

The Gold Country Trestleboard

The Quarterly Newsletter of Idaho Springs Lodge #26, A.F. & A.M.

210 17th Avenue, P.O. Box 1623, Idaho Springs, Colorado 80452; Phone: 303-567-2247; Website: <http://www.idahosprings26.org/>

Editor: W.:B.: Bill Achbach; 303-775-5727 (text or voice messages okay also); williamachbach@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!

July

Al Brown Jonathan Herrmann
Randall Lutton Joe Magoffin

August

Gus Heismann Russell Magyar
Dale Snow Jim Thomas

September

Wes Cannady Roger Holman
Jeremy Lorberau Pete Malkovich
Jack Salewski Javier Solis

Idaho Springs Lodge #26, A.F. & A.M

W.:B.: Robert L. Thomas, W.M.
720-416-4395
r.thomas1114@icloud.com

W.:B.: William F. Skewes, Secretary
303-519-1240
bill@skewes.com

STATED MEETINGS

July 7

July 21

August 4

August 18

September 1

September 15

- Lodge opens at 7:30 PM
- Watch for communications about available pre-meeting meals, and please **RSVP when necessary.**
- Building will be open by 6PM

From the West: A Message from the Senior Warden

Brethren, I'm a bit late in getting out the newsletter, and for that I apologize: Some problems, over the past week, with MS Office (about the WORST possible timing) slowed down production, but all seems fixed now.

W.M. Robert and I are "cautiously optimistic" in saying that the pandemic restrictions may be behind us, and we can plan on continuing our regular stated meetings, as scheduled. It has been wonderful to see many Brothers returning to Lodge, over the past couple of months, and we certainly hope—as you feel comfortable and are able—that you'll join us soon, if you haven't already.

We are also making a tentative "restart" on our pre-meeting meals. Although we are not yet back to prep of complete dinners—which have become a hallmark of "#26 hospitality"—we're making progress. Please watch for e-mailed messages about meal plans **and the all-important need to RSVP.**

Your Lodge has been busy lately!

In June, our first stated meeting saw a return to degree work, with the initiation of our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Nick Arvey. On the heels of that work, we then passed Brother Shawn Calder to the degree of Fellowcraft at our second June meeting. There were several really outstanding efforts that made this work possible. Thanks go out especially to WBs Al Brown, Joe Magoffin and WB Ted Brown, for stepping up to take on huge chunks of the required work. Also, the organization and communication efforts of WB Danny Tomlinson fundamentally made both of these degree portrayals possible.

In addition to our new EA & FC, we have a number of Brethren working on proficiency work, so we hope that they will be putting us "back at labor," with more degree work soon!

I'm very happy to announce that congratulations are in order for two of our members. At its recent biennial session, the Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, S.J. elected WBs Bart Corfee and Joe Magoffin (Joe is also our District Lecturer & a plural member) to receive the AASR's 33° (Honorary). WBs Bart & Joe will receive the degree ("coroneted" is the appropriate term) at a ceremony later this year, joining WB Secretary Bill Skewes as current members of our Lodge so honored.

For other upcoming events and announcements, read on...!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Bill

YOU MUST BE KIDDING...!!!

What American Masonic icon and Past Grand Master was refused a Masonic burial by his own Grand Lodge? Was it...

- MWB Harry S Truman (PGM of Missouri)?
- MWB Andrew Jackson (PGM of Tennessee)?
- MWB Benjamin Franklin (PGM of Pennsylvania)?

(The answer can be found at the end of "For the Good of the Order.")





Idaho Springs Lodge #26, A.F. & A.M.
210 17th Avenue, P.O. Box 1623
Idaho Springs, Colorado 80452

News & Coming Events

Denver Consistory's Summer Dinner (always a high point in Denver Scottish Rite's annual calendar) is coming up on Saturday, July 31, and menu this year is BBQ! The event is also scheduled as a "Friends of the Scottish Rite" evening, so non-Consistory members and their Ladies are welcome. To reserve a seat, go to <https://centennial-lodge-of-perfection.square.site/> or call the Consistory office (303-861-4261).

