

Lewis Apron Returns Home

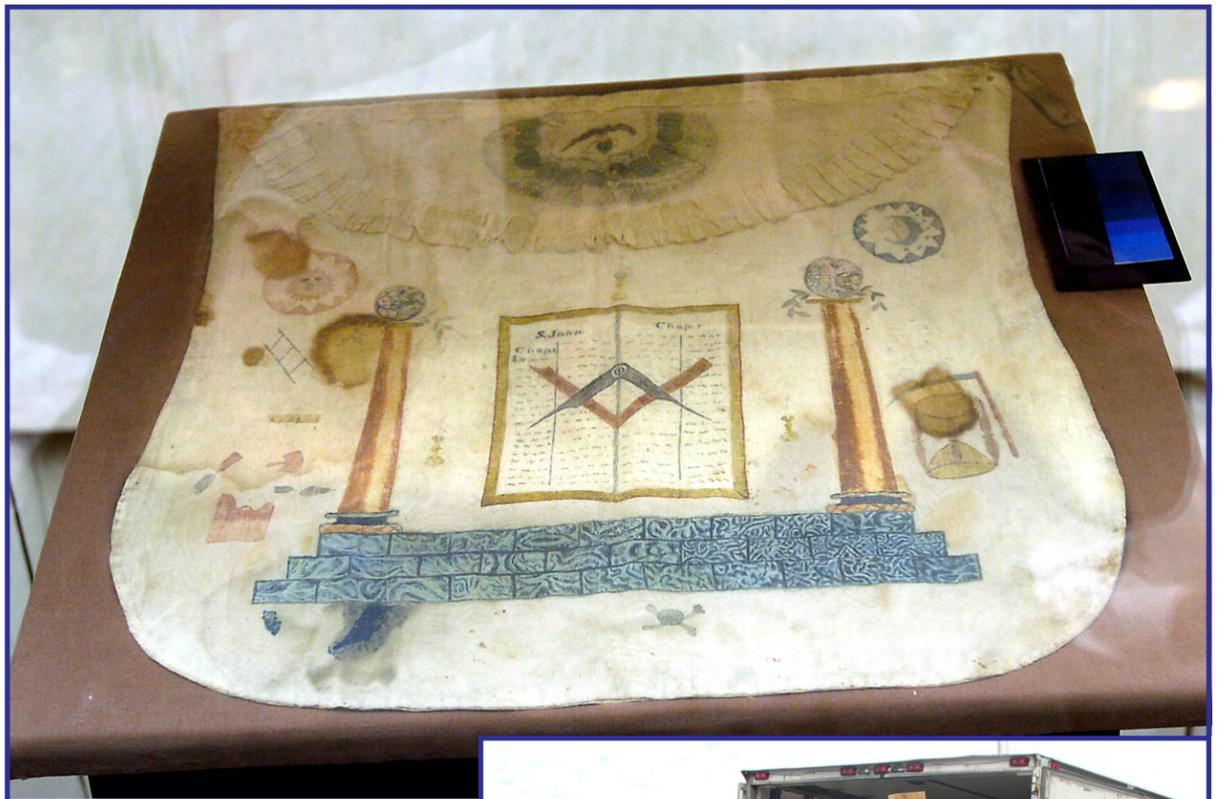
The Masonic Apron of Meriwether Lewis arrived back to Montana after completing the three year loan to the Missouri Historical Society and the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Exhibit.

The much anticipated return of the Masonic Apron of Meriwether Lewis came to a joyous end on October 9th with the arrival of Jeff Meyer, a curator with the Missouri Historical Society who hand carried the apron back to Montana from the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. The freight truck containing the display case which had been used with the national exhibit over the last three years arrived on October 10th. It took the combined efforts of twelve brothers to off-load the display case from the freight truck and move it into the Grand Lodge building.

Two hundred years after Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out from St. Louis on their transcontinental journey of exploration, the Lewis and Clark National Bicentennial Exhibition was established and set out on a three year, multi-city exhibition to commemorate their adventure.

The Masonic Apron of Brother Meriwether Lewis was deemed to be a significant artifact to be part of the exhibit and was the only artifact from Montana to be included in the exhibition.

On Friday, November 10th a reception and exhibit Grand Opening was held in the Montana Masonic Museum to welcome back the Masonic Apron of our Brother Meriwether Lewis. The reception started off with a hardy welcome and introductions by Reid Gardiner, Grand Secretary and Curator of the Museum. Next the crowd was treated to a musical tribute by the Daughters of the Nile, Patrol Drummers, Sapphira Temple No.79, who had been given permission to perform by their Queen, Margie Fowler. The performance of these drummers insured that everyone



in attendance had their blood circulating and hearts pumping. It was an exciting performance.

The Grand Secretary then gave a short history of the various display cases which have been used over the last 45 years and the current technology employed with the new display case. RW Brother Gardiner provided the following details of the Apron's journey.

As an exhibit of the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Exhibition the Apron had been part of a three year, multi-city tour. It was viewed at the following venues: St. Louis, at the Missouri Historical Society - viewers 187,000; Philadelphia, at the Academy of Nature and Science - viewers 41, 234; Denver, at the Museum of Nature and Science - viewers 146,000; Portland, at the Oregon Historical Society - viewers 65,000; and the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History - views unknown as the Smithsonian keeps overall visitor counts and not for individual exhibits. However, it seems realistic to say that between 449,668 and 600,000 people viewed the Apron during the exhibition. MWGM Tom Valente discussed the historical importance of the Apron and then recited the White Leather Apron lecture to demonstrate the importance of the apron to a Mason. Brother Rocky Whipkey (3) and Tom Gocksch (3, 5) Grand Organist unveiled the display as Nancy Fuller of the Sapphira



Delivery of the Apron Case

Patrol performed a drum-roll. Other guests in attendance included the Honorable James E. Smith, Mayor of Helena; Deputy Grand Master David Nielsen; Honorary Past Grand Master and Senior Past Grand Secretary Donald Schenck; Past Grand Master Gerald Shay and Past Grand Master Alan Harkins. Special thanks to the Peabody Museum for the photo and permission to use the image of the Raven Bustle that is shown with the display and to the Montana Historical Society for assisting in the preparation of the Raven Bustle display. The reception followed with hors' d'oeuvres, wine, ice tea, coffee and mints.



Greetings From the Grand East

My Brothers: One of the benefits of being Grand Master of Masons is that my duties require me to travel around the state, visiting lodge meetings and other festivities, and meeting many of you in your lodges. It is during these visits that I experience the brotherly love and sincere friendship that binds us together into one sacred society.

In most of my visits during the past six months, I have been impressed with the activity that is occurring in lodges, large and small, throughout the jurisdiction. Petitions are being received and degrees are being conferred. I have reached the half-way point in my tenure as Grand Master with a feeling of optimism, fueled by the opinion that the membership push started by PGM Dave Prewett and continued by PGM Jack Anderson is picking up momentum. We are getting new members throughout the jurisdiction. This makes me very optimistic about the future of the Craft. But the influx of new members presents all of us with serious challenges.

When we bring a new man into Masonry, we owe it to him to educate him about the lessons contained in our ritual and the principles and teachings of our Fraternity. This can best be accomplished one-on-one by assigning a mentor to each new candidate. The mentor's responsibility is to make the new brother welcome in the lodge, to sit with him in lodge, and to teach him the protocol and courtesies used in the lodge that have become second nature to most of us. The mentor also must keep the new Mason informed of lodge activities for both him and his family (if he has one), and determine his interests and capabilities so the Worshipful Master can be advised on how best to involve the new brother in lodge activities and utilize his talents. If you believe that you can do this, please tell your Worshipful Master that you would volunteer to be a mentor. The mentor should not be confused with the coach. The coach's responsibility is to teach the new Mason his proficiency, either one-on-one or in a class setting. While some Masons are capable to

being both mentor and coach, there is no objection to having two Masons fill these responsibilities to the new Mason.

