



*Brotherly Love*

*Relief*

*Truth*



# **Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30 F. & A. M.**

## **History**

**From  
1852 to 2005**

**Golden Gate Lodge #30, F&AM  
Speranza Italiana Lodge #219 F&AM  
Roosevelt Lodge #500 F&AM  
Mount Moriah Lodge #44 F&AM  
Far West Lodge #673 F&AM**



**Golden Gate Lodge #30, F&AM  
Speranza Italiana Lodge #219 F&AM  
Roosevelt Lodge #500 F&AM  
Mount Moriah Lodge #44 F&AM  
Far West Lodge #673 F&AM**

**1852 to 2005**

**Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30, F. & A. M.**

**Preface**

The following pages are a digest of the comprehensive histories of the Masonic Lodges, Golden Gate Lodge #30, Speranza Lodge #219, Roosevelt Lodge #500, Mount Moriah Lodge #44 and Far West Lodge #673, that have consolidated to form Golden Gate Speranza Lodge #30. These histories are far from complete for all lodge records of Golden Gate, Speranza, Italiana and Mount Mariah, prior to 1906, were destroyed by the earthquake and fire. We have researched what material is available, to gain a picture of formations and early days of these lodges, much of which was fast fading into oblivion.

Many hands went into the preparation of these histories and we wish to thank the following people who offered their efforts, support and advice: Brothers Lee Aslanian, PM, Vito L Bruno, PM, John J Cama, PM, Robert L. Moore, PM, Arthur F. Larsen, PM, William C. Hacke, PM, D. B. Richards, PM, Will E. Ramp, PM, W. W. Smith, PM, Reynold Schmidt, PM, Loyal D. Sutton, PM.

It is with pleasure that we acknowledge Mrs. Susan Bickel and her staff of the State Library at Sacramento and the Society of California Pioneers. We are also grateful to Brothers Jesse W. Whited and Denman S. Wagstaff, Past Masters of Occidental California Lodge #1 and Fairmont Lodge #435, respectively. This historical synopsis is dedicated to the Officers and Members of Golden Gate Speranza Lodge #30, F&AM, Past, Present and Future.

## **GOLDEN GATE LODGE NO. 30**

The year was 1848 and for some time James W. Marshall had worked building a sawmill near what now is the town of Coloma, California. Marshall had chosen this spot on the South Fork of the American River because the location seemed ideal; there was ample water power for the mill and fine stands of pine were growing nearby. On the morning of January 24<sup>th</sup>, Marshall saw something shining in early morning sun, under the cold shallow water of the sawmill's tail-race. It was a bit of golden metal that flattened without breaking when hammered between two stones. He walked back to his fellow workers with the statement that later shook the world, "Boys, I believe I have found a gold mine." Soon the word of "Gold in California", spread across the country and around the world. Men of all walks of life left homes, families and jobs, and by land and sea headed for the fabulous riches of California. Many among those hardy adventurers were loyal Masons, so it was natural for them when they reached the gold fields to join together and form Masonic Lodges.

In a little more than two years after that famous discovery in 1848, California had attained statehood, San Francisco had become the gateway to the Mother Lode, and the Grand Lodge of Masons in California had been organized. The next few years saw Grand Lodge issue a number of Charters to Lodges throughout the State. Among them was Golden Gate Lodge No. 30. The romance of its formation and early history is one of many chapters, each having its own peculiar interest and value.

### **The Early Years Formation**

It began during the era when San Francisco was emerging from a collection of tents and shacks peopled with hustling miners eager to be off to the mines, which were then producing vast quantities of gold. In accordance with a petition signed by Brothers John Morrow, John F. Damon, Archibald C. Brower, George J. Hobe, John Hunter, Jacob S. Schultz, Richard P. Robinson, William S. Moses and William B. Cook, and upon recommendation of Occidental Lodge No. 22, a dispensation to open and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the city of San Francisco, to be called Golden Gate Lodge, was issued on October 12, 1852 by Grand Master Benjamin D. Hyam. The following Brethren were designated as its Officers John Morrow, Master, John F. Damon, Senior Warden, and Archibald C. Brower, Junior Warden. However, business engagements of Brothers Morrow and Brower, both mining men, unexpectedly required their leaving the City prior to its organization. As a result the Grand Master named on November 8, 1852, Brothers William Schuyler Moses, Master, and John Hunter as Junior Warden. On Tuesday November 16, 1852, Golden Gate Lodge, U.D. was duly organized and meetings were held each Tuesday evening thereafter, until the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, when it received its Charter on May 6, 1853 and was enrolled on the register of Grand Lodge as Golden Gate Lodge No. 30, F&AM.

### **The Charter**

Although Golden Gate Lodge was located in the heart of California's largest city, it had a "Roving Charter" that permitted it to meet anywhere within a radius of five miles. This Charter assumes an historical interest of the fact that besides Golden Gate Speranza Lodge, there were only seven other lodges in this jurisdiction which possessed "Rovering Charter" provisions. At this time however, Golden Gate was a restless lodge. Its first meeting place was the Sons of Temperance Hall at 244

Dupont St (now Grant Avenue). It went on to fourteen different meeting places and was known as the lodge that refused to stay put. Its final move was in 1940, when the temple building at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Taraval Street was purchased.

### **Charter Arrested**

Dissention among the brethren made its appearance in the lodge in 1862, which resulted in the Charter being arrested by edict of the Grand Master. The chief cause of the trouble is still an obscure question, however. One account blames Vigilance Committee activities. It seems the Brethren were about evenly divided between the Vigilance Committee and the Law and Order Party. The former sought to rid the city of its criminal element by direct action, and the Vigilance Committee leader, William T. Coleman reputedly held strategy meetings in the lodge rooms. The latter, ignoring the fact that gamblers, hoodlums and ballot box stuffers were in control of the city's politics, took a diametrically opposite stand. They clung to the naïve belief that justice would rise triumphant in her own good time, but had no idea when or how.

A second cause of trouble may have been racial antipathy. The lodge had a large percentage of Jewish and North Ireland brethren in its ranks. Both groups were composed of good and loyal Masons, but they entertained honest differences of opinions. The stubbornness of one and the hot-headedness of the other hardly made for compatibility. And, if this were not enough, the Civil War undoubtedly added its share to the unrest. The war was being fought on every street corner, in every organization and in a lot of homes. Men were not thinking along constructive, but rather destructive lines.

Another explanation gotten from charter members claims that the trouble in Golden Gate Lodge began with the mining deal in which many of the lodge members were interested and which resulted in financial loss to many of them, thus engendering bad feelings. In any event, by December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862, things reached the stage where the Master, Lawrence C. Owen, is said to have personally surrendered the Charter to the Grand Master, who declared it inoperative for the time being. But, hereto, is more than meets the eye. More than one old time Brother accused Owen himself of causing the trouble. Only the year before, his election as Master had been hotly contested and protested. Things remained at a standstill for several months until most of the differences were settled and the Charter was restored on April 7, 1863. However, after three months to the day (July), 42 of the members headed by Owen himself, withdrew to organize a lodge of their own, Excelsior Lodge #166.

### **The Jewels**

Golden Gate Lodge had two sets of jewels, both figuring importantly in the lodge's history. These historic jewels are still in use today. The original Officers' jewels were purchased at a cost of \$18.00. A second set of jewels was purchased by popular subscription on the part of the members in 1854. In order that we may gain the full historic significance in connection with these jewels, let us quote a letter written; by the lodge's first Master, William S. Moses, or "Uncle Billy" as he was called, by his father, dated April 13, 1854: "Golden Gate Lodge is in good condition. The members have by subscription purchased a new set of jewels, regalia, etc., at a cost of near \$1,200. The jewels weigh twelve pounds and are solid silver and cost \$1,010., aand probably cannot be surpassed in the

United States, if in the world, except perhaps by some Grand Lodge jewels of gold. The Senior Warden and Junior Warden each have their silver columns sixteen inches high and seventy ounces in weight.”

Tradition informs us that these jewels were manufactured from the actual contributions made by the members. It is said that the Brothers who donated the coins from which the jewels were made, gathered at the Garrett Foundry and personally tossed them into the crucible. Mexican dollars were used because they cost less than the American coin of the same denomination. Everybody who helped to buy these jewels was mighty proud of the fact. Consequently, the forty-two Brothers who withdrew from Golden Gate Lodge to organize Excelsior Lodge claimed an interest in them. The Grand Master rendered a decision that the jewels belonged to the individuals who had subscribed for them and not to the lodge proper. It was finally worked out that each side had a \$500. interest in them and lots would be drawn for their possession, with the winner paying the loser \$500.. Golden Gate members won, paid the \$500. to the dissatisfied members and became the sole owners of the jewels.

This was this second drama in which these had figured within a year. When the Grand Master arrested Golden Gate’s Charter the previous December, he ordered the lodge to turn its books, jewels and paraphernalia in to Grand Lodge. Golden Gate complied but when it sent its jewels it sent the \$18. ones, retaining the silver ones. There is no official information obtainable as to who engineered this clever manipulation.

### **Silver Columns Replaced**

Years passed and the devastating fire of 1906 not only destroyed all of the lodge records but the solid silver columns of the Senior and Junior Wardens which matched the Officers jewels. The expensive jewels and the Lodge Charter were the only things saved from the fire. They were rescued by H. G. Frederickson of Mount Moriah Lodge #44, the assistant janitor of the Masonic Temple. The year of 1912 arrived and still the silver columns had not been replaced, but a forceful Master was elected, namely Brother August Heuer. Inspired by the story of the original columns, which had been related to him by “Uncle Billy”, he immediately appointed a committee consisting of Past Masters William S. Moses, William G. Wright and Franklin R. Haley to devise ways and means of replacing the silver columns. The same program as 1854 of individual contributions was recommended and adopted. Two hundred fifty dollars were promptly subscribed under the supervision of Brother Haley. On the evening of October 29, 1912, the Master, August Heuer, handed the new silver columns to “Uncle Billy” Moses with the request that he present them to the Wardens. This he proceeded to do in his dramatic manner, presenting them in trust, as property of the members of the lodge. Thus ends the romantic story of the jewels and silver columns of Golden Gate Lodge. With the exception of the Charter and the jewels, these silver columns are the only tangible links which bridge the dim and distant past to the present.

### **Charity Dispensed**

Present day members of the fraternity have little conception of individual charity, for so well organized is the machinery of our Order that seldom, if ever, is an individual member called upon to make a contribution to a worthy distressed brother. Masters are not perplexed with calls for

assistance from Masons outside their own lodges, but this condition did not exist in the early days of Masonry in San Francisco.

All who joined the mad rush for gold did not find it and in scanning the personal letters and memoirs of the lodge's first Master, we learn that many miner-Masons returned from the mines disheartened, discouraged, and in dire need of assistance. What more natural than that they should seek aid and assistance from a Masonic Lodge. Boards of Relief were unheard of in "Uncle Billy's" time, and his own words: "Each lodge for many years answered the call that was made upon it". The usual procedure was to place a hat upon the altar and request that contributions be made. It was nothing unusual to find from \$300. to \$400. in the hat. Some would throw in gold nuggets, English sovereigns, French Louis D'ors, Spanish doubloons or "Joes" as they were called, Five Franc pieces, Spanish and Mexican dollars, Rupees and an occasional five or ten dollar piece of American gold for American money was very scarce. Everything was good that had some government stamp on it. The rule of trade in that particular era seemed to be that anything in the way of money was good if the other fellow would take it, and we presume that the recipients of the generous contributions made by Masons were no exception to the rule. An interesting side light on the scarcity of American money is thus explained by "Uncle Billy"... "We had our gold dust melted into ingots about the size of a match box which were stamped by the assayer at their real value, \$16. an ounce".

### **Proficiency Desired**

With the hustle and bustle of the early pioneer period, proficiency in conferring the degrees was not lost sight of. Shortly after the dispensation had been granted the lodge, "Uncle Billy" wrote his father on December 31, 1852 in which he admits there was only one lodge more proficient than Golden Gate Lodge. "My own lodge is said to be only number two for work in California, old California Lodge #1 taking the lead, but I am hard after them, and mean to keep close up if not surpass them in good work". And again a little more than a year later (March 14, 1854) he records a statement which brings us to the conclusion that his ambition had been realized to be second to none, not even California Lodge #1. I now have the pleasure of knowing that Golden Gate Lodge #30 is considered by all to be the best working lodge in the state, and my strenuous exertions shall be to keep her so, not particularly on her Master's account, has she made such expectations but by her Officers than none better can be found. Truly, this statement on the part of "Uncle Billy" exemplified the tenets of Masonry - - humility, loyalty, and at the same time paid a wonderful tribute to his Officers.

### **William Schuyler Moses**

William S. Moses was born in Rochester, N Y on August 8, 1827 and made a Master Mason in Valley Lodge #109, his Father's lodge, March 12, 1849. Soon after, Moses set sail around the Horn for California. After an eventful seven month voyage he finally reached San Francisco on January 11, 1850. A carpenter by trade, he worked at various jobs around the gold country. He returned to San Francisco and launched a Masonic career that would last for more than sixty years. Five years after his arrival in San Francisco, Moses returned East and there married Miss Addie of Fredonia, N Y. This happy union lasted until Addie's death on August 13, 1904. His Fraternal activities were held in abeyance during his courtship and marriage, and on his subsequent return to San Francisco, he soon renewed old fraternal contacts and established new ones which lasted until his death.

His return to San Francisco with a wife lead William Moses into new fraternal fields. Together with his wife, Addie, they introduced the Order of the Eastern Star into California. As Deputy Grand Patron of the Supreme Grand Chapter of the United States, he organized Golden Gate Chapter #1, of San Francisco on May 10, 1869. He and his wife had gone to New York the previous year to receive the Chapter Degrees from Robert Macoy himself.

Besides serving as first Worthy Patron of Golden Gate Chapter #1 for two consecutive years, he granted Charters for the first ten Chapters in California and instituted the Order in Nevada and Oregon. In recognition of this service to the order of Eastern Star he was made Venerable Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of California, and was presented with a beautiful jewel indicative of that rank, created especially for him and which became extinct when he passed into the great beyond.

In addition to being Golden Gate's first Master, William Moses was for many years Treasurer of the Lodge and Chaplain as well. He was for many years Grand Bible Bearer of the Grand Lodge. In the sixty-three years of his Masonic career, in addition to his Blue Lodge affiliations, he became a member of San Francisco Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a member of California Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, having been created a Knight Templar and a Knight of Malta in 1888. He was Venerable Master of Yerba Buena Lodge of Perfection of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Past Master of Yerba Buena Chapter of Rose Croix, Almoner of Godfrey de St Omar Council of Kadosh and Past Grand Chancellor and Venerable Grand Master of the Grand Consistory of California. He was elected a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree for the Southern jurisdiction, Scottish Rite Masons, and on unanimous recommendation of the Grand Consistory of this State, he received the Order and Jewel of Knight Grand Cross. Thirty-second Degree in 1892, being the first and only one to receive that honor from the Supreme Council of that Rite in California. At the time of his death he was the only one that had received that honor in California. He was also a member of Islam Temple A A O N M S.

Always of a highly adventurous and romantic nature, William S. Moses thoroughly enjoyed the spectacular as evidenced by the miner Mason costume he wore on the occasion of his forty-seventh annual visit to California Lodge #1 in 1897. Of this memorable occasion is the following recorded: Brother Moses had received permission from the Worshipful Master to enter the lodge room in the costume that prevailed in the very early days in California, when he first joined the Order in that State. The visitor, a tall man getting along in years but still looking like a man of fifty, with full long black whiskers, a kindly face and sharp black eyes, passed through the portal attired in long jack boots, pantaloons tucked into these, and the pantaloons, which had seen some rough usage, and been patched in places with material of another color, put on with "homeward bound" stitches, a blue shirt and black cravat tied in a hard old fashioned knot. The pantaloons were held up with a bright red silken sash, one of those that was the pride of the natives before Fremont came to California. Slung to his side, in a holster, was one of Colt's single action revolvers, and in the right boot leg was seen a handle of a twelve inch Bowie knife. Rough but always ready, on his head was a brown vicuna sombrero, one of those which gentlemen of the period deemed requisite to complete his attire. In that attire the visitor was a correct type of the miner of early days when gold was washed in the pan. To make him the Miner-Mason he wore an emblematic apron, one which had been his Father's and worn by him in 1821, in Valley Lodge #109 in Rochester, New York, at the time when there was great excitement, known as the Morgan Exposure. He also wore a pin which belonged to his Father,

which was adopted during the Morgan excitement to enable Brothers of the Order to recognize each other.

Later, in an address before the Past Masters' Association of San Francisco, Moses explained more fully the "Morgan Exposure". "The first time I ever heard the name Free Mason mentioned was in the year 1831. I t was at the time of that anti-Masonic storm which swept over the Eastern and middle states with the fury of an avalanche, bearing on its hideous front the crushed and ruined reputations and fortunes of the prominent men of all stations. Such was the feeling at that time that it endangered the personal safety and the very means of subsistence for Masons and their families. It forced them for a time into seclusion to avoid the frenzy and hate of the bigoted fanatical hosts that surrounded them on every side, going so far as to even forbid their children to play with me because my Father was a Mason." It is small wonder indeed that William Schuyler Moses became a pioneer Mason in California and built so constructively that even today his contributions to Masonry are recognized as immortal.

In his eighty-fifth year, on December 9, 1912, God called this veteran and beloved Mason home. The Masonic funeral ceremonies were conducted by Golden Gate Lodge in the Scottish Rite Temple of the San Francisco Bodies. Worshipful Master August F. Heuer conducted the service and Major Edwin A. Sherman delivered the eulogy. Thence the body was conveyed to its final resting place and reverently interred in Golden Gate's plot after the last formalities of the Craft.

#### **Nucleus of Members** **James C. Flood—William S. O'Brien**

With the possible exception of Moses, the best known members of Golden Gate Lodge were James Clair Flood and William Smith O'Brien, two of the "Big Four" of Comstock Lode fame.

James Flood received his degrees while the lodge was under dispensation, being raised on March 22, 1853. He was born in the city of New York in 1826, the son of poor Irish Immigrant parents. He started from the bottom up. After wasting a few years in school, he learned the carriage business by working long hours for little remuneration. However, his later years were rewarded by financial success and were spent riding around San Francisco in brilliant gilt carriages driven by coachmen in plum colored livery. Flood's passage through the streets of San Francisco was never anonymous by any means. An early report of his affluence had this to say: "When he drives up to the entrance of the Nevada Block, a hush settles over Montgomery Street. It is thus that Queen Victoria arrives to open Parliament".

In 1849 Flood sailed for California, determined to make carriages for the fabulous Argonauts. It seemed, however, upon his arrival that the Argonauts were not so fabulous in '49 as he had anticipated and were not quite ready for carriages, and like most '49ers he tried his luck at mining, from which he accumulated \$3,000. from his diggings on the North Fork of the Yuba River. With this fabulous sum in hand he back-tracked as far East as Illinois where he purchased a farm. However, the occupation of farming proved too monotonous after having experienced the lure of the Golden West. Consequently he returned to San Francisco. Shortly after his arrival in 1854 he cast his lot with William Smith O'Brien.

## **Partnership Formed**

William S. O'Brien was born in Dublin, Ireland. He was brought to New York as a youth and first worked in a grocery store. He came to San Francisco in 1849 and went into a succession of occupations, from tobacconist to newspaper agent, to ship chandler. He always had a partner to share the headaches. In 1854 he teamed up with James Flood and established the Auction Lunch at Pacific and Stockton Streets, and later at 509 Washington Street right around the corner from the Mining Exchange. Patrons of the Auction Lunch were largely mining and investment brokers. O'Brien offered the customers his good humor while Flood listened to their conversations and seized upon good investment tips on the stock market. The tips proved sufficiently profitable for them to dispose of their jointly owned business and open a suite of investment offices under the name of Flood and O'Brien. That was in 1858 and within four years the former proprietors of the Auction Lunch were reputedly earning \$500,000. a month as mining brokers. By 1862, Flood and his partner had invested heavily in several mines of the Comstock Lode which were yielding enormous profits. At this point of their career a syndicate was formed with James G. Fair and John W. Mackay, a couple of practical miners. Then by shrewd tactics and by positive knowledge of how much ore lay underground at Virginia City, they acquired controlling interest in the reputedly worked out Consolidated Virginia and California Mines. To eliminate William Sharon of the Bank of California from the Comstock Silver Mines, the four men bought the Hale and Norcross Mine. They then began acquiring the North end of the Comstock Lode. This was tantamount to control of the whole Comstock Lode. When they started excavating one of these mines, the Consolidated Virginia, they tapped the richest vein of gold and silver ever uncovered. Their find was called the "Big Bonanza". Almost overnight the partners were multimillionaires and the undisputed silver tycoons of the West. They augmented their wealth by organizing water, timber, and milling companies virtually enjoying monopolies in all three.

Flood was the group's financial manipulator and kept tight control of the San Francisco Mining Exchange. Sometimes he would noise it about that the mines were running dry, thus causing the stock prices to drop. Then Flood would buy up the shares for his partners, announce that silver mining was booming again and unload his stock at their higher price level. He was intensely loyal to his partners and continually compromised to keep the other's bickering from tearing their business interests apart. He also convinced his partners of the advantage of owning a bank. The group bought up the corner of Pine and Montgomery Streets and in October 1875, Flood and his partners opened the Nevada Bank in San Francisco (now Wells Fargo Bank) and Flood became its first president.

Flood loved the ostentatious. He built an elaborate Nob Hill home (now the Pacific Union Club) and circled it with a \$30,000. bronze fence which was polished each day by a servant engaged for that one purpose. His "country home" was a big white mansion in Menlo Park and was frequently referred to as "Flood's Wedding Cake" because of its monstrous architectural elaborations. The brains of the "Big Four Tycoons" died in a hotel room at Heidelberg, Germany in 1889 and left a sufficiently large estate to guarantee his children's social security even unto this day.

William O'Brien, on the other hand, was a simple man with plain tastes. He was raised in Golden Gate Lodge July 19, 1853 and served as its Secretary the following year. When his partner, Flood, conceived the idea of disposing of their venture (the Auction Lunch) and becoming mining stock

brokers, and later when the Comstock Funds started pouring in, O'Brien was compelled by the dictates of social standards then in vogue to move to more auspicious quarters. Paradoxically enough, it was the old home of William Sharon in the 500 block on Sutter Street to which he moved – the competitor whom he had helped the Big Four “freeze out” from the Comstock Silver Mines in Virginia City, Nevada. A bachelor all his life, he lived and dressed simply. While his partners were looking about for new worlds to conquer and new millions to be made, he was content to pass his afternoons playing cards with his old cronies at a favorite corner saloon. His fraternal activities seemed to have been limited in Golden Gate Lodge and Engine Company No. 4 of the local volunteer fire department. He was intensely proud of both. O'Brien died in San Rafael in 1878, leaving a twelve million dollar fortune to be divided by his sisters, nieces and nephews.

Another life long member of Golden Gate Lodge was George John Hobe, a native of Hamburg, Germany, who came to San Francisco in 1849. Hobe was made a Mason in California Lodge #1 in the Spring of 1849 just after the organization of Grand Lodge. In 1852 he was one of the eight Brothers who signed Golden Gate's petition for dispensation. Hobe served as Master of Golden Gate Lodge in 1855. In 1866 and 1867 he served as Secretary and again from 1884 until his death. Aside from this he found time to serve as Secretary and Director of the Masonic Cemetery Association of San Francisco, and Registrar of the Grand Consistory of California for the Scottish Rite. In 1870 Brother Hobe was Worthy Patron of Golden Gate Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star in San Francisco, and was one of the organizers of the Grand Chapter in California and served as its first Worthy Grand Patron. He was also a member of Islam Temple, A A O N M S.

Among other exceptionally high caliber Brethren of long standing we find, William H. Jordan, a lawyer and graduate of California and Yale. As a member of the California Legislature he was a speaker of the Assembly in 1887 and served as a member of the Oakland Board of Education for four years and as Regent of the University of California for two years. George D. Clark was President of N. Clark and Sons Clay Products factory at Alameda and for nine years a member of the Napa State Hospital Board of Directors. Edwin L. Meyer, raised in 1882, was Secretary of the Lodge from 1900 to 1928. Adolphus A. Hobe, brother of George J. Hobe, was Master of Golden Gate Lodge in 1867. He also filled in as Secretary and was for years Deputy Auditor and later Assistant Treasurer of the City of San Francisco. Henry Brickwedel, a wholesale merchant, was also City Auditor for several terms. Past Master James Patterson served as Treasurer from 1883 to 1896. William H. Lillie was raised in 1892 and an architect by profession. It was he who designed the first buildings of the Masonic Home at Union City. Thomas Trebell was employed by the Pacific Telephone Company in 1886 and had charge of laying the submarine cable to Honolulu, Hawaii. John E. Richards rounded out the last years of his life as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California. Thomas J. Knipe was one of Colonel Jack John Coffee Hayes' Texas Rangers in the Mexican War and was present when the American flag was raised over the Mexican National Palace. In San Francisco he was a harbor pilot.

These men and many more like them went to make up the roll of Golden Gate Lodge. Their outstanding characteristic was that most of them were not just members of the Craft at large over a long period of years, but of Golden Gate Lodge itself. No finer description of their loyalty could be given.

## **Temple Purchased**

After the devastating Fire and Earthquake of 1906 Golden Gate Lodge continued to be strong, energetic, active and industrious. Over the years two things stand out. First, the Lodge has been blessed with fine Officers who were as true to the ritual as the Officers of “Uncle Billy’s” day. Secondly, there has been a consistent absence of controversy in the lodge room and among the Brothers. This later development is perhaps one reason why so little Lodge history is remembered prior to the time the Temple building was purchased.

The year 1940 arrived and Brother Arthur Selby Kelly was elected Master. The Lodge at that time was meeting in the Masonic a Temple at 25 Van Ness Avenue and also held an option on the main hall of Mission Temple which was about to open. Early in the Fall, Master Kelly received word that the property on the Southeast corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Taraval Street in San Francisco was available. Originally built for the Knights of Columbus, the Temple building was then in the hands of Union Trust and for sale.

At the October Stated meeting a committee was appointed consisting of Brothers Charles A. Wegener, Fred S. Nobmann, Nicholas F. Munson, Thomas J. Benny and William P. Caubu to determine the feasibility of purchasing the property. Brother Wegener was designated to serve as Chairman of the committee. The committee knew that time was of the essence for several other Masonic Lodges were also actively considering purchasing the Temple property also.

The committee returned a full and favorable report at the Stated meeting of November. A resolution was passed to make an offer on the property and Brother Wegener was empowered to act as the Lodge’s loan agent in negotiations with the bank. The asking price was 60 thousand dollars. However, Golden Gate Lodge had an edge on the other lodges since a portion of its assets was easily converted to cash. Brother Wegener tendered an offer to the bank of 30 thousand dollars CASH. Owing to the general economics of the times, the bank accepted and Golden Gate Lodge became the sole owner of the Temple.

By the December Stated meeting all negotiations were complete and the deed recorded in the Lodge’s name. At that meeting resolutions were passed setting up the Golden Gate Temple Association and the “Big Five”, who had done such outstanding work in negotiating the purchasing of the property, were elected to serve as the first Directors of the Temple Association.

Thus, it was by the farsightedness of Brother Kelly, his committee and the Brethren in general that Golden Gate Lodge #30, the Lodge with its unique Roving Charter and known as the Lodge that refused to stay put - - found its fourteenth and final home.

## **Consolidations**

Golden Gate Lodge prospered in its new home until 1966 when Brother Elroy D. Joyce became Master. This was the memorable year of the consolidation between Golden Gate Lodge #30 and Speranza Italiana Lodge #219 which resulted in the name change that is in use today, Golden Gate Speranza Lodge #30. The merger of these two fine lodges was one of the earliest in San Francisco and resulted in Golden Gate Speranza becoming one of the strongest lodges in the Bay Area.

Another nine years went by and with Brother Arthur F. Larsen as Master as Master, Golden Gate Speranza Lodge consolidated once again, this time with Roosevelt Lodge #500, with the able assistance of Loyal D. Sutton, Master of Roosevelt Lodge. This event kept Golden Gate Speranza Lodge in the forefront of San Francisco lodges, strong and vibrant and with hope for a future that will draw all our membership even closer together in the bonds of Masonic fellowship.

## **SPERANZA ITALIANA LODGE No. 219**

Speranza Italiana Lodge #219 had its beginnings some twenty years after Golden Gate Lodge. Its roots are to be found in a struggle for liberty and freedom in Italy some 6,000 miles from San Francisco. The circumstances which gave birth to Speranza Italiana were interesting and can be traced to occurrences during the unification of Italy.

### **Victory in Italy**

On September 11, 1870 the victorious troops of Giuseppe Garibaldi and Victor Emanuele crossed the boundary of the Vatican State in Italy, overcame the resistance of its troops, and on September 21, 1870 occupied Rome. Thus was established the separation of Church and State in Italy.

Lodovico Frapolli, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Italy, sent out to the Masters of the different lodges and their members the following memorable words: "Brothers, the troops of Giuseppe Garibaldi, which represent the Italian Government, has taken possession of Rome. The Grand Lodge of Masons of Italy has decided to establish itself in Rome, immediately. I have given the order that the seat of the Grand Lodge should be transferred from Florence to Rome, the Capitol of the nation".

Victor Emanuele, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Cavour, Mazzini and other prominent Italians were all Masons and many of the Past Grand Masters. The fall of the temporal power of the Vatican and the establishment of Rome as the capital of Italy, to which Italian Masons had so much contributed, caused victory celebrations to be held throughout the world.

### **Formation**

On August 6, 1871 the Italian colony of San Francisco and its vicinities, undoubtedly spurred on by the Italian born Masons of various Masonic Lodges celebrated with pomp and enthusiasm the unification of Italy. More important, they got the idea of unification for themselves. A banquet was held that evening which was attended by many Italian born Masons together with some influential American Masons. The idea was born to establish an Italian Masonic Lodge in San Francisco, composed of the Italian born element using the Italian language in their work. The idea came from the fact that there already existed two foreign speaking lodges in San Francisco, chartered by the Grand Lodge of California - - The French Lodge and German Lodge. Then and there seventeen Italian born Masons decided to demit from their respective lodges. Accordingly, they consulted Grand Master Leonides Pratt on the feasibility of organizing such an Italian Lodge in San Francisco, and the finding being favorable, petitioned for a dispensation.

With the recent victory in mind they gave the name Speranza Italiana “Italian Hope” for their lodge. Their dispensation was granted by Grand Master Pratt, September 16, 1871, but since it was too close to the next annual communication of Grand Lodge for them to perform any work for the satisfaction of the Committee on Charters, they had to wait until October 11, 1872, for their Charter.

In its first returns filed under dispensation in October 1871 Speranza had 17 members. Guglielmo Beretta was Master. A native of Milan, Italy, he had received his degrees in St. James Lodge No. 54 of Tuolumne County in 1857. He had worked up to Senior Warden by 1863, but withdrew the following year and moved to San Francisco. Andrea Sbarboro was Senior Warden and Camillo Steffani was Junior Warden. The office of Treasurer was held by Luigi Valente and that of Secretary by Luigi Agostini. Alessandro Barli Luciani and Georgio G. Carglieri were respectively Senior and Junior Deacons. Andrea Paltenghi was Marshal while David Toretti and Antonio Rittore served as Stewards. Only the Tiler, William Glaney Wilson, of Fidelity Lodge No. 120, was not Italian.

Beyond this little is known of Speranza Italiana’s history prior to 1906, for this too, lost almost everything it owned in the Earthquake and Fire. Fortunately, however, John M. Icardo, former Inspector of District 115, has supplied some very interesting side lights on the early members themselves.

### **Nucleus of Members**

Brother Icardo was raised in Speranza Italiana in 1900. In 1906, after the Earthquake and Fire he was most active on the Masonic Relief Committee, and in 1908 was elected Master of the lodge. He then served as Trustee for many years and filled many other offices whenever necessary. In 1921, he was elected Master a second time, and appointed Inspector the following December of the same year. He served as Inspector and Secretary of the lodge for many years.

From Brother Icardo we learn that the lodge’s first Senior Warden, Andrea Sbarboro, was President of the Italian American Bank. The first Treasurer, Luigi Valente, was a baker. Georgio G. Calieri, first Senior Deacon, was a prominent capitalist, while Marshal Andrea Paltenghi was a marble dealer. Giovanni Scalmanini, who was raised in 1883, served as Master of the Lodge in 1897 and 1898, as Secretary from 1900 to 1930, Inspector for twenty years and Trustee for thirty-three years. At the time he received his fifty year button in 1933, at the age of eighty-eight, he could hardly think of a period when one group of his Masonic duties did not overlap another.

Another old time Brother whose years of service bridged half a century was Giovanni Battista Cordano. A prominent banker, he was raised in 1899 and served as Master in 1904 and Treasurer for thirty-two years.

Aside from their regular duties, the most interesting Brothers in Speranza Italiana were the brothers Alioto - - Guiseppe, Ignacio, Frank, John and Nunzio, who conferred the Master Mason Degree upon a sixth and youngest brother, Salvatore Alioto, on September 22, 1927. The oldest brother, Guiseppe, acted as Master, with the other brothers filling in more or less in accordance with their ages. Ignacio, the second oldest, was Senior Warden, Frank was Junior Warden, John, Senior Deacon, and Nunzio, Junior Deacon. This is one of the rarest occurrences in the annals of Masonry, five blood brothers belonging to the same lodge raising a sixth.

## **Growth and Decline**

It was through the enthusiasm of such brothers as these and their contemporaries and predecessors that Speranza Italiana, despite its racial and linguistical limitations grew to prominence. At the turn of the century, it was said that the work of the Italian Lodge was of the highest order and merit. The endeavor by its Officers to render the ritual perfectly and its lectures effectively, produced the best results while its members were true to the principles and teachings of Freemasonry. The politeness, courtesy, ease and grace with which the Officers performed their duties, the fraternal welcome accorded to all visitors together with their hospitality, won Speranza Italiana Lodge a warm place in the hearts of all Brethren.

It was in the year 1931 that Speranza Lodge reached its peak in membership of 410. During the 1940's and 1950's it had a great loss in membership due to old age and not many new members being raised due to restriction on immigration. There were very few Italians coming to this country. In order to petition for the Degrees in the Lodge it was necessary to know the Italian language and be able to read and write Italian. This fact resulted in the Lodge not having adequate Officer material.

After the installation of December 1955, the membership decided that it was necessary for the benefit of the Lodge to change the language from Italian to English. However, they always found some old members opposing the change for sentimental reasons. Finally, at the Stated Meeting of October 4, 1956, a resolution was presented to the general membership, which was approved almost unanimously, to change the language of Speranza Lodge from Italian to English in all its work. The Grand Master, Harold L. Anderson, was notified of the resolution and also approved the change.

During the first few years after the language change quite a few members were raised - - some were old and some were young. The younger members, either for personal reasons or business reasons, did not seem interested in being Officers and by 1965 the Lodge found itself in the same situation as in 1955, no Officer material. The first Master to serve Speranza Italiana, who had no Italian ancestry was Raymond M. Christain, an American Indian.

Vito L. Bruno, PM, and Secretary of Speranza Lodge was appointed official representative of the Grand Lodge of Italy to the Grand Lodge of California in 1966. Worshipful Brother Bruno received his appointment from Giordano Gambarino, Grand Master of Italy, and was presented with his diploma of office by Brother Elroy D. Joyce, Master of Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30.

In the early part of 1965, the first meetings between Golden Gate Lodge No. 30 and Speranza Italiana Lodge No. 219 were held for the consolidation of the two lodges. Many meetings were held and many problems worked out. The name of the new consolidated lodge was to be Golden Gate Speranza No. 30. The support of the membership to the consolidated lodge and the harmony that has prevailed has so strengthened the lodge that no discord exists among the membership and since the consolidation a new fraternal fellowship has been practiced, with great pride in the heritage of the Lodge.

## **ROOSEVELT LODGE NO. 500 F. & A.M.**

The year was 1920; World War One was now history; the country was gradually emerging from the post-war slump; “Back to normalcy!” was the political cry of the day, and society in general was again ready to resume its normal peacetime activities.

### **Formation**

It was at that time, that a group of Master Masons residing in and around the North Beach area of San Francisco, who belonged to different Masonic Lodges, but most of whom were born and raised there, attended the same neighborhood schools and were now occupied in their various businesses, trades and professions, formed a social club where they might while away some of their leisure hours with their neighborhood Masonic Brothers.

Their quarters were in a small hall above what was then the Washington Square Theater at the junction of Powell Street and Columbus Avenue. The Club’s existence, however, was short-lived; for out of that fraternal fellowship almost immediately, the idea for the formation of a Masonic Lodge to serve that area of the city, was spawned and hatched. Following preliminary meetings where the matter was carefully deliberated, it was concluded that the idea was good and timely.

Accordingly, on December 10<sup>th</sup> of that same year, the following 23 Master Masons, members of the Club:

Dr. David Bacigalupi  
Albert L. Battaglia  
Emile Camozzi  
Joseph Cuneo  
Eugene J. Del Monte  
Adolph Foppiano  
Pietro Carelli  
Hugo Paladini  
Frank H. Pelligrini  
Dario L. Perrone  
Attilio Sanguinetti  
Edwin B. Heiden  
William B. Valsangiacomo  
Dr. Walter Jackson  
Laurent J. Lamanet  
Ernest W. Melville  
Chauncy McGovern  
John W. Phyne  
Dr. Herbert Renaud  
Paul A. Silvey  
John H. Wishar  
Emil D. Zecher  
Walter Zecher

Met in a special meeting at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco and adopted a resolution to petition the Grand Lodge of Masons of California for a dispensation to form a Masonic Lodge, to be located in Roma Hall at 1524 Powell Street, San Francisco, and to be entitled "Roosevelt Lodge" in honor of our Illustrious Brother, the former President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. The request was granted, and on Thursday, February 3, 1921, the first meeting was held at Roma Hall.

The new lodge was opened by Past Grand Master Charles A. Adams, who instructed Grand Secretary, John Whicher, to read The Order of Grand Master George F. Rodden, approving the forming of Roosevelt Lodge No. 500 F. & A.M. under dispensation. After the opening ceremonies, the following Officers were seated in their respective stations:

John J. Wishar, Master  
Emil D. Zecher, Senior Warden  
Edwin B. Heiden, Junior Warden  
Eugene Del Monte, Treasurer  
Albert Battaglia, Secretary  
Paul A. Silvey, Chaplain  
William V. Valsangiacomo, Senior Deacon  
Emile Camozzi, Junior Deacon  
Joseph Cuneo, Marshal  
Walter N. Jackson, Senior Steward  
Hugo Paladini, Junior Steward  
Frank H. Pelligrini, Tiler

Present on that occasion were Past Grand Masters Charles A. Adams and Francis V. Keesling, Senior Grand Warden William Sherman, Grand Secretary John Wischer, Brother Leo Bruch, Masonic Board of Relief; Brother Thomas Anderson, Inspector, and Past Master Hugh McKeivitt of Presidio Lodge. The jewels of the Lodge were presented as a gift from Jewel Lodge No. 374 of San Francisco, and Brother Attilio Sanguinetti presented the Lodge with the Holy Bible.

Two weeks later at the meeting of February 17, 1921, First Degrees were conferred upon Harry Stanton Spencer and John David Bissett of Fairmont Lodge. Then on March 24, 1921, Brother Joseph Columbus Dawson became the first member to be raised by Roosevelt Lodge. A little more than two months later, May 28, 1921, Brother John H. Wishar tendered his resignation as Master.

### **The Charter**

On the evening of October 14, 1921, a special meeting was held in the Masonic Temple at 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, and Roosevelt Lodge was granted its Charter, together with four other lodges; Fremont in Oakland, Lebanon in San Francisco, Cupertino and Sunnyvale in Santa Clara County.

The Grand Lodge was opened in its proper form and Grand Master William E. Burke called the Brethren to order and the following Grand Lodge Officers assisted in the ceremonies; Deputy Grand Master, William Sherman; Senior Grand Warden, Arthur Croton; Junior Grand Warden, David J.

Reese; Grand Secretary, John Whicher, and other Officers necessary to open Grand Lodge. The Most Worshipful Grand Master directed the Grand Secretary to read the Charter and the following Brethren were installed as the first Officers under the Charter:

Emil D. Zecher, Master  
Edwin B. Heiden, Senior Warden  
Walter N. Jackson, Junior Warden  
Eugene J. Del Monte, Treasurer  
Lincoln V. Johnson, Secretary  
Emile Comozzi, Senior Deacon  
Fulton J. Figone, Junior Deacon  
Joseph J. Cuneo, Marshal  
Charles Martin, Senior Steward  
John Garibaldi, Junior Steward  
Frank H. Pelligrini, Tiler

### **Membership**

Roosevelt Lodge No. 500 was now a regular Chartered Lodge with a membership of forty Brothers of various occupations and different ethnic backgrounds; among them, a physician, a cabinet maker, a draftsman, a dentist, a fish merchant, three pharmacists, a sign painter, and attorney, a jeweler, two wholesale produce merchants, a grocer, two retail butchers, a newspaperman, a printer, a San Francisco fireman, an auto mechanic, a property owner-manager, an insurance and real estate agent, an educator, two bankers, a criminologist, a chiropractic doctor and a salesman. While about fifty percent bore Latin surnames, the remainder were of German, Irish, English, Scottish, French, Portuguese, Swiss and Scandinavian stock; a good cross-section of the make-up of the Masonic population of North Beach at that time and a general composition it seemed to maintain during the more than fifty-four years of its existence as Roosevelt Lodge.

A scanning of the complete Roster of its past and present membership will bear this out; for while its growth was not spectacular, rising and falling with the different trends of the times, from 40 members in 1921 to its highest point of 218 in 1957, and finally back to 142, show that it included the names of a good proportion of Brothers who were not only active in fraternal, but also business, professional and civic affairs; among them, Bros. Chauncy McGovern who was the city criminologist; Emil D. Zecher, its first Master under the Charter, who held a responsible position as draftsman for F. W. Woolworth Co., and his three brothers, Walter C. Zecher, who served for many years as Superintendent of Maintenance and Repairs of Public Buildings in the Department of Public Works of the City and County of San Francisco; Ernest H. Zecher, Captain and Senior Pilot of the Los Angeles Harbor Dept., who at the celebration in 1967 of his 25<sup>th</sup> year at the port was honored with a plaque commemorating the piloting of his 10,000<sup>th</sup> ship in that harbor; William Zecher, in the retail meat business; Hugo Paladini, of Paladini Fish Co.; William F. Traverso, PM who served as Hon. Judge of the Superior Court of San Francisco and his two brothers, John and Victor Traverso, who headed the Rainbow Grocery Chain; Dr. Charles Ertola, PM, a San Francisco Supervisor, and his two sons, the Honorable Jack Ertola, Judge of the Superior Court of San Francisco and Chadwick Ertola, Vice President of the Redwood Bank; Steven Zolezzi, Sr., and his two sons, Steven Zolezzi, Jr. and Walter Zolezzi, PM, owners of O'Brien, Spotorno and Mitchell, Poultry and Dairy Products,

now a subsidiary of Del Monte Corporation; Amadeo Podesta, of the long established firm of nationally known florists, Posteda & Baldocchi and his son, A. Jack Podesta, PM, who succeeded him in that business, who served twice as President of the San Francisco Downtown Association, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, Vice President of Good Will Industries, and a leader in many other organizations; Victor L. Puccinelli, PM and Eugene Del Monte who held responsible positions with the original Bank of Italy; Gustave Rissman, Civil Engineer, who did very important work at Lawrence Atomic Laboratories; Henry M. Sante, PM, prominent member of the Spanish community, the first President of the Spanish Citizens Foundation, who served as Commissioner of Public Welfare and President of the San Francisco Chapter of California Accountants; Felix Castagnolia, Boat Builder; Adolph Boicelli, Sr., PM and his son Adolph Boicelli, Jr. of the old firm of Boicelli and Boss Machine Works at Fishermans' Wharf; Loren Ohm and his son Robert B. Ohm, PM, Ships Service and Supplies; Clarence (Larry) Doyle, Radio Newscaster; Maurice Rosano, Rosano Construction Co.; Frank Martinelli, of the old Bal Tabarin on Columbus Avenue; Italiano Musetti, PM, partner in Golden Gate Meat Co.; John C. Reynolds, PM, Realtor, who served as President of the Masters' and Wardens' Association of San Francisco, and his brother, Robert O. Reynolds, PM, and Henry O. Seiler, PM, Automobile Dealers; Otto C. Huth, PM, Treasurer of Roosevelt Lodge for 41 years, who, with Ernest W. Schnurpfeil, PM, and Ernest J. Armando, PM, active members of the Concordant Bodies: York Rite, Scottish Rite and Order of Eastern Star; Louis Rocca, Sr., original owner of Joe's Restaurant, and Attorney George S. Youngling, both prominent Nobles of Islam of the Mystic Shrine; Brother Rocca as Ambassador, and Brother Youngling as Captain of Islam Patrol and member of the Board of Governors of the San Francisco Unit, Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children. While this is not a complete list, it gives some idea of the general make-up of membership of the Lodge.

### **Growth and Decline**

Roma Hall proved inadequate, and in 1922 the Lodge moved to the only more suitable quarters available at that time, B'nai B'rith Hall at 149 Eddy Street, where it held its meetings until August of 1931, when it moved into a hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor in the Masonic Temple at 25 Van Ness Avenue, which it occupied until the later part of 1970.

During those almost five decades, the Lodge held its own, through the economic boom of the 20s, the depression of the 30s, "World War II of the 40s", the Korean War of the 50s, the civil disturbances and Vietnam War of the 60s, which was a time when one of the greatest and most prolonged of prosperity in our history was drawing to a close. The new life-style that had begun to develop in the late 50s was beginning to make itself felt in the falling-off of attendance at Lodge meetings and a seeming lack of interest in joining fraternal orders on the part of young men whose youthful energy and enthusiasm are so necessary to the future growth and viability of any organization, was resulting in mergers and consolidations of many lodges, especially in the urban areas.

It was in those circumstances in the later part of 1970 when Roosevelt Lodge in what proved to be its final but futile effort to stimulate attendance and hopefully to increase membership, moved to the larger and more attractive Hall No. 2 in the same building. This, by chance, was the same Hall where Speranza Italiana Lodge No. 219 had met for many years prior to its merger in 1965 with Golden Gate Lodge No. 30, forming Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30. Incidentally, this was the

same Speranza Lodge with whom Roosevelt Lodge, from its very inception, enjoyed a close and mutually advantageous relationship, since that Lodge exemplified the Ritual in the Italian language at that time and Roosevelt Lodge included among its members a goodly number of Brothers of Italian ancestry, many of whom were not only Masonic Brothers, but were also linked by close family ties with members of that Lodge.

### **Consolidation**

In the later part of 1974, when it became apparent by conditions that prevailed, that a merger or consolidation might be expedient for Roosevelt Lodge, Loyal D. Sutton, Master, appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of Past Masters Walter Zecher, Otto C. Huth, and Senior Warden David D. Taylor to make inquiries about other lodges to study their availability and compatibility as possible future prospects for merger or consolidation. It was only natural that Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30 should rate special consideration.

The study was made, and based on the favorable recommendation of the committee, a resolution was passed at the Stated meeting of November 6, 1974, to the effect that the consolidation of Roosevelt Lodge No. 500 with Golden Gate Speranza No. 30 was expedient, and a committee of Loyal D. Sutton, Master, and Past Masters Walter C. Zecher, Secretary, and John J. Cama and Henry M. Sante, was appointed to meet with a committee representing Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30, consisting of Robert L Moore, Master, Arthur F. Larsen, Senior Warden, Eugene J. Armour, Junior Warden, and Past Masters Robert W. Moore, Secretary, Vito L. Bruno, Elroy D. Joyce and Edward A. Hammer to explore the options available and, if possible, to work out the terms of consolidation.

Negotiations were successful, and it was unanimously agreed that consolidation would be expedient and beneficial for both Lodges, a decision concurred in, by a great majority of the voting members of both Lodges. As a result, on July 1, 1975, with the approval of the Grand Lodge of Masons of California, Roosevelt Lodge No. 500 consolidated with Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30, F. and A.M.

The same spirit that prompted 26 Master Masons to leave the Lodges in which they were raised, to fill an important Masonic need by forming Roosevelt Lodge in 1921, again made itself felt in 1975 when it became expedient for Roosevelt Lodge to give up its name and join with Golden Gate Speranza Lodge in order that it might make the best contribution it could, toward the beacon light of Masonry and what it stands for forever gleaming, strong, bright and clear.

### **The Birth of Mount Moriah**

On Sunday morning October 23, 1853, the "Daily Alta California", that direct descendant of Californias's pioneer newspaper, contained the following announcement: Masonic Notice - - The Brethren who signed the petition for the forming of "Mount Mariah Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons", in this city, will please attend a meeting to be held in the Masonic Hall on Washington Street at 2 o'clock PM TODAY, for the purpose of organizing under the dispensation granted.

The dispensation referred to had been granted by Right Worshipful Townsend A. Thomas, Deputy Grand Master, on October 18, 1853, and the Brethren who signed the petition were:

E. Z. Clark  
Simon Mayer  
M. H. N. Kendig  
Henry Zowner  
E. A. Theller  
Charles Wilson  
James Evrard  
James .B. Devoe  
P. W. Shepherd  
Charles R. Saunders  
Joseph Shannon  
B. D. Hyam  
E.P. C. Kewen  
John Ferguson  
A. Friedlander  
Samuel Marx  
O. B. Tyler  
A. A. Selover  
G. W. Coffee  
R. Josephi  
S. Jacobs  
John J. Jacobs  
Lewis Meyers  
Fred McCrelish  
B. F. Moses  
J. H. Dessau  
John S. Davies  
E. R. Theller  
J. P. Dixon

Bro. P. W. Shepherd was appointed as the first Worshipful Master, Bro. O. B. Tyler as the first Senior Warden, Bro. Charles R. Saunders as the first Junior Warden, Bro. B. F. Moses was elected as the first Treasurer, and Bro. Henry Owner as the first Secretary. Bro. Owner, however, failed to discharge the duties of his office, and Bro. Charles T. Wilson was appointed in his stead. Bro. B. D. Hyam, Past Grand Master, was appointed Senior Deacon and Bro. Samuel Marx, Junior Deacon. Bros. J. H. Dessau and John Davies were appointed Stewards. The Tiler was Bro. Joel Noah, of Occidental Lodge No. 22.

The following recommendations of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters on May 3 a Charter was granted to Mount Mariah Lodge on May 6, 1854, and the M.W. Grand Master, Bro. Charles M. Radcliff, authorized Bro. B. D. Hyam, Past Grand Master, to constitute the Lodge and install its Officers in due and ancient form.

In accordance with the Charter, the Lodge assembled on Wednesday, May 10, 1854 when the following Officers were elected and appointed for the ensuing year:

Bro. Philip W. Shephard, Worshipful Master  
Bro. Owen W. Tyler, Senior Warden  
Bro. Charles R. Saunders, Junior Warden  
Bro. B. F. Moses, Treasurer  
Bro. Charles T. Wilson, Secretary,  
Bro. James M. Adams, Senior Deacon  
Bro. William H. Silverthorne, Junior Deacon  
Bro. George Gates, Steward  
Bro. W. B. Turner, Steward  
Bro. William C. Randolph, Marshal  
Bro. P. Abrahamson, Tiler

Past Grand Master Hyam then installed the Officers with the customary ceremonies.

### **The First Master**

Fortunate is the man who is first in any undertaking. To him belongs the adoration of his contemporaries and the veneration of his successors. The mere fact of being the first of a long line of successors, however, is not in itself sufficient reason to entitle one to distinction unless he obtained the station honestly and filled it worthily. The world is prone to confuse the worth of the individual with the glamour of his office.

The Lodge was fortunate for having for its first Master, a man who was above reproach. In all the relations of life, public and private, his conduct was such as to win the esteem of all who knew him. Philip Withal Shephard was born in Plymouth, England, on April 29, 1813. He came to the United States in his boyhood and entered on a seafaring life. Even in those early years of his youth he demonstrated a quality of leadership that made him the master of an American merchantman before he was twenty-one. He arrived in the Bay Area of San Francisco on December 19, 1849, as the Captain of the ship "Arkansas", bringing with him a large number of passengers as well as his own family. After landing in California, Bro. Shephard forsook the sea to follow the equally, if less hazardous, path of public service. He was elected Police Judge in 1863 and re-elected in 1865.

It was back in his days as a master mariner that Bro. Shephard sought the light of Masonry. At the first opportunity he applied for and received his first degree in a cave near Alexandria, Egypt, from a French Lodge. Before being passed to the degree of fellowcraft, he was ordered to sail to the West Indies for cargo. When applying to a lodge in Jamaica, for his second degree, his entered apprentice work was found to be so radically different, from that of the English lodges, that he was initiated again. Unfortunately, he was ordered to New York before the Jamaica Lodge could pass him. In New York he went through the same experience and was initiated for the third time. (The Brethren who have witnessed the first degree in La Parfaite Union No. 17, will understand the doubts of the lodges in Kingston and New York). He sailed for California as master of the ship "Arkansas" but without receiving the long-sought degree of fellowcraft. While stopping in Rio de Janeiro, he was finally passed to that degree in St. John's Lodge No. 703. After arriving in the Bay of San Francisco, he petitioned California No. 1, to be made a Master Mason. By this time the French, English and American versions of the work were so confused in his mind that he had to be passed once more

before he finally received the third degree. Thus was its first Master raised, after he had traveled the high seas from Egypt to California in search of light, and after he had been initiated thrice and passed twice. Surely, he had awaited a time with patience.

Bro. Shepherd demitted from California No. 1, in October, 1853, to become the first Master. He served two years and two months and, after the interval of a year, was again elected in December, 1856, and served two more years - - a total of four years and two months in all. He was elected Deputy Grand Master on May 14, 1858, and re-elected in 1859 and 1860. At the time of his death, which occurred on December 16, 1865, he was Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

His sterling character was transmitted to his grandson and to his great-grandson, Bro. Harvey E. Teller, Past Master of California Lodge No. 1, in which Mt. Morih's first Master was raised to the Sublime Degree.

### **Charter Members**

The Brethren who laid so well the foundations upon which the Lodge was erected were of a hardy and stalwart race – the builders of a State as well as a lodge. They were of all works of life, the feverish, throbbing life of a city in the growing pains of youth.

The first order of Masonic importance and rank, after Bro. Shepherd, was Benjamin D. Hyam, the third Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California. The lapse of time has veiled much of his life, as well as the motives for his strange conduct as Grand Master. His record is stated not for the purpose of maliciously calling attention to an unfortunate incident, but because of the peculiar facts and law involved, this history would not be complete without some reference to it.

Bro. Hyam, a lawyer by profession, was made a Master Mason in Quitman Lodge No. 96, Vera Cruz, Mexico. Attracted, no doubt, by the discovery of gold, he came to California and settled at Benecia, where he was one of the organizers as well as the first Master of Benecia Lodge No. 5. It is of interest to note that the first jewels of this Lodge were hammered out of tin cans.

As Secretary of the convention which assembled in Sacramento, April 17-19, 1850, to organize the Grand Lodge, Bro. Hyam played an active part in the formation of that body. He was appointed Senior Grand Deacon at the first Annual Communication and was elected Deputy Grand Master in the following year.

At the third Annual Communication in May, 1852, Bro. Was elected Grand Master. Unfortunately, he had a very exalted idea of his rights and prerogatives. As a result of his conduct a special communication of the Grand Lodge was called on August 17, 1852, Bro. Hyam being absent at the time being absent from the State. At this communication it was resolved that Grand Master Hyam had conducted himself in a manner unworthy of his high office and that upon his return to the State he should permit the Deputy Grand Master to discharge the functions of Grand Master during the remainder of the Masonic year. In his annual address of the following year, Grand Master Hyam replied to the charges in such fiery language that the Grand Lodge ordered that his reply should not be printed.

Bro. Hyam withdrew from Benecia Lodge No. 5, to become a charter member of Mount Moriah. It was he who constituted the Lodge and installed its Officers on May 10, 1854. In addition to Bro. Hyam, the following Brethren named in the dispensation, although it is not known over which lodges they had wielded the gavel: E. A. Theller, Joseph Shannon and Charles T. Wilson.

Outstanding among the charter members, a Brother who was a member for sixty-one years, was Samuel A. Holladay. His long and useful career contained much of the history of our State. Bro. Holladay was born in Schenectady County, New York, on April 29, 1823. In 1837, when he was still a boy, he moved to Cleveland, Ohio. Ten years later he was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

He came to California in 1849, by way of the fever-infested Isthmus of Panama. His legal profession was forgotten for a while in the mad rush for gold. He settled at Woods Dry Diggings, changing the name of that rough mining camp, now the County Seat of Placer County to Auburn, in honor of the city in the State in which he was born.

While he was at the mining camp, two men were arrested for stealing provisions from miners. An angry mob was about to lynch them when Bro. Holladay mounted a stump and persuaded the men to let the law take its course. Shortly after this incident he was elected the first Alcalade of that district and tried the men whose lives he had saved. He sentenced them to be thrashed and banished from the diggings.

Toward the close of 1850, Bro. Holladay returned to San Francisco and resumed the practice of his profession, taking a leading part in civic affairs. In 1852, he was elected to the convention to frame a new city charter. It was through his efforts as City Attorney that squatters were finally ejected from what is now the site of the Hall of Justice. In 1858, he was chosen to represent this city at the State Legislature.

Bro. Holladay was raised to the Sublime Degree in our Lodge on January 14, 1854, about four months before we received our Charter. He served as Chaplain in 1858, being the first member to fill that office. He was elected Junior Warden in 1858 and 1863.

He smiled at DEATH when it came to meet him on February 16, 1915, and passed into the great beyond with a song on his lips.

Another leader in affairs of state was Bro. E. J. C. Qewen, the first Attorney General of California.

Prominent among Charter Members was Bro. Frederick McCrellish, for many long years the publisher of the "Daily Alta Californian", the newspaper in which our first meeting notice appeared.

Another Charter Member who should not be forgotten was Bro. Robert Josephi. He crossed the plains in a covered wagon drawn by slow, lumbering oxen. Shortly after arriving in San Francisco in 1849, he opened what was possibly the first wholesale jewelry house in this city. His business prospered and he bought the lot on which the Flood Building now stands, when that section of our city was a sandy waste. Some years later he sold the lot for the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars. Bro. Josephi withdrew from our Lodge about one year after the dispensation had been granted.

Worthy of mention also is Bro. A. A. Selover, one of the owners and builders of the Union Hotel, a four story brick building that stood on the East side of Kearney Street, between Clay and Washington, the first really substantial and elegant hotel in the city. It was destroyed in the Fire of May 3, 1851, and though substantially rebuilt, never regained its former prestige. On May 1, 1850, Bro. Selover was elected to the first Board of Aldermen of San Francisco. His name appears as a visitor from Cleveland City Lodge No. 15, Ohio, on the Register of California Lodge when that Lodge was organized on November 17, 1849. Later he affiliated with California Lodge and then withdrew to become a charter member of Mount Moriah Lodge.

It is to be regretted that the lapse of time and the ravages of earthquake and fire have obliterated all that was of interest pertaining to the rest of the charter members. We only know that they lived and that they built wisely and well.

### **The Years of Youth**

From the date of its organization, Mount Moriah Lodge gave evidence of the energetic and progressive spirit which is its outstanding characteristic today. At the Grand Lodge Communication of May 8, 1854, a bare six months after the dispensation had been issued, our Lodge proudly reported that it had initiated 22, passed 18 and raised 16. There were also 2 affiliates, one withdrawal and one death. The total membership was 45 Master Masons, 3 Fellowcraft and 15 Entered Apprentices.

It was that same energetic spirit which may have led the Lodge into a quarrel with Golden Gate No. 30, a dispute which finally reached the floor of Grand Lodge. What the difference was, cannot now be known, as the lips of all participants have been sealed by death. It is gratifying to note, however, that in 1856, it was reported to the Grand Lodge that both Lodges had harmoniously settled the difficulty - - an example of true Masonic spirit.

The first degree conferred in the Lodge was that of Entered Apprentice, upon Mr. James R. Lawrie, on November 12, 1853. On the last day of that month he was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, and on December 10, 1853, was raised to the degree of Master Mason. Bro. Lawrie withdrew from the Lodge on October 13, 1858, having moved from the city. Bro. Alfred Moses had the honor of being the first candidate to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. He received that degree on November 26, 1853, and withdrew from the Lodge on October 8, 1856.

Our first meeting place, as given in the "Daily Alta California", was at the Masonic Hall on Washington Street. The exact location of this place cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy. There was no Masonic Temple in those early days and the Lodges met in any building that could be fitted for that purpose. In 1852, a brick building stood on Washington Street, possibly the South side, between Sansome and Montgomery Sts.. As it was used by California Lodge No. 1 and Grand Lodge, when that body did not meet in Sacramento, it was very likely called the Masonic Hall and was probably the meeting place of Mount Moriah Lodge when it met on that Sunday afternoon of October 23, 1853, for the purpose of organization.

A few months later the Lodge moved to the Masonic Hall on what was then 110-112 Montgomery Street, between Sacramento and California Sts.. The structure next to the Kohl Building on the East

side of Montgomery Street now stands on the site. It was a building of four stories owned by the picturesque Mormon and Mason, Samuel Brannan. The first floor was occupied by a book store, the second and third by offices, and the fourth by our Lodge. In the basement was Ernest Richt's Coffee Saloon. Whether Mr. Richt served anything stronger than coffee in his "Saloon", or whether the Brethren gathered there for a friendly hour after the Lodge was closed, are matters on which history is silent. The architecture of the building, with verandas extending from the upper stories, was typical of its day. A huge square and compass, suspended from the second story, proclaimed to the city that it was a Masonic Hall.

The Lodge met in this building for four or five years - - the exact number is uncertain - - and then moved to Reese's Hall, a three story building constructed by the man of the same name. It stood on the North side of Washington Street between Kearny and Grant Ave., facing the plaza or Portsmouth Square as it is now called. The Portsmouth Apartments at 730 Washington Street now stand approximately on the site of Reese's Hall. The section around the plaza was the heart of old San Francisco.

In the plaza itself, Captain Montgomery hauled down the Mexican flag and raised the Stars and Stripes. Through it dashed Samuel Brennan, proclaiming with his mad cry of "Gold! Gold!", the discovery of that precious metal. The Jenny Lind Theater stood on Kearny Street where the Hall of Justice now stands. At the Southeast corner of Washington and Kearny Streets notorious El Dolorado, where red shirted and bearded men, fresh from the mines, often saw their hard-earned gold vanish at the turn of a card or a spin of a wheel. The equally notorious Bella Union stood at the Northwest corner of Washington and Kearny Streets. Reese's Hall was the second building West of the Bella Union..

Mount Moriah met in the hall until 1863, when it moved to the old Masonic Temple on Post and Montgomery Streets, there to remain until shaken out by the earthquake and fire of 1906.

The Lodge first met on the second and fourth Saturday nights of each month. Late in 1854, or early in 1855, the meeting night was changed to Wednesday, on which it ever since remained.

In the first decade of Mount Moriah's existence, social events were conspicuous by their absence. Dinner dances and card parties were unknown. The Fraternity was more concerned with the conferring of degrees and relief work. As a rule the only departure from the severe path of duty was at the Installation of Officers. Because it was practically the one opportunity for diversion, this event partook more of the nature of a social function than it does at the present time.

The installation of December 1854, the first to be held after the chartering of the Lodge, was graced by the presence of the ladies. The following account of the event, taken from the San Francisco "Daily Herald" of December 28, 1854, is quoted because of the description of the ceremonies and the language in which it is expressed are so different from today. Past Grand Master, B. D. Hyam, addressed the assembly. He spoke of the real and supposed objects of Freemasonry, its antiquity, universality, respectability, etc..

The following year was a joint installation with Lebanon Lodge No. 49. The account of it, as given in the Sacramento "Daily Union", of January 3, 1856, is as follows: Mount Moriah Lodge No. 44,

and Lebanon No. 49, F. and A.M., gave a grand ball last evening at Music Hall on the occasion of the installation of their Officers for the ensuing Masonic Year.

It should be understood that the Lebanon Lodge referred to is not the lodge of the same name that is in existence at the present time. Lebanon No. 49 had its Charter revoked for unmasonic conduct a few years after the installation of 1855.

On the evening of December 2, 1858, one day after the installation, a grand ball in aid of the Board of Relief was given at Music Hall. Tickets admitting a gentleman and lady were five dollars and were sold by the Masters of the various lodges.

The outstanding event of this first decade of our history was the laying of the cornerstone of the old Masonic Temple at Post and Montgomery Streets. The craft formed in the Plaza and, led by California Commandery of Knights Templar, marched through the streets to the site of the laying. It is said that over one thousand Brethren were in the procession. A contemporary writer tells of the purple and gold of the Grand Lodge, the Crimson and Gold of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the gorgeous black velvet and silver of the Knights Templar, all forming a most beautiful and imposing display. Against this vivid background the stone was tried by the various working tools, our own Bro. Shephard, as Deputy Grand Master, applying the Square.

In 1863, three years after the memorable laying of the cornerstone, and little less than ten years after Mount Moriah had been granted its dispensation, our Lodge took up its abode in the newly completed Temple.

### **Years in the Old Temple 1863 – 1906**

The old Temple was described by the M. W. Grand Master, Bro. William C. Belcher, as “The finest and most perfect building on the Pacific Coast”. The cost of the edifice was approximately \$250,000, a considerable sum before the days of million dollar buildings. It was a structure of three stories, extending seventy-five feet on Montgomery Street and 160 feet on Post Street. The ground floor was filled with the usual stores, while the second and third floors were used for the lodge rooms. Our Lodge met in King Solomon’s Hall on the second floor. At the time the Temple was built and for years afterward, gas was the method of illumination. A distinctive feature of each lodge room was the massive bronze chandelier suspended over the altar and embellished with Masonic emblems.

The moving into the Temple in 1863, marked “The coming of age”, so to speak, of Mount Moriah. A decade of existence was behind it and it had all the dignity of a well established lodge. The membership was 168 Master Masons, 2 Fellowcraft and 2 Entered Apprentices - - 172 in all, and a net gain of 119 since the Lodge had been chartered.

If Mount Moriah shared in the sorrows of maturity, it also shared in its responsibilities. For a period of some twenty-five years after moving into the Temple, it played a very active part in the Grand Lodge. Although no Brother raised in Mount Moriah ever held a high office such as Grand Master,

other stations were filled by our own Brethren during this period. Following are their names and the stations which they occupied:

Charles L. Wiggin, Deputy Grand Master 1871, 1875, 1876 and 1877, Senior Grand Warden 1870, Grand Lecturer 1867.

Marcus D. Boruck, Junior Grand Warden 1888, Grand Lecturer 1880, 1890.

John W. Schaeffer, Grand Lecturer 1869-1888.

William H. L. Barnes, Grand Orator 1872.

Harry E. Highton, Grand Orator 1882.

Bro. Maracus D. Boruck was born in the City of New York on June 29, 1834, and came to California at the early age of sixteen. Some years after arriving in this State, he entered upon a brilliant political career. Chief Clerk of the State Assembly, Secretary of the State Senate, Private Secretary to Governor Waterman, and President of the State Board of Agriculture, were some of the positions that he filled. In all of these high offices his efficiency was conceded by all. Bro. Boruck was made a Master Mason in Mount Moriah Lodge on April 25, 1877. He was installed as Master in December 1880, and filled that high office as honorably as he did the numerous stations in public life. He died on June 25, 1895, and was buried by Mount Moriah Lodge.

It was during Bro. Boruck's term as Worshipful Master, that President Garfield was assassinated. The horrible nature of the crime, the heroic struggle of the martyr, through agonizing weeks and his final surrender to the inevitable called for such a manifestation of grief as had not been seen since the day of Lincoln's death. In this city a memorial service was held on September 26, 1881, the day of the President's burial. As customary in those days, this observance took place in the form of a military and fraternal procession to the Mechanic's Pavilion, then located at Eighth and Mission Streets, where the services were held.

As the President had been a sincere and earnest Mason, it was fitting that the Masonic Fraternity should have a place of honor in the procession and that the Grand Marshal should have been one of our Past Masters, Bro. John W. Schaeffer. He is described in the newspapers of that day as marching afoot, wearing a regalia consisting of a red, and gold fringed sash with crepe, and carrying a baton bound in the emblems of mourning. The Masonic Bodies, about 750 strong, marched in front of the somber-hued catafalque which represented the casket of the late President and was drawn by eight coal black horses. Mount Moriah was well represented, our Brethren being summoned for the services by a special newspaper notice. The total number of marchers, including all the military and fraternal orders, in that three-mile long procession, was 25,000. In the Mechanics Pavilion the solemnly beautiful Masonic funeral service was read and the soul of the martyred President and Brother, too vast for the broken and pain-wracked body to restrain, was commended to the Supreme Grand Master.

The membership during the two decades following continued to show a marked increase. In 1873, Mount Moriah boasted 217 Master Masons, and one Entered Apprentice - - a net gain of 46 for the

decade. The membership in 1883 was 259 Master Masons, 2 Fellowcraft and two Entered Apprentices - - a net increase of 45 since 1873.

