

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren

Initiation of Michael Saggars



I started my term as Master by initiating Brother Callum so it seems a great way to complete my first term with the initiation of Michael Saggars

As a lodge this ceremony is the most important time for Michael, it is his acceptance into our fraternity and his start on his masonic career.

I often wonder though, what actually this means to each individual? How often do we, as individuals actually read and look to understand the various charges we perform. I will be the first to accept that when initially starting on learning a charge the focus can be purely on "survival" in other words getting through.

Last month as a Lodge we witnessed the delivery of the First degree Tracing board by our own VWBro Murray Alford where he took us past merely the words and took us on a journey into the meaning.



As part of Michael's initiation I ask that we take the opportunity to further consider what Freemasonry means to each of us. Listen to the content of the

charges. Consider the journey Michael is undertaking. Perhaps consider from an operative perspective, Michael is about to enter our "Quarry". He starts as a "rough stone" and through freemasonry the rough edges, "superfluous knobs and excrescences" are removed and refined to become a stone fit for the use in a building.

The final charge contains a great summary and to pick out a few parts I would make mention of its reference to how to treat your neighbour and how to manage your own self in such a way so to enable and "exert those talents" that you are blessed with.



Last month we had the pleasure of a fraternal visit from Lodge Te Puni and a visit from Bro Michael DeMers of Torrington Lodge No 29 in Wyoming who brought with him greetings from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming.



Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser



Famous Freemason – Mark Twain

Mark Twain (a.k.a., Samuel Longhorne Clemens) was born in the little town of Florida, Missouri, on November 30, 1835, shortly after his family had moved there from Tennessee. When Twain was about four, his family moved again, this time to Hannibal, Missouri, a small town of about five hundred people.

Twain's father was a lawyer by profession but was only mildly successful. He was, however, highly intelligent and a stern disciplinarian. Twain's mother, a southern belle in her youth, had a natural sense of humor, was emotional, and was known to be particularly fond of animals and unfortunate human beings. Although the family was not wealthy, Twain apparently had a happy and secure childhood.

Early Career

Twain's father died when Twain was twelve years old and, for the next ten years, Twain was an apprentice printer and then a printer both in Hannibal and in New York City. Hoping to find his fortune, he conceived a wild scheme of making a fortune in South America. On a riverboat to New Orleans, he met a famous riverboat pilot who promised to teach him the trade for five hundred dollars. After completing his training, Twain piloted riverboats along the Mississippi for four years. During this time, he became familiar with the towns along the mighty River and became acquainted with the characters who would later inhabit many of his novels, especially Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

When the Civil War began, Twain's allegiance tended to be Southern due to his Southern heritage, and he briefly served in the Confederate militia. Twain's brother Orion convinced him to go west on an expedition, a trip which became the subject matter of a later work, *Roughing It*.

Writing Career

Even though some of his letters and accounts of traveling had been published, Twain actually launched his literary career with the short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," published in 1865. This story brought him national attention, and Twain devoted the major portion of the rest of his life to literary endeavors. In addition to *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, some of Twain's most popular and widely read works include novels such as *The Prince and the Pauper* (1881), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889), and *Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1894), as well as collections of short stories and essays, such as *The 1,000,000 Bank-Note and Other Stories* (1893), *The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Essays* (1900), and *What Is Man?* (1906).

The Masonic lodge with which Twain affiliated in 1861 was Polar Star Lodge Number Seventy-nine of Saint Louis

Wee Road Trip

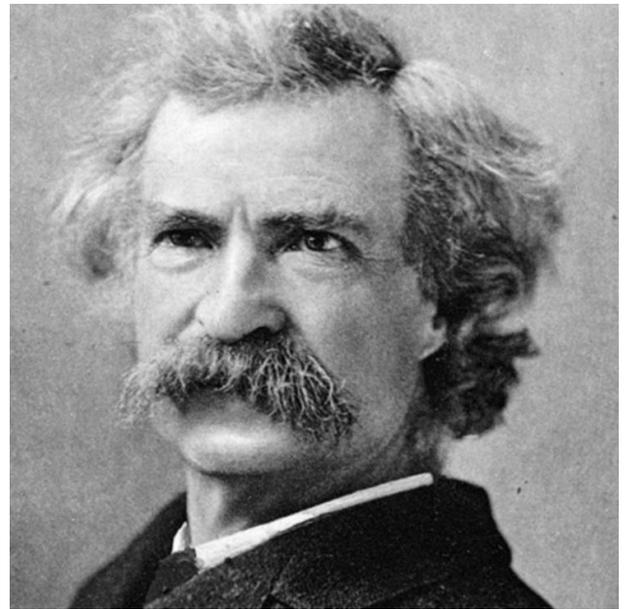
The Master and myself took a wee road trip to the mighty Martinborough on July 4th to attend the Installation of Julian Baier, a very old friend of mine. As usual a good chat is had on a trip like that.



