

Grace  
Dee May

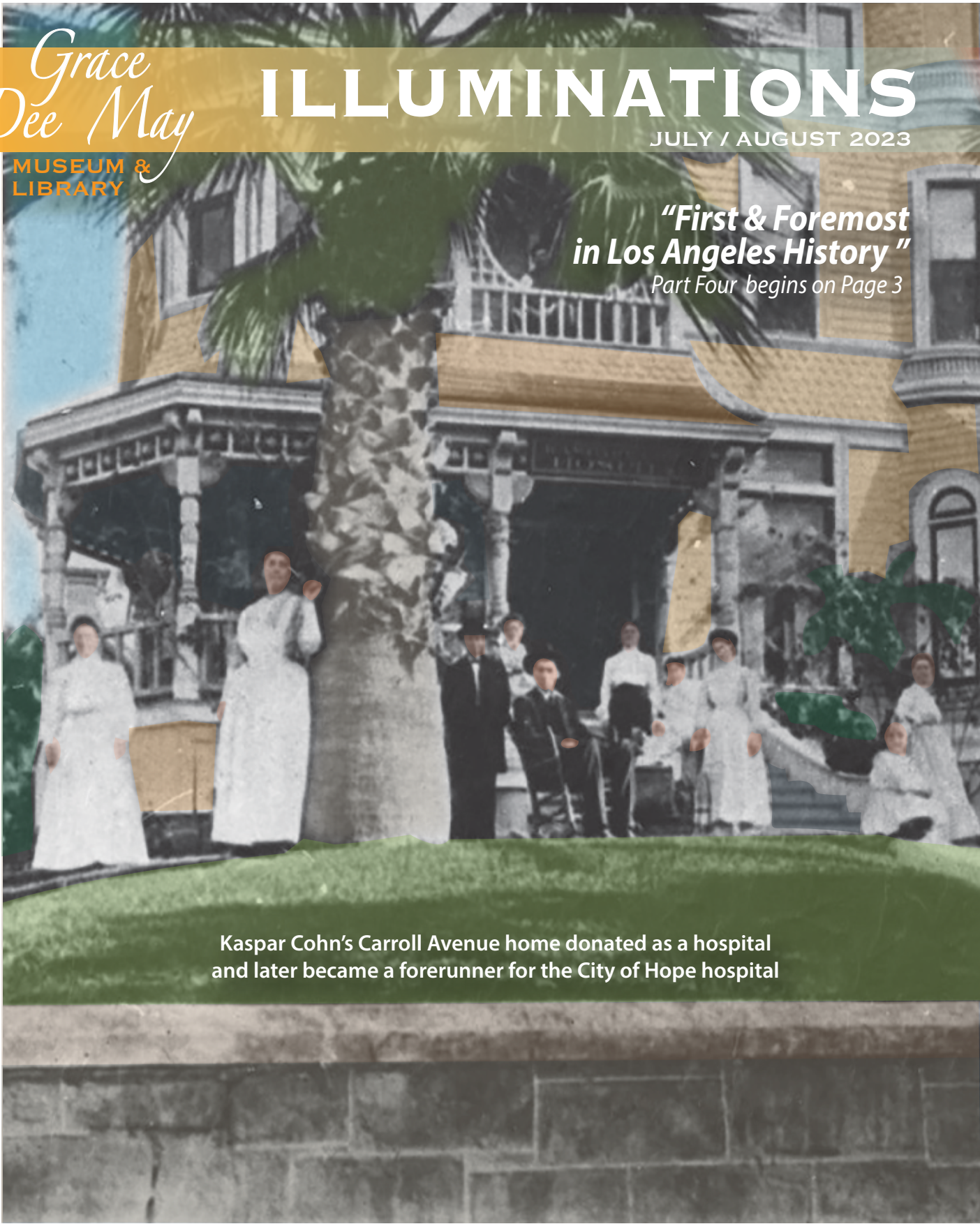
MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY

# ILLUMINATIONS

JULY / AUGUST 2023

***"First & Foremost  
in Los Angeles History"***

*Part Four begins on Page 3*



Kaspar Cohn's Carroll Avenue home donated as a hospital  
and later became a forerunner for the City of Hope hospital

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**ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF THE WEST**

# Grace Dee May

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In 2004, Audrey Marie Stein established the Grace Dee May Museum. Audrey believed that she had been richly blessed by the **Grace** of God. Audrey's nickname was **Dee** and she had been born in the month of **May**. So, as Director of the Foundation, she named the Museum the **Grace Dee May**.



