

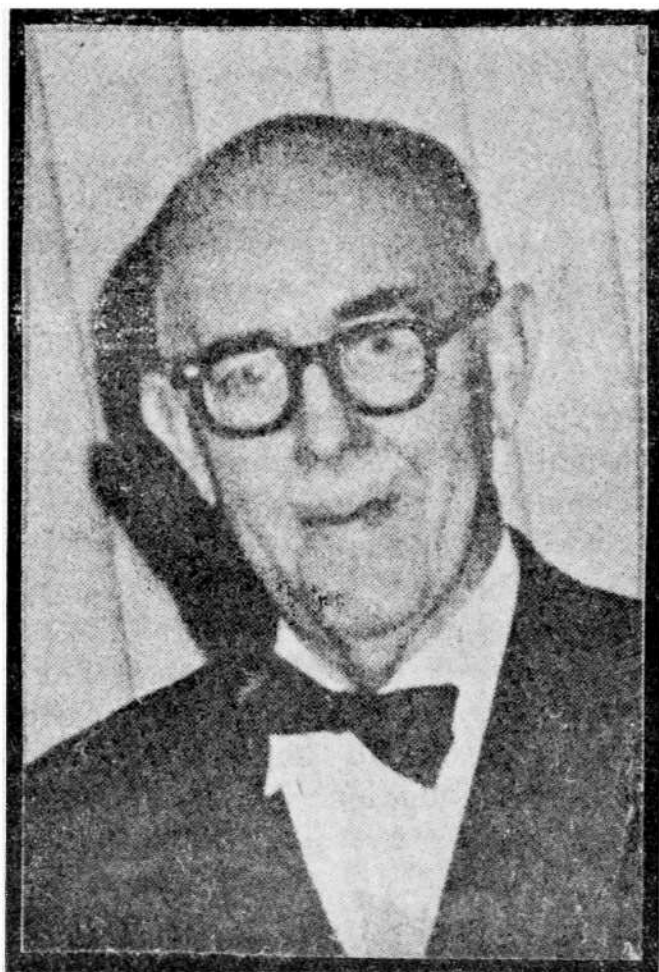


# The Masonic Philatelist

**VOL. 29**

**APRIL 1973**

**NO. 8**



***JOHN W. NICKLIN (1894-1973)***

# The MASONIC PHILATELIST

APRIL, 1973

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ROBERT A. SMITH, Editor

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

## \* MEETINGS \*

First Friday of Every Month  
(Except July and August)

COLLECTORS CLUB BUILDING  
22 East 35th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10017

## By the Sign of the Gavel

It was indeed a great privilege for me to have Arthur Spear as our guest speaker in March. His talk on "Jamaica" was informative and interesting and was enjoyed by all those who attended. We hope that some time in the near future Arthur will be able to return to the club.

As you all know, Mr. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr. was Editor of the Masonic Philatelist until recently. We appreciate all the help he was able to give us, but unfortunately was unable to continue due to other business pressures. We wish him a fond farewell and sincere thanks. Any material relating to the Philatelist should be sent to myself at the following address:

Robert A. Smith, P.O. Box 142,  
Bowling Green Station, New York,  
New York 10004.

The April meeting is the Annual Dinner where we honor our Past President, Brother Edwin Mayer. All those who are interested in attending contact Dr. Irwin Yarry, c/o Masonic Stamp Club of N.Y., 22 East 35th St., New York, N.Y.

Our May meeting will be held on May 4th, and will feature "My Favorite Page" where members will exhibit. Please try to attend this meeting and enjoy a good philatelic evening.

## JOHN W. NICKLIN DIES

On Sunday March 25th, 1973 our beloved Brother passed away. It is with deep regret that we report the passing of John W. Nicklin, a member of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, and a pioneer in Aero-Philately. He was born in Brooklyn, New York on 30th of August 1894 and became interested in stamps at an early age, according to Eugene Costales, another pioneer in philately, perhaps before 1905 at the age of ten or eleven.

He served in World War I with Battery D, 105th Field Artillery, and was Past Commander of National Variety Artists Post No. 690; he also held the Grand Lodge 50-year Membership Pin being a member of Ridgewood Hills Lodge No. 710 of Richmond Hill, New York. He had hoped to partly retire after fifty-four year of active participation in philately.

