

# Millersville CROSSING

APRIL - AUGUST 2012

MILLERSVILLE LODGE #126

## Lodge Beautification Brick Project Celebrates 160th Anniversary

Worshipful Master Jeffrey S Kames has announced an enhancement to the beautification of our Lodge with the "Millersville Memorial Walkway" project in conjunction with the Lodge's 160th Anniversary that will be celebrated next month.

The plan is fairly simple, to offer engraved paver bricks along the south side of the front walkway to any brother or sister who wishes to place a brick for themselves, for a family member, or in memory of a departed brother or sister.

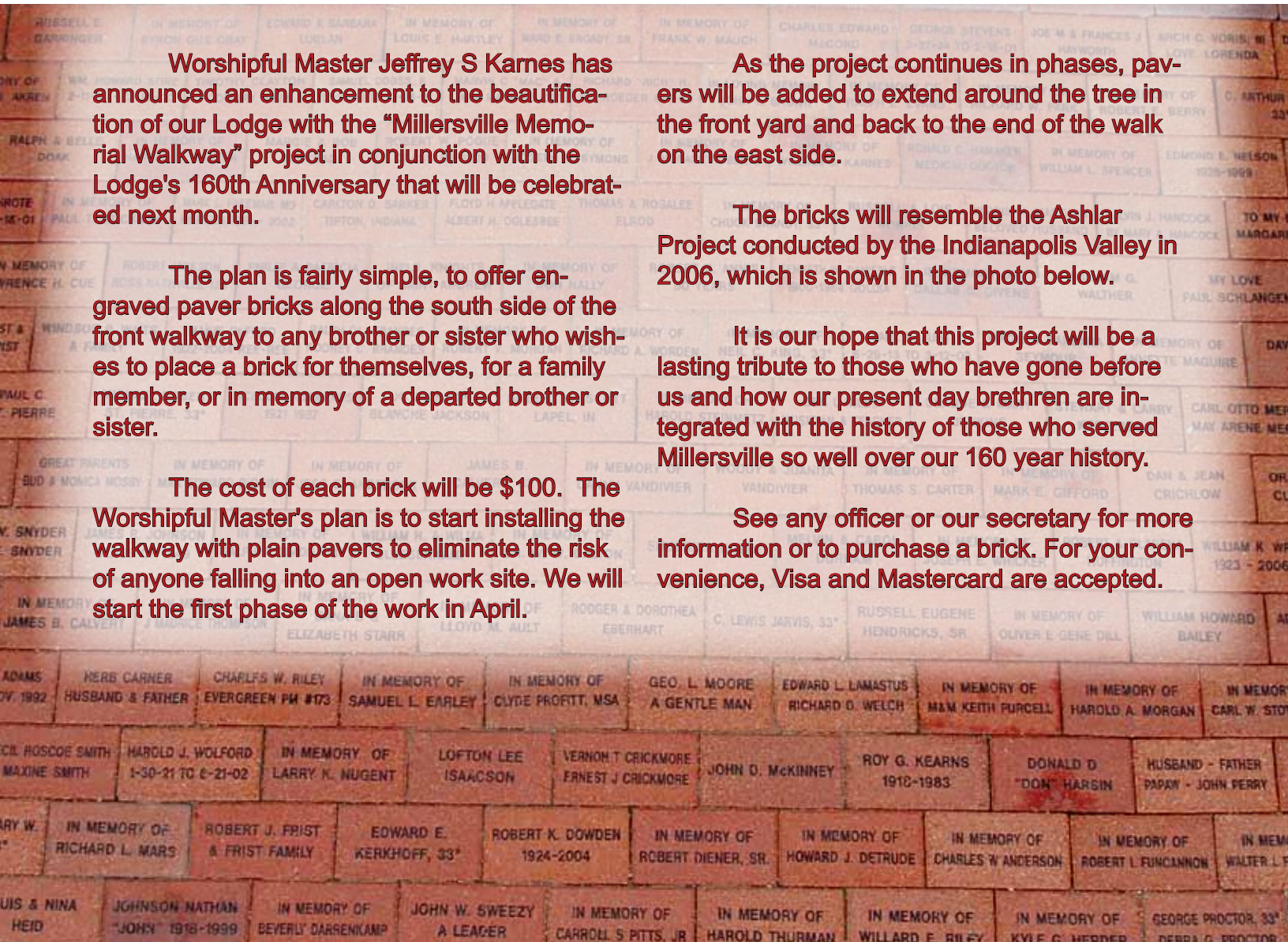
The cost of each brick will be \$100. The Worshipful Master's plan is to start installing the walkway with plain pavers to eliminate the risk of anyone falling into an open work site. We will start the first phase of the work in April.

