

5th Anniversary Issue!

**Journal of the
Masonic District**

18th District Light

**Masonic Light, Happenings and Events
From Around the District**

LODGES OF THE 18TH DISTRICT

**Audubon-Parkside #218
Collingswood-Cloud #101
Laurel #237
Lazarus #303
Liberty Bell #376
Merchantville #119
Mozart #121
Rising Sun #15
USS NJ #62**

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United by Song

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Arthur Marx**

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APRIL 2019

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18th District Light - Journal of the 18th Masonic District

Editor: WB David A. Frankel — dafrankel@comcast.net

From the Editor

Brethren:

Back in March of 2014, WB Keith Josepayt, now Secretary of Mozart Lodge, stood up at our Masters & Wardens meeting and announced that he planned to revive the “District Light” — a newsletter that had been previously published in the District now and again, but never with sustained regularity. The cover of the April 2014 inaugural issue is illustrated at right. The rest, as they say, is history. The 18th District Light has now been published on a monthly basis (with combined July-August issues to cover the summer months) without interruption for five years. For a visual walk down memory lane, see the 5-year cover retrospective within.



As of March 29th, we welcome a new Lodge to the 18th District. *Logia Campana de Libertad* (Liberty Bell Lodge) No. 376 was scheduled to be constituted in a ceremony at Merchantville Temple, where the new lodge will meet. WB Rev. Jorge Martinez is the Worshipful Master. As soon as all the info is gathered, you can expect to see a revised bluebook with our newest lodge listed.

It’s April, and that means Major League Baseball. For the Phillies fans among us, we present the Phillies 2019 regular season schedule within.

Don’t forget to check out our *Upcoming Events* section for a first look at Gold Token Night in May—get your reservations in early! And consult our *GL & Appendant Bodies* section for info on the upcoming April 5th Town Hall, Candidates Night on April 9th, and off-site voting instructions for Grand Lodge.

Dave

THE TRAVELING GAVEL



Possession of the Traveling Gavel is the 18th District’s symbol of honor for Lodges that fulfill the spirit of Masonic Travel. The Gavel, along with its accompanying logbook, remains with the Lodge last able to capture it until claimed by another Lodge under these rules.

A Worshipful Master and any other four (or more) Master Masons from his Lodge may claim the Gavel by visiting the current Gavel-holders for any regular or emergent communication. The claimants must all be present from the Opening through the Closing of the Lodge. In the case of competing claims, the Gavel shall go to the visiting Lodge with the largest contingent. If still tied on that basis, the Master of the host Lodge shall decide the tie by coin flip.

Once claimed the new Gavel holders should record their claim in the logbook, and report it to the Deputy and the 18th District Light at the first opportunity. The Gavel should be prominently displayed in the East during all communications until claimed by another Lodge.

HAPPY TRAVELING!

The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion.

— Thomas Paine





18th Masonic District Blood Drives



Bonus Bucks

Donate a Pint of Blood at
any 18th District Masonic Blood Drive
and get an 18th District "Bonus Bucks" coupon which will be honored
at a variety of Lodge events throughout the 18th District!
(Coupon must be presented for redemption; only one coupon
per person per event; good up to \$25 - no change can be given)

Next
Blood Drive
May 4th

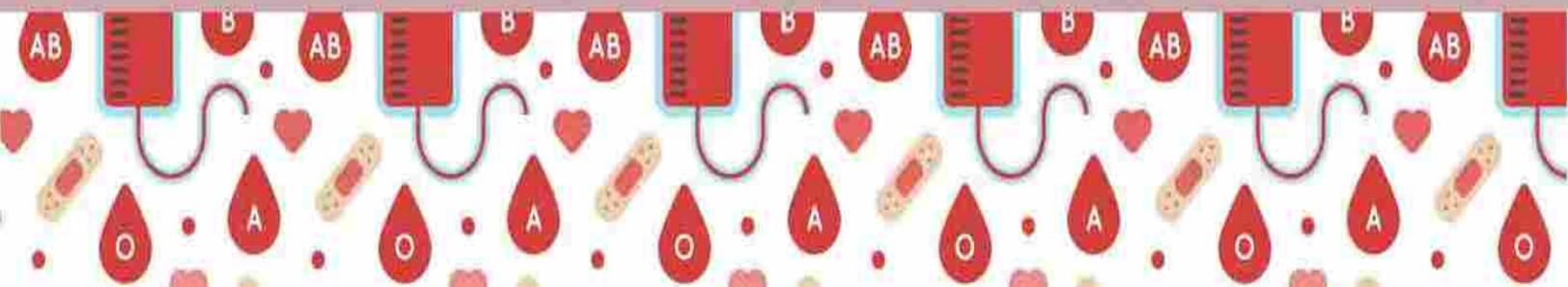
Bonus Bucks may be
redeemed at any Lodge function

Next
Blood Drive
May 4th

held by any of our 18th District Lodges
for the remainder of 2019.