In addition, we must give the new Masons reasons to continue attending lodge meetings. Does your lodge have a program for every meeting, or at least every other meeting? This program can consist of Masonic education, such as a discussion of the meaning of our obligations. It can be a guest speaker talking about a Masonic or non-Masonic subject. Dinners with the ladies, in the lodge or elsewhere, are always popular. Ideas are being provided to each lodge monthly from the U.S. Masonic Renewal Program. Lodge officers must make it worthwhile for their members to attend the meetings. You can help keep the meetings interesting and varied by volunteering to lead some activity that interests you.

I am asking all Masons to assist their lodges in identifying people of their communities who may be in need of one-time assistance. Do you know someone who has a one-time need for monetary charity? If so, talk to the Worshipful Master of your lodge. The one-time need may be eligible for lodge and Montana Masonic Foundation assistance from the M.A.S.O.N. (Masonic Assistance Supporting Our Neighbors) program. Each Worshipful Master has the eligibility guidelines for this program.

I also want to remind all Masons that the requirements (refer to page 12 for details) for the Grand Master's Classes (one-day degree conferrals) have changed this year. Classes will be conducted on February 10 in Great Falls, March 10 in Drummond, April 21 in Lewistown, and May 19 in Eastern Montana (town to be announced). In the February, March and

May classes, only the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees will be conferred. Candidates must be investigated, balloted upon, initiated, and have passed a satisfactory proficiency in their home lodge or by courtesy work prior to attending the class. This change is intended to increase the bond that each new Mason has with his mother lodge. All three degrees will be conferred in the April class. If you know someone who is a potential candidate for one of the Grand Master's classes, it is not too early to start the process.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to this year's Grand Master's appeal, in which you were

provided with personalized return address labels, and asked to contribute to the Montana Masonic Foundation. The program is now closed, and the Montana Masonic Foundation has received more than \$10,000 from it. Thank you very, very much. The interest and growth from your contributions will enable the Foundation to continue its

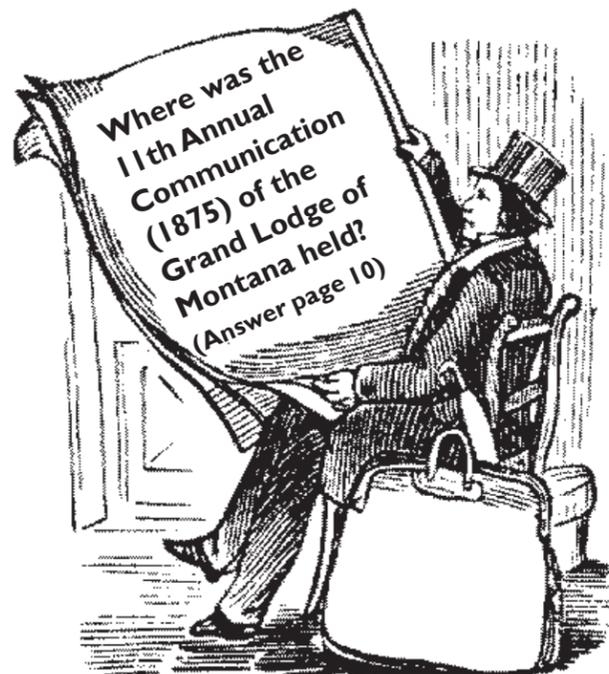


charity and educational work.

Finally, I hope each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving holiday. We, as Americans, Montanans, and Masons, have very much to be thankful for. The Great Architect has truly blessed us all. As we enter upon the holiday season, Pat and I want to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Trivia Question



The Montana Masonic News is an official publication of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana and the Montana Masonic Foundation Corporation. Unless otherwise noted, articles appearing in this publication express only the private opinion or assertions of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Grand Lodge. The jurisdiction speaks only through the Grand Master and the Executive Board, when attested to as official, in writing, by the Grand Secretary.

The editorial staff invites contributions in the form of informative articles, reports, news and other timely information (of about 500 to 1000 words in length) that broadly relate to Montana Masonry, Masonic law, lore, customs, history, symbolism, philosophy, responsibility of membership, etiquette, current events, and/or general public interest. When possible, photographs that illustrate these informative articles should accompany the submission. Pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off) or via e-mail to: mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org

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Article and Photo submissions

Articles: Pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off).

Photo: Black and white or color, preferably accompanied by a computer disk with photo image in .jpg, .bmp, .tif. Include who took the photo, when and where.

Advertising: Anyone interested in advertising in the paper will need to initiate a New Agreement.

How Ancient is the Golden Fleece?

When a newly initiated Brother receives his lamb-skin or white leather Apron, he is told that the badge with which he is being invested is, "more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other order."

So, how old is that badge? The Order of the Golden Fleece was a chivalric order founded in 1430 by Philip the Good of Burgundy. The Order of the Eagle was founded in 1433 by Albrecht von Habsburg, Duke of Austria, who later became the Holy Roman Emperor. The Order of the Garter was founded in 1348 by King Edward III of England, and the Order of the Star, in 1351 by King Jean II of France. These are all orders of knighthood, members of which are allowed to wear the distinctive badge of the Order.

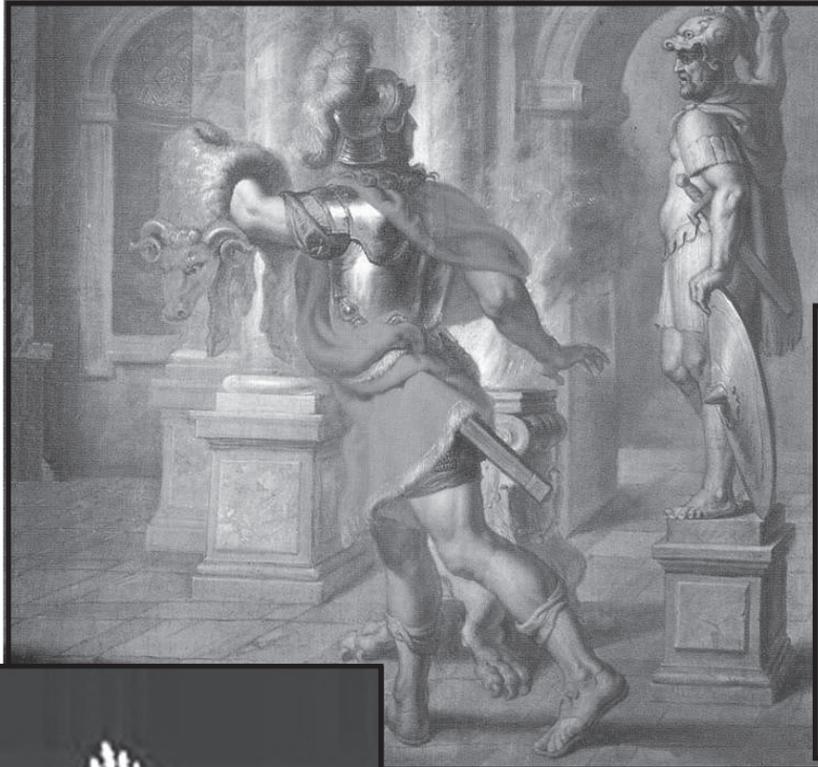
Notice that the Orders of the Golden Fleece and the Eagle are actually the most recent, but that the badge of a Mason (the Apron) is described as more ancient than they are. Isn't that odd?

