



# Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington



Volume 3 — Issue 6

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June 2002

## The Master's

### Trestle-board

Brethren, I hope you are well on your way to an enjoyable summer of sun, surf, fun, friends and family. Speaking of friends and family, don't forget to drop in at lodge, your Masonic friends & family. We have a First Degree on Thursday June 20, a great time to welcome a fine man into the oldest fraternity & family. See the column on the back.

Next month brings the 4th of July holiday, to remember the struggle our forebearers fought to give us this great land of freedom. July is also the traditional month for our Past Masters Recognition & Awards Night. Please join us on Thursday evening July 18, 6:30 PM. You might make it easier on our poor steward if you'd let him know you're coming, so he'll know how many to prepare food for.

SS John Browne ph. 738 - 1537

Sincerely,

WM Buck Strickland

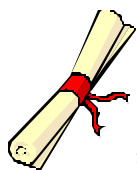
## The Wisdom of Rome

The month of June is: **THE MONTH TO NUTURE**. June brings with it a sense of ease, for the days and nights are warmer. Seeds have germinated and fruit has set on the trees. "We have passed through months of introspection, planning, and exuberance. Now is the time to get down to business, and nature's business is to grow and flourish." This month is named for the Goddess Juno, the most powerful of the female goddesses. She is also the supreme Mother fertility figure. One of themes played out in Greek and Roman mythology is **one-ups-man-ship** between the gods. When the God Jupiter, most powerful of the male gods, creates from his head the Goddess Mnerva, his consort Juno is understandably peeved. Juno seeks assistance from the Goddess Flora, who supplies a flower petal which allows Juno to conceive, without the aid of a man. Juno thus gives birth to the God Mars. You'll note, it is from nature that this ability to conceive is derived. Juno serves another function important to community survival.

Juno is also a "Warner," (*Moneta* in Latin) one who warns, and she is known as Juno Moneta. It is interesting that the Romans built their state mint next to the temple to Juno Moneta. "The goddess became associated with the minting of coins. 'Moneta' came to be synonymous with coins, and the origin for our word "money." Juno's month came to have another association; the month for brides and of weddings. The name Juno may have its origin "in the word for "bride" or young woman" (*juvenis*), because Juno was the consummate bride of Jupiter." There is some irony to our modern notion of June as the month of weddings because in Roman times the first half of the month was seen as unfavorable. One needed to wait until the full moon came. Prior to the full moon harmful spirits were thought to walk the earth. "The full moon brought good fortune to women. 'Don't make any big plans before midmonth and do not get married,' advised the ancient priestess." All of us will gain if we follow the wisdom of settling into the nurturing mode. One can find relaxation in providing the loving touch to families, friends, persons in need, pets and gardens alike.

The beauty is, we really nurture our own souls when we nurture our fellow living creatures.

More next month - SS John Browne



### A Thank You: To Whatcom Lodge No. 151

I am writing this letter in regards to the Harold R. Terpenning Educational Scholarship. I would like to thank those on the committee of this scholarship for not only taking the time to consider my scholarship but for deciding to award me , along with two other, the scholarship. This scholarship will be quite useful to educational process next year. I am very grateful for receiving it.



I would like to specifically thank John Browne for taking time to come to my Honors Night and award me with this scholarship. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Browne for recognizing my Grandfather that night, and applauding all that he has done. This presentation made both my family and I very proud; thank you.

Sincerely,



### KING'S QUOTE'S

LOOK AND YOU WILL FIND IT,  
WHAT GOES UNSOUGHT  
WILL GO UNDETECTED!

Sophocles

# A First Degree

We are planning to hold a First Degree at our stated meeting this Thursday, June 20. Our candidate is Mr. Mike Davis whose Father Ken Davis is a Master Mason in Alaska. Mikes' son is a member of Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay and his daughter is a member of JOB's Daughters. Whatcom Lodge is excited to be back into degree work. Mike's father Ken has also applied for affiliation with Whatcom Lodge and hopes to be down from Alaska to participate this fall in his son's Second & Third Degrees.

