

St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

Trestleboard

NOVEMBER 2020

Jim Russell, editor



Serving Seattle since 1860

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George Washington and Slavery

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The history of George Washington and slavery reflects Washington's changing attitude toward enslavement. The preeminent Founding Father of the United States and a slaveowner, Washington became increasingly uneasy with that longstanding institution during the course of his life, and provided for the emancipation of his slaves after his death.

Slavery in colonial America was ingrained in the economic and social fabric of several colonies including his native Virginia. At 11 years of age, upon the death of his father in 1743, Washington inherited his first ten slaves. In adulthood his personal slaveholding grew through inheritance, purchase and the natural increase of children born into slavery. In 1759, he gained control of dower slaves belonging to the Custis estate on his marriage to Martha Dandridge Custis. Washington's early attitudes to slavery reflected the prevailing Virginia planter views of the day and he initially demonstrated no moral qualms about the institution. He became skeptical about the economic efficacy of slavery before the American Revolutionary War when his transition from tobacco to grain crops in the 1760s left him with a costly surplus of enslaved workers. In 1774, Washington publicly denounced the slave trade on moral grounds in the Fairfax Resolves. After the war, he expressed support for the abolition of slavery by a gradual legislative process, a view he shared widely but always in private, and he remained dependent on enslaved labor. By the time of his death in 1799 there were 317 enslaved people at his Mount Vernon estate, 124 owned by Washington and the remainder managed by him as his own property but belonging to other people.

In total, twelve U.S. presidents owned slaves at some point in their lives; of these, eight owned slaves while in office. Ten of the first twelve American Presidents were slave owners, with the only exceptions being John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams.

CALENDAR



- November 11 (6pm): Board of Trustees Zoom
- November 11 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- November 12 (7pm): Officers meeting
- November 18 (7pm): St. John's 9 Fellowship teleconference
- November 25 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- November 26: Thanksgiving Day
- December 2 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- December 9 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- December 10-19: Happy Chanukah
- December 16 (7:30pm): St. John's 9 Stated limited to 5 Master Masons – subject to cancellation
- December 23 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- December 30 (7pm): Fellowship Zoom teleconference
- December 31: Deadline for payment of 2021 Lodge dues!

The first evidence of Freemasonry in North America appeared in Nova Scotia. A stone engraved on the top with a square and compasses was found on the shore of Goat Island in the Annapolis Basin in Nova Scotia. In the center of the flat slab was the date 1606. Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston wrote about it in 1829, calling it the "Annapolis Stone." The stone is said to have become a part of a wall for a building; it was covered with cement and never found again.
– "Masonic Trivia and Facts", Allen E. Roberts.



GRAND LODGE HAS CONVERTED TO THE NEW GRAND VIEW SOFTWARE MEMBER PORTAL – NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

Are you making use of the Grand Lodge of Washington Resource Menu? Many of the options that were available on the Grand Lodge website, including the Proficiency in Lodge Management (PILM), remain available under the Resources menu on the Grand Lodge website. All other data containing personal information or sensitive material has been moved to the Grand View Member Portal.

Important messages and information sent your way by the Grand Lodge depend on having the correct email and postal addresses, telephone numbers, and even the date of your becoming a Master Mason. Want to update your profile? Locate time and place for other Lodge meetings, latest messages from Grand Lodge, register for seminars? It's all on your Member Portal.

If you have not yet registered, you will need to create your own Member Portal Account by clicking on the [CREATE A MEMBER PORTAL ACCOUNT](#) button on the Grand Lodge website (under *member portal* tab) and following the steps to assign a CASE SENSITIVE username and password. Your old Grand Lodge Credentials will NOT work on the new Grand View Member Portal.

Please keep in mind that the Grand Lodge office is unable to create your account for you nor do they have access to your password. If you are having trouble logging in once you have created an account, use the "Forgot your password" link found directly under the login section. If you have found a mistake in your history or member information that you are unable to update yourself, please contact your Lodge Secretary.

