

TRESTLEBOARD

SUISUN LODGE No. 55

F. & A. M. of CALIFORNIA

Chartered May 4th, 1854



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Suisun Lodge No. 55

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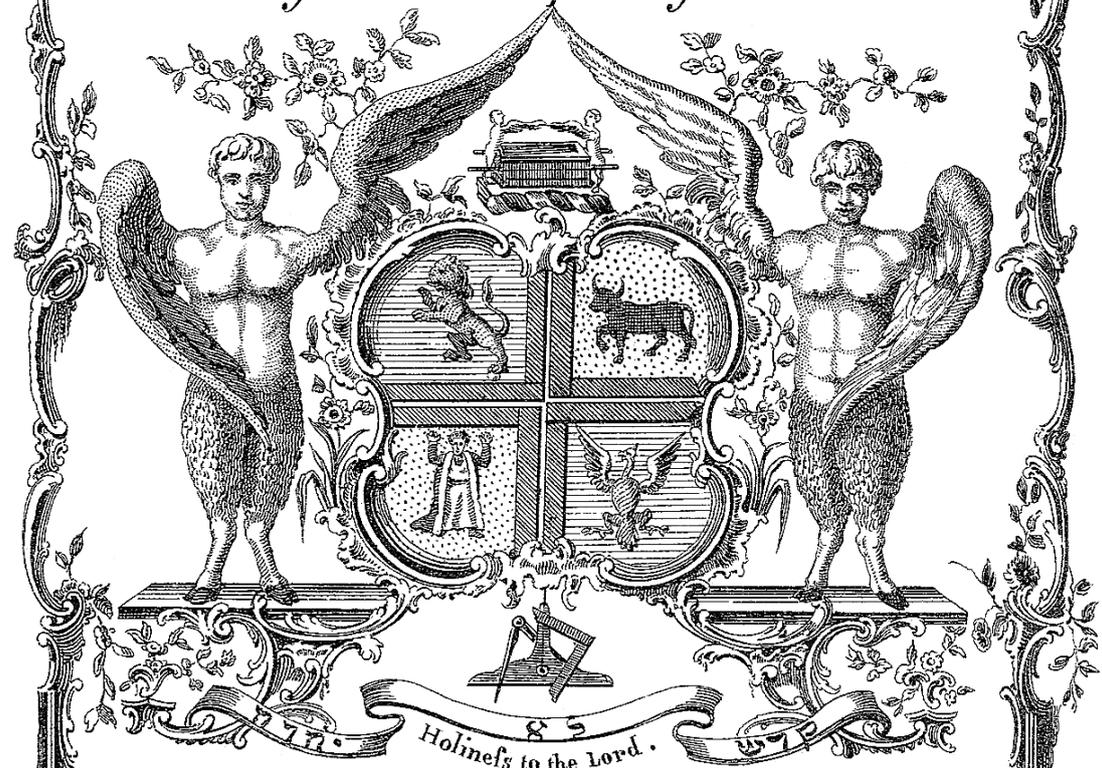
Trestle Board Editor

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*The Arms of y^e most Ancient & Honorable Fraternity
of Free and Accepted Masons*



The Arms of the Operative, or Stone Masons

Larken sculp.

L. HYNEMAN.

MASONIC LIBRARY.

T. Sinclair's lith. Phil^a

FROM THE EAST

*A few words to the Brethren
from our Worshipful Master
Edgar T. Bajada*



Brethren of Suisun Lodge No. 55,

More pages of the calendar shed off so fast and May is almost gone. June is fast approaching.

Though there wasn't much activity transpired the last month, we were involved in a significant activity. The brethren at Suisun Lodge assisted in setting up and putting away the Annual MS Walk. During the walk, the brethren were also helping in the monitoring and directing of the participants.

It was a small gesture but it certainly had a big impact to the community. With this said, I am sending my invitation to more brothers to participate in other future events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to send my sincere THANK YOU to the brothers who tirelessly assisting in the upkeep of the cleanliness of the Lodge perimeter.

The next project is to renovate the ladies

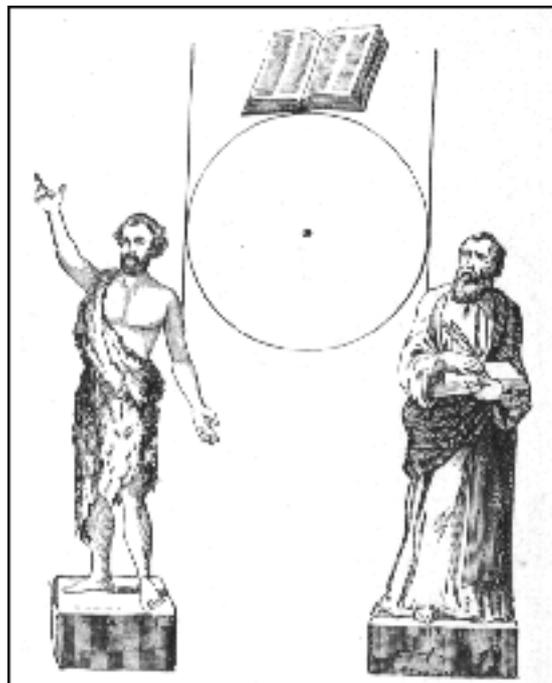
powder room. This project is a must and we hope to start it ASAP. For those who can contribute some of their time, please inform me so we can include you in the planning. Let us make this project a fun event and part of our comradery.

