

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren,

I Hope this newsletter finds you all well in the new year. Sarah, Cora, Lando and I had an easy-going Christmas break at home and then spent a few days camping up in Hunterville for New Year's, at Sarah's cousins farm, backing



onto the Rangitikei river - sweltering was an understatement the heat was fierce and buckets of sunblock was used. I spent a lot of time under the umbrellas chilling in my over-the-top folding chair, hold the wee man and having the many younger cousins retrieve the vital cold brews from the chilly bin. It was a blast and lots of memories made, Cora got to ride a horse for the first time. ("It was a bit wobbly")



It has been a great summer and as the new working year starts in, so does Lodge in the Red Traffic light system. After some uncertainty on whether or not we could have a meeting in February, the Grand Master with advice from the top brass has decided we can meet under similar guidelines as the previous months e.g. Using "My Vaccine Pass" we can have up to 100 guests, scanning into the building and maintaining a Covid-19 attendance record. This may indeed change during the coming months, once cases ramp up in our city, but we can make an informed decision for further meetings on our own via Standing committee. But as it stands, if we still want to catch up and see each other, we can.

We will be doing a Standing committee via "Zoom" on Feb 17, 2022, 07:00 PM. Our February Meeting is going ahead on the 24th - a presentation from VW Bro Murray Alford PG Lec, on "when freemasonry was nearly made illegal " followed by a delectable dinner as usual. If you need any assistance over the next few months if isolating or sick, please contact me or the Almoner.

Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Warwick Henty



About The Trust

Over the past six decades, The Masonic Villages Trust has developed a well-deserved reputation as the leading provider of around-the-clock quality accommodation, personalised care, and rehabilitation

for older New Zealanders.

This is because we are not driven by purely commercial considerations. In keeping with our charitable values, we're driven to provide the best possible service and care to the residents who choose us.

The Masonic Village Trust operates both Masonic Care Limited and Masonic Village Limited.

About our Care Facilities

All our staff at all our care facilities are committed to our residents' wellbeing. Our staff are known for their compassion, understanding, dedication and high levels of skill and you can be assured that you or your loved ones will be extremely well looked after at any of our locations.

Our staff include registered and enrolled nurses, physiotherapists, occupational, diversional and speech therapists, and qualified caregivers, all of whom are encouraged and enabled to be involved in training and ongoing professional development. This ensures you or your loved one receives the very best care and attention possible.

We are proud that our five care facilities are the first choice of many New Zealanders.

About Retirement Living

Each of our retirement villages is unique to its community. Occupancy is based on two formulae – an Occupation Right Agreement (ORA), which requires a capital payment, and rental accommodation at prices usually below median market rates.

Masonic villages are not just less expensive than their commercial counterparts, they are usually smaller and more intimate than commercial villages. Also, the residents tend to know each other, which creates a more vibrant and supportive community.

Residents hardly ever have to pay for repairs around their accommodation, and the service they get from village staff reflects our charitable ethos.

Any surpluses we make are reinvested in our villages – there are no outgoings to profit-driven shareholders, just a great deal of care and consideration for village residents.

Information from www.masonicvillages.co.nz



EUFULA MASONIC LODGE - OLDEST IN OKLAHOMA

(from the INDIAN JOURNAL Thursday, March 2, 1922, page 3)

Eufaula Lodge number 1, A. F. & A. M., the oldest lodge in the State of Oklahoma, dates its beginning and history from the year of 1855. At this time the then Indian Territory was very sparsely settled, consisting principally of Indians, augmented by those white men who were real pioneers and missionaries in the Indian country.

Prior to 1855, the Reverend C. N. Flover, a Methodist minister, had come into the Creek Indian country. He was a Mason at Van Buren, Arkansas, several years, the exact date is not known, before coming to the Indian country. George W. Stidham, an old-time Creek Indian, was living in the Creek nation. George W. Stidham was a leader among his people and had gone to Washington on tribal affairs several times. During these visits to Washington he had been made a Mason in a lodge at Washington, D. C., and had also received the highest degree in masonry while in Washington. Joseph Coody, a citizen of the Nation of Cherokee and Creek descent, was a Mason, as records of Eufaula lodge show, but the place of his former membership is not known.

These three, Geo. W. Stidham, Reverend Flover and Joseph Coody, with other members of the Masonic fraternity then in the Creek Indian country felt the need of a regularly constituted lodge. At this time, 1855, the Indian agency was located some seven or eight miles northwest of Muskogee.



These three men and masons, met at the agency, by appointment. They had decided to obtain a charter for a Masonic lodge. They mounted their horses and rode to Little Rock, Arkansas and obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, to establish a lodge in the Creek Nation, "at the town of Creek Agency", and the lodge was named "Muscogee number 93" and the date of the charter is November 9th 1855. The three principal officers of the lodge were George W. Stidham, W. M.; Wm. Whitfield, S. W; and Albert Barnwell J. W. This was the first Masonic lodge established in what is now Oklahoma. The lodge continued to work under its original charter for a number of years.

At the early out-break of the Civil war, George W. Stidham, who was still master, joined the Confederate army. Joseph Coody was senior warden, but did not join the Confederate army until later. The war suspended Masonic activities, and when Joseph Coody went into the Confederate army, he took charge of the original charter of the Lodge, and the jewels of the officers and carried them with him throughout the entire war.