We will publish a list of 2020 events
after new Masters are installed and consulted.

All Lodges of 18th District will also honor bonus bucks for
any communication refreshments for which a fee is charged!





PHILLIES 2019 SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE VERSION 1/4/2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
MARCH				28 ATL 3:05	29	30 ATL 4:05
31 ATL 7:05	1	2 WSH 7:05	3 WSH 1:05	4	5 MIN 7:05	6 MIN 2:05
7 MIN 1:05	8 WSH 7:05	9 WSH 7:05	10 WSH 7:05	11	12 MIA 7:10	13 MIA 6:10
14 MIA 1:10	15 NYM 7:05	16 NYM 7:05	17 NYM 1:05	18 COL 8:40	19 COL 8:40	20 COL 8:10
21 COL 3:10	22 NYM 7:10	23 NYM 7:10	24 NYM 7:10	25 MIA 7:05	26 MIA 7:05	27 MIA 6:05
28 MIA 1:05	29	30 DET 7:05	APRIL			

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 ATL 7:20	3 ATL 7:20	4 ATL 7:20	5 NYM 7:10	6 NYM 7:15
7 NYM 1:10	8 9 10 ALL-STAR BREAK CLEVELAND, OH			11	12 WSH 6:05	13 WSH 7:15
14 WSH 1:05	15 LAD 7:05	16 LAD 7:05	17 LAD 7:05	18 LAD 12:35	19 PIT 7:05	20 PIT 7:05
21 PIT 1:35	22	23 DET 7:10	24 DET 1:10	25	26 ATL 7:05	27 ATL 7:05
28 ATL 1:05	29	30 SF 7:05	31 SF 7:05	JULY		

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
MAY			1 DET 7:05	2	3 WSH 7:05	4 WSH 7:05
5 WSH 2:05	6 STL 8:05	7 STL 7:45	8 STL 1:15	9	10 KC 8:15	11 KC 7:15
12 KC 2:15	13 MIL 7:05	14 MIL 7:05	15 MIL 7:05	16 MIL 1:05	17 COL 7:05	18 COL 4:05
19 COL 1:05	20 CHI 8:05	21 CHI 7:05	22 CHI 8:05	23 CHI 2:20	24 MIL 8:10	25 MIL 4:10
26 MIL 2:10	27	28 STL 7:05	29 STL 7:05	30 STL 1:05	31 LAD 10:10	

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AUGUST					1 SF 1:05	2 CWS 7:05
3 CWS 7:05	4 CWS 1:05	5 ARI 9:40	6 ARI 9:40	7 ARI 9:40	8 SF 9:45	9 SF 10:15
10 SF 4:05	11 SF 4:05	12	13 CHI 7:05	14 CHI 7:05	15 CHI 7:05	16 SD 7:05
17 SD 7:05	18 SD 1:05	19	20 BOS 7:10	21 BOS 7:10	22	23 MIA 7:10
24 MIA 6:10	25 MIA 1:10	26 PIT 7:05	27 PIT 7:05	28 PIT 6:05	29	30 NYM 7:05
31 NYM 4:05						

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
JUNE						1 LAD 10:10
2 LAD 4:10	3 SD 10:10	4 SD 10:10	5 SD 3:40	6	7 CIN 7:05	8 CIN 4:05
9 CIN 1:05	10 ARI 7:05	11 ARI 7:05	12 ARI 7:05	13 	14 ATL 7:20	15 ATL 7:20
16 ATL 1:20	17 WSH 7:05	18 WSH 7:05	19 WSH 7:05	20 WSH 7:05	21 MIA 7:05	22 MIA 4:05
23 MIA 1:05	24 NYM 7:05	25 NYM 7:05	26 NYM 7:05	27 NYM 1:05	28 MIA 7:10	29 MIA 4:10
30 MIA 1:10						