Edgar t. Bajada

Master of Suisun Lodge No. 55, 2019

EMBLEMS OF THE CRAFT

This month we explore the symbolism of the Point within a Circle

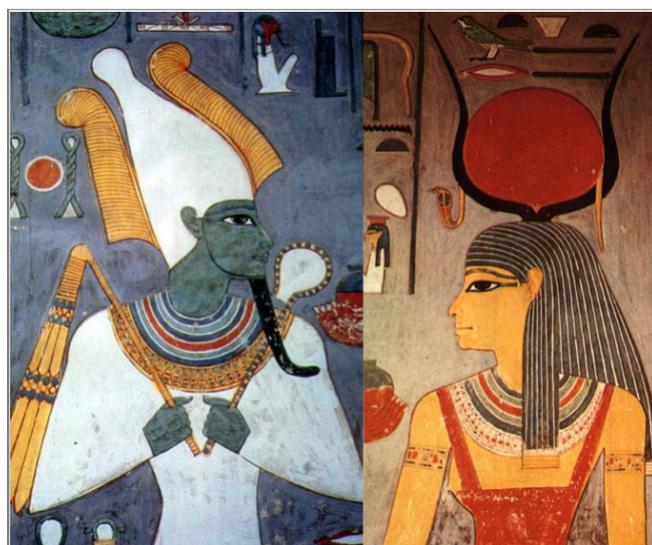


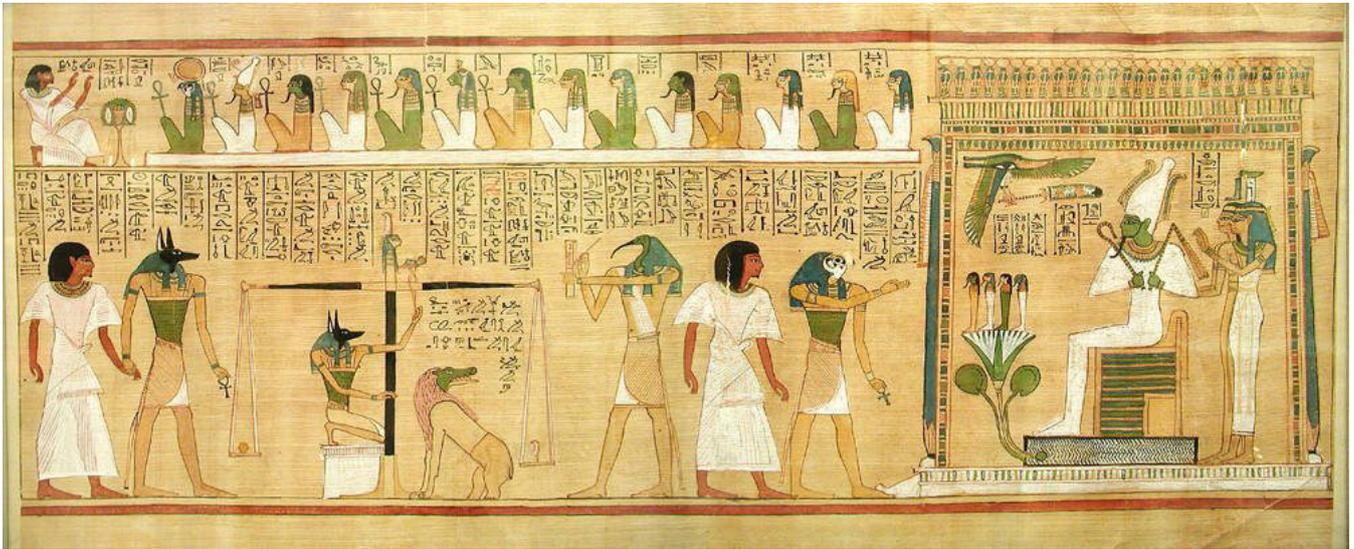
The Point within a Circle is another symbol of great importance in Freemasonry, and commands peculiar attention in this connection with the ancient symbolism of the universe and the solar orb. Everybody who has read a Masonic “Monitor” is well acquainted with the usual explanation of this symbol. We are told that the point represents an individual brother, the circle the boundary line of his duty to God and man, and the two perpendicular parallel lines the patron saints of the order—St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist.

Now, this explanation, trite and meagre as it is, may do very well for the exoteric teaching of the order; but the question at this time is, not how it has been explained by modern lecturers and Masonic system-makers, but what was the ancient interpretation of the symbol, and how should it be read as a sacred hieroglyphic in reference to the true philosophic system which constitutes the real essence and character of Freemasonry?