Following his service in World War I, he joined Scott Stamp & Coin Company in 1919 and remained with that firm until 1929 when he became a partner in K. Lissiuik Company which specialized in airmail philately and

published airmail albums. He later established his own firm and was a fixture at 110 West 42nd Street for many years until the building was torn down after which he moved to 1472 Broadway.

He edited and published the Historical Airmail Catalogue which was the first major effort dealing exclusively with airmail issues. Today, this Catalog is regarded as a classic in philatelic publications. While he was with Scott he assisted in the development of the U.S. Specialized Catalog. For several years he edited the Sanabria Airmail Catalogue, both works are authoritative in their field. He also edited the American Stamp Dealers' Association Bulletin for twenty-five years, and was a member of that organization for many years prior to his editorship. The A.S.D.A. National Stamp Seals were produced at his suggestion, and have appeared at every annual show by popular demand. A few years ago he was appointed Editor Emeritus of the A.S.D.A. Bulletin. Of the many philatelic organizations of which he was a member, we here mention only a few: Collectors Club of New York, American Air Mail Society, American Philatelic Society, and the Society of Philatelic Americans. That he was an expert in his chosen field and that he will be sorely missed by the philatelic fraternity at large is most evident. His splendid character and ability to mollify any resentment of anger in others was an outstanding characteristic, and his many friends sincerely regret his passing.

He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Crawford; a sister Mrs. Sarah MacInnes, and two nephews, Donald Lieb of Livingston, N.J. and David MacInnes of Forest Hills, N.Y. The services were held at 8 P.M. Wednesday March 28, 1973 at the Fox Funeral Home, Forest Hills, New York and was attended by many friends and business associates. A delegation of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York, took part in the Masonic Service accorded him. Interment was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Long Island, New York.

#### SOL GLASS

Richard H. Thompson, president of the Bureau Issues Association, reports with deep regret the passing of Sol Glass, Chairman Emeritus of the B.I.A. He passed away peacefully at about 6 p.m. on Wednesday March 14, 1973 after a lengthy and courageous fight with Parkinson's Disease complicated with other health problems. His death occurred the day before his 80th birthday,

and followed by less than two months the passing of his dear wife of fifty-two years.

His home philatelic organization was the Baltimore Philatelic Society of which he was a Past President and Honorary Life Member. The establishment of a Sol Glass Room had been discussed with him some time ago and had his approval. The room will be prepared in the Society Club House at 1224 North Calvert Street to house his extensive philatelic memorabilia and to serve as a memorial.

His accomplishments in the world of philately were many, some of which we mention here: American Philatelic Congress Council 1945-1960; Honorary Council 1960-1973; American Philatelic Society Chairman Board of Vice-Pres. 1943-1947. Accredited Observer at U.N.; Association for Stamp Exhibitions Board of Directors 1945-1966; B.I.A. Board Chairman, Executive Committee, and President 1950-1961; Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum Founder Member; CIPEX 1947 Vice-Chairman and International Jury Member; F.I.P. Council and Executive Committee 1955-1966; FIPEX 1956 International Jury; George Washington Masonic Stamp Club President 1959-1960; Philatelic Foundation of New York Board of Trustees; Masonic Stamp Club of New York; Royal Philatelic Society London Fellow; Collectors Club of New York; SIPEX 1966 Honorary Chairman; A.P.S. 1954 John N. Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research; SEPAD National Merit Award 1957; Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee Original Committee 1957-1961; U.S. Post Office Benjamin Franklin Award for Distinguished and Outstanding Public Service; F.I.P. Distinguished Service Medal 1966. He also published "United States Postage Stamps 1945-1952" which won nine awards at national and international exhibitions and at which he also exhibited prize-winning displays. He is survived by a son, Jerrold Glass, St. Petersburg, Fla., a daughter, Mrs. Rebecca Woddell, Oxford, England; and by three grandchildren, Stuart, Vivien, and Julian. A three-column obituary was published in the Baltimore Sun March 16, 1973.

#### PERUVIAN PRESIDENT A 33° SCOTTISH RITE MASON

Augusto B. Leguia, president of Peru in 1919-1930, was a 33° Scottish Rite Mason. He is pictured on numerous Peruvian stamps issued during his term of office.

