

# THE PHILATELIC FREEMASON

Journal of the  
MASONIC STUDY UNIT



Editor  
Robert A. Domingue  
59 Greenwood Road  
Andover, Mass. 01810

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WHOLE NO. 87

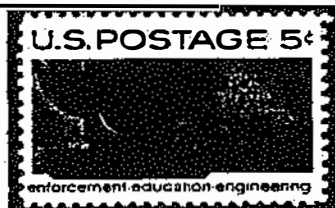
## LESTER FARNSWORTH WIRE

In August 1991, the Utah Department of Transportation paid tribute to the inventor of the traffic light, Lester Farnsworth Wire, who was born September 3, 1887. He was a policeman for the Salt Lake City Police Department early in the century when automobiles were just coming into vogue and the mixture of horse teams and autos was wreaking havoc on city streets.

To bring order out of chaos, he hit upon the idea of using red and green lights to control traffic at Christmas. Taking some old Mazda arc lights, he dipped them in watercolors, then placed them in a wooden box on a ten-foot pole. The light was located at the intersection of Main and Second South Streets in 1912. At first, people thought the idea silly and largely ignored it. After a while, however, the light caught on and with its red and green signals, Wire's light has now gained acceptance and use worldwide.

What is less well-known is that Lester F. Wire was a Brother in Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 2, Salt Lake City, being raised on March 25, 1912. He remained a member until his death on May 13, 1946.

On September 3, 1965, the US Post Office Department showed Bro. Wire's invention on the Traffic Safety commemorative (Scott 1272). Italy also used the traffic light for a highway safety program commemorative (Scott 725) issued on August 7, 1957.



One of the problems with being too busy is the tendency to rush and file things too quickly. When I received this article, I promptly filed it in my folder for the next Newsletter and forgot to note the source. One of you knows who submitted it (I should and apologize for not knowing) - I sincerely thank you.

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PROVIDE YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS TO THE EDITOR  
THE BALLOT WILL BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### NEW MEMBERS:

169. Joseph C. Bryan, 68 Rockywood Lane, Baltimore, MD 21221  
176. Jeff T. Newsome, Jr., Rt 360, Box 9, Lottsburg, VA 22511  
353. George Richardson, Masonic Home, Charlton, MA 01507

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

88. David W. Power, 58 Abington Rd., Danvers, MA 01923  
113. Edward Plander, 51 Grove St. #701, Stamford, CT 06901  
259. Mark H. VanHouten, % Masonic Home, 902 Jacksonville Rd., Burlington, NJ 08106  
351. Arnulfo Morales-Lugo, Box 808, Bayamon, PR 00960

### CLOSED ALBUMS:

141. Harold R. Mullin late of Annapolis, MD

### MEMBERS ACTIVITIES:

Several of our members send news of their activity levels in the Masonic Order:

Alan R. P. Golding, member No. 11 of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, was elected Chaplain of Royal Arthur Lodge No. 523 for the year 1992.

Richard Wright, member BNo. 139 of Lodi, CA, was recently appointed Assistant Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of California.

Gene Fricks, member No. 224 of Clementon, NJ, was installed Dec. 12 as Worshipful Master of Haddonfield Lodge No. 130, Haddonfield, NJ.

Richard F. Potter, member No. 236 of Woodstock, CT, is Secretary of Putnam Lodge No. 46, So. Woodstock, NJ. In this role he prepares a periodic newsletter entitled "From the East" in addition to the normal communication.

