

# Ceremony for the Unveiling and Dedication of Battle Monument

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The Grand Lodge of West Virginia, A. F. & A. M., will be convened in the Hall of Minturn Lodge No. 19 at 10 a. m. At 10:30 will proceed under direction of Grand Marshal, accompanied by Knights Templar and other escort, to Tu-Endie-Wei Park formed in procession as for corner stone ceremony. At 11 a. m. the ceremony will begin. \* \* \* \* \*

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Point Pleasant, West Va.  
October Ninth  
Nineteen Hundred and Nine





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# RITUAL

(1) Music.

(2) (The Chairman or Representative of Monument Committee will extend formal invitation to Grand Master.) Most Worshipful Sir: On behalf of the Trustees of the State, appointed in pursuance of a Joint Resolution of the Legislature adopted February 7th, 1901, to erect a monument at Point Pleasant in commemoration of the battle at that place between the Virginia troops under command of Gen. Andrew Lewis and the Confederate tribes of Indians under the Indian Chief, Cornstalk, fought October 10th, 1774, and which has been completed so far as the manual labor and work of its building is concerned, so that now all that remains to be done is its unveiling and dedication, which, in accordance with an invitation extended you a few weeks ago, you are now requested to do with the ceremony of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons.

(3) ACCEPTANCE BY GRAND MASTER—Mr. Chairman: A few weeks ago when your very courteous invitation came requesting the Grand Lodge of Masons to be convened here to-day, for the purpose of dedicating this monument, I hesitated; for while from time immemorial it has been our custom to *lay the corner stones* of public structures, we have seldom extended our participation in public functions beyond that in modern days, and have prescribed no formal ritual for any other similar public ceremony. But upon reflection, the great moving spirit of this occasion being

in perfect accord and harmony with the principles of our craft, and seeing nothing in this that would in the slightest degree violate any land mark or ancient usage of Free Masonry, I determined to accede to your request, and by a ceremony in part improvised for the occasion, apply to this graceful shaft the tests of the implements of the Master Builders of the world, and in its dedication pronounce upon it the benediction of an institution that has not only builded temples and cities, but builds also for the perfection of human character and the attainment of human ideals in government and citizenship.

The world owes much to Free Masonry for the degree of perfection that has been attained in architecture. The Ancient Masons were exclusively architects and builders; and not only were they proficient in their craft as individual workmen, but they were banded together in fraternal organization, for social and mental improvement and culture. And so conspicuous were the improvements wrought in the cities where their skill was employed, that they were given free passports to travel where they would, and extend the fruits of their labors; hence the origin of the name "Free Masons."

So far as I have been able to investigate the history and literature of this Fraternity, I have concluded that a reasonably accurate definition of Masonry as it exists to-day, may be expressed in this language: Free Masonry is a system of mental and moral philosophy veiled in allegory, and taught by the use of symbols, designed to place the human appetites and passions under the influence and subjection of the spiritual and divine. Thus, modern Masonry may be said to be speculative and not operative. It has to do with the erection of spiritual temples and not temporal structures. But since we are the successors of artisans and builders, and our ancient brethren wrought in operative masonry, we still observe many of their rites and ceremonies, and our philosophy is hedged about by the symbols of their craft. This may serve as a brief answer to the question so frequently asked,

why are Masons universally called upon to lay the corner stones of public structures. And this is sufficient justification for extending our ceremony so as to include the dedication of this magnificent monument to a holy cause.

Therefore, on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of West Virginia, do I most cheerfully accept the invitation you have so graciously extended, and we will proceed to unveil and dedicate this monument in a manner we hope befitting the patriotic motive which moved its erection, and this great concourse of loyal citizens who have come here to participate in the exercises of this day.

And since we are taught that in all our undertakings we should first invoke the blessing of Almighty God, we will now unite with our Grand Chaplain in an address to the Throne of Grace.