All members of St. John's are invited – encouraged – to create an account and correct or add any information. The following (39) Brothers *have created their account* and will not need to create a new one:

John Adamson, Kemal Alaeddinoglu, Carl Alexander, Paul Bernal, Ashley Brinkley, William Collison, Adam Creighton, Kenton Curtis, Michael Davis, Paul Doak, Frederick Eastman, Thomas Eastman, David Flood, Albert Gustafson, Russell Johnson, Alvin Jorgensen, Gale Kenney, Thomas Lamb, Jeffrey Lane, Kenneth Lane, Boe Lindgren, John Louderback, Donald Lund, Don Lyman, James Maher, Seann Maria, Blair Neumann, Joseph Oates, Allan Pinch, Jeffrey Pullen, Neil Quinn, James Russell, Jarrold Schuh, "Paul Liberty", James Swift, Satoru Tashiro, Hans Wehl, Kenneth Wehl, Dean Willard.



Boston Educational Tour

Presumed-to-be Master of St. John's Lodge next year VWBro. Ashley Brinkley is arranging for brothers of the Lodge to visit the Boston area next summer for an educational visit to the birthplace of American Freemasonry.

In 1733, 18 men gathered at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern on King Street in Boston and organized the first Masonic Lodge in North America. Members pledged to be true to each other, to God, and to their king. However, a number of Masons — including George Washington, John Hancock, and Paul Revere — played major roles in the American Revolution.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is the main governing body of Freemasonry within Massachusetts, and maintains Lodges in other jurisdictions overseas, namely Panama, Chile, the People's Republic of China (meeting in Tokyo, Japan), and Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.



Statue of Paul Revere - Boston

It claims to be the third oldest Masonic Grand Lodge in existence (after the United Grand Lodge of England, which dates its own existence from the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland founded in 1725). Both the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Grand Lodge of Virginia dispute this claim to be the third oldest Grand Lodge in the world.

The Lodge sponsored a similar educational tour in 2016. Funds were made available for brothers to share to defray a portion of their out-of-pocket expenses on a trip to Washington, D.C.



Touring Freemason Hall in Boston

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Senior Warden Message

VWBro. Ashley Brinkley



With the Grand Master's edict on meetings, (it's long and involved) most agree it is not prudent for us to meet in person. I agree with this, too. I know our meetings are great and all Brothers look forward to the fellowship and learning that is provided at Lodge. However, no Lodge meeting is worth risking getting sick or infecting another Brother.

It is a different time now and we all have to change with the time. It's like that business book "Who Moved My Cheese"

As we move forward I would like to hear from the Brothers what you want your Lodge to look like. I would like to know if you have not been on our weekly Zoom meetings, why not? What do you think about the Zoom meetings?

For me Zoom was what techie people did and I was not a techie person. I have learned to adapt to the new ways and actually like having Fellowship in the comfort of my own home. I would like to hear from you. Your opinion matters. My email is threehounds@aol.com and my phone number is 206 601-5118. Let me know what our Lodge can do to help you!

We are so privileged to have WBro. Fred Hutchinson open our Wednesday Zoom sessions with prayer. He offered this invocation last week.

Great Architect of the Universe

and guide over all time: past, present and future:

**We come once again to ask your blessing upon us this night
and reverently invoke your presence among us.
as we continue to make
our designs upon the trestle board
in the midst of a turbulent election
and unrest.**

**Help us to remember that your universe is timeless...
not dependent upon one election, one generation
one lifetime, or one particular century, even.**

**Nonetheless....We come together as brothers....
believing that our fellowship
will enlighten us, inspire us
and encourage our everyday living.**

**We ask a blessing upon members who cannot be with
us, for our families...
and for all those civil servants,
military heroes and private citizens
who do their jobs
everyday to keep us safe.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to be together...
to work together...
and to make a difference
in an broken world.**

AMEN

Written by Rev. Bro. Fred Hutchinson, M.Div., MSHS, BCC
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Permission granted to publish in any Masonic venue so
long as there is no personal gain.

