

70 YEAR MASON

1951 - 2021

Presented to:

Bro. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Initiated xxx, xxx, 1951



Commemorating 1951



Battle of Brooklyn - 175th Anniversary

The 175th anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn U.S. stamp pictures General and Brother, George Washington evacuating his troops near the Fulton Ferry House. The Battle of Brooklyn (also known as the Battle of Long Island) marked the first fighting between the Continental and British armies of the Revolutionary War. It was also the largest battle of the war. In August of 1776, the some 32,000 British forces attacked Washington and his army of 20,000. Washington's lacked a navy and his troops had no military training. Approximately 2,000 Americans suffered casualties, while the British loss was less than 400. Although the Americans lost the Battle of Brooklyn, they showed the determination that eventually won the war.

Bro. Washington (1731 -1799) was initiated on November 4, 1752 in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia. He affiliated as a member with Lodge No. 39 in 1784. Lodge No. 39 was originally chartered in 1783 under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania and later became Alexandria Lodge No. 22 of Virginia in 1788. Bro. Washington served as its charter Master. The Lodge at Fredericksburg was his mother lodge and is one of the few "time immemorial Lodges" where the Lodge cannot trace its operating authority to a charter from any Grand Lodge. It later became Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 when a warrant was issued in 1787 by the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Therefore, from 1784 when as an affiliated member of Lodge No. 39, again under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to 1787 when his mother lodge was finally warranted as a lodge under the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Bro. Washington for all intents and purposes, was considered a Pennsylvania Freemason. Had Alexandria Lodge received their warrant a year later, 1789, Bro. Washington would have been a Virginian Mason and a Past Master of a Pennsylvania lodge, even though the lodge was located in Virginia. As fate would have it though, Bro. Washington became the first Past Master of the newly warranted Alexandria Lodge in 1788.

France - Map and Anchor

In 1951 France issued a stamp of a map and anchor to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the creation of French colonial troops. The stamp is not Masonic but the anchor which is in the foreground is relatable to the anchor and ark mentioned in the Master Mason's degree in most jurisdictions outside of Pennsylvania. The anchor and ark are emblems of a well-grounded hope, and a well-spent life. They are emblematical of that divine ark which safely wafts us over this tempestuous sea of troubles, and the anchor which shall safely moor us in a peaceful harbor, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary shall find rest.

Austria - 7th World Scout Jamboree

The 1951 postage stamp issued from Austria celebrates the 7th World Scout Jamboree, where Austria was the host country. The World Scout Jamboree is a Scouting jamboree of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, typically attended by tens of thousands of Scouts from around the world, aged 14 to 17. Scouting and Freemasonry share several parallels. Daniel Carter Beard was a known Mason (Mariner's Lodge No. 67, New York City, NY), and founder of the "Society of the Sons of Daniel Boone" which became "The Boy Pioneers." His organization merged into the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. This is the famous Scouter whose name appears on the Masonic "Daniel Carter Beard" Award presented by the Grand Master at various times throughout his term. One group within the Scouts is the Order of the Arrow (OA), an honor camping organization. There may have been a Masonic influence in the origins and founding of the OA when the two groups are compared. The OA was founded in 1916 by E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson. Edson was a Mason at that time, and Goodman became a Mason after the founding of the OA. A local Scout Council has one OA "Lodge". In the progressive levels (honors) of the Lodge, there are three; Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Honor. In the OA, each level has their own passwords, signs and handshakes. There is one OA National Lodge for the Scouts, and one Grand lodge for Freemasonry in every state. When new OA candidates are presented, they are conducted by the "elangomat" (friend) to guide them. They are symbolically bound by a rope. They are led into the circle of the Lodge and conducted three times around the circle. They are stopped and challenged three times. At the final challenge, one of the questions asked is: "Have they been given the admonition?" Answer: "They have not, but I, their friend, have received it, and will give it to you for them." Usually held after nightfall in a remote location, it could be argued that, the effect of this being brought into the circle is similar to being brought into the light of Freemasonry.

Greece - Altar and Sword

The altar is a symbol found in Freemasonry. Every well recognized and duly constituted lodge has an altar and represents the altar to the "One Living and True God." The sword is another symbol found in Freemasonry which reminds us that we should be ever watchful and guarded in our thoughts, words, and actions, particularly when before the enemies of masonry, ever bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection. Also used, when pointing to a naked heart, the sword demonstrates that Justice will sooner or later overtake us, and although our thoughts, words, and actions may be hidden from the eyes of man, yet that all-seeing eye, whom the sun, moon and stars obey, and under whose watchful care, even comets perform their stupendous revolutions, pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart, and will reward us according to our merits.

The 1951 Greek stamp comes from a series that commemorates St. Paul visiting Athens and is mentioned in Acts 17. The altar in the stamp bears the words "To an Unknown God." In the city was the Areopagus, or Mars Hill, where a council of civic leaders met. The council had Paul come to the Areopagus and asked him to tell them about this "new," strange teaching he was proclaiming. Standing in the midst of the Areopagus, Paul told those gathered that he realized they were very religious, having seen many of their objects of worship, but one altar among the many caught his attention. On it were inscribed the words "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD." In their ignorance, the Greeks had erected an altar to whatever god they might have inadvertently left out of their pantheon. Paul craftily used this altar as an opportunity to share the one true God with them. Since the Greeks obviously didn't know who this god was, Paul explained that this "unknown god" was the biblical God, the Creator of heaven and earth...

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

**Bro. John S. Mertz,
Worshipful Master 2021**

**Ephrata Lodge No. 665
Ephrata, Pennsylvania**