



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington



Volume 3 — Issue 2

February 2002

The Master's Trestle-board

This is the month of Love: for our spouses, families, friends and humankind. Let us forget not, that simple but profoundly wise phrase from the closing charge, "do good unto all."

This month is right in the middle of winter and we often think of this season as being associated with dead or dormant plants. But the truth is, dormant plants are busy growing underground and seeds are soaking up moisture, so that in the Spring, new growth & life will emerge.

There is wisdom in watching how, our Grand Master of the Universe's design, works out in nature. Humankind is part of that nature and we lose our way when we set ourselves above it. Our Great-Light guide book reminds us, "to everything there is a season." Winter is the season of inner-growth, like the plants gathering strength for the Spring.

Be not dismayed by the cold and gray of Winter, it is but the stages' curtain, which will be pulled back in Spring and we'll emerge from our Winter's rest.

WM Buck Strickland

The Best is Yet to Come!

Keep Your Fork

There was a mason who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness, and So, as he was getting his things 'in order,' he contacted his minister and had him come to his house to discuss certain aspects of his final wish. He told the minister which hymns he wanted sung at the service, what scriptures he would like read, and what suit he wanted to be buried in. The brother also requested to be buried with his Masonic Bible.

Everything was in order and the minister was preparing to leave when the man suddenly remembered something very important to "There 's one more thing," he said excitedly . "What's that?" came the ministers reply. "It is very important," the brother continued, "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The minister stood looking at the man, not knowing what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?", the man asked. Well to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request, "said the minister.

The man explained, "In all my year of attending Church socials and pot luck dinners, and in masonry, we have the 'fourth', or knife and fork degree, I always

remember that when the dishes of the main course are being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say "Keep your fork." It was may favorite part because I

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then knew, something better was



A letter of thank you to the Lodge

Dear Masonic Lodge 151,

I would like to first off apologize for not being able to make it to the dinner, in recognition of me last summer. I received a job working for UPS, and was unable to ask for the time off that early. Due to me working from 5:00 PM until 9:30 PM, I was unable to attend the dinner. I would like to thank you for rewarding me with this Scholarship. This is quite the honor to receive this scholarship. This will help me continue with furthering my education, and helping me pursue my career in law enforcement. I have recently just finished the fall quarter, and now I am in the winter quarter at school. I will be putting this \$500 dollars towards my spring quarter at Whatcom Community College. So thank you again for this Scholarship.

Sincerely, Keith Johnston

coming...like velvety chocolate cake, or deep dish apple pie. Something wonderful and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork.' Then I want you to tell them: Keep your fork—the best is yet to come.

The minister's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he clutched the man's hand to say goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see the man before his death. But he also knew that something better was coming.

At the funeral, brethren and friends were paying their respects at the casket and they saw him in a neat suit, his apron and his Masonic Bible and the fork, placed in his right hand. Over and over, the minister heard the question—"What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the minister told the people of the conversations he had with man shortly before he died. He also explained about the fork and what it symbolized to him. He also told them he could not stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you, oh so gently, that the best is yet to come.

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Submitted by:

Br. Ted McQuiston

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

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Tracing the origins of Freemasonry



What was the Great Society?

Was the Great Society, alluded to by some captured Peasant Revolt leaders, Freemasonry or the parent organization? Direct evidence will probably never be found. Most Medieval histories do not connect the various regional uprisings in England with Walter Tyer's group which swept into London. Yet all the uprisings occurred within a few days of each other and had the same targets: corrupt government/church officials and property holdings of the Knights Hospitaller. One reason given for the lack of connection was the various make-ups of the rebel groups. In and around London the rebels were mainly peasants. In York and Beverly the rebels consisted of merchants, craftsmen and were lead by minor nobles. What organization fostered such mixing of social classes?

A fifth column. It was also obvious that "insiders" assisted the rebels because they were often able to gain unopposed access to towns and buildings being attacked. Another interesting point noted by author John Robinson, no member of Parliament suffered property damage and Parliament ended up providing a general amnesty to the majority of the rebels.

Another connection. If the Great Society was descended from the suppressed Knights of the Temple, what kept the organization alive for so many, after the knights had reached safety and then later passed away. One reason the underground would have kept going was because the suppression trial lasted seven years, from the mass arrest to the death of Jacques de Molay. With the hunt for heretic knights lasting so long, a long-term vigilant organization needed to exist. That begs the question of; what was the organization doing after the death of de Molay and on down until 1717, if the Great Society evolved in Freemasonry? John Robinson suggests that the group may have acted as a sort of church reform watch dog.

St. John Baptists chapel. In the late 14th century a certain William Smith, a lay teacher, held regular meetings at St. John Baptists chapel in Leicester. The chapel, also a hostelry, was guarded during Smith's teachings by armed knights. The hermit priest, William de Swynderby, joined Smith and preached against high-living

Bishops and the use of lawsuits for payment of debts. John Bukkynham, Bishop of Lincoln, had de Swynderby convicted of heresy, but, before a burning at the stake sentence could be carried out, the pious Duke of Lancaster persuaded the Bishop to give de Swynderby a lesser penalty. A similar example to this occurred in the 1630's when Archbishop William Laud tried to have a man named Trendall burned at the stake for preaching against the Anglican Church hierarchy. Though an arrest was about to be made, Trendall up and disappeared. All that seemed to be known about him was that he was a *stonemason* from Dover.

More to come

SS John Browne

Calendar of Events

Feb. 21st is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner served at 6:30, Lodge-7:30 PM.

Mar. 7th is our special communication, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM.

Mar. 21st is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM

Apr. 4th is our special communication, a light dinner served at 6:30 PM.

Apr. 18th is our Stated Meeting, a light dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge-7:30 PM



February 22

A Happy Birthday to!!

George Washington



KING'S QUOTE'S

WE DO NOT STOP PLAYING
BECAUSE WE GROW OLD.
WE GROW OLD BECAUSE
WE STOP PLAYING!