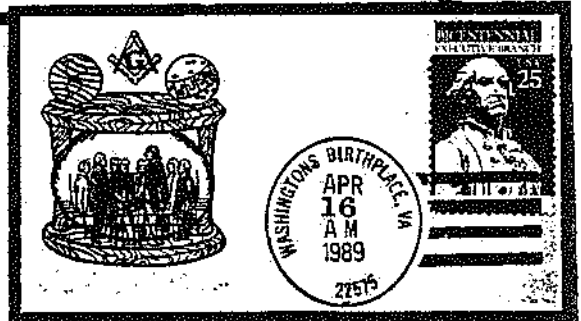
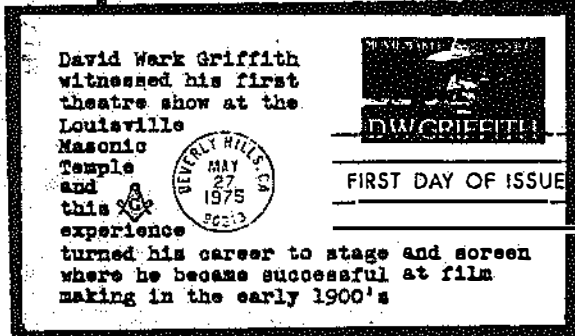
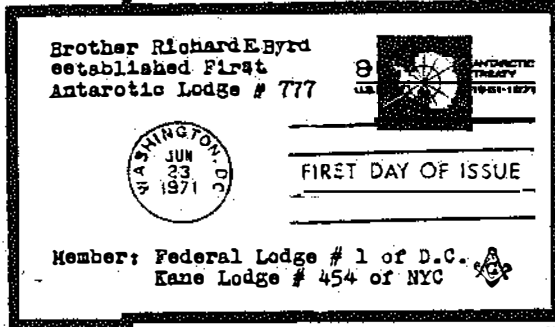
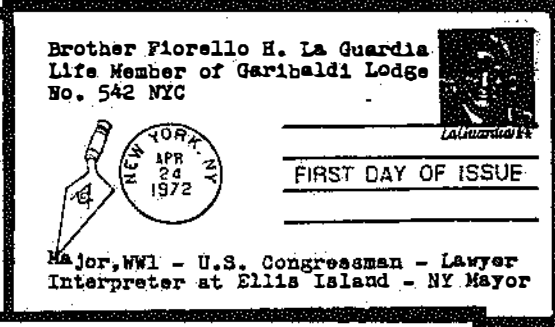
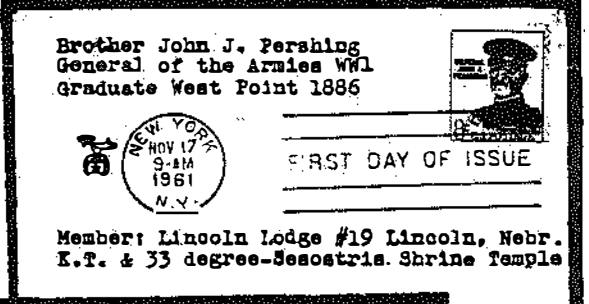
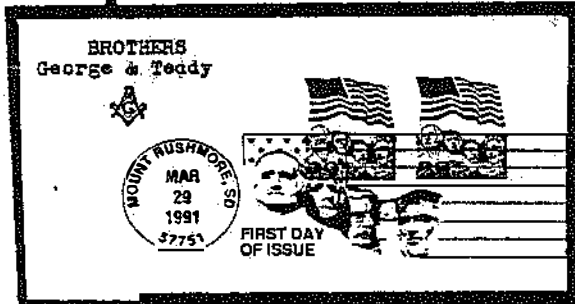
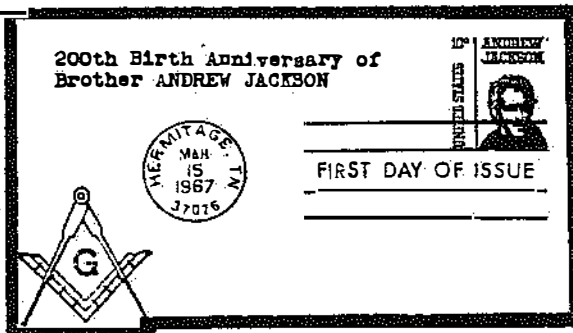
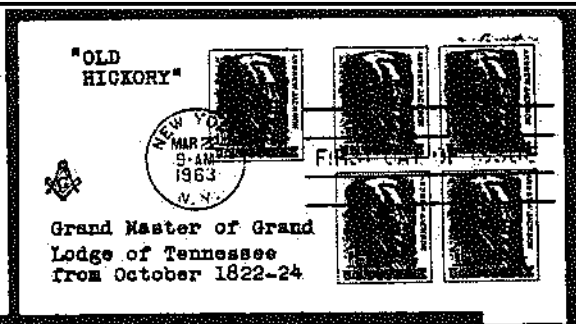
### EDITOR'S RAMBLING

