



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington



Volume 3 — Issue 3

March 2002

The Master's

Trestle-board

The calendar, if not the weather itself, announces Spring has come on March 20th. Many of you may be suffering cabin fever about now. I suggest visiting lodge as part of your cure. At our next Stated Meeting, March 21st, we have a Petition of Affiliation to vote on and our Senior Steward will be giving a short-talk about the Fellowcraft Degree and First Corinthians Chapter-13. Don't forget to plan on visiting lodge on Thursday April 4^h. We are going to have home-made beef stew for dinner and perform the Table Lodge Ceremony.

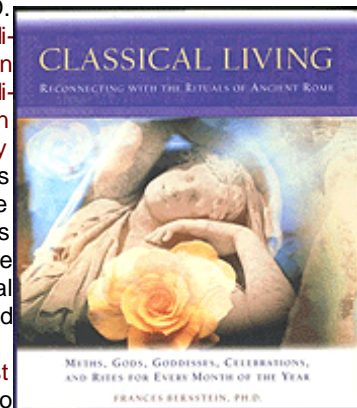
For those of you who have internet visit us at: www.WhatcomMasonicLodge.org.
WM Buck Strickland

The Wisdom of Rome

For ordinary Roman citizens, in antiquity, the home was the spiritual center, so writes historian and author, Frances Bernstein, PH. D. "In ancient Rome, the home and family grounded religious belief and observance. Then as now, the women often provided spiritual guidance by marking the religious calendar with yearly observances, passing on religious teachings, and creating a sacred sanctuary within the home." The first altar in a Roman home is the hearth, overseen by the Goddess Vesta, the "Living Flame." Romans considered each month as having spiritual & practical attributes which affected the quality of their lives. The months were tied to seasonal concerns and heed was paid as nature's clock ticked onward. Here is a sample of how this works.

January begins the year as "the month of honest endeavor, serious planning, and forethought." It is also a month for rest and healing, to gather strength for growth. In February, another dormancy month, we purify by sweeping, cleaning and by tossing any worn-out, broken, rotten or unneeded items. Also, "February was a special month to remember loving kin, to set aside sacred time to honor those who had died, especially parents or grandparents. This was the month to set things right." It is now March.

"In March, we come out of our winter shells with a great burst of vitality & energy." This is the time for the first seeds to be planted and is a sacred time for the god Mars



Your Assistance is needed!

At the February stated meeting WB John Burley asked that our brethren be made aware of a communication problem the lodge is having regarding the Widows and Orphans Fund. Recently we've had a couple of brothers pass-on but news of their passing was not communicated, in a timely manner, to VWB Frank Juntunen, Chairman of the Windows and Orphan Fund. This resulted in unnecessary delays in getting assistance to their widows.

Please help remedy this problem. If you hear news of a brother's passing, within a day or two of its occurrence, notify Br. Frank Juntunen; also, notify one of our lodge officers. Here are some helpful phone numbers.



The Enchanted Garden
by: J. W. Waterhouse

Windows & Orphans Fund
VWB Frank Juntunen - 966-4406

Whatcom Lodge Officers
WM Buck Strickland - 733-2172
SEC Glenn Hutchings - 671-8218
SW Alvia Goodwin - 366-5264
SD John Burley - 733-1409
SS John Browne - 738-1537
VWB Ed Jungblom - 734-0159

Silvanus (the dder god, before Mars was the god of war). He is the God of Fertility and Abundance; Mars was a protector of the fields and crops. This month is also associated with Minerva, Goddess of Arts & Crafts. Her name comes from the Latin word for mind "mens." March is a time to plant seeds for the crops we shall harvest and for creative ideas, thoughts and projects. The sap rises this month, so let this action of nature motivate us, let us rise up with it.

More next month -;-SS John Browne



KING'S QUOTE'S

THINGS TURN OUT BEST
FOR THE PEOPLE WHO
MAKE THE BEST OF
THE WAY THINGS TURN OUT!

