



Montana Freemason

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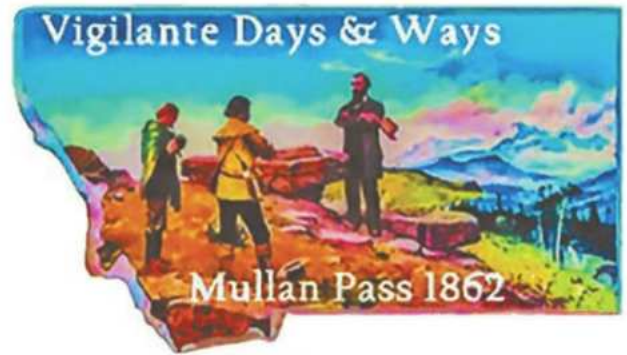


About The Cover

Helena Lodge No. 3 conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree upon Chris Cavasos. See story on Page 12.



Reid Gardiner
Editor



Articles & Correspondence

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Article Submission. These points should be followed for articles submitted for publication.

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**Behind This Door
Lies A Treasure Trove
Of Historic Montana Artifacts**



The Masonic Apron belonging to Meriwether Lewis', which he carried on the Corps of Discovery trek across the country, is on display. There are also with two paintings depicting the first Masonic meeting in the Territory, now the State of Montana.



This British Army drum with its original drum sticks was taken from the British and later played during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

This Grand Masters' Lion Paw signet ring is made of gold mined at Alder Gulch, Virginia City, Montana Territory in 1887, by Samuel Word, who was one of the first lawyers admitted to practice law in the Montana, Territory on December 4, 1864.



These are but a few of the treasures waiting for you to discover at the site of one of Helena's first gold claims.



**The Montana Masonic Foundation
Invites You To Explore
Our All New Expanded Museum**

**425 N Park Avenue
Helena, Montana
(406) 442-7774**

Grand Master Dahlquist Official Visit to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma



This picture was taken on November 11, 2022 in the Guthrie Shrine Temple where Oklahoma held their Grand Lodge Communication. Left to right: Brian Kruger (PM Creekmore Lodge #74 Madill, OK), John Reid (Grand Tyler MT 2023, Past Master TF 73, Junior Warden TF 73 2023, Junior Warden VC #1 2023), Clay Blakely WM of Creekmore #74, Madill, OK 2023), Johnathon Dahlquist (Grand Master MT), Harvey Wilson (PM, Creekmore #74, Madill, OK).

My reason for the trip to Guthrie was to present some of my Great-Grandfather's Masonic regalia to his home lodge of Guthrie #35. My Great-Grandfather (John Scott Callin) was Initiated in Guthrie #35 on June 8, 1920, Passed on July 6, 1920, and was raised on August 10, 1920. He was Past Master of Guthrie #35 in 1926 & 27, Secretary of Guthrie #35 for eight years, and Grand Tyler OK for eight years. He was active in the Knights of Pythias, Knights Templar, York Rite, and Scottish Right. My Grandmother had sent me his Original Lambskin apron from 1920, His Past Master's Apron, His masonic and York Rite Bibles, his 32 Degree Ring, and numerous other Regalia artifacts, and I had contacted the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. His Home Lodge contacted me shortly after their lodge burned to the ground a couple of years back, and they were interested in receiving these artifacts for their museum. So, I planned a trip to Guthrie to donate these items. Johnathon Received an invite to their Grand Lodge Communication, and we made the journey together.

My Great-Grandfather arrived in Oklahoma Territory in 1889 and took part in the Land Run. He was active in local Government and became quite active in Masonic activities. He is why I became interested in Freemasonry, as well as my Paternal Grandfather (Past Master of Lemhi Lodge in Salmon, Idaho, and My Grandmother, who was very active in OES

by: John Reid, Gr. Tyler

100 years of Rainbow in Montana



It was a cool fall day with light snowfall in Marysville on October 22, but that didn't hinder celebrating 100 years of Rainbow in Montana. Guests gathered at the Marysville General Store to find a cozy atmosphere, tables adorned with china and linens, and an afternoon of friends and fellowship. Before the Tea, guests visited the Ottawa Lodge building, opened for the occasion by members of Ottawa Lodge No. 51. The Marysville Historical Society opened their museum for the day so guests could tour the museum and learn some of the rich history of the area. Guests didn't have to be concerned with the weather, as the museum volunteers provided a shuttle service between the museum and the General Store. Guests browsed through Rainbow memorabilia at the Tea and entered their silent auction bids while musical hits of the 1920's played in the background.

The Centennial Celebration began with a welcome to all attending from Montana's Rainbow Supreme Inspector, Carol Huston. Members of the Centennial Celebration Committee were introduced and thanked for their many months of planning and work. Committee members include Mrs. Sarah Allen from Helena, Mrs. Dee Hallock of Hamilton, Mrs. Irene Haynes of Billings, Mrs. Lyda Bowker from Wolf Point, and SI Carol Huston from Glendive. Special recognition was given to committee member Lyda Bowker, a charter member of Wolf Point Assembly #53, who was celebrating her birthday the day after the Centennial Celebration. Everyone joined in singing "Happy Birthday" to her. Carol also thanked the set-up crew for their efficient work that morning in preparation for the event. Many hands made light work of the preparations as the Centennial committee was joined by Mr. Don Matlock (State Rainbow Dad), members of the Marysville Historical Society, and Mrs. Diann Gibson from Wolf Point.

Mama Huston introduced Montana's current Grand Worthy Advisor, Trinity McLane from Hamilton, who then continued with the introduction of Masonic dignitaries in attendance. We were honored to have Worthy Grand Matron Carol Schell and Worthy Grand Patron Wayne Butler in attendance. WGM Carol congratulated Rainbow



Centennial celebration Current Rainbow Girls, Kensey Allen, Trinity McLane, Hailey Chabotte, Tawny Wells, Caitlin White, Dani Rhodes Mikal Chaussee



Centennial celebration
place setting with food

on behalf of the Montana Eastern Star and shared a bit of Rainbow history with the group. Carol's daughter, Miera Brewington, began the Fall and Spring Flings tradition for Rainbow when she was Grand Worthy Advisor. This tradition continues today. Also attending was David Nielsen, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Montana to the Supreme Council, Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. Mr. Nielsen also congratulated Rainbow on its celebration and commented on the many era-appropriate wardrobe choices of those attending. GWA Trinity expressed gratitude from Rainbow for the continued support of these organizations and their members. In addition to WGM Carol and WGP Wayne, seven Montana Grand Chapter Officers attended.

After GWA Trinity gave the Montana Blessing, guests enjoyed a variety of teas, tea sandwiches, scones, and cookies. There were 16 different Assemblies in attendance at the Tea, four Grand Worthy Advisors, three former Miss Montana Rainbow Service recipients, all four State Mother Advisors, and three State Rainbow Dads. The silent auction items generated a generous donation to the Supreme Temple Century campaign on behalf of Montana Rainbow. Raffle winners included Associate Grand Matron Elaine Tucker, who won the Memory Quilt.

Guests departed with the current Rainbow Girls going to the Consistory Shrine building in Helena to enjoy their annual Fall Fling. As the last boxes of supplies were loaded into cars, the clean-up crew was treated to the sighting of a moose just behind the venue. A memorable ending to a memorable day!

Thank you to all who attended our celebration and to all of you who have supported Rainbow throughout the years.
We truly appreciate you.

Carol Huston
Supreme Inspector in Montana
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls



Centennial celebration Tea and Conversation



Centennial celebration State MA Crystal Sampson, SI Carol Huston, GWA Trinity McLane, SRD Don Matlock



Centennial celebration Raffle Memory quilt



Centennial celebration Charleston anyone



3-7-77

3-7-77. This mysterious combination of numbers has captured the imagination of students of the Vigilantes and the Road Agents ever since the Old Timers who knew its cryptic significance would not tell its well-kept meaning. There are several explanations for the origin of the numbers; let's take a look at them. Finally, we will look at the Masonic interpretation, which does not hold much water. One thing is for certain; those numbers struck fear into the hearts of the Road Agents upon whose doors and tent flaps legendarily the numbers were tacked. Most took the hint and left the Territory before they could be hanged.