Junior Warden Message

WBro. John Murray Louderback



In the second or Fellow Craft Degree, the candidate is taught that Freemasonry is an educational and philosophical institution, and that the principles behind the Degree are of one's own personal education and philosophical enlightenment.

Masonry's purpose is not as a charitable or social service dinner club organization.

Others have said that Masonry is not "Rotary with aprons".

Charitable actions are important but they may detract and divert from the true intended purpose of our Craft. It is our obligation as Masons to continue to study, to learn, and diversify our knowledge. We are required to continue to focus on the real essence of Masonry - that of being an educational philosophical organization - least we continue to be misunderstood as a charitable service organization.

Masonry in fact can aid in helping a man become a better man, provided he seeks truth and wisdom, and continues to immerse himself in the original intended design.

Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation Now Accepting Applications

Founded in 1958, the Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships to college juniors and seniors. It also grants post-graduate fellowships in a few select fields. It is limited to NWCCU accredited colleges and universities in Washington State.

The character of the individual is the criteria used in the application scoring and selection process. Masonic affiliation is not needed, but it is valued when included as an element of scoring the applications under benevolence and community service, and also letters of recommendation.

During the past 10 years the Foundation has paid an incredible \$4,102,000.00 in scholarships.

Currently, each undergraduate scholarship is \$3,000.00. Applications for scholarships started to be accepted on November 1, 2020. The Foundation is looking for

students who are now college sophomores and juniors to apply.

The Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation grants scholarships for their college Junior and Senior

undergraduate years. The student must be a U.S. citizen, Washington State resident, have minimum GPA of 3.0, be a full time student for the full academic year, and attending a NWCCU accredited college or university in Washington State.



2021 Annual Dues in St. John's Lodge

Pay Dues

Notices for annual dues were mailed to all members of St. John's last month. Your plastic membership card which identifies all Lodges to which a brother is a member will not be replaced for another 4-5 years, but will show with a quick scan by the Tyler whether or not you are current for the year.

2021 dues structure for membership in St. John's:
Members on record June 18, 2014

1. Past Masters, 50-year members, Life Members = \$0
2. Others = \$10+\$28= \$38*

Members enrolled after June 18, 2014

1. Past Masters, 50-year members, Life Members = \$0
2. Age 65+ = \$75 + \$28 = \$103*
3. Residence 50+ miles from Lodge = \$103*
4. Other Raised Master Masons = \$390+\$28=\$418*

***These fees increase by \$5 each month beginning January, 2021.**

Members may pay their dues by cash, check, Certificates of Masonic Labor, or a combination of these. Payment by PayPal is available, though not encouraged.

Making things complicated for the Secretary – in a good way!

It's annual dues season and the payments are rolling in. Thank you Brothers!

This year one of our Brothers has not only paid his annual dues, but he doubled the amount with a note to "apply it to someone who needs it." Others have included additional dollars for charitable causes. The thoughtfulness and generosity of Brethren is so uplifting to the spirit.

Last year, one of our Widows donated money to pay the annual dues for four brothers. For a fraternity that prides itself in caring for its Widows, this reverse consideration is beyond belief.

Thank you all for your generosity and love for each other.

Brockway Operation Kid Smile

OPERATION KID SMILE – PANDEMIC STYLE

Probably what is one of St. John's "most favorite" charities will take a different approach this year because of the need for social distancing. In the past, we've hosted families for a Christmas party to hand out groceries for Christmas dinner and gifts to the children.

This year, we're asking for volunteers to link up with a family as supplied by the VA to find out a little about the family and then to arrange for food and gifts to be delivered directly to their homes.

