



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

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June 2021

Spring will soon become Summer!

Brethren,

As announced, we had our first in-person meetings last month and things have started getting back on track. There were the necessary restrictions and limitations, but to paraphrase Clint Eastwood from *Heartbreak Ridge*, "We improvised, adapted and overcame". A big thanks goes out to everyone who helped and cooperated in pulling it off and especially to our JW, WB Craig, who as our COVID compliance supervisor made sure that we were "coloring within the lines".

The Grand Master has put out a revised set of directives to keep us in conformity with the rather obscure and confusing state COVID requirements. We can continue our in-person meetings, but as best as I can determine, if everyone attending a meeting is fully vaccinated, then we can ignore the requirement for masks and social distancing. If everyone isn't fully vaccinated, then we can either continue with the same restrictions we observed previously or we can have segregated sections of vaccinated and non-vaccinated brothers.

Let me be very clear. We have one Lodge and one group of brothers with one set of rules. Period. Each brother makes his own decision about vaccinations based on medical, moral, religious, political or preferential grounds. It is not appropriate to question those decisions and it will not be done in our Lodge. Therefore, we will continue to meet as one Lodge and, regrettably, we will continue to follow the previously announced requirements for masks and social distancing until Grand Lodge informs us differently. Officially announced outside Lodge activities such as our monthly luncheons will also remain suspended for the present.

I don't like the situation any better than any of you, but it's what we have and what we must observe. We can still meet in Lodge and that's a very big step from the last year. I know that I enjoyed the opportunity to again be with my brethren in person at the last meetings and I look forward to doing so again in June. Hopefully, the limitations and restrictions will be lifted in the near future and we can return to more normal Lodge sessions. Until then, I'm thankful for what we do have and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Lodge. Until then, stay safe and stay well.

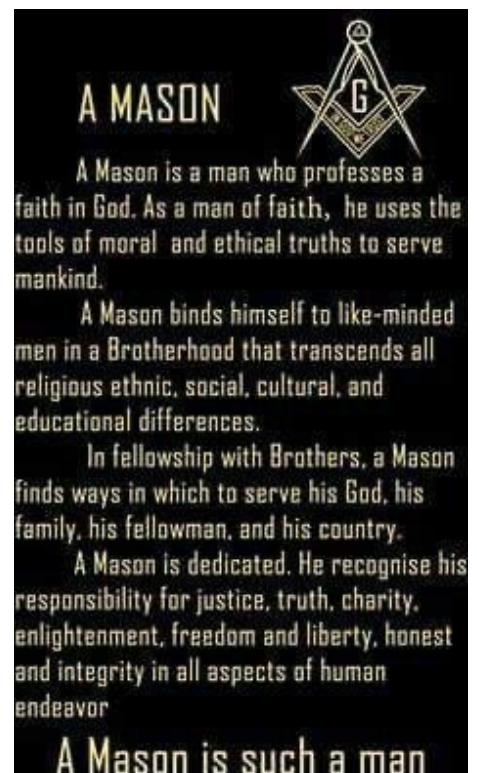
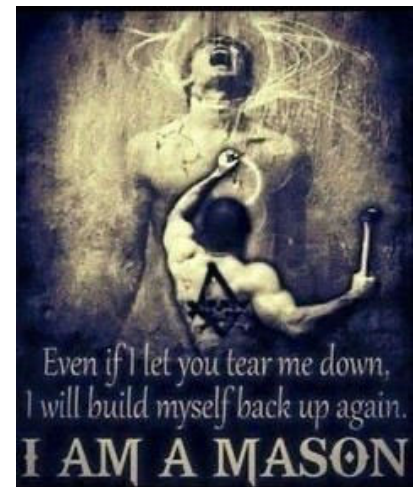
WM 'City' John

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

June 17th Whatcom Lodge - meeting at 6:30 pm.

June 18th Bellingham Bay -

June 24th Lynden/Ferndale Int. Lodge



Whatcom Lodge 151 meets on the 1st (special) and 3rd (stated-business) Thursdays of each month.

Whatcom Lodge emphasizes Masonic heritage and ritual proficiency. We are proud to support our Masonic Youth organizations and encourage members to practice charity outside the lodge. It is our intention to promote individuals to build their own strong moral and spiritual temples.



This article was submitted by:

VWB Kurt Gazow
DDGM in District Ten

Memorial Day 2021

Our newsletter this week will carry over to Tuesday, June 1, in order that we may focus our time on honoring our fallen servicemen and women, and learn a bit about the history of Memorial Day.

The following text is excerpted from an article published in 2019 by *Bro. Christopher Hodapp*.

Don't forget why you have today off.

Undoubtedly, what little is left of the local newspaper in your town today has a story of one or two area service members who survived a war, or didn't. They do it every year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, half the time not knowing the difference between the two. And if you look a little deeper, you will find comments posted from family members who just want more than anything else for their loved one to simply be remembered, if only for one day of the year.

Please remember all of those thousands upon thousands of men and women whose names never got in the paper, except perhaps for a brief obituary, who have given so much for all of us.

If by chance you do ever come to Indianapolis, give yourself an hour or so to visit the [Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial](#) along the banks of the canal downtown. There you will find all of the names and a few stories of the [3,506 recipients](#) (with 3525 awarded, some multiples) since the Medal's creation in 1861.

But as amazing and heroic and tragic and heartbreaking as those histories are, soldiers, sailors, and airmen don't always receive big impressive medals before or after they don't make it home. Most of them don't, and their stories don't always get memorialized. For every one we hear about are hundreds we never do. They have families and histories that need to be remembered too, beyond just a name on a forgotten stone in a grassy field somewhere nobody visits very often. Even on a special holiday just for them.

A famous Freemason thought that very same thing.

