

MARCH
2009



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Number 3

TRESTLEBOARD

Amity Lodge No. 442, F. & A. M

A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of
Amity Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

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in California - There is a
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442

contact us

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AND YOU THOUGHT MARCH WAS A DULL MONTH?

WOMENS'S HISTORY MONTH

The National Women's History Project, founded in 1980, is an educational nonprofit organization. Our mission is to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs.

DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY: March 2, 1904

With millions of books in print, and nearly all of his 50-plus titles still available for sale, Dr. Seuss was, up until his untimely death in 1991, probably the most prolific living writer behind Barbara Cartland. In fact, his GREEN EGGS AND HAM is the third largest selling book in the English language.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL'S BIRTHDAY: March 3, 1847

Ever wonder why we use his whole name?

STAR SPANGLED BANNER BECAME THE NATIONAL ANTHEM: March 3, 1931

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: March 8th

International Women's Day is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. The first International Women's Day was run in 1911 so in just a few years time 2011 sees the IWD Global Centenary. In some countries like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, IWD is a national holiday

DISCOVERY OF URANUS: March 13, 1781

Was it a Friday? Uranus is the seventh planet from the Sun and is the third largest in the solar system. It was discovered by William Herschel in 1781.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: March 17th

The patron saint of Ireland and the Irish, was born about 385 A.D. in Northern Wales. He studied religion in Europe to become a priest and bishop. He then brought Christianity to the Irish by teaching in Ireland for 29 years. According to early Irish tradition, he died on March 17, 461 AD. The anniversary of his death is celebrated as Saint Patrick's Day. St. Patrick is most known around the world as driving all the snakes out of Ireland through trickery.

THE SWALLOWS RETURN TO CAPISTRANO: March 19th

According to tradition, the swallows return to Capistrano on March 19th, St. Joseph's Day. They come from the Holy Land, says the legend, carrying a twig in their beaks, which they drop on the ocean when they want to rest during their journey. As romantic as the legend sounds, it isn't true; ornithologists have tracked the birds to Argentina where they spend the winter, returning in the spring to raise their young.

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

March has been officially designated by MENC: The National Association for Music Education for the observance of Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM®), the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation.

TRESTLEBOARD BY EMAIL

We want YOU to begin receiving your bulletin by email, send a note saying "I'm in!" to Coren Andrews at ctandrews@ca.rr.com
TELL YOUR
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PAGES

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From the Editor:
A huge thank you to all those who continue to bring him soda can tabs. It is very much appreciated and it really does help.
Thank You.

TRESTLEBOARD Amity Lodge #442

Our objective is to disseminate information of interest to the members, families and friends of Amity Lodge #442, F&AM of San Diego, California, USA

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NOTES ON FRIDAY THE 13th - from ABOUT.COM

A few excerpts from About.com regarding Friday the 13th. Two in a row and a third one in November this year.

With the aim of mapping "the relation between health, behaviour, and superstition surrounding Friday 13th in the United Kingdom," its authors compared the ratio of traffic volume to the number of automobile accidents on two different days, Friday the 6th and Friday the 13th, over a period of years.

Incredibly, they found that in the region sampled, while consistently fewer people chose to drive their cars on Friday the 13th, the number of hospital admissions due to vehicular accidents was significantly higher than on "normal" Fridays. Their conclusion:

"Friday 13th is unlucky for some. The risk of hospital admission as a result of a transport accident may be increased by as much as 52 percent. Staying at home is recommended."

One theory, recently offered up as historical fact in the novel *The Da Vinci Code*, holds that it came about not as the result of a convergence, but a catastrophe, a single historical event that happened nearly 700 years ago. The catastrophe was the decimation of the Knights Templar, the legendary order of "warrior monks" formed during the Christian Crusades to combat Islam. Renowned as a fighting force for 200 years, by the 1300s the order had grown so pervasive and powerful it was perceived as a political threat by kings and popes alike and brought down by a church-state conspiracy, as recounted by Katharine Kurtz in *Tales of the Knights Templar* (Warner

Books, 1995):

On October 13, 1307, a day so infamous that Friday the 13th would become a synonym for ill fortune, officers of King Philip IV of France carried out mass arrests in a well-coordinated dawn raid that left several thousand Templars — knights, sergeants, priests, and serving brethren — in chains, charged with heresy, blasphemy, various obscenities, and homosexual practices. None of these charges was ever proven, even in France — and the Order was found innocent elsewhere — but in the seven years following the arrests, hundreds of Templars suffered excruciating tortures intended to force "confessions," and more than a hundred died under torture or were executed by burning at the stake.