Several Brothers have volunteered, but more are needed. If you want to be a part of this team, contact WBro. John Louderback, chairman. 206 999-0484

Socks for the Homeless

St. John's Lodge will again purchase warm socks to be distributed to services reaching out to the needs of Seattle's homeless.

These will go to resources such as the Harborview Pioneer Square Clinic, ROOTS, Mary's Place, and Youth Care. Through the contacts of WBro. Fred Hutchinson, our \$500 purchase should find socks for nearly 900 cold and homeless in our area.



Bill & Aundie Collison load 1600 pairs of warm socks for Seattle's homeless last year.

GRAND MASTER OPENS LODGES CAUTIOUSLY

MWBro. Chris Coffman issued an update directive to cautiously open Lodges for stated communication, beginning in December. A limit of five Master Masons, no visitors, no installations or degrees may be conducted. Strict sanitation measures will be followed.

Zoom participation will be permitted following the ritual of opening Lodge until closing.

Lodges will have the option of holding a stated meeting or not. The officers of St. John's, concerned with the age of our active members, have shown a reluctance to resume stated communications, lean to opting out at this time.

MASTER MASONS RAISED IN NOVEMBER

Date Raised:

11/29/1947	Donald W. Bartholomew
11/29/1958	Raymond E. Lundy
11/13/1959	Hans U. Wehl
11/18/1959	Richard "Dick" Loeb
11/18/1959	Jerome N. Alhadeff
11/18/1965	Joseph H. Oates, Jr.
11/7/1970	Martin L. Burgess
11/27/1971	Craig L. Catli
11/19/1976	Robert E. Reed
11/28/1981	Stanley L. Jones
11/18/1986	Paul-Max B. Jensen
11/18/1986	Joseph L. Bennett
11/10/1988	Richard P. Wellenberger
11/18/1988	Terry S. Zittlau
11/17/1990	Charles R. "Dick" Grimm
11/19/1998	James R. Odom
11/24/2001	Scott A. Pence



Why are vaccines important?

To effectively eradicate the virus, most scientists believe we need 60% to 80% herd immunity, the idea that a disease will stop spreading if enough people are immune or vaccinated. Waiting to achieve these numbers through community infection would require an unacceptable death toll. Getting a vaccine is an individual choice, but it is not about the individual. Because COVID-19 affects all of us, once we have effective vaccines, we need to work together to end the pandemic.

LET'S LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER



Public rudeness among employees is common. Whether it's waiters berating fellow waiters or store clerks criticizing colleagues, disrespectful behavior makes people uncomfortable, and they're quick to walk out without making a purchase. How many brothers are walking out for the last time and how many potential members are never coming back due to incivility? With all of the other potential stresses in a person's life, why not make the lodge a refuge; a place of friendship, support, and understanding. This does not mean we need to always agree. It means we need to be able to express our differences in a way that is constructive without being a source of incivility, stress, and contention.

Harmony being the strength and support of all institutions, more especially this of ours

by Midnight Freemason Contributor
WB Darin Lahners



There is a line in Illinois ritual when opening on the First Degree, where the Senior Warden while giving his duty says: ***"Harmony being the strength and support of all institutions, especially ours."*** This year has challenged Harmony in several areas. Grand Masters were tasked with the difficult decision to cancel Masonic activities as the pandemic gripped their nations. If the pandemic wasn't enough, the political divides in our nation have leaked into our Lodge rooms from the world of profane. I recently wrote about an experience in a Lodge room prior to a degree where I was informed that a political discussion that should have no place in a Lodge room was ok because ***"The gavel hadn't sounded."*** I have to ask myself then: ***"Does Freemasonry only exist between the gavels? Or are you a Freemason in your heart?"***

Freemasons should always hear the sound of the gavel. While the Master's gavel hadn't sounded, shouldn't the sound of the common gavel be ever-present in our personal quarries?