The Vigilantes took an oath of secrecy which was strictly observed even until the death of the last of them. They were not proud of the hangings they had done in the Territory. They recognized that they had a job to do, and when the job was done, they wished their role to be forgotten. It was the Vigilantes' wishes that none of their members would "tell too much." That understanding was followed, but with it, much of the history of the Vigilantes was lost. With their memory, the meaning of 3-7-77 also faded.

The most widely accepted theory today is the concept that the numbers are the dimensions of a grave: 3 feet wide, 7 feet long, and 77 (6 ½) feet deep. The theory goes on to explain that if the Road Agent does not leave town within a certain short length of time, he will end up in a grave of those dimensions.

The least plausible theory is the concept of the date, which supposedly meant that the Vigilantes had hoped to rid the Territory of Road Agents by March 7, 1877. Since the Vigilantes were organized in 1863, why did they want to wait so long, fourteen years, to rid the Territory of such an undesirable group.

One of the more interesting theories is that the numbers 3-7-77 represented certain persons in the Montana Vigilantes from their earlier days in the mining camps of California and perhaps Colorado. Many, if not most, of the Vigilantes, as well as Road Agents, came from the gold fields of California and Colorado and followed the discovery of gold from one camp to another, finally ending up at the Grasshopper Diggin's at Bannack in 1862 or Alder Gulch a year later. Many Montana miners had been members of vigilance committees in California, especially in San Francisco, where they did not use names, only numbers known to other members of the committee. It is likely that the numbers 3, 7 and 77 were prominent California Vigilantes who later made use of their vigilance expertise in Montana. Another theory is that the numbers had originated in Colorado with the same explanation.

There is also a theory that 3-7-77 represented the vocations of persons involved in the first organized activity of the Vigilantes, 3 lawyers, 7 merchants, and 77 miners.

Finally, the Masonic connotations of 3-7-77. The first theory describes that the numbers signify early-day activities tied into the idea that the Vigilantes were formed by the Masonic order. The theory has several interpretations. One is that 3 signifies an ancient quorum. Another is that 3 signified the number present at the first Masonic meeting in Montana, held on Mullan Pass in September 1862. The 7 signified a modern quorum while 77 signifies the number of Masons present at the first organized Masonic activity in the Territory, the funeral of Brother William Bell of St. Louis who died in Bannack on November 13, 1862, the deceased being the 77th Mason present. One other Masonic theory is that WB N P Langford, who performed the funeral service of Brother Bell, read from Chapter 37 of Ezekiel and that there were 77 Masons present at the service. The 37th chapter of Ezekiel is the story of the dry bones, familiar to many of us from the spiritual called "Dem Bones" or "Dry Bones."

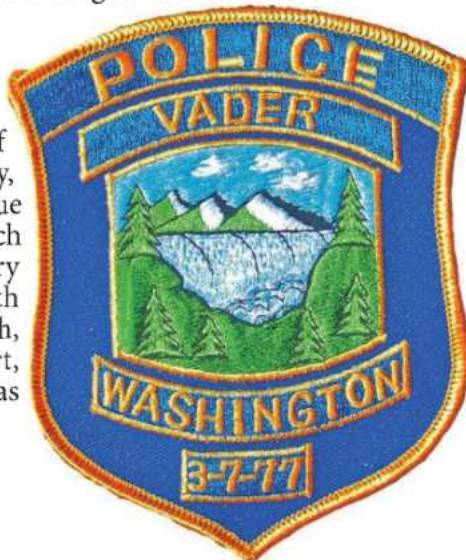


Each of the interpretations is credible, with perhaps the exception of the date theory. One thing for certain is that 3-7-77 is emblematic of the first organized law enforcement in what is now Montana. Today the 3-7-77 is worn on the shoulder patch of the Montana Highway Patrol.

At one time the Vader, Washington Police Department also wore the numbers on their shoulder patch, but the connection to Montana Vigilantes was slim at best. A former Chief of Police in Vader told the author that the only piece of history he knew regarding 3-7-77 was that it was emblematic of the first law enforcement in the Northwest but had no direct knowledge of the origin of the numbers itself.

This is what is so fascinating about 3-7-77 to many of us. Like Masonry, its origins are vague at best, and each student of history can come up with their theory which, for the most part, is just as valid as anyone else's.

F. Lee Graves,
Dillon #16
Grand Historian



Dillon Lodge No. 16 Welcomes four Entered Apprentices

The Entered Apprentice. Symbol of youth. The word apprentice comes through the French *prendre* from the Latin *præhendere*, to take, to seize. An Entered Apprentice is one taken to learn. Originally an apprentice was not a part of the Masonic craft, even after being entered on the books of the lodge. Not until he had passed his apprenticeship and been accepted as a Fellow was he a craftsman. This gradually gave way to the modern idea, and since 1717 Apprentices have been initiated into Lodges.



Front Row: Dave Prewett, Gary Williams, Ron Gutzmer, Weston Devers, Cody Rasmussen Scott Francis.
Back row, Dave Seminara, Alan Holt, Mark Bassett, F. Lee Graves, Geoffry Ripp, Danny Devers and Ronald McCray.

Four initiates at one time may well be a record for Dillon Lodge No. 16. Also in attendance were two Grand Lodge Officers and one Past Grand Master. Dave Prewett-PGM put his photography skills to work and took a photo of the four new Entered Apprentices and of the Brothers who put the degree in Dillon No. 16 on 3 February 2023.

by: F. Lee Graves

World Famous Helena Lodge No. 3 Welcomes Chris Cavasos, EA



Helena Lodge No. 3 conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree upon Chris Cavasos.

The Entered Apprentice is a Mason who has been initiated, after application, investigation and unanimous favorable ballot by members of the lodge. He has taken the first step in his journey to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Having met certain requirements, his name has been entered in the records of the lodge as an Entered Apprentice.



*Helena Lodge No. 3
Annual Christmas
&
Holiday Party
December 11th*





There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus.” –Bob Phillip

The holidays are among the most magical times of the year. During the holidays, it is possible to relax and enjoy the company of friends and family without the stress of everyday life. A time among friends to share our friendship with warmth and genuine holiday greetings. And giving friends warm and happy holiday wishes can bring unconditional joy in their lives.





*"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights."
—Maya Angelou*



HANDS OF THE WORKMAN

John Turney Orr, Grand Master 1940-1941

John Turney Orr was the son of an old Montana family. In 1856 while in California, his father, William C. Orr, partnered with another famous and well-known pioneer of Masonic history, Philip H. Poindexter. The Poindexter & Orr Company became widely known in Montana in the early days of the territory and was renowned for its prominence in Montana's cattle, horse, and sheep industries. The P & O Company brought a herd of cattle to Bannack in 1865, and the firm took up land in the Blacktail Creek valley. In 1870, the firm brought 2,700 sheep into Montana. The Poindexter & Orr Company is widely known for its Square and Compass brand, the first registered brand in Montana.



John was born on September 21, 1881, in Dillon, Montana Territory. He went to the public schools of Dillon and Butte. He also was educated in operation and business of the ranches of Poindexter & Orr (36,000 acres at its peak operation). Brother John received the degrees of Masonry in Dillon Lodge No. 30 (now Dillon No. 16), EA degree on October 18, 1906; FC Degree on November 1, 1906, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on November 22, 1906. He served in various offices of the Lodge, including Worshipful Master, in 1913. He was appointed to the Grand Lodge officer line and was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Montana in 1940.