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 NYM 1:05	2 CIN 2:10	3 CIN 6:40	4 CIN 8:40	5 CIN 12:35	6 NYM 7:10	7 NYM 7:10
8 NYM 1:10	9 ATL 7:05	10 ATL 7:05	11 ATL 7:05	12 ATL 7:05	13	14 BOS 7:05
15 BOS 1:05	16	17 ATL 7:20	18 ATL 7:20	19 ATL 12:10	20 CLE 7:10	21 CLE 7:10
22 CLE 1:10	23 WSH 7:05	24 WSH 7:05	25 WSH 7:05	26 WSH 4:05	27 MIA 7:05	28 MIA 6:05
29 MIA 3:05	30	SEPTEMBER				

HOME GAMES

Happy 5th Birthday 18th District Light





As you have no doubt observed, this two-page display comprises all fifty-five covers of the 18th District Light from it's reincarnation in April 2014 to last month's cover, March 2019. I sincerely hope you have found, and will continue to find the 18th District Light entertaining, informative, and enlightening. My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed over the years and helped make the 18th District Light a re-sounding success. I have few personal favorites among the covers, but picking a single favorite has proved difficult. If you have personal favorite cover, please drop us a line and let us know which one and why. 

Baseball & Freemasonry

by 18th District Light Editor, WB David A. Frankel

It being April, and April being long synonymous with the start of baseball season (the fact that the regular season now starts in the final days of March notwithstanding), I was prompted to search for connections between our great fraternity and our “national pastime” (a nickname that may be losing relevance and accuracy these days). The first thing I learned was that if one searches the internet for such connections in a typically haphazard manner — such as searching for “Freemasonry and baseball” — one is apt to uncover a huge amount of garbage.

Just as Freemasonry itself has been co-opted by the ignorant as the basis of never ending conspiracy theories and as a focal point for irrational hatred and fear of anything or anyone different or unknown, even baseball has been seized upon by the intellectually incapacitated as a nefarious repository of hidden symbols, mysticism, and numerological significance created and perpetrated by Masons. There was even a book, *Brothers of the Diamond: Freemasonry & Professional Baseball* by Christopher L. Murphy, published in 1993. It doesn't appear to be available anymore, at least not that I could find. But Mr. Murphy's other claim to literary “fame” is a book on Sasquatch, so I'll leave the reader to judge for himself. From what little I could glean, the book is yet another tour de farce which purports to reveal the unsuspected Masonic roots of baseball and the mystical numerological knowledge hidden within the game.

So much for the hogwash. To the extent that any legitimate connection exists between the great sport of baseball and the Masonic fraternity, it lies in the members of our society that actually played the game, either professionally or recreationally — and there have been some notable ones — especially in the early days of the game.

TY COBB

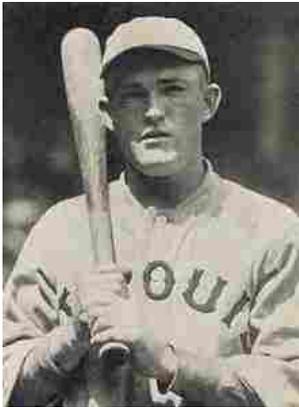


Tyrus Raymond Cobb was born December 18, 1886 in Royston, Georgia. Cobb spent 24 years in the major leagues. He played 22 years for the Detroit Tigers from 1905 to 1927, serving as player-manager for his last six years in Detroit. After being released early in 1927, he joined the Philadelphia Athletics, where he played the 1927 and 28 seasons before retiring from the game.

Nicknamed the “Georgia Peach” Cobb is credited with setting some 90 Major League Baseball records during his career including the highest career batting average (.367) and most career batting titles. He retained

many of his records for years, including his record of most career hits, which stood until 1985, most career runs, which stood until 2001, most career games played and most at bats, which stood until 1974, and the modern record for most career stolen bases, which stood until 1977. Cobb was a member of Royston Lodge No. 426, in Detroit.

