



THE GAVEL

MONTEZUMA LODGE NO. 1 AF & AM

431 Paseo de Peralta

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-1958

Just west of the Scottish Rite Temple

Phone: 505-982-0971 - Email: hiram@montezumalodge.org

Volume 19 Issue 12

"The Oldest Masonic Lodge in the Rockies" Organized May 8, 1851

December 2019

Dear Brethren of Montezuma Lodge No.1,

Fare greetings to you wherever you are. As always, I'd like to send you a personal invitation to attend one of our Lodge meetings this year. I am truly honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Worshipful Master of our lodge. I am also grateful for the many efforts and accomplishments by the Past Masters that have allowed us to continue promoting our cause. On the fraternal side, we have an exciting agenda for the 2020 year which will include: Family Involvement in Masonry, Enhancing Ritual Work with Music, and Collaborating with other Lodges and Masonic Bodies. I am hoping that you will participate in the events in accordance with this agenda and that you will walk away with a sense of intrigue, brotherly love, and belonging. I am currently preparing a calendar of events to be presented at the January 2020 regular communication to lay out some of the goals and objectives for the year.

The Property Management Board (PMB) has been in discussion about upgrading our lobby area with new furniture and layout. As fiduciaries of our Lodge properties and possessions, the PMB have a duty to ensure that they are in good condition and cared for. The PMB has made a lot of improvements on the landscaping of our grounds and the exterior side of our Lodge. For 2020, the PMB would like to expand the improvements to the interior of our Lodge. I am confident that these upgrades will give you a sense of pride and inspiration when you invite your family and friends for dinner and to other Masonic events. These upgrades may also serve to provide a more welcoming space for our community members who use our property in keeping with modern times and in accordance with our tenets and values. You are always welcomed to attend the PMB meetings which are scheduled for the

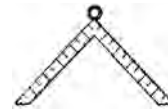
4th Wednesday of each month at 6pm, barring holidays, to let us know your thoughts about the management of our properties. Your opinion is important to the PMB and you are encouraged to send any questions or concerns to the Secretary or myself directly.

I am excited about the new year and what we can accomplish. I look forward to seeing you and want you to know that having you as a brother is something the Lodge always cherishes and appreciates.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Jee W. Hwang

Worshipful Master



2020 DUES

Brethren: Please take note that 2020 dues are now due and payable. They are now **\$130.00** (\$75 + Grand Lodge per-capita).

2020 DUES

Regular Meetings

RECURRENCE

First Monday
Fourth Wednesday
Second Tuesday
Third Tuesday
Second Wednesday
First Thursday

EVENT

Regular Communication at 7:30 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM
Property Management Board at 6:00 PM
Regular Communication at 7:30 PM
Regular Communication at 5:30 PM
Regular Communication at 7:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM
Regular Communication at 7:00 PM, Dinner at 5:30 PM

ORGANIZATION

Montezuma Lodge No. 1
Montezuma Lodge No. 1
York Rite Bodies
Santa Fe Shrine Club
Cerrillos Lodge No. 19
Santa Fe No. 19 Eastern Star

We have been holding our Quest meetings every Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. Quest Club is a forum for everyone. Mason and non-Mason alike can voice ideas and discuss any topic.



Special Notices And Events

Property Management Board

The monthly meeting of the Property Management Board was scheduled for **Wednesday, December 17th** at 6:00 PM in the library.

Conferral of Degrees

The Master Mason degree is to be conferred on Brother John Brady on Friday, January 10, 2020 commencing at 6:30 PM. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend this pinnacle moment in the Masonic career of Brother Brady.

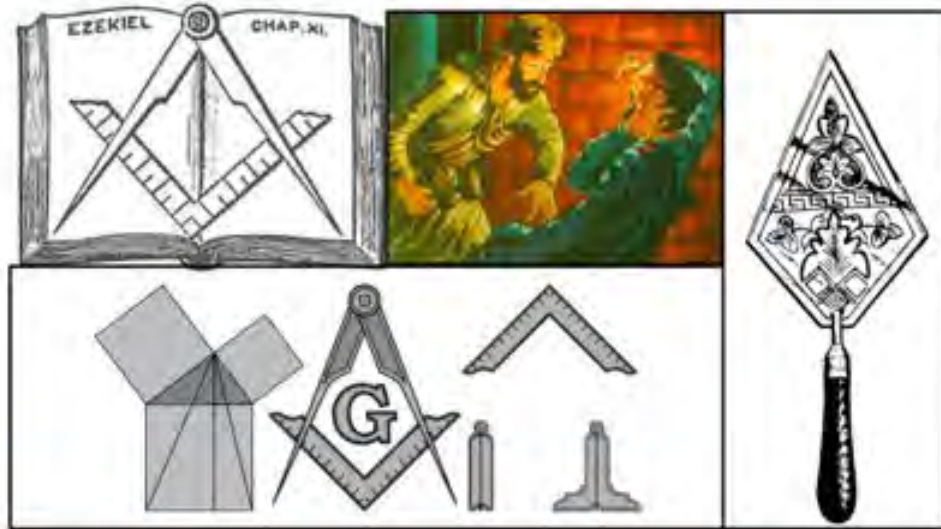


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CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREE OF
MASTER MASON *FM*
JOHN A. BRADY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020
6:30PM

MONTEZUMA LODGE NO. 1
431 PASEO DE PERALTA, SANTA FE, NM 87501

Brethren,

Please join us as we witness another brother being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason and continue progressing towards receiving more light in Masonry. Master Masons only please.

For more information, contact: hiram@montezumalodge.org, 505-982-0971.

Degree Team

First Section

Worshipful Master- Scott Jaquith, P.M.
Senior Warden- Mike Mulligan
Junior Warden- Charles Hannaford
Senior Deacon- Richard Knouse
Junior Deacon- Jacob Tague
Senior Steward- Christopher Williams, P.M.
Junior Steward- John Feins
Tyler- Tim Gilmore, P.M.

Second Section

Worshipful Master - José Montaña, P.M.
Senior Warden - Mike Mulligan
Junior Warden - Charles Hannaford
Senior Deacon - Richard Knouse
Junior Deacon /Ship Captain- Jacob Tague
Ruffian #1- Pat Varela, P.M.
Ruffian #2- Dan Esquibel, P.M.
Ruffian #3- Mark Oldknow, P.M.
Soliloquy- Jee Hwang
Senior Steward - Christopher Williams, P.M.
Junior Steward - John Feins
Secretary- Alfonso Rodriguez
Chaplain- Robert Sherman, P.M.
Lecture- José Montaña, P.M.
Charge- John Feins
Master's Admonition- Mark Oldknow, P.M.
Bible Presentation- Yudi Wong, P.M.