The authors of the Work may in fact be referring not to the medieval Order of the Golden Fleece, but rather to the legend of Jason and the Argonauts, recorded in the third century BC by Apollonius of Rhodes, the librarian

of the great library at Alexandria. And the Roman Eagle they refer to could be the standard of the Roman Army used in the first century BC. But the legend of the Golden Fleece is a myth of Hercules and the gods, not a real event. And the Roman Army's Eagle was a

the trade guilds, including one statute in 1389 which required that guilds and brotherhoods submit charters and letters patent; and the Halliwell Manuscript containing the Regius Poem was written. This manuscript, which some date to 1390, contains the oldest record of Freemasonry which we have, and was the basis for the Ancient Charges which are found in our Book of Constitutions. Thus it seems that the authors of the Work were stating that Freemasonry had its origins in the stonemasons' guilds formed in the 14th century – or at least the Apron did.

Special thanks to: W. Bro. David Cameron, Grand River Lodge, Ontario, and the Alberta Freemason.



Painting by Erasmus Quellin 1636 - 1638 of Jason and the Golden Fleece



Order of the Golden Fleece



Order of the Star and Garter

standard carried into battle, not a badge worn by an individual.

The answer to this may be found in the Work itself. It says that the badge of a Mason is older than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle. It does not however, say it is older than the Star and Garter. Does that not imply that it is not as old as they are? When the candidate is told that Freemasonry is older than the Order of the Golden Fleece, but not as old as the Order of the Star, he being told that the Craft dates from somewhere between 1351 and 1430!

What was happening in the world at that time? The Norman cathedral at York was being torn down and replaced by the present Gothic structure; the British Parliament was passing laws which formally organized

Lodge of the Holy Saints John

Have you ever wondered why we use the phrase "from the Lodge of the Holy Saints John at Jerusalem"?

According to a traditional Masonic legend the first lodge of the fraternity was located at Jerusalem and anciently was dedicated to King Solomon. Later, Lodges were dedicated to St. John the Baptist, then to St. John the Evangelist – and finally to both. The legend further declares that all Lodges are descendants of the original Lodge at Jerusalem; so, in keeping with this tradition, we say that every Masons hails from such a Lodge, which is equivalent to saying that he is from "a just and lawfully constituted Lodge."



The Pondera Masonic Lodge presents a check from the Lodge to Daniell Moritz to help defray her medical expenses. Pictured are from left to right: Everett Snortland, Daniell Moritz, Kim Moritz and Jay Castle. Photo by Brad Huffman.

* Masonic Tid Bit*

Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA has many Masonic connections. It stands on land purchased by William Allen, Grand Master of PA. The ground was staked by Edward Wolley, a Mason. Thomas Boude, the brick mason, was Secretary of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia and later Deputy Grand Master. Benjamin Franklin, Past Grand Master of PA, rang the bell to call the populace on July 8, 1776 to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The Liberty Bell cracked in 1835 when it tolled the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, Past Grand Master of Virginia.

78th Annual International Grand Lodge Banquet

This picture was taken on November 2, 2006 at the 78th Annual International Grand Lodge Banquet and Reception, sponsored by Lafayette Lodge No. 241 in Seattle.

Pictured are: *Front row, left to right:* MWB Isaac Brower-Berkhoven, Grand Master, MW Grand Lodge of AF&AM of British Columbia and Yukon; MWB Charles W. McQuery, Grand Master, MW Grand Lodge of F&AM of Washington; WB Michael L. Ellsworth, Worshipful Master, Lafayette Lodge No. 241, F&AM of Washington; and MWB M. Harden Keys, Jr., Grand Master, MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of F&AM of Washington. *Second row, left to right:* MWB William A. Martin, Grand Master, MW Grand Lodge of AF&AM of Oregon; and MWB Thomas E. Valente, Jr., Grand Master, MW Grand Lodge of AF&AM of Montana. *Third row, left to right:* MWB Marvin B. Fitzpatrick, Grand Master, MW Grand Lodge of F&AM of Alaska; MWB Michael A. Sutton, Grand Master,

MW Grand Lodge of AF&AM of Idaho; and MWB James D. Woodward, Grand Master, MW Grand Lodge of F&AM of Utah.



Our Vision

The Masons of Montana will be recognized as a relevant and respected Fraternity, committed to attracting, developing and retaining all men of high quality who strive for self improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in their community, and in the lives of those around them.

Our Mission

Freemasonry in Montana strives to satisfy our members as we teach moral standards, and support a way of life that promotes fellowship, brotherhood, and self-improvement through excellence in leadership, education, family, charity, and community involvement.

Boulder-Basin #41 Celebrates Veterans Day

B#41 invited Sgt. Klark Barrett, of the Montana Army National Guard to talk about his experiences during his tour in Iraq. Barrett talked about the vast differences in how Saddam Hussein lived in luxury and his people lived in nothing more that shacks. Some of the homes had no roofs and running water was non-existent.



The photo below shows a wall full of bullet holes where Hussein had the workers of this powerplant killed, after they sabotaged the equipment, so they could not help the American forces.

WM Wayne Tice presented Sgt. Barret with a certificate of appreciation and presented his wife, Vicky, with a gift certificate.



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Majority of Montana's Congressional Delegation Still Masons

Congressman Denny Rehberg (R)

Denny Rehberg, 51, is a fifth-generation Montanan who has been involved in ranching and public service. He has served in the Montana House of Representatives and as Lieutenant Governor. He has served as Montana's lone seat in the House of Representatives since 2000. Bro. Denny is a member of Ashlar Lodge No. 29 in Billings.



Senator Jon Tester (D)

Jon Tester, 50, is a third-generation family farmer who grows organic crops on Montana land homesteaded by his grandfather in 1916; and a former music teacher. He became president of the Montana state Senate last year. W. Brother Jon is a Past Master of Treasurer Lodge No. 95 in Big Sandy.



Miss Montana 2006

Christie Hageman, age 22, daughter of PGM Richard and Lady Beverly Hageman of Billings is the reigning Miss Montana 2006. Christie a former Job's Daughter and member of Billings Bethel No. 3 has served as Bethel Honored Queen, and was Miss Junior Job's Daughter of Montana and also Miss Job's Daughter of Montana. Christie Hageman, is a singing sensation with a voice as powerful and dynamic as all of Montana, she is a native of Billings. Graduating valedictorian of Billings Senior High School, Christie continued her pursuit of vocal excellence at San Jose State University, where she graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance. She has been accepted into the Master of Vocal Performance at the University of Texas in Austin. Miss Hageman has performed many genres of music, including gospel-to opera and country-to-Broadway on American and Italian stages. She has performed with the Rimrock



Opera Company and has sung in numerous benefit concerts. Christie and her dynamic voice are often requested to sing the Star Spangled Banner at opening ceremonies for sporting events, conventions, and grand openings. At age 18, Christie was named the National High School Voice Winner from the Music Teachers National Association. Miss Montana 2006 states, "Music is my passion, my career ambition, and a cause that I strongly feel must be advocated and preserved. My focus this year is entitled "Music Makes the Difference" regarding the importance of preserving music in the education system and the lifelong benefits that can be seen throughout the business world, social realm, and our cultural climate.

Photo courtesy of Clark Marten Photography - Columbus, Montana and special thanks to the Miss Montana Scholarship Program.

National Association of Masonic Scouters Being Formed

The National Association of Masonic Scouters (NAMS) is now being formed.

Its purpose is to foster and develop the support of the Boys Scouts of America by and among Freemasons while upholding the tenets of the fraternity. Membership – Regular Members will be Master Masons who are in good standing in a regularly chartered Lodge and who are registered adult members of the Boy Scouts of America. Associate Membership will be for Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, family members of Regular Members of NAMS, and Master Mason who are formerly registered members of the Boy Scouts of America or who have an affinity for Scouting but are not presently registered members. If interested contact: Bro. David I. Karp at david@karpmediation.com (mailto:david@karpmediation.com) Universal Craftsmen Council of Engineers, Inc.

This Council is composed of Master Masons in good standing and is organized for the education of engineers and craftsmen. Contact: Al Berry, Grand Secretary, 44960 State Highway 104, Chambersburg, IL 62323.