Logan Lodge No. 575 in Indianapolis was chartered in 1888, and is named after Major General John A. Logan, one of the most famous and popular Union Army generals of the Civil War.

Because he was born and raised by settlers who (like Abraham Lincoln himself) had come to Illinois out of Kentucky, Logan's sympathies were torn by both sides in the conflict.

His own brother-in-law, Hilbert A. Cunningham, joined the Confederate Army for two years as head of the South's only Northern-born group, Company G of the 15th Tennessee, before deserting in 1863 to join the Union side, where he became a captain on John Logan's staff.



General & Brother
John A. Logan

After the war, John Logan became a fierce Republican, an Illinois congressman and senator, a vice-presidential candidate, and was one of seven managers of the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson. He was a staunch supporter for the cause of Veterans, and was one of the primary advocates of creating what eventually came to be called Memorial Day as a national holiday – a day that is important all across America, but especially here in Indianapolis.

Brother Logan was raised as a Master Mason in Mitchell Lodge No. 85 in Pinckneyville, Illinois. He was a York Rite Mason and Templar in Chicago. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite there, and was elected to be coroneted a 33^o in 1886, but died before it could be conferred.

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) was officially declared on May 5th, 1868 by General Logan, in his role as national commander of a relatively new fraternal group, the Grand Army of the Republic. It was first observed on May 30th of that year when flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. As a result of his own personal circumstances and his experience during the war, as well as his wide popularity throughout the reunited nation, he was uniquely qualified to establish this healing annual day for observance and memory.



PARADE OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.
WASHINGTON, D.C., September 27, 1882

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

General Orders No.11, WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 1868

The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

Department commanders will use efforts to make this order effective.

By order of

JOHN A. LOGAN,
Commander-in-Chief

N.P. CHIPMAN,
Adjutant General

Official:

WM. T. COLLINS, A.A.G.

Submitted by:

VW Kurt Gazow
DDGM for Dist. Ten

Thanks to Mary Logan: By Ken Zurski

General John A. Logan could not go. "Blackjack Logan" as his men affectionately called him due to his strikingly dark hair and eyes, was invited by a newspaper man in Chicago, Charles Wilson, to visit Richmond, Virginia. It was March 1868, and Logan now the leader of the Grand Army of the Republic was too busy in the nation's capital overseeing veteran's affairs to break away. But Wilson had invited the entire family with to go with him on the trip. So he insisted Logan's wife Mary, daughter Dolly and baby son, John Jr. still attend. The general gave them his blessing.

In Richmond, Mary Logan was prepared for the worst. Large portions of the city had been destroyed by fire and now three years later removed from the brutality of war, it still resembled a battlefield. "*Driving from place to place we were greatly interested and realized more than we ever could have, had we not visited the city immediately after the war, the horrors through which the people of the Confederacy had passed,*" Mary recalled after arriving.....

"*The hotel we stayed in was in a very wretched condition,*" Mary would later write about her trip. "*And we expected to find the rebellion everywhere.*" Wilson, another war veteran, was interested in seeing Libby prison, so she took a carriage to the site. Along the way, Mary noticed "*colored people*" still picking up the remnants of exploded shrapnel, broken cannon and Minie balls to sell for iron scrap at local foundries. She remembers passing a poor little, so "*thinly clad that he had little to protect him for the inclemency of the weather.*" The March chill had the city a depressing glumness. "*Well isn't it so miserably hot to-day.*" Mary recalls the boy humorously calling out to the driver, while at the time same time, "*his teeth were chattering,*" she wrote.

The carriage then made its way to the cemeteries. This is where Mary took pause. Not only were there endless lines of stones, but they were all decorated. Mary was moved by the sight. "*In the churchyard we saw hundreds of graves of Confederate soldiers. These graves had upon them bleached Confederate flags and faded flowers and wreaths that had been laid upon by loving hands*" Mary stopped to reflect. "*I had never been so touched by what I had seen,*" she said.

When she returned to Washington Mary summoned her husband and told him what she had witnessed at the grave sites. Lodge said that it was a beautiful revival of a custom of the ancients preserving the memory of the dead. "*Within my power,*" he promised her, "*I will see that the tradition is carried out for Union soldiers as well.*" A promise he did not wait long to keep....



Photo of:
Gen. John & Mary
Logan with John Jr
and Dolly Logan

BMC = Bellingham Masonic Center on W. Maplewood ; FMC = Ferndale Masonic Center;
 FHMC = Friday Harbor Masonic Center; NMC = Nooksack Masonic Center; SRH = Scottish Rite Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3 W 151 Special Communication	4 BB 44 Spl?	5
6 <small>Operation Overlord in Normandy - 1944</small>	7	8	9	10	11 Grand Lodge <small>164th Annual Communication Wenatchee Convention Ctr</small>	12 Grand Lodge <small>164th Annual Communication Wenatchee Convention Ctr</small>
13	14	15	16	17 W 151 Stated meetings	18 BB 44 Stated?	19
20	21	22	23	24 LF156 stated meeting date.	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

**Widows & Orphans Fund
for District No. 1**

If you would like to know more about the W & O Fund contact one of the officers listed below.

Bro. Ken Peck - *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Phone: 360-820-4752,
 Email: sectreaswof@gmail.com

WB John Brown - *President,*

WB Jesse Petersen - *Vice President*
 360-319-5556

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Has your message missed this publication. Don't get left out. Please send your group's article, event information and/or calendar note by the 22nd of each month. In order to promote events occurring at the beginning of each month I try to send out the newsletter on or about the 25th of each month.

To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 20th day of each month, to:

John F. Browne, 9960 Stardust Lane,
Maple Falls, WA. 98266

Ph. 360-599-3481

e-mail: jbrowne.brf@gmail.com