JULY / AUGUST 2023 ILLUMINATIONS



*"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."  
– Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father & Freemason*

Long before he was known as a Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin was raised to the Third Degree of Masonry in 1731. Recognized world-wide as a true Renaissance Man, Franklin was an inventor, printer, writer, diplomat, and a patriot of the American

Revolution. However, did you know that Franklin also was a co-founder of the first hospital in the United States of America?

In 1750, Franklin and fellow Freemason Dr. Thomas Bond began a campaign to raise funds for a hospital dedicated to providing medical care to "the sick, the injured and those suffering from mental and nervous diseases." Serving patients since 1751, this historic hospital known as Pennsylvania Hospital, remains today as part of the University of Pennsylvania Healthcare System.

Franklin and Bond put the Masonic principles of brotherly love and relief into action to significantly improve their community. In this issue, we are proud to share other stories of Freemasons who saved lives and relieved suffering in the early days of Los Angeles by building hospitals, opening medical schools, and creating healthcare systems to relieve the sick, the poor, and anyone in need.

So, whether you like to read interesting stories before you go to bed, or get up early and brighten your day with inspiring articles, I know you will enjoy and find wisdom in the remarkable lives and contributions our "First & Foremost" Freemasons highlighted in our July-August issue of *Illuminations*.

Want to share the history of "First & Foremost" Freemasons with your Masonic or community organization? Contact me, Sean Foran, at 818-222-6796 or send an email to: [info@gracedeemay.org](mailto:info@gracedeemay.org)

Sean Foran  
Curator and President

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# "First & Foremost in Los Angeles History"

## Growing A Healthy Los Angeles



*Los Angeles Infirmary operated by Daughters of Charity*

### The Los Angeles Infirmary 1856

The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul established the first hospital in Los Angeles.

Located in "Sonora Town," in an adobe owned by the Mayor of Los Angeles Don Cristobal Aguilar. In 1869, The Daughters of Charity incorporated their Infirmary under their own ownership – the first women in the region to do so. Six and a half acres of land were purchased at Beaudry Park in 1883 for a new hospital building. By 1898, Los Angeles Infirmary had come to be known as Sisters Hospital. The Hospital's name was officially changed to St. Vincent's Hospital in 1918 and another building was erected in 1924. As Los Angeles grew rapidly over the next 50 years, St. Vincent's expanded their facilities several times.

Through the years the hospital has had many "firsts": In 1957 the first successful open-heart surgery was performed; in 1960, it was the first to use a surgical microscope to operate on the inner ear; in 1962, the first to offer hemodialysis to kidney failure patients; in 1966, the first artificial heart transplant and human heart transplantation were performed; in 1988, first heart transplant took place at St. Vincent's; in 1993, pancreatic cell transplant to overcome diabetes was performed; and in 1995, the Liver Transplant Program was founded.

From the days of the horse and buggy to the metropolis of today's Los Angeles, individuals and families depended upon the charity and care found at St. Vincent's for over 170 years.



*St. Vincent's Hospital,  
Los Angeles, Calif.*

### The French Hospital 1860

One of the oldest hospitals in Los Angeles, was established during a smallpox epidemic to serve the 4,000 French speaking people who lived in Los Angeles at the time. LA's first hospital, St. Vincent's, was struggling to provide care for a rapidly growing population. Many from the French community, Freemasons, and local businessmen formed the French Benevolent Society. Land was acquired north of the Pueblo to build the French Hospital. Within a few decades waves of new immigrants arrived in Los Angeles including a significant number from China.

Despite the cultural differences the French Hospital graciously provided health care to the Chinese immigrants. The Hospital was located in what is today known as "Chinatown."



*The French Hospital, 1909*



### Los Angeles General 1878

The County of Los Angeles opened a 100-bed hospital in 1878 on Mission Road to care for the sick and the poor. Los Angeles General Hospital affiliated with the University of Southern California Medical School in 1885.

## "First & Foremost in Los Angeles History"



### California Hospital Medical Center 1887

The California Hospital Medical Center was founded by Dr. Walter Lindley and two other physicians in 1887. Dr. Lindley was renowned for his charitable outreach including the development of medical education in Southern California.

#### Dr. Lindley (1852–1922)

Arriving in Los Angeles in 1875, Dr. Lindley opened a free dispensary on Market Street. As a city health officer, Lindley launched the first system of city health records and established a free vaccination program for Angelenos. Lindley's commitment to serving was remarkable. He founded the Los Angeles Orphans' Home, the Whittier school for wayward youth, and the College of Medicine at USC. Dr. Lindley served as Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Hospital and in 1885 was President of the California State Medical Society.