Perfectly to understand this symbol, I must refer, as a preliminary matter, to the worship of the Phallus, a peculiar modification of sun-worship, which prevailed to a great extent among the nations of antiquity.

The Phallus was a sculptured representation of the membrum virile, or male organ of generation, and the worship of it is said to have originated in Egypt, where, after the murder of Osiris by Typhon, which is symbolically to be explained as the destruction or deprivation of the sun’s light by night, Isis, his wife, or the symbol of nature, in the search for his mutilated body, is said to have found all the parts except the organs of generation, which myth is simply symbolic of the fact, that the sun having set, its fecundating and invigorating power had ceased.





The Phallus, therefore, as the symbol of the male generative principle, was very universally venerated among the ancients, and that too as a religious rite, without the slightest reference to any impure or lascivious application.

He is supposed, by some commentators, to be the god mentioned under the name of Baal-peor, in the Book of Numbers, as having been worshiped by the idolatrous Moabites. Among the eastern nations of India the same symbol was prevalent, under the name of "Lingam." But the Phallus or Lingam was a representation of the male principle only. To perfect the circle of generation it is necessary to advance one step farther.

Accordingly we find in the Cteis of the Greeks, and the Yoni of the Indians, a symbol of the female generative principle, of co-extensive prevalence with the Phallus. The Cteis was a circular and concave pedestal, or receptacle, on which the Phallus or column rested, and from the centre of which it sprang.

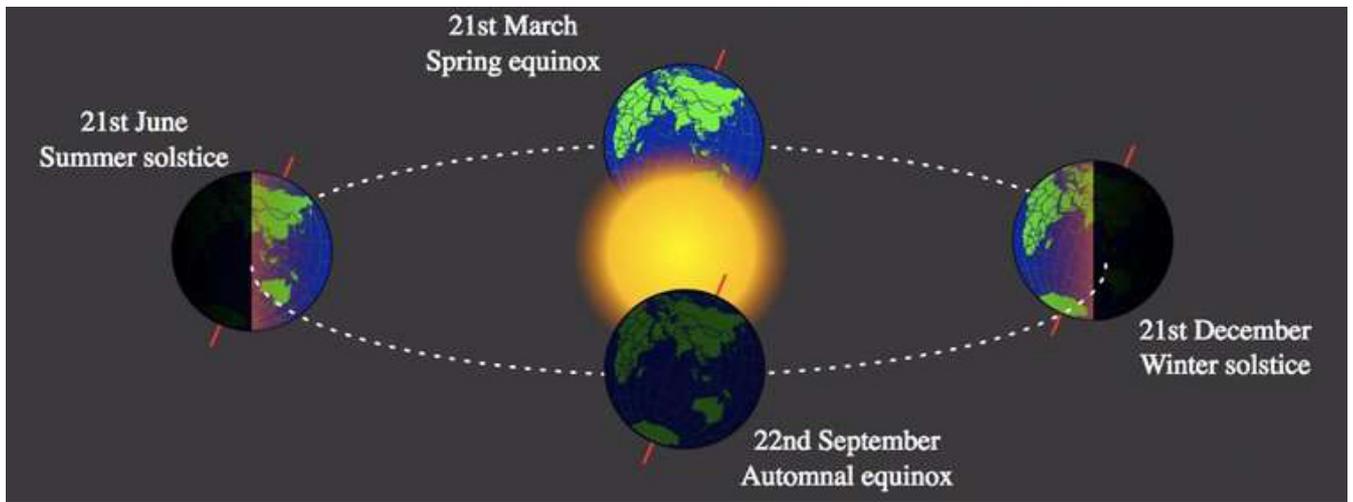
The union of the Phallus and Cteis, or the Lingam and Yoni, in one compound figure, as an object of adoration, was the most usual mode of representation. This was in strict accordance with the whole system of ancient mythology, which was founded upon a worship of the prolific powers of nature.

All the deities of pagan antiquity, however numerous they may be, can always be reduced

to the two different forms of the generative principle—the active, or male, and the passive, or female. Hence the gods were always arranged in pairs, as Jupiter and Juno, Bacchus and Venus, Osiris and Isis.

But the ancients went farther. Believing that the procreative and productive powers of nature might be conceived to exist in the same individual, they made the older of their deities hermaphrodite, (having both male and female genitalia) and used





the term man-virgin, to denote the union of the two sexes in the same divine person.

Thus, in one of the Orphic Hymns, we find this line...

"Jove was created a male and an unspotted virgin."

And Plutarch, in his tract "On Isis and Osiris," says, "God, who is a male and female intelligence, being both life and light, brought forth another intelligence, the Creator of the World."

Now, this hermaphroditism of the Supreme Divinity was again supposed to be represented by the sun, which was the male generative energy, and by nature, or the universe, which was the female prolific principle.

And this union was symbolized in different ways, but principally by the point within a circle, the point indicating the sun, and the circle the universe, invigorated and fertilized by his generative rays.

And in some of the Indian cave-temples, this allusion was made more manifest by the inscription of the signs of the zodiac on the circle.

So far, then, we arrive at the true interpretation of the Masonic symbolism of the point within a circle. It is the same

thing, but under a different form, as the Master and Wardens of a lodge. The Master and Wardens are symbols of the sun, the lodge of the universe, or world, just as the point is the symbol of the same sun, and the surrounding circle of the universe.

But the two perpendicular parallel lines remain to be explained. Every one is familiar with the very recent interpretation, that they represent the two Saints John, the Baptist and the Evangelist. But this modern exposition must be abandoned, if we desire to obtain the true ancient signification.

In the first place, we must call to mind the fact that, at two particular points of his course, the sun is found in the zodiacal signs of Cancer (June) and Capricorn (December).

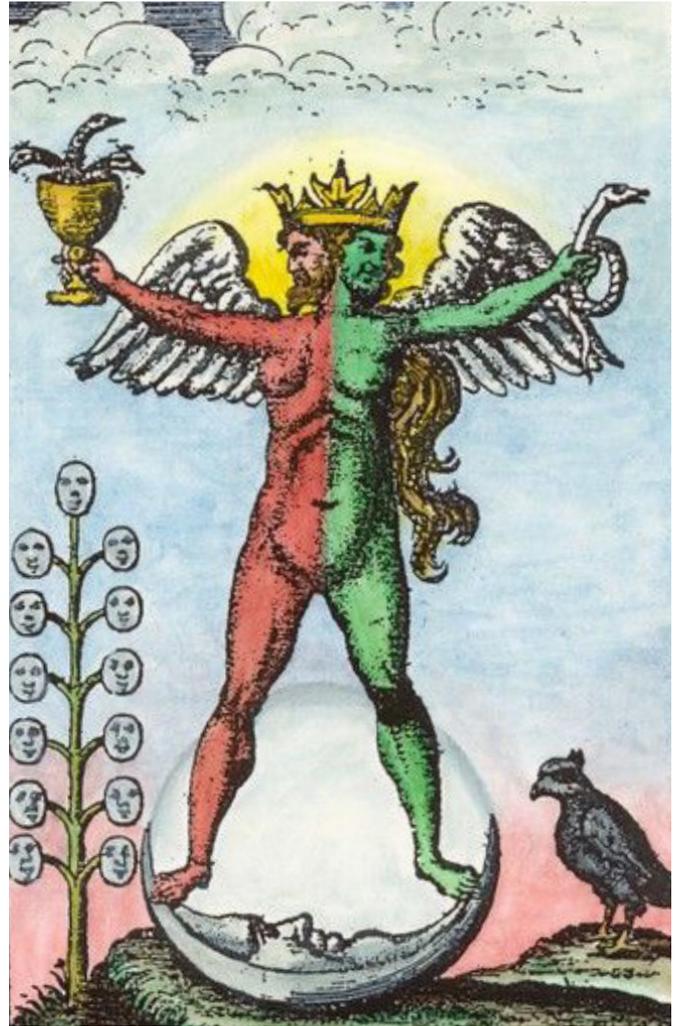
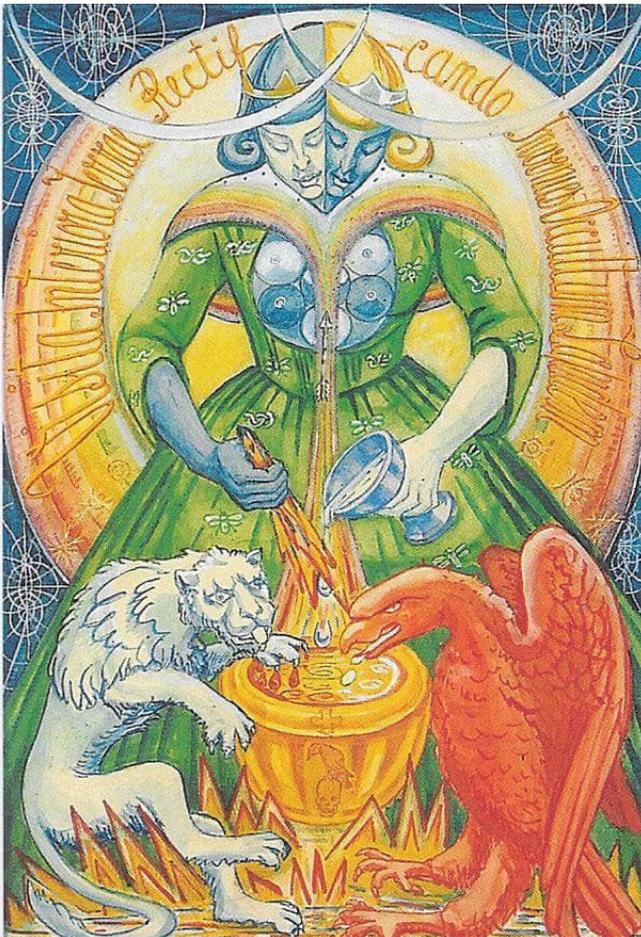
These points are astronomically distinguished as the summer and winter solstice. When the sun is in these points, he has reached his greatest northern and southern declination, (a gradual falling off from a higher state) and produces the most evident effects on the temperature of the seasons, and on the length of the days and nights.

These points, if we suppose the circle to represent the sun's apparent course, will be indicated by the points where the parallel lines touch the circle, or, in other words, the parallels will indicate the limits of the sun's extreme northern and southern

declination, when he arrives at the solstitial points of Cancer and Capricorn.

But the days when the sun reaches these points are, respectively, the 21st of June and the 22d of December, and this will account for their subsequent application to the two Saints John, whose anniversaries have been placed by the church near those days.

This information is credited to Albert Mackey, Freemason historian and scholar, from his book, "The Symbolism of Freemasonry: Illustrating and Explaining Its Science and Philosophy, Its Legends, Myths and Symbols.."



Above: Alchemical illustrations depicting the union of male and female, the sun and moon, light and dark, positive and negative energies, the generative forces of nature.

BROTHERS THROUGH THE AGES

*Samuel Langhorne Clemens
aka Mark Twain
1835-1910*

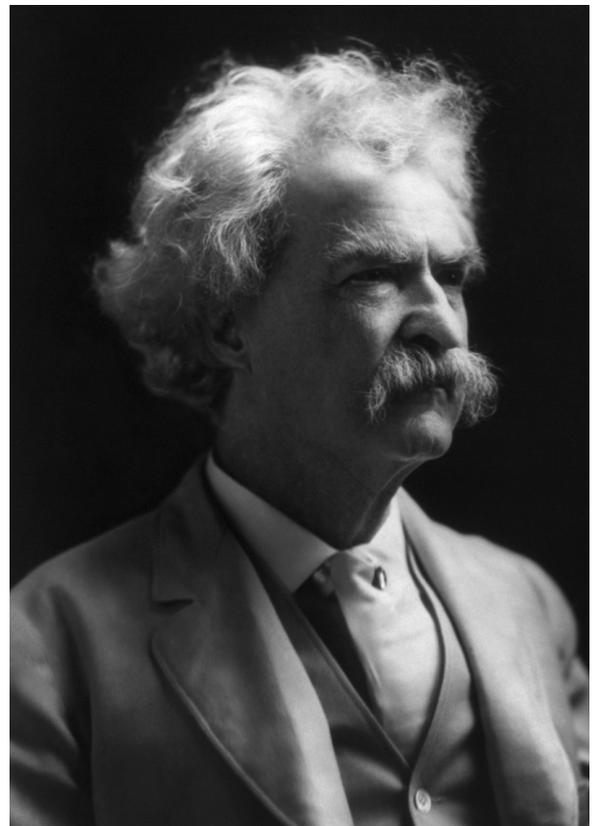
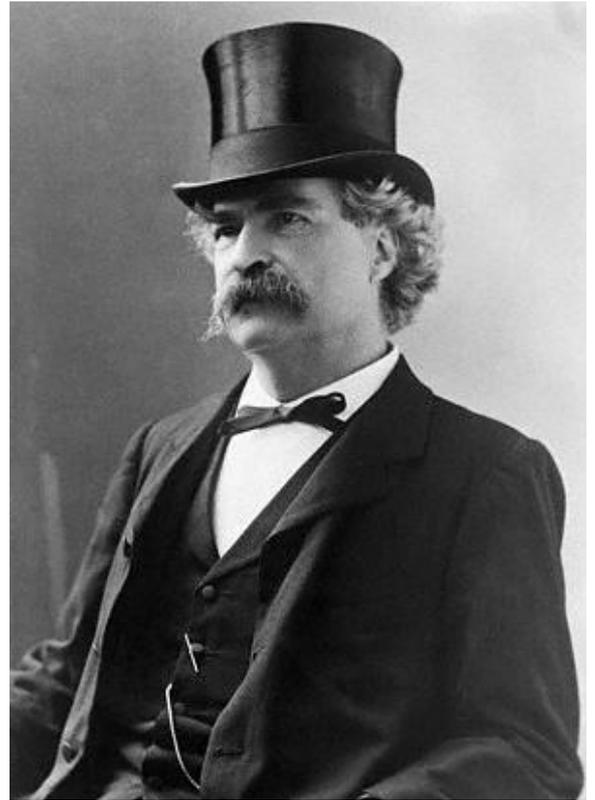
*“The fear of death follows from
the fear of life. A man who lives
fully is prepared to die at any
time.”*

Mark Twain

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as the author Mark Twain, was an American writer and humorist. Today he is readily associated with *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, among his many others works. Twain was born on November 30, 1835 in Florida, Missouri. He became an apprentice to a printer at age 12, and shortly thereafter became a Mississippi River pilot - the experience that sparked Twain's interest in joining Freemasonry.

Mark Twain presented his petition to Polar Star Lodge No. 79 of Saint Louis on December 26, 1860. He received the first degree shortly after on February 18, 1861. Polar Star Lodge No. 79 was primarily made up of River Pilots at this time, giving us a hint as to why Mark Twain might have been inspired to join the Craft in the first place.

In a twist of events shortly after Twain had been raised as a Master Mason, he left for the Nevada Territory to work as the private secretary to his brother Orion, who was secretary of the Nevada Territory and was subsequently suspended from his home lodge. Twain's fraternal activity



was put on hold for the most part, and there is not a lot of evidence of Lodge visits or conversations about his Masonic practices during this time. Once Twain returned to “the States” however, his Masonic interests expanded.

In April of 21, Mark Twain petitioned for readmission to his home Lodge and was reinstated.

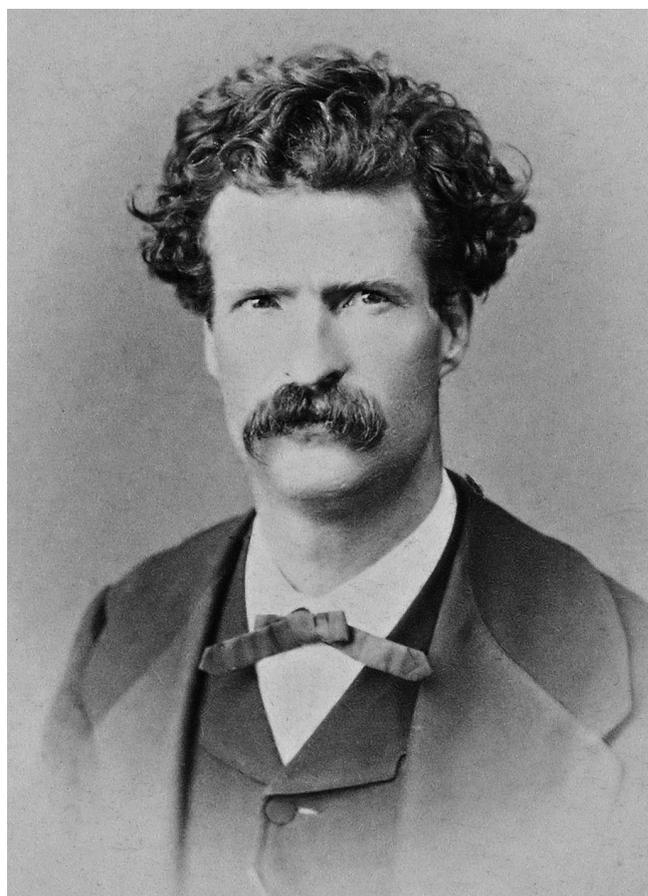
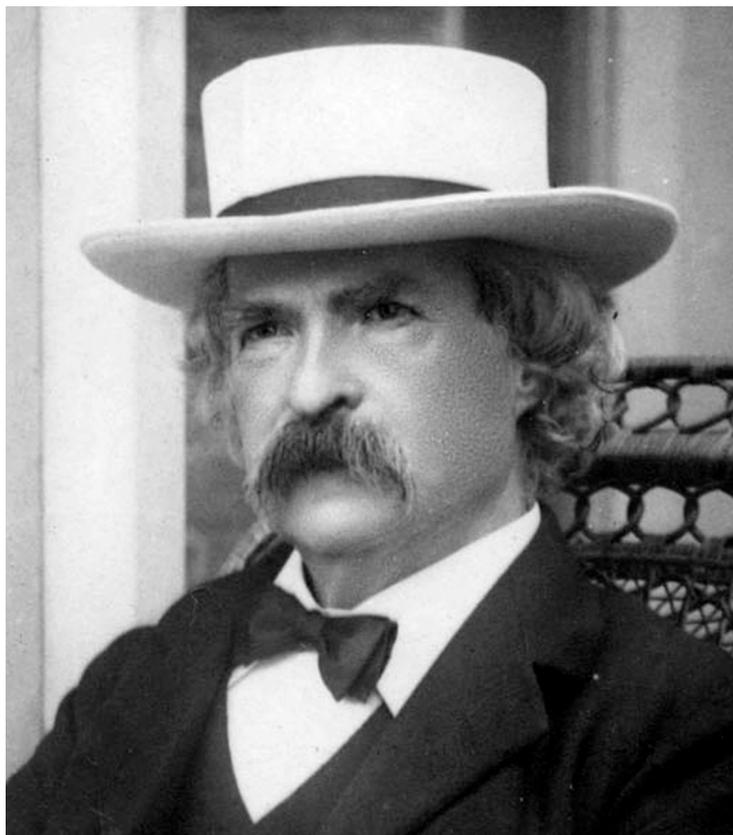
The beloved novelist soon became a busy man; writing, tours, and the beginnings of fame kept him away from Saint Louis for long periods of time. On one of his first trips exploring Europe and the Near East, Twain is said to have been greatly impressed by Lebanon and its connection to Freemasonry. He ended up retrieving a piece of cedar and had it made into a gavel to send back to the Worshipful Master of his mother Lodge.

