

70^q Year Mason 1953 - 2023

Presented to:

Bro. John Smith

Initiated January 1, 1953

Commemorating 1953



The Washington Territory

The first American to reach Washington was Captain Robert Gray of the Boston Company. Gray headed a fur-trading expedition that sailed into the harbor that now bears his name. He reached the mouth of the Columbia River in 1792. Gray's explorations became the source of American claims to the area. In 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition explored Washington by following the route of the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. The Lewis and Clark Expedition gave America another claim to the land of the northwest. Note that Lewis Meriwether was a Brother of Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44, Albemarle County, Virginia and William Clark was a Brother of Saint Louis Lodge No. 111, St. Louis, Missouri.

By the early 1800s, fur traders from U.S. and Britain had settled in the region. The fur trade was interrupted by the War of 1812. After the war, Britain and the U.S. could not agree on how to separate the land west of the Rocky Mountains. In a compromise, it was decided citizens of both nations could settle this vast area, then known as Oregon Country. However, by the 1840s, a large number of Americans had settled the Oregon Country, and boundary disputes became a bitter issue. During the presidential campaign of 1844, James K. Polk, a Brother of Columbia Lodge No. 31 in Tennessee, based a great deal of his campaign on the idea that any land south of latitude 54° 40' belonged to the U.S. His supporters used the slogan, "Fifty-four forty or fight!" President Polk signed a treaty in 1846 with Great Britain that set the northern boundary of the United States and Canada at the 49th parallel, Washington's current border.

In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created. Washington was part of this vast piece of land. Then, in 1853, President Millard Fillmore created the Washington Territory. The Washington Territory included all of today's Washington and parts of Idaho and Montana. The territory was expanded to include the southern parts of Idaho and Wyoming in 1859. When the Idaho Territory was established in 1863, Washington received its current boundaries.

Sagamore Hill

The Sagamore Hill stamp honors President and Brother Theodore Roosevelt's home, Sagamore Hill. Roosevelt built Sagamore Hill as his home in 1884. He died there January 6, 1919. Growing up in New York City, Theodore Roosevelt spent many summers and vacations with his family in the Oyster Bay area in Cove Neck on Long Island. In 1880, Roosevelt bought 155 acres of land on Cove Neck, near Oyster Bay, for \$300,000. Four years later, he hired an architect to design a 22-room Queen Anne home. In 1905, Roosevelt added the "North Room", the largest in the house.

Roosevelt and his wife Edith made Sagamore Hill their home for the rest of their lives. In fact, it became famously known as the "Summer White House" for the seven summers President Roosevelt spent there during his presidency. Theodore Roosevelt died there in 1919 and was buried just one mile away. The house was opened as a museum in 1953 and established a National Historic Site in 1962. Brother Roosevelt was a member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806, in Oyster Bay, New York and an honorary member of the Lodge of King Solomon's Temple No. 3464.

The Louisiana Purchase

Issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, the stamp features future President James Monroe, Robert R. Livingston, and Francois Barbe Marbois signing the 1803 Louisiana Transfer in Paris. Commerce in the US depended heavily on waterways during the early 1800s. None was more important to US interests than the mighty Mississippi River and the port city of New Orleans. Fearful that the US might lose navigational rights along the Mississippi, President Thomas Jefferson sent James Monroe and Robert R. Livingston to Paris to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans and its immediate surrounding area. Monroe and Livingston were prepared to offer \$10 million for the port city, but France offered the entire 530-million-acre area for \$15 million. Concerned Napoleon would withdraw the offer at any time, the representatives agreed without consulting the president, and the treaty was signed on April 30, 1803. The purchase was the American government's largest financial transaction to date, and it doubled the size of the United States at a cost of less than 3¢ per acre. Control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans provided a convenient method of transportation necessary for the development of the new region.

James Monroe would later become the 5th U.S. president. He was responsible for the acquisition of the land from the Louisiana purchase. Brother Monroe was a member of Williamsburg Lodge No. 6, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

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

**Bro. Jason A. Martin, P.M.
Worshipful Master 2023**

**Columbia Lodge No. 286
Columbia, Pennsylvania**