

THE KEYSTONE



Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon

The Twelve Days of Christmas

From Comp. Tim Yates comes this decoding of one of our more unusual Christmas carols, *The 12 Days of Christmas*:

During the period 1558-1829, when Roman Catholics were not permitted to practice their faith openly, this carol was written as a catechism for young Catholics. There are two levels of meaning; an apparent one and another hidden meaning.

Each element in the carol has a code word. Thus: The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ; two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments; three French Hens stood for faith, hope and love; the four calling birds were the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; the five golden rings recalled the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah or Law; The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation; seven swans a-swimming the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy; the eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes; nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control; the ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments; the eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples; the twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.

Christmas Message

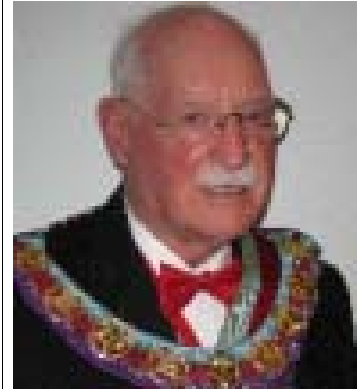
My Companions,

As we are about to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us remember the second commandment of the Bible, to "love one another". This axiom applies to all religions.

My experience in the Holy Royal Arch strengthens my conviction of fellowship and brotherly love in all our undertakings. We can feel that fellowship at our meetings, in particular. This also extends to our families, as we are so blessed to have them with us on occasions.

My wife, Prudence, and I wish all Companions and their families the very best this Christmas and a very happy, healthy New Year. All hope that all Companions can be with their families to enjoy this holi-

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day season. Our thoughts and prayers must also go out to our armed forces, wherever they may be.

As in the Tyler's Toast: "Happy to meet sorry to part, happy to meet again."

George R.E. Tillotson

Grand First Principal

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The Rosetta Stone

As we all learn in school, the Rosetta Stone is an Egyptian artifact, discovered by the French and now resident in the British Museum (a source of no small amount of angst among Egyptian archaeologists; particularly Egyptian linguistic archaeologists).

Unearthed by Napoleon's army on the west bank of the western mouth of the Nile River in 1799, at the harbor of Rosetta, the Stone is a carving in granodiorite of a decree supporting Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204-281 BCE). The historically telling thing about the stone is that it provides not only the original hieroglyphic, but translations into both Egyptian and Greek, thereby enabling modern civilization to begin to understand ancient hieroglyphics for the first time by 1822. By the 1830's, the translation was complete, and western civilization launched its ever-growing fascination with ancient Egyptian culture, symbology

and the decorative arts which we see repeated or mimicked in many of our neo-classical buildings, including many Masonic Lodges.

The connection of the Rosetta Stone with Freemasonry comes through no less than Bro. Albert Pike, a renowned Scottish Rite Masonic Scholar. Caught up in the Egyptian cult of the day, Pike traced origins of Masonic thought back to the ancient Egyptian concept of Ma'at, a belief that justice was a good so fundamental that it was part of the natural order of things. The authors of the Hiram Key point out, however, that the translation of the Rosetta Stone, which enabled the modern world to understand the concept of Ma'at occurred more than 100 years after the foundation of the Grand Lodge of England. So, while the tenets of learned civilizations, ancient and modern, may be shared, there is no proof (as yet) of causative connection between ancient Egyptian fundamental truths and



our own modern ones.

Sources:

www.freemasonry.bcy.ca

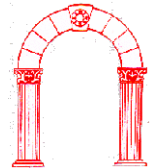
Knight, C. and R. Lomas. 1997. *The Hiram Key*. Arrow Books: London.

www.freemasons-freemasonry.com

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<http://en.wikipedia.org>

Dr. Joan Rubin, Linguistic Archaeologist, Smithsonian Museum, Washington, (pers. comm.)



Spring Board of General Purposes Saturday, April 12, 2008 - Coquitlam, B.C.