On arrival, we stepped out of the car into what can only be described as an icy air, with the temperature below 5°C, there was some consolation as this went up once inside the building. We were warmly greeted by numerous members of our own district and from the Hutt Wairarapa. Added to this we had in attendance representatives from the Scottish and English Constitutions, specifically their Divisional Grand Masters. WM Craig piped in the Scots once the formalities began and Julian was installed into the chair of King Solomon – his third time in four years. I di the 1st degree working tools for him as well.

It was very well attended by the usual suspects from Wellington including our PGM Mike Pope and the DivGM Jim Watt and pictured is PDist GM Kevin

Nelson. Following the ceremony, we retired to the restaurant which served a fantastic selection of food and is managed by one of the members. The Waihenga St John's Guys always offer great hospitality and fellowship and we hope more of our members might road trip one night there with us. It did make for a late night, but was well worth the trip.



Restaurant review: Portofino

Portofino is a relatively new restaurant located on the waterfront opposite One Red Dog. We went there recently for lunch and had a wonderful meal. The entrées, mains, and desserts are the usual Italian favourites: pasta, pizzas, tiramisu etc. I had a wonderful minestrone soup followed by penne all'arrabbiata. The portions were generous and, in fact, I had no need for dinner that evening, which is quite unusual for me. The pricing is not too cheap but not too expensive. The lunch special with an entrée, main, and dessert was \$35. In the background, they played Italian music from my favourite singer, Eros Ramazzotti, and although from our table we had a wonderful view of Wellington harbour, it felt just like Rome! We will definitely return to this restaurant.



By David Ryan

Recipe – Chewy Chocolate Cookies



July 26th

1st Degree –

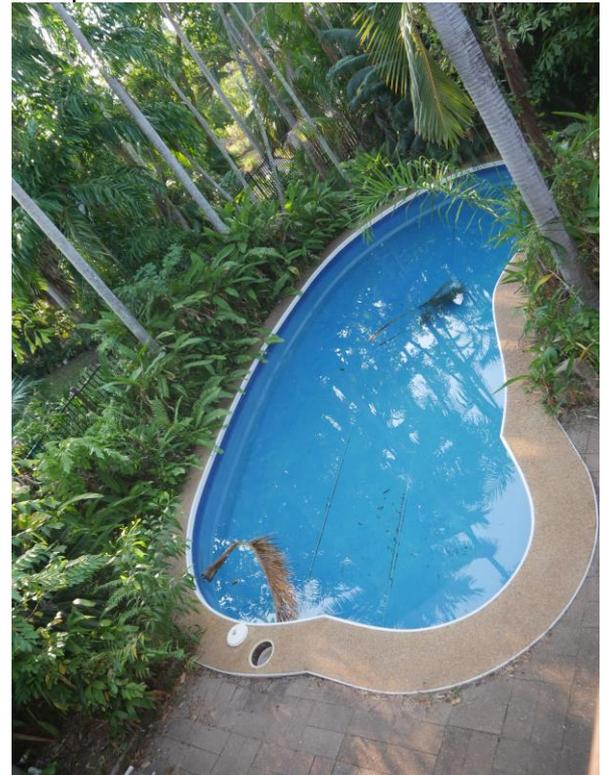
August 30th

Michael Saggars
Installation

Meetings

Northern Territory

A short note from my trip in Australia to the Northern Territories. It's a hard life when you stay at a house that has a rain forest around it with a pool too.



Although there are some bloody big bugs here.

Ingredients

1 1/4 cups butter or 1 1/4 cups margarine, softened
2 cups sugar
2 large eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup cocoa
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 cups peanut butter chips (12 oz. pkg.) or 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips (12 oz. pkg.)

Method

1. In large mixer bowl; cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well.
3. Combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt; gradually blend into creamed mixture. Stir in peanut butter or chocolate chips.
4. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8-9 minutes. (Do not overbake; cookies will be soft. They will puff while baking and flatten while cooling.)
5. Cool slightly; remove from cookie sheet onto wire rack. Cool completely.