Dr. Walter Lindley was a member of Signet Chapter, No. 57, Royal Arch Masons and Los Angeles Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar.



### Kaspare Cohn Hospital 1865

The Kaspare Cohn Hospital opened on September 21, 1902 to serve neighborhoods on the eastern side of Los Angeles. Originally the residence of Kaspare Cohn, the land and building was donated by him to be used as a hospital for treating patients stricken with tuberculosis. The majority of early patients were Jewish but as the need grew to provide better health care patients from all faiths were welcome. Later it became known as Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, and is currently known as Cedars-Sinai.

#### Kaspare Cohn (1839 - 1916)

Businessman, banker, land developer, and philanthropist, Kaspare Cohn left a lasting legacy in LA. He established a grocery and dry goods business, Interests in Hydro-electric plants and natural gas, Established a grocery & dry goods business, a hides & wool shipping company, and a wool processing company before founding the Commercial & Savings Bank (which was later renamed the Union Bank & Trust Company). Cohn owned and developed both the city of Montebello and Santa Anita Ranch.

Kaspare Cohn was a member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42. Certainly he lived the Masonic principles of Brotherly Love and Relief by founding hospital systems that have improved the lives of countless residents of Southern California.



## “First & Foremost in Los Angeles History”



### Los Angeles County Medical Association 1871

Founded by seven physicians including Dr. John Griffin, Dr. Joseph Widney, Dr. Henry Orme, Dr. William Edgar, Dr. Levi Dorr, and Dr. T. H. Rose.



These physicians also founded Los Angeles' early hospitals including the College of Medicine in 1885 at the University of Southern California, where Dr. Widney served as Dean.

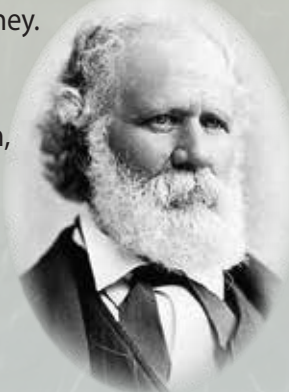
**Dr. Joseph P. Widney (1841-1938),** not only was Dean of the Medical School

at USC but also simultaneously served as the University's second President. A man of great faith, Widley was a Methodist minister and founded the Church of the Nazarene in Los Angeles. Among his medical patients were General William Tecumseh Sherman and the notorious Mexican bandit Tiburcio Vasquez. His accomplishments also include founding the Los Angeles Library Association. Dr. Widney is associated with Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42.

### Dr. John Strother Griffin (1816–1898)

Dr. Griffin was the nephew of the Freemason and explorer William Clark who crossed America in the Lewis and Clark expedition. Griffin received a Medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania before heading west. Perhaps inspired by his uncle's explorations, Dr. Griffin served as Surgeon in the expedition from New Mexico to California led by General Stephen W. Kearney.

Griffin was one of the first university-trained physicians to settle in Los Angeles. In addition, he was the founder of East Los Angeles and a member of the Common Council of the city.



In recognition of his humanitarian work during a smallpox epidemic, the city of Los Angeles awarded Griffin a section of land on what was called the "Enchanted Hill" and is now North Broadway.

Aside from his work as a surgeon, Griffin was a keen businessman. Partnering with fellow Freemason Benjamin D. Wilson, Dr. Griffin invested in land speculation, railways, oil drilling, farming, and ranching. In 1863 Griffin and Wilson purchased Rancho San Pascual a vast area which today includes the cities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Alhambra, San Marino, and San Gabriel. Dr. Griffin was one of the founders of the Los Angeles City Water Company and the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

According to Los Angeles historian and Freemason, Henry Dwight Barrows, Dr. Griffin was a brave and well-respected man. In 1898 Barrows wrote:

*"When this city and section were terrorized by an organized banditti which killed Sheriff James R. Barton and party in January 1857, and the city was placed under quasi martial law, Dr. Griffin by general consent was placed at the head of the semi-military defensive organization of our citizens."*

Following his death in 1898, he was eulogized by Dr. Joseph Widney with Masonic Brethren serving as pallbearers including J. M. Griffith, Harris Newmark, S. Lazard, Reginaldo Del Valle, Major Ben Truman and James Craig.

The Los Angeles Times obituary lauded the life of Dr. Griffin:

*"Physicians were scarce in those days, and a man with a university education and seventeen years' experience as army surgeon and general practitioner was instantly welcomed and called to minister to the ailments of all the best people around. Like a circuit rider he journeyed up and down Southern California to answer to the calls of American settlers and Spanish patrons."*

Memorial statements about his career said that, *"He sought new treatments and was not hesitant to discard old methods."*

Dr. Griffin was a member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42, and helped form Pasadena Masonic Lodge, No. 272.