# Scottish Rite and the Presidency

(Continued From March Issue)

While President Garfield's body lay in state in the Capitol rotunda, members of Columbian Commandery formed part of the honor guard and also were part of the escort on the funeral train en route to Cleveland. He was buried with Masonic honors. The National Memorial to Garfield stands on an elevation in Lakeview Cemetery in well-landscaped surroundings. The porch contains a series of friezes, in one of which a Knight Templar is depicted among those standing guard as the dead President lay in state.

Warren G. Harding (1865-1923) was elected to receive the 33° by the Supreme Council, N.M.J., in 1921. The next September found him unable to attend due to the serious illness of Mrs. Harding and he received an extension. His death occurred at San Francisco on August 2, 1923, a month before the Supreme Council was to convene again.

Made a Mason in Marion, Ohio, Lodge No. 70, on June 28, 1901, his advancement was obstructed by some personal antagonists; this obstacle was not lifted until 19 years later, when he was passed and raised. At that time he was about to become President; and before his inauguration in March, 1921, he was admitted to the Royal Arch Chapter and a Commandery of Knights Templar.

Harding's entrance into Scottish Rite Masonry is unique. He was the only candidate on January 21, 1921, in Scioto Consistory at Columbus, Ohio. Beginning at noon, the exemplification ran through the afternoon and evening except for a dinner break. So great was the demand for seats that those attending the first session were dismissed to make room for a full house after dinner. The distinguished candidate addressed the assembly at the end of each session.

Additional honors came to him from Grotto, Tall Cedars, Shrine, and DeMolay. His office was always open to visiting Masonic delegations. He took the oath of office on the Bible used at the inauguration of George Washington. He was present at cornerstone-laying ceremonies at such far-fung localities as Alabama, Florida, and Alaska. He was scheduled to address Hollywood Commandery No. 56, K.T., the day following that on which the untimely death occurred; the address was read to a sorrowful assembly in California by Brother George B. Christian, his secre-

tary.

The press and opposing politicians (Harding was a newspaperman and Republican) made much of the "Tea Pot Dome" scandal in which two members of his cabinet were involved, one being convicted of wrongdoing. His cabinet was truly select and included such men (and Masons) as Andrew Mellon, James J. Davis, Will H. Hays, Henry C. Wallace, and Harry M. Daugherty. Also, Herbert Hoover, Charles E. Hughes, Edwin Denby, and John W. Weeks. But in the eyes of President Harding's detractors, one bad apple spoiled the barrel.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945) our 32nd President, is favorably remembered for many accomplishments, and still severely criticized for other matters which came to pass during his extended regime. A graduate of Harvard and of Columbia Law School, he was in the New York Legislature in 1910, voted for Wilson in the 1912 convention of the Democratic Party, and was named Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913. He was nominated as Vice President to run with James M. Cox in 1920 and, when defeated, returned to a banking position in New York City.

In August 1921, he was the victim of paralysis and lost the use of his legs, but learned to walk with braces and canes. He continued his activity in politics and was elected governor of New York, 1928-30. Following a convention fight he was nominated and elected President in 1932, the first in an unprecedented four victories at the polls.

The story of the New Deal, the Four Freedoms, and World War II cannot be briefed in these few paragraphs. FDR's disabilities and the tremendous burden of the office were too much for him to endure beyond April 12, 1945, when he died at age 63. As his running mate for his fourth term he had chosen a reluctant Harry S. Truman. It indeed was a weighty mantle that fell on Truman.

FDR's Masonic career began with his entry into one of the older lodges in New York City—Holland Lodge No. 8, where he was raised November 28, 1911. His responsibilities and later disabilities interfered with his becoming a member of other bodies. In 1929, when he was Governor, he became a Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Albany.

When the President attended Architect Lodge No. 519 and assisted in rais-

ing two of his sons on November 7, 1935, newspaper accounts on the event had international repercussions. For in Nazi Germany at this time, the fraternity had been suppressed and was under suspicion of being engaged in politics, which it was not, and anti-Hitler, which it was—openly. Among other public appearance as a Mason, when he was Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1919, Roosevelt was guest speaker at the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the Hall of Stansbury Lodge No. 24 at Colorado and Georgia Avenues in Washington.