LEGEND HAS IT: Never change your bed on Friday; it will bring bad dreams. Don't start a trip

on Friday or you will have misfortune. If you cut your nails on Friday, you cut them for sorrow. Ships that set sail on a Friday will have bad luck — as in the tale of H.M.S. Friday ... One hundred years ago, the British government sought to quell once and for all the widespread superstition among seamen that setting sail on Fridays was unlucky. A special ship was commissioned, named "H.M.S. Friday." They laid her keel on a Friday, launched her on a Friday, selected her crew on a Friday and hired a man named Jim Friday to be her captain. To top it off, H.M.S. Friday embarked on her maiden voyage on a Friday, and was never seen or heard from again.



DINE OUT - Pancho's Mexican Restaurant - March 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17th will find the Dine Out group at Pancho's Mexican Restaruant at 2257 Fletcher Parkway, El Cajon (619) 460-4202 at 6:30 p.m. The restaurant is located on the soth side of the street across the street from the 99 cent store. We are looking forward to some great fun and fellowship also.

Attendance at Amity Lodge Dine Out events is always open to all members,

family and friends. A great time to share some time together. Do join us

Harry Besnoy, our Dine Out Specialist, will appreciate any questions or suggestions. Call him if you have a great idea for a future Dine Out location. His phone number is 619-562-7465.

Next year, Harry need to have someone let know of a great Irish Pub Restraurant to go to eat.

ACKNOWLEDGING AN OOPS

It was brought to my attention that I spelled Brother Neil Rubin's name incorrectly in a previous Trestleboard. My apologies to him. Thank you for letting me know of this error.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2009."

BIRTHDAYS FROM THE EAST - CHRISTIAN QUIMPO

Francis Adams	3/10
Norman Alpert	3/12
Ronald Bagley	3/19
Jonathan Blayman	3/03
Thomas Bossert	3/05
John Boulanger	3/22
Alan Cass	3/26
Dino Del Mar	3/05
Joselito Dimapilis	3/18
Werner Drefuss	3/12
Lou Dunst	3/11
Martin Ettel, PM	3/09
Oberlin Evenson	3/26
Morey Feldman	3/07
Matt Foulger	3/18
Scott Gould	3/25
Justin Hammerlun	3/27
Jason Hernandez	3/24
Carmi Hodge	3/13
Jim Hom	3/07
Saul Klein, PM	3/03
Ray Krum	3/24
Brian Leto	3/05
Robin Loftus	3/15
Dax Lynch	3/28
Neal Macurda, PM	3/11
Michael Mendoza	3/27
Kevin Mofidi	3/21
Jonathan Montgomery	3/10
Albino Navasca	3/01
Abelardo Pareja	3/23
Ted Partosan	3/26
Adriano Pecadeso	3/19
Laurence Plummer	3/09
Clyde Roberts	3/25
Clarence Safley	3/10
Richard Saldano, PM	3/01
Emeterio Salindong	3/03
Albert Sebastia	3/07
Frank Skopec	3/26
Robert Smith	3/17
Robert Stewart	3/16
Frederick Swenson	3/29
Konstantin Swerilas	3/30
Michael Tekedo	3/25
Arnold Tongco	3/17
John Vooring	3/19

This month's

Average age = 61.8 years old

Oldest = 92 years old

Youngest = 23 years old

Happy Birthday to these Brethren!
We would like to wish you a happy birthday in person at the Stated Meeting dinner of your birth month. Please do join us and remember that your dinner is on the Lodge.

Upcoming events

Honor 50-year Members

June 15, 2009

OT/PM Night

July 23, 2009

Brethren,
Please join me in congratulating our newly raised Brothers, Neil Rubin and Zack Saltzman and our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Travis Knowlton. Shake these Brothers hands and let them know how much we appreciate them for their hard work and for joining our Lodge. Also, I would like to thank again the Officer's Coach and Brethren who made these Degrees possible.

This month, Amity Lodge will be raising two more Brothers, Jason Hernandez and Shane Mason. Here is another opportunity to show your support for the Lodge...come and be a part of these degrees. You will be glad you did!

HIRAM AWARD



The 2009 Hiram Award recipient has been announced and the very deserving

Brother is none other than our Lodge Officers' Coach and Past Master, Ernie Astudillo. Ernie is hard working Brother who doesn't say no and seems to be everywhere helping our Lodge as well as others. We will celebrate Ernie on April 13, 2009. More details on the dinner and presentation will be in the April Trestleboard. A well deserved recognition for this Brother.

FROM THE SECRETARY - ARNOLD KOREY

Brethren,
Just a reminder that if you have not sent in your dues for 2009, please do so as it helps with the operation of the Lodge. If you find it difficult to

As Master of Amity Lodge, I'm honored and proud to announce that the Hiram Award recipient for 2009 is Wor. Ernie Astudillo, P.M. and the 2009 Mason of the Year is Brother Jerry Del Mar. Both Brothers are deserving of these honors and we should all thank them for their service to the lodge.

Amity Lodge made official visits to San Diego Lodge #35 and East San Diego Lodge #561 last month and the fraternal bonds of Masonry were strengthened. We will be doing more of these visits this year and I encourage all that are able to attend to do so. We also honored our Past Inspector, Wor. Frederick G. Kleyn III, P.M. in February with a dinner

and reception. It was a lovely evening. I want to thank everyone involved, especially Bro. Arnold Korey, for making this such a successful event.

The O'Quimpo family wishes everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day (March 17)! Don't forget to wear some green to this month's Stated Meeting and try to find the leprechaun's gold! We'll also decide if we'll be donning our dancing shoes at the Stated Meeting dinners. Feel free to email (chrispq@hotmail.com) or call (858-231-3226) me with your opinion on this topic.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and protect us.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Christian P. Quimpo, Master

120 YEARS AGO

TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT - "There's an attraction in things colossal," responds Gustave Eiffel to detractors who say his Paris tower - completed March 31, 1889, for the Universal Exhibition - is "useless and monstrous." At 1,023 feet, the Eiffel Tower - which will serve as a weather, telegraph and radio broadcast station as well as city symbol - is the world's tallest man-made structure, till 1929.

60 YEARS AGO

ROUND TRIP - On March 2, 1949, ninety-four hours after taking off from Carswell Air Force base in Fort Worth, Texas, Lucky Lady II, a B-50 Superfortress piloted by Capt. James Gallagher, completes the first nonstop flight around the world. The crew of 14 refuels the plane four times in midair during the more than 23,000-mile trip. The secret mission surprises even the crew's families—"I'd have had a storming tizzy if I'd known about it before-hand," second pilot Arthur Neal's wife tells a reporter—but is announced on completion as a demonstration of American ability to deliver bombs to any location

pay, please call me or send me a note and I will pass it on the appropriate committee. If you missed the last stated meeting there was a lively discussion on participation in the lodge. Plan

on coming to the next stated meeting or degree and see what is happening.

Fraternally
Arnold L Korey, Secretary

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MARCH 2009 CALENDAR

- March**
- Mon 2nd 6:45 p.m. Officers' Qualifying Practice and Third Degree Long Form Close
 - Thurs 5th **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465.
 - Mon 9th 6:45 p.m. **Third Degree** - Brother Hernandez
 - Thurs 12th To Be Announced
 - Mon 16th 6:45 p.m. **Third Degree** - Brother Mason
 - Tues 17th **Dine Out at Pancho's Mexican Restaurant** - see article on page 2
 - Thurs 19th To Be Announced
 - Mon 23rd 6:45 p.m. Officers' Qualifying Practice
 - Thurs 26th To Be Announced
 - Mon 30th 6:30 p.m. ISI - Amity is Host

- April**
- Mon 2nd To Be Announced
 - Thurs 5th **STATED MEETING OF AMITY LODGE** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Make your reservations please call 619-291-0465.

NOTE: Officers' attire: First and Second Degrees is coat and tie or Barong Tagalog, Third Degrees it is TUXEDO.

MARCH STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Spaghetti and Meatballs - Baked Mahi Mahi
- Rice Pilaf and Oriental Stir Fry
- Caesar Salad - Iced Brownies
- Beverages and Garlic Bread



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FREEMASONRY IN CALIFORNIA

There is a Wayfaring Man - continued

Pierson Barton Reading

As with William B. Ide, the only indication that Pierson B. Reading was a Mason is to be found in Sherman's Fifty Years of Masonry in California (Volume I, page 450). Here, Sherman makes the categorical statement: "Reading Lodge (Reading Lodge No. 245, at Redding) is named after the late Bro. Pearson B. Reading, who was proprietor of Reading's Ranch in the Upper Sacramento Valley, and a partner in the firm of Hensley, Reading & Co., merchants, who erected the first wooden building on the northeast corner of I and Front streets, Sacramento, in 1849. The lodge is located at Redding, named for the late Bro. P. B. Redding, publisher and proprietor of the Democratic State Journal, published in the early fifties, and who afterward became Secretary of State when the late Bro. Leland Stanford was Governor of California in 1861-62. He was afterward at the head of the Land Department in the Central and Southern Pacific Railroad Company."