Sadly, this passion for Freemasonry was soon to be impacted by Twain’s engagement to Olivia Langdon and he asked for a demit, remaining unaffiliated for the rest of his life.

Although there is not a great deal of evidence to point to Mark Twain’s Masonic devotion, it is clear that Freemasonry had an impact on his life, which can be seen throughout his various writings. In *The Innocents Abroad*, he includes many Masonic phrases such as “great Architect of the Universe,” a nod to his Masonic past. There are also many randomized passages among his vast array of work that have uncanny parallels to Masonic ideology. Some even say that the links to Masonry in his writing were added as a wink to fellow Brothers that might be reading his books.

The life of Mark Twain carries an amazing legacy and we are proud to call him a fellow Brother.

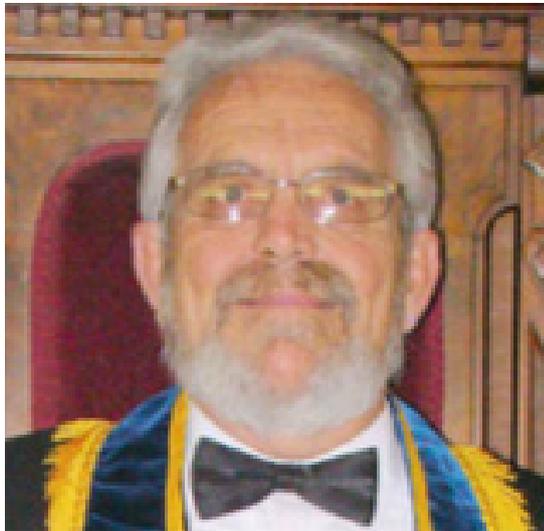
Taken from: “Mark Twain and Freemasonry”, by Alexander E. Jones. Source: American Literature, Vol. 26, No. 3 (Nov., 1954), pp. 363-373. Published by: Duke University Press.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEMORIAM FOR BROTHER ROBERT BARRET



Brother Robert Barret was born July 21, 1949. He was a Navy Veteran who spent four years in the service of his country aboard the USS Oriskany aircraft carrier. He was employed by the City of Vacaville as a machinist for 24 years. During his 14 years as a Mason, he worked diligently to support his fellow Brothers and spread the Light of Freemasonry.

Brother Barret was Initiated on August 13, 2005, Passed on October 18, 2005 and Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on November 22, 2005. He was committed to Suisun Lodge No. 55 and served as Junior Deacon in 2006, Chaplain in 2008, Assistant Secretary in 2011, and held the office of Secretary from 2012 to the present.

He also served as Recorder for Cryptic Masons King Solomon Council No. 29, Captain of the Host for Royal Arch Masons Chapter 43, and Eminent Commander for Knights Templar Vacaville No. 29. He was also a member of the Allied Masonic Degrees Triangle Council No. 182.

Brother Barret was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, and honored with the prestigious Hiram Award in 2016.

Robert's life centered around his beloved wife, family and dogs. He was quiet, humble, hard-working and showed persistent dedication to Freemasonry until the very end of his days. His untiring service to the Craft will always be remembered with respect and admiration.

Robert passed peacefully on Thursday May 23, 2019, in his home surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife Nora, five children, seven grandchildren and 4 loyal dogs.

Brother Barret's Services will be held at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon on Midway Road on Monday June 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. There will be a potluck gathering after the services at Suisun Lodge No. 55.



EVENTS IN JUNE, 2019

STATED MEETING

This months Stated Meeting will be held on Tuesday June 11th. Dinner will start at 6:30, Lodge will begin promptly at 8:00pm. Please be sure to sign the Register. If you have the means, a \$10 donation for dinner is much appreciated.

If you have not been out to Lodge in a while we want to invite you to come enjoy some fellowship with your fraternity. Your Brothers miss your presence in Lodge and hope to see you again soon.



OFFICERS SCHOOL

This months Officer's School of Instruction will be held on June 19st, 2019 at Nappa Valley Lodge No. 93. We will be covering the Entered Apprentice Degree.

If you are unable to attend please call, text or email our Inspector Worshipful Ken Miller at (707) 326-5580 or kenmiller4d@yahoo.com.

JUNE 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Stated Meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 OSI	20	21	22 Lodge Maintenance
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

IN SERVICE OF MASONRY

LODGE MAINTENANCE

A sincere thank you to our Brothers who have dedicated their time and effort recently to beautifying our Lodge. We were able to get a lot of yard work done in May. The front lawn was mowed, hedges cut and weeds removed. Our efforts have made a big difference in the appearance of our Lodge.

Our next scheduled work morning will be the third Saturday in June on the 22nd. Meet for breakfast and fellowship at 7am at IHOP, or meet at the Lodge at 8am. We will put in a quick 2-3 hours and call it good.

Hope to see you all on Saturday June 22.

MS CHARITY WALK

Thanks to all the Brothers that came out to volunteer at the 2019 Annual MS Charity Walk in downtown Suisun City. We had a great time setting up, directing the walk and tearing down afterwards.