Our Brothers who became President of the nation never were known to conceal, nor did they hesitate to reveal by word or deed, the fact that they were Freemasons. Aside from those mentioned earlier in this article, and of those whose membership in unquestioned, we give a few instances out of many we could cite.

George Washington was in a public procession with hundreds of the Craft at Philadelphia on St. John's Day, December 28, 1778; in 1793, President Washington participated in the cornerstone-laying ceremony at the Capitol. Andrew Jackson, a Grand Master of Masons in Tennessee, prevailed over his political and anti-Masonic opposition and served as President 1829-37, when the anti-Masonic frenzy was at its height.

President James K. Polk and his Vice President, Brother George E. Dallas, attended the Masonic ceremony when the cornerstone of the Smithsonian Institute was laid at Washington, May 1, 1847. President James Buchanan, a Past Master and Past District Deputy in Pennsylvania, was an active participant and gave the dedicatory address when the equestrian statue of George Washington was unveiled at Washington Circle in the District of Columbia.

President William McKinley was the speaker at Memorial Services conducted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia at Alexandria and Mount Vernon in observance of the centennial of the death of George Washington, December 14, 1899. President Theodore Roosevelt took part at cornerstone-laying ceremonies at the House Office Building, the War College, and the present Masonic Temple in downtown Washington, all while in office.

William Howard Taft was the subject of nationwide attention in newspapers and magazines when he was made a Mason at sight in Cincinnati on February 18, 1909. On Washington's Birthday in 1911, President Taft was at the meeting in Alexandria when formation of

the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Association was perfected. He not only spoke his approval but was photographed in Washington's apron, wearing the collar of a Past Master, and holding the Washington Trowel.

An uncounted number of books and magazine articles have been written and published about Freemasons who became President and only a few of the high spots have been touched in this article. For the reader who would like to find the whole story in one volume, *Freemasonry and the Presidency, U.S.A.*, by Ray V. Denslow, P.G.M., published in 1952, is the best reference available.

### "CHRIST OF THE ANDES"

A monument known as the "Christ of the Andes," situated on the boundary between Argentina and Chile is meant to perpetuate the boundary agreement between the two countries. It is of Masonic interest because of the role played by a Mason in bringing about peace between the two nations.

For many years there were frequent disputes over the location of the boundary. An agreement was eventually brought about through the efforts of the official arbitrator, King Edward VII of Great Britain (1841-1910), who served as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1874 until he ascended the throne.

The monument, 26 feet high and cast in bronze from old cannons, is situated in Uspallata Pass between two high peaks—Aconcagua and Tupungato.

(The monument is pictured on a 10c Argentine stamp—No. 414 issued in 1934.)

### GRACIANO LOPEZ JAENA (1856-1896)

Jaena was one of the first patriots who was a member of the fraternity. He was born in Jaro, Iloilo and went to Spain to study at the age of 20. He joined Masonry in Spain, and was the founder and first editor of a Masonic biweekly newspaper "La Solidaridad."

He was the founder of a number of lodges in Spain, such as "Revolution" and "Solidaridad No. 53." All Filipino Masons became members of Lodge Solidaridad No. 53 in Madrid. He later, in the Philippines in 1890, joined with del Pilar in organizing "Lodge Nilad" in Manila which was constituted on January 6th, 1891. The Number 144 was given to it.

Jaena's likeness appears on Philippine Scott No. 601.



## FREEMASONRY AND THE AMERICAN INDIAN

As one browses through such usually neglected sources of Masonic information as Grand Lodge proceedings and individual lodge histories, taking notes along the way, the eventual result is material for a jigsaw puzzle. When the pieces are fitted into their proper places, there emerges a picture which reveals the role of Freemasonry in world history.

In my file is a listing "Indians." From the large collection of notes therein, I have condensed this account which reveals the great Masonic interest behind a United States 3c stamp issued in 1948 (No. 972). That stamp commemorated the 100th anniversary of the arrival in Indian Territory (later Oklahoma) of the five Civilized Indian Tribes—the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Muscogeas and Seminoles.

