,
his mind comes alive.
as his memories percolate.

Conversations had,
Opportunities ignored.
Chances that were lost.
He starts to hear the words.

"Daddy who are those guys?
The ones you talk to?"
Not now son,
they don't concern you.

Daddy, where do you go,
in your suit and tie and hat?
It is a secret son,
never you mind that.

Father, what is that on your ring?
The odd little image?
Can't tell you yet son,
You're not of proper age.

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!

DDGM James Lewis



MAN, MYTH, LEGEND, ENIGMA

Way back in 2018, in Carrollton KY, Brother Lewis entered the world of Freemasonry, kicking and screaming!

After quickly rocketing through the chairs at Carrollton, it was quickly apparent, no one lodge could hold Bro. Lewis so he became a dual member at Fortitude Lodge 47 in La Grange Kentucky!

Brother Lewis currently serves as District 17s DDGM, and has recently started attending Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville! When you take on that many challenges, they don't call you brother, they call you Legend!

The Empty Lodge

Farther what do those words mean,
The ones I hear you recite?
I cannot tell you ,son,
to those words you have no right.

Dad can I join you,
when you meet with your friends?
This group is secret, son,
only for grown men.

Dad, what's the meaning,
of this little blue book?
Give it me now, son,
You better not have looked.

How about now, Dad,
Can I join you and your friends?
Not now my son,
you have classes to attend.

Time and time again,
the young man asked.
In his father's image,
he only wanted to bask.

But the old man said no,
each time he inquired.
And each time denied,
killed more of his desire.

Till one day the man said,
Son, why didn't you come?
I've always wanted to Dad,
You looked like you had fun!

Then why haven't you asked now?
Since you're a grown man?
No one told me how to, Dad,
and now I have other plans.

You once had interest,
the father began to plea.
I did then , Dad,
but you showed no interest in me.

I left you clues, son,
Let you play with my ring.
But you never told me once, dad,
about Masonic things

Maybe I was wrong, son,
I don't always know what to do.
Wish you had said more , dad,
I wanted to be just like you.

Knowing he'd missed his chance,
the old man shuddered and cried.
It was because of Him,
His son's interest in Masonry died.

As he peers across his empty lodge,
at the vacant pews and chairs.
The old man can't help but know,
he's now fully aware.

He's the reason others didn't come,
not because he did anything bad.
But, by not sharing his Masonry,
missed every chance he ever had.

Share your story now,
to everyone that will hear.
Tell of your love for the craft,
especially to those you hold dear.

Telling people how you feel about,
what Masonry means to you,
That isn't recruiting,
something you ought not do.

But, if your love for Masonry,
You cant be bothered to share,
Well don't cry to me dads,
when your sons no longer care.

This old man's story,
has been seen by many of us all,
as the numbers of brothers,
across the state continues to fall.

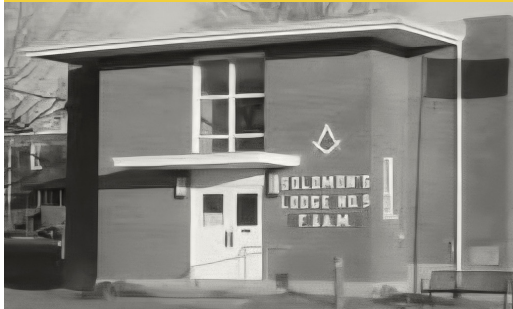
Generations before have failed,
to spread the love of Masonry.
And now our sons meet our cries,
with well earned apathy.

The choice is ours old friends,
pretend it's all a secret, or share,
but if you never shared you light,
then don't expect the world to care



Join us as we visit:

Solomon's Lodge 05
Shelbyville Kentucky



A phone call, a herd of Hoosiers, a fried phone and one excellent degree!

Solomon's Lodge#5 was chartered in 1800 and was one of the five original lodges when the Grand Lodge of Kentucky was founded.

Recently at the invite of a dear friend, I was able to attend Solomon's 5 and witness some good degree work. Unfortunately my notes and pictures died unexpectedly, when my phone decided to die.

Inside you will find a beautiful and well appointed lodge, and some of the nicest fellows in the Fraternity.

I will have to return and once again endure the dialog between Brother Lewis, and Conrad "Hotdog" Everly, and you really should too!

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, 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:

Master Raising Carrollton



What do get when you have multiple candidates, and multiple lodges providing cast members? One epic night of pure Freemasonry!

Carrollton Lodge #134 will be Raising multiple brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. They will be assisted by Brothers from multiple lodges. Pewee Valley 829, and our very own CDR 694 and others.

Come celebrate with us as these brothers are raised.

Meal at 6pm Work at 7pm.
October 13. Carrollton Ky

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	October 11th 9am
CDR694 Entered Apprentice Degree	October 11th 9am
Master Raising Carrollton	October 13th 7pm

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.