

Mentor's News March 2020



SOME INTERESTING MASONIC TRIVIA

Frederick A Bartholdi, a freemason, designed the statue of Liberty, which stands in New York harbour. The Grand Master of New York laid the cornerstone on 5th August 1885.

Bernard Pierre Mangam, Marshal of France and Senator, was appointed Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France and served from 1862 to 1865. This is unusual because he was not a Mason. He was appointed by Emperor Napoleon III.

At one time, Golden Lodge no. 5 in Stanstead, Canada, occupied a lodge room that straddled the boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances on both sides of the border.

The Rev. William Dodd, first Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, was hanged for forgery on 2nd June 1777.

In Fascist Spain under Franco, it was a crime to be a freemason. Masons convicted had to serve prison terms equal in years to the ordinal number of the Masonic degree conferred, e.g. a Master Mason served a term of 3 years.

Operative Lodge no. 150 in Aberdeen, Scotland, is unusual in that it is only open to operative stonemasons.

Charles Stratton, also known as Tom Thumb, was 24 inches high and weighed 16 pounds when raised in 1862.

On 2nd July 1751, Ferdinand VI of Spain issued an edict against Freemasonry. Father Jose Torrubia secured a special dispensation from the Pope, joined a lodge, secured the names of its members, and proceeded to have them arrested. Hundreds were arrested, persecuted and imprisoned.

Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotine was a member of Concorde Fraternelle Lodge of Paris and a member of the French Assembly. He invented the device that bears his name and was later executed with one.

When Mussolini gained control of Italy, Masonic lodges were declared illegal and the Grand Master was arrested, tried and put in prison, where he died. Mussolini also

ordered all Masonic references to be removed, including the emblems on the base of Garibaldi's monument in Rome. After the restoration of the republic, fascist emblems were removed and the Masonic emblems were restored.

In 1799, Barton Lodge in Upper Canada accepted "good merchantable wheat" in payment of lodge dues.

Between 1737 and 1779, two sailing ships of interest operated off the U.S. eastern seaboard, the Freemason and the Master Mason. The Freemason caught fire and sank in Marblehead Harbour, Massachusetts, in 1779.

In 1789, Dr. Edward Jenner discovered the vaccination process against smallpox. He was the Worshipful Master of Faith and Friendship Lodge no. 270 in Berkeley, England, at the time.

In 1801, Czar Alexander I of Russia banned the craft. In 1803 he rescinded the order and became a Freemason, but in 1822 he again ordered Freemasonry banned in Russia.

Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Jimenez was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Venezuela in 1947. In 1957 he became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Japan.

In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, a stone dated 1517 was found in a small chapel, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love & care, upon the level, and by the square."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt raised two of his sons on the same night, 7th November 1935, in Architect Lodge no. 519 in New York.

President Lyndon Johnson took his first degree on 30th October 1937 but never progressed any further.

In 1950, while he was President (1945-1952), Harry Truman served as Master of Missouri Lodge of Research. Previously he had been the Grand Master of Missouri in 1940-41.

The Grand Master of Massachusetts commanded the rebels at Bunker Hill, while the Grand Master of England commanded the British forces. The GM of Massachusetts was killed.

On August 23, 1879, Lodge no. 239 of France held a meeting in a balloon flying over Paris, during which time a candidate was initiated. (***"Step off with the left foot!"***)

**W Bro Ian Gronbach, BEM, PGStB, PM
Lodge Mentor**