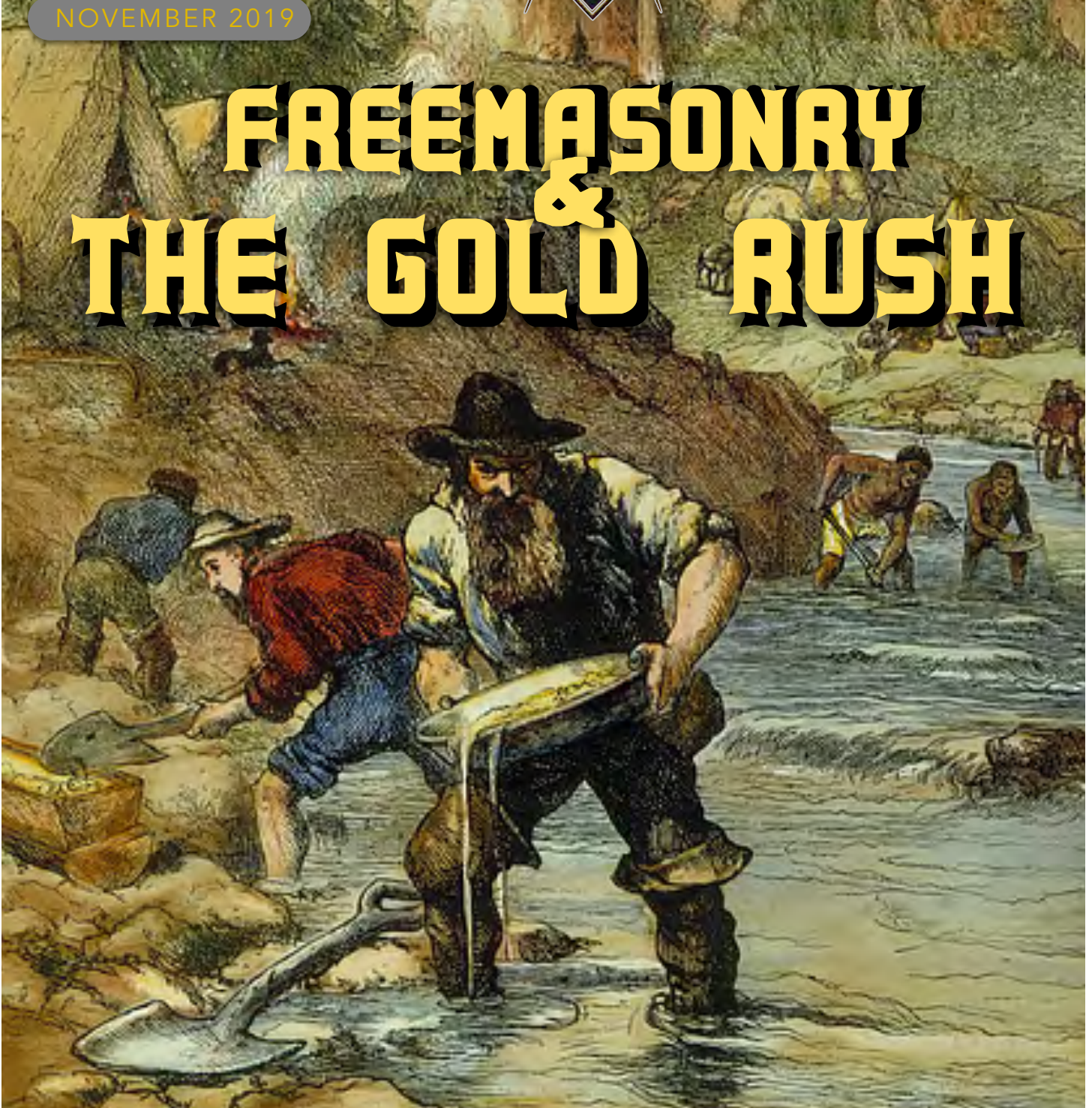


Southern California Research Lodge

Fraternal Review

NOVEMBER 2019

FREEMASONRY & THE GOLD RUSH



MASONS FORM LODGES IN THE OLD WEST

MASTER'S WORD

Freemasons Helped America Move West

Photo by Leticia Burroos



This month, fresh from the 170th Annual Communication of the California Grand Lodge, *Fraternal Review* looks back to those halcyon days of yesteryear, when the discovery of gold in California supercharged the inexorable western expansion of the United States toward its “manifest destiny” of stretching across the North American continent from sea to shining sea. Once again, as last year, we are proud to feature an original article by our newly installed Grand Master. Most Worshipful John E. Trauner’s “A Walk Back In Time” begins with James Marshall’s epic cry of discovery in 1848 and describes the toils and triumphs of the 49ers,

several of whom brought Masonry with them to the gold fields, including Grand Master Trauner’s home town, the aptly named “Rough and Ready,” in what is now known as “the Gold Country.” His book on this subject, *Masonic Gold*, will be published during his term as Grand Master. Meanwhile, our featured book—in Masonic Pop Culture on page 11—is *Freemasonry and the Wild West*, by Brother Kyle Grafstrom.

Our entire issue amounts to one large Masonic Pioneers feature. We present the stories of many: The series of Masons who relayed a charter, granted in 1846 by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, finally delivered to Multnomah #1 in Oregon, over 2 years later. Peter Lassen and his journey with a charter, also from the Grand Lodge of Missouri, to Western Star Lodge #98, which, though the first chartered lodge to meet in California, later became Western Star #2. The “Path Finders” who opened and mapped mountain passes into the West—John C. Fremont, who was called “the Pathfinder,” and Brother Kit Carson, perhaps more deserving of that name, who four times led the exploration parties headed by Fremont. Both Fremont and Carson played key roles in making California a U.S. state; later, Fremont was the new Republican Party’s first presidential nominee in 1856. John Sloat, a U.S. Navy commodore, first claimed California for the USA in 1846. Above all, we salute the brave Masons of the gold fields who worked their claims by day, and their rituals at night. In such rough and greedy conditions, a brotherhood of good men was certainly a thing of immeasurable value.

Just as the first Masonic lodges in Oregon and California were chartered by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, this month’s ironic Final Word comes from perhaps that state’s most famous Mason (apologies to President Truman), Brother Samuel L. Clemens—better known as Mark Twain. The Final Word in 2018’s November issue, on Brother Rudyard Kipling, quoted a story Twain told comparing Kipling’s knowledge to his own, exalting his brother and deprecating himself. This month, Twain himself makes a similarly droll comparison between gold and baser metals, embellishing upon, and upending, the adage that “all that glitters is not gold.” Brother Clemens, a member of Polar Star Lodge No. 79, in St. Louis, MO, was raised on July 10, 1861.