ROGERS HORNSBY



Rogers Hornsby, Sr., the great “Rajah,” was born in Texas on April 27, 1896. He became a star player, a coach, and a manager, who spent 23 seasons performing to cheering crowds for the St. Louis Cardinals (1915-1926 & 1933), the New York Giants (1927; that’s BASEBALL Giants for you confused football fans), the Boston Braves (1928), the Chicago Cubs (1928-1932), and the St. Louis Browns (1933-1937).

Hornsby had 2,930 hits and 301 home runs, and his career batting average of .358 was second only to Ty Cobb. He was the National League MVP twice, and helped lead the 1926 Cardinals to a World Series Championship. After retiring as a player, he managed the Browns in 1952 and the Cincinnati Reds from 1952 to 1953.

Hornsby is widely regarded as one of the best hitters of all time. He won two Triple Crowns and batted .400 or more three times during his career. He is the only player to hit 40 home runs and bat .400 in the same year (1922). His batting average for the 1924 season was .424 and he was elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1942. He was a member of Beacon Lodge No. 3, in St. Louis, MO.

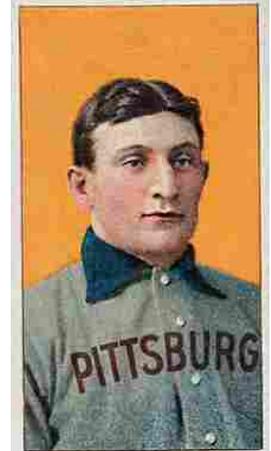
HONUS WAGNER



Johannes Peter “Honus” Wagner was born February 24, 1874 and played 21 seasons in the majors from 1897 to 1917, almost exclusively for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He won eight National League batting titles, led the league in slugging six times and in stolen bases five times. Alternatively nicknamed “The Flying Dutchman” in his time, and the “Bandy-legged Wonder” by at least one baseball historian, Wagner was inducted as one of the first five members of the Baseball Hall of Fame, receiving the second-highest vote total, behind Ty Cobb and tied with Babe Ruth.

Although Cobb is frequently cited as the greatest player of the dead-ball era, some contemporaries regarded Wagner as the better all-around player, and most baseball historians consider Wagner to be the greatest shortstop ever. Cobb himself called Wagner “maybe the greatest star ever to take the diamond.”

Wagner is the subject of one of the rarest and most valuable baseball cards in the world — in 2016, his 1909-1911 card (pictured at right) sold at auction for \$3.12 Million. Honus Wagner was a member of Centennial Lodge No. 544, in Carnegie, PA.



CY YOUNG



Denton True “Cy” Young was born March 29, 1867, and his reputation as a pitcher needs no explanation to any fan of the historical game. Even the casual modern observer of the game has heard of the Cy Young award, which started being awarded to the best pitcher of the year only one year after his death in November 1955 at the age of 88.

During his 21-year baseball career from 1890 to 1911 Young pitched for five different teams, establishing records which were regarded as astounding for decades beyond his retirement and to this day. He compiled 511 wins, the most in Major League history and 94 ahead of second place Walter Johnson.

In addition to wins, Young set major league records for most career innings pitched (7,355), most career games started (815), and most complete games (749). He had 76 career shutouts, won at least 30 games five times and had ten other seasons of 20 or more wins — numbers which are beyond imagination today. He pitched three no-hitters, including the third perfect game in baseball history and the first in the modern era. In 1999 he was ranked by the Sporting News as the 14th greatest player in the history of the game and that same year baseball fans named him to the Major League Baseball All-Century Team.

Young was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1937. He was a member of Mystic Tie Lodge #194, in Uhrichsville, Ohio.

Other famous baseball figures I was able to identify included Grover Cleveland Alexander, St. Paul Lodge No. 82, St. Paul Nebraska; Charles Albert “Chief” Bender, Robert A. Lamberton Lodge No. 487 of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mickey Cochrane, (no lodge citation available); Branch Rickey, President, GM, and part owner of the Dodgers, best known outside of baseball circles for breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier when he signed Jackie Robinson; and Charles Arthur "Dazzy" Vance, Clearwater Lodge No. 127, Clearwater, Florida.

In addition to famous major leaguers, some not so famous Masons no doubt played the game, their names much harder to find. *The Pennsylvania Freemason*, August 2008, contains a wonderful article on Bro. Bob Friend, who pitched with the Pittsburgh Pirates. (See, <https://>

pagrandlodge.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2008-August-1.pdf — and thanks to WB Martin Bogardus for this and other citations in this article.)

