



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington



Volume 3 — Issue 5

visit us at: www.WhatcomMasonicLodge.org

May 2002

The Master's Trestle-board

My brethren, May has once more brought its beauty to cheer our spirits and drive out those remaining globs of dust in our sub-consciences. If you have not already done so, May is a great time to get out doors, breathe in some fresh air and enjoy the birds and children at play.

This newsletter comes out mid-month and at this point in May many high school seniors are about to step out into an adult world. Some may be going into one of our military services, while others will soon be attending a higher-ed or vocational college. If you know a graduating senior I encourage you to attend their graduation ceremony if possible, but if not, a card of congratulations would show your support. By the way, if you missed the MEC Awards on April 30th, you missed a very interesting, funny & inspiring program. Former NASA Astronaut Dr. George Nelsen was an excellent choice to speak for he put timely emphasis on the importance of education.

Till next time, Be Well.

WM Buck Strickland

The Wisdom of Rome

"Its May, its May, the lusty month of May," so goes the lyrics to a song in the musical "Camelot." This month bursts forth with an abundance of flowers, blossoms, the chirping of birds and buzzing of insects. In ancient Rome the temple of Flora was dedicated on April 27th and games & rituals lasted until May 3rd. Flora is the Goddess of Blooming Plants and she was married to the God of Breezes, Zephyr, on whose currents of air float the fragrance of flowers. In her story Flora gives us this simple but apt advice: "Use Life's Flower while it still blooms, for the thorn remains when the roses have fallen away." Nature-walks and gardening are two excellent ways to keep in touch with the Life's Flower. In her *Book Cultivating Sacred Space: Gardening for the Soul*, author Elizabeth Murray says: "When we garden with intent, vision and a better understanding of the how each act in the garden can reflect and enhance our everyday life—then we are creating environments that provide spiritual well-being and nurture for the soul." Frances Bernstein [Classical Living] proclaims: "May [is] The Month to Blossom,"

The ancient Romans did not spend all the month of May in frivolous partying. It was known that once the new plant shoots, lambs & kids were up they would need protection from predators. The ritual of Lemuria was performed to remind the household of the need to be on guard. This festival was held in mid-May, and like its opposing month, November, it was a time when the veil between life and death was thin. Failure to protect the herds and crops would have devastating consequences. So, the rejoicing of May's new growth was tempered by the wisdom to be vigilant.

More next month -;-SS John Browne

H. R. Terpenning Scholarship Winners

It is time once again to announce the annual recipients of the Harold R. Terpenning Educational Scholarships. This scholarship fund was established in 1997 by an endowment from brother Terpenning's estate, matched by funds from Whatcom Lodge. Since its beginning over \$10,000 in scholarships has been granted.

This year the HRT Scholarship selection committee consisted of brothers Ted McQuiston, Virgil Olund and John Browne, who acted as chairman. The committee met on Tuesday morning May 7th and reviewed the applications. The committee decided to grant three awards this year and the winners are: Ms. Barbara J. Hutchings, Mr. Ryan Pemberton and Mr. Christopher Johnston. Each will receive a \$500 award, which will be issued this coming January. Ms. Barbara Hutchings is the daughter of our secretary, Glenn Hutchings. Ms. Hutchings is graduating from Bellingham HS and she plans to attend Skagit Valley College and pursue a career in Nursing. Mr. Ryan Pemberton is the grandson of Whatcom Lodge brother Bud Kinsey. Mr. Pemberton is graduating from Nooksack HS and plans to attend Seattle Pacific University. He is interested in a career in the field of social services/education. Mr. Christopher Johnston is the son of our Junior Warden Mike Johnston. Mr. Chris Johnston plans to attend Whatcom Community College and prepare himself for a career in law enforcement.

All three of these fine young adults have worked hard in our community as well as in the classroom. We on the scholarship committee are glad we can lend them a helping hand: Barbara, Ryan and Chris - Congratulations!! John F. Browne



KING'S QUOTE'S

THERE IS NO WAY
TO HAPPINESS -
HAPPINESS IS THE WAY!

Buddha

Tracing the origins of Freemasonry

more from

THE LOST TREASURE

of the

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR



It was taught, and may still be, that the Americas were discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492. It is a matter of taste if one chooses to continue to believe that story, since it is well researched and documented that the Americas were visited much earlier and regularly by non state sponsored explorers, fishermen and traders. Norsemen were in North America around 1000 AD - the most famous, but not the first, was Leif Ericsson. The route to North America was across the N. Atlantic using Islands, such as Iceland, as stepping stones to Greenland and then to N. America. In addition to Norsemen there were Irish monks who settled these Islands, who moved westward to avoid Viking raids; not all Norsemen were raiders, many were farmers. This information lays the groundwork for an unfamiliar expedition.

In 1398 the Scottish Earl, Sir Henry Sinclair made a trip to N. America along this northern route. The story really begins in 1390 when the ship of Italian explorer Niccolo Zeno went aground in northern Scotland. Zeno was about to be killed by some locals when Sir Henry Sinclair happened on the scene and took him into custody. Henry Sinclair became impressed by Niccolo's abilities and made him admiral of the Sinclair fleet.

Henry Sinclair became aware of North America from tales of a fisherman who had

been to the Grand Banks, had been captured by natives and later released. Niccolo Zeno made a preparatory trip to Greenland to map the coastline. Niccolo also wrote home and asked his younger brother Antonio to join him in Scotland. Niccolo died prior to the start of the voyage, so too did the fisherman who had informed Henry Sinclair of his adventures in N. America. It was fortuitous that Antonio Zeno acted upon his brother request because: "The voyage of Henry Sinclair and Antonio Zeno was preserved for posterity in the maps and letters that Antonio sent to Venice, which were published in 1558. They recorded the first expedition since the Norse crossed the Atlantic. Zeno even sent home a map of the New World." There were however no other written records of this 1398 voyage.

The date was June 2, 1398 when Henry Sinclair arrived in the area which would later be known as Nova Scotia. As the poor weather months approached Sinclair desired to stay and explore but

most of the men wished to return home. Antonio Zeno returned to Scotland leaving Henry Sinclair and a small party to explore the area. There is evidence that Sir Henry may have traveled as far south as Westford Massachusetts, where a memorial rock to a Scottish Knight was found. The rock's existence was known of from colonial times but it had been overgrown by vegetation. "Frank Glynn, an amateur archeologist from Connecticut, became interested in the tale of the rock carving and set out to uncover the memorial" He was successful and even sent a rubbing of the image to "T. C. Lethbridge, a British writer, archeologist, and curator of the University of Archeology and Ethnology at Cambridge, England." The research done by Mr. Lethbridge (1954) established that the knight's armor dated from the 1360's to no later than the mid-to-late 1400's. The coat of arms was determined to be that of the Gunn clan, which were allied to the Sinclair's. It became clear that this knight was likely "Henry Sinclair's principal lieutenant, Sir James Gunn."

Another interesting clue is found in Newport Rhode Island. A circular stone tower was built there but opinions vary on who built it. Some historians favor the idea that Norse traders built the tower but a modern Sinclair, Andrew, notes that this tower is of the same design as the round churches "of the Knights Templar, which are circular and complete with eight arches. These churches are rare; the only one in Scotland was built in Orkney, the home of Henry Sinclair. The Sinclair family acted in Scotland as the protectors of Freemasonry, an outgrowth of the outlawed Templars."

The last years of Sir Henry Sinclair are clouded in a mystery, perhaps by Henry's own doing. It appears Henry returned home in 1400 and was killed in a raid by the English, but, its not certain if he died in 1400 or 1404. Antonio Zeno's correspondence indicated he desired to return to Italy in 1400 but was able to do so until 1404. Is this because Sir Henry died in 1404 and Henry Sinclair's death released Antonio from obligation? What we do know now is that a wealthy man, with his own fleet, is known to have been in Nova Scotia. A man with the means to have had the Oak Island money pit built. The question is, what would his motive be and what kinds of artifacts were deposited?

John F. Browne



There are many more people trying to meet the right person than trying to be the right person!

Gloria Steinem

Calendar of Events

May 16th is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM

Jun. 6th is our special communication, dinner at 6:30 PM.

Jun. 20th is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM.

Jul. ?th Past Master Awards dinner

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

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 Bellingham, WA. 98226 e-mail jbrown@telcomplus.net