After 1883, Mount Moriah showed a steady falling off in numerical strength. When ten years had passed, the membership was 230, a loss of 33. In 1895, it reached its lowest mark of 225. After remaining at this figure for a year or two, a gradual increase became evident.

Many factors entered into the aforementioned decline in membership. There were the usual deaths, withdrawals and suspensions. There was also an Officer who betrayed his trust. Worst of all, Mount Moriah had lost much of its youthful exuberance during this period.

The work conferred by the Worshipful Master, Bro. John C. Jens, in 1894, was essentially the same as that of today. The ritualistic work of the Worshipful Master, however, was more burdensome. He was obliged to confer every degree, including the lectures. Officers did not "Advance one station" when there was more than one candidate in one evening. The modern custom of permitting the Senior Warden to give the lecture of the Second Degree and the Junior Warden, that of the First Degree was unknown. Coaching committees were unheard of. The Brother who brought in the candidate's petition usually took care of his coaching. The practice of advancing the Officers each year was also unknown. A Brother might serve as high as that of Senior Deacon and go no further. The new Master usually appointed an entirely new set of Officers. This lack of opportunity for advancement often resulted in indifference to their duties on the part of the lower or appointive Officers, with a consequent inefficiency in their work.

### **Years Without a Home 1906 – 1913**

The newspapers that went to press in the early hours of the morning of April 18, 1906, contained a notice that Mount Mariah was to confer a third degree in the evening. The ink had scarcely dried on those papers before San Francisco was in the grip of the most severe earthquake in the history of man on this continent. Perhaps Bro. J. H. H. Lemmermann, who was to have been the candidate for the evening, imagined that he was already traveling the rough and rugged road, in his first waking hours during the frightful disturbance when the very ground heaved like the swell of the sea.

If he had visited the Temple, however, one glance would have convinced him that there would be no degree or meeting that evening. The giant tread of the earthquake had shaken the building to its foundations. Portions of the North and West walls had fallen out. The floor of the Lodge room was covered with a thick carpet of plaster, the portraits of the Grand Officers, shaken out of their dignity leaned awry on the walls or face downward on the floor, as if seeking shelter from the titanic force which mocked the feeble efforts of man.

The destruction begun by the earthquake was completed by the all-consuming fire, and when night fell, a night of terror lurid with darting tongues of flame and deafening with the reverberating crashes of dynamite, the meeting place of forty-three years was in ashes. Mount Moriah was homeless - - as homeless as the thousands of unfortunate people who were fleeing before the relentless march of the fire.

The Tiler, Bro. H. C. Fredrickson, was in the Temple at the time of the shock. When he realized that the building was doomed, he took our Charter and Jewels, wrapped them in his blankets and left the Temple to find a place of safety. The Charter and those precious jewels which the hands of our good Brother Shephard once touched, were at Bro. Fredrickson's side while he slept that night in the basement of a home on Eighth Avenue and Anza Street. A few days later our faithful Brother delivered them to the Worshipful Master, Bro. Herbert F. Ward, who then lived on Sixth Avenue.

In February 1907, Bro. Fredrickson, was standing by the ruins of the old Temple, when some metallic objects turned up by a shovel attracted his attention. They were blackened and twisted by the conflagration, but not to such an extent as to conceal the name of Mount Moriah engraved on them. Bro. Fredrickson at once identified them as the Plumb, Level, and Twenty-four Inch Gage from the set of working tools which Bro. Shephard had presented to the Lodge in addition to the jewels. Thus were they restored to light, after having been buried for almost a year "in the rubbish of the Temple". These battered relics, together with the Charter and the Jewels are Mount Moriah's most cherished possessions, as they are all that remain from the early days of the Lodge. They are a reminder of the one who first wielded the gavel over Mount Moriah and they remind us of the one who saved them and who faithfully guarded our outer door for many years.

The first meeting after the earthquake and fire was the Stated meeting of May 16, 1906, in King Solomon's Temple on Fillmore Street near Sutter. There was hardly a member present who had not suffered some loss, yet they laid aside their own cares to assist in the rehabilitation of the Lodge.

A committee was appointed to assist the Worshipful Master with the relief work. Every case was thoroughly investigated and relief authorized, either through the General Relief Committee or from the funds of Mount Moriah Lodge itself.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Third Degree was conferred for the first time after the fire, the candidate being Bro. Lemmermann, whose participated advancement on the evening of April 18<sup>th</sup> had been so rudely interrupted.

The Stated meeting of June 6<sup>th</sup>, was held in Albert Pike Memorial Temple at 1859 Geary Street, the Officers of the California Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite having generously donated the use of the building. The candidate elected on that evening, the first candidate since the catastrophe, was John Jacob Stahl, who nine years later in 1915 was elected Worshipful Master.

The main order of business at the Stated meeting of July 4<sup>th</sup>, was the report of the Advisory Committee. This report is quoted in some detail, as it is a striking example of the manner in which our Brethren met a grave situation.

To the Officers and members of Mount Moriah Lodge No. 44 F. and A.M.: "Brethern: Your committee appointed at the last Stated meeting for the purpose of investigating the expenditures, for making recommendations where economy seemed desirable, herewith respectfully submits its report. The recent catastrophe has greatly curtailed the custom of our Brethren, has caused the loss of salaried positions to many, and has left some in even destitute circumstances. The General Masonic Relief Board and the Red Cross Relief Committee are, for the time being, rendering valuable service in caring for the needy. But the time is not distant when each subordinate lodge must rely on its own

resources for the care of dependent members. The Lodge must therefore prepare itself to dispense larger charities in the future.

“To make the Lodge self-sustaining, independent of its surplus, it is necessary that expenditures be reduced about \$2,500. annually. In view of this present and probable future condition, your Committee makes the following recommendations”.

The first emphasized the saving in rent, made possible by the acceptance of the kind offer of the California Scottish Rite Bodies. The second recommended that all stipendiaries be taken off the regular monthly list, leaving the Master and Wardens to use their customary discretion in providing aid in the cases as occasion might demand. The third recommendation that the bodies in our plot in the Masonic Cemetery in San Francisco be removed to the plot in Woodlawn Cemetery, where perpetual care was already paid for, and that the charge for care in San Francisco be discontinued from June 30, 1906. The fourth and fifth suggestions referred to the Tiler, Choir, and music. As it was the thought the lodge would meet only about twice a month in the future, the cost of tiling would be greatly reduced. Brothers Gerrans and Horstmann tendered their services free of charge. The sixth recommendation was that the Secretary send notices quarterly to all members in arrears, and that he accept quarterly payments when tendered. The last suggestion was that the Secretary's salary be reduced, as future meetings would only behalf as frequent and other orders reduced and in some instances, abolish the Secretary's salary. The total estimated saving \$1,800. yearly.

After serious and thoughtful discussion, all recommendations, except the last one were adopted.

Near the end of the year certain repairs had to be made to Albert Pike Temple, forcing the Lodge to move. Meeting places were still scarce and the Lodge was fortunate in finding accommodations in the Chapel of Gray Undertaking Company, then at the Northeast corner of Divisadero and Geary Sts., Past Master Stahl vividly recalled the meeting place. When he went there to receive his Second Degree, the door leading from the Chapel to the casket display room had been carelessly left open. Through the open door leading from the Chapel to the casket room could be seen a huge black casket standing on end which met his startled gaze. Needless to say, our genial Past Master was not in a most receptive mood for a Degree that evening. The Brother who handled the lights during the Degree spent a good part of the evening in the embalming room, where the switchboard was located. Past Master Thomas Nixon recalls one of his visits to that room when he had the company of four bodies in various stages of preparation. The cardinal virtue of fortitude was a prime requisite.

Amid these forbidding surroundings, the installation of Bro. William H. Dolling was held on December 26, 1906. Bro. Ward was presented with the customary Past Master's jewel and also a watch in token of appreciation for his untiring efforts during the troublesome year. Bro. Benjamin Schloss presented the Lodge with a complete set of Working Tools, the gift of Past Master John F. Schroth.

The outstanding event of 1907 was the visit of Most Worshipful Grand Master Edward Hart, who raised Bro. F. J. Currier to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The uncertainty of our time on earth is forcibly brought to mind when it is recorded that Bro. Currier died just one month after he was raised.

During the early part of 1907, Mount Moriah seriously considered the question of owning its own hall. After the subject had been examined from every angle, however, it was deemed not practical at that time. On October 2, 1907, Mount Moriah moved to the Golden Gate Commandery Building at 2135 Sutter Street, where for the first time in over a year the proper facilities were found for conferring the degrees. The uncertain and disturbing conditions that were caused by the earthquake and fire were over, and the Lodge settled down to a comparatively calm period of six years in its new meeting place.

On November 11, 1911, the cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple was laid at Oak and Van Ness, with ceremonies that recalled the first laying fifty-one years before. Two years later the Temple was completed and Mount Moriah moved into the new hall.

### **The Years 1913 – 1920**

It is an old but true saying that an individual is greatly influenced by his surroundings. As the history of Mount Moriah is passed in review, one is tempted to say the same rule might apply to the Lodge. Each move Mount Moriah made seems to have opened a new epoch in its history. There were the early years in the hectic neighborhood of the old Plaza, the years of the memorable and popular installations of its youth, graced by the attendance of the Ladies and enlivened by the sparkling rhetoric of Bro. Hyam. There were years in the old temple, the years of maturity and responsibility, the years when Mount Moriah seemed to age with the building itself. With the moving into the new Temple, a period of modernization, rejuvenation, or second youth began.

The leader of this movement which culminated in placing Mount Moriah among the most progressive and active lodges of the city was Master of 1913, Bro. Daniel B. Richards. He realized that truth could not be active unless it did something to attract and hold interest of the Brethren, a truth that many by-gone Masters overlooked. The social activities of his year were almost as numerous as those of today. In April he gave an entertainment and dance in Golden Gate Commandery Hall. A Past Masters' Night was held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and a team from the Police Department conferred a Third Degree on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The first gathering to be held in the new Temple was the Stated meeting of September 3, 1913, followed by entertainment. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the granting of the dispensation was observed on October 29<sup>th</sup>, by inviting the ladies to an entertainment and dance.

During the years of 1917 and 1918, the baneful shadow of the World War fell on the Lodge. Social activities were laid aside for sterner duties. Service to Country was the order of the day. A special Emergency Committee was appointed, whose purposes were relief and assistance to the soldiers and sailors of the Masonic Fraternity and their families. With consent of the Master and Wardens, this Committee was allowed to spend the sum of not more than \$250. in any one year.

On March 17, 1918, Bro. Thomas P. Andrews presented the Lodge with a beautiful silk service flag of 29 blue stars, each star inscribed with the name of a Brother who was serving his country. The presentation was made in a most impressive manner by the late Bro. H. G. Squire, the founder of Bethlehem Lodge No. 453, and one of the organizers of the Masonic Ambulance Corps. The number

of stars was subsequently increased to 32, a most commendable showing. The names of the Brethren who answered the call are:

Marquitt Anderson  
C. Bozman  
A. R. Brest  
F. H. Carroll  
F. C. Dellegar  
V. C. D'Aubert  
H. Frey  
V. C. Goldberg  
A. M. Muso  
E. J. Musso  
G. H. Parker  
E. A. Robbins  
S. H. Rudee  
A. Sanguinetti  
Ferno Schuhl  
J. A. Sellman  
P. A. Hodapp  
I. C. Huden  
M. Kemnitzer  
C. O. Knox  
H. R. Knox  
E. Laria  
J. A. Miller  
Edward Mires  
T. F. Selwood  
N. D. Stamey  
G. W. Stark  
B. F. Stacy  
A. Y. Tuel  
John Wikander  
W. R. Wilkander  
Sidnet Zobal.

A gold star soon took the place of one of the blue in memory of Bro. Thomas Frank Sellwood, who died in New York during the influenza epidemic.

The service flag was proudly displayed in the East until the Annual Meeting of December 3, 1919, the date of its retirement. The Secretary read the names on the flag. Bro. Edmund Tauszky, Worshipful Master of 1912, delivered a touching and patriotic address, after which the Service Flag was escorted out of the Lodge room and deposited in the archives as testimony to future generations of Mount Moriah's sacrifice on the altar of Patriotism.

The immediate result of the post-war inflation on Masonry was an unprecedented number of petitions. Candidates fairly stormed our doors seeking admission. For the Officers and Brethren it was a case of all work and no play during this busy period. Five first degrees, five seconds or three thirds were the semi-weekly program. The expression semi-weekly is used advisedly, as the Lodge met twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday nights, during the first years after the War. Even the Stated meetings were used for degree work. The closing of the Lodge before midnight was the exception rather than the rule.

In December, 1918, there were 368 Master Masons on the roll. In December, 1920, there were 471. The net gain in those too short but busy years was greater than the previous fifteen.

During Bro. Nixon's term as Worshipful Master time was found for a little diversion to relieve the monotony of the incessant degree work. Past Masters' Night was revived. There was also a third degree conferred in a very impressive manner by the a team from the various Royal Arch Chapters of the city. Perhaps the most important event of the year was the evening of April 21<sup>st</sup>, when Bro. R. T. Nixon was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by his own father, P.M. Thomas Nixon. It was an event unique in the annals of Mount Moriah, when the father of the candidate was the actual Master. Bro. Nixon's year was also marked by the passing of the last of the old time members when Bro. Lell Hawley Wooley died after after a lingering illness. Bro. Wooley was an active participant in many of the stirring events of our State's history. He was born in New York in 1825. In the Spring of 1849, he joined a party in Independence, Missouri, for the tortuous journey across the plains to California. The outfit consisted of forty wagons, 150 mules, and about the same number of passengers. After four months the party reached Weaverville, three miles below Placerville, where Bro. Wooley did his first mining.

He saw the first Pony Express messenger start the first trip across the continent. He stood by with gold dust in his pockets and saw lots in the vicinity of Sansome, Battery and Front Streets, auctioned off for twenty-five dollars, without a buyer. As a member of the second Vigilance Committee, he witnessed the hanging of Casey and Cora. He knew General Vallejo and W. T. Coleman, head of that Committee, James Lick, the eccentric yet generous philanthropist, Generals Fremont and Sutter, and James Marshall, the discoverer of gold.

Bro. Wooley affiliated with Mount Moriah on October 14, 1857. He was appointed Senior Steward in December, 1864, and a year later was elected Junior Warden. His life has been described in some detail in this history because his death on May 15, 1920, severed the last link of the chain which bound Mount Moriah to the past. He was the last Brother who knew the first Master and who was present at the meetings in the Masonic Hall at 110 Montgomery Street and in Reese's Hall. With him passed the old generation, and the future of Mount Moriah was in the hands of the new.

### **1921-1929**

When Bro. Will E. Rampe was installed as Worshipful Master on December 15, 1920, he found a Lodge that was old in years but young in spirit. The new members who had come into the Lodge during the previous years had been pretty well assimilated. This younger generation was imbued with the restless urge of youth. It cared little for the history of Mount Moriah, for its origin in the pioneer days and for the venerable Brethren who had ruled and governed it. Its chief concern was

that Mount Moriah should be second to none in the ranks of live and enthusiastic lodges in and of this city.

In the person of Bro. Rampe the new generation found its leader, and under his energetic leadership and wise guidance the Lodge enjoyed a year of activity such as it had never seen before.

The outstanding event of Bro. Rampe's term was the visit of the M. W. Grand Master, Bro. George F. Rodden, on March 23, 1921. Memories of that night still lingered with the Brethren who were present, memories of a packed lodge room, of the impressive double row of Past Masters through which the stately figure of the Grand Master passed, of Bro. Rampe's warm words of welcome and the Grand Master's equally warm reply. The Third Degree was conferred by the Grand Master with the assistance of the Grand Lecturer and Inspectors on Bro. Ross in a most impressive manner.

Sharing in importance with the visit of the Grand Master was the evening of June 22<sup>nd</sup> when Bro. L. R. Richards was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, by his own father and our Past Master, Bro. D. B. Richards, assisted by some friends and fraters from Golden Gate Commandery.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, our Lodge attained a membership of five hundred when Bro. V. S. Bernstein, the son of Bro. Max Bernstein was made a Master Mason. This event was celebrated by a "five hundred party". Bro. George F. Rodden, who had just become the Junior Past Grand Master, was the guest of honor and delivered the charge to the candidate. After the ritualistic part of the evening had been concluded, the night was given over to music, cards, dancing and a buffet supper.

Among the other activities of this notable year were addresses by many eminent speakers, frequent exchanges of fraternal visits with other lodges, our first family outing, held at Madrone Park, Pinehurst, and a "champion" baseball team.

The enthusiasm created by Bro. Rampe was not permitted to wane when he retired from office, but was maintained in full vigor by the Masters who followed him. Bro. W. E. Anderson, who presided in 1922, holds a record for faithful attendance. He did not miss a meeting from the night he was raised in 1916, until he retired as Worshipful Master in December, 1922, a period which included the two years when Mount Moriah met twice a week. An example worthy of all imitation.

When Bro. J. C. Oglesby was installed as Worshipful Master in December, 1922, the ceremony was made more impressive by the presence of Past Grand Master George F. Rodden. The recollections of his visits in the previous year were still fresh in the minds of the Brethren and his words of wisdom made a lasting impression.

A Past Master's Night, which foreshadowed a little of the Diamond Jubilee, was held on May 7, 1924, when Bro. George M. Stacy was the Worshipful Master. That evening also marked the seventieth anniversary of Mount Moriah and the Past Masters conferred the Third Degree in the costumes of the days of old. Wide brimmed hats, coats of many colors and high boots were much in evidence. The dazzling glare of the lesser lights was replaced by three flickering candles, in keeping with the earlier years. Past Master Thomas C. Conmy proved by his masterly delivery of the Third Degree Lecture that he had forgotten little of the work since he was Master in 1905.