# "First & Foremost in Los Angeles History"



## Gov. John G. Downey (1827 – 1894)

One of the first pharmacists in Los Angeles, Downey was the first foreign born governor of California. He laid the groundwork for the University of Southern California and helped to bring the Sisters of Charity to LA to provide hospital services and care for orphans. Gov. Downey was a member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge, No. 42, and Los Angeles Chapter, No. 33, Royal Arch Masons.



## Dr. David Burbank (1821 - 1895)

Dentist, land developer, and owner of the grand Burbank Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. Dr. Burbank was a member of Pentalpha Masonic Lodge No. 202, Almoner for LA Scottish Rite, Signet Chapter No. 57, Royal Arch Masons, LA Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar.



## Dr. Alpheus P. Hodges (1821 – 1858)

Following his graduating first in his class at the Medical College of Virginia, Dr. Hodges arrived in California in 1849 when the population of Los Angeles was just 1,600. He soon became active in government serving as both the Mayor and Coroner. He became mayor of the new city at just 28 years of age. Dr. Hodges was a member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42.



## Dr. Thomas Foster (1814 - 1862)

Aside from his career as a physician, Dr. Foster was responsible for construction of the first schoolhouse in Los Angeles. Foster served as the 6th Mayor of LA. At the age of 48 he was lost at sea off the coast of Monterey. Thomas Foster was a member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42.



## Dr. Henry S. Orme (1837 – 1912)

Dr. Orme was one of the organizers of the Los Angeles County Medical Society. In 1882, he was vice-president of the American Medical Association and served as president of the California State Board of Health and created the Medical program at USC.

Member of Los Angeles Masonic Lodge No. 42, Los Angeles No. 33, Royal Arch Masons LA Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar.

*Orme was the 27th Grand Master of CA -1893*



## Dr. Norman Bridge (1844 - 1925)

Dr. Bridge was not only a respected physician, he was an oil magnet and one of the founders of California Institute of Technology. Bro. Bridge was a member of Corona Masonic Lodge, No. 324.



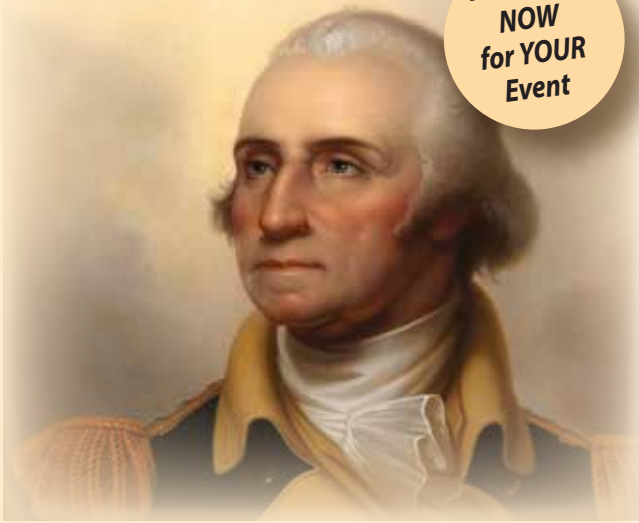
## Dr. Alfred Guido Rudolph Schloesser Castles (1851 – 1933)

A graduate Chicago's Rush Medical College, Dr. Castle is as renowned in LA as a builder of elaborate homes as he was for his medical practice. After earning a small fortune in the Nevada silver mines, Dr. Castles and his wife Emma moved to Hollywood. He built two elaborate "castles": Glengarry, an homage to the famous castle in Scotland complete with stained glass, towering ceiling and suits of armor and Castle Sans Souci meaning carefree. The Glengarry estate later became the home of Sesse Hayakawa the famous Japanese-American movie star. The imaginative physician also constructed the Castle Argyle Arms apartments in 1928. Hollywood stars, directors, and producers thronged to Castle Argyle Arms including Clark Gable, Ronald Reagan, Cecil B. DeMille and Howard Hughes. Castles was a member of Hollywood Masonic Lodge No. 355, LA Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar, and Al Malaikah Shrine.