Brother Sherman was quite explicit in his identification of Messrs. Reading and Redding, and, if right, left no room for arguments as to whether Reading was another of California's many non-affiliated Masons of his day.

Reading, a native of New Jersey, came to California with the Chiles-Walker Party of 1843, and, the same as Henslev, soon went to

work for Sutter. In December of the following year, through his friend Sutter, he was granted the six-league Rancho San Buenaventura in what is now Shasta County, the northernmost Mexican land grant in California. On its 16,000 acres the towns of Redding and Cottonwood came into existence.

Reading was active in the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, and subsequently served with distinction as Paymaster in the California Battalion, winning the rank of major. Some years later, when in Washington, D. C., settling his accounts as army paymaster, he was complimented by the Auditor General for having kept the neatest and most accurate accounts of the entire war.

Immediately after the gold discovery at Coloma in January, 1848, Reading went thither and, noting that the soil and formation there were similar to those of his ranch, concluded there must be gold on his ranch. He accordingly returned to his ranch to investigate. The following March he made the first gold discovery in Shasta County on Clear Creek, at a place later called Reading's Bar in his honor. By July, he had found gold on Trinity River, and subsequently located diggings back on Clear Creek at Reading's Springs, now the Town of Shasta.

Though Reading realized a fortune of \$80,000 in six weeks from his mining operations, he abandoned them when other miners objected to his using Indians

as laborers. It apparently made little difference to him, anyway, for he had all the gold he needed for the purpose he had in mind. It was just after this that he went to Washington to settle his paymaster accounts, and while he was in the East he dropped down to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he used \$60,000 to pay off a long standing and almost forgotten debt incurred when a business firm of which he was a member went bankrupt during the hard times of the late 1830's.

In 1852, Reading was appointed Indian Agent for his part of the country, and discharged his duties for years without a cent of pay. And though it was a job that enabled him to become intimate with any number of politically influential people, he showed no inclination toward politics. He at no time sought an office, though he was put up for election to no less an important position than the governorship of California in 1851. He refused to campaign, and even then was beaten only when the votes that would have decided the issue in his favor were "accidentally" burned. It was only after Reading had thrice refused nominations for offices that would have turned almost any man's head that people were really convinced he was not interested in politics. He turned down the nomination for governor in 1855 and

1861, and could not be bothered with the nomination for United States Senator. Like Bidwell, he more than likely would not kow-tow to the politicians and did not desire anything with a string on it.

In 1855, Reading went to Washington again, this time to see about confirmation of the title of his ranch. While there, he met and married Miss Fannie Wallace Washington, who came West with him to help him preside over his Rancho San Buenaventura, where he died May 29, 1868.

Robert Semple

Robert Semple, printer and dentist, probably packed more important action into his few short years in California than any other man in the state's history. And a better liked man never came over the Overland Trail. He was a good yarn spinner himself, and his stature of six-feet-eight-inches made him a good subject of yarn spinners. His friends used to josh him about being able to wade the Straits of Carquinez in absolute safety. Again, they insisted he was so tall that when he rode a horse he had to wear his spurs on the calves of his legs instead of on his heels. All of which he took with the best of humor, and likewise "dished it out."

A Kentuckian by birth, Semple came here with the Hastings Party of 1844. In June, 1846, he participated in

from
One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California
Leon O. Whitsell, Past Grand Master
copyright 1950

the Bear Flag Revolt at Sonoma, and then moved on to Monterey, where he served with Fauntleroy's Dragoons. On August 15 of the same year, while still in Monterey, he and the Reverend Walter Colton published California's first newspaper, *The Californian*.

This last venture required a good deal of ingenuity. In absence of news-print, Semple and his partner used cigar wrappers about the size of foolscap. The Spanish type font accompanying an antique hand press, which they found in an old building, had no "w's." So, they improvised their own "w's" by setting two "v's" together without spacing. For rules and leads, they used strips of tin, cut into proper shape with a jackknife. And thus, by overcoming one difficulty or another, they founded a successful journal that moved to San Francisco the following year and eventually merged with Sam Brannan's *California Star*.