(4) INVOCATION BY GRAND CHAPLAIN—O, Eternal God, the Supreme Architect of heaven and earth, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; thou hast graciously promised thy especial presence wherever two or three of thy faithful servants shall assemble in thy Name. In thy presence are we gathered together to-day fully cognizant of our dependence upon thee, and of our unworthiness to come into thy presence; yet remembering the rich promises revealed in thy Word, we come asking thy pardon for the past and thy guidance for the future. To thee we deeply feel our debt of gratitude for the many mercies thou hast seen fit to vouchsafe unto us—for our health, friends, food and raiment and all the other comforts and conveniences of life—but above all for the gift of thy Son Jesus Christ to be the Saviour of the world. Thee also would we thank for the gift of the heroes of October 10th, 1774, by whose patriotism and self-sacrifice, in part, are due the many blessings we now enjoy of this great land. Ever to them would we ascribe all that is justly due; and to our posterity proclaim their virtues. May we ever strive to emulate their zeal and earnestness for the preservation



of our country from the encroachments of all enemies; and may this monument, soon to be unveiled and dedicated, ever stand, not only as a memorial of their deeds of valor, but also as a witness to that truly great virtue, which can alone preserve this or any other land—true patriotism. Pour down upon us and all of the members of the Mystic Craft throughout the world the rich blessings of thy providence. Let thy blessing be upon us as a Nation; and we humbly beseech thee, as for the people of these United States in general, so especially for their rulers; that thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper all their doings to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy Church, the safety, honor and welfare of thy people; that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavors, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. These things and whatever else thou shalt see necessary and convenient to us, we humbly beg, through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. AMEN. So mote it be.

(5) CHIEF ARCHITECT OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE.—Most Worshipful Grand Master, having been entrusted with the duty of directing the workmen in the construction of this monument and having to the best of my ability accomplished the task assigned me, I beg to surrender to you the implements of operative Masonry, hoping that the result of our labors will be crowned with your approbation. (Presents the square, plumb and level.)

GRAND MASTER—(Delivers the implements to the proper officers.) Right Worshipful Brethren, you will receive the implements of your office and apply them to the several portions of the work presented for your inspection, and make report.

G. M.—Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer, you will please give us a list of the donors by whose liberality this monument has been erected.

GRAND TREASURER—Most Worshipful Grand Master: The total amount of funds raised and expended for this monument and grounds has been \$26,385.77, of which \$2,107.84 was the principal and interest contributed by the Ladies Monumental Association; \$8,788.33 principal and interest of an appropriation made by the Legislature of West Virginia in 1875; \$5,309.60 principal and interest of an appropriation made by the same body in 1905; \$190.00 from other sources such as rents, and \$10,000.00 appropriated by the Congress of the United States, and I am happy to report that so well have these several funds been cared for by the different parties to whom they have been from time to time entrusted during all these many years, that not a cent has been diverted from the purpose to which it was contributed, but that every penny is fully and properly accounted for.

G. M.—Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, for the information of those here assembled, you will recount the record of the construction of this monument, and the materials of which it is composed.

GRAND SECRETARY—Most Worshipful Grand Master: The record leading up to the construction of this magnificent shaft to perpetuate the battle fought upon this ground, and to show the reverence and gratitude of this people to the memory of those who participated and fell therein, is a brief one, although extending over a period of fifty years. Long prior to the time when the first actual and substantial movement looking forward to its erection was organized, the subject had been discussed throughout Virginia and some of the adjoining States.

To make the initial move it remained for a number of ladies residing in Kanawha Valley, most of whom were direct descendants or connected by marriage ties with some one of the descendants of those sturdy, fearless pioneers and patriots who marched forth from Fort Union, (where the town of Lewisburg now stands,) and entered the unknown forest wilderness, chop-

ping and hewing over mountains and through valleys a pathway to the place where we are now assembled, and where but a few days afterwards they participated in the bloodiest, greatest and in results the most far reaching battle contest ever enacted on this continent between the white and Indian races.

