

Did you know.....?

- Angelo Soliman, was born in Africa in 1721 and brought to Europe as a slave at the age of ten. He was educated, married, and became a favourite in the royal court in Vienna. Somewhere before 1771 he became a Freemason. When he died in 1776, the Emperor had his body stuffed and mounted in the natural history museum, becoming not only the first black of African birth to become a mason, but the also the first mason to be stuffed, mounted, and displayed. *Shudder!*
- Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbot, Viscount Richard Bedford Bennett, Sir Robert Laird Borden, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, John George Diefenbaker, Sir John Alexander MacDonald. I'm sure that you recognize some, or all, of these names. These men have at least two things in common: the first was that they were all Prime Ministers of Canada at one time or another, some as early as 1867. John A MacDonald had two terms in office but they were not successive terms (1867-1873 and 1878-1891 when he died in office); the second thing that they had in common was, of course, that they were all Freemasons.
- At one time, Golden Lodge #5, Stanstead, Canada occupied a lodge room, which straddled the boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances on both sides of the border.
- In 1920, Gate City Lodge #522 in Kansas City MO met every day of the week except Sunday to confer a record 1,107 degrees, averaging 21 degrees a week. *Sheesh!*
- In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, a stone was found in a small chapel, dated 1517, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love & care, upon the level, and by the square." Interestingly this is some 200 years prior to the foundation of the first Grand Lodge in England.
- Dr. Edward Jenner, in 1789, discovered the vaccination process against smallpox. He was Worshipful Master of Faith and Friendship Lodge #270 in Berkeley, England at the time.
- Music written by Brother John Stafford Smith (1750-1836) of Inverness Lodge #4 in London was, at one time, used by an Irish Masonic Orphans' Home as their song. Later it became a popular drinking song, for many years known as To Anacreon in Heaven. Then, some years later, the music was adopted by Francis Scott Key to which he wrote the words to the American National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner.