



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No.



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July 2002

The Master's Trestle-board

July is the first month of the Summer, but it goes by so fast. We no more than get into the month of August and all you see are shopping ads to get the youngsters ready for school. I truly hope you all have found some time to relax and enjoy the warmth of July. Even though it is the first month of Summer it is also the month of High-Summer. By mid-August, folks, those with school-aged children especially, are getting into a Fall mindset.

One excellent way to celebrate summer is for you to attend your Lodge's Past Masters & Awards Night dinner. We have been holding it in July in the hopes that members will find the longer days more appealing for traveling about in the evening. I would like to hear from you if there is a better or more convenient month for this gathering.

Another date for a fun summer celebration is Sunday, August 4th. The All-Masonic Picnic is being held on this day. Arrival is between noon and 1 PM.—when the eating begins.. The picnic will be over at 3 PM. This year the picnic is at Lake Padden.

This Fall, Lodge should be rewarding to you as we hope to be doing the 2nd & 3rd Degrees for our new brother Mike Davis. Please join us and give him your warm support.

Sincerely,

WM Buck Strickland

to provide me your comments
733 - 2172

The Wisdom of Rome

The month of July is: **THE MONTH TO SAVOR**. July begins the harvest season with the ripening of strawberries, raspberries, cherries, sugar-peas and so forth. Days are now getting shorter, but warmer, as high-summer is upon us. The myth of Adonis (the name means *Lord*) is timely for this month. Adonis "was a most beautiful young man born from an incestuous union. His mother, Myrrha, pregnant by her own father, was transformed into a tree, the weeping myrrh." This myrrh tree gave birth to Adonis and his beauty attracted the affections of the Goddess Aphrodite. Aphrodite put the infant into the care of Persephone, who later refused to return him to Aphrodite. "Zeus resolved the conflict by announcing that Adonis would live four months with Persephone, four with Aphrodite, and four with his own choice." One day Adonis takes his dogs hunting for wild boar. The Fates step in and Adonis is killed by the boar he spears. The blood Adonis loses gives rise to the red flowering anemone. This myth was honored by the Greeks and Romans in the ritual *Adonia*; it celebrates the "Cycle of Life."

Here in America we too celebrate during this month of July. Most of you honored those who struggled to birth our nation in the War for Independence. July is a period when many take time to travel, tend a garden, work on a hobby or simply relax. July is a great month for this because some of the first fruits of harvest are just that, fruit. I can think of few more delicious treats than strawberries or raspberries on shortcake with whipped or ice cream. July is indeed an appropriate month for us to savor all that is good in life. We are very fortunate to live in Whatcom County as there are few places as temperate and beautiful. As we savor the fruits of this plentiful month, not only be thankful to our Supreme Grand Master but also generous to those for whom "life's" harvest has not been so plentiful.

More next month -;-SS John Browne

Past Masters & Awards Night

It won't be long now and our annual Past Masters and Awards Night dinner will take place. This year we're going to go informal and have a barbecue. Our Senior Steward will have his gas-grille on hand to cook chicken, pork and hamburger patties. Salad, baked beans, chips and dessert will be provided. But the one important item we can't provide is attendance—that is up to you brothers. We plan to have some door prizes and of course fellowship with our brothers and their families.

It would help our planning greatly if you could call a lodge officer and let him know you're coming and how many are in your party. Here are some persons to call/

WM Buck Strickland: 733-2172

SS John Browne: 738-1537

VWB Ed Jungblom: 734-0159

SEC Glenn Hutchings: 671-

A First Degree Held

We held a First Degree at our stated meeting Thursday, June 20th for Mr. Mike Davis. WB John Browne conferred the degree while WB John Burley handled the Senior Deacon's role with WB Glenn Hutchings doing the circumambulation. WB John Burley also gave the apron lecture and Br. Frank Meyers presented the Working Tools. VWB Ed Jungblom gave the Charge. A very fine First Degree Lecture was put on by WB George Quiggle.