These devoted and patriotic ladies determined that the heroic deeds of self-sacrifice and valor of their forefathers should be perpetuated as a lesson for future generations by marking the ground wherein the honored dead who gallantly gave up their lives in the battle had been laid to rest, and accordingly they organized the first Monumental Association for that and the purpose of raising a fund wherewith to erect a suitable memorial monument. An entertainment given by the Association a few months thereafter furnished the initial fund (a few hundred dollars,) for the construction of the monument we are about to unveil and dedicate. This event in the history of this monument occurred nearly fifty years ago, and but two or three of those patriotic ladies have lived to see the fulfillment of their youthful efforts and desires consummated in the ceremonies of this day.

The devastating and unfortunate war between the States came on shortly after, producing strife in communities, the severing of friendly ties and dividing many theretofore happy homes and families, so that but little or no thought was given the monument, and the undertaking laid dormant for many years.

Most memorable was the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the battle at this place on the 10th day of October, 1874. Thousands of strangers, many from long distances, participated therein, with addresses by some of the most distinguished sons of this and other States. This seemed to revive interest to some extent in the projected enterprise, but it was short lived, the only result being an appropriation from the State treasury in the following year. The local committee, not deeming this appropriation with the funds on hand sufficient to build a monument commensurate with the importance of the



event it was proposed to commemorate and perpetuate, allowed the matter to drag along and apparently die, but its friends never lost faith in the ultimate building of the monument. Thus for twenty years or more nothing was done to revive interest in the subject when the State of West Virginia took hold of the matter by the appointment of a commission to take the helm and proceed with the work. The commission's first duty was to purchase additional ground for the site, which used up quite all of the available funds. The Congress of the United States and the State Legislature were then appealed to, and each responded nobly, enabling the commission to contract for and build the highest monument erected on any battle field west of the Alleghenies. The completed work is before you. The monument is of concrete and granite stone, quarried in South Carolina, rests upon a solid foundation of concrete, and is 82 feet high.

Such, Most Worshipful Sir, is in brief a summary of the record of fifty years from the time of the organized inception of building this monument, and which is none the less appropriate because of the long, anxious years of doubt and waiting, for it cannot benefit those dead heroes who yielded up their lives in the sacred cause of civilization and liberty and who lie buried in yonder plot of ground, but to the living it is a useful lesson of patriotic veneration and reverence for the glorious deeds of valor and self-sacrificing devotion to duty which by it are placed upon perpetual remembrance by a grateful people, who to-day are enjoying the fruits of the courageous and perilous labors of those pioneer heroes.

G. M.—Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper implement of your office?

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER—The Square.

G. M.—What are its moral and Masonic uses?

D. G. M.—To square our actions by the rule of virtue and prove our work.

G. M.—Apply the implement of your office to the monument and make report.

D. G. M.—(Applies Square to corner.) Most Worshipful Grand Master, I find the stone to be square; the craftsmen have done their duty.

G. M.—Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, what is the proper implement of your office?

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN—The Level.

G. M.—What are its moral and Masonic uses?

S. G. W.—Morally, it teaches equality, and by it we prove our work.

G. M.—Apply the implement of your office to that portion of the monument that needs to be proved, and make report.

S. G. W.—(Applies the Level.) Most Worshipful Grand Master, I find the stone to be level; the craftsmen have done their duty.

G. M.—Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper implement of your office?

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN—The Plumb.

G. M.—What are its moral and Masonic uses?

J. G. W.—Morally, it teaches rectitude of conduct, and by it we prove our work.

G. M.—Apply the implement of your office to that portion of the stone, and make report.

J. G. W.—(Applies the Plumb.) Most Worshipful Grand Master, I find the work to be plumb; the craftsmen have done their duty.