As the project continues in phases, pavers will be added to extend around the tree in the front yard and back to the end of the walk on the east side.

The bricks will resemble the Ashlar Project conducted by the Indianapolis Valley in 2006, which is shown in the photo below.

It is our hope that this project will be a lasting tribute to those who have gone before us and how our present day brethren are integrated with the history of those who served Millersville so well over our 160 year history.

See any officer or our secretary for more information or to purchase a brick. For your convenience, Visa and Mastercard are accepted.



## The Millersville "CROSSFIRE"

# Let's Not Be So Anxious to Skip Manhood or Lessons from My FC Degree

*by Andy Hoffman, Junior Deacon*

The Fellow Craft degree is often passed (sic) over as a necessary step between the excitement of initiation and the sublimity of raising as a Master Mason.



As a newly raised Mason, I was talking to Bill Richter and he told me (pardon my paraphrasing) "You never know what will mean the most to a candidate. It may be his first exposure that leaves the most lasting imprint. The candidate may be drawn to architecture, so the Fellow Craft degree speaks to them -- or it could be the Master Mason degree."

Since Bill's calling to the Grand Lodge above, I have been thinking about this even more and been contemplating, what does the Fellow Craft degree mean, and why would it speak to someone? It comes down to this: overlooking the Fellow Craft degree is like skipping from Youth to Age and rushing through the important years of Manhood with the vain hope of completing life full of happy reflections.

The Fellow Craft degree builds on the foundations of morality and virtue we receive as Entered Apprentices and it gives us the tools to develop ourselves so we can fully appreciate the Master Mason degree and practice our craft as Master Masons.

Every Junior Deacon gets asked the all-important question, "So, are you learning the short form Middle Chamber or the long form?" How to answer the question depends on your answer to the following: Really, who cares about cubits? Who cares about orders of architecture? And in today's world who doesn't already know what human senses are? Why invest a boat load of time into learning something that is largely irrelevant and already taught in schools from the first grade? Are the Ritualist pin points worth my time? - OK! The points are worth it - I'll learn the long form.

As I dive in to memorize something, I read it through, then break it down into bite size parts and attempt to begin to understand the literal meaning. I couldn't figure out why our very wise early speculative brothers like Voltaire, Franklin, Locke, etc, would not seek to modify the ritual to make it more profound. About a third of the way into learning and trying to understand this beast of a lecture, the frustration over seemingly useless

facts washed away as the proverbial brazen pillar struck me on head with insight: "OOOOOOOHH!!!!!! It's an allegory! None of this is literal. Man, those guys were smart!"

In the lecture, reference is made to the two great brazen pillars on the porch of King Solomon's Temple (Jeremiah 52:21-22), their attributes are described, and we are told that they "allude to the promise from God to David that he would establish his kingdom in strength." A theme that we see continually re-emerge in the Masonic lectures is the building of the Temple of God in ourselves, here on earth. In other words, we are fitting our bodies as living stones, for that more spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1). Did our ritual's authors actually intend that we, humans, Masons, brothers, are that kingdom which the Author of Nature is establishing and what proceeds after we pass these pillars are the instructions describing how to climb the staircase of enlightenment to receive our wages for a well spent life? I think it does. But as Bill taught me, you never know how Masonry will speak to someone. How does it speak to you...Do you care about orders in architecture?

In preparation for next year, where I will hopefully be elected as Senior Deacon, I have started learning the Middle Chamber lecture while seriously contemplating the entire Fellow Craft degree. I have conversed with well-informed brethren, read my monitor, and spent time on Google trying to make sense of this degree as I prepare myself and hopefully, next year's candidates, for more light in Masonry.

## Degree Team Forming

If you have a desire to have a part in the degree work, don't think that it is only open to the Lodge officers or Past Masters. Millersville is starting a Second Degree team due to the amount of candidates we have moving through the work.