Powder River Lodge #135 - Family Hayride

Powder River Lodge #135 sponsored a family hayride on November 4th, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. The event left the lodge and traveled down by the Powder River for a fun filled old fashion hayride. The group was very excited with a full moon and temperatures in the 40's. The younger people aboard the ride joined in song and laughter, while the older generation visited about the nice evening and the recent moisture they had received. Participants on the ride ranged in age from 18 months old to 76 plus!!! Numbering from 25 to 30 kids and 15 to 20 adults, a great turn out for our first event.

Upon returning to the lodge the group was treated to chili and hot chocolate. For dessert we had birthday cake for it was Ron Talcotts, a longtime member of the lodge, 70th birthday.

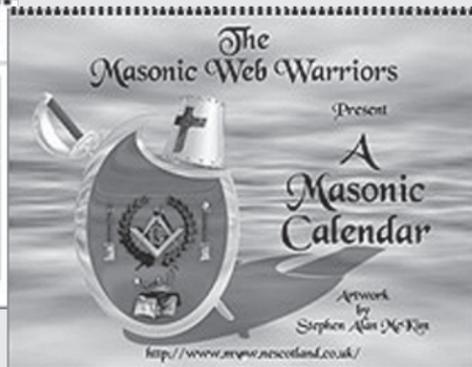
The event came to a close about 9:30 p.m. with all the masons very pleased about their successful family hayride. Talk is that this could become a annual event in Power River Lodge #135. A great time was had by all.



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2007 Freemasonry Masonic Wall Calendar



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Calendars are \$20.00 each with \$5.00 going to the Montana Masonic Foundation. To obtain a calendar send \$20 (includes shipping) for each calendar and this form to: **Grand Lodge of Montana PO Box 1158 Helena, Montana 59624** or contact Bro Reid Gardner at (406) 442-7774.

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Hands of The Workman

John Jay Hull was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, on Christmas Day, 1823, and was reared in that city. He married there in 1845. His wife died. He went to California in 1852, remaining in that state six years.

He went to Pike's Peak (Denver) in 1860. Probably he was in Colorado about three years. In the year of our Lord 1863, in May, gold was discovered in Alder Creek as we know. The stampede to Alder Creek commenced in the first week of June. Following the news of this event, tremendous in the history of Montana, John J. Hull was lured thither; the exact date of his arrival is not known positively, but it was early in Virginia City's life. As we have seen from the narrative of Brother Pfouts, Virginia City was a wild and dangerous camp in the latter part of that year.

Brother Hull was a genial man, of a friendly disposition which drew friends to him. Perhaps it was this proclivity that led him temporarily to engage in a lawful business which some moral-minded people tolerate, even patronize, but others do not favor.

Brother Hull himself, his associates affirmed, was a man of good habits, personally obedient to the moral code, except as he may have been stigmatized by his said business. He solicited the patronage of "gentlemen" or those who behaved in a gentlemanly manner. He permitted no rowdiness or boisterous conduct, nor excess, in his place of business.

He was personally a man of high honor and altogether trustworthy. In fact, Governor Edgerton, he of unimpeachable character and conduct, named John J. Hull the first Treasurer of the Territory of Montana.

When the movement to institute a Masonic Lodge in Virginia City began, Brother Hull was one of its proponents. When Virginia City U.D. was constituted, the Lodge became Virginia City Lodge No. 43 of the jurisdiction of Kansas, and in 1866 No. 1 of Montana.

Brother Hull was peerless in Montana as a Masonic ritualist. Cornelius Hedges of Helena, who was there, was named senior grand warden, revealed it in his later writings. He would have preferred Leander "W. Frary, master of Montana Lodge, and he reported that the officers of Helena Lodge could have elected either Hull or Frary, but his two wardens were convinced that Hull, the master ritualist, was the better of the two. Hull was elected, five votes to four.

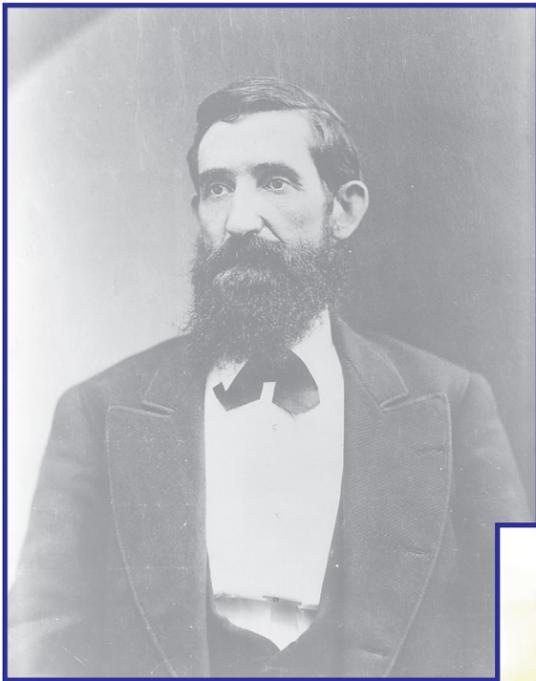
Brother Hull's ritual work heavily influenced the work we use today which is essentially Hull's work mixed with that promoted by Webb.

He was made a Mason in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, California in 1852. It will be remembered that Brother Pfouts, first Master of No. 1, left Virginia City in early September, 1865, maybe as early as the first to "go back to the States." The records show that Brother Hull served as acting W. M. of Virginia City Lodge from September 2, 1865, until he was elected its Master on December 23, 1865. As Master, he participated in the formation of the Grand Lodge, January 24-29, 1866, and was elected its Grand Master.

When the Grand Lodge met in its second Communication in October 1866, M.W. Brother Hull reported that he had granted dispensations for new lodges as follows: To Gallatin at Bozeman, February 17, 1866; to Morning Star at Helena, February 24, 1866; to Diamond City in Confederate Gulch, February 24, 1866. Charters were voted to these lodges as Morning Star No. 5, Gallatin No. 6 and Diamond City No. 7.

The Grand Master was reelected—and he bears that sole honor in Montana on October 2, 1866.

After his first election, Grand Master Hull appointed, among others, two brothers who in time were elected his successors: Rev. and Brother Hugh Duncan,



JOHN J. HULL - First Grand Master of Montana, 1866 and (right) his gold jewel.



Grand Chaplain, and Brother Nathaniel P. Langford, Grand Historian.

Upon his second election, he continued these brothers in their respective offices. In the meantime, the city of Virginia had been granted a charter by the first legislature. When the time arrived, the opposing candidates for mayor were Paris S. Pfouts and John J. Hull. Pfouts wrote of his opponent: "A gentleman whose popularity with all classes in the city was unequalled by any other person." Nevertheless, political and other conditions brought about the election of Pfouts.

In 1867, Thomas Francis Meagher, the Secretary and acting Governor, in his effort to ward off an Indian war, appointed Mr. Hull Colonel and Commissary General.

Brother Hull remarried in 1877. Eventually he located at Peoria, Illinois, at which city he departed this life October 13, 1883.

After some years residence in Montana, probably about seven, Brother Hull went to Duluth, Minnesota.

There is in the Memorial case in the Masonic library in Helena, a silver snuffbox presented to Col. J. J. Hull by his Duluth friends on Christmas Day, 1871.

More important is the elaborate solid gold jewel presented by the Grand Lodge of Montana to M.W. John J. Hull, Grand Master. In 1929, June J. Hull-Bird the daughter of John J. Hull presented her father's gold jewel to the Grand Lodge to be displayed in the Museum. Also, presented and on display in the Montana Masonic Museum is a square and compass jewel presented by June J. Bird and her husband Brother William Bird that had been worn by General Lafayette.