At our Stated Meeting on October 21, our Senior Warden, Managing Editor Dago Rodriguez, PM, was elected to succeed me as Master of SCRL. During my four years as Master, due primarily to the talents and efforts of Brothers Dago and Editor-in-Chief Doug Russell, *Fraternal Review* has become recognized as one of the premier Masonic research publications in the USA. Our continued success is dependent on you, our faithful readers.

In closing, I implore you to renew your subscriptions for 2020, and to encourage your brothers and lodges to do the same. We believe there is a rising tide of interest among Masons for more education and observant practices, including meditation, that is elevating our Fraternity in ways that attract and retain the participation of men seeking fellowship and enlightenment.

Fraternally, Jeriel C. Smith, SCRL Master.

The articles herein do not necessarily express the views of SCRL or the Grand Lodge of California. They are solely the writers’ points of view.

SCRL Fraternal Review

NOVEMBER 2019

Volume 60 Number 10

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Calendar Dates Editor - Jeriel Smith
Layouts: Dago Rodriguez, PM

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Senior Warden - Dago Rodriguez, PM
Junior Warden - Daniel Rivera, PM
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& John Seletos
Treasurer - C. Douglas Russell
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Marshal - Ramiro Montes De Oca
Tiler - Johnny Lebrilla

COVER

Prospectors panning for gold in the California Gold Rush. Hand-colored woodcut
North Wind Picture Archives / Alamy Stock

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COVER STORY

THE GOLD RUSH IN CALIFORNIA, 1848.



Its accidental discovery in 1848 by a moody, not-too-bright carpenter set off the most frenzied gold rush in the history of the world, and the greatest mass migration of human beings ever known. It turned California – until then a sparsely populated, largely unknown region – into a household word throughout the world.

Before 1848, California was a sleepy, languid land. The Mexicans (and their predecessors, the Spanish) settled the coastal lands on vast tracts donated to them by the Mexican government, and turned it into a delightful playground. No one worked hard; the men practiced horsemanship, the women embroidered. The boring chores of life were relegated to servants.

Inland California, even wilder, was the domain of Indians. ... and later the domicile of a few settlers who had been granted estates by the Mexican government. Captain John Sutter was the most notable.

As 1846 opened, the United States had just wrested the charming, lonely land from Mexico after a brief skirmish or two, mainly because there was too much of it for the Mexicans to hang onto.

For that matter, there was no assurance the United States would fare better controlling such a faraway settlement. California was then, in truth, a remote island, cut off from the civilized world of the East by 1,800 miles of broiling desert and impassable mountains. By sea, it was 18,000 miles distant, via Cape Horn.

[Phyllis Zauner and Lou Zauner, *California Gold: The Story of the Rush to Riches, A Mini-History*. (Sonoma, CA: Zanel Publications, 1980), 1.]

TRAVELS



The town of Volcano is one of those places in the mother lode that has survived despite its usefulness having departed for other climes. One should say, almost survived, for today it is but a memory, and a tourist center receiving those who flock here to see the old St. George Hotel, and listen to the tales of the early mining days.

The town itself nestles in a beautiful setting of tall pines and deciduous growth of oak and locust. It lies in a small valley along Sutter Creek that furnished millions of dollars in gold, very welcome to Abraham Lincoln in his struggle to hold the Union together. Over one of the widened-out spots in the creek bed an up-thrust of rock provided a series of caves. In the roistering days when gold and whiskey, shooting and general hell-raising prevailed, a number of Masons got together in one of these caves to hold their first few meetings.

Afterwards, they erected a building atop this rock escarpment to house Volcano Lodge. This building burned, and the Lodge moved to the present stone and mortar building where for more than one hundred years

it has somehow survived the ebb and flow of humanity.

A few of the foundation stones of the earlier building remain. The lodge has, at a recent date, been able to purchase this site, and with remarkable perseverance and industry is preparing to preserve its salient features for future generations. The old cave, where early brothers met under the most adverse conditions, is now open to public view with the caretaker in attendance.

Many are the stories that come out of years of occupancy of a mellowing institution such as Volcano Lodge No. 56. It has a canopy that shelters the East, and as sometimes seen in other Masonic lodges, there are velour drapes held in a tie-back forming a covering that gives the feeling of both elegance and the throne of a far eastern potentate, which dominate the East of Volcano Lodge Hall.

[Excerpted and paraphrased from Granville Kimball Frisbie, *Gold Dust and Trowels: Nuggets of Freemasonry*, Published by the Grand Lodge of California, 1977, pp. 25-26.]

A WALK BACK IN TIME

Most Worshipful John E. Trauner
Grand Master of California Masons



“GOLD! GOLD!” was James Marshall’s cry from Sutter’s Mill in Coloma, California on January 24, 1848. While cleaning out a millrace, Marshall made the discovery that would change forever what would eventually become known as California.

With that first shout, word spread like a wildfire. Quickly word got to our Midwestern states of the discovery of a wealth beyond imagination. Men were told they only had to walk the stream beds and pick up their treasures. And with that the great Gold Rush of 1848-1855 began. In late 1848, President Polk announced in his annual address the wondrous discovery, inspiring a mass migration to the gold fields in early 1849, giving rise to the famous term, '49er. Travel was slow and arduous. Many men and their families succumbed to the dangers of the trail, from harsh weather to incensed Native American tribes. But still they came, a few at first, but in a short time, thousands would eventually pull up stakes and make the trek overland, or by sea over the isthmus of Panama, or around Cape Horn.

Those who traveled overland did so by way of the Oregon trail, over the now famous and tragic Donner Pass, and along the southwestern routes of New Mexico and Arizona. Many, like my grandfather, came by ship via San Francisco. Even with seemingly overwhelming odds, they kept coming. And we learn from history that many of these men came as Freemasons and brought charters from a variety of states such as Connecticut, New York, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Louisiana, and many others.

Once here, the men quickly established mining camps on rivers and streams where abundant gold was found. Soon these small camps sprang up in an area about 300 miles long, from Loyalton in the north to Oakhurst in the south, an area that eventually came to be known as the Motherlode, or California's Gold Country.

As men toiled away, and mining camps grew, many of these miner-masons discovered many of the men alongside them were also members of the fraternity, and eventually small, rough, masonic lodges were established. Men would mine during the day, then meet and practice their masonic ritual at night by firelight. Eventually, many of these miner-masons became influential in these areas and lodges were formed using their charters from different states.

As was the plight of many of these miners, most failed to find enough gold to sustain them. Many reverted to their former professions as doctors and lawyers and engineers, to freighters and merchants and farmers. Many simply could not find sufficient employment in the foothills and mountains of the Sierra Nevada and ventured down into the rich Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys where they started farms and ranches near where towns were small but established.