The story starts with an item from a history of the Prince of Wales Lodge No. 259, London, instituted in 1787 by George, Prince of Wales. The account concerns William A. Bowles, who joined the lodge in 1791. The event is recorded in part as follows:

"General William Augustus Bowles, a Chief of the Creek Nation, whose love of Masonry had induced him to wish it may be introduced into the interior part of America, whereby the cause of humanity and brotherly love will go hand in hand with the native courage of the Indians, and by the union lead them on to the highest title that can be conferred on man, to be both good and great, was proposed by the R.W.M. with the approbation of the Prince, to be admitted an Honorary Member of this Lodge. He was seconded by the Secretary, and received with the unanimous applause of the whole Lodge."

Bowles, born 1763, was an American adventurer who ran away from home at 13 and joined the British Army at Philadelphia. He obtained a commission, but was dismissed for a breach of discipline. Joining the Creek Indians, he married a woman of the tribe and became one of their leaders. He commanded the Creeks when they assisted the British at Pensacola, Florida, against the Spaniards in 1780. After a visit to England in 1790, he returned to again command the tribe. He was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Choctaw Indians under the Grand Lodge of England, and his name appears as such in the calendar of that period. He died a prisoner of the Spaniards in Havana after his second capture in 1804.

The spirit of Freemasonry was to gain such a firm foothold among the Indian tribes in the first half of the 19th century that its force for good was to be demonstrated effectively at a time when this nation was faced with a crisis.

The scene shifts to a history of Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, D.C., which reports that on April 25, 1848, William P. Ross, chief of the Cherokees, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The account goes on to say:

"He and other headmen of the Cherokee Nation were at the capital to arrange a treaty made necessary by the late enforced removal of the tribe from Georgia to the Indian Territory. These headmen were arrayed in two hostile factions, and the negotiations were at a standstill. But at one of the meetings of Federal Lodge, the rival leaders, all Freemasons, were brought together by the exertions of Worshipful Master S. Yorke AtLee and other members, and the treaty was then successfully concluded."

Ross, who was chief of the Cherokees for 40 years, died in 1866 and was buried with Masonic rites.

The story does not end there. The proceedings of the 1848 annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire reports that Bro. Okah Tubbe, an Indian of the Choctaw tribe, was a visitor. The chief addressed the Grand Lodge. This was followed by a discussion of plans for the establishment of Masonic lodges of "red men" of the various tribes in Indian Territory.

Six years later, the Grand Master of Georgia presented to that Grand Lodge Col. Peter P. Pitchlynn, a chief of the Choctaws. Col. Pitchlynn, Scottish Rite Mason and Knight Templar, in an eloquent address gave evidence that he thoroughly felt and understood the principles of Freemasonry. He also gave a favorable account of the condition of the Craft in his tribe, which he considered a convincing proof of the progress of Indians in civilization.

Then, in 1856, the Grand Master of Arkansas, speaking before his Grand Lodge, said:

"All over the length and breadth of our state the Order is flourishing, and among our red Brethren, in the Indian Territory, it is taking deep hold, and now embraces a goodly number of lodges and brethren. The members of these lodges compare very favorably with their paleface neighbors. In fact,

it is reported of them that they exemplify practically the Masonic teachings and ritual by living in the constant discharge of those charities and moral virtues so forcibly inculcated in our lectures, thereby demonstrating to all that Masonry is not only speculative but that it is a living, practical reality; of great utility to the human race, and of eminent service to a social community."

In 1868, when a further treaty between the government and the Five Indian tribes was negotiated, the leading spirits in the delegation of Indians were Masons.

In the years to follow, some of these "red men" were to attain the highest honor Symbolic Masonry had to offer—Grandmastership. Some were to rise to leadership in state affairs, others to important positions in national activities. The seed for all this, sown when this nation was in swaddling clothes, sprouted and grew into a living and lasting thing under the beneficent Light of Freemasonry.

#### HAWAIIAN KING ACTIVE MASON

A fine addition to a Masonic stamp collection is the Hawaiian 2c issue of the 1864-71 series (No. 31), showing the portrait of King Kamehameha IV.

The king, who assumed the throne in 1855 at the age of 20, was initiated and passed January 14, 1857, in Lodge le Progres de l'Océanie, Honolulu. His raising was deferred until February 8. An account of the latter event was carried in the June 1857 issue of "Freemason's Monthly Magazine." It said in part:

"The Lodge was opened on the F.C. degree, when he passed his examination in open Lodge, in full on the two degrees he had taken, to the surprise and admiration of the Brethren present, thus evincing the attention and interest necessary to such proficiency in the time elapsed."