Bro. Bob was with the Pirates from 1951 to 1966, including for their World Series win in 1960. I still remember watching that series as an eleven year old kid, and the excitement of Bill Mazeroski winning the series with a home run, little suspecting at the time that I was being entertained, in part, by a future Masonic brother! According to the article in *The Pennsylvania Freemason*, “it was through fellow teammates Bro. Dick Groat, Bro. Ron Kline, and several others, as well as his father, that Bro. Friend decided to join the Masonic fraternity. He received his degree from John “Red” McCartney, a head usher [from Pittsburgh’s ballpark], in Franklin-St. Johns-Trinity Lodge No. 221, Pittsburgh.” There are no doubt many such stories of Masons in baseball that we shall probably never know.

The pros certainly don’t have a monopoly on Masons in baseball. The official blog of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library (See, https://nationalheritagemuseum.typepad.com/library_and_archives/2016/03/play-ball-a-masonic-baseball-jersey.html) presents a blog post concerning the baseball jersey pictured at right, which they theorize was worn in a Masonic baseball league in the 1910s or 20s.



One such league played, at least in part, in Detroit, where an Ionic team’s exploits are documented in newspaper accounts between 1917 and 1921, although no conclusive evidence yet links the pictured jersey to that Ionic team, who were league champions in 1918. Another such league was active in western New York state in the 1930s, and in Duluth, Minnesota, Freemasons organized an indoor baseball league in 1914. Another Ionic team played in that league, but newspaper references to them as the “Red and Gray squad” make it unlikely that the jersey came from there.

Other baseball-related items in the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library’s collection include ticket stubs from a Masonic baseball game between Irvington, New Jersey’s Franklin Lodge No. 10 and Newark, New Jersey’s Oriental Lodge No. 51, played on Saturday, June 24, 1911. The October 1935 photo at right, from the museum’s collection, gives testimony to an “All-Star Masonic” fundraiser game played in Trenton between National and American League pros who were also Freemasons!



I think it is safe to say that Freemasonry has contributed to the American pastime, as it has contributed to every walk of American life. 

United by Song

Bros. Dan W. Quinn and Vincent P. Bryan
by WB Martin Bogardus, Collingswood-Cloud Lodge No. 101

The song, *Brother Masons*, is every bit a Masonic song, in content, having been written by a Freemason — Bro. Vincent P. Bryan, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 — and in expression, having also been recorded by a Freemason — Bro. Dan W. Quinn, Pyramid Lodge No. 490.

Dan W. Quinn (November 1860 – November 7, 1938) was one of the first American singers to become popular in the new medium of recorded music. His highly successful recording career bridged the turn of the century, from 1892 to 1918, with many of his hits harkening from the songwriters and publishers of New York City’s legendary Tin Pan Alley, as an area on West 28th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, in Manhattan, came to be known. He also famously performed the song *Brother Masons* to packed houses wherever he played. Quinn was a prominent member of Pyramid Lodge No. 490, in New York City, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1914.



Quinn’s musical career began as a child, singing in the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, where he was “discovered” in 1892. He made his first recording in New York and quickly gained success. Over the course of his career, Quinn recorded many popular songs and cut an estimated 2,500 titles. Rather interestingly, he assisted Thomas Edison in Edison’s laboratory as the great inventor made modifications to his “talking machine” in order to adapt it to singing as well. Edison was quite enamored of Quinn, and upon Quinn’s passing was quoted in Quinn’s New York Sun obituary, describing him as “the man with perfect voice.”