Semple was also a real estate promoter. In 1847, he and Thomas O. Larkin acquired from General M. G. Vallejo a large tract of land on the Strait of Carquinez, where he hoped to develop the metropolis of the West. The City of Benicia, which hardly came up to his expectations, was the result. Though he used every trick in the business to interest people in his city on the strait, San Francisco was just too much for him. At best, Benicia was capital of the state for a very short time—February, 1853, to February, 1854.

More profitable than his city promotion on the

strait was Semple's ferry service at the same place during the gold rush days. With thousands of Argonauts from the region between Contra Costa and Monterey counties trying to get their wagons across the strait, he had more business than he could handle. One gold seeker, Dr. Benjamin Cory of San Jose, wrote that he had to wait eleven days at Martinez for his turn on Dr. Semple's ferry. And his boat must have been a wonder to behold. Before the gold rush was over, hundreds of yarns were current on it, same as on his height. One of them had it that the boat had two engines which drove the side wheels at different speeds. The ferryman had to run first one engine, then the other, to keep the boat from going in circles. It was too much for the American sense of humor. Before the lanky Charon could zigzag his little craft all the way across the channel, the impatient Argonauts, strung out along the banks, were hilarious.

The proceeds of this ferry, under the terms of the Benicia land grant, were devoted to the establishment and maintenance of public schools in Benicia.

When the Constitutional Convention convened at Monterey in the fall of 1849 for the purpose of organizing a state government, Semple was present as president of the Convention and a delegate from the Sonoma district, which then included Benicia. But beyond that, he appears to have taken little interest in politics and public life. Not long thereafter he moved to Colusa County, settling on the Colus Grant that John Bidwell

had obtained in 1844. He was accidentally killed there in 1854 at the age of forty-eight, when he suffered a bad fall from his horse.

Semple was a widower when he came to California. In 1847, he married Miss Frances Cooper, a daughter of Stephen Cooper, by whom he had a daughter whom he named Mary Benicia. After his death, his widow married a man named Van Winkle.

Semple's whole California Masonic career was bound up in Benicia Lodge No. 5, of which he was a charter Treasurer.

In summing up Semple's life, Bancroft observed, "Dr. S. was a good natured, popular, and honorable man, of much intelligence and natural ingenuity, of some education, a good speaker—indeed, there were few things he could not do fairly well, though noted for obstinate faith in his way of doing things as always the best."

Josiah Belden

Josiah Belden was a Connecticut Yankee, born in Upper Middletown (now Cromwell) May 4, 1815. He was left an orphan before he was fifteen years old and, at sixteen, voluntarily bound himself out to learn the jeweler's trade. At the end of his apprenticeship he went south and worked a while at his trade in New Orleans and Yazoo City, and tried his hand at cotton buying in Vicksburg. From there he moved northward, turning up in St. Louis, Missouri, early in the spring of 1841, on the lookout for a good business opportunity.

Within a few days, however, he and three chance acquaintances named Chandler, Brolasky, and Shotwell had bought a wagon and plenty of emigrant supplies and were on their way to Sapling Grove to join John Bidwell's Westward Emigration Society, which was getting ready to leave for California. Save for Shotwell, who was accidentally killed while drawing a loaded rifle, muzzle foremost, from their wagon, they all came through safely to their destination.

When the company disbanded at Marsh's ranch in what is now Contra Costa County, Belden pushed on by way of San Jose and Santa Cruz to Monterey, where he got a job clerking in Thomas O. Larkin's store. In February, 1842, he opened a branch store for Larkin in Santa Cruz. He was here the following October, when Commodore T. A. C. Jones, mistakenly thinking war had broken out between this country and Mexico, sailed into the bay, raised the American flag over the Monterey Custom House, and took California in the name of the United States. The Commodore appointed him American Custodian of Santa Cruz. But a few days later, when the Commodore discovered his mistake, he promptly ordered the American flag lowered, and Belden resumed his private status.

In 1844, Belden became a Mexican citizen and was granted the four-league Rancho Barranca Colorada (Red Bluff), in what is now

Tehama County. He was not cut out for ranching, however, and three years later sold this property to William B. Ide.

From 1845 to 1847, he occupied himself with various pursuits — clerking for Captain John Paty, collecting for William Heath Davis, buying town lots in San Francisco. In 1848, he entered partnership with the San Francisco traders, Melius & Howard, and opened a general merchandising establishment in San Jose under the name of J. Belden & Co.