Wilbur Fisk Sanders

First Grand Secretary of Montana, 1866

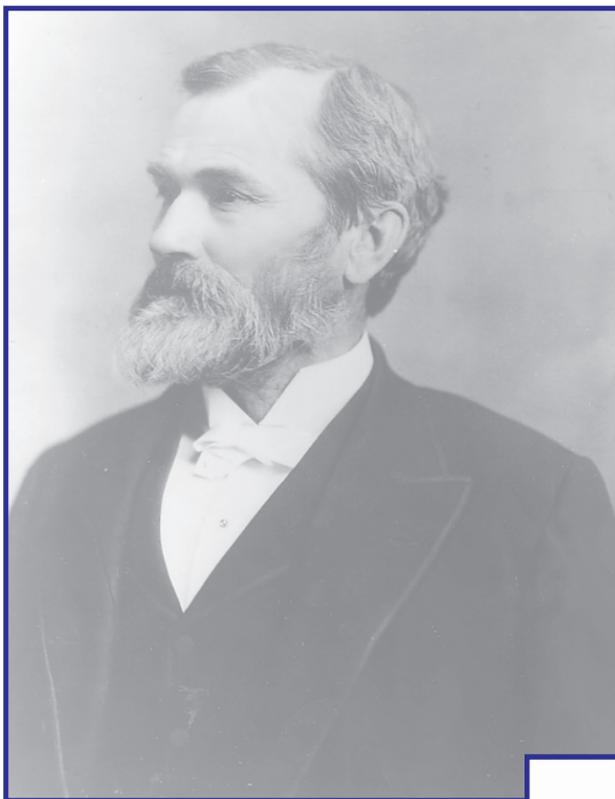
Wilbur Fisk Sanders was born in Ohio in 1834. Col. Wilbur F. Sanders had served as an adjutant in the Union Army during the early part of the Civil War but health problems forced him to resign his commission in 1862. He arrived in the Territory of Idaho (to become Montana Territory) in September of 1863. When the movement to institute a Masonic Lodge in Virginia City began, Brother Sanders was also one of its proponents. When Virginia City U.D. was constituted, the Lodge became Virginia City Lodge No. 43 of the jurisdiction of Kansas, and in 1866 No. 1 of Montana. Brother Sanders was elected as the first Grand Secretary on January 26, 1866. Two years later he was named Grand Master, the third to hold the office.

Col. Sanders, also made his impact on Montana's history. Sanders was an ambitious and courageous young attorney. Sanders was one of the 12 who organized the Vigilantes. He was the official prosecutor. The trial of the first of the notorious road agents and murderers, George Ives, was held in Virginia City on December 21, 1863. Colonel Sanders was in town at the time and was appointed prosecuting attorney by the miners' court. He successfully prosecuted Ives and obtained a conviction although threats of reprisal by Ives' friends were spoken freely. After the conviction, it

was Sanders' motion that the sentence be carried out immediately, rather than waiting until the next day, even though darkness had fallen. Ives was taken to a partially completed house selected for the site of execution and hanged that same evening. The famed quote, "Men do your duty," is attributed to Sanders.

Brother Wilbur F. Sanders was described as follows "Sanders, bold and resolute, a master orator, became the hero of this epochal trial held in the open air along Main Street of Nevada City on the short December days – 20-21. The closing argument made to the

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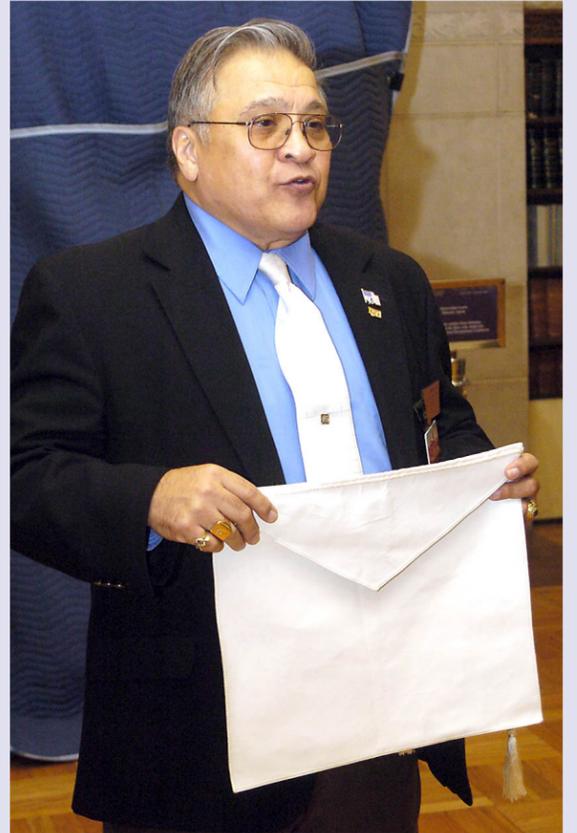
Wilbur Fisk Sanders
First Grand Secretary of Montana,
1866



Lewis Apron returns home



Pictured from left to right: Reid Gardiner, Grand Secretary and Curator of the Museum; Deputy Grand Master David Nielsen; Honorable James E. Smith, Mayor of Helena; Past Grand Master Alan Harkins; and WGM Tom Valente



WGM Tom Valente recited the White Leather Apron lecture



Photos by W. Bro. George Lane - BB#41

Daughters of the Nile, Patrol Drummers, Sapphira Temple No.79. Pictured from left to right: Shirley Allen, Jeanette VanMeter, Sarah Herold, Nancy Fuller



A nice crowd gathered to welcome home the Lewis Apron after its long journey..

A hardy welcome and introductions by Reid Gardiner, Grand Secretary and Curator of the Museum.

Hands cont'd from previous page

jury on Forefathers' Day, 1863, those who heard it said for many years (whenever they had occasion to speak of it) was the greatest speech ever delivered in Montana. It laid the cornerstone of justice for the Territory to be."

Wilbur F. Sanders made many other contributions to the State of Montana during his lifetime. When Montana became a Territory in May of 1864, Sidney Edgerton was named governor. Indian troubles forced him to create a militia and he appointed Sanders a Colonel in the new military organization. He was corresponding secretary to the Society of Montana Pioneers when it was formed December 11, 1864; was elected first chairman of the Montana Bar Association when it was organized in January, 1865; and when the formation of

the Montana Historical Society was authorized on February 25, 1865, he was elected president pro tem.

He held that office until February 1, 1890, a period of twenty-five years. The Republicans of both houses of the newly formed State of Montana legislature elected him U. S. Senator on December 31, 1889. At that time senators were selected by the state legislature. In Montana the Democrats and Republicans split into two groups that year, each selecting a set of senators, but the election of Sanders and his running mate, T. C. Power, was upheld by the U. S. Congress. Colonel Sanders died on July 7, 1905 at his home in Helena.

The accomplishments add to the importance of the house Sanders built for himself and his family. Their first home was in Bannack, but later they moved to Virginia

City. An entry in Mrs. Sanders' diary dated July 14, 1867, reveals that she had slept for the first time in their new home on Idaho Street. They remained in Virginia City until the 1870's, when the Sanders family moved to Helena. Their new three-story home was built in 1875.

Colonel Sanders gained national prominence as a Vigilante, lawyer, legislator, businessman and politician. The Past Grand Master jewel of Brother Sanders is on display within the Montana Masonic Museum.



Jeanine Cole, Worthy Grand Matron 2006-2007

I have been a member of Eastern Star for 32 years. I was initiated in Fidelity Chapter #18 in Choteau and served as Worthy Matron 3 times. I became a dual member of Miriam Chapter #1 when we moved to Helena in 1990. I am a majority Rainbow Girl of Choteau Assembly #54, am a recipient of the Grand Cross of Color and served as Mother Advisor of the Choteau Assembly. I enjoyed very much working with the youth...they are most definitely the stars of our future.



