

LODGE STAINED GLASS HISTORY AND RESTORATION

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Roxborough Lodge No. 135 in 1913, the third floor Lodge rooms in the Masonic Temple of Manayunk were re-modeled in 1912.



Masonic Hall, Manayunk
Circa, 1912

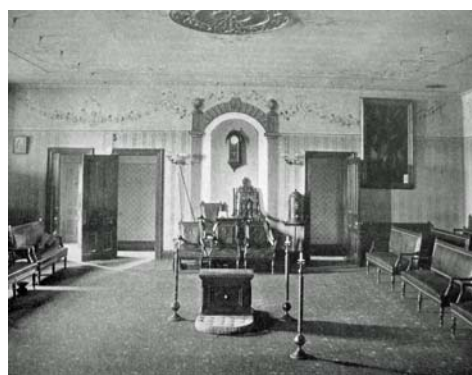
An extract from the minutes of the stated meeting on May 14, 1912 informs us that: “The Committee of three appointed to confer together with the Trustees of the Lodge, with the Officials of the Masonic Hall Association, reported (in favor of) taking away the partition between the 2 Lodge rooms and ante rooms and forming one room, and arranging the room and ante rooms and make all necessary changes without cost to the Lodge for same, P.M. Brother, James E. Lord making the report, also stated that the estimated cost for making the change would be about \$4,500.00....

P.M. Brother Edward T. Alburger then moved “that the Trustees be authorized to notify the Masonic Hall Association that the Lodge agreed that the change in the room be made according to the plans and propositions submitted,” this motion was agreed to.

It was stated that it would probably cost the Lodge about \$1,000.00 for additional and new furnishings, adapted to the enlarged rooms.”



Old Lodge Room – East View



Old Lodge Room – West View

At this time, two sets of stained glass windows, consisting of eight panels each, were installed as skylights in the ceiling of the new Lodge room. When the building in Manayunk was sold, in 1968, these panels were removed for storage, eventually resting, since 1980, on the second floor of our present building.



New Lodge Room – East View

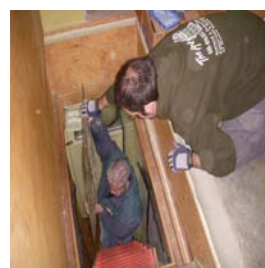
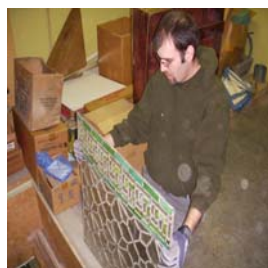


New Lodge Room – West View

With the 200th Anniversary of the Lodge approaching in 2013, it became a matter of serious consideration among several brethren as to how we could best restore these windows, incorporating them into our present Lodge Room.

Accordingly, early in September of 2007, Brothers Richard G. Jones, P.M., Worshipful Master, and Richard A. Heath, Senior Warden, climbed the ladder to the second floor to find the windows, where they had lain for over two decades, in deteriorating condition; some cracked, broken, and covered in grime. Each panel was photographed, and several stained glass studios were contacted, and estimates obtained. Two estimates were presented at the Lodge Finance Committee meeting on October 30, 2007 by Bro. Heath, but no action was taken.

On January 17, 2008 after several exchanges of letters, phone conversations, and e-mails, representatives of the Lodge met with Ms Kathy Jordan, President of “The Art of Glass, Inc.” at her studio in Media, PA. The Trustees of the Lodge agreed to the terms of their proposal, “to completely recreate (four) Medallion windows from two original antique sky lites.” When on March 3, 2008, the panels were removed from the Lodge building to the studio for cleaning and restoration.



Removal of old windows from 2nd floor of Masonic Temple of Roxborough



Windows being removed to the studio “The Art of Glass, Inc., Media, PA

The Finance Committee approved the recommendation of the proposal by the Trustees at the April 22, 2008 meeting, and Brother William Whitlock was appointed Project Chairman by Worshipful Master Richard A. Heath.

At the October 28, 2008 Finance Committee meeting, Bro. Whitlock reported that the four windows had been completed, and must be paid in full by April, 2009. The Committee approved \$21,000.00 for payment of the windows, frames, and installation in the Lodge Room. With monies thus approved, a diligent search was made for someone to build the frames and cabinets.

Various leads were followed and abandoned until the Worshipful Master approached Brother Barry Oppenheim, of Hackenburg-Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 19, who cheerfully undertook the task, after visiting the stained glass studio to view the completed windows on January 23, 2009, with Bros. Richard A. Heath, P.M., W.M., Richard G. Jones, P.M., and William Whitlock, Project Chairman.



Bros. Whitlock, Oppenheim, & Jones, with artisan at studio

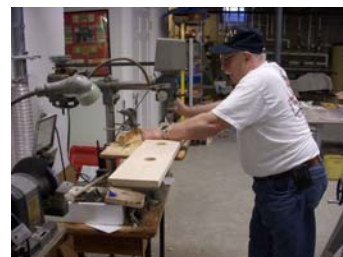
On March 12, 2009 several Lodge brethren gathered in Bro. Barry’s workshop to assist in the construction of the frames and cabinets.



Bros. Scott Harwick, Barry Oppenheim, & Casey O’Donovan



Bros. Robert Craighead and William Whitlock



Bro. Richard G. Jones, P.M.

The construction was meticulously completed by Bro. Oppenheim, who, in careful attention to detail, made a stain for the frames to match that of the Master's podium. Bro. Robert Craighead applied the stain to the frames, and Bro. William Whitlock painted the cabinets. Lighting fixtures were connected to the cabinets by Bro. Paul J. Feigel, Sr., P.M. The first cabinet was installed in the East on April 4, 2009 by Bro. Feigel, ably assisted by Bros. Harry Feigel, Paul Feigel, Jr., Scott Harwick, Richard Heath, Richard Jones, and Harry Schussler.