"The Common Gavel is an instrument used by operative masons to break off the corners of rough stones, the better to fit them for the builder's use; but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our hearts and consciences of all vices and superfluities of this life, thereby fitting our minds, as living stones for

that spiritual building—that house not made with hands—eternal in the heavens."

Shouldn't we always endeavor to divest our hearts and consciences of the vestiges of the profane world by use of the common gavel regardless of the location, but in the Lodge room especially?

While the Trowel spreads the cement of brotherly love which unites us, we need to be aware that the gavel must be employed first to smooth our ashlar so that they fit together more tightly. Without improving ourselves by use of the gavel, the trowel will not work as effectively. It will take more mortar to join us together, the harmony of the Lodge will suffer, and the strength and support of our institution will erode.

When some of our brethren think that Freemasonry is something that only happens between the gavels, instead of using their compass to draw a boundary line around their desires and passions, in order to keep themselves within a circle of self-restraint and moderation; they forget that the most excellent tenets of Freemasonry are contained within the points of the compasses, which are friendship, morality and brotherly love. Instead, they don't have boundaries. They bring the world of the profane into our sacred spaces, they insult other brethren on social media for not having the same beliefs as them, and they spread incivility instead of brotherly love.

I will use something from a presentation on Masonic civility found here:

<https://www.masoniccivility.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Civility-Presentation-For-Lodges-Civility-and-Masonry.pdf>

or here:

<https://www.masoniccivility.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Civility-Presentation-For-Lodges-Civility-and-Masonry.pptx>

and I would encourage my brethren to present this and have a discussion about it at their next meeting. I ask all of us: ***"With all of the other potential stresses in a person's life, why not make the Lodge a refuge; a place of friendship, support, and understanding? This does not mean we need to always agree. It means we need to be able to express our differences in a way that is constructive without being a source of incivility, stress, and contention."***

WB Darin A. Lahners is a Past Master of and Worshipful Master of St. Joseph Lodge No. 970 in St. Joseph. He is also a plural member of Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL), and of Homer Lodge No. 199 (IL), where he is also a Past Master. He's a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Danville, a charter member of Illinois Royal Arch Chapter, Admiration Chapter No. 282 and is the current Secretary of the Illini High Twelve Club No. 768 in Champaign – Urbana (IL). You can reach him by email at darin.lahners@gmail.com

St. John's Zoom Meetings Frequently Include Finnish Brother Mason

Many Lodges, including St. John's No. 9, conduct weekly meetings of Lodge members and Masonic visitors. One such visitor is Bro. Pekka Granroth of Finland. He recently wrote an article for the joint membership magazine of the Masons called Koilliskulma, which in 2005 turned 50 years old. The name of the magazine refers to one corner of the meeting place, the temple.

The magazine is published by the Finnish Grand Lodge Association. Through the cooperation agreement, all Finnish Masonic organizations - a total of five - use Koilliskulma as their information channel. The magazine is also available for subscribers other than Masons. The price of the vintage is 68 euros.

The following, which may be found on pages 55-56, is an English translation of Bro. Granroth's article.

In the spring of 2016, I was supposed to sail across the Pacific Ocean and visit the St. John's Lodge No. 9 Lodge on the northwest coast of the U.S. in Seattle. The shoulder injury then prevented sailing and I never met the brothers. However, my name and e-mail remained with the Lodge secretary. I got their membership letter "Trestleboard" every month and I kept very aware about what was going on in the Lodge, because with interest I always read the news of the brothers there.

In the spring of 2020, as the corona pandemic conquered the world, I read that the Lodge is starting to hold weekly Zoom meetings instead of its monthly meetings. I asked the Lodge secretary Jim Russell if it would be possible to attend the meeting. Brother Jim remembered me years ago and soon came the master's invitation to join.

During the summer, I attended "sessions" a total of



Bro. Pekka Granroth presents his story to a coffee club of Masons. Note that our Master's Zoom-shot is pictured on the screen.