Br. Mike made his first visitation by attending the double First Degree put on by Kulshan Int. Lodge on June 25th. Br. Mike is working hard with his mentor WB John Browne.

I want to correct an error made in the last newsletter—I listed Mike's Father's name as Ken whereas it is actually "Frank" M. Davis. We look forward to seeing Br. Frank Davis in lodge this Fall when Br. Mike takes his 2nd and 3rd degrees and we act on Frank's petition for affiliation.

SS John F. Browne



Jul. 18th Past Masters Awards Night & barbecue, 6:30 PM - help our planning, an **RSVP** to SS John Browne would be helpful for dinner planning. ph. 738 - 1537

Aug. 4th All Masonic picnic at Lake Padden, noon to 3 PM. We eat at 1 PM Come and have some fun.

Sep. 5th is our special communication, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM

Sep. 19th is our stated meeting, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM Lodge 7:30 PM



Once Robert the Bruce had secured the throne of Scotland there was a period of relative peace during the rest of his lifetime. If our author Steven Sora is correct and the Templar treasury was moved to Scotland and placed under the protection of the Sinclair Clan, then the treasury was relatively safe as long as peace was present. Peace was never in abundant supply in Scotland's history however.

As you may recall Henry Sinclair made a couple of trips to Nova Scotia between 1398 and 1400. On his arrival home in 1400 he had to make a defense of his estate and he was killed. Henry's son, also named Henry, was busy fighting off the clan Donald while attempting to protect the Crown Prince James I. James became the King of Scotland but was assassinated in 1436. In that year Prince Henry Sinclair's grandson William Sinclair was named Admiral of the Sinclair Fleet. The new war which broke out after James' death gave the English an opening and they marched north and occupied Edinburgh. William Sinclair was held briefly for ransom, which was not paid and then released. Author



If you wish to inform, talk!
If you wish to learn, listen!

To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 2nd Monday of each month, to:

John F. Browne 109 South 43rd Street
ph. 738 - 1537 Bellingham, WA. 98229-2876
e-mail jbrowne@telcomplus.net

Steven Sora notes: "It is very likely at this time that Admiral Sinclair made his own trip to North America to see the lands his grandfather had discovered." In 1441 William Sinclair imported workers to upgrade the facilities at the family chapel at Roslin and to construct the vault on Oak Island. It turns out that Roslin was a mining village. Between 1436 & 1441 Sinclair transported his local trusted miners to work on the Oak Island projects and then imported miners from Cornwall to fill in for them at Roslin. The 1441 renovations at Roslin Chapel included the extensive tunnels & vaults under the ground floor.

After James I died, his son James II took the throne but being a minor child he had regents to guide him. As an adult James II took on the Donald clan and defeated them, but he was killed in the action. He was succeeded by his son James III, in 1460. "It is very likely that while the Douglas clan rebellion and the continuing attacks by the English were going on, the Sinclair inheritance was being moved to the New World." The Donald's were down for a while but not out and in 1488 they rebelled once again. In this conflict James III was injured and then murdered, 1513. The conflicts continue as the years pass and James IV was listed as MIA. He was succeeded by James V. In 1542 James V tries to stop another English incursion, by Henry VIII, and the Scottish military leader Sir Oliver Sinclair is taken prisoner during the battle of Solway. In 1545 "he was allowed a short visit home, but instead he disappeared from Scotland and history—forever."

This was the time of the Reformation and Protestant mobs attacked many of the Catholic Churches in Scotland. "In the year that Oliver was supposed to report back to prison in England, the Sinclair family was ordered by Reformation bishops to turn over the treasure of the Scottish Catholic Church." The Sinclair's of course refused and so not only did Sir Oliver Sinclair go missing but so did the Church treasure and relics. Did the Templar & Scottish Catholic Church Treasuries end up in the Oak Island money pit, some good evidence says yes. But, we won't know for sure until someone is successful in recovering what is buried in that pit.

John F. Browne



KING'S QUOTE'S

**HALF DONE,
IS WELL BEGUN!**

Horice