Jeanine Cole, Worthy Grand Matron

I am very honored to be serving as Worthy Grand Matron for the 2006-2007

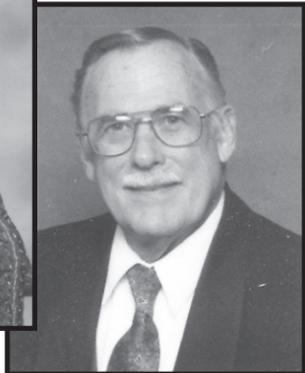
year. Our year is entitled "Catch a Rising Star". WGP Neil McGill, a member of Electa Chapter #7 in Missoula, and I believe that the Eastern Star Family will all support us this year by looking for new members, then "catching" them and helping them to "rise" up to all that an Eastern Star member can be. We ask that each member remember to "fill your pot of gold" by "catching a rising Star" during this year.

Our motto is "May your right hand always be stretched out in friendship...but, never in want. Our Aim - To make NEW friends by increasing our membership...but, to keep the OLD...one is Silver and the other Gold. Our theme - "SEW seeds of Friendship". S for SEEK out new members; E for ENCOURAGE them to join and W for WORK together for the good of our Order. My scripture is Genesis 9:12-13: "And God said, This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you for all future generations. I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

The Worthy Grand Patron's scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Our Irish Blessing - "May there always be work for your hands to do. May your purse always hold a coin or

two. May the sun always shine on your window pane. May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be near you. May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you. Our flowers are carnations (any color) and the shamrock.

As always, one of our goals is to increase our membership; but we would also like to see the current membership become more active. We challenged each member of the Grand Chapter to find what they love most about Eastern Star - whether it be the ritualistic work, the fellowship, the charitable work we do, or the FOOD - and asked that



Neil McGill, Worthy Grand Patron

they share that love, and their talents, with other members and prospective members.

Our major fund raiser this year will be the appeals letter and raffle which will fund the Cinderella Shop, the Masonic Home Fund, the Cancer Fund and the Heart Fund. We will also be selling custom designed ritual covers, made by members of my chapters, with the proceeds benefiting our Youth Groups; note cards with Montana scenery with the proceeds going to Electa's Cup Fund; and American Flag Magnets with the proceeds going to the ESTARL Fund.

I look forward to working with the leaders and members of our Masonic Family. Together we can keep the golden links of friendship strong and allow our Orders to grow and prosper.

Jeanine Cole, Worthy Grand Matron

Grand Chapter of Montana, Order of the Eastern Star

Whitefish Lodge No. 64

Celebrates 100 Years

Whitefish Lodge has broken through the century barrier. On Tuesday evening, September 19, 2006, exactly 100 years from the date the the Lodge was issued it's charter, a group of 40 members and guests celebrated the occasion.

MWGM Thomas Valente and his lady Barbara were in attendance for the celebration and dinner. PGM "Doc" Harkins was also a guest. After a very nice prime rib dinner, entertainment was provided by western artist Gene Gordner with his reditions of western songs. MWGM Valente presented to Whitefish Lodge PM Carl Denny his PM apron with the congratulations for the past successful year. Brother Don Slaybaugh, using the very first minutes book, presented a short history of the beginning of the Lodge.

The Whitefish lodge was chartered with 24 charter members. An interesting item - the cost of a street light outside the Masonic Hall at that time was 25 cents a month. Guests for the evening included visitors from lodges in Kalispell, Columbia Falls, Eureka and Fernie, BC.



Worshipful Master Shawn Emmett exceed the celebration.



Grand Lodge members pose for pictures at the 100th anniversary celebration at Ponemah Lodge #63.

Lost Brothers

The following Lodges have lost track of these members of their Lodge. If you know where any of these Brothers are or their U.S. Postal address PLEASE send it to the Grand Secretary and the Lodge Secretary.

Anderson, James G.	113	Endy, Jr., William R.	22	McGinnis, Dean M.	29
Anderson, Richard D.	110	Fagenstrom, Rory C.	105	Moore, John	13
Anderson, Scott T.	34	Featherly, Kenith R.	16	Myers, Rex C.	16
Baker, Robert N.	49	Fish, Giles P.	34	Nielsen, Erik P.	5
Boettger, Peter R.	37	Fisher, Edgar R.	90	Olsen, Ibert D.	22
Calvert, Lorne M.	49	Foust, Coury W.	49	Pasieka, Gary	113
Carlson, Rodney C.	149	Girvin, Charels A	37	Puyear, Donald L.	28
Carter, Thomas Richard	42	Glasgow, Theodore Eugene	149	Schindler, Daniel D.	1
Clark, James R.M.	122	Gonzalo, Anthony Richard	13	Schmidt, Edward	51
Cooper, James D.	29	Hayden, Archie W.	16	Shaurette, L. Dexter	85
Courtney, Shane M.	6	Hilliard, Ryan J.	29	Shaw, James N.	29
DeForrest, Bryan L.	38	Holder, Michael J.	42	Smith, Jeffrey S.	155
DeLong, Darcy G.	33	Howard, Jack L	151	Stewart, Samuel P.	3
Dostal, Vance L.	128	Hughes, Jr., John A	98	Swingen, Larry G.	57
Duffy, James V.	58	Johnson, Eugene L.	49	Thiede, Terry A.	42
Eichel, James Howard	113	Keller, Kent P.	34	Tinnes, Harvey D.	84
Eldred, Benjamin Eugene	149	Lamb, Donald D	84	Young, Jeffery L.	33
Elliot, Robert A.	71	McDonald, Hilliard	144	Wilson, Jr., Norman D	128

Foreign Countries

Our ancient operative brethren desired to become Masters so that, when they traveled in foreign countries, they could still practice their craft. Speculative Freemasons still desire to "travel in foreign countries" and study their craft that they may receive such instruction as will enable them to do so, and when traveling, to receive a Master's Wages.

But the "Foreign Countries" do not mean to us the various geographical and political divisions of the Old World, nor do we use the Word we learn as a means of identification to enable us to build material temples and receive coin of the realm for our labor. "Foreign Countries" is to us a symbol.

Like all the rest of the symbols, it has more than one interpretation; but, unlike many, none of these is very difficult to trace or understand.

Freemasonry itself is the first "foreign country" in which the initiate will travel; a world as different from the familiar workaday world, as France is different from England, or Belgium from Greece. Everything is different in the Masonic world; the standards are different, the "Money" is different, the ideas are different. In the familiar world, money, place and power are the standards by which we judge our fellows. In the fraternity all are on the level, and there are neither rich nor poor. In the world outside there are laws to prevent, and police and penalties to enforce obedience; in the fraternity the laws are not "thou shalt not" but "thou shalt" and the fundamental of them all is the golden rule, the law of brotherly love. Men conform to the laws of Freemasonry not because they must but because they will. Surely such a land is a "foreign country" to the stranger within its borders; and the visitor must study it, learn its language and its customs, if he is to enjoy it.

Many learn but a few phrases and only enough of its customs to conform. There are thousands of Americans who went all over France during the war with a pack of cigarettes, a friendly smile and "no comprende!" as their sole knowledge of the language; but did they learn to know France? A Lodge member may know the words of the opening and closing and how to act in a lodge, learn to call his fellows "brother" and pay his dues; but will that get him all there is in the foreign country in which he finds him-self?

America north and south is a mighty continent . . . It has many countries. To know one is not to know all. The man at home in Mexico will find Newfoundland strange, and the Canadian will not feel at home in

Chile if he knows nothing of that country.

So it is with the vast continent of Freemasonry. It has many "foreign countries within it; and he is the wise and happy Freemason who works patiently at the pleasant task of visiting and studying them. There are the foreign countries of philosophy, of jurisprudence and of history. No Freemason is really worthy of the name who does not understand something of how his new land is governed, of what it stands for and why.