This store, which had a safe, was also a "house of deposit," which to some extent served as a bank. It was a most profitable venture, yet Belden sold out in 1851 and entered the real estate and financial field. Thereafter, till he went East in 1885, he was classified in the Great Register of California as a "capitalist."

When California organized its state government in the fall of 1849, and designated San Jose as the first capital, Belden was one of San Jose's nineteen public spirited citizens who came forth and put up their own money to supply a statehouse. Later, in April, 1850, after San Jose's incorporation, he was elected the city's first mayor. This gave rise to a laconic remark that indicated the dryness of his Yankee wit. Back in 1841, on his first entrance to the city, the local authorities, suspecting him and his companions of being revolution-fomenting trouble-makers, tossed them all into the calaboose. So, someone who remembered this event asked him how it felt to be

the mayor of the city whose comandante had jailed him the first time he saw it. "I think it is a satisfactory arrangement," he replied.

Belden served as mayor from 1850 to 1851, and as a city councilman from 1851 to 1852. By then his private affairs were taking so much of his time that, save for going East as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1876, he permanently withdrew from active politics.

In 1849, Belden married Miss Sarah Margaret Jones, daughter of a San Jose boarding house proprietor named Zacariah Jones, who came to California in 1846. She bore him two sons and four daughters, all of whom grew to maturity and received excellent educations in the best Eastern colleges. There is a story in the family that no less a person than Andrew Carnegie sought the hand of one of the daughters, but she, to her father's disappointment, preferred to marry a newspaper man.

Though he maintained his beautiful eleven acre homestead in San Jose, Belden had his business offices on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. From the latter, he guided the destinies of what might now be called a financial empire. His inventories were international in scope and listed all sorts of investments—mining, real estate, stocks and bonds, building. But, eventually, Eastern interests began to overshadow everything else. In 1885, he sold his San Jose home and moved to New York City where, the following year, he became a director of the Erie Railroad. He died

there, a millionaire, April 23, 1892.

As a Mason, Belden was a life member of San Jose Lodge No. 10, joining it in 1854, and serving as its Treasurer from 1857 to 1859, inclusive.

Peter Lassen

Peter Lassen occupies an unique position not only in California Masonic history, but also in the history of the state in general. Because he was a Mason and one of the party that brought the first Masonic Charter to California, unthinking brethren have for years referred to that charter as the "Lassen Charter." They sincerely believe it was he who obtained and brought it here. Yet he had little to do with it besides being the first Warden of the Lodge that it brought into existence—Western Star No. 98 (now No. 2). This charter was obtained and carried here by the Reverend Saschel Woods, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and member of Wakanda Lodge No. 52, of Carrollton, Missouri. Woods was the first Master of Western Star Lodge and was the legal custodian of its charter from the day it was issued.

A. M. Fairfield's History of Lassen County says that when the people of that area got ready to establish their county government in 1864, they sent a representative to the State Legislature with instructions to have the county named Roop after Isaac Roop, its most outstanding pioneer and first settler in Honey Lake Valley. But, for some reason, the

man did not like Roop, and when he got to Sacramento he told the legislators that the Honey Lake people wished their county named after Peter Lassen. It is significant, according to Fairfield, that the man never went back to face the people he had so willfully misrepresented.

Thus was Peter Lassen's name doubly immortalized. So far as known, he never claimed credit for the charter, and the county was named after him five years after he was dead and gone.

Lassen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, October 31, 1800. As a youth of seventeen, he entered the employ of his uncle, Christian Nielsen of Kalunborg, to learn the blacksmith's trade. He stayed with his uncle for six years, then moved to Copenhagen, where he worked for several blacksmithing firms before opening a shop of his own in 1827. As a business venture, his own shop was a failure, and by October, 1830, he was on his way to the United States.

After working a few months at his trade in Boston, Lassen migrated to St. Louis, Missouri, and from there worked his way up the Missouri River to Keytesville in Chariton County. In 1839, he joined an immigrant party bound for Oregon City. July, 1840, found him and several of his overland traveling companions on board the American vessel Lausanne, bound for California. Among them was William Wiggins, later identified with the New

Almaden Quicksilver Mine litigation.

On July 16, Lassen and Wiggins landed at Bodega, port of the Russians, where they obtained horses several days later and started for Sutter's Fort. But Lassen, like many other immigrants, had to see something of the country before settling down. Accordingly, he soon went from Sutter's to San Francisco, and from there to San Jose, where he passed the winter of 1840-1841 working at his trade. The spring of 1841 found him on the Zayante in the Santa Cruz Mountains, not far from Santa Cruz, building California's first sawmill, which was later operated by Isaac Graham.