Wor. Bro. R. G. Davis, Master of the Lodge, in a letter to the magazine, reported:

"Seldom have I witnessed the impressive ceremonies of this degree conducted with such solemnity. The candidate, divested of all regal honors, standing before the large assembly of brethren, many of them decorated with rich jewels, and all in Masonic clothing, gave the Lodge a striking appearance and have left an impression on our minds not soon to be effaced. It was a lesson of humility."

The Lodge closed at 11 o'clock and the brethren repaired to the king's palace where they were "entertained

in a truly royal manner." At five minutes after midnight, they toasted the king's 22nd birthday. The party lasted into the "small hours."

King Kamehameha took immediate interest in Masonic activities. He was installed as Junior Warden on September 9, 1857, and as Master the following January. He served in the East for three years. A crowning act of his reign, and monument to him, was the founding of Queen's Hospital, the cornerstone of which he laid on July 17, 1860, with Masonic ceremonies. He died November 30, 1863, at the tender age of 29.

The February 1864 "Voice of Masonry" reported that the funeral "took place according to Masonic forms," and added: "The deceased monarch was a true and generous Mason and will long be remembered by the fraternity in his jurisdiction."

Other Hawaiian stamps have Masonic interest. They will be reported on in future issues.

#### ALL-MASONIC BIG LEAGUE TEAM

Brother Edward R. Walsh of Lexington, Mass., brings our attention to an article that appeared in the Boston Globe, March 14, 1973.

Goodnough noted that Frisch had been a prominent Mason, even though he had starred at Fordham, a Jesuit school, then proceeded to pick up an all-Masonic big league team:

"Fellow, Bender, Plank, Waddell for pitchers. Cochrane, Schalk, Dickey for catchers. Terry first. Collins, Hornsby, Frisch second. Honus Wagner short. Traynor third, Cobb, Sneaker, Paul Waner outfield. Bill McKechnie manager."

Wellesley's baseball raconteur then revealed that all the regulars on the 1960 Pirates were Masons except Dick Groat.

#### AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Brother Edward R. Walsh of Lexington, Mass. sent to us a copy of the September, 1972 Philatelic Bulletin of the Australian Post Office. The cover bears a picture of a telegraph pole and a grave which has a Masonic Square and Compass above the inscription "In Memory of James L. Stapleton, Stationmaster, and John Franks, Linesman, killed by natives, Barrow Creek, 23rd February 1874."

A free subscription can be obtained by writing to: Box 259, Post Office, South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3205.

# Did You Know?



## FROM FARMER TO PRESIDENT!

WHEN HARRY S. TRUMAN PETITIONED BELTON (MO.) LODGE NO. 450 IN 1909, HE LISTED HIS OCCUPATION AS "FARMER"



THE WHITE HOUSE WAS COMPLETELY REMODELED DURING PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S TERM OF OFFICE INCLUDING A NEW PORTICO WHICH WAS GREATLY CRITICIZED AT THE TIME. TRUMAN PRESENTED EACH GRAND LODGE IN THE UNITED STATES WITH A STONE FROM THE OLD BUILDING'S FOUNDATIONS — EACH WITH THE MARKING OF AN OPERATIVE MASON.



## THE INDEPENDENCE WHITE HOUSE,

THE TRUMAN HOME FOR MANY YEARS, WAS INHERITED FROM BESS TRUMAN'S FATHER — DAVID W. WALLACE, WHO SERVED AS GRAND COMMANDER OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY, K.T. OF MISSOURI IN 1892.



## THE CORNER STONE OF THE TRUMAN LIBRARY

WAS LAID WITH MASONIC CEREMONIES BY THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI AT THE REQUEST OF MR. TRUMAN.



## BURIED WITH MASONIC HONORS.

AT TRUMAN'S REQUEST, THE SERVICE WAS GIVEN BY W. HUGH McLAUGHLIN, GRAND MASTER OF MISSOURI, WHO, BY HAPPENSTANCE, IS A RESIDENT OF INDEPENDENCE. IT WAS CARRIED ON ALL TELEVISION NETWORKS.