June in the meetings I carried my laptop to the cottage terrace for a quiet conversation. I had the real Finnish lake landscape as my wallpaper. In cooler weather, I had to move to the fireplace room or on the sauna benches in silence, but then I took the opportunity to present Finnish sauna culture. When we had videos on all the time to see each other, it was easy to show Finnish landscapes with a laptop camera.

I have a good command of English and I also understand the American way of speaking, but I have to admit that the sound quality over remote connection did



sometimes cause difficulties in understanding. Sometimes I had to ask them to repeat what they said and sometimes I was a little lost on what we were talking about now. Anyhow, I was actively involved in every meeting, commenting on my own views on the issue.

The agenda of the meeting was always the same. Before the official start, there was free chat and in connection with the initial meetings, I introduced myself to everyone. It was no wonder that a Lodge brothers later asked who is our brother "Pekka Granroth". A couple of times there were other visitors, e.g. presenter from the

New York Lodge.

The official part of the meetings always started with prayer. It was held by Brother Fred H with awesome empathy without any notes or book. The master then raised different up to date issues. To my sorrow, I heard how the 160th anniversary celebrations of the Lodge could not be held in August. St. John's is the oldest Lodge in the area and during foundation the city has had 20 families and 250 inhabitants! All the fathers of the family must have been Masons then?

On several occasions, the master discussed the unrest in the United States, particularly racism and how Freemasons should respond to it. The brothers took genuine care of these events every time, after all, there is a bad riot area in the neighboring state of Portland, Oregon, just 100 miles away.

The Masonic theme was represented by teaching lectures in which one of the brethren brought up the teaching of any ritual at any time. Very interesting was e.g. presentation on "Wisdom-Power-Beauty". We also discussed the ritual for some time, and I informed them that our own is from them. An invitation to our 100th anniversary has been presented, let's just see if anybody is coming. I have an invitation to visit Seattle but let's see if it ever can take place.

Their common concern, too, seemed to be to get the real brothers involved. A lot of brothers on the membership list won't help if only some of them are real brothers. We usually had over 20 participants in our gatherings, and more than half of them were every time I

was too. We also discussed the values of Freemasonry and found complete unanimity in them.

In addition to working in the Lodge, they were interested in Finnish lake nature and cottages, as well as saunas. The pine felled on the roof of the storm cottage also received a well-deserved survey, as the terrace looked pretty damaged in a couple of meetings. Since my sailing hobby had been a unifying contact years ago, they were also very interested in inland sailing as well as crossing the Atlantic in August at s / y Sissi.



The "Kahviloo" Day Lodge meets over coffee every Monday afternoon.

The corona situation in the United States still looks difficult at the beginning of the fall, and when I asked about the status of Zoom meetings, I got the answer "They will probably go on all fall," that is, at least for the entire fall season. I will try to continue to be involved because that is how I learned to know several brothers. Good brotherhood is not broken by distance or Corona!

By the way, my Savo 14 Lodge and St John's Lodge No. 9 will normally meet on the same day, the 3rd Wednesday of the month. What a coincidence that too! Causes little difficulty to wake up the next morning at 5 o'clock after the Lodge night...

Pekka Granroth, Savo 14

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

- 3 William A. Collison
- 9 Ian B. Gililland
- 11 Brent A. Braun
- 14 Charles B. Claus, Jr.
- 14 George H. Bechtel, Jr.
- 14 Eugene V. Kashpureff
- 19 Raymond L. Gehrig
- 22 Jeff R. Hawley
- 25 Marcos J. Policar
- 25 Kemal Alaeddinoğlu
- 26 Terry S. Zittlau
- 27 Mark W. Shropshire



The Holy Book must be opened upon the altar before a Masonic Lodge may be opened. Freemasonry is not concerned with doctrine or dogma or sect or denomination, but only with "that natural religion in which all men agree." Therefore, the Holy Book is called the V.S.L. or Volume of Sacred Law or the Book of the Law. If the members of a Lodge are Christian, Moslem, Jewish or Buddhist, the V.S.L. of their particular belief is opened upon their altar. The V.S.L. is, therefore, a symbol of the revealed will and teachings of the Great Architect of the Universe - a name under which any Freemason can worship that Deity in Whom he puts his faith and trust.