And there is the foreign country of Symbolism of which this little book is far less a guide than a gateway.

As a Master Mason, a man has the right to travel in all the foreign countries of Freemasonry. There is none to say him nay. If he will but "learn the work" and keep himself in good standing, he may visit where he will. But it is not within the door of other lodges than his own that he will find the boundary line and the guide posts of those truly Masonic "Foreign Countries" to which he has been given the passport by his brethren. He will find gateways to those lands in the library, in the study club, in books and magazines; and, most and best of all, in the quiet hour alone, when what he has read and learned comes back to him to be pondered over and thought through. The "foreign country" of symbolism has engaged the thoughtful and serious consideration of hundreds of able Masonic students, as has that of the history of our Order. Not to visit them both; aye, not to make oneself a citizen of them both, is to refuse the privileges one has sought and labored to obtain. One asks for a petition, prays one's friend to take it to his lodge, knocks on the door, takes obligations, works to learn and finally receives the Master's Degree. One receives it, struggles for it, hopes for it . . . why? That one may travel in the far lands and receive the reward there awaiting .

Then why hesitate? Why wait? Why put it off? Why allow others to pass on and gain; while one stands, the gate open, the new land beckoning, and all the Masonic world to see?

That is the symbolism of the "foreign countries" . . . that is the meaning of the phrase which once meant, to operative Masons, exactly what it says. To the Freemason who reads it aright it is a clarion call to

action, to study, to an earnest pressing forward on the new highway. For time is short and the night cometh when no man can work!

To the young Freemason, particularly, is the symbol a ringing appeal. To those who are old in the Craft, who have set their pace, determined their course and become satisfied with all they have managed to learn of

For at the end of the journey, when the last foreign country of Freemasonry has been traveled and learned and loved, you shall come to a new gate, above which there is a new name written . . . and when you have read it you will know the True Word of a Master Mason.

the fraternity, with what little they have been able to take from it, "foreign countries" means countries which are foreign and nothing more. But to the young man just starting out as a Freemason . . . Oh, my brother, heed you the

symbolism of the phrase and make your entry through the gateway, your limbs strong to travel, your mind open to learn. For if you truly travel in the Masonic foreign countries, you will receive Master's Wages beyond your greatest expectations. The way is open to the Freemason; not an easy way, perhaps, or a short way, but a clear way. Not for the old Mason, the man set in his ways, the man content with the literal meaning of the words, the "book Mason," the pin-wearer, not for them the foreign countries of symbolism, and Masonic knowledge.

But you, you who are new, you to whom Freemasonry is yet a wonder and a vision. a mystery and a glory . . . for you the gate is wide, for you the path is clear; for you the foreign countries beckon . . . hang you not back!

For at the end of the journey, when the last foreign country of Freemasonry has been traveled and learned and loved, you shall come to a new gate, above which there is a new name written . . . and when you have read it you will know the True Word of a Master Mason.

By Carl H. Claudy. A reprint of Chapter XXX of "Foreign Countries," published and copyrighted by the Masonic Service association in 1925.

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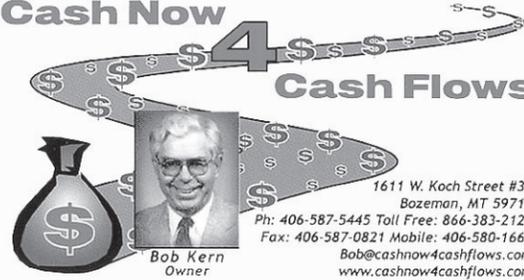
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Bob Kern
Owner

Thoughts of a Candidate

How often have we sat in Lodge during a degree and wondered about the thoughts of a candidate?

The first thing that comes to my mind is the wonderment that must be going through his head especially in the first degree. Anyone who has ever served as a Marshall or Steward must have observed the tension in the eyes and face of the candidate and this is only the beginning. To say that the candidate is concerned is really an understatement of fact.

Then comes the degree itself, lofty and prayerful words are delivered in a language from the time of Shakespeare. A noble intent to be sure, but

under the circumstances of the candidate, one must wonder at the questions flooding the initiate's mind. Much is made clear to the candidate at the end of the degree, but just about the time he is feeling comfortable, he is sat in a chair and lectured in similar language as before.

Now think about what is going on in the candidate's head -truly think about it. The candidate has just had an extraordinary experience. Words and concepts have been told to him in a fast and puzzling manner. An explanation is given him in an unusual manner and fashion, and after about an hour he is seated among his new friends eating pie.

We have all gone through the same thing, and as far as I know, none have suffered the worst for it. Our experiences are our own, and while we are pleased to become a Mason and proud to be a member of the fraternity, what happens next? What has the candidate obtained, besides good feelings, that he can take with him?

It is after the pie and coffee that the lessons of Freemasonry are taught to the candidate. If these lessons are delayed, if contact with the candidate is not maintained, if a strong program of Masonic education is not implemented, then the chances of losing that candidate are greatly increased.

Let's face it, the initiatic experience is the cornerstone of Freemasonry. Education is the superstructure erected after the cornerstone.

Education is the time to assimilate the new brother into the lodge and into the fraternity. The superstructure of a Mason's Masonic edifice must not be left to chance. It is the duty of the lodge, far greater than laying the cornerstone, to implement the building of that superstructure. It may even be more important than the conferral.

The words that were so profound when spoken at conferral must be explained and discussed with the candidate. It is the time to form and shape the Mason.

Norm Leeper, Editor

Southern California Research Lodge F&AM

It is after the pie and coffee that the lessons of Freemasonry are taught to the candidate.

**Answer:
Radersburg, Montana**

**Submission Deadline for
March, 2007
Montana Masonic News
is February 23, 2007
(see page 2 for details)**



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JOHN T. "TOM" DAVIS



Celestial Lodge

My Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called, and one more Master Mason has not answered to his name, He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labours here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Strengthened in his labours hereby faith in God, and, confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above. Author unknown

October through November 2006

Bruce H. Johnston	Morning Star No. 5	23 October	Raymond E. Burdge	Rimrock No. 149	26 June
Chris H. Gardner	Morning Star No. 5	3 October	Howey W. Nye	Gallatin No. 6	07 October
John P. Campbell	Morning Star No. 5	30 April	William H. Hetz	Flint Creek No. 11	23 October
Emmett H. Haugen	Deer Lodge 14	UNK	Francis J.T. Cann	Butte No. 22	17 September
Donald G. Nyquist	Butte No. 22	28 March	Clyde Peale, Jr.	Mount Moriah No. 24	22 October
J. Ralph Knuckey	Butte No. 22	19 September	John W. McClintic	Ionic No. 38	15 October
Reuben P. Rudy, Jr.	Ashlar No. 29	19 April	Robert W. McCallum	Columbia Falls No. 89	24 October
James R. Bailey	Livingston No. 32	16 October	George W. McCallum	Hot Springs No. 153	30 October
Orville W. Chigbrow	Cascade No. 34	13 October	John Pat Mulcare	Lincoln 157	20 November
Milton C. Morgan, Sr.	Cascade No. 34	26 June			
Thorwald E. Fiveland	Star In The West No. 40	July 2005			
Ronald Robertson	Star In The West No. 40	12 October			
Clarence D. Fuhrman	North Star No. 46	22 October			
Harold E. Clouse	Doric No. 53	5 June			

**If you are aware of a fellow brother who has passed away, please email the information to rgardner@ or complete this form and mail to:
Montana Grand Lodge PO Box 1158 Helena, MT 59604.**

Deceased: _____

Lodge: _____

Sudoku Puzzle

			2		5	7		
		3		6			9	
5	8				7		3	
9	6	4						
	2		8		4		5	
						3	4	9
	5		3				7	1
	3			7		9		
		7	5		2			

Attention Snow Birds

If you are one of those who go south (or elsewhere) for the winter, you will need to make arrangements to have your copy of the Montana Masonic News forwarded to you from the Post Office or by a friend. The Montana Masonic News mail list is too extensive to keep changing addresses back and forth. You will be allowed only one US Mail address.