He was also a member of the York Rite. He joined the Royal Arch Masons in 1907, became Excellent High Priest in 1913, and received the Order of High Priesthood at Melita Island in 1928. He was knighted on May 9, 1907, in St. Elmo Commandery at Dillon, became Eminent Commander in 1912, and later served as Commandery Recorder. He became a Royal and Select Master in Zabud Council at Butte in 1930. He was a Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine, St. Peter Conclave, Helena. Brother Orr was a charter member of Bagdad Shrine Temple in Butte. He was a Past Patron of Mizpah Chapter No. 13 of the OES.

Brother Orr was active with Masonic youth groups as a member of the Board of Directors of the Order of Rainbow Girls and received the Order's Great Cross of Color. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Order of DeMolay from 1928 and served as Chairman and Chapter Advisor; he received the DeMolay Grand Cross of Honor.

Brother John served as an alderman for the city of Dillon for fifteen years. He was a photographer in Dillon operating the Orr Studio in the 1930s and 1940s. He also operated the John T. Orr Auto Company. John Orr also developed the Orr carburetor, patent #US791810A. He was President of Poindexter and Orr Livestock Company until 1943, when the company was sold.

During the 1940-1941 Masonic year, MWGM Bro. Orr oversaw the following: The Corner Stone of Cut Bank Lodge No. 82; Constitute Glacier Lodge No. 147; Cornerstone Nurses Home of Billings Deaconess Hospital; Dedicate Victory Lodge No. 124; Dedicate Cut Bank Lodge No. 82; Dedicate Meridian Lodge No. 105. MWGM

Orr presided over the 77th Annual Communication in Missoula, August 20-21, 1941.

MWPGM Orr saw the Grand Lodge reach 147 Lodges with a membership of 17,145. (of interest, during the year, there were 435 new Master Masons raised, with a total gain of 815; however, the total losses were 809 for a net gain of 6). Currently, the Grand Lodge of Montana has 77 lodges and 3,390 members.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master John T. Orr died on May 24, 1956, in Dillon, Beaverhead County, Montana, United States, at 74. He received a Masonic funeral service on May 29, 1956. He was buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Dillon.



On February 10, 1873, the Poindexter and Orr Ranch in Beaverhead County registered the Square & Compass (a traditional symbol of the Masons). It was the first Montana brand to be recorded. Today, the original Brand Books, in use since 1873, continue to be held in trust by the Montana Department of Livestock Brand Division. The Grand Lodge of Montana holds the Ornamental brand registration of the Square & Compass brand.



Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

The Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Montana congratulates Brother Arnie E Frovarp, PM of Ashlar Lodge No 29, for his work with the Boy Scouts and receiving the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

Many Freemasons nationwide have been of great service to the Boy Scouts of America by supporting the development of Scouting units, serving as volunteers, and assisting their Masonic lodges in forming and sponsoring Scout units.

The relationship between Freemasons and Scouting, which has existed since the foundation of Scouting in America, has given rise to immeasurable advantages for Freemasonry and Scouting.

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is an honor due to the countless Freemasons who practice the ideals of Freemasonry and act as role models to the young men who are part of one of our nation's most outstanding youth organizations.

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award not only supports the Masonic relationship through the man who brought Scouting to America but proclaims the integrity of the Freemason who is honored by receiving the award.



BROTHER MIKE MCFERRIN

50 YEAR MEMBER

Helena Lodge No. 3



Bro. Mike McFerrin received his 50 Year Award January 2, 2023. He shared with us the memory of his third degree - certainly memorable, as it was held on island in Eastern Montana. The stations were cottonwoods, the altar a stump, and the air thick with insects: clouds of gnats and mosquitoes prowling! Well done, good and faithful brother.



Brother McFerrin received his degrees in North Star Lodge No. 46. He was Initiated on February 2, 1971, Passed on April 17, 1971 and Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on April 19, 1971. He affiliated with Helena No. 3 on January 16, 1989 and dimitted from North Star Lodge on 11/17/1993.



A Gift Is Free

A gift is defined as something given to someone without payment, a present. A further definition includes the thought, something given with no intention of being repaid. Too often one loses sight of what a gift truly means or how it might pertain to us as Masons. One Masonic oath taken instructs us; "To contribute to the relief of poor distressed Master Masons, their widows, and orphans". The question becomes, whether that statement continues to be relevant to us today as Masons.

In years gone by, aid and assistance were often provided by family, church, and/or the Lodge. I am a member of a small rural Lodge in northeastern Indiana and over the years I have read all the secretary's minutes going back to the Lodge's founding in 1866. One of the recurring expenditures was for benevolence. In the era before the Depression of the 1930's, a safety net did not exist to provide aide or assistance to people in need. When illness, death, or financial setback occurred, the Lodge was one entity that stepped in to provide help. Typically, this was for Masons and their families, but benevolence for non-members also occurred. Entries from the Secretary's Minutes provide examples of needs and how the Lodge responded follow:

"A motion was offered and adopted to pay the balance of funeral expenses of the lately deceased daughter of Brother Rogers." (1893)

"A bill for \$19.50 in favor of Ulrich & King was allowed the same being the balance of funeral expenses of S.P. Mitchell, who died July 27, 1911." (1911)

"A motion made to allow Ray Stephens \$5 toward getting artishel lins (sic). An order was drawn for the same" (1926)

"A bill for coal for Mrs. Sharp \$17.33. Also Xmas to Mrs. Sharp \$25.00" (1927). At the time the cash balance of the Lodge was \$216.74

"R.H. Fisher moved that Brother Leroy Ralston be given \$25 for relief. All his personal property being destroyed by fire." (1936)

While these amounts may seem insignificant, Lodge dues in 1916 were four dollars (\$4.00) per year.

Over the years society has changed. If a person needs help, there are a number of various government agencies, organizations, and insurance that can provide care or assistance. Even with this aid many needs go unfulfilled, especially if it is an immediate need. While the role of the Lodge in assisting others may have changed, there is still a place for our benevolence of time as well as dollars. A good place to start is to have good communication

within your Lodge. A brother to brother calling program is a quick and easy method of improving communications and identifying member needs. (This can be a volunteer position or team of volunteers who have and can take the time to participate.) The purpose is simply to call members and check-in on them. The conversations are usually very casual and can vary from 2 or 3 minutes to a half an hour. The message is very simple. No matter who you are, we all want to be remembered. If your members feel involved and tied together, then needs are more readily shared and opportunities for helping one another occur.

In 2015 I was very sick and went through a period of eight or nine months where I was confined at home, couldn't see anyone, and only went to the doctor or hospital. One night a Masonic friend called me and said that he and his wife were at a favorite restaurant and wanted to know if they could pick up dinner for my wife and I. We both thought that was very nice, and about 45 minutes later the friend and his wife pulled in the driveway and brought our order to the door. He was very gracious, but I attempted to pay him for the meals. He refused my offer to pay him. My wife stepped in to thank him. I was somewhat confused, but when he left my wife explained something very important to me. A gift is something that is freely given. When we attempt to disrupt the good intentions of the giver then we take away the blessing the giver receives. My Masonic friend didn't expect payment, but instead was blessed to freely give to someone he cared for – me!

Being a Mason teaches us rules to use in life. Perhaps one of the most important is showing that we genuinely care for one another. Those direct calls provide the opportunity for brothers with needs to share them. Maybe those needs are as simple as a ride to the doctor or hospital, help in making arrangements for grocery pick-up or delivery, or perhaps a much larger need. (A nearby Lodge recently had a workday to build a wheel chair ramp for a member). Whether large or small, there are always needs where Masons can lend assistance to one another. In every case, it is a gift freely given. The Lodge in turn receives the blessing of fellowship in their joint efforts to fulfill one aspect of their Masonic Oath.

Chuck Clampitt
Mt Etna Lodge 333
Huntington, IN

W. Bro. Vern Nielsen Honored by Livingston Lodge No. 32



Livingston Lodge No. 32 paid honor to W. Bro. Vern Neilsen (second from right) for all he has done for the lodge. The members of Livingston Lodge voted to make Bro. Vern a Honorary WM. Follow by lunch at the Hanging 5 restaurant.