Patience Brother, Patience.....

It seems as if just yesterday,
We met Level, Plumb and Square,
Within our sacred temple walls,
As Brothers true and fair,

The mallet's strike - Once! Twice! Thrice!
Not heard for so long now,
Our aprons, long have not been worn,
Yet unsullied, as we vowed,

Those Rituals kept close to our hearts,
With our work covered, day and night,
The time will come, this battle won,
When we as Brethren, reunite,

So practice all you've learned and taught,
To either stranger, Brother, friend,
The Craft shall shine forever more...
...and in time we'll meet again.

Source: Bro. Johnny Gauld / Caledonian Cowboy – 2 September 2020.

On the International Stage of Freemasonry

By Paul Liberty

On the international front, there are again attempts to set up a "Grand Lodge of the Principality of Liechtenstein". There is no regular Masonry in Liechtenstein. Interested men travel a short distance to Switzerland, Austria, Germany or Italy and join Lodges there.

On July 24, 2020, "Liechtensteiner Vaterland", one of the country's two newspapers reported the founding of the alleged new grand Lodge. It claims sponsorship by the Grand Lodge of the Mexican state Quintana Roo (on Yucatan) and by the required three Lodges, namely "York no. 1", "Mexico no. 2", "Ostarrichi no. 3" (Austria's old name) with members from Mexico, several US states and England. Another copy adds members from Romania and Serbia. There is also a recommendation that the sponsoring Mexican Grand Lodge is a member of a confederation of regular Mexican grand Lodges.

None of the cited three Lodges exist. An investigator was able to talk to the manager of the restaurant where the founding event allegedly took place and was told that this a group of gentlemen from Europe, espy. Hungary, who meet every six months. Mexico has 9 Grand Lodges in the "List of Lodges", but there are many more in the country, and there is no "confederation" of any of them. Of the many Mexican grand Lodges, the one most recognized as regular is "York Grand Lodge of Mexico F&AM." with 16 Lodges and some 380 Brothers.

Liechtenstein is an attractive place for many. Earlier attempts to organize a grand Lodge there were traced to former Freemasons who had to leave or were expelled from their Lodges in Switzerland, Austria or Germany.

Source: "<https://freimaurer-wiki.de/index.php?title=Liechtenstein&oldid=90600>".

Paying My Respects

Posted: 07 Aug 2020 05:00 AM PDT

by *Midnight Freemason Contributor*

Steven L. Harrison, 33°, FMLR

Driving north on Holmes Avenue in Kansas City after lunch with family, I saw the imposing Mount Moriah Mausoleum looming in front of me. On an impulse I turned in and parked by the massive stone structure. I went inside to see if someone could help me locate a grave site – no one there. I went up a half flight of stairs and was surprised to find myself inside a darkened Masonic Lodge room. It was obvious the building was empty but I made a mental note to come back when I could explore the place.

Absent help from someone, the website findagrave.com gave me the information I needed. The section I was looking for was right behind the mausoleum. In the distance I could see a lone pine tree with a bench beside it. I walked out there and found the grave I was looking for. “Frank S. Land,” it said, “Founder, Order of DeMolay.”

A large gray plaque at the site tells the story of the man buried there, and the stone bench, bearing Land’s name, is situated so a visitor can sit and read the inscription. It’s a modest monument for a man who did so much.

Young Frank Land didn’t have a lot going for him. His parents divorced and his mother moved him to an unfamiliar city. He didn’t have many friends and became shy and withdrawn – he missed his father. He worked at the restaurant his mother and grandmother owned and purchased it at the age of 18, a move that forced him to drop out of high school. Ironically, the profits of the establishment had been intended for his college education.