In 1925, Mount Moriah had a Master who gave it another year of activity such as was seen during Bro. Rampe's term. This Master was Bro. W. W. Smith. Faultless in his ritual work, exacting the same proficiency from his Officers as that he demanded of himself. He did not lose sight of the lighter and gayer features, without which ritualism is adapt to become mere routine work.

Bro. Smith's most important accomplishment was the organization of the Quarter-Century Club on May 6<sup>th</sup>, the seventy-first anniversary of the Lodge. Membership in this Club was limited to the Brethren who belonged to the Lodge for 25 years or more. Its purpose was not only to honor those veterans of Mount Moriah, but to remind the present generation of the service they had rendered to the Lodge, in some cases, before many were born.

On the night of its organization the members were received and congratulated by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Smith, after which they were escorted to the seats of honor. The address of welcome was delivered by Past Master D. B. Richards and responded to by Past Master Thomas Nixon. "A Bit of History" was given by Bro. Frolich, outlining his experiences during his 30 odd years as Secretary. Bro. Benjamin Schloss followed with a talk on "Masonry and Mount Moriah". The Worshipful Master then introduced Bro. John Kelly, the oldest living member, as President of the Quarter-Century Club.

Second only to the organization of the Quarter-Century Club was the inauguration of Fathers and Sons night on October 21<sup>st</sup>, in connection with Past Masters Night. As the Quarter-Century Club served to remind us of the venerable past of our Lodge, so the Fathers and Sons night emphasizes the strong paternal ties that bind many of us to Mount Moriah. No less than 20 Fathers with their Sons, also members of Mount Moriah, occupied seats of honor and saw Past Master William C. Hacke raise his son, Bro. Harold Hacke to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

To Bro. Milton W. Morrison, Master in 1926, we are indebted for an event which has become traditional, the Annual Roll Call. Prizes were given to the one who traveled the greatest distance to be present. This contest provided much keen but pleasant rivalry.

## **Formation of Far West Lodge No. 673**

On Tuesday, August 7, 1928, in response to a notice mailed to various Brethren, who were recognized by each other as Master Masons in good standing and who signified their desire to sign a petition for dispensation to the Grand Masters of Masons of California, to form a Lodge in this district, a meeting was held in the Club Room of the Parkside Masonic Association, at 1745 Taraval Street, at the place and on the date above written, at 8 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of taking such necessary measures necessary for the establishment of a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

On the suggestion of Bro. Howard O. Taylor, which was approved by those present, Bro. Alphonse R. Roumiguere was requested to act as temporary Chairman and Bro. Martin W. Mikkelsen was requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and stated that the first order of business was the roll call. There were present the following Brethren:

Howard O. Taylor	Paul Revere No. 462	San Francisco, CA
Dean Wilson	Aurora No. 100	Brainard, Minn.
John H. Mathys	Pinole No. 353	Pinole, CA
Martin W. Mikkelsen	Balder No. 393	San Francisco, CA
Frank O. Schell	San Joaquin No. 19	Stockton, CA
C. B. Quamby	Ontario No. 621	Windsor, Canada
James B. Locke	South San Fran No. 212	San Francisco, CA
Alphonse R. Roumiguere	Seal Rock No. 536	San Francisco, CA
Joseph E. Morcombe	Educator No. 554	San Francisco, CA
A. P. Oliver	King Solomon No. 260	San Francisco, CA
Nante S. Anderson	Acacia No. 33	Anaconda, Montana
Harold G. Wara	San Francisco No. 360	San Francisco, CA
Albert Sandell	Richmond No. 375	San Francisco, CA
Louis A. Gintzler	Paul Revere No. 462	San Francisco, CA

At this meeting Bro. Joseph E. Morcombe was elected Master, Bros. Howard O. Taylor was elected Senior Warden, and Bro. Dean Wilson was elected Junior Warden. Also, the name of the new lodge was to be “Far West”, which was adopted.

During the next six preliminary meetings many items came up for discussion:

Rental rate of Club Room at 1745 Taraval Street, known then as Parkside Masonic Association, later changed to Taraval Temple, and now named Golden Gate Masonic Temple, to be free for the first three months and then:

Next three months	\$45.00/month
“ “ “	50.00/month
“ “ “	60.00/month
“ “ “	75.00/month
additional rentals to be	\$10.00/night

Bro. Joseph E. Morcombe then resigned as Master but his resignation was not accepted.

At a subsequent preliminary meeting Bro. Morcombe again submitted his resignation, which was accepted, and at a special election, Bro. Howard O. Taylor was elected Master, Bro. Dean Wilson was elected Senior Warden, and Bro. Louis A. Gintzler was elected Junior Warden, and Bro. Morcombe was appointed Chaplain.

On February 26, 1929, Right Worshipful Charles M. Wallenberg, Deputy Grand Master, acting as Grand Master, opened the meeting with a few remarks and advised all Brethren assembled, that the Grand Master had been pleased to grant the prayer of the Charter Members by issuing a dispensation to be congregated into a regular Lodge to be FAR WEST LODGE and this dispensation to continue in full force until the annual communication next to be holden.

The acting Grand Master then addressed and invested the following Officers with the jewels of their office:

Howard Otto Taylor .....	Master
Dean Wilson .....	Senior Warden
Louis Arthur Gintzler .....	Junior Warden
Thomas Fillmore Boatman .....	Treasurer
Leo Sylvanus Brown .....	Secretary
James Brown Locke .....	Chaplain
Albert Samuel Sandell.....	Senior Deacon
George Quamby .....	Junior Deacon
Nante Walter Anderson .....	Marshal
John Henry Mathys .....	Senior Steward
Alphonse Raphael Roumiguere .....	Junior Steward
William Hancock.....	Organist

After the institution, the meeting was turned over to the newly elected Master, Howard O. Taylor, who instructed the Secretary to enter first upon his record book the minutes of the several preliminary meetings for the purpose of making arrangements of the Lodge.

After the adoption of the By-Laws the following visiting Brethren made presentations of the various items needed by the newly formed Lodge:

Clifford Smith, P M	Mount Vernon	Bible
A S Bergen, Master	Justice	Altar Jewels
Frank Dailey	Crockett	Officer's Jewels
Brother Hussey	George Washington	Ballot Box
Brother Kickhofel	Paul Revere	Wands
A L Patterson	Charter Rock	Gavels
William R. Pierce	S. F. CHAPTER, R. A.	Tiler's Register

On March 5, 1929, the first nine applications were received, and elected to receive the degrees of Masonry on April 2, 1929, and on April 9, 1929 the first three candidates were initiated Entered Apprentice Masons:

Frank Arthur Stender  
 Robert Michael Laddon  
 Casper Johan Willem Peek

The balance of April was devoted to Ritual work and on May 7, 1929, the initiation fee was established at \$100., the Secretary's salary was set at \$10. per month, and the Organist to be paid \$15. per month. Later this month Frank Arthur Stender became the first candidate to be raised to the Third Degree of Masonry.

On September 3, 1929, the last stated meeting was held under dispensation, and the Charter application was prepared. The Charter was granted on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the formal Charter, dated October 10, 1929, was granted by the Most Worshipful Gus A. Hutaff, Grand Master of Masons in the State of California, and the Lodge was numbered 673. There followed the ceremony of

Constitution and Dedication of the Lodge by the Grand Master and his Corps of Officers. After this ceremony installed the elected and appointed Officers:

Howard O. Taylor	Worshipful Master
Dean Wilson	Senior Warden
Louis A. Gintzler	Junior Warden
Thomas F. Boatman	Treasurer
Leo S. Brown	Secretary
James B. Locke	Chaplain
Albert S. Sandell	Senior Deacon
George Quamby	Junior Deacon
Nante W. Anderson	Marshal
John H. Mathys	Senior Steward
Alphonse R. Roumiguere	Junior Steward
William R. Hancock	Organist
William Barnett	Tiler

There followed many congratulatory speeches by the Grand Officers. Bro. Earl B. Myers on behalf of Worshipful Frank G. Watson, presented a Tiler's sword to the Lodge which was accepted by Worshipful Howard O. Taylor on behalf of the Lodge. The Grand Tiler responded with a clever satire on the origin of the Tiler's sword.

Along with all the good things that had been encountered during the short life of the Lodge, there occurred the first rejection of an application for the degrees, signifying the high standards set by the Lodge and their continuing effort to create a harmonious and workable organization.

At this meeting the Secretary's salary was increased to \$15.00 per month.

In recognition of the new Lodge's existence the first of many outside degree teams visited when the Pacific Gas & Electric Degree Team conferred the Third Degree upon James Garanik with over two hundred visitors present.

Along with other obligations, the Lodge assumed funeral arrangements and accordingly performed such ceremony for Sojourner David J. Tobin, a member of Durant Lodge No. 268, in Berkeley.

February 1930, concluded the first year of Lodge existence and at a special meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, the first Annual Celebration took place with an appropriate ceremony.

Outside Degree Teams continued their visits and on April 29, 1930, the Southern Pacific Railroad conferred the Third Degree of Masonry on Charles Beckington Kleupfer and to further the theme of the evening, the Social Hall was decorated with an imitation box car with lighting by means of railroad lanterns. The visiting continued in reverse when on June 21, 1930, Far West Lodge conferred the Third Degree on Porter Nelson Brillhart at the Masonic Home in Decoto. The Officers of Ingleside Lodge No. 630 visited on October 28, 1930, and conferred the Third Degree of Masonry upon Albert John McaCrellis.

The first Past Masters' Night was celebrated on November 18, 1930, but using a modified cast. The following Past Masters from other Lodges on the Bay Area assisted Worshipful Howard O. Taylor in raising Roland Francis Haney to the Third Degree:

Senior Warden	Oland Berry	Oriental Lodge NO. 144
Junior Warden	Andrew Burke	Justice Lodge NO. 549
Senior Deacon	Arthur Patterson	Charter Rock Lodge No. 410
Junior Deacon	Frank Dailey	Crockett Lodge No. 139
Senior Steward	Fabian Sturken	George Washington Lodge No. 525
Junior Steward	William Adams	Mount Vernon Lodge No. 517

At the close of 1931, the Secretary reported that the membership had grown to 88 and in February of 1932, the Lodge celebrated the third Anniversary with a Past Masters' Night at which time Robert Augustus Lowrey was raised by the Past Masters:

William Adams	Master
Oland Berry	Senior Warden
Arthur Patterson	Junior Warden
Fabian Sturken	Senior Deacon
Andrew Burke	Junior Deacon
Dean Wilson	Senior Steward
Louis Gintzler	Junior Steward
Clyde Bowen	Senior Warden-Second Section

From February to August 1932, the Lodge concentrated on increasing membership. In August, the Secretary and Treasurer voluntarily relinquished their salaries due to financial conditions. These salaries were later restored in April 1933. In September 1933, Golden Gate Lodge No. 30 conferred the Third Degree on Bro. Mitchell Grammater, with Frederick Nobman serving as Master.

In December 1932, a letter was received from Ontario Lodge No. 520, A F & A M in Canada, expressing the close relationship felt by them because of Bro. George Quamby's previous membership in their Lodge.

We note here that in the early part of 1933, a history of the Lodge was being prepared; however, such history has been lost and this version is constructed from the minutes.

On February 28, 1933, the fourth Anniversary of Far West Lodge was celebrated by the Past Masters, not identified, conferring the Third Degree of Masonry on Albert Reginald Stewart. In response to an invitation from Curtis Lodge No. 140, the Officers and 24 members of Far West Lodge journeyed to Cloverdale, California where they conferred the Third Degree on Bro. William Virgil Williams.

On April 18, 1933, Golden Gate Lodge No. 30 raised Bro. Theodore Ewing and it was reported that the membership had participated in a bicycle ride and entered a bowling tournament. As part of their participation in outside social events, the Lodge hosted 26 children at the Columbia Theater, in October, to see the Piccoli Marionettes.

In 1934, the first golf trophy was presented but no mention is made of the team's standing. Also, it was reported that the swim team had been active, however, members of such team were not mentioned. These activities are reported only to indicate some of the outside participation of the membership. Also at this time, a choir was being formed and the call for singers was made.

February 26, 1935, was the occasion for the sixth Anniversary Celebration, or "Founders Night" in which the attending Past Masters assumed the stations they occupied when the Lodge first started to function. These Past Masters raised Bro. Fernando Rivas. It was at this time that the history book which was 90% complete, was presented for inspection and it was reported that the membership had now increased to 126 members.

Bro. Julius Girod was installed as Master, and it should be noted here, that he was the first batchelor to be installed, and the first Master to have been raised in Far West Lodge.

In the middle of 1936, much hue and cry was raised about the failure to declare the location of a \$750. bond, which had been purchased in 1935 and deposited in the Federal Reserve Bank. This discussion caused hard feelings among some of the members and even brought threats of unmasonic conduct, but all was finally straightened out and peace was restored in the Temple.

Not mentioned to date, had been the activities of the Baseball Team and for their efforts they were awarded the silver trophy for second place in the tournament.

Continuing the participation of Grand Lodge in lodge activities, Very Worshipful Lloyd Wilson, Deputy Grand Lecturer, installed the Officers for 1937.

Rental for the Temple which during previous years had been progressively increased to \$57. per month was referred to committee, which was able to negotiate a reduction to \$50. per month with a five-year lease.

Right Worshipful Lloyd E. Wilson, Deputy Grand Warden, was again called upon to install the Officers for 1939. During 1938 the Custom House Degree Team and the National Sojourners Degree Team raised Bros. Francis William DeWitt and Theodore Constantinos Andronicos, respectively.

On December 12, 1939, Right Worshipful Lloyd E. Wilson again presided at the installation of Officers of Far West Lodge for the year 1940. Lodge membership had now increased to 143.

In the first three months of 1940, the Fire Department Degree Team raised Bertrand Frank Johnson and the Traffic Club Degree Team raised John Wiggle, which continued the practice of degree teams raising Far West candidates. During March of this year, Bro. Joseph Morcombe, one of the Lodge's founding fathers was honored on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in the presence of many Grand Lodge Officers and members.

In May 1940, the Transportation Degree Team responded to the invitation of Far West Lodge and raised Bro. John Stevens Caple. Lodge finances were such at this time that consideration was being given to the purchase of stocks and bonds, however, this was not considered feasible at the time because of the market fluctuation.

A change in meeting nights was required in December 1940, due to the purchase of the Temple by Golden Gate Lodge, who set Tuesday nights for their meetings, and Far West had to move their meeting night to Thursday.

A new Masonic District, known as District 48-C was formed in 1941, composed of Golden Gate Lodge No. 30, Mount Moriah No. 44, Paul Revere No. 462 and Far West No. 673, due to the growth of Masonry in San Francisco, and PM Chris Christensen of Far West Lodge was appointed Inspector.

With the advent of World War II, military enlistments began to decimate the line of Officers, however the Lodge was able to adequately fill the vacancies and it celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The visiting Degree Team from American Can Co. raised Bro. Cecil Tuff and the Lodge traveled up to Placerville to visit El Dorado Lodge No. 26, and raised Bro. Adolph Zieger, a member of this Lodge.

Not only were the Officers responding to the call to arms but it was necessary to speed up the conferrals on the candidates as well and the first emergency Third Degree was conferred on Bro. Ian Kay so he could enter the armed services.

In the later part of 1941, the Degree Team of the San Francisco Square Club and the Pacific Service Mason Degree team raised John Joseph David and Max John Weber, respectively, and on December 18, 1941, the Officers were installed by Right Worshipful Arthur M. Warren, Assistant Grand Lecturer, but no mention was made of the disaster at Pearl Harbor which had occurred on December 7, 1941. As a result of this Japanese attack, the Grand Master issued a proclamation deploring the attack and urging all Masons in this jurisdiction to render every effort and service possible to aid the country. The Master appointed a defense committee to coordinate National Defense Activities.

The later part of 1942, saw Firecraft Degree Team, Maritime Degree Team, and Riverside Lodge Degree Team raise Bros. Joseph Barset, Douglas Earl Wilson, and Joseph William Decker, respectively, and Bro. Harry Paul Elliott was raised by his uncle, Fred Elliott, a Past Master of Charter Rock Lodge in Berkeley. Membership at this time had reached 159.

At the request of Philanthropic Lodge No. 164, in New York, and through the Grand Lodge of that State, the first of three courtesy degrees was conferred upon Charles Graham Potts, with following degrees as appropriate, in 1943. During 1943, the work load on the Inspector became such that the Grand Master felt it was necessary to appoint PM Rowland E. Mason, as Assistant Inspector. On April 29, 1943, at the request of Riverside Lodge No. 635, Bro. Bert Lester Brown was raised to the Third Degree of Masonry. At this same meeting Bro. Frederick Earl Stull received his Third Degree and it should be noted that he is the first son of a member of Far West Lodge to be so raised, and he will become the Dean of Sons of Far West Lodge.

As continuing evidence of the participation of the Lodge in outside activities, a trophy was presented to the membership for having placed second in the recent bowling tournament, and a completed bicycle ride was declared a success.