Bro. Neilsen received his degrees in Livingston Lodge: Initiated 6-15-1982, Passed 9-28-1982 and Raised as a Master Mason on 10-12-1982. He affiliated with Butte Lodge No. 22 in 1989 and served as Worshipful Master in 2013-2014.

Ref: 34050. HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS. Honorary memberships are not recognized by Grand Lodge, which neither permits them nor prohibits them.



Bozeman Lodge No. 18 and Gallatin Lodge No. 6 held their Feast of Saints Johns on January 5, 2023 at the Masonic Temple of Bozeman.

There were approximately thirty-five Brothers as well as two Past Grand Masters in attendance.

There were three Brothers from different jurisdictions who were in attendance.

Feast of Sts John

By: Johnathon Dahlquist, MW Grand Master

WHO WERE THE SAINTS JOHN?

St. John the Baptist, (born 1st decade BCE, Judaea, Palestine, near Jerusalem - died 28-36 CE; feast day June 24), Jewish prophet of priestly origin who preached the imminence of God's Final Judgment and baptized those who repented in self-preparation for it; he is revered in the Christian church as the forerunner of Jesus Christ. After a period of desert solitude, John the Baptist emerged as a prophet in the region of the lower Jordan River valley. He had a circle of disciples, and Jesus was among the recipients of his rite of baptism.

Life and work:

He was born somewhere in Judaea (localized at En Kerem from at least 530 CE) to Zechariah, a priest of the order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, perhaps a relative of Mary, the mother of Jesus. His formative years were spent in the Judaeian desert, where monastic communities, such as the Essenes (a strict Jewish sect that existed from about the 2nd century BCE to the end of the 1st century CE), and individual hermits often educated the young in their own ideals.

In 27/28 or 28/29 John attained prominence, not as a priest but as a prophet. He was active in the region of the lower Jordan valley, from "Aenon near Salim" (near modern Nāblus) to a point east of Jericho. His austere camel's hair garment was the traditional garb of the prophets, and his diet of locusts and wild honey represented either strict adherence to Jewish purity laws or the ascetic conduct of a Nazirite (a Jew especially vowed to God's service). His mission was addressed to all ranks and stations of Jewish society. His message was that God's judgment on the world was imminent and that, to prepare for this judgment, the people should repent their sins, be baptized, and produce appropriate fruits of repentance.

In Matthew 3, John says, "He who is coming after me is mightier than I"; this might refer to God himself, a human messiah, or a transcendent divine being. He also says, "I baptize you with water...; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire"; this second baptism might symbolize the judgment the one coming would carry out.

St. John the Apostle, also called Saint John the Evangelist or Saint John the Divine, (flourished 1st century CE; Western feast day December 27; Eastern feast days May 8 and September 26), one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus and traditionally believed to be the author of the three Letters of John, the Fourth Gospel, and possibly the Revelation to John in the New Testament. He played a leading role in the early church at Jerusalem.

Life and Work:

John held an authoritative position in the early church, shown by his visit with St. Peter to Samaria to lay hands on new converts. He was instrumental in the conversion of St. Paul. John was thought to have opposed granting Gentiles membership in the church, but evidence is unclear in this regard.

According to Christian traditions, John is the author of three letters (1 John, 2 John, and 3 John). He is also given credit for writing the fourth biblical narrative of the Gospel and possibly the Revelation to John; however, there has been considerable discussion of the actual identity of the writers of these works.

Rocky Mountain District Meeting & Feast of Sts. John Hosted by Deer Lodge No. 14



**Charles M. Russell District
Chinook No. 50 - Havre No. 55 & Treasure No. 95
Feast of Sts. John**



On Jan. 21, 2023 Chinook Lodge #50, Havre Lodge #55, and Treasure Lodge #95 join together to celebrate the Feast of Saints John. A table lodge of Entered Apprentice and a lodge of instruction was opened by WM Christopher Smith of Havre Lodge. After a meal provided by Bro. David Sageser, the lodge was called from refreshment to labor where the seven toast were given by several Brothers.

**Livingston No. 32, Doric No. 53, and Diamond City No.7
Feast of Sts. John**



Ross C. Jensen Chapter Montana DeMolay

DeMolay Friendship weekend/ canned food drive benefiting the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. Food, lazer tag, games, and more! Great start to the new year with many more exciting events to come.



THE
ROAD
BEGINS
HERE



THE
ROAD
BEGINS
HERE

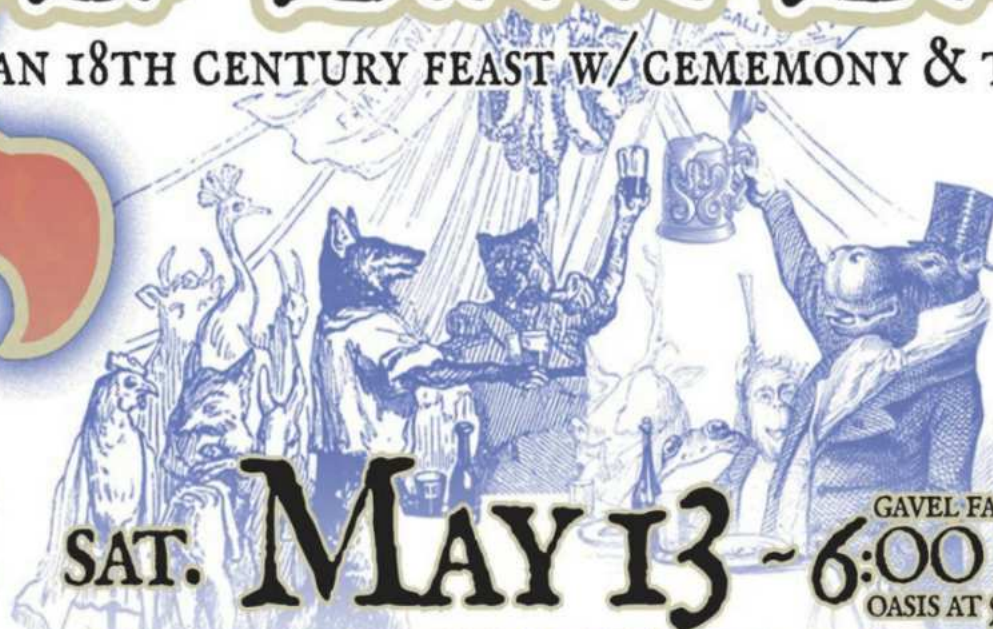
hear ye!

hear ye!

AUTHENTIC

1717 Table Lodge

AN 18TH CENTURY FEAST W/ CEMEMONY & TOASTS



SAT. **MAY 13** ~ 6:00 PM
GAVEL FALLS AT 5:00PM
OASIS AT 5:00PM

MASONIC TEMPLE 14 S. TRACY
BOZEMAN, MT

\$35~ALL YOU CAN EAT

FIRST TWO BEERS OR WINE - \$10

MICROBREWED BY B. COLIN RUH OF LAST BEST PLACE BREWERY

ALL NEW GLASS BEER STEIN~ \$20



ROAST PIG!



WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS

EXPERTLY PREPARED BY

WB BRIAN ENGAL OF PIONEER MEATS

PLEASE
RSVP
FOR STEIN &
ADULT
BEVERAGES

LIMITED
SEATING!
***RSVP**
BY MAY 1ST

406 595-1219

PERIOD ATTIRE IS ENCOURAGED BUT NOT REQUIRED.

*NOTE: IF YOU RSVP AND DON'T SHOW... YOU STILL OWE.