He took evening classes at the Kansas City Art Institute where he met his future wife, Nell. For a time after completing his courses he worked as an artist for the Kansas City Star.

On his 21st birthday his grandmother gave him \$50 and asked him to use it to join the Masons, a fraternity which his grandfather had loved. Frank joined Ivanhoe Lodge 446 and quickly followed up by joining the York and Scottish Rites as well as the Shrine. Not long after joining, he sold the restaurant and went to work for the Scottish Rite as administrator of the newly-formed Mason’s Relief Committee. He didn’t realize it but, at the age of 24, his destiny was now laid out before him.

In the years that followed, Land built the program into one of the premier relief organizations in Kansas City, helping secure hundreds of jobs for the unemployed and distributing food and clothing to the needy. The organization grew and, in time, Land needed assistance, so he hired 17-year-old Lewis Lower to help him during evenings and weekends. Lewis had just lost his father. Land understood how much Lewis missed his father due to his separation from his own dad as a youth. Brother Land was so impressed with young Lewis that in February 1919 he suggested forming a club at the Scottish Rite temple in Kansas City for Lewis and some of his friends. The following week Frank Land, Lewis and eight of his friends met together for the first time.

Land was Commander of the DeMolaii (sic) Council of Kadosh in the Scottish Rite. Jacques DeMolay, its namesake, was the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar. Rather than betray his God, DeMolay defied Philip the Fair of France and was burned at the stake. This inspired Land to tell the boys about DeMolay, whose courage and strength of character so impressed them they named their club after him. Land, the original nine boys and twenty-two others met as DeMolays for the first time on March 24, 1919. Too old for the boys to call him “Frank,” and too young to be “Mr. Land,” the boys began to call him “Dad.” For the rest of his life he was “Dad Land,” and every DeMolay advisor today holds the title of “Dad.”

The Order of DeMolay grew quickly, reaching a peak membership of 210,000 just prior to the Depression. Frank Land became known around the world as the organization expanded. In 1926, President Calvin Coolidge was so impressed with Land’s success he asked him to promote his nationwide program of youth development. It was not the last time such a request would be made of him. For the remainder of his life, Land moved in the circles of diplomats and presidents, including his beloved friend, Harry Truman. With Truman’s help and support,

Brother Land became the Shrine’s Imperial Potentate in 1954. A year later, he became only the 28th man ever to receive the Scottish Rite’s highest honor, the Grand Cross, and he was one of the very few men ever to receive the Thirty-third degree in both US jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite.

Today, with its headquarters still in Kansas City, DeMolay has expanded across international boundaries. It has attracted thousands of boys and young men who have gone on to make an impact on the world. Its members include those who became world famous men in nearly every endeavor.

In March 1959, Brother Land developed a rare disease, scleroderma,

a buildup of collagen in skin and organs, which tends to affect people in a variety of ways. It is sometimes, but not always fatal. The disease remains a mystery today and was certainly not well understood in the late 1950’s. Against doctor’s advice, he kept working at a frenetic pace, with none of his friends realizing how ill he was. Then, on November 8, 1959, the news of his unexpected death rocked the Masonic world by its foundations.

Among those thousands of boys who have been DeMolays were my father, my brother and myself. As a youth, I was a passionate member participating in all its activities and learning its cardinal virtues. DeMolay taught me leadership skills I have carried through life, and is one of the major reasons I am a Freemason today.

I joined several years after Dad Land died, yet I feel like I knew the man. Now, I found myself paying my respects at the foot of his grave, near a simple memorial to a great man. I remembered the friends I had made in DeMolay, the fun, and the important lessons learned. I wondered what I would say if I could talk to him. Many things ran through my mind but, in the end, there is only one simple thing I could say: “Thank you, Dad Land, thank you.”