There is some question as to whether he built this mill for himself, intending to sell it, or whether he built it for Graham. In any event, he received as some sort of payment from Graham a hundred mules which he drove up to Sutter's Fort in the fall of 1842, supposedly with the intention of driving them back to the United States. He evidently changed his plans, however, for in November, 1843, he was living by himself on Cosumnes River. By 1844, it was certain that he had no desire to return East. He became a Mexican citizen and was granted the five-league Rancho Bosquejo on Deer Creek, in what is now Tehama County.

When the Micheltorena trouble came to a head in 1845, Lassen, along with Bidwell, Hensley, Merritt, and Marsh, joined Sutter's forces, which backed

up the governor. But as soon as the "war" ended, he returned to Rancho Bosquejo, where he got along famously with the Indians who called him Uncle Peter and helped him to build his adobe ranch house. A little later he and a couple of friends entered the grindstone business, quarrying their stone along Stony Creek and peddling their products to settlers down the Sacramento River.

In the spring of 1846, Fremont stayed a while at Lassen's and seemed to take quite a liking to the Dane, "whose history was only less romantic than Sutter's and who was a man of practical sense and courage." Whether Lassen thought as much of Fremont is a matter of conjecture, but it is certain that he admired Fremont's father-in-law, Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. He gave the little settlement that he established on Deer Creek the ambitious name of Benton City.

What part Lassen played in the Bear Flag affair and the Mexican War is obscure. The only writer who gives him positive part in the war cites no sources. Bancroft simply says he was "probably one of the Bears."

In June, 1847, however, after the war was over, Lassen went overland to Missouri with Commodore Stockton's party, which arrived at St. Joseph the following November.

There is not much indicated how Lassen passed the winter of 1847-1848 in Missouri. But when he started back for California in the spring of 1848, he was leading an immigrant train of twelve wagons, whose

owners planned to settle on his grant on Deer Creek. And with them rode the Reverend Saschel Woods, carrying the charter of Western Star Lodge No. 98, to be opened at Benton City under jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

They came into California by an impracticable and far out of the way route that has since been dubbed the Lassen Route, and their guide came close to losing the whole outfit in the mountains.

During the gold excitement of 1849-1850, the population of Lassen's Benton City dwindled to almost nothing, and Western Star Lodge, following the Argonauts, moved to Shasta, some fifty miles to the northwest on an airline. In 1850, Lassen entered into a couple of unprofitable deals that just about ruined him financially. First, he sold half of his ranch to a San Franciscan who paid him nothing for it; then he bought a steamboat that came to grief. The only way he could settle his debts was to sell the other half of his ranch. With that, he looked eastward toward Indian Valley, where he and a man named Burton built a log cabin and opened a trading post in 1851. By 1855, he was still deeper in the mountains, prospecting for gold in the Honey Lake region of what is now Lassen County, where Isaac Roop had built a cabin as early as 1854.

Before long, other settlers came into the Honey Lake country, especially after word got out that Lassen had found gold there. Then came the organization of government, building of roads, settling of boundary disputes,

and all the other problems that go with the establishment of a pioneer settlement. In addition to this, Honey Lake lay east of the Sierra Nevada and its citizens were not sure whether they were in California or Utah (the state of Nevada had not yet been organized). It was a problem unto itself, and its citizens seriously considered establishing a state of their own called Nataqua, some 200 miles long and 150 miles wide. But the most vexatious problem of all was that of defense against the Indians. Time and again, Piute and Pit River braves slipped into Honey Lake Valley and its environs, stealing live stock, destroying property, murdering travelers, and making life miserable for the settlers generally. This went on for almost twenty years and, save for an occasional bit of aid from some small detachment of soldiers, the Honey Lakers did their best to exact an eye for eye with the redskins and defend themselves as best they could.

Peter Lassen, as one of the first settlers in the Honey Lake country, was naturally interested in the solution of these problems and actively participated in all movements for the public weal. He was especially competent in dealing with the Indians despite their known dislike for the whites. He trusted them implicitly and was known everywhere as a personal friend of Chief Winnemucca of the Piutes. He even gave them powder and bullets for their firearms so they could hunt. Yet, in this

friendship, lay the peculiar circumstances of his death.