As 1943 wound down to an end, PM William Howard Taylor, as an honor to those serving in the armed forces, presented the Lodge with a scroll listing the following members:

Harris McVey	James McVey	Charles Ray Nelson
Ian T. Kay	Clarence Norvall	Stanley Siska
Max J. Weber	Jack C. Hopkins	David Minto
Joseph P. Mandel	Lauren T. Appleton	Warren E/ Sherwood
T. Carl Dybal	Harry P. Elliott	Douglas E. Wilson
Melvin Jenkins	Wm. A. Fairfield	John S. Caple

Because of the enthusiastic participation by the members in after lodge activities in the lodge room, Taraval Masonic Board found it necessary to limit such activities to midnight and the Temple watchman was instructed to turn off all lights at 12.00 midnight.

The year 1944, proved that the financial management had been so successful that the salaries of the Secretary and the Tiler were increased \$35.00 and \$16.00, respectively, but the proposal that the shirts for the Bowling Team be purchased at \$15.00 each was deemed too expensive and the proposal was turned down.

In February, March and May 1945 the Degree Teams from the Southern Pacific and the Federated Crafts conferred the Third Degrees on Bros. Philip Stanton Hall and Robert Edward Allen respectively. A memorial service was conducted for Franklin Delano Roosevelt, our President, when he passed away.

On June 16, 1945, the first of long conferrals by the Lodge occurred when five candidates were raised at one session, followed two weeks later by Golden Gate Park Degree Team raising Bro. Charles Wendell Bateman.

On July 5, 1945, Bro. Joe Barsky presented the Lodge a “low twelve gong” in memory of his Mother and Father. No Grand Lodge Sessions were held this year due to war conditions, which presented many transportation problems. The later part of 1945 was occupied by Park Lodge conferring the Third Degree on Bro. Melvin Sidney Carr and Golden Gate Chapter No. 18, National Sojourners, conferring the Third Degree on Bro. Myron Henry King.

The second extremely busy evening occurred on February 16, 1946, when five more candidates were raised during the same evening, which was followed by the examination in the Third Degree of four Master Masons, and on April 20, 1946, five more candidates were raised to the Third Degree. This was followed on May 30, 1946 by the raising of five more candidates. On September 26, 1946, the Officers of Justice Lodge No. 549, raised Vernon Austin Oulette and Officers of Far West visited Calistoga Lodge No. 233 and raised William Alexander Benson on September 14<sup>th</sup>. In the later months of 1946, Far West continued the program of having visiting Lodges raise our candidates and the Insurance Square Club raised Donald David Mueh.

In 1947, the P T & T Degree Team raised :Milton Theodore Myer, the Pacific Service Club raised George Martin, Justice Lodge No. 549 raised Gordon Frank Rathburn and the San Francisco Trowel Club raised James Peter Contos. Also during 1947, five more candidates were raised on the evening of March 15<sup>th</sup>. As of December 1947 the membership was 271.

On March 6, 1948, five more candidates were raised starting at 1:00 p.m. and continuing until 10:00 p.m.. On April 24, 1948, the Officers visited Volcano Lodge No. 673 and raised James Robert Ellis.

In May and June of 1948, Justice Lodge No. 549 raised Orencio Cosme Jiminez and P T & T Team raised Evan Charles Davis, and the San Francisco Trowel Club raised William Herbert Hook. On October 2, 1948, five more candidates were raised on a single evening, starting at 1:00 p.m. and not concluding until 10:00 p.m.. The conferral was done with the assistance of some of the Officers of Justice Lodge No. 549. On December 2, 1948, a proposal was received to form a new lodge at Hunter's Point but an objection to this proposal was indicated and Grand Lodge was so advised.

In 1949, the San Francisco Fire Club raised Emil Bertelli and Justice Lodge No. 549 raised William Warren Manahan. The Far West Past Masters raised Charles Lester Foster and visited the Masonic Homes where they passed Walter William Wolfenden to the Second Degree. Of special note, in October, Leslie Penrose Oliver was raised by several of his friends all of whom were Past Masters. Membership was now 306.

On December 8, 1949, after the Installation of Officers, the members had the privilege of being addressed by three prominent judges, the Honorable George Schoenfeld, Twain Michelsen and Milton Shapiro.

On April 20, 1950, Justice Lodge No. 549 raised Francis Avery Gates, and the charge was given to him by his brother-in-law, Past Master Fred Herrick of Indian Rock Lodge No. 636 of Berkeley. July 29, 1950, saw another long afternoon and evening when five more candidates were raised starting at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 10:30 p.m.. 1950 was also the occasion for the increase in dues to \$15.00 per year and membership increased to 334. Notice was received that the Hall rental would be increased to \$100.00 per month, effective January 1, 1951.

In February 1951, five more candidates were raised in a long evening of ritual work. In March 1951, the Pacific Service Club of PG&E raised Arthur Samuel Yeranian. This was followed by the Officers of Justice Lodge making their seventh visit and raising William D. Berry, the Officers of Live Oak Lodge No. 61 from the Square D Electric Co., raising Loren Lee Waldridge, and the San Francisco Trowel Club raising Ray Bowman Chapman. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, on a fraternal visit, Leslie Kenneth Oliver was raised in Georgetown Lodge No. 25, in Georgetown, California, by the Officers and members of Far West Lodge. July 7<sup>th</sup> saw another group of five candidates raised on a single evening, starting at 1:00 p.m. and not finishing until 9:55 p.m.. On September 18, the Officers of Far West Lodge reversed visitations and raised Victor Hellman in Blue Lakes Lodge in San Bruno, which was the first Third Degree conferred in that Lodge, being under dispensation. Four days later the Officers of Far West Lodge again visited Calistoga Lodge No. 233, and raised our candidate Walter Irving Barton. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, William Howard Hook was raised by his father, who conferred the entire degree, even though he was only Senior Steward. Membership had now reached 339.

In February 1952, "Founders Night" was celebrated with the raising of Frank Enfield Patsel. In May, the Officers of Far West Lodge visited Mariposa Lodge No. 24 and raised our Bro. Atteo Lazzaretti. On August 21, 1952, the Degree Team from Electrical Industries raised George Melvin Lennon with assistance of Past Master Walter Flowers. At the end of 1952 membership was 341.

On January 8, 1953, Bro. Casper Bachtold presented the Lodge with a complete set of jewels, complete with kit, to be used in funeral services. In April and May, Alexandria Lodge No. 531,

raised Agostino Angelfiore Amoroso and the San Francisco Trowel Club raised Shavarsh Myron Tatarian. On May 23, 1953, the Officers and members of Far West Lodge visited Clear Lakes Lodge in Lower Lake, California, and raised Norman Dudley Brown, our own candidate. On October 29, 1953, Past Master William B. E. Sutliff and Officers of Southern Pacific Degree Team raised William S. Calvert.

On February 4, 1954, Bro. Donald William Boker was raised in Far West Lodge as a courtesy to his home lodge, Aracana Lodge No. 187, of Minniapolis, Minnisota, and on February 18, 1954, Past Master Chang Wah Lee, of Military Service Lodge No. 570, and Officers of the Chinese Acacia Club raised Edward Wah Quon.

On December 9, 1954, the Lodge was opened under the supervision of Inspector Harry Widup, as the Lodge was under suspension and Worshipful Master had been relieved of his duties. There were no ritual activities from December 4, 1954 to June 11, 1955, however, on May 19, 1955, at a special meeting, the Officers to serve for the balance of 1955 were elected and installed. On June 2, 1955, a letter was received from the Grand Master, relating to certain infractions of the California Masonic Code, but which were not specified. Later verbal information was received to the effect that the infractions related to the serving of alcoholic beverages in the Lodge. On August 4, 1955, Past Master Ian Kay, presented lapel jewels to the Lodge for the Master and both Wardens, to be worn during their term of office and were to be passed on to their successors. These jewels were to be the property of the Lodge.

On March 1, 1956, Far West Lodge celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a beautiful cake. Past Master Howard Taylor, the first Master of Far West Lodge, was invited to make the first cut, but he graciously requested Past Grand Master Charles Wallenberg to make that first cut. Fourteen Past Masters attended this celebration. This evening's celebration was presided over by Past Master Robert Van Heekeren. On October 4, 1956, Past Master Cecil Prior presented to the Lodge a beautiful Masonic Pavement. Indented Tessel, Blazing Star, Perfect Ashlar and point within a circle.

In 1958, Far West Lodge started presenting miniature trowels to each candidate on being raised to the Third Degree, and on October 14 of that year, Bro. Richard L. Barnum, who was raised in a courtesy degree for Puerto Rico Lodge, St. John the Baptist No. 12, was presented with one of these beautiful trowels. One of the last ritual functions of 1958, PM Chang Wah Lee and the Acacia Club, raised Bro. Kam Yu Yuen.

On June 18, 1959, PM Chang Wah Lee and the Acacia Club again conferred the Third Degree, this time on Bro. Richard William Chuck. The year 1959 was closed out with the Past Masters' Night in which sixteen Past Masters conferred the Third Degree on Bro. Arnold Odell Dickey and the San Francisco Trowel Club Degree Team raised Marvin Charles Simon.

The year 1960 started off with PM Maynard Watson and the Pacific Service Masonic Club raising Bro. Truman Robert Letts and the Past Masters of Far West Lodge, 14 in number, raising George Richard Wakeman and the membership reached 356.

The advent of 1961 saw the number of candidates seeking admission to the Lodge, start to dwindle with only six candidates being raised by the Officers of Far West Lodge and one being raised by PM George Leong and the Chinese Acacia Club, that being Harry W. Fong.

In 1962 Worshipful Master Albert Baker presented to the Lodge, as his gift, new Officers' aprons to replace the worn out ones presently being used. Dues had to be raised to \$18.00 per year and the Lodge was awarded the winners bowling team trophy. Also, the collection of gold from the members was started with which to buy new gold jewels for the line of Officers. The membership was now down to 354.

1963 saw the number of candidates dwindle even further, but the enthusiasm of the Lodge did not. Bro. George Wakeman presented the Lodge with a new Square and Compass for the altar and PM George Quamby donated the Past Master's jewel that had been given to his father when he became Master of Great Western Lodge No. 47 in Windsor, Ontario. This jewel has a diamond and two rubies and measures 2" x 5" with hallmark on the back of the workman's name and is suitable for wearing on one's clothing. The Chinese Acacia Club raised Bro. Ralph Cheng Fong and the Federal Travelers Degree Team raised Bro. George Sing Kam Leong.

In January 1964, Bro. Frank Hottal donated \$300.00 toward the acquisition of a set of gold jewels for the Altar and a committee was appointed to assist in accumulating gold during the drive for the gold Officers' jewels. The sum of \$30.00 was approved for a scrapbook in which to record the history of the Lodge. In April, \$100.00 was voted to purchase a suitable bronze plaque to be placed on a monument erected to the memory of Past Master Julius Leon Girod, a former member of Far West Lodge. During April, 26.80 ounces of gold, donated by the Brethren, was turned over to the Mint in San Francisco, which, after melting, resulted 6.733 ounces of fine gold for which the Lodge was paid \$229.99, after a deduction of \$8.73 for Mint services. In September Bro. Hottal, who had previously donated money for this purpose, reported that he had ordered the Altar jewels for presentation to the Lodge in October, and which were used for the first time at the October Stated meeting. The drive for gold was to continue for the other Officers' jewels. In November, the plaque in memory of PM Girod was unveiled in the Japanese Tea Garden.

In 1965 only four candidates were raised and membership had decreased to 350.

On March 31, 1966, Bro. Alexander Beliaeff, a member of Forest Hill Lodge No. 946, of New York, was raised as a courtesy to that Lodge, and Bro. Robert James Toy was raised by the Federal Travelers League Degree Team, and was the only candidate of Far West Lodge to be raised in 1966. Membership was now down to 344. It was reported that the contributions to the Masonic Homes Fund was \$1266.85, representing the largest contribution ever received by Far West Lodge. This was done under the chairmanship of P.M. Ernest Emmons.

In 1967, motion was made and passed to have the Westlake Jewelers make the gold jewels for the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens and the Treasurer and Secretary at a cost of \$650.00, less the cost of the Master's jewel, which was to be donated. The total cost to come from the gold fund. In March these jewels were presented to the Lodge and Jr. Past Master James Springer presented the Master's jewel to the Master, Marvin Simon. Rumor has it that some of the members thought the

jewels were ugly and the old jewels were brought back into use. In October the Past Masters' Degree Team raised Bro. Philip Halker Pruett.

In 1968, four candidates were raised by Far West Officers and the Standard Oil Company Degree Team raised Bro. David Arnold Williamson. Brother PM William C. Kunz, who had been Secretary for eleven years, felt in necessary to retire. PM Wesley Albert Terkelsen elected and installed installed as new Secretary.

In 1969, only three candidates were raised and on February 20<sup>th</sup>, the only candlelight ceremony had to be conducted due to a power failure. The May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting featured a First Degree conferred on Michael Kenneth Corbett and for the first time in the history of Far West Lodge, the Charge had to be read.

On May 7, 1970, it was reported that there was enough money in the gold fund to have the Senior and Junior Deacons', Senior and Junior Stewards' and the Tiler's jewels gold plated, and it was so authorized. The first discussions were held with San Francisco Victory Lodge, regarding a merger, but no recommendations were forthcoming from the Merger Committee. These discussions were felt necessary due to the dwindling number of new candidates. Merger discussions were continued with King Solomon Seaport and San Francisco Victory Lodges and the possibility of obtaining space in Richmond Temple, which was to be built on Brotherhood Way, but nothing definite was forthcoming. Plating of the remaining Officers' jewels cost \$82.19 and there remained \$31.79 in the gold fund. A resolution was passed to appoint a formal committee to investigate the merger possibilities with the two former-mentioned Lodges. The possibility of sharing Thursday meeting nights with another lodge that desired to leave 25 Van Ness was discussed in December 1970, but because of the possible mergers were in the hopeful stages the sharing was deferred.

During the first part of 1971, merger discussions were continued and it was reported that King Solmon Seaport Lodge was planning a merger and moving to 25 Van Ness. On May 13, 1971 Bro. Philip Andrew McMcHale was raised by his father, PM Everett McHale.

In October 1972, it was reported that 15 lodges in San Francisco were considering a big merger, with the building of a new Temple, but it was felt that insufficient thought had been given to expenses and administration. Also, such a merger would leave only four lodges in San Francisco. As a final piece of business in 1972, the annual dues were increased to \$21.00 per year, effective January 1, 1973.

The year 1973 was principally spent in negotiations with various lodges, namely, Occidental, California, and San Francisco, as well as the continued talks about the consolidation of fifteen lodges in the area of San Francisco. In the latter part of this year, it was voted to have the Bible inscribed with all the names of the Past Masters and such inscribed Bible was presented for inspection in September. Membership of December 1973 was now 269.

In 1974, two candidates were raised by Far West Lodge, and Bro. Basil William Konde was raised by Pacific Service Masonic Degree Team. Membership had now decreased to 260, renewing further merger discussions.

In June 1975, another merger committee was appointed composed of Brothers Philip McHale, Senior Warden, Carl Kiefer, Past Master, Francis Gates, Past Master, and Robert Van Heekeren, Past Master, who reported in July that talks were being held with Mount Davidson, Occidental, and California Lodges, and that such discussions would continue. End of the year membership was 252.

In 1976, merger discussions were expanded to include Argonaut Argonne, Mount Moriah and Mount Davidson, however these discussions were discontinued due to objections made by Mount Davidson over meeting dates and place. It was felt necessary to expand Far West's merger committee which now included Bros. Philip McHale, Master, Robert Van Heekeren, Past Master, Carl Kiefer, Past Master, Cecil Prior, Past Master, Rowland Mason and Wesley Terkelsen.

In 1977, merger terms with Argonaut Argonne Lodge No. 461, were presented to the Lodge, but they were not satisfactory and further investigations were felt necessary. Only one candidate was raised this year. Merger talks with Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30, were begun, and terms appeared to be satisfactory.

In January and February of 1978, the merger talks with Golden Gate Lodge No. 30 were continued under the supervision of a new committee, consisting of PM Francis Gates, PM Robert Van Heekeren, and PM Cecil Prior. In March, a formal resolution was presented to merge with Golden Gate Speranza Lodge, subject to adoption by a mail ballot and in April of this year a mail ballot resulted in the following tally:

Favorable	178
Unfavorable	7
Abstain	38
Total	223

On June 12, 1978, the Grand Master was requested to approve the merger of the two lodges, but no record is available as to his action.