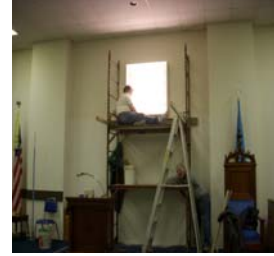
Bro. Oppenheim signs
The back of last cabinet



Bros. Feigels, Schussler
& Harwick



Bros. Heath, Feigels &
Schussler



Bro. Heath, WM tests the
lights

The frames were taken to The Art of Glass Studio in Media for installation of the windows. The first framed window was received in the Lodge Room on April 8, 2009 by Bros. Richard A. Heath, P.M., W.M., and William Whitlock, Project Manager. On April 13, 2009 the frame was attached to the cabinet and the window was home in the East.



Bro. William Whitlock receives
Window from representative of
"The Art of Glass," Media, PA



Bros. Harry Feigel, Paul Feigel, Jr.,
& Paul J. Feigel, Sr., PM secure
the frame to the cabinet in the East



"Square & Compasses"
in the East

When, at a stated meeting of the Lodge, on May 12, 2009 the restored **“Square and Compasses Stained Glass Window”** was, for the first time in an open Lodge of Master Masons, lit by Worshipful Master Richard A. Heath, P.M.; and there was **light!**

Prior to Family Night, June 2, 2009, the other three windows were duly installed in the South, the West, and on the North side of the Lodge Room. At this time sponsorships were received from Brother Robert G. Boone, Sr., P.D.D.G.M. on behalf of the Boone family for the “Square and Compasses” window in the East; and by Mrs. Dorothy Feigel, on behalf of the Fiegel family, for the “Masonic Slipper” window in the South.



Bros. Richard Boone, Robert G. Boone, Sr. PDDGM present check To WM Richard Heath



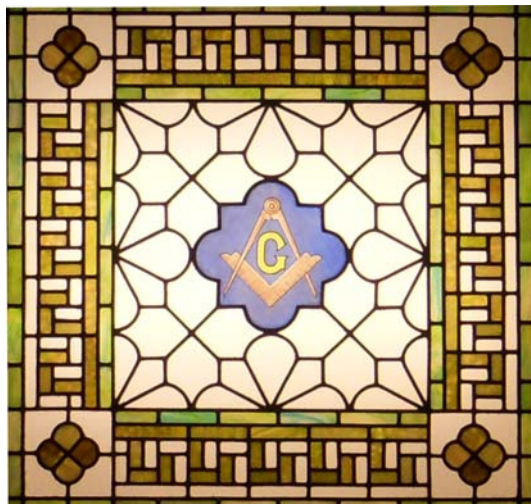
Bros. Robert Boone, III; Robert G. Boone, Sr., PDDGM; Richard Boone; George Boone; Robert Boone, Jr.; Richard Heath, WM



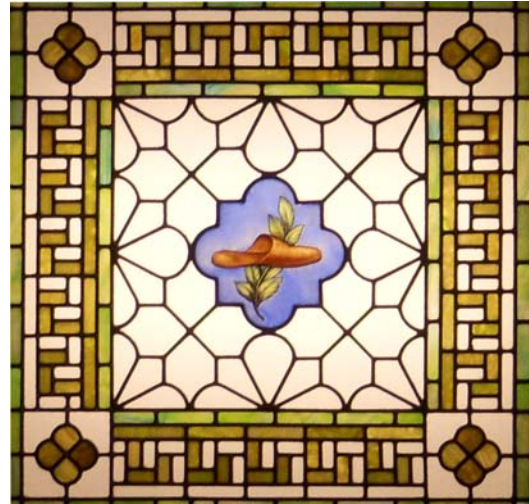
R. Heath, WM; Mrs. Dorothy Feigel; making presentation Bros Harry R. Feigel, Jr. & Paul J. Feigel, Sr., PM

On October 28, 2009, the Lodge received a contribution from Brother Edward A. Gaffney, now a Sixty Year member, in memory of his late wife, Isabelle Gaffney, in sponsorship of the “All-Seeing Eye” window on the North wall of the Lodge Room.

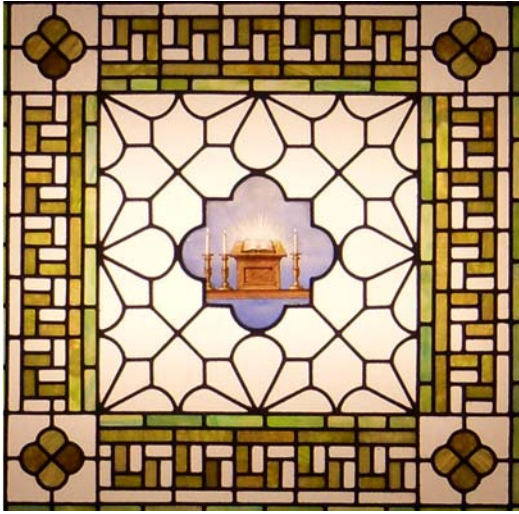
Many hands have contributed to the completion of this project, and for this, the Lodge is most grateful. Every Brother is welcome to take part in the continued efforts to beautify our Masonic Temple, and your reward will be the pleasure in working with your Brothers, and the enjoyment of our accomplishments.



**Square and Compasses
EAST**



**Slipper
SOUTH**



**Altar
WEST**



**All-Seeing Eye
NORTH**

Text & Photos by
Richard A. Heath, P.M.