Worshipful Brother Bruce Frazer, PM is developing this team and will be working to assist any brother who is desirous of learning the ritual. So if you are interested, look up WB Bruce at a Lodge dinner or the Lodge and let us know.

# The Millersville "CROSSFIRE"

## The Laborer & the Master

by Jeff Karnes, Worshipful Master

In the last issue of the Crossfire I stated that we were going to visit other Lodges in the Central Indiana area. We got off to a slower start than anticipated but on February 6, three Millersville Brothers visited Mystic Tie Lodge # 398 where future social events were being planned. On March 15, we made our first visit to Charles F Frank Lodge #760 in Zionsville. Worshipful Brother Bud Roberts, PM and I loaded up two vehicles with eight Brothers and officers and at 5:30 pm left the Millersville lot and traveled without incident to Zionsville.

Brother John Judd met us at Charles F Frank making a total of nine Brothers for this visit. The Trestle Board that night was set for an Entered Apprentice degree and their Master needed someone to do the Four

Cardinal Virtues lecture. You will all be very pleased to know that our own Senior Warden, John Koren, stepped up to the challenge with only a short time to prepare and did an excellent job which, the Zionsville brethren truly appreciated. "Kudos" to John for a job very well done!!



The most recent trip was on March 28, to Noblesville Lodge #57

where 10 Millersville Brethren gathered for a Master Mason Degree. Several of our brethren took positions in the Lodge where needed.

Several more trips this year are in the planning so don't miss out on what has been so far a very rich and rewarding experience to visit other Lodges, make new friends, and enjoy the Fellowship our Craft has to offer. See you on the Road very soon!

## The Master's Funnies

A Candidate for initiation was to be picked up and driven to the Lodge, but before this could happen the car broke down. The Candidate said as it was no great distance and he would go on his bicycle.

Just when he reached the top of the hill his chain broke. As the Lodge was at the bottom of the other side and all he needed was a backpedal brake, he repaired the chain with a cord he had in his pocket and free-wheeled downhill to the Lodge.

Later that evening in reply to a toast in his honor, he said how proud he was to be a Freemason but could not understand, as he had told no one, how the WM knew that he had come on his own free wheel and a cord.

## Endowments, Bequests

This message is merely an encouragement for you to remember Millersville Lodge as you predetermine the disposition of personal funds and other properties. If you want to keep the future of this Lodge as a viable and attractive fraternal option for interested men of quality, then include us in your financial considerations.

Major bequests we have received over the past 20 years have helped the lodge to cover and enclose the west kitchen entrance, the elevator, and helped to establish an investment fund for the future of Millersville's legacy. Please contact Jerry B Collins, PM, Secretary, if you have any questions or for more information about structuring a gift properly.

# The Millersville "CROSSFIRE"

## Open House Success

**by Jeffrey S Karnes, Worshipful Master**

Millersville has sponsored three Open Houses this year -- one each in January, February and March -- and as a result we now have 12 new petitioners for the degrees of Masonry. Brethren, to get to this point has taken a large effort on behalf of the Officers of the Lodge and several brothers.



You might think that the work is now done and all we need to do is elect them and confer the degrees. How natural that supposition may be to you it is erroneous. We have a way to travel with these men that is the future of our Fraternity. I can't stress

to you all how important it is at this moment in time that we all pitch in and offer whatever time we can spare to assist these men in a better understanding of our Gentle Craft.

I have always been in awe of my brethren at Millersville that when the call goes out they are always there to reach out their hands to assist in one form or another. Please consider this your call from the Lodge to take part in this Great and Important undertaking.

That being said, our new Craft Team, which is now starting to take shape needs your help not just in the parts but also from experienced brothers who can help mentor them as well. We are setting dates starting in May for

Craft practices for the EA and FC degrees so watch the on-line calendar and the bulletin board for the dates.



*Watch for news of our next Road Trip.*

### Millersville CROSSFIRE

The Crossfire is published four times each year by Millersville Lodge #126, 4990 Kessler Blvd. E. Dr. Indianapolis IN 46220, (317) 251-4900, and is intended to amplify upcoming events contained in the Trestle Board and report on past events and other articles of general interest in the Lodge. Signed comments and suggestions are welcomed and will be printed as space allows.

Worshipful Master Jeffrey S. Karnes  
Editor Jerry B Collins, PM

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