

POSTMASTER: Please send Address Forms 3579 to Grand Secretary,
6033 Masonic Drive, Suite B, Columbia, Missouri 65202-6535.



THE ANACREONTIC ODE

Dr. E. Otha Wingo, DDGL 38, FMLR — otha.wingo@gmail.com

Dr. E. Otha Wingo, DDGL 38,
FMLR — otha.wingo@gmail.com

Delegates at Grand Lodge several years ago were puzzled and amused when the Grand Master called for the singing of the opening ode, but inadvertently called for The National Anthem. Half of the 1200 brethren present launched into "O Say Can You See," while the other half were singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee." I'm not sure what the organist was playing, since the organ was not tied into the sound system and was drowned out by the cacophony. To our amazement, somehow we persisted to the end as the final notes died away.

As a graduate student studying classical Greek texts in the original language under a world-renowned professor at the University of Illinois, I read the nine Greek lyric poets (5th to 7th centuries B.C.). The most widely known of these poets are Sappho and Pindar. Only students of the classics may know about Alcman, Alcaeus, Anacreon, Stesichorus, Ibycus, Simonides, and Bacchylides. Anacreon (563-478 B.C) was widely acclaimed in his

own time and much sought after in the royal courts of Polycrates of Samos and Hipparchus of Athens. Lyric refers to the meter of songs or odes accompanied by the lyre. His poetry touched on such themes as the Muses, love, and revelry, but he also had a reputation as a composer of hymns and epigrams. His statue on the Acropolis and his likeness on coins showed him playing the lyre.

The five books of poetry by Anacreon are preserved only in a few fragments, collected from the citations of later writers. His continuing reputation was based on the "Anacreontea," poems closely imitating his style, and more recently (1776) in the official song of the London musical club, the Anacreonic Society, and of the United States (1931).

We move to 18th century London, where a group of musicians, having formed the Anacreaontic Society (1771-1786), gathered every two weeks at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand for a concert followed by a dinner and celebration. They amused themselves by writing new verses in the style of Anacreon's

songs, and adopted as their society's official anthem "The Anacreontic Song," written by an early president, Ralph Tomlinson, Esq. (some say it was a group effort headed by Dr. Thomas Arnold). This song is usually referred to as "To Anacreon in Heaven," from the opening words. Each concert opened with this song, which depicts a squabble among the Greek gods, to which wine-god Bacchus is the solution, and all join in devotion to "the myrtle of Venus and Bacchus's wine." The tune was composed by John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), the organist of Gloucester Cathedral, a member of Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4, which still exists in London. Other known members of the Society apparently had no Masonic connections.

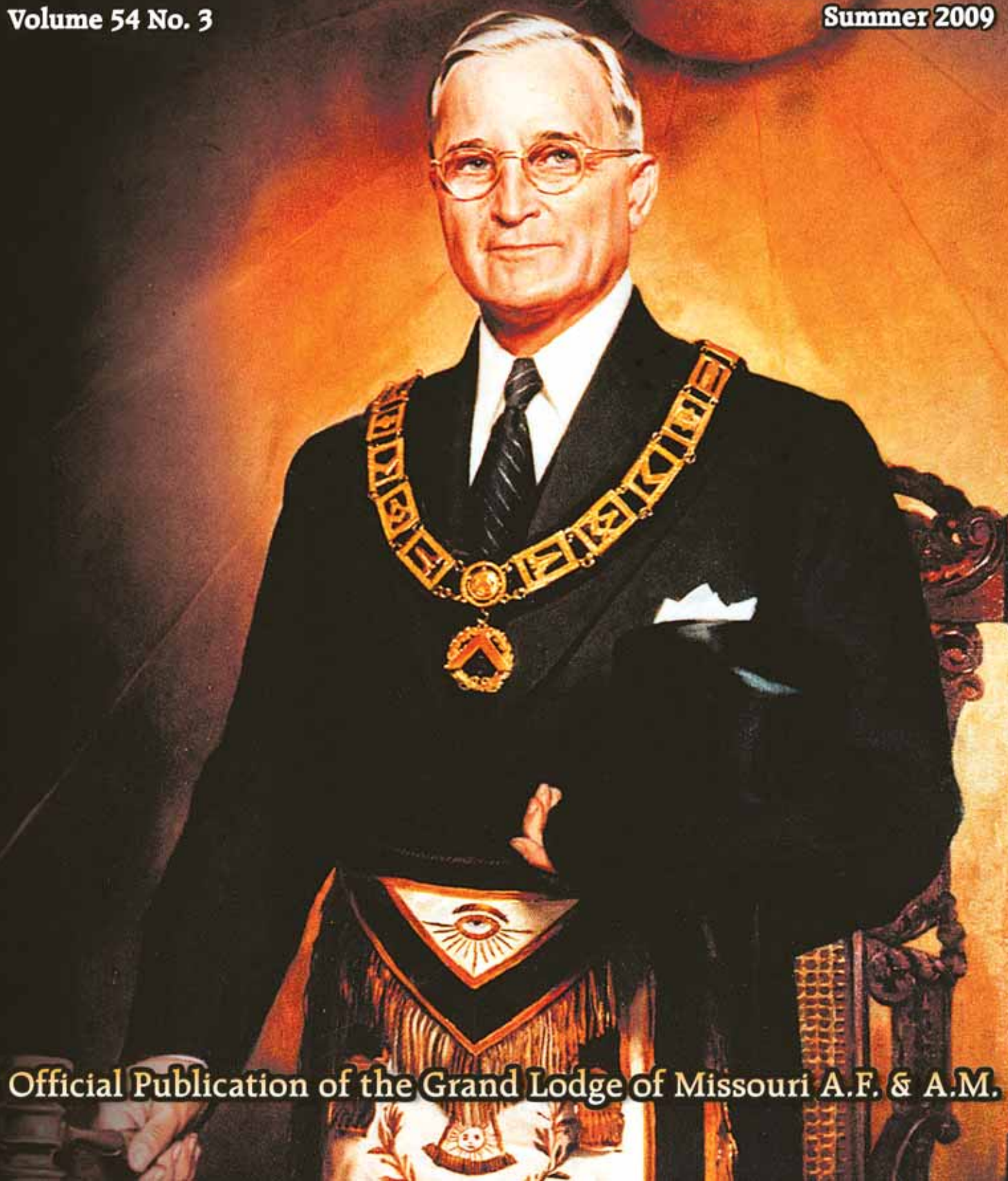
This song became a favorite drinking song, still being sung in 1814 when Francis Scott Key composed "In Defense of Fort McHenry" to its tune, later renamed "The Star Spangled Banner," and became the National Anthem of the United States. His Masonic membership was