**GOLDEN GATE SPERANSA LODGE NO. 30 F. & A. M.  
PAST MASTERS**

William Schuyler Moses .....	1852	William Sydney Phelps .....	1859
William Schuyler Moses .....	1853	James E. Terrell .....	1859
Philip Withal Shephard .....	1853	Henry J Morton .....	1860
Philip Withal Shephard .....	1854	George C. Hickox .....	1860
William Schuyler Moses .....	1854	William Sydney Phelps .....	1861
George John Hobe .....	1855	John S. Davies .....	1861
Philip Withal Shephard .....	1855	Lawrence C. Owen .....	1862
Lawrence C. Owen .....	1856	Charles L. Wiggin .....	1862
Charles R. saunders .....	1856	Lawrence C. Owen .....	1863
Lawrence C. Owen .....	1857	William Wadhams .....	1863
Philip Withal Shephard .....	1857	Hiram Throop Graves .....	1864
George S. Hull .....	1858	Nicholas P. Perine .....	1864
Philip Withal Shephard .....	1858	Thomas Bigley .....	1865

Edwin S. Perkins .....	1865	E. M. Gallagher .....	1882
Edward Mortimer Cottrell .....	1866	Israel William Gates .....	1883
John Werner Shaeffer .....	1866	Carlo Scalmanini .....	1883
Adolphus Augustus Hobe .....	1867	Adrian Bergen .....	1883
John Werner Shaeffer .....	1867	George Cameron Forsyth .....	1884
James Byron Dobbie .....	1868	Benjamino Moron .....	1884
Abraham W. Edelman .....	1868	Daniel H. Everett .....	1884
James Patterson .....	1869	Robert Bright .....	1885
John Werner Schaeffer .....	1869	Benjamino Moron .....	1885
Robert Gowenlock .....	1870	Edward W. Blaney .....	1885
Peter Short .....	1870	Duncan Logan .....	1886
Henry Blyth, Sr. ....	1871	Alessandro Barli .....	1886
Guglielmo Beretta .....	1871	Charles H. Vollmer .....	1886
Monroe Ashbury .....	1871	Robert Bright .....	1887
Samuel Henry Kent .....	1872	Giuseppe Onesti .....	1887
Guglielmo Beretta .....	1872	Charles H. Vollmer .....	1887
John Adam Russell .....	1872	Amasa Plummer Flagler .....	1888
John Osborne Doane .....	1873	Florenzo Cavagnaro .....	1888
Guglielmo Beretta .....	1873	David M. Richard .....	1888
William David Johnson .....	1873	James Holroyd Humphreys .....	1889
Thomas Robb Henshelwood .....	1874	Vincenzo Ravenna .....	1889
Alessandro Barli .....	1874	Theodore Frolich .....	1889
William Goram Dootlittle .....	1874	George Prescott Vance .....	1890
Williams Stebbins Bowne .....	1875	Vincenzo Ravenna .....	1890
Natale Giamboni .....	1875	John G. Leghorn .....	1890
Davis Louderback .....	1875	John Thomas Grey .....	1891
James Henry Skelly .....	1876	Vincenzo Ravenna .....	1891
Andrea Davini .....	1876	David M. Richards .....	1891
Joseph Lippman .....	1876	Edwin Lewis Meyer .....	1892
Samuel Hervey, Jr .....	1877	Vincenzo Ravenna .....	1892
Alessandro Zabaldano .....	1877	Frank W. Rossbach .....	1892
Michael J. Keating .....	1877	Rufus Wadleigh Thompson .....	1893
Henry Fox Stivers .....	1878	Giuseppe Bini .....	1893
Carlo Balzarini .....	1878	Thomas J. Shackelford .....	1893
Michael J. Keating .....	1878	Theodore Hall MacDonald .....	1894
Slade Anthony Earle .....	1879	Giuseppe Bini .....	1894
Carlo Giuseppe Sala .....	1879	John C. Jens .....	1894
Paul Seiler .....	1879	Theodore Hall MacDonald .....	1895
George Telfer Scott .....	1880	Giuseppe Calegaris .....	1895
Carlo Giuseppe Sala .....	1880	Frank R. Whitcomb .....	1895
Harvey Mathews .....	1880	William Henry Lillie .....	1896
Robert Bright .....	1881	Giuseppe Calegaris .....	1896
Antonio Daneri .....	1881	Joseph L. Crittenden .....	1896
Marcus D. Boruck .....	1881	Charles Otto Johnson .....	1897
Robert Bright .....	1882	Giovanni Scalmanini .....	1897
Antonio Daneri .....	1882	Edgar C. Sutcliffe .....	1897

Charles Otto Johnson .....	1898	Victor Emilio Lonigo .....	1913
Giovanni Scalmanini .....	1898	Daniel Braadford Richards .....	1913
W. E. Boyer .....	1898	Richard James Harvey Forbes .....	1914
Arthur James Raymond .....	1899	Clemente Peini .....	1914
Lorenzo DiGrazia .....	1899	Sterling Kindall Campbell .....	1914
Adolph Eberhart .....	1899	Lester Adam Blair .....	1915
James Holroyd Humphreys .....	1900	Antonio Cogliandro .....	1915
Giovanni Lepori .....	1900	John Jacob Stahl .....	1915
John C. Kimball .....	1900	William Peter Caubu .....	1916
Charles Augustus Wegener .....	1901	Sisto Rasori .....	1916
James August Devoto .....	1901	Henry Nathaniel Clift .....	1916
William C. Hacke .....	1901	Robert Wentworth Dewar .....	1917
Samuel Andrews Clarke .....	1902	Sisto Rasori .....	1917
Giuseppe Beccuti .....	1902	Roy Allen Pratt .....	1917
Alexander Woodside .....	1902	Oscar Robert Waldemar Krenz .....	1918
William Antone Todd Agard .....	1903	Clemente Peini .....	1918
Ettore Zambelli .....	1903	Karl Frederick Holzmuller .....	1918
John Frederick Schroth .....	1903	Edw. Courtenas Caarrow Wellesley .....	1919
Asa Hosmer Phelps .....	1904	Joseph Perazzo .....	1919
G. B. Cordano .....	1904	Christian Hansen Hjul .....	1919
John Frederick Schroth .....	1904	George Herman Dannemark .....	1920
William George Wright .....	1905	John Isola .....	1920
Philip DeMartini .....	1905	Thomas Nixon .....	1920
Thomas Cherry Conmy .....	1905	Frederick Gilmore Canney .....	1921
Robert Joseph Airey .....	1906	John Maurice Icardo .....	1921
Antonio Scalmanini .....	1906	William Ernest Rampe .....	1921
Herbert Foster Ward .....	1906	Emil D. Zecher .....	1922
Charles La Salle Parks .....	1907	Horace Bernard Brown .....	1922
Luigi Valsangiacomo .....	1907	William Edward Anderson .....	1922
William Henry Dolling .....	1907	Nicola Colapietro .....	1922
William Wallace Thompson .....	1908	Emil D. Zecher .....	1923
John Maurice Icardo .....	1908	Edgar Oliver Teall .....	1923
Clarence Erickson .....	1908	John Cross Oglesby .....	1923
Abraham Sinclair Sullivan .....	1909	Attilio Scalmanini .....	1923
Perseo Righetti .....	1909	Lincoln V. Johnson .....	1924
George Washington Haberly .....	1909	James West .....	1924
Franklin Raymond Haley .....	1910	Angelo Norza .....	1924
Perseo Righetti .....	1910	George Maurice Stacey .....	1924
George McLean .....	1910	Charles Martin .....	1925
William Henry Hindle .....	1911	Louis Emil Granz .....	1925
George Aurelio Dondero .....	1911	Amedeo Dellartino .....	1925
Charles McKerral Lindsay .....	1911	William Wilson Smith .....	1925
August Ferdinand Heuer .....	1912	Joseph Scannell .....	1926
Ginotto Marioni .....	1912	Henry Ferdinand Kay .....	1926
Edmund Tauszky .....	1912	Giovanni Fracchia .....	1926
Paul Rober Bjick .....	1913	Milton William Morrison .....	1926

William F. Traverso .....	1927	Albert Ernest Witcher .....	1936
Fred John Schultz .....	1927	Natale Lena .....	1936
Francesco Caroli .....	1927	Henry Harrington McGovern.....	1936
Oscar Edward Mittelsstaedt .....	1927	Julius Leon Girod .....	1936
Louis Ferrari .....	1928	Italiano Musetti .....	1937
Charles Albert Gromaire .....	1928	Josiah Franklin Still .....	1937
Frank Pagone .....	1928	Vito L. Bruno .....	1937
Charles Green Whalen .....	1928	Louis Arthur Geils .....	1937
Joseph J. Cuneo .....	1929	Chris Jepsen Christensen .....	1937
Charles Theodore Whit .....	1929	Benito P. Galli .....	1938
Pietro Balestracci .....	1929	Wayne Ince Rawlings .....	1938
Alfred Edwin Ralston .....	1929	John Icardi .....	1938
Howard Otto Taylor .....	1929	Harry McIvor Nicolson .....	1938
Victor L. Puccinelli .....	1930	Earl William Rudeen .....	1938
Nicholas Frederick Munson.....	1930	Marvin K. Cloyd .....	1939
John Fracchia .....	1930	Joseph Fogerty .....	1939
Thomas Walter Clancy .....	1930	Allessandro Quilici .....	1939
Dean Wilson .....	1930	Walter Herbert Blomquist .....	1939
Edward D. Kelly .....	1931	John Arthur Bell.....	1939
Leon Wells Carrau .....	1931	Adolph Boicelli.....	1940
Antonio B. Torelli .....	1931	Arthur Sulby Kelly.....	1940
Raymond Nellis Murphy .....	1931	Lorenzo D. Leone .....	1940
Louis A. Gintzler .....	1931	Rowland Elmore Mason .....	1940
Otto C. Huth .....	1932	Christian William Spiegel.....	1940
Frederick Shafer Nobmann .....	1932	David W. Burgin .....	1941
Pietro Capua .....	1932	Edward Alfred Didier .....	1941
Edmond Pierre Bergerot .....	1932	Armando Simoni .....	1941
Al Sandell .....	1932	Edwin Everett Keough.....	1941
Nils E. Johnson .....	1933	Raymond John Rock .....	1941
Stanly Schley Schlobohm .....	1933	Camillo Papina .....	1942
John J. Alioto .....	1933	Carl Moeller.....	1942
Harold George Hacke .....	1933	Luigi Calderoni .....	1942
George B. Quamby .....	1933	Leonard Frederick Taylor.....	1942
Ernest J. Armando .....	1934	Theodore Gerard Ewing .....	1942
Milton Christian Iverson.....	1934	Walter C. Zecher .....	1943
Giovanni D' Ambrogio .....	1934	Fred Alexander Bradley .....	1943
G T Murray .....	1934	Leo Pietro .....	1943
Howard K. Johnson .....	1934	Keith Cutten Murray .....	1943
Nante Walter Anderson .....	1934	Charles William Qualman .....	1943
Edward Cereghino .....	1935	Eri R. Fairbanks .....	1944
Henry Herman Schulz.....	1935	Harry Kenneth Widup .....	1944
Joe Cimino, Jr .....	1935	Ulisse Cortopassi .....	1944
Cecil M. Prior .....	1935	Alphonse Fred Mailloux .....	1944
Rene Alexander Vayssie .....	1935	John Owen Clasby .....	1944
Carroll Stanwood Locke .....	1935	Walter C. Zecher .....	1945
Charles A. Ertola.....	1936	John Daniel Jones .....	1945

Roberto Morando .....	1945	Frank G. Norman .....	1954
Edward G. Woodward *** .....	1945	James Wilson Springer .....	1954
Herman Edward Bickel .....	1945	John C. Reynolds .....	1955
Frank Faraone .....	1946	William Bradford Bellamy .....	1955
Theodore James Jones .....	1946	Nino Cerruti .....	1955
Victor P. Spariotti .....	1946	Otto A. Gramlow .....	1955
William E. Howell .....	1946	Earl B. Myers .....	1955
Fred Elmer Munson .....	1946	Robert O. Reynolds .....	1956
Bruce D. Tingley .....	1947	George Washington .....	1956
Earl John Mitchell .....	1947	Armando Simoni .....	1956
Giusto Leone .....	1947	William T. Tillson .....	1956
Ernest G. Batchelor .....	1947	William Clement Kunz .....	1956
Marvin Eugene Palmer .....	1947	Robert C. Olson .....	1957
Dante Pastorini .....	1948	Albert William Crumpton .....	1957
Claude Howard Jeans .....	1948	Joseph Milani .....	1957
Ercole Gabiati .....	1948	David F. Morris .....	1957
Clarence H. Wikse .....	1948	Robert Van Heekeren .....	1957
Walter Lubchenko .....	1948	Henry O. Seiler .....	1958
Geraald Monheim .....	1949	Frank Elliott Fairchild .....	1958
Hugh Stone .....	1949	Fred Proietti .....	1958
John Magrini .....	1949	Chester A. Webb .....	1958
Jack W. Leishman .....	1949	Charles Lester Foster .....	1958
Cecil Tuff .....	1949	Ernest W. Schnurpfeil .....	1959
Henry Crespi .....	1950	Louis Harold Mathesen .....	1959
Randolph Mario Rosso .....	1950	Ulisse Cortopassi .....	1959
Joseph A. Beccio .....	1950	Gunter Hoffman .....	1959
Gerald H. Wierda .....	1950	Walter Elvin Barrus .....	1959
Earl Brownell Myers .....	1950	Nicola Colapietro .....	1960
Jerry J. Pastore .....	1951	Edward A. Hammer .....	1960
Clarence Paul Smith .....	1951	Ulisse Cortopassi .....	1960
Sa;vatpre Ledda .....	1951	Gilbert M. Travis .....	1960
Leland B. Thrower .....	1951	S. Myron Tatarian .....	1960
George Earl Crocker .....	1951	Walter Zolezzi .....	1961
Raymond H. Hakes .....	1952	Arthur D. Paymiller .....	1961
Raymond Henry Bradley .....	1952	Fred Proietti .....	1961
James Carnesecca .....	1952	Harold M. Ballengee .....	1961
Irwin Justus Robertson .....	1952	Richard C. Brown .....	1961
Caspar A. Bachtold .....	1952	Francis Avery Gates .....	1961
A. Jack Podesta .....	1953	Norman E. Johnson .....	1962
Howard James Smith .....	1953	Raymond M. Christain .....	1962
Nello Michelini .....	1953	Kenneth L. Lovaasen .....	1962
Robert E. Howser .....	1953	Albert August Baker .....	1962
Ian T. Kay .....	1953	Edward Martinelli .....	1963
Hagop Hagopian .....	1954	Lee L. Aslanian .....	1963
Clifford Kraner Hamilton .....	1954	Raymond J. Baldi .....	1963
Nello Michelini .....	1954	Harry Swierstra .....	1963

Edward Wah Quon .....	1963	Knute E. Larson .....	1973
Alfred J. Musetti .....	1964	Loyal D. Sutton .....	1974
Fred E. Clauhsen .....	1964	Robert Lee Moore .....	1974
Raymond J. Baldi .....	1964	Russell L. Lindquist .....	1974
Stanley O. Morth .....	1964	Edgar L. Cook .....	1974
John S. Carpenter .....	1964	Loyal D. Sutton .....	1975
Edward L. Schaffer .....	1965	Arthur Friis Larsen .....	1975
John W. McClay .....	1965	Albert Ehni .....	1975
John Falabella .....	1965	John Specht .....	1975
Jadin C. Hoffmann .....	1965	Eugene J. Armour .....	1976
Carl H. Kiefer .....	1965	Philip Andrew McHale .....	1976
Walter Zolezzi .....	1966	Eugene Jackson Basinger .....	1976
Elroy D. Joyce .....	1966	Eugene J. Armour .....	1977
William J. Lawson .....	1966	Harry P. Elliott, Jr. ....	1977
Joe W. Bradshaw .....	1966	Richard C. Schmitt .....	1977
James W. Springer .....	1966	Edward Maita .....	1978
Ernest W. Schnurpfeil .....	1967	Vester B. Walton .....	1978
Robert W. Moore .....	1967	Lynwood Messer .....	1978
Edmon L. Bostic .....	1967	Glenn G. Whiteside, Sr. ....	1978
Marvin C. Simon .....	1967	Lynwood Messer .....	1979
Henry O. Seiler .....	1968	Richard D. Green .....	1980
Floryan A. Kujawa .....	1968	Eugene J. Armour .....	1981
Robert G. Meyer .....	1968	Reynold Schmidt .....	1982
Harry P. Elliott, Jr. ....	1968	Raymond E. Didier .....	1983
Kam Yu Yuen .....	1968	William B. Bellamy III .....	1983
John C. Reynolds .....	1969	Arnold M. Blackburn .....	1984
Frank J. Mooney .....	1969	Gabriel Andrade .....	1985
Raymond E. Clark .....	1969	Eugene J. Armour .....	1986
Harry P. Elliott, Jr. ....	1969	Everett T. McHale .....	1987
William S. Grundy .....	1970	Lynwood Messer .....	1988
Donald C. Ubhoff .....	1970	Vrej M. Mekhalian .....	1989
Foster Bernal Childers .....	1970	Ernest W. Schnurpfeil .....	1990
Kenneth W. Kyle .....	1970	Philip Andrew McHale .....	1991
Harold Rowe .....	1970	William B. Bellamy III .....	1992
John J. Cama .....	1971	James Jouganatos .....	1993
Patrick A. Walters .....	1971	William B. Bellamy III .....	1994
Stephen F. Steen .....	1971	Edward G. Woodward *** .....	1995
Glenn W. Whiteside, Sr. ....	1971	Philip Andrew McHale .....	1996
Ernest Emmons .....	1971	Philip Andrew McHale .....	1997
Henry M. Sante .....	1972	Winfield W. Witmer .....	1998
Marcel P. Cerisier .....	1972	James L. Adams .....	1999
Reynold Schmidt .....	1972	James L. Adams .....	2000
Everett T. McHale .....	1972	James L. Adams .....	2001
Robert B. Ohm .....	1973	James L. Adams .....	2002
Frederick Durward Teffault .....	1973	James L. Adams .....	2003
William Chappell .....	1973	Vrej M. Mekhalian .....	2004

\*\*\* Note:

Served as Master twice, 50 years apart.

The many pages of this history of the Lodges that have merged and are now a part of Golden Gate Speranza Lodge can be compared to a giant weaver's loom, wherein our Masonic History has been interwoven with the thread of our history that is a large part of San Francisco's and California's colorful past. It is hoped that to our "Old Time" Brothers it will bring back forgotten memories and to our younger members, the hope that they will reap significant knowledge from which our present Masonic Lodge emerged, and that they will continue to keep the Light of Masonry shining brightly in future years.

*Revised 01/14/2006*