Sagebrush District Meeting

The Sagebrush District Meeting was held on Feb. 11, 2023 hosted by Hiram Lodge #52. The following Lodges were represented: Ekalaka #120, Powder River #135, Saints John #92, Huntley Project #144, Hiram #52. Nineteen brothers were in attendance. After the district meeting, Brian Lee, Twain Schick, Al Kajin, and John Rusting were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.
By: Marty Reiersen, District Officer



3rd Row: Floyd Huckins, Sigurd Hellickson, Bill Langford, Bill Breen, Billy Millhollin, Art Perry, Doug Bonsell, Vic McMillan
2nd Row: John Rusting, Al Kajin, Twain Schick, Brian Lee, Mike Capra, Pat Stickland, Robert Engle, Johny Starnes
Front Row: Al Lee.



The Brothers enjoying a lunch of smoked brisket.

Father and Son Al Lee and Brian Lee. Al Lee is the oldest living Past Master of Hiram Lodge #52, serving as Master in 1962.. His son Brian was just raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.



MONTANA COWBOY HALL OF FAME LIVING INDUCTION

District 8: (Broadwater, Jefferson and Lewis and Clark counties)

Brother Chuck Plymale

When someone says the word cowboy, Charles "Chuck" Gilbert Plymale comes to mind.

His birthright began in 1899 when his grandfather, Bert, came to Montana from Ohio to build a cattle and sheep ranch in Broadwater County. Charles Gilbert Plymale was born to Laird and Eva (Quist) Plymale in 1943 in Townsend, Montana. His sister Bonnie joined the family two years later. It is here that Chuck learned the cowboy way of life.

At a young age, he kept busy on the ranch helping with the livestock. Chuck loved being with Uncle Hubert and the shepherd hired by the ranch. His favorite task was to "help" by riding the shepherd's horse while the herder walked alongside.

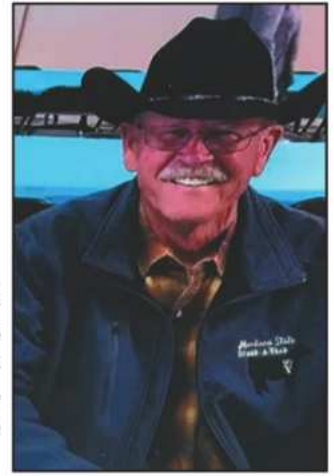
Chuck was known as his Uncle Hubert's sidekick. It was Hubert who taught him about livestock and took him along on many cattle drives. Later, Chuck was able to break his own horses. As he progressed in his understanding of livestock, he became the trail boss of the Plymale cattle drives, which hosted guests from all over the world. On one of those drives, his cowboy wisdom should have been heeded by his daughter: do not follow cattle when they struggle to cross a bog or downed log as the horse will lunge to cross, and the unsuspecting rider will be thrown off. After ensuring she was okay, Chuck simply shook his head and continued up the trail trusting that his daughter had learned her lesson.

The building of Canyon Ferry Dam in Broadwater County flooded most of the family ranchland, and the decision to keep only the cattle was made. In 1954, Bert formed a partnership with his sons Hubert, Laird, and Wayne, who were all in their mid-thirties. This was the beginning of the Plymale Brothers Ranch, which remains in operation today with Chuck, his son David, and cousins Dwain, William, and Randy Plymale.

When Chuck was thirteen years old, he purchased his first cattle herd, which consisted of two cows he used for his 4-H project. He earned three dollars a day when he began working on the ranch and paid three dollars per month to pasture his cows.

In later years, he was again involved in 4-H with his children Francie, Jennifer, David, Suzanne, and Carrie. Many hours were spent helping to teach them how to lead a steer, feed the right portions for weight gain,

and getting a horse trained and ready for the fair. He, in turn, had them help with the ranch: feeding livestock, branding, cattle drives, fencing, and farming.



Chuck played football all four years of high school. The Broadwater Bulldogs won the state championship for two years and were co-champions the third year due to a terrible blizzard that prevented the playoff game.

In his college years, 1961-1965, at Montana State University in Bozeman, he was involved with rodeo club and the wool judging team. He graduated with a degree in range management which was utilized in his ranch life. During cattle drives, he would enjoy pointing out various flowers, grasses, and weeds to his family and providing their names.

His college roommate and close friend, Jerry, introduced him to Carole Gliko, a student at the College of Great Falls, now the University of Providence. Chuck's relationship with Carole grew during his visits with Jerry, and they were eventually married in 1967.

Chuck joined the United States Army Reserve and served as a medic in San Antonio, Texas. He took part in the maintenance and transportation fields. His granddaughters agreed they always felt safe with "Papa" because he had medical training.

Chuck was instrumental in constructing the Broadwater County Rodeo Grounds in Townsend. He proudly maintains the roping chutes and keeps them in good working condition. Chuck participated in parent-child roping as well as team roping with his wife and fellow cowboys.

Brother Chuck received his Masonic Degrees in Valley Lodge No. 21 in Townsend. He was Initiated on March 17, 1969; Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on May 19, 1969; and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on June 6, 1969. He served as Secretary of the Lodge in 1970 and Worshipful Master in 1975. Valley Lodge No. 21 surrendered its Charter on January 1, 2017. Brother Chuck affiliated with Ottawa Lodge No. 51 on April 16, 2021. He received his 50 Year membership on November 11, 2022, in Ottawa Lodge No. 51.

He was a member of the Broadwater County School Board for twenty years, and during these years, he presented his children with their high school diplomas. He is a forty-year member of the rural Broadwater County Fire Department and served as battalion chief for ten years. He was a board member of the U.S. Farm Service Agency and is currently president of the Broadwater County Farm Bureau. Chuck has been a deputy brand inspector for forty years and willingly inspects cattle and horses at the drop of a hat.

This cowboy is a gentle and quiet man, carefully weighing his words before sharing his thoughts on a subject. He has instilled the love of his nation and western way of life in his children and grandchildren and set an example of being a good neighbor. When seeking out someone to help move cows, write a brand inspection, or engage in a discussion about agriculture, look no further than Chuck Plymale.

Designated by the Montana State Legislature, the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame preserves and passes forward our state's rich cultural heritage through the celebration of inductees and their notable contributions that have shaped our collective Montana Western heritage. While one might assume that the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame exists to recognize Montana's famous cowboys (and in part it does), the reach is far greater. The Hall of Fame exists to celebrate all our Montana Western heritage. By celebrating the contributions of those who that have directly impacted our Western way of life by preserving these stories for future generations to cherish and learn from. Most of the inductees in the Hall of Fame are not individuals who made headlines or would be considered famous - rather, many are organizations, places, animals, and other relevant symbols of an extraordinarily diverse culture that makes Montana truly "the last best place."



We do
everything
we can to
be present.
And still
be part of
history.