For years he had ridden through Indian country, across mountain and desert, unharmed. Early one morning in April, 1859, when he and a couple of men, named Clapper and Wyatt, were prospecting for a silver mine in the Black Rock country of Western Nevada, they were awakened by a rifle shot from some nearby rocks. Clapper was shot through the head where he lay. Wyatt shouted to Lassen to run for his life. But Lassen stood upright by his bed for a moment, trying to determine where the first shot came from, and a second one ended his earthly career. Meanwhile Wyatt, a heavy man of some sixty years, ran for their horses and, somehow securing a mount from the badly frightened animals, started for Honey Lake.

Almost everybody blamed Indians for the shooting, but there were a few who suspected whites who thought Lassen was carrying a map showing the location of a rich silver mine in the Black Rock. The fact that his possessions had not been stolen lent a certain credence to this theory. It may have been Indians and it may have been whites, who, knowing of Lassen's friendship for the Indians, thought they could throw the blame onto the Indians. In either event, it is a question that will never be answered.

The citizens of Honey Lake went out to the desert and recovered the body of "Uncle Pete," as everybody called Lassen, and brought it back to Honey Lake for interment. Today, two

beautiful monuments, both bearing the Square and Compass, mark his last resting place beneath a huge California yellow pine.

Though Lassen was charter Junior Warden of Western Star Lodge No. 2, there is no record of his attending a meeting any time after 1852. As a matter of fact, he could not attend one.

Honey Lake did not get its first Lodge till 1861, two years after his death. Yet for the third time his name was immortalized. From the day that the Lodge finally got its charter in May, 1862, it has been known as Lassen Lodge No. 149.

Dr. Richard Beverly Cole

Born in Virginia and partly educated in Kentucky, Richard B. Cole, M. D., practiced three years in Philadelphia before coming to California in 1852 on the Steamship Cherokee. He had had much experience in the East, and told some astounding yarns, such as seeing 3,000 cases of cholera at one time and of performing three Caesarian sections, a wonderful thing for those days. In fact it might be said that his oratorical ability and disposition to tell whoppers fitted him right into Western life. He was Democratic in politics, serving as state chairman of the party. He was also Commander of the Knights Templar and, in 1895, President of the American Medical Association. It is said that he could "beg with the skill and grace of a medieval friar" when soliciting donations for the University of California Medical School. He was popular with his students

and considered by all to be a good teacher and executive.

Many of his students remembered him as a "medium-sized, frank-faced gentleman, wearing a tobacco-stained mustache, puncturing his lectures with skillful exhortation into a distantly-placed cuspidor." His language was, as often as not, somewhat sizzling, and, at times, he found difficulty in understanding that any of the seraphic female nurses of the day could take offense because of it.

That Cole was made of tough stuff, there could be no mistake. Shortly after his arrival in California, a loaded pistol dropping from his pocket was discharged, and the bullet passed through his stomach and lodged in his back close to the 12th rib. Though he vomited over a quart of blood at the time, and was thought to be a dead one by his doctors, he was out of bed in six weeks. It is said that he was saved only by his stomach's being empty at the time he was shot.

He was also the cause of the terrible controversy arising out of the death of James King of William. He was one of the doctors called when King was shot, King himself asking for him. He protested vainly against introduction of a sponge into King's wound and leaving it there for several days, but the other doctors in attendance, Hammon, Bertodv, Toland, and Gray ignored and elbowed him out of the way. Then, when King died, he publicly, and in no uncertain terms, accused his colleagues of malpractice. A fearsome row ensued, with the newspapers making the most of it.

Cole's skill as a

surgeon was a household word; so was his fearlessness in stating his political and moral opinions. In 1858 he had the whole state in an uproar over one of his unflattering statements of feminine chastity, made in a state society report. It seemed to have no effect on his mixing oratory with medicine, however. Perhaps, as chairman of the Committee on Obstetrics and Diseases of Women, he had had ample opportunity to form ideas on the subject.

Owing to overwork and poor health, he betook himself to Europe in 1864 for a rest. It is doubtful; however, that he rested much, for soon a long string of most interesting letters began to arrive in California for publication in the Medical Press. He was made a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, to say nothing of working like a Trojan to win European recognition of the University of California Medical School.

Cole's mind also turned toward things mechanical, taking time from his multiplicity of duties to devise an operating table that was considered the "quintessence of practicability."

Cole's death came from apoplexy January 15, 1901, while he "was still useful," for he was at that time Coroner of San Francisco and member of the State Board of Health.

Cole was a member of Occidental Lodge No. 22, of San Francisco, and at one time served as Senior Deacon.