So great was their ambition, there was a movement to create our first Grand Lodge of California. With great endeavor, members of what is now known as California No. 1, Western Star No. 2, Tehama No. 3, New Jersey No. 4 (extinct), and Benicia No. 5, came together on April 17-19th, 1850 in Sacramento in the attic of a local building known as the "Red House" to draw up articles for our grand lodge, and elect our very first grand master, John Stevenson. As the newly-minted grand lodge grew, Masonic influence did not stop there. Nine of the first 48 delegates who created our state constitution were Masons and had considerable influence on the language of our constitution we have today.

I live in the small gold mining town of Rough and Ready in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada that was once a Portuguese mining camp. The town was named by former military soldiers who fought with General Zachary Taylor, and who named the town in his honor. This was where my great grandfather John Francisco came to find his dreams, arriving from the island of Faial in the Azores. Needing to shorten his surname due to the still-heated tensions stemming from the Mexican-American War, he became known as John Frank.

By now it was in the late 1850s, with John arriving to find most of the first miners had left, leaving only many Chinese laborers who had bought their claims from the miners for just pennies on the dollar and were then re-working them. John soon realized that with the scores of people still living in the area, and virtually all the gold having been gathered, food was in short supply. He negotiated with the Chinese miners to buy their claims, then had the claims sent to Washington, DC, where President Rutherford B. Hayes converted them into American land grants. Once he established his land, he began raising beef to feed the people. This is the very same ranch I live and work on today just as my great-grandfather, grandfather, and my father once did.

Gold runs deep in our collective Masonic veins. It is easy to see how California's Masonic roots came from these hardy Mason-miners of yesteryear—how they helped to establish our first grand lodge and set the foundation upon which we now stand. In addition to their charters, these men also carried with them our Masonic ideals. They were good men of honest character, and hard working. I am proud to be part of their heritage, their history; and I try, as each of you do every day, to embody those same Masonic ideals of brotherly love, relief and truth.

MASONIC PIONEERS



Gold miners around a camp fire. Painting by B.V. Brooks circa 1850.

The first Masons in California were larger than life. Peter Lassen, Kit Carson, John Sloat, and other kings of the wild frontier sailed, strode, and galloped into *terra incognita*. Thrilled by the unknown, they were men who wanted space and independence—lots of it. And they wanted to be first. ...

“They sailed their flimsy little vessels out of New England ports, battled storms off Cape Horn, and months later declared their cargoes at Monterey.” So begins *One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California*, Leon Whitsell’s encyclopedic account of the fraternity’s first century. Upon reaching their destination, the Masons he describes took to battling a new kind of storm: settling the wilderness of California.

Not very long after they arrived, on a frigid January morning in 1848, a Freemason named James Marshall set out to inspect a sawmill he was building and spotted a gold nugget. The population exploded as fortune-seekers surged into California from the eastern U.S. and around the globe: from China, Germany, Chile, Mexico, Ireland, Turkey, and France. In San Francisco, the population grew from 1,000 in 1848 to more than 20,000 by 1850. Ambitious and driven, they took matters of statehood into their own hands. “The people met of their own motion in the autumn of 1849, and organized as a state,” wrote philosopher and California native Josiah Royce. In astonishingly swift fashion—Eureka!, as the saying goes—California went from Mexican territory to a state in the Union in 1850, just two years after the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War.

Today we still recognize those traits: ambition, enterprise, and not a little precociousness. In our best moments, they are unmistakably Californian. As for the fraternity? Within just two years of the formation of the first California lodges, the Grand Lodge of California was founded.

[Excerpt from Laura Normand, “The Unmistakable Character of California Freemasonry,” *California Freemason*, October/November 2012, 12-14.]

PETER LASSEN AND THE FIRST LODGE IN CALIFORNIA

In 1840, Peter Lassen came to California from Missouri. He lived here for the next seven years and during this time formulated plans for a new town. In 1847, Lassen returned to Missouri to gather people to help build and reside in the town. Lassen, at that time, was a member of Warren Lodge #74 of Warrentown (or Keytesville), Missouri. He was well aware of the desirability of having a Masonic Lodge located in his proposed new community. But, as Lassen was not the Master or Past Master of any lodge, he could not hope to obtain a Charter. While forming his wagon train he met Saschel Woods, a Presbyterian Minister. Woods was then a member of Wakanda Lodge #52 of Carrolltown, Missouri. More important, however, Woods was a Past Master.

Application was made to Joseph Foster, Grand Master of Missouri, for a Charter and it was granted on May 10, 1848. The Charter designated Saschel Woods as Master, Lucien E. Stewart as Senior Warden, and Peter Lassen as Junior Warden of Western Star Lodge #98 to be held at a convenient place in California, under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The convenient place was the new town of Benton City on Lassen's Rancho Bosquejo. The name Benton City was derived through the influence of Saschel Woods. He was a friend and admirer of Thomas Hart Benton, the distinguished United States Senator from Missouri. Woods was able to prevail upon Lassen to name his new town Benton City in honor of Senator Benton.

Saschel Woods took custody of the Charter and brought it to California on Lassen's wagon train. He there formed Western Star Lodge #98 and held its first meeting on October 30, 1849, at Benton City. It should be noted that this was prior to the forming of any other Lodge in this State. California Lodge #13, at San Francisco, [issued a Charter by The Grand Lodge of The District of Columbia,] held its first meeting in November of 1849.

As the Territory of California evolved into a State, its Masonic community established a new Grand Lodge here [in 1850]. ... Upon assignment of numbers for the Lodges of the new Grand Lodge, California Lodge #13 was erroneously given the number "1". This action was based on faulty information given relative to their first meeting date, referred to in the first proceedings of the Grand Lodge of California only as "in October" with no exact date specified. Thus, Western Star Lodge #98, the oldest Chartered Lodge in the State of California and the first to meet and organize, became Western Star Lodge #2.

[Excerpted and paraphrased from Harold O. McDaniel, Jr. P.M., "A History of Western Star Lodge #2," 1998. Accessed 9/27/2019, <http://westernstarlodge.org/about/a-history-of-western-star-lodge-2/>.]