This is a very good occasion for attending lodge if you've not been able to in some time. I can't think of a more fulfilling moment than watching a man take his first steps into the "light of Masonry." Please join us and help make this First Degree a very special event for Mike Davis. It will be special for us having you in Lodge.

SS John Browne

## Calendar of Events

**Jun. 20<sup>th</sup>** is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM. We are holding a First Degree this evening so please join us and support our new candidate. Attire is dark suit/tux

**Jul. 18<sup>th</sup>** Past Masters Awards dinner, 6:30 PM - help our planning, an [RSVP](#) to SS John Browne would be helpful for dinner planning. ph. 738 - 1537

**Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>** All Masonic picnic at Lake Pad-den, noon to 3 PM. We eat at 1 PM Come and have some fun.

**Sep. 5<sup>th</sup>** is our special communication, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM

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

## Tracing the origins of Freemasonry

more from

### THE LOST TREASURE

of the

### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



It turns out that Sir Henry Sinclair was probably not the Sinclair who dug the Oak Island money pit, but rather, one of his grandsons did. However lets not get ahead of ourselves. We need to bring in another thread to this story.

The other component to our mystery is: what is buried in the money pit? To find out the answer we need look at the likely source of the treasure, The Knights of the Temple of Solomon. As you may recall from the column on *Born in Blood*, the Knights Templar began in 1118 AD. The group was started by nine, mostly French, knights lead by Hugues de Payens, who was related to the Sinclair family by marriage. These nine knights came from the south of France & seemed to have a different mission than the one given, to protect the highways in the Holy Land. "Robert Payne, in his work *The Dream and the Tomb*, states, 'From the beginning, Hugh of Payen appears to have had a larger aim.' Their only recorded accomplishment over the course of those nine years is such excavation work, though, ostensibly they also protected the highways for pilgrims. Finding a wall to the stables of

the ancient King, they broke through it and returned to France."

As you may know already, the Crusades were far from a Holy activity. European Christian solders killed as many Eastern European & Mid-Eastern Christians as they did Muslim believers. In 1209 the Church of Rome began an extermination campaign, lasting some 25 years, against the Cathari in southern France. The Knights Templar not only refused to aid the Church in this campaign but a number of Templars actively assisted the Cathari. During the siege of Monteseegur a truce took place and: "legend has it that a treasure sacred to the Cathari was smuggled out of Monteseegur by three of the faithful and a guide, climbing down the thousand-foot cliff walls of Monteseegur on ropes in the dark cover of night. Their mission was to take the Cathar treasure, and some already hidden in the forests below, to the caves of Sabarthes. This treasure has never been found."

In 1188 the Saracens retook Jerusalem and in 1291 finally compelled the Templars, and all other European forces to depart the Holy Land. Some sixteen years later King Philip IV of France and Pope Clement V joined forces to suppress the Knights Templar Order. The Templar Knights, Sergeants & Priests, who were not arrested in the initial move, fled into neighboring countries. The Templar fleet sailed away and its believed their treasury went with it, for King Philip did not get it. The London Temple treasury also disappeared. King Edward II of England refused to round up & torture the Templars there, until he was threatened with excommunication. "Only in Scotland and Portugal were the claims of the French King and the orders of the pope completely ignored. Scotland, at odds with England, was one of the safest refuges to the escaping Templars, and many fled there to the open arms of Robert the Bruce and the Sinclair family."

Where did the Templar fleet sail off too? There is a good deal of speculation as to where the large Templar fleet ended up. With European, English and even the main Scottish seaports being watched not many choices were open. In was during this time period that the Sinclair Clan sought out an alliance with the Gunn Clan who controlled the Orkney Islands of Northern Scotland. "The Templar fleet, under agreement with Sinclair, sailed directly from France to the Orkneys."

**More next month:** John F. Browne



**He who knows  
others  
is wise;  
He who knows  
himself  
is enlightened!**

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

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