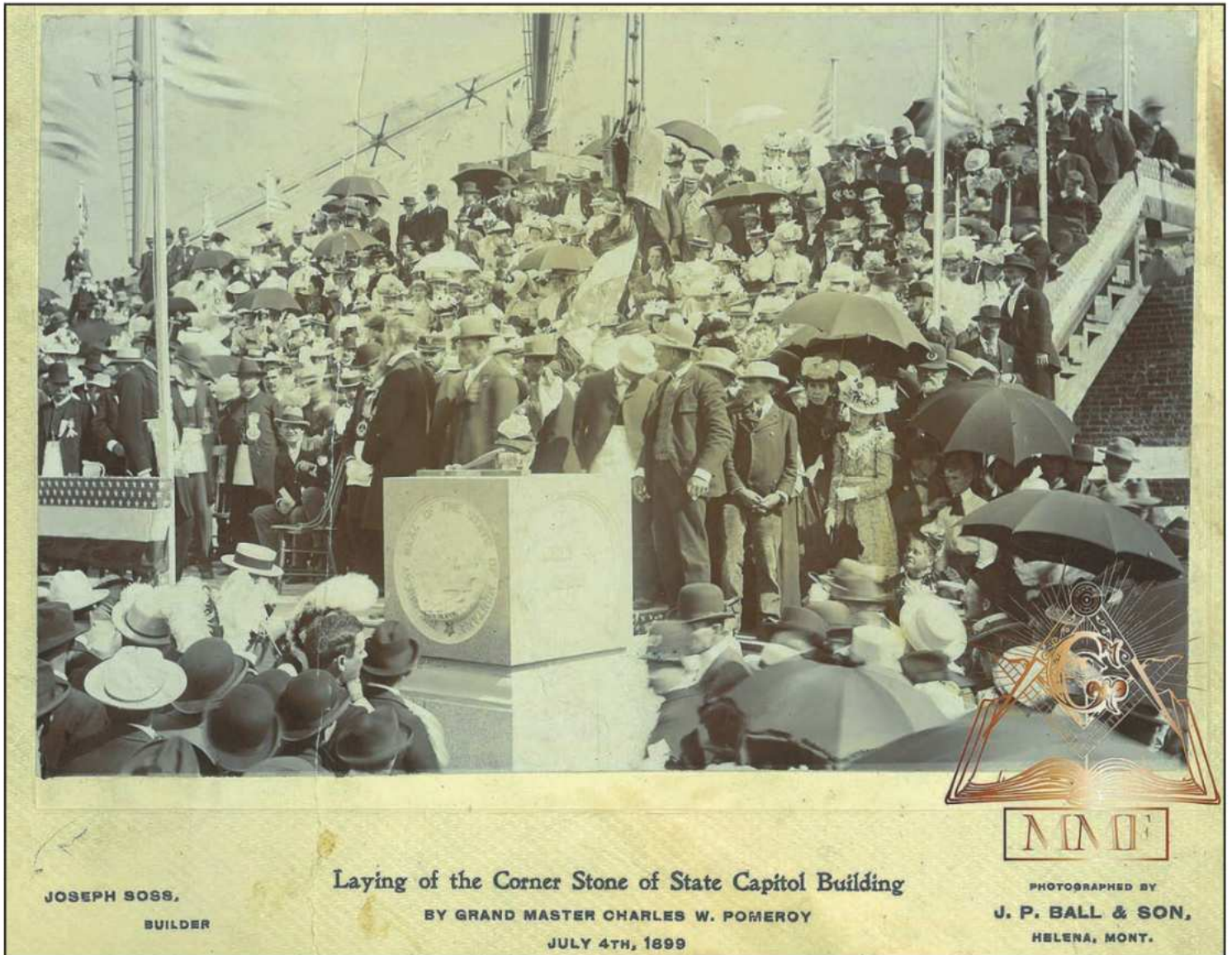
NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™

GRAND LODGE OF AF&AM OF MONTANA

Special Thanks to the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame,
<https://montanacowboyfame.org/hall-of-fame>

The Laying of the Cornerstone of the Montana State Capitol

by: Daniel Gardiner, Grand Secretary



JOSEPH SOSS,
BUILDER

Laying of the Corner Stone of State Capitol Building

BY GRAND MASTER CHARLES W. POMEROY

JULY 4TH, 1899



PHOTOGRAPHED BY
J. P. BALL & SON,
HELENA, MONT.

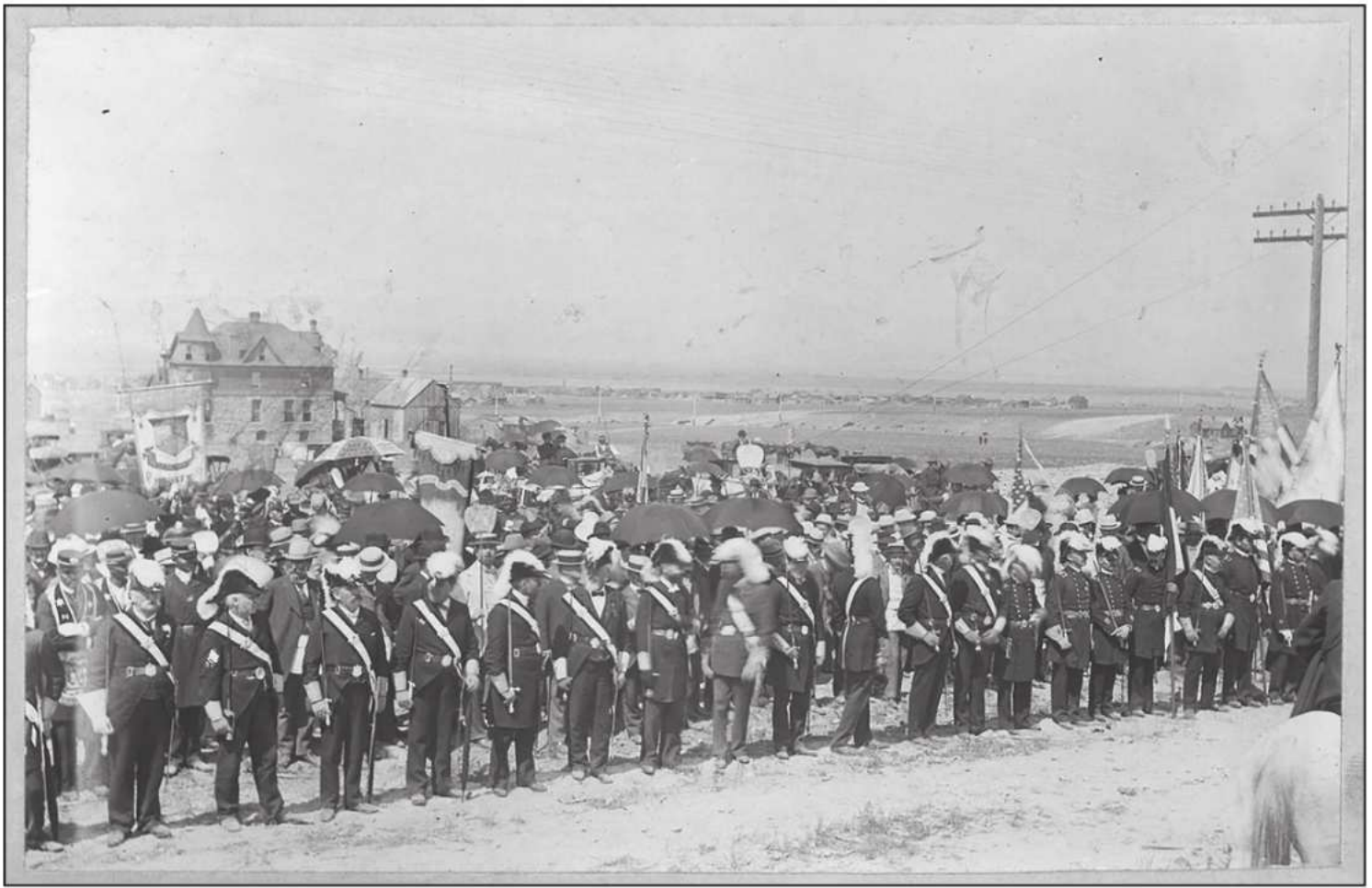
On the 4th of July, 1899, a large assembly of people marched to the site of the capitol grounds in Helena. There, a ceremony was to take place. Orations were to be given, ceremonies consecrating the cornerstone performed.

When the parade marched its way toward the stands where the cornerstone laying ceremony would take place, they processed in four divisions.

The first division, leading the way, was made up of drummers, horse-mounted police officers and members of the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry. The 24th were commonly known as Buffalo Soldiers, who were African Americans. The 24th's own buglers played loudly. The Grand Army of the Republic – a fraternal association of Union veterans

of the civil war, also marched. Other veterans marching included Confederate veterans, Spanish American War veterans, mining pioneers, and Army National Guard members.

The second division saw a Helena-based military band, and several fraternal orders: Odd Fellows, the Odd Fellows' knightly division, the Kruger [Krieger] Verein (German-origin war veterans) and Turn Verein (German athletic association), the Sons of Hermann (a mutual aid society for Germans), the Improved Order of Red Men. The third division was made up of East Helena's coronet band, and more fraternal groups: Ancient Order of United Workmen (a fraternal insurance benefit society), Knights of Pythias, and Elks and the African American Odd Fellows. The fourth and final division was made up of the



(mainstream / White) Masons, Knights Templar, Grand Lodge Officers, and some city, county, and state officials. The Governor and his staff rode in carriages, and the mayor and other city officials pulling up the rear.