Moved?

Let us know your new address:

Name: _____

Old

Address: _____

City/St/

Zip: _____

NEW

Address: _____

City/St/

Zip _____

Masonic Public Awareness

For those Lodges wishing to promote their lodge in local newspapers you can request "free" camera-ready ad slicks from the Grand Lodge Office. These ad slicks were developed by the Masonic Information Center and are intended to give the public a view of several aspects of the Masonic Fraternity. There are six different ad slicks. There is space for the Lodge name or other contact information to be included. What a great way to promote Freemasonry in your home town.

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Sudoku Answer

3	6	8	2	1	5	7	9	4
5	2	9	6	7	4	8	3	1
1	7	4	9	8	3	6	5	2
9	4	3	1	2	6	5	7	8
7	5	6	4	9	8	1	2	3
8	1	2	3	5	7	4	6	9
6	3	1	7	4	9	2	8	5
2	9	5	8	6	1	3	4	7
4	8	7	5	3	2	9	1	6



50 Year Members October, November & December, 2006

George Westlake 6 24-Oct	Alexander Denson, Jr 135 23-Oct	Roger F. Gowdey 64 10-Nov
James N. Shaw 29 21-Apr	John W. Trickel 155 13-Oct	William F. Peck 69 14-Nov
Herman B. Collins 35 3-Oct	Milton L. VanCamp 155 13-Oct	Daniel L. Jensen 96 20-Nov
Robert Moran 40 12-Oct	William R. Cainan 3 1-Nov	Raymond E. Burdge 149 28-Nov
Earl M. Pruyne 49 13-Oct	Herman L. Hauck, Jr 11 14-Nov	Thomas W. Manaras 55 13-Dec
Charles E. Valach 49 13-Oct	Clyde Little, Jr. 17 10-Nov	Donald T. Shankle 55 20-Dec
Edward O. Yedlicka 66 22-Oct	Allan Baynard 21 13-Nov	George Farias 66 12-Dec
Kenneth M. Beven 72 8-Oct	Russell Dugdale 22 13-Nov	Jack H. Foster 69 17-Dec
Clayton R. Sheets 72 8-Oct	Willis K. Wuerthner 34 17-Nov	Merrill S. Hawley 80 21-Dec
Richard A. Hemphill 122 23-Oct	Arnold J. Case 49 17-Nov	

Calendar of Events

December 2006

Dec 1 Fri 1:00p Grand Lodge Officers Meeting @ Bozeman
Dec 2 Sat 9:00a Grand Lodge Officers Meeting @ Bozeman
Dec 9 Sat 12:00 pm Sagebrush District Meeting @ Jordan
Dec 13 Wed 7:30p GM Visit Gallatin #6 @ Bozeman
Dec 16 Sat York Rite Christmas Observance - Billings
Dec 18 Mon 7:30p GM Visit Corinthian #72 @ Laurel

Dec 22 Fri Grand Lodge Office Closed
Dec 24 Sun Christmas Eve
Dec 25 Mon **Christmas (Fed)** Grand Lodge Office Closed
Dec 26 Tue Grand Lodge Office Closed
Dec 30 Sat **HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE PRIOR TO 1 APRIL**



January 2007

Jan 1 Mon **January is St's John Observance Month**
 Al Bedoo Shrine Installation
 Grand Lodge Office Closed
Jan 6 Sat Installation Algeria
Jan 13 Sat Installation Bagdad Shrine
Jan 25 Thu Grand Lodge of Colorado, Denver

Jan 26 Fri Grand Lodge of Colorado, Denver
Jan 27 Sat Grand Lodge of Colorado, Denver
Annual Returns due before March 15
Resolutions and Committee Reports are due to Grand Lodge, 24 Feb
February is Americanism Observance Month

February 2007

Feb 1-3 Thu **Grand Lodge of Utah, Salt Lake City**
Grand Lodge of Alaska
Grand Lodge of Nebraska

Feb 10 Sat **GM Class @ Great Falls 7:30 am**
Must be EA. Request 21 Days in advance, 12+ Candidates
Feb 17-20 Sat **GM & GS conference @ Portland**
Feb 24 Sat **Grand Lodge**

Guidelines for Grand Master's One-Day Classes 2006 - 2007

The Grand Lodge of Montana has been conducting one-day classes (formerly called Occasional Lodges) in Montana since 1995. Many good Masons have been brought into the Craft through those classes, men whose work schedules would have made it extremely difficult for them to experience the degrees in the traditional manner. The one-day classes also have been a valuable tool for those lodges that have lost the ability to confer degrees because of the advanced age or deaths of their ritualists.

This year MWGM Valente will continue to provide this tool to the Craft. At the same time, the Grand Master wants to raise the standard and give the candidates the best possible experience when they receive the degrees of Masonry. Therefore, Grand Master's Classes will be conducted in the following manner during this Masonic year:

There will be four Grand Master's Classes:

- ♦ February 10 in Great Falls,
- ♦ March 10 in Drummond,
- ♦ April 21 in Lewistown
- ♦ May 19 in a location in eastern Montana to be determined.

The following guidelines are applicable to the classes in **February, March and May**: 1. The "Request for Conferral of Degrees" form for each candidate must be in the hands of the Grand Secretary not later than twenty-one days prior to the scheduled class. If there are not twelve or more confirmed candidates by the deadline, the class will be cancelled. It takes at least three weeks to organize and recruit qualified brothers and back-ups for the roles in the degree teams. I want to be sure that the brothers organizing the degree teams have enough time to accomplish what must be done. I also do not want them to expend the energy organizing degree teams, only to have the class cancelled at the last minute because of an insufficient number of candidates.

2. All candidates must have received the Entered Apprentice degree in their mother lodge or in another lodge by courtesy work, and have passed proficiency in the first degree, prior to coming to the Grand Master's class. Only the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees will be conferred during the Grand Master's class. This requirement is intended to accomplish two goals. First, every candidate will have the opportunity to experience a degree, including being guided about the lodge hoodwinked. Secondly, every candidate will have the opportunity to sit in and bond with his lodge before he becomes part of a large Grand Master's class, rather than afterward.

The above restrictions are not applicable for the class in **April**. The "Request for Conferral of Degrees" form still must be in the hands of the Grand Secretary not later than twenty-one days prior to the class. However, there will be no minimum number of candidates for the April class; this class will be conducted regardless of the number of candidates. In addition, the Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred in this class. If a lodge cannot confer the first degree on their candidates for any reason, those candidates should be brought to the April class.

Worshipful Masters need to ensure that a mentor accompanies each of their

candidates. The role of mentor is extremely important, and using a total stranger from another lodge as mentor takes away much of the bonding that is necessary for the candidate to feel welcome and at ease.

Finally, please inform all members of your Lodge that appropriate attire for candidates, mentors, and sideliners is coat and tie.

These guidelines were provided five months before the first class to each Lodge Secretary and provided during each District Meeting. With proper prior planning, these new restrictions should not interfere with your bringing candidates to any of the Grand Master's classes.

All previous versions of the Request to Confer Degrees for One Day or Grand Masters Class are superseded and the new form Request to Confer Degrees for Grand Masters Class can be obtained from your Lodge Secretary, District Officer or the Grand Secretary.

Blue Lodge - Master Mason Stein

Great Gift Idea for Christmas

This stein is a ceramic white shell body that measures 7 1/4" tall by 4" at the base and 3" at the lid. This stein has a ceramic insert lid that says Master Mason of the Blue Lodge. The stein is decorated with various Masonic symbols and on one side has a poem called "A True Mason".



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