Tracing the origins of Freemasonry



In the past articles I have tried to show the evidence which links the Knights of the Temple to the origins of the Freemasons. Each reader is free to believe or disbelieve as he sees fit. One of the mysteries associated with the suppression of the Templars has to do with the disappearance of their considerable treasure. There seems to have been an insider who tipped some of the Templars off, before the round-up on October 13th, 1307, because the Templar treasure was not found by King Phillip's men. What's more the Templar fleet up and sailed away and its unknown for sure just where they went. It is thought that the Templar treasure was put on board the ships before they departed. No one seems to know just where that treasure ended up.

This missing treasure is the subject of a book written by Steven Sora, © 1999 & published by Destiny Books. The book is titled **THE LOST TREASURE OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR - Solving the Oak Island Mystery.**

The adventure began in 1795 when 16 yr. old Daniel McGinnis was exploring the woods on Oak Island, Nova Scotia. Young Daniel came upon a clearing which had a depression in the ground, red clover and other plants not indigenous to the island,

Calendar of Events

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. followed by the ever fun Table Lodge.

Apr. 7th join Ferndale Lodge in a Birthday celebration for WB Van Sargent begins at **2 PM** (No presents, just bring yourself & expect to have fun).

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

Apr. 21st join Lynden Lodge at the Mt. Baker Lanes, in Ferndale, for Bowling - begins at 3 PM.

and, a tree with a ship's tackle hanging from a sawn-off branch. Also, the tree bore some strange markings. Daniel returned with two friends and they commenced to digging at the center of the depression. Two feet down they came across a level of flagstone. Flagstone was foreign to the island but available at a mainland site some two miles away. The young men encountered platforms of rotten logs at the depths of 20 & 30 feet. It was clear to them they were on to some-thing but needed more manpower.

In 1801 Dr. Simeon Lynds a relative of Anthony Vaughn, one of the three young men, lent financial support. A shaft was dug down to 90 ft.; they found more log platforms at 10 foot intervals. Just before the 90 ft. mark an inscribed flag-stone was unearthed. A Halifax College Professor translated the code—it read, treasure “forty feet below.” At 93 feet water started filling the shaft. Flooding has plagued excavation efforts ever since.

Digging was resumed in 1845 and a horse-powered drill employed. The drill brought up pieces of metal which looked

like “pieces of a watch chain.” Also brought up were tough brown fibers later identified as coconut husks. In 1850 the group observed that the shaft water rose and fell with the tides. Investigation revealed a man-made channel in the nearby beach, designed to bring in the sea water. A coffer dam was built and it stopped the water, but the dam was broken up by a fierce storm. Abortive attempts were made in 1859 and 1866.

In 1891 Mr. Frederick Blair restarted efforts. This group discovered, by using red dye, a second water channel existed, coming in from the other side of the island. More drilling accompanied the digging and some interesting items came up. Several fragments of parchment, a pick, a seal-oil lamp and an axe head were recovered. Mr. Blair dated these items as being from the 1680's. The problem of flooding could not be solved so the digging stopped again.

The year 1906 found Franklin D. Roosevelt on the site. Many other famous folks lent financial support including: Admiral Richard Byrd, Vincent Astor, Errol Flynn and John Wayne. Despite this august help and ever developing tools of technology the treasure pit would not give up its horde. In 1970 David C. Tobias put together the latest digging syndicate. The author, Steven Sora, visited the site in 1990 and the work was still in action at the time this book was written. Mr. Tobias speculates that the treasure was a stash belonging to Sir Frances Drake. No one doubts that some treasure is there, the physical effort put forth to foil diggers is too complex for it to have been a prank. The engineer who designed the pit and water tunnels had to have been informed on advance hydraulics. The work would have taken a year or longer. The pit is believed to have been completed before 1750, prior to local settlements which would have made secret construction impossible.

Whose treasure is it? Stay tuned for more.

Senior
Steward
John Browne



Experience is not
what happens
to a man.
It is what a man
does
with what
happens to him.

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 jbrowne@telcomplus.net