Special thanks to all our Brothers from Stanley Y. Beverley Lodge No. 108 who came out and joined our Lodge for the benefit of our community as well as Masonry as a whole. This is Freemasonry!



FUTURE EVENTS

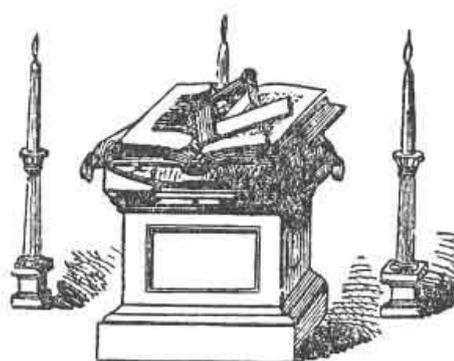
GOLF TOURNAMENT ONE MONTH AWAY



Our annual fund raising Golf Tournament is coming up next month! It will be held on **Saturday, July 13th** at the Paradise Valley Golf Club in Fairfield, CA.

You can find an application Online at our website www.suisunlodgeno55.com. Please contact event chairman **Bro. Henry Estela** at henest46@yahoo.com if you have any questions. Deadline for entry and sponsorship is July 5th, 2019.

Thanks to all our Brothers who are already working hard on making this years Tournament the most successful yet.



LODGE FAMILY DINNER



Our annual Lodge Family Dinner will be held on **Saturday August 4th**. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite all of our family and friends to come visit our Lodge.

More details will be announced as we get closer to this event. Mark your calendars, and consider asking any friends or family you would like to attend in advance.

Looking forward to feasting with all my Brothers and the people who mean the most to them.

CHARITY PISTOL TRAINING EVENT

We have a new event in the works being spearheaded by Brother Patrick. He is planning a pistol shooting event for all Brothers, their wives, family and friends.

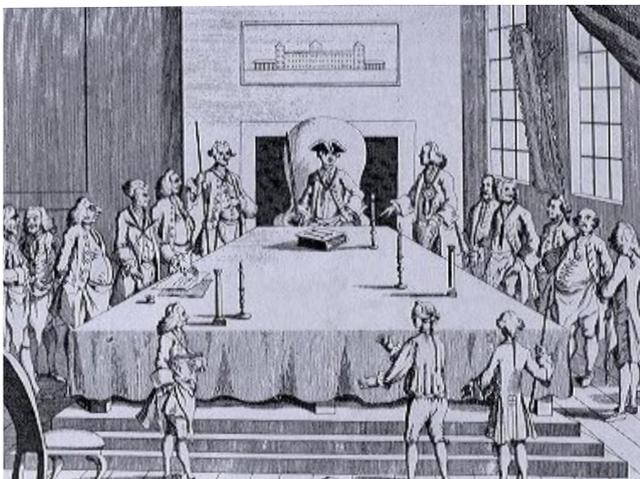
We will be having an experienced, certified Firearms Instructor come and work with us personally. A local indoor gun range will have lanes reserved for our group. The Instructor will go over basic handgun safety, handling and shooting techniques.

This will be a good intro class for wives and family members who might be less experienced with shooting, but will also be a great course for more seasoned shooters too.

Please contact event chairman **Bro. Michael Patrick** at masoniclodge55@gmail.com to sign up or ask questions. Space for this event is limited and it will fill up fast so reserve your space as soon as possible. More details coming soon.



TABLE LODGE DINNER



Our Junior Warden Brother Cameron Williams has taken the initiative to organize a formal traditional Masonic dinner for our Lodge. We will be celebrating the Ceremony of the Seven Toasts.

This event is only for Brothers in good standing and their wives. Stay tuned for more details as plans develop.

Much thanks to Brother Williams for his initiative and zeal in planning and coordinating this special event.

2019 OFFICERS LIST



EDGAR BAJADA
WORSHIPFUL MASTER



REY ACOSTA
SENIOR WARDEN



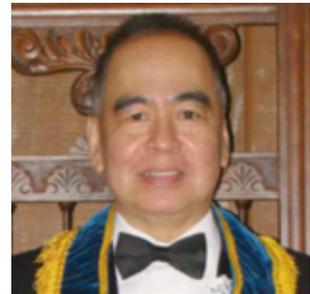
CAMERON WILLIAMS
JUNIOR WARDEN



CZAR SALCEDO
TREASURER



ROBERT BARRETT
SECRETARY



ROBERT ACOSTA
SENIOR DEACON



WALLY CALISA
JUNIOR DEACON



DAVID GELINEAU
CHAPLAIN



CHRIS SERVISS
SENIOR STEWARD



JUN GOROSPE
JUNIOR STEWARD



SUNNY DALAN
MARSHAL



MICHAEL T. PATRICK
TYLER

BROTHERS IN BUSINESS



Greetings Brothers! I still need your business cards if you would like to have listed. Email your card to me at masoniclodge55@gmail.com and I will include it here. Or just hand them to me in Lodge. Thank you!



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