In April 1984 Walter J. Kirby, the original Editor of this "Life" of the Masonic Study Unit, had his third heart attack and passed away. Within a month your present Editor was established in the role and he has published 558 pages of Newsletter over the subsequent eight years. This tenure has been longer than any other similar Editor (with the exception of Trevor Fray of Great Britain) and I am of the full desire to let some "new blood" take over the reins. Having a full-time (+) job, being a husband, a father (to 4) and a grandfather (to 5), an Editor of a Newsletter, Secretary of my Blue Lodge and an avid author/researcher takes a considerable amount of time - something will suffer before too long. Consequently, I would welcome any serious offers to assume this Editorship - a position which I think all members realize is presently the only active role within this Unit other than that of the Secretary/Treasurer. Any takers?

## MINIATURE FDCs

"Call them what you may; namecard FDCs, 2 by 4 FDCs or just mini FDCs" Bro. Stan Longenecker has added them to his Masonic Philately collection. When he was servicing his own FDCs by driving to Washington D.C. for a First Day of Issue and then hurrying out to other P.O.s to get U.O.s, he met up with the late George Alexander - one of the pioneers of this branch of philately. George did many one-of-a-kind cachets using the photocopy method and was known to create one or two which were of a Masonic nature.

An article by Allison Cusick in the Dec. 9 issue of Linn's discusses these miniature FDCs and specifically identifies George Alexander and his efforts from 1981 to his untimely death in 1989. Another current mini FDC publisher is Robert Rowe of Nashville, TN. The covers shown here all measure 2 1/4" by 4 1/4", were prepared by the photocopy method and were given to Bro. Longenecker by Bro. John Allen in 1989. Thanks for sharing them with us Bro. Stan.



## WORLD WAR II MASONS

With the advent of various postal releases commemorating the fiftieth Anniversary of World War II, there may be several opportunities to add to our Masonic Philately base. Several of the senior officers of this conflict were Members of the Craft. Some have already been honored by postage stamp releases, others can be associated with certain stamp designs. The following very abbreviated list presents some of the names we should keep our eyes open for:

Omar Nelson Bradley - Born Feb. 12, 1893, at Clark, MO, he was graduated from West Point in 1915. He advanced from the rank of 2nd Lt. in 1915 to brigadier general in 1941, major general in 1942, lieutenant general in 1943, general in 1945 and general of the army in 1950. He served as a commander during World War II, chief of staff, U.S. Army 1948-9 and Chairman U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff 1949-53. Bro. Bradley was raised in West Point Lodge No. 877, Highland Falls, NY, in 1923.

Mark Wayne Clark - Born May 1, 1896, at Madison Barracks, NY, he was graduated from West Point in 1917. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in 1917 and advanced to general in 1945. In World War II he was deputy chief of staff, chief of staff of the Army Ground Forces, commander of the 5th Army and then the 15th Army Group in Italy. In 1952 he was commander in chief of the U.N. Command in Korea and commanding general of all U.S. forces in the Far East. He retired in 1953 to accept the presidency of The Citadel, Charleston, SC. Bro. Clark was raised on Dec. 30, 1929, in Mystic Tie Lodge No. 398, Indianapolis, IN, and later affiliated with Hancock Lodge No. 11, Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

Norman D. Cota - Born May 30, 1893, at Chelsea, MA, he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1917 and advanced through the ranks to major general. During World War II he commanded the 28th Infantry of the 1st Division which is shown marching through the Arch of Triumph in Paris on U.S. stamp Scott No. 934. Bro. Cota was raised in Robert Lash Lodge, Chelsea, MA, on Oct. 24, 1917.