The hierarchy of the procession was such that those in the front naturally arrived first, and the prominent officials who would be leading the ceremonies would pass them on their way to the stand.

"When the procession reached the capitol site, the escort of Knights Templars formed its ranks facing the speakers' stand and presented swords while the officers of the grand lodge, followed by the members of the blue lodges, marched by, the former taking up positions on the platform, where also were the civil officials taking part in the ceremony."

As a result of this, when the civil and fraternal leaders looked out upon the crowd, their eyes first fell upon the (white) Knights Templar. However, immediately behind them, in the second row – and in front of all of the other divisions, as well as the general audience – were the African American Odd Fellows.

To recap: leading the divisions marching their way to the capitol were drummers, mounted police officers, and African American soldiers of the 24th Infantry. Ahead of

veterans of previous wars – Civil and Spanish American, North and South alike – the position of prominence of their buglers announced the entire train of participants who followed.

The dignitaries were the last in the division: the governmental (local and state) officers, with their families, and the Masonic fraternal officers reached the raised stage. From there, those who were giving the oral addresses and performing the dedication of the cornerstone walked through the Arch of Swords by the Templars. They all mounted the stage and elevated seating – and the very next group given pride of place were the Black men belonging to the fraternal Odd Fellows.

There were three non-Black ("White") Masonic lodges under the Grand Lodge of Montana in Helena itself. Helena Lodge #3, Morning Star #5, and King Solomon's #9. One of them, King Solomon's #9, which had a large number of Jewish members, was meeting the following night. Several groups of (White) Knights Templar attended (Great Falls, Missoula, Helena) were in the front row. Looking out on them all were the Grand Lodge officers.

The newspaper makes no mention at all of Helena's own Byrd Lodge #11 (Prince Hall, or, as they would have been called at the time, "colored Masons") for this event. Neither does it mention Helena's Unity Lodge #101

(formerly called R.J. Fletcher #101, also a Prince Hall, or African American lodge). These segregated lodges were not hidden from the local white Masons. They appeared in the Polk City Directories for a decade in a couple of the largest cities in Montana. These directories were a precursor to later Telephone Books. Occasional notices of elections of officers or events for these lodges appeared in newspapers.

The absence of these Black Freemasons is noteworthy. Several members of the Prince Hall lodges were also Odd Fellows – in Helena and in other towns across Montana. Why are there no African American Freemasons present? A reason that comes to mind is preservation of the social order. Or, put another way: that sensitive place between

The Odd Fellows were a compromise. The Black community were represented by way of a fraternal order, just not the order that was performing the rites over the cornerstone for which they were all summoned!

These Odd Fellows (ahead of the White parade group in the audience) were placed in the closest proximity to the Freemasons. Prominently positioned in the second row, yes. Next to the Masonic Knights Templar, yes. Ahead of every other fraternal organization or military unit, yes; but they were not dressed as nor representing a Masonic lodge.

There were one or two chapters of the mixed-gender Order of the Eastern Star (OES) among the Prince Hall lodges across the state over the years. Some time between 1885 and 1907 in Butte, "Mountain View Chapter" OES met at Idaho and Mercury Streets. Some time between 1897 and 1923, "Bethsheba Chapter" OES met at the Lucas Block in Helena. In most cornerstone ceremonies performed by Masons in Montana during the 1800's through the early 1900's, women who were in the (White) Order of the Eastern Star would be seated in the front row before the standing audiences. There does not appear to have been any OES representation (Black or White) at this cornerstone laying ceremony.

Acme Temple of the Mystic Shrine organized Dec. 26, 1896 in Helena, attached to United Lodge #101. It is not at present known how long these (Black) Shriners were in existence, but neither they nor their White counterparts were listed as marching in the official procession. There does not appear to have been an encampment of the Knights Templar attached to any of the Prince Hall lodges in Montana.

Why no Black Templars? Because there were no Prince Hall Knights Templar to attend alongside their White counterparts (although there were certainly men of color who did join Knights Templar groups across the country). But Black blue lodge Freemasons were not present in any other Masonic capacity, either- and they certainly had the membership numbers to do so.

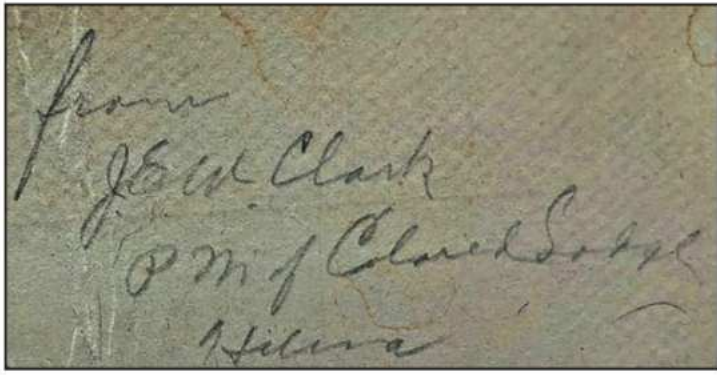
The dignitaries on the elevated stage in front of these Odd Fellows were photographed by gifted photographer James Pressley (J.P.) Ball. A well-known figure in Helena, Bro. Ball was himself a Prince Hall Freemason.

In the next day's issue of The Independent, Ball advertised the following: "Corner Stone Laying. J.P. Ball & Son, the Main street photographers, made some fine views of the corner stone of the capitol building. Copies on sale at Ball's studio, Main street, opposite postoffice."

Although copies of his excellent prints were listed for sale, Ball also gave copies out to prominent Freemasons: both Black and White.

One copy, in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Montana, depicting the dignitaries and the cornerstone on the stage was inscribed on the back, "Compliments of JP Ball To Mssrs H.M. Parchen July 4th /99." Henry M. Parchen was the long-serving Grand Treasurer to the (White) Grand Lodge of Montana. He served in this position for decades. However, outside of Freemasonry, he was known for his successful business: Parchen Drug.





Another copy in the Grand Lodge archives is inscribed on the back, "Compliments of JP Ball To JEW Clark July 4th /99." J.E.W. Clark was an officer in one of the (Black) Prince Hall lodges in Helena. He served as Senior Warden (the second highest officer) for Unity Lodge in 1898. Presumably he then served as the presiding officer (Worshipful Master) of the same lodge from the remainder of 1898 to the same time in 1899.

An E.L. Clark is listed as an officer in this same lodge in 1915, '16, and '19, possibly related or the same man. An E.W. Clark was Secretary of the other Prince Hall lodge in Helena in 1893. He may be the same man as J.E.W. Clark as well.

Perhaps more significantly, J.E.W. Clark then gifted this copy to another Mason. It is further inscribed, "For Mr. Jones, Masonic Temple Home, From J.E.W. Clark PM of Colored Lodge, Helena." The Past Master (P.M.) title after Clark's name might denote that Clark had just left office as the Worshipful Master immediately before the 4th of July Cornerstone laying ceremonies.

Despite either not being invited, or delicately choosing to abstain and rather attend in another fraternal capacity, men – Brothers – like J.P. Ball and J.E.W. Clark retained a fraternal spirit; certainly at least the brotherly love to give a copy of the documented photographs to their White counterparts.



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BARD

ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT

KALISPELL AREA LODGES



The Robert Burns Night, a yearly event in many Masonic lodges, celebrates the life and works of Robert Burns. Burns became a famous poet, Mason, and an influence on many others worldwide. The Kalispell area Lodges have held a Robbie Burns Night for several years. These gatherings are informal and have a menu that honors the roots of the celebrated Scottish poet, and a piper greets the guests. During casual gatherings, traditional Scottish music is often played. A member or guest will begin with a speech, and the "Selkirk Grace" is said. After the poem, a toast (optional with whisky) is given to the haggis (a fax haggis), and the main course is served. After dinner, toasts will be made in memory of Burns, thanks will be extended to those who cooked the meal, and Burns' works will be read. The evening ends by singing Auld Lang Syne to remember Robert Burns.