**Invite Bro. George Washington to your next event.**

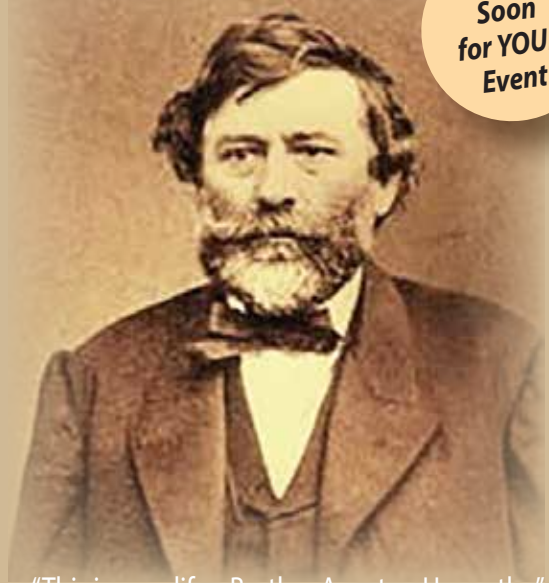
Available  
NOW  
for YOUR  
Event



"This is your life....Brother George Washington" is a short patriotic drama about our Founding Fathers. The GDM Museum is ready to bring this performance "to life" for your members.

**Invite Count Agoston Haraszthy to your next event.**

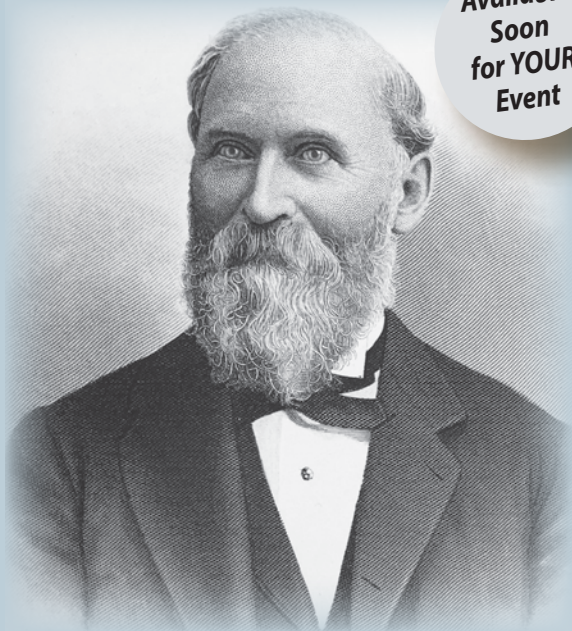
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"This is your life....Brother Agoston Haraszthy" is a short historic drama about the "Father of California Wine."

**Invite Dr. Henry S. Orme to your next event.**

Available  
Soon  
for YOUR  
Event



"This is your life....Bro. Henry S. Orme" is a short historic drama about York Rite Freemasonry and early medical treatment in Los Angeles.



**Put Masonic History on your calendar**

**Contact our Curator Sean Foran**  
by email: [info@gracedeemay.org](mailto:info@gracedeemay.org)  
or call: 818-222-6796

### What the GDM Museum will do for you:

**VIP tours for you and your group.**

*Our Curator and docents will present a memorable guided tour of all exhibits.*

**Visit your group’s meeting and share a fast-paced audio & video program.**

*Short talks and visuals on historic and Masonic topics.*

**Perform one of several different “This is you life” plays for your group.**

*History presented with a live cast of actors at your location.*

**Entertain at your Lodge Festive Board or Table Lodge.**

*Guest speaker will share the history of California wine and even provide souvenir giveaways for your guests.*

### What the you can do for the GDM Museum:

**Become a Member for only \$35.**

*Enjoy participation in all programs and events. Receive special posters, and publications.*

**Be a part of the Founder’s Circle for \$1000.**

*Support the research and help expand the collections of the GDM Museum.  
Participation in special events and receive unique historical materials.*

**Volunteer as a Museum Docent to share Masonic history.**

*Learn and share your knowledge as a docent presenter of Masonic History.*

**Shop at the Museum’s online gift shop.**

*Every purchase benefits the Museum.*

### Support History & Art. Support Freemasonry. Support the Grace Dee May Museum.



For information contact:

**Sean Foran**  
**info@gracedeemay.org**  
**818-222-6796**

*Grace Dee May*  
**MUSEUM & LIBRARY**  
*located at the historic Shrine Auditorium*  
665 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007

**Our Vision:**

The Grace Dee May Museum will seek to present a thematic look at the American West by utilizing its extensive collection of Western Art, and incorporate California history to broaden and deepen the public knowledge and appreciation of the men and women that settled the western part of the United States.

**Our Mission:**

The Grace Dee May Museum is committed to advancing the public knowledge and understanding of the American West and the contributions that Freemasonry has played in its development.

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