Douglas MacArthur - Born on Jan. 26, 1880, at Little Rock, AK, he was graduated from West Point in 1903. By 1944 he had advanced to the rank of general of the army. He was a chief of staff and commander during World War I, superintendent of USMA in 1919 and chief of staff of the Army 1930-35. In 1935 he became military advisor to the Philippines government and was appointed their field marshal. He retired from active service in 1937 but returned to active service in 1941 as commander of the U.S. armed forces in the Far East. He was in command of Occupational forces in Japan until recalled in 1951. Bro. MacArthur was made a Mason "at sight" Jan. 17, 1936, by Samuel Hawthorne, Grand Master of the Philippines and joined Manila Lodge No. 1. Gen. MacArthur has already been honored on several postage stamps of the world.



George Catlett Marshall - Born Dec. 31, 1880, in Uniontown, PA, he was a student at Virginia Military Institute 1897-1901. Commissioned in 1901 as an Infantry lieutenant, he advanced to the rank of major general in 1939 and general of the army in 1944. He served with the A.E.F. during World



## WORLD WAR II MASONS (CONT'D)

War I, was aide-de-camp to Gen. Pershing 1919-24 and then served in China and stateside. He was chief of staff 1939-45 and was appointed Ambassador to China in 1945. Author of the Marshall Plan, he served as U.S. Secretary of State (1947-49), U.S. Secretary of Defense (1950-51) and President of the Red Cross (1949-50). He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. Bro. Marshall was made a Mason "at sight" on Dec. 16, 1941, by Ara M. Daniels, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, he never affiliated with a Lodge.

Jonathan Matthew Wainwright - Born Aug. 23, 1883, at Walla Walla, WA, he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1906. He served in France during World War I and was appointed to command the Philippine Division in 1940. He became a prisoner of war during the fall of Corregidor being released from a camp in Manchuria in 1945. Bro. Wainwright received all three degrees on May 16, 1946, in Union Lodge No. 7, Junction City, KS.

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## MASONIC DATABASE

Bro. Robert Allardice, member No. 178 of Lachine, Quebec, Canada, and Bro. Patrick Palmer, member No. 91 of Miami Springs, FL, have completed their effort on their Masonic database project. It is presently contained on five 3 1/2" double density discettes and can be transferred to 5 1/4" discettes if required. They are presently debating the marketing aspects of this project - it appears the terms will be reasonable for this very extensive effort. They would appreciate some input as to the market which will exist among our members. Please write to Bro. Palmer at 128 Albatross St., Miami Springs, FL 33166 or the Editor if you are interested.

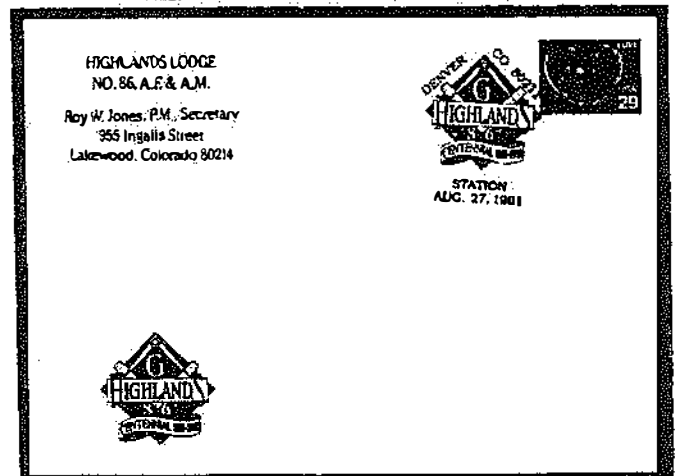
The database was created with dBase III and the Masons on Stamps database consists of 10,793 stamp listings from 249 different countries. The Masonic Symbols database consists of 867 records from 154 different countries. This output represents the result of a lot of work and both Brothers should be commended for their contribution to the hobby.

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## HIGHLANDS LODGE COVER

In the most recent Newsletter a cover commemorating the Centennial of Highlands Lodge No. 36, Denver, CO, was discussed but not shown. A copy is now available and is shown to the right. The cost is \$1.25 ea. and it is available from:

James N. Adams  
2685 So. Sherman Ave.  
Denver, CO 80210





## JOHN SEVIER

John Sevier is pictured on the U.S. P.O.D. issue of June 1, 1946, for the Tennessee Statehood Sesquicentennial.