G. M.—(Strikes monument with gavel three times.) This monument has been tested by the proper implements of Masonry; I find that the craftsmen have faithfully and skillfully done their



duty, and I do declare the same to be well formed and trusty, and truly proved according to the rules of our ancient craft, and now ready to be unveiled. And may the blessings of plenty, health and peace abide with all who to-day stand within its shadow.

(Thirteen little boys, the descendents of the patriots of the Battle of Point Pleasant, representing the Thirteen Original Colonies, with appropriate ceremonies, accompanied by music, will here unloose the cord and unveil the monument.)

J. G. W.—Most Worshipful Grand Master, in ceremonies of dedication, it has been an immemorial custom to scatter corn as an emblem of nourishment. I therefore present to you this vessel of corn to be applied by you according to the ancient usages.

G. M.—I scatter this corn as an emblem of plenty. May the blessing of bounteous Heaven be showered upon us, and upon all like patriotic undertakings, and inspire the hearts of the people with virtue, wisdom and gratitude.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

S. G. W.—Most Worshipful Grand Master, wine, the emblem of refreshment, having been used by our ancient brethren in ceremonies of this nature, I present to you this vessel of wine to be used on the present occasion.

G. M.—I pour this wine as an emblem of gladness; may the Great Ruler of the Universe bless and prosper our State and Nation, and preserve the union of our States in harmony and brotherly love, as a monument enduring through all time to the civil and religious liberty guaranteed by a Government of, and for, and by the people.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

D. G. M.—Most Worshipful Grand Master, I present to you to

be used according to the ancient custom, this vessel of oil; an emblem of that peace which should animate every bosom on the completion of any important undertaking.

G. M.—I pour this oil as an emblem of peace. May its blessings abide with us continually, and may the Grand Master of Heaven and earth shelter and protect the widow and the orphan, and vouchsafe to them and to the bereaved, the afflicted, and sorrowing everywhere, the enjoyment of every good and perfect gift.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

G. M.—(Striking with gavel three times.) And now by virtue of the authority in me vested, and by aid of these elements of consecration, I do solemnly dedicate this monument, to the hallowed memory of the brave men, who for love of freedom, with matchless courage, on the 10th day of October, 1774, did battle on the plains of Point Pleasant, in the fiercest struggle ever waged on this continent by an Indian foe, and which proved to be the virtual end of American and Indian warfare, and the beginning of a contest which lifted the yoke of oppression and tyranny, and established a free government for free men in a free land.

And may this massive granite shaft be crumbled and mingled with the dust of the earth, ere the heroic deeds which it stands here to commemorate be forgotten by the descendants of this people.

May the same spirit of gratitude and reverence, the same spirit of patriotic devotion and love of country, and love of truth which animates our hearts to-day, continue as the ruling passion of the Nation, and thus may ours be truly the "light of the nation shining more and more unto the perfect day."

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

RESPONSE—GRAND HONORS.



G. M.—The Grand Marshal will make proclamation.

GRAND MARSHAL—By order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I do hereby proclaim that this Battle Monument has been dedicated in solemn form by ceremony of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons of West Virginia.

(6) MUSIC.

**WE MEET UPON THE LEVEL.**

- 1 We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square,  
What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are!  
With the highest and the lowest and the rarest they are fraught.  
Come, let us contemplate them; they're worthy of a thought.
- 2 We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,  
The king from out his palace, and the poor man from his home;  
For the one must leave his diadem without the masons' door,  
And the other finds his true respect upon the checkered floor.
- 3 We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due,  
We mingle with its multitude, a cold, unfriendly crew;  
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,  
And we long, upon the Level, to renew the happy scene.
- 4 There's a world where all are equal, we are hurrying toward it fast,  
We shall meet upon the Level there, when the gates of Death are past;  
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there,  
To try the blocks we offer by His own unerring Square.
- 5 Hands round, ye faithful Masons, form the bright fraternal chain,  
We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again;  
Oh, what words of precious meaning those words Masonic are,  
We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.

(7) ORATION.

(8) RETURN IN FORM TO THE LODGE ROOM.