After the close of the Civil war, and the return of George W. Stidham and Joseph Coody, Stidham moved to Old Eufaula, which is about one and one-half miles east of the present site of Eufaula, and erected a store and a dwelling. Acting under the original charter Masonic activities were renewed, meetings of the Lodge were held in the second story of the residence of Geo. W. Stidham.

After the building of the Katy railroad the old Town of Eufaula was moved to its present site. George W. Stidham moved his store, and built on the present site of the W. L. Belt Trading Company in Eufaula. There was a second story or floor to the store and the Masonic lodge held its meeting there. On the first day of April, 1874, the Grand Lodge of Arkansas renewed the old charter but changed the number of the lodge from Muskogee number 93 to Muskogee number 90. The lodge operated under its renewed charter and new number until October 7, 1874. Masonry had grown by this time in the Territory to such an extent, that a closer relation between the lodges was needed. A general convention of Masonic lodges in the Indian Territory was called for October 5th, 6th and 7th, 1874 to meet at Caddo, I. T. The delegates from Muskogee Lodge, No. 90, Eufaula, I. T., were George W. Stidham, F. Crabree and Reverend H. F. Buckner.

The convention was held and it was decided to organize a Grand Lodge of Indian Territory. The Masonic "Grand Lodge of Indian Territory" was perfected on the 6th and 7th of October 1874. Muskogee lodge number 90 at Eufaula, I. T., became a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory; was given a charter and was known or numbered as Muskogee number 1.

Some of the old settlers or pioneers who were members of Muskogee Lodge number 1, Eufaula, I. T., are: George W. Stidham, Joseph Coody, Reverend H. F. Buckner, R. C. McGee, Dr. H. Lindsay, H. C. Ernest, F. Crabtree, Dr. Leo Bennett, W. E. Gentry, J. M. Perryman, Pleasnat Porter, J. J. McAlister, D. B. Whitlow, C. E. Foley, and many others. Mr. C. E. Foley is still living at Eufaula and retains his membership in the present Eufaula lodge, number 1, A. F. & A. M., and identified with all masonic activities.

One of the best known and well loved Masons in Oklahoma, is Brother J. S. Murrow of Atoka, Oklahoma. It can not be definitely stated that he was ever a member of the Eufaula lodge No. 1, but in the very early days he was present at lodge meeting on various occasions. As early as February 25, 1876, by resolution of the Lodge, he was authorized to present certain matters to the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory; and as late as August 27th 1880, he was refunded by the lodge certain moneys which he had expended for the benefit of the lodge.

Another interesting feature about Eufaula lodge number 1, in its early days is that its membership it was able to confer and exemplify the first three degrees in the English language and the Creek Indian language. As early as 1882, other Masonic lodges that had been established in the Indian Territory requested Muskogee lodge number 1, now Eufaula lodge number 1, to confer the degrees on certain applicants who spoke the Creek Indian language, and who were not sufficiently proficient in the English language to receive the degrees in that language.

Muskogee lodge number 1, at Eufaula, I. T., continued to operate under its charter from the Grand Lodge of the Indian Territory, until after statehood. On February 11th 1909, it became a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma, and was given a charter and retained its number and is now known as Eufaula Loge No. 1, A. F. & A. M., of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.

Recipe – Croque Madame



Method

BÉCHAMEL SAUCE

- Heat the butter in a saucepan over a gentle heat until just melted. Stir in the flour with a wooden spoon. Add the milk in three lots, stirring continuously, until well incorporated. Simmer for 5 minutes, whisking while cooking, until thick and silky.
- Add the parmesan, nutmeg and mustard and stir to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper, then refrigerate to cool.
- Preheat the oven to 200°C regular bake and put an oven tray in to heat.

To assemble: Butter one side of each piece of bread. Lay 2 pieces buttered side down on a piece of baking paper. Spread each piece with 3 tablespoons of béchamel sauce and top with 3 pieces of ham. Top with the onion (if using) and remaining bread, buttered side up. Spread with 3 more tablespoons of béchamel each. Sprinkle with gruyère and pop in the oven until golden and bubbling, about 15 minutes. Top each sandwich with a fried egg.

CARAMELISED ONIONS

INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon butter
3 large brown onions, sliced 1cm thick
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 teaspoons finely chopped thyme
sea salt and ground pepper
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

METHOD

- Heat the oil and butter in a frying pan and add the onions, garlic and thyme.
- Season generously and cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until softened.
- Add the sugar and vinegar and continue to cook until deeply golden and glossy.

LITTLE SHADOW

At Little Shadow we offer affordable counselling and support for parents experiencing perinatal distress, including baby loss and infertility. (Perinatal means anything to do with pregnancy, birth and the first years of a baby's life.) We provide you with a safe, non-judgemental space to seek healing, resilience and empowerment.

We also offer affordable counselling to Midwives and provide services for Workplace Wellness.

Our collective of counsellors are professionally trained to help you navigate those tricky times in life. From depression to grief, loss, anxiety and trauma and managing life's changes. Our team also have specialist training and professional development to help support those in the perinatal period. Our counsellors genuinely relate – many have experienced perinatal or other life periods of distress, and all of them are parents.

The cost of our counselling for Parents and Midwives is subsidised by our generous donors, fundraising events and grants.

Black Dog Collective



The Black Dog Collective is on Facebook by sharing anything they create; Steve Griffin is responsible for the content and it is something important to all of us.

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