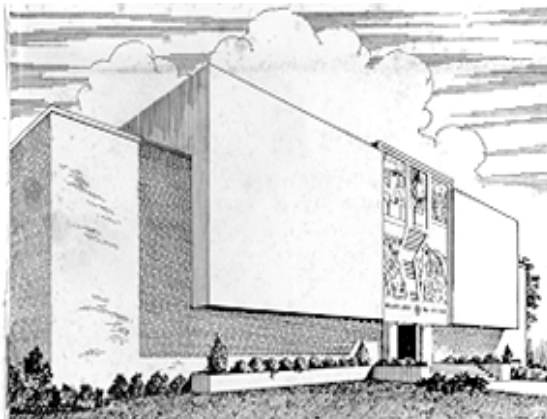


The Alpha

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From the East

As all Masons know, that is to say American Masons, the first President of the United States was a Freemason. The Masonic record of Brother Washington is well documented. His picture hangs in most of the lodges I have visited, including the Grand Lodge of England on Great Queen Street in London, England which I have visited many times over the years. The Masonic Careers of the other thirteen Masonic Presidents remain over shadowed by that of Brother Washington.

The fifth president, James Monroe like Washington was from Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was born in 1758, attended William and Mary College, fought in the Continental Army and practiced law in Fredericksburg, Virginia. There is some question regarding Brother Monroe's Masonic affiliation due to the loss of lodge records. It appears that he was initiated on November 9, 1775 in St. Johns' Regimental Lodge in the Continental Army. There are no known records documenting his advancement through the degrees. He was however received as a Master Mason during a visit to a Tennessee lodge in 1819. Like Washington, Monroe served two terms as President. He died on July, 4 1831 in New York.

Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. President was born in South Carolina on March 15, 1767. Unlike Monroe, Jackson's scholastic credentials were somewhat sporadic. He did however, before he turned twenty years of age and having read the law for several years began to practice law in Tennessee. He was not one of the most popular of presidents due to his reputation as a brawler and duelist. He killed a man over a disparaging remark regarding his wife, Rachel. His efforts in bringing about the Continental Bank caused him trouble until the end of his life. Jackson, a major general in the War of 1812 defeated the British at New Orleans making him a national hero. That same fame brought him to the presidency in 1829. As with his Masonic predecessors the records of his journey through the degrees have been lost. It has been established that Brother Jackson was a member of St. Tammany Lodge No.29, Nashville, Tennessee which was later changed to Harmony Lodge No. one. He was an active Freemason for the remainder of his life after his term as President and served as Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee from October 1822 until October 1824. He died on June 8, 1845.

The 20th President was James A Garfield who was initiated on November 19, 1861 in Magnolia Lodge No.20 in Columbus, Ohio. Brother Garfield's ascent to the third degree was delayed until the later in 1864 due to the Civil War. He was inaugurated as President on March 4, 1881. He was assassinated and died on September 19, 1881.

William McKinley of Ohio was the twenty-fifth President and was initiated and passed and raised in Hiram Lodge No.21 in Westchester, Virginia sometime in 1865. He was shot while attending the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York and died eight days later on September 14, 1901 and was the second Masonic president to be assassinated.

Theodore Roosevelt, the twenty-sixth and at forty-two years of age, the youngest President was born in New York City on October 27, 1858. He took office as President upon the death of Brother Garfield in 1901. Brother Roosevelt proved to be a popular and effective president due to his progressive reforms and strong foreign policy. He was a dedicated conservationist. The National Parks System which created such reserves as Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks were due to his efforts. He became famous for, as a lieutenant colonel of the Rough Rider Regiment, leading the charge up San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish American War. Soon after he assumed the Presidency he received the three degrees in Masonry in Matinecock Lodge No.806 in Oyster Bay, New York. Roosevelt, after serving the remainder of President McKinley's term of office ran for the office of President in his own right. He was shot in the chest with a .38 caliber weapon, however he made the campaign speech as scheduled with the slug still embedded in his chest. When asked by reporters how he felt he replied that he "felt as fit as a bull moose". He was elected and served until 1909. He remained active in Masonry until his death in January, 1919 in Oyster Bay.

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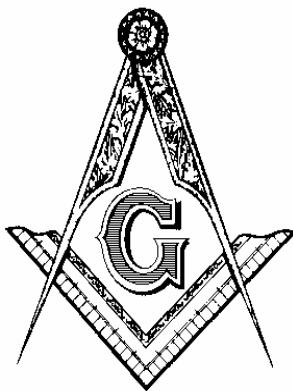
The Next Stated Meeting

May 13, 2009

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

**Please join us for a Dinner and
our February Stated Meeting**



**Stated Meetings are held on the
2nd Wednesday of each month.**

**Please check the website at
www.HollandLodge.org
for updates & announcements.**

**There are Degrees and Proficiency Exams
taking place on a regular basis...check the
website for details.**

Greetings From the South...

What's a bourn, bro?

The first time I read that word was a long, long time ago, and to complete this pithy saying, it was also in a land far, far away.

As I recall (and I sometimes can, if it was a long enough time ago. It is yesterday I have trouble with), it was 9th grade English class in Riverside, California. While California does seem to be moving farther and farther away, that's a different story for a different publication. Back to the 9th grade – must have been 1961 or thereabouts, and the school board had the idea that 13 year olds should be exposed (oppressed by is probably more accurate) to Shakespeare. They somehow had the idea that 13 year old kids would appreciate the bard – wrong then and now, and even at 60 I cannot with any truth express any deep appreciation of him.