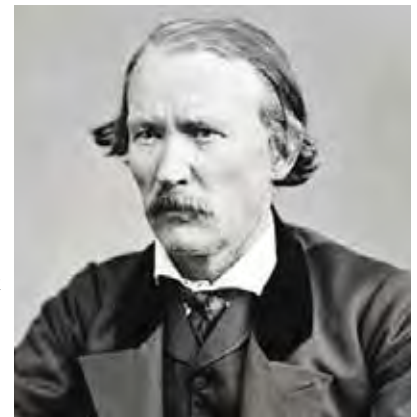


KIT CARSON

Bent Lodge No. 42 in Taos, New Mexico owns the home of Brother Christopher Houston 'Kit' Carson and is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Around 1904, the Grand Lodge of New Mexico A.F.&A.M. bought the property and sold it to the local lodge, Bent Lodge No. 42, to keep and maintain as a memorial for such a great Mason as Kit. Since that time, the brethren of Bent Lodge have kept the property up and have educated literally millions of people. On average it hosts over twenty-five thousand people per year. Four years ago, the brethren voted to run the property themselves, renovated the property, and had a Masonic cornerstone ceremony with the Grand Lodge present as well as a large contingent of York Rite officers and members. Since then, the secretary of Bent Lodge No. 42 has been designated as the Executive Director. There are plans for the other building on the property.

The Lodge hopes that the other building on the property, now empty, will become the second national Masonic memorial in the country; one situated in the West. The first national Masonic memorial is the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA. With donations and fundraising, the brethren of Bent Lodge No. 42, along with their Secretary and Executive Director, hope to open the Kit Carson National Masonic Memorial to show and tell the story of Masonry west of the Mississippi River.

While master and father of American Freemasonry, George Washington, is a symbol for Masonry in general, Bro. Kit Carson and the army of the West are symbolic of Masonry west of the Mississippi River. During America's westward expansion, otherwise known as "Manifest Destiny," President Polk (another Mason) sent mapping and topography crews westward to map out routes for the military to move west to California. One of these cartographers was John C. Fremont, another Mason. He met Kit Carson by chance on a riverboat around St. Louis, and after checking on his abilities, found that Kit was not only one of the best mountain men but also one of the best guides. He promptly hired him, and it would be through this relationship that Kit Carson would become famous. Many dime novels were published during his day called



"Blood and Thunders," and Kit Carson was as famous during his lifetime as John Wayne has been during ours.

Down the Santa Fe Trail they went until they reached Bent's Fort in southwest Colorado. There he met the Bent brothers, both Masons and then headed for the Rockies with John Fremont to begin mapping the highest and lowest points for passage. They eventually made it to California thanks to the guiding and Indian warfare tactics of Brother Kit. Kit would guide Fremont to California three more times, and on the third trip the Mexican-American war began. When they reached the West Coast, John Fremont, with Kit's help, took California without a single shot being fired. Kit was sent numerous times as a courier from California to Washington, DC. Even President Lincoln would say of Kit, "his words are as good as gold."



After mustering out of the military, Kit tried his hand at farming and ranching, but his wandering feeling would not go away. He was asked to join the military again. Sitting around campfires and associating with officers taught Kit two things. First, they taught him to read and write his own name as he was illiterate, and second, they taught him Freemasonry. He was originally a member of Montezuma Lodge of Santa Fe until he moved his lodge membership to Taos. During the Civil War, the lodge went dark and re-formed some years later. Kit was made a General in the Union Army at this time. He fought two skirmishes in New Mexico but spent most of his time serving as an Indian agent and managing the various Indian wars of the Southwest.

Although Kit spent a good portion of his life in the saddle, he always tried to make it back to his beloved wife, Josefa, and his children in Taos. He kept a house in Taos for the majority of his life, a good twenty-five years. After Kit and Josefa died, the house fell into disrepair. After having acquired the property, the lodge transformed it into a Kit Carson Museum which is now open to the public. Although most of his personal possessions were sold at auction shortly after his death to support his orphans, his famous Hawkin 50 caliber rifle, his double barrel 8 gage shotgun, and his Masonic apron are on display.

By the time you read this, the museum hopes to have prints of a painting of Carson by artist Peter Waddell, the painter of The Initiated Eye, to raise funds for what will be the second national Masonic memorial. If you find yourself in beautiful Taos, New Mexico, come by the museum and the lodge.

[Sir Knight J. Mark Drummond, "'Kit' Carson's Lodge," 2009. Accessed 9/27/2019 <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/articles/20090825.htm>]

JOHN SLOAT

John D. Sloat (1781-1867) was a commodore in the U.S. Navy who, in 1846, claimed California for the United States. Appointed midshipman in the Navy in 1800, he was sailing master of the frigate United States under Commodore Stephen Decatur during the War of 1812. In 1844, after a series of promotions, Sloat was appointed to command the Pacific Squadron, and in 1845, as tensions with Mexico grew, he was instructed to land in Alta California and claim it for the United States if war broke out. Receiving a report of fighting on the Texas border while off Mazatlán, he raced north (the British were reportedly interested in California too), engaged in a skirmish called the Battle of Monterey, raised the flag over the Customs House at Monterey on July 7, 1846, and issued a proclamation announcing that California was now part of the United States. He was a military Governor of California for only twenty-two days, before handing over the office to Robert F. Stockton. Sloat was a Freemason who belonged to St. Nicholas Lodge No. 321 in New York City.



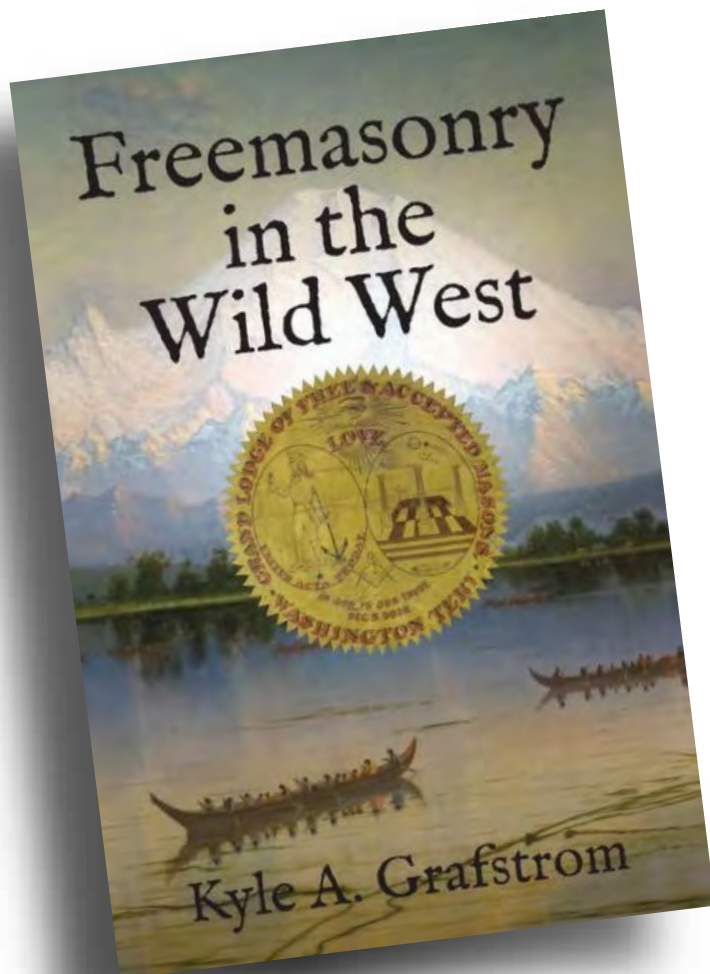
[Excerpted and paraphrased from "John Drake Sloat," Accessed 9/27/2019 <https://www.revoly.com/page/John-D.-Sloat>]