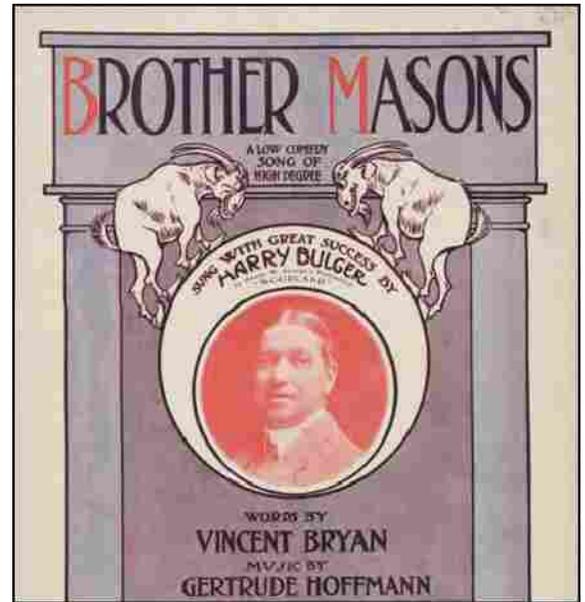
Quinn recorded for all the major labels of his day, including Berliner, Columbia, Edison, Gramophone, Paramount, and Victor (later to become RCA). In 1898, Columbia signed him to a year-long exclusive contract, but within days of its expiration he was already spreading his talent once again, making a record for Berliner. The April 1, 1899 Masonic Standard, a New York City Masonic newspaper popular at the turn of the century, mentions Bro. Quinn and a Bro. Carl Anderson furnishing the evening’s entertainment at St. Cecile Lodge No. 568.

Brother Masons was written by Freemason Vincent P. Bryan (June 22, 1878 – April 27, 1937), who was a member of St. Cecile No. 568. Bryan was a prolific and talented lyricist, but also, sadly, a hopeless heroin addict. He died just short of his 60th birthday. Vincent Bryan was perhaps the most talented, and most tragic, of Charlie Chaplin’s collaborators. He joined Chaplin as a writer in 1915, when Chaplin was going through one of his temporary artistic ruts, helped him recover, and

then assisted in producing some of the most remarkable films of Chaplin's career during 1915, 1916 and 1917. According to Bryan's wife Leota, Bryan also served as Chaplin's uncredited co-director.

In the 1903-1909 production of *The Wizard of Oz*, Bryan was called upon to introduce new songs in numerous revisions of the show. Along with Hal Roach in 1919, he directed three Harold Lloyd films: *He Leads, Others Follow*, *Soft Money* and *Pay Your Dues*. Unfortunately, his addiction to heroin prematurely ended his promising career in motion pictures.

Little information about Bryan's participation in the fraternity is available, but *One Thousand Communications of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, F. & A. M.*, a history prepared by



A recording of *Brother Masons* may be heard at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4Uhl_Xwo5Q

Music by Members of St. Cecile Lodge under Direction of Brother CARL F. WILLIAMS.	
PART FIRST.	
March—"St. Cecile Lodge, 568"	Bro. Maurice Levi
Lancers—"Twentieth Century"	Bro. Carl Williams
Waltz—"Loveland"	Bro. Abe Holzmann
Waltz—"Helmet of Navarre"	R. W. Robert Recker
Two-Step—"Gleaming Star"	Bro. Fred W. Hager
Lancers—Operatic	Bro. Arthur G. Weld
Waltz—"My Heart Goes Bumpety Bump"	Bro. Justus Ringleben
Two-Step—"Priscilla"	Bro. Jos. W. Stern
Waltz—"December as in May"	Bro. Ernest R. Ball
Two-Step—"Jack o'Lantern Joe"	Bro. John W. Bratton
Waltz—"Love's Garden"	Bro. Theo. Morse
Two-Step—"St. Cecile"	Bro. John Gennaro
PART SECOND.	
Waltz—"Oldsmobile"	Bro. Gus Edwards
Lancers—"Silver Heels Medley"	Neil Moret
Waltz—"Hearts and Flowers"	Bro. Theo. M. Tobani
Two-Step—"What's the Use of Knocking?"	Bro. Vincent Bryan
Waltz—"Whippoorwill"	Bro. Fred W. Hager
Two-Step—"Nightmare Land"	Bro. William Lorraine
Waltz—"If a Girl Like You"	Bro. Gus Edwards
Two-Step—"College Life"	Henry Frantzen
Lancers—Selected	Bro. Witmark
Waltz—"Twiddle-Twaddle"	Bro. Maurice Levi
Two-Step—"Starlight"	Bro. Theo. Morse
Waltz—Selected	Bro. Louis Gottschalk

Charles M. Williams, Lodge Historian from 1898 to 1907, documents Bryan's participation as a Freemason and a performer in the lodges's Grand Annual Entertainment and Reception, held on March 8, 1906. Part of the evening's entertainment is illustrated at left.