I for one, and probably one of many, did not get that fellow Hamlet. Talked funny. Had weird thoughts. Talked to Skulls. Anyway, one day, while he's talking to a skull (I am not sure if he was not chatting with the skull, imagining some verbal dialogue with it) he starts having a bit of a pity party, feeling so miserable about all the trials and tribulations he suffers while traveling in this vale of tears, oh, yeah, he doesn't say trials and tribulations he talks about "slings and arrows," see he does talk funny. So he's feeling sorry for himself because of the troubles of life and gets to wondering about an escape and the only escape he can think of is death. Dying, "shuffling off this mortal coil," more funny talk, and thinks for a while that is the answer. But, as he's thinking this over, he begins to think, wait a minute, what might be awaiting there, in "that long sleep" in that "undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns," funny talk again? – maybe an eternity of hellish nightmares, night sweats and terrors. He doesn't know that's there, but he doesn't know it's not. So, he reckons that perhaps the pain and struggles of daily life is probably preferable to crossing that boundary into that realm of death whence he shall never return, and he'd better stay properly clothed in his mortal coil which is funny talk for body.

I gotta tell you, I am glad I did not get this guy when I was 13. What a horrible destructive view of life, death and eternity.

This old boy was not blessed with knowing, understanding and living the tenets we hold so dear – faith, hope, charity, relief, truth, brotherly love, because if he were, he'd know that just beyond that bourn there is a house with many rooms, a house not made by hands, waiting to return the love he would have lived, and within it, dreams of a sort that would be a blessed reward for a well spent life, and according to his merit.

Aren't we lucky to be Masons.

This started out to be a short article defining the word bourn, but when I reread what I wrote above it somehow missed the point, maybe while Hamlet wonders I wander.

According to my unabridged Webster's the spelling is bourn, not bourne, it means a boundary. It can also mean destination; goal, and realm; domain. I think it means all that, but then I am now used to putting many meanings to symbols, and what else are words?

Let us all take to heart and benefit from the great virtues and tenets of our excellent institution this year.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Bob Welch, Junior Warden

continued from Page 1, From the East.

William Howard Taft, the twenty-seventh U.S President was made a "Mason at Sight" at the Body of Kilwinning Lodge No.356 in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 18, 1909. His father and two brothers were also Masons. Although Brother Taft was a capable administrator he was a poor politician and his term in office was a difficult one due to the political infighting between the various political factions of that time. At the end of his term in 1913, he served as professor of law at Yale University from which he earned his law degree. Soon after he was appointed as Chief Justice to the United States Supreme Court by Brother Warren G. Harding and is the only former President to hold that office. He died on March 8, 1930 in Washington, D.C.

The twenty-seventh U.S. President, Warren G. Harding of Ohio was born November 2, 1865 near Marion. He was initiated in Marion Lodge No. 70 on June 28, 1901. Because of difficulties with one or more of certain opposing factions his advancement to the degree of Master Mason was delayed until August 27, 1920, nineteen years after his initiation. His tenure as President was marred by scandal involving some of his friends in regards to a certain tract of land in Wyoming known as the "Teapot Dome" under which lay vast deposits of oil. Harding's Secretary of the interior Albert Fall leased that government owned land to Harry Sinclair in exchange for gifts amounting to \$400,000.00. As a result of this episode Albert Fall was the only member of the Harding Administration to receive prison time and it is said that event is where the term "fall guy came from. The charges of corruption involving "The Teapot Dome scandal" haunted Warren Harding until his death in 1923.

The thirty-second President, Franklin D. Roosevelt 1882-1945 received the degrees in Masonry in Holland Lodge No. 8 in New York City in 1911. Due to his political obligations he was not particularly active in the fraternity. He was however, always supportive of the craft. In the summer of 1921 he was stricken with poliomyelitis and lost control of his legs. He went on to win four elections to the Presidency of the United States. Great care was taken by his support group around him to conceal the fact that he could not walk and very few people knew he was wearing braces. He was often physically supported by his Secret Service staff while he made speeches and campaigned from the platforms of railroad cars. Franklin Roosevelt died April 12, 1945, during the early part of his forth term in office. At that time his Vice President Harry S Truman assumed the office of the thirty-third President of The United States.

Harry S Truman received the degrees in Masonry in Belton Lodge No. 450 in Grandview, Missouri in 1909. Brother Truman was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and served in that post until October, 1941. As President, Brother Truman visited various lodges in Washington, D.C. Always accompanied by Secret Service agents who were also Masons. He was elected to the office of President, in his own right in 1949 after defeating Thomas E. Dewey (also a Mason). He retired to his home in Independence, Missouri where he remained active in the craft until his death in 1972 at 88 years of age.

The Last Masonic President was Gerald R. Ford who took office as President after the resignation of Richard Nixon and His Vice President. As was Truman, He was active in Masonry for all of his Masonic life. Brother Ford was initiated into Masonry in Malta Lodge No. 465 in Grand Rapids, Michigan September 30, 1949. In 1951 he was raised as a Master Mason in Columbia Lodge NO. 3 in Washington D.C. As a courtesy for Malta Lodge while he served in Congress. It has been mentioned that President Lyndon B. Johnson was a Mason. For a very short time he was. He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice, however, The Entered Apprentice degree was as far as he went. It is this writer's opinion that Mr. Johnson would have gone far in the fraternity. It is my belief that he was our kinda guy!

Jerry Brainard Jones W.M. Holland Lodge