Nevada Lodge #4 will hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 12, beginning at 9AM. This is always a fun event and a very important one for Colorado's "Ghost Town Lodge. Idaho Springs #26 has made an advance purchase of tickets, so contact WB Danny Tomlinson for info on those tickets or how to purchase additional ones.

MWGM Michael D. Moore is coming to Idaho Springs #26, on Wednesday, Sept. 15. The Grand Master will be with us to recognize WB Al Brown and Bro. Raymond Bishop (Breckenridge #47) as 50 year-plus members. WB Al & Bro. Ray have been friends for more than 50 years, and we are proud to be able to host an event to honor them both and to have them together for the occasion.

The Fall Reunion of Denver Consistory has been re-scheduled for November 18 - 20. Idaho Springs currently has two candidates in the Reunion Class (Brothers Jonathan Herrmann & Russell Magyar), as well as a number of members active as Consistory officers, committee members and degree casts. There's still time to get petitions in, so contact any Scottish Rite Mason for that.

For the Good of the Order

Continuing our commentary on the "Holy Saints John," in this issue we'll present a bit of more specific information on both Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist.



St. John the Baptist

St. John the Baptist lived in the early 1st century A.D. and is considered a major religious figure in both Christianity and Islam, and he is considered the more prominent of the two "Johns" in the Gospels. In the Christian New Testament, he is described as Jesus' elder cousin, predicting Jesus' coming and preparing the people for Jesus' ministry. He is sometimes noted as Jesus' "forerunner," as ordained by God, and many scholars agree that John the Baptist actually baptized Jesus; some of Jesus' earlier followers had also been followers of St. John.

In many Mediterranean countries, the summer solstice is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and the Grand Lodge of England was formed on June 24, 1717, on his feast day. As the solstice is the longest day of the year, it seems quite fitting that light-seeking Freemasonry was formed around this holiday. It is said that St. John's message was of strict devotion, and he planted his beliefs firmly in moral character. Ultimately, his moral character and refusal to renounce his belief in Jesus led to his tragic death around AD 28-36. He was first imprisoned and then beheaded by Herod Antipas, the first century ruler who also played a role in the events that led to Jesus' execution. St. John's commitment and allegiance to his faith is one that many Masons are proud of, making him a worthy patron saint.

St. John the Evangelist

Also widely known as St. John the Apostle, he lived from c. AD 15 – c. AD 100, and is often associated with being the author of the Gospel of John. His history is disputed, however, as some believe that his persona is the agglomeration of several biblical personas throughout the centuries. It's clear that this person (or persons) was interested in preserving anonymity through writing the Gospel's message. He was one of the original twelve apostles of Jesus and is believed to be the only one who was not killed for his faith.

Many of the writings associated with John the Evangelist echo common Masonic themes, phrases, and some argue even ritual. Works like the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation provide an ideological and philosophical perspective that aligns with Masonic thought. The feast day of St. John the Evangelist in Christianity is December 27, just after the winter solstice. Dating back to the 18th century, this is a day most Freemasons celebrate and typically marked the installations of Grand Masters and other presiding officers. This day also symbolizes the movement from darkness to light through lengthening days.

What have the teachings of The Holy Saints' John meant to you on your journey through Freemasonry?

Answer to "YOU MUST BE KIDDING!": The answer is "C": MWB Benjamin Franklin! Why? Well, to simplify a complicated story, MWB Ben, during his time in France, joined the French *Loge des Neuf Soeurs* (Nine Sisters Lodge). When the GL of Pennsylvania changed its allegiance from the GL of England (Moderns) to the Antients GL of England (after Franklin was GM and well before the two united in 1813), that French Lodge was considered "irregular" by the Antients. His membership in it therefore made him ineligible for Masonic services, when he died in 1790!