Location: Best Western Coquitlam Inn Convention Centre
319 North Road
Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 3V8

Bookings: 604-931-9011 or 1-800-668-3383
Book by March 12th

Registration: see the Grand Chapter web site

Committee Chair: R.E.C. Donovan O. Tyers, 604-581-6432
13023 - 100A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3T 1J8

Robert William Service, Freemason



Born on January 16, 1874, in Preston, Lancashire, England to a Scottish family, Robert Service was educated at Hillhead School, Glasgow, and Glasgow University. Giving up a job in a Glasgow bank at the age of 21, he moved to Vancouver Island, British Columbia with dreams of becoming a cowboy. The Canadian Bank of Commerce hired him and posted him to Whitehorse a few

years after the peak of the gold rush in the Yukon Territory. He would spend eight years in the land of the midnight sun, where he penned his most memorable verse and became a member of Yukon Lodge No. 45 in Dawson City in 1912. His cabin there is now a National Historic Site maintained by Parks Canada. That same year saw him taking on the job of correspondent for the Toronto Star in the Balkan wars, and with the advent of World War I, he became an ambulance driver in France for the Canadian Red Cross. He cemented his love for France by marrying Germaine Bougeoin of Paris, and they purchased a summer

home in Brittany. When World War II broke, he was in Poland and fled to the United States until the end of the War when he returned to Brittany. He died in Lancieux, Cotes-d'Amor, France, on September 11, 1958, and is buried there in the local cemetery.

There are several schools named after Robert Service, including one in Dawson City and another in Toronto.

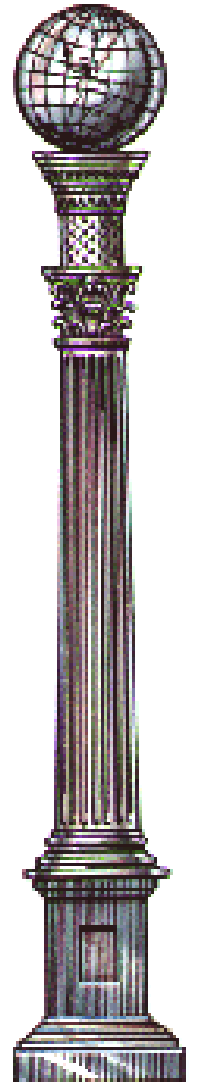
Sources:

www.yukonweb.com

www.freemasonry.bc.ca

www.ucalgary.ca/uofc/faculties/hum/engl/canada/poet

<http://en.wikipedia.org>



The Cremation of Sam McGee

There are strange things done in the midnight sun
By the men who toil for gold;

The Arctic trails have their secret tales
That would make your

blood run cold;

The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
But the queerest they ever did see

Was the night on the marge of Lake Lebarge
I Cremated Sam McGee.

R.W. Service

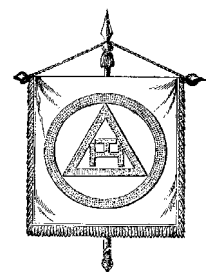
Grand Chapter

Convocation

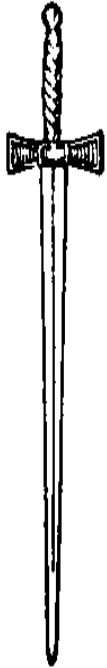
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Sept. 11 - 12 - 13

Courtenay , BC



Independent Order of Odd Fellows



This article is the fifth in a series describing some of the fraternal bodies and other groups which are often mistaken by the public for concordant bodies within the Masonic Fraternity.

The IOOF had its beginnings in 1740's London as an amalgamation of trades that had no trade guild. Their organization into Lodges and Grand Lodges was not unlike the experience of Freemasons. The IOOF now spreads through Europe, the USA, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, Africa and Australasia.

The North American Odd Fellowship which we

know was founded on April 26, 1819, in Baltimore, by an English Odd Fellow immigrant named Thomas Wildey. By the time his died in 1861 there were more than 200,000 members in North America.

Membership in the IOOF and the allied women's organization, Rebekahs, is open to any man or woman (over 18) of good character who is loyal to his or her country and believes in a Supreme Being. Applicants must be sponsored by a current member. There are boys and girls clubs within the organization as well, and a military



order similar to the Knights Templar.

The IOOF is active in civic and philanthropic efforts throughout North America. There are currently 19 Lodges in British Columbia, the first two of which, in Victoria, are named Victoria Lodge No. 1 and Columbia Lodge No. 2.

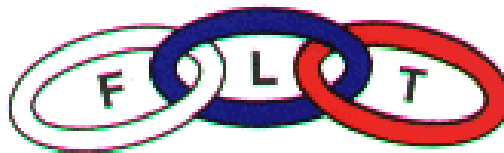
Sources:

www.ioof.org

www.ioofbc.org

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Logo



Friendship, Love and Truth



The Keystone is a publication of
The Grand Chapter
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