Continued on page 74

The Missouri **FREEMASON**

Volume 54 No. 3

Summer 2009



Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Missouri A.F. & A.M.

Grand Master's Message

Grand Lodge of Missouri, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Brethren:

As I travel this great state I find exactly what I knew I would find: Brother Master Masons hard at work in their communities. I have, to this date, traveled east, west, north and south. In every direction I found brethren acting to meet the needs of their communities. I would have expected to find no less.

In the First degree proficiency you were asked where you were first prepared to be made a Freemason and your answer was "in my heart." That means you were a Mason before we ever proceeded to confer any work upon you. Our job as friends and brothers was to instill Masonry in your head so that you understood it is the work of Freemasons to do the work of the heart. We are taught that every human being has a claim upon our kind offices and that charity, next to a belief in deity, lies at the foundation of Freemasonry. The brethren of this state have learned the lessons well.

The Brothers Helping Others program was simply a way to get you



to share what you are doing in your communities. It also afforded me the opportunity to extract an invitation into several lodges that otherwise would never have invited a Grand Master. I know that because I once sat in the same position many of you are in. I also know that from the Craft I came and, shortly, to the Craft I shall return. It is my honor and privilege to visit with as many of you as is humanly possible. You, the brethren of this state, comprise some of

the very best men this nation has to offer. I know this because I have had the opportunity to be among you. I would like to think that I come from the same stock. The low or the high is irrelevant; the path is the thing we must all keep in sight.

The brethren of this state will be the ultimate judges of what has been accomplished this year. Janet (my wife) and I hope we have traveled the right path. Our intention, in the beginning and until the end of our journey, is to do what is right and in the best interests of the brethren of this state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rocky Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rocky E. Weaver
Grand Master
A.F. & A.M.
State of Missouri

Our Eternal Thanks

I cannot begin to tell all of the brethren, ladies and youth of this state how much Janet and I appreciate each and every one of you who voiced or sent their condolences, flowers and gifts for the losses of our mothers. Janet lost her mother on December 25, 2008 and I lost mine on February 6th of this year.

The loss of both is inconsolable but all of you

have made it much easier because we know we are not alone. Life is a journey and in every journey there is a beginning and an end. The one thing that makes that journey worth the effort is the friends we make along the way. Thank you for your fellowship, friendship and for caring.

Rocky and Janet Weaver



Right Worshipful Brother Dennis E. Fetter, Master of Magnolia-Euclid Lodge #626, presented Worshipful Brothers Kenneth Dow, Joseph McKnight and Harry Becker with their 60 year pins and certificates.



Missouri Grand Master Rocky Weaver visited Owensville Lodge #624, AF&AM, during a regular stated communication on March 5. While there, MWB Weaver presented a 60-year pin to Bro. Robert Landwehr, right.



Richard Drey, left, recently was honored for being a member of Owensville Lodge #624, AF&AM, for 50 years. Presenting the 50-year-pin to his father is Richard Drey Jr., a member of Stockbridge Lodge #691, Stockbridge, GA, who traveled to Owensville for the presentation.



Liberty Lodge #31 raised Trevor Thompson to the sublime degree of Master Mason on April 1, 2009. Trevor is a fourth-generation Mason. His stepfather, Rod Howard and grandfather Don Lake are both Past Masters of Liberty Lodge. His great-grandfather Ople Lake was also a member of Liberty #31. Pictured (l to r): WB Don Lake, Trevor and RWB F. Wayne Dugan.



Thirty two members and guests were present at Vandalia Masonic Lodge #491 where the new officers were installed Tuesday evening, January 20. Front row, (l to r) Garland Strother, Senior Deacon; Steve Kohl, Senior Warden; J.C. Davis, Worshipful Master; Kenneth Brundege, Installing Master; Louis Clithero, Senior Steward; William Kohl, Marshal. Second row, Don St. Clair, Installing Marshal; Rusty Strother, Junior Deacon; Ed Babb, Treasurer; Kenneth McDonald, Junior Steward; Charles Scrogin, Chaplain; Rennie Davis, Secretary. Not present for the photo were Tracy Detienne, Tyler and Ray Oden, Junior Warden.



On January 7, 2009, Warrenton Lodge #609 AF&AM presented a check to Laurie Jansen at Daniel Boone Elementary School in Warrenton, Missouri to help needy children get coats, shirts, shoes, underwear and school supplies. This is the second year Warrenton Lodge #609 has participated in this program which is sponsored and funded by the Masonic Home of Missouri. "We are just getting started with this worthwhile endeavor and want to include all of the schools in the county," said Peter Schmidt, past master of the Lodge. Pictured in the attached photo from left to right are: Dan Elliott, Worshipful Master of the Lodge, Laurie Jansen, nurse at Daniel Boone Elementary School and Peter Schmidt, coordinator and past master.