MASONIC POP CULTURE

Freemasonry in the Wild West

by Kyle A. Grafstrom

Hardcover (2017), 228 pages, Plumbstone Publishing



READ IT

From the Publisher:

An accessible, up-to-date account of the role played by Freemasonry and its adherents during the westward expansion of the United States. From the rise and fall of John Jacob Astor's fur empire to the heroic crossing of the Oregon Trail, the story of the Masonic fraternity in the American West is explained in a lavishly-illustrated format.

SEE IT



YouTube: *The Start of the California Gold Rush (1849)*

March 18, 2011 9 minutes

A short but informative mini-documentary on the origins of the discovery of gold in California. This short subject documentary is narrated by John Lithgow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxekRM5-uMU>

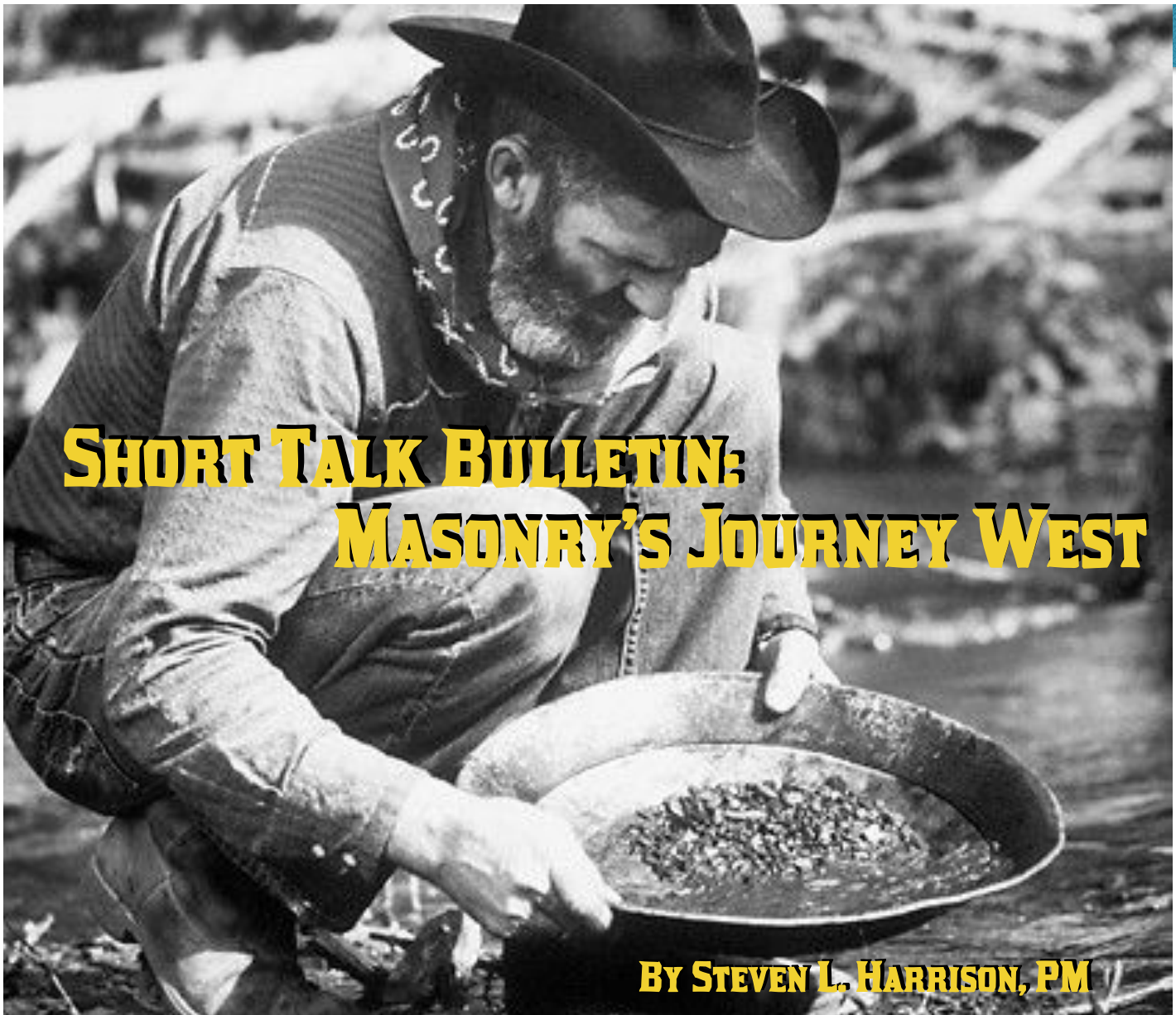
HEAR IT



Podcast: Back Story *All That Glitters? Legacies of the California Gold Rush*
Episode 29 January 19, 2018 52 minutes

Gold was discovered in California 170 years ago this month. It set off a mad rush from across the United States—and around the world. Ed, Joanne, and Nathan delve into what happened in California after gold was found and some of the lasting impacts of the Gold Rush.

<https://www.backstoryradio.org/shows/gold-rush/>



In the mid-nineteenth century, the information highway west, not to mention the main travel route, was a dirt path stretching from northwest Missouri to the western frontier of this largely unexplored, uncharted young country. However dangerous, slow and unreliable, this highway, the Oregon Trail, is the reason Missouri and Oregon Masonry have been closely connected since the first edition of the first Oregon newspaper went to press on February 5, 1846. On that date, three Freemasons who had survived the treacherous journey west placed the following ad in the *Oregon Statesman*:

Masonic notice: the members of the Masonic Fraternity, in Oregon territory, are respectfully requested to meet at the City Hotel, in Oregon City, on the 21st, to adopt some measures to obtain a charter for a lodge.

Joseph Hull,
P. G. Stewart, William P. Dougherty.
February 5, 1846

Stewart was a watchmaker by trade, who had come to Oregon from Springfield, Missouri. Dougherty was

initiated, passed and raised in Platte City Lodge No. 56 in 1843.

In addition to these three, four other Freemasons, Fendall C. Cason, Leon A. Smith, Frederick Wavmire, and Lot Whitcomb, a businessman from Vermont, attended. They crafted a petition to the Grand Lodge of Missouri requesting a charter for the first lodge in the Oregon Territory. The lodge would be named Multnomah, after an Oregon Territory Indian chief.

According to Dougherty, Joseph Hull, who had been raised in, and was past master of, Milford Lodge No. 54 in Ohio, was the author of the petition.

This group entrusted the petition to another Freemason, Joel Palmer, who planned a trip back east during the summer of that year. Brother Dougherty, a merchant, instructed Palmer, a messenger for the Hudson's Bay Company to deliver the document to one of his business associates, James A. Spratt, in Platte City, Missouri.

Spratt's lodge, Platte City No. 56, endorsed the petition and sent it on to the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Missouri which approved it with this simple entry appearing in the proceedings:

"A charter was granted to Multnomah Lodge No. 84, on the 19th day of October 1846, locating the lodge at Oregon City, Oregon Territory." The following officers signed the charter: John Rawls, *grand master*; John Taylor, *deputy grand master*; E. S. Ruggles, *senior grand warden*; F. L. Jacoby, *junior grand warden*; attested by Frederick L. Billon, *grand secretary*.

At this point, the snail's pace at which information traveled back then becomes quite apparent. The Grand Lodge of Missouri returned the charter to Spratt, who held onto it for over a year, apparently because he could not find anyone suitable to deliver it back to Oregon. In December 1847, Spratt met Pierre B. Cornwall in St. Joseph, MO. Spratt learned Cornwall was not only organizing a trip to Oregon, but was also a Mason.

Spratt asked Cornwall to deliver the charter. Cornwall agreed. On April 1, 1848, a year and a half after the Grand Lodge of Missouri issued it, the charter left St. Joseph under the care of Cornwall, his brother Arthur, and their guide, Tom Fallon. There were two others in the party.

In Cornwall's own words, "The Charter was placed in my care at St. Joseph, Mo., late in the month of December 1847. I had a small party of five persons on the way to California and we crossed the Missouri River a little above Council Bluffs [Iowa] and traveled up the south side of the Platte River on our way to California."

Not long after they started, Cornwall and his party met up with Orrin and Joseph Kellogg and two brothers named

Hathaway, who were

making the journey westward from Ohio. This group of seven men continued the trek together. Cornwall learned the Kelloggs were both Master Masons and told them about the important cargo he carried.

The trip was not pleasant. Indian wars had erupted in the northwest. As a result Native American tribes along the trail were doing what they could to stop the westward migration. Cornwall and his party were captured and nearly killed. Fallon's wife was the daughter of a Pawnee chief. This fact, Fallon's knowledge of the language and customs of the tribe, and a bit of fast-talking by Cornwall led to the group negotiating its release. Nevertheless, afterwards some younger braves still pursued the party.

Cornwall suffered an arrow wound, which, fortunately, proved not to be serious.

Upon reaching Fort Hall, near present-day Pocatello, Idaho, the group learned of the discovery of gold in California. That did it for Cornwall. He entrusted the charter to the Kelloggs and, along with Arthur and Fallon, headed for the hills - literally.

Joseph Kellogg carried the charter to Oregon in a



rawhide trunk he had constructed in 1834. This trunk, the Charter Trunk, sits today in a place of honor in Multnomah lodge No. 1,

The Kelloggs delivered the charter to Joseph Hull on September 11, 1848, over two-and-a-half long years after the small group of Masons had met and requested it. Hull immediately called a meeting. The brothers met at noon on the same day on the second floor of a building owned by Dougherty. The improvised lodge furnishings consisted of a barrel of flour in the East, a barrel of whiskey in the West and a barrel of salt pork in the South, symbolically representing corn, wine and oil.

Brother Berryman Jennings conducted the lodge constitution ceremony. Jennings was a man of firsts. Not only was he a member of Multnomah Lodge No. 1 and Burlington Lodge No. 1 in Iowa, but is also credited as being Iowa's first schoolmaster. Later he would become the first grand master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. Jennings also was a member of, and installed the first officers' line at, Multnomah.

The original petition named Brother William Dougherty as the prospective senior warden, but he succumbed to the promise of gold in California before the charter arrived in Oregon. The lodge named Orrin Kellogg to take his place.

This first meeting lasted sixteen hours. In addition to consecrating the lodge and installing officers, they initiated, passed, and raised two brothers and conducted a first and second degree for another. Christopher Taylor, who had a stellar Masonic career including being instrumental in forming the York and Scottish rites in Oregon and later becoming grand master, became the first Master Mason obligated west of the Rocky Mountains.

The story might well end here but almost immediately after this first meeting, gold fever hit in full force. The ensuing exodus to California decimated Multnomah Lodge. Many members, including WM Hull, left. During the next two years the lodge accomplished little, if anything.

About this time, the Grand Lodge of Missouri began wondering how its fledgling lodge was doing. Speculation suggests the grand lodge contacted John C. Ainsworth, a Missouri native who had come to Oregon and attended the initial meeting in 1846. Ainsworth

stepped in. He reorganized and rejuvenated Multnomah Lodge and, in the process, became its worshipful master. In Ainsworth's words:

In 1850 I overhauled the records of Multnomah No. 84, at Oregon City, and made a report of the situation to the grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. I revived the old lodge and, after much labor, got it in working order, and was elected Master at the first election ever held under the charter, and was, therefore the first elected Master of the oldest chartered lodge on the Pacific coast.

Largely due to Ainsworth's efforts, Multnomah Lodge No. 84, Grand Lodge of Missouri, survived to become Multnomah Lodge No. 1 when the Grand Lodge of Oregon was established on September 15, 1851. In 1948, commemorating the 100th anniversary of these historic events, the Grand Lodge of Missouri, represented by Grand Master M. E. Ewing, presented Multnomah Lodge No. 1 with a plaque of commemoration. The plaque reads:

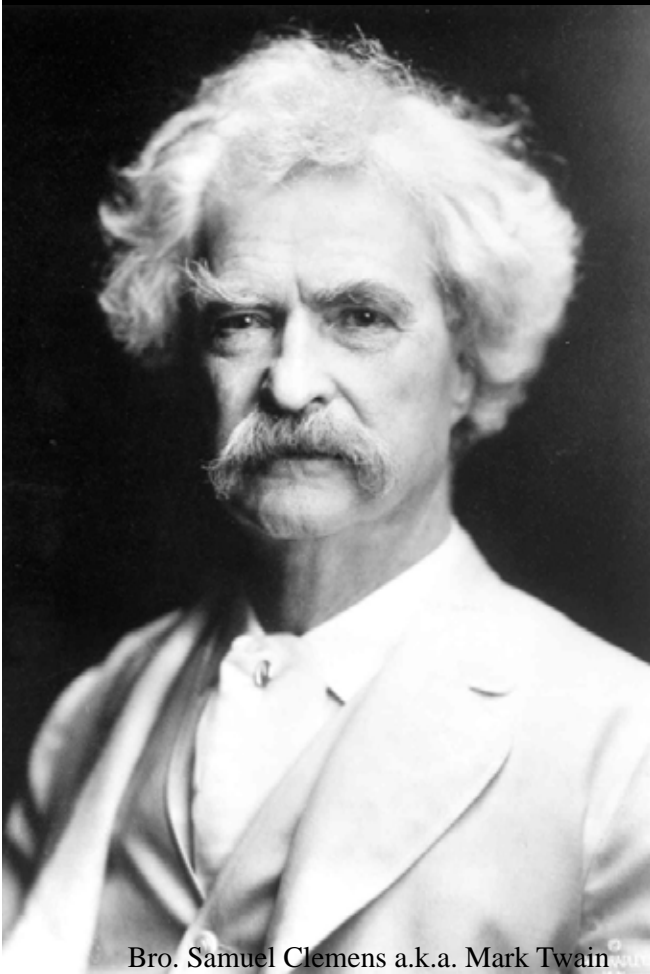
"THE GRAND LODGE, AF & AM OF MISSOURI extends to its daughter, Multnomah Lodge No. 1, greetings on the occasion of its centennial. Should auld acquaintance be forgot."

In addition, MWB Ewing presented Multnomah a duplicate charter to replace the original, which was destroyed in a fire in 1860.

In today's world where first class mail is considered "snail mail" compared to the instant connections achieved through the internet and the telephone, it is difficult to comprehend the difficulty mid-nineteenth century society faced when trying to send information vast distances. The expanse between Missouri and Oregon was daunting; and, the trip across the plains and mountains was not just slow and inconvenient—it could be fatal. Despite these circumstances, a group of men felt strongly enough about the importance of Masonry to overcome all the obstacles in their way, and among the names of the pioneers of Oregon Masonry are men with roots in Missouri, the Masonic home of Oregon's first lodge.

[Steven L. Harrison, PM, "Masonry's Journey West," *The Short Talk Bulletins* VI, Volume 84, Number 8, August 2006. (Burtonsville, MD: The Masonic Service Association, 2018), S. Brent Morris, Ed., 141-143.]

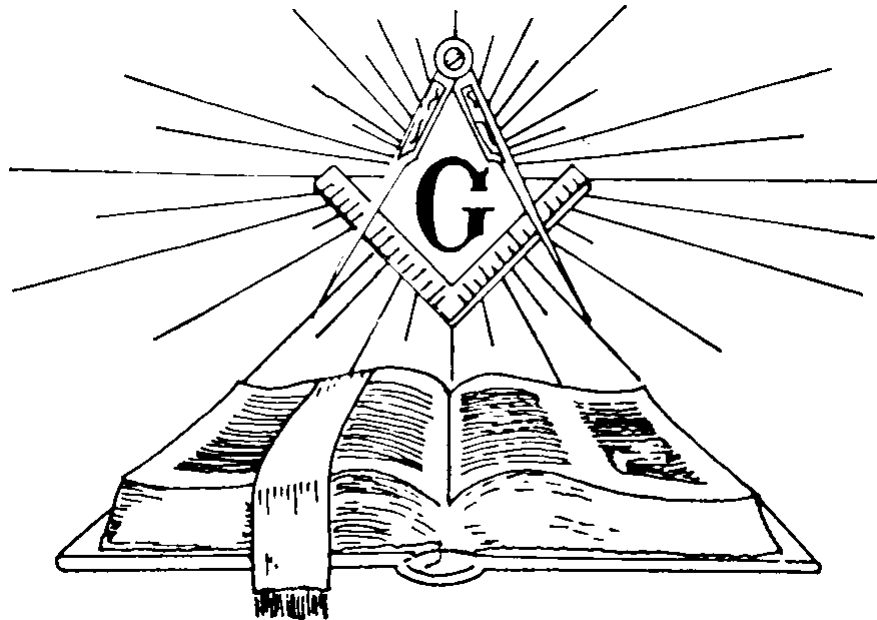
FINAL WORD



Bro. Samuel Clemens a.k.a. Mark Twain

Moralizing, I observed, then, that “all that glitters is not gold.” Mr. Ballou said I could go further than that, and lay it up among my treasures of knowledge, that nothing that glitters is gold. So I learned then, once for all, that gold in its native state is but dull, unornamental stuff, and that only low-born metals excite the admiration of the ignorant with an ostentatious glitter. However, like the rest of the world, I still go on underrating men of gold and glorifying men of mica. Commonplace human nature cannot rise above that.

[Mark Twain, *Roughing It*, (Heritage Illustrated Publishing, 2014, from 1874 edition), 53.]





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January Dinner Menu



Join us on January 5th for dinner at 6:00 PM before the stated meeting. The entire family is invited. Our chefs have planned an excellent menu. If you have any dietary restrictions please contact the secretary so that we may arrange suitable alternatives.

Baked Ham
Beef Brisket
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Vegetables
Green Salad
Bread
Pies and Other Desserts and Ice Cream
Lemonade, Coffee, and Ice Tea



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2020 Officers

Worshipful Master: - Jee W. Hwang
(C): 704-654-1270

Senior Warden - Michael J. Mulligan
(C): 505-660-1672

Junior Warden - Charles A. Hannaford
(H): 505-466-2732

Treasurer - Dan Esquibel, PM
(C) 505-660-7395

Secretary - Don L. Helberg, PDDGM
(H): 505-471-0168

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(H): 505-983-9508

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Junior Deacon - Alexander J. Marcus
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Senior Steward - Christopher J. Williams
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Junior Steward - +
(c) (310)-770-6151

Marshal: - Alfonso J. Rodriguez
(C) 505-501-0078

Tyler: - Jerry Noedel, PM

What is the purpose of Freemasonry?

“To admit, make and pass Freemasons according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge. To advance the moral and social interests of its membership; to foster good citizenship, honest industry and upright living; to cultivate the exercise of charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the widows and orphans of its deceased members; to stimulate friendship, harmony and Brotherly love and generally to promote, in its own way, the happiness of mankind — it is a fraternity of good men, linked together by honorable and indissoluble bonds, to accomplish these noble purposes, eschewing all interests in factional politics and sectarian religion and free from the dictation of both.”

For more information about Masonry:

- ☐ Call the Lodge at 982-0971
- ☐ Stop by the Lodge
- ☐ Visit our website @
www.montezumalodge.org
- ☐ Ask any Mason