"Selkirk Grace"

Some hae meat an canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
As lang's my airm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut you up wi' ready slicht,
Trenching your gushing entrails bricht,
Like ony ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sicht,
Warm-reekin, rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:
Deil tak the hindmaist! on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve,
Are bent like drums;
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
"Bethankit" hums.

Is there that o're his French ragout
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
Wi' perfect scunner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him ower his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank, a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit;
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread.
Clap in his wallie nieve a blade,
He'll mak it whistle;
An' legs an' arms, an' heads will sned,
Like taps o' thistle.

Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinkin ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a haggis!

Bagdad Shrine Installation of Officers for 2023-2024



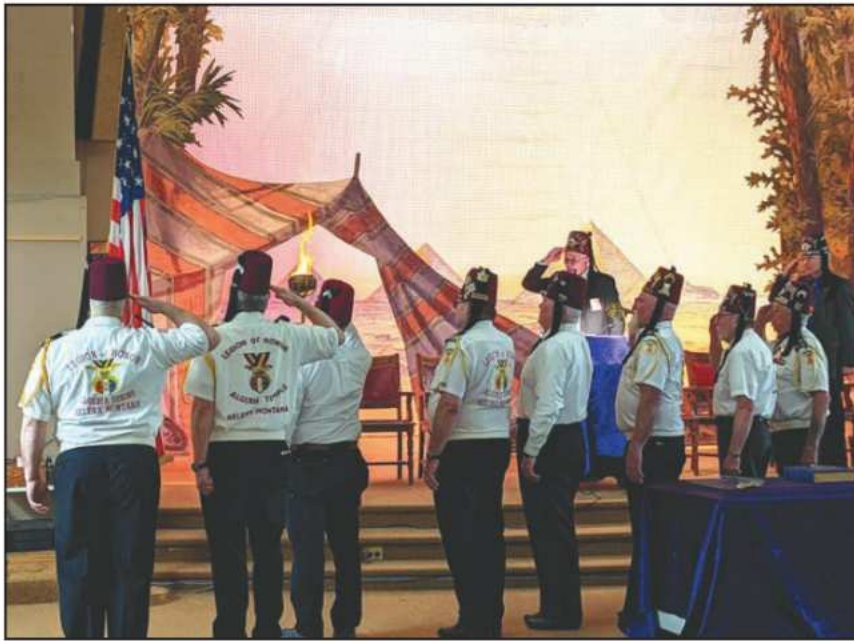
Bagdad instalation of officers.

Top L-R: Tim Taylor, Trinity #152, Past Potentate Algeria; Richard Corrigan, WM Deer Lodge #14, Past Potentate Bagdad.

Middle L-R: Tracy Prescott, Belgrade # 68, Past Potentate Algeria; Larry Tipton, Stillwater #62, Past Potentate EL Bedoo and Executive Director of PNSA; Don Cerovski, Belgrade #68, Past Grand Master.

From row L-R: Juan Maso, WM Mission Valley #78, 2023 Potentate Bagdad; David Pick, Missoula #13, 2023 Potentate Algeria; Corey Nugent, Mount Moriah #24, 2022 Potentate Bagdad and, Sam Whitehead, PM Helena #3, Senior Grand Warden.

Algeria Shrine Installation of Officers for 2023-2024



New Potentate of Algeria Shrine, David Pick, PM Missoula No.13 and wife Ruby.



Juan Maso, WM Mission Valley No. 78, Bagdad Shrine.

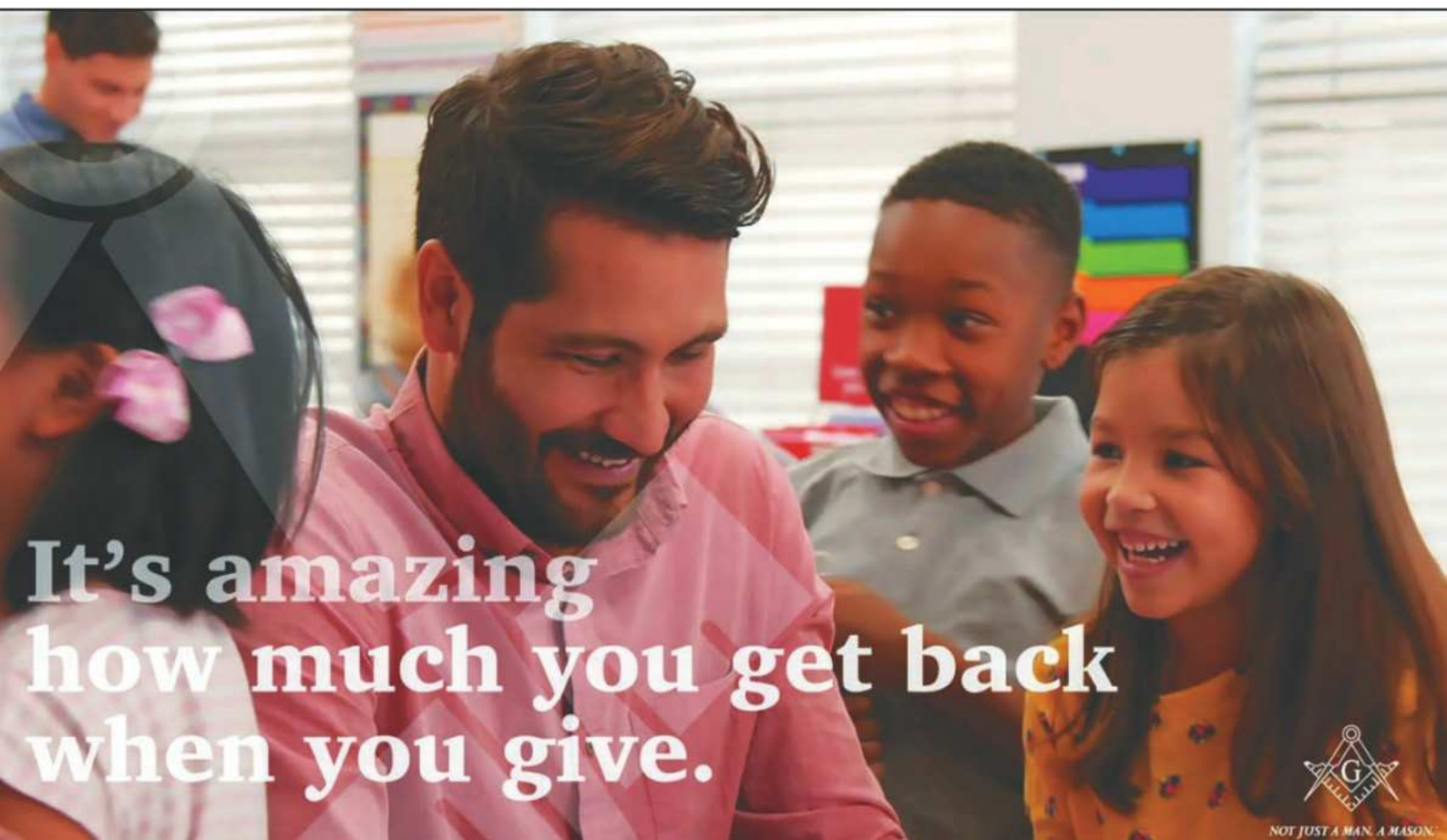


L-R: Chris Chaussee, Missoula No.13, Algreria Shrine and Dan Gardiner, PM Helena No. 3, RW Grand Secretary.



THE MONTANA FREEMASON
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how much you get back
when you give.**



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