John Sevier was born on September 23, 1745, in Rockingham County, VA, and was educated - until he became 16 years of age - at the academy in Fredericksburg, VA. He married the next year and founded the village of Newmarket in the Shenandoah Valley. He was a celebrated Indian fighter and was instrumental in the establishment of the area now known as the state of Tennessee. The area was annexed as a county of North Carolina and Sevier was chosen as a delegate to the state convention. Following the Revolutionary War, No. Carolina cut the area loose ceding it to the Federal government. The settlers, however, formed their own government, called a convention on August 23, 1784, organized a constitution and state government, elected Sevier governor and named their state "Franklin". No. Carolina did not like this arrangement, gave them battle, captured Sevier and the territory was ceded by No. Carolina.

John Sevier took an oath of allegiance to the U.S., was commissioned brigadier general in 1789 and chosen to Congress as the first representative from the valley of the Mississippi. He continued his campaigns against the Creeks and the Cherokees and broke their will to fight in the Etowah campaign of 1793. When Tennessee was admitted to the Union in 1796, he became the first governor serving until 1801 and again from 1803 to 1809. He was elected to Congress in 1811 and again in 1815 but died on September 24, 1815.

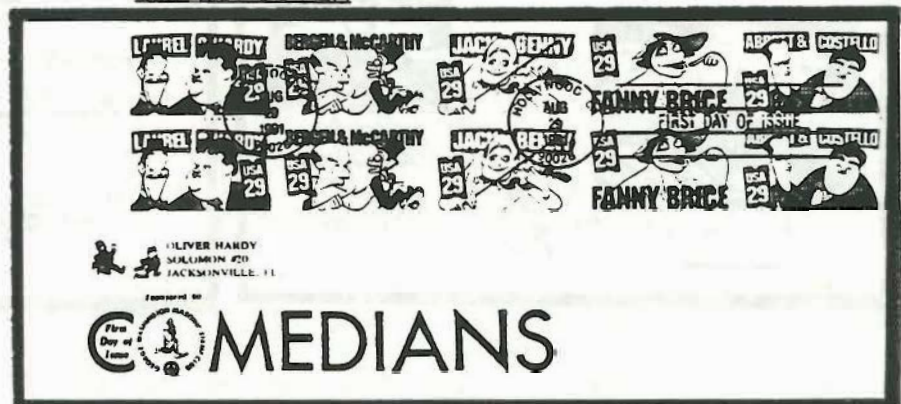
Bro. Sevier's original Lodge is not known but he was the first Master of Tennessee Lodge No. 41 (under No. Carolina jurisdiction) in 1800 while governor. This Lodge later became Tennessee Lodge No. 2 under the Tennessee Grand Lodge. The charter was arrested in October 1827. Bro. Sevier's name also appears as a member of Greenville Lodge No. 3 (No. 43 under No. Carolina jurisdiction) in 1805.

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## GWMSC COVER

The cover shown to the right was published by the GWMSC. Information on its acquisition can be obtained from:

Bro. Stan Longenecker  
P.O. Box 7244  
Lancaster, PA 17604.



## CECIL JOHN RHODES

Many stamps of the world have been issued which picture or honor Cecil John Rhodes. One of the best portraits is included in the set released by Southern Rhodesia on June 3, 1940, for the 50th Anniversary of the founding of that country by Bro. Rhodes.



Cecil John Rhodes, born July 5, 1853, in Hertfordshire, England, left grammar school at the age of 16 to go to Natal in South Africa for his health. He became interested in diamond mining and began by working a claim which proved so productive, he amassed a fortune in what became known as the Kimberley Diamond Mines.

In his 20s he returned to England to complete his education. He enrolled in Oxford University, one of the greatest seats of learning in Great Britain, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. He returned to South Africa where he was an important figure in the British South Africa Co. and when gold was discovered in 1886, Rhodes bought land and founded the Amalgamated Gold Fields of South Africa. He served in the Cape Colony parliament and became Prime Minister of Cape Colony 1890-96. Northern and Southern Rhodesia were named in his honor. He died March 26, 1902, and in his will he left £6,000,000 to public service and his palatial home near Cape Town as the official residence of future Prime Ministers. He also left \$10,000,000 to establish and maintain the Rhodes Scholarship Fund.

While a student at Oxford, Bro. Rhodes was made a Freemason in Apollo University Lodge No. 357 being initiated on January 30, passed on February 27 and raised on April 17, 1877. In 1895 he was a charter member of Bulawayo Lodge No. 2566 in Bulawayo, Rhodesia. He gave the Lodge land on which it later built a temple.

-Article submitted by the late Bro. Marshall Loke

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

April 1 marks the beginning of the Masonic Study Unit fiscal year and this year calls for another round of election of officers. The By-Laws provide for two-year terms and the time is drawing close. Ballots must be included in the next Newsletter - names must be on those ballots - you as members must provide those names. The elected officers are: President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer; all other positions are appointed. PLEASE provide your Editor with nominations for these three offices. The MSU should be by the members and for the members - it should not be a one-person show. Don't be bashful! While you are at it, why don't you include an article for the next Newsletter along with your nomination - it would certainly be appreciated.

## NEW ISSUES

The following new issues potentially applicable to a Masonic stamp collection have been identified recently in the philatelic media:

- Mar. 15 Tanzania - International Literacy Year -  
4 values + S/S - 25/- value  
shows chalkboard (trestleboard)  
and other writing instruments.



- June 21 Ghana - 40th Anniversary of the United Nations Development Program - 5 values - 60c value depicts a bee and the 200c value shows corn.

- June 22 Cuba - 165th Anniversary of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama - the one value pictures Simon Bolivar.

- July 15 Uganda - Charles de Gaulle - 4 values + S/S - 90/- value shows de Gaulle escorting British King George VI during an inspection of Free French troops in England, 1940.



- Sept. 2 Antigua & Barbuda - Charles de Gaulle - 4 values + S/S - 15c value depicts Gen. de Gaulle greeting Pres. Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1945.

- Sept. 19 Bangladesh - 14th Anniversary of Sandhani - 3t value pictures a symbolic blood donation, the 5t value shows an eye (the All-Seeing Eye?).



- Oct. 2 Guinea - Movie Stars - 6 values + S/S - 600fr value includes Louis Armstrong, the 750fr S/S shows John Wayne.

- Oct. 7 Senegal - Louis Armstrong - 4 values, design not reported.

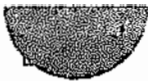


- Oct. 30 El Salvador - 200th Birth Anniversary of Mozart - the one value pictures Mozart and sheet music.

- Dec. 2 Seychelles - Christmas/Paintings and Engravings - 4 values - two picture St. John.

- Dec. 2 Israel - International Year of Mozart - one value which pictures Mozart and music.





Mt. Moriah #2.

GRAND LODGE NO. 4392

LODGE NO. 723

NAME <b>Wire, Lester Farnsworth</b>		
RESIDENCE	<b>Salt Lake City</b>	OCCUPATION <b>Police Officer</b>
BORN, CITY	<b>Salt Lake City</b>	COUNTY STATE <b>Utah</b>
DATE OF BIRTH	<i>Sept. 3, 1887</i>	AGE <b>24</b>
INITIATED	<b>Jan. 22, 1912.</b>	PASSED <b>Feb. 19, 1912</b> RAISED <b>Mar. 25, 1912.</b>
AFFILIATED, DATE	FROM	LODGE NO.
CITY	COUNTY	STATE
LODGE IN WHICH INITIATED	<b>Mt. Moriah</b>	NO. <b>2</b> STATE <b>Utah</b>
OMITTED	<b>May 13, 1946</b>	EXPELLED
SUSPENDED—N. P. D.		U. M. C.
RESTORED		DIED
OFFICE HELD IN LODGE OR GR. L.		
REMARKS		