Although no definitive evidence indicates that Bros. Quinn and Bryan ever worked together, or even met, it is almost certainly fair to assume that they at least knew each other in passing. They traveled in New York's Masonic circles, had related, indeed overlapping vocations, and of course had a common touchstone in the song

Brother Masons. Bro. Dan Quinn visited and performed at St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, Bro. Bryan's mother lodge, and it is distinctly possible that they sat in lodge together. But whether or not the pair ever met or collaborated, for this author they will always be two *Brother Masons* united by a common song. 

Masonic Profile: Arthur Marx

by 18th District Light Editor, WB David A. Frankel

April makes me think of April Fools' Day, and April Fools' Day makes me think of some of the many merry pranksters who have graced the stage and screen during my lifetime. One of the greatest of these was unquestionably Arthur Adolph Marx, who you should know by his more common moniker, Harpo. There seems to be no doubt that Harpo was a Freemason; his membership is widely acknowledged in Masonic circles — but no documentation or even a citation to his lodge of membership could be found.



A short time ago, I would have assumed that no real explanation of Harpo's fame would have been necessary. But recent experience has driven home for me just how much "institutional knowledge" is being lost between generations. I have discovered that some of my younger Masonic brothers have no familiarity with the works of entertainers like Jack Benny, Bob Hope, and Jimmy Durante — whose talents and fame spanned the entertainment industry's transition from vaudeville and radio to modern film and television — and even more recent stars like Paul Newman and Robert Redford — who were worldwide cinema icons in the latter half of the 20th and well into the 21st centuries.



So, for the uninitiated, who was Harpo? A man unto himself, of course, but best known to the public as one of the Marx Brothers — Groucho, Harpo, Chico (along with lesser known Zeppo and Gummo) — who are responsible for some of the zaniest comic films ever created by American cinema. Harpo was an immense comedic talent and mime who never spoke a word on screen throughout his career. Many in his huge audience of admirers actually believed him to be mute. In fact, he was known to those behind the scenes to have a pleasantly deep and melodic voice, but on screen Harpo wore a red "brillo pad" wig and honked and tweeted and mimed his way through all his performances, typically clad in a misshapen top hat and baggy trench coat, both lined with innumerable sound makers, props, and gimmicks he used in many of his "sight gags."



The Marx Brothers
Chico, Harpo, Groucho,
and Zeppo

Born Adolph Marx on November 23, 1888, in New York City, Harpo changed his name to Arthur in 1911 — not, as many theorized, because of anti-German sentiment in the U.S., but simply because he disliked the name Adolph. Arthur was the third born of the brothers, Chico, Harpo, Groucho, Gummo, and Zeppo. The first born Marx son, Manfred, died at only seven months of age. The brothers grew up near 93rd and Lexington, in Manhattan — and I hope you’ll forgive my feeling compelled to note, right around the corner and only a few blocks away from where I spent my 30 years in NYC, in the very same Carnegie Hill neighborhood.

He got his famous stage name from a card dealer while playing in a game of cards backstage at the Orpheum in Galesburg, Illinois, because he played the harp — a skill showcased in many of his screen and television performances.

On September 28, 1936, Harpo married actress Susan Fleming, who soon after abandoned the profession and they adopted four children.

According to Harpo’s son, Bill, they had a fairly quiet and traditional family life living in what was then the small quiet community of Beverly Hills. (See, <https://www.harposplace.com/index.php>.) For a much more in depth look at the life of Harpo Marx, I wholeheartedly recommend his autobiography, *Harpo Speaks*.



Harpo and three of his
four children

Harpo died on September 28, 1964, his 28th wedding anniversary, following open-heart surgery. A wonderful illustration of Harpo’s life and philosophy comes from a much quoted interview conducted by fellow comedian George Burns. When Burns asked

Harpo how many more children he planned to adopt, Harpo’s reply was, “As many as I have windows. So, when I leave, I want a kid in each window waving ‘goodbye’.”



Marx Brothers films have entertained audiences for decades, both in theaters and in never ending repeat appearances on television. What follows is a very incomplete list of some of their best films starring three or four of the brothers: *The Cocoanuts* (1929); *Animal Crackers* (1930); *Monkey Business* (1931); *Horse Feathers* (1932); *Duck Soup* (1933); *A Night at the Opera* (1935); *A Day at the Races* (1937); *Room Service* (1938) *At the Circus* (1939); *Go West* (1940); *The Big Store* (1941); *A Night in Casablanca* (1946). 