

60 year Mason 1959 - 2019

Presented to:

Bro.

Initiated 1959



Commemorating 1959



Abraham Lincoln

Three of four stamps were issued in 1959 for the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Series. George Peter Alexander Healy's painting from life, "Beardless Lincoln," is pictured on the first stamp in the series and has a face value of 1¢. The painting was completed in 1860, soon after Lincoln's election to the Presidency. The second stamp of the series depicts another image of Abraham Lincoln without a beard and has a face value of 3¢. Lincoln was the first U.S. President to have a beard but grew it after being elected. The stamp design is based on a marble sculpture of Lincoln's head, by Gutzon Borglum in 1906. The sculpture sits in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The final stamp issued in the Series is a 4¢ stamp that shows a drawing by Fritz Busse of part of the famous statue by Daniel Chester French, which stands in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Although Abraham Lincoln was not a Freemason, he did apply for membership in Tyrian Lodge, Springfield, IL., shortly after his nomination for the presidency in 1860 but withdrew the application because he felt that his applying for membership at that time might be construed as a political ruse to obtain votes. He advised the lodge that he would resubmit his application again when he returned from the presidency. Lincoln never returned. On the death of the president, Tyrian Lodge adopted on April 17, 1865, a resolution to say "that the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honours of Freemasonry, lest his motives be misconstrued, is the highest degree honorable to his memory." The Scottish Rite of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction honors Lincoln in a retired degree known as the "Last Full Measure of Devotion", in which Abraham Lincoln and his Gettysburg Address are a key part in the play.

The Hermitage

In 1804, Bro. Andrew Jackson bought a large plantation 12 miles from Nashville, Tennessee, which became known as the Hermitage. During the next four decades, the Hermitage was transformed into a highly successful plantation. At the center of the estate was a beautiful Greek Revival mansion. Jackson and his wife Rachel were known for their hospitality and frequently entertained guests. Today, the Hermitage has been restored to appear as it did during Jackson's lifetime. Bro. Jackson was a member of St. Tammany (later Harmony) Lodge No. 1, Nashville, Tennessee and served as Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Tennessee (1822-1824).

Bunker Hill Monument

In 1794, King Solomon's Lodge erected the First monument on Bunker Hill. It was an 18-foot-tall wooden Tuscan pillar with an urn. King Solomon's Lodge built it in honor of Dr. Joseph Warren, a Freemason and prominent Colonial figure slain in the battle of Bunker Hill. At the time of his death, he was serving as the Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The Lodge continued to maintain this Monument until the formation of the Bunker Hill Monument Association in 1823.

The Bunker Hill Monument Association was formed for the "purpose of erecting on Bunker Hill a more fitting and enduring monument to the memory of the brave men who fell there in the cause of human liberty." King Solomon's Lodge gave the Association the ground which it owned, together with the monument it had erected to the memory of Bro. Warren, on condition "that some trace of its former existence" might be preserved in the monument to be erected. On June 17, 1825, Grand Lodge opened at 8 a.m. and a procession was formed on the Boston Common which marched to Bunker Hill in Charlestown. There, in the presence of Bro. Lafayette, representatives from five New England States, with over 50 Veterans of the Battle of Bunker Hill, along with the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Grand Master John Abbot, and Senior Past Grand Master Isaiah Thomas, assisted in laying the cornerstone. The monument was finally completed and dedicated on June 17, 1843. Inside the present obelisk at the base of the Monument is a sculptural model of the first monument that had been erected by King Solomon's Lodge in 1794. It is made of the finest Italian marble, dedicated in 1845 and, including the granite pedestal on which it stands, is about nine feet in height and bears almost the same inscription as the former one. Anybody can climb the 294 steps to the top without charge.

Petroleum Industry

The first oil well in America was drilled in Titusville, Pennsylvania. The stamp marked the 100th anniversary of the "Drake Well," named after owner Edwin Drake, who was one of the first prospectors who had the idea to place pipe in the ground first and then pass a drill through the pipe. Doing this prevented water seepage to collapse the holes and eventually allow the drills to hit bedrock. The Titusville location was selected for drilling after chemist Benjamin Silliman, Jr., determined that oil found in the region could produce a high-quality fuel for light-sources. The oil was typically found in "seeps" – pooling up from the ground. Although later surpassed by oilfields elsewhere, Pennsylvania was responsible for half of all oil produced in the world until 1901. Drake was a member of Oil Creek Lodge No. 3 in Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Brother, may you enjoy this gift for many years to come!

Bro. M. Todd Hoak, Worshipful Master - 2019

Ephrata Lodge